



Buckingham TownMatters

Autumn issue 2025



Message from your Mayor • Meet your new Town Councillors
Find out how to apply for a Grant • Civic Awards

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR MAYOR



Dear residents of Buckingham

As your Mayor, I have had a busy and varied schedule since May and have many more events to attend and groups to meet in the coming months.

I have particularly enjoyed meeting with the wonderful voluntary groups which enrich and support our community, and if I haven't been to see your group yet, please email the office with your invitations.

I have signed the Twinning Agreement with the Italian town of Valmadrera, welcoming their Mayor to Celebrate Buckingham Day, on what was the hottest day of the year so far!

With thoughts of the rest of the year, and cooler days, I am particularly looking forward to some of my favourite events which the Town Council puts on annually, including Bonfire and Fireworks and the Christmas Lights Switch On.

The Town Council have various projects that are progressing, and I look forward to the new Derek Isham Allotments being ready soon, to welcome those who wish to grow their own produce, and as I write this we are hopeful that our new Neighbourhood Plan, which has been many years in the making, will be at the referendum stage around the time that this is delivered to you.

I am so pleased to see the Lace Hill Surgery is now in progress and I look forward to better healthcare provision for us all.

If you would like updates on where I have been and what I am doing as your Mayor, please follow Mayor of Buckingham on Facebook, and you can let me know about your events and projects as well.

Peace and blessings to you all,

Fran Davies

Cllr. Fran Davies
Mayor of Buckingham



INTRODUCING THE NEW DEPUTY MAYOR



I was humbled and honoured to have been voted, by my fellow Councillors, to be the Deputy Mayor of Buckingham for 2025/2026.

I am looking forward to working and supporting our Mayor Cllr. Fran Davies, the residents of Buckingham and our hard working Council officers

and staff. I so hope to meet many of you at our various upcoming events.

I hope that you had wonderful summer and are now looking forward to Christmas.

Take care,

Andy Mahi

Cllr. Andy Mahi
Deputy Mayor of Buckingham



THE BRAIN TUMOUR CHARITY



THE OLİ HILSDON FOUNDATION

YC2

Buckingham
& Winslow
Young Carers



MAYOR'S CHARITIES

Buckingham Town Mayor Fran Davies said "I knew Oli before his diagnosis. His

upbeat attitude, kindness and resilience throughout his treatment was an example to us all, even running a marathon to raise funds whilst undergoing treatment. He is loved and missed.

Young people seldom become carers by choice; the young person steps up because it is a natural, human, and caring thing to do. Many of these children do not realise what a vital role they are playing, nor how much

they miss out. They deserve the space and time to be a child".

The Oli Hilsdon Foundation: The Foundation continues Oli's incredible work, raising awareness and funding research projects that advance the goal of extending, and ultimately saving the lives of those diagnosed with Glioblastoma Multiforme, the most lethal and aggressive of brain tumours.

YC2 Buckingham and Winslow Young Carers Youth Club: YC2 aims to provide services that improve the quality of life and opportunities for young carers in Buckingham and the local area, by offering a solid network for fun, friendship, emotional support, advice, and personal development.

