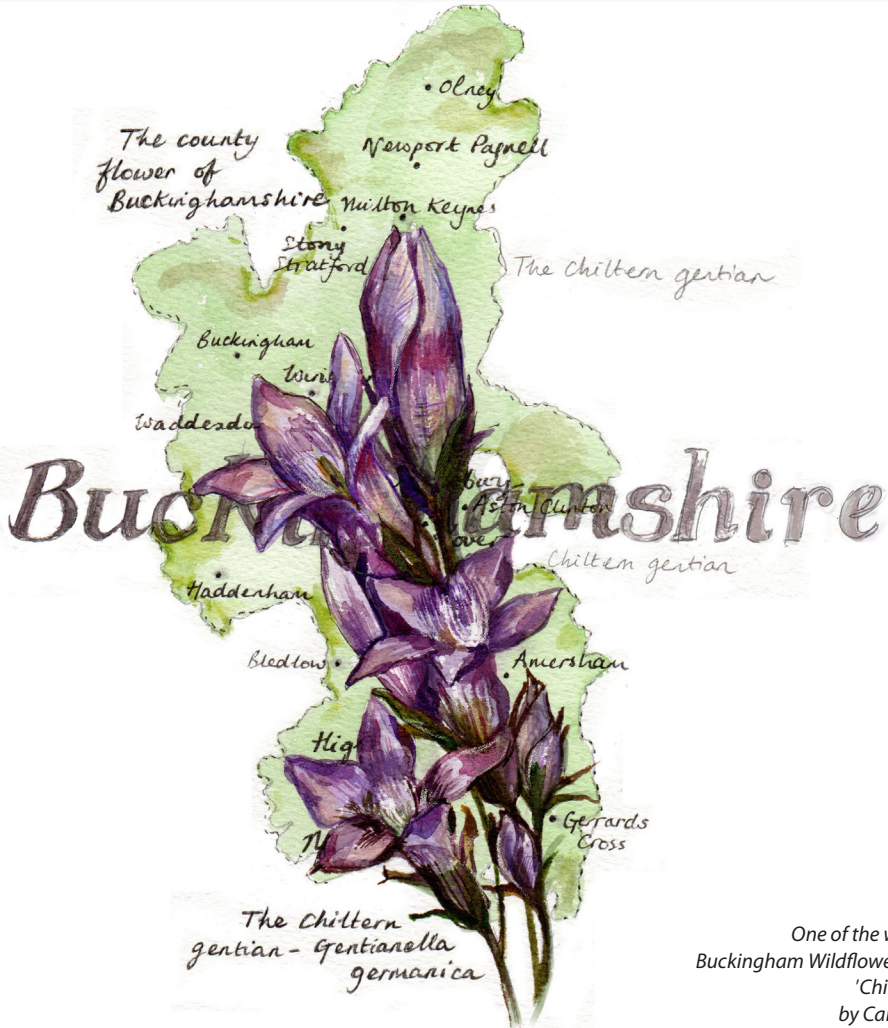




Buckingham Town Matters

Summer issue 2021



One of the winners of the
Buckingham Wildflower Art Contest,
'Chiltern Gentian'
by Carmen Carriera

message from your Mayor • introducing your new town councillors
what your local council achieved 2020/2021 • future events

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR MAYOR



It is a real privilege to have been elected as Buckingham's mayor, especially at this time of new opportunities as we emerge from the long period of restrictions, due to the Covid crisis. Whilst it is important to continue to follow the regulations as they evolve, I am sure that we are all planning for the summer, when we can again spend time with our family and friends.

As a community we also look forward to events, such as the Celebrate Buckingham day on July 10, when we can come together in Bourton Park and recognise some of the voluntary organisations which serve our community so well. Volunteers have played a vital role over the last year, from helping neighbours with shopping, to new groups, such as the Buckingham Support Network and Buckingham Free Meals, which were formed to fulfil specific needs.

I have really appreciated our local footpaths and countryside over the past year, when we have been unable to go further afield. Many of my walks have included either Bourton Park or Chandos Park, which are so well maintained by our Green Spaces Team: a special thanks to them for their hard work, also to the volunteers who as part of the Community Wildlife Project, care for areas such as the Canal, Railway Walk and Maids Moreton Avenue.

After the recent elections we now have a fresh start for our Town Council and for Buckinghamshire Council. We welcome our new members, as we work together for the benefit of our community. It is encouraging to note that four of our Town Councillors are also on Buckinghamshire Council. This will facilitate liaison between the two bodies. I also want to thank those who have now stepped down from the Town Council, for all their hard work over many years to the benefit of us all.

As I take on the role of mayor I am conscious of the rich history of our town. I look forward to working with the new Deputy Mayor, Warren Whyte, to represent Buckingham at events and to encourage community groups during the coming months as we enjoy our renewed freedoms.

