

EVENTS DIARY

2012

MARCH

Sat 3rd	Pancake Race
Fri 9th – Sun 11th	Town Twinning Anniversary Event
Sat 10th	Fair Trade Coffee Morning
Sat 17th	Green Fair
Sun 18th	Continental Market
Sun 25th	Comedy Night

MAY

Sat 5th	May Day Celebration
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JUNE

Sun 3rd	Spring Music Festival
Mon 4th	Diamond Jubilee Celebrations
	Lighting of the Beacon
Sat 16th – 23rd	Buckingham Fringe (Summer events week)
Wed 27th	Youth Project

JULY

Mon 9th	Olympic Torch passing through Buckingham
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AUGUST

Sun 26th	BandJam
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SEPTEMBER

Sun 16th	River Rinse 1
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OCTOBER

Sun 7th	River Rinse 2
Fri 12th	Local Democracy Event
Sat 13th	Charter Fair
Sat 20th	Charter Fair

NOVEMBER

Sat 3rd	Bonfire & Fireworks
	Buckingham Acoustic in the Market
Sun 11th	Remembrance Day Parade
Sun 24th	Christmas Lights & Carols
	Continental Market

DECEMBER

Sat 15th	Community Fair
	Christmas Parade

Please find further details inside or online:
www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk/events/events.html



Buckingham TownMatters

Spring 2012



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beacons, street
parties and
memory books

twinning

green fair

buckingham
fringe

Thoroughly MODERN
Traditional
BUCKINGHAM

A Message from Mayor Mike

Mayor Mike and Mayoress Margie wish everyone living and working in Buckingham a very happy, healthy and prosperous 2012.

Many feel a bit “down” in the period between Christmas and Easter, and long for the (hopefully) warmer weather and lighter evenings. As we begin 2012, the general economic climate means the proverbial belt-tightening for most of us. Times are far from easy, with every week seeing something go up in price. Unemployment in the Vale is also creeping up, particularly for younger jobseekers. And on top of all that, we have many legislative changes that could have a massive impact on our historic town and its surrounding rural communities.

But let's try and look on the bright side, as there are also many things to look forward to. We have a vibrant town, with hard-working traders ensuring that they offer the very best service to their customers. Unlike many nearby towns, businesses in Buckingham remain buoyant and we have far fewer empty shops than similar towns. I would urge you to help keep it that way by shopping locally – which also saves you petrol costs and high parking charges.

The Town Council's brand new **Comedy Club** with Miles Jupp at Villiers Hotel on



29 January will certainly have banished some of those winter blues, and by the time you receive this you will have enjoyed the huge savings on ticket prices for the **MK Dons Buckingham Big Day** match against Oldham Athletic on 18 February. These events are in addition to the usual range of musical and other entertainments regularly organised by your Town Council – a full list of events appears on page 3 in this edition of Buckingham Town Matters.

2012 also sees the **Queen's Diamond Jubilee**. As part of the festivities planned for early June, Buckingham will be one of the Beacon sites, so look out for announcements about a bit of a celebration in Bourton Park. Why not plan a Street Party with your neighbours, or join one of the organised events that we know are being planned throughout the area? Visit http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/bcc/leisure/street_parties.page or contact the Town Council office for advice and more information.

And don't forget the Olympics, much of which will be centred in our Buckinghamshire. We are delighted

DETAILS OF UP AND COMING EVENTS

Saturday 3rd March

Annual Pancake Race on the Green outside St Peter & St Pauls Church, Buckingham

Sunday 25th March 8pm

2nd **Comedy Night** at the Old Town Hall, Buckingham, comedian Simon Evans

Saturday 5th May

May Day Celebration

Sunday 3rd June

Starts off the Jubilee celebrations in Buckingham Town Centre, with the annual

Music in the Market

Monday 4th June

Come and be part of history and watch as the beacon to commemorate **Queen Elizabeth's Diamond Jubilee** is lit in Bourton Park. Other events will be taking place during the day to mark this historic occasion

Saturday 16th June – Saturday 23rd June

Marks the **Buckingham Fringe** week, with a variety of entertainment for all ages

Monday 9th July

Make a point of watching the **Olympic Torch** relay as it passes through Buckingham and Market Hill

that the **Olympic Torch** will be passing through Buckingham on 9 June, and hope your Town Council will have something up their sleeve to mark the occasion.

