



August 2025



www.soulburyparish.co.uk



Soulbury Community Hub



Soulbury News

Parish Information

Team Rector

Rev'd Dom Wright 01296 688593 07732 554611 teamrectordom@gmail.com

Churchwardens

Nigel Kemal 07398 825430

Jane Luxton 01525 270493

Parish Councillors

Vic Wright (Chairman) 07704 801682 chairman@soulburyparish.co.uk

Parish Clerk: Wendy Taylor 01525 279530 clerk@soulburyparish.co.uk

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David Morgan 07500 602175

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Alan Stevens 01525 270213 ahs@soulburyparish.co.uk

Millennium Green Committee

Nigel Kemal (Chairman) 07398 825430

Jo Nichols (Treasurer & Sec.) 07971 927060

Michele Nicholas (Soulfest) 07929 875240

Carla Bennett 07778 040002

Paul Cragg 07831 850028

Geoff Kiddle 07936 409264

Erica McDonald 07872 524376

Alan Stevens 01525 270213

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Margaret Rowe 01525 270355 mr@soulburyparish.co.uk

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Rita Marks 01525 270687

Social Group Leader

Alan Stevens 01525 270213

Parish News Editor

Julian Ridley 07909 543378

Speedwatch Team Leader

Vic Wright 07704 801682

Cricket Club Captain

James Carter 07816 449699

Soulbury Allotments Co-ordinator

Michele Nicholas 07929 875240

Thames Valley Police

Emergency 999

Non Emergency 101

Due to GDPR regulations the Clerk and Parish Councillors should not be using their own personal email addresses for parish council business. Therefore, the following email addresses have been set up for everyone to use when communicating with the parish council.

This information will also appear on the parish website.

Soulbury Village Dates for your diary July 2025 onwards

Sunday 3rd August	11:30 am	Parish Communion (All Saints Church).
Thursday 14th August	2:30 pm	Social Group Meeting (Parish Hall).
Sunday 17th August	11:30 am	Parish Communion (All Saints Church).
Sunday 24th August	11:30 am	Brunch Church (All Saints Church).
Thursday 28th August	2:30 pm	Social Group Meeting (Parish Hall).
Sunday 31st August	TBC	Benefice Service at All Saints Church, Wing.
Sunday 7th Sept.	11:30 am	Parish Communion (All Saints Church).
Tuesday 9th Sept.	2:00 pm	WI Meeting (Parish Hall).
Tuesday 9th Sept.	7:30 pm	SMG Meeting (Parish Hall).
Thursday 11th Sept.	2:30 pm	Social Group Meeting (Parish Hall).
Monday 15th Sept.	7:30 pm	Parish Council Meeting (Parish Hall).
Monday 15th Sept.	7:30 pm	Licensing Service for new Cottesloe Team Vicar, Will Lyon Tupman at St Peter & St Paul . Church, Wingrave.
Sunday 21st Sept.	11:30 am	Parish Communion (All Saints Church).
Thursday 25th Sept.	2:30 pm	Social Group Meeting (Parish Hall).
Sunday 28th Sept.	11:30 am	Brunch Church (All Saints Church).
Saturday 8th November	TBC	Fireworks Display.

The next Soulbury Breakfast will be on Oct 5th. We do hope you can all come for a full English breakfast for £7.50, or a Continental breakfast if you prefer, with as much coffee or tea as you can drink. Come and meet your neighbours.

