



# The Buckingham Society

*Campaigning for a better Buckingham*

## Newsletter October 2022

### Buckingham is delightedly coming back to Life after Covid!

Our town is coming back to life! The Literary Festival in late June and the History Festival in early October, were both hosted by the University and saw some talented authors give an insight into their work.

The Charter Fair in October was granted largely clement weather and the town came alive again for two weekends.

... and of course, the Buckingham Society Annual lecture and Garden Party was held on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> July. Barry Smith, Stowe's National Trust Head Gardener, gave a fascinating lecture "Trees at Stowe".

This was followed by the garden party held in the beautiful gardens of Ondaatje Hall with the kind permission of Professor James Tooley, the Vice Chancellor of the University of Buckingham.



70 members and their guests enjoyed excellent weather whilst exploring the Hall's historic gardens and enjoying drinks and canapes. It was a wonderful evening, with many guests reluctant to leave when the time came!

The Society is very grateful to the University for allowing us the use of such a wonderful venue.

## Planning – Carolyn Cumming

### Land Between Moreton Road and Castlemilk

Also known as 'Moreton Road, Phase 3' (130 dwellings) was given formal approval at a Strategic Sites Committee (SSC) on 1<sup>st</sup> September. There were many well-argued objections, not least the obvious traffic increases trying to negotiate either the Old Gaol roundabout, or the village roads of Maids Moreton. The Society was very critical of the overall design, which showed no evidence of adhering to specific new policies on the need to observe the local context. New parking standards as set out in the VALP were also ignored. At the SCC meeting planning officers were quick to drown out opposing voices and dismiss the legitimate reasons for debate. The Town Council decided in the aftermath of this outcome to "call in" the application, asking the Secretary of State to review the process.

### Osier Way

Regrettably the very same criticisms had to be voiced again by the Society on the lack of local character analysis for this application, together with the ubiquitous nature of the design of the dwellings, (which will number 420). Yet again it appeared to us that objections and arguments were brushed aside by the planning department with undue haste. Straddling the parish boundaries of Buckingham and Gawcott, this is an extensive greenfield site offering opportunities to introduce mitigation measures to offset climate change and save households energy costs; e.g. ground source heat circulation, solar panels. It is, therefore, doubly frustrating to see both the lack of sustainable ideas and innovative design solutions.

### General

The above two sites will have a major impact on the town and its environs, and the Society chose to send in detailed objections to the current plans. But there are of course many other applications that seek to alter existing buildings or to infill brownfield sites. Among the latter, we still await a decision on the revised application for 7 dwellings on land between 38 Moreton Road and the old police station. And, to date, no new application has been received for the Land off Market Hill below Summerhouse Hill.

Another application for the Station House site off the Tingewick Road seeks to construct 8 dwellings alongside the historically important Station house – a non-designated Heritage Asset. A story about it appears below. We oppose this development, on the grounds of overdevelopment and poor design with little acknowledgement of its past role in Buckingham's railway network. Close by, adjacent to Clarence Court, there is a proposal to develop 16 dwellings on the remains of the industrial estate at Foundry Drive. We note the Town Council's detailed comments on various omissions, e.g., lack of amenity space, failure to provide 35% affordable housing. It is once more noticeable that there is an inherent refusal to take local conditions into account and to provide a variation of design and materials which showed imagination, rather than rely on a computer-generated formula.

The side extension proposed at 5 The Villas was refused for the third time. The air conditioning units above Windmill Vets are subject to an enforcement order, being an unacceptable addition to the historic street scene. We were also sorry to see that the retrospective application for 9 St Rumbold's Lane, which proposed the conversion to 7 self-

contained student flats was approved. It has resulted in unacceptable waste disposal arrangements, affecting the amenity of nearby residents.

## Station House – Kathy Robins

Chris Hampson has contacted me to share memories of Station House, referred to by Carolyn above. Chris lived in Buckingham from 1961-1966 and says that his father, Rodney Hampson, was the last Buckingham station master and the family lived there until 1966. He says, “It was then a three-bedroom house with a bathroom in the room over the porch. Two downstairs reception rooms plus a kitchen which opened into a walled back yard with wash house, coal store and a downstairs WC. There was also a useful cellar under the dining room though it did flood a couple of times so everything had to sit on bricks.

We didn’t own a car so access was mostly down the wooden steps from the end of the road bridge and via the public footpath to the front gate. In the winter my parents would leave a lighted candle in a jam jar at the top of the steps when I was due back from Cubs/Scouts etc.

The railway sold the house (complete with dry rot, I believe) soon after we left and it was extended , covering over the back yard. I have visited a few times since, enjoying the walk along the railway from the passenger station site but sad to see the house steadily declining”.



