



Buckingham TownMatters

Summer 2012



in this issue

new mayor!

**fringe week
and comedy
club details**

youth council

**power to the
people!**

**what your
council has
done for you**

Thoroughly MODERN
Traditional
BUCKINGHAM

A Message from the new Mayor

Hello...

I am pleased to have been chosen by the Town Council to represent them as Mayor of Buckingham for the forthcoming year. I have been a Town Councillor for 21 years, and was previously Mayor from 1997 to 1999. I shall be supported by my consort, **Robert Munday**, my husband of 25 years and we have two daughters – **Rachel** and **Lara**.

Most recently I have been Deputy Mayor and Chair of the Environment and Property Committee for the past two years. I am passionate about the Environment, and am also on the Fairtrade steering group, the Buckingham Community Wildlife Project and the Green Buckingham Group.

I am looking forward to the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and lighting the Beacon in Bourton Park on 4th July 2012, and the Olympic Torch passing through Buckingham on 9th June, and look forward to sharing the experience with many towns' people and pupils at our schools.

Ruth Newell
April 2012



The Changing Face of Buckingham... part 3

This page is called “The Changing Face of Buckingham” and it’s worth reflecting on why and how Buckingham changes.

In most cases the word “development” is something good: you might think of “developing” your own skills or interests, software is “developed” to be useful, whilst more broadly the fact we live in the “developed” world is generally considered a good thing. However, at the local level there is often concern at the changes development produces.

Of course there is always a danger that development may be inappropriate or “over-development” but generally speaking development can do fantastic things for an area. The house you live in was, at one stage, a new development whilst almost every job in Buckingham will have required development to create it. The roads, schools and facilities in town are all either development themselves or paid for by development.

When planning the future of Buckingham, the key idea is to manage any development so that benefits can be gained without causing distressing or inappropriate change. The great thing about the new planning system is that we, the local people of Buckingham, decide how this balance should look. As a starting point, the Town Council has looked at all existing problems in Buckingham that development could have a role in fixing. From this, we’ve made some guidelines to help us plan the future.

If you have any thoughts or comments, either after reading this article or the report (online www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk or in the library from May) then please do get in touch with the **Town Plan Officer** at Buckingham Town Council.





Buckingham Twinning

10 years of twinning

In 2002, following an idea floated by a few enthusiasts, Buckingham and Mouvaux became twin towns. Since then, many events have been shared between the two towns, including youth football, photography, art, walking etc. Apart from the very broad canvas of mutually-shared activities that have grown up over the

years, a number of enduring friendships have also been firmly cemented as, unlike many twinning associations, ours goes from strength to strength.

In March, we celebrated being twinned with Mouvaux for ten years by hosting a weekend of events in Buckingham. As usual, the organisers planned a packed weekend, starting at the newly refurbished Radcliffe Centre on the Saturday morning with a short piano recital by the excellent young **Chloe Marger** – a name to watch for in classical music circles. This was followed by the cutting of a celebratory cake, and it was particularly pleasing that two people who had been present at the signing of the Twinning Charter in 2002, **Christine Strain-Clark** and **Michelle Delsalle**, were both present to join Mayors **Eric Durand** and **Mike Smith** for this ceremony, and for the tree planting that followed.



The tree, on the green adjacent to our Parish Church, was provided by our Mouvaux friends – and everyone present took turns with the spade! After lunch at the church, some of our visitors went to Stowe.

Following the success of an earlier venture when the Brass Band Nord Pas de Calais “competed” against Great Horwood Silver Band, the anniversary celebration saw a superb choral concert at the Parish Church, featuring our very own **Lenborough Singers** and the **Chorale de Mouvaux**.

Finally, on the Sunday, just before they departed, the Mouvaux contingent was delighted to attend a short ceremony to name the Community Centre small hall the Mouvaux Hall.

Anyone wishing to learn more about our Twinning Association is invited to visit www.buckinghamtwinning.org.uk

Town & Gown – working together

Prebend End was becoming very dilapidated before the University came to town. It restored and uplifted the area, and continues to do so. As it became more established and successful, the University has added further to the economic wellbeing and cultural life of Buckingham. Staff and students alike spend money in our shops. The use of the now gloriously refurbished Radcliffe Centre for concerts and lectures has become a valued part of our cultural heritage. The bookshop in Hunter Street is open to us all – and if what you want is out of stock, it can be obtained very quickly.

More recently, the University has engaged with your Town Council to contribute to the town's planning needs for the next twenty years.

