

ROMSLEY NEWS

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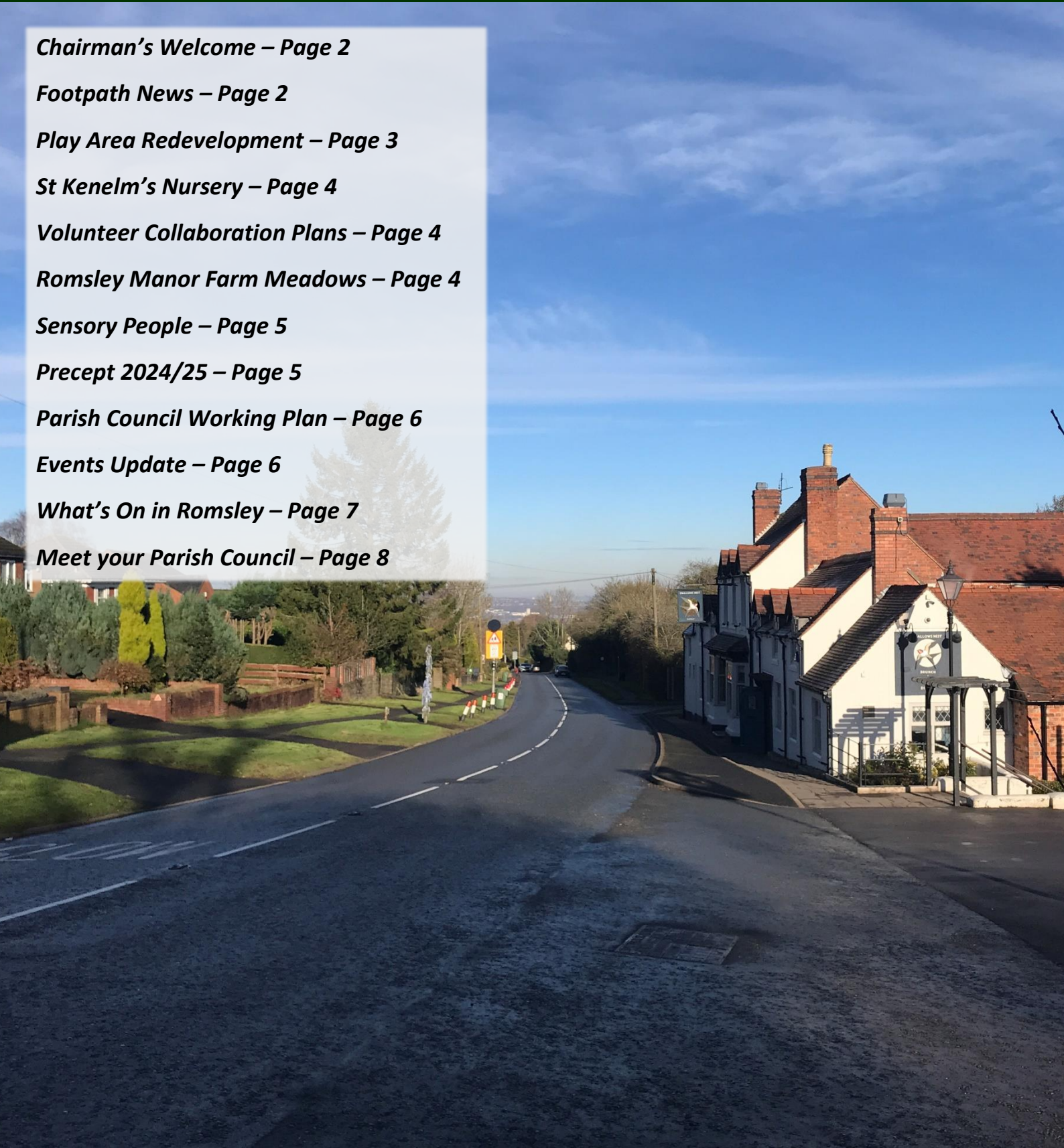
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A view down Bromsgrove Road

Chairman's Welcome

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2024.

I would like to start by acknowledging, on behalf of the Parish Council, the very sad and sudden passing of our dear friend and colleague Nigel Williamson on the 3rd of November 2023.

As many of you will know Nigel had lived in the village and served as our maintenance man for many years. He often went above and beyond to show love and genuine affection for Romsley and its residents.

Well respected and loved by many, Nigel will be greatly missed.

Since the last newsletter a lot of progress has been made in a number of areas including:

Play area redevelopment; An exciting project and much needed improvements, more information can be found on page 3.

Romstock and St. Kenelms day dates confirmed (page 6), confirmation of the 2024/5 precept (page 5) and completion of the Parish Councils Working Plan (page 6).

In addition, you will find information from Stuart Smith our Parish Footpaths Warden (page 2), a "What's-On" update (page 7) and a summary of collaboration activity plans with Severn Trent's Volunteer group and Friends of Romsley and Hunnington (page 4).

We have also published the dates of future Parish Council meetings which are held at 7pm on the first Tuesday of most months at St. Kenelms Church Hall on Bromsgrove Road (page 8).

