



Buckingham TownMatters

**Winter
issue
2016**

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buckingham**

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events**

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Thoroughly **MODERN**
Traditional
BUCKINGHAM

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR MAYOR

Dear All,

Hope you all had a great autumn; and the weather was kind to us in Buckingham.

I reported in my last message about the two Sports England standard football pitches at Lace Hill, and I am glad to inform you that we now have a new junior football club – FC Buckingham, who will be based at Lace Hill and played their first match on our new pitch on 17th September.

Bandjam was well attended, even if the weather tried to dampen the event, but the People of Buckingham still know how to enjoy themselves, come rain or shine.

In September, The Chilterns MS Centre invited me to 'Walk the MS Mile'; this is a charity that supports people with Multiple Sclerosis; it was a lovely sunny day and a pleasure to 'Walk the MS mile' in support of our local charity.

The next big event in our town is the Christmas Parade on Saturday 10th December, followed by the Community Fair in the Community Centre, so do come and watch this excellent parade and visit the fair.

With the nights drawing in, do take care on the pavements and the roads.

I will end this message by wishing you all a very Happy and Blessed Christmas.

Cllr. Andy Mahi
October 2016



BEAUTIFUL BUCKINGHAM

Members of the public are encouraged to enter their front garden or their neighbour's front garden in **The Buckingham In Bloom competition**. This is held each year and the judges go round in July looking for the most colourful and variety of plants. The presentation for the winning gardens was held on Saturday 6th August outside the Old Gaol.

Town Mayor, Cllr. Andy Mahi, presented joint 1st place winners Mr & Mrs Liddle of Lenborough Close, and Mr Wilkins of Meadow Gardens with the winner's cup, rosettes, garden vouchers and certificates.



The winner of the Community Garden this year was Brooks Court. The garden is maintained by Mrs Steer who received the winner's trophy on behalf of the Brooks Court residents. Second place went to Paynes Court.

Planters and Hanging Baskets

Buckingham Town Council currently has a contract with Plantscape to provide the summer and winter planters. This year the summer planters were the best that we had seen for a very long time.

The hanging baskets are contracted to Preston Bissett Nurseries and this year we will be putting up winter baskets, which will

consist of violas and other suitable plants.

Best Kept Town Competition is a competition that we enter every year. It is supported by Bucks County Council and AVDC among others. Buckingham enters the Michaelis cup (towns, population over 3,000). The judges go round in June/July looking at features such as nature conservation areas, the cemetery, children's play areas, the war memorial, notice boards, areas around the shops, and the overall appearance, lack of litter and evidence of community effort.

This year we scored 81/100 and were awarded a Certificate of Merit. One of the comments made was that *'Overall the town had the appearance of being cared for, there was hardly any litter or abandoned rubbish and abundance of clear informative maps, and the notice boards and other sources of information illustrated the likely level of community involvement'*.



OUR BEAUTIFUL RIVER



It could be said that Buckingham's very existence is due to the River Great Ouse, because people settled near the river originally, close to the Hunter Street Campus. This was a good defensive position, but the river enabled irrigation for crops, as well as water to drink for people and their livestock. It now forms a wonderful environment for animals, plants and trees, and there are parks by the river, as well as the Riverside Walk, with glorious tree-lined banks for us all to enjoy.

It is fantastic news that, not only are there numerous fish, ducks and other aquatic species, but also otters and water voles in the river. Buckingham's population of swans is also a great sight, especially so, as the swan is on our Coat of Arms. The abundance of life in the river reflects the work that has been done to reduce pollution, including the river rinses. Plans to increase the bee-friendly planting in Bourton Park are also underway, which will further enhance what is already a delightful place to visit.

We need to protect our valuable and beautiful river! As Paul Holton, AVDC's Ecologist says, 'Otters and bats, both protected priority species, are known to use the watercourse as foraging and commuting routes. The marginal and bankside vegetation along this river corridor is an important ecological feature within the town of Buckingham. Retention of a buffer strip along the water course is essential to maintain this

foraging link for these protected species. Any works within 10m of this corridor will need to consider the species associated with it'. Recent planning applications have threatened this important wildlife buffer.

