

ROMSLEY NEWS

Your Update from Romsley Parish Council

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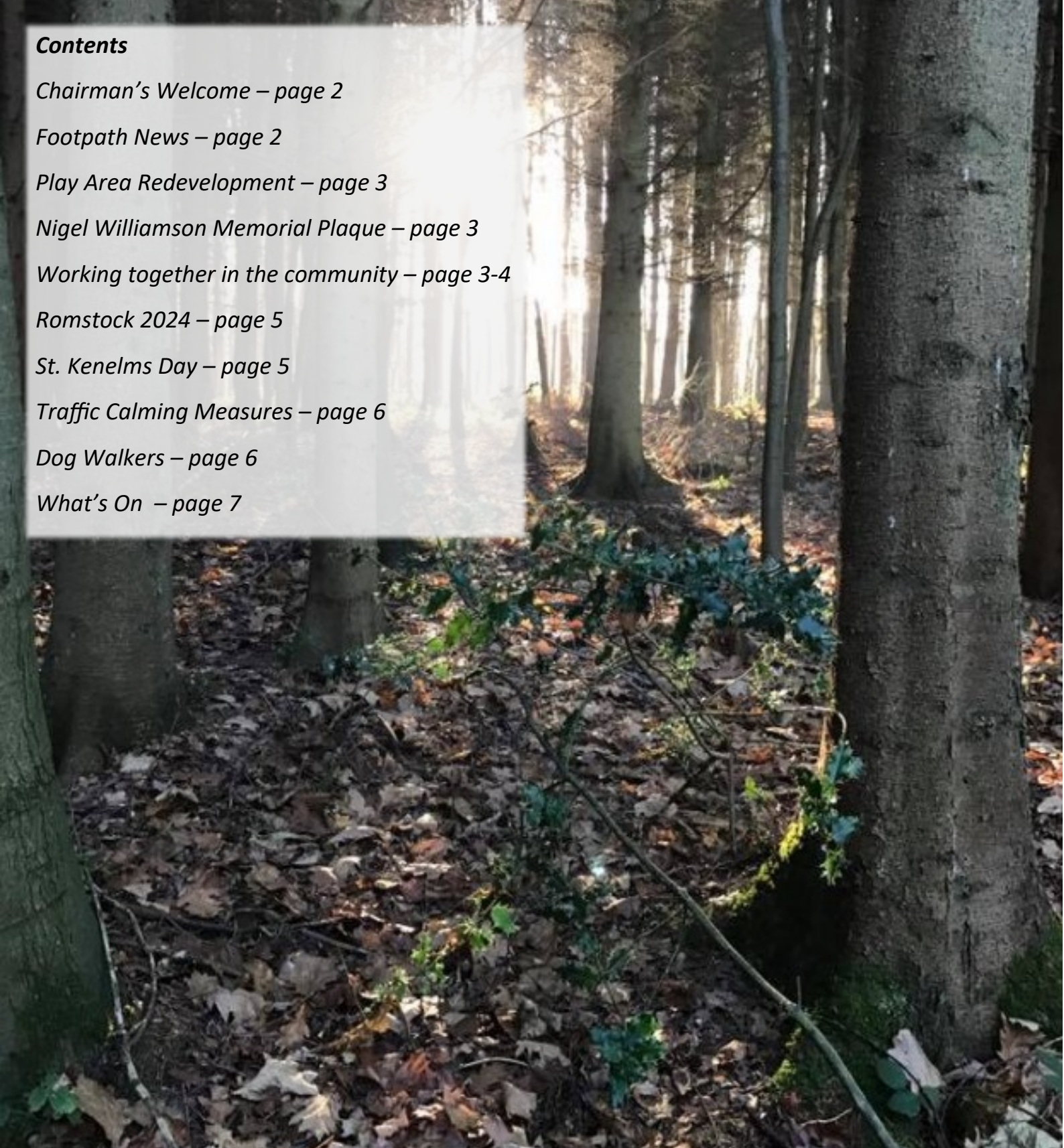
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Chairman's Welcome

Welcome to the latest newsletter from your Parish Council and what a busy period it has been. Several global and national events continue to dominate the headlines, while locally there have been a number of "nicer" activities which gives us pleasure to cover in this latest edition.

