

# ROYSTON TOWN CRIER

News from your Town Council – September 2019



## Annual Report for the Financial Year 2018-2019

Royston Town Council published its Annual Report in June 2019, copies of which are available from the Town Hall Offices or it can be viewed online at [www.roystontowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.roystontowncouncil.gov.uk). The report details the Town Council's activities over the last financial year.

The Town Council once again ran a number of successful events including the May Fayre and Silver Sunday. The Town Council also organised another successful round of visits to local schools during the spring term 2019. Town, District and County Councillors all took part and children were well engaged and put forward several ideas, which have been taken on board.



Photo: Jon Large

A major achievement during the year was the renovation of the War Memorial, which included the installation of two ramps to ensure improved access for all. The work was complete for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the First World War and huge crowds attended the Remembrance Day Parade to mark this significant event.

Another significant change has been the upgrading of the visitor experience at Royston Cave, aiming to elevate the cave's physical and digital presence to a level befitting a renowned heritage attraction. In September 2018, Nicky Paton was appointed as the new manager and has since worked with the Cave Advisory sub-committee to introduce a host of new features and procedures. Royston Cave is aiming to offer a more professional

and focussed visitor experience. Royston Cave is also working in close collaboration with Royston Museum to introduce new educational programmes, resources and events which will benefit the wider Royston community.

### Royston Town Council Finances 2018-2020

EXPENDITURE	Budget 2018-19 £	Out-turn 2018-19 £	Budget 2019-20 £
Administration/Democracy	116,523	102,486	110,957
Royston Museum & Art Gallery	88,254	83,379	88,254
Town Council Properties	95,250	83,963	86,080
Green Walk & Stile Plantation	12,317	16,314	17,776
Legacy Project	0	0	20,000
Other Expenses (Civic Functions, May Fayre, Twinning, Christmas Lights, Town Crier, Donations)	13,610	11,992	19,796
Royston Cave	5,781	10,498	19,290
Green St Allotments	3,797	4,037	4,146
Melbourn Street War Memorial	3,467	3,530	2,953
Town Manager	10,000	10,000	10,000
Public Conveniences	4,000	3,365	5,263
Market Place - Markets and Parking	59,948	49,433	63,673
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>412,947</b>	<b>378,997</b>	<b>448,188</b>
INCOME	Budget 2018-19 £	Out-turn 2018-19 £	Budget 2019-20 £
Interest	300	1,823	1,500
Royston Museum & Art Gallery	1,000	796	1,000
Town Council Properties	65,170	67,715	54,250
Royston Cave	0	120	12,000
Green St Allotments	5,150	5,579	5,100
Market Place - Markets/Parking	55,000	61,351	57,000
Precept	283,609	283,610	317,338
From reserves	2,718		
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>412,947</b>	<b>420,994</b>	<b>448,188</b>

Royston is proud to have its own Museum and Art Gallery, which celebrates the wonderful stories of the district and its people.

The Council's thanks go to the friends of the Museum, the Royston & District Local History Society, the Royston & District Local History Society Trustees, the volunteers, and of course our curator Madeline Odent and her assistant Amy Judd.

The Town Council requested a precept of £317,338 for the financial year 2019-2020. This meant that the Royston Town Council portion of the council tax rose to £47.29 per annum for a band D property. As previously reported, this rise has been introduced to get rid of zero-hours contracts, budget more money for managing the ageing trees in our plantations and to provide a fund of £20,000 to start improvements and introduce new facilities for the town.

## Royston and District Museum and Art Gallery

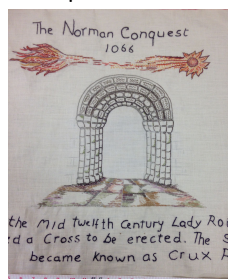


Royston Museum enjoyed a memorable summer, starting with the long-anticipated unveiling of the Royston Tapestry. Nearly 30 years after the work was first imagined, the finished masterpiece was exhibited

in the Town Hall. Its debut attracted hundreds of visitors to the town, and was well received by the national press.

The completion of the Tapestry, and the work to prepare a suitable permanent exhibit, has enabled the Museum to dream big. The Museum will either need to be relocated, or fully reconfigured, to create space for the Tapestry. As we begin planning this work, we're inviting your feedback on how the Museum can better serve its purpose as a community space. We are also brainstorming ways to use our Collection to tell the history of Royston's people more completely and thoroughly.

