



SERVICE ABOVE SELF

www.rotaryclubofromseytest.org

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[Contact the editor](#)

Editorial

The aim of this quarterly Newsletter is to keep people and organisations informed about our club. It will tell them what we have done recently, alert them to what we are planning and highlight opportunities to become involved in our activities. This is our first attempt and we would welcome **feedback** (positive and negative) from readers.

Highlights of 2013

Paul Harris Fellowship awarded to Joan Stallwood



These Fellowships, named after the founder of Rotary, are awarded in recognition of significant service to the community either at home or overseas. While most are awarded to Rotary members, exceptionally they may be awarded to non-Rotarians. This was the case when Joan Stallwood, a founder of the [Romsey Family Support Group](#) was given a fellowship in recognition of her many years of selfless work for the Group. Joan is a dedicated unpaid volunteer, working several days a week, every week. Her clients are parents whose families are at risk and are among the most needy and vulnerable people in Romsey.

The Group offers a crèche facility to under-5s to give parents respite and friendship and a chance to share knowledge about the well-being of their children in a supportive environment. Last year the Club helped organise a cookery course for the Family Support Group. In addition to the Fellowship badge and citation, Club President John Gould also presented cheques to Joan, money directly from the Club and from sponsored walkers on the Club's annual Walk the Test Way event.

In December two more Fellowships were awarded by the Club, one to Rotarian Tony Trowsdale for his tireless work for [Shelterbox](#), and the second to Mary Ward one of the mainstays of [Romsey Young Carers](#), a support group for young people who care for siblings and parents.

Looking for a lost golf ball? No!



These are members of the Club clearing brambles behind the Plaza theatre on March 23rd as part of the twice-yearly Stream Clean organised by the [Romsey and District Society \(RDS\)](#). The Club is a partner with the RDS, the Environment Agency, the [Hampshire and loW Wildlife Trust](#) and Test Valley Borough Council in a long-term project (to which TVBC have allocated £30,000) that aims to restore the section of the Andover to Redbridge Barge Canal that runs through Romsey.

The partnership aims to make the stretch of canal from the Plaza to Fishlake Meadows into a recreational asset for Romsey residents while still retaining and improving its role as a wildlife corridor into the heart of the town. A series of wildlife (flora and fauna) surveys will be carried out over the coming summer before further work next winter. Please contact [John Gould](#) if you would like to be involved.

(The canal opened in 1794 carrying coal and fertilisers northwards and agricultural produce southwards. It never made a profit and closed to commercial traffic in 1859 after being bought by the Manchester and Southern Railway. Robert Whitworth Drive in Romsey is named after the man who surveyed the canal route).

Romsey area Young Musicians win prizes



Winners from the Romsey festival

On February 9th our Youth Opportunities group led by Jon Livingstone organized our first ever Young Musicians Festival in the Lantern Theatre at Mountbatten School. The plan was to give an opportunity for musicians up to the age of 18 to perform in front of an audience and to experience performing in public in a supportive atmosphere. The event judges were led by Prof. William Drabkin of Southampton University, a specialist in Classical and Choral music supported by Alison Cameron, an experienced music teacher and Simon Newton a specialist in classical and jazz guitar.

The 27 performers, the youngest only 10, were of a very high standard and both performers and supporters enjoyed the evening. Our two winners were singer Molina Hatchett (17) and trumpet player Alexandra Walker. They went forward to the Rotary District Final in Winchester where both received awards from Rotary District Governor Mary Pike. Molina, as vocal runner-up, went on to compete in the SW Regional final in Teignmouth where she was again runner-up in the vocal category. Planning for next year's Romsey event is already underway. Please contact [Jon Livingstone](#) if you would like more information.



District winners, Molina (2nd left) Alexandra (right)

Reminiscences of Romsey

This is one of our big annual events and on March 16th over 160 of Romsey's oldest citizens enjoyed afternoon tea provided by the ladies of Romsey Inner Wheel, and a variety of entertainment. These included talks on the working life of Romsey in past decades and on the Barge Canal. In a lighter vein the Rotary and Inner Wheel Presidents (John Gould and Elaine Grainger) competed against one another in "Call my Bluff".



Community singing was led by Rotary member Mike Thorne and the afternoon was rounded off by a rousing performance by the Romsey Old Cadets Marching Band celebrating their 50th year. We were very pleased that the event was graced with the company of the High Steward of Romsey, Lady Brabourne, the Mayors of Test Valley and of Romsey, Romsey's MP and the Rotary Wessex District Governor and District Chairman of Inner Wheel. The event was overseen by the ever-cheerful Graham Hollier.



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VIP testing of the Rotary Dentaaid Box



RIBI President being "treated" by District Governor

The Rotary Club of Romsey Test is in a partnership with Landford-based charity Dentaaid. Following the success of the portable dental chair, developed with funding from the Club, [Dentaaid](#) have produced a complete dental surgery in a wheelie-bin, the Rotary Dentaaid Box. The box contains the dental chair, a solar powered suction unit and light, a sterilizer and a range of consumables and dental tools. On March 25th the President of Rotary in Britain and Ireland, John Minhinnick, visited Dentaaid to learn about the Box which, thanks to funding from Rotary Clubs is being used by volunteer dentists in Africa and the Far East.