Margaret Gateley

Cllr. Margaret Gately, Mayor of Buckingham

TOWN CENTRE MANAGER



Buckingham Town Council has created the new post of Town Centre Manager to support local businesses and boost visitor numbers. We are delighted to announce that Emma Churchill has been appointed to the role of Town Centre Manager which will be complementary to her existing role as Supervisor at the Tourist Information Centre (TIC) at the Old Gaol. She is also responsible for the *Discover Buckingham* website which encourages people to come to the town to shop, dine, stay and visit the numerous attractions in and around Buckingham.

Emma said 'The Town Council is committed to helping Buckingham based businesses and to ensure Buckingham is fully open as soon as it is safe to do so. If you have an event, attraction, shop, restaurant or other business that you would like to add to the Discover Buckingham website please email tic@buckingham-tc.gov.uk or phone 01280 823020 and we will be happy to help!'

Emma has invited local businesses to complete a Health Questionnaire to find out what business owners feel will improve the offering in the town. She will also hold events to attract a wide range of visitors to the Town Centre. Other projects include initiating and hosting networking meetings, managing the TIC and Shopmobility service and being the first point of contact with the Town's many businesses.

The investment into the Town Centre Manager has been long talked about in these challenging and difficult times. Members felt it was correct to push forward with this position to work in cooperation with Buckinghamshire Council, local traders and

our markets in order to be a point of communication and innovation for all. They also thought it was necessary because it helps to support what we predict to be a challenging business environment in the coming months and years, as our local businesses try to rediscover their place in what will be the new norm post COVID-19.



INTRODUCING THE NEW BUCKINGHAM

Buckingham Town Council is made up of 17 elected councillors from four wards. There are eight councillors for Buckingham South, seven councillors for Buckingham North and one each for the wards of Fishers Field and Highlands & Watchcroft.

16 spaces were filled at the May election, and the final space will be filled at a Co-option meeting at the end of June. The co-opted Councillor will be introduced in our Autumn newsletter.



Cllr. Robina Ahmed

A Town Councillor since 2020, Robina wanted to become a town councillor in order to help make the town a better place for its residents and balance its history and culture with the modern world. rahmed@buckingham-tc.gov.uk



Cllr. Geraldine Collins

It is a privilege to continue to serve as Town Councillor. My aim has always been to ensure Buckingham is a safe, vibrant and pleasant community for all to enjoy.

gcollins@buckingham-tc.gov.uk



Cllr. Jon Harvey

Jon is working with local people towards a sustainable town and world, in which everyone has dreams and ambitions, and the wherewithal to achieve them.

jharvey@buckingham-tc.gov.uk



Cllr. Andy Mahi

Cllr. Andy Mahi: Councillor for 14 years, I am a previous Mayor and have chaired the Town Centre and Events Committee. I particularly enjoy facilitating Bonfire and Fireworks.

amahi@buckingham-tc.gov.uk



Cllr. Mark Cole JP

This will be my second term on BTC, and I will continue to work for the town on planning and neighbourhood matters.

mcole@buckingham-tc.gov.uk



Cllr. Margaret Gateley

I moved to Buckingham in 1988 and became a Councillor 5 years ago.

My priorities are the climate emergency and our town's post pandemic recovery.

mgateley@buckingham-tc.gov.uk



Cllr. Sue Hetherington

Cllr. Sue Hetherington: Resident of Gawcott since December 2017. I look forward to serving on our town council, in particular regarding our natural environment.

shetherington@cllr.buckingham-tc.gov.uk



Cllr. Howard Mordue

I moved to Buckingham in 1973 and was in the printing industry. I am interested in the economic development of Buckingham as long as it protects the environment and its wildlife.

hmordue@buckingham-tc.gov.uk

BUCKINGHAM TOWN COUNCILLORS



Cllr. Lisa O'Donoghue

The past 10 years I've been involved with youth engagement, planning, environmental issues and our town's vibrancy and I'm so pleased to serve another term.
lodonoghue@buckingham-tc.gov.uk



Cllr. Anthony Ralph

By balancing the best of the new, while protecting the best of the old, is how I will continue to serve the community.
aralph@buckingham-tc.gov.uk



Cllr. Anja Schaefer

Anja Schaefer is a senior lecturer in management at the Open University, with interests in sustainability and small business. In her free time, she loves to walk the Buckinghamshire countryside.
aschaefer@cllr.buckingham-tc.gov.uk



Cllr. Robin Stuchbury

So pleased to serve Buckingham and make it an even better place to live. I will challenge any attempts to diminish the local voices of the community.
rstuchbury@buckingham-tc.gov.uk



Cllr. Martin Try

Lived in the town for 35 years, been a councillor since 2007 ensuring our fantastic town stays a great place to live, work or visit.
mtry@buckingham-tc.gov.uk



Cllr. Warren Whyte

I have lived in Buckingham for 18 years, and work here too. I am proud to champion Buckingham far and wide, including in my role as a Buckinghamshire Councillor.
wwhyte@cllr.buckingham-tc.gov.uk



Cllr. Ade Osibogun

Ade Osibogun is an alumnus of the University of Buckingham and joins the Town Council with his experience as a legal practitioner and arbitrator.
aosibogun@cllr.buckingham-tc.gov.uk



Cllr. Ryan Willett

I am 25 and have always lived in Buckingham, I am devoted to the people here. I will roll up my sleeves and better Buckingham's future.
rwillett@cllr.buckingham-tc.gov.uk

We also welcome six new Buckinghamshire Councillors.

