

Swanley – A Profile



Swanley Neighbourhood Plan

Swanley A Profile

December 2022

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Preface

The purpose of this document is that it provides a wide ranging and detailed picture of Swanley, its origins and history. The information here is reflected to a degree in the various chapters of the Neighbourhood Plan itself. The intention is that the document also provides the reader and those considering the Swanley Neighbourhood Plan with an understanding of life in the town today.

The contents of the document represent an amalgam of input from various members of the Steering Group both with regard to the research they have undertaken and their personal recollections. It reveals a story of an outward looking community and an innovative past with a strong element of social responsibility as well as royal visits. The current town is markedly different than was its Victorian predecessor with much of that change taking place from 1959 (closure of the last of the three Victorian hospitals) onwards, with the most recent example of the loss of history occurring when the old laundry built in 1875 to serve both St Bartholomew's hospital and its local convalescent home being demolished to make way for new housing in the early years of the current century.

It is also apparent that Swanley is more vibrant than it appears to be. There are a number of businesses which not only provide important local employment opportunities but which also trade nationwide and internationally with the important beneficial impact that trade has on the nation's economy. Swanley deserves, and needs, to be much more proactive in promoting itself and its benefits. The Vision for the future of Swanley is set out in the Neighbourhood Plan itself.

The Steering Group wish to acknowledge the help provided by Mrs. Jenny Maitland whose enthusiasm, efforts and skills with research and IT, has greatly assisted the production of this document. Thanks are also extended to the late Mr. Alan Dean for arranging for Mrs. Maitland's assistance and agreeing to the use of her time without charge to the Steering Group.

Steering Group
Swanley Neighbourhood Plan
Swanley Town Council

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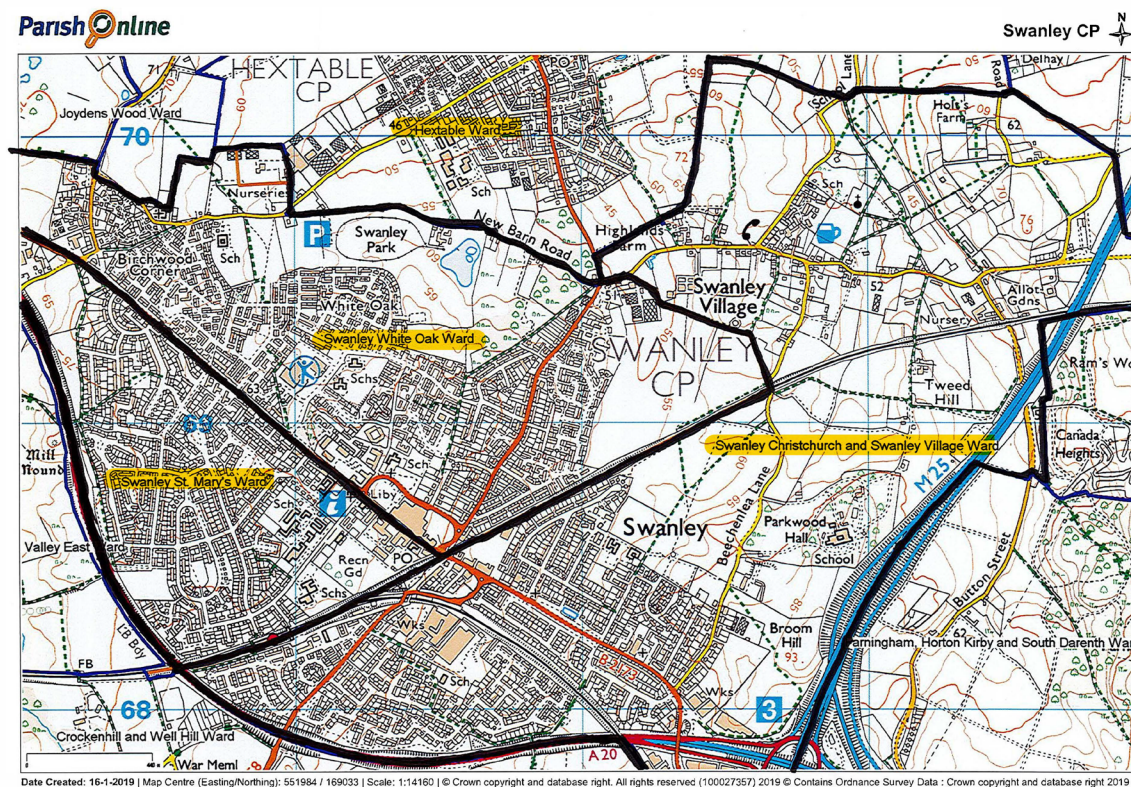
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1 Introduction

1.1 Swanley Town

Swanley is a town and civil parish in the Sevenoaks District of Kent. It is situated in a Metropolitan Green Belt area and is the second largest town in the District after Sevenoaks itself. Swanley is twinned with the French town Verrieres-le-Buisson, a commune situated 13.3 kilometres from the centre of Paris in the southern suburbs of the city.

Swanley is covered by three of the District Council wards namely Swanley St Marys, Swanley White Oak, and Swanley Christchurch and Swanley Village.



Swanley is adjacent to the parishes of Wilmington and Hextable in the north, Sutton-at-Hone and Hawley to the east, and Eynsford and Crockenhill to the south. To the west there is a boundary with St Mary Cray in the London Borough of Bromley and Ruxley in the London Borough of Bexley, both Boroughs being part of Greater London. Bluewater shopping centre is c.12km from Swanley.

The town is within the M25 motorway periphery (the town centre is c.2km from the M25) and is approximately 15 miles southeast of central London. The closest large towns are Bexleyheath, Bromley, Dartford, Orpington, and Sidcup (1.62km).

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Swanley's location on the fringe of the Kent countryside means that the town enjoys a unique and much valued rural setting.

The local council is Swanley Town Council. The town is also administered by Sevenoaks District Council and Kent County Council. It is part of the Sevenoaks and Swanley parliamentary constituency. As at January 2020, Ms Laura Trott, Conservative, is the constituency MP.

1.2 Swanley Village¹

Swanley Village is situated a mile and a half north-east of the modern town of Swanley. The M25 motorway is 350m to the east of the village and the railway line between London and east Kent runs just to the south, the nearest station being at Swanley. The countryside around and including the village is designated as Green Belt, the entire conservation area being within the Metropolitan Green Belt.

The village is set in agricultural land amongst a variety of farms, and has a school, church and two public houses. In recent years the building of thirty new houses on the former industrial site in School Lane has radically increased the proportion of residential properties in the village.

Swanley Village Conservation Area covers about 10 hectares and contains 15 of the 18 listed buildings in the Neighbourhood Plan area. It was first designated in 1984 and was substantially extended in 1997. The original designation was limited to the heart of the original village, from School Lane to the Old Place, but was then extended to include the open land to the north and north east, up to St Paul's Church and Old Vicarage. Highlands Farm to the west was included, as were the Priory and Coldharbour Farm to the east.

The Conservation Area now covers most of the village, with a few exceptions made for new development or buildings of lesser historic interest. The area is roughly triangular with linear extensions to the east and west along Swanley Village Road and Highlands Hill.

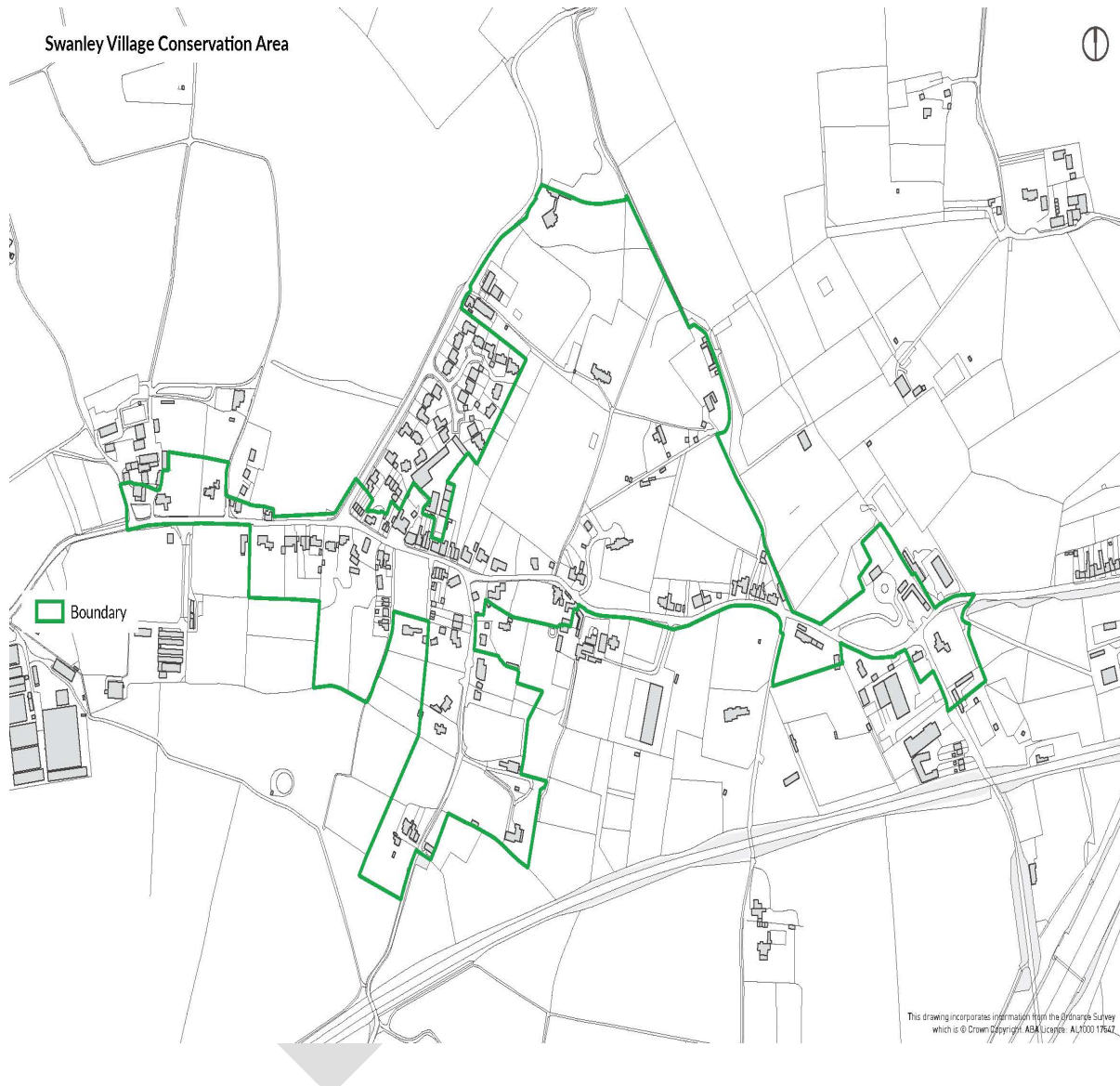
Agricultural land still forms the setting of the village. The main features of Swanley Village Conservation Area's special historic and architectural interest are capable of being summarised as follows.

