



# Buckingham TownMatters

Autumn 2012



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*Thoroughly* MODERN  
**Traditional**  
BUCKINGHAM

# A Message from Mayor Ruth

Photo: Rachel Munday



## Hello...

I've been pleased to be on the judging panel of **Buckingham in Bloom** and we chose 3 worthy winners, very different gardens, but all three very colourful. Well done to all winners at **1 Meadow Gardens (1st)**, **5 Gifford Place (2nd)** and **27 Lenborough Close (3rd)**, and those that were highly commended (**38 Grenville Road, Western Avenue no's 35 and 92**). In addition we gave a special prize to the lovely communal gardens at **Payne's Court** that give a lovely view through the archway by Masonic House surgery.

I hope many of you had the chance to see the **Olympic Torch** as it flashed through our town on 9th July – I've never seen so many people in the town. Hopefully you had the opportunity to attend some of the many events held in the town over the **Queen's Diamond Jubilee** weekend, and many thanks go to all the organisers who put in time and effort for others to enjoy. We had rain all day at the **Music in the Market**, but hopefully we'll have had better weather at the **BandJam** at the end of August.

It was good to invite the **Mayoral Party** from **Neukirchen-Vlyun** in Germany on the weekend of 6th-8th July, and we signed the friendship agreement in the Council Chamber on the Saturday afternoon. In the evening we were able

to get to know one another better at a barbecue. Many thanks are due to the **Twinning Association** for organising it and to the 4 host families from Buckingham.

It's 5 years since Buckingham became a **Fairtrade Town**, and we celebrate this with coffee, cakes and fairtrade stalls in the Old Gaol on 15th September between 10am and 12 noon – do call by. The Town Council has recently funded the printing of leaflets to show where you can buy Fairtrade goods in Buckingham and the surrounding area, plus stickers for shops and businesses to display. Thanks to colleagues on the Fairtrade steering committee for all their hard work.

The Town Council recently agreed to support the **Buckingham in Transition** group, and are planning with them our first **Harvest Fair** on 30 September in the 'cattle pens' area in the Town Centre. Do pop along and see what is on offer – there will be lots to do and information and advice to swap. Look out for allotment holders, seed swap, apple press, bee keepers, master composters, hand-made soap, knitting, crocheting and much more.

Do take the opportunity to be involved in our **Neighbourhood Plan** that is being put together this autumn, we will be aiming to say where, when and how we want Buckingham to develop.

**Ruth Newell – July 2012**

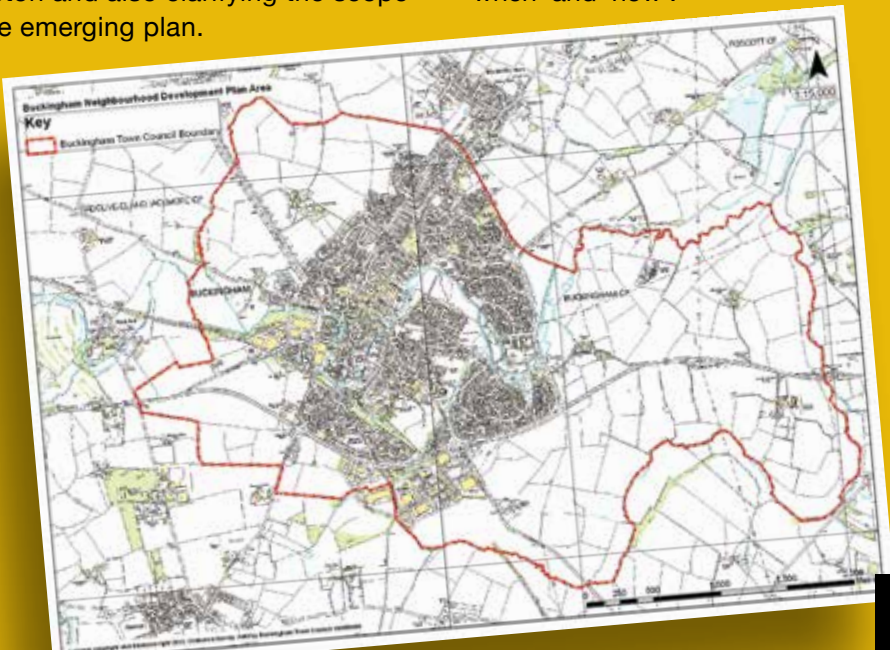
# The Changing Face of Buckingham... part 4

