

SWALLOWFIELD PARISH NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2011

Flu Jabs

Don't forget, the second seasonal flu vaccination clinic will be held at Swallowfield Medical Practice on Saturday 15th October from 8.30am to 12noon.

Chairman's Report

We were all very sad to learn of the death of Ted Rose, our caretaker of such longstanding. A quiet and unassuming man, Ted never dwelt on the past hardships of his life and was much loved by all the hall users who had known him for so long. He was particularly beloved by the preschool staff, whom he helped in so many ways, not the least in his role as Father Christmas! As niggling problems with hall usage and users occur, we are only learning now just what a grasp Ted had on the use and hire of the hall and how much he did to smooth the path for all hall users. The funeral was standing room only and was a testament to the value his friends and the community placed on him. We were all very moved by the service and the dignity of the Korean War veterans who formed a guard of honour. The Parish Council is naming the new business room, The Rose Room, in memory of Ted and we hope that a plaque will commemorate his service and friendship to us all. There are further tributes to Ted on page 3 of the newsletter.

Now it's autumn, we all start to notice the change in the weather and the Parish Council would like to remind everyone to keep an eye on the ditches and drains near them and report any blocked drains at once to Wokingham Borough Council and to ensure that their own ditches are regularly cleared. Lee Atkins, chair of the Resilience Group, has some more detailed comments on flooding prevention in his article in this edition of the Newsletter.

During the brief summer break, builders started work on the planned internal alterations to Swallowfield Parish Hall. As required by Ofsted, the preschool facilities had to provide more security for pupils. There is now a separate entrance, a small cloakroom for parents and children, two purpose built child lavatories and a new kitchen and "schoolroom" area. The final results look delightful: a small schoolroom has been created, in what was really just a corridor in the past and preschool staff have been most grateful for all that has been done.

This has not been easily achieved, however. Storage continues to be a headache. All groups have had to move their equipment from the storage cage area and are still managing without proper facilities. The summer has been a time for simplifying. Many groups have worked so hard and thrown out huge amounts of redundant equipment and the Russell Players have been particularly helpful, in not only sorting out their own resources, but in helping others to move and throw out large items of rubbish. We thank them very much for all their help on behalf of the hall users in general. We should also like to thank the Scouts who have paid for their own external storage container.

The Parish Council would like to thank all hall users for their patience in putting up with the disruption that is inevitably caused by building works, especially when it comes to sharing kitchens and changes in corridor space.

We hope that the first phase of the project will be finished very soon and, by the time this newsletter is published, that the builders will have started on the other side, where the new kitchen should help resolve inconveniences for Davies Room users. We hope also that most of the storage problems will be resolved satisfactorily when we can unlock some space on the other side of the hall.

It is worth noting that preschool now use the area between the Davies Room and the hall as part of their new schoolroom area and that we can't enter that while preschool is in session because of child protection rules. When preschool is not in attendance we can, of course, walk through this area and then the fire doors from the hall and to the atrium are always open to allow access.

(continued overleaf)

Feature Articles in this issue

Community Orchard	p. 7
David Miller – an appreciation	p. 5
Rural Matters Conference	p.14
Swallowfield Church Record	p.10
Ted Rose	p. 3
Tree Preservation Orders	p.12
Twinning in France	p. 4
Victory Hall and Farley Hill	
Village Society	p. 9

We hope you have noticed our new look web site which allows you to make enquiries for hall use by email. We have had our second meeting of the business forum which we hope will grow and prosper. There has been a highly successful meeting at Riseley Memorial Hall about issues of concern to the village, which is written about in more detail in this newsletter and we hope that the Orchard project will soon be bearing fruit. (!)

At present the weather is glorious and I hope you are all enjoying the Indian summer.

Margaret McDonald

WANTED

Swallowfield Parish Council is looking for a willing volunteer from our community to manage the Parish Council web site. Richard Sellings, our current webmaster who has developed and managed it very successfully over the last nine years, has decided that the time has come to hand over the reins to someone else.

The main duties are to make sure that the content is up to date by liaising on data input with Councillor Gordon Collender, who is responsible for Communications on the Parish Council, and Celia Adams, the Parish Clerk. In addition, this will present an opportunity to look at the current design of the web site and evaluate possible changes and additions. Anyone volunteering should therefore have the necessary design skills to implement such changes.

If you are interested in this project and would like to know more, please contact in the first instance the Parish Clerk, Celia Adams, on 0118 988 5929, or email clerk@swallowfieldpc.gov.uk.

Clinics with Wokingham Borough Council

The next two surgeries with Jenny Bennett of Wokingham Borough Council are scheduled as follows:

Wednesday 16th November, 10-12 am
Wednesday 18th January 2012

Both will be held in the Swallowfield Parish Council office.

This is an opportunity for anyone to raise any issue or discuss anything related to the Borough. No appointments are necessary, just come along.

Meakins/Balcombe Nursery Site

The results of the questionnaire included in the Summer 2011 issue of the newsletter indicated that a significant majority of residents voted in favour of housing on this site. The Parish Council will be discussing this matter during its October meeting and we shall report further in the Winter newsletter. Our thanks to everyone who replied to the survey

Local Member Update Wokingham Borough Council



The Borough Council continues with an aggressive Transformation Programme. As I reported in the last newsletter we are continuing to re-shape our departments with an objective of significantly lower costs with an improved Service to our Residents. So far we have saved more than the initial target of £2.17 million through the transformation programme this year and will over the next year 2011/12 save a further £4.8 million.



Our Chief Executive Susan Law, heavily instrumental in starting and driving the Transformation process, has decided to leave WBC in the

New Year for personal reasons to return to her native shores in Australasia. The process she initiated will continue as planned to complete the Transformation programme by 2012/13.

Refuse and Recycling Collections

Interestingly as I write this update, the national issue of weekly refuse collections has surfaced on the News. The Borough Council has already committed to continue weekly collections and in addition will be extending the current, every other week Recycling collection, to a weekly collection starting next year. This demonstrates that your council is "on top of its game" with regards to maintaining services whilst managing out cost.

I hope everyone is enjoying the return of summer weather which seems to be back firmly with us as I write, for a short time, with record temperatures.



Stuart Munro
Member for Swallowfield
Wokingham Borough Council

Mini-roundabout in Swallowfield

The roundabout at the junction of The Street/ Swallowfield Street/Church Road has now been turned into a conventional roundabout, so that vehicles have to give way to oncoming traffic from the right. This now clarifies a situation that in the past caused considerable confusion.

Ted Rose

23 October 1931 – 27 August 2011

Our friend and Caretaker of Swallowfield Parish Hall

On Thursday September 15th 2011 a service to celebrate the life of Edward Sidney Rose took place at Easthampsted Park. It was a testament to the love and respect in which Ted was held that the chapel was full to overflowing with his family, war-time comrades, and friends; of necessity many stood throughout the service.

Ted's coffin entered the chapel to The Regimental March of the Glosters through a guard of honour formed of proud old comrades from the Korean War Veterans Association and through a Standard Party bearing the standards from; The National Standard of the Korean War Veterans; The Branch Standard of the Surrey West Korean War Veterans where Ted was a member; The British National Korean War Veteran Association The Middlesex; The Regimental Branch Standard of The Rifles – The Royal Gloucestershire Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment. The Standards were lowered and raised in the service during the playing of The Last Post and Reveille honouring Ted's life and achievements.

The service was conducted by former neighbour The Revd. Roy Burgess and an affectionate and amusing tribute was given by Ted's brother George in which we could all recognise the man who had been our friend in Swallowfield for so many years.

Jackie and family had arranged a most moving occasion and it was a privilege to attend this service to honour and remember such a warm, caring and extraordinary man – Ted.

Mags Broadhurst

The following Eulogy was given by Ted's family during the service

Ted had a difficult start in life as his mum was very ill and unable to care for him. He was brought up by his Granny and Aunt, living with some of his cousins at 65 Rose Street in Wokingham.

It was from here that he was called up to do his National Service shortly after his 18th birthday. Unfortunately his regiment, the Glosters, volunteered to go to Korea and he ended up a Prisoner of War there for nearly three years.

Ted was a very caring man. He nursed his first wife, June, for 10 years when she became too ill to be left alone, and brought up his three daughters almost single handedly.

Ted always said that if he was wearing blue he was smart. So, one day, when he was still courting Jackie and getting ready to go out he got dressed in matching colours as his girls had told him to do. They had

laughed at him once for wearing a red tartan shirt and spotted green tie and a maroon cardigan. So Ted, feeling very pleased with himself, presented himself to the girls for inspection dressed from head to toe in various shades and patterns of blue. He couldn't understand why they laughed and made him change! But you will see that they are wearing blue today in his honour.

After becoming a widower, Ted eventually married Jackie and started to live a little. They traveled all over the world together and enjoyed many happy family occasions. Ted was also able to visit Korea again under happier circumstances. But even at this time he wasn't free from his problems, suffering from and beating Leukemia twice. It was at this time that he became known as "Problem Ted". But whatever his problems, he always bore them with courage, patience and good humour.

For the last 18 years of his working life, he worked at Swallowfield Parish Hall as a caretaker and was really happy. He loved his job there, and was a very popular figure with the regular hall users – particularly the children in the playgroup who treated him as a VIP. He only reluctantly retired when he was diagnosed with lung cancer last year.

