



Swallowfield Parish

# Newsletter

Summer 2025

## 80th Anniversary of VE Day The Parish Remembers

Most of us may have already marvelled at the beautiful and innovative crocheted "post box toppers", created on a regular basis by Miquelette Cooper. As the anniversary of VE Day approached, she had a vision to crochet a full-size soldier to be surrounded by poppies as an Act of Remembrance.

Residents from all over the parish, meeting each week at Riseley Tennis Club coffee morning, have under her guidance, brought the vision to life by crocheting and knitting hundreds of poppies to decorate the village and sit alongside the soldier she herself crocheted – the level of detail is truly incredible. There is even a radio (crocheted of course), which when the button is pressed will play Winston Churchill's radio broadcast announcing peace in Europe.

Together with Louise Smith, they organised (with lots of volunteers), the parish VE Day celebrations that took place in Riseley, where the soldier was on display for the day.



### Future Appearances

25th and 26th of August at the Swallowfield Horticulture Show

9th November Remembrance Sunday at the War Memorial in Swallowfield

**\*\* See the back page for more on the VE Day celebrations**

## Introducing Rob Chapman Swallowfield Parish Council

My wife and I have lived in the wider area for many years and have been enjoying living within Swallowfield since 2024.

I have a deep appreciation for our community, its amenities, and its natural resources, so I am delighted to be serving as a parish councillor for Swallowfield, with a strong commitment to its future.

I have been in telecoms since 2003, focusing on business optimisation, fraud prevention, and helping companies protect themselves and their customers through risk mitigation. This included spending a number of years volunteering and running a global risk management

body, helping educate and inform telecoms risk managers through free collaboration and learning events.

I am passionate about technology, the environment, and local community support, and hope to bring fresh perspective and ideas to the local initiatives, whilst protecting the wealth of heritage we are fortunate to enjoy on our doorsteps.

I am particularly interested in protecting our green spaces, improving local amenities, and supporting community events. As I settle, I am keen to listen to the views of residents and work collaboratively to find practical solutions that benefit our parish.



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Welcome to the summer edition of the Parish Newsletter. I would like to start by welcoming Rob Chapman onto the Parish Council to replace Mark Binns. Victoria Adams has recently stood down and so we currently have a vacancy that can be filled by co-option.

I am honoured to have been re-elected as Chair for the coming year, I will be supported by Simon Taylor as Vice-Chair. Simon was also re-elected as Chair of Planning.

The Annual Parish Meeting took place on Wednesday 30th April. It is not a formal council meeting but rather an opportunity to report to residents on work undertaken by the council during the year and to receive motions and suggestions from residents. We had a very interesting presentation by Graham Stanley – Chair of the Flood Resilience Group which is a joint undertaking with the Parish Council – on a Natural Flood Management project that has recently been completed in the woods above Riseley. This issue of the newsletter contains an article on this important work which is designed to mitigate some of the impacts of flooding in Riseley and Swallowfield where the flood water ultimately drains into the river Blackwater.

The Annual Parish Litter Pick took place on Saturday 22nd March and was well supported by volunteers. My thanks once again to Peter and Claire Sampson for coordinating the event. As last year, it is planned to hold a second litter pick event in October on a Saturday before the clocks go back.

I am pleased to report that the new play equipment, alluded to in my Spring report, has now been installed. The zip wire at Swallowfield Recreation Ground has long been a favourite with children of all ages across the parish. However, after 15 years its legs had given up (rotted through) and the safety surfacing had

become a mess, so it had been out of commission for several months. Following discussions with the original manufacturer amongst others, including consideration of the age of mechanical parts, the council concluded that it should be replaced.

The council also agreed to a replacement for the sandpit which too had significantly deteriorated and could not be repaired. This area of the playground is for the youngest children, 6 months plus, so the animal themed pieces were chosen to reflect this age group.

I would like to compliment those enterprising residents of Riseley and others from across the parish who organised the VE Day 80th Anniversary event and also produced the magnificent, crocheted display on the green.

Looking ahead, here are some events to go into your diary: the Church Fete - Saturday 14th June; Farley Hall Horse Trials - Friday 20th – Sunday 22nd June; Open Gardens - Sunday 29th June; and the Swallowfield Show - Sunday 24th – Monday 25th August.

With the warmer weather we have experienced lately, it feels like summer has arrived.

**CLlr John Anderson**

**Chair**  
[john.anderson@swallowfieldpc.gov.uk](mailto:john.anderson@swallowfieldpc.gov.uk)



# Defending Our

Defending our parish can take many forms. Today we are highlighting two examples both of which are considered essential in preserving our homes and countryside environment.

- With Natural Flood Management, we can plan for and fund to mitigate the risk
- Himalayan Balsam. Vigilance and the brute force of volunteers to remove this invasive plant, before it overruns and destroys our own native species.

