

Preparations for the SWAN Salute to the 1940s on Saturday 5th July from 10am – 6pm, are in full swing. Featuring an exciting programme of events, with **a real Spitfire on display**, 2 Anderson shelters with tour guides, **non-stop live entertainment**, hospitality with traditional street party area, market stalls, home front displays, vintage vehicles, and a heartfelt tribute to the resilience and community spirit of the 1940s by lighting the Lamp of Peace at 2pm. The SWAN Salute is all set to raise a worthy tribute to the 80th anniversaries of VE Day and VJ Day.

With a full day of events and activities the SWAN Salute to the 1940s is free to attend and all the displays and entertainment are free of charge.

SWANCC are thrilled to announce a **Spitfire display on Newtown Green**, donated in memory of **Flying Officer Raymond Gustave De Hasse**, a Belgian RAFVR pilot who gave his life flying a Spitfire Mark Vb in the defence of our nation. The aircraft will be **cared for by RAF Wing Ashford** throughout the event. Visitors can view the cockpit, take photos, and get up close to this iconic plane that helped shape history. Also, on display: **twin Anderson shelters**, one ready for use, the other open to walk through – offering a true sense of 1940s life. **Re-enactors and educators** will be on hand to share stories from the Blitz.



WE NEED YOU

SWAN Community Council look forward to welcoming everyone to The SWAN Salute to the 1940s, an event for Peace Community and Celebration.



To bring about this fantastic event, 30 volunteers are needed to help between 8am and 10am. If you can help to put out chairs, tables and set up displays for the homefront exhibit please sign up via the Council Website: www.southwillesboroughnewtown-cc.gov.uk/salute-to-the-1940s#volunteer or contact the SWAN Office: **Tel: 01233 528933**

Additional highlights include:

- **Live Music and Dance from The Five Star Swing Band, The Silhouettes Vintage Trio, My Charleston and Kent's' very own** Cinque Ports Lindy Hoppers. The Lindy Hoppers bring their energetic 40s dance to the event, non-stop energy and enthusiasm and will invite you to do "The Lambeth Walk".
- **Amazing Sir Winston Churchill & Officer impersonations** with live speeches and banter. Don't miss the opportunity to experience the recruitment and drills of 1940s. All compered by the unmatched Town Crier from Bexhill, East Sussex.
- **The Hospitality area will be set out in Street Party Style** with seating for up to 500 plus room for picnics and groups. Fantastic Local Pub the Alfred Arms will be providing a chilled bar right on the Green. Back by popular demand Harold's Hog Roast, TC Trailers and more. Also, Ashford Salvation Army will be serving drinks from the Emergency Vehicle and you are also welcome to bring your own picnic in VE DAY Style to make the most of the day.
- **Children will be entertained all day long** from the moment they step onto the Green. **Free of charge:** All Day Rides on the Land train, Circus workshops, 3 Punch & Judy Shows from the amazing Professor Dave Wilder and crafts and activities are provided.
- **Vintage vehicles display with 1940s vehicles, Jeeps and the Vintage pram group with their 1940s prams.**
- **The Marketplace** offers an interesting array of stalls for local crafts, summer plants and cakes.
- **Kent Fire and Rescue, Neighbourhood Watch and SWAN Community Council** offer Community resilience, safety advice and rising costs support.
- **Homefront Exhibition** including Ration Cards, Gas Masks, Replica Uniforms, Replica Rifles kindly put together by Ashford Active Retirement Association Along with Dig for Victory, Make Do and Mend, Maps and Stories there is so much to demonstrate the incredible resilience of the Homefront in the 1940s.

FROM PETER NEW NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

My name is Peter New I am a Police Volunteer with Kent Police and work in Community Neighbourhood Watch across all of South Willesborough, and indeed the rest of the Ashford District. My Force number is 91725. I always carry my ID when working.



I am grateful to the council for this vital space in the newsletter as this will reach many residents who do not have access to the modern media platforms.

I felt the time was right here in Spring 2025 to re-introduce myself.

I have worked with SWAN COUNCIL now for many years and many of you have met and know me personally. The council and all councillors are incredibly supportive of my work with Neighbourhood Watch and to me personally. I was very proud to be made a "Free Person Of South Willesborough" in recognition of my work in community safety.

Neighbourhood Watch quite simply is, can we keep residents' crime free? and as important free from the fear of being a victim of crime also?

If a crime occurs, can we prevent further crimes whilst at the same time help my police colleagues to investigate, collect evidence and bring criminals to justice.

Immediately after all that work can be issue better more effective crime prevention advice that we learnt from the crime committed.

