

## Notes from Rotary Club of Romsey Test September 19th at Town Hall

A good attendance tonight with 30 or so Rotarians all keen to know more about The Honey Trap. Was this going to be Peter Hurst doing a talk on Bees?

The mushroom stroganoff was rather peculiarly accompanied by some late greens and the date sticky pudding was rather sugary.

The speaker was Viv Carter from the Charity who explained that the Honey Trap charity had been established some 22 years ago ( she had been working there for 2 years herself ). The charity was a National Charity that provided respite care for young children and young carers throughout Hampshire , Dorset and into London . The main centre here is in Blackfield in the New Forest (near Hythe) where they have their own charity house Honey Pot House that accepts young children from ages 5 - 12 to visits for a holiday break and then , uniquely , provide an ongoing annual holiday visit until the child is 12 years old. There are approx 1200 children currently enjoying the benefits with 28 of these from our home town of Romsey. There is a strong link between Romsey Young carers and The Honey Trap. RYC being a referral source to the Honey Trap Charity.

The appear to be well funded in high circles but they need to be . It costs £1.5m a year to keep the Honey Trap House going. They have recently been selected as the main Charity for 10 Downing Street Staff and have other generous benefactors.

Viv has walked the Test Way with her Honey Trap colleagues and intends to do so again this year. Last year she raised £1400.

She was an excellent speaker and you could tell she has held high Operational positions in big corporates before joining the Charity.

The Charity had recently ( last 2 years ) opened a new house in Wales to look after the Wales, welsh valleys, West Midlands areas.

Clive did the vote of Thanks although he felt John Burgess , who preceded him in question time, had done a better job.

Mike Koscian treated us all to a glass of port given Johanna's excellent progress.

There were two announcements - Tony Abbot reported a thankyou letter from the Romsey Show and Norman Oldmeadow advised that 32 members were attending the Abigails Party event in Salisbury but the tickets had been lost in the post. Norman has the numbers and is confident he can manage the situation on the night. Those attending the pre play meal will get a menu choice soon from Norman and are asked to respond soonest.

Andrew was away and the wine raffle was led by Steve George. Jim , Neil, Clive and Colin were the worthy winners with a bottle of white going to Viv who is expected to donate this to the Charity house.

The meeting ended at 9.45.