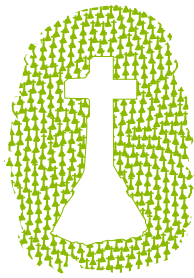




# CROSS *talk*

Princes Risborough Town Council Newsletter



## A message from the Town Mayor & Chairman of the Council

**Cllr Matthew Walsh**

As I sit down to write this article, both our weather and country seem to be in a state of flux.

Two major challenges currently await the Town Council over the next few months, namely the new Buckinghamshire Council and the Local Plan.

Following the decision of the Secretary of State for Local Government the process of creating a new Unitary Council for the whole of Buckinghamshire is underway. The dissolution of both Wycombe District Council (WDC) and Buckinghamshire County Council (BCC) will see the number of Councils reduced from 3 to 2. The dissolution of all the District Councils has resulted in a delay in the elections for the Town Council. Both your Town Council and your WDC Ward Members will continue to serve until elections are held in May 2020, for both the new Buckinghamshire Council and the Town Council.

Whilst the Town Council sees no change currently to our function, the business case presented to Central Government talks of further devolution to Town and Parish Councils. This, alongside a potential location of a Neighbourhood Hub based here in Risborough will certainly keep us busy over the next year.

The Inspector for the Wycombe District Local Plan, Nicola Gulley, has published her list of changes to the Local Plan to make it sound. The list of changes is available on the WDC website.

WDC will soon be consulting on their Capacity and Delivery plan. In effect this is how they will deliver the housing and associated infrastructure for the next 14 years.

Bledlow Recycling Centre closed on 31st March. The logic of the County Council to close this site baffles me, however, I must thank Cllr Bill Bendyshe-Brown for his tireless efforts in trying to fight the closure of the site. He has fought valiantly with petition numbers exceeding 4500 signatures and worked at finding a commercial operator.

PCSO Roger Brooks left the Neighbourhood Policing Team after many years' service to the community and I wish him and his wife a very well-deserved retirement. I know crime, in particular burglary, is a massive issue right now and when the Town Council is briefed by the new Sergeant, Robin Hughes. I will provide you with an update.

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The Town Council has recently taken over the running of the Community Centre. Over the next few months we will begin the process of consulting with our residents on our future plans, which include a new cafe and function room.

Lastly, our Annual Town Meeting takes place on Tuesday 23rd April at the Community Centre in Stratton Road between 7:30-9:30pm. This is a chance for me to personally inform you of the work and projects we have undertaken as a Council over the last year and to update you on our plans for the year ahead. This year we have changed the format of the meeting to include refreshments and a Civic Awards Ceremony, where we publicly recognise individuals and businesses that benefit our Town and Community. We actively encourage you, our Residents, to attend, and I do hope lots of you will join us for an informative and enjoyable evening.



# Annual Town Meeting & Civic Awards

**Tuesday 23rd April 7.30pm Community Centre. All welcome to attend!**

# 2019/2020 Precept

The Town Council needs to balance its books just like any sustainable business and in part this is achieved by setting an annual precept, (the Town Council's share of your Council Tax bill), which forms the bulk of its income. Whilst every effort is made to minimize any rise in the precept by constantly striving to find efficiency savings and generating alternative revenue streams we also face inflationary pressures and this year has also seen the complete removal of the Government's "Council Tax Support Grant". Of course this is only one half of the coin, as we still aim to provide a high quality service to our community and are constantly seeking to improve – as you may note in other articles in this edition of Crosstalk. So, taking all of this into account, the Town Council has increased the 2019/20 precept by 1.98% - which equates to an increase of £1.98 a year on a band D property. As in past years, we will continue to look at ways to stretch every pound raised and keep future rises to an absolute minimum.

**Cllr Alan Turner - Chairman of Finance**



## NatWest Building



The Town Council is very aware of the changing nature of both retailing and services including banking and the challenge this presents to High Streets everywhere.

