



TOWN NEWS

A NEWSLETTER
PRODUCED BY
WANTAGE
TOWN COUNCIL

Wantage
FOOD FESTIVAL
Sunday 7 July 10am-3pm
WANTAGE MARKET PLACE

Food demonstrations!
Tasting opportunities!

Food and music from around the world!

For stall enquiries, please contact Town Centre Manager
andrea.yates@wantagetowncouncil.gov.uk



Message from the Mayor



As I write this it's a glorious sunny day and I'm minded to go for a walk on the Ridgeway. I am grateful to all those people that came to my 'Big Thank You' on 21st April I had a wonderful time. The Wantage Glee choir was excellent, the food lovely and we were looked after very well by the church. Thanks for all of the children they drew wonderful pictures!

On the 28th April at the St George's Day event I was lucky enough to meet and stroke a dragon!! Not every Mayor can say that. It was a great event with lots of wonderful stalls.

I am really looking forward to the Wantage Summer Arts Festival, 29th June to 7th July, where there will be local musical and arts organisations taking part.

On 7th July it will be the International Food and Drink Festival, last year's was excellent. Please come along to the events.

Angela Dunford

TOWN EVENTS

Wantage Summer Arts Festival

Saturday 29 June to Sunday 7 July
See events programme inside

Wantage Food Festival

Food and music from around the world
Sunday 7 July 10am-3pm
Wantage Market Place

Alfred Fest

Celebrating the town's glorious past

Sunday 27 October 10am-3pm
Wantage Market Place West

Christmas Artisan Fair and Market

Christmas gift ideas and music.
Sunday 1 December 10am-3pm

Dickensian Evening

The town's big Christmas event!
Friday 6 December 4pm-9pm
Wantage Market Place





WANTAGE COMMUNITY BUS PUBLIC MEETINGS ADVANCE NOTICE:

The Town Council will be holding an afternoon information and discussion meeting at 2pm on Wednesday 3rd July in the Silver Band Hall. We will repeat the meeting at 7.30pm on Wednesday 10th July in the Hanney Room at the Beacon.

The meeting will discuss potential routes linking Kingsgrove, the town centre and medical facilities, and areas of Wantage where residents may find it hard to get to the major bus routes. The service will accept bus passes and be wheelchair friendly.

Potential customers and those interested in driving or helping will be most welcome.

Look out for additional information on Town notice boards etc. in due course.

Iain Cameron

Wantage Town Councillor and Deputy Mayor

Alzheimer & Dementia Day Care Centre

Opening hours 9am to 3pm
Wednesday, Thursday and Friday

1-3 The Cloisters, OX12 8AQ
Tel. 01235 760428
enquiries@octoberclub.org.uk

Our Aims: To provide a safe and comfortable environment where clients can be cared for with understanding and treated with dignity. We give relief support to families of those attending the Club.

The Friends of The October Club organise fundraising events to pay for additional items for clients' comfort and enjoyment. If you are interested in helping, please contact the Manager: teresaoctoberclub@talktalk.net

Photo by Noah Boyer on Unsplash



'Remarkable' Roman villa discovered in Grove

Not only a great Anglo Saxon history!

A 'remarkable' Roman villa has been unearthed on a local housing development.

Archaeologists from the Red River Archaeology Group came across the complex while working on a Barratt and David Wilson Homes housing development at Brookside Meadows in Grove near Wantage, Oxfordshire.



WANTAGE LITERARY FESTIVAL Runs from 28th October to 9th November

Wantage Literary Festival has started the year off with a bang! We've refreshed our brand – spot our new logo! Let us know whether you like it on our Facebook page.

Wantage Literary Festival is pleased to welcome back some familiar faces this autumn including Sir Max Hastings, Helen Fry, Larry Lamb, Johnny Ball and Pam Ayres.

We will be hosting some new and interesting names including Laura Laker talking cycling Britain's National Cycle Network, Mike Dilger with his book *1,000 Shades of Green* looking at British wild plants and Katherine Carter, Curator at Chartwell speaking of Churchill in the inter war.

Visit our website for the complete programme of events. www.wantageliteraryfestival.co.uk Tickets for the autumn events programme go on sale 1st May.

As part of the Summer Festival held annually in Wantage we are hosting Graeme Hall. Graeme will be at the Beacon on 29th June to promote his book *Does My Dog Love Me?*. You may have recently seen Graeme on Channel 5 TV and on Netflix with his programme *Dogs Behaving Very Badly*. Tickets now on sale through our website.



WANTAGE SUMMER ARTS FESTIVAL 2024 PROGRAMME
SATURDAY 29 JUNE TO SUNDAY 7 JULY

Saturday 29 June

MUSEUM FUNDRAISING SUMMER FÊTE
3pm free entry but donations welcome. Join us for lots of stalls and games as we raise money for the Vale & Downland Museum. There will be crafts stalls, tombolas, bric-a-brac, antiques and collectables, a plant stall and lots more! Tel: 01235 771447 Email: info@valeanddownlandmuseum.org.uk

ART IN THE CHURCH

Contemporary art in an ancient space. Free exhibition by local artists in the atmospheric surroundings of the Medieval Parish Church, Wantage. Open Sat 29 June 10am-4pm (refreshments available) and Mon 1 to Thurs 3 July 10am-12noon. Launch event Sun 30 June 3pm. www.wantageparish.com/community/art

WANTAGE LITERARY FESTIVAL
Graeme Hall *Does My Dog Love Me?* 7pm The Beacon, Wantage Tickets £12-£17.50 (Booking fee applies) www.wantageliteraryfestival.co.uk

Sunday 30 June

MARKET PLACE BRASS
Wantage Silver Band. Market Place west end. 2pm free event

FESTIVAL EVENSONG

4pm free entry but donations welcome. Wantage Parish Church. Choral music from Wantage Parish Church Choir, preceded by an opportunity to view the exhibition with a glass of wine from 3pm. Delight your senses and your soul!

