

ROYSTON ARTS FESTIVAL 2026 – FREE EVENTS

FRIDAY 4 SEPTEMBER + THROUGHOUT FESTIVAL

FILBY's FOLK on MERIDIAN1 - PODCASTS

Over the course of 2 shows (119 & 120) first aired on the new Meridian1 radio station, Carl Filby plays a wide variety of music, showing just how broad and diverse the folk genre really is. His selections stretch beyond what you might traditionally think of as “folk”, highlighting the many different styles, influences and sounds that fall under the folk umbrella. Learn how ‘folk’ music is a much broader and entertaining genre than you might think!

FREE online at [Unicorn Folk](#)

Friday 4 September & throughout festival

TUESDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER + THROUGHOUT FESTIVAL

EXHIBITION OF ARTWORK: ABOVE AND BEYOND

An exhibition of artwork by KJAR students inspired by the festival theme ‘Above and Beyond’ including the artwork used for the front cover of the festival programme. Thanks to Royston Arts Society and Royston Library for the use of the display space.

FREE Tuesday 8 September until Saturday 3 October, Library opening times
Royston Library ([venue 5](#))

SATURDAY 12 SEPTEMBER

HERITAGE OPEN DAY

See the Royston Tapestry on full display since it's debut in 2019, as part of St. John the Baptist Church's Heritage Open Day. Plus enjoy demonstrations of the organ and bells, tours of the church and refreshments. Suitable for: All ages

FREE entry, donations welcome

<https://roystonparishchurch.org.uk/>

Saturday 12 September, 10am – 4pm

Parish Church of St John the Baptist, Royston ([venue 3](#))

THURSDAY 17 SEPTEMBER

ROYSTON WRITERS CIRCLE - OPEN MEETING

Royston Writers Circle was founded in 1979, and has been meeting almost every month since! If you're someone who loves the written word but can never find the time to write, or who is looking to meet fellow local writers for inspiration and feedback, then come along and meet the gang! All abilities and experience levels welcome.

FREE Suitable for: 18 to 25 + Over 25s

Please register your interest at www.roystonwriters.org

Thursday 17 September, 8 – 10pm

Royston Town Hall (Committee Room) ([venue 1](#))

SATURDAY 19 SEPTEMBER

PRINTING PRESS DEMO DAY

Step back in time and experience the magic of printmaking! Join us for a demonstration of our historic 150-year old printing press – the very one that once printed the Royston Crow. Watch the process in action and have a go at creating your own print to take home.

Suitable for: All ages. **FREE** Drop in roystonmuseum.org.uk

Saturday 19 September, 10am – 4pm

Royston Museum ([venue 12](#))

WEDNESDAY 23 SEPTEMBER

FESTIVAL PREVIEW & OPEN EVENING

Join us for the **official opening of the Arts Festival** at the Nicholas Penn Fine Art Gallery. Enjoy an exclusive first look at the exhibition, hear a welcome from the Arts Festival team, meet some of the exhibiting artists, and celebrate the start of the festival with a complimentary glass of fizz in a relaxed gallery setting.

Suitable for: 18+ **FREE** but advance booking required due to limited capacity.

www.tickettailor.com/events/nicholaspennfineart/2307313

Wednesday 23 September, 6.30 – 8.30pm

Nicholas Penn Fine Art Gallery, Royston (**venue 11**)

THURSDAY 24 SEPTEMBER

THEATRETRAIN TINIES

Dancing, Acting, Singing and a lot of fun in our confidence, skills building class just for 3 year olds.

Suitable for: Under 5s

FREE Contact us directly at royston@theatretrain.co.uk

or via www.theatretrain.co.uk/royston/new-customers

Thursday 24 September, 2 – 2.45pm

Stage Right Studios, Royston (**venue 14**)

FESTIVAL LATE NIGHT

The Nicholas Penn Fine Art Gallery will remain open into the evening, giving visitors the opportunity to browse the exhibition outside normal opening hours. It's a chance to enjoy the artwork at a more relaxed pace, meet local artists, and explore the gallery after hours.

Suitable for: All ages

FREE Drop-in, no booking required.

Thursday 24 September, 6 – 9pm

Nicholas Penn Fine Art Gallery, Royston (**venue 11**)

FRIDAY 25 SEPTEMBER

BEER & MUSIC FESTIVAL

Royston Conservative Club opens its doors to members and non-members alike over the weekend with a beer festival and live music throughout the weekend.