Soulbury Social Group

There was huge relief at this weeks social group meeting to see the return of Pat Jones. A fortnight ago grave concerns occurred when Pat did not attend. With no advanced warning, all were very concerned for her safety as it was most unlike her. Two of our members went up to her house to investigate, and returned being none the wiser having looked through windows, rang the doorbell, knocked and entered the rear garden to peer through windows. They could see no sign of Pat and that upstairs windows were open. Fearing the worst I rang 999, spoke to the police who said they would pass it on. Just as we were packing up and preparing to leave the police rang me back and assured me that Pat was safe and well. That was as much as she could tell me except to contact local hospitals. However on my way home I noticed that Pat's neighbours car was outside, so I popped in and it transpires that she had fallen indoors, the neighbours had called an ambulance and they had whisked her away to Stoke Mandeville. After 7 days she has returned to the fold and we were very pleased to see her. One further item that I should mention is that we recently welcomed a new member in the shape of Norma Kempster who joined our ranks a few meetings ago and is now a regular attendee, so pleased to welcome you Norma. The other bit of good news is that Gillie won the Hundred Club draw for this month.

Fund raising for 2026 Open Gardens

We would normally organise Open Gardens every other year and would hope to do so next in 2026. However, to do it we need resident's gardens to open. This is not as frightening as it sounds. Visitors are very interested in all gardens, especially those being developed, and they are reassured by weeds also, as these assist pollinators & aid environmental bio-diversity. We will also need people to help organise the event days. If you feel you would like to take part, or know a garden you feel may be interested, please ring Jane on Tel No 01525 270493 or Mob 07946 5858099.

God Bless you all & keep you safe during the summer holidays season.

Jane Luxton & Nigel Kemal – Churchwardens

Soulbury WI



The meeting on July 1st opened at 2pm with the singing of Jerusalem.

This month's speaker was one of our members Jackie and Henrietta from the Refill Shop in Leighton Buzzard by Waitrose. The talk was about the environmental journey for both of them, how small changes can turn into bigger changes and what it can mean from an environmental, effectiveness of products and cost. From changing washing scourers to natural alternatives to making your own eco friendly products. The members were able to share their own tips and we discussed the benefits of using local refill shops. Jackie even had one piece of plastic that had been reused for six years, taking about 36 plastic bottles out of the disposal chain, which unfortunately is not

always what it seems in recycling, with some very disturbing facts given by Henrietta. Hopefully seeds were sown and our members will start their own journey and we can share some more tips in the future.

Henrietta kindly offered a chance to win a cleaning starter kit by entering a draw when WI attendees visit the shop by 14th July. Tea and refreshments were served, and club business matters were discussed.

The raffle was drawn and the meeting ended at 4:30pm.

~oOo~

The Club Outing to Tiggywinkles Wildlife Hospital on Tuesday 8th July went ahead despite the lack of numbers. They were very obliging on cost for our little group, which was much smaller than they usually like to cater for and tailored the program of events accordingly.

After a pleasant drive through the Buckinghamshire countryside [SatNavs notwithstanding] we all arrived at Haddenham at approx. 10am ready for a well-planned itinerary for the day lead by Leah our dedicated Tiggywinkles guide.

First on the agenda was a slideshow about the intricacies of identifying and caring for baby birds and animals. Then we were given some useful do's and don'ts when encountering potentially abandoned or poorly creatures, where to take them and most importantly how to transport them safely.

We then went out to the Hedgehog enclosure for an informative but light-hearted talk about hedgehogs which was frequently interrupted by 'sponge-bob' the soft-shelled tortoise, who tried to steal the show with his constant attempts to eat Leah's trainers and jeans.

After a Coffee break in the shaded seating area we reconvened for second talk at the Deer enclosure, where Leah talked us through the 4 most common species of deer found here in the UK. She also explained that a recent change in legislation meant that rescued non-native deer could not now be re-released back into the wild. We also spent time looking at the birds in the raptor enclosures, before our tour ended.

There was then free time for exploring the rest of the centre and to visit the shop. Some members then went on to Haddenham Garden Centre for a late lunch in their café before heading home.

Thank you to those who volunteered to drive and a huge Thank You to Chris for organising such a lovely day out.

~oOo~

There is No meeting in August, but committee members who are available will be meeting at Pecks Farm Shop at 2:30pm on Tuesday 5th August for Tea & Cake and to discuss the program of speakers for 2026.

