



Buckingham TownMatters

Winter issue 2025



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Lace Hill Sports and Community Centre

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR MAYOR



Dear residents of Buckingham,

Well time flies when you are having fun!
I can't believe how quickly the year has gone.

At the time of writing, I have attended over 40 events since I was elected to be your Mayor in May and I have a packed diary in the coming weeks. Some of my favourite events such as the Charter Fair, Bonfire and Fireworks and the Christmas Parade are coming up, and many plans are already in place for next year.

It is not all fun and games though; being Mayor also involves attending some solemn and serious events, such as the Remembrance Parade. I chair meetings and keep order while Councillors rightly debate the decisions which will affect us all. I also represent Buckingham at civic occasions such as the High Sheriff of Buckinghamshire's Justice Service.

The best part is meeting people and doing my best to help them in their daily lives, especially when this involves supporting or working with young people.

I am very much looking forward to seeing all the entries to my Christmas Card Competition, although I think judging will be difficult. The winning designs will be printed and available to buy in our Tourist Information Centre in the Old Gaol.

I wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas period, however you celebrate, and a healthy New Year.

Fran Davies

**Cllr. Fran Davies
Mayor of Buckingham**

BUCKINGHAM IN BLOOM

This year's Buckingham in Bloom competition once again highlighted the creativity of residents and businesses who brighten the town with flowers and planting.

At the **Residential Awards Ceremony**, hosted by The Larder Café at Manor Farm, Mayor Cllr. Fran Davies presented certificates and garden centre vouchers to the winners. Paynes Court won 1st Place, Community Garden. In the Residential Containers and Baskets category, Raymond Neale took 1st Place and Trevor Lawler was awarded 2nd Place, Highly Commended. Graham Phillips won 1st Place, Residential Front Garden, with Kate Cantrell taking 2nd Place.



Presentation of awards at The Larder Café at Manor Farm



Paynes Court



Trevor Lawler

In the **Business Awards**, The Larder Café at Manor Farm won 1st Place, Large Business, with The Woolpack in 2nd Place. In the Small Business category, Dancing Squirrel Ltd. took 1st Place, while Mercy in Action placed 2nd for their creative floral window.

Buckingham Town Council thanks all entrants for their efforts in making the town brighter and more beautiful and looks forward to even more participation next year.

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



Dog Show: 6th September 2025



Charter Fair:
18th and 25th October 2025



River Rinses: 21st September and 5th October 2025

The story began a century ago with Ada Louise Curtis, a determined young woman who left Jamaica in 1924. Her courage, independence and resilience laid the foundation for a family legacy that would eventually reach Buckingham, and leave a lasting mark on its community.



Black History Month Talk: 23rd October 2025



Halloween Disco:
31st October 2025



Bonfire and Fireworks:
1st November 2025



Remembrance Parade:
9th November 2025

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

Winter is a magical time of the year in Buckingham. From the Lace Hill Winter Fair to the wonderful Christmas Parade and Community Fair, there is festive cheer and a fantastic showcase of the most amazing local talent. The new year brings us even more very special events – don't forget to add them to your new calendar.

Join us on Sunday, 16th November from 2pm to 4pm at the Lace Hill Sports and Community Centre for the popular **Lace Hill Winter Fair**, a family event full of community spirit and seasonal delights. There will be lots of stalls showcasing beautiful handmade Christmas gifts, decorations, and treats – all crafted by talented local makers. There will also be refreshments, children's art and craft activities and heaps of festive cheer.



*Lace Hill Winter Fair:
16th November 2025*

Gather with family and friends as the town is transformed at the **Christmas Lights Switch On** event, which takes place on Thursday, 27th November from 4pm to 7pm. Enjoy carol



*Christmas Lights Switch
On: 27th November 2025*

singing, tasty food and drink, live entertainment and family-friendly festive activities.

This year's **Christmas Parade** will take place on Saturday, 13th December.

