

ROMSLEY NEWS

Your Update from Romsley Parish Council

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INTRODUCTION AND UPDATE

Welcome to our summer newsletter for 2021. We apologise that during the pandemic we have been unable to produce a Newsletter for the parish; however as restrictions begin to ease, we will be looking to publish an update to you every quarter. I would also like to thank Spexmanix and Sidemoor Fish bar who by sponsoring this newsletter have helped us to offset the costs of production.

The first business to report is that of a change of Chairman. At our Annual Meeting of Romsley Parish Council held on Tuesday 4 May 2021, I was delighted and honoured to have been elected as Chairman of the Parish Council. We have a great team in my fellow councillors, and I look forward to continuing the good work that the Parish Council does for the residents.

On behalf of the community and Romsley Parish Council, I would like to thank Councillor Richard Arrowsmith for his dedication and commitment as Chairman for the last 6 years. Richard has consistently gone over and above for the local community and his continued efforts to serve Romsley are greatly appreciated. Richard will continue to serve as a councillor.



I hope that you will find this newsletter informative. We have been working on a lot of initiatives that we would like to tell you about including the construction of a Strategic Plan. This will underpin our activity each year enabling us to produce and communicate a clear action plan and ensure that as a council we act on the will of its residents. There is more about this on page 5. We are also looking for a new person to join our team. There is more on the vacancy and the role of a Parish Councillor on pages 10 and 11.

Finally, on behalf of the council, I would like to express my appreciation. During the last 18 months, we have been grateful to all the key workers in our village but also those that have managed the Coronavirus hotline, the Romsley Residents Facebook pages and all of you that have taken time out to check on others and assist where needed. Romsley has an amazing community, and this has been very evident over the past year.

Should you wish to contact us about anything in this newsletter or wish to discuss the current vacancy our details are on the back page.

Sending my Best Regards

David Powell

Chairman – Romsley Parish Council

Local Council Award Scheme

We are applying for the Local Councils Award Scheme.

By doing this we can demonstrate to you that we meet the highest standards set by the sector. This award is assessed by our peers and ensures we not only deliver to a national professional standard, but we have an effective process in place for continued improvement. This will take approximately 12 months to achieve and we will keep you updated on our progress in this newsletter and our website



New Signage and Gates Dayhouse Bank

There has been a new installation of signage and gates at Old House Lane/Newtown Lane junction. The gates are positioned at the commencement of the 30mph zone leading up to Dayhouse Bank. The gates were funded by the Highways department and are part of a drive towards reducing speeds in this area.



Traffic and Speeding

Concerns regarding speeding through the parish are always high on the agenda for Romsley residents. We are looking into several initiatives in this area.



Community Speedwatch

We are investigating the merits of arranging a community Speedwatch in the area. This is an initiative currently used by other Parish Councils where Volunteers take speed readings at the side of the road and then input the results into a database. We are looking to speak to similar Parish Councils who have operated a Speedwatch scheme to understand what is involved and to discuss lessons learned.

We will review this over the coming weeks and report back in due course of the viability of a scheme for Romsley.

Safe Speed ANPR Camera

We are reviewing the purchase of an ANPR (Automatic Number Plate Recognition) speed camera for use in the Parish. We have had a demonstration of such a system and are reviewing options and looking at costs vs return on investment. We are also looking to speak to Parish Councils and similar authorities that are using these units to understand if this is something we wish to pursue. As discussions progress, we will keep you updated on our website and through social media. There will also be a further update in the Autumn Newsletter.

Tackling Fly Tipping

We recognise that Fly Tipping is a serious problem in our Parish. If you notice any discarded waste dumped illegally, you can report it to Bromsgrove District Council on the link below.

<https://www.bromsgrove.gov.uk/my-place/street-cleaning/fly-tipping/report-fly-tipping.aspx>

Alternatively, there is a handy app for your phone that allows you to report fly-tipping from the scene. The app is called "Clear Waste" and it can be downloaded onto your phone. Once registered, you can take a picture of any fly-tip and report it.

Depending on location, the information will go to the relevant council for action.



Looking for Specs? Look No further!

SPEX MANIAX!

CRAZY FOR SPEX!

Spex are fashion, buy them regularly...

If the price is right then why not!!!

Top Brands stocked include....

