

## A Triumph of Community and Celebration



### **"A Triumph of Celebration and Community"**

That is how Councillor, Sue Mullan, Chair of South Willesborough and Newtown (SWAN) Community Council described the Queens Platinum Jubilee event on held on Newtown Green on Sunday 5th June 2022

She said "Six months ago SWAN Council got a very clear message from residents that they wanted to see more social events and a revival of community spirit in this unique part of Ashford. The Queen's Platinum Jubilee gave us our first real opportunity to put on a large-scale event for them. It turned out to be a triumph of celebration and community"

A few days after handing out over 450 commemorative coins to local schoolchildren and supporting SWAN Farm's beacon lighting event, local families, many with young children, poured on to Newtown Green to find 500 tables and chairs laid out for a street party, free red, white and blue cupcakes displayed as the Royal Cypher of Queen Elizabeth II, a hog roast and a wide range of modern and traditional entertainment and music.

Councillor Mullan continued "My fellow Councillors and I were

thrilled to see a record number of local families and children descending on the Green to participate in a moment of history and summon up the spirit of the SWAN community. Around 550, Union Jack waving adults and children formed the shape of a swan which was filmed from above. It was a special moment that featured on Meridian TV news. They also watched on as the SWAN Jubilee time capsule was buried under the railway memorial on Newtown Green"

Councillor Mullan was generous in her praise of the team effort. She said "I can't thank SWAN residents enough for supporting this event but I would also like to thank Ashford Borough Council for allowing us to use the Green and supporting the event financially, Kent County Council for its support, SWAN councillors for their vision, the army of volunteers who helped on the day, the Salvation Army and The Alfred Arms for their help, our event advisor, Roger Crouch, and staff members Sarah Evans and Rob Woods who worked tirelessly to make the event such a resounding success"

**See Inside For the Platinum Jubilee Special, to obtain a copy of the human image is £10 please contact the Clerks.**



## A Note from SWANCC.



It has been a very exciting quarter for SWAN as a whole area and SWANCC has thoroughly enjoyed every opportunity to engage with our local community and celebrate the Platinum Jubilee.

As a Community Council it must be stated that residents cannot be thanked enough for turning out in full to celebrate the Jubilee event put on at Newtown Green. This large event was promised with a budget of £5,000 within the SWAN Community Plan during its consultation in 2021. So SWANCC is very pleased it has organised the event and funded £5,000 of the costs with the Precept each resident paid in their Council tax this year. Further funding was received with grateful thanks from Andy Rogers Ward Councillor and the Ashford Borough Councils' Reset Grant.

From visiting East Stour Primary School to share in their Jubilee celebrations and to gift each child with the official Platinum Jubilee Coin, to celebrating the Lighting of the South Willesborough and Newtown Community Beacon fabulously arranged by SWAN Farm with support from the Salvation Army and SWANCC, to visiting the area for its Street Party Celebrations and then on to the amazing Jubilee Event on Newtown Green it has certainly been eventful.

Yet alongside all the preparations and celebrations for the Jubilee the normal life in SWAN and SWAN Community Council has continued. Do read on to learn more from our local Community group and ourselves about progress in the area, the SWAN Community Plan actions and SWAN Community Council endeavours. Going forward the Community Council will now focus on the area enhancements budgets for 2022 -2023 which will allow up to £20,000 from this years' Precept to be spent within the Objectives of the Community Plan and bring our area to the best of its potential. With very best wishes for the Summer Sue Mullan, Andy Rogers, Peter Porter, Nirosha Thilagarajan, David Mullan, Jacky Godden, Steve Campkin, Eric Parkinson, Paul Bohill and Andy Hodges.

### South Willesborough and Newtown Community Council



## Litter Picking in SWAN

SWANCC invited Mark Goodman Environmental Contracts & Enforcement Manager

Ashford Borough Council which also includes responsibility to Head Street Cleansing and Litter Management in Ashford. Mark confirmed that the Borough Council is reliant on volunteers across the area for litter picking and they are extremely constrained to support this.