Join us as the town is brought to life by a dazzling display of floats and walking groups – all celebrating this year's magical theme: *Christmas Movies*.

The event is organised by the Christmas Parade Committee, with support from Buckingham Town Council, who fund the parade and oversee the road closures to ensure a safe and joyful experience for all.



*Christmas Parade:
13th December 2025*

Our last event of the calendar year is the **Community Fair** on Saturday, 13th December. It takes place immediately after the Christmas Parade at Buckingham Community Centre. If you're feeling the chill after the Christmas Parade, what better way to warm up than enjoying festive refreshments and supporting local charities by buying some last minute gifts.



*Community Fair:
13th December 2025*

On Tuesday, 27th January from 11am to 12 noon, we recognise **Holocaust Memorial Day** with a commemoration in Bourton Park next to the Holocaust Memorial Stone. Our town Mayor, Cllr. Fran Davies will lead with a reading and there will be contributions from local schoolchildren. We would be honoured if you can join us to mark this important day.



*Holocaust Memorial Day:
27th January 2026*

Grab your apron and get yourself down to the green at St. Peter and St Paul's Church on Thursday, 19th February for our annual **Pancake Races** from 11am to 12:30pm. There is a race for everyone, with prizes and treats for the winners. Come and run or cheer on the racers and enjoy this fun, friendly, community event.

The popular **Food Fair** is back on Saturday, 28th February at Buckingham Community Centre, bringing a vibrant mix of food vendors and artisan producers. The event supports our local food businesses and visitors can look forward to sampling and buying delicious treats. Outside the venue will be street food vans to tempt you further.



*Pancake Race :
19th February 2026*



*Food Fair:
28th February 2026*

WHERE THE MONEY CAME FROM AND HOW WE SPENT IT 2024-2025

Each year, Buckingham Town Council manages a wide range of services and facilities for the community, funded through a combination of local income sources and the Council Tax precept. Here is a summary of how we funded our services and where that money was spent during the financial year 2024/25.

Income: £1,438,766.00

The majority of our income came from the Precept – the portion of your Council Tax that goes directly to the Town Council – which provided £1,230,480.00 of our total budget.

We also generated additional income from a variety of local sources:

- Community centres brought in £42,027.00
- Interest earned on investments totalled £40,707.00
- Street and Flea Markets contributed £25,902.00
- Brackley Road Cemetery fees added £24,628.00
- Events income was £13,003.00
- Roundabout sponsorship generated £14,913.00
- Grants received totalled £20,339.00

Smaller income streams included Lace Hill Community Centre’s solar energy (£2,170.00), tourism information services (£7,552.00), and Shopmobility hire (£311.00), among others.

