



Buckingham TownMatters

Autumn issue 2019



Thoroughly MODERN
Traditional
BUCKINGHAM

twinning • events review • upcoming events
• Bourton Park • grant applications • councillors wanted

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR MAYOR



You have only to walk through Buckingham to get its medieval feel in the parts unaffected by the disastrous fire of 1725, which burned down a third of the town. The Georgian quarter reflects the rebuild. Past that is the Manor House, where Queen Elizabeth I dined in August 1568, and the graveyard where the 'old' church stood until its spire collapsed in 1776. And further along, the 'new' church stands proudly on Castle Hill, where once there was a Norman stronghold.

Buckingham and its townspeople have played many roles in shaping history, and with that in mind I paid two 'foreign' visits in June. First I stopped at Flodden Field *en route* to Scotland. It was here in 1513 that the English and Scots armies clashed head on, leaving up to 17,000 dead on this Northumberland hillside. Most of them were Scots, including King James IV and the cream of his nobility.



The English had been directed there by Catherine of Aragon from Buckingham's Castle House, where she was staying as regent whilst her husband Henry VIII was campaigning in France. To give thanks, she made a pilgrimage to Walsingham in Norfolk, leaving for Buckingham her wooden crucifix, which can be seen to this day in the Old Gaol museum.



Two weeks later, on my way to the Le Mans 24 Hours race in France, I stopped off in Normandy just a week after the D-Day 75th anniversary commemorations, at the Bayeux War Cemetery, where five days earlier, June 6th, Theresa May had joined the Prince of Wales to lay wreaths. Amongst the 4256 Commonwealth graves are those of Buckinghamshire soldiers and sailors who died during the Battle for Normandy between June 6th and the end of August 1944.

Both visits were tail-ended for me on the morning of Saturday 29th June as I stood, together with fellow council members, outside the Community Centre as we flew the flag to celebrate National Armed Forces Day. It was a time to remember those who died for our freedom.

There will be another opportunity for you all to remember them on Sunday 10th November, Remembrance Sunday, at the War Memorial outside the Parish Church, when our 'Loyal and Ancient Borough' gives thanks for their sacrifice.

As I write this, we have just had the University EntFest, hosted by Dragon Peter Jones, followed by the Buckingham Summer Festival and Fringe. They have all brought the town, its schools and the University together to celebrate everything that is good about Buckingham. Long may they continue.

Cllr. Mark Cole JP

**Mayor of Buckingham
July 2018**

BUCKINGHAM TWINNING ASSOCIATION

We are twinned with Mouvaux in France and we have a friendship agreement with Neukirchen-Vluyn (NV) in Germany and are working towards that being a formal Twinning arrangement

Youth twinning. The following youth exchanges between us and our twin towns are being planned:

- **Visits and exchanges** between families both children and adults.
- **Books and DVD exchange** with the aid of Buckingham Library, to help youngsters prepare for their visits to France.

Landesgartenschau in Kamp Linfort 2020.

An ambitious project has been launched to join together with knitters from NV, Mouvaux, Ulstron and Buckingham to knit 300 squares, which will be used to make a multi-coloured teepee for this County Show in the Spring of 2020.

We had our Annual Bastille Day Boules Competition in July in the Old Cattle Pens area in the centre of Buckingham on a Friday evening. This year's Boules winners were Trevor and Lawrence King and the Plate was won by our own Ruth Newell and Robert Munday.



13-14 September – Harvest Festival Erntedankfest. We had a stand at this event in Neukirchen Vluyn.

11-13 October – Europa Konzert in Neukirchen Vluyn. Musicians from Buckingham have accepted an invitation to visit (and take part in) this event.

Autumnal visit to Mouvaux. A visit is planned to Mouvaux in October for a long weekend, travelling by Eurostar and staying in people's homes.

9-10 November – Martinsmarkt in Neukirchen Vluyn. We plan to go there this year. Details and format are still to be discussed.

Thursday 21 November – Buckingham Twinning Association AGM at the University of Buckingham.

7-8 December (provisional) – Mouvaux Marché Noel. We plan to send a small group to this event to run a stall selling British Christmas goodies.

Other ideas under consideration. Musical event based in Neukirchen-Vluyn. Barn dance in Buckingham. Quiz with a strong continental flavour in Buckingham.

