



Buckingham TownMatters

Spring issue 2023



**Message from your Mayor • Annual Town Meeting • Neighbourhood Plan
Future Events • Council Tax and Precept • Coronation of King Charles III**

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR MAYOR



The New Year is a time to reflect on the year that has passed, and to look forward with hope to the coming year. It has been a privilege to represent Buckingham at many events during 2022. Recent highlights for me were meeting real reindeer at the Christmas Light Switch On, and riding in a stagecoach in the Christmas Parade: such wonderful memories to treasure. My thanks to The Devil's Horsemen, to the Christmas Parade Committee and to Town Council staff and volunteers, who work hard to make these, and other events happen, enhancing life within our community.

We are fortunate to live in a beautiful, historic market town, with numerous voluntary organisations, working tirelessly to support others, making a difference, often without recognition. Such groups help to reduce loneliness and mental health problems. My thanks to everyone who helps in this way. Many of these groups need more volunteers: could this be something you could consider this year?

As spring arrives, I am always thrilled to see the beautiful snowdrops and daffodils, which offer a foretaste of what is to come, as the days lengthen again. Each season has its own delights but seeing spring flowers is such a pleasure after long winter nights. Walking along the various paths and parks in our town is always a joy whatever the season.

One event to which I am looking forward this year is the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III in May. We will be celebrating this historic occasion with special events: details to follow nearer the time.

Margaret Gateley

Cllr. Margaret Gateley, Mayor of Buckingham

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Each year the Town Council facilitates an Annual Town Meeting at Buckingham Community Centre. This is an informal public meeting and is a chance for the town's residents to ask questions and receive updates on the Town Council and its partner organisations' activities over the previous year. Town and Buckinghamshire Councillors will be in attendance to answer your queries on matters relating to Buckingham. All Buckingham residents are welcome to attend.

This year's Annual Town Meeting is to be held on Thursday, 23rd March 2023 at Buckingham Community Centre; the event will open at 6.30pm, with the meeting beginning at 7pm. The evening is not structured around a formal agenda; it highlights the issues that residents want to discuss and draws on questions previously discussed through the Town Council's Annual Online Forum. The Online Forum will be hosted via the Town Council's Facebook page and residents will be invited

to post questions or comment under a variety of topics. Residents can also bring their questions to the meeting or email them in advance to committeeclerk@buckingham-tc.gov.uk.

We hope to include information boards from charities and organisations that have received community grants from the Council giving an insight in to how the money has been spent and the benefits this has brought to the town.

There will be several topic-based tables at the meeting; Buckingham residents will have an opportunity to speak to local representatives and ask questions, discuss concerns, and put forward ideas:

- Health
- Police
- Cost of living
- Transport and highways
- Planning/future of the town
- Eco matters
- The river and green spaces
- Community Diversity and Inclusion



The preparations for the refresh of the Buckingham Neighbourhood Development Plan are well under way. The current Plan was made in 2015, voted for in a town wide referendum, and its policies have been used in planning decisions for Buckingham since then.

The Neighbourhood Development Plan has an important role to play. In 2015 the Plan set out a policy which required provision of good open private space for new homes – this was before the pandemic made us value such space even more. This has been used by planning officers in Buckinghamshire Council, the Local Planning Authority, and the Planning Inspectorate to ensure that new development provides sufficient open private space.

The 2015 Plan also set out the development at St Rumbold's Fields and other Tingewick Road sites. Many new homes have also been provided through its windfall and infill policies. These are sites for 10 houses or less that weren't in the original plan but are within Buckingham's development boundary.

Since 2015 there have been many changes to how we live, work and shop. Some of these, such as home working and online shopping, were already present before the pandemic but lockdowns have accelerated adoption of new habits.

Buckingham Town Council wishes to refresh the Plan to accommodate these developments – setting out fresh policy ideas to ensure the vibrancy of our historic market town. A grant has been obtained from Localities, a national funding organisation to part fund this work.

The Working Group is reviewing six areas; Strategic Aspirations; Design and Heritage; Eco-Concerns; Business and Economic Development; Transport; and Arts, Leisure and Culture.

The Working Group hopes to present new ideas to the residents and businesses this Spring for comment and input. This is grassroots planning, and we need you to be involved – your views and ideas do matter. Opportunities for this will be provided through social media as well as more traditional routes. Contact the Town Council if you would like to know more.



