



Mayor's Summer Message

Hello and welcome to the Romsey Town Council Summer Newsletter.

For those who don't know me, my name is John Ray and I have the honour and privilege to be your Town Mayor for the ensuing year, along with my wife Rose the Mayoress. I am a born and bred Romsonian so to be elected to serve as your Mayor for a 2nd time, the first in 2009, is a role I am really looking forward to. I am also Chairman of the Romsey Carnival Committee, so the summer is the busiest and most rewarding time during the year.

The town puts on many great events during the summer such as Beggars Fair, Summer Carnival, and Mayor's Picnic, where I hope you will come and join me in the Memorial Park on 2nd July. Bring your children with their water pistols to the Bed Race and enjoy seeing the participants get a soaking. The Carnival Committee are putting on a special party in the Memorial Park on 27th August to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Romsey Old Cadet Band who are part of what is great about Romsey. I run a hair salon in the town so I am aware of the issues of the townspeople but what is encouraging is the newcomers to the



town, they love what all the organisations do and tell me what a great place Romsey is to live. Of course, I might be a bit bias and I'm sure you all agree, why would anyone want to live anywhere else.

Rose and I hope to see you all during our busy summer.

Cllr John Ray
Romsey Town Mayor

A Thousand Years of History....

by Cllr Neil Gwynne, Cupernham Ward

On April 6th a celebration was held in Romsey Town Hall to mark the merging of the previous Romsey and Romsey Extra parishes into the new, enlarged, Romsey parish. Speaking at the event was our local historian Phoebe Merrick and, as you would expect, extremely knowledgeable she was too! We learnt from her that the roots of Romsey (Town) and Romsey Extra parishes go back a thousand years to when the 'centre' was land owned by the Abbey (known as Romsey Infra) with the land beyond that being known as Romsey Extra. The words Infra and Extra referring to whether the land was inside or outside the bridge over the local river – a bridge that was roughly where Boots the chemist is today.

The Victorians used this distinction when they set up the two parishes in the 19th century, creating (as they did all over England) an urban central parish (Romsey), surrounded by a rural parish (Romsey Extra). As urban development has spread, and both rural economies and transport have changed beyond all recognition, these two-parish combinations have made less and less sense – with our own Romsey Extra being reduced several times over the years as parts of it were absorbed by Romsey town.

This culminated in the government's Boundary Commissioners recommending, a few years ago, the merger that we have just seen.

As a parish precept (the small part of your council tax bill that is used to fund your parish council) must be standard across the whole of a parish, this does mean that those who lived in Romsey Extra parish (such as myself!) underwent a sudden increase from the rate for a rural parish to that of an urban parish. But given that the increase was far less than a pound a week for each household – and given that most of the recent public facilities made available to Romsey residents are in Romsey Extra – hopefully this one-off increase is not seen as too unfair. And it does also mean that the new expanded Romsey parish now has money set aside for improvements to footpaths, signage etc. around the parish.

To mark what was a genuinely historic occasion, on the list of past Romsey Mayors that is displayed in the Council Chamber of the town hall, there will be a line under my name (marking where there was a marked change in our local government) and alongside it a box with a bit more about the history, photographs from April 6th, and the now unused medal of the Chair of Romsey Extra parish.

Grants

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

Citizens Advice Test Valley	£500
Bartletts Almshouses	£550
Romsey Carnival	£400
Romsey Charities Fair	£200
Romsey Chamber Music Festival	£500
Unity	£850
Victim Support	£100

If you would like to apply for a grant for your organisation, please visit www.romseytc.org.uk/grant-applications where you can view application criteria and download the grant application form.

Summer Plans in Romsey

by Suzi Shilling - Business, Events and Tourism Officer

Summer in Romsey is always something to look forward to, the flowers in the Memorial Park, the hustle and bustle of the summer markets and alfresco dining in the Market Place.

Outside events kick off the summer with a magical step back in time with great fun for the whole family at the Nostalgia Show at Broadlands.

Then get ready for the jam-packed event marathon of July as this year is Romsey Festival year and wow, have they got a line up! The thirteenth Romsey Festival will run from Saturday 1st to Sunday 16th July 2023 at venues across Romsey and the surrounding area and has some spectacular events for all ages and tastes. The annual Mayor's Picnic and Duck Race resumes the first Sunday in July at the Memorial Park and worthy a watch of the dunking of the Mayor John Ray mid-afternoon.

The second Saturday is for all music lovers with two events in the area, Beggars Fair which takes over the town for a day of singing, dancing and festivities and this year will be the first time in its 30-year history that Romsey Abbey will also have a stage. Also, that weekend is the popular four-day, family run, New Forest Folk Festival at their farm in Plaitford. A mix of great music, home cooked food, and obligatory cider!

