



# Town Crier



News from Abingdon-on-Thames Town Council

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Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

# Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

21 April 1926 – 8 September 2022

The country and the world marked the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II after a remarkable reign from 1952 to 2022, the longest of any British monarch. Those 70 years saw dramatic change, one reflected in the recent history of Abingdon, which has seen significant growth in the town, the development of the nearby science centres of excellence at Culham and Harwell and the end of many traditional industries such as the celebrated MG factory.

The announcement of Her Late Majesty's death was marked by a series of national, international and local events. In Abingdon, the Union Flag on the County Hall was lowered to half-mast and a Book of Condolence was opened. The book was signed by a large number of residents and visitors and will offer a fascinating historical record of her reign and her popularity in our community.



The Queen visited Abingdon in November 1956, just a few years into her record-breaking reign, when she opened the new museum at the County Hall and met with local dignitaries.

Throughout her reign, Abingdon marked significant royal events with its traditional bun throwing, most recently in June this year when buns were once again thrown from the roof of the County Hall museum to mark her Platinum Jubilee – a joyous event and now a poignant memory.





# Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

Following the death of Her Majesty the Queen, the accession of our new King, Charles III was proclaimed across the country. Abingdon marked this event on Sunday 11 September 2022 with the official proclamation read by the Mayor, Cllr Andy Foulsham, accompanied by the MP, Layla Moran and the Deputy Lord Lieutenant, Robert Kirtland, the commanding officer of the 3rd Regiment, Royal Logistics Corps, representatives from Thames Valley Police and past Mayors of Abingdon.



ABINGDON  
COUNTY HALL MUSEUM

Free  
Admission

## Kate Hammersley

### Common Land

1<sup>st</sup> October to  
23<sup>rd</sup> December

Recent drawings, film, objects and photographs about spending twelve moments in time in the English landscape. The artist follows red deer tracks in wheat fields during harvest time as well as documenting desire paths on common land.

Kate Hammersley is a member of the Royal Society of Sculptors and is supported by Arts Council England.

Half term  
Kids activity  
26 October

Museum Crafting Activity from 10:30 to 12:30 & 13:30 to 15:30. "Iconic Views of Abingdon" will be the chance to create an artwork that will go on display at the museum over the weekend...come along, have fun and make!!

Follow us on





# Abingdon Platinum Jubilee

**In June, more than 20,000 people celebrated Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's 70-year reign at events organised by the town council.**

The Platinum Jubilee Meadow Festival saw over 15,000 people enjoy a range of entertainments, including many of Abingdon's clubs and societies, live music and performances. The town council provided these events for free, given the increased costs of living and financial challenges faced by so many at this time.



A host of clubs and societies attended to showcase their activities and there were entertainments including Punch and Judy, a face painter and a balloon modeller. The event hosted the ATOM! science festival, which was a huge draw for young people.



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*All Platinum Jubilee Images © Martin Wackenier.*



The celebration ended with the traditional Bun Throwing.



# Community grants from the town council

The town council supports a wide range of groups across Abingdon with large and small grants to support a range of projects and activities. Each year, up to £20,000 is awarded by the town council's Community Committee.

Healthy Abingdon was supported to run an event in the Market Place for groups to promote health and wellbeing.



## Healthy Abingdon

A grant was given to support ATOM Festival events at the Platinum Jubilee and in the Market Place this Summer. The events were as usual very popular.

The town council awarded Radley Lakes Trust a grant towards the cost of an entry hub on Barton Fields for the wider Radley Lakes area and the management of Barton Fields as a nature reserve. See the article on page two.

The Friends of Carswell School were awarded a large grant towards the cost of replacing an astroturf pitch which has become dangerous and currently cannot be used by children.

Churches in Abingdon were given help to enable them to give Christmas bags to people in the town who were on their own at Christmas.

Clean Slate has been supported by the town council to provide courses to survivors of abuse. The charity is based in Upper Heyford and has been providing support for 12 years.



If you think your group might benefit from a grant, you can find out more at [www.abingdon.gov.uk/town-council/grants](http://www.abingdon.gov.uk/town-council/grants).

# Radley Lakes

Radley Lakes is a 150-hectare area of former gravel quarries close to the River Thames, between Abingdon and Radley, right on the doorstep of thousands of local homes. The area has regenerated naturally and is a local wildlife site.

A wide range of habitats – including, deep lakes, shallow lakes, ponds, marsh and grassland – support a rich variety of natural life. The area is a peaceful haven away from noise and traffic for those who love nature or want to walk or run in beautiful surroundings and it provides opportunities for people to be actively involved in conservation work.

The Radley Lakes Trust is a local charity whose mission is to improve access and protect and enhance natural life. We are guided by a long-term masterplan for the area and we work with a range of stakeholders, including local councils, landowners and community groups.