I am sure that most of us really appreciate the beauty of our river, and many volunteers work hard to protect its environment. Unfortunately, there are some who don't share this appreciation, who dump rubbish; this is removed during the two autumn river rinses.

The river is also feared by some as a source of flooding; these fears have been exacerbated, due to proposals for additional development in the flood plains. Residents whose homes have been flooded find times of heavy rainfall especially stressful. Maybe you could help by joining the flood action group?

floodaction4buckingham@yahoo.co.uk

<https://www.facebook.com/FloodAction4Buckingham/>



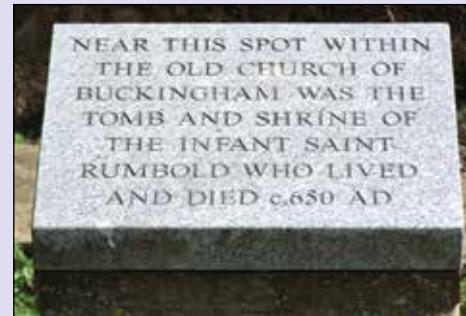
THE STRANGE TALE OF ST RUMBOLD OF BUCKINGHAM

St Rumbold is believed to have been born in about 650AD in a field near Astrop, King's Sutton (about 12 miles west of Buckingham). He was born while his parents were on a journey, camped in 'a pleasant field with lilies and roses'. Immediately following his birth, Rumbold declared loudly 'I am a Christian' and sought baptism. A suitably shaped stone was found nearby, but was too heavy to move. Rumbold sent his entourage, who were sent back to bring the stone 'in the name of the Lord', then found it a miraculously easy task. This supposed original font is in King's Sutton church.



Possibly a representation of St Rumbold on the wall of Manor House

Most early information is from the *Vita Sancti Rumwoldi* (there are several spellings of Rumbold), written in 1086 probably by Bishop Wulfstan of Worcester. Other historical sources show that Rumbold was a royal baby, born of the King of Northumberland (either Alchfrid or Ethelwald) and Cyneburga, the daughter of Penda, King of Mercia. There were few Christians at that time, but very



The plaque in the old churchyard

soon after he was baptised, he celebrated his first mass. The next day, he preached a sermon. On the third day he foretold his death, seeking to be buried where he had been born for one year, then at Brackley, and then for his bones to rest forever in Buckingham.

By the 11th Century, records show that he was interred in the old church in Hunter Street. In 1447, Richard Fowler, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, left money in his will for the refurbishment of the tomb and shrine. In 1522, a local reference to the guild of St Rumbold showed

that he had a considerable following until pilgrimages and the veneration of saints declined during the Reformation.

Browne Willis wrote in 1753 that the shrine of St Rumbold was at the eastern end of the south aisle of the church. The church spire fell down in 1776, leading to a new church on Castle Hill, but a small plaque, erected in 2003, now marks the probable site of his tomb and shrine in the picturesque old church yard.

St Rumbold's shrine attracted many pilgrims in the Middle Ages, thereby bringing wealth to the town. He was reputed to heal the sick and lame, and cure blindness.

(Condensed from a pamphlet written by Rodney Shirley, available from Buckingham Old Gaol Museum)

EVENTS REVIEW

BANDJAM

Bandjam marks the end of the summer holidays and this year was organised by Graham 'Dusty' Miller and Lee Maloney and as always was sponsored by Buckingham Town Council.

Some of the bands that took part were The Infadels, Crazy Cat Ladies, Shaun and the Wolfgang. Headlining were The Cantells. Thanks go to Natco Foods who are very generous and every year lend a trailer, which is used as the stage.



RIVER RINSE

The first of this year's River Rinses took place on a showery and sunny Sunday 25th September. As always, volunteers from Stowe Sub Aqua Group, Bucks Fire & Rescue and members of the public helped with the event. The stretch of river concentrated on was between the cricket club and Stratford Fields. Amongst the finds on the day were several shopping trolleys, car tyres, children's scooters, bicycles, traffic cones, traffic signs and a laptop. A broken branch that had fallen into the river was also cleared away.