Litter was in the top 4 priorities for SWANCC following the public consultation, and led to the strong commitments in the SWAN Community Plan 2021 -2023, SWANCC are investing a significant proportion of the Area Enhancements budget towards the improvement of litter management in

the area and are investigating hire of a dedicated litter picker for the SWAN area. This would be funded with the area enhancement budget from this years' Precept charged through the Council tax and bring employment to the area.

Chair Sue Mullan said "It would be an amazing opportunity to support the active volunteer army led to date by Sue Williams and now Jackie Willis in South Willesborough and the dedicated Residents who work tirelessly on Newtown Green and Wainwright Place to improve litter management the area with a dedicated Litter Picker for South Willesborough & Newtown plus areas of the Orbital Park highlighted as needing regular attention through Councillors Ward Walks through the area."

## UPDATE FROM KCC CLLR STEVE CAMPKIN

I hope you're all enjoying the weather. I certainly did at the Jubilee celebrations in June, and it was nice to meet so many of you. Credit must go to the clerks and the working group on SWAN CC, who were frantically working to get all the swans in line leading up to the event.

Newtown Green is perfect for the community to get together and, after two years of chaos, I think we needed this to come together and remember we are a community.

On KCC I am still trying to get barriers removed but the officers are arguing that we need to compromise between accessibility and crime prevention. I believe crime prevention should be in the form of ending austerity, restoring youth services and funding a comprehensive police presence.

I am also working with various parish councils, ABC Councillors and KCC councillor Paul Bartlett on installing a bridge to link up a number of cycle routes across the Hastings line. Active travel is a carbon neutral way of travelling from A - B that is also a good form of gentle exercise and cheaper than driving. Eventually this will also, hopefully, link up with the proposed Brompton development and nature area.

**Cllr. Steve Campkin**  
**SWAN CC**  
**Willesborough ABC**  
**Ashford East KCC**



## Rising Costs

Hard on the heels of the shortages during the pandemic it is widely reported of the struggles that increasing number of families are facing in the SWAN area with rising costs. Councillors themselves reported challenges and those of their neighbours.

As a Community Council there are limited powers to interact on this as it is a national concern. Community and Parish Councils are not able to provide support for individuals, however charities in SWAN supporting SWAN residents can apply for grants and donations up to £2000.

Therefore, many families are affected and the impact for some is significant and Councillors recognised this with grave understanding.

Below is a signposting for the available help in the hope that if needed it would be of assistance to residents as and over the page if a resident should need it is a list of accessible foodbanks in the Ashford area.

## Get A Free Meal

1. Vinny's Diner is open every Monday from 11:30am to 1:30pm (closed Bank Holidays). Bright City Bank St, Ashford, TN23 1BA
2. The Well Cake and Tea or coffee pay as you feel or not at all Tuesdays Thursdays and Saturdays with limited Fare share food access. Adjacent to Willesborough Baptist Hythe Road TN24 0QR
3. Salvation Army Ladies Breakfast Wednesday Mornings Friday Community Drop in. Cudworth Road TN24 0BE
4. Ignite Thursdays St Marys 11:30am-1pm Community Fun Food & Worship a full meal is served and is doubling month on month for need. St Marys Church Town Centre.
5. Friday Coffee and Chat at Salvation Army Hall with a large amount of refreshments and food available. Cudworth Road TN24 0BE

Anyone is welcome to go to any of these Events and get refreshments free or very low priced or a meal, these are also wonderful community groups to attend for the whole town run by volunteers supporting and engaging with Ashford Community as a whole.

## Pet Food Bank

The Ashford Garden Cattery in Station Road is offering pet food parcels to anyone in the borough who is finding it tough. To be able to get a pet food parcel, pet owners must get a referral form from their vets, the Salvation Army, Age UK, or an RSPCA inspector

### In Person Support in SWAN

Salvation Army Food parcels and Emergency Meals are available, coffee and chat drop in on Friday mornings is also open to those who may need the Foodbank Service.

### In Person Support Ashford

Pneuma Church (formerly named Ashford Vineyard) Renew offer a Social Supermarket with food at a much-reduced cost or free and access to Fare-share (see overleaf for Foodbanks if required.)  
Pneuma Church (formerly Ashford Vineyard)

## MONEY MANAGEMENT HELP – CAP

CAP offers free, impartial advice and support to become debt free. You can get in touch with CAP on 0800 328 0006 to book an appointment with a debt coach in Ashford. They also offer free 3-week courses that help individuals learn how to better manage their money.

