



Swallowfield Parish

Newsletter

Spring 2024

Working Together to Protect Our Community

At the Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) Planning Committee meeting, on 10th January, the planning application from Croudace Homes for 81 houses on the land west of Trowes Lane and north of Charlton Lane was refused.

This result is a tribute to the spirit, energy and cooperation between residents of Swallowfield Parish acting together to address this threat to our community. By refining the arguments, writing letters, distributing leaflets and putting up posters you have brought our community together. Since the application was posted in March 2023 more than 350 residents have submitted well informed comments to WBC opposing this application. Their efforts were supported by an in-depth report from the Parish

Council consolidating the case against the applicant's proposal.

When the Planning Committee met to determine this application, on a cold, wet evening at Shute End, an estimated 300 local residents attended 'in person' to showcase the strength of their opposition. Many others attended the meeting online. Following presentations from the parish council and a community spokesman, a proposal to reject the application was carried with 8 votes in favour and only one abstention. This totally inappropriate, ill-considered, and unwanted development project had fallen at the first hurdle, the lack of sufficient infrastructure (schools, shopping, public transport, medical and leisure facilities) to support such a large increase in the population of

Swallowfield village and our parish as a whole.

This challenge has united our community, and many of you have contributed to this successful result, but particular thanks are due to Sian Allen, Jeremy Bayliss, David Entwistle, Linda Carroll and Roland Denning for their pivotal role in this achievement.

The future of housing development in our community remains uncertain, particularly in the run up to a general election, with at least one party promising a radical restructuring of planning policy. However, our strength remains in togetherness, and together we will fight to protect the future of our community.

Ian Fullerton
March 2024

Parish News

Sewer Flooding



During periods of heavy or prolonged rain, it is likely that significant volumes of rainwater will find its way into the foul sewer network. Some older properties have combined foul and surface water drainage, which increases the volume of water in sewers, but poor condition of the foul sewerage infrastructure can also result in rainwater entering the system.

In the worst case, sewers can become overwhelmed, causing them to back up and stop waste from leaving your property.

You may have a blockage if:

- you find it hard to flush your toilet.
- your sink or bath empties very slowly.
- you notice a bad smell coming from your drains.

Backing up of sewage is a nuisance, a potential health hazard and is a symptom of an inadequate or poorly maintained sewer system.

If you experience this type of problem, please report it to **Thames**

Water on 0800 316 9800. More information can be found on the Thames Water website under 'report a problem'.

Please also report the problem to the Parish Council by email (clerk@swallowfield.gov.uk). We would like to compile a file of evidence which can be presented to Thames Water to demonstrate the need for infrastructure improvements.

Graham Stanley
Swallowfield Flood Resilience Group

Contents

- 2 Parish News**
- 3 Reflections from the Chair**
- 4 Addington Early Years Centre**
- 6-14 Local clubs and groups**
- 15 Your Local Borough Councillor Update**
- 16-18 Local Support and Amenities**
- 19 Facilities for hire**

Lorna Collender

It is with great sadness that the Parish Council learnt that Lorna Collender passed away at her home in South Africa on 17th January. Lorna contributed much to our community, supporting her husband Gordon during his time as a Parish Councillor, and particularly assisting him with the production of the Parish Newsletter. Together they also meticulously project managed the annual church fete for many years. We will miss her, and our thoughts are with Gordon.

Recycling

The Parish Office can now provide:

- Waterproof Green Recycling Bags
- Black Food Waste Bins
- Grey Food Waste Caddies



Reflections from the Chair

Welcome

Welcome to the spring newsletter. According to the Met Office spring officially starts on 20th March. The whole parish has been quite a wet place in January and February this year which has caused problems with drainage and the sewer system (see "Parish News"); the ground remains water-logged. Standing water on the roads has made it difficult to see and avoid the many potholes.

Swallowfield Parish Council is delighted to announce that the much needed and long-awaited improvements to Swallowfield parish hall will begin this spring (subject to planning permission, as some of the alterations will affect the external appearance in a minor way).

After many years in the planning, and delays through COVID, the details and specifications for work have at last been agreed, put out to tender and a contractor selected. The aim is to improve the safety and accessibility of the hall for all our residents.