The bed race and Romsey Carnival comes to town on the third weekend of July and promises to bring fun and laughter and a touch of chaos. We are also very lucky to have the Romsey War Memorial Park central to the town which looks fabulous with the flower beds blooming and the ducks parading their ducklings around... but did you know from May until August we have a Sunday afternoon band session? Why not grab a picnic, some chairs and sit and enjoy the free entertainment, you can find out who is playing or even book up your band on our website.

September brings the popular Food Fair on the first Sunday of the month which brings local producers and independent traders to showcase and sell their wares in the centre of Romsey.

Don't forget to come and pursue the markets which are on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays in the Market Place and Corn Market and Hampshire Market on the first of every month behind Waitrose.

Throughout the year there are often opportunities for spaces on the market. Do you have a starter business you are wanting to test out or maybe you would you like to start selling a product of a hobby of yours? This would be the perfect opportunity to try things out and meet new customers.

If you have a business in the local Romsey district, have you thought about joining the Romsey and District Chamber of Commerce? Members range from big locally based companies to entrepreneurial startups all who want Romsey to thrive. Why not pop into one of their busy 'first Friday' end of week social at one of Romsey's hospitality venues it's a great way to network with local businesses and meet the exec team (visit their Facebook for full details).

Romsey Town Council also give out grants to bodies whose activities promote or support the Romsey district residents, these can be grants of up to £1000. Previous grants include Romsey Carnival, Beggars Fair and Citizens Advice Test Valley. For more information visit our website www.romseytc.org.uk.

If you have any ideas or suggestions for what you would like to see happening in our town; would like to advertise your event; or you require more information on any of the above email suzishilling@romseytc.org.uk or pop into Romsey Town Council, Market Place, Romsey during office hours. Don't forget to follow @romseytc on Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn and @visitromsey on twitter, Facebook and Instagram.

Big events in Romsey

16 – 18 June

The Nostalgia Show is back at Broadlands Estate in Romsey for a magical weekend stepping back in time. There'll be a fabulous choice of entertainment with fun for the whole family, including live music, street performers and traditional fairground rides. Join the daily dance classes for beginners and advanced dancers and bop 'til your heart's content. The event will take you from day to night, finishing each day with funky DJs and a headline vintage act. So, get those nostalgic glad rags on from whatever era tickles your fancy, and join them for a weekend of vintage and retro fun! For tickets and information visit www.thenostalgiashow.com



Saturday 24 June

Come and enjoy stand up at the **Romsey Comedy Club** when **Sara Barron** heads to the Plaza Theatre. Famous for many a comedy television credit; Live at the Apollo, Would I lie To You, 8 out of 10 cats to name but a few she is sure to give you a laugh! Tickets available from www.plazatheatre.com

Tuesday 27 June

Musical icon **Lionel Richie** will perform a spectacular open-air concert at Broadlands, Romsey. www.broadlandsestates.co.uk/events

1 - 16 July

Romsey Festival returns with a celebration of Romsey's rich history, culture and talents. The music, drama and arts timetable are available online at www.romseyfestival.org and it updated with more events right up to July. The events are all held in the Romsey District.



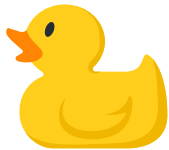
It includes nature inspired walks, talks and exhibitions and even a brewery tour! The music line-up appeals to everyone with a large and diverse range of bands, orchestras, choirs and concerts. With storytelling for our youngsters, a youth takeover at the Plaza and comedy and poetry at the library too. There really is something for everyone, go and find something for you.

Saturday 1 July

Nile Rodgers and CHIC perform at Broadlands Estate, Broadlands Park, Romsey in an open-air concert. www.broadlandsestates.co.uk/events

Sunday 2 July – from midday

Mayor's Picnic and Duck Race is a great family free event run by Rotary of Romsey Test and always brings in the crowds with its annual duck race on the River Test. Held at the War Memorial Park from midday, the community gather for a joyous get together of bands, stalls, activities and of course the obligatory picnic!



5 - 9 July

New Forest Folk Festival is held at Powells Farm in Plaitford and offers a long weekend of camping, poetry, singalongs, workshops, dancing and a stage filled with folk music and the best cider around! Run by families and volunteers it will be a fun filled family event in the centre of a farm, it couldn't be more idyllic. Tickets available from www.newforestfolkfestival.co.uk.

