



# Buckingham TownMatters

Autumn issue 2024



River Rinse in Bourton Park

Message from your Mayor • Grass cutting • Civic awards • Future Events



# A MESSAGE FROM YOUR MAYOR



Dear neighbours,

As you read this, we will hopefully have had some warm weather over the summer, allowing us to enjoy the many events and other attractions that Buckingham has to offer. The events of Fringe Week will surely have been a highlight for many of you, as will BandJam at the end of August.

I also hope that many of our younger residents will have taken the opportunity to participate in the events put on over the summer holidays, such as the always popular basketball sessions or Arts in the Market during Fringe Week. I am so pleased

that we have these free activities for everybody to enjoy.

I personally have particularly enjoyed looking at the artwork on the wooden discs, produced by our community and exhibited on the railings of the Cattle Pens. They were so vibrant and inventive, and really made a beautiful addition to our Town Centre.

We are now looking forward to the autumn. I hope that you are all warm and secure in your homes and ready for the colder and darker months. If you need any help with heating, bills, food or home essentials, or you know someone who does, you may be able to access support from Buckinghamshire Council's Helping Hand scheme (<https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/cost-of-living/>).

There are lots of exciting events and activities to look forward to over the coming months, such as our annual Charter Fair in October, Bonfire & Fireworks, the Remembrance Parade, and the Christmas Lights switch-on in November, and of course the Christmas parade in December. There will be something for everyone, of whatever age, and I look forward to seeing you all there.

*Anja Schaefer*

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

# NEW DEPUTY MAYOR

I am honoured and delighted to have been voted by my fellow councillors to be The Deputy Mayor of Buckingham for 2024/2025.

I pledge to continue to support all the residents, our Mayor, Cllr Anja Schaefer and the council officers and staff to work towards a better Buckingham for all.

I'm very much looking forward to seeing many of you at various events around Buckingham throughout the year.

**Cllr. Fran Davies,  
Deputy Mayor of Buckingham**



## Mayor's Charities

Given the continuing cost of living crisis affecting many individuals, I have chosen to continue supporting two charities this year that focus on providing food assistance. Donations to these charities will be welcomed at Town Council events.

### ***Buckingham Food Bank***

The Buckingham Food Bank offers both non-perishable and fresh food to those in need, referred by agencies or local churches. Volunteers deliver these supplies directly to homes or confidentially through the referring agency. This service is designed to assist with short-term emergencies, such as sudden unemployment or loss of benefits.

### ***Jedidiah UK***

Located at 13 Castle Street, Buckingham, Jedidiah UK runs a fresh food pantry in collaboration with local supermarkets, repurposing surplus food they can't sell. This service is free and open to all. Every day, unsold food items, including high-quality vegetables, fruit, dairy, baked goods, meat, and fish, are made available for families to take. The charity aims to support those struggling financially, provide access to healthy food, reduce social isolation, and ensure no good food goes to waste.



# PAST EVENTS PAST EVENTS PAST EVENTS PAST EVENTS PAST EVENTS



Buckingham Live



Buckingham Play Days



Busking by Gracenotes



Family fun Day



Celebrate Buckingham



Spring Green Fair



Totally Buckingham, Community art Installation



Art in the Market



May Day



Crafts at The Chantry Chapel



Bandjam



Drag Night @ The Grand Junction



Comedy Night



# CURRENT EVENTS



Buckingham's annual **Dog Show** is on Saturday 7th September, 11am to 3pm, 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 (7yrs & 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 29th September at 10am and will go from Cornwalls Meadow car park to the Flosch. 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 6th October at 10am and will go from The Flosch along the river course to Fishers Field.



# FUTURE EVENTS

This year the annual **Charter Fair** rolls into town on Friday 11th October to set up and will be operating on Saturday 12th October. It will then return on the following Friday, 18th October and will operate on Saturday 19th October. A full road closure will be in force from 6am on both Fridays and covering both Saturdays. Diversions will be in place.



The **Winter Fair** will take place on Sunday 24th November from 2pm to 4pm 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 28th November from 4pm to 7pm outside The Old Gaol. Expect carols, festive activities, local food vendors and live

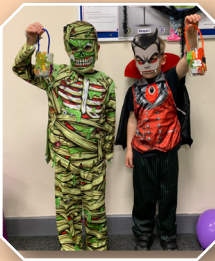
entertainment. The lights will be switched on by Town Mayor, Cllr. Anja Schaefer.