Yes, times are a bit hard – but there's also plenty to smile about.

This is the last time that I shall be writing here as your Mayor, as my successor will be chosen towards the end of March. It's been a hectic but hugely enjoyable two years, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many

Buckingham folk who have been so friendly and supportive. You have proved that I was right to move here seven years ago. My three charities – **Project Street Life, Buckingham & Winslow Citizens' Advice Bureau**, and **Buckingham Old Gaol Trust** – have all gained some much-needed funds, thanks to the generosity of you all. I'm now looking forward to a bit of a rest...!

Mike Smith
Buckingham Town Mayor

The Changing Face of Buckingham...Part 2

It's been another busy few months for planning. The debate rages on about the changes the government are making but we're doing our best to make sure we're prepared. You read in the last newsletter that Buckingham is a 'Front-Runner' for Neighbourhood Planning, well now we're seeing the results with our draft "Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report" – the first in the country to be published (as far as we're aware!)

As ever, we need you to feedback on the report to make sure we're heading in the right direction for Buckingham. You can find copies in the library, on our website and on Aylesbury Vale's website. If all this sounds a bit complicated, don't worry – there's a plain English version available and we want as many people as possible to get involved. There are a lot of issues we hope to tackle: growth of the university, employment prospects, housing and allotment space to name just a few, so if you have any thoughts on what the report says about these, let us know.

One other thing to look out for is the "Development Scheme" for Buckingham. This is basically a timetable for all the

various plan-making that's going on in the town so you know who is doing what and what the procedure is. We know there's a lot of frustration about recent development in



so one final point to stress is that planning cannot change what has already happened or is happening. What it can do though is make the future more certain so that more controversy is avoided. Our main objective is to manage Buckingham's development for a better future, something hopefully everybody can get behind.

Quiet Buckingham

Unwelcome noise can damage lives and communities. It can be the car alarm at 3 in the morning, a loud animal, a noisy party or those faint hissing noises from the earphones of the person next to you on the bus.

At the Town Council, we want everyone in Buckingham to live fulfilling lives, untroubled by noise from neighbours, traffic or workplaces.



As part of our efforts to work with you to achieve this, we have compiled this short list of ideas and actions:

- Consider your neighbours. Do you make any noise that could be upsetting to them?
- Get to know your neighbours. Talking about noise and its impacts is one of the best ways of avoiding any conflict.
- Inform your neighbours. If you are going to have a party (for example), let them know or even invite them.
- If your neighbours are making too much noise, talk with them.
- If you have tried that or else feel you cannot talk with them, get some help from an independent person. (If you go to www.direct.gov.uk and type in noise to their search box, some very useful links come up).
- Again if you have tried that, contact **Environmental Health at AVDC (01296 585605)** as they are the people who deal with noise (NOT the police)
- You may need to keep a record of the noise to provide evidence, if it goes that far.

Remember, your neighbours may not just be the people living either side of you.

But what solutions have you found that work? Please write in (details at the back) and we will feature some of these in future editions.



Photos courtesy of Brian Simonds



The Queens Diamond Jubilee Beacons, street parties and memory books!

2012 marks the Queens Diamond Jubilee and preparations are under way for Buckingham's celebrations. On 4th June a beacon will be lit in Bourton Park between the hours of 10pm and 10:30pm after the Queen has lit the national beacon in Central London. It is hoped that there will be 2,012 beacons lit across the country to commemorate the event. A special book which is being compiled by the Pageant Master is to be presented to the Queen after the Jubilee, listing all the towns and villages that took part. Buckingham's beacon has already been registered with the Pageant Master for this event, for inclusion in the book.

