



Swallowfield Parish

Newsletter

Winter 2025

Reflections from the chair

First of all, I would like to extend a warm welcome to Tyler Coombes who has joined the council's staff as our new caretaker. He has been with us since June so is already fairly familiar with the routine.

In this newsletter, we are highlighting the local council elections due to be held in May 2026 when our parish council will be up for re-election - see page 3. We need more candidates to stand. I am disappointed that no one has come forward offering to join the parish council to fill the vacancy that has been outstanding since March this year. Swallowfield is a relatively small parish with just nine councillor posts, yet the parish council manages and maintains more facilities and delivers more services than many larger councils. The council cannot function effectively without a full complement of councillors willing to do their bit for the community and able to bring fresh ideas.

Talking of fresh ideas, the council has only received one response to its article and request for project suggestions in the Autumn newsletter. I realise that there are some things we cannot or should not do because they are properly the responsibility of Wokingham Borough Council, but the article detailed many areas where the Parish Council can act.

The Autumn Litter Pick to supplement the one in March each year is a fine example of how community-minded people can pull together to make a difference. It has now become a regular event on the annual calendar. Once again it was a great success and well supported. Thanks again to Peter and Claire Sampson for organising it and all the willing volunteers who supported it.

The Swallowfield Show was blessed with fine weather and was as popular as ever. Sparks in the Park returned this year at its new venue, the Farley Estate showground. The traditional Remembrance Sunday Commemoration took place at the war memorial, and this was followed by a service at the church.

By the time you receive this we will be on the home straight to Christmas so we can look forward to events including the pantomime to be staged by the Russell Players in January, see page 5. Details of carol singing in Riseley and Swallowfield are on the back page and the Parish Council will again make a contribution towards the mulled wine and mince pies.

Details of Christmas church services are also included in this edition. I wish all of you a joyful Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Cllr John Anderson, Chair
john.anderson@swallowfieldpc.gov.uk

Autumn Litter Pick 2025

On Saturday 25 October 2025, residents from across our parish came together for the Autumn Litter Pick, showing once again, that community spirit and environmental care go hand in hand.

A Day of Local Pride with Added Fresh Air

The Autumn Litter Pick saw locals of all ages gather at the Davies Room in Swallowfield Parish Hall. Armed with litter pickers, hi-vis vests, bin bags, and smiles, the volunteers fanned out across our villages to tackle roadside rubbish carelessly discarded by individuals who show little regard for our shared spaces.



This is our second Autumn Litter Pick and follows the success of the Spring Litter Pick, where over 70 residents filled more than 200 sacks of litter, along with larger discarded items. The autumn event continued that momentum, reinforcing the community's commitment to keeping the parish clean, green, and welcoming.

As a thank-you, volunteers were treated to refreshments sponsored by the Parish Council, creating a warm and sociable atmosphere that turned hard work into a celebration of community spirit. The Davies Room buzzed with conversation, laughter, and a shared sense of purpose. We were also joined by our local Member of Parliament and three Ward Councillors, reinforcing the importance of such events.

Why It Matters

Beyond tidying up, the litter picks foster environmental awareness, strengthens neighbourly bonds and sets a positive example for younger generations. It's a reminder that small actions—like picking up a crisp packet or an old bottle—can collectively make a big difference. Many people in our Parish pick up litter on a regular basis, and I would encourage others to join this growing band. If interested, please contact the Parish Clerk or join the "Adopt a Street" scheme on Wokingham Borough Council's website.

Looking Ahead

With the success of both spring and autumn events, we are already looking forward to continuing these initiatives into 2026. Residents are encouraged to stay informed via the Parish Council's newsletter, Facebook page, and website for future picks when they are announced.



And Finally...

In our Parish, we are extremely lucky to have a great mix of activities available to residents, most of which would not exist without people giving up their time and working hard to make them successful. The litter pick is no exception, and I am always extremely grateful to both the volunteers who turn up and the team that makes the day happen by providing refreshments, setting up the hall, collecting the bags of rubbish at the end of the day, and creating a welcoming and appreciative environment. Thank you all!

Peter Sampson

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Could You Help Shape the Future of Swallowfield Parish?

