



# Buckingham TownMatters

Autumn issue 2023



*Photograph © MPL Photography*

**Message from your Mayor • New Deputy Major • Swan Trail  
Future Events • Where the money came from and how we spent it**

# A MESSAGE FROM YOUR MAYOR



Dear neighbours,

As I am writing this we are in the middle of an exciting summer of events in Buckingham. I hope you will have had the opportunity to participate in some of these, be it Celebrate Buckingham Day, our beautiful and fun Swan Sculpture Trail, Buckingham Fringe Week, or our various music and other events. I have been delighted to meet so many of the school students who have helped decorate the swans and what a great job they have done. I have also particularly enjoyed meeting all the volunteer groups at Celebrate Buckingham Day and at

other events I have attended, and to hear about the excellent work they are all doing for our community.

When I meet people at events, it strikes me again and again what a friendly, lively town Buckingham is, and how lucky I am to call it my home. This is never truer than when I think of all the volunteers and charitable donors who support so many activities in this town. On this occasion, I would particularly like to mention the volunteers and donors to my two Mayor's Charities: Buckingham Food Bank and Jedidiah UK. While food banks and pantries cannot replace benefits or solve the cost-of-living crisis that also affects people in Buckingham, it is so important that they are here to tide people over the most difficult days. I am delighted to report that within a few weeks we managed to collect several hundred pounds for these charities.

I am also particularly pleased about the opening of the temporary banking hub in Buckingham Library and to learn that a more permanent location has been identified. Many people in our community and many small businesses rely on local banking facilities. My thanks go to everybody involved in securing one of the first temporary banking hubs for Buckingham, particularly all those who took part in the consultations.

*Anja Schaefer*

**Cllr. Anja Schaefer, Mayor of Buckingham**

# NEW DEPUTY MAYOR

I am humbled to have been nominated and elected as Deputy Mayor of Buckingham. Special thanks to my fellow councillors for their trust in electing me into the position, and to my family and friends for all their support and guidance in my political career. I also pay tribute to the outgoing Mayor, Cllr Margaret Gateley, on a fantastic couple of years as the first citizen of Buckingham.

This is an exciting time to be representing our town.



As Deputy Mayor it is my commitment to continue providing a strong voice for Buckingham, prioritising our issues, celebrating our achievements, and promoting our special qualities as a market town.

My support will be fully behind our new Mayor, Cllr Anja Schaefer, to build on the successes of her predecessor. I look forward to getting out, meeting people, and representing our lovely town.

## MAYOR'S CHARITIES

Buckingham Town Mayor, Anja Schaefer said "In the current cost of living crisis and with food price inflation still running at around 16%, some of our fellow residents of Buckingham are struggling to put food on the table for themselves and their families. It is sad that food charities are needed at all, but I am very grateful that Buckingham Food Bank and Jedidiah UK are here to step in and tide people over difficult times. All money raised directly helps people in Buckingham."

**Buckingham Food Bank** distributes non-perishable and fresh food to people in need, who have been referred by an agency or local church. Volunteers deliver supplies direct to their homes, or confidentially via their referring agency. This service covers short-term emergencies, such as sudden unemployment or loss of benefits.



### Jedidiah UK

Their fresh food pantry at 13 Castle Street, Buckingham is a charity working in partnership with local supermarkets to repurpose the surplus food they are unable to sell. Best of all, it's free to access and use. Each day, all the unsold food is displayed for families to come and help themselves. This includes good quality vegetables, fruit, dairy, baked goods, meat and fish products. Their main aims are helping people struggling to make ends meet, access healthy food, reduce isolation and ensure that no good food goes to waste.





Buckingham's Neighbourhood Development Plan (BNDP) is now 8 years old. Since January a working group of Town Councillors and local residents has been working intensively gathering evidence to plan for the future.



What has happened so far:

- Six focus groups discussed: design and heritage; eco concerns; business and economic development; transport; arts, leisure and culture; and strategic aspirations.
- two task groups researched potential environmental and development policies.