- It retains the character of a Kentish rural hamlet;
- There is a well-defined village boundary and sense of rural isolation despite its proximity to Swanley town and it being within a few hundred metres of the M25;
- The village contains a mix of historic buildings dating from the late medieval to the early twentieth century that reflect the incremental development of the village;

¹ This description of the Village is comprised of information contained on the Sevenoaks District Council website at https://www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/directory_record/1444/swanley_village and the document, 'Swanley Village Conservation Area Appraisal' dated July 2019as prepared by Alan Baxter Ltd, a digital copy of which can be accessed at https://www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/downloads/file/2210/caa_part_ii_swanley_village_2019_digital.

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- There is an important group of Victorian buildings comprising the church, school and vicarage, set within a parkland setting, and built by the notable Victorian architect Ewan Christian;
- Traditional craftsmanship embodied in original building materials and architectural features.



2 People

The growth of the town of Swanley really began with the arrival of the railways in the nineteenth century. When the railway first arrived, no actual station was built and the original stopping point (at a different site from the existing station) was more or less in the middle of nowhere. As with a large part of North West Kent, the growth of the town's population was likely also influenced by its proximity to London. The railways enabled early commuters to benefit from the wealth of London by working there whilst living in an attractive area of Kent. The population of Dartford trebled by the

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end of the nineteenth century whilst nearby Sidcup grew in this period from 300 in 1861 to 5,800 in 1901. The railways facilitated the fundamental transformation of North West Kent from a largely underdeveloped agricultural area to one of new importance.²

Swanley's population had grown by the time of the 2011 census to 16,226.³ According to the 2016 Mid-Year Estimates of population from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) Swanley's population is assumed to have increased to 16,940. The in the table overleaf highlights notable features of the population notably that there are more women than men, 18.9% of the population is over 65 years old and 19.4% is under 15 years old.

2016	Swanley Town and Swanley Village		Sevenoaks		KCC Area	
	No.	% of age group	No.	% of age group	No.	% of age group
Total	16,940	100%	119, 200	100%	1,541,900	100%
Males	8,170	48.2%	57,800	48.5%	756,600	49.1%
Females	8,770	51.8%	61,400	51.5%	785,300	50.9%
0-15	3,280	100%	23,700	100%	295,600	100%
Males	1,630	49.7%	12,100	51.1%	151,700	51.3%
Females	1,650	50.3%	11,600	48.9%	143,900	48.7%
16-64	10,430	100%	70,300	100%	940,300	100%
Males	5,100	48.9%	34,400	48.9%	465,700	49.5%
Females	5,330	51.1%	35,900	51.5%	474,600	50.5%
65+	3,210	100%	25,200	100%	305,900	100%
Males	1,430	44.5%	11,300	44.8%	139,100	45.5%
Females	1,780	55.5%	13,900	55.2%	166,800	54.5%

3 History

The area of Swanley Town as we now know it did not exist prior to the coming of the railway in the 1860s. It was first called Sevenoaks Junction until January 1, 1871 when its name changed to Swanley Junction. The name changed again on January 16, 1939 to Swanley at which time the settlement known as Swanley changed its name to Swanley Village.⁴ There is a paucity of documentation and evidence

² A History of Kent, F. W. Jessup, Phillimore & CO Ltd, 1995 p.158

³ Office for National Statistics 2011 United Kingdom census

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/2011census/2011censusdata/bulkdata/bulkdatadownloads>

⁴ Swanley to Ashford: Southern Main Lines, Vic Mitchell and Kenneth Smith, Middleton Press, (1995), p.6

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concerning the beginnings of Swanley. What is now known as Swanley Village is held by some to date from the 450s being known variably as Swanleg in 1203, Swanleye in 1309, Swanle in 1396, Swanley in 1573. However it was spelled, there appears to be a consensus that the name was Saxon in origin. One theory is that the place name Swanley developed from the Anglo-Saxon term 'Swine-ley', "Ley" meaning a clearing in the woods and "swine" meaning pigs. So, it has been suggested that it was originally a Saxon pig farm or a stopping place for pigs on the way to the markets in Kent.⁵

The arrival of the railway in 1861 brought rapid transformation to a sparsely populated area located around a crossroads.⁶ Over a period of just over 150 years the town population had grown to 16,226.⁷ An early vision for the town of Swanley was to see it developing into a genteel Victorian residential area with the building of several villas along London Road and Birchwood Park Avenue, these included private schools for middle class Victorian families. This vision was defeated by the needs of horticulture and industry, which used Swanley's good rail and road communications with London and Kentish markets as a place for both their businesses and workers.⁸

The arrival of the railway changed life in Swanley. Railway workers were soon joined by horticultural workers who, in turn, were followed by industry such as Thomas Wood's jam factory which stood on the site now occupied by the Swan Paper Mill.⁹

There is some debate concerning the extent to which Swanley became a major flower growing and orchard centre, or simply developed these activities in tandem with the general trend of becoming a horticultural centre as other locations did throughout North Kent. Some properties in Swanley still have apple and pear trees in their gardens from the original orchards. Nonetheless, the importance of such activities to the town was reflected through the establishment in 1887 of Swanley Horticultural College. Although the college originally only catered for male students the first female students were admitted in 1891.¹⁰ Local Nurseries and florists' outlets blossomed, while casual farm labouring job opportunities on farms became in short supply. The college amalgamated with Ashford based Wye College in 1945.¹¹ Wye College was a well-known study and research centre in the fields of rural business and management, biological sciences, and the environment and agriculture

⁵ The Place names of Kent, Judith Glover, B. T. Batsford Ltd., 1976, p.iv and p.185, Swanley Village Then and Now: A History, James S. Robinson, Swanley Village Forum, 1998 pp.1-7

⁶ Swanley Town Council website <https://www.swanleytowncouncil.gov.uk/swanley-history/> accessed January 20, 2020

⁷ Office for National Statistics 2011 United Kingdom census

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/2011census/2011censusdata/bulkdata/bulkdatadownloads>

⁸ Swanley Town Council website <https://www.swanleytowncouncil.gov.uk/swanley-history/> accessed January 20, 2020

⁹ Swanley Town Council website <https://www.swanleytowncouncil.gov.uk/swanley-history/> accessed January 20, 2020

¹⁰ 'The Horticultural College 1889 – 1990', Hextable Heritage Centre, Swanley Town Council, April 2003

¹¹ Hadlow College website <https://www.hadlow.ac.uk/about-us/history-of-the-college> accessed January 22, 2020

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until it was closed by its then owner, Imperial College London, in September 2009. A lasting emblem of the Town's horticultural activities is the Swanley White a white Parma violet introduced by Swanley Nurseries and a winner of the RHS First Class Certificate in 1883. It became a popular flower for export particularly to northern France where a ready market existed.¹² The violet can still be purchased through the catalogues of various growers.¹³

The highly innovative and inventive nurseryman Henry Cannell whose "name gardeners know all over the world"¹⁴ established his nurseries next to the Station at Swanley Junction when he relocated his already successful business from Woolwich, London in the latter part of the nineteenth century. Three fuchsias, the Swanley Beauty,¹⁵ the Swanley Gem¹⁶ and Swanley Yellow¹⁷ reflect the town's name and its horticultural past.

Cannell is credited with "improving old flowers and making new ones"¹⁸ which readily gives rise to the possibility that Cannell himself may have originally bred and named these plants. He certainly carried them in his stock and sold them via catalogue. Cannell's innovations included recognition of the railways as an important force in getting his products to market quickly, mail order for seeds and plants and international trade. His name was recognised in America where he won awards as much as across the then British Empire.¹⁹

During the same period Swanley and its clean air became attractive for London doctors seeking a cure for sick Londoners, escaping the smog of London. There was the added advantage that Swanley was now easily accessible from London via train. Three hospitals were established, the Kettlewell (or Alexandra) Hospital in 1885, Parkwood Hospital in 1893 and White Oak Hospital in 1897. The name Kettlewell echoed that of Mr. C. T. Kettlewell who donated the £15,000 cost of building the hospital. More accurately the hospital was called the St. Bartholomew's Convalescent Home. It was a 70 bed (25 women:45men) bed institution which provided a place of recuperation for poor people who had undergone major surgery at St Bartholomew's Hospital in London.²⁰

¹² History and Cultivation of Parma Violets (*Viola*, *Violaceae*) in the United Kingdom and France in the Nineteenth Century, Harvard Papers in Botany Volume 18, No.2, 2013, pp.137-145 (particularly pp.140-141)

¹³ Two examples are Groves Nurseries of Bridport, Devon (keepers of the national collection of violets) and Devon Violet Nursey, Ottery St. Mary, Devon

¹⁴ The King's England: Kent, Arthur Mee, Hodder and Stoughton, 1969 (revised edition), p.322

¹⁵ Fuchsia Finder website <https://fuchsiafinder.com/fuchsia/beauty-of-swanley/> accessed January 21, 2020

¹⁶ Fuchsia Finder website <https://fuchsiafinder.com/fuchsia/swanley-gem/> accessed January 21, 2020

¹⁷ Fuchsia Finder website <https://fuchsiafinder.com/breeder/cannell-h/> accessed January 21, 2020

¹⁸ The King's England: Kent, Arthur Mee, Hodder and Stoughton, 1969 (revised edition), p.322

¹⁹ H. Cannell & Sons' Illustrated Complete Floral Guide of Plants 1898, p.99 and pp. 228-234 included in A collection of nursery and seed catalogs published by H. Cannell & Sons, from 1883 to 1914; part of the Ethel Z. Bailey Horticultural Catalogue Collection, website <https://archive.org/details/HCannellSonsmat00HCanP/page/206/mode/2up> accessed January 21, 2020

²⁰ Lost Hospitals of London website <https://ezitis.myzen.co.uk/kettlewell.html> accessed January 30, 2020

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The Kettlewell stood on the site of what is now the car park for the ASDA superstore on what was a 15-acre site which included a laundry which served both St. Bartholomew's Hospital itself and the Convalescent Home. The laundry, located on what is now known as Bonney Way, survived the closure of the Home and continued to serve St. Bartholomew's Hospital until the beginning of the twenty first century.²¹ It soon fell into a dilapidated state and was redeveloped to provide residential housing. Funding for the original Victorian chapel to the Home was donated by Ebenezer Holman, a Governor and Almoner of St. Bartholomew's Hospital. The remains of the chapel now form the main body of the Holy Apostles Roman Catholic Church.

