



# Town Crier



News from Abingdon-on-Thames Town Council

December 2022

Number 69



Photo by Martin Wackener

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# Kate Hammersley

## Common Land

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



Supported using public funding by  
**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**

Exhibition...  
coming soon



**MG, GWR & RAF Abingdon**

7 January to  
26 March 2023



## XMAS

Seasonal Crafts  
17th December

Drop-in Session  
no need to book

Museum Crafting Activity  
from 10:30 to 12:30 & 13:30 to 15:30.  
Popular as ever, our Christmas crafts  
activity is just around the corner. Will  
you make something for your home, or  
something to give as gift?

**Donations Welcome**

After a few years of upheaval, we are all getting back to normal.  
There are a number of events to enjoy this year.

### SHOP LOCAL THIS CHRISTMAS - FREE PARKING IN ABINGDON ON 3 AND 10 DECEMBER

Keep your Christmas shopping  
local. Abingdon has a wide range of  
independent shops perfect for finding  
Christmas Gifts. Why not visit on one  
of the Christmas shopping days with free  
parking in all town centre car parks on 3  
and 10 December.

### CAROLS IN THE MARKET PLACE

Churches in Abingdon will host a carol  
concert in the Market Place on Saturday  
17 December from 10am. Everyone is  
welcome to join in singing traditional  
carols, led by Sally Mears. Any musicians  
or choirs are also welcome. If you play a  
musical instrument and can come along,  
please contact Churches in  
Abingdon, details at  
[www.church-in-abingdon.org.uk](http://www.church-in-abingdon.org.uk).

### CHRISTMAS CONCERT IN AID OF THE ABINGDON BRIDGE

Abingdon Chorale are holding a charity  
Christmas concert on Saturday 17  
December in aid of The Abingdon  
Bridge, a charity which supports young  
people aged 13 to 25. The concert  
will be hosted at the historic Unicorn  
Theatre in the centre of Abingdon with  
show times at 2pm and 4pm. Tickets

are £10 for adults and £2.50 for under  
16s. Further details can be found at  
[www.theabingdonbridge.org.uk/post/abingdon-chorale-charity-christmas-concert-on-saturday-17th-december](http://www.theabingdonbridge.org.uk/post/abingdon-chorale-charity-christmas-concert-on-saturday-17th-december).

### THE MAYOR OF ABINGDON'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Mayor of Abingdon invites all  
Abingdon residents aged 70 and over  
to a Christmas Party at the Hilton  
Garden Inn, Marcham Road on Tuesday  
20 December. The event will start  
at 2pm and will include live music,  
a buffet and activities. There is no  
charge for the event but book early to  
avoid disappointment. Tickets will be  
available from 1 December at the Local  
Information Centre on Bridge Street  
(open 10am to 4pm) or online at [www.abingdon.gov.uk](http://www.abingdon.gov.uk).

Details of other Abingdon events can  
be found on the town council website at  
[www.abingdon.gov.uk/events](http://www.abingdon.gov.uk/events).

### NEW CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

While shopping in Abingdon this  
Christmas, take a look at the new light  
display, put up by our new contractor and  
the town council's own Outdoor Services  
Team. The new lights are low energy and  
have a lower impact on wildlife.





# Abingdon Parkrun

## Celebrates 500th Event

On a very wet Saturday morning in May 2011, the first Abingdon parkrun took place. Eleven years on the event will mark its 500th outing on 17 December 2022. When it started, parkrun was relatively unknown and began as a 'time



trial' followed by coffee and a chat for running friends in south-west London. Since then, the parkrun movement has grown globally: there are now 773 parkruns and 378 junior parkruns in the UK, part of a worldwide total of 2,317 different locations.

A local group from the running community in Oxfordshire set out to establish a parkrun and this eventually began in Abingdon. Thanks to the hard work of volunteers and

the goodwill of land owners, the first Abingdon parkrun took place on 7 May 2011. Abingdon was the first parkrun in Oxfordshire and is now one of 12 in the county. On average, 300 people turn up each week to run, jog, or walk the 5km route and over 14,000 different people have taken part in the 500 events. Volunteers ensure it takes place each week and over a thousand people have helped over the years.

Despite setbacks due to flooding and a 16 month break caused by the Covid lockdown, Abingdon parkrun continues to go from strength to strength - and members still meet up for coffee and a chat afterwards! Here's to the next 500 events.

If you would like to join in with Abingdon parkrun, it is free to take part and you are welcome as a walker or a runner. You can find out more at [www.parkrun.org.uk/abingdon](http://www.parkrun.org.uk/abingdon).



# Supporting Abingdon's environment

Since 2019, the town council has had as part of its objectives 'to respond effectively and speedily to the climate emergency' and 'to develop a resilient, sustainable town which will provide a home for residents now and in the future'. These objectives are included on every council agenda and they continue to inform the actions taken by the town council.

## Community woodland

Plans are underway to create a new community in Abingdon. A site has been identified, a design prepared by Abingdon Carbon Cutters (ACC), the town council and ACC are now working with the Woodland Trust and Forestry Commission to help develop this new local amenity. The new woodland should start to be planted in coming months.

## Biodiversity strategy

The town council has adopted a biodiversity strategy which seeks 'to promote natural biodiversity as a key concept within Abingdon' helping to protect and promote diverse habitats, protect the natural environment and promote open green spaces for nature and residents to enjoy.

