

Mottisfont Summer Party Success Again

The Romsey & District Society Summer Party is one of the highlights of the year. This summer it was held at Mottisfont Abbey, by kind permission of Mr. and Mrs. Cavanagh. Members had been circulated beforehand with a map showing the proposed route through the beautiful Rose Garden, filled with fragrance on this summer evening early in July; across the lawns past the Beech Ring, the old Ice Pit, and the Stable Block; and then by way of the north side of the Abbey round to the Chapel Porch facing the river, where the wine was being served.

The Michelmersh Silver Band played their lively music to welcome the guests from a strategic position on the river bank. That part of the garden is dominated by the huge plane tree, centuries old. People were free to wander at will, to look at the interesting variety of trees and shrubs, and see some of the old stone walls covered with climbing roses in full bloom. The Mottisfont Society kindly arranged for the Museum in the Stable Block to be open during the Party. There was also a film being shown at intervals throughout the evening in the Oak Room on the ground floor of the Abbey; this was a film on the two Abbeys, Romsey and Mottisfont, produced in the 1930s by Peter Barker-Mill, whose family used to live at Mottisfont.

A delicious cold buffet was set out in the lower hall and cellarium: chicken, a wonderful selection of salads, followed by raspberry mousse and cream, and/or cheese and biscuits.

The Society's publications were on sale, and there was a raffle with attractive prizes.



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An amplification system enabled the Chairman to keep in touch with members and their guests, even though some were far afield. Using this system most effectively Mr. Hargreaves (Chairman) thanked Mr. and Mrs. Cavanagh for their kind hospitality; Mrs. Pam Palmer and her helpers for providing the refreshments; and all the other folk, too numerous to mention individually who had taken part in the organisation and preparation for this event.

DIARY OF EVENTS

Thursday, 11th October,	8 pm	ROMSEY DISTRICT RAMBLES	ABBAY HALL
Sunday, 14th October,	10 am	GUIDED WALK	DEAN STATION
Tuesday, 16th October,	8 pm	ROMSEY'S DISTRICT "WHAT OF THE FUTURE" R. BREWER ESQ., VICE CHAIRMAN T.V.C.P.R.E.	ABBAY HALL
Friday, 26th October,	8 pm	POETRY FOR PLEASURE	KING JOHN'S HOUSE
Friday, 9th November,	8 pm	POETRY FOR PLEASURE	KING JOHN'S HOUSE
Thursday, 15th November,	8 pm	"WHO CARES"	ABBAY CHURCH ROOMS
Sunday, 25th November,	8 pm	KING JOHN'S HOUSE QUARTET	MOTTISFONT ABBAY
Friday, 30 November,	8 pm	POETRY FOR PLEASURE	KING JOHN'S HOUSE
Wednesday, 16th January,		BUILDING PRESERVATION TRUST AGM	ABBAY HALL
Wednesday, 20th February,		ROMSEY & DISTRICT SOCIETY AGM	ABBAY HALL
Saturday, 1st March,		JUMBLE SALE	CROSSFIELD HALL
Wednesday, 16th April,		ANNUAL CONSERVATION LECTURE BY ALEC CLIFTON-TAYLOR	

Music at Mottisfont Abbey

Saturday, 27th October, 1979,	7.30	PIANO RECITAL. MARTIN BOULTER
Sunday, 25th November, 1979,	8.00	KING JOHN'S HOUSE QUARTET
Saturday, 8th December, 1979,	7.30	CAROL SERVICE. ELIZABETHAN PLAYERS
Saturday, 9th February, 1980,	7.30	GUITAR RECITAL. STUART HEPBOURNE
Saturday, 15th March, 1980,	7.30	RENAISSANCE BAND CONCERT

Tickets are available for these concerts from R. Shaw, Chemist, The Market Place, Romsey.

It was evident from the active part played by the Hargreaves family that they work as a team, and this same team spirit was shown by the Committee members, their friends and relations, who contributed with enthusiasm and energy to make the evening such a success.

