



# Romsey Town Council

NEWSLETTER WINTER 2023

## Mayor's Winter Message

Welcome to this year's Mayor's winter message.

It's been a very busy summer with all the usual events being very successful. I would like to thank everyone who supported and attended the Mayor's Picnic, it was a great day. The Beggars Fair was packed and the Carnival was fun. Romsey also hosted the Romsey Arts Festival with all the events very well attended. Now we come to the busy season. Rose and I will attend many events, from school nativity plays to Carol Services, it seems we should take up residency in the Abbey during December! Special events like the Carols in the Marketplace are a big favourite of ours. We have been busy organising the Lantern Parade alongside the Winter Carnival on the night of the Christmas Light Switch On.



Don't forget Santas rescue evening starting at 5.30pm on 8 December.

We hope to see you at as many events as possible because Christmas in Romsey is a very special time.

Happy Xmas.

**Cllr John Ray**  
Romsey Town Mayor

# The Community of Romsey

by Suzi Shilling, Business, Events and Tourism Officer

Autumn and Winter are often seen as the cold and darker months and the temptation is to stay in the warm. However, Romsey has some fantastic events in front of us and a chance for all of us to venture out and celebrate our Town and surrounding villages.

Remembrance and Armistice Day are remembered by the whole community and respectfully we all give our thanks to those who have given their lives for us. This year Romsey has Armistice Day on Saturday 11th and will have the Fort Cumberland Guard Reenactment team with their cannon display in the park from 10.30am with the canon being fired at 11.00. On Remembrance Day the parade will commence from Love Lane at 9am through the town and to Romsey Abbey for the Service of Remembrance commencing at 9.25am. Following the service, all will make their way to the Romsey War Memorial Park where a service will be conducted. Michelmersh Silver Band, Romsey Old Cadet Buglers and the Romsey Abbey Choirs will be in attendance. There will be a fly pass by an Apache from Middle Wallop just before the 2-minute silence at 11am.

Our historic market town will be transformed in November ready for the Annual Christmas Lights Switch on and the Romsey and District Chamber of Commerce and Industry will be organising the illuminated trees above the shops and businesses. We all look forward to seeing the town lit up in full glory with the Christmas tree centre piece of the Town alighting Market Place.

Christmas will officially start in Romsey on Saturday 25th November from 5pm with the 'Big Light Switch On' and 'Winter Carnival and

Lantern Parade'. This year the Carnival route will be starting from Abbey Walk and meander through the Market Place, down the Hundred and past the Crosfield Hall bringing it back up Bell Street and returning to the Abbey. This night is always a busy time with many people venturing out, please space yourselves out along the Carnival route. To keep everyone safe please listen to instructions from our marshals and where possible leave any pets at home.

It's the traditional Saving Santa night on Friday 8th December. This year Romsey & District Chamber of Commerce and Industry brings you an evening of family entertainment starting from 4pm in Romsey Town Centre. Come and join in the fun and be a reindeer hunter in the new Romsey Reindeer trail. Follow the map to find all the missing reindeers in time to save Santa at 6.45pm with Hampshire Fire and Rescue.

There is no better way to rouse the Christmas spirit than with a good old sing-along in Romsey Market Place. Romsey Carols in the Market Place will take place on Monday 19th December so come wrapped up in need of a mulled wine or two!

We are lucky to have a thriving Town Centre with many independent retailers, eateries, and a mix of markets throughout the week so please come and support your local traders in the lead up to Christmas, they need your custom to thrive, think of it as an investment in your community.

Romsey Abbey, the largest parish church in Hampshire, also have some fantastic events scheduled in the lead up to and over Christmas. The Christmas Fair on Saturday 25th November is a must and always a fabulous event. Romsey Methodist Church are bringing back their successful Christmas Tree Festival this year, on Friday 8th and Saturday 9th December. Watch out for other seasonal events in our other churches as they celebrate this very special time. I would like to extend our heartfelt thanks and

gratitude to all the wonderful volunteers and community organisations who give so much time and effort to supporting the town. We have some fantastic events over the year which are all organised and run by our community. This means hours spent in the planning, not to mention those on the night who help keep everyone safe by marshalling the roads and crowds and providing the entertainment.

