



Buckingham TownMatters

Spring issue 2019



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Thoroughly MODERN
Traditional
BUCKINGHAM

**Buckingham rocks • food bank • short story winner
• events review • river • future events • Unitary Council**

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR MAYOR



This is my last piece for this newsletter as your Mayor. In a few months' time, I hand over to the next Town Mayor who will no doubt create a different shape for the role. I wish the new Mayor, to be elected in May, all good fortune.

Julie and I have so enjoyed these last two years. We have been to places and events that we would never otherwise have visited. Moreover, we have met some wonderful and fascinating people. And we have shared in many delightful celebrations and performances, especially the ones involving young people. We have been enchanted by everyone's talents, verve, authenticity and commitment to making Buckingham an even more special place to be. People who visit here find Buckingham residents to be friendly and welcoming. Long may that continue.

During my time as Mayor, it has been one of the most fractious times for the country with debates raging about the ins and outs of the European Union. I am told that families and friends have been deeply divided over the matter. Whatever finally happens (and I really don't know when 'finally' will be!) my earnest hope is that we find ways to come together again as a community and as a country. We are all damaged by divisions.

I have spent some of the last couple of years donating the book about the life and sad death of Jo Cox MP, to the libraries of my life. There are now four of these books around town – one in the County Library, both Secondary Schools have one and the University Library has one too. I even donated one to the public library in Mouvaux, our twin town, when I visited there a few weeks ago.

What Jo said in her inaugural speech to the House of Commons in June 2015 remains as true then as it is now: 'While we celebrate our diversity, what surprises me time and time again as I travel around the constituency is that we are far more united and have far more in common with each other than things that divide us.'

For my remaining time as your Mayor, and beyond of course, I will continue to search for all the ways in which we can unite and build on what we have in common. It is, I believe, the basis of Buckingham's future. And indeed of the UK and the World.

Cllr. Jon Harvey

December 2018

BUCKINGHAM ROCKS

In the last couple of years, you may have spotted brightly decorated rocks hidden throughout the town. From monsters with huge eyes to children's book characters, these fun painted rocks have been appearing everywhere, ready to be found and kept or rehidden for others enjoyment.

This initiative was set up by a Buckingham resident who created the Facebook community group Buckingham Rocks UK.



Since it was set up in October 2017, the group has grown to over 1,400 members, with many community members of all ages painting

and hiding rocks over the town and sharing photos when they find rocks – this has been particularly fun and exciting for children, who often keep and treasure their rock finds. The rocks are hidden anywhere, from the town's many walks and parks to near streets and buildings. Rocks created in Buckingham have even made it as far as Scotland and Cornwall.

Buckingham Rocks is part of a wider movement across the UK and beyond, and

many towns and cities have their own community groups. The Buckingham rock community has supported many local events and causes, too, including the Maids Moreton Scarecrow Hunt, local school fundraising and poppy rocks during the Armistice remembrance. #lovebuckingham – a new social media campaign set up by another Buckingham resident to celebrate the town and all it has to offer – also collaborated with Buckingham Rocks to create a series of rocks in partnership with local businesses (more #lovebuckingham rock hunts are planned for 2019).



You can get creative and join the Buckingham Rocks UK community on Facebook (just search 'Buckingham Rocks UK' and request to join).



DEPUTY TOWN CLERK

The Town Council recently welcomed Claire Molyneux as the new Deputy Town Clerk. Claire has joined the Council after thirteen years working for Thames Valley Police.

Claire is looking forward to working with councillors, voluntary organisations and members of the public on various projects to enhance the town.



BUCKINGHAM FOOD BANK

Buckingham Food Bank is an independent food bank set up by Buckingham Parish Church. The Food Bank covers Buckingham, Winslow and all the surrounding villages north of Winslow.

Buckingham Food Bank provides an emergency food parcel for those in crisis and in urgent need of food. Such a crisis can arise for a number of reasons including benefits delays, housing loss, family breakdown, debt and redundancy.