SWALLOWFIELD PARISH COUNCIL ELECTION
ON THURSDAY
7 MAY 2026

On Thursday 7 May 2026, Swallowfield Parish Council will hold its next scheduled election, and we want to encourage residents from across the parish to consider standing.

The Council plays a vital role in protecting local assets, supporting community initiatives, and ensuring that decisions reflect the needs and priorities of our residents. Yet unless more than nine people stand for election, there will be no public vote — candidates will be elected unopposed. This has now been the case for over a decade.

The last contested election in Swallowfield was in 2014. Since then, most councillors have either been elected unopposed or co-opted to fill vacancies. We've rarely had all nine seats filled for more than a few months at a time. Currently, the Council comprises four members elected unopposed and four co-opted. Unless more residents come forward, we are likely to see another uncontested election. Is that the best we can do?

We believe our parish deserves a council that reflects your community, its skills, its energy, and its ideas.

Whether your strengths lie in planning, communication, finance, IT, or simply in asking thoughtful questions, your contribution could make a real difference. You don't need prior experience — just a willingness to listen, learn, and help shape the future of our villages.

In recent newsletters, we've shared how the Council manages its finances, what powers it holds, and how we are actively seeking ideas to better serve the community — your community. If you feel you can bring something to that conversation, we'd love to hear from you.

If you're curious about what's involved, come along to a Parish Council meeting (these are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the Rose Room, Swallowfield Parish Hall), speak to a current councillor, or contact the Parish Clerk. There's also a "Becoming a Councillor" section on our website, including a link to the official guidance on GOV.UK.

Let's make this election a real opportunity for renewal.

Could one of the names on the ballot be yours?

KEY INFORMATION:

- The election will be held on Thursday 7 May 2026.
- Swallowfield Parish Council has nine seats — a poll is held only if more than nine candidates stand.
- At present, Farley Hill is not represented on the Council, and we would especially welcome interest from that area.
- Nominations must be submitted by mid-April 2026 (19 working days before the election).



Local clubs and groups



**THEATRICAL SOCIETY
BASED IN SWALLOWFIELD**
(PRODUCTIONS AND MEMBERSHIP)

A Sequence of Events by Juliet Devon

The Russell Player's latest outing 'A Sequence of Events,' transported Swallowfield back to a time that will have resonated for many, while also reminding us how much society has changed.

The play unfolds in two decades divided by thirty years – the 1960s and 1990s. With another thirty or so separating those eras from today, it's a reminder of just how far we've come in matters of love, shame, and family.



After a delicious light supper provided by the Riseley Village Tea Room, the sold-out audience became immersed in the production. We sat in a silent stillness as we were drawn irresistibly toward the unfolding drama. No one moved in their seat from the start, even the air seemed to have stilled; the audience was not

watching a play, they were living it. It captured us all from the start, with the dramatic voiceovers by Bryan



Partington and Nigel Adams, the cleverly selected music, the set designs and period hair, makeup, and costumes, set the tone perfectly.

Under the direction of Deni Smale, the skilled writing of Juliet Devon, and the stage management of Doog Wright, the Russell Players delivered another production displaying their acting versatility in a play that dared to tell us an honest and different truth. It balanced the emotional weight with empathy and quiet humour. It provided its audience with thought-provoking entertainment and was another success for the Russell Players.

Thank you to everyone who has supported us throughout the year. We wish you a Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year.

Ellyn Wright



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



Following on from the success of our October production, work is underway on our pantomime, *Beauty and the Beast* by James Barry and directed by Deni Smale.

PERFORMANCE DATES:

- **Wednesday 28 January 2026 (Charity Night)**
Evening performance - doors open at 7.00pm
- **Saturday 31 January 2026**
Matinee performance – doors open at 2.00pm
- **Saturday 31 January 2026**
Evening performance – doors open at 7.00 pm.

Further details can be found on our website, russellplayers.co.uk, and our Facebook page. This production will be by arrangement with Lazy Bee Scripts.

The Committee



SWALLOWFIELD ART GROUP

EXPLORING ART BY BENOIT HAVARD



This term we have explored using palette knives with acrylic paint to create abstract urban landscapes, inspired by the work of Benoit Havard.

