



Swallowfield Parish

Newsletter

Autumn 2025

Reflections from the chair

Welcome to the Autumn edition of the Parish Newsletter. I would like to start by saying that the council still has a vacancy for a parish councillor. This is an opportunity to contribute to the local community so, if you are a community-minded person, please get involved; speak to any councillor or the clerk who can provide more information.

Residents are often uncertain about what parish councils, the lowest tier of local government, do and there can be a wide variation between parishes depending on their size and what assets they have to manage on behalf of the community. In this issue (pages 3 to 4) we explain

what powers parish councils have and how Swallowfield Parish Council is currently using those powers. We list several projects that the council currently has in progress or is under consideration for future implementation. We hope you find this of interest and useful.

In providing this information we want to understand how we can engage even more effectively with all residents and what other future projects you would like the council to consider (recognising the limitations on its powers). Please do give this some thought and share your ideas.

Cllr John Anderson, Chair

What is Swallowfield Parish Council (SPC)

- Lowest tier of local government
- In law a local council is a single corporate body, so takes decisions collectively as a council.
- Establishes policies and decides how money will be raised and spent for the whole community.
- Can work in partnership with other organisations in its area.
- Acts on behalf of its residents and will always attempt to make balanced, informed decisions, where it has statutory powers and duties to act, based on the differing needs of the whole community.
- Can raise money through the precept – a charge included with your council tax. The level of the precept is determined by the budgeted programme of works and activities in any given financial year.

Powers & Responsibilities

Parish Councils have specific duties and powers as laid out by statute. The table on pages 3 & 4 shows those powers and how SPC is currently using them.

Your Parish Council - Planning for the Future - We Want your Views - see pages 5-6



Cllr John Anderson
Chair

john.anderson@swallowfieldpc.gov.uk

ANYONE FOR TABLE TENNIS?

Anyone interested in setting up a Table Tennis Club at Swallowfield Parish Hall? We have 2 tables, which were in regular use before Covid. If you are interested, please contact the Parish Clerk to discuss when the hall might be available.

AUTUMN CLEAN UP DAY – SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY 25TH OCTOBER 2025 10AM-2PM.

See back page for details.

COUNCILLOR VACANCY

See back page

BINS ON PARISH LAND

GENERAL WASTE AND DOG WASTE

The Parish Council provide some waste bins on its land (Riseley Rec, Swallowfield Rec, Swallowfield Meadow). The bins are provided solely for users of these areas, not for waste brought from elsewhere. We are grateful to most users who use these bins considerately (including dog owners who pick up after their dogs). All we are

asking is that everyone follows this practice to keep our recreation grounds clean and safe.

So, please do not fill our bins with waste from home or anywhere else; it can and should be disposed of with your general rubbish (this includes dog mess, cat litter, drinks containers, food packaging, etc). Finally, if a bin is full, please don't add more waste to it. Overfilling the bins prevents genuine recreation ground users from being able to dispose of incidental rubbish (dog or otherwise) and it is also very unfair to the poor staff who empty these bins on your behalf.



Thank you





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Powers & How We Use Them

FUNCTION	POWERS	USED BY SWALLOWFIELD PARISH COUNCIL (SPC)
Allotments	Provide allotments including duty to provide allotment gardens if demand exists	Allotment site identified and leased. Managed by Swallowfield Parish Allotment Association (SPAA)
Borrowing	Borrow money for statutory functions	SPC has a Public Works Loan Board loan used for the redevelopment of Fieldfare.
Bus shelters	Provide and maintain bus shelters	Installed a bus shelter outside the medical practice
Byelaws	Make byelaws for recreation grounds, village greens and open spaces	Various byelaws to safeguard the amenities
Car Parks (off-road)	Provide and maintain suitable off-road parking and regulate use.	Maintain car park at Swallowfield and land leased from Wellington Estate to provide parking at Riseley, NB: both car parks are for the use of hall users only
Charities	Appoint trustees of parochial charities	Appointed 2 trustees to the Calico Trust
Citizens Advice	Support the Citizens Advice	Grant awarded annually to Citizens Advice Wokingham
Cinemas	Provide a cinema or contribute towards expenses	Not used
Common land	Exercise powers in relation to enclosure, regulation and management of common land	Riseley Recreation Ground and Riseley Common (the council replaced the boardwalk when it rotted) 
Community gardens	Provide and maintain open space as gardens	Community orchard at Riseley.
Community centres and halls	Provide and equip community buildings, halls, and other buildings for use by clubs having athletic, social or educational objectives	Swallowfield Parish Hall, Riseley Memorial Hall & Sports Pavilion (Licences to use issued to Riseley Tea Room and Riseley Tennis Club respectively) 
Consultation	Right to be consulted by principal councils if directed by Secretary of State (England)	Respond to WBC consultations
Crime prevention	Spend money on crime prevention measures	CCTV on council property (Swallowfield & Riseley)
Drainage	Deal with ditches and ponds for which the council is responsible	Regular monitoring & clearance of ditches & ponds
General Power of Competency	Allows qualifying councils by a resolution to do anything an individual can generally do provided it is not prohibited by other legislation. Qualification requires that at least 2/3rds of councillors have been elected (contested or unopposed), not coopted and the clerk holds one of the sector recognised qualifications.	SPC does qualify and it has exercised this power which has been used to develop the Fieldfare site into residential lets and a parish shop.