Part of the food bank

Requests for food parcels are made to the Food Bank by care professional referral agencies such as Citizens' Advice, Community Nurses, Social Services and the Children's Centre. A need for emergency food is invariably caused by other problems hence the importance of care agencies always being involved. Requests are not taken directly from the public.

The requests for food parcels are increasing year on year. For example in 2014 the Food Bank issued 54 parcels: in 2018 175 parcels were issued.

Donations of non-perishable food can be left at the Parish Church or at The Centre in Verney Close by prior arrangement with Beverley Stockhill (01280-817399) or Anne Mercer (01280-823944) who will also advise on items needed.

HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT TREES IN BUCKINGHAM?

Elm Street's Cutterne Elme must have been an exceptional elm tree as it is listed on the map of Buckingham drawn by John Speed in 1610. The earliest record of the tree is from 1574 when the tree is mentioned in the town records. Presumably it was a remarkably large tree even then and by the time it died sometime in the 19th century it was a few centuries old.

The meaning of the name 'Cutterne' is obscure. Perhaps it means the tree had been



pollarded (cut). The current tree (Ulmus lobel) was planted in 2007 after careful excavation of the pit to avoid harming any pipes or cables beneath the ground. A seat, walling a cobbled area was installed.

It would fantastic if we could add some more 'noteworthy' species to the landscape of the town. Perhaps you know of a tree which should be recorded,

if so contact the Tree Wardens on 01280 816426 or at committeeclerk@buckingham-tc.gov.uk

SHORT STORY CONTEST WINNER

Buckingham 2030 by Richard Gallimore

The Mayor was a stickler for punctuality, so no-one was surprised to see him rise for the presentation exactly as the overhead hologram clock registered 12 noon 2030.

‘Ladies and gentlemen,’ he began turning to the lady next to him, ‘Buckingham owes you more than ever we can repay. And for the benefit of any newcomer here today let me list just how much and how many things we owe you Justine.

‘Ten years ago Justine joined Buckingham University as Director of Progression which, put simply, was to ally the University with Buckingham Town. And it’s thanks to her that over the last decade our community has benefited far beyond any similar market town.

‘Her first initiative was to make use of St Peter & St Paul’s steeple. Through her many contacts she utilised this steeple to ensure Buckingham was among the first to enjoy 5g broadband.

‘She was also instrumental in seeing the building of a much-needed third secondary school for our population of around 20,000 and the opportunity for a pupil from each of the three schools to win a sponsored place at the university.

‘But ladies and gentlemen Justine’s talent for giving the town surprises was in persuading a local farmer to donate his surplus land for solar panel use.

‘Just think ladies and gentlemen what other town in Britain today can claim to have the lowest rate for their electricity.

‘We all thought it would have been too much to expect a rail link to be re-established. But no this fantastic woman saw such a potential: that was to create a connection with Winslow, via Padbury, by establishing a light tramway link. For this we must thank yet several more farmers who generously made their land available.

‘If that wasn’t enough for a decade’s worth of putting our town on the map comes Justine’s *piece de resistance*. For years there were local hospital problems. Thanks to Justine and the University Medical Department we now have our own University Hospital Trust combined with a health centre and a new home for the elderly.

‘For all this and more Buckingham is in her eternal debt.

‘How nice it would be to think Justine might stay with us for another ten years but if not, you can be assured of the Freedom of the town and an open door welcome.’

ACCESSIBILITY IN BUCKINGHAM

Accessible newsletter

Since the beginning of 2018 an audio version of this newsletter has been available through our website. A link to this can be found on the town council website under publications.

If you would like a copy of the newsletter in any other format, for example large print – please contact the Town Council office or 01280 816 426.