Jackie, Ted and myself went on a coach trip one day to Ascot Races. The racing all over, we started to leave when Ted decided to go to the toilet before going back to the coach. Jackie and I waited nearby and he seemed to be taking a long time. I said to Jackie "I will go and see where he is". I called for him "Ted, are you in here"? But there was no answer. Getting a bit worried that he might have collapsed in there, we asked a policeman to have a look for him too, but he couldn't find him either. Eventually, we decided we must go to catch the coach and let people know the situation. Anyway, going down to the pick-up point, who should we see sitting on the coach grinning from ear to ear, but Ted. He had come out of another exit! He wasn't grinning for long though after Jackie had told him off! And to add salt to the wound we didn't have a good day at the races either!

Ted always thought of himself as a bit of a handy man. One day Ted took me and my wife Liz to visit our brother Bob and his wife Dyl in South Wales. On the way down his car was playing up a bit. Ted said "don't worry, I'll fix it when we are there". We had a lovely weekend and true to his word Ted did something to the car before we set off for home. He got in the car and said "I don't know what I've done, but I've made a good job of it". We left Bob's house and only got about 100 yards down the hill and the car broke down completely. We were towed all the way home from the Rhondda Valley to Wokingham. So, if the good Lord has a car, please don't ask Ted to fix it!!

Ted

Those of us who worked with Ted have very much missed his smiling face and happy persona. We have so many happy memories of him and his many funny stories. One of my favourites was when he had been waving frantically to a person inside a shop he wanted to go into, but unfortunately it was closed; the person inside was waving happily back at him, and he couldn't understand why they didn't come and open up - when they were obviously being so friendly - until he realised that it was his own reflection and he had been waving at himself all along!

Ted looked after our village halls with incredible dedication and thoroughness and he was a pleasure to work with. Apart from those of us in the office, others who saw him on a daily basis, such as the Swallowfield Pre-School group, held him in high esteem and the touching tribute they made for the funeral was very fitting. It was a wreath made up of little messages to Ted which the children themselves had written and drawn - most saying how much they had liked him!

Apart from being such a lovely person to have known, we all owe Ted a great debt of gratitude for his great care and concern for our halls and for making sure they were spick and span and ready for all the various uses they were put to. He is greatly missed.

Celia Adams

A Twin in France

The Parish Council has been approached by Mougou, a village in the Deux-Sèvres region of France, to explore the feasibility of setting up a twinning arrangement with Swallowfield Parish. This would include such attractive possibilities as linguistic, cultural and gastronomic exchanges between the families in our respective communities. Mougou is a village of some 2000 inhabitants situated near Niort in the west of France, 50 miles from the Atlantic coast.

At the last Parish Council meeting, it was agreed in principle that this was a very interesting idea, and we have advised M. Laurent Lecullier, who is the President of the Mougou Twinning Committee, that we would like to pursue this project further.

To help with this, we would like to set up our own twinning committee, which would ideally include one representative from each of our villages and some members of the Parish Council. A knowledge of French might be useful, although M. Lecullier has written to us in English!

If you are interested or would like further information, please contact our parish clerk Celia Adams on clerk@swallowfieldpc.gov.uk. Further information about Mougou may be found on http://issuu.com/davidjuin/docs/plaquette_comit_de_jumelage_de_mougou

Diary of Events

Date	Time	Event	Location
29 October	4pm – 5.30pm	Children's Halloween Party	Swallowfield Parish Hall
29 October	Evening	Halloween Spooktacular	Victory Hall, Farley Hill
5 November	6pm gates open	Sparks in the Park	Swallowfield Park grounds
13 November	10.15am	Remembrance Day Service	Swallowfield War Memorial
25 November	Evening	Cheese & wine evening	Victory Hall, Farley Hill
26 November	11am – 3pm	Christmas Market & Bistro	Swallowfield Parish Hall
22 December	7.30pm	Christmas Carols	Memorial Gardens, Swallowfield Parish Hall
24,25 Feb, 2,3 March 2012	afternoon & evening	Russell Players Panto-Sapphire and the Flute	Swallowfield Parish Hall

Your Parish Stores and Post Office

We make no apologies for reminding all of you how important it is to use the shop and particularly the post office. It is still vital to bear in mind the old saying "Use it or lose it".

Post Office

The number of transactions at the post office counter rather than their monetary value are monitored by the Post Office. Currently we are some way short of the minimum visits required to keep the post office open. We are not suggesting that you go in every day to buy a stamp, but please remember how important the post office is to our community! It is of course able to provide all the normal post office services such as vehicle licencing, currency exchange and some bank transactions (check the latest status with Mr Kumar).

Please note that the post office will be open one hour earlier than usual, ie 08.00, for one month before Christmas, which will be a help to everyone as well as hopefully increasing the number of transactions.

The Shop

Don't forget, the shop offers the following goods and services:

- You may order fresh vegetables, which will usually be available the next day
- Eggs and milk are always in stock
- Delicious cheeses made locally in Riseley have recently been introduced
- Over-the counter remedies for common ailments, eg, headaches and indigestion!
- There is now a book exchange facility
- Don't forget the coffee stop
- Coming soon: the facility of using your debit/credit card for purchases at the shop counter

Finally, Mr Kumar is always willing to order and stock goods not currently provided. Please let him know what you would like.

David Miller – An Appreciation

David Miller, who died earlier this year, is probably only remembered by those who have lived in the Parish for some considerable time. However each and every one of us who live in the Parish owes him a vote of thanks for all he achieved for residents of the Parish.

In 1963 the Parish Council agreed it needed a Parish Hall – the existing Russell Hall was getting very dilapidated, and in any case was totally unsuitable for most community activities. By 1972 the Parish Council was struggling, and the provision of a new hall had not materially moved forward. Amongst other things it was concerned about the cost as the Council only just had enough funds to pay for it. More worryingly the land for the new hall had been donated by the Samuels, but with a time limit that was running out for when the hall should be built.

The Parish Council elections in May 1973 must have been exciting, with the existing Parish Council standing for re-election; but with nine new candidates, including David Miller, also standing and campaigning under the banner of providing a Parish Hall without delay.

Eight of the 'new boys' were elected, David Miller becoming Chairman of the Parish Hall Committee. He and the committee moved fast, despite having to overcome some major problems including overturning the Department of Education's refusal to allow the Parish Council to spend monies on this project. Planning permission was obtained in November 1973, competitive quotations were received, with the final accepted quotation being £14391.49. Work commenced on 11th February 1974, with David Miller and his committee overseeing the work. The Hall was opened on 1st June 1974, just over a year from when David and co. were elected. Over the next year David was fully occupied with the ancillary works to the hall; for instance the car park, and that perennial

problem, storage. In May 1975 David was elected Chairman of the Parish Council, but as no doubt he felt his work was done he did not stand for election to the Parish Council in 1976.

Fast forward to 1983, and the Parish Council was in a similar state to that in 1972. It had obtained outline planning permission to develop its old recreation ground in Trowes Lane, but had been unable to move forward as it did not have a good enough access from Trowes Lane onto the site (the first stage of Foxborough). This meant that it would have to pay the owner of the small required area of land a substantial sum of money to obtain access, and this had stalled proceedings. In the Parish Council elections of May 1984 only two of the original Parish Councillors put themselves forward for election, and they were joined, amongst others, by David Miller and your scribe. It soon became clear that David's sole interest was to solve the problem in order to obtain the maximum benefit to the Parish. He knew exactly how to set about it, and negotiated with Wokingham District Council (as it was then) to obtain the required sliver of land from the last Council house in Trowes Lane in return for improvements to that garden, and more importantly to provide land for the single storey council houses in Foxborough. Meanwhile the housing market had been rising, and so the land was finally sold for development for the sum of £1,375,00 in May 1987 – more than double the sum that the Parish Council would have probably received had it been sold in 1983 and had had to pay the owner of the required land for access.

David's job was done, and he did not stand for election in 1988.

So why do we all owe David a vote of thanks? Without his efforts we would not have the Parish Hall we have today – not only his efforts in getting it built in first place, but also all the extensions over the years that have effectively been paid for by the sale of land at Foxborough. We can also thank him for the Tennis Club and courts at Riseley, as again without that substantial sum of money they probably would not have been built. Lastly the money enabled the Parish Council to levy a nil precept for many years, and even now the Parish Council's precept is the lowest in Wokingham.

So next time you use the Parish Hall or Tennis Club, think of David, and next time you get a community charge bill from Wokingham, and you notice that you are paying less than anybody else in the Borough, raise a glass to David!

Max Bowker

Editor's note: Much of the factual information in Max's article was taken from the Parish Council minutes of the time

Sparks in the Park!

*Spectacular Firework Display
and Giant Bonfire*

Saturday 5th November 2011
in the grounds of Swallowfield Park



Gates open 6:00 pm,
Bonfire 6.45pm, Fireworks 7.30pm.
Gates closed for exit/entry 7.15pm.
*Designated parking, no sparklers,
torches advisable*

**Fireworks - Bonfire -
Refreshments - Souvenirs – Music**

Tickets in advance from Swallowfield Stores, Henry Street Garden Centre, Spencers Wood Post Office, Lockys Farm Shop, Arborfield Stores, and on the gate subject to availability

Family tickets @ £13.00 each (up to 4 people, maximum 2 adults)

Adult tickets @ £6.00 each, Child tickets @ £2 each (over 2, under 16)

Tickets on the gate *subject to availability:*

Family tickets @ £15 each (up to 4 people, maximum 2 adults)

Adults tickets @ £7 each, Child tickets @ £3 each (over 2, under 16)

Sparks in the Park has over the years become a well established family event. Set in the grounds of Swallowfield Park, the event draws families from all the surrounding villages. In addition to the fantastic firework display we also have a magnificent bonfire, live music from local band The Jazz Fantastics and freshly cooked locally sourced food. Tickets will be on sale from early October in a number of local retail outlets. Look out for posters with more information. We look forward to welcoming you to Sparks in the Park.



