

## **Notes from the Community Breakfast 11.11.2022**

### **Speaker: Neil Guttridge. The Royston Parish Church**

The Church as we all remember suffered a devastating fire, whose cause was never established, on 9<sup>th</sup> Dec 2018. It is now nearing completion and Neil outlined the story so far. The fire seemed to have started on the ringing floor and the upward heat was so intense that the bells cracked and had to be recast.

Insurance has covered most of the costs but inevitably not all so the Church had to have a fund-raising effort and funds are still needed. The repair work has led to some improvements. The heating system has been modernised and is now underfloor, the floor having been changed from wood to stone. The system controls are a bit complicated though!

The lighting has been improved and one benefit of this is that the stained-glass windows now look much better from outside the church. Floor heights have been adjusted to make access much easier, especially for wheelchair users. The original organ was damaged and although repairable, expert advice was that it would never be of great quality and it wasn't worth repairing so would be better replaced by an electric organ, which was done. The pews, also damaged, were replaced by individual and more comfortable and flexible chairs, although that change inevitably was controversial with some people.

There will be a trail run of the church on Nov 20<sup>th</sup> and an open day for the Town to see the refurbished Church on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November from 10.00 to 3.00, all welcome. The following day will see normal Communion Services at the new times of 9.00am and 10.30am with an Open Day Festival Service (with refreshments) at 3.00pm for the whole town to join our celebration of re-opening.

### **Notes from attendees.**

- Sarah Hillman: U3A Current affairs Group. Sarah pointed out that Octopus Energy have a wonderful web page that advises people about how to tackle energy costs. They have a scheme to loan a heat sensing camera that people can use to identify where they are losing heat (a deposit is required which is repaid upon return of the camera). It also gives practical advice on how to minimise heat losses and energy use. Others pointed out the Herts County Council also have useful advice.
- Chris Lee: Repair Shed; Royston Choral Society; Princes Trust. Chris's moustache reminded us that it is Movember, when moustaches are grown to remind us about men's health. The next session of the repair shed will be 26<sup>th</sup> November at Coombes Community Centre and is rapidly booking up. There will be a Concert For Remembrance at 7.30pm on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> November at St Mary's Church, Standon.
- Cate Hall: Trinity Life Church. The TLF have a dads' group every second Saturday of the month where they can meet together. Wednesdays from 10.00 to 12.00 there is a 'drop in' café. Tutorials are available for children who need academic help but whose families can't afford to pay for private tutors. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> December at 7.00pm there is a launch party for the Old School House following completion of the renovations.
- Sharon Windebank; The Listing. The Listing deadline for articles is always very close to the date of the community breakfast, although important contributions might be accepted up to a few days later. The Listing now goes to more than 17000 homes. Note that the Listing is willing to spotlight local organisations with regular contributions.
- Karin Weston; Rotary Club of Royston. Rotary will be helping Pudsey to collect for Children in Need at Tesco Extra on Friday 26 and Sunday 27 November but are having trouble finding enough people willing to don the Pudsey costume so please get in touch if you can help. Rotary continue to support Ukrainian refugees in various ways. Meldreth Community Centre have a regular tea/coffee and cake event which the Rotary Club supports. The club

provided coaches to take the local refugees to visit two events held in Cheshunt where there is a large well established Ukrainian community and also took some to Woburn Wildlife park, which was very much appreciated, especially by the children. They will also be arranging a Christmas party jointly with the Meldreth group.

- David Allard: Royston Ramblers; History Society. There is no paper programme for the Ramblers walks anymore, it is all online at their website. There are regular walks of moderate length on Tuesday and Thursday mornings and longer walks on Sundays. This Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> the walk will be from Royston Bus Station to Barley. The next talk at the History Society will be entitled 'Modernising History – Exploring Hitchin' by Alan Fleck. Attendance is only £2.
- Ray Munden: Friends of Therfield Heath; Royston Wildlife Group; Meridian Men's Keep Fit. The FoTH have a Winter Wildlife Walk on Therfield Heath on Sat 10<sup>th</sup> December starting at 2.00pm outside the Heath Café and led by Doug Radford, previously warden at the Fowlmere Nature Reserve. The RWG have wildlife presentations on the last Tuesdays in September to November and then January and February. The November talk will be by local wildlife expert Martin Johnson and will be about Royston's Insects and Spiders. Expect some stunning photos and we are promised lots of sex and violence! Meridian Men's Keep Fit club meet every Monday evening at 7.30 in KJA sports hall, new members welcomed, contact Ray for details. Ray also mentioned The First Friends sessions at Royston Methodist Church where young pre-school children are welcome on Friday mornings to make new friends and to give some respite to harried mothers.
- Jackie Cotton: Homestart.
- Lynn Burgess: Royston Library. The library has been designated as an official warm space where people can go to avoid the cold if they can't afford to heat their homes. The last Tuesday in the month there is a get together for people who feel socially isolated to chat and often to hear a talk. Dec 1<sup>st</sup> there is a talk about 'Chicksands Priory - England's Most Haunted House?', tickets available on the web site. On Sat 17<sup>th</sup> Dec there is a drop in for children.
- Stacey Wilson: Essex and Herts Air Ambulance. The festive lights season where people could encourage people looking at Christmas lights displays to donate to EHAA will not be actively pursued because of electricity costs. However, anybody with lights wishing to do this is welcome to collect on behalf of EHAA if they wish. On Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> Dec children can visit Santa at the North Weald base, tickets available on the EHAA website but are going fast.

Next Breakfast 9<sup>th</sup>December 2022

[Neil Guttridge](#)  
[On behalf of the Community Breakfast.](#)

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