



Buckingham TownMatters

Summer 2014



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Thoroughly MODERN
Traditional
BUCKINGHAM

A MESSAGE FROM MAYOR LISA



As this is my first article as Mayor of Buckingham I'd like to express my gratitude to my fellow Councillors for electing me, to have the faith and support of people around you is an amazing feeling and one I shall never forget. Thank you also, to our retiring Mayor Cllr. Ruth Newell, who has visited countless events over her two years and been a fantastic Leader of the Council.

Being a disabled Councillor, one concern I had was getting around, as I am limited with driving when I'm tired, so it gives me great pleasure to name my consort for the year; Mrs. Anita Simonds, and thank you to her husband Brian for

agreeing to support his wife in what will be (I'm sure) a hectic year!

I nominated Cllr. Andy Mahi as Deputy Mayor as Andy retired last year and has more time on his hands. I am grateful that Andy accepted the challenge as being a gentleman; I know he will be a great support.

Some will know that at events the Mayor's Charity buckets are passed around. The charities I have chosen to raise money for this year are: The Fibromyalgia Support Group, the only chronic pain group in the North of the Vale offering sufferers (or survivors!) 3 different groups per month all meeting in the town; The Buckingham & Winslow Citizens Advice Bureau, a fantastic and much needed resource; and the League of Friends of Buckingham Hospital, set up in 1967 to promote the services our local hospital offers, as well as raising money for much needed equipment.

Finally, I will continue to support the youth projects I lead on; the Drama & Art Project and Local Democracy Event, plus supporting the Youth Council as I have done for the past 3 years. I will also be working hard with Cllr. Christine Strain-Clark to look at disabled access issues in and around the town; we urge anyone – parents with prams, disabled, even able-bodied – to let us know any areas or services we can add to our list to look into.

Thank you for reading and have a wonderful summer, whatever you plan to do!

Lisa O'Donoghue

May 2014

FAIRTRADE STEERING GROUP

Buckingham has been a Fairtrade Town since 2007 and we recently renewed this status and reissued our guide to the businesses in the town who support the Fairtrade principles of fair pay and working conditions for all. More people are becoming aware of the injustices in the food supply chain and also in the manufacture of clothing and are actively participating by buying Fairtrade whenever they can.



The aim of this year's Fairtrade Fortnight was making all bananas fair. Over the past 10 years the typical price of a banana

has halved, while the cost of production has doubled. The Pancake Day lunches after the Town Council's pancake races on 1 March at Church Hill offered Fairtrade banana fillings.

Do join us at our Anniversary Event at The Old Gaol from 10am to 12 noon on Saturday 20th September 2014. There will be stalls selling Fairtrade goods and gifts, plus enjoy a cup of Fairtrade coffee or tea and indulge in a homemade cake, baked with Fairtrade ingredients, of course!

We would welcome new members to the Fairtrade Town Steering Group, and also your ideas as to how we can develop Fairtrade more in our town; please contact us:

**Margaret Gateley 816317,
Anne King 814963,
Tina Mitchell 814544 or
Ruth Newell 815229.**



NEW STAFF

Buckingham Town Council is pleased to welcome two new members of staff to the team, **Ian Saunders** and **Eloise-Mary Medland**.



Ian is joining the Council as a **Grounds Maintenance Assistant** to help keep our parks and cemetery looking good.

Eloise-Mary is the new **General Administrator** and will be co-ordinating the production of Buckingham Town Matters as well as a number of other general office roles.



SPOTLIGHT ON 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. In this and our Autumn issue we will be putting a spotlight on community grants recipients, so they can say what they are using the grants for.

Buckingham Canal Society (£250)



On behalf of the Buckingham Canal Society I would like to thank Buckingham Town Council for their very generous grant of £250 and the money will be put to very good use by the Society.

One of our members has produced a leaflet giving details about a walk from our Bourton Meadow site to our Hyde Lane Nature Reserve site. The leaflet also gives information about the history of the Buckingham Canal and the work of our Society featuring many attractive photographs of the canal and the work of our volunteers.

A few copies of this leaflet have been printed by our Society and these have been very well received therefore we would now like to use the grant money to produce further copies of this leaflet and when printed these leaflets will hopefully be available at Buckingham Tourist Information office and various information points situated along the Buckingham Canal.

Athina Beckett

Buckingham Churches for Children Holiday Club (£500)



Each morning, for a week during the school summer holidays Holiday Club provides craft, drama, games, singing and Christian teaching to over 300 children. There is no charge for attending and so Holiday Club, which was started about 25 years ago, is reliant on financial support to continue running. We value the support from Buckingham Town Council as well as their generous grant.

