



# ROYSTON TOWN CRIER

News from your Town Council – March 2022



## Exciting Changes for Royston Museum



Royston Town Council and Royston & District Local History Society are pleased to announce the creation of the Royston Museum Trust.

Royston Museum is currently run by the Town Council, but its management will transfer to the Trust from April. The Council will continue to be committed to the success of the museum by providing core funding, and the Trust's charity status will give the museum the opportunity to apply for external funding.

The Museum's Trustees and their newly appointed manager, **Nicky Paton**, will oversee operations. Having spent the last three years leading Royston Cave's development, Nicky will now work to deliver ambitious plans to transform the museum into a cultural destination.

*"Our vision for Royston Museum is that it becomes a hub of culture and education; a contemporary, multi-functional space in which our town can learn, co-work, socialise and create," says Nicky. "It will be community driven and people focused, engaging broader demographics and inspiring a culture of access and inclusion. We'll be actively collaborating with the town and schools on community projects, organising an exciting programme of events and curating new exhibitions that celebrate Royston's story - past to present - and all those who've contributed to it. New facilities, new function and a new design will revive the site and make heritage, culture and opportunity more accessible than ever. I'm very excited to be on board as we progress into this new era."*

The museum will be temporarily closed while plans get underway and will reopen later this year. Until then, keep up-to-date with the redevelopment on Royston Museum's social media.

<https://www.facebook.com/roystonmuseum/>

<https://twitter.com/RoystonMuseum>

## Royston Town Council 2022-23 Budget

The Coronavirus has continued to change the way we live and work.

The easing of lockdown pressures over the last year has allowed the slow start of a return to pre-covid times with some hiring of rooms and halls, reopening of the cinema and limited opening of the cave. The market has continued to thrive.

Government grants have helped to make up for lost income on which we depend to provide our services.

In setting our budget for the coming year we have made the assumption that our income will continue to recover. The Royston Town Council precept for 2022-23 was agreed at the Full Council meeting on 17 January. The Royston Town Council Tax for a "Band D" property next year will rise by 2.45% from £50.90 to £52.15 per year, an increase of £1.25 per year. Due to our prudent budget, the proposed increase is less than half the current rate of annual inflation.

Let us hope that 2022 will be a better year for us all.

**John Davison - Leader of Royston Town Council**

Royston Town Council invites you to attend the

## Annual Town Meeting

**Thursday 10 March 2022**

**At 7.30pm in the  
Lower Heritage Hall  
Royston Town Hall**

Please join us for an informative evening with local councillors who will give their reports and answer any questions you might wish to ask.

The Town Mayor, Cllr Mark Hughes, will also be presenting the Annual Community Trust Fund Awards to local groups and charities, and Community Awards to those local residents who have made a significant contribution to the life of our town.

## The Town Hall Kitchen Refurbishment

Contributions from developers have funded Town Hall improvements, including the kitchen refurbishment. The area is now wheelchair accessible and has a double oven, dishwasher and new fridge. New kitchen equipment has also been purchased including microwave, pans, oven trays, utensils, a hand whisk, oven gloves, a pizza slice and many teaspoons! There will also be a stock of washing up supplies. We hope that groups using the hall can now be a little more adventurous with what they provide their members and we hope this will encourage new users too.



## The May Fayre is Back!

It's been a while, but we are pleased to announce that the May Fayre will be back as usual, on the first bank holiday in May (Monday, May 2nd).

Attractions include an amateur dog show, historic vehicles, rideable miniature train, fairground rides, the Town Band, Punch and Judy, and "Last Man Standing"; a hilarious physical challenge for all the family. As usual, there will be many and varied food offerings, including a hog roast, burgers, ice cream, and of course a bar.

The day is always a fun way to spend your bank holiday, and a great way to help local charities and groups as well. If your local dance/performance group would like a chance in the spotlight, please get in touch with the clerk to arrange this.

There will also be events occurring throughout town for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations on the second Bank Holiday long weekend, including a picnic in Priory Memorial Gardens and tree planting for the Queen's Canopy. If you want to organise a street party for the Jubilee, Herts CC have information on their website to assist with this.



## ROYSTON TOWN CRIER

### Your Town Council

The term of the current Town Council is nearly at an end. Though we have experienced a pandemic, unprecedented in our lifetimes, during this 4-year term, the Council are proud to have achieved many things for the town and residents:

- ◆ **Installation of a covered bike rack in the market and a bus shelter on Icknield Walk.**
- ◆ **Roll out of the Cave virtual tour.**
- ◆ **Transfer of Royston Picture Palace to Saffron Screen to secure the future of Royston's cinema.**
- ◆ **Passing of the first Town Council Environmental Policy.**
- ◆ **Nearing completion on work to allow the Museum to exist as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, independent of the Council.**
- ◆ **Worked productively with local District, County Councillors and Royston First BID on behalf of Royston residents.**
- ◆ **Continued to maintain and preserve many of Royston's historic landmarks and council amenities: War Memorial, Market, Plantations and Market Hill Rooms.**
- ◆ **Refurbished the Town Hall kitchen for the enjoyment of hirers.**



### Councillor F John Smith

Royston Town Council was saddened at the death of Councillor F John Smith on 25 December 2022. F John was a dedicated member of the Town Council and served as Mayor from 1968 to 1970 and again in 1984 to 1985.

He served as a District Councillor for over 50 years, continuing as a Town Councillor until his death, a total of over 60 years' public service. His knowledge of Royston and its history was exceptional, as was his contribution towards Town Council duties.

He was an outstanding member of the local community who supported many local charities and organisations, including the Museum, The History Society, Royston and District Community Transport, the Twinning Association and many more. He will be greatly missed.

### 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: Cllr Mark Hughes Deputy Mayor: Cllr. Marguerite Phillips**

#### Palace Ward

Brian Bylett	07765 253227	cllr.brian.bylett@roystontowncouncil.gov.uk
Mark Hughes	07860 108085	cllr.mark.hughes@roystontowncouncil.gov.uk
Robert Inwood	07846 309896	cllr.robert.inwood@roystontowncouncil.gov.uk
Iain Leggett	01763 230978	cllr.iain.leggett@roystontowncouncil.gov.uk
Vacancy		

#### Meridian Ward

Elizabeth Beardwell	01763 242242	cllr.elizabeth.beardwell@roystontowncouncil.gov.uk
Mike Harrison	01763 220055	cllr.michael.harrison@roystontowncouncil.gov.uk
Marguerite Phillips	07903 715533	cllr.marguerite.phillips@roystontowncouncil.gov.uk
Philip Smith	01763 244775	cllr.philip.smith@roystontowncouncil.gov.uk
Vacancy		

#### Royston South Ward

Thomas Perry	07854 609201	cllr.thomas.perry@roystontowncouncil.gov.uk
Carol Stanier	01763 220744	cllr.carol.stanier@roystontowncouncil.gov.uk

#### Royston West Ward

Ruth Brown	01763 230290	cllr.ruth.brown@roystontowncouncil.gov.uk
John Davison	07802 907700	cllr.john.davison@roystontowncouncil.gov.uk
Emma Squire-Smith	01763 661701	cllr.emma.squire-smith@roystontowncouncil.gov.uk

**Newsletter supported by:**

**the listing**  
YOUR GUIDE TO ROYSTON AND BEYOND

### ROYSTON TOWN COUNCIL

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enquiries@roystontowncouncil.gov.uk

Town Hall office opening hours  
Monday to Friday: 9 am to 4 pm

<http://www.roystontowncouncil.gov.uk>

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