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- MURANO
- MORGAN
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REGLAZE YOUR
OWN FRAMES**

**ULTRA THIN
LENSES**
from £35.00
extra

VARIFOCALS
from
£45.00
extra

**NHS
VOUCHERS
ACCEPTED**



OPENING TIMES:

Monday 10am-6pm
 Tuesday 10am-6pm
 Wednesday (Closed)
 Thursday 10am-6pm
 Friday 10am-6pm
 Saturday 10am-4pm

**(Closed daily
1:30-2:00pm)**

356 Hagley Road, Halesowen,
West Midlands, B63 4JT
(Free parking at rear of shop)



T 0121 550 7977

S.M.MORAN F.B.D.O. Registered with the General Optical Council • Qualified dispensing optician

Events Update

Romstock MUSIC FESTIVAL



St Kenelm's Day

We are sorry that we have had to cancel our planned Romstock and St Kenelm's Day events for 2020 and 2021 due to the COVID pandemic.

However, as restrictions are now being lifted, we are beginning to plan for 2022.

We will be considerate of the relevant guidelines in planning our events going forward. As a result, we may have to amend the event guidelines and policies to maintain the safety of all participants and to ensure the longevity of the event.

More information will follow in due course on our website and social media. We have a dedicated Romstock Facebook and Twitter site where we will post the latest information. Otherwise, we will give an update in the Autumn Newsletter.

Carol Concert 2021

We are planning to hold our annual Carol Concert on Wednesday 08/12/21

We will consider the relevant guidance and will release more details in Autumn.



You love your dog! We love Romsley!!



CLEAN UP AFTER YOUR DOG It's simple to do and it's YOUR responsibility

5-Year Strategy

Romsley Parish Council is looking to document a Strategic Plan that covers the next five years. This will be a statement of our vision for the parish and will set out our purpose, objectives, and key priorities.

We see this as a key tool for communicating our plans for the next five years to our residents. It will provide a clear understanding of how the Parish Council works and the aims that we wish to achieve during the period. It will also enable us to determine a more detailed action plan for the current year. This action plan will be measurable and reportable so that we can demonstrate our progress.

We are currently working on the plan, and we hope to provide more detail soon. The Strategic Plan will take inputs from questionnaires that we have previously distributed as well as feedback we receive during the year from all residents.

As always, we welcome the involvement of residents in our decision-making process and we will consult on issues of importance. If you would like to contact us our details are on the back page.

Social Prescribing



One in five people who visit their GP or health care professionals have problems that can't be solved by medical treatment.

A Social Prescriber may be able to help

Social Prescribing can support you to deal with issues such as:

**ISOLATION • LONELINESS • MONEY • FAMILY
HEALTH • DEPRESSION • ADDICTION • BENEFITS
WELLBEING • ANXIETY • HOUSING • WORRIES
SMOKING • DRUGS • ALCOHOL • UNEMPLOYMENT**

If you think a Social Prescribing Link Worker can help you, call or email us

HELPING YOU TO FEEL BETTER

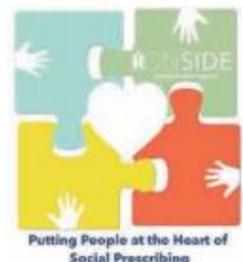
Call: 0300 303 5291

Email:

rbccg.spbromsgrove@nhs.net



Bromsgrove
District Council
www.bromsgrove.gov.uk



Playing Field Area Review

We have commenced a review of the Playing Field area in Romsley to take a long term view of the facilities on offer. To do this we have set up a working party to look at all aspects of the area including the children's park, gym, skateboard ramps, football pitches and general park surrounds.

No decisions have been taken on any aspect of the park and we are reviewing all of the feedback received in recent online surveys and the questionnaire distributed a few years ago. This long term view aims to ensure that any decisions we make are part of a larger plan for this area to ensure that we have facilities available for all demographics within Romsley.

We will communicate more on our planning for this area when we have further information. If you would like to make any comments or suggestions please contact the council through the clerk (details are on the back page).

Police Update

We are committed to improving our working relationship with our local police force to ensure that we can focus on the issues that are key to residents. We have included a section on our website where you can find out more information on whom to contact and we have also listed key numbers below.



We are reviewing our options to combat speeding as discussed elsewhere in this newsletter. Other topics under discussion are fly-tipping, unsociable parking and general police presence in the Romsley area.

