



Buckingham TownMatters



**Summer
issue
2016**

markets

youth council

events review

**buckingham
fringe**

**upcoming
events**

**what did your
council achieve
in 2015/16?**



The Town Crier with the new Hidden Treasures of Buckingham Leaflet, see inside for more details and find out where to get your copy!

Thoroughly **MODERN**
Traditional
BUCKINGHAM

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR MAYOR



Dear All,

We had a rather wet month of March and I was saddened to see parts of Buckingham were flooded. It was relief that the rains stopped and the water levels subsided before more harm was done to the houses and the town.

The Pancake Race was well attended as it was half term, however, the adult race was oversubscribed and very competitive! I am glad we keep this

tradition going and it is great fun.

The Food Fair was another success and this year we had the 'Great Buckingham Youth Bake-Off' which was run by Project Street Life. I was asked to be on the judging panel and the standard of baking and the decorations were exceptional, well done to all those that entered.

With the housing development at Lace Hill nearing completion, the developers have handed over to the Town Council the new Lace Hill Sports and Community Centre. It will have two Sports England Standard pitches complete with excellent changing facilities, indoor Sports Hall and Committee Room. Together with the refurbished Swan Pool and Leisure Centre, we now have two excellent sports facilities in Buckingham.

I am also so glad to report that the sports pavilion in Embleton Way will at last be put to good use to become the new Scout HQ and community centre.

Our next big event is our Fringe Week, starting on Saturday 11th June – look out for our fringe brochure for all the details of the events.

Have a great summer

Cllr. Andy Mahi
April 2016

We would like to apologise to those of you who did not receive a spring newsletter in February/ March; unfortunately we were badly let down by a new distributor. We have therefore made this issue a 'bumper issue' featuring some of the articles from the spring edition as a catch-up.

The spring newsletter, along with all our other previous newsletters and publications, is available to read on our website at: <http://www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk/community-matters/publications/>

BUCKINGHAM MARKETS



In February we hosted a Continental Market for three days during half term. The market looked very colourful and whilst not all items were 'continental' in the strictest sense; the range of products on offer were enough to give people a reason to stop and look when passing through. No doubt the market gave residents a little extra to do and hopefully encouraged more people to visit other local shops and businesses in the town. It is very possible that this and other visiting markets will make an appearance again in the warmer months, to include other themed markets, such as Artisan, French, Italian and Farmers Markets.

Buckingham is very fortunate to have two thriving markets that have been with the town for centuries. Having attended the recent regional NABMA conference in Market Harborough, it was clear that markets across the country are facing many of the same challenges. It was very encouraging to hear how other towns are overcoming their particular challenges and there was a lot to be learnt and replicated in Buckingham.

From the recent conference there was a great deal of emphasis on encouraging younger traders to our markets. This is why we are striving to attract young people to take part in the Teenage Market later in the year and we hope the wider community have been

supporting our local markets during 'Love Your Local Market Week' between 17th – 31st May and beyond.

The health of our Street Markets is one of the key indicators to the strength and well-being of the local economy and the community as a whole. We will endeavour to keep our markets strong and healthy long into the future. To do this we would encourage you all to support our local traders and visit the markets as much as you can. You never know what treats you might find.

Buckingham Street Market

Tuesdays and Saturdays, 9am – 4pm
Breads, Baked Goods, Fruit & Veg, Cakes and Sweets, Fish, Flowers, Plants, Clothing, Tools, and much more.

Buckingham Flea Market

Saturdays, 9am – 3pm
Bargains to be found in the Cattle Pens, where you can stroll down the leafy avenue browsing stalls containing books, DVDs, toys, LPs, jewellery, furniture, antiques & bric-a-brac.

If you would like to arrange to have a stall on any of our markets please call the Town Council on 01280 816 426.



Photos courtesy of Omar Badr Films

BUCKINGHAM CANAL



Congratulations to Buckingham Canal Society who against very strong competition won CRT South East Region 'Volunteer Organisation Recognition Award'. The Award includes a shield to keep for a year and a certificate of thanks in recognition of 'their outstanding contribution to volunteering within the South East Waterways regions, including high output levels, ambitious restoration projects and a successful range of achievements within a Community Adoption Agreement at Cosgrove'.

In 2015 the Canal Society attracted outside companies to join them for 'Community Days' and have already received bookings for 2016. They also work on a regular basis with a group from the Macintyre Group a Charity who work with people with learning difficulties, a very positive arrangement for both groups. Driver Hire worked at the Nature Reserve site installing new bench seats. At the Cosgrove site volunteers have been completing the task of clearing the top end of

the canal by the A5 and also working on the first bridge clearing away as much of the earth as possible to discover how much remains of the original bridge buried under the earth and the stone work uncovered appears to be in good condition. More work will be carried out on the bridge including two canal camps scheduled for July and August.

Work also continues at our 3 other sites where we hope to complete the success of getting more of them in water like our site at Bourton Meadow, Buckingham which was successfully re-watered last year and two pairs of swans enjoy this section of canal, shown in the photograph.

Volunteer practical task work parties continue throughout the year on alternate Thursdays and the second Sunday of each month and new volunteers are always welcome.

The annual **Canal Festival** takes place at Cosgrove over the weekend of **16th-17th July** with a **Craft Fair in Cosgrove Village Hall**.