Projects include an information hub on Barton Fields funded by the Town Council. This includes an interpretation board about the area and benches to sit with an attractive view. An area of wildflower plantings will follow.

A new all-weather path has been created to link the Sustrans cycle track and the Thames path - part of a wider planned

network of routes to join the Lakes area together and to link with other trails. The pictures here show the old muddy path and the work to transform it.



Find out more at [radleylakestrust.org](http://radleylakestrust.org) or email [info@radleylakestrust.org](mailto:info@radleylakestrust.org) and do go for a walk in the area!





### Abingdon's local bus service

The number 41 runs each weekday across Abingdon.

Abingdon Town Council provides funding for the number 41 bus service which runs around the town each day. The bus goes from the White Horse Leisure Centre to Caldecott, via Fairacres. Adult tickets cost from £1.80 single to £2.70 return

### Neighbourhood Plan

The Abingdon Neighbourhood Plan steering group is consulting on three further topics to improve travel, employment and opportunities for young people and families in Abingdon. The consultation started in July and ends on 9 September. You can find out more about these and all the topics which have been considered at <http://abingdon-neighbourhood-plan.org>.

Residents will be consulted on the Neighbourhood Plan this Autumn and a referendum on the final plan will take place in 2023.

### Abingdon Carousel

Abingdon Carousel Family Centre is based at Caldecott Chase and runs free drop-in play sessions for families with children aged 0-4 on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays 9.30-11am. The centre has a lovely playroom and secure garden for children to play in and our experienced playworkers are on hand to support parents. We welcome all families from across Abingdon and the surrounding area. Our team also run the Family Links Nurturing Programme providing parents with the understanding and skills to experience the best of family life.

For further information about sessions and Family Links, follow us on Facebook/ Instagram or contact us via email at [admin@abingdoncarousel.org.uk](mailto:admin@abingdoncarousel.org.uk)



### Grant funding for local organisations

Abingdon Town Council supports a number of charities every year with significant grant funding. This support includes the CAB, Abingdon Carousel, The Abingdon Bridge, Damascus Youth Charity, our local PCSOs and the number 41 bus service around Abingdon. Our annual budget provides details of all the groups we support.

### Cost of living help

Many people are facing significant pressures at the moment and there is a range of help available. The Vale of White Horse District Council provides information which can be found at

[www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk](http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk).

### Citizens Advice Bureau

The Citizens Advice Bureau can help with questions you may have and more information can be found at [caox.org.uk](http://caox.org.uk).

### Abingdon Community Fridge

Abingdon Community Fridge fights food waste by redistributing surplus food from local businesses and

members of the community. The Abingdon Community Fridge is open to all and further details can be found on facebook

### Abingdon Foodbank

If you are struggling to buy groceries and essentials, the Abingdon foodbank may be able to help. More information can be found at [abingdon.foodbank.org.uk](http://abingdon.foodbank.org.uk).



### Become a councillor

There are elections to the town council next year in May 2023. If you live or work in Abingdon and you care about your local area, you may wish to stand for election to your town council. You don't need to join a political party. If you would like to find out more, see [www.gov.uk/government/get-involved/take-part/become-a-councillor](http://www.gov.uk/government/get-involved/take-part/become-a-councillor)



# What's on in Abingdon?

Full details of all these and more local events can be found at [www.abingdon.gov.uk](http://www.abingdon.gov.uk).

## October

10-11	Mon to Tues		Michaelmas Fair
13	Thur	11am to 1pm	Knit and Chat, One Planet Abingdon Climate Centre
15	Sat	10.30am to 1pm	Monthly Repair Café, Bike Check & Sharpening, One Planet Abingdon Climate Centre
15	Sat	11am to 3pm	Clothes Swap, Roysse Room, Guildhall
17	Mon		Runaway Fair
23	Sun	9am to 2pm	2022 Abingdon Marathon, Tilsley Park
27	Thur	11am to 1pm	Knit and Chat, One Planet Abingdon Climate

## November

5	Sat	10.30am to 1pm	Clothing and textile repairs, One Planet Abingdon Climate Centre
5	Sat	6 to 8.30pm	2nd Abingdon Scout Group Spectacular Annual Fireworks Display, Long Furlong Community Centre

## Abingdon Community Christmas Extravaganza

Saturday 26th November

Town Centre, Entertainments from 12 noon

Lights switch on at 6pm



## Did you know...

New developments in Abingdon have road names which reflect the history of the town. The planning authority asks the town council for suggestions for road names and recent suggestions which have been adopted include former town councillors, Mayors, Mayors of Ock Street and old Abingdon shops.

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



[www.abingdon.gov.uk](http://www.abingdon.gov.uk)



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