



Swallowfield Parish

Newsletter

March 2023

COMMUNITY LITTER PICK

Residents of all ages are invited to don their hi-vis vests and grab their litter pickers to support this year's community litter pick, as part of the Great British Spring Clean, Keep Britain Tidy's annual national campaign.

We will be meeting in the Davies Room at Swallowfield Parish Hall between 10.00am-4.00pm on Saturday 25 March. Litter pickers, sacks, hi-vis vests, and of course refreshments, will be provided. Please wear gloves and sturdy shoes.

Last year more than 70 residents helped to fill over 200 sacks of litter, alongside the larger items also retrieved – a fantastic effort.

A special thank you to local resident and former councillor Peter Sampson and Claire Sampson for once again taking the lead on organising the event, and to everyone else involved.

To register or for further information, please contact Peter Sampson on 0118 9885 929 or email Liz Halson clerk@swallowfieldpc.gov.uk.



News in Brief

FLY TIPPERS FACE ACTION

A reminder that fly tipping is a criminal offence for which you can be prosecuted and fined. For more information on fly tipping, or to report a case, please visit: www.wokingham.gov.uk/roadworksand-outdoor-maintenance/fly-tipping.

BULB WATCH

Last autumn, councillors and residents planted 1,500 Daffodil bulbs in Swallowfield, Riseley and Farley Hill. If you see any popping up around the Parish, please do take and send us a photo.



MEET YOUR COUNCIL

Born and educated in Canada, I came to England in 1966 to do postgraduate research at Imperial College. In 1981 I moved to Swallowfield with my wife and children and, over the years, have become very familiar with Swallowfield and our local community.

My working life spanned a range of operational and management roles, several with leading international companies, and concluded as an independent business consultant.

Following retirement, I sought an opportunity to use the knowledge and experience gained through a lifetime in business and industry to 'give something back' to society. This led to me joining the charity 'South Bucks Riding for the Disabled Association' where I served for 9 years as Trustee and Group Treasurer.

More recently I looked for opportunities to make a contribution closer to home and was fortunate to join the council in 2020. Since joining SPC I have been focussed on traffic calming measures and how we can improve the comfort and safety of our local roads for all users.

I have a particular interest in protecting our local environment and the rural character of our village.

Cllr Ian Fullerton

Planning Chair and Transport Lead
ian.fullerton@swallowfieldpc.gov.uk



WELCOME

The light evenings are reappearing, the birds are tentatively starting to sing and it feels like spring is just around the corner. I've already seen lambs in the fields near Hurst (and I wrote this in mid February!) The cold weather before Christmas has meant that the Snowdrops were late in appearing but they seem doubly magnificent this year making a carpet of white in the Church churchyard. Of course, soon we will have the newly planted Daffodil bulbs bursting out across the Parish providing that sunny yellow splash of colour.

Things in the Parish move on regardless of the season – and quickly. A new planning application has gone in to convert the old Farley Hill School into a special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) school. The village has missed the energy and vitality of the primary school – so this is great news, and so much better than the site being redeveloped into housing.

The Parish planning team have mobilised, getting our Neighbourhood Plan (NP) underway. Cllr Simon Taylor is leading for the Parish Council and has been talking to other parishes to get their advice on the most important policies to protect and enhance our villages, environment and community. First up, we need to define the scope for the plan and consider what the key objectives will be. The NP has to be positive, defining the types of development and design that is good for our Parish. Simon led a very positive meeting with Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) to explain and get feedback on our early plans. Please get in touch with Simon if you'd like to help!

Likewise, Cllr Ian Fullerton has been working closely with Shinfield Parish Council to develop a coordinated

traffic management plan across the two parishes in readiness to take a proposal to WBC. This is early days – but a huge thank you to Ian and the Speedwatch teams who continue to work so hard to improve traffic safety on the Parishes' streets. We have been disappointed with Thames Valley Police's slow response in contacting speeding drivers but had a positive meeting with our local Police and Crime Commissioner, Matthew Barber, to explore ways to improve their processes.

There is a new initiative called Building Berkshire Together which is looking at options on where and how to redevelop the Royal Berkshire Hospital. They need a substantial site with 20-25 acres. They explored redeveloping the current site, but the site's traffic/parking and the practicalities of substantially reengineering a working hospital looked impossibly difficult to manage. Instead, they are looking at three sites for a new build hospital - Wokingham, Green Park and the Science Park in Shinfield. They had hoped to start construction in 2025, completing in 2030, but believe that those dates are now ambitious. There's a survey underway – so do get your views out there. If you'd like to know more visit www.buildingberkshiretogether.co.uk. On a downbeat note, as you may have seen there has been a spate of vandalism at the Parish Hall. If you can help with any information, please contact our Parish Clerk or the police.

The annual Parish litter pick is on 25 March – run once again by Peter and Claire Sampson. It's an enjoyable day out and great for our environment – and there are refreshments too. Please come and join us; we'd love to see you there.