Saturday 8 July

Beggars Fair celebrates its 29th event this year as it fills Romsey's streets and venues with music, dance and street entertainment. Romsey's annual free summer music festival attracts families and music lovers as they feast on over 70 acts spread over 20 plus venues across the town. The best of local musicians will bring you an eclectic mix of folk, jazz, blues, soul, rock, bluegrass, classical and world music. Together with colourful dance displays and children's entertainment there is plenty of entertainment on offer. Visit www.beggarsfair.org.uk for more information.



14 - 15th July

On the Friday the **Romsey Carnival** will be out entertaining the masses with the ever popular 'Bed Race and Fun Run' as they attempt to run through the town dodging water and colour bombs for charity. To join in the fun and enter a bed for the race keep an eye on their Facebook page @romseycarnival.

Join in or watch the 2023 Romsey Summer Carnival Procession as it takes over the town with judging from 16.30 and the procession from 6pm.

www.romseycarnival.co.uk

26 August

Join Sir Harold Hillier Gardens for a picnic concert 'Family Music in the Gardens'. A talented 75-piece orchestra and singers, internationally known having performed in Washington USA, Canada and Disney Land also the Royal Festival Hall London. They will be performing well known hits and vocals for the whole family, taking inspiration from the movies with a good helping of well-known contemporary music for all to dance and sing along.

A brilliant family evening out with FREE children's entertainment, circus skills and pond dipping, all set in the beautiful Gardens. Tickets available from www.hants.gov.uk/thingstodo/hilliergardens

Sunday 4 September

Romsey Food Fair takes over the town centre and will be bursting with local produce on Sunday 4 September with its free annual Food Fair, hosted by the Romsey & District Chamber of Commerce.



This fantastic day out for all the family is a recipe of delight, Romsey will be bustling with over 60 stalls full of local food & drink produce.

Expect streets lined with tasty quality produce, artisan stalls, delicious, mouth-watering street food, tastings, demos, and outstanding brewers and distillers. To find out more visit www.romseyfoodfair.co.uk

Saturday 9 September

The Romsey Show

welcomes you to their annual festivities. The show is organised by The Romsey Agricultural & Horse Show Society at Broadlands Park, Romsey welcoming people of all ages and interests, from families to local businesses. There is something for everyone at The Romsey Show.



Each year the show has a wonderful turnout of livestock and even have a mobile petting farm. There are a variety of interesting displays and organisations and visitors can learn more about the local area and are encouraged to join in with numerous activities, not to mention the fabulous shopping opportunities and locally sourced food!

They also have a popular Family Dog Show and performances and acts from the Beggars Fair. www.romseyshow.co.uk

September 29th – 30th and 1st October 2023

The Garden Show at Broadlands. We are very excited to be bringing The Garden Show to Broadlands this Autumn. An excellent opportunity to explore all that autumn planting has to offer. The show will be set over three days and feature specialist growers, garden related goods, artisan designs, homeware products, fashion accessories and delicious country foods. There will also be talks, demonstrations, activities for young and old, expert advice and a variety of music & entertainment.

www.thegardenshows.com

Sunday 15 October

Romsey Antiques Collectable and Decorative Arts Fair is situated at 5 locations throughout the Town Centre. The traders consist of an eclectic mix of antiques 20th century collectables to include vintage and the decorative arts, with over 65 quality hand-picked stalls for both inside and outside the home, there really is something for everyone! More dates and information at www.acvrevents.co.uk

ROMSEY MARKETS

Romsey Market days are on every Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays 8.30am to around 2.30pm and these are all held in the Market Place Piazza and the Cornmarket. It currently has a varied mix of traders trading on one or more of the days, stalls include flowers, bread, olives, handbags, mobile phone repairs and accessories, plants, carpets and rugs, bike repairs, cards and clothing.

The **Sunday Romsey Makers Market** is the place to come and peruse as in the centre of town. It welcomes up to 23 stalls for artisan makers, bakers, artists, crafters and as well as homemade and homegrown produce. More information at www.southcentralmakers.co.uk

Hampshire Farmers' Market holds a market on the first Sunday of each month at the Alma Road Car Park becomes a vibrant centre of activity on these Sunday mornings with over thirty stallholder producers attending regularly selling meat, eggs, cheese, cakes, wine, cider, bread, honey, jams and pickles, fresh and smoked fish, fresh fruits and vegetables, plants and shrubs. For further dates visit www.hampshirefarmersmarkets.co.uk

Romsey Country Market is a community market where everything is home produced. You can find them on the 2nd and 4th Friday of the month at Romsey Town Hall from 10.30am – 12.30pm. They also attend the Saturday Romsey Market on the 1st Saturday of the month and Braishfield Village Hall on the last Saturday of the month 9.30am – 12.30pm.