To find out more on local initiatives we encourage you to visit the Neighbourhood Matters website as detailed below.



www.neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk is a secure messaging service that will allow you to get relevant information in your area from the Police. It's a new system that allows you to have up to date information that will be relevant to the area and also ask questions directly. However please note that Neighbourhood Matters **is not a**

platform to report crimes.

Please take some time to have a look at the site to see some of the impressive features. You will need to subscribe to the service by going onto the website and once the initial registration form is filled you will get a password via email. You will then be able to get access.

If you are suspicious that a crime is being committed in Romsley, please help your community and contact West Mercia Police to report it. In an emergency use 999. **However for less urgent matters** for example; if your car has been stolen, if your property has been damaged, if you suspect drug use or dealing; or to give the police information about crime in your area please ring 101.

You can also contact Hagley and Rubery Safer Neighbourhood Team on the numbers below

Hagley & Rubery

hr.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

PC Marc Ginder 07773043548

PCSO Stuart Taylor 07773045855

PCSO Susan White 07773044188

Just ring 101

Easy to remember, easy to call

FOR POLICE
NON
EMERGENCIES

101

IN AN EMERGENCY
ALWAYS CALL 999

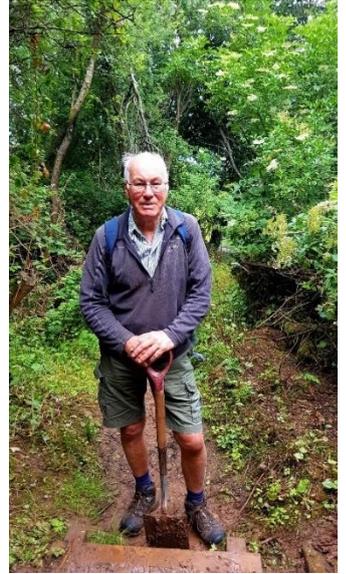


INTRODUCING... Our Parish Paths Warden

When producing this newsletter we wanted to take the opportunity to bring to your attention the work that many people do in our parish. The first of these is Stuart Smith our Parish Paths Warden.

The Parish Council and the people of Romsley are extremely grateful for the work that Stuart and Nina do in the Parish and you can read about this below.

“ Many of you will know me from the Parish walks I led before the pandemic put a stop to them. My name is Stuart and I have the rather grand-sounding title of Parish Paths Warden which just means I am the “bloke what does the paths”. For the past ten years and more, with the help of my wife Nina I have been working on the public rights of way in the parishes of Romsley and Hunnington (although I am no longer involved with Hunnington’s paths) trying to keep them in good order and improving them wherever possible. I am “employed” by Worcestershire County Council (WCC) rather than the Parish Council as WCC is the highways authority and as such has statutory responsibility for the public footpaths which are in fact highways.



My role is voluntary and unpaid, a situation I am quite happy with as it gives me the freedom to do as much or as little as I like when I like. WCC support me by giving any necessary training required, supplying me with waymark signs, protective gear etc and insurance cover whilst working on the paths. In return, the basic requirement of my role is to report any problems I come across and help WCC with identifying landowners. I choose to do a bit more where I can, improving the paths by strimming etc. I particularly think stiles, which often prevent folk with disabilities from enjoying our countryside should be replaced by gates wherever possible and have had some success in this.

Romsley parish has just over 10 miles (16.724Kms to be exact) of public rights of way. I believe they are an important asset to the parish and notwithstanding seasonal mud and summer vegetation, I would like to make them amongst the best paths in the county.

Those of you that use the paths can help me by: -

- Picking up any litter you see on your walk. Whilst not a major problem on our paths it is one of the complaints landowners regale me with.
- Try to keep to the path and keep your dog under close control. When landowners see path users wandering away from the paths and their dogs running through their crops and over their fields seemingly out of their owners control it prejudices them against all path users, makes them unsympathetic to any improvements I or WCC would like to make to the paths such as replacing stiles with gates and generally gives me a hard time.

Let me know if you come across a problem on the paths. I walk them all over the year but the less used ones less often and it may be a while before any problem comes to my notice. I cannot guarantee to fix every problem for various reasons, but I will look at any problem passed to me and respond. Please bear in mind though that Romsley is on clay and mud is inevitable in places for much of the year and that vegetation can grow at an alarming rate during the summer months. I can be contacted by email at stuninasmith@yahoo.co.uk or on 0121-453 6430.



