

ROSS-ON-WYE TOWN COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Photo: William Henderson



Foreword from our Mayor, Cllr John Winder

Councillor John Winder's mayoral year has been relatively quiet due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, however he has managed to attend some of the few events that have taken place, as well as raise funds for his charity of the year, EnviroAbility.



John writes: With coronavirus restrictions in place during 2021, I have so far sadly been limited on what I have been able to do to raise funds for my charity of the year, EnviroAbility. However, this has not stopped me trying, and this summer I put myself forward to have my luscious locks chopped off in public outside the Market House. The deed was done by local business, Hair Perfection - Josie did a wonderful job and I managed to raise almost £800. Who would have thought so many were keen for me to lose the long hair! As well as braving the shave, I attended several events including the Proms in the Park and also The Big Picnic, organised by the Ross-on-Wye Community Development Trust. As some of you may know I am a keen musician, so it was a pleasure to perform a few songs at The Bandstand.

In June, to commemorate Armed Forces Day, it was great to be involved in the judging process for the shop window dressing competition - it was impressive to see the effort our traders went to and our very worthy overall winner, Lalena Jewellery, had a marvellous display and owner, Leslie, even dressed up in her military outfit for the occasion!

I had the pleasure of attending the launch event for The Smallest Cog, Richard Hammond's new car restoration and repair workshop business, where I met the ex-Top Gear presenter and enjoyed seeing the many really cool cars - I even got the opportunity to ride around Ross in a classic Bentley!

It was heartening to see the return of many live events, which had been forced to cancel last year. The turn out at the Market House for the Armistice Service and the Remembrance Service at the Prospect to pay respects to the fallen was very touching.

The Christmas Fayre also returned this year following its enforced break in 2020. It was wonderful to see the town packed with smiling faces and everyone appeared to enjoy the festivities. I had a great time volunteering as a steward that afternoon, talking to many of the locals.

In December, I ran a competition to design the cover of my Mayoral Christmas card. The entries from local school children came in thick and fast and I found it extremely difficult to choose from the many excellent designs. In the end, the winner was Madden Yip, a pupil from John Kyrle High School who created a beautiful design which was full of festive cheer with a Ross twist. Congratulations again Madden!

In the new year I plan to hold a charity quiz night with a fish and chip supper at a venue to be confirmed. This will be a relaxed and fun event so please keep an eye out for further information on this.

I wish to thank everyone for their support during my Mayoral year so far. If you would like to make a donation to EnviroAbility, you can send a cheque to The Mayor's Charity, The Corn Exchange, Ross-on-Wye HR9 5HL made out to *EnviroAbility*.

“If you would like to make a donation to EnviroAbility, my charity of the year, you can send a cheque to The Mayor's Charity, The Corn Exchange, Ross-on-Wye HR9 5HL made out to 'EnviroAbility'.”



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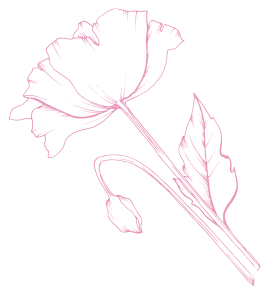
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We will remember them



This year's Armistice Day Service took place on Thursday 11 November in the Market Square where the personnel of the Ross & District Royal British Legion were joined by the Mayor Cllr John Winder, Deputy Mayor Cllr Ed O'Driscoll, Councillors and staff, who paid their respects to the fallen at the 11th hour. Hundreds of residents and visitors joined them in the two-minute silence.



On Sunday 14 November, the Remembrance Day service took place at the War Memorial in the Prospect Gardens where Mary Sinclair Powell read a touching service as Mayor John Winder accompanied Rear Admiral P Willcocks DL to lay a wreath to commemorate the fallen. Also in attendance were ex-military personnel, the Rev'd Sean Semple and members of the town council.



Community grants

The Town Council provides grants to qualifying organisations to support projects that aim to make a difference to the quality of life of people living in Ross-on-Wye. The aim is to support and strengthen community participation, activities and events and to help develop a sustainable welcoming community.

We encourage individuals, charities, voluntary groups or community organisations whose project promotes or improves the economic, social or environmental wellbeing of the Ross Town Council area to apply. Full details, along with the application form, can be found on our website in both the Finance and What We Do sections.

