

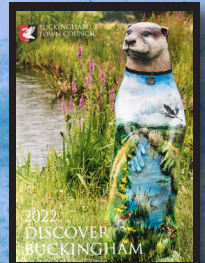


Buckingham TownMatters

Winter issue 2021



Image: 'Winter Wonderland' by Vicky Dyson



The front and back cover of this edition feature in the Buckingham 2022 Calendar which is now available to buy from the Tourist Information Centre.

message from your Mayor • only rain down the drain
• Buckingham community wildlife project • future events

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR MAYOR



Having recently taken part in this year's Remembrance Service, this seems to be an appropriate time to reflect on heroes, past and present. We remember those who paid the ultimate price when serving with our Armed Forces, and also current heroes within our community, individuals who give their time making a difference to support and encourage those in need.

The period of the pandemic has reminded us all of the importance of our health care services, something which we might previously have taken for granted. I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of our town, to thank all our local healthcare workers: the staff at both

the Swan Practice and Buckingham Community Hospital, those working in our care homes as well as carers, who support people in their own homes, for all their work, especially in the recent challenging circumstances.

Do take the opportunity to visit the Richard III Exhibition, if you haven't already done so. We are fortunate to have this historic half-angel gold coin on display in our own historic Old Gaol Museum. The beautiful coin dates from 1483-1485, and was found in Buckingham. I understand that this is the only such coin on public display in the world!

Another historic aspect of Buckingham is the Charter Fair. It was Mary Tudor who awarded this charter back in 1554. It was fantastic to have the Fair back in full swing again, with all its vibrancy, sights and sounds. The Town Crier, and our second Bard of Buckingham added to the genial atmosphere, with a perfect sunny autumn day ensuring that fun was had by all.

As winter comes, let us all take care in continuing to follow the latest Covid guidelines, whilst enjoying all that Christmas and The New Year will bring. I am looking forward particularly to the Christmas Lights Switch-on and to the Christmas Parade. I hope to see you there.

Margaret Gateley

Cllr. Margaret Gateley, Mayor of Buckingham

NEW BARD OF BUCKINGHAM



After a close run October contest, Buckingham said goodbye to the previous Bard of Buckingham Dean Jones, and said hello to the new Bard Sami.

The Bardic Trial was a creative affair. Alongside the performances of Sami and Bardic competitor Paul there was fantastic entertainment: music and song was provided by Stephen Ferneyhough and Brother Homebrew, along with poetry from Dean Jones and Kezzabelle, the new Bard of Northampton.

Sami, who is a trained electrician but currently working as a personal assistant in the care industry, was delighted to be chosen and told us that they "can't wait to give voice to those of Buckingham who may sometimes feel they are not heard both through interaction with those people or by an association of the lived experiences that I will be sharing on stage. Poetry is a succinct way of sharing feeling, experiences, and ideas in a way that says much, much more."

Sami has already had their first public appearance as Bard of Buckingham and written their first commissioned poem for the arrival of the Charter Fair in Buckingham.

A little known fact for those not directly involved is that the Showmen who bring the Charter Fair to the town each October also provide free ride tickets for children with disabilities for the first hour after the

opening. They also provide an afternoon tea and cakes for invited guests, Sami attended the traditional celebration for the first time this year. After chatting with a family attending, the group talked about their favourite parts of the fair and feeling inspired Sami wrote a collaborative poem with them:

An extract from "Community Cheer"

*Rory expressed a love for drawing
As did the eldest sibling in this Bunch, Tayah,
meaning precious,
who was definitely enjoying lunch*

*A little more adventurous...
The Waltzers and Hurricane
Two of us Adults in disagreement,
"It's the spinning..."
Feelings on our faces "Written Plain"*

*Auntie Zoe said she really detested the Waltzers
as once she had passed out.*

*Her sister and I laughed at this, before Kerry
expressed "Favourite Thing?" About this
treasured afternoon out.*

*The opportunity to join in some rides with the
children, the joy of sharing this very clear.*

*I hope such an event to Pay Forward for these
smiles, is Repeated Every Year!*



FLOOD REPORT UPDATE

In December 2020 flooding impacted numerous parts of Buckingham, including more than 70 properties. A Section 19 report from Buckinghamshire Council, the local flood authority, should soon be available. This will give more information about why the flood happened and what could be done to prevent similar floods in the future.