RISKS TO BE ALERT TO

- Thankfully burglaries are very low in Kent but always secure your premises especially if just popping out now the warmer weather is here, and doors and windows are wide open.
- Please leave nothing whatsoever on show in a parked car especially when parking last park up for the night. Vans carrying tools and equipment are a risk especially overnight, please park as safe and secure as you can
- Other areas that we need to be aware of are Sheds, Garages, Allotment Sheds, and any form of external storage.
- Internet shopping parcels stolen from doorsteps is a risk, firstly from a chancer and opportunist just walking by but now criminals follow the vans so even the most off the beat property is vulnerable.
- SCAMS are a 24hr x 365 days a year crime now and can come from 3, 30, 300 or even 3000 miles away. They come on our landlines, mobiles, computers, laptops, tablets, by letter and also face to face on the doorsteps.

DO NOTHING IN A RUSH, IF IN DOUBT CHECK, CHECK AGAIN and if still in doubt DO NOTHING!

Rogue Traders and Bogus callers are a concern.

NEVER EVER AGREE TO UNSOLICITED WORK ON YOUR DOORSTEP NO MATTER HOW CHEAP AND ATTRACTIVE THE PRICE.

Scammers, rogue traders and bogus callers are the lowest of the low of the criminal world and they will look to strike at our most elderly, vulnerable and disabled in our community and especially look for people who live alone. **IF IN DOUBT DO NOT EVEN OPEN YOUR DOOR.**

Criminal damage and Anti-Social behaviour blight all our communities, always ensure these matters are reported.

Other crime prevention I work on is about feeding in intelligence and information on matters like drug activity. Remember many of the crimes like thefts from cars, vans, sheds and garages is carried out by people who need to fund the purchase of drugs.

I work on other issues like Knife Crime and specialist work like Violence Against Women & Girls. Of course, all violence but women and girls suffer disproportionate problems in this area.

My work relies on all crimes and attempted crimes being reported. The Police and Neighbourhood Watch of all our faults are not Clairvoyant! We must be told, and we can only act if we are told and know of matters. Report to the police, get a crime number and that feeds through to NHW.

Please always report everything which will allow me to send our alerts, warnings and crime prevention advice.

South Willesborough has one of the strongest NHW set ups in Kent with a scheme for every single road in the area. Each resident/property is a jigsaw piece of the overall picture we are building in the area. So many of you are already in NHW if you're not please join after reading this article.

Let's build a fortress in the area. Let's send a message to criminals that you are not picking on one property or one vulnerable person our Neighbourhood Watch for the area says you are taking on all of us.



Peter
NEW
91725



Kent
Police



Finally, I work closely with the Police Crime Commissioner Matthew Scott. He is very supportive of my work and recently spoke on it during a Radio Kent interview where he stressed this NHW work with local councils and councillors is essential to the Policing Plan for Kent.

Pictured below with P. C. C. Matthew Scott at Kent Police HQ when we looked at the NHW plan for 2025 and crime trends that we will jointly attack.

In closing, if you are not in Neighbourhood watch please join. Everything is free.

DON'T FORGET TO JOIN NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Email: peternew1@aol.com

Tel: 07768 437422

CRIME CANNOT FLOURISH IN A COMMUNITY THAT CARES AND IS ALERT & VIGILANT

Finally, I know your council and clerk care, I know all your councillors all care. I hope I have demonstrated how much I care. Please also care and join Neighbourhood Watch.

Let's keep South Willesborough a great safe place to live, work and bring up families.

Stay safe, secure, alert and vigilant
Thank you for your support

Peter

Peter New

Community
Neighbourhood
Watch in South
Willesborough



Annual Meeting of Electors - Community Awards

The Annual Meeting of Electors took place on Tuesday 20th May 2025, with a Community Hero Award for Mr Michael Whybrow, who works at Costcutters on Gladstone Road, and an Outstanding Contribution to the Community Award for SWAN Young Farmers Club.

All residents were invited to come along, with tea and a wide array of cakes served. Interviews with local community groups, sharing of news and plans for 2025, as well as reports from Kent County Councillor and Ashford Borough Council Ward Councillors and SWAN Community Council, this meeting is an ideal opportunity to celebrate our community.



Award Mr David Smith

Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC) Community Award 2025 has been presented to Mr David Smith, in recognition of 16 years of dedicated service as Ward Councillor for this area, serving as Mayor of Ashford 2013 -2014 and serving as Parish Councillor 2023 -2024 demonstrating exceptional public service. Nominated by SWAN Community Council, the award is given by the Chairman of Kent County Council, KALC Chairman and the High Sheriff of Kent. The Award was presented to David Smith at an Awards Ceremony at The Stone Hall, Kent County Council in May 2025.



