

The Railway Vintage Festival Saturday 1st July 2023



There was no better way to commemorate the 180th Anniversary of the Ashford Railway Works and the 175th Anniversary of Newtown Railway Works than with the fantastic, vibrant and massively successful Railway Vintage Festival held at Newtown Green Saturday 1st July 2023.

Organised by South Willesborough and Newtown Community Council and sponsored by Ashford Borough Council and Ashford International Development Company, with amazing professional acts from London and Brighton performing iconic music and dance through the eras of the 1920s to the 1960s when the last steam train left Ashford.

Chair of SWANCC Cllr Sue Mullan, remarked " This Railway Vintage Festival has been a tremendous success due to a year of hard work and planning by SWANCC, but the key to its successful delivery has been the sponsorship from Ashford Borough Council with Ashford International Development Company and the indomitable SWAN Community Spirit volunteering to facilitate this fabulous festival it has really put South Willesborough and Newtown on the map! Thank you to everyone involved in making today a success." Top class acts also performing on the community stage with wonderful local talent that demonstrated the creative and high-quality ability in the SWAN area was a roaring success. Enjoyed by community and visitors alike, the event hosted a wide array of classic cars and vintage stalls and handcrafted market stalls. A land train ran rides around the Green for the whole day and the funfair was a fantastic attraction.

South Willesborough and Newtown Community Council worked tirelessly to ensure the event was a fitting tribute to the important role Newtown Railway Works has had on the area. Reflecting the history of the area with a Community Memories tent hosted the Newtown Railway History Exhibition produced by local Historian Ani from Tales on the tracks, residents brought their own memorabilia diaries and photographs to give a rich tapestry of local history and memories of the life of Newtown Railway Works. Continuing the historical elements of the day exhibitions were also on display from AIMREC with model railway layouts produced for the Kings Coronation and displays from Ashford Museum.

With eyes to the exciting future for Ashford, residents and visitors were able to engage with the exciting development at



Newtown Railway Works and Members from Ashford International Development Company.

The Mayor Cllr Larry Krause and Deputy Mayor Cllr Lyn Suddards attended the event and with Chair Cllr Sue Mullan and Vice Chair Cllr Andy Rogers planted trees in memory of Her Majesty the Queen Elizabeth and Cllr George Koowaree.

It was a wonderful occasion for the wide family of George Kooware to gather and have a family reunion at the event, The Deputy Mayor gave a speech in tribute to Cllr George Kooware's life and work and for SWANCC it was a privilege to mark the legacy and life of Cllr Kooware on Newtown Green.

Vice Chair of SWANCC Cllr Andy Rogers said "Newtown has not seen an event of this scale for many years. Hopefully this is just the beginning of the vibrant future for South Willesborough and Newtown and Ashford as a whole community with the exciting development of Ashford International Studios".

The Railway Vintage Festival included an exciting world record attempt for the largest human image of a train, with adjudicators from Ashford Borough Council and many Community Marshalls. SWAN made a valiant attempt to form the human image of a train but unfortunately on this attempt was not able to secure a strong enough image on this occasion. However, that said the image does capture the fun and community spirit of the day.

You can review many of the photos from the day on the SWANCC website at www.swancc.org.uk



Memories Tent and Community Contribution

Thank you to all the residents who participated with contributions to the Memories Tent at the Railway Vintage Festival. Sincere thanks to Ani from Tales on the Tracks who lent the wonderful exhibition of the History of Newtown to the event, which gave such a thorough overview of the life and history of Newtown from its inception. SWANCC would also like to thank Charlotte Taylor for all the time she gave to set up the exhibition and run the Memories Tent for Residents which was greatly appreciated.

A fascinating range of items were brought including very significantly Railway History

some examples of which are, Engineer Reports and Letters, Details of works carried out on Newtown, Repairs to the Overbridge added with photographs from the Signal Boxes and details of the Ashford Railway Crash. Also, many other interesting and valuable items were brought to the Census for Newtown from 1881 the programme of events for the Coronation of Her Majesty The Queen Elizabeth II, the History of South Willesborough, diary extracts plus photographs and items regarding life at the Newtown School. There is so much to review so all the articles are being made available on the SWANCC website at www.swancc.org.uk

Community Poem

Thank you to Sharon Barton for writing and reading the Community Poem, especially for the Railway Vintage Festival this year. It is a wonderful tribute to the rich Heritage and History of Newtown.

