



Swallowfield Parish

Newsletter

Spring 2026

Reflections from the chair

Welcome to the spring newsletter. Last year I wrote this in my newsletter report – “Rain has been a feature of winter for the second year running and once again problems have been reported with surcharging of the sewers in Swallowfield.” Well, it seems that little has changed for the third year in succession! I understand that the sewage pumping station has run into problems with a defective valve downstream which has resulted in the 24/7 tankering operation to prevent sewage discharge into water courses and backing up into people’s homes. Unfortunately, the persistent wet weather prevented Thames Water from being able to access the faulty valve to repair it but was finally able to complete the work on 27th February after water levels had receded. At least Thames Water had our interests at heart and did the right thing despite the enormous inconvenience caused. The bus service through the village was suspended for a while but after extensive lobbying was reinstated.

As if to add insult to injury, the humpback bridge by the church has been half demolished by an articulated lorry that ignored the warning sign and decided to give it a go. CCTV footage made it onto the BBC News. The bridge had to be closed to traffic until such time as the structure could be properly assessed once river levels allowed. The Borough Council responded quickly to do this and put in place temporary measures which have enabled the bridge, an important route for locals, to be reopened to traffic. It is hard to understand what on earth the lorry driver was thinking – a complete idiot.

A permanent repair could take some considerable time as the cost and liability for the damage will need to be established.

Maintenance of our buildings seems never-ending. Additional work has and is being undertaken on the buildings at Riseley including updating parts of the plumbing system and replacing the electrical heaters and remaining doors and windows in the Tea Room.

The Parish Council has approved its budget for the 2026/27 financial year and has applied for a precept of £43,056 in total which represents a modest 4.54% increase on 2025/26 and is still one of the lowest in the Borough. The balance is funded from other income sources. This should be seen in the context of a balanced budget of circa £300K to cover anticipated day to day and routine ‘business as usual’ expenditure which excludes projects funded from reserves and Community Infrastructure Levy.

WBC has completed a Community Governance Review which looked into parish boundaries within the borough. As a result, our parish boundaries have changed. We lose the small triangle of land extending to the east of the A327 into Arborfield Green where some 100 new dwellings have been built and the boundary now follows the A327. The parish has also gained a parcel of land that was formerly part of Finchampstead Parish extending down to New Mill Lane.

Reflections from the Chair continued.

The Parish Council has made progress on developing the Van Demans field which borders the Devil's Highway into a natural green space that it is hoped will eventually be registered as a Local Nature Reserve open to all residents. An expert report has been delivered and various recommendations agreed to maintain and improve the site, including new planting and signage. Grant funding is being sought for further actions including improvements to the entrances.

The council has given approval to replace the two old chiller units in the shop with a modern unit and a contractor has been appointed. Lead times suggest that the installation will take place in April or early May.

Finally, some dates for your diary:

- The Annual Parish Litter Pick, part of a borough-wide initiative, will take place on Saturday 21st March
- The date of the Annual Parish Meeting is impacted by the timing of the local elections and has yet to be decided so please keep a look out for notices. It is likely to be a date in June.



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



Parish News

MAY 7th Council Election

In our Winter issue, we included an article discussing the elections to be held on 7 May 2026. These are elections for one Borough Councillor in the Spencers Wood and Swallowfield Ward and for all nine Parish Councillors in Swallowfield Parish.

There are many ways in which you can contribute to the life of the parish; perhaps standing for the Parish Council is right for you. You can find out how to stand by searching for "Current elections" on Wokingham.gov.uk.

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 9 April 2026.

Let's make this election a real opportunity for renewal. Could one of the names on the ballot be yours?



Gordon Collender

We were sorry to hear that Gordon Collender passed away just after Christmas in South Africa. Gordon lived in Swallowfield for many years and served on the Parish Council for 27 years, including 9 as Chairman. He and his wife, Lorna, played a key role in organising the summer church fete for many years.

