



Swallowfield Parish

# Newsletter

Spring 2022



## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Welcome to the spring newsletter. Whilst this is called the spring newsletter, it is a little premature; according to the Met Office spring officially starts on 20th March. I am writing this as Storm Eunice rages outside which brings back memories of the hurricane in 1987.

The sudden and unexpected axing of the No.7 Tiger bus service came as a major shock not least to those residents who relied on it. The results of our survey are summarised on page 2. I have taken the lead on making the case to WBC which is responsible for public transport in the Borough for its reinstatement in one form or another. I have been engaging with their Chief Executive, councillors, the Assistant Director for Highways & Transport and his team. We are exploring various long-term affordable and sustainable options to replace the No. 7 Tiger bus service which was not financially viable. Implementation will take several months depending on the option chosen.

### STOP PRESS

The Borough Council has decided to provide some temporary funding in order to reintroduce the No. 7 Bus service between Reading and Riseley for the next 3 months. This proposal will include morning and afternoon peak services for the school/college/work flows as well as the usual off-peak services, but will not include services in the evening beyond 6.15pm or on Sunday. It is likely that procuring and standing up this service will take WBC a couple of weeks and we will update you via our website and Facebook page when we have a firm date for the restart.

The key message is **"Use it or Lose it"**.

The Parish Council is extremely pleased that the Post Office counter has finally been able to reopen after the Post Office eventually managed to resolve the technical problems with their systems. We are of course disappointed that the Post Office was not able to respond far more quickly. We had been badgering them on a frequent basis to get a move-on.

The Parish Council has continued with its programme of projects through the winter months. The single glazed windows and doors of the Sports Pavilion / Memorial Hall have been replaced with double glazed units to improve the energy efficiency of the building. The council is looking at other projects that would help to address the climate emergency.

Our community speed-watch initiative is taking shape and you can read about progress on page 3.

We recently conducted a survey on our methods of communication and are making various improvements as a result. Read the article about changes which are already underway on page 4.

The replacement Jubilee Train in the Swallowfield play area was eventually delivered after some COVID-related delays. We approved an upgrade to the play facilities at Riseley, see page 4. Repairs to the safety matting under the zipwire at Swallowfield have also been initiated. We are unable to consider work at Farley Hill until the future of the King George V playing field is decided following closure of the school and its move to Arborfield Green. It is owned by the Borough Council and was leased to the school.

We have set up a working group to plan how we will commemorate HM the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Our plans are outlined on page 2.

Looking back, I see that I wrote about the *Local Plan*

Cont'd on page 2

### Parish Council Updates

<b>Climate Change Emergency</b>	<b>Page 4</b>
<b>Communications</b>	<b>Page 4</b>
<b>Community Litter Pick</b>	<b>Page 2</b>
<b>Community Speedwatch</b>	<b>Page 3</b>
<b>No 7 Tiger Bus</b>	<b>Page 2</b>
<b>Queen's Platinum Jubilee</b>	<b>Page 2</b>
<b>Riseley Playground</b>	<b>Page 4</b>



### Chairman's Report continued

Update two years ago. However, the whole plan was thrown up in the air when the Emergency Planning Zone around AWE Burghfield was extended precluding the option of a major development in Grazeley. The revised draft plan has other changes and has earmarked a site in the parish for some 80 dwellings which the Parish Council strongly opposes.

This is an election year and the Parish Council and our Ward Councillor post will be up for election on May 5th. The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council will be on 10th May and the Annual Parish Meeting will be held after that on a date to be determined.

The signs of spring are already with us as plants emerge from winter dormancy. I am very much looking forward to the sight of spring bulbs in bloom, longer days and fewer COVID cases! Best wishes.

**John Anderson**  
Chairman

### PARISH COUNCIL UPDATES

#### HM THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE



Swallowfield Parish Council has decided that it would like to commemorate HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee through several projects designed to deliver a long-lasting benefit to our community. The council has approved two projects and work will start on these immediately: the installation of picnic benches/tables on the recreation grounds in the parish and wildflower planting along Fox's Run. The third and most significant project will take much longer to achieve, and the details have not yet been agreed but the council would like to take this opportunity to investigate tree planting and other environmental projects for the land currently known as Van Demans. Further information on all these projects will be shared in the coming months.

Given that our Parish is very much a fantastic community of communities, covering the areas of Swallowfield, Riseley, Farley Hill and Stanford End,

we do not feel that a single, 'central' event would be the best way to bring people together. There will no doubt be several larger events taking place, more widely, for those interested.

We are aware that discussions about smaller, localised events, similar to those which proved successful this Christmas, are already underway and we look forward greatly to seeing these in action.

Whether you choose to gather to mark the occasion in your part of the Parish, or among friends and neighbours closer to home, you will find helpful information on organising and hosting an event at: [www.platinumjubilee.gov.uk](http://www.platinumjubilee.gov.uk).

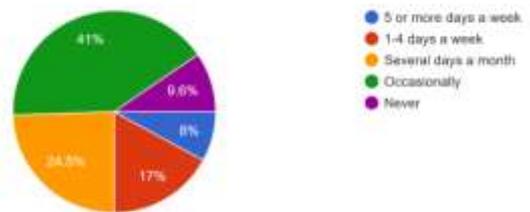
**COMMUNITY LITTER PICK**

The Community Litter Pick will take place on **Saturday 2nd April**. Please **save the date** and convene in the Davies Room any time from 10am. Litter pickers, Hi-viz jackets and bin bags will be provided—just come suitably attired. Light refreshments will be provided. There are significant accumulations of litter on our verges, all the more apparent now they have been cut.

#### NO 7 TIGER BUS - SURVEY UPDATE

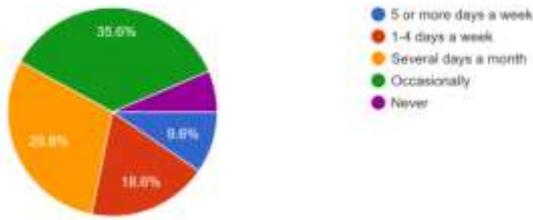
Between 18 – 31 January, Swallowfield Parish Council conducted a survey of parish residents and those in Dukes Meadow concerning bus services through the parish. 188 responses were received. Residents were invited to respond online or via a hard copy survey.

- 95% of respondents live in the Parish, the majority of the remainder live in Dukes Meadow, which although forming part of the Riseley community, is in Hampshire just the other side of the Parish, Borough and county boundary.



- Prior to the pandemic, 49.4% used the service several days per month or more as illustrated in the pie chart below.
- Looking ahead, if the service was reinstated to a similar level as it was, the same respondents said that they would expect to use the service more than they used to before the pandemic. The percentage that said they would use the service

several days per month or more increased to 58% with increases in all categories other than 'occasional' or 'never'.



- 81.5% of respondents answered that a weekday bus service, as opposed to a weekend one, was most important.
- The times at which respondents said they would most use the service varied greatly, suggesting the need for a regular service, with good demand ranging between 6.00am and 8.00pm. The most in demand time slot was between 10.00 and 4.00pm. However, 23.2% also said that they would like to use the service after 8.00pm.
- 81.5% of respondents answered that a weekday bus service, as opposed to a weekend one, was most important.
- The times at which respondents said they would most use the service varied greatly, suggesting the need for a regular service, with good demand ranging between 6.00am and 8.00pm. The most in demand time slot was between 10.00 and 4.00pm. However, 23.2% also said that they would like to use the service after 8.00pm.

Similarly, the range of purposes for which bus travel is used is diverse and suggests a clear need for a regular bus service. Respondents were asked to check all that applied. The number and percentage of respondents in each category are shown on the bar chart below.



- Reading town centre was the most common destination (96.6%) for bus users, followed by the Royal Berkshire Hospital (36.7%). Comparatively, only 9% gave Fleet and 12.4% Hartley Wintney as destinations, indicating that by far the greatest demand and need lies in the Reading direction.
- Residents responded to a number of hypothetical alternatives to the 'Tiger 7' service and route and we will factor these responses into ongoing discussions.

With very limited amenities in and around the parish, residents, especially those in lower income households, those with children and those who are elderly, relied on public transport for a range of essential purposes and at times throughout the day and week. There is limited employment in the immediate vicinity, no primary or secondary schools in the parish with the nearest in catchment being in Arborfield Green, the nearest supermarket is 3.5 miles away and the nearest train station over 5 miles.