- a. A new fire alarm system with associated detectors, sirens, break glass call points and automatic door lock releases will be installed throughout the building.
- b. The doors to the front entrance and the atrium will be replaced with powered automatic sliding doors for disabled access.
- c. A new corridor will link the main hall with the atrium so that the kitchen will no longer be a thoroughfare and our wheelchair residents will be able to access the disabled loo without having to make a trek round the outside! There will be alterations to the parish office so that residents can wait in comfort in the atrium and the clerk and the finance officer - often working alone - are safe behind a new service counter.
- d. The atrium itself - always too cold in winter and too hot in summer - will at long last have improved insulation to make a comfortable waiting area or a small hub for a chat and a coffee. Already one of our residents has suggested creating a bookstore here so that people can share and borrow books in comfortable surroundings.
- e. Many of you who have struggled with food preparation for in-house events in our outdated 70's kitchen will be delighted to know that the kitchen will be renovated and modernised.

We are very sorry that pre-school has had to close (your council was not involved in this decision), but it does mean that now is an excellent time to begin the hall alterations without having to work around preschool activities. We will of course be looking at options for using the space vacated by pre-school.

You can be assured that we will be in touch with all the users of the hall when we have some definite start dates and more information on the schedule of works, so that we can ensure that the work will run smoothly and with as little impact on your regular hall activities as possible.

Following the decision of WBC to refuse the proposed Croudace Homes development west of Trowes Lane, I looked back and see that I wrote about the Local Plan Update some four years ago and then again two years ago. The whole plan was thrown up in the air when the Detailed Emergency Planning Zone around AWE Burghfield was extended, precluding the option of a major development in Grazeley. The Local Plan Update is still ongoing and some way from finally being adopted leaving many questions on land use locally, unanswered.

This is an election year for WBC ward councillors and, following a review by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, our ward of Swallowfield has been extended to create a new ward "Spencers Wood and Swallowfield" and as a result of the expansion, the new ward will be represented by three ward councillors. At the next election therefore, you will be asked to choose up to 3 councillors to represent the new ward. Subsequent elections will revert back to choosing one of the three councillors or their opponents in an annual rotation.

The signs of spring are already with us as plants emerge from winter dormancy somewhat earlier than normal given the mild weather. Spring bulbs are already in bloom on our verges and elsewhere.

Cllr John Anderson
Chairman

john.anderson@swallowfieldpc.gov.uk



Addington Early Years Centre



Addington School is an outstanding, local authority maintained special school with its main site in Woodley. The school caters for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). All of our pupils have an Education, Health and Care Plan. Many of our learners have autism, Down syndrome, or global developmental delay. Some have physical disabilities or complex medical needs alongside their learning difficulty. Our expertise, environment, facilities and curriculum are designed to provide a personalised education to each and every one of them. Our aim is for each learner to reach their full potential, lead a happy and fulfilled life, and be accepted by, as well as be a part of, their local community.

Addington provides education to children and young people from the ages of three to nineteen. In order to meet the demand for special school places in the local area, as well as continue to meet the needs of our current pupils, we have expanded. Addington School is now located on two sites: the main school site in Woodley, and our new Early Years Centre in Farley Hill (on the site of the old Farley Hill Primary School). Addington Early Years Centre has been developed to meet the needs of our youngest pupils, who start

with us between nursery and year 1. A huge amount of work has gone into developing the old Farley Hill Primary School site to create a meaningful and enabling environment for the children. Addington staff have worked in close partnership with Wokingham Borough Council and Francis Construction to ensure the development is fit for purpose. The completed first phase of the building welcomed its initial cohort of sixteen pupils on 31st October 2023. Phase one of the building includes two classrooms, dining and main halls, hygiene room, toilets, library area, and playground. Phase two of the Early Years Centre is expected to be completed in May 2024. Pupils will be admitted on a phased basis, with the building meeting its maximum capacity in September 2025. When fully open, the Centre will offer places to forty children across five classes.

At Addington Early Years Centre we prioritise pupils' play, communication and interaction, emotional and physical regulation, as well as their early self-care skills. Due to their needs, all of our pupils require support from trained staff and tailored environments to enable them to develop in these areas. Children with severe and profound learning difficulties can often struggle with



self-regulation and can process information from their environment in different ways. For example, they may become more overwhelmed by certain stimuli such as noise, light, or textures, or they may seek more of certain experiences, such as climbing, mouthing, or throwing. We work with our pupils to recognise what they need, offering them safe ways of fulfilling these needs and exploring their environment. The Centre is designed in muted tones with pops of colour to avoid visual overstimulation, and has spaces such as sensory areas, breakout rooms, and active zones, so that throughout the day children can access these as needed. We also observe and tune in to our pupils to understand how they communicate, as well as how we need to adapt our teaching and the environment to support their communication development. Many of the children do not yet use speech, and interactions can become stressful for them. As a result, it is key that we meet each child at their level and offer opportunities for unhurried, playful interaction. We also offer them clear visual cues and make communication aids available throughout the provision.



