



# Yarnfield and Cold Meece Parish Council



*Your wellbeing is our business*

September 2023

Dear Resident,

In this edition I am delighted to introduce our new councillors, Kirsty, Jo and Ed (see page 8). They are already making their mark, bringing new ideas and perspectives to our parish council. Our Community Engagement Officer, Khadija is also busy meeting you, listening to your points of view and supporting us with community initiatives. Khadija's open-door sessions at the conference centre start again after the summer holiday on Mondays 11th, 18th and 25th September from 2-3pm. (See page 6)

We are dedicated to working with and on behalf of everyone who lives here, so please keep talking to us via the parish clerk or speak directly to any of your councillors, or come along to one of our events, there is a list of dates for your diary on page 3.

With warm regards,

Sally

Sally Parkin

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Introduction	1
Labour in Vain	1
Coronation Pictures	2
Autumn Events Calander	3
Yarnfield Residents' Group	3
HS2 update	4
Help to Protect our Green Spaces	5
Autumn Cleanup	5
Community Development Officer	6
Bus Service Information	6
Community Speed Watch	7
Data Protection - parish communication	7
New Councillors contact	8
Parish Council Autumn Calander	8

## Labour in Vain—what next?



After years of speculation the owners of the Labour in Vain have finally put the pub up for sale. At the same time the listing of the pub as an Asset of Community Value has been challenged by the owners, Stonegate, who say the pub does not meet the criteria for listing and should not be regarded as a community asset. A decision on the application to quash the listing is being considered by Stafford Borough Council and is expected in the next few weeks.

Efforts to secure the future of the pub are being made by the parish council with the support of residents who have formed a core group to find a way to ensure that the pub returns to being a thriving and welcoming place for the whole community. The council has launched a petition to demonstrate local support for this important work. Help us by adding your name to the petition to Save our Pub.



# Coronation Picnic

What a great day we had !



# Events Programme

September			Organiser
23 September Start 10.30 am	Late summer walk Yarnfield to Cold Meece	Start village hall	Parish Council
23 September 10.30am – 1.30pm	Macmillan Coffee Morning	Village Hall	Parish Council
October			
21 October	Autumn Tidy Up	Start village Green	Parish Council
To be confirmed	Duke of Edinburgh Scheme Sponsorship Event	Village Hall	Parish Council
November			
Saturday 11 11 am	Remembrance Day	Cold Meece Memorial	Parish Council
Booking details to follow	NHS Health Checks	Yarnfield village hall & Yarnfield Park Conference Centre	Parish Council
November 18th 11 am – 2pm	Xmas Fair	Village Hall	Tina Collins Tel- 01785 761378
20 November 7.pm	Stone Railhead Crisis Group Public Meeting	Yarnfield Park Conference Centre	SRCG
December			
16 December 2 – 4pm	Childrens' Christmas Party	Village Hall	Parish Council

## Yarnfield Park Residents' Group

The Residents Association Group is made up of five people: Kirsty Treen (Chair), Alan Core (Vice Chair), Jo Griffiths, David Clifford and Hazel Ellen.

Our main goal is to be the voice of our residents and listen to what our residents need.

Since starting late in 2022, we have made huge progress with Pinnacle and Barratts, in regards to the grounds maintenance.

The Residents Group has at least 4 meetings a year to provide updates to the residents.

Most recently we have had face-to-face meetings with Pinnacle and Barratts, this was a productive meeting, and the Residents Association Group

expressed our concerns about the Grounds Maintenance that has not been taking place as per our annual bills.

Our next meeting is on Thursday, 14 September 2023, come along to get a full update on our progress.

If anyone has any questions or would like to discuss anything, please contact us at:

[yarnfieldresidentsassociation@outlook.com](mailto:yarnfieldresidentsassociation@outlook.com)



@Yarnfield Residents Group



## Stone Railhead Crisis Group—HS2 update

When we last reported through the parish newsletter, we believed that construction of HS2 Phase 2a (West Midlands to Crewe) would commence in the summer of 2023. The parish council and its SRCG technical advisers were actively engaging with HS2 Ltd. and its contractors regarding the detailed design of the realigned Yarnfield Lane, which culminated in a face-to-face meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> March.