The second rinse was on Sunday 9th October. The sun shone and it was a beautiful autumn morning. As well as volunteers from Stowe Sub Aqua Group and the Fire Service, members from the Buckingham & Stowe Running Club also volunteered to help. The rinse started at the silver bridge by Buckingham Sports & Athletic Club and worked up to the wooden bridge at the skate park. The finds included a horse's skull, shopping trolleys, bottles, traffic cones and a wallet complete with credit card and other cards; this was handed over to Thames Valley Police.

CHARTER FAIR

Buckingham town centre was closed to all traffic when the annual Charter Fair arrived in Buckingham on Friday 14th October to set up ready for the opening by the Town Mayor, Cllr. Andy Mahi, and the Town Crier the following day. Free rides were given to children with disabilities during the first hour, courtesy of Nicholls Amusements.

The fair returned the following week with a couple of new rides; the orbiter extreme and a Ferris wheel. Other rides and sideshows included the ever popular dodgems, the Joker, coconut shy, haunted house and juvenile rides for the children.



FUTURE EVENTS

CHRISTMAS PARADE

Saturday 10th December. Starting from Chandos Road the annual Christmas Parade will wind its way through Buckingham town centre. The parade is made up of over 40 marching bands, floats and walking groups. It sets off at approximately **10:45am** and a **road closure** is in place for the town centre. The theme for this year's parade is 'Proverbs'. The parade is organised by the Parade Committee and sponsored by Buckingham Town Council.



COMMUNITY FAIR

The **Community Fair** is organised by Buckingham Town Council and held in the Community Centre after the Christmas Parade. This is a fund raising event for local groups, charities and societies. There will be Christmas gifts, cards, tombola and much more. Admission is free. If you would like a table at the event, **please contact Buckingham Town Council on 01280 816426.**



PANCAKE RACE

This is held on the green outside St Peter & St Paul's Church during half term. The date for next year will be **14th February.**



The event is free and open to all age groups. It is traditional for participants to wear a headscarf and apron and you will need to bring your own frying pan.

FOOD FAIR

Saturday 25th February. Community Centre, Cornwall's Meadow starting at **10am**. After a very successful Youth Bake Off competition last year which was run by Project Street Life, this will again be included as part of the Food Fair. If you would like a stall at the food fair **please contact Buckingham Town Council on 01280 816426.**



BUCKINGHAM TOWN CENTRE'S RICH TAPESTRY

Thoroughly MODERN
Traditional
BUCKINGHAM



This vibrant chart demonstrates the variety of products and services available to us in the heart of Buckingham. From a loaf of bread to scrumptious chocolates and locally reared meat; from a cup of coffee to a gourmet meal; from a pair of tights to a new suit; we can find it all here! Or if we would like to support our favourite charity, look no further.

As Christmas approaches, there is no need to travel beyond our town; we can buy all our favourite gifts and essentials: accessories, books, cake decorations, cards, ceramics, children's and adult clothes, chocolates, cosmetics, crackers, DIY items, games, haberdashery, jewellery, lingerie, musical instruments, perfume, slippers, socks, stationery, ties, toys, trophies, umbrellas, vintage items, watches, wine... and when we need a rest, we can relax over a cup of coffee or a delicious lunch at one of the many cafes and restaurants in the town. Alternatively, why not treat yourself or a loved one to a beauty treatment? Not forgetting all we need to feed the family on Christmas day, be it turkey, Christmas pudding, brandy



or chocolates! There are also places to stay, if your house is overflowing.

Our everyday needs are also catered for: when the car needs a service, when we need our hair cut, or don't feel well, are looking for specialist help with financial or legal matters or are thinking of moving house, or going on holiday. It is all within a stone's throw of the car park.

