

### **Teddy Bears' Picnic**

Inflatable fun and face painting were the order of the day, and a beautiful sunny afternoon welcomed teddies. who were joined by their children, the Deputy Town Mayor and the Buckingham Town Jester. Children braving the sun were also joined by the Build-A-Bear mascot, who enjoyed the bouncy castle almost as much as the children.

## Conservation **Area Study**

On Sundays during May, Town Councillors and volunteers from the Buckingham Society could be seen photographing and making notes about many buildings within the town Conservation Area. The purpose was to record the architectural features of "local note buildings", street furniture and signage so that any future changes (or proposed changes) could be monitored. This important survey was organised by the AVDC Conservation Area Officer, and will assist in preserving our historic heritage and will feed into the Conservation Area Management Plan for Buckingham.

#### **BUCKINGHAM TOWN COUNCILLORS**

#### BUCKINGHAM NORTH

| Cllr Paddy N E Collins   | 01280 823006 |
|--------------------------|--------------|
| Cllr Paul Hirons         | 01280 812072 |
| Cllr Derrick R Isham     | 01280 813770 |
| Cllr Gerry P Loftus      | 01280 815664 |
| Cllr Andy Mahi           | 01280 816582 |
| Cllr Howard Mordue       | 01280 815418 |
| Cllr Ms Ruth D Newell    | 01280 815229 |
| Cllr Mrs Pauline Stevens | 01280 815532 |
| Cllr Martin Try          | 01280 816202 |
|                          |              |

#### **BUCKINGHAM SOUTH**

| Cllr Terry Bloomfield        | 01280 815336 |
|------------------------------|--------------|
| Cllr Hedley Cadd             | 01280 814223 |
| Cllr Mrs Geraldine Collins   | 01280 823006 |
| Cllr Rob Lehmann             | 01280 817331 |
| Cllr. Mrs. Lisa O'Donoghue   | 01280 824624 |
| Cllr Mike Smith <b>Mayor</b> | 01280 822215 |
| Cllr Robin Stuchbury         | 01280 824285 |
| Cllr Warren Whyte            | 01280 820531 |
|                              |              |



#### **Buckingham Town Council**

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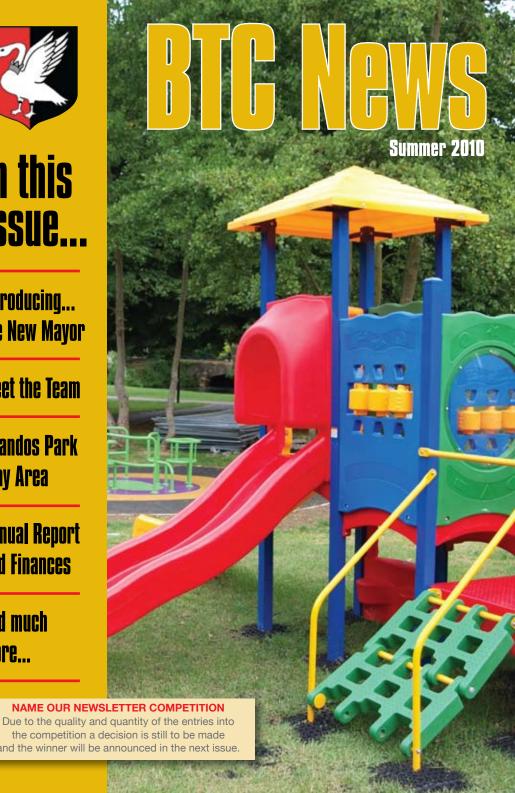
Introducing... the New Mayor

**Meet the Team** 

**Chandos Park Play Area** 

**Annual Report** and Finances

and much more...



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### Introducing... the new Mayor and Deputy Mayor

The new Town Mayor, Councillor Mike Smith, was formally inaugurated and robed during a blistering hot Mayor-making at the end of May.