The Borough's Local Travel Plan states the following aims:

*“To promote an integrated and inclusive public transport network that provides a convenient, acceptable, reliable and affordable alternative to car travel.”*

*“To improve opportunities for all members of society to use public transport.”*

Swallowfield Parish Council considers it to be wrong that villages in the parish are not included just because they are limited development locations in a rural area. The needs of residents are if anything that much greater because of this. They therefore deserve to share in the development dividend arising from developments elsewhere in the Borough. The Parish Council does not accept that public transport services should just “follow the money”; they should be there as a service for all.

The Parish Council remains in open dialogue with Wokingham Borough Council and continues to liaise with Shinfield Parish Council. Our council Chairman has also written to the Chief Executives of Reading Buses and WBC highlighting the issues.

## COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH

We are pleased to report that the development and roll-out of our Community Speedwatch program is progressing nicely. Twelve volunteers from Swallowfield and Riseley have now completed their online training and are registered with Thames Valley Police as 'authorised speedwatchers'. A final stage of roadside training, and familiarisation with our new 'Sentinel' speedwatch camera, will take place shortly. We are then good to go.

Active Speedwatch sessions in both villages will commence in March. Note that for health and safety reasons, Speedwatch sessions can only take place during daylight hours. With the clocks going forward we will then be able to monitor peak periods in morning and evening rush hours.

Meanwhile, our Black Cat traffic Radar has been actively monitoring traffic movements at several locations in Swallowfield and Riseley to determine the

optimum times and places for active Speedwatch sessions. Going forward the Black Cat will be monitoring traffic movements in other traffic hotspots both within the villages and around the parish.

Community Speedwatch is an activity by the community for the community! The more volunteers the lower the time demands on each member. If you can spare a little time each month to help support your community, please contact [ian.fullerton@swallowfieldpc.gov.uk](mailto:ian.fullerton@swallowfieldpc.gov.uk).

***Cllr Ian Fullerton***  
***Lead Councillor for Transport***

## COMMUNICATIONS

Thank you to everyone who responded to our earlier communications survey. The results will shape how we engage with residents and the local community in the future.

We are currently working on developing a new and much improved Parish Council website, to be launched later this year.

Several changes to our newsletter may also follow.

We are very pleased to see the number of people following and engaging with our Facebook page and online updates continuing to increase.

Don't forget our photo competition... every month we update our Facebook page's cover photo with a shot taken by you around the Parish. To enter, please send photos to [david.lamont@swallowfieldpc.gov.uk](mailto:david.lamont@swallowfieldpc.gov.uk).

***David Lamont***  
***Lead Councillor for Communication***

## PLAYGROUND AT RISELEY

The Parish Council has approved work to replace the climbing frame and seesaw in the children's play area which are at end of life. The replacement items include a new climbing frame. In addition the grass and mud will be replaced by a durabond surface, so the children can play mud free!

This work is part funded by S106 money from the Dukes Field development.



An installation date is to be confirmed.

***Laura Edmonds***  
***Lead Councillor for Recreation***

## CLIMATE CHANGE EMERGENCY

Swallowfield Parish Council has recently established a new Climate Change Emergency Working Group, to review and recommend how the Parish Council can continue to reduce its environmental impact, in support of Wokingham Borough Council's wider response to the climate emergency and its published Action Plan.

This Working Group will be led by a lead Councillor, selected by the full Parish Council, and supported by at least two further parish councillors. The new lead Councillor for the climate change emergency is Cllr David Lamont. As a Parish Council we aim to:

- Review and recommend how we can reduce the environmental impact of our premises and operations.
- Minimise the level of waste going to landfill or incineration and increase the availability of bins for recyclable waste in the Parish.
- Protect and preserve green spaces in the Parish and safeguard the rural nature and character of the area.
- Effectively utilise the potential of the land we own or manage in support of nature and wildlife, including identifying areas suitable for tree, wildflower and other planting.
- Avoid the use of herbicides, pesticides and other non-organic or harmful substances on our land.
- Manage flood risk and other environmental factors through our established Flood and Resilience Group (FRG). • Divest in the fossil fuel industry.
- Undertake a climate change impact assessment as part of our procurement processes, to identify and select sustainable goods, services and suppliers wherever possible and in line with our resources.
- Work with public transport providers serving the Parish and promote cycling, running and walking in our local area. • Seek and listen to ideas and input from residents and others in our community.
- Inform residents and others in our community how they can help.
- Engage with Wokingham Borough Council and neighbouring parish councils to share and adopt best practice. • Review and update all our policies to support the above aims

***David Lamont***  
***Lead Councillor for***  
***Climate Change Emergency***



## LOCAL MEMBER UPDATE WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

### New Covid-19 vaccination centre to open in Wokingham



A new walk-in Covid-19 vaccination centre was opened at the Wokingham Library on Saturday 19 February, to help make access to the vaccine easier for residents.

The site will open from 2pm to 7pm on Fridays and 11am to 4.45pm on Saturdays and Sundays, with no appointment necessary. A review of the site will take place after six weeks, so the Council is encouraging residents to make good use of the facility.

First, second, and booster doses of the Pfizer vaccine are available to **all** eligible people, including:

- o Pregnant women
- o 12–15-year-olds
- o People not registered with a GP or those without an NHS number
- o People with no indefinite leave to remain status

Visitors travelling by car can park at Denmark Street Car Park, and more parking options are available across the town.

#### Make use of this local facility

One of the cornerstones of moving forward and living with endemic Covid is vaccination. While the uptake rate is good in the Borough, there are still many people who are yet to take up the offer, and I have often felt it would be significantly improved by the provision of more local vaccination centres.

We have campaigned for months for a standalone vaccination centre in the Borough and are pleased that the CCG (Clinical Commissioning Group), has agreed to our request. I would encourage all residents to take advantage of this local facility and get vaccinated.

#### Contact the vaccine support team

Nobody going for their first, second or booster jab will be questioned about why they haven't had it yet. The onsite staff will be happy to welcome residents. Anyone who has questions about the Covid-19 vaccine can come and chat to the health professionals

working at the site or email the Council's vaccine support team on [covid.info@wokingham.gov.uk](mailto:covid.info@wokingham.gov.uk).

Everyone would like to see the back of the pandemic, but it is important that we don't lose sight of what protects us from the virus. While Omicron is milder in the sense that it has so far resulted in a lower hospitalisation and death rate than prior variants, it can still make you very sick and it is highly transmissible. The vaccine is what helps make this sickness less serious, reduce transmission and it is still strongly recommended.

#### Let's get vaccinated

If you tested positive in December and were unable to get your booster, it's now time to come forward for it (28 days/4 weeks from when you tested positive). Parents, carers and guardians are also encouraged to bring children and young people over the age of 12 to this new site over half term (for 12–15-year-olds this must be 12 weeks from the date of their positive PCR test if they were recently infected).

For Covid-19 vaccine updates in the Borough, please keep an eye on the [Wokingham Borough Council website](http://www.wokingham.gov.uk).

### Make your views heard through Adult Social Care survey



Wokingham Borough Council is encouraging residents to take part in a national survey on the Adult Social Care services they receive.

Letters with questionnaires will be sent out to around 1,400 people this week and these should be returned to the Council by 18 March.

The 2021-22 Adult Social Care Survey is co-ordinated by NHS Digital and asks residents to give honest feedback about their experiences.

Those contacted will already be using care and support services paid for or arranged by the Council. This means they may live in a care home, attend a day centre, have a care worker, use meals services or have an allocated worker within the Community Mental Health Team.

The questions allow residents to evaluate their quality of life, overall health and how easy they find it to access help and information.

Responses will remain confidential and are used by researchers and organisations, such as the

Department of Health and Social Care, to help improve services.

### **Your views matter**

It is really important to us that as many eligible residents as possible complete this survey, because their views matter.

The answers they give will play an important role in helping us to shape the services they use and make improvements. The biggest portion of the Council's budget is spent on adult social care and wellbeing, and we are committed to providing quality care and support to those who need us.

Given the additional challenges presented due to Covid-19, it is important for us to understand how our wider services are performing and listen to what our residents have to say, as we ensure they are treated with dignity and respect.

### **Help and support is available**

If you receive a survey and are unable to complete it on your own, you can ask a friend or relative to help. Additionally, you can request the survey in a different language, larger print or in an easy-read format. It is also possible to complete by telephone, or in person.

Surveys should be returned to the Council using the pre-paid envelopes provided and replacement copies can be sent if the original letter is misplaced. The Council will send out reminder letters to anyone who has not responded in the coming weeks.