Cllr Jonathan Wheelwright

Chair
jonathan.wheelwright@swallowfield.pc.gov.uk

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Waste and recycling update

In our response to the climate emergency, published in 2021, two of our stated aims are to 'Review and recommend how we can reduce the environmental impact of our premises and operations' and 'Minimise the level of waste going to landfill or incineration and increase the availability of bins for recyclable waste in the Parish'. We are therefore very pleased to have introduced new indoor waste and recycling bins at Swallowfield Parish Hall, Riseley Village Tea Room and Riseley Tennis Club. These mean that users and club members can now separate their mixed recyclables from general waste. Items that can now be

placed in the new recycling bins include paper and cardboard, drinks cans and plastic bottles, pots, tubs and trays. New bins for outdoor use will also be coming soon in Swallowfield and Riseley. Please note that Wokingham Borough Council is responsible for the King George V Playing Field in Farley Hill. Please use all bins as labelled and note that the above arrangements are not for residential or commercial waste disposal. Fly-tipping is an offence and any offenders may face a fine or prosecution. Effective from 1 December 2022, and following a recent tender,

we appointed a single waste provider to handle the Parish Council's general waste, mixed recyclables, cardboard and dog waste. This provides both a more comprehensive and cost-effective approach going forward. For further information on how to recycle in our local area, please see Wokingham Borough Council's website, the re3cyclopeda website and app and the local TerraCycle collection scheme, raising funds for good causes, run by Alison Chaney. Cllr David Lamont
Vice-Chair, Communications Lead and Environment Lead
david.lamont@swallowfieldpc.gov.uk

VANDALISM
Unfortunately, fencing and gate locks in Swallowfield Recreation Ground have again been vandalised. The incidents occurred at around 6.20pm on Thursday 2 February. If you have any information, please contact clerk@swallowfieldpc.gov.uk or

Thames Valley Police. We will be working to repair things as soon as possible. Until then, please be careful in this area. CCTV is in operation at our premises in Swallowfield and Riseley. A recording of this incident has been passed to Thames Valley Police and

Wokingham Borough Council's Anti-Social Behaviour team has also been informed. We have a zero-tolerance policy regarding any form of anti-social or criminal behaviour.



MEETING WITH THAMES VALLEY POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER, MATTHEW BARBER

On 10 January the Parish Council met with Matthew Barber, Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley Police.

The purpose of the meeting was to gain traction with the police to address speeding in all parts of the Parish, the noise and disruption from night-time road racers and concerns over the operation of TVP's Community Speedwatch scheme.

The Parish Council emphasised safety issues, especially as they affect children and older residents, and the problems stemming from the Parish's location, at a crossroads of popular commuter routes. Mr Barber was very sympathetic to the Council's case and went away with a number of constructive suggestions, proposed by the Council, to improve on the current situation. The Parish Council looks forward to meeting with him for an update in a few months' time.

Cllr Ian Fullerton
Planning Chair and Transport Lead
ian.fullerton@swallowfieldpc.gov.uk



NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

We have applied to Wokingham Borough Council to have our Parish designated as a Neighbourhood Area, for the purpose of developing a Neighbourhood Plan.

Neighbourhood plans are developed by a community, working together to decide how their local area should develop and grow in

the future. The Localism Act (2011) introduced neighbourhood planning.

Neighbourhood plans must be in general conformity with the policies of the local plan for their area and they should plan positively to support it. However, and importantly, they give us the opportunity to steer and influence changes.

There is a lot of information available, including at www.neighbourhoodplanning.org, and local examples can be found on Wokingham Borough Council's website (search for planning policy).

Although the Parish Council has initiated the process, and will be heavily involved, it is important that the final plan is a reflection of the needs of the whole

community, and so we will shortly be seeking local residents to join the development group and even to lead it if you are willing. Look out for further updates in the coming months.

Cllr Simon Taylor
Member, Health and Wellbeing, Neighbourhood Plan, Transport and Recreation
simon.taylor@swallowfieldpc.gov.uk





Speedwatch Update

As many of you will have noticed, Speedwatch operations have been suspended over the winter months. This was primarily due to darkness during morning and evening rush hours, our most productive monitoring times. As the days lengthen, and the weather improves, you should expect to see us again by the roadside at various locations around the Parish.

Measured by the number of offenders recorded, our operations last year were very successful. In over six months of monitoring, more than 1,000 vehicles were reported to Thames Valley Police. However, a number of concerns have been expressed about the operation,

administration and effectiveness of the scheme.

In January the council met with Matthew Barber, Police and Crime Commissioner for the Thames Valley, to discuss these concerns. The meeting was very positive and we are optimistic that significant improvements will be forthcoming. Indeed, some already have.

A Speedwatch forum will be held at Swallowfield Parish Hall in the next month, to update all our Speedwatchers, refresh everyone on technology and procedures, and agree plans for the year ahead. An invitation will be issued shortly. All current operators, and anyone

interested in joining our team, are encouraged to attend. Please watch out for an announcement on Facebook, or contact the Parish Clerk, for details.

Cllr Ian Fullerton
Planning Chair and Transport Lead
 ian.fullerton@swallowfieldpc.gov.uk



FUNDING SECURED FOR LOCAL BUS SERVICE

The immediate future of our local bus route, the 600 service, was secured at a meeting of Wokingham Borough Council's (WBC) executive on Thursday 16 February.