Buckingham Town Council wants to know what you were doing on the day of the Coronation in 1953. Did you attend a street party, were you lucky enough to own a TV and watch the coronation on it? A **Memory Book** is being compiled with memories of what local residents were doing on the day of the Coronation. The book will go on display in the library and the Old Gaol and copies will be available for sale.

Keep watching the Buckingham Town Council website and the Buckingham & Winslow Advertiser for updates on the above events.

MUSIC IN THE MARKET

The Jubilee Celebrations kick off with **Music in the Market**, which will be held on **Sunday 3rd June** in the **Bull Ring**.

Organised by the **Buckingham Acoustic Club**, this event is now in its 12th year. With a wide range of music, this event is **FREE** and everyone is welcome.



Christmas Parade 2011

Rounding off events for 2011, and despite freezing cold temperatures, thousands of spectators turned out to line the streets of Buckingham, for the 27th annual Christmas Parade on December 10th. Sponsored by Buckingham Town Council and with this year's theme being 'Walt Disney', over 40 floats, marching bands and walkers led by the **Town Crier**, paraded through Buckingham Town Centre. Awards were handed out by the **Mayor, Cllr Mike Smith**, and **MP John Bercow** to the best floats and walkers, which included **Buckingham Library, The Royal British Legion, Maids Moreton Scouts** and **The Young Carers**. The parade was enjoyed by everyone, and was said to be better than ever!



Photos courtesy of Brian Simonds

Memorial Testing

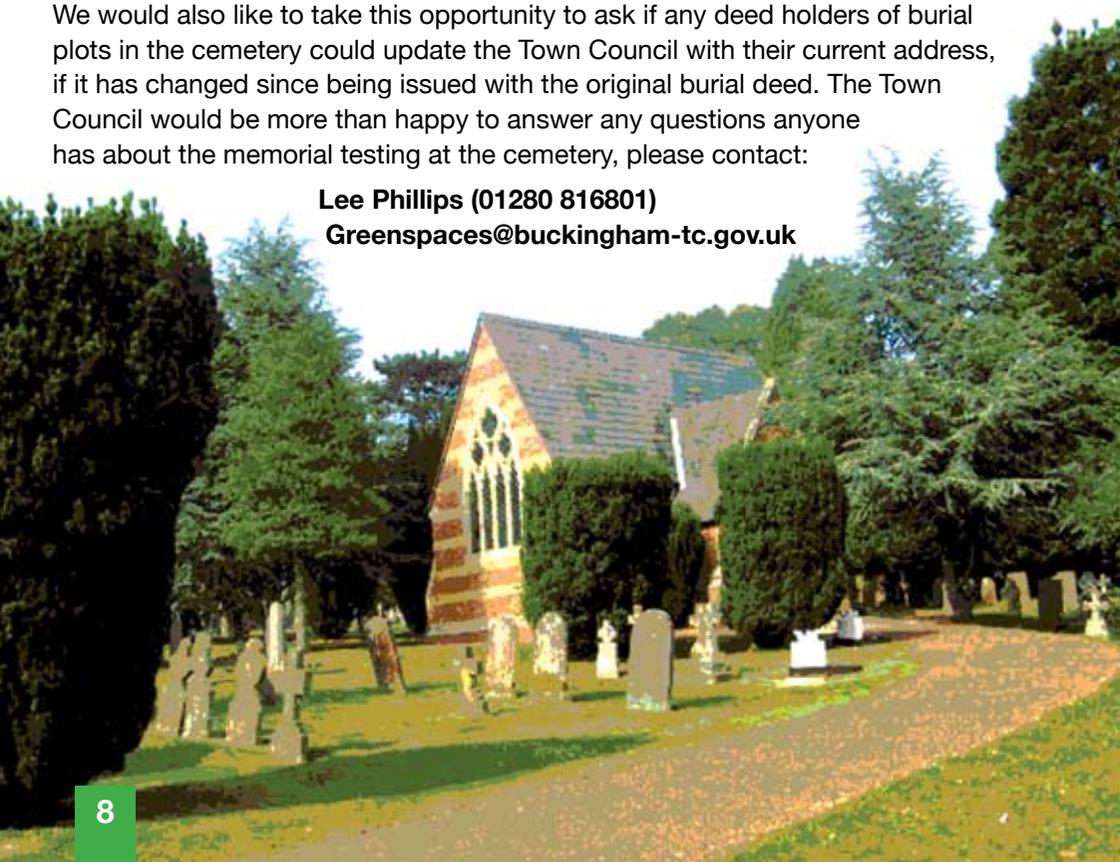
Buckingham has a distinguished historic cemetery that is over 150 years old which Buckingham Town Council is responsible for maintaining. As part of its commitment to providing an attractive and safe cemetery for its visitors the Town Council has started to assess the safety of memorials in the cemetery.