The Council will only contact you regarding the answers you give if there is a risk to your health or safety, or if you are experiencing a serious problem with your care.

For help and support with the survey, contact [customerservice@wokingham.gov.uk](mailto:customerservice@wokingham.gov.uk) or call (0118) 974 6000 and select option 5 for children and adult social care and then option 2 for adults.

### **Employment support available to residents who need it**



Wokingham Borough Council is making the employment support it offers to residents more accessible through a dedicated phone and email line; and by having an outreach team in place that is visible

in local communities.

Anyone who needs some help with their career can now contact the Council's employment outreach team by phoning [0118 977 8650](tel:01189778650), Monday to Friday, 10am to 3pm. Alternatively you can email them on [employmentoutreach@wokingham.gov.uk](mailto:employmentoutreach@wokingham.gov.uk).

The team can support residents with a range of activities to help them find the right job for them and help them to develop skills to feel confident applying for jobs and going to work.

### **Help from a team of experts**

The team will either direct callers to a local service – for example, specialists who have expertise in helping people in their circumstances – or invite them to either a face-to-face, or online/phone appointment to discuss their situation further and ensure they receive the right advice and support. With the current Covid-19 situation, social distancing measures will be in place to keep visitors safe.

A full list of local services can be found on the [Wokingham Borough Council website](#), including specialist support for young people, residents with special educational needs, over 50s, people with physical and learning disabilities, and more.

Appointments will take place at the Rainbow Community Centre in Winnersh, the Shinfield Rise Community Flat in Shinfield, or the Oakwood Centre in Woodley, depending on the individual's location. Residents living in or near Wokingham town centre can also visit the Wokingham Job Support Centre on Norreys Avenue for friendly and confidential support.

### **Supporting residents with a range of activities**

As a Council, we are here to listen and work with our communities. We understand that looking for a job can feel overwhelming, particularly if you've had a bad experience in the past, or you've been out of work for some time. Please be assured that our welcoming and friendly team will give the assistance you need.

We can support residents with a range of activities to help them return to employment, find secure work, prepare and feel confident to apply for jobs and go to work, and progress with their career. As we head into the spring, it's a good time to think about making a fresh start and the dedicated team can offer useful guidance along the way.

This is initially running as a pilot programme until the end of April, so the Council can understand levels of demand in the Borough and how best to support residents before it considers extending further.

The Covid-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on employment, nationally and locally but there are opportunities out there, and we can help residents find them. As we continue to react and recover from the

pandemic, we want to do everything we can to help local people into employment, and this will be a key priority in our upcoming Anti-Poverty Strategy.

#### **More help through the Local Support Hub**

For further information on support in the Borough, including access to food and fuel, mental health, and welfare benefits, please visit the Local Support Hub on the Council's website: <https://www.wokingham.gov.uk/local-support-hub>

As I write this brief update, spring is clearly around the corner, with some colder spells, very strong winds and sunshine. I hope that you all had an enjoyable festive Christmas break and looking forward to a prosperous 2022 and beyond and that you and all of your families are keeping safe and well.

I am especially pleased that we have been able to reinstate our No7 bus service whilst we review options of a permanent replacement, as mentioned earlier in the Chairman's report.



**Stuart Munro**  
**Member for Swallowfield,**  
**Wokingham Borough Council**



## **SWALLOWFIELD'S COFFEE CORNER**

We were sorry to have to close Coffee Corner temporarily a few weeks ago, owing to the alarming rise in the number of Covid cases locally and indeed nationally. At time of writing we are not able to say exactly when we will be reopening, but rest assured that as soon as it is safe to do so we will welcome everyone back on Wednesday afternoons for tea, coffee and home-made cake. We will continue to use the main hall for the time being, so that the tables can be well-spaced. We hope to be able to return some time in March, so please do look out for announcements.

Coffee Corner is a welcoming space for anyone who would like to spend an hour or two enjoying the company of friends and neighbours, with the added bonus of a terrific array of cakes, all for a suggested donation of £2. Money left over after costs are taken out is donated to local charities. We're also very happy to see anyone who simply wants a quiet cup of tea in the corner! We're a community group, run by volunteers, and our sole purpose is to provide a friendly, relaxed place for anyone from the community and beyond to have a little break.

We look forward to seeing you again soon.

**The Coffee Corner Team**

### **Royal Berkshire Hospital Patient Feedback**

My name is Roberta Stewart. I am your local governor for the Royal Berkshire Hospital Trust (RBH).

One of my roles is to feed back comments, positive or otherwise. Currently they are looking for information about communication between the RBH and patients.

If you have a relevant comment, please email me at [ref.rbh@gmail.com](mailto:ref.rbh@gmail.com)

Obviously, I cannot deal with personal or parking issues.

**Roberta Stewart**

### **SWALLOWFIELD LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

By the time this Newsletter is printed we will have welcomed Barbara Stanley to give us a talk on 'A Life in Education' on February 17<sup>th</sup>. With her personality and personal experience in the field of Education we are certain it will have been a good evening.

On March 17<sup>th</sup> we have our AGM when the Agenda will be planning our future and how we move forward. It will also be a special evening when we will invite the Members present to endorse the Committee's wish to ask Ken Hussey to become our President.

'Ken was a founder Member of the History Society and had been Chairman for many, many years. His health has declined recently with his mobility severely curtailed. This means that he is now not able to carry out the duties of a Chairman to their full capacity. We, the Committee, feel his commitment, strength of determination to make the History Society acknowledged and remembered is second to none, together with his ideas and the development of the



archives we now have, make him a truly ideal candidate for the Presidency’.

Our Programme for 2022/23 is almost complete and we hope it will be one that Members, Friends and anyone interested in ‘History’ will enjoy. 21<sup>st</sup> April we welcome back Mike Cooper – his presentation is ‘The Home Guard in Berkshire’

We’re introducing a new idea for a get together and having a Tea Party on the 9<sup>th</sup> June at the Mill House, lets hope the weather is good to us and we can be outside!

As a result of our last request, Jennifer our Archivist was delighted to get a call from a gentleman who recalled the cycle shop run by Mr. Cole opposite the parish hall. He confirmed that it was indeed the place where everyone went to get their bike sorted out, very necessary when so few people had cars.

He also recalled being told off by Mr.Cole. Why? Because there was a cigarette machine outside the shop. As teenagers he and his friends used to make a nuisance of themselves trying to acquire said cigarettes. They were firmly told that these were for adults only!

Snippets like this really bring the local past to life, and we’d love to hear more of your memories.

Do join us for our monthly meetings: Third Thursday in the month. Rose Room, Parish Hall, Swallowfield. 7.30 pm. Visit our web site [www.slhsoc.org.uk](http://www.slhsoc.org.uk) to check details and do contact us if you have any queries or questions.

If you would like to be added to our mailing list and receive information about the Society please let Maggie know by email: [kcuttley@aol.com](mailto:kcuttley@aol.com) or by telephone 0118 98 2954.

Come along to our meetings you will be most welcome.

**Maggie Uttley**  
**Secretary**



## **RISELEY VILLAGE TEA ROOM**

After a very busy few weeks of decluttering, furniture fettling, cobweb clearing, dust busting, window washing, floor polishing, menu printing, website updating, stock ordering and delivery booking we finally reopened on February 10th and so far so good. Lots of our regulars have been in touch and quite a few newcomers so I’m happy to say the diary is looking healthy.

Jen and I work well together even when up ladders or on our knees sorting cupboards and at one point trapped behind the fridge, a shared sense of humour is vital, it’s got us through many “interesting” times, especially over the last two years .

Sadly this year we will be without two of our stalwarts, Christine who has moved to London to be near her family, an absolute rock we will all miss her down to earth say it how it is and can do attitude.

We will also miss our lovely Dot who’s not too well at the moment. Dot has been a constant tearoom star never missing a day, often referred to by our guests as the lovely Friday lady. We wish them both well, they will be sorely missed.

Our little tearoom library has spread to a second bookcase and I spent a happy couple of hours arranging the books alphabetically or, as my son said “that’s two hours you’ll never get back”.

We are starting a Book Group in the tearoom and have had a good response from interested parties, we just need to decide on day and time to suit .

I am looking for more help this year as hopefully our visitor numbers will climb and get back to pre COVID.

We usually have a few ladies we can call on occasionally if we need a hand on busy days. If anyone is interested just get in touch or call in, you will be very welcome.

When our numbers pick up we will need to have extra permanent staff so give us a call or pop in if of any interest.

I’m off to catch up on my latest novel and yes my books are all organised .