As well as having specialist spaces, which will include a soft play room, sand room and splash room, a team of dedicated staff are on hand to support the children, helping them to feel safe and settled. As the Centre develops we are looking for more staff to join our team, and have already employed several people from the local area. As an employer, Addington School can offer:

- The opportunity to work in a special school judged 'outstanding' with a highly experienced Senior Leadership Team
- An environment committed to staff development and growing leadership
- A school with a coaching and collaborative culture
- Membership of an inclusive learning community with SEND expertise
- A school where creativity and innovation is encouraged
- Local government pension scheme, free car parking, employee assistance programme, staff wellbeing group, flu vaccinations and access to a private medical scheme

If you are interested in applying for a position at Addington School, including at the new Early Years Centre in Farley Hill, please see further details of current vacancies on our website: <https://www.addington.wokingham.sch.uk/vacancies-1/vacancies>

We hope to hold an open event for local residents later in the summer term, which will be held at the new Early Years Centre in Farley Hill, and will advertise this more fully once details have been confirmed. We look forward to being a part of the local community as the Early Years Centre develops.

Ellie Webb, Assistant Headteacher and Senior Leader of Addington Early Years Centre

Local clubs and groups



SWALLOWFIELD ART GROUP

The new term for Swallowfield Art Group began with studying and attempting to interpret the work of British artist, Celia Wilkinson.

Celia Wilkinson paints in vivid acrylics on canvas, using natural landscapes as her inspiration. She works from memory, 'deconstructing' the landscape to capture feeling and essence, using marks, textures and colour. Influences include Patrick Heron, Paul Nash, Paul Klee and Picasso amongst others.

Unlike our artist, we chose to use reference photos. We painted four different representations, trying to identify where blocks of tone, colour and shape occurred naturally, and experimenting with various colour palettes. Having chosen a favourite, we then attempted to work in Celia Wilkinson's style to create an abstract of our chosen subject, 'deconstructing' as best we could!

It is uncomfortable to force oneself to move from the literal to the abstract, as our logical brains kick and scream against the process. The activity relies not on faithful representation, but the combination of creativity with the elements of line, texture, and form. This shift in perspective cannot be achieved in a few hours on a Monday afternoon, but studying the work of another artist can open our minds to new possibilities in our work.

Here are some examples of the work produced in class, most of which are work in progress.

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 times.

Patricia Taylor



SWALLOWFIELD PARISH ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION

With the darkest days of winter behind us, we are looking forward to Spring and starting to plan for the year ahead down at the Calico Field. Over the winter, our working parties had to be postponed due to inclement weather, so we will be working hard to tidy up the site, cut back the hedgerows and build a wooden fence around our new pond.

Although we had a lot of rain over winter, the landscaping that we had done last year seemed to help with the drainage of water off the site, and our Polytunnel has been cleared and disinfected ready to welcome a new batch of seedlings before they are planted out into the soil.

As winter begins to recede, there are plenty of tasks that can be started at this time of year:

- Now is a great time to finish prepping the soil ready for sowing and planting in April and May, digging in manure and removing the worst of the weeds that have survived the winter.
- The first rhubarb of the year can be harvested, plus any remaining Brussels sprouts, celeriac, parsnips and swedes.
- Some hardy seeds can now be sown under cover such as broad beans, broccoli, cabbages, leeks, parsnips, peas and spinach.
- First early potatoes, shallots and garlic can be planted by the end of March, and bare-root fruit trees and bushes should be in the ground by now.

- Finish winter-pruning any established fruit bushes while they're still dormant to ensure they produce plenty of fruit later in the year.
- April and May will be lean months for harvesting but seed-sowing can begin in earnest. The ground will be warming up ready for planting out in May, but be sure to harden off tender seedlings first, and keep an eye out for any late frosts.

We still have one space available to rent for anyone who is interested in taking on a plot. We are a friendly and supportive bunch and welcome newcomers!

If you would like to know more about the allotments, take a look at our website.

Happy gardening!

Jane Scuffell, Plotholder

Contact: Jenny Boddington
t: 0118 988 5804

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



SWALLOWFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Spring Show, Saturday 6th April 2024

The society invites all of you who grow daffodils, clematis, camellias and other spring flowers and shrubs to join us for our Spring Show in the Swallowfield Parish Hall.

