



R&DS 42nd AGM, Crosfield Hall,
Wed 21 February 2018, 7.00 for 7.30pm

Romsey & District Society



Fishlake Meadows and the proximity of urban development

CAVENDISH MENSWEAR




26 BELL ST. ROMSEY

Nick's back and trading at Cavendish menswear

Massive range of menswear & footwear
Prices starting at just £9.99
Onsite alterations if any adjustments required
Don't have what your looking for?
We can order it in with no obligation to buy
Get home and decide its unsuitable?
Bring it back for a full, no quibble refund

EMPORIO ARMANI RALPH LAUREN
OAKMAN *Hand Weired fish*

La Parisienne
French Brasserie-Café-Wine Bar



**A Corner of France without
Crossing the Channel!**

21 Bell Street, Romsey, SO51 8GY
Tel: 01794 51 20 67
www.La-Parisienne.co.uk

I.W. Payne and Company Limited
Historic Building Specialists
Design, specification and
Construction of Works of Repair
and Alteration



18 The Loco Shop, Dean Hill Park, West Dean, Salisbury, SP5 1ET
Tel: 01794 341226 enquiries@iwpayne.co.uk

The Chairman Writes

We will soon be holding our AGM and I will have been chairman for a year. The time has flown by and I have met a lot of interesting people and become aware of a lot of the good work that has been done in the past.

Romsey and its surrounding parishes are lucky in having a strong community spirit and a great number of diverse community organisations. The area is facing many challenges and changes and I have been wondering how the Society should be responding.

Although the Executive committee meets monthly to oversee and co-ordinate our activities most of the work is done by the sub committees.

The Planning committee, led by Anna Duignan, scrutinises planning applications with a view to their appropriateness in terms of location and design and indeed whether development is appropriate at all.

The Public Services committee led by Mark Cooper deals with issues relating to the built environment such as highways, street lighting and other street furniture, seats, road and path surfaces and litter etc. They are also the point of contact for matters relating to flooding and drainage.

The Natural Environment committee led by Elizabeth Pratt scrutinises planning applications for their impact on the natural environment, works with other environmental groups to conserve wildlife and arranges wildlife related events.

The Social committee, led by Denise Amery arranges a series of events for members to enjoy including talks at town centre venues and social events such as the annual lunch and the occasional excursion further afield.

The Editorial team led by Mike Mullane produces the Magazine and arranges for its distribution via a team of volunteers. Until recently there has been a separate PR representative but we have not been doing as well on this front as we would like and this is being reviewed.

I would like to thank these committees and other members of the Executive committee for the work that they do. I am conscious that we rely on a relatively small number of people to keep the society operating and relevant and we need to continually draw in new members for this to continue. If anyone would like to get actively involved in what we do we would be delighted to hear from you.

The development of 800 homes at Abbotswood is nearing completion and despite initial concerns is developing a good sense of community. The community

centre is nearing completion and the Co-op has recently opened a local shop.

Work has started on the development at Luzborough which will be followed by Hoe Lane and then Whitenap. We will follow these closely to get the best possible outcome and mitigate their impact. The government has said it wants to accelerate house building so no doubt there will be more development in the pipeline once current targets have been met.

We also contribute to various working groups concerning the quality of our lives such as Romsey Future and the Waterways partnership.

If you feel there are issues we should be addressing or even better would like to help us in the work we do please contact me at chairman@romseydistrictsociety.co.uk

Jennifer Adams.



Editors Request

The magazine is published 3 times a year. In simple terms it was established to provide a 'brake' (or at least a breathing space) on any proposed excessive development in and around Romsey, to allow further debate and possibly reduction. In this capacity it covers a large percentage of Hampshire with which most 'locals' are familiar.

Bearing this in mind, may I make a plea for all in the Romsey 'District' to feel completely free to submit any personal or 'corporate' thoughts on future development proposals. I will ensure that they are published – in fact I may introduce a specific page to cover objections to unreasonable development.

Michael Mullane

Editor R&DS Magazine

Age Concern Romsey and District

Age Concern Romsey and District (ACRD) has been serving the people of Romsey since 1988 from their hall in Linden Road. The Trustees took the decision to remain independent of Age UK. Their aim is to cater for the needs of the older people of Romsey and the surrounding villages and to this end a number of activities and services are organised and run. We operate a Home Help Service, the home helps having been reference and DBS checked, together with a Gardening Service either for one off tidy-ups or regular maintenance. Exercise classes for the elderly are held two mornings a week. We offer meals in the hall on a Tuesday and most Thursday lunchtimes and a monthly Tea Dance is held on a Friday afternoon, together with 'special event' teas throughout the year. A very successful 2012 Club is run on a Tuesday afternoon when there are a variety of activities and games, or sometimes speakers are invited, plus tea; the whole idea being that older people socialise and have fun.

The hall is owned by ACRD. In an effort to bring in some revenue with which to fund the cost of maintenance and upkeep, the hall is available to be hired for social functions and meetings, and this can include the use of the kitchen.

Due to lack of funding we are at the moment having to consider the staffing of our office but we would like to be able to open it for two hours five mornings a week when people can either call in or telephone for information or advice which our staff or volunteers will do their best to provide. We would also very much like to develop the facilities and services that we can offer. However, as with most charities, we need to rely on volunteers to help. If anyone feels that they can offer a few hours or would like further details of 'What's on' please telephone the office on 518817 (when your call will hopefully be answered or returned by a volunteer!)

Lesley Mackay



Fishlake Meadows Nature Reserve – Romsey's 'wild' Test Valley



For those of you following the commentary on this site for the past few years, it is now refreshing to read under a different context and one which refers to the certainty of secured ownership, positive management for wildlife, & provision for education & quiet recreation.

The Hampshire & IOW Wildlife Trust is delighted to have been awarded the management contract to work in partnership with TVBC. It is with great pride and responsibility that we can now start to put in place positive management for what has been termed one of the region's most important freshwater sites for wildlife.

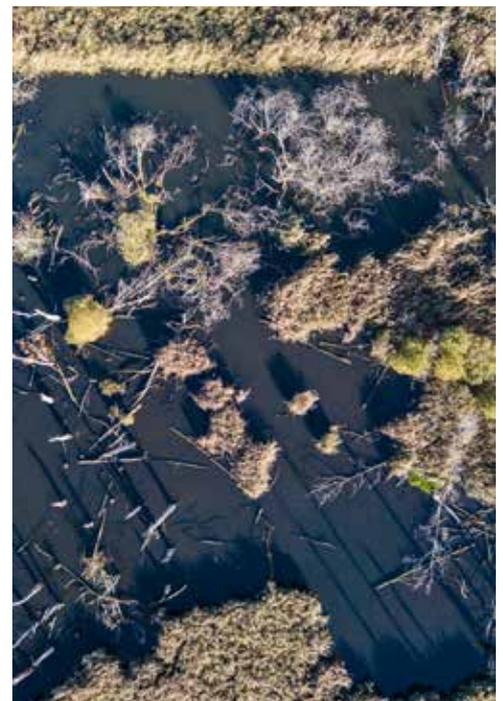
For many, the wildlife interest does not need an introduction. Visiting ospreys in summer have generated their own media following with few places where such reliable views are afforded within close proximity of a busy town centre. In fact these birds spend a considerable amount of time honing their fishing skills, unlike most other places in Hampshire where they tend to pass through. An unofficial relationship has already developed with Leicestershire & Rutland Wildlife Trust as it is common for ospreys fledged from their Rutland Water NR to be seen at Fishlake Meadows. Throughout last June

& July a young male osprey was regularly spotted. Known as 'T3' from his wing tag this bird fledged from Rutland in 2016. It is unusual for a one-year old to return to the UK so soon, so its possible that T3 had overwintered in Southern Europe rather than his typical West African grounds. This level of spectacle really engages people and emphasises the level of opportunity that exists for both habitat enhancement & innovative viewing facilities.