For Buckinghamshire East: Cllr. Howard Mordue, Cllr. Ade Osibogun, Cllr. Warren Whyte.

For Buckinghamshire West: Cllr. Caroline Cornell, Cllr. Patrick Fealey, Cllr. Robin Stuchbury.

More information about Buckinghamshire Council can be found on their website:

<https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/>

WHAT YOUR TOWN COUNCIL ACHIEVED



Environment Committee

The Environment Committee's responsibilities include the green spaces in the Town owned by

the Town Council including Bourton Park, Chandos Park, Lace Hill Sports pitches, the Railway Walk and the Cemetery. This includes street furniture: bins, signage and benches. We also own the Lace Hill Community Centre, public toilets in Cornwall's Meadow, and several play areas. The Committee also has a remit for health and well-being.

The Environment Committee has appointed Climate Champions to push forward our Climate Emergency Action Plan, and we have planted lots of spring bulbs in Bourton Park, and will be planting many more trees in Buckingham with the assistance of the tree wardens, and developing more wildflower areas. We have been working with the Environment Agency and river

wardens to monitor the health of our river, and are delighted that we have water voles.

We have purchased the Tingewick Road Cemetery and Allotment site, and will consult the public on what should be included.

Volunteers are very important in protecting and enhancing our natural environment. We work with them through our Buckingham Community Wildlife Project, including representatives from the Railway Walk Conservation Group, the Canal Society and the Buckingham Society.

Our Estates Team, ably managed by Lee Phillips, work hard to ensure that Buckingham remains an attractive place in which to live; our Committee's work is ably supported by Nina Stockill.

Councillor Ruth Newell
Chair, Environment Committee

Resources Committee

Broadly speaking, the Town Council's Resources Committee oversees the Council's budgets, staffing, policies and communications.

Some highlights from last year were:

- i Monitoring the effect of Covid-19 on budgets – some areas required greater spend while others incurred less;
- ii Reviewing insurance, the financial and management risk assessment, the inventory of land and assets, staff pension, training and welfare arrangements, the staff handbook, the Councillors' Code of Conduct and the

register of compliments, complaints and freedom of information requests;

- iii Exploring options where Buckinghamshire Council's Community Board funding might be used;
- iv Appointing our Town Clerk as the Town Council's Equality and Diversity lead officer;
- v Agreeing to withdraw from our contract with *Access Able*, the successor to *Disabled Go* which offered far less useable advice.

Councillor Mike Smith
Chair, Resources Committee

Town Centre and Events Committee



The Town Centre and Events Committee organises an array of events such as the

Pancake Race, Food Fair, Comedy Nights, Christmas Light Switch On and River Rinses.

This past year has been very challenging for this Committee. Fortunately, it has been possible to hold some of our much loved events through social media. We are looking forward to being able to hold in-person events once again, hopefully bringing back some community spirit which we are always so keen to foster.

Thanks to dedicated Town Council officers and willing councillors, we have been able



to plan our way into the future. Maintaining a positive, open and forward thinking approach has been at the heart of this year's management of events. We have also moved funding to increase our efforts to boost the local economy through a Town Centre Manager and have put a focus on town centre entertainment, which we called Covid bounce back.

**Councillor Robin Stuchbury
Chair, Town Centre and
Events Committee**



Planning Committee

In 2020 we had 135 applications, some of these were straightforward, such as extensions to add living space for elderly family members, or due to Covid, those working from home wanting a study or spare room to use.

Other applications have been a little more demanding, such as the demolition of 20 garages and building of 8 modular flats behind Pightle Crescent. One of the issues we've got is that the 60-year-old woodland butts right up to their 3 storey building. These mature trees will continue growing and could cause structural damage.

We objected to an application to build 9 houses between Tesco's car park and Wipac, sharing its access with Tesco's delivery road. We felt that it was not a suitable site for housing, being surrounded by commercial and industrial units, and the planning authority agreed with us and refused planning permission. We had a similar success with the refusal of a proposal to build 11 houses on the garden of Station House on Tingewick Road, also dismissed on appeal.

**Councillor Lisa O'Donoghue
Chair, Planning Committee**

GROWING WILD IN BUCKINGHAM

The wildflower meadows in Bourton Park have proven to be extremely popular with the local wildlife and visitors to the park.