Setting up time is from 11.00 to 12.30. All the vases etc will be there, together with people ready to help and advise as you require.

Then you can go away, have a nice lunch and come back to meet fellow gardeners and of course to see what the judges thought of your entries. The Hall will be open to the public from 2pm until 4pm and tea and coffee will be available.

Look in www.swallowfieldshow.co.uk to find the schedule. We look forward to seeing all you gardeners on the 6th April.

SAVE THE DATE Swallowfield Show 2024

25th & 26th August Bank Holiday
Sunday & Monday

If you are interested in getting involved with this unique community event, please contact us.

Contact: Graham Stanley **e:** chairman@swallowfieldshow.co.uk
w: www.swallowfieldshow.co.uk
Become a member: secretary@swallowfieldshow.co.uk



SWALLOWFIELD FETE

Saturday, 8th June 2pm to 5pm

It's FETE time! – A Date for your Diary

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

For the children, there are Micka's children's races, face painting, sideshows, ice cream and the toy stall. Everyone appreciates the traditional Tea & Cake and the Dog Agility event appeals to all ages. Can we look forward to Pimm's weather, or maybe you prefer a cool beer?



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



DONATIONS DAY

Saturday morning 1st June, 10am-noon (normally in the Parish Hall car park) – Can you please help us to fill the many stalls? Can you support the plant stall, when you are gardening (separating perennials etc.), do you have a few spare? Also, maybe you have too many seedlings. Growing some on for us would be very much appreciated. No number is too small – a few or even one plant each from lots of people adds to variety and stocks our famous Plant Stall.

CAN YOU HELP?

The Fete is organised to raise funds on behalf of All Saints church, it is an inclusive community event for all three villages. Quite a number of you willingly giving of your time to prepare, organise, set up and take down stalls and marquees.

For this, we are very grateful. We are now seeking new ideas and more assistance. As well as your presence on the day, is there anything more YOU could contribute?

Please email stanleyba01@gmail.com

Barbara Stanley, Church Warden



SWALLOWFIELD VELO CLUB

Contact: Paul Schulz
e: paul.schulz@mail.com **w:** www.swallowfieldvelo.club
f: www.facebook.com/groups/svcmembers

Ride details can be found on "Ride With GPS" and are published weekly on our Facebook page. If you fancy joining us for a ride or would like to find out more about club cycling, please contact us.

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' session! We hope to see you soon.

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



MONDAY NIGHT
Mondays from 8pm to 10pm

Contact: Daphne **t:** 07745 180108
e: daphne_seamark@hotmail.com

THURSDAY NIGHT
Thursdays from 8pm to 10pm

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

SWALLOWFIELD LADIES' BADMINTON
Thursdays from 2pm to 4pm (except August)

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

SWALLOWFIELD SEATED EXERCISE CLASS EVERY THURSDAY



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 appreciated but not essential.

(Classes kindly subsidised by The Riseley, Swallowfield & Farley Hill Charitable Trust and Swallowfield Parish Council).

RISELEY TENNIS CLUB

Hello from Riseley Tennis Club

SOCIAL

We had a great start to 2024 with a fantastic Burns night that was a sellout, a fab supper with the traditional haggis that of course was piped in by our amazing piper, followed by a traditional supper and Scottish dancing.

Thursday Night Social Tennis: if you would like to find out a little more please come along and join us, tennis from 6pm and then to the bar for rest and recuperation.

First Fridays: Our early evening "tennis and food" are proving to be really popular, come and join us."

There are lots of events coming up, so please visit our website for more details.

COACHING

MICHAEL FAIRBURN (RTC COACH)

- We held match play sessions throughout the February half term with over 30 children attending.

Contact:

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



- Pancakes on Tuesday 13th – To the delight of the children and parents, courtesy of Debbie and Karen from Riseley Village Tea Room (they also provide a Saturday morning café at the tennis club)

EASTER HOLIDAY CAMPS

Dates and times are now available on the club website.

We look forward to welcoming new members to the club

Thanks Sandy Wyles

SWALLOWFIELD WALKING GROUP EVERY OTHER WEDNESDAY

Meeting at 10.30am

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

Mixed groups of locals, very welcoming!

