

# NEWSletter

No. 82  
Spring 2015

## Swanscombe & Greenhithe Residents Association

**Secretary's Message** *The Association held it's AGM last November. I am pleased to report that your committee was re-elected from all areas of the Town for another year. The meeting was followed by cheese and wine when members had a chance to discuss local issues with your committee and councillors. Our area is coming under attack from many major developments, Garden City, Eastern Quarry, National Grid site, Theme Park plus many other smaller sites. All of our local infrastructure is being put to the test from our roads to schools, doctors, public transport, parks, community halls and hospital. We have lost a massive amount of open space, even Eastern Quarry used to be Green Belt, so we believe that all of this development should give a very large improvement to the local infrastructure. It is important that we can represent your views without being controlled by National politics. As a local Residents Association we have only one interest and that is to improve your area and amenities, we live here, the same as you. We were disappointed when we lost the last DBC by-election by **one** vote, it reduced your area's influence at DBC. Please remember next time, **every** vote counts, do not waste yours. -Bryan Read. (Secretary)*



### SOCIAL SCENE

**Bingo** Come along and join in, have a night out and enjoy yourself. We pride ourselves on the friendly atmosphere. This takes place every Tues. evening at the Scouts Hall in Church Road, Swanscombe. Doors open at 7pm, 'eyes down' at 7-30pm. We normally finish at about 9-00pm so you will not be home late. Entry is only 20p, at the start and during the interval refreshments are available at low prices.

**Outings** The coach outings for this year are detailed below. Outings 'pick-up' and 'drop-off' in Swanscombe and Greenhithe, we operate on a first come, first booked basis. Book with the secretary at 17, Eglinton Road, Swanscombe, Kent. DA10 0HS. A £2 non-refundable deposit is needed for each seat booked. Use the form at the end of this newsletter to book.

Sunday May 17 <sup>th</sup> .	Eastbourne	Price £11-50p (OAP/Child £11-00p)
Sunday June 14 <sup>th</sup> .	Brighton	Price £11-50p (OAP/Child £11-00p)
Sunday July 12 <sup>th</sup> .	Clacton	Price £11-50p (OAP/Child £11-00p)
Sunday August 9 <sup>th</sup> .	Hastings	Price £11-50p (OAP/Child £11-00p)
Sunday September 13 <sup>th</sup> .	Southend	Price £11-50p (OAP/Child £11-00p)
Wednesday November 18 <sup>th</sup> .	Romford Market	Price £10-00p (all seats)



Unfortunately we were unable to book group seats for next years Pantomime. The Orchard Theatre let the seats go before they told us they were on sale. You may be able to book yourselves but you will find the price much greater due to group prices not applying.

**Thursford** We are making plans to take people to see the 'Winter Wonderland' show at Thursford, Norfolk. It will involve coach travel from a local pick up, an overnight hotel stay and travel back the next day. At the moment we do not have a date fixed or the overall price but if you are interested please let us know on the outing form and we will contact you when these details are established.

**Surgeries** Our Association Councillors conduct surgeries at the Town Council Office Hall in The Grove, Swanscombe. They take place on the first Sunday of each month from 10-30am until noon. It is easy to reach and is also opposite the free "The Grove" car park. They also have surgeries in Greenhithe at the ASDA Café on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. Sunday of each month. They can help and advise on problems associated with the Town, Borough and County Councils. They will also welcome your views on the areas problems, as well as your idea's for now and the future. Confidential items can also be dealt with. The next surgeries are on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup>. March, 5<sup>th</sup>. April, 3<sup>rd</sup>. May and 7<sup>th</sup>. June in Swanscombe and the 8<sup>th</sup>. March, 12<sup>th</sup>. April, 10<sup>th</sup>. May, 14<sup>th</sup>. June in Greenhithe.

**Advertising** We include limited advertising in the newsletter to help with printing costs. If you are interested contact the secretary, Bryan Read at 17, Eglinton Road, Swanscombe, Kent. DA10 0HS.

### CONTENTS

Local Policing - page 2	Garden City - page 5	KCC Info. - page 7
CAB / Scouts - page 2	Other Dev's - page 5	Summer Ent. - page 7
Council Tax - page 3	Theme Park - page 6	Forms - page 8
Street Lighting - page 4	Ingress Park - page 6	
Biffa Pit - page 4	Grid Site - page 6	
Fastrack - page 5	Eastern Quarry - page 6	

## 2.

**Memberships** This years renewal is **now due. If you are not already a member, join now.** Please make sure that you keep your membership up to date. As you know these newsletters are now only delivered to current members and you could miss out. Do not assume that when you reach retiring age that we know your age, you need to tell us. There is a form at the end of this newsletter, if you are in doubt send it in and we will check. Occasionally, like this newsletter, we will deliver throughout to allow others to join. Anyone living in the area can join, if you know of someone wanting to join then tell them to contact our secretary. Our membership now is in the 1,000's and we think we are proving that by us all working together, that not only are we, as a population, successfully running our area but are also working on improving facilities.