I understand that the Parish Council intends to repeat these newsletters at quarterly intervals. If I am invited to do so I will try and include something of interest in them relating to public footpaths although reading about paths can be dull

stuff, far better to be out there enjoying them!”

New Defibrillator

We are pleased to report that we are working with St Kenelm's CE Primary School to install a defibrillator located by the school gates. As well as being available for use by the school, this will also cover the south of the village area.

The new machine is purchased and we are hopeful that the new defibrillator will be installed and commissioned over the summer term holidays and available for use soon.



Walks and Rights of Way

We are very lucky to have some fantastic countryside walks in our parish. Our paths are maintained by Stuart Smith and his wife Nina who work hard as volunteers to ensure the footpaths are accessible to us all. **See article on Pg 7**

Please help us to continue to preserve these public walkways by always observing the Countryside Code

- **Keep to the footpaths to protect crops and wildlife.**
- **Leave gates and property as you find them.**
- **Keep away from machinery and farm animals.**
- **Please do not feed livestock, horses or wild animals.**
- **Take your litter home.**
- **Dog Poo is very harmful to farm animals. Be a responsible dog owner - bag it, take it, bin it.**
- **Keep your dog on a short lead around farm animals and under proper control at all times.**



Uffmoor Wood Bridge

Walkers using the route into Uffmoor Woods from Romsley will note that the two bridges across the stream are in serious disrepair.

The Parish Council are keen to ensure that these bridges are repaired to maintain access to Uffmoor Wood for our residents.



We are currently in discussion with the Woodland Trust and Landowners, and we are making excellent progress. We hope to reach a solution shortly and are looking to have repairs underway as soon as possible.

Memorial Wellington KAM-N



Vickers Wellington B Mark X of No. 83 Operational Training Unit, being refueled from two petrol bowsers at Peplow, Shropshire.
Photograph courtesy Imperial War Museum

A few years ago, we were made aware of a site nearby to the Penny Fields walk, where a Wellington Bomber crashed whilst on a training mission in 1944. We have been working with Stuart Smith, our Parish Paths Warden, to install a permanent memorial to the servicemen who lost their lives on this site.

This memorial will be sited on the Penny Fields Walk in August. Please see the Romsley Parish Council website for further details or contact the Clerk.

Friends of Romsley

Friends of Romsley Need You!

Several residents with a passion for our environment and village joined together back at the end of 2017 to form the “Friends of Romsley” group. Since then, we have carried out many litter picks, bought in and planted up the roadside planters in the village, created the sensory bedding planters in the park and have entered the RHS It’s Your Neighbourhood successfully for two years, in partnership with Romsley Parish Council.

To carry on this good work in Romsley and look at new projects we need your help. If you are interested in joining us, then please contact Sarah at sarahroyal09@gmail.com. We would love to welcome you into the group and look at new ideas for the village.

The Friends of Romsley are working with Romsley Parish Council to organise regular litter picks. As well as being a great way to tackle rubbish in our area, it helps to bring the community together and you can also keep fit (what is not to like about that!)

If you love where you live and would like to get involved let us know. We intend to litter pick on ***the second Sunday of every month***. We will meet at the playing fields car park at 10:00 am.

Contact Sarah on the above details or Romsley Parish clerk if you would like to be involved. We will supply all necessary equipment – please join us to make a difference to the community.



- 8th August
- 12th September
- 10th October
- 14th November
- 12th December



Sidemoor Fish bar

WE ARE BACK!

We have been serving Fresh Fish & Chips for over 40 years and now our mobile trailer will be @Romsley Village

OPEN EVERY FRIDAY

4.30PM - 7.30PM

SITUATED ON THE PLAYING FIELDS CAR PARK

We will be offering our full Fish & Chips menu and our Kebabs and Burgers menu.

Kids meals are available too.

We Are Hiring!



We have a vacancy for a councillor to join our team and we would love to receive a new member. The role is voluntary; however, you will join a great team who are passionate about making a positive difference to all our residents in the parish of Romsley.

Overleaf we have detailed the roles of the Parish Council and you can find out more about our team on the back page.

Why not join us and make a difference to our parish?

If you are interested in a role on the council, please contact the Clerk.

Details are on the back page

Roles of the Parish Council

Parish Councils are made up of volunteers and have a variety of powers and duties, all of which impact directly on the community. They are the first and most local tier of Government. Romsley is one of twenty Parish Councils within Bromsgrove District Council.

