



Town Crier



December 2020

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

60th Edition



In this Issue:

- **Covid -19 Support**
- **Neighbourhood Plan**
- **Abibinit Litter Initiative**
- **Street naming in Abingdon**
- **Spring Road Cemetery**
- **What's on**

Help during the Corona Virus Pandemic

Abingdon Town Council wants to make sure every resident knows where to access support during the ongoing Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Not everyone has family or friends living nearby and if for any reason you find yourself struggling during this time, there are a number of local organisations, charities and groups that are ready, willing and able to give you the support you need.

Vale of White Horse Community Hub is standing ready to support you, including with food and prescription deliveries. They'll be able to put you in touch with other community and volunteer groups or services (some of which are listed here).



The Community Support team is available on 01235 422600 between 8.30am and 5pm, Monday to Thursday, and between 8.30am and 4.30pm on Fridays.

Email: communitysupport@southandvale.gov.uk

Website: www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk

Abingdon Coronavirus Community Response

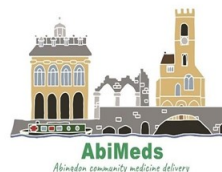
was established in the spring to help the residents of Abingdon support each other throughout the pandemic. Having completed over 3,000 errands including help with shopping, collection of prescriptions and friendly chats, they are ready to serve the town again over the winter months.



To request help (or to sign-up as a volunteer), complete the form on their website: www.abingdoncommunityresponse.org or email: abingdoncoronaresponse@gmail.com.

AbiMeds provides a phone advice service for those needing help arranging prescription deliveries from local pharmacies.

AbiMeds also offers a limited prescription delivery service on Fridays but this will only be available to those in the government's Clinically Extremely Vulnerable category if they have been unable to set up prescription delivery with their pharmacy.



Call 01865 818351 between 9am and 4pm, Monday to Friday.

Abingdon Community Fridge redistributes surplus food to those in need and is currently open Monday evenings between 6pm and 7pm, and on Wednesdays and Saturdays between 10.30am and 11.30 am. All welcome, just turn up!



The Abingdon Community Fridge is currently located at the Health and Wellbeing Centre on Crabtree Place, OX143GD.

Email: abingdoncommunityfridge@gmail.com
Website: www.abingdoncommunityfridge.org.uk

Abingdon Food Bank is open on Tuesday and Friday mornings at Christ Church on Northcourt Road between 11am and 1pm and on Wednesday afternoons at Preston Road Community Centre between 1pm and 2.30pm. They also deliver on a Friday to those unable to travel.



Food parcels contain a nutritional balance of food to feed a household for a minimum of three days. Stock is donated by individuals - you might have seen the collection point in Waitrose - churches, schools, community groups and businesses in the local area.

If you need help from Foodbank you will need to get a referral from Citizens Advice (0300 3309 042) or another local agency. If you are struggling and your need for food is immediate, you can call them directly or come along to the next Foodbank session and they will help.

Call 07562 247443 or email: info@abingdon.foodbank.org.uk.
Website: <https://abingdon.foodbank.org.uk>

Abingdon Good Neighbour Scheme is a friendly group of DBS-checked local volunteers who give their time and services free of charge. They help people of all ages, but their services may be particularly useful to older people needing support with practical tasks, including gardening, as well as regular phone chats and friendship.



To request help or to volunteer, contact them by phone: 07956019611 or email: gns.nea@gmail.com

Citizens Advice Abingdon provides free, independent, confidential and impartial advice to anyone in need.



If you have money, benefit, housing, energy or employment problems, or are facing a crisis, Citizens Advice can help you find a way forward.

The Citizens Advice team is available on 08082787907 between 9am and 5pm, Monday to Friday.

Website: www.citizensadvice.org.uk

Help during the Corona Virus Pandemic

Oxfordshire Mind

Oxfordshire Mind are able to support anyone who has mental health difficulties, and ensure that people have somewhere to turn to for advice and support. Oxfordshire Mind provide support for mental health in Oxfordshire, and provide a range of mental health services. Oxfordshire Mind are available Monday to Thursdays 9:30 - 4:30 pm (Fridays 9:30 - 4:00 pm), there is facility to leave a voicemail and we always respond to voicemail, you can contact them by:-

Phone: 01865 247788

Email: info@oxfordshiremind.org.uk



Age UK Oxfordshire offers a range of services to support older people, including Phone Friends, a confidential telephone service for people aged 50+ who feel lonely and would benefit from a regular, free friendly chat.



Simply ring Paula on 01295 234 850 or email: phonefriends@ageukoxfordshire.org.uk.

They also provide free, independent and confidential information and advice on a wide range of subjects affecting older people.

Call 01865 411288 (for support) or 03454501276 (general enquiries).

Email: admin@ageukoxfordshire.org.uk

The Abingdon Bridge exists to support young people (aged 13 to 25) with free guidance and emotional support. They do this by providing counselling, 1 to 1 support, and focused workshops.



Call 01235 522375 or email: info@theabingdonbridge.org.uk.

Oxfordshire Domestic Abuse Service provides confidential advice and guidance as well as practical help.

To access support via the Oxfordshire helpline, call 0800 731 0055, between 10am and 7pm weekdays. (This number is free and will not show on your home telephone bill but it might appear on an itemised mobile phone bill.)