**Proceeds in aid of Farley Hill School
Association, Charity number 1041931**

Children's Halloween Party
Saturday 29th October 2011
4.00 - 5.30pm

Come to Swallowfield Parish Hall in your scariest fancy dress (optional) and get creative with the themed craft activities and games. Activities for toddlers upwards - painting, spooky decoration making, potions, comic making competition, face painting, apple bobbling, food and trick or treating.

Look out for posters at the Swallowfield Stores and the Parish Hall.

For more details contact Jessica Gardner 07830 818036 or jessicanadam@hotmail.com

Harvest Home at The Crown

We once again held a very successful Harvest Home in aid of Help for Heroes at The Crown on Sunday 25th September, raising approx. £1600 at the auction. We would like to thank everyone who contributed and bid for the various items.

The Holloways

Swallowfield Art Class

We have had a delayed start this term but now are poised, with pencils and other drawing tools at the ready, to explore emotion in drawing. Some members are dubious but it always works out, usually in a way none of us expected.

Contact number: Ann on 976 1604

Friday and Mondays 2.00pm - 4.00pm.

Roberta Stewart

Remembrance Sunday 13th November 2011

Remembrance Sunday will be marked by a service at Swallowfield War Memorial on Sunday 13th November at 10.15am. This will be followed by a procession to All Saints Church, where a Remembrance Service will take place at 10.45am. Please note that the roads around the War Memorial will be closed again this year for the duration of the service.

Carols at Christmas 22nd December 2011 at 7.30pm

This year we are organizing another seasonal evening of carols on 22nd December at 7.30pm, followed by refreshments. The carols will again be led by our Parish star singer, Fred Holloway. The venue is the Memorial Gardens next to Swallowfield Parish Hall. We look forward to a great turn out!

Zen Kyo Shin Taijutsu

A new class has opened at Riseley Memorial Hall on Friday 30 September 2011, then every Friday for the next four weeks. Sessions for Juniors are 7-8pm and for Seniors 8-9.30om.

The classes are geared towards Self Defence, Ju Jutsu, Free Sparring, Ground Fighting, Fitness, Confidence, Weapons. They are not competitive and welcome you to train in a friendly environment.

For more information, please see www.zkstaijutsu.co.uk, or tel 01494 525403

Russell Players

We've had a good summer with Lunches at the Pub, a successful Barbecue on the Green, as well as supporting other entertainments at the Parish Hall. The Youth Group also enjoyed seven interesting and informative workshops during June and July.

The Sapphire and the Flute

Our new season began on the 2nd October with a read through of our new Pantomime 'The Sapphire and the Flute' written by Mitch Mitchell and Juliet Devon.

Auditions are being held on the 9th and 16th October with rehearsals starting on the 2nd November. A lovely story telling of a magical, mystical journey to restore the good fortunes of a land. The intrepid travellers meet with some great goodies and baddies who both help and hinder them in trying to reach their goal.

Lots of publicity will remind you to book your tickets as the performance dates approach: 24th and 25th February and 2nd and 3rd March 2012 (matinees on both Saturdays).

October Play 'Old Dogs'

We are sorry indeed that we had to cancel the performances of 'Old Dogs' due to circumstances that contributed to the final decision made by the cast.

Drama Queen

Community Orchard

A chance to become involved in the creation of a Community Orchard within Swallowfield Parish – are you interested?



Founded through the Big Lottery's Food Programme, approximately 40 fruit trees are to be planted within Swallowfield Parish. Traditional varieties that are often not available commercially with names such as Peasgood's Nonsuch and

Cabusnethan Pippin will be planted!

The Community Orchard will be open to all and you are invited to:

- Be involved from planting to eating (or drinking)!
- Sign up for a free "Adopt A Tree" Scheme
- Learn about the history of local orchards and fruit varieties
- Inaugural planting day with refreshments at Riseley Hall



If you wish to participate in this project, or simply find out more information, please contact Peter Sampson on 0118 9888 571 or petersampson@hotmail.com

Swallowfield Horticultural Society

This is the time to thank all of you out there who made the Swallowfield Show such a success by creating and running it as well as by coming to enjoy it. Once again, 'Our boys' did a wonderful job even when soaked through on the set up day. Now that several of them are experienced, they cover more of the two days of the actual Show as well as the setting up and down. It can all go into their references when they need them!

Our Show manager was on or near the site for eight days straight and survived cheerful and patient from beginning to end. To reward him we have appointed a deputy for him from next year and that is how the Show goes from strength to strength, through new people joining us and making the job lighter for the whole team.

Money has been paid out or will be shortly now to the Surgery for doors, to Community Responders, to the Air Ambulance, to Wokingham Cancer Care, and the Bowyer Trust. Money also goes to the WI, the Young Farmers and the Cadets as a thank you for their help at the Show. These donations together with the money donated to the allotments towards their setting up costs were the donations agreed at our last AGM. This totals over £6,000.

If you have a local cause you would like to put forward for consideration at our next AGM in January please let us know in advance. The system we run is that normally the donations are agreed in January and paid in September providing that the Show in August produces a surplus. This is because if we should have disastrous weather one year we would need to be able to fund the next year's Show from our reserves

Since all that activity, life has continued apace in the Horticultural Society. We have had a very serious talk on bulbs which was almost an exam on bulbs corms and tubers. Do you know your root from your stem tubers, not to mention stem tumours disguised as corms? Very interesting and definitely stretching.

At the end of September we held the last of our small shows at Heckfield It was dominated by dahlias of all descriptions and beautiful reds, fiery oranges and the calm of soft blue michaelmas daisy spikes. We were brilliantly fed as is usual there and eventually got all the washing up done.

The next event is the 4 Societies Social evening on 22nd October hosted by Swallowfield and Heckfield, there will be a very serious table competition followed by a good night out.

The November talk is by a local member of the society, Sue Steptoe who will talk on 'A day in the life of a Flower Buyer. It is on 10th November at 7.30 in Shinfield Village Hall. All are very welcome.

Roberta Stewart.

Farley Hill Cricket Club



We had a mixed season this year. The Saturday team avoided relegation and stayed in the Berkshire Cricket League Division 1. Our middle order batsmen just couldn't perform consistently each

week and we missed out on vital points throughout the season. We were on the bottom of the table with two games to go, but with good wins against Shinfield and Emmbrook & Bearwood we moved up out of the relegation zone. Well done lads. The Sunday team continued to enjoy their cricket and with the addition of a few new players this season had a very enjoyable season and produced some excellent results.

The highlights of the season were the annual games against the Riseley Dads. The Riseley side surprised all the critics by putting on a classy performance and beat the Sunday side in a 40 over match. But when the Dads faced the Farley team in July for the mid-week 20/20 clash, they met an in-form side which were undefeated in the 20/20 format of the game. The result was that the Farley team chased down the target in a close encounter.

We finished the cricket season last weekend with our annual Youngies versus Oldies match. With the glorious weather and two full teams, it really was a superb day. With the teams being 1-1 and a tied game last year it was all to play for. Thanks to Berkshire cricket legend Dave Streak (84 runs) the Oldies set a decent target of 208. But the Youngies had too much depth in the batting line-up and took advantage of the Oldies in the field and were deserved winners. Can the Oldies 'bounce' back next season?

As a club we had a very successful season and it was great have a few new players join the club who really enjoy their cricket. We always welcome new full-time and part-time members to the Farley Hill Cricket Club. We also introduced a £10 annual Social Membership this year which has been very popular for wives/girlfriends and locals who come down and support the club. For information on membership or sponsorship packages please contact Potts Connolly on 9889046 or go to our website: www.farleyhillcricket.co.uk.

Local History Society

The Society's display at Swallowfield Show featured Parish business premises "then and now". It was based on meetings held during 1988 when members recorded details of shops, post offices and public houses. The majority of properties had either been redeveloped or converted into private houses. Photographs taken 100 years ago were compared with up-to-date images, many of which surprised viewers as the topography could not be recognise. The display

will be kept on record for the general Public to see when our Archives become accessible in the Parish Hall.

Henry Goold was our speaker in September. He spoke on the history of the Henry Street Garden Centre from its formation by his ancestors up to the present time. The growth of the centre at Arborfield has been a credit to the whole family. In conclusion Henry stated that he should have called his talk "from roses to shepherd's pie", referring to the success of the catering facilities.

Our next talk on 20th October is a presentation by Emily Woodhams-Beazeley entitled "from St. Petersburg with love". Her ancestors operated a cotton factory there until the Russian Revolution - a fascinating story.

On 17th November, Beverley Wright gives a powerpoint presentation entitled "a trip down memory lane".

Visitors are always welcome at our meetings which start at 8.00pm in Riseley Memorial Hall.

Table Tennis

If you are interested in playing table tennis and would like to know more, please contact Ann Seager on tel no: 0118 9884068.

Swallowfield 10+3

“A cracking village race!”



The forecast of rain for Sunday 4th September did little to dampen the enthusiasm of the team setting up the 2011 Swallowfield 10+3 – a combined road race and fun run organised as a fundraiser for 1st Swallowfield Scouts. Tiffany Kemp, keen advocate of scouting in Swallowfield, and MD of Riseley based business Devant plc, the main race sponsor, started the races.

The Swallowfield parish turnout was great, with 20% of the 3K entrants and 10% of the 10K entrants coming from the parish itself. With an abundance of community support from parishioners, there were plenty of plaudits, with one entrant saying “The lasting memory of the day will be the fantastic atmosphere in great surroundings, not that it was a trifle damp!! ... Great job guys, I will be back ...”

