

NEWSHEET



NUMBER SIXTEEN

AUGUST 1981

ROMSEY

AND DISTRICT SOCIETY

Because the Romsey and District Society is so concerned to make the younger generation more aware of their own town, the Society has arranged a competition for schools in the Romsey area. As many schools as possible are being asked to enter the competition, with as many entries as they like. The majority of the prizes will be awarded to the winning schools, but there are also prizes for individual entries. The Competition is called ROMSEY 2001.

AIM OF THE COMPETITION:

To make children and young people of our area aware of our town and district, and its development.

WHO CAN TAKE PART?

There are three group classes and one individual class.

Group Classes:

Secondary School - for those aged 11 or 12 on 1.9.81.

~~Junior Schools - for those aged 9 or 10 on 1.9.81.~~

-for those aged 8 and under on 1.9.81.

Steam Engines

I met Mr Scott on a walk I led round Michelmarsh. He is a Wellow History Society Member who wishes to help anybody with his knowledge of Steam Engines. He may be interested in forming a small group of other enthusiasts and owns two Steam Engines himself. His Telephone number is West Wellow 222/3. (Ron Genge)



Individual Competition:

This is open to any young person aged 13 or over on 1.9.81.

WHAT ARE THE PRIZES?

In the group classes, prizes will be awarded to the school from which the entry came.

First Prize - £35.00

Second Prize - 10.00

Third Prize - 5.00

In the individual class there will be a £10.00 prize for the individual who wins, and £30.00 to the school to which they belong. There will also be two runners up prizes of £5.00 each to the individuals concerned.

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WHEN WILL THE COMPETITION TAKE PLACE?

Closing date for entries is the end of the first term of the school year, Friday 18th December 1981.

The competition will be judged, and results published by January 31st 1982.

WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO DO?

Class Groups: A class or group of pupils, of not less than five children should produce an illustrated project, showing how Romsey and district has developed in the past; and what it is like at the present and what it could be like in the year 2001. Some topics which might be included are: buildings, roads, transport, waterways, industry, recreation, churches, homes, shopping areas, etc

Individual Competition: Do an imaginative piece of writing, which may be illustrated, describing what Romsey could be like in the year 2001.

The competition will be judged by the Romsey and District Society. The judges' decision is final.

Any queries to R. Dyer, 83, Westering, Romsey (Phone 517647).

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After a period of several years' hibernation the tree sub-committee of the Society has been reformed in the shape of a group of six interested people.

The committee's interests must lie partly in the surveillance and nurturing of existing trees in the town and district, and partly in assessing the need for provision of trees where few exist. In an expanding town with land at a premium and pressure on planners to provide housing in increasing density the existing tree population is always threatened. A survey of trees was carried out by the previous sub-committee so that trees threatened by future development could be quickly pinpointed.

Looking down from Green Hill in summer the town seems like an oasis with trees in profusion interspersed with the houses. Yet there are areas in the town that would be greatly enhanced by relatively small numbers of suitable trees. There are parts of the town, well provided with small ornamental trees, that would benefit from the siting of a few large hardwood trees which would remain for posterity.

Looking down from Green Hill also reminds us of another problem - the decimation of hedgerow trees. The price paid for keeping our roadside hedges so neat and trim with large mechanical cutters is the loss of the saplings which grow into roadside trees.

The committee intends to apply itself to these various problems, to work alongside the local authority finding ways and means of providing, siting and planting suitable trees, and to keep a protective eye on those already there.

If you feel you can help or have useful ideas - let's have them. It's your town as well as ours.

Dr. J. Wattie, Chairman, Trees Sub-Committee, tel: 513410



WATERWAYS

STREAMCLEAN '81, a 'twinkle in our eye' only a few months ago took place on the 21st June and was extremely successful. It is encouraging to see so many people of all ages involved in such a worthwhile project and our committee was extremely grateful for their support. The effect of clearing these obstacles has been a more pleasant waterway to look at, and a more efficient waterway in terms of flow-rate. Sad to say, the 'tippers' are at it again and we may have to tidy up in late Autumn.

The 'Barge' river, or Andover-Red-bridge Canal, should have a canoe landing stage and car park by next Summer, together with some landscaping in the form of tree-planting. This work, together with the Streamclean project, will require a labour force, and we are hoping for the same support as we had for the Streamclean in June.

