



# Town Crier



May 2022 - 66<sup>th</sup> Edition

Abingdon-on-Thames Town Council News and Events



## Abingdon celebrates the Platinum Jubilee

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# Neighbourhood Plan update

The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group met with residents at the open evening in March. We explained the background to the neighbourhood plan, why it matters for the future of Abingdon and next steps to complete it in time for a referendum.

The evening introduced preliminary suggestions made in three key areas - Green Spaces, the Town Centre and the different Neighbourhoods - and discussed the heart of our town, traffic problems, the rich built heritage and the possibility of a recreational and cultural riverside hub on the river. The team emphasised that the neighbourhood plan is for all the town, not just the centre.

The steering group will work with the Vale of White Horse District Council as it develops its Central Abingdon Regeneration Framework, identifying options for improving buildings, land and transport routes and including proposals for the Charter, Abbey House and the Upper Reaches Hotel.

Please contribute your thoughts and ideas using the form on the town council's website so that together we can improve the neighbourhood plan and ensure that Abingdon is an even better place to live, work and visit than it is now.

[www.abingdon-neighbourhood-plan.org](http://www.abingdon-neighbourhood-plan.org)

## The Queen's Green Canopy





The Queen's Green Canopy is a unique tree planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022 which invites people from across the United Kingdom to "Plant a Tree for the Jubilee".

Abingdon Town Council has embraced the scheme with enthusiasm, not least because the Council was already supporting tree planting around the town. Planting has started and more sites are being identified.



One of Abingdon Town Council's Jubilee Trees at Caldecott Rec.

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

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



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**The Green Forum was formed as part of the Town Council's pledge to take positive action to counter climate change.** Its purpose is to promote and initiate changes that will help towards carbon neutrality within the town, reduce waste, promote the general well-being of our residents, and improve local biodiversity, i.e. trees, plants, and wildlife.

The Green Forum Steering Group is a collaboration of local voluntary groups including Carbon Cutters and One Planet Abingdon/Climate Emergency Centre, which are active in trying to improve the town's environment. We all need to do more to reduce the effects of the climate and ecological emergencies and time is running out.

Information about what is happening is circulated on Social Media and via this website:

<https://oneplanetabingdon.org/green-forum/>

The Green Forum invites views and ideas from all Abingdon residents and these will be included as part of the Neighbourhood Plan.

There is a theme each quarter, with events and meetings concentrating on a particular topic. We started with Active Travel and Sustainable Transport, which culminated in a market stall on 26 March 2022. This was well attended by local people who shared their views on school streets, and bus routes and shared suggestions for improvements to walking & cycle routes.

The winners of our school competition to design a Hi-Viz backpack cover for promoting cycling were announced at the event alongside information on car sharing and car clubs.

Biodiversity is the second theme for the next quarter of 2022: this will take place on the 2 June 2022, as part of the town's Platinum Jubilee celebrations. There will be a stall for the promotion of local clubs and societies.

We have invited George McGavin, the TV presenter and expert on insects, to the event, who will be conducting guided walks to the wildflower meadow. We will also be celebrating local tree planting.

**Please look out for further updates on the town council website and via social media.**



# Thank you for a great year, says the Mayor

**A note from the outgoing Mayor, Cllr Cheryl Briggs:**

I have enjoyed being Mayor of Abingdon for the last year. It has been a privilege to represent the town.

It hasn't been the usual Mayoral year because of the impact of the pandemic. Events have been reduced and limited in the capacity of the people involved. I hope the next Mayor's year will be busier and back to normal.

It has been a great pleasure to be involved in my two charities. DAMASCUS does outreach work with disenfranchised young people who do not usually have interactions with other organisations.

I have seen the positive impact it has had on these young people.

My other charity is Yellow Submarine, which works with young people with learning difficulties, including autism. They work with young people in community settings to build their social skills, confidence, independence, and ultimately their employability, thus empowering them.

I have supported inclusion and environmental issues in Abingdon. I am proud to be the first Green Party Mayor and the first LGBTQ+ Mayor in Abingdon.

I have listened to young LGBTQ+ people in Abingdon and the feedback has been positive, so I have hopefully been a positive role model. I have been involved in Abingdon environmental groups and will continue to do so in the future.



Deputy Mayor Cllr. Andy Foulsham and outgoing Mayor Cheryl Briggs.



# Friends of Abingdon Civic Society

The Friends of Abingdon have organised, with local societies and individuals, a series of guided walks which will take place on Friday 3 June. There will be the opportunity to join informative guides from local groups such as the Abingdon Area Archaeology and History Society, the Naturalist's Society, the Friends of Abingdon and One Planet Abingdon, looking at different aspects of the town.

There will also be self-guided walks available, including a new 'Royal Associations' walk which will give you the opportunity, at your leisure, to explore some of the fascinating history of Abingdon's royal connections.

