



# Buckingham TownMatters

Spring issue 2022



**message from your Mayor • annual town meeting  
events sponsorship and stall opportunities • future events  
tackling loneliness • the Queen's jubilee**



# A MESSAGE FROM YOUR MAYOR



I am writing this message at the start of 2022, having been able to spend Christmas and the New Year celebrating with family and friends again. How we all missed that last year! Maybe we have learned not to take so much for granted any more.

I was delighted that we were able to go ahead with our Christmas Parade. It was fantastic to be part of such a vibrant event and to see so many people lining the streets, enjoying the sights and sounds. My thanks go to all who made this possible.

I am really looking forward to our Twinning weekend in March, during which we will sign the partnership agreement with Neukirchen-Vluyn and also celebrate 20 years of our twinning with Mouvaux. I believe that such friendships are even more important since we left the European Union.

Do take time to come to the Annual Town Meeting on March 24th. This provides an opportunity for us to consider the Climate Emergency and our response to it. We all remember the terrible flooding just over a year ago in Buckingham and we are aware of many other devastating events around the world due to climate change. It is vital that we seek better ways of living to reduce the impact on our beautiful planet. Details of this are on page 3.

We began last year with new hope, due to the Covid vaccines becoming available. This year we look forward to finding a way of living with the virus, amending what we can do accordingly. Seeing signs of spring: catkins on trees and birds singing helps me to feel positive. I enjoy walking through our parks and along the river in all seasons, but springtime is special with new life returning and so much to look forward to.

**Margaret Gateley**

**Cllr. Margaret Gateley, Mayor of Buckingham**

# ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

## Climate Change Public Meeting Thursday 24th March 2022 at 7pm

Climate Action Groups up and down the UK are working together to build strong and resilient communities to tackle the threat of the climate crisis.

Buckingham Town Council has already declared a Climate Emergency and developed its own Action Plan to drive the organisation toward carbon neutrality by 2030. This public meeting will bring together stakeholders from the community, local Councils, businesses and residents to:

- Update you on what has been achieved so far
- Share ideas on how we can all take action to achieve net zero carbon Buckingham
- How can the town's population, organisations and businesses work with us in that aim?

The meeting is open to EVERYONE and it is hoped the meeting will identify Buckingham's key themes for the initiation of Community led Climate Action Groups. The public meeting will involve local experts that can set the context, as well as the wider community. There will be a series of information stalls from different organisations within the environmental sector and seven tables, each with different discussion topics.

- 1 Energy
- 2 Housing
- 3 Transport
- 4 Waste
- 5 Food & Land
- 6 Community Action
- 7 Other

BUCKINGHAM'S ANNUAL TOWN MEETING



## CLIMATE CHANGE PUBLIC MEETING

ALL WELCOME TO JOIN THE  
DISCUSSION ON PRACTICAL STEPS OUR  
COMMUNITY CAN TAKE TO HELP AVERT  
THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL CRISIS

7 PM THURSDAY 24TH MARCH 2022  
BUCKINGHAM COMMUNITY CENTRE  
MK18 1RP



All members of the public are invited to come along. Town and Unitary Councillors will be in attendance to answer your queries on any other matters relating to Buckingham. However, if you have a burning question or feel passionately about a local issue that doesn't get the attention it deserves then come along to one of our weekly Committee meetings. For more information on what to expect from a Town Council meeting please visit our website at: <https://www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk/your-town-council/committees/attending-council-meeting/>



# SPOTLIGHT ON THE TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE

**Phone:** 01280 823 020  
**Address:** The Old Gaol, Market Hill, Buckingham, MK18 1JX  
**Email:** tic@buckingham-tc.gov.uk  
**Times:** Monday – Saturday, 10.00am to 4.00pm



Located in The Old Gaol, the Tourist Information Centre (TIC) is operated by the Town Council. The TIC Supervisor and her dedicated team of true local experts are always happy to help with any enquiries – just pop in Monday-Saturday from 10am until 4pm.

The Tourist Information Centre is very 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. It has been open for more than 25 years and since 2018, it has been run by the Town Council, when it became clear that the Town Council could provide it more cheaply and with better local connections than had been possible for Tourism South East. Since then, the number of visitors, the range of tickets sold and the amount of locally sourced products being supplied have increased.