The eighteen forties, in a small town,
Rail lines from London crept their way down.
A new industry with jobs for all.
Later, a clock tower, standing tall.

It watched as men travelled through the gate,
Checking for sure they wouldn't be late.
Six hundred passed through, morning and night,
Came from afar to get to the site.

Houses were built, at first, just a few.
Fairly fast, a community grew.
A school, bathhouse, a pub to pop down.
Named Alfred Town, but known as New Town

Rail routes expanded, out to the coast,
Ashford, the centre, able to boast.
The town was expanding, people came,
By horse and carriage, and now by train.

In sixty years populations grew.
Men built the trains, but women too.
Only nine girls, pre-world war one,
Thirteen hundred men, fathers and sons.

Eight hundred of these, were then called upon,
To fight for their country, some so young.
Women were asked now, to fill the gap,
This place with a target on its back.
Gladys Sparkes, starting out, at eighteen
Struck down, by an enemy, unseen
The only civilian casualty
That Ashford, in this war, would see.

But, so many lost in both World Wars,
Those who survived them, left with deep scars.

As good times and bad, all came and went,
The railways thrived and spread through Kent.

After the war came investment in roads,
Government cuts caused stations to close.
Newtown Works, sadly, wasn't shielded,
With fewer lines, less stock was needed.

Then by the sixties, so much was lost,
When part of it closed, to families' cost.
The rest of the site stayed twenty years more,
Before crumbling and closing the door.

The railway lived on, fought it's way through,
Bright innovations brought something new.
A tunnel proposed, England to France,
Controversy rose, but they took the chance.

The nineteen nineties, success was seen,
As tunnellers met, under the sea.
Freight went through first, followed by cars,
Drove onto the train, and off into France.

London to Paris, just two hours,
Companies soon saw speed as power.
Looked at Ashford and London alike,
Stations were built, new, clean, and bright.

The works were left empty, for years forlorn,
But never forgotten, each person torn.
This community has fought hands down,
For this, the heritage of Newtown

They've stood strong together, through the years,
During the joy, laughter, sadness and tears.
Fresh ideas have come to the site.
So!
Maybe, this story still has more bite....

Sharon Barton
(Rivers of Life Community Church)

Chairs Statement

Dear residents,

It was wonderful to welcome so many of you to the Railway Vintage Festival on Saturday 1st July 2023 and to share in a community celebration. This was in honour of 175 years of rich history and heritage at the Newtown Railway Works, and 180 years of the railway coming to Ashford.

SWANCC are so grateful for all the contributions which made the day such a success. It was a tremendous celebration and a worthy tribute to the occasion.

This edition contains a variety of photographs and articles on the event, including the drone footage from the world record attempt for the largest human image of a train. It was a valiant effort and a reflection of the character and community for the day, but sadly not defined enough to be a world record.

However, the detail of the image and the 500+ individuals who participated in its creation is a fantastic achievement and a wonderful memory of the roaringly successful day for the SWAN community. Let's not forget the achievement of the human image of a swan at last year's Platinum Jubilee though.

I would like to take this opportunity to again thank our sponsors, as well as the many wonderful volunteers who committed so much time and energy to the staging and success of this event.

In the second term of this Council SWANCC are continuing to work to the SWAN Community Plan. This edition will communicate the many avenues through which the Council are working to improve and enhance the area and community life of South Willesborough and Newtown.

Kind regards
Cllr Sue Mullan
Chair SWANCC



Kent County Council and Kent Association of Local Councils Rising Costs Support Grant

SWANCC were delighted to receive a grant of £1500 Parish Rising Costs from KCC via KALC.

Led by Cllr Andy Hodges, the budget was used to directly support SWAN residents with hygiene goods at the Railway Vintage Festival. The impact of rising costs is still very prevalent in the SWAN area and it was vital to be able to provide this meaningful and necessary support.