To help showcase these amazing charities and organisations, we will be having our second Volunteer Fair on Sunday 21st January 2024

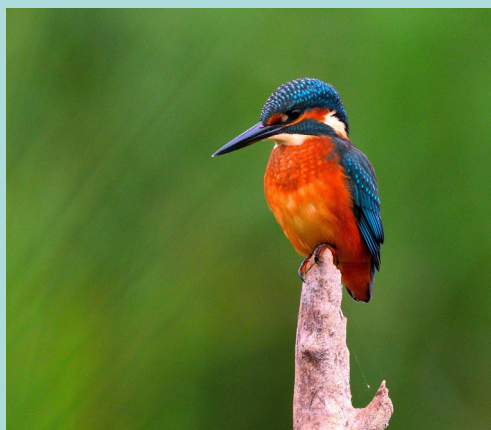
at Romsey Town Hall. We have opportunities such as surveying wildlife and helping to protect internally important habitats, help lead healthy walks, help organise and contribute at music and cultural festivals, explore and research local history, and help those who need it in our local community. There really is something for all ages, skills, and passions. There is no need to book, it is a free event, just turn up between 10.30am and 3pm and browse the stalls to find your opportunity to have fun and give something back.

## Wilder Romsey

by Cllr Neil Gwynne

Out of a Romsey Future workstream that was looking at the natural environment – via a launch held at the Plaza Theatre involving Cllrs Neil Gwynne and Janet Burnage – came the Wilder Romsey initiative. From the very beginning it has always been closely linked with Test Valley Borough Council's 'green spaces' team, and has run projects including (to date):

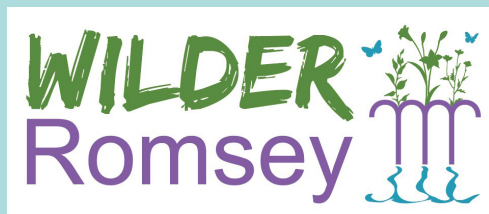
- photography competition (a prize-winning example from Graham Hills below!)
- regular maintenance of the canal bankside
- planting of a community orchard on Greater Woodley estate
- wildflower 'corners' on the Greater Woodley estate
- free provision of bird box kits, and tree saplings, to residents
- maintenance of tree saplings and cutting back of invasive saplings on Abbotswood estate and reserve



*Photo: Graham Hills*

And now ... Romsey Town Council have taken on administration of the main route by which volunteers for Wilder Romsey projects get to hear about them and get involved in them. This is via a Google group that allows all those who have signed up to Wilder Romsey to be sent information about what is happening next – and volunteer to be part of whichever activity they want to – without their email address being shared. To mark this change, a relaunch of Wilder Romsey will take place later in the year.

In the meantime, if you would like to be part of this success story, then all you need to do is email [info@romseytc.org.uk](mailto:info@romseytc.org.uk) and ask to be included in the google group.



# Romsey Forum

A short Introduction, the what and why of the Forum

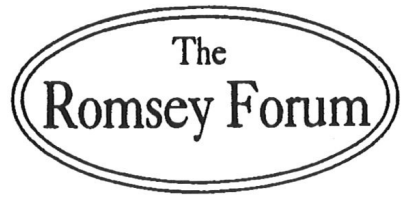
by Mark L. Edgerley, Chair Romsey Forum

The first meeting of Romsey Forum was chaired by Cllr Mark Cooper on 22nd June 1994.

The Forum is an open debating chamber where the issues of the day affecting Romsey can be fully aired and where the general public and town organisations can, through the Forum Chairman, question officers of the County Council and Borough Council.

The Forum decides its own structure - people who thrive on rules and structures may find this concept difficult but there is no constitution or rule book. Members are those residents of Romsey Town Council four wards that attend any meetings.

Names and e-mail addresses registered on the Forum attendance forms are retained by the Forum secretaries to enable details of future meetings, minutes, and other documents of interest to be circulated. Members can email **romseyforum@gmail.com** if they wish to be removed from the circulation.