Accessible Buildings

AccessAble is the new name for Disabled Go. Everyone's accessibility needs are different, which is why having detailed, accurate information is so important. AccessAble provides assessments of nearly 100 venues in the town to give you the information you need to work out if a place is going to suit your individual needs. The new assessment areas include those that are sometimes problems for people with 'invisible' disabilities, like autism or learning difficulties as well as a range of other search options that allow users to find out more.

AccessAble now provides an app and a faster, easier website that offers more detailed information to consumers, and in formats that are easier to understand for everyone: www.accessable.co.uk/organisations/buckingham-town-council

Accessible Website

The Town Council website has been designed to be as accessible as possible. A programme of improvements is currently under way and we hope to make the site even better during 2019. One of our aims is to ensure that the site is completely readable by screen readers, technology that reads websites aloud so that people with vision problems can use them.



Accessible Town Centre

Buckingham Town Council's Shopmobility Service is free for anyone who wishes to shop or sight-see in Buckingham town centre. There are allocated free parking spaces for Shopmobility users, next to the Shopmobility building. We have electric mobility scooters and manual wheelchairs. The service is for anyone with a mobility problem, whether temporary or permanent, not just Blue Badge Holders.



Council Meetings

All Council meetings are open to the public. They are held in the centre of town at the Council Chamber, which is connected to the Community Centre. All agendas and minutes of Council meetings held since 2014 are available on the website as printable files. If you have questions about accessibility at Council Meetings or would like any information, including agendas and minutes, in a different format to those usually provided please get in touch with us.

EVENTS REVIEW EVENTS REVIEW

ICE SKATING RINK

Organised by Buckingham Town Council a pop up synthetic **ice skating rink** was erected in the cattle pens in Buckingham town centre from the 26th November to the 2nd December and proved to be very popular. Tickets were sold online and over 1,000 people enjoyed the experience. The rink was opened during the evening of the first day by the Town Mayor Cllr Jon Harvey. Players from the MK Lightning Ice Hockey team and their mascot Pukky were also there. The rink was sponsored by Dominoes, Buckingham Ford, Buckingham University, The Kings Head, Direct Pizza, Buckingham Butcher, Leaders Estate Agents, McScotts Cleaning, TTSD and Buckingham Ford.



CHRISTMAS LIGHT SWITCH ON

On Saturday 1st December a large crowd turned out for the **Christmas Light Switch On**. This year the Mayor Cllr Jon Harvey switched on the new and colourful Christmas lights. There were performances by the Buckingham Children's Choir and Stagecoach Buckingham, as well as music from the Winslow Concert Band. Santa was on hand to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and MK Lightning's mascot Pukky went around meeting people in the crowd. Captains Coleman of the Salvation Army gave a short talk on the meaning of Christmas and the blessing was given by Fr. Roy Karakkattu from St Bernadines Catholic Church. A small Christmas Market was held in the cattle pens close to the ice skating rink.



CHRISTMAS PARADE

Saturday 15th December was the annual **Christmas Parade**. Organised by the Christmas Parade Committee and sponsored by Buckingham Town Council, 50 floats, walkers and groups paraded from Chandos Road through the town centre and back to Chandos Road.



COMMUNITY FAIR

Organised by Buckingham Town Council, the **Community Fair** takes place after the Christmas parade and gives local charities, societies and organisations the chance to do some fund raising before Christmas by selling Christmas items, plants and other items. Refreshments were served this year by the Community Centre Committee. Those taking part this year were Help For Heroes, Maids Moreton WI, The Old Gaol, Arthritis Research UK, Citizens Advice, Buckingham's Men In Sheds, Buckingham Twinning Association, Fairtrade Town Steering Group, Retina UK, Encrisco, Rotary Club of Buckingham, Buckingham Canal Society, MIND, Stowe House Preservation Trust, Buckingham AED Project, Buckingham U3A and Katharine McElligott who was raising money for the Mayor's Charities. There was also a



performance by the Buckingham Children's Choir.