SWANCC would like to thank Cllr Andy Hodges and Sandra and Lisa Hodges for all their hard-work to deliver this response and for being in such terrific vintage style and amazing costumes. Insert photographs



If you are need of extra support

| 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 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 | T: 03000 418300 | Monday-Thursday 8.30am-4.30pm and Fridays 8.30am-4pm. Please call ahead to arrange a time. Bring proof of ID with you and please wear a mask. |
| 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. |

Know your Community Council and its Aims. Half Year Review

South Willesborough and Newtown Community Council commenced its second term in May 2023 with an uncontested election.

The Annual Meeting was held 9th May 2023 and Cllr Sue Mullan continues as Chair with Vice Chair Cllr Andy Rogers, Cllr David Mullan, Cllr Eric Parkinson, Cllr Nirosha Thilagarajan, Cllr Andy Hodges and Cllr Steve Campkin continue as Members and are joined by Cllr David Smith formerly Ward Cllr for Aylesford and East Stour. SWANCC said a sad goodbye to Cllr Peter Porter who left in May 2023 and also to Cllr Jacky Godden, however Jacky remains as a member of the Planting and Biodiversity working group.

Work began in earnest from day 1 of this term for the Council with the implementation of the SWAN Environment Strategy for 2023 and 2024, and the delivery of the Railway Vintage Festival. This was held on Saturday 1st of July 2023, it was a fantastic event for the whole community and you can read more in this newsletter and review the photographs from the day.

Over the coming months SWANCC will be working to continue to improve the look and feel of the SWAN area with the active work of the Planting and Biodiversity working group and its volunteers.

Key goals for 2023 include the Long-term aspirations

| Activity | Dependencies |
|---|--|
| IN SUPPORT OF LONG TERM ASPIRATIONS | |
| Continue to support "Mini Holland" initiative | Support from Ashford Borough Council and Kent County Council |
| Continue Greater connectivity/cycling initiative | Agreement of - Brompton Bikes, Network Rail, KCC and Ashford Borough Council |
| Continue Neighbourhood Plan aspiration | Funding/A change in Government planning policy |
| Continue to examine the feasibility of sensor lighting in the Spinney | Funding availability |
| Achieve Wilder Kent Quality Award | Ashford Borough Council, KCC, SWAN Businesses SWAN Partners SWAN Residents |

Key goals for 2023 which are all currently in progress and stories on these items are throughout this Newsletter.

| ONGOING ACTIVITIES | In progress |
|---|---|
| Employ Public Space Enhancement Officer (PSEO) | Autumn 2023 |
| Employ Litter Picker for Full Year | Completed |
| Continue to Facilitate Litter Picking activities and groups locally | In progress continually |
| Gas House Fields – Management of Community Allotment Gardening Club | Spring 2024 |
| Gas House Fields –Disabled Access and Parking Facilities | Autumn 2023 |
| Gas House Fields – Continue Living Workshop | In progress continually |
| Gas House Fields – Provision for plastic waste removal | Budget agreed and Allotments Committee reviewing |
| Ongoing weeding/street cleansing | Hire of PSEO |
| Ongoing Queens Green Canopy maintenance | |
| Planting Bulbs and plants | Planting/Biodiversity Working Group |
| Grants to support environment initiatives | Funding agreed and advertised through Autumn 2023 and Spring 2024 |
| Continue "Think local-Buy Local" awareness | Ongoing through SWAN News |
| Continue – planning application consultation responses | In progress continually |

Going forward into 2024 new actions agreed to be investigated are as follows

| | RESPONSIBILITY |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| Examine the case for a SWAN Climate Action Group | Council |
| Capacity building - Use SWAN communications media to encourage more volunteers to support environmental initiatives | Communications Working Cttee |
| Explore further tree cover | Planting/Biodiversity Working Group |
| Encourage lift sharing schemes | Finance & General Purposes Cttee |
| Energy saving initiatives in Council office | Finance & General Purposes Cttee |
| Support the creation of roadside wildlife reserves & wildlife friendly corridors | Planting/Biodiversity Working Group |
| Examine with others – a community composting scheme | Allotments Committee |
| Examine with others the idea of a local "repair shop" | Council |
| Examine locations and potential funding of electric charging points in the SWAN area | Planning and Highways Committee |

SWANCC look forward to sharing more of its developments with you over the coming year and would like to thank all the volunteers who have worked so hard to help deliver these projects. To read a full update on the SWAN Environment Strategy visit the SWANCC website www.swancc.org.uk or call the SWAN Office on 01233 528933.

