

ROMSEY TWINNING



NEWSLETTER

Summer 2026

www.romseytwinning.org.uk

Welcome to the Summer edition of the Romsey Twinning Newsletter

It has been the hottest year on record and a busy one for Twinning. We enjoyed sharing the fun of the Beggar's Fair with our friends from Paimpol on a scorching Saturday in July, and as I write, the planning for our autumn trips to Treviglio and Battenberg is well underway.

We hope you enjoy what you read here. This is **your** newsletter too, so we would welcome feedback and suggestions for other topics and articles we could include. Perhaps you were involved in a football visit many years ago or met someone from one of our twin towns on holiday? The next newsletter will appear at Christmas. Please send contributions to romseytwinning@gmail.com.

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Visit by our friends from Paimpol, 8th – 12th July

13 visitors made the trip from Paimpol to Romsey on this occasion. Here are the reflections from some hosts:

'We had a great weekend with our guests, like everyone else, taking care to navigate the heat. The trip to the Sea City Museum in Southampton was much appreciated by our friends and the walk Below Bar in the city revealed some beautiful old buildings which had escaped bombing during the war. We found a splendid pub for lunch called "The Little Pig", a place we think worth a second look. We enjoyed a trip to Chichester though didn't have time to visit the Cathedral, having had a really interesting boat trip around Chichester harbour.' Jane Bull

'On our first day, we chose to take our guests on a drive through the New Forest, pausing at the Canadian Memorial which honours the soldiers who camped there before D Day. We went on to Highcliffe and walked to Mudeford. We returned via the New Forest and had dinner at The Royal Oak in North Gorley.

On Friday we joined the rest of the group for a visit to Sea City Museum, followed by a short drive around old parts of Southampton. Unfortunately we were fined £35 for going up a road only for buses and taxis! We rarely drive in Southampton these days and the traffic lay-out has changed so much. In the afternoon we made a quick visit to Hillier's and our visitors enjoyed the art exhibition there.'



Phil Thomas

'We took our guest Andrée on the Thursday into Winchester where we walked from the College across the water meadows south to St Cross. We enjoyed looking round the Hospital (medieval one!) and its Church, where we had the bonus of hearing a Royal Academy student rehearsing for a lunchtime cello and piano recital. In spite of the heat and the parched conditions, the Master's Garden was looking glorious, with water lilies out in the pond and lots of colour in the beds.



On the Sunday we made an early start and drove down to Steamer Point at Mudeford for an early morning dip - much enjoyed also by Barney the dog - and rewarded ourselves with breakfast at the beach café!
Roland Matthews

As you can read here, we had a very enjoyable weekend with our friends from Paimpol. As well as a visit to the Sea City Museum on Friday



morning, the same evening we treated the French to a taste of skittles and supper at Wellow Golf Club. Much fun was had by all – the 2 teams were led by Jean-Luc Glory and Roland Matthews, lead members of each group.



Honorary President

of Romsey Twinning, the Worshipful the Mayor of Romsey, Cllr Colin Burgess, gave a welcome speech in French, which was much appreciated by the Paimpolais.

A supper break provided at the Golf Club gave opportunity to cool down the final round of skittles. Matthews was delighted victors at this



by the attentive staff everyone the and catch up before Romsey Chair Roland that his team were the entertaining evening.

Saturday saw everyone enjoying a packed day of music and entertainment at the Beggar's Fair, and as a final farewell to our guests, Denise and Chris Amery were kind enough to offer their garden for us to have afternoon tea on Sunday. After our farewells at Romsey Bus Station, the group were transported to Portsmouth for the overnight ferry to St. Malo.



Karen Bolton

July 2026

It is with great shock and sadness that we report the sudden death of Catherine Blaise, one of our Paimpol twinning partners who had just returned from their visit to us on 12th July.

Catherine was an enthusiastic participant in twinning visits, only recently seen 'giving her all' at the skittles evening.

Romsey Twinning sends sincere condolences to Catherine's family and all of our friends involved in Paimpol twinning, especially those with whom she had spent such an enjoyable visit only recently.



Battenberg

A party of 8 members from Romsey Twinning will be making a visit to our German twin town of Battenberg from 11 – 15 September. A report on the visit will appear in the Christmas edition of the newsletter.

