



Buckingham TownMatters

Autumn issue 2020



Thoroughly MODERN
Traditional
BUCKINGHAM

events • mental health during crisis
where the money came from and how we spent it 2019-2020

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR MAYOR



We have all faced a challenging time this summer and during this time the people of Buckingham have shown how resilient, how wonderfully community spirited and how caring they all are, so many of you have helped each other in so many ways. I would like to say thank you to you all. I feel very privileged to live in a community like ours.

My hope as we move into Autumn is to see the recovery of our town and business continue and go from strength to strength. The town council will endeavour to help and promote our traders in any way we can.

Whilst many of our summer events have been cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic, there have been some excellent online events to take part in. I look forward to the time when we can again see our events in town take place. One highlight for me has been looking at all the drawings submitted by our children for the mural competition, thank you all for taking part.



We continue to face challenges with climate change, the disruption of HS2 and local housing development and we must continue to work on the issues surrounding these.

The Covid-19 infection is still present and with the coming flu season our local health workers will still be facing the challenge to keep us all protected, we can all help by having our flu vaccine and maintaining any other measures in place, such as masks and distancing.

Stay safe and well everyone.

Best wishes

Cllr. Geraldine Collins RGN

**Mayor of Buckingham
September 2020**

CALENDAR COMPETITION 2021

During lockdown, Buckingham Tourist Information Centre asked residents of Buckingham to send in artwork and photos of our beautiful town to use in the second edition of the calendar. The calendar will be available to buy from the Old Gaol from October 2020. The launch date will be announced on social media so make sure that you are following @discoverbuckingham for more information.

This year we opened up the competition to artwork as well as photos and we have been

blown away by the talent in the town. Here is a sneak peek at a couple of the winners that will be included in the 2021 calendar.



THE RE-OPENING OF BUCKINGHAM TOWN CENTRE

Following the easing of lockdown, Buckingham Town Council has been working to support the re-opening of the town centre in a safe way. We encourage everyone to shop locally to support the local economy. However, if you have any Covid-19 symptoms please stay at home.

Signage and safe queuing

Throughout the summer as shops, public play areas and toilets have opened, Council staff have revised policies and put up social distancing signs to advise of new rules or guidance. A variety of these can be seen around the town centre, play areas and parks. Please pay particular attention to the signs warning of pinch points where social distancing may not be possible.

Markets

Buckingham's Street Market is open on Tuesdays and Saturdays with all the regular stalls including street food, fruit and vegetables, fish (freshly caught that day), household goods and flowers. The Council has worked with traders to ensure a safe

outdoor shopping experience with markers on the floor for social distancing. The Flea Market trades every Saturday 9am – 3pm offering a wide range of second hand trinkets and treasures.

Shop Local

Our local shops have adapted amazingly well to the challenges that Covid-19 have brought. Popping into a local family-run deli for a sausage roll or buying a quirky gift from an independent shop can help the high street and support the local economy, so please shop local and support local businesses.

Discover Buckingham

Buckingham Town Council's Tourist Information Centre have been working on a new Discover Buckingham website, www.discoverbuckingham.uk, to help visitors to plan their visit. Shops, restaurants and hotels are listed on the website and we are happy to add and update information to the listings. Please email tic@buckingham-tc.gov.uk if you would like to be added to the website.

BUCKINGHAM MARKETS



Residents of Buckingham and the surrounding villages were able to access essentials throughout the lockdown period on Buckingham's street market, which managed to stay trading through the crisis.

With restrictions easing, the market has seen a gradual increase in stalls, whilst still maintaining a safe environment, in line with government guidelines. This has included the reintroduction of the popular Saturday flea market.

The flea market, in the lime tree lined cattle pens, offers shoppers unique goods and there are many homes in Buckingham and the surrounding villages that contain interesting, eclectic artefacts purchased from the Buckingham flea market!

Markets Manager, Russell Cross, credited the residents of the town for keeping the market going through challenging times.



'All this success comes down to the marvellous support we receive each week from our customers! Thank you all, for your co-operation, support and loyalty during this challenging period.'

