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# Rotary Club of ROMSEY TEST



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## Newsletter No 17, August 2017

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### **From our new President, Jon Livingstone**

As we are at the start of a new Rotary year, I thought I should take this opportunity to mention some of our key activities over the next twelve months. You can find more about these in the Newsletter and on our [website](#).

#### **Walk The Test Way - Sunday 8 October 2017**

Our Club is perhaps best known for [Walk The Test Way](#) in October. Each year walkers (around 700 in recent years) walk various distances of the beautiful Test Way, raising funds for their favourite charities. Planning is a twelve months' activity; and on the day we guide and encourage walkers along the route. Since the first WTTW in 2003, the event has enabled walkers to raise the outstanding sum of over £700,000 for charity.

#### **Reminiscences of Romsey - Saturday 10 March 2018**

We run Reminiscences of Romsey for around 200 senior citizens and members of friendship groups in the town. This is an afternoon of fellowship and entertainment at the Crosfield Hall. It started as a one-off for the millennium and by popular request we have been running it ever since.

If you know of someone who would like to attend, please get in touch.

#### **The Mayor's Picnic - Sunday 1 July 2018**

We run the Mayor's Picnic and duck race on behalf of the Mayor of Romsey. This is a very enjoyable day attended by thousands of people from Romsey and the surrounding area. Traditionally it is on the first Sunday of July and so is the first event of the incoming President's year. This also provides an excellent opportunity for local charities and organisations to raise awareness and much needed funds.

#### **Community and Youth**

Our Community activities are at the heart of what we do. We run 'Tell Us Your Wish' for people to nominate a charity or worthy cause we may be able to support. 'Know Your Blood Pressure Day' in April raises awareness of strokes and other consequences of high blood-pressure.

Our Club is also very active in supporting and providing opportunities for young people in the community and in schools. This includes the very successful annual Technology Tournament, giving dictionaries to primary schools and

helping students learn about conflict resolution through "Peace Jam".

Members of the Rotary Club of Romsey Test seek to serve and make a positive contribution to our community. We thank you for your support.

If you would like to know more or help with these and similar activities, please [get in touch](#). We welcome new members.

***Jon Livingstone***

**President of the Rotary Club of Romsey Test, 2017-18**

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**Mayor's Picnic 2017 Was it the best ever?**





- Record numbers - nobody could remember the Memorial Park being so busy.
- The weather was like Goldilocks' porridge - Not too hot, Not too cold – Just right.
- Record duck race sales – The duck called Ross was the winner, scooped from the river Test by [Romsey Subaqua Club](#).
- 30 stalls for local charities to promote their causes and raise money.
- Amazing sales of food and refreshments. Almost everything ran out.
- Plastic trumpets and trombones in abundance. Played by Halterworth and North Baddesley Primary Schools.
- Fantastic music from Mountbatten big band – about to head to the Montreux Jazz festival.
- The last dunking of Rev Tim Sledge as Vicar of Romsey. Can you be dunked as Dean of Peterborough?
- Three enquires from people who thought they might like to join Rotary and help with next year's event.
- Members of [Romsey Men's Shed](#) helped out at the very busy entrance to the park and selling Duck Race tickets..
- Almost no litter to be picked up.

A happy day for young and old alike. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

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## Working together in Romsey



We are happy to work closely with our parent Club, the Rotary Club of Romsey, promoting the concept of "Rotary in Romsey"

At the start of each month we now have a Rotary in Romsey column in the Romsey Advertiser, promoting activities that both clubs share.

A new innovation is the **Rotary Community Group**. This is held approximately every 3 months and brings together representatives of businesses, charities, schools and organisations with which we work. It gives them a chance to share ideas with one another, for them to tell us about their concerns and needs and for us to tell them about what Rotary is planning. We were very pleased at the meeting in June to receive a cheque for £250 from [E-florists](#) (photo above right) as sponsorship for Walk the Test Way. The next RCG meeting will be at the beginning of October and we would welcome new participants. Please [contact us](#) if you would like to attend.

In June Rotary in Romsey was represented with a stand at the Festival of Volunteering in Romsey Abbey (photo above left) in July at the Romsey Beggars Fair.

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## Out and about around Romsey



We've started a new more flexible timetable of meetings. Here are some highlights.

- A visit to the [Solent Sky Museum](#) in Southampton. If you've never been there and have even a passing interest aviation and local history, you should go. It holds some unique items.
- A breakfast meeting with a quiz of questions that might be asked if you were applying for British Citizenship. Our level of success in answering them suggests that we should all learn more about the country in which we live. (Do you know how many members there are on a jury in Scotland?)
- A visit to a crop trials farm near Stockbridge where we learned about new (and old) varieties of wheat and barley and were treated to free hats and bottles of beer.
- At [Lyburn Cheese](#) we sampled the cheeses and saw how they were made but also learned about growing organic vegetables on a commercial scale.
- We went "Around the world in 80 minutes" – a culinary tour sampling food from the far-flung corners of the world.
- Each year we assist with taking a group of special needs children, their parents and teachers on a day out. This year it was to Marwell Zoo. The weather was fine for ["Kids Out"](#) and everyone had a great time.
- We spent an evening ten-pin bowling at the Swan centre in Eastleigh. The antics of the evening did not however match the prowess of our skittles team who prevailed in a closely fought final against the Rotary Clubs of Fordingbridge and Wareham to win the Rotary Wessex knockout contest that had taken us to many pubs throughout last winter. We have now won this competition in all but one of the past 5 years. (Last year we were only runners-up!).

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### Further afield



Our interests and activities are much wider than the immediate Romsey area.