In their small groups the children develop lasting friendships. Amidst lots of fun and laughter they take part in competitive (and sometimes messy!) games and a daily craft activity. Each day through the drama and in their groups they learn a little more about Jesus and Christian values.

Holiday Club has had a lasting impact on lots of Buckingham children. Many of the helpers have previously attended Holiday Club as children (5 -16) and now come back to give others the opportunity of a great week. Do book early at <http://www.buckinghamchurchesholidayclub.co.uk/> as last year we had a waiting list.

Stephen Townsend (Chair)

Buckingham, Winslow & District Citizens Advice Bureau (£5,000)

The Buckingham, Winslow & District Citizens Advice Bureau is a charity which provides free, independent, confidential and impartial advice to everyone on their rights and responsibilities. Our service aims are:

- To provide the advice people need for the problems they face
- To improve the policies and practices that affect people's lives.

Each year the bureau is responsible for raising all the money we need to keep the bureau going, and therefore the Buckingham Town Council grant is a very important contribution towards maintaining our core services. As a result of the grant we were able to:

- Maintain our opening hours
- Participate in a county-wide telephone advice service
- Maintain our computer systems and hardware
- Train seven new volunteers advisers

During the last twelve months, the bureau dealt with approximately 4500 different client contacts (either drop-ins, appointments, home visits or telephone advice), and we gave advice on about 7600 separate issues.

Ian Payne



Kit Cat Club (£100)

Kit Cat Club meets every Thursday during the school holidays and provides a hot meal, games, crafts and cooking activities to children aged 5 -11 from Buckingham and the surrounding villages, who for a variety of reasons have been referred to us either by their school or health visitor.

We are a small group of volunteers who saw a need within our community and felt that we could offer something and we have found it to be a real privilege to work alongside the children and their parents.

We meet at either the Parish Church on Castle Hill or Well Street Church and we are extremely grateful for the grant received from Buckingham Town Council and the money will be used to purchase new craft materials for use over the summer holidays.

Christine Barrell

SPOTLIGHT ON COMMUNITY GRANTS

North Bucks Carers Support Group (£300)

We had been thinking for a while that we would like to produce a newsletter. One of our carers offered to edit it and the grant will cover the production and postage expenses for quite a while. We know of many carers in our area who are unable or do not wish to attend Social Mornings. A newsletter is a very good way of keeping in touch with more isolated carers.

Caring is hard work and very stressful and can affect the health and wellbeing of the carer. Getting information and contact details to them may make all the difference. The first edition is now available.

Carol Penny

Fibromyalgia, Chronic Pain, Chronic Fatigue and associated conditions (£500)

We are a support group in times when the importance of active, informative and practical help has never been more essential to people suffering from conditions which can be very painful, lonely and isolating.

We are very happy recipients of a grant from Buckingham Town Council towards running our group. Through receiving this grant we are able to actively promote our group within the community and attract relevant speakers, as well as provide two therapists on a regular basis who provide invaluable advice and relaxation to our group members, given their condition which can be very difficult to manage. We have been able to expand our group to include a tea & talk, craft & chatter group. At a recent monthly meeting, the group made Easter pop up boxes.

Without the grant from Buckingham Town Council we would not be able to raise the awareness of our group or continue. To sufferers knowing someone has that understanding can make all the difference.

Please contact Jo on 07783361223 or jenny.welham@hotmail.com

Josephine Veglio



ACTIVITIES IN THE PARK

Buckingham Tennis Club is Thriving

Fancy trying tennis this year? You'll find the club in Chandos Park in Buckingham. We are here for the community, and follow the new LTA mantra of "getting more people to play more tennis, more often". There are floodlights so you can play all year round.

We have appointed a new Head Coach, Peter Cowley and his team who started 1st March. We have a new working relationship with the Town Council, who own the courts, and we are committed to growing numbers of adults and juniors and making tennis in Buckingham accessible to all.

Our best players do compete in local tennis leagues, but we welcome all levels. We run an LTA funded schools satellite scheme to provide taster sessions and coaching to school children. We are also delivering a programme of works in 2014, to improve the facilities.



Free coaching is available on Open Days, do come and try it and tennis could become the start of a new, fitter you/family!