Of course at the time of writing, broaching wintery conditions the reserve is likely to be full of hundreds, if not thousands (if its cold), of ducks, geese, gulls, herons and egrets. The noise will be impressive, providing a further contrast to the seasonal interest to be encountered while also highlighting additional scope for developing how and where people can access to better enjoy these spectacles.

The Trust has now recruited two dedicated reserve officers responsible for the nature reserve. Bob Chapman & Joanna Armson combine an exceptional level of experience and expertise, perfectly applied to this complex wetland reserve.

They oversee day to day management, volunteering and the survey & monitoring



programme. Much of this work is in early stages, although thankfully much of the wildlife recording is largely in place due to ongoing efforts of RDS members and others. This programme is being refined to ensure that records sufficiently support the management decisions and knowledge base for the reserve.





Much of the initial management work has focussed on investigations of access infrastructure and the start of feasibility work to better plan for path improvements, viewing screens within the centre and repair/enhancement of the barge canal.

Fencing of external boundaries has now commenced, with the intention of introducing cattle into the northern most & western field compartments later in 2018. Cattle will form an important piece of the ecological jigsaw helping to maintain the diversity of conditions within the drier

habitats. A programme of scrub coppicing is underway in the eastern area, partly intended to improve visual access across the reserve from the barge canal.

In parallel to commencing management work, establishing volunteer activity and a wardening presence, the Trust is already working closely with TVBC to develop bold plans for education and engagement. This will include innovative ways of installing access and viewing facilities with the intention of designing something truly bespoke and special. It really is still early



ROMSEY FUTURE: A Test Valley Borough Council Initiative.

In 1974 Romsey and District Society (RDS) was formed to drive change to what would have been an irrevocable planning policy affecting our Market Town. In modern parlance influencing local authority planning decisions is embedded in the RDS DNA!

Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC) has a general but relatively new policy detailed in its "Statement for Community Involvement in Planning" (SCI) which identifies four key sequential actions: to inform, to involve, to consult and to respond. As described in an earlier News Sheet, a process was initiated in 2013 by TVBC to create more in-depth involvement for residents in planning the future of Romsey. This process took the SCI concept further such that organisations were to be informed by the community rather than the reverse. This novel "community led" methodology created the "Romsey Future" project and the difference in the way of working is in the vanguard of process change being introduced across local government.

Coincidentally RDS published a straw man document "Thoughts on the Future of Romsey" designed to stimulate debate during the endorsement process for the current Revised Local Plan. This has provided some direct input and background for "Romsey Future".

The agreed vision for "Romsey Future 2015 to 2035", is stated as follows: "that over the next twenty years Romsey will become the place of choice for the residents of small towns and villages in Southern Test Valley to come together. Romsey will thrive and grow, new communities will emerge and more people will visit the town centre. The town will retain its character as a relatively compact historic market town closely related to the countryside around it."

The project is chaired by Councillor Nick Adams-King involving a coordinating group that manages the process comprising representatives from all Romsey major institutions (amongst them RDS) and with management support from TVBC.

The initial work concluded with a vision document identifying five interlocking concepts and nine related work streams, A to I, designed to generate policies focussed on the endorsed vision. In summary:

- a. Getting round - Transport matters from walking to rail (A)
 - b. Enjoying the town - Tourism and Town facilities (B, C)
 - c. Enhancing the town - Infrastructure and Environment issues (D, E)
 - d. Living well - Community services and healthy Recreation (F, G)
 - e. Developing the economy - Sustainability, Employment and Business matters (H, I)
- TVBC has promoted a standing invitation



A.H. Cheater
Funeral Directors
Romsey

**Independent Family Owned
Funeral Directors**



122 The Hundred, Romsey
Tel: 01794 513393
Day and Night Service

days but the aspirations and vision will hopefully be something for Romsey residents to be proud of.

*Martin de Retuerto Assistant Director/Reserves
Manager West & Central Hampshire.*



to interested individuals to take a lead in the work streams where possible.

Achievements so far have concentrated on items which required little new in terms of legislation or approvals. Examples are a Cycle Hub Website, new Cycle Parking Provision, providing Coach Parking at the Rapids centre, Bus Station Railing Refurbishment, setting up the community award winning Teenage Market, the Hampshire Wildlife Trust Management of the Fishlake Meadows, the Church Street Upgrade, Abbotswood Art Trail, and the Brief completed for a Sustainable Information and Good Practice Hub.

Though certainly not an exhaustive list work in hand includes rail station access and lower level parking upgrade, posting a new Visit Romsey website, publishing a new pocket visitor's guide, improvements to the town centre roads and pavements, planning the re-development of the South side of the town, installing the flood prevention scheme, setting up a Romsey Rendezvous and a Men's Shed, identifying community services shortfall, expanding

town multi centre markets and business fairs, improving knowledge of business rate relief and grant availability, developing a 10K fitness trail in the town environs and reviewing the existing "Look at Romsey" design guide.

For the future the most important work will be to address infrastructure bearing in mind the impact of reducing carbon footprint, Internet growth, the advent of electric vehicles, and the consequences flowing from changing the nation's focus from Europe to worldwide. This will not be

easy but it is essential if we are to provide for the projected growth of the local population. These challenges can only be addressed by forming robust strategies applicable beyond the 2035 timeframe. The work needs a full input from residents.

RDS has taken part in "Romsey Future" from the beginning and more members are now needed so that the direction taken going forward, while coping with a large increase in population, preserves the market town we love. The old way - that of commenting - frequently late and adversely - on decisions

made by our local authority is dissolving. Shaping the future by being involved early in the process must be the preferred way ahead and this is being offered by the "Romsey Future" project.

The society should increase its involvement. If you feel interested in taking part - in the first instance - email the RDS Chairman at Chairman@romseydistrictsociety.co.uk

Chris Esplin-Jones

Romsey And District Buildings Preservation Trust Annual General Meeting



The Buildings Preservation Trust AGM was held, as is usual, in the Plaza. The formal business was carried out with efficient dispatch. Officers and committee were elected, accounts were presented and approved. Reports were received.

The days of a full building and refurbishment programme, funded by galloping house price inflation are probably gone for ever—or at least for quite a long time. Nevertheless it had been a good year for the Trust. The transformation of Latimer News from a rather rambling shop to a smaller, smarter shop with a flat above and a small house behind had been a great success. All three premises had been sold, the loans repaid and a small, if rather unexpected, profit gained. Romsey had two new well-designed places to live in and the looks of Latimer Street had been greatly improved. The Signal Box had also done well. Two new buildings are in course of construction: a "mess hut" for the volunteers and a dedicated educational facility. An increase in opening hours is planned.

