

Issue 31  
May 2022

# park news



Published by Buckingham Park Parish Council

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## BUCKINGHAM PARK PARISH COUNCIL

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## Chairman's Notes

Last May saw the election of our new Council and I am grateful to Al Looker, Andre Beukes, Prakash Dey and Poonam Gupta for standing to be Councillors along with myself. We serve a four-year term. Our work involves managing the Community Centre and open spaces including Playgrounds (though not the meadow by the river as that is managed by Buckinghamshire Council/ Taylor Wimpey). As a Parish Council we have places for eight Councillors and are looking for residents to come and join us and help improve our community.



After two years without any community events, it was lovely to welcome people back to the community centre for our Christmas Carols in December. Normally we run several events during the year but due to covid these have not taken place. The Christmas event was incredibly well attended, and I hope all who came enjoyed it. We look forward to hosting our Summer Fair in June. More details will be available nearer the time but Jan, Luke and the team at the community

centre are busy making arrangement for bands, fun rides, and stalls.

We will shortly be celebrating the Queens Jubilee. Ten years ago, many people on Buckingham Park celebrated the last Jubilee with street parties. It was a great opportunity to celebrate with, for many, their new neighbours. Much of Buckingham Park was still to be built back then but I hope we will have many parties celebrating the Jubilee this year.

## Jubilee Square Maintenance

At the turn of the year the parish council took charge of bin emptying and litter picking of Jubilee square, we decided to purchase new bins for the square which would significantly reduce the amount of litter blowing around as these new bins are protected from the wind.

Whilst the parish are now responsible for bin emptying we are still not the owners of the square and general maintenance and upkeep is still down to the developers, we have been chasing them up recently in regards to major repair jobs needing to be done to the bollards, pathways and benches.

## Searching for Stalls

The summer carnival will be on the 11th of June this year. If you are interested in hosting a stall contact the community centre to see if there is space left.

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## Midnight Walk returns for one last night

Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity's annual Midnight Walk returns to Aylesbury for the final time after a two year hiatus on Saturday 16th July.

Since it began in 2010, the Midnight Walk has seen hundreds of men and women come together and take to the streets of Aylesbury, walking over 50,000 miles and raising over £650,000 for the charity over the years. But this will be the last opportunity to take part in the event.

The charity is hoping its local community will support their Farewell Midnight Walk, with walkers joining them to remember loved ones and support their local hospice as they walk the final miles for one last time.

Walkers can choose from 5 mile or 10 mile circular routes – both starting from Aylesbury College at midnight on Saturday 16th July, with refreshments at pit stops along the way. Each walker will also receive a commemorative Farewell Midnight Walk 2022 T-shirt, as well as a Finisher's medal and complimentary breakfast at the end of the walk.

For more information and to sign up, please visit [www.fnhospice.org.uk/midnightwalk](http://www.fnhospice.org.uk/midnightwalk) or call 01296 429975

Florence Nightingale Hospice is located at Stoke Mandeville Hospital and provides first class specialist palliative care which is accessible and free of charge to those with a life-limiting illness in Buckinghamshire. The Hospice also provides other services such as the FNH@Home services, providing end-of-life care for patients in their homes, Florrie's Children's Team respite care for families, the Day Hospice and Bereavement Support. Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity commits to fund over £1,000,000 of hospice services each year, supporting local in-patient and at-home palliative care services.

## Thank You

The parish council would like to thank everyone for coming to the X-mas at the Centre event, it was busiest Christmas event we have ever done and was an enjoyable night for all. We would also like to give thanks to Pyn for helping with the music and sound system along with the Rock Choir for their awesome performance.



## Rock Choir encourages people of Aylesbury to get back into singing this Summer.

Now that restrictions have been lifted, local Rock Choir Leader Liga Milune is keen to get the people of Aylesbury to return to singing and experience the significant mental and physical health benefits that singing can offer.