The plan sets out a series of aims for the town, including working towards carbon

neutrality, promoting outdoor activities and encouraging people to work together to support and enhance biodiversity. The town council is already working to support biodiversity through tree planting, care for the natural environment in green spaces across Abingdon, sensitive planting of diverse displays in the town centre and in the development of the new community woodland.

## One Planet Abingdon Climate Emergency Centre

Have you visited the One Planet Abingdon Climate Emergency Centre, in the basement of the County Hall Museum offering information, activities, free tea, coffee and cake for everyone to participate in and enjoy. The climate centre has proven to be a great success, with a range of activities taking place and with volunteers organising projects (for example making bunting for the Platinum Jubilee celebration), bringing together groups and individuals from across Abingdon to participate in this huge and exciting initiative.

After a very successful first year, the town council has now agreed to a new five year licence with One Planet Abingdon to enable them to continue their work. Details of events for December can be found on the back page.

# Dementia Friendly Abingdon

**Dementia Friendly Abingdon (DFA)** is a volunteer-led initiative based on the Alzheimer's Society Dementia Friendly Communities scheme whose purpose is to raise awareness of dementia and promote dementia friendly practice in local communities.

The aim is to make Abingdon more understanding and supportive of those affected by dementia. To do this they provide information sessions to a wide variety of businesses,



community, voluntary and faith groups, arts, leisure and recreation clubs including children and students. The one hour information sessions are delivered by an Alzheimer's Society trained volunteer and provide an understanding of dementia in an informative and engaging way. Groups or individuals are encouraged to contact us to arrange a session.

The group issues a regular newsletter covering both local and national

initiatives and items of potential interest to an email list of supporters. To receive it, please email the address below. There is also a Facebook page.

Whilst they are not a meeting group and do not provide support services, there is a need for those living with dementia and Mild Cognitive Impairment (MCI) - the diagnosis someone may receive prior to a diagnosis of dementia - to come together, with their carer or supporter over a cup of coffee in an understanding and supportive environment. This has developed into a thriving coffee group which meets in the Garden Room at St Ethelwold's House, East St Helen Street, on Thursdays between 10.30 and 11.30am, where 'dementia friend' volunteers are on hand for a chat and support.

DFA appreciates the support it receives from Dementia Oxfordshire and Alzheimer's Society in Oxfordshire and welcomes individual offers of help or support. If you are able to help, please email

[dementiafriendlyabingdon@gmail.com](mailto:dementiafriendlyabingdon@gmail.com)

# Cost of living help

There is a range of help available to residents who may be struggling at the moment and many websites offer guidance and information. The town council has a web page which brings together the information available - [www.abingdon.gov.uk/services/help-with-the-cost-of-living](http://www.abingdon.gov.uk/services/help-with-the-cost-of-living).

The Vale of White Horse District Council provides further 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 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).



## 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.

If you have information about other help which is available, details of which could be added to the website, please contact [enquiries@abingdon.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@abingdon.gov.uk).

## Support for 'Warm Spaces'

Abingdon Town Council has agreed to provide funding for local groups looking to set up Warm Spaces this winter. The cash will give groups and organisations financial support to open their venues up as Warm Spaces, in addition to their normal activity. Up to £20,000 will be set aside to support these local initiatives to help residents struggling with rising energy bills.

## 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).

## December

5	Mon	4.30-6pm	Art and Design for Young People, Sunningwell School of Art and Design
8	Thur	11am to 1pm 7pm 7.15pm	One Planet Abingdon, under County Hall, Market Place Music at the Unicorn: Ranagri Unicorn Theatre, Thames St. ROH Live: Nutcracker, Amey Theatre, Abingdon School
9	Fri	10am-12 noon	Chess and Coffee with Laury, One Planet Abingdon, under County Hall, Market Place
10	Sat	10.30-11.15am  1-4pm	Christmas Wreath making workshop, One Planet Abingdon, under County Hall, Market Place OPA Youth Upcycled Fashion Project
16	Fri	10am-12 noon	One Planet Abingdon, under County Hall, Market Place Chess and Coffee with Laury, One Planet Abingdon, under County Hall, Market Place
17	Sat	10am 2 and 4pm	Churches in Abingdon Christmas Carol Singing, Market Place Christmas concert in aid of The Abingdon Bridge Unicorn Theatre, Thames St.
20	Tues	2 to 4pm	Mayor's Christmas Party for residents 70 and over Hilton Garden Inn, Marcham Road
22	Thurs	11am-1pm	Knit and chat One Planet Abingdon, under County Hall, Market Place

## Join us for the Abingdon clubs and societies day on 18 March 2023

Next March, we hope to welcome local groups to showcase their activities to residents at a clubs and societies day. The event will be held in the Guildhall.

This will be chance for residents to learn more about the many activities which they can try our or join in and around Abingdon and learn more about all the volunteer activities which go on around the town throughout the year and to get involved themselves.

If you are involved in a local group and have been in touch recently, we will contact you early in the New Year with further details. If you would like to be involved, please email [enquiries@abingdon.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@abingdon.gov.uk).

**The Mayor of Abingdon and the town council wish you a peaceful Christmas.**

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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