Minutes of previous meetings can be found on the Forum page on the Town Council website. The Forum usually meets four times a year in March, June, September, and November in the Court Room of Romsey Town Hall.

All local town, parish, borough, and county Councillors are on the circulation list, but they are encouraged to listen rather than lead in the context of the Forum although cross examinations and up-to-date information are appreciated.

So, with no constitution and no rulebook the Forum's success relies on the ability of the Chairman and Secretary to find good topics and to charm Council officers into attending and submitting themselves to scrutiny.



View listings/buy tickets go to

[www.romseytc.org.uk/  
community\\_cinema](http://www.romseytc.org.uk/community_cinema)



What's On

in Romsey

Christmas

23

[www.romseytc.org.uk](http://www.romseytc.org.uk)

25 November 6pm

Light Switch On, Winter  
Carnival & Lantern Parade

8 December 4.30pm

Saving Santa in the  
Market Place

18 December 7pm

Christmas Carols in the  
Market Place

### Romsey Christmas Markets

Romsey Market  
days are open  
throughout December  
Tuesday, Friday & Saturday  
Market Place & Cornmarket  
8am until 3pm

1, 8 & 15 December  
10:30am - 12:30pm  
Romsey Country Market  
and Community Café,  
Romsey Town Hall

3 & 17 December  
10am - 1pm  
Hampshire Christmas  
Farmers Market, Alma  
Road Car Park

3 & 10 December  
10am - 3pm  
Romsey Makers Market,  
Market Place and  
Corn Market



ROMSEY & DISTRICT  
CHAMBER OF  
COMMERCE &  
INDUSTRY



CLUB OF ROMSEY TEST







# Christmas Events

## 17 November 10am – 5pm Winter Fair – Crosfield Hall

Romsey Show brings you the annual Winter Fair at Crosfield Hall. The place will be packed with stalls and a café will be open to serve you some lovely treats.

## 18 November 10am – 2.30pm Romsey Charities Christmas Fair Crosfield Hall

## 25 November - 10am to 2pm Christmas Fair – Romsey Abbey

Father Christmas will be visiting earlier on in the day at Romsey Abbey and be surrounded by stalls and an array of delicious food and mulled wine. Come and celebrate all things Christmas, with proceeds going to Romsey Abbey.

## 25 November - 6pm Light Switch On, Winter Carnival and Lantern Parade

The Christmas lights will be switched on in the Market Place. This year the Lantern Parade and Winter Carnival will assemble at Church Place, near Romsey Abbey. They will then make their way down Church Street, The Hundred, Palmerston Street and into Broadwater Road into Bell Street returning to the Market Place and back into Church Place by the Abbey.

Note: If you are coming along to watch, we please ask that you keep the parade route roads clear for its safe progress through the town.

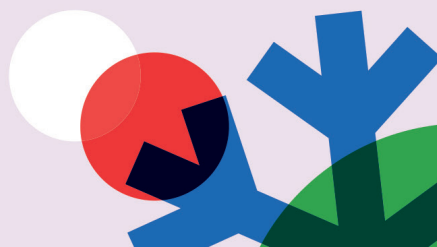
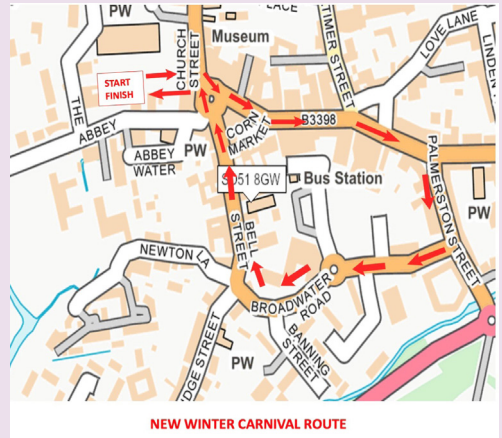
Note: A number of town centre roads will be closed for some of these events, please look for diversion signs.



