

# Parklife

**RUNNING  
ON SOLAR AT  
HOWBERY PARK**

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**October 2018**

Howbery Business Park - Wallingford

# Parklife



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# Running on solar at Howbery Park

Howbery Business Park has installed electric vehicle charging points which use the Polar network of over 6,500 charge points nationwide.

The new charge points, which are designed for use by the park's businesses and employees, use on-site electricity, of which more than 25% per year is generated by the adjacent solar farm. Howbery Park was the UK's first solar business park, with 3,000 ground-mounted solar panels connected to the National Grid.

The park has put sustainability at the heart of its development plans. Its flagship buildings, Kestrel House and Red Kite House, are both BREEAM excellent rated, and have environmentally friendly features, such as the use of bore hole water to provide natural air conditioning.

Donna Bowles, Estates Manager for Howbery Business Park, said: "In May, almost 42% of the park's electricity was generated by the solar farm. In fact, for several days in May, the park was running on completely solar-generated electricity. We are always really thrilled when the park is grid-free, and it's good for users of our electric vehicle charge points to know that on some sunny days during the summer, for example, their charge could be 100% solar-powered!"

Paul Middleton, Technical Services Manager, tries out the electric charge points installed at Howbery Business Park





# Tackling plastics on the park

At Howbery Park we are always striving to minimise any adverse environmental impacts from the park's activity. This means we are also working to reduce the amount of plastics we use in the course of our business, and to reducing the environmental impact of any waste plastic we generate.

As part of our plastics policy, we have committed to focusing on reducing our use of single-use plastics, and to replacing them with bio-degradable alternatives wherever we can.

Recently, we replaced the polystyrene takeaway containers with compostable containers, and swapped the plastic takeaway containers for vegetable-derived polymer containers. We have also introduced compostable cutlery to replace the former plastic cutlery in the delicatessen.

Where we can't avoid using plastics, we aim to use recycled plastics wherever we can, and to buy plastic products that can be easily reused or recycled.

We will also be producing Howbery Park 'cups-for-life' which will be available from the shop in early 2019.

## What happens now to plastic waste generated on the park?

Plastic waste from Howbery Park is taken away by our authorised waste collectors to be either reused, recycled or used to produce energy. This means that none of the plastic waste generated at Howbery Park goes to landfill.

## Help us to reduce our use of plastics further and to generate less waste

We want to encourage the park community, our customers and our suppliers to take practical steps to reduce their own use of plastics and the amount of plastic waste generated overall.

You can help us by reducing your use of white plastic cups, coffee cups and takeaway or purchased disposable food containers, by bringing in your own reusable cups, bottles and food containers. Consider carrying out an audit of the plastics you use in the course of your own business, and take steps to reduce single-use plastics where you can.



# New home for Ecocleen

Commercial cleaning company, Ecocleen, has relocated its Head Office to Howbery Park. The environmentally-friendly cleaning operation employs a workforce of 1100 through its network of franchisees built up over 25 years, and operates right across the UK, providing commercial cleaning for businesses, schools, nurseries and medical facilities.

Jean-Henri Beukes said: "We wanted to find a home for the business that suited the company ethos, and which provided a better environment for our employees. I was invited to Howbery Park by a company already based here, and I fell in love with the campus feel. Donna and The Estates Team have made us really welcome and we already feel part of the park community."

Donna Bowles, Howbery Park Estates Manager, said: "Ecocleen is a great example of a family-run business with a culture which really values its people, and we're delighted they have chosen to relocate to Howbery. We work hard to look after the park landscape, so we're very pleased to hear that it was the look and feel of the park with its solar farm that attracted Ecocleen to move their business here."



Managing Director, Jean-Henri Beukes, and his father, Executive Chairman, Henry



# Web whizzes move in at Howbery Park

Digital Marketing Agency, Zanzi Digital, are the latest arrivals at Howbery Park. Managing Director, Jayne Reddyhoff, and CEO, Ned Wells formed Zanzi in 2014 by combining their two separate businesses. The team of digital marketing strategists specialise in identifying bespoke solutions to help their customers grow online.

“We met at a business networking event”, said Ned, “And after sharing an office for a while, found that we had the perfect mix of skills and experience to merge our two companies into one digital marketing agency, and Zanzi was born. We now have a great team with expertise in all the different aspects of digital marketing.”



