



## **The Right Worshipful the Mayor of New Romney**

Councillor Patricia Rolfe – The Right Worshipful the Mayor of New Romney's Formal Opening Speech at the New Romney Country Fayre 2016

**SATURDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2016**

High Sherriff, Right Worshipful Mayors, Worshipful Mayors, Distinguished and other Honored Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, Boys and Girls

Welcome to New Romney on this most auspicious day - the 23<sup>rd</sup> New Romney Country Fayre. It is a matter of local pride that this Town comes together to celebrate all that is good about the local Community on the last Saturday in July every year. The New Romney Country Fayre has become one of the most prestigious events in the Shepway's event calendar attracting thousands of people who come along to enjoy the parade and the variety of arena entertainment and stalls available. And all this fun is for Free!

Earlier this year, I decided as Mayor to instigate an Award Scheme that would recognise the contribution that positive individuals and organisations make to the wellbeing of our neighbourhood. The first 'Pride of New Romney' Awards were presented to two recipients at our Annual Town Meeting in April. The New Romney Country Fayre Committee were chosen as the first – very well deserving – recipients of the 'group' award. It is planned that the Award Scheme will be developed over the coming months to enable the members of the Community to nominate those

individuals and organisations who they feel 'add value' to the local area. The Council will advertise how nominations can be made in the next couple of months with a view to presenting the next awards next April.

Taking that further, in January I encouraged my Council to formally submit an application to the Kent Association of Local Councils. In so doing, it nominated the Country Fayre Committee – past and present as potential recipients of the prestigious KALC Community Award. The original nomination (that was subsequently reduced) stated as follows:

*“A positive and proactive range of volunteers who have for 22 years developed and organised an annual Free event regularly attended by several thousand people. Their hard work and dedication benefits many charities, helps encourage local businesses and brings residents and visitors together for a highly regarded annual community Festival that promotes both New Romney and the wider Romney Marsh.”*

I was therefore delighted, that as part of the Mayor-Making ceremony this May we were able to surprise the current Chairman – Frances Wire, with a formal presentation of a Winners Certificate by the current chair of the Kent Association of Local Councils. The certificate is signed by the High Sherriff of Kent, and the Chairman of the Kent Association of Local Councils.

This was a positive way of expressing our gratitude for the time, effort and valuable contribution that so many people have freely given for the betterment of our Community.

I have been involved in this renowned event since it first started – as participant and as sponsor – be it business or personal or both!

It is, therefore, an honour - as Mayor - to be able to represent this wonderful Cinque Port Town of New Romney, and it is a privilege – today - to be able to formally open this amazing event that beats -annually - at the ‘heart’ of our community and represents the generous and fun loving spirit of our local people.

Enjoy the Fayre, and may I ask you all to applaud the good work of the volunteers – past and present - who have been involved in bringing ‘ALL THE FUN OF THE COUNTRY FAYRE” to New Romney for so many years.

*Councillor Patricia Rolfe*

The Right Worshipful the Mayor of New Romney  
Saturday 30th July 2016