The next meeting will be Tuesday 9th of September when we will welcome Dr. Jill Eyres with her talk 'Boudicca – Warrior Queen or Rebel' A legendary figure, admired by women as an icon of womanly strength. She took on the greatest power of the ancient world - the Roman Army - after their invasion of Britain, and she almost won. This talk investigates the truths and the myths of this intriguing leader of the ancient Britons.

Visitors are welcome to attend at the cost of £3. If you wish to come along, please just let us know by using the contact phone numbers published in the Soulbury newsletter <https://soulburyparish.co.uk/womens-institute/> and you will be warmly welcomed.

Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Soulbury WI

2025 WI program

Monthly Meetings held at 2.00 pm 2nd Tuesday each month Soulbury Parish Hall [VISITORS £3.00]

12 August No Meeting

09 September Boudicca – Warrior Queen or Rebel

14 October A Great Railway Journey

16 October Group Meeting – evening – Hosted by Wavendon Belles

11 November AGM

02 December Christmas Social

09 December Christmas Lunch

All Saints Church – Soulbury

It was lovely to see All Saints Church so well attended for the end of June Brunch Service with 24 children & adults present. We hope this increase in numbers will continue and be reflected throughout our normal communion services also.

At the recent Churchwardens Meeting held at St Mary the Virgin, Mentmore, Dom informed us of his latest thoughts for the Cottesloe Benefice after Will Lyon Tupman joins as the new Team Rector. Will and Laura are due to move into the Vicarage at Stewkley towards the end of August and plans are being made to welcome & assist with their moving. Will's Licensing Service is to be conducted by The Rt Revd Bishop Dave Bull, Bishop of Buckingham, at St Peter & St Paul Church, Wingrave with Rowsham on Monday 15th September at 7:30 pm. We hope that this will be well supported throughout the Cottesloe Benefice and that Soulbury play their part also.

During June's PCC Meeting, the finances of All Saints Church here in Soulbury has necessitated an urgent review of current expenditure, with cost savings to be sought and additional fund raising to be explored. If you are able to provide regular giving or increase existing giving arrangements, please consider supporting with this and we expect to release further news in the near future.

Soulbury Cricket 2025

Firstly I would like to thank John Hall for the generous donation he has made to the club.

In the last 4 weeks we've won two games - one at home against Road Runners CC from Houghton Regis and one away versus Leighton Town at Bell Close.

Unfortunately we had to call off 2 games. Boxmoor couldn't find enough players on June 22nd and a rain-soaked outfield meant we couldn't host Cublington on July 20th.

The annual Soulbury Smash took place on July 13th with Soulbury, Walton and Mursley taking part in three 15 over matches.

Congratulations to Walton who won with the best net run rate.

Thanks to all the players, supporters and helpers for making the event a great success and one that everyone enjoyed.

During the Smash there seemed to be support for another Boot versus Soulbury match, if anyone is interested in participating please contact me on 07702 019 553.

Players, Scorers, Spectators, Helpers, Families – please come along. We have a great value bar!



We look forward to seeing you - here are all our remaining 2025 fixtures:

Sun 3 Aug	1pm	Home	Milton Keynes CC
Sun 10 Aug	1pm	Home	Leighton Town CC
Sun 17 Aug	1pm	Away	Mursley CC
Sun 31 Aug	1pm	Away	Stewkley CC
Sun 7 Sep	1pm	Home	Buckland & Aston Clinton
Sun 14 Sep	1pm	Home	Aspley Guise CC

Spectators are very welcome so please come along if you can.

If you have any questions or need more info please contact me, Adrian Hunt on 07702 019 553.

Adrian Hunt SVCC Chairman

Soulbury Parish News Advertising Rates

To advertise in this magazine the rates are as follows:

	Annual	Monthly
Full page (portrait)	£200	£30
Half Page (landscape)	£100	£20
Quarter Page (Portrait)	£50	£10
Small Ads (landscape)	£33	£5

Ads will appear in the newsletter and on the parish website.

sdm@soulburyparish.co.uk

Soulbury Millennium Green – July Report

Our recent AGM was held at the Parish Hall on Tuesday 15th July and we were pleased to see around a dozen other local residents attending this open meeting. As Wendy is due to retire after this meeting, it is imperative to attract someone to undertake her role of Treasurer & Secretary for the SMG Committee to continue functioning. After briefly discussing the minutes of the June's meeting, these were agreed as being correct, ratified and signed by Nigel.

