



Romsey Town Council Newsletter

Autumn 2016

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

The first four months of my Mayoralty have flown by. I have been fortunate to attend many events and to meet many of the people that make Romsey the great place that it is. I may have said I wanted to start my year with a splash but I didn't really mean the dunking I got at the Town Mayor's Picnic. Mind you that was a wonderful event as were the Queen's birthday



events, the various Carnival events, the school fetes, the church events, the choirs, the music, the plays, the art, the photography, the Beggars' Fair, the Food Festival and the Film Festival.

On the other hand, I am aware that there are those in Romsey who need our support. Fortunately, there are many unsung volunteers who provide that support informally or through organisations such as Speaking Space, Romsey Young Carers, Romsey Family Support Group, Romsey Dementia Action Group, Carers Together, Romsey Opportunity Group, Jane Scarth House and the many other groups that I don't have space to mention.

Autumn has now arrived. It is getting misty in the mornings, the leaves are turning colour and dropping. We can start looking forward to all the Christmas events that Romsey will have to offer, details of which can be found inside this newsletter.

Romsey always seems such a cosy family town at Christmas with all its Christmas trees and illuminated by its simple lights. But as we approach this joyous time let us give a thought for those less fortunate and support them in whatever way we can either directly or through the supporting charities.

Cllr John Parker
Romsey Town Mayor

Photo courtesy of Southern Daily Echo

Romsey Town Council

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 ROMSEY TOWN MAYOR

TOWN CENTRE MANAGER'S REPORT

As the summer comes to an end and we reflect on the 2016 Town Centre events I believe the various organisers can be proud of what they put on. The most recent event the Romsey Food Festival was a cornucopia of stalls enabling visitors to taste food styles from around the world. Hard to believe this event is organised by a very small group of local business managers with any profits being allocated to local community groups.

Back in July we saw record crowds at the ever popular "Beggars Fair", another event organised by volunteers for the residents and visitors alike. This year twenty four venues offered over eighty acts. It was good to have the Library, Comrades Club and Cromwell Arms join in the fun this year. For those that attended the Romsey Show in September you may have noticed that "Beggars Fair" ran one of the music sites on the show ground, opening up another local venue for our talented musicians, part of bringing town and country even closer.

These events are well run by volunteers but with no admission charges possible to cover costs they are heavily dependent on advertisers and sponsors for expenses such as insurance and marketing. If you own or work for a local Romsey business, please consider if you could help in some way. I can arrange sponsorship packages from £500 that offer the opportunity to promote your business to audiences exceeding 6,000

people many from areas outside of the immediate town. My contact details are below.

We have added the dates on page 4 for all our regular Romsey Christmas events which will be enjoyed under our Christmas lights that have all been refurbished for the new season. This is another part of the Romsey year that is dependent on volunteers, this time from the scouts and local fire station, who erect and monitor the lights under the guidance of professional electricians.

We are actively working on next years "Romsey Festival" that will take place in the first two weeks of July 2017 – more detail in a future newsletter and on www.romseyfestival.org. Watch out for a new "Arts in Romsey 2017" leaflet to be published later this year and delivered to every Romsey address thanks to significant sponsorship from David Wilson Homes. The provisional programme for the Festival is looking really good with locations stretching into the surrounding villages and covering a wide genre of art based activity.

As always we welcome your ideas to enhance our town, if you have an idea or comment please feel free to contact me.

Mark L. Edgerley

Romsey, Town Centre Manager
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Telephone 07850 449484



COUNCIL MEETINGS

Full Council

15 Nov 2016
 17 Jan 2017
 21 Mar 2017

Building & Town

8 Nov 2016
 3 Jan 2017
 28 Feb 2017

Finance & Resources

6 Dec 2016
 24 Jan 2017
 28 Mar 2017

Planning

27 Oct 2016
 17 Nov 2016
 8 Dec 2016
 19 Jan 2017
 9 Feb 2017

ROMSEY EVENTS

Sunday 13th November

REMEMBRANCE DAY PARADE

There are some changes to the arrangements for Remembrance Sunday. A church service involving representatives from local groups and the military will commence at 9.30 in The Abbey. The congregation will proceed to the Memorial Park to assemble at 10.50 for the Act of Remembrance. This will be livestreamed onto screens in The Abbey for those that are unable to walk to the park. *Following the Act of Remembrance there will be a March Past the Civic Party in the Market Place at approximately 11.30.*