THE EDIBLE WOODLAND



The Edible Woodland is an area in the Heartlands where we can let our growing imagination run wild! Why is it there, and what does it do? It's about reconnecting what we eat with where it comes from... And it does that by growing all sorts of plants, and letting anyone who walks by, look, pick and eat.

Two years ago the council generously gave us a tucked away patch of green to plant what we think is something unusual and exciting. There is a natural way that plants grow in the wild, where each plant has a role to play in supporting each other. Some plants put nitrogen in the soil, others pull up nutrients from the depths, and the rest provide nutrients to the top layer of soil. It can happen by itself in a balanced way, if the mix of plants is right. We have used the concept of a 'forest garden', which is a garden modelled on the structure of a young natural woodland. Plants are grown in many different layers consisting of trees, shrubs and non-woody perennials.

This is designed for everyone, it's open for you to participate and it's open for you to wander and pick what you like. We hope to

have signs up soon explaining what each plant does, and its place in the garden. You don't have to become a member of anything to participate; you only need one thing – the desire to do something. It's your woodland too, and anyone can have a hand in its creation and use.

One important area is to use the edible woodland for education. As adults we learn as we participate, and children can be brought by their parents, or via schools. Are you connected to a school and would like to get more involved?

Do you want to form a small group, and take a part of the land to do something yourselves? Do you want to create willow sculptures? Would you like to plant out herbs?

There is a website where we try and inform people what's going on and when (www.bucksedwood.org.uk). In the winter we plan for the year ahead, and anyone is encouraged to come along. No experience is necessary. During the rest of the year, usually on Sunday afternoons, people turn up to look and help out.

BUCKINGHAM TOWN YOUTH COUNCIL



The Buckingham Town Youth Council has consistently worked with the community to provide opportunities and support the town. A few examples include that we

arranged a politics panel on the election; we have worked with the Town Council on schemes such as the 'Clean for the Queen' programme and Commonwealth Day and are now working on a multitude of items to improve the lives of young people.

We are pleased to report that since October 2015 our membership has grown and we are looking into some exciting projects, the first being a Teenage Market, a scheme that was set up by two teenage brothers in Stockport to revitalise their town's market area.



This is an exciting scheme where young people are given a free platform to sell goods in the local market while also offering the chance for performers to showcase their talents. This encourages entrepreneurship in young people away from the internet and a colourful atmosphere for all to enjoy

when shopping in the town centre. People aged 18 or under can sign up to take part in a teenage market by visiting the website (<http://theteenagemarket.co.uk/>). We also have a dedicated Facebook page and Twitter account:

 www.facebook.com/BuckinghamTeenageMarket

 [@Buckingham_TM](https://twitter.com/Buckingham_TM).

An issue we are still looking into is the lack of secure sheltered bike sheds in both secondary schools. We would love to hear from any young people who would cycle to school if bike sheds were provided, especially those who are currently driven in.

We want to see more people cycling to school as a means of travel and encourage more to cycle as it is a healthier means of travel and we would hope that by increasing bike journeys to school it may cut down some of the traffic, making those cycling or walking feel safer.

We have also discussed a problem many of us deal with when getting a bus to Milton Keynes, we are not believed when we ask for a child fare. Not all young people own a passport and we doubt many parents would allow their child to take a passport to a busy shopping centre, the upshot is we are getting charged adult fares and there's nothing we can do about it and the same is happening at cinemas.

We have found that problems of confirming age on buses discourages the use of public transport so we are promoting methods of providing identification so fewer cars are used.

We will be writing to the bus companies to ask what young people can do to prove

they are children, since there are no ID cards for under 18's. We would also like to hear from any young people who have dealt with disbelieving bus drivers.


The youth council is also looking for new members and it wants to hear your opinions.


If you are interested in joining the Youth Council we still have vacancies; 2 seats for students who attend the Buckingham School, 4 seats for any RLS students and 1 seat for any young person living within the town. Youth

CLr's have to be between the ages of 11 & 18 and either attend a Buckingham school or live in the town.

If you would like to join the Youth Council, have a query/suggestion or would like to get involved, contact us:

BuckinghamTownYouthCouncil@gmail.com

 <https://www.facebook.com/BuckinghamYouthCouncil>

 [@BuckinghamYouth](https://twitter.com/BuckinghamYouth)

NEWS FROM BUCKINGHAM TWINNING ASSOCIATION



Speak the language although if you do, it's great too.

The BTA is a lively part of Buckingham life. We award prizes to local secondary schools for 'the most improved in a foreign language'.

In winter, we're at the town's Christmas Fair and hold a coffee morning in February, everyone's invited! In summer we have a number of social events. First up is our wildly popular Wine and Cheese evening – this year on Saturday

28th May. We organise the town's annual international Boules competition, in 2016 it's on Friday 16th July. Mouvaux is sending a team – so come on Buckingham, bring on your best! They will be accompanied by a group of cyclists riding into town with our own Swan Wheelers.

Twinning is fun with a serious purpose. Our founding thought is, 'peace in Europe'. Fear of foreigners has blighted so many lives – it still does. How much better to get to know your neighbouring 'tribes', to find out that they are as human as you and, in the case of the French, have the most fantastic wines to boot!

So here we get to the nub of the matter – it's great fun to take the plunge and come to France with the Twinning Association and get to know a French family. We go to Mouvaux, our twin town near Lille and they welcome us with open arms. Their German twin town, Neukirchen-Vluyn, is now linked as a Friendship Town with us. There's no need to

On September 30th we will welcome a Civic Visit from Mouvaux to meet our Mayor and visit the town, staying with host families – all offers of accommodation hugely appreciated!

