



Press Release

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Title: Medieval Market Day (Heritage Open Day)

Embargoed:

When: Saturday 14th September 2019, 10am to 4pm

Where: Wokingham Town Centre

What: Wokingham is very proud of its Market town heritage and this will be the prime focus of the celebrations for the 800th Anniversary of our Market Charter.

The story began on 2nd January 1219 when the Bishop of Salisbury gave one palfrey (horse) for a Tuesday market in Wokingham, to Henry III until he came of age (he was only 13 at the time)!

This was formalised in 1227 with the Bishop of Salisbury (Richard Poore) being granted a Charter by Henry III, allowing him to hold a weekly market in Wokingham, which provided an income to fund the building of the present Salisbury Cathedral. This month, we have been delighted to have receive a letter from the current Bishop of Salisbury congratulating us on sustaining the Market and wishing the people of Wokingham a happy celebration.

Wokingham Town Council, together with local organisations collectively recognised that this anniversary is a unique moment in Wokingham's history and have come together to suggest it is celebrated by an event that can be enjoyed by the whole community. This event is being aligned with National 'Heritage Open Days.'

We are delighted to share with you that Wokingham was granted match funding towards this event from the National Lottery funding and we have also been fortunate to receive a contribution from the Wokingham Society. This has been great news and has allowed us to offer many more activities for everyone to enjoy, thank you to both of our sponsors.

Inclusive events are planned with a mainly medieval focus but drawing together aspects of the market from across the centuries. On Saturday 14 September, there will be activities inside the Town Hall, in Howard Palmer Gardens, the library and there will be a full and bustling market with our regular traders plus others offering a variety of products. We will also be joined by a local craft beer specialist.

Inside the Town Hall, local crafts such as spinning, weaving and embroidery will be demonstrated together with offering hands on opportunities for children and families plus arts and crafts, including shield making for the creative amongst us.

Howard Palmer Gardens will host a number of activities including a community apple press, birds of prey on display, have a go archery, a puppet theatre and lots more.

Members of a lacemaking group will be at Wokingham library for visitors to have a go at this fascinating craft. Shield making will be taking place there too.

All Saints Church are also taking part in Heritage Open Days on Sunday 15 September and will be offering guided tours of the inside of their Church and their bell tower for those who wish to see Wokingham from a different angle.

More details will follow and be shared over the coming weeks via social media and printed programmes.

Quotes: Cllr David Lee (Chair of Civic Committee):

“This anniversary is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate and raise awareness of the remarkable heritage of our town. We hope that local people and visitors will really engage with the town’s history and enjoy the many ‘medieval’ activities that will be on offer and enjoy our fabulous, bustling market and Market Place.”

About WTC

Vision: To encourage the life and vibrancy of Wokingham Town for its existing and future residents and businesses.

Wokingham Town Council comprises twenty-five councillors who represent the four wards of the town: Emmbrook, Evendons, Norreys and Wescott.

The Town Councillors are elected every four years. Each year the Council elects one of their members to be the Town Mayor and Chairman of the Council.

The Council delegates much of its business to the following committees:

- **Amenities:** Responsible for the Council's facilities such as parks, allotments, buildings, markets, and playgrounds
- **Arts & Culture:** Encourages, supports and, in conjunction with other organisations, delivers artistic and cultural events to users of the town centre.
- **Civic:** Makes decisions on matters relating to the Mayor's Civic involvement with the Town Council. These include Civic Events such as Civic Awards, Mayoral Town Twinning visits and the honorary staff members.
- **Finance & Personnel:** Controls the finances and general administration of the Council. This committee also administers the allocation of grants to local charities and community projects.
- **Planning & Transportation:** This committee acts as a consultative body on Planning Applications, Development Proposals and Transport issues.

The Full Council meets at least six times a year. Council meetings are open to the public.

The agendas and minutes can be found on the Town Council's web site at

www.wokingham-tc.gov.uk.

For general information please telephone the Town Council on 0118 978 3185.

For more information, please visit www.wokingham-tc.gov.uk