



TOWN NEWS

A NEWSLETTER
PRODUCED BY
WANTAGE
TOWN COUNCIL

A message from your new Mayor Cllr. Angela Dunford



I am honoured to have been elected Mayor of Wantage.

Firstly I want to pay tribute to the incredible work that my predecessor achieved. Jim Sibbald was mayor of Wantage for the last 4 years and put so much effort and energy into the role. I would like to celebrate his dedication to our town.

I was born on a farm on the Welsh English border. I work in the Healthcare industry and came to

Wantage 17 years ago and love the town. My children were educated here and I have a lot of dear friends. I enjoy cycling around our beautiful countryside and learning languages.

This is a great opportunity for me to give something back to the town and I am already busy promoting our town and the events taking place here. Do let me know if there is something going on that we can support.

My charities are Team Mikayla, Riding for the Disabled and the Letcombe Brook project.

Team Mikayla because of the work that they do with children with cancer, organising events to make people smile during challenging times.

Riding for the Disabled as I love riding and know the huge benefit that spending time with animals can bring.

Letcombe Brook Project as protecting the environment is so important and the Brook is a valuable, lifeblood of the town that we need to treasure.



KINGSGROVE NEWS

Kingsgrove is home to a new housing development in Wantage and home to a very old oak tree known as the 'Family Oak'. The beautiful oak sits proudly along the Kingsgrove Woodland Walk – dedicated paths that form a figure eight and join older trails to the town and the local countryside.

Everyone is invited to join the weekly community walks around the Kingsgrove Woodland Walk on Thursdays from 1pm-2pm, leaving from the Kingsgrove Café on Rutherford Road.

For information contact Anne Richardson, Community Development Officer for Wantage and Grove, working for Vale of White Horse District Council, email kingsgrovecommunity@southandvale.gov.uk

TOWN EVENTS

Sunday 24 September

Wantage Art Club
10am-3pm
Market Place
pedestrianised area

Sunday 8 October

Artisan Market
10am-3pm
Market Square

**21 October -
4 November**
Wantage Literary Festival

Friday 27 October

French Market
9am-5pm
Market Square

Saturday 28 October

AlfredFest
10am-4pm
Market Place
pedestrianised area

Saturday 11 November

Armistice Day
two minute silence
11am VC Forecourt

Sunday 12 November

Remembrance Parade
10.45am
From The Beacon car park

Sunday 26 November

Christmas Artisan Market
10am-3pm Market Square

Friday 1 December

Dickensian Evening
6pm-9pm
Market Place and
surrounding areas

Sunday 10 December

Christmas
Artisan Market
10am-3pm
Market Square

Sunday 24 December

Mayor's Christmas
Carols around the
Christmas Tree
6.30pm
Market Square

AlfredFest



Celebrating King Alfred

Saturday 28 October
10am-4pm
Wantage

More from;
jimmitchellpc@outlook.com



Chamber Reinvigorated

New Faces, New Vision: Introducing the Wantage Chamber's Committee for Business Revival

The Wantage Chamber of Commerce is excited to announce its newly elected committee members. These individuals were selected for their passion for supporting local businesses, their own business skills that they can share with the community and a desire in helping the Wantage community thrive.

Leading the new committee members is Steve Taylor (Chairman) owner of Toy Planet. Steve has been an active member of the Wantage business community for over a decade and is eager to take on a leadership role. "I care deeply about this town and want to see it continue to prosper," said Steve. "The Chamber presents opportunities for businesses to connect and lift each other up, which ultimately lifts up Wantage as a whole."

One of the first priorities identified by the new committee is to reinvigorate the 'Love Wantage' initiative. They plan to develop a campaign to encourage community members to support Wantage businesses first when making purchases. "Studies show money spent at local businesses recirculates multiple times and has a bigger economic impact," noted Steve. "We want to help people understand the benefits of going local but also that we have a great selection of shops and services to chose from."

With the energy and passion of these new committee members, the Wantage Chamber of Commerce is poised to increase its support of this thriving town. "I'm so grateful these talented individuals have stepped up to help shape the future of commerce in our community," said Wantage Chamber President, Richard Shepherd, owner of Motorlux. "Together, we can ensure Wantage remains a vibrant, prosperous place for businesses and residents alike."

E-SCOOTERS

What you need to know



It's illegal to ride a privately owned electric scooter in public

Did you know it's illegal to ride a privately owned electric scooter (e-scooter) in public. This includes around Wantage and Grove.

That's because e-scooters are classed as motor vehicles in law. So, in theory, this means that you need an MOT, road tax and insurance to use one, however it isn't currently possible to register e-scooters in this way.

Privately owned e-scooters can only be used on private land, with the permission of the landowner.

You cannot use a privately owned e-scooter on the road, pavement or in a public space. If you do then you risk receiving a large fine, points on your driving licence and your e-scooter could be seized.

