

Mill News



Playgroup Progress!

Plans to expand our Playgroup are gathering pace. The additional setting in Ross Street Community Centre has been refurbished and includes a much larger outdoor play area, new storage, office space, loos and a kitchen for cooking with the children! There is also parking, which will be a big help for parents or children with mobility issues. It has been successfully registered with Ofsted.

We aim to have older children in Romsey Mill Playgroup (Ross Street), and younger ones will continue at Romsey Mill Playgroup (Hemingford Road). We can then offer Playgroup places to younger children and will have space for two and three year old funded places as well as for children from fee paying families.

After Easter, we will be running both Playgroups Monday to Friday, 9am to 12 noon, and once we've settled in, we will extend the Ross Street site hours to 3pm. There is a waiting list, so to apply for a place, pick up a form from Romsey Mill Centre, our website or email playgroup@romseymill.org. We will be recruiting additional staff and volunteers, as well as asking for help sourcing toys and equipment, so keep an eye on our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/romseymill) and website for details.

To celebrate the building refurbishment, there will be a Mad Hatter's Tea Party on Saturday, 7 March, 12 noon to 4pm at Ross Street Community Centre. To find out more about other activities and groups at the Centre contact ross.street@cambridge.gov.uk

What kind of love?



In February, 'World Love Week' took place. It sought to celebrate the concept of 'love in businesses'. The organisers' purpose in running the online event was to

challenge organisations to "to adopt more holistic, earth and people-friendly ways of doing business".

'Love will find you out' intones Guy Garvey of Elbow in the song 'With Love'. But is that true? And if it is, with what kind of love will we be found?

Popular culture is drenched in the drama of romantic love, but many people actually understand that there is a much richer, broader, deeper and challenging notion of love.

Recently, the RSA explored what it might mean to 'take spirituality seriously', what sense we can make of the soul in a scientific age, and the importance of reflecting on our mortality. One event examined an ideal that many believe has to be at the heart of any reappraisal of the spiritual: love. Worth looking at on the website www.thersa.org.

In Romsey Mill's work we are inspired to love. Our expressions of love are not all that they could be or, potentially, all that they one day will be; but through our commitment to the care and growth of the people we work with, we give it a good go! And this is because of the richer, broader, deeper and more challenging love that inspires us. As Easter approaches it offers us the great opportunity to survey this love. I wish you all a very happy Easter. **Neil Perry, Chief Executive**

How can you help?

I am sending a one-off donation

I would like to give a regular donation

£10 £30 £50 £150

Other £.....

Name and address

.....

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Please tick to Gift Aid your donation

I confirm that I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each year (6th April to 5th April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all charities or Community Amateur Sports Clubs that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. I understand that the charity will reclaim 25p tax on every £1 that I give. I will advise Romsey Mill Trust if these details change.

Cheques payable to 'Romsey Mill Trust'

Signed:

Please detach this form and return with donation to:

*Romsey Mill, Hemingford Road, FREEPOST
CB1067, Cambridge, CB1 3YD*

ALTERNATIVELY:

Fundraise for us or donate online at
www.justgiving.com/romseymill

Text: MILL12£5 or MILL12£10 to 70070
to give £5 or £10

Follow us:

[Facebook.com/romseymill](https://www.facebook.com/romseymill)

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Every penny counts—thank you!

A week in the life of...

Matt Howell comes from St Albans, and started his career in sports coaching. Whilst teaching PE in a primary school, he got a call from a friend who was going to the Philippines to work with deprived young people in Antipolo City. Matt seized the opportunity to go too, and four months later, he came back to the UK to gain a degree in Youth & Community Work, spending three years on placement at Romsey Mill.

He is now a Youth Development Worker in the North of the City of Cambridge, so lives and works in the Arbury, Kings Hedges and Chesterton area. One of the things he does during the day is run a 'Healthy Relationships' group for girls in North Cambridge Academy. Recently they looked at traits they look for in a partner, and why being treated with respect is more important than good looks or cash.

Matt is also helping a couple of young people gain qualifications in catering and nail art, and is regularly seen rocking fabulous finger nails! Matt's afternoons are taken up with a girls boxing group, or working with Year 6 pupils from six North Cambridge primary schools who have been identified as likely to struggle with the transition to North Cambridge Academy in September. Managing practical concerns such as finding their way around the Academy to more interpersonal issues like

assertive communication means these youngsters will adapt more readily to the change ahead.

Matt's only project outside of North Cambridge is a Step Up group for young people at Coleridge Community College. This term, they are studying for an Arts Award qualification and will be creating work to be displayed in Biocair International's offices – a company that want to commission art work by local young people for their new premises.

Matt's evenings are also busy – he runs two football groups and two youth clubs each week and does detached work, walking around Arbury and King's Hedges and talking to young people. Matt gets a lot of satisfaction bumping into young people he has worked with in the past, and hearing about how they are getting on. One lad he worked with had serious anger management issues – he was regularly in trouble with the police and was lashing out at family members. He is now learning to drive and is working at a stables in Newmarket, which is proof that when young people can catch a break and get support, they can turn their lives around.

Matt relaxes playing football, at the gym or going for a run – this helps him keep a laid back attitude despite his busy schedule.



DONATE NOW to support the work of Romsey Mill!

Please write a cheque and send it to us, make a donation online via www.romseymill.org/donate or text MILL12£1, MILL12£5 or MILL12£10 to 70070 to donate £1, £5 or £10.



News in brief from the Mill

- The total raised by our Twelve Days of Christmas appeal now stands at £21,630! Thanks to anyone who contributed in any way to making this appeal such a great success.
- An 'Opportunities Fair' for young people aged 16-25 was held on 11 February at the Mill—local employers, training and further education providers were represented and the prizes donated to encourage everyone to talk to each other were amazing.
- Whittlesford Community Gospel Choir is holding a 10th anniversary fundraising concert for us on **Saturday, 21st March (7.30-9.30pm)** at Wesley Methodist Church in Cambridge. Tickets are on sale via www.eventbrite.com or can be bought from Romsey Mill reception.
- We would very much welcome volunteers to help run activities and groups, work in our Shop or develop and deliver fundraising projects. We particularly need ad hoc help with minor DIY jobs around the Centre (saving us a lot of cash every year)—if you are interested, contact... Diane Hicks on 01223 213162.
- We are recruiting 3 Playgroup Assistants—see our website for details.
- The Midwife Clinic (every Wednesday morning at Romsey Mill) is no longer a drop-in service. Please make appointments on 01223 348943.
- Sawston Cycle Ride raised £417 for us in 2014—plans are afoot for another sponsored ride on **19 September 2015**.
- John Lewis has chosen us to be one of their 'Community Matters' charities from Feb to April. If you have a cuppa in the Espresso Bar on the 3rd floor, please put your green token in our box!
- Since the launch of a weekly group for young fathers at Buchan Street Neighbourhood Centre, 12 young dads and their babies have been attending for play, chat and talks on topics such as sexual health, further education, parenting and life skills.
- We have recently expanded our Aspire provision in Cambourne to offer 8 more places to a wider age range of young people with autism. Aspire Plus (for 18 yrs +) has been looking at independent travel and managing money.

Soul Food

"There is no creature made who can know how much, how sweetly and how tenderly our Maker loves us." Julian of Norwich

Welcome to Romsey Mill
a Christian charity creating
opportunities with young
people, children and families
in Cambridgeshire



www.romseymill.org