Contents

3	Parish News
4-5	Van Demans Update
6-11	Local clubs and groups
12-18	Local Services and Support
19	Facilities for hire



Van Demans Update

The council has started the process of registering Van Demans, an 11-acre site off Devils Highway, as a Local Nature Reserve. A management plan has been prepared, and the council will start the work identified as soon as the ground is drier. We will then look at improving the entrances at either end of the footpath.

Alongside this registration the council asked the ecological consultant to prepare a Vision for this site. The objective being to enhance the biodiversity and create a peaceful place for residents to walk and visit. Work on enhancing the site began in 2024 when the council worked with Wokingham Borough Council and The Woodland Trust on a tree/shrub planting project.

It is recognised that implementation of this vision could not be achieved in full without grant funding. So should grant funding applications not be successful the parish council will look at which elements could be implemented over time.

A VISION FOR VAN DEMANS MEADOW

Van Demans Meadow will continue to be a natural place for quiet recreation.

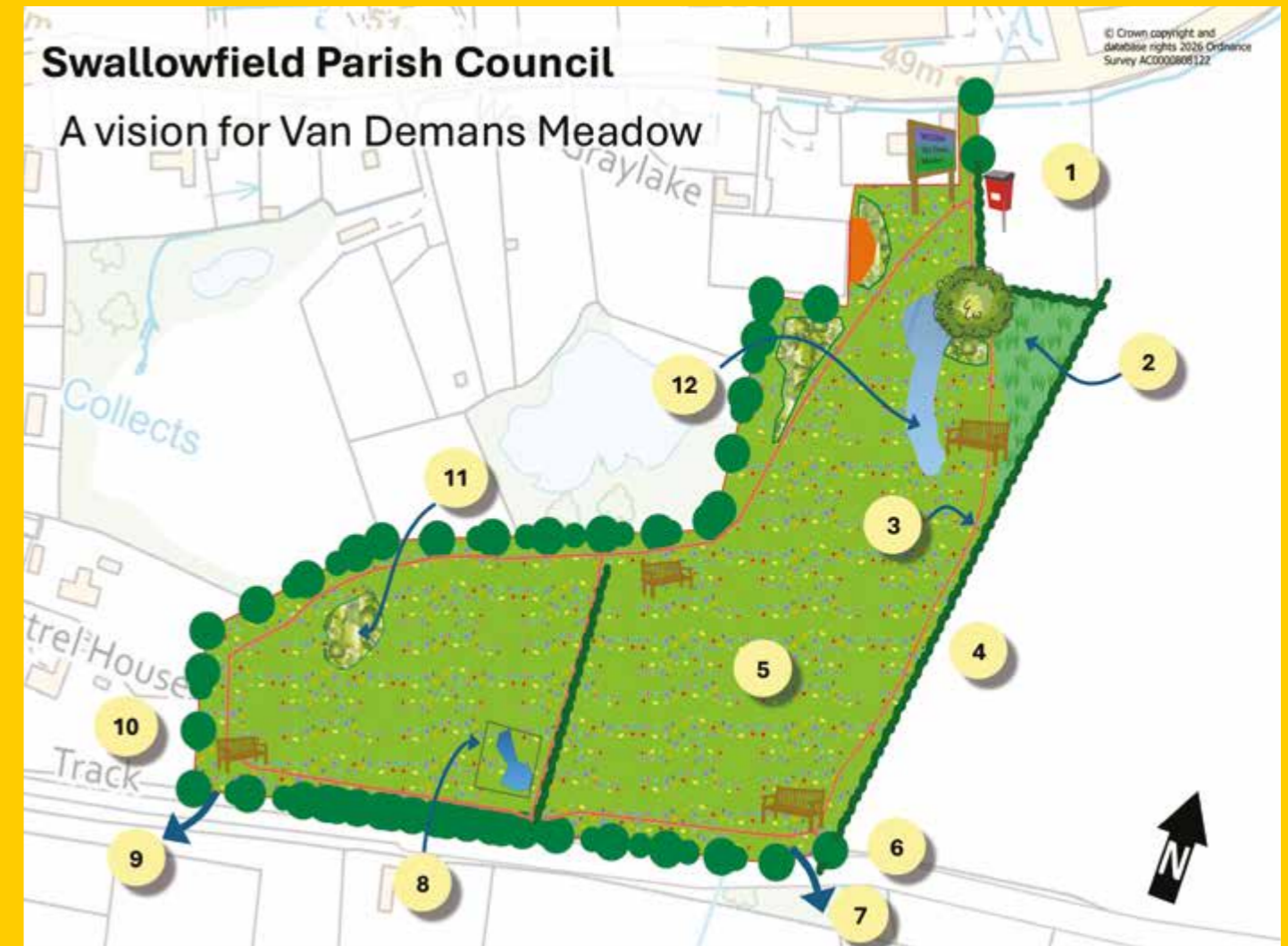
It will have a network of safe and accessible paths and benches with activities and infrastructure to welcome people.

