



ROSS-ON-WYE TOWN COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

October
2023

ISSUE
19



Market House to get urgent repairs thanks to The National Lottery Heritage Fund



Ross-on-Wye Town Council has been awarded a £112,780 grant by The National Lottery Heritage Fund to carry out urgent repairs which are needed to restore and protect Ross-on-Wye's historic Grade II* listed Market House.

Last week it was confirmed that The National Lottery Heritage Fund grant had been awarded for this exciting heritage project on the Market House which has been central to the life of the town for over four centuries. It is expected the works will start Spring 2024 for final completion expected to be approximately November 2024. Over the years the Market House has suffered extensive stone erosion and urgently requires specialist conservation. The stone window surrounds are so badly eroded that there is a serious risk of the glass falling out and the windows being boarded up. This would severely restrict use of the building, jeopardising its future, and harming the character of the town. The work will not only be for conservation and restoration repairs to the fabric of the building, there are also a number of legacy projects planned, including new interpretation boards to tell the story of the Market House and its wider historical context. An app-based tour telling the history of Ross which will provide

an engaging walk of the town, in addition to working with createRoss to add to their Museum Without Walls Augmented Reality exhibits which celebrate the history of the town and bring the past to life for residents and visitors.

Working with local Nature and Wildlife Groups we will seek to create a 'Hedgehog Hub' to share the story of the hedgehog as the town's historic emblem in order to raise awareness of the serious decline in hedgehog numbers and engage people with wildlife conservation. At the end of the work a special exhibition, in partnership with Made in Ross, will be launched to celebrate the building and its heritage. Sarah Robson, the Town Clerk said: "We are delighted to have received this support thanks to the National Lottery players and are pleased the project will offer the opportunity to conserve this magnificent building. The Market House is such an iconic landmark within the town and it's exciting to know that the restoration will enable residents and visitors alike to continue to enjoy it for many decades to come."

We will be keeping residents updated on the work as it progresses via our website, newsletter, social media channels and local press.

Time to get Festive



ROSS-ON-WYE CHRISTMAS FAYRE

SUNDAY 26TH NOVEMBER

11am - 5pm
Ross-on-Wye Town Centre
Lights switch on 4.30pm

Ross-on-Wye Town Council is gearing up for the annual Christmas Fayre, which takes place on Sunday 26th November, Ross Town Centre, 11am-5pm, with the lights switch on at 4.30pm.

Visitors can expect over 80 stalls selling beautiful gift ideas and treats, as well as plenty of food and drink on offer from our wonderful traders. We have some fantastic entertainment including live music from the Border Belles, Erica Jean, Chocolate Teapot, Penyard Singers and Noah Rawlings. Street entertainment from Olaf and Elf on the Shelf, Joey the Juggler, face painting, plus the addition of some fairground rides.

We are also delighted to confirm the Fayre will be visited by a very special guest, Floki the animatronic polar bear, who will be meeting the residents of Ross and adding a little extra Christmas sparkle.

Thank you to our sponsors, REHAU, Fibre Heroes and Harrison Clark Rickerbys.

Ross-on-Wye Town Council looks forward to welcoming everyone to the event on Sunday 26th November.

Newsletter subscription winner

Following our competition prize draw to encourage subscriptions to our online digital town council newsletter, Maria Barnett from the Horizon Centre, Ross-on-Wye was drawn at random from all our newsletter subscribers, winning a £50 voucher to use at No 3 restaurant on Gloucester Road.

Talk to a Town Councillor

Do you have any issues or ideas regarding the town you would like to discuss with a Town Councillor directly? Pop along to Ross Library every Saturday 10am-11pm or Ross Market every last Thursday of the month 10am-11pm.

Rubbish Litter Festival

We are delighted to be supporting the first ever Ross-on-Wye Rubbish Litter Festival which will take place on 3rd and 5th November.

The festival is to raise awareness about all things littering, recycling and repurposing.

On Friday 3rd November there is a drop in workshop with Sarah Turner, Eco Art & Design, between 11am and 3pm under the Market House. Help to make a chandelier art installation by recycling plastic bottles that will be displayed at the Market House during the festival on Sunday 5th November. There will also be the opportunity to make a repurposed memento to take home. On Sunday 5th November the festival is at the Market House 10am-3pm. There will be another drop in workshop, this time Junk Percussion by Primary Workshops for Schools. Sessions will run between 10am and 2.45pm, with a performance at 2.45pm for those wanting to take part. There will be other stalls and workshops on the day and the chance to meet our bespoke hedgehog bottle recycling bin – name to be decided by the competition currently running on the [Ross-on-Wye Rubbish Litter Festival Facebook page](#).