**Pam Wright, Manager**



## SWALLOWFIELD PARISH ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION

Even though there aren't many plants growing at the SPAA allotments in January and February, it has still been busy as we have been spreading some lovely manure on our plots, cleaning out the polytunnel and clearing some areas that needed some attention. We are also in the fortunate position of having a waiting list for plots – growing your own fruit and veg increased in popularity across the UK during the pandemic and it is very good to see that interest is continuing.

**MARCH** can be a very cold, wet month, but if the weather warms up it can be a busy month for planting and preparing the ground for cultivation. March is the time for frantic seed sowing, whether you sow seeds indoors to get ahead or whether you start to sow seeds outside under cloches or in ready warmed up beds. It is also lovely to see the spring bulbs popping up and giving the allotments a much-needed splash of colour.

**What to sow outdoors** - Vegetables such as broad beans, summer, autumn and red cabbages, leeks, lettuces, parsnips, peas, spinach, spring onions and sprouting broccoli. March is your last chance to plant garlic sets and bare rooted berry bushes.

**What to sow outdoors under cover** - Beetroot, carrots, cucumbers, lettuces, summer radishes, rocket and salad leaves and turnips.

**What to sow indoors** - aubergines, chillies and peppers need a long growing season so the fruit can ripen, so sow these now. Also sow Brussels sprouts, celeriac, cucumbers, Florence fennel, globe artichokes, Kohl rabi, lettuces, sprouting broccoli and sweet potatoes. Sow tomatoes at the end of the month so that they don't become too big and pot-bound before they can be planted out in May or June after the last frosts.

**Plant out** ready bought strawberry plants and currant bushes. If the ground is not too cold and wet, plant out your chitted seed potatoes in a drill six inches deep with the shoots pointing up.

**Harvest** the last of your leeks, parsnips, Brussels sprouts and celeriac and the first of your rhubarb. Pick over wintering kale and sprouting broccoli. Pick spring varieties of loose leaved cabbages.

### Jobs for March:

- Prepare your seed beds and rake the soil to a fine tilth
- Make your runner bean and celery trenches
- Trim and divide herbs
- Cover your over- wintered strawberry plants with cloches to stimulate flower growth. Remove the cloches when the flowers appear for pollination to occur
- Prune blueberry bushes down to a strong, healthy bud and cut out damaged or diseased stems
- Remove yellowing leaves from brassicas
- Weed and feed your over -wintering crops, fruit bushes and trees in containers
- Net your outdoor seeds and tender plants to protect against pigeons and rabbits!

There's plenty to be getting on with! Happy gardening!

**Want to know more?** Have a look at the website on [www.swallowfieldallotment.org](http://www.swallowfieldallotment.org)

Please contact the SPAA Secretary to find out more about the Allotment site.

**Enquiries to SPAA Secretary, Claire Hamilton**  
[secretary@swallowfieldpaa.org](mailto:secretary@swallowfieldpaa.org)

*Sue  
Plot Holder*

## RISELEY CAROLS

December 23rd and we set up outside The Bull just a little worried if we would have a reasonable turn out for the Carols? "Oh my word " we stopped counting at 80.

A huge thank you to Hilary Wilson our keyboard player and to John Wilson for setting up the equipment and leading the Carols .

Thank you Boris at The Bull you did us proud with mulled wine, mince pies and sausage rolls they just kept coming, a magnificent service ably aided by locals on waiter duty. Thanks also must go to Swallowfield Parish Council for their generous donation towards the catering. There's nothing like Mulled Wine and warm mince pies outside on a Winters evening.

It was wonderful to be out gathered together again and enjoying this Riseley Village tradition long may it continue .

A belated Happy New Year To one and all.

*Pam Wright & Michelle Swift*





### **Christmas Lunch**

Fortunately for us, despite the possibility of social distancing, face covering, and even lockdown, we were able to host our annual Christmas lunch this year. Once again it was at the Mill House Restaurant. The members who came enjoyed the splendid food and drink, and it was a wonderful opportunity to socialise in a way which allowed us to reminisce on past productions, remember past members, and welcome our new ones.

### **Postponement of the Pantomime Goldilocks, Three Bears and the Detectives by Juliet Devon**

*We were sorry to have to postpone our pantomime until later in the year. It was a difficult decision that wasn't taken lightly. With the continued uncertainty of Covid and the implications of staging the production at such a time, it was agreed that it was the right thing to do for all concerned.*

*We are pleased to inform you that the revised production dates for our Pantomime are:-*

*Saturday, November 19<sup>th</sup> (matinee & evening performance)*

*Sunday, November 20<sup>th</sup> (matinee performance)*

*Wednesday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> (Russell Players Gala Night.)*

*Saturday, November 26<sup>th</sup> (matinee & evening performance)*

*Sunday, November 27<sup>th</sup> (matinee performance)*

### **Our Next Production.**

We are delighted to announce our next production will be in May. The production will consist of three comedy plays directed by Mitch Mitchell under the umbrella of "A Collage of Comedy". Here's a synopsis to whet your appetite.

### **The Book Club of Little Witterington by Joan Greening.**

The long-established village book club dynamics are disturbed when Paula, a newcomer to the village is invited to join the club by one of the members. Despite misgivings by some members of the group, she turns out to be just what the group needs.

### **Café Society by Colin Calvert.**

Whilst enjoying a leisurely lunch, Pauline is disturbed by Patrick. She is unsure about the intrusion but they fall into easy conversation and she finds herself disappointed when he disappears without explanation.

### **Romeo and Juliet's Final Half Hour by J. Devon.**

With constant interruptions and Juliet not only forgetting her lines but quoting lines from the wrong play, Nikki, the drama teacher shows determination and perseverance as she struggles to get through the final rehearsal with the principals from Romeo and Juliet.

The production dates are as follows:-

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May (matinee and evening)

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May (matinee and evening)

There will be tea, cake and sandwiches served for the matinees and a light supper for the evening performances. Further details will follow on our website and through our usual marketing outlets. We look forward to welcoming you back for what promises to be an entertaining event.

This production will be brought to you by arrangement with Lazy Bee Scripts.

Do visit the Russell Players website [www.russellplayers.co.uk](http://www.russellplayers.co.uk) for up-to-date information about our activities. If you would like to join the Russell Players please contact Juliet Devon via our email address [russellplayers@gmail.com](mailto:russellplayers@gmail.com)



**Juliet Devon**

### **CALICO TRUST**

YOUR LOCAL CHARITY (The Swallowfield Calico Trust) .....is here to HELP. The Trust was formed from three ancient local charities dating back to the 1700s and, up until relatively recently, it provided calico sheets to local people. Nowadays our rules allow us to help people by making a grant of money or by paying for items, services or facilities that will reduce the need, hardship or distress of anyone living in this Parish.

In case you are unsure whether you are eligible, this Newsletter is only delivered to residents living in Swallowfield Parish, therefore it does mean YOU. So if you, or someone you know, is in need of financial help please let the Trust know.

All information provided to us will be kept strictly confidential.

You can either contact us directly or just fill in the application form attached to the back of this Newsletter. You can apply at any time. Please see the back pages for more information.

**Celia Adams**



## SWALLOWFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

A new Spring appears full of hidden promises in our gardens to lift spirits encouraging us out in the warmer weather investigating the latest plants appearing from their winter dormancy.

There's nothing better than the famous words we all know, those of William Wordsworth 'when all at once I saw a crowd, A host of golden daffodils;' inspired by the awesome sight of drifts of wild daffodils whilst walking in the countryside in 1802.

Many years later, after huge breeding programmes and development of the wild daffodil, we now have 13 divisions to enjoy, from common trumpets to double and multi-headed blooms. There is a variety for everyone and planted in many ways, not just in the borders, or for naturalising in grass or woodlands, but also in pots and containers in lasagne layers of early, mid- and late-flowering varieties to provide a long period of enjoyment and continued colour. Then you could add wallflowers and grasses for extra interest. For the new gardening season would you like to learn



more, know more and do more in your gardens? We would be delighted to welcome you and friends at our meetings with great topics in a friendly atmosphere and all for £1.00.



Not to be missed will be our evening Spring Show on March 26th when the main hall at the Swallowfield Parish Hall will be transformed into a full horticultural show of colour and spring flowers, cakes and preserves.

### Dates for your Diary

#### Talks

Thursday 10th March

Crops for small gardens by Jane Moore

Thursday 14th April

From plot to plate by Alan Williams

Thursday 12th May

The gardens and estate of Wellington College by Mark Dodd

All will take place at Shinfield Infant School starting at 7.30 pm.