The meadow will be rich with wildflowers; the hedges will be thick and bushy; and trees will have places for birds and bats to make their homes.

A new wildlife pond will provide more space for nature and great opportunities to get involved.

OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED:

- Making hay – learning to use scythes
- Hedge laying
- Bug hunts and pond dipping
- Archaeology and wildlife surveys



key

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1. Improved entrance from Part Lane
Accessible gates, a welcome sign and dog waste bin</p> <p>2. Wild Area
Left alone as a home for small mammals and reptiles.</p> <p>3. Circular trail
Fully accessible for all</p> <p>4. Hedges
Dense and bushy, full of flowers and fruit for foraging birds. Laid on rotation.</p> <p>5. Wildflower Meadow
A greater abundance and diversity of wild flowers to attract pollinators.</p> <p>6. Lines of trees
Inspected for safety. New bird and bat boxes</p> | <p>7. Improved access to Devil's Highway</p> <p>8. New wildlife pond
A home for newts and dragonflies, and for pond-dipping. Fenced for safety.</p> <p>9. New access to Devil's Highway</p> <p>10. Benches
Spaced at appropriate frequency</p> <p>11. Areas of scrub
Great for nesting and foraging birds and butterflies</p> <p>12. Existing wet depression
Holds water in the winter to help reduce flooding elsewhere</p> |
|--|--|

Local clubs and groups



THEATRICAL SOCIETY BASED IN SWALLOWFIELD

(PRODUCTIONS AND MEMBERSHIP)

Beauty and the Beast by James Barry

This panto season, the Russell Players transported audiences from Swallowfield to Northern France with their boisterous take on Beauty and the Beast. Fairy Fifi (Caroline Waterer) set both the scene and the stakes, acting as our glittering guide through this fantastical world. She was delightfully countered by her rival, the perfectly arch Malevolent (Ashleigh Baker), who proved to be everything you want from a panto villain. From impeccable "cape-ography" to a cackle that reverberated backstage, Baker fully committed to the role, even nailing Lady Gaga's "Bad Romance" alongside her demon sidekicks (Barbara Stanley and Sheila Partington). Classic panto punnery came courtesy of Dolly Dolittle (Lynn Wright) and her son Wally (Andy Witting), the Beast's servants. Their warm, yet chaotic energy and excellent comic timing had the audience fully engaged, delivering laughs for children and adults alike.

Bouffon du Quiff (Nigel Adams) was perfectly pompous, complete with an outrageously OTT French accent and swaggering strut around the audience. He even gave away signed photographs as we cheered and clapped to his entrance music, Right

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



Said Fred's "I'm too sexy (for my shirt)" – as if it could have been any other track! Belle's mother, Josephine (Deni Smale) brought a sardonic wit to proceedings, with plenty of crowd work and confident ad-libbing. A special mention must also go to Gigi the horse (Sarah Mapleston) who gave a fantastic, fully mimed performance full of character and charm.

