



A NEWSLETTER
PRODUCED BY
WANTAGE
TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN NEWS

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

“ Well Spring is quite definitely with us and I hope that you have all been able to enjoy the spring flowers in gardens and parks or by the roadsides. As Parkinsons.Me is a Mayor’s Charity I visited their wonderful garden at Lockinge back in February to help prepare it for Summer. Like any garden there are always tasks waiting to be done so a dedicated team of volunteers meets from 10-12 on the first Saturday of each month. They are always happy for help and they have plenty of gardening tools for you to use. Even if you just want to sit and enjoy the garden when you are passing please do drop in.



In February we held the annual Town Volunteers reception to thank local volunteers for the work that they do. This year we were honoured by the attendance of the High Sheriff of Oxfordshire who spoke about the importance of encouraging and supporting young volunteers. The evening was well-attended and it was great to meet a fair number of new attendees. Wantage is fortunate to have so many willing volunteers across a wide range of organisations. I am sure there are still some volunteer groups that we have missed so if you know of any please send the details to communications@wantagecouncil.gov.uk

I wish you all the best as the days get longer and we move towards summer.

-Cllr Dr Iain Cameron ”

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

The Government is consulting on major changes to local government in Oxfordshire and West Berkshire - a once in a generation decision that could shape local services for decades.

District and county councils would be replaced by new unitary councils, bringing all council services under one authority. Three options are being considered.

Residents are encouraged to familiarise themselves with all three proposals and share their views.



RESULTS OF THE TOWN SURVEY

A huge thank you to everyone who took the time to complete the recent Town Survey.

Over 700 responses were received, providing invaluable feedback to help shape future decisions.

A report highlighting some of the answers is now available on our website which you can view by scanning the QR Code here.



A working group is being arranged to thoroughly analyse the results and plan next steps, and updates will be shared as the process continues.

Your input is greatly appreciated and will help guide the future of the town.

As a thank you for participating, vouchers to local businesses were awarded to 3 lucky winners.

£50 Charlton Garden Centre voucher
- Abigail Freathy



£25 So Pure voucher
- Alexandra Brown



£25 Lesley Ford voucher
- Brianna Walker





SPEED INDICATOR DEVICES



Two new Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) have been installed at locations in Wantage identified as areas of speed concern.

The devices display drivers' speeds, providing a visual reminder to encourage safer driving. SIDs are widely recognised as an effective measure to support road safety.

A SWEET SCENTED FIND

While sorting through old files, we recently discovered a delightful letter from 1983, written by six year old Stephen Jenkins of Grove on The Muppets stationery. Stephen applied for a Saturday market stall to sell his homemade perfume - rose petals infused in water. His request was gently declined on account of his age, though the council assured him that if he was still interested at eighteen, he could be added to the waiting list.

We tracked him down in Scotland, He remembered the letter instantly, laughing at his childhood creations. While he joked that taking a stall today would involve a rather long commute, he hasn't ruled out a future visit - this time working on product development. We have now sent the original correspondence to him.

NEW BUS SHELTER FOR WANTAGE!

After a year-long effort, a new bus shelter has been installed at the Grove Airfield Memorial stop on Denchworth road. As one of the most exposed spots in the area, this was a much-needed improvement for Wantage passengers.



Thanks to Oxfordshire County Council for providing the land and Grove Parish Council for taking on maintenance, local bus users can now wait in comfort and stay dry before boarding. A small change that makes a big difference!

GARDEN WASTE PERMITS

Residents who receive garden waste collections in South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse are being reminded brown bin permits expire on 31 March each year and residents must buy a new one annually to keep receiving the service.

The quickest and easiest way to buy a new permit is online.



BAG IT & BIN IT!

Putting dog waste in a bag and leaving it on verges, footpaths, or hedgerows is classed as littering. This behaviour is unacceptable and can result in a fixed penalty notice of up to £500.

Please take dog waste home or dispose of it in a designated bin.



Leaving bags behind harms our environment and creates unnecessary work for others.

Thank you for helping to keep our community clean and pleasant for everyone.

WANTAGE FLOOD GROUP



On Tuesday 13th January 2026, an active community flood group was officially formed in Wantage. The group aims to bring together local residents to help improve flood awareness and resilience across the town.

The group will be able to apply to receive funding from Wantage Town Council as part of its budget for flood-related projects, with additional guidance and support provided by the Council. However, it will be primarily community-led, ensuring that residents have a direct role in shaping its activities and plans.

