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# Rotary Club of ROMSEY TEST



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## Newsletter No 22, November 2018

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## Busy Autumn

Autumn is a busy time of year for me as President. The Rotary Clubs in Romsey are very proud to be an essential part of the life of the town and this is reflected in the many invitations the President receives to take part in the civic and other functions of our lively hometown. On Remembrance Sunday, following a moving service at the packed Romsy Abbey, I laid our annual wreath at the War Memorial next to the warhorse statue that this year was decorated with poppies to mark the centenary of the 1918 armistice.

I enjoyed a front row seat for the wonderful Mountbatten School concert in the Abbey in October and was accompanied by our Youth Chair Frank Smiley.

Next will be the annual switching on of the Xmas lights, again as a guest of the Town Mayor Dorothy Baverstock.

I wish you all a good 2019 and thank you for supporting the many activities that you can read about in this and earlier copies of our Newsletter.

Stuart Wineberg

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**Success in the wet  
Walk the Test Way 2018**



This year's walk took place towards the end of the wettest 24 hours the Romsey area has had since August 2015. 705 people had registered and though some did not start the walk because of the rain or other reason, eight "extras" walked into the Crosfield Hall to sign up on the morning while it was still dark and raining meaning there were 608 walkers supporting 159 charities.

What to say of the day. 219 walked the full 25.5 miles and finished in the Memorial Park, muddy, tired, elated at having achieved their goal and raised money for a charity that was close to their heart. There were several large teams of walkers (54 walked for Solent MIND mostly from Mountbatten School, Romsey) who urged each other on but many people walked alone (perhaps accompanied by their dog) and spurred on a some personal memory, sadness or wish to say "Thank You". The total distance walked was 10,000 miles (16,000km) or the distance from Romsey to Alice Springs!

The medals presented at the finish line by Countess Mountbatten, by our President and by the President of Romsey Inner Wheel will be a visible reminder of a job well done and for some of our stalwarts it will join medals



from past years.

A special mention must be made of the 80 people who acted as marshals along the route. Not all were Club members, there were wives, partners, members of Inner Wheel and friends of the Club who help us to help others. The wet, tired walkers were full of admiration and gratitude for the people whose smiling faces and encouraging comments helped them on their way.

It is too early to say exactly how much money this year's walkers will have raised but we can already be confident that it will be similar to the £90,000 raised and distributed to 158 charities last year. By the time you read this the first cheques will be on their way to the charities.

Next year the walk will be a few weeks earlier  
on  
**Sunday September 29<sup>th</sup>**  
We'll be there. Will you be?

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## **Gardening in Romsey Abbey**



Romsey Abbey stands at the heart of the town and has done so since it was founded in 907. The Abbey and its surrounds have changed a great deal over the years. The area to the south, now known as the South Garth, was once the site of cloisters through the Abbess' nuns used to enter the church.

The South Garth is now a beautiful, mostly grassed, area that serves many purposes; a place for quiet contemplation; somewhere to take a lunch break or to eat an ice cream. Maintaining the shrubs and flowers in the borders is a continuing task and in late September several Club members joined a Saturday morning working party organised by the Abbey to tidy the borders ready for them to be their beautiful and colourful best next spring.

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## Dictionaries4Life



"The children were so engrossed in them that that it was hard to get them to do anything else". That quote from a Romsey teacher was not talking about mobile phones and tablets but about this year's batch of Usborne Illustrated English Dictionaries that our Club gave to year 4 children in the SO51 postcode area. This was the 7<sup>th</sup> year that we have been part of the Dictionaries4Life project giving each child their own book that remains theirs – for life.

The books were handed out at ceremonies at each of the 8 local primary schools (Ampfield, Awbridge, Cupernham, Halterworth, Romsey, Romsey Abbey, Lockerley and Wellow). Each year we have given approximately 300 books at a cost of a little over £1000 a year. This year we were helped by a grant of £300 from the Aviva Community Fund.