FUNCTION	POWERS	USED BY SWALLOWFIELD PARISH COUNCIL (SPC)
Investments	Power to participate in schemes of collective investment	Capital from the sale of land at Foxborough in the 90's is invested, interest and dividends provide significant income to the parish.
Land	Power to acquire and accept gifts of and dispose of land	Property at Fieldfare, Swallowfield was acquired over time and the site developed to provide the shop & Post Office and 6 residential properties. The income is used to maintain other parish facilities and fund new projects. The council also owns land which it has registered as Local Nature Reserves (LNR) (The Marshes, Swallowfield Meadows)
Life-saving appliances	Provide life-saving appliances e.g. Life belts, defibrillators	Defibrillators are located at Swallowfield Parish Hall and Riseley Memorial Hall/Sports Pavilion
Lighting	Provide lighting for roads and public places	Installation, maintenance and running costs of 5 street lights (2 on Trowes Lane, 3 on The Street). 
Litter Bins	Power to provide and maintain litter bins in streets or other public spaces	29 bins on council owned property, all emptied regularly by our Parish Warden. 4 dog bins are emptied by a specialist waste contractor, paid for by SPC.
Newsletter	Publish newsletters providing information relating to local government matters	Quarterly newsletter delivered to every house in the parish
Recreation grounds	Power to provide a wide range of recreational facilities 	Multipurpose Games Court, 4 tennis courts, skateboard ramp, badminton court, table tennis, children's play equipment (Swallowfield, Riseley & Farley Hill), seated exercise classes
Town & Country planning	Right to be notified of and comment on local planning applications Power to act as the lead body for the establishment of a neighbourhood development plan	We review all planning applications in & bordering the parish, & comment where appropriate but have no powers to veto development
Traffic calming	Power to contribute to the cost of traffic calming measures	Speed Watch equipment purchase and volunteers identified, but not currently operational due to ineffective follow up by police
Transport	Promote car-sharing schemes; make grants for bus services; fund taxi-fare concessions; investigate public transport, road use needs; and provide public transport information	Lobby WBC
Village signs	Provide signs to inform visitors	Village Gateway signs between Swallowfield & Riseley, signs on our Local Nature Reserves
War memorials	Maintain, repair and protect war memorials	SPC does not own the war memorial in Swallowfield but would carry out work to ensure it remains in good condition.

Your Parish Council Planning for the Future We Want Your Views

Your councillors are proud to serve as your representatives for our community. The Parish Council is a dedicated group of nine unpaid holders of public office who strive to act in the best interests of the residents of the parish (includes the villages of Farley Hill, Riseley, Swallowfield and surrounding areas).

The council maintains relationships with many local groups, mainly users of the halls and other council facilities. These relationships help to provide inspiration for future projects. Councillors and the clerk are always open to suggestions from residents.

Spending Money Wisely

In the Spring edition (online version: <https://tinyurl.com/SPC-Spring25>), pages 3-5, we outlined the income and expenditure for 2025/26. Understanding community priorities could help guide future council decisions, ensuring spending reflects residents' needs and aspirations.

The Council sets aside reserves, including money received as a result of development in the parish, that are ear-marked for specific capital projects which the council proposes to undertake.

Projects being investigated/costed

- Hearing loop for Swallowfield Parish Hall
- Improved cooling and new chiller for the shop
- Local Nature Reserve status for Van Demans field, including enhancing biodiversity
- Improved entrance/exit to Riseley Car Park (requires the landowner's permission as land is leased)
- Further flood resilience and attenuation projects



Possible Projects

- Solar panels / batteries on council buildings
- Further improvements to Swallowfield Parish Hall, including improved accessible entrance to the Davies Room
- Improvements to Riseley Memorial Hall, heating, windows & doors
- Improvements to Riseley Sports Pavilion, heating
- Cleaning / restoration of the War Memorial

What else should we consider?

To understand the needs and priorities of our residents better, we are exploring the possibility of conducting a community survey that may be used as input for the council's future plans.

Would a Survey Be Helpful?

The council has canvassed opinion in the past, for example, obtaining ideas on the future use of the Fieldfare site and your views on the newsletter which showed very clearly that you wanted a printed version

Before proceeding, we want to gauge views on whether a survey would be valuable and if so, how best to conduct it. We want to hear your thoughts.



If a survey is conducted, how should the responses be collected?

An online survey is efficient, and the preferred method, but a paper version could be available to those who are less comfortable with digital platforms.

We would like to be able to fully engage with all respondees so collecting contact information is important. Would that stop you from responding? Would you prefer walk-in sessions at Farley Hill, Riseley and Swallowfield halls?

What Topics Should We Include?

To ensure that any survey truly reflects the priorities and interests of our community we'd love to hear what subjects you think should be included.

Are there any specific issues you feel should be explored?

Are there projects you would like us to undertake in these areas?

- Local services and facilities
- Environmental and sustainability concerns
- Future community projects
- Lobbying Wokingham Borough Council and other organisations in areas where we have no direct control e.g. school provision, utility provision

With more direct input from our community, your parish council is better able to decide what actions should be taken – so if you have thoughts on this, please get in touch! **We welcome all feedback, whether brief suggestions or detailed insights.**

Please bear in mind that some requests may be outside the control of our parish council. See Section "What We Can't Do".