- New group, come and join us!
- 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

March: 27th
April: 10th and 24th
May: 8th and 22nd
June: 5th and 19th
July 3rd and 17th

History of Swallowfield, Riseley and Farley Hill



HISTORICAL TRIVIA

- In 1598, the local vestry brought out a set of rules to try to curb bad behaviour. This has been seen by the Americans as an early sign of republicanism, but as the writers swore allegiance to Elizabeth I, it seems more likely to be a result of West Swallowfield being part of Wiltshire and the magistrates being at a distance. They were especially concerned to stop people taking in travelling women, as any children would have a claim on the parish.
- Edward Hyde, 3rd Earl Clarendon, who owned Swallowfield Park at the start of the 18th century, was governor of New York. He caused a scandal by attending an official event dressed as a woman, wearing clothes like those of Queen Anne. He claimed that this was to honour her but it is thought he frequently dressed this way.
- Many local women in the mid-18th century nursed children for Coram's Foundling hospital in London. This did not stop the vestry from making a local single mother give up her child there. She was later one of the few who managed to claim her child back because she was now respectably married to a carpenter.

- "Diamond" Pitt was so called because he, illegally, had an enormous diamond smuggled out of India. It somehow ended up, by a circuitous route, in the French Crown Jewels. It is thought to have inspired Wilkie Collins to write 'The Moonstone.'
- Charles Dickens's dog is buried at Swallowfield Park among a little row of pets' graves.
- As in Riseley, there was money in milling. In the 19th century, Thomas Cooper of Sheepbridge mill was able to lend Wokingham Council £10,000 to build a new workhouse, now the hospital.
- The Russells were nabobs who made their money in India. So many such families settled in the area that it was known as the English Raj.
- The 3rd Russell Baronet won the VC in the Crimean war. In the 20th century Sir Arthur Russell was a renowned mineralogist and people came from all over the world to see his collection at the Park. The Russell Society is named after him.
- At the first Swallowfield show in 1855 it poured all day. Children's prizes were given for baskets of wildflowers and -er- wasps nests.
- One woman, Lucy Yeo, was elected to the new parish council. However, she promptly resigned. Was she proving a point? Was she pressurised? Or did she take one look at the group of local worthies elected and decide she had better things to do?

Jennifer Highwood
Archivist to the Swallowfield History Society

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

RUSSELL PLAYERS

THE PANTO PUZZLE

The Panto season came earlier with the Russell Players' annual offering arriving wrapped up in brightly decorated boxes just in time for Christmas!

The duo of Cheeky Charlie and Dame Dolly Mixture jumped in and out of three different pantomimes in a desperate hunt to help Cinderella recover her magic pumpkin, glass slippers, and white mice, which were stolen by the wicked Witch, Evilena, played to great effect by Trish Harris.

David Parsonson as the slightly world-weary stage manager had the task of setting out to the audience the complex scenario, namely, that all the pantos had been boxed up and mothballed on the orders of an anonymous theatrical management. Skilful lighting operated by Bryan Partington ensured the crucial blackouts, required each time our heroes jumped into the next panto, were executed with lightning precision.

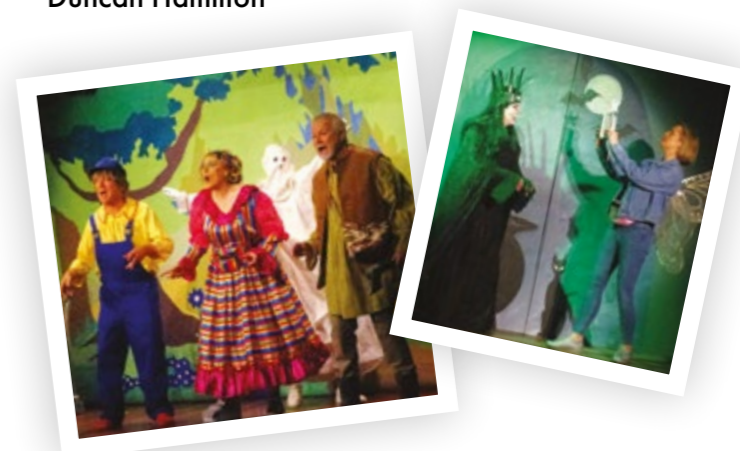
Andy Witting as Charlie gave an energetic performance as the slightly reluctant hero, compelled by a sense of fair play to right the wrongs inflicted on Cinderella. Deni Smale's spirited Dame Dolly interacted well with the audience and was a good sparring partner for Charlie. Alby Wright delivered two solid cameo performances. Lisa Johnston (also double

cast) shone, as the good fairy, Alexa, and the Lady in Waiting, Sarah. A temperamental confetti cannon did not prevent Jack the kitchen boy (Juliet Devon), from creating mayhem as she and Charlie tried to decorate a large cake with icing and sprinkles in the Palace kitchen.

