



NEW ROMNEY TOWN COUNCIL NEWSLETTER



SPRING/SUMMER 2017



COMMUNITY HALL/SPORTS PAVILION UPDATE



The Community Hall and Sports Pavilion project is now progressing at pace. Not only has the Town Council appointed a Council Steering Group but it has also appointed a professional Project Management Team and, most recently, an architect to draw up the building design, guided by the results of previous public consultation as to what facilities need to be provided within the build and thereby ensuring that the new facility will reflect the needs of the local community.

A stringent selection process was undertaken to ensure that the best possible candidate was selected to provide architectural services and develop the project design. This process included submission of a full and detailed tender package and a one hour presentation and interview process, during which each candidate was subjected to detailed questioning from both Town Councillors and Council Officers and Members of the appointed Project Management Team. Following this process, the Town Council was delighted to announce the appointment of award-winning local architect, Guy Hollaway.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor of New Romney, Councillor Patricia Rolfe, observed: *'New Romney deserves a 21st century community and sports facility of the highest design and quality. I believe that the architects we have chosen will enable us to deliver that. Guy and his team are recognised nationally as first class and innovative designers. Their initial response to the brief was superb and I am looking forward to working with the team to progress the project.'*

Guy Hollaway, responding to news of the proposed appointment, said: *'Guy Hollaway Architects are delighted to have been appointed as Architect for this exciting opportunity for New Romney. We are really looking forward to working alongside the Town Council to create this community focused facility which will encourage all generations to engage in sports and community events.'*

COUNCILLOR PROFILE - COUNCILLOR MRS ELAINE GOULD



As an elected Councillor I have served on New Romney Town Council for a number of years and Vice Chairman on Planning for a year. I am now Vice-Chairman of Amenities and also Chairman of St Martin's Field Charity. These Committees solely deal with buildings and land that the Council own and maintain. My work keeps me in touch with the residents of both the town and coast ward on a daily basis as a Private Hire Driver. I am also Managing Director of Vintage Bus Hire with over 27 years in transport. I have 4 children and 7 grandchildren and a love for all animals. I rescue cats and have five at the moment. I have enjoyed my years as a Councillor and hope to continue to serve this community to the best of my ability.



FORTHCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS 2017



JUNE

| | |
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| 7 | Planning & Environment |
| 12 | Full Council |
| 18 | Queen's Birthday Concert |
| 19 | Amenities |
| 28 | Planning & Environment |

JULY

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|----|---------------------------|
| 2 | Civic Sunday |
| 10 | Full Council |
| 17 | Finance & General Purpose |
| 19 | Planning & Environment |

AUGUST

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|----|------------------------|
| 9 | Planning & Environment |
| 14 | Full Council |
| 21 | Amenities |
| 30 | Planning & Environment |

SEPT

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|----|---------------------------|
| 11 | Full Council |
| 18 | Finance & General Purpose |
| 20 | Planning & Environment |

OCTOBER

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| 9 | Full Council |
| 11 | Planning & Environment (Including Budget) |
| 16 | Amenities |
| 30 | Amenities - Budget |



GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE



Over the past year, New Romney Town Council has co-ordinated the fundraising and renovation of New Romney's Garden of Remembrance in Church Approach. The project promotes the principle of 'Respectful Remembrance' – that, in learning lessons from our past, we should aim, in our daily lives, to respectfully serve others and, ever more importantly, to strive for unity in our society.

The project, which has seen the installation of a range of remembrance themed furniture, including two benches, a lectern bearing a quotation from the Town Mayor's 2015 Remembrance Speech and a matching bin, has pulled many individuals, organisations and businesses together and New Romney Town Council is grateful to all those who have funded the new themed memorial furniture. Each has made a difference by contributing to the renovation of this very special area within the heritage heart of New Romney.

The Town Council took a holistic approach to the design in the area to ensure that individual items of furniture work in harmony. Working with local organisation and individuals to implement this refurbishment project has been an exemplary example of Partnership Working and has effectively brought people together to work for common cause – a clear message of unity within our community. The Town Council is now very pleased to report that, thanks to the kind generosity of a local resident, it has taken delivery of a third and final commemorative bench which will be installed in the coming weeks.

It is hoped that all those who visit this newly renovated area, both now and in future years, will find it to be a place for quiet contemplation and reflection as well as a simply pleasing place to sit and take time out.



CHRISTMAS CONCERT



New Romney Town Council was very pleased to be able to host its second annual Community Christmas Concert at St Nicholas Church, New Romney on Saturday 15th December 2016.

The Concert, which was free of charge to attend, was performed by Hythe Town Concert Band to a packed church and the festive programme, which included a wide range of Christmas music –both traditional and contemporary in style, was very much enjoyed by all who attended. Mince pies and mulled wine were served during the interval and a festive raffle helped to swell the coffers of the Mayor's Charity Fund to the tune of approximately £400.00 due to the immense generosity of those who had come along to enjoy this festive community event.



LOCAL CEMETERY PROVISION



Following over a year of negotiations, New Romney Town Council has now secured around 50 additional grave plots within the Town's cemetery in Church Road, together with 28 new 'larger' ashes plots that will enable headstones to be placed on each area should people wish.

An initial meeting regarding this issue which is close to the hearts of many local residents took place in 2015. Since that time, there have been ongoing discussions between New Romney Town Council and Shepway District Council which culminated in a site meeting on Friday 20th January 2017 involving the Mayor and Town and District Council Officer to work out the practicalities of delivering the much needed additional plots.

In light of the Town Council's successful negotiations, the Town Mayor observed: *'The lack of grave provision in New Romney and, indeed, across the Romney Marsh, has been a significant concern for some time. Our negotiations have delivered a short-term solution that will enable those who so wish to be buried on the Marsh and which will also allow people access to some 'larger' ashes plots.'* The Mayor voiced her thanks to Cllr David Monk who had supported this initiative and to the District Council Officers who helped progress the matter to point of implementation.

It is, of course, noted by the Town Council that a longer term solution to the lack of cemetery provision on the Marsh still needs to be sought and the Council, will, therefore, continue to lobby for a longer term solution to the issue. Meanwhile, New Romney Town Council is very pleased that its negotiations have been successful.



IMPROVING LOCAL PLAY & LEISURE FACILITIES



It's 'All Aboard the New Romney Express!' as New Romney Town Council continues its programme of maintaining and improving play and leisure facilities for the children and young people of New Romney Town and Coast Wards. This year, the old yellow parallel bars have been removed from the recreation ground, having reached the end of their serviceable life. The area has been renovated and re-turfed and a shining, bright 'New Romney Express' – pictured above – has just been installed. The installation of this beautiful new feature represents phase one of a 'two-phase' capital project – which, it is hoped (with the assistance of some successful bids for grant funding), will see the installation at Fairfield Road Recreation Ground of a new two-bay swing set for New Romney's older children and teenagers, together with a further item of play equipment for local toddlers. The Town Council has also, this year, completed repairs to surface cracks to the extremely popular skatepark at Fairfield Road Recreation Ground.



CONTACT THE TOWN COUNCIL



New Romney Town Council Offices are open to the public on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays between 9.00am and 12.00noon. Telephone and email enquiries can also be received between 8.30am and 4.30pm on Mondays and Wednesdays and 8.30am and 3.30pm on Fridays. Outside these hours a telephone answer machine service is in operation to receive messages.

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