Highways Improvement Plan

Since its resident wide Consultations on parking and the SWAN area in 2019 and 2020, SWANCC have been lobbying for improved measures to manage Speeding, Parking and Congestion in SWAN area with support from KCC Cllr Steve Campkin for the area.

SWANCC are very pleased to advise it has now been dedicated a Communications Engagement Officer from KCC to progress a Highways Improvement Plan for South Willesborough and Newtown. This will consider the wide-reaching priorities for the management of Parking and Congestion, Speeding and further Highways Works.

This project requires significant investment, inter agency working and a Design Scheme by KCC, followed by a Regulation Traffic Order. This will then allow speed indicator devices, double yellow lines or other solutions to be put in place and will be a tremendous improvement to the safety and connectivity of SWAN.

SWANCC will keep residents updated on its progress and the development of this project over the coming year.

SWANCC would like to thank all the residents who have contributed to the consultations as this has been absolutely key to forming the priorities for Highways Improvements in this area.

Parking Permits for Newtown Residents

If you need to apply for a new permit or have a permit renewed call 0345 4635050 or permits@uk-cpm.com to apply for a permit.

Community Gardening in SWAN

The SWAN Environment Strategy over 2023 / 2024, to support the SWAN Community plan objectives of creating the best look and feel for the area, is being rolled out over this year.

In the last edition of SWAN News it was reported that SWANCC Planting and Biodiversity working group formed a group of volunteers from the SWAN area who worked tirelessly to hand plant 10,000 bulbs across the SWAN area.

Newtown Green took on a glorious display of golden daffodils, The raised beds in Wainwright Place and Alfred Road as well as Albion Place and Royds Road in South Willesborough. These were all tidied and planted with bulbs for the Spring and gave a wonderful display.

The Community of Volunteers grew and met most Wednesdays to plant various areas of SWAN with wildflower seeds which were somewhat hampered by the weather but will be replanted with more seeds and red poppies for the Autumn and REMEMBRANCE in November.

The next focus will be to locate areas in SWAN that would benefit from tree planting. The environmental benefits of trees is well known and their ability to shade and reduce urban heat areas is well known.



Community gardening

Whether it's greening a local area, starting a food growing project or conserving an area for wildlife – community gardening can have a huge impact for both people and places Royal Horticultural Society

To support this focus SWANCC aim to hire a Community Gardener to maintain the planting and to manage the exciting

community gardening projects at Gas House Fields Allotments. This will create wonderful opportunities to create new social connections improve wellbeing and improve the natural environment and impact climate change. Read more about the exciting projects under the Gas House Fields Allotment update.

Gas House Fields Allotments

Community Gardening in SWAN

With the planned hire of a Community Gardener at SWANCC, Spring 2024 will see the launch of a Community Allotment Club in the Spring of 2024.

This will be led by the SWANCC Community Gardener and meet on a regular basis over the Spring to plant and grow vegetables for the benefit of the SWAN community. With all the tools, equipment and planting provided and the guidance of the Community Gardener it will be a fantastic

opportunity to learn how to grow vegetables on an allotment and meet like-minded people interested in community gardening. With a charge of only £5 for a years' membership it is a great opportunity to be involved in a Community Gardening project. The produce grown through the Community Allotment Club will be for the benefit of SWAN residents and these will be distributed by the Salvation Army Ashford team at the Friday Food and Chat and in emergency food parcels for those in need.

Book a bed scheme

The Book a bed scheme will see 1m plots made available for residents of SWAN who would like the benefit of growing vegetables and accessing the open space at Gas House Fields Allotments, but perhaps the demands of a full allotment are not practical or manageable. The charge for this will be £5 for the year with a deposit of £25 for the space returnable if it is left clean and tidy at the end of the tenancy. This is an ideal opportunity to learn more about Allotmenting and growing your own and will launch in Spring of 2024.