The Zanzi Digital team

“We found that we shared the same business vision and values as well,” explained Jayne. “And our skills are complementary. I specialise in e-commerce and online sales, whereas Ned’s experience brings a focus on lead generation and digital marketing strategy, which means we can provide a complete package to help our customers achieve their online ambitions.”

Away from the office, Jayne gives occasional lectures in Digital Marketing to Post Graduates at Oxford Brookes University’s Business School, while Ned is a Business Ambassador for businesses in the region with South Oxfordshire District Council.



# Collaborating on sustainability

Envision and Simply Planning have opened a shared regional office at Howbery Park to support delivery of projects across Oxfordshire and the Thames Valley. Envision is a Sustainability, Energy and Building Services consultancy, which already has offices in London and Milton Keynes, while Simply Planning are a team of planning professionals who have a base in London and an office in Birmingham, but who work right across the UK.

Both companies work in the built environment, with Envision specialising in offering practical and commercial advice on sustainability, and Simply Planning offering planning consultancy across all sectors of development, with particular expertise in the retail and residential sectors.

Simon Rainsford, Envision's Managing Director, said: "At Envision, we offer a broad approach to sustainability, so that in addition to the essential focus on energy efficiency and carbon reduction, our advice ensures that sustainable building design also considers the health and wellbeing of the occupants."



Charlotte Brewin and Simon Rainsford of Envision with Rachel Jones of Simply Planning, who are sharing a new workspace on the park

Simply Planning Director, Rachel Jones, explained: "Although we are two distinct companies, there are so many benefits from sharing a workspace. The Oracle Shopping Centre in Reading is one example where there has been a crossover, with both our companies working on different aspects of the Riverside Pavilion."



# News from HR Wallingford

From ship simulation for a new super ferry, to carrying out research related to offshore wind energy, to mapping 21st Century Drainage for Water UK, HR Wallingford has been involved in some exciting water-related challenges.

Even before Celine - the latest generation in roll on/roll off (RoRo) super ferries - was built, Dublin Port's Pilots and Ship Masters had been preparing for its arrival by taking part in simulator familiarisation and training at HR Wallingford's UK Ship Simulation Centre. At 234m in length - longer than two football pitches - it is the largest short sea roll-on/roll-off vessel in the world, and represents the next generation of super ferries. The UK Ship Simulation Centre was used to determine how the ship would handle, and to identify the limits for manoeuvring it safely in the busy Dublin Port environment, where it would pass close to berths with other large moored vessels, such as huge cruise ships.

HR Wallingford's UK Ship Simulation Centre was also featured in episode 3 of BBC 2's 'Five Billion Pound Super Sewer'. The programme showed one of Thames Tideway's vessel masters using the specially-created virtual reality simulation of a stretch of the tidal River Thames from Putney Bridge to Margaretness to ensure they met Tideway's health and safety standards for working on the river.

*Continued...*



Understanding the UK's drainage capacity might not sound like very stimulating work. But with our towns and cities continuing to expand, resulting in fewer green spaces to absorb rain, combined with more unpredictable weather, it is vital that we ensure the resilience and sustainability of our drainage infrastructure into the future.



On behalf of the 21st Century Drainage Programme, led by Water UK, HR Wallingford has produced the first National Picture of available capacity in the UK's foul and combined sewerage systems.

The aim is that by assessing how much capacity is available in drainage systems now, we can understand what capacity might be available in the future, and identify what investment will be needed in the long term.

Meanwhile, on the research front, world-leading scour experts from Ghent University, Leibniz University Hannover and the University of Porto, alongside other Belgian organisations have been working on a collaborative research project at HR Wallingford's Fast Flow Facility as part of PROTEUS, an EU-funded Hydralab+ project. The research project aims to improve the design of scour protection around offshore wind turbine monopiles, as well as future-proofing them against the impacts of climate change. The project involves conducting a series of large-scale experiments in HR Wallingford's massive flume which measures 75m long x 8m wide, and which is able to recreate realistic marine conditions in the laboratory.



