



SERVICE ABOVE SELF

www.rotaryclubofromseytest.org

E- Newsletter Number 10 July 2015

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The aim of these quarterly Newsletters is to keep people and organisations informed about our club. It tells them what we have done recently, alerts them to what we are planning and, where appropriate, highlights opportunities to become involved in our activities. We would welcome **feedback** from readers. John Gould - Editor

Starting our second quarter-century

Our new Rotary year, indeed our second quarter century, made a memorable start with what was perhaps the best ever Mayors' Picnic, coming only a couple of days after HRH Princess Anne unveiled the new warhorse statue in Romsey's Memorial Park. Our new President, Neil Duncan oversaw the events and maybe even had a beneficial influence on the weather.

The following is message from Neil.

The club currently has 55 active and 3 honorary members who work at a community and international level in support of charitable causes and I am looking forward to leading the club for 2015/2016.



Although we change Presidents on a yearly basis our projects and fund raising activities continue all year round. The club's major fundraising event, "Walk the Test Way", last year raised £72,000 for the 130 charities that participated in the walk and helped us fund the Rotary's own community and international projects as well. The signing up for this year's walk is already underway and we hope to exceed last year's total.

Throughout the year the club will be involved in more than 25 events and will continue to support the younger members of the community. The success of the "Young Musician", the "Young Technologist" and the "Young Enterprise" competitions is very encouraging and we will continue the programme in 2015/16. Old favourites like the well known "Reminiscences of Romsey" and the "Mayor's Picnic" are part of our planned activities. Less well known activities such as the signage on the barge canal and tracking "Bat" activity there will also continue.

As a club we will continue to thoroughly enjoy ourselves whilst meeting Rotary's guiding principle of "Service above Self".

Neil Duncan

President

New outreach by the Club



At the end of February we launched the **Club's Facebook page** and are posting news items approximately weekly. These posts are reaching almost 250 people and it is noticeable that external (non-member) visits to our Club website have increased by about 20%.

In May, a **Facebook page devoted solely to Walk the Test Way** was launched with the specific target of reaching potential walkers and of highlighting the activities of some of the charities that use the walk for fundraising. (Please see the back page of this Newsletter for more about the 2015 Walk)

Whether you are a Facebook user or not, please have a look to see what we are doing and if you have suggestions for the kind of information you would like to see there please let us know.

Come and see what we do



On Saturday 5th and Sunday 6th September we will have a display stand in Romsey Abbey as part of the **Festival of Volunteering**. This is a chance for you to come and talk to us.

Please put the dates in your diary.

Two community events - one old, one new

The best ever Mayors' Picnic?

More than two thousand people filled Romsey's Memorial Park on Sunday July for the 17th annual Mayor's Picnic organised by our Club. It turned out to be a perfect summer afternoon and was full of fun and talented entertainment for all ages.

The procession from Church Place was led by the Romsey Old Cadets who provided their usual entertaining antics this year dressed in crusader costumes. The Mayoral party was welcomed at the park by Neil Duncan, our newly-elected President and together they crowned this year's carnival queen. Town Mayor, Councillor Mrs Dorothy



Baverstock, described the Picnic as a brilliant community event that followed the unveiling of the Warhorse statue a few days earlier.

The park was filled with the sound of music from the **Mountbatten School Community Choir**, with a selection of popular songs and with jazz and swing numbers from the **Mountbatten Big Band**. This popular band has played at many previous Picnics.

The **Test Valley School of Dance** performed several routines to a packed arena surrounded by an admiring and appreciative audience. The ever popular "Soaka-Bloka, Drencha-Wencha, Dunka-Hunka" machine drew a crowd eager to see volunteers catapulted into a pool of water when triggered by an accurately thrown tennis ball. Canon Tim Sledge was a high-profile "dunked hunk".



The Duck Race, masterminded by Dave Sillence drew its customary large crowd. Launched by the Carnival Queen, 50 named plastic ducks raced down the fast flowing stream to be caught at the finishing line by the Romsey Sub-Aqua club. The owners of the winning ducks

won £50, £25 and £10 cash prizes. The Duck Race raised over £1,100 for charity. The food stalls and of course the beer tent did a roaring trade. Many local charities also had stalls to raise awareness of their activities.

Our President Neil expressed his thanks for everyone who had helped to make the Picnic so successful. The Club organizes the event each year as a 'thank you' to the town for its generous support of Rotary activities throughout the year. Proceeds from the Picnic, other than those raised by stallholders, all go to the Town Mayor's charities and Rotary charities.

