



Town Crier



June 2020

Abingdon-on-Thames Town Council News and Events
Summer 2020

58th Edition



In this Issue:

- **Community Spirit**
- **County Hall Museum**
- **VE Day**
- **Message from the Mayor**

Community Spirit

Since our last edition of the Town Crier the Covid-19 pandemic has changed our daily lives dramatically.

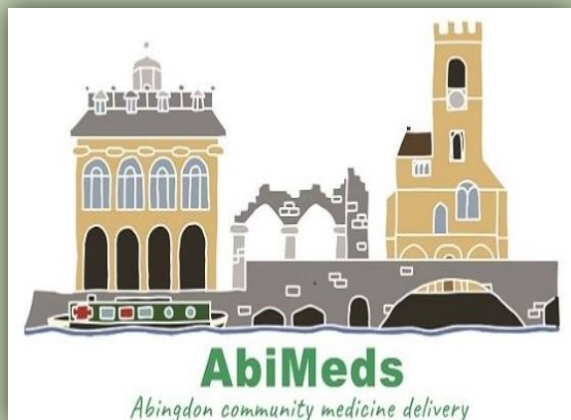
Alongside the difficult restrictions in place Abingdon has seen an unbelievable level of community spirit as many new initiatives have been set up to help protect our most vulnerable.

Abingdon Coronavirus Community

Response team: A voluntary group with over 400 "Street Contacts" across Abingdon who can help with shopping, arranging collection of prescriptions, posting mail - or just a friendly phone call. Every Abingdon house should have had one of their purple and white cards with a named contact, but they can also be easily reached by emailing:
abingdoncoronaresponse@gmail.com



If you know someone who could benefit from this fantastic neighbourhood initiative then do get in touch.



AbiMeds: prescription collection and delivery for anyone – not just those who are housebound – in order to reduce the risks caused by the long queues at pharmacies. They can collect from Boots, Jhoots and Lloyds and are using the Community FreeSpace as the Hub for their prescription delivery service.

Deliveries (by bicycle) are on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and can be booked via a dedicated phoneline **01865 818351**, available 9.00 – 16.00 Monday-Saturday.

Please note this information is correct as of May 2020. Please check the website for the latest guidance and advice at www.abingdon.gov.uk

Helplines: the District Council has set up two helplines for people who do not have support from friends or family.

Those who are on the NHS "extremely vulnerable" register can ring 01865 897820 or email shield@oxfordshire.gov.uk.

Others can call 01235 422600 or email:

communitysupport@southandvale.gov.uk

The lines are open **8.30am to 8pm Monday to Friday and 9am to 5pm on Saturday and Sundays.**

Abingdon Town Council funded Hi-Viz Jackets for the community volunteers. This enabled the volunteers to be easily identifiable when shopping for others at local supermarkets and making deliveries. It also made them identifiable to anyone that might need their help.

The website:

<https://abingdon.help/>

has lots of information about shops, businesses, restaurants offering takeaway meals, garden centres etc to make life a bit more pleasant.



Other agencies such as Citizens Advice, Carers Oxfordshire, Age UK, the Community Fridge, The Foodbank etc are all still operating. Please check the websites directly for the latest opening hours and contact details.

Virtual VE Day Commemorations



Abingdon Town Council had been making preparations to mark VE Day 75 and although, due to Covid-19, things were no longer possible as they were originally planned, we were still able to remember the sacrifice of those who won our peace and marked this anniversary in our own homes instead of out together in the streets.

There was a time table of virtual events on the Town Council Website for people to join in with at home.

The day started with a 2 minute silence at 11 AM and finished with the Queens Speech at 9 PM.

The day included a virtual cry from the Guild of Abingdon Town Criers.





We encouraged people to put out flags, decorate the house and dress up.

We had some fantastic pictures sent in.



The Mayor of Abingdon, Cllr Charlie Birks, was also able to lay a wreath at the War Memorial as part of his daily exercise.



County Hall Museum

What we've been up to during lockdown

In accordance with government regulations the Museum has been closed to the public since mid March, however that hasn't stopped the fun.

Our Museum staff have created plenty of activities and games. If you would like to find out more about the objects in the museum you can even visit our collection online here <https://ehive.com/collections/4128/abingdon-county-hall-museum>



On our website you will also be able to find lots of activities, games and quizzes for all the family. We're going to share a new activity every Friday to keep your weekends nice and busy!

Can you remember what the bun decoration was for the Bun Throwing in 2016?

Or which Royal Marriage was celebrated in the bun throwing of 1986?

Then why not test your knowledge with our Bun throwing quiz?

There's Bun-dles of fun to be had...



....What's on



We've uploaded some colouring sheets, enjoy colouring the Museum and its collection. With printable PDF versions to download there is hours of entertainment for those rainy days.

There is even a Museum blog full of interesting information!



You can also complete crosswords and even have a go playing with some of our online jigsaw puzzles!



Make sure you like and follow Abingdon Museum on Social Media for the latest news!



Message from the Mayor..



Across the world everyone's lives have been disrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic and we find ourselves suddenly in the middle of some incredibly challenging times.

Throughout Abingdon, amid the difficult restrictions and worrying times, we have seen a really heart-warming response to this crisis in the number of volunteers coming forward to form essential community groups and going out of their way to help protect our most vulnerable.

I would like to offer my condolences to all those who have lost loved ones to Covid-19 and my well wishes for those still battling.

I would also like to offer my heartfelt thanks to all those key workers across the country who have been responding to this pandemic including the emergency services, and those still carrying out essential roles even at a risk to themselves.

While the battle continues and as we come out the other side, this community spirit and kindness will be as important as ever.

I want to finish this by extending my thanks to each and every one of you who have played your part in battling this virus by staying at home and adhering to the regulations and guidelines.

I hope it won't be long until we can meet again in easier circumstances.

Best Wishes

C. Birks

Cllr Charlie Birks

Mayor of Abingdon-on-Thames

*We have created a page on the website with links, information and advice.
Please visit the Website at www.abingdon.gov.uk for more information.*