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## Crocuses for Polio



Last year Hilliers Gardens planted swathes of crocuses to provide a carpet of purple in the spring. This year together with the Rotary Club of Romsey we have been very pleased to be able to provide funding to plant another ¼ million corms ready for next spring. Why did we do that?

The purple crocus is used as a symbol of the international effort to eradicate polio. When children have received the vaccine their fingers are marked with purple dye to ensure they don't receive a second dose. Next spring we will have posters and literature at Hilliers Gardens to tell their thousands of visitors about what has already been achieved by the End Polio Now campaign and what remains to be done to rid the world of this terrible disease.

End Polio Now is a partnership between the World Health Organisation, The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and Rotary International.

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## **New members, new Associate Membership**

We are very pleased to welcome three new members who have just joined Rotary and to announce a new form of membership.

Nikki Jones runs the Academy Studios (<http://www.academy-studios.com/>) on the Romsey Industrial Estate on Greatbridge Rd. She and her team have provided us with a warm welcome when we have used that venue for meetings if the Rotary Community Group.

Joe Billett runs a small business in Sherfield English and worked alongside Nikki as a marshal at this year's Walk the Test Way so he already knows that helping with Rotary can involve getting wet and cold.

Jaime Garner was familiar with Rotary in the USA where she grew up and when she came to Romsey she saw on Facebook the wide variety of things we do. She will become the first of our new Associate Members, people who want to support what we do but may not have as much free time as they would wish.



We look forward to welcoming all three new members and helping them to help us in supporting our local community.

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## David Bonnor-Moris 1939-2018

We are sad to report the death after a long illness of David Bonnor-Moris. David joined Rotary in 1995 and was our president in 2007-8. We send his widow Penny and their family our heartfelt condolences.

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## News in brief

- + Past President, Jon Livingstone, presented two refurbished laptops to James Samo in the Asante Coffee shop in Romsey. James is head teacher at the Life Centre School in Kisumu, Kenya that is supported in part by proceeds from the coffee shop through the charity Citizens4Change. The computers will help older pupils develop their IT skills.
  
- + We were pleased to be able to give Romsey Town Mayor Cllr Dorothy Baverstock a cheque for £750 that were part of the proceeds from July's Mayor's Picnic and will support the Mayor's charities.
  
- + Member Andrew Crowley attended the **Bill Huntley Peace Seminar** at the University of Bradford and heard inspiring presentations by Rotary Peace scholars.
  
- + Many of our members and partners enjoyed a trip down memory lane at the Salisbury Playhouse for a performance of Mike Leigh's "Abigail's Party" - an insightful commentary on the 1980s social scene.
  
- + In the run-up to Christmas we have been selling Rotary Christmas puddings in aid of Prostate Cancer research and have been filling shoeboxes with gifts for children the Balkans.

+ Our skittles team remains undefeated in the three rounds played since the last newsletter. Can we repeat our success of last year?

+ Students from local schools are starting to hone their public speaking skills ready for the local heats of Rotary Youth Speaks that we will be hosting in Romsey Town Hall in January

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## Dates for your diary

Dates for our major events in 2019 are as follows

- |                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| • <b>Peace Jam</b>               | <b>March 8-9 University of Winchester</b> |
| • <b>Reminiscences of Romsey</b> | <b>March 9th</b>                          |
| • <b>Technology Tournament</b>   | <b>March 13th</b>                         |
| • <b>Mayor's Picnic</b>          | <b>July 7th</b>                           |
| • <b>Walk the Test Way</b>       | <b>September 29th</b>                     |

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 Treasurer	Graham Hollier
Club Treasurer	Nick Bellamy
Community Service	Peter Stuckey
Youth Opportunities	Frank Smiley
International	Philip Kirkland
Rotary Foundation	Stewart Mitchell
Fundraising	Sandy Dunn

### 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.



Walk the Test Way	Sandy Dunn
Membership	Steve George
Sports and Social	Tony Abbott
Communication	Keith Cameron

- **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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