Almost 500 entrants turned up for both races, with the main 10K race, coursing up Priest Hill and back via Trowes Lane and The Street, before powering past the War Memorial to the finishing line at the Parish Hall. The 3K fun run followed a gentler, grass course through the grounds of Swallowfield Park itself. Plenty of local people turned out to support both races and to help with marshalling the races.

Tom Lerwill of Reading was the Men’s 10K winner with a time of 32’57” and Ellie Barnes was the Women’s winner at 39’04”. As one runner commented, “You could tell this event was organised by the Scouts as *Being Prepared* was the motto of the day”. When the rain came, damp finishers and crew were able to warm up in a large marquee with bacon rolls, cake supplied by Henry Street Garden Centre and hot tea and coffee.

Michael Beard, from Swindon commented, “Cracking village race ... an interesting and fair course with a couple of minor inclines and rollers, supportive marshals and a lovely atmosphere ... with a charm that big events simply can't provide”.



So a big thankyou to all our sponsors, including the Harrison Clinic, Technix cars and David Cliff.com Estate Agency; to the helpers and supporters on the day, and of course to all who took part. Full details of runners’ times are on the website - www.swallowfield10plus3.com – together with a gallery of photos. Watch out for details of next year’s race.

Jenny Boddington & Derek Scuffell

The Victory Hall and Farley Hill Village Society

What a difference six months can make. Back in March the Victory Hall in Farley Hill was a chilly place for a quiz. Portable heaters never seemed to be enough. When people gathered at the bar for a drink and a chat, they kept their coats on and their collars turned up. Now, thanks to a £10,000 Big Lottery grant and lots of hard work, the Victory Hall Trust has had a new gas heating system fitted and for the first time in many years the radiators have been getting hot.

New double-glazed windows are helping to keep the heat in. The long awaited premises licence is in place and, to celebrate, a new fridge for the bar is helping to keep the drinks cold.



LOTTERY FUNDED

The Victory Hall Trust owns and runs the building on behalf of Farley Hill’s residents. It’s a charitable trust registered with the Charity Commission

(220940) and has no guaranteed income for hall maintenance, so all the money needed comes from the hall’s users and any donations and grants that can be obtained.

The hall is available for hire. Contact Emma at vht1919@gmail.com for more information.

The Farley Hill Village Society

The Farley Hill Village Society (FHVS) and the Farley Hill Bowls Club are the main users of the Victory Hall.

On 23rd September the society held their third Quiz and Supper night at the hall. Some of the 60 + participants came prepared, wearing woolly jumpers and fleeces, only to cast them aside as the new central heating system enveloped them in warmth.

It was agreed that the hall is already a greatly improved asset to the village and people are looking forward to the “new look” once painting and decorating get underway.

Future events that you can enjoy this year include a Halloween party on Saturday 29th October, a Cheese & Wine evening on Friday 25th November and carol singing followed by mince pies and mulled wine on the Sunday before Christmas.

You don’t have to wait until then to join in. The hall is now open every Friday evening from 7pm and everyone is welcome to come in for a drink and a chat, or a game of skittles, pool or darts.

We also open up on the second Tuesday of the month for a coffee morning and book club meeting. The bookworms gather at 10am, and from 11am coffee, tea and home-made cake is available for all.

Membership of the Farley Hill Village Society is by annual subscription and the money raised all goes towards putting on events and maintaining and improving facilities at the hall. As a member, entry on Friday evenings is free and entry to all FHVS events is reduced. If you'd like to become a member, or want to know more, contact the society at farleyhillsoc@yahoo.co.uk or you can telephone Cliff on 07970 208026. Better still, come along to the Victory Hall on a Friday night.

If you haven't been in for one of the regular Friday evening socials you might get a warm and pleasant surprise. You'll find more details on our website, www.farleyhill.org.

Sheila Chatten

Swallowfield Church Record

The team of 18 volunteer Church Recorders from Hart DFAS (a Society linked to the National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts Societies – NADFAS) has now completed a detailed record of the interior of All Saints Church, Swallowfield. The Record will be formally presented to the Church at the Morning Service on Sunday 30th October 2011, which starts at 10.30am.

The work covers memorials, metalwork (including silver and bells), stonework, woodwork, textiles, paintings, books, windows and miscellaneous items such as the organ. Each item is fully described with details of material, date, measurements, artist, manufacturer, donor, etc. and its history is researched and noted. All the material is compiled into a book illustrated with many high quality photos. Copies are also sent to our national institutions – the Church Buildings Council in London, the National Monuments Records Centre in Swindon, the local County Records Office and, of course, the V&A Museum.

All Saints is a particularly interesting church with its history dating back to at least 1256, a marvellous wooden structured tower (with a fine set of six bells) and its long links to Swallowfield Park owned at one time by the Backhouse family and until recently, the Russell family. There are many fascinating items in the Church, the King James Bible with its extraordinary history being a notable example. There is an index of names mentioned in the record (as well as some family trees) to help people trace items of their particular interest.

The Record will be on display after the Service.

Your Community Needs You

Are you interested in joining the South Central Ambulance Service Community Responders team based in Swallowfield and Spencers Wood?

Do you need a new interest and challenge ?

What are the requirements?

- Male or Female, any age above 18, no upper age limit
- No previous experience of medical/nursing/first aid work required
- Reasonably fit to be able to carry the equipment that we use
- Able to pass a Criminal Records Bureau enhanced level check to enable work with children and vulnerable adults
- Able to work as part of a team
- A Clean driving licence with no points

Full training to a high standard is given by South Central Ambulance Service (SCAS) in Reading over a two day weekend course, with refresher training every six months.

Our team is one of the best performing teams in the County and you will be made very welcome.

There is no set hourly commitment, but obviously to maintain skill levels, it is important to undertake a regular period of duty monthly.

See our Web site

<http://www.swallowfieldresponders.co.uk/news> and also the SCAS web site

<http://www.scas-responders.info/>

Ring our Admin team on 01189 365387 or our team leader Ian Hammond on 01189 884384 or email ian.hammond@tesco.net

The World's Biggest Coffee Morning Friday 30th September 2011

This year's annual coffee morning on behalf of Macmillan Cancer Support was held in glorious sunshine, tempting visitors to spill outside the Parish Hall.

It was equally sunny inside the hall, with tables covered in cheerful checked cloths and pots of flowers to welcomed visitors. All the tables did a brisk trade - the tombola, the raffle, the cake stall, the boutique, and many more. At the time of going to press, the total raised to date is in excess of £2,000.

The event organisers would like to thank all the businesses and individuals who generously donated prizes and other items, and who contributed to the enjoyment of all the visitors and to the success of the fund-raising effort.

Swallowfield Parish Allotments

Since the last newsletter, a great deal of progress has been made. Following the successful application for lottery funding and with additional grants from the Parish Council and Swallowfield Horticultural Society, a planning application was made to WBC for the creation of an official off-road car parking area and for fencing to provide security and keep the deer and rabbits out. In the interests of road safety and to meet the requirements of the Highways Department at WBC, the hedge along the road boundary had to be realigned and cut back to improve sightlines for vehicles leaving the site.

The planning application was approved in the summer and since then work has progressed on erecting the chain link fencing, grubbing out the old hedge, levelling the car park area, providing a water permeable hard surface and installing water troughs. A new hedge of native species will be planted along the road boundary on the new alignment. Once all these works are completed, the allotments can finally be regarded as fully operational.

These works provided the Parish Council with an opportunity to replace the stile on the footpath next to the entrance gate with a wooden swing gate funded by the WBC Countryside Service. It is being installed as part of the overall works at the site. The Allotment Association is responsible for keeping the footpath clear of overgrowth and this has been cut back and cleared.

As we move into autumn and the summer growing season is drawing to a close, plot holders can enjoy the fruits of their endeavours throughout the summer months and can start making their plans for next year.

If anyone is interested in having an allotment they should contact Pam Wright, secretary to SPAA, tel: 9887028, email: pam.wright@swallowfieldpaa.org.uk.

John Anderson

A View from the Hill

A topical look at farming issues at Farley Farms, Farley Hall, Farley Hill

Milk, harvest home, poachers and of course the weather

As dairy farmers supplying M&S we are really quite excited by the development of low saturated fat milk, which is launching in M&S stores next week.

We have been supplying milk to M&S from our herd at Tanners Dairy for more than ten years now and during that time we have worked closely with them on a number of initiatives over the years as well as hosting a number of visits from M&S to see our cows.

As with all of the other 41 dairy farmers that supply M&S with milk across the country, we work hard to try to achieve the highest possible standards of animal health, welfare and hygiene, as well as ensuring the appearance of our farms; we are proud to supply milk to M&S.

But we are always keen to do more to provide even better milk for M&S customers to enjoy and that's how the '*healthier milk*' project got going. The work in developing low saturated fat milk started over 18 months ago with a trip to France. Working with the University of Reading and a number of fellow M&S dairy farmers in Dorset we were involved in trials that looked at the impact of changing some of the feeds that we fed to our cows. Using only natural ingredients, like linseed, we looked to see if we could further improve the health and wellbeing of our cows at the same time as reducing the level of saturated fat in the milk M&S customers drink.

What we found is that our cows certainly looked better on a lower saturated fat diet – so much so that we have continued to use the revised diet after the farm trial ended in March.

Part of the change in the cow's diet has led to the removal of palm oil based feeds – it is estimated that annually around 1,000 tonnes of palm will be removed from the M&S liquid milk supply chain each year and that annually 84 tonnes of saturated fat will have been removed from M&S milk drinkers' diets.

