



# Parish News

Serving the communities of Rodington and Longdon-upon-Tern since 1978



## A message from the Chairman

*Cllr David Johnson*

### Two villages, one community!

March was a rude awakening for us all. Who would have foreseen how the whole Country was brought to a full stop. Now we have come to terms to the 2 metre queue in most stores. The aim of the virus seems to make shopping a nightmare.

However in both villages a real community spirit rolled into action within days of the close down. For people of an age or with health issues neighbours in most cases came to their rescue. Prescription service was started door to door where needed. We must thank our village community style of life with space around us. It is good for mind and body. The number of persons catching the virus in the Parish has been very low in comparison to the urban area. However we cannot be complacent. No one can say when this virus will be defeated, the only way out will be a vaccine. The UK is well on the trail but it is too soon to set a date.

Meanwhile we should carry on, no one knows when the end game will finally arrive. Keep the community spirit going it is our strength in this situation.

All the best to you all

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## Community grants available...

Did you know we can award grants of up to £500 to community groups and charities in our Parish. See our website for further details at; [www.rodingtonpc.org.uk](http://www.rodingtonpc.org.uk) or call 07948 324085

# Covid-19 dedicated support



The Coronavirus outbreak is going to have an impact on everyone's daily lives. It may be difficult, but by following guidance on social distancing, or staying at home, you are helping to protect yourself, your family, the NHS and your community.

During this time, you may be bored, frustrated or lonely. You may also feel low, worried, anxious, or be concerned about your health or that of those close to you. Everyone reacts differently to events and changes in the way that we think, feel and behave vary between different people and over time. It's important that you take care of your mind as well as your body and to get further support if you need it.

## **Community support line now open**

If you are over 70, or under 70 with underlying health conditions, please contact us if you have no friends or family nearby due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. You can call our dedicated Covid-19 line on 01952 382030.

The line is open Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm and Saturday and Sunday from 9am to 1pm. We will keep these times under review and expand if necessary.

## **Support for businesses and employers**

This is an unprecedented and extremely challenging time for our businesses and employers as the impact of COVID-19 Coronavirus continues to have an effect on our communities.

The Government has announced a series of measures for businesses and workers during coronavirus. These include unlimited loans and guarantees to support firms and help them manage staff wages and cashflow through this period. If you would like to know which of the coronavirus support schemes you are eligible for, you can visit Telford & Wrekin's dedicated website; [www.telford.gov.uk/info/20704/support\\_for\\_businesses\\_and\\_employers](http://www.telford.gov.uk/info/20704/support_for_businesses_and_employers)

# An update on walkways from the Pathways Group

We are trying to promote the many beautiful walks in the Parish and surrounding areas with 2 objectives, to open up the rights of way by making them locatable and accessible, and then to produce rich descriptions to enhance enjoyment of them. We have been walking the routes shown on the map on the Parish Council website and posting reports there of their condition and suggesting circular walks. We welcome any contributions and, particularly from inhabitants of Longdon, as we still lack reports on the rights of way there. Please e-mail these to [cllr.gaskin.rpc@gmail.com](mailto:cllr.gaskin.rpc@gmail.com). We have been meeting through Zoom and participants have agreed to each take responsibility for keeping clear some of the main routes. This will be a bit like eating an elephant (one bite at a time) as there is so much for us to do still, so please be patient. We have now put in place a P3 partnership with Telford and Wrekin Council, which will work with other organisations and volunteers (please don't be shy!) to improve the condition of our rights of way. With P3, we can now access limited funds to purchase gates, stiles and way-markers. The first of these have already been ordered. Covid has hindered progress, and we now need to contact landowners to engage their co-operation and are planning to hold joint walks soon, with social distancing. **Date of next meeting:** 4<sup>th</sup> August 2020, 11am via Zoom