OUR TOWN EVENTS OUR TOWN EVENTS OUR TOWN EVENTS OUR TOWN EVENTS

Buckingham Live:
25th May 2025



Buckingham Play Days:
July & August 2025



Spring Green Fair:
27th April 2025



BandJam:
24th August 2025



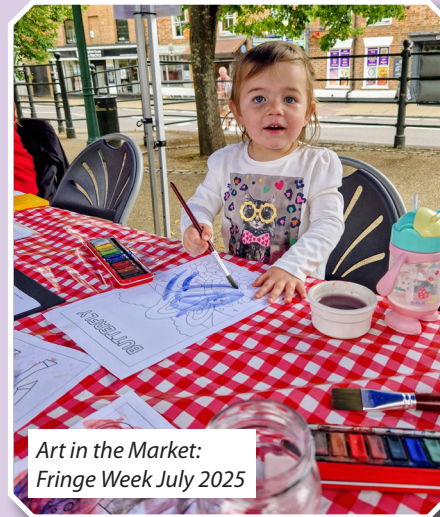
Celebrate Buckingham:
21st June 2025



Crafts at Chantry Chapel:
Fringe Week July 2025



Art in the Market:
Fringe Week July 2025



The Oxford Fiddle Group:
Fringe Week July 2025



May Day:
1st May 2025



Dog Show:
6th September 2025



OUR TOWN EVENTS OUR TOWN EVENTS OUR TOWN EVENTS OUR TOWN EVENTS

The autumn months bring a whole array of amazing community events. A summary of the dates can be found on the back page of this Newsletter. Add them to your calendar and come along and enjoy the wonderful events in your town.

This year the annual **Charter Fair** rolls into town on Friday 17th October 2025 to set up and will be operating on Saturday 18th October 2025. It will then return on the following Friday, 24th October 2025 and will operate on Saturday 25th October 2025. A full road closure will be in force from 6am on both Fridays and covering both Saturdays. Diversions will be in place.



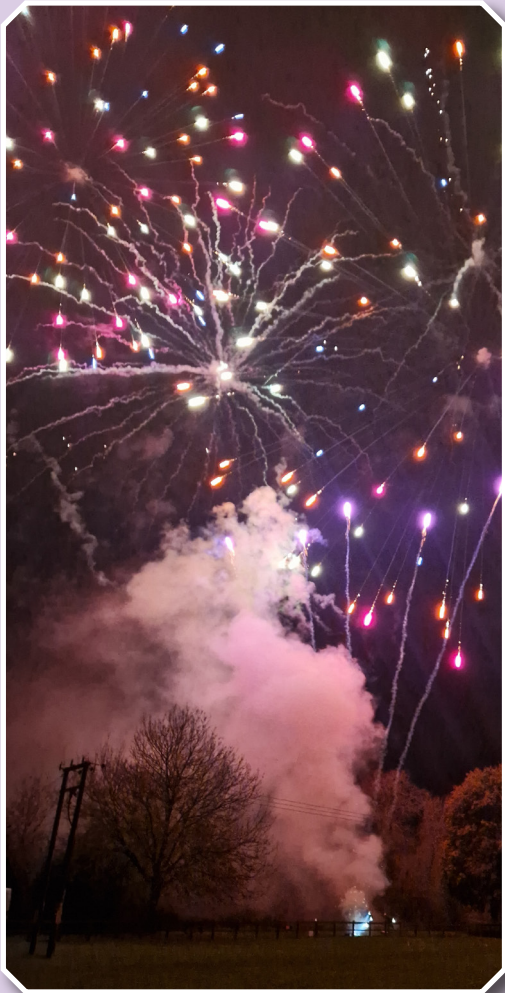
Charter Fairs: 18th and 25th October 2025

Join us at Lace Hill Sports & Community Centre for a fantastic family friendly **Halloween Disco Party** on Friday 31st October 2025 from 6-9pm. Tickets can be purchased from Buckingham Tourist Information Centre.



Halloween Disco: 31st October 2025

Bonfire & Fireworks on Saturday 1st November 2025 starting 6pm in Bourton Park. Free entry. Enjoy a fantastic fireworks display, bonfire, DJ Dan Blaze, and local food vendors.



Bonfire and Fireworks: 1st November 2025



Remembrance Parade: 9th November 2025

Buckingham's **Remembrance Parade** will be held on Sunday 9th November 2025. 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 and diversions will be in place from 10:15am.

The **Winter Fair** will take place on Sunday 16th November 2025 from 2pm–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.



Winter Fair: 16th November 2025

The **Christmas Lights Switch On** will be taking place on Thursday 27th November 2025 from 4pm to 7pm outside The Old Gaol. Expect carols, festive activities, local food vendors and live entertainment.



Christmas Lights Switch On: 27th November 2025

The annual **Christmas Parade** will be on Saturday 13th December 2025 and is organised by the Christmas Parade Committee. The Parade is made up of floats and walking groups.