## OTHER NEWS

**Crime Prevention** Prevention is better than cure; always lock up your property and possessions securely. The local police team are happy to advise you or contact the Community Safety Unit at DBC (01322 343000), if you are unsure how to do this, contact them. Also never let anyone into your home unless you are absolutely sure of their identity. All genuine callers carry an identity card, ask to see it. If you are still unsure ask them to wait outside, phone to check. If you do not have a phone ask them to come back, so that you can check. Using this procedure will help stop bogus officials from the electric, gas, water and council from operating in our area. Fit a chain to your door.

**Local Policing** We now have a police team covering the area, a beat officer and 2 PCSO's, PC Rob Payne, PCSO Steve Howard and PCSO Kelly Shurmer To contact them ring 101 or email [nhp.dartford@pnn.police.uk](mailto:nhp.dartford@pnn.police.uk) . To report a crime that's happened ring 01622 690690. You still need to ring 999 for crimes in progress or you are in danger. For all crimes reported make sure you get a crime number so that it can be traced later for results. For quick response to anti-social behaviour ring 07807 340082 there is a local police unit ready to respond. There has been many local break-ins, houses, sheds and garages. If you see anything suspicious let the police know quickly on the numbers above. The local police team has asked us to thank those of you who contacted them, your assistance was valuable.



PC Robert  
PAYNE



PCSO Steve  
HOWARD



PCSO Kelly  
SHURMER

The police are arranging local contact points for you to go and talk to our local team or get advice. The next ones are :-

Wed. 4<sup>th</sup>. & 18<sup>th</sup>. March – Greenhithe Train Station – 6-30pm to 7-30pm.

Thurs. 5<sup>th</sup>. & 19<sup>th</sup>. March – Heritage Park, Craylands Lane, Swanscombe – 12 noon to 1pm.

Thurs. 5<sup>th</sup>. & 19<sup>th</sup>. March – ASDA's Greenhithe – 2 pm to 3pm.

Fri. 6<sup>th</sup>. & 20<sup>th</sup>. March – Swan Valley School & Health Centre, Swanscombe – 5pm to 6pm.

We do advise you to go to these contact points and let them know about any dubious happenings locally, if we all work together it will make it safer for everyone. They held a day of action locally last November, involving Trading Standards, Parking Enforcement, Community Wardens and themselves. Since then, we congratulate them for arresting two people in Swanscombe for burglary, investigating a local High Street shop for selling illicit cigarettes as well as arresting a person for assaulting our Cllr. Pat Scanlan, the case comes up at Medway Magistrates Court on March 16<sup>th</sup>. We hope that these cases prove to others that they will not get away with doing the wrong thing. On a positive note Pat Scanlan has fully recovered and asks us to thank all of you who wished him well. Money was collected for him by residents and he has donated this to the Lions Hospice. As an Association, we are determined that we achieve an area where everyone can feel safe and we all help one another.



**Citizens Advice** The Citizens Advice Outreach surgeries at the Old Fire Station Café in Church Road, Swanscombe still continue. They are at the Café on the first, second and third Wed. of each month from 11 until 12 noon, appointments 12noon to 12-30pm. Held in a friendly place with a confidential room for discussions. You can **book an appointment by ringing 01322 270947 or call in to the Café.** A much needed service for the area. They are there to help you and can give advice on Tax, Money, rights, benefits, housing and many of your day to day concerns. Coming dates are March 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, & 18<sup>th</sup>, April 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, & 15<sup>th</sup>.

There is also a CAB outreach service held in Greenhithe at St. Mary's Church Community Café. It is on the last Wed. of each month from 10-00am to 11-30am. This is a 'Drop in' service and the next ones are the 25<sup>th</sup>. Feb & 25<sup>th</sup>. Mar.

**Scouts** The 1<sup>st</sup>. Galley Hill Scout troop have their headquarters at The Scout Hall, 110, Church Road, Swanscombe. The Beaver Colony (6/8 years) meets Sat. mornings at 9am. Cub Scouts (8/10 years) meet Weds. at 6-30pm. Scouts (10/14 years) meet on Fri. at 7-30pm. They have activities and weekend camps and remind you that scouting is for boys and girls. Interested, phone 07919 892876, or call in the hall.

**Girl Guides and Brownies** They still meet every Monday evening at the Methodist Church hall on the corner of Church/Milton Road, Swanscombe. Brownies 6 to 7-30pm, Girl Guides 7 to 8-30pm. They welcome anyone wanting to join to call in and see them.

