

Ross Neighbourhood NEWS

ISSUE 22 AUGUST 2025



New Digital Café



Age UK Wyvern are helping to include older people in the online world. The new Digital Café takes place at the library every Tuesday morning 10.00-12.00 and can help with all kinds of digital problems and queries.

Older people are the most at risk of being left behind in an increasingly online environment. Last year, a national Age UK report revealed that three in ten over 75s could not use the online forms they needed to book GP appointments or register to vote.

Accessibility is a common problem: one in four of the same age group struggled to adjust the settings to make screens brighter or fonts larger.

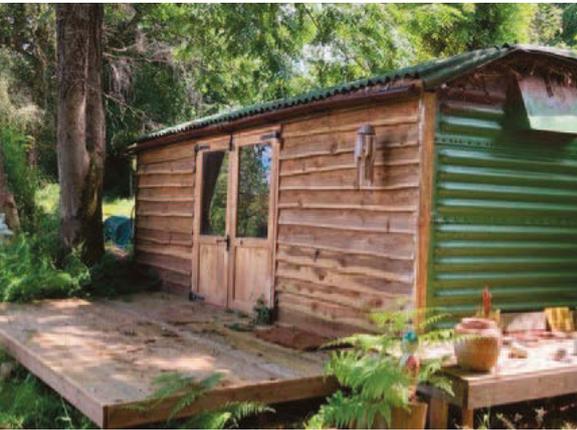
Weekly Age UK Wyvern Digital Cafés are now running in the libraries in Ross, Ledbury, Hereford, Pershore and Malvern. The service is completely free and available to anyone over the age of 50. People are encouraged to bring along their own phones, laptops or tablets to talk about individual issues, for example using the NHS app or starting online shopping. No booking is necessary, and the support lasts for as many weeks as it takes to solve the issue. Art Shrimpton, who co-ordinates the cafés for Age UK, explained the advantages they provide, "Free support is given by expert volunteers who are familiar with technology and possess the added skill

of being good and empathetic listeners. Everyone is welcome whether they are a complete novice who has never turned on a laptop or sent an email, or a more experienced user seeking a solution to a specific problem. Whilst it is a drop-in, we welcome regular clients who can appreciate the social side of the café every week, sharing problems and solutions over a cuppa!"

Anyone wanting to find out more about the Digital Cafés can ring Art Shrimpton on 07498 074377 or look on the Age UK Wyvern website: www.ageukwyvern.org.



Volunteer. Join. Donate.
www.rosscdt.org.uk



Govardhan Eco Farm

Govardhan Eco Farm is community interest company based on The Doward. We run workshops and retreats and welcome volunteers to help with various projects on the 3 acre farm, such as Eco friendly building, superfast organic composting, no dig growing, seed saving, moon phase planting - also arts and crafts such as kite making and guitar making. We are also planting trees and shrubs to increase biodiversity and rewilding areas of the land.

For volunteering opportunities please email fergus@eaglearts.co.uk

Ross Community Litter Clean Up Crew

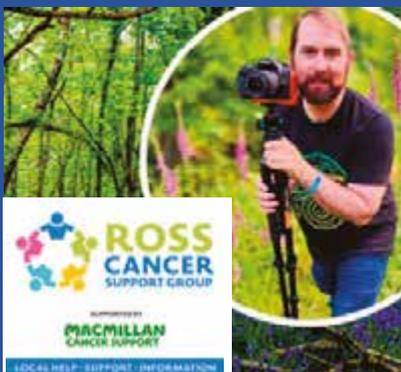


We are delighted to report a surge of interest from those keen to keep our local area free of litter.

Two new groups of children, one from Brampton Abbots Primary School, the other from the First Walford Beaver Scouts, have been out and about on litter picks. In addition, the company TELUS based in Alton Road, sent out volunteers in May to tidy up that part of town as their community project. Morgan Sindall Infrastructure, a national company who undertake road works, have offered volunteer support whenever they are in the area.

With regular volunteer groups and individuals plus our own Monthly Group Litter Pick, it's no surprise that purple sack collection points have seen plenty of activity recently.