At the heart of the story was our heroine, Belle (Zaira Kapacee), who never failed to put Bouffon firmly in his place with a knowing smile. Her romance with Prince Vince, or the titular Beast (Henry Finney) served as the classic fairytale narrative, with Finney's growling, gravelly voice selling the anguish of a prince cursed and locked away from the world. Kudos must also be given to the colourful and creative sets (Juliet Devon, Chris Partridge and Bryan Partington) and the rest of the backstage team and front of house, Margaret McDonald, Victor France and Debbie Johnson. Directed by Deni Smale and produced by Juliet Devon (the latter operating the lights and sound with skill and timing), this production truly delivered everything you want from a panto: outrageous jokes, silly accents, bright costumes, audience participation and, of course, a happy ending.

The icing on the cake at the final performance came from a small child in the front row, so completely enraptured that their urgent cries of "she's behind you!" and "she's an evil witch!" only added to the laughter in the hall. Seeing someone so young believe so wholeheartedly in the make-believe captured exactly what panto – and theatre more widely – is all about.

Ellyn Wright

Thank you to everyone who supported our production and helped make it such a success.

The Committee

SWALLOWFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY & SWALLOWFIELD SHOW



Sadly for the society, we are out of timing with our local newsletter, as this one appears after our Spring Show, which I would have liked to encourage you to enter. Daffodils galore! You have no idea how many different varieties there are and what perfection there is in them. So, as advance notice: around 21st March 2027, there will be another Spring Show. It is the same for the big Swallowfield Show; the newsletter comes out after it. So, it is time at least to point out to you that it will be on the last two days of the August Bank Holiday. Schedules are online now at swallowfieldshow.co.uk and hard copies will be available nearer the time.

This is the exciting planning time. Lots of seed packets, bulbs and corms are waiting to be planted at the right time. The sun will return, and what gardeners can regret that their plants have been able to absorb as much water as they could possibly want after the drought. We look forward to seeing your successes at the show.

We also always need newcomers to join our Show team, so please consider gifting yourself and your August Bank Holiday to us. Once you have tried it, you will always keep it in your heart as one of the good things in life.

Roberta Stewart
President



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



SWALLOWFIELD ART GROUP

One of the artists whose work we have been studying is Singapore-born Paul Wang, whose educational background includes both Interior Architecture and Technical Theatre Design. Thanks to this diverse background, he uses dramatic colour and a very distinctive approach to his watercolour work. He is famous both for his urban sketching and still life.

Paul Wang paints in situ, including flowers, plants, decorative pots and cups. He works very quickly, without drawing first, allowing the painting to develop outwards from one area, leaving other areas unfinished. Sometimes he chops up pieces of unsuccessful paintings and sticks them down as a starting point.

The exercise for us was to imitate his still-life style, using props of our own. This was an exercise in letting go and not planning - always a challenge but we all enjoyed trying a fresh style.

By 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.



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



SWALLOWFIELD PARISH ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION

It's been another quite challenging winter down at the allotment field! The whole site was frozen at the beginning of the year when we were hit with an icy blast of weather, but since then it seems as though it has barely stopped raining. Thank goodness we've had the large pond created; it's filled to the brim but has absorbed a lot of the rainwater, and the site will soon dry out once the weather improves. Before the growing season begins in earnest, we make sure we're up to date with the annual jobs that need doing, such as cleaning and tidying the sheds, cleaning and disinfecting the polytunnel and ensuring the hedgerows are trimmed before the birds start nesting.

March is a great time to start planning for the year. Potatoes can be chitted, and although it can still be cold, seedlings can be given a head start by planting them in seed trays indoors, or outdoors under the protection of cloches or cold frames. Aubergines, chillies and peppers need a long growing season so the fruit can ripen, so sow these indoors now. Onion and shallot sets, Jerusalem artichoke tubers and rhubarb sets can all be planted outside now, and so too, can a few hardy seeds that will germinate at fairly low temperatures - broad beans, broccoli, cabbages, leeks, parsnips, peas and spinach.