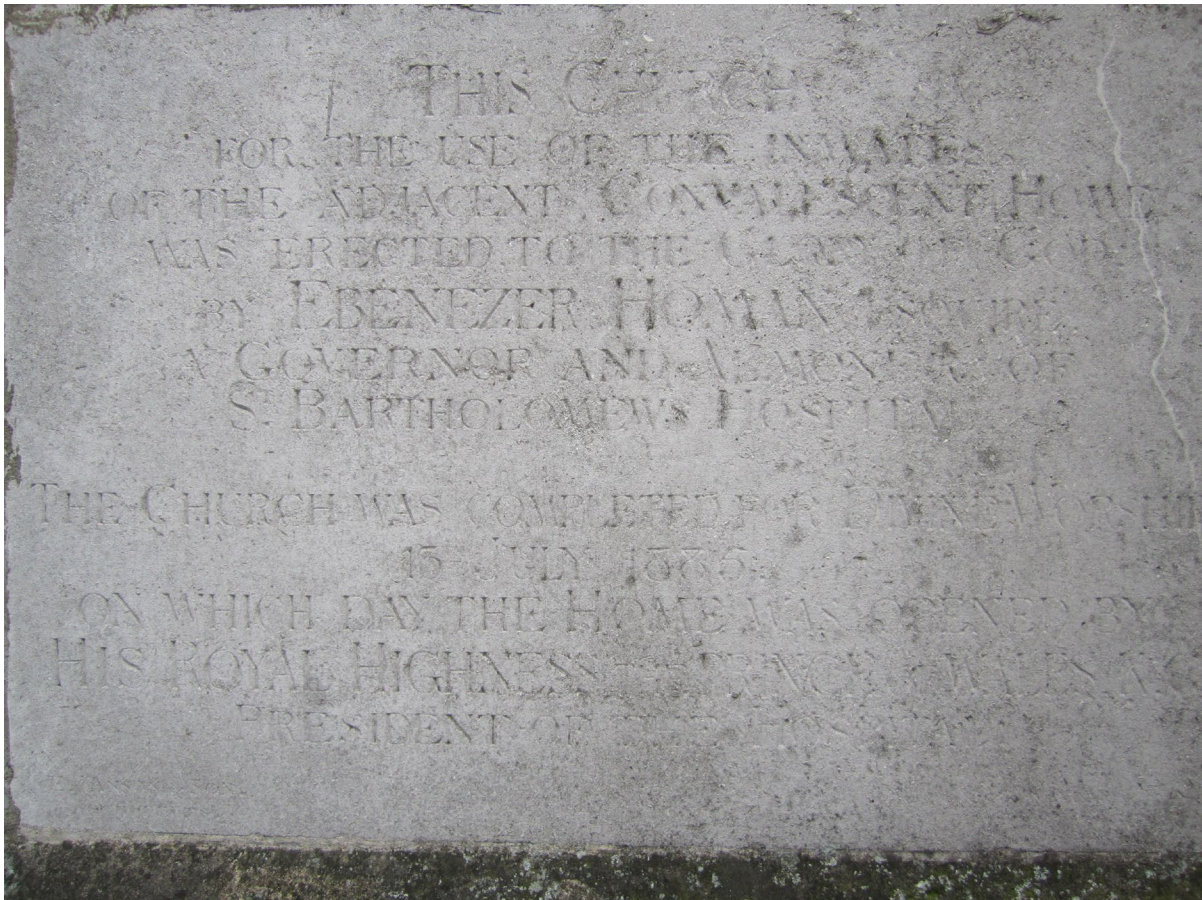
As the following picture shows, the dedication stone commemorating the opening of the chapel is still in place to the left of the main door.



The dedication stone reflects the fact that the hospital was officially opened by the then Prince of Wales (later King Edward VII) who was accompanied by Princess Alexandria and their three daughters. The inscription on the stone is shown overleaf.

²¹ 'SWANLEY: Demolition of 150-year-old former laundry begins', October 1, 2009, News Shopper website <https://www.newsshopper.co.uk/news/4658263.swanley-demoliton-of-150-year-old-former-laundry-begins/> accessed January 31, 2020

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It reads as follows,

THIS CHURCH
FOR THE USE OF THE INMATES
OF THE ADJACENT CONVALESCENT HOME
WAS ERECTED BY EBENEZER HOMAN ESQUIRE
A GOVERNOR AND ALMONER OF
ST BARTHOLOMEWS HOSPITAL
THE CHURCH WAS COMPLETED FOR DIVINE WORSHIP
13TH JULY 1885
ON WHICH DAY THE HOME WAS OPENED BY
HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF WALES K.C.
PRESIDENT OF THE HOSPITAL²²

The chapel's original Victorian organ which is a minor masterpiece made by the renowned organ maker Henry Willis (also popularly known as Father Willis) is still in use in the church.²³

²² The Prince of Wales at this time later became King George VII. He is the member of the Royal Family accredited with establishing the idea of royal public appearances as they are understood today. Bentley-Cranch, Dana (1992), *Edward VII: Image of an Era 1841–1910*, Dana Bentley-Cranch (1992), Her Majesty's Stationery Office, p. 1

²³ This comment is based on conversations with the church organist and the consultant who oversaw the last major renovation of the organ.

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The Parkwood hospital was similarly used and White Oak was originally for children with eye diseases. During both World Wars, Kettlewell and Parkwood were used as military hospitals, Parkwood become part of the Sidcup Hospital for facial injuries. After 1948, and the creation of the National Health Service these old London Hospitals became redundant. Kettlewell and White Oak closed in 1959 and Parkwood ceased being a hospital in the early 1960s. Some traces of these important facilities remain with for example, the gates of White Oak can still be seen opposite Swanley Police Station in London Road. Parkwood still exists in its entirety

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in Beechenlea Lane as Parkwood Hall School, Co-operative Academy for children with special needs.

Swanley Home for Little Boys was opened in 1883 by the Prince and Princess of Wales, later to become King Edward VII and Queen Alexandria²⁴ an occasion which gave rise to the Prince's first visit to Swanley in a period of two years.²⁵ The school provided a home for orphans from London and a place in the country where they learned a trade to secure a living in later life. This fine Victorian building subsequently became Furness School and is now Broomhill Bank School in Hextable which caters for residential and day students with behavioural, emotional and social difficulties.

The town's War Memorial situated in the churchyard of St Mary the Virgin Church is located on the edge of the town centre. The Memorial bears the name of 138 people from the town who died during both world wars. One is Joseph T. Gedge, a Royal Navy Staff Paymaster who was the first British Officer to be killed in World War I when the first British ship sunk in the war went down in the Thames Estuary with the loss of 132 of the crew. His memory remains fresh in the Royal Navy as since 1929 the Gedge Prize (Medal and Books) is presented to the Paymaster Sub-Lieutenant who passes the examination for Lieutenant at the first attempt and with the highest aggregation of marks²⁶. A copy of the letter from the founding Royal Navy Committee confirming the creation of the prize appears overleaf²⁷ with a picture of the obverse and reverse of one of the medals appearing on page 13. Sadly, the memorial also bears the names of Joseph's two brothers who also died in the conflict.

²⁴ A Century of Caring 1883 - 1983, Richard Chapman (Headmaster of Furness School), 1983, p.3

²⁵ The second visit came in 1885 with the opening of St. Bartholomew's Cre Home as mentioned on the previous page.

²⁶ Swanley War Memorial, The First World, The Stories Behind The Names. A Swanley History Group Publication © Copyright 2018

²⁷ "Inauguration of the Gedge Medal," This item is from The *First World War Poetry Digital Archive*, University of Oxford (www.oucs.ox.ac.uk/ww1lit); © [Copyright notice], <http://ww1lit.nsms.ox.ac.uk/ww1lit/gwa/item/3659> accessed January 17, 2020.

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Swanley War Memorial

The Memorial was unveiled by Mrs. Gedge, mother of Joseph and his brothers on March 4, 1922.²⁸ The memorial is now a Grade II listed structure.²⁹

As part of the Town's remembrance activities of the century anniversary of the end of the First World War a memorial feature was created by adding a series of murals

²⁸ KentOnLine website <https://www.kentonline.co.uk/dartford/news/war-memorial-restored-to-former-21603/> accessed January 22, 2020

²⁹ British Listed Buildings website <https://britishlistedbuildings.co.uk/101392300-swanley-war-memorial-swanley#.XiiLEMj7SUK> accessed January 22, 2020. See also p.28.

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were added to the wall at the base of the ASDA carpark on Bartholomew's. These murals mark the death of the residents of Swanley who served in that war.



Memorial Corner Bartholomew's Way Swanley

Whilst since demolished in 1965, the nine hundred seat Corona Cinema was opened on London Road on October 6, 1938. At the time, the mayor of Dartford is credited with stating that it was the first cinema in the rural district. Over time, Cinemascope was installed but the Corona seems to have suffered a similar fate as many other cinemas experiencing declining audiences and takings during its last decade before finally closing its doors in 1965.³⁰

³⁰ Memories of Kent Cinemas, Martin Tapsell, Plateway Press, 1987, p.61

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Return

ROYAL NAVAL HOSPITAL,
CHATHAM.
27th June 1929.

Dear Mr. Gedge,

You will no doubt remember giving your permission for the name of your gallant Son to be commemorated by a Medal, to be granted annually to a selected Accountant Officer, for merit.

I now write to inform you that the arrangements for this to be done have been completed and orders have been issued to the Fleet, and published in the Press, giving information as to the award of the Medal. The first award will be made this year.

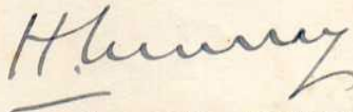
The Committee of the Accountant Officers' Dining Club have taken the liberty of having a bronze replica of the Medal struck in the hope that you will see your way to accept it as a memento of the inauguration of this, the first medal for professional merit which has been given to the Accountant Branch of the Royal Navy.

The Medal will be forwarded to you as soon as it is received from the Mint.

I enclose a copy of the Fleet Order which I thought you might like to have.

Believe me,

Yours sincerely,



Paymaster Captain,
Chairman of the Accountant
Officers' Dining Club Committee.

The Reverend Edmund Gedge,
2 Swiss Cottage Road,
Lewisham, S.E.13.



Other notable people with a connection with the town include Crispian St. Peters singer and guitarist, born Robin Peter Smith in Swanley³¹, Mark Steel columnist and comedian, born and grew up in Swanley³². He attended Downsview Junior and Swanley Comprehensive Schools whilst living in Beechenlea Lane, James Dickson Innes (Impressionist/Post-Impressionist painter, who sometimes painted with his friend Augustus John) died of Tuberculosis in 1914, aged 27 in a nursing home in Swanley³³, and the footballer Ruben Loftus-Cheek (Chelsea and England), grew up in Swanley and attended High Firs primary school and Orchards Academy.³⁴ Ian Kent the international wildlife artist lived in Swanley and Tony Fleming artist grandson of Rowland Hilder lived in Swanley Village.³⁵

4 Transport Links

Being on the outskirts of South East London Swanley is a convenient commuter town for people who work in the city. The extent to which it is considered to be a commuter or rural town is a matter of some debate and strong local opinion. The town is heavily associated with South East London due to the expansion of that area close to Swanley's borders. Swanley retains traditional links with Dartford, Sevenoaks and Kent.