## Crisis Financial Support KENT Together

Help is for a short time and only if you have no other means of support. Help can be offered 3 times over a rolling 12-month period but will not be provided for the same reason more than once. This is a discretionary service and is for everyone, not just those impacted by COVID.

- Call 0300 333 5700, Monday to Friday, 9am to 4pm.
- Visit the KSAS pages to find out who is eligible and how to apply.

They don't offer money but can provide essential home items such as:

- groceries (for up to 7 days)
- baby food, milk and nappies
- furniture (beds and seating) bedding/curtains/carpets
- crockery
- utilities (prepayment gas and electric, for up to 7 days)
- emergency travel arrangements via public transport (for example to flee a crisis)

Most of the home items provided will be second hand the aim is to assist in an Emergency.

## Warmer Homes Funding Support for older people

Residents over 70 with a heart or lung condition can contact the In Touch Home Improvement Agency on 0800 028 3172. They will arrange a home assessment to see if you would benefit from winter warmth support.

Their support can range from benefit advice to more practical measures. These measures include providing blankets, heaters and draught excluders.

### Save Energy Save Money

There are many ways in which you can save on the energy you use, which can even make you money. These methods vary based on your situation and type of home you live in.

The following websites provide expert, free and impartial advice on energy saving measures and renewable energy systems for the home: [www.energysavingtrust.org.uk](http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk) [www.which.co.uk/l/heating-energy-and-air-treatment](http://www.which.co.uk/l/heating-energy-and-air-treatment)

Warmer home improvements can be supported by reaching The Sustainable Warmth Grant offers energy saving home improvements, like insulation, renewable heating systems and double glazing. This could help you reduce your energy bills, make your home warmer and more comfortable, and lower your carbon emissions. The grant is funded by the UK Government and managed by Warmworks with support from Energy Saving Trust.

SWANCC has been busy completing actions from the SWAN Community Plan.

## Lives are already being saved in SWAN



Newly installed defibrillator at the Alfred Arms Newtown Green, the internal device given to the SWAN Centre and the upgraded Defibrillator based at the Albion Pub provided by SWANCC as part of its SWAN Community Plan, are already in urgent use with 2 of the devices being used by Ambulance crews in June 2022. Chair

of Finance Peter Porter said "It is excellent to really be making a proven difference to saving lives in SWAN."

First aid training organised by SWANCC was held 8th March with Staff from the Alfred Arms, SWANCC Cllrs and local residents. There is a possibility of running an evening CPR course, if anyone would be interested please contact the Clerks.

The Memorial Wheels on Newtown Green are now refurbished by SWANCC and looked splendid for the installation of the Time Capsule for the Platinum Jubilee Insert image of memorial wheels

The Happy to chat benches are now installed at SWAN Farm and Newtown Green and are often in use. These were created that those seated upon them were happy to chat and already reports are coming back that they are providing wonderful opportunities to chat and connect.