The largest contemporary choir in the world, Rock Choir, holds weekly rehearsals at the Buckingham Park Community Centre on Wednesdays at 11am and 8pm during term time and will begin its summer term 27th April 2022. As most Covid restrictions have now been lifted, Rock Choir is able to gather for indoor rehearsals and harmonise together and this summer term, Rock Choir members, or 'Rockies' will have the chance to learn – 'Pompeii' by Bastille, 'I'd Do Anything For Love (but I won't do that)' by Meatloaf and 'I Love You Always Forever' by Donna Lewis.

In addition to the weekly rehearsal sessions, the Aylesbury Rock Choir has many opportunities to perform live and recent events have included the Town Council Party in the Park, BBC Proms in the Park 2018 and 2019, at local care homes, the Waterside Theatre, Race for Life, Edinburgh Festival Fringe, at Abbey Road studios and many more.

Local Rock Choir Leader, Liga Milune, said: "Singing with Rock Choir is an amazing experience, lifetime friendships are made and we support and care for each other. The health benefits of singing in a choir are now widely known and a free taster session is offered to anyone wanting to come and see what we are all about. Come along, give Rock Choir a try - you won't be disappointed!"  
Caroline Redman Lusher, Creator and Creative Director of Rock

Choir has been highlighting the importance of group singing and the powerful positive impact it has on mental health and well-being. Caroline Comments: "The nation's mental health is at its worst and the services and support to combat loneliness, depression and anxiety are in huge demand and oversubscribed. Singing with a choir has a tremendously positive impact and allows a healing process to begin for all those who take part." If you would like to come along and see what Rock Choir is all about, sign up for a free taster session at your local Rock Choir today at [www.rockchoir.com](http://www.rockchoir.com)

**For further information or to set up an interview with Liga Milune, please contact Louise Harris on 07980 996318 or email [louise@louiseharrispr.co.uk](mailto:louise@louiseharrispr.co.uk)**

April marks the end of the Parish Year and, as Chairman I provide and update and summary of the work that the Parish Council does.

This year we have focused on replacing trees that have died and we have committed approximately £3,500 to the repair of the playgrounds. I am also delighted that we have been successful in applying for a grant of £25,000 from Buckinghamshire Council to build an outside gym facility in the park behind the community centre. I am hopeful that this will be open by the summer and will be free for residents to use.

We continue to undertake weekly litter picks, emptying of bins, hedge cutting, and grounds maintenance to mention but some of the activities we do to maintain Buckingham Park.

Jubilee Square has been a bone of contention for many years. It is privately owned and managed and not the responsibility of the Parish Council. As much as we wish it was. After a period of poor upkeep which resulted in many complaints about litter and rubbish in the square, I am pleased to say we have come to an arrangement with the managing agent for the square. The Parish has entered into a contract to maintain the bins and litter pick the square. I hope you will agree that we can already see an improvement in weeks since we took over. We will be installing larger bins soon to help reduce the amount of litter blowing around further. On the subject of the square, I would ask that donations are not left outside the charity shop when it is not open. The shop has a sign clearly asking that donations are not left outside and they cannot accept them. They go into the bin if they have been left.

The Berryfields surgery has had their temporary facilities on Buckingham Park for over a decade. Porta cabins that were only supposed to be a short-term solution have multiplied as patient numbers grew and permanent facilities delayed. I know many residents will be sad, even frustrated, that the surgery facilities will be moving to a new home in the summer, but I can only emphasise that Buckingham Park was never meant to be the location for the surgery. Just a temporary solution. However, I have seen the plans for the new surgery building in Berryfields and I am excited for the expanded range of services that the GP practice will be able to offer and wish them the best in their new location.

While we decide what to do with the land currently occupied by the surgery porta cabins, we have asked for the parking to left in place (because we can always do with more off-street parking), for ground services to be sealed off but left in place, and the land returned to grass. We have ambitions to provide additional facilities on the land but this will take some time to discuss, plan, and consult upon.

