



## Teddy Bears' Picnic

Inflatable fun and face painting were the order of the day, and a beautiful sunny afternoon welcomed teddies, who were joined by their children, the Deputy Town Mayor and the Buckingham Town Jester. Children braving the sun were also joined by the Build-A-Bear mascot, who enjoyed the bouncy castle almost as much as the children.

## Conservation Area Study

On Sundays during May, Town Councillors and volunteers from the Buckingham Society could be seen photographing and making notes about many buildings within the town Conservation Area. The purpose was to record the architectural features of "local note buildings", street furniture and signage so that any future changes (or proposed changes) could be monitored. This important survey was organised by the AVDC Conservation Area Officer, and will assist in preserving our historic heritage and will feed into the Conservation Area Management Plan for Buckingham.

## BUCKINGHAM TOWN COUNCILLORS

### BUCKINGHAM NORTH

Cllr Paddy N E Collins	01280 823006
Cllr Paul Hiron	01280 812072
Cllr Derrick R Isham	01280 813770
Cllr Gerry P Loftus	01280 815664
Cllr Andy Mahi	01280 816582
Cllr Howard Mordue	01280 815418
Cllr Ms Ruth D Newell	01280 815229
Cllr Mrs Pauline Stevens	01280 815532
Cllr Martin Try	01280 816202

### BUCKINGHAM SOUTH

Cllr Terry Bloomfield	01280 815336
Cllr Hedley Cadd	01280 814223
Cllr Mrs Geraldine Collins	01280 823006
Cllr Rob Lehmann	01280 817331
Cllr. Mrs. Lisa O'Donoghue	01280 824624
Cllr Mike Smith <b>Mayor</b>	01280 822215
Cllr Robin Stuchbury	01280 824285
Cllr Warren Whyte	01280 820531



### Buckingham Town Council

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### NAME OUR NEWSLETTER COMPETITION

Due to the quality and quantity of the entries into the competition a decision is still to be made and the winner will be announced in the next issue.

# BTC News

Summer 2010



# Introducing... the new Mayor and Deputy Mayor

The new Town Mayor, **Councillor Mike Smith**, was formally inaugurated and robed during a blistering hot Mayor-making at the end of May.

During his acceptance speech, he said *"It is an undoubted honour to be made your Mayor after only five years in Buckingham and three*



*years on the Town Council. This will be an exciting year for the Mayoress, **Marjorie Howard**, and me; but my priorities will remain as they have always been – to encourage support for our local business, trading and volunteer communities and to press for a fairer share of inward investment by district and county councils".* He added *"I am delighted that my Deputy Mayor will be **Councillor Ruth Newell**. She brings a wealth of experience to the role, and is someone who is easy to work with. I know she will be an effective and hard-working deputy".*



The Mayor's charities this year are **Buckingham Association of Citizen Advice Bureaux, Buckingham Heritage Trust** and **Project Street Life**.



Buckingham Heritage Trust



Chris



Anita



Lee



Katharine



Jodie



Roy



Craig

## Meet the Team

### Town Clerk

#### Christopher Wayman

Chris has overall responsibility for the running of the Town Council Office and carrying out the decisions of the Town Council.

### Deputy Town Clerk

#### Anita Simonds

The Deputy Town Clerk looks after the Town Council's event schedule, is the Market Co-ordinator, and runs the office when Chris is absent.

### Green Spaces Manager

#### Lee Phillips

Lee is in charge of day to day running of the Parks and the Cemetery, including supervision of our outdoor maintenance staff and overseeing the work of the Community Service personnel.

### Clerical Assistant

#### Katharine McElligott

Katharine clerk's the Town Council's Planning Committee and co-ordinates the Town Council's responses on all planning and associated matters.

### Accounts Assistant

#### Jodie Baughan

Jodie processes the invoices and carries out the Town Council's daily accounts obligations.

### Outdoor Maintenance

#### Roy & Craig Calder

Roy and Craig help set up the Town Council events and carry out the maintenance jobs in the parks and the cemetery.



## Car Parking Charges

Aylesbury Vale District Council is set to introduce car parking charges at Cornwall's Meadow (Short and Long Stay) and Western Avenue (Long Stay) car parks. Additional Long Stay parking at Buckingham Athletic Football Ground in Stratford Road will also be introduced shortly, thereby increasing the overall number of parking spaces in the town.

Despite the imposition of these charges, the Town Council is pleased to announce its success in persuading AVDC to retain some free short-stay car parking in Cornwalls Meadow.



# Chandos Park

The new play area and multi-use games area in Chandos Park will be officially opened soon but, in the meantime, youngsters should feel free to use and enjoy them.

The play area took longer to install than we had planned because late in the day we received a capital grant from **Aiming High**. This enabled us to meet several requests for a disabled access roundabout, and a wide slide (so that less able children can be accompanied).

It has also enabled us to install a new path to the play area. Although regretting the delay, we think these extra improvements were well worth the wait.



