

ROMSLEY NEWS

Your Update from Romsley Parish Council

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Your Parish Council

Thank you to all residents who voted in the local elections on May 4th. A high percentage of the village voted reflecting the weight of active interest in the life of the village. There will be more about the pledges made, during the election, in the next edition.

The Parish Council Annual Meeting took place on 16th May 2023. **This is the Chair's report -**

As this has been election year I must first congratulate all Councillors for being unanimously elected to office. This resounding election result reinforces the successful work that has been achieved over the last eight years since the last contested election. This provides a sound base for looking forward and rising to the challenges that lie ahead.

One such challenge is the cost of living crisis that impacts so many people. The Parish Council continues to balance the financial requirements of covering its Statutory Duties (defined by law) and the costs of maintaining the quality of the environment in which we live. These costs are covered by the precept which is a portion of the Council Tax allocated to the Parish Council. With careful consideration and management of the budgets the Council voted to make no further increases to the precept for the year 2023/24.

Through our Clerk – Ruth Mullett, the Council's external financial audits and certification continue to be met without issue and prudent financial reserves maintained.

The Council must continue to seek innovative ways of raising funds from a broad range of sources to supplement the precept.

One such source has been the Romstock Music Festival, through which the Council has managed in recent years, to achieve a profit. The growing popularity of the event and the increasing burden it placed on its volunteer Councillors, led us to last year, seek the partnership of a local business Social Eats. Attracting around 2000 people the event requires the professional event management skills they offer in order to comply with the burden of licensing laws and health and safety legislation. Last year's event, whilst a learning curve for all of us – managed to turn a profit despite the poor weather conditions. A huge thanks to all those that supported and attended the event. This year's event will be held on the 24th June 2023 and promises to be as entertaining as ever.

The profits raised from events such as Romstock, help fund other community projects and events which are provided for free and aimed at local residents.

St Kenelm's Day is one such event and continues to be as popular as ever. This year we had the unique opportunity to host a Coronation Party in celebration of King Charles III. This event finally coincided with a day of sunshine and was enjoyed by a fantastic crowd of local residents and their families. The event was supported by the Scouts and the School HSA – a collaboration of local organisations that we hope will continue to flourish.

During the Coronation Celebrations it was a pleasure to have our local paths warden Stuart Smith – open our newly named path around the playing fields. The path was aptly named Coronation Walk following a poll of local residents. Stuart and his wife continue to be champions of our local network of paths, tirelessly maintaining access and carrying out repairs. They also organise a diary of walks around the local area which we trust will continue to be supported.

The Coronation Walk path continues to be well used and to further enhance the playing fields the parish maintenance team have planted bulbs and blossom trees which will flourish in future years. The play area remains a key focus for improvement – with a variety of options being explored and further consultation planned.

The continued dialogue with District and County Councils is vital for the Parish. We must thank Karen May District Councillor for Belbroughton and Romsley Ward, for her regular attendance at our meetings and support of local events.

Last but not least a huge thank you to all Councillors involved in the achievements to date – only some of which are listed above. It is their dedication and many hours of free time given, that makes this even possible.

Kind regards

Shaun Bolar

At this meeting Shaun resigned his position as a member of Romsley Parish Council feeling that, in the eight years he had served, he had helped to achieve the pledges set way back in 2015.

John Weston was voted in as the new Chair with **Lois Swift** as Vice Chair.



Shaun Bolar has been an active member of Romsley Parish Council since 2015 taking a keen interest in running events and making sure that projects, undertaken by the PC, were compliant with regulations and were procedurally correct.

He has worked tirelessly liaising with contributors to Romstock to ensure that the event is a success. **The Parish Council would like to thank Shaun for his years of work.**

Footpath News – Stuart Smith, Paths Warden

What a mud bath the paths have been! I'm not sure if it was due to an excessively wet winter (in spite of a dry February) or the increased usage but I can't remember the footpaths being in such a muddy state. It seemed to me, at the end of April, that they would never dry out but one week of dry weather in May and thankfully they are now much improved.

There have been two further Parish walks since the last news.

The Rumbow cottage walk in April was very well attended by 27 enthusiastic walkers ignoring my dire warning of the likelihood of large quantities of mud. In spite of a few slippery stretches it was a very enjoyable walk taking in a few of the lesser used parish paths and the excuse to pause and admire the views from Walton Hill, after walking up the "brick road" to the top, was appreciated.