Wokingham Borough Council has extended its financial support, which was due to expire at the end of March, until 31 August 2023.

Wokingham Borough Council has said: "The council is striving to protect buses and recognises their importance as a healthy, affordable way of getting to school, work or social commitments, especially given the cost of living crisis. It is also committed to addressing the climate emergency while reducing air pollution and traffic congestion."

The existing contracts first ended on 30 June last year but the council extended them with extra funding to allow a retender for the same service levels, at the same cost, over the winter. However, this was unsuccessful.

WBC had agreed another extension to put these services out

to tender for three more years from September, this time with scope for increased costs.

Tenders for these services should go out next month with a view to awarding them in May.

Both the extended funding and new contracts will be covered, in part, by payments that developers building new homes in the borough must make towards services and infrastructure.

A growth bid for £350,000 per year has also been submitted in the Council's 2023-24 medium-term financial plan.

Cllr Paul Fishwick, executive member for active travel, transport and highways at WBC, said: "It's still an incredibly tough climate for bus operators, but we're determined to support them because it would be so much harder to revive any routes once they're gone."

"Looking ahead, we have to be serious about reducing as many car trips as we reasonably can - and a robust, comprehensive public transport network is critical."

"We're doing everything in our power to ensure the bus will always be an option for you and your children, but we can't do this alone and need you to support them if they are to have a future."

Cllr David Lamont, Vice Chair of Swallowfield Parish Council, said: "We are pleased that short-term funding has been put in place by WBC to provide residents who depend on and regularly use the 600 route with much needed continuity and surety."

"We will continue to work with WBC to help ensure that our local bus service is funded and remains in place over the longer term and provide updates when available."

Cllr David Lamont
Vice-Chair, Communications Lead and Environment Lead
 david.lamont@swallowfieldpc.gov.uk

BUS FUNDING SECURED



Councillors' roles and responsibilities

PARISH COUNCIL

Jonathan Wheelwright – Chairman
David Lamont – Vice Chairman
John Anderson, Mark Binns, Catherine Drew, Laura Edmonds,
Ian Fullerton, Margaret McDonald, Simon Taylor

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Applications, borough planning, core strategy, village design statements, appeals, enforcement issues.
Ian Fullerton – Chairman
All members of the Parish Council are on this committee

Subgroup of residents and councillors: Neighbourhood Plan TBC – Joint Lead (Resident)
Simon Taylor – Joint Lead (Parish Council)

WORKING GROUPS, SUBGROUPS AND AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY:

Area	Members
Communication Oversees our ongoing communications, projects and actions. This includes our website, newsletter, social media and annual report, media liaison and crisis and reputation management.	David Lamont – Lead Laura Edmonds Ian Fullerton Margaret McDonald Jonathan Wheelwright
Environment & Rural Affairs Proposes and monitors projects and actions in relation to our green spaces and the natural environment. This includes areas such as The Marshes, Van Demans, Swallowfield Meadow and the Community Orchard, as well as footpaths. It also involves maintaining links with Wokingham Borough Council, having a biodiversity plan, waste and recycling and NAG and RCAG meetings. Also proposes and monitors projects and actions to help address the climate emergency, working in collaboration with our other working groups where relevant.	David Lamont – Lead Mark Binns Margaret McDonald
Subgroup of residents and councillors: Van Demans project	Angela King (resident) – Lead Mark Binns David Lamont Margaret McDonald
Finance Oversees our finances, including budgets, investments, accounts and annual returns, bank accounts and reserves, the precept, grants, CIL receipts, asset management, risk assessment, health and safety, audit and insurance.	John Anderson – Lead Catherine Drew Laura Edmonds Ian Fullerton Jonathan Wheelwright

Area	Members
Halls Oversees the general maintenance, upkeep and running of our halls. This includes marketing, compliance, health and safety, engagement with users and safeguarding.	Margaret McDonald – Lead Catherine Drew
Health and Wellbeing Proposes and monitors projects and actions in relation to local health and wellbeing issues, including Wokingham Borough Council Health and Social Care, South Central Ambulance Service, the Clinical Commissioning Group, Swallowfield Medical Practice, Swallowfield Community Responders, Heartstart Swallowfield, Citizens' Advice Wokingham and the Calico Trust.	John Anderson – Lead Margaret McDonald Simon Taylor
Human Resources Oversees our members of staff and all HR matters, including performance management and appraisals, recruitment, staff training, remuneration, staff well-being & discipline.	Catherine Drew – Lead John Anderson Margaret McDonald Jonathan Wheelwright
Property Oversees our premises and properties including Fieldfare Court, Swallowfield Parish Stores, our halls and clubhouse buildings (structure, fixtures & fittings), leases, grazing licences and land titles.	Catherine Drew – Lead John Anderson Jonathan Wheelwright
Resilience Proposes and monitors projects and actions in relation to certain threats and issues, including flooding, ditches, rivers and sewerage. This also includes wider involvement with issues relating to public safety, a Local Emergency Plan and emergency equipment.	Margaret McDonald – Lead Mark Binns
Subgroup of residents and councillors: Flood Resilience Group (FRG)	Graham Stanley (resident) – Lead Mark Binns Margaret McDonald
Recreation Proposes and monitors projects and actions in relation to our recreation grounds and play areas, football pitches, tennis courts and RSF Tennis Club, the skate park; allotments and Swallowfield Parish Allotment Association (SPAA).	Laura Edmonds – Lead Simon Taylor
Transport Proposes and monitors projects and actions in relation to road issues, Speedwatch, public and private transport.	Ian Fullerton – Lead Mark Binns David Lamont Simon Taylor



COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

As first explained over a year ago, following a review of how we communicate with you as a Parish Council, we decided to make a number of (hopefully) positive changes.

