



## Programme of Events to Commemorate the Great Fire of Buckingham 1725

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**On March 15<sup>th</sup> 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 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 plus showcase creative writing and other project work from four secondary.
- **The Vinson Building** in Buckingham University will host artwork created by children from local Primary Schools up to 14th March,
- **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, (22<sup>nd</sup> 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/](https://donate.firefighterscharity.org.uk/)

#### Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> March

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

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

## Monday 10<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> 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 14<sup>th</sup> March

**An outdoor unveiling of the memorial flagstone** 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 15<sup>th</sup> March

**Actual day of the Fire in 1725**

- **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 with many facets of historical relevance which will set the atmosphere including music, dance, heritage crafts, a sheep and lamb pen, 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 16<sup>th</sup> March, 6pm

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

**Venue:** Villiers Ballroom

**Time:** 6pm-7.40pm

**Details:** The **Concert 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](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/buckingham-ablaze-chariots-of-fire-finale-concert) or call 0333 666 3366

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## An artist's impression of where the Fire started on March 15<sup>th</sup> 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.

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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.