See: www.buckinghamtennis.net for details and membership. Public bookings are available: by contacting Seahawk on 01280 817807 or info@seahawkssupplies.co.uk



Chandos Park Bowls Club

Chandos Park Bowls Club is located in Chandos Park near the entrance at Chandos Court. It has a full size green (38.4 metres square) and a clubhouse, with bar, which is available to members, guests and visitors. The club has friendly matches most weekends in the season, from May to October.

Bowls is not a difficult game to play but is tactical and nowhere near as boring as it might appear to the casual observer, and it is not just a game for old people! It is played in the open air, is healthy and is good fun if you want it to be. It can be played by people of all ages from 10 upwards.

Coaching and equipment is available, and all you need is a pair of flat soled shoes! The club always needs new members so if you fancy trying it, come and see us any evening after 6.15pm.

This Town Council owned property is available for public booking, so for use of the bowls green please contact: Bob Reynolds: 07761641059 or Chris Lawrence: 01280 815551.

EVENTS / FUTURE EVENTS FUTURE EVENTS FUTURE EVENTS

THE NOISE NEXT DOOR – IMPROV AT ITS BEST

Sunday April 6th saw the UK's premiere comedy improv troupe 'The Noise Next Door' stop off in Buckingham for a night of hilarious fun. Five times sell-out veterans of the Edinburgh Fringe festival and one of the country's most sought after comedy club headliners had the audience crying with laughter. With no script to work with the five guys base their act on answers to questions they pose to the audience.

Mark Olver acted as MC and Angela Barnes made a return visit to Buckingham as a support act.

As always thanks to Richard and Linda Watkins for providing the stage and lighting, from the vital collaboration of the Villiers Hotel, but most of all to those of you that have continued to support the Comedy Nights.



Buckingham Fringe Week



This year's Buckingham Fringe Week runs from Saturday 14th June to Sunday 22nd June.

The week will kick off with a Zumba demonstration with Zumba Instructor and Cairos Choreographer Dance Fitness teacher Janey Betts. The demonstration will be outside the Old Gaol, Buckingham starting at 11am.

There will be a variety of things going on throughout the week, including comedy at the Film Place with Aidan Goatley. The Oxford Fiddle Group, returning for the 5th year in a row, will be in the Radcliffe Centre.



There will be cream teas and fine music at the Villiers Hotel. If you enjoy spooky stories, then join Ed Grimsdale in the Old Gaol for some Spooky Stories.



The week will finish with a 1940's swing dance in the Community Centre on Saturday 21st with music from Sticky Wicket and his Swing Orchestra. We are encouraging everyone to come along dressed up 1940's style. Sunday

22nd June sees Comedy at the Old Town Hall. The act is still to be confirmed.

See the Fringe brochure and the Buckingham Advertiser for more details on all that's happening during the week.

Dog Awareness Event



Bourton Park, Sunday 6th July, 11am – 3pm. Due to a rise in complaints from members of the public regarding dogs being off their leads in the park and the owners nowhere to be seen and the increase in dog fouling in the park, Buckingham Town Council has decided to hold a Dog Awareness Event. Among those taking part will be the Dog's Trust who will be offering free microchipping, AVDC Environmental Health and Licensing who will be providing information for dog owners, Dog Groomer Liz Till, and the Medical Detection Dogs.

Family Fun Days

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

Bandjam

Sunday August 24th, Bull Ring, Buckingham sees the annual Bandjam event organised by Sean Allen, and facilitated by Buckingham Town Council. The annual music festival features local musicians and bands.



Photograph © Sally Newhouse

Bikeingham

To encourage more people into the town a set of cycling events is due to be held on the 27th July in and around the town centre. With BMX on the skate park, a mapped family cycle ride and cyclocross events for people of all ages.

The mapped cycle ride will take individuals and families on a short tour of the town taking in the main parks and footpaths. Caution needs to be taken for other path users. The route follows most of the circular walk but bypasses the bridge in Chandos Park and other stepped areas.

A food market and specific cycle related stands will be available throughout the day.



Environment, Property and Health Committee

The Committee looks after protecting and improving the town and its environs, and promotes all aspects of community safety and “wellbeing”. It keeps an eye on work required to footpaths, pavements, cycleways, roads, waterways, horticultural and arboriculture works, street furniture (seats, planters and waste bins), play areas, and play equipment.

Last year, apart from routine maintenance, improvements to Bourton Park, the Cemetery and the War Memorial were completed. An audit was completed of our green spaces identified where additional work might be needed, and reviewed access for the less able and those with pushchairs.

