



Northcourt Focus

Written, produced and delivered by the Northcourt Lib Dem team

Summer 2008

Northcourt Town Councillor elected Deputy Mayor

Councillor Patricia Hobby, a well known and well loved retired local primary school teacher was elected deputy mayor at the Town Council's AGM in May.

Patricia taught at Rush Common Primary School and then at St Nicolas C of E Primary School for many years, until her retirement. After 26 years teaching in Abingdon she says "It feels like I have taught most of Abingdon!"



Patricia supported John Mason PTA and was a governor at Dunmore School. Just before her retirement Patricia was elected to the Town Council in 2003. The leader of the Council says "Her input especially as Chair on Abingdon in Bloom and with community involvement has been outstanding."

When there was a threat to close the beds at Abingdon Community Hospital, Patricia led a joint party committee against the cuts. This campaign was successful, and since that time Patricia has been very active on the hospital league of friends.

Dropped kerbs

Dropped kerbs are one way of helping those with disabilities to move around the town with ease, reports **Pat Hobby**.

Abingdon Town Council has persuaded the County to install one at the junction of Appleford Drive and Oxford Road.

If you know of other areas which would benefit people please let us know - contact details overleaf

Northcourt Conservation Area

The area with historic buildings off Northcourt Road was designated a conservation area in 1978.

This means that the Vale Council has special responsibilities for protecting its distinctive features which include buildings such as the Abbey tithe barns now used by Christ Church, and several houses dating from 17th to 19th century.

Recently the council consulted residents and organisations and the area has been re-appraised and boundaries altered slightly.

Now the refurbished gas lamp beside the footpath linking Northcourt Lane and Clevelands has been included.

Cllr Laurel Symons said

"I'm pleased that the disused lamp is now a functioning electric light but still retains its old gas lamp appearance. It enhances the Conservation Area."

Bike and Bus to Oxford The Cycle Racks are Coming

Promises Northcourt Town and Vale Councillor, **Angela Lawrence**. *"Your local Councillors have been pressing for the installation of cycle racks near some of the Oxford Road bus stops so that people can safely leave their bikes while they catch the bus."*

Abingdon Town Council have purchased racks for Oxford Road. The County Council and Vale District are now working together with the town to identify further sites that would benefit from having cycle racks and between them, will be providing more racks around Abingdon.

The Oxford Road racks should be in place soon.





Market Place Happenings

Since the Market Place refurbishments were completed, Abingdon Town Council has been ensuring that it will be enjoyed by many, reports Town Cllr **Duncan Brown**.

Saturday 17th May saw the launch of Britain in Bloom. This annual event is part of a full programme which Abingdon Town Council has planned for this summer. Traditional popular events such as the election of the Mayor of Ock Street as well as newer ventures such as 'Abingdon's Got Talent' will be included.

As a Morris Dancer I appreciate the opportunities to dance on the newly refurbished market place, comments Duncan. "As a Town councillor I think it is great to see so many people coming to Abingdon and enjoying the town centre.

Full details of Market Place events can be found on the Town Council's website: www.abingdon.gov.uk.

Monitoring flood defences in North Abingdon

Northcourt Lib Dem councillors were active in checking possible flooding during the heavy rain on 16 March and on 3 June when floods closed Twelve Acre Drive for a time.

Alan Bryden reports "In February an improved grille was constructed at the bridge on the cycle path over the Radley Brook between Appleford Drive and Peachcroft. On 16th March Environment Agency staff were present there and at the other grille behind Chilton Close for several hours clearing debris from the stream. At midday some of the basketball court was under water, but this had all cleared by 4pm."

Lib Dem Councillors checked the levels of the two holding ponds in Tilsley Park and along the River Stert and liaised with the Environment Agency, the Vale Council and members of the Stert Flood Action Group during both days. They reported that the water level in Tilsley Park was lower than during the floods in July 2007, and that on both occasions the flood defences had worked well.

Your Local Councillors

County Council

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Vale District Council

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Town Council

Duncan Brown: 07999 283 885
Pat Hobby: 200886
Angela Lawrence - as above

Comments? Problems? Ideas?

Ring any of your local councillors, listed above, or fill in the form and return it to us,

or send it FREEPOST to: Northcourt Ward Lib Dems, FREEPOST, Oxford, OX1 1YA

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www.oxwabl.libdems.org.uk

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