## Foodbanks accessible in Ashford

Agency	Address	Contact	Availability
Renew Social Supermarket	The Warehouse, Ashford Works, Cobbs Wood Industrial Estate, Brunswick Road, Ashford, TN23 1EH	T: 01233 331919	Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays 10am-12pm
Repton Community Trust	Repton Connect Community Centre, Repton Avenue, Ashford, TN23 3RX	T: 01233 808023	Monday to Friday 10am -11am ,1pm-2pm 2pm Starting at a donation of £1 for every £5 worth of items, you'll be able to get a maximum of £20 worth of shopping for just £4! The People's Pantry is moving to a Community Shop, are still here for emergency food parcels.
ICM Ashford Pentecostal Church and Boxes of Hope	ICM Office, First Floor, 162 Godinton Road, Ashford TN23 1LN	T: 01233 340194	Mondays (10am-12pm), Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays (2pm-4pm). By appointment only.
The Salvation Army, Ashford Corps	115 Cudworth Road, South Willesborough, Ashford, TN24 0BE	T: 01233 643480	Fridays 10am-12pm. Available at other times in emergency situations.
Bluebells Children's Centre	School Road, Hothfield, Ashford, TN26 1HA	Directions to Bluebells Children's Centre	T: 03000 418300 Email Bluebells Children's Centre
Willows Children Centre Café / Light Bites Café	Brookfield Road, Ashford, TN23 4EY	T: 07732 385091	Monday-Friday 12-2pm
One You Shop	Unit 25 Park Mall Shopping Centre, Park Mall, Ashford, Kent, TN24 8RY	T: 07747 460198 or 03000 416696 Please call ahead to ensure the correct box is available.	Open for individuals, families and the homeless. Open Tuesday-Friday 9.30am-2pm.
Bright City Church	Centrepiece, Bank Street, Ashford, Kent, TN23 1BA	T: 01233 334007	Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 10am-12pm Please visit the back entrance of the building and bring a bag.
Kent Community Pantry	Ray Allen Children's Centre, Stanhope Road, Ashford, Kent, TN23 5RN	T: 01233 50047	Fridays 9.30-11am Individuals and families need to become members to receive food.

## Tenants Day

Tenants Day was a marvellous event with refreshments and consultation boards for suggestions proving very popular.

It was wonderful to welcome nearby residents to explore the site and demonstrate our living workshop.

The Community Plot was officially opened with the Chair of SWANCC and myself Chair of Allotments Committee planting seeds in the raised beds on the site.

There was a fabulous take up of the Community Plot and the SWANCC waiting list. SWANCC has been enjoying adding new tenants to the site at Gas House Fields over recent weeks.

SWANCC also welcomed Mayor Callum Knowles to the site on May 13th 2022. He reviewed the Community Plot and the Happy to Chat Benches along with the Living Workshop progress. It was very exciting to demonstrate the application of the SWANCC mental health and wellbeing policy and to be able to thank Ashford Borough Council in person for their funding towards these projects and to discuss future plans and environmental options to improve the support for wildlife on site.

Going forward the Allotments Committee are working towards the disabled access paving and raised beds as promised in the Community Plan for 2021-2023.

If you want to get involved at Gas House Fields allotments email or call our Clerks for more information.



**Niroscha Thilagarajan**  
niroscha.thilagarajan@swancc.org.uk  
Chair of Allotment Committee  
Environment Champion



All South Willesborough and  
Newtown residents were invited to

# be a part of something very special



Newtown green came to life with set up beginning early Sunday morning. Houses round the Green were ready decorated in anticipation.



Ken Hopkins gave live CPR demonstrations for the new defibrillator. The BM ambulance service first aid team was only needed for 3 very small items requiring mainly plasters and a big smile. Children had an awesome time seeing inside the ambulance and learning how the lights and sirens work!!



**South Willesborough and  
Newtown Community Council**

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**01233 528933**  
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**[www.swancc.org.uk](http://www.swancc.org.uk)**





500 cupcakes produced a striking image of Elizabeth II Royal Cipher free for every visitor handmade by talented bakers Pickle Lilly and Slice of Nice.



The Salvation Army started proceedings with a short service of reflection and thanksgiving for the Queen and prayers for the day ahead.



Compere Andy Knight then arrived and gave a fantastic welcome and the party was soon in full swing!



Keith came on stage to sing and entertain in his fantastic party shirt



The Bouncy Castles from Ashford Inflatables were in constant use



Fantasy Face Painting completed at least 200 faces in 1 day the queue never went down and Karen did not stop except for the odd sip of tea - thank you to everyone for waiting.



The Green Rapidly filled up it was wonderful to see so many different ages, families and of course well behaved dogs.





The Harold Hog Roast team led by Russell were incredible and sold out completely by 3pm!!



Circus skills had everyone on their feet involved spinning plates and much more



The Alfred Arms Pub was non stop in supporting this event from its inception –thank you Tracey and Gary for everything and especially the much enjoyed Bat and Trap. The Alfred Arms partied on into the evening with local talented singer Jasmine being a huge hit.



Scarlett age 10 brought her Ashford Guide Dogs stall and raised an incredible £818 on the day bringing her to meet the target of £15000 to name a Guide Dog.



