

Buckden Parish Council News

Council Website

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

Alec MacAndrew

It was with great sadness we heard the news of the unexpected death of Alec MacAndrew. Alec joined the Parish Council when he moved into the village. He worked on the Planning Committee and was active in all aspects of the work of the Council.

He was able to bring his scientific and business experience to the quite different role of a parish councillor. He was the most able, reliable and supportive Vice Chair that a Chair could wish for. He did a wonderful job on preparing the case for the Public Inquiry over the Lucks Lane development. Being a councillor was only one aspect of his contribution to the village. Alec was a very active and inspiring chairman of Buckden Almshouses charity for over 15 years, until his death. In that capacity he led the extension of South's Almshouse to convert the units from bedsits into one-bedroom flats.

He was also a very talented photographer and recorded many events in the village over the years. He will be sadly missed.

Buckden Repair Café and Greener Buckden Day

The second Repair Café was a resounding success and now a third one has been planned.

It will be in the Village Hall on Saturday 7th June from 1.30 -4.30 p.m. Bookings will start at the beginning of May. Don't forget that our repairers will have a go at many different things. As long as you can carry it into the Hall, they'll take a look at it. We will be repairing/servicing bikes again so why not get yours checked over before the summer.

We also hope to run a "Clothes Swap" in conjunction with an event to celebrate "A Greener Buckden" during Big Green Week (June 7th -15th). More news on this event will be in next month's Roundabout and on our website and social media channels.

Buckden Hub

This February half-term the Parish Council once again provided free Active Lifestyle Multi-Sports sessions for children aged 5-11 at Buckden Towers. Spaces filled up quickly and the facilitators delivering the sessions said "the children in Buckden are always so lovely, engaged and happy to get stuck in".

The Parish Council will continue to arrange more of these holiday sessions and look forward to seeing more families enjoying sports for young people.

Book Exchange

Many thanks to all those who offered to help with the Book Exchange. We are pleased to say that we have now got volunteers to manage it and they have given the old telephone box in the High Street a spring clean. Thanks again to the Lorigan family who set this up, to Alison and Rob who looked after it for so long and now to our new volunteers.

Thanks also to Jonny from JJ Windows (0770302895) who has volunteered his time and skill to keep the windows sparkling clean.

Vacancy

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, please contact the Clerk, details below, for more information about what is involved.

Precept and Budget

The Parish Council has now agreed its Budget for the year starting on 1st April and submitted its requirements to the District Council which collects the Council Tax on our behalf. The Band D Charge for 2025/2026 will be £139.99 for the Parish Council, an increase of less than 2% on last year's Charge of £137.28.

Meeting with MP

The Chair of the Parish Council, together with the Chairs of 7 other local Parish and Town Councils, had a round-table discussion with our M.P., Ben Obese-Jecty, in Parliament. This will be the first of such regular meetings.

Living in harmony with nature this spring

Early spring is a good time for a tidy-up in the garden before the main growing season begins. However, please think about the effects on nature when planning your work. That pile of leaves may contain a hibernating hedgehog, dead flower-heads may still be harbouring insects and beetles. The darker areas of your shed may have over-wintering butterflies in them. Try not to disturb them before the weather is warm enough for them to move on.

Most birds build nests between the beginning of March and the end of July, so it is best not to cut or trim hedges, shrubs or bushes between these dates. If you need to do some work within this time period, please check for any signs of nest building first.

All of the papers and reports for Council Meetings are available on the Thursday before meetings on Council website 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 our 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 07483 333557 Email: clerk@buckdenpc.org.uk.

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Our native plants and animals are under threat from climate change, so please do all that you can to protect them.

Free Wildflower Seed Bombs

There is still time to claim your free wildflower seeds so that you can make your garden/window box/planters part of Buckden's local nature reserve. The Parish Council doesn't have any land we can use to make a nature reserve but together, the gardens in Buckden could. Our gardens cover a relatively large area which can support huge numbers of insects, birds and mammals, not to mention worms, slugs, snails and other creepy crawlies which have the "Yuck" factor but do an enormous amount to keep our soil healthy. Could you be a "hedgehog hero", a "slug and snail saviour" a "worm warrior", a butterfly and bee booster, or even a slow worm super hero? To get your free seeds and find out more check out <https://forms.gle/aMStAKNeMXs22R148> or mail bpcgreeninfrastructuregroup@gmail.com

Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting, also known as the Annual Assembly, will take place on Tuesday 20th May at 7pm at the Village Hall. This is where the Parish Council reports on the past year and its future plans but also where any electors in the Parish can raise issues and ask questions. More details will appear in in the May "Roundabout".

Council Meetings

The next Council meeting will be at 7.00 pm on Tuesday 8th April. 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 and Village Maintenance Committees will meet as required. Agendas 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 07483 333557.

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