The Buildings Preservation Trust has always enlivened its Annual General Meeting with a lecture. These lectures have a well-deserved reputation as some of the best

that are heard in Romsey. This year's added to that reputation. Neill Beasley is a Romsey man, an active and prolific architect whose work we can all see around us. The title he chose for his talk was "Architecture: Design and Context. A Personal View".

Architecture must be an almost unique profession. Surgeons and barristers and civil engineers are not commonly surrounded by laymen who are not only certain they know better but are ever ready to put the professional right. But everyone thinks they know about buildings. It must be irritating. So when a successful architect is given an audience sitting quietly and receptively in the Plaza Cinema, the temptation to tell it exactly how it is must be enormous. The temptation was resisted. The tone of the lecture was not didactic.

Neill started his professional life with Hampshire County Council. The work he did then was, naturally, on public buildings - mainly schools. Later he set up Genesis Design Studios in Romsey. He has continued to work in the area of education, but there are many Neill Beasley commercial and residential buildings in and around Romsey. Residents will know Bradbeers extension, the café in the Memorial Park and much else.

He began with a survey. Starting (comfortingly) with Chatsworth House, Neill took us on a speedy, fascinating, stimulating trip through those architects of the twentieth century who had designed buildings that had, in one way or another, woken us up. Frank Lloyd Wright, Mies van der Rohe, Le Corbusier, Norman Foster, Richard Rogers. That was by way of introduction. The thrust of the lecture was declared in the title. Design should respect the context. Where the building was, what it would be used for and by whom: the environment, natural and built, the function, even the culture. In the making of it, there were four elements: space, light, form and texture.

As he proceeded he took examples, several from his own work - with which the audience was, of course, familiar. He described the circumstances and the needs that had to be met and the various ways - predictable or unexpected - in which that might be done. He clearly enjoyed the unexpected more than the predictable, but most of all, it seemed, he prized the simple answer to the complicated problem. Good design was efficient.

The large audience was clearly appreciative and there were, as might be expected, many questions. A good evening: informative, stimulating and enjoyable.

Robert Grime

Interview with Tim Sledge.



The Revd Canon Tim Sledge says goodbye as Vicar of Romsey, and shares some thoughts and reflections on his time here.

RDS: So what were your first impressions of Romsey when you arrived here in April 2008?

TS: Generally favourable, although there were plenty of challenges! I thought the links between the Abbey and the town were good. The Abbey seemed to play a central role in the life of the town – it was the place where many civic events took place. Abbey finances weren't good – the abbey had had a deficit pretty much year on year for the past 17 years. I remember saying to someone that I thought that Romsey was about 40 years behind the times, and had to explain that it was a compliment – that Romsey had many things which had disappeared in other market towns. By that, I meant that there was a real local newspaper, people stopped and talked to one another in the street, there were local independent shops and organisations like the Romsey and District Society that showed that people really cared about their town.

RDS: Nice to know! And after a little more time here?

TS: Well, I began to see the huge potential for the Abbey to make a much greater contribution to the town. As we all know the townspeople bought the Abbey from Henry VIII back in the 16th century, but what did that mean today? The town doesn't pay for its upkeep, and the Abbey needed to connect more with different strands in our society, irrespective of their faith. I've tried to lead on this, with a mental health café in Neros, using the Abbey as a 'banqueting house' especially for charities, offering a venue for children to come for a sleepover, even a catwalk for a fashion show. Plus of course lots of musical events as before. The Abbey's primary purpose is for worship, and nothing should get in the way of that, and for the huge number of funerals, weddings and christenings – a

total of about 200 a year, but after that...

RDS: How was this received by some of your more traditionally minded members?

TS: Well, there were a few raised eyebrows, but as I pointed out, Jesus was a great one for parties! There were some, and still are, who seem to feel that the Abbey is too posh for them, that they're not 'good enough', and there's more to do to break that down, but I love it that people often come in just to sit quietly for a while. Perhaps they light a candle and say a prayer for someone or something, or maybe just want to have that feeling that they're in a place of calmness and sanctuary. It's OK in my book for the Abbey to have 'fuzzy edges'. People are less prepared to nail their colours to the mast in terms of absolute commitment to faith, and so we must respect that by being a generous and inclusive place for all. The good news, by the way, is that we've managed to turn around the Abbey's finances, thanks to the huge generosity of some members and the enormous help from so many volunteers, so that we now are showing a surplus. What's more, the services are attended by at least 25% more people than when I arrived.

RDS: You talk about needing to 'connect better with the town and its people. Has this led you into local politics?

TS: Oh absolutely! We can't avoid it if we wish to be at the heartbeat of the town. And, by the way, I love politics! I got into hot water earlier this year for making the case for 'Remain' from the pulpit. I actually have great respect for the town council, for TVBC, and for our MP. I think she does a really good job, she's committed and really 'into' local issues. The Borough Council are showing that they care in these straitened circumstances. The County Council, with its services in education and music, for example, makes a difference in our society. And the Town Council does a good job on the whole, remarkably free from party politics. Though why on earth we don't have a combined Romsey and Romsey Extra council escapes me! We could really have a 'cabinet of all the talents' if only they would combine. And while we are at it, I can see that the Abbey's values and the Romsey and District Society are alike in their values, but, like us, you need to connect better with the people.

RDS: So, what would you like to see improved in our society?

TS: I think two things above all. The first is the growing gap between rich and poor. Romsey is an expensive place to live, and there's a real and growing need to help low income families, single parents, carers, young carers. This doesn't get the funding it needs. There are some really good initiatives out there, and some marvellous



Casbrook Home Care is a Romsey based home care business established specifically for older and vulnerable people in the Hampshire areas.

We are focused on personalisation and putting people first to ensure you the individual decide how you would like to receive the care and support needed to live a better life. With our own fully equipped training centre with trainers Qualified in all areas of care we are able to train our staff specifically to support your needs.

Some examples of the services we provide are:

- Specialists in Dementia Care
- Personal Care
- Domestic Help
- Companionship
- Safety Checks

Direct Payment Support - Short & Long Term care



If you would like to find out more about our services please call, Email or pop into see us

74 The Hundred
Romsey, Hampshire, SO51 8BX
01794 513555
ask@casbrookhomecare.co.uk
www.casbrookhomecare.co.uk

people working in voluntary groups, but we need far more, and many of them struggle to do all they would like to do. And we have a Food Bank! It distributed 1000 food parcels last year, in Romsey. There are working families who spend all their income on housing and the other necessities, including seeing their children are fed. But I know that there are some who rely on the Food Bank because it means that the parents can eat too! There are loads of volunteers doing brilliant things there, but isn't it a disgrace that we have to do it at all?

And the other thing is that we have a significant proportion – a third – of our population living a life of loneliness and isolation. Again, you see, we have so many initiatives run by voluntary groups who do great work, but I just wish that we at the Abbey had been able to do more.

RDS: We have seen the growth of retirement homes in the town and district recently. Does this represent a shift in our demographics?

TS: Definitely. Certainly if you walk through the town during the week you see a large proportion of the people are elderly, whereas at weekends it's much younger. It's a challenge.

RDS: And the increase in population with these housing developments?