Expenditure: £1,346,475.94

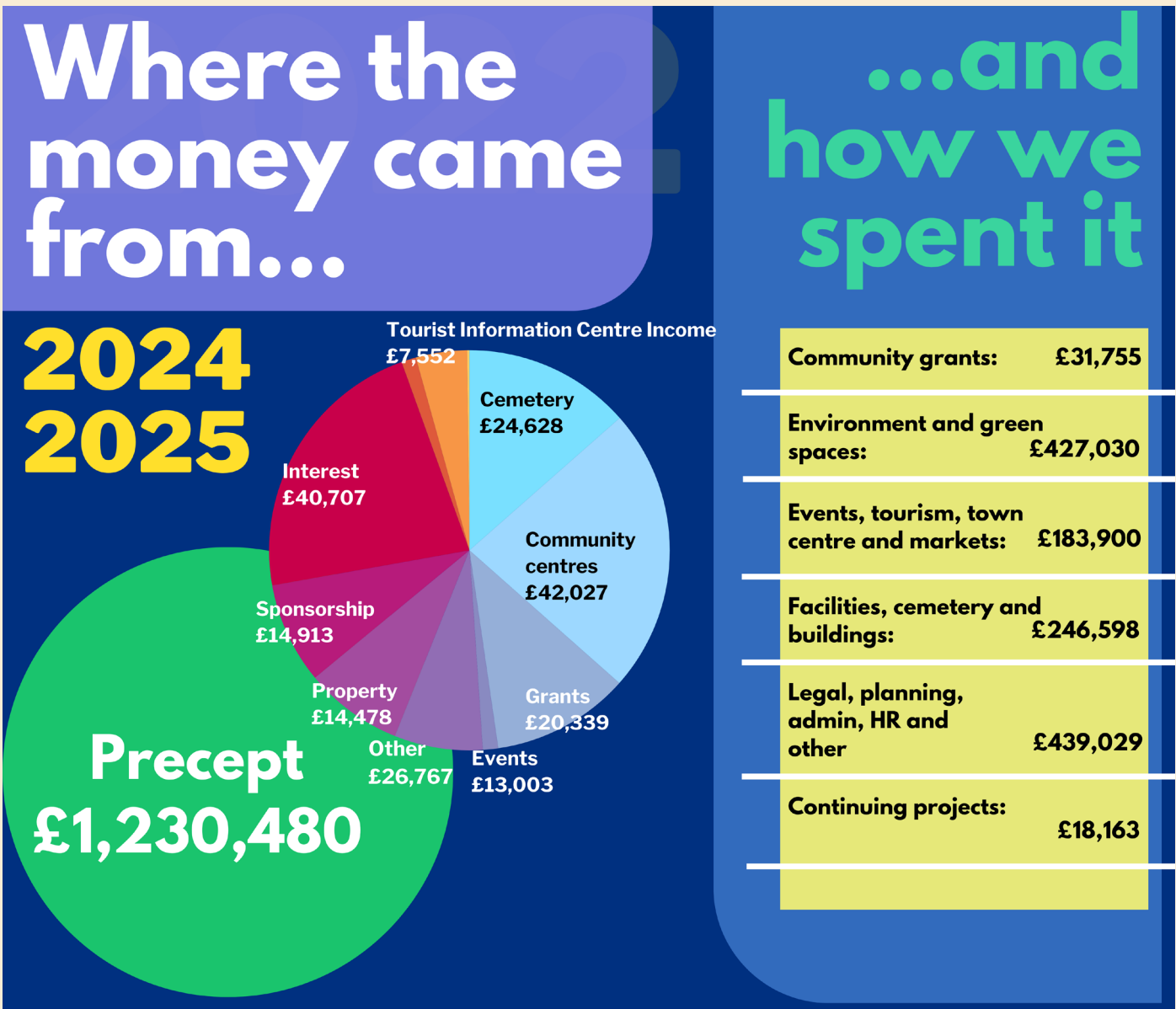
Our biggest area of spending was on resources, which includes staff, administration, and day-to-day operations, costing £439,029.00.

Other major expenditures included:

- Green spaces – £427,030.00, maintaining parks and play areas
- Town centre enhancements (TCE) – £183,900.00
- Cemeteries – £160,982.00
- Lace Hill facilities – £35,675.00
- Public toilets (including Chandos and Shopmobility) – £40,085.00

We also invested in smaller but essential services, including the depot (£9,856.00) and grants to local organisations (£31,755.00). Additionally, £18,163.94 was added to earmarked reserves for future projects.

Thanks to careful financial management, income exceeded expenditure by over £92,000, which helps support reserves and future service improvements.



PUBLIC ART AND PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

Buckingham has been getting creative with the camera in our two recent photo competitions.

The first celebrated the stunning new artwork on the Chamber wall, hand-crafted by talented local artist Lee Vernon. The second invited young people, aged 13-17, to capture the past, present and future of Buckingham, exploring the themes of Heritage and Sustainability.

A big thank you goes to Throwback, our town centre vintage shop, who generously sponsored the teen competition with a £40 in-store voucher for the winner, and to our Mayor, Cllr Fran Davies, for judging.

