

# ROMSLEY NEWS

Your Update from Romsley Parish Council

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# Your Parish Council

Welcome to the Autumn 2023 Newsletter from your Parish Council and my first as elected Chairman following the local election back in May.

It has been a very busy period since our first council meeting with many activities being covered in this newsletter including Romstock (page 5), the rearranged St. Kenelm's Day Celebration (page 4), play area refurbishment update (page 3) and details of our reformatted website (page 4).

There has also been some change in personnel;

Sadly after a number of dedicated years as councillor and vice chair Lesley Gray has decided to resign from the Parish Council. In the time I have had the pleasure to work alongside Lesley I have found her knowledge, professionalism and above all else, her steadying personality a huge asset in everything the council tries to achieve. She will be sadly missed but I hope we will have many opportunities to call on her enthusiasm in the future.



Lesley joined the Parish Council in 2015 and has worked hard over the years helping to safeguard and improve the local environment. As part of the 'Events Committee', she has helped to run Romstock, St Kenelm's Day and the Carol Singing at Christmas. Lesley was instrumental in lobbying to get the path around the playing fields built and worked, with the rest of the Parish Council, to ensure its successful installation. Over the last two years Lesley has edited the PC Newsletter, an important means of keeping Romsley residents informed of matters affecting the village.

While it is sad to see Lesley move on it gives me great pleasure to introduce Ian Powell as a new member to the team. Ian was co-opted at our meeting in July and brings a wealth of experience with him. In the short time Ian has been with us he has shown great enthusiasm and is keen to get involved in different projects.

Ian moved to Romsley with his wife in 2016 and lives on Dark Lane. He enjoys walking the local area and further afield and can regularly be seen walking his 2 dogs with his wife, occasionally dropping into the Swallows Nest on the way back. Over the years he has enjoyed Rugby Union both as a player and a spectator and enjoys watching most sports. Ian took early retirement from the railway in 2021 in his 38th year of service. He feels that now is a good time for him to give something back to the wonderful village and community he lives in by getting involved with the Parish Council.



As newly elected Parish Council with a four year term ahead of us we have been working hard reviewing our activities and identifying new initiatives, alongside the existing well established one's, that will bring additional pleasure to the place that we all live and enjoy. The pledges that we made during the election campaign are at the forefront of our thoughts with regular updates being provided in the coming months. One area I believe we can benefit from is through closer relationships with other community groups in the parish. Together with my fellow councillors we will be looking to establishing or developing further, closer relationships in the best interests of the community.

I hope you enjoy the Newsletter and will welcome any feedback you may have on any of the content.

John Weston

Chairman

# Footpath News – Stuart Smith, Paths Warden

It seems to have been a strange year for weather as far as footpath maintenance has been concerned, too muddy, too wet or too hot. The path by the scout headquarters is still awaiting its stone surfacing in spite of several reminders to the County Council. I'm still hopeful that it may be done this year before it becomes mud again.

There have been three Parish walks since the Spring Newsletter.

The Orchid walk saw 17 of us (plus a stray lost dog who joined us part way around) enjoying the nearby wildflower meadows. I was even able to identify some of the flowers thanks to the wonders of "Apps" and smartphones.

The "Out of Parish" walk was a circuit of the four hills that comprise the Lickey Hills and which included some of the lesser well known parts of the hills which were new ground for some of the 16 walkers.

The Hunnington walk which, owing to a change of plan, didn't involve Hunnington at all was the last of this year's walks and managed to clash with the Romsley Show. Nevertheless 10 of us had a very enjoyable walk which circumnavigated Uffmoor Wood and used some paths not used before on any previous Parish walk.

Nina and I would like to thank all of you who have joined us on these walks, you've been great company and made the walks so much more enjoyable.

Did you know?

There are 2837 miles of Public Rights of Way in Worcestershire comprising footpaths, bridleways and BOATs (Byways open to all traffic)

Romsley has 10.4 miles of Rights of way which includes 0.22miles of bridleway. Hunnington has 6.15 miles public footpaths.

The next Parish walk will be the New Year walk on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2024, until then enjoy the autumn and have a good Christmas!

Stuart Smith

Parish Paths Warden

## Playing Fields News

Proposed new equipment in play area.



The playground will be getting a new 'all weather' surface, and some of the existing equipment will be refurbished.

### Christmas Carol Singing

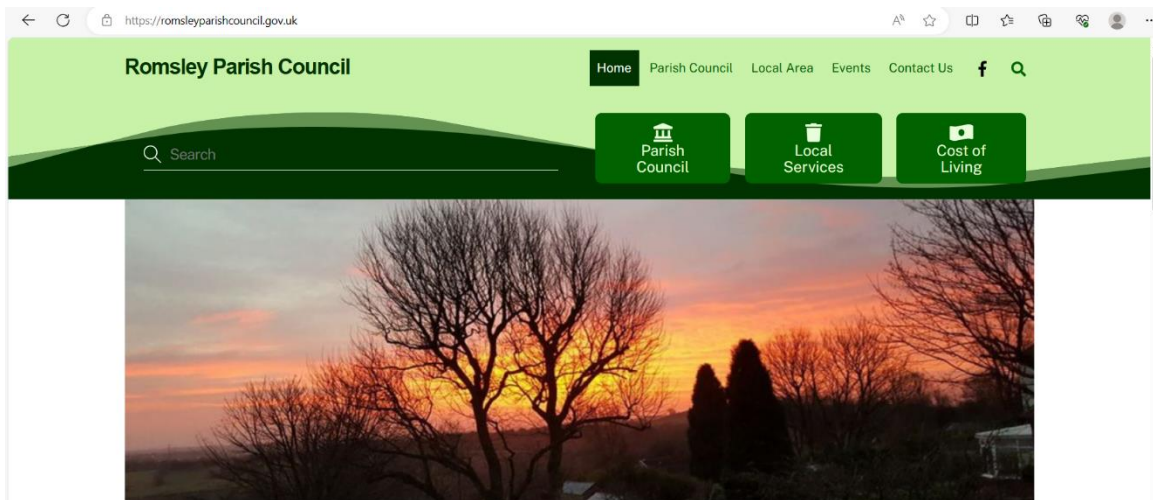
## Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December – 7pm

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.



