



Buckingham TownMatters

Winter issue 2024



**Message from your Mayor • Buckingham Christmas cards
Town Councillors wanted • Our Town Events**

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR MAYOR



Dear residents

Welcome to our winter newsletter.

Winter can be a difficult time for many, so I hope that you are all warm and safe in your homes. As I write this we are recovering from some serious rain and flooding earlier in the autumn. I very much hope that we will not be seeing any further flooding events this winter. If you are struggling at all with affording heating or other essentials of life, check Buckinghamshire Helping Hand

(<https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/cost-of-living/>) for advice and support.

Autumn is, however, also the time for many of our best loved events and celebrations. As you read this, we will already have enjoyed the bonfire and fireworks in early November, as well as marked the annual Remembrance Sunday parade, and I hope that both of these events will have been dry, so as to get the most out of them.

The switching on of the Christmas lights is a particularly festive event, raising so many expectations for the weeks ahead. And then we come to our annual Christmas parade, an event that always draws a big, joyous crowd. We also have festive fairs and markets, and our local independent shops will have stocked up to provide us with all the essentials for the festive period, regardless which of the many different holidays you may be celebrating at this time.

I wish every one of you peaceful and joyful holidays.

Anja Schaefer

Cllr. Anja Schaefer, Mayor of Buckingham



NEW DEPUTY TOWN CLERK

Buckingham Town Council is delighted to welcome Zo Taylor as its new Deputy Town Clerk, following Louise's departure earlier this year. Zo brings extensive experience from her 25-year career as a manager with the Ministry of Justice, where she most recently specialised in youth support, reducing reoffending and community outreach.

In her role, she will support the Town Clerk in ensuring the smooth running of the Town Council. Zo will head up the Town Centre and Events Committee portfolio, while also managing HR matters and serving as deputy to the Town Clerk.

Zo said, "I am delighted to be working with councillors, voluntary organisations and residents on various projects to enhance and develop our beautiful town."

MAYOR'S CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION 2024

This year's Mayor's Christmas Card Competition embraced the theme of 'Giving at Christmas,' inviting local children to design their own festive cards. The winners will have the exciting opportunity to join the mayor on stage during the Christmas Lights Switch-On, helping to light up the town. Their winning

card designs are now on sale at Buckingham Tourist Information Centre, with all proceeds supporting the mayor's chosen charities.

This wonderful annual event is proudly supported by local printing and marketing company BCQ, whose sponsorship helps make it all possible.



Winner of the Reception – Year 2 Category
Gracie Latham
Year 2 – Lace Hill Academy



Winner of the Year 3 – Year 6 Category
Pippa Livermore
Year 3 – Bourton Meadow Academy
"My card is about giving Father Christmas a present too"

EXCITING OPPORTUNITY: BECOME A TOWN COUNCILLOR

Looking for a way to make a real difference in your community? Next May, Buckingham Town Council will be holding elections, and we want to hear from passionate residents like you!

We are seeking 17 individuals to join the Buckingham Town Council to serve Buckingham Town. If you are over 18 and eager to contribute, you might be just who we are looking for!

What's involved?

- **Town Council meetings:** Held every Monday on a seven-week cycle (excluding August) in the Council Chamber at the Community Centre.
- **Committee work:** Choose from various Committees that meet typically on Monday nights.
- **Community representation:** Engage in other local government meetings and represent the town on diverse issues, from planning to environmental matters.

Councillors are dedicated locals committed to enhancing community life. Training is available to help you get started.

Curious about standing, or just want to learn more? Join us at

one of our Council meetings! All meetings and Committees are open to the public and can be viewed online via the Town Council's YouTube page: <https://www.youtube.com/@buckinghamtowncouncil6314>. Check the Council's website for details of future meetings and agendas.

Ready to make a change? For more details of the role visit the [Local Government Association](#) website. Details of how to apply will be released in the Spring. Your community needs you - step up and get involved!



Cllr. Howard Mordue

“ Since joining the Town Council in 1985, I have seen many changes both in the Town and the Council. The Council has taken on additional responsibilities and arranges several new events for the residents.