Make Your Voice Heard!

Your opinion matters, and now is the time to make it count. Let us know your thoughts – whether through email, a phone call, or a visit to the Parish Office.

What will we do with your feedback!

We will review and consider all your feedback. This is an exploratory discussion, not a "to-do list" or commitment, but gathering diverse viewpoints will help us to shape the direction of any future consultation where we may ask more detailed questions.

Send your feedback to:

Cllr John McDermott, Communications Lead (john.mcdermott@swallowfieldpc.gov.uk) and Liz Halson, Parish Clerk (clerk@swallowfieldpc.gov.uk) or contact any councillor. Email addresses are on page 19 of the newsletter.

What we can't do

- Make planning decisions (consultee only)
- Highways, make modifications or carry out maintenance work e.g. fix potholes
- Change/enforce speed limits
- Provide schools places
- Provide social housing
- Provide social care
- Act outside our geographic area or act without a landowner's permission.
- Compulsorily purchase land / property
- Install / maintain utilities (lobby only)

NB: SPC does not own the following land:

- King George V Playing Field owned by Wokingham Borough Council. SPC owns and maintains the play equipment.
- Car Park / Orchard land at Riseley owned by Wellington Estates and leased to SPC



Local clubs and groups

SWALLOWFIELD ART GROUP

EXPLORING ART BY PATRICIA TAYLOR

We hope you enjoyed visiting our marquee at the recent Swallowfield Show where we both showcased and offered for sale, paintings by members of the group. Not forgetting our presence in the art section of the horticultural and craft competition in the main marquee.

The group is always well represented in the competition and often wins places in various categories and we hope that you enjoyed seeing our work in both venues at the show.

Below are some examples of winning entries in last year's (2024) competition. Please contact the group if you would like to know more about any of the work or artists featured.

If you are interested in joining us, 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 time.



Avocado
(1st place in the Still Life category) A painting in pastels by Malcolm Ward, who enjoys the challenge of creating works in pastel and is hoping for continued success again this year.



Tea in Pembrokeshire
(1st place in the category) – Any Other Painting in Any Medium

Sue Budge used acrylics and was inspired by memories of her ancestors selling tea in Pembrokeshire harbours and real tea was used to underpaint the harbour and mountains.



Abstract Lady
(2nd place two years running in the Abstract in Acrylic category) By Kaz Clarke, who says "I am amazed that I get anywhere in the competition".



Childhood
(1st in the Portrait category and Best in Show) A watercolour by Janine Scott



Winter Walk
(1st in the Figures in a Landscape category) By Linda Bradley, a painting in acrylics



Mountains
(1st in the Abstract Acrylics category) By Jenny Boddington – A painting in acrylics



The Swan
(1st place in the Figure Drawing category) Black and white drawing in artist's pencils by Patricia Taylor. Says Patricia, "I am a huge admirer of Sir Matthew Bourne, who choreographed the now famous version of Swan Lake with male dancers as the swans. The striking visual images inspired this piece".

Contact: Jenny Boddington t: 0118 988 5804



SWALLOWFIELD PARISH ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION

As I write this article in August, National Allotment Week is about to begin. This is an annual initiative across the UK that aims to raise awareness of allotments and their role in helping people live healthier lifestyles, grow their own food, develop friendships and support communities. We were lucky to have a dedicated team back in 2011 that researched, planned and ultimately set up our Calico Field so that we are able to benefit from renting an allotment today, and we try to keep those core values in mind. Between us all, we have been able to harvest peas, onions, broad beans, broccoli, cauliflower, potatoes and much more. Courgettes are always abundant, and pumpkins and squashes are healthy and we look forward to them being harvested in the autumn.

The dahlias look glorious, and we have some gigantic sunflowers that soar above the field and are excellent in attracting the bees.

We opened again in June as part of the NGS Open Day, and it was a scorcher! Because of the heat, we welcomed fewer people than last year, but all the visitors seemed to enjoy looking around, and we sold lots of young plants and some bunches of flowers.

We are currently working hard to prepare for our main fundraiser at the beginning of September, when we open to the community for our Autumn Harvest event, selling cakes, jams, chutneys, plants, vegetables and bunches of flowers. All funds raised from these events are used to do general repairs and maintenance at the site. Let's hope for dry weather this year!

September marks the onset of Autumn but later crops are almost ready and there's still plenty of work to do:

- Harvest any remaining beans, tomatoes, peppers, sweetcorn and globe artichokes
- Harvest the first of the autumn crops such as leeks, pumpkins and sweet potatoes
- Pick any late plums, plus mid-season apples and pears
- Plant spring cabbages to overwinter next year
- Clear away dead foliage as soon as crops have finished, adding to the compost heap

Contact: Linda Bradley, SPAA Secretary
e: secretary@swallowfieldpaa.org **w:** www.swallowfieldallotment.org



In terms of allotment availability, we're currently fairly full but may have some availability in October.

We have a short waiting list so please do contact me if you would like to be added.

Jane Scuffell
SPAA Chairperson



THEATRICAL SOCIETY BASED IN SWALLOWFIELD

(PRODUCTIONS AND MEMBERSHIP)

We are delighted to announce that Deni Smale will be directing our October production, her chosen play is 'A Sequence of Events' by Juliet Devon.

Here's a synopsis to whet your appetite.