We are preparing new and exciting exhibits, using artefacts, which have never been on display before. For the first time, the Museum will partner with the Royston Cave to create a



fully accessible way to experience the Cave during its closed season. We are also increasing our family offerings and workshops, as well as our events for

adults. We have visitor surveys and feedback forms available in the Museum and on our website, and we'd be glad to hear your thoughts as we move forward.



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## A Youth Council for Royston

Royston's Mayor, Cllr Robert Inwood, recognises the need and importance of working with young people and involving them with local democracy and decision-making. He has therefore formed a steering group of local town councillors and is currently doing the groundwork to enable a youth council to be set up. He says that this may take some time but this needs to be done so that youngsters have real influence. It is hoped that a youth council would give our young people a voice by allowing them to discuss relevant issues with the decision makers. They know what issues affect them and a youth council would enable them to contribute to improving our community for their futures.

## Naturally Royston

The Naturally Royston Working Party have had a productive few months, having focussed on the natural environment and how to make our gardens a friendly habitat for pollinating insects. Their 'bugs and flowers' stand at the May Fayre was very popular and hopefully there are nectar rich flowers now growing in gardens all over town. The seeds were donated by John O'Conner Grounds Maintenance to honour their 50-year anniversary.



Naturally Royston also arranged for the siting and unveiling of the commemorative plaque for the tree sculpture in Priory Gardens which is dedicated to the late Cllr Peter Burt who's inspiration it was.

The group is looking forward to their involvement in the Royston Arts Festival event on Saturday 28 September, which is in the theme of 'Our Planet'. They will also be organising further litter picks around the town in the near future.

To get involved or for further information, please contact Naturally Royston at [admin@roystontowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:admin@roystontowncouncil.gov.uk) or follow on the Twitter page @naturallyroys.

### 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

Amy Bourke-Waite	07375 089729	<a href="mailto:cldr.amy.bourke-waite@roystontowncouncil.gov.uk">cldr.amy.bourke-waite@roystontowncouncil.gov.uk</a>
Ian Coll	01763 244595	<a href="mailto:cldr.ian.coll@roystontowncouncil.gov.uk">cldr.ian.coll@roystontowncouncil.gov.uk</a>
Mark Hughes	07860 108085	<a href="mailto:cldr.mark.hughes@roystontowncouncil.gov.uk">cldr.mark.hughes@roystontowncouncil.gov.uk</a>
Robert Inwood	07846 309896	<a href="mailto:cldr.robert.inwood@roystontowncouncil.gov.uk">cldr.robert.inwood@roystontowncouncil.gov.uk</a>
Iain Leggett	01763 230978	<a href="mailto:cldr.iain.leggett@roystontowncouncil.gov.uk">cldr.iain.leggett@roystontowncouncil.gov.uk</a>

#### Meridian Ward

Mike Harrison	01763 220055	<a href="mailto:cldr.michael.harrison@roystontowncouncil.gov.uk">cldr.michael.harrison@roystontowncouncil.gov.uk</a>
Marguerite Phillips	07903 715533	<a href="mailto:cldr.marguerite.phillips@roystontowncouncil.gov.uk">cldr.marguerite.phillips@roystontowncouncil.gov.uk</a>
F John Smith	01763 243082	<a href="mailto:cldr.fj.smith@roystontowncouncil.gov.uk">cldr.fj.smith@roystontowncouncil.gov.uk</a>
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Vera Swallow	01763 222538	<a href="mailto:cldr.vera.swallow@roystontowncouncil.gov.uk">cldr.vera.swallow@roystontowncouncil.gov.uk</a>

#### Royston South Ward

Thomas Perry	07854 609201	<a href="mailto:cldr.thomas.perry@roystontowncouncil.gov.uk">cldr.thomas.perry@roystontowncouncil.gov.uk</a>
Carol Stanier	01763 220744	<a href="mailto:cldr.carol.stanier@roystontowncouncil.gov.uk">cldr.carol.stanier@roystontowncouncil.gov.uk</a>

#### Royston West Ward

Ruth Brown	01763 230290	<a href="mailto:cldr.ruth.brown@roystontowncouncil.gov.uk">cldr.ruth.brown@roystontowncouncil.gov.uk</a>
John Davison	07802 907700	<a href="mailto:cldr.john.davison@roystontowncouncil.gov.uk">cldr.john.davison@roystontowncouncil.gov.uk</a>
Emma Squire-Smith	01763 661701	<a href="mailto:cldr.emma.squire-smith@roystontowncouncil.gov.uk">cldr.emma.squire-smith@roystontowncouncil.gov.uk</a>

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## ROYSTON TOWN COUNCIL

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[town.clerk@roystontowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:town.clerk@roystontowncouncil.gov.uk)