TS: It's a good thing, and will help to regenerate the town. What we need to get right is the quality of housing being built, and the quality of life for those living in those new communities. Fighting against too many houses is fighting the wrong battle – it's unavoidable. We need less Nimbyism and more creative engagement in creating a place in which people want to live. By the way, I think that the 'Romsey Future' is a really Good Thing. I've chaired the Tourism strategy group, and have been excited by it. Romsey is one of those 'best kept secrets', and we need to get the message out there that it's a great place to visit. Romsey the Brand, if you like.

RDS: So now you're moving on, do you have any regrets?

TS: I just wish I could have done more. Got further on the journey to make the Abbey good news for everybody. Done more with the elderly, isolated and lonely.

RDS: And what do you hope the Abbey will achieve after you've gone?

TS: Well, with the growth of these new communities, Abbotswood, Ganger Farm, and hopefully Whitenap, I would like to see that the Abbey has opened up outposts – the way Sainsbury's and other supermarkets have mini-markets. We could have them operating in Community Halls, for instance. They could be a focus for young families, for the elderly, acting as a focus and source of support. Society at large is anxious about the future, economic and social, as well as the danger of extremism and warmongering. What can we provide? Sanctuary, safety and community.

RDS: And what lies ahead for you?

TS: I don't know. In my last sermon I talked about wanting to do something that changes the world, in people's lives, at work in society, that makes them feel loved and wanted. It's what I've tried to do in Romsey. But I don't know if that will be in the Church or the charity sector or what. I know I'm still enthusiastic and have a zest for life and fun!

RDS: So if the call comes, will you do 'Strictly'?

TS: Yes, but I'd rather do Master Chef first!

Annual Lunch



The Lunch was held in the predictably warm and welcoming 'outskirt' (aka stable!) of the White Horse in Romsey. Thoroughly enjoyed by all, it remains a

firm fixture in the social calendar! Thanks are due to Marian Pickett who organised the event

AIM HIGH



STROUD SCHOOL
King Edward VI Preparatory School

Highwood House
Highwood Lane
ROMSEY
SO51 9ZH

An independent co-educational day school for children aged 3-13 years.

Tel: 01794 513231
www.stroud-kes.org.uk

R&DS Accounts of Walks

September 30th

The weather did not look very promising as we drove to the car park at Cheesefoot Head on the A272, east of Winchester. Even less promising was finding the car park closed because of a nearby motocross event! However, we were able to assemble in an entrance to a field which was sufficiently wide to park our cars, and at which our walk was already planned to end. Martin and Julie Gale had organised a delightful walk over the downs, and the twelve of us were rewarded by the weather clearing without the threatened downpour. Good views towards the Isle of Wight added to the enjoyment. This was a good area to see

Red Kite, although the nesting box (barrel?) which we passed was probably for owls.



Our thanks to Martin and Julie for planning and leading this walk.

King John's House: Discover a slice of Romsey's Hidden History.



November 1st

Yet again, our walk was arranged on a lovely sunny day, which makes such a difference as winter approaches. Chris and Denise Amery organised a circular, 4.5-mile route across Canada Common to Bramshaw, where Chris had arranged for us to have access to St Peter's Church. This partly dates from the 12th Century and the visit was enhanced by the organist arriving to practice, although, sadly, the older pipe organ is no longer in use. Leaving there, we were able to return by tracks, passing the horned local resident (below), and through the woods, before crossing the common to the Rockingham Arms, where a convivial lunch was enjoyed. Many thanks to Chris and Denise for leading this walk.



I fell in love with King John's House on my very first visit. That was probably 20 years ago and I wouldn't have thought that, all of this time later, I would be lucky enough to be working as part of the splendid team at King John's House. The House is a very special place, and treasured by many who live and work in Romsey, as well as some of the regular visitors Romsey welcomes every year. The House has many interesting and often rare features such as the timber roof in the medieval hall, which is extraordinary, and garners immediate comment every time I show visitors around.

Although the House was attributed as King John's hunting lodge when it was discovered to be medieval in 1927, subsequent dendrochronology suggests that the timbers, at least, post-date King John's reign. The true origins of the construction, its owners and builders are not completely clear, but the fineness of the masonry and the proportions of the hall hint at a high status building of some importance. King John's House has a hidden history, perhaps still waiting to be discovered, which lends a mysterious quality to a beautiful building.

In another sense, the House itself is 'hidden history', tucked away as it is between Romsey's Visitor Information Centre and the Post Office and set back from Church Street. Perhaps I shouldn't be surprised by how many Romsonians say that they have

never seen the inside of the House or that they didn't realise that the House has a museum. Many are regular users of Miss Moody's Tea Room in the Tudor Cottage attached to the House, or walk regularly through the beautiful gardens but they are still unaware of the architectural gem just a few footsteps away. I have even met people who have lived in Romsey for most, or even all, of their lives who didn't know that King John's House even exists.

Our challenge then, is to extend the opportunities for people, local and visitors alike, to engage with and benefit from King John's House. This will build on the many years of loving care and attention, invested by a group of dedicated and passionate supporters and volunteers, to develop further the House as a vibrant centre for culture and heritage in Romsey, supporting and hosting an exciting programme of events in the coming years.

A branding exercise is currently being undertaken to identify the aspects of the House and Museum that give them their 'sense of place' and are the key features that attract visitors. As part of this, the King John's House blue and gold crown has become the umbrella brand for the House, Tudor Cottage, Museum and Tea Rooms. In 2018, the Team at King John's House will be inviting visitors to "Discover a slice of Romsey's hidden history".

*Mark Udall
General Manager, King John's House*

King John's House is managed by King John's House and Tudor Cottage Trust Ltd. an independent charitable trust supported by Test Valley Borough Council

Barge Canal

On a casual walk along the old barge canal, John Scarborough came across this display of artistry – as far as I know, nobody has claimed authorship of these astonishing images (Editor).



Cruise Shipping and its Effect on the Environment

This was the title of the November talk, given by Richard Vie, who is Past President of the Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology (and with an impressive string of letters after his name). In fact his talk focused more widely on the effects of all mercantile shipping, but first we had some statistics on the Cruise industry. It's growing apace, with over 300 ships in use and more being built. Ships are getting ever bigger, and they anticipate further huge growth, especially from the Chinese market. There were 24.3 million passengers in 2017, and they have created around 1 million jobs. The ships spread pollution even when they're in port - Southampton now has air quality as bad as London!



Richard Vie

Those 300 ships, however, are dwarfed by the size of the total shipping industry. There are currently about 50,000 merchant ships around the world. 97% of all UK trade comes or goes by sea. The ships are all powered by diesel, and they all pump out noxious substances into the atmosphere, chiefly Sulphur Oxide, Nitrogen Oxide, and particulate matter. Sulphur Oxide in the atmosphere helps to create acid rain (death to trees and damage to buildings), and Nitrogen Oxide causes photo-chemical fog (breathing difficulties for vulnerable people). Bad news.

However, he assured us, the International Maritime Organisation, based in London, with the support of the industry, has introduced strict limits on the emission of these substances, and over time they will become ever stricter. Unfortunately they tend to apply only to new vessels, but nevertheless it is progress.

The industry is also looking at alternative fuels – fuel cells, solar, wind and various hybrid ideas. Carnival and P&O are planning to switch to liquefied natural gas for all their new ships. In some ports it is possible to switch off the ship's own power supply and plug into the shore's, which makes a significant difference to air quality in that area. Sadly, Southampton has so far declined to do this. We were encouraged to lobby for it.

but slow, and many innovations founder or stall in face of the old and inescapable balance between benefits and costs.

