

ROYSTON TOWN CRIER

News from your Town Council – December 2020



Season's Greetings!

Royston's Mayor, Cllr Robert Inwood and Royston Town Council wish all Royston residents a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year. Season's Greetings to all those celebrating other festivities!

Make sure you take a look at the council's brand new redesigned website:

www.roystontowncouncil.gov.uk for all the latest information and news.

Royston Picture Palace

We regret that our cinema will be closed during the current lockdown. We had been very pleased that we were able to re-open having implemented health and safety and social distancing measures to protect visitors, staff and volunteers. We will re-open as soon as possible. Please visit the website www.roystonpicturepalace.org.uk for further information.

Royston Town Council Grants

Mayor's Community Trust Fund Awards

Community organisations are invited to apply for an award from the Mayor's Trust Fund Awards if you require financial help for either the setting up of a new project, event, or capital scheme, which will be beneficial to the people of Royston.

Leete Charity Trust

The Leete Charity is administered by Royston Town Council and can offer small grants to applicants under the age of 25, residing in, or attending school in Royston. If you are seeking some financial assistance for the purchase of Textbooks, travel, etc., or to help with further education costs, you can obtain an application form from our website.

Details and application forms for both grants can be downloaded from the website and submitted by email or post. Please go to www.roystontowncouncil.gov.uk via the links 'What we do' and 'Grants'. We look forward to helping our many excellent local groups and organisations again in 2021.

The Town Hall

Following the latest government restrictions, our council rooms and halls will again be closed to hirers until at least 2 December when we await further guidance. The latest Government recommendations are being followed and changes are constantly being implemented in order that council business can continue. Throughout the pandemic council officers and staff have continued to provide the services that we all rely on. Please visit the council website for further information and updates.

www.roystontowncouncil.gov.uk.

Royston Town Councillors would like to particularly thank all our staff at the Town Hall for their hard work and resilience during this year and what has been a very difficult time. Thanks also go to our Markets Manager, Rob Mills who has provided us with such a vibrant and successful market.

Royston Cave

Unfortunately Royston Town Council has been unable to safely open Royston Cave to the public this year because of the pandemic. But it's not all bad news! Despite being closed, we are at a very exciting time in Royston Cave's history. Our Cave Manager, Nicky Paton, has been working hard behind the scenes. An improved website and launch of an online archive means information is now more accessible than ever before.

The recent development of The Royston Cave Virtual Experience, a 3D, 360-degree virtual tour of Royston Cave, also provides opportunity for a new global audience to connect and engage with the cave's story. The Virtual Experience was freely available to explore throughout August and September, with virtual guided tours now available to book online. Elsewhere, further access initiatives are being introduced, equipment is being updated and maintenance to improve the infrastructure of the cave is about to begin.

www.roystoncave.co.uk

Royston Museum

After a full risk assessment being carried out on the Museum the council decided that the museum should remain closed to the public at the current time, with a reassessment being carried out in January 2021. The museum will focus on collection rationalisation and community outreach until that time. www.roystonmuseum.org.uk

Bicycle Racks

We are really excited that we will soon have the first bicycle rack and shelter installed in the Market Place. This installation is being funded from S106 monies, which have been negotiated between developers and NHDC for the benefit of our town and community.



Royston & District Twinning Association 2020

What a challenging year! Our trip to La Loupe, France, scheduled for late May, had to be cancelled, but all credit to our local coach company, Richmond's, who pulled out all the stops to help with the cancellation process. Instead a number of our members were able to Zoom, Skype or FaceTime with their French host families and enjoyed pleasant evenings in the fabulous late spring sunshine. Similarly our annual excursion to Villanueva de la Cañada, Spain, was called off completely. Instead lots of cheerful and supportive WhatsApp messages were sent to and fro.



The Royston Arts Festival 2020 Online Finale Concert featured contributions from Großalmerode's Musikzug and Villanueva de la Cañada's Agrupación de Clarinetes y Saxofones. In spite of the challenges their town bands were able to produce inspiring and accomplished videos filmed socially-distanced outdoors in Germany, and in each individual musician's home in Spain.

This year should have been Royston's turn to host visitors from Großalmerode. Instead of entertaining our guests a number of our members spent time online, chatting and sharing news and memories. Normally in November we would host an Annual Dinner, but this year we are planning a virtual social event to celebrate twinning. As yet it is difficult to predict if we will be able to either visit or host our twin towns next year. 2021 will see the tenth anniversary of being twinned with Villanueva de la Cañada and while it would be very special to be able to celebrate San Isidro with our Spanish partners, there is still uncertainty over travel to and from Britain. Onwards and upwards!

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 Robert Inwood Deputy Mayor: Cllr Mark Hughes

Palace Ward

Ian Coll	01763 244595	cllr.ian.coll@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

Mike Harrison	01763 220055	cllr.michael.harrison@roystontowncouncil.gov.uk
Marguerite Phillips	07903 715533	cllr.marguerite.phillips@roystontowncouncil.gov.uk
F John Smith	01763 243082	cllr.fj.smith@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

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Local Government Tiers

Sometimes we find that people are unsure as to which council to contact about different issues and thought the following information may be useful. In Royston we currently have 3 levels of local government:



Royston Town Council

The Town Hall
 Royston Museum & Art Gallery
 Royston Cave
 Royston Markets
 Market Hill Rooms
 May Fayre and other civic events
 The allotments
 The Community Toilet Scheme
 Grant applications for the Mayor's Trust Fund & the Leete Charity
 Green Walk and Stile Plantations
 The War Memorial, Melbourn Street
www.roystontowncouncil.gov.uk

North Hertfordshire District Council

Council tax collection
 Environmental health and pest control
 Parking – car parks, permits, parking tickets
 Leisure services
 Local Planning – applications, policy, conservation
 Waste and recycling collection
www.north-herts.gov.uk

Hertfordshire County Council

Adult social services – care, finance, mental health
 Births, deaths and marriages
 Children's services – schools, protection
 Community Protection – Fire and Rescue, Trading Standards
 Environment and infrastructure – roads, waste and recycling disposal, countryside management
 Libraries management
 Public Health
www.hertfordshire.gov.uk

ROYSTON TOWN COUNCIL

Town Hall, Melbourn Street, Royston,
 Hertfordshire SG8 7DA

Tel: 01763 245484 Fax: 01763 248016
enquiries@roystontowncouncil.gov.uk

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