Chairman's Report:

Nigel presented his annual report highlighting that the Committee was now about to be reduced to only 4 members, with Wendy now standing down and Richard having resigned earlier in the year. Wendy was thanked for her past work in serving as Secretary & Treasurer and are very grateful for her devoted time and effort in maintaining our accounts in good order over ten years of service. **Thank You Wendy!**

Work in Progress: Throughout the year work on maintaining the SMG remains on going with Richard supervising the Thames Valley Police Payback work teams on Sundays and occasionally with Nigel & Vic providing relief.

A new Wood Store & Sheltered Work Area has been constructed at the rear of the Crew Room, all bridges have been repaired & new ones created where necessary, and a new wooden Pergola constructed along a hedgerow to support & preserve the overhang of a white flowering tree in the meadow area. Grass cutting, strimming, coppicing & pruning orchard trees remains an ongoing seasonal maintenance activity, and additionally now watering orchard trees & plants during the unseasonally hot, dry weather. Plans are now being made to manufacture a Wheely Bin Storage Facility just off the hard- standing area near the roadway fencing.

Pathway Extension Circuit: We anticipate the cost of this work together with other ancillary project work to require around £50,000 to £60,000. Following a meeting with Andy Chapman, a representative from Bucks County Council Community Board, it was ascertained that obtaining funding opportunities would best be conducted through the Parish Council. Whilst there is £17,810 available in S.106 money in the Parish account, we will still need to raise a further £40,000 from other funding sources. A separate pathway focus meeting was recently held at Carla's to discuss and quantify requirements, and drive this project forward. A second meeting is scheduled for 10:30 am on Thursday 31st July at Carla's to continue this project work.

Pond: FJ Morris will be asked to look at pond to get the job done. Additionally, Karel Povolny met Alan on site, taken photos, etc, has seen the project and was willing to put it onto Community Hub to commence fund raising. Alan will check this out.

Events: During the year the following events were held on SMG site:

22/06/24 – Soulfest 2024 really set Soulbury on the map this year with great music, lovely food, quality tea & coffee provided by House of Coffee, a local Coffee roasting business. A mobile licenced bar, fairground trampoline & bouncy slide completed our site offering to entrants. The highlight for the day was having BBC Three Counties Radio roving reporter, Luke, in attendance plugging Soulfest and conducting live interviews on site. The event was very well supported with around 500 people attending. The event raised a very respectful profit of £4227.89 towards our SMG funds.

02/11/24 – Fireworks Night was hugely successful again with 427 entrants attending the event. R & H Leisure provided fairground children entertainment rides, with the SMG committee providing our traditional barbecue faire of burgers & hotdogs. The Boot Inn provided a revolutionary inflatable bar which was hugely successful, donating an agreed site fee towards the event. The event raised £2385.00 profit towards SMG funds. Thanks to all who helped organise and assist with manning this event. Our thanks & appreciation also goes out to all those in our community who sponsored the event with monetary donations.

19/04/25 – Easter Egg Hunt was very well attended by local families with 18 children participating in the treasure hunt with an estimated 30 family members also present. Weather was good (dry & sunny) and a good time was had by all, with Easter Eggs presented to children on completion of the hunt. The community event raised £107.23 towards SMG funds through refreshment sales & our donations bucket. A big thank you to all who supported this community event including our lady bakers for providing some lovely cakes.

21/06/25 – Soulfest 2025 Currently I am unable to report fully, as we are still endeavouring to finalise the figures for this event which currently looks like realising a minimum profit around £1,700. I can however report that around 300 people attended and a good time was enjoyed by all, with the weather being warm & sunny. The full de-brief report will feature in a future Soulbury Parish News report and next year's AGM Chairman's report.