If you love where you live and would like to join us to help keep Ross litter free, please contact: email: rosslitter@gmail.com; tel: Anne 07771 521639; Facebook: RCLCUC



Ross On Wye Cancer Support Group

Steven Gregory, a cancer survivor and photographer, shared his journey at a local cancer support meeting. His story inspired many attendees, highlighting the therapeutic value of creative hobbies. Their meetings offer a supportive space for those affected by cancer, focusing on both healing and community. The group plans to invite more guest speakers who can share personal stories and offer various supportive therapies. **For more info visit: www.rossonwycancergroup.org/ facebook.com/rossonwycancersupportgroup**



Sea Cadets is a different kind of adventure!

Ross Baptist Church Youth Week

Youth Week started in 2021 where we wore our “serving our community” T-Shirts for the first time. That week, we served in Ross-on-Wye doing things like litter picking, tidying the Prospect Garden, painting white bollards and removing Himalayan Balsam from beside the River Wye.



In 2022/23, we went to serve in Overstrand, Norfolk and last year, in Evesham at the Lenchwood Retreat Centre. This year, we have a team of 11 teenagers who are giving up a week's holiday to serve in Norfolk again. We will be washing up, serving at tables, and cleaning bathrooms in the holiday home for up to 70 guests. The young people are linked to RBC Youth Groups that meet Sundays, Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and for Friday or Saturday socials most weeks during the school term. Why serve? As a Christian organisation we believe that serving is important. Jesus did - John 13:1-17.

Based in Homs Road in Ross, the Ross on Wye & Monmouth Sea Cadet Unit gets young people launched for life. We meet twice a week Monday and Thursday (Thursday only for Juniors), following a comprehensive but fun training programme that includes water based activities, first aid and leadership. Many of our cadets attend courses in catering, marine engineering or first aid. This year our cadets have attended offshore voyages - with some taking part in a two week sailing trip to Dunkirk to celebrate the anniversary of VE Day.

We are always happy to welcome volunteers at the unit.

Full training and support is given - so if you have an interest in outdoor pursuits and helping young people or you would like to contribute by becoming a trustee of the unit, **please get in touch at rossmonmouthscrcmc@outlook.com**

Call our Helpline: 01989 313002 or email: help@rosscdt.org.uk

The Ross-on-Wye Horizon Centre

The Ross-on-Wye Horizon Centre CIC has had a busy summer with Learning Disability Week and evening activities, including karaoke, drama, art workshops with Sarah Morton, circus skills, knit and natter, the poppy project, woodworking, gardening, card making, snakes and reptiles day and a summer disco. Want to join in the fun? Come volunteer with us!

Please ring Maria on 01989 253131 to find out more.



Autism West Midlands

Autism West Midlands is the leading charity in the West Midlands, providing support, advice and guidance for those with autism. We use our expertise to enrich the lives of those diagnosed with autism, awaiting their diagnosis or identifying as autistic, and encourage them to develop confidence, understanding and skills to reach their fullest potential in life. Within Herefordshire and Worcestershire we offer 1:1 support, our Autism Confident programme, wellbeing walks, social groups, workshops and webinars for parents and carers.

**Contact: 01214507575,
herefordworce
@autismwestmidlands.org.uk**



Ross-On-Wye Scout Group

Ross Scout Group's Cubs and Scouts are having a great year in 2025 with a wide variety of activities and events. We've taken part in a hillwalking competition in the Malverns, practised First Aid with help from the Community First Responders, delivered the Ross Neighbourhood News around St Mary's Garden Village and participated in the Ross VE Day 80th Anniversary events. The Scouts attended the Strategy camping weekend at Cirencester park and took place in the competition with many hundreds of others from across the region. We would welcome any new volunteers to help the Scout Group grow, whether that is as a regular uniformed leader, as an occasional helper or as a trustee supporting the Group behind the scenes.



Severn Freewheelers Emergency Voluntary Service

Hello, my name is Sally and my husband Patrick is a blood bike rider for Severn Freewheelers EVS. They are a voluntary organisation that operate out of hours delivering blood, human tissue, medication and other essential medical items around NHS facilities.

I decided I'd like to help too but as I don't ride a motorbike I do the next best thing. I take the calls from hospital switchboards and send Patrick out in all weathers to deliver medicines, samples, notes, equipment, all sorts of things to people in their own homes, to care homes and hospitals. We also help premature babies by collecting 'mum's' milk and taking it to baby units that are running short. As a coordinator, I get such satisfaction knowing I'm helping people when I answer the phone.