Living Workshop

The Living Workshop plot has begun its second cycle in Spring 2023. The planting was completed over the end of April and the May bank holiday by the Community Council Manager and Duke of Edinburgh student with assistance from the Site Adviser Stefan Heathfield.

The plot is an excellent example for tenants of how to keep their plots and which produce grows most successfully.

The first crops were harvested early July and ongoing through the summer months. All the produce is donated to Salvation Army on Fridays for the foodbank and benefit of local SWAN residents. The living workshop planting was fully funded this year by a kind donation from a resident following some sad vandalism during 2022, it is very much appreciated and the full donation has been put to good use.

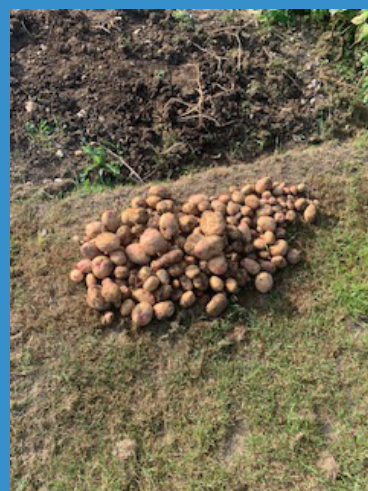


Disabled Access Beds

The Gas House Fields Allotments Committee have been working to bring in disabled access ready raised beds with wheelchair friendly paths and parking facilities on the site. It is hoped these will be ready for use from the Spring of 2024. The new paths and parking will also alleviate the flooding at the main gates in the winter months and make life much easier for Gas House Fields tenants.

The combination of these projects at Gas House Fields will ensure that as many people as possible can access the benefits of the Allotments in SWAN. To sign up to these exciting opportunities please email clerk@swancc.org.uk or call the SWAN Office on 01233528933

Gardening Club



South Willesborough Neighbourhood Watch



Hello, my name is Peter New. I am a Police Volunteer with the Kent Police and I work in the Community Neighbourhood Watch Team based at Ashford Police Station albeit I work out in the community.

My background is the Fire Service and when I retired, I was Assistant Chief Officer Head of Operations for the whole of the Kent Fire Brigade. It was an excellent job with a full operational and fire prevention aspect to the post. We were very community focused. We were very strong on prevention, and I have brought many of those skills I learned with that work into the police.

All of us working together with you we can keep you and all the homes and properties as safe and secure as is possible and a wonderful place to live and work.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH IS COMPLETELY FREE TO JOIN and then you just READ AND STAY SAFE.

TO JOIN NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH contact me on peternew1@aol.com or to ask any question email or phone me on 07768437422
Thank you, stay safe, secure, alert and vigilant.
Thank you all for your support.

Peter New
91725 Kent Police Volunteer & Community Neighbourhood Watch.



Many of you have now met me and I am pleased to say we have a Neighbourhood Watch scheme for every road in South Willesborough. (to join see below)

Neighbourhood Watch is about keeping you crime free but as important free from the fear of being a victim of crime also. Can we prevent the crime in the first place? Can we prevent similar crimes once one has been committed? Can we assist in investigations by the provision of evidence and intelligence? Can we learn lessons and go again into the community to prevent still further crimes and anticipate future trends?

So many crimes are avoidable and preventable.

Neighbourhood Watch is a two-way communication process. My job is to look at the crimes committed. Look at crime prevention advice and intelligence from around the County and see how I can best offer advice to residents to keep them safe and secure.

What are the main risks in your area?

- 1 Thefts from vehicles, please leave nothing on show inside a car when parking.
- 2 Thefts from Sheds and Garages, please keep secure.
- 3 Theft of internet shopping parcels from doorsteps, delivery vans are followed.
- 4 Bogus callers and Rogue Traders, never agree to unsolicited work on your doorstep.
- 5 Trend crimes for example Catalytic Converters and Number plates.
- 6 SCAMS by Letter, Landline and mobile phones and any computer/tablet device.
- 7 Anti Social behaviour and Criminal Damage
- 8 Drug problems which drive so many of the other crimes to fund their purchase,

Crime cannot flourish in communities that care" and it is very clear to me you all care.