This was an interesting and informative talk, although some of us would have liked to hear more about what gets dumped at sea, and another form of pollution – cruise passengers clogging up cities like Venice and Dubrovnik! But that may well be for another day.

In short, Richard said, progress is positive,

MICHAEL RHODES

FOR SALE

01794 514455

www.michaelrhodes.co.uk

**AT THE CENTRE
OF THE ROMSEY
PROPERTY MARKET**

MICHAEL RHODES

SOLD

01794 514455

www.michaelrhodes.co.uk

MICHAEL RHODES

36 The Hundred, Romsey, Hampshire, SO51 8BX

01794 514455 www.michaelrhodes.co.uk



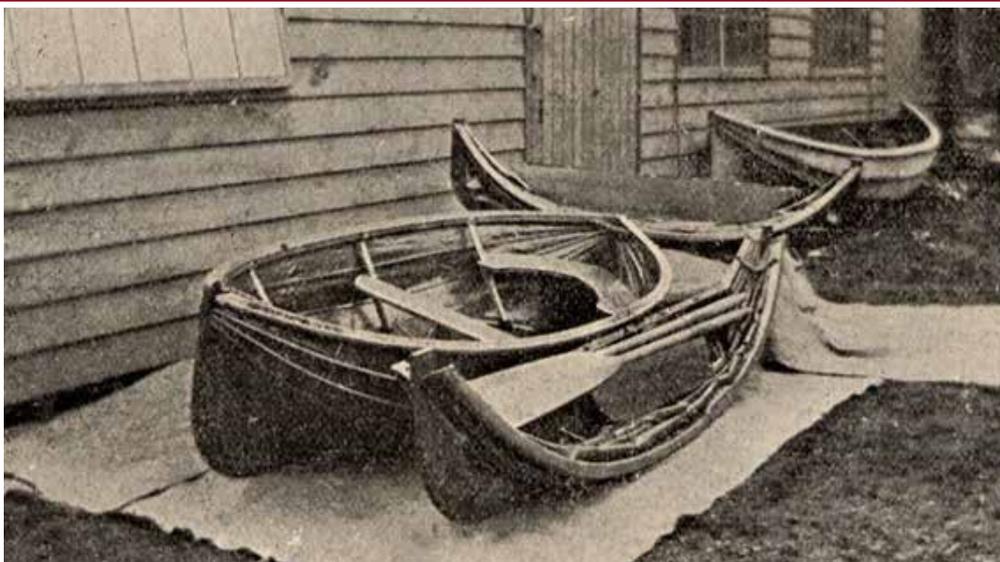
Berthon Collapsible Boat

I wonder whether like me you have walked past the plaque in Lortemore Place and questioned why a boatyard in Romsey? I decided to do some investigating thanks to the Internet and Brian May, the helpful and supportive current Managing Director of the Berthon Boat Co.

Edward Lyon Berthon was born in 1813 and as a young man studied medicine, intending to become a doctor. However following his marriage in 1834 he decided that his interest was in the church. At about the same time he invented the screw propeller but it was dismissed by the Admiralty as 'a pretty toy which never would and never could propel a ship!' In 1841 Berthon entered Magdalene College, Cambridge to take up theological studies. However at this stage his interest in Mechanical Science was reawakened and he invented the Berthon Log, a pipe like device which extended below the bottom of a boat, creating pressure as the water flowed past. This forced a column of mercury to rise in the tube, an early form of speed log. Following his studies he was ordained as a curate at Lymington.

In 1850 the SS Orion was wrecked off the coast of Scotland with considerable loss of life. The Reverend Clark, a survivor, wrote to him 'can you not think of a way in which boats, enough for all on board, can be stowed on a passenger steamer without inconvenience?' Berthon's response was to design and build a prototype collapsible lifeboat, a model of which was displayed at the 1851 International Exhibition in London. In 1854 the Prince of Wales is reputed to have commented that a cannonball would easily pass through the canvass hull to which the designer retorted 'that would be the case with any craft in current use!'

The same year he was appointed Vicar of Holy Trinity Church, Fareham and Chaplain at Whale Island Portsmouth where in 1854 HMS Excellent was berthed. It was an ideal location to consider his development work on his boats. He hoped to interest the Admiralty by installing a 13" Mortar in a 32ft boat. It sank on the first trial with the loss of one seaman. The boat was either damaged or overloaded. However he continued his quest in spite of the demise of the experimental boat. He considered that larger boats than the model exhibited in 1851 could be viable and they should be unsinkable. This was achieved by providing a double canvass skin with an air gap divided into six sections. This would assist buoyancy and give protection from the possibility that the outer canvas could be accidentally torn. In addition the deck could double as a life raft due to its support by four long air tanks. In 1855 Berthon constructed two 32ft boats for the Admiralty, one of which was fitted with a Howitzer and sent to Sheerness for evaluation. At the time it



was common practice for ships' boats to be armed. However, the report when it came was adverse and he resigned his living at Fareham to get away from ships and boats!

In 1860 he was appointed Vicar of Romsey and for many years he devoted his powers to the restoration of the church. However, there were several disastrous events at sea during the 1870's with great loss of life due to insufficient lifeboats being available. As a result Berthon constructed a shed in the large Vicarage garden to meet what he perceived to be an increasing demand for the collapsible boats. His confidence was fully justified. Sizes constructed varied from 7 to 30 feet each being tested in the adjacent river. The smaller 7 to 12 feet range serving as yacht tenders and the largest mainly as lifeboats capable of carrying 75 persons. The versatility of the boats saw them being used in overseas expeditions and exploration. Their suitability for use in varying climatic conditions was claimed to be due to the coating that the flax canvass received. It was a mixture of linseed oil, soft soap and yellow ochre which resulted in a durable protection and having a distinctive yellowish brown colour. The end of the Transatlantic cable was taken ashore by a Berthon collapsible boat in 1874 from the cable ship Faraday. The same year General Gordon took collapsible boats on his Nile adventures in 1874/76 and Sir George Nares used them during his North Pole exploits in 1875.

In 1877 Berthon's son Edward was appointed as manager so that the Vicar could devote adequate time to Parish duties. At this time also the capacity of the Vicarage garden became overwhelmed making it necessary to move to larger premises just down the road. Thus we have come full circle; the new site being marked by the plaque!

During the boatyard's productive years fourteen prize medals were awarded for the innovative boat. The longevity of the

boat may be attributed to the unique preparation that was applied to the canvass skin. It ensured that it was impervious and with a good degree of flexibility.

The Rev Berthon died in 1889 but his company continued production under the guidance of his son until his death in 1917. The demise of the enterprise in Romsey was not the end of the story. The assets of the company were bought by two brothers by the name of May with help from a third who had become the first senior partner of Price Waterhouse in America. They commenced trading as the Berthon Boat Co Ltd having also purchased the Lymington Shipyard. It is curious that Berthon's legacy ended up there where he had resided some 73 years previously. Between 1917 and 1939 in excess of one hundred and eighty boats were subsequently produced. Although no collapsible boats were produced after that time the company bearing the Berthon name continues to flourish having built 41 lifeboats for the RNLI over the last 25 years, passing valuable marine skills on to some 30 apprentices annually.

