

**Mayor's Message: Celebrating New Romney's Amazing Volunteers**

Firstly, I would like to thank my Deputy Mayor, Cllr. Peter Coe, for standing in for me today whilst the Mayoress and I are relaxing on our annual holiday, the first in over three years.

Secondly, I'd like to thank the Rev. Chris Hodgkins and the Church Warden Ann Rolfe, for allowing us to hold our Civic Service here this morning.

As Mayor of New Romney, I want to take a moment to give a huge thank you to everyone who volunteers in our community. Your time and effort make a massive difference, and we are so lucky to have you.

Volunteering is what keeps New Romney thriving. Whether you're helping at events, supporting local charities, mentoring our youth, or visiting with our seniors, your work helps make our town a better place in which to live. When people give their time freely, it not only helps those in need but also brings us all closer together. It's amazing how a little bit of kindness can go a long way in creating a strong, connected community.

The benefits of volunteering go beyond just the immediate help. It builds a sense of pride and belonging in our town. Volunteers often find a lot of personal satisfaction in knowing they've made a positive impact. This good feeling spreads throughout the community, making New Romney a happier, more supportive place for everyone.

We are incredibly lucky to have so many dedicated volunteers here. Your hard work and generosity show the best of what New Romney has to offer. From organising community events, such as 'Light Up New Romney', the 'Country Fair' and 'New Romney in Bloom', to spending time with those who need a friend, your contributions are vital and deeply appreciated.

To all the volunteers out there, thank you! Your dedication and kindness don't go unnoticed. You are the true heroes of our community, and we are grateful for everything you do.

I'd also like to thank my fellow Councillors for their time and dedication spent in supporting the work of the Town Council over the last year. They, too, are volunteers, working collegiately for the benefit of our community.

For those who haven't tried volunteering yet, why not give it a shot? There are so many ways to get involved, and every little bit helps. Not only will you be making a difference in someone else's life, but you'll also feel great knowing you've contributed to our community.

In short, volunteering is amazing. It brings people together, helps those in need, and makes New Romney a better place in which to live. Let's celebrate our volunteers and encourage even more people to join in. Together, we can continue to build a community filled with compassion, generosity, and support for one another.

As Mother Teresa once said, "*We ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean. But the ocean would be less because of that missing drop.*"

Thank You.

**Cllr. John Rivers**  
**June 2024.**