

# ROYSTON TOWN CRIER

Keeping Royston residents in touch with their local council

ISSUE NO. 5

FEBRUARY 2008

*As we begin the New Year, Royston Town Council can look back on all its hard work and achievements of last year with pride. The Council is also looking forward to an exciting year ahead, and one in which we can make a real difference to the future of the town.*



## Street Lighting and Pavements in the Town Centre

Councillors have been looking at the state of our pavements in the Town Centre, particularly the poor condition of paving slabs in the High Street, Kneesworth Street and Melbourn Street areas.

Complaints have been received about the dangerous condition some of these pavements are in, particularly from our elderly residents.

An investigation was made and a report stating our concerns has been sent to the Royston Area Committee at NHDC and the Highways Partnership stressing the need for urgent repair work to be undertaken. We have also taken up the request of the Town Centre Manager for better street lighting in Angel Pavement and have passed on his concerns to the Hertfordshire Partnership and the Royston Area Committee requesting this lighting to be updated as soon as possible.

## Lottery Bid Win for Royston Railway Underpass

The council was delighted that the **Sustran Lottery bid** has won us £700,000 which will be a huge contribution to the development of the proposed railway underpass at Coombes Hole. The Town Council has been closely involved with this project and had a very interesting and informative meeting with officers from Hertfordshire Highways in November. The Council was updated on the progress of the underpass which is now well on course to proceed and was assured that it was high on the County Council's priority list. Councillors were very pleased that at long last the provision of an underpass to unite the two parts of the town was now in sight.



## Royston Town Council Wins Quality Status Award!

We are extremely proud to announce that Royston Town Council has been awarded a well deserved Quality Status Accreditation after a year of very hard work putting our application together.

The Town Council was presented with the award on 28 January by the Hertfordshire Association of Town and Parish Councils and we were all delighted to receive it. We are the first Town and Parish Council in North Hertfordshire to receive this award and only the fifth in the whole of Hertfordshire!

### *What does this mean for you?*

We had to prove to the Award Panel that Royston Town Council is representative of the whole community, that it communicates with its residents and is properly managed and responsible. This means in turn that we have to be more accountable, visible, representative and provide community leadership.

Through continued contact and discussion, we hope in the long term, to be able to provide more responsive services to the people of Royston and to be capable of solving local problems without recourse to the District Council.

**Well done and a big thank you to Susan Thornton-Bjork, our Town Clerk. Thanks must also go to all the Councillors who helped to make this possible and of course, thank you to you, the Royston residents who make Royston a Quality Town anyway!**

## The Role of a Town Councillor

As Councillors, we are frequently asked what are we doing for the Town and its residents. The Town Council has a small but dedicated and professional staff and 15 elected Councillors who all regularly attend various committees at the Town Hall, and at which all members of the public are welcome to attend. The Finance Committee is perhaps the most important as it sets budgets for Town Hall income and expenditure and determines how much money is to be raised from the Town Council Tax Precept. The Planning Committee also meets every month to discuss local planning applications and reports to North Herts District Council on whether or not they support the application.

There are many other committees that Councillors attend. At all these meetings, Councillors are committed to ensuring that the best interests of Royston residents are upheld and that the best value for money is achieved.

Over the past year, NHDC have consulted Royston residents on a number of strategies, such as the Town Centre Strategy. Royston Town Councillors have always played a significant part in these consultations, putting the views of Royston residents forward.

All Town Councillors share the concerns expressed by residents on matters such as parking fees, on-street parking issues, loss of bus services and the decline of the Town Centre and are doing all they can to ensure that these views are made known to the relevant bodies.

### 91st Bomb Group Memorial Priory Gardens

To the Royston Town Council and the ladies and gentlemen of the city of Royston,

Please know how much it means to all us 91st Bomb Group veterans that you have built and maintain the 91st BG(H) Memorial in the Priory Gardens in Royston. We are especially delighted at the constant maintenance of the beautiful floral display with funds made available from their yearly budget to plant flowers that will bloom in winter and summer months.

I personally was at the celebration you put on for our 50th anniversary in May of 1992 and still relish the memory of the town's turn out in the rain, the laying of wreathes and the delicious luncheon in your town hall. We were so fortunate to have our air base at Basingbourn so near to your caring and friendly city.

Mike Banta, Ringmaster of the 91st Bomb Group E-mail Ring

### A few of the emails from America

Dear Friends in Royston,

We would like to send our thanks to you and your community for your constant care and devotion to the beautiful memorial that you maintain in the Royston Priory Gardens. We are so very appreciative of your care, devotion and the monies you expend annually to do so in memory of our service in your Country during WW II, 1942 through 1945.

My wife Lois and I were privileged to have been able to visit the base at Basingbourn in 1972 and had a delightful meal at noon in the Bull Hotel in Royston. We have also been back to visit England on two other occasions, one time from London to the Firth of Forth and on another time to Lands End.

I was crew chief of B-17 "Times-a-Wastin" which made 96 missions and was finally shot down over Stendahl, Germany, April 1945, with 9 crew members aboard, two were survivors. I was land crew chief who with my assistants maintained the ship for the flight crews to fly her. We had principally 3 different pilots who flew "Times-a-Wastin" which was named for the columnist Snuffy Smith and whose nose art was painted by the wonderful Group's artist, Tony Starcer. I am now 87 years of age.