We need you as a volunteer - one day you may need us.

Call 01285 405429 or visit www.severnfreewheelers.org.uk

Ross-Betzdorf Twinning Association - 40th Anniversary and 2026 Return Visit

Ross-on-Wye recently welcomed over 30 visitors from its twin town of Betzdorf, Germany, marking the 40th anniversary of the two towns' official partnership. The weekend was filled with music, food, shared experiences and plenty of laughter - a celebration of cross cultural friendship at its best.

Now, the Ross Twinning Association is turning its attention to next year's return visit to Betzdorf and is keen to welcome new members to be part of it. These trips are a wonderful

opportunity to stay with local families, explore life in another country, and build lasting international friendships. No need to speak German - just bring a sense of curiosity and community spirit.

Chair Dr Lynn O'Driscoll said: "It's been a brilliant few days. We'd love to see more people from Ross join us next year - everyone is welcome."

To find out more, call 01989 567477.

Want to support Ross CDT by volunteering, joining or donating?
Visit www.rosscdt.org.uk or call 01989 313002

Support us!

**Volunteer. Join. Donate.
www.rosscdt.org.uk**

RBL is Buzzing

After a busy few months, the British Legion in Ross is 'Buzzing'. Our VE Day celebrations were simply amazing, with over 400 people packed into St Mary's for our Commemoration Service. This was followed by Fundraising at the Bandstand, a Pub Supper at the Hope and Anchor and a Branch Picnic in St Mary's. In August we will celebrate the 80th Anniversary of VJ Day with a Flag Raising at the Market House at Noon on Friday 15th August, followed by a Service of Commemoration at St Mary's at Noon on Sunday 17th August.

As we move into the Autumn we think about Remembrance Week – would you like to join our great team of Poppy Volunteers collecting in Morrisons between 23 October

and 10th November – if so please **contact Jo Morris our Poppy Appeal Organiser at poppyappealrow@gmail.com** – we would love to have you on our team.



Ross Town Band



So far this year we have experienced typical British weather – a real mix! We had a very enjoyable session on Good Friday at The Yew Tree, Peterstow as part of their Ciderganza weekend, even if it was a little chilly. May Day Bank Holiday found us at Llangrove May Fayre - a great, if rather breezy,

afternoon, complete with Maypole dancing - not us we hasten to add! June found us at the Ross Hospital Fête - another enjoyable afternoon supporting a very worthy local charity.

Our thanks and congratulations to all on organising these events, for your kind invitations and the very

warm welcomes. We were also thrilled to kick off the Bands in The Park season in May on a beautiful summer's afternoon.

A big thank you to Ross for the wonderful turnout to support your town band and enjoy some live music, we do appreciate it.



Ross Penyard Singers Raise Funds for Ross Community Gardens

Following the success of their 25th Anniversary Concert on 14 June, members of the Ross Penyard Singers, along with members of their junior branch, Ross Academy Choir, put on a lovely afternoon of music at Ross Community Gardens with the idea of raising funds to support the Gardens. Both choirs sang upbeat numbers to a good audience and came together afterwards to sing a catchy round for the audience to join in. There were some lovely solo numbers and two different bands (Wye Not and U3Atrics) finished off the afternoon in style with dancing in the marquee!

If you are interested in joining either of these choirs, please get in touch via the website:

**www.rosspenyardsingers.org.uk,
info@rosspenyardsingers.org.uk**

Or come along to St Mary's Church Hall on a Wednesday evening at 7pm – some of the music we will be doing includes West Side Story; Lean on Me; Vivaldi Four Seasons; Lion King.

Ross Walkers are Welcome

An old walk has been re-opened! With lots of hard work and commitment from a few individuals, and funding from the WVNL team/ DEFRA, the footpath from Wilton Bridge to Kerne Bridge has finally been cleared and re-opened with new gates, fallen trees cut and massive overgrowth hacked back. No mean feat! It is a lovely walk (which is now completely stile-free but with one short steep tricky part) following the west side of the River Wye through open parkland/fields and under Goodrich Castle. At weekends, refreshments can be had at the Hen & Dot Café, or a further short walk down river, the Paddle Café at Kerne Bridge Canoe Launch. The 35 bus (and 746) go from Cantilupe Road, Ross to Kerne Bridge and back, or a full circular walk can be had, combining this walk with the Wye Valley Walk over Chase Hill.