We couldn't have had better weather for the Garlic walk in May, a glorious day and a good showing of garlic in the lovely Dowery Dell which was enjoyed by the 19 participants. It was good to see some new folk on this walk who hopefully enjoyed both the walk and the good company of the "regulars". I hope we will see you on future walks.

The planned improvement to the path by the scout hut mentioned in the last news is still being planned! It will be done but weather and the County Council awaiting quotes has delayed things a bit. A kissing gate has been delivered for installation on the footpath between Holt Lane and Spring Lane. It will replace the stile opposite Cuckoo's Corner on Holt Lane and will make a stile free walk between

the two lanes. My thanks to Steve Tromans of Cuckoo Corner and Nigel the parish maintenance man who have agreed to install it when they are less busy.

Those who have walked the Penny Fields circular this winter will be well aware that it has been very muddy. This has been particularly so where the path passes the fishing pool at Dayhouse Farm. What appears to be two springs have emerged from the bank and created an extremely muddy stretch of footpath. With the help of my wife Nina, I have tried to encourage the water to take a route other than the path. I'm not sure how successful this will be and will try and work out what else can be done to improve things here for next winter. Two waymarker posts have also been replaced on the walk

There are three more Parish walks planned for the remaining months. They are:

June 17th Orchid walk, The Sun

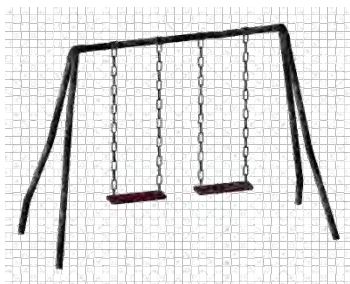
July 29th Out of Parish walk, Lickey Beacon car park

September 16th Hunnington walk, Recreation ground car park

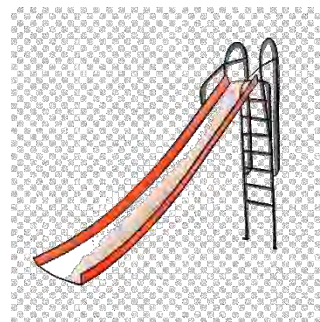
I hope to see you on one (or all)! If you are not already and would like to be added to an email list to receive details and reminders of these walks and any other footpath related news please contact me on stuninasmith@yahoo.co.uk.

Stuart Smith
Parish Paths Warden

Playing Fields News



Development of the play area at the park is to be a priority project. Following the responses to our survey last year on Facebook, we have a good idea of what residents would like to see in the playground. Clearly some of the equipment needs refurbishing / replacing and we are keen to improve the current woodchip surface. We have had quotations from suppliers and it seems the costs are going to




be way beyond the Parish Council budget. We are optimistic that we will secure additional funding very soon, and once this is confirmed we would like to involve local families with the final plan. Watch this space!



Keeping our village litter free



The presence of litter in our parish is a constant problem. It sometimes seems that people travel from far and wide to fly tip their rubbish on our doorstep. It is gratifying to see residents going around the village picking up litter. Fly tipped rubbish can be reported on the ClearWaste App.

A litter picking station was  given to the village by Bromsgrove District Council and is sited on St Kenelm's Road outside Dave Wither's butchers shop. This scheme was started on the beaches of the UK but has been adopted by towns and villages

throughout the country.



Villagers gathered for a community litterpick in Putney Lane back in April. Following a number of fly tipping incidents and an abandoned car found on the lane, local residents decided to have a good clean up. Overall there were around 25 people who turned out to help, including Simon Nock and Karen May. Over 30 bags of litter were collected!

Thanks to everyone who came along.

Litter picking sessions are going to be organised by the PC and Friends of Romsley. Dates will be publicised on social media and on the PC noticeboards.



Kings Coronation Celebrations

Get ready



Get set

The village is decorated with the help of the Romsley Craft Group



Unveiling the official path name

Go



St Kenelm's School HSA ran stalls, including a coconut shy, raising £1,200 to support an outdoor educational space. The Scouts joined in the fun by applying tattoos (temporary) to anyone who stood still long enough.