As ever, the weather has the biggest impact on what we do as farmers and when we can do it. It is quite surreal to be sat under a sunshade in early October sheltering from the sun as I write this article, in temperatures that would be impressive in the height of August, let alone October.

I had expected, as most other arable farmers, that the prolonged drought back in the spring would have a serious impact on crop yields across the farm. Growing cereal crops on light gravel soils in Berkshire can be a frustrating occupation as the crops are so prone to heat stress and lack of rainfall. So I was typically pessimistic when the combine started to harvest our crops. I fully expected our oilseed rape to be the worst casualty of the drought, having seen considerably less pods setting in May as the yellow rape petals fell to the ground. To my complete surprise this year's oilseed rape harvest has been the best in the nine years I have been at Farley!

With sparse wheat plants, stunted by the hot spring weather and lack of rainfall, I was again expecting the worst for our wheat crops. Once again, however, yields were record breaking for this farm. This has certainly not been the case across the country, with some farmers in the Midlands, for example, still in drought having not had the rain we experienced in

mid August and Scottish farmers yet to finish their harvest as it has been too wet north of the border.

Next year's crops have been planted and we are seeing them emerge in under a week; the warm soils and the moisture in the ground from left by the August rains offering ideal growing conditions for the tender new wheat seedlings.

Anyone who knows the Roald Dahl children's novel *'Danny, the Champion of the World'* will know all about pheasant poaching. In Dahl's tale, Danny, and his father, William, who mends cars for a living, partake in poaching pheasants by taking advantage of this game bird's passion for raisins; raisins which in the story have been laced with sleeping tablets.

Modern day poaching is less romantic, however. On Friday afternoon poachers were spotted from the horse paddocks at our livery yard. All the grazing horses were startled by what we assume was gunfire. Looking over towards the road, our groom saw poachers collecting their ill-gotten gains and loading them into the back of their Land Rover before driving away. Half an hour later and this time closer to Arborfield, I spotted the same pair in the same vehicle doing the same thing, again from the road. Reporting a rural crime to Thames Valley Police can be difficult at the best of times. On this occasion it was harder still as those tasked with investigating these incidents we had reported had clearly not had the benefit of being read or hearing Dahl's tale when they were younger.

Mark Robins
Estate Manager, the Farley Farms Estate
mark@farleyfarms.co.uk

An Overview of Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) and Hedgerow Regulations

The Parish Council has been contacted several times recently about Tree Preservation Orders and the cutting down of trees. The points below are just a few basic guidelines and observations; the experts are the Trees and Landscape team from Wokingham Borough Council that can be contacted on 0118 9746464 or treesandlandscape@wokingham.gov.uk. There is also information on <http://www.wokingham.gov.uk/parks/conservation/>

What is a TPO?

TPOs make it an offence to do any work on, or damage, a tree without permission (includes cutting roots; a point particularly relevant when building work is being undertaken close by). There are a few times when permission is not required:

- Where a tree is dead, dying or dangerous

- Where there is an obligation under an Act of Parliament at the request of certain Government departments e.g. Highways Act 1980
- Where detailed planning permission is being implemented
- To prevent or control a nuisance in the legal sense

What is the purpose of a TPO?

A TPO is a way of protecting trees which make a significant impact on their local surroundings. They become particularly important where trees are in immediate danger.

How does a tree qualify for a TPO?

- The trees must be highly significant when viewed from a public place such as a road, public open space or footpath.
- The tree must be healthy and sound, capable of reasonably long life (approx 20 years) and not be contributing to any known damage to buildings such as subsidence damage
- It must be expedient to include the trees in a TPO. This usually means that they are under some form of threat such as proposed development. Historic value and scientific value can be considered, though the current legislation does not give specific guidance on this aspect.
- Hedges, bushes, shrubs or climbing plants (eg ivy) cannot be included (Hedges are covered by separate legislation)
- Council owned trees are not usually subject to a TPO but can be included particularly those situated on boundaries to stop the adjoining landowner from pruning back or removing all of the overhanging branches where that is considered undesirable.
- New legislation is planned in 2012 to include the importance of veteran trees (that previously often got excluded due to age/health). Wokingham has a very active Veteran Tree association <http://www.wdvta.org.uk/>

What can I do if I think there are trees that should be protected?

Write to the Trees and Landscape team from Wokingham Borough Council giving details of the trees and the reasons why you think they should be protected.

How can I object to or express support for a new TPO

Write to Wokingham BC within the period they allow (normally 28 days) saying why and giving details of the relevant trees. Your comments will be taken into account when they decide whether or not to confirm the order. If a TPO is granted, Wokingham BC will write to the owner, and other interested parties, enclosing a copy of the order.

What are the rules about hedges?

Hedges are not, strictly speaking, covered by TPOs but the Hedgerow Regulations 1997 designed to protect rural hedgerows and making it against the law to remove most countryside hedgerows without permission from the Local Planning Authority (Wokingham BC). Essential points are -

- To get permission, you must first contact the Borough Council and give six-weeks' notice prior of your intention to remove the hedgerow
- Normal management of the hedgerow such a trimming, coppicing, laying and the removal of dead or diseased shrubs and trees does not require prior permission. Please note however that any actions that result in the hedgerow being destroyed, such as 'grubbing out' will require 6-weeks prior notice. Obviously any work should pay particular attention to nesting birds and the presence of wildlife.
- If Wokingham consider that the hedgerow is 'important', an assessment will decide whether the circumstances justify its removal.

There are several trees with Preservation Orders in the Parish and a list is held by the Parish Clerk, but residents should check with the Trees and Landscape team from Wokingham Borough Council to get the most current information.

Peter Sampson

Swallowfield PPG “Automatic Doors”

We've done it! The automatic opening doors to the Swallowfield Surgery have been fitted.

The PPG would like to thank the “Run for the Doors” team members who ran the recent 10k (on that very wet Sunday morning!), those who sponsored them and everyone else who has contributed so magnificently to this appeal. We really hope that the doors will be of great benefit to those who need them most.



PPG members admiring the automatic opening doors.

News from Swallowfield Medical Practice



Patient reference group

You are probably aware that the surgery already has a Patient Participation Group, which has approximately 10 members (more are welcome if you are interested!) and which meets once a quarter - they regularly submit articles to this magazine. Their role is to represent the views of the patients and facilitate two way communication between the practice and its patients. In addition to this, we are keen to gather information from a much larger number of patients to help us find out how you think we can improve our service to you and we would welcome your thoughts about our surgery and staff.

To help us with this, we are setting up a patient reference group so that you can have your say. We will ask members of this group some questions from time to time, such as what you think about our opening times or the quality of the care or service you receive. We will use various methods of contact (based on your preference) including email and will keep communication brief so it shouldn't take up too much of your time.

We want to gather as many patients as possible from as broad a spectrum as possible to get a truly representative sample of responses. We need everyone - young people, workers, retirees, healthy people, people suffering from long-term conditions, and people from non-British ethnic groups.

If you are happy for us to contact you occasionally by email or post, there is a sign-up form available from reception or on-line at

www.swallowfieldmedicalpractice.co.uk

where more information (FAQs) is available.

Flu Clinics

A final reminder about flu jabs! I would like to draw your attention to the sobering fact that **people in the 'at risk' groups** (you probably know who you are...!) are **15 times more likely to die from flu than healthy people**.

Having a flu jab significantly reduces this risk, so I would urge all of you who fall into one of the 'at risk' groups (i.e. those with asthma, diabetes, chronic heart, liver or kidney disease, and the immuno-suppressed) plus pregnant women and those aged 65 and over, to come and get your jab. Our second flu clinic is on:

Saturday 15th October, from 0830 to 1200.

Put this date in your diary NOW! We hope to see you then,

Andy Button, Practice Manager



Riseley, Swallowfield and Farley Hill Tennis Club

Due to the popularity of our Thursday Club Night, we have decided offer another evening when players can turn up and mix in. Two courts will be available 8pm – 10pm every Tuesday (no charge for floodlights).

Join us on Fridays 7th October and 4th November at 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start until 9pm for our monthly fun evening with an American-style tournament.

For details of our coaching programmes, visit our website: www.rsf-tennis.co.uk

New members always welcome: contact Janice Thomas on 988 4885.

2nd Annual Rural Matters Conference

Following the success of the first Rural Matters conference last year, this is advance notice that this year's conference will be held on

**FRIDAY 18TH NOVEMBER 2011
(6.30pm-10.00pm)
at Swallowfield Parish Hall**

All farmers, equestrian centres and others who live and work in our rural areas are invited to attend this event. Once again there will be strong representation by the Police and Wokingham Borough Council, both of whom will provide up-to-date information on various rural crime issues including machinery and animal theft, fly tipping, traveller incursion, crime prevention etc.

There will also be various trade and information stands to browse as well as some useful handouts to take home. As requested from the feedback forms last year, the speaker sessions will be shorter so there will be more time for questions and answers at the end.

This is a FREE event for all interested parties and we would encourage you to attend. If you would like to register your interest to ensure you receive an invite, please contact the Parish Council clerk Celia Adams (988 5929 or clerk@swallowfieldpc.gov.uk).

Riseley Villagers Meeting

The meeting at the Village Hall on the 27th September was well attended. About forty people came to discuss issues pertinent to Riseley and many who could not attend sent in their views. Top of the list was speeding through the village and the increase in traffic.