Coronation Tree Planting

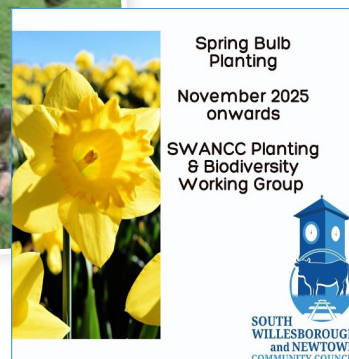
50 new dwarf fruit trees were planted in February this year, as part of the Kings Living Coronation on Frogs Island. SWAN Community Council sincerely thank all the volunteers who came out to help plant these fruit trees over 3 Saturdays in February of this year. 10 new cherry trees, 10 new pear trees and 30 new apple trees were planted. A rich display of varieties both old and new were planted including a Swans' Egg Pear Tree. A further 9 dwarf fruit trees are going to be planted at Stirling Road Playpark with a range of plum and pear trees to create a new Community Orchard.

These fruit trees were provided by Ashford Borough Council in support of the Kings Living Coronation, and grown by Keepers Nursery. Keepers Nursery in East Farleigh host 1200 varieties of fruit trees and uniquely grew and grafted these trees by hand as part of the Kings Living Heritage Programme. The 50 trees planted in SWAN contribute to 564 trees planted by Parish Councils across the Ashford Borough. We all look forward to seeing the trees grow and the beautiful fruit they will provide.



Spring Bulb Planting

SWAN Community Council would like to thank the amazing volunteers in the SWANCC Planting and Biodiversity Working Group who have worked tirelessly through the winter months to plant the 7000 new spring bulbs at Riverbank Way. This hopefully brings a cheery display to all residents along the River Walk.



Great British Spring Clean 2025 Community Litter Pick

This years' Annual Great British Spring Clean took place at the end of March 2025. With 7 very large bags of litter being collected around South Willesborough and Newtown. This was followed by tea and cake at the Salvation Army Hall. SWANCC would like to thank all the residents and children who came out to be Litter Heroes for this event. It was a delightful day and the weather was very kind which allowed for a really productive and friendly day. It was fantastic to surpass our pledge of 5 very large bags of litter to be collected.

Great British Spring Clean
Community Litter Pick
Saturday 29th March 2025
10:00am - 12pm
Meet at the Salvation Army Hall
Cudworth Road
Return for Tea and Cake from 12pm

Equipment will be provided at 10am at the Hall,
Please wear sturdy footwear.
All children remain the responsibility of their parents
or guardians at all times.

KEEP BRITAIN TIDY.

SOUTH WILLESBOROUGH and NEWTOWN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Community Allotment at Gas House Fields and SWAN Pick Your Own Pumpkin Event



SWANCC Community Allotment launched Saturday 10th May 2025. The aim to produce a Pick Your Own Pumpkin event - free of charge to all SWAN residents.

All the preparation has been completed and we just need volunteers to help plant the seeds and carry out some light maintenance to keep the new garden going. A variety of vegetables have also been planted thanks to a kind donation by Kings Seeds.

The Community Allotment will run 1 Saturday a month between May and August 2025. You are welcome to just drop in to 1 or all of the sessions. These are Saturday 10th May, 14th June, 25th July and then combined with **National Allotment Society** Open Week in August 2025 will be the first harvest.

The benefits of Allotments are numerous both to enriching and improving the local environment, as well as creating unique opportunities to learn new skills, meet new people and of course the physical and mental benefits of connecting with nature and healthy exercise.

SWAN Community Council look forward to welcoming all volunteers to help establish this new community Allotment and creating a fun and free Pick Your Own Pumpkin event for all residents.

Gas House Fields Community Allotment Planting Day Supporting the SWAN Pick Your Own Pumpkin Day Saturday 10th May 2025 10am -12pm.

If you can volunteer a couple of hours to help establish this planting it will be a great way to start the Spring Planting for the Community Allotment 2025.

All the preparation work has been completed, we just need volunteers to help plant the seeds, kindly donated by Kings Seeds.

Tools will be provided but if you have a spade please bring it along to ensure there is enough for everyone to take part. Please wear sturdy footwear.

SWANCC look forward to welcoming you!!

Children remain the responsibility of their parents or guardians at all times.



If you would like any further information contact the SWAN Office:
Email clerk@southwillesboroughnewtown-cc.gov.uk
Tel 01233 528933

Stirling Road Play Park

After persistent lobbying by SWANCC and strong community backing, Ashford Borough Council has completed the installation of new play equipment at Stirling Road Play Park.