Let me start by firstly introducing our two new Councillors Amber Antal and Jim Macaulay who were co-opted to the parish council back in March. Both Amber and Jim have settled in very quickly already demonstrating an enthusiasm to get involved in different activities. Read more about Amber and Jim at the back of the newsletter.

Activity wise, what a busy period it has been over the spring and summer months.

The play area at the park has now been completed with many positive feedbacks received (pg 3); Our annual music festival Romstock proved to be a great success yet again as were the St. Kenelms Day celebrations which were enjoyed by many and in fine weather (pg 5); a wonderful collaboration together with St. Kenelms School and Severn Trent Water Volunteer Group (pg 3, 4) and an update from Footpaths Warden Stuart Smith (pg 2).

Finally having reached out to other groups in the village it is very pleasing to be able to provide an updated list of "what's-on" activities (pg 7) - we are happy to promote all community events.

As always, I hope you find the newsletter interesting and welcome any feedback you may have on its content.

Regards
John Weston
Chairman

Footpath News – Stuart Smith, Paths Warden

Since the New Year walk five Parish walks have taken place.

The first in April to Frankley was well attended by 22 keen walkers who were not put off by my earlier pessimistic emails about the amount of mud on the paths. The Garlic walk in May was a little bit too late to see the garlic in Dowery Dell at its best but nevertheless was enjoyable as ever. The Orchid walk in June was endured and possibly even enjoyed by those who took part, at least in retrospect once they were home and dried out! I was amazed at how many turned up for the "out of Parish" walk in August which took place at Saltwells nature reserve near to Merry Hill shopping centre. It was a really interesting walk with a lot of geological and industrial history. The final parish walk of the year took place on the 12th October. Starting from the recreation ground in St Kenelms Road the walk was circular one of just under 4 miles around Uffmoor woods and was pretty muddy in places, but again very well attended.



As far as path improvements go, a broken gate has been replaced on the Penny Fields walk as well as clearance of fallen trees at Penny Fields and replacement of waymarks and strimming around the walk.

Blackthorn and brambles encroaching on the path have been cleared on the Rolling Hills and a start made at clearing some of the branches overhanging the path in the wood to try and let some sun in to dry the persistent mud there.

A stile step by the Penny Fields walk and two waymark posts near Hunnington farm have been replaced as well as a good bit of clearance work around stiles and elsewhere. Nina and I are indebted to local resident Alex Perry for his help with much of these tasks, especially with carrying the heavy tools and doing the digging!

If you are interested in keeping up to date with footpath news including planned walks let me know and I can add you to the email list. My email address is stuninasmith@yahoo.co.uk

Stuart Smith
Parish Paths Warden

Play Area Redevelopment

The parish council are very pleased to report that work on the play area was finally started in mid-June after several months of delay due mainly to very poor weather conditions. All work was completed before the end of July. The project had been a long time in the making but given the feedback received has been well worth the efforts.

With the new all-weather surface replacing the old bark and additional play equipment installed we envisage the new play area will bring enjoyment for many children for years to come.

Special thanks to the following organisations who made it possible;

Bellway Homes, Miracle Design & Play and local company Eastleigh Ltd.

In the coming months we plan to investigate alternatives to the fitness area equipment whilst not forgetting how to improve the skate park area.



Nigel Williamson – Memorial Plaque

In line with the play area redevelopment the Parish Council had commissioned a memorial plaque for our late colleague Nigel Williamson.

Following the reopening of the play area around 30 residents, family and friends met on Saturday 17th August for the plaque unveiling which has been mounted on the fence perimeter for all to see.



Working together in the community

The Parish Council has been reaching out to local organisations to identify suitable projects that bring benefit to the parish and its residents. One such contact has been made with Severn Trent Water (STW) which had led to a number of initiatives being identified.

