



Buckingham TownMatters

Spring issue 2026



Spot the word
competition

Allotments • Precept • Repair Café
Buckingham Neighbourhood Plan Referendum result

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR MAYOR



Dear residents of Buckingham

Another year has come along, the seasons turn and spring is in the air. Winter and the short days can create some real issues for many, but as the days lengthen, we see the new shoots and hope of brighter days to come.

I hope that you all had a happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year period, however you celebrate, and whatever your beliefs are.

The Town came together for some amazing seasonal events, including the Christmas Lights Switch on, the Christmas Parade and, as I write, the Community Pantomime has just finished. I thank everyone who has taken part in any way,

in these and all the other events and voluntary organisations in our town. You are the backbone of our thriving, caring community. Many groups have opportunities for new volunteers, why not step forward? In my experience, a warm welcome is always there for new faces.

Probably the biggest thank you has to go to everyone who worked towards our new Buckingham Neighbourhood Development Plan. Contributions came not only from the Working Group, Councillors, and Officers of the Council, but from all who attended our consultations and gave feedback. I am so pleased that the plan was passed at the January referendum, we can now look to the future of our lovely town.

The spring and summer events calendar is looking exciting, there is so much to look forward to. The new Derrick Isham Allotments are almost ready for the first plot holders, so please see the article on pages 10 and 11 to see how to become involved.

I look forward to seeing you at some of our events.

Happy Spring!

Fran Davies

**Cllr. Fran Davies
Mayor of Buckingham**

BUCKINGHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REFERENDUM RESULT

A neighbourhood plan is a community-led, legally binding framework that guides the future development, regeneration, and conservation of a local area.

On 22nd January, 94% of voting residents said 'Yes' to the new Buckingham Neighbourhood Development Plan. It is now the most up-to-date part of the Development Plan for the area.

A big part is the Design Code, setting out how any new development must meet set standards that reflect the character of our historic market town.

Throughout the public consultation, the most consistent comments were on the green space within and around Buckingham. This led to the Green Rings policy (hailed as 'innovative' by the independent examiner) which protects existing and newly designated green spaces.

New protected areas (equivalent to Green Belt status) include Maids Moreton Avenue, Holloway Spinney, land behind Watlow Gardens, Railway Walk and Scenic Walk, St Rumbold's Field (site of St Rumbold's Well), the recreational strip behind Bobbins Way



on Lace Hill, Verney Park at Bernardines Way, land south of Page Hill Avenue and local parks.

New homes, independently identified as required to meet the needs of Buckingham residents, will provide 30% affordable homes, helping amongst others younger residents to stay in the town. Brownfield development, on land which has been previously used, is encouraged but will not be sufficient to

provide enough housing. Two new sites have been allocated: the Canal Site, and a larger site to the West.

New infrastructure could include a Primary School, contributions towards the Lace Hill Medical Centre, theatre space, sustainable transport and sports and recreational facilities.

To ensure a vibrant local economy and to reduce the need to commute, there is provision of new employment land for local and new businesses alike.



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



Remembrance Parade – 9th November 2025



Winter Fair – 16th November 2025



Christmas Parade – 13th December 2025



Community Fair – 13th December 2025



Pancake Races – 19th February 2026



Christmas Lights Switch On – 17th November 2025



Small Business Saturday – 6th December 2025



Holocaust Memorial Day – 27th January 2026

Watch the commemorative video here



Food Fair – 28th February 2026

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

Spring brings warm days filled with fun, celebration, and cheer. A variety of wonderful events await where you can craft, dance, picnic, celebrate, and enjoy meaningful time with friends and family.

The popular **Lace Hill Easter Fair** will take place on Sunday 29th March. There will be Easter themed crafts for the children and lovely stalls to browse, with an array of handmade products and tasty treats from local organisations and makers. Refreshments will be available too. A perfect afternoon out for families.



Easter Fair – 29th March 2026

Looking for something to do in the Easter holidays? Come and join us for **Green and Crafts** in the Cattle Pens for a day of free eco-friendly, sustainable crafting on Sunday, 12th April. Paint a picture or let your imagination run wild and create something unique from natural and recycled materials.



Green and Crafts – 12th April 2026

Join us for **May Day** on Friday, 1st May to see the wonderful maypole dancing by local schoolchildren. Follow our social media pages for up to date information about this and all of our other events.



