



Buckingham TownMatters

Autumn issue 2026



**Spot the
word
competition
inside**

**Meet your new Deputy Mayor • Railway Walk Conservation Group
Black History Month • Discover our upcoming events**

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR MAYOR



Dear residents of Buckingham,

As I write this, we are experiencing the 5th heatwave of the year, with so little rain in July, hosepipe bans and wildfires seem so far away from the flooding events which have impacted so much of our town in recent years.

But they are linked, climate change is affecting every part of our lives, and I am pleased to be supporting many local initiatives and plans which will hopefully work towards mitigating the effects of extreme weather. During our Fringe week, which was themed around the legendary

David Attenborough's 100th birthday, I attended many events, including the screening of The People's Emergency Briefing. This film really brings home the realities of what is happening to our planet. The follow up organised by BEAN (Buckingham Environmental Action Network) was well attended and I look forward to becoming involved in both that and the review of the Town Council's Climate Emergency Action Plan.

We move into Autumn and some favourite events to come, including the Dog Show, which Snoopy enjoys every year, Bonfire and Fireworks and our town's Remembrance commemorations.

I would like to express my thanks to our brilliant town council team for the outstanding events we have enjoyed over the summer, and all the partner organisations which we have collaborated with.

Wishing you all the best, and, as always, please don't hesitate to get in touch to share your news or ask for support.

Fran Davies

**Cllr. Fran Davies
Mayor of Buckingham**

YOUR NEW DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR



I feel truly honoured to have been elected as the Deputy Mayor of Buckingham for 2026/27. Having served as a Town Councillor for the past 6 years, it is a privilege to take on this role.

The last few months have been thoroughly enjoyable accompanying and supporting our Town Mayor, Cllr Fran Davies at numerous events. This has allowed me to meet many of you already and I look forward to meeting many more of you over the coming months.

Buckingham has so much on offer for the entire community over the summer and throughout the year. Come along, get involved, let's enjoy our wonderful town together.

Robina Ahmed

**Cllr Robina Ahmed
Deputy Mayor of Buckingham**

BLACK HISTORY MONTH



For Black History Month 2025, the Equality, Community Diversity and Inclusion (ECDI) Working Group

hosted a powerful event titled 'Legacy in Action – Black History Made Local'. The event celebrated the life and impact of Michael Hall of the New Inn, with his son, David, sharing the family's inspiring story.

The talk was thought-provoking while remaining joyful and filled with humour, tracing generations of family history and highlighting the strength, resilience, and contributions of Black individuals within our local community. Attendees were given a meaningful opportunity to reflect on how personal histories shape the wider story of

our shared heritage. For those who were unable to attend, or who would like to revisit the experience, the talk is available on YouTube via the QR code. Or learn more and explore family archives at <https://www.theoldinn.org.uk/>

In October, for this year's Black History Month, we invite everyone to continue that spirit of reflection and celebration by visiting the display at Buckingham Library. The exhibition will highlight stories, and achievements, informed by contributions from Buckinghamshire Archives. ECDI will also be hosting an event with refreshments, providing a welcoming space for conversation, connection, and community engagement. Keep a look out on the town council's social media for further details.

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



Lace Hill Easter Bazaar: Sunday 29th March



Bite Club:
Saturday
25th April,
30th May,
27th June,
25th July,
29th August



May Day: Friday 1st May

Green and Crafts:
Sunday 12th April



Buckingham Live: Sunday 24th May



Buckingham Play Days: Thursday 30th July,
Wednesday 12th August, Tuesday 25th August



Band Jam: Sunday 30th August



Dog Show:
Saturday 5th September



Armed Forces Day: Saturday 20th June



Crafts at the Chantry Chapel:
Tuesday 21st July & Thursday 23rd July



River Rinses: Sunday
20th September and 4th October



Howes the Florist Flower Arranging:
Fringe Week, Wednesday 22nd July



Dino and Crafts:
Tuesday 31st March

FUTURE EVENTS FUTURE EVENTS FUTURE EVENTS FUTURE EVENTS



This year the annual **Charter Fair** rolls into town on Friday 16th October 2026 and will be operating on Saturday 17th October 2026. It will then return on the following Friday, 23rd October 2026 and will operate on Saturday 24th October 2026. A full road closure will be in force from 6am on both Fridays and covering both Saturdays. Diversions will be in place.



