



A NEWSLETTER
PRODUCED BY
WANTAGE
TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN NEWS



Furnishing the streets of Wantage

Wantage Town Council has recently installed four planters into the temporary pedestrianised area at the western end of the market place.

The planters provide two purposes: to separate the pedestrianised area from the highway and to make the area aesthetically pleasing. The flowers are now in full bloom and look marvellous!

The planters are manufactured from recycled plastic which does not rot, require staining or painting and does not fade, meaning they will look good year after year and require no maintenance.

Two benches have also been installed in the area and are made from the same material as the planters. A further two benches replace benches that were beyond repair. They can be seen on Charlton Road (opposite The Lord Nelson Public House) and on the corner of Maryfield/Ormond Road. The Town Council is in the process of assessing the benches around Wantage, identifying those that require replacing and areas where new benches would be an asset.

Please email deputyclerk@wantagetowncouncil.gov.uk if you know of an area that would benefit from a new bench. These will be considered.

Charlton Road – before & after



Maryfield/Ormond Road – before & after



FREEDOM!



**Jim Sibbald, Councillor Major,
Town Mayor of Wantage**

No, I am not channelling my inner Mel Gibson nor am I painting myself with woad, the Freedom to which I refer is in recognition for eminent service by the youth organisations of Wantage over many decades.

If you have lived in Wantage, since your youth, you may have been involved with one or more of these excellent organisations or maybe even have children who attend them now.

On Monday 2nd August the Town Council unanimously admitted the following youth organisations and granted them the Honorary Freedom of the Town.

- **Wantage Scout Group**
(Over a hundred years' service)
- **Wantage District Girlguiding**
(Since 1918)
- **Wantage Detachment of Nivelles Company, Oxfordshire Army Cadet Force**
(From around 1924)
- **1861 (Wantage) Squadron Air Training Corps**
(Since 1941 – 80th Anniversary)
- **The Sweatbox Youth Centre**
(Since late 50s but called Sweatbox since 1991 – 30th Anniversary)

On the national level of recognition, I am delighted to see that the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service was given to two local charities for their outstanding work:

- **Team Mikayla** – who put smiles on the faces of children fighting cancer
- **The Ray Collins Charitable Trust** – carrying out charitable purposes to those around Wantage and 'with special recognition – COVID 19'

Congratulations to all

Local Heroes

We would like to take this opportunity to raise awareness of the national award won earlier this year by our very own Sustainable Wantage.

The #NETCharityChamps acknowledged the award with the following words –

"Since the start of the pandemic, The Mix has had to stop some of its usual activities but the team has focused its efforts on meeting growing demand for its Community Fridge: collecting and distributing surplus food from local supermarkets and businesses to local people, prioritising those most in need. During the first lockdown alone, the team received 270 new sign-ups for the Fridge – and the high demand has continued. In the first 12 weeks of the first lockdown, the dedicated team volunteers made 2459 doorstep deliveries to more than 250 households in need of food.

Funding from the Co-op via the National Emergencies Trust and Oxfordshire Community Foundation, has enabled the project to expand and grow, in line with need. To date the Community Fridge has saved 57 tonnes of food from going to waste and has benefitted many who have been struggling to afford to feed their families."

Thanks to all involved and congratulations!



To Date...

5,695 doorstep deliveries made,
11,224 food bags collected from The Mix, reaching well over **800** households – **57** tonnes of food saved from going to waste

Did You Know...

Sustainable Wantage has also given out **500** reclaimed devices (laptops, tablets & desktop computers) since the first lockdown, saving 1,338kgs of electrical waste.

Their volunteer fixers at the monthly Repair Cafés have recently mended many items ranging from hoovers to hedge trimmers.

They have also refurbished 16 secondhand bicycles that might otherwise have been taken to the tip.



EVENTS 2021

Following the easing of the Covid restrictions there will be a return to events in the Market Place, as in previous years. Please note the following events will involve the full closure of the Market Place to traffic.

FAIRS IN MARKET PLACE

Saturdays 11th September and 16th October 2021

The fairs will arrive in the early hours of the Saturday morning, after 4am, depart before midnight and the whole of the Market Place will be closed to all traffic during this period. The closure arrangements will be the same as applied to the annual Dickensian Evening.

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION Centenary Celebration

together with

AIR CADETS' 80th Anniversary

Sunday 26th September 2021

The form of closure will be the same as that for the annual Dickensian Evenings but closing from 4am to 2pm.

DICKENSIAN EVENING

Friday 3rd December 2021

The closure will be in operation from 3pm to 11pm. The whole of the Market Place, and roads leading to it, will be closed to all vehicular access.

For all of the above, it will be necessary to close off the Market Place car parking areas the evening before to ensure that the space is clear for the events to proceed the next day. During the road closures, the Town Council will be implementing a comprehensive system of road signs.



WANTAGE LOCAL ARTISAN MARKETS



We've held four successful Local Artisan Markets in May, June, July and August. The weather certainly tested us, as it does any outdoor event in this country, but our local traders weren't deterred by a bit of rain and neither were the shoppers.

The products on offer range from fudge to mead and from jewellery to soap. We're always looking to find some new and different traders – a local beekeeper comes to the markets and in July a local wood turner joined us, selling beautiful hand-crafted bowls amongst other products. We hope to be adding some street-food stalls when regulations permit.