The thorny issue of adoption rumbles on for another year. I had several meetings with Buckinghamshire Council, including the Cabinet member for Planning, during the last 12 months. Again, I was promised progress and that adoption would be 'soon'. Dates in Spring and Autumn were provided but alas, yet again, turned out to be worthless promises. I have long past the point of mad frustration but continue to push for updates and progress. In fairness to Taylor Wimpey they have undertaken essential snagging work on

Col. Grantham and Prince Rupert Drive that will allow for adoption to begin. However, Buckinghamshire Council insist that the adoption of Martin Dalby Way (where there is still substantial snagging to be done) must come first before our roads can start being adopted. I will be challenging this decision in the coming weeks/ months to try and get some of the long-promised progress.

I am pleased to report that a new path linking Buckingham Park to Berryfields and the Waddesdon Greenway beyond has started construction. This will link our Greenway footpaths, from the top playground, to Berryfields via the Quarrendon Scheduled monument. It promises to be a much more pleasant link to Berryfields, away from the traffic, than Martin Dalby Way. It is hoped that the new path will be open in the early summer.

While this past year has been a mix of familiar frustrations with developers and Buckinghamshire Council (I remain hopeful that they will eventually sort out the adoption of our roads) it has also been a year of continued progress. Again, as I started this update, please come forward if you wish to help us and become a Parish Councillor. It is a great way to contribute to our community and help improve where we live. However, as ever, our thanks go to the fantastic team at the community centre, Steve Webb our grounds maintenance manager, and our Clerk, Keith Gray without whom it would be impossible to provide the services and facilities that we have in Buckingham Park.

I wish you all a happy Spring and Jubilee Celebrations.

**Anders Christensen (Chairman)**

## Active Communities Update

### Walk This Way

Hippocrates, father of modern medicine and whose oath is undertaken by medical professionals today, once remarked that 'A walk is man's best medicine'. Considering he was living in a time of wars, farming and general physical hardship, that is a remarkable statement.

Today, the value of a good walk is better understood, whether that's walking 10,000 paces a day or taking three brisk 10-minute walks, it has significant health benefits for all ages. A recent study showed that if 70-year-olds walked 20 minutes a day, it would reduce their chance of a heart attack in their 80s by half.

So, when Buckinghamshire Council began its Active Communities programme to encourage the residents in Buckingham Park to get just a bit more active, it

focused on two main areas. Firstly, to reduce the amount of time we spend sitting down by encouraging everyone to stand and move regularly throughout the day. And secondly, by motivating everyone to take a short walk as often as possible.

The Active Park Walk in Buckingham Park is one of 4 parks in North Aylesbury specially created for the Active Communities programme. Each has four markers along the route to indicate how many steps you have travelled each stage. You can walk just some of the walk if you cannot make the full journey. On top of these markers is a QR code you can access with your mobile to inform you about Active Communities, local information, health news and the extraordinary distances you can travel if you can keep up your daily walk for a year.



And they are extraordinary. If each step you took was one yard, then just 250 paces a day equates to nearly 52 miles a year. And that is one very big spoon of medicine.

For more information about the walks, visit [www.activemovement.co.uk/active-community/active-park-walks](http://www.activemovement.co.uk/active-community/active-park-walks)

And for more information about Active Communities and forthcoming events, visit [www.buckingham.gov.uk/activecommunities](http://www.buckingham.gov.uk/activecommunities)



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BAR**



## 10 Years of the Community Centre

Dear Residents & Friends, July 2012 seems such a life time ago when I first walked through the community centre doors. I hadn't seen it till then and when I saw all the builders dust, all the parcels of equipment and furniture all bubble wrapped I wondered what have I done! How will I get this all sorted I thought to myself and with no staff at that point either! Luckily the then parish Councillors & residence association members Eric, Ray, Bob, Davina & Anders all came to my rescue and over a couple days the furniture was unpacked and put away all that was left for me to do was clean, find some staff and fill the diary.