During his acceptance speech, he said "It is an undoubted honour to be made your Mayor after only five years in Buckingham and three



the Town Council. This will be an exciting year for the Mayoress, Marjorie Howard, and me; but my priorities will remain as

they have always been – to encourage support for our local business, trading and volunteer communities and to press for a fairer share of inward



brings a wealth of experience to the role, and is someone who is easy to work with. I know she will be an effective and hard-working deputy".

The Mayor's charities this year are **Buckingham Association** of Citizen Advice Bureaux, Buckingham Heritage Trust and Project Street Life.



**Buckingham Heritage Trust** 











#### **Town Clerk Christopher Wayman**

Chris has overall responsibility for the running of the Town Council Office and carrying out the decisions of the Town Council.

#### **Deputy Town Clerk Anita Simonds**

The Deputy Town Clerk looks after the Town Council's event schedule, is the Market Co-ordinator, and runs the office when Chris is absent.

#### **Green Spaces Manager** Lee Phillips

Lee is in charge of day to day running of the Parks and the Cemetery, including supervision of our outdoor maintenance staff and overseeing the work of the Community Service personnel.

#### **Clerical Assistant Katharine McElligott**

Katharine clerk's the Town Council's Planning Committee and co-ordinates the Town Council's responses on all planning and associated matters.

#### **Accounts Assistant Jodie Baughan**

Jodie processes the invoices and carries out the Town Council's daily accounts obligations.

#### **Outdoor Maintenance Roy & Craig Calder**

Roy and Craig help set up the Town Council events and carry out the maintenance jobs in the parks and the cemetery.



Aylesbury Vale District Council is set to introduce car parking charges at Cornwall's Meadow (Short and Long Stay) and Western Avenue (Long Stay) car parks. Additional Long Stay parking at Buckingham Athletic Football Ground in Stratford Road will also be introduced shortly, thereby increasing the overall number of parking spaces in the town.

Despite the imposition of these charges, the Town Council is pleased to announce its success in persuading AVDC to retain some free short-stay car parking in Cornwalls Meadow.



## **Chandos Park**

The new play area and multi-use games area in Chandos Park will be officially opened soon but, in the meantime, youngsters should feel free to use and enjoy them.

The play area took longer to install than we had planned because late in the day we received a capital grant from **Aiming High**. This enabled us to meet several requests for a disabled access roundabout, and a wide slide (so that less able children can be accompanied).

It has also enabled us to install a new path to the play area. Although regretting the delay, we think these extra improvements were well worth the wait.

### **Two important studies**

The Town Council was fortunate to secure funding, via Aylesbury Vale Advantage, for two important studies in the town in support of The Buckingham Plan.

The first study is to review the 2001 Vision & Design Statement, which covers preservation of the town's identity and places pointers to steer future growth.

The second study (which has been delayed pending the imposition of car parking charges) will report on transport and non-vehicular access to and within the town centre, and the adequacy etc of car parking provision. We have met with the consultants, and look forward with interest to their final reports.



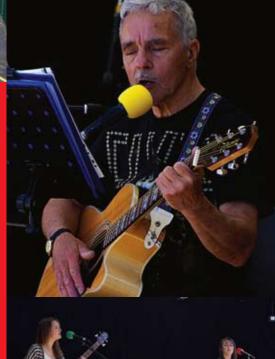
## Are we getting a fair crack of the whip?

For some years, your Town Council has been concerned about the apparent lack of investment in the town by our District Council, and what many think is an over-emphasis on Aylesbury, with a consequent detrimental effect on the other towns and villages in the Vale.

The Town Council is inviting all other town and parish Councils in Aylesbury Vale to let us know if they share a similar view. We shall report on the outcome later in the year.

## Music in the Market – 30th May 2010

A beautiful May afternoon saw the 10th anniversary of our Music in the Market festival in Buckingham. The Acoustic Club, in association with Buckingham Town Council, arranged a varied line-up of great music covering various styles to suit all tastes – as evidenced by the happy crowds that thronged the area until late in the night. The Town Council extends it's thanks to **Linda** and **Richard Watkins** and everyone in the Acoustic Club.





## **May Day Celebrations**

The weather was kind on what was a beautiful spring morning, which saw children from the Buckingham Primary School perform traditional Maypole dances and brought their Maypole along for the event. The Town Council would like to thank **St Peter & St Paul Church** for help in serving refreshments, and hopes that more schools will take part in this traditional event in the future.