'We take great pride in our long history of being a market town and the support it brings to our local economy'

'It has been delightful to welcome new traders to our markets and we are in discussions for further stalls to be introduced over the weeks ahead. In a time of recession, it is wonderful to see such a bright future ahead for Buckingham's Markets'

If you would like to attend Buckingham's markets as a trader, or would like some advice on how to get started as a market trader please call Russell on 07587 775552 or email him at markets@buckingham-tc.gov.uk

The street market takes place all-day Tuesdays and Saturdays in the Bull Ring and you will find the flea market in the Cattle Pens on a Saturday until around 2pm.

The markets are very active across social media. You can follow them on Instagram ([#buckinghammarkets](https://www.instagram.com/buckinghammarkets)) and Facebook ([buckinghamtownmarkets](https://www.facebook.com/buckinghamtownmarkets)).

LOVE WHERE YOU LIVE

Rewind to this time last year, who could have imagined what 2020 had in store for us? But what the pandemic has shown us is the resilience, determination and adaptability of Buckingham's high street, businesses and community.

We're lucky to have so many fantastic independent shops and businesses in town, run by people who genuinely care about what they do. Many moved quickly to adapt in the face of COVID to continue to serve the community, though there are undoubtedly tough times ahead for the UK's retail and food sectors.

So what can we do to support the independent shops and eateries that make Buckingham such a lovely place to live, work and visit?

- Most obvious is choosing to spend time and money locally. We love the personal experience that comes with shopping small and eating at independent eateries across Buckingham – these experiences inspired the creation of Love Buckingham!
- Follow the social media accounts of your favourite local businesses, comment on, like and share their content to help them reach more people.
- Share your experiences of spending time locally on your own social media accounts, and leave reviews on Google, Facebook, TripAdvisor.

Let's help Buckingham thrive.

*Lauren Hutton, founder Love Buckingham
Instagram @lovebuckingham and
Facebook @lovebuckinghamuk*

UNIVERSITY OF BUCKINGHAM CONTINUES ITS SUPPORT FOR THE COMMUNITY

As a civic university, Buckingham has always had strong links to its community. During the pandemic the University maintained its broader work to help support residents and initiatives. This included:

- Staff and students supporting local food banks
- Making regular 'check-in' phone calls to those who were shielding
- Providing support to school pupils through online outreach activity
- Creating and donating personal protective equipment
- Medical students and staff volunteering in GP surgeries and hospitals.

Welcoming new students throughout September, the University has introduced staggered arrival times to lessen the pressure

on the town and transport networks, and make it easier for students to do the things they would normally do while still socially distancing. The student welcome packs include a note from the Town Mayor and links to town websites and information sources to help promote the importance of supporting the community while studying at the University.

The Students' Union has also arranged events to help support local businesses such as walking tours of the town and facilities, nights out at local eateries, and nights in with takeaways from independent businesses.



BUXPLORE LAUNCH



Since the app launched during Lockdown, hundreds of residents have given our Buxplore heritage exploration app a go!

Want to try it out but don't know how to? To answer any of your questions and queries, check the online FAQ:
www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk/buxplore-faq

What route should I choose?

There are six routes available at the moment:

Heritage for Kids – A whistle stop tour of Historic Buckingham town centre for children and adults, answer questions correctly to unlock the next location.



Green – Hidden green spaces you might not know about, with child friendly activities to try in each location.



Stowe – Turn on the virtual mode to avoid low signal spots and explore the intertwined history of Buckingham and Stowe House.

Murder Mystery – Explore the criminal underside of Buckingham and solve a murder! Solve puzzles to unlock the next location and complete the story.

History – This trail tells you curious historic details about the town centre.

Industrial – See the impact of the industrial revolution and unusual local inventions in Buckingham.

Do I have to visit all of the stops on a route in one trip?

Absolutely not! Buxplore saves your progress, so feel free to take as much time as you like over each route.

Some of the routes cover large areas of Buckingham, and are designed to be completed a little at a time. Other routes can easily be completed in an hour or two.

Buckingham Town Council thanks lottery players, who helped fund the Buxplore project via a £10,000 grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund.



THE ONLINE FRINGE

Buckingham
Fringe Week
presents...

