



ROYSTON TOWN CRIER

News From Your Town Council - December 2022

Seasons Greetings from your Royston Town Councillors and the Officers & Staff at the Town Hall.

We know that things are particularly hard for everyone at the moment but hope that you can still enjoy the festivities. Keep your eyes open for all the different events going on in Royston and join in when you can. There is a lot lined up in the town and the villages during the weeks up to Christmas. Get out and about in Royston - it promises to be a vibrant place to go to in the lead-up to Christmas Day. And don't forget Christmas at Royston Market on Saturday 17 December, 8am - 3.30pm.

Silver Sunday

As part of the UK's national Silver Sunday initiative, Royston Town Council hosted around 100 pensioners from the area to Afternoon Tea followed by a film in the Picture Palace cinema. Guests were treated to scones with jam and cream, plus assorted cakes with tea or coffee. These were all prepared and served by Town Hall officers and staff as well as Town Councillors. The Town Mayor was also on hand to greet guests as they arrived.

The Mayor of Royston's twin town, Grossalmerode was also invited to join the guests.



The tea was followed by a showing of "The Duke" - a light comedy film starring Jim Broadbent and Helen Mirren.

Our thanks go to the Picture Palace volunteers for their support at the event.

Swift Boxes

In July, the council was alerted by a resident to the plight of Swifts in the UK. Swifts migrate annually and stay to breed in the local area, but their population has declined by 58% in the last 23 years and they have been added to the UK's list of endangered birds. The birds nest in the eaves, gaps and cavities on buildings but as buildings have been renovated and replaced, their nesting sites have been lost. The birds are known to already visit Royston but need more places to nest.



A local wildlife expert visited the Town Hall and suggested sites for the boxes to be fitted at 5 metres above ground. Two sets of three should be fitted if possible as this would assist the rapid formation of swift colonies. The council agreed that this would enhance biodiversity on council land and was therefore a project they would like to support. Four Swift boxes have been ordered and we hope they can be installed this winter. The Climate and Biodiversity Working Party of the council would like to encourage other organisations and landlords in the town to install these boxes to encourage Swifts to come to Royston.

Mayor's Trust Fund

Applications for grants from the Mayor's Trust Fund can be submitted by community organisations within Royston, who offer a significant benefit for the people of the town. This may be towards the setting up of a new project, capital scheme or help towards a special event or activity. Applications will open in January 2023 and will be presented to the Annual Town Meeting on 9 March 2023. Forms can be obtained from the Town Hall office or downloaded from our website - www.roystontowncouncil.gov.uk

We look forward to helping our worthy local groups and organisations again in 2023.



School Visits

This autumn another round of Royston Primary School presentations began where Town, District and County Councillors talk about how the different levels of local government work. They also engage with the children to find out what they know about the town, what they like or dislike about the town and how things could be improved. Some of the answers have been entertaining, some thought through very well.

Mayor's Activities

Another busy time for your Mayor! Since the last Newsletter she has attended various events arranged as part of the annual Royston Arts Festival, Bury Lane Open Day, the Sustainability event in Priory Gardens and has judged a Royston Town Centre shops display competition - the winner (pictured) was Ladds.



How Your Councils Work

There are 3 levels of local government in Royston

Hertfordshire County Council

Responsible for:

Child and Adult Care
Education and Libraries
Fire and Rescue
Highways – roads, pavements, street lights, signs
Public Health
Registering births, deaths and marriages
The Environment – Countryside, Waste & Recycling

North Hertfordshire District Council

Responsible for:

Bin collections
Council tax – registering, paying and payment enquiries
Environmental health and pest control
Housing and parking
Leisure services
Planning – new houses, extensions, shops
Parks & green spaces – Priory Gardens

Royston Town Council

Responsible for:

Allotments
Christmas Lights
Market Hill Rooms
May Fayre
Stile and Green Walk Plantations
The Markets
The Cave
War Memorial

Town Twinning

In October Finn Thomsen, the Mayor of Royston's twin town Grossalmerode, Germany visited Royston along with his Mayor Consort Finja Mieth.

Accompanied by Town Twinning representatives they attended the Sustainability event in Priory Gardens and met Royston Firefighters at the Fire Station. They were also entertained with afternoon tea at the Silver Sunday event.

Finally, they were invited to plant Lime trees at the Newmarket Road playing field. They were joined by Cllr Steve Jarvis, Elizabeth Freeman (Town Twinning Secretary), Royston Mayor Cllr Mary Antony and Cllr Ruth Brown



Buses To Cambridge

At the time of writing, Stagecoach had indicated that they would be withdrawing the 915 bus service from Royston to Cambridge. There was public outrage throughout the town, not least from your Councillors. Following the efforts of County, District and Town Councils who made representations to the Mayor of Cambridgeshire & Peterborough. At almost the last minute a replacement operator was found - Centrebus - who will be operating the route, albeit with a two-hourly service, as route 26.

Town Councillors

First, a warm welcome to Luke Haugh, your new Town Councillor in Meridian ward, following a recent by-election.

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 : Cllr Mary Antony Deputy Mayor : Cllr Ruth Brown		
Palace Ward		
Cllr Lisa Adams	07561 045044	cllr.lisa.adams@roystontowncouncil.gov.uk
Cllr Rob Inwood	01763 224997	cllr.robert.inwood@roystontowncouncil.gov.uk
Cllr Bindi Jani	07737 639441	cllr.bindi.jani@roystontowncouncil.gov.uk
Cllr Lynsey Langdon	07984 495862	cllr.lynsey.langdon@roystontowncouncil.gov.uk
Cllr John Rees	07958 654239	cllr.john.rees@roystontowncouncil.gov.uk
Meridian Ward		
Cllr James Birch	07967 938811	cllr.james.birch@roystontowncouncil.gov.uk
Cllr Adam Compton	07788 483197	cllr.adam.compton@roystontowncouncil.gov.uk
Cllr Mike Harrison	01763 220055	cllr.michael.harrison@roystontowncouncil.gov.uk
Cllr Luke Haugh	07561 003814	cllr.luke.haugh@roystontowncouncil.gov.uk
Cllr Stephen Lockett	01763 246922	cllr.stephen.lockett@roystontowncouncil.gov.uk
Royston South Ward		
Cllr Mary Antony	01763 221316	cllr.mary.antony@roystontowncouncil.gov.uk
Cllr Carol Stanier	01763 220744	cllr.carol.stanier@roystontowncouncil.gov.uk
Royston West Ward		
Cllr Elizabeth Beardwell	01763 242242	cllr.elizabeth.beardwell@roystontowncouncil.gov.uk
Cllr Ruth Brown	01763 230290	cllr.ruth.brown@roystontowncouncil.gov.uk
Cllr Emma Squire-Smith	01763 661701	cllr.emma.squire-smith@roystontowncouncil.gov.uk

Royston Town Council

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Town Hall office opening hours
Monday to Friday: 9 am to 4 pm
www.roystontowncouncil.gov.uk

Town Clerk: Miss Caroline Mills
town.clerk@roystontowncouncil.gov.uk



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