Since the coronavirus pandemic led to restrictions on people's movements, many have learned to see the streets and parks where they live in a new light, discovering walks, trails and local beauty spots they didn't know were there before.

In order to enhance visitors' enjoyment of the park, the Town Council's Environment Committee agreed to install wildflower illustration boards, fixed at regular intervals, to the fencing surrounding the junior play area in Bourton Park. Each of the boards will display a beautiful watercolour illustration by local artist Fiona Hancock and a short description of a native wildflower species, commonly found in Bourton Park.

The aim of the panels is to provide further information into the importance of wildflowers to our environment. It is hoped that the boards will entice visitors' sense of curiosity and discovery and inform people about the strong cultural bonds that exist with our native species.



The work of our Environment Committee aims to protect and enhance native species and habitats and we are always looking for opportunities to promote and support the environmental enhancement and regeneration of our greenspaces. Some examples of our recent environmental community projects are:

- **May 2018** – Our first wildflower meadow is planted in Bourton Park
- **February 2019** – Community Tree Planting event at Lace Hill
- **July 2019** – Second wildflower meadow in Bourton Park
- **March 2020** – Tree Planting along the riverbank in Bourton Park
- **September 2020** – Over 4,500 native woodland bulbs planted across Bourton Park
- This year Buckingham's third Wildflower Meadow will be created

As part of the Town Council's Climate Emergency Action Plan we will allocate a section of land to be planted with wildflowers each year. For 2021 plans are in place to 're-wild' sections of verge along the Buckingham bypass with wildflowers and grasses.

For more information on these projects and how you can get involved in future community events please contact Nina Stockill at committeeclerk@buckingham-tc.gov.uk.

LAND GRABBING AND TREE DAMAGE

Buckingham Town Council has always been proud of its trees and open spaces which add much to the appearance of the town. However, it appears that this pride is not shared by some residents, and this is giving cause for concern.



There has always been a small number of applications to fell trees growing in public spaces, mainly for reasons of disease or public safety, but lately the number has increased with allegations of causing damage to houses, often without proof of it being a nearby tree

rather than, say, heave of the clay soil due to a long spell of very dry or very wet weather, or building an extension too close to an existing mature tree. For example, of the 12 trees listed in the Tree Protection Order for Foscott Way, 4 have already been felled, as have 12 other lesser trees marked on the Order's Plan. Trees with Protection Orders, and those in the Conservation Area require permission for maintenance work or felling.

Councillors have also been compiling a photo file of places where the surreptitious moving of a fence has extended a garden, illegal garden gates have been inserted into fences or a householder has put a shed, bin store, planted trees or hedges, deposited

compost bins or garden rubbish on adjacent public land, and these have been notified to Buckinghamshire Council as the landowner.

And just recently, and shockingly, trees are being cut without permission or apparent reason – not vandalism, unless vandals carry saws about with them – as can be seen from the photos below, taken in February and April this year.



CLIMATE EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN

Following the council's July 2019 declaration of a Climate Emergency in Buckingham, we have worked to raise the profile of this vital issue and secure external support and funding. Our aim is to make the Town Council carbon neutral by 2030 and to encourage the town's population, organisations and businesses to work with us in that aim.

A draft version of the Council's Climate Emergency Action Plan was presented to Full Council on Monday 18th November 2019. Councillors unanimously approved further investigation and engagement on the council's draft plan, prepared in response to Buckingham's declaration of a Climate Emergency. The Action Plan outlines five key objectives for reducing council direct carbon emissions. These are:

- 1 Energy
- 2 Transport
- 3 Food and Land
- 4 Economy, Housing and Waste
- 5 Community Engagement

It has now been almost a year since the individual committees adopted their actions for reducing the Council carbon emissions and Full Council on Monday 15th March 2021 examined the progress which has been made to deliver it.

Highlights included:

- The replacement of light bulbs across the Town Council's estate with low emission LED alternatives.
- Investing in two electric vans leased in winter 2019 and summer 2020. Aim for full replacement of all vehicles with electric alternatives by 2030.
- Working with the Upper Great Ouse Natural Flood Management Team on measures for how nature-based solutions can help combat the impacts of climate change.

- Working to retrofit Council buildings to cut emissions and energy costs. Solar panels are to be installed at the Lace Hill Sports and Community Centre in 2021.
- The creation of a Climate Emergency webpage to enable discussion, idea sharing and extend public awareness of the issues.
- The Council has committed to hosting an annual tree planting event.
- Our first water bottle refill station was installed in Chandos Park and has been positively received.
- 7 new recycled plastic litter bins for the Brackley Road cemetery.



We are also happy to announce that Buckinghamshire Council is currently in the process of installing electric car charging points within the town.

To read the full updated version of our Climate Emergency Action Plan, please visit our website www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk.