## NATURAL FLOOD MANAGEMENT



**Leaky barrier in Coldharbour Wood**

Wokingham Borough Council, with project support provided by members of Swallowfield Flood Resilience Group (FRG) has recently completed a natural flood management (NFM) scheme in woodland to the west of Riseley. This project is the latest phase of a series of projects completed over many years, starting after the 2007 floods and then the formation of the Flood Resilience Group. The Parish Council commissioned two significant reports from hydrological consultants which have been used to assess flood risks and identify flood relief projects which would best benefit the parish, the first project being design and construction of the swale at the end of Swallowfield Recreation Ground.



**Leaky barrier in St Leger's Copse**

The Riseley Natural Flood Management project was more difficult as it required co-operation from the landowner and 'ordinary water courses' approvals from both

Wokingham and Hampshire lead local flood authorities, as well as the Environment Agency. The project has been funded by a grant from the Environment Agency and this enabled third parties to be engaged to carry out the detailed design, based on hydraulic modelling and recommendations in an August 2022 report.



**Earth bund east of St Leger's Copse**

Sixty-seven leaky barriers have been built across Coldharbour Wood, St Leger's Copse and Collins Copse, to slow down water run-off, and several clay cored embankments have been built for floodwater flow diversion.



**Leaky barriers in Collins Copse**

It is stressed that whilst the work had been carried out in Riseley the whole parish will benefit as the leaky barriers and clay banks will slow down flood water run-off from reaching Swallowfield, where the Blackwater River is 35m lower than the woodland to the west of Riseley.

There are at least two other areas which have been identified as locations where further NFM techniques, including leaky barriers, would help to slow down flood water should funds be available.

**Graham Stanley, Chair FRG**

### Additional Information

Graham's presentation from the Annual Parish Meeting includes a map showing the locations of the defences installed. The presentation can be found on the Parish Council website.

Technical drawings and photos are on display in the atrium at Swallowfield Parish Hall.

# Parish

## HIMALAYAN BALSAM

This is an invasive species, not native to the UK, which can outcompete our own native plants. It grows quickly and densely, shading out other plants and altering habitats.

After the flowers fade the plant produces distinctive green seed pods that explode when ripe, scattering seeds up to 7 meters away.



### What does it look like?

A tall annual herb that can grow up to 3 metres in height

- Flower: pinkish-purple, trumpet shaped, borne in clusters with a sweet scent in the summer
- Stem: hollow and brittle, pinkish-red
- Leaf: dark green, lance shaped leaves with serrated edges and a dark-red midrib, up to 15cm long

Seed: 4-16 brown "coiled spring" seeds encased in distinctive green droplet shaped seed capsules with a point at one end, they hang off the red stalk and are up to 2.5cm in length.

### Impact on the environment

- Increase the risk of flooding
- Alters the condition of soil leading to soil erosion
- Reduces biodiversity by crowding out other plant species



### Control Measures

- Persistence!
- It takes 3-4 years to rid an area completely.
- STOP the plants from producing seeds using simple methods of mowing, strimming, using a scythe or simply, and most satisfying, pulling the plant out of the ground (it is very shallow rooted so an easy task).
- The end of June/July is the ideal time to carry out this work as the plants are well established and easy to see.
- Working Parties: For over 10 years Martin Moore (FRG) has organised volunteers to remove this plant and has successfully cleared some areas, however, if even one plant survives the area can soon be overrun again, so vigilance is needed.
- Landowners have a responsibility to control it, but we are all at risk and should help



### How can you help?

- If you see it, pull it out of the ground and leave it on the verge
- Join one of the "Himalayan Balsam Bashing" Working Parties organised by Martin Moore (FRG)
- Watch notice boards & social media for dates

**Thank you**

# Local clubs and groups

## SWALLOWFIELD FETE SATURDAY 14 JUNE 2-5PM

(ORGANISED BY ALL SAINTS CHURCH, SWALLOWFIELD)

All Saints Church, Swallowfield look forward to welcoming you to the Swallowfield Parish Hall and recreation ground. Well behaved dogs are very welcome!

Donations Day is Saturday 7th of June 10am to 12 noon in the Parish Hall car park. Contributions for all stalls will be gratefully received or contact me if you need items collected

- Cakes are better delivered nearer the time, thank you, as are plants.

There is plenty to occupy the kids of all ages. The traction engine is back, giving children's rides, and Micka will work his magic with games again – of course with one's face

**Contact:** Barbara Stanley **e:** stanleyba01@gmail.com



well painted. Or try juggling an ice cream while holding an armful of toys from the toy stall! Have a go at the coconut shy and try out the other side shows.

You'll soon be ready for one of our traditional afternoon teas, maybe supplemented by Pimms, beer, lager, or with glass in hand, you can relive old days while visiting our locally owned classic cars display, which are truly impressive. (At the Swallowfield Show in August, there may well be over 100).