This is a huge win for local families and children, providing a safe, fun space for play right in the heart of our community. The Playpark is integral to the design of Stirling Road. Thank you to everyone who supported the campaign and helped make this happen!

Going forward SWANCC will be installing a new picnic bench, litter bins, new seating bench and planters with funding being supported by a Combined Members Grant from Kent County Council. Also 9 dwarf fruit trees from the Kings Living Coronation will be planted.

SWANCC would like to thank the many people involved in bringing this to fruition, 1) Cllr Kate Walder from Ashford Borough Council for taking time to come to our Council



meetings to listen and engage with the campaign to restore this playpark. Cllr Walder is a champion for Green and Open Spaces and has supported the introduction of the new trim trail equipment and restoration of the playpark. 2) The Project Manager for Ashford Borough Council Property and Environment who has worked tirelessly on the design and implementation of the play equipment, 3) Cllr Steve Campkin who supported the application for the Combined Members Grant from Kent County Council. 4) All the residents who have been determined to see this playpark made fit for its purpose and design.

Be sure to stop by and enjoy the new facilities and SWANCC will keep you updated on the works it will be undertaking to ensure the playpark is finished with the best look and feel to the area.

Bullied Play Park New Play Train

SWANCC are so saddened by the fire and consequential damage to the play park on Bullied Place in February 2022. This mindless damage spoilt this play park for many children. Whilst many refurbishments were undertaken the actual play train was never brought back. Renewed lobbying of Ashford Borough Council by SWANCC and residents alike for the return of the Play train in Winter 2024, saw the new play train and carriages installed in March 2025. Thanks to Cllr Kate Walder Ashford Borough Council, who again supported the reinstatement of this character defining play equipment, the new play train is teaming with activity and enjoyment.



VE DAY 80th Anniversary A shared moment of celebration

SWANCC were honoured to receive the Certificate of Grateful Recognition from Bruno Peek CVO OBE OPR Originator & Pageantmaster for the VE Day 80 National Celebrations.

Joining the National Tribute to this significant anniversary The Beacon and the Lamp of Peace were lit at Gas House Fields Allotments supported by services from the Boiler Engineer Ltd who kindly gave their services free of charge for this event.

VE Day is a poignant reminder of the peace, community and celebration we are all able to enjoy thanks to the service and dedication of so many during the 1940s in Defence of this Nation.

SWANCC would like to thank the Boiler Engineer Ltd for their services and all the volunteers who helped on the day as well as the residents who came to mark this important occasion. Lest We Forget.



SWAN OFFICE UPDATE



**SOUTH
WILLESBOROUGH
and NEWTOWN
COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

As I write the update from the SWAN Office I am amazed at how quickly 2025 is progressing. From the Coronation Tree Planting, the Community Litter Pick for the Great British Spring Clean, Lighting the VE Day Beacon and Lamp of Peace and fast

approaching The SWAN Salute to the 1940s it has been non-stop. However, none of these activities would have been possible without the volunteer time of Local Cllrs and Residents who have supported all the work that has been carried out. A real testament to the amazing community spirit here in South Willesborough and Newtown.

It was an absolute delight to host a work experience student from North School, if ever a young person is a hard worker this student truly was. It was a very busy week planning and the variety of different tasks we were working on was certainly broad. I hope the week gave an insightful view of Council work and how all the different Tiers of Local Government work together for the local community.

As we enter May and June I am acutely aware that not only my own children, but also many of the young people here in SWAN and all our former work experience students have their exams to sit this Summer. I wish every single person sitting exams and facing coursework deadlines every success and I truly hope your results provide everything you need for your future steps.

SWAN Community Plan Update and Plans for 2025 2026

Following public consultation in 2021, the SWAN Community Plan was implemented with 7 key themes aimed with improving the SWAN area in 2022.

A SAFER PLACE

A WELL CONNECTED PLACE

A BETTER FEEL TO THE PLACE

AN ECO FRIENDLY PLACE

AN EQUAL AND DIVERSE PLACE

AN EFFECTIVE COUNCIL

A PLACE TO DO BUSINESS

Since then, SWAN Community Council has worked consistently to deliver these objectives and build upon each of these themes for the benefit of the SWAN area. The SWAN Community plan is based on resident feedback for how the area can be enjoyed and improved and underpins all the work SWANCC carries out. A Full Update on the SWAN Community Plan, its successful implementation and progress is now available at the SWANCC website www.southwillesboroughnewtown-cc.gov.uk and will also be displayed at The Annual Electors Meeting 20th May 2025 and The SWAN Salute to the 1940s. If you would like a printed copy please contact the SWAN Office:

Email clerk@southwillesboroughnewtown-cc.gov.uk
Tel **01233 528933**

As we start the new financial year SWAN Community Council has set its objectives for the year and linked them to these key themes of the SWAN Community Plan. This is in addition to the ongoing objectives the Council has for Planning and Highways Improvements, and each of the key themes of the SWAN Community Plan.