## Meet the Councillor

### Cllr Brian Gaskin



I have moved around the country a lot before coming to live in Shropshire: Leeds, Orpington, Nottingham, Wolverhampton, Bournemouth, Bristol and Clevedon. I did an MA at Downing College Cambridge studying French and German before briefly becoming a management trainee in Commercial Union. This wasn't for me and I decided to follow my wife into teaching which I found fascinating and rewarding, if very demanding. After teaching in Somerset for 5 years, I became Head of

Modern Foreign Languages at Idsall School in Shifnal. One of the most enjoyable aspects of the job was the numerous exchanges to France and Germany and ski trips I organized. Following my divorce, I realized I had to stop moving about in order to retain frequent contact with my 2 fantastic sons, who are now bringing up families of their own in Manchester and Kingston-on-Thames. I remained living in Shifnal until I had the good fortune to meet my lovely partner, Jacqui, and we moved into Rodington together. Unfortunately, Jacqui was diagnosed with MS shortly afterwards, and I have had to learn to be a carer for a severely disabled person. We both love Rodington and our friends and neighbours here which is why I joined the Parish Council and took on the Parish Pathways Project with Tom Currie. You will see me on my bike, being overtaken by scores of fit youngsters, and walking the rights of way. Retired for 11 years, I also enjoy my garden and play golf very badly!

## New community signage on its way

Over the last year the Parish Council has been working with Telford & Wrekin Council to improve the main roadside signage around the Parish.

We are pleased to that that thanks to the funds awarded through the Barley Fields development and the Parish Council's annual precept, we have secured new roadside signage which in some areas will include entrance gateways similar to this image.

With the current purchase and delivery arrangements in place we expect these to be completed by the end of August 2020.



## Partners Corner... SALC

In each newsletter edition we give a shout out to one of our partner organisations... this edition it's SALC (Shropshire Association of Local Councils)

SALC is a not for profit membership organisation representing the parish and town councils of Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin. It provides information about the operation and powers of parish and town councils, and parish meetings. It works to enhance communication with everyone within the Parish Council network, ranging from the National Association (NALC), through our Association at county level, to all those parish councils, town councils and parish meetings who form the grass roots tier of local government. As a membership association it is unable to deal with queries from members of the public, but is happy to make general information available through this website.

The benefit of being a member is that Parish Councils receive the latest information on legislation that affects their communities and SALC will dive through the detail of these lengthy pieces of legislation to find what is relevant to your community, another benefit is that Parish Councils receive a significantly reduced cost for legal and other necessary training. For more information about SALC visit; [www.alcshropshire.co.uk](http://www.alcshropshire.co.uk)

# Peoples Parish Awards

## Parish Council launches its own community awards and welcomes you to nominate someone who deserves recognition...

### The aim of these awards

To thank and reward those people living in Rodington Parish and who deserve recognition for community activity, environmental achievements or in some other way contribute to the life of the Parish.

The emphasis will be on people or organisations with practical applications of ideas and schemes, which have already produced positive results in improving the environment or quality of life of the community.

### Categories

- Individual
- Organisation

### Deadline for nominations

Nominations are open from **1st July 2020 and close on the 30th September**. Presentations of awards will take place at a special meeting in late 2020 or early 2021, when national measures allow.

### Nominations

These should be sent electronically to [rodingtonpc@gmail.com](mailto:rodingtonpc@gmail.com) or by post to 73 Coronation Crescent, Madeley, Telford, TF7 5EN. Please obtain nomination packs by contacting the Council on 07948 324085 or emailing [rodingtonpc@gmail.com](mailto:rodingtonpc@gmail.com)

### Rules

- Nominees should live in the Parish but discretion can be granted to people or organisations from outside Rodington Parish if there has been clear and substantial benefit to the Parish.
- A Parishioner is not eligible to receive an award every year for service rendered.
- A Nomination must have a Proposer and a Secunder.
- The decision of the Awards Panel is final.
- Serving Parish Councillors may not receive an award.

Please note that this year the Council will be doing a special community award of its own to award to those who have contributed to the community during the Coronavirus pandemic. If you know someone who has helped in the community, little or large please contact the Clerk of the Council.