This year's Buckingham Fringe Week took place mainly on line between 11th - 19th July.

Children's Colouring Competition – This was organised by Gilroy Steel Solicitors and ran from 1st July until 20th July. Children aged 10yrs and under were able to download a colouring sheet from Gilroy Steel's website and then send it back to them. The winner received £20.

Children's Mural Design Challenge – Working with the Children's Workshop, children were asked to submit a drawing of something they would see when out for a walk such as bugs, flowers, bees or even a picture of themselves. Fifty drawings were required for the Children's Workshop to produce an 8ft x 4ft mural which will be displayed at the Lace Hill Sports and Community Centre.

Star Gazing from Your Back Garden – On Saturday 13th July Ross Hockman, from the Charity UK Astronomy gave a brilliant live presentation on Zoom. Ross talked about the different planets and what wonderful things you would be able to see in the night sky during July.



Photos © Derek Pelling Photography



Isolation Examination Fringe Week Special Quiz Night – This was organised by the bubbly Mikey Dyson, who has been running Quiz Nights during Lockdown. Mikey put on a special Quiz Night live on Facebook; a whopping 400 people took part.

THE ONLINE FRINGE

The Oxford Fiddle Group – The Fringe Week would not be the same without the Oxford Fiddle Group who have performed at the Fringe for over 10 years. Their pre-recorded set consisted of 6 members who performed some of their best loved songs whilst using social distancing. Their performance was shown on Buckingham Town Council's YouTube channel for everyone to enjoy.



Rock Hunt – A rock hunt was organised for Saturday 18th July. Eight colourful and unique rocks were decorated and hidden around the town by the Events Coordinator; the clues for where to find them, were posted on social media. The prizes for the lucky winners consisted of £10 book tokens that were purchased from the University Book Shop who said that they were very pleased to be involved in the Fringe week.



Update from Lace Hill Sports & Community Centre

The Lace Hill Sports & Community Centre is now open for Government permitted bookings. It is hoped that most long term activity providers will be back up and running from September onwards. As much as we would love to welcome everybody in, please be informed that indoor facilities will only be made available to hirers and their class participants for the time being. Keeping our community safe is the number one priority. We hope to welcome you all into the Centre to use the facilities very soon.

Unsurprisingly, the annual Family Fun Day was cancelled – we have missed our 'FunDayers!' Hopefully, we will be back bigger and better in 2021. We are keeping our fingers crossed that we will be able to run our Halloween event and Winter Fair later this year. However, that information will be published nearer the time on the webpage or if you want to stay up to date, you can follow us on our social media pages @LaceHillCentre.

COLOURFUL BUCKINGHAM!

A little bit of colour was added to Buckingham Town Centre this summer by the Town Council.

The Town Centre & Events Committee had decided that there would not be the usual summer hanging baskets and planters this year due to the Coronavirus outbreak because they need to be watered daily. The planters in the town centre were set with geraniums which needed less maintenance and the flower beds outside the Sorting Office planted with Canna lilies along with geraniums.



The Town Council is most grateful to a member of the public who volunteered to plant up the old cattle trough in the cattle pens with summer bedding colour.

If in the future you would like to sponsor, manage or support a new flower bed or any of the existing planters, please contact Events Coordinator, Amanda Brubaker by e-mail events@buckingham-tc.gov.uk



VISIT BUCKINGHAM!

Buckingham Tourist Information Centre reopened on the 4th July with safety precautions in place to help you feel safe. Hand sanitizer is available on entry, a clear acrylic screen has been installed and staff will be on hand to help you while wearing PPE.

The Town Council is proud to continue its tradition of being the first point of call for tourism and promoting the Buckingham economy and attractions in the surrounding areas.

This year Buckingham will have had a Tourist Information Centre in the town for 25 years. A knowledgeable team are on hand to discuss everything that you can do locally. The TIC is open 7 days a week, but will only allow one person or family group in the room at any time. The opening times are; Mon – Sun, 10.00am to 4.00pm.

If you have any enquiries regarding the Tourist Information Centre, call 01280 823 020 or email tic@buckingham-tc.gov.uk.