# Crowmarsh playground proposals

## Crowmarsh Gifford

A message from the Crowmarsh Parish Council  
Playground Action Team

For those of you who may not be in the know, Crowmarsh Parish Council have been looking over the past 18 months to upgrade the playground space next to the Crowmarsh Pavillion. It is old and needing significant repair to maintain it. As part of the review and community consultation process a new outdoor gym space was incorporated into the plans.

With much community support - including review and input from Lisa Treacher and her team at Lifestyles Rehab Gym here at Howbery Park, we are pleased to share the news that we have just received the last lump sum in funding, thus allowing the project to go ahead. Howbery Business Park has also sponsored this project.



A close representation of the play space



With thanks to the providers, SODC, WREN's FCC Community Action Fund and ACTIVE SPACES (The London Marathon Charitable Trust and Fields Trust). Subject to legal requirements, the project is planned to be carried out after Christmas with an Easter grand opening.

**We plan to add to our website during the project, please follow the link below if you want to see the plans.**  
<http://crowmarshgifford.org.uk/2017/07/09/crowmarsh-playground-proposals/>

[crowmarshgifford.org.uk](http://crowmarshgifford.org.uk)

# Save the date!

Howbery Park will be celebrating 25 years as a business park in 2019.



Make sure you save Thursday 6 June in your diaries to join in the on-park celebrations!

More details to follow.

# Calling all Bookworms!

Our book group meets every six to eight weeks for about half an hour at lunchtime over at the Manor House and we would love for more people to join us. We read all sorts. Recent books include the novel 'A Gentleman in Moscow' by Amor Towles and the memoir 'Educated' by Tara Westover. There is no pressure to attend every meeting or read every book.

Our next meeting is on **Wednesday 28 November at 12.30**. We are reading 'Darling' by Rachel Edwards and, unusually, the author is coming along to talk to us. Please contact Abbie on [Abigail.lewis@groupgti.com](mailto:Abigail.lewis@groupgti.com) if you'd like to attend.



# Inktober at Howbery

Miramar have been taking part in Inktober - a drawing challenge where you do one drawing a day in pen or ink based on a prompt list.

"We have all been taking part and are now 1/3 of the way through!"





# Developing brilliance with Jewel Training

Over the summer, Jewel has welcomed a new member, Michelle Reynolds, to the team to help with our Marketing and Sales. Some of you may know Michelle as she is local, and currently helping out with Crowmarsh Parish Council's New Playground and Outdoor Gym Project.

Jewel has been busy scheduling in Leadership and Management Training courses ready to start in the new year. We are offering, from January, both an ILM Level 3 and Level 5 course. These courses are ideal for new managers starting out, or for existing managers looking to build their skill set - perfect for continuous professional development (CPD).

Whilst some of the team have been busy in the office forward planning, Julie and the training team have been out and about developing brilliance! Executive coaching and mentoring has been particularly popular for us recently with some great results already being realised for our customers. We have recently designed and delivered a bespoke leadership programme in partnership with Soha, and had amazing results for the trainees as well as the business. Keep an eye out for our insights on our website for more information soon.

Most recently we were pleased to be able to support Mental Health Awareness Day by running a free session in partnership with SO Business. This session looked at Building Resilience in the workplace. In a world where change is becoming the norm, it is increasingly important for us all to develop the skills to help us cope. This was an inspiring session and just a taster of our larger workshop.

If you would like to know more, please pop by for a coffee and a chat. We'd love to see you over here in the Isis Innovation Centre.



Some of the Jewel Team at the Mental Health Awareness session: L-R- Michelle, Julie and Toni



## News and Events from The Manor House Catering Team

Come and join us for our themed menu days where we do our best to provide a little something different for your taste buds:-

5th November  
Guy Fawkes Day

22nd November  
Thanksgiving

30th November  
St Andrew's Day

12th December  
Christmas Lunch  
through the  
serverry

24th December  
Full English  
Breakfast  
served until  
1pm



So why not make a date to join  
us on these days?