What I enjoy is being a part of the town development. It started with getting the then Aylesbury District Council to build a 6-lane pool and not a 4-lane which they wanted, to save money. I went on to become Mayor on two separate occasions which enabled me to meet many different groups. I helped launch the twinning which now has links with 3 towns, in France, Germany and most recently, Italy.

Eventually I stood for election and joined the District Council and became Cabinet Member for Leisure, saw the introduction of both the adult and junior parkrun in 2014 and then went on to be Cabinet Member for Finance.

Being a Councillor makes you aware that a lot of work goes into planning a project, but it enables you to be involved in the decision-making process of Local Government. ”



Cllr. Howard Mordue, Buckingham Town Council's longest serving Councillor



Cllr. Lucy Draper

“ Serving as a Buckingham Town Councillor has been an unexpected journey filled with challenges, rewards and frustration.

I initially stood for election because of my frustration at the lack of provision for people with Alzheimer's and those that care for them. That, combined with a love for Buckingham and its green spaces since childhood, made joining the Town Council seem like a solid decision.

Cllr. Lucy Draper, Buckingham Town Council's newest Councillor

It has been a steep learning curve, but as I navigate through the complexities of local governance, I am beginning to find my footing. Each meeting and decision-making process has taught me invaluable lessons about the intricacies of public service and the importance of community engagement.

Despite the hurdles, the rewarding moments—when I see the positive impact of our initiatives on the community—make it all worthwhile. I am now starting to understand how I can truly make a difference, and this realisation fuels my commitment to serve and improve our town. ”

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



*Dog Show:
Saturday 7th September*



Charter Fair: 12th & 19th October



*Halloween Disco:
Friday 25th October*



*Bonfire and Fireworks:
Saturday 2nd November*



*Black History Month Display at
Buckingham Library*

The **Remembrance Day Parade** is organised by the Royal British Legion and was held on Sunday 10th November. The parade gathers on Market Hill for 10:30am before moving off towards Castle Street and ending at St. Peter and St. Paul's Church where the War Memorial is sited.



*Remembrance Day Parade:
10th November*

The **Winter Fair** will take place on Sunday 24th November from 2pm to 4pm at Lace Hill Sports & Community Centre. Local traders and crafters will be offering a wide range of unique Christmas goodies you won't find elsewhere, alongside refreshments and fun art and craft activities



Winter Fair: 24th November

for children to enjoy. The aim of the Winter Fair event is to bring the community together in a festive celebration and support local crafters, groups and businesses. It will also be a great opportunity to start some Christmas shopping if you haven't already while supporting local crafters and businesses.



*Christmas Lights Switch On:
28th November*



Community Fair: 14th December



*Christmas Parade:
14th December*

Buckingham hosts numerous fantastic events each year bringing fun, tasty food, great shopping, music, and visitors to Buckingham. Our events are a great opportunity for local businesses to build their brand, listen to customers, and try out new products!

Any registered business or community group can trade at our events but will be asked for copies of documents such as their public liability insurance, test certificates for rides or inflatables, and food hygiene certificates. If you would like to trade at a Town Council event, please email office@buckingham-tc.gov.uk.

Event Sponsorship

Interested in taking part in a community contest or activity as a business? Buckingham in Bloom gardening contest, Christmas Card contest, or the River Rinses could be a wonderful opportunity for your company to financially support a project with a positive local impact on residents. Please contact the Town Clerk for further discussion.

OUR TOWN EVENTS OUR TOWN EVENTS



Holocaust Memorial Day: 27th January

On Monday 27th January 2025 from 11am to 12 noon, we recognise **Holocaust Memorial Day** with a commemoration including readings led by our Mayor, Cllr. Anja Schaefer. We would be honoured if you could join us alongside local schoolchildren and people from across our community, to mark this important day.



Pancake races: 20th February



Food Fair: 22nd February

The **Food Fair** will be held in Buckingham Community Centre on Saturday 22nd February 2025 from 10am to 3pm, showcasing lots of local producers. There will also be some great food traders located outside the community centre, delivering various tasty dishes.



