



The Gazette view

It's good to be back

AS many readers will know I have been on annual leave for the past two weeks. Returning to Ross after a short break means I am seeing the town with fresh eyes and I am also more aware of how other places make the most of their situation.

It is difficult to compare the cities we visited on holiday with Ross because of the size. However what we noticed was that there were many shops and buildings not just closed, but semi-derelict. Often far worse in appearance than many of the empty properties in Ross. However they seemed to exist perfectly happily alongside expensive, designer shops. Shoppers were not deterred at walking past scaffolding or uncared for properties, to get to where they wanted to go.

Also in Spain, in particular, there was graffiti all over the place, but there was no litter. I wondered why there is such a difference in attitudes. What makes a person think it is acceptable to spray paint designs on empty shop windows in one country but in another that fast food wrappers and empty drink cans can be thrown on any street or grass verge.

Also I noticed that street cleaning and flower bed tidying and planting is carried out regularly by local authority workers. Every morning we saw the street sweeper moving around making sure there was no litter to be seen.

I was delighted to see the Royal British Legion flower box in Broad Street looking so colourful as I walked up the road to work on Monday.

It is surprising how much of a difference flowers can make to the impression visitors get of a town.

At one of the towns we visited a group were performing their national dance in their traditional costume. They were members of a club who liked to demonstrate their talents whenever they can. They made our group feel very welcome and encouraged the younger members to take part.

I know how much work went on behind the scenes to organise the May Fayre in Ross, in previous years and I know there is plenty of effort

Residents raise concerns with Councillors at town meeting



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THE annual public meeting of Ross Town Council was held at the Larriper Centre on Monday, April 4th. Attendees were given verbal reports from the Mayor of Ross-on-Wye, as well as reports from the Chairs of Town Council committees, and an update from Melvin Reynolds about the Neighbourhood Development Plan.

During the meeting, residents with concerns about aspects of Ross had the opportunity to raise these issues directly with their Councillors.

During the meeting, a Ross resident, Julian Utting raised one issue, which seemed to strike a chord with many of the other members of the public who had attended the meeting. Mr Utting told the Councillors that he was concerned that Ross was not getting a fair deal from Herefordshire Council. He referenced the grant of more than £23,000 that Ross will not receive from Herefordshire Council, although other market towns are.

He asked the Councillors, especially the four who are also County Councillors, what progress was being made to get the grant re-instated.

The Mayor of Ross told Mr Utting that the Councillors would send him a written response, and any other attendees who would like to know the response to the question should submit their details and they would receive it.

It was also suggested that this statement would appear on the Town Council's website.

Mr Utting said that while he was happy to have the response online, he said he was disappointed that none of the Councillors, especially the four who are also on Herefordshire Council, could stand up and give a brief response there and then.

Cllr Chris Bartum said that he has set up a petition, and he encouraged all the attendees to sign it, to campaign against County Council not passing on the funds to Ross Town Council.

He added that Ross Town Council had taken on more assets than any other Market Town in the County, but they were being penalised the most. He said the other market towns are getting the reduction phased in by County Council, but Ross has had it cut entirely.

Mr Utting asked if any of the Councillors who are also on Herefordshire County Council could comment. Cllr Phil Cutter said that he would get an explanation in writing.

Cllr Jenny Hyde said that the money had not been stolen, but Ross had not met the criteria set by Herefordshire Council.

Sue Kirby, another member of the public who had attended the meeting, agreed with Mr Utting and she said that "Most residents in Ross-on-Wye feel like we're the underdogs in the County and there seems to be more cuts in Ross than anywhere else."

Road collision on the A49

THERE was a road traffic collision on the A south of Hereford on Monday, April 4th, at approximately 4.30pm.

The police were called at 4.33pm on Monday evening to reports of a two car road traffic collision at the junction of A49/Grafton Lane, Grafton. A Vauxhall Combo and a Ford Fiesta were two vehicles involved. The ambulance service attended. They treated one woman, who is estimated to be in her 40s, she was assessed and charged at the scene.

Many residents have raised concerns about amount of accidents which occur on the A49, so of Hereford. Last week, the *Ross Gazette* reported that a Hereford woman, Caroline Slough had created a petition, hoping to increase the road safety along the stretch of road.

For more details about Caroline's online petition visit www.change.org and search for A49.

Competition winner

The winners of five pairs of tickets to Garden World Live are: Mrs Warnette from Ross-on-Wye, Brenda Thrush from Ross-on-Wye, Lucy P from Ross-on-Wye, Peter Field from Llangrann and Anne Morris from Orcop.

Rowing for RA

STAFF and friends of Ross Court care home taking part in a rowing effort to raise funds for Ross Action Committee mini-bus.

John Kyrle High School has lent a row machine to Ross Court and valiant members staff, as well as friends and relatives of residents are taking it in turns to row the length of the River Wye. They will be rowing throughout the week in the hope of completing 215km.

The Ross Action Committee is celebrating 50th anniversary as many Ross Court residents the bus regularly they thought this was a great way to show their appreciation.

If you would like to support the rowers, or Ross Action Committee, donations can be left at Ross Court, Ledbury Road, Ross-on-Wye.

Ross Auction Centre

At the Green Market held on Monday, April 4th

RBL to open charity shop in Ross

THE Royal British Legion will be opening a charity shop on