



July  
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# ROSS-ON-WYE TOWN COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

## Town Council's aspirations set out in Riverside Management Plan



'Riverside Management Plan' is not a phrase that has been widely used in Ross-on-Wye until recently. Our town's beautiful riverside is at the heart of the residents' daily lives, a great visitor attraction and one of our greatest natural assets. The Town Council's Management Plan sets out how, working with partner organisations, including The Wye Valley AONB and Natural England plus volunteers, it will ensure that the riverside biodiversity, environmental and ecological impact is developed and enhanced. The River Wye forms the western boundary of the town and plays an integral part of the town's green space areas. They include the Rope Walk and Long Acre, covering approximately 1 kilometre in length. Investment and hard work over the last few years has seen more of the riverside become accessible to all and enhanced with planting, ensuring that it has become a major focus for amenity, leisure, and relaxation.

Duncan Rowe, Operations Manager, said: "The Riverside Management Plan sets out the aspirations on how the Town Council will oversee the riverside and amenity areas between now and 2028. Our vision is to build and maintain a successful amenity and wildlife habitat for the future, and to conserve the landscape and its natural features as well as the wildlife. The area covered in the Riverside Management Plan is a rich asset with large areas of open green space, set on the floodplain and with areas managed as floodplain meadow." Some of the actions in the Riverside Management Plan include; to maintain the riverbank with established management regimes, tackle invasive non-native species, protect wildlife within the park by increasing biodiversity through planting and habitat creation and to promote the health benefits of using the park.

## Ross Heritage Walks



*The first walk with Heather Hurley was enjoyed by over 15 attendees*

We are delighted to announce that we have launched our series of free history walking tours of Ross-on-Wye - the 'Ross Heritage Walks' - so make sure you book as soon as possible, as places are limited! With the generous help and support from our four wonderful tour guides, Heather Hurley, Rosemary Sutton, Mark Sanderson and Phillip Gray, the first free guided walk took place on Wednesday 26th July starting from the Market House in the centre of town. Heather Hurley kicked off the series with a 'Ross-on-Wye Riverside Walk', taking a journey through time, where the attendees learnt all about how the river was crucial to the development of local industry, trade, transport and tourism. You can book your free place via Eventbrite [here](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk) or visit [www.eventbrite.co.uk](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk) and search for 'Ross-on-Wye Heritage Walks' to view details of all walks). You can also call our office on 01989 562373 or email [tourism@rosstc-herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:tourism@rosstc-herefordshire.gov.uk).

## Proms in the Park Success

We had a fantastic turn out for our annual Proms in the Park event on Sunday 16th July and it proved a real success for the Mayor's Charity of the Year, EnviroAbility, raising £234.27 from collections on the day. With over five hours of music from 2pm to 7.30pm from the Forest of Dean Brass, AW Parker (Drybrook) Band and a rousing finale from Ebbw Valley Brass. Visitors enjoyed a relaxing afternoon in the sunshine with refreshments from Kelsmor Dairy, The Beefy Boys, Divine Donuts and Whinny's Horse Box.

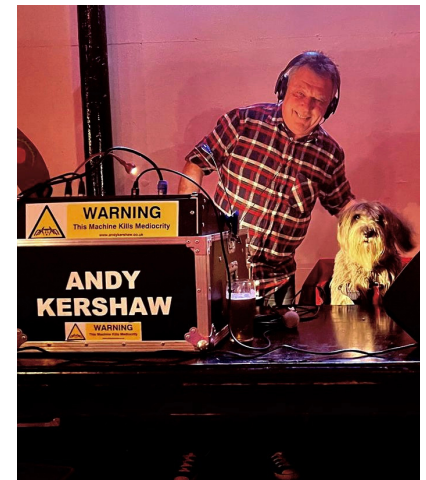


# Equinox Festival to return this Autumn

Ross-on-Wye Town Council's free world music and wellbeing Equinox Festival - celebrating the equinox and autumn harvest - is back on Friday 22nd and Saturday 23rd September at the Bandstand. It will be even bigger and better thanks to a grant from the government's UK Shared Prosperity Fund. Trialled in 2021 and 2022 as a one-day festival following the pandemic, there will be even more activities this year including wellbeing classes, yoga, arts, crafts, circus skills plus live world music on both days. Also attending will be The Wye Valley River Festival with their arts and crafts tent and wellbeing sessions for all.

Artists include former BBC presenter and journalist, DJ Andy Kershaw, Guinean quintet led by frontman N'Famady Kouyaté, Serbian gypsy jazz quartet, Faith I Branko and headliners, The Turbans, an incredible group of international musicians.

Local charities and organisations, including Ross CDT, will be attending to provide valuable signposting information. If you'd like to register as a festival steward or interested in sponsorship of the event, email [tourism@rosstc-herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:tourism@rosstc-herefordshire.gov.uk) or for more information, keep an eye out for updates on Ross-on-Wye Town Council's [website](#) and Facebook (@equinoxfestivalross).



HM Government



## Ross Memory Café

A Ross Memory Café, run by Dementia Matters Here, is launching on Tuesday 1st August at the Larruperz Centre, 11.30am-1.30pm.

The Café, which offers an additional resource to Ross Meeting Centre, will take place on the first Tuesday of the month and each session begins with coffee, cake and a chat and includes activities such as singing, quizzes and talks. There is also access to carer support sessions.

For more information or to book a session, please contact Elaine Leney, Coordinator, on 07506 992971 or email [rossmeetingcentre@gmail.com](mailto:rossmeetingcentre@gmail.com)

## Plans coming together for this year's Christmas Fayre

Plans are coming together for this year's Christmas Fayre and Lights Switch On which takes place on Sunday 26th November, 11am-5pm, Ross Town Centre.

The event grows every year and this year there will be over 80 stalls selling wonderful gifts, plus lots of food and drink on offer.

EnviroAbility will once again be running Santa's Grotto which will be in the Y-Zone on Hill Street, with the opportunity to have your photo taken with the big man himself. There will be live music throughout the day, and there will be the opportunity to meet Olaf and Elf on the Shelf who will be visiting Ross for the day.

This year there will be the addition of children's fairground rides to add to the festivities,

plus we have a very special guest joining us this year... who will be revealed very soon.

We only have a few standard stalls available should you wish to trade on the day. Please email [admin@rosstc-herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:admin@rosstc-herefordshire.gov.uk) But be quick before they all sell out!

This year the Fayre is sponsored by Full Fibre - Fibre Heroes, and the lights Switch on is sponsored by REHAU. A huge thank you to them for their support of this town event.

If you would like more information on sponsorship packages please email the address above.



Subscribe to the Ross-on-Wye Town Council newsletter online at [www.rosstc-herefordshire.gov.uk/newsletter/](http://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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## OFFICE TEAM

- Charlotte Reynolds | Community Development Officer
- Jane Mainey | Tourism & Marketing Manager
- Sarah Robson FSLCC | Town Clerk
- Carla Boyles PSLCC | Deputy Clerk
- Duncan Rowe | Operations Manager

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