Lesley Mackay



Amanda Jones
Registered Foot
Health Practitioner
and
Registered General Nurse

I offer a range of foot treatments in the comfort of your own home to manage these common conditions:

- ingrowing toenails and routine nail cutting
- removal of hard skin
- fungal skin and nail infections
- verruca
- cracked heels
- corn removal

To book an appointment please use contact details below:
Email: pandajones@outlook.com
Mobile: 07713 295955



Marvellous Moths

NEC Event Saturday 2nd September 2017



A bright and clear blue sky heralded a promising start for our second Moth event. Tim Norriss, an amateur entomologist, who for many years was the Hampshire Recorder for Moths, had set up two moth traps overnight at World of Water and we were about to examine the contents.

As Tim carefully extracted each egg tray from around and inside the traps, sixteen of us were treated to close up views of thirty seven different species of moths. As Tim identified each one, we had a perfect view as the egg tray was passed around for all 16 of us to view at our leisure. Few of us could identify more than a couple of moths and for many it was a wonderful insight into a whole new world. We learned amazing names – Canary-shouldered Thorn, Scarce Bordered Straw, Setaceous Hebrew Character, Pinion-streaked Snout and Dingy Footman amongst them - and fascinating facts about the moths, their breeding habits and other characteristics. Tim was particularly pleased to see the Oblique Carpet moth, which was a first for him! The detail of the colours, patterns and body parts we could see so well close up

varied tremendously, from muddy browns to bright yellows, oranges, pinks, reds and pale green, with many moths having superb detailing across their wings, often reflected in their names, such as the Burnished Brass with two iridescent brass coloured bars on each side and the Blood-vein with a perfect thin red line from wingtip to wingtip. The name of the Old Lady moth was harder to justify!

There are about 2,500 moth species in the UK, so what we saw was a very tiny proportion of the total. It was interesting, too, that the moths we saw were mostly different from the ones we had seen at a similar event two years ago, as that one had taken place earlier in the summer.

Tim had some interesting facts for us as we were looking at the moths. All the Footman species feed on lichens, whilst Wainscot caterpillars feed within the stems of reeds and grasses. A few species, such as the Water Veneer, which we did not trap, have caterpillars that live under water. Moths that fly in autumn are often the colour of dead or autumn leaves, and so are well

camouflaged when at rest. The light brown apple moth arrived here from Australia in about 1936 and is now very well established – we caught 10 in our two traps. The species that we caught the highest number of was the Large Yellow Underwing – we trapped 25 of them.

Over the past 10 years, about 6 new moth species have been found each year in Hampshire, often being moths from further south and continental Europe, that find conditions here more suitable now that the climate is warming. Rare and unusual migrants do appear here from time to time, such as the Rosy Underwing, which was recently sighted on the Isle of Wight. Moth enthusiasts are less numerous than their equivalents in the bird world!

We had a fascinating couple of hours and our thanks go to Tim for being so generous with his time, as well as to World of Water who have been so supportive for many of our events and provide much appreciated hot drinks and breakfasts afterwards.

Kate Allen



Bells SOLICITORS
of Romsey

- Wills, Trust & Probate ·
- Inheritance tax & planning ·
- Conveyancing · Landlord & Tenant ·
- Commercial Property · Licensing ·
- Divorce · Family ·
- Civil disputes & litigation ·

5 Market Place, Romsey,
Hampshire SO51 8XF
Tel: 01794 513328
Email: bells@bells-romsey-solicitors.co.uk
Web: www.bells-romsey-solicitors.co.uk

New Forest

As soon as I heard New Forest in the title I wanted to hear Peter Roberts talk since I go for a walk in the Forest most days. It would appear that the fact that I can run so freely is largely due to the New Forest Association which is 150 years old. In 1851 the Crown wanted to rid the Forest of deer and turn 10,000 acres into timberland, and compulsorily purchase additional land from the commoners who enjoy the right to keep animals on the forest, and collect fallen wood if their land adjoins the Forest. The proposal was defeated. The Association's remit is to get the best possible deal for commoners. In 1877 the Verderer's Court was re-introduced to

safeguard the rights of commoners and still exists to this day, made up of half commoners and half other agencies. The Court sits monthly (other than December and August) in Queen's House, Lyndhurst and is open to the public. The care of the Forest continues with more animals than ever roaming its acres. The talk was accompanied by some lovely photos and made me want to get out for my afternoon walk.

Ben the Spaniel!

Aztec Fascias Ltd

For all your roofline needs

Professional installers of UPVC fascias, soffits, guttering and cladding

- * Repairs and advice also available
- * Very competitive rates
- * Lloyds certified 10 year guarantees

For a free quotation call/email

023 8086 9715

078 8870 5455

enquiries@aztecfascias.com

www.aztecfascias.com

Home for newts between homes for people



Photos of Baroona as it was and as it is now



"Baroona", with its extensive lawn, on the east side of Cupernham Lane, is now a building site, which will accommodate 30 new houses. There are planning applications for housing developments on the west side of this stretch of road which, with their proximity to the Oxlease Farm development, will result in virtually continuous housing from Fishlake Meadows to Belbins.

Thank goodness for the newts! The photo above shows the 23ha habitat for the Great Crested Newts separating Cupernham Lane from the Abbotswood development. These newts are protected by UK and EU law. This nature conservation area is being managed and enhanced for wildlife, with new ponds, where the newts breed, new native planting and hibernation facilities for reptiles and amphibians.

This welcome open space is easily accessed from Abbotswood. Future residents of Cupernham Lane may discover the well hidden and uninviting footpath leading through Minchin Hill Woods, near the roundabout. The pathway up to the open ground was, until recently, blocked by two

ugly concrete blocks. These have recently been removed. What will be put in their place? Watch this space!

Cliff Bruce

Chris King Cabinetmaker

Built in Wardrobes, Studies etc,
Free standing units.

Selection of timbers.

Free consultation
drawing and quote.

For free CD of my work :-

01794 390 520

kwoodmanchris@aol.com

www.chriskingcabinets.org

Box Cote, Pound Hill, Landford, SPS 2AA



Two-Thirds of a Tonne

Romsey and District Society's 'Autumn Stream Clean and Litter pick-up' took place in Romsey Saturday (7th Oct).

35 volunteers met at the Crosfield Hall and walked the streams and paths in and around the town centre collecting 650 kilos of rubbish, river weed and litter. A shopping trolley and a roll of carpet were also removed from Romsey's waterways.

The volunteers were supported by Test Valley Borough Council staff who provided equipment and collected up the filled bags of rubbish.

The clear up was co-ordinated by the chairman of the R&DS Public Services Committee, Mark Cooper. "There was an excellent turn-out from a number of Romsey groups," he said

"The event was circulated on the Romsey Facebook page and among Town Councillors as well as the Romsey & District Society membership. The volunteers included some members of the Romsey Sub-Aqua Club who cleared the stream channel in the bus station."

After two hours hard work, the volunteers repaired to the la Parisienne Restaurant where coffee was served. "There was less litter than in some previous years," continued Cllr Cooper, "but to have collected nearly two thirds of a tonne of litter and rubbish in just two hours was a sterling effort by all the volunteers."