### **Bowls and Tennis Club Information**

With the summer in full swing, so are the tennis and bowls clubs in Chandos Park. Both are open to the public for use over the summer months. For use of the bowls green please contact Secretary **Bob Reynolds** on **07761 641059**.

To book the tennis club please contact **Seahawk Supplies** on **01280 817807** for booking and access.



# **Town Council Extension**

Frustratingly, the long-awaited extension to the Council premises in Cornwall Place has been beset with delays.

Difficulties in securing the necessary agreements from the landowner, coupled with some uncertainties about existing rights of way, mean that our staff continue to endure cramped and unsuitable working conditions, the community room has yet to be realised, and the town still has too few public toilets. The Town Council is now hopeful of securing resolution to the outstanding issues by the end of the summer, but if this does not materialise, consideration may have to be given to alternative arrangements.

## **Annual Report and Finances**

The last 12 months have been challenging and have seen considerable change.

The Town Council has a new Councillor – Mrs Lisa O'Donoghue, who was elected in March following the death of Cllr. Mrs. Pam Desorgher in December. With the growing workload, we have also taken on new staff.

Over the past year, the Town Council has worked hard to take on the view of the townspeople and, as a result, rules concerning the kerbing of graves in the Brackley Road Cemetery have been relaxed, and play equipment suitable for less able children has been installed in Chandos Park play area.

Town residents and visitors should already see many improvements in Chandos and Bourton Parks, and these will continue over the coming years as The Buckingham Plan and the Town Council's Parks Policy are rolled-out.

The town as a whole will see challenging times in the future following AVDC's decision in October to allow 700 homes to be built on land south of the by-pass, thereby bringing planned total new dwellings 1,200. This will see the town population increase by a quarter. Although the Town Council was able to avoid an increase in its share of your Council Tax, the current economic circumstances and the proposed car parking charges will present further challenges to us all during next 12 months.

| SERVICE AREA                 | 2008/2009<br>£ | 2009/2010<br>£ | 2010/2011<br>£ |
|------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| INCOME                       | _              | _              | _              |
| Precept                      | 383,123        | 529,944        | 523,000        |
| Markets                      | 28,872         | 29,533         | 30,900         |
| Interest                     | 4,767          | 438            | 600            |
| Rental and Burial Income     | 112,453        | 13,355         | 12,908         |
| Sponsorship                  | 302            | 11,253         | 9,694          |
| Devolved Services            | 900            | 550            | 15,000         |
| Other                        | 5,269          | 302            | 795            |
| TOTAL INCOME                 | 535,686        | 585,375        | 592,897        |
|                              |                |                |                |
| EXPENDITURE                  |                |                |                |
| Finance & Administration     | 175,941        | 205,646        | 258,183        |
| Grants                       | 9,978          | 29,894         | 31,999         |
| Grounds Maintenance          | 137,769        | 176,280        | 174,555        |
| Annual Events                | 27,463         | 34,873         | 41,280         |
| Market Expenses              | 6,502          | 7,086          | 8,785          |
| Planning                     | 758            | 138            | 1,200          |
| Projects Costs               | 61,327         | 7,018          | 23,000         |
| Contingencies                | 1,193          | 12,868         | 20,000         |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURE            | 420,931        | 473,803        | 559,002        |
|                              |                |                |                |
| Balance at start of the year | 142,521        | 257,276        | 368,848        |
| income over expenditure      | 114,755        | 111,572        | 33,895         |
| BALANCE YEAR END             | 257,276        | 368,848        | 402,743        |

The precept is the amount that the Town Council asks Aylesbury Vale District Council, as the Council Tax Billing Authority to collect on our behalf from the tax payers of Buckingham to fund the activities and services of the Town Council.

The Town Council's Precept for 2010/2011 was set at £523,000, which resulted in a Council Tax Bill of £121.46 per year at Valuation Band D or £2.34 per week per house. This was a reduction of 0.1% on 2009/2010