The Town Council is going to undertake a programme of memorial safety testing in the cemetery which will be done in an appropriate and sensitive manner. This will be an on-going process and will be done on a yearly basis with all of the memorials being tested over a 5 year period. The holder of the grave deed is ultimately responsible for the maintenance of the memorial; a list of any unsafe memorials will be made available on the Town Council's website and at the cemetery. The council would like to stress that if any unsafe memorials are found they will not be laid flat unless there is no alternative to making them temporarily safe until they can be repaired.

We would also like to take this opportunity to ask if any deed holders of burial plots in the cemetery could update the Town Council with their current address, if it has changed since being issued with the original burial deed. The Town Council would be more than happy to answer any questions anyone has about the memorial testing at the cemetery, please contact:

Lee Phillips (01280 816801)
Greenspaces@buckingham-tc.gov.uk



The Development of Christ's Hospital Almshouses

One of the landmarks of Buckingham town centre is the Christ's Hospital almshouses, at the corner of Verney Close and Market Hill.

These were originally built for the relief of 6 poor widows (of good character) born in the Borough of Buckingham. Over the years this has been extended to cover any single, deserving individuals.

They were last rebuilt in Victorian times when the residents were happy to have a roof over their

heads. But over the years the standards have risen and they need making into individual one bedroom flats with proper kitchen, bathroom, toilet etc provision.

In addition the building is in bad structural shape, with several damp problems. Architect plans have been drawn up, costed, and planning permission has been gained from AVDC to completely rework the existing building.

The total cost of this project is £774,000. The small reserves held by Buckingham General Charities, who own the building, and a mortgage of £420,000 leaves a shortfall of £340,000. A grant from the HCA (Housing & Communities Agency, a Government Quango) is being negotiated.

Unfortunately the mechanism by which the money has been granted is somewhat complex and long drawn out so we will not be able to start the work until 2013. We can then look forward to having much improved accommodation for the 6 residents.





BUCKINGHAM GREEN FAIR

Our third Green Fair will be held at Buckingham Community Centre on Saturday 17 March.

If you are interested in reducing your carbon footprint and saving money, this will present an opportunity to learn more about solar energy, photo-voltaic electricity production, reduced “food miles” and much, much more. This will be an ideal opportunity to speak to companies and businesses involved in the broader “green” industry sector. With rising energy prices, what better time is there to “Go Green!”

Admission will be free, and the Fair will be open from 10.00am to 4.00pm.

The Fair is being organised by the **Green Buckingham Group**, which serves to raise awareness and encourage local adoption for a more environmentally-friendly lifestyle. Its members are drawn from the **Town Council, the University of Buckingham, the Buckingham & Winslow Advertiser**, and others with an interest or involvement in environmental issues.

For more information, please visit <http://greenbuckingham.org.uk>



Climate Week
12-18 March 2012



It's nearly five years since Buckingham became a recognised FairTrade town. FairTrade is about better prices, decent working conditions, local sustainability, and fair terms of trade for farmers and workers in the developing world – sometimes known as ethical trading.