³¹ Obituaries, The Independent, Crispian St. Peters: Pop singer whose Sixties hits included 'The Pied Piper' The Independent, Obituaries, 10 June 2010

³² 'Mark Steel: Finding out who I am', The Guardian, 27 June 2015

³³ 'James Dickson Innes', Art UK website artuk.org accessed January 17, 2020

³⁴ Kent on Sunday, No.789, 'Loftus-Cheek named in first England squad', p.47, November 4, 2017, via Internet Archive at <https://archive.org/details/kent-on-sunday-mid-kent-edition-2017-11-04/page/n45> accessed, January 17, 2020

³⁵ This information was provided by a member of the SG.

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The town enjoys varied and comprehensive transport links. These enable Swanley to act as a ready gateway to the attractions of Kent and the surrounding countryside including the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The latter includes attractive villages such as Eynsford and Shoreham (which are in a designated area of outstanding Natural Beauty) as well as several attractions of historic appeal e.g. the Roman Villa at Eynsford and the medieval Igtham Mote.

Transport links provide ready and speedy access to London via rail and road. The local rail station which is within the Transport for London Oyster zone, is served by the Southeastern and Thameslink³⁶ rail franchises which provide services to the London termini of Victoria and Blackfriars as well as varied London suburbs including Bromley South and Catford. During 2022 Southeastern introduced a new service calling at various stations between Maidstone, West Malling, Swanley, London Bridge, London Waterloo and Charing Cross. Services to Kent towns include Ashford International (International services including Channel Tunnel link), Chatham, Rochester, Canterbury, Dover Priory, Ramsgate, Margate, Maidstone East and Sevenoaks. The new service introduced in 2022 also provided services between Swanley, Borough Green, Wrotham, and West Malling.

Comprehensive road links provide access to the remainder of the country and the Channel ports via the M25 and Dartford Crossing), M20 and A2/M2 motorways as well as the A20. Swanley is also within easy reach of the Channel Tunnel rail link at Ebbsfleet from which fast track services to Stratford Shopping Centre and London St. Pancras (International) station are available. The road network also provides ready access to the Bluewater Shopping Centre (c.12km) and by using the Dartford Crossing, the Lakeside Centre at Thurrock (c.17km).

Swanley has several bus services, being served by Transport for London with a route linking the town with towns in South East London including Eltham and Sidcup. Arriva extends routes to surrounding villages and towns including Orpington, Crockenhill and Dartford, with services to Bluewater available from Dartford. However, the service runs only on an hourly schedule between Monday and Thursday with no service to and from Swanley rail station after 18.23 hours.³⁷ Go Coach provides a several services (some limited) with routes to Crockenhill, Dartford, Hextable, Swanley, Wilmington, and West Kingsdown.³⁸ A very limited bus service operates between Swanley and Sevenoaks (421 route). The 429 route connects Swanley with Eynsford, Farningham and Joydens Wood.

Swanley Village is not served by any bus routes and all roads in to the village are single track at some point. There is pavement only in a small area of the village which means that walking or cycling around the village can be dangerous,

³⁶ Southeastern is the trading name of London & South Eastern Railway Limited, the key operator of commuter and regional services in South East London and Kent (also serves part of East Sussex) (www.southeasternrailway.co.uk). Thameslink is a main line route providing services from Bedford, Luton, Peterborough and Cambridge via London to various Kent and East Sussex destinations (www.thameslinkrailway.com).

³⁷ arrivabus.co.uk

³⁸ go-coach.co.uk

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particularly if you are a child, elderly or disabled. Maintenance of the footpath network around the village and into Swanley and Hextable is essential.

5 Housing

Local authorities have often seen Swanley as a dormitory town to accommodate its housing obligations. Not all approved Twenty first century planning applications appear to have appreciated the impact that increased housing and an increased population has on key supporting infrastructure e.g. doctors, dentists, transport links. There is also an impression that there is little understanding that employment is key to community wellbeing.

The town has a diversity of private and social housing. The principal social housing estates are St. Mary's and White Oaks. The majority of social housing in Swanley is provided by West Kent Housing Association.

The accent in the town is upon low rise housing with the majority of housing development having taken place from the post-war period to late 1980s. Whilst some remain on the outer limits of the town, Victorian houses and shops were demolished to create a new town centre in the 1970s. Whilst the existing shops provide living accommodation on the first floor, the emphasis in the centre is upon the town's main retail offering. Further change will take place as the new town centre owners have permitted rights to build an additional floor of flats above the existing shops.

The three principal private housing areas are the Newlands Estate (to the north of the town), St Georges Estate (to the east), and High Firs Estate (to the south). As with all locations across the UK, Swanley is subject to Central Government to address the current housing needs. An active programme of residential building development which is at various stages in the planning process features across various parts of the town. The houses which feature in this broad programme fall within the 5-year target for the provision of 3711 housing units across the whole Sevenoaks District Council area.

6 Civic and Community Life

The civil parish of Swanley was created in 1955 from neighbouring parishes of Farningham and Sutton at Hone in recognition of the developments of the town and increase in population. In 1974 the parish council became a Town Council and included the settlements of Hextable, Swanley Village and the main town of Swanley. In May 2008, Hextable was formed into a separate parish council following a local campaign and with the support of Sevenoaks District Council. There are three wards in the town namely, Christchurch and Swanley Village, St Marys and Whiteoak, Swanley Christchurch and Swanley Village.

Although unlike the County and District Council, it has few statutory duties (things that have to be done) it does have many powers (things that can be done). The Town Council seeks to exercise its powers for the benefit of the community of

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Swanley and Swanley Village. The Town Council owns around 150 acres of parks and open spaces, the principal ones being Swanley Park and St Marys Recreation Ground.³⁹

Swanley Town Council provides a variety of recreation, social and other facilities for the benefit of residents and people who work in and visit the Parish area, working in partnership with other Councils and agencies to promote and deliver local services. Both the Alexandra Suite and the Olympic Centre provide Conference and Functions facilities. Events held at these centres include public meetings (the council offices are located above the Alexandra Suite), weddings, dances, quiz nights, darts, competitions, Tribute nights and Christmas events and dinners.

Including Sevenoaks District and Swanley Town Council facilities, there is a variety of community facilities available for hire with associated kitchen and toilets. In addition, six schools offer space for hire for community activities. The four churches of Swanley and Swanley Village are made available for community activity.

Local businesses sponsor the floral displays, while the Town Council maintains the grass verges and open spaces. The town area includes the 60-acre award winning popular Swanley Park; the Park being greatly valued by Swanley's residents. The park was created through the purchase of various fields and orchards of the former New Barn Farm which the Town Council bought to protect the green belt between Hextable and Swanley. Features of the Park reflect its former use as a farm there being a remaining avenue of fruit trees with other features including new avenues of trees linking the car parks to the central play areas, café and paddling pool and water play and boating lake. The Town Council has maintained old hedgerows and trees around the outside of the park and has created allotments (further expansion planned) and an environment area that is now managed by local volunteers who comprise the Swanley Wildlife and Nature Group (SWAN). The Group, in partnership with other groups planted 600 saplings in November 2018 to establish a new Memorial wood. This is one of the events carried out in the town to mark the centenary of the end of the First World War. Further trees were planted during 2019. There are plans in hand to plant further trees in other areas around the town as a continuing commitment to supporting biodiversity and the rural aspects of the town. The Group and the Park have won awards for their continuing efforts to support wildlife diversity in the Park through the creation of wildflower meadows and a small wetland/bog area.

Among the diverse uses of the Park is that by the Swanley Athletics Club which hosts a number of county cross country races and other events each year. Swanley New Barn Model railway operated by a group of volunteers throughout the summer, runs through the Park on half a mile of track. A classical music and firework event – called the '1812 Night' – is held annually on the Friday before the August bank holiday.

³⁹ Swanley Town Council is Trustee of the Recreation Ground, a capacity it fulfils for the benefit of the residents of Swanley.

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There is a large Recreational Ground donated by the Hart-Dyke family to the town, on the edge of the town centre. This area is also greatly valued by Swanley's residents. In addition to its busy use during the football season events encompassing the annual Armed Forces Day held in the summer and the annual Guy Fawkes fireworks display and fair take place there.

Swanley and Swanley Village also have a history of community action. In the late 1980's and early 1990's the town and village were blighted by the proposed route of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link. Properties in the village were purchased by British Rail in preparation for the line to run directly through it. Swanley Action Group was established to oppose the proposed route, a campaign that eventually prevailed.

In 1997, the developer of Hotham Close and Hogs Orchard offered land in the centre of Swanley Village to Swanley Town Council. STC declined the offer but villagers set up Swanley Village Trust to take on and maintain the land which became Swanley Village Green. The Trust holds a number of annual fundraising events to pay for the upkeep and to promote an annual fireworks event. In 2017 after allotment land opposite The Red Lion came up for sale, villagers raised over £150,000 to purchase the land which it continues to run as allotments.

Swanley Village Sports and Social Club established in 1984, became Swanley Village Residents' Association to represent the views of villagers to the Town and District Council. It compiles and distributes a newsletter and organises events such as litter picks and footpath walks. St Paul's School and Church, as well as the two pubs play an active part in village life.

7 Places of Worship

St. Mary the Virgin Church situated on the corner of London Road and St Mary Road near the town centre has been the Anglican parish church of Swanley since 1901. The Roman Catholic parish church, Church of the Holy Apostles, is situated a short distance away in Sycamore Drive. It was registered for worship in 1965, superseding a church hall previously used since 1931. Christ Church located on Swanley high street and originally registered in 1904 as a Congregational church, is now part of the United Reformed Church. St Paul's Anglican church is located in Swanley Village. Hope Community Church, an evangelical church, meets at Horizon Primary Academy.

More recently a Hindu Temple has been established on the site of the former Jehovahs Witness Hall on London Road. The town is also home to a Brethren meeting room and two black majority churches (worship in rented accommodation at the Alexandra Suite and the Bowls Centre); a third worships at the Howard Centre in Hextable. The former Post Office in the town centre has been converted into a facility housing the Christ Family Assembly Outreach.

Other faiths are supported in nearby locations include the Hextable Methodist Church, All Souls Church of England, Crockenhill Baptist church, both in Crockenhill, and a Sikh temple in Dartford.

8 Education

The Orchards Academy is located on St Mary Road near to the Town Centre. It is the only Secondary School in the town with other schools being located in the nearby towns of Bexleyheath, Dartford, Orpington, Sidcup, and Wilmington all being within an approximate 5-mile radius of Swanley. There are four Grammar schools in close proximity namely Dartford Grammar School for Boys (attended among others by Sir Mick Jagger),⁴⁰ Dartford Grammar School for Girls (the actress Sheila Hancock, CBE),⁴¹ Wilmington Grammar School for Boys and Wilmington Grammar School for Girls. Currently only the Wilmington schools are accepting Swanley boys and girls. Parkwood Hall School, owned and run by the London Borough of Chelsea and Kensington, situated on the western edge of Swanley in Beechenlea Lane, caters for children with moderate learning difficulties and complex needs having extensive experience with children on the autistic spectrum. Adults with learning difficulties are supported by the Wilmington based Cygnet Club.