# Welcome Amy Allaway

## Assistant Chef – Howbery Park Estates



Amy joined the catering team at Howbery Park on 27 March 2017 as a Catering Assistant for Hospitality, following her previous career roles as Kitchen Assistant at Langtree Secondary School and Food Service Assistant at Rush Court Nursing and Residential Care Home. Amy is qualified to NVQ level 2 in Food Production and Cooking and also to NVQ level 2 in Hospitality and Catering Principles. Having spent time working in a food production kitchen, Amy was keen to broaden her experience in other areas of the catering industry, and felt that working with the Howbery team in the specific role of Hospitality would give her that experience. During her time in this role, Amy has continued with her training,

achieving the Intermediate Level Apprenticeship in Food and Beverage Service through the new apprenticeship levy scheme and Activate learning.

When the position of Assistant Chef became available with the team, Amy saw this to be a chance to promote her career and to again broaden her experience within the industry. We are now delighted to announce that Amy has been appointed, and has taken up the role of Assistant Chef at Howbery Park from 8 October 2018.

Congratulations Amy on your appointment, and best wishes in your new role.

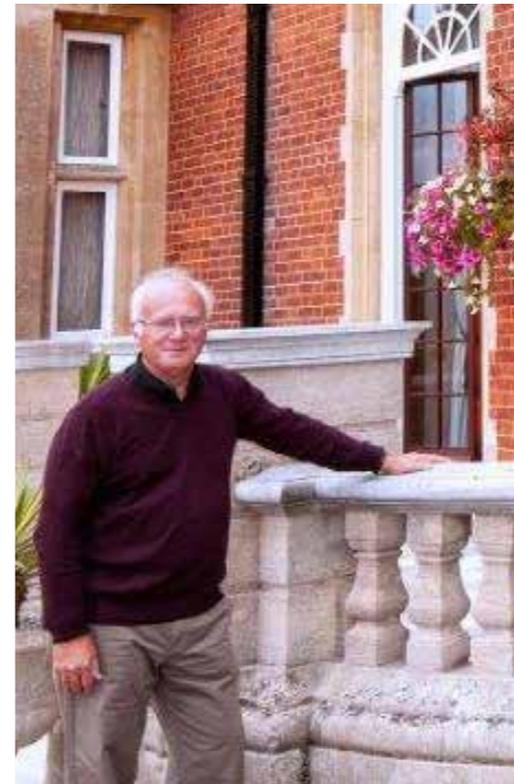
## Cracking carrots!

Hankinson and Duckett have enjoyed the fruits of their labour from using the Howbery Allotments this year.



## Historic Howbery

We welcomed local historian, David Beasley, to site on Wednesday 8th October to give a presentation with some fascinating old photographs of Howbery Park.



# A print success story

Round & About Magazine expands in to its ninth county as the family business continues to fly the flag for print publishing

In October this year we launched the latest edition of Round & About Magazine, for all the residents of Hungerford, Marlborough and Pewsey. As per all our other magazines it's Royal Mail delivered to all the homes within the RG17, SN8 and SN9 postcodes, giving local and national businesses complete penetration within the area. The region is a good match for our target audience, complementing our current geographical reach and it will offer existing and new clients another great region to target.

To cope with the demands of ever more editions and content creation, we are very pleased to have Karen Neville join us. Karen, who leaves her current role of Production Editor at Bath Chronicle, has worked in newspaper publishing, including for the Oxfordshire Guardian Group, for many years, and thus has a sound knowledge of the areas we already reach. She will bring a great amount of experience and a valuable skillset from an international business. Working with Liz Nicholls, our talented editor, Karen will help Round & About deliver ever more localised content, writing articles on issues that matter to our readers and help the machine run smoothly!

Our expansion over the last few years brought us to Howbery Park in 2015, enabling us to have the space to grow and offer employees an enjoyable environment to work in. To help us reach our growth plans in 2019, we are expanding our advertising sales team. The right person doesn't necessarily come from a sales background but someone that is a "people person", has strong customer service skills and can offer sound solutions to potential advertisers, matching their needs with our offering. If you feel you have the skill set to manage some existing accounts and develop new ones, we would like to hear from you. Please email the Sales Director, Luke Maitland, on [lmaitland@roundandabout.co.uk](mailto:lmaitland@roundandabout.co.uk)



**ROUND  
& ABOUT**  
MAGAZINE

# ABHI rebrand!

Representing the largest sector within Life Sciences, HealthTech, the Association of British HealthTech Industries this year underwent a comprehensive rebrand.