Saturday 26th November

ROMSEY CHRISTMAS LIGHT SWITCH ON

We will gather in the Market Place for the light switch on at 6.30pm, this will be followed by the Winter Carnival Parade. An evening we hope will be enjoyed by residents and visitors alike. *There will be a number of road closures for this event, including the Market Place that will restrict access to Abbey Water for a while. We would encourage as many people as possible to walk into this event as the car parks are traditionally very busy.*

Saturday 3rd December

SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY

This is a national event celebrating and promoting small businesses, including those that do not normally have a presence on the High Street. The Romsey Chamber are organising an all-day event in the Town Hall showcasing some excellent local businesses. *The event is supported by Test Valley Borough Council and Romsey Town Council.*

Friday 9th December

LATE NIGHT SHOPPING AND LANTERN PARADE

A highlight for many at Christmas, Romsey shops will open into the evening offering an extra special seasonal welcome to customers. The Community Lantern Parade will assemble at The Abbey and move off at approximately 5.45pm passing through the Market Place, down Bell Street, through Dukes Mill around the Bus Station and down Sterling Walk and return to The Abbey via The Hundred and Market Place.

We hear Santa is expected to arrive in the town that evening, at approximately 6.30pm. We have the emergency services standing by in case he makes his usual navigational error and lands on a roof. Santa will then adjourn to Bradbeers to enable him to meet our younger residents. Shops will remain open to approximately 8pm or later if crowds remain.

A number of town centre roads will be closed for this event please look for diversion signs

Sunday 18th December

CHRISTMAS HAMPSHIRE FARMERS MARKET

This additional Farmers Market will be held on its normal site, Alma Road car park and open from 10am to 2pm with a focus on Christmas items. This event will involve suspension of parking at the Waitrose end of the TVBC car park.

Monday 19th December

CAROLS IN ROMSEY MARKET PLACE

A fantastic evening of carols and live music with people gathering in the Market Place from 6.30pm. This event is organised by Romsey Rotary and is much enjoyed by the many hundreds that gather in the square. *This event involves closure of the Market Place and The Hundred to vehicles.*

ROMSEY EVENTS 2017

We will once again have a full programme of town centre events next year which we will publicise in our spring news letter

Thanks to generous sponsorship from David Wilson we will again publish an "Arts in Romsey" leaflet early in the year listing visual and performance arts events in the area including basic details of Romsey Festival 1st to 16th July, two weeks packed with music, performance and visual arts which will be detailed on www.romsefestival.org

**Romsey Market every Tuesday, Friday and Saturday
Hampshire Farmers Market, first Sunday of every month 10am to 2pm**



ROMSEY TOWN HALL PRESENTS

Upcoming Film Shows at 3.30 pm and 7.00 pm at Romsey Town Hall.

Doors open 30 minutes before each show

Refreshments available to purchase before the performance starts.

Monday 31st October 2016 3.30 pm and 7.00 pm

EYE IN THE SKY (15) approx. 1hr 42mins Starring: Helen Mirren, Alan Rickman

Military thriller - Col. Katherine Powell, an officer in command of an operation to capture terrorists in Kenya, sees her mission escalate when a girl enters the kill zone triggering an international dispute over the implications of modern warfare.

Monday 14th November 2016 3.30 pm and 7.00 pm

HOLOGRAM FOR THE KING (12) approx. 1hr 38 mins Starring: Tom Hanks, Ben Whishaw

Light-hearted comedy drama - Desperate to recoup lost earnings and pay for his daughter's tuition fees, American businessman Alan Clay travels to Saudi Arabia in an attempt to secure a lucrative IT contract with a wealthy Saudi king.

Monday 28th November 2016 3.30 pm and 7.00 pm

LOVE & FRIENDSHIP (U) approx. 1hr 33mins Starring: Kate Beckinsale, Chloe Sevigny, Xavier Samuel

Witty adaptation of Jane Austen's novella - Lady Susan Vernon who seeks refuge with her in-laws to escape the scandalous rumours surrounding her private life. While at their estate the scheming Lady Susan decides it's time to secure a husband for herself and for her somewhat reluctant and awkward daughter.

Monday 12th December 2016 3.30 pm and 7.00 pm

GOLDEN YEARS (15) approx. 1hr 36mins Starring: Bernard Hill, Una Stubbs and Simon Callow

Hilarious British heist thriller - Arthur and Martha Goode find that their pension pot is virtually worthless they decide to take drastic action - by robbing a bank! In the vein of "Lady in the Van" and "The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel", Golden Years shows just because you're getting old doesn't mean you have to stop having fun.

Tickets available from www.ticketsource.co.uk/romseytowncouncil or Romsey Town Hall and are non-refundable



Defence of the Realm Romsey in World War II



Dragons teeth in Middlebridge Street, beside Kent's Almshouses.