8.1 Further Education Colleges

The closest are North Kent College which is located across campuses in Dartford and Gravesend with Partner College status with the University of Greenwich, particularly the Greenwich Maritime Institute, and Bromley College of Further and Higher Education located at Bromley Common College in the London Borough of Bromley. It is a partner college of six of the twelve schools of the University of Greenwich. London South East College.

8.2 Primary Schools

There are five in Swanley with other primary schools in the surrounding villages being within easy reach of the town.

9 Sports Activities and Clubs

9.1 Sports Activities

There are many of these accommodating a wide range of sports based in and around Swanley. The recreation ground on the edge of the town centre incorporates a roller-skating area⁴² and becomes a busy centre for varied football matches during the season. The town's former football clubs Alma Swanley F.C. and Swanley Furness F.C. are no longer active. Many people support nearby Crockenhill F.C., a

⁴⁰ BBC Kent, 'Sir Mick Jagger visits his old school in Dartford', July15, 2010

http://news.bbc.co.uk/local/kent/hi/people_and_places/arts_and_culture/newsid_8823000/8823265.stm, accessed January 19, 2020

⁴¹ 'Class Act', The January 21, 2005 <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/3349165/Class-act.html> accessed February 28, 2020

She also writes about attending Dartford Grammar in this book: <https://www.amazon.co.uk/Two-Us-Life-John-Thaw/dp/0747570205>

⁴² Swanley Town Council website <https://www.swanleytowncouncil.gov.uk/st-marys-recreation-ground/>, accessed January 19, 2020

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member of the Kent County League Premier Division.⁴³ Swanley Rangers is the town's junior football club with 12 teams across the U7-14 range.⁴⁴ Swanley F.C, which is Swanley Town Council's official football team, is another youth team based at the Recreation Ground.⁴⁵ AFC Unity (formerly) Titan Tigers is a Hextable based Junior/Youth football club with a variety of teams covering ages from soccer tots up to under seventeens.⁴⁶ Hexley Rangers F.C. is a FA Charter Standard (Hextable/Swanley) community-based junior football club that play at Downsview Primary School.⁴⁷ Petham Park Panthers is another FA Charter club as is Hayden Youth Association, the latter based in Wilmington provides a range of teams catering for ages from five years old through Juniors and Senior ranks and a Veterans team.^{48 49}

The recreation ground also houses netball courts for Swanley Netball Club which has 3 squads in the North West Kent Netball League. The Club also has a growing youth development section.⁵⁰

Swanley Rugby Club temporarily based in Egerton Avenue, plays in the Kent Metropolitan League.⁵¹ The Swanley and District Athletic Club, founded in 1988, meets at New Barn Park.⁵² The club organises and helps run a number of annual running and cross-country events.⁵³ Other prominent athletic clubs around Swanley include The Dartford Harriers Athletic Club based in Central Park Dartford (c.4 miles)⁵⁴, Bexley Athletic Club (Erith 10 miles)⁵⁵, Blackheath and Bromley Harriers FC (Bromley 10 miles)⁵⁶, and Cambridge Harriers Athletic Club (Bexley 6 miles)⁵⁷.

The Olympic Centre in Beechenlea Lane is home to Swanley Bowls Club, Swanley Boxing Club and Swanley Snooker Club⁵⁸.

The White Oak Leisure Centre is home to a wide variety of active sports and swimming clubs. Sports activities include a fitness gym, a fitness studio, a range of martial arts disciplines including judo, karate and Taekwondo, gymnastics, pilates, yoga, zumba, badminton, table tennis, trampoline and Tag-Active. Swimming

⁴³ Club website <https://www.crockenhillfc.co.uk/about-us> accessed January 19, 2020

⁴⁴ Club website <https://www.swanleyrangersfc.com/> accessed January 19, 2020

⁴⁵ Club website <https://www.pitchero.com/clubs/swanleyfc/a/club-history-46391.html> accessed January 19, 2020

⁴⁶ Club website http://hextableparishcouncil.com/AFC_Unity_Football_Club.aspx,
<https://www.selkent.org.uk/public/clubs/307/sub> accessed May 15, 2020

⁴⁷ Club website <http://www.hextablevillage.com/hexley-rangers-football-club.html> accessed January 19, 2020

⁴⁸ Club website www.ppp.com accessed January 19, 2020

⁴⁹ Club website <https://haydenfc.co.uk/> accessed May 15, 2020

⁵⁰ Club website <http://www.swanlynetballclub.org.uk/> accessed January 19, 2020

⁵¹ Club website <https://www.pitchero.com/clubs/swanleyrangers/news> accessed January 19, 2020

⁵² Swanley Park website <https://www.swanleytowncouncil.gov.uk/swanley-park/>, accessed January 19, 2020

⁵³ Club website <http://www.swanleyanddistrictac.org/> accessed January 19, 2020

⁵⁴ Club website <https://dartfordharriersac.co.uk/> accessed January 19, 2020

⁵⁵ Club website <https://www.bexleyac.org.uk/> accessed January 19, 2020

⁵⁶ Club website <http://www.bandbhac.org.uk/> accessed January 19, 2020

⁵⁷ Club website <http://www.cambridgeharriers.org.uk/> accessed January 19, 2020

⁵⁸ Centre website <http://www.theolympicswanley.org.uk/> accessed January 19, 2020

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activities are facilitated across two pools one being a six lane 25-meter pool with a moveable floor and the other a learner pool. The indoor bowls club is based in the adjacent premises.⁵⁹

Sidcup and District Motor Cycle Club (SDMCC) owns the Canada Heights international motocross circuit located at Button Street, Swanley Village. The Club bought the site in 1985.⁶⁰ The site has been used for off-road motorcycle sports activities for many years and was first used by SDMCC in 1948. Canada Heights, in Swanley Village, has hosted both Club and International events. A round of the ACU British Motocross Championship is held each year as well as open Motocross, Enduro, Cross-Country, Long-Distance Trials, and Trials and events for all types of motorcycles.

The motor racing circuit Brands Hatch is situated five miles from Swanley.⁶¹

9.2 Clubs and Cultural Activities

In addition to the sports clubs highlighted in Section 9.1, there is a comprehensive number of Clubs and other activities both in and around Swanley which encompass a wide range of activities and interests for people of all ages. Children's activities include an array of after school clubs. Although seeking a new venue the Swanley Youth and Community Centre is still active. Guiding and Scouting are represented across the full range of rainbows, brownies, guides, rangers, beavers, cubs, scouts and senior scouts. Swanley District Scouts has a campsite at the nearby Farningham Woods area which also incorporates a site of Special Scientific Interest with the Kent Guides camp site being at Pax Woods Hextable. The air cadets are represented via the 593 Swanley Squadron Royal Air Force Air Cadets. The Army Cadets are located in Swanley Lane. Other Associations include Army Cadets and the Hextable based Girls and Boys Brigade. The Royal British Legion meet at Five Wents Hall which also hosts a variety of social events including parties and dances throughout the year.

Whilst not a full list, more adult orientated activities encompass the Swanley Bridge Club, Swanley War Memorial Institute, the Swanley Women's Institute, the Dartford and Swanley Village Women's Institute, Swanley and District Art Society, and Swanley and North Downs Lions Club. There are active history societies in Swanley and in nearby Hextable. Various dance clubs provide access to lessons for children and adults across a wide range of styles including ballroom, jive and line dancing among others. Whilst there is no theatre in Swanley those in nearby and readily accessible locations e.g. the Orchard and Miskin theatres in Dartford and the Churchill theatre in Bromley provide access to a wide range of genres and styles including comedies, musicals, drama, opera and Christmas pantomimes. Amateur dramatics are represented by the Wilmington based Pavilion Players.

⁵⁹ White Oak Indoor Bowls Club website <http://www.whiteoakindoorbowls.co.uk/> accessed January 19, 2020

⁶⁰ Club website <http://www.sidcupmotorcycleclub.co.uk/> accessed January 19, 2020

⁶¹ Brands hatch website <https://www.brandshatch.co.uk/> accessed January 19, 2020

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There has not been a cinema in Swanley since the former Corona Cinema closed in 1965 however major national chains are represented in Bexleyheath, Bluewater, Bromley, and Orpington. Each is within a short distance from Swanley and easily accessible.

10 Business and Employment

Business and employment have experienced highs and lows through various local and national economic cycles. Experience over the last few decades has seen a reversal of the earlier growth experienced by the town and a contraction of the number of larger businesses located in Swanley. One notable consequence of this trend is the allied reduction of the number of jobs available locally. This runs counter to the desire to grow the local economy, such growth being based on the expansion of local employment opportunities. It is held that such a development would intrinsically include the benefits associated with reduced travel, less strain being placed on stretched infrastructure, lower pollution levels and the related benefits for public health. This contradiction suggests that there is a disconnect between sections of our social fabric and organs of public planning. This being the case, some also hold that the lack of a conjoined end to end planning and development thinking and practice is proving detrimental to Swanley.

As the town's population has grown it has been a mirror of many towns up and down the country. Despite the varying trends which the local business community has faced, Swanley still has a good mix of businesses which include small, medium and large businesses trading locally, nationally and internationally. These entities cover a wide range of sectors, from general retail (business classifications A1-A 5), business use e.g. warehousing /industrial (B2, B8), residential accommodation (C1-C4), commercial businesses/services (E(a)–E(g)), learning (F10, local community usage (F2). They include international companies e.g. Swan Paper Mill, Rydal, HCP whilst in the national arena companies such as Focus Windows, Howden Joinery Group, Joint Industry Board, Dreams, Costa Coffee, Premier Inn are represented in the town, with local independent companies including Gary Sargeant, Brookbanks, Doors & Windows, Caroll Carpets, K2 Flooring. Looking forward, Swanley requires revived and new employment anchors.

As retail shoppers become increasingly orientated with online offerings and purchasing, the Swanley employment offering might be encouraged to promote 3D printing engineers, App designers, EV and hydrogen engineers, energy specialists, medical engineers among others.

There is a view that Swanley has never identified its heart or purpose or taken ownership of a vision, but passively followed the contradictory trends of the economic cycles it has experienced. This view holds further that there is a disconnect between the education effort in the town, the housing situation and the business and employment environment. As a consequence, growth is stilted as neither the education or business effort is feeding through to encourage it. This is held to be contrary to the advantages which Swanley's location should encourage. The town is close to London which suggests it has the ability to offer a cost-effective

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location capable of supplementing or even substituting for the more costly locations offered in the Capital. Its proximity also suggests that little if anything would be lost by businesses operating from Swanley rather than say, the City. Comprehensive road and rail connections provide ready access to both national and international communications links. Three international airports are within a one-hour radius of Swanley.

The creation of Swanley Junction stimulated the growth of the town in the mid nineteenth century. Among other things, the arrival of the railway enabled local horticulture to expand its service to London. Doctors in London also took advantage of this new accessibility of a relatively close rural area and clean air by sending patients to the new hospitals built in Swanley.

