



ROMSEY TOWN COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER WINTER 2021

MAYORS WINTER MESSAGE

Dear Romsey Resident

When I wrote for the last newsletter we were just coming out of lockdown and waiting to hear which 'roadmap' we would be following through the summer. What a lot has happened since then!

Our summer, although not as summery as it could have been, has for me been glorious watching our town come back to life: the bunting flapping in sunshine, seeing The Hundred full of shoppers, people milling around the market stalls, meeting friends in both the outdoor and indoor coffee shops. All normal Romsey things that last year could only be imagined.

It has been a privilege to attend functions in the last few months as Town Mayor and to witness the enjoyment of people and groups as they return their normal events (albeit with mask wearing and social distancing). The Romsey Festival was a joy, the Songs of Praise held in the Market Place on a lovely sunny evening was the sort of event that makes Romsey special. We are so lucky to live amongst people who organize such events that make us all feel good about where we live.

Life lived in Romsey is special. As I write this, autumn is upon us and plans are being made for



Romsey's Christmas Tree 2020 Photo © Lillia Jakeman
the town's Christmas festivities. I hope that with the safety measures in place, all will go ahead and this year the town and its people will sparkle and shine beneath the lights as it has in the past.

With my best wishes to everyone for a safe, Merry Christmas and a Happy 2022.

Karen Dunleavy
Romsey Town Mayor



ROMSEY TOWN HALL

OUR BEAUTIFUL COUNCIL CHAMBER IS THE PERFECT SETTING FOR YOUR INTIMATE WEDDING OR CIVIL PARTNERSHIP

FOR MORE DETAILS PLEASE VISIT WWW.ROMSEYTC.ORG.UK OR CONTACT OUR EVENTS MANAGER ON 01794 512837





CHRISTMAS EVENTS

27th November, 6pm - Lantern Parade, Winter Carnival and Light Switch On

This year the Community Lantern Parade will assemble at Crosfield Hall with the Winter Carnival and will follow the same route, ie, Broadwater Road, into Palmerston Street onto The Hundred and into the Market Place. The Lantern Parade will then continue down Bell Street and Broadwater Road back to the Crosfield Hall whilst the Carnival will wait until the Lights have been switched on and then follow the same route.

10th December - Late Night Shopping and Father Christmas comes to Romsey

A highlight for many at Christmas, Romsey shops will open into the evening offering an extra special seasonal welcome to customers. We hear Father Christmas is expected to visit at 6.45 pm and we have Romsey Fire Station standing by in case he makes his usual navigational error, lands on a roof and needs rescuing.

19th December, 10am to 3pm - Romsey Makers Market

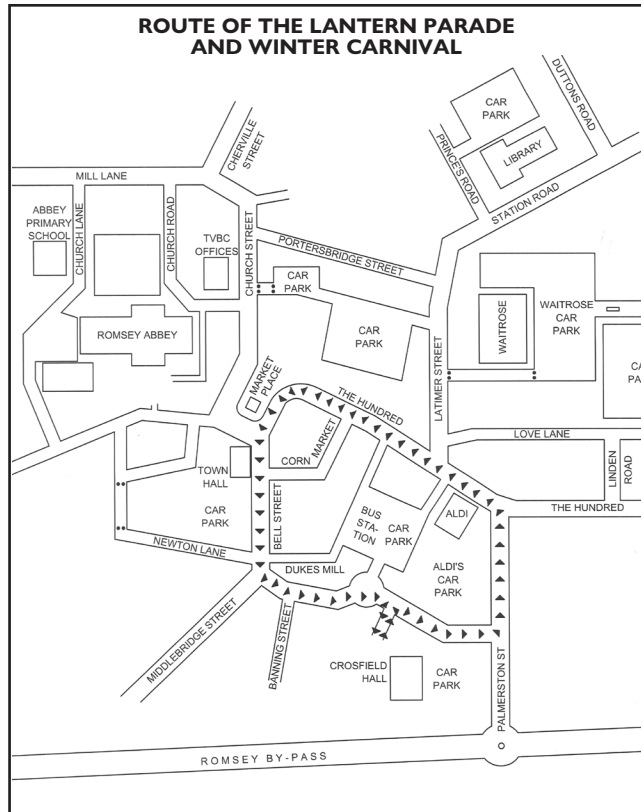
A chance to buy original handmade Christmas gifts.