In the early part of the Second World War, the danger of invasion by the Germans and their allies, was great. In particular London had to be protected.

Amongst the precautions taken by the Government was the provision of 'Stop' Lines where invaders would be held up. One of these was along the River Test. The most conspicuous reminders of these defences are the Pill Boxes, some of which still exist but we have none on this part of the Test.

The most substantial of our surviving barriers is the row of Dragons' teeth on the town side of Greatbridge, next to the footpath, although it is overgrown with ivy. They would have made tank movement difficult, especially if the bridge had been mined.

There is a slit trench on Broadlands land south of the By-Pass in the area that has recently been tidied up and fenced in. Whether this was for a defensive position, or whether it was to enable cover for snipers, I do not know.

A sniper was also posted in a large tree by the



Gun emplacement in a tree by the Tadburn

Tadburn, near Knatchbull Close. The metal bar on which a gun could be rested is still there, as is the insulator through which his telephone was connected. Machine gunners took up position at the southern end of the Memorial Park every night, roughly where the playground is now. Until railings were taken away for the war effort, the gunners had to climb over them to get to their gun.

Amongst the defensive arrangements, sources of water were identified which could be used for firefighting. These were marked with the letters SWS which stood for Static Water Supply. They were painted in large letters on nearby walls, and some of the paint still survives.

Most if not all of the bomb shelters have gone. There were some provided by the Council and others were provided by householders for their own use. For example, there used to be one on the grass opposite the Plaza roundabout, and another in a back garden behind Station Road and the basement of the Town Hall provided another.

Phoebe Merrick



Gun emplacement in a tree by the Tadburn



SWS sign on 1 Station Road, beside the William IV

Get **more** out of Libraries



Home Library Service

The Home Library Service delivers books to people who can no longer visit the library because of ill-health, disability or caring responsibilities. Books are delivered monthly by a Home Library Service Volunteer. Books in standard or large print along with a range of audio books are available from this free service.

If you know of anyone who would benefit from this service or you are interested in becoming a volunteer, you can call us on 0300 555 1387; email us at library@hants.gov.uk or fill in an online form available at www.hants.gov.uk/home-library-service. Alternatively, please talk to staff at your local library.




Planning a Party?

Romsey Town Hall is a great place for:

- * Anniversary Parties
- * Christening Parties
- * Birthday Parties
- * Christmas Parties
- * Balls

Full catering facilities available

Contact:

Debbie Forder, Events Manager,
Romsey Town Hall, 1 Market Place,
Romsey, Hampshire, SO51 8YZ. Tel: 01794 512837
Email: bookings@romseytc.org.uk
Web: www.hantsweb.gov.uk/romseytowncouncil



USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS

Age Concern 01794 518817

Births, Marriages
and Deaths 0300 555 1392

British Red Cross
(Romsey Area Centre) 01794 513202

Citizens Advice Bureau 01794 516378

Dial A Ride 01264 356808

Dog Warden Services 01794 527700

Test Valley Borough
Council 01794 527700

Hampshire Police 101

Hampshire County
Council 01962 841841

Hampshire Highways 0300 555 1388

Hampshire Constabulary –
Safer Neighbourhood Team 101

Romsey Good
Neighbours 01794 522803

Romsey Library 0300 555 1387

Youth in Romsey 01794 500581

Romsey Hospital 01794 834700

DOCTORS SURGERIES

Abbey Mead 01794 512218/830888

Alma Road 01794 513422

Nightingale 01794 517878/511513

DENTISTS

Community Dental
Clinic 01794 519589

Abbey Orthodontics 01794 519589

Romsey Dental Care 01794 522222

Heatherstone Dental
Practice 01794 513100

Wordsworth House
Dental Practice 01794 512319

CHEMISTS

Lloyds Pharmacy 01794 522716

Boots The Chemist Ltd 01794 513143

Alliance Pharmacy 01794 513193

Superdrug Pharmacy 01794 513314

Out of Hours Doctors Surgery

Contact No 0300 300 2012

ROMSEY TOWN COUNCIL GRANTS

Since the last Newsletter grants have been awarded to the following:

Romsey Carnival Committee	£360.00
Romsey Bandstand	£750.00
Romsey Charities Fair	£150.00
Rum's Eg	£100.00
Romsey Old Cadet's Carnival Showband	£500.00

If you would like to apply for a grant for your organisation please contact the Town Clerk, Judith Giles

Tel: 01794 512837 Email: townclerk@romseytc.org.uk