The early part of the summer saw the Town Council conduct its first ever planning consultation. We received over 150 comments on our 'Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report'. It is a technical planning document but it was great to see residents of Buckingham getting stuck into it alongside experts like the Environment Agency and English Heritage. The report describes the current situation in Buckingham and provides a checklist of things to test the new Neighbourhood Plan against. In case you missed it, you can download a copy (with all the changes made) from our website: [buckinghamplan.org.uk](http://buckinghamplan.org.uk)

Some of the suggestions include greater reference to cycling provision, university growth, liaison with Maids Moreton and also clarifying the scope of the emerging plan.

Since then, we've begun work putting some actual policies together. We've collected various ideas over the past year but we're always open to suggestions on where, when and how development should happen in Buckingham. We're particularly keen to hear from you if you'd like to promote some land, however large or small, for any sort of development. By the time you read this, we will already be holding various events based on planning themes (e.g. design, economy, flooding) so do look out for these.

Aylesbury Vale District Council is deciding the crucial question of 'how much' development but, through the Neighbourhood Plan, we're aiming to manage this by saying 'where', 'when' and 'how'.





# Safeguarding Buckingham

**Last year, we were beset with rowdy behaviour problems in Chandos Park.**

As part of our attempt to restore peace and quiet to those living nearby, and to prevent our new and expensive play equipment from being vandalised, we tried out closed-circuit television (CCTV) in the area. This loaned equipment proved to be a success – it deterred most from behaving irresponsibly and enabled us (and our Neighbourhood Police Team) to identify and deal with offenders.

As there are still some who persist in spoiling things for everyone else, your Town Council has decided to invest in its own CCTV equipment which, although likely to be “resident” in Chandos Park, can be moved to other “hot-spots” when necessary. We are currently exploring a range of equipment options while at the same time ensuring that the kit we purchase is acceptable to Thames Valley Police in terms of image quality, range and monitoring capability.

If you are suffering from occasional or persistent anti-social behaviour problems, please let us know – we can pass this on to our **Neighbourhood Action Group** and consider whether our mobile CCTV equipment could be used to identify offenders.

# Improving Bourton Park

**We now have a plan to maintain and improve Bourton Park in the years to come.**

The Town Council has just written a Management Plan for Bourton Park. It has been written to give guidance to the future management of the Park and help the Council plan the future of Bourton Park ultimately improving the facilities in the Park.

The new management plan contains a schedule of regular maintenance and a longer-term strategy for maintaining, repairing, renewing and introducing park features. This will guide the Town Council in making decisions in the future and reduce the risk of unforeseen large expenditure.

The Management Plan is designed to:

- Retain and improve the character and quality of Bourton Park in its role as a wildlife habitat and public amenity.
- Provide a sound basis for the on-going repair and maintenance of the landscape.
- Balance the needs of conservation and the use of the park by different users.

A copy of the management plan is available to look at on the Town Council's website.



**Funding has been secured for a new play area in Bourton Park. Designs and construction will begin later this year.**



# tackling fuel poverty

**Your Town Council is concerned about fuel poverty in the town. With rising gas, electricity and oil prices, and with the Winter months approaching and a pretty cold Summer, we felt we could do some more to help people.**

There is some helpful information from the **Buckingham & Winslow Citizens` Advice Bureau (CAB)** below.