How the Town Council responded to the flooding

Buckingham Town Council is not a flood authority and has no power to make the changes necessary to prevent future flooding. However, the Town Council helped as much as they could during the 2020 flooding: deploying sandbags, directing help to the most vulnerable residents and collecting evidence of the severity of the flood for use in the investigation.

After the flooding the Town Council also helped to administer funds raised by the public directly to those most impacted by the flooding.

Buckingham Community Flood Response Plan

In order to best direct resources during any future flooding the Town Council has been developing a new Buckingham Community Flood Response Plan. This is a practical community response coordinated by the Town Council, using volunteer Flood Wardens to monitor levels of flooding and support those in need of help. Town Council staff work normal office hours. The Council cannot guarantee having staff available outside of those hours, but will respond as fully as possible. If Town Council staff are not available, our plan and resources would be implemented by Buckinghamshire Council as the responsible local flood authority.

Buckinghamshire Council has also been reviewing their flood responses across the region. As part of this process a flooding exercise was held in October. Buckinghamshire Council, Buckingham Town Council, the Environment Agency staff and volunteers were called and notified of a pretend flood and responded as though it were real.



an extremely valuable practice run for everyone involved. After running the exercise, some adjustments were made to the plan.

What can you do if you think your home is at risk of flooding?

Make sure you have personal flood defences for your home. These could be flood gates, barriers, or blocks to fill air bricks. Cheaper, but less effective options include having a barrel of sand, sand bags and plastic sheeting to create a barrier in an emergency. Find more tips on our residents page: www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk/our-services/residents-information/flooding

Make sure you've signed up for flood alerts from the environment agency: www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings

For the Town Council this meant coordinating the deployment of our community plan:

- utilising telephone volunteers to call at risk residents and ensure they knew about the flood warning
- asking Flood Wardens to monitor the situation on the ground
- visiting those that needed help installing their flood defences.

The Town Council sincerely appreciates the help of all our volunteers who offered to help with the flood exercise from staff, Councillors and wardens to residents. It was

Sign up to our Town Council community flood plan: www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk/bcftp

Could you be a Flood Warden?

For the Community Flood Response Plan to be effective we need residents who don't live in the area at risk of flooding and who are willing to don a hi-vis vest and come out to help those who do. You can sign up here: www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk/bcftp/flood-wardens or by contacting the Town Council office.



WATER POLLUTION

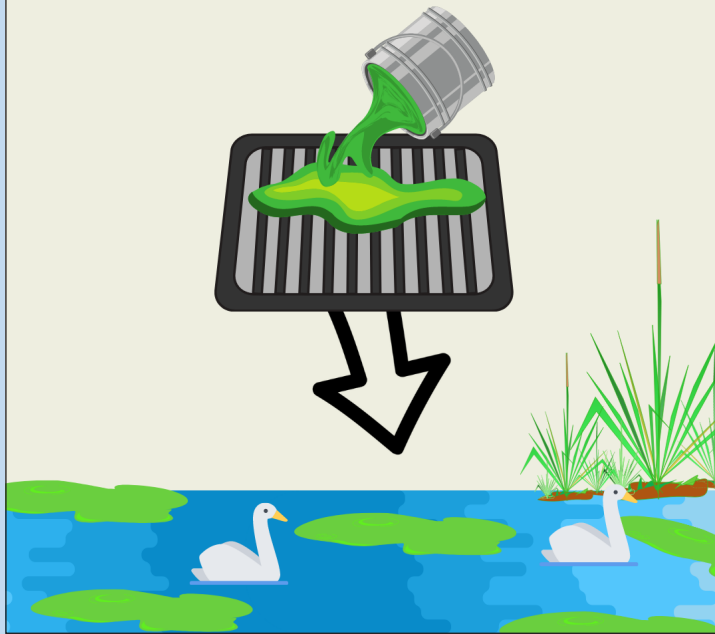
Only Rain Down the Drain!

We've recently updated the Climate Emergency section of our website with water saving advice and how to help protect our waterways.

When most people think of river pollution they think of sources like factories, farms and industry. Yet in many cases, the pollution comes from a much less obvious place - our homes and lifestyles. Misconnections, car washing, pouring oils or chemicals down road grids, wasting water and littering all have impacts.