## Two important studies

The Town Council was fortunate to secure funding, via Aylesbury Vale Advantage, for two important studies in the town in support of The Buckingham Plan.

The first study is to review the 2001 Vision & Design Statement, which covers preservation of the town's identity and places pointers to steer future growth.

The second study (which has been delayed pending the imposition of car parking charges) will report on transport and non-vehicular access to and within the town centre, and the adequacy etc of car parking provision. We have met with the consultants, and look forward with interest to their final reports.

## Are we getting a fair crack of the whip?

For some years, your Town Council has been concerned about the apparent lack of investment in the town by our District Council, and what many think is an over-emphasis on Aylesbury, with a consequent detrimental effect on the other towns and villages in the Vale.

The Town Council is inviting all other town and parish Councils in Aylesbury Vale to let us know if they share a similar view. We shall report on the outcome later in the year.

## Music in the Market – 30th May 2010

A beautiful May afternoon saw the 10th anniversary of our Music in the Market festival in Buckingham. The Acoustic Club, in association with Buckingham Town Council, arranged a varied line-up of great music covering various styles to suit all tastes – as evidenced by the happy crowds that thronged the area until late in the night. The Town Council extends it's thanks to **Linda** and **Richard Watkins** and everyone in the Acoustic Club.



## May Day Celebrations

The weather was kind on what was a beautiful spring morning, which saw children from the Buckingham Primary School perform traditional Maypole dances and brought their Maypole along for the event. The Town Council would like to thank **St Peter & St Paul Church** for help in serving refreshments, and hopes that more schools will take part in this traditional event in the future.

## Bowls and Tennis Club Information

With the summer in full swing, so are the tennis and bowls clubs in Chandos Park. Both are open to the public for use over the summer months. For use of the bowls green please contact Secretary **Bob Reynolds** on **07761 641059**.

To book the tennis club please contact **Seahawk Supplies** on **01280 817807** for booking and access.



# Annual Report and Finances



## Town Council Extension

Frustratingly, the long-awaited extension to the Council premises in Cornwall Place has been beset with delays.

Difficulties in securing the necessary agreements from the landowner, coupled with some uncertainties about existing rights of way, mean that our staff continue to endure cramped and unsuitable working conditions, the community room has yet to be realised, and the town still has too few public toilets. The Town Council is now hopeful of securing resolution to the outstanding issues by the end of the summer, but if this does not materialise, consideration may have to be given to alternative arrangements.

The last 12 months have been challenging and have seen considerable change.

The Town Council has a new Councillor – **Mrs Lisa O'Donoghue**, who was elected in March following the death of **Cllr. Mrs. Pam Desorger** in December. With the growing workload, we have also taken on new staff.

Over the past year, the Town Council has worked hard to take on the view of the townspeople and, as a result, rules concerning the kerbing of graves in the Brackley Road Cemetery have been relaxed, and play equipment suitable for less able children has been installed in Chandos Park play area.

Town residents and visitors should already see many improvements in Chandos and Bourton Parks, and these will continue over the coming years as The Buckingham Plan and the Town Council's Parks Policy are rolled-out.

The town as a whole will see challenging times in the future following AVDC's decision in October to allow 700 homes to be built on land south of the by-pass, thereby bringing planned total new dwellings 1,200. This will see the town population increase by a quarter. Although the Town Council was able to avoid an increase in its share of your Council Tax, the current economic circumstances and the proposed car parking charges will present further challenges to us all during next 12 months.

### SERVICE AREA

#### INCOME

	2008/2009 £	2009/2010 £	2010/2011 £
Precept	383,123	529,944	523,000
Markets	28,872	29,533	30,900
Interest	4,767	438	600
Rental and Burial Income	112,453	13,355	12,908
Sponsorship	302	11,253	9,694
Devolved Services	900	550	15,000
Other	5,269	302	795

<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>535,686</b>	<b>585,375</b>	<b>592,897</b>
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#### EXPENDITURE

Finance & Administration	175,941	205,646	258,183
Grants	9,978	29,894	31,999
Grounds Maintenance	137,769	176,280	174,555
Annual Events	27,463	34,873	41,280
Market Expenses	6,502	7,086	8,785
Planning	758	138	1,200
Projects Costs	61,327	7,018	23,000
Contingencies	1,193	12,868	20,000

<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>420,931</b>	<b>473,803</b>	<b>559,002</b>
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Balance at start of the year	142,521	257,276	368,848
income over expenditure	114,755	111,572	33,895

<b>BALANCE YEAR END</b>	<b>257,276</b>	<b>368,848</b>	<b>402,743</b>
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The precept is the amount that the Town Council asks Aylesbury Vale District Council, as the Council Tax Billing Authority to collect on our behalf from the tax payers of Buckingham to fund the activities and services of the Town Council.

The Town Council's Precept for 2010/2011 was set at £523,000, which resulted in a Council Tax Bill of £121.46 per year at Valuation Band D or £2.34 per week per house. This was a reduction of 0.1% on 2009/2010