

# EVENTS DIARY 2014



# Buckingham TownMatters

Spring 2014

<b>MARCH</b>	Sun 23rd	Spring Fair
<b>MAY</b>	Thurs 1st Sun 25th	May Day Music in The Market
<b>JUNE</b>	Sat 14th – 21st	Buckingham Fringe
<b>JULY</b>	Thurs 6th TBC Thurs 31st	Dog Awareness Cycle Race Family Fun Day
<b>AUGUST</b>	Thurs 14th Sun 24th Wed 27th	Family Fun Day BandJam Family Fun Day
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	Sun 14th	River Rinse
<b>OCTOBER</b>	Sun 5th Sat 18th Sat 25th	River Rinse Charter Fair Charter Fair
<b>NOVEMBER</b>	Sat 1st  Sun 9th  Sat 29th	Bonfire & Fireworks Best Dressed Guy Remembrance Day Parade Christmas Lights & Carols
<b>DECEMBER</b>	Sat 13th	Christmas Parade Community Fair



**in this  
issue**

**new homes  
bonus**

**buckingham  
markets**

**active healthy  
Buckingham**

**upcoming  
events**

**flood action**



*Thoroughly* MODERN  
**Traditional**  
BUCKINGHAM

Please find further details inside or online:  
[www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk/events/events.html](http://www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk/events/events.html)

# A Message from Mayor Ruth

I do hope that you had a peaceful Christmas, and wish everyone living and working in Buckingham a very happy, healthy and contented 2014.

It was lovely to see so many people at the Christmas Lights Switch on in Buckingham and at the Christmas Parade, followed by the Charities Fair in the community centre.

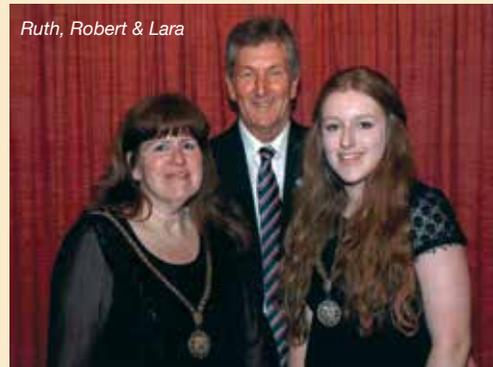
Thank you to all those involved in the organisation of events in the Town, from our Council Officers, and especially the volunteer Councillors and Townspeople. We are very lucky to have so many people who volunteer for the benefit of others in the community and I want to thank each and every one for volunteering in whatever way they have during 2013, from helping others, volunteering for our many charities in the town, raising funds for Charities, serving our community through schools, hospitals and churches, nature conservation work and everything in between, and send you all best wishes for that continuing in 2014.

I hope that many of you will have taken the opportunity to have your say in our neighbourhood development plan in terms of where you want to see Buckingham's development of housing; retail and industry, so that our plan reflects what we want for the Town and protect our lovely green spaces, the plan is nearly finalised and will be passed to AVDC to conduct the referendum on our behalf.

In 2014 why not save on travelling costs and time by supporting our shops, markets, cafes, pubs, restaurants and businesses to keep Buckingham the

thriving market town we all want to be able to enjoy.

This is the last time that I shall be writing here as your Mayor, as my successor will be chosen in February ready to take over formally in May. It's been a hectic and occasionally stressful 2 years, but there have also been many wonderful and enjoyable aspects, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank my family, **Robert, Rachel and Lara** for their great



support, and also the many Buckingham people who have been so friendly and supportive, and have thanked me when they have seen me around the Town. I have enjoyed the 270 events I've attended so far, with 4 months still to go. My three local charities – **Project Street Life, Buckingham & Winslow Citizens' Advice Bureau**, and the **Hospital Car Service** together with **WaterAid** have all gained some much-needed funds, thanks to the generosity of you all. I'll still be active in the town as a **Town Councillor** with a passion for the **environment**, as an **RLS school governor**, and I'll continue volunteering for **Oxfam** and the **British Heart Foundation**.