DOG FOULING

Local residents decided to tackle the persistent issue of dog fouling on the Lace Hill estate and surrounding green spaces. The Lace Hill Residents Association set up a group of volunteers to lead a campaign to draw attention to the massive problem and to help make Lace Hill a much safer and nicer place to live. Campaign volunteers picked up a staggering amount of deposits, over 1000 in just two weeks. They designed posters and displayed these throughout the estate. They also used temporary spray paint to highlight new deposits with the hope that it might encourage the minority of irresponsible dog owners to be more accountable for their actions.

Cllr Ruth Newell, Chair of Buckingham Town Council's Environment Committee said:

'It is disappointing in this day and age that any dog owners need reminding to clear up after their dog as it is a real health hazard, and dogs should not be exercised on playing fields. We would however like to take this opportunity to thank the residents and the volunteers of Lace Hill for their efforts and for keeping our green spaces safer for the community to enjoy. This is a great way to tackle the problem at local level and I would support other local neighbourhoods in doing something similar.'

Most people will agree that dog fouling is the most unacceptable and offensive type of litter on our streets. It is unpleasant to see it in parks, on the pavement and particularly on your shoes! It is an environmental crime and failing to pick up after your dog is illegal on public land. Offenders can be issued



Karen Sayell, member of the Lace Hill Residents Association

with a fixed penalty notice or can receive an additional fine of up to £1000 if the case goes to court. Most importantly, dog mess can be hazardous to health, especially for children, because it can spread diseases, including toxocariasis. Buckingham Town Council is appealing to dog owners to take personal responsibility for their actions and urge residents to report incidents of dog fouling to the Buckinghamshire Council's enforcement team. For more information or to make a report, please visit: www.aylesburyvaldedc.gov.uk/dog-fouling

EVENTS REVIEW EVENTS REVIEW



Rolling Oats



Cornwall Place Kitchen

The **annual pancake races** are a traditional excuse to don aprons and headscarves and race your neighbours. This year they were unable to take place so to celebrate Shrove Tuesday we organised an online pancake contest. We asked the public what their



The Larder Café



The Direct Pizza Company

favourite or most unusual pancake filling was. A special thank you to the local businesses who got involved and sent us their recipes, they all looked very yummy! We are looking forward to next year's pancake races and we hope more local businesses will be able to support the event. To register your interest or for more information please email Amanda Brubaker, Events Co-ordinator: events@buckingham-tc.gov.uk

Tuesday 23rd March, 2021 marked the National **Day of Remembrance** for victims of the Coronavirus pandemic. Residents were encouraged to tie a yellow ribbon or message to the cattlepen railings if they wanted to join us in remembering those who have lost their lives. A minute's silence was also held at noon on the day.



The Town Council organised a **Bunny Hunt** around the parks so everyone could get in the Easter spirit! The Bunny Hunt took place from Thursday 25th March until Thursday 8th April 2021 and taking part was easy! All participants had to do was explore the perimeters of Bourton Park and Chandos Park and find all the hidden Easter bunnies. When they found all the different bunnies, they were asked to take a picture and tag us @buckinghamtc on Instagram or Twitter with their guess as to how many bunnies in total they thought were hiding.



Commonwealth Day is an annual celebration observed by people all over the Commonwealth. This year it was celebrated on Monday 8th March. Due to lockdown and social distancing, the Commonwealth Flag was raised without the presence of the Town Mayor and others. Instead the Mayor, Cllr Geraldine Collins, read out a statement which was shown on the Town Council's social media sites.



FUTURE EVENTS FUTURE EVENTS

This year residents are in for an otter-tastic summer! The **Buckingham Otter Trail** is a free, fun, family-friendly art sculpture event. It will feature ten 3 foot otters designed by local artists, school children, businesses and charities.

The event has been organised to bring the community together and to help residents and businesses recover. A trail map will be available and the otters will be positioned around town and surrounding green spaces, making the perfect family day out this year.

The otters will be unveiled at the Celebrate Buckingham Day on Saturday 10th July and the trail will run from July 16th – August 31st. Thank you to our event sponsors – Buckingham Canal Society, Heritage and Sons, Gawcott Fields Community Solar Project CIC, University of Buckingham, Howes The Florist, Bucks Radio, Barratt and David Wilson Homes, and MyFutureSelf.

The **Celebrate Buckingham Day** and Buckingham Society Civic Day takes place on Saturday 10th July in the paddock in Bourton Park from 11am – 3pm. As well as the robing of the new Mayor of Buckingham Cllr. Gateley and giving prizes to some of our local community champions, there will be stalls from local community, voluntary and social enterprise groups. Fun activities include a bouncy castle, bungee runs, tennis, bowls and cadet games. You can even test just how squeamish you are and have a try at maggot racing!

Buckingham Fringe Week, takes place from Saturday 17th July – Sunday 25th July and is a jam-packed week, with a real variety of different entertainment on offer. We hope to see you there!