Unfortunately, over time, the clean sewers in many areas have become polluted by misconnected wastewater. With more housing development, extensions and DIY improvements over the last twenty years these misconnections have become more common. Pollution comes from surface water sewers because run-off from our towns is not always clean. Atmospheric fallout from traffic, spillages and road accidents, illegal discharges, vehicle washing and foul sewer failures all end up discharging to our rivers and beaches. Visit Connect Right via www.connectright.org.uk/misconnections to find out how you can check to see if your property is likely to have misconnected drains.

PROTECT THE WATER: DISPOSE OF YOUR LIQUIDS CORRECTLY



If you want to help keep our waters clean, there are many things you can do to help. You can prevent water pollution of nearby rivers and lakes as well as groundwater and drinking water by following some simple guidelines in your everyday life. Here's a few tips on how you can do your bit to help:

- Don't pour any oils, chemicals or paints down the sink or storm drain. Take them to the local recycling centre instead.
- Pick up litter and throw it in the bin! Litter can harm wildlife and create blockages in the drain that can lead to flooding.
- Don't use toilets as a bin! Place wet wipes, nappies and sanitary products in the bin to help avoid any unnecessary blockages.

LACE HILL SOLAR PANELS

Buckingham Town Council has installed 55 high performance solar panels at the Lace Hill Sports and Community Centre. The 20.90 kWp solar array cost £22,047 and has an operational life of at least 20 years.

Cllr. Warren Whyte, Chair of the Environment Committee said:

"I am delighted that the Town Council is able to invest in this new renewable energy project as part of its Climate Emergency Action Plan. It will deliver not only green electricity and save over 90 tonnes of CO₂, it is estimated to save the council over £75,000 over the expected life of the installation."

Buckingham Town Council declared a climate emergency in 2019 and since then has been committed to reducing energy demand, improving energy efficiency and converting to renewable, low or zero carbon technologies for energy and heat.

The solar panels are the latest in a range of environmental measures taken by the Town Council who already use two fully electric vans; updated lights in Chandos Park with LED lights; ensured Town Council events are free of single-use plastics and installed a water bottle refill station in Chandos Park.



CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION

After the wonderful success of last year's Christmas Card Contest, children at all of the schools in Buckingham have been invited by Mayor of Buckingham, Cllr. Margaret Gateley, to submit their best designs for a Buckingham Christmas Card!

A fantastic selection of entries were received and one winning design was chosen per age group.

The three winning designs were collated into a pack of cards and are being sold at the Tourist Information Centre to raise money for the Mayor's



Charities – Project Street Life and Community Care North Bucks (which includes Adult Carers, YC2 Young Carers and Open House support groups as well as the Hospital Car Service).

The card contest was proudly sponsored by local businesses BCQ, The Little Buckingham Clinic and Black Dog Design. Between them these three fantastic supporters covered all of the project costs – meaning more money for charity and the people they support. Thank you!

PAST EVENTS PAST EVENTS PAST EVENTS PAST EVENTS PAST EVENTS

The **Lace Hill Snake** was unveiled by Mayor Margaret Gateley alongside local councillors, residents and the Lace Hill Residents Association on Saturday 29th May 2021. Thank you to everyone who was involved with the creation of the Lace Hill Snake, including all those young and old who submitted a painted stone, as well as **Buildbase** and **Paragon** for their kind donations and supply and delivery of all materials and machinery required for the construction of the snake.



The **Buckingham Otter Trail** was a temporary public art event featuring ten individually decorated, 3ft sized otter sculptures displayed across town and surrounding green spaces from July 23rd - August 31st. The colourful otter sculptures are now being auctioned off to raise funds for the Mayor's chosen charities and to support a similar event next year.



Two **River Rinses** took place this year. The first was on Sunday 19th September and went from opposite the cricket club. Due to a fallen tree in the river, volunteers from the Stowe Sub Aqua Club, Buckingham Town Council Councillors and members of the public only got as far as the Stratford Fields Children's Play Area. The second rinse on Sunday 3rd October carried on from where the last one finished and went as far as Cornwalls Meadow Car park. Low tree branches were trimmed and among the finds were a traffic cone, Halloween costume and broken office chair.