Your council and all the councillors are very supportive of this work and to me personally. They care deeply about the residents and the community.



South Willesborough Beat Officer Josh Wheatley

I am delighted to introduce via the newsletter our Beat officer who joins SWANCC area as part of the new policing model for policing in Kent going forwards.

P.C. JOSH WHEATLEY is our officer and Josh is a very experienced officer and I have worked on public engagement meetings with him in other parts of the Ashford District.

The new policing model will develop over time and as Ashford are not yet at full establishment, we will welcome new members to the policing team at Ashford over the coming months.

We are still encouraging all contact to be directed into the csu. ashford@kent.police.uk email box which will ensure we can continue to respond in the most effective way during this period of transition.

The key contacts for each strand of the policing model are:

- Beat Officer team (ward-based engagement and problem solving) – Sergeant Richard Batten
- Neighbourhood Task Force (district problem solving and partnership work) – Sergeant Kim Cameron
- Child Centred Policing Team – Sergeant Katie Reed

Each ward across the District will now have a nominated Beat Officer and their primary role is to work within their local communities. The two area I wish to concentrate on from the above model are the

BEAT OFFICER TEAM and the NEIGHBOURHOOD TASK FORCE.

I know both Sergeant Richard Batten and Sergeant Kim Cameron and I have worked with both.

Josh is in the Beat Team, and they can call upon the Neighbourhood Task Team when required.

I think it very important to clarify the word Beat Officer. Sadly, resources do not allow P.C. Josh Wheatley to just police and patrol the South Willesborough and Newtown area and to give a full picture of the area he will cover I have set out the parts of the Ashford District which fall into his Beat Officer role.

Firstly, the areas Josh covers

| | |
|------------------|--|
| PC Josh Wheatley | Singleton East Singleton West Park Farm North Park Farm South Washford Farm Roman Stanhope Beaver Norman Aylesford and East Stour |
|------------------|--|

Secondly the Villages and Parish Councils. So that should give residents a feel for the size of the tasks in hand for Josh and why he will need the total support of The SWAN Community Council, every councillor, myself with Neighbourhood Watch but most importantly each and every resident and family in the area.

| Josh Wheatley - Urban SOUTH | Villages / Parish councils |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Singleton East | Great chart & Singleton |
| Singleton West | Great chart & Singleton |
| Park farm North | Kingsnorth Parish council |
| Park farm South | Kingsnorth Parish Council |
| Washford farm | Kingsnorth Parish Council |
| Roman | Kingsnorth Parish Council |
| Stanhope | Stanhope parish council |
| Beaver | |
| Norman | |
| Aylesford and East Stour | South Willesborough & Newtown |

I am sure Josh will be introducing himself across the district at every opportunity plus attending SWAN Council meeting whenever possible.

Josh knows he will get my total and full support with my Neighbourhood Watch network and from me personally across South Willesborough and Newtown Districts.

To assist that process please contact me to join the NHW for the area. We have a Operational Neighbourhood Watch Scheme for each road in South Willesborough and Newtown.

"Crime cannot flourish in communities that care"

To join NHW email me on peternew1@aol.com

Thank you

Peter New
Kent Police Volunteer & Community neighbourhood Watch.



Update from Ashford Borough Council Ward Member

**Cllr Sojan
Joseph**



Hello,

I am Sojan Joseph and I am one of the councillors for Aylesford and East Stour, elected this May to represent you at the Ashford Borough Council (ABC). Some of you may already know me as you have contacted me for advice or help. I have taken forward many issues raised by you.

I am working very closely with the SWAN community council members and KCC councillor to address the real issues facing our community. Other than the councillor work, I am a senior mental health nurse working in the local NHS.

We are going through a very challenging time of increased cost of living, delay in accessing health services and cuts in public spendings. However, as we know, we should be resilient and continue to work together to achieve what we want.

I have met and made friends during the election campaign and during the vintage festival. I enjoy being one of your councillors thank you to your continued support.

