

NEWSHEET



NUMBER SIX

ROMSEY

AND DISTRICT SOCIETY

SEPTEMBER 1978

The Abbey Water Project Reviewed

I think we can say that phase 1 of the Congregational Burial Ground project is complete. That is - we have erased one footpath, rearranged the large stone slabs to create beds for planting and extended the turfed area up to the south wall. That leaves for phase 11 further turfing and planting in the autumn.

If one has not been physically involved in the work this must sound a very modest effort but it is interesting to add up what it has meant in terms of man/hours. There have been 23 members of the Society engaged in the work at various times and the total of Man/hours is not



less than 150 - fortunately not at union rates. It would not be fair to work out an average because obviously some members have been able to spare more time than others. Also I should make it clear that "man" is used in the old-fashioned sense that embraces women.

The work has been quite strenuous and we have been sustained by never failing refreshments supplied by well-wishers - notably our President who added welcome

notably our President who added welcome encouragement. We are also grateful to those who loaned essential equipment such as crowbars and scaffold poles.

One slight concern at the start of the operation was how to move over distances of up to 50 feet large flat stones weighing close on half a ton. It has been one of the satisfying aspects of the enterprise that a primitive and painless method for doing this was evolved.

You may have seen reports in the local press regarding the small building adjacent to the garden that had to be demolished shortly after we started work. (I hasten to add that the two events were not directly related) We understand that, planning approvals permitting, the building will be rebuilt, and indeed may be complete before we start the second phase.

The boundary wall on the north side of the garden is more of a problem because it is certainly in need of repair and no one has yet accepted the responsibility. We shall be having further discussion with the T.V.B.C. on this.

A very helpful grant to the cost of the work has been made by Hampshire County Council under their Environmental Enhancement scheme. Although costs to date have been negligible, this will not be the case in the second phase and we are grateful to the County for their contribution. And, finally, our thanks also are due all members who have unstintingly given of their time and effort.

Summer Party Success

The Summer Party this year was held in the grounds of Stanbridge Earls School. The grace and beauty of the Elizabethan manor house in the smooth expanse of its green lawns set the stage for an evening of pleasant sociability and refreshment.

About two hundred and sixty persons attended, including the Mayor of Romsey and Coucillor Malpas, and the Society's President, Mrs. P.A. Wellington. The weather, judged by the standards of this dismal summer was good though more sunshine would have been welcome.

Mrs. Pam Palmer and her friends provided an excellent cold buffet which was accompanied by white and red wine and soft drinks dispensed by various "barmen" conspicuous among whom was the deputy mayor wearing a handsome apron depicting "La bonne vie".

As has become the custom, background music was provided by the Michelmersh Silver Band under the guidance of Mr. W. Parsons.

Thanks are due to the Governors of Stanbridge Earls School for allowing the use of the beautiful grounds and also of the marquee and equipment. The arrangements were facilitated by the kindness and cooperation of the staff. The success of yet another Summer Party was particularly gratifying since it enabled some £325 to be raised for the Romsey Hospital Appeal.

THE STAMPEDE OF ROMSEY IN 1907

When people are talking about Romsey they often describe it as a nice little country town with great character and very pleasant to live in, the only thing against it is that its quiet and nothing really exciting happens so I thought members would like to know about something which happened in the Autumn of 1907. That was Romsey's Great Stampede. My father used to tell me about it and that it was a regiment of Mounted Yeomenary that was camped during manouvers on Baddesley Common, but trying to verify some points from my older brother, a boy at the time and from Mr. Vic Howe who remembers it well, I understand it was a regiment of Regular Cavalry and that a regiment consists of 300 soldiers so there must have been well over 300 horses tethered in lines on the common.