Image © Granta Network

Buckingham hosts dozens of fantastic events each year bringing fun, tasty food, great shopping, music and visitors to Buckingham. Our local, busy events are a great opportunity for local business to build their brand, listen to customers and try out new products!

Any registered business or community group can trade at our events but will be asked for copies of documents such as their public liability insurance, test certificates for rides or inflatables and food hygiene certificates. If you'd like to book a trader stall at a Town Council event, please email office@buckingham-tc.gov.uk.

Event Sponsorship

Interested in taking part in a community contest or activity as a business? Buckingham in Bloom gardening contest, the much-anticipated summer Swan Trail, Christmas Card Contest or the River Rinses could be a wonderful opportunity for your company to financially support a project with a positive local impact for residents. Please contact the Town Clerk for further discussion.

<p>Key to spaces available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food & Drinks Traders ✕ • Crafts & Goods Traders 🛒 • Local Charities, Voluntary & Community Groups 🤝

Events Timetable

- Pancake Race, Fri 17th Feb ✕
- Food Fair, Sat 11th Mar ✕
- Easter Bazaar, Sun 2nd April ✕ 🛒 🤝
- Spring Green Fair, Sun 23rd April ✕ 🛒 🤝
- Celebrate Buckingham Day, Sat 17th June ✕ 🤝
- Music in the Market, Sun 28th May (in partnership with Music in the Market) ✕ 🛒 🤝
- Fringe Week: arts, sport and culture events, Sun 23rd-Sun 30th Jul 🤝
- Lace Hill Family Fun Day, Sun 23rd Jul ✕ 🛒 🤝
- BandJam, Sun 27th Aug (in partnership with BandJam) ✕
- Dog Show, Sat 9th Sept ✕ 🛒 🤝
- Hallowe'en Event, Fri 20th Oct ✕ 🛒 🤝
- Bonfire & Fireworks, Sat 4th Nov ✕ 🛒 🤝
- Winter Fair, Sun 19th Nov ✕ 🛒 🤝
- Christmas Lights Switch On, Thurs 23rd Nov ✕ 🛒 🤝
- Community Fair, Sat 9th Dec ✕ 🤝



PAST EVENTS



Our annual **Winter Fair** event took place on Sunday 20th November 2022 at the Lace Hill Sports and Community Centre. Visitors enjoyed an array of stalls selling local handmade gifts and festive treats while being serenaded with live music from Suzy Smith. Young children had lots of fun decorating their own biscuits and making Christmas cards.



Saturday 10th December 2022 saw the **Christmas Parade** loop round the town centre. There were over 30 unique and decorative floats, walkers and marching bands all led by the Devil's Horsemen. The theme was 'Films'.



The winners were as follows: Best in Parade: George Grenville Academy. Adult Floats: 1st Field House Nursery, 2nd Bourton Meadow Academy, 3rd Buckingham Young Farmers. Adult Walkers: 1st St Edmunds Church, 2nd Friends of Buckingham Library. Junior Walkers: 1st Maids Moreton Scouts, 2nd Buckingham Community Pantomime.



Commendations: ATC Buckingham, Ian Beckett Ariels, Buckingham RUFJ Juniors, Sealed Knot, Paragon Tool Hire and BART Bus.

The **Community Fair** took place in the Community Centre after the Christmas Parade which enabled a vehicle for local societies, groups and charities to raise funds. Those in attendance were: Fibromyalgia & Chronic Pain Group and McMillan Nurses, St Johns Ambulance, Buckingham Twinning Association, Heritage & Sons, Maids Moreton Conservation Group, Autism Early Support The Circle Centre, Men In Sheds, Buckingham Rotary Club, MIND, The Brain Injury Rehabilitation Trust, The National Women's Register, Versus Arthritis, Buckingham Cancer Research, MK Cat Protection Society, Buckingham Rugby Club, Local Scouts, Katharine McElligott who was raising funds for the Mayor's Charities and Buckingham Inner Wheel who provided refreshments.



The **Holocaust Memorial Day** took place on Friday 27th January 2023 at 11am in the eastern part of Bourton Park where the memorial stone is located. Deputy Mayor, Cllr. Anja Schaefer led the service with a declaration and speech followed by readings from representatives of the synagogue and students from local schools.