Services the TIC provides:

- Information on local restaurants, attractions and events
- Accommodation information
- A range of visitor guides and leaflets for local, regional and national destinations
- Local bus and coach timetables
- Buckingham souvenirs, gifts and local products
- Locally made face coverings
- Bookings for the tennis courts located in Chandos Park

Shopmobility

Shopmobility reopened on the 15th August and is only open on Saturdays until further notice. Shopmobility is currently limiting how often a scooter can be used to just once a day so it is best to reserve a scooter to avoid any disappointment. To reserve a scooter, you can call 07738 314027 on the day that you wish to use it or email tic@buckingham-tc.gov.uk

DOMESTIC ABUSE SUPPORT IN BUCKINGHAMSHIRE DURING CORONAVIRUS

The ongoing coronavirus crisis is putting a strain on many families and individuals, and Buckinghamshire Council is sharing advice to help support people who may be experiencing domestic abuse. It is more important than ever that everyone is aware of the signs of domestic abuse so we can help to protect each other.

Cllr Isobel Darby, Cabinet Member for Communities (Buckinghamshire Council), thinking of the victims and survivors of Domestic Abuse said:

'There is no excuse for abuse and it is never your fault. Existing abuse can escalate because of stress and anxiety, whilst widespread health concerns and job losses

may mean some people experience domestic abuse for the first time.

It can happen to anyone, no matter your gender, ethnicity, sexuality, age or background. It is really important for everyone to know that you can get help, you can leave your home to access support which is still available despite the challenging times. Please report your concerns; someone's life may depend on it.'



1 in 4 women and 1 in 6 men will be a victim of domestic abuse in their lifetime.

There's no excuse for abuse and it's not your fault.



#YouAreNotAlone

How and where to get help and support:

- Anyone in immediate danger should phone **999**.
- Or if in danger and unable to talk on the phone, dial **999** from your mobile and then press **55**. This will transfer the call to police, who will assist without the caller having to speak.
- Call the 24-hour National Domestic Abuse Helpline – **0808 2000 247**.
- Young People affected by domestic abuse can get support through Childline – **0800 1111** or SAFE – **0800 133 7938**
- Local domestic abuse organisations:
 - Aylesbury Women's Aid – **01296 437777**
 - Aylesbury Vale & Milton Keynes Sexual Assault and Abuse Support – **01296 719772**
 - Victims First – **0300 1234 148**

MENTAL WELLBEING WHILE STAYING AT HOME

Taking care of your mind as well as your body is really important if Coronavirus means you are still spending a lot of time at home. You may feel bored, frustrated or lonely. You may also feel low or anxious, or concerned about your finances, your health or those close to you but it's important to remember that it's okay to feel this way. The tips and advice here come from the Department of Public Health and Mind, and are things you can do to help you keep on top of your mental wellbeing.

Stay connected with others

Maintaining healthy relationships with people you trust is important for your mental wellbeing. Think about how you can stay in touch with friends and family.

Talk about your worries

Remember that it is okay to share your concerns with others you trust. If you cannot speak to someone you know or if doing so has not helped, there are plenty of helplines you can try instead.

Call CALM on 0800 58 58 58

Call Samaritans on 0330 094 5717 or text 116 123.

Mind Infoline on 0300 123 3393

Text SHOUT on 85258 to reach crisis volunteers 24/7. Texts are free.

Look after your body

Our physical health can also impact how we feel. Try to eat healthy, well-balanced meals, stay hydrated and exercise regularly. Going for a walk, run or bike ride is a great way to lift your mood and clear your head.

Carry on doing things you enjoy

Make an effort to focus on your favourite hobby. If not, picking something new to learn at home might help to stop feeling anxious or worried.

Keep your mind active

Read, write, play games, do crosswords, complete Sudoku puzzles, finish jigsaws, or try drawing and painting. Whatever it is, find something that works for you.

Get as much sunlight, fresh air and nature as you can

Bringing nature into your everyday life can benefit both your mental and physical wellbeing. It can improve your mood, reduce feelings of stress, and make you feel more relaxed.