Interested and want to find out more? See: www.buckinghamtwinning.org.uk or email BTA chairman, Stephanie Scrase on stephanie.scrase@fourfrogs.co.uk

LACE HILL

Three years ago, this newsletter had an article about Lace Hill and where the street names came from. Many people have moved onto the estate since then, so it seemed a good time to print a refresh.

While the temporary marketing name of 'Windsor Park' is still plastered everywhere, these signs will be going one day soon. Permission was not granted to use this restricted name (due to Royal links) in the long term. It is the Town Council's intention that this area of the town will be known as 'Lace Hill'. This reflects the fact that all the street names are connected to lace making terms. We also now have The Lace Hill Academy as well of course.

'Why lace making terms?' you might ask?

Buckinghamshire Lace is a very fine pillow lace, and the making of it provided an income for local women until the First World War, especially here in Buckingham. Lace making is part of the Town's industrial heritage.



Photograph © Buckingham Old Gaol Trust



A typical Buckinghamshire Lace motif is the 'cucumber', a short fat oval with a line of holes (to represent seeds) inside; the Mayor's jabot, a decorative collar, has a strip of cucumber pattern lace. Very complex patterns might need as many as a hundred bead-weighted bobbins and these were often carved and decorated.

Town Councillors chose a mixture of names for the streets – some tools, like Pillow, Bobbin, Linen, Silk, and some stitches, like Mayflower, Butterfly, Constance and Rosemary.

As for the name for the estate: Lace Hill is just for ease of reference. This does not need to form part of the postal address. The Town Council is grateful for the expert help of Kay Bradley, Kay Meadows and Helene Hill in compiling the list of possible street names.

BIN COLLECTION DAYS CHANGING!

Your bin collection day is changing from **Tuesday 7th June**. This means that which bin is collected in a week may change too. Look out for a letter from AVDC shortly with all the details of how you're affected. Check AVDC's website for up-to-date news www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/recycle

BUCKINGHAM AND DISABLEDGO



Remember 2014 when an **Access Aware** event in Buckingham encouraged councillors, officers and volunteers from the general public to venture out with wheelchairs, scooters, sticks and walking frames to experience first-hand the difficulties facing disabled people in our town?



They tackled the ruts and bumps, the uneven and damaged paving and the too often obstructed dropped kerbs. Hopefully our pavements will be given top priority when funding allows.



But they also noticed the obstacles making access to shops, cafes and other venues a challenge. In spite of friendly welcomes everywhere, small listed buildings and our historic street design inevitably create problems for the less mobile. Similar issues face parents and grandparents with young children in buggies!



Last year Buckingham Access for All researched how other local authorities cope, and came across **DisabledGo**.

DisabledGo is a not-for-profit social enterprise set up as a result of its founder's similar frustrations as a wheelchair user when trying to access his local community. **DisabledGo** works with many public and private sector organisations to provide access information. This can cover a range of local venues and services and is made available to residents and potential visitors via online guides. The guides give extensive and detailed information on all aspects of access, so that users can decide whether a particular venue meets their needs. Look them up on www.disabledgo.com !

This year, having been pledged monies towards improving disability access by the Destination Buckingham Group (itself funded by AVDC), the Town Council has agreed to provide sufficient additional monies for **DisabledGo** to carry out an access survey of premises in and around Buckingham town centre, and to provide support for three years.

The initial survey will involve larger venues, and include detailed measurements of steps, doorways and disabled toilets. Surveys of smaller town centre shops will follow. Finally **DisabledGo** will publish an online guide to Buckingham with symbols describing the accessibility of those premises that agree to be included. This will put Buckingham well and truly on the map as a destination.

Look out for **DisabledGo** surveyors later this year!

If you are interested in access issues email Buckingham Access for All at buckinghamaccessforall@aol.co.uk

EVENTS EVENTS EVENTS EVENTS EVENTS EVENTS

PANCAKE RACE

The **Pancake Race** was held during the February half term and saw a large number of entrants per group. The winners are as follows – under 5's Iris Russell, 6-11yrs Harry Calder, 12-16yrs Luke Read. The adult class was very competitive with a District Cllr, County Cllr, Town Cllr, Town Mayor, Deputy Town Clerk and the Reverend of St Peter & St Paul Church taking part along with members of the public. The race was won by a member of the public, Sam Jervis.



CLEAN FOR THE QUEEN

As part of the celebrations for the Queen's 90th birthday Buckingham Town Council organised a mass litter pick over the first weekend in March.

Jason Skyrme of the **Royal Latin School** said 'It was a great success and the children were really enthusiastic! We met up with the primary school students from **George Grenville Academy**. Between the two schools we had over 50 young people cleaning up Buckingham. I am pleased to report that the town is relatively clean, however, we still managed to collect over ten of the purple 'Royal Bags' of rubbish!



FOOD FAIR



This year's **Food Fair** was held at the end of February and as well as regular attendees Sugar Everywhere, Monty Pieman and Open Air Foods we welcomed newcomers Supreme Sausage and Kitsch Catering who cooked outside. Inside newcomers included Kati Chocolates, Brightwell Vineyard, The Indian Orchard and Unique Preserves.