KENNET OPERA

Summer Opera Concert, Methodist Church, Wantage 2pm Tickets £15 to include a cream tea. From Kennet Opera in Wantage jumblebee.co.uk

Tuesday 2 July

PRINTMAKING WORKSHOP
A day of lino printing with Lizzie Wheeler www.lizziewheeler.co.uk Parish Church, Church St, Wantage. £50 including materials. Email: administrator@wantageparish.com to book.

FOLK AND FOOD SPECIAL

With Greengage playing 6.30pm-9pm. Down to Earth Café, Stirlings Close, Wantage OX12 7AU Tickets £18 including delicious buffet. From <https://rb.gy/0irzfl>

Wednesday 3 July

WANTAGE TALES
1.30pm Gallery Talk by Trevor Hancock. Join our local historian as he tells stories from Wantage's past. Hear about Jim's Stores, a well known grocery business in Wantage, plus the tale of the mysterious Matron Elsie Gaudion of Wantage Hospital, and a possible World War Two spy! Tickets £7.50 and must be booked in advance. Available from the Vale & Downland Museum or www.ticketsource.co.uk/vale-downland-museum

www.wantagesummerartsfestival.com Supported by Wantage Town Council

ART COMPETITION PRIZEWINNER'S EVENT

6.30pm Dolphin Gallery, 23-24 Market Place, Wantage OX12 8AE Free entry by invitation Tel: 01235 763030

Thursday 4 July

FESTIVAL PIANO EVENT
7.30pm Wantage Parish Church. Think you can play piano as well as on the Channel 4 programme? Any style welcome. Tel: 01235 767975 or email: jamesmitchellonevoice@sky.com £5 audience on door, performers free.

Saturday 6 July

WRITERS OPEN MIC.
Love writing? Join us for a fun, relaxed event, to read poetry and prose with other like-minded people. 2-3.30pm Wantage Library. Free entry. No need to book, just come along!

WANTAGE CHORAL SOCIETY

Music by Chilcott, Rutter, Shearing and Gershwin 7.30pm Letcombe Regis Village Hall Tickets £15 including wine (under 16s free) from <https://www.wantagechoralsociety.co.uk>, Wantage Bookshop, members of the choir or on the door.

Sunday 7 July

WANTAGE ORCHESTRA – SUMMER CONCERT
Tchaikovsky, Jacob, Mendelssohn Soloist – Tabitha Appel 7pm Wantage Parish Church, Church Street, Wantage OX12 8AQ Tickets £10, seniors £8, under 18s free. At the door £1 more. From www.wantageorchestra.org.uk or Wantage Bookshop or Regent Book Shop.

ST. GEORGE'S DAY REPORT



Neither the weather or the Dragon could keep the crowds away from the festivities on Sunday, April 28 in the Market Place.

In addition to the Dragon and friends there was Chloe and her farm animals plus lots of great music, food and drink.

A great big thank you to Andrea Yates and her Town Council Team!



Museum Fundraising

The Vale & Downland Museum has been faced with rising costs of late, so we are looking at ways that we can increase our opportunities to fundraise.

We have the museum fête planned for 28th June, which is an excellent opportunity to raise funds. So, if you are able to help by volunteering your time on the day or donating items in advance, that would be much appreciated.

Adult Tombola – all items un-opened please e.g. bottles, cans, toiletries, scented candles.

Children's Tombola – small items, preferably unused or in as-new condition e.g. small toys, books, colouring books, games.

Bric-a-brac – things that you no longer need/use, or never really liked, but have stored them anyway!

Vintage/collectables – items that will sell for more than a pound or two – typically £10-£50, e.g. decorative cups & saucers, plates, bowls, glassware, cutlery, ornaments, old cameras from the 1950s/60s/70s.

Plant stall – any seedlings or grown plants welcome.

If you have any other ideas for fundraising, or would like to help with organising fundraising events & activities, please get in touch.

Tel: 01235 771447 or contact: info@valeanddownlandmuseum.org.uk



Letcombe Brook Project Changes

Mark Bradfield has now stepped down as Project Officer for the Letcombe Brook Project, a position he held for the past six years.

Mark is taking some time out travelling with his partner in Canada, hoping to see as much wildlife as they can.

In his place is Judith (Jude) Verdon, who joins the project from the Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust, where she ran the Wild Banbury project and BBOWT's catchment partnerships. Jude can be reached via: projectofficer@letcombebrook.org.uk



Wantage Town Council works alongside Oxfordshire County Council and Vale of White Horse District Council. We hope you'll also find these contact details useful.



01235 763459
clerk@wantagetowncouncil.gov.uk
www.wantagetowncouncil.gov.uk



01865 792422
www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/contact-council
(for individual departments)
To report street related problems:
fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk



01235 422422
enquiries@whitehorsedc.gov.uk
www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk

YOUR FEEDBACK WELCOMED

We hope that you have enjoyed the articles in the Wantage Town Council Newsletters.

Feedback and suggestions are welcome to:

The Town Clerk

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Email: clerk@wantagetowncouncil.gov.uk

Town Centre Manager

Email: andrea.yates@wantagetowncouncil.gov.uk

Deputy Town Clerk

Email: deputyclerk@wantagetowncouncil.gov.uk

Town Project Coordinator

Email: jim.mitchell@wantagetowncouncil.gov.uk

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