The annual **Christmas Parade** will be on Saturday 14th December and is organised by the Christmas Parade Committee.



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. From 10:45am.

Held in Buckingham Community Centre, the **Community Fair** will be on Saturday 14th December, after the Christmas Parade. Local charities, organisations and societies can sell items or run activities to help raise funds for their group.



Join us at Lace Hill Sports & Community Centre for a fantastic family friendly **Halloween Disco Party** on Friday 25th October from 6-9pm. Tickets can be purchased from Buckingham Tourist Information Centre, see

our website and social media pages for when tickets will be available.

**Bonfire & Fireworks** on Saturday 2nd November starting 6pm in Bourton Park. Free entry. Enjoy a fantastic fireworks display, bonfire, DJ Dan Blaze, and local food vendors.



Buckingham's **Remembrance Parade** will be held on Sunday 10th November. The parade will form up on Market Hill and march to the War

Memorial outside St Peter and St Paul Church at 10:30am. A rolling road closure will be in place from 10:15am and diversions in place.



# THE IMPORTANCE OF VOLUNTEERING AT COMMUNITY EVENTS



Volunteering at community events is not just a generous act; it's a vital contribution that strengthens the fabric of our town. Events like Remembrance Day and the Christmas Parade are highlights of the year, bringing people together in shared celebration and commemoration. However, these events require extensive planning and people power to ensure they run smoothly and safely. This is where volunteers step in, playing a crucial role, particularly in marshalling road closures and managing the flow of activities.

## Why Volunteer?

**Community Connection:** Volunteering fosters a sense of belonging and community spirit. It provides an opportunity to meet new people and deepen your connection to the community. When you volunteer, you're not just giving your time; you're also creating bonds that can last a lifetime.

**Safety and Order:** Events like Remembrance Day and the Christmas Parade attract large crowds, making safety and order paramount. Marshals help manage road closures and crowd control, ensuring that everyone can

enjoy the events safely. Your contribution can directly impact the safety and success of these events.

**Personal Fulfilment:** There's a profound sense of fulfilment that comes from volunteering. Knowing that you've helped make an event possible and enjoyable for others brings a sense of accomplishment and pride. It's a chance to give back and make a tangible difference in your community.

## How to Get Involved

Getting involved is easy and rewarding. Simply contact the Town Council or visit our website for information on upcoming events and volunteer opportunities.

By volunteering, you contribute to the success of our cherished community events, making them memorable and safe for everyone. Your time and effort are invaluable, and we thank you for your dedication to our town.

**Please consider what you can do for our community.**

# AUTUMN UPDATES FROM THE SWAN PRACTICE

## The Swan Practice



[www.theswanpractice.co.uk](http://www.theswanpractice.co.uk)

As we transition into the autumn season, at The Swan Practice we are gearing up for a series of important activities and updates aimed at enhancing patient care and operational efficiency.

Over the summer, we have focused on improving our digital infrastructure to streamline patient appointments and consultations. The introduction of new online booking systems and a new telephone system has significantly reduced waiting times and improved patient access to healthcare services. We have been actively participating in vaccination drives, ensuring that our communities are well-protected.

Looking ahead to the autumn season, we are preparing for a comprehensive vaccination campaign, including annual flu vaccinations, COVID-19 boosters, and RSV (respiratory syncytial virus) vaccinations.

There will also be an increased focus on social prescribing to support

our more frail and socially isolated patients, connecting them with community resources and activities to improve their well-being.

Additionally, chronic disease management will be a priority, with initiatives aimed at supporting patients with long-term conditions through personalised care plans and regular follow-ups.

We are also planning to host community health events to raise awareness about preventive healthcare and healthy living.

A decision regarding Lace Hill was delayed by the General Election, but we are meeting with the Integrated Care Board, developer, and local MP to progress the project.

We look forward to continuing to serve our community with dedication and care. Thank you for your ongoing support.

**‘JUST’  
THE FLU?**

**NHS**

The flu virus kills thousands every year. The flu vaccine is the best protection for you and those around you.