We estimate that there are about 250 households who are in fuel poverty in Buckingham. You are said to be in fuel poverty if all your bills for hot water, cooking and heating come to more than 10% of the money you have to spend. People often have to turn the heating down too low and many die as a result, have their school work damaged, teenagers suffer more mental health problems and older people are more likely to fall in cold homes. Fuel poverty is bad on so many levels!

At the Town Council we have decided that we

- ★ will be exploring what we can do under the new Localism Act with regards to grants for people to insulate their homes in some way.
- ★ will be investigating whether we can agree a 'Buckingham Town Promise' with the big and small energy providers so that all people living in the town will be able to get cheaper electricity, gas and oil.
- ★ What other town councils are doing some very nearby – to generate their own electricity using renewable energy. Please watch this space for news.

CAB advice:

Check that you are getting all of the financial help and grants you can, including

- ★ Cold Weather Payments of £25 a week, payable when the weather reaches a certain temperature – these are available to people in receipt of certain benefits.
- ★ A Warm Front grant of up to £3,500, is available to help the poorest households in England
- ★ Winter Fuel Payments for winter 2012/13 are available to help with energy costs over the winter to people who were born on or before 5 July 1951, or live with someone of that age
- ★ The Warm Home Discount Scheme, which will give an automatic rebate on electricity bills to people who qualify under the scheme.

There are simple things you can do to cut your energy bills:

- ★ Insulate the walls and the loft of your home. All major gas, electricity and heating oil suppliers, are giving away free or discounted insulation.
- ★ Contact your supplier to check you are on the best tariff and payment method for your needs.
- ★ Simple things like turning off lights and switching appliances off at the wall all help to use less energy and could save you money. Turning your thermostat down 1°C alone could cut your annual heating bill by £60 on average
- ★ If you use heating oil or liquid petroleum gas to heat your home you could save money by buying in bulk with your neighbours. Call into the bureau to check if there is an oil club you can join.



**Most Importantly – If your energy bills are spiralling out of control and you are worried you won't be able to pay them do get help early. There is help available at the CAB – 01280 816707**

# LACE HILL

**When it came to the consultation on street names for the new estate on the London Road, the Planning Committee looked at several themes and decided on lace.**

Apart from any other consideration a couple of dozen related names would be needed, and that's quite difficult to find! The chosen names must not duplicate within the estate or within the local area, to avoid confusion for the Royal Mail, and the Town Council and the developers each put forward their suggestions for AVDC to agree.

Buckinghamshire Lace is a very fine pillow lace, and the making of it provided an income for local women until the First World War. It is similar to Lille lace, in that it has a regular net body pattern, with motifs outlined out with a thicker thread. The net stitches are known as grounds and are generally hexagonal.

A typical Bucks motif is the 'cucumber', a short fat oval with a line of holes (to represent seeds) inside; the Mayor's jabot has a strip of cucumber pattern lace on the collar stand. Very complex patterns might need as many as a hundred bead-weighted bobbins and these were often carved and decorated.

Members chose a mixture of names for the streets – some tools, like pillow, bobbin, linen, silk, and some stitches, like mayflower, butterfly, Constance, Rosemary. The first phase names have already been allocated, so the initial residents will be living in **Lace Lane, Braid End, Needlepin Way and Silk Close.**

A name for the estate as a whole was also needed – just as a reference, like Page Hill or Mount Pleasant. This does not form part of the postal address, it is just a way of referring to the area, and Lace Hill seemed obvious.

Members were not in favour of the developers' marketing name of Windsor Park because Windsor isn't in the county, and a densely built estate of 700 houses cannot be termed a 'Park'.

The Committee acknowledges the expert help of **Kay Bradley, Kay Meadows and Helene Hill** in compiling the list of possible names.



# BUCKINGHAM FRINGE



A week of events funded and organised by Buckingham Town Council, including different styles of music and comedy, kicked off on Saturday 16th June with the 4th Cancer Research Relay For Life Buckingham at Bourton Meadow School.