Join us at Buckingham Community Centre for a local **Careers Fair** on Thursday 29th October 2026 from 5:30pm-8:30pm. Free entry.

Bonfire and Fireworks on Saturday 31st October 2026 starting at 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 8th November 2026. The parade will form up on Market Hill and march to the War Memorial outside St. Peter and St. Paul's Church at 10:30am. A rolling road closure will be in place from 10:15am and diversions in place.



The **Winter Fair** will take place on Sunday 15th November 2026 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.



The **Christmas Lights Switch On** will be taking place on Thursday 26th November 2026 from 4pm to 7pm outside The Old Gaol. Expect carols, festive activities, local food vendors and live entertainment. Winners of the Mayor's Christmas Card Competition will help to turn on the lights. For details of how to enter, keep an eye on our social media.



Small Business Saturday will take place on the 5th of December 2026, exciting shop local initiatives promised, including a Makers Market at Buckingham Library.

Held in Buckingham Community Centre, the **Community Fair** will be on Saturday 12th December 2026. Local charities, organisations and societies can sell items or run activities to help raise funds for their group.



HERE'S WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO 2025-2026

Environment Committee

This last year has been filled with projects, progress and lots of planting!

Tingewick Road Cemetery and Allotments: Our greenspaces team has planted 31 large trees and 400 whips helping to create a peaceful, reflective space for families to remember loved ones.



Partnerships: The 1st Buckingham Scouts helped plant 750 spring bulbs at Lace Hill to earn environmental badges. We also partnered with Buckinghamshire Community Energy to provide winter energy-saving advice to residents.



Bourton Park Bridge: Following a structural safety report, the unsafe Bourton Park bridge was removed in December 2025.

Updated Defibrillator: We have replaced a defibrillator in Cornwalls Meadow with a brand-new unit ensuring residents have 24/7 access to reliable, life-saving equipment.

Wildlife and Biodiversity: Buckingham was proudly named on the Hedgehog Heroes roll of honour, an award celebrating our dedication to protecting hedgehogs during green space works. The Council also unanimously voted to adopt the Black Poplar as our town tree and the Black Hairstreak butterfly as our town insect – celebrating two rare native species that thrive locally.



Planning

It has been an eventful year for our Planning Committee, marked by both major milestones and challenges.

Neighbourhood Plan Success: Our biggest success came in January 2026, when residents delivered a resounding 94% 'Yes' vote to officially adopt our new Neighbourhood Plan which will help guide the development of our town.

Planning Application: We reviewed more than 100 individual planning applications over the past year.

Housing Appeals: Two major housing proposals went to independent appeal. An independent inspector approved a 300-house development south of Wipac. Similarly, planning permission was granted for 220 houses on land south of Bourton Road. Because this second proposal directly conflicted with our newly adopted Neighbourhood Plan, we sent a dedicated team to defend our position. However, the inspector formally granted planning permission.

Resources

The Resources Committee continues to manage the vital framework, budgets, and behind-the-scenes finances.

Financial Oversight: Setting the 2026-2027 budget and precept (the portion of Council Tax that stays in Buckingham) has been our core focus, alongside monitoring income and expenditure.

Community Grants: This year we have awarded grants to 23 local organisations, who support the community through activities, events and essential services.

Essential Oversight: Resources also deal with the less visible, but equally important side of council business, including: The internal audit report, staffing structure, insurance tenders, and policy reviews.