Christmas Parade: 13th December 2025

HERE'S WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO 2024-2025



Environment

This year has seen great progress across projects overseen by the Environment Committee and our excellent Green Spaces Team.

We are pleased to have secured ownership and planning permission for the new Tingewick Road Cemetery and Derek Isham allotments, and we have started planting trees and wildflower meadows.

Brackley Road Cemetery remains well-maintained, and complemented by the popular Commonwealth War Graves tours.

Lace Hill pitches are in regular use, and the Cornwalls Meadow toilets have had a smart refresh.

Work continues in Bourton Park to remove an ageing bridge, and we await updates on the Railway Walk path project.

Planning

Major developments at Osier Way, London Road, and Bourton Farm were considered by Full Council, with two opposed for conflicting with the current Neighbourhood Plan (BNP).

The Committee continues to uphold BNP policies, safeguard the Conservation Area, and raise concerns over houses in multiple occupation, access, and enforcement issues. The updated BNP (2024–2040) was submitted to Buckinghamshire Council in December and is expected to go to public referendum.

Following two years of work with consultants ONH and over 40 meetings, including public consultations, the new BNP reflects community feedback and seeks to secure appropriate infrastructure through developer contributions.

The Committee also engaged in County planning forums and infrastructure discussions along the A421 corridor.

Resources

With many residents still impacted by the cost-of-living crisis, the Resources Committee continues to scrutinise all spending carefully. We prioritise value for money and support local suppliers where possible – for example, sourcing fuel from Buckingham's independent petrol station.

Staffing remains our largest cost, reflecting the town's growth and increasing responsibilities taken on by Officers.

In response to concerns about Management Companies maintaining new developments, we now negotiate with developers early to ensure the Town Council can adopt and care for green spaces and play areas to our high standards.

This year, we reviewed and awarded grants to 16 local organisations supporting the community through activities, events, and essential services.

Town Centre & Events

The Committee, supported by Officers and the Green Spaces Team, delivered a packed calendar of mostly free community events this year. Highlights included Buckingham Live at the Football Club, BandJam in the Market Square, and the popular Celebrate Buckingham Day in Bourton Park.

The Fringe Festival and Food Fair drew strong attendance, while free art activities and events at Lace Hill Centre remained community favourites. The Christmas Lights Switch-On and Christmas Parade were again well received, and the Community Fair helped raise funds for local charities.

We continue to support tourism through the Tourist Information Centre and fund ShopMobility to promote local shopping.

Thanks to careful planning, strong partnerships, and committed staff, our events bring the community together and support the local economy. We look forward to another vibrant year ahead.



MEET YOUR NEW TOWN COUNCILLORS

Buckingham Town Council is thrilled to welcome six dynamic new Town Councillors, each bringing a rich blend of talent, experience, and fresh perspectives. We are excited to see the positive impact they will have on our community.

Cllr. Roger Newall

I have called Buckingham home since 1987 and bring a wealth of experience in planning from my career at Aylesbury Vale District Council. I am now a planning consultant and active member of the Buckingham Neighbourhood Plan Working Group; I am passionate about thoughtful development and community wellbeing. I intend to draw on my extensive experience in local government to support the Town Council as Buckingham prepares for significant growth.



Cllr. Russell Poppe

I have lived in Buckingham for nearly 20 years and work full-time as a Chartered Engineer. I am a member of the Buckingham Society and advocate for local businesses, green spaces, and our town's rich heritage. I am absolutely delighted to be joining the Town Council and supporting the community I have proudly called home for two decades.

Cllr. Ruth Newell

I have lived in the Buckingham area for decades, and although a 'new' councillor, I have served previously on the Town Council for 30 years, including as Mayor for 4 years. Tragically my wonderful husband Robert Munday died of MND 4 years ago.

My passion is the environment, from studying Ecology at Aberystwyth followed by a Masters at Imperial college, and now being a River and Tree Warden. I worked in local government finance and HR and now as a governance professional, together with volunteering for Oxfam and The Buckingham Foodbank.