The SWAN WI stall outdid themselves, showcasing their talents with craft, plants and of course their very popular cakes. The tombola sold out and was a huge success.



The Salvation Army stall brought children many goodies including Jubilee crafts





12:45 saw the momentum gather for the Human Image 550 flags were distributed and Event Organiser Roger Crouch and his assistant Carly led everyone into the form of a SWAN for a Human Image. At 1pm the National Anthem as played by the Salvation Army everyone sung along and the drone took images to mark the momentous day.



The fancy dress parade was full of Royal Stars



The official Attendance List put into the time capsule was signed by 807 people we know there were more....



The coconut shy did not stop until all the coconuts had been won thank you to Andy Hodges for providing this.



An enormous thank you to Uprising for providing hilarity with Sumo Suit wrestling and a marquee of children's games



3pm Saw Cllr Eric Parkinson insert the time capsule under the Memorial Wheels, Beatrice Shrubsole and her daughter sprinkled the first soil in memory of their Father who was lost in the Newtown Railworks Bombing WW2 then followed by Community Council Manager Sarah Evans as a toast the next 100 years of South Willesborough and Newtown. Cllr Andy Rogers gave a speech on the commemorating the day and thanked everyone involved.



As the afternoon drew to close some very happy and tired children made ready for home

# Were you part of something very very special at Newtown Green on Sunday 5th June 2022?



The Army of local volunteers cleared away leaving the Green spotless but for one question



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## SWANCC & East Stour Primary School.

In celebration of the Platinum Jubilee SWANCC purchased and distributed the Official Tower Mint Platinum Jubilee Commemorative Coins for each child at East Stour Nursery and Primary.

East Stour School wrote in their newsletter.

"Our Jubilee Celebration day was made all the more special by our visitors from South Willesborough and Newtown Community Council. Chair of the Council, Councillor Sue Mullan, along with Councillor David Mullan and Councillor Peter Porter and Community Council Manager Mrs. Evans, joined us for the afternoon tea party, spending time talking to the children before very generously presenting a golden commemorative Jubilee coin for every child at East Stour. The children had a very enjoyable afternoon in the lovely sunny weather.



## SOUTH WILLESBOROUGH AND NEWTOWN COMMUNITY BEACON

Over 100 people turned up to the Salvation Army Hall on Thursday evening 2nd June 2022 to kick start the Platinum Jubilee with the lighting of the South Willesborough and Newtown Community Beacon, with hot drinks and biscuits provided and served by SWAN Community Council with help from Shellie Bonney and Bramwell Hayes at the Salvation Army Hall. It was a wonderful atmosphere and delightful to see the hall thronging with people.

Emma Dodd from SWAN Farm then rang a large hand bell to summon all residents to walk round to SWAN Farm for the lighting of the Beacon at 9:40pm

Emma Dodd supported by Chair of SWANCC Sue Mullan and Community Council Manager Sarah Evans opened proceedings by reading the Official Proclamation to officially announce the Beacons' lighting.

Emma then awarded local resident David Gower with a certificate and conferred upon him the Honorary role of Beacon Master met with delight and congratulations from all present. Knowing the community service and help David Gower has given many residents in SWAN and the Swan Farm including preparing for this evening. Emma then read the poem written by Laureate John Masefield for the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth.

At precisely 9:40pm David Gower lit the Beacon and immediately the Salvation Army Band consisting of Bramwell Hayes and Jim Terry struck up the National Anthem on their trumpets and all sung of one accord. Sparklers were given to all the children and young people and beacon blazed with glory. The atmosphere was one of celebration, delight and pride in taking such a significant part in commemorating the Queens' amazing achievement

## South Willesborough and Newtown Community Street parties and celebrations

Cudworth Road celebrated the Platinum Jubilee in style with residents gathering outside their houses to share a marvellous buffet and a Queen's Head pop your head in cardboard photo booth which was great fun!

Just further along the Salvation Army Hall held a Jubilee party for all residents with a truly glorious buffet fit for the Queen herself.

Residents of all ages attended full of patriotic spirit, the hall was covered with bunting and union jacks decorating every table and available area. With many fun games and jubilee crafts for children, tv coverage of the jubilee in each room and comfortable seating made for the perfect party. Congratulations and many thanks to the Salvation Army team for putting on such a fantastic Community event.