Brand Productions will take over Bourton Park paddock for several days of events. Scan the QR code below for an up-to-date schedule of events.

SCAN ME



Learn more about the history of the humble pint in Buckingham. Join the Friends of the **Old Gaol Museum** for a guided walk of old Buckingham pubs on Monday 19th July.



FUTURE EVENTS FUTURE EVENTS

Oxford Fiddle Group returns to Buckingham on Tuesday 20th July at the Radcliffe Centre from 8pm. They perform songs mainly from England, Scotland, Ireland and the USA. Tickets are £6 and are available from the Buckingham Tourist Information Centre and online.



The **Isolation Examination Big Fringe Week Quiz** is back on Wednesday 21st July at 8pm. Join Mikey and Ryan for a special quiz featuring questions from local businesses, organisations and social groups. To take part, see the Isolation Examination page on Facebook.

We're back at The Woolpack for **Live music from Buckingham Acoustic Club** on Thursday 22nd July from 8.30pm. Expect a diverse range of performers from local songwriters just starting out to professional guitarists and singers at this Open Mic night.



Photograph © Ian Murray

Join **Ross Hockham and UK Astronomy** on Thursday 22nd July for an evening of star gazing.



Details regarding the event on Friday 23rd July are still to be confirmed.

On Saturday 24th July, **Music NOT in the Market** will take place on the pitch at Buckingham Rugby Club. Enjoy live music organised by the Buckingham Acoustic Club and supported by Buckingham Town Council and Buckingham Rugby Club.

Lace Hill Family Fun Day will take place at Lace Hill Sports & Community Centre on Sunday 25th July from 1-4pm. Expect traditional games, stalls, live entertainment and much more! Local organisations and businesses are invited to be part of the day; to get involved or for more information, please get in touch with the coordinator: lacehillcentre@buckingham-tc.gov.uk.



FUTURE EVENTS FUTURE EVENTS

Buckingham Town Council and the University of Buckingham have teamed up again to host a **Wellbeing Walk** on Sunday 25th July. Everyone is invited to walk the published route around the town, taking in the sights and thinking about what more can be done to ensure good mental health and wellbeing for everybody. The walk will start from outside the Council Chamber at 11.30am and will finish at around 1.30pm by the Tanlaw Mill.



A **Colouring In Competition** is to be run by local Solicitors, Gilroy Steel. The first prize is £20 and all winners' entries will be displayed in their window! The competition runs from Thursday 1st July - Friday 25th July. Colouring in pages can be collected from Gilroy Steel Solicitors or downloaded from their website: www.gilroysteel.com.

Bandjam will take place on Sunday 29th August from 1-10pm in Buckingham Town Centre. This event is organised by Lee Maloney, Bandjam and sponsored by Buckingham Town Council.



Throughout July and August **street entertainment** will be returning to Buckingham Town Centre. To celebrate the ease of restrictions and to welcome visitors to the town, a range of live performers will be entertaining the public every Saturday. The acts and locations will be announced weekly on social media.



Alice in Wonderland on the Church Green
Open air theatre production of Alice in Wonderland 2.30pm and 6pm, on the green outside St Peters and St. Pauls Church. Follow Boxtree Productions down the rabbit hole into a strange world of caterpillars, cards and tea parties.

Buckingham Town Council's Town Centre & Events Committee hope that these events will be able to take place this summer. Government guidelines will be followed so there may be last minute changes made.



COUNCIL CHAMBER RENOVATIONS



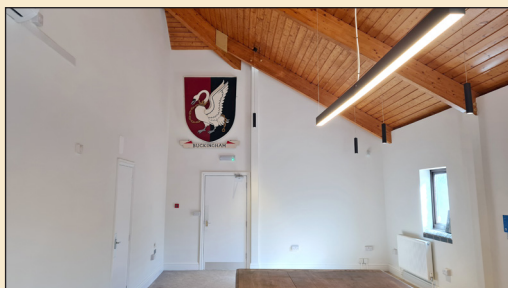
Before the Coronavirus crisis, Buckingham Town Council received a grant, through the old Aylesbury Vale District Council, from the New Homes Bonus to renovate and modernise the Council Chamber

that is attached to Buckingham Community Centre.

The project involved removing walls and opening the Chamber out into one large, airy space. The room was fully plastered, redecorated and a hearing loop and air conditioning have been installed.

The Chamber will host future meetings of the Town Council and the extra space will allow for more members of the public and press to attend meetings and sit in comfort. The room will also be available for community groups to hire providing a pleasant and cost-effective space to hold meetings.