On October 21st, the Waterways Sub-committee will be 'hosting' a meeting in the Abbey Hall where we hope to give a slide illustrated talk on the Waterways in and around Romsey.

For further details of our future plans and projects please 'phone D. Young, 512778, Waterways Chairman.

Public Inquiry

The long awaited Public Inquiry which is looking into the matter of Car Parking Charges in Romsey commenced on Tuesday 4th August.

The T.V.B.C. probably thought that there would be scant opposition. However, this proved not to be the case with many Organisations, Parish Councils, and individuals turning up to object.

At the time of going to press, 4 days of the Inquiry have gone by and Nigel Bachmann has yet to read the Society's written submission. This was being done on Tuesday 11th August. Rest assured that Chris Mather and Nigel Bachmann are fighting all the way to make sure that the people of Romsey and District are heard.

The irony of it all is that the independent inspector will report his findings to the Mayor of the T.V.B.C. We could yet have a situation where the inspector finds against Car Parking Charges and advises the T.V.B. so, yet the T.V.B.C. still press ahead with this unwanted scheme. Nigel Bachmann.

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DIARY EVENTS

A SERIES OF TALKS ON ANTIQUES

(The Audience are invited to bring small items of interest)

IN

KING JOHN'S HOUSE ON THE FIRST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH AT 8.00P.M.

BY

COMMANDER E.H. MASKELL

Friday Sept. 4th	GLASS
Friday Oct. 2nd	SILVER
Friday Nov. 6th	CHINA
Friday Dec. 4th	METALS

Tickets £1 (inc. coffee) from R. Shaw, Dispensing Chemist, Market Place, Romsey. 513193

Wednesday October 21st ABBEY HALL 8.00p.m. WATERWAYS SUB-COMMITTEE

'A TOWN ON THE TEST'

(The waterways of Romsey, past, present and future)

Wednesday November 18th ABBEY HALL 8.00p.m. PLANNING & TOWNSCAPE SUB-COMMITTEE

'HEAVY LORRIES'

POETRY READINGS
IN
KING JOHN'S HOUSE, 8.00P.M.

Friday Oct. 9th
Friday Oct. 20th

Details of these and other events are always in the Romsey Advertiser or are available from Pauline Mather, Romsey 512955

Inflation is a well-worn word nowadays, and one which has, unfortunately, caught up with the Romsey & District Society. From the beginning of the next financial year (November), the cost of subscribing to the Society will have to be increased by 50%.

The new subscription rates will be:

Annual Membership:	£1.50
Students and OAPs:	75 pence
Life Membership:	£15
Students and OAPs:	£7.50

The editor would like to bring to readers' attention that signed articles in the Newsheet generally reflect the opinions of an individual, whilst unsigned articles are generally the opinion of the Society and Committee

C. A. McCormick

Headquarters

The Town Council have kindly agreed to allow the Society to use the large ground floor room in the Town Hall as a temporary headquarters. Our immediate plans are to display the activities of our various sub-committees and to encourage members to visit on Saturday mornings when coffee will be available. It will provide the Society with an opportunity to display some of the fascinating pamphlets and magazines (including Period Home, Heritage Outlook and Building Conservation) which we regularly receive and to start building up a small but specialised reference library. There is a large 'sleeping membership' in the Society and a headquarters like this could make us a more cohesive, vigorous and representative body.

Bring along your ideas - we will start opening on Saturday mornings in September, 10 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

membership form

SUBSCRIPTION RATE:

£1.00. 50p for students & OAP's

NAME

ADDRESS

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



Footpath Report

During the last five years most paths in Romsey, Romsey Extra, Nursling and Rownhams, Ampfield, Braishfield, Michelmersh, Mottisfont, Sherfield English, Wellow and Kings Somborne parishes have been checked for signposts and ease of walking.

We aim to help clear and waymark all footpaths in the Romsey and District Area. Where difficulties arise, we are assured of the help of the Rights of Way Department at Andover Road, Winchester. However, clearing cannot be achieved by the committee alone, who give up many hours helping walkers anyway. Please do all you can to assist when a clearing party is arranged.

It might be interesting to know that all defined paths are registered with the County Council, and numbered under the relative parish. The maps, which are held by the Rights of Way Department are over printed with numbers within each parish and supported by a 'statement' giving a description of the path along its entire length.