Probably the most useful thing that can be done in March is to begin preparing beds for sowing and planting in the spring. Remove any weeds that have survived the winter, rake the soil thoroughly, and apply some organic fertiliser. It's always lovely to see the spring bulbs pop up at this time of year and give the allotments a much-needed splash of colour.

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARIES

We will be holding our Open Day

**SUNDAY, MAY 17TH,
BETWEEN 2 AND 4PM**

We'll be selling plants, seedlings, cakes and raffle tickets, and we'd love to see you there.

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



JOBS FOR MARCH:

- Prepare your seed beds and rake the soil to a fine tilth.
- Trim and divide herbs.
- Harvest the first rhubarb of the year.
- Finish winter-pruning gooseberries, blackcurrants, blueberries and autumn raspberries.
- Cover your strawberry plants with cloches to stimulate flower growth, then remove them when the flowers appear to allow pollination.

If you are interested in knowing more about the allotments, contact the SPAA Chairperson, Jane Scuffell:

Happy gardening!
Jane Scuffell



LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

We had good audiences for our most recent talks, and it is nice to see so many people interested in our local history.

In the autumn, we learned about Sandhurst Military Academy and also had a lively talk on Basildon House. The latter included some "behind-the-scenes" insights into cleaning, preservation and maintenance. Apparently, people create by far the most dust; however, to exclude them would, of course, negate the purpose of the enterprise!

We also enjoyed a much-requested return visit from Thomas Macey, who is an expert on Jackson's department store.

January saw our annual dinner at The George and Dragon and, as we go to press our February talk is by Mike Cooper, an established historian of Reading. After our March AGM, the programme is as follows:

Thursday 16 April: The Kennet and Avon Canal, Past, Present and Future. A talk by Graham Puddephat, Chair of the Kennet and Avon Canal Trust.

Thursday 21st May: The History of Wellington College. A talk by Caroline Jones.

Thursday 18th June: A Night with the Locals, a more relaxed meeting; committee member Jon Taylor has arranged a conversation evening with some people who have lived in and around the village for over 70 years. Come and join in.

We meet on the third Thursday of the month, usually in the Rose Room at Swallowfield Parish Hall. Doors open 7.30, and talks start at 8pm. Watch out for the posters. You don't need to be a member, so do join us.

Finally, we were sad to lose Keith Uttley recently. He was a stalwart supporter of Maggie in her role as our secretary. We are glad to know that she is comfortably settled, and we wish her well in her new abode.

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

being in our company, he decided that it was, without a doubt, understated. At this meeting, we proposed a new candidate and received applications from two Masons wishing to join us. Onwards and upwards.

Our next meeting is in May at the Mill House Hotel. What a pleasure it always is to be in England when spring has sprung! The gardens at the Mill House in May are magnificent. If you are a local Mason and have yet to visit us, why not come along? Just give me a call. I promise you convivial company, good food, and above all, much joy!

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.

Tim Double



SWALLOWFIELD PITT BRIDGE LODGE

After the joy of Christmas, we experienced an exceptionally wet, dank and miserable January. Fortunately, the local Freemasons had something to look forward to and keep their spirits up: the Installation Meeting of the Lodge. This took place on February 2nd and I assure you that it did not disappoint. Our new Master took the chair just seven years after his initiation into this Lodge, a remarkable achievement, and he performed his new duties with great aplomb.

At this meeting we had a special guest, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master for Berkshire. He came along to see if all the good things he had heard about the Lodge were true. At the end of the evening, told us how delighted he was with our progress. He said that when he arrived, he was convinced all that he had heard about our success was exaggerated; however, after

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

RISELEY TENNIS CLUB

Hi All

What a great start to 2026 we had with our annual Burns Night which was hosted by Debbie at the Riseley Tea Room followed by dancing in the tennis club, a really fabulous night. Then we had our "Paint and Sip" night where we painted our chosen piece of pottery while enjoying a glass of wine and nibbles. I can't wait to see all our efforts when they come back from the kiln.