**Drop in Centre** The MS Society have a drop in centre at St Peter & Paul Church Hall, Swanscombe Street. It is every Thurs. between 11am. and 3pm. Intended for those suffering from MS they also welcome anyone affected by a Neurological illness. Call in to discuss matters, they also arrange for a MS Specialist Practitioner/Carer Support to attend to offer advice. To find out more call in or ring 01474 363383.

### 3.

**Swanscombe Strollers RRC (Registered)** This is a friendly 'Fun Run' running club based in the Town. No set training days, so it is flexible to suit you. Those who want to, regularly take part in organised races giving the opportunity to meet those from other clubs from Britain and overseas. They enter runs from 5K to half and full Marathons all over the country. The club is affiliated to "England Athletics" meaning that savings can be made on fees as well as Public Liability Insurance. Part of their activities is also running to raise money for charity. If you want to keep fit/gentle jog at whatever pace suits you, why not contact them. For details contact Tracey Kitchener, (sec) on 01322 370858 or Mobile 07793075166.

**Council Tax** The Town Council set its rates for 2014/15 on Thurs. 16<sup>th</sup>. January.

Band	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
<b>Town Council 2015/16</b>	<b>73-75</b>	<b>86-04</b>	<b>98-33</b>	<b>110-63</b>	<b>135-21</b>	<b>159-79</b>	<b>184-38</b>	<b>221-25</b>
22 years ago 1993/4	47-94	55-93	63-92	71-91	87-89	103-87	119-85	143-82

These figures represent a zero increase over last year, all but one of the other local Parishes increased their rates, one by nearly 5%. We applaud the Town Council for still charging only 53.84% more than what were the rates 22 years ago, not many Councils can claim the same, inflation has increased more than that. DBC kept their rates the same but unfortunately KCC, the Police and the Fire Brigade increased their figures by just under 2%. Overall the Town will see a small increase in rates but one of the lowest in all the Parishes.

**Useful Numbers** To assist you when you have problems we publish the phone numbers of some of the various agencies and our Councillors that operate in the area.

**Kent County Councillor** - Peter Harman 07956 347419

**DBC Councillors** **Swanscombe** - John Hayes 01322 387452 - Bryan Read 01322 383895  
**Greenhithe** - Sue Butterfill 01322 401765

**Kent Highways** - for reporting potholes, lights out, overgrown verge trees etc - 03000 418181

**Police** - 01622 690 690 (see also the article on local policing)

**Dartford Borough Council** - 01322 343434 ( emergency out of hours 0845 634 1212)

**Swanscombe & Greenhithe Town Council** - 01322 385513 **Citizens Advice** - See article

**Tigers Football Club** Swanscombe Tigers or as they are better known "The Tigers" are a very progressive and are one of a handful of FA Community Charter Standard Clubs in Kent. The Club currently runs over twenty teams from their Girls and Ladies teams to its 2 Men's sides, as well as their highly successful Ability teams and they are always looking for new players. The Tigers run weekly training sessions with their FA qualified coaches, as well as Saturday training sessions for its younger players at numerous sites across Swanscombe and Greenhithe, so please contact the Club's Secretary as newcomers are most welcome. For more information contact club Secretary Kevin Matthews on 01474 356082 or visit the Clubs website [www.swanscombetigers.com](http://www.swanscombetigers.com).



**Cricket Club** The Swanscombe and Greenhithe Cricket Club are still interested in attracting new players of all ages and abilities. They play on Broomfield Park, Swanscombe, league matches on Saturdays plus friendly games on Sundays. They also have net practice at Erith Sports Centre every Sunday from 2 to 4pm. If you are interested contact their secretary Frazer Barnes on 07545 121196 or email [frazer.j.barnes@gmail.com](mailto:frazer.j.barnes@gmail.com)

**Grove Irish Dancers** Lessons take place for those 4 years to Adults on Sats. from 10-00am until 12-00noon. It is at the Pavilion, The Grove, Swanscombe. The cost is £3-50p (£3 for the first lesson). You can just go along on the day, or for more details email Elaine at [thegroveids@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:thegroveids@hotmail.co.uk) or telephone 07855 049091.

**Old Library, Church Road** The top floor houses "SPARK IT" and is run by Groundwork, teaching IT skills, involving job seeking and other features. Call in, pick up a leaflet, phone 01322 427080 to find out more. They have a drop in arrangement from 9 am to 12 noon on Tues. and Thurs. There are employability courses (CV writing, interviewing lessons) on Tues. from 12 noon to 2 pm. and IT courses at the same times on Thurs. What they provide is free and they are interested in finding out what courses you would like and need. You can also contact them online at [sparkit-swanscombe.org](http://sparkit-swanscombe.org) and [facebook.com/SparkIT.Swanscombe](https://facebook.com/SparkIT.Swanscombe).



On the bottom floor is the "Old Fire Station Café". This is run by the Town Council, besides being able to get teas and meals it offers many community items, local information and even public toilets. Many people just call in to meet friends and chat. Why not give it a visit for a tea and see what's on offer.