## 1, 8 & 15 December – 10.30am to 12.30pm Romsey Country Market and Community Café

Held inside Romsey Town Hall, this is a wonderful opportunity to buy homemade Christmas food and gifts and to make new friends over a cup of tea and a mince pie.

## 2 December – 8.30am to 3pm Romsey Country Market

Held in the Corn Market, this is another great opportunity to buy homemade Christmas food and gifts whilst soaking up the festive atmosphere of Romsey.





**2 December - 7pm**  
**George's Trust Christmas Concert - Romsey Abbey**

**3 & 17 December – 10am to 1pm**  
**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.

**3 & 10 December - 10am to 3pm**  
**Romsey Makers Market**  
Held in the Market Place and Corn Market, there will be stalls selling handmade Christmas gifts and food from local crafters, makers & bakers.

**3 December – 6.30pm**  
**Advent Sequence Service – Romsey Abbey**

**8 December – from 4pm**  
**Saving Santa**  
This year the evening of entertainment will start from 4pm with a 'Desperately Seeking Santa Trail' through Romsey's shops and businesses 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.

**8 & 9 December**  
**Christmas Tree Festival**  
Romsey Methodist Church are bringing back their successful Christmas Tree Festival this year, everyone welcome.

**9 December - 6.30pm**  
**Maggie's Charity Christmas Concert**  
**Romsey Abbey**

**11 December – 3.30pm and 7pm**  
**The Holiday - Romsey Community Cinema**  
Come along to Romsey Town Hall and get in the festive mood with the romantic Christmas comedy 'The Holiday' starring Kate Winslet, Jude Law, Cameron Diaz and Jack Black. Tickets £6.50, available online ([www.romseytc.org.uk/community\\_cinema](http://www.romseytc.org.uk/community_cinema)), in person from the Town Council office or on the door.

**15 December - 7.30pm**  
**Romsey Youth Choir Christmas Concert – Romsey Abbey**

**16 December - 3pm, 4.30 and 6pm**  
**The Snowman Performances**  
**Romsey Abbey**

**17 December - 6.30pm**  
**Nine Lessons and Carols Service**  
**Romsey Abbey**

**18 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.

**21 December - tbc**  
**Nine Lessons and Carols Service**  
**Romsey Abbey**


**22 December - 7.30pm**  
**Romsey Singers Concert**  
**Romsey Abbey**

**24 December - 4pm**  
**Christingle Nativity Service**  
**Romsey Abbey**

**24 December – 11.30pm**  
**Midnight Mass Service**  
**Romsey Abbey**

**25 December – 10am**  
**Christmas Day Service**  
**Romsey Abbey**

**28 December – 4pm**  
**Holy Innocents Service**  
**Romsey Abbey**





# **CHRISTMAS FAIR**

**in ROMSEY ABBEY**

**SATURDAY 25th NOVEMBER 2023**

**10am-2pm**



© Romsey Abbey

## **VISIT FATHER CHRISTMAS**

**LOTS OF STALLS :CHRISTMAS BARGAINS .**

**COFFEE\* LUNCHES\* MULLED WINE**

**Entry £1 Children Free**

**All PROCEEDS TO ROMSEY ABBEY**





## *Carols In The Marketplace*

Join us for an evening of Christmas carols in Romsey Marketplace, under the lights of the Christmas tree. A chance to meet up with friends old and new and celebrate the magic of Christmas.

**Michelmersh Silver Band**  
**Romsey Abbey Choir**

**Monday 18 December 2023 at 7pm**



Donate  
to Rotary  
charities

Sponsored by





# SAVING SANTA

## and the ROMSEY REINDEER TRAIL

New

**Friday  
8th  
December**  
From 4pm

*Late night  
shopping and  
ho. ho. hospitality*

Shops will be staying open, so come and do some Christmas shopping then eat, drink and make merry in our restaurants, cafés and pubs?

**The Romsey  
Chamber of Commerce  
PRESENT**  
**Saving Santa**

He's lost his bearings and his reindeer somewhere in Romsey! Come and help us find them and, with a huge Christmas Cheer, let's send him on his way.

