



A NEWSLETTER
PRODUCED BY
WANTAGE
TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN NEWS

Season's Greetings

Jim Sibbald, Councillor Major, Town Mayor of Wantage



It was only three Town Newsletters ago that I was wishing you all a Merry Christmas (albeit in Anglo-Saxon) and to enjoy yourselves as safely as possible due to the COVID restrictions. This year we have a better chance of doing so thanks to the NHS, local GPs, local volunteers, and the vaccine manufacturers and logisticians.

My fingers are crossed that during this year's Advent and Christmastide we will be able to enjoy ourselves at such events as the Dickensian Evening on Friday 3rd December, the Mayor's (Virtual) Carol Service on Wednesday 8th and Christmas Eve Carols in the Market Place.

I have even been asked

to play the Town Mayor of Wanetyng in the local Parish Church pantomime to be rearranged in the New Year – maybe I will find my calling. I hope to also accompany the excellent Wantage Silver Band on the traditional Christmas Morning playing of carols throughout the town.

Next year is Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee and there will be many celebratory events, especially around the 4-day weekend (Thursday 2 June – Sunday 5 June) which I encourage all to take part or if you feel up to it volunteer in the preparations.

Please remember to look out for each other, help those who are vulnerable or lonely over the dark winter nights, but don't forget to enjoy Wantage at Christmas.

New Town Councillors

Wantage Town Council welcomes
Councillor Sinclair Third, Charlton Ward and
Councillor Andy Przbysz, Segsbury Ward

TOWN EVENTS

NOVEMBER

Sunday 28th, 10am-3pm
Christmas Market

DECEMBER

Friday 3rd, 6pm-9pm
Dickensian Evening

Wednesday 8th
Mayors Carols (Virtual)

Sunday 12th, 10am-3pm
Christmas Market

Saturday 18th, 5pm-8pm
Christmas Market

Friday 24th, 6.30pm
Carols in the Market Place

WANTAGE 2021 CHRISTMAS MARKETS

Come and support your local traders and shops!



Market Square, VC forecourt and where possible in West End pedestrianised Area.

Live Musical Entertainment, Food and Drink, Cafés, Bars, Restaurants and Pubs open.

Sunday 28th November, 10am-3pm
Sunday 12th December, 10am-3pm
Saturday 18th December, 5pm-8pm

For latest news visit: Wantage Markets Facebook page or email: andrea.yates@wantagecouncil.gov.uk



THE MEANWHILE SPACE PROJECT

An exciting project transforming vacant spaces in Oxfordshire...

What is it? The project – called 'Meanwhile in Oxfordshire...' – will see vacant retail units in high streets across the county transformed into independent shops, cultural venues, creative studios and co-working space.

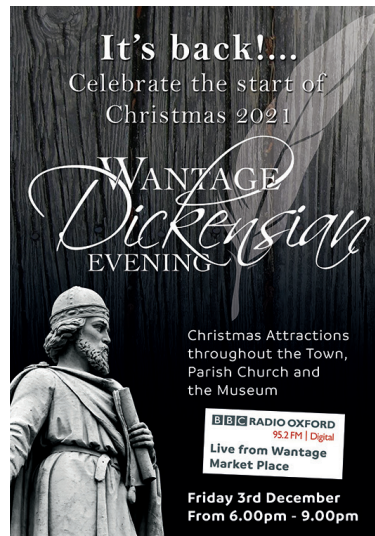
Oxford City Council teamed up with social enterprise Makespace to launch a £1.9m revitalisation of vacant shops across Oxfordshire and bounce back from Covid-19 during 2021.



Makespace Oxford formed a consortium with other local organisations to help run the 'Meanwhile in Oxfordshire...' project, and provide additional expertise and knowledge across the county. This partnership includes Wild Property, Transition by Design, Soha Housing, Fusion Arts, Aspire Oxfordshire and Independent Oxford, alongside national experts in this field, Meanwhile Space CIC.

Working with Wild Property Consultants, Andrea Yates, Wantage Town Centre Manager identified two properties within the town centre which could work well for this project.

"I've been in discussions with two separate Landlords to see if we can create an under-covered market type space which can be used by a number of small local businesses. However, the project funding must be spent by March 2022 and we are waiting to hear if the Landlords would like to take up the opportunity" says Andrea.



Wantage Dickensian Evening is back!

Once again we intend to fully enjoy our yearly tradition of evening festivities throughout the town, with live coverage from BBC Radio Oxford.

MARKET PLACE BUILDING RENOVATIONS

Extensive renovations have begun to buildings at 29-30 at the west end of the Market Place.

According to the contractors Hillsdown Construction of East Challow, the aim of the project is to renovate the property and to convert the two top floors into residential flats.

Scaffolding has been erected around the entire building by the contractors and will also extend approximately 8 metres from the front of the building to a waste skip, fenced off for public safety. (Please see photograph, right).

Access to the businesses operating from the ground floor: 30Something, Marmalade and SylhettiSpice will be as usual from early November with customers having to pass under the



Free Parking for Christmas Shopping

The District Council have offered three days of free parking in their pay and display car parks in the run up to Christmas.