Heritage walk success leads to new interactive app

Our recent Ross-on-Wye Heritage Walks proved to be extremely popular, with a large number of people, both residents and visitors, attending the various walks available. The walks included the riverside and its importance to Ross-on-Wye, a walk to look at the hidden history within the town centre, and an augmented reality tour to look at aspects of the town's history that are no longer around, through the app and devices supplied on the day. The final tour is coming up at the end of October and will look at the impressive sculptures around Ross. The popularity of these walks led to the Town Council submitting a successful grant application to the UKSPF Cultural Programming fund to create an app providing a series of interactive heritage trails around Ross, telling the story of past events and the rich cultural history which Ross-on-Wye was built on. It is hoped that this will be launched Spring 2024.



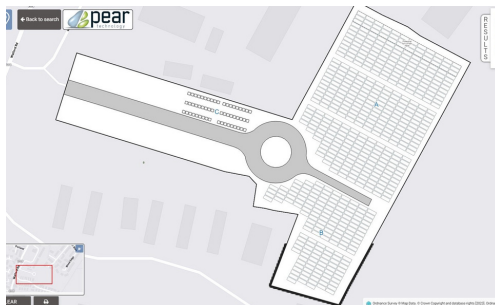
LEVELLING UP  Herefordshire Council

 Funded by UK Government

Council invests in Cemetery Mapping Software

Ross-on-Wye Town Council has invested in new software to enable easier access to the burial records of the Town Cemetery in Tudorville. Cemetery Searcher is an online cemetery search facility which enables the public to easily search digitised burial records to find ancestors, as well as any other people of interest, and

locate their grave or memorial on a digital map. Using the unique search platform, burial plots can be quickly located and highlighted on the map. The site can also be accessed on your smart phone which enables quick and convenient access to burial records and map. Deputy Clerk, Carla Boyles, said: "The addition of this resource to our website provides free searchable information which can be accessed from anywhere. We're pleased to be able to offer this service which we hope will be of benefit to family history researchers, genealogists and others with an interest in the Town Cemetery." View the map here: <https://www.rosstc-herefordshire.gov.uk/about-ross/cemetery-map-searcher/>



Winter Wellbeing Giveaway

Ross-on-Wye is one of Herefordshire's most idyllic locations to recharge the batteries and enjoy outdoor activities in the countryside, including walking, canoeing or rowing on the River Wye. As part of our tourism strategy, one of our objectives is to promote the town as a wellbeing destination where visitors can enjoy a break away from it all, so we'll be running our Winter Wellbeing Giveaway again this year to include accommodation, lunch, dinner and wellbeing treatments for two people. Last year's winner from Berkshire, extended her stay over a weekend and enjoyed exploring everything our lovely market town has to offer. Keep an eye on our [Facebook page](#) for details on how to enter.

World music and wellbeing

Ross-on-Wye Town Council's free world music and wellbeing Equinox Festival took place on 22nd and 23rd September, and was enjoyed by many locals and visitors who went to the riverside event. Thanks to an additional grant of £10k from the UK Government through the Shared Prosperity Fund, the town council was able to host even more music and activities this year including yoga, meditation, dance, arts, crafts, circus skills, face painting, a chess zone and live world music on both days. Artists included journalist and DJ Andy Kershaw, Guinean

N'Famady Kouyaté, Serbian/Iranian Pouya Mahmoodi Quartet and international headliners, The Turbans. As well as a large selection of wonderful stalls, visitors also enjoyed a variety of workshops and arts and crafts sessions. We would like to extend special thanks to our sponsors, Rehau and Fibre Heroes, for their support, to our volunteers who helped to steward the event and Simeon Cole for providing our hay bale seating.

 HM Government

POWERED BY **LEVELLING UP**

Halloweenfest comes to Ross

A Halloween themed festival will be visiting Ross-on-Wye on 31st October and will be offering a host of fun for all the family. Children can grab a wheelbarrow to explore the hay filled pumpkin furrows, pick a pumpkin to either take home or carve as part of the festival and enter into the competition for the best carved pumpkin. Any pumpkins left over are being donated to the Kington Small Breeds Park Farm to use creating animal enrichment activities. Take part in Free activities in Ross from 10am to 4pm at the Market House on Tuesday 31st October.

If you want to continue the Halloween festivities collect your scarecrow map from Made In Ross and return it to the postbox there once you have completed it for a chance to win a £40 Toybox Voucher! The Scarecrow trail runs from 28th October to 5th November. Halloweenfest has been funded by the Herefordshire County BID and has received £14,309 from the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund's Events and Festivals Grant Scheme. For further information about Halloweenfest visit www.visitherefordshire.co.uk