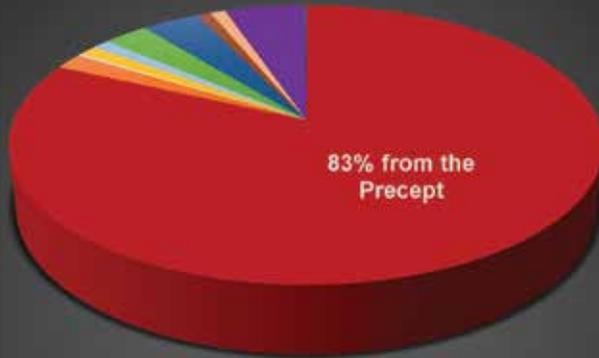


WHERE THE MONEY CAME FROM

BUCKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL

WHERE OUR MONEY COMES FROM

2019-2020



- Precept
- Markets
- Interest
- Burial Income
- Sponsorship
- Devolved Services
- Community Centre Income
- Property Rental
- Other
- Grants
- Tourist Information Centre



TOTAL

£1,070,752

www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk

BUCKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL GRANTS 2020/21



Are you looking for funding for a community project? Applications are invited for grant assistance for the financial year 2021/22 for projects and activities that would benefit the people of Buckingham. Successful applicants will be required to report back on how funding was spent at the end of the year.

Application forms will be available from early October 2020 on our website, and must be returned to Town Council by 12 Noon on Friday 4th December 2020.

If you would like to discuss a possible application, or to receive an application form, please contact the Town Council by:

**Post: Buckingham Town Council
Buckingham Centre
Verney Close
Buckingham
MK18 1JP**

Phone: 01280 816 426

Email: admin@buckingham-tc.gov.uk

Website: <https://www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk/your-town-council/grants/>

AND HOW WE SPENT IT



**PARKS, CEMETERY AND
LACE HILL CENTRE**
£457,819

**PARTNERSHIPS AND
TOURIST INFORMATION**
£152,774



**EVENTS AND
ENTERTAINMENTS**
£54,736

NEWSLETTER
£5,995



COMMUNITY GRANTS
£30,511

**LEGAL AND
ADMINISTRATION**
£262,942



MARKET EXPENSES
£3,405

TRANSFER TO RESERVES
£108,565



TOTAL EXPENDITURE
£962,187

NEW COUNCILLOR ROBINA AHMED

Councillor Ahmed was co-opted to Buckingham Town Council in July. Cllr. Ahmed told us:



I applied for the role of Councillor so I could help make our town a better place for its residents and balance its history and culture with the modern world. I also want to hear more about the issues that local people face and bring

some diversity to the Council. I am particularly interested in hearing about issues faced by younger and minority residents of Buckingham. I am keen to look into the impact of climate change and how we as community can do our part to save our planet. And during these difficult times, I think it is vitally important to help our local businesses and industry. My areas of interest are not just limited to the aforementioned, but also many other issues which affect our residents. I am very grateful for this opportunity and will do my best for the people of Buckingham.

Elections in May 2020

A full election for all 17 Town Council seats will take place in May 2021 as well as for Buckinghamshire Council. This election was delayed from May 2020 due to Coronavirus restrictions on public gatherings. Any local resident over the age of 18 can stand (with a few exceptions). If you are interested, you can speak to Buckinghamshire Council's electoral officer to find out more.

If you might be interested in standing, why not come along to one of our meetings? All the council's meetings and committee meetings are open to the public to attend, as well as watch online. There is a public session at the start of every meeting that lasts for 15 minutes so members of the public can ask questions. Details of meetings, including times and agendas, and links to the Council YouTube page are available on the Council's website. The Council's meetings take place on a Monday night at 7pm.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC89BUTwVpjAOEIdSlfcZC9Q>

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 opposite.