Cllr. Heather Haydock

I have lived on Page Hill in Buckingham for 20 years with my husband and daughter. I took early retirement from a career in environmental consultancy two years ago and now volunteer for local community and environmental organisations like Citizens Advice and Community Impact Bucks. I love the green spaces in Buckingham, and you will often see me dog walking there with our golden retrievers. I look forward to helping the local community and environment in my time as a Councillor.

Cllr. Tony Allen

My wife Hazel and I moved to Buckingham 10 years ago and immediately fell in love with its friendly community, open spaces and the easy walk to pubs and places to eat. We were fortunate to retire early 4 years ago. Our open spaces are important for the wellbeing of our community, hence why the environment is important to me to protect; I can often be seen using them to lead C25K groups and men's walks.



Cllr. Sundeep Singh

I live in Buckingham South Ward and work in electrical engineering, leading a business that supports global energy infrastructure. I am passionate about sustainability and protecting our local environment. As a Town Councillor, I look forward to contributing to community development, supporting environmentally responsible initiatives, and ensuring sustainable new housing developments have the necessary basic infrastructure in place.



GRANT APPLICATIONS 2026 ONWARDS

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:

- one-year projects taking place 2026/2027;
- four-year funding for long term activities 2026-2030.

Application forms are available on the website and must be returned to the Town Council by 12 noon on Friday 21st November 2025.

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 816426

Email: office@buckingham-tc.gov.uk

Website: www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk/your-town-council/grant-applications/



BUCKINGHAM ROTARY

The Rotary Club of Buckingham has the local community at its heart and makes a positive difference.



In the last year we helped local groups raise over £10,000 – through annual events such as the Santa Float and Swimathon.

We also raise money that we then spend on our community projects. For example, this year we have:

- Taken 40 children from local primary schools to Whipsnade Zoo for the day.
- Awarded places for the Rotary Youth Leader scheme to the two senior schools.
- Arranged the Buckingham Easter Trail.
- Provided interview techniques and practice sessions for the Buckingham School.
- Donated to the new Galaxy Scout group that is being established for people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

Oh, and Rotary is a global organisation with over 1.2 million members who do fantastic things across the world, and with the right people we can get involved too.

We have two meetings a month (one of which is for a meal), and always welcome people if they would like to join the club, or become Friends of Rotary (and help with our projects).

If you are interested in finding out more, please see our website www.buckinghamrotary.org, or you can contact us at secretary@buckinghamrotary.org, or find us on Facebook.

We were also instrumental in building the model town for the Buckingham Ablaze event – involving primary pupils in decorating and placing the buildings.

And we want to do so much more – but we need help to do things such as:

- Providing monthly play sessions for younger SEND children.
- Running our annual events – Santa Float, Swimathon and Classic Cars.
- Keeping social media up to date with our activities.
- Raising funds for other projects that you may think we should be involved in.



MAYOR MAKING AND CIVIC AWARDS

At this year's Mayor Making and Mayor's Reception on 6th June 2025, outstanding local individuals and groups were honoured with awards in recognition of their remarkable contributions to the community.



Friend of Buckingham

- Sheryl Bennett for her many years of generous work with the YC2 Young Carers Youth Club.
- Tony Checkley for his dedication to involvement in sports for generations of young people.

Sport and Art Award

- Buckingham Ablaze for the amazing programme of events and activities to commemorate the 1725 Fire of Buckingham.

Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Organisation of the Year

- The Buckingham Food Bank for its continued commitment to helping local people in need.

Natural Environment and Climate Champion

- The Buckingham Repair Café for their amazing work repairing a wide range of items to enable re-use.

Mayor's Prize for Outstanding Young Person

- Bourton Meadow Academy for their excellent contribution to the Holocaust Memorial Day event.

Retiring Mayor Cllr. Anja Schaefer has chosen to have a tree planted in the autumn in Bourton Park to honour her time as Mayor of Buckingham.

Further information about the civic awards can be found on the Town Council website: [Civic Buckingham – Buckingham Town Council](#).