So next time we go into the town to do our shopping, let us open our eyes to the opportunities we have on our doorstep; let us wander to the Hidden Quarter on Well Street and find that special gift. Let's just slow down and look in the many shops along the High Street, in Cornwall's Meadow, Cornwall Place, Meadow Walk, Castle Street

and West Street, or learn more about our history in The Old Gaol, where they also sell local items and other gifts. Yes, Buckingham really has it all!

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Buckingham Town Centre
A study of the shop units that make up our vibrant market town. August 2016.
www.flaneur.co.uk/BuckinghamRetail

Aylesbury Vale District Council is responsible for approving or refusing local applications to build or improve housing, business or industrial premises. But that's only the tip of the planning system, in which Buckingham Town Council also plays a major advisory role.

Whether it's for a 650-house estate or a new front porch, signage or work on a Listed Building, planning permission is usually required, although there are exceptions. But even these must comply with Building Regulations.

All applications, for which a fee is charged, are made through AVDC Planning, which posts details on its website portal and displays yellow planning notices at the properties. Buckingham Town Council and residents are then given 21 days to comment on these.

Councillors consider every application at the monthly Planning Committee, and will support or oppose it. If the planning application is a major one, for instance for a development of 10 or more houses, then the full Town Council will consider it. All Council meetings are open to the public, and 15 minutes is allowed before a meeting for residents to address Councillors with their views.

BTC pays close attention to the policies in the Buckingham Neighbourhood Development Plan, which was made in October 2015 after a referendum of Buckingham residents to

determine what development we want where until 2031, and whether there are any local issues such as the conservation area, flooding or traffic.

The majority of applications will be acceptable, and BTC will have 'No Objections'; these will be dealt with by the AVDC officer without recourse to AVDC Planning Committee approval. A few may require additional information on some aspect, so members reserve judgment until this is supplied.

If opposing an application, BTC will also decide whether it is of such importance that we should attend the relevant AVDC committee at Aylesbury.

Having had a report from the planning officers, and heard arguments from both sides, the AVDC Committee will normally make a decision at the meeting, though it may opt for deferral and a site visit. If an application is refused, the applicant has the right to appeal through the national Planning Inspectorate.

Planning regulations are complex and frequently divisive, a veritable minefield through which applicants have to tread, but AVDC planning staff can advise and guide you through it; full details can be found on the AVDC Planning Portal at <http://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/section/planning-and-building-control>

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 Buckingham. In this issue we have put a spotlight on first time grant recipients.

Buckingham Camera Club (£250)

Buckingham Camera Club is a group of Buckingham and Winslow photographers who fully embrace digital technology. Over the years the club's laptop has increasingly failed to keep pace with the changing specifications required for internal and inter-club projected image competitions. The software and hardware specification of the old laptop also increasingly struggled to cope. As a relatively small club the cost to replace the laptop would have placed a strain on the club's financial resources and forced the club to increase the members' annual subscription. Through the generous award of a grant towards the purchase of a new laptop the club now has a computer capable of coping with all the present and foreseeable club needs.



Tony Chivers

Open House, Community Care North Bucks (£200)

The Open House group has been going for just over a year now; we have 26 members and 8 volunteers. We have a full programme of activities. In July we enjoyed a day out at Water Perry Gardens near Oxford. In August and September we had social mornings at The Centre in Verney Close. An outing to The Old Mill at Barton-le-Clay in early December and a joint Christmas party with the Carers Group and a visit to the Pantomime are planned. Our biggest outlay is for transport and hire of the centre for which the grant was invaluable. We have completed our first year as a group; we have gelled well and new friendships are forming.



Carol Penny

Slade Recreation Club Ltd (£500)

The Slade Indoor Bowls Club has had a facelift and extends a warm welcome to past members, new bowlers and those with some bowling experience. This facility was established in 1989 and was looking very tired and in dire need of a facelift. After successfully securing grants from Buckingham Town Council, the Heart of Bucks and AVDC Community Chest the club now boasts a new heating system, modern LED lighting and a new bowling surface. The indoor bowls season has begun and runs through to the end of March 2017. Currently membership is around 130, with space for many more. Bowls is a low impact but competitive sport enjoyed by those seeking friendly company and a warm social environment.



