

THE SWALLOWCLIFFE

LOCAL NEWS FOR THE RESIDENTS OF SWALLOWCLIFFE

Swallowcliffe has lots going on - all too often so much so that it's hard to keep up! The Swallowcliffe is a new initiative sponsored by your Parish Council to answer that need and provide both a source of information about ongoing local issues, and a regular update about local events - a What's On, for Swallowcliffe. This is edition No 1 - hereafter, we will come out every 3 months ...

The Parish Council is also sponsoring a Welcome Pack for the village to be given to new residents to help them settle quickly into our community. As a "one off", a copy of the information leaflet is going to every household as a handy reference.

THE LATEST....

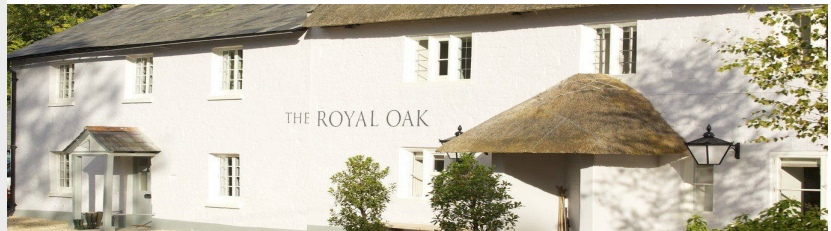
Congratulations - we've won!

SWALLOWCLIFFE - Winner of the Wessex Water Best Hamlet in Wiltshire 2020.

But, inevitably, the current COVID 19 pandemic looms large for us all. The next few weeks - and months for that matter, won't be easy. For many, the various communication networks in the village will be a help. The latest round of measures provide a fresh, and less than welcome challenge, for the re-opened Royal Oak. And, spare a thought for those without the internet who might welcome an offer of help....

Keep Well! We have Christmas and 2021 to look forward to!

SWALLOWCLIFFE PC



UP AND RUNNING AGAIN.....THEN LOCK DOWN RETURNS

Some two months ago James May joined our stalwart local investors to revitalise The Royal Oak which had been closed since "Lockdown" in March. It re-opened on 28 October when over 50 people joined the launch party to celebrate its return to village life. The first week of operation was a great success, only for the return of a National Lockdown to close down operations.

But, very clearly the team at the Royal Oak are not going to let this deter them. We spoke to Chris Bryett the new manager about future plans. Already a familiar figure, Chris hails from Ilkley and has 20 years experience in the trade, most recently in North Wiltshire. Jonny Sutcliffe has returned to the team as Chef and Lesley has joined to assist with front of house. Their objective is to ensure that The Royal Oak retains its role as a social hub for the village. Chris recognises the importance of not just running a business, but being part of the local community. He wants people to feel proud of the pub and ensure those who frequent the pub feel happy, see a good team, have a delicious meal and enjoy themselves.

To that end, Jonny has developed the menu to include some of the previous old Royal Oak favourites, together with a choice of new options. Going forward there may be a Vegan menu from January - and even a James May "Special" or two. Chris is keen to get some events going. With a new music system installed he is hoping to be able to organise a quiz night which conforms to COVID regulations. Importantly, Chris hopes to host a Christmas dinner in early December for the Swallowcliffe community, once the second lockdown has been lifted, maybe over two evenings to optimise the number of people able to attend.

A welcome return - the Team surely deserve all our support and every success - right now, and once restrictions are eased. Contact the Royal Oak: Telephone: 01747 870211; website: <https://www.royaloakswallowcliffe.com/> Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/theroyaloakswallowcliffe>

PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE NOVEMBER 2020

Dealing with COVID 19 has been uppermost in all our minds since last February. This notwithstanding, after our focus last year on road safety, including the village centre 20mph speed limit, our emphasis this year has turned to maintenance. Litter was picked, fly tipping removed, footpaths improved, and ditches dug out - all of which helped when the Swallowcliffe rainfall record was broken in October - 19.8 cm no less! Village noticeboards have been repaired or replaced, and a new section of road laid by the Village Hall.

We are now concentrating on Higgins Lane, the small road between Gigant Street and the Manor, which is in a sad state with mud and overhanging branches making access difficult, as well as attracting fly-tipping. We will be working with Wiltshire Council and adjoining landowners to improve things. We are also looking at extra speed management measures such as village gates, additional speed indicator locations and a more visible police presence. We are developing a footpath improvement scheme starting where path SWAL6 crosses the stream north of Mill House. Our thanks to Richard Moore for digging drainage ditches there.

Routine business goes on too including dealing with planning applications and making sure our voice is heard in the workings of Wiltshire County Council! - see www.swallowcliffeparishcouncil.org.uk Meanwhile....keep safe in these challenging times.

Steve Banas

SWALLOWCLIFFE VILLAGE BELL APPEAL

Swallowcliffe Church's 3 bells are in need of urgent repairs - the Parochial Church Council need to raise £8000 by January 2021 when work starts. Thanks to your generosity, the appeal is going well. But if you have not helped already, could you? For details, please contact Rex Stephenson 01747870519

CABLE COMES TO SWALLOWCLIFFE - A VITAL STEP FORWARD FOR THE VILLAGE

Whilst Swallowcliffe has many things, over the years a reliable fast internet is not one of them! Earlier this year Wessex Internet put forward a scheme to bring high speed fibre broadband to the village using dedicated fibre optic cable and taking advantage of the current Government plan to help those without good broadband. Although BT installed fibre and copper from a fibre box at the end of Squalls Lane, only parts of the village truly benefitted because this relies on existing telephone cables to homes from the box. Speeds are reduced the further the broadband uptake is from the fibre box. Wessex now have work underway to lay the cable network around the village. As we go to press, cable is being laid up beside Yule Hill and into the village centre, as well as towards Tisbury Row, as the first steps towards a major step forward in connecting the village. Contact Wessex Internet if you want to know more info@wessexinternet.com particularly about the Government scheme to assist householders to improve their home broadband. The potential of faster and more reliable broadband here is enormous, especially for business, agriculture, and home connectivity.



WHAT'S ON DECEMBER - JANUARY

Covid 19 has not helped this year, but watch out for:

**Candlelit Carol Service at St Peter's Swallowcliffe
Sunday 20 December 2020 at 6pm**

**Village Christmas Supper
The Royal Oak hopes to put on a Village Christmas
Supper in early December, possibly over 2 evenings**

**Boxing Day and/or New Year's Day
Village Walk - socially distanced**

**Keep an eye on Noticeboards and our village social
media for details**

Next Edition, March 2021 closes mid February 2021
Possible contributions to The Swallowcliffe for the
attention of the Editor via Swallowcliffe.News@gmail.com
by mid February 2021 please