The Buckingham Action Group, which includes representatives from Buckingham Town Council and Project Street Life, teamed up together for the **Great Buckingham Youth Bake Off**. Project Street Life led on the Bake Off and the Food Fair provided the venue for the 1st round of judging. Twelve young people entered the Bake Off and this was judged by Mayor, Cllr Andy Mahi, Victoria Forward of Victoria Sponge and Sian Whyte from the WI.

COMMONWEALTH DAY

On March 14th Town Mayor Cllr Andy Mahi raised the **Commonwealth Flag** to commemorate Commonwealth Day.



Jenny from the **The Railway Walk Conservation Group** 'With additional help from local families we collected 11 sacks of rubbish plus other items just from the Railway Walk alone.'



A very productive litter picking morning for the **Buckingham and Stowe running club** who cleared a long section along the River Great Ouse and Bourton Road.



The **Buckingham Canal Society** cleared along the canal. Several **Town Councillors** and the **Chairman of Buckingham Town Youth Council, Alex Dunne** went out the following weekend and cleared around Cornwall's Meadow car park and Verney Close. They also litter picked around Page Hill.



The event was a huge success and The Town Council would like to thank those organisations and schools that took part.



FUTURE EVENTS FUTURE EVENTS FUTURE EVENTS FUTURE EVENTS

BUCKINGHAM FRINGE WEEK 11th – 19th June

Saturday 11th June The Fringe Week starts with an afternoon of **kite flying** at Buckingham Primary School. People are encouraged to make their own kites and there will be prizes for the best homemade kite. **Free event.**

If you enjoy opera, then go along to the Film Place Saturday 11th June for a **free screening** of **Garsington Opera's** acclaimed 2015 production of Mozart's comic opera, 'Cosi fan tutte'. The screening will begin at 7.00pm with an introduction to the opera by a member of the cast (name to be confirmed) at 6.30pm Wine and sandwiches will be on sale from 6.00pm Advance reservations required at <http://www.thefilmplace.org.uk>



Synopsis: At a wedding reception on a glorious summer's evening, two young soldiers allow themselves to be drawn into a bet. Their friend persuades them to put the love of their fiancées to the test – with hilarious consequences.

Sunday 12th June Enjoy a picnic on the green outside St Peter & St Paul's Church in celebration of the **Queen's 90th Birthday**. Bring your own picnic. There will be an old fashioned fete and cream teas. There will also be a fancy dress and prizes awarded for the Best Dressed Queen and Best Dressed King.

Monday 13th June Join the Buckingham Society at 7:30pm for a **History Tour of Buckingham – 'what did the Dukes of Buckingham ever do for us?'** The tour will start outside the Old Gaol and take in those bits of Buckingham where we still have buildings put up by the Dukes and their forebears.

Tuesday 14th June Enjoy a **cream tea** at Villiers Hotel while listening to the The Syndicate New Orleans Jazz Band.

In the evening the **Oxford Fiddle Group** will be performing at the Radcliffe Centre. This ever popular group will be performing tunes and songs mainly from England and Scotland but also from Ireland and the USA. This is a performance not to be missed.

Wednesday 15th June This year **The Youth Project** takes place at The Royal Latin School. Each year students from the Buckingham School and Royal Latin School get together for a programme of dance and drama. The event is open to members of the public.

If you enjoy **karaoke** then go along to the Kings Head at 7:30pm on Wednesday 15th June where DJ Ray Steel will be.

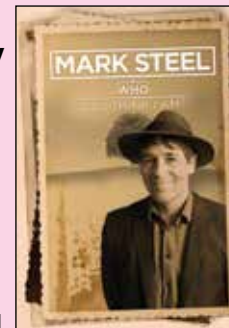
Thursday 16th June Come along to The Woolpack from 8:30pm, where **Buckingham Acoustic Club** will be running their Thursday night **Open Mic**, with **live music** showcasing a hugely diverse range of performers; from local songwriters just starting out to semi-professionals guitarists and singers.

Friday 17th June – Buckingham Athletic Sports & Social Club Stratford Fields, Stratford Rd, Buckingham, MK18 1NY. Wayno Promotions presents 'It's All About The Music' **FREE ENTRY** Dance the night away with DJ Sweet Mix. Soul, 90's R & B, Old Skool Garage, Club Classics. 8pm.

Saturday 18th June is **Civic Day** which is hosted by the Buckingham Society. Presentation of Rotary Citizen of the Year and Young Citizen of the Year and The Buckingham Society's Independent Trader of the Year will take place.

Also on Saturday 18th June, '**And the beat goes on – part 2**' will be taking place from 2pm–10pm in the Community Centre. Organised by Caroline Arnill and Pete Gibbs and supported by the Town Council this free music event in memory of Tom Dewhurst will feature the 'young drummer of the year'. As well as the drum off there will be live bands throughout the day.

Sunday 19th June **The Old Town Hall Comedy featuring Mark Steel: Who Do I Think I Am?** See Mark Steel in his newest stand up show, a surprising and enthralling story told with aplomb.



For further details on all the events please see the Fringe brochure.

FREE BASKETBALL SESSIONS

Over the last two years these sessions have proved very popular with the young people of Buckingham. The first session will start on **Monday 4th July and run for 6 weeks**. The one hour long turn up and play sessions are taught by qualified coaches who bring all the equipment with them. Young people aged 8–12 years can attend sessions at Chandos Park and young people aged 13 years and up at Bourton Park. Times are to be confirmed.

