



SERVICE ABOVE SELF

These quarterly Newsletters keep people informed about our club; what we have done recently and what we are planning. We would welcome **feedback**.

John Gould - Editor

ROTARY CLUB OF ROMSEY TEST

www.rotaryclubofromseytest.org



**Newsletter 14
SEPTEMBER 2016**

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New Rotary Year New Team - New Look Similar programme

We started the new Rotary year at the beginning of July with the annual event that touches the lives of the greatest number of people; the Mayor's Picnic. This event marks the start of a full year of activities that will be little changed from previous years and is summarised on the back page. Throughout the year we will be responding within the limits of effort and finances available to needs that are made known to us in the areas of Community Service, Youth and International. So we have a busy year ahead of us.

Our President for 2016-17 is Tony Trowsdale, a long time Romsey resident seen here on a "bad hair day".

Tony has, among other things, been a champion of the Rotary **Shelterbox** Project that responds rapidly when disasters strike. Indeed **Shelterbox** is responding to the Italian earthquake to assess what assistance would be most appropriate.



Last reminder Walk the Test Way October 9th

There are only a few more days to register.
Closing date October 2nd.

You walk for YOUR charity. We take you to the start, everyone finishes in the Memorial Park Romsey. There are 5 starting points at 5, 8, 11, 16 and 25.5 miles.

The walk is marshalled throughout its length and patrolled by St John Ambulance staff and ambulances.. All marshals have emergency telephone numbers in case of need.

The route down the Test Valley (95% on tracks and pathways) is marked with numerous mileage and direction signs (and traffic warning signs).

Portable toilets are at strategic places and we're delighted that pubs along the route make their facilities available to walkers.

Again we have the permission from the National Trust to walk through their beautiful Mottisfont Abbey grounds. Medals for walkers who complete their route will be presented by Lady Brabourne in the Memorial Park.

You must register so that we know who is walking and can arrange all the transport.

So - please consider walking for YOUR charity. Spread the word to your friends and colleagues. Get a team together and have a happy and sociable day in beautiful countryside knowing that you are doing good.

All money raised goes to local, national and international charitable causes. Donations can be collected through Just Giving.

All the information is at <http://www.walkthetestway.org.uk/> or Greg Hall 01794 512172 , hallgreg@sky.com

Focus on Youth

Music in Romsey

Romsey is undoubtedly a hotbed of musical talent and enthusiasm. For adults there are **Romsey Choral Society**, **Romsey Singers**, **Romsey Male Voice Choir** and **Mountbatten Community Choir**. For young people Romsey Abbey (with its new music director **George Richford**), now has one of the largest non-cathedral Anglican choirs in the UK including a talented girls' choir.

We have seen ample evidence of Romsey's young musical talent in the Rotary Young Musician that we have run for the past three years. Our local winners have reached the southwest regional finals on two occasions.

A major factor underpinning the enthusiasm for music among young Romsonians is the **Mountbatten Music Academy** that started two years ago under the leadership of Head of Music, Stuart Marchant. The school's Big Band have entertained us at the Mayor's Picnic and for the past 2 years have been invited to play at the **Montreux Jazz Festival** in Switzerland.

At the end of July, Stuart and Johann Hunter told us about the work of the Academy, the achievements of which are all the more remarkable since Mountbatten School does not have a sixth form.

This means that maintaining continuity is always a challenge. 13 of the 22 members of the Big Band will have left Mountbatten this summer. Because of this the Academy has outreach activities into its feeder primary schools. Stuart also showed evidence that involvement with music performance is closely linked



to improved performance in non-musical subjects.

Johann gave us a demonstration of the lower-priced plastic trombones and trumpets that are now used extensively in the school. Even at this price a budget of £10,000 is needed to provide enough instruments for all feeder schools.

We were pleased to present Stuart with a cheque for £500, sufficient for four instruments. Several of our braver members "had a go" and produced suitably plastic notes.

We will soon be starting discussions with Stuart to explore how the effort that we have previously put into running the local heats of Rotary Young Musician might be used to promote and encourage a wider range of young musical talent. Watch this space!

Cub Scout centenary



In 1916 the Wolf Cub part of the Scout Association started with a camp for younger boys on **Brownsea Island** in the middle of Poole Harbour. Though now owned by the National Trust, the Scout Association still maintains a camp site on the island and in June 150 cubs from **Romsey packs** and many leaders and supporters spent a weekend of camping and adventure on the island. In August Martin Blakely (aka 'Baloo') entertainingly described to us both the excitement of the weekend and the complex logistics of transporting tents, food, and people to the campsite by ferry, bus and Bradbeers vans.



From 0530 each morning the resident peacocks and deer as well as the early morning sunshine provided earlier than usual 'wake-up' calls. Days were filled by a programme of activities followed by hearty meals. Happily the only medical problems were two splinters and a grazed knee – quite an achievement considering the activities and the numbers involved!

For many of the young people it was their first time away from home and was also a new and challenging experience as this was a "No electronic equipment" event.

We were pleased to have supplied the organisers with funding to cover the cost of the ferries.

The Mayor's Picnic 2016

The British summer weather isn't always right for a picnic but over the years the first Sunday in July (the date of the Mayor's picnic) has been blessed with "Goldilocks" weather - Not too hot - Not too cold - Just right.



Rather than trying to put together a narrative of the day, the following are some highlights.

How many were there? No exact figures but we estimate that about 3000 people enjoyed the afternoon - from babes-in arms to nonagenarians.