**JUST GET YOUR FREE FLU JAB**  
Ask your pharmacist or GP if you're eligible.

Flu  
vaccine  
help us  
help you



# BUCKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL: A YEAR OF PROGRESS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

As we reflect on the past year, it is worth highlighting the numerous achievements and initiatives undertaken by the Buckingham Town Council. Each Committee has worked tirelessly to enhance the community's quality of life and ensure that Buckingham continues to thrive. Here's a comprehensive look at what has been accomplished.

## Planning Committee: Shaping Our Future

The Planning Committee has been exceptionally busy, handling around 140 planning applications from developers, businesses, and residents. This year, our focus has been revising the Buckingham Neighbourhood Development Plan (BNP). The BNP working group, which includes councillors, the Buckingham Society, businesses, and other stakeholders, has held over 20 meetings and public consultations since January 2023. The plan outlines the town's planning policies and empowers residents to influence local development. With the rising housing demands in North Bucks, the BNP, alongside the Vale of Aylesbury Plan, aims to secure better infrastructure funded by Section 106 agreements, supporting schools, health provisions, and recreational facilities.

The application for 121 houses in Osier Way was approved despite strong objections, while the Moreton Road Phase III application was called in by the Secretary of State and approved with conditions, highlighting ongoing challenges.

## Resources Committee: Efficient Resource Management

The Resources Committee plays a crucial role in overseeing Buckingham Town Council's resources. They meticulously review each committee's spending and priorities to ensure funds are appropriately allocated and provides a transparent view of our investments in events Town Centre & Events Committee (TC&E Committee), green spaces (Environment Committee), and the Neighbourhood Development Plan (Planning Committee). The Committee also focuses on staffing, investing in training and professional development to boost skills and morale. Supporting local charities and groups remains a priority, recognising their importance to community well-being. This year, we continued 4-year grants to 8 organisations and approved 1-year grants to 10 others, supporting various activities, equipment upgrades and initiatives like the river warden group. Detailed information is available in the Resources Committee's March 4, 2024 Agenda on the Town Council's website.

To enhance community engagement, we added a feedback form on the website for public input at meetings. The Council policy to source goods and services locally is thriving, as shown by recent tendering for the Council depot and Council Chamber's Wi-Fi and mobile phone packages, with the best value provider being a Buckingham-based company.

With 12 out of 17 Councillors on the Resources Committee, they ensure all financial decisions are scrutinised to benefit residents, visitors and holidaymakers, demonstrating our commitment to our wonderful town.

## Environment Committee: Preserving Our Green Spaces

The Environment Committee has made significant progress on major projects. The Tingewick Road Cemetery plans are advancing, with construction set to begin once planning permission is granted. At Brackley Road Cemetery, memorial safety testing and repairs were conducted on 45 gravestones. Of 78 category one memorials, 33 were made safe by deed holders or our Greenspaces Team, with the rest handled by a contractor. The team received commendations for their excellent maintenance of the cemetery.

With Buckinghamshire's devolved services contract declined for 2024/5, the Green Spaces Team can focus more on parks and green spaces, handling tasks previously requiring contractors. Their dedication earned them a local heritage award in June 2023.

Lace Hill Community Centre continues to host numerous events, classes, and clubs, with planned improvements to maintain its first-class status. Ongoing negotiations with developers aim to enhance green spaces at St. Rumbold's Fields and improve The Railway Walk.

Looking ahead, 2024/5 promises significant achievements for the Environment Committee, thanks to the Council's hardworking Greenspaces Team and officers.

## Town Centre & Events Committee: Fostering Community Spirit

The Town Centre & Events Committee has been active in organising a wide array of events, such as the Pancake Race, Food Fair, Comedy Nights, Christmas Lights Switch On, and River Rinses. They also facilitate the Charter Fair, Buckingham Live, Bandjam, and the Christmas Parade, managing road closures and other essential tasks.

Each year, the Committee arranges hanging baskets and planters and has worked hard to provide Christmas motifs and icicle lights. Their strong relationships with external organisations, including the police, event organisers, volunteers, traders, and community groups, are vital in supporting community activities and overseeing the town centre, including the Tourist Information Centre. They work closely with the Town Centre and External Services Manager and Officers.

