

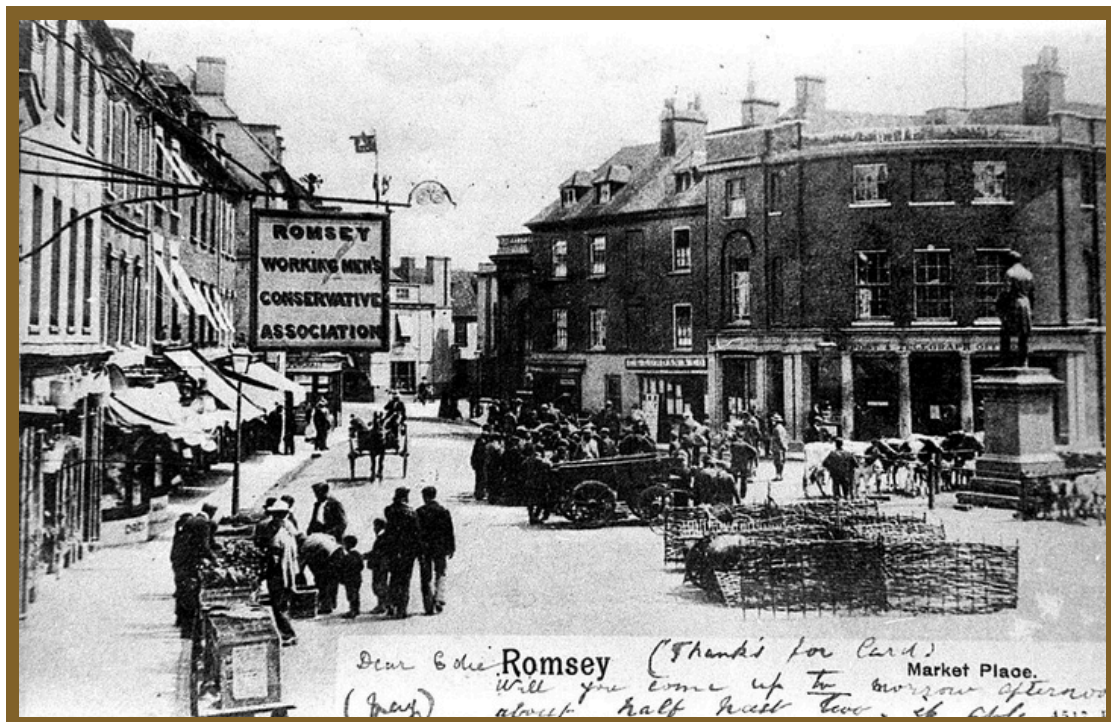
FROM THE ARCHIVES of Romsey Town Council



Oil on canvas paintings by artist Harley Crossley (1936-2013)

These evocative works by the celebrated British artist Harley Crossley are the latest additions to the Romsey Town Council historical archives. These oil on canvas paintings, rich in atmosphere, have been most generously gifted by Mr and Mrs Pantling, to whom we extend our gratitude. Their donation not only preserves a vision of the past but enriches the cultural tapestry of Romsey for generations to come.

Crossley used a muted, atmospheric palette in these works, reflecting the quiet elegance of Edwardian Romsey. His subdued interpretation draws inspiration from the early black-and-white photographs shown below, which he used as references, not only to capture the visual details of the period, but also to evoke its tone and spirit.



**(left) Market day, looking east,
circa 1907**

Crossley often brought to life the atmosphere of historical scenes depicted in old postcards such as this one.

King Henry I (1100–1135), granted the Abbess of Romsey the right to hold a Sunday market, marking the start of Romsey's market tradition.

**(right) Market Place looking north-west,
circa 1899**

The shop sign for C.T. Waters, printer, now occupied by WHSmith, is visible above the storefront at the far right in both the photograph and the accompanying painting. The proprietor, Charles Thomas Waters, was Romsey Borough Mayor in 1919.



Harley Crossley was a renowned British artist born in Southampton. Over his professional career, he became widely recognized as Britain's leading expert in oil painting using the palette knife. His mastery of this distinctive technique brought his subjects, ranging from evocative landscapes and seascapes to bustling street scenes and tranquil canals, to life with striking texture and depth. A respected member of the Fine Art Trade Guild, his work is represented in both private and public collections around the world.



FROM THE ARCHIVES
of Romsey Town Council

Oil on canvas paintings by artist Harley Crossley (1926-2013)

These excellent works by the celebrated British artist Harley Crossley are the latest addition to the Romsey Town Council historical archive. These oil on canvas paintings, like his contemporaries, have been most generously gifted to the town and the people of Romsey by the artist's family. Their donation not only preserves a vision of the past but enriches the cultural legacy of Romsey for generations to come.

Crossley used a masterful atmospheric palette in these works, infusing the quiet elegance of the quiet Romsey with historical detail and depth. Inspiration from the very earliest of the photographic drawn scene which he used as reference, not only to the street scene of the period, but also to the way it was seen.

Early Market day looking east, circa 1850

Crossley often sought to use the atmosphere of historical scenes depicted in old postcards such as this one.

King Henry I (1100-1135) granted the Abbey of Romsey the right to hold a Sunday market, marking the start of Romsey's market tradition.

Original Market Place looking north-west, circa 1850

The street sign for St. Andrew's, erected, was installed by accident, in 1910, above the entrance of the St. Andrew's in both the photograph and the accompanying painting. The photographer, Charles Thomas Brown, was Romsey Borough Mayor in 1910.

Harley Crossley was a renowned British artist born in Southampton. From his professional career, he became widely recognized as Britain's leading expert in oil painting using the positive walls. His mastery of this distinctive technique brought his scenes, ranging from historical landscapes and portraits to bustling street scenes and market scenes, to life with striking texture and depth. A respected member of the Fine Art Trade Guild, his work is represented in both private and public collections around the world.