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

Upcoming events:

21ST MARCH, 2-4PM:

We have our open day. Come along and try some tennis and meet some of the members, and have some fun.

26TH MAY 12 NOON-6PM: We are supporting the May Day event. We will have coaches on court for an hour for some fun tennis; we will also be selling hot dogs and burgers; be quick we sold out last year!

12TH JUNE: Quiz and Chips

7TH AND 8TH AUGUST: We will be at Wellington Country Park where people of all ages can play tennis. This is always a very popular event.

20TH SEPTEMBER: We have our club championships. Come and watch some great tennis while enjoying a drink from the bar.

We, of course, have our usual Thursday club nights and "First Friday" tennis. We are also running fabulous holiday camps! Please refer to our website for further information.

Let's hope this rain stops so we can enjoy some tennis in the sunshine.

Hope to see you all on court soon.
Sandy

SWALLOWFIELD BADMINTON CLUBS



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

Being a non-league club with quite a variety of playing standards, there's no pressure.

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.

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

Local Services and Support



**ALL SAINTS CHURCH
SWALLOWFIELD**

SWALLOWFIELD FETE

**SATURDAY, 13 JUNE 2-5PM AND
DONATIONS DAY**

SATURDAY, 6 JUNE 10AM – 12 NOON

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY:

**SATURDAY, JUNE 13, 2PM TO 5PM IS
FETE TIME!**

Each year, hundreds of you enjoy the camaraderie, refreshments, the raffle, children's games and varied stalls. The fete is a long-standing village tradition and we look forward to seeing you there on the Swallowfield Recreation Ground.

course, the many excellent raffle prizes, mostly donated by kind local businesses.

Donations Day, when you help us fill the many stalls, is on Saturday morning 6 June from 10am to 12 noon, in the Parish Hall car park. Before that, however, please remember the PLANT STALL when you are gardening – when separating perennials, do you have a few spare? When you have too many seedlings, please grow some on for us. No number is too small – a few or even one plant each from lots of people adds to the variety and stocks our famous Plant Stall.

We love this traditional event but are also keen to have new ideas. Please do contact us if you have some thoughts on what might enhance this parish event further.

The morning of the show is a happy time of camaraderie and communal effort, as many people help set everything up. We are very grateful to you all and hope you will join us again this year.

**COULD YOU HELP WITH CAR PARKING
in the afternoon or TAKE-DOWN between
5pm and 6.30pm? If you could commit
an hour or so, we would really appreciate
your help.**

For the children, there are Micka's races, face painting, sideshows, ice cream and the toy stall. Everyone appreciates the traditional tea & cake and we look forward to Pimm's weather, or maybe you prefer a cool beer. There is a wide variety of stalls, from Bric-à-Brac and Gifts, through books and plants to Health & Beauty, as well as local specialities like honey, sourdough bread, jewellery and glassware. And, of

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



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:

2026

1st, 15th & 29th April

13th & 27th May

10th & 24th June

8th & 22nd July



LODDON VALLEY RAMBLERS

Although there is a 'Swallowfield Walking Group' based on the Village Hall providing walks of around 3 miles, Loddon Valley Ramblers (LVR) is part of the national Ramblers organisation and looks to provide walking opportunities in and around the Wokingham and Reading areas. There are walks to suit many abilities, and with a friendly, gregarious set of participants, we give everyone a chance to explore our local area and often, at the end of the route, the pubs and cafes nearby. Our leaders are all local people and are experienced walkers; provided that you have a reasonable set of shoes or boots (and occasionally a waterproof), you'll be able to get to places and see views that you may not have considered before. We can go as far west as Newbury, down to Kingsclere and beyond, across to Windsor, into the Chilterns and anywhere along the Thames from Goring to Maidenhead. For our longer walks, there is usually a car share meet-up point.