May Day – 1st May 2026

Dance the day away on 24th May! Enjoy **Buckingham Live** with music and family fun on the green outside Buckingham Football Club clubhouse. Bring along a picnic or treat yourself to some delicious food from one of the food stalls. A licensed bar will be available in the clubhouse.



Buckingham Live – 24th May 2026



Celebrate Buckingham Day – 20th June 2026

Celebrate Buckingham Day on Saturday, 20th June is a relaxed community event held in the Paddock at Bourton Park. Join us to celebrate some of Buckingham's vibrant voluntary, community and non-profit organisations. A perfect family day out with food stalls, ice creams, free crafts and games.

Enjoy an amazing week full of arts, sports, and cultural activities during this year's **Fringe Week**. From live music to art in the market, there is something for everyone – look out for the Fringe brochure dropping through your door in June.



Fringe Week 19th – 26th July 2026

BUCKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL



Precept 2026/2027

WHAT IS THE PRECEPT?

The Precept is the Town Council's share of Council Tax. This year the Precept will rise by £0.25 per week on a band D property. This is an increase of 5.56%, from £233.28 to £246.25 a year.

TOTAL PRECEPT

The total amount that Buckingham Town Council will receive from Council Tax in 2026/2027 is:

£1,398,760

COMMUNITY SERVICES FUNDED FROM THE PRECEPT

- Shopmobility
- Tourist Information Centre
- Brackley Road Cemetery
- Public Seating
- Cornwalls Meadow public toilets
- Chandos Park public toilets

BUCKINGHAM EVENTS

Buckingham Town Council runs and partners a programme of events each year. This includes Pancake Races, Food Fair, Buckingham Live, Fringe Week, Play Days, Dog Show, Lace Hill events, Band Jam, Bonfire and Fireworks, Christmas Lights Switch on, Christmas Parade and Community Fair.

PARKS AND GREEN SPACES

Buckingham is proud of its parks and green spaces. The Environment Committee will receive £651,078 from the Precept to take care of them and to continue to develop the new cemetery and allotments.

TOURISM AND BUSINESS SUPPORT

The Tourist Information Centre continues to be popular, providing services to both newcomers and visitors to Buckingham. It supports local people, offering advice and information about transport links and what is going on in our town.

LACE HILL SPORTS AND COMMUNITY CENTRE

Buckingham Town Council manages the Lace Hill Sports and Community Centre. We offer services to clubs and local groups as well as organising events for the community to enjoy.

To find out more about what we do with your money visit our website at www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk

The Tourist Information Centre, located inside the Old Gaol, is delighted to announce the promotion of Simon to Tourist Information Centre Manager. Be sure to pop in and say hello! Opening hours are Monday to Saturday 10am to 4pm.



The Tourist Information Centre also has a lovely range of locally sourced products for sale, including honey, artwork and stationery, making it the perfect place to pick up a unique gift. Tickets are available for selected local events, such as

the pantomime, alongside National Express tickets, senior coach cards, and theatre tokens.

You will also find a wide selection of maps and pamphlets to help you explore Buckingham and make the most of your town.

Simon is keen to highlight just how much the Tourist Information Centre has to offer. Discover Buckingham, our regularly updated website, is a fantastic resource for finding local businesses and keeping up to date with events happening in and around the town. If you are hosting an event and would like it shared, please do get in touch.

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ANNUAL TOWN MEETING



available throughout the evening to chat, listen, and answer your questions on the local issues that matter most to you.

You are warmly invited to the **Annual Town Meeting at Buckingham Community Centre on Thursday 26th March 2026** – this year's theme is 'The Future'.

The event will also showcase the work of charities and community groups that have received Town Council grant funding, highlighting how this support has been used and the positive impact it has had on our community.

This relaxed, open event is your chance to ask questions, share ideas, and hear first-hand updates on the work of the Town Council and representatives from partner organisations. Town and County Councillors will be

Doors open at 6pm, with the meeting starting at 6:15pm. There is no formal agenda – discussions will follow the issues that matter most to residents. There will be an online forum on the Town Council's social media pages on the run up to the meeting and questions can be sent in advance to: office@buckingham-tc.gov.uk.