We were entertained by the wonderful DJ Harris who, as well as playing a great variety of music, ran karaoke sessions throughout the afternoon with some very talented singers taking to the 'stage'.

The village residents turned out in force to enjoy the sunshine, the entertainment and spending precious time with family and friends.

Cream teas and picnics were enjoyed.



Romstock 2023



Saturday 24th June

It's that time of year again. The time for sunshine, getting together with friends and neighbours, great music, good food.

The full list of music acts that will be performing is impressive. Something for everyone and a few surprises!

The food vendors are listed on the poster and there will be a variety of bars serving popular drinks, cocktails and real ale all sold at competitive prices.

The Scouts will be running a parking area (weather permitting) off Dark Lane. All proceeds will go towards supporting the local scouts.

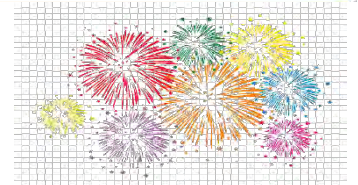
Tickets are now on sale at Romstock 2023 which will link you to [skiddle.com](https://www.skiddle.com)



St Kenelm's Day 2023

Saturday 15th July

This is a celebration for the residents of Romsley and Hunnington funded by the proceeds of Romstock. The **Stourport Brass Band** will be playing a selection of music including favourite classical pieces, film scores and tv themes. The ever popular **The Swingettes** will be entertaining us with songs from across the decades. The evening ends in a spectacular fashion with a fireworks display.



Christmas Carol Singing

Wednesday 6th December

We will be holding the Annual Carol Singing in the Church Hall. This is a long established event, popular and valued. The Cradley Heath Salvation Army Band will be there to provide the music. Mulled wine and mince pies will be served.



What's On in Romsley

ROMSLEY SCOUT CENTRE

Beaver Scouts [6 - 8 years] Monday 6pm
Cub Scouts [8 - 10 years] Tuesday 7pm
Scouts [10 - 14 years] Friday 7.30 pm

Contact: romsleyscouts@hotmail.com or 07970 744417

Rainbows [5 - 7 years] Thursdays

Contact: **Debbie Carter 01562 710329**

Guides [10 - 14 years] Wednesdays

Contact **Emma Pickford-Perry 07437543383**

Toddler & Parent Dance Classes

Tuesdays 9.30 - 10.15am

Contact: Jayne@timminsacademy.com or 07985 734294

Translucent Dance Studio

Parents and Wobblers: Monday – 9.30am

Ballet (5+) & Acro: Tuesday – 4pm

Contemporary (3-11) : Wednesday – 4pm

Translucent Junior (8+) Wednesday – 5.30pm

Contact: www.translucentdancestudio.co.uk - 07311 307077

Romsley Art Group

Tuesday 12 noon

Contact: Jean Cockin – jeanmcockin1@gmail.com

Baby Ballet

Monday – 1.00pm

Contact: **Emma 07968700181**

Toddler and Parent Ballet and Dance

Wednesday 2pm

Contact: **Jayne 07985734294**

Me Time Fitness [Mum and little one]

Thursday 9.30am

Contact: **Rachel Cunningham 07491222554**

Age UK Move More [50+]

Thursday at 12.45pm – no need to book

Contact: 01527 570490

Yoga

Monday 3pm

Contact: Jane jane.yogabntinternet.com

Hillside Ladies Craft Group

1st Wednesday of the month 10am

Contact: Mo mo.perks@virgin.net

ROMSLEY CHURCH HALL

Brownies [7 - 10 years] - Thursdays

Contact: **Debbie Carter 01562 710329**

Romsley Toddlers Group - Wednesdays 10 am

[Term Time]

Contact: **Kelly Marie 07460062162**

Worship4All - 1st Sunday of every month at 11.15am

Family friendly service and craft making

Contact: **Selina Tromans 0121 550 8577**

Sensory People [Care and Therapy for young people]

Every weekday afternoon, except Monday

Contact: **Marion 07879431371**

History Society

4th Tuesday of every month at 7.30pm

Contact: **Paul Share 01562 710197**

Hillside Ladies

2nd Tuesday of every month at 7.30pm

Contact: **Sue Holloway 01562 710414**

Tea and Cake Afternoon

Mondays 2.00 - 3.30pm Fortnightly

Contact: **Selina Tromans 0121 550 8577**

Ballroom Dancing

Thursday at 8.00pm

Contact: **Richard Finlow 07914119052**

Pilates

Friday at 11am

Contact: **Alison ajpickering@outlook.com**

Further details about what's on in Romsley can be found at -

<http://www.romsley.weebly.com>

OTHER VENUES

Mobile Library Service

First Tuesday of every month.