As part of our objective to regenerate the Town Centre, and support the High Street, the Town Council has purchased the freehold interest in the former NatWest Bank, 39 High Street. This property has a dominant frontage on to the High Street and it is the Council's intention to seek an occupier whose presence will add to the offer of goods and services available and add to the vitality of the High Street.

**Cllr Ian Pearce**



## Risborough Community Centre

On 1st February, Princes Risborough Town Council took over the responsibility for the management and bookings of the Community Centre. We'd like to extend our sincere thanks to the Trustees for their hard work and efforts in running the centre up until this date.



All future bookings and enquiries can be made by calling the Town council offices on 01844 275912 or by emailing the bookings secretary on [bookings@princesrisboroughtowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:bookings@princesrisboroughtowncouncil.gov.uk)

## Risborough – A Royal connection

Princes Risborough has long been associated with Royalty, dating back to 1343 when the Manor, (formerly the Mount and now the current Stratton Road car park) was passed to Edward I, the Black Prince.

Our Town Council archives show in days gone by that Risborough had a thriving economy, which appears to have been formalised by King Henry VIII in 1536, when the formidable King issued a Charter for a weekly Market and two fairs every year which we are pleased to honour to this day. The King's daughter Elizabeth I played an

important role in the history of Commerce in England. At the time of inheriting the throne, England was said to be close to bankruptcy, but by the time of Elizabeth's death several decades later, England had one of the strongest economies in Europe.

That economic strength is still present in Princes Risborough with the presence of the international head





K&B Butchers present their Royal Sausages!

office and factory of royal bedmaker, Hypnos, whose family owners, the Keens, were awarded their first Royal Warrant in 1929. This fifth-generation family run business also hold a “Queens Award” for their services to International trade.

The Hypnos factory, which relies on a team of skilled master craftsmen, still uses traditional methods and not only supplies the Royal Family and Household with handmade mattresses and beds, but also undertakes bespoke upholstery work for the Palaces. Managing Director for Hypnos, James Keen, is extremely proud of their Royal Warrant, and informed me that the Warrant, which is subject to a rigid inspection and renewal process by the Lord Lieutenant's office every 5 years, “demonstrates the highest standards in excellence, quality, service, sustainability and innovation, which we are honoured to withhold to this day”.

Having been on their current Longwick Road site since 2009, James is equally keen to stay in Princes Risborough and contribute to the local economy, employing over 300 staff, a large number of which are residents of Princes Risborough and the surrounding areas.

Another organisation in Princes Risborough with a Royal Connection, and at the forefront of its respective field is the Association of Project Management (APM). This award-winning Association received notice of the



APM Order of Grant

Order of Grant at the end of 2016 and shortly afterwards in April 2017 became the Chartered body for the project profession.

The Association which was only formed in 1972, started life in a small rented office in High Wycombe and have played an instrumental role in developing Project Management as a profession both to individuals and organisations,

effectively putting project management on the map of major professions.

Committed to developing and promoting project and programme management through their range of professional qualification and CPD learning, publications, events and membership, it's no surprise that this is something they excel at with over 28,000 individual members, and over 500 organisations in their corporate partnership programme, leading them to be the largest professional body of its kind in Europe.

Having been based in Regent Park development for the last decade, APM is currently undergoing an extensive refit to accommodate their rapid growth. Debbie Dore, Chief executive of the APM told me “We are proud to be headquartered in Princes Risborough. As one of the newest chartered organisations in the country we appreciate the strong heritage which the association with Princes Risborough brings. We are one of the few chartered bodies outside London, so we value our local connections. This is being reinforced by our recent commitment to expand our premises in the Regent Park business park and the commitment to our future both as a major local employer but also as a community partner”. Finally, for another Royal connection in Risborough, then look no further than K&B Butchers on our High Street, their Risborough Royal sausages are royalty-worthy!

## Food, Food, Glorious Food!



We are thrilled to inform you of our first quarterly Farmers Market taking place around our much-loved Grade II Listed Market House.

