



Buckingham TownMatters

Winter issue 2022



Message from your Mayor • Christmas card competition • Swan trail
• Buckingham remembers Queen Elizabeth II • What is S106? • Future events

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR MAYOR



I expect that 2022 will be remembered as the year during which Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II died, and His Majesty King Charles III acceded to the throne. These historic events were marked in Buckingham with books of condolence, a Commemorative Service at Buckingham Parish Church and the Reading of the Proclamation of the Accession outside The Old Gaol. You can read more about these events in the special pull-out section of this newsletter.

As winter approaches we are all even more conscious than usual of the costs involved in keeping our homes warm, due to the steep rise in fuel costs. There are organisations, for example Citizens Advice, which can help. There will also be warm spaces, such as Buckingham Library, which are available for us all to use as needed.

I am really looking forward to the special events which Christmas brings, as well as getting together with family and friends. It was a great pleasure to see the entries for the Christmas Card Competition: what wonderful, creative ideas! These cards will be for sale in The Old Gaol. Proceeds will go to my nominated charities: Jedidiah food pantry and Buckingham Food Bank, both of which help people who might be struggling to afford to buy food at this time.

I hope to see many of you at the Christmas Lights Switch on, as well as the Christmas Parade.

Margaret Gateley

Cllr. Margaret Gateley, Mayor of Buckingham

CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION

After the wonderful success of last year's Christmas Card Contest, children from all the schools in Buckingham were invited by the Mayor of Buckingham, Cllr. Margaret Gateley, to submit their best designs for a Buckingham Christmas Card! Congratulations to Daisy Beckett and Harry Caswell for winning this year's competition.

The card contest was proudly sponsored by local business BCQ. This fantastic supporter covered all the project costs so that all the



money from card sales goes to the mayor's charities, Jedidiah and Buckingham Food Bank - Thank you! The winners of this competition were invited to 'flick the switch' on at our Christmas Lights Switch On event taking place on Saturday 26th November 2022. Packs of Christmas cards featuring the winning designs are still available to purchase from the Tourist Information Centre and monies raised will go towards the mayor's charities.

SWAN TRAIL

Buckingham Town Council is excited to introduce the second temporary public art sculpture trail which will run throughout the summer holidays of 2023. The Buckingham Swan Trail is a family friendly, feel-good project that will provide a free community led cultural activity to enjoy. The Swan Trail team will work with local schools, artists, groups, businesses, and organisations by helping them design, paint and sponsor a swan sculpture.

We believe events like these encourage residents and visitors to spend time exploring Buckingham's historic town centre, parks, and greenspaces, generating a positive economic impact. It is hoped that the trail

will attract county wide visitors to the town and help increase footfall to our local shops and businesses.

Our 2021 Buckingham Otter Trail was a fantastic success and with your help we can replicate this. We invite your company to be part of a town wide unique project and sponsor a swan sculpture. Our affordable sponsorship package offers a great platform to promote your business, engage with your workforce, local community, and visitors to the town. If you are a local artist or community group who would love to get involved or wish to find out more, please email Sam Hoareau tic@buckingham-tc.gov.uk.

RAILWAY WALK CONSERVATION GROUP VOLUNTEERS

Buckingham's Railway Walk Conservation Volunteers (RWCV) have received a grant of £3,000 from Heart of Bucks Community Foundation, a grant-giving registered charity, committed to making a difference to the lives of local people.

The RWCV are a wildlife conservation group in Buckingham, maintaining a wildlife corridor along the western end of Buckingham along an old train line, discontinued in the 1960s. The area has a series of ponds, created as nature-friendly wet spaces, alongside glades, an orchard and raised bridges. The conservation project encourages people to enjoy the benefits of being close to nature and promotes positive wellbeing. The funding from Heart of Bucks will allow more people within Buckingham to experience this positive impact either by volunteering with the project or reaping the benefits of the group's work and enjoying the improved outside spaces that the project develops.

The group has been running since 2006 and promotes and takes action to conserve local wildlife, by caring for the green space to preserve, increase and educate others about



the biodiversity of the site. The activities are coordinated by The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) and regular work parties take place on the first Saturday of the month. Previous activities have included: thinning trees, fence repairs, glade cutting and clearing, nest and bat boxes, and hedge maintenance.

A schedule of activities from now until July 2023 has been created for volunteers to undertake tasks such as coppicing and removing rubbish from the ponds, clearing fallen branches, making bird feeders, step repairs, mammal survey, checking conditions of signs and pruning various trees.

To find out more or to get involved with the project contact Katharine Miskin k.miskin@tcv.org.uk.

