

# Royston Environmental Group - Chairperson's report - AGM February 2025

For more information on all of these events and initiatives please see our website [www.roystonenvironmentalgroup.org.uk](http://www.roystonenvironmentalgroup.org.uk) and Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/RoystonEnvironmentalGroup>, or email us using the contact form on our website.

## **Sustain-Ability**

In 2024 we again held our annual Sustain-Ability event in conjunction with Royston Arts Festival's "Gala in the Gardens". We thank Creative Royston for the opportunity to do this.



We were down a couple of stalls on last year, which was slightly disappointing, although the event still went well and we spoke to a variety of different people. Participants were:

- Early Connections CIC
- Shepreth Hedgehog Hospital
- Cambridge Carbon Footprint
- Royston Repair Cafe
- Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust
- John O'Connor
- Horsebox Coffee Shop
- Green Heat Coop
- Waste Warriors (North Herts Council)

We are still deciding if we will be holding a Sustain-Ability 2025 in addition to other events planned (see below).

## Thermal Imaging Camera surveys

As of November 2024 we have been promoting and offering our services to new and existing members of Royston Environmental Group. Our trained volunteers have now completed three visits and reports of visits, in addition to practicing on their own homes etc.



*Our camera, kindly funded by Johnson Matthey.*



*A REG volunteer takes simultaneous thermal and visual images.*

We have been asked by various sources if they can advertise this aspect of the group but we have had to restrict it to members at this time due to a lack of trained volunteers to employ the camera.

Cambridge Carbon Footprint are happy for any of our potential volunteers to make use of their free training sessions (bookable here: <https://cambridgecarbonfootprint.org/what-we-do/thermal-imaging/>) and, having done a few visits now, our current volunteers will be able to help newer volunteers as well. We can also arrange to lend the camera free of charge to any members, should they prefer this option.

You can sign up to request a visit at: <https://frierley.com/roystonenvirogroup/thermal-imaging/>  
Anyone interested in training as a volunteer please get in touch with me on [chairman@roystonenvironmentalgroup.org.uk](mailto:chairman@roystonenvironmentalgroup.org.uk)

## Plastic Free Royston

Last year we agreed to deprioritise this project due to changes to single use plastic use in recent legislation. However we will still add champions and allies as they occur. Anyone wishing to be considered for either of these should complete the form on our website.

Current business champions are:

- Kooky Nohmad
- Horsebox Cafe
- AdShots Digital Studio
- CB4 Media
- No. 3 Royston

- Glazed Creations
- Hush Skin & Beauty
- Coconuts 4U

There has been some staff and ownership turnover, particularly in the business champions so we intend to enquire if all are still adhering to the Plastic Free principles in the coming months. Suggestions for additions are always welcome.

Current community allies are:

- Royston Library
- Royston Leisure Centre
- Royston Museum
- Royston First BID
- Coombes Community Centre
- Tentshare
- WI Royston Evening Group
- King James Academy Royston

We again held a Plastic Free Picnic in July to highlight the challenges and advantages of reducing single use plastic.



*Plastic free picnic 2024 in Priory Memorial Gardens (left) and Museum Manager Emma Canterbury with the Museum's pledge (right).*

### **Xmas Jumper Swap**

We held this in the Library, as in 2023. We had some good conversations but few swaps were made. Discussions are ongoing about how to improve the event for next year, focussed around putting on more activities to draw in more people. Suggestions for this are welcomed.

### **Litter picking**

We are planning a litter pick to coincide with the Great British Spring Clean on Saturday 22nd March, 2-4 pm. We will be picking around Layston Park/Sun Hill. We hope you will join us!

### **Community Garden**

We have a new banner on the Garden fence to advertise our regular open afternoons (every second Saturday of the month, 2-4 pm).





We currently have a school student volunteering with us, who is working towards a Duke of Edinburgh Award. As a consequence the garden is tidier than usual but there is still always something to do!

### **Big Green Week (10-18th June 2025)**

We are working with Royston Museum on an event for this. The museum is planning a temporary exhibition on Sustainable Royston and we hope to put on some hands-on workshops and demos. We have been in touch with local groups and providers but we are always open to more suggestions.

### **Eco-Royston Map**

We are still keen to produce this though it has been delayed for various reasons. If you have any businesses, groups, or ventures you would like us to include, please just drop us a line.

### **Other initiatives**

Presence at/involvement in other events

- Bee corridor launch - Event being held 29th March 2025 to launch this council led project that John O'Connor staff are leading on. Other local relevant groups will be there.
- May Fayre - we did this in 2024 and it was enjoyable. We attracted quite a few visitors to the stall with our seed planting activity, and had many good conversations with residents although these did not directly translate into increased membership.

### **And finally...**

As ever, my thanks go to all the committee who have worked so hard, also to all members and especially those who have turned up to events to help out. I'd also like to thank Johnson Matthey for their generous sponsorship, Tesco Royston for the opportunity to work in the Community Garden, Royston Library and Royston Museum for working with us on events, all the groups who joined us at Sustain-Ability last year, and all our community and business partners/contacts for their support and encouragement - it means a lot.

*Carol Stanier February 2025*