The move signals ABHI's intent to focus more on how technology improves health, not just how it treats disease. With the term HealthTech now understood and used by government, the rebrand enables ABHI to represent broader industry; device and diagnostic manufacturers, as well as the data-driven technologies entering the market. The move also sees a greater focus on shaping the future, looking at how data and technology will transform healthcare and the lives of patients in the future. To bring a visual representation to this change, ABHI produced this short video to coincide with the brand's launch which you can find at <https://youtu.be/sbyoVL5U1i4>

**ABHI**  
HealthTech for Life

# Howbery Park highlights!

Rebecca Chiazzese, who works with Envision Sustainability, tells us about the joys of being based at Howbery Park, including tending an allotment, and even a river swim commute!

## Biking To Howbery:

I tend to use my bike to commute between Howbery Park and my home in Wallingford. I often beat the cars doing the same journey, which adds some adrenaline to the routine!



## Howbery Allotment:

I was thrilled to have an allotment this year. The family got involved with planting it up in the spring and tending it through the summer. We enjoyed a yummy harvest of sweetcorn, raspberries, beans and peas.



## Howbery Bees:

The family and I loved the 'Meet the Howbery Bees' session earlier this year and, in September, helped extract the honey, proudly bringing home two jars of delicious Howbery honey. The kids learnt that the Howbery bees could have collected nectar and pollen from the flowers in our garden in Wallingford.



## River Swim To Howbery:

In August, I challenged myself to a river commute. I got in at Wallingford Bridge early one morning and swam upstream the 850 metres or so. I used a pull buoy to carry my things and it felt incredible, emerging out of the water at Howbery in stealth mode! I hope to make this river swim commute a regular activity next summer.

Other highlights have been the amazing outdoor yoga, renting the boat from the Howbery Park Social Club, walking in the grounds, the perfect 5km running loop along the river and tucking in to full English breakfasts on Fridays.

Howbery Park's values seem to align with mine, in terms of the positive approach taken to waste and energy on the business park. And as I have recently starting work for a large-scale solar energy developer, it is very helpful to have a reference project on my doorstep!

**Rebecca is an Associate of Envision Sustainability Ltd (based in the Isis Innovation Centre) and also runs her own business, JCTR Ltd. She specialises in Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) for major planning applications.**

## Jetting to success

Jonas Event Technology has been nominated for two awards at the Event Technology Awards.

'We are proud our technology has been nominated in two categories at the Event Tech Awards. This year, Jonas Event Technology launched the JET Enter system for exhibitions, moving door scanning on conferences, consumer and trade events to a real-time data model long sought after by organisers and earning a nomination for 'Best Visitor Registration Technology'. Our Engage Scanner app and accompanying handheld scanner solution has been re-purposed to deliver a lead capture service to consumer events leading to our nomination for 'Best Ticketing Technology'. We will be sending some of our team down to Troxy, London on the 7th November to hopefully pick up an award or two!'



## Tech commendation for HR Wallingford

On Thursday 24th May 2018 Howbery Park Estates were proud to sponsor the Thames Valley Tech Awards, where HR Wallingford received a highly commended International Tech award.



# Ecocleen team visit Howbery Honey



When the opportunity came up to extract honey straight from the Howbery hives, three members of the Ecocleen team were quick to offer their help...

Luckily, when we arrived the bees were nowhere to be found – the frames had already been extracted from the hives and taken indoors so the honey could be extracted. The honey that we were extracting was a surplus that would freeze over winter, making it inedible for the bees, and the beekeepers made sure to leave enough honey inside the hives for the bees to survive winter.

We had to scrape off the curd with a large knife, to expose the runny honey underneath.

The frames were then put into a machine which spun them around very fast to push the honey out.

Finally, we filled up our glass jars with the fresh honey, popped some stickers on them and took them home to try!



## Well done P1vital!

On the evening of Thursday 24th May the inaugural Thames Valley Tech Awards 2018 were held at the Royal Berkshire Conference Centre, Madejski Stadium in Reading, UK. Having been shortlisted as a Science & Technology finalist, P1vital Products Limited was proud to be an award recipient!"



## Workshop world

Our grounds company, Nurture held three honey extraction workshops on Friday 21st September. The result was everyone taking a delicious jar of honey home to enjoy.

