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ROSS-ON-WYE TOWN COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

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It's a privilege to have been elected Mayor of Ross-on-Wye by my fellow Town Councillors and I hope over the 12 months of my term I can make a positive difference. Some of you will know that since 2019 I've primarily concentrated on improving our Tourism offer and increasing the range and quality of cultural opportunities



available. COVID obviously impacted enormously on what we could achieve but I'm pleased with our current trajectory and the range of projects currently in the pipeline. However, there's not much point in having an improved tourism infrastructure if the essence of what makes Ross appealing to visitors is under threat. Pollution levels in the Wye are increasingly in the headlines so we will all need to fight to make sure our river is saved before it's too late. This will be a priority for me and I hope I have your support. There has also been a lot of discussion around the state of litter around the town, and while our Litter Crew do a fabulous job we'll be looking at developing and implementing a 'Keep Ross Tidy' campaign in the near future. A couple of weeks ago I was introduced to some of the Ukrainian refugees who have come to Ross. I was touched by their desire to contribute to community life so I'll also be working to help them integrate and get involved as opportunities arise.

Thank you to everybody who took part in the Jubilee celebrations; you really did the Town proud. One event resonated for me, and that was the concert at St Mary's on the Thursday evening. The last piece was a specially commissioned anthem and all of the choirs from across the town performed it together; it was beautiful. The highlight of the night occurred when all the choirs sang together. For the last few years it's felt like everybody is pulling in different directions with politicians constantly seeking to divide us. If we're going to get through the difficulties that sadly lie ahead then just like the choirs we'll need to learn to come together. I'll try to help.

Mayor of Ross-on-Wye, Cllr Ed O'Driscoll

Ross Christmas Fayre 2022

Applications for this year's Christmas Fayre, which takes place on Sunday 27th November are now open. For an application form please email Charlotte Reynolds admin@rosstc-herefordshire.gov.uk

Helping our market to thrive

Ross-on-Wye Town Council is looking to grow its weekly market, which runs every Thursday and Saturday, to encourage more traders to take part and increase footfall. As well as investing funds into the market, the Council has also formed a 'Markets Working Group' to help build the market further and secure its future.

From July the Council is launching a Summer Offer for traders who wish to attend the market, this is open to both existing and new traders. For every three market dates that are booked and attended during July to September, traders will receive one date free.

Bev Pope, the lead councillor for the Markets Working Group said: "From July to September we are launching a new Summer Offer for traders: if you have a pitch for any three markets in this period, the fourth one will be free. And it doesn't matter whether you do a stall in July and then don't come back until September, you will still get a fourth visit to our market free of charge.

"The other part of the equation is getting more people to use the market. So please come and buy your fresh fish, clothes, flowers and cakes and have a look at some of the fabulous and creative marketeers who will be joining the market. And if you are a local shop owner be assured that a better market won't make things worse for you."

Pitches need to be booked in advance via email at markets@rosstc-herefordshire.gov.uk Further information can be found here: www.rosstc-herefordshire.gov.uk/market/

French Twinning visitors welcomed back to Ross

It was fantastic to welcome back the French Twinning members to Ross-on-Wye following a two year break due to the pandemic.

The visitors from Condé-sur-Noireau had a packed weekend with an arrival buffet and an afternoon cream tea at the Larruperz Centre, where Deputy Mayor, Cllr Bev Pope, made a welcome speech, and trips to St Fagans and Oxford. It is great to see this association as strong as ever.



Another new addition to the Rope Walk play park

A new climbing frame has been installed at the Rope Walk, in addition to the new swing set that was added a few months ago. The Council felt it was important to cater for those slightly older children who are unable to use the current play park. The frame includes a climbing net, climbing wall, ladders and climbing ropes. The frame has been made possible thanks to a 'Green Spaces' grant administered by Herefordshire Community Foundation, and match funded by the Town Council.



The town celebrates the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Although it may seem like a long time ago, Ross-on-Wye residents celebrated the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in style at the beginning of June.

There were a large number of fantastic street parties, with many receiving a grant from the Town Council to help aid celebrations and a visit from the Mayor, Cllr Ed O'Driscoll.

There were a number of wonderful events at St Mary's Church, and the lighting of the Beacon to mark the special occasion was attended by hundreds of people.

The whole weekend was topped off with a festival at the Bandstand with the Pasadena Roof Orchestra, where the weather failed to dampen the spirits of the attendees. The festival was jointly funded by The National Lottery Community Fund and Ross-on-Wye Town Council.

The Town Council also purchased a special memento for primary school and nursery school children. A special key ring with the Platinum Jubilee logo, made by local company, Crossfield Creations, was handed out to the children in the Town Council Parish to mark this historic occasion.



Picture via William Henderson, Wye from the Sky



Ross-on-Wye hosts Armed Forces Day celebrations



Ross-on-Wye was the host town for the County's Armed Forces Day celebrations this year, and the event organised by Ross Town Council and The Ross and District Branch of the Royal British Legion took place on Saturday 25th June on the Rope Walk.

Despite a short shower at lunchtime and a breezy day, hundreds attended the free event which included displays, re-enactments, live music, dancing, a vintage car display, plus food and drink and a variety of stalls.

The Town Council wish to thank everyone who was involved in helping to make the event such a huge success, and to the Armed Forces team from the MOD for match funding the event.



You can now access the Ross-on-Wye Town Council newsletter online at www.rosstc-herefordshire.gov.uk/newsletter/

Contact us

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

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