Following along in the success of the recent comedy nights, comedian **Seann Walsh**, star of Channel 4's 'Stand Up For the Week', BBC1's 'Live at the Apollo' and Dave's 'Argumental', brought his Live Tour to Buckingham on Sunday 17th June in the Old Town Hall. Seann and support act **Romesh Ranganathan** had the audience in fits of laughter, and hysterics broke out when Seann Walsh

joined **Cllr Robin Stuchbury** on stage at the end of the show, for a bit of friendly banter!

Cream Teas and Music at Villiers Hotel were enjoyed by many, with music provided by **The Keith Templeman Quartet**.

Wednesday night saw the return of the **Oxford Fiddle Group** and at 13 High Street late night **Karaoke** was taking place.

On Thursday night, a group of people were led around Buckingham in the rain by **Ed Grimsdale**, learning about the **Ghosts of Buckingham**. They heard about the prim Quaker lady who haunts Prezzos restaurant, and the Ghost of Father Thomas, who appears in Castle House.

Friday night saw a brilliant performance by the **Blues Brothers Tribute** act. Paul French and Mike Gethin entertained the audience and had them chanting for more at the end of the show.

Jazz was introduced this year to the Fringe week, and an audience enjoyed everything, from traditional jazz to Dixieland and swing, from **the Melody Room Jazz Band**.



# BUCKINGHAMFRINGE\*BUCKINGHAM



Top: Ghost Walk Right: Karaoke Night  
Bottom: Oxford Fiddle Group



Photos right and bottom: courtesy of Brian Simonds Top photo courtesy of Anita Simonds

# BUCKINGHAMFRINGE\*BUCKINGHAM

# HiMOs



**A House in Multiple Occupation is defined as one occupied by several people or households who are not related, and who have separate facilities (i.e. a bedsit or flatlet) as well as common areas such as a kitchen. If there are more than 6 unrelated residents the house has to be registered as a HiMO and is subject to safety and other legislation. It used to be from 3 unrelated residents, but the new Government removed the need to seek planning permission for changing ordinary residences to HiMOs for 3-6 occupants.**

The Town Council has been concerned for some time about the number of houses in Buckingham occupied by unrelated people – sometimes, but not always, students at the University. They are usually young people and do not keep the same hours as their neighbours, leading to complaints about noise and bad behaviour. Having a number of different occupiers can also increase the number of parking spaces needed beyond what the premises can accommodate. Splitting ordinary estate houses into flatlets for 4 or 5 tenants also reduces the number of houses local people can rent or buy, and this affects the number of houses the town needs for the future – an important part of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Evidence seen by Councillors shows that the rental charges in the town are artificially inflated, which disadvantages ordinary residents, and that existing tenants have been given notice to quit so that the house can be converted. There is no register of how many houses have been converted in this way, if they have kept to fewer than 6 tenants, and of course they are not subject to Fire Safety and other regulations as the larger HiMOs are.

Councillors asked AVDC if they would consider introducing a measure which would mean that all owners of houses who were proposing altering them in this way had to seek planning permission even if it was for less than 6 tenants. This would have given the neighbours chance to express their views on the proposed change. AVDC have been unwilling to do this, not seeing that Buckingham, alone in the Vale, has this problem – college students generally live with their parents. An alternative would be to license such premises, as is done in Oxford. The Council would then have an accurate view of how many HiMOs there are in the town, and the licence revenue would pay for the scheme. Landlords who had not registered could be fined. Another advantage for AVDC would be that full Council Tax would be payable by the landlord; full-time students are excused payment.

Town Councillors met with the Cabinet Member, **Cllr. Mrs. Polhill**, on 28th May and there were some positive outcomes; however the meeting was not referenced in the report to the Council for 11th July as it had been prepared before the meeting was held. Councillors were disappointed that AVDC Members were not given up-to-date information, and hope that there will eventually be a satisfactory outcome to this problem.