Coming soon:  
30th November – Wreath-making Workshop



## Hanging around

Nurture held another successful Hanging Basket Workshop on Friday 25th May.





Extract from Wastlines Summer 2018 article

# Grundon and Howbery, working together

As the winner of Business Park of the Year in the Thames Valley Property Awards 2017, Howbery Business Park in Oxfordshire is proud of its reputation and its beautiful tree-lined campus on the banks of the River Thames in Wallingford.

The Park - the UK's first solar powered business park - is home to over 50 businesses and organisations, employing more than 800 people, ranging from small companies to large corporations, including independent civil engineering and environmental hydraulics specialist HR Wallingford, and the Environment Agency.

Overseeing waste management on the entire site is Estates Manager Donna Bowles. She works with Grundon and recently teamed up with our account manager Jon Hammond and office support Tracy Richardson to further improve segregation and recycling on site.

It was after reading an article posted online by Jon about how we service Oxfordshire-based BRITA, a world leader in water filters, that Donna was encouraged to look for even greater opportunities.

"We have done a lot with Grundon already and I am very happy, but I am always keen to find out if there is something more we could be doing."

"Having talked with Jon, it was clear we could still improve segregation of different waste streams. It's something we are passionate about because we want to do better and avoid contamination, so this is where we concentrated our efforts."

*Continued...*

Estates Manager Donna Bowles (centre) works closely with Grundon's Jon Hammond (left) and Tracy Richardson (right) on the waste management at Howbery Business Park





One of the biggest changes was to take away all of the park's office desk bins and replace them with 100 corridor bins - 50 for general waste and 50 for mixed recycling - ensuring people have to think twice when disposing of their office waste.

"People are creatures of habit, they don't sort things out unless they have to, so this has been a big step forward," continued Donna. "This is all about enabling people to segregate waste properly and giving them the right tools to do so. Generally tenants and their staff have been very good. If they aren't sure where something goes, they will ask me."

As well as the waste management portfolio, Donna and the Estates Team look after areas such as catering, security, ground maintenance and cleaning.

The cleaning team provides a vital role in helping with waste management because they are responsible for collecting the waste from tenants' bins and taking it back to the larger waste container locations supplied by Grundon.

Around the Park, there are a mixture of compactors, rollonoffs and containers for different types of waste. This includes general waste (non-recyclable) which is sent to Energy from Waste (EfW) facilities; scrap metal, which goes for reprocessing and earns a rebate to be offset against waste charges; and mixed recycling - such as plastics, paper and card - which is also sent for recycling and reprocessing.

The majority of hazardous waste goes into a special Grundon WEEE (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment) cage and then goes to Grundon's Hazardous Waste Transfer station for correct disposal.

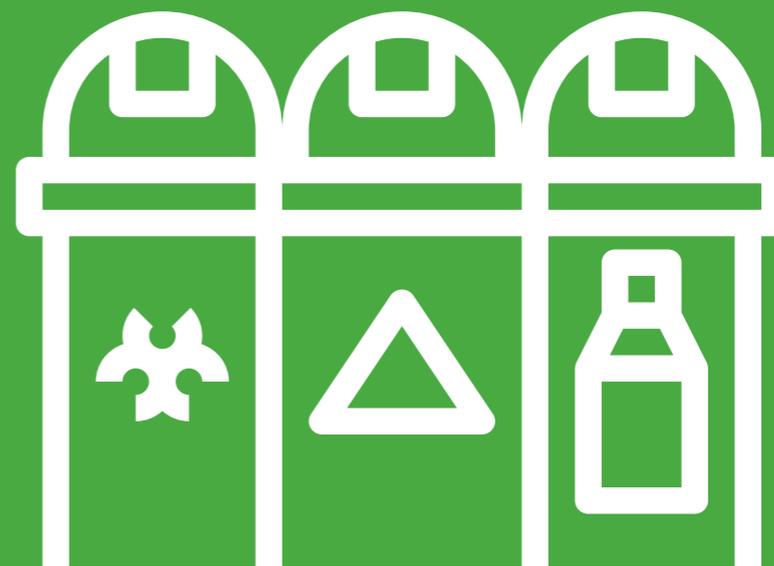
Confidential waste is handled by Grundon's partner Shred Station, which provides shredding services and provides a certificate of destruction.