BUCKINGHAM IN BLOOM

Do you take pride in your garden or know someone who does? If so why not enter them in this year's **Buckingham In Bloom**. Once again the judges will be looking for the best kept and most colourful gardens. There are two categories residents and community gardens. Entry forms are available from Buckingham Library and the gardens will be judged in July. Winners will receive garden vouchers and a certificate.



DOG SHOW

Organised by Buckingham Town Council the **Dog Show** will take place on **Sunday 17th July** in the paddock in Bourton Park. There will be 9 classes and prizes for the winners of each class. There will also be information stands from organisations such as the RSPCA and tips on how to keep your dog healthy and safe. Do not miss the demonstration by Watermill Wolves, as seen in *Twilight* and *Game of Thrones*.



FUTURE EVENTS FUTURE EVENTS

PLAY AROUND THE PARISHES

Funded by Buckingham Town Council, the ever popular **Play Around The Parishes** will be back in Chandos Park during the summer holidays. There will be fun and games for children ages 0 – 12 years. The event is free to all and will take place on **Thursday 28th July, Thursday 11th August, Thursday 18th August and Thursday 25th August.**



BANDJAM



Organised by Bandjam and sponsored by Buckingham Town Council this **free event** will be held on Sunday 28th August in the bull ring in Buckingham Town centre. The event features local musicians and bands and attracts a large audience. Music starts at 1pm and goes on until 10pm.



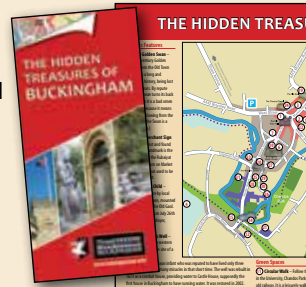
HIDDEN TREASURES OF BUCKINGHAM

As you may remember we have previously written several articles for this newsletter about the special places and features of Buckingham that are perhaps not so well known – our 'Hidden Treasures'.

Well, we have now put together a leaflet containing 40 'hidden treasures' of the town, giving information on each of the special places and features and where you can find them. The idea is to let visitors, those who have moved here recently and even residents who have lived in the town for years know about the lovely and unusual things to see and do in Buckingham that they perhaps may not know about or not know the story behind.

You can pick up your copy from two of the treasures themselves, the Old Gaol and the Chantry Chapel on Market Hill. It is also available from Buckingham Library, the Community Centre and other premises around the town; as well as on our website:

<http://www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk/community-matters/publications/>



'BUCKINGHAM ON SEA...?'

'So far distant ... is the agricultural Borough of Buckingham from the sea, that it was once a common confession on the part of a number of inhabitants of the district that they had never seen it...but the war has brought home to the most inland of neighbourhoods the fact that the sea is a power of nature whose importance is not to be ignored.'

Buckingham Advertiser, February 1941



You might not expect a town that is as far away from the sea as we are to have adopted a naval ship, but during World War II Buckingham, along with many other councils and communities, held a Warship Week to raise funds to cover the cost of Royal Naval vessels. The community would then adopt the ship and crew, with local organisations, churches and schools often providing the crew with woollen goods and children would write letters and send cards.

The Buckingham, Winslow and District Warship Week was set for Saturday 14th – 21st February 1942. The target: £120,000.

The week of events kicked off with a parade of Fighting and Civil Defence Services, including members of the Home Guard, A.R.P., Fire Services, Womens Voluntary Service and Womens Land Army.

Daily 'Hoisting the Indicator' ceremonies were held in Buckingham and Winslow. Other events included a St Valentines Day dance, whist drives, social evenings, a cinema show, a treasure hunt, concerts, children's poster

competitions and 'white elephant' stalls run by the Girl Guides. There were also special displays in shop windows and an exhibition of paintings and photographs in the handicrafts shop on Market Hill, admission was three old pence.

At the final indicator ceremony Buckingham had exceeded their £120,000 objective, adopting HMS Barnwell. A Boom Defence Vessel built in the UK; the Barnwell was completed in April 1940, measuring 173ft by 32ft.

The Barnwell was stationed at Lyness, Scappa Flow in January 1942. In February 1945 it was one of two Boom Defence Vessels in a convoy of 22 vessels, sailing from Clyde to Gibraltar and then on to Aden; no vessels were lost from the convoy. In September the same year it formed part of the escort for HMS Loch Tarbert travelling to Port Swettenham, Malaysia.

Sadly, the Barnwell was scrapped in Singapore in 1957. A commemorative plaque is displayed in the Council Chamber (pictured).

MEET YOUR NEW TOWN COUNCILLOR

Introducing Margaret Gateley, the new Councillor for the Highlands and Watchcroft Ward

I was recently co-opted as Councillor for the above ward, where I have lived for 20 years. I retired from my work with Thames Valley Probation 4 years ago. My role as Chair of the Fairtrade Town Steering Group brought me into closer contact with the Town Council, and enabled me to see the difference which they make in our town. I am looking forward to making a further contribution as a representative in our community.



CHANDOS PARK WEIR

During February the weir in Chandos Park failed; the water undermined the concrete structure and as a result now flows underneath the weir. Following consultation with the Environment Agency and the University of Buckingham (who are joint owners) it has been decided to remove the structure completely. As there were already bank reinstatement works in place for May for Chandos Park this has been scheduled in at the same time, thus saving money. So hopefully you



will have seen the results of the work and the reinstatement works are just being finished.