But it's not just what the University gives to our town. Many students appreciate the friendliness of Buckingham townsfolk, which helps them settle in to what for many is a foreign environment. Still more are intrigued by our historic market town, and look forward to the garden parties and similar events organised by the Friends of the University. Given the constraints of completing their degree course in a year less than other universities require, a substantial number of students get involved in community activity in order to feel that they are connecting locally, doing something useful and making a contribution.

But recently a tiny minority of students have been attributed to causing considerable distress to town residents by their thoughtless behaviour. The University, in partnership with other agencies, has responded robustly to this – and will continue to do so in order that relationships between Town and Gown can be restored to the harmonious and mutually beneficial level enjoyed for so many years. To aid this still further, the University has recently engaged a Community Liaison Officer to cement the links between Town and Gown.

Anyone wishing to know more about Buckingham University can visit their website: www.buckingham.ac.uk



Youth Council

Giving our Youth a Voice

Buckingham Town Youth Council, which was launched in July last year with the support of **Clr Lisa O'Donoghue** and the **Deputy Town Clerk**, continues to give voice to the concerns of our young people. Let's meet the team:

BUCKINGHAM TOWN YOUTH COUNCIL		
POSITION	NAME	PARTICULAR INTERESTS
Chairman	Jordan Mayer	Young Business Enterprise
Vice-Chairman	Hannah Russell	Sings in school choir
Treasurer	Rory Butcher	95th Rifles; plays in Winslow Concert Band
Members	Adam Bradbury	Air Cadets; thespian arts
	Sarah Covill	Performing Arts; scuba diving; volunteer at Film Place
	Ryan Dixon	Army Cadets
	Elliott Lowe	Represents his school
	Shannon Wheeler	Drama; member of School Council

In the last few months they have established their own Facebook page and, thanks to the generosity of **Matt Parker** of Zebra Technologies, Youth Council members now have name badges and have started negotiations for a town-wide "under 18" ID badge. In partnership with Buckingham Athletic Sports & Social Club and the Buckingham School, they are now working on a project to showcase young talent in the area. A launch event on Sunday 24 June at the Athletic ground will introduce YouthJam, a teen version of the highly popular BandJam. Any bands or solo musicians who would like to promote themselves at this event should contact them without delay.

Our Youth Council are also looking for more members. Currently the eight members are drawn from Buckingham Youth Centre, The Buckingham School, The Royal Latin School, Elizabeth Woodville School in Deanshanger, the Air Cadets and the Army Cadets.

If you are aged between 11 and 18 and would like to learn more, please contact Anita Simonds – **01280 816426** email: deputytownclerk@buckingham-tc.gov.uk or contact the Youth Council directly at BuckinghamTownYouthCouncil@gmail.com or via the Buckingham Town Youth Council Facebook page.



1 *Hannah Russell
Vice-Chairman*

2 *Jordan Mayer
Chairman*

3 *Shannon Wheeler*

4 *Rory Butcher
Treasurer*

5 *Elliott Lowe*

6 *Adam Bradbury*

7 *Ryan Dixon*

8 *Sarah Covill*



WHAT HAS YOUR COUNCIL DONE

Finance Administration & Personnel Committee

Despite the tough economic time we are in we have been able to maintain a **0% increase** in precept.

We have made savings by replacing contracts for ground maintenance etc with the work being done by our own grounds staff.

Our move into much more suitable office accommodation enabled us to increase our staff to deal with the increasing demands on the Town Council which in turn has improved efficiency in the office.

Town Centre & Events Committee

A THRIVING TOWN CENTRE AND SELL-OUT EVENTS

Thanks to the efforts of the Market Co-ordinator, our street market and flea market have been returned to a sound financial footing, despite the downturn in the economy.

Last year's Buckingham Fringe, our first, was a huge success with many townsfolk turning up to enjoy the many events provided. This year's **Fringe Festival** has built on this and added a few exciting extras – see the list in the Events Diary on the back page.

Following the sell-out performance during last year's Fringe week, we have introduced our **Comedy Club**. The two Comedy Nights held in January and March were equally successful, so please make sure you get your tickets for the next one on 17th June without delay in order to avoid disappointment.



COUNCIL DONE FOR YOU

Planning Committee

We are fighting hard for local bus services, more jobs, affordable housing and a better town centre. Buckingham Town Council has become a 'front runner' authority for local planning. We have been awarded **£20,000** to help create the **Buckingham Neighbourhood Development Plan**. Watch out for how you can get more involved this coming year.

One key aim has been to improve the links between the 700 new houses that are being built opposite Tesco and the existing town. We want the people who live there to be able to travel into the centre easily and use the local shops and facilities in the whole town. We are pleased that our opposition to the second phase of a Moreton Road development, together with a significant resident organised campaign, has seen this proposal rejected.