Online Only? The Tourist Information Centre has launched a website for visitors and tourists encouraging them to come to the town to shop, dine, stay and visit the numerous attractions in and around Buckingham. The new

Discover Buckingham website has business listings for local shops, accommodation, restaurants, pubs and attractions as well as event listings, blogs and news from within the town. So, if you have an event, attraction, shop, restaurant or hotel that you would like to add to this website please email [tic@buckingham-tc.gov.uk](mailto:tic@buckingham-tc.gov.uk).

For more information on the business, attractions and things to do in Buckingham, please visit the Discover Buckingham website [www.discoverbuckingham.uk/](http://www.discoverbuckingham.uk/)



# TRADE AT BUCKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL EVENTS

Buckingham hosts dozens of fantastic events each year bringing fun, tasty food, great shopping, music and visitors to Buckingham. Our local, busy events are a great opportunity for local business to build their brand, listen to customers and try out new products!

If you'd like to book a trader stall for your business or local community group at a Town Council event, please get in touch with our office by email to [admin@buckingham-tc.gov.uk](mailto:admin@buckingham-tc.gov.uk)

## Event Sponsorship

Interested in taking part in a community contest or activity as a business? **Buckingham in Bloom** gardening contest, the summer **Community Art Trail**, **Christmas Card Contest** or the **River Rinses** could be a wonderful opportunity for your company to financially support a project with a positive local impact for residents. Please contact the Town Clerk for further discussion.

## Key to spaces available:

- Food & Drinks Traders ✕
- Crafts & Goods Traders 🛒
- Local Charities, Voluntary & Community Groups 🤝

## Events Timetable

- **Pancake Race**, Tuesday 22nd Feb ✕
- **Food Fair**, Saturday 26th Feb ✕
- **Easter Bazaar**, Sunday 10th Apr ✕ 🛒 🤝
- **Spring Fair**, Sunday 24th Apr ✕ 🛒 🤝
- **Celebrate Buckingham**, Thursday 2nd Jun ✕ 🤝
- **Music in the Market**, Friday 3rd Jun (in partnership with Music in the Market) ✕ 🛒 🤝
- **Picnic on the Pitch**, Sunday 5th Jun ✕ 🛒 🤝
- **Fringe Week**: arts, sport and culture events 🤝
- **Lace Hill Family Fun Day**, Sunday 17th Jul ✕ 🛒 🤝
- **Outdoor Theatre**, August ✕
- **BandJam**, Sunday 28th Aug (in partnership with BandJam) ✕
- **Dog Show**, Sunday 11th Sep ✕ 🛒 🤝
- **Hallowe'en Event**, Friday 28th Oct ✕ 🛒 🤝
- **Bonfire & Fireworks**, Saturday 5th Nov ✕ 🛒 🤝
- **Winter Fair**, Sunday 20th Nov ✕ 🛒 🤝
- **Christmas Lights Switch On**, Saturday 26th Nov ✕ 🛒 🤝
- **Community Fair**, Saturday 26th Nov ✕ 🤝





# PAST EVENTS PAST EVENTS PAST EVENTS PAST EVENTS PAST EVENTS

Thank you to everyone who came along to our annual **Winter Fair** at Lace Hill Sports & Community Centre on Sunday 21st November. The main hall was packed with lots of small local businesses selling a wide range of goodies from homemade jams, cakes, jewellery, bath salts, bespoke Christmas gifts, books, resin crafts and much more. The children also enjoyed making cards, clay crafts, and gingerbread decorating.



Due to adverse weather, a decision was made to cancel the **Christmas Lights Switch On** for Saturday 27th November 2021. There would've been a huge variety of stalls and food traders pitched up in the cattlepens and carols sung by the Christmas tree; better than anything before. However, we look forward to seeing you all next year!



Saturday 11th December saw the **Christmas Parade** loop round the town centre. There were over 40 unique and decorative floats, walkers and marching bands all lead by the Devil's Horsemen. The theme was Fashion through the Ages and a tribute was made to the NHS for their valiant efforts during the pandemic. The winners were as follows:



Adult Floats: 1st Young Farmers, 2nd Buckingham Table.  
Adult Walkers: 1st St Edmunds Maids Moreton, 2nd Beckett Aerials.

Junior Walkers: 1st Buckingham Primary School, 2nd Autism Early Support

Chairman's Cup: Devil's Horsemen, for their support of the Parade over many years.



