

TOWN NEWS



A NEWSLETTER
PRODUCED BY
WANTAGE
TOWN COUNCIL

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



The Christmas season is here and it's always something special in Wantage.

We hope you enjoyed the Artisan Market on 30th November and, of course, the Dickensian Evening on 5th December. We also hope you were able to support the local businesses that opened especially for gift shopping during the Dickensian celebrations.

I'd like to thank everyone who joined me for the Mayor's Carols in the Parish Church on 3rd December, where we enjoyed some of the musical talent for which Wantage is renowned. The event also helped raise funds for my supported organisations, Parkinsons.Me and Sweatbox.

Please look out for details of other Christmas events on the love wantage website, enjoy the festive season, and stay safe.

Wishing you every happiness this Christmas and in the New Year.

-Cllr Dr Iain Cameron



STUART RAE AWARDS

The Mayor of Wantage attended the annual Stuart Rae Challenge awards at the King Alfred Scouts' hall on Saturday 8th November.

The awards were presented by Liz Keevill, Stuart Rae's sister, in the presence of the John May, High Sheriff of Oxfordshire, and the Mayor of Wantage. They were awarded to six scouts from local scout groups.



From left to right: Lewis - Grove, Leo - Grove, Elizabeth - Grove, Jodie - Grove, Zosia - Wantage, Cora - Watchfield and Shrivvenham

The challenge culminates in an incredibly challenging 2-day outdoor expedition in Wales. Which was made even more challenging by coinciding with storm Amy in October.

The awards honour the legacy of Captain Stuart Rae who was a former member of 3rd King Alfred Scouts. Stuart was killed in action in 1971 and Rae Crescent in Kingsgrove was named in his memory.

THE GREAT BIG GREEN WEEK

The Great Big Green Week is the UK's biggest ever celebration of community action to tackle climate change and protect nature.

It will take place from 6th - 14th June 2026, and we want Wantage to take part!



If you are a community group, sports club, artist, library, local business - or just someone who cares about climate change - **you can apply for Wantage Town Council Funding to host a Great Big Green Week event in Wantage.**

We want to see all kinds of events, that celebrate local activity and raises the profile of climate change.

You can apply for up to **£250** to run your event by completing an application form. Please scan the QR code for the application form and then submit the request to deputyclerk@wantagecouncil.gov.uk by **27th Feb 2026**

All events must take place in Wantage between 6th - 14th June 2026.

If you want more information about Great Big Green Week or how to run an event visit: www.greatbiggreenweek.com






VOLUNTEER DRIVERS NEEDED!

Wantage and District Community Transport CIC working with Wantage Town Council is launching a new community bus service—and we need your help to get it moving!

We're looking for volunteer drivers to operate a 16-seater minibus on a timetabled route (Wed–Sat, up to 7 trips/day)

You'll need:

- A D1 licence entitlement
- Willingness to complete MiDAS training
- A DBS check

If you're interested, please get in touch with your availability and any relevant experience by emailing: communications@wantagecouncil.gov.uk.

Volunteers will be invited to meet with the Directors of the Company.

Help us keep Wantage connected!

HELP KEEP WANTAGE TIDY

Want to make a difference in your local area?

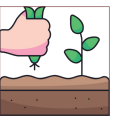
Oxfordshire County Council offers a range of volunteering opportunities to help keep our highways and public spaces in great condition:



FixMyStreet Super Users: Report and raise repair requests for potholes, damaged footpaths, kerbs, or blocked drains on smaller (30mph or less) roads. Training and support provided.



Road Sign Cleaning: Borrow a sign-cleaning kit to safely clean road signs from ground level on 30mph roads or less.



Vegetation Clearance & Weeding: Help keep pavements and signs clear. Great for groups—waste collection can be arranged.



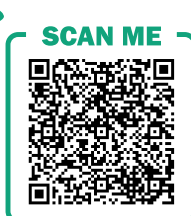
Snow Wardens: Assist in clearing paths during snowy weather. Hi-vis jackets, snow shovels, and guidance are available.



Support & Equipment Provided
Volunteers receive equipment, promotional materials, and full support from the County Council.

Interested? Email: volunteercoordinationteam@oxfordshire.gov.uk or visit the Oxfordshire Together – Volunteer for Highways website.

Let's work together to keep Wantage clean, and welcoming for everyone!



SAFE PARKING

Please Do Not Park on Pavements

Pavement parking endangers pedestrians and blocks access for wheelchair users, people with visual impairments and parents with pushchairs. Please also avoid parking across dropped kerbs, as these are vital for safe crossing.

Yellow Lines:

They apply to the whole highway, including footways and verges. Parking on pavements where yellow lines are present is enforceable by Oxfordshire County Council. Causing an obstruction where there are no lines is enforceable by the police.