### Romsey Reindeer Trail

**FROM 4PM IN THE MARKET  
PLACE - £2 ENTRY**

Help us track down Santa's lost reindeer around the town! Crack the Christmas Code, to collect a small gift, and have a chance of winning the Footner's Festive Feast Hamper.

- 16:00** The Hundred closed to traffic, and reindeer hunt begins
- 17:30** Singing in the square
- 18:45** Fire Brigade to the rescue!  
Can Santa be saved?

Supported by



Organised by



[www.romseychamber.co.uk](http://www.romseychamber.co.uk) | [info@romseychamber.co.uk](mailto:info@romseychamber.co.uk)

Thank you to our sponsor



# WELCOME TO ROMSEY'S SECOND VOLUNTEER FAIR

SUNDAY 21<sup>ST</sup>  
JANUARY 2024  
10.30 - 3PM



Join us at Romsey Town Hall

## YOU can make a difference in 2024!

Come and hear talks and discover local opportunities  
from MUSEUMS and ENTERTAINMENT EVENTS  
GROUPS, to PRACTICAL CONSERVATION,  
HEALTHY WALKS and CHARITIES.

Volunteering can  
be very flexible and fit  
around other commitments.  
Some roles are regular,  
others more ad hoc -  
there really is something  
for all ages!

**Volunteering can help you:**

- gain new skills
- meet new people
- test the water for a career change
- give something back
- support a cause you really believe in

Romsey Town Hall, 1 Market Place, Romsey, Hampshire SO51 8YZ



# Council and Committee Meetings 2024

All Council and Committee meetings are held in Romsey Town Hall at 7.30pm and are open to the public to come along and watch. A complete list of meetings, along with Agendas and Minutes can be viewed on our website at [www.romseytc.org.uk](http://www.romseytc.org.uk).

## Planning

4 January  
25 January  
15 February  
7 March  
28 March  
18 April  
9 May  
30 May  
20 June  
11 July  
1 August  
22 August  
12 September  
3 October

24 October

14 November

5 December

## Full Council

16 January  
19 March  
16 April (*Annual Parish Meeting*)  
21 May (*Mayor Making*)  
28 May (*Adjourned Meeting*)  
23 July  
24 September  
12 November

## Buildings & Community

6 February  
9 April  
11 June  
13 August  
15 October  
17 December

## Finance & Resources

13 February  
20 April  
18 June  
20 August  
22 October  
3 December

## Reporting Problems

by Cllr John Critchley

In many cases it is now preferable to report problems online, this helps to get your problem logged and investigated quicker. It also helps with building a picture of continuing issues such as anti-social behaviour, so that resources can be made available to deal with it.

Your local councillors are not a substitute for this reporting but will of course help if they can, especially with continuing problems. Contact details for your Councillor can be found within this newsletter, they are also on the Romsey Town Council website. Alternatively you can contact the Town Hall between 09:00 and 15:00 Monday to Friday, by phone **01794 512837** or in person.

For serious offences in progress or where there is danger of harm use **999**.

Please report all problems using the contacts below:

### Hampshire County Council (HCC)

For potholes, pavements, flooding, streetlights etc. you can 'Report a Problem' at [www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems](http://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems)

For urgent reports where there is immediate danger to the public call **0300 555 1388** during office hours or **101** at other times.

### Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC)

For anti-social behaviour, waste, grass & hedge maintenance etc. you can report at [www.testvalley.gov.uk/do-it-online-services/report](http://www.testvalley.gov.uk/do-it-online-services/report)

If you are not online or it is urgent you can phone **01264 368000**.

### Hampshire police:

To report non-emergencies, go to [www.police.uk/pu/contact-the-police/report-a-crime-incident](http://www.police.uk/pu/contact-the-police/report-a-crime-incident) or call **101**.





