



# Romsey Town Council Newsletter

Winter 2018

## MAYOR'S WINTER MESSAGE

Romsey is and has always been an amazing town. One hundred and four years ago its residents responded to the call to help defend the country. In 2015 they backed our initiative to raise money and the result is our amazing War Horse in the War Memorial Park.

Over the years I have been a Councillor I have always been amazed at the ever-increasing number of residents who come to pay their respects to those who gave their lives and who are remembered at our War Memorial Remembrance Sunday at 11 am on which this year happens to be on 11th November - the day war came to an end in 1918 just 100 years ago.

However, many of the young men who survived the terrible atrocities came home to pick up the pieces of their lives.

In the next few weeks I hope we will not only commemorate the dead BUT think of the living. We are organising some events that not only commemorate the end of World War I but also help to understand what happened next.

There will be a series of events around the Town.

- \* Watch out for exhibitions
- \* On **Friday 26th October**, local historian, Phoebe Merrick will give an illustrated talk '*After the War, The Peace: Romsey in 1918*'
- \* **Friday 2nd November** Dr Emily Mayhew from the Imperial College, London '*Wounded - The Long Journey Home from the Great War*'



- Both talks are at the Romsey School at 7 pm. Tickets from Romsey Visitors Centre.
- Flack Manor Brewery are creating a commemorative beer.
- \* On **14th November** Romsey Abbey will welcome an internationally acclaimed Mezzo Soprano Patricia Hammond who, along with the Romsey Male Voice choir and students & guests from the Romsey School, will pay their tribute to World War I dead. (*This event is kindly sponsored by The White Horse*)

There will be stories of those who served from our Town, along with tales from the town itself who welcomed in men from across the world to come to the surrounding camps and the effect the war had on the Town.

..... and there will be much more too so please come and learn about the history and support 'Romsey in 1918' in 2018.

**Dorothy Baverstock**  
Romsey Town Mayor

Romsey Town Clerk can be contacted by phone: 01794 512837  
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[www.romseytc.org.uk](http://www.romseytc.org.uk)

# Romsey Town Council

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*ROMSEY TOWN MAYOR*

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### **Cllr John Parker**

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## COUNCIL MEETINGS

A complete list of Council Meetings, along with Agendas and Minutes can be viewed on our website at [www.romseytc.org.uk](http://www.romseytc.org.uk)

### **Full Council**

**2018**  
13 November  
**2019**  
15 January  
19 March  
16 April  
28 May  
23 July

### **Building & Town**

**2018**  
18 December  
**2019**  
5 February  
9 April  
11 June

### **Finance & Resources**

**2018**  
6 November  
**2019**  
22 January  
26 March  
14 May  
9 July

### **Planning**

**2018**  
22 November  
11 December  
**2019**  
3 January  
24 January  
14 February  
7 March



# TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT

The historic Market Town of Romsey takes on a special brilliance every Christmas. The streets are festooned with coloured lights and illuminated trees over the shop fronts. The Market Place is filled with a huge tree reflecting in the surrounding shop windows.

Switching on the lights is celebrated with our winter carnival flowing through Romsey's streets closed to traffic for the evening of Saturday 24th November from 5pm.

Community groups and schools come together to make lanterns for our Lantern Parade at 5.30pm on the evening of Friday 7th December (roads closed from 4pm) with many shops staying open until 8.30 for our late-night shopping evening, again the streets will be filled with families enjoying the entertainment that includes a heroic rescue of a famous man in red from the Town Hall.

In a musical reminder of the reason for Christmas the community come to the Market Place on Monday 17th December to sing carols around the Christmas Tree from 7pm, an amazing evening enjoyed by many hundreds.

Take a stroll into Romsey on Boxing Day morning to enjoy the spectacle of an amazing collection of pre-1976 vehicles located in the bus station and Crosfield Hall carparks

Romsey welcomes visitors year-round but at Christmas our independent shops offer an alternative to the large shopping centres, with easy parking and lots of cafes and pubs to rest between your shopping activity. The value of your Christmas shopping is appreciated by local traders and can make a significant contribution to their finances enabling them to survive the leaner periods of the year.

Take time out to visit Romsey Abbey, the largest parish church in Hampshire that takes on a special seasonal magic, watch for seasonal events in our other churches as they celebrate this very special time.