With the object of producing up-to-date definitive maps for the whole of Hampshire, a survey was carried out during 1979/80 by the Ramblers Association who acted as agents to the County Council. Maps and statements were revised during this survey from which it is hoped to produce new maps very soon. The Footpath Committee assisted by surveying four parishes in this area.

This year we have continued with our extensive signpost erection work by helping at Lockerley. The pathway between Pauncefoot and Moorcourt has been cleared of brambles and spring growth, so please

walk it now and keep it clear. Guided walks around Shelly Farm and Squabb Wood were enjoyed by many people of all ages. The toddlers' enthusiasm did not wain, in spite of the unexpected mud test towards the end.

Would anybody like to discuss 'Fascination of Maps' in a small group? I have already run a successful pilot course on three evenings involving the following facets.

1. Walking and motoring maps: Scale Symbols, Abbreviations, Contours.
2. Using a compass: Direction finding with and without a compass.
3. Grid System: Direction, distance and time estimation. Path recognition and waymarking.

Practical field work as/if necessary.

Please contact me at 3 Linden Road, if you would like to take part. Tel: Romsey 513057.

Should anyone wish to join our ranks we are always happy to see active members. I should like to thank the committee for their support and enthusiasm, particularly Mrs Ciceley Loader who has been our secretary over the last four years and Mr Chris Mather for recording and printing out minutes so accurately. I am sorry that Mrs Loader has had to give up the work this year.

I should like to draw the attention of all members to 'Discover Hampshire '81'. The County Council Recreation Department have organised a programme of 94 walks exploring 53 different areas of Hampshire. These summer walks are listed in a programme sheet and will be led by people from different societies and public bodies throughout Hampshire. 'Discover Hampshire '81' is available from the library, King Johns House, the Rights of Way Department Office, Winchester 64221, and from me at 3 Linden Road, Romsey.

Happy walking to you all. Please do remember that work must be done sometimes and that your cherry faces at a working party are a welcome sight. R. Genge, Footpaths sub-committee Chairman.

Creatures

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KING JOHN'S HOUSE & TUDOR COTTAGE

Due to the hardwork of the Appeal Committee in raising the necessary money to repay the Hampshire Buildings Preservation Trust, King John's House and Tudor Cottage are proving very worthwhile buildings, both in the interests of visitors and to local residents.

There have been 2,054 visitors to the House so far this year plus 1,160 to the very successful Fashion & Flowers Exhibition. Mike O'Malley has had his very interesting flints from his excavation at Braishfield on exhibit in Tudor Cottage. There has been a delightful exhibition of Watercolour Paintings by Roland Wainwright in Tudor Cottage during the last few weeks. The 'Romsey Room' is now well underway and proving of great interest. LTVAS have moved their exhibition on the excavations at Bell Street from the Town Hall into King John's House. The Lunchtime

King John's House. The Lunchtime Concerts have been very popular and many Societies hold their meetings at King John's House during the evenings.

The House is open for longer periods this year: Monday afternoon 2p.m. - 4p.m., Tuesday - Saturday from 10.30a.m. - 12.00 and 2p.m. - 4p.m. This has probably accounted for the larger number of visitors and also the Tourist Information Centre has been much busier.

Many visitors have commented on the various activities within the House and said how nice it is to know that it is not just 'another old house'; but that it is a 'living house'.

Both the downstairs rooms of King John's House have now had new floors laid; burglar and fire alarms have been installed throughout and repairs to the stonework of the medieval window in the west gable takes place shortly. It is hoped that work on painting and repairing outside windows, doors, etc., can be undertaken soon.

Sheila Tee (Secretary, King John's House Management Committee).

Cherville St Success!



pedestrian access to the old people's flats behind.

Hanging baskets and Street parties - the years of desolation are receding and Cherville Street is at last coming alive again!

Dr. F. Akerman.

Building Preservation Trust

Phase two of Cherville Street has now been completed and the two houses and two maisonettes are on the market. Number 55 Cherville Street must be one of the oldest buildings in Romsey and joists in the main roof frame have been dated to the late 15th century. In addition there is clear evidence of an original first floor jetty and the timber frame between numbers 55 and 57 remains complete. Additional grants were given by the Department of the Environment to enable the Architect to expose the roof timbers and to sound proof the timber

framed wall with an infill of lead, fibre glass and plaster. Number 55 is a family house of three stories with four bedrooms while number 57 is a charming cottage with just one bedroom and a large box room. Both have a wealth of exposed timber and the Architect's clever adaptation of a Tudor structure to 20th century living adds to the varied stock of Romsey's fascinating and varied old buildings.