This began in 2021 with the introduction of a communications policy, which is available on our website or upon request from the Parish Clerk.

It was followed in May last year by the introduction of our refreshed logo, designed to provide a more contemporary and both print and digital friendly take on the previous version. The colour palette reflects the beautiful green area, filled with nature, in which we live.

We seek to post regularly on our Facebook page and have seen a significant increase in the number of people following, viewing and engaging with our content in the past 18 months. Please do follow our page if you don't already.

In autumn, the first of our new-look printed newsletters was delivered to homes in the Parish. We are very pleased to have received some lovely and very kind feedback from residents on our two editions to date, and indeed from a number of people who live elsewhere in the Borough. Thank you to everyone locally who continues to contribute each time; it is always fascinating to see how much is happening.

Finally, our brand new (and much improved!) website launched on 1 March. It aims to share and signpost

you to helpful information and updates. Please do visit www.swallowfieldpc.gov.uk and take a look.

As Rollo May, an American Psychologist once said: "Communication leads to community." We do hope you agree that our fresh approach has helped to further improve our shared awareness and understanding of what is happening in our Parish and our collective sense of community.

Cllr David Lamont
Vice-Chair, Communications Lead and Environment Lead
david.lamont@swallowfieldpc.gov.uk

Local clubs and groups



Barbara Stanley

CHURCH UPDATE

As we begin to see the spring flowers appear in the churchyard, Christmas seems a long time ago, but it was heart-warmingly 'normal' again. The Christmas Market crowd enjoyed coffee, cake and Christmas treats, while the children's craft table was always busy. The Farley Singers added immeasurably to Carols by (lots of) Candlelight and they will be back for Palm Sunday Concert (see the advert later on).

The Church was packed for the Christmas Eve Crib Service. Sadly, the two year gap broke the continuity for a few older children, but I have accrued good teenage readers for next year, which, with the heavenly

host of very young angels and their shepherds, means the future is assured. Baby Jesus didn't spend long in his manger before two tiny angels sequestered him, after a bit of a tussle. Both our own Rev Cath Spence and our new Rector, Rev Nigel Beer clarified the joy of the Christmas amid the carols of Midnight Mass and on Christmas morning.

We enter 2023 refreshed and look forward to seeing you at Easter and put the Fete date in your diaries - Saturday 10 June, with Donations Day on Saturday 3 June.

Welcome from the Team Rector: Rev. Nigel Beer

I have already had the pleasure of meeting



some of you out and about in the village. I am originally from Yorkshire and grew up in a village with a church where, as in Swallowfield, there was a strong sense of local identity and great awareness of its history and heritage. I attended the church as a child and, in my late teens, came to discover a living faith of my own. Many were surprised that this shy teenager ended up as a vicar in the Church of England!

What are my hopes for the village and church of All Saints? There is much to celebrate in the life of the village – good community connections, people caring for one another and the support



of various activities and events. Nevertheless, there is always more. Much of what happens reflects the positive qualities of the Kingdom of God and is to be celebrated, but some aspects of life with God can only be discovered as one moves from 'believing in God' to being a disciple of Jesus. My desire is for you to know the risen Lord Jesus and that together we may grow in our faith and demonstrate God's love, serving Him and the community of Swallowfield. My prayer is that we discover life in all its fullness that is promised by Jesus (John 10:10).



Swallowfield Parish Allotment Association

Sue, Plot Holder

What challenging winter weather our allotment has seen this year! In early December the whole site froze as we were hit by a cold blast and then by mid-December almost the whole site was under water! The water levels had only receded by the end of January, leaving a muddy quagmire that is going to take a while to dry out. We have



have to be a priority!

But this hasn't stopped plotters from planning for the new season and getting their potatoes chitting and seedlings started in the relative warmth of the polytunnel or window-ledges at home. We are delighted that all plots are taken for the new season and that the waiting list has now shrunk. We still have three raised beds ready for use by a family with children who would like to learn about growing their own fruit and vegetables, or someone who only needs a small bed rather than a whole plot. Please contact us if you are interested in one of these. Until the weather and ground improve, there are still plenty of jobs to be done including mending stakes, wires and netting or

preparing the soil by digging and spreading manure. Plan your crops and order your seeds, getting a head start by planting them in seed trays indoors.

Want to know more?

Please visit or email www.swallowfieldallotment.org secretary@swallowfieldpaa.org



Carolyn Clark, Treasurer

SWALLOWFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

What a relief to see Snowdrops and Hellebores bobbing their delicate heads in the breeze despite the recent icy mornings! I have been amazed to see Daffodils in full bloom on my walks around the village, and had to double check that it was in fact still January. It's a sure sign that spring is on the way.