CURRENT EVENTS



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 Church, Castle Street, Buckingham on Friday 17th February 2023 at 11am. The event will be opened by the Town Mayor Cllr Margaret Gateley.



The **Food Fair** will be held in Buckingham Community Centre on Saturday 11th March 2023 from 10am until 3pm, showcasing lots of great stalls from local producers. There will also be some great food traders located outside the community centre, delivering oodles of flavoursome dishes.



FUTURE EVENTS FUTURE EVENTS

To mark the **Commonwealth Day**, a flag will be raised by the Mayor, Cllr. Margaret Gateley on Monday 13th March 2023 at 10am on the flagpole outside the Council Chamber.

This year's **Annual Town Meeting** will take place in Buckingham Community Centre on Thursday 23rd March 2023 from 7pm. If you would like to speak at the meeting, contact the Committee Clerk, Paula Cahill at committeeclerk@buckingham-tc.gov.uk with your questions beforehand.

Come along to our **Spring Green Fair** located at the Cattlepens in Buckingham Town Centre on Sunday 23rd April 2023 from 11am-2pm. There will be a variety of stalls to browse showcasing lots of spring related products and services.



Join us for our **Easter Bazaar** on Sunday 2nd April 2023 from 2pm until 4.30pm at Lace Hill Sports and Community Centre. Expect lots of games, activities, face painting, and an alternative egg hunt. There will also be a range of craft and gift stalls selling local handmade products.

Children from local primary schools will be taking part in the **May Day** celebrations on Tuesday 2nd May 2023 with traditional country and may pole dancing on the green outside St. Peter and St. Paul's Church from 11am.

After yet another great event last summer, **Celebrate Buckingham Day** will be returning to the paddock in Bourton Park on Saturday 17th June 2023 from 11am-2pm. Expect to see local community, voluntary and social enterprise groups along with fantastic food and lots of fun family activities!



FUTURE EVENTS FUTURE EVENTS

With nearly two decades under its belt, **Music in the Market** is a great way to start the summer. This year, it will take place on Sunday 28th May 2023 in the Town Centre with live music from 2pm-10pm. Come along, bring some camping chairs and a picnic or enjoy fantastic food from local traders. This event is organised by local music group Buckingham Acoustic Club whilst the Town Council sponsors the event and facilitates the event with road closure support. Music in the Market is free to anyone who wants to attend and has a succession of local bands to enjoy.

A **Pride Flag** will be raised on the flagpole outside the Council Chamber on Thursday 1st June 2023 at 10am and the flag will be flown for the rest of June to celebrate Pride month.

This summer, residents and visitors can enjoy a brand-new **Swan Trail**. Ten self-sized swan sculptures will be making their homes in the town centre and surrounding green spaces. Each swan sculpture is being decorated by school children, community groups and artists. The Buckingham Swan Trail event has been sponsored by the Buckingham & Villages Community Board, local businesses, and organisations.



Plans are under way for **Fringe Week 2023** and events thereafter so keep an eye on our website and social media pages @BuckinghamTC.



VOLUNTEERING AT EVENTS



The Buckingham Town Council events team hosts or facilitates up to a whopping 49 events a year. These range from our giant bonfire and fireworks and our alternative arts, sport and culture Fringe Week, right through to pancake races and craft fairs.

Why do we need volunteers?

There are lots of volunteering opportunities at our events. Road closures for large town centre events can require 40-50 people to monitor road barriers and ensure the safety of the everyone in and watching the parade. There aren't enough Town Council staff to do this by ourselves, so dozens of volunteers turn out every year to help. We also sometimes ask for volunteers to help with litter picking, running community stalls and lending specialist skills.

Although it's only a few hours commitment each volunteer is essential and truly appreciated.

In fact, lots of our events are run by volunteer groups, including Music in the Market, the Remembrance Parade, BandJam and the Christmas Parade. The Town Council supports these groups with funding, staff

and event management advice to enable the events to take place.

Can businesses get involved?

The Council has had fantastic support from local businesses over the years. Buckingham Fringe Week, our arts sports and culture week in July is a great opportunity to run an event at your venue. We also welcome groups of volunteers from businesses.

Some of our events are also sponsored by local businesses, this can be money towards the event or offering your staffs time and skills to support the event. Take the Dog Show each September, local businesses Kimberley Cox Dog Training and Woofs and Washes band together to provide the judging and many of the prizes. This creates fantastic publicity for their businesses and a wonderful community event.

