

Edlesborough Summer Newsletter from County Cllr Anne Wight.

Welcome to the summer edition of the county newsletter. I hope everyone is enjoying the warmer weather, which has had the fortunate effect of allowing Transport for Bucks (TfB) to use the additional £1.234m which the county council voted in the spring to use towards high quality road surfacing to repair many of the roads around our division in the past few weeks. These include Lammas Road and the High Street near Cooks Wharf in Cheddington, Crafton in Mentmore, Horton Road in Slapton, and Lower End in Marsworth to name a few. In most cases, these are being repaired using the 'plane and patch' method, which provides a high quality repair over a considerable road surface.

As I am sure everyone will have noticed by now, the Brownlow Bridge sustained damage from a driver who unfortunately drove into the side of the bridge in the middle of the night in May. While the Canal and River Trust are responsible for the repair, Transport for Bucks (TfB) will be upgrading the traffic lights while the bridge is being repaired and hopefully all work will be completed by the end of the school holidays if not before.

New Role as Deputy of Education

I am also pleased to accept my new role as the Deputy Cabinet Member for Education, which makes something of a change from my role in Communities and Public Health. While I very much enjoyed my time working on Communities, I am now looking forward to working with Cabinet Member for Education, Mike Appleyard, and his team.

Cabinet Meeting with the French Ambassador

It was a privilege for me to be able to meet the French Ambassador, M Jean-Pierre Jouyet, on his trip out to Buckinghamshire. M Jouyet is making a tour of the UK outside of London with a view to better understanding our local economies and, as part of this, he recently visited us at BCC. We had a lively and interesting discussion with him, and highlighted some of the key areas in which Bucks is continuing to innovate and grow, such as the space and film industries, as well as our more traditional industries such as farming and agriculture, and our wide-ranging entrepreneurial activities.

One thing many of our residents might not realise is that more businesses are started in Buckinghamshire than in any other county in the country. Businesses in Buckinghamshire don't just survive; they actually thrive at a higher success rate than anywhere else in the country! This success has created the fastest jobs growth of any county in Britain. Hence, we managed to convey the message that post-Brexit, Buckinghamshire is very much looking to develop and expand upon trade opportunities with our European neighbours.

M Jouyet is third from the right in the picture below, with me (right of him) and Martin Tett, Leader of the Council, on the left.



Healthwatch Bucks

The recent Healthwatch Bucks meeting was held in Pitstone and I am glad to say it was fairly well-attended! For those who might not know, Healthwatch Bucks works closely with BCC and the NHS in order to improve patient care and experience. Marie-Louise Morley, who works in Communications at Healthwatch Bucks, has kindly provided this information for residents:

Healthwatch Bucks is an independent organisation that gives Bucks residents a voice to shape and improve local health and social care services. We're here to ensure that local views, ideas, concerns and experiences are heard at all levels of health and social care so that they make a positive difference to the way future services are delivered. We do this by listening to what people tell us about their local services. We then share this feedback with health and social care providers to help

them understand what people think of their services. We also use it to help other residents see what people think.

As part of this work, we produce our own evidence-based reports on services, which include recommendations based on the feedback we receive. We use these reports to influence, inform and, if necessary, challenge decisions of health and social care organisations.

Our work has helped improve the patient experience of health and social care services from GP practices and hospital services to care homes. We also have a signposting service where we provide information and advice about local health and social care services such as how to find a care home or get a dentist through the NHS.

As we are very keen to reach out and talk to all sections of the community, we spend a lot of our time attending local events in order to talk to people face to face. However, there are plenty of other ways that you can tell us about your experiences or views of local health and social care services such as by phone on 0845 260 6216 or by email on info@healthwatchbucks.co.uk.

If you prefer, why not go onto our website www.healthwatchbucks.co.uk where you can rate and review over 500 GPs, dentists, pharmacists, care homes and hospitals? While you are there, do subscribe to our newsletter and follow us on Facebook or Twitter.

Dementia Friends

I recently attended a briefing session on becoming a Dementia Friend which I found especially informative and I am proud to say that I am now officially a Dementia Friend.