When you've bought your Davey's Bread, David's local honey or Sally and Lucinda's beautiful crafts, and listened to the ukulele group, you can peruse the stalls of Bric-à-brac and Gifts, Toys and Plants, Health &

Beauty and of course the Bookstall. And, as always, there is a Grand Raffle, with serious prizes including £100, plumbing, Marvellous Festival and Newbury Racecourse vouchers.

FREE parking is available in the Swallowfield Park field, by kind permission of Farley Farms, with Parish Hall car park being reserved for disabled drivers and their vehicles.

Thank you to everyone who volunteers to help and to you all for coming. We aim to give you a great community afternoon, while raising much-needed funds to keep Swallowfield church thriving and there for you.

**Barbara Stanley**



## SWALLOWFIELD PARISH ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION

As I write this article, we are coming to the end of a beautiful and unseasonably warm spell of sunny weather, and we are already having to water our very young plants down at the Calico Field whilst waiting for some rain to arrive.

The ground is warming up nicely, and some lucky plotters have been able to harvest asparagus, fresh green garlic and the final few leeks from last season.

We're being careful to cover the new cabbages, broccoli and cauliflower plants with netting to protect them from the ever-present hungry pigeons, but it's been a joy to hear the Cuckoo again this year, and to be serenaded while we dig with a range of birdsong, including Wrens, Robins, Chiffchaffs, a Goldcrest, Bluetits, Blackbirds and a Yellowhammer.

Our car park had a makeover at our April working party, when it was all hands-on deck to spread out twenty tons of gravel across the area to resurface and protect the

membrane for another five years. It's looking great, and by the end of the morning we all felt that we had earned our bacon rolls and cookies. There's always maintenance to be done, and our next projects will be to build a sturdier fence around our wildlife pond and to install some more guttering around the polytunnel to collect rainwater.

The next big date on our calendar is 29th of June, when we will be opening the allotments as part of the National Garden Scheme Open Gardens, from 2pm to 5.30pm. Please come along and wander around our plots using the communal pathways, chat to some of the ploholders, and see the range of vegetables, fruits and flowers that we are growing.

We will be selling some plants on the day, but cash only please.

### Top tasks for June:

- Sow seeds for salads and herbs to be picked later in the year

**Contact:** Linda Bradley, SPAA Secretary

**e:** secretary@swallowfieldpaa.org **w:** www.swallowfieldallotment.org



- Harvest new-season early potatoes, peas, broad beans and strawberries
- Water regularly if the weather is warm

If you would like to know more about the allotments, or to go on the waiting list for a plot, please contact Linda Bradley (SPAA Secretary): secretary@swallowfieldpaa.org

or visit our website: www.swallowfieldallotment.org

We are a friendly bunch and welcome newcomers; you don't have to be an expert gardener. Part of the joy of cultivating an allotment is swapping stories and tips on how to make the most of your plot.

Happy gardening!  
**Jane Scuffell, Plot Holder**

## SWALLOWFIELD ART GROUP

### Exploring Art By Patricia Taylor

Among the subjects we have studied this term is the work of English watercolour artist, Vivienne Cawson. Originally trained as a fabric designer in the 1970s, Cawson turned to lecturing in art and design, eventually becoming a professional painter in 2005.

Cawson explains: "Pattern, colour and natural form are the focus for my floral watercolour paintings. Inspiration can be sparked by the flowers, their



colours and shapes, a piece of delicious fabric, or special jug or vase. The contrast of natural form with geometric pattern is often a strong element in my work. I aim to produce a response in my painting that is fresh and contemporary, not merely a faithful reproduction and am inspired by the information set out before me to produce a spontaneous reaction. It is an exciting journey which I hope helps to keep my painting alive with fresh, vibrant colour.

What I like about watercolour is that, if you allow it to, it produces lovely, sometimes unexpected effects. The secret is to let it happen and not fight it. Different pigments create different effects, according to whether they are transparent, opaque or somewhere in between."

Cawson's style is unusual in that the subject (often a vase of flowers) appears to be sitting on a completely flat background. Her work can be simple, or contain multiple, sometimes unrelated elements, which make a pleasing whole. We used our own reference subjects to recreate her style and some examples of members' work are shown here. An interesting and challenging artist to study.

By Patricia Taylor



### 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 times.

**Contact:** Jenny Boddington  
**t:** 0118 988 5804



## SWALLOWFIELD PITT BRIDGE LODGE

At our last meeting on a glorious day in May, we initiated a well-known local business man into the Fraternity. The sun shone and we had drinks in the garden, prior to the meeting. Can there be a better place to be on a sunny day in May, than an English country garden with a river running by; in convivial company with a cold beer in hand? I do not think so. It was absolutely fantastic, we are all looking forward to our next meeting in September.

Being a Local Lodge we aim to support local charities and good causes. Obviously, our funds are finite, but if you have something that might benefit the community, please contact us and it will be given due consideration.