How can you get involved?

The back cover of this newsletter contains a full list of this year's events. If you'd like to volunteer or sponsor any of these events, please email office@buckingham-tc.gov.uk and we'd be delighted to speak to you.

NATURE THEMED PLAY AREA RENOVATION

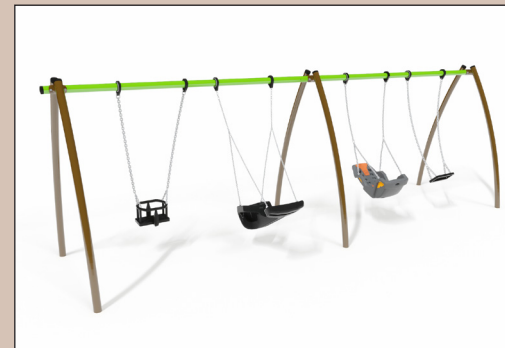
Bourton Park's toddler play area is one of the town's flagship parks and has been earmarked for renovation. The play area will see an investment of £124,000 from section 106 funding – contributions sought from developers towards the costs of providing community and social infrastructure in the town.

The new design is aimed at 2-7-year-olds and will be designed to allow much better access to and around the site and will be as inclusive as possible – aiming to challenge, excite and inspire as well as encourage children of all abilities to play together.

Ahead of the formal tendering process, residents were asked for their views on the current playground, a proposed theme and what they would like to see in the redesign. The results from the public consultation formed a significant part of the final selection of the winning design. The location of the toddler play area is to remain the same and will provide an assortment of imaginative and challenging play equipment including:

- Pond tree house themed multi-play unit
- Inclusive roundabout
- Wildlife themed aluminium rubbing posts
- Acoustic play equipment including an Eco Bell Tree and Rain Wheel
- Large swing set, including basket, flat seat and two accessible options
- Additional picnic bench, seating and much, much more

The enhancement of this play area will begin soon and it is anticipated that work will be completed and the new play area will be open by early summer.



This year the University of Buckingham will be celebrating the 40th Anniversary of being granted a Royal Charter and Queen Consort Camilla has been invited to mark the celebrations.

The University of Buckingham originated following a letter to the Times in 1967 by Dr Paulley, which said, 'Is it now time to examine the possibility of creating at least one new university in this country on the pattern of those great private foundations in the USA, without whose stimulus and freedom of action the many excellent state universities in that country would be so much poorer.' This idea was taken up by several people in the business and academic worlds and three London conferences followed in 1968 and 1969.

A site was found in Buckingham and on 29th March 1973 the University College at Buckingham (UCB) was incorporated in the form of a non-profit making company registered as an educational charity. The Council of Management held its first formal meeting on 3rd April 1973 with its foundation stone laid in May 1974. UCB was opened in February 1976



by Margaret Thatcher as Secretary of State for Education, with 65 students.

The University of Buckingham was incorporated by grant of Royal Charter in 1983 and became a registered charity in 2011. The University now has more than 3300 students from more than 80 countries.

A celebration will be held at the University in the summer and members of the public are welcome to attend. Details of when this event will take place will be announced soon.

Vice Chancellor Prof James Tooley said: 'We want all the community to celebrate with us. We will let everyone know the date as soon as possible. We've invited Queen Camilla. We are hopeful but we have not heard back from her.'

Some of the projects funded by the Buckingham Town Council Budget

£435,374

Parks, play areas, green spaces and cemetery maintenance



£79,958

On dozens of events through the year, like Bonfire and Fireworks and the Christmas Parade



£23,555

Upkeep of free-to-use public toilets in Chandos Park and Cornwalls Meadow



The total Town Council precept of **£1,164,561** a year costs each Band D household **£208.74** a year or **63p** a week
An increase of £2.75 a month from last year

£45,000

Bridge Repairs on four bridges in Bourton Park will finish this year



£31,069

Grants for local voluntary, community and social enterprise groups

Total:
£1,164,561
2023 - 2024

CORONATION OF KING CHARLES III

After a very busy year for Royal news, the Coronation of King Charles III will be taking place this May. The Palace has outlined plans for the three-day weekend as follows:

Saturday 6th May:

The Coronation Service will take place at Westminster Abbey. The Coronation is a solemn religious service as well as an occasion for celebration, that will begin with their Majesties The King and The Queen Consort arriving at the Abbey in procession from



Buckingham Palace, this is known as 'The King's Procession'.