# ROMSEY TOWN HALL

The perfect setting for your ceremony



Find out more

[WWW.ROMSEYTC.ORG.UK](http://WWW.ROMSEYTC.ORG.UK)

01794 512837



Romsey Town Hall  
1 Market Place  
Romsey  
SO51 8YZ



# Your Councillors

## ABBEY WARD



**Cllr John Critchley**  
cllrjcritchley@romseytc.org.uk

07831 870120

Committees: Full Council,  
Planning, Buildings &  
Community, Finance &  
Resources



**Cllr Ian Culley**  
cllriculley@romseytc.org.uk

01794 522298 /  
07835 087955

Committees: Full Council,  
Planning, Buildings &  
Community, Finance &  
Resources



**Cllr Simon Wilkinson**  
cllrswilkinson@romseytc.org.uk

01794 518240 /  
07739 802739

Committees: Full Council,  
Buildings & Community,  
Finance & Resources



**Cllr Colin Burgess**  
cllrswilkinson@romseytc.org.uk

01794 518240 /  
07739 802739

Committees: Full Council,  
Planning, Buildings &  
Community, Allotments -  
Southampton Road

## CUPERNHAM WARD



**Cllr Neil Gwynne**  
cllrngwynne@romseytc.org.uk

01794 368053 /  
07884 023646

Committees: Full Council,  
Buildings & Community,  
Finance & Resources



**Cllr Janet Burnage**  
cllrjburnage@romseytc.org.uk

01794 515815 /  
07764 584522

Committees: Full Council,  
Buildings & Community



**Cllr Christopher Birkett**  
cllrbirkett@romseytc.org.uk

01794 512837

Committees: Full Council,  
Buildings & Community



**Cllr Aidan Goddard**  
cllrageddard@romseytc.org.uk

01794 512837

Committees: Full Council,  
Planning, Buildings &  
Community



**Cllr Rohit Kohli**  
clrrkohli@romseytc.org.uk

07369 254791

Committees: Full Council,  
Buildings & Community



**Cllr Russell Theron**  
clrrtheron@romseytc.org.uk

01794 512837

Committees: Full Council,  
Planning, Allotments -  
Kings Chase

## ROMSEY EXTRA WARD



**Cllr John Ray**  
cllrjray@romseytc.org.uk

01794 522810

Committees: Full Council,  
Planning

## TADBURN WARD



**Cllr Mark Cooper**  
cllrcooper@romseytc.org.uk

01794 516028 /  
07774 638310

Committees: Full Council,  
Planning, Buildings &  
Community



**Cllr John Parker**  
cllrjparker@romseytc.org.uk

07825 514348

Committees: Full Council,  
Planning, Buildings &  
Community, Finance &  
Resources



**Cllr Jacqueline Urquhart**  
cllrjurquhart@romseytc.org.uk

07365 246294

Committees: Full Council,  
Finance & Resources



**Cllr Sandra Gidley**  
cllrsgidley@romseytc.org.uk

07919 538263

Committees: Full Council,  
Planning, Buildings &  
Community

# Grants

Since the last Newsletter grants have been awarded to the following:

<b>Rotary of Romsey Test</b>	<b>£400</b>
<b>Romsey Show</b>	<b>£800</b>
<b>Victim Support</b>	<b>£100</b>
<b>Test Valley Entrepreneurs Contest</b>	<b>£250</b>

If you would like to apply for a grant for your organisation, please visit [www.romseytc.org.uk/grant-applications](http://www.romseytc.org.uk/grant-applications) where you can view application criteria and download the grant application form.

## Pension/ Life Certificates

If you have a pension/life certificate that requires a certification, please contact Romsey Town Council on 01794 512837 or email: [info@romseytc.org.uk](mailto:info@romseytc.org.uk) to arrange an appointment with the Chief Officer.

A donation of £10 to the Mayor's Charity Fund is chargeable for the certification of the document.

The Mayor's Charities for 2023/24 are Romsey Good Neighbours, George's Trust, Jane Scarth House and Jenna Marie Foundation.



Find out more about  
Romsey Town Council



Scan me

The Chief Officer can be contacted  
by phone: 01794 512837  
or email: [chiefofficer@romseytc.org.uk](mailto:chiefofficer@romseytc.org.uk)

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