PAST EVENTS PAST EVENTS



The Town Council teamed up with High Street Safari to provide residents and visitors with a free, family outdoor adventure called **The Mystery of the Secret Keys**. The aim of the event was to encourage more footfall to our High Street and give families a great day out. The story trail proved popular and got 386 families out walking around our town centre searching for clues to unlock characters in augmented reality. The keys were hosted by ten local businesses including: Cornwall Place Kitchen, Dandy Lions Boutique, Bea & Aud Lifestyle, M&Co, Golden Crust, Oxfam, Essentials, Howes the Florist, Finca El Monte and The Nimble Thimble.

This year's **Dog Show** was due to take place on Sunday 11th September 2022 in the Paddock in Bourton Park but due to the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, the event was cancelled.

The first **River Rinse** took place on Sunday 25th September 2022 cleaning the river from Tanlaw Mill to Fishers Field weir. A total of 21 volunteers from the Council and the public worked together to clear a skip's worth of debris from the river, including cans, bottles and an old tv. The second **River Rinse** took place on Sunday 9th October 2022 cleaning the river from the bypass bridge in Bourton Park to the cricket club. Lots of debris was cleared from this stretch of river including a children's scooter.



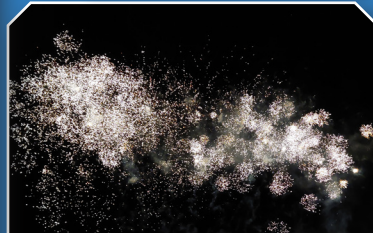
PAST EVENTS PAST EVENTS



Rides, side shows, and stalls arrived in Buckingham on Saturday 15th and 22nd October 2022 for the annual **Charter Fair**, organised by Nichols Amusements. The fair was opened by the Deputy Mayor, Cllr. Anja Shaefer and Head Showman, Marshal Nichols. Free rides were given to those with disabilities during the first hour.

The Lace Hill Sports & Community Centre was filled with ghosts and ghouls, all shaking their skeletons at our annual **Family Halloween Disco**. The ticketed event took place on Friday 28th October 2022 from 6.30pm - 9.30pm. Guests enjoyed an evening of family friendly party games, music, and crafts. A special shout out to Buckingham United FC who supported the event and kept adults hydrated by running the licensed bar. Thank you to everyone who came and made such an effort with all your costumes, they were all fantastic!

Buckingham's free **Bonfire & Fireworks** event took place in the Paddock in Bourton Park on Saturday 5th November 2022 for residents to enjoy. There were delicious food vendors, a licensed bar and great entertainment including an amazing fire and glow cirque artist called Cassia Chloe. Thank you to Titanium Fireworks who put on a wonderful display for us this year.



BUCKINGHAM REMEMBERS

Queen Elizabeth II



Photo © Simon Mallett



Royal visits to Buckingham

Photo © Buckingham University



The late Queen Elizabeth II visited Buckingham on two occasions, first in 1966 via train and then in 1996 to visit the University of Buckingham. On her first visit to Buckingham in 1966, Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip met with the then Mayor of Buckingham, Alderman T. Lambourne at Buckingham Station. Images of the couple smiling in the train carriage were printed in the local paper. Those present when Queen Elizabeth II visited Buckingham remember these as splendid occasions, filled with pride.

There is a long link between Buckingham and the Royal Family. Buckingham has two Royal Charters, one from Mary Tudor in 1554, and one from Charles II in 1684. Charles II also gifted Buckingham its Mace in 1660, which is still used at ceremonial occasions today. Buckingham Palace is also named after Buckingham. Originally known as Buckingham House,



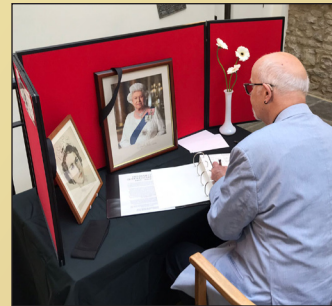
it was owned by the Duke of Buckingham and sold to George III in 1761.

Our newly acclaimed monarch, King Charles III has also visited Buckingham. He first visited the town in 2004 to meet students and staff and tour parts of the Hunter Street University Campus to pursue his interest in higher education. He met with local dignitaries of that time including Buckinghamshire High Sheriff, Richard Godber,

County Council Chairman, Richard Pushman, Buckingham Town Mayor; Robin Stuchbury and University Vice-Chancellor; Dr Terrence Kealey. He also had discussions with senior members of staff about the work of the independent university and later attended a history seminar led by Dr Jane Ridley.