These monthly groups have heard from local groups, both secondary schools, churches, sports and arts clubs and passionate local environment advocates.

Commissioned studies provided through Locality:

- Housing Needs Assessment (indicates the minimum number of homes that will be required within the plan period to 2040 as well as what type of homes may best suit the needs of residents. It also considers various forms of affordable home provision.)
- Strategic Environmental Assessment

A High Street study (funded by Buckingham & Villages Community Board) is also taking place.

## Your input:

You supplied answers to the questions: *What do you value most about Buckingham? What is needed for Buckingham? Where should future housing go?* – at drop-in sessions at the Annual Town Meeting in March and Celebrate Buckingham Day in June.

This process is creating “scenarios” as to how Buckingham might develop in the future. These are not yet suggested plans or policies but starting points for discussion and debate.

The group has created these by evaluating available brownfield sites for development in Buckingham; then all the land submitted to Buckinghamshire Council’s call for sites for the Local Plan; finally grouping these into potential settlement areas to produce each “scenario”.

## What happens next?

In the autumn a public scenario consultation will begin. This will be widely communicated, asking local people where you think the development of new housing in Buckingham should take place e.g., do you think using brownfield sites alone is sufficient for the town’s needs – both residential and delivery of infrastructure? If not, should new development be to the West, South, or East of town? Where large developments will trigger the creation of a new school or road, where should these be placed?

Your views not only matter but are essential.



The Swan Trail project was a spectacular interactive public art event that featured ten swan sculptures decorated by local school children and artists and sponsored by local businesses and organisations. The swans were dotted around the town centre and surrounding green spaces, forming a walking trail offering a fun, free, family-friendly day out over the summer holidays.

The Swan Trail was a big highlight of our summer calendar, it encouraged people to discover the town and the painted sculptures made people smile. It was a unique project, and we believe it was a fun way to get people to spend more time exploring the town centre. As well as making art accessible to all, the swan sculptures were made from a mixture of responsibly sourced marine ply and recycled, reformed plastic so materials that were headed for landfill were made into art!

Buckingham Town Council would like to thank everyone who made the event a great success, especially all the professional artists and schools who worked tirelessly to paint

the swans:  
Buckingham Primary School, Lace Hill Academy, Beachborough Art Club, Buckingham Youth Club, George Grenville Academy, Padbury CE School, Rashmi Sanders Doodle Artist,

Jill Blakey Abstract Artist, Courtney Scott at Little Magpie Art, and Ashley King Illustration.



We must also say a big thank you to all our swan-tastic sponsors: The Buckingham & Villages Community Board, Gilroy Steel Solicitors, Heritage & Sons, Thrive Chiropractic Health Clinic, Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity, The Grand Junction, Beachborough School, The Buckingham Society, Buckingham Ford, and the National Trust (Stowe and Aylesbury Vale).

Visit our website to find out about the Swan Trail: [www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk/buckingham-swan-trail/](http://www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk/buckingham-swan-trail/)



# PAST EVENTS PAST EVENTS PAST EVENTS PAST EVENTS PAST EVENTS



Pancake Race



Food Fair



Annual Town Meeting



Jumble sale



Market Entertainment



Glenn Moore, Comedy Night



Easter Bazaar



Spring Green Fair



Puss in Boots. © 2022 DreamWorks Animation. All Rights Reserved



Family Fun Day



Art in the Market



Oxford Fiddle Group



Coronation Civic Service



Music in the Market



May Day



Celebrate Buckingham Day



Crafts in the Chantry Chapel



Garden on a plate



Now and Then Theatre Workshop



Angelos Epithemiou, Comedy Night



# CURRENT EVENTS



Buckingham's annual **Dog Show** is on Sunday 10th September in the paddock in Bourton Park. Organised by Buckingham Town Council and sponsored by Kimberly Cox Dog Training and Woofs And Washes, this fun event has the following classes: Gorgeous Gal, Cutest Puppy, Fabulous Fella, Best Rescue, Dog Most Like Its Owner, Golden Oldie (7 years and over), Waggiest Tail and Junior Handler. The winner of each class goes through to Best In Show.