The **Bardic Election** took place in the Cote at the Woolpack on Tuesday 5th October. Congratulations to Sami Tite on becoming the new Bard of Buckingham. See page three for more information.

Covid halted the **Charter Fair** last year, so it was wonderful to welcome it back to Buckingham on 16th & 23rd October. The fair was opened by Town Mayor Cllr Margaret Gateley.



BOO! The ghouls were out on Friday 29th October for our **Family Halloween Disco Party** at Lace Hill Sports & Community Centre. There was Spooktacular fun and games, plus prizes for the best dressed.

The annual free **Bonfire & Fireworks** display took place in the paddock in Bourton park on Saturday 6th November 2021. The firework display was provided by Titanium Fireworks.



The **Remembrance Day** parade took place on Sunday 14th November and was organised by the Royal British Legion. The parade set off from Market Hill to the War Memorial at St. Peter & St. Paul's Parish



Church and a wreath was laid by Town Mayor Cllr Margaret Gateley on behalf of the town.



The **Winter Fair** at Lace Hill Sports & Community Centre returned this year on Sunday 21st November 2021. This event saw lots of local handmade goodies, crafts and games, a raffle, refreshments and more!

The **street entertainment** in the town centre has been a success, bringing a great atmosphere into the markets and town centre. A diverse range of performers were hired including local singers and musicians, children's entertainers, dancers and internationally renowned opera singers. This was part funded by Buckinghamshire Councils' reopening grant.



The annual **calendar competition** is now in its third year, the 12 winners have been chosen for the 2022 calendar, a sneak peak of what's to come in next year's calendar is on the front cover of this issue.

FUTURE EVENTS FUTURE EVENTS

Join the Mayor, Cllr Margaret Gateley, outside the Old Gaol on Saturday 27th November at 6pm for the **Christmas Light Switch**

On which will feature brand new Christmas motifs. There will also be carols and other festive entertainment performed by local groups taking place ensuring a magical time.



The annual **Christmas Parade** will be winding its way through the streets of Buckingham on Saturday 11th December from 10:45am,

forming up on Chandos Road. Floats, walking groups and marching bands will make their way through the town centre and then back to Chandos Road. A road closure organised by Buckingham Town Council will be in place whilst the parade is taking place. The theme for this year's Christmas Parade is 'Fashion Through the Ages'.



The **Community Fair** will be back again this year providing a vehicle for local groups, societies and charities to raise funds by selling Christmas cards, knitted items,

plants and much more. Refreshments will be provided by Buckingham WI. The event will take place on Saturday 11th December in the Community Centre immediately after the town's Christmas Parade.



The **Pancake Race** is a long established event open to everyone and consists of four races with different categories for children,

adults and team relays. Small prizes will be given to all participants of the children's races and a small trophy for the winners. The event will be held on the green outside St Peter & St Paul's Parish Church, Castle Street, Buckingham on Tuesday 22nd February 2022 at 11am. The event is announced by the Town Crier and opened by the Mayor. The Town Council provides the pancakes but one thing we ask of all competitors is that they must wear a headscarf, pinafore and bring their own small frying pan.



The annual **Food Fair** will be in the community centre on Saturday 26th February 2022 from 10am showcasing lots of great stalls from local producers. If you would like a stall at the

event please get in touch with our Events Co-ordinator, Amanda Brubaker at events@buckingham-tc.gov.uk or call 01280 816 426.



SHOPMOBILITY

Phone: 07738 314027

Address: Cornwall's Meadow car park, Buckingham, MK18 1RP

Email: tic@buckingham-tc.gov.uk

Times: Tuesday 10am-4pm
Saturday 9am-1pm

Shopmobility is open Tuesdays and Saturdays and can be used by anyone that needs help getting around the town. However, if you are a new hirer we do require photo ID on your first visit.

The Buckingham Shopmobility Service is a free scheme that allows anyone with a mobility problem, whether temporary or permanent, not just Blue Badge Holders, to get out and about in Buckingham town centre. The service is sponsored by Buckingham Town Council and is free for



anyone who wishes to shop or sight-see in Buckingham town centre.



There are allocated free parking spaces for Shopmobility users, next to the Shopmobility building. We have electric mobility scooters which are free to use and manual wheelchairs for a small charge which can be folded for loading into a vehicle for home use, hospital appointments, visits to local events and places of interest. The Shopmobility building is located in Cornwall's Meadow Car Park next to the public toilets.