Much appreciated

Sir - As a family we enjoyed the Mayor's picnic in Memorial Park. My five year-old daughter was presented with a medal by the Rotary club after performing with Test Valley School of Dance. During the afternoon the medal fell off its ribbon. After a search we went to the Rotarian comping the event. Unable to find another medal for us we left him our address and he promised to post one to us. Imagine our joy when we had a knock on the door at 8.30 the day after and there was the same man who handed a new medal to Annabel. She was so happy and wore her medal to school with pride. A simple gesture but massively appreciated.

A footnote from the Romsey Advertiser's letters page.

First family cycling event

On Sunday June 21st, (Fathers' Day) Rotary Clubs throughout Britain and Ireland held a total of 200 cycling events in aid of Prostate Cancer charities. As a Club with many cycling enthusiast members we played our part in encouraging events throughout Rotary Wessex Region and in organising our own event. This was held on closed roads in the grounds of the Broadlands estate and was designed to enable family groups with young children to take part. Organisation was shared with members of Rotary Club of Romsey and Inner Wheel.



100 cyclists in 30 family groups took part. Some children were experienced cyclists and one, 10 year-old Joey Hart, completed 10 laps of the 1.2 mile circuit. Others were still coming to terms with their training wheels!

As a first event it was deemed a great success, enjoyed by all who took part. Planning for a repeat next year is underway. See you next year!



On the same day three of our members Tony Abbott, Mike Kelly and Fred Stanley cycled the 85 mile Hampshire mainland coastline from Wareham to Gosport and together raised over £1,000 to fight prostate cancer.

Community service

Youth opportunities



TELL US YOUR WISH

Our Romsey - Tell us Your Wish

formally closed at the Mayors' Picnic after a run of 3 months during which Romsey area residents had

the chance to tell us about needs in their local community. We have been pleased with the response and even more pleased that we have been able to help. Two examples have been providing an Invacare Pro-2 wheelchair to a local student with cerebral palsy so that he could do a BTEC level-3 course at Eastleigh College and become a sports coach. We also gave funding to **Romsey Opportunity Group** so that 15 parents of children with communication issues, could attend a workshop on communication techniques.

We funded a group of 12 **Romsey Young Carers** to attend the Young Carers Festival at Fairthorne Manor. (More than that we erected the marquee and served lots of bacon butties). The festival allows young carers from throughout the country to gather for a weekend of fun and, most importantly, it gives them a chance to meet and talk so that they can know that they are not alone.

Youth in Romsey provide important practical help for 11 to 25 year-olds and we are in discussion with them about ways we might be able to help them carry out their vital work. They will be moving to new premises and we are pleased to have been able to help them with fitting out the kitchen with a new freezer, fridge and dishwasher.

As we have done for many years we took a group of disadvantaged and special needs children to Paultons Park as part of the **Rotary Kids Out** project. And finally - in answer to an out-of-the-blue request we delivered and installed two sofas that had been donated to the **Romsey Family Support Group**.

Romsey School Young Enterprise Days

Eight members assisted with mentoring at the **Romsey School** Young Enterprise week between 15 and 17 June. This event provides the students with a near-to-real-life business experience in which teams develop, cost and present a business idea. The students have to decide on their individual roles in their team and learn to work together. Our members provided advice and guidance.



The two winning projects involved making decorations from tea lights and scrap timber and making bowls from vinyl records. The two teams went forward to carry out their projects, sell the articles in Romsey - and kept the profits!

Romsey School were very appreciative of the broad range of business experience and guidance our members were able to bring to the event.

Speaker Meeting - Tess Phippen

The Club welcomed Tess to speak at a Club meeting in June. We had helped sponsor Tess towards the cost of her ten week secondment to Nicaragua as part of a Water Sanitation and Health (WASH) project with **Raleigh International**. Tess is an former student at Romsey School and gave us an excellent insight into the challenges of life in rural central America. We wish her well in her forthcoming studies in London.

Mountbatten School Practice Interviews

Each year the **Mountbatten School** year 10 pupils spend a day at Richard Taunton College in Southampton preparing for the world of work and having to perform well at interviews. They are given presentations on body language, finance and student life and the day is completed with mock interviews from which they are given feedback on their performance. On 2 July, Mike Thorne, Tony Trowsdale and Brian Stokes took part as practice interviewers. It was a rewarding and interesting day for all concerned.



Mountbatten School Big Band

The Big Band who entertained us at the Mayors' Picnic were invited to perform at the **Montreux Jazz Festival** in Switzerland. We were very pleased to be able to respond to a request to sponsor polo shirts for the school's participation in this prestigious international event.