Havard was born in France in 1981 and studied at the École des Beaux-Arts de Cherbourg, under the tutelage of Jean-Baptiste Valadié, a great landscape artist in his own right. By

his early twenties, Havard had already settled on oils and palette knives as his preferred media and tools. His work is based on the study of light and contrast, in a spontaneous style, playing with transparency, streaks and fades to create texture and movement, usually in city landscapes such as London, New York and Paris.

Oil paint takes too long to dry for a two-hour lesson, so we worked in acrylic. The first stage is to draw out the key lines of the buildings, paying very careful attention to perspective and vanishing points.

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

The next step is a loose underpainting to create the basic shapes in the correct colours; this should be transparent enough to see the line drawing underneath. Where the linework has disappeared, put it back in with brown acrylic. The next stage is to use masking tape to define building edges, gradually filling in each building. Once the buildings are dry, the windows can be painted in with lighter blocks of colour, which can then be scraped to provide window detail. The sky and foreground are then painted, paying particular attention to light, reflections and shadows.



Two different reference photos of New York were offered by our tutor, giving a choice of which to paint. Of the three paintings shown, two were from the same picture. It is always interesting to see how the results vary by artist, even when the same source material is used.



Patricia Taylor

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.



SWALLOWFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY & SWALLOWFIELD SHOW



We were delighted to welcome a total of 8,330 visitors to the Swallowfield Show at the August Bank Holiday weekend this year, to enjoy a huge range of high-quality family entertainment and fun-filled activities in the summer sunshine.

The amazing line-up of Main Arena acts and Village Green live musicians and performers kept the crowds entertained and the newly named Activity Zone offered a wide range of 'hands on' experiences, ranging from reptiles to blacksmithing and from beekeeping to dinosaurs! The expanded Dog Events Area was as popular as ever and there were 332 entries in the Horse Show, an increase of over 50% on 2024. There was also a further large increase in Classic Vehicle and Machinery displays with over 300 attending on each day. Competition entry numbers were up by 50% as well this year, with the overall numbers exceeding 1,000 – thank you and well done to all who participated.



Swallowfield Horticultural Society would like to thank everyone who visited the Show as well as all our stall holders, exhibitors, sponsors, advertisers and volunteers for their contribution and support. A special thank you to all those additional volunteers who stepped in to manage the car parking after our previously appointed crew pulled out three days before the event.

Thanks also to Lord and Lady Bearsted and their staff at Farley Estate for allowing us to use Swallowfield Park and for their generous assistance in preparing the site.

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



In addition to providing a community event for the benefit of local families, a key aim of the Swallowfield Show is to raise funds for local charities.

We are delighted to announce that a total of £30,506 will be distributed amongst the following good causes: -





SWALLOWFIELD PARISH ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION

As the year comes to a close, we've been reflecting on another successful year down at the Calico Field. December isn't as lean as might be expected, and we've been harvesting Brussels sprouts, cabbages, cauliflowers and some hardy kale. Parsnips, swedes and turnips are still in good supply, and we've been

digging over our beds and covering them with compost and manure to give them a feed over the winter, ready for spring planting.

It's been all hands on deck at our recent working parties to cut back the hedgerows, turn and cover the compost heaps and re-home a couple of large fruit trees to create a mini-orchard at the front of the site, but we always end the day with coffee, cake and

a chat. As I write this in October, the hedgerows are groaning with the weight of sloes and it's been a bumper year for many other soft fruits, tomatoes and butternut squash.

We held a very successful Harvest event in September and raised valuable funds to be used for projects around the site. The weather couldn't have been better, and we had a steady stream of visitors keen to look around the plots. We had carrots, potatoes, tomatoes and salads for sale, along with jams and chutneys and beautiful bunches of dahlias. As always, the homemade cakes were hugely popular. Keep an eye out for our next Open Day in May 2026 when we'll have seeds and young plants for sale ready for the growing season.

Contact: Jane Scuffell, SPAA Chairperson
e: chair@swallowfieldpaa.org **w:** www.swallowfieldallotment.org



Things are winding down for winter, but there are still things to do in December:

- Late crops can be harvested, including parsnips, leeks and winter cabbages. All can be left in the ground until needed.
- Harvest Brussels sprouts when they are still small, and stake them to protect from strong winds.
- Clear away any old plants and add to your compost heap. Tidy the beds and cover with manure or well-rotted compost to enrich the soil, then cover with cardboard or membrane.
- Winter-prune apple and pear trees, and fruit bushes.
- It's not too late to lift and divide large clumps of rhubarb, replanting them in soil enriched with leaf mould or well-rotted manure.