Swanley demonstrated one example of its ability to innovate and of forward thinking when, in 1888 Swanley Horticultural College (possibly the first Horticultural College in the world) was established as the Swanley Horticultural Institute at Hextable House (Hextable then being a small hamlet within the borders of Swanley). In 1899, it was the first horticultural institution to convert to become the first all women horticultural college in the UK and it was re-named 'The Swanley Horticultural College for Women'. The College produced many notable horticulturalists and garden designers who enjoyed prominent national and international careers. They included Fanny Rollo Wilkinson, Madeline Agar (her book 'Garden Design in Theory and Practice' remains a basic text in modern landscaping courses), Lorrie Dunington Grubb (landscaped the still affluent Lawrence Park area of Toronto Canada, one of the first planned garden suburbs), Annie Gulvin (one of the first two female gardeners at Kew Gardens and first female head gardener in the UK), Dr Kate Barrett, CBE (lecturer in Botany at Imperial College), Brenda Colvin (founding member and later President of the International Federation of Landscape Architects), and Sylvia Crowe (landscaping around Bewl Water and Bough Beech reservoir). The national importance of the College was underlined through its training of many women through both WWI and WWII to work on the land. Following bomb damage in 1944, the site was evacuated and the College subsequently merged with what is now known as Hadlow Agricultural College.⁶²

The surrounding road connections are key to Swanley's development. The A20, which was first classified in 1922, linking London to the coast, previously passed through the centre of Swanley, but is now diverted around the town and known as the Swanley bypass. The Swanley intersection formed in 1976 links the M20, M25 and the Swanley bypass, thus providing effective communication with other national road links and through them with the rest of the UK. Access to the A2 and M2 which joins the town with London and the south coast is only 3 miles away. This comprehensive access to the nation's road infrastructure has attracted various businesses to the fringes of the town as evidenced through the warehouse and trading estates on either side of London Road as it merges with Junction 3 of the M25 and Junction 1 of the M20. Despite this, there is room to further develop the transport hub for business. Land at the edge of the town, known as Moreton Cross

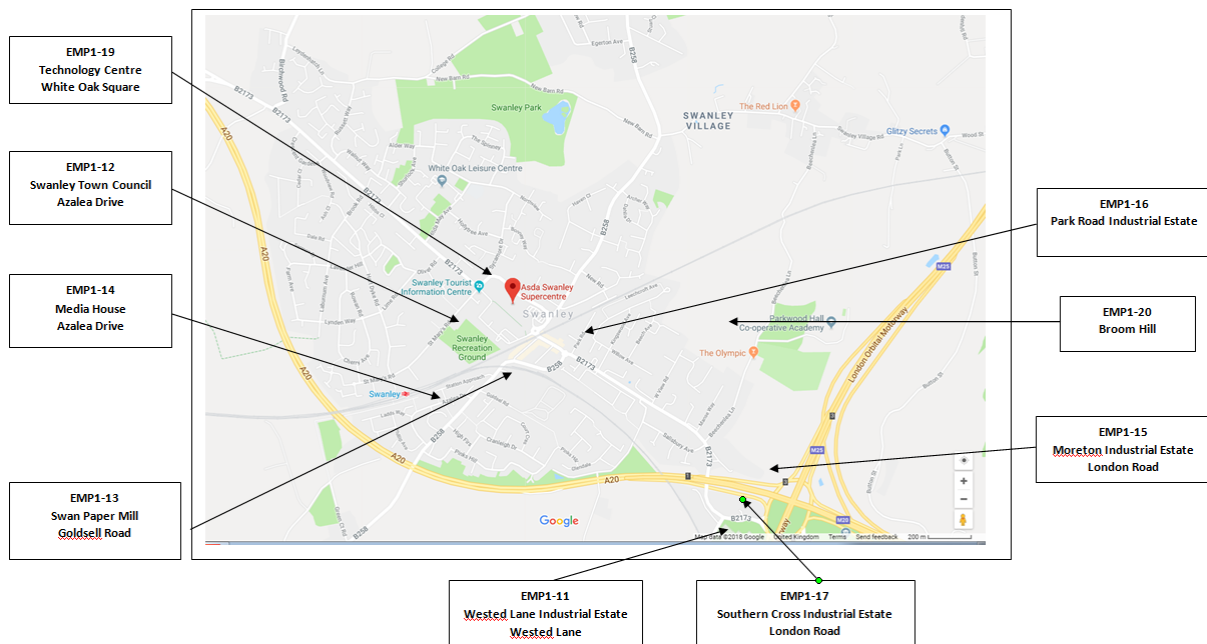
⁶² December 19, 2019 <https://www.hadlow.ac.uk/about-us/history-of-the-college> , *The Remarkable Women of Swanley Horticultural College*, Hextable Heritage Society

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Industrial Estate (site ref. EMP1-15 – see map overleaf) and the site behind that known as Broom Hill (EMP1-20) was taken out of the green belt classification and designated as employment land in the early 1990s, these sites remain undeveloped to date.

In total, there are 498 premises registered for non-domestic rates (excluding communications masts) with over 119 registered as shops premises, 112 as offices and 79 as workshops. Anecdotal indicators point to there being a notable number of one man/very small home-based businesses active within Swanley.

Swanley Business & Employment Map



10.1 Class A1 - Shops and Retail Outlets

As the town grew from the second half of the nineteenth century and through the twentieth century, retail businesses developed along Station Road and the High Street. A strong retail mix with domestic accommodation above the shops, included a dairy, bakers, greengrocers, butchers, banks, bike and vehicle repair, hairdressers and launderette. Larger national chains were also attracted to the town with International Stores and the Co-Operative supermarkets appearing in the High Street during the 1960s. During this time the growing attraction and affordability of foreign holidays led to the establishment of the town's first travel agency. Domestic services continued to expand through the establishment of a washing machine repair centre, and a carpet shop among others. The professional services offering also expanded through the creation of new accounting firms and legal offices. The town has a good mix of small owner-occupied businesses and national chain representation.

The relocation of the focus of the town's retail area from the High Street to its current location occurred when the Corona Cinema was demolished in 1965. A large part of the town centre which opened in 1971, is now owned by U&I Group PLC. The

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Group's redevelopment plans designed to deliver a hybrid facility incorporating housing and an updated and expanded retail offering was approved in 2019 with work projected to commence in 2020. The works did not proceed as scheduled and U&I Group have since sold on part of the town centre car park (the new owners intend to build an additional storey of flats above the existing town centre shops under permitted rights planning arrangements). Despite this, the company still owns that part of the car park for which development via the building of 4-11 storey blocks of flats was previously approved. This planning approval has since lapsed and U&I's current intentions for the site are not known. Should they wish to revisit their former intention of redevelopment of the own centre they would need to re-apply for planning approval.

The creation of a town centre also attracted ASDA to Swanley with a then new superstore being built opposite the retail centre. This also led to the part of the high street running through the area to be diverted resulting in the pedestrianisation of the space; an initiative which has emphasised the nature and existence of the town centre. Latterly, further notable retail names e.g. Aldi, Iceland, Wilko and Poundland have been attracted to the town centre.

Swanley has aimed to serve the local community and the town has never attempted to compete with Dartford, Bromley or Maidstone or other surrounding town centres all of which have established and comprehensive retail offerings which complement the local offering.

10.2 Class A2 - Professional Services

In the wake of retail business moving to the centre, Station Road and the High Street then absorbed financial services, dentist, beauty centres, and a number of restaurants.

Horizon House, built in the 1960s next to the Railway station, was the first multi-storey tower block built in Swanley to house various businesses including a geological and oil exploration services company. In a reflection of this earlier growth of business and employment capacity in the town, business and employment expansion was additionally evidenced through the construction of Media House (EMP1-14) on a nearby site. It is an example of the more recent contraction of major business space and local employment capacity that Horizon House has subsequently been converted into domestic flats following the relocation of the exploration services company upon its acquisition by a French based enterprise.

White Oak Square is a 1990s courtyard office development prominently situated at the junction of Bartholomew Way and London Road by the main roundabout in the town (The Technology Centre - EMP1-19). A number of light industrial units which comprise Swanley Technology Centre and which, among others, include Sargeant Partnership (financial services), Royal Warrant Holders (for building services and maintenance engineering) - Darenth Valley Building Services and Focus Windows Ltd (double glazing), are located behind the White Oak offices.

10.3 Class A3 - Food and Drink

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Swanley Town and Village are well served for public houses. The town has two and Swanley Village has two, which extend a variety of meals as well as the more traditional beer offerings. Restaurants and cafés have grown throughout the town. Many tastes are catered for from fish and chips, kebabs, and Domino's pizza through to Chinese and Indian cuisine. Costa Coffee, KFC, Subway, and an independent pizza outlet supplement the take away food offerings in the town centre.

The site on which the Bull Hotel (also incorporates a pub/restaurant) is situated at the corner where London Road meets Birchwood Road. The site has a long history of some form of hostelry being located there. The name of the Bull Inn can be traced back to at least 1826. It is held that the original Entomological Club,⁶³ the first such society in the world often met at the Bull.⁶⁴ The Club's members and founder George Samouelle are held to have been active insect collectors locally including through the then Birch Wood and Darenth Wood areas.⁶⁵ In more recent years, the building became a popular nightclub named Hickory's and was later renamed Déjà vu. In 2010 the nightclub was replaced by the existing Premier Inn Hotel and associated Beefeater restaurant.

10.4 Class B1 - B8 Employment Space

Park Road Industrial Estate (EMP1-16) is to the rear of the High Street where small engineering companies, including steel fabricators, and car repair garages operate.

Throughout the 1950s and 1960s Swan Paper Mill continued its investment in Swanley by upgrading their site (EMP1-13). Also during the 1960s, the former supermarket chain Pricerite established a distribution centre further along Goldsel Road. This site subsequently became the home of Harp Heating, an entity which focused on installing central heating in local authority homes. Later, United Living was based there (a new build and planned maintenance services company) and they moved their offices to Media House in Azalea Drive. This is another example of the loss of business and employment capacity experienced by Swanley, the site was developed during 2016 through the demolition of the industrial and office buildings located there. The site was redeveloped by the Persimmon Group to provide 185 residential dwellings.

Swanley's road links encouraged the development of various trading estates on the town's eastern periphery particularly adjacent to and close to the access to the M20 and M25 motorways. These include the Southern Cross Industrial Estate (EMP1-17) which houses large industrial units, many having been built in the 1960s. Companies located there include Ring Containers, SafeStore and Zenith Windows.

⁶³ The Entomological Club website <http://entomologicalclub.org/entclub.html> accessed February 2, 2020

⁶⁴ Dover Kent Archives website <http://www.dover-kent.com/2014-project-b/Bull-Inn-Swanley.html> accessed January 2020

⁶⁵ The Insect Collectors' Forum website <http://collector-secret.proboards.com/thread/2511/entomologists-life-george-samouelle-1790> accessed February 2, 2020

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The Interchange, Wested Lane Industrial Estate (EMP1-11), which sits on the opposite side of London Road is home to twenty units occupied among others by Dreams Ltd, Kimber Allen UK Ltd, Wika/TC Fluid Control and Selecta.