Treviglio

A party of 13 members from Romsey Twinning will be visiting our Italian twin town of Treviglio from 1–5 October. A report on the visit will appear in the Christmas edition of the newsletter.

Your starter for 10....

Once again we invite you to join the ever-popular [Quiz Night](#). The date for your diary is **Saturday 14 November!**

It will be held in the Crosfield Hall Annexe, starting at 7.30pm.

We are fortunate to have secured the services of our former Chair, Mike Bull, who will have devised a set of entertaining and challenging questions and will oversee proceedings with his customary aplomb.

Non-members are always very welcome to this event so please spread the word to your quizzing friends. You can come with your own team of 6, or be part of a 'scratch team' on the night. You will find full details on the flyer and booking forms via the links on the [Home](#) page of our website: www.romseytwinning.org.uk

We would like to create hampers for this year's raffle, so if you are able to donate a prize please drop us a line at romseytwinning@gmail.com so that we can contact you.

Website

If you still haven't had a look, www.romseytwinning.org.uk is the address you need.

Please remember that it is **your** website too, so it would be great to hear from you with suggestions about what else you would like to see on it. We'd also really appreciate photographs of your travels if you have the chance to visit the respective areas outside our official twinning visits.

You can send your contributions to romseytwinning@gmail.com – photographs are better sent in a high resolution. Please contact me if you need any assistance with this.

The Photo Archive in the Member's Area has some significant gaps, so if you do have any photos of the following visits, I'd be really grateful if you could send them to the address above:

Romsey to Paimpol 2013

Romsey to Treviglio 2014

Romsey to Treviglio 2022

Any visits **to** Romsey **from** Paimpol, Treviglio or Battenberg from 2010 onwards.