**Ruth Newell**

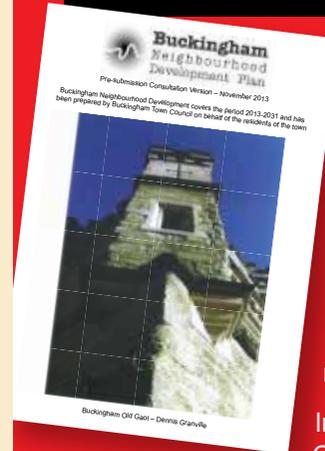
January 2014

photo courtesy of Images MK

# The changing face of Buckingham —



## PART 10



The withdrawal of the proposed Vale of Aylesbury Plan did not have any bearing on the progress of our Plan. It will mean that if successfully adopted, the BNDP will be the sole plan for development in Buckingham for the near future and will be used to determine any future planning applications in relation to the Buckingham Plan area.

The first Pre-Submission Consultation, which ended on 13th January, generated a large number of comments. The **Town Clerk** and **Town Plan Officer** considered all submissions and made the necessary amendments to the Plan.

In the course of this last phase of consultation by the Town Council, inquiries were raised by residents of Radclive as to the inclusion of land in Radclive-cum-Chackmore Parish in the Buckingham Neighbourhood Development Plan Area. This inclusion had been approved last year by the Parish Council and AVDC, and only related to the Neighbourhood Plan. Regrettably Radclive-cum-Chackmore Parish Council have voted to withdraw their consent to the inclusion of the land in the BNDP Area.

This now means that the BNDP will be delayed whilst a further Neighbourhood Plan Area is designated, which will require a six week period of consultation by AVDC, and then a further six week period of Pre-Submission consultation of the revised BNDP as this will constitute a major change to the Plan. Further consideration of new comments will be required. This will mean a few months of delay to the original timetable.

It will then be approved by the Town Council, and sent to Aylesbury Vale District Council, which will hold its own period of consultation. The Plan will then be scrutinised by an independent examiner, and if passed will proceed to referendum. If 50% of those who vote approve the Plan, it will be adopted by AVDC. The Town Council urges everyone to take part in the referendum, and again wishes to thank everyone who has participated in the consultation process and regrets that the people of Buckingham will not have the opportunity to vote on their Plan as soon as had been hoped. If adopted, the Plan will be used to determine any future planning applications in relation to the new Buckingham Plan area.





# Flood Action for All

Like many other parts of the country, flooding remains a big risk for Buckingham. We are a riverside town which brings delights for us all but big worries for some. Despite the Environment Agency in the past having suggested major flooding happens twice in every 100 years, many readers will remember the floods of 1998, 1999 & 2007. We estimate 1 in every 10 years; therefore flooding is a big risk for Buckingham.

## Flood Action 4 Buckingham facebook.com/FloodAction4Buckingham

continues to do sterling work in helping people and the town prepare for the worst. If you live anywhere near the flood plain in Buckingham, you would be well advised to get involved and support this voluntary association. It is open to all who wish to help.

The Town Council, of course, continues to take an active interest in all flooding matters including keeping a watch on 'run off' water from the new housing at Lace Hill. Some readers may recall the flooding on the London Road a few months ago which we think was due to combination of factors involving constructions on that side of the town.

The Environment Agency, takes the lead in supporting flood relief and organising

efforts to prevent flooding. In a recent communication from them, they said: "If your property adjoins the River Great Ouse running through Buckingham then you're probably a 'Riparian Landowner'. You may or may not know that this grand title comes with rights and responsibilities. What you do (or don't do) on the River Great Ouse could have serious consequences for you, your neighbours and your community up and downstream of you.

Riparian Landowners have primary responsibility for making sure that where the watercourse runs through their property the banks are solid, that banks and structures in the water are clear of obstructions which could cause flooding, that the bed, banks, trees and shrubs are maintained and that any litter or debris is removed. Basically Riparian Landowners should ensure that the water is free flowing. (There is a useful guide called 'Living on the Edge' available from the Environment Agency website [environment-agency.gov.uk/homeandleisure/floods/31626.aspx](http://environment-agency.gov.uk/homeandleisure/floods/31626.aspx))

Every Autumn the Town Council organises the "River Rinse" to do our bit too, to clear the river and keep it flowing. The dates this year are **14th September & 5th October**. Please add these to your diary now. We always need more volunteers. So do come and join us!