## The Tailbys and the Revival of Interest in Horseradish Sauce: An Unsung Local Industry – Ed Grimsdale, Buckingham Society Historian and Friend of Buckingham

**From Buck. Advertiser 24.12.1920 From a Review of Christmas Shop Windows**

MR. GEO. E. TAILBY always has a very tastefully-filled window, and this is especially so on this festive occasion. It is filled with all kinds of the choicest fruits and flowers, bottles and boxes of preserved and crystallized fruits, and special feature is the up-to-date horse-radish sauce, for which there is an increasing demand. [...]

MR.. T. H. TAILBY, Castle Street, has this year given a lighter window display, and its attractiveness has received general commendation. The luscious fruits and rare flowers have been exceptionally well arranged. The contents comprise pines, grapes, oranges, apples, pears, nuts, etc., in endless variety, together with all kinds of the best bottled and crystallised fruits, interspersed with chrysanthemums and other flowers.

Last year, we had the pleasure of stating that Mr. T. H. Tailby had been awarded the Bronze Medal for horseradish sauce by the judges at the London Exhibition. and it



now gives us additional pleasure to record the fact that has been even more successful this year in being awarded the Silver Medal, which is an honour to the town as well as to its native tradesman. It also added that the sauce is continually gaining in its popularity with

rapidly increasing sales, and that Mr. T. H. Tailby has opened a factory for its preparation in a portion of the premises, known as the Barracks, opposite his Nurseries on the Brackley Road.

The Tailby Brothers were instrumental in reviving Horseradish sauce as a British condiment. They bottled it in their factory housed in the rear outbuildings of the Marquess of Buckingham's Barracks.



The horseradish crop was grown on the banks of the river Great Ouse opposite the Barracks i.e. on the site of the new buildings being served by the road now named Nursery Place. With the Tailbys' extensive local service and their donation of 'their' West End Bowls Club to that Club, their name, or maybe "horseradish" deserve to have a memorial.

I put it forward to Buckingham Town Council when it was discussing the naming of the mini estate. Sadly, as you see, the Council preferred Nursery Place.





## Green and Open Spaces – Ian Orton

The drought and high temperatures experienced over the past two months - and the summer in general - appear, at first sight, to have left our tree and hedgerow-scape relatively unaffected.

Even the new plantings made over the past months, along with the longer standing plantings of rare flowering cherries in the green heartlands appear to have survived the heat and drought, although they are hardly flourishing.

Despite all this, it seems that the new watering regime negotiated by Michael Hunt with Buckinghamshire Council appears to be working.

For some the climatic conditions could have provided a positive benefit. The Judas tree in the front garden of Ondaatje Hall (Walnut Yard) on Church Street has provided a second flush of flowers, for example.

Our hedgerows also appear to have survived the summer well, especially those in proximity to new building development, e.g. Tingewick Road.

On the downside there is evidence of widespread vandalism, some of which has been directed against newly planted whips and nursery stock. All of the black poplars planted in the Heartlands on 16 January have been destroyed along with their supports along with many of the whips that were also planted on the same day. The cost of these acts of vandalism amounts to thousands of pounds. What is especially distressing is that the female black poplars, along with some the whips, were privately donated.

Two of the London plane trees planted near to the “island” car at the University’s Hunter Street sites part of HM Queen Elizabeth II’s Platinum Jubilee Green Canopy initiative, along with their supports have been cut.

Elsewhere there appears to be an increase in the spray-painted graffiti that has appeared around the town. Interpretation boards, including our own at the site of the former railway station, appear to have been particularly targeted.

The damaged information board is on the left. It was cleaned and renovated by Ian and the excellent result is on the right. (Editor)



Heartbreaking though this is, it is an unfortunate facet of the times in which we live. Casual vandalism always increases during the summer months and has done so for a number of years, as Buckingham Town Council's Lee Philips, along with his hard-working Greenspaces Team can confirm.

What can be done? Very little unfortunately, beyond increased vigilance and making good the damage caused by vandals as quickly as possible. There is considerable evidence to suggest that damage restoration has a deterrent effect.

There is a suspicion that some of the damage may have been caused by children aged around 11 or 12 who have been spotted attempting to swing from recent plantings on the Green Heartlands, breaking branches and trunks in the process. If, and it is a big if, they could be identified, BTC could consider charging their parents for the damage done via a County Court Action. Liaising with local schools might also have an effect. Unlikely though it maybe it could be the case that the children involved were not aware of the damage they were creating, or the cost of replacing the trees they helped destroy.

Going forward there are several initiatives planned to enhance the treescape and hedgerow-scape.

