

Report on Abingdon Healthfest 2025

Abingdon Healthfest has become a fun and informative annual event where the public can interact with the many groups in the town that work to improve people's health and well-being.

The 2025 event was on Abingdon Market Place from 10am to 2pm on Saturday 6 September. It was a lovely sunny day helping to make this an enjoyable event. The Mayor of Abingdon, Cllr Rawda Jehanli, attended to talk to the stallholders and public.

The event was opened by a Town Cryer.

Abingdon Healthfest 2026 is scheduled for 5 September.

The following groups attended.

- Healthy Abingdon
- Here for Health
- Abingdon Parkrun and Junior Parkrun.
- TAB - The Abingdon Bridge
- Abingdon Boxing club
- Reducing the Risk
- Abingdon Green Gym
- Active Communities
- UCARE, Urology Cancer Research and Education
- SCAS, South Central Ambulance Service
- Dance Creative
- Abingdon Surgery
- Mr Hemmings's Traditional Abingdon Morris Dancers
- Friends of Abbey Meadow Outdoor Pool
- Oxfordshire Mind
- Abingdon Good Neighbours
- Age UK Oxfordshire
- Healthwatch Oxfordshire
- Dementia Friendly Abingdon
- Kennington Memory Club
- Mumby's Live-in Care
- Bellevie Care

Tester sessions were held during the day.

- 11am: Seated Dance taster with Dance Creative (age-friendly classes in Abingdon)
- 12pm: Creative papercraft taster session with the Muse Art School who offer creative classes in Abingdon
- 1pm: Accessible music session taster session with Ben Heaney signposting to the age and dementia friendly Moving Music events in Dorchester and Wallingford

Pictures of the event are shown below. You can find more great pictures on the [Abingdon Blog](#).

Feedback from stallholders

All stallholders were pleased with the event and the and the opportunities it gave them to promote their activities. Some comments from individual stallholders follow.

Home-Start Southern Oxfordshire: I was able to hand out lots of leaflets and chat to various people about our services. So thank you for having me and please put us on the list of attendees for next year!

Age UK Oxfordshire: Overall we engaged with 116 people directly, 66 sought AUKO info and advice and a further 11 were given a CO detector and gas safety advice. 39 took part in the creative taster programme

Mumbey's live-in care: Thank you for allowing Mumby's' to join in the 2025 HealthFest. We had a lovely day meeting people of Abingdon and other stallholders.

Here for Health: We conducted around 50 blood-pressure tests.

FOAMOP: Comments about the outdoor pool from visitors to their stand

- 'It's the best part of living in Abingdon – great for physical and mental health'
- 'I like the opportunity for my daughter to swim locally '
- 'Love the lane swimming (with spectacular views)'
- 'I love swimming in the outdoor pool, which is surrounded by nature. It reminds me of my nan taking me to an outdoor pool in the Netherlands.'
- 'How wonderful that Better opened the pool four weeks before the summer holidays.'
- Thank You! I had some good swims in high summer, please do this next year!'
- 'Keep up the good work '
- 'Yes, Congratulations to Better/GLL for active management and meeting community needs in 2025. Look forward to further success in 2026'.
- 'Such a great facility- ridiculous only open for 6 weeks: particularly new heating costs lower with cover. One of the best features in Abingdon. More Council support needed. Well done FOAMOP!'
- 'Evening openings '
- 'It's great. Is it possible to open in June and continue into September? Thank you.'
- Fantastic- made as much use of it as I could. Nice and Clean.'
- 'It's great that the operating company decided to start the season early. Why don't the Vale council take this risk as a joint venture for the health and mental well-being of all?'
- 'Great facility'
- 'GREAT location! – Such a huge asset to Abingdon_'
- 'Lovely pool in a beautiful setting'
- 'The is an absolutely wonderful part of Abingdon, delights all my family and attracts them to come and visit me.'
- 'Wide slow lane. Lanes too narrow otherwise – should be 3 not 4 – should be 3 equally sized lanes '
- 'Keep our pool open!! It is a well-being necessity'.
- 'I like it – Ernie aged 4 '
- 'Swam in the pool in the 1960's. Had a great time. It's good to see the old folk remember it well '
- 'So lucky to have this amazing facility on our doorstep! We love the outdoor pool. Very happy to see the season extended this year. Hope it opens early next year too! (But hate the Better App for booking!)
- 'So different from the indoor pool. Like being on holiday. A lovely start to the day'
- 'We had a great time each time. We liked the amount of people (staff) on site, We felt safe and looked after.'

- ‘Love it! Keep it up!’
- ‘I love it please stay open all year !!’
- ‘Being by the river swimming outdoors ‘
- ‘It is invigorating’
- ‘Evening lanes, love swimming with the evening sun!’
- ‘Better advertising and communication- how do we know when the pool has extended hours? I don’t use Facebook...’
- ‘Fun with the family when warm’
- ‘Extended hours. Toddler splash sessions were great.’
- ‘The pool is a wonderful facility in our town.’
- ‘Amazing. Eric age 8 ‘
- ‘Great facility’
- ‘Love the space at the splash park ‘

Finances

Costs from Abingdon Events Partnership	£
Standard gazebo hire	240.00
Standard table hire	127.50
Standard hire: folding chair	56.00
Delivery, setup, pack down & remove equip	200.00
Subtotal	623.50
VAT 20%	124.70
	TOTAL748.20

Note: Also, Healthy Abingdon covered the cost of insurance and web site both of which were essential to run the event, but it is difficult to apportion those costs attributable to this event.

We thank Abingdon Town Council for £750 funding for this event.

Dave Butterworth
 Chair, Healthy Abingdon
healthyabingdon@aol.com

4 February 2026



The Town Crier opens the event



Helen and Dave, Healthy Abingdon Trustees, welcome the Mayor to the event



Abingdon Surgery provided a wide variety of information



Age UK Oxfordshire provided information and organised taster sessions



Dance Creative Stand



Dance Creative seated dance session



Dementia Friendly Abingdon and the Kennington Memory Club



Here for Health team were kept busy giving blood pressure tests



Mumby's Home Care



Ben Heaney entertained the visitors with his violin



South Central Ambulance Service brought an ambulance for people to see inside - along with their bear mascot



The ambulance service giving first aid demonstrations.



The South Central Ambulance (SCAS) stand



The event was busy for most of the day



Home Start



Paper craftwork led by The Muse Art School



Mr Hemmings's Traditional Abingdon Morris Dancers