For more details please phone Margaret Finch on 07766115012

#### Shows

The evening Spring Show and meal.

Saturday 26th March, staging from 6 pm

For more details please phone Val Payne on 0118 9883594

#### Flower Arranging Classes

For details please phone Margaret Finch on 07766115012

We would be pleased to welcome you to our talks and forthcoming shows.

Enjoy your gardening.

**Margaret Finch**  
**Swallowfield Horticultural Society**



## THE VIEW FROM THE HILL



Since I last wrote this newsletter, it seems our little corner of Berkshire has moved on apace. Despite an appallingly wet summer, we had a bumper yield of wheat, although sadly did not make milling grade this year due to the high moisture content so had to go as feed. However, it made a higher price as feed than milling did pre-2020! Wary of high fertiliser prices back in the autumn, we held off ordering our spring fert and within weeks regretted it as global prices shot up reaching levels three times that of the year before. We have had to order some nitrogen, but have taken a balanced approach this year and will be supplementing our AN with muck and slurry from our neighbours at Hall Farm. Whilst cattle get a bad press for being less than environmentally-friendly, the dairy farm at Reading University is at the forefront of research that will reduce this issue, and being our over-the-road neighbours, purchasing natural fertiliser from them has about as small a carbon footprint as an arable farm can hope for.

That will not be the case for much longer, however, as farming globally moves towards reducing carbon and increasing its environmental benefits. Over 70% of England's land is farmed, therefore inevitably we will have to find a way to do it better, if we are to make a substantial impact on our natural capital resources. Farming does not have to be bad for the environment, and many commentators believe the move away from area-related subsidies will improve the situation, with future payments made for "public goods". Farley Farms is reviewing how we will make our way within the new environmental schemes, with proposals including improved low input grassland, plus planting over-winter legumes on our stubbles to support wildlife.

The flip side of the post-subsidy world is that we have to replace up to £140k of subsidy income. Farley is run as a business and without land-based income, inevitably we will have to explore other options. As

mentioned last year, one such option is converting redundant farm buildings for better uses. Our Bridge Farm Grain Store has achieved a second change of planning and will soon be opening as a leisure climbing wall for all ages, and we have made a request for pre-application advice for a roadside drive-thru adjacent to it, all on the eastern side of the new Observer Way. We have also had the land behind Bridge Farm assessed by the Council for employment use (such as industrial units), and a small area has been earmarked for development, equating to just over 0.003% of our land. Schemes like these on our existing business park will help preserve the majority of the farm as green space.

We sadly lost some major tenants due to Covid affecting their businesses. Whilst government support appears to have kept public-facing businesses open, there were some serious gaps that some businesses have fallen through. We do feel fortunate to have such a diverse business that is not reliant on any one sector, as no one could possibly have foreseen the way the leisure/events industry has been decimated and – globally – is still not back to normal. We have now re-let the affected units and are pleased that so many of our new tenants are locally-based businessmen and women, something that highlights the modern desire for companies to live in, employ from and serve their local areas.

You will have seen the solar farm under construction on Castle Hill. The worst phase of this in terms of disruption will be when they drive the piles that support the panels – this will take 6 weeks and once done, the operation of the farm will be very quiet. Please do get in touch with any issues and we are happy to pass on feedback to the solar company in charge of the site.

As always, feel free to email me about any of the above, or give the Estate Office a call.

[natalie@farleyfarms.co.uk](mailto:natalie@farleyfarms.co.uk)  
0118 9730047





## SWALLOWFIELD PRE-SCHOOL

We've started 2022 as we mean to go on; with lots of play and learning, exploration and discovery! We've welcomed more new children and families to the Pre-School and have been delighted at how quickly the cohort has settled back in to regular routines. Conversations flow and excitement is evident on a daily basis as the children investigate the resources and activities available to them.

We've been lucky enough to spend time outside in our fabulous surroundings – playing on the patio, walking



across the field, running in the open spaces and bird watching from the garden.

Alongside our role play areas which include a home corner, shop and an ever changing themed area, we have spent time playing with characters in various small world scenarios – on the farm, at the zoo, in the village, amongst the dinosaurs, in the construction yard and in the castle to name a few.

We've explored our sensory worlds – listening to different sounds, feeling different textures, creating with various tools, making and tasting food including a



delicious pasta salad, looking for objects in our surroundings, and enjoying the smells of spices, fruits and different foods used within our play and creative arts!

We've expressed ourselves in different ways through song, rhythm, rhyme, and dance, listened to a wide range of stories including classic tales and new modern titles, made and used musical instruments and enjoyed yoga and exercise sessions. We've also had fun tackling various obstacle courses – balancing on beams, crawling through tunnels, jumping through hoops and rolling on mats.

We recently made some amazing junk model castles, complete with turreted battlements; the children worked together to design and build structures which were almost as big them!

We continue to follow the EYFS curriculum, delivering content in inspiring ways to help ensure children of all ages and ability are engaged, have a love of learning, are happy and making friends, are developing confidence and independence and are well prepared for their individual journey ahead.

We are very excited to announce our first fundraising event in a long while - the Pre-School Fete, which will be taking place on the field at Swallowfield Parish Hall on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 1pm-4pm. There will be lots of family friendly fun including children's games, numerous external stalls from local small businesses, a bouncy castle, refreshments and home-made cakes. We hope to see you there!

If you would like to know more about starting your child's educational journey with Swallowfield Pre-School, please do get in touch.

For more information, to receive a Prospectus or to register for a place, please contact us at [info@swallowfieldpreschool.org.uk](mailto:info@swallowfieldpreschool.org.uk) Swallowfield Pre-School offers morning sessions, Monday-Friday at Swallowfield Parish Hall 9.15 - 12.30. We are a fully inclusive setting and have been rated 'Good' by Ofsted.

**Helen Coulter**  
**Manager**





## FARLEY HILL CRICKET CLUB

An incredibly mild winter has the daffodils growing and the Farley Hill contingent awaking early from their slumber.

As we move into spring the preseason training begins at Farley Hill Cricket Club. This year's nets are being held at Theale Green school and there is a buzz in the air as the sound of leather on willow returns. After a disappointing tour of Australia for the men's and women's ashes, cricket fans are starting to think that if they train well there might be chance of a call up. That may explain the enthusiasm at the first net of the year. Lawrence Heaton-Wright, ever the professional, was back on his line from ball one and Greg Coney looked like he was seeing the ball as well as ever. With the departure of a couple of first team players the standard was high as everyone wanted to impress and gain a shot in the Berkshire Premier Division.

The new year also brings the clubs annual dinner, held a little later than usual to accommodate those who enjoy a break in the alps. Tom Hale looks nailed on for second team player of the year after amassing 475 runs at an average of 40 (39.58). First team player of the year looks a tight fought affair with Dave Drury, 550 runs @ 50, Lewis Hart 23 wicket @ 18.5 and Rich Pilkington 23 wickets @ 16 all in with a good shout. Players Player and Clubman of the year have already been snapped up by Lewis Hart and Dave 'Shez' Sheridan respectively after award at the AGM.

As we approach the spring and prepare for the season, we begin to look ahead at strengthening the squad. The departure of Dave Drury and James Smart, who both return to their respective hometowns, leave big gaps to fill in the first team. AD Ali also moves on after 10 years of miserly bowling (113 wickets) and explosive knocks (1537 runs). We wish them all well in the coming season.

At Farley we play Saturday league cricket, Sunday friendly cricket and midweek T20s so there is plenty to go around, we encourage anyone looking to start, get back into or continue playing cricket to come and check out Farley Hill. One of the most picturesque grounds in Berkshire with a friendly competitive atmosphere. If you would like to join, feel free to drop us an email or message our socials @farleyhillcc

**Andy Marr**

[Farleyhillcc@gmail.com](mailto:Farleyhillcc@gmail.com)

[www.Farleyhill.play-cricket.com](http://www.Farleyhill.play-cricket.com)



## SWALLOWFIELD ART GROUP

This term we have departed from our normal working with watercolours to explore further the world of acrylics. These paints are very different in that they are opaque, generally used much thicker and dry to a water resistant finish. These qualities mean that you can 'layer' paint and work from dark to light colours (not possible with watercolour).

With the aim of better understanding colour mixing, we studied two landscapes, one painted with a 'warm' palette and one with a 'cool' palette of colours.