The fact that there are more children in the village means a greater risk of accidents and many residents complained about the narrow pavements and the problems of crossing the roads. There were very good ideas suggested by everyone, from gates at the entrance to the Village to restricted access at peak times. It was decided to ask residents to sign a petition asking for a speed limit of 30mph through the village. Once we have a petition we will invite representatives from the Police and the Borough to attend a meeting in Riseley to give their views and suggest a way forward. A group of people volunteered to take the petition to all the residents of Riseley.

It was felt that it would be a good idea to use the telephone box, which was purchased by the Parish Council for one pound, as a lending library and an information point. Two residents came forward to volunteer to organise this venture.

The Community orchard was welcomed and many people offered to help plant the trees. We will all be able to enjoy the orchard and eventually to pick the fruit.

A plea for additional equipment at the skate ramp was made by young people and they also wanted lighted areas in which to meet.

There was much dissension about street lights. Some residents wanted pretty lantern street lights at certain places in the village, possibly on the Green, others wanted no streetlights.

Concern was expressed about affordable housing being built on land next to the Dog and Partridge. This was land that Stratfield Saye had wanted to develop some years ago. Again there was some disagreement in that it was felt development would add to the problems on the roads, but others recognised that children of the village would need somewhere to live, although any houses built by Hart DC would not necessarily be for Riseley people

It was suggested that the village hall could be used for band practice and we went on to talk about the hall being empty in the afternoon. A resident has offered to help if afternoon tea sessions were set up (lovely home-made cakes).

It was a lively meeting. People had strong views, especially about speeding, but all I think like living in Riseley.

A huge thank you to Anne and Andy Wigmore for providing their delicious cheese to go with the wine. Thank you for all who turned up or who contacted me. If anyone would like to help, please contact me on 01189884126. We will start the petition as quickly as possible.

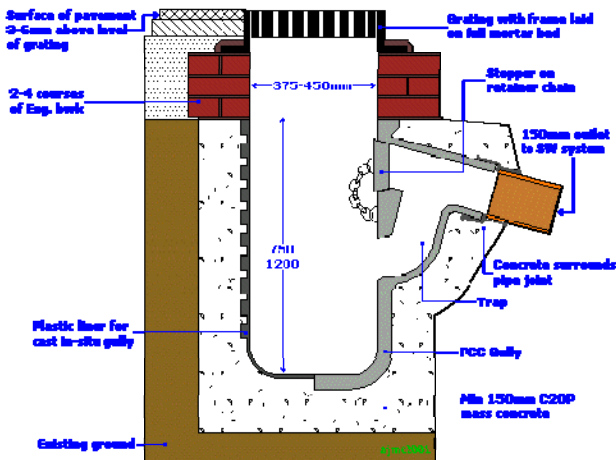
Angela King

A Note from the Resilience Group

While we are making progress on some of the previous initiatives mentioned and establishing new links with the Environment Agency to discuss the wider issues of fluvial flooding from the river catchments we are calling on all parishioners this autumn and beyond to help in keeping an eye on the highways drains throughout the parish near their homes.

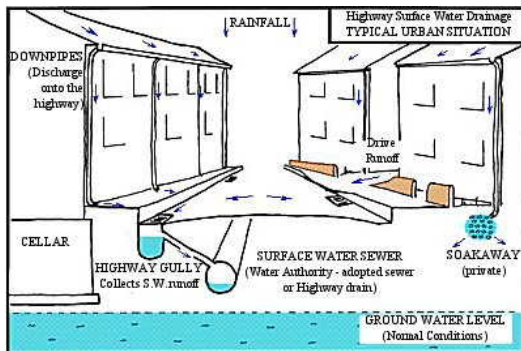
Adopt a Gully

Gullies are the voids beneath the drainage grates in the road. Rain water and flood water should flow into these structures and overflow into the main surface water drain pipes via an outlet into the main drain per the diagram below:



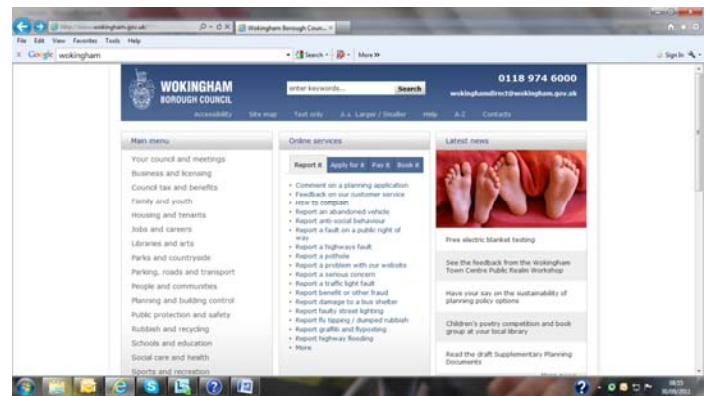
Wokingham Borough Council are responsible for routinely cleaning these using contractors to suck out leaves and other detritus from the chamber using “gully suckers” and checking that the outlet to the main drain is not blocked.

The remainder of a typical system is shown in this diagram:



We are asking you all to keep an eye on the gully nearest to your home, and if you find surface water not draining or holding after heavy rains to check the structure. If it appears full of leaves or silt to then report the problem to Wokingham using one of the following means:

Web: <http://www.wokingham.gov.uk/> under the report it section on the home page click on “report highway flooding”



Or by telephone text or e-mail to:

Monday to Friday from 8am - 6pm
0118 974 6000
wokinghamdirect@wokingham.gov.uk
Text: 07786 200 974
Minicom: 0118 974 6991
Fax: 0118 978 9078

Wokingham’s contractors should be despatched within a reasonable period to clear the offending gully and test it, if you believe they haven’t turned up or there is still an issue can you please let Celia Adams the Parish Clerk know and she in turn will be in touch with the resilience group and we will take the matter up directly with Wokingham.

Please note however that it is very rare to see a gully completely dry as they work on an overflow principle so if the water appears clear that’s fine, it is only those gullies that appear blocked or do not function well during rainstorms which may need attention.

If you are able and it is safe to do so clearing leaves and mud away from the gully grate will work wonders for its operation! Under no circumstances should you try to clear the chamber yourself, Wokingham Borough Council need to complete this work.

*Lee Atkins
Chair, Swallowfield Resilience Group*

Toad Crossing Statistics

The latest toad migration was recorded between 13 February and 29 March 2011 at Priest Hill, Farley Hill.

An average of two people patrolled for 21 nights; a total number of 1442 toads and 10 frogs were helped; 150 toads were seen killed. There was an average of six cars per hour each night.

Swallowfield Business Forum Meeting

Margaret McDonald, Chair of Swallowfield Parish Council, welcomed attendees to the second meeting of the Parish Business Forum held on 20th September and introduced the guest speakers; Andy Nicholls, Economic Development Officer for Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) and Tony Smith, Wokingham Police Area's Commercial Crime Officer.

Andy Nicholls explained his role as Economic Development Officer, which is to keep parishes informed of business opportunities within the borough, and to be a point of contact between Wokingham Borough Council and the business community. He talked about the Thames Valley Local enterprise Partnership (LEPs) which has been introduced by the government to replace regional development agencies.

Andy also explained the Super-Fast Broadband Scheme which is a funded package to help extend broadband to rural communities and cover areas currently with no/very poor coverage ("white spots"). The government has allocated £1.43 million on the understanding that the six local authorities will join together to match fund this amount. With the additional help of private funding, the target is to achieve 100% broad band coverage throughout Berkshire, especially in hard to reach areas, of at least 2MB. At present the local authorities have not signed up to this but it hoped that they all will in the near future. The next step will be to produce local evidence of need. The Parish Council stated that they would be happy to help in this process. WBC wish to support the super-fast broadband scheme as it will support home working, which in turn reduces traffic congestion. The group was disappointed by the target of only 2MB and it was stated that the real need for business is upload speed. We are far behind the rest of Europe/other parts of the world in this area.

Andy concluded that he was very supportive of the Business Forum initiative and would be happy to support it in whatever ways he could and that he would contact the group when there is need for evidence on slow broadband speeds and the parish council will act as a forum to mobilise evidence gathering.

Tony Smith, from Wokingham Police, showed the list of local crimes since April 1st so that businesses are aware of vulnerable areas. Metal theft and petrol forecourt theft are the highest areas of crime. He gave out Business watch information packages and asked businesses to sign up to this free scheme which aids security. He also asked the group to sign up to his data sheet which will give the police quick access to key holders in case of emergency.

The group concluded the evening by discussing ways in which to make this forum a success and be relevant to the diverse types of business within the Parish. It was agreed that the next meeting should purely focus on the running and activities of the Business Forum and that no guest speakers should be invited to that meeting so as to allow maximum time for discussion. The Parish Council would ask the group to send back their ideas for this meeting. It would also investigate how it could collate a directory of local businesses/ job vacancies.

The next meeting will be held at 6.00pm on Wednesday 2nd November in the Davies Room; located at the rear of Swallowfield Parish Hall. If you are involved with a local business, big or small, and would like to find out more about the Business Forum, please contact Celia Adams, Swallowfield Parish Clerk.

Shinfield and Swallowfield Neighbourhood Action Group Update

The next two meetings will be held on Tuesday, 8th November 2011 and Tuesday 10th January 2012 at 9.45am. in Shinfield Parish Hall. The preparation of the NAG survey has been deferred until the meeting on 8th November.

Facebook and Swallowfield

What on earth am I taking about? Well I think it would be a great idea to have a public (internet) Notice Board, where people who are interested in what goes on in the community can easily write and read the board without having to know each other's email addresses etc.

Facebook is the modern way people keep in touch with each other, but a lot of people (like me) prefer face-to-face talking rather than emails and things. However we can hijack facebook with no more effort than when we got our email address so that we can tell each other about things going on.

