

A goodly number of members attended. However, they were a rowdy lot as it took President Bill a number of rings of his bell to bring the meeting to order. Mike Thorne's expertise was called upon to ascertain the workings of the microphone for Bill. It then took a little while for Bill to find and welcome our guest Paul Howell. Once everyone was attentive Martin Radford gave the grace. There was then a long delay before our meal was served. There followed an equally long delay before the desert was served. Mind you the brownie seemed a magnificent size and was very filling. A fifteen minute comfort break then followed.

The attending members had still not settled down as it took Bill an inordinant number of bell rings to bring the members back from their break. Members were then presented with a glass of port courtesy of Mike Thorne to celebrate his attaining the ripe old age of 70, although he stated that he was still waiting for the wisdom that comes with age. Despite the fact it wasn't raining either inside or out, Tony Trowsdale gave out a couple of umbrellas.

It was then that our own Terry Proctor started his talk on Romsey Abbey. Despite not being a local boy Terry's interest grew from joining LTVAS. Terry was commissioned with studying the graffiti on the Abbey walls. Further investigation led him to discover the Abbey is not all it seems, over the years there have been various alterations. He showed a picture of Sexton James Major from 1860. James had investigated some of the changes that had taken place to the Abbey. Terry then showed various notes and pictures from 'The History Of Romsey Abbey', a book held in the Hampshire records. Over the years it was said bricklayers when unable to work due to the frosty weather would come to the Abbey and lime wash the church in order to survive. This lead to a massive build up of lime. James Major had started work on removing this lime to reveal the carvings, etc. underneath. Later Sexton Berthem continued this work of discovery. Following Terry's talk a vote of thanks was given by David Sutton.

Steve George then told us we could look forward to a breakfast meeting at 'Youth in Romsey' in February. He also said 'Youth Speaks' was back on as more schools had signed up. Keith Cameron mentioned that Dentaïd had been on the local news as it is now helping local people. John Gould mentioned crocus for polio in February. Finally President Bill reported on the 'very interesting' District Council meeting. To everyone's surprise David Sillence did not win the raffle, but then neither did !!

The meeting closed at 22:05.