If you would like to know more about the allotments, or might be interested in taking one on, take a look at our website:

Happy gardening!
Jane Scuffell



SWALLOWFIELD PITT BRIDGE LODGE

Our November meeting completed yet another year in the life of this highly successful Masonic Lodge. Is it because I am getting older, or because we get so much pleasure from Masonry, that each year goes quicker than the last? The Lodge was founded six years ago being the brainchild of Dr Roger Jago, a highly ranked Mason who unfortunately is no longer with us. He had a very clear vision for the future of Masonry, and we endeavour to keep to his principles; in fact others are incorporating some of our distinctive features into their own Lodges.

We held our last meeting of the year at The Mill House Hotel on Monday 3rd November and what a successful year it has been, with our number swelled by an Initiate and a Joining Member. It does not get much better than this. The only thing that tempers our joy is the recent loss of a highly respected and valued member to the Grand Lodge Above. He will never be forgotten. He forms a part of the rich history of this Lodge.

At our next meeting in February, we will be installing our new Master for the year 2026-27. This is a great occasion that is always very well attended. This year will be especially significant because after seven years

of existence, Swallowfield Pitt Bridge Lodge will for the first time have a Master who has been Initiated into this Lodge. Previous Masters have, by necessity, been joining members. There will be a changing of the guard, with members, reinvigorated, looking forward to yet another year of enjoyment and fulfilment.

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 254350, email: timpac5261@live.co.uk) for further information. We offer a fascinating experience in our excellent local venue with warm fellowship and good food.

Tim Double

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

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

SOCIAL BADMINTON - THURSDAY AFTERNOON
from 2pm to 4pm (except August)

Contact: Val Payne **t:** 0118 988 3594
e: valg.payne@btinternet.com

SWALLOWFIELD BADMINTON CLUBS

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

Ours is 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 started in September, so why not come along to a free 'taster' evening! We hope to see you soon.



Your Local Borough Councillor Update

Rising to the Challenge

In the last newsletter I wrote that, under the Government's 'Fairer Funding' proposals, your council tax might be diverted to other councils. That wasn't quite accurate, but Wokingham Borough is faced with losing £47 million of Government funding over the next three years, so council tax increases will be needed to plug the gap. Inflation, and increasing demand for statutory services – adults' and children's social care – will put our budgets under enormous strain.

We have lobbied the government to change the way this flawed funding allocation has been worked out, but we have to wait until December for their decision.

Fortunately, we have sufficient earmarked reserves to enable us to approach the problem calmly and rationally, find innovative ways to streamline our services and focus on prevention and early intervention so that residents' problems don't escalate.

We're also grateful that, through innovating to make services more efficient and "invest to save" initiatives such as buying care homes, building SEND schools, and, yes, even the road surface dressing programme, we have already saved £28 million over the past three years.

New and renewed relationships with community partners – businesses, parishes, other councils, police and emergency services, the NHS, the Youth Council, and the University of Reading – also stand us in good stead.

Despite the challenges, the Council won't waver from its mission to ensure that everyone in Wokingham Borough has the opportunity to thrive: being able to start well, live well, and age well.

Cllr Catherine Glover
catherine.glover@wokingham.gov.uk

Tribute to Councillor Stuart Munro

As Councillor Stuart Munro prepares to step down from Wokingham Borough Council in 2026, it's fitting to reflect on his 20 years of service to the community. Stuart has been a steady and reliable presence throughout his time on the council, always focused on doing what he felt was best for local residents.

Over the years, Stuart has taken on several executive roles, including responsibilities for Business and Economic Development, Finance, and Housing. These are not always the easiest portfolios, but Stuart approached each with his usual sense of practicality and care. He has always preferred to focus on the detail, making sure that decisions were based on sound reasoning and that the interests of residents were kept at the forefront.