Disembodied voices emanating from characters from other pantos remained packed up in their boxes and were ably provided by a galaxy of well-known Russell Players on-stage regulars.

A cleverly designed set by Chris Partridge accommodated scenes from three different pantos. Mags Broadhurst's stunning costumes were a complete triumph and a highlight of the pantomime.

Duncan Hamilton



Next Production: DEATH BY DETECTIVE (Corpsed by a Copper)

by David Pemberton
Directed by Mitch Mitchell

When a legendary detective solves a terrible murder and discovers his own guilty part in the affair, it is left to his closest friends to prevent him from arresting himself.

This production is brought to you by arrangement with Lazy Bee Scripts. The Russell Players would like to thank you for your continued support.

Juliet Devon



PERFORMANCE DATES
WED 15TH MAY
SAT 18TH MAY
SUN 19TH MAY

TICKETS
£15.00 for adults (Includes a light supper)

Available at Swallowfield Parish Stores

RP BOX OFFICE
07862 390 053

PLEASE NOTE
Limited to 50 people per performance

Doors open at 7pm

e: russellplayers@gmail.com **w:** www.russellplayers.co.uk



SWALLOWFIELD PITT BRIDGE LODGE

Our annual Installation meeting took place on Monday 5th February. This is the occasion when we install our new Worshipful Master. A number of Lodge Officers also handed over their responsibilities to fellow members, having selflessly given 5 years of sterling service to the Lodge. They retire from Office but not from the Lodge. I can assure you that we will make good use

of their talents in the future. We approach the year refreshed and looking forward to another 12 months of solid progress.

We also welcomed a joining member and balloted for an Initiate. He will be the "Candidate" at our next meeting in May. More good news. We have received three applications from members of other Lodges wishing to join us. The word is out, people hear what a good time we have and are keen to join in this great and glorious undertaking.

As you know by now, we have a meal when our official business is over, immediately after a brief spell in the bar. We dine in the Hotel restaurant and are very well looked after. When you consider that we start at 6.00pm, aim to finish by 9.30pm and hope to be home and

tucked up in bed by 10pm, we manage to pack an awful lot of fun and pleasure into a quite short period of time. What a super way to spend an evening.

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 for further information. We offer a fascinating experience in our excellent local venue with warm fellowship and good food.

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

Your Local Borough Councillor Update



As your Borough Councillor I took great pride when literally hundreds of residents not just from Swallowfield itself, but from Farley Hill, Riseley and all over the parish, descended upon Wokingham Borough Council offices to support the rejection of the proposed building of 81 homes in Trowes Lane, Swallowfield. It was excellent to see so many people attending the Council Offices and online, plus the hundreds of letters opposing the application sent over 9 months previously.

At a meeting of the Planning Committee on Wednesday 10th January, the Parish Council represented by Ian Fullerton and local experienced resident Jeremy Bayliss successfully urged the planning committee to reject this proposal. The arguments which eventually won the day were based on sustainability: the proposed development is in an area of open countryside, which did not have adequate infrastructure or transport links to support an influx of such a large number of new residents to easily travel to schools, shops or other facilities. Members of the committee also forcefully spoke up in the debate against this development, rejecting the application for a housing development on a green field site.

A true show of collective community spirit and unity, thank you to you all.

Stuart Munro, Member for Swallowfield
stuart.munro@wokingham.gov.uk

Last blue bags before collection changes

You will by now have probably received a roll of blue general rubbish bags which are being delivered to most households between Monday 12th February and Friday 22nd March. Check here: [Blue bin bag deliveries](#)

From mid-August, most houses will use the new service as follows:

A. FOOD WASTE

Small black box, will be collected every week.

B. RECYCLED WASTE

Using the green bags, will be collected every other week.

C. GENERAL WASTE

Using the new 180 litre black wheeled bin, will be collected every other week.

D. GARDEN WASTE

Subscription, using the brown wheeled bin, will be collected every other week.

Residents can collect additional green bags from 11 hubs around the Borough, Swallowfield Parish Hall is one such hub. Most households should find four are enough as this is about the same as a large, wheeled bin.

An information leaflet will be delivered with the blue bags to explain the changes in detail and provide helpful tips on how to get ready and to recycle more.

As I write this brief update, spring is around the corner to give us more light and hopefully warmer weather.

I hope that you all have an excellent year.