The Lodge meets four times a year in the Marquee at the Mill House Hotel, Basingstoke Road, 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 (Mobile No: 07703 254 350, email: timpac5261@live.co.uk) for further information. We offer a fascinating experience in our excellent local venue with warm fellowship and good food.

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



## THEATRICAL SOCIETY BASED IN SWALLOWFIELD

(PRODUCTIONS AND MEMBERSHIP)

Russell Players would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who came along to see the performance and those who gave up their time to help with the front of house.

"The Russell Players returned to the Swallowfield stage with a double bill that left us all eyeing our loved ones a little differently, thanks to two contrasting one-act plays, both skilfully directed by Mitch Mitchell.

### 'A Spy with a View' by Robert Scott.

There's nothing like being on holiday and enjoying a bit of rest, relaxation, and – rain? An idyllic trip to Spain has been derailed by a downpour and things go from bad to worse for a bickering couple, Vicky (Sarah Mapleston) and David (Henry Finney), when the mysterious hotel worker Paula (Lynn Wright) burdens them with a suspicious briefcase and an even stranger set of instructions.

Lumped with this luggage, the duo debates how best to handle the situation. One disastrous disguise (think 'Brit abroad' on steroids), a self-destructing tape, and an exploding toilet later, this once-boring holiday has certainly turned around.

That's not the only twist in this short one-act play, as the couple gear up for a rendezvous with the ominously named 'Dr Yes'. But I'm afraid that if I revealed to you the final thrilling moments of this mission, I'm afraid I would have to kill you...

Following a delicious light supper courtesy of the Front of House team, the curtain opened on the second play of the evening.

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



## You Can't Take It With You by Cheryl Barrett

A story that, sadly, many will know too well, as the bickering relatives of late Uncle Fred descend on his Chelsea property like vultures. There's Carol (Lynn Wright), who spends most of her time and dubiously sourced funds on cruising with her third husband, Richard (Henry Finney). Her sister Pauline (Sarah Mapleston) is no better, as the pair ransack rooms and tear up furnishings in search of hidden treasures.

Their virtuous cousin Susan (Charis Luke) offers a much-needed dose of decency, as do the kindly and somewhat kooky neighbours Charles (Glyn Marshall) and Doris (Trish Harris). When Mr Birchwood (Mitch Mitchell), the solicitor, arrives to formally read Uncle Fred's last will and testament, there's shock, surprises, and a satisfying ending that had us all thinking 'good riddance'.

We are so lucky to have such a dedicated and talented team of actors, stage and tech crew bringing live theatre to life here in the parish of Swallowfield.  
Ellyn Wright

### NEXT PRODUCTION DATES:

READ-THROUGH: SUNDAY 10TH AUGUST

AUDITIONS: WEDNESDAY 13TH AUGUST

PERFORMANCES: WEDNESDAY 15TH OCTOBER, SATURDAY 18TH OCTOBER AND SUNDAY 19TH OCTOBER

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.

Further details will be available on our website [www.russellplayers.co.uk](http://www.russellplayers.co.uk) and Facebook page.

Juliet Devon

On behalf of the Russell Players Committee



## SWALLOWFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY & SWALLOWFIELD SHOW



### SUMMER SHOW 25th and 26th of August 2025

Swallowfield Show Planning is in full swing and will take place on 25th and 26th of August, in Swallowfield Park, from 10am to 5.30pm. This unique event is organised and run by volunteer members and friends of our society, and our aim is to provide high quality entertainment and a fun day out for all the family.

Main arena acts this year include the "Rockets Motorcycle Display Team", "K & H Falconry" and the "Little Nippers Racing" (terriers and lurchers).

The activity zone will once more feature wide range of 'hands on' entertainment, including an opportunity to meet some dinosaurs! An expanded dog show will feature many more dog activities and competitions, with participation opportunities to suit every dog.

The village green will once again provide a full range of music and entertainment, including the ever-popular Rachel Hayward, (steel pans) and the children's entertainer Mr Muddles Magical Mayhem.

**Contact:** Graham Stanley **e:** chairman@swallowfieldshow.co.uk  
**w:** www.swallowfieldshow.co.uk  
**Free SHS membership enquiries:** secretary@swallowfieldshow.co.uk

Everyone is encouraged to enter one or more of the 250 competition classes in fruit, vegetable, flowers, cooking, art and photography in the exhibition marquee; entry is free, so why not 'have a go'!