When choosing your colours, it is best to stay with your cool or warm colours so that your painting will be harmonious and 'look right' to your artistic senses. It is often easy to tell which colours are warm: Cadmium red for example, rather than Alizarin Crimson, which is cool. Equally, Cadmium yellow is obviously warm, whereas lemon yellow is cool. It is less easy when it comes to the blues. A warm blue has a purple rather than a green bias and will appear to 'come forward' in a painting. Unhelpfully, artists differ on which blues they consider to be warm or cool. Generally, ultramarine blue is considered cooler, cerulean somewhere in the middle, and phthalo blue as warm.

For our paintings, we chose a limited palette of warm or cool colours. We tried to avoid using black or grey to darken colours as it dulls the shade, instead using our knowledge of colour mixing to create the required colour. A 'colour wheel' available from any art store, is very useful as an aid to accurate colour blending. The 'mix it all together and hope for the best' approach tends to lead to puddles of muddy sludge, rather than the deep tone you might have been aiming for.

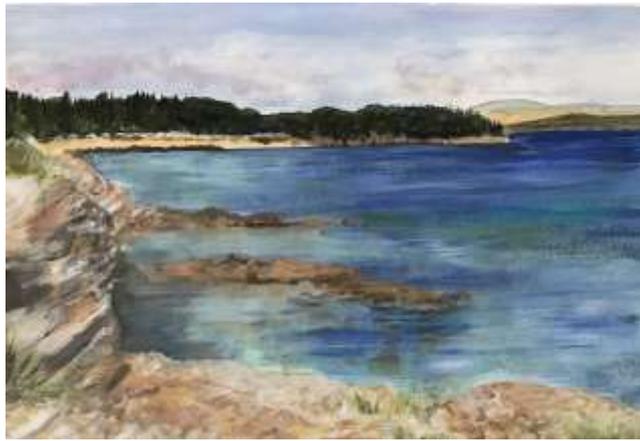
These are examples of cool and warm palette paintings created by members of the group.

If you are interested in joining the group, please call Jenny Boddington on 0118 988 5804 further details. We meet at Swallowfield Parish Hall on Mondays from 2pm to 4pm during term times.

**Patricia Taylor**



**Warm palette paintings:**



*Linda's Greek seashore*

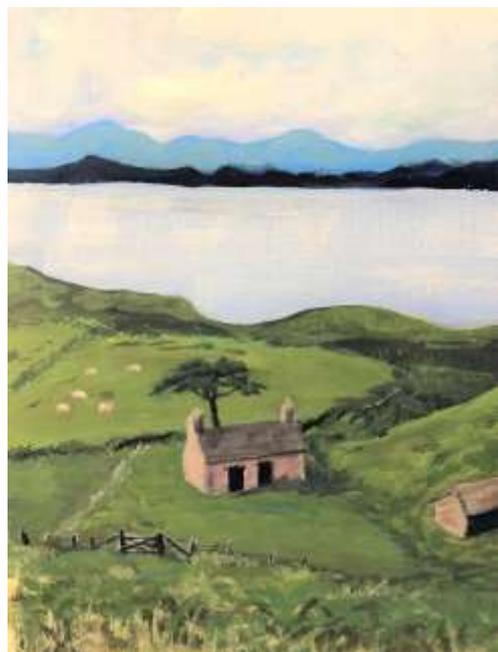
**Cool Palette Paintings:**



*Hilary's summer meadow*



*Hilary's autumn meadow*



*Pat's Scottish loch and bothy*



*And Pat's Scottish castle & loch*



*Jenny's fruity still life*



The Lodge met at the beginning of November 2021 when two members took their second step in Freemasonry and Berkshire Stewards' Lodge worked another second degree ceremony on our behalf at Sindlesham at the end of that month. The Master took a sigh of relief thinking he had caught up with the backlog of work caused by COVID, only for another new Candidate to apply to become a Freemason. He was duly initiated at an extra meeting in January.

In February, after three joining members were elected, the Lodge's third Master was installed. At the Festive Board he was able to boast to the Provincial Grand Master's representative, when he presented him with a cheque for £1,500 towards the Berkshire Masonic 2023 Festival, that the Lodge had increased its membership by 50% since it was consecrated in 2019. This was despite the problems posed by the pandemic and clearly demonstrated the need for a Village Lodge in Swallowfield.

The Lodge normally meets four times a year on the first Mondays in February (Installation), September (Ladies' Dinner Night) and November and the second Monday in May in the Marquee at the Mill House Hotel, Basingstoke Road, Swallowfield. Any local Mason that would like to join us, or any man interested in being initiated into the Fraternity should contact Tim Double (Mobile No: 07703 254350, or email: [timpac5261@live.co.uk](mailto:timpac5261@live.co.uk)) for further information. We can offer them a fascinating experience in our excellent local venue with warm fellowship and good food.

*Dr Roger H. Jago*



We are situated at the Victory Hall, Church Road, Farley Hill RG7 1TR, approximately two miles from Arborfield Cross. We will be starting to bowl outdoors again at the end of April and will always warmly welcome new members. The club mainly plays friendly matches against other clubs on Saturday and Sunday afternoons and Wednesday evenings. Anyone who would just like to try their skill at Outdoor Bowling can come along to one of our two Open Days on Sat 28<sup>th</sup> and Sun 29<sup>th</sup> May between 2.30 and 5.30pm. Bowls will be available for your use but please note that only flat-soled shoes or trainers can be worn on the Green.

For more information please visit our website – [www.farleyhillbowlsclub.org.uk](http://www.farleyhillbowlsclub.org.uk) or contact Club Secretary Bill Dowling on 01344 772130 or at [secretary@farleyhillbowlsclub.org.uk](mailto:secretary@farleyhillbowlsclub.org.uk)

*Bill Dowling*



## ALL SAINTS CHURCH, SWALLOWFIELD

All Saints was very pleased to welcome the Deacon and Fruen families for the baptisms of Elle and Jack in February, a happy occasion shared with their friends. Elle's sociable interest in people is already evident, while Jack explored every inch of the aisle and most of the toybox contents and I was struck by the expressiveness of big brother Charlie.



As these two start out in life, one of the yew trees in the church yard seems to have reached its end, as Storm Eunice brought it down, luckily missing the church by inches, and only affecting some guttering. The snowdrops seem to have survived the onslaught and by the time you read this, aconites and primroses should be in bloom. Do take a walk through the churchyard in the coming months, as the wild flowers are a delight from now till late May.

It will soon be Fete time again! We have missed this village institution in the pandemic years but we are planning our return on the usual second Saturday afternoon in June -11 June. Stan, our Punch & Judy and Magic Man, is raring to go and we hope to welcome the Yateley Morris Men back. There will be the traditional mix of stalls, entertainment and the fondly remembered afternoon tea. We look forward to seeing you there and would warmly welcome new volunteers, either to slot in to the existing stall or tea teams or to offer some new ideas. Offers of help in any capacity, in advance and/or on the day would be

very much appreciated. Please do contact me for further information. The Side Show games are always fun and we are looking for both a new organiser and some helpers, as our stalwart here has moved on.

Covid has brought many disappointments, not least the late cancellation of Carols by Candlelight and the Christmas Eve Crib Service, but we look forward to a more normal Christmas 2022. However, we had a very successful early December Christmas Market and thank you to everyone who participated as a helper and/or participant.

Another positive has been the increased virtual communication. Please contact me if you would like to join the extensive All Saints WhatsApp group or receive the weekly Newsletter with its parish, benefice and wider news such as Wokingham borough updates (and all the road closure news!)

**Barbara Stanley**

[stanleyba01@gmail.com](mailto:stanleyba01@gmail.com) or 07774817309



**SWALLOWFIELD MEDICAL PRACTICE**

**Covid-19 vaccination clinics** run by the surgery have now finished. Anybody needing a vaccine going forward should call 119 or attend one of the walk-in clinics. You can locate a walk-in clinic via the following link:-

<https://www.nhs.uk/service-search/find-a-walk-in-coronavirus-covid-19-vaccination-site>

The Partners and staff at Swallowfield Medical Practice would like so say a massive thank you to the group of parking volunteers who have helped us with these clinics and for the support of everyone at Swallowfield Parish Council. Finally, a big thank you from the Partners to the volunteer staff from Swallowfield Medical Practice – without everyone's support we would not have been able to make these clinics run as well as they did.

### **Thank you everyone**

A **new GP** will be starting at the surgery from 15<sup>th</sup> February 2022.