More information -
www.walkinginross.co.uk



Want to support us by volunteering, joining or donating?
Visit www.rosscdt.org.uk or call 01989 313002

VOLUNTEER

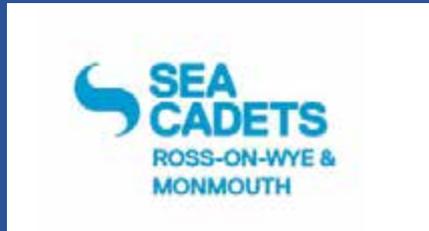
Be part of a more connected community.



We are urgently looking for **Retail Assistant Volunteers** to join our new Ross-on-Wye shop.

Our volunteers are essential to the success of our shops and help raise vital funds for Midlands Air Ambulance Charity, making missions possible across our region including Herefordshire. Join us today and be part of something truly impactful.

Contact: Alison Hill on 07826522150, alison.hill@midlandsairambulance.com



Ross & Monmouth Sea Cadets are looking for volunteers in our mission to get young people launched for life! If you have a passion for the outdoors or water-sports and working with young people, please get on board!

We also need Trustees to help with fundraising and management, so if you would like to support us, please email **rossmonmouthsccrmc@outlook.com**



Do you have a couple of hours to spend supporting people to enjoy activities and learning new skills? Do you have a hobby or skill that you would like to share with others? We would love you to volunteer with us! **Please ring Maria on 01989 253131** to discuss what you could do to make a difference in the lives of the people we support.



Interim Musical Director/Conductor

Ross-on-Wye Town Band are seeking a temporary leader, from September to December 2025. We are based at the Larruperz Centre and rehearse every Friday evening, in term time. The Training Band meet between 6.00pm to 7.00pm and the Main band 7.30pm to 9.00pm. (Times could be adjusted slightly). Ideally, we'd like our interim MD to conduct the band at their afternoon Christmas concert on Sunday 7th December. First rehearsal 12th Sept '25. This would be a remunerated position.

For more info or to express an interest please contact us at **rosstownband@gmail.com**

Severn Freewheelers

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Coordinators (dispatchers)

Take the job, dispatch the rider; to ensure timely deliveries of our life-saving cargo.

You will be:

- Organized and compassionate individuals
- Comfortable working with smart phone apps and spreadsheets.
- Flexible availability with a few consecutive evenings free every few weeks/ months

No previous experience is required. We provide comprehensive training and support. Work from home. Come and join our Team.

Call 01285 405429 or visit www.severnfreewheelers.org.uk

Call our Helpline: 01989 313002 or email: help@rosscdt.org.uk



Locally known as Ross Area Transport, we are continuing to assist members of the community with transport for medical appointments - **we are always looking for volunteer drivers.**

For more information, please contact
Sheila Hatherall: 01989 763726
sheila.hatherall@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk



Ross Walkers are Welcome are looking for a Treasurer. It is a small, but vital role to manage and report on our financial transactions (about 50 in 2024). However, the successful candidate is welcome to play a larger part in our team if they wish. We are a small collaborative team that seek to promote and support walking around Ross, working with a wide group of other organisations and creating our own agendas. It's fun and rewarding!

For more information contact:
rosswalkingfestival@outlook.com



We are always looking for volunteers to help us continue to be there for older people across the area. Including roles at our Ross Charity Shop, Community Befrienders, Digital Café tutors and much more.

Why volunteer with us?

- Learn new skills
- Develop your confidence and experience
- Meet new people and connect with your community

For more information phone 01905 724294, email volunteering@ageukwyvern.org or visit our website www.ageukwyvern.org



Ross Scout Group currently runs Cubs (age 8 to 10.5 years) and Scouts (age 10.5 to 14 years). **We are looking for volunteers to join our team of leaders** so that we can continue to support young people in Ross. With additional adult volunteers we would be able to restart our Beavers section (age 6-8 years). We are also looking for volunteers to join our Trustee Board to help with governance of the Group. You don't need to have children in Scouting, have prior experience or be available every week so any time you can give would be very welcome. **Please get in touch via volunteer.**
ross.scouts@gmail.com

Ross Community Garden



If you have a few hours to spare on a Friday morning we would love to hear from you. Our team of volunteers work with around a dozen service users per garden session, many of whom have mental or physical challenges. You don't have to be an expert gardener to get involved, but you would need to be caring, patient and good with people.