Buckingham pays respects to Queen Elizabeth II

After the death of Queen Elizabeth II, it was clear that paying respects was important to the residents of Buckingham. To accomplish this, the



Town Council organised a book of condolence at the Old Gaol Museum which was accessible every day from 10am-4pm during the official mourning period.

Several other books of condolence were available in Buckingham, with copies circulated to care homes so that residents unable to access the books could take part from their homes. The resulting entries will be bound into books and archived at Buckinghamshire Council for future historians.



Another way residents paid their respects was by leaving floral tributes at the coronation tree, near the war memorial at St Peter & St Paul's Church. The Town Council also co-ordinated putting up union flags, with mourning cravats attached, around the town centre and lowering the flags to half-mast.

On Sunday 18th September 2022, St Peter & St Paul's Church in Buckingham held a Commemorative Service. The service started with a reflection on Queen Elizabeth's life by the Vice Chancellor of the University of Buckingham, Professor James Tooley, followed by readings and prayers given by Reverend Will Pearson Gee, Church Ministers and the Deputy Mayor, Cllr: Anja Schaefer. Hymns were sung including the late Queen's favourite hymn: Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven. The service was attended by approx. 200 people and many of those signed the book of condolence afterwards.





Proclamation of the Accession

Buckingham announced the accession of His Majesty King Charles III, at the Reading of the Proclamation of the Accession in Buckingham.

The Deputy Mayor of Buckingham, Cllr. Anja Schaefer, travelled to Aylesbury to hear the High Sheriff of Buckinghamshire read the Proclamation of the Accession at 1pm on Sunday 11th September 2022, and collect Buckingham's copy of the Proclamation.



Having returned to Buckingham, Cllr. Anja Schaefer read the Proclamation to a large crowd that had gathered in Buckingham outside the Old Gaol at 3.30pm. The Deputy Mayor was joined by the Deputy Lord Lieutenant, Carolyn Cummings, the Town Clerk, Claire Molyneux, the Town Crier, Russell Cross, Mace Bearer, Barbara Farmer and Trumpeter, Nick Perry.

The Proclamation read:

Whereas it has pleased Almighty God to call to His Mercy our late Sovereign Lady Queen Elizabeth the Second of Blessed and Glorious Memory, by whose Decease the Crown of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is solely and rightfully come to The Prince Charles Philip Arthur George: We, therefore, the Lords Spiritual and Temporal of this Realm and Members of the House of Commons, together with other members of Her late Majesty's Privy Council and representatives of the Realms and Territories, Aldermen and Citizens of London, and others, do now hereby with one voice and Consent of Tongue and Heart publish and proclaim that The Prince Charles Philip Arthur George is now, by the Death of our late Sovereign of Happy Memory, become our only lawful and rightful Liege Lord Charles the Third, by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and of His other Realms and Territories, King, Head of the Commonwealth and Defender of the Faith.



CURRENT EVENTS

These events take place soon after the newsletter is printed, you may receive this edition after some have taken place. Our website, social media, and posters around Buckingham are a great place to keep updated about current events.

On Sunday 13th November 2022, the **Remembrance Day Parade** will form up on Market Hill and march from there at 10:30am to the War Memorial at St. Peter & St. Paul's Church. After a moving service, it will march back to Market Hill. A big screen will be erected on the green outside the Church. A rolling road closure and parking restrictions will be in place when the parade is on the move.



Our annual **Winter Fair** takes place at Lace Hill Sports & Community Centre on Sunday 20th November 2022 from 2pm - 4.30pm. Please join us for a festive afternoon, do some Christmas shopping and support small local businesses. Refreshments will be available to purchase, and there will be plenty of crafts and games for children to enjoy. There is a small £1 entrance fee per adult, and children go free. All monies raised

will go towards supporting this event and future events at the Centre. We look forward to welcoming you to this event and hope you enjoy it!

Join us at our annual **Christmas Lights Switch On** in Buckingham Town Centre from 6pm on Saturday 26th November 2022. Expect to see real-life reindeer, beautiful lights, artisan market stalls, food vendors and live music. The lights will be switched on by the Mayor, Cllr Margaret Gateley with the help of the winners of this year's Christmas card competition.



FUTURE EVENTS FUTURE EVENTS

WHAT IS SECTION 106?

The annual **Christmas Parade**, that has a theme of 'Films', will be winding its way through the streets of Buckingham on Saturday 10th December 2022 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 until 1pm.