Everyone is welcome to attend, and it is a good way of finding out more about the business of the council and how it affects you - we would be pleased to see you there.

The Newsletter is for you the residents, I hope you enjoy it and welcome any feedback you may have on any of the content.

John Weston
Chairman



Nigel Williamson

Footpath News – Stuart Smith, Paths Warden

The year got off to a really good start when 15 "regulars" and 2 "first timers" joined me and Nina for a New Years walk around Clent on the first Saturday of the year. The early mist cleared just before we set off and good views were to be admired all the way round unlike previous years. These and the good company made for a very enjoyable walk and the less than anticipated amount of mud was a bonus.

Those of you who use the footpath by the Scout hut can't fail to have noticed the improvement that was carried out by the County Council towards the end of last year. The stretch of path along the rear of the Country Store between the hedge and the fence that the



landowner erected to restrain path users from straying on to the field was getting extremely muddy during wet periods. The council laid stone down to improve this. At the same time they removed the stile and installed a kissing gate. Unfortunately, shortly after installation of the gate the landowner objected to this improvement and insisted that the gate be removed and a stile reinstated at this point. As the legal statement for this path records a stile the council has had to comply with the landowners wishes. The replacement stile has been built to the councils preferred standard though and is a big improvement on the original.

If you come across a stile that you consider unsafe or dangerous to use you can report it to the Countryside Access team at Worcester on 01905 845617 or on the county councils website at <https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk>. Reporting problems to the council especially if a number of reports are received is more likely to bring results although ultimately landowners have a responsibility to maintain stiles on public footpaths on their land so that they are safe and reasonably easy to use.

PARISH WALK DATES 2024

27th April Around Frankley 10am from The Swallows Nest

18th May The Garlic walk 10am from The Sun

15th June The Wild Orchid walk 10am from The Sun

10th August The Out of Parish walk 10:30am from Saltwells Nature Reserve

12th October T.B.A.

I have a list of email addresses of folk wishing to be informed of parish walks and footpath related news and this is by far the easiest way for me to inform of walks etc.

I send out reminders and details a week before each walk, if you are interested in receiving these emails and keeping up to date with footpath news let me know and I can add you to the list. My email address is stuninasmith@yahoo.co.uk

Stuart Smith

Parish Paths Warden

Play Area Redevelopment

Work was due to start on the play area mid-February but due to heavy rain contractors have had no choice but to delay their activities. At the time of going to press we await a new start date pending an improvement in conditions.

The development includes replacing of the existing bark on soil surface with a modern, all weather, resin bonded rubber mulch solution, some new equipment to replace old or damaged equipment and refurbishment of the remaining items.

This is a significant investment for the Parish and has been hugely supported by S106 funding paid by developers towards the cost of providing community and social infrastructure needs which has arisen as a result of the development taking place on the Bluebird site in Hunnington where no provision of play area resources was provided.



Proposed new equipment in play area.

St Kenelm's Nursery

St. Kenelm's Nursery, is nestled in the heart of Romsley village within St. Kenelm's Primary school site, offering a warm and nurturing environment for young learners from age 3 years. Our cozy building provides a stimulating yet serene atmosphere, complemented by panoramic views of the picturesque countryside. With an outstanding outdoor area featuring Wellie Wood for bug hunts, a mud kitchen for creative play, and a secret garden for imaginative adventures, our nursery ensures rich experiences for our children.

Led by our experienced practitioner, Mrs. Pearman, with over 16 years of expertise in preschool education, we facilitate play-based learning in an environment that encourages curiosity and enables each child to engage in activities without being directed by an adult. As a result, the early years team provide a stimulating and enlightening curriculum with the added provision of seamless transitions into Reception class.

Operating during term-time 38 weeks per year, our nursery welcomes children from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, or half day sessions, offering Universal 15-hour entitlement for children aged 3 and above, with potential eligibility for additional funding of 30 hours per week.

Considering joining our community? Please contact Mrs Bailey, Business Support for Wraparound Care and Nursery, at 01562 710 214 or email wac@stkenelms.worcs.sch.uk to learn more or schedule an informal visit.

We are currently considering the viability of offering Wraparound Care for our Nursery children. If you feel this is something that would benefit your family, we would welcome any input into our collation of data around this. Please also contact Mrs Bailey as per the above information to assist us with this process.

In future newsletters we will be looking to include articles from other support groups and classes in the parish.

Volunteer Collaboration Plans

The council has embarked on a campaign to bring together and develop the volunteer groups from Romsley Parish Council, Severn Trent Volunteer Group & Friends of Romsley and Hunnington - it is early days in the development.

The purpose being to foster better collaboration and work with all sections in the community, preparing activity plans for the benefit of all Romsley village residents.

Severn Trent have already offered volunteer days for 2024 – dates & activities to be confirmed.

Romsley Manor Farm Meadows

Worcestershire Wildlife Trust recently purchased surviving wildflower meadows in Romsley.

Traditional meadows need grazing. Some of these meadows have not been grazed in nearly a decade and the rare flora was disappearing under thick grasses and scrub. Examples include field scabious and common spotted orchid. In time, with traditional farming, their populations will recover and recolonise.

