

Business Awards 2008

Following the success of the event last year, the Chamber will again be running the Royston & District Business Awards contest in 2008, culminating in an Awards Night on Thursday 27th November in the Town Hall.

This year there will be Awards for:

- Business of the Year
- Outstanding Customer Service,
- Best New Business (for businesses less than 3 years old)
- Best place to Eat & Drink offering:
 - a) A sit down meal
 - b) A take-away service primarily
- Employee of the Year
- Investing in Royston
- Best Town Centre Shop
- Outstanding Contribution to the Community

ROYSTON &
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You can download the criteria for the awards and nominate on-line.

Nomination forms are also available at Barclays Bank, The Library, Tesco and WKH Accountants, Kneesworth Street.

Any business that is interested in being a sponsor for the Awards event (e.g. the welcome drink, lighting & sound, etc) should contact David Smyth at WKH Accountants on 01763 247321. Sponsors will be mentioned in the publicity surrounding the event.

Royston & District Chamber of Commerce Business Awards
Thursday Evening 27th November

NOMINATE

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NOW!

www.roystonchamber.org



The banner that is displayed in the town reminding you to nominate now for the 2008 Business Awards. You can pick up forms at the Library, Barclays Bank, Tesco and WKH Accountants, Kneesworth Street, as well as nominate on-line at www.roystonchamber.org and don't forget you don't have to be a member of the Chamber to participate in the awards.

CAPTAIN JOGLE (and His Privates)

Four men are to cycle from John O'Groats to Land's End, (JOGLE), for charity and are looking to the generosity of the local business community to help support and sponsor them.

All are ordinary guys who like the rest of us work hard for a living. One of them, Scott, seen here as Captain Jogle, is raising funds for the East Anglia's Children's Hospice EACH.



Three lads plus one support lad, cycle from John O Groats to Lands End in 12 days, covering mostly 80-90 miles per day with several days towards the end covering 100 - 120 miles per day. They left on the 5th of September from Luton Airport at 9.00am. Their route heads down the west coast of the UK. There will be YouTube videos of their progress and the groups antics will be as Captain Jogle and His Privates. They will be up to silly stuff in naked superhero costumes, at places such as the Liver Building, all through their journey. We hope to get a viral email campaign running and lots of local press and TV coverage. You can follow their progress on-line at:

www.jogle4charity.co.uk

They aim to raise £5k each minimum and have raised approx £3k between them so far plus sponsorship from many local businesses who have supported the cost of the trip and donated fuel and a van. Their donations are on Scott's 'just giving' website.

To donate visit the just giving website
www.justgiving.com/scottdwyer

Chamber AGM

September 24th sees the Chambers AGM - A review of the past year and vision for the future at the Conservative Club. This is a chance for you to air your views and discuss the Chamber's future with committee members. The Chamber has been instrumental in Parking Schemes, supporting local business activities and offering general business advice to it's members. Come along at 6pm and see what we can do for your business.

A Busy Year For The Chamber

The Chamber has had a busy year and has been involved in a number of different initiatives and plans to improve the commercial environment for all businesses in the area.

Royston Business Learning Hub

‘Royston & District Chamber of Commerce and The Meridian School Royston announce the launch of the ‘Royston Business Learning Hub’

The Chamber has entered into an informal joint venture with Meridian School with the objective of bringing employers and education providers closer together for the benefit of all parties. Pupils hopefully will gain a greater understanding of the needs of business and education providers will provide the skills which businesses actually need. It is hoped for there to be two events over the next twelve months dealing with young entrepreneurs and the skills requirements of major employers.

Parking

The Chamber has been heavily involved in initiatives to deal with the perennial problem of parking in the centre of Royston. It formulated and won approval



for the parking refund scheme, whereby members of the public can claim back the cost of parking with retailers taking part in the scheme. Following heavy lobbying by the Chamber, as well as the Town Centre Manager, additional short term parking is now available in the High Street.

Economic Partnership

A number of meetings have taken place with North Hertfordshire District Council in terms of the future economic direction of Royston & District, and we are pleased to report that the meetings have been positive and further developments are expected during the next twelve months.

Royston First

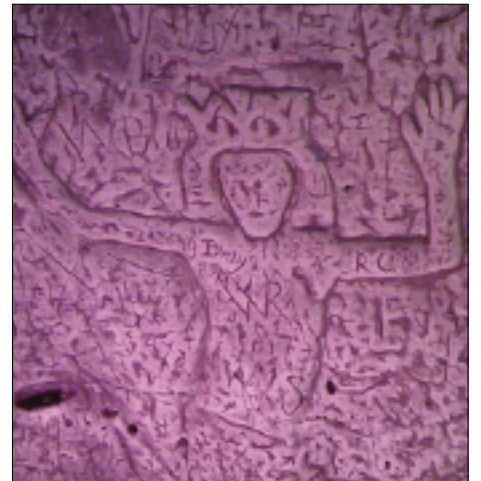
The Chamber has given strong backing to the Royston First project, which represents a positive catalyst for change and is the practical manifestation of the town taking advantage of the government's Business Improvement District legislation. The bid committee in effect will become a delivery organisation for projects around the town which will enhance the business environment for the benefit of all.



