



# Town Crier

## September 2021



Abingdon-on-Thames Town Council News and Events

Autumn 2021

63rd Edition



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# Youth Council

Abingdon Integrated Youth-Support Project is a collaboration between Abingdon DAMASCUS Youth Project (ADYP) and The Abingdon Bridge (TAB) which has an aim of achieving two primary objectives:

1. Establishing the feasibility of bringing about an Abingdon-wide multiservice collaboration to offer earlier, better support, which is streamlined to meet the needs of all Abingdon young people.
2. Ensuring that the diverse voices of young people (particularly those most disadvantaged) are heard at all levels of policy making within Abingdon Town Council and other service providers.

Keep an eye out on the town council website and the social media accounts of DAMASCUS and TAB to find out more.



## Parking

We have now received confirmation from Oxfordshire County Council that civil parking enforcement will commence on 1st November 2021. The introduction of civil parking enforcement will provide us with the opportunity to make some improvements to parking arrangements in Abingdon and we would value the views of Abingdon residents. Please keep an eye on the town council website where there will be a dedicated section to allow us to consult with Abingdon residents.

## Oxford-Cambridge Arc consultation

People across South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse are being urged to have their say on the Oxford-Cambridge Arc, a government led project which will have an impact on the district in the future.

The Oxford-Cambridge Arc includes the area between Oxford, Milton Keynes and Cambridge and aims to make significant economic, social and environmental improvements across the region by 2050 and beyond.

The government is currently developing a vision for the Spatial Framework – a long-term strategic plan for growth across the area – which will help support planning for the future with the aim of helping to create jobs, drive investment, protect and enhance the environment, and provide infrastructure to make the Arc a better place to work and live.

The government has announced a 12-week public consultation on the future of the Ox-Cam Arc and people are being encouraged to help to create the Spatial Framework's vision for the area.

Once agreed, the shared vision will help to determine which new policies are developed and ultimately will shape government plans for the Oxford to Cambridge Arc region.

How to have your say:

This public consultation is the first of three that will guide a new Spatial Framework over the next two years.

To find out more and to have your say visit [placebuilder.io/futureofthearc](https://placebuilder.io/futureofthearc). The consultation is open until 12 October 2021.





# Neighbourhood Plan

“I hope many of you will have commented on the interim report from the town’s Neighbourhood Plan steering group. It examines eight themes that the steering group believes will be important over the next decade or so as we tackle together climate change, adapt to different ways of working and perhaps even life without our own cars. The report’s themes include green spaces, access and movement, healthier living, the built environment and heritage. Each has its own set of proposals for policies and projects, which can be viewed on the Town Council’s website along with a short questionnaire to complete here: [www.abingdon.gov.uk/neighbourhood-plan](http://www.abingdon.gov.uk/neighbourhood-plan)

The interim report also explores how the town centre could be better connected to the river, and the role of the Upper Reaches site in making that happen. An integrated approach could enhance recreational and cultural opportunities by creating a hub, comprising housing, workshops and performance spaces in a new riverside quarter, so that Abingdon could truly become one of the most beautiful towns on the Thames.



Over the summer task groups have worked on issues such as green spaces, neighbourhood identity and culture to provide further input that will be reflected in the draft plan. This will be subject to further public consultation in the autumn prior to it being finalised.

The purpose of the plan is to make our future town an even better place to live, work and grow. Importantly the Vale of the White Horse Council must take the finalised Neighbourhood Plan into account when considering planning issues across the town.

Please do get involved in the forthcoming consultation. The more of us that join in, the better the Neighbourhood Plan will be and the closer we’ll get to my own aspiration for it, which is to make an even better Abingdon for generations yet to come.”

Simon Hills  
Chair  
Abingdon Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

## Abbey Cinema

The Abbey Cinema has big plans for the rest of the year including many events as well as films. Blockbusters delayed by the pandemic are now being released including the latest Bond film “No Time to Die”, the sequel to Top Gun “Maverick” and another Downton Abbey. Programmes are available online at [www.theabbey.ac](http://www.theabbey.ac) and printed versions from the town centre box office on Abbey Close.

The Abbey Cinema are busy recruiting enthusiastic, cheerful people to help look after customers and to prepare delicious food and cocktails. The circle bar is being redecorated to create a stylish place to meet, socialise and work. Saturday mornings are always busy with kids and family films served with fresh popcorn, pizza and milkshakes.

In the community, they Cinema are working with Dementia Friendly Abingdon on a series of relaxed film screenings and with the Civic Society on the Heritage Open Days. They are also planning a Guildhall Open Weekend on Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th September to showcase the historic Roysse Room, Old Magistrates Court, Bear Room, Abbey Room and the grand Council Chamber. Many Abingdon residents have been married at the Guildhall and now restrictions are lifted, dates for 2021 and 2022 are being booked up quickly.

Sign up now to receive newsletters and invitations to events and film previews across the Guildhall and Abbey Cinema complex – open 7 days from 9am until late, or email [boxoffice@theabbey.ac](mailto:boxoffice@theabbey.ac).



# Shop Local!

# Shop, eat, spend and enjoy local!



Whether it's back to school stuff or a new book, find out what Abingdon has to offer by shopping locally and once you're done, why not relax in a local cafe or restaurant or enjoy one of your local entertainment venues.

## More reasons to buy local

**1** Local businesses are more accountable to their own **communities**. They're owned by people who live in the community and are more invested in the community's future.