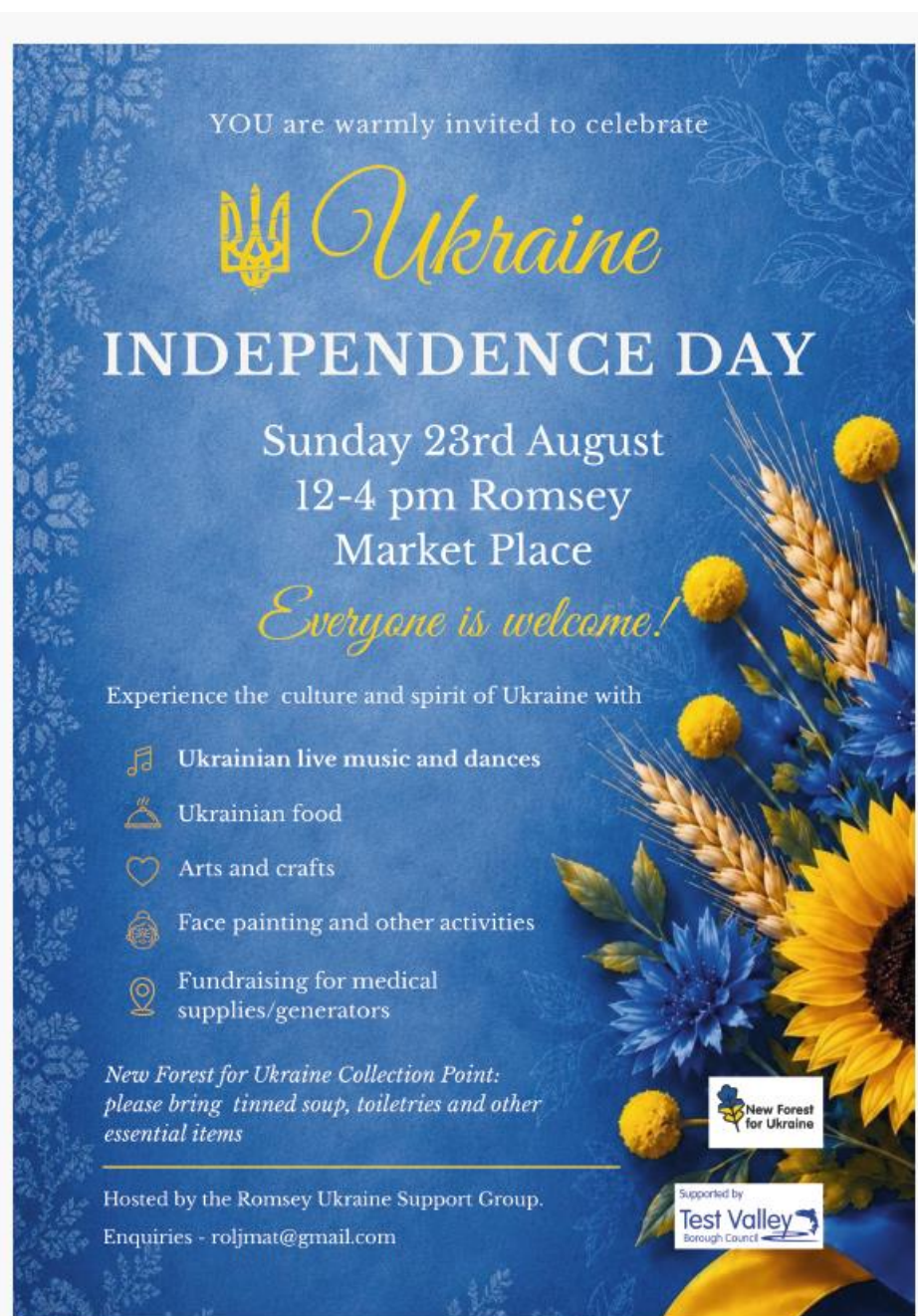
Twinning with Ukraine

Geoff Cooper, who will be familiar to many of you as a Test Valley Borough Councillor and through his regular columns in the Romsey Advertiser, has launched an initiative to establish a partnership between Romsey and a similar community in Ukraine. A small working group has been exploring options and is in regular contact with the Ukrainian Embassy in London who have been helpful in proposing possible matches. An online meeting has taken place already with one interested community, and the group is currently investigating further leads. Geoff writes: "Romsey has stood shoulder to shoulder with the people of Ukraine since the full-scale invasion of their country in 2022. We are now looking to cement that relationship with a formal twinning of our town with a similar community in Ukraine, to establish lasting connections between communities separated not only by geography but of course by tragically different circumstances; communities that are nevertheless united in their resolve to lead peaceful lives in a world of friendship and mutual respect. We have the experience, contacts and knowledge to make this happen, but we do need **volunteers** who have the ambition, passion and – crucially - the time, to help make this project a reality."

If you are interested in playing an active part in this initiative and want to find out more, please contact the Chairman, Roland Matthews, on roljmat@gmail.com or tel. 07505 507825. Roland is a member of the

working group, but there is no formal involvement on the part of Romsey Twinning in this project.

A celebration of **Ukraine's annual Independence Day** takes place in Romsey Market Place on **Sunday 23 August, 12 noon – 4pm**. There will be live Ukrainian music and dancing, Ukrainian arts and crafts for sale, children's activities and Ukrainian foods to sample. Everyone is welcome and donations will go towards medical supplies and generators for Ukraine.



YOU are warmly invited to celebrate

 *Ukraine*

INDEPENDENCE DAY

Sunday 23rd August
12-4 pm Romsey
Market Place

Everyone is welcome!

Experience the culture and spirit of Ukraine with

-  Ukrainian live music and dances
-  Ukrainian food
-  Arts and crafts
-  Face painting and other activities
-  Fundraising for medical supplies/generators

*New Forest for Ukraine Collection Point:
please bring tinned soup, toiletries and other
essential items*

Hosted by the Romsey Ukraine Support Group.
Enquiries - roljmat@gmail.com




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Bristol Twinning Conference

On 29th April I joined other Twinning enthusiasts in Bristol City Hall for their second Regional Conference, entitled 'City Twinning and Partnership in a Changing World'. Delegates worked in groups to discuss themes such as how to attract young people into city partnership working and fundraising. There were two interesting keynote speakers: [Heather Law](#) of Birmingham City Council, and [Dr Carl Wright](#), Chair of the European Local Links Group. Details of their presentations, as well as a summary of the main points discussed during the day, can be found on the [Twinning News](#) page of the Romsey Twinning website.

Karen Bolton



Diary Dates

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|--------------------------|---|
| 11 – 15 September | Romsey group visit to Battenberg |
| 1 – 5 October | Romsey group visit to Treviglio |
| 28 October | Annual General Meeting. Age Concern Hall, Linden Road, Romsey 7pm |
| 14 November | Quiz Night. Crosfield Hall Annexe, Romsey 7 for 7.30pm |

Please remember to check the website for details of all events – www.romseytwinning.org.uk

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