Delivery of several of the key objectives such as the Mobile Speed Indicator and the finishing of Stirling Road Playpark are reliant on the work of our partners at Kent County Council and Ashford Borough Council and this will take time to complete however, it is hoped that this will be as effective as possible to deliver meaningful improvements to safety and wellbeing in the area.

South Willesborough & Newtown Council Launch Community Calendar of Events

South Willesborough & Newtown Community Council (SWANCC) Calendar of Events, offers residents a vibrant mix of activities, celebrations, and community initiatives throughout the year.

"This calendar reflects the amazing community spirit here in South Willesborough and Newtown. We encourage everyone to get involved – whether it's attending an event, volunteering, or just coming along to be involved."

Already off to a flying start with the Community Tree Planting Days and Great British Spring Clean, The calendar includes something for everyone. From Community celebrations with the SWAN Salute to the 1940s, Community Gardening with volunteer opportunities, to the Community Carol Service and much more in between.

Upcoming Highlights Include:

- **SWAN Salute to the 1940s**
A full day of vintage music, displays, and community spirit on Newtown Green.
- **SWAN Pick Your Own Pumpkin Event at Gas House Fields Allotments Dates to be announced.**
- Community Gardening at Gas House Fields Allotments
- National Allotments Open Week at Gas House Fields Allotments
- Spring Bulb Planting throughout the area with the SWANCC Planting and Biodiversity Group.
- Community Carol Service to start the festive season.

Stay Informed:

To review the calendar through the year, visit:

www.southwillesboroughnewtown-cc.gov.uk/events

Or pick up a printed copy at the SWAN Office.

Local Business Differences Not Disabilities

Supporting Our Community, One Step at a Time



Differences Not Disabilities is a dedicated organisation passionate about supporting individuals with Special Educational Needs (SEN). With both professional qualifications and lived experience, our team brings deep understanding and empathy to every situation. We specialise in working with individuals with **Severe Learning Difficulties (SLD)** and **Social, Emotional, and Mental Health (SEMH)** needs, offering a compassionate and inclusive approach.

We proudly offer a range of **resources, educational workshops, personalised training, and even a few fun sensory toys along the way!** You'll often find us at local markets—sharing what we do, connecting with families, and raising awareness in a friendly, informal way.

Giving back is at the heart of what we do. We've run **free community coffee mornings for six months** in Kennington, Ashford, and are always exploring new ways to support local families and carers.

Whether you need support, guidance, or simply a friendly chat—we're here to help.

Email us: differencesnotdisabilities@gmail.com

The Clocktower at Newtown Railway Works

The Clocktower at Newtown Railway Works is part of the extensive renovations for the development. The recent planning application for Listed Building Consent for the proposed refurbishment of the Clocktower to replace the clock movement and restore the clock mechanism was met with appreciation for the dedicated repairs plan and enthusiasm for this historic landmark repair to its former glory.

In researching this historic Building, if the following images are an accurate depiction, it was interesting to note that the Clocktower itself used to have a flat roof rather than the pitched roof we are all so familiar with.



Check your smoke alarms are in date!

Kent Fire and Rescue Service (KFRS) is urging people to check the expiry date on their smoke alarms, as they only have a lifespan of up to ten years.

Between 2022-2024, approximately 6,600 expired smoke alarms were discovered at properties in Kent and Medway during Home Fire Safety Visits carried out by KFRS with some residents unaware that they expire or how to check them.

The service has now launched its own campaign to raise awareness that smoke alarms expire, how to check their date and how to replace them.

Having an in-date smoke alarm is important in helping keep homes safe, as once they expire the sensors in the alarms become less reliable. This means that they might fail to sound in an emergency or could go off for no reason and could impact how effectively they work if there was a fire.

Rachael Spencer, Safe and Well Manager at KFRS, said: "Whilst many residents in Kent and Medway are great at checking their smoke alarms work, which

we recommend testing once a week, we found an increase in the amount of expired smoke alarms on our checks as people don't realise, they have an expiry date.

"Making sure your smoke alarm is in-date is so simple to do and provides an extra level of safety in your home that could make a real difference in case there is ever a fire."