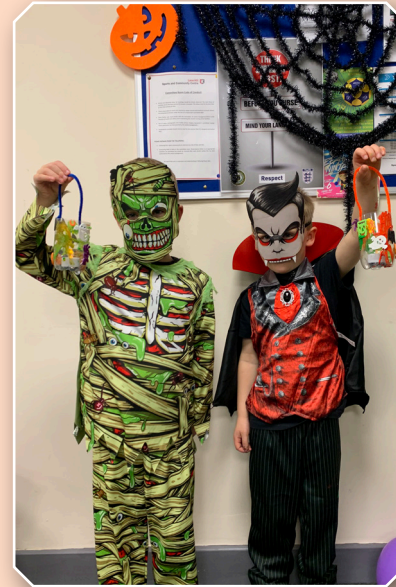


The first of this year's **River Rinses** will take place on Sunday 24th September 2023 and will start at Bourton Park. Members of the Stowe Sub Aqua Group will be on hand to pull any debris from the river. Volunteers and members of Buckingham Town Council will litter pick along the riverbank and collect the debris found in the river. The second River Rinse will take place on Sunday 1st October 2023 and will start at Stratford Fields.



# FUTURE EVENTS

This year the annual **Charter Fair** rolls into town on Friday 13th October 2023 to set up and will be operating on Saturday 14th October 2023. It will then return on the following Friday, 20th October 2023 and will operate on Saturday 21st October 2023. A full road closure will be in force from 6am on both Fridays and cover both Saturdays. Diversions will be in place.



Join us at Lace Hill Sports & Community Centre for a fantastic family friendly **Hallowe'en Disco** on Friday 27th October 2023 from 6-9pm. Tickets can be purchased from Buckingham Tourist Information Centre.

**Bonfire & Fireworks** is on Saturday 4th November 2023 in Bourton Park. Free entry. Enjoy a fantastic fireworks display, as well as our returning fire dancer Cassia Chloe, and local food vendors.



Buckingham's **Remembrance Parade** will be held on Sunday 12th November 2023. The parade will form up on Market Hill and march to the War Memorial outside St Peter's and St Paul's Church at 10:30am. A rolling road closure will be in place from 10:15am and diversions in place.





# FUTURE EVENTS FUTURE EVENTS

The **Winter Fair** will take place on Sunday 19th November 2023 from 11am-3pm at Lace Hill Sports & Community Centre. There will be lots of local handmade Christmas goodies, refreshments and art and craft activities for the children to enjoy.



The **Christmas Lights Switch On** will be taking place on Thursday 23rd November 2023 from 4pm outside The Old Gaol. Expect carols, festive activities, local food vendors and live entertainment. The lights will be switched on by Town Mayor, Cllr. Anja Schaefer.



The annual **Christmas Parade** will be on Saturday 16th December 2023 and is organised by the Christmas Parade Committee. The theme for the Parade is Pantomimes. The Parade, which is made up of floats and walking groups, will form up in Chandos Road and wind its way through the town centre before returning to Chandos Road.



Held in Buckingham Community Centre, the **Community Fair** will be on Saturday 16th December 2023, after the Christmas Parade. Local charities, organisations and societies can sell items or run activities to help raise funds for their group.



# MEMORIAL SAFETY INSPECTIONS



Following a recent safety inspection of memorials at Brackley Road Cemetery, 51 headstones have been identified as unstable and work is underway to identify the deed holders, or their relatives, to repair the memorials.

Buckingham Town Council is responsible for the cemetery at Brackley Road, with over 3,000 headstones and memorials. As some of these memorials are not attended to, they can become in a poor condition and have the potential to cause danger. This poses a risk to visitors and staff attending the cemetery.

