



ROMSEY TOWN COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER SPRING 2021

MAYORS SPRING MESSAGE

Dear Romsey Resident

I feel extremely privileged to be able to write this message to the townsfolk of Romsey, once again, as their Town Mayor. We live in uncertain times and I thank my fellow Councillors for placing their trust in me for the coming year.

As I write this, we are still at the early stages of the 'road map' out of lockdown and I can only hope that by the time you read it we are able to meet up with family and friends and have a semblance of normality back in our lives.

Firstly, I would like to thank our outgoing Town Mayor, Cllr Janet Burnage, for her two years as Mayor, steering us through uncharted territory and managing to do so with style and a smile.

I would also like to extend my grateful thanks and that of the Town Council to all the volunteers that have made such a difference to so many peoples' lives since the first lockdown. From delivering food and prescriptions, to phoning to check on someone's wellbeing, and then as time went on volunteering in their hundreds to help in the vaccination programme. We have all been so lucky to live in a town populated by kindness. Also, thanks to those who kept us going by working during the lockdowns, the NHS staff, carers, shopworkers, council workers and all others without whom we would not have managed.

This year is going to be different for many of us, events such as the Beggar's Fair, the Carnival,



and the Mayor's Picnic along with many others being postponed or held as virtual events to keep us all safe. We will all miss having these events in our calendars but understand and thank the organisers for thinking of our welfare and safety. That said, if you are holding an event this year, please invite me as Mayor to come along. I would love to see the many different organisations Romsey has and do my bit to support them as we come out of lockdown.

I'm sure this year will be very different from when I was first Mayor back in 2008, but I know it will be just as special and I look forward to meeting (socially distanced of course) as many people as possible and experiencing once again the kindness of Romsonians.

Karen Dunleavy
Romsey Town Mayor





Introducing Lisa Mortimer MRICS Romsey Town Centre Manager

Hello

As part of this newsletter, I thought I would write a few words of introduction, as many of you will not be familiar with me, as much of my 7-month tenure as Romsey Town Centre Manager has been spent under lockdown restrictions.

However, as we move into Spring, there is positivity, with the proposed Government lifting of Coronavirus restrictions, which have shaped so much of our day to day lives so dramatically.

I therefore hope to be able to get out and about in and around the Town and get to know as many of our local businesses as I can.

For my part I am a chartered commercial property surveyor and a member of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (MRICS). I have some 20 years property experience, which I hope will be put to good use as we look to rejuvenate and breathe new life back into our Town Centre and local businesses.

One thing that has struck me particularly throughout this pandemic is the strong support for the "Shop Local, Stay Loyal" message, which has been so important for our local, independent shops and businesses. This message will be just as important as we look towards opening up our Town Centre again and to continue to support our local business community, who have struggled so acutely throughout this crisis.

So how can we do this?

"Bricks and Clicks"

The Covid Pandemic has hastened the evolutionary change that was already taking place on the High Street with a move to on-line sales.

According to the Office of National Statistics – "The proportion of on-line retail increased to

a record level in January 2021 reaching 35.2% up from 29.6% in December 2020 and was far higher than the 19.5% in January 2020, reflecting the impact the pandemic has had on consumer behaviours."

This data reinforces the necessity for local business communities to harness this additional marketing/potential on-line sales channel.

My idea was to create a "virtual" High Street to run alongside the bricks and mortar for primarily independent retailers/businesses in Romsey, which will also offer delivery and/or click and collect options

Although the Government's road map currently envisages that all High Street non-essential retail will be able to open from 12th April, Test Valley Borough Council and Romsey Town Council are proposing to develop an on-line digital platform to enable local business to have an on-line presence and to ensure that local residents can continue to support local businesses.

Finally, as the warmer days of Summer arrive, when hopefully restrictions on our lives will be lifted further, it is important for our Town to advertise that it is safe and welcoming in order to rekindle confidence so that residents and visitors are able to enjoy all that our historic Town has to offer. The Town Council in conjunction with the Borough Council are actively looking at ways to achieve this.

We will keep you posted.....

If you would like to find out more then please do email me tcm@romseytc.org.uk

Lisa Mortimer
MRICS Romsey
Town Centre
Manager





Passenger Lift Installation in Romsey Town Hall

It has long been an aspiration to provide easy access to our wonderful Council Chamber. This much loved and atmospheric space is licensed for 150 and is not just used for Council Meetings. A whole variety of events take place here from weddings to markets, AGM's to parties.

A four-person, wheelchair plus one, capacity lift is being installed to serve the second floor.

To enable this the existing kitchen, servery and bar are being remodelled and upgraded.

Further provision is being made to enable access between the stage and Council Chamber for wheelchairs. Ambulant persons will be able to ride to the basement on a chairlift where Romsey Local History Society are based.

This builds upon the provision of unisex disabled washroom facilities on the second floor in 2019 and the current upgrade of the ground floor disabled facilities.

We anticipate that all will be operational by 17th May 2021.

GRANTS

Since the last Newsletter grants have been awarded to:

Halterworth Primary	
School Green Team	£250.00
The Office of Dmitrijs	
Meiksans MYP	£250.00
RAODS	£250.00
Tree of Life Café	£500.00

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.

COMMUNITY CINEMA

We still have quite a few tickets that have yet to be refunded for performances that were cancelled during 2020.

You can collect your Romsey Community Cinema refund from the Romsey Town Council office which is open Monday to Friday 9am – 3pm. For purchases made via Ticketsource, you will have already received your refund directly

from them.

We look forward to sharing films with you again very soon.



FOREIGN PENSION REQUESTS

If you have a pension form that requires signature, please contact the Town Council office on 01794 512837 or email info@romseytc.org.uk to arrange a time to

meet with the Chief Officer who will then verify your pension form. A donation to the Mayor's Charity for this service would be appreciated.





ROMSEY TOWN HALL

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

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