International



A few months ago we provided funding to enable 20 lockable desks to be made for the school in Kisumu, Kenya run by the charity **C4C**. The desks were built locally thus providing employment for carpenters and metal workers. We recently received a report



showing the new desks proudly bearing our Club's name.

Not only desks but also redundant laptops were sent out to Kenya with C4C and also to a school in Kitengela. They are still doing sterling service and helping disadvantaged people in Kenya to develop their IT skills.

C4C run the Asante coffee shop in Romsey to raise funds for their work in Kenya. They already have 29 walkers registered for Walk the Test Way.

Please remember us

Our Club is rather special in the wide range of charitable and community activities we carry out in the Romsey area and further afield.

Of course we rely on fundraising, mostly through running the annual Walk the Test Way but we also have a legacy scheme to enable anyone who wishes to support our activities to make a bequest to the Club. We hope you might consider this when writing or modifying a will or by writing a codicil.

If you require any further information please contact our legacy officer:-

Colin Staples (colin.staples@btinternet.com)

About our Club and about Rotary

The Rotary Club of Romsey Test was started in 1990 and presently has 58 members (3 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**.

Rotary's objectives and principles are :-

- The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;
- High ethical standards in business and professions;
- Service in each Rotarian's personal, business, and community life;
- The advancement of international understanding, goodwill and peace.

Our club is overseen by its Council made up of the Chairs of the Club's committees, Secretary and Treasurers.

The Club's committees are

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

Who's Who (July 2015 to June 2016)

President	Neil Duncan
Senior Vice President	Tony Trowsdale
Junior Vice President	Jon Livingstone
Community Service	Stuart Wineberg
Membership	Colin Staples
Youth Opportunities	Steve Irish
Fundraising	Greg Hall
International	Philip Kirkland
Rotary Foundation	Tony Trowsdale
Sports and Social	Tony Abbott
Publicity	Neill Beasley
Business Partners	John Gould
Hon Secretary	Roger Shepherd
Trust Fund Treasurer	John Jones
Club Treasurer	Paul Grainger

Walk the Test Way - 2015 an appeal

August and September are critical for the success of the walk on **Sunday October 11th**.

These months are when we recruit most of our **WALKERS** (can we improve on the 700+ in 2014?) and our **HELPERS/MARSHALLS** (we need over 100 on the day).

If you have a favourite charity please get its supporters to use this year's Walk as a fundraiser. All the information is **online** and we can supply leaflets and posters. If you would like to help on the day please **contact us**.

New this year - the walk will go through the National Trust's beautiful Mottisfont Estate. Additionally there will be 3 fewer stiles - a boon to tired legs late in the day.



We do the organisation you do the walking!

Three in a row

For the past 3 years we have won the Rotary Wessex inter-Club skittles competition. Twenty members took part this year with teams of six or eight (picked on a first come first served basis) playing at a variety of pubs. It is amazing how variable are the alleys (concrete or wood), skittles (sizes) and balls (sizes, some wood some bouncy rubber). An unchanging factor for the 3 years has been our captain John Jones.



This year's final against the Rotary Club of Blandford Stour was played at the Woodfalls Inn and was played as usual in a very happy atmosphere. Who knows how well we'll do next year.

Diary

Meetings are normally in Romsey Town Hall 19.00 for 1930 First Wednesday each month is a Business Meeting. Other events are highlighted in Yellow . Major events in bold			
Date	Speaker topic or event	Speaker/organiser	Venue
Wed 5 Aug	Business Meeting		
Wed 12 Aug	Canine partners	<i>Alison, Jane & Yarne the dog</i>	
Wed 19 Aug	The Cranfield Trust	<i>Amanda Tinnell</i>	
Wed 26 Aug	Service by emergency riders	<i>Graham Martin</i>	
Wed 2 Sept	Business Meeting		
Sat 5 Sep	Celebrating Community		
Sun 6 Sep	A Festival of Volunteering	<i>Stuart Wineberg</i>	Romsey Abbey
Wed 9 Sep	TBD		
Sat 12 Sep	Romsey Show marshalling		Broadlands
Wed 16 Sep	TBD		
Wed 23 Sep	Tour of Romsey Abbey		Romsey Abbey/ White Horse
Wed 30 Sep	Business Meeting		
Wed 7 Oct	WTTW briefing		
Sun 11 Oct	WTTW		
Wed 21 Oct	Visit to RNLI HQ Poole		
Sat 12 Mar 2016	Reminiscences of Romsey		Crosfield Hall