A surprisingly long list of traders and businesses qualified the town for recognition, and that list is gradually growing. Both of the town's supermarkets stock a range of FairTrade products.

But it's not just a matter of tea, coffee and bananas. Clothing can be ethically sourced at a reasonable price, and this must surely be better than relying on cut-price produce from exploitative sweat-shops. Even furniture can be made from sustainably-sourced materials.

One of the largest “businesses” in town currently on the verge of gaining recognition is the University of Buckingham, both for its foodstuffs and beverages and a range of branded clothing.

What it means for the average shopper is that, by purchasing goods bearing the FairTrade logo, they are helping to support sustainability and reduce poverty while at the same time being assured of buying a quality product. **Could we urge you to give FairTrade products a try, if you haven't already done so?**



Buckingham Twinning

Buckingham has been twinned with **Mouvaux**, a town on the edge of Lille in northern France, for several years now. In fact this year will be the 10th anniversary of the relationship with Mouvaux.

To celebrate the 10th anniversary of being twinned with Mouvaux, they are sending a choir to Buckingham in March who, together with the Lenborough Singers, will perform in the Parish Church. It is also hoped to plant a tree to commemorate the occasion and to name the small hall in the community centre after our twinned town.

For many years Mouvaux has been twinned with the German town **Neukirchen-Vluyn**, which is in the very west of Germany between the Ruhr Valley and the Dutch border. Neukirchen-Vluyn has participated in a youth football tournament between our own Mortonville and Mouvaux; and the Royal Latin School also has a student exchange with them. To build on this burgeoning relationship, the Town Council has recently agreed to enter into a “friendship” with Neukirchen-Vluyn.

Buckingham Fringe Week 16th – 23rd June

This year's Buckingham Fringe Week runs from Saturday 16th to Saturday 23rd June with events and entertainment for all the family.



Seann Walsh

With the success of previous Comedy Nights, another is planned for Sunday 17th June. The comedian is confirmed... **Seann Walsh**, as part of his 2012 tour. **The Oxford Fiddle Group** are set to return again on Wednesday 20th June... watch out for something exciting to celebrate the Summer Solstice on Thursday 21st June.

Plans for other events during the Fringe week are still being finalized. Keep watching the Buckingham Town Council website and the local paper for more information.

The Oxford Fiddle Group



Photo courtesy of Brian Simonds

Youth Centre

Music Night

Buckingham Youth Clubs runs a music club every Friday (4.00pm-7.00pm) at

Buckingham Youth Centre and would welcome new members from individuals aged 11-19 who wish to build their confidence in playing and young groups who want to practice together.

The club's staff of experienced local musicians have worked with their young resident group **Resist** (age 15-16) over the past two years and its members from two Buckingham schools now write their own songs, play at local venues and record their own work.

The club provides drum kits, amplifiers and PA equipment plus a number of electric and acoustic guitars, bass and keyboards for practice sessions if needed.

Clubs run at the Youth Centre are on Mondays 7.00-9.30pm for Years 8 & 9 (Age 12-14) and Thursday 7.00-9.30pm for Years 10 & 11 (Age 14-16)

For more information about any of the clubs or if you would like to help in any way, contact **Jim Whatmore – Youth Club Leader** on **07934 784341**.



We were delighted that, following the success of last year's series of events, MK Dons agreed to repeat things this year. Most of you will have noticed that their mascots, Donney and Mooie, again officiated at the Christmas Lights switch-on, and joined in our Christmas Parade. They always prove popular with the youngsters, from whom they received a warm welcome on both occasions.