We were concerned that the proposed design for the realigned Yarnfield Lane would pose a significant risk of disruption to our community. We learned that the consultants had ignored the requests of the parish council regarding the design of the proposed foot/cyclepath along the new section of lane while also proposing a road design with many flaws, compromising the safety of road users.

On 9<sup>th</sup> March, the Government decided to pause the construction of Phase 2a for a period of two years. This led to a suspension of most HS2 enabling works, including the design work for the realigned lane. However, some environmental works are continuing, and HS2 is still acquiring property, with the result that local landowners have been evicted from their land years in advance of any construction works commencing.

For a period of two months after the pause, HS2 allowed National Grid to strip soils, remove hedgerows and establish a compound next to the A34 at Yarlet before finally stopping the works and restoring the land at an estimated cost of hundreds of thousands of pounds.

Despite the pause, HS2 Ltd continued to press for Schedule 17 planning approval for its construction traffic to use local roads, including Pirehill Lane in Walton. When Pirehill Lane was temporarily removed from the application, Staffordshire County Council bowed to pressure and granted permission in early June.

SRCG provided an update about its ongoing work on 21<sup>st</sup> May at Yarnfield Park and is continuing to use the Phase 2a pause to lobby politicians regarding its alternative proposals to enable HS2 to better achieve the Government's objectives for the HS2 project.

The SRCG research shows just how damaging HS2 Phase 2a and Phase 2b (Crewe to Manchester) would be to rail capacity and connectivity at Crewe and how HS2's scheme would lead to a reduction in the number of inter-city trains serving 15 of the 20 West Coast stations located to the north of Birmingham.

SRCG's alternative proposals, known as Phase 1+, would reverse such disastrous consequences for the travelling public, whilst saving more than £30billion from the HS2 budget. Phase 1+ would also ensure that the environmental and economic damage, which would inevitably be caused to communities

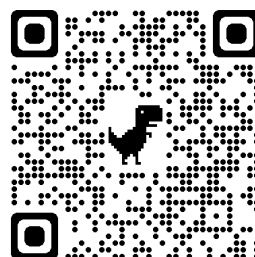


by the construction of the Phase 2 western leg, would be avoided.

## SRCG Public Meeting

The next public meeting is scheduled to be held at Yarnfield Park on Monday 20 November 2023 starting at 7 pm.

## Follow the SRCG on Facebook



# Help to Protect our Green Spaces

We all recognise how important green spaces are to us and the benefits they can bring. There is growing evidence to suggest that being in nature has positive effects on people's mental health, and studies have shown that green spaces can lower levels of stress and improve general well-being. We are blessed with an abundance of green spaces in the parish and want to continue to protect these areas.

The parish council continues to manage the village green and oversee the cutting and maintenance of the grass and surrounding areas.

We have previously reported plans to carry out work to make improvements to the playground and to improve the biodiversity of the Green through a rewilding project. In order to do this work, the parish council needs to secure the lease of the whole site from Stafford Borough Council. We are doing all that we can to ensure that this will soon be agreed and detailed planning of the project can start.

There are other open green spaces in the parish, such as the areas on Worthington Grove and Ford Drive, that warrant better protection.

The Borough Council's Local Plan only includes the Village Green and fails to recognise other areas that could be protected. To challenge this, the Parish Neighbourhood Plan, which is now nearing

completion, will provide an opportunity to protect these areas from the risk of development and ensure they continue to be enjoyed by all for years to come. To do this, we need your help to collect the evidence required to include these areas in the Neighbourhood Plan.

## **Do you know somewhere that needs protecting and including in the Neighbourhood Plan?**

We can only include these sites if we have evidence to show how important they are to the community. A short online questionnaire has been started to gather this important information about sites in the parish: how long they have been used, how they benefit the community, and some details about the sites.

Please help us protect these important areas by completing the online survey.

Paper copies of the survey are available from the parish clerk (contact details are on page 8).



**Annual Autumn Tidy Up 2023**  
**21 October**  
**10–noon**  
**&**  
**2–4pm**



How to get involved:

Contact Stella Hughes or John Fraser for more information.

Tel: 01785 760818 or

Email: [ycmclerk@gmail.com](mailto:ycmclerk@gmail.com)



# Community Development Officer

Hello!

I'm now half way through my year working in Yarnfield and Cold Meece and the time has gone by very quickly!

Although I am hosted by Support Staffordshire, my responsibilities are for the communities of Yarnfield and Cold Meece. I am here to supplement the work of the parish council, which includes connecting them with community organisations and sources of funding.