Although there are pubs in Swanley Village it is otherwise a residential location with no shops. The Village has seen a slow conversion of its redundant farm buildings into B1 use. Small commercial units previously located at Veitchii Barn (close to but strictly speaking outside of the Village boundaries) have closed with the site proffered for housing redevelopment. Despite this there is a clutch of small support services and light engineering companies based in the Village which do not detract from the mainly residential and rural setting.

10.5 Farming

The Village continues to be surrounded by agricultural land which is in active use.

Farming and horticulture are established industries around Swanley. Whilst both have declined from their heyday, they remain important industries surrounding and adjacent to both the Town and the Village. The land either side of the railway between Beechenlea Lane and the Newlands development is Grade II prime agricultural land.

11 Health in Swanley and the surrounding area⁶⁶

Swanley is served by two GP surgeries namely, The Oaks Partnership in Nightingale Way and The Cedars Surgery in Swanley Centre. The two surgeries and other interested parties in the town are seeking to develop the concept of working from one Health and Wellbeing centre, in Swanley. The objective would be to extend existing, expanded and new health facilities to the residents of Swanley and surrounding villages, thus meeting the needs of the existing population and the projected growth in population over the lifetime of this Neighbourhood Plan. As with other areas across the UK, the two surgeries in Swanley are experiencing considerable pressure. There is some concern that without the development of such a new facility the two existing surgeries might not be able to cope with resident's future needs particularly if the growth in population materialises as expected.

The GP surgeries are part of Swanley and Rural Primary Care Network which include Hextable Surgery, Devon Road Surgery, South Darenth and Braeside Surgery, Farningham. There are adjacent surgeries that also provide cover to some parts of the outskirts of Swanley e.g. Summerhouse Drive, Beaconsfield Road, Bexley

The Swanley and Rural Primary Care Network currently covers a population of around 36,000. Primary care services are provided at the surgeries and additional health services may be delivered to the area from different sites e.g. Dartford Gravesham and Swanley Health GP Federation. The Oaks and The Cedars surgeries also provide services for wound care and offer extended hours.

⁶⁶ Much of the information in this chapter is based on input provided by one of the GP surgeries in Swanley

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Ultrasound providers and Physiotherapy providers also provide services from surgeries within this network. Health Visiting Services, Children's Speech and Language services and Podiatry are also provided from the Oaks building. Secondary care services such as a dietician service are offered in GP surgeries in the network. One You health advisors, employed by Sevenoaks District Council also work within the GP surgeries, offering health promotion services. Care navigators/social prescribers, district nurses, Ellenor palliative care nurses and mental health teams support patients in the community although they are physically based within Swanley.

There are various additional services placed outside of Swanley which support the local town including,

- Third sector agencies such as Alzheimer and Dementia Support Services ("ADSS");
- Children's mental health services are based in Maidstone;
- Alcohol and Drugs services are based in Gravesend. Local residents are concerned about mental health and drug and alcohol services being less easy to access as they are not locally based. The inclusion of the provision of such services from the mooted new Health Hub is under consideration;
- Midwifery support which is linked to Darent Valley Hospital Obstetric Unit. is extended from the Children's centre;
- Family Planning support is extended via clinics at The Oaks Surgery;
- Darent Valley Hospital is the nearest secondary care provider with an A&E department;
- Whilst Queen Mary's urgent care centre is nearby, Sidcup is located within the London Borough of Bexley. It offers a walk-in NHS service for patients whose condition is urgent enough that they cannot wait for the next GP appointment but who do not need emergency treatment.

The following snapshot of health statistics for Swanley taken from the 2017/18 Public Health England's fingertips data and local GP data provides a comparison of some of the town's key medical factors with those applying nationally across the UK.

There is significant demand for healthcare in Swanley but only c.57.6% of patients have a good experience of making an appointment at their doctor's surgery; 52.3% of patients have a longstanding health condition compared to 51.4% nationally; Higher than national average prevalence of hypertension, atrial fibrillation and COPD, rheumatoid arthritis prevalence;

- The Oaks has people presenting with a higher-than-average musculoskeletal conditions;
- 18.5% people in Swanley smoke compared to 17% in England;
- Poor air quality is a major health issue for Swanley (impacts on respiratory health). Swanley faces high levels of pollutants due to its close proximity to the M20 and M25 strategic networks; the A20 by-pass and the B2173 through Swanley. The latest Air Quality Management Report from Sevenoaks District Council dated 2019, shows that air pollution at Jessamine Terrace and London Road is of particular concern;

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- Air Quality data in Kent: 8.2% of population living in AQMA's (worst - 15/16th of similar local authorities);
- A recent report from the Kent Public Health Observatory has shown that 25.2% of the year six children (10/11-year-olds) who live in Swanley White Oak ward, are obese;
- 13% of over 18-year-olds at The Oaks Surgery have obesity compared to the national average of 9.8%;
- Child obesity ranking of 15/16 of comparable local authorities;
- Deprivation score similar to national average (20), but significantly higher than the surrounding areas of Hextable, Farningham and South Darenth (11.2-12.3). This is concentrated in St Mary's ward;
- The proportion of children aged 0-15 years living in income deprived households is higher than national average at c.23% compared with a national average figure of 19.9%;
- The Oaks Surgery has a slightly higher than average (20.5%) under 18-year-olds population of 22.9%;
- c.10% of the town's population are over 75 which is a similar proportion across England;
- Kent compared to other local authorities is worse than average at 'best start in life'.

12 Heritage and Conservation

As shown in the following list, Swanley Town and Village have a total of twenty listed buildings, sixteen of which are in the Village. A summary of those assets together with a brief description of each is as follows,

- **Alice Dene:** Beechenlea Lane. A Grade II Listed Building. There is a farmhouse shown on the site in a document of 1677. The present exterior is of Circa 1820 with an added wing of C1850. Two storeys yellow brick. Slate roof, 4 sashes with glazing bars intact, including a one bay mid C19 extension to the left-hand side. Portico to porch. The interior contains a fireplace of C1820 and mouldings and staircase of that period. Listing NGR: TQ5280169462. ⁶⁷
- **Church of St. Paul:** School Lane, Swanley Village. A Grade II Listed Building. Designed by Ewan Christian 1860-1. (Tower 1862-5). Built of stone rubble with bands of polychrome (yellow and red) brick decoration. Nave. Apsidal-ended chancel. Central west tower with shingled spire. South porch. Decorated tracery to windows. Interior has mosaics and frescoes in the chancel the frescoes of Christ and 8 angels and stained glass by Schingley and Hunt of Lancaster. Listing NGR: TQ5296069757. ⁶⁸

⁶⁷ British Listed Buildings website

<https://britishlistedbuildings.co.uk/101273882-alice-dene-swanley#.XimiA2j7SUK> accessed January 23, 2020

⁶⁸ British Listed Buildings website

<https://britishlistedbuildings.co.uk/101222983-church-of-saint-paul-swanley#.XimiZmj7SUK> accessed January 23, 2020

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- **Coach House to South East of the Old Place:** Swanley Village Road. A Grade II Listed Building. Circa 1830. Two storeys buff brick. Slate roof. The coach house was to the right-hand side. The left-hand side has quarters for the coachman. Sash windows. Listing NGR: TQ5292369521.⁶⁹
- **Coal Duty Boundary Marker:** Birchwood Road. A Grade II Listed Building. Erected in 1861 or soon after. Cast by Henry Grissell at the Regent Canal Ironworks. Cast iron. Square post with chamfered edges, projecting cornice and frieze bearing armorial shield. Post set up under the London Coal and Wine Duties (Continuance) Act of 1861. Listing NGR: TQ5030369903.⁷⁰
- **Coal Taxpost (Obelisk) on North Side of Railway 500 Yards West of Swanley Station:** Walden Road Crockenhill. A Grade II Listed Building. Erected before 1861. Stone Obelisk, of about 14 feet high, bearing carved cartouche with arms of the City of London and the motto 'Domine dirigie nos'. This type of Coal Taxpost was erected on railways. Classified as number 206 type 4b in The Coal Duties of the City of London and their Boundary Marks (1972). Listing NGR: TQ5047168141.⁷¹
- **Downs Cottages (Nos 1, 2, and 3) and the Old Cafe:** Swanley Village Road. A Grade II Listed Building. There are records of a house on this site in the C15 or early C16 but the present building appears to date from the late C16 to early C17. Its earlier name was Nemeffield and it was originally one house. Later a back part was added and the house was divided into cottages. After 1860 it was the village Post Office and stores. Two storeys timber-framed, the first floor now pebble-dashed, the ground floor encased in brick. Four windows, 2 of which are sliding casements. External brick chimneystack. The rear elevation has 4 gables. Nos 1 and 2 Downs Cottages have a blocked-in inglenook fireplace. Listing NGR: TQ5267469571.⁷²
- **Elizabethan Cottage:** Swanley Village Road. A Grade II Listed Building. An inscription reads "Built AD 1604. Repaired and partly rebuilt AD 1713. Restored and decorated AD 1880." The exterior is of 1880, masking a timber-framed building. Two storeys ground floor painted brick with bands of decorative ties. First floor hung with curved tiles. Tiled roof, half-hipped at one end and hipped at the other, with central chimneystack. Catslide to rear. Two sliding sashes. The ground floor has penticed doorcase. The interior has exposed beams and inglenook fireplace. Listing NGR: TQ5292569557.⁷³
- **Highlands Cottage:** Highlands Hill, Swanley. A Grade II Listed Building. C17 origin enlarged in C18. L-shaped. Two storeys weatherboarded. Tiled roof. Mainly modern casements but C18 doorcase with flat weather hood and

⁶⁹ British Listed Buildings website <https://britishlistedbuildings.co.uk/101273849-coach-house-to-south-east-of-the-old-place-swanley> accessed January 23, 2020

⁷⁰ British Listed Buildings website <https://britishlistedbuildings.co.uk/101359402-coal-duty-boundary-marker-swanley#.Ximno2j7SUK> accessed January 23, 2020

⁷¹ British Listed Buildings website <https://britishlistedbuildings.co.uk/101299013-coal-taxpost-obelisk-on-north-side-of-railway-500-yards-west-of-swanley-station-swanley#.Ximppmj7SUK> accessed January 23, 2020

⁷² British Listed Buildings website <https://britishlistedbuildings.co.uk/101239134-downs-cottages-nos-1-2-and-3-and-the-old-cafe-swanley#.XimrZWj7SUK> accessed January 23, 2020

⁷³ British Listed Buildings website <https://britishlistedbuildings.co.uk/101223000-elizabethan-cottage-swanley#.Xims4Gj7SUK> accessed January 23, 2020

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brackets and 5 panelled door, the top panel cut away and glazed.

