



Programme of Events to Commemorate the Great Fire of Buckingham 1725

On March 15th 2025 300 years will have passed since the Great Fire of Buckingham devastated the town. The intention is to mark this significant milestone in the history of Buckingham with a series of appropriate activities and events. This commemoration will involve local schools, many adult organisations and individual volunteers together creating a fitting and memorable period of reflection.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS:

Saturday 22nd February

Launch of "Buckingham Ablaze" Commemorations of the Great Fire of Buckingham 1725

Venue: Outside the Old Gaol, Buckingham Market Square

Time: 10.30am

Details: The Buckingham Town Crier calls the start of the Fire commemorations supported by a musical celebration from the Winslow Concert Band to formally open the exhibitions and installations, which are located at the following:

- **The Old Gaol** to house the Scale Model of the Town circa 1725 with a loop film showing the dramatised story of the fire starting.
- **The Library** will stage the "Clay Tile" collage created by children from four local Primary Schools.
- **The Vinson Building** in Buckingham University will host artwork created by children from local Primary Schools up to 14th March
- **The Royal Latin School** will exhibit Creative Writing pieces produced by the pupils.
- **Window displays by town shops and businesses**
- **Thornton School** will also launch their pupil-creation of the "Horrid History of the Fire of Buckingham" available for distribution to schools and their libraries.

These exhibitions will be open to view until March 17th, although the Town Model will continue to be on display for longer.

A **Souvenir Programme** will be available to purchase from today, (22nd Feb) for a suggested donation. Thereafter it will be available from all the Exhibition venues and several other local outlets.

No entrance fees but donations gratefully received to the Fire Fighters Charity - donate.firefighterscharity.org.uk/

Thursday 6th March

The Great Fire of Buckingham - Talk by Julian Hunt

Venue: Vinson Building, Buckingham University

Time: 7.30pm

Details: Supported by the Buckingham Society. Free entry and open to the public.



Saturday 8th March

The "ABLAZE" verge planting and railings installation outside the Old Gaol

- This will remain in place for the duration of Commemoration week.

Monday 10th, Tuesday 11th, Wednesday 12th and Thursday 13th March

Tours of fire affected areas of the town by trained volunteers including visits to all three exhibition locations.

Venue: The Old Gaol

Times: 10.30am : Morning tours are aimed at school groups

6.30pm : Evening tours are open to the public (Mon. Tues & Weds only)

Booking arrangements will be through the Old Gaol and are free of charge, any donations received will go towards the upkeep of the Old Gaol.

Friday 14th March

An outdoor unveiling of the memorial plaque marking the place where the fire began

Venue: White Hart

Time: 7.30-9pm

Details: Follows a formal reception in the White Hart Function Room with speeches and a premier viewing of the Docu-drama film "Buckingham Ablaze". Invited guests, local dignitaries and representatives of all the groups involved with the Commemoration Project.

Saturday 15th March

Actual day of the Fire in 1725

- **10.30am** Outside the Old Gaol, Buckingham School will perform "The story of the firein Dance" Followed by other musical groups who will provide entertainment to the public.
- **4.30pm** The High Street and Market Square will be closed to traffic for the evening event "1725 And All That" - The town centre will be transformed into 1725, the period of the fire. Many facets of historical relevance will set the atmosphere including music, dance, shows, livestock sales, children's games, refreshments and much more, all in an appropriate manner and dress.
- **7pm** a re-enactment of the actual starting of the fire with selective musical items, lighting and other magical elements!

Sunday 16th March, 6pm

Chariots of Fire finale concert and 'Story of the Fire' film showing

Venue: Villiers Ballroom

Time: 6pm-7.40pm

Details: The Band of the "West Midlands Fire Service" will play a variety of musical numbers accompanying the animated story of the fire compered by Charlie Ross and supported by illustrations from pupils of the Royal Latin School. This will be very suitable for families and we hope a fitting finale to the week.

Tickets: £11 for Adults and £8 for children available online www.ticketsource.co.uk/buckingham-ablaze-chariots-of-fire-finale-concert or call 0333 666 3366

An artist's impression of where the Fire started on March 15th 1725

By artist John Whitehead a member of BAFA. The fire started behind The Unicorn Inn.

The line of buildings from right to left are now the White Hart, Nail bar, Oxfam Charity Shop, Estate Agents, Coffee#1 and Browns' hairdressers.

For up to date information as it gets confirmed please visit the Buckingham Ablaze [Facebook page](#) or keep an eye on the [Buckingham Society Website Events](#) page.