Back in October 2023 the Parish Council met with STW representatives to obtain more information about the break pressure tank located on Putney Lane. This led to a very informative presentation from STW covering its background, why Putney lane as well as environmental and community issues.

During discussions the Parish Council were also informed about the STW Volunteer Group and asked if there were any potential projects they could support.

A small working group was set up with the two projects being identified at St. Kenelms primary school and St. Kenelms church.

St. Kenelms School pond renovation project

School contacts; Suzanne Shackleton, Headteacher, Becky Powell, Business Manager and Mark Williams, Site Manager.

Following discussions with school contacts the Parish Council were asked if they could clear the pond area in the school grounds which had been completely engulfed with shrubs and weeds over a number of years.

Being up for the challenge a team of 8 volunteers from the Parish Council, STW and residents set about the task on Wednesday 21st August.

The results have been most welcomed with the whole area being cleared making it accessible once again bringing enjoyment for both pupils and staff.

A special thanks to our friend Chris “Buster” Byrne at local company Hedgerow Environmental for their support.

www.hedgerowenvironmental.co.uk

Suzanne Shackleton...“I'd like to say a huge thank you for your hard work yesterday. We really appreciate everything you've done to bring our pond area back to life. We can actually see it again! The children will love being able to see the pond life and to use it for pond dipping”.

Becky Powell...I cannot tell you how thrilled I am with the work you have done. I am amazed at the progress you made - I didn't expect to see it looking so fabulous from one day!



St. Kenelms Church ancient Well refurbishment project

Many residents of Romsley will be aware of the legend of St Kenelm and the ancient well that is located alongside St Kenelm's Church.

As a village we celebrate St Kenelm's Day on 17th July both in the Church and with a free family event organised by the Parish Council at the playing field.

A Spring Garden and Well can be found along a public footpath just beside the Church. Despite being very overgrown, it's a beautiful place of tranquillity and pilgrimage for those of all religions and none. Unfortunately, it has, over recent years become very overgrown and the steps leading to the Well are in poor condition. The Well itself also requires significant rebuilding.

The Parish Council, along with other local groups, are hoping to work together to raise funds and refurbish this site for the benefit of future generations. Rev. Chris Henson, the Team Vicar with responsibility for St Kenelm's is leading the project, with planning and initial stages currently underway with the hope of starting work in the new year.

More information to follow, but a very exciting opportunity.

Romstock 2024

Saturday 8th June saw our annual music festival, Romstock, and what a fantastic day it was.

With excellent weather, a brilliant music line up, great food and drink it was no surprise that this proved to be the most successful event ever with all profit being used to finance other events and projects in the parish.

A big thank you to a landowner for allowing us the use of his field free of charge for car parking along with Emma Pickford-Perry and colleagues for managing the off-road parking facilities with all fee's received being much welcomed by the Guide Association.

This was the first time this group of Councillors had organised Romstock and as successful as it was we believe further improvements can be made making it even better for all going forward.

Save the date: Romstock 2025 - 28th June!!!!



St. Kenelms Day

Thankfully the sun shone over the village on 13th July for our St. Kenelms Day celebrations. People arrived early to get a good spot ready to enjoy their picnics before the Stourport-on-Severn Brass Band began which is always a wonderful uplifting performance. The conductor, Oli Wilson always gives us plenty of laughs between numbers and the quality of the bands' performances were as outstanding as ever!

We were then treated to a wonderful tribute to the well-loved wartime star Vera Lynn, by the singer, Lorrie Brown. The performance included a personal message from Vera herself and Lorrie's wonderful voice made for a little nostalgia.

Ending the performances flags were flying and hooters hooting as Land of Hope and Glory and Rule Britannia resounded around the Playing Field.

The grand finale gave us a stunning firework display with many local children staying up late to enjoy the spectacle – what a wonderful evening.

The funds raised from Romstock allow us to enjoy this lovely evening as a free event.