"Following the death of her father when she was just sixteen, Anne doesn't think things could get much worse, but the unplanned pregnancy that followed is even more of a blow. Guided by her intolerant mother and a rather pompous and condescending doctor, the baby is put up for adoption. Anne tries to forget it all, but thirty years later, she receives a letter."

Deni Smale gives us an insight into why she chose to direct this very honest and thought-provoking play.

"I chose 'A Sequence of Events' because it's a play that stays with you. It refuses neat endings and constantly catches the audience off guard by going in unexpected directions. It entertains. As a director, I was drawn to the quiet power of the script and its emotional honesty. It doesn't do what you expect; it is not a play that shouts, but one that listens, it doesn't just tell a story; it draws you in as you contemplate the silences, the miscommunications, and the restrained emotion. It demands a sensitive and deliberate approach, both from the director and the cast. It allows the cast to flex their acting muscles with roles that are outside the norm. It invites a kind of stripped-back and honest staging that lets the truth of the story gradually emerge. Juliet Devon dares to tell us an honest and different truth."

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

Contact: Juliet Devon if you would like to join the Russell Players
e: russellplayers@gmail.com **w:** www.russellplayers.co.uk



DOORS WILL OPEN AT 7.00 PM ON THE FOLLOWING PERFORMANCE DATES:

SATURDAY 18TH OCTOBER 2025

SUNDAY 19TH OCTOBER 2025

Further details on our website www.russellplayers.co.uk and Facebook page.

So put the dates in your diaries and we will look forward to seeing you at what promises to be another enjoyable and entertaining production from the Russell Players.

Juliet Devon
On behalf of the Russell Players Committee

This is an open invitation, so if you are interested in being part of the production (in any capacity), please contact us at russellplayers@gmail.com. You can be assured of a warm and friendly welcome.



SWALLOWFIELD PITT BRIDGE LODGE

We are a local lodge, meeting in the parish of Swallowfield and offer a fascinating experience to our members using our excellent local venue; with warm fellowship and good food, what could be better?

If this is something that may be of interest, please contact Tim Double for further information.

Contact: Tim Double
e: timpac5261@live.co.uk **t:** 07703 254 350
w: berkspgl.org.uk/craft-lodges/19970



LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

In May we had a very interesting talk from a local resident, the prize-winning creator of My Davey Bread. We heard about the history of bread making and the recent resurgence of artisan sourdough methods and were able to sample the product.

Our June meeting was an informal one at The Bull in Riseley. I was able to find some press releases about auctions held there and a long-standing former landlord, as well as some information about the other pubs in the village, but there must be more to find about The Bull in past centuries.

Newcomers to the area may not realise just how different Riseley was in the first half of the 20th century. Recently we've been finding out more from lifelong residents who remember various shops, pubs, the school and the farming. They recall the district nurse delivering the babies and one lady we've met recalls a childhood very different from today – Hide and seek by torchlight in the wheat fields anyone? And no, their parents didn't know!

DATES FOR THE DIARY:

SEPTEMBER 18TH

Speaker from Sandhurst Military Academy

OCTOBER 16TH

A talk on Basildon Park House

NOVEMBER 20TH

We revisit the story of Jackson's Department Store

We meet in the Rose Room at Swallowfield Parish hall on the third Thursday of the month, starting at 7.30 for 8pm. All are welcome (you don't need to be a member). It may cost you £3 but tea, coffee and biscuits are included! More details are on our website

Jennifer Highwood

Contact: Mike Round

e: slhsoc@yahoo.co.uk **w:** www.slhsoc.org.uk

SWALLOWFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY & SWALLOWFIELD SHOW

Writing this in mid-August it would be fair to say that this season the weather has almost destroyed an awful lot of horticulture.

As I write I am contemplating the Swallowfield Show (which I hope most of our readers will have attended). For the first time in 30 years, I am thinking I may not have enough flowers in my large garden to enter the class for "a large vase of flowers". I will of course be fine for a vase of seed heads if they have not crumbled away by then.

So, this is the new now. A few days of light rain in months of warm sunshine sounds idyllic. But not for gardeners who may have lovely tans and will have huge biceps from heaving watering cans around evening after evening in a desperate attempt to keep some plants alive.

Contact: Graham Stanley **e:** chairman@swallowfieldshow.co.uk

w: www.swallowfieldshow.co.uk

Free SHS membership enquiries: secretary@swallowfieldshow.co.uk



This year was going to be my getting rid of pots year – everything in the ground! But alas, nothing gets enough water to survive once planted out, so the pots are the only survival kits available, and I am watering twice as many. Looking forward, there is no certainty as even some of the recommended Mediterranean plants are not doing too well either. The rosemary is cooked - not flourishing at all. Is it time to include the odd artificial plant? What an idea I hear you cry, but my garden is bereft of blossom and flowers and it does help one to keep smiling.

Please start now planning your entries for Swallowfield Show 2026; it's never too early.

Roberta Stewart

Entries can be notified to Paula Martin on 0118 988 8678 or entries@swallowfieldshow.co.uk

SWALLOWFIELD BADMINTON CLUB

Social badminton is a perfect way to keep fit (low impact exercise) and to make new friends.

Being a non-league club (so no pressure), and a quite varied level of playing standards.

We are a very friendly group and attract members from the villages of Farley Hill, Riseley, Shinfield, Spencers Wood and of course Swallowfield.