The **Community Fair** took place in the Community Centre after the Christmas Parade which enabled a vehicle for local societies, groups and charities to raise funds. Those in attendance were: Buckingham Fairtrade, Buckingham Canal Society, Mayor's Charities, Heritage & Sons, Inner Wheel, Men In Sheds, Buckingham & District U3A, Bone Cancer Research Trust, South Central Ambulance, Buckingham Twinning Association, Arthritis Versus, Ark Baby & Toddler Group and the local WI who provided refreshments.



Our first **Holocaust Memorial Day** ceremony was held on Thursday 27th January 2022, following the recent installation of the Stone.

## EVENTS HAPPENING NOW

The annual **Pancake Race** will be held on Tuesday 22nd February 2022 at 11am on the green outside St. Peter's and St. Paul's Church. There will be four races to enter in from small children to adults and even a local business and charities team relay race! All participants must wear a headscarf and apron and bring their own frying pan.



This year's **Food Fair** will take place on Saturday 26th February 2022 from 11am-2pm in the Community Centre. Get ready to try some really scrumptious food, drinks and great products from local companies such as Baja Cantina, Silverstone Brewery, Indian Orchard, Crème de la Crumb, Roos Food, Buckinghamshire Recycles and many more.





# FUTURE EVENTS FUTURE EVENTS FUTURE EVENTS FUTURE EVENTS

This year's **Annual Town Meeting** will take place in Buckingham Community Centre on Thursday 24th March 2022 at 7pm. The theme of the meeting is climate change and there will be various stall holders highlighting different aspects of how to reduce climate change and protect the planet. If you would like to speak at the meeting, contact our Committee Clerk, Paula Cahill at [committeeclerk@buckingham-tc.gov.uk](mailto:committeeclerk@buckingham-tc.gov.uk) with your questions beforehand.

A traditional **Easter Bazaar** will take place on Sunday 10th April 2022 from 2pm-4.30pm so come along to Lace Hill Sports & Community Centre and find some wonderful handmade arts and crafts as well as bespoke gifts. There will be refreshments available to purchase and free games and activities for children to enjoy.



Come along to our **Spring Fair** located at the Cattlepens in the town centre on Sunday 24th April 2022 from 11am-2pm. There will be a variety of stalls and entertainment showcasing lots of wonderful and unique spring related products and services.



Children from local primary schools will be taking part in the **May Day** celebrations on Tuesday 3rd May 2022 with traditional country dancing and may pole dancing on the green outside St. Peter and St. Paul's Church from 11am.



After a great first event last summer, **Celebrate Buckingham** is coming back on Thursday 2nd June 2022 from 11am-3pm in Bourton Park. Expect to see local community, voluntary and social enterprise groups along with fantastic food and lots of fun family activities!



To celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, join us for a **Picnic on the Pitch**. On Sunday 5th June 2022 from 11am-3pm, we invite everyone to Lace Hill Sports & Community Centre for a fantastic afternoon of family entertainment. Meet up with family and friends, bring a blanket and enjoy some live music, games, stalls and bar.



Plans are under way for **Fringe Week 2022** and events thereafter so keep an eye on our website [www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk/events](http://www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk/events) and social media pages @BuckinghamTC.





# HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY



On Thursday 27th January, members of the community and guests from around Buckinghamshire gathered in Bourton Park to remember the six million Jewish

victims of the Holocaust and the millions of other victims of genocide around the world.

A Holocaust Memorial stone was installed in Bourton Park as a focus for the annual event. The memorial stone is limestone bedrock from Brackley Road cemetery and was transported free of charge by local firm Paragon Tool Hire.

Buckingham Town Council commissioned local Stonemason and a Master Letter Carver Louis Francis to engrave the Holocaust Memorial Day emblem and wording, which is marked using black and gold writing.

A commitment was made by all attendees to remember the Holocaust, and recognising their shared responsibility to fight against discrimination. The Mayor of Buckingham,

Cllr. Margaret Gateley, read 'Belsen Silence' by Lolo Lewis, and later said that: *"It was an honour for me to lead Buckingham's first Holocaust Memorial Day commemoration today, 27 January 2022. We remember 6 million Jews, who were murdered in the Holocaust and the millions of people killed under Nazi persecution of other groups, and also in the genocides which followed in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur.*

*Today was an opportunity for us to reflect on what has happened in history, and also to stand against prejudice and hatred in our world today. We must commit to learning from the Holocaust and from other genocides for a better future."*

Plans are being developed to improve on the Holocaust Memorial Event next year, including outreach work with schools. If you are a local school that might like to take part, please do contact the office.



