

Society helps to ring in a new era at library

ANOTHER Romsey and District Society initiative came to fruition last week when a replacement bell was hung in the belfry over the porch of Romsey Public Library.

The bell, 15 inches in diameter, was cast in the late 1800s by Gillett and Co at about the same time that the library was built. However, it has a very modern electrically operated chiming system controlled from within the library.

Project leader Geoff Morris said: "Apart from the wreckage of the old striking mechanism the belfry has been empty for over 50 years and we were lucky to find a suitable bell to replace the original. We are very grateful to CSG Ltd for meeting most of the cost and to Romsey Town Council for their contribution. And HCC's Historic Buildings Architect Giles Pritchard was very helpful in phasing the bell-hanging into his programme. We are hopeful that the bell will be chimed at opening and closing times just as it was when the building was opened as the Boys National School".

The library has been closed since May



Going up... the new bell being hoisted into the tower of Romsey Library

last year whilst HCC carried out a refurbishment and extension programme. If everything goes to plan, it will re-open on June 8.

Geoff said: "I managed to get a quick look inside. Giles has done a splendid job - we shall have a library we can be really proud of!"