MORE SERVICES, MORE EFFICIENTLY



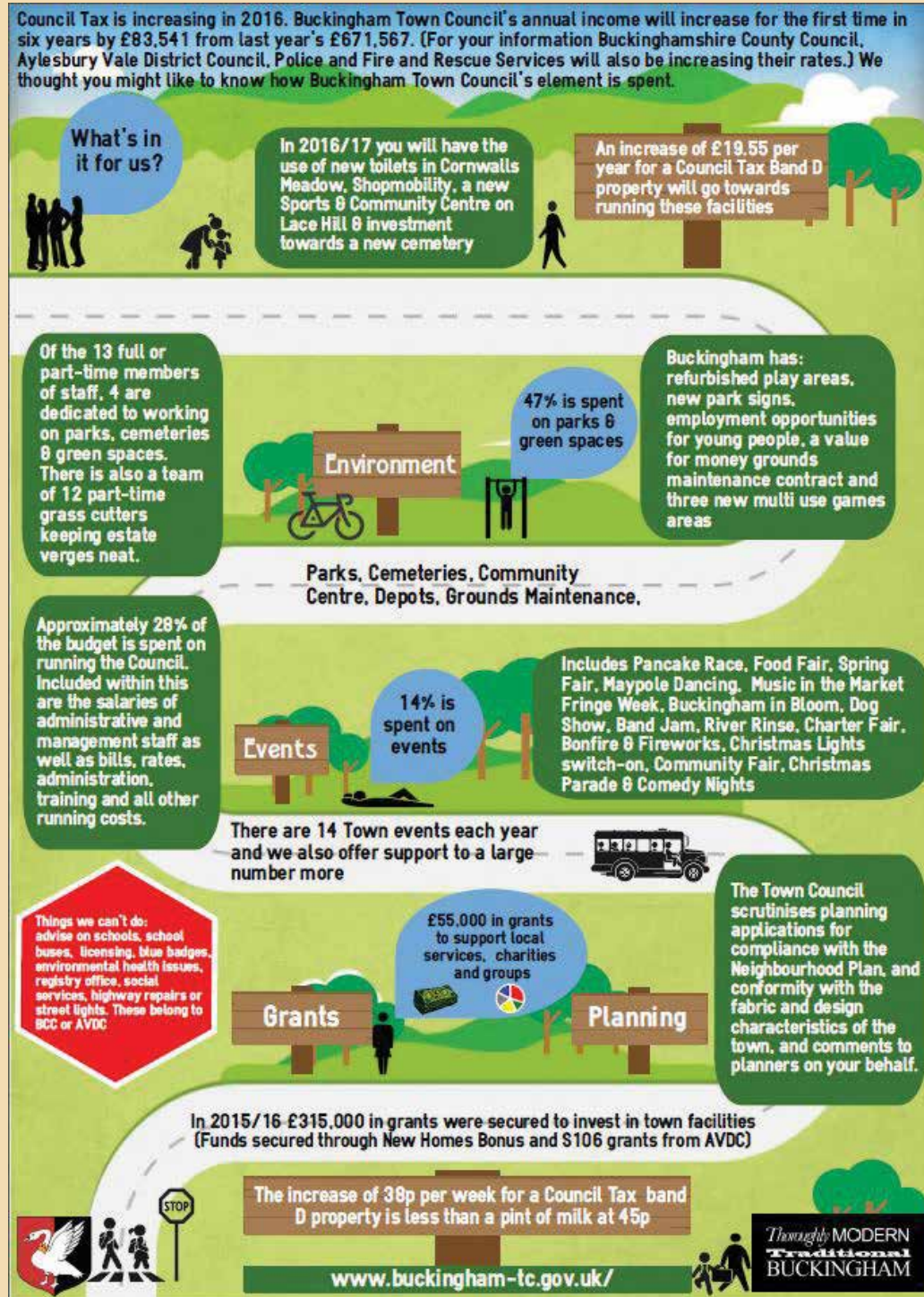
The Town Council have agreed the budget and precept for the next year.

While the Council has saved more than £110,000 over the last 7 years, and has not raised the Town Council element of the Council Tax for 6 years, this year, the new services the Town Council will be providing has meant that each house will have to pay 38p more per week.

This increase will pay for new toilets in the town centre, the running of the new

community centre at Lace Hill and planning for the new cemetery.

Buckingham Town Council wanted to ensure that residents were aware that their council tax bill is rising and to offer a reason for the increase. To help in communicating this we put together the infographic opposite, which has been displayed on town notice boards and social media sites. We hope that by doing this we have given all residents an opportunity to prepare for these changes.



LACE HILL SPORT & COMMUNITY CENTRE

The Lace Hill Sports and Community Centre is now open for business. For further information, please contact the Sports and Community Centre Co-ordinator.

E-mail: deputytownclerk@buckingham-tc.gov.uk

Telephone: 01280 816426

Sports Hall (maximum capacity 100 people)

	Weekdays		Weekend day		Weekend evening
	Pay per session	Block (10 weeks)	Pay per session	Block (10 weeks)	Pay per session
Adult rate	£55	£450	£75	£550	£150
Local community group	£45	£350	£65	£450	
Junior clubs	£35	£250	£45	£350	

Committee Room (maximum capacity 60 people)

	Weekdays		Weekend day		Weekend evening
	Pay per session	Block (10 weeks)	Pay per session	Block (10 weeks)	Pay per session
Adult rate	£45	£350	£65	£450	£100
Local community group	£35	£250	£55	£400	
Junior clubs	£25	£175	£45	£350	

2 full size football pitches

Sports pitches will not be available for use until September 2016.