Show schedules (list of classes and rules of entry) can be obtained from our website:  
<https://www.swallowfieldshow.co.uk/spring-show-2025/>

Entries can be notified to Paula Martin on 0118 988 8678 or [entries@swallowfieldshow.co.uk](mailto:entries@swallowfieldshow.co.uk)

### SAVE THE DATE SWALLOWFIELD OPEN GARDENS 2025

29th June 2pm and 5.30pm

Car parking will be available in Swallowfield Park, Adult tickets are £9.00 each (free entry for children), with all proceeds donated to Charity. We have 12 gardens that you will be available to visit





## LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

The society has gone from strength to strength in recent months. At our AGM in March we were very sorry to lose Maggie Uttley as secretary. She has been a mainstay of the society over several years but must now take more time for herself. She has our thanks and very best wishes, and we look forward to seeing her and Keith at future meetings. We would also like to thank Brian Carter who is standing down from the committee and has been a great help to us.

We had been without a permanent chairperson for a while, so are pleased to announce that Mike Round has now been elected to that role. Mercifully he is willing to combine this with his treasurer's duties for now, but we'd be glad of a volunteer.

And we also welcome Linda Carroll, who has been working away on the programme for a while, and has now, in our hour of need, generously taken on the job of secretary.

We had an interesting talk from local historian Mike Cooper in February. There's not much he doesn't know about Reading in the past. In April, three super ladies from MERL (Museum of English Rural life) gave us a very lively talk on the Swing Riots of 1830. I think most of us were on the side of the rioters by the end.

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

MERL is well worth a visit, it's free and apart from great exhibits, has a cafe and a lovely garden for younger visitors to run around in. You can also contact them to peruse records related to your interests.

### Dates for the diary:

We take a break in the summer but will be represented at the Swallowfield Show.

**18th September**  
Speaker from Sandhurst Military Academy

**16th October**  
A talk on Basildon Park House

**20th November**  
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

## SWALLOWFIELD BADMINTON CLUB

Social badminton is a great way to keep fit through low impact exercise and a great way to make new friends.

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

We are also a non-league club (so no pressure), and our playing standards are quite varied. Whatever level you are or aspire to be, you will find us a friendly and accommodating group. Our season runs from September 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

We really do have a great coaching programme running for both adults and children. In addition, our popular Summer Camps are coming soon, along with a full list of events for 2025. Please refer to the website.

The tennis club supported the recent 80th anniversary VE Day community celebrations, providing a Bar-B-Q which we are very pleased to report - Sold out!

As always, we look forward to seeing you at the club and on the tennis court hopefully soon

Thanks for your support and looking forward to seeing you on court

Sandy Wyles

**Contact:** **w:** clubspark.lta.org.uk/RiseleyTennisClub  
**f:** www.facebook.com/groups/riseleytennis

### 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.



## 1ST SWALLOWFIELD SCOUT GROUP

### Group Meetings (Swallowfield Parish Hall – RG7 1QX)

GROUP	AGE	DAY	TIME
Beavers	6 to 8 years old	Monday	6pm to 7:15pm
Cubs	8 to 10½ years old	Thursday	6:15pm to 7:45pm
Scouts	10½ to 14 years old	Tuesday	7pm to 8:30pm

**Contact:** Tanja Maskell **e:** maskell.family1@gmail.com

# Local Services and Support



## ALL SAINTS CHURCH SWALLOWFIELD

What a gem! We have had All Saints church for at least 750 years, probably nearer 900! Shinfield Local History Society visited in May, to look at the various aspects of the church architecture and history and its links to Swallowfield Park over the centuries.

Did you know that the letter written by Sir John le de Spencer to the Pope in 1256, asking permission to build (we think re-build) the church. Still exists! His name already immortalised in 'Spencers Wood'. His sarcophagus was discovered during the 19th century refurbishment and is in the church under the 15th century belltower. Today's bell ringers are pleased with their new bell ropes, funded in part by the excellent murder mystery night last autumn.

The churchyard is the final resting place of some other interesting characters, including Mary Russell Mitford, author of 'Our Village' books about 18th century Three Mile Cross; an early hot air balloonist, John Mackenzie Bacon; and Lady Guinness, née Russell, who grew up in Swallowfield Park and became a Dublin benefactress as part of the well-known Guinness family.

But the building is only the outward expression of something much more fundamental. Easter is the apex of the Christian year. A time of mixed emotions, it is preceded by the sombre Holy Week, including an atmospheric Maundy Thursday benefice service at All Saints when we remembered Christ's final supper with his disciples and his painful but, oh so significant, death the next day.

Then we celebrate the amazing events of Easter Sunday, which are very hard for us in this era to

comprehend – yet which had such a profound influence on those who experienced it and it is no exaggeration to say, that they changed world history. God's Spirit still changes our lives today, when we open ourselves to allow God to work in and through us. Hallelujah!

**Barbara Stanley**  
Church Warden



## SWALLOWFIELD MEDICAL PRACTICE

Swallowfield Medical Practice are pleased to bring you some updates and announcements.

### How to cope in the hot weather

As we move into the summer months, most of us are glad for some warmer weather. However, the hot weather can cause some health risks. During a heatwave, the main risks are:

- not drinking enough water (dehydration)
- overheating, which can make symptoms worse for people who already have problems with their heart or breathing
- heat exhaustion and heatstroke

Those most at risk are the elderly, those who live on their own or in a care home, those with long-term illnesses, those on multiple medicines and those who find it difficult to keep cool such as babies and young children.