We are also looking for volunteers who can help with our school visits, which take place on Tuesdays. If you can help, please contact Helen Saunders helen.saunders@haygrove.co.uk

What's On Regular Events

St. Marys Church HR9 5HN

Every Sunday - 09:30

St Mary's Church Service

In person and streamed live

Every 1st Wed - 13:00

Lunchtime Concert

Every 1st Sat - 10:30- 12:00

Coffee & Sgwrs

Coffee, tea, homemade cakes and a chance to chat in Welsh!

Further info:

Tel: 01989 562175

www.rossparishes.uk
church notice board

Every 3rd Sat - 9.00

Armed Forces & Veterans' Breakfast Club

Tea, coffee and a chat

Further info: Tel: 01989 565599
or email: rossafvbc@gmail.com

Every Monday 9:30-11:00 &
Friday 11:30-13:00

Mental Health Wellbeing Support Group

Further info: Laura Pugh.
Tel: 07802 672278

last Friday of every month -
14.30-16:00

Carers Group for Dementia Carers

Contact Elaine Leney on 07506 992971 or email:
rossmeetingcentre@gmail.com

St. Marys Church Hall HR9 5HN

1st Tuesday of the month 18:00 -
20:00

Ross Cancer Support Group

For anyone affected by cancer, or post-cancer treatment - just drop in for a while if you don't want to

stay for the whole meeting

Further info: Tel: 07501 211779
rossonwyecancergroup@gmail.com

The Larruperz Centre HR9 7QD

Last Sat of month - 19.30

Ross Country Music Club

Live country music to accompany line dance or partner dance. £5 entry

Further info: Anne Gray, email:
aegrayblue@hotmail.com

First Tues of month - 11.30-13.30

Ross Memory Café

Allowing people experiencing memory loss and their families/carers to socialise & build support networks. £5 per couple incl refreshments & activities.

Further info: Elaine Leney:
07506 992971 (no need to prebook) or email:
rossmeetingcentre@gmail.com

Every Friday 9.30-12.00

Information & Advice

Confidential, non-judgemental service delivered by expert advisors on subjects such as welfare benefits, residential care and local services. Free of charge - appointment required. **Further info:** www.ageuk.org.uk/wyvern/our-services/information-advice

Ross Baptist Church

Broad St HR9 7DY

Every Sunday - 10:30

Sunday Church Service

Further info:

admin@rossbaptist.org
01989 566966 rossbaptist.org

Ross Cancer Support Group Coffee Club Various locations

Monthly 13.00-15.00

An informal drop in for local people affected by Cancer, free coffee at one of our local Ross on Wye partners. Reservation required

Further info: Paul Middleton
rossonwyecancergroup@gmail.com

Forest & Wye Community Church Henry Street HR9 7QD

First Wed of the month
10:30-12:30

Herefordshire Carers Group

If you're looking after a family member or friend unpaid, join this friendly team for friendly advice and support.

Further info: Tel: 07932 831658
or contact Ali Field:
alimay.field@btinternet.com
or Mark Eardley:
mark.eardley@btinternet.com

Every Thurs 10:00-12:00

Warm Café

All welcome for tea, coffee and a chat plus mobile charging facility.

Further info: Dan Hawken
dan@fcchurch.co.uk.

To advertise your event
in the next newsletter,
email details to
comms@rosscdt.org.uk

Ross-on-Wye Library

Cantilupe Road HR9 7AN

Every Tuesday 10.00-12.00

Ross Digital Café

We can help you to use your mobile phone or computer, whilst having a cuppa and cake! Free drop-in service. Bring your phone, or laptop, to the café and get individual expert help.

Further info:

www.ageuk.org.uk/wyvern/activities-and-events/upcoming-events/digital-cafes/

Ross Sports Centre

Wilton Road HR9 5JA

Saturdays - 10:00 - 11:00

Ross Juniors FC PAN

Disability Football Squad

Contact: Gareth Nutt:

gbnutt@gmail.com

07583232656

@the Hub

Corpus Christi Lane HR9 7AE

Every Mon, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

8:00 - 9:30

Breakfast Club

Every Fri - 9:30 - 12:30

Film Club

Every Mon, Wed, Thu, Sat 9:30 - 12:30

Drop In

Warm Welcome with food/ drinks and pool. All welcome!