I am happy to listen to your views and opinions. So if you have a comment or query please contact me on: Sojan. joseph@ashford.gov.uk.

SWANCC Grants for the SWAN Community

Grants are available for Local community groups, voluntary organisations and sports/recreational clubs – which are in the SWAN area. Over its first term SWANCC delivered a variety of grants to support local clubs and groups to facilitate life in SWAN. If you are involved in a not

for profit project or community group that would benefit from a grant please contact the SWANCC office by email clerk@swancc.org.uk or telephone 01233 528933 or visit the SWANCC webpage www.swancc.org.uk and search under Documents Policies Grants to apply.

Update from the SWAN Office

The SWANCC Office has been very busy this year, Community Council Manager Sarah Evans is now full time. The SWANCC litter picker joined the team in February 2023. The team continues to grow with pending hire of a Community Gardener and Public Spaces Enhancement Officer which will add real value to the delivery of the SWAN Community Plan. Plus, the welcome addition of Emilia to the SWAN office supporting the administration over the summer months on a temporary contract.

In addition to the Clerk duties the Office has supported the delivery of the Railway Vintage Festival, a work experience student from the North School who worked so hard to support the Annual Meeting of the Council and preparation for the May Committees. The Duke of Edinburgh volunteering continues with Daniel Kingsley helping with the Living Workshop at Gas House Fields.

If you need to contact the SWANCC Office please email www.swancc.org.uk or call 01233 528933

Memories

Anyone working at the works at Ashford had ready access to a large group of craftsmen, skilled at metalwork, woodwork, leathercraft, upholstery, and many other skills. This meant many broken objects could be expertly repaired, from wooden furniture to metal machinery to very precise measurements. All for very modest costs, directly to the craftsmen concerned.

Furniture legs, traditional hinges and brackets, leather seat covers, clock parts, parts for old vehicles, were some of the most frequent requests. Together with strangely shaped pieces of wood and metal for elderly farmers and smallholders. Ashford Railway Works had a 50 tonne drop-power hammer and a huge open forge, together with lathes and presses and all sorts of welding equipment. This sort of equipment enabled a huge variety

of contract work to be undertaken on occasion.

To anyone with an aching back standing in front of the open door of the largest furnace for a few minutes was popular. The aches seemed to disappear. But one place everyone wanted to avoid was the cyanide hardening room, a small workshop operated by just one man. There, tools and certain parts of rolling stock undergo contact with cyanide to make them very hard indeed.

Glynn C. Davis. Clerical Officer at Ashford Railway Works for the Rother Valley Railway Supporters Association Magazine "The Phoenix".

(A grateful contribution received for the Memories Tent at the Railway Vintage Festival).

Annual Electors Meeting

The Annual Electors meeting was held on Tuesday 23rd May 2023, held at the Salvation Army Hall on Cudworth Road, hosted by Vice Chair of SWANCC Andy Rogers.

It was a wonderful opportunity to meet the newly elected Ward Councillors for Ashford Borough Council, Cllr Sojan Joseph and Cllr Al Arnold. Also, to hear updates from KCC Cllr Steve Campkin, the SWAN Centre, SWAN Litter Pickers, SWAN WI, Salvation Army Ashford, Bromley Green Football Club, and South Willesborough and Newtown Community Council

Peter New attended and gave a comprehensive update on Neighbourhood Watch. You can read the monthly reports from Peter on the SWANCC website.

At the Chair's request on behalf of SWANCC, Free Person of the Parish Peter New awarded Kearsney Corbett an outstanding young person award for her incredible documentary project and her fantastic win in the inter college photography competition both of which were based on climate action in SWAN. Community Council Manager Sarah Evans praised Kearsney Corbett for her tenacity, perseverance, overcoming immense challenges and her real potential to achieve her goals in life with a real sense of destiny and purposes was clearly evident in all her work.