**AJ Pets and Home Goods**



**Under New Management**

3, The Parade, High Street, Swanscombe, DA10 0AJ

For all your pet requirements plus home goods.

Free Delivery on orders over £15 in Greenhithe & Swanscombe

Phone 07835 711288 open 9am to 4pm Mon. to Sat.

**A. J. CELEBRATIONS - PARTY SHOP**



Party Goods and Novelties for all occasions  
Cards, Gifts, Balloon Decorating and much more. . .  
Kids Sweets, Cones and Party Bags now in stock.



5, The Parade, High Street, Swanscombe, Kent.  
Phone 01322 387200 email [www.ajcelebrations.co.uk](http://www.ajcelebrations.co.uk)

**Historic Walks** Christoph Bull, the expert on all our local history has arranged more walks and talks around the area, where he will not only guide you but give you all the background history.

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup>. March – WW1 Illustrated Talk** - in conjunction with Walk Tall at 7-30pm at the Church Centre, Swanscombe Street. (for details contact Lesley Howes on 07774 802880)

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup>. September – Swanscombe Marsh Tour** – Meet outside the George and Dragon Public House at 2-30pm There is no need to book, just turn up. This is by popular demand, last year 94 joined this event. Donations welcome.

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup>. September – Guided Tour of St. Peter & St. Paul's Church** – the Mother Church of Swanscombe & Greenhithe. Cost £4 per person. 2-30pm. at the Church – no need to book, just turn up.

Christoph is also hoping to organize other tours and talks on Swanscombe and Greenhithe but at the time of going to print were not available. To find out more contact Christoph on [christoph.bull@talktalk.net](mailto:christoph.bull@talktalk.net) or on 07702 287147.

**Discovery Centre** Assets available at the centre at Swan Valley School include:- **Library** 01322 623115 open Mon/Tue 10 to 2pm. Wed & Fri. 1 to 5pm. Thur-closed, Sat 10 to 2pm. **Adult Education** 01322 623117, ring for details of courses, brochures available. **Youth Club** 01322 623117, ring or call in for details of activities every night

**Lions** Our local Lions Club are interested in anyone locally who wants to be a friend of the Lions. Interested, contact Roger Francis on 01474 832105 (mob. 07767 607795) or email [roger.francis32@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:roger.francis32@tiscali.co.uk) The Lions are also promoting the "Message in a Bottle" and are happy to give presentations and provide bottles. This is to assist vulnerable people to be able to give medical details etc. to the Emergency Services when they are unable to do so. Contact Sandy Barden on 01474 358487 if you are interested.



**Street Lighting** There is still a long way to go but it does seem that KCC are having second thoughts about turning out lighting at midnight. As we said in previous newsletters our Residents Association were against this happening and raised the item at all levels. This was also taken up in many other areas of Kent and at last KCC are reviewing the situation. In view of these considerations our Committee has written to the KCC Cabinet member for Highways asking that he gives special attention to our area and removes it from the overall scheme. If you want to let KCC Highways know that this is giving you problems, you can ring them on 03000 418181.

**Parking** The Police locally are now taking our local parking seriously. Following our Association raising local problems with the Police at the Town Councils "Crime and ASB Committee", the police will be taking action against bad parking practice. You can help, if you have off-road parking or a garage, use it! Never park on the pavement where it obstructs pedestrians or mobile chairs, or on the road where it obstructs traffic. Never park where it obstructs pavement drop downs and drives or near to corners where it obstructs sightlines. If you get a warning take it seriously, you might not get another one.

**Swanscombe Methodist Church** The Church holds its services at the Church on the corner of Church/Milton Road at 10-45am on Sundays. They also have a "Cross Stitch Club" on Wed. from 7-30 to 9-30pm. and a "Coffee Morning" on the second Saturday of the month at 10am. All are welcome to call in.

**Swanscombe Leisure Centre** The Centre in Craylands Lane is now recognised as one of the best in the area. Following a complete refurbishment it has a large Aerobic studio, Cycle studio, 55 station Gym, Creche and a café lounge. It offers a discounted price scheme for residents of Swanscombe the Town. Being a member of the Swanscombe Centre also gives you membership of Cascades and Cygnet centres in Gravesend. They encourage you to call in to see what's on offer and. You can get further details on their website [www.gcll.co.uk](http://www.gcll.co.uk) or you can phone on 01322 386362.

**Empire Sports Area** The developer appealed against the planning refusal for this application and the Government and Courts has allowed it. The owners are now looking to secure a developer to take the site forward. We will keep an watch to see what happens next and report it in the next newsletter.

**Biffa Pit** This large area of ground between Mounts Road and Knockhall Chase is now under consideration again for development. The developer has started doing environmental and geotechnical surveys on the area. They have also engaged consultants to consider the site options and expect to enter into discussions with DBC Planners in the next few months. We will let you know what the results are and what happens next.