FUTURE EVENTS FUTURE EVENTS

FOOD FAIR

Kicking off events for 2019 will be the annual **Food Fair on Saturday 23rd February**. This is held in the Community centre. Doors open at 10am and in previous years over 1,000 people have visited the event. Among those taking part this year are Geoffs – Real Artisan Bread, Lola's Ices, Modern Foodie Ltd, Replete Flatbread, Reasons To Season, Towcester Mill Brewery, Baja Cantina and many more.



PANCAKE RACE

Organised by Buckingham Town Council the annual **Pancake Race** will be held at 11am on **Saturday 2nd March** on the green outside St Peter & St Paul's Church. All entrants must wear a headscarf and apron and bring their own frying pan. Prizes will be awarded to the winners of each class. The classes are 5 and under, 6-11yrs, 12-16 years and adults. There will also be relay races for local businesses and charities, who will need to register before the day.



COMMONWEALTH DAY

Commonwealth Day, is celebrated on the 2nd Monday in March. On **Monday 11th March** join the Town Mayor Cllr Jon Harvey at 10am as he raises the Commonwealth Flag on the flagpole outside the Community Centre.



FUTURE EVENTS FUTURE EVENTS

SPRING FAIR

Organised by Buckingham Town Council the **Spring Fair** will be held on **Sunday 28th April** in the cattle pens in Buckingham town centre. For more information keep checking the Council website www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk.



MAY DAY

Children from the local Primary Schools will be taking part in the May Day celebrations on **Wednesday 1st May** with traditional country dancing and may pole dancing on the green outside St Peter & St Paul Church at 11am.



MUSIC IN THE MARKET

The ever popular **Music In The Market** is on Sunday **26th May 1pm-10pm** in Buckingham's town centre. This free event is organised by The Acoustic Club and sponsored by Buckingham Town Council and attracts a large audience. There is a wide variety of music with musicians mainly from the Acoustic Club. The event will be opened at 1pm by the Town Mayor and Town Crier.



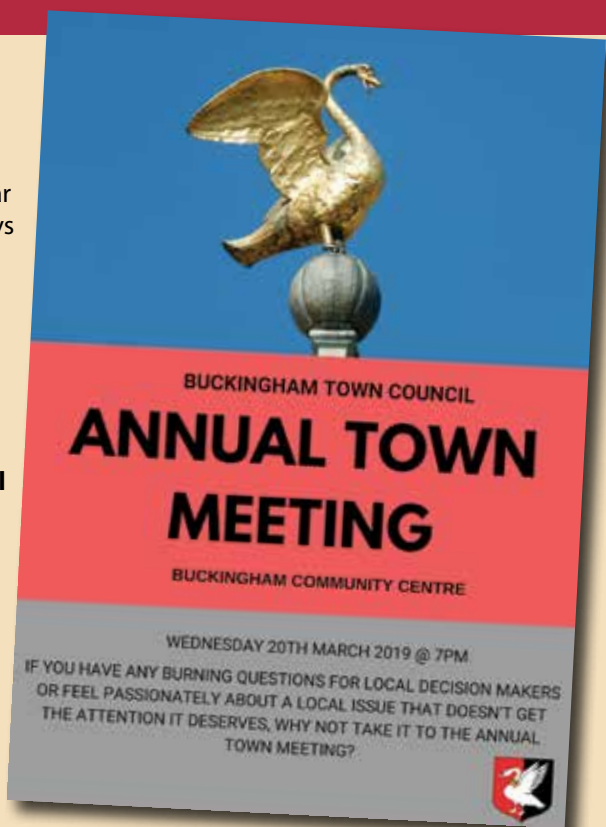
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Annual Town Meetings are held, by law, as a regular chance for residents to have their say on any and all issues that they feel are important. After last year's very successful event we will be using a similar approach – giving residents as many ways as possible to be involved, to attend and to contribute to the discussions.