DERRICK ISHAM ALLOTMENTS – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Help shape Buckingham's new Allotment Association

There is something wonderfully rewarding about growing your own food – getting your hands in the soil, tending seedlings, and enjoying the fresh produce you've grown yourself. Buckingham already has a thriving gardening community, and soon we will have a brand-new space to grow it even further: the Derrick Isham Allotments on Tingewick Road.

Named in honour of Derrick Isham, one of Buckingham's longest-serving Town Councillors and a former Mayor, the new site celebrates his dedication to the town and his love of community life. Although the allotments aren't open yet, anticipation is already high, with many residents having expressed interest.

With the site expected to open in summer 2026, we are now at a crucial stage – and we need your help.

Why we need volunteers now

Before the allotments can open, we need to form a new resident-led Allotment Association. This group will play a key role in shaping how the site runs and will help ensure that it remains fair, friendly and well-organised for everyone.

The Association will take on some important responsibilities, including:

- **Managing plot leases** – Allocating plots, maintaining the waiting list and overseeing renewals.
- **Setting and upholding site rules** – Helping keep the allotments safe, tidy and welcoming for all.

- **Supporting plot-holders** – Offering advice and helping new growers get started.
- **Representing gardeners** – Acting as the main link between plot-holders and Buckingham Town Council.

Could you join the Committee?

To run smoothly, the Association will elect a small committee. We're looking for volunteers who are willing to give a little time to help get the Association off the ground. Typical roles include:

- **Chair** – Leads meetings and acts as the group's main point of contact.
- **Secretary** – Looks after communications, records and meeting notes.
- **Treasurer** – Manages finances, memberships and fundraising.
- **General committee members** – Support with tasks, decisions and day-to-day organisation.

You don't need to be an expert gardener – just someone who cares about community spaces and wants to help this new site to flourish.

Help Shape a Fresh Start

The Derrick Isham Allotments will be a fantastic place to grow food, meet neighbours and enjoy time outdoors. Although planting won't begin until the site is ready, the foundations of a successful allotment community start now.

By volunteering to join the Allotment Association, you will be helping to establish a welcoming, sustainable and well-run space that future gardeners will enjoy for years to come.

Get Involved

Whether you are already on the waiting list or thinking about joining it, we would love to hear from you. Your ideas, enthusiasm and support will help create a thriving new allotment community – and a living tribute to Derrick Isham's legacy – before the first seed is even sown.

If you would like to volunteer or express interest, please contact Buckingham Town Council.

Let's grow something great together.

GROW YOUR OWN FRUIT AND VEGETABLES

Sign up to join the *Derrick Isham Allotment Association* and help our new allotment site flourish.

Sign up at estates@buckingham-tc.gov.uk or call 01280 816426

SPRING TIPS AND BUCKINGHAM'S OFFICIAL TOWN TREE AND INSECT

Get your garden ready



A few more tips:

- Sow grass seed to repair patches in your lawn.
- Install a water butt to catch those April showers.
- Look out for aphids on young leaves and wipe them off before they multiply.
- Keep feeding the birds if you can - they are still raising their babies.

In October 2025, Buckingham Town Councillors voted in favour of adopting the Black Poplar as the town's official tree and the Black Hairstreak butterfly as the official town insect.

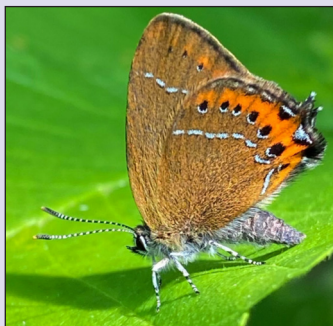


The Black Poplar is Britain's most endangered native timber tree. Buckingham is fortunate to have a number of these rare trees in and around the town,

where they provide a valuable habitat for many insects and birds. Mature Black Poplars can grow up to 30 metres tall and live for as long as 200 years. To mark her time as Mayor of Buckingham from May 2023 to May 2025, Councillor Anja Schaefer will soon be planting an additional Black Poplar in Bourton Park. This will be a female Black Poplar which is even more scarce than the male.

The Black Hairstreak butterfly is listed as endangered, with only around 50 known colony sites remaining in the UK. We are honoured that Buckingham is one of these locations. Adult Black Hairstreaks do not travel far and are found only in areas with Blackthorn. Entire colonies often remain confined to a single part of a woodland, even when suitable habitat exists nearby. This limited ability to spread, combined with habitat loss such as hedge cutting, helps to explain the species' rarity.