Once the parade is over, warm yourself up and get a hot drink at Buckingham Community Centre to visit the annual **Community Fair**. This event provides a vehicle for local groups, societies, and charities to raise funds by selling Christmas cards, knitted items, plants and much more.



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 is announced by the Town Crier and opened by the Mayor.



The **Food Fair** will be in the community centre on Saturday 11th March 2023 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.



Section 106 of the Town & Country Planning Act allows Local Authorities to link planning permission to obligations on the developer in return for approval. These can be conditions on the development itself (e.g. the number of affordable houses), or may be to mitigate the impact of the development on the host community – because additional residents will create a need for more school places, leisure facilities, or public transport services. The s106 agreement could require money to be given to a school to build new classrooms, or they may be provided in kind by the developer, like the affordable housing, to be handed over to Buckinghamshire Council (BC) for people on the housing list. It is a legal agreement between BC and the developer, and its terms must be linked to the development – BC cannot use the money for a project elsewhere in the county.

Almost all new developments must pay for something, from a children's playground to a new school and a sports centre, like at Lace Hill. Mitigation projects must be for the general benefit of all residents, not just the new ones.

There is a similar scheme called Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), but this is not used in the north of the county yet.



S106 money (and its allied s278 for road improvements) has provided:

- Replacement equipment at almost all the town's play areas, and new play spaces in the new estates
- The survey and necessary supporting works to make part of Addington Road one-way
- Money for the primary, secondary and special schools, the Library and Adult Learning to expand their buildings and equipment
- The expansion of the cycle network inside and outside the town and soon the upgrade of the Scenic and Railway Walks into combined pedestrian/cycle routes with a hard surface and lighting.

WINTER DEBT – Citizens Advice Bucks

Winter Cost of Living advice

There are lots of things that can be done to help you be more in control of money, even if you are already in debt. Firstly, work out how much money you have coming in and going out each month – this will help you budget and prioritise.

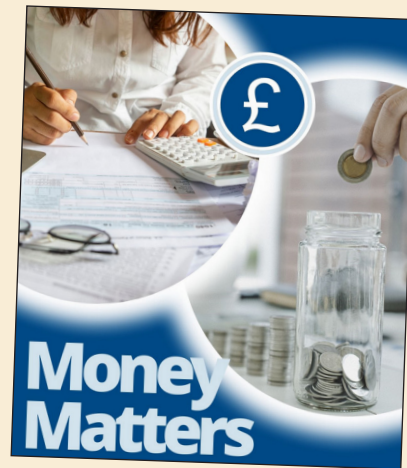
If you are in debts, you need to prioritise these. Citizens Advice has information on its website to help with this. Some bills can cause more problems if you do not pay – these are your priority debts such as rent and mortgage arrears, energy bills and council tax. However, you can contact the organisation you owe money to, so they can help you come up with a plan you can afford.

Check if you are entitled to any benefits. Are you getting everything you are entitled to and is the amount you are receiving correct? You can use the benefits checker on the Citizen's Advice website to see if you could be getting more support, such as benefits or government grants or to check if you are being paid correctly. Everyone will be getting a £400 grant from the government to help with energy costs, which will be credited directly to your energy supplier if you pay

by direct debit, or in prepayment vouchers if you have a meter. This will be spread over 6 monthly instalments.

Citizen's Advice is running a FREE course called Money Matters which helps you to manage your money and make it work harder for you. They have also set up a Facebook group open to all, called 'Cost of Living Crisis Support Buckinghamshire' full of tips and advice to survive through the crisis.

For more information and advice, visit www.citizensadvicebucks.org.uk or contact moneymatters@cabucks.org.uk



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. 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	Claire Molyneux – Town Clerk	07484 546 784

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 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.

2022/2023 EVENTS DIARY



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

2022

NOVEMBER	Christmas Lights Switch On X 🛒	Sat 26th (6pm-8pm)	Buckingham Town Centre
DECEMBER	Christmas Parade Community Fair X 🛒	Sat 10th (10:45am-12:30pm) Sat 10th (11.30am-2pm)	Buckingham Town Centre Buckingham Community Centre

2023

FEBRUARY	Pancake Race	Fri 17th (11am-12pm)	Green outside St Peter and St Paul's Church
MARCH	Food Fair X 🛒	Sat 11th (10am-3pm)	Buckingham Community Centre
	Commonwealth Day Flag Raising	Mon 13th (10am)	Outside Council Chamber
	Annual Town Meeting	Thurs 23rd (7pm)	Buckingham Community Centre
APRIL	Spring Green Fair X 🛒 🍷	Sun 23rd (10am)	Cattlepens



Key to spaces available:

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