# BUCKINGHAM MARKETS



## **For centuries now Buckingham has been an historic market town with its own Royal Charter.**

Described as The Loyal and Ancient Borough, the first Charter was granted to the town by “Bloody” Mary in 1553, which gave us the Tuesday market. The second was granted by Charles II in 1684 and gave us the Saturday market. The rights to hold fairs were included in both Royal Charters and these have now evolved to become the Charter Fair, held every year on the second and third weekends in October.

The original market site no longer exists as such, but the Street Market occupies Market Hill and sits within the shadow of the Buckingham Old Gaol. The Flea Market, always a great place to pick up a bargain, occupies the Old Cattle Pens on the High Street and runs on Saturdays and, more recently, Tuesdays.

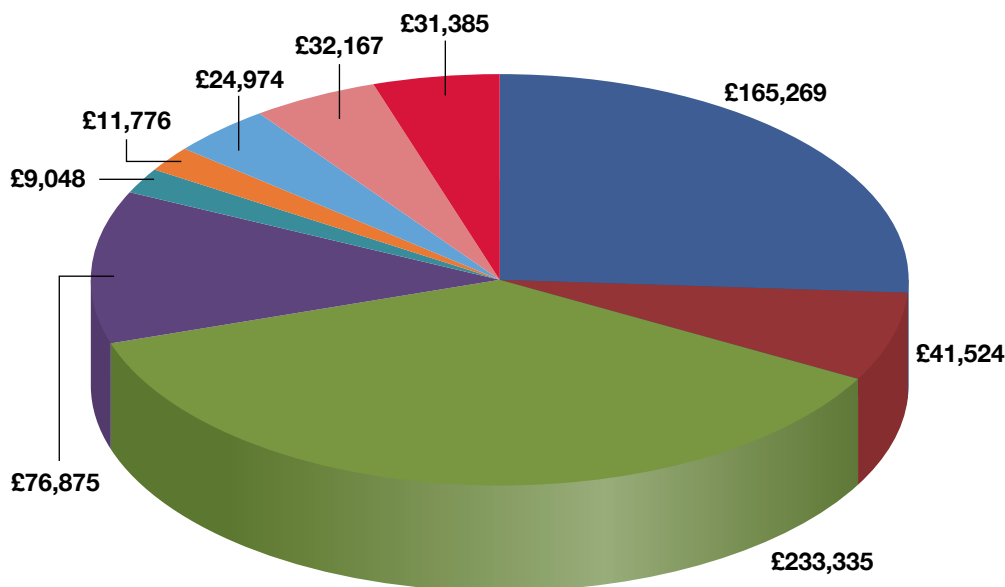
During the recession the market underwent a few changes, gaps appeared and the town feared for its Street Markets. The Town Council took action and we're glad to say that matters have now greatly improved – our markets have now rallied and are thriving.

The Town Centre and Events Committee, which oversees the markets, will continue to build on this and is always on the lookout for new ways to promote and support our markets.

More information on our markets can be found on our website  
[www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk/markets/markets.html](http://www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk/markets/markets.html)



# Where the money came from – and how



<b>INCOME</b>	<b>2010/2011</b>	<b>2011/2012</b>	<b>EXPENDITURE</b> Adjustment after allocation of staff time
Precept	£523,000	£542,426	Legal & Administration
Markets	£26,948	£28,768	Community Grants
Interest	£63	£1,368	Parks and Cemetery Maintenance
Rental and Burial Income	£26,620	£14,891	Events and Entertainments
Sponsorship	£6,339	£1,100	Street Market Expenses
Devolved Services	£1,726	£14,025	Planning
Other	£2,185	£22,366	Long term projects
Chandos Park	£125,209	£0	Aylesbury Vale Shortfall
Refurbishment Grants			Chandos Park refurbishment
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>£712,090</b>	<b>£624,944</b>	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>
			<b>Transfer to reserves</b>
			<b>Total</b>

## NOTES

The Precept is the amount that the Town Council asks Aylesbury Vale District Council (AVDC), our Council Tax behal from the tax payers of Buckingham to fund the services and activities.