By adopting the Black Poplar and the Black Hairstreak butterfly, and by raising awareness of their importance, Buckingham hopes to play its part, however small, in conserving these remarkable elements of our natural environment.



Think about pollinators

Sowing wildflower seeds is a great way to help pollinators. When buying new plants consider growing flowers and herbs that support them, like Lavender, Marjoram, Catmint, Verbena Bonariensis, Helenium and Foxglove. Don't forget that honey bees, bumblebees and butterflies all love dandelions.



Plant vegetable seeds

Spring is the best time to plant vegetable seeds like tomatoes, cucumbers, courgettes, peppers and squash. Use recycled yoghurt pots to start seeds off on a warm windowsill, ready to plant out after the last frost. If you don't have much space, most of these vegetables will grow well in pots.

REPAIR CAFÉ

Buckingham Repair Café ran on the second Saturday of every month throughout 2025, with the exception of December. During these cafés, our volunteers worked on over 250 items brought in by the public, ranging from toasters to pyjamas, shoes to necklaces, and from bicycles to trumpets. Over the year we developed expertise in fixing certain brands of vacuum cleaner, but our volunteers are always ready to have a go at fixing literally anything!

The Repair Café also appeared at other events, notably the Spring Green Fair, in which we started a button-sewing community art project. If you missed it, we still have a lot more buttons to be sewn on, so it is very likely to reappear at future events! We were also delighted to receive a 'Commended' rosette for our appearance in the Christmas Parade, and the Natural Environment and Climate Champion Award from the Town Council in June.



WIN A £10 VOUCHER!

Take part in our *Find the Word* competition for your chance to win a **£10 voucher to spend at a local business!** Congratulations to Diane Morrison the winner of our last competition.

Hidden somewhere in this newsletter is the word **exceptional**. To enter, simply locate the word, note the **page number and its location**, and email your answer, by 3rd April 2026, to:

engagementofficer@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 April 2026**.

Good luck – and happy hunting!

LOCAL DEMOCRACY WEEK

Buckingham's Local Democracy Event 2025, hosted by The Buckingham School in collaboration with The Royal Latin, brought together 50 enthusiastic students from the town's two senior schools for a dynamic day of debate, learning and community insight. Joined by a panel of 10 local councillors and Thames Valley Police's Sgt David Kuttner and PC Guy Richards, students explored the real impact of local decision-making.

Students from across the year groups rose to the challenge with confidence, maturity and impressive curiosity. Discussions and networking sessions sparked thoughtful conversations on traffic management, unemployment and future careers, local spending, knife and hate crime, East/West Rail, trade union debates, flooding, youth opportunities and youth council involvement.

A strong theme emerged: students would like a Buckingham careers

fair featuring local businesses offering apprenticeships, weekend work and employment opportunities – something the Town Council has agreed to discuss further.

Their engagement was exceptional, filled with strong ideas, smart questions and lively debate. Well done to all involved!



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	07749 187394
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 816426	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	

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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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.

2026 EVENTS DIARY

Please find further details inside and online at www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk or follow us @BuckinghamTC.



2026

JANUARY	Holocaust Memorial Day	Tuesday 27th January (11am-12 noon)	Bourton Park
FEBRUARY	Pancake Races	Thursday 19th February (11am-12.30pm)	Green at St Peter & St Pauls
	Food Fair ✂️ 🛒 🤝	Saturday 28th February (10am-3pm)	Buckingham Community Centre
MARCH	Annual Town Meeting 🤝	Thursday 26th March (6pm-8pm)	Buckingham Community Centre
	Easter event ✂️ 🛒 🤝	Sunday 29th March	Lace Hill Sports and Community Centre
APRIL	Green and Crafts	Sunday 12th April (10am-3pm)	Buckingham Cattle Pens
MAY	May Day	Friday 1st May	Venue to be confirmed
	Buckingham Live ✂️	Sunday 24th May	Buckingham Football Club
JUNE	Pride Week	1st – 7th June	Various venues – see our website for details
	Celebrate Buckingham ✂️ 🛒 🤝	Saturday 20th June (11am-3pm)	Bourton Park Paddock
JULY	Fringe Week	Sunday 19th July- Sunday 26th July	Various venues in the town

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