In Bourton Park, New Homes Bonus money contributed towards a replacement Trim Trail, which will be installed in time for the summer, together with a MUGA on the existing basket-ball court. As part of a youth engagement project last summer, a further picnic bench was repaired, and carved “gate posts” now lead to the re-laid path under the by-pass, where attractive murals were painted on the bridge supports. We continue to look to replacing the otter sculptures. In Chandos Park, improvements to the main entrance path have now been completed.

Although most of our Cemetery is “lawned” for ease of maintenance purposes, it is necessary to test memorial safety. This continues on a planned cycle.

Town Centre & Events Committee

As the name suggests, this Committee runs many – often free – events in the town including competitions like ‘Buckingham in Bloom’ and also looks after the provision of planters and hanging baskets, and Christmas decorations.

The Comedy Night goes from strength to strength – Mark Steel was a sell-out, and we were very lucky that Paul Chowdhry got a Channel 4 show shortly after we booked him; he is now on a national tour.

We have reinstated the maypole dancing, with the co-operation of local schools, and holding the Pancake Race on a Saturday at the Church enabled us to link with their Saturday morning café, which provided pancakes after the races.

We recently repeated last year’s new event, the Food Fair, which was again very well-attended and boosted locally sourced food and drink.

Look out for the Fringe brochure – some old favourites, some new ideas, to suit all ages and tastes.



Planning Committee



The work of the Planning committee continues to consist mainly of the development of the Buckingham Neighbourhood Development Plan (BNDP); and the scrutiny of the many planning applications made in the town of Buckingham.

The BNDP was developing well and we were hoping to present it for the required local referendum at the same time as the European elections in May 2014. Unfortunately this will not be possible as a neighbouring parish, that had agreed in writing that Buckingham could speak for a strip of the land in their parish, changed their mind, requiring some small changes to the plan and a further consultation, which is causing delay. There has also been a legal challenge to a Neighbourhood Plan, (in another part of the country) which might affect Buckingham. We are now aiming for September.

The committee reviewed 158 planning applications; the main ones were for the two Sainsbury Supermarkets and the ASDA (now Aldi) food store. Procedural changes in AVDC mean we have had to speak to any plans that we seriously object to.

Finance and Administration Committee

The Finance and Administration committee’s work is very much unseen as it takes care of the Town Council’s budget and oversees other committee budgets, as in keeping the precept to acceptable levels. We try to ensure that Buckingham residents do not have huge increases in their local tax bill to cope with. Another area we look after is the staff, ensuring they have the tools and support they require to fulfil their role within the Town Council, and that any issues are dealt with promptly and fairly.

We are always happy for our residents to contact us with any problems, suggestions or other matters we can help with and will do our very best to address any concerns our residents may have.

BUCKINGHAM’S ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

The Annual Town Meeting was held in Buckingham Community Centre on Wednesday 26th March. This is a meeting for electors of the town to come along and have their views heard on the key issues that affect them. The Town Council welcomed representatives from Aylesbury



Photograph © Jon Harvey

Vale District Council (Ms. Aldworth – Director), Buckinghamshire County Council (Mr. Williams – CEO) and the Police (Inspector Davies). There were a number of topics covered at the meeting including descriptions of the work all three Councils have undertaken over the past 12 months. Questions were raised on several issues including planning, street drainage, closing of the AVDC area office in Buckingham, parking on verges, speeding and funding for the improvements to the Swan Pool.

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.

At a meeting of the Youth Council on 21st March 2014 Cllr. Shannon Wheeler stood down as Chairman following her year long term. Members unanimously elected Cllr. Adam Bradbury as Chairman for the next 12 months and Cllr. Rory Butcher as Vice Chairman. The Youth Council would like to thank Cllr. Wheeler for her work as Chairman over the past year.



Cllr. A Bradbury,
Chair

2014 will be a year concentrated on 'involvement' and will see the Youth Council joining in with existing Town Council events and looking at ways to get involved with the community. The Youth Council are also looking to hold a second Skate Park event following last year's success. Competition details will be announced as soon as a date with the organiser is agreed. In addition Councillors are currently looking at issues surrounding Bike Safety and the possibility of holding a Bike-ability session, is this something you'd be interested in?

However, most importantly the Council are eager to welcome new members and are keen to hear from anyone who may wish to stand as a Councillor.

If you are interested in getting involved with the Youth Council, or would like to approach the Council with any ideas, please contact **Chris Robson** at deputytownclerk@buckingham-tc.gov.uk

And remember ...
follow the Youth Council on



Facebook

and



Twitter @buckinghamyouth

Cllr. R Butcher,
Vice Chair



As most readers will know, much of our historic town is a conservation area. This came about because both AVDC and the Town Council wanted to preserve our historic buildings and street view. In our town, AVDC has the responsibility and powers for ensuring that the traditional and historic street scene doesn't attract inappropriate development.