Good Endings Fair: 29th March

The **Good Endings Fair**, taking place on 29th March 2025, is a chance to meet with people and businesses involved in what happens when a death occurs, to begin that conversation with loved ones, and to think about putting plans in place so that loved ones don't have to.

WARM AND SAFE



Buckinghamshire
FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE
we save lives

As the colder months approach, Buckinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service (BFRS) are here to help residents of Buckingham stay safe and warm. Winter presents additional risks in the home, but following some simple tips can keep you protected.

Electrical, Heating, and Chimney Safety

Faulty electrics and heating devices are common causes of house fires. Here's how to stay safe:

Smoke Alarms Save Lives

Homes without a working smoke alarm have a much higher risk of fire-related fatalities.

To stay protected:

- Install at least one smoke alarm on every level of your home.
- Test your smoke alarms monthly and replace them every 10 years.
- Consider a heat alarm for your kitchen and additional alarms in high-risk areas.
- If you are deaf or hard of hearing, we can help install specialised smoke alarms.

- Check electrical appliances for damage and avoid overloading sockets.
- Regularly service wood burners and have your chimney professionally swept to prevent fires.
- Chimneys should be cleaned up to four times a year, depending on the type of fuel you use.
- Never leave cooking or candles unattended and keep flammable items away from heat sources.

Online Home Fire Safety Check

Most home fires start accidentally, but there are simple steps you can take to protect your home and loved ones. BFRS offers an Online Home Fire Safety Check where you can receive personalised safety advice based on your living situation. The form takes about 15 minutes to complete and will indicate whether you're eligible for a free Home Fire Safety Visit. Please visit our website www.bucksfire.gov.uk and search for "Online Home Fire Safety Check".

If you cannot access the online check, call 01296 744477 to request a visit, and a member of staff will guide you through the relevant questions.



BUCKINGHAM SHINES WITH COMMUNITY AWARD AND TEMPORARY ART INSTALLATION



Buckingham competing in the Michaelis Cup, designated for towns with populations exceeding 3,000. Buckingham Town Council is thrilled the town won the Community Award. This accolade recognises the collective effort of our residents, businesses, local volunteer groups and Town Council in maintaining and enhancing the town's charm and cleanliness. The competition judges were particularly impressed by Buckingham's vibrant community spirit, well-kept public spaces, and the dedication of our volunteers. This award highlights the importance of community engagement in creating a welcoming and beautiful environment. This year, Buckingham also achieved an impressive

Buckingham enjoyed some remarkable achievements this year that highlight our community's vibrant spirit.

Firstly, the town's dedication to beautification was celebrated at this year's Best Kept Village Competition. The competition features six classes based on the size of the town or village, with

score of 190 marks out of 200 (up from 172 last year), securing Runner-Up position in the Michaelis Cup to Marlow, which scored 192. The Town Council extends its heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed to this achievement and encourages continued participation in keeping Buckingham a beautiful place to live.



Buckingham had an amazing temporary art installation titled "Totally Me, Totally Buckingham", which ran during the last two weeks of July and aimed to celebrate the diverse identities and creativity of our

residents. The installation, strategically placed in the central location of Buckingham's Cattle Pens, invited both locals and visitors to reflect on what makes Buckingham unique. It featured contributions from various community members, schools and artists, making it a true representation of our town's collective spirit and creativity.

These developments not only enhance the aesthetic appeal of our town but also strengthen community bonds. Buckingham continues to thrive as a place where both environmental beauty and artistic expression are deeply valued.



Buckingham's annual Charity Santa Float is a much loved community event that spreads festive cheer while raising funds for local causes. Each December, a decorated float carrying Santa Claus tours the streets of Buckingham, stopping at various neighbourhoods, villages and town locations. Volunteers, often dressed as elves or in festive attire, accompany the float, collecting donations from residents who come out to see Santa. The float also features Christmas lights, music, and holiday decorations, creating a magical experience for children and families. Proceeds from the initiative support a range of local charities and community projects, making it a key fundraising event for the Rotary Club and Buckingham Table. To find out when Santa's float will visit your area, visit <https://buckinghamtable.org/follow-santa/>



Buckingham Town Council is encouraging residents to participate in the 2024 Small Business Saturday campaign. This national initiative highlights the importance of small businesses and invites shoppers to support their local community by buying locally where possible. Small Business Saturday will take place on December 7th, offering the perfect chance to explore the products and services Buckingham's businesses have to offer.