Some parts of the UK are running government trials of rental e-scooters. If you're over 16 and have a full or provisional driving licence, then you can use these on public roads and cycle lanes.

Just check that your driving licence covers categories AM, A or B.





NEW TOWN MAYOR AND DEPUTY FOR WANTAGE

Councillor Angela Dunford has been elected as new Town Mayor for Wantage. Angela has worked in the Healthcare industry with medicines and medical devices for over 25 years and came to Wantage 17 years ago.

Councillor Iain Cameron has been elected as Deputy Town Mayor. Iain spent many years in the Research industry and is currently Chair of the Trustees for The Vale and Downland Museum.


Information about other town councillors, their roles in any committees and which wards they represent can be found on the Town Council website:

www.wantagecouncil.gov.uk

Call for Letcombe Brook volunteers!

The Letcombe Brook Project is looking for volunteers to help monitor the brook, its wildlife, threats from pollution, climate change, new developments and to help with its general upkeep.

Full training will be given to anyone interested in helping to maintain and monitor one of only 93 chalk streams in the world – and initially they are asked to contact the project's chair Anthony Harker on aph.radosigmail.com for an informal chat.



Market Place Pedestrianised Area Opportunities

Are you part of a local group or organisation that would like to publicise yourself to the Wantage community and show off your talents?

Wantage Town Council are inviting local groups or organisations to use

the pedestrianised area in the Market Place for promotions and events.

If you would like to discuss this in more detail, please contact andrea.yates@wantagecouncil.gov.uk



There has been recently an increase in aggressive and impolite behaviour towards public servants – be it in the health service, local council and government, your local shops or indeed to people in general.

So please respect others as they try to do their jobs.

If you do not get the immediate attention or satisfaction, or the rapid answer you wish for – please remember they are doing their jobs to the best of their abilities in difficult and stressful times.

So give them a little extra patience – and treat them as you would wish to be treated yourself. What a happier place it would be if this became widespread!!

Councillor Tony Gilhome

Community Bus Survey



Looking at transport needs for the Wantage and District Community

The Town Council led Working Group is progressing its plans for a Community Bus service in and around Wantage. (Please see previous article in Wantage Town News, Issue 9 through our website: wantagecouncil.gov.uk/town-newsletters/).

We are keen to get the views of local residents in Wantage (including Kingsgrove) and the

villages to the west and east of Wantage.

A Transport Needs Survey will be available for residents to complete either online or in hard copy with a free return envelope. Further details will be included in a flyer to be distributed in September.

Analysis of the results of the survey will inform our plans for a community bus service.

If you are interested in helping by being part of the working group we are particularly interested in people with business skills relevant to running a bus company.

Please contact the Chair, Councillor Iain Cameron by email at iain.cameron@wantagecouncil.gov.uk or the Town Council Offices on **01235 763459**

21 October – 4 November 2023















For more details and to book, visit our website: [WWW.WANTAGELITERARYFESTIVAL.CO.UK](http://www.wantageliteraryfestival.co.uk)

Wantage LITERARY FESTIVAL

Registered Charity No: 1198376



Hosts and Seesen friends enjoying a day out on the Kennet and Avon Canal

Welcoming our Seesen friends again

Wantage and Grove Twinning Association were very pleased to receive their German friends again in June. One of the various excursions arranged was a trip on board the Rose of Hungerford along the Kennet and Avon Canal where they enjoyed a Fish and Chip lunch. More members are always welcomed to host both French and German visitors as well as visits to Mably in France and Seesen in Germany.

For More information contact: greta.thornbory@btinternet.com

How do you get around?

A new local travel survey aims to find out...



Local group Wantage and Grove Active Travel (WAGAT) has put a survey together to understand the local community's

views on the current state of infrastructure for walking, wheeling and cycling in the area, current preferences for transport use on local journeys and hopes for the future.

WAGAT has a number of initiatives underway to enable more local active travel in preference to car use and this survey is intended to give a baseline from which to measure future improvements.

This is supported by the Mayor and the Town Council's Climate Emergency Sub-committee and we encourage everyone to respond to the survey so we can get the widest possible understanding of this important area. Please complete the survey online at www.tinyurl.com/wgtravel

The survey is open from 1 September to 15 October.



Winning Self-Portrait

The Dolphin Gallery and Wantage Summer Arts Festival are pleased to announce that the winner of the 2023 over 16 Self-Portrait Competition is Jamie Clayton.

The under 16 award was won by Ted Froud, aged 13 of King Alfred's Academy.



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@wantagecouncil.gov.uk
www.wantagecouncil.gov.uk



01865 792422

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



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
Tel: 01235 763459
Email: clerk@wantagecouncil.gov.uk

Other useful contacts:

Andrea Yates,
Town Centre Manager
Email: andrea.yates@wantagecouncil.gov.uk

Sheryl Sanders,
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