This applies to: Portway (at The Beacon), Mill Street undercroft and Limborough Road (next to Sainsbury's).

Wantage Town Council have chosen the first three Saturdays in December.



scaffolding to access entry. The expected duration of the project is 14 months with contractors working from 7.30am to 5pm Monday to Friday. (Saturday working if required will be from 8am to 3pm).

Any enquiries concerning the ongoing work should be addressed to Dave Clayton, Hillsdon Construction –

Email: dc@hillsdon-construction.co.uk

Tel: 01235 772400 Mobile: 07771 898999



Building in progress at the west end of the Market Place



Vale & Downland Museum Update

It has been such a delight to welcome visitors back to the Vale and Downland Museum and Café. Following a great summer of family events, we are now looking ahead to our exciting winter programme.

We are kicking off the festive season with Dickensian Evening on Friday 3rd December – join us at the Museum for music, mince pies and mulled wine in the café, and a chance to meet Father Christmas! Our Father Christmas experience will feature a meeting with the man himself, a gift, and the opportunity to create your own tree decoration. Visit our website valeanddownlandmuseum.org.uk for more information and a link to book your spot.

The fun doesn't stop there, with our special festive fossil trail available throughout December along with

delicious mince pies in our café. Check our seasonal opening hours below and you'll be sure of a warm welcome throughout the Christmas period.

Friday 24th December:
9.30am – 1.00pm

Saturday 25th December –
Tuesday 28th December: Closed

Wednesday 29th December:
9.30am – 3.45pm

Thursday 30th December:
9.30am – 3.45pm

Friday 31st December:
9.30am – 3.45pm

Saturday 1st January –
Monday 3rd January: Closed

Tuesday 4th January:
9.30am – 3.45pm

In the meantime, be sure to visit us to see our new King Alfred Gallery, which celebrates the life of Wantage's most famous son and offers an immersive insight into Anglo Saxon life.

The gallery also includes an exciting new acquisition: a commemorative medal minted in 1849 as part of Wantage's Alfred millennium celebrations.

We are also continuing our diverse and regularly changing programme of temporary exhibitions in the Squires Gallery, with artwork by John Sirrelle on display between Tuesday 30th November and Saturday 18th December.

With so much to see and do (not to mention eat and drink in our wonderful café!) we look forward to welcoming you at the Vale and Downland Museum very soon.



Wantage welcomes buskers



Live performance of good music is encouraged in and around the Market Square especially during Market days and some other occasions. For further details please contact Jim Mitchell, Wantage Town Projects Co-ordinator at jim.mitchell@wantagecouncil.gov.uk

CLIMATE CHANGE NEWS

Following approval by the Wantage Town Council the Climate Emergency Committee have added the climate emergency plan to the Town Council website.

The plan documents the activities that the council has identified and would like to work on for the coming year. It also lists actions that the council would like to work on with the district and county councils and



organisations such as Harbug (a local cycling group).

Among other activities we are currently looking at are increasing the biodiversity in Manor Road Park as well as improving routes for pedestrians and cyclists around the town.

We would be very interested in hearing any feedback regarding the plan and proposed actions.

The plan can be accessed through the following link:
[Climate-Emergency-Action-Plan-01Jun-2021.pdf](https://wantagecouncil.gov.uk/Climate-Emergency-Action-Plan-01Jun-2021.pdf)
(wantagecouncil.gov.uk)

Feedback can sent via email to:
clerk@wantagecouncil.gov.uk





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.



01235 763459

clerk@wantagetowncouncil.gov.uk
www.wantagetowncouncil.gov.uk

- 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



01865 792422

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/contact-council
(for individual departments)

- 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



01235 422422

enquiries@whitehorsedc.gov.uk
www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk

- 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

New Parking Regulations

Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) is coming to South Oxfordshire, Vale of White Horse and Cherwell Districts including Wantage.

In summary, the changes came into effect on the 1 November 2021 and from this date, on-street parking enforcement in South, Vale and Cherwell Districts will be managed on the County Council's behalf by Conduent Public Sector UK Limited, who currently carry out on-street enforcement on behalf of the County Council within Oxford City.

This service is working well, and the County Council believes that it can extend the current operations with minimal disruption and costs.

For more information see the County Council's website:

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/roads-and-transport/parking/new-parking-enforcement-areas

YOUR FEEDBACK WELCOMED

We hope that you have enjoyed the articles in this and past Issues of the Wantage Town Council Newsletter. We welcome your feedback and suggestions.

These can be addressed to:

The Town Clerk

Tel: 01235 763459

Email: clerk@wantage.towncouncil.gov.uk

Other useful contacts:

Andrea Yates,
Town Centre Manager

Email: andrea.yates@wantagetowncouncil.gov.uk

Sheryl Sanders,
Deputy Town Clerk

Email: deputyclerk@wantage.towncouncil.gov.uk



Published by Wantage Town Council

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