I have already met with many residents and groups and I plan to continue this work, meeting with as many residents as I can to learn about what's important to you.

If anyone would like to be more involved in the community, whatever your interest, there are lots of opportunities and I am happy to help. If you have ideas about setting up a group or activity, I can help with that too. I will be circulating a questionnaire in the autumn to give you another way to express your views.

My open door sessions start again in September at Yarnfield Park Conference Centre, or just send me a text and I will get back to you. I look forward to meeting you!

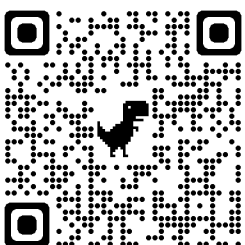
Khadija



## Bus Service Information

A question frequently asked by residents is about bus services from Yarnfield and Cold Meece. The villages have two service routes, 102 and 102A, both run by Bennetts Bus Company. These link the villages with Stone and are essentially:

- \* Monday to Friday—hourly
- \* Saturday—2 hourly service ,
- \* Sunday—no service



As the bus service can be subject to change the best way to see the latest service timetable is to use the Staffordshire County Council online bus timetable app. If you have a smart phone the QR code will take you to the app. If you don't have a smart phone or can't use the app please contact the parish clerk who will print a copy of the latest time table.

# Community Speed Watch

Roads on Yarnfield Park are limited to a mandatory 20 mph speed limit.

Approval has been given for the Community Speed Watch Group to monitor traffic speed on Yarnfield Parkway and Brookvale Drive.

## Meece Road and Swynnerton Road

The new 40 mph speed limit on the main roads in Cold Meece will now be monitored by the Community Speed Watch Group.

## Can you help with this important work?

Have you got half an hour a week or month to help support these schemes?

For more information contact the Speed Watch Co-ordinator on [ycmcsw@gmail.com](mailto:ycmcsw@gmail.com)

Or email Parish Clerk: [ycmclerk@gmail.com](mailto:ycmclerk@gmail.com)



Community Speed Watch  
Staffordshire Safer Roads Partnership  
PO Box 2117  
Stafford ST16 9ZR



Yarnfield and Cold  
Meece Parish Council

# Data Protection – parish communications

Providing timely information and advice about things that matter to residents has always been seen as an essential part of the work of the Parish Council.

To do this the council uses its 3 notice boards, hosts a website ([www.ycm-pc.org.uk](http://www.ycm-pc.org.uk)) and runs a Facebook page that has grown in popularity since it began in 2020, now having 680 + followers.

We also have a growing number of email addresses that we have collected and would like to use these to provide information about things happening in the parish and updates on important issues. There are strict rules governing how personal data is held, so to ensure we only contact people who are happy to receive information emails from the

parish council we will be contacting everyone to get their consent.

If you would like to receive information about parish council activities direct to your inbox you can join the scheme by completing the online form using the QR code.

Alternatively email the Parish Clerk for a copy of the consent form.

Data Protection consent form to hold contact information



# Yarnfield and Cold Meece Councillors



Dave  
Beeston



Margaret  
Broader



Jo  
Griffiths



Stella  
Hughes



Sally  
Parkin  
Chairperson



Kirsty  
Treen  
Vic-chairperson



Ed  
Whitfield

## Dave Beeston

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## Stella Hughes

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## Kirsty Treen—Contact

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07976 461919

## Margaret Broader

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01785 760800

## Ed Whitfield

Email: whitfield964@btinternet.com  
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## Parish Clerk

**John Fraser**  
Email: ycmclerk@gmail.com  
07546 456771



@ycmparishcouncil

# Parish Council Calander 2023

15 September	7.30pm	Parish Council	Yarnfield Park
11 October	7.30pm	Parish Council	Yarnfield Park
17 October	7.30pm	Community Action Group	Village Hall
15 November	7.30pm	Parish Council	Yarnfield Park
13 December	7.30pm	Parish Council	Yarnfield Park

Members of the public are invited to attend. Parish Council meetings will also be streamed live on the Parish Council's Facebook page.

Agendas for the meetings are posted on the Parish Council notice boards and website 5 days before meetings

Anyone wanting to ask a public question at a parish council meeting should contact the Parish Clerk by 12 noon on the day before the meeting.