Cllr Nirosha Thilagarajan Chair of SWANCC Allotments Committee, awarded Daniel Kingsley his outstanding contribution award for his work on the Living Workshop plot 46a on Gas House Fields Allotments as his Duke of Edinburgh volunteer service. Community Council Manager Sarah Evans, praised Daniel Kingsley for his generosity and going the extra mile in carrying out more hours than required to see the project through to final cultivation after harvest. Plus, his generosity in assisting on another plot of a poorly tenant and ensuring it was fully planted for the Spring, also that he was sure to have great success in his academic studies over the coming year as

his past success was outstanding and his progress and determination was outstanding.

The Annual Electors Meeting is an open residents meeting, with plenty of refreshments served, if you have news or an activity planned for SWAN residents, do come along as it is an ideal opportunity to share information.



A Message From Dover And District Beekeepers' Association

Help is urgently needed to identify and report the Asian hornet. This arrived in France from China and has spread across Europe. It is not yet established in England but 6 nests have been found so far this year in Dover and Folkestone Districts. You may find it in your garden or in wasps traps – if you use them.

How can you report a sighting?

Take a photograph If in doubt go to: <https://www.bbka.org.uk/identify-asian-hornet>

Contact your local Asian Hornet coordinator who will help you identify the insect using the map at: Asian Hornet Team map | British Beekeepers Association (bbka.org.uk)

If certain it is an Asian Hornet, download the Asian Hornet Watch App and follow the instructions. This is an easy way to report sightings.

If you don't have the App email your photos or videos to: alrtnonnative@ceh.ac.uk

Why will they be such a big problem?

Asian Hornets are more defensive than wasps and our native hornet. In other countries they are known to build their nests in sheltered sites such as sheds, roof spaces and garages, sometimes hedgerows and thickets. If their numbers increase, more members of the public will inevitably come into contact with them. Their sting is very venomous and people who normally do not react to wasp stings

have been known to be hospitalized.

Asian Hornets are known to feed on many different types of insects including butterflies, moths, beetles and many types of bees. Many of these are vital pollinators and also form a key part of the food chain for birds and small mammals. Loss of these insects will also cause loss of these birds, bats and other mammals.

Honey lovers. Asian Hornets also target honeybees. This will inevitably result in a reduced number of honey bees colonies and the associated honey crop.

For more information go to:

<https://www.bbka.org.uk/listing/category/asian-hornet-vespa-velutina>

or

<https://www.nationalbeeunit.com/diseases-and-pests/asian-hornet/>

What does the Asian hornet look like?

See pictures. Its main features are:

orangey face, mainly black body, one broad yellow band on its abdomen, mostly yellow legs, approx. 2 cm long. It bigger than wasps but smaller than the European Hornet.

Thank you for your help.

Litter Picking Update

Following the decision to invest a portion of the Area Enhancements budget in litter management, SWANCC have been pleased to welcome Wayne to the team.

Wayne has been with us since the end of March 2023 and has worked hard to tidy up the local area. Those of you who are out and about in the mornings might have spotted him and his trolley hard at work.

The purpose-built shed at the Allotments has given Wayne a hub to keep his equipment, and to store the rubbish before collection. To

date over 100 large bags of litter have been collected and removed from the SWAN area. Many residents have commented on the positive impact this has had to the look and feel of the area.

The longer evenings mean we are all enjoying more of the weather. Being able to walk the local area without the eyesore of dropped rubbish has been a pleasure – one we hope to keep experiencing!

Please remember to use public litter bins where possible, or take your litter home with you. Serious incidents of fly-tipping can be reported to Ashford Borough Council.

Ashford International Studios at Newtown Work

SWANCC were delighted and proud to receive sponsorship from Ashford International Studios at Newtown Works and SWANCC are very grateful for the funding and support received which enabled such a fantastic and successful event.

A Joint venture between:



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To keep residents up to date on the works taking place on the site at the Newtown Railway Works I can advise that the Drainage is now 95% complete and services for gas and water were carried out over the summer.

Immense efforts have been made to reuse concrete and supplies from the original site for maximum recycling and environmental consideration.

Archaeological digs and surveys through each area of the site have been ongoing over the development period for heritage items. To date 2 turntables and other items of significant historical interest have been found and these will feature in the finished works.

It will be exciting to see the project develop and which commercial enterprises come to Ashford.

Cllr Andy Rogers Vice Chair SWANCC





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