Service Support: We continue to provide support to: The Lace Hill Community Centre, Shopmobility, and the Tourist Information Centre.

Town Centre and Events

The Town Council continues to deliver a packed calendar with low-cost and free events for the community.

Music and Arts: We continue to deliver a vibrant music scene with *Buckingham Live* and *BandJam*. Our successful *Fringe Week* in July saw a wide range of exciting activities for all the family.



Food and Business: We've worked hard to support the local economy and celebrate our food culture with *Bite Club* and February's *Food Fair*. We also championed our small businesses through *Small Business Saturday*, promoting the 'Shop Local' message.

Traditions and Festivities: Community favourites returned, including the annual *Pancake Race*, *Celebrate Buckingham Day*, and the historic *Charter Fair*. We also funded the *Christmas lights switch-on* and welcomed the annual *Christmas Parade*, alongside which we

hosted a bustling *Community Fair* at the Community Centre.



MAYOR MAKING AND CIVIC AWARDS



The annual Mayor Making and Mayor's Reception was held on 5th June 2026. The evening officially welcomed Town Mayor, Cllr. Fran Davies, into

her second term, alongside new Deputy Mayor, Cllr. Robina Ahmed. The event also celebrated local individuals and groups honoured with awards in recognition of their remarkable contributions to our community.

Freewoman

Margaret Gateley: For many years of service to the town, specifically highlighting her Town Council contributions and work with Fair Trade.



Freeman

Michael Hunt: For his many years of service to the town, and invaluable contribution towards the stewardship of Buckingham's natural environment.



Friend of Buckingham

Mark Cole JP and Anthony Ralph: In recognition of going above and beyond in the development of Buckingham's Neighbourhood Plan.

Andy Wattam: For his many years of dedicated service as caretaker of The Buckingham School.



Sport and Art Award

Women and Girls' Section of Buckingham Rugby Club: Recognising the section's incredible growth, highlighted by a 65% growth over the last year in the under 10's and under 12's section, making it one of the largest in the country.

Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Organisation of the Year

YC2 Buckingham & Winslow Young Carers: For their dedication to providing a rich mix of fun and support where young people can truly thrive.

Natural Environment and Climate Champion

Jayne Wise: In recognition of her work setting up the Buckingham Wombles Group and the tireless litter-picking around the town.

Mayor's Prize for Outstanding Young Person

Christian Johnson: For his dedication to supporting young carers and creating an inclusive space for others. As a young carer himself he is an inspiring role model.

Further information about the civic awards can be found on the Town Council website. Scan the QR code for further information on our civic awards.



MEMORIAL SAFETY INSPECTIONS AT BRACKLEY ROAD CEMETERY



Buckingham Town Council continues its five-year rolling programme of memorial safety inspections at Brackley Road Cemetery, home to more than 3,000 headstones and memorials. The programme helps ensure memorials remain safe for visitors and staff, particularly where graves are no longer regularly attended and structures may deteriorate over time.

The latest inspections took place in May 2026 within the cemetery's oldest sections. Eight memorials were identified as unsafe

and requiring repair: Green (1997), White (1912), Tombs (1898), Priest (1883), Orwin (2005), Emery (2002), Fenables (1995) and Carter (1884). A further 27 memorials will continue to be monitored annually.

The Council is contacting deed holders where possible and will continue regular safety monitoring across the cemetery.

FIREWORKS AND BONFIRE SAFETY



As we move into the autumn season, Bonfire Night and fireworks celebrations are fast approaching. If you're planning to celebrate, why not join us at Buckingham Town

and other animals can sometimes shelter amongst the wood. We also do not accept wood donations, as it is important that only safe, suitable materials are burned.

If you're planning to use fireworks at home, it's important to keep safety in mind. Always buy CE or UKCA-marked fireworks from registered retailers to ensure they meet safety standards. When lighting fireworks, keep a safe distance by using an outstretched arm and always point them away from people, buildings and animals. Keep a bucket of

Council's Bonfire and Fireworks Display on Friday 31st October at Bourton Park? Organised displays are the safest and most enjoyable way to experience the excitement of Bonfire Night, with our events and green spaces teams working hard behind the scenes to ensure everyone has a safe and memorable evening.