Recent, successful grant applications include:

- EnviroAbility towards the Shopmobility project
- Ross Christmas Carnival
- Ross Tennis Centre towards a defibrillator
- Ross Sports Centre towards storage facilities
- Ross Lions & Rotary Clubs towards Pancake Day Races 2022

Applications are welcomed all year round and if you have a project, activity or event that you think would be eligible, please call 01989 562373 or email admin@rosstc-herefordshire.gov.uk for an application form - you can either email it back to us or drop it in to the Town Council offices at 7 High Street.



Wilton Bridge Pétanque Club: a generous grant from the Town Council to Ross-on-Wye Sports Centre has allowed them to address a few issues during the development stages of the new Wilton Bridge Pétanque Club. It has enabled them to install a new perimeter fence, a gravel court positioned above the flood plain level and a ramp allowing full wheelchair access. **Pictured:** Martin Hudson (Wilton Bridge Pétanque Club), right, with Councillor Louis Stark, Herefordshire County Council



Town council goes green

Following the Council's Climate Emergency Declaration in 2019, work on the pledge to reduce our carbon footprint is underway. The town council's toilet block at Red Meadow car park was the first building to have solar photovoltaic (PV) panels along with a battery which allows for the electricity generated to be stored. Unlike domestic PV, the toilet block has the advantage that the main energy usage is in the daytime when the panels will be most productive. The system also comes with monitoring equipment which enables access to data to see the carbon savings achieved. The ambition is to make all the Council's activities net-zero carbon by 2023.

This initiative allows us to progress further towards the target of achieving 100% clean energy across the Council's non-transport functions by 2023 whilst promoting sustainable energy use in the community.



Before



After installation

The project was partially funded through the European Structural and Investment Growth Programme 2014-2020, as a result of a successful bid through the Marches Renewable Energy Scheme to the England European Regional Development Fund.



Christmas Fayre



This year's Christmas Fayre on Sunday 21 November was a huge success and another excellent event for the town with over 50 stalls selling arts, crafts, food and drink. The Mayor's charity, EnviroAbility, hosted Santa's Grotto at The Venue on Hill Street, which proved really popular with the youngsters, with queues of people waiting up to an hour for their gifts.

Market stalls opened at 11am and due to the huge footfall, many traders sold out of produce by mid-afternoon or had to source additional supplies for the remaining few hours. Visitors enjoyed an afternoon of music from Amaretto Lounge, local choir The Border Belles and The Forfeits. There was also plenty of food and drink on offer from Pitta Stop as well as the Beefy Boys, with mulled wine, cider and hot chocolate served outside the Market House.

Our thanks go to all of our volunteers, traders, performers, our Town Crier, Hereford Hospital Radio and Scaffolding 2000 for providing the stage plus the First Responders' ambulance team and Wye Security Solutions for making it a safe and enjoyable event for everyone. Plans for next year's event will start mid-2022 so if you have any feedback, we would welcome emails to admin@rosstc-herefordshire.gov.uk or call us on 01989 562373.



Trees for traders



In conjunction with the **Ross Business Association**, the town council funded a number of mini Christmas trees for the traders this year to display in the brackets above their shops. Forty trees were supplied by **Coddington Christmas Trees** and traders collected them from the Market House.



If you have a wall-mounted tree bracket outside your premises and would like to get involved in 2022, please register your interest by emailing the office at:

admin@rosstc-herefordshire.gov.uk.



Events 2021 roundup

Since our last newsletter in June, and with the easing of lockdown, we were fortunate to enjoy many outdoor summer events including our weekly **Bands in the Park** series and our annual **Proms in the Park**. Over the course of two months we were treated to concerts by twelve fantastic brass bands and the weather remained kind to us as we ended the series on 25 September with the AW Parker (Drybrook) Band. Planning will be underway in the new year for the 2022 series.