Meanwhile we have reviewed 136 planning applications, a significant increase on last year.

Environment & Property Committee

We've agreed the style of new park furniture, and will be replacing the picnic benches in Bourton Park and the litter bins in Chandos Park shortly.

Subject to funding, we wish to renew the play area in Bourton Park and replace the Basketball court in Bourton Park with a **MUGA (Multi Use Games Area)** and we are aiming to get these built in the summer.

Chandos Park has had new signage and, because of summer problems of antisocial behaviour we decided to have a **moveable CCTV camera**. Its effectiveness was proved with a borrowed camera and we have agreed the expenditure to purchase one for this summer.

In the Cemetery we have set in place procedures for an on-going plan of memorial testing, legally required on health and safety grounds.



Power to the Local People

The Localism Act 2011 came into full force in April this year. There are some people who might still be thinking this new law is all about planning.

That is part of it but it is also very much more.

Local authorities (and this includes your Buckingham Town Council) now have much greater freedom to serve their local people. There are a few restrictions such as actions must be legal (of course) and a council cannot, for example, bring in a new income tax. Quoting from the Government's website: the *"new, general power gives councils... the confidence to do creative, innovative things to meet local people's need"*.

So what would you like us to do?

The Act has abolished the national Standards Board citing that it was *"too easy for people to put forward ill-founded complaints about councillors' conduct"*.

Instead each council will now approve their own codes of behaviour.

Councillors are now more able to talk with local people and publicly express views on local issues, without fear of being accused of bias in advance of a decision at a council meeting.

The Localism Act gives Buckingham Town Council the right to express an interest in taking over the running of a district or a county service and then to bid to do this. Indeed it will now be more possible for us and community groups to save local community assets and services if they are threatened with closure.



Buckingham
Neighbourhood
Development Plan

Now if a council says it wants to raise council tax above the Government limit (for example to pay for taking over a new service), this will trigger a local referendum. In this way local people will decide if this new service justifies the higher council tax.

This is not a complete summary of the new Act and much more information can be found here: www.communities.gov.uk/documents/localgovernment/pdf/1896534.pdf (see also the Changing Face of Buckingham elsewhere in this newsletter which describes how we are putting our new planning powers into action.)

Awarded Buckingham Town Council Grants for 2011/12

We are pleased to announce the awarded grants winners:

Name of Organisation	Amount granted
Buckingham Twinning Association	£280.00
St Peter & St Paul Church	£1,000.00
Project Street Life	£500.00
Friends of the Old Gaol	£500.00
North Bucks Carers	£300.00
Maids Moreton Pre-School Playgroup	£280.00
Maids Moreton Avenue Conservation Group	£200.00
Buckingham Churches Children's Holidays Club	£500.00
Grenville Nursery	£150.00
Friends of Grenville School	£250.00
Chandos Park Bowls Club	£500.00
Buckingham Winslow & District CAB	£5,000.00
Buckingham Summer Festival	£1,000.00
Buckingham Athletic Sports & Social Club	£1,500.00
Aylesbury Vale Dial-a-Ride	£500.00
Swan Community Hub	£1,000.00
Old Gaol Trust	£3,000.00 per year for 3 years

Applications are invited for grants assistance for the financial year 2012/2013 for projects and activities beneficial to the people of Buckingham. Forms available from October 2012, online or contact the office:

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

Tel/Fax: 01280 816 426

Email: office@buckingham-tc.gov.uk

Website: www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk

Responsible Dog Ownership

Aylesbury Vale District Council and Buckingham Town Council are working together to reduce the number of incidents of dog fouling in the area and aim to grab the attention of dog walkers while reminding them why it is important that they clean up after their pets.

As part of the joint action, council officers will target problem areas by using temporary marker paint to spray around the dog mess. Having heard about the temporary marker paint being successfully used to raise awareness of the problem by councils in other parts of the country, we have decided to try the technique in Buckingham. This will make it easier for park users to avoid stepping in the faeces and will give a clear indication of just how much dog mess is being left by dog owners. Also posters will be put up around the park to encourage responsible dog ownership.

Dog walking is a popular activity within Bourton Park and provided dogs are kept under control, kept within sight at all times and their mess is cleared up, Buckingham Town Council is keen to welcome dog walkers to the open space.

The council believes that the majority of dog walkers that use the park are responsible and do clear up after their



dog, but there is a minority who selfishly fail to take responsibility for their dog and leave its mess behind for others to tread in. Not only can treading in dog mess completely spoil a visit to the park, but it also poses a significant health risk.