A Football Forum at Buckingham Athletic Football Club on 2 February provided an opportunity for fans of the beautiful game to question the MK Dons Chairman, First Team Manager, Directors and Management of Athletic FC about a whole host of football-related matters. On 9 February, The Buckingham School hosted an opportunity for under-13s to meet players, ask questions, collect autographs and take part in games and activities run by the MK Dons Sport & Education Trust. Project Street Life hosted a Young People's Event on 16 February, with 13-16 year olds meeting two MK Dons players and taking part in games and activities.

The MK Dons Chairman hosted a combined business and trader community networking event and reception at Villiers Hotel on 15 February.



All of these events were arranged by the MK Dons without charge. The Buckingham Big Day match against Oldham Athletic on 18 February, which saw Oldham trounced 5-0, was at heavily discounted ticket prices for the 1,000+ residents with an MK18 postcode who attended. Buckingham talent also provided the pre-match entertainment.

Comedy Night

COMEDIANS ENTERTAIN SOLD OUT CROWD

Sunday 29th January saw a sold out audience entertained by comedians **Joe Bor, Elis James and Miles Jupp**, as Buckingham launched the first of its Comedy Nights in the Ballroom at the Old Town Hall, Buckingham.

Compere Joe Bor, and support act Welshman Elis James entertained the audience with their own brand of humour before headliner Miles Jupp came on stage. All three comedians had the audience roaring with laughter in their seats from the start of the show to the end.

This is the first in a series of comedy nights organised by Town Council staff on behalf of the Town Centre and Events Committee who hope that this will be a welcome addition to the year's programme of events.

Miles Jupp © Brian Simonds

Miles Jupp, Joe Bor & Elis James © Brian Simonds



Initial feedback from those attending was positive and are looking forward to the next night of comedy.

The next Comedy Night will be on **Sunday 25th March** featuring **Simon Evans** held in The Ballroom at the Old Town Hall. Doors open at 7:30pm for an 8pm start. Tickets on sale at £12.50 to over 18's only and can be purchased from The Tourist Information Centre at the Old Gaol, Buckingham and Villiers Hotel.

Simon Evans



Buckingham Town Councillors

BUCKINGHAM NORTH

Cllr. Paddy Collins	01280 823 006
Cllr. Jon Harvey	01280 812 711
Cllr. Derrick Isham	01280 813 770
Cllr. Rob Lehmann	01280 817 331
Cllr. Andy Mahi	01280 816 562
Cllr. Howard Mordue	01280 815 418
Cllr. Ms Ruth Newell	01280 815 229
Cllr. Martin Try	01280 816 202

BUCKINGHAM SOUTH

Cllr. Terry Bloomfield	01280 815 336
Cllr. Hedley Cadd	01280 814 112
Cllr. Mrs Geraldine Collins	01280 823 006
Cllr. Paul Hirons	01280 812 072
Cllr. Mrs Lisa O'Donoghue	01280 824 624
Cllr. Mike Smith (Mayor)	01280 822 215
Cllr. Robin Stuchbury	01280 824 285
Cllr. Warren Whyte	01280 820 531

Other useful Numbers

Buckinghamshire County Council	0845 3 70 80 90
Highways on Call	0845 2 30 28 82
Aylesbury Vale District Council	01296 58 58 58
Buckingham Winslow & District CAB	01280 81 67 07
Buckingham Tourist Information Centre	01280 82 30 20
Buckingham Community Centre	01280 82 35 84

Your views count

Buckingham Town Matters is produced by Buckingham Town Council in order to provide you with a taste of what keeps Councillors and staff busy. But this is also an invitation for you to tell us what you think of what we do and what you think we should be doing. We are all working together to make Buckingham an even better place, so please let us know:

- what you think we should carry on doing
- what you think we should stop doing, or do less of
- what you think we should start doing, or do a lot more of

You can email us or just drop us a line at the address below. We look forward to hearing from you.

Buckingham Town Council, Buckingham Centre, Verney Close, Buckingham, MK18 1JP
Telephone/Fax: 01280 816 426 Email: office@buckingham-tc.gov.uk

Just a reminder... all Town Council meetings are open to the public, you are invited to come along and give us your views.