Photos © Derek Pelling photography



High Sheriff of Buckinghamshire, George Anson and Vice Chairman of Buckinghamshire Council, Dev Dhillon



Buckingham Town Clerk, Paul Hodson and Mayor of Buckingham, Cllr. Margaret Gateley



Greg Smith, MP for Buckingham

# BUCKINGHAM CEMETERY



Photo © Granta Networks

archaeological surveys need to take place before this work is complete and the Council awaits their results.

Meanwhile, at the Brackley Road Cemetery construction of the new garden of rest has been completed and landscaping work is currently taking place. A memorial tree to Geoffrey Suggate was planted on the 18th February. The hornbeam planted, *Carpinus betulus* 'Frans Fontaine', will be part of a wider design, with a number of shade loving hedges and bushes being

planted, including wildlife friendly shrubs.

Progress continues on plans for the new cemetery site at Tingewick Road. The building design is almost complete; while plans for the site layout are still being finalised – including the location of a pond. Draining and

Longer term, the very end of the cemetery will be converted into a wildflower meadow with a mown path, allowing for walks of reflection in a natural environment.

## SPOT THE ROBOT DOG

The University of Buckingham is helping to introduce local schools to areas of expertise such as learning about robotics from their School of Computing's new AI and Innovation Hub which has specialist equipment for academic programs in artificial intelligence, cyber security, games and immersive applications development, and robotics. Our University is the first organisation in the UK to have Birdly, a static flying machine that enables people to fly over landscapes and cities of the world using virtual reality. It also has Spot, a mobile canine robot, by Boston Dynamics, Single-arm Yumi robots and several virtual and augmented reality headsets.

Another way in which our university is interacting with the community is through

The Faculty of Health Medicine and Science, which has invited

residents to participate in a public involvement forum. This is a group of local volunteers who are using their wisdom and skillset to help students studying medicine at the University of Buckingham to become outstanding doctors. The first forum took place last December.

If you would like to learn more about any of the work our university is doing with the local community, please contact Dean Jones, Partnerships and Outreach Manager via [Dean.jones@buckingham.ac.uk](mailto:Dean.jones@buckingham.ac.uk).





# TACKLING LONELINESS



This article is an invitation: what might you do to help make Buckingham an even more connected community, where fewer people feel lonely and more enjoy the delights of being with others?

Nearly half of everyone over 16 experiences some degree of loneliness. More than 1 in 20 say that they always or often feel lonely: in our town, that means nearly a thousand people. These people could be your neighbour, the person who walks their dog at the same time as you or indeed, you. Younger people and those with a disability are more likely to feel lonely much of the time. [[Tackling Loneliness by MacDonald, Kulakiewicz & others, House of Commons Library, 14/6/21](#)]



Your Town Council and many local organisations are committed to tackling loneliness in a wide variety of ways. For

example, the Town Council are currently helping to reboot the Local Dementia Action Alliance which aims to make Buckingham an even friendlier place for people experiencing dementia. A recent initiative brought a dozen men together to have a stomp across our beautiful countryside. The local churches organise several lunch and coffee clubs throughout the year. Our library opens its doors to all who want to meet others and share in the warmth of a book filled space.



## What more can you do?

The Town Council website includes ideas about volunteering (or phone them on 01280 816 426 and they can help direct you). The Buckinghamshire Council website has a list of organisations offering and seeking support. Buckingham library is also a good place to start. But it isn't just about those opportunities. It can also be the random conversations with strangers, shop assistants, internet buddies and so forth. Or chance encounters with neighbours which can be the start of making a connection that could make all the difference to someone experiencing loneliness.

# BUCKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL



## Precept 2022-2023

### WHAT IS THE PRECEPT?

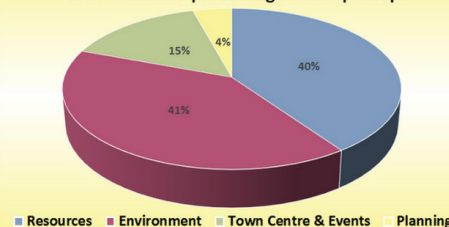
The Precept is the Town Council's share of the council tax. This year the precept will rise by 5p per week on a band D property. This is a cost of £175.74 a year and a yearly increase of £2.47 or 1.43%.