Summer Music at Romsey Bandstand in the Memorial Park

JUNE

Sunday 17th June
Sunday 25th June

1.00 - 3.00 pm
2.30 - 4.30 pm

Saxophony
The Birnie Boozle Band

JULY

Sunday 2nd July
Saturday 8th July
Saturday 15 July
Sunday 16 July
Sunday 23rd July

All Day
All Day
2.30 - 4.30 pm
2.30 - 4.30 pm
2.30 - 4.30 pm

Mayors Picnic
Beggars Fair
Flautissimo
Southampton Youth Wind Band
Southampton Grad Band

AUGUST

Sunday 6th August
Sunday 13th August
Sunday 20th August
Saturday 26th August

2.30 - 4.30 pm
2.00 - 4.00 pm
2.30 - 4.30 pm
All Day

Southampton Concert Windband
Lockerley Silver Band
City of Southampton Albion Band
Romsey Carnival -
Romsey Old Cadets 60th
Anniversary Celebration

If you would like to book the Romsey Bandstand for your event, please email info@romseytc.org.uk

Meet Your Councillors

ABBEY WARD

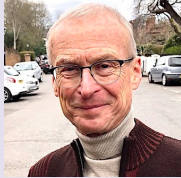
Cllr John Critchley

Towards the end of a career as a professional architectural photographer and lecturer, John came to live in Romsey twenty-one years ago.

For John, cooking is one of life's real pleasures and is a way of getting people around a table to talk and enjoy life. He also enjoys the garden, reading (especially non-fiction), theatre and foreign travel.

A believer that good communication solves many problems in life, John hopes that as a town councillor, he can be effective in trying to make this super town an even better place to live and work.

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Cllr Ian Culley

Born in Hampshire, Ian has made Romsey his home for over forty years. He is married with a son who is an engineering geologist. Ian studied law at Exeter University and recently retired after practising for many years as a solicitor both in private practice and as a Senior Crown Prosecutor with the Crown Prosecution Service. Ian loves Romsey and now wants to put something back.

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Cllr Simon Wilkinson

Simon grew up in Worcestershire, came to Southampton in 1983 as a student, and moved to Romsey in 2006. He believes in enabling people to be happy and is increasingly concerned/involved with environmental issues. He works in technology and his immediate family comprises his significant other, his son and four cats.

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Cllr Colin Burgess

Colin moved to Romsey from the Glasgow area in 2005.

He retired in 2015 after spending most of his IT career working for DFID, the then Government Department responsible for the UK Aid program. Colin feels privileged to have been part of a large team with a moral and worthwhile purpose. His role opened his eyes up for the need to alleviate poverty and fix the Climate Emergency.

He believes in showing compassion and equality to others regardless of their background.

Colin's hobbies and interests include running an allotment, cycling, rugby union (strictly spectating), walking and volunteering. He is a volunteer driver for Romsey Good Neighbours, who incidentally are always looking for new drivers!

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CUPERNHAM WARD

Cllr Neil Gwynne

Neil has lived in Romsey since 2011, and this is his second term as a Town Councillor. He is also on his second term as a Borough Councillor, currently as Leader of the LibDem group. In his first term Neil established Wilder Romsey and was Romsey's Mayor between 2022 and 2023. He has also spent ten years as Chair at the Plaza Theatre.

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Cllr Janet Burnage

Janet's association with Romsey goes back to the mid-1960s. Educated in Romsey she has always felt a close affinity with the town and it's feeling of community. Her love of Romsey made her feel that she wanted to do more to help maintain and build on that community spirit, so in 2011 she was elected onto Romsey Town Council. Janet was Romsey Town Mayor from May 2019 to May 2021 – having a two-year period due to Covid. She has represented the Cupernham ward on the Planning Committee and is a past chair of the Building and Town Committee. She is a staunch supporter of the independent shops in Romsey and can be seen in the town most Saturday mornings.

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Cllr Christopher Birkett

I live and work in Romsey, I am passionate about serving the community and being an advocate for those whose voice is not always heard. I volunteer for several local charities including the Lions club, Sea Cadets and Plaza theatre. We are very fortunate to live in such beautiful surroundings, I enjoy any opportunity to get out and explore these with the family and our pet dog. I am also a foster carer and would like to get more young people interested in volunteering for their local community.