Do not miss our Party next year!



King John's House and Tudor Cottage, Romsey

Tuesday, 2nd October, saw the Public Announcement of the King John's House Appeal. It has already had an excellent start, for £1,070 has been promised of the £25,000 target. All enquiries should be addressed to:

The Appeal Administrator
King John's House Appeal
22 Abbey Water
Romsey
HANTS

King John's House Quartet

At the end of our series of six lunchtime concerts in the Summer the quartet, whose members come from the Bournemouth Sinfonietta, asked if they might call themselves the King John's House Quartet. The players thoroughly enjoyed the atmosphere of King John's House and hope very much to be able to return again in the Summer next year.

King John's House Restoration Appeal

Together with the Mottisfont Society we are organising a concert by the quartet in the long gallery at Mottisfont Abbey on Sunday, November 25th, at 7.30 p.m. Tickets (£2.25) will include cheese, wine and coffee and they will be on sale at R. Shaw's Chemist, Market Place, Romsey, or from Sylvia Pankhurst, c/o Mottisfont Abbey.

The programme is:

Mozart Quartet in B Major (The Hunt)
Beethoven Quartet in A Major Op. 18 No.5

INTERVAL

Pachelbel Canon
Dvorak Quartet in F Major (The American)

ROMSEY DISTRICT RAMBLES

Your guide to Summer Walking in the parishes close to Romsey is now published.

"Romsey District Rambles" is now on sale.

This footpath guide which is a sequel to "Around Romsey" gives a number of circular walks starting from points a few miles from its centre. It would be gratifying to see an increase of voluntary pathway trimmers and snippers. The footpath committee would like to work on all the indicated paths, but time and distance will not allow. So we offer you a grand slam opportunity, with no percentage discount, no loss leaders and no monetary gain. Just the thrill of working in the countryside seeking a balance between the need of man and the need of nature on a footpath.

The following walks, with maps, appear in the book:

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Historic Towns

A day Course held by the University of Bristol on Friday, 16th March, at the Dorset County Museum, Dorchester.

The Course was divided into 6 informative and lively talks looking at all angles of preservation of Historic Town Centres. The first looked at the challenge of the hypermarket given by John Grainger, Assistant City Architect of Bath. Mr. Grainger said there would always be a need for local food shops and that the hypermarket tended to be used once or twice a fortnight for bulk buying. There was a tendency towards high quality specialists shops and department stores in town centres, where people are prepared to pay for car parking. In Bath last year they had 1 million visitors bringing in £8 million, and from a survey 90% of these are likely to return. He stressed the importance of keeping the tourists overnight, a need for plenty of hotels and these supplied with tourist guides and Town Trails etc.

The second speaker, Mr. Organ, gave a witty verging on the distraught account of New Buildings in Historic areas. He bewailed "In Keeping" planning and imbilicic regulations relating to size of windows etc. illustrating his talk with some examples of the disasters resulting from these restrictions. He described a car space with large tarmac area as the invasion of the road into the garden and certainly not sympathetic to old buildings. What is the point, says he, if when you get there, there is no there there. He believes in sympathetic restoration where old buildings are lovingly mended, like darned an old sock. He showed us some slides of a Hardy type derelict thatched cottage in which careful restoration had slowly brought the cottage back to life. Mr. Organ can be recommended as a speaker and has agreed to come and talk to The Romsey and District Association.

We had lunch in various rooms of the Museum. This was built as a museum in 1883 and is owned by the Dorset Naturalist and Archaeological Societies. It possess some beautiful Roman mosaics and a wide range of local finds from pre-historic periods up to 20th Century, including the Thomas Hardy Memorial room. Also work by Dorset artists. It is a fund of good ideas for those anxious to start a museum in Romsey.