**SWANSCOMBE TIGERS FC - Award Winners**



Swanscombe Tigers are one of the largest voluntary organisations in the area and they are proud holders of the FA Charter Standard Club awards at both Adult and Junior levels. These awards have been joined in the last few weeks by the prestigious FA Community Status award.

The Tigers run teams from U7's through to their two Men's teams and also run an U12's Girls team and Ladies Team as well as three Ability sides.

The Club, which is recognised by the Kent FA as being one of the most progressive in the County, is always looking for players at all levels to represent what is a real Community Club which is open to all.

All of the Tigers coaches are FA qualified and all training sessions take place within the Swanscombe and Greenhithe area as the Club is committed to providing coaching for boys and girls of all ages and abilities.

For further information on the Club, who are the current **Kent FA Charter Standard Club of the Year**, and to find out how you or your son or daughter can join the Tigers, please visit the Club's website [www.swanscombetigers.com](http://www.swanscombetigers.com) or please contact the Club's Secretary Kevin Matthews on 01474 356082.



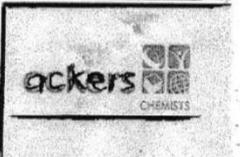

**Swan Valley Pharmacy**  
(PCT Accredited Pharmacy)

**'Taking care of you and all your Healthcare needs'**  
**Free Prescription collection and Delivery Service.**  
Medication Use Review, Repeat Prescriptions,  
Emergency Supplies, Professional Services.

 **Services Available**

**NOTE – Pharmacy also at 94, Church Road, Swanscombe**

**Swanscombe Health Centre**  
Southfleet Road, Swanscombe.  
Kent. DA10 0BF  
T 01322 313640  
F 01322 427158



**Garden City** The scheme by the Government to create a “Garden City” in Swanscombe and Greenhithe is moving forward at a pace. They are creating an Urban Development Corporation to oversee and move the idea into practice. This UDC Board will comprise a Chairman and possibly 7 or 9 other members and is



expected to be up and working by mid-year. So far the Government have put forward Mr. Michael Cassidy as the Chairman Designate and are asking DBC, GBC and KCC to provide a member to the board. They are currently engaging 4 other members and are expected to set up an office in the area. Although the defined area of the “Garden City” contains the major developments of Eastern Quarry, National Grid Site, Ebbsfleet International Station, Springhead and Swanscombe Peninsular (Paramount), it is contained in and surrounds the Town area. The Residents Association were pleased to receive a letter from the new Chairman Michael Cassidy to pass on to you, which we print fully for your information :-

**“Creating England’s newest Garden City**

*I am proud to be leading efforts to transform Ebbsfleet into this country’s first Garden City for almost 100 years as Chairman Designate of the Development Corporation, and would like to thank the Swanscombe and Greenhithe Residents Association for the opportunity to update you on the latest on this important work.*

*Last year the Government set out plans to create an urban development corporation to deliver a new garden city at Ebbsfleet. Backed by up to £200 million of public investment, this body would bring together the skills, resources and expertise that you need to create a place where people want to live and work.*

*I hope you have seen the Governments response to the public consultation which, I’m pleased to see, highlighted the overall support for the proposal to create a Development Corporation for Ebbsfleet. The consultation also provided a chance for you to express your concerns on issues like local infrastructure and community involvement, and I will ensure that these are taken on board by the Corporation once it is established.*

*In the meantime we are progressing with the set-up of the Ebbsfleet Development Corporation, which we aim to have up and running in the first half of the year. We have launched the recruitment process for the Chief Executive and members of the Board, and we are looking for suitable accommodation that puts the organisation at the heart of the development area.*

*I want to create a place where people can make a home and put down roots, and it is clear to me that to do this the development of the garden city needs everyone working together to develop a vision which everyone can feel part of.*

*I will be working over the coming months to make sure that you have your say as the design of the garden city unfolds.*

*Michael Cassidy (Chairman Designate)”*

We have no argument with contents and sentiment of Michael’s letter and thank him for sending it to us. We must also add that as a local Residents Association, dedicated to helping, protecting and improving the lives of those living here, as well as those coming, that we intend to deal with all issues arising as well as helping to design out existing and future possible problems. So we will keep him to his words whenever and wherever we can. We have already taken on board the points you have raised with us such as road capacity, road infrastructure, parking and traffic flow, schools, doctors, hospitals, dentists, banks and so on. In fact there is so much to put right on top of the changes needed to adapt to an increased community, that we do have concerns on the £200 Million being put into the kitty being large enough. As we have in the past we will keep you informed through this newsletter at each stage.