We look forward to hearing from you:

BUCKINGHAM TOWN COUNCILLORS

Cllr. Geraldine Collins – Mayor	01280 823 006	Cllr. Andy Mahi	01280 816 562
Cllr. Martin Try – Deputy Mayor	01280 816 202	Cllr. Howard Mordue	01280 815 418
Cllr. Robina Ahmed	07515 338283	Cllr. Ruth Newell	01280 815 229
Cllr. Terry Bloomfield	01280 815 336	Cllr. Lisa O'Donoghue	01280 824 624
Cllr. Mark Cole	01280 816 005	Cllr. Anthony Ralph	01280 813 710
Cllr. Paddy Collins	01280 823 006	Cllr. Mike Smith	07717 377314
Cllr. Margaret Gateley	01280 816 317	Cllr. Christine Strain-Clark	01280 816 832
Cllr. Jon Harvey	01280 812 711	Cllr. Robin Stuchbury	07752 394 162
Cllr. Paul Hirons	01280 812 072	Mr Paul Hodson – Town Clerk	01280 816 426

USEFUL NUMBERS

Buckingham Town Council	01280 816 426	Domestic Violence Helpline	0808 2000 247
Buckingham Cemetery	01280 816 801	Thames Valley Police	101
Buckingham Shopmobility	07738 314 027	NHS Urgent Care	111
Lace Hill Sports & Community Centre	01280 812 872	National Power Cut Helpline	105
Buckingham Community Hall	01280 823 584	National Gas Helpline	0800 11 11
Buckingham Tourist Information Centre	01280 823 020	Crimestoppers	0800 555 111
Buckinghamshire Council	01895 837200	Floodline	0345 988 1188
Transport for Buckinghamshire	01296 382 416	ChildLine	0800 111 999
Citizens Advice Aylesbury Vale	0344 245 1289	Samaritans	01908 667 777
		StreetLink (rough sleeping)	0300 500 0914

Town Council Office, Buckingham Centre, Verney Close, Buckingham, MK18 1JP

Email: office@buckingham-tc.gov.uk or visit: www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk

Call: 01280 816 426 (Please phone for appointments)

Follow us on Facebook:  /BuckinghamTC **or Twitter**  @buckinghamtc **or instagram**  @buckinghamtc

Buckingham Town Council does not endorse or sanction any other materials, products or advertisements which may be delivered together, in or at the same time as our Buckingham Town Matters.

This edition of **BTM** has been designed by Black Dog Design (www.black-dog-design.co.uk), printed by Oxuniprint and distributed to the homes and businesses of Buckingham by In Business Magazines.

This is delivered to approx. 6,500 homes and businesses. It is also available on our website as a PDF and an audio version. Please contact the Town Council if you would like to request a large print copy.

Please note, events organised by Buckingham Town Council may be photographed and these photographs may be published.

'Need support during coronavirus? These groups can help'



Photo © @lovebuckingham

Photo © @buckinghammarkets



Photo © @buckinghammarkets



Photo © @buckinghammarkets

The Buckingham Support Network has been set up by volunteers to help Buckingham residents and those in close surrounding areas to get food supplies, prescriptions delivered and any other general assistance to those in need. The Group operates via a Facebook page which includes phone numbers for different areas in Buckingham to access all support workers' telephone numbers.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/buckinghamsupportnetwork>

Buckinghamshire Council are still here to help with vulnerable people dealing with coronavirus. Call: **01296 383204**. This is a 24-hour phone line.

Buckinghamshire Adult Social Care are continuing to support adults, families and carers who might need their help during this time. Call: **01296 383 402**

For advice on how to manage money, debts, benefits, housing, employment issues and information on how anyone can access government provided food boxes; Citizens Advice can help. Call: **01280 816787**

If you are concerned that you or someone else has been a victim of fraud, contact Action Fraud. Call: **0300 123 2040** as well as your bank.

Samaritans is aimed at providing emotional support to anyone in emotional distress, struggling to cope, or at risk of suicide throughout the United Kingdom and Ireland. There is a 24-hour helpline number you can access 365 days a year. Call: **116 123**

Call **111** if or when you need advice or medical treatment quickly and you cannot wait for an appointment to see your doctor. However, if you need emergency medical help, call **999**

If you need to report non-emergency incidents such as criminal damage, anti-social behaviour or stolen vehicles, please contact Thames Valley Police. Call: **101**.

Buckinghamshire Social Services have a statutory obligation to safeguard and promote the welfare of vulnerable children and adults and can provide a wide range of services to children and their parents. Call: **01296 395000**.

For more information, visit **<https://www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk/coronavirus/>**

Photo © @lovebuckingham