

The Abingdon Guild Of Honorary Town Criers

Report to the Annual Parish meeting 1st April 2026

Oyez! Oyez!

The purpose of The Abingdon Guild of Honorary Town Criers is to support The Mayor at events as required, to provide a Crier upon request by the Town, for Charities within the Town and for other occasions within the Town and involving the Townspeople of Abingdon.

Eight active Criers, male and female, have provided 75 Cries in the past year, on behalf of at least 59 events, from a variety of locations and venues. This was 20 more Cries than last year, and 23 more events were covered.

The Market Place is the primary location, being the primary public place for a Cry. It is also where the most events are staged.

The Criers cover a wide range of events from Civic events, such as the Annual Mayor-making, to Festivals, one example being The ATOM Science Festival. From traditional events, Abingdon Traditional Morris (aka Ock Street Morris) Mayor-making to birthdays. The Criers help townspeople celebrate major birthdays, anniversaries, weddings and christenings.

Nearby towns sometimes ask for help with their events.

Notable events during the past year have been the VE Day 80th Anniversary.

During the past year, Patrick Bird handed over the role of Secretary- organising Criers for requested Cries, monitoring the uniforms, providing liaison between the public and organisations making requests- to Hilary Green. Hilary's late husband, Peter Green, was one of the founder members of the Guild. Lesley Legge, whose husband Tony was also one of the founders, is the Master of The Guild. Hilary and Lesley work together to maintain uniforms.

During the past month, as there were no Cries requested, the uniforms and waistcoats were cleaned, and we are currently investigating having some new collars and cuffs produced.

Whilst the Criers, the Secretary and Master are all volunteers, we very much appreciate the support given by the Town Council, for funding replacement accessories, uniform maintenance, and providing committee support. We really value the excellent relationship with the Town Council staff who liaise with the Secretary regarding the Mayor's requirements for Criers, Civic dates, Market Place events and requests from the public.

Report ends.

Hilary Green

April 2026