Sunday 7th May:

The Coronation Concert will take place at Windsor Castle, and will include a wide range of acts, including a diverse range of choirs from all around the world and special guests. At the centrepiece 'Lighting up the Nation' will see landmarks across the country lit up in

celebration of the new King. The Coronation Big Lunch will also take place on the Sunday.

Monday 8th May:

At the request of King Charles III, the bank holiday Monday will be a celebration of volunteering. The Big Help Out will be a fantastic opportunity to try volunteering and join the work being undertaken to support Buckingham by local voluntary, community and social enterprise groups.

Buckingham will also be celebrating the Coronation, with some wonderful and creative activities taking place over the weekend. Keep an eye on the Town Council website and social media (www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk and @BuckinghamTC on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram) for updates about our plans as they are announced.

As part of the Council's Coronation event plans, we'd love to hear from you if you are planning a Coronation event or Big Lunch or are a community group interested in taking part in the Big Help Out. Please do get in touch with the Town Council to find out more.



BUCKINGHAM TOWN COUNCILLORS

Cllr. Margaret Gateley – Mayor	01280 816 317	Cllr. Howard Mordue	01280 815 418
Cllr. Anja Schaefer – Deputy Mayor	01280 816 426	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. Robin Stuchbury	07752 394 162
Cllr. Fran Davies	07976 558 609	Cllr. Martin Try	01280 816 202
Cllr. Jon Harvey	01280 812 711	Cllr. Warren Whyte	01296 383 301
Cllr. Sue Hetherington	01280 852 389	Cllr. Ryan Willett	07889 284 495
Cllr. Andy Mahi	01280 816 562	Claire Molyneux – 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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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.



2023 EVENTS DIARY



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

FEBRUARY	Pancake Race	Fri 17th (11am)	Green outside St Peter and St Paul's Church
MARCH	Food Fair  	Sat 11th (10am-3pm)	Buckingham Community Centre
	Commonwealth Day Flag Raising	Mon 13th (10am)	Outside Council Chamber
	Annual Town Meeting	Thurs 23rd (7pm-9pm)	Buckingham Community Centre
APRIL	Easter Bazaar   	Sun 2nd (2pm-4:30pm)	Lacehill Sports & Community Centre
	Spring Green Fair   	Sun 23rd (11am – 2pm)	Town Centre
MAY	May Day	Tues 2nd (11am-12pm)	Green outside St. Peter's & St. Paul's Parish Church
	Music in the Market   	Sun 28th (2pm-10pm)	Town Centre
JUNE	Pride Flag Raising	Thurs 1st (10am)	Outside Council Chamber
	Celebrate Buckingham Day  	Sat 17th (11am-2pm)	Bourton Park
JULY	Fringe Week  	Sun 23rd-Sun 30th	Various Locations
AUGUST	Play Around the Parishes	TBC	TBC
	Bandjam 	Sun 27th (1pm-10pm)	Town Centre
SEPTEMBER	Dog Show   	Sun 10th (11am-3pm)	Bourton Park
	River Rinse 1	Sun 17th (10am-12:30pm)	TBC
OCTOBER	River Rinse 2	Sun 1st (10am-12:30pm)	TBC
	Charter Fair	Sat 14th & 21st (1pm-11pm)	Town Centre
	Halloween Disco   	Fri 27th (6pm- 9pm)	Lace Hill Sports & Community Centre
NOVEMBER	Bonfire & Fireworks   	Sat 4th (6pm)	Bourton Park
	Remembrance Parade	Sun 12th (10:30am)	Town Centre
	Winter Fair   	Sun 19th (2pm-4pm)	Lace Hill Sports & Community Centre
	Christmas Lights Switch On  	Thurs 23rd (6pm-9pm)	Town Centre
DECEMBER	Christmas Parade	Sat (10:30am-12:30pm)	Buckingham Town Centre
	Community Fair  	Sat (11:30am-2pm)	Buckingham Community Centre

Key to spaces available:

- Food & Drinks Traders 
- Crafts & Goods Traders 
- Local Charities, Voluntary & Community Groups 