

Ross-on-Wye Town Council Newsletter

Annual Town Meeting

This takes place on **Monday 4 April 2016 at 7.30pm in the Larruperz Centre**. This is your opportunity to meet your town councillors, find out what the council has been doing over the last twelve months and ask your questions.

There will be a presentation on the progress of our Neighbourhood Plan. This initiative allows the residents to decide how the town will develop in the future, e.g. where new housing can be built, through consultation with you. The presentation will explain how anyone living in Ross can be involved and have their say.

Following the meeting there will be an opportunity to chat informally over tea and coffee (or a drink from the bar if you prefer!).



The Mayor welcomes visiting Mayors to Ross at the Christmas Fayre

From the Mayor

Looking back over my last two years representing the town as Mayor, the time has flown by.

It has been an honour to represent the people of Ross-on-Wye at so many special events in and around the County of Herefordshire. I have tried in a positive way to encourage and welcome people to our town of which I am very proud.

I should like to thank all the people who have shown support to me in so many ways, giving their time and financial support to my chosen charity and offering words of wisdom when I have needed them. In May I will continue in my role as Town Councillor representing the East Ward for my elected years.

This of course brings me to mention the by election which will have taken place by the time you read this. The elected councillor will represent the North Ward, replacing John Gasston who has returned to Uganda. This election will be interesting because the choice of candidates has widened. I wish all of them, Labour, Liberal Democrat and Conservative, the best of luck and I look forward to working with the successful candidate.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rob. Gier".

Use them or lose them!

Bus services in and around Ross are again under threat. This time it is the 33 from Hereford to Ross and the Ross Runabout, number 40. Herefordshire Council subsidises these routes at present. However, that arrangement looks set to end on the 10 April 2016, a victim of further budget cuts. Currently around £33,500 is provided by the County to support these services. It seems likely that some £250,000 may be cut from the County's 2016/17 budget. The County Council has been in contact with Ross Town Council, asking us to publicise these services and make the point that if

residents do not use the buses at risk, they are more likely to lose them. Additional journeys and passengers obviously make bus services more financially viable. So the message is clear. Use the number 33 and 40 buses or risk losing them!



This year's Christmas Fayre, held in conjunction with the Christmas Lights Switch on, was organised by members of the Town Council's Events Committee. As well as giving the town a great day, proceeds of £973 were given to the Mayor's Charity, St Michael's Hospice. Pictured are Councillors Hannah Lerego and Caroline Bennett presenting the cheque at the hospice.