BOURTON PARK BRIDGE REPAIRS



as needing maintenance work to prevent further, more extensive and expensive repairs down the line.

While work has been delayed for various reasons, we're delighted to say the first bridge – Bridge 3, located near the paddock area of Bourton Park, was the first to have all repairs completed and was signed off by structural engineers in November.

Further repairs will take place on bridges 1 (from the car park), 4 (Otters Pond) and 5 (near Akister Close) over the winter. Where bridges have to be closed for the work to safely take place, diversion signs will be in place, directing park users to alternative footpaths they can use to cross the water.

Work has begun over the autumn to repair four of Bourton Park's wooden bridges. All of the bridges had been assessed earlier in the year and these four were identified

BUCKINGHAM COMMUNITY WILDLIFE PROJECT

The Buckingham Community Wildlife Project (BCWP) is a long running network of local conservation groups with the shared aim of making the town a more pleasant place to live. The project was founded by Aylesbury Vale District Council and the Buckinghamshire Thames Conservation volunteers for an initial period of 3 years. The project was later adopted by Buckingham Town Council, under the Chair of former Mayor Ruth Newell with the aims of:

- Increasing biodiversity value of sites in Buckingham
- Increase the public's understanding and enjoyment of sites and to increase awareness of the need for nature conservation
- To act as a catalyst for actively involving local people in their sites and creating a sense of ownership
- To establish sustainable management of the sites
- To designate sites as Local Nature Reserves and as Wildlife sites

Since its creation, the group has been involved in many activities such as habitat management skills training, bat box creations and ecological surveys. This has now lead to the formation of conservation groups who help manage, promote and protect Buckingham's green spaces.

Network members include:

Buckingham Railway Walk Conservation Group

Conservation for the local wildlife, planting and care of this green space to preserve and increase the biodiversity of the site. Increase public awareness of the abundance of wildlife on your doorstep. The group hosts regular work parties on the first Saturday of every month from 10am at the University Car Park, Chandos Road, Buckingham. For more information on how you can get involved please contact: Mrs Jennifer Manning on 01280 815223.



Buckingham Canal Society

The Society's objectives are as follows:

- To promote the restoration of the Old Stratford and Buckingham Arms of the Grand Union Canal to a good order and to promote the maintenance and improvement of the Waterway for the benefit of the public.
- To promote the fullest use of the Waterway by all forms of water borne traffic and for all forms of water-related commercial, local amenity, tourist and recreational activity for public benefit.
- To promote public education of the history about the use of the canals and waterways including Buckingham Canal in particular.

For more details please email membership@buckinghamcanal.org.uk



The Buckingham Society

The Buckingham Society is made up of volunteers who care passionately about their surroundings and campaign to enhance and improve our historic market town. Members of The Buckingham Society share the following aims:

- Promote the distinctive character of our town
- Set high standards of design and sustainability
- Celebrate and safeguard Buckingham's heritage
- Find solutions to environmental problems
- Improve the quality of life in our community
- Inspire sensitive changes within cherished places
- Create and consolidate effective partnerships between community, business and local government.

For more information, email the Buckingham Society at members@buckinghamssociety.org.uk

Buckingham River Wardens

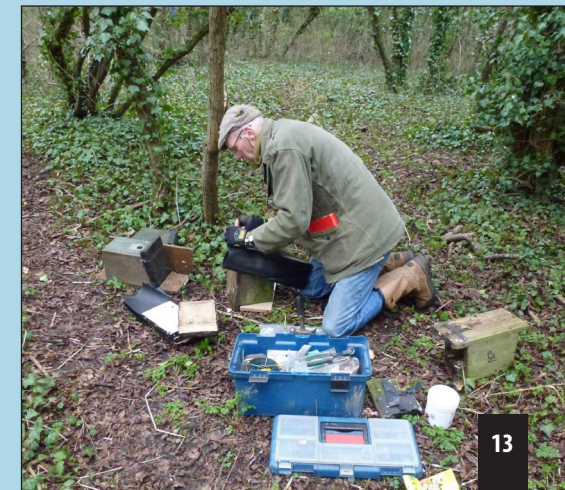
River Wardens take part in regular monitoring of the River Great Ouse. Monitoring is done in a variety of ways, from photographs and water sampling to river restoration. River Wardens also meet regularly for information sessions, learning more about the river, its health and how to look after it. The river wardens are focused on the health of the river, not flooding. If you are interested in taking part, please contact Ruth via ruth.coxon@tcv.org.uk

Natural Flood Defence Management Project

Working with landowners and land managers to help reduce the flood risk in Buckingham and provide wider environmental benefits too.