# Romsley Parish Council Website

The PC Website along with Noticeboards, Facebook and this Newsletter is a way of keeping Romsley residents informed about the work of the Parish Council.



Designed to help you easily access information about the local area, services and the Parish Council, our new look website was launched earlier in September. At your fingertips is information such as events held in the village, information regarding Parish Council meetings and digital copies of newsletters. We invite you to explore all of the new features of the website, and hope that it can serve as a central resource for you to find out what's going on in Romsley.

## St Kenelm's Day 2023

This is a celebration for the residents of Romsley and Hunnington funded by the proceeds of Romstock. Even though this postponed event was held on a chilly evening in September it was extremely well attended and enthusiastically received by everyone who came along.

The **Stourport Brass Band** played a selection of music including favourite classical pieces. The selection of film music had us racing to 'name that film'. The brilliant **Vintage Class** entertained us with songs from across the decades. The last section of the concert delivered a rousing medley of patriotic songs in the tradition of 'Last Night of the Proms'.



The St Kenelm's School HSA sold light refreshments and ran some fund raising activities.

The evening concluded with a spectacular fireworks display.



# Romstock 2023



**Romstock**  
Music Festival

STREET FOOD · LIVE MUSIC · FAMILY FRIENDLY

12.00	EXPRESSO BONGO ORCHESTRA
1.00	PLENTY IN THE TANK
2.00	STRICTLY ABBA
3.15	DAN BUDD AS ROBBIE
4.10	KILLERSTREAM
5.20	ED SHEERAN EXPERIENCE
6.40	THE SKASTUDS
8.15	VASELINE (ALL TIMES ARE APPROX ONLY)

SOCIAL EATS ON SATURDAY 24TH JUNE FROM 12-9PM - ROMSLEY PLAYING FIELDS



What a fantastic time we all had. Lovely weather, good food and drink choices and great music. The warm weather helped to make this the most well attended Romstock yet. Thanks to the enthusiastic reception and the happy family atmosphere of Romstock, the artistes enjoy performing and tell us they are keen to return to future events.



# Romsley Manor Farm Meadows

The 14 hectares (35 acres) of Romsley Manor Farm Meadows falls within the Arden Natural Character Area as defined by Natural England. The site consists of nine meadows, six of which are designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), and contains neutral grassland and acidic heath grassland - both rare habitats in Worcestershire and nationally. Since being designated as a SSSI in 1993, they have been in decline due to overgrazing. Ownership of the site will allow us to maintain, monitor and restore the diversity and quality of the meadows, as well as improve connectivity across the landscape.



For the next seven months there will be work parties on Worcestershire Wildlife Trust's new nature reserve.

These are a series of wildflower-rich meadows that require careful management to preserve the remaining flora and encourage it to spread. Of course, it's not just about the wildflowers; the site is already known to be home to a wealth of invertebrates, birds and mammals. By mimicking sensitive traditional management we can help the wildlife that calls it home.

Our volunteers are vital to this management.

Volunteer jobs may include coppicing over-tall hedgerows, removing invasive weeds, reducing brambles and bracken, rejuvenating scrub and making repairs to fencing to facilitate grazing. There will be chances to get creative too - putting up bird-boxes and creating standing deadwood by ringbarking unwanted trees, for example.

The meadows are located just outside the main village of Romsley, and cover 14 hectares (35 acres) across nine fields, six of which are designated Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

Volunteers meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month but dates may vary due to holidays and bank holidays:

September 25<sup>th</sup> – the fourth Monday!

October 16<sup>th</sup>

November 20<sup>th</sup>

December 18<sup>th</sup>

January 15<sup>th</sup> 2024

February 19<sup>th</sup> 2024

At the moment, it's hands-on with the reserve with the volunteer group concentrating on learning about the reserve and understanding the habitat. Knowledge of the reserve and the plant life will lead to more awareness of the many diverse species. We are actively working to recruit people who are interested in the development of the meadows and willing to lead future work parties.

Work parties will include raking cut bracken in the fields, tidying field edge margins, removing rubbish and planning future jobs to create a programme of activities for future work parties.

**For further information please contact: Cllr John Shaw – [jassa45@live.co.uk](mailto:jassa45@live.co.uk)**



# 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.translucentdancestudio.co.uk) - 07311 307077

- **Romsley Art Group**  
Tuesday 12 noon

Contact : **Jean Cockin – [jeanmcockin1@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://jane.yogabntinternet.com)**

- **Hillside Ladies Craft Group**  
1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month 10am  
Contact: Mo [mo.perks@virgin.net](mailto:mo.perks@virgin.net)

## ROMSLEY CHURCH HALL

- **Brownies** [ 7 - 10 years ] - Thursdays

Contact: **Debbie Carter 01562 710329**

- **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](mailto: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.



**Ian Powell — Councillor**

I moved to Romsley with my wife in 2016 and live on Dark Lane. I enjoy walking the local area and further afield, occasionally dropping in to the Swallows Nest on the way back. Over the years I have enjoyed Rugby Union both as a player and a spectator and enjoy watching most sports. I took early retirement from the railway in 2021 in my 38th year of service. I feel now is a good time for me to give something back by getting involved with the Parish Council.



**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](mailto:romsleyparish@btinternet.com)