We are lucky to have some fantastic pubs and eateries in and around Romsey. As a special treat why not book a table or two for family and friends, avoid the cooking and washing-up and enjoy a pre-Christmas meal, catch up on all that is going on and find reasons to repeat the meal through 2019.



We have been busy in recent weeks bringing together an event listing for 2019. This can be found on the Romsey Town Council website, always a balance between the number of events we can hold and not being too much of an inconvenience to town centre residents and businesses. Hopefully we achieve that balance but always pleased to receive your comments and suggestions.

The work on producing a "masterplan" for the area to the south of our town centre continues, hopefully you have contributed your ideas for the bus station / Crosfield Hall area. As the plan develops there is always opportunities to add further comment, follow the consultation on [www.romseyfuture.org.uk](http://www.romseyfuture.org.uk) or email comment to [romseyfuture@testvalley.gov.uk](mailto:romseyfuture@testvalley.gov.uk) Those of us working on this project value the time you give to getting involved in the future of your town.

For details of all our events please check out our website [www.romseytc.org.uk](http://www.romseytc.org.uk) or follow our Twitter feed [@destinationroms](https://twitter.com/destinationroms)

**Mark Edgerley,**  
**Romsey Town Centre Manager**  
email: [tcm@romseytc.org.uk](mailto:tcm@romseytc.org.uk)



# ROMSEY EVENTS

## Sunday 4th November

### Hampshire Farmers Market

Held in the Alma Road car park and open from 10am to 2pm. This event will involve suspension of parking at the Waitrose end of the TVBC car park.

## Sunday 11th November

### Remembrance Day Parade

A church service involving representatives from local groups and the military will commence at 9.30am in The Abbey. The congregation will proceed to the Memorial Park to assemble at 10.50am 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 11.30am.

## Saturday 24th 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. The evening 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.

## Sunday 2nd December

### Hampshire Farmers Market

Held in the Alma Road car park and open from 10am to 2pm. This event will involve suspension of parking at the Waitrose end of the TVBC car park.

## Friday 7th 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 5.30pm 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, 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

## Monday 17th December

### Carols in Romsey Market Place

A fantastic evening of carols and live music in the Market Place for a 7pm start. 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.

## Sunday 23rd 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

## Wednesday 26th December

### Boxing Day pre 1976 Car & Bike Meet

## Romsey Events 2019

We have a full programme of town centre events next year which can be viewed on our website at [www.romseytc.org.uk](http://www.romseytc.org.uk). We will also publicise this list in our spring newsletter.

### Romsey Market

every Tuesday, Friday and Saturday

### Hampshire Farmers Market

first Sunday of every month 10am to 2pm





**Romsey Town Hall is the perfect venue for Marriage, Civil Partnerships, Receptions and Parties.**

**It's also a great place for Business Meetings, Seminars, Concerts and Courses.**



**For more information contact our Event's Manager, Debbie Forder on 01794 512837**

## **ROMSEY TOWN COUNCIL GRANTS**

Since the last Newsletter Councillor John Parker has awarded grants from his Mayors Community Chest to the following:

Romsey Charities Fair	£150.00
Romsey Choral Society	£250.00
Romsey Bandstand	£1,000.00

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](mailto:townclerk@romseytc.org.uk)**





## ROMSEY COMMUNITY CINEMA

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

Tickets £6.50 | Doors open 30 minutes before each show

Refreshments available to purchase before the performance starts.

**Monday 12th November 2018 3.30pm and 7.00pm**

**JOURNEY'S END (12A) 1 hr 47 min approx.**

**Drama starring Sam Claflin and Paul Bettany**

Based on RC Sherriff's play and novel of the same name *JOURNEY'S END* is set in March 1918 as C-Company, led by a war-weary Captain Stanhope, arrives in Aisne in northern France to take its turn in the front-line trenches.

**Monday 26th November 2018 3.30pm and 7.00pm**

**EDIE (12A) 1 hr 42 min approx.**

**Drama starring Sheila Hancock and Kevin Guthrie**

83-year-old Edie believes that it is never too late - packing an old camping bag, leaving her life behind and embarking on an adventure she never got to have - climbing the imposing Mount Sulven in Scotland.

**Monday 10th December 2018 3.30pm and 7.00pm**

**BOOK CLUB (PG-13) 1 hr 44 min approx.**

**Comedy starring Jane Fonda and Diane Keaton**

Four lifelong friends' lives are turned upside down to hilarious ends when their book club tackles the infamous *Fifty Shades of Grey*. From discovering new romance to rekindling old flames, they inspire each other to make their next chapter the best chapter.