Before lighting the bonfire, our green spaces team carefully checks the bonfire pile for wildlife, as hedgehogs



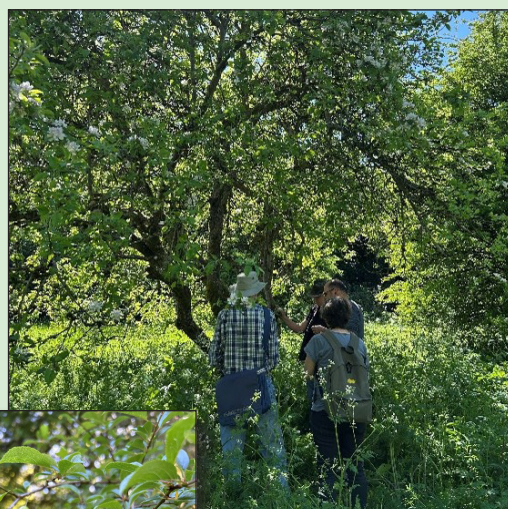
water or a hose nearby in case of emergencies. Never throw fireworks or set them off in public spaces, and remember that fireworks are only suitable for those aged 18 and over. Please note that no sparklers are permitted.

RAILWAY WALK CONSERVATION GROUP

CHANTRY CHAPEL



As part of Buckingham Fringe Week, The Railway Walk Conservation Group, hosted an event: Picnic at Berties'. The event started with a community picnic on the grass and then followed the Chair of the Mid Shire Orchard Group, Claire, as she walked us through the orchard explaining how to identify each tree, their age, and how to care for them. The event was greatly improved by the attendance of the granddaughters of the original Berties who remembered the planting of the trees by their granddads. The event reminded us how much community spaces hold memory and the importance of caring for them.



The Railway Walk Conservation Group meets on the first Saturday each month to help care for the Railway

Walk, with their current focus being the community orchard on Berties' Walk. This friendly and environmentally focused group plays an important role in maintaining and enhancing these valued green spaces.

New members are always welcome. If you have an interest in nature conservation or would like to learn new techniques, this is a great opportunity to get involved. It is also a chance to learn more about local flora and fauna, while meeting like-minded people in the community.

Whether you can commit regularly or just join when you are available, your support would be greatly appreciated.

If you are interested in joining the group or would like to find out more, please contact Cllr. Heather Haydock at hhaydock@cllr.buckingham-tc.gov.uk



One of the most charming places to enjoy a tea, coffee, and a light snack in Buckingham is the Buckingham Chantry Chapel. Dating back to the 12th century, it is the oldest building in the town, filled with centuries of rich history and character.

Today, this peaceful medieval chapel has been thoughtfully transformed into a cosy second-hand bookshop, coffee spot, and welcoming community space. Open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from 10am until 3pm, it's the perfect place to unwind for an hour. The friendly volunteers create a warm atmosphere, and the selection of books offers fantastic value.



The chapel is also available to hire for meetings and special events, making it an ideal setting for clubs, creative groups, and community gatherings. With its historic charm, it's a must-visit for anyone exploring Buckingham.

To find out more you can call 01280 817156



FIND THE WORD COMPETITION 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 Tracy Baker the winner of our last competition.