Tom Withers (connected to the village Butcher) enabled this to happen. Last year Tom was able to take a hay cut off the upper meadows and for the first time, sheep have grazed the entire site.

Contractors (Heritage) have cleared scrub that had invaded parts of the meadows and volunteers are continuing with this work. Scrub has an enormous wildlife value, but it tends to dominate, killing the meadow flora.

For more information and to register visit <https://www.worcswildlifetrust.co.uk/volunteer>

The Romsley Meadows work parties are held on the third Monday of each month – 10am – 3pm. Parking available in the laybys near to the green – Tools provided. New volunteers: Please register first and bring drinks, snacks/lunch with you.

The ground conditions can be wet in places, wellingtons/waterproof boots are recommended.

Jobs include scrub management, hedge management, fence repairs and clearing Common Ragwort (poisonous to animals).

Sensory People

Did you know that we have had a charity called SENSORY PEOPLE working in Romsley since circa 2016? The therapists working with SENSORY PEOPLE are treating children with learning difficulties including some with diagnosis such as Autism, ADHD and Dyspraxia and many with no diagnosis - they use a specialist approach called (Ayres) Sensory Integration Therapy.

To begin with the charity was welcomed by the congregation of Romsley Methodist Church and in 2022 when the Methodist Church closed the congregation at St Kenelm's Church welcomed the delivery of SENSORY PEOPLE's services in their church hall.

Late last year SENSORY PEOPLE bought what was Romsley Methodist Church and the charity are currently considering how they can use the building to best effect for the treatment of children. More information will follow. In the meantime if you would like to support the charity it has been selected as one of the Coop's charities for this year and would welcome you selecting it as your chosen Coop charity between now and the end of October 2024.

To find out more about the charity you can find their web site at www.sensory-people.co.uk

To choose SENSORY PEOPLE as your local cause, visit: <https://www.coop.co.uk/local-causes>



Precept 2024/25

The precept is money allocated to the parish from the Council Tax that all residents pay to Bromsgrove District Council. The role of the parish council is to manage spending plans whilst ensuring our village is a safe and pleasant place to live.

Parish councillors are aware of the financial difficulties facing many residents and having met earlier in the year have taken the decision - once again - not to raise the precept amount from last year. It remains at £55,675.00.

In calculating the precept many factors are taken into consideration, including:

Spending levels for providing on-going services such as litter bins, dog waste bins and gloves, grass cutting, recreation facilities and insurances; the cost of additional spending plans and projects, the play area redevelopment for example; collaborating and supporting other local organisations that have the village interests at heart and managing forecasted levels of income from services it provides, an example being any grants or funding received.

One key income revenue comes from our annual Romstock music festival.

Money raised from this event enables funding of other activities around the Parish and includes social events such as St. Kenelms day which is provided free of charge for residents.

Parish Council Working Plan

A Working Plan document has been produced as a statement of Romsley Parish Council's objectives and priorities during its term of office. The plan covers activities under the headings of "Communication", "Governance", "Open spaces" and "Community".

Full details can be found on the Parish Council website or by visiting this link:
<https://romsleyparishcouncil.gov.uk/council-news/romsley-parish-council-5-year-plan/>

Romsley Parish Councils
5-Year Plan
2023-2028



Romsley Parish Council 5-Year Plan 2023-2028

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Events Update



Romstock 2024

Saturday 8th June 2024, 12-9 PM

We are pleased to announce that Romstock will be returning in 2024. Featuring live music, street food, cocktail & prosecco bars, draught & ale bars and fairground rides & attractions, we are excited to bring back the vibrant atmosphere and unforgettable experiences that make Romstock a highlight of the year for music lovers, enthusiasts and families alike!

St Kenelm's Day

Saturday 13th July 2024

We are also pleased to announce that St Kenelm's Day will be returning in 2024. This is a free event for residents and friends, and you are invited to bring a picnic and seating to relax and enjoy the experience. We are pleased to announce that Stourport Brass Band will be returning. We will release further information on this event in due course.



St Kenelm's Day

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.yoga@btinternet.com**

Romsley 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**

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: **Kov Riley – 07790 107176**

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



I have been Parish Councillor since January 2022 having moved to the area at the beginning of 2021. In addition to the responsibilities of Chairman I have taken an active role in the play area redevelopment project, the Communications working group and the planning of Romstock 2024. I live on Winston Drive, am married with three grown up children and two young granddaughters with two additional grandchildren due in the spring. In my spare time I enjoy swimming and walking and have a keen interest in most sports, particularly football. Until fairly recently I was a qualified football referee having officiated for 15 years in both adult and youth games reaching Senior County level.

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 2024!

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 and China for 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.



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

Romsley Parish Council, PO Box 18680, Halesowen, B62 2QL

Tel: 07907 976915

Email: clerk@romsleyparishcouncil.gov.uk

2024 Parish Council Meeting Dates – held at 7pm, St Kenelm's Church Hall, Bromsgrove Road
5th March, 2nd April, 7th May, 4th June, 2nd July, 3rd September, 1st October, 5th November