

# Buckden Parish Council News

## Council Website

For more information, please visit the Buckden Parish Council (BPC) web site at [www.buckdenpc.org.uk](http://www.buckdenpc.org.uk). To automatically find out what is going on subscribe to our Newsletter service using your email address.

## Councillor changes

We are very pleased to welcome Kelly Thompson to our Council. We have however also had a resignation which means that we still have a vacancy on the Parish Council. If you are interested in joining the Council to help take forward the many initiatives we are working on, which include activities for younger people in Buckden and climate change mitigation work such as the repair café and tree and hedge planting, please contact the Clerk, details below, for more information about what is involved.

## 2025: Buckden's Year for Nature Recovery

The Parish Council want to make 2025 our year for supporting Nature Recovery both by doing what **we** can to increase biodiversity locally and by supporting our residents to do so. As the Parish Council has no land of our own to do anything on a large scale, we want to try to create a local network for residents to put forward ideas which we might be able to support, either through access to grants, advice, volunteers, etc.

Walking around Buckden, it is clear that many residents are already doing things like installing bird boxes, bug hotels, hedgehog houses and bird feeders, alongside taking part in "No Mow May" and setting aside areas of their gardens for nature. Finding out more precisely what the residents of Buckden already do to help nature could help us to put together a more wide-ranging and effective strategy for the future. Armed with this information we would like to celebrate all these actions during "Great Big Green Week" which runs from June 7<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> by holding a number of events including putting together a map of Buckden's Homes for Nature. By encouraging everyone to take part in some small way, e.g. by setting aside just a 50cm<sup>2</sup> of their garden or a couple of pots in which to plant wildflower seeds, we could make a real difference. This could help to establish a Buckden Butterfly and Bee line, a nature corridor through the village. It would also hopefully engage and inform more people so that our cumulative actions will have a much greater effect than that which could be achieved by the work of the PC alone.

## Free wildflower seed balls

To get things started, the PC are offering to any village resident, **for free**, native wildflower seed balls that are sufficient to cover up to 50 cm<sup>2</sup> of soil. These are very easy to use, you can literally just throw them onto bare soil and water them. They can also be grown very

successfully in flowerpots/tubs if you don't have any garden space. If you would be able to grow some of these, either in your garden or in a pot, please register your interest at <https://forms.gle/aMStAKNeMXs22R148> before the end of March. This will enable us to order the correct number of seed balls so that none are wasted. If you have a couple of minutes spare, please could you also complete the survey to let us know what steps you have already taken to provide a home for nature/to increase biodiversity locally.

## Shining a light on lower energy consumption and reduced maintenance costs

From December 2024, our street lighting contractor [Balfour Beatty](#) has started work on our [countywide street light replacement programme](#). Over two years, they will be replacing over 47,000 existing streetlights with new LED (light emitting diode) streetlights.

We expect that this will save more than 5,000 tonnes of carbon emissions over the lifetime of the streetlights and cut energy consumption by more than half. The new lights will also reduce maintenance costs and light pollution.

If you have a standard, Cambridgeshire County Council streetlight near you, the light will be replaced within the next two year.

The [Balfour Beatty website](#) has full details on when the streetlights in your area will be changed, alongside helpful FAQs.

## High Street Pavement works

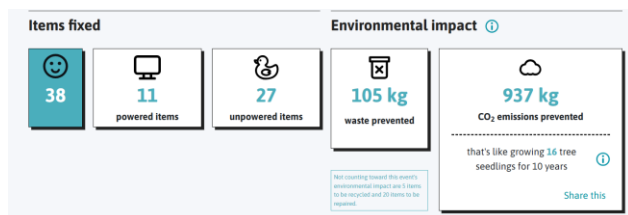
We can be quick to criticise, but we would like to say thank you to the County Council team who did a very good job on repairing the pavements in the High Street and were extremely pleasant and helpful. It's great when things go well.

## Buckden Repair Café 2

The Parish Council would very much like to thank all those repairers and volunteers who worked so hard to make our second Repair Café such a success. A huge thank you also to those who supported us by turning up with your items for repair, those who bought goodies from the Café and those who so generously donated so that we can continue to hold these events in the future. The results are in! We are pleased to report the following statistics provided by Restarters.net, a global community of people who run local repair events and campaign for our "Right to Repair".

All of the papers and reports for Council Meetings are available on the Thursday before meetings on Council website [www.buckdenpc.org.uk](http://www.buckdenpc.org.uk). This provides the opportunity to see the agenda, reports of work carried out by the Council as well as reports from out County and District Councillors. Any questions or comments on this report should be addressed to the Parish Clerk at: Buckden Parish Council, Buckden Village Hall, Burberry Rd, Buckden, PE19 5UY. Telephone 01480 819407 Email: [clerk@buckdenpc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@buckdenpc.org.uk).

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These results reflect the efforts of 10 Repairers and 12 other volunteers to run the Café for 3 hours. So far, our two cafés are estimated to have prevented nearly 200kg of waste from going to landfill and 1.6 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> being released into the atmosphere. The Parish Council are always looking for ways to do more to reduce our local carbon footprint. If you have an idea, please contact our clerk ([clerk@buckdenpc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@buckdenpc.org.uk)), perhaps we can help you to bring it to fruition.

## A BIG thank you

to Councillor Madeleine Fraser for all her hard work in setting up and running the Repair Café, it takes a great deal of organisation and preparation and wouldn't happen without her determination and formidable organisational skills. We are planning the next Repair Café for June. It would be good if we could involve more residents in organising the next one, we particularly need someone to liaise mainly online with those wanting to bring items for repair to ensure we match them up with the right repairer. Please contact [Clerk@buckdenpc.org.uk](mailto:Clerk@buckdenpc.org.uk) if you would like more details.

**Healthwatch Cambridgeshire and Peterborough** is the local statutory Healthwatch provider. They are the independent champion for people who use health and social care services in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. If you use health services, or need care, they want to hear about your experiences. They have the power to make sure NHS leaders and other decision makers listen to your feedback and improve standards of care. They can also help you find reliable and trustworthy advice and information. To get in touch or find out more, please email: [enquiries@healthwatchcambspboro.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@healthwatchcambspboro.co.uk) or call 0330 3551285

[www.healthwatchcambridgeshire.co.uk](http://www.healthwatchcambridgeshire.co.uk)  
[www.healthwatchpeterborough.co.uk](http://www.healthwatchpeterborough.co.uk)



**Correction** in the January edition of the Roundabout we thanked those that organised the Christmas Light switch on events, unfortunately we thanked the wrong organisation, the switch on and craft market was organised by the Vine and Buckden Farmers and Craft Market not the Buckden Community Events Team who

organise events to raise money for Buckden Towers and local charities.

## Council Meetings

The next Council meeting will be at 7.00 pm on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> March. The meeting will include a 15-minute open forum. If you want to speak at the meeting, please let us know what you want to say, by contacting the Parish Clerk. You will get a three-minute slot. The Council Planning Committee will also meet if required. Agendas for both meetings are posted on the Parish notice boards no later than the Saturday preceding the meeting.

## Office opening hours

The Clerk operates flexibly between the office and home. If you wish to meet with the Clerk, please call on. 07483 0333557.

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