The government department DCLG are now inviting your thoughts on the new Garden City, if you want to enter you can find it on <https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/increasing-the-number-of-available-homes/supporting-pages/ebbsfleet-garden-city>

**Fastrack** The route into Ingress Park using the new road from Greenhithe Station, going under The Avenue into Ingress Park is **now open** and in use, following its earlier collapse. Please note this is a dedicated bus route and not open to use by others. Meanwhile the route out of Ingress Park to Manor Way (Craylands Lane) is expected to be complete and open for use by the end of the year. This is good for those living in Ingress Park since it will not affect their services and reduce bus travel on Ingress Park Avenue. Unfortunately it will severely reduce the amount of bus service along the London Road between Greenhithe McDonalds and the George and Dragon. It is an issue we intend to take up with Arriva and others.



**Little Swanscombe** This development for 110 properties at the bottom of Craylands Lane is renewing its planning permission, which had expired. They have submitted a revised plan to include clearing the area now, instead of when any building goes forward.

**St. Clements Way Site** This site opposite McDonalds in Greenhithe has now had the ground cleared and roads and foundations laid for the 185 properties planned. It is a pity the planners did not take notice of our comments to make the site entrance differently to avoid another traffic light junction on this extremely busy road.

## 6.

**Your Vote Counts** With the coming General and Local Elections in May, your vote matters so make sure you're in. The way you register to vote has changed. Up to now, the head of the household had been responsible for registering everyone who lived there. Now people will register as individuals, using a new system. When the system changed most people already registered were transferred automatically to the new system. You should have been informed by a letter from DBC last July/August telling you that you have been automatically re-registered. Registering will mainly affect people moving in and young voters registering for the first time. To check whether you are on the register, contact; Electoral Registration Officer, Dartford Borough Council, Civic Centre, Home Gardens, Dartford, Kent DA1 1DR. Tele. 01322 343434.

**Theme Park** The developers of the Paramount Resort are holding local workshops on several topics connected with the site, these are :-

**Traffic & Transport** Thurs. 26<sup>th</sup>. Feb. 7pm. to 9pm. – Heritage Hall, Craylands Lane, Swanscombe.

Sat. 14<sup>th</sup>. Mar. 10am to 12pm – British Legion, London Road, Greenhithe.

**Jobs/Careers/Education/Training** Sat. 7<sup>th</sup>. Mar. 10am to 12pm. – Town Council Hall, The Grove, Swanscombe.

**Environment/Ecology** Fri. 13<sup>th</sup>. Mar. 7pm. to 9pm. – Ebbsfleet Academy, Southfleet Road, Swanscombe.

**Masterplanning/Infrastructure** Fri. 27<sup>th</sup>. Feb. 7pm. to 9pm. – British Legion, London Road, Greenhithe.

Fri. 13<sup>th</sup>. Mar. 10am. to 12pm. – Ebbsfleet Academy, Southfleet Road, Swanscombe.

**Tourism/Business/Regeneration** Thurs. 19<sup>th</sup>. Mar. 10am to 12pm. – Ebbsfleet Academy, Southfleet Road, Swanscombe.

Apparently many of these events are being oversubscribed, if you want to go phone 0800 008 6765 or Email [workshops@londonparamount.info](mailto:workshops@londonparamount.info) Another way is to visit their online site to fill in a form, their site is [www.londonparamount.info/have-your-say/workshop-registration](http://www.londonparamount.info/have-your-say/workshop-registration)

This is another stage on the development of Swanscombe Marshes, leading up to the submission of a planning application. Keep us in touch with your thoughts.

Fenlon Dunphy (Director LRCH)



**Ingress Park** The **Lovers Lane** improvements have now been completed. New lighting, fencing, gate, road resurfacing, cutting back overgrowth and verges. The lights will soon be connected and landscaping added to the verge.

The **Gatehouse** (Ingress Lodge) will shortly be subject to a programme of works to restore it to its former glory. Listed Building Architects have been appointed to clear the outstanding pre-commencement details and it is expected that the sensitive renovation work will commence within the next 3 months.

The **Village Heights** development of 12 apartments in 2 blocks, adjacent to the Gatehouse has been approved. It is expected that following completion of working drawings and pre-commencement planning conditions the work will soon commence. Connected to the Village Heights and Gatehouse projects are the Piers and Railings fronting London Road, these are protected and Crests are taking precautions to ensure any damage during construction can be replaced in a similar manner.

The **Community Hall** is likely to commence construction in the next 3 months. Crests are currently consulting with interested parties and Groups to establish a management regime to secure future public use. If you are an owner/occupier at Ingress Park and are interested in becoming part of a working group to put forward a proposal/business plan for the Ingress Park Community Centre, then contact Sue Butterfill on 01322 401765 or email [sue.butterfil@ntlworld.com](mailto:sue.butterfil@ntlworld.com) (mobile 07757 494621).

Regarding the **Fastrack** bus problems that were encountered, please see the earlier article.