Lace Hill Community Centre remains a hub for events and diverse activities. Recently, they focused on providing summer events in Buckingham parks for young people and additional art events for families, recognising the community's financial challenges.

## Looking Forward

As we move into 2024/5, Buckingham Town Council remains committed to enhancing our town's vibrancy and well-being.





# GREEN SPACES

We've got some important updates and a friendly nudge to help keep our town in top shape! First up, if you spot any issues around town like potholes, broken streetlights, or graffiti, you can report them through Buckinghamshire Council's FixMyStreet portal <http://fixmystreet.buckinghamshire.gov.uk>. It's super easy and makes sure things get fixed.

Here's what we at Buckingham Town Council are still taking care of:

- **Parks and Green Spaces:** We maintain Brackley Rd Cemetery, Bourton Park, Chandos Park, Lace Hill Sports and Community Centre, Otters Brook and Ken Tagg Play Areas to our usual high standards.
- **Sponsored Roundabouts:** These are kept neat and tidy thanks to our efforts.

However, things like verge grass cutting, hedges, pavement weed spraying and rights of way are now managed by Buckinghamshire Council. We used to handle some of these tasks on their behalf, but due to budget reasons, we decided on 18 March, 2024 not to renew our agreement with them.

## Need to Report an Issue or Ask a Question?

**For verges, hedges, trees, and more:** Visit [fixmystreet.buckinghamshire.gov.uk](http://fixmystreet.buckinghamshire.gov.uk) or call 0300 131 6000.

Thanks for helping us keep Buckingham beautiful!

# COMMUNITY GRANTS 2024/25

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 there are two grant funds to apply for, these are for:

- one-year projects taking place 2025/26
- four-year funding for long term activities 2025/26 to 2028/29

**Application forms are available on the website and must be returned to Town Council by 12 Noon on Friday 22nd November 2024**

If you would like to discuss a possible application, including which fund is best to apply for, or to 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: [office@buckingham-tc.gov.uk](mailto:office@buckingham-tc.gov.uk)

Website: <https://www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk/your-town-council/grant-applications/how-to-apply/>

# MAYOR MAKING/CIVIC AWARDS



The annual Mayor Making event took place at Buckingham Community Centre on Friday 7th June 2024.

This year's community awards were given to:

## Friend of Buckingham

- Tony Allen – in recognition of many contributions to the local community, including giving time to organising and running Couch25K sessions, raising money for local charities and for setting up the men's 'Walk and Talk' group.
- Richard Watkins – in recognition of many contributions to the local community, including involvement in the Buckingham AED (automated external defibrillator) project and the teaching of CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation).

## Arts and Sports Award

Buckingham Summer Music Festival – in recognition of bringing people together for a week of beautiful live classical music in our town.



## Natural Environment and Climate Champion Award

Mr. Leszek Czukbowski – in recognition of hard work as the town's street cleaner, helping to keep Buckingham a beautiful place to live in and visit.

## Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise Award

The Buckingham Society – in recognition of being hugely active in assisting Buckingham Town Council in planning matters, the revision of the Neighbourhood Plan and in drafting the new Buckingham Design Code.

## Mayor's Prize for Outstanding Young Person

The Buckingham Primary School – in recognition of their efforts and resulting success in the Poetry Together 2023 competition.

Town Council Award Winners from left: Mr. Leszek Czukbowski, Ms Sam Brewer – Buckingham Primary School, Mr Richard Watkins, Mr David Childs – The Buckingham Society, Mr Tony Allen



# FUTURE OF BUCKINGHAM: CONSULTATION PROGRESS

Buckingham Town Council is pleased to announce the completion of another stage in the review of the Buckingham Neighbourhood Development Plan. This updated plan, following extensive public consultation, outlines strategic policies for housing, infrastructure, environment, and more, ensuring that Buckingham grows in a planned and sustainable manner. A public consultation took place from 9th July to 31st August 2024 and participants were asked to share their views on proposed policies covering housing, the environment, infrastructure, design & heritage, economy & education, and culture leisure and health.

In person consultation events took place across the summer, offering people the opportunity to ask any questions they had on the plan.