To celebrate the day, Buckingham Town Council will host some extra fun activities across the town, making it an exciting occasion for everyone. Please check our website and social media for all the details nearer the time.



The benefits to shopping locally are:

- Buckingham's businesses give our town its character, each offering something unique and original.
- Shopping locally means you can see and feel the products before purchasing, ensuring you've made the right choice.
- Supporting local businesses boosts the local economy by creating jobs within the community and helps reduce your carbon footprint.

Remember that our coffee shops, restaurants, pubs, and hotels are getting into the festive spirit. With special menus and offerings, they are perfect for holiday gatherings with friends and family.

Think local, love local, and #LoveOurTown!



BUCKINGHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE

The Buckingham Neighbourhood Development Plan's Regulation 14 public consultation concluded in October 2024, marking a key step in shaping the town's future. Over recent months, a series of in-person consultation events were held across Buckingham town centre, providing residents with opportunities to engage directly with the Plan. These events fostered community dialogue and allowed participants to voice opinions on important local issues such as housing, infrastructure, and environmental sustainability. The feedback gathered during this consultation will be reviewed by an independent examiner, who will assess the

Plan's compliance with national and local policies. This collaborative effort ensures that Buckingham's development remains community-led and aligned with the aspirations of its residents, paving the way for the next stages of the planning process.



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

BUCKINGHAM TOWN COUNCILLORS

Cllr. Anja Schaefer – Mayor	01280 816 426	Cllr. Howard Mordue	01280 815 418
Cllr. Fran Davies – Deputy Mayor	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. Andy Mahi	01280 816 562	Town Clerk – Claire Molyneux	01280 816 426

USEFUL NUMBERS

Buckingham Town Council	01280 816 426	NHS Urgent Care	111
Buckingham Cemetery	01280 816 801	National Power Cut Helpline	105
Buckingham Shopmobility	07738 314 027	National Gas Helpline	0800 111 999
Lace Hill Sports & Community Centre	01280 812 872	Anglian Water Emergency	03457 145 145
Buckingham Community Centre	01280 823 584	Floodline	0345 988 1188
Buckingham Tourist Information Centre	01280 823 020	ChildLine	0800 11 11
Buckinghamshire Council	0300 131 6000	Samaritans	01908 667 777
Transport for Buckinghamshire	01296 382 416	StreetLink (rough sleeping)	0300 500 0914
Citizens Advice National Phone Line	0800 1448848	Fraud	0300 123 2040
Domestic Violence Helpline	0808 2000 247	Stop Scams UK	159
Thames Valley Police	101	Emergency Services	999
Crimestoppers	0800 555 111	Fix My Street	https://fixmystreet.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/

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

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

Buckingham Town Council does not endorse or sanction any other materials, products or advertisements which may be delivered together, in or at the same time as our Buckingham Town Matters.

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.

2024/25 EVENTS DIARY



Please find further details inside or online.

NOVEMBER	Winter Fair ✂ 🛒 🤝	Sun 24th (2pm to 4pm)	Lace Hill Sports & Community Centre
	Christmas Lights Switch On ✂ 🛒 🤝	Thurs 28th (4pm to 7pm)	Buckingham Town Centre
DECEMBER	Small Business Saturday	Sat 7th	Buckingham Town Centre
	Christmas Parade	Sat 14th (10:45am to 12pm)	Buckingham Town Centre
	Community Fair 🤝	Sat 14th (11:30am to 2pm)	Buckingham Community Centre

2025

JANUARY	Holocaust Memorial Day	Mon 27th (11am to 2pm)	Bourton Park
FEBRUARY	Pancake Races	Thurs 20th (11am to 12pm)	Church Green at St Peter and St Pauls
	Food Fair ✂ 🛒 🤝	Sat 22nd (10am to 3pm)	Buckingham Community Centre
MARCH	Good Endings Fair 🛒 🤝	Sat 29th (10am to 1pm)	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 🤝