My biggest worry in the early days was to get activities established on a regular basis and with as much variety as possible leaving Saturday & Sunday afternoons for residents and the community to hire privately. I am not sure why I worried when I look back the support from the hirers and the staff have been amazing and made it all possible. In fact if I could change anything about the centre it would be for its own coffee shop/bar and more car parking spaces. We have always tried to arrange as many community events as

possible from Easter Egg hunts to the Summer Fete along with Halloween & Christmas for the Children all of these have been a pleasure to arrange as been so well supported by you all and enjoyed and I feel as a community it brings us all together which is so important. At my age it takes me back to when the back door was always open never locked and the neighbours walked in and out of peoples houses during the day for a cup of sugar or a cuppa and a chat!

The support you have all given each other during Covid, loss of residence bad weather financially hard times etc has been truly wonderful. Hopefully you will all be having get togethers for the Queens Platinum jubilee Celebrations and for those of you that don't know we are holding our Grand Summer Fete on the 11th June and we hope to see you all there without covid restrictions, we haven't had one for 3 years so we are trying to make this one extra special and hope to see you all that afternoon/evening.

I have experienced many proud moments over the years and feel we as a Community Centre have achieved a lot. One of the greatest achievement has

been to be part of development with SMILES when we opened the doors to the guys for their football training they hardly spoke a word to us and over the years have not only gained so much in their personal development along with getting jobs they have helped us with our functions and hold their own teddy stall to raise funds for their group this is down to the wonderful hard work of the trainers and sponsors and some of the parents its great to see how happy they are and the medals they have won along the way.

Success is only achievable through effort and team work – over the years we have had some lovely staff who have helped us achieve our goals and I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the regular hirers and the Parish Council for helping us make this all happen and to Luke Powell who has made it possible for me to semi retire.

Stay safe everyone and please continue to support and help your neighbours

Hope to see you all at the Summer fete details in this magazine

**Jan Turner, Centre & Events Manager**

## Buckingham Park Church of England Primary School

Dear Buckingham Park Community,

This is our first of a regular slot in this Park News newsletter under my headship and it is great to be here. For my first article, I would like to just give an overview of the school for those of you who are not affiliated with us.

This year is our tenth year as an established school and we will be celebrating this in the summer term, when the weather improves, hopefully...

We are a school of around 450 children, including a 39 space nursery, situated right in the heart of the community, directly off of Jubilee Square.

We are a Church school, linked to St James' Church in Berton and the Diocese of Oxford and this is fundamental to our day-to-day operations. Our school vision is "We aim to provide the highest quality all round education, for each and every child, in partnership with parents, within the context of a Christian community." This is encapsulated in our strapline, "Excellence, through God who strengthens us."

The word "Excellence" is one we focus on regularly in discussion with the children as it can be a challenging topic for the children to process. We talk about what it means to be excellent - whether that be an excellent writer, reader or mathematician, an excellent musician, sportsperson or artist, or just simply an excellent person. To support this understanding, we have a set of values - a sort of set of 'rules' of which we expect all members

of our community - children, their parents, our staff and everyone else to abide by. These are hugely well embedded in the school and I know any child would be able to tell you about how important these are to us all:

We are kind, helpful and polite	We do our best
We are honest	We share
We are peacemakers	We forgive others
We take care of everything, and everyone	

These are underpinned by biblical scripture and theology, but are way more universal than that. I am sure that you will all agree that if all of our young people grow up respecting and showing these values, we are on a journey to improving society and the world.

The past couple of years have been challenging for us all – our basic way of life has been dramatically altered and even our language has been changed beyond compare – words like isolation, lockdown and many others have become day to day parts of our language when they were not before. At this point in time, as we learn to 'Live with COVID' we hope that the world, in some sense, can return back to some normality. This will hopefully involve us once again re-establishing our part in the community and strengthening our links, which have been affected so greatly by the circumstances.