Jon Hammond concluded:

"Howbery Park is zero waste to landfill and was already very successful in what it had achieved, but there is always room for improvement and, with our help, that's what Donna wanted to aim for."

"For us, it is about continuing to add value and we have been pleased to be able to do so. We are now looking at further helping with education programmes for the park community, and continuing to ensure that Donna and her team get the maximum value out of their waste management operations."

Donna says she is always keen to support local providers and also likes the fact that Grundon's collection fleet is CarbonNeutral® thanks to our carbon offsetting programme with Natural Capital Partners.



# Style Acre

Supporting people with learning disabilities



## Style Acre Christmas cards



Lovingly made by people supported by Style Acre at Howbery Park and now available to buy! Each pack of 12 includes 2 of each design shown here at £5 per pack.



## Wallingford Santa Dash

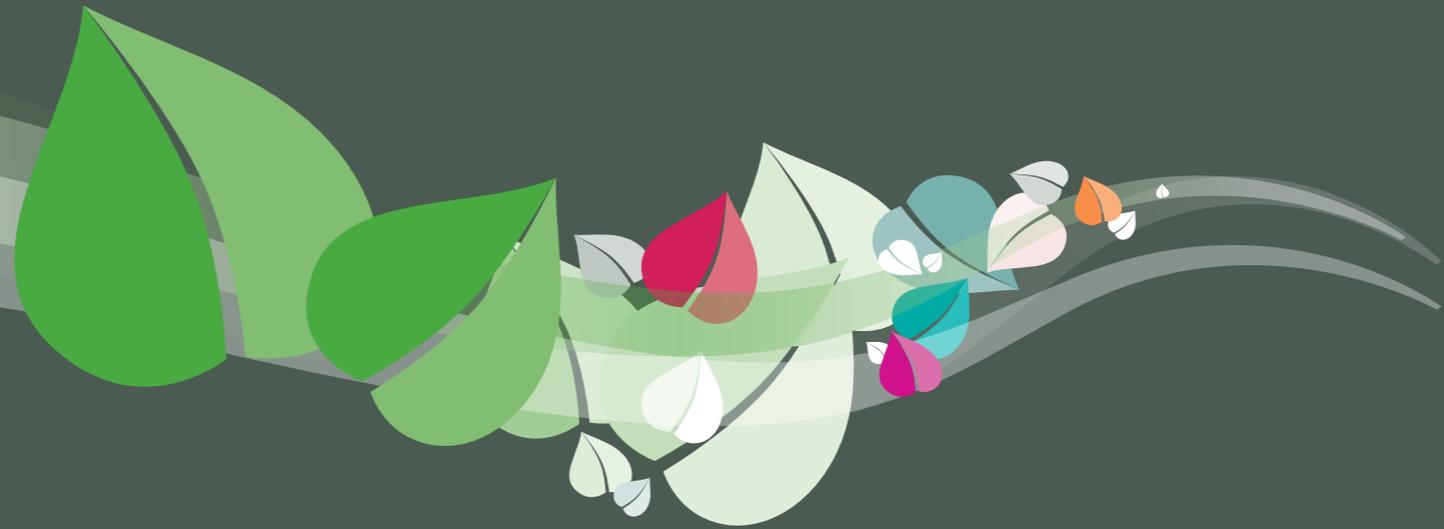
Sunday 2nd December 2018

The Wallingford Santa Dash is back for a third year! Join hundreds of Father Christmas lookalikes for the 3km run/jog/walk from Wallingford School to the Market Place, via the town's lovely parks, arriving in the town centre in time for the Christmas Shopping Extravaganza.

The dash starts at Wallingford School, with a briefing and warm up by The Body Training Studio at 11.15am, before the Mayor of Wallingford officially starts the run at 11.30am.

Sign up at [www.styleacre.org.uk](http://www.styleacre.org.uk)





# News... News... News

## A Note From The Editor:



Keep us posted – to include your news and stories in Parklife, please email them to me, Donna Bowles [d.bowles@howberypark.com](mailto:d.bowles@howberypark.com)