Over the years, your Town Council has, of course, pointed out various issues that detract from the conservation area, such as poorly located satellite dishes, and has sought appropriate action by AVDC on many occasions. Unfortunately, they have been slower than we would have liked to respond to such matters; and having enquired about this we were recently advised that they do not have an enforcement budget. This also means that they do not have the resources to regularly visit their conservation areas to check they are being properly maintained. Given that they have over 120 conservation areas, including in Aylesbury, this does present them – and us – with a problem.



We hope that you can help us. If you spot anything that you think is untoward, could you please let us know? We need to know about anything that detracts from the visual and developed town landscape, whether it be satellite dishes on cottages, inappropriate replacement windows, garish shop signs or advertising, extensions that betray the original building materials – anything that

just seems "inappropriate". There is a lot more information on AVDC's website (go to www.aylesburyvaldc.gov.uk and search for "conservation areas". Details of the Buckingham Conservation area usually come up on page 2. You can also download a general leaflet from here: <http://tinyurl.com/AVDCConservation>).

Your Town Council will keep advising AVDC about all matters of potential concern, in the hope that they may be able to do something about it and play their statutory part in keeping Buckingham the historical market town that we can all be proud of. You can be a part of this too.

IS 20 PLENTY IN BUCKINGHAM?

There is a growing national campaign for 20 mph speed limits to become the default speed limit for all residential roads. Many bodies have come out in favour of this including the Parliamentary Advisory Council for Transport Safety, British Lung Foundation, Town & Country Planning Association, National Federation of Women's Institutes, National Obesity Forum, British Heart Foundation, Royal Institute of British Architects and many more. The arguments for such a speed limit are many and varied. They include:

- Reduction in road casualty numbers and harm from any accidents that do occur
- Safer for **all** including children, cyclists and tourists, who want to walk a little slower
- Bus passengers and car drivers enjoy a smoother and less stressful ride
- Less fuel is used and the air is cleaner
- Residential roads become more sociable and friendly as people feel safer and it's quieter outside
- Slower speeds help traffic to flow well, with easier merging at junctions
- Better access for all, especially those who have difficulty crossing busy roads.

The question is: do we want Buckingham to have some 20 mph zones?

In the British Social Attitudes Survey 2011, 73% favoured 20mph limits for residential roads. Only 11% were against. Recent local surveys have found comparable approval levels, including Oxford where their formal consultation on 20mph limits gained a 69% approval.

The Town Council will be considering this option for the town but you don't have to wait for us! Anyone can use the resources on the <http://20splentyforus.org.uk> website to start a local campaign. Help available includes petition templates, free email addresses, online discussion groups, loan of a speed detector and campaign materials such as stickers & leaflets.

But do write to us as well. We are always keen to hear the views of Buckingham people on this and all other matters.



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. Ruth Newell	01280 815 229
Cllr. Christine Strain-Clark	01280 816 832
Cllr. Martin Try	01280 816 202

Town Clerk – Mr Christopher Wayman

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. Lisa O'Donoghue – Mayor	01280 824 624
Cllr. Mike Smith	01280 822 215
Cllr. Robin Stuchbury	01280 824 285
Cllr. Warren Whyte	01280 820 531

01280 816 426

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	0844 245 1289
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

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.



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



Follow us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/pages/Buckingham-Town-Council/222358454517086

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This is delivered to approx. 5800 homes.

2014 EVENTS DIARY



JUNE	Sat 14th – Sat 21st	Buckingham Fringe
JULY	Sat 5th – Sat 12th	Buckingham Summer Festival
	Sun 6th	Dog Awareness
	Sun 27th	Bikeingham
	Thurs 31st	Family Fun Day
AUGUST	Thurs 14th	Family Fun Day
	Sun 24th	BandJam
	Wed 27th	Family Fun Day
SEPTEMBER	Sun 14th	River Rinse
OCTOBER	Sun 5th	River Rinse
	Sat 18th	Charter Fair
	Sat 25th	Charter Fair
NOVEMBER	Sat 1st	Bonfire & Fireworks + Best Dressed Guy
	Sun 9th	Remembrance Day Parade
	Sat 29th	Christmas Lights and Carols
DECEMBER	Sat 13th	Christmas Parade Community Fair



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