Neighbourhood Plan update

Update on the Neighbourhood Plan

The project was officially launched at the Annual Town Meeting in March 2020, however the nationwide lockdown that followed just a few weeks later, and the ongoing public health emergency, has made engaging people more difficult than would normally be the case.

However the response to the last Town Crier magazine and social media posts has now brought forward a fantastic range of local voices that the Neighbourhood plan

team are engaging with. This group took part in a briefing meeting with Fera, our Neighbourhood Plan consultants, in mid October and have been involved in carrying out assessments of their local neighbourhood areas.

The results of these assessments will help to form part of the research base for the neighbourhood plan.

At the time of writing, these local assessments are being carried out by individuals and small teams across Abingdon. When these are finished, we will be able to identify any gaps in the assessments and potentially carry out further research work. Following this localised assessment work, representatives of the various town institutions will be invited to get involved. The project team are keen to combine the voices from Abingdon's various local neighbourhoods with those representing the town's established societies, institutions, and larger organisations. Together, this will create a balanced and effective steering group. The project will then move forwards from there.



Abibinit litter initiative



AbiBinit! was formed at the beginning of 2018 to help keep Abingdon a litter free Town and foster civic pride. Litter picking is a great form of exercise, can be done by anyone and connects us with nature. It also acts as a great 'nudge' to those who are still littering.



Dexter Mayer clearing up the garaged area - Appleford Drive



Alex & Kyle Clifford litter picking the Ock Walk because "we want to make where we live beautiful again."

Great News: Many Abingdon residents now regularly litter pick around their own neighbourhoods bringing a sense of civic pride and ownership to their area whilst improving the environment on their doorstep. Many children, horrified by the amount of litter dropped in their favourite parks and play areas, also love the chance to join in with litter picking during their walks. It's a win-win situation both for the local residents, the wildlife, and the environment.

AbiBinIt! now has an interactive map up and running, as people, particularly children, have really taken to keeping their own neighbourhood's tidy and litter free, which is amazing.



Leo & Noah Yoyejob are keen to keep their play areas free of litter.



Isabella-Rose Pierron litter picking around the Tythe Farm Estate



Isabel & Sam Spurgeon with Dad Chris regularly clear up Fitzharrys Manor Green.

Thank you for helping to keep Abingdon tidy!

To see the full version of the map, and for more information about how to get involved please visit www.abingdoncivicsociety.org.uk/activities/abibinit-litter-picking-initiative

Street Names in Abingdon

The first phase of the development off Dunmore Road is well under way and the developers and Vale of White Horse District Council recently consulted Abingdon Town Council on some new street names for the development.

Have you ever wondered where the name of your street came from? Was it the surname of a Past Mayor or maybe the name of one of Abingdon's Twin Towns?

We spoke to Abingdon's Honorary Archivist Mrs Jackie Smith who confirmed the main criteria for choosing street names in the past has usually been:



- Historical connections and figures such as Past Mayors
- Connections with Abingdon Abbey
- Important families in Abingdon

If we go back to the 1930's when the town started to expand the prime source of new names reflected important individuals such as past Mayors. This can be seen in names such as 'Boxhill' and 'Barbour'. In South Abingdon we see this again in places such as 'Saxton' and 'Blacknall'. This trend continued into the 1950's with the award-winning estate on the east of Wootton Road including names such as 'Darrell', 'Cheyney' and 'Harcourt'.

For a full list of all Abingdon's Past Mayors to see if you can spot your road name head to the Town Council's website at: <https://www.abingdon.gov.uk/your-mayor/mayors-abingdon-thames-1556>

The AERE estates for example at Fitzharrys and on the Oxford Road chose names of Abbey estates and manors, such as 'Aston', 'Welford' and 'Lyford'.

Then in the early 1970's new estates were named after poets, for example 'Tennyson Drive', 'Wordsworth Road', and 'Masefield Crescent'.

Even Abingdon's Twin Towns get a look in with 'St Niklaas Close', 'Argentan Close' and 'Lucca Drive.'

It seems that the town's history continues to influence the choice of names as this year's suggestions were also deceased Past Mayors and Freemen of the town.

For more information on this and other similar subjects head to the Abingdon Town Council website's History Pages: <https://www.abingdon.gov.uk/partners/history/streets>

Spring Road Cemetery

Situated within the Spring Road cemetery is an area set aside for the more eco conscious burial. This area is maintained as a wild flower meadow although it does require some maintenance, namely annual cutting. This is carried out with machinery and then manually raked which is labour intensive and somewhat wasteful.

So instead The Council are looking at acquiring a handful of sheep to graze at the above area in a controlled manner.

A beehive has also been successfully installed in the Spring Road Cemetery as another way of enriching our biodiversity within the cemeteries!

Have you seen the wild area?

It's Bee-Ewe-tiful!..



What's on...

Depending on the current government guidelines at the time events may differ from those normally taking place at this time of year.

You are advised to check the Abingdon Town Council website for the latest information on events.



Many of the usual Christmas services and events have been cancelled this year due to the Covid-19 pandemic but there will still be a chance for some festive fun.

The churches across Abingdon (through "the Church in Abingdon") are arranging for people to sing "Silent Night" at 8pm on Thursday 17th December on their doorsteps.



Please visit the events page on Abingdon Town Council website
At www.abingdon.gov.uk for more information!