The **Pier Development** is under a re-design for the final phase of Ingress Park and when ready will come forward for public consultation, before planning submission. So watch this space! The latest construction (4D) is selling well and construction has commenced on block 4E.

**Eastern Quarry** Land Securities (developer) tell us construction work at Castle Hill, the first village area, has now completed over 50 houses with more than 20 occupied. As you already know a scheme of work is taking place on Southfleet Road to improve traffic flow and a parkland type area is being constructed as you enter the site. Land Securities are also currently consulting with KCC on a new Primary School to be built in the Castle Hill area.

We are glad that they are doing this, because we did warn them that our local services were already full. They will be providing a bus service into the site in April, unfortunately it will be the 498 service currently traveling through Swanscombe to Bluewater. So this will add a few extra minutes for everyone travelling to Gravesend. If you want further details about the development, go to their website [www.ebbsfleetvalley.co.uk](http://www.ebbsfleetvalley.co.uk) for more information.



**National Grid Site** This project has now received planning permission. It comprises 950 houses, school, hotel, community hall and shop, located adjacent to Eastern Quarry at the end of Southfleet Road. The site is 39 Hectares in size and the builders, Redrow Homes took over the site last summer. As the development proceeds we will keep you up to date, but at the moment there is no news. It is important that this development integrates into the adjoining Eastern Quarry and we would expect the developers to work with the Town Council to bring this about.

**Libraries** KCC is planning to transform how it provides its Library, Registration and Archive services. They are holding a consultation on their ideas and would like your views. Since many of you use the local library and services you may want to get involved before KCC make any formal decisions. You can get further information on [www.kent.gov.uk](http://www.kent.gov.uk) under "Have Your Say" or from your nearest Library. The consultation closes on the 8<sup>th</sup>. April 2015. Like the all night lighting changes you need to put in your views now.

**Dogs Litter** Our roads, paths and parks are being continuing being fouled by dog mess and litter. Many of the public blame the council, but the blame belongs to the dog owners who do not clear up. The offence carry's large penalties but the problem is obtaining evidence as to who is responsible. It is impossible for the council to have wardens in every part of the road at all times, but you can help. If you have a continual problem then let DBC know, phone 01322 343290, they need times, descriptions of owners and their dogs, names if known and addresses. They are only too willing to prosecute those responsible but they have to have the evidence. On a more positive note many dog owners in the area do the right thing and clear up behind their dogs, and for that we thank them. The Town Council has taken up this problem within its areas of control. The idea being to ensure that there are dog litter bins and notices available, so that no one has the excuse of not being able to dispose of dog litter. There is also a national campaign on this problem, which the Town Council has joined.



**British Legion** For the 4<sup>th</sup>. year running the Pilgrim Bandits are doing their charity log run for limbless soldiers. This is from Strood to the British Legion, expecting to arrive by 12-30pm. They would welcome your support when they arrive back. This is on Sat. 20<sup>th</sup>. June and they are organising a Clay Pigeon Shoot for the same charity on Sat. 4<sup>th</sup>. July for more details contact John Ball on 07976 884483.

**Swanscombe Senior Lunch Club** Following the closure of the Oast House (Age Concern), a team of passionate volunteers have been working hard to get this club up and running. They are keen to give something back to the community and now celebrate their 1<sup>st</sup>. Birthday on the 10<sup>th</sup>. April. They were delighted to receive a community grant towards their activities and have purchased a bingo machine, PA system, Kitchen equipment and chinaware to help them continue their activities each week. They are at St. Peter & St. Paul's Church Hall, Swanscombe every Wednesday from 11-30am. until 2-30pm where members look forward to a heart-warming 2 course meal including plenty of tea, coffee and laughter for £5, followed by quiz's/word games/bingo/hoy/raffle, other benefits include foot care, Bon Marche, local choirs and a goodies stall. Do you have any catering experience, or just enjoy cooking and could spare a few hours on an occasional Wednesday morning, please contact Pat on 07805 064777. There are a few places available for new members, if you are interested please contact Karen on 01322 370815.



**KCC Information** "As your KCC Councillor I will try to keep you up to date on KCC items affecting our area through this newsletter. If you need to contact me my phone number is 07956 347419 or email [harmanpeter@hotmail.com](mailto:harmanpeter@hotmail.com). – Peter Harman



Peter has been working on several local issues, some of them being actioned, some subject to public consultation, others on the priority list; here are some of them :-

**Flooding** Many issues came to my attention during the heavy rain times last year in Stanhope Road, Southfleet Road, Greenhithe High Street, Milton Street, Manor Way and others. Some are still under investigation whilst some others have had funds allocated for repair work etc. Please keep me up to date on your area.

**Road Safety & Parking** As you would expect I am dealing with many problems under this heading. Whilst many of the issues are under police control, when it comes to road restrictions etc. I am dealing with KCC officers. It does help if I know of all problems throughout the area, because I can sometimes combine them together. Please keep me up to date.