### TOTAL PRECEPT

The total amount Buckingham Town Council will receive from council tax in 2022-2023 is

# £942,773

The Council has four sub-committees which each receive a percentage of the precept



### BUCKINGHAM EVENTS

Buckingham Town Council run a number of events, many of which are free to attend, such as the annual fireworks in Bourton Park, which attracts thousands of people. This year there will be an extra event to celebrate the Jubilee as well as entertainment to attract visitors to the markets.

### PARKS AND GREEN SPACES

Buckingham Town Council take great care of our parks and green spaces. The Environment Committee will receive £380,935 to maintain them to a high standard. This year will focus on the Council's climate action plan.

### GRANTS

More than £30,000 will be given to local charities & community groups this year. The Council will support Buckingham focused youth mentoring, sports clubs, music festivals, heritage, citizens advice and environmental projects.

### PLANNING

Buckingham Town Council review and comment on every application in Buckingham. They advocate for Buckingham's people and businesses. This year the Council is preparing a new Neighbourhood Plan and will be consulting with residents and other local groups.

To find out more about what we do with your money visit our website at [www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk](http://www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk)



# THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE



Her Majesty The Queen has become the first British Monarch, on Sunday 6th February 2022, to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee after 70 years of

service. The usual late May Bank Holiday weekend will be moved to Thursday 2nd June 2022 and an additional Bank Holiday on Friday 3rd June 2022 will see a four-day weekend! This historic event will reflect on Her Majesty The Queen's reign, and her impact on the UK and the world since 1952.

To add to the festivities over this extended Bank Holiday weekend, the Town Council plan to hold some very exciting events. For updates on what's scheduled, follow us on social media @BuckinghamTC.

If you or your community group are planning to host your own public Platinum Jubilee celebrations please get in touch with the Town Council as soon as possible via email to [admin@buckingham-tc.gov.uk](mailto:admin@buckingham-tc.gov.uk).



## 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

<b>Cllr. Margaret Gateley – Mayor</b>	01280 816 317	Cllr. Howard Mordue	01280 815 418
<b>Cllr. Warren Whyte – Deputy Mayor</b>	01296 383 031	Cllr. Lisa O'Donoghue	07906 408 646
Cllr. Robina Ahmed	07515 338283	Cllr. Ade Osibogun	07467 837 954
Cllr. Mark Cole JP	01280 816 005	Cllr. Anthony Ralph	07968 108 304
Cllr. Geraldine Collins	01280 823 006	Cllr. Anja Schaefer	07749 187 394
Cllr. Fran Davies	07976 558 609	Cllr. Robin Stuchbury	07752 394 162
Cllr. Jon Harvey	01280 812 711	Cllr. Martin Try	01280 816 202
Cllr. Sue Hetherington	01280 817 263	Cllr. Ryan Willett	07889 284 495
Cllr. Andy Mahi	01280 816 562	<b>Mr Paul Hodson – Town Clerk</b>	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	0300 131 6000	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](mailto:office@buckingham-tc.gov.uk) or **visit:** [www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk](http://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.*



# 2022 EVENTS DIARY



Please find further details inside or online:

[www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk/town-matters/events/](http://www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk/town-matters/events/)

2022			
<b>MARCH</b>	Annual Town Meeting	Thurs 24th (7pm - 9pm)	Buckingham Community Centre
<b>APRIL</b>	Easter Bazaar X 🛒 ❤️	Sun 10th (2pm - 4:30pm)	Lacehill Sports & Community Centre
	Spring Fair X 🛒 ❤️	Sun 24th (11am - 2pm)	Town Centre
	Scout Parade	Sun 24th (TBC)	Town Centre
<b>MAY</b>	May Day	Tues 3rd (11am - 12pm)	St. Peters & St. Paul's Parish Church
<b>JUNE</b>	Celebrate Buckingham X ❤️	Thurs 2nd (11am - 2pm)	TBC
	Music In The Market	Fri 3rd (2pm - 10pm)	Town Centre
	Picnic on the Pitch X 🛒 ❤️	Sun 5th (11am - 3pm)	Lacehill Sports & Community Centre
<b>JULY</b>	Fringe Week ❤️	Sat 16th - Sat 23rd	Various Locations



**Key to spaces available:**

- Food & Drinks Traders X
- Crafts & Goods Traders 🛒
- Local Charities, Voluntary & Community Groups ❤️

Image: 'Buckingham's Buttercup Meadow' by Tony Gilbert