Suitable for: Over 18s

FREE entry <https://www.facebook.com/roystoncons/>

Friday 25 September open from noon onwards

18-20 Kneesworth St, Royston SG8 5AA

THEATRETRAIN MINIS

Dance, Act, Sing, Fun! Build basic skills in the arts along with developing confidence, communication, friendship and social skills. Suitable for: Under 5s

FREE Contact us directly at royston@theatretrain.co.uk

or via www.theatretrain.co.uk/royston/new-customers

Friday 25 September, 3.45 – 5.15pm Stage Right Studios, Royston (**venue 14**)

THEATRETRAIN MAIN COMPANY

Dancing, acting and singing classes in an evening of fun and engaging sessions led by the Theatretrain team! Learn lots of new skills in a warm and inviting atmosphere. Students have lots of extra opportunities such as theatre trips, exams, shows and more!

Suitable for: 5 to 13, 13 to 17

FREE Contact us directly at royston@theatretrain.co.uk

or via www.theatretrain.co.uk/royston/new-customers

Friday 25 September, 4 – 7pm Stage Right Studios, Royston (**venue 14**)

ROYSTON ARTS FESTIVAL 2026 – FREE EVENTS

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

Explore the basics of relief printmaking using our 150-year-old press. Draw your design, make your printing block, ink up and print! Wouldn't it be nice to have your very own print hanging on your wall?

Suitable for: young people aged 8 to 13.

FREE Drop-in roystonmuseum.org.uk

Friday 25 September, 4 – 6pm Royston Museum (**venue 12**)

COLLECTING ORIGINAL ART: A BEGINNER'S GUIDE

Thinking about buying original art but not sure where to start? Join us for an informal evening exploring how to begin collecting original artwork with confidence. We'll discuss how to choose pieces you love, understand different mediums and pricing, care for your artwork, and why collecting original art is such a rewarding way to support artists. Whether you're looking to buy your first piece or are simply curious about the world of art collecting, everyone is welcome.

Suitable for: 18+ **FREE** but advance booking is recommended due to limited seating.

www.tickettailor.com/events/nicholaspennfineart/2307319

Friday 25 September, 7 – 8pm

Nicholas Penn Fine Art Gallery, Royston (**venue 11**)

RAS AUTUMN EXHIBITION

This is Royston Arts Society's major annual open exhibition which in recent years has typically included 400 plus framed and unframed painting by 60-70 artists, both members and non-members.

Suitable for: All ages

FREE Drop-in, no booking required.

Friday 25 September, 7.30 – 9.30pm

Royston Town Hall (**venue 1**) Lower Hall

SATURDAY 26 SEPTEMBER

OUTSIDE THE EXHIBIT

A range of short taster workshops from BEEE Creative in dance, film, story sharing, photography for all ages which celebrate the 'Above and Beyond' spirit by recognising the everyday heroes who help care for our environment and green spaces, inspiring our community to connect, create and take action.

Suitable for: All ages

FREE Drop in sessions throughout the day to try a range of different activities.

Saturday 26 September, 10am – 3pm

Royston Museum (**venue 12**)

PRIORY QUILTERS' EXHIBITION OF QUILTS

Display of a range made by our members including our interpretations of a Mystery Quilt worked on over the past few months. We will hold a competition for members relating to the festival theme of Above and Beyond to be voted on by visitors to the exhibition. A quilt will be raffled which has been a collaboration of our members in aid of Garden House Hospice. Refreshments provided.

Suitable for: All ages

FREE Drop-in, no booking required.

Saturday 26 September, 10am – 5pm

Market Hill Rooms, Royston (**venue 9**)

RAS AUTUMN EXHIBITION

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Suitable for: All ages

FREE Drop-in, no booking required.

Saturday 26 September, 10am – 5pm

Royston Town Hall (**venue 1**) Lower Hall

ROYSTON ARTS FESTIVAL 2026 – FREE EVENTS

PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION

Images cover a wide range of subjects of interest to all ages. All visitors get to vote for their favourite image and society members will be there to answer any queries.

Suitable for: All ages **FREE** Drop-in, no booking required.

Saturday 26 September, 10am – 4.30pm

Royston Town Hall (**venue 1**) Upper Hall

BOW BOOKS FOR KIDS

Meet Helen Rose for a fun story telling and book signing for her new rhyming story paperback The SuperSonic Fart (with free Fart Chart!) Pictures by bestselling illustrator Garry Parsons.

Suitable for: ages 4 - 7

FREE to attend but ticket required...collect from Bow Books Kids, 12 Angel Pavement, Royston SG8 9AS.