Treasurer's Report:

Wendy presented her final report to the meeting as follows:

Current account bank balance at AGM date: £14,952.40

Bank balance at financial year end 30/4/25: £14,061.42

Petty Cash Balance: £49.01

Bucks Lottery: Provided £11.50 for July 2025.

Income: Was up on last year from £7.2K to £16.1K due to:-

*Good attendance and spending at Soulfest 2024 and similar for Fireworks.

*Parish Council donation of £600 per month = £3600 during this period.

*Several regular donations are made each month by residents & several more make separate donations to events, and to those people I sincerely thank you.

*100 Club – 55 members this year so the prize stayed the same at 1 prize of £25.00 per monthly draw.

Expenditure: Was up on last year from £7.1K to £11.3K due to:-

*Maintenance increased due to major repairs on the ride-on mower.

*Works on site relating to the crew room.

*General repairs.

*Improving the site facilities.

*Fundraising costs are up from £2.7K to £4.4K.

Miscellaneous expenses includes the purchase of a new Barbecue for £893.

*Sundry expenses are up to £600 which includes now includes commencement of a Sunday contract for Richard Caplan working 3 Sundays in a 4week period.

In general the SMG is in a good financial position – a comment from the auditor backs this up. We had a very good year with regard to event income and the generosity of the Parish Council. However, event income is fickle and the Parish Council only offered the SMG donation for a year to the Committee and going forward, we will have to bear this in mind.

Election of Officers: With no committee candidates stepping forward, Nigel agreed to stand for re-election as Chairman of the Committee. Alan proposed that he be re-elected, Geoff seconded this and the motion was unanimously carried. Due to Wendy standing down a new member to the committee, Jo Nichols, agreed to stand for election in the role of Treasurer & Secretary. Alan proposed that she be elected, Nigel seconded this and the motion was unanimously carried. Two other members of the public offered their services to the committee. They are Erica McDonald and Paul Cragg. Jo, Erica & Paul were subsequently welcomed onto the management committee.

Public Participation: An inquiry from MOP (Daniel Storey) regarding requirements/timings clarity around volunteers for supervising the Sunday Payback Teams was asked. Nigel gave details of what is involved and timings.

MOP (Jackie Ridley) offered to look after enhancing promotion via a dedicated SMG Facebook page which links to the Community Hub page, as that already has over 600+ followers. Following a subsequent meeting with Nigel & Julian, Jackie hopes to have some proposals to possibly put forward at the end of July. Possibly Open Gardens next year could be organised with SMG sited for refreshments. Jackie believed 13th/14th June 2026 dates has been suggested but will check first.

MOP (Vic Wright – Parish Chairman) suggested he would like people to contribute to the SMG either with volunteering their time or with cash donations. In terms of time, it was suggested that a call for future working party arrangements detailing work needed doing, be organised. If people do not feel they have the skills/knowledge, Richard can supervise & teach them i.e. pruning apple, pear, plum trees, cutting back hazel & coppicing etc.

Future Events: 08/11/25 - Fireworks Display

100 Club Draw: July draw No. 55 = Gilly Beach.

Thank you all for those in our community who have signed up & support us.

The next **SMG Committee meeting is on Tuesday 9th September 2025 7:30 pm at the Parish Hall.** The date of the next **AGM is Tuesday 14th July 2026 7:30 pm at the Parish Hall** which is an open meeting to the public and public participation is welcomed.

Soulbury Millennium Green Trust - 100 Club & Winners in 2025

January: Wendy Taylor

February: Tony Crack

March: Heather Isaacs

April: Chrissie Dixon

May: Jean Mason

June: Richard Caplan

July: Gilly Beach

General Information

Please note that if anyone wants to add electric car chargers to their property which is either a listed building or in a conservation area they MUST obtain planning permission.