COFFEE CORNER

Coffee Corner ended 2023 with a wonderful Christmas special, packing out the Davies Room. 2023 was a great year for us. Attendance was back up to pre-pandemic levels. We have seen many new faces, and have donated £2,420 to charities, our last donation of £250 going to the Reading Community Learning Centre,

We are open every Wednesday morning in the Davies Room between 10.30am and 12.30pm. Whether a mustering point or destination for cyclists and walkers, a place to catch up with friends, or for a quick drop in, everyone is welcome to enjoy a coffee/tea and cake. A gluten free option is available.

Our next special event will be an Easter special on 3rd April when we will have some seasonal themed cakes and treats. We would love to see you.

The Coffee Corner Team



t: 0118 988 4920

Local Support and Amenities

SWALLOWFIELD MEDICAL PRACTICE

New Telephone System

The implementation of our new telephone system in the Autumn has enhanced communication and improved accessibility for patients. Patients no longer get the dreaded engaged tone and can now request a call back, keeping them in the same position within the queue whilst not needing to stay on the line. We appreciate the patience and understanding given during the transition as we fine-tuned the system to best serve you.

COVID Vaccinations

While flu season may be winding down, we are already looking forward to our Spring COVID programme. Currently we expect to be vaccinating the following patients:

- adults aged 75 years and over
- care homes for older adults
- individuals aged 6 months and over who are immunosuppressed.

Invites will be sent out in due course, and we would be grateful if you do not call the practice regarding bookings. Please contact us via the website should you wish to ask us a question.

Pharmacy First

We are working alongside our pharmacy colleagues who are now providing the Pharmacy First service. This new initiative involves pharmacists providing advice and treatment for seven common conditions:

- sinusitis
- sore throat
- acute otitis media
- infected insect bites
- impetigo
- shingles
- uncomplicated urinary tract infection in women

w: swallowfieldmedicalpractice.co.uk

Consultations for these seven clinical pathways can be provided to patients presenting to the pharmacy as well as those referred by NHS 111, general practices and others.

Patient Feedback Survey

Your feedback is invaluable to us as we strive to continuously improve our services. We continually send out our Friends and Family Test (FFT) survey following appointments and really appreciate all those that spend a little time completing this and leaving us comments. The link to the FFT survey and also our monthly data is available here - www.swallowfieldmedicalpractice.co.uk/nhs-friends-and-family-test/

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



THE RAINBOW TRUST

In the most wonderful example of community supporting the community, the Shinfield and Swallowfield church bellringers gave up a Christmas shopping opportunity to instead spend their Sunday afternoon supporting the Rainbow Trust. This charity provides emotional and practical support 24/7 to families who have a child with a life-threatening or terminal illness.

The bells of each tower were rung for one hour on Sunday 26th November in support of the Rainbow Trust "No Family Alone" appeal and families of all faiths (and none) in our local parishes where

a child is suffering from, or who has been lost to terminal illness. As a result of the ringers' efforts an incredible £1280.00 in total was raised towards the appeal. The Charity is enormously grateful to the Shinfield and Swallowfield Bellringers and to all those who donated for their incredible generosity.

Locally, the Swallowfield-based Rainbow Trust team still has a waiting list of families in need of their support. Do please get in touch if you are a school, business or other organisation which can fundraise for us, support us with access to child-centric activities or partner with us in any way.

Contact:

e: Natalie.whitby-lear@rainbowtrust.org.uk
e: reading.volunteer@rainbowtrust.org.uk

RISELEY VILLAGE TEA ROOM

We were very busy from the end of November until we closed for Christmas on 22nd December, having served afternoon tea to over 600 people. A festive slant to our usual menu went down very well, and Debbie's date and nutmeg scones were a particular hit!

After a few days rest with our families for Christmas, it was back to the tearoom to clear out the furniture, so the decorator could paint the hallway and main room. We opted for a new colour scheme to complement the existing fixtures and fittings and have received many compliments from customers.

December saw us bid a fond farewell to Wendy and Hilary, and a month or two before that, Cherry. They have all been fantastic in helping us settle in and get to grips with running the tearoom. Sally joined the team in January and has taken to the job like a duck to water. We are very pleased to have you working alongside us Sally.

NEW for 2024 is being open from 10am to midday Thursdays, Fridays, and Sundays (Saturdays in the adjoining tennis club for bacon rolls). We offer a mid-morning menu with items such as savoury scones, filled croissants, toasted teacakes, and of course a selection of cakes from the counter. Dogs are also permitted in the mornings when accompanied by well-behaved owners! We will gauge the interest and feedback from customers. Please continue to let us know your thoughts, we will continue to be as flexible as possible with our days of operation and menu options.