## Things to do while lingering in lockdown

The current Coronavirus may make you feel worried, tense, sad, stressed, overwhelmed, angry, afraid or anxious. You may have heard difficult news or be worrying about something that might happen in the future to you or someone you care about. It's okay to feel this way. Everyone reacts differently to different events.

If you are feeling anxious, are feeling low in mood or concerned for your emotional health, there are lots of things you can do to help you cope.

Visit the Healthy Telford website for more information about the 5 ways to wellbeing, it is a great way to look after your emotional health and wellbeing.

[www.healthytelford.com/category/coronavirus/](http://www.healthytelford.com/category/coronavirus/)



## Kids learning and playing

You may wish to take a look at our Family Zone page on the Parish Council's website for helpful links to BBC Bitesize and Twinkl where you can find useful and fun links to home school and watch videos with Joe Wicks who will run you through a fun PE lesson right from your TV, PC or mobile phone.

[www.rodingtonpc.org.uk](http://www.rodingtonpc.org.uk)

# We Don't Buy Crime in our Parish...



Rodington Parish Council is committed to taking whatever steps necessary to protect its community. As a Parish Council we have decided to join the We Don't Buy Crime initiative being led by the Police & Crime Commissioner of West Mercia, John Campion. This scheme is aimed at registering as many homes or businesses with Smartwater technology as possible.

## How successful have we been?

As of the 26th May we had 292 households in the parish registered with SmartWater kits from the We Don't Buy Crime scheme. This means that the parish has registered over 75% of households and will receive FREE street signage to promote that we are a Smartwater protected community and statistics from West Mercia show that this signage is showing a decline in crime in areas where the signage has been placed up.

We are currently working with Telford & Wrekin Council and West Mercia to install the signs around the parish to maximise promotion while not wanting to damage the rural village look of the parish.

## What to do if you haven't received a kit yet...

Not to worry, we still have kits available and hope that by the end of 2021 the entire Parish is registered with a SmartWater kit.

If you haven't received yours yet please contact the Parish Council on 07948 324085 or email [rodingtonpc@gmail.com](mailto:rodingtonpc@gmail.com) with your name, address and some contact information and we'll get one straight to you.



## Contact your Council

### Your Parish Councillors

Cllr Johnson (Chair)	01952 770577
Cllr Fletcher (Vice Chair)	01952 771365
Cllr Crump	01952 770757
Cllr Currie	01952 770258
Cllr Gaskin	01952 770861
Cllr Holyoake	01952 770449
Cllr Smith	01952 770629

### Your Telford & Wrekin Councillor

Cllr Seymour 01952 380221

### Clerk to the Council

Mr C Furnival 07948 324085

rodingtonpc@gmail.com  
c/o The Clerk, Rodington Parish  
Council, 73 Coronation Crescent,  
Madeley, Telford, TF7 5EN

## Join our email mailing list...

Producing a Parish newsletter is a good way to keep us connected to you but it costs money. You can help us save money by joining our e-mailing list. The more people who join, the more we are able to reinvest the printing costs in other areas of the Parish. You can join by emailing your name and address to [rodingtonpc@gmail.com](mailto:rodingtonpc@gmail.com)

## How's the Parish Plan looking?



During the Covid-19 pandemic the Council has been using this time to meet more regularly over Zoom video conferencing to do a weekly review of the answers given in our 2019 survey.

There were so many varied views on issues in the Parish but some of the key issues picked up were around broadband and phone signals, speeding and litter, lack of local services including a shop, post office, food, public transport and a good response of local people wanting to support local initiatives.

All answers were reviewed and the Councillors have set ambitious and realistic goals for the plan period 2020-2030.

This data is currently being formalised into a formal document for final review and we hope to share the details with you soon.

## Council meeting dates

Council meetings are currently being held online as we are unable to meet physically. If you wish to take part in the Council meeting on 2nd September 2020 at 7:30pm please email; [rodingtonpc@gmail.com](mailto:rodingtonpc@gmail.com) or call 07948 324 085