On the subject of spring, we are holding the Spring Show on 25 March. We would love to see some new faces joining us. The schedule can be found on our website, www.swallowfieldshow.co.uk. Do take a look and why not bring along some spring cheer to exhibit. As there are 13 different divisions of Daffodil, that part of the show should be very varied. We have moved the Show to the afternoon to make it easier for everyone. Please do join us between 2.00pm and 4.00pm (staging from 11.00am) for a cheerful afternoon and a cup of tea. There is always something to talk about with gardening and we learn so much by chatting with each other about what works (and what does not) in our own gardens.

The Society AGM was held on the 26 January and committee members were duly elected for the next year. We were very pleased to report that all donations to

Maggie Uttley, Secretary

SWALLOWFIELD LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

The History Society continues to thrive, with speakers who seem to encourage members and friends to come to our meetings. They certainly enjoyed hearing from Natalie Gaibani (the daughter of Viscount Bearsted, who owns the Farley Estate). In December she talked about her family's history and their ownership of the Estate. The evening ended with Mulled Wine and nibbles which gave everyone the opportunity to chat and wish each other a great Christmas.

We welcomed in 2023 with our annual New Year Dinner at the Mill House Hotel in Swallowfield – a happy occasion with good food and good company.

local charities following the 2022 Swallowfield Show had been made and various committee members enjoyed visiting the charities to present the donations and learn a bit more about what each does.

As well as planning the Spring Show we are busy with preparations for this year's Swallowfield Show, which will be held on 27 and 28 August. Put the date in your diaries! If you would like to volunteer we'd be grateful. Please email Graham Stanley chairman@swallowfieldshow.co.uk.

Happy Gardening!



February and March finish our 'year' and we'll welcome our archivist, Jennifer Highwood, to present her findings about 'Ladies at the Park' and March brings our year to a close with the AGM.

The programme for 2023/24 is planned and we have some interesting speakers lined up, as well as a visit to the Ice House on the Farley Estate and a tour of our historic All Saints Church in June.

We welcome members and visitors to our meetings and invite anyone else interested in local history to come and join us. We meet on the third Thursday of the month in the Rose Room at Swallowfield Parish Hall.

Please visit www.slhsoc.org.uk or email slhsoc@yahoo.co.uk.

Mary Sangster and Penny Guard

FARLEY HILL SINGERS

As the pandemic recedes, our cultural life is returning. we are planning a concert on Palm Sunday, 2 April, 7.00pm – 9.00pm, at All Saints Church in Swallowfield. We will present a sequence of seasonal baroque anthems, followed by a performance of John Stainer's 'Crucifixion' - a well-loved piece for Easter involving choir, audience and soloists.

For this piece we will be joined by a 'come and sing' Choir, which you are invited to join - just

click the link or use the QR code in our advert to sign up. Audience members are welcome to join us for the performance, starting at 7.00pm. Interval refreshments will be served, including wine and nibbles. There is a small fee for singers to cover the cost of music hire/purchase but attendance as an audience member is free of charge. A retiring collection will be taken in aid of Share Shinfield and All Saints Church. Looking forward to seeing you!

FARLEY SINGERS INVITE YOU TO COME AND SING STAINER'S CRUCIFIXION

SUNDAY 2ND APRIL 2023
ALL SAINTS CHURCH SWALLOWFIELD
REHEARSAL 4.30 - 6PM
PERFORMANCE 7 - 9PM

OPTIONAL PRACTICES WEDNESDAY 22, MONDAY 27, FRIDAY 31 MARCH
 Singers free (own music), £2 (inc music hire) or £7 (inc music purchase)
 Audience (7-9pm) Free entry; retiring collection in aid of Share Shinfield and All Saints Church Swallowfield
 Interval drinks and nibbles (donations)

Sign up using this link or 

Bill Dowling, retiring FHBC Secretary

FARLEY HILL BOWLS CLUB

It is with much sadness and regret that I have to tell readers that Farley Hill Bowls Club closed down last October, due to a declining and aging membership no longer being able to run the club and maintain the bowling green. We will finally leave the Victory Hall at the end of March. We sincerely hope the Victory Hall trustees will make best use of the bowling green without us. We are leaving enough essential bowling equipment to support their aim of adequately maintaining the green to encourage enough casual bowlers from local U3As and other local organisations to want to hire the green for their individual use. Besides Lawn Bowls, the green has much potential for use as a croquet lawn, since the high standard of lawn maintenance required is much the same. They can and do work well together because croquet hoops only make small holes which helps to aerate the lawn. Anyone interested in pursuing either of these sports at Farley Hill should now contact the www.victoryhalltrust.com.

RISELEY, SWALLOWFIELD & FARLEY HILL CHARITABLE TRUST

JUMBLE SALE

Join us on...
4TH MARCH 2023
 FROM **2 PM**
 SWALLOWFIELD VILLAGE HALL

TEA & CAKE, CLOTHES, TOYS, BRICK-A-BRAC, BOOKS & MORE...

All donations must be delivered to the parish hall between **8.30am and 11am** on the morning of the sale. All donations will be vetted to ensure they are in a saleable condition. Thank you!