Stuart has often said that what he enjoys most about being a Councillor is helping people directly, listening to concerns, sorting out issues, and trying to make a difference where he can. That down-to-earth approach has earned him the respect of those he represents, and of colleagues across the council.

Those of us who have worked with Stuart know him as someone who doesn't make a fuss but gets on quietly and effectively with the job. He brings a calm perspective to discussions and a good sense of balance, especially when debates become heated. His experience and measured judgement have been valuable to all of us who have served alongside him.

As he steps down, Stuart can look back on two decades of steady contribution across Wokingham Borough. He has played his part in shaping policy, supporting residents, and guiding the Council through times of change. His departure will certainly be felt, but he leaves with the thanks and best wishes of his colleagues.

We wish Stuart every success and happiness in whatever comes next, and we thank him for the commitment and time he has given to public service over so many years.

David Edmonds
dave.edmonds@wokingham.gov.uk



Postal vote renewal reminder for residents

Postal votes now expire after three years due to a new law, voters who vote by post need to be aware of this change.

If you vote by post, there is an important change you need to know about. A new law means that postal votes now expire after three years.

This means that anyone who applied for their postal vote before 31 October 2023 **must reapply before 31 January 2026** if they want to keep voting by post.

How WBC is contacting affected voters

WBC has already contacted everyone affected by email or letter earlier this year. From October 2025, WBC will be writing again to anyone who has not reapplied yet. Reminder letters will follow in December 2025.

The easiest way to renew your postal vote is online. You will need your date of birth, National Insurance number and, you will need to upload a picture of your signature to confirm your identity.

Cancelling your postal vote

If you do not want to vote by post anymore, please let Wokingham Borough Council know as soon as possible so we can save on unnecessary printing and postage.

You can cancel your postal vote online, by email, or by sending WBC a letter at:

The Electoral Registration Officer,
Freepost: RTKL-JXUU-TLUB,
Wokingham,
Berkshire
RG40 1GY

Why your information matters

This information is used to verify your identity, and to verify that someone else has not completed your postal vote. It is therefore important to provide this information to ensure the application goes smoothly.

If you are unable to provide a signature, you can contact the Electoral Services team, who can advise on the next steps.

What happens if you do not reapply?

Anyone who has not renewed by 31 January 2026 will receive a letter in February confirming their postal vote has been cancelled.

As I send this note, the clocks have just changed, and the nights are drawing in. I hope that you all have an excellent season and a happy Christmas.

Stuart Munro
stuart.munro@wokingham.gov.uk

Local Services and Support



ALL SAINTS CHURCH SWALLOWFIELD

Christmas is approaching, and you are all warmly invited to our services. The Carol Service (4 p.m. this Sunday, 14 December) will be enhanced by the Farley Singers, so expect a treat. The Crib Service (4 p.m. on Christmas Eve) heralds in Christmas for young and older alike, as we provide children's costumes and create the Nativity tableau, building parental memories which last a lifetime. Next is Midnight Communion (11:30 p.m.) and the Family Service (10:30 a.m. on Christmas Day).

Writing this in late October results in more oddities of timing than usual, as I have to anticipate some events which you will remember as being in the recent past.

In October, the Farley Singers gave us an afternoon of beautiful music, and the Scouts tried their hand at bellringing, and four new Scouts were also invested.

We expect the whole troop of Beavers, Cubs, and Scouts will be as smart and engaged as usual on Remembrance Sunday. Our 'special guest' at the war memorial this year is the impressive soldier, crocheted by Miquelette Cooper, who made his first appearance as the star of the Riseley VE Day celebration.

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

In church life, it has been a time of mixed emotions — of sadness but also of happy memories. Most importantly, it has been a time that has, we hope, shown you that the church is here for you whenever you need it. An extremely well-attended memorial service for florist extraordinaire Margaret Finch was followed by an incredibly creative and uplifting Flower Festival. We anticipate (and you will probably recall with a smile) another large gathering for dear Fred Holloway's memorial service, as his contribution to so many aspects of local life is legendary. I write with sadness just after the death of Hazel Gillingwater, who also contributed hugely to village life, especially the church and Russell Players. Our community is significantly poorer for the passing of all three, and as a church, I am glad we have been able to host and support all three families.