Further info: Milly Boylan:

07827 668971 or email:

warmwelcomeross-on-wye@gmail.com

Friends Meeting House

Brampton Street HR9 7EQ

Every Sunday - 10:30

Southern Marches Area

Quaker Meeting

Further info:

www.smquakers.org.uk/local-meetings/ross-on-wye/

RVS Tearooms - Pigs Alley

(between High St & Corn Exchange car park)

Tues & Thur 9:30 - 11:30

RVS Tearooms

Lonely, bored or just need a cuppa & a chat? Come along!

Raffles and days out. £1 a

cuppa/£5 annual member

Further info: Tel: 07974 786457

Sellack Village Hall

Every 1st Thurs - 12:00

Sellack Good Neighbour

Scheme Lunch

Two course lunch plus raffle - £8

Further info: Carole Ajinkya on

01989 565562 to book your

place

Tudorville & District Community Centre

Walford Ave
HR9 5PZ

Every Thurs 11:00-16:00

Ross Meeting Centre

Dementia Group

Friendship, fun and activities for people with dementia and carers.

Quizzes, games, armchair

exercises, crafts, indoor

gardening, music & singing plus

a simple lunch for £15 per couple

- **booking essential** via Elaine

Leney: 07506 992971

rossmeetingcentre@gmail.com

Every 3rd Thurs of month
11:30 - 15:00

Carer drop-in clinics

A safe space for carers to come and chat to our care advisors and access information, advice and signposting.

Further info:

www.crossroadstogether.org.uk

The Venue Hill Street HR9 7AD

Every Tues, Wed, Thur 18:00 - 20:00

Basement Youth Trust

Youth club open to all 11-17 year olds. Sports, fun and loads of supervised activities. Free entry.

Further info:

www.facebook.com/RossBYT

Other Events

John Kyrle High School Sports Hall

Saturday 16 August

10.00-17.00 and Sunday 17

August 10.00-16.00

Ross on Wye Model

Railway Exhibition -

20+layouts and Demos, 7

Traders.

Adults £6, Child £5, Family

(2+2) £14. Free parking.

Disabled access.

Refreshments all day.

**More events listed on
back cover...**

What's On Other Events

The Larruperz Centre

Mon 15 September 14.30

U3A Talk - A Nostalgic Trip Down The High Street

Given by Nigel Metcalfe

Mon 20 October 14.30

U3A Talk - Around The World In 101 Days

Given by former u3a chairlady
Marilyn Reynolds

U3A talks free to members, small
charge for non-members

Wed 10 September at 7:30pm

Civic Society illustrated talk by Mari Fforde on the Restoration of Hay Castle

Wed 8 October at 7:30pm

Civic Society Talk by Chris Sullivan about Goodrich Court and The Wye Tour

Wed 12 November at 7:00pm

Civic Society AGM will be followed by an illustrated talk by Robert Walker on Stained Glass in Herefordshire

All Civic Society talks are free to
members or £5 to non-members.

For further details visit

<https://rosscivic.org.uk/whats-on/>



The Venue

Free drop in Youth Club for 11 to 17 year olds

Summer opening

(August to September 11th):
every Weds and Thurs 6pm-8pm .
From 16th September: every Tues,
Weds and Thurs 6pm-8pm

**Come along for games, crafts,
snacks, sport and chats** . From
Thursday 11th September music
making is back!

For more information, please
contact: arichard@pt.lu or see
website: rossyouthclub.co.uk, or
check out our Facebook page -
BYT in Ross on Wye - for updates.



Ross Walking Festival

Ross Walkers are Welcome

26-28 September 2025

A special 50th anniversary
celebration of the Wye Valley
Walk, with diverse guided walks
which capture the
best of the river walk and the
highlights around. All walks are
only £5 with under 17s free –
except Walk 24 which is £10 but
includes a cream tea...

Some walks are already fully
booked, so don't leave it too late
to join!

The full programme details and
online booking are at
www.walkinginross.co.uk; and
tickets can also be bought from
any of the Rossiter Books
bookshops.

Rosswalkingfestival@outlook.com

Ross CDT is very grateful for support from these current
and recent funders:



Call our helpline
01989 313002



help@rosscdt.org.uk