# we spend it

-  Transfer to Reserves
-  Legal and Administration
-  Community Grants
-  Park and Cemetery Maintenance
-  Events and Entertainments
-  Street Market Expenses
-  Planning
-  Long Term Projects
-  Aylesbury Vale Shortfall

2010/2011	2011/2012
£102,729	£165,269
£31,324	£41,524
£228,582	£233,335
£76,875	£75,466
£7,901	£9,048
£11,776	£11,776
£5,012	£24,974
£19,733	£32,167
£128,967	£0
<b>£612,899</b>	<b>£593,559</b>
<b>£99,191</b>	<b>£31,385</b>
<b>£712,090</b>	<b>£624,944</b>

Billing Authority, to collect on our

AVDC decided to no longer fund.

# POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONERS

## Make sure you vote on November 15th 2012

**On November 15 this year, all voters will have the chance to elect the new **Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC)**. Please make a note in your diary and please do vote for this new and important position.**

At the moment the Chief Constable and her team are held to account by the Thames Valley Police Authority. The Government has decided that this body will be replaced by one elected individual. Two million people live in Thames Valley and all voters will be able to say who this person should be. The new PCC will have the power to sack and appoint the Chief Constable, set the amount of council tax spent on policing and decide (with the Chief Constable) the plans for Thames Valley. They will also have other powers and influence on allied agencies such as Youth Offending Teams and local Community Safety Partnerships. This person will be working for you, the public.

It is a big and new job. It is vital that as many people as possible express their view and the best person gets elected. This is happening across England and Wales

except for London (which already has the Mayor fulfilling the role).

If you put the words **PCC Home Office** into a search engine you will find more information.

**Please make sure you vote on 15/11/12**



# CONSULTATION ON OUR WEBSITE



We are looking at refreshing our website and we need your help. We would be very grateful if you could send us a message by email or letter in answer to the questions below. You don't need to write the questions again – just number your answers the same way.

- 1 How often do you visit our website?
- 2 What information do you find useful there?
- 3 What information is not there, but you would like it to be?
- 4 How easy is it to find your way around the website?
- 5 What would make finding your way around even easier?
- 6 What ideas do you have for improving our website?
- 7 Anything else you would like to say to us?

[www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk](http://www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk) Email: [office@buckingham-tc.gov.uk](mailto:office@buckingham-tc.gov.uk)

*Many thanks!*

## Flood Action 4 Buckingham (FAB)



**Flood Action 4 Buckingham** is a group of local people who have been affected by flooding in the town. In association with the **National Flood Forum** and the **Buckingham Society** we will take forward with the relevant authorities local concerns about environmental issues such as blocked drains and planning issues.

The **DRY RUN** planned for **Saturday 29th September** will put into action the emergency plan for Buckingham in the event of a flood.

If you need help installing your flood defences we have a group of volunteers organised by **Churches Together** in Buckingham who will come along and help you.

Please do let us know if you are interested by emailing [floodaction4buckingham@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:floodaction4buckingham@yahoo.co.uk) or phone **01280 812265**.

# 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. Martin Try	01280 816 202

## BUCKINGHAM SOUTH

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

Mr Christopher Wayman (Town Clerk)	01280 816 426
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## 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 Citizens Advice Bureau	01280 81 67 07
Buckingham Tourist Information Centre	01280 82 30 20
Buckingham Community Centre	01280 82 35 84

## Your views count

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

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

You can email us or just drop us a line at the address below.

We look forward to hearing from you.

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

Email: [office@buckingham-tc.gov.uk](mailto:office@buckingham-tc.gov.uk)



Follow us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/pages/Buckingham-Town-Council/222358454517086](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Buckingham-Town-Council/222358454517086)

**Just a reminder...**

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

# EVENTS DIARY

2012

## SEPTEMBER

Sat 15th FairTrade Anniversary  
Sun 16th River Rinse 1; Continental Market  
Sun 30th Harvest Fair

## OCTOBER

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

## NOVEMBER

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

## DECEMBER

Sat 15th Community Fair; Christmas Parade

