

Rotary Club of Romsey Test

Wednesday 19th October 2022 - Meeting Minutes

Present There were 39 Club Members and 9 Visitors present, including some prospective Members.

The business of the evening was preceded by 45 minutes of socialising, chatting to prospective Members and showing interest in the three table top displays. These included impressive graphics exhibited by Romsey Young Carers, Romsey Abbey Primary School and Baby Necessities, each of which RCoRT has been pleased to contribute to in the past.

Club President

President Nigel Budd formally opened the meeting at 19.40 with welcoming words to Members and our 39 guests. Tony Trowsdale gave a Grace.

At the end of the meal President Nigel changed the usual meeting procedure to ask all those present to stand and drink a loyal toast.

The President then introduced Mark Harris, Head Teacher of Romsey Abbey Church of England Primary School.

Mark introduced a digital presentation of his School's latest project "Psalm 23 Reflection and Wellbeing Garden" that his School has embarked upon utilising an area of unused ground within the curtilage of the School grounds.

The project is intended to be guided by the message in Psalm 23 by creating: -

- 1. A wellbeing and spiritual area for development and reflection principally for the pupils.**
- 2. Also for parents of the School Children.**
- 3. To support mental health of the pupils, including any disadvantaged pupils.**
- 4. Those with special needs.**
- 5. Overall to provide support for the School pupils.**

It has been appreciated by the school that their pupils seem to be always saying to Teachers "out of doors is where they wish to be and where they are at their happiest!"

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The Children are very involved with the project and this is frequently illustrated in their drawings and discussions- it is to be a Sensory area!

Included will be a Water Feature Building, a Learning Platform, have a main seating area, a plant area and waste removal facility!

The Future - Work has started already - Fund raising has been taking place via the School and by the PTA while volunteers busy themselves on the area.

With sincere thanks from President Nigel Mark departed our meeting hurriedly to attend a further meeting at School

Our President then introduced Charlotte Anthony, the Family Link Worker based in Romsey and 'heads up 'Romsey Young Carers'.

This Romsey charity was introduced by Charlotte Anthony, a Family Link Worker who after her own introduction highlighted Mary Ward, a long-term devotee of RYC and a person well known to our Club.

Following on from some words from Mary Charlotte told us of some of the Charity's work that supports young carers. They have one full-time Staff Member and 5 who work Part-time volunteers.

The aim of the charity is to act as a 'School and Young Person' support by offering:-

- As a 'Family link' worker.
- With support at meetings.
- Occupational Therapy.
- Coffee mornings.
- Advocacy for Family and Young Carers.
- Whole Family Activities.
- Support for Family in crisis.

The Charity has 7 regular volunteers, 3 young helpers and 5 trustees and operate in Romsey and the surrounding area especially northwards in the Test Valley.

Befriending 1.2.1 match, either monthly, fortnightly or once a week.

Activity expenses are covered.

The charity offers support with 'their' socialising, with talking through their problems.

And produce a 'Befrienders' handbook.

The meeting ended at 21:30.