# Your Buckingham Markets



Buckingham's vibrant markets, which offer a wide variety of goods, continued to grow at the end of 2013 with the addition of a fresh fish stall. It is hoped the Town Council's recent investment in new market leaflets and advertising will help the markets continue to thrive.

In addition watch out for 'Your Buckingham Market' bags to be introduced to the market shortly.

Why not come along next market day and meet your market traders?

**Buckingham Street Market, Market Hill Tuesdays and Saturdays, 9am – 4pm**  
Breads, Baked Goods, Fruit & Veg, Cakes and Sweets, Fish, Flowers, Plants, Clothing, Tools, and much more.

**Buckingham Flea Market, High Street Saturdays, 9am-3pm**

Bargains to be found at this friendly market are too numerous to mention.

and... **Buckingham Artisan Market, High Street 3rd Sunday of the month, 10am – 2pm**  
Local Business retailing REAL Artisan food, drinks, and gifts.

**Buckingham Swan Market, Salvation Army Hall, Moreton Road Saturday, 8am – 12 noon**  
Cakes and preserves, eggs and honey, plants and produce.

Our second **Spring Fair** is being held in the **Cattle Pens** area in the centre of town on **Sunday 23 March 2014** from **11am to 3pm**. **Parking is free in Cornwall's Meadow on Sunday.**

It will be a wonderful event, and there will be lots of interesting stalls showing people how to do things, bookings so far from **Transition Buckingham, Conservation Groups, Canal Society, North Bucks Bat Group, Master Composters, Love Food Hate Waste, Swan Market, Tourist Information Centre, Craft Stalls** and a really exciting **Eco bus** for children.

If you would like to take part please contact **Buckingham Town Council** or the **Green Buckingham Group/Ruth Newell 815229/Maria Street**



# EVENTS EVENTS EVENTS EVENTS

## UP COMING EVENTS



### May Day

Following on from the success of the **Maypole Dancing** last year, we will once again be inviting children from the local schools to participate in traditional Maypole Dancing on the green outside **St Peter & St Paul Church** in Buckingham.

### Best Kept Village Competition

Please Keep Our Town Tidy: every year Buckingham enters the Best Kept Village competition, organised by the Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Association of Local Councils. Judging takes place in June and the judges are looking for good maintenance and evidence of community effort. A cup and wrought iron Best Kept Village sign are presented to the winning village/town to be retained until the following year.

Last year Buckingham was awarded a certificate of merit in recognition of the high standard reached.

**Mr Wilkins** from Meadow Gardens and the winner of the Community Garden was the **Options Group** who are located in the Buckingham Centre, Verney Close. Entry forms will be available in June and judging will take place in July.

### Dog Awareness Event

This event is going to be held in **Bourton Park** on **Sunday 6th July**. The **Dog's Trust** will be on hand to microchip your dog for FREE. They are currently running a huge micro chipping campaign to run with the new government announcement that from April 2016 all dogs will have to be micro chipped. Other organisations have been invited to the event and more details will be announced soon.



### Buckingham In Bloom Competition

Once again Buckingham Town Council will be looking for the best gardens in Buckingham for the Buckingham In Bloom competition. The competition is open to all residents of Buckingham and last year a new category was introduced for community gardens. Nominated gardens will be judged on colour and overall appearance and must be easily seen from the roadside. Last year's winner of the Best Garden was

### Family Fun Days

AVDC will again bring the Family Fun days to **Chandos Park** during the summer holidays. Dates for this year are **Thursday 31st July, Thursday 14th August** and **Wednesday 27th August**. This event provides a wide range of play activities for children from the ages of 1-11 years. There will be soft play, giant games, face painting and more. The events are **FREE** to all and are funded by Buckingham Town Council.

Other events are planned for young people, funded by us and other organisations during the school holidays.

### Music in the Market

This year sees the 14th annual Music in the Market on **Sunday 25th May**. This popular event is organised by the **Buckingham Acoustic Club** and sponsored by Buckingham Town Council and is held in the **Bull Ring** in Buckingham Town Centre. Last year local artists such as **Thirlby & Smith, Steve Bennett** and **Long Story** entertained a large crowd.

Music in the Market is a free event and runs from 1pm until 10pm.