The gap left by the demolition of another Tudor building some twenty years ago has been filled by the two maisonettes, the larger first floor flat extending over an arch which gives

At the Town Council Town Hall sub-committee on 13th July the Council's Architect, Mr K. Bennett, presented a completely new set of plans for the repair and refurbishment of the building. (Scheme 3)

These plans were formed on the basis of the concept of carrying out the minimum amount of work necessary to the building to make it suitable for community use.

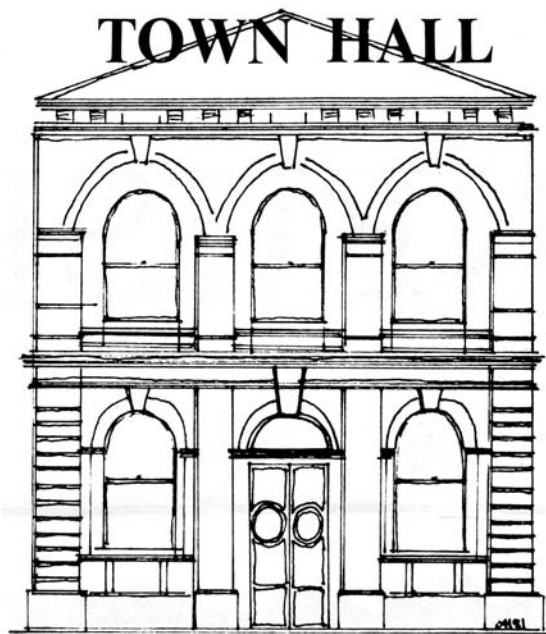
The plans were very favourably received by the members of the committee and, with a few reservations, by ourselves.

On Tuesday 21st July, Mr Bennet presented Scheme 3 to the full Council meeting. After considerable discussion, mainly concerning the financial arrangements necessary in order to implement Scheme 3, the Council - with one exception - voted to carry out these plans 'as soon as practicable'.

As we understand it, this means that the entire building will become a Community Centre (with the exception of the two ground floor front rooms for the Citizens Advice Bureau, and the two first floor front rooms for the Mayor, Town Clerk and Secretary). This arrangement would stand for an agreed period of time, probably three years, during which time the Community Centre will have to prove its ability to make use of all available facilities every day and evening of the week, and show that it can be self-supporting.

At the end of this time the Council will have the option to convert the building to commercial office space if the Community Centre proves unsatisfactory

The present plans give the people of Romsey an excellent opportunity to make full use of a building in the heart of the town for social, educational, recreational and cultural activities. We



believe that such a centre can certainly be as successful and beneficial to all as those which exist in Lyminster, Lyndhurst, and Fordingbridge. Not to mention Farnham which has been the model for all our plans.

The situation with regard to the works to be carried out on the building is as follows:

1. Roof repairs to be carried out before this winter at a cost of £21,500.
2. Phase I, consisting of works to the South end of the building, the main hall on the ground floor, and the installation of the boiler system, to be carried out probably between January and April of 1982 at a cost of £49,000.
3. Phase 2, consisting of all works to the remainder of the building to be carried out as soon as possible at a cost of £82,500.

These works leave the building in a fairly 'basic' state and do not include the decorating of the interior or the equipping of the Community Centre.

Meanwhile we have obtained permission for the main hall on the ground floor to be available for use for certain functions and exhibitions as of now and until building works interrupt. This will be under the control of the Romsey and District Society who will make all arrangements through the Town Clerk. The Film Society have already booked the room for their Autumn season and two exhibitions (jewellery and glass, and painting) will be arranged later on in the year. Anyone wishing to use the room, which will be basically equipped, should get in touch with us or the Society's committee members.

It is hoped that the Society will open the room on Saturday mornings for discussions, the presenting of its current and past work, and to make arrangements with any group or individual who would like to use the room for any suitable purpose.

The architect's plans will be on display and we recommend that everyone should see them and make themselves aware of the great potential use which the building has to offer us all.

Sylvia Robinson, 514930 and
Jenny Taylor 516031

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