The Neighbourhood Plan is crucial as it empowers residents to shape development,



preserving the local character of Buckingham while accommodating future needs. Detailed results of the consultation are available on our website.

For more information, visit <https://www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk/your-town-council/council-plans/https://www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk/your-town-council-council-plans-buckingham-neighbourhood-development-plan/>.

## 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 addresses opposite.  
We look forward to hearing from you:

# BUCKINGHAM TOWN COUNCILLORS

<b>Cllr. Anja Schaefer – Mayor</b>	01280 816 426	Cllr. Howard Mordue	01280 815 418
<b>Cllr. Fran Davies – Deputy Mayor</b>	07976 558 609	Cllr. Jane 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. Ade Osibogun	01280 816 954
Cllr. Geraldine Collins	01280 823 006	Cllr. Anthony Ralph	07968 108 304
Cllr. Lucy Draper	07432 290 842	Cllr. Robin Stuchbury	07752 394 162
Cllr. Margaret Gateley	01280 816 317	Cllr. Martin Try	01280 816 202
Cllr. Jon Harvey	01280 812 711	Cllr. Ryan Willett	07889 284 495
Cllr. Andy Mahi	01280 816 562	<b>Town Clerk – Claire Molyneux</b>	01280 816 426

### USEFUL NUMBERS

Buckingham Town Council	01280 816 426	Thames Valley Police	101
Buckingham Cemetery	01280 816 801	NHS Urgent Care	111
Buckingham Shopmobility	07738 314 027	National Power Cut Helpline	105
Lace Hill Sports & Community Centre	01280 812 872	Emergency Services	999
Buckingham Community Centre	01280 823 584	National Gas Helpline	0800 111 999
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 11 11
Citizens Advice National Phone Line	0800 1448848	Samaritans	01908 667 777
Domestic Violence Helpline	0808 2000 247	StreetLink (rough sleeping)	0300 500 0914
		Fraud	0300 123 2040
		Stop Scams UK	159

**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)  
**Follow us on Facebook:** [f/BuckinghamTC](https://www.facebook.com/BuckinghamTC) or Twitter [@buckinghamtc](https://twitter.com/buckinghamtc)  
**or instagram** [@buckinghamtc](https://www.instagram.com/buckinghamtc)

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



# 2024/25 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>	Merchant Navy Day Flag Raising Dog Show ✂ 🛒 🍷 River Rinse 1	Tues 3rd (10am) Sat 7th (11am to 3pm) Sun 29th (10am)	Outside Council Chamber Bourton Park Cornwalls Meadow Car Park
<b>OCTOBER</b>	River Rinse 2 Charter Fair Halloween Disco ✂ 🛒 🍷	Sun 6th (10am) Sat 12th & Sat 19th (1pm-11pm) Fri 25th (6pm to 9pm)	The Flosh, Station Road Buckingham Town Centre Lace Hill Sports & Community Centre
<b>NOVEMBER</b>	Bonfire & Fireworks ✂ 🛒 🍷 Remembrance Parade Winter Fair ✂ 🛒 🍷 Christmas Lights Switch On ✂ 🛒 🍷	Sat 2nd (6pm) Sun 10th (10:30am) Sun 24th (2pm to 4pm) Thurs 28th (4pm to 7pm)	Bourton Park Buckingham Town Centre Lace Hill Sports & Community Centre Buckingham Town Centre
<b>DECEMBER</b>	Small Business Saturday Christmas Parade Community Fair 🍷	Sat 7th (10am) Sat 14th (10:45am to 12pm) Sat 14th (11:30am to 2pm)	Buckingham Town Centre Buckingham Town Centre Buckingham Community Centre
<b>JANUARY</b>	Holocaust Memorial Day	Mon 27th (11am)	Bourton Park
<b>FEBRUARY</b>	Pancake Races Food Fair	Thurs 20th (11am to 12pm) Sat 22nd (10am to 3pm)	Church Green at St Peter and St Pauls Buckingham Community Centre
<b>MARCH</b>	Good Endings Fair	Sat 29th (timings to be confirmed)	Buckingham Community Centre

For volunteering opportunities, visit our website: <https://www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk/get-involved/> 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 🍷