Starting in early March will be the **Digital Town Meeting**, hosted on Facebook, Twitter, our website and Instagram. We will raise a new topic each day and ask residents to respond – letting us know what you think about our green spaces, events, local services, life in the town and many more topics. There will also be the opportunity to raise anything else relevant to the town.

This year the **Annual Buckingham Town Meeting** will be held on Wednesday 20th March, from 7pm at the Community Centre. All townsfolk are welcome! We will be using a similar arrangement to last year. Discussions will focus on questions and issues raised during the Digital Town Meeting. We will invite representatives from as many local organisations as possible to be present, so that local issues that the Town Council can't help with directly can be put to the right organisation. Last year these included Thames Valley Police, Aylesbury Vale District Council, Buckinghamshire County Council and Buckingham University.



We've got the teapots ready and cake will be provided!

If you cannot attend, please do take part in the Digital meeting, or by contacting the town council in advance with your questions and comments. You can also write to us as well, of course, if digital is not for you.

Emails should be sent to office@buckingham-tc.gov.uk and letters can be posted to Buckingham Town Council, Buckingham Centre, Verney Close, Buckingham, MK18 1JP or left at the Buckingham Centre during library opening hours.

UNITARY COUNCIL FOR BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

Some important news on local government reorganisation. The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government has announced the first details of the new unitary council for Buckinghamshire. From 1 April 2020 Buckinghamshire County Council and Aylesbury Vale District Council will be abolished, along with Chiltern, Wycombe and South Bucks District Councils, and one new unitary council called the Buckinghamshire Council created.

Buckingham Town Council will continue to have the same legal status.

The Town Council was due to hold elections in May 2019. However, the government has decided to delay all town and parish council elections in Buckinghamshire by one year, to ensure that in the future town council and unitary council elections will always take place in the same year. This means that the cost of elections will be as low as possible. So the current town councillors will serve for an additional year, making this a 5-year term, unlike the usual 4-year term.

The current Buckingham District and County Councillors will take part in the Shadow Authority during 2019 as representatives of

Buckingham, and candidates will stand for election to the Buckinghamshire Council in May 2020. Buckingham will elect six representatives to the new council, three per existing county council ward, with a boundary review to take place before the 2025 election.

While the Town Council's status will remain unchanged, the business plan for the new unitary council makes a number of assurances about offering town and parish councils the opportunity to take on assets such as buildings and local service delivery from the unitary council. No decisions have yet been taken as to what this will mean for Buckingham. The Town Council has taken a range of services from both the District and County Councils in recent years. These include the Tourist Information Centre, Cemetery, Shopmobility and cutting grass verges.

Town Councillors will be working with colleagues in the shadow cabinet over the next 12 months to investigate the options for extending these arrangements and to involve residents in discussing options for the delivery of services in the town.



EVENTS SURVEY



Events Survey

Buckingham Town Council events in 2018 included: The Pancake Race, Food Fair, Annual Town Meeting, May Day Celebrations, Fringe Week, Good Endings Fair, Dog show, River Rinse, Bonfire Night and Fireworks, Christmas Light Switch On and Market, Pop-Up Ice Rink and the Community Fair.

The Town Council also actively supports further annual and occasional events in Buckingham.

We want to know how you feel about the events Buckingham Town Council held in 2018. The Events Survey will run until 31 March 2019 and can be filled in online at www.tinyurl.com/btc-events. Paper copies are available at Buckingham Tourist Information Centre, Buckingham Library and Lace Hill Community Centre.

Alternatively please answer the questions below and return your responses to office@buckingham-tc.gov.uk or to Buckingham Town Council Office, Buckingham Centre, Verney Close, Buckingham, MK18 1JP.

Which Buckingham Town Council events did you enjoy attending in 2018?

What was good about the events?

What would you change?

What events would you like to see in Buckingham?

Would you be interested in volunteering to help? (For example, with litter picking or marshalling)

Finally, please tell us your postcode:



Buckingham Town Council Budget

£861,363

The Buckingham Town Council Budget for 2019-20 is £861,363.