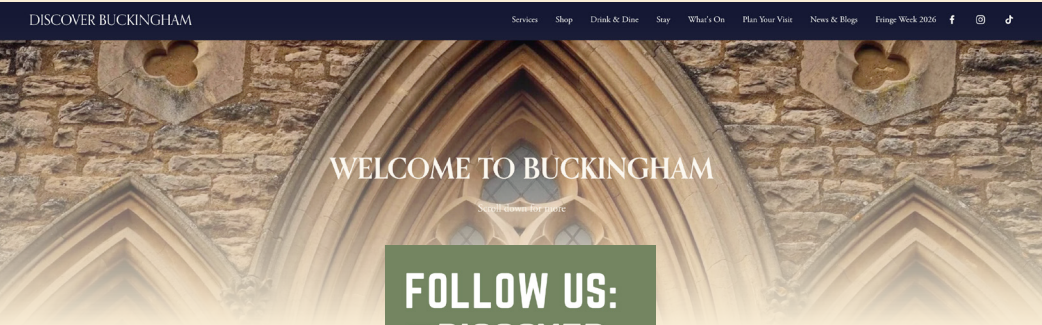
Hidden somewhere in this newsletter is a seasonal word. To enter, simply locate the word 'spectacular', note the page number and its location, and email your answer to: office@buckingham-tc.gov.uk

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 30th October 2026.

Good luck – and happy hunting!

DISCOVER BUCKINGHAM



Looking to explore more of what Buckingham has to offer? Discover Buckingham is your go-to source for local events, news, and inspiration from across the town.

The Discover Buckingham website is regularly updated with the latest information on what's happening in the area, from community events and seasonal activities to local businesses and places to visit. It provides an easy way to stay informed and make the most of Buckingham throughout the year.



You can also follow Discover Buckingham on social media to keep up to date with real-time updates, highlights, and features on local attractions. It is a great way to stay connected with the community and uncover new places to enjoy.

From family-friendly days out to historic landmarks and independent shops, there is always something new to discover. Visit the website and follow along online to stay connected with everything Buckingham has to offer.

BUCKINGHAM TOWN COUNCILLORS

Cllr. Fran Davies – Mayor	07976 558609	Cllr. Roger Newall	01280 816426
Cllr. Robina Ahmed – Dep. Mayor	01280 816426	Cllr. Ruth Newell	01280 816426
Cllr. Tony Allen	01280 816426	Cllr. Lisa O'Donoghue	07906 408646
Cllr. Lucy Draper	01280 816426	Cllr. Russell Poppe	01280 816426
Cllr. Jon Harvey	01280 812711	Cllr. Anja Schaefer	01280 816426
Cllr. Heather Haydock	07979 902517	Cllr. Sundeep Singh	01280 816426
Cllr. Andy Mahi	01280 816426	Cllr. Robin Stuchbury	07752 394162
Cllr. Howard Mordue	01280 816426	Cllr. Martin Try	01280 816426
Cllr. Jane Mordue	01280 816426	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 812872	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.)

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

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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/town-matters/events/



2026

SEPTEMBER

Dog Show ✂ 🛒

Saturday 5th September
(11am to 3pm)

Bourton Park

River Rinse 1

Sunday 20th September
(10:15am)

Bourton Meadow car
park to Heartlands Park
(Athletics Bridge)

OCTOBER

River Rinse 2

Sunday 4th October
(10:15am)

Heartlands Park (Athletics
Bridge) to Cornwall's
Meadow car park

Charter Fair 1

Saturday 17th October

Buckingham town centre

Charter Fair 2

Saturday 24th October

Buckingham town centre

Careers Fair

Thursday 29th October
(5:30pm to 8:30pm)

Buckingham Community
Centre

NOVEMBER

Bonfire & Fireworks ✂

Saturday 31st October
(6pm)

Bourton Park

Remembrance Parade

Sunday 8th November

Buckingham town centre

Winter Fair ✂ 🛒 🧡

Sunday 15th November

Lace Hill Sports &
Community Centre

Christmas Lights Switch On
✂ 🛒 🧡

Thursday 26th November

Buckingham town centre

DECEMBER

Small Business Saturday 🛒

Saturday 5th December

Buckingham town centre

Community Fair ✂ 🧡

Saturday 12th December

Buckingham Community
Centre

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 🧡