Soulbury Parish Hall

A great venue for parties, business meetings, fitness classes or rehearsal space.

Fibre broadband connected.

To book, email: soulburyparishhall@gmail.com

Table and chair hire also available.

The Parish Council has revived the Newsletter in hard copy format and is distributing it to as many homes as possible. For this to be possible any contributions for the newsletter need to be provided to the editor **by the 18th of each month** for inclusion in the following newsletter.

Parish Council News

The meeting of Soulbury Parish Council was held on Monday 21 July 2025 at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall. There were 2 members of the public was present. Apologies received from Cllrs Morgan and Jordan, and Mrs Russell. Minutes of meeting on 16 June 2025 were agreed as correct. Matters arising: None. All monies paid and received noted by all and Cllr Wright signed the June 2025 bank statement.

Planning:

25/01795: 2 The Courtyard, Liscombe Park, Soulbury, LU7 0GY - LimeTree - reduce by one third (6-8m). No comment. Environment

a. Fountain Still awaiting Land Registry response.

b. Allotments Hedges trimmed along the driveway to the allotments.

c. Millennium Green SMG had their AGM on 15 July. Good turnout for it. Jo Nicholas has agreed to take the role of treasurer/ secretary. Paul Cragg and Erica McDonald agreed to become committee members. Soulfest finances were discussed.

County Councillor

Cllr Jordan unable to attend but sent her report for inclusion on the website.

Correspondence and parish matters:

a. Trees planted opposite Soulbury Road to Wing junction to Brook Cottages - since discussion about moving one tree, 5 trees have since been snapped off at the level of the supporting structure. Highways has asked the Council if we could arrange for the break to be cut properly so the trees have a chance of sprouting again which has been agreed would be done. As the same time the council will arrange for the dead tree to be removed and the tree planted too close the Oak will be moved to that site.

b. Clerk read out contents of email relating to a survey (NALC partnered with ACRE) designed to help parish councils enhance flood resilience. Clerk asked anyone interested to contact her for details

c. Clerk advised that the new Buckinghamshire Care Service Directory will be published in October and has asked for a six printed reference copies and 1 digital version.

d. Discussion took place on the acquisition of a new MVAS or getting the gates put in. Because Highways have to do the job of obtaining and sighting the gates it would cost £6,000 per pair and we would need 3 pairs. Cllr Wright will obtain the current price of a new MVAS but as it appears to be in the region of £3,700 the decision was to go for the MVAS with a vote of 5 for and 1 against.

Councillors Open Forum Nothing brought forward.

Public Participation Nothing brought forward.

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on Monday 15 September 2025 at 7:30pm in the Parish Hall. There will not be a meeting in August.



Press Release from Buckinghamshire Council

07 July 2025

New initiative puts motorists in the driving seat for parking payment choices

Anyone parking in Buckinghamshire, in either a council run car park or on street chargeable parking bay will shortly be able to benefit from a new initiative which gives customers greater flexibility in paying for parking.

Following a successful trial last summer which took place in car parks in High Wycombe, Princes Risborough, Bourne End and Marlow, Buckinghamshire Council has from 1 July begun rolling out the National Parking Platform (NPP) to all its car parks and on street chargeable locations across the county.

The NPP works by giving customers the flexibility to choose which supplier they purchase their parking time through. Up until now, only one digital supplier, RingGo, has been available, but with NPP, the choice of parking provider will extend to include other suppliers including JustPark, PaybyPhone, and Appyparking.

Each supplier has its own app and fees. Some also have a telephone number so parkers can choose the option that best suits them. With different suppliers offering different convenience fees across one area, the initiative forces them to be competitive in their pricing which benefits customers.

The move to NPP supports the Council's ambitions, set out in its Parking Strategy.

Steve Bowles, Buckinghamshire Council's Cabinet Member for Communities explained: "We recognise that driver behaviour, demand for parking, and how customers choose to pay for their parking, has significantly changed in recent years. It is important that we adapt to reflect these changes. Using the NPP puts drivers in control of what they pay for their parking and helps to drive down the costs which is good news for everyone."