**Many thanks,**

**Daniel Fell, Headteacher**



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## USEFUL NUMBERS

Z&S Buses - Route 1 - Silver Rider  
01296 415468

Redline Buses - Route 7  
(early mornings and evenings only)  
01296 426786

Buckingham Park Community Centre  
01296 435239

BT Fault Line  
0800 800151

Buckingham Lodge  
0300 123 7243

Clerk to Buckingham Park Parish Council  
07789 586594

McCoys Fish & Chips  
01296 427648

Berryfields Medical Centre  
01296 310940

Buckingham Park CofE Primary School  
01296 415687

Buckingham Pharmacy  
01296 332901

Barnardo's Shop  
01296 330096

Express Tanning & Beauty  
01296 393311

Budgens  
01296 485137

Electricity - Power Loss  
0800 3163105

Gas - Emergency  
0800 111999

NHS Out of Hours Service  
111

Stoke Mandeville Hospital  
01296 315000

Thames Valley Police  
Call 101, the 24-hour Thames Valley Police non-emergency number to report a non-emergency crime. You can also report a non-emergency crime at your local police station during its opening hours.

Always call 999 in an emergency. It is an emergency when: a crime is being committed, there is a risk of injury, or there is a risk of serious damage to property.

Childline  
0800 1111  
101

Thames Water  
0800 714614

Train Times  
08457484950

## MEETINGS DIARY

The dates for the forthcoming meetings of the Parish Council are:

Tuesday 3rd May 2022

Tuesday 7th June 2022

Tuesday 5th July 2022

Tuesday 2nd August 2022

Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month at Buckingham Park Community Centre at 8pm. Everyone is welcome but please check the Parish Noticeboard or the website to ensure that no last minute changes have been made.

[www.buckinghampark-pc.gov.uk](http://www.buckinghampark-pc.gov.uk)



# Buckingham Park



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Bus Route  
Silver Rider 1  
Bus Stop

- |                                   |                               |                            |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Acres Way.....A4                  | Musket Path.....C4            | Skipper Close.....B3       |
| Ascough Close.....D5              | New College Road.....C3       | Small White Path.....B2/B3 |
| Battle Meadow.....C1/D1           | Nugent Close.....C5           | Tortoiseshell Road.....B2  |
| Beeston Lane.....C4               | Osselbury Lane.....B3         | Wall Brown Way.....B2      |
| Berry Hill Path.....C4/C5         | Palfreyman Street.....C4/D4   | Wardens Path.....C3        |
| Bridge Leys Meadow.....B3/C3      | Peacock Lane.....B1/B2        | Wedon Path.....C5          |
| Brimstone Lane.....D3/D4          | Petronel Road.....C4-D5       | Well Meadow.....A4         |
| Bursars Path.....C5               | Pluto Way.....B4              | Wilmott Close.....C4/C5    |
| Carbine Path.....C2               | Prince Rupert Drive.....B3-D5 | Wood White Drive.....C1/C2 |
| Cavalry Path.....C2               | Purnell Walk.....A3           | Wykeham Path.....D4        |
| Chalkhill Blue Close.....C3       | Red Admiral Street.....B1/B2  |                            |
| Chancellors Road.....C3           | Rede Close.....C1/C2          |                            |
| Charles Pym Road.....C4/D4        | Ringlet Way.....B2-B3         |                            |
| Chaunder Drive.....C1/C2          | Rodnall Close.....B4          |                            |
| Clivedon Way.....C4               | Ryans Path.....C4             |                            |
| Clouded Yellow Path.....B1/C1     | Skinner Road.....C1           |                            |
| Colonel Grantham Avenue.....B4/C4 |                               |                            |
| Colanley Crescent.....B3          |                               |                            |
| Culpepper Close.....C4            |                               |                            |
| Daunt Close.....C3/D3             |                               |                            |
| Founders Path.....B3              |                               |                            |
| Hayter Close.....B1               |                               |                            |
| Holly Blue Mews.....B4            |                               |                            |
| Howards Hill Green.....A4         |                               |                            |
| Hyton Square.....A4               |                               |                            |
| Lewis Close.....A4-B5             |                               |                            |
| Leys Close.....A4                 |                               |                            |
| Malford Crescent.....C2/C3        |                               |                            |