All memorials that have been found to be unstable have been made temporarily safe using predominantly stakes and banding until deed holders can be contacted and permanent repairs can be made. A list of the unsafe headstones can be found on the Town Council's website at: [www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk/memorial-safety-at-brackley-road-cemetery](http://www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk/memorial-safety-at-brackley-road-cemetery)



# INCLUSIVE, ACCESSIBLE AND EXCITING NEW PLAY AREA FOR BUCKINGHAM



The revamp of Bourton Park's popular play area, funded from developer contributions, is a wildlife themed play area designed to allow better access around the site and encourage children of all abilities to play together.

The equipment was specifically chosen to symbolise Buckingham's flora and fauna e.g; otter and kingfisher metal rubbing posts, oak, poplar and beech leaf stones and Bourton Park's bespoke 'wildlife ticket office'.

The site also includes:

- Multi-person boat springer, reflective of the Buckingham canal and riverbanks.
- Large swing set including seats that allow parents and children to swing face to face.
- Pond tree house, made from recycled materials.
- Acoustic play equipment.

The Town Council recognises that secluded areas of calm are important for children that may need time to withdraw and recalibrate. Therefore, huts and playhouses that allow children to observe the play before engaging were included in the project. It is hoped the additional seating and picnic tables will also

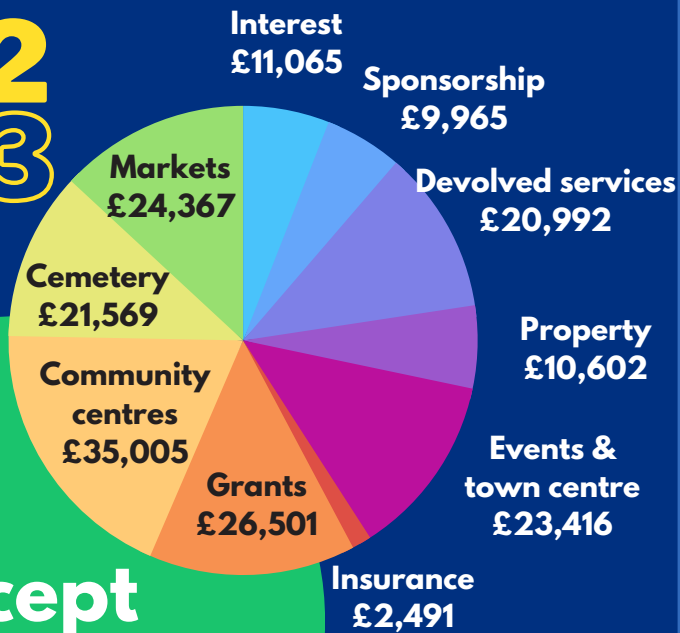


be a welcome addition for the grown-ups.



# Where the money came from...

**2022  
2023**



# ...and how we spent it

Community grants:	£30,118
Environment and green spaces:	£370,106
Events, tourism, town centre and markets:	£161,360
Facilities, cemetery and buildings:	£141,971
Legal, planning, admin, HR and other	£380,025
Continuing projects:	£45,166



Are you looking for funding for a not-for-profit community group or charity? Applications are invited for funding for projects and activities beneficial to the people of Buckingham.

This year you can apply for:  
One-year projects taking place 2024-2025

Application forms are available on the website, and must be returned to Town Council by 12 Noon on Friday 1st December 2023.

