



TOWN NEWS

A NEWSLETTER
PRODUCED BY
WANTAGE
TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN EVENTS

Wantage Artisan Christmas Market

Sunday 27 November 10am-3pm

Wantage Dickensian Evening

Friday 2 December 6pm-9pm

Mayor's Carol Service

Wednesday 7 December,
From 7pm
Parish Church of
Saints Peter & Paul

Wantage Artisan Christmas Market

Sunday 11 December 10am-3pm

Wantage Artisan Christmas Market

Friday 16 December 5pm-8pm

Christmas Eve Carols in the Market Place

Saturday 24 December
From 6pm



Mayor's Message

Jim Sibbald, Councillor Major,
Town Mayor of Wantage

The present year has seen both joy and sadness in Wantage with HM Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee and of course her sad passing. In September a proclamation of the ascension of King Charles III was given by myself in the Market Place.

My Mayor's Carol Service is on Wednesday 7 December, 7pm in the Parish Church of Saints Peter & Paul. There will also be Christmas Carols in the Market Place on Christmas Eve at 6pm. I hope to see many of you there or at the Dickensian evening on Friday 2 December. I hope to also accompany the excellent Wantage Silver Band on the traditional Christmas Morning playing of carols throughout the town.

Meanwhile can I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year!

WANTAGE ARTISAN
Christmas Markets
2022
Christmas gift items, food, music and entertainment

MARKET PLACE AND SURROUNDS, WANTAGE

27th November
10am-3pm

11th December
10am-3pm

16th December
5pm-8pm

Contact Wantage Markets Facebook page or andrea.yates@wantagecouncil.gov.uk for further info

Photo by Howard Hill

FREE Parking for Christmas Shopping

The District Council has agreed the first three Saturdays in December. This applies to Portway (at The Beacon), Mill Street undercroft and Limborough Road

Saturday 3rd December
Saturday 10th December
Saturday 17th December

New shops come to Wantage Town Centre

'About You Bridal' opened their doors on Saturday 15th October for the first time with a spectacular opening at their premises in Mill Street.

Sharon Lowe and Michelle Woodley decided 6 months ago after having a coffee to set up their own bridal business. They offer an extensive range of wedding gowns, bridesmaid, prom dresses, mother of the bride/groom outfits as well as accessories.

They pride themselves on giving

each client a unique experience and working with local businesses such as the recently opened florist House of Flowers in the Market Place as well as local hair & beauty salons, a travel consultant, jewellers and a night club, they can cover most of your wedding needs.

Starting a new business is challenging at the best of times, but Sharon and Michelle have taken that daunting step and already have visions to expand into menswear.

#supportlocalbusinesses



Sharon Lowe and Michelle Woodley in their bridal shop 'About You Bridal'



Find a WARM welcome at your local library

You'll get a warm welcome in our libraries. Given steeply rising energy bills, it is anticipated that many residents will feel they are not able to heat their homes adequately this winter.

The county council will offer warm places across the winter – with the focus on its libraries network.

Libraries will be offered as welcoming and warm places for people to spend time, helping with isolation, loneliness and mental wellbeing as well as warmth. Everyone is welcome – and you'll have access to the internet and computers as well as our wide range of books and audio books.

There is also a plan to offer a grants

scheme for community venues to contribute to their energy costs with the proviso that they would open for a set time each week.

This will support existing activities (stay and play schemes, lunch clubs etc) as well as encouraging new initiatives. There will be a £100,000 fund available for organisations to bid for.

Would your group, club or charity like to promote your activities or attract new members by promoting in the Market Place West End?

Contact Jim Mitchell – jim.mitchell@wantageandgrovefoodbank@gmail.com



COMMUNITY BUS WORKING GROUP – MEMBERS WANTED

Are you interested in helping get a Community Bus up and running locally? Do you have relevant skills and enthusiasm to join a local working group?

If so local councillors would like to hear from you.

Wantage Town Council has set up a working group of local councillors from Wantage and Grove to explore the possibilities for a local bus in the OX12 area. This exciting development is at an early stage and no decisions have yet been made on where and when this should run.

In order to help to develop the business case for a Community Bus we are seeking expressions of interest in joining the working group. In particular we would like to hear from individuals from the local community who have relevant skills or experience such as, a transport background, relevant business or fundraising skills or even significant experience as a bus user.

If you think you can help us please get in touch giving a short statement of the skills and experience that you would bring.

Please contact Councillor Iain Cameron (Chair of the working group) by email at iain.cameron@wantageandgrovecouncil.gov.uk or via the Town Council offices Tel: 01235 763459

A FOOD BANK AND COMMUNITY LARDER PLEA

The Food Bank and Community Larder is faced with more demand and fewer donations from supermarkets and encourage people to be more generous with donations. Thank you.

wantageandgrovefoodbank@gmail.com

WANTAGE AND GROVE ENERGY SUPPORT FUND

Find out if you could be eligible for home support

contact: help@vci.org.uk or call 01235 765348

Refurbishments around the town

- * The parking area within the market square has been resurfaced to ensure that the potholes that had developed over time were made safe.
- * The white lining has been refreshed and the bollards and litter bins surrounding King Alfred's statue have been painted.
- * The opportunity to create two disabled parking spaces was considered and implemented. They are easily visible and are marked in yellow in the central parking area opposite Coral Bookmakers.
- * The Town Council has also added new waste bins at the Cemetery.



Look out for the National Refill stickers!

The national Refill scheme has started in Wantage and the objective is to reduce the use of single-use plastic water bottles by creating a network of Refill 'stations' across the town to make it easy for people to refill their water bottle, rather than buying a new one.

Local cafés, bars, restaurants, pubs, museums and galleries that join the Refill scheme get a blue Refill sticker on their window and are plotted on the Refill app. The Beacon, Wantage has already been operating this scheme for some time.

The Refill scheme is supported by Wantage Town Council, local MPs, and the Lord-Lieutenant of Oxfordshire.

To find your local refill point or to add your business as a station download the refill app today.

Telephone: 07367 877 727
Email: info@cagoxfordshire.org.uk

King Charles III Coronation Celebrations



The coronation of His Majesty King Charles III and his wife Camilla as his consort is set to take place on Saturday, 6 May 2023 at Westminster Abbey. A bank holiday has been declared for the following Monday.

Wantage will of course be celebrating the occasion and a working group has been established. If you would like to participate in these arrangements or

have any suggestions on how the town can celebrate, please contact the town manager Andrea Yates on andrea.yates@wantagetowncouncil.gov.uk



Getting ready to plant those trees

In previous editions we ran a piece on the project in progress this year to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. 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 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. Do let the Town Council Climate Emergency Committee know so that we can report on what has been planted in the next editions. We also welcome your photos for the newsletter as well. Contact us via: clerk@wantagetowncouncil.gov.uk

CLAIM A FREE TREE FOR YOUR GARDEN

The International Tree Foundation and Oxfordshire Trees Collaborate are working together this autumn to offer free tree saplings for people to plant in their garden. For more information and to order a free tree please visit the [International Tree Foundations website](https://www.internationaltreefoundation.org/).



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)



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@wantagetowncouncil.gov.uk

Other useful contacts:
Andrea Yates,
Town Centre Manager
Email: andrea.yates@wantagetowncouncil.gov.uk

Sheryl Sanders,
Deputy Town Clerk
Email: deputyclerk@wantagetowncouncil.gov.uk

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