Carolyn Hunt

A WORD FROM OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICE...

Advice from Insp. Chris Young:

Take Steps To Protect Your Online Worlds

Online crime – or cybercrime – covers different crimes that take place, are arranged or assisted by online use.

This can be anything from fraud and email scams through to hacking, viruses, pornographic and indecent images, harassment and paedophilia.

Cyber Crime has risen significantly in recent years and anyone can become a target. Latest figures estimate nearly six million fraud and cybercrimes are committed a year, with 1 in 10 people falling victim.

Statistics suggest that fraud is the most common type of crime and around 70% of this is online-related.

However, it is thought that 80% of cases could be avoided if people took simple steps to protect themselves while online:

- Use a strong password to keep your details safe. This should contain upper and lower case letters, numbers and symbols.
- Never give your personal details out online. Banks and companies will never ask for sensitive information via email or phone.

- Make sure you are using up to date internet security, including on your mobile phone.
- Ensure you have installed the latest operating system.
- Edit your privacy settings on social media and make sure only your friends can see your updates and information.

September 2016 saw the launch of #ProtectYourWorld – a stay safe online cybercrime campaign by Thames Valley Police to raise awareness and encourage everyone to take simple steps to protect themselves.

It is important that you never feel embarrassed to report it if you believe you have been a victim of cybercrime:

- Online fraud - Action Fraud www.actionfraud.police.uk or call 0300 123 204
- Other online crime (including bullying/harassment) – report to police on 101.

For more information, see www.thamesvalley.police.uk/cybercrime or Get Safe Online www.getsafeonline.org

Keep up to date with local police activity: <https://www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk/>



HEALTH FOR ALL IN BUCKINGHAM



Buckingham Town Council wants everyone in the town to live long, happy, healthy and fulfilling lives. This is the first of a series of articles to help you do that by highlighting some local opportunities. In this first article we are focusing on physical fitness.

It should go without saying, but of course Buckingham is full of and surrounded by beautiful places to walk, run, wheel, cycle and jog. In effect we live in the middle of a huge, free, green gym. There are the town's circular walk and the trim trail in Bourton Park, for example. (These are featured in the 'Hidden Treasures of Buckingham' leaflet available from the Old Gaol and on our website: <http://www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk/community-matters/publications>).

There are games areas in both Chandos and Bourton Park, along with play equipment in many other places too. Not far from our town boundary, there are many other wonderful locations to visit and get exercise while doing so.

Some people of course, prefer the inspirational encouragement and structure of qualified trainers and coaches. There are many of these to be found both inside and beyond the confines of the gyms and halls in the town. Several come highly

recommended. (It would be inappropriate to mention certain facilities or trainers but ask around or explore social media: it will be easy to find who and where they are.)

Buckingham is brimming with team sports activities for many interests, ages and abilities. Whilst, of course, not every sport is represented (curling anyone?), there are many ranging from football to hockey to badminton to organised runs and walks to rugby to swimming to karate etc. For older people, there is the Buckingham University of the Third Age (U3A) which organises many exercise activities.

activebucks.co.uk and aylesburyvaldc.gov.uk/active-vale-active-women has lots of suggestions and these come with the chance to claim free vouchers to help you try out the activities listed. Trying something new (or maybe an activity that you used to do) is great: you will never know what will 'tickle your muscles' (as it were) until you give it a go!

In all of this, it is about finding what is right for you. But the evidence is very clear: exercise and becoming more fit is **good** for you. It will not only add years to your life, but life to your years as well!

NEW STAFF

Buckingham Town Council is pleased to welcome four new staff members to the team:



Claire Childs has joined the Town Council as the new **Deputy Town Clerk**, to support the Town Clerk with the administration of the business and finances of the Council. Responsibilities will include overseeing the Lace Hill Sports and Community Centre, supporting the Buckingham Town markets and liaising with the Youth Council.