Walks will start from our stall at Rye Farm Meadow – guided walks at 10.30am and 2.30pm (book in from 10am on the day), self-guided walks at any time.

More information will be available on the Friends of Abingdon website:

[abingdoncivicsociety.org.uk/welcome/meetings-events/](http://abingdoncivicsociety.org.uk/welcome/meetings-events/)

and also the Abingdon Town Council website:

[www.abingdon.gov.uk/news/platinum-jubilee-2022](http://www.abingdon.gov.uk/news/platinum-jubilee-2022)

## ATOM Festival joins the Jubilee!



This year's ATOM Festival is joining forces with the Platinum Jubilee celebrations at Rye Farm Meadow. Kicking off with a Jubilee special lecture at the Unicorn Theatre on Wednesday 1 June, Abingdon's [Professor Frank Close](#) will review how 70 years of the Queen's reign have seen significant changes in science, many involving local science institutions. The [Family Science Fair](#) will take place on Friday 3 June from 11am to 3pm, bringing hands-on science activities, experiments and fun for all ages.

Other events in June include a look at the life and times of [Lonesome George](#), the last Galapagos Giant Tortoise, an introduction to spectrometry and a look at nano-technology, science comedian Dr Sam Gregson back to entertain family audiences with his '[Hunting the Higgs](#)' event, and we have [hedgehogs](#). There's free hands-on science in the Market Place on Saturday 11 June and at the Amey Theatre with [Dr Helen Czerski](#) on Friday 17 June.

**Find out more at [www.atomfestival.org.uk](http://www.atomfestival.org.uk) or social media @ATOMScifest** and think about an ATOM Festival Pass which gives access to most events for just £25 for adults and £12.50 for under-16s.

Acclaimed artist **Geoff Dunbar**, designer & director of **Sir Paul McCartney's** 'When Winter Comes' video, has designed a Jubilee celebration 'Abingdon-on-Thames Town Crest' for limited edition Jubilee products.



**£20**

Limited edition  
**Geoff Dunbar**  
bone china mug

**DUNOON**  
HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE  
CELEBRATING 70 YEARS AS MONARCH 1952 - 2022  
collectable Dunoon Jubilee  
mugs

**£35**

**£28**

**£25**

1952 2022  
HM Queen Elizabeth II  
Platinum Jubilee 1952-2022  
EIR  
Ring  
FINE BONE CHINA  
MADE IN ENGLAND

**ON SALE AT**

Visitor Information Centre, Roysse Court, Bridge Street,  
Abingdon OX14 3HU or call 01235 522711



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# ABINGDON COUNTY HALL MUSEUM

PRESENTS...

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Life in Abingdon during the  
2<sup>nd</sup> Elizabethan Era

2<sup>nd</sup> April until 26<sup>th</sup> June

Tuesday to Sunday 10am to 4pm

ABINGDON COUNTY HALL MUSEUM

Market Place, OX14 3HG 01235 523703

[abingdon.museum@abingdon.gov.uk](mailto:abingdon.museum@abingdon.gov.uk)

Admission: Free Location: Sessions Gallery, First floor of Museum

Plan your visit: This gallery is located on the museum's first floor up 37 steps  
and is not lift accessible.

Get crafty during school holidays with our museum crafting crew! They will be offering a range of fun crafts linked to the Jubilee and summer holidays.

**Check our website for upto date info!**

Drop in session, booking not required.

**FREE** entry (suggested donation £1 per child).

**Location: Museum Basement** (this floor is accessible by stairway or lift).

We will be ensuring that only one family group or bubble will be working on each table. We respectfully ask all visitors to wear masks and maintain social distance during your visit for the safety of staff and all visitors.



Follow us on



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

@museumcraftingcrew





ABINGDON TOWN COUNCIL PRESENTS

# THE PLATINUM JUBILEE MEADOW FESTIVAL

Live music  
Performances  
Atom! Festival  
Activities, Bars, Funfair  
Local and world food

**1 to 4 June 2022**  
**RYE FARM MEADOW**

**WEDNESDAY:** The Smyths plus support  
**THURSDAY:** Local clubs and societies, live music and performances  
**FRIDAY:** Music, performances plus the popular ATOM! science festival.  
**SATURDAY:** Relax by the Thames, with local groups and performances  
**SUNDAY:** Abingdon's celebrated bun throw in the Market Place

**Celebrate the Queen's 70-year reign in style at a  
four day event with music, performances, a funfair,  
stalls, activities and plenty of food and drink**



Evening entertainment on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday will be ticketed and tickets are on sale now.  
Visit [www.abingdon.gov.uk/platinum-jubilee-2022](http://www.abingdon.gov.uk/platinum-jubilee-2022) for regular updates on what's on and ticketing information.