During the visit, Dentaaid Chief Executive Andy Jong was presented with a cheque for £1500, the proceeds of a Race Night run by the Rotary Club of Chandlers Ford and Itchen Valley - sufficient to purchase a complete box. For more information on the Dentaaid Box please contact [Sandy Dunn](#) our International Committee Chairman.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Waitrose supports Dictionary4Life

Last autumn the Club donated personal copies of the Usbourne Illustrated English Dictionary to the 300 year-4 pupils in the nine primary schools in the SO51 post-code area.



Halterworth children with their dictionaries

The books were purchased at low cost through [Rotary's Dictionary4Life](#) project and were so well received (by both children and their teachers) that the donation will be repeated in Autumn

2013. £160 of the approximately £1000 cost will be met from the Waitrose Community Matters initiative that selected D4L as one of their projects in their Romsey store in February.

Walk the Test Way 2012

For the past 10 years the Club has run this event following the Test Way footpath. Last year, despite the economic downturn that has seen donations to charities fall by on average around 20%, [WTTW](#) raised over £45,000.

Notably Tim Abbott walked to support Rotary and the £2000 he raised was matched by £2000 from his employer, Morgan Stanley.

Since the start our walkers have raised over £330,000 for their chosen charities and 25% of this has funded the charitable activities of the Romsey Test Club. This year Lady Brabourne, High Steward of Romsey, who is an honorary life member of the Club, presented medals to the walkers.



Clearing up after the walk

President's night



On April 6th, sixty Rotary members, partners and friends were entertained by Ian Pickford the world-renowned silver expert who, in his after dinner talk, described his "Travels with the Antiques Road Show". The event was held in the Westley suite of the Wessex Conference Centre at Sparsholt College near Winchester.

New meeting venue

We've moved! After 23 years of meeting in the back room of the Abbey Hotel the Club members voted at the beginning of March to move to the Town Hall. The new arrangements started at the beginning of April and we have been made very welcome. The time of our meeting is still the same; 19.00 for 19.30 every Wednesday evening.

Friends and Business Partners

The Club is starting a Friends and Business Partners scheme to help us engage better with the community in Romsey. Though still in its early stages the scheme will recognise the help that local organisations and individuals give to the Club. We will encourage them to become involved in our activities through sponsorship of events or with practical help. In return we can help them by publicizing our links with them. This newsletter is one means to inform them of our activities. If you would like more information please contact [Keith Cameron](#).

Help needed

- Braishfield Primary School needs books to restock their library. If you have books in good condition and appropriate for children aged from 6 to 11 please contact [Tony Trowsdale](#).
- [Citizens4Change](#) who run the Asante coffee shop in Latimer Walk are having a fundraising Garden Party on July 14th. They would like to borrow some garden games that they might use. Please contact [Paul Barter](#)

Dates for your diary

Date	Event	Details	Contact
April 20th	Know you blood pressure day	With the Stroke Association we will be measuring people's blood pressure in the Cornmarket	Debs Bower
July 7th	Mayor's picnic and duck race	In the Memorial Park this is our annual "village fete" for Romsey.	Bill Gidley
Oct 6th	Walk the Test Way	Our annual charity walk	Greg Hall

About our Club and Rotary

The Rotary Club of Romsey Test was started in 1990 and presently has 55 members. The Club was sponsored by the Rotary Club of Romsey (the lunchtime club) that continues to meet on Tuesday lunchtimes at the Royal British Legion in Love Lane.

It is part of Rotary International (www.rotary.org) and Rotary International of Britain and Ireland (www.ribi.org).

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.

Rotary Foundation is the world's biggest charity and one of its outstanding achievements has been in partnership with WHO and the Gates Foundation to bring Polio to the brink of eradication.

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

The Club has 7 committees

- Club Service - responsible for the running of the club and Chaired by the Senior Vice President.
- 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 Dentaids to produce the Rotary Dentaids 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

Past Presidents

2011/12	David Sillence	2000/1	Greg Hall
2010/11	Martin Russell	1999/0	John Burgess
2009/10	Graham Lee	1998/9	Nick Lockyer
2008/9	Mike Thorne	1997/8	David Bloomfield
2007/8	David Bonnor-Morris	1996/7	Neil Crick
2006/7	Jim Purdie	1995/6	Rory Blair
2005/6	Michael Baker	1994/5	Paul Hockey
2004/5	Paul Grainger	1993/4	Peter Harrison
2003/4	Peter Stuckey	1992/3	Jeff Holloway
2002/3	Mike Gratton	1991/2	Paul Hampton
2001/2	Tony Abbott	1990/1	Gordon Rogers

Who's Who (July 2012 to June 2013)

President	John Gould	International	Sandy Dunn
Senior Vice Pres	Keith Cameron	Community Service	Stewart Mitchell
Junior Vice Pres	Gren Lamb-Hughes	Membership	Colin Staples
Hon Secretary	Gren Lamb-Hughes	Youth Opportunities	Jon Livingstone
Trust Fund Treasurer	John Jones	Rotary Foundation	Tony Trowsdale
Club Treasurer	Paul Grainger	Social	Peter Stuckey
Club Service	Keith Cameron	Almoner	Dave Sillence
Fundraising	Greg Hall	Press Officer	Neill Beasley