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Rotary Club of ROMSEY TEST



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Newsletter No 21, August 2018

Contents - click the header to go straight to the article that interests you

[New Rotary Year - New Team](#)

Helping the community

[Romsey's generosity](#)

[The answer's in the soil](#)

[Minstead Trust](#)

[A picnic in the park](#)

[Family support](#)

[From Romsey to Africa](#)

Inside the Club -Talks and sport

[Hampshire's wildlife](#)

[Practical support for refugees](#)

[What next at Waitrose?](#)

[Successfully skittled - again!](#)

Dates for your Diary

[Community Group](#)

[Walk the Test Way deadline](#)

[Who's who in 2018/19?](#)

[About our Club](#)

Service above Self ---- Service above Self ---- Service above Self ---- Service above Self



New Rotary Year - New Team

The reins have been handed over to the new team who will lead the Club's contributions to our local community and to alleviating need overseas in the coming year.

At a social event in late June outgoing President Jon Livingstone (above, right) said what a privilege it had been lead such an active group and to see the help we can give to hundreds and thousands of individuals through the charities we support and the events we run; notably, the Rotary Mayor's Picnic, Reminiscences of Romsey and of course Walk the Test Way whose walkers raised over £100,000 in October last year.

I was pleased to thank Jon for his year and presented flowers to his wife Jill. I look forward to the year ahead and hope you will be interested in and inspired by reading in this Newsletter about what we have done this summer.

Stuart Wineberg
President 2018-19

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Romsey's generosity

We don't often do street collections - the last one was in 2010 following the devastating earthquake in Haiti - but we did another one this year in support of **Parkinson's UK**. The club also pledged that it would match any donations up to a maximum of £1000.

The day was an outstanding success thanks to the generosity of Romsey shoppers. The tins collected £1600 to which was added Gift Aid of £400 that together with the Club's donation amounted to £3,000.

Many people were moved to give generously because they knew a friend or family member who suffers from Parkinson's - a disease that is sadly still incurable.

So "Thank-You" Romsey.

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The answer's in the soil

Youth in Romsey have an allotment opposite the Rapids that provides opportunities for young people to learn about growing things. They needed a place to keep their tools and the Club was pleased to be able to help. With the help of a grant from Rotary Wessex and a matching contribution from our Club we purchased and erected the shed. Vice President Bill Gidley was



pleased also to hand an additional cheque for £500 to Wendy Herbert (YIR) to support their work.

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Minstead Trust

One of Jon Livingstone's last duties as President was to visit the **Minstead Trust** and give them a cheque for £500. The Trust provides training and support for people with learning disabilities to enable them to develop new skills, lead fulfilled lives and achieve greater independence. The Rotary funds will help them establish a drop-in centre in Romsey.

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Mayor's Picnic 2018

By tradition this is the first event of our Rotary year and is a free "village fete" including the ever-popular Duck Race down the River Test. All the usual entertainments were there, the Scout's assault course, the Guide's dinosaur racing, Trigger the Train, but most popular in the 30C temperatures was the "Soaka Bloka, Drencha Wencha" machine. There were many volunteers to be

soaked including our president complete with snorkel and goggles.

The park was filled with stalls for many local charities each raising funds and awareness of what they do.

Musical entertainment throughout the afternoon was provided by the Romsey Community Choir and the Mountbatten Big Band and Mountbatten training band (seen above).

Though not designed as a fundraising event the Mayor's charity fund will receive £750.



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The Romsey Family Support Group is based at the Applewood Centre behind

Romsey library and provides practical and emotional support for young families around our area. We were recently told that they had been given a freezer full of food and a family had been identified that would benefit from it. We were pleased to be able to provide the labour and transport to deliver and install it .

Footnote

In January 2013, Joan Stallwood, who runs the FSG, was awarded a Rotary Paul Harris Fellowship in recognition of her amazing dedication to the charity. She wears her badge with pride.

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From Romsey to Africa

The profits from the Asante Coffee shop in Latimer Walk, Romsey support the Life Centre School in Kisumu Kenya through the registered charity, [Citizens4Change](#). The Club has been regular supporter of C4C , funding desks and providing laptops. Their latest appeal was for money to buy textbooks for the school and we were pleased to be able to contribute £500 towards the total. Past President Jon gave the cheque to Asante Manager and C4C trustee, Jude Gregory.

By the way - "Asante" means "Thank you" in Swahili.

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Inside the Club - talks and sports



Andy Lester, Conservation Director of **A Rocha UK**, a Christian charity working for the protection and restoration of the natural world, gave us a fascinating talk about the threats to Hampshire's wildlife, the main ones being habitat loss and climate change. The Dartford warbler (above), dependent on spiders living in gorse bushes, and vulnerable to severe winters, was a case in point.



At our most recent breakfast meeting, we had a fascinating insight into the efforts made to provide decent living conditions for refugees in migrant camps in Libya. Chris Lee, an Australian engineer who volunteers for Médecins Sans Frontières, told us about "Detainees, Doctors and Drains" with the focus mostly on the challenges of improving sanitation. He stressed that many of the detainees had the practical skills needed even if Health and Safety was not always a strong point.



Steve Corbett, Romsey Waitrose Manager, and Vanessa who will be managing the project told us about the planned redevelopment of the store. Between 9 September and 16th November there will be £3.5m



In the Wessex Rotary District we are getting a bit of a reputation for our prowess at skittles. A couple of weeks ago we defeated Christchurch

invested. Romsey is one on only three UK stores selected for upgrading (the others are Portishead and Dorchester). Sales space will be expanded, and there will be new, more environmentally-friendly lights and freezers.

The presentation stimulated a lively discussion focused in large part on traffic flow and parking.

Waitrose have been excellent supporters of our activities and we look forward to that relationship continuing.

Rotary Club in the final at the Huntsman Pub in Brockenhurst. The alley proved a challenge for both teams with its small skittles and large gaps between them - and there were several "blanks".

Our team prevailed and we won the trophy for the fifth time in the past 6 years. We have enjoyed meeting other Clubs in a wide variety of pubs and sampling the "*beer and skittles*".

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Dates for your diary

- **Walk the Test Way** - Early Bird registrations will close at midnight on August 31st. So, you have just a few weeks to [register](#) yourself or your team at the discounted rate. The Walk is on Sunday October 14th.
- **Rotary Community Group** - This is a joint venture by the two Rotary Clubs in Romsey and involves local schools, charities, businesses and civic organisations. The next meeting will be on the evening of September 10th at the White Horse, Romsey. The plan is that the meeting explores the idea of establishing a 'community resource bank'. If you would like to learn more please contact [Bill Gidley](#).
- Meetings and events for next 3 months (and beyond) can be reached by [this link](#). Our Club meets on Wednesdays at venues in and around Romsey.

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Who's who for 2018/19

President	Stuart Wineberg
Senior Vice Pres	Bill Gidley
Junior Vice President	Bryan Rickett
Secretary	Martin Russell
Trust Fund Treasurerer	Graham Hollier
Club Treasurer	Nick Bellamy
Community Service	Peter Stuckey
Youth Opportunities	Frank Smiley
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	Keith Cameron

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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