EVENTS

See our Facebook posts for all the latest information.

- Cheese and Wine Evening (In conjunction with Village Maid)
- Music Night

We thank everyone for their continued support and hope to see you soon.

Kind Regards,
Debbie and Karen



RISELEY VILLAGE
TEA ROOM

Contact: Debbie & Karen

e: theriseleyvillagetearoom@gmail.com **t:** 0118 996 7375

w: www.riseleyvillagetearoom.co.uk

f: www.facebook.com/RiseleyVillageTeaRoom



THE CALICO TRUST

A BRIEF HISTORY

In the 18th Century it was common for wealthy landowners to give donations to the church for the poor from the income they received relating to their land. In the beginning the donations paid for sacking or (calico) cloth that was given out by the churchwardens every year at Easter, but the onus on the landowners to pay these 'rent charges' was eventually discharged with one-off final payments in 1983. There were four landowners involved originally and responsibility was duly passed on to each of their successors but, as the rent charges had not been linked to inflation these final payments were of only £10 each! The Poores House, in Part Lane, and an adjacent field had been included in the original benefactions and the proceeds of the sale of the house in 1971 was added to the charity's accounts and invested.

In earlier times the poor folk of the parish were given the right to cut, take and use turf, ferns and wood to use as fuel from common or waste lands within the parish. Windsor Forest (which in those days had reached as far as our parish), was enclosed in 1817 and in order to compensate the poor for the loss of such fuel, some parcels of land were given to the church, the rent obtained being used to purchase fuel for the poor. Today's charity still retains two parcels of land and uses the grazing rents received.

In 1982 the Charity Commission decided that instead of the Churchwardens being trustees of the Charity, it should now be two persons appointed by Swallowfield Parish Council. Apart from the two fields used for grazing the Charity also owns the land in Part Lane which is currently used by the Swallowfield Allotment Association (this had been part of the original benefaction adjacent to the Poores House, but was swapped for the current field in 1992).

In 1993 the amalgamation of the charities was approved by the Charity Commission and the charities were incorporated into the one scheme we have today. The charities which were merged were as follows:

1. The Poores House and Land
2. Charities of Meer, Hide Sharp and Lane
3. Fuel Allotments

The charity's aims and objectives remain as they were, which is to help those in need who live in this parish.

Contact: Celia Adams
t: 07946 654 424
e: celia8844@gmail.com

Contact: Ros Riddell
t: 0118 988 2014 **e:** ros.riddell@btinternet.com

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 99 67375

Royal Berkshire Hospital 0118 322 5111

SSE Electricity (Emergency) 0800 783 8866

Shinfield Voluntary Car Service 0118 9883400

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 9885 444 or email finance_officer@swallowfieldpc.gov.uk

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

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), Mark Binns, Catherine Drew, Laura Edmonds, Ian Fullerton (Chair, Planning), John McDermott, Margaret McDonald, Paul Schulz and Simon Taylor.



Swallowfield Parish Council



Clean Up Day 2024

Meeting at the Davies Room, Swallowfield Parish Hall, RG7 1QX on
Saturday 23rd March 2024 between 10am-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 if you have them, otherwise they can be provided while stocks last.

For further details please contact Peter Sampson on 0118 988 5929 or
email clerk@swallowfieldpc.gov.uk



Holy Week

These services are for all across the Loddon Reach Benefice, for worship together.

Monday 25th March 7.30pm Compline at St Mary the Virgin, Beech Hill

Tuesday 26th March 7.30pm Compline at St Mary the Virgin, Beech Hill

Wednesday 27th March 7.30pm Compline at St Mary the Virgin, Beech Hill

Thursday 28th March 7.30pm Maundy Service at All Saints Church, Swallowfield

Good Friday 29th March 10.00 – 12.00noon Family Activity Trail at St Mary's Church, Shinfield

2.00pm – 3.00pm The Last Hour at St Mary's Church, Shinfield

2.00pm – 3.00pm The last Hour at St Michael's Church, Spencers Wood



Easter Sunday 31st March

6.00am Sunrise Service at St Mary's Church, Shinfield

9.30am Family Communion at St Mary the Virgin, Beech Hill

10.30am Family Communion at St Mary's Church, Shinfield

10.30am Family Communion at St Michael's Church, Spencers Wood

10.30am Family Communion at Swallowfield