In the autumn, we put on our first **Equinox Festival** which ran alongside the Ross-on-Wye Walking Festival 24-26 September, promoting health and wellbeing in our beautiful countryside. **Professor Fabio Bertoli** gave a Brazilian Jiu Jitsu demonstration under the stretch tent in the morning which was followed by yoga and pilates sessions. In the afternoon, **Jon Sterckx** ran two percussion workshops ahead of the evening world music programme which included the **Ajay Karmic Blues Duo**, **Sheema Mukherjee**, international sitar musician, and **Banco de Gaia**, who gave an uplifting DJ set to finish off the night.



IN BRIEF

>> COUNCIL MEETINGS

Dates of all our future council meetings can be found online at www.rosstc-herefordshire.gov.uk or they will be posted on the council's noticeboard outside The Corn Exchange on the High Street.

The **Annual Parish Meeting** for residents will be held on **Monday 25 April 2022** and our **Annual Meeting of Council** will be on **Monday 9 May**, both at The Larrurperz Centre, Grammar School Close, Ross-on-Wye HR9 7QD.

>> MARKET HOUSE

The seating area under the Market House proved popular this summer and allowed visitors to enjoy takeaways from our local eateries outside in safety.

Thanks to our Market House Services Assistant, **Andrew Norledge**, for managing this, and we look forward to welcoming him back in the spring when we resume our al fresco set up once again.

>> TOWN MAP



The new Ross-on-Wye town maps are due to be installed in the currently vacant notice boards in the town centre car parks. Our cartographer has been working hard over the last few months to create a beautiful bespoke map which highlights the town's key points of interest and other features that are unique to Ross-on-Wye including illustrations of the Market House, St Mary's Church, The Royal hotel and Walenty Pytel's three sculptures.

Who's Who - your Town Councillors

EAST WARD

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Michelle Setchfield

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Ian Gumm

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Becky Howson

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Daniel Lister

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John Winder (Mayor)

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Emergency Co-ordinator
Cllr Daniel Lister can be contacted in an
emergency, eg flooding, on
07557 658442

WEST WARD

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Katie Fowler

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Jane Roberts

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Louis Stark (also Herefordshire Councillor)

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Rob Taylor

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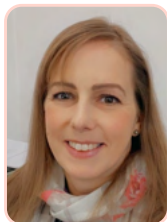
Julian Utting

julian.utting@rosstowncouncillors.co.uk
01989 565685

STAFF CHANGES

The town council saw several staff changes in 2021. Following a recruitment drive and a reshuffle at the Corn Exchange, we are delighted that we now have a strong team on board.

DEPUTY CLERK



In September Carla Boyles joined the Town Council as our new Deputy Town Clerk. Carla has around 16 years' previous experience as a parish clerk in parishes around Herefordshire, including Madley Parish

Council, Ewyas Harold Group and Holmer & Shelwick Parish Council. Following this, Carla worked for a large Primary School in Hereford for 5 years in Finance and Administration and is now enjoying being back in a clerking role.

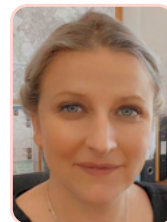
AMENITIES



We welcomed Lilah Carpenter to the staff in October as Amenities Manager, a new full-time position on a 12-month contract. Originally from Bristol, Lilah moved to Lydney in August and has

over 35 years' experience covering administration, finance, law, contracts, and property management working with local authorities including Somerset County Council, North Somerset District Council and Weston-super-Mare Town Council, where she lived for 50 years before moving to Ross-on-Wye.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



Charlotte Reynolds joined the Town Council in August as our Community Development Officer and is well known in the town from living in Ross-on-Wye all her life and working at the local newspaper for

over 12 years. Charlotte is passionate about our community and the wonderful businesses we have here and she brings a wealth of knowledge to the role from her experience within local newspapers and media.

Contact us

Ross-on-Wye Town Council offices are normally open Monday to Friday from 0930 to 1300.

✉ The Corn Exchange, 7 High Street, Ross-on-Wye HR9 5HL

@ admin@rosstc-herefordshire.gov.uk

☎ 01989 562373

🌐 www.rosstc-herefordshire.gov.uk

OFFICE TEAM

- Sarah Robson FSLCC | Town Clerk
- Carla Boyles | Deputy Clerk
- Lilah Carpenter | Amenities Manager
- Jane Mainey | Tourism & Marketing Manager
- Charlotte Reynolds | Community Development Officer

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