Business Awards 2008

After the success of the event in 2007, the Business Awards event continues to grow and grow, and the Chamber will again be running the event on 27 November, but this time in the Town Hall to accommodate a larger number of people and commercial sponsors. Amongst other awards there will be awards for Business of the Year, Outstanding Customer Service and Best New Business.

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This year's Spring social was held at Royston Cave. The cave was especially opened for an informative look at the historic attraction after which we adjourned to the Green Man.

The above represents a summary of some of the key achievements of the Chamber during a varied period of twelve months, and we look forward to continuing our strong relationship with all businesses in the town so as to ensure that Royston & District continues to grow in importance as an important commercial centre.

Propositions to be considered for the Prospectus, listed in (combined) order of priority:

- 1 Projects to be funded to enhance current youth provision and generate much needed additional activities
- 2 Purchase an additional two-person uniformed police foot patrol for late night duties in the town centre and around the industrial estate
- 3 Introduce a better 'look and feel' to Angel Pavement
- 4 Test the potential for a retail revival by attracting a quality butcher into Royston
- 5 Enhance the twice-weekly Charter Market
- 6 Encourage and support local community groups to run more events in Royston
- 7 Return Community Cinema to Royston
- 8 Introduce new sustainable events such as a Food Fayre
- 9 Buy back parking in the town centre to offer as one-hour free spaces
- 10 Secure/create a large footprint store in the town centre to attract a major high street retailer
- 11 Assist retailing with shopping guides, advertising, promotion and e-commerce
- 12 Run a shuttle bus between the industrial estate and the town centre at lunchtime
- 13 Create a support fund for business initiatives
- 14 Establish an empty shops policy delivering an improved appearance
- 15 Purchase a mobile CCTV camera and a mobile digital display. Construct power columns at key points throughout the town
- 16 Install advanced CCTV systems at both entrances to the industrial estate to record details of drivers and number plates
- 17 Upgrade signage leading to and within the industrial estates
- 18 Boost the visibility and visitor experience for the Royston Cave. Introduce a tourism function for the town and heath
- 19 Create 'Gateways' to either specific areas or the entire town highlighting features and attractions
- 20 Persuade Royston's pigeons out of areas where they constitute a nuisance

Supporting Royston First

As a chamber we have been monitoring the progress of Royston First. Having recently completed their consultation process with the town's businesses we thought it worth reproducing here their ideas for improving the town.



a catalyst for change

What they will be doing next

Royston First will work up the top 20 supported propositions and flesh out details of budget, 'deliverability', timescales, etc. Assuming these come together into an affordable budget that can be made to work within a realistic business plan, a full blown prospectus will be delivered to Royston Uniform Business Ratepayers in the autumn. The entire programme will then be the subject of a vote in a formal referendum that will be conducted by the electoral services department of the district council, as is required by the BID legislation.

In the meantime, anybody wishing to share opinions or ideas can contact Royston First on 01763 878242

DIARY

A list of social and networking events planned for 2008

AUTUMN 24th September
AGM - Review of past year and vision for the future at the Conservative Club - from 6pm.
 A chance for you to air your views and discuss the Chamber's future with committee members. The Chamber has been instrumental in Parking Schemes, supporting local business activities and offering general business advice to its members. Come along and see what we can do for your business.

WINTER - Thurs 27th November
Royston's Business Awards 2008.
 This year the awards will be held at The Town Hall. Tickets will be available in the Autumn. Closing date for entry is 30th September.

ROYSTON & DISTRICT BUSINESS AWARDS 2008

If there is something you would like us to organise as a social event please call Christine on 01920 467177 or if you have a venue that could host a social event we would love to hear from you.

NEW MEMBERS NEEDED...

Come to our AGM and see what the Chamber can do for you. We are run on a voluntary basis and your opinion counts!



25K raised in aid of Cancer Research

This year's event was a fantastic success and has so far raised over £25,000! The run/walk was sponsored by local businesses; Curwens Solicitors, Johnson Matthey Plc, Heath Sports, Stationery Cupboard, Tesco, WKH accountants and Woodenhouse Design & Media.

For more information visit www.pinkribbonrunwalk.co.uk



There will be a presentation evening on the 3rd October 2008 at the Heath to recognise those who helped make the day such a fantastic event and those who took part and raised over £250 in sponsorship money. If any business is interested in sponsoring next year's event please call for further information Christine on 07799 626354.