So whatever level you are or aspire to be, you are welcome to our accommodating group.

The new season starts in September and continues to the end of July, so why not come along to a free 'taster' evening! We hope to see you soon.

We are three separate groups who meet at the Swallowfield Parish Hall. These are as follows:



MONDAY EVENINGS

from 8pm to 10pm

Contact: Daphne **t:** 07745 180108

e: daphne_seamark@hotmail.com

THURSDAY EVENINGS

from 8pm to 10pm

Contact: Malcolm **t:** 0118 988 2736

LADIES BADMINTON - THURSDAY AFTERNOON

from 2pm to 4pm (except August)

Contact: Val Payne **t:** 0118 988 3594

e: valg.payne@btinternet.com



RISELEY TENNIS CLUB

Hi from Riseley Tennis club

What a fabulous summer of tennis we are having, so many matches being played in the leagues.

Summer camps are in full swing with fantastic attendance.

We had a fantastic tennis weekend at Wellington Country Park at the beginning of August with all ages and abilities joining in.

We have our summer tournament finals day on Sunday 14th September, come along and support the players and watch some great tennis and have a drink from the bar.



Contact: w: clubspark.lta.org.uk/RiseleyTennisClub

f: www.facebook.com/groups/riseleytennis

A great social event this year is our Christmas party at Highfield Park on 28th November, please look at the website for more details anyone welcome.

See you on court.

Sandy Wyles

THURSDAY NIGHT

Social Tennis, and the bar is open!

FIRST FRIDAY

A tennis Round Robin with fab food.

SATURDAY MORNING

The cafe is running and is really buzzing.



Your Local Borough Councillor Update

Your Parish Needs You

Swallowfield parish is a place we are all proud to call home, full of natural beauty, local spirit, and people who look out for one another. But every strong community depends on people who are willing to get involved. That is where you come in.

Many of the things we value, including our green spaces, community events, and local facilities, only exist because some residents have stepped up. I am so grateful to everyone who already give their time, whether through volunteering, local groups, or simply helping neighbours. But there is always more we can do together. Whether you have just moved in or lived here for years, there are plenty of ways to make a difference. That is why I am saying this clearly: **your parish needs you.**

I am one of your Borough Councillors; but I am also your neighbour. And like you, I want to protect what makes this place special. So, as part of my ongoing commitment to community engagement, I will be launching regular councillor surgeries starting in September. These informal drop-in sessions are designed to make it easy for you to raise concerns, share ideas, or simply talk about what matters to you. I want to keep listening, and work with you, to take action where we can.

Your parish needs you, so let us work together to keep Swallowfield Parish great.

Councillor Dave Edmonds
(Mobile: 07540 069596)

dave.edmonds@wokingham.gov.uk

Waste Bins Update

It is the middle of August, and I am on holiday in rural France. As ever, I am taking a keen interest in how council services are run elsewhere and note that, since last year, the outlying areas now have bins for 'packaging' alongside the general waste bins (large bins by the roadside, serving several scattered homes). But residents still have to take glass to the village bottle banks, just as they do here.

In Wokingham we have one of the highest rates of glass recycling in the country (84%) so – although the Government wanted us to start kerbside glass collection in 2026, at a cost of £1.5m to launch and £710,000 p.a. – we are postponing this until 2027, when we will know more about our Local Government Funding Settlement. We are calling on the Government for fairer funding for our council: under current proposals, nearly £50m of your council tax could be redistributed elsewhere. Obviously, we don't want that – we know that this is an area of low deprivation, but there is a minimum level of funding necessary to provide statutory services, however comfortably-off most of the residents may be.

And it seems a poor use of money to introduce kerbside glass collection when the existing system works well.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch with me if you need any help, or if you have a question about the Council:

catherine.glover@wokingham.gov.uk or 07762 251686

Councillor Catherine Glover

Community Governance Feedback Review and Next Steps

As I mentioned in the last Newsletter, Wokingham Borough Council encouraged all residents and interested parties to contribute to the latest Community Governance Review (CGR).

Following an initial consultation earlier this year, the council developed a set of draft recommendations which ensure that local governance arrangements for towns and parishes are effective, representative and fit for the future.

These recommendations considered feedback from the initial consultation, and now include potential changes to parish boundaries, including the number of councillors and warding arrangements.

The council has now published draft recommendations and is now inviting further public input through a final round of consultation.

The council will be writing directly to residents who may be affected by the proposed changes, including those whose properties could move from one town or parish to another.

Have your say take the survey

The public consultation has started and will conclude on 13th November 2025. It is available on the council's Engage Wokingham Borough platform.

Residents, community groups, and parish councils are now encouraged to review and provide feedback on these proposals, before final recommendations are made later this year.

A "drop in" information event is being planned for September. Details will be available on the consultation webpage once finalised.

If you wish to take the survey but are unable to do so online, contact the council's customer services team on (0118) 974 6000 or visit a library to request a paper or PDF copy.

You can also use the Contact us form on our website.

Councillor Stuart Munro
stuart.munro@wokingham.gov.uk

Local Services and Support



ALL SAINTS CHURCH SWALLOWFIELD

The Fete in June was, once again, a happy and successful community event. The stalls and sideshows were inviting, the atmosphere convivial with Pimms and light beers nearly as popular as the wonderful array of cakes and savouries with afternoon tea. Hook a Duck remains a surprisingly popular sideshow not only with our youngest guests. 'Every go a winner' seems to appeal to all ages! A new highlight this year was the impressive Windsor Ukelele Band, who provided delightful musical interludes to the proceedings.