As we approach Christmas, with its candles and fairy lights, let us also remember with thanksgiving the coming of the Light of the World.

Barbara Stanley, Church Warden



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.



BOCCIA AT SWALLOWFIELD PARISH HALL

EVERY WEDNESDAY FROM 10AM – 11AM

Exercise can be enjoyable! This new exercise class 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!

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.

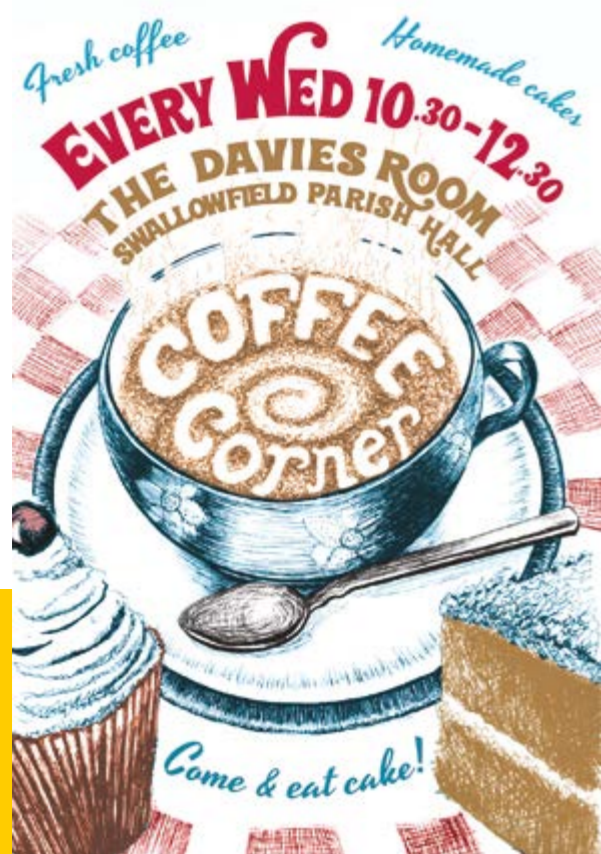
Text Sarah Firth 07973307721

FUTURE DATES:

2025
 10th December

2026
 7th & 21st January
 4th & 18th February
 4th & 18th March





COFFEE CORNER

SWALLOWFIELD PARISH HALL
(EVERY WEDNESDAY 10.30 – 12.30)

News from Coffee Corner

- Our Macmillan Coffee Morning raised £865 for MacMillian Cancer Care.
- Drop in for seasonal treats at our Christmas special on 17th December.
- We will be closed on Christmas and New Year's Eve

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

RISELEY VILLAGE TEA ROOM

What a Community Spirit there was at the Riseley Village Tea Room after the Remembrance Day service and procession!

The Tea Room was filled with warmth and camaraderie as everyone gathered for a well-deserved cuppa, cake, and a chat.

It's so wonderful to be able to provide a welcoming space for the community to come together and share stories, reminiscences, and fond memories of loved ones who had served.

I'd like to thank the multi-talented Miquelette for not only creating such an incredible soldier and being so filled with community spirit, but also for helping me serve the hot drinks and then get the tearoom ready for a busy afternoon.

It was lovely to catch up with people I hadn't seen for years!

Thank you all for coming. We raised £150 for the British Legion from the sale of Miquelette's poppies and your very generous donations on the day.

CHRISTMAS HAS ARRIVED AT THE TEA ROOM

OUR OPENING HOURS ARE:

MONDAY AND TUESDAY 2 TO 5
Booking only, even for a cuppa!

This will stop in the new year and start again in the spring.

THURSDAY TO SUNDAY
10am to noon then 2-5pm.
Booking advised even for a cuppa!

We close from Sunday 21st December and re-open on Thursday 22nd January 2026

We look forward to seeing you sometime over the festive period and wish you and your loved ones a joyous Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

Lots of Love, Debbie and the incredible team xx

w: www.riseleyvillagetearoom.co.uk



RISELEY COMMUNITY COFFEE MORNING

(EVERY MONDAY 10AM – 12.30PM)
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!

Our last session for 2025 will be 15th December. We will re-start on 5th January.