# Active Healthy Buckingham

The statistics show that Buckingham is already a fairly healthy place to live. Our life expectancy is higher, and we can expect to enjoy better health, than the UK average. Though the Town Council is not directly responsible for this, we want to keep it that way. And there is always room for improvement.

Health depends on many factors including your environment, how active you are, and what you eat. The most obvious thing the Town Council can do is protect the environment and help residents of all ages become more active.



Green spaces are known to improve mental and physical health, and Buckingham is rightly proud of the **Circular Walk** and the many open spaces and parks the Town Council owns and maintains along its route.

The route itself is a pleasant safe place to walk for individuals, families or dog walkers and there are spaces where dogs can run free. Yes, their health is important too!

In **Chandos Park** the new play equipment, picnic tables and well-kept grassy spaces encourage families and friends to congregate in the fresh air. For the more active there is the ballgame area, and **Chandos Tennis** and **Bowls Clubs**.



The walk continues through the **Heartland** - which we hope eventually to acquire - then on to **Bourton Park's** play areas, basketball pitch, and soon-to-be revamped **Trim Trail**.

Then back again past our all-weather sports pitches to the **Railway Walk** - a nature trail to refresh the inner self.

Hopefully all this exercise will give everyone an appetite for healthy food!

Experts agree that fresh fruit and vegetables are good for us, and the Town Council's markets provide an ideal source of these and other foods. Look out for our spring and harvest food fairs too.

But what else do **YOU** think the Town Council could do to keep Buckingham active and healthy? **Suggestions welcome.**



## Paul Chowdhry kicks off 2014 Comedy Nights

Buckingham Town Council's Comedy Night is now into its 3rd year and the year kicked off with Comedian **Paul Chowdhry**, host of the 5th series of Channel 4's 'Stand Up For The Week'. Paul was supported by **Chris Martin** and compere **Kevin McCarthy** who was making his second visit to Buckingham.

176 people attended the show and some came from as far away as Banbury especially to see Paul Chowdhry who has a very good social media following. There were others from surrounding villages who were attending the Comedy night for the first time. It was good to see regulars who have supported the event from the first show in January 2012.

The next Comedy Night is booked for **Sunday 6th April** and as soon as the comedians are confirmed it will be announced on the Town Council's facebook page and in the Buckingham & Winslow Advertiser.

The Town Centre & Events Committee thanks those who have supported the event from the beginning and hope that it will continue to draw in new people as well.

## Buckingham Youth Council – Have Your Say!



**The Buckingham Youth Council was set up in 2011 to give young people in the town a voice and provide them with the opportunity to organise events they wanted to see and push issues they felt were important.**

Previously the Youth Council have helped arrange a successful event in the skate park, looked into issues surrounding public transport, and members of the Council recently took part in an event for the local democracy week, which this year was held at the Royal Latin School.

Playing a part in the Youth Council gives individuals the chance to build on organisational and communication skills, and also provides young people an effective way to get involved in Local Democracy and learn about Council policies and procedures.

If you are interested in getting involved with the Youth Council and are under 18 years of age, please contact **Chris Robson** at [deputytownclerk@buckingham-tc.gov.uk](mailto:deputytownclerk@buckingham-tc.gov.uk)

# HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION (HMOs) – AVDC TO ACT AT LAST?



You may recall that in the Autumn 2013 edition of Buckingham Town Matters, we carried an article explaining our worries about the increasing number of HMOs, and how we had urged AVDC to monitor their growing numbers. HMOs include shared and bedsit-type houses that are occupied by 3 or more people belonging to 2 or more households - so it doesn't apply to ordinary family homes.

While HMOs provide accommodation for a wide range of people (particularly students in Buckingham), there is a need to make sure that they are properly managed and maintained to offer a safe home for occupiers, meet all legal requirements and do not impact negatively on their neighbourhood.

Currently, landlords of all but the largest HMOs don't have to tell the District Council they are operating an HMO, they only find out when there is a complaint about poor housing conditions or about noise, refuse accumulations, etc.

Some 18 months after your Town Council first discussed it with them, our District Council is now considering introducing a scheme which would require HMO landlords to apply for a licence. Failure to do so could result in a substantial

penalty. The licence would last for up to 5 years and the licence fee would recoup the cost of operating the scheme.

The scheme would not prevent properties becoming HMOs but would improve safety and management standards, ensure licence holders are 'fit and proper persons' and control levels of occupation.