Tug of War was Micka's most popular game this year, with adults and children having a go. Spin-a-wheel offered spot prizes and free introductory sessions at his new gym opening in September (www.mickastraining.co.uk).

Thank you to everyone who assisted in so many ways. An expanded team bodes well for the future of the Fete, and it is very heartening to see many people prepared to come on the day to help set up, take down – and participate.

We only cut the churchyard grass once wildflower seeds have set, so late July saw a major workday, happily accompanied by some beautiful butterflies.



Contact: Barbara Stanley **T:** 0118 988 5923 **e:** stanleyba01@gmail.com
e: office@loddonreach.org.uk **w:** www.loddonreach.org.uk/all-saints



All Saints church provides spiritual support and enrichment for major life events. Recently we've had 3 weddings, a funeral and a baptism. Late August saw a service and Flower Festival, a fitting memorial to Margaret Finch, who arranged the flowers for many weddings and funerals in the church, as throughout Swallowfield horticultural life. Ours is not the only family who benefited from her caring support at times of joy and of grief.

Barbara Stanley

DATES FOR THE DIARY:

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY: 9TH NOVEMBER

10.15am War Memorial: Our Act of Remembrance and 2-minute silence

10:50am All Saints Church: Service of Remembrance

Special feature: At the war memorial this year will be the crocheted Forgotten Soldier (Miquelette's creation) who was first seen and graced the VE Day event in Riseley.





SWALLOWFIELD MEDICAL PRACTICE

ACUTE ILLNESS APPOINTMENTS

We are now well into our busiest period with lots of coughs and colds being seen. Please do remember to use the NHS website for more common ailments prior to calling as some of these can be treated at home or via the local pharmacy, which in turn eases the pressure on our acute illness team. The following links provide advice for coughs and colds.

Coughs – [nhs.uk/conditions/cough](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/cough)

Colds – [nhs.uk/conditions/common-cold](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/common-cold)

Covid-19 and Flu Vaccine

Those who are eligible will be invited to receive a vaccine when the Autumn seasonal vaccines are available.

The eligibility criteria for a COVID-19 vaccine this year remains the same:

- All adults aged 75 years and over
- Persons aged 6 months and over who are immunosuppressed

ARC Child and Young Persons Counselling Service

ARC Information and Counselling Service is a free and confidential counselling service supporting children, young people and adults when they are struggling to cope with a life changing situation or emotional problem.

Jackie Robertson provides this service at Swallowfield Medical Practice for young people between the ages of 12-18 years.

For an ARC-funded set of counselling sessions located at Swallowfield Medical Practice please contact reception.

w: www.arcweb.org.uk



w: swallowfieldmedicalpractice.co.uk

BOCCIA AT SWALLOWFIELD PARISH HALL

EVERY WEDNESDAY FROM 10AM – 11AM

Exercise can be enjoyable! We are trialling a new exercise class, that combines sitting down and playing bowls. Only for one hour each Wednesday, after which you can stroll into coffee corner for some refreshments, but only if you really want to.



Ever thought about Boccia?

Starts Wednesday 1st October 2025!

Join our friendly Boccia group at Swallowfield Parish Hall! Boccia is an indoor seated sport, similar to bowls, that is accessible to all. Come along and enjoy a game, followed by a sociable drink* afterwards at the Coffee Corner!

We meet every Wednesday from 10-11am at Swallowfield Parish Hall
Each session costs £2.50 per person.
*Drinks and refreshments available from the Coffee Corner at additional cost.

Berkshire ageUK
Let's change how we age

To find out more,
email: info@AgeUKBerkshire.org.uk
or call: 0118 959 4242



SWALLOWFIELD SEATED EXERCISE CLASS

EVERY THURSDAY, PARISH HALL, SWALLOWFIELD

MUSICAL MOVEMENT

- All abilities, Dementia and Wheelchair friendly
- 11am – 12:15pm with tea, biscuits and time for a chat
- Just turn up!
- Alternatively call Coral on 07765 681797

A voluntary donation of £3 would be nice but not essential as this is subsidised.

(The Riseley, Swallowfield & Farley Hill Charitable Trust and Swallowfield Parish Council).

SWALLOWFIELD WALKING GROUP

EVERY OTHER WEDNESDAY

Meeting at 10.00am

So simple, very powerful and scientifically proven to transform your health, body and mind.

Mixed groups of locals, very welcoming!