If you had a street party or event in SWAN that the SWAN News hasn't covered please contact the clerks by phone or email, so it can be added to the Website edition for the Platinum Jubilee.



## Annual Electors Meeting

### "A celebration of the return of SWAN Community Life"

The Annual Electors Meeting took place on Tuesday 24th May, all the Community Groups that were able to participate took part and gave updates on their activities over recent weeks. It really was a celebration of the return of Community life. Chair of SWANCC Sue Mullan gave a warm welcome and reflected that it was only January of this year the Community was still under a work from home order and that it was amazing how much life had progressed and sprung up since then and congratulated all the groups on their successes over recent months. SWANCC Responsible Finance Officer Rob Woods gave an update on the SWANCC finances and the successful recent internal audit. Sarah Evans Community Council Manager updated residents on the successful progress of the SWAN Community Plan and the drive forward for the next 12 months.

Shelia Eastlake from SWAN WI shared the success of their recent jumble sale at the SWAN centre and also the variety of activities the SWAN WI was now

participating in. New Members are very welcome and the group meets the first Friday of every month. Stefan Heathfield updated on the SWAN Centre its return to near pre Covid activity and plans for improving the centre, Damian Truelove shared an update from BGFC and thanked Stefan and residents for their patience with the parking challenges match days creates. Andy Rogers Ward Cllr agreed to speak with SWAN Centre and BGFC to see if any support could be given to ease parking challenges. Jackie Willis from South Willlesborough Litter Pickers gave an update on their monthly efforts and the progress of the group. Emma Dodd from SWAN Farm updated on the plans for the Farm and the upcoming Community Beacon lighting for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

KCC Cllr Steve Campkin and ABC Cllr Andy Rogers gave updates on current issues and thanked residents for their ongoing support. Peter New then gave an update on the SWAN Neighbourhood Watch scheme

## "100% of roads in South Willlesborough are now operational schemes in Neighbourhood Watch."

The meeting then finished with the giving of awards for Sue Williamson and Stefan Heathfield.

Stefan Heathfield received a certificate of appreciation for his work with the Allotments and the SWAN centre.

Sue Williamson received the Outstanding Contribution to the Local Community for her 15 years of service leading South Willlesborough Litter Pickers and her committed volunteering at Headway Trust.

As the meeting closed everyone present enjoyed time to catch up share more news and idea and the tea and cakes provided by SWANCC



## Community News SWAN FARM and SWAN WI

The SWAN Farm Easter Open day was a huge success, raising a whopping £1174.30, with a wide variety of activities both at the SWAN Farm and the SWAN centre an Easter extravaganza was enjoyed by all.

The SWAN WI held the jumble sale at the

end of April, providing an enormous amount of goods to rummage through and consider. The SWAN Centre hall was absolutely full. Refreshments were as always delicious and the WI raised a significant sum for local charities. Congratulations to everyone involved.

## Neighbourhood Watch update from Peter New

Neighbourhood Watch is totally free all you need to do is read and stay safe on the advice given.

### CRIME TRENDS

Keep MAIN PROPERTIES secure especially as we have more doors and windows open in this warmer weather. Even if just popping out for a few minutes. A typical "risk time" is school run/pick up time!

VEHICLES especially VANS carrying goods and tools please park as secure as possible. Leave absolutely nothing on show inside a CAR when parking especially last park up for the night. GARAGES, SHEDS, BARNs, ALLOTMENT SHEDS, STABLES, OUTBUILDINGS, SPORTS PAVILLIONS, CLUBHOUSES, AND ANY FORM OF EXTERNAL STORAGE. These are the risk areas.

SCAMS There is a scam for anything and everything. Take your time do nothing in a rush. Check and check again if in doubt DO NOTHING.

We then need to be aware of sudden spikes in a crime trends.

DOG THEFTS, CATALYTIC CONVERTER THEFTS, THEFTS OF INTERNET SHOPPING PARCELS FROM DOORSTEPS vans are now followed by criminals. Theft of FUEL from vehicles and even Domestic heating Oil Tanks.