Dr Claire Whittaker will be working all day Tuesday with Wednesday and Thursday mornings. It is anticipated that Dr Whittaker will be a long-term placement in the practice, and we would like to extend her a warm welcome.

The **Acute Illness Team** is growing. If you need an



on-the-day appointment for a problem or condition that cannot wait, we have an extended Acute Illness Team who can help you. Please give the receptionists as much information as you can, as this will allow them to direct you to the most suitable clinician. Our team includes: -

- Doctors
- Paramedic Practitioners
- Musculoskeletal Practitioners
- Pharmacist

Your appointment may be with any one of the above clinicians.

If you have been added to a **waiting list for a Minor Op or an Injection**, we are currently putting in additional clinics and contacting patients on them. If you no longer need your appointment, please can you advise reception when they contact you?

We aim to put some of these appointments on a Saturday as well as mid-week to help people who cannot get here Monday to Friday.

**Family Planning.** We are now running regular Family Planning Clinics specifically for IUDs / IUSs. We will be adding in regular clinics for implants in the future too. If you would like to know more about these and other methods of contraception, please visit the link below prior to contacting the practice.

<https://uk.mycontraception.com/>

The following link is to an app that you can download to a mobile phone, tablet, laptop etc

[Healthnote - Your Contraception Your Choice](#)

Please note, we do not have any affiliation with Bayer and other sources of information are available.



Here's to a healthy Spring for all of us.

***The Team at SMP***

The Link Visiting Scheme supports older people who would like more company and connection.

We know that reducing those painful feelings of loneliness can improve your health, your wellbeing, and ensure that you stay independent and active for longer.

Much of what we do is through community-based friendships such as one to one connections with well matched volunteers or via group based activities such as our Monday pub lunches. Connecting older people and volunteers can be transforming bringing a renewed zest for life and a big increase in confidence. Having a few good quality friendships can give us so many health benefits and is the biggest contributor to



our well-being.

We have a variety of ways to get involved in our charity from volunteering to attending small friendship groups to finding out what clubs and organisations are happening in your area. If you would like more information please get in touch via our website at [www.linkvisiting.org/contact-us](http://www.linkvisiting.org/contact-us) or email [marjie@linkvisiting.org](mailto:marjie@linkvisiting.org) or call 0118 9798019. We recognise it's not easy to reach out but we would love to hear from you!

If you would like to support us financially, we would be so grateful. We rely on donations to help us connect volunteers with people who need friendship. Your contribution will make a significant difference to your local community [www.localgiving.org/linkvisiting](http://www.localgiving.org/linkvisiting)

## Parish Council Members and Areas of Responsibility

<b>Parish Council</b>	John Anderson - Chairman Jonathan Wheelwright - Vice Chairman Mark Binns, Catherine Drew, Laura Edmonds, Ian Fullerton Angela King, David Lamont, Margaret McDonald
<b>Planning</b> Applications, borough planning, core strategy, design statements	Jonathan Wheelwright – Chairman  All members of the Parish Council are on this committee

### Working Groups and Areas of Responsibility

Area	Members
<b>Climate Emergency</b>	David Lamont - Lead
<b>Communications</b> Newsletter, Website, Annual Report Media communication – press, television, radio How do we communicate face-to-face	David Lamont - Lead Ian Fullerton Margaret McDonald Jonathan Wheelwright
<b>Environment &amp; Rural Affairs</b> The Marshes, Van Demans, Swallowfield Meadow, Community Orchard Links with WBC, Biodiversity Plan, Footpaths, Waste, NAG, RCAG	Angela King - Lead Mark Binns David Lamont
<b>Finance</b> Budgets, Investments, Sinking Fund, Grants Asset Management, H/S Risk Assessment, Insurance	John Anderson - Lead Catherine Drew Laura Edmonds Jonathan Wheelwright
<b>Halls</b> General maintenance Marketing Group, Involvement with User	Margaret McDonald - Lead Angela King
<b>Health and Well-Being</b> Local health and well-being issues Medical practice WBC – Health and Social Care, SCAS, Responders, Heartstart, Clinical Commissioning Group, CAB, Calico Trust, Relate	Angela King - Lead Margaret McDonald
<b>Human Resources</b> Members of staff Appraisal, recruitment, staff training	Margaret McDonald - Lead (Interim) John Anderson
<b>Property</b> Fieldfayre, Hall Buildings, Land	John Anderson - Lead Catherine Drew, Jonathan Wheelwright
<b>Recreation</b> Play areas; Swallowfield, Riseley, Farley Hill, skateboard park; Recreation grounds; Swallowfield, Riseley Football pitches	Laura Edmonds - Lead Jonathan Wheelwright
<b>Resilience</b> Flooding issues, ditches, rivers, sewerage Wider involvement with issues relating to public safety.  Sub Group: Flood Resilience Group	Ian Fullerton - Lead Angela King Margaret McDonald  Ian Fullerton, Graham Stanley (Co-chair)
<b>Transport</b> Road issues, speeding traffic, public and private transport	Ian Fullerton - Lead Jonathan Wheelwright

# Swallowfield Parish Hall

Swallowfield Street, Swallowfield, RG7 1QX

## Main Hall

Great for parties and weddings



Round tables & wall dressing supplied by caterer

## Davies Room

Good for meetings, smaller parties, exercise & craft activities



## Rose Room

Perfect for more formal meetings, workshops or theatre style presentations/training



- Upholstered chairs / rectangular tables
- Well equipped kitchens for each room
- Private car park

For more details and availability please contact our Parish Office

Tel: 0118 9885444

Email: [finance\\_officer@swallowfieldpc.gov.uk](mailto:finance_officer@swallowfieldpc.gov.uk)



Newsletter Contributions for the Summer 2021 newsletter should be sent to :

[finance\\_officer@swallowfieldpc.gov.uk](mailto:finance_officer@swallowfieldpc.gov.uk) or to the Parish Council Clerk, Parish Office, Swallowfield Street, tel: 0118 988 5929 no later than May 20th 2022

**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.

## LOCAL INFORMATION AND CONTACTS

Parish Office:	0118 988 5929
Parish Stores:	0118 988 5138
All Saints' Church, Swallowfield:	0118 988 5923
Benefice secretary, (Mrs Karen Eaves)	email: <a href="mailto:office@loddonreach.org.uk">office@loddonreach.org.uk</a>
Nutbean Cemetery: all enquiries	See above
Swallowfield Medical Centre:	0118 988 3134
Appointments:	0118 988 3473
	<a href="http://www.swallowfieldmedicalpractice.co.uk">www.swallowfieldmedicalpractice.co.uk</a>
Swallowfield Community Responders:	0118 988 4384
Citizens Advice, appointments:	0118 988 3134
Royal Berkshire and Battle	0118 987 57111
Hospital Trust or	0118 322 5111
Wokingham Hospital:	0118 949 5000
Police general non-emergency:	101
Emergencies:	999
Thames Water emergency:	0800 714 614
24hr Floodline Service:	0845 988 1188
Southern Electricity emergency:	0845 770 8090
Gas Emergency:	0800 111 999
Farley Hill Primary School	0118 973 2148
Lambs Lane School:	0118 988 3820
Spencers Wood Public Library:	0118 988 4771
Local Cinema, Winnersh Triangle:	0118 974 7711

### Recycling

**Weekly Collection:** **recycling** (green bags), **food waste** (black box), **general waste** (blue bags).

Residents who are elderly or infirm can apply for an assisted collection.

**All waste types:** Take to the household waste recycling centres at Smallmead, Island Road, Reading, RG2 0RP or Longshot Lane, Bracknell, RG12 1RL where up to 80% of waste can be reused or recycled

**Garden waste:** This can be home composted or residents can opt into the **bi-weekly** kerbside garden waste collection scheme.