Outside Schools:

Stopping on pavements, zig-zags or yellow lines puts children at risk. Please park safely or “park and stride.”



WARM SPACES

As temperatures drop, local libraries, leisure centres, and community organisations across the Vale of White Horse are offering warm, welcoming spaces for anyone who needs them.

To find your nearest location, simply scan the Warm Spaces QR code.



Some Leisure Centres are also open as Warm Spaces - a place where you can charge your phone, enjoy a hot drink, and have a friendly chat with others.

Stay warm, stay active, and enjoy all that our community has to offer this winter.



REMEMBRANCE

Wantage came together to mark Remembrance Sunday on 9th November, with a parade and service honouring those who have served and sacrificed for our country.

The parade set off from Portway Car Park and made its way through the town to the church, where a moving service and wreath-laying took place at the war memorial.

It was wonderful to see so many residents lining the streets and joining the service – thank you to everyone who attended and helped make the occasion so special.



On Tuesday 11th November, the Mayor of Wantage and local representatives also gathered on the VC Forecourt, outside The Bear Hotel, to observe the traditional two-minute silence at 11am.

Our sincere thanks go to all who took part, volunteered, and supported these events.



On Saturday 6th December, Wantage joined the national celebration of Small Business Saturday, an initiative that shines a spotlight on the fantastic local businesses that make our town so special.

This year, we marked the occasion with an event in the Market Square, encouraging everyone to shop local and show their support for our brilliant independent traders.

For more information on small businesses in Wantage, visit the Love Wantage website: www.lovewantage.uk/portfolio or scan the QR code on the back page.

WANTAGE EVENTS

ALFREDFEST

Wantage came alive on Sunday 26th October for AlfredFest, celebrating our very own King Alfred the Great, who was born here in the town.

Despite the chilly weather, huge crowds turned out to enjoy activities across the Vale & Downland Museum, Wantage Church, King Alfred's Pub, and the Market Place.

The day was packed with history, music, and community spirit, bringing residents and visitors together to honour Wantage's royal heritage.

A big thank you to everyone who came along, took part, and helped make the event such a fantastic success – it truly was a day to remember!



Did you attend Alfredfest? Is there anything you really enjoyed? Or think we could do better next year? Scan the QR code to send us your feedback.



CHRISTMAS MARKET

Our Christmas Artisan Market took place recently in the Market Place, bringing festive cheer and community spirit to the heart of Wantage. The event featured a wonderful range of local makers, food stalls, and seasonal entertainment – the perfect way to kick off the Christmas season! We ho ho hope it got you feeling festive!

SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY

Never miss a Wantage event again - sign up for our E-newsletter here to stay updated!





FOLLOW US!

Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and BlueSky for the latest news, event updates, and useful information.

Don't miss out on what's happening – join the conversation and be part of our growing online community.

Search

@WantageTownCouncil
to follow us!



Tell us what you think!

Wantage Town Council is inviting all residents to take part in our Community Survey - your opportunity to help shape the future of our town and win a £50 voucher!

To take part, please scan the QR code or visit our website: www.wantagetowncouncil.gov.uk

If you would prefer a paper copy, these are available to collect from:

The Beacon, Portway, OX12 9BX




LOVE WANTAGE

Love Wantage is your guide to the best local shops, cafés, restaurants, pubs, and things to do.

Scan the QR code to discover more!

SCAN ME!





A message from your Town Council

Wantage Town Council wishes to reaffirm the warm welcome it extends to all people coming to our town.

Whether it's to work, shop, study or live in Wantage, everyone should feel welcome and safe here, and able to contribute to our community in a meaningful way.



Flooding in Wantage? Are you ready?

Wantage Community Flood Group

Tuesday 13th January 2026

The Beacon, OX12 9BX

7:00 pm

Flooding can happen quickly and affect homes, roads, and businesses in our town. By volunteering, you can help your community respond faster and stay safe.

Join the Wantage Active Community Flood Group to take practical steps that reduce flood risk, support your neighbours, and strengthen our community's resilience.

What members of a Community Flood Group do:

- Raise Awareness:** Share advice and tips to help neighbours stay safe.
- Monitor Water Levels:** Keep an eye on local streams and report issues.
- Support Residents:** Assist vulnerable neighbours during floods.
- Help Recovery:** Provide practical support after flooding.
- Training Provided:** Learn how to respond safely and effectively.

Make a real difference in your community.
Gain skills and knowledge in flood preparedness.
Be part of a local team keeping Wantage safe and resilient.

YOUR FEEDBACK WELCOMED

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

Feedback and suggestions are welcome to: communications@wantage-towncouncil.gov.uk



Published by Wantage Town Council

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