Wantage Town Council encourages anyone interested in joining the group to get involved. Residents can register their interest or find out more by contacting communications@wantagecouncil.gov.uk. This new effort demonstrates the Town Council's commitment to working collaboratively to protect its residents and strengthen community resilience.



TOWN COUNCIL GRANTS

Wantage Town Council is proud to support local groups through grants. Below, you can see how a couple of these groups are putting their funding to good use in the community.

HOME START SOUTHERN OXFORDSHIRE



**Southern
Oxfordshire**

As a small, local charity, we were delighted to receive a £2,000 grant from Wantage Town Council to help us continue supporting families with young children in the area via our network of trained home-visiting volunteers.

We believe that every child deserves to have the best start in life, but we know that parenting during the Early Years can be really overwhelming, especially if a parent is also dealing with issues such as low self-esteem, isolation or past trauma. Home-Start Southern Oxfordshire recruits and trains people to become home-visiting volunteers, who are then matched with a family, and provide weekly non-judgmental support in the family's own home.

We'll be holding another Volunteer Preparation Course in April and May, so if you're interested in volunteering - we'd love to hear from you! Just 2 hours a week of your time could make a huge difference to a family's life!

FUTURE FLOOD RESELIENCE GROUP



The Future Flood Resilience Group are local volunteers working

with local councillors on a community project to identify the underlying causes of local flooding.

Our scientific investigation of the Letcombe and Childrey Brook catchments will help find mitigations and solutions to local flooding.

We are grateful to Wantage Town Council for the award of a grant to cover our overheads and purchase equipment that will benefit Wantage where surface water and Brook flooding is an issue and help surrounding communities.

Find out more about our work, including our Flood Alleviation Dashboard, at: www.futurefloodresilience.co.uk

WANTAGE SUMMER ARTS FESTIVAL



Wantage Summer Arts Festival 2026
Theme: Wantage Past, Present and Future
Dates: 28 June – 11 July

Local musicians, choirs, art groups, book clubs and other community organisations are invited to take part in this celebration of creativity.

For more information, contact: jamesmitchellonevoice@sky.com

EVENTS AT THE BEACON

This spring, **The Beacon in Wantage** is buzzing with activities for all ages. From film screenings to wellness events.

On Saturday 18 April, the Beacon Makers and Craft Fair will showcase handmade goods from local artists - a perfect way to support small creative businesses. **From craft to culture, there's plenty to enjoy this Spring!**

UPDATE FROM OXFORD BUS COMPANY



We're making some changes!

To improve punctuality and reliability across our network, Oxford Bus Company and Thames Travel are updating our services to run more smoothly with the new Congestion Charge and free Park&Ride services. From Sunday 22nd February, our new timetables will come into play and be updated on both our website and app. If you're not sure about your journey, check out the journey planner on our website, or contact our customer service team for help. We're here to make sure your travel is as smooth as possible.

For Wantage, the main affected services are the X1 and X15.

For more information, feel free to check out our website!





WANTAGE Dickensian EVENING

The Dickensian Evening Committee is currently looking for enthusiastic volunteers to help with the planning and smooth running of this much loved town event.

Your support is vital to help keep this festive tradition going. If you have some time to spare and would like to get involved, please contact the committee directly at: wantagedickensian@aol.co.uk to find out more information.

Even a small contribution of time can make a big difference – the committee would love to hear from you!

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!



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!



2026 SAVE THE DATES!

EXCITING EVENTS ARE COMING TO WANTAGE. HERE ARE YOUR SAVE THE DATES.

26 APR

11:00 AM – 3:00 PM

St Georges Day event

Slay the Day at Wantage's St George's Day Celebration! Join us for a day full of dragons, music, and medieval fun for the whole family!



05 JUL

11:00 AM – 3:00 PM

International food & drink festival

Celebrate global flavors at the International Food & Drink Festival! Join us for a delicious day of food, culture, & community.



29 NOV

11:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Christmas Artisan Market

Don't miss the Wantage Christmas Market – it's tree-mendously fun for all the family!



04 DEC

4:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Dickensian Evening

Celebrate the the most wonderful time of the year at Wantage Dickensian Evening!



ALL EVENTS ARE HELD IN WANTAGE MARKET PLACE

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 town council.gov.uk



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