Please join our Twinning Association – £5 annual membership and £8 for family membership, and get discount for events. Further information on the Twinning Association's website www.buckinghamtwinning.org.uk



EVENTS REVIEW EVENTS REVIEW



MUSIC IN THE MARKET

This year saw the 19th Music in the Market. Organised by Buckingham Acoustic Club and sponsored

by Buckingham Town Council this free music event pulled in 1,000 people throughout the day. This year the event started an hour later at 2pm and was opened by Town Mayor Cllr Mark Cole and the Town Crier. The bands that played this year were Heart Strings Orchestra, Thirlby & Smith, Buckingham Children's Choir & Bittersweet Music, Henry Sampson, Mike Weston, Safari Boots, The Toucans, Cerys Price, 60's Jukebox, Muzz & Jenks and the headline band was Palmerston.

YOUTH PROJECT

This annual joint project is organised by Buckingham Town Council and is a project between the Buckingham School and The Royal Latin School whereby they come together for an evening of art and drama. The theme of the fringe was given to the schools and they then turned that into an evening of art and drama based on 1969. It was fast paced and very entertaining. A big screen was used to project images from the 1960's including the moon landing and a time traveller took the audience from present day back in time and then back to present day.



FRINGE WEEK

The Buckingham Fringe week, organised by Buckingham Town Council, was held from 13th to 21st July and focused this year on the theme of The Moon, The Sun and The Stars, celebrating the 50th anniversary of the first Moon landing.

A **Children's Colouring Competition** ran from Monday 1st July until Friday 19th July and was organised by local Solicitors Gilroy Steel, and won by Chloe Wheeler.

The Hidden Quarter shops, Well Street/Bridge Street were giving people the chance to win a **Hidden Quarter Hamper**. Raffle tickets were available from Hidden Quarter shops.



A large number of people got involved in the third **#lovebuckingham rock hunt**. Over 40 businesses/organisations donated

rocks that were hidden around Buckingham town centre, estates and parks for people to find. Clues were given out throughout the day on Social media.



Buckingham welcomed back Joel Dommatt for this year's **Comedy Night**. Over 180 people attended the show which was held at the Royal Latin School. Joel was supported by Andrew Ryan who acted as MC for the evening and Louise Young.



EVENTS REVIEW EVENTS REVIEW

Have you ever wondered **What On Earth Is UP There?**



Local author Dr James Henderson gave a fun and captivating tour of space, science and our wonderful Universe to a fascinated audience. Copies of Dr Henderson's book, 'What On Earth Is UP There?' were on sale.



The Oxford Fiddle Group performed songs and tunes mainly from England and Scotland as well as Ireland and the USA



in the Radcliffe Centre. The group have been appearing at the Buckingham fringe for over 10 years.

The Ukulele Group made their first appearance at the Fringe. The group meets in the Cote, The Woolpack on a Thursday night.

Live acoustic music with the **Buckingham Acoustic Club** took place in the front room of The Woolpack.

A space themed **Family Quiz Night** was held on the Friday night. Quizmaster was Town Mayor Cllr Mark Cole. The winning team was Out of This World.



The **Buckingham Rock Choir** performed outside the Old Gaol.

Moonlight and Bubbles were on offer at Chafor Wine Estate in Gawcott. Over 130 people enjoyed some 'English bubbles. A small step for a local vineyard as recognition of this giant leap for mankind'. Quote (Chafor Wine).

An evening of Magic with Aidan the Wizard, showed his ability to read your mind.



The week finished off with a fun filled **Family Fun Day** at Lace Hill Community Centre. There were games, stalls and a pop up planetarium



Return to Earth Drinks and the draw for the hamper were held in the Garage.

FUTURE EVENTS FUTURE EVENTS

RIVER RINSE

Organised by Buckingham Town Council, the annual **River Rinse** will take place on Sunday 22nd September and Sunday 6th October. This ongoing event helps to mitigate the impact of climate change on flooding in Buckingham.

Volunteers from the Stowe Sub Aqua Group go in the River Great Ouse that flows through Buckingham and pull out the debris, such as fallen tree branches. The usual finds are car tyres, bottles, shopping trolleys and bicycles. Volunteers line the river bank and collect the debris for appropriate disposal. This year, the first rinse will start at Cornwalls Meadow Car park and go towards the University; the second rinse will start in Chandos Park and go towards Fishers Field. All children must be accompanied by an adult or guardian.



CHARTER FAIR



The annual **Charter Fair** will be arriving in Buckingham on Friday 11th October and will operate on Saturday 12th October. The fair will be opened by the Mayor Cllr Mark Cole and the Town Crier. The fair will then return on Friday 18th October to set up and operate on Saturday 19th October. Road closures will be in place for the town centre and details of these will be on the Town Council website and social media.