**Swallowfield Parish Council
Clean Up Day 2023**

Meeting at the Davies Room, Swallowfield Parish Hall, RG7 1QX on Saturday 25 March 2023 between 10am-4pm

Please come along and lend a hand but remember to wear gloves, strong footwear and suitable clothing

Please bring along your own litter picker and Hi Vis if you have them otherwise they can be provided while stocks last

Refreshments will be provided

For further details please contact Peter Sampson on 01189 885929 or email clerk@swallowfieldpc.gov.uk

LOVE your neighbourhood
Help keep it green!



Riseley Tennis Club

Do you want to join a friendly local tennis club with four floodlight courts, a lovely club house and a full social tennis calendar? We are competitive too, with teams in both the Berkshire and Basingstoke leagues. We boast a strong junior membership, with coaching on weekdays and weekends, and there are fun tennis camps in the school holidays. Private coaching is available from our amazing club coach and his team, Michael Fairburn, who also coaches our teams and leads club group sessions. Annual membership costs are competitive and as follows: Family - £230pa, Individual - £125, Off-peak - £60, Junior - £30. The club house is also available for hire for private functions. For all enquiries, please email membership@riseleytennisclub.co.uk.



Tim Double, Secretary

SWALLOWFIELD PITT BRIDGE LODGE

Our Lodge meeting on Monday 6 February was once again a sombre occasion as it was the first meeting since the death of Mark Ashley, our second Master. Mark's loss followed the death of Roger Jago, our founding Master. Together, it was their drive and enthusiasm that led to the formation of Swallowfield Pitt Bridge Lodge and Mark was instrumental in arranging that we meet at The Mill House Hotel. He will be sadly missed by the Lodge. He lived respected and died regretted. After a fitting tribute to Mark, Lodge business resumed. Dean Padbury

was installed as our new Master in the presence of the Deputy Provincial Master for Berkshire, Peter Sands. The installation was carried out by our outgoing Master, John McDermott. Dean appointed his Officers for the ensuing year. We then balloted for a new member, a local man who will be initiated in May. Another local man was proposed and seconded. He will be our September Candidate. Mark and Roger's dream flourishes as the Lodge continues to grow and prosper. The evening concluded with an excellent dinner in convivial company where the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were observed. Our next regular meeting will be

on 18 May, one week later than usual because of King Charles's Coronation.

The Lodge meets four times a year in the marquee at the Mill House Hotel in Swallowfield. Meetings are on the first Monday in February (installation), September and November, and the second Monday in May. If you are interested in being initiated into the Fraternity, or you are a local Mason who would like to join us, please contact Tim Double. Call 07703 254 350 or email timpac5261@live.co.uk.

Pam Wright, Manager

RISELEY VILLAGE TEA ROOM

Applications are invited for the paid position of Tea Room Manager at Riseley Village Tea Room. I am planning to retire in this our tenth year and an enthusiastic capable replacement is needed. The time is now ripe to move forward with new ideas for the Tea Room and the Memorial Hall. The Tea Room operates with a small number of permanent paid staff and wonderful unpaid volunteers. Unless we can find someone to take over, sadly the Tea Room will close. If you are interested and have the energy and enthusiasm, please get in touch by calling 0118 996 7375 or via our Facebook page.



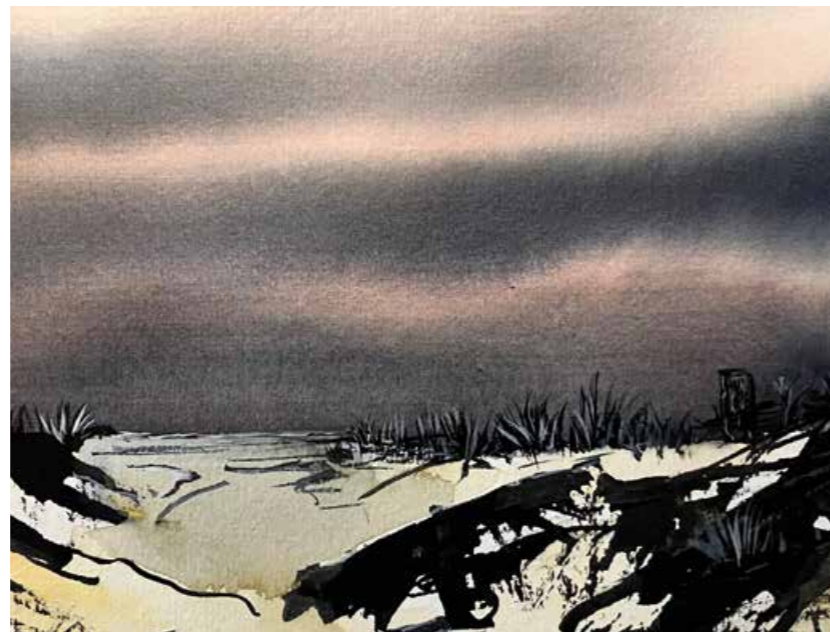
THE CALICO TRUST

Are you cold? We can help!