Theft of NUMBER PLATES to be placed on a vehicle that enters a garage forecourt, fills up and drives off without paying. Please report all number plate thefts.

FLY TIPPING A crime that causes upset and distress. Always report fly tipping as soon as you see it.

ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR and CRIMINAL DAMAGE Always report please do not suffer in silence

My task is to keep residents crime free and free from the fear of being a victim of crime also.

SWAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL provides me with support and backing both for the work and to me personally.

This is where I need you. If you are in my NHW then fine stay safe and secure on the messages sent out.

If you are not a member, please don't put the newsletter to one side and say you will do it later. Drop me an email on peternew1@aol.com and you are in!!

All free, just read and stay safe.

Time and time again you as residents show you care. Your council are caring people who work tirelessly on your behalf. I give this NHW Community work my very best efforts. Peter New.

### Good News

Vice Chair SWANCC, and ABC Ward Councillor Andy Rogers used his Councillors grant to fund NHW Stickers to refurbish old worn our signs and where we cannot use lamppost signage. Balfour Beatty Management sponsored NHW signs to help cover all the new schemes in South Willlesborough



## UPDATE FROM ABC CLLR ANDY ROGERS

It was an absolute pleasure to attend the Jubilee event on Newtown Green and also to be part off setting it up on the day. It really goes to show what a fabulous community we have. So much spirit with a great atmosphere. I even got to Sumo wrestle with fellow CLLR Steve Campkin! In June I managed to have a guided tour of Boys Hall whilst they have their refurbishment ahead of re opening later this year. This will be a great facility for our ward area with wonderful surroundings. It will be a new Restaurant with Rooms so please look out for their opening date. I am sure that it will be hugely successful and an asset to the town.

You may have read recently that works have now commenced at the Railway works to develop it into a film studio. I think there was a lot of speculation that this was not going to happen but Ashford Borough Council now hold a stake which has enabled to works to finally start. This is a great opportunity for our area providing many local employment opportunities and education in partnership with Ashford College. As ward member and on behalf of SWAN CC I will be making regular site visits to see progress on works but also to be able to give local residents updates on what is happening and also to hopefully any feedback from you all to the developers. If you have any concerns or comments that you would like me to communicate please get in touch. Parking is still an issue in the ward and I am working closely with SWAN CC to see what initiatives we can come up with along with ABC and KCC to resolve any issues. Work on this has been slower that we had hoped but we are now getting dates to meet with officers to relay our concerns and any possible solutions. Please report if you see or have any problems as our approach needs to be fact based. I need to mention the new barriers that were recently installed to footpaths in South Willesborough. The designs that were originally shared are not what have been installed. KCC have claimed that these are standard issue throughout Kent and are not currently open to any changes. If you face problems passing the barriers again, please get in touch as evidence is required to prove that they are not fit for purpose. Finally I would like to share that I have been cycling a lot in the area with my children and this gives me an opportunity to see what a great area we live in and how proud I am to be one of your ward members.

Take care and please get in touch if you have any questions or queries. I am always at the monthly SWAN CC meetings and also attend the North Willesborough Community Forum.

**Andy Rogers**  
Ward member for Aylesford and East Stour  
Ashford Independents  
Contact: 07596 262062

## G line saved on Use it or lose terms

The sudden decision from Stagecoach to terminate the G line bus service in SWAN caused uproar in the area and across the Borough. The thought that SWAN would be left without any public transport was unthinkable.

Undeterred Residents in SWAN turned out in force at the April Council Meeting with standing room only from 7pm. The residents were met with a supportive and concerned SWANCC who listened carefully and gathered as much data as possible to be able to lobby for both Stagecoach and KCC for the G Line continuance.

An already supported petition was available on line and spearheaded by Ashford Resident Mandi Rossi who kindly made the petition available as a paper copy

also. SWANCC provided as many copies as were needed. Local Residents Brenda Wade and Elaine Nicholls went house to house and gained well over 1000 signatures. These residents were publicly thanked at the Annual Electors Meeting and given flowers from the Chair of SWANCC to show everyone's appreciation.