The Parish Council has a role in consultation with Bromsgrove District Council and Worcestershire County Council in certain areas and the opportunity to influence those bodies for the benefit of the parish. It is funded through the Bromsgrove District Council by the `precept` which is part of the Council Tax. The Parish Council is accountable to external audits for monies spent.

All councillors follow the Council Code of Conduct, and the Parish Council follows rules, regulations and procedures laid down – ultimately by Central Government.

In certain areas of activity, the Parish Council may act alone. However, this must be under the local Government Plans and within the legal powers imposed by Acts of Parliament.

The following are all under the remit of local councils. The list below is not exhaustive and is pertinent to Romsley parish:

- Allotments
- Bus Shelters
- Bye-laws – the power to make bye-laws concerning baths and washhouses (swimming pools), cycle parks, mortuaries, and pleasure grounds
- Community Centres, Conference Centres, Halls, Public Buildings
- Drainage – of ditches and ponds
- Entertainment and the Arts
- Footpaths
- General Spending – parish councils can spend a limited amount of money on anything they deem of benefit to the community that is not covered by the other specific responsibilities described in this list
- Gifts – parish councils may accept gifts
- Highways – lighting, parking places, right to enter discussions about new roads and road widening, consent of parish council required for diversion or discontinuation of highway, traffic signs and other notices, tree planting and verge maintenance
- Land – acquisition and sale of
- Legal proceedings – the power to prosecute and defend any legal proceedings in the interests of the community, power to take part in any public enquiry
- Litter – provision of litter bins and support for any anti-litter campaigns
- Planning – parish councils must be notified of, and display for residents, any planning applications for the area.
- Any comments submitted to the planning authority by the parish council must be considered
- Postal and Telecommunication Facilities – the power to pay a public telecommunications operator any loss sustained in providing services in that area
- Recreation – provision of recreation grounds, public walkways, pleasure grounds, open spaces, village greens, gymnasiums, playing fields, holiday camps and boating ponds
- Rights of Way – footpath and bridleway maintenance
- Seats (public)
- Signs – danger signs, place names and bus stops signs
- Tourism – financial contributions to any local tourist organisations allowed
- Traffic Calming
- War Memorials

Meet Your Parish Council

Dave Powell — Chairman

Dave lives in St Kenelm's Road. He is a Consultant Project Manager working to deliver projects across a variety of industries



Shaun Bolar — Vice-Chairman

Shaun Lives in Dark Lane. He is a Cost Consultant and Project Manager, working within the construction industry.



Richard Arrowsmith — Councillor

Richard lives in Dark Lane. He is a Technical Director working for a large Civil Engineering consulting firm specialising in Highway Asset Management



Lesley Gray — Councillor

Lesley lives in Dark Lane. She is a retired teacher and spent most of her career in a school for children with special educational needs



John Shaw — Councillor

John lives on Dayhouse Bank. He is a retired Automotive engineer and the facilities director at Stourbridge RFC.



Jack Strain — Councillor

Jack is currently a university student studying Computing and lives towards Dayhouse Bank.



Parish Council Meetings

Due to the pandemic, our meeting frequency has been reduced for 2021.

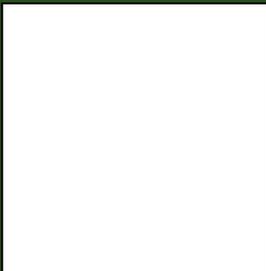
Our next meeting will be scheduled for September with a further meeting in December.

Further details will be publicised on the Notice Boards, Website and Social Media. If you would like further information please contact us.

The meetings are open to all residents and commence at 7:00 pm. The meeting opens with a public forum in which any matters can be raised with the Council before moving onto the main Council meeting.

We would be extremely glad to see you there.

Vacancy — Councillor



Contact the Parish Council

Ruth Mullett - Clerk to the Council

Address: 167 Bromsgrove Rd., Hunnington,
West Midlands B62 0JU

Tel - **01562 712050**

clerk@romsleyparishcouncil.gov.uk

Ed Sheppard — Lengthsman

Ed is our Lengthsman responsible for highway tasks and clearance/ drainage



Nigel Williamson — Maintenance

Nigel lives in Dark Lane and is responsible for maintenance activities across our Parish.



Ruth Mullett — Parish Clerk

Ruth lives in Hunnington and brings a wealth of experience and local knowledge serving as Parish Clerk for Romsley and Hunnington

