

Pétanque Piste For Romiley

Members at Romiley Bowling and Tennis Club can now take part in Pétanque, thanks to the installation of a new terrain for the fast-growing sport to be played.

The Oakwood Road club has been a fixture of Romiley for more than a hundred years. Established in 1908, the first president was prosperous local benefactor Joseph Buckley. Following a fire that destroyed the first clubhouse, a new pavilion was built in 2008. Although there are no longer any tennis courts there, it was decided to keep the original name for reasons of tradition. Set in attractive gardens, the club currently has around 115 members, with a roughly equal mix of men and women

taking part. The crown green season runs between April and September. Weekly friendly competitions are held on Wednesdays and Saturdays, and coaching is available. Home and away club tournaments bring an element of competition. Outside the season, members are able to take part in a range of social activities. Bridge and Canasta are played during the winter months, with barbecues, coffee mornings, walks and coach outings regularly on offer.

With so many events having faced cancellation over the last sixteen months, members have been delighted to reopen and are keen to bounce right back. The decision was made to install three pétanque pistes – the name given to the

gravel play areas – reflecting the growing popularity of the sport.

Sometimes called boules, pétanque originated in France and is widely played in many other countries. Here, the governing body, Pétanque England, has over 180 clubs on its register. Games are played using metal bowls (boules) on fine gravel surfaces known as terrains. The two teams competing are made up of 1, 2 or 3 players.

Enjoyed by people of all ages, there are numerous health benefits to the sport. A low-impact form of exercise, it entails throwing, bending and walking. It doesn't require expensive equipment and promotes concentration, tactics and

strategy. It will be possible to play at Romiley all year round.

The club would like to open up the terrain to players with restricted mobility, who are able to play using a specially designed magnetic device to pick up the metal boules. However, this will require the installation of a wheelchair-accessible ramp and handrail, changes that are currently beyond their financial resources that will require additional funding in the form of grants or sponsorship.

New members are always made to feel very welcome. Anyone who would like to find out more should contact Honorary Club Secretary Roy Davies on 0161 430 3170.



Members of Romiley Bowling Club on the green with the pétanque terrain just behind.



Honorary Club Secretary Roy Davies with the terrain under construction.

Art Group To Star In New Mills Festival

Romiley's Twisted Trees Productions have won a commission to feature in the Art Trail, part of the popular New Mills Festival, which transforms the town into a bustling hub of arts and culture each September.

Twisted Trees, aka Ami Horrocks and Melanie Cove, were the inspiration behind Romiley Window Wanderland: Spring Growth and Hope, which lit up the village so brightly earlier this year. Their spectacular production, We Move Together, will take place on Friday 24 September at the launch of the festival's Big Weekend. Speaking to The Village Voice, they said: "We are excited to be working on another project that is art made by the people, for the people"

are inspired by the Home Farm New Mills project, which has encouraged the community to grow crops in the hope that the town can celebrate the harvest once again. Organisers offered four commissions to artists with applicants invited to submit their ideas.

Embracing the theme, Twisted Trees' concept attracted the attention of Lyn Bannister, one of the artists behind the festival, who said she was "thrilled" to receive their proposal.

Upon being awarded the commission, Ami and Melanie put out a call for women to work with them, to create the artwork and help bring their concept to life in a public performance. Thirteen women responded and are currently making a number of cloaks



Photos show artists hard at work making the costumes

Romiley Chippy
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