11.05 – 11.20 – Yew Tree Place

11.25 – 11.40 – Dark Lane

11.45 – 12.05 – Hillcrest Road

Sidemoor Mobile Chip Van

Every Friday in the playing field car park

4.30 - 7.30 pm.

Meet your Parish Council



John Weston — Chair

As Parish Councillor since January 2022, I am now leading the park play area renewal project working closely with Lois Swift. I have also been reviewing the parish noticeboards and proposals have been accepted by the council that will improve both the information provided and appearance of the noticeboards, including a replacement. I live on Winston Drive, am married with three grown up children and two young granddaughters. Until fairly recently I was a qualified football referee having officiated for 15 years in both adult and youth games reaching Senior County level. I enjoy walking, swimming and travel.



Lois Swift — Vice Chair

I have lived in Romsley for 25 years with my husband and pet alpacas. I am a keen walker and enjoy a jaunt up the Waseleys with my whippets. As a Grandma I love being amongst children, I know St Kenelm's School well and have served as a Governor there. As a member of Romsley Pantomime Group I have responsibility for ticket sales. I enjoy sewing and I repair used school uniform and make hospital gowns for charities. As a Parish Councillor I'm part of the communication group and I'm working on the Playground Refurbishment, an exciting project for 2023!



Ray Carr — Councillor

I moved to Romsley in 2014, a month before our twin boys were born. We consider our children very fortunate to grow up in Romsley, and actively support St. Kenelm's School where they attend. We also help support Romsley Scouts and really appreciate the great work the Scouts and Guides do for the children of the village. It was appreciation of village life that led me to join the Parish Council in 2021, becoming a member of the communication and Romstock committees. I am also a keen supporter of grassroots football, acting as the Respect Officer for Halesowen Town Colts Football Club.



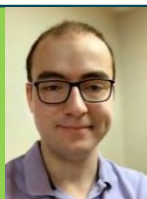
Lesley Gray — Councillor

I have lived in Romsley for 37 and have been a councillor for eight years. I am a member of the Panto group, providing the sound effects and lighting for the performances. I enjoy cycling around the village and the surrounding areas on my electric bike. I play in tennis teams for a local club and enjoy gardening. I am a member of the Events group and help to organise Romstock and St Kenelm's Day. I help to maintain the two planters at the bottom of Dark Lane.



John Shaw — Councillor

I moved to Romsley 2000. I am a retired Mechanical Cutting Tool engineer in the Automotive industry. I worked in various countries including UK/Sweden/Japan/Italy, three years. I played Rugby for many years and am now a Director at Stourbridge RFC. I am a member of National Trust, Worcestershire Wildlife Trust and RSPB. Worked with Openreach/DCMS bringing Romsley Fibre to nearly 200 residential & business premises. I am the PC 'overseer' at Winwood Heath Allotments, maintaining close liaison with allotment holders.



Jack Strain — Councillor

Having lived in Romsley all my life, I am hoping to give back to the community and local area by being a parish councillor. I have previously worked on the Romsley Fibre project and I want to continue with projects like this and more to enable us to improve the village for everyone who lives here. Having a direct impact on issues that affect everyone in Romsley is incredibly rewarding.

Ed Shepherd — Lengthsman

Ed is our Lengthsman responsible for cleaning highway signage / clearance of obstructing vegetation / minor drainage.



Nigel Williamson — Maintenance

Nigel is a lifelong resident of Romsley and takes great pride in the village. He is responsible for keeping the park in such an immaculate condition and other maintenance activities across our Parish.



Ruth Mullett — Parish Clerk

Ruth is a highly qualified Parish Clerk. She brings a wealth of experience and local knowledge serving Romsley and Hunnington Parish Councils.



Ruth Mullett - Clerk to the Council

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Email: romsleyparish@btinternet.com