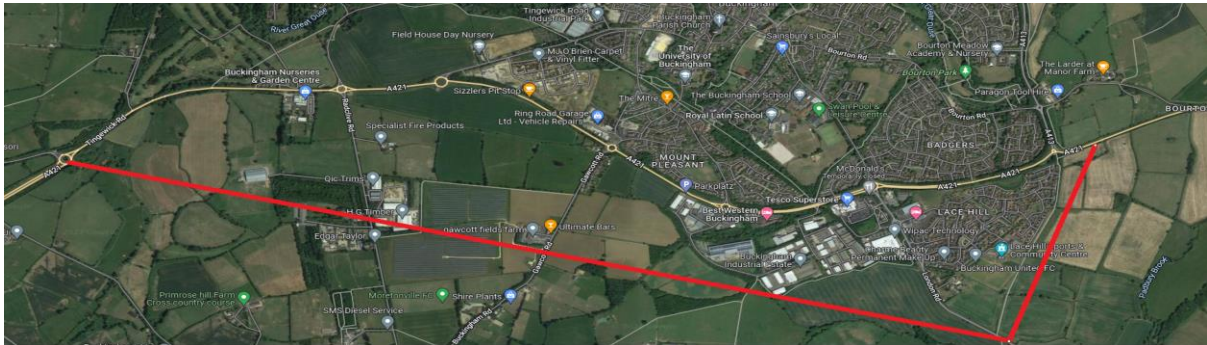
Buckingham Town Council's Greenspaces Team will be gapping up hedges at the rear of the Brackley Road cemetery with 420 whips donated by the Woodland Trust.

Hedgerow removal has been identified as a factor in the decline of many plant and animal species which benefit from the habitat and source of food these plants created. Plantings will include native species such as holly, hazel, crab apple, downy birch, hawthorn, and goat willow.

The Railway Walk Conservation Group will once again be active in and around the railway walk, one of our linear parks during the autumn and winter. Their activities are coordinated by The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) and regular work parties take place on the first Saturday of the month.

Previous activities have included: thinning trees, fence repairs, glade cutting and clearing, nest and bat boxes, and hedge maintenance.

## Transport – David Child



On the basis that the aim of the A421 improvement is to increase the traffic flow east / west across the county then the 2 clearest junctions are at the end of the Tingewick bypass (dual carriageway) and on the A421 (to become dual carriageway) fairly close or actually onto the roundabout at the junction of the A413 and the A421. To meet the traffic flow demands it will require dual a carriageway and minimal roundabouts (or none)

I have drawn straight lines because the road could deviate to avoid any obstructions like newly build housing estates, but the deviations would be minimal to avoid additional costs.

I would propose no roundabouts not even on the London Road (A413) - if nothing else because roundabouts attract housing estates and the last thing we need is ribbon development along this new road.

## Local Bird Observations - Mary Melliush

A heron was feeding on the river early this morning. From time to time a little egret is spotted. Even a cattle egret was reported at Stowe this summer. The Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust check last month did not find water voles. But fresh otter spraint was found at intervals from around Castle Bridge as far as Bourton Park, keep a look out, otter lovers!



There is a moorhen, but where are the ducks? I have had no sightings for many weeks. A report of a little flock of house martins working on a pile of mud at the Larder, Manor Farm, in late spring is well worth a mention. I have thick hedges. These provided shade in the heat this summer. Now they house a dozen or more sparrows who use my feeding station, with other birds cleaning up on the ground below. Other visitors include a pair of collared doves and a flock of long tailed tits from time to time. Various tits and goldfinches come

often , and a thrush made daily visits, cracking snails on a stone: quite special. Last week a greenfinch (see left) stayed feeding for an hour, joined eventually by the female.

This September Jackie and I went to a nearby farm to say goodbye to the swallows. We noted a good bird list including linnets in a nearby field.

Now we are watching for autumn migrants, redwing and fieldfare etc that brighten the winter months.

## Forthcoming events

### AGM 24<sup>th</sup> November at the Vinson Centre Auditorium

6.00pm Pre AGM drinks and canapes

6.30pm Annual General Meeting

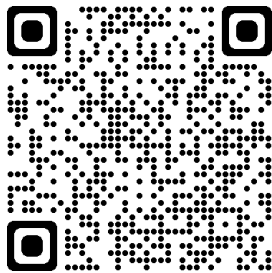
7.30pm. Warren Whyte will give a talk "Sir George Gilbert Scott and his work in Buckingham".

Spring Walks: Michael Hunt – Stowe and Winslow. Details to follow

## Executive Committee

Vacant	Chair
David Child	Treasurer, transport, web site and planning
Carolyn Cumming	Planning
Ed Grimsdale	Planning and Society Historian
Gill Jones	Membership secretary
Belinda Morley-Fletcher	Secretary
Roger Newall	Planning
Ian Orton	Green and Open Spaces, planning
Russell Popee	
Anthony Ralph	Planning
Kathy Robins	Newsletter Editor, Planning
Mary Simons	Planning

## We should like to hear from You



Please give us some feedback - tell us what activities you would like The Buckingham Society to prioritise, any ideas for social events or simply write to us on any Buckingham related matter. If you have any ideas, questions or comments please address them to: [kathyrobins@walnutyard.co.uk](mailto:kathyrobins@walnutyard.co.uk) Tel: 07834 484762.

If you would like to become involved in any of our activities or attend a meeting of the executive committee, just contact us and come along. [www.buckinghamssociety.org.uk](http://www.buckinghamssociety.org.uk)