- We work closely with local primary schools and one of these, [Awbridge School](#), has been running an ambitious project to collect books and send them to Burundi in central Africa. Several of us were pleased to be invited to the school to meet the Burundian ambassador, to hear about the project and to add books (including Dictionaries4Life) to the huge collection that will soon be in a container and on its way. There is only one library in the whole country of Burundi (population 10 million)!
- We are busy filling jam jars (donated by Tiptree) with money so that the contents (after we have eaten the delicious jam) can be donated to the Rotary Foundation project to eradicate polio. We have almost £200 so far and many

jars are yet to be counted.

- One of our members, Paul Grainger with his wife Elaine have cycled the 3000km from Bucharest in Romania to Le Havre, approximately following the course of the rivers Danube, Rhine and Moselle. Though not specifically a fund raising effort they raised £1000 for [Jane Scarth House](#), the cancer support centre in Romsey. Paul's [blog](#) of their six week adventure on May and June is amusing, informative and gives a flavour of the challenges they faced. Well done!

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### Interesting Speakers

At our meetings we've had interesting and varied speakers.

- We learned about the organisation and objectives of the Army Cadets from Col. Rod Lambert, the cadet commandant for SE England.
- Representatives of Romsey School told us about their very positive experience at the Peace Jam event at the University of Winchester and how they had brought the new ideas they had gained to start a "Compassion in Action Awareness" agenda in the school. Mark Ward, the head of Awbridge Primary school told us about plans for similar initiatives in primary schools.
- A new nature reserve is being developed in Romsey. Andy Lester, Conservation Director, [Arocha UK](#) told us about the history of the Fishlake Meadows wetlands, it's remarkably diverse flora and fauna and enthused us with its potential as a nature reserve. It has since been announced that [the reserve](#) will be managed by the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust.
- Steve Norman told us how he acted as a business dragon investing in promising ideas from his students at Winchester University. Enterprises he described were varied, surprising and mostly involved people enjoying themselves. He has a base, [IncuHive](#) in Chandlers Ford. In early August he featured on TV, opening doors with an electronic implant in his hand!

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### Walk the Test Way - Latest News





It is 3 months until our [15th annual charity fundraising event](#) on Sunday October 8th.

Preparations are well in hand, reconnaissance walks are being done along the route to check whether there are any obstacles. Where there are, the relevant landowners are being contacted to arrange their clearance.

Posters and leaflets are in local shops, village halls and other public places.

The biggest poster is in Specsavers window in Romsey - fitting since they are providing £3000 of sponsorship for the event. We re also grateful to e-Florists, a new supporter this year, for their £250 donation.

What is most important is that walkers are registering. The count to date is 325 and is well ahead of numbers from previous years.

Will you and your friends be walking on October 8th and supporting YOUR charity?

Note , this is a dog-friendly walk.

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**Award**



At the dinner to mark the handover to our new President and his team, outgoing President Tony Trowsdale, (above right), was presented with an award by David Glover of [Shelterbox](#). Tony has been and remains a champion of the charity giving talks and demonstrations to show how it provides practical support to the victims of natural and man-made disasters.

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## Calendar

Meetings and **events** for next 3 months (and beyond), at Romsey Town Hall.  
(7.00 for 7.30 unless otherwise indicated).

- August 16 "Lady Hamilton, Nelson's mistress"
- August 23 "Stop the Traffik" (Wellow Golf Club)
- Sept 6th Business meeting
- Sept 13th Social event
- Sept 20th "Rotary Foundation"
- Sept 27th "So you think you can drive" Wellow GC, breakfast meeting.

- Oct 4th Business meeting
- Oct 6th **Rotary Community Group** White Horse Hotel, breakfast meeting.
- Oct 8th **Walk the Test Way**
- Oct 11th TBC
- Oct 13-14 **Rotary Wessex Conference**, Aegeas Bowl.
- Oct 18th "Beyond Boaty McBoatface"

### Looking ahead to 2018

- March 7th **Young Technologist Competition**, Crosfield Hall
- March 10 **Reminiscences of Romsey**, Crosfield Hall

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#### Who's who for 2017/18

President	Jon Livingstone
Senior Vice Pres	Stuart Wineberg
Junior Vice President	Bill Gidley
Secretary	Roger Shepherd
Trust Fund Treasurerer	David Upton
Club Treasureer	Nick Bellamy
Community Service	Richard Jordan-Baker
Youth Opportunities	Bill Gidley
International	Philip Kirkland
Rotary Foundation	Stewart Mitchell
Fundraising	Sandy Dunn
Walk the Test Way	Sandy Dunn
Membership	Steve George
Sports and Social	Tony Abbott
Communication	John Gould

#### About our Club and about Rotary

The Rotary Club of Romsey Test was started in 1990 and presently has 57 members (2 honorary). The Club was an offshoot of the Rotary Club of Romsey (the lunchtime club) that meets on Tuesday lunchtimes at the White Horse hotel. We are part of Rotary International and Rotary International of Britain and Ireland. We are guided by the principle of Service above Self

The Club's activities focus on

- **Community Service** – dealing with service to the local community
- **Fund-raising** – our major fundraising event is Walk the Test Way.
- **Youth Opportunities** - working with young people around Romsey
- **International** – dealing with our international giving and including our partnership with Dentaidd to produce the Rotary Dentaidd Box.
- **Foundation** - Rotary Foundation is Rotary's own charity and deals with such global projects as the eradication of polio.
- **Club Service** - responsible for running the club.
- **Membership** - recruitment and retention.
- **Communication** - internal and external
- **Sports and Social**

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