Rates available on request – limited availability.

Please note that all rates and terms & conditions of hire are subject to change at the discretion of Buckingham Town Council.

Thoroughly MODERN
Traditional
BUCKINGHAM



MONEY PROBLEMS?

Then here are a few local resources that can help you out:

Swan Credit Union is a financial not-for-profit co-operative owned and run by our members, helping people to save and borrow at affordable rates. Through the Financial Compensation Scheme, members' savings are 100% protected.

Save for your financial future.

Locally run Online services Ethical savings Affordable Loans

Our loans are tailored to meet your individual needs from £250 up to £10,000. Regular savers benefit from discounted rates. Save for 3 months and apply for a loan for 3 times what you have saved at 1% (26.8%APR on the declining balance)

Want a loan more quickly? If you are in receipt of child benefit you can apply for a loan up to £500 straight away, contact us for more details.

It's free and easy to join.

See our website for further details: www.aylesburyvalecommunitybank.org.uk

Phone: 03030 300147

Email: enquiries@swancreditunion.org.uk



Buckingham Food Bank

Buckingham Food Bank is organised and run by volunteers mainly from Buckingham Parish Church. Food Parcels, containing three days of emergency food, are provided for individuals and families who are experiencing a crisis and do not have enough money to buy food.

The Food Bank team works in partnership with advice and care professionals in the community such as Citizens Advice, Community Nurses, Social Workers, the Children's Centre and the Local Emergency Support Team. These professionals identify those who are in need of help and refer them to the Food Bank team who then ensure the delivery of the appropriate food parcel.

Citizens Advice Buckingham Winslow and District



Dealing with money issues can sometimes be off-putting, but if you don't understand how things like credit or mortgages work, you could end up losing out financially or getting yourself deep in debt. At Citizens Advice we give you the advice and help you need to make the right choices, including help to deal with your debt problems, how to avoid losing your home and how to get your finances back into shape.

In addition, it's important to make sure that you get all the help that you're entitled to. We can also give you information and advice on benefits and tax credits if you are working or unemployed, sick or disabled, a parent, a young person, an older person or a veteran. We also advise on council tax and housing costs, national insurance, payment of benefits and problems with benefits.

See our website at www.buckinghamcab.org.uk for further details

Telephone Adviceline: 0300 330 1160



WHAT DID YOUR COUNCIL ACHIEVE IN 2015/16?

Town Centre & Events Committee

The Committee again brought a wide range of diverse events to residents and visitors alike. These included the Fringe Week, the ever-popular live music events and comedy nights, Bonfire and Fireworks, two River Rinses and the increasingly popular Dog Show. In total, some 14 events were organised, often in partnership with

others. We also oversee the markets, town centre planters and hanging baskets, and the Charter Fair; and fund AVDC's Play Around the Parishes.



Last year we finally published our Memory Book of the Coronation (available from The Old Gaol). We greatly improved the overall layout for the Christmas Lights Switch-on and, as usual, entered the Small Town section of the Best Kept Village competition, receiving a well-earned Certificate of Merit. We also thoroughly audited the more costly events to ensure they provided good value for money – which they do with broadly decreasing year-on-year costs. Finally, in order to improve Street Market footfall, we commissioned a short publicity video which is screened nightly at The Film Place.



All events are overseen by a Lead Councillor, but the behind-the-scenes work is left in the capable hands of the Town Council's Events Co-ordinator, Amanda Brubaker, who does an excellent job.

Planning Committee

Despite AVDC's and the Government's efforts to reduce the number of applications by allowing certain simple extensions to get automatic approval, very many still need it, in particular some of the older Buckingham estates were built with the condition that any work (e.g. a garden shed) needed Planning Permission. Again there are few applications for new commercial premises, and those received are balanced by commercial properties being turned into housing.

Enforcement of existing rules & conditions is causing problems. Many large developments have rather significant changes allowed without consultation and there are several examples of unapproved works happening in the town. AVDC have cut their planning staff, which adds to the problems.

The passing of the Neighbourhood Plan, firstly through the Government Inspector and then through the 91% 'Yes' local referendum, was a great success in the last year.

As national legislation has developed it is obvious that it does not guarantee that only our planned developments can take place, especially as AVDC does not have the 5 year's land supply the Government requires.

Transport issues, such as the London Road roundabout and Lace Hill disabled access, have taken up a disproportionate amount of our time.

Full council has seen several presentations, including by developers on the Tingewick Road Triangle.



Environment Committee

The bulk of the Town Council's green environment comprises Chandos and Bourton Parks, the Cemetery, Church Hill green and the Railway Walk. Apart from ensuring that these areas are properly maintained, we work closely with our local Railway Walk conservation group, whose unstinting work helps to maintain and improve this valuable wildlife haven, and they run bat and newt evenings. Members of the Town Council regularly meet with the groups that make up the Buckingham Community Wildlife project, Railway Walk, Maids Moreton Avenue, Canal Society, Buckingham Society and the AVDC Wildlife officers to discuss wildlife and conservation in Buckingham.

The Environment committee ordered new play equipment for the Ken Tagg Play area in Meadway, has been working to open the new Lace Hill Sport and Community Centre, and new finger post signage in Bourton Park. A new grounds maintenance contract started on the 1st April, the new enterprise project for grass cutting the verges around the town has been a great success and are about to start the 2nd years cut with 14 people being employed.