- A typical walk will be around 3 miles
- Optional tea / coffee at the parish hall afterwards
- Meeting Point: Normally Swallowfield Parish Hall

If you would like to join us, we will add you to the WhatsApp group – Text Sarah Firth 07973307721

FUTURE DATES

September: 3rd, 17th

October: 1st, 15th and 29th

November: 12th, 26th

December: 10th



COFFEE CORNER

(Every Wednesday 10.30 – 12.30)
Swallowfield Parish Hall

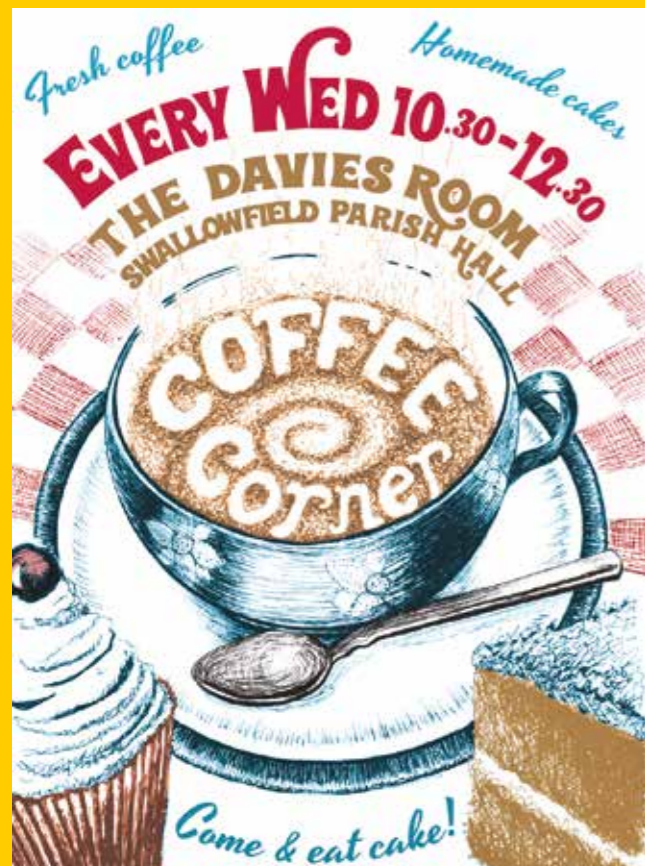
The summer kept up as it started the year for us, busy. It has been great to meet so many people dropping in for coffee and a chat. Even better, it has enabled us to donate £300 each to First Days Children's Charity, Wokingham and The Rainbow Trust who provide support to seriously ill children and their families (the Thames Valley Branch is based at Wyvols Court).

We are proud to have been able to serve refreshments throughout the day, on behalf of SSE, during the recent extensive parish power cut.

Our Macmillan Coffee Morning will be on Wednesday, 24th September, in the Parish Hall. Trusting to your generosity, we hope to raise around £1,000.

Our team of volunteers continues to grow, ensuring a variety of cakes for the future. Why not drop in on a Wednesday morning, for coffee, cake and a chat or contact clare.pilgrim@btinternet.com?

The Coffee Corner Team



RISELEY VILLAGE TEA ROOM

Opening Hours: Thursday to Sunday
10am to 12am and 2pm to 5pm.

Call in and say hello, it would be lovely to see you.

Best wishes
Debbie and the incredible Team.

e: theriseleyvillagetearoom@gmail.com

t: 0118 996 7375

f: www.facebook.com/RiseleyVillageTeaRoom

RISELEY COMMUNITY COFFEE MORNING

(Every Monday 10am – 12.00pm)
Riseley Tennis Club

Now established as a regular community fixture with visitors from across the parish (you don't have to live in Riseley)

Come along to enjoy a warm and welcoming atmosphere, where you can make new friends and have a chat with everyone else!



RISELEY, SWALLOWFIELD & FARLEY HILL CHARITABLE TRUST

Can we help?

The RSF Charitable Trust are a small local charity, run by local people with the aim of helping local causes and individuals in need

Do you know someone local that may need support?

Are you struggling?



TYPE OF SUPPORT WE'VE OFFERED IN THE PAST:

- Purchase of essential items for those in financial difficulty
- Acquisition of compulsory school equipment or clothing
- Contributions to community projects / services

DIFFERENT WAYS TO GET IN TOUCH:

EMAIL: rsfenquiries@gmail.com
OR MENTION US TO YOUR HEALTHCARE PROVIDER

SCAN ME:



<https://www.facebook.com/RSFCharitableTrust>



https://www.instagram.com/rst_charitabletrust/

Next Event - JUMBLE SALE 11th OCTOBER 2025

RISELEY, SWALLOWFIELD AND FARLEY HILL CHARITABLE TRUST

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR CHARITY JUMBLE SALE

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who supported our charity Jumble Sale at the Parish Hall in March, whether by donating, attending, or volunteering. We truly couldn't do it without you.

Our next Jumble Sale will take place at the Parish Hall on Saturday 11th October.

- Donations can be dropped off between 8.30am and 11am (Please note we are unable to accept large items or furniture).
- The sale opens at 2pm, with an entry fee (cash only).

If you are a local family, individual, or organisation in need of assistance, or if you would like to volunteer to help at the Jumble Sale, please get in touch at rsfenquiries@gmail.com.

Thank you for your continued support.

THE CALICO TRUST

We are a local charity which helps people in need. If you or someone you know needs financial assistance, please let us know.

Contact: Celia Adams
t: 07946 654424
e: celia8844@gmail.com

Contact: Ros Riddell
t: 07885 045362
e: ros.riddell@btinternet.com



THE LINK VISITING SCHEME

The Power of Friendship in Later Life:

Why Reaching Out Matters

As we journey through life, our circumstances change. We may lose a partner, face health challenges, or no longer be able to drive. These changes can make it harder to stay connected, and loneliness can quietly creep in. But even in the toughest times, one thing remains true: friendship has the power to lift our spirits, bring joy, and remind us that we are not alone.