Charities. This year a really good number of charities and local organisations had displays and could tell people what they do and raise some money. The large number of people attending made it worth the effort.

Music. Mountbatten Big Band, Mountbatten School Choir, Mountbatten Community Choir and the **Romsey Old Cadets** Marching Band entertained us.

Ducks. The Rotary Duck Race under the careful direction of Dave Sillence was as popular as ever and the **Romsey Sub Aqua Club** gathered up the ducks ready for next year.

The Mayor and Rotary President did not wear their best suits for good reason. Both were given a good wetting in the Soaka Bloaka -Drencha Wencha machine.

Food and drink. The draught beer was all consumed and the **Romsey Inner Wheel** members sold us cakes and sandwiches.

Tell us Your Wish. This marked the end of this year's call for ideas. The wishing well was housed in the new Club gazebo on its first outing. Details of the wishes granted are in the next column

Press coverage. A Daily Echo reporter attended and gallery of photos is on [their web site](#).

Donations to Charities. Though not designed as a Rotary fund-raising event we will be able to make a substantial donation to the Mayor, Cllr John Parker's, chosen charities.. We also made donations to the musical entertainers and to the Sub-Aqua Club.

An invitation

Do you value what Rotary does?

Would you be a
Romsey Rotary supporter?

We will start short monthly meetings
in Romsey for people like you.

Please come along.

To learn more contact **Sandy Dunn**
thedunns@fastmail.co.uk

Tell us your wish - results

The 2016 wishes are in. We have almost completed their assessment and we are pleased to have been able to support :-

- **Romsey Abbey Primary School** to help some children go on an exchange visit to France.
- The Romsey **Open Gate Stroke Club** for their Christmas outing..
- The Romsey Group of **Riding for the Disabled** for a block of 10 lessons.
- A local student who will go on an expedition to Costa Rica to **study endangered turtles**..
- A grant to enable two local people to take part in the 2017 **Special Olympics** at Sheffield University.
- Two further wishes are still being considered.

We plan to open another round of "Tell us Your Wish" in April 2017..

News in brief

- We supported **Romsey Young Carers** to attend a Young Carers Festival at the YMCA's Fairthorne Manor This is a welcome opportunity for these amazing young people to have a break from their demanding lives.
- We provided advisors for the Young Enterprise activity at **Romsey School** helping the students to develop their team building and business skills.
- We support **Youth in Romsey** and are discussing with them how we can give opportunities to broaden the horizons of Romsey's young people.
- The **Dictionaries4Life** have arrived and will be handed out to local primary school children in October. Together the 260 books weigh a quarter of a ton.



Gordon Rogers 12 Nov 1938 - 8 June 2016

Gordon was the founding President of our Club. Though in failing health he remained an active member until April. He had a lively sense of humour and this lighthearted approach to life rubbed off on the Club. He may have aspired to be an actor and was an extra in several Inspector Wexford episodes shot in Romsey.



It is said that he became President because he collected the money and hence had to learn everyone's name but his talents went far beyond that. We will miss him.

About our Club and about Rotary

The Rotary Club of Romsey Test was started in 1990 and presently has 58 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.
- 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

Who's Who (July 2016 to June 2017)

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| President | Tony Trowsdale |
| Senior Vice President | Jon Livingstone |
| Junior Vice President | Stuart Wineberg |
| Community Service | Stuart Wineberg |
| Membership | Sandy Dunn |
| Youth Opportunities | Steve Irish |
| Fundraising | Greg Hall |
| International | Philip Kirkland |
| Rotary Foundation | Stewart Mitchell |
| Sports and Social | Tony Abbott |
| Communication | John Gould |
| Business Partners | Keith Cameron |
| Hon Secretary | Roger Shepherd |
| Trust Fund Treasurers | John Jones, David Upton |
| Club Treasurer | Paul Grainger |

New Year - New look

As well changing the responsibilities of various Club members (see table on this page) we took the start of the new Rotary year as an opportunity to spruce-up our web site. We believe that it now better reflects what we do and the rolling slide show of images of our major activities is eye-catching. Four of the images are now incorporated in the Newsletter front page. The web site home page also includes our latest **Facebook** posts (updated approximately every 10 days) so our most recent news is there for all to see.



We are grateful for a generous donor who underwrote the development costs and to the staff at **Atelier Studios** in Chil-

worth who responded well to the brief we gave them. Please let us know whether there are things that we have lost in the re-vamp.

An evening out on the Beaulieu River



Members and their partners had an enjoyable evening visit to the Royal Southampton Yacht Club at Gins Farm. It was a perfect summer evening and at the end of the event John Gould was presented with a Paul Harris Fellowship in recognition of his work for Rotary over the past 8 years

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 Oct | Walk briefing | Walk Team | |
| Sun 9 Oct | Walk the Test Way | The Walk Team | |
| 14-16 Oct | District Conference | President | Cardiff |
| 9 Nov | Rotary Peace Jam | Caroline Milman | |
| 23 Nov | Starting New At Golf (SNAG) demo | Warren Osborn | |
| 13 Dec | Christmas function | | Romsey GC |
| 11 Mar | Reminiscences of Romsey | | Crosfield Hall |
| Jan-Feb-Mar | Youth Speaks/Young Technologist | | |
| Dates TBC | | | |
| April | Know Your Blood Pressure Day | | Romsey |
| Date TBC | Start of Tell us your Wish | | |
| 8 Oct | Walk the Test Way | The Walk Team | |