Payment machines already in place in car parks will remain for use as normal, providing a non-digital method of payment for those who prefer to pay for their parking in this way.

Roll out of the NPP will take place throughout July with completion by the end of the month.

For more information about the National Parking Platform visit: <https://npp.org.uk/>

More information on Buckinghamshire Council car parks can be found online: www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/parking-roads-and-transport/parking

YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING TEAM

Wing and Ivinghoe



**Inspector
James Davies**



**Sergeant
David Kuttner**



**Police Constable
Dionne Edwards**



**Police Constable
Jake Bye**



**PCSO
Tina Hobson**

Neighbourhood policing teams are led by senior police officers and include police officers, Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs), police staff, police support volunteers and the Special Constabulary.

The neighbourhood policing team work with local communities to make Aylesbury Vale safer

To contact your local Team call
101 or email them on

WingNHPT@thamesvalley.police.uk

You can also report an incident on our website:
www.thamesvalley.police.uk

In an emergency always call 999

Visit us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/TVPAylesburyVale



Buckinghamshire Councillors for our Ward

Cllr Jilly Jordan



Cllr Caroline Cornell



Press Release from Buckinghamshire Council

07 July 2025

Your Library, Your Way: First Library Flex branch goes live in Aylesbury

Today marks the launch of Buckinghamshire Council's new flexible library service, with longer opening hours and more self-service options being introduced at larger libraries across Buckinghamshire.

'Library Flex' has started today at Aylesbury Library – the latest milestone in Buckinghamshire Council's commitment to providing extended opening hours and a modern, resilient, and accessible library service.

Library Flex is being introduced at eight main libraries across Buckinghamshire – Amersham, Aylesbury, Beaconsfield, Buckingham, Chesham, Hazlemere, Marlow, and Princes Risborough – following extensive research into successful models elsewhere and a 10-week public consultation in 2024.

Cllr Peter Brazier, Buckinghamshire Council's Cabinet Member for Culture & Leisure, recently visited Aylesbury Library to complete his Library Flex induction and experience the new self-service facilities first-hand.

"This is a really good example of how we are doing things differently to improve and modernise our services. By extending opening hours and introducing technology already proven to work elsewhere, we can give customers more choice about when they want to visit the library, while also making savings," said Cllr Brazier.

Cllr Brazier added: "When fully implemented, Library Flex will increase opening hours by at least 20% at Aylesbury, Beaconsfield, Buckingham, Chesham, Hazlemere, Marlow and Princes Risborough libraries, and by 129% at Amersham Library within the Chilterns Lifestyle Centre. It will also provide the flexibility for wider services and community organisations to make use of the library space outside of staffed hours, for example for events and meetings."

The new model focuses staff availability during peak times, while offering self-service access during quieter periods, using technology already proven in other library services. To take advantage of the extended hours, customers will need to complete a short induction, with 'show and tell' sessions and ongoing support available to help users get started.

The council has worked closely with disability, equality, and family groups, and will continue to engage with stakeholders to ensure the service meets the needs of all residents.

While the rollout is ambitious and complex, the council is working hard to minimise any disruption. Community involvement is key to the success of Library Flex, and residents are encouraged to explore the new facilities and enjoy the benefits of longer opening hours, feeding back to the service their experience of the new way of working.

This initiative supports the council's vision for a library service that offers safe, welcoming spaces where everyone can access reading, culture, and the information they need to learn, imagine, and thrive.

For more information on Library Flex, visit [buckinghamshire.gov.uk/library-flex-rollout](https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/library-flex-rollout)

Buckinghamshire Lottery

Buckinghamshire Lottery: Win big, give back and make a difference!

Which good cause will benefit from your random act of kindness? That's the question from Buckinghamshire Council to residents this Random Act of Kindness Day (17 February 2025).

With Buckinghamshire Lottery, Buckinghamshire residents can make a difference to their community by supporting local good causes while also potentially winning big.