SWALLOWFIELD MEDICAL PRACTICE

Dr Helen Hegarty – Retirement

After 34 years of service here at the practice, Dr Helen Hegarty retired in November. We will all miss Dr Hegarty, and we wish her all the best. We hope she will be a familiar face and still pop in to see us from time to time. Thank you to everyone who has provided kind messages and gifts for Dr Hegarty.

Dr Graham - New GP

We are delighted to welcome Dr Graham to our clinical team from December. Dr Graham will be consulting three days per week, and she looks forward to providing care and support to our patients.

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.

w: swallowfieldmedicalpractice.co.uk

The following links provide advice for some common conditions:

Chest infection

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/chest-infection/>

Coughs

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/cough/>

Colds

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/common-cold/>

COVID-19

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/covid-19/>

Ear Infections

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/ear-infections/>

Sinusitis (sinus infection)

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/sinusitis-sinus-infection/>

COVID-19 and Flu Vaccine

All patients eligible for seasonal flu and COVID-19 booster vaccinations should have received a text or telephone call to book into one of our clinics. If you are eligible but have not heard from us, please contact the practice.

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 / 0118 988 2014
e: ros.riddell@btinternet.com



RISELEY, SWALLOWFIELD AND FARLEY HILL CHARITABLE TRUST

Thank You for Supporting Our Charity Jumble Sale

A huge thank you to everyone who supported our recent Jumble Sale!

We're delighted to share that we raised a fantastic amount and are now looking at how best to support local charities and causes through the Riseley, Swallowfield & Farley Hill Charitable Trust.

Everything from the day was recycled, including clothes, toys, books, jigsaws, etc all donated to local charities and organisations, and for the first time ever, no tip run was needed!

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who donated, volunteered, baked, sorted, or came along on the day, your support makes such a difference.

The date of our next Jumble Sale is the 28th February 2026, we can't wait to see you all again!

w: www.facebook.com/RSFCharitableTrust/

NEXT JUMBLE SALE 28TH FEBRUARY 2026!

thank you

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/rsf_charitabletrust/



THE LINK VISITING SCHEME

CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH FOR OLDER PEOPLE IN WOKINGHAM

Are you (or someone you know) an older person who will be on their own this Christmas Day? We warmly invite you to join us for a delicious Christmas lunch in Wokingham, hosted by The Link Visiting Scheme.

This festive event is completely free and promises good food prepared by professional chefs, happy company, and a welcoming atmosphere in a lovely venue. It's a wonderful way to spend Christmas Day, surrounded by company and warmth.

If you'd like to come along, please call our office on **0118 979 8019** to book

your place. We may also be able to arrange transport if needed, thanks to volunteer drivers. And for those unable to leave their homes, we may be able to deliver a festive meal directly to your door.

The Link Visiting Scheme is an award-winning local charity dedicated to reducing loneliness and social isolation among older people. We offer regular friendship visits, social groups, and seasonal events like this Christmas Lunch to help people feel connected and valued.

And for the whole community, we are hosting a very special Christmas Carol Service at All Saints Church, Wiltshire Rd, Wokingham, where we will light candles, sing carols and remember those we might miss over the festive period. We'll have St Sebastian's Brass Band and singing led by Soph from Sing for Yourself. All are welcome! Thursday, December 18th 11am to 1pm. Refreshments provided.

Christmas can be a difficult time for those on their own, but it doesn't have to be. Please help us spread the word—whether you're referring someone or joining us yourself, we'd love to hear from you.

Let's make this Christmas a joyful one!

www.linkvisiting.org/christmas

Thanks to the generosity of local businesses and fundraising events, the festivities are made possible each year. For those unable to attend in person, we also offer home deliveries of Christmas meals and gifts, ensuring no one is left out.

Would you like to help spread some Christmas cheer?

- You can donate a gift via our Amazon Wish List — you'll also find links to this on our Kindness Trees popping up across the borough. Keep an eye out for them!
- Volunteer with us — we especially need drivers to help transport guests or deliver meals. Sign up quickly at www.linkvisiting.org/christmas as spaces fill up fast

t: 0118 9798019 w: www.linkvisiting.org

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
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Catherine Drew
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Laura Edmonds
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John McDermott
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Louise Smith
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Simon Taylor (Chair, Planning)
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