- Groups and societies can tell all of us what is going on and remind us of future events.
- Individuals can 'post' messages in the same way that we would tell people things, or we could say "I've got an excess of apples if anybody would like some", "there is a 50% off sale on ..." or ask for help "when does the last bus leaving Reading?".
- The Parish Council, Surgery, the Pub, Post Office, etc. could easily keep us informed.

Why do we need this when we have the Reach and the Parish Newsletter? Well, they are not immediate and frequently we might forget about some event in the future. This way we can be told things in a timely fashion.

So if you have a facebook account, then enter "Swallowfield Parish People" in the search box at the top of the facebook page and join us.

If you do not have a facebook account, it is easy to create one. Google "facebook" and then create an account. When you have been sent a confirmation email, click on "Find Friends" (in the email) and on the page that will open, after you have logged in (tick the "Keep me logged in" box to save having to log on each day), just type "Swallowfield Parish People" in the big search box at the top and then click "Ask to join group" on the right. That is basically all you have to do. If you are having trouble, then give me a ring on 9734017 or email me at Chris@Broadhurst-family.co.uk.

To write a message to everybody, all you have to do is click on "Swallowfield Parish People" on the left of your facebook page and then Post a message.

You will get an email whenever somebody posts a message. It really is that simple!

If all of us who care about our parish do this, then (a) we will all be kept informed and (b) we will be able to "spread the word" or ask for help very easily.

Hope you will join us,

Chris Broadhurst

Digital Switchover

Starting in August 2011, the Community Council for Berkshire (CCB) will be working with other not-for-profit and voluntary groups to prepare people for the switchover to digital TV, which starts in Berkshire on 8 February 2012. We will be holding events and giving advice on how to switch from the old analogue signals. Briefing sessions will help people to understand the process and learn about the Switchover Help Scheme. The project aims to ensure that after the analogue signal is switched off, no-one in Berkshire will be left with a blank television screen.

Would You Like To Make a Difference?

The Link Visiting Scheme is a befriending service for those in our community who feel isolated and lonely. We are looking for friendly faces to cheer someone up and give some much needed quality time. Social isolation and lack of contact is more worrying to many elderly people than health or financial pressures. Weekly visits from someone interested and willing to listen makes a huge difference to someone's life.

We are particularly keen to hear from volunteers interested in befriending those with short term memory loss. Training and support will be provided. Please get in touch if you'd like to make a difference to someone's life. We would love to hear from you and welcome you into our team!

Contact: Marjie Walker, Scheme Coordinator on 0118 9798019 or 07513020784

Visit: www.linkvisiting.org or write to us 6, Shute End, Wokingham Berkshire. Charity no. 1139248



Calling all gardeners! The Green 'n' Tidy Gardening Scheme needs you!

Have you ever wanted a meaningful volunteer role on your doorstep that will really make a difference to your local community? Well, the Green 'n' Tidy Scheme could be the answer.

Operated by the Volunteer Centre in Wokingham and funded by Wokingham Borough Council, this scheme will help the Borough's elderly and disabled residents by providing a basic, low-cost gardening service. Our aim is help people to live independently in their own homes for longer, safe from the attentions of rogue traders who prey on vulnerable people and can ruin their lives. Our project co-ordinator will assess individual needs, work out a work plan and also refer clients to other agencies who can help with other problems. Their quality of life will also be improved as they don't look out on the jungle that used to be their garden and see a daily reminder of what they can no longer do. Finally, once the gardens are under control, the volunteer gardeners will visit every four weeks providing some much needed contact with the outside world.

Sounds great? Well, it will be but first we have to recruit the volunteers! Everyone knows we have an ageing population on our hands - the beauty of this project is that a relatively small group of people can make a big difference to the lives of people who have already 'done their bit' for society.

Not sure that you have the skills? Don't worry, if you are interested in gardening, enjoy being outdoors and are sympathetic to older people, you are just what we are looking for! A qualification in horticulture isn't necessary, nor do you need the fitness of an Olympic athlete. We have invested in lightweight equipment and volunteers can opt for the jobs they feel up to. We will be offering lawn mowing, strimming, hedge trimming and good old weeding, so there really is something for everyone.

Volunteers will need to attend a short session at the Volunteer Centre to find out how the scheme will work and all travelling expenses will be covered.

Wonder what you should do next? Contact Maxine (0118 979 1340) or Christine (0118 977 0749) or email the Volunteer Centre, wok-vol@btconnect.com to find out more. We very much look forward to hearing from you!

Superfast Broadband

Superfast Berkshire is a programme designed to speed up the rollout of superfast broadband services to all premises across Berkshire. The Coalition Government sees investment in fast, reliable broadband, or 'Superfast' Broadband, as vital to economic growth and has therefore made available a £530m fund to support investments in improvements to broadband infrastructure. The Thames Valley Berkshire Local Enterprise Partnership (Thames Valley LEP), working with the six unitary councils in Berkshire is bidding for Government funding from the Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK) initiative to help deliver Berkshire's programme. The fund will be used to improve services in locations that will not be served by the market acting alone. Many areas of the Thames Valley fall into this category, and they are not all rural. The target is that by 2015 more than 90% of premises in Berkshire will have access to superfast broadband and the remaining 10% will have access to broadband speeds of 2Mbps or better. This programme is supported by the Community Council for Berkshire.

Thames Valley Police Community Messaging

Lead Theft

Theft of lead from roofs has continued in the area, and incidents have been reported in Swallowfield, Spencers Wood, Shinfield and Lambs Lane Primary School. If you see anything suspicious, please report it to the Police immediately on 0845 8 505 505.

Bicycle Theft

There has been an increase in the theft of bicycles in the area, and Thames Valley Police recommend the following measures:

Improve the use of bicycle locks

- Buy better locks
- Understand what type of locks are out there

Reduce flyparking

- where bikes are secured to railings or supports that are not designed for that purpose
- Increase secure bike parking schemes

Improve Marking and Registration

- The principle purpose is to reunite recovered bicycles to their rightful owners and is linked to proof of ownership.

- The registration of cycles makes it easier to identify stolen bikes. Register for free on www.immobilise.com
- It may deter bike thieves by making registered bikes harder to sell on

Website sales

- If you find your bike is being sold on an internet website contact the police immediately.

Ring 0845 8 505 505

Sheep theft: a warning for farmers and owners of sheep. The Parish Council has been told that a sheep was stolen in Farley Hill. The sheep was one of a flock of eight, and the thieves failed in their attempt to take all eight. The police have been informed.

Christmas and New Year Waste and Recycling Collections for 2011/2012

Please note the following changes over the Christmas and New Year period:

- Refuse and recycling collections will be collected as normal up to Friday 23 December
- Refuse normally collected on Tuesday December 27 will be collected on Tuesday January 3
- Recycling normally collected on Tuesday 27 December will be collected on Thursday 29 December
- All collections will be back to normal by week starting January 9
- Black box recycling will NOT miss a week during the Christmas and New Year Period

Christmas Tree Recycling

WBC is again providing a Christmas tree collection service at Swallowfield Parish Hall from 08.00 am - 10.00 am on Saturday 14th January 2012

Dates of Mobile Skip Arrangements

You can use any of the locations below for domestic rubbish, or the Recycling Centre at Smallmead for both domestic rubbish and recyclable items (www.re3.org.uk). The centre is open seven days a week 8am-8pm (1 Apr-30 Sept) or 8am-6pm (1 Oct-31 March).

Swallowfield (February, April, September)

18 Feb 2012: 08.30 – 09.30am Trowes Lane

18 Feb 2012: 09.30 – 11.00am Spring Lane

Farley Hill (June, September) dates to be advised

Riseley (April, May, November)

19 Nov 2011: 08.00 – 09.30am Yeosfield

19 Nov 2011: 09.30 – 11.00am Riseley Common

USEFUL LOCAL INFORMATION

Refuse and Recycling Collection

To take part in the **kerbside recycling scheme** call 0118 974 6302/6303 and you will receive your two free black boxes. If you need to get rid of bulky items such as furniture, carpets, cookers, you pay £21.00 (no concessions) for up to five items. The charge for a fridge or freezer is £31.82 per unit (no charge for senior citizens). Call WBC's contractor, SITA, on freephone 0800 838 878 for further information.

Free Unwanted Vehicle Collection: call WBC on 0118 974 6000 and they will take unwanted vehicles away at no charge.

Halls for Hire and Hall Fees

Swallowfield Parish Hall:

Capacity: Main hall - 200, Davies Room - 20

Riseley Memorial Hall - 60

Sports Club - 60

Victory Hall, Farley Hill - 100

Booking information:

Emma Shepherd on 0118 988 5444 for Swallowfield Parish Hall and Riseley Memorial Hall bookings

Mike Goldsmith on 0118 988 2490 for Riseley Clubhouse bookings

Emma Tweed at vht1919@gmail.com for Victory Hall bookings

The following fees apply from 1st June 2011:

	Local regular users £/hr	Local users £/hr	Local commercial £/hr	Outside users £/hr
Weekdays up to 6pm				
Swallowfield Parish Hall	7.50	11.50	15.00	18.50
Davies Room	5.00	6.50	7.50	8.50
Riseley Memorial Hall	6.50	7.50	8.50	10.00
Sun to Thurs after 6pm				
Weekends up to 6pm				
Swallowfield Parish Hall	10.00	15.00	23.00	30.00
Davies Room	6.50	7.50	8.50	10.00
Riseley Memorial Hall	8.50	10.00	11.50	15.00
Friday and Saturday after 6pm				
Swallowfield Parish Hall	15.00	23.00	30.00	37.00
Davies Room	8.50	10.00	12.50	15.00
Riseley Memorial Hall	12.50	15.00	17.50	20.50

Parish Council and Planning Meetings for 2011

Full Council meetings start at 7.30pm on the second Tuesday of each month in the Davies Room, Swallowfield Parish Hall. All meetings are open to the public to attend. 2011 meeting dates are as follows:

2011: 11th October, 8th November, 13th December

Planning meetings are usually held in the Davies Room at 8.00pm on the fourth Tuesday of each month. However, please check the notice boards for details as, due to deadlines for sending comments to WBC, planning matters are often dealt with at Council meetings.