**2** Local businesses are **more likely to use local banks, media to advertise and other services**.



**4** Local businesses produce **more income, jobs and taxes** for communities



**3** Supporting local businesses contributes to a community's **character and economic diversity**. One of a kind businesses are a distinctive part of the character of a community.



**5** Supporting local businesses is good for the environment. Locally owned businesses can make more local purchases, requiring **less transportation of goods**





# Monday Market

It's great to see some normality return as lockdown restrictions ease particularly at Abingdon's Monday Charter Market. Throughout the lockdown, the market continued with only the stalls selling essential items. We are really excited to now welcome back all of the traders. Please do pop along on a Monday morning to see the wide variety of quality produce and foods available weekly.

This market takes place every Monday\* from 8.00am in the Market Place.

See below some of the things you can find at the Monday Market:

- Bags
- Bread, cakes and other bakery products
- Cards
- Eggs, cheese and preserves
- Fish
- Fruit & Veg
- Greek food
- Hoover bags and Carpets
- Jewellery and scarfs
- Meat
- Men and Women's clothing
- Pet food
- Picture frames, cloths and rubbish bags
- Plants and flowers

Pop-up stalls often come along too so there's likely to be even more available!

To find out more about having a stall at the Monday market please email:  
[enquiries@abingdon.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@abingdon.gov.uk)

To find out more about the other Markets that operate here, including the Farmers' Market and Local Excellence Market please visit the town council website at [www.abingdon.gov.uk](http://www.abingdon.gov.uk)

\* The Market is not held on the days of the Michaelmas and Runaway Fairs or on bank holidays





# HERITAGE OPEN DAYS

## 11<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> Sep

### GET FOODY AT ABINGDON MUSEUM

**From 11th to 19th September 2021 we host a special exhibition - *'Buns at the Museum; A history of throwing buns.'***

**Take the Heritage Open Days food trail - leading to the 4000 year old 'mummy bread' never before exhibited.**

## Programme for Heritage Open Days



**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> Sept. at 11am**  
**'The Fruits of Grinling Gibbons' a talk**  
by Abingdon Museum's Collections Officer, Elin Bornemann.

Discover what inspired Gibbons to create beautiful masterpieces in wood.

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> Sept. - from 11am**  
Archaeologist talks about local finds of bones and grain that help us understand what life was like in ancient Abingdon.

**Streamed video** via Facebook live during the day on 18th Sept - see our website for up-to-date info!

**ABINGDON COUNTY HALL MUSEUM**

# OPEN DAYS

## September 2021

### ON MUSEUM!



Take 'The Trencher Trail' around the Museum collection... (11th - 19th Sept)

Find out what the 'Abingdon Ichthyosaur' ate, in times when Abingdon was underwater or what Samuel Pepys had to eat and drink when visiting Abingdon.

## Days at the Museum

### KIDS' ACTIVITIES

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> September -

10.30am to 12.30pm & 1.30pm to 3.30pm

The crafting crew are back at the museum to host more fantastic craft sessions for kids!

Find out about '**Food Through The Ages**' in a handling session with Roman, Saxon and Medieval artefacts, then make a colourful collage on a paper plate with shapes of all your favourite modern food!

Drop in session, booking not required.

Free entry, suggested donation £1 per child.



@museumcraftingcrew

@museumcrew

[www.abingdonmuseum.com](http://www.abingdonmuseum.com)





# What's on....



## Heritage Open day

Don't forget to hurry down to Abingdon's Market Place over the weekend of 18th and 19th September to enjoy the delights of the town's Heritage Open Day, which this year has the theme of Food and Drink.

There will be a variety of traders offering local produce including mead, artisan bread, and other delicacies, but that's not all the day has to offer with the Abbey Buildings featuring a recreation of a medieval herb garden as well as a working apiary.

Guided walking tours will examine the town's culinary history as well as taking in the numerous public houses that Abingdon hosted. The buildings will be marked by innovative 'History On A Plate' plaques for you to explore by yourself. The town's once thriving brewing industry will also be the subject of a lecture in the Roysse Room on Saturday afternoon. There will also be a programme of events on Sunday. The weekend will also see the launch of an interactive website commemorating Abingdon's part in the First World War. Featuring a remarkable collection of memorabilia including copies of photographs, letters, postcards, and service records contributed by local families, it paints a picture of the many ways in which the call to service was answered by the town. It's a moving and intimate tribute to the people of Abingdon at a time of worldwide upheaval. For further details visit [www.abingdonheritage.org.uk](http://www.abingdonheritage.org.uk)

Now the restrictions have eased and we are able to get back to enjoying events, make sure you keep an eye on the town council website and notice boards for the latest information on events in and around Abingdon.







## Platinum Jubilee

Pencil the dates in your diary now for Thursday 2nd June - Sunday 5th June 2022 to enjoy the Abingdon celebrations for the Platinum Jubilee in celebration of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth's 70th Year Reign. There will be events for all ages, bunting aplenty and even a bun or two thrown... Keep an eye on the town council website and social media closer to the time for further details.



For more information and updates visit our website and social media channels.

 [www.abingdon.gov.uk](http://www.abingdon.gov.uk)  
 @AbingdonTC  
 @abingdowntowncouncil  
 @abingdonthamestowncouncil



Royse Court Offices  
Bridge Street  
Abingdon  
OX14 3HU  
01235 522642  
[enquiries@abingdon.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@abingdon.gov.uk)