FUTURE EVENTS FUTURE EVENTS

BONFIRE AND FIREWORK DISPLAY

FREE Event!! Organised by Buckingham Town Council **The Bonfire and Firework Display** will be held on Saturday 2nd November in the paddock In Bourton Park. The firework display will be provided by Titanium Fireworks, and the Lord Robartes' Regiment of Foote will give a historic civil war re-enactment.



REMEMBRANCE DAY PARADE

The **Remembrance Day Parade** will take place on Sunday 10th November. The parade will form up on Market Hill and march up to the Church at approx. 10:30am for the Service around the War Memorial. A rolling road closure will be in place for the parade route. Details will be posted on the Town Council website and social media nearer the time.

CHRISTMAS LIGHT SWITCH ON

Organised by Buckingham Town Council **The Christmas Light Switch On** will take place on Saturday 30th November outside the Old Gaol. There will be carol singing and the Town Mayor Cllr Mark Cole will switch on the lights.



For more information on the Town Council events, go to www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk

BOURTON PARK












Bourton Park is a nature-friendly expanse of parkland, pond and river landscape which includes two children's play areas, a multi-use sports area, table tennis table and a trim trail. Bourton park is roughly the size of 11 football pitches.



There are two 'paddock' areas which are used as dog walking areas (please observe notices about on-lead and off-lead dog walking areas) and for events including the Dog Show and Bonfire and Fireworks. Two wildflower areas sit around a copse of trees on the eastern side of the park. Bourton Park can be walked through as part of a wider network of parks and riverside walks, as well as enjoyed alone.



KEY

-  Entrances
-  Picnic areas
-  Car park
-  Dog Exercise areas
-  Events Paddock
-  Trim Trail items
-  Suggested route for Trim Trail
-  Play areas
-  MUGA (Multi use games area)
-  Table tennis
-  Wildflower Meadow

For more information about Bourton Park visit our new online Parks guide:
www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk/our-services/parks-and-green-spaces



BEING A GOOD NEIGHBOUR

As winter approaches, it is good to spend a few moments thinking not only how we might prepare for the season ourselves, but also how we might be able to help others. When we think of our neighbours, we usually



think first of those who live close to us. If any of them is elderly or vulnerable in some way, we could consider what extra support they might appreciate as the weather turns colder, especially if we experience snow this winter. Would they like a lift somewhere? Or can we help with shopping, or with something else?

We should also bear in mind the needs of other people in our community. Are we aware of anyone who is homeless, sleeping rough or staying in a tent or car? If so, do we know who can help? StreetLink exists to help end rough sleeping by enabling members of the public to connect people sleeping rough with the local services that can support them; they can be contacted either by their website: streetlink.org.uk or by phone: 0300 500 0914.

FIREWORKS: THE LAW

Just a reminder as we approach Bonfire Night.

You must not set off fireworks between 11pm and 7am, except on certain occasions, e.g. midnight on Bonfire night.

Please respect your neighbourhood and please be mindful of the fact that pets find fireworks very stressful.

The law also says you must not set off or throw fireworks (including sparklers) in the streets or other public places.

SPARKLERS

All fireworks contain combustible chemicals that burn very hot in order to produce the effect we all enjoy. Sparklers are no exception – not only are they exceedingly hot while they burn, but the wire core can become white-hot and retain its heat for a long time

after the sparkling has died down. Sparklers are seen by many as a 'safe' firework, but they cause as many accidents as 'proper' fireworks – particularly serious burns to younger children. Not only that, but the discarded wire core is a danger to dogs and other animals, and is very difficult to pick up after the firework display has ended.

It is for these reasons that your Town Council ask that you please **DO NOT** bring ANY sparklers to the firework display on Saturday 2nd November in Bourton Park this year. Please **ONLY** enjoy sparklers at home. Many thanks.



UNIVERSITY OF BUCKINGHAM BRIDGING WITH THE COMMUNITY (PONTIO)

Since its establishment in 2018, the joint committee between the Town Council and the University of Buckingham known as the Pontio 'Bridge' Group has grown from strength to strength.

Students from the University have been making significant contributions to the local town with History of Art student, Danielle Little, curating her own exhibition for the Old Gaol titled Buckingham 1369 that explored the lives of the earliest Buckingham residents to serve the King and Country. Law students involved in the Citizens Advice Scheme have also been working with the local Citizens Advice helping to provide support and advice to local residents on legal issues or concerns whilst training for their degree. The medical students regularly engage in

community projects, for example registering as Buckingham First Responders.