The latest agendas and information are posted on Parish Council notice boards and on its web site. If any parishioner would like agendas and minutes by email, ask the clerk@swallowfieldpc.gov.uk

Transport Information

All Travel Enquiries: 0871 200 2233

Calls cost 10p per minute 7am-10pm 7 days a week

Countywide Travel: 01256 851009

Local Buses

Detailed timetables are available from the Parish Stores and the Parish Council Office.

112 Operated by Reading Buses tel: 959 4000

Spencers Wood/Reading/Spencers Wood via Shinfield, Whitley Wood.

154 Thursday and Saturday only

Operated by Horseman Coaches tel: 975 3811

Stratfield Saye/Reading/Stratfield Saye via Beech Hill, Loddon Court Farm, Grazeley, Morrisons

72 Monday to Saturday

Operated by Fleet Buzz tel: 01252 851 009

Aldershot/Reading/Aldershot via Fleet, Hartley Wintney, Riseley, Swallowfield, Spencers Wood

82 An hourly bus service between Reading and Farnborough via Swallowfield, Eversley and Yateley. The 82 timetable can be downloaded or viewed on web site www.countywidetravel.co.uk.

145 Tuesday only

Operated by Fleet Buzz tel: 01252 851 009

Three Mile Cross/Wokingham/Three Mile Cross via Riseley, Swallowfield, Finchampstead, Barkham, Langley Common, Winersh Sainsbury's. On the return journey the bus will set down at any point on the outward route as required.

Park and Ride

Information: tel: 0118 939 9948

Madejski Stadium/Central Reading

Operates every 7/15 minutes

Concessionary Bus Passes can be used on this service. There are also concessionary fare options - contact the Fares Information Line on 0118 974 6807 or 0118 974 6813.

NB: Loddon Bridge-Reading park and ride no longer operates

Trains

Information: tel: 0845 748 4950

www.nationalrail.co.uk or
www.southwesttrains.co.uk.

Two trains an hour run each way between Reading and Basingstoke, stopping at Mortimer station. There is some parking at the station. Journey time from Reading to Mortimer 10 minutes approx and to Basingstoke 24 minutes approx.

Keep Mobile

Information: tel: 0845 544 0850

Keep Mobile offers to provide transport for all your needs that is accessible for people who find ordinary buses or trains difficult. The service offers

- Dial a ride up to 15 miles from home - fixed fares
- Day excursions
- Shopping trips
- Community Group hire
- Disabled access

Leaflets are available at the Parish Office

Useful Telephone Numbers

Parish Office (phone and fax) 0118 988 5929
Parish Stores: 0118 988 5138
Swallowfield Medical Centre: 0118 988 3134
Appointments: 0118 988 3473
(www.swallowfieldmedicalpractice.co.uk)
Swallowfield Community Responders 0118 988 4384
Citizens Advice Bureau appointments 0118 988 3134
Royal Berkshire and Battle 0118 987 5111
Hospital Trust: or 0118 322 5111
Wokingham Hospital: 0118 949 5000
Police general non emergency: 0845 8505 505
*This number is for all non-emergency calls – you should still dial 999 in genuine emergencies
Thames Water emergency: 0800 714 614
24hr Floodline Service 0845 988 1188
Southern Electricity emergency: 0845 770 8090
Gas Emergency: 0800 111 999
All Saints Church, Swallowfield - Team Rector:
Rev'd Maurice Stanton Saringer 0118 988 3363
email: saringer@btinternet.com
Nutbean Cemetery: All enquiries to the above

Farley Hill Primary School: 0118 973 2148
Lambs Lane Primary School: 0118 988 3820
Spencers Wood Public Library: 0118 988 4771
Local cinema, Winnersh Triangle: 0118 974 7711
Readi-Bus: 0118 931 0000
Reading Buses: 0118 959 4000
Train enquiries: 0845 748 4950
Heathrow Airport: 08700 000 123
Gatwick Airport: 01293 535 353

Contact details for Clubs and Societies

Please refer to the Parish Council web site for more information on when and where the clubs and societies meet and for links to some of their web sites: www.swallowfieldpc.gov.uk

Contacts:

Art Group Roberta Stewart 988 2736
Badminton Club: Mixed Chris Broadhurst 973 4017
Ladies Val Payne 988 3594
Bell Ringing: Tower Captain
& Secretary: Jean Clark Maxwell 988 3548
Calico Trust Marina Goldsmith 988 2490
Farley Hill Bowls Club Ron May 0118 976 1351
Farley Hill Cricket Club Potts Connolly 988 9046
www.farleyhillcricket.co.uk
Farley Hill Society Cliff Chatten 07970 208026
web: www.farleyhill.org
email: farleyhillsoc@yahoo.co.uk
Fishing Club Secretary 0118 988 2821
Guides & Rangers Michelle Riley 0118 975 5230
History Society Frances Starman 01256 763479
Web site: slhsoc@yahoo.co.uk
Horticultural Society Val Payne 988 3594
Jolly Babies/Music Erica Scott 0118 933 2078
With Mummy
Pilates Hazel Boxall 0788 1951296
Riseley & Swallowfield
Women's Institute Pam Harwood 988 6039
Russell Players Chris Partridge 988 8851
Riseley Swallowfield & Farley Hill Charitable Trust
Registered Charity No. 1112070
Trustees:
Wendy Brooks 0118 988 3289 (Treasurer)
Yvonne Uprichard 07970 699 882
(Advertising/Promotion/Procurement)
RSF Tennis Club
- membership Janice Thomas 988 4885
- bookings Mike Goldsmith 988 2490
Swallowfield Church Mary Sangster 988 4015
Choir
Swallowfield Scout Group:
Beavers Tiffany Kemp 988 5050
Cubs Paul Harrington 976 0506
Scouts Paul Cobbold 988 3369
Swallowfield Toddler Julia Bailey 988 4874
Group

Swallowfield Pre-School: Mon-Friday 9.15–12.30
Helen Coulter 0777 1184982
swfpreschool@googlemail.com
Swallowfield Wasps Football Club Peter Hawtin 07795 277013
Table Tennis Ann Seager 988 4068
Treetops Nursery Toni Carter 988 3268
Whist Drive Paul Webber 988 4273
Young Farmers Club Kate Cripps 07780 974785
Zumba Dancing Tracy Clements 07790178891

Parish Council Members

Margaret McDonald: *Chairman*
John Anderson: *Vice Chairman*
David Entwistle: *Chairman of Planning Committee*

Max Bowker
Gordon Collender
Edward Handley
Angela King
Peter Sampson
Barbara Stanley

Areas of Responsibility

Lead Councillors:

Finance (G Collender): Investments, budgets, etc.
Working Group: J Anderson, M Bowker, A King, P Sampson

Halls (M McDonald): Swallowfield Parish Hall and Riseley Memorial Hall.

Working Group: M Bowker, D Entwistle, A King,

General Purposes (J Anderson): Properties, Quality Status issues, Parish Plan

Working Group: J Anderson, A King, M McDonald, B Stanley

Personnel (B Stanley): All Human Resources issues

Working Group: M McDonald

Environment (P Sampson): Swallowfield Meadow, The Marshes, Van Demans, Farming, Recycling, Recreation Grounds and Play Areas, Footpaths, Wildlife, Flooding/Resilience

Working Group: E Handley, A King, M McDonald

Communication (G Collender): Newsletter, Annual Report, Web Site, REACH

Highways and Transport (E Handley): Speeding, road issues, public and private transport

Liaison

Newsletter Editor: Gordon Collender

Church Liaison: Barbara Stanley

Highways: Edward Handley

Local Clubs, Outside Organisations etc: All members

Representatives:

- * Wokingham Borough Association of Local Councils, BALC, Wokingham Borough/Parish Conference: Angela King, Margaret McDonald
- * AWE Local Liaison Meetings: Jeff Moss

Disclaimer: Articles that have been signed and submitted to Swallowfield Parish Council for inclusion in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of the Parish Council. Any parishioner wishing to comment on such articles should contact the author directly.

Newsletter Contributions

The newsletter is produced by Swallowfield Parish Council, editor: Gordon Collender. The Winter 2011/2012 issue will be printed in January 2012. We welcome contributions from parishioners, and if you would like to submit articles or material for inclusion in the Winter 2011/2012 issue, please email your copy by 21st December 2011 directly to gordon.collender@btinternet.com

or give it by hand or send by post to The Clerk, Swallowfield Parish Council, Parish Office, Swallowfield Street, Swallowfield, RG7 1QX, tel: 0118 988 5929, clerk@swallowfieldpc.gov.uk

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www.whiterowan.co.uk

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E: andy.eagles@aims.co.uk W: www.aims.co.uk

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Advertising

If you are a small local business and would like to place an advertisement in the Parish Council newsletter, please contact the Editor, Gordon Collender (gordon.collender@btinternet.com) or telephone the Parish Clerk on 0118 988 5929.

The newsletter is published four times a year. The price for placing an advertisement in four issues is £58.00. Copy deadline dates are:

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