The Committee has extensive responsibilities and is keen to protect our green environment and our wonderful trees. If you would like to help us please consider becoming a tree warden for your local area, so we have a network of tree wardens to protect our trees. Please contact the Town Council to volunteer.

Buckingham Town Council is grateful to its Environment staff and all those who voluntarily work for the benefit of Buckingham's green environment and help to make Buckingham a wonderful place to live.

Resources Committee

The Town Council Resources Committee reviews the Council's expenditure against budgets and overall strategy, policy and personnel matters. This committee discusses the annual grants and makes recommendations to the Precept meeting in January. This Committee takes an overview of the Town Council's communications.

During the last year, the Committee discussions have included:

- the budget for the newsletter to accommodate our growing town
- making all minutes and agendas easily viewable on the website
- resolving the structural difficulties (including level access) with the lobby to the Council Chamber
- establishing the first Town Action Commission
- administration of the Charter Fair
- commissioning Keep Britain Tidy to carry out the survey in the town.
- the inaccessible stepped 'ramp' installed at Lace Hill
- DisabledGo being hired by the Town Council to conduct a review of access in the Town
- agreeing the production of the 'Hidden Treasures of Buckingham' annotated map
- exploring a new form of Annual Town Meeting
- how to produce more useful financial information
- the possibility of the Council taking over the off-street car parking
- appointing a person to coordinate the new community centre on Lace Hill



Overall the themes have been accessibility, transparency, public involvement and good husbandry of the Council's resources.

COMMUNITY GRANTS

Buckingham Town Council supports a number of organisations in the town with grants to aid them in providing facilities and services for the people of the town. This year the Council has helped the following organisations with grants:

Aylesbury Vale Fibromyalgia Support Group	£598
Buckingham Camera Club	£250
Buckingham Summer Festival	£1,200
Buckingham Tennis Club	£1,000
Buckingham Town Cricket Club	£1,000
Buckingham West End Bowls Club	£300
Chandos Park Bowls Club	£300
Friends of the Old Gaol Museum	£500
Open House (Community Care North Bucks)	£200
Project Street Life	£500
Revitalise	£354
Slade Recreation Club Ltd	£500
Swan Credit Union	£2,000
The Swan Community Hub (Job Club)	£1,000

In addition to this the council gives long term grants to Buckingham Community Centre, Buckingham Old Gaol, The Film Place, The Tourist Information Centre, Buckingham Winslow & District Citizens Advice and Buckingham Youth Clubs Ltd. As well as grants the Council also aids 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 October.

More information on grants and the grants process is available on our website: <http://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.



BUCKINGHAM TOWN COUNCILLORS

Cllr. Jenny Bates	01280 812 758	Cllr. Andy Mahi – Mayor	01280 816 562
Cllr. Terry Bloomfield	01280 815 336	Cllr. Howard Mordue	01280 815 418
Cllr. Mark Cole JP	01280 816 005	Cllr. Ruth Newell	01280 815 229
Cllr. Mrs Geraldine Collins	01280 823 006	Cllr. Lisa O'Donoghue	07906 408 646
Cllr. Paddy Collins	01280 823 006	Cllr. Mike Smith	01280 822 215
Cllr. Margaret Gateley	01280 816 317	Cllr. Christine Strain-Clark	01280 816 832
Cllr. Jon Harvey	01280 812 711	Cllr. Robin Stuchbury	01280 824 285
Cllr. Paul Hiron – Deputy Mayor	01280 812 072	Cllr. Martin Try	01280 816 202
Cllr. Derrick Isham	01280 813 770		
Town Clerk – Mr Christopher Wayman			01280 816 426

OTHER USEFUL NUMBERS

Buckingham Cemetery	01280 816 801
Buckinghamshire County Council	01296 395 000
Transport for Buckinghamshire	01296 382 416
Aylesbury Vale District Council	01296 58 58 58
Citizens Advice Buckingham Winslow & District	0344 245 1289
Buckingham Tourist Information Centre	01280 823 020
Buckingham Community Hall	01280 823 584
Thames Valley Police	101
NHS Urgent Care	111
Floodline	0345 988 1188
Samaritans	08457 90 90 90
ChildLine	0800 11 11

You can email us at 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 or visit: www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk

Follow us on Facebook: [f](https://www.facebook.com/Buckingham-town-council) /Buckingham-town-council or Twitter [t](https://twitter.com/buckinghamtc) @buckinghamtc

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This is delivered to approx. 6200 homes and businesses.

2016 EVENTS DIARY



JUNE	Saturday 11th – Sunday 19th	Buckingham Fringe Week
	Wednesday 15th	Buckingham Youth Project
JULY	Saturday 2nd – Saturday 9th	Buckingham Summer Festival
	Sunday 17th	Dog Show
	Thursday 28th	Play Around The Parishes
AUGUST	Thursdays 11th, 18th & 25th	Play Around The Parishes
	Sunday 28th	BandJam
SEPTEMBER	Saturday 17th	Fairtrade 9th Anniversary Event
	Sunday 25th	River Rinse
OCTOBER	Sunday 9th	River Rinse
	Saturday 15th	Charter Fair
	Saturday 22nd	Charter Fair
NOVEMBER	Saturday 5th	Bonfire & Fireworks
	Sunday 13th	Remembrance Parade
	Saturday 26th	Christmas Lights & Carols
DECEMBER	Saturday 10th	Christmas Parade Community Fair



Please find further details inside or online:
www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk/town-matters/events/