By teaming up with our local County Councillor and Borough Councillors as well as Councillors and Clerks across the Borough a team effort ensured that the G line was extended for the next 12 months. Stagecoach have been clear that the passenger numbers need to increase for it to remain viable, but SWANCC made it clear that KCC also had a duty to support it as it has done with many other lines across the County.

## Further Public Transport Challenges including Kent Karrier

However, the Challenge did not stop there with KCC also announcing Operators had advised them that other lines they already do support across the County were threatened with termination from their operators, forcing a public consultation on which services to support and which to cut bringing threats to the Kent Karrier service and multiple useful routes for families and school children in SWAN

SWANCC publicly completed the consultation using feedback from residents present at the meeting and its own diligent research. Updates were given to SWANCC 4th July 2022, the briefing suggests that the Kent Karrier has not been cut!

However across the County many cuts have been made to operator services a full list can be obtained from the Clerks at the SWANCC office.



## South Willesborough Litter Pickers receive grant for Litter Picking Equipment.

Ward Councillor Andy Rogers worked with SWAN CC to award a grant of £330 for SWAN Litter Pickers to be able to expand their range of equipment. The equipment arrival is eagerly anticipated.

SWAN Litter Pickers meet at the SWAN centre at 9am on the first Wednesday of every month.



## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



### Dates for your Diary

November 18th & 19th will see the Business Tales from the Tracks organising an exhibition with support from businesses on Newtown including the Alfred Arms to celebrate 170 years of the railways in Newtown with a bookable guided walking tour with history of the site.

SWANCC is considering an Autumn Craft Fayre please let the clerks know if you would be interested

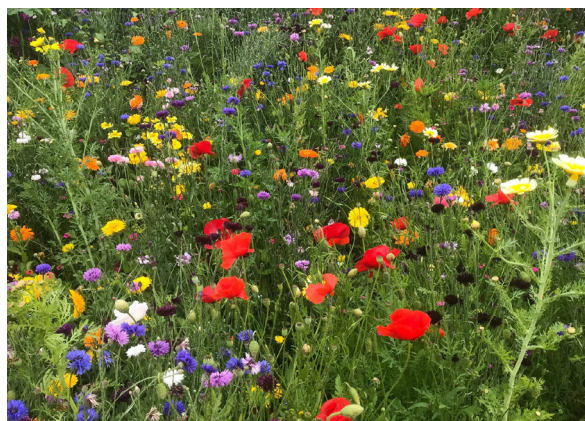
Christmas is coming save the date 11th December 2022 2:30pm for the Community Carol Service

## Join Councillors and Volunteers working together to improve SWAN area.

SWANCC are looking for opportunities to improve the area with wildflowers and spring flower planting.

There are many opportunities to help plan this project and to help plant. This will form a major part of the SWANCC Community Plan from 2022 to 2023.

Please contact the Clerks to arrange to contribute to this fantastic project.



## SNIPPETS

You can subscribe to the Council Website on [swancc.org.uk](http://swancc.org.uk) to receive updates on Council meetings and activities.

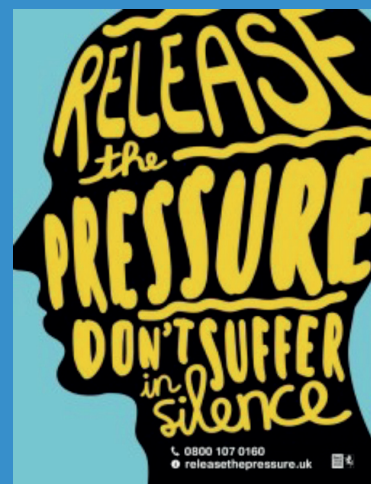
Did you know that Newtown was originally named Alfred Town, but with its relative remoteness, unique housing styles, village green, gated access and distinctive social life, it quickly earned the name the New Town.

## RenewWellbeing

A quiet safe space where it is ok not to be ok

The Well Café Hythe Road Ashford Kent

Tuesdays 2pm – 4pm



**shout**  
**85258**  
here for you 24/7

Did you know South Willesborough road names were probably given for the following reasons Crowbridge road leading then to Crow Corner, history suggests tall trees with nesting crows may have names the land.

**SWANCC wishes all residents a peaceful and happy Summer break.**



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