



What we are about

Wantage Summer Festival coordinates and facilitates a programme of events to showcase, celebrate and profile the organisations and groups in Wantage, Grove and surrounding villages.

The Wantage Summer Festival celebrates its 21st birthday in 2016 and has become a popular fixture in the cultural calendar. The area has a wealth of creative talent and knowledge, and the remit of the Festival is to provide entertainment and education which in turn showcases the many organisations in this area.

Wantage Summer Festival is a non-incorporated, not for profit organisation/charity and is run by volunteers. The Festival Committee acts as a coordinator and ensures that a balance of events is achieved. The Festival produces the programme and tickets (if required) and organises publicity and promotion. The Festival Committee provides services free of charge to participants (event organisers and venue providers). The Festival does not seek to make a surplus as all income from ticket sales goes to the relevant participants.

The Festival is committed to promoting workshops, entertainment, education and family friendly events. We support recreation, culture and leisure, and town vitality. The Festival fosters a sense of community, gives a sense of unity, pride and achievement. It provides opportunities to gain knowledge, learn new skills and to take part in activities which benefits social cohesion and raises awareness of the diverse groups and societies in the area. The Festival is particularly useful for those people who have just moved to the area. Some 5000-7000 people attend the Festival in previous years.

In 2016, the Festival aims to:

- Continue the legacy of the last 20 years in promotion, featuring and documenting of local heritage, talents and organisations;
- Promote Wantage and the area outside of our region;
- Promote the open and inclusive nature of the Festival by engaging with current and new participants;
- Broaden the core themes of the Festival to reach out to the new audiences;
- Engage and involve young people, children and families.
- Offer volunteering opportunities.

The Festival plans that the start of the Festival will coincide with Wantage's celebrations of the Queen's 90th birthday (as the Festival and the Queen's Golden Jubilee celebrations did in 2002). The Festival will run well into July and finish before the school summer holidays start.

"Wantage Summer Festival is a community-based summertime showcase for individuals, groups and organisations in Wantage and the surrounding area to showcase and celebrate their talents, skills and expertise to local residents and visitors"

Linda Baines, Co-Chair

"Wantage Summer Festival is our little gem. We must all preserve it, care for it and make it shine!"
Sylwia Korsak, Co-Chair

“By Wantage and About Wantage” - Our Festival defined by our community:

- “A celebration of the community of Wantage. In particular, it celebrates and presents the skills, knowledge and abilities of the people, groups, and clubs in Wantage.”
- “A celebration of summer and arts through diverse activities and performances.”
- “A programme of events using a variety of venue, offering entertainment and participation of people of all ages, encompassing the talent of the many groups which exist within and around the town.”
- “An opportunity to demonstrate the considerable artistic talent in our midst.”
- “Publicity for Wantage - It is a good place to live and people should know this.”
- “The best of early summer.”

Core Values:

Community, Respect, Inclusiveness

By and About Wantage, Respect for Wantage Heritage, Celebration of All Local, Inclusiveness of Established and New Talents, Openness to New Ideas.

Themes planned for 2016:

- ARTS AND CRAFTS,
- LOCAL HERITAGE AND COMMUNITY,
- GREEN AND NATURE,
- STEM,
- FOOD,
- SPORT.

Examples of events suggested for 2016:

Music, Dance, Theatre, Open Mic, Visual Arts & Crafts, Exhibitions, Workshops, Talks, Local Talents Features, History Walks and Talks, Features by Community Groups, Science Fairs and Talks, Technology and Engineering events, Outdoor Events, Eco and Upcycling Events, Eco Fashion Shows, Bird Watching, Events in Local Parks, Markets, Cooking Events and Workshops, Food Tastings, Beer Tours, Summer Menus, Sport Competitions, Fundraising Runs, Sport Activities, Family Picnics and many more.

Find out more:

- Official Festival website: www.wantagesummerfestival.com
- Official Festival Facebook page: facebook.com/wantagesummerfestival
- Monthly Festival Newsletter: http://eepurl.com/bmJ_KH
- Email: wantagesummerfestival@gmail.com
- Call for more information: 07906 076571