If you would like to discuss a possible application or receive an application form, please contact the Town Council by:

**Post:** Buckingham Town Council  
Buckingham Centre  
Verney Close  
Buckingham MK18 1JP

**Phone:** 01280 816 426

**Email:** [deputytownclerk@buckingham-tc.gov.uk](mailto:deputytownclerk@buckingham-tc.gov.uk)

**Website:** [www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk/your-town-council/grant-applications](http://www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk/your-town-council/grant-applications)



# MAYOR MAKING/CIVIC AWARDS

The annual Mayor Making event took place at Buckingham Community Centre on Friday 2nd June 2023. This year's community awards were given to:



## Honorary Freewomen/ Freeman

- Barbara Farmer
- Mike Smith

## Friend of Buckingham

- Derek Croft
- Russell Cross
- Rosemary Frohock
- Tony Mayston
- Mary Simons
- Simon Wells

## Arts and Sports Award

- Buckingham Art for All

## Natural Environment and Climate Champion Award

- The Canal Society

## Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise Award

- The Community Lunch

## Mayor's Prize for Outstanding Young Person

- Chantel Tunks

Cllr. Margaret Gateley was also awarded a crystal vase, as a mark of her service as past Mayor of Buckingham 2021-2023.

To find out more about Mayor Making and civic awards, read the full press release: [www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk/buckingham-celebrates-electing-a-new-mayor-and-deputy-mayor/](http://www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk/buckingham-celebrates-electing-a-new-mayor-and-deputy-mayor/)



# BUCKINGHAM TOWN COUNCILLORS

<b>Cllr. Anja Schaefer – Mayor</b>	01280 816 426	Cllr. Andy Mahi	01280 816 562
<b>Cllr. Ade Osibogun – Deputy Mayor</b>	01280 816 954	Cllr. Howard Mordue	01280 815 418
Cllr. Robina Ahmed	01280 816 426	Cllr. Lisa O'Donoghue	07906 408 646
Cllr. Mark Cole JP	01280 816 005	Cllr. Anthony Ralph	07968 108 304
Cllr. Geraldine Collins	01280 816 317	Cllr. Robin Stuchbury	07752 394 162
Cllr. Fran Davies	07976 558 609	Cllr. Martin Try	01280 816 202
Cllr. Margaret Gateley	01280 816 317	Cllr. Warren Whyte	01296 383 301
Cllr. Jon Harvey	01280 812 711	Cllr. Ryan Willett	07889 284 495
Cllr. Sue Hetherington	01280 852 389		

**Town Clerk – Claire Molyneux** 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](mailto:office@buckingham-tc.gov.uk) or visit: [www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk](http://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](http://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.*



# 2023/24 EVENTS DIARY



Please find further details inside or online: [www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk/town-matters/events/](http://www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk/town-matters/events/)

<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	Dog Show ✂ 🛒 🤝	Sun 10th (11am-3pm)	Bourton Park
	River Rinse 1	Sun 24th (10am-12:30pm)	Bourton Park
<b>OCTOBER</b>	River Rinse 2	Sun 1st (10am-12:30pm)	Stratford Fields
	Charter Fair	Sat 14th & 21st (1pm-11pm)	Buckingham Town Centre
	Halloween Disco ✂ 🛒 🤝	Fri 27th (6pm- 9pm)	Lace Hill Sports & Community Centre
<b>NOVEMBER</b>	Bonfire & Fireworks ✂ 🛒 🤝	Sat 4th (6pm)	Bourton Park
	Remembrance Parade	Sun 12th (10:30am)	Buckingham Town Centre
	Winter Fair ✂ 🛒 🤝	Sun 19th (2pm-4pm)	Lace Hill Sports & Community Centre
	Christmas Lights Switch On ✂ 🛒 🤝	Thurs 23rd (4pm-7pm)	Town Centre
	Christmas Parade	Sat 16th (10:30am-12:30pm)	Buckingham Town Centre
<b>DECEMBER</b>	Community Fair 🤝	Sat 16th (11:30am-2pm)	Buckingham Community Centre

For volunteering opportunities, visit our website: [www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk/our-services/local-volunteering/](http://www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk/our-services/local-volunteering/) or call the office on 01280 816 426 for more information.

- Key to spaces available:**
- Food & Drinks Traders ✂
  - Crafts & Goods Traders 🛒
  - Local Charities, Voluntary & Community Groups 🤝