Most importantly, thank you to everyone who entered – your creativity helps us keep running fun competitions like these for the whole community.



Jemima – Winner



Willow – Runner up

Ella – Winner of the Teen Photo Competition

SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY

Enjoy fun for the whole family, including a swan-themed window hunt with a prize for everyone and the chance to win a 3-month subscription to Buckingham Bookshop, and family swim and soft play vouchers for the Swan Pool and Leisure Centre. Pick up a Shop Local loyalty card from the Tourist Information Centre and participating shops – each completed card enters you into a local shopping voucher prize draw. Both launch on 6th December and run throughout the festive season.



Enjoy live music from Buckingham Ukulele Group and The Rock Project, then get stuck in with shopping, spotting, and stamping!

From locally made jewellery and sustainable fashion to vintage clothing and unique gifts, you'll find treasures to give this Christmas – or to treat yourself!



NEWSLETTER COMPETITION

Take part in our Find the Word competition for your chance to win a **£10 voucher to spend at a local business!**

Hidden somewhere in this Newsletter is a **seasonal word**. To enter, simply locate the word 'shine', note the **page number and its location**, and email your answer to: office@buckingham-tc.gov.uk.

All correct entries will be entered into a draw, and the winner will be **chosen at random by the Town Clerk**.

The lucky winner will be notified by email or telephone by 10th December 2025.

Good luck – and happy hunting!



NEW CEMETERY AND ALLOTMENTS



Work is progressing well at the new cemetery and allotment site on Tingewick Road. The contractor, Ground Control, has laid the foundations for the entrance road, car parks and the concrete rafters that will support memorials in the cemetery's lawn section. Lawn plots are low-maintenance burial areas where graves are level with the ground and grassed over. Kerb sets are not permitted in the lawn plots, and memorials must be installed within a ground-level concrete rafter.

The site will also offer traditional plots with kerb sets, family burial plots, and a children's burial area. The project management team continue to monitor progress and aim for a completion by the end of 2025.

For any enquiries, email: estates@buckingham-tc.gov.uk or call 01280 816426.

LACE HILL SPORTS AND COMMUNITY CENTRE



Lace Hill Sports and Community Centre offers a wide range of classes, activities, and community events for all ages. The Centre features two versatile rooms for hire: a spacious sports hall and a committee room, along with two sports pitches, an outdoor play park, and a multi-use games area. Whether it is for private events, fitness classes, martial arts, or kids' groups, there is something for everyone.

To book a space or inquire about availability, get in touch with the Community Centre Coordinator at lacehillcentre@buckingham-tc.gov.uk. For the latest events and to view the timetable, visit www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk/town-council-services/venues-for-hire/lace-hill-centre/ or follow @LaceHillCentre on social media.



WINTER: STAY WARM, STAY SAFE

We know that winter can be a difficult time for many. Keeping warm and staying healthy is very important. The UK Government and NHS recommend:

- **Get vaccinated:** Book your flu jab and winter Covid booster if eligible.
- **Seek help early:** Contact your pharmacist, GP, or NHS 111 if you feel unwell.
- **Keep warm:** Maintain at least 18°C in rooms you use often, close windows at night, and wear layers.
- **Plan ahead:** Stock up on food and medication if bad weather is forecast.
- **Register for priority services:** If you are elderly, pregnant, disabled, or need extra support, sign up with your utility providers.

Local Help in Buckingham

- **Buckingham Food Bank:** Non-perishable items available with a referral from Citizens' Advice, GP, Health Visitor, Social Services, or a local church.
- **Jedidiah, 13 Castle Street:** Free fresh food, Wed-Fri 4pm, Sat 9am. No referral needed – just bring a bag.
- **Repair Café, The Centre, Verney Close:** Open 2nd Saturday of every month, 10am-1pm. Volunteers help to fix clothes, electronics, and more.
- **Buckingham Clothes Bank:** Exists to help those in need in the local community, with a particular focus on school uniforms, children's clothing, bras and baby supplies. <https://buckinghamclothesbank.co.uk/>
- **The Buckingham Almshouses and Welfare Charity:** Welfare fund specifically for Buckingham residents in financial crisis. <https://buckinghamawc.org/>



CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION 2025

This year the Mayor, Cllr Fran Davies, held her annual Christmas Card Competition with the theme 'Christmas Around the World'. Local children were encouraged to think about how different cultures celebrate and let their creativity shine through their festive designs.