AVDC have posted details of the proposed scheme and a questionnaire on their website at

[www.aylesburyvalecdc.gov.uk/hmoconsultation](http://www.aylesburyvalecdc.gov.uk/hmoconsultation)

and invite your comments, whether you are a landlord, tenant, neighbour or resident with an interest. If you don't have internet access, contact AVDC on **01296 585605** to arrange to be sent a paper copy. They would like your responses by **13th April 2014**.

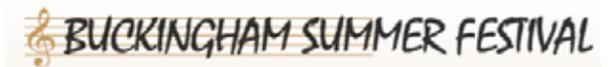
## Community Grants

Buckingham Town Council supports a number of organisations in the town with grants to aid them in providing facilities and services for the people of the Town. This year the Council has helped the following organisations with grants:

Aylesbury Vale Dial A Ride	£500
Buckingham Canal Society	£250
Buckingham Churches for Children – Holiday Club	£500
Buckingham Parish Church St Peters & St Pauls Church	£1,000
Buckingham Summer Festival	£750
Buckingham Youth Clubs Ltd	£5,000
Buckingham West End Bowls Club	£500
Buckingham Winslow & Dist. Citizens Advice	£5,000
Fibromyalgia	£500
Friends of The Old Gaol Museum	£500
Kit Cat Club	£100
North Bucks Carers Support Group	£300
Project Street Life	£500
The Swan Community Hub	£1,000
Victim Support	£250
Vitalise	£306

In addition to this the Council gives long term grants to Buckingham Community Centre, Buckingham Old Gaol and The Film Place. As well as grants the Council also aids charities and other community organisations in a number of ways including advertising events, providing a venue for meetings and by campaigning for issues and changes with other authorities.

The Town Council grants process starts again in October.



# Buckingham's Annual Town Meeting

Each year the Town Council organises a large meeting for the people of the town, so that they may raise issues which concern them. It is also an opportunity to ask questions of the Town Council and the key service providers, which is why the Town Council always asks Aylesbury Vale District Council, Buckinghamshire County Council and Thames Valley Police to also attend. Councillors would like to hear your thoughts and views on issues affecting the town and its residents, so please do come along to the **Community Centre on Wednesday 26th March at 7:30pm**. It's your chance to have your say and written questions must be received by the **Town Clerk** by noon **19th March** to ensure a comprehensive answer on the night. We look forward to seeing you.

## Council Tax Review

### No increase by Buckingham Town Council

Your Council Tax is collected by AVDC on behalf of a number of authorities who raise some of their income from residents. It is split between **Buckinghamshire County Council, Aylesbury Vale District Council, Police & Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley, Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire and Rescue Service** and, for those properties within Buckingham, **Buckingham Town Council**.

Buckingham Town Council at its meeting on the 13th January 2014 agreed that there would be no increase in the Town Council element of the Council Tax. As you know, your Town Council works hard to provide services for the town while, at the same time, aims to keep its costs down. As a result of this decision, Buckingham Town Council has either cut or not increased its element of your Council Tax for the fifth successive year.

However, it does appear that some other authorities will be looking to increase their element of the Council Tax. That is something beyond the Town Council's control.

## 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

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



# 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
<b>Cllr. Ms. Ruth Newell - Mayor</b>	01280 815 229
Cllr. Christine Strain-Clark	01280 816 832
Cllr. Martin Try	01280 816 202

Mr Christopher Wayman (Town Clerk)

01280 816 426

## 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	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
Transport for Buckinghamshire	0845 2 30 28 82
Aylesbury Vale District Council	01296 58 58 58
Buckingham Winslow & District Citizens Advice Bureau	01280 81 67 07
Buckingham Tourist Information Centre	01280 82 30 20
Buckingham Community Centre	01280 82 35 84
Thames Valley Police	101
NHS Urgent Care	111
Floodline	0845 988 1188
Samaritans	01908 66 77 77
ChildLine	0800 11 11

You can email us at or just drop us a line at the address below. We look forward to hearing from you: **Town Council Office, Buckingham Centre, Verney Close, Buckingham, MK18 1JP**  
**Email: [office@buckingham-tc.gov.uk](mailto:office@buckingham-tc.gov.uk)**



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