We also run a range of social activities: evening rambles with pub meals, barn dances, quizzes and mulled wine and mince pies at the end of festive walks. There are spring and autumn walking weekends and regular week-long trips abroad. In recent years we've been to the Pyrenees, Devon, Rye, the Cotswolds, the Isle of Wight, the Elan Valley, the Gower and two trips to the Lake District.

The Ramblers, generally, promotes walking but also looks to protect and maintain footpaths and Rights of

Way for everyone. LVR plays its part locally in helping access by putting in gates and monitoring routes to ensure landowners and the borough council fulfil their obligations.

However, our walks programme is always the main focus.

HERE'S OUR SCHEDULE:

EVERY THURSDAY MORNING 5-7 MILES.

EVERY THIRD THURSDAY MORNING UP TO 5 MILES.

EVERY TUESDAY 10-12.5 MILES.

EVERY OTHER TUESDAY 14+ MILES.

ONE SATURDAY PER MONTH 6-10 MILES.

EVERY SUNDAY 5-7 MILES.

AN OCCASIONAL SUNDAY 10+ MILES

If you'd like to come and walk with us and talk to us you can get more information from loddonvalleyramblers@gmail.com or visit our website at www.lvra.org.uk.



THE REPAIR CAFÉ AT LAMBS LANE SCHOOL

EVERY 3RD SUNDAY OF THE MONTH
10AM TO 1PM

January 18th
February 15th
March 22nd
(to avoid Mothers Day)
April 19th
May 17th
June 14th
(to avoid Fathers Day)

July 19th
August 16th
September 20th
October 18th
November 15th
December 13th
(to avoid being too close to Christmas)



t: 07718 679827
e: billiespencerswoodrepaircafe.co.uk
w: spencerswoodrepaircafe.co.uk

ELECTRICAL - MECHANICAL - TEXTILES - SHARPENING - BIKES

COFFEE CORNER

SWALLOWFIELD PARISH HALL
(EVERY WEDNESDAY 10.30 - 12.30)

We are busier than ever, offering a wider choice of cakes along with fresh coffee and tea each Wednesday morning.

In the last 4 months, from your donations, we are proud to have given £300 to each of these local charities:

- The Rainbow Trust, helping seriously ill children and their families
- Reading Community Learning Centre, empowering women and transforming lives
- Alana House, supporting women facing multiple disadvantages
- Camp Mohawk, a multi-functional day centre for children with special needs
- ASD Family Help, helping those with autism and their families

From April, we will be increasing our suggested donation for coffee and cake from £2.50 to £3 to help us maintain our level of giving.

Please do drop in. We'll be having Easter treats on 8th April.

clare.pilgrim@btinternet.com
The Coffee Corner Team





RISELEY VILLAGE
TEA ROOM

RISELEY VILLAGE TEA ROOM

Firstly, I'd like to thank the Parish Council for the lovely new radiators...they have really improved the welcoming atmosphere of the Tea Room ...and we don't have to remember to press the magic button to make them work!!!

I am looking forward to the replacement windows and doors which will fix the draught!

Thanks to everyone for your continued support of me at the Tea Room. I do feel looked after.

And a big thank you to the team who have worked tirelessly throughout the year bringing Afternoon Tea joy to all we serve!!

This is a list of events you might like to join us in.

Cut it out and stick it on the fridge ...you may not have Instagram or Facebook to keep up with news from the Tea Room.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

MARCH 27TH Matts Music

APRIL 18TH Murder Mystery Afternoon Tea (£40 limited spaces available)

MAY 16TH Village Picnic

JUNE 15TH Father's Day With Russell

JULY 8TH Psychic Night

AUGUST BBQ

SEPTEMBER Bingo

OCTOBER Cheese and Wine Evening

NOVEMBER 7TH Taste of Genoa

DECEMBER Christmas Carols and Songs with Russell

DECEMBER 2ND Wreath Making

DECEMBER 9TH Christmas Market

Please note that all these events are subject to change ..

For further information, keep an eye on social media or please call in or telephone us.

Once again, we all look forward to welcoming you soon.