Late one Saturday night an inspection of the horses was in progress when one was found to be very ill or wounded which necessitated it being destroyed. The vet very foolishly shot it in the lines. This started the stampede; the horses broke their tethers and galloped away in all directions, some galloped right into Southampton through the Bargete down to the quay where they jumped straight into the water, many were drowned. Others came through Romsey down Mill Lane and my brother told me you could hear them galloping down the lane and thundering across the bridge, which in those days was wooden one. It woke him up and all the people in Mill Lane. Over the bridge they scattered in all directions. Some were trapped in the barbed wire and some were bogged down in the deep ditches. Some also went up Green Hill and Vic Howe told me one thing that made matters worse was that many of the horses kept treading on their tethers as they galloped along, frightening them more than ever.

Sunday was a day when the soldiers had the task of catching their horses. The boys of the town had a great time helping find the horses. Vic Howe was a Choir Boy and he and most of the other Choir Boys went with the soldiers looking for horses. That Sunday night the Abbey service was without most of its Choir boys.

My brother told me that they were over a week helping the soldiers find the horses and that it was a horrible sight to see the terrible wounds some of the horses had received from barbed wire and fences, many of them had to be destroyed. The event was the talk of Romsey for many a long day. I wonder if there are many old Romsonians who still remember it?



Exhibition of photographs

Test Valley 1840-1940.

The first stop for the travelling version of this exhibition arranged by the Photographic Gallery at Southampton University will be

King Johns House, Romsey.

October 3rd.-29th.

Tuesday 2-4pm
Thursday 10.30.-1230, 2-4.p.m.
Friday " "
Saturday " "

DIARY

ABBEY HALL

Tues 17th October 1978 Public meeting.

Tues 28th November 1978 "

Wed 21st February 1979 A.G.M.

CROSFIELD HALL

Tues 23rd January 1979 Annual Conser-
vation Lecture.
Lord Mountbatten
on Broadlands.

Sat 3rd March 1979 Jumble Sale.

Wed 4th April 1979 Public Meeting

S.S.Peter&Paul, Kings Somborne

We are holding an exhibition of old agricultural and domestic tools, old photographs, newspapers, maps and local crafts on October 7th in the village hall, open 9.30am-6.0pm. Cups of tea and coffee with biscuits will be on sale. Admission 20p adults 10p for children under 16. We hope you will come and enjoy a few hours in our village and lovely countryside.

Mrs. G.J.Sims, Church Warden.

membership form

SUBSCRIPTION RATE:

£1.00. 50p for students & OAP's

NAME

ADDRESS

Send to: Mr. R. Waters,
Treasurer,
8, Little Meads,
Romsey, Hants.

Letter from the chairman

This Newsheet is devoted mainly to the Romsey School Environmental Project and you may have seen the display at the Romsey Show, but even so, I hope you will visit the exhibition in The Abbey during October. As one who attended the inaugural meeting with the schools' representatives, the project seemed daunting, but clearly not to all those who took part and who are to be congratulated on their magnificent results. The children have shown that they have a genuine interest and concern in the environment, which speaks well for the future.

All Sub-Committees have continued to meet regularly and it is heartening to read that agreement has at last been reached for the Buildings Trust's purchase of the properties in Cherville Street and work in the Burial Ground in Abbey Water has progressed well despite a disappointing response from members with offers of help.

Finally our thanks go to all those who helped to make the Summer Party such a success, resulting in a profit of a little over £325.00. The Executive Committee has decided to add to this and give £500.00 to the Hospital Appeal.




Eight Bells CRAFT SHOP

Leatherwork & Knitwear made to order.
Batik, baskets, jewellery, macramé, rag dolls, weaving and woodwork.



Cornmarket, Romsey, Hampshire



Reports from the committees:

Committee Chairmen

Townscape: Mr. Don Hargreaves, Norfolk House, The Crescent. 512315
 Waterways: Mr. Jack Smetham, 2, Mill Lane 512134
 Footpaths: Mr. Ron Genge, 3, Linden Road 513057
 Sports: Mr. John King, Embley Dower House. 513584
 Planning: Mr. Nigel Bachmann, Grove Lodge, Romsey Rd. Nursling Rownhams 5284
 King John's House: Mr. John King, Embley Dower House. 513584
 Trees: Mrs. Betty Rackham, The Hedges Chapel Lane, Timsbury. Braishfield 68498
 Museum: Mr. Antony Attlee, The Old Vine, Cherville St. 513524