"It's great that Wantage is putting on these lovely markets," one visitor remarked at the July event. "The produce is excellent and varied, the stall holders are friendly and happy to chat about their passion for their products. The atmosphere is warm as people are happy to be finally out and about. I'm excited to see how it grows once the restrictions have been fully lifted."

For another visitor, who happened to be staying in The Bear while house hunting in the area, the market convinced them that Wantage was the place they were going to move to. "I loved the opportunity to support local people and their creativity.

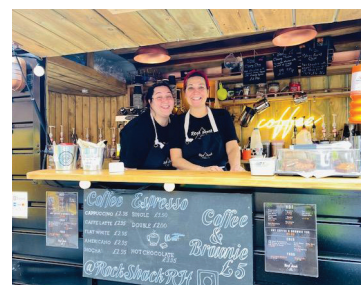
What a fantastic array of furniture, food and gorgeous, unique items for sale. It's clear from the people on the stalls and what they had for sale that so much time, love and energy goes into what they create. We can't wait to be part of such a fabulous community."

She was also kind enough to say that I (Andrea, Town Centre Manager) was "a wonderful advocate for the town." ("Well, I do my best..." comments Andrea).

"We can't wait to be part of such a fabulous community"

As both these visitors recognised, Wantage is very fortunate to have so many talented craftspeople (as well as a market square in which their wares can be displayed).

For more information, see the Wantage Markets Facebook page



* ENJOY LOCAL *
* SUPPORT LOCAL *
* SPEND LOCAL *
* SUSTAIN LOCAL *



www.wantagesummerartsfestival.com

Wantage Summer Arts Festival 2021



Whoosya! playing in the Market Place

Despite considerable hurdles, our month-long Festival of local art and music from July 1 to 31 went ahead with over 40 events from art exhibitions to a wide range of music. The festival programme was delivered to every home in Wantage (as was a list of organisations which local residents, especially newcomers, can join.)

Highlights of the Festival included a sea shanty evening outside Marmalade/30 Something, a concert of East European music at Holy Trinity Church, Charlton and a Picnic Opera event in the garden of Church House, Wantage. In addition there were several exhibitions in the Dolphin Gallery and an 'Art on the Railings' event outside the Betjeman Millennium Park.

Fun events included a Festival Film Night at Wildwood Wantage and a Festival Caribbean Evening on the 24 July at the Comrades Club, Wantage.

"Despite the limitations of Covid restrictions, we were determined to go ahead and keep this important event going in our town's calendar," the Festival's Artistic Director Jim Mitchell said. "Next year will be bigger and better than ever and will also hopefully include the return of the Wantage Literary Festival and the Town Carnival."

The Festival thanks Wantage Town Council and others for their encouragement and support.

For further details, please email jim@wantagesummerartsfestival.com.



There are a number of services and activities that take place in our town that are not the responsibility of the Town Council. We hope the following will be helpful in directing you to the right place.



- Allotments
- Annual Events, e.g. Armed Forces Day, Mayor's Carol Concert and Ball, and ad hoc events
- Chain Hill Cemetery
- Bus Shelters and Street Furniture
- Floral and Christmas displays
- Notice boards
- Planning Application Recommendations
- Management of Fairs
- Grants to local organisations
- Markets (including continental markets)
- Publications, including Town Guide

- Education and Schools
- Fire Service
- Highways, including potholes, tourism signs, gritting
- Libraries, recreation, arts and museums
- Public rights of way
- Social Services and Youth Service
- Strategic planning and some planning applications (mainly mineral extraction and waste disposal sites)
- Trading Standards
- Transport
- Waste Recycling Centres

- Car Parks owned by the District Council
- The Beacon
- Community Advice and Support
- Council Tax and Government Benefits, e.g. Travel Tokens
- Electoral Services
- Environmental Services, e.g. noise, pest control
- Help and support for businesses
- Housing Services
- Information about local services
- Planning Services
- Recycling, food waste and residual waste collections
- Restaurant and takeaway inspections
- Sports, and Leisure
- Street cleaning and dealing with fly tipping
- Tourist Information

Parking changes

Oxfordshire County Council is set to take over responsibility for civil parking enforcement from Thames Valley Police in Cherwell, South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse districts.

The way parking is controlled in these areas is set to change as the government has approved Oxfordshire County Council's bid to take on responsibility for civil parking enforcement.

The council already enforces parking in Oxford City and West Oxfordshire and will now take over from Thames Valley Police in the Cherwell, South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse districts, ensuring continuity across the whole county when the change comes into

place, which is currently expected to be on 01 November 2021.

The new arrangement is intended to help market towns in the post-COVID-19 recovery period as it leads to an increased turnover of spaces, which is better for shops and businesses.

Any motorists who park legally and responsibly will have nothing to fear from these changes. Oxfordshire County Council will be carrying out an information campaign in the run-up

to 01 November to let drivers who are currently flouting the rules know that they can no longer get away with it. If they continue, they can expect to be fined.

Parking offences, which include overstaying in pay and display bays, double-parking, parking in disabled bays without a blue badge and on yellow lines, will be enforced by a contractor on behalf of the council. Penalty charges range from £50-£70 but will be reduced by 50 per cent if paid within 14 days.

Once civil enforcement comes into force, members of the public will be able to report areas and incidents of illegal parking through a

dedicated email address and telephone line. Officers will investigate and take enforcement action as required.

NEXT ISSUE

Watch out for news of the *Meanwhile Spaces* project!



**Published by
Wantage Town Council**

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