BUCKINGHAM TOWN COUNCILLORS

Cllr. Fran Davies – Mayor	07976 558609
Cllr. Andy Mahi – Deputy Mayor	01280 816562
Cllr. Robina Ahmed	01280 816426
Cllr. Tony Allen	07769 339209
Cllr. Lucy Draper	07432 290842
Cllr. Jon Harvey	01280 812711
Cllr. Heather Haydock	07979 902517
Cllr. Howard Mordue	01280 815418
Cllr. Jane Mordue	01280 815418

Cllr. Roger Newall	07540 317160
Cllr. Ruth Newell	01280 815229
Cllr. Lisa O'Donoghue	07906 408646
Cllr. Russell Poppe	07563 403585
Cllr. Anja Schaefer	01280 816426
Cllr. Sundeep Singh	07810 563890
Cllr. Robin Stuchbury	07752 394162
Cllr. Martin Try	01280 816202
Town Clerk – Claire Molyneux	01280 816426

USEFUL NUMBERS

Buckingham Town Council	01280 816426
Buckingham Cemetery	01280 816801
Buckingham Shopmobility	07738 314027
Lace Hill Sports & Community Centre	01280 816426
Buckingham Community Centre	01280 823584
Buckingham Tourist Information Centre	01280 823020
Buckinghamshire Council	0300 131 6000
Transport for Buckinghamshire	01296 382416
Citizens Advice Buckinghamshire	0808 278 7938
Citizens Advice National Phone Line	0800 144 8848
Domestic Violence Helpline	0808 2000 247
Thames Valley Police	101
Crimestoppers	0800 555 111

NHS Urgent Care	111
Power Cut Helpline	105
National Gas Helpline	0800 111 999
Anglian Water Emergency	03457 145 145
Floodline	03459 881 188
ChildLine	0800 11 11
Samaritans	01908 667777
StreetLink (rough sleeping)	0300 500 0914
Action Fraud	0300 123 2040
Stop Scams UK	159
Emergency Services	999 or 112
Fix My Street	https://fixmystreet.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/
Our MP for Buckingham	callum.anderson.mp@parliament.uk

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. It 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 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 or drop us a line at the address opposite.
We look forward to hearing from you.

Buckingham Town Council, Buckingham Centre, Verney Close, Buckingham, MK18 1JP

Email: office@buckingham-tc.gov.uk or **visit:** www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk

Call: 01280 816426 (Please phone for appointments.)

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or instagram [@buckinghamtc](#)

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This edition of **BTM** has been designed by Black Dog Design (www.black-dog-design.co.uk), printed by BCQ Solutions Ltd 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.

2025/2026 EVENTS DIARY

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



2025			
SEPTEMBER	Dog Show X 🛒	Sat 6th September (11am to 3pm)	Bourton Park Paddock
	River Rinse 1	Sun 21st September (10:15am)	Cornwalls Meadow Car Park to the Flosh
OCTOBER	River Rinse 2	Sun 5th October (10:15am)	TBC
	Charter Fair 1	Sat 18th October	Buckingham town centre
	Charter Fair 2	Sat 25th October	Buckingham town centre
	Halloween Disco X 🛒	Fri 31st October (6:00pm to 9:00pm)	Lace Hill Sports and Community Centre
NOVEMBER	Bonfire & Fireworks X 🛒 🗑️	Sat 1st November (6pm)	Bourton Park Paddock
	Remembrance Parade	Sun 9th November	Buckingham town centre
	Winter Fair X 🛒 🗑️	Sun 16th November	Lace Hill Sports & Community Centre
	Christmas Lights Switch On X 🛒 🗑️	Thurs 27th November	Buckingham town centre
DECEMBER	Small Business Saturday	Sat 6th December	Buckingham town centre
	Christmas Parade	Sat 13th December	Buckingham town centre
	Community Fair X 🗑️	Sat 13th December	Buckingham town centre

2026			
JANUARY	Holocaust Memorial Day	Tuesday 27th January	Bourton Park

For volunteering opportunities, visit our website: www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk/get-involved/volunteering/ or call the office on 01280 816426 for more information.

Key to spaces available:

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