Save the date: St. Kenelms Day celebration 2025 - 19th July



Traffic Calming Measures

The parish council together with Councillor Karen May has for several months been working closely with the police and Highways department to find ways to improve safety on our roads by reducing the amount of speeding vehicles.

We are pleased to report that two solutions have now confirmed;

Firstly, at an investment of more than £280,000, Councillor May was able to secure a road crossing outside of St. Kenelms School. Known as a Toucan crossing it is a modern approach to road safety and uses smart sensor technology to detect when pedestrians or cyclists are crossing or waiting to cross the road.

Secondly, two Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) are (at the time of going to print) to be installed on Bromsgrove Road; one opposite The Sun pub and one on Romsley Hill. These are designed to warn drivers of exceeding safe speed limits and encouraging them to slow down.

We are under no illusions that these measures will completely stop speeding vehicles but given the options available to us will undoubtedly improve things.



Dog Walkers

There have been a number of reported incidents of dog mess being left around the village.

This is a polite request to remind all dog walkers of their responsibility to clean up any mess and that it is an offence not to do so.

To help keep the area clean and safe dog mess bags are available for when walkers have forgotten or used up any bags they may have taken out with them.

Please clean up your mess!



What's On in Romsley

Romsley Scout Centre

Romsley Scout Group – open to girls and boys

- Beavers (6 – 8 years) Monday
6.00pm
- Cubs (8 – 10 years) Tuesday
7.00pm
- Scouts (10 – 14 years) Friday
7.30pm

Contact: Romsleyscouts@hotmail.com or 07970 744417

Romsley Rainbows (girls 5 – 7 years) Thursday

Contact: Debbie Carter 01562 710329

Romsley Guides (girls 10 – 14 years) Wednesday

Contact: Emma Pickford-Perry 07437 543383

Little Glow - baby sensory Monday 9.30am

Contact : Katie 07415 668701 or
www.halesowen.thelittlesensory.co

Gentle Years Yoga Monday 3.00pm

Contact: Jane 07841 523962 or
yogajane01@gmail.com

Story Rangers (2 to 5 year olds) Tuesday 10.30am

Contact: Jo -07816 493858 or
jo@storyrangers.co.uk

Romsley Art Group Tuesday 12 Noon

Contact: Jean Cockin – jeancockin1@gmail.com

Hillside Ladies Craft Group 1st Wednesday of month 10.00am

Contact: Mo – mo.perks@virgin.net

Me Time Fitness - New moms & babies

Thursday 10.00am

Contact: Rachael 07491 222554 or
metimefitness@outlook.com

Age UK – Move More Fitness Thursday 12.45pm

Contact : 01527 570490 or
enquiries@ageukbrwf.org.uk

Woodgate Christadelphians Sunday 10.15am

Contact:
www.woodgatechristadelphians.org

Church Hall

Tea and Cakes Monday's 2pm - 3.30pm
- 30 September; 21 October; 28 October; 18 November; 25 November.

St Kenelm's Café Monday 12pm - 1.30pm
- 7 October; 4 November; 2 December.

Gather Monday 3.30pm - 4pm
- A new twice termly children's worship with activities and refreshments
16 September and 18 November.

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 four grandchildren. 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.

Jim Macaulay — Councillor



I moved to the village in 2021. Looking forward to bringing up two young children in such a beautiful and friendly place and pleased and proud to be able to offer any assistance possible to improve the village for its residents.

Amber Antal — Councillor



I moved to Romsley in December 2011. I have 3 wonderful daughters that I feel are fortunate to have such a beautiful village to live in. I have worked at St Kenelm's school for around 6½ years, love my job wholeheartedly and joined the parish council with a strong sense of togetherness. I hope to continue to work with the school, the church and the parish council so as to support the wonderful village in which we live. I hope that I can continue to contribute positively to our community & support all of our wonderful villagers now that I am a parish councillor.

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 Huntington Parish Councils.



**Ruth Mullett -
Clerk to the Council**
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