Sincerely yours, Roy & Lois Fratz

### Our American Friends

During the Second World War the town of Royston had many visitors from the USA. Most of them were servicemen who were attached to the 91st Heavy Bomb Group and based at nearby Basingbourn. As a tribute to their part in the war and in recognition of their dedication, the people of Royston had a memorial built in the Priory Memorial Gardens. Each year it is tended and planted with flowers. A separate laying of wreaths ceremony is held just prior to our own Remembrance Day Parade.

The Town Council sends photos of the Memorial to the veterans or their families via the Internet as so many of them are unable to make the journey to visit our town. **The Town Clerk receives many emails of thanks of which many people are not aware.** We are sure you will agree that as residents of Royston we can all be proud to receive this accolade.

Dear Members of Royston Town Council:

I hope to someday see this memorial in person but until then the wonderful pictures members of the 91 Bomb Group have been so inspiring. My father who has passed away always felt so thankful that people remembered their sacrifices. The tranquil beauty of the square now brings tears to my eyes as the pictures always did to his. Your efforts are appreciated by many more family members that you do not hear from as the families grow.

On behalf of my father, Robert Cleveland and his entire family, thank you so much for the dedication and hard work it takes to maintain the square. No words could let you know how much it is appreciated.

Sincerely,  
Jane Cleveland Hittinger & Family

Dear Mrs. Thornton-Bjork

I have recently viewed pictures of the beautiful Floral tribute maintained by the townspeople of Royston in the Priory Gardens to honor the memory of the Americans who served at Basingbourn during World War II. I served at Basingbourn in 1945. You do us all great honor in keeping these lovely gardens. Thank you for honoring us. Warm regards, Merle Choffel

### Visit Royston's French Twin Town With Royston And District Twinning Association

Royston is twinned with La Loupe in Northern France, close to the historic city of Chartres. The opportunity to visit on a Twinning Weekend gives a fascinating insight into the real France and experience genuine hospitality. Twinning is suitable for all ages - and is a great way for families with children to get a chance to try out their French. This year's visit to La Loupe is over the Spring Bank Holiday weekend (Friday 23rd May - Monday 26th May). The cost will be approximately £90 per person including travel by luxury coach, excursions and full board accommodation whilst staying with your hosts. Contact Paul Rydon on 01763 241721 or e-mail: [paul@rydon.net](mailto:paul@rydon.net) for further details.

### ROYSTON TOWN COUNCILLORS

A list of all Councillors' names and contact numbers is given below, together with details of the wards they represent. All Town Councillors serve in a voluntary capacity and are elected for a 4 year term of office. Councillors are not paid and do not receive any allowance for attending meetings.

Town Mayor: Councillor Peter Lill

Deputy Mayor: Councillor Paul Grimes

#### Palace Ward:

|  |              |
|--|--------------|
| Cllr. Elizabeth Beardwell, 81 Green Drift, Royston, Herts. SG8 5BT | 01763 242242 |
| Cllr. Lynn Berry, 22 Serby Ave, Royston, Herts. SG8 7EH            | 01763 243272 |
| Cllr. Robert Inwood, 9 Thackeray Close, Royston, Herts. SG8 5TF    | 01763 221793 |
| Cllr. Philip Mayne, 16 Gower Road, Royston, Herts. SG8 5DU         | 01763 246550 |
| Cllr. Bill Prime, 132 Burns Rd, Royston, Herts. SG8 5SU            | 01763 242152 |

#### Meridian Ward:

|   |              |
|---|--------------|
| Cllr. Paul Grimes, 6 Valley Rise, Royston, Herts, SG8 9EY           | 01763 244139 |
| Cllr. Mike Harrison, 12 Highlands, Royston, Herts. SG8 9HE          | 01763 220055 |
| Cllr. Peter Lill, 16 Mackerel Hall, Royston, Herts, SG8 5BS         | 01763 242310 |
| Cllr. Marguerite Phillips, 27 Redwing Rise, Royston, Herts. SG8 7XU | 01763 250844 |
| Cllr. Robert Smith, 21 Redwing Rise, Royston, Herts. SG8 7XU        | 01763 222890 |

#### Heath Ward:

|  |              |
|--|--------------|
| Cllr. Peter Burt, 40 Echo Hill, Royston, Herts. SG8 9BB              | 01763 248042 |
| Cllr. Lindsay Davidson, 5 St Mary's Park, Royston, Herts. SG8 7XB    | 01763 221431 |
| Cllr. Craig Doel, 57 Mill Road, Royston, Herts, SG8 7AH              | 07771 914258 |
| Cllr. Elizabeth Gaillard, 34D Kneesworth St, Royston, Herts. SG8 5AB | 01763 242924 |
| Cllr. Rod Kennedy, 31 Heathfield, Royston, Herts. SG8 5BN            | 01763 245681 |

### ROYSTON TOWN COUNCIL

Town Hall,  
Melbourn Street, Royston,  
Hertfordshire SG8 7DA  
Tel: 01763 245484  
Fax: 01763 248016

#### Town Clerk

Mrs Susan Thornton-Bjork

#### Town Hall Office Opening Hours:

Monday to Thursday:  
9 am to 1 pm & 2 pm to 5 pm  
Friday: 9 am to 1 pm  
& 2 pm to 4.30 pm

[www.roystontowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.roystontowncouncil.gov.uk)  
[enquiries@roystontowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@roystontowncouncil.gov.uk)