Waterways

Members of the Society will be pleased to know that at last we have a licence from the County Council to fish and canoe in their part of the old Andover Canal. Our Secretary is also still badgering the County Council not to sell their bank of the canal when their land is sold for development so that it can be kept in the natural state. We now have permission to use almost the whole length of the canal excepting a small stretch at the Timsbury end. The weeds, as they usually do in the summer, have taken over a lot of the canal but there are several clear pools at Oxlease and at Belbins and in spite of the conditions I saw a large shoal of Perch about 10" long when I was there on July 28th, and also numerous roach. We hope to keep the fishing for the young people under 16. I would point out that anyone fishing in any water, young or old, must have a licence which can be obtained from the Water Board or the local fishing tackle shop. Its free for people under 16 and for O.A.P's.

Our last towpath clearing was very successful. We cut the long grass from Belbins Bridge to the stile and filled up the many potholes with chalk. There was a treat when our labours were over when we enjoyed rolls, hot sausages and

orange squash ably cooked and served by Mrs Chapman and Mrs Pragnell. There were over 20 workers but among them only six members of the Society.

The IWALK which took place on that lovely sunny Sunday June 11th was much enjoyed by all who took part in walking and organising



King John's House and Tudor Cottage, Romsey

KING JOHN'S HOUSE

Hours of opening: Tuesday 2pm - 4pm.
 Thursday)
 Friday) 10.30 - 12.30
 Saturday) 2.0pm - 4pm.

Offer Records

Cornmarket, Romsey, Hampshire
 Telephone: Romsey (0794) 514719



PLANNING COMMENT: ROADS & PAVEMENTS?

Poor State of Highways and Footways.

The Committee's thanks are expressed to those members who responded on this subject. The County Divisional Surveyor has now replied and you may be interested in the following major points:-

1. The Romsey Town Plan (not available for comment as at date of writing) may well contain proposals for the widening and other alteration of footways in the town centre. Therefore no major repairs will be carried out in advance of the adoption of the final policy plan.
2. In spite of the above, considerable sums of money have been allocated in this financial year for various re-kerbing/re-surfacing works in the centre of Romsey, and further bids for a share in the County's highways budget will be made for next year in the hope of being able to deal with all the roads mentioned in the Society's letter.
3. Re-building of the culvert carrying the barge canal under the Plaza roundabout is to commence shortly. Thus no highway improvement works will be carried out here for a while.
4. Improvement works to Whinwhistle Road, West Wellow, have been delayed by the need to re-arrange Post Office plant. It is now intended to re-commence improvements within the month.

The Society will keep a close watch on the developing situation and will make further representations if things appear to be delayed beyond reason.

Extension to Conservation Area.

The Society entirely supports the proposed extensions to include Middlebridge Street, Causeway, Cherville Street and further parts of the Hundred. The following points have however been raised with the T.V.B.C.:-

1. Improvement should be given priority over re-development in order to best conserve the town's historic core.
2. Re-development, when necessary, should be sympathetic with the surroundings in each case.
3. Environmental improvements (such as opening up and enhancing the town's waterways) should be given adequate financial support. - N.B. The Society's members are urged to visit Salisbury and Winchester to see just how attractive waterways can be made.
4. More money in total (and for individual cases) should be allowed for Town Scheme Grants. Traditional style materials cost more than poorer modern counterparts and the T.V.B.C. should be prepared to cover the general benefit of conservation area enhancement to all by giving more help to the owners/occupiers within the Conservation Area.
5. Some restriction should be applied to those currently uncontrolled minor works to unlisted buildings in the conservation area which generally impoverish the street scene - e.g., use of P.V.C. guttering and downpipes and "cheap looking" roofing materials.
6. Highways should be properly maintained and reinstated, bearing in mind the aims of a conservation area.