07715 593516 enquiries@bow-books.co.uk

Saturday 26 September, 10am

Bow Books Kids, Royston (**venue 8**)

BOOK FAIR

Come and meet your next favourite author! Over 20 local writers will be gathering to showcase their books, covering fiction, non fiction and poetry. From the very young to the young-at-heart, we guarantee that there will be something for everyone as Royston Arts Festival celebrates the literary talent that surrounds us.

Suitable for: All ages

FREE Drop-in <http://www.roystonbookfair.co.uk/>

Saturday 26 September, Midday – 4pm

Parish Church of St John the Baptist, Royston (**venue 3**)

GALA IN THE GARDENS

Members of the Rotary Club of Royston have once again kindly joined forces with and become Creative Royston volunteers and committee members. They have used their considerable experience of organising Royston's Kite Festival to bring you a range of family oriented entertainments and a wide selection of stalls selling food and other commodities or publicising ongoing activities and opportunities in the town.

Suitable for: All ages

FREE Drop-in

Saturday 26 September, Midday – 4pm

Priory Memorial Gardens, Royston (**venue 4**)

PAINT THE PARK

Part of the Gala In The Gardens and organised by the 'en plein-air Painting and Sketching Group' and The Friends of Therfield Heath. Come and try your hand at plein-air art.

For more information please ring Joan Munden on 01763 241217

<https://www.friendsoftherfieldheath.org.uk/>

FREE Drop-in Saturday 26 September, Midday – 5pm

Priory Memorial Gardens, Royston (**venue 4**)

BEER & MUSIC FESTIVAL

Royston Conservative Club opens its doors to members and non-members alike over the weekend with a beer festival and live music throughout the weekend.

Suitable for: Over 18s

FREE entry <https://www.facebook.com/roystoncons/>

Saturday 26 September open from noon onwards

18-20 Kneesworth St, Royston SG8 5AA

ROYSTON ARTS FESTIVAL 2026 – FREE EVENTS

COSMIC CRAFTING

A space themed story time, followed by a selection of space themed craft activities reflecting the festival theme, space being 'Above and Beyond' most things.

Suitable for: Children aged 4 -10.

FREE Drop-in, no booking required

Saturday 26 September 2 - 3.30pm

Royston Library ([venue 5](#))

SUNDAY 27 SEPTEMBER

LOCALS THAT WE LOVE

A celebration of creativity from our local community, showcasing artwork by local artists, The Art Room tutors, and selected work created by our students. This exhibition celebrates the wealth of artistic talent in and around Royston, giving visitors the opportunity to discover and support local creatives.

Suitable for: All ages

FREE Drop-in, no booking required.

Sunday 27 September, 10am – 4pm

Nicholas Penn Fine Art Gallery, Royston ([venue 11](#))

PRIORY QUILTERS' EXHIBITION OF QUILTS

Display of a range made by our members including our interpretations of a Mystery Quilt which we have worked on over the past few months. We will be holding a competition for our members relating to the festival theme of Above and Beyond which will be voted on by visitors to the exhibition. There will also be a raffle of a quilt which has been a collaboration of our members in aid of Garden House Hospice. Refreshments will be provided as well.

Suitable for: All ages **FREE** Drop-in, no booking required.

Sunday 27 September, 10am – 4pm

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Suitable for: All ages **FREE** Drop-in, no booking required.

Sunday 27 September, 10am – 5pm

Royston Town Hall ([venue 1](#)) Lower Hall

PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION

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Suitable for: All ages

FREE Drop-in, no booking required.

Sunday 27 September, 10am – 4.30pm

Royston Town Hall ([venue 1](#)) Upper Hall

POETRY & 'FILM SHORT' SCREENING

Join us for a morning of film and poetry. We will be showing "Breath" by David Van-Cauter which won in two categories at Dublin's Bloomsday Film Festival, June 2026 and was a runner up in Los Angeles Poetry Film Festival April 2026. Followed by a talk with readings from David Smith, of North Herts' Poetry ID.

We will also be joined by Mayor Elizabeth Freeman.

Suitable for: All ages

FREE Drop-in, first come first served

Sunday 27 September 11 – 12.30am

Royston Museum ([venue 12](#))

BEER & MUSIC FESTIVAL

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Suitable for: Over 18s

FREE entry <https://www.facebook.com/roystoncons/>

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18-20 Kneesworth St, Royston SG8 5AA

ROYSTON WRITER'S CIRCLE on ROYSTON RADIO

Yesterday Radio hosts a Royston Radio programme which goes behind the scenes with the Royston Writer's Circle in a preview of the type of community programme that Royston Radio intends to focus on when it returns in January 2027.

FREE **online** at [Yesterday Radio](#)

Sunday 27 September at 6pm