

ROYSTON TOWN CRIER

News from your Town Council – June 2021



Annual Town Meeting

The Annual Town Meeting was held on Thursday 11 March, which, for the first time ever, was held as a 'Zoom' meeting.

Royston's Mayor, **Cllr Robert Inwood** gave a report on his two years of service and spoke about the superb community spirit in the town during what had been a difficult year. **Cllr John Davison**, Town Council Leader, **Cllr Marguerite Phillips** chair of Planning and **Cllr Michael Harrison** chair of GP and Highways, reported on the work of their committees over the year.

Sgt Jon Vine who has returned to Royston gave a very interesting and encouraging report and said that he is looking forward to working with local councillors to increase the provision for young people in the town.

David Smyth gave a report on behalf of the Royston First Bid Company, which delivers local initiatives to benefit Royston and its businesses. For further information visit <https://roystonfirst.com>.

County Councillors **Fiona Hill**, **Steve Jarvis** and District Councillor **Tony Hunter** also gave reports on their work over the past year and of their plans for the future.

The meeting is also the occasion at which the **Community Service Awards** are presented to individuals and charitable organisations that serve our local community. These were awarded to:

Brian Norwood in recognition of his many years of dedication to the Royston Methodist Church and the wider community of Royston.

Andy and Viv Williams in recognition of their immeasurable contribution to our local community for the past 20 years, beginning with setting up and running the Open House Project and later the Royston Foodbank.

Mike Lawrence in recognition of his hard work and continuing support for the Royston and District Museum.

Community Trust Fund Grants were awarded to the National Childbirth Trust, Royston and District Community Transport, Royston Arts Society, Royston Photographic Society, Royston Rockets BMX Racing Club and Royston Town Twinning.

The minutes of this meeting can be found on the town council website <https://www.roystontowncouncil.gov.uk>.

Royston Museum



To start off 2021, we enjoyed sharing some fun photos from our collection. We had a panto theme in January and got lots of people adding their memories. It's lovely to put names to the faces and find out more about the people who entertained the town.

We've been enjoying the virtual exhibition by Royston Photographic

Society. We'd usually host the exhibition in our art gallery, and this year the Society has responded by putting together a wonderful online gallery that you can "walk" around. Head to the "What's On" section of our website for the link www.roystonmuseum.org.uk.

In the museum, we're getting ready to welcome back our volunteers. We're looking forward to seeing them again after so long and will be spending time catching up. We'll be pulling together, and as a team will prepare the museum for reopening later this year (date to be confirmed so watch this space). Once the frost has gone and it gets warmer, we'll be out tidying the planters in the courtyard. Perhaps even planting brighter, colourful flowers to make a cheery space.

Inside the museum, we're working on new displays. One will be a permanent display about Royston Cave. We've been working closely with the team at Royston Cave and are looking forward to more projects together. We've also got a new timeline display that will show objects from 4000 years ago up to today. There have been people in the Royston area for thousands of years and this will be a great introduction to all that history.



Royston Town Council recently approved two actions to help the environment

The first gave the Town Council's support to a Plastic Free Royston initiative being run by a new local Royston Environmental Group. Although the Town Council already avoid use of single-use plastic, backing this initiative will send a clear message to businesses and residents as well as allowing certification of the town as a Plastic Free Community under the Surfers Against Sewage scheme that certified Letchworth as plastic free two years ago. Four Royston businesses are already accredited as

Plastic Free Champions: Kooky Nohmad, Hush Skin and Beauty, Heart to Earth and Look Smart.

The second was an Environmental Policy for the Council. This policy commits the Council, amongst other things, to planting trees where possible, considering the environmental credentials of suppliers, and to protecting and enhancing the local and global environment. Both motions have the full support of all Town Councillors.

PLASTIC FREE
— ROYSTON —
SURFERS AGAINST SEWAGE

Message from the in-coming Mayor

ROYSTON TOWN CRIER



The first thing I wish to do is place on record thanks to our outgoing Mayor, Councillor Rob Inwood. Over his extended term of office he certainly rose to the occasion. Along with the rest of the Country, the people of Royston had many challenges over the last 12 months. In the years to come we will reflect and realise that we

came through the challenges stronger and hopefully more appreciative of what we have than before the pandemic.

It is now time to look forward. Our Town will start to feel more like normal, and Royston will soon start to feel and look like more like the place we choose to call home.

Perhaps symbolically, we will soon see the reopening of the Parish Church. Family events such as the kite festival are scheduled to take place this summer; sport whether as a spectator or a participant, will resume and this September our schools will hopefully be able to offer our children an uninterrupted school year.

Some things will be quicker to recover than others. Just as some people will be more resilient than others, we may particularly need to extend support to those who have experienced mental health challenges over the last year.

I intend to give particular attention to the needs of young people in the town, to ensure that they have the equality of every opportunity to succeed in a safe and secure environment. I will ensure that we continue to improve our environment, so that we can enjoy our town to its full potential.

I was first elected as Royston's Mayor in 1990. The pre digital world was a very different place, Royston was around half its present size in terms of population, and its boundaries were much smaller. Sadly many of the people who made up our community 30 years ago have moved on or are no longer with us. This certainly gives a feel for our own mortality. We are custodians of our town for such a

short time, and I think that we all aspire to leave the town better, stronger and well placed for the future.

As part of an independent nation, we should reach out to



our European friends, to show that we are still good neighbours and hope and look forward to welcoming them to Royston again soon. I send my best wishes to our Twinning partner towns:

Großalmerode, Hessen, Germany; **La Loupe**, Eure-et-Loir, France and **Villanueva de la Cañada**, Comunidad de Madrid, Spain.

My consort this year will be my wife, Hazel and my Mayoral Charities this year will be:

After Umbrage, a charity whose vision is to provide free, short breaks for anyone who has been looking after family members or loved ones with life limiting or terminal conditions.

St John Ambulance, a volunteer-led, charitable non-governmental organisation dedicated to the teaching and practice of first aid.

The Mayor's Community Trust Fund; to benefit the residents of Royston and the neighbourhood, by supporting community organisations.

I greatly look forward to serving the Community of Royston as Mayor.

Cllr Mark Hughes, May 2021.

Welcome to our new Councillors

We welcome and congratulate our newly elected Town Councillor **Elizabeth Beardwell**, we also welcome **Brian Bylett** who became a Town Councillor in December 2020.

Congratulations also to our new District Councillors **Adam Compton** and **Sarah Dingley**, and to our re elected County Councillors **Fiona Hill** and **Steve Jarvis**.

We thank **Vera Swallow** (Town Council), **Bill Davidson** and **Ben Lewis** (both District Council) for their many years of service to our community.

Newsletter supported by:



ROYSTON TOWN COUNCIL

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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

Brian Bylett	07765 253227	cllr.brian.bylett@roystontowncouncil.gov.uk
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

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
F John Smith	01763 243082	cllr.fj.smith@roystontowncouncil.gov.uk
Philip Smith	01763 244775	cllr.philip.smith@roystontowncouncil.gov.uk

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