

Title	District Councillors' Report
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Parish	Aston Tirrold & Aston Upthorpe Parish Council
Date	11 October 2023

Capital Grants to help improve quality of life for people and communities

Our Capital Grant Scheme 2023-24 to help fund projects that improve people's quality of life has launched. The scheme allows non-profit, community-based organisations and town and parish councils to bring impactful projects to life and continue their work to help people for years to come. Organisations can request a minimum of £1,000 and a maximum of £75,000 and up to 50 per cent of the total project cost. Our total budget is £320,000. **The closing date for applications is midday Friday 3 November 2023.** For more information [visit our website](#) or email grants@southandvale.gov.uk

Supporting Safer Places

It's important that we do what we can as a district to make sure our most vulnerable residents feel safe. Our Community Safety team works closely with the police and local businesses to identify organisations and locations that can become **Safe Places**.

Safe Places are for people in need of help or somewhere to go where they feel safe, whether they may be frightened, are in need of medical support or just having a bad day. They can be identified by a nationally recognisable logo, which we have shared in the link below and can be downloaded so that the public can see it clearly. We're looking for more organisations and businesses in South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse that would be happy to sign up to being a Safe Place for our residents. You can find out more at www.safeplaces.org.uk or by emailing our [Community Safety team](#).

Help with reducing energy use and making carbon emissions savings

The Climate and Biodiversity Team at SODC recently sent out an email to town and parish councils offering to supply a new free carbon emissions calculator tool and inviting town and parish councils to an online energy efficiency webinar from the district council on the evening of 14 November. To sign up for either please respond to that email.

As it gets colder, SODC will also be lending out its thermal imaging camera to community groups and parishes. You can use the camera to identify spots in buildings where heat is escaping and where energy-saving measures could help make a place more comfortable and reduce fuel bills at the same time. The Climate and Biodiversity team is also hosting a training session on Thursday 2 November at Abbey House on how to use the camera and interpret images. Email climateaction@southandvale.gov.uk for more information.

Residents urged to 'Check it before you chuck it'

South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils have launched a new campaign asking people to check before they chuck items in their recycling bins as part of a drive to increase the amount and quality of recycling in the district. **To find out which bin an item should go in, please 'Check it before you chuck it' at southandvale.gov.uk/checkit**

[Booking link](#) for planning surgeries for town and parish councils

Fun for all the family this October half-term

A range of free and low-cost fun activities are available for children and their families during the October half-term across South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse.

Here's a full run down of what's on:

Get out and about with the Xplorer Halloween Family Fun Challenge

Xplorer is a free family friendly fun orienteering challenge that is suitable for all ages. Using a simple map, find the markers that are located around the park.

All events take place from 10am to midday – just turn up on the day or, to book a place visit southoxon.gov.uk/HolidayActivities or whitehorsedc.gov.uk/HolidayActivities

- **Monday 23 October** – Benson Recreation Park, Benson, OX10 6LZ
- **Tuesday 24 October** – Ladygrove Park, Didcot, OX11 7GA
- **Wednesday 25 October** – Long Furlong Play Park, Abingdon, OX14 1XP
- **Thursday 26 October** – Memorial Park, Wantage, OX12 8DP

It's a Multi-Sport Party!

Come along and join in with free parachute and tag games, ball games, obstacle courses and more!

- **Monday 23 October** – Didcot Leisure Centre, OX11 8AY
- **Tuesday 24 October** – Abbey Sports Centre, Berinsfield, OX10 7NR
- **Wednesday 25 October** – Thame Leisure Centre, OX9 2BB

Sessions take place at 1.30-2.30pm (ages 4 to 7) and 2.30-3.30pm (ages 8 to 12). Booking essential – to reserve a place, visit southoxon.gov.uk/HolidayActivities

Community Fun Day at Old Kiln Lakes

Family nature walks, fun fitness, lawn games, adult community walks, outdoor gym equipment session, tree wrapping removal and more.

- **Wednesday 25 October** – 10am to 4pm, Chinnor, OX39 4DB

To find out more, visit southoxon.gov.uk/HolidayActivities

Free family yoga and games

For children aged 3 to 10 to do with their parents/guardians.

- **Friday 27 October** – Dean Court Community Centre, Botley, OX12 9DG 10am to midday. Numbers are limited for family yoga. Please bring a yoga mat if you have one.

Booking required – for details, visit whitehorsedc.gov.uk/HolidayActivities

'There's a Monster in your Show' at The Beacon

Join the fun as Tom Fletcher's interactive adventures for big imaginations leap from page to stage, as the beloved 'Who's in Your Book?' series makes its debut as a brand-new musical show. This high-energy 50-minute adventure is part of the Wantage Literary Festival and features lively original music and lots of playful fun for your littlest ones as their favourite

characters come to life in a show that is packed with interactive moments to enjoy together. There's a Monster in Your Show... and he can't wait to meet you!

- **Thursday 26 October** – The Beacon, Wantage, OX12 9BX

Performances are at 1pm and 3pm. To book tickets visit beaconwantage.co.uk or call the box office on 01235 763456.

Half-term fun at Cornerstone Arts Centre

- **Spectrum Youth Theatre (SYT) Residency – Tuesday 24 to Friday 27 October**

A free puppetry focused theatre workshop for neurodiverse young people. SYT uses boundless imagination to create fantastic shows about the things that matter.

During this four-day workshop, participants can design and build their own puppets, devise a story, write a script and create a group film. Sessions take place from 10 am to 4pm each day, no need to book, just turn up!

For more information, visit cornerstone-arts.org or call the box office on 01235 515144.

- **Make your own Halloween Monster – Wednesday 25 October.**

Become Dr Frankenstein and create your very own scary (or silly) monsters, just in time for Halloween! This event starts at 11am. Tickets are £8 – book your place now at cornerstone-arts.org or call the box office on 01235 515144.

- **Riddle and Rhyme Time – Thursday 26 October.**

A fun and interactive session for babies and tots featuring soothing music, riddles, and rhyming. With poems about funny faces, fingers, fireworks, bubbles and bugs galore – all from James Carter's poetry collections for younger readers, like Zim Zam Zoom and A Ticket to Kalamazoo. The fun starts at 10.30am. Tickets are just £5 – book yours now at cornerstone-arts.org or call the box office on 01235 515144.