

A Question of Balance

The festival theme this year was chosen partly as a play on the year 2020 and to highlight the importance of wellbeing which can be achieved by correctly balancing the different priorities in our lives. The festival committee hoped that it would provide some inspiration for a wide range of artistic interpretations but now it seems more important (and difficult) than ever to achieve balance in our lives.

Art, in all its forms, has long been recognised as having therapeutic qualities which can help people to achieve that balance and so, although we can't bring you a 'normal' festival this year, we hope that you enjoy the next best thing which is our online equivalent.

I love greeting old friends, acquaintances and new visitors to festival events and I hope you will feel equally welcome to our online festival which has been created as a combination of some familiar and well-loved exhibitions and events together with some new ones which the online format has allowed us to include.

A big 'thank you' to my fellow committee members Hannah, Andy & Chiara and all the other people and organisations listed without whose support a festival, online or otherwise, would not have been possible. **Carl Filby, Chairperson, Creative Royston**

Thank you to our partners and sponsors:



Brian Leslie Racher Trust

Special thanks:

The online Royston Arts Festival is made possible by the hard work of many local people. In addition to all the local groups and societies who participated we would particularly like to thank: Stacey Leigh-Ross for the cover art; The Listing team for all their support and additional publicity; our Creative Writing Competition judges - Angus Batey, Cath Boughton, David Blundell, Susan Maylor & Kate Rosevear; Emelie Lemons Golding for her poster design work; Nicky Paton for the design of this programme; The Royston Crow for publicity provided; and Royston Town Council and their staff for use of their meeting rooms. Please also refer to our website for an updated list of thanks once the festival commences.

Creative Royston Management Committee:

Carl Filby, Chiara Mannalà, Hannah Theobald and Andy Tunnicliffe.

We'd love to hear what you think!

Please take the opportunity to provide feedback at any time on the festival website. It will help us understand which events are popular and how to improve the festival next year.

Next year? Can you help us?

We are always looking for volunteers who can spare even just a couple of hours to help and if we are to stage a festival next year we will need more committee members. We meet once a month for a couple of hours and it is a great opportunity to meet like-minded people and influence the arts scene in Royston - as well as being very enjoyable.

/roystonartsfestival
 @royartsfest
 info@creativeroyston.org
 07907 880 355 (during festival only)

PLEASE CHECK THE FESTIVAL WEBSITE WWW.CREATIVEROYSTON.ORG REGULARLY FOR ALL THE LATEST INFORMATION NOT AVAILABLE AT THE TIME OF WRITING.



18 - 27 SEPTEMBER

OPENING NIGHT

Join us online at 7.00 pm on Friday 18th September for the launch of Royston Arts Festival 2020!

We'll also be announcing the full festival programme with details and timings for all the items described below plus some additional activities including family events and workshops. Check the festival website regularly for updates.

ART & PHOTOGRAPHY

We'll be announcing the winning entries of our **COVER ART COMPETITION** that artist Stacey Leigh-Ross used to create the festival artwork, as seen on the front cover of The Listing. View all entries from local schoolchildren and see how Stacey constructed her artwork on our website.

Following the success of its first online exhibition earlier this year, **ROYSTON ARTS SOCIETY** will be staging its Autumn Exhibition online as part of this year's festival. View and purchase paintings from local and professional artists at the biggest, most diverse art exhibition in Royston's creative calendar.

ROYSTON PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY always provide an amazing display of thought-provoking photographs at its annual exhibition. From escapist travel locations to colourful landscapes to clever photographic effects, this year's exhibition promises to offer something for everyone.

All exhibitions will run throughout the festival.

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Courtesy of **ROYSTON MUSEUM**, view Royston Tapestry close-up and from the comfort of your home. Hand-stitched over 30 years, the tapestry depicts 64 million years of Royston's history across 24 metres of fabric. Don't miss your chance to see it!

Explore **ROYSTON CAVE** in stunning 3D with their brand new virtual tour. Delve deep underground with immersive 360° virtual reality technology and see this world famous monument as you've never seen it before! Visit roystoncave.co.uk.

MUSIC

ROYSTON MUSIC FEST has commissioned a number of solo artists, duos and groups to produce a series of original performances as part of a programme of concerts. Each 90 minute show will premiere during the festival and remain available until its conclusion. For details, see roystonmusicfest.uk.

We'll also be hosting a **FINALE CONCERT** featuring some familiar performers and a few surprises.

PERFORMANCE & FILM

The show must go on! Join us for an online cabaret evening featuring poems, songs, monologues, readings and puppet shows performed by members of **CORVUS AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY (CADS)**.

ROYSTON PICTURE PALACE will be hosting an array of films online during the festival period. They also hope to offer some screenings in their venue, restrictions permitting. For announcements of titles and screening times, visit our website.

LITERATURE & TALKS

Well known Royston residents have each contributed a review of a book which either holds significance for them or they simply enjoyed reading. Browse the reviews, find recommendations and see who's been influenced by what. **ROYSTON LIBRARY** staff have also kindly provided a range of alternative book reviews including some for young people.

Entrants in our **CREATIVE WRITING COMPETITION** wrote a short story in 500 words using the festival theme 'A Question of Balance'. Winners will be announced during the festival and the short stories will be available to view on our website.

Join Nick Warburton, British screenwriter and playwright, for an online talk and Q&A hosted by **CADS**. Nick has written stage plays, radio plays and television scripts for series including Doctors, Holby City and EastEnders.

www.createroyston.org