This Year's Duck Race and Play Around the Parishes were organised to run on the same day, local residents purchased and decorated ducks to race down the River Great Ouse by Chandos Park, with prizes awarded for best-dressed and fastest duck. Play Around the Parishes has a bouncy castle, circus skills and more. At the event, Pro Vice Chancellor of the University of Buckingham, Jane Tapsell and the Mayor of Buckingham met on the adjoining bridge.

SAFE PLACES

The Safe Places scheme aims to provide reassurance to vulnerable individuals when they are out and about in the community. If someone is feeling disorientated or unsafe they can approach a business which has the yellow member sticker displayed in their window (see above). Staff will then be able to assist- whether this be phoning a close contact, a taxi, providing directions or even just a quiet space to sit down and take a break.

Some of the current Safe Place supporters in Buckingham are as follows:

- Buckingham Library, Verney Close.
- Buckingham Opportunities Centre, Well Street.
- Blackhams China Tea Rooms, 5 Meadow Walk.
- Buckingham Tea Room, Lower Shop, Market Hill.
- Esquires Coffee House, 30 West Street.

- Harrisons Jewellers, 1 High Street.
- RSPCA, 9 Market Square.
- Boots the Chemist, 11 Market Hill.
- Seahawk Trophies, Market Hill.
- West Street Local, 28 West Street.
- The Woolpack, Well Street. (Late opening hours).
- The Kings Head Coffee and Gin Bar, 7 Market Hill. (Late opening hours).

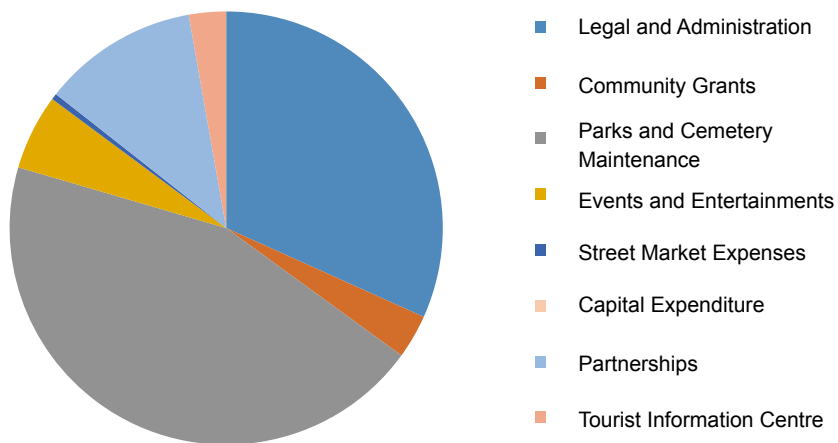
To see a complete list of Safe Places across Aylesbury Vale you can visit: <https://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/safe-places-scheme>

If you would like your business to be part of the Safe Places scheme or feel a group you are part of would benefit from receiving further information please contact communitysafety@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk



WHERE THE MONEY CAME FROM AND HOW

Expenditure 2018/19



INCOME	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019
Precept	£671,567	£739,070	£813,075
Markets	£20,348	£18,976	£17,231
Interest	£0	£192	£0
Burial Income	£17,403	£24,959	£17,170
Sponsorship	£10,781	£11,032	£10,396
Devolved Services	£20,353	£20,353	£21,093
Community Centre income	£33,665	£40,081	£43,571
Property Rental	£9,348	£11,273	£10,176
Council Tax Top Up Grant	£9,065	£0	£0
Other	£15,541	£13,518	£46,105
Grants	£75,407	£173,815	£0
Tourist Information Centre			£236
TOTAL INCOME	£883,478	£1,053,269	

EXPENDITURE
Legal & Administration
Community Grants
Parks and Cemetery Maintenance
Events and Entertainments
Street Market Expenses
Capital Expenditure
Partnerships
TOTAL EXPENDITURE
Transfer to/(from) reserves
Total

NOTES

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

2018/2019 is the first year that the Town Council has run the Buckingham Tourist Information Centre directly, funding to Tourism South East.

The Council Tax Top Up Grant no longer exists due to changes in government funding.

WE SPENT IT

BUCKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL GRANTS 2019/20



Applications are invited for grant assistance for the financial year 2020/21 for projects and activities beneficial to the people of Buckingham. Successful applicants may be required to make a report at the Annual Town Meeting.

Application forms, accompanied by copies of your latest audited accounts must be received by Noon on Friday 1st November 2019.