### Tips for coping in the hot weather

- Keep out of the heat if you can. If you must go outside, stay in the shade especially between 11am and 3pm, wear sunscreen, a hat and light clothes, and avoid exercise or activity that makes you hotter.
- Cool yourself down. Have cold food and drinks, avoid alcohol, caffeine and hot drinks, and have a cool shower or put cool water on your skin or clothes.
- Keep your living space cool. Close windows during the day and open them at night when the temperature outside has gone down. Electric fans can help if the temperature is below 35 degrees. Check the temperature of rooms, especially where people at higher risk live and sleep.

**w:** [swallowfieldmedicalpractice.co.uk](http://swallowfieldmedicalpractice.co.uk)



### COVID Vaccinations

We have now finished our Spring 25 COVID Booster Campaign. We would like to thank all staff and volunteers for another successful programme. We will now be starting to prepare for the Autumn flu and COVID booster campaign.

### Stay Informed

We try to keep our website up to date with any news stories and any relevant information about the practice including closures. The website also contains a wealth of information and ways to stay in touch such as:

- Requesting sick notes, referrals and test results
- Requesting repeat medication
- Registering for online access
- Self-help guides for minor illnesses and injuries
- Wellness Centre providing information and contact details for support services including Community Groups, Maternity, Keeping Healthy and Mental Health



## 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

June: 11th, 25th

July: 9th, 23rd

August: 13th, 27th

September: 10th, 24th

## COFFEE CORNER

(Every Wednesday 10.30 – 12.30)  
Swallowfield Parish Hall

We have had a really busy start to the year, with overall attendance up and regular visits from local walking, cycling groups, and the Russell Players back stage crew.

Coffee Corner is a wonderful place to visit if you are new to the area or on your own, with plenty of people happy to have a chat. There are three or four cakes to choose from each week, usually homemade, including a gluten free option. We welcome everyone.

Our profits go to local charities, so the more customers we have, the more to give away! So far this year we have donated £300 each to: Alana House (a women's community project in Reading); Camp Mohawk (a multi-functional day centre for children with special needs and their families in Wargrave); ASD Family Help, Wokingham; and Reading Community Learning Centre. We have also hosted students from the RCLC for a learning lunch in May.

Macmillan Coffee Morning: Please put 24th of September in your diaries. We would love to raise over £1,000 again this year.

Our team of volunteers now numbers 17, with Kay Holmes and Marguerite Bradley being the latest recruits. If you like meeting people in the community and don't mind baking, we always welcome new team members

Why not drop in on a Wednesday morning, for coffee, cake and a chat.

If you like baking and have a bit of free time, why not join the team?

Please contact clare.pilgrim@btinternet.com.



## RISELEY COMMUNITY COFFEE MORNING (Every Monday 10am – 12.00pm) Riseley Tennis Club

We are now establishing ourselves as a regular community fixture with visitors from across the parish (you don't have to live in Riseley).

Come along to enjoy our warm and welcoming atmosphere, where you can meet old friends and make new ones.

Each week we will try and introduce a new activity (absolutely NO pressure to join-in). One of the recent successes was the manufacture of 100's of crocheted / knitted poppies for the VE Day soldier display – created by people from all over the parish, some of whom had never crocheted or knitted before.



## RISELEY, SWALLOWFIELD AND FARLEY HILL CHARITABLE TRUST

Following a wonderful charity Jumble Sale at the Parish Hall in March we wanted to thank everyone who made donations, came along and supported us and especially to our wonderful team of volunteers who helped out on the day – we couldn't do it without you all.

Not only did we see thousands of previously loved items find new homes, but we raised well over £1000 which will be used to support local people and causes.

Our next Jumble Sale will be in the Parish Hall on Saturday 11th of October with the usual format of dropping off donations between 8.30am and 11am – the sale opening at 2pm.

If you are a local family, individual, or organisation in need of assistance, please reach out to us at [rsfenquiries@gmail.com](mailto:rsfenquiries@gmail.com)

Thank you to everyone involved for your continued support.



## RISELEY VILLAGE TEA ROOM

By the time you are reading this you may have been to the VE Day Celebrations, a great idea shared and a wonderful community happening!

Our new Ice Cream Freezer was introduced (just in-time as the day was a scorcher), thanks to New Forest Ice Creams who were incredibly helpful.

### Two Years On and Going Strong

- 15th June is Father's day Bookings are now being taken, so avoid disappointment
- Before then, we will have the amazing Robin coming to play piano for us.
- 21st June we will be closed – Unfortunately / fortunately, we are going to help out at a very big wedding!
- 27th June is a fund-raising event for the charity "Parenting Special Children"
- As soon as I get the format for the day, I'll share it on the website and social media.