**Monday 7th January 2019 3.30pm and 7.00pm**

**MAMMA MIA! HERE WE GO AGAIN (PG-13) 1 hr 54 min approx.**

**Musical comedy starring Meryl Streep and Lily James**

Get ready to sing and dance, laugh and love all over again as you're invited to return to the magical Greek island of Kalokairi. With the film's original cast returning and new additions including Lily James, Andy Garcia and Oscar® winner Cher.

**Tickets available from [www.romseytc.org.uk](http://www.romseytc.org.uk) or Romsey Town Hall between 9 am and 3pm and are non-refundable**

**Gift Vouchers available**



# HOME COMING CELEBRATION 1920

If you visit the Town Hall you may notice three brass plaques on the stairs up to the Council offices. Two of them are instantly obvious as one records the names of Romsonians who fought in the Boer War between 1899 and 1902 and the other celebrates the visit of Edward VII and Queen Alexandra to Romsey in 1909.

The third one is less obvious. It marks the dinner that was given to the men of Romsey who had served in the Great War. Romsey's council had decided to give a dinner to all the men in Romsey Infra and Romsey Extra who had served in the War. They had identified 873 men who were eligible to be invited, about 1 in 7 of Romsey's 1911 population of 6116.

Of these, 700 men accepted the invitation to dinner. No hall in the town was large enough to seat 700 people, so three halls were commissioned. The men were divided alphabetically and assigned to the Town Hall, the old Church Rooms or to Mitchell's Garage. The event took place on 11th February 1920.

Albert Mitchell was in the process of moving his garage from Fox Mill to a new site in Middlebridge Street. He had constructed a large workshop, equipped with electricity from his own generator, and he made this available for guests at the dinner. At this time, the town did not have an electricity supply, but relied on gas.

The Mayor, C.T. Waters, the printer and proprietor of the bookshop and stationers shop that is now occupied by W.H. Smith & Son, was mayor and he printed the menu cards. The menu consisted of roast beef, boiled beef, ham, steak and kidney pies, pork pies, boiled potatoes, vegetable salad, sultana roll, plum pudding, apple tart, custard, jam pasties, cheese, biscuits, coffee and dessert. Each man also received a packet of 10 cigarettes and ½ oz tobacco. There were coffee, beer and mineral waters for refreshments

Entertainers were hired from London and the programme arranged so that they performed at each hall. The mayor had also sent a loyal telegram to the



king telling him about the dinner and at each hall, the king's reply was read to the guests. It is this message that was referred to on the brass plaque. The king's telegram is now safely stored in Hampshire Archives and Local Studies centre in Winchester.

If you are near the Town Hall on Friday or Saturday 9 and 10 November, you will be very welcome to drop in and see a history exhibition and visit the local history society's book stall.

**Phoebe Merrick**  
**September 2018**



# USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS

Age Concern 01794 518817

Births, Deaths  
and Ceremonies 0300 555 1392

British Red Cross  
(Romsey Area Centre) 01794 513202

Citizens Advice Bureau 0344 411 1306

Dial A Ride 01264 356808

Dog Warden Services 01264 368463

Test Valley Borough Council 01794 527700

Hampshire Police 101

Hampshire County Council 0300 555 1375

Hampshire Highways 0300 555 1388

Hampshire Constabulary –  
Safer Neighbourhood Team 101

Romsey Good Neighbours 01794 514854

Romsey Library 0300 555 1387

Youth in Romsey 01794 500581

**ROMSEY HOSPITAL** 01794 834700

## DOCTORS' SURGERIES

Abbeywell Surgery 01794 512218/517878

Alma Road 01794 513422

## DENTISTS

Community Dental Clinic 0300 123 5099

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

Superdrug Pharmacy 01794 513314

## CASUAL WORKERS REQUIRED

ON AN AD-HOC BASIS IN ROMSEY TOWN HALL

Outgoing person with flexible attitude / No experience necessary

**£8.74 per hour**

For further details please contact:

Judith Giles -Town Clerk

Romsey Town Council, Town Hall, 1 Market Place, Romsey SO51 8YZ

**Tel 01794 512837 / Email: [townclerk@romseytc.org.uk](mailto:townclerk@romseytc.org.uk)**