**Other** I do expect an increase in problems with grass verges, pavements and roads in the Swanscombe area following the massive gas works affecting nearly every house, please let me know if you have any.

**Funding** Through the KCC Small Community Projects grants there is still capacity to help local organisations if needed. Once again, let me know.

**Summer Entertainment** In a few months time the children will be on their Summer School Holidays. How do you keep them occupied and entertained? The Town Council are helping by providing entertainers in our local parks. Unfortunately at the time of going to print the dates and entertainers had not been confirmed, so look out for posters nearer the time.

#### Foot Health Care

in the comfort of your own home – Discounts for over 60's

Nail Cutting  
Corn Removal  
Hard Skin/Cracks Reduced  
Verruca Treatments

Clare Bodle MCFHP, MAFHP, MAR - 01322 386093 / 07765 933 681

Reflexology also available

#### The George and Dragon

Your local Award Winning Pub  
As listed in the Good Beer Guide.

Winners of many 'CAMRA' awards for best real ale pub.  
Home of the award winning 'Caveman Brewery' made in  
The cave of the George and Dragon.

Our restaurant serves food Tuesday – Saturday  
12 to 3pm, 6 to 9 pm, Sunday Roasts 12 to 4 pm.

We have quiz nights every other Tuesday  
and regular entertainment.  
Please follow us on Facebook for full listing of  
Forthcoming events or Twitter.

[www.georgedragonswanscombe.co.uk](http://www.georgedragonswanscombe.co.uk)  
Tele. No. 01322 386440 to book a table  
Mobile (Bron) 07802 456694



#### CRAY TOTS PRE-SCHOOL

Play and Education for children 2 to 5 years  
Heritage Community Hall,  
Craylands Lane, Swanscombe, Kent.  
For more details visit or phone 01322 382929



**Bluewater** 2014 was one of Bluewater's strongest trading years as well as last Christmas. The year saw over 20 new stores and restaurants joining the site, including American Eagle, White Stuff and Steamer Trading Cookshop. The 'Next' existing store is greatly increasing in size with a major refurbishment and the use of natural light, this is expected to be complete by the Summer. Meanwhile Hotel Chocolat and Thomas Cook have re-located to larger stores to allow for 'Next's' expansion. The Learning Shop ( [www.learningshopbluewater.co.uk](http://www.learningshopbluewater.co.uk) ) are to hold its annual awards event in April. Awarding individuals and companies, that play a role in creating employment and training for the local community. For events in Glow see their website - [www.glowbluewater.co.uk](http://www.glowbluewater.co.uk)

**Ingress Park Fun Day** This year contact Sue Butterfill on 01322 401765.

**St. Peter**

**Heritage Park** The "Friends of the Heritage Park" have arranged many of their annual events, mainly to h

**1a, b & c** The planning application for 66 properties on this site was refused as an

**OUTING BOOKING**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

	Adults	Child	OAP
1. <b>Eastbourne</b> Sun. 17 <sup>th</sup> . May	-----	-----	-----
2. <b>Brighton</b> Sun. 14 <sup>th</sup> . June	-----	-----	-----
3. <b>Clacton</b> Sun. 12 <sup>th</sup> . July	-----	-----	-----
4. <b>Hastings</b> Sun. 9 <sup>th</sup> . August	-----	-----	-----
5. <b>Worthing</b> Sun. 13 <sup>th</sup> . Sept.	-----	-----	-----
6. <b>Romford Market</b> Wed. 18 <sup>th</sup> . Nov.	-----	-----	-----

Total Seats booked = \_\_\_\_\_

**Thursford Show** – If you are interested in this please tick and if and when we get details, we will post them to you - \_\_\_\_, please indicate possible number of seats - \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to (include £2-00p deposit per seat) Bryan Read, Sec, SGRA, 17, Eglinton Road, Swanscombe, Kent. DA10 0HS

**JOINING/RE-JOINING FORM**

Tick appropriate box

- NEW MEMBERS** (fee's £1-00p/year/household + 25p joining fee)
- REJOINING MEMBERS** (fee's £1-00p/year/household)
- LIFE MEMBERS** (no charge for senior citizens living alone)
- SOCIAL MEMBERS** (fee's £1-00p/person/year + 25p join fee) for those out of the area.

NAMES 1. \_\_\_\_\_  
 2. \_\_\_\_\_ over  
 3. \_\_\_\_\_ 18's  
 4. \_\_\_\_\_ only

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Post Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone No. \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**You can pay for up to 5 years if you wish, if subs. increase in this period, no extra from you.**

Please state number of years included \_\_\_\_\_ Donation £ \_\_\_\_\_ Total value enclosed £ \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return to-Bryan Read (Sec.), 17,Eglinton Road, Swanscombe, Kent. DA10 0HS.  
 (please make cheques payable to SGRA)**