**e:** theriseleyvillagetearoom@gmail.com  
**t:** 0118 996 7375  
**f:** www.facebook.com/RiseleyVillageTeaRoom



## THE LINK VISITING SCHEME

Make a Difference in Your Community: Volunteer with The Link Visiting Scheme

Loneliness is a silent epidemic affecting many older adults in our community. The Link Visiting Scheme, a local charity based in Wokingham Borough, is dedicated to combating this issue by providing companionship and support to those who need it most. But we can't do it alone – we need your help!

Volunteering with The Link Visiting Scheme is a rewarding experience that not only enriches the lives of those you visit but also brings joy and fulfilment to your own life. By dedicating just a few hours a week, you can make a significant impact on someone's life,

**t:** 0118 9798019 **w:** www.linkvisiting.org

- 28th June The tearoom has been invited to participate in the Reading Water Festival. Come along for cream tea and cakes at the Abbey ruins on the side of the canal. It's an amazing event and there is always lots to see do and listen to.
- 20th July from 6pm – A celebration evening with the Acoustic Beatles Shambles. Some of you will already know them having played here before and at the Bull in Riseley. It's a good excuse for a sing along and possibly dancing! Drinks will be available, and the food is to be decided. So many exciting times ahead.

Simon and Hilary will be returning, having played to a sold-out tearoom a while back truly incredible musicians.

Teamwork really does make dreams come true, and I am so grateful to you the community for supporting us here at the Tearoom.

Enjoy your summer and we look forward to serving you an ice cream or two !!!

**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.**



offering them friendship, a listening ear, and a sense of belonging.

Our volunteers come from all walks of life, united by a common goal: to make a positive difference. Whether you're a student, a working professional, or retired, your time and compassion can help brighten someone's day. No special skills are required – just a willingness to connect.

Join us in our mission to alleviate loneliness and build a stronger, more connected community. To learn more about volunteering opportunities, visit our website or contact us directly. Together, we can ensure that no one in Wokingham Borough feels alone.



## ALI'S RECYCLING FOR THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

Hello! This is my 2nd article now for your local newsletter. I hope you have perhaps found me on Facebook as that is where I post regular updates. Go to "Ali's Recycling for the Local Community", just to remind you.

So, my grand total of recycling sent off to Terracycle in January 2025, amounted to 154.5kg of items. This is far lower than what I used to send a few years ago due to the loss of many Terracycle schemes to the supermarkets (soft plastics recycling), and the closure of some schemes for other reasons.

This is a very easy scheme to collect for me so please do feel free to make a start!

The other busy scheme was the Bakery scheme – I can take any sliced bread bag, and a variety of bakery bags and wrappers, such as tortilla wraps, pain au chocolate, brioche bags, hot dog rolls, flatbread packets – so much more than you may think I can take! 19.5kg of these items went to Terracycle for recycling – great work!

The other top schemes in January for me were the Pringles tube scheme – 14kg of those – remember, I can only take the Pringles tubes with metal bases. Any paper-based ones can go in your kerbside green bags. It's unusual for people not to like the odd biscuit, so do help me increase the January total of 10kg sent off to Terracycle. This is a far-ranging scheme where I can take your typical digestive biscuit packet, to mini roll wrappers, breadsticks, frusli bars, mini cheddars & twiglets, to rice cakes, Kit-Kats & penguins, and far more! If you work in an office, perhaps you can set up

**e:** chaneys1066@btinternet.com  
**f:** www.facebook.com/AliRecycling

a collection bin or box for these items? Or a school – children must consume a few of these items!

Even my less busy schemes like Babbel and Marigold gloves make a difference – 8.5kg in total for both those schemes were saved from landfill, yay!

I hope this gives you some idea of how much can be saved from the bin, if you take a good look at my list and try to save me a few items each week, it really does make a difference!

And remember, I fundraise for many local charities, so your help and support mean the world to me, and others!



## 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

# Your Local Borough Councillor Update

## One Year in Office

Completing my first year, I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has supported me and shared their views. It is a privilege to serve such a vibrant and committed community, and I've been working hard to ensure that your voices are heard at Borough level.

Over the past year, I've identified several areas where we could improve the way WBC supports our residents, and I intend to work with the officers at WBC to explore how we can make this happen.

**Fly-Tipping:** We must all continue working together to keep our community beautiful and litter-free. If you have a suggestion that I can discuss with the officers at WBC, please let me know as I continue to press the Council for improvements in waste management that support responsible disposal.

On a positive note, I would like to highlight and celebrate some of the outstanding community champions who make our parish special:

**Peter Sampson:** Leading the charge with our bi-annual litter picks. His commitment and the efforts of all the volunteers, help to keep our shared spaces clean and welcoming.

**VE Day Celebrations in Riseley** – A big thank you to the main organisers (Miquelette Cooper and Louise Smith), plus the huge team of volunteers, for such a wonderful day, a perfect example of community spirit in action.