If you are interested in hiring the Council Chamber, please contact the Town Council at lacehillcentre@buckingham-tc.gov.uk



BUXPLORE ON GOOGLE PLAY

A year after its launch Buckingham's very own heritage exploration app, Buxplore, has been used by a fantastic 3,000 people! Did you know you

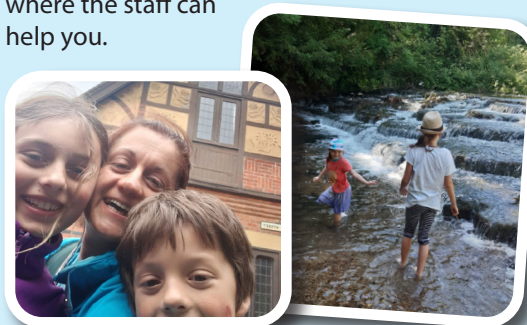
can now download Buxplore directly from the Google Play store?

This moment is a fantastic milestone for the community project, which was created by Buckingham Town Council working with local schools, the Old Gaol museum and the Buckingham Society, supported by funding raised by National Lottery players through the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

If you haven't tried it yet, Buxplore is a fun and interactive heritage for kids exploration

app. There are interactive walking trails on a number of themes, including an introduction to local Heritage for Kids, the Stowe House parkland, industrial history, nature and a challenging murder mystery!

If you're not sure how to download the app, pop into the Tourist Information Centre where the staff can help you.



PONTIO – the link between Town and Gown

My first impression of Buckingham was how pretty the town was and how friendly the residents were. At home, Beaconsfield is larger, making Buckingham seem more cosy and homely. I did find Buckingham very quiet at first, which I've since grown to enjoy.

Freshers' Week had to be different to previous years, but the Student Union did a wonderful job putting on loads of different activities. I feel very lucky to be at Buckingham – some of my friends at bigger universities said there wasn't much for Freshers' Week and felt they missed that experience completely.

I'm grateful to Buckingham for doing face to face sessions that first term. It was great to be in small group tutorials and to get to know some of the people on my course. The government hasn't allowed face to face sessions since January, which has been hard for us all.

I often visit Bourton Park and think it's very pretty. I also enjoy walking in Chandos Park and The Railway Walk as they are full of beautiful greenery and you really feel like

you're in the countryside.

I'm really grateful for the local businesses that have stayed open. I use the takeaways and coffee shops, which have always been such friendly faces. It's great that I can now go out for a coffee with others from my course who are on campus like we did in September. Things are looking up.

First year Psychology BSc student Kitty Plant, 19, from Beaconsfield.



EQUALITY AND INCLUSION WORKING GROUP

In the summer of 2020, it was proposed that Buckingham Town Council should form a Working Group to look at incidents of discrimination, in particular racism, which were coming to light within our town.

By the autumn we had formed our Diversity and Inclusion Working Group, with 6 Buckingham Town Councillors and an equal number of members of the public. Along with representatives from Black Lives Matter Buckingham, the Buckingham University, Buckinghamshire Council and other partners.

It most definitely has been an opportunity for us to educate ourselves and increase our awareness of the prejudices suffered.

After meeting regularly, we have managed to create a safe and positive environment where difficult issues are handled with the sensitivity and understanding required.

We are hoping to take this forward and make sure that every form of intolerance and discrimination will not be welcome in Buckingham.

NEW GRANTS AWARDED ££££££££

Grants are available to any local, non-commercial group that runs or intends to run a project or activity beneficial to the people of Buckingham. This year, 15 groups applied for funding for a variety of projects and the Council will be helping the following organisations with grants:

| | |
|---|--------|
| Buckingham Summer Festival | £2,000 |
| Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity | £2,000 |
| Stowe Sub Aqua Club | £1,500 |
| Buckingham West End Bowls Club | £1,500 |
| Buckingham Area Rural Transport | £1,200 |
| Project Street Life | £1,200 |
| Buckingham Lawn Tennis Club | £1,000 |
| Chandos Park Bowls Club | £1,000 |
| The Slade Recreation Club | £1,000 |
| Friends of the Old Gaol | £830 |
| Buckingham Churches Children's Holiday Club | £750 |
| Open House | £600 |
| Buckingham & District Angling Association | £355 |

In addition to this the Council offers long term support through three year grants. There are three groups currently receiving three year funding.

The following amounts were awarded for 2021/2022:

| | |
|----------------------------|--------|
| Buckingham Youth Clubs Ltd | £5,200 |
| Buckingham Old Gaol | £3,000 |
| Citizens Advice Bucks | £5,346 |

How else we can support volunteers and community groups:

The Council 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.

For funding to be received in 2022 the grants application process will start again in October 2021, this also includes an opportunity to apply for four year grants.

More information on grants and the grants process search for **Grant Applications** on our website: www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk/your-town-council/grants/

YOUR VIEWS COUNT

Buckingham Town Matters is produced by Buckingham Town Council in order to provide you with a taste of what keeps Councillors and staff busy. But this is also an invitation for you to tell us what you think of what we do and what you think we should be doing. We are all working together to make Buckingham an even better place, so please let us know:

- what you think we should carry on doing
- what you think we should stop doing, or do less of
- what you think we should start doing, or do a lot more of

Just a reminder... all Town Council meetings are open to the public. You are invited to come along and give us your views.