10p

The Precept will rise by 10p a week or 3.3% for a Band D property.

£37,000

£37,000 Will be spent on events like the fireworks and Christmas lights.



£3,000

£3,000 will be used to buy dog-proof safety gates for Lace Hill Park.

£10,000

New fencing at Bourton Park will cost £10,000.



5

The Green Spaces Team will increase to 5 full-time staff.

£48,343

£48,343 for the Community Centre and Lace Hill Sports and Community Centre.



£47,000

£47,000 towards a new cemetery as the current one is nearly full.

2018

In 2018 the Council took over the Tourist Information Centre.



2

The council will continue to operate 2 markets.

**2019
2020**

GRANT RECIPIENTS

Grants are available to any local, non-commercial group that runs or intends to run a project or activity beneficial to the people of Buckingham. This year, 18 applications for funding were received and the Council has agreed the following:

Buckingham Canal Society	£1,150
Buckingham Churches	
Children's Holiday Club	£750
Buckingham Literary Festival	£400
Buckingham Summer Festival	£750
Buckingham Tennis Club	£1,000
Buckingham Town Cricket Club	£1,000
Buckingham United Football Club	£950
Buckingham West End Bowls Club	£750
Chandos Park Bowls Club	£500
Friends of the Old Gaol Museum	£1,000
Gawcott Cricket Club	£135

North Bucks Carers	£1,000
Project Street Life	£500
Slade Recreation Club	£1,000
Summer Festival Supporters	£250
The Swan Community Hub	£1,000

In addition to this the council gives long term grants to Buckingham Youth Clubs Ltd, Buckingham Old Gaol and Citizens Advice Aylesbury Vale. The Council also helps charities and other community organisations in a number of ways including advertising events, providing a venue for meetings and by campaigning for issues and changes with other authorities.

The Town Council grants process starts again in September 2019.

More information on grants and the grants process is available on our website: www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk/community-matters/grants/



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 – Deputy Mayor	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. Anthony Ralph	01280 813 710
Cllr. Margaret Gateley	01280 816 317	Cllr. Mike Smith	01280 822 215
Cllr. Jon Harvey – Mayor	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		
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 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.

2019 EVENTS DIARY

Please find further details below or online:

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



2019

FEBRUARY	Sat 23rd (10am)	Community Centre	Food Fair
MARCH	Sat 2nd (11am)	Green outside St Peter and St Paul's	Pancake Race
	Sat 9th (7.30pm)	Radcliffe Centre	Summer Festival Winter Warmer
	Sat 9th (10am-12pm)	Old Gaol	Big Brew Fairtrade coffee morning
	Mon 11th (10am)	Community Centre Flagpole	Commonwealth Day
	Wed 20th (7pm) Sun 24th (11am-2pm)	Community Centre Community Centre	Annual Town Meeting Well Being Walk
APRIL	Sun 7th	Lace Hill	Easter Event
	Sun 28th (10am)	Town Centre	Spring Fair
MAY	Wed 1st	Green outside St Peter and St Paul's	May Day Celebrations
	Sun 26th (1pm-10pm)	Town Centre	Music in the Market
JUNE	Fri 14th to Sun 16th	Various locations	Buckingham Literary Festival
JULY	Sat 6th to Sat 13th	Various locations	Buckingham Summer Festival
	Fri 12th	Cattlepens	Twinning Boules Competition
	Sat 13th – Sun 21st	Various locations	Buckingham Fringe Week
	Sun 21st	Lace Hill Community Centre	Family Fun Day
	Mon 29th (10am-3pm)	Chandos Park	Play Around The Parishes
AUGUST	Mon 5th, 12th & 19th and Tues 27th	Bourton/Chandos Park	Free Basketball Sessions
	Mon 12th & Wed 21st (10am-3pm)	Chandos Park	Play Around The Parishes
	Sun 25th (1pm-10pm)	Town Centre	Bandjam