19th December, 10am to 2pm - Hampshire Farmers Christmas Market

Held in the Alma Road car park, this market focuses on Christmas items and is a lovely chance to purchase fresh, local, seasonal foods.

20th December, 7pm - Carols in the Market Place

Gather around the Christmas tree in the Market Place for a festive evening of carol singing and live music.



Note: A number of town centre roads will be closed for these events, please look for diversion signs. Details overpage.





CHRISTMAS ROAD CLOSURE SCHEDULE

Streets	Date	Hours of Closure	Alternative Route
*Broadwater Road, Palmerston Street, The Hundred between Palmerston Street and Market Place, Market Place and Bell Street, Latimer Street, Church Street.	Saturday 27th November 2021	17.00 – 21.00	Romsey By Pass, Southampton Road, Winchester Road, Alma Road, Malmsbury Road, Duttons Road, Greatbridge Street, Cherville Street, The Horsefair and Church Street
**The Hundred between Palmerston Street and Market Place, Market Place, Church lace, Church Street, The Cornmarket, Latimer Street and Bell Street.	Friday 10th December 2021	16.00 – 20.00	Romsey By Pass, Southampton Road, Winchester Road, Alma Road, Malmsbury Road, Duttons Road, Greatbridge Street, Cherville Street, The Horsefair and Church Street
*Bell Street, Market Place, The Hundred between Market Place and Latimer Street and Church Street.	Monday 20th December 2021	18.00 – 21.00	Romsey By Pass, Southampton Road, Winchester Road, Alma Road, Malmsbury Road, Duttons Road, Greatbridge Street, Cherville Street, The Horsefair and Church Street

*Please note the ONE WAY restrictions on Bell Street and Market Square are suspended during the time of the closure.

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VIEW FROM THE TOWN

Since the last newsletter, Romsey has enjoyed a lovely Summer and a more “normal” feel to every-day life.

As Lockdown eased, local businesses and all retail venues were able to fully open, with restaurants, pubs and coffee shops all able to serve an unlimited number of customers, both internally and externally.

The Market Place with its outdoor seating continues to be a popular venue for people to meet and to enjoy alfresco coffee, meals and drinks.

In terms of footfall, latest figures show that Romsey is back to 2019 rates at 62%. There is a 5% shop vacancy rate in Romsey town centre, whereas Andover is nearer 14%. 12 % is the National average and so as a Town Centre Romsey continues to perform well.

It is great to see new businesses opening and Romsey benefits from many independent shops which are an attraction to both residents and visitors alike. The High Street was changing even before the pandemic began and there seems to have been a cultural shift to buying local and supporting local businesses. We are working in conjunction with our colleagues at the Chamber of Commerce and Test Valley Borough Council to bring new initiatives for keeping the £ local. Our markets seem to be thriving and the Sunday Romsey Maker's Market in the Market Place and The Cornmarket has proved to be popular, adding to the ambiance of the Town.

Romsey Market held on a Tuesday, Friday and Saturday still remains extremely popular with a growing waiting list. As well as the popular well-established traders, new stall holders are also proving to attract new customers with a more diverse offering.

In terms of Town events, it was great to welcome back the popular Romsey Antiques Market to the Town in July and October. The postponed Romsey Festival took place in July with great success. We are also looking forward to being able to hold a full programme of Christmas events this year, with the Christmas Light Switch On Event and Winter Carnival with its ever popular Lantern Parade being held on 27th November.

In terms of tourism, the staycation and day-trip market has benefited Romsey, with many local tourists re-discovering the sometimes forgotten gems that we have on our own doorstep. Working with our colleagues at Tourism South East, this market is predicted to keep growing into 2022 and new initiatives are currently being worked on to attract more visitors and visitor spend into Romsey.

In summary Romsey has shown great resilience and community spirit throughout this crisis and a real testament to the strength of the residents who call this town “Home”

Lisa Mortimer
Town and Tourism Co-ordinator
Romsey Town Council

GRANTS

Since the last Newsletter no grants have been applied for. If you would like to apply for a grant for your organisation please visit our website www.romseytc.org.uk/grants where you can view application criteria and download the grant application form.

CASUAL WORKER VACANCY - £9ph

Romsey Town Council are looking for casual workers to assist the Events Manager to ensure the availability and smooth running of Romsey Town Hall events at all times. If interested, please email bookings@romseytc.org.uk