Dog walkers should be aware that failure to clear up their dog's faeces can result in an on the spot fine or attract a prosecution resulting in a fine of up to £1,000 and AVDC has asked Police Community Support Officers to be proactive in issuing fines.

**To make a report of dog fouling,
please email
greenspaces@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk
or telephone 01296 585395
or report via the AVDC website
www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk**

Comedy Night

Buckingham's second Comedy Night was on 25th March at The Old Town Hall, and a large crowd was entertained by comedians **Kevin McCarthy**, who acted as MC and warmed the crowd up, **Charlie Baker** and headliner **Simon Evans**. Feedback from the comedians was once again positive, saying that the venue is perfect for the event.



Photos courtesy of
Brian Simmonds



Seann Walsh

The next Comedy Night is set for Sunday 17th June, and will form part of the Buckingham Fringe Week. This time Buckingham Town Council is proud to announce that we will be part of comedian **Seann Walsh's** 2012 UK Tour. The support act for Seann Walsh is Romesh Ranganathan. Tickets are currently on sale at £15 each for over 18's only, from Villiers Hotel, and the Visitor Information Centre, Old Gaol.

BUCKINGHAM FRINGE WEEK

15th – 24th June

This year's Buckingham Fringe Week, runs from Friday 15th to Sunday 24th June with events and entertainment for all the family.

With the success of previous Comedy Nights, another is planned for Sunday 17th June. The comedian is confirmed... **Seann Walsh** (see page 13).

'They'll never get caught. They're on a mission from God.' Come and enjoy an evening with local **Blues Brothers Tribute Band, Paul French** and **Mike Gethin**. One set covers and one set Blues Brothers.



The Melody Room Jazz Band plays in a range of styles, from Dixieland to swing. You'll hear the early jazz of Louis Armstrong and Fats Waller, plus ballads and swing standards from some of the greatest songwriters in the American songbook.



...and so much more!!

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
Cllr. Ms. Ruth Newell (Mayor)	01280 815 229
Cllr. Martin Try	01280 816 202
Cllr. David Seabrook	01280 814 115

BUCKINGHAM SOUTH

Cllr. Terry Bloomfield	01280 815 336
Cllr. Hedley Cadd	01280 814 112
Cllr. Mrs Geraldine Collins	01280 823 006
Cllr. Paul Hiron	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

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



We are pleased to welcome our new Buckingham Town Councillor **David Seabrook** who was co-opted on 27th February 2012.

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

 Follow us on Facebook: 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

JUNE

Sun 3rd

Music in the Market
Jubilee Thanksgiving Service

Mon 4th

Diamond Jubilee Celebrations; Lighting of the Beacon

15th – 24th June

Fringe Week

Fri 15th

Go Green for Bucks www.bucksfc.org.uk

Sat 16th – Sun 17th

Cancer – Relay for Life noon – noon

Sun 17th

Comedy Night – Seann Walsh Live 2012 tour
Old Town Hall 8pm

Mon 18th

Children's Event Chandos Park 1-4.30pm

Tues 19th

Cream Teas & Music Villiers Hotel 1-4pm

Wed 20th

Oxford Fiddle Group The Old Town Hall 8pm

Thu 21st

Summer Solstice Karaoke Night 13 High Street 8pm til late

Watch the Sun Rise Heartlands dawn

Ghosts of Buckingham Past meet outside The Old Gaol 8pm

BandJam White Hart 8-11pm

Fri 22nd

The Blues Brothers Community Centre 8pm

Sat 23rd

Melody Room Jazz Band Buckingham Athletic Sports &
Social Club 8pm

Sun 24th

Moretonville Summer Tournament University of
Buckingham playing fields Gawcott 9am-6pm

Young Variety Incorporating Youth Jam

Buckingham Athletic Sports & Social Club 12noon – 7pm

Wed 27th

Youth Project

JULY

Mon 9th

Olympic Torch passing through Buckingham

AUGUST

Sun 26th

BandJam; Continental Market

SEPTEMBER

Sun 16th

River Rinse 1

OCTOBER

Sun 7th

River Rinse 2

Fri 12th

Local Democracy Event

Sat 13th

Charter Fair

Sat 20th

Charter Fair

NOVEMBER

Sat 3rd

Bonfire & Fireworks + Buckingham Acoustic in the Market

Sun 11th

Remembrance Day Parade

Sun 24th

Christmas Lights & Carols; Continental Market

DECEMBER

Sat 15th

Community Fair; Christmas Parade