(Photos include Ian Tripp in the Barge Canal; collecting litter on the bridge, Sue Derbyshire and Jennifer Adams Chmn of R&DS. Some of the volunteers have a welcome coffee at la Parisienne after the 2017 Stream Clean and Litter Pick up).

*Mark Cooper
County Councillor for Romsey
Local Councillor, Romsey Tadburn*



Notifications

Natural Environment Committee

Coastal Bird Walk at Keyhaven

Saturday, January 13, 2018
10.00 -13.00

A walk to look at coastal birds and migrants, led by Andy Lester
There is a pub nearby for refreshments (including hot soup) after the walk
Meeting at Keyhaven car park.

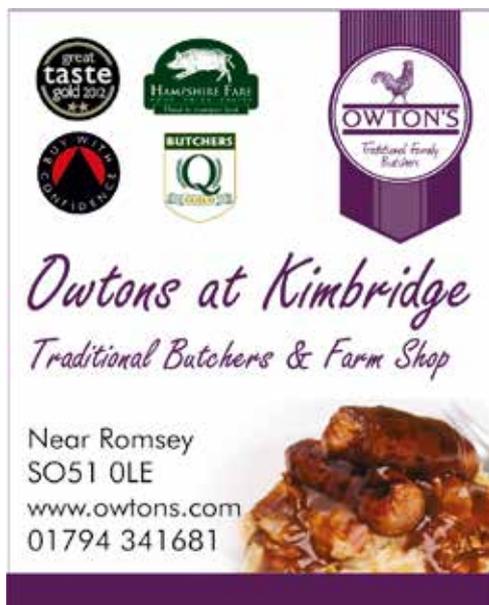
A walk suitable for all ages and abilities, but not suitable for wheelchairs.
Dogs must be on a short lead at all times

Now fully booked.

Early Morning Bird Walk at Fishlake Meadows,

Saturday 28th April
6.30 to 8.30 am

led by Andy Lester and with breakfast afterwards at the World of Water.
Hear some wonderful birds, from cuckoos to warblers of various sorts, and maybe spot a kingfisher.
Places limited to 25 so please book in advance with Elizabeth Pratt by e-mail (emp234@googlemail.com) or if that is not possible, by telephone (01794 511036).



great taste gold 2012
HAMPSHIRE FARE
BUTCHERS
OWTON'S
Traditional Family Butchers

Owtons at Kimbridge
Traditional Butchers & Farm Shop

Near Romsey
SO51 0LE
www.owtons.com
01794 341681

THE ANNUAL DINNER

Tues May 22nd 2018
at
KEATS RESTAURANT,
Ampfield SO51 9BQ
7.00 for 7.30 pm

MENU - £24.00
Includes a glass of wine or soft drink on arrival

Starters

- A Soup of the day, focaccia croutons
- B Crespella a la Keats - pancakes with spinach, ham in creamy sauce
- C Melon cocktail with mango syrup
- D Caprese salad - mozzarella and plum tomatoes
- E Salmon and cod fishcakes, herb aioli
- F Puff pastry tart – mushroom, red onion, spinach, basil oil

Main Course – all served with seasonal vegetables and potatoes

- A Roasted salmon fillet, lobster & tarragon sauce
- B Chicken breast in pancetta, watercress mousse, madeira sauce
- C Gressingham duck breast, roasted plum chutney
- D New Forest game pie
- E Pheasant, boar, venison, & rabbit with red wine & shallots
- F Lasagne Verdi, summer greens or tossed salad

A selection of homemade desserts to choose from.

Freshly ground coffee and infusions.

Add your own gratuity on the day
Limited tickets. Please make cheques payable to R&DS

Please state name & choice of starter & main course for each person
Send to Viv Robinson, Windmill Cottage, Braishfield, Romsey SO51 0QS with your email address or send stamped addressed envelope for an e-ticket.
Apply by the end of March please.

THE ANNUAL LECTURE

Thurs 26th April 2018
at
Crosfield Hall,
7.00 (for a glass of wine)
for 7.30 pm.

Tim Sykes of the Environment Agency will describe their work to protect and improve our local rivers and wetlands for wildlife and people. Working in partnership with others, the Agency take action to restore degraded rivers, re-wet wetlands, create salmon spawning habitat, ease the passage of eels on their epic migration, and protect our fish stocks from poachers. They take action to clean-up the rivers and reduce abstraction. And of course they manage and reduce flood risk to people and property. Tim will give us his personal insight into all of this from his 22 year experience working for the Agency in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

Admission by ticket only and e-tickets available by e-mailing secretary@romseydistrictsociety.co.uk. Please indicate number of tickets required.

If you prefer a paper ticket, please send a stamped, addressed envelope to:

Annette McBride,
26 Horsecroft,
Romsey
SO51 0GS

WALKS

February 2018 Wednesday 14th Chilbolton Walk

Meet at 10.15am in the car park of the Abbot's Mitre, Chilbolton
Grid Ref SU392399

About 5 miles, no stiles, but 2 moderately steep hills, hence good views, weather permitting. Option of lunch afterwards at the Abbot's Mitre. Please let us know if you are intending to come.

Robert and Jo Grime 01794 515693/
07443410081. jogrime@onetel.net

March 2018 Wednesday 21st. Hursley, Silkstead and Oliver's Battery Walk.

Length: 6.2 miles

Leaving at 10am from the Dolphin Inn car park, Main Road, Hursley SO21 2JY (GR SU428251)

A circular walk from Hursley, partly on the Monarch's Way and rising to Yew Hill on the downs with views of Winchester and Oliver's Battery. Mainly on tracks but with some muddy bits. Optional lunch at the Dolphin Inn on return.

Please contact Dave or Jenny Harris on 01794 514961 to register for the walk and to indicate whether or not you will take lunch.

April 2018 Tuesday 10th Test Valley Walk.

Meet at 10am at The Bear and Ragged Staff (Grid Ref: SU335258), 2 miles north of Romsey on the A3057.

5 mile circular route starting from near the pub, then heading up Staff Road to the outskirts of Michelmersh. There turn left following minor roads/footpaths NNW back to the A3057 north of our start point. There is a steep downhill path on this route leading down to the crossing of the A3057 near the Dismantled Railway. This is about 25 yds long, and although there are

steps and a handrail much of the way down, walking poles also are essential for this section of the route as it can be slippery. We cross the A3057 then head W to Mottisfont Village/Church. There we continue South back to the A3057 and the cars. Optional lunch at the Bear and Ragged Staff.

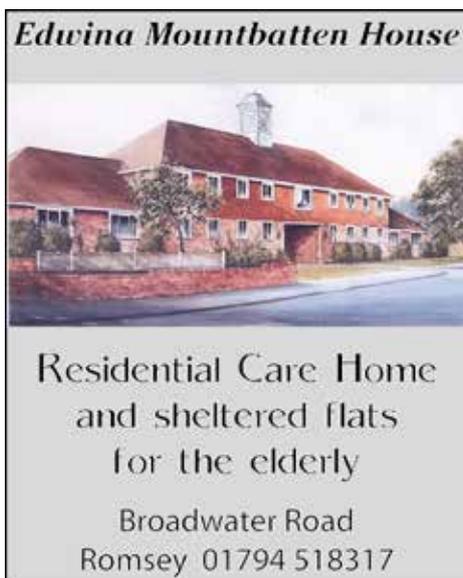
Please contact Ian Pickett (07799415567) or iandpickett@aol.com to register for the walk and optional lunch.