The winners will join the Mayor on stage to help switch on the Christmas lights on Thursday 27th November – a magical way to celebrate their achievement. Their designs

are now available in packs from the Tourist Information Centre at the Old Gaol. Proceeds from sales will support the Mayor's chosen charities: YC2 Buckingham and Winslow Young Carers Youth Club and The Oli Hilsdon Foundation.

A special thank you goes to BCQ, the local printing company based on the industrial estate, for printing this year's cards.



Bonnie – Reception to Year 2 winner



Fleur – Year 3 to Year 6 winner

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 COUNCILLORS

Cllr. Fran Davies – Mayor	07976 558609	Cllr. Roger Newall	07540 317160
Cllr. Andy Mahi – Deputy Mayor	01280 816562	Cllr. Ruth Newell	01280 815229
Cllr. Robina Ahmed	01280 816426	Cllr. Lisa O'Donoghue	07906 408646
Cllr. Tony Allen	07769 339209	Cllr. Russell Poppe	07563 403585
Cllr. Lucy Draper	07432 290842	Cllr. Anja Schaefer	01280 816426
Cllr. Jon Harvey	01280 812711	Cllr. Sundeep Singh	01280 816426
Cllr. Heather Haydock	07979 902517	Cllr. Robin Stuchbury	07752 394162
Cllr. Howard Mordue	01280 815418	Cllr. Martin Try	01280 816202
Cllr. Jane Mordue	01280 815418	Town Clerk – Claire Molyneux	01280 816426

USEFUL NUMBERS

Buckingham Town Council	01280 816426	NHS Urgent Care	111
Buckingham Cemetery	01280 816801	Power Cut Helpline	105
Buckingham Shopmobility	07738 314027	National Gas Helpline	0800 111 999
Lace Hill Sports & Community Centre	01280 816426	Anglian Water Emergency	03457 145 145
Buckingham Community Centre	01280 823584	Floodline	03459 881 188
Buckingham Tourist Information Centre	01280 823020	ChildLine	0800 11 11
Buckinghamshire Council	0300 131 6000	Samaritans	01908 667777
Transport for Buckinghamshire	01296 382416	StreetLink (rough sleeping)	0300 500 0914
Citizens Advice Buckinghamshire	0808 278 7938	Action Fraud	0300 123 2040
Citizens Advice National Phone Line	0800 144 8848	Stop Scams UK	159
Domestic Violence Helpline	0808 2000 247	Emergency Services	999 or 112
Thames Valley Police	101	Fix My Street https://fixmystreet.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/	
Crimestoppers	0800 555 111	Our MP callum.anderson.mp@parliament.uk	

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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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 and online at www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk or follow us @BuckinghamTC.



2025			
NOVEMBER	Bonfire & Fireworks X 🛒 ♻️	Sat 1st November (6pm)	Bourton Park
	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 Community Centre

2026			
JANUARY	Holocaust Memorial Day	Tuesday 27th January	Bourton Park
FEBRUARY	Pancake Races	Thursday 19th February	Church Green
	Food Fair X 🛒	Saturday 28th February	Buckingham Community Centre
MARCH	Annual Town Meeting ♻️	Thursday 26th March	Lace Hill Sports and Community Centre
	Easter event X 🛒 ♻️	Sunday 29th March	Buckingham Community Centre

For volunteering opportunities, visit our website: www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk/get-involved/volunteering/ or call the office on 01280 816 426 for more information.

Key to spaces available:

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