The Alzheimer's Society's Dementia Friends programme is the biggest ever initiative to change people's perceptions of dementia. It aims to transform the way the nation thinks, acts and talks about the condition.

Dementia is caused by a number of diseases that affect the brain. The most common is Alzheimer's, but diseases also include vascular dementia, dementia with Lewy bodies, and Pick's disease. The word 'dementia' describes a set of symptoms that may include memory loss and difficulties with thinking, problem-solving or language. These changes are often small to start with, but for someone with dementia they have become severe enough to affect daily life.

Whether you attend a face-to-face Information Session or watch the online video, Dementia Friends is about learning more about dementia and the small ways you can help. From telling friends about the Dementia Friends programme to visiting someone you know living with dementia, every action counts. A Dementia Friend learns a little bit more about what it's like to live with dementia and then turns that understanding into action - anyone of any age can be a Dementia Friend.

I have to admit that having had only limited experience of how dementia affects individuals and their families, the information session and workshop I attended was really an eye-opener. There are so many types of dementia, and everyone is affected differently. Dementia Friends are helping to change perspectives on dementia and it doesn't require an enormous time commitment either---anything you can do to help from simply checking in on a someone with dementia to helping in many of the other small ways would be much appreciated! For more information, please check out their website:

<https://www.dementiafriends.org.uk>

Registrars Conference

I was honoured to have been invited to give the welcome speech at the recent Registrars Conference last month.

While Edlesborough residents might know that the Registration Service provides a range of services which you would expect such as registering births, deaths and marriages, they might not know that there are over 80 venues licensed for marriages across the County, and the Service marries around 1,700 couples every year. They have a new website for couples to use and a variety of wedding packages to suit what people would like <http://weddings.bucksc.gov.uk/>

They also offer naming ceremonies for people who would like to welcome new children into the family, these are for new babies as well as adoptions or families coming together. Renewal of Vows ceremonies are also available and these can be for couples at any time during their marriage, whether returning from a marriage abroad and wanting to have a ceremony for family and friends, or of course for special anniversaries such as 10, 25 or 50 years.

The Service also understands marriage isn't for everyone, so people wishing to be together but without legalities can have a Commitment

Ceremony which allows people to show their love and intent to each other. None of these ceremonies have any legal standing, but are a great way to celebrate key life events.

For more information, get in touch via the website:

<https://www.buckscc.gov.uk/services/births-deaths-marriages-and-civil-partnerships/>

80 years of Archives

In my final days in my role as Deputy Cabinet Member for Communities and Public Health, it was my great pleasure to have been invited to the celebration of 80 years of Buckinghamshire's Archives at the Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies. Laura Cotton, our current Archivist, is in the centre pic below, with me to her left, as we were about to cut the first slice of the magnificent cake, cleverly designed in the shape of an archives record book. Previous Archivist, Roger Bettridge (right) also joined the celebrations.



According to the “History of the Bucks County Record Office, Aylesbury”, Colonel Guy R. Crouch, Clerk of the Peace for the county, presented the case for the appointment of an Archivist, to the Standing Joint Committee of Bucks County Council. This is the event that triggered the establishment of a Record Office in Buckinghamshire, which has, evolved over the past eighty years to become part of the Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies.

It seems that the first storage spaces for records were four cells in the basement of the Council building that fronted on to Market Square in Aylesbury. The cells had to be damp-proofed and fitted with steel shelving.

Once they had space to store records, the Council needed an Archivist to manage them. Mr Paul Dare was appointed as County Archivist on 16th May 1938. With a background in historical research, manorial archives and archaeology, Dare was judged fit for the role. He was found an office above the Archive cells. One of his first tasks was to arrange for the cleaning and storage of a large number of statutory plans that had been damaged by damp. Dare also had to ensure that the conditions in the cells were optimal for the preservation of the documents, as we do in our strong rooms today.

Do please drop in and visit the Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies if you have some time and would like to learn a bit more about our cultural heritage and local history.