Listing NGR: TQ5251469588.⁷⁴

- **Highlands Farmhouse:** Highlands Hill, Swanley. A Grade II Listed Building. L-shaped building. C17 or earlier timber-framed building refaced in early C19. Two storeys stuccoed. Tiled roof. Weatherboarded extension to rear. Irregular fenestration. Some casements, some sashes with glazing bars intact. Simple doorcase. Some exposed beams to interior. This was the site of one of the 2 original Saxon settlements in Swanley. It was a minor manor in Norman times when the land belonged to Ghent Abbey. It is thought that King Stephen granted it to his supporters William of Ypres who gave the land to Ghent Abbey and it was held by them between 1135 and 1203. Listing NGR: TQ5237669630.⁷⁵
- **Hillbrow:** (Formerly listed as A E Simpson (Butcher) and house adjoining). Swanley Village Road (south side). A Grade II Listed Building. Late C15 to early C16 timber-framed building now refronted. Two storeys stuccoed, the ground floor under built in brick. Tiled roof. One modern casement window. Later butcher's shop extension to ground floor. Listing NGR: TQ5264869581.⁷⁶
- **Lychgate to West of Church of Saint Paul:** School Lane (north side), Swanley Village. Lychgate to west of Church of St Paul. A Grade II Listed Building. Mid C19. Two crownpost formations supporting hipped roof covered with shingles. Surmounted by wrought iron cross. Included for group value. Listing NGR: TQ5292869759.⁷⁷
- **Note:** It has been suggested that the actual gates themselves are not the originals, these having been stolen a few years ago.
- **Malabar:** School Lane, Swanley Village. A Grade II Listed Building. Formerly the Vicarage. Built by Ewan Christian 1861. Two storeys red brick with cross and diaper pattern in grey brickwork. Tiled roof with bands of fishscale tiles and clustered chimneystacks. One large gable and 2 dormers with bargeboards. Sash windows. Central 3-light bay. Listing NGR: TQ5289369914.⁷⁸
- **Numbers 1 and 2, White Cottages:** Swanley Village Road (north side). A Grade II Listed Building. Early C19 pair. Two parallel ranges. Two storeys weatherboarded. Tiled roof. Two sashes with glazing bars intact. Listing NGR: TQ5267569600.⁷⁹
- **Old College Cottage:** Swanley Village (north side). A Grade II Listed Building. C18 or earlier. Two storeys red brick. Hipped tiled roof. Casement windows. External brick chimneystack. Simple doorcase in wooden architrave. This may

⁷⁴ British Listed Buildings website <https://britishlistedbuildings.co.uk/101239128-highlands-cottage-swanley#.XimuUmj7SUK> accessed January 23, 2020

⁷⁵ British Listed Buildings website <https://britishlistedbuildings.co.uk/101222959-highlands-farmhouse-swanley#.XimvDmj7SUK> accessed January 23, 2020

⁷⁶ British Listed Buildings website <https://britishlistedbuildings.co.uk/101223066-hillbrow-swanley#.XimwnGj7SUK> accessed January 23, 2020

⁷⁷ British Listed Buildings website <https://britishlistedbuildings.co.uk/101239132-lychgate-to-west-of-church-of-saint-paul-swanley#.Ximx7Wj7SUK> accessed January 23, 2020. Whilst recorded as a "Lynchgate" the commentary under this entry in the website uses the correct word of 'lychgate' to describe this item.

⁷⁸ British Listed Buildings website <https://britishlistedbuildings.co.uk/101222996-malabar-swanley#.XimzNWj7SUK> accessed January 23, 2020

⁷⁹ British Listed Buildings website <https://britishlistedbuildings.co.uk/101273847-numbers-1-and-2-white-cottages-swanley#.Xim0OGj7SUK> accessed January 23, 2020

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at one time have belonged to Cobham College as there is a reference to the establishment in a Land Tax Assessment of 1780. Listing NGR: TQ5314069538.⁸⁰

- **Priory Cottage:** Swanley Village Road. A Grade II Listed Building. Circa 1820. This is now linked to the Priory and was possibly originally the coach house. Two storeys stuccoed. Pantiled roof. Three casements. Two S-shaped iron ties and modern wooden and glazed extension to ground floor now containing the doorcase. Included for group value. Listing NGR: TQ5326869475.⁸¹
- **Stables to East of the Old Place:** Swanley Village Road (south side). Circa 1830. One storey buff brick. Roof now covered with corrugated iron. Included for group value showing a complete early C19 small residence. Listing NGR: TQ5291969533.⁸²
- **Swanley War Memorial:** St, Mary's Road, Swanley. A Grade II Listed Building. War Memorial. Portland stone with bronze sculpture and plaques designed by the sculptor Louis Frederick Roslyn. 1922.
DESCRIPTION: The allegorical bronze statue of 'The Spirit of Sacrifice' (according to an article in the local paper after the dedication), by the sculptor Louis Frederick Roslyn of South Kensington, is a draped, winged, female figure standing on a globe. She holds a laurel wreath in her right hand and a downward pointing sword, grasped by the blade, in her out-stretched left hand. The statue is mounted atop a tall Portland stone obelisk which rises from a square plinth with a two-step square base. Inscribed on the east face of the obelisk is the following inscription: TO THE / GLORY OF GOD / AND IN GRATEFUL / MEMORY OF THE / MEN OF / SWANLEY / WHO/ LAID DOWN THEIR LIVES / IN THE / GREAT WAR / 1914-1918. Below this inscription is a bronze wreath and below this a bronze tablet stating: AMONG THE NAMES RECORDED HERE IS THAT / OF STAFF PAYMASTER JOSEPH T. GEDGE. THE FIRST / BRITISH OFFICER TO FALL IN THE GREAT WAR. / KILLED ON H.M.S. AMPHION AUGUST 6. 1914. Added below this plaque, on the plinth of the memorial, is a bronze plaque with the inscription: IN THE MEMORY OF THE MEN OF SWANLEY PARISH / WHO DIED ON ACTIVE SERVICE / WORLD WAR II 1939-1945 followed by the 28 names of the fallen. On the north and south faces of the obelisk are two identical large, wreath-topped, plaques recalling, in relief, the 104 names of the fallen in two columns.

HISTORY: The Swanley War Memorial was paid for by public subscription and unveiled at Swanley Cross (350m south-east of its present location) in March 1922. The sculpture was designed by L F Roslyn who had designed several war memorials including one at The Slopes, Buxton, a model of which had been exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1919. The 'Observer and District Times' of 10th March 1922 commented that since the memorial recorded Staff-Paymaster Joseph Gedge, of Swanley, killed in action on August 6th 1914, when HMS Amphion was sunk in the Thames Estuary and the first British officer killed in

⁸⁰ British Listed Buildings website <https://britishlistedbuildings.co.uk/101273848-old-college-cottage-swanley#.Xim0ymj7SUk> accessed January 23, 2020

⁸¹ British Listed Buildings website <https://britishlistedbuildings.co.uk/101267476-priory-cottage-swanley#.Xim1dGj7SUk> accessed January 23, 2020

⁸² British Listed Buildings website <https://britishlistedbuildings.co.uk/101267475-stables-to-east-of-the-old-place-swanley#.Xim2M2j7SUk> accessed January 23, 2020

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action in World War I, it was, in a sense, unique. The memorial was moved to its current location and rededicated on 26th October 1980.

The war memorial at Swanley is designated at Grade II for the following principal reasons:

- As an eloquent witness to the impact of tragic world events on this relatively small Kentish town;
- For the high-quality bronze statue by the London sculptor L. F. Roslyn who designed many war memorials;
- For the local and national historic interest as a memorial to the death of Staff Paymaster Joseph T Geddes, the first British officer to be killed in action in World War I.

United Kingdom National Inventory of War Memorials Ref:1149.⁸³

- **The Old Cottage:** Swanley Village Road (north side). A Grade II Listed Building. The exterior is C18. L-shaped. Two storeys, partly brick, partly weatherboarded. Tiled roof. Weatherboarded part has half-hipped gable. Four casement windows. Simple doorcase and curved bow window. The brick part has casement windows and an external brick chimneystack. This may at one time have belonged to Cobham College as there is a reference to the establishment in a Land Tax Assessment of 1780. Listing NGR: TQ5315269543.⁸⁴
- **The Old Place:** Swanley Village Road (south side). A Grade II Listed Building. Built between 1826 and 1829. Front elevation 2 storeys buff brick. Plinth. Hipped slate roof. Two casements and one sash with 'Gothick' glazing. Later weather porch. Left side modern extension of one storey brick. Old tiled roof. Weatherboarded gable. The right-side elevation has 3 sashes and one blank with cambered heads and glazing bars intact. Part of this elevation is weatherboarded. Tower to right hand side of 2 storeys with windows to ground floor only. Interior said to have powder closet. Listing NGR: TQ5290569536.⁸⁵

This list is not comprehensive as there are a number of features like the gates to the former White Oak Hospital are well known to residents and in need of protection.

⁸³ British Listed Buildings website <https://britishlistedbuildings.co.uk/101392300-swanley-war-memorial-swanley#.Xim262j7SUK> accessed January 23, 2020

⁸⁴ British Listed Buildings website <https://britishlistedbuildings.co.uk/101267488-the-old-cottage-swanley#.Xim4XWj7SUK> accessed January 23, 2020

⁸⁵ British Listed Buildings website <https://britishlistedbuildings.co.uk/101239135-the-old-place-swanley#.Xim7yWj7SUK> accessed January 23, 2020

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The main gate is all that now remains of the former White Oak Hospital

Kent heritage environment records include a number of these types of features which the NP seeks to protect from any negative impacts of development.

A more recent example of heritage in the making are the murals by the English sculptor and artist William George Mitchell which decorate the Town Centre. More modern development in Swanley also has features of note from the perspective of the built environment, art and architecture that are specific to the time they were built. This is particularly the case for the work of William George Mitchell the sculptor and artist who created multiple exterior panels up two residential stairways in Swanley Town Square (1968).⁸⁶ Sadly the Totem Pole (some people consider totem poles to have been something of a trade mark for Mitchell) which originally also stood there appears to have been lost. Mitchell is known for his concrete murals and public art work, often abstract and stylised, with his work appearing on schools,

⁸⁶ The Telegraph Obituaries 'William Mitchell, sculptor whose striking murals and giant figures showed the artistic possibilities of concrete – obituary' dated February 14, 2020 <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/obituaries/2020/02/14/william-mitchell-sculptor-whose-striking-murals-giant-figures/> accessed May 15, 2020

My Friend's House 'Sculptor William Mitchell on his geometric relief works' dated April 29, 2019 <http://www.myfriendshouse.co.uk/sculptor-william-mitchell-on-his-geometric-relief-works/> accessed May 15, 2020

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public housing, public subways, civic gardens, shopping centres and religious buildings.



Examples of some of the murals in Swanley Town Centre

There is a growing awareness and appreciation of his work both in the UK and abroad with many pieces in the UK having achieved listed status. These murals are not listed, but Swanley Town Council is currently seeking listed status for these unusual panels that are an example of his abstract and stylised work in concrete, which are the only examples of his work in Kent. They are felt to be of local importance. A formal request to obtain listed status for the murals has been declined by Heritage England. However, HE's suggestion that the murals be recognised as Non-Designated Heritage Assets (NDHAs) in the Neighbourhood Plan has been adopted. A specific policy has been included in the Plan, the objective being to trigger the requirement that if any planning applications for their change or removal come forward, those applications will then be considered against national policy and local policy on NDHAs.