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Cllr Aidan Goddard

I've lived in Romsey since 2016, along with my wife. We decided to settle here and purchased our home a few years ago. I work full-time as a software engineer, mostly for local companies, but have recently been working from home for a company based further away. As a younger councillor, I hope to be able to bring a different point of view to our debates, and push for changes that benefit the entire population of Romsey. My favourite colour is usually purple.

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Cllr Rohit Kohli

Rohit Kohli, a seven-year resident of Romsey, is a dedicated community member with a rich professional background. After a twenty-five year corporate career, he joined his wife's business and committed himself to local service. He's a trustee and volunteer at Abbotswood Community Centre, founder of a free table tennis club, and former school governor in Southampton. Rohit's passion lies in enhancing community life and unity in Romsey.



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Cllr Russell Theron

Russell is a former pupil of Romsey School and is one of the new faces to join the Town Council. After a successful career in Hospitality Management, Russell moved back to his home town of Romsey where he currently lives with his husband and their Foster Children. Russell is the Vice Chair and Youth Liaison Officer at the Plaza Theatre and regularly volunteers with local charities including Romsey Young Carers and Romsey Lions. Russell is passionate about the future generation, and the needs of the town's younger residents.



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ROMSEY EXTRA WARD

Cllr John Ray

John was born in Romsey and has lived and worked here all his life. Married to Rose with three children, he has owned a hair salon in the town for nearly forty years and has been a Councillor for twenty years. He is Chairman of Romsey Carnival Committee and President of Romsey Good Neighbours.



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TADBURN WARD

Cllr Mark Cooper

Mark has been a Romsey Town Councillor since June 1986. He was Romsey Town Mayor in 1991, 2007 and 2012 and has also been a member of Test Valley Borough Council since 1986 and Hampshire County Council, representing the whole of Romsey town, since 2005. He specialises in planning and regulatory matters and is a member of the Hampshire's Regulatory Committee, Hamble River Authority and the Hampshire Pension Board and Panel. He was Mayor of Test Valley 2021 - 2022 and is Chair of the Borough's Southern Planning Committee.



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Cllr John Parker

John has lived in Romsey for nearly fifty years. He and his wife, Tessa, have two children and three grandchildren, all of whom live locally. He is a retired IT consultant.



He was first elected to Romsey Town Council in 2015 after twenty-nine years on Romsey Extra Parish Council and Romsey Town Mayor in 2016 – 2017. In 2019 John was also elected as a TVBC councillor for Tadburn ward, a role that continues today.

His primary interest is in planning and has been very involved in the development of several iterations of the TVBC local plan. He has been a member of the Romsey Future team since its inception in 2013.

John is also an active member of Romsey Twinning.

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Cllr Jacqueline Urquhart

Originally from the Midlands, Jacqui settled in Romsey in 2000 to bring up her daughter and wants to make sure that Romsey retains its market town character and remains a welcoming place to live. She is a pharmacist and works in the pharmaceutical industry. She has a particular interest in environmental issues.



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Cllr Sandra Gidley

Sandra describes her life as people, pharmacy and politics. Her main motivation in life is helping people and she became a community pharmacist and also trained as an antenatal teacher. Aware of injustice she decided she had to try and improve the system and thus became politically active. Between 2000 and 2010 she was the MP for Romsey. She then devoted her time to pharmacy politics and chaired the English Pharmacy Board before becoming President of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society. She now spends her time enjoying grandchildren and belonging to a range of local organisations.



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3.30pm and 7pm
screenings fortnightly
at Romsey Town Hall

To view listings and
buy tickets go to
[www.romseytc.org.uk/
community_cinema](http://www.romseytc.org.uk/community_cinema)

Council and Committee Meetings 2023

All Council and Committee meetings are held in Romsey Town Hall at 7.30pm and are open to the public to come along and watch. A complete list of meetings, along with Agendas and Minutes can be viewed on our website at www.romseytc.org.uk

Full Council

18th July
19th September
21st November

Buildings & Community

6th June
1st August
3rd October
5th December

Finance & Resources

27th June
22nd August
24th October
12th December

Planning

22nd June
13th July
3rd August
24th August
14th September
5th October
26th October
16th November
7th December

Pension/ Life Certificates

If you have a pension/life certificate that requires a certification, please contact Romsey Town Council on 01794 512837 or email: info@romseytc.org.uk to arrange an appointment with the Chief Officer.

A donation of £10 to the Mayor's Charity Fund is chargeable for the certification of the document.

The Mayor's Charities for 2023/24 are Romsey Good Neighbours, George's Trust, Jane Scarth House and Jenna Marie Foundation.



The Chief Officer can be contacted by phone: 01794 512837
or email: chiefofficer@romseytc.org.uk
www.romseytc.org.uk

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