By purchasing a ticket for just £1 per week, players not only have the opportunity to win cash prizes including the weekly £25,000 jackpot, but 60p of every ticket sale goes directly towards supporting local good causes. From animal charities, scout groups, charities providing support for health issues like cancer, mental health and Alzheimer's, local food banks, sport clubs and youth projects – there's a good cause close to everybody's heart.

Buckinghamshire Lottery offers a 1 in 56 chance of winning – much better odds than the National Lottery. Recent winners include Mrs P who won £250 last month while supporting the Rape & Sexual Abuse Support Service - South Buckinghamshire.

Diana Chadwick, Operations Director - RSASS commented: "RSASS has been proud to be a good cause supported by Buckinghamshire Lottery since 2021, benefiting from essential community support.

The funds raised through the lottery have directly contributed to expanding our therapeutic services and outreach programs, helping survivors of sexual violence and their families access the compassionate care they need. Thanks to this vital funding we've been able to extend our counselling hours, and reach more individuals across South Buckinghamshire who deserve safety, healing, and empowerment.

Every ticket purchased truly makes a difference in transforming lives and strengthening our community."

Last year, over £66,000 was raised for good causes registered with Buckinghamshire Lottery, and nearly £28,000 was raised in addition to this for Buckinghamshire Lottery's Community Fund which supports even more local projects and community groups in the county.

"We're thrilled by the success of Buckinghamshire Lottery," said Arif Hussain, Buckinghamshire Council's Cabinet Member for Communities. "It offers residents the chance to win cash prizes while also supporting local causes that make a real difference in our community. By purchasing a ticket, you not only have the chance to win big, but you're also helping to fund important projects and organisations that enhance the lives of those in our community. It's truly a win-win situation."

Arif added: "We have 381 local good causes registered, so there's plenty of choice for people when choosing who they want to support. All proceeds from the lottery go towards supporting local projects and organisations that make a positive impact on the community. Whether it's supporting a local sports team, helping to preserve a historic building, or funding youth programmes, Buckinghamshire Lottery is an easy way for residents to make a difference."

There's already over 1,500 active players across Buckinghamshire who helped raise nearly £94,000 last year for local good causes – and you could join them.

To purchase a ticket and support local causes, go to: buckinghamshirelottery.co.uk

If you're part of a local good cause looking to boost your fundraising in 2025, you can sign up online for free. There are no set up costs or admin fees, just a great way to raise money and to give your supporters a chance to win themselves. As a registered good cause you'll get your own customisable lottery webpage, funds sent directly to your account every month, great prizes for your supporters, marketing help and materials to help you promote your good cause through Buckinghamshire Lottery, and weekly reports via email updates.

For more information visit buckinghamshirelottery.co.uk/good-causes

Contact us at communications@buckinghamshire.gov.uk during office hours.

For urgent out of hours enquiries, please call 07825 430978 (Mon – Weds), 07773 005835 (Thurs – Fri) or 07834 678905 (Sat – Sun) www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk

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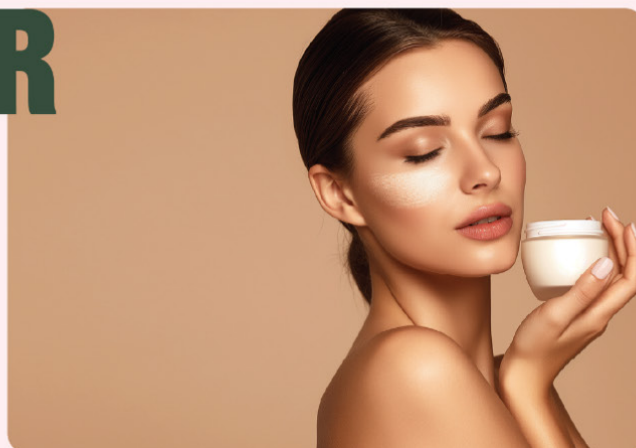
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