I look forward to continuing to work with you all in the year ahead

**Councillor Dave Edmonds**  
(Mobile: 07540 069596)

[dave.edmonds@wokingham.gov.uk](mailto:dave.edmonds@wokingham.gov.uk)

## Planning Update

I enjoyed Graham Stanley's talk about the Flood Resilience Group and its natural flood management scheme, showing how residents can work effectively with other agencies. I also took part in the well-attended Parish Litter Pick. Swallowfield Residents make an impressive contribution to running the community.

WBC's Local Plan Update (LPU) was submitted to the Secretary of State for examination by an independent Planning Inspector. No sites are proposed for development in Swallowfield other than the Trowes Lane site, which, to our regret, already has permission. Much of the Parish is designated in the LPU as 'valued landscape', or 'national historic park and garden'.

But we cannot rest on our laurels. The annual target number of houses is currently 748; the new government has mandated 1336, and almost as soon as the current LPU gets approval, which should be early next year, WBC will have to start work on yet another update. I am as opposed to new houses on my doorstep as the next councillor, but sites in Swallowfield will not be immune from being offered for new housing, and I urge anyone who is concerned about the effect speculative development might have on the Parish, to get involved and start taking a look at whether a Neighbourhood Plan could be useful.

Please contact me if you are interested in shaping the future of your community in this way.

**Councillor Catherine Glover**  
[catherine.glover@wokingham.gov.uk](mailto:catherine.glover@wokingham.gov.uk)

## Community Governance Review (CGR) – Feedback

As I mentioned in the last Newsletter, Wokingham Borough Council encouraged all residents and interested parties to contribute to the latest CGR to ensure that everyone is represented appropriately and effectively throughout town and parish councils.

Thank you to everyone who took part in the initial consultation (30th of January to 25th of April), asked residents to give their views on the current arrangements for the towns and parishes in Wokingham Borough. Issues such as warding arrangements and the number of councillors that represent their area were some of the topics covered.

143 responses were received through our "Engage Wokingham Borough" platform, as well as 12 written responses, mainly from town and parish councils.

We are now in the process of considering submissions and are preparing a report of draft recommendations. This will be put to Council in July. We will undertake a second public consultation on the draft recommendations later in the year.

Submissions from the initial consultation will be published in the near future on the Engage Wokingham Platform.

### Digital access survey sees big response

I know mobile coverage (a weak or complete lack of a signal) is important to our residents. Berkshire residents were asked about broadband, mobile coverage, online access and the barriers to digital access. From 1,634 responses, 489 were from Wokingham residents.

**Councillor Stuart Munro**  
[stuart.munro@wokingham.gov.uk](mailto:stuart.munro@wokingham.gov.uk)

## LOCAL CONTACTS

**All Saints' Church, Swallowfield and Nutbean Cemetery**  
0118 988 5923 or email [office@loddonreach.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:clerk@swallowfieldpc.gov.uk)  
[www.swallowfieldpc.gov.uk](http://www.swallowfieldpc.gov.uk)

Your Parish Councillors are:

John Anderson (Chair)  
[john.anderson@swallowfieldpc.gov.uk](mailto:john.anderson@swallowfieldpc.gov.uk)

Rob Chapman  
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Louise Smith  
[louise.smith@swallowfieldpc.gov.uk](mailto:louise.smith@swallowfieldpc.gov.uk)

Simon Taylor (Chair, Planning)  
[simon.taylor@swallowfieldpc.gov.uk](mailto:simon.taylor@swallowfieldpc.gov.uk)

# 80th Anniversary of VE Day

By Louise Smith

Hello everybody

On behalf of Miquelette and myself I would like to thank everyone that took part in the Riseley VE Day celebrations, with a special call-out to:

- Adele Young for crowdfunding (~£500) and the advertising.
- To the Riseley, Swallowfield and Farley Hill Charitable Trust and the Calico Trust for the complementary children's crafts.
- Swallowfield Scouts for the penalty shoot-out and amazing prize.
- Colin, Wendy and Filomena for the skittles competition
- Sandy and Pat for the "Tug-of-War"
- Riseley Tennis club and Tea rooms for refreshments and use of facilities.
- Micheal (B-Side at the Bull) for the amazing music and volunteering to DJ.
- Carolyn Hill for her exceptionally talented singing
- All Saints Church and Barbara Stanley for the loan of several gazebos
- The parish council for the use of the Recreation ground and tables.
- And of course, everyone else that helped to plan, prepare, donate and lend.
- Without all of your help and support we wouldn't have been able to make such a success of the day.

Finally, a big thank you to the residents and everyone that came along and participated in the day (around 350 of you). It really was great to see the parish come together and was so inspiring to witness the support and a true sense of community in action. I was overwhelmed and felt really special to be a part of our community

Thank you Louise.

