

ROMSEY OPPORTUNITY GROUP

The Appletree Centre, Princes Road, Romsey SO51 8DS

01794 511927 (Tues & Thurs 9-1pm)

Registered Charity No. 266330



August 2022

Dear Parents/Carers, Volunteers and Staff

Welcome to this slightly delayed, due to unforeseen circumstances, end of term Romsey Opportunity Group newsletter. We have certainly had a full and busy summer term with lots going on. Covid has unfortunately continued to rear its ugly head among staff and volunteers at different times throughout this term but despite this added challenge we have kept going and continue to focus on the positives we have achieved, the support we offer and the ability to pull together as a team. We now look forward to returning in September hopefully refreshed and ready to start the autumn term.

Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 6th & Thursday 8th September – Staff & Volunteer Preparation for Autumn Term 10.30am – 12.30pm (Please bring some lunch).

Tuesday 13th Thursday 15th September – Children return to sessions

Sunday 25th September – Rotary Club of Romsey Test – Walk the Test Way

Group Activities

ROG's New accessible train



"We're delighted that our new train has steamed safely into the playground!

The previous loco and carriages had to go to the scrapyard as they had become quite rotten in places.

We were very pleased to find this alternative model which is constructed of recycled plastic and should give us many years of play.

It has been funded by our Patron and County Councillor, Mark Cooper, from his councillor grants and his fundraising during his recent year as Mayor of Test Valley.

Men's Shed spent a couple of hours shunting the engine and its carriages from where they had been stored, and coupling them together to form our new ROG Express. It includes a wheelchair-accessible carriage - so all our children will be able to enjoy it as much as the volunteers from Men's Shed! Steam on!

Safeguarding Training

At the end of March 2022, Carol West undertook an FAA Level 3 Award in Principles of Safeguarding and Protecting Children, Young People or Vulnerable Adults (RQF). Sue Fisher has also updated her Safeguarding training and Sister Catherine Carmody undertook a Safeguarding Children and Adults refresher course.

On Wednesday 10th August between 10.00am-12.15pm, Janine Hollands, Anne & Dick Hewett, Mavis Watts, Kate Ward, Angela Brentnall, May Sherwood, Maggie Johnston, Liz Bailey, Helen Rogers, Sue Fisher and Bridget Coleman completed a Level 2 Safe Guarding Children course at the Appletree Centre, delivered by Sarah Greenway from 'The Happy Healing Hut'. Thank you so much to Sarah for tailoring the safeguarding training specifically for our setting. The course was very informative and at times emotional. Afterwards staff and volunteers enjoyed a picnic lunch organised by Sue and Janine which was a lovely way to end our morning.

Mayors Picnic 2022

It was a delightful day and extremely busy both generally and at our stall. We just got to £300 and all teddies were gone!! Maggie was extremely helpful and diligent and stayed all day. Keith helped us with the loading and unloading of the stall. In between time Keith weeded the back patio at the Appletree Centre.

Liz Bailey came with a very large teddy! Bigger than her and wheeled the teddy around the massive area in front of our stall several times, advertising that we needed volunteers.

The Men's Shed stall was close to us and we reiterated how pleased we were with all their efforts on the playground and the fitting of the new train. Isaac (a child who currently attends ROG) and his parents came along to the park and Isaac's parents were able to explain to them how Isaac loves to go up the ramp in a small car and whizz down backwards!!!



We had many other visitors to our stall including:

- Lyn, our family co-ordinator who is currently on long term sick leave. She was looking very well and so many were delighted to see her.
- Alun Newman from Radio Solent came over and gave us a cash donation.
- The Rotary microphone came to our stall and we were able to make an announcement for volunteers
- We have 3 names of people interested in volunteering.
- Past children arrived with their parents pleased to see us all.

Thank you so much to Alun Newman for allowing our lovely Playroom Co-ordinator Janine Hollands the chance to plug the Mayors Picnic on BBC Radio Solent prior to the event and also explain a bit more about what we do and include a shout out for any potential volunteers.

Paulton's Park Visit



On Sunday 10th June, 10 children, their families and one member of staff, attended Paulton's Park courtesy of the 'Romsey & Waterside Lions Club' donating 20 entrance tickets. The Trustees very kindly agreed to contribute to the ticket shortfall to enable all of the families currently on the register to attend. Everyone enjoyed themselves so we would like to say a great big thank you to the Romsey & Waterside Lions Club to enable our families to attend and our lovely Trustees for allowing every family to be included.

Jubilee Celebrations

Romsey Opportunity Group held our own Jubilee Celebrations during the week before the May half term. Volunteers, Staff, Children & their families were invited to attend dressed in red, white and blue. Janine our fabulous and talented Playroom Co-ordinator even designed a portrait of the Queen with a cut-out hole for the face so we could all have a turn at being the Queen! The week was rounded off with a celebration lunch for our volunteers, staff and a couple of trustees. It really was delightful and a big thank you must go to Janine for organising the wonderful spread.



Upcoming Fundraising Events

Walk the Test Way 2022

The date of **Walk the Test Way for your Charity** organised by the **Rotary Club of Romsey Test** has been announced. This year it will take place on **Sunday 25th September**. Help raise money for Romsey Opportunity Group, while walking in the beautiful Test Valley. Even if you can't personally do the walk, please share details with friends and family members and encourage them to take part.

You can choose to walk one of five distances **5, 8, 11, 16 or 25.5 miles**. Walkers are taken by coach to their starting point and will end the walk in Romsey Memorial Park where there will be a medal awaiting them.

Sign up by visiting <https://www.walkthetestway.org.uk/register> at a cost of **£15.00** for adults and **£8.00** for under 18's.

Registration closes on Wednesday 21st September at midnight.



Visit our website <http://www.romseyopgroup.org.uk>

e-mail rog@romseyopgroup.org.uk or **01794 511927 (Appletree)** Tuesday and Thursday **9.15am – 2.15pm** term time only / **Sue Fisher** (Trustee & Volunteer) **07515 127773**