At The Link Visiting Scheme, we believe that no one should feel forgotten or isolated. We match volunteers with older people for regular visits and phone calls—simple acts of kindness that make a world of difference. Whether it's sharing a cup of tea, reminiscing about the past, or just having a laugh, these moments of connection can brighten even the darkest days.

We know it's not always easy to ask for help. Many people feel they should "just get on with it" or worry about being a burden. But reaching out isn't a sign of weakness—it's a sign of strength. It shows that you value your wellbeing and that you're open to the happiness that friendship can bring.

t: 0118 9798019 w: www.linkvisiting.org



If you or someone you know is feeling lonely, please don't wait. Get in touch with us. We're here to help, and we'd love to hear from you. We want to make sure no one misses out on the chance to feel connected and we have wonderful volunteers ready to get visiting!

Let's work together to build a community where everyone feels seen, heard, and valued—because friendship matters, at every age.

To make a referral or find out more, visit www.linkvisiting.org or call 0118 9798019



Anyone can refer a family to us, as long as the family has given permission for the referral to be made. You can make a referral or find out more here <https://www.rainbowtrust.org.uk/support-for-families/ask-for-support>

We'd also love to hear from you if you're a business which is interested in partnering with us. Please contact the team's Community and Events Network Volunteer, Moira via email thamesvalley.volunteer@rainbowtrust.org.uk in the first instance.

Contacts
Natalie.whitby-lear@rainbowtrust.org.uk
reading.volunteer@rainbowtrust.org.uk

THE RAINBOW TRUST (THAMES VALLEY)

Making a Referral

School holidays can be a challenging time for all parents. But sadly, these challenges can reach seemingly impossible proportions for families living with a very sick child. This is where we at the Rainbow Trust (www.rainbowtrust.org.uk) can help.

We're a charity that supports families where there is a child with a life threatening or terminal illness. We're here not just for the school holidays but throughout the year to provide emotional and practical support 24/7.

From providing safe transport to medical appointments through to keeping a very sick child company during hospital stays and sibling support, we're here to help ease the burden.

Our Thames Valley team has recently expanded, and we are therefore able to bring this lifeline support to even more families in your local community and beyond.

LOCAL CONTACTS

All Saints' Church, Swallowfield and Nutbean Cemetery
 0118 988 5923 or email office@loddonreach.org.uk

Citizens Advice (Wokingham) 0808 278 7958

Emergency Services 999

Farley Hill Primary School 0118 973 2148

Gas (Emergency) 0800 111 999

Keep Mobile 0345 544 0850

Lambs Lane School 0118 988 3820

Medical (Non-emergency) 111

Police (Non-emergency) 101

Reading Buses 0118 959 4000

Readibus 0118 931 0000

Riseley Village Tea Room 0118 996 7375

Royal Berkshire Hospital 0118 322 5111

SSE Electricity (Emergency) 0800 783 8866

Shinfield Voluntary Car Service 0118 988 3400

Spencers Wood Library 0118 988 4771

Swallowfield Community Responders
 0118 988 4384

Swallowfield Calico Trust 0118 988 4661
 or 0118 988 2014

Swallowfield Parish Stores 0118 988 5138

Swallowfield Medical Practice
 0118 988 3134 (general) or
 0118 988 3473 (appointments)

Thames Water (Emergency) 0800 714 614

Wokingham Borough Council 0118 974 6000

Wokingham Hospital 0118 949 5000

24hr Floodline Service 0845 988 1188

DID YOU KNOW?

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

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 988 5444 or email finance_officer@swallowfieldpc.gov.uk

CONTACTING THE PARISH COUNCIL

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

0118 988 5929
clerk@swallowfieldpc.gov.uk
www.swallowfieldpc.gov.uk

Your Parish Councillors are:

John Anderson (Chair)
john.anderson@swallowfieldpc.gov.uk

Rob Chapman
rob.chapman@swallowfieldpc.gov.uk

Catherine Drew
catherine.drew@swallowfieldpc.gov.uk

Laura Edmonds
laura.edmonds@swallowfieldpc.gov.uk

John McDermott
john.mcdermott@swallowfieldpc.gov.uk

Margaret McDonald
margaret.mcdonald@swallowfieldpc.gov.uk

Louise Smith
louise.smith@swallowfieldpc.gov.uk

Simon Taylor (Chair, Planning)
simon.taylor@swallowfieldpc.gov.uk



Autumn Clean Up Day



Meet in the
Davies Room, Swallowfield Parish Hall, RG7 1QX
Saturday 25th October 2025
10am to 2pm

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

Bring along your own litter picker and Hi Vis otherwise they can be provided

Refreshments will be provided - Hot Dogs!

For further details please contact the Clerk on 01189 885929 or clerk@swallowfieldpc.gov.uk



Help shape your villages

BECOME A PARISH COUNCILLOR

Are you interested in your local environment and open spaces, recreational facilities, local transport, planning/housing issues, just a few of the areas where we get involved to help make a difference to our community

We have a vacancy, if you would like more details please contact the Parish Clerk or any member of the Parish Council

Liz Halson, Parish Clerk
Email: clerk@swallowfieldpc.gov.uk
Tel: 01189 885 929
Website: www.swallowfieldpc.gov.uk



ALI'S RECYCLING FOR THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

e: chaney1066@btinternet.com
f: www.facebook.com/AliRecycling