Lots of love Debbie and the incredible team xx

RISELEY COMMUNITY PICNIC IN THE PARK
SATURDAY 16TH MAY 2026 1PM -6PM
 RISELEY RECREATION GROUND, ODIHAM ROAD RISELEY

BBQ LICENSED BAR CREAM TEA

BRING YOUR OWN PICNIC BRING YOUR OWN GAZEBO COVERED SEATING AREA PROVIDED

FREE ACTIVITIES
 TUG OF WAR
 FACEPAINTING
 SKITTLES
 CRAFT STALL
 TENNIS

LIVE MUSIC AND DJ

TOMBOLA RAFFLE

Music PPL license kindly donated by the PPL charity



SWALLOWFIELD MEDICAL PRACTICE

Swallowfield Medical Practice

As winter begins to ease and we look ahead to spring, we'd like to thank you for your continued patience and support during what has been a busy start to the year. Our team is planning ahead to ensure we can continue to provide safe and effective care over the coming months.

Looking after your health this spring

Spring can bring seasonal health issues such as hay fever and worsening asthma symptoms. If you suffer from allergies or asthma, now is a good time to make sure your medication is up to date and to ensure you complete your annual asthma review when invited.

Longer days can also improve well-being, but some people continue to feel low after winter. Please contact us if you are struggling with your mental health - we are here to help.

Pharmacy First for minor illness

Your local pharmacist can provide advice and treatment for many minor conditions, including coughs, sore throats, hay fever and some infections. This can often be the quickest way to get help without needing a GP appointment.

Vaccinations and screening

If you have received an invitation for vaccinations or NHS screening (such as cervical screening or annual

diabetic reviews), we encourage you to book promptly. These programmes play an important role in preventing illness and detecting problems early.

We will be starting to invite patients to the COVID-19 spring campaign shortly. The expected eligibility criteria for this will be adults aged 75 years and over and individuals aged 6 months and over who are immunosuppressed.

Child and Young Persons Counselling Service

Swallowfield Medical Practice provides clinics for young people between the ages of 12 and 18 years who are struggling to cope with a life-changing situation or emotional problem. This is a free and confidential counselling service held at the practice.

If you or a family member is interested in booking our counselling sessions, please contact reception.

Stop Smoking 2026 – It's never too late to quit smoking!

Stopping smoking is one of the best things you will ever do for your health.

When you stop, you give your lungs the chance to repair, and you will be able to breathe easier. There are lots of other benefits too, and they start almost immediately.

To book into our Stop Smoking Clinics please contact reception.

Thank you for your continued cooperation and trust. We wish you a healthy and positive spring.

w: swallowfieldmedicalpractice.co.uk

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 & 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?



RISELEY, SWALLOWFIELD AND FARLEY HILL CHARITABLE TRUST

A huge, heartfelt thank you to everyone who donated, volunteered, baked, sorted, carried tables, made teas, and came along to shop and support us last Saturday.

Because of you, it was an absolutely fantastic day and we hope to achieve a record-breaking profit this time!

That means even more support for local people through the work of the Riseley, Swallowfield & Farley Hill Charitable Trust and that's entirely down to this amazing community. From early morning drop-offs to the final tidy-up, it was a true team effort. We are so grateful to every single person who played a part

Thank you for your generosity, your time and your support. We couldn't do it without you.

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/

w: www.facebook.com/RSFCharitableTrust/

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 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

Paul Schulz
paul.schulz@swallowfieldpc.gov.uk

Louise Smith
louise.smith@swallowfieldpc.gov.uk

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

Your Borough Councillors are:

David Edmonds
dave.edmonds@wokingham.gov.uk

Catherine Glover
catherine.glover@wokingham.gov.uk

Stuart Munro
Stuart.munro@wokingham.gov.uk



Spring Clean Up Day



Meet in the
Davies Room, Swallowfield Parish Hall, RG7 1QX
Saturday 21st March 2026
10am and 4pm

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

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



**ALI'S RECYCLING
FOR THE LOCAL
COMMUNITY**

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