Footpaths

How many paths have you walked this summer? No sun - well yes - but why not put on gum boots and tread a path or two even in between the rain?

Our thanks to Helen and David Payne for painstakingly organising a walk in the Wellow area on 2nd July. Unfortunately only ten people turned up. Did they pick the wrong time of year or are you all now individual walkers, with our book in hand?

Many additional signposts have been erected in the Mottisfont area. Eleven of the twenty two paths in this parish are shown in our book "Around Romsey", which costs 50p at bookshops and elsewhere in the area. The remaining eleven paths can be found on the new green covered Ordnance Survey Map, sheet SU 22/32 in the 1-25.000 Second Series, which will also link up with paths in adjacent parishes. The scale of this map is roughly 2½" to 1 mile and it costs £1.15p. Try walking back to Romsey from Dunbridge Station!

Moving south, the Greatbridge path is due for attention in the Autumn by the 1st Romsey Scouts. The stream across the path connecting Fishlake with the Canal and Cupernham can now be negotiated with greater safety thanks to helpful hands, good lifting power and a landrover on 23rd July. A direction post is now in position here and four direction sign will be erected soon at the crossing point with the canal path.

Five signposts (by courtesy of Mr. John King) have been erected on the Pauncefoot Hill to Moorcourt Path. I hope this will help to show where the path should be. This one does need walking to keep down annual growth. Keep to the east side of the Drainage ditch all the way after having a fine view of Broadlands House. This two-way walk is also in our book.

Would any member like to warden a path to maintain small trimming after a major clearance has been done? The canal path is already looked after in this way.

MAURICE BEALE & PARTNERS

CHARTERED SURVEYORS AND AUCTIONEERS, ESTATE AGENTS, AND VALUERS

TALBOT HOUSE 83 HIGH STREET, 62238/9
WINCHESTER 65949
13a THE HUNDRED, ROMSEY 518237
33 LONDON ST., ANDOVER 3444
18 CHURCH ST., WHITCHURCH 2180



Building Preservation Trust

Sixty Four Cherville Street, recently so typical of many of Romsey's empty and sub-standard properties, has been extensively modernised and now resold. Once again the economic good sense of rehabilitating such buildings has been underlined: hopefully the day of the bulldozer is over in Romsey, though sadly too late to alter the disastrous policies of the 60's and early 70's when so much of the old town was razed in the name of so called 'slum clearance'.

The properties at Weston Corner, Nursling, have been surveyed and plans to convert the existing three cottages into two more substantial homes have been submitted for planning permission. The core of these houses is suprisingly old, and in one an inglenook fireplace has been uncovered together with a timber framed wall. Hopefully these houses will be on the market in the late Spring of next year.



Terms at last have been agreed for the sale of 45-67 Cherville Street, and a draft contract has been sent to our solicitor by the Test Valley Borough Council. It seems likely that the years of persuasion and endless negotiation have at last begun to bear fruit. More tangible work will soon begin, although it will be early next year before renovation can actually start. Certainly, for this major project to succeed, we shall need help and encouragement from every single member and, to keep you informed of the Trust's plans it is hoped to circularise the membership with a brochure summarising the whole scheme.

Creatures

The Romsey Pet Shop
The Romsey Saddlery
For all animal feeds and needs
4, MARKET PLACE, ROMSEY 512103

BAKER-DONNELLY

Michael G. Baker F.S.V.A., F.R.V.A.
Denis P. Donnelly

Auctioneers, Surveyors, Valuers, and Estate Agents,
4 Latimer Street, Romsey, Hampshire SO5 8DG
Telephone: ROMSEY (0794) 513331

Morris Dibben lead the way with...



Why not call into our
new office
and see for yourself

37 The Hundred, Romsey
Tel. (0794) 512802

Morris Dibben

Estate Agents Auctioneers Surveyors Valuers

6 Offices throughout South Hampshire.

15 Latimer Street, Romsey phone: Romsey 513963

for
exclusive fashions from
CONTINENTAL
and **BRITISH HOUSES**