The cost of living and energy crisis is causing many people to struggle with heating their homes and providing enough food for their families. If you, or someone you know, is having financial difficulties due to this or for any other reason, your local charity, the Swallowfield Calico Trust, is here to help. Just give us a call or email us. All enquiries are treated confidentially.

Celia Adams
Call 0118 988 4661/07946 654424
or email celia8844@gmail.com.

Ros Riddell
Call 0118 988 2014 or email
ros.riddell@btinternet.com.



SWALLOWFIELD ART GROUP

Patricia Taylor

Our class this term has been experimenting with creating moody semi-abstract landscapes in watercolour. This technique focused on the creation of a dramatic sky using a limited palette of two or three contrasting colours, plus black ink to create intense contrasts and shapes in the foreground.

Once the sky was dry, we turned our attention to the lower portion of the paper; here our intention was to create abstract shapes in ink, using a variety of implements (palette knives, orange sticks, twigs, credit cards) as well as brushes to vary the lines. Acrylic ink has the huge advantage of being waterproof once dry, so it can be overpainted without smudging. The idea was to create random shapes that might suggest objects such as trees or other landscape elements. This section could then be overpainted in watercolour to create an abstract landscape.

Once dry, this section could be enhanced using a black pen to heighten the impression of landscape elements. In the examples shown here of members' work we have: a dramatic purple sky contrasting beautifully with an ochre and grey foreground to suggest a bleakly

beautiful scene; a pink and grey scene reminiscent of Japanese brushwork; and a pink and grey sky over starkly suggested sand dunes.

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



Paul Schulz

SWALLOWFIELD VELO CLUB

We are a friendly cycling club based in Swallowfield. We ride every Sunday morning, with longer rides and events from spring to autumn. Our members range from social riders to more competitive spirits, from their teens to their 60s.

If you're looking for a club to expand your cycling, are a visiting cyclist or a triathlete, you are welcome to join us on a ride to see what we're like. Our rides depart from School Green, Shinfield, every Sunday at 08:00am (08:30am in winter). Rides are typically 40 to 70 miles, with a coffee stop in the middle, which run in three groups:

- Main Group rides circa 45 miles at around 15 mph
- Swift Group rides circa 50 miles at around 16.5 mph
- Fast Group rides circa 55 miles at 17 mph +

Ride details are published weekly on our members' Facebook page, with outline information on our open Facebook page.

If you want to join us for a ride, please contact us via our Facebook page. From April to September we also run newcomer rides on the first Sunday of the month with speeds to accommodate all, to introduce new members to club riding.



Martin Griffin

SWALLOWFIELD BADMINTON CLUB (MONDAY)

We have spaces for new members early in 2023, on Mondays from 8:00pm to 10:00pm. We find social badminton is a great way to keep fit through low impact exercise and to make new friends.

We are a friendly group based around the villages of Swallowfield, Riseley, Spencers Wood and Shinfield. Our playing standards are varied and we are a non-league club. We hope to see you soon!

PS *Ask about our first free 'taster' evening!

Please contact Daphne on 07745 180 108 or email daphne_seamark@hotmail.com.

A separate group of friends plays on Thursdays, and would also welcome new members. Please contact Malcolm on 0118 988 2736.



Andy Marr, Captain

FARLEY HILL CRICKET CLUB

As we look to the spring of 2023 Farley Hill Cricket Club is once again preparing for a season of friendly and competitive cricket. In a year that included an ODI World Cup and the Ashes the excitement for not just playing but watching some great cricket this year is building.

The Saturday league teams will, as usual, compete in the Berkshire Cricket League. Looking to further cement their position in the league and push for promotion. The midweek T20 continues to be affiliated with the Bracknell Midweek league and the friendly XI have almost booked themselves out for every Sunday throughout the summer.

The start of preseason training in late January left those that attended stiff for several days. Many village cricketers will tell you this is a rite of passage that is best tackled a few weeks before May, so an early commitment will see those that miss future training having to recondition themselves.

Farley Hill CC is always looking for new members at all levels, should you wish to join us for either a social or competitive game then please get in touch.

Visit www.farleyhill.play-cricket.com or email farleyhillcc@gmail.com.

LOCAL MEMBER UPDATE

Stuart Munro,
Member for Swallowfield,
Wokingham Borough
Council

Following my last report, we have now received the Local Government Finance Settlement. Wokingham Borough continues to receive the least funding from central government per resident of any unitary authority in the country – about £30million below the national average.

Wokingham Borough receives less than other areas because it is perceived by central government as having low-deprivation and need.

Funding for social care

On average, more than 60% of the money the Council receives every year funds social care for people of all ages across the Borough.

This involves a wide range of support across

many departments like the safeguarding team, who keep people safe, or occupational therapists who help people stay at home for longer if this is possible and they want to do so.

As well as social care support, the Council provides support services for children with special needs, covering a vast array of requirements which can include something as simple as helping to transport them to school if needed. There are significant budget pressures within children's services but the Council collectively is ready to make the tough decisions to ensure that every child in our Borough feels supported and has the ability to flourish.

The Council, if funded at the average, would receive an additional £30million of government support, approximately one quarter of its total net budget. However,

the disproportionate allocation of funds from central government to local councils across the country means Wokingham Borough Council Tax payers will continue to make a higher percentage contribution than any other unitary authority to fund services.