In the afternoon the problems of "Living over the Shop" were discussed. Property is 30-40% under used for the following reasons:-

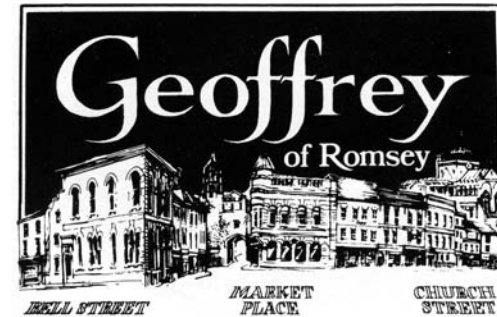
1. A trend to live in suburbia.
2. Shops belong to a chain, eg. Boots, Curry's etc.
3. The property is so valuable that if let it is more difficult to sell and reduces the value. The Rent Act has taken vast numbers of property off the market.
4. Building Societies havenot been interested in helping to purchase.

If they are left empty, they deteriorate from the roof downwards, sometimes even the stairs are removed. It seems illogical to have these buildings empty in Historic Towns. Local Authorities should be encouraged to purchase and rent as

office space. Or another suggestion was that people are always willing to go upstairs for money or a drink.

Many more town surveys are necessary. It was mentioned that the number of one person households has increased 41% and that as flats they would be ideal for working people before marriage or divorced people who wished to live near their work, especially non car drivers.

There was also an interesting talk by Patrick Brown, Department of Architecture University of Bristol, on re-using existing buildings for new purposes. He showed slides of large Victorian buildings in Bristol, old warehouses and mills with outstanding examples of Victorian brickwork successfully converted to offices.



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Book Review "Environment & Community"

Written by Kenneth Bailey, this 36-page book was published by the Heritage Education Group last April. The book is a selective survey of the Romsey Environmental Project which was carried out by the children of Romsey and District Schools last year. The culmination of the Project was the very successful exhibition of children's work displayed in the Abbey during October.

The book is easy and interesting to read, being sub-divided under various headings. The value of the co-operation of various departments within Hampshire County Council is acknowledged, as is the contribution made by the Romsey & District Society.

The author has succeeded in describing some of the work in all of the schools participating in the Romsey Project, including my own favourite exhibit, which was the model of the Abbey and its surroundings by the pupils of the Romsey Abbey Primary Church of England School. This superb model included the attractive and aesthetically pleasing Spring Place and Church Road developments which have helped to make the Abbey Green environment much more presentable.

Monochrome illustrations help give visual impact to most of the pages; however, full-colour reproductions would have reflected the true excitement and charm of the children's work. Indeed, priced at £1.90, cost-effective use of colour should have been included in at least one or two inside sections.

One must admire the attention to detail which Mr. Bailey demonstrates in his review of the exhibition displays and each selected subject. The inclusion of Appendix 1 (extending the environment - a follow-up to the Romsey Project) and Appendix 2 (the Project through microphone and camera) conveys the genuine flavour of enthusiasm and interest which marked the Project.

Viewed nationally, the publication of this book by the Heritage Education Group is a compliment to the teaching staff and children who took part in the Romsey School's Environmental Project and exhibition last autumn. Indeed, Lord Asa Briggs strongly recommends this publication to those involved in the planning and implementing of similar educational projects. The Romsey Environmental Project thus takes its place in the large national pattern of educational development.

Copies of the book may be obtained from the Heritage Education Group, Civic Trust, 17 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AW, at a cost of £1.60. including p. & p.

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Draft Romsey town centre review plan



The draft plan for Romsey has some interesting proposals. Some of them are listed below - what do you think?

	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
New street lighting scheme.			Experimental pedestrianisation of the Hundred.	
More depots out of town.			Footpath along waterways between Mill Lane and The Meads Portersbridge St. and The Hundred	
Slow traffic in main shopping area.			Multistorey carpark at Broadwater	
Priority changes at Alma Road/ Winchester Road junction.			Please send your thoughts to the Chairman, Don Hargreaves Esq.	
East only down Portersbridge Street.				