



TOWN NEWS

A NEWSLETTER
PRODUCED BY
WANTAGE
TOWN COUNCIL



Please don't idle, Turn It Off!

Keeping the engine running – known as idling – while parked at the side of the road, sitting in traffic, or waiting to collect someone, contributes to an increase in levels of air pollutants.

These air pollutants are linked to a higher chance of developing lung cancer, heart disease, asthma, coughs and bronchitis, particularly in vulnerable people such as older people and children.

According to information from DEFRA, if a vehicle engine is turned off and restarted after a minute or more this will result in less pollution than if the vehicle was idling for that time.

Keeping the engine running when the vehicle is not moving wastes fuel. So, turning off makes sense from both a health viewpoint and a financial one.

This is a very simple small step that everyone can take and can make a difference.

Did you know?

Stationary idling is an offence under **Section 42** of the **Road Traffic Act 1988**.

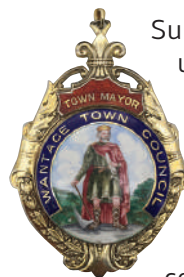
The act enforces **Rule 123** of the **Highway Code**, which states:

'You must not leave a vehicle's engine running unnecessarily while that vehicle is stationary on a public road.'

If you're caught idling you could be hit with a **£20 fixed-penalty fine** under the **Road Traffic (Vehicle Emissions) Regulations 2002**, rising to **£40** if unpaid within the required timeframe.

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Jim Sibbald, Councillor Major,
Town Mayor of Wantage



Summer is well upon us with heatwaves, droughts, and hosepipe bans in some places.

We had an excellent Platinum Jubilee celebration in the Market Place – I hope that you enjoyed it as much as I did.

Hopefully, those of you who can, will be able to take a well-deserved break following the disruption caused by the last couple of years.

The Wantage Silver Band continues to entertain us on Sundays with Market Place Brass, the Wantage Literary Festival is rapidly approaching in October as is the next Artisan Market.

We have also welcomed guests from Ukraine, and I thank all of you who are showing so much support in welcoming them. I wish you a great Autumn. Keep safe!

Yours aye, Jim Sibbald

TOWN EVENTS

Sunday 18 September

Ray Collins Charitable Trust
Arts & Crafts Market,
10am to 4pm

Saturday 24 September

Kingsgrove Community Day,
12pm to 4pm

Sunday 2 October

Wantage Artisan Market
Market Place
10am to 3pm

Saturday 15 October

Wantage Fair, Market Place
All day





THE BIG JUBILEE LUNCH

On June 5, the town celebrated Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee with a full programme of entertainment in the Market Place hosted by Wantage Town Council

Residents were also able to enjoy a giant picnic on tables and chairs provided. Hot and cold food, plus free children's entertainment was also available.

The event began with the Wantage Silver Band marching into the Square followed by an opening address by the Town mayor, Major Jim Sibbald.

Performers throughout the day included The Vintage Sweethearts, Wantage Big Band, Free for All and Little Green Shed Rock Groups, Wantage Rock Choir and the American Dance School.

The day concluded with a surprise event: Wantage Silver Band provided a 'Flash-mob' with performers emerging from various points around the square. A memorable day for our great town!



Andrea Yates, Town Manager with compere Jim Mitchell

Thanks also to voluntary contributions from, amongst others, Ben Elliott, James Millar, Mackenzie Cooper, Aasvogel, Broadway Motors, Grove Rugby Club, Ridgeway Young Explorers, The Town Crier: Dave Richardson, John Winch.



Photo by Maggie Hale



Photos directly above and right column bottom two by Rebecca Sheather



ENGLISH LESSONS FOR UKRAINIAN FAMILIES

Wantage Town Council are very pleased to support English language lessons for Ukrainian families (parents and children). These have been held upstairs at Wildwood Restaurant on Wednesday afternoons between 4pm and 6pm. (many thanks also for their generosity) but will be moving to a new location. More volunteer teachers are welcome.

Please contact: jamesmitchellonevoice@sky.com for more information.



Kingsgrove Community Day

Calling all residents of Kingsgrove –

Come along to a day celebrating Kingsgrove, with activities, food and drink and a chance to talk about the future of the open spaces at Kingsgrove. We look forward to seeing you.

Saturday 24 September 12-4pm, Kingsgrove Public Square, Rutherford Road, Wantage, OX12 7FX

For more information please email community@kingsgrovewantage.co.uk



A couple of editions ago we ran a piece on the project that is in progress this year to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee...



Photo by Precious Plastic Melbourne on Unsplash

This is a reminder that it will soon be tree planting season again and so if you are planning to plant trees or would like to it is worth having them logged as part of the 'Plant a tree for Jubilee'.

All of the trees planted are recorded and entered on a map. Details can be found on the Woodland Trust website.

If you have any questions or queries please visit the Woodland Trust or BBOWT websites to learn more.



Photo by George Balfour on Unsplash

Getting ready to plant those trees

Do let the Town Council Climate Emergency Sub-committee know so that we can report on what has been planted in the next editions.

We welcome your photos for the newsletter as well.





Dave Reynolds in the Market Place

Music in the Market Place

This summer has seen excellent performances from various bands under the Wantage Silver Band 'umbrella'.

These have taken place in the recently pedestrianised 'West-End' of the Market Place.

This area is proving suitable for all types of similar entertainment.

'Buskers' have also been playing in the town centre during Saturday and local Artisan markets.

Anyone or any group interested in showing their talents should contact Town Project Coordinator Jim Mitchell on email:

**jim.mitchell@
wantagecouncil.gov.uk**



This year's Festival ran from July 1st until July 31st and included over 40 events from local performers, groups and artists.

Events took place in various venues around the town but fine weather allowed many of these to be held outdoors especially performances by Wantage Silver Band in the west end of the Market Place, popular ghost walks around the town and of course 'Beasties River Dipping' by courtesy of the Vale and Downland Museum.

The Festival began with support for our local American Dance School in the Dance World Cup Finals and culminated with our Festival Rock Party at the Beacon with veteran local groups Thunderbird and the A-Watts.

Other items ranged from Ballet to Bat Walks and included Art Exhibitions at the Dolphin Gallery.

Local groups or individuals that would like to participate in next year's Festival should contact **jim@wantagesummerartsfestival.com**



A-Watts (top two) and Thunderbird (above) performing at the Festival Rock Party

© Photos: Howard Hill Photography



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@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,
Deputy Town Clerk**
Email: deputyclerk@wantagecouncil.gov.uk

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