**Bulky household items:** You can organise a collection by calling Veolia on: (0118) 909 9360, or email [wokingham.enquiries@veolia.co.uk](mailto:wokingham.enquiries@veolia.co.uk)

## CONTACT DETAILS FOR CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

<b>Art Group</b> Jenny Boddington	988 5804
email: <a href="mailto:jenny.swallowfield@btinternet.com">jenny.swallowfield@btinternet.com</a>	
<b>Badminton</b>	
Monday Evening (Daphne):	07745180108
Thursday Afternoon, Ladies (Val Payne):	988 3594
Thursday Evening (Malcolm Stewart):	9882736
<b>Bell Ringing</b> - Tower Captain/Secretary	988 5312
(Stephen Jenkins)	<a href="mailto:s-jenkins@live.co.uk">s-jenkins@live.co.uk</a>
<b>Calico Trust</b> , Celia Adams:	988 4661
Ros Riddell	988 2014
<b>Farley Hill Bowls Club</b> (Bill Dowling):	01344 772130
email: <a href="mailto:billdowling@farleyhillbowlsclub.org.uk">billdowling@farleyhillbowlsclub.org.uk</a>	
<b>Farley Hill Cricket Club</b>	07594 110592
<a href="http://www.farleyhill.play-cricket.com">www.farleyhill.play-cricket.com</a>	
<b>Farley Hill Toddler &amp; Baby Play &amp; Sensory Group</b>	
( <a href="mailto:Zoe-meister@hotmail.co.uk">Zoe-meister@hotmail.co.uk</a> )	07745564703
<b>Farley Hill Village Society:</b>	web: <a href="http://www.fhvs.org.uk">www.fhvs.org.uk</a>
email: <a href="mailto:events@fhvs.org.uk">events@fhvs.org.uk</a>	
<b>History Society (Maggie Uttley)</b>	988 2954
email: <a href="mailto:slhsoc@yahoo.co.uk">slhsoc@yahoo.co.uk</a>	
<b>Horticultural Society</b> (Val Payne):	988 3594
<b>Riseley Village Tea Room</b> (Pam Wright):	996 7375
<b>Russell Players</b> (Juliet Devon):	<a href="mailto:russellplayers@gmail.com">russellplayers@gmail.com</a>
<a href="http://www.russellplayers.co.uk">www.russellplayers.co.uk</a>	
<b>RSF Tennis Club</b>	
<a href="https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/RiseleyTennisClub">https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/RiseleyTennisClub</a>	
Membership	<a href="mailto:membership@rsftennisclub.co.uk">membership@rsftennisclub.co.uk</a>
<b>Swallowfield Church Choir</b> (Judy Gillis)	988 2437
<b>Swallowfield Parish Allotment Association</b>	
(SPAA): Claire Hamilton, secretary	9734415
<b>Swallowfield Scout Group:</b>	
Beavers (Paul Cobbold)	988 3369
Cubs (Paul Harrington)	976 0506
Scouts (Paul Cobbold)	988 3369
Waiting list (Tanja Maskell)	988 6582
<b>Swallowfield Pitt Bridge Lodge</b> No. 9970	
Tim Double: 07703 254350	<a href="mailto:Timpac5261@live.co.uk">Timpac5261@live.co.uk</a>
<b>Swallowfield Pre-School</b>	
Helen Coulter:	0777 1184982
<a href="mailto:swfpreschool@googlemail.com">swfpreschool@googlemail.com</a>	
<b>Yoga (Bridget Jenkins):</b>	07714 326549
<b>Zen Kyo Shin Taijutsu</b> (Jim Hey):	01494 525403



## TRANSPORT INFORMATION

**Travel Enquiries:** 0871 200 2233

Calls cost up to 13p per minute 7am-10pm 7 days a week

### Local Buses

Stagecoach 0845 1210190  
Enquiries 0871 2002233  
[www.stagecoachbus.com/south](http://www.stagecoachbus.com/south)

Reading Bus 0118 959 4000  
Horseman Coaches 0118 975 3811

### Park and Ride

**Mere oak Lane/Reading Station :** For further information 0118 9594000  
[www.reading-buses.co.uk](http://www.reading-buses.co.uk)

### Trains

National Rail Enquiries 03457 48 49 50  
[www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk)  
[www.southwesttrains.co.uk](http://www.southwesttrains.co.uk)

**Keep Mobile** 0345 544 0850

**Information :** 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.

Readi-Bus: 0118 931 0000

### Airports

**Heathrow Airport:** 0844 335 180

**Gatwick Airport:** 01293 535 353

## SWALLOWFIELD PARISH HALL

For bookings call Sue Howorth on 0118 988 5444  
or email [finance\\_officer@swallowfieldpc.gov.uk](mailto:finance_officer@swallowfieldpc.gov.uk)

### HALL FEE RATES

£/Hour

#### MAIN HALL — capacity 200 (130 seated)

Monday-Friday up to 6pm	<b>£27.00</b>
Sat, Sun up to 6pm and Sun-Thurs after 6pm	<b>£41.50</b>
Fri and Saturday after 6pm	<b>£51.00</b>

#### DAVIES ROOM — capacity 40 (20 seated)

Monday-Friday up to 6pm	<b>£12.00</b>
Sat, Sun up to 6pm and Sun-Thurs after 6pm	<b>£14.50</b>
Fri and Saturday after 6pm	<b>£21.00</b>

#### ROSE ROOM - capacity 14 boardroom (30 seated theatre style)

Daytime up to 6pm	<b>£20.50</b>
Evening 6:00pm to mid-night	<b>£18.50</b>

## CONTACTING THE PARISH COUNCIL

Councillors can be contacted through Liz Halson, the Parish Clerk.

Telephone 0118 988 5929,

Email [clerk@swallowfieldpc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@swallowfieldpc.gov.uk)

Website: [www.swallowfieldpc.gov.uk](http://www.swallowfieldpc.gov.uk)

## Victory Hall, Farley Hill

Contact details:

The Victory Hall [hire@victoryhalltrust.com](mailto:hire@victoryhalltrust.com)

or leave a message on 0118 324 6600  
(Allow at least 24h for a response please.)

Or go to [www.victoryhalltrust.com/hiring-the-hall/](http://www.victoryhalltrust.com/hiring-the-hall/) for comprehensive information, hire fees and hire contract.



# The Swallowfield Calico Trust

is an historic Charity that is for residents of Swallowfield Parish only  
(comprising Riseley, Swallowfield, Farley Hill and Stanford End)  
Registered Charity number: 236154

## **Do you need help?**

For people living in Swallowfield Parish (which includes Riseley, Swallowfield, Farley Hill, Stanford End and Loddon Court Farm) the Calico Trust can provide financial help to anyone who may be struggling or in difficulty, especially during these uncertain times. You can either fill in the application form at the back of this Newsletter or call one of us below. **Please don't suffer in silence! We are here to help.**

Call Ros on 9882014 or Celia on 9884661 (or 07946654424)

Who can we help – any individual or group in the Parish who is in need, hardship or distress  
How can we help – either by making a grant of money or by providing or paying for items, services or facilities calculated to reduce the need, hardship or distress of such individuals or groups. This includes making donations or subscriptions to institutions or organisations which provide, or undertake in return to provide, such items, services or facilities for such people.

Maximum grant - £500 (larger grants may be considered in exceptional circumstances)  
How to apply – fill out the form below and return it to the Trustees (details at the end of the form)

# Application Form

Applications should be made using this form and attaching the supporting information requested.  
**Please ask if you require assistance with completing the form or if you need it in larger type.**

For all grant applications The Calico Trust will:-

- acknowledge/respond to all grant enquiries/applications
- consider requests for grant aid twice a year (usually April & October) but if you have an urgent need then your application will be considered immediately
- keep all information provided strictly confidential

Name : \_\_\_\_\_

Group's Name (where applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Post Code \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone Number: Day: \_\_\_\_\_

Evening: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile tel: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of grant or donation sought: £ \_\_\_\_\_

AND/OR Item, service or facility required: \_\_\_\_\_



## SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Please provide as much supporting information as possible and include this with your Application form.

Please specify how the grant will be used and provide details of how the help you are seeking from The Calico Trust will contribute towards reducing your need, hardship or distress. You may include any other information you feel will be helpful to your application.

(Use a separate sheet of paper if necessary)

---

### Conditions of Grant

All people applying to the Calico Trust for a grant must complete the Declaration below.

All information provided in connection with this grant must be true and correct.

All people receiving a grant will be required to acknowledge receipt of the grant and, within 3-6 months, must confirm that the funds have been used for the purpose(s) stated in this application.

For grants covering regular subscriptions (i.e. to a club etc) a new grant form will be required every 6 or 12 months depending on the particular activity.

The Calico Trust reserves the right to monitor the way in which grants have been/are being spent and to recover the grant if it is not used for the purpose(s) specified in the application.

### DECLARATION

I, (name *please print*) .....

declare that I have noted the conditions under which grants are made and confirm that, if my application is successful, I will abide by them.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return the completed application form, together with your supporting information to:- The Swallowfield Calico Trust, c/o Celia Adams, The Old School, School Road, Riseley, Berks RG7 1XN

Email: [celia8844@gmail.com](mailto:celia8844@gmail.com)

Tel: 0118 9884661