Buckingham Community Wildlife Project

The structure of the BCWP and its working groups is voluntary, informal and flexible to ensure they are constantly fulfilling their goals and meeting evolving needs and emerging issues within the local environment.



Inspiring learning, changing lives

Have you heard about Buckinghamshire Adult Learning? We offer over 1,500 part-time courses across the county including the Buckingham Centre, next to the Library on Verney Close, Sir Thomas Fremantle School in Winslow and Waddesdon Manor.

Courses range from one-day to one-year and we cover beginner through to advanced levels, offering daytime and evening flexibility.

Our tutors are dedicated and passionate about their subjects. Classes allow you to develop your skills, knowledge and confidence, in an environment where both tutors and learners offer support and encouragement.



Alyson Eglese, Winner of the Learning for Personal Development Adult Learning Award 2021. Alyson attends the Stained Glass course at the Buckingham Centre.

We are offering the following courses in and near to Buckingham from September 2021:

- Apprenticeships
- Creative Writing
- Digital Photography
- Digital Skills
- Drawing and Painting
- English and Maths
- Family Learning
- Floristry and Flower Arranging
- French, German, Italian, Spanish and English as a second or foreign language (ESOL)
- Pottery
- Sign Language
- Stained Glass
- Yoga

To find out more or book a course, please visit www.adultlearningbc.ac.uk or call 01296 382403.

To find out how you can get help with the cost of your course, together with information on applying for a course loan, visit our website or call us to discuss in person. English and maths courses are fully funded for adults who do not already have A*- C or 9-4 grade at GCSE.

Cllr. Margaret Gateley – Mayor	01280 816 317	Cllr. Howard Mordue	01280 815 418
Cllr. Warren Whyte – Deputy Mayor	01296 383 031	Cllr. Lisa O'Donoghue	07906 408 646
Cllr. Robina Ahmed	07515 338283	Cllr. Ade Osibogun	07467 837 954
Cllr. Mark Cole JP	01280 816 005	Cllr. Anthony Ralph	07968 108 304
Cllr. Geraldine Collins	01280 823 006	Cllr. Anja Schaefer	01280 816 426
Cllr. Fran Davies	07976 558 609	Cllr. Robin Stuchbury	07752 394 162
Cllr. Jon Harvey	01280 812 711	Cllr. Martin Try	01280 816 202
Cllr. Sue Hetherington	01280 817 263	Cllr. Ryan Willett	07889 284 495
Cllr. Andy Mahi	01280 816 562	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

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:

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)

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or instagram [@buckinghamtc](https://www.instagram.com/buckinghamtc)

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This edition of **BTM** has been designed by Black Dog Design (www.black-dog-design.co.uk), printed by BCQ Print Group and distributed to the homes and businesses of Buckingham by Sure2Door Ltd.

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.

2021/2022 EVENTS DIARY

Please find further details inside or online:

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



2021

NOVEMBER	Christmas Light Switch On	Sat 27th (6pm-8pm)	Buckingham Town Centre
DECEMBER	Christmas Parade	Sat 11th (10:45am – 12:30pm)	Buckingham Town Centre
	Community Fair	Sat 11th (11:30am – 2pm)	Buckingham Community Centre

2022

FEBRUARY	Pancake Race	Tues 22nd (11am-12pm)	Green outside St Peter and St Paul Church
	Food Fair	Sat 26th (10am-3pm)	Community Centre
MARCH	Commonwealth Day Flag Raising	Mon 14th (10am)	Outside Council Chamber
	Annual Town Meeting	Thurs 24th (7pm)	Buckingham Community Centre
APRIL	Spring Fair	Sun 24th (10am-2pm)	Cattlepens



The front and back cover of this edition feature in the Buckingham 2022 Calendar which is now available to buy from the Tourist Information Centre.

Image: 'Buckingham Autumn Splendor' by Mohammed Ahmed