TALKS

31st January (Wednesday) Talk: Window on the Internet.

Peter Carr from Vermont Ltd will talk about the vast resources of the Internet, how to get the best out of it. Lucy Dibdin, Cyber Security and Protect Officer from Hampshire Police, will talk about cyber security and how to remain safe. All welcome, regardless of skill and knowledge of the subject. Crosfield Hall Annexe.
2.30 pm

27th February Talk: Wild New Forest with Marcus Ward, looking at his research into birds and animals in the Forest. Crosfield Hall Annexe, 8.00 pm.



ROMSEY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY 42nd AGM

Wednesday 21 February 2018
7.00 (coffee) for 7.30pm
Crosfield Hall

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of the last AGM *
3. Matters Arising
4. Chairman's Report
5. Membership Report
6. Treasurer's Report
7. Report of the Year's Activities
8. Election of Officers
9. Election of Executive Committee
10. Election of Independent Examiners (Auditors)
11. Any Other Business

Nominations for the elections should be sent by email or letter, with the name of a seconder and the consent of the nominee, to the Secretary by 26 January 2018: secretary@romseydistrictsociety.co.uk 26 Horsecroft, Romsey, SO51 0GS

* The draft Minutes of the 2017 AGM are published on the Romsey and District Society website: www.romseydistrictsociety.co.uk

Reports for 2017 will be added to the website when available.

The RDS Register

January 2018

13th (Saturday) 10.00 – 13.00 **Natural Environment Committee: Coastal Bird Walk at Keyhaven.** A walk to look at coastal birds and migrants, led by Andy Lester. *Now fully booked.*

31st (Wednesday) **Talk: Window on the Internet.** Peter Carr will talk about the vast resources of the Internet, and how to get the best out of it. Lucy Dibdin will talk about cyber security and how to remain safe. Crosfield Hall Annexe. 2.30 pm. Further details on page 15.

February

2nd (Friday) **Poetry for Pleasure**, in King John's House at 8.00 pm. The theme: His 'n Hers.

14th (Wednesday) **Walk:** Meet at 10.15 in the car park of the Abbot's Mitre, Chilbolton, (Grid Ref SU392399). About 5 miles, no stiles but 2 moderately steep hills, hence good views, weather permitting. Further details and how to book on page 15.

21st (Wednesday) **The Society's AGM**, Crosfield Hall, 7.00pm (for coffee) for 7.30. See page 15 for further details and the agenda.

27th (Tuesday) **Wild New Forest** with Marcus Ward, looking at his research into birds and animals in the Forest. Crosfield Hall Annexe, 8.00 pm.

March

16th (Friday) **Poetry for Pleasure**, King John's House at 8.00 pm. The theme: Ancestral Voices

21st (Wednesday) **Walk: Hursley, Silkstead and Oliver's Battery.** 6.5 miles. Leaving at 10.00 am from the Dolphin Inn car park, Main Road, Hursley, SO21 2JY (GR SU428251) Fuller details on page 15

April

7th (Saturday) **RDS Stream Clean & Litter Pick-up.** Join Mark Cooper and other Society members to scour the waterways and other spots for litter. Meeting at 9.15 am at the Crosfield Hall main entrance. Finishing at the Newton Lane car park at 1130, hopefully with La Parisienne supplying a very fine cup of coffee.

10th (Tuesday) **Walk: Test Valley.** 5 miles,

meeting at the Bear and Ragged Staff, 2 miles north of Romsey (GR SU335258). A circular route starting from near the pub, to the outskirts of Michelmersh, across to Mottisfont and back to the pub. Fuller details on page 15.

26th (Thursday) **The Annual Lecture:** Crosfield Hall, 7.00 (for a glass of wine) for 7.30 pm. Tim Sykes of the Environment Agency will describe their work to protect and improve our local rivers and wetlands for wildlife and people. Attendance by ticket only. For further details and how to book, see page 15.

27th (Friday) **Poetry for Pleasure**, King John's House, 8.00 pm. The theme: Make Believe.

28th (Saturday) **Natural Environment Committee: Early Morning Bird Walk** at Fishlake Meadows, 6.30 to 8.30 am, led by Andy Lester and with breakfast afterwards at the World of Water. Further details and how to book on page 15.

May

9th (Wednesday) **Walk: New Forest.** Details in the April Magazine

22nd (Tuesday) **The Annual Dinner**, at Keats Restaurant, Ampfield. 7.00 for 7.30 pm. See page 15 for further details, including menu and how to book.

June

7th (Thursday) **Walk: New Forest.** Details in the April Magazine

July

6th (Friday) **The Summer Party**, 6.30 pm at Linden House. Details in the April Magazine.

August

September

13th (Thursday) **Natural Environment Committee Walk.** At 7.00 pm, a bat walk with Nik Knight, the Hampshire County bat recorder. Venue yet to be decided. Duration about 1.5 – 2 hours. More details in due course.

25th (Tuesday) **The Annual Lunch**, at the White Horse, Romsey. More details later.

October

24th **The Building Preservation Trust's AGM**, Plaza Theatre. Time and other details later.

November and December: Details later.

Officers and Committees

Chairman: Jennifer Adams
01794 278739
Crofters, Halterworth Lane, Romsey SO51 9AD

Vice Chairman: Gordon Massie
01794 522047
20 The Meadows, Romsey SO51 0GX

Secretary: Annette McBride
01794 522493
26 Horsecroft, Romsey SO51 0GS

Treasurer: Mike Phillips
01794 521308
4 Knyght Close, Romsey SO51 5UX

Membership Secretary: Romy Halliwell
023 8073 5866
Manor Farm House, Flexford Road, North Baddesley SO52 9DF

Executive Committee Members

Denise Amery, John Broughall, Clive Collier
Mark Cooper, Anna Duignan, Peter Halliwell, Mike Mullane, Elizabeth Pratt

Independent Examiner

Stephen Langford

Committee Chairmen and Representatives

Natural Environment
Elizabeth Pratt 01794 511036

Planning
Anna Duignan 01794 516361

Public Services
Mark Cooper 01794 516028

Social
Denise Amery 01794 523135

Buildings Preservation Trust
Representative
Peter Halliwell 023 8073 5866

Public Relations
Vacancy

Magazine Editor
Mike Mullane 01794 368099

Useful email addresses

chairman@romseydistrictsociety.co.uk
secretary@romseydistrictsociety.co.uk
treasurer@romseydistrictsociety.co.uk
membership@romseydistrictsociety.co.uk
magazine@romseydistrictsociety.co.uk
social@romseydistrictsociety.co.uk

PRODUCTION TEAM

Mike Mullane (Editor) 01794 368099
mjmullane@btinternet.com
Cliff Bruce, David Robinson, John Scarborough, Lesley Mackay
Ian Bullivant (Distribution) 01794 516 497
ian.bullivant712@gmail.com
Design & Printing: The Studio, www.thestudioromsey.co.uk



Keep up to date: visit our website at www.romseydistrictsociety.co.uk

This magazine is produced by the Romsey & District Society and the Editor reserves the right to elaborate, withhold or abridge material as space permits. The views expressed in this Magazine are not necessarily those of the Editor or the Romsey & District Society. Any form of reproduction or copying of this publication requires the prior written permission of the Editor.