Application forms are available from:

**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/](https://www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk/your-town-council/grants/)**

2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/19
£319,517	£336,184	£274,084
£27,082	£26,000	£28,300
£242,593	£343,861	£384,642
£37,804	£37,631	£48,630
£11,292	£4,806	£3,934
£226,949	£167,299	£0
£30,507	£32,614	£100,356
£895,744	£948,395	£863,935
-£12,266	£104,874	£115,608
£883,478	£1,053,269	£979,543

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y. Prior to this we provided

COUNCILLORS WANTED!



- Do you ever complain about the Council?
- Would you like to make changes?
- Do you want to make a difference?

Next May (2020) Elections will be held for the Town Council as well as for the new unitary council. The new unitary, Buckinghamshire Council, will be created to provide the services currently delivered by Buckinghamshire County Council and Aylesbury Vale District Council. 17 people will be elected to the Town Council and six people will be elected to represent Buckingham and surrounding parishes on the new Buckinghamshire Council. Any local resident over the age of 18 can stand (with a few exceptions).

What is involved?

The Full Town Council meets formally at least every seven weeks, apart from during August. Meetings are held in the Council Chamber, which is connected to the Community Centre. The Council also operates several committees; there is usually one committee meeting each Monday night, and councillors are able to select which committee(s) to take part in. Councillors may also represent the council at other local government meetings or organisations from time to time. The town

council is consulted on a wide range of matter from planning applications to roads and the environment. Town Councillors are local people who are committed to their community. Councillor training is available.

Details of who is eligible to stand for election are available on Aylesbury Vale District Council's website. Election packs for those standing as candidates are available from the electoral office. It contains guidance for candidates together with relevant forms.

If you might be interested in standing, or are just interested in finding out more about what the Council does, why not come along to one of our meetings? All the Council's meetings and committee meetings are open to the public to attend. 15 minutes are set aside at the start of every meeting for questions from the public. Details of meetings, including times and agendas, are available on the Town Council's website.

Buckingham has a slightly younger population than average, however the average age of Councillors is 67, and just over 70% are male. Councillors would encourage residents from all backgrounds to apply.

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. Terry Bloomfield	01280 815 336	Cllr. Howard Mordue	01280 815 418
Cllr. Mark Cole JP – Mayor	01280 816 005	Cllr. Ruth Newell	01280 815 229
Cllr. Geraldine Collins – Deputy Mayor	01280 823 006	Cllr. Lisa O'Donoghue	01280 824 624
Cllr. Paddy Collins	01280 823 006	Cllr. Anthony Ralph	01280 813 710
Cllr. Margaret Gateley	01280 816 317	Cllr. Mike Smith	01280 822 215
Cllr. Jon Harvey	01280 812 711	Cllr. Christine Strain-Clark	01280 816 832
Cllr. Paul Hirons	01280 812 072	Cllr. Robin Stuchbury	01280 824 285
Cllr. Derrick Isham	01280 813 770	Cllr. Martin Try	01280 816 202
Cllr. Andy Mahi	01280 816 562		
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
		Floodline	0345 988 1188
		ChildLine	0800 111 999
Buckinghamshire County Council	01296 395 000	Samaritans	01908 667 777
Transport for Buckinghamshire	01296 382 416	StreetLink	0300 500 0914
Aylesbury Vale District Council	01296 585 858		
Citizens Advice Aylesbury Vale	0344 245 1289		

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)

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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.

2019/20 EVENTS DIARY



Please find further details inside or online:

www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk/town-matters/events/

2019

OCTOBER	Second River Rinse	Sun 6th (10.15am-12.30pm)	Chandos Park
	Charter Fair	Sat 12th & Sat 19th	Town Centre
NOVEMBER	Bonfire & Fireworks	Sat 2nd (6pm)	Paddock, Bourton Park
	Remembrance Day Parade	Sun 10th (10:15am)	Town Centre
	Christmas Lights Switch On	Sat 30th (6:30pm)	Town Centre
DECEMBER	Lace Hill Winter Fair	Sun 1st (2pm – 4pm)	Lace Hill Sports Centre
	Christmas Parade	Sat 14th (10.45am)	Town Centre
	Community Fair	Sat 14th (11.30am)	Buckingham Community Centre

2020

FEBRUARY	Pancake Race	Sat 22nd	Green outside St Peter and St Paul
	Food Fair	Sat 29th	Community Centre
MARCH	Fairtrade Fortnight	Saturday 7th	
	Commonwealth Day Flag Raising	Mon 9th	Outside Council Chamber