You can email us at or just drop us a line at the address opposite.
We look forward to hearing from you:

BUCKINGHAM TOWN COUNCILLORS

| | | | |
|--|---------------|------------------------------------|---------------|
| Cllr. Margaret Gateley – Mayor | 01280 816 317 | Cllr. Lisa O'Donoghue | 07906 408 646 |
| Cllr. Warren Whyte – Deputy Mayor | 01296 383 031 | Cllr. Ade Osibogun | 07467 837 954 |
| Cllr. Robina Ahmed | 07515 338283 | Cllr. Anthony Ralph | 07968 108 304 |
| Cllr. Mark Cole JP | 01280 816 005 | Cllr. Anja Schaefer | 07749 187 394 |
| Cllr. Geraldine Collins | 01280 823 006 | 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 Willet | 07889 284 495 |
| Cllr. Andy Mahi | 01280 816 562 | | |
| Cllr. Howard Mordue | 01280 815 418 | Mr Paul Hodson – Town Clerk | 01280 816 426 |

USEFUL NUMBERS

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|---------------|
| Buckingham Town Council | 01280 816 426 | Domestic Violence Helpline | 0808 2000 247 |
| Buckingham Cemetery | 01280 816 801 | Thames Valley Police | 101 |
| Buckingham Shopmobility | 07738 314 027 | NHS Urgent Care | 111 |
| Lace Hill Sports & Community Centre | 01280 812 872 | National Power Cut Helpline | 105 |
| Buckingham Community Hall | 01280 823 584 | National Gas Helpline | 0800 11 11 |
| Buckingham Tourist Information Centre | 01280 823 020 | Crimestoppers | 0800 555 111 |
| 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 or visit: www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk

Call: 01280 816 426 (Please phone for appointments)

Follow us on Facebook:  /BuckinghamTC **or Twitter**  @buckinghamtc **or instagram**  @buckinghamtc

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This edition of **BTM** has been designed by Black Dog Design (www.black-dog-design.co.uk), printed by Oxuniprint and distributed to the homes and businesses of Buckingham by In Business Magazines.

This is delivered to approx. 6,500 homes and businesses. It is also available on our website as a PDF and an audio version. Please contact the Town Council if you would like to request a large print copy.

Please note, events organised by Buckingham Town Council may be photographed and these photographs may be published.

2021 EVENTS DIARY

Please find further details inside or online:

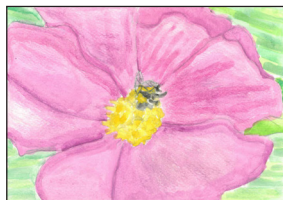
www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk/town-matters/events/



2021

| | | | |
|------------------|---|---|--|
| JULY | Buckingham Summer Festival Celebrate Buckingham Day Fringe Week Play Around the Parishes | Sat 3rd – Sat 10th Sat 10th (11am – 3pm) Sat 17th – Sun 25th Mon 26th (10am – 3pm) | Town Centre The Paddock, Bourton Park Various Locations Chandos Park |
| AUGUST | Play Around the Parishes Family Circus Bandjam | Mon 9th & 23rd (10am – 3pm) Fri 13th, Sat 14th & Sun 15th (TBC) Sun 29th (1pm – 10pm) | Chandos Park The Paddock, Bourton Park Buckingham Town Centre |
| SEPTEMBER | Dog Show River Rinse | Sun 12th (9am) TBC | The Paddock, Bourton Park TBC |
| OCTOBER | River Rinse Charter Fair Halloween Event | TBC Sat 16th & 23rd (1pm – 11pm) TBC | TBC Buckingham Town Centre Lacehill Sports and Community Centre |
| NOVEMBER | Bonfire & Fireworks Remembrance Day Parade Winter Fair Christmas Light Switch On | Sat 6th (6pm – 8pm) Sun 14th (10:30am) Sun 21st (2pm-4pm) Sat 27th (6pm – 8pm) | The Paddock, Bourton Park War Memorial at St Peter & St Paul Church Lacehill Sports and Community Centre Buckingham Town Centre |
| DECEMBER | Christmas Parade Community Fair | Sat 11th (10:45am – 12:30pm) Sat 11th (11:30am – 2pm) | Buckingham Town Centre Buckingham Community Centre |

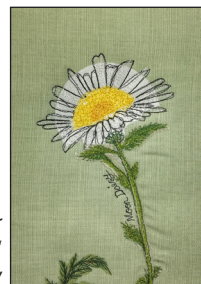
Wildflower art contest winners



Junior winner 'Bee' by Evelyn Herman-Ball



Junior winner 'Posey' by Renata Kapinos, Buckingham School



Adult winner 'Moon Daisy' by Laura Bentley