

Breakfast meeting 10th March held at Youth in Romsey Hall

Chaired by President Bill Gidley

Attendance 24

Visitor Steve Arundel

Guest speaker Michelle, from Romsey Abbey School

The Club has supported the development of an Ark Room at Romsey Abbey School and Michelle explained the reason, operation and benefits of this facility. The room covers their physical, learning, mental and social needs, providing a welcoming environment for those children that particularly need it.

The need for the facility had been identified by the school and it was hoped the facility would be funded through the Government's sugar tax levy. When this was not successful, the school approached our Club and through the support and assistance of Nikki some funds and support have been provided.

When some of children arrived at school, it was noted that they were unsettled and could be quite disruptive. Each day the head teacher welcomes the children into school and can suggest that a few might like to enter the school via the Ark. Between 8 -11 children use the ark on different occasions. As a result the attendance and reduced anxiety and disruption levels of the children have dramatically improved.

The school's catchment area is very diverse and some children are sent in without being fed. They have a funding section which helps cover the cost of breakfast for those in need.

It was also noted, in addition to the chandelier, (donated by their electrician), that the Ark has a washing machine! This helps ensure that any child with a dirty uniform can be cleaned up (the school has a spare supply of donated old uniform clothes).

In summary the Ark has proved to be a tremendous benefit to the school in every respect and, as well as supporting individual pupils, it also provides a physical and practical example of the caring nature of the school to prospective parents.

The room is also used throughout the day for social needs and a quiet room.

There were some excellent questions and the Club thanked Michelle for her time and enthusiasm in providing us with such an excellent overview. Nikki was also thanked for her energy and involvement and being our link with the project. She was also congratulated on becoming a Grandmother!

Other business.

- Confirmation that ROR has been cancelled for this year.
- A reminder to look at RIBI s guidance notes on the Corona Virus.
- Peace Jam is still on.
- We won the skittles, thanks to star player Graham Hollier with a strike of 15.
- Next meeting **Wednesday 18th March** 'Watching Your P's and Q's'. Romsey Town Hall.

A Minute take is needed for this meeting can a volunteer please contact John Gould.

Keith

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