It would be more helpful if future settlements, as was the norm is years past, covered a longer

period of time to allow for more effective long term financial planning.

I will continue to lobby the government in this regard.

As I write this brief update, spring is around the corner to give us milder weather.

I hope that you all have an excellent Easter break.



Citizens Advice will be at:
Swallowfield Parish Hall
Thursday 9th March
between 10am AND 12:30pm

with our Mobile Advice Unit.
Providing free, confidential advice, information and support.



SHINFIELD MICRO LIBRARY NOW OPEN

Wokingham Borough Council now has a self-service library inside Robyn's Nest Cafe at the School Green Centre. The micro library, which is adjoined to the café, is open from 9.00am to 5.00pm, Monday to Saturday and 10.00am to 4.00pm on Sundays. The new micro library has around 2,000 books on offer, from a range of categories for adults and children, including fiction, crime, history and fantasy. Residents are able to borrow and return books but will need to visit one of the larger libraries for the full range of services.

The decision to open the library came as a result of demand and a growing population in the area, with Spencers Wood previously being the nearest library. It will make it easier for children at the nearby Shinfield Infant & Junior School, Shinfield St Mary's Church of England Junior School and Alder Grove Church of England Primary School to access books, along with residents at Shinfield View and Parsons Grange care homes.

Please note that garden waste sacks and blue bin bags are not available at this library.

SWALLOWFIELD PRE-SCHOOL

The children at Swallowfield Pre-School haven't let the cold weather stop them this month. Armed with coats, hats and wellies, they have been making the most of our beautiful garden. They have been digging in the mud pit and playing winter themed games of I spy.

We've also had the collage materials out to make beautiful pictures, alongside building with bricks and caring for babies. The children have also been feeling in a celebratory mood and have been playing with balloons, singing songs and throwing a birthday party for teddy bears. I hope they saved a piece of cake!



Helen Knipe

SWALLOWFIELD MEDICAL PRACTICE

Staffing

The partners are pleased to announce the arrival of two new members of clinical staff to the team.

Dr Champion is a qualified doctor and is now progressing with her training further to become a GP. Dr Champion will be with us for 15 months and she will be working Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons and Thursdays.

Debbie is a new Mental Health Practitioner. Debbie is a qualified CPN (Community Psychiatric Nurse) and will be working with us on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Debbie can see adult patients over the age of 18 who need support with their mental health.

Welcome to the team both!

Flu Vaccinations

If you are entitled to a seasonal Influenza vaccine and have not had one yet, we have a few available for people both under and over 65 years of age. We have been recommended that vaccination after early March may find the vaccine not be as effective as if given earlier in the season.

Please call or pop in to make an appointment for one.



LOCAL CONTACTS

Swallowfield Medical Practice

0118 988 3134 (general) or
0118 988 3473 (appointments)

All Saints' Church, Swallowfield and Nutbean Cemetery

0118 988 5923 or email office@loddonreach.org.uk

Royal Berkshire Hospital 0118 322 5111

Wokingham Hospital 0118 949 5000

Emergency Services 999

Medical (Non-emergency) 111

Police (Non-emergency) 101

Thames Water (Emergency) 0800 714 614

24hr Floodline Service 0845 988 1188

SSE Electricity (Emergency) 0800 783 8866

Gas (Emergency) 0800 111 999

Swallowfield Community Responders
0118 988 4384

Reading Buses 0118 959 4000

Readibus 0118 931 0000

Keep Mobile 0345 544 0850

Swallowfield Calico Trust 0118 988 4661
or 0118 988 2014

Shinfield Voluntary Car Service 0118 9883400

Wokingham Borough Council 0118 974 6000

Citizens Advice (Wokingham) 0808 278 7958

Farley Hill Primary School 0118 973 2148

Lambs Lane School 0118 988 3820

Spencers Wood Library 0118 988 4771

Riseley Village Tea Room 0118 99 67375

Swallowfield Parish Stores 0118 988 5138

DID YOU KNOW?

Our redesigned newsletter will result in a saving of up to 32,000 sheets of paper annually.

CONTACTING THE PARISH COUNCIL

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

0118 988 5929

clerk@swallowfieldpc.gov.uk
swallowfieldpc.gov.uk

Your Parish Councillors are: John Anderson, Mark Binns, Catherine Drew, Laura Edmonds, Ian Fullerton (Planning Chair), David Lamont (Vice-Chair), Margaret McDonald, Simon Taylor and Jonathan Wheelwright (Chair).

Facilities for hire

The Main Hall, Davies Room and Rose Room at Swallowfield Parish Hall are available for weddings, parties, clubs/groups, meetings and other events. Please call 0118 9885 444 or email

finance_officer@swallowfieldpc.gov.uk

For information on hiring Victory Hall in Farley Hill, please call 0118 324 6600 or email **hire@victoryhalltrust.com**.

Disclaimer Articles that have been submitted to Swallowfield Parish Council for inclusion in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of the Parish Council or individual councillors. Anyone wishing to comment on such articles should please contact those involved directly.

Printed on sustainably sourced paper.