Nina Stockill is the new **Committee Clerk** and will be responsible for clerking meetings of the Council's Committees and liaising with Committee Chairmen to ensure that the minutes reflect an accurate record of the meetings of Buckingham Town Council. Nina lives in Buckingham and has two young children who attend local Primary and Preschools.



Sam Hoareau has joined us as our new **Co-ordinator for Lace Hill Sports and Community Centre**. She will be responsible for managing the facility on behalf of Buckingham Town Council and making sure that the centre generates a good income to re-invest in the town. Sam has been busy for the last two and a half years with two young children but is very happy to be back at work and is looking forward to making the centre a big part of the community.

Steve Staley our new **Market Manager** is managing the market on behalf of the Town Council; ensuring that all traders are operating safely and that all rules and regulations laid down are adhered to.



BUCKINGHAM TOWN COUNCILLORS

Cllr. Jenny Bates	01280 812 758	Cllr. Andy Mahi – Mayor	01280 816 562
Cllr. Terry Bloomfield	01280 815 336	Cllr. Howard Mordue	01280 815 418
Cllr. Mark Cole JP	01280 816 005	Cllr. Ruth Newell	01280 815 229
Cllr. Mrs Geraldine Collins	01280 823 006	Cllr. Lisa O'Donoghue	01280 824 624
Cllr. Paddy Collins	01280 823 006	Cllr. Mike Smith	01280 822 215
Cllr. Margaret Gateley	01280 816 317	Cllr. Christine Strain-Clark	01280 816 832
Cllr. Jon Harvey	01280 812 711	Cllr. Robin Stuchbury	01280 824 285
Cllr. Paul Hiron – Deputy Mayor	01280 812 072	Cllr. Martin Try	01280 816 202
Cllr. Derrick Isham	01280 813 770		
Town Clerk – Mr Christopher Wayman			01280 816 426

OTHER USEFUL NUMBERS

Buckingham Cemetery	01280 816 801	Thames Valley Police	101
Buckingham Shopmobility	07738 314 027	NHS Urgent Care	111
Lace Hill Sports and Community Centre	01280 812 872	National Power Cut Helpline	105
Buckinghamshire County Council	01296 395 000	National Gas Helpline	0800 111 999
Transport for Buckinghamshire	01296 382 416	Floodline	0345 988 1188
Aylesbury Vale District Council	01296 58 58 58	Samaritans	08457 90 90 90
Citizens Advice Buckingham Winslow & District	0344 245 1289	ChildLine	0800 11 11
Buckingham Tourist Information Centre	01280 823 020		
Buckingham Community Hall	01280 823 584		

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 or visit: www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk

Follow us on Facebook: [/Buckingham-town-council](https://www.facebook.com/Buckingham-town-council) or Twitter [@buckinghamtc](https://twitter.com/buckinghamtc)

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This is delivered to approx. 6200 homes and businesses.

2016/17 EVENTS DIARY



DECEMBER	Saturday 10th	Christmas Parade Community Fair
2017		
JANUARY	TBC	Comedy Night
FEBRUARY	Tuesday 14th	Pancake Race
	Saturday 25th	Food Fair
MARCH	Saturday 11th	Fairtrade Fortnight Coffee Morning
APRIL	TBC	Spring Fair
	Saturday 22nd	MK Dons – Buckingham Big Day
MAY	Tuesday 2nd	May Day Celebrations
	Sunday 28th	Music in the Market
JUNE	Saturday 17th– Saturday 24th	Buckingham Fringe Week
JULY	TBC	Dog Show
AUGUST	Sunday 27th	BandJam
SEPTEMBER	TBC	River Rinse
OCTOBER	TBC	River Rinse
	Saturday 14th	Charter Fair
	Saturday 21st	Charter Fair
NOVEMBER	Saturday 4th	Bonfire & Fireworks
	Sunday 12th	Remembrance Parade
	Saturday 25th	Christmas Lights & Carols
DECEMBER	Saturday 9th	Christmas Parade Community Fair



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