**Saturday 18th May from 9am-2pm.**

With the focus on local produce (where possible) which is either grown or made within a 40mile radius of Princes Risborough, there is something to tempt everyone, from Fruit & Veg, Cheeses, Olives, Cakes and Sweet treats to Venison Burgers and Charcuterie.

If you need a re-fuel, we've also got hot food vendors and a coffee van, so you can sit and soak up the atmosphere and food! There's free facepainting for the children too!

The quarterly markets will feature a demo kitchen for our producers, visiting chefs and food heroes to hopefully inspire and educate the whole family.

For more information please do follow the Facebook page @princesrisboroughmarkets or keep an eye on our website [www.princesrisboroughtowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.princesrisboroughtowncouncil.gov.uk)

We hope to see you there!

## Introducing Risborough Environmental Group, (REG)



Back in October 2017 founder member Cath Campbell used her social networking skills and extensive list of contacts to instigate a voluntary litter picking scheme in the Princes Risborough area.

During 2018 Cath was joined by Martyn Jarvis, Frances Wrigley and Steve Jeanes in creating REG with their inaugural public meeting taking place on 8 November 2018. Recently, Lavinia Wilson has brought the management complement to five.

Inspiration, guidance and support for the stated objective of providing opportunities for local, active volunteers to maintain and enhance the natural environment and biodiversity of the area was initially obtained by visits and communication with other local initiatives.

REG are actively engaged in the survey of the three local chalk streams (Horsenden Stream, Crowbrook and Culverton Brook) with a view to identifying and mapping locations for monitoring chemical quality and invertebrate populations on a monthly basis.

Future plans include engagement with the 'Rough Around The Edges' project headed by Chiltern Conservation Board. The idea of the project is to identify parcels of land suitable for a subsequent minimal management regime, which will encourage the development of a more natural appearance, friendly to native flora and fauna.

**To find out more about REG and to get involved please email [regbucks@gmail.com](mailto:regbucks@gmail.com) or call 07746 368085.**

**Future Litter Picks are planned on 7th April, 5th May and 30th June!**

## Askett Speed Watch



Residents in Askett are celebrating the arrival of their new high tech Speedwatch equipment which was delivered recently.

The equipment has been funded by generous donations from both Princes Risborough Town Council and Wycombe District Council Ward Budgets of Councillors Alan Turner, Gary Hall and David Knights. Additional money has been raised by the Askett Society.

Askett has a long and successful history of running the Community Speedwatch programme in conjunction with Thames Valley Police, who have been hugely supportive of the village's efforts. The nationwide CSW programme encourages residents to work with their local Police force to deter speeding by running highly visible roadside sessions to monitor traffic speeds. Speeding motorists who are caught during these sessions then receive notification from TVP.

Ken Coppock, the Askett Society's Speedwatch Co-Ordinator says, 'At least once a month over recent years we have run a CSW session with the support of our villagers and Thames Valley Police. These sessions have been hugely successful in deterring motorists from speeding through the village. Thanks to the Town Council, this new equipment means we will be able to increase the frequency of these invaluable sessions with the ongoing support of TVP'.

Councillor Matthew Walsh, Chairman of the Town Council and Mayor of Princes Risborough said, 'Community Speedwatch is an amazing community initiative and we are proud to support Askett and Thames Valley Police in their efforts to increase road safety in the Princes Risborough area'.

## Vacancy for a BOOKINGS & PROPERTY OFFICER

Princes Risborough Town Council is currently seeking a part-time Bookings and Property Officer (18hrs per week) to join the Council's busy, friendly team.

Princes Risborough Town Council prides itself on being an innovative, community minded Council working together to service the needs of our wonderful town. As a key part of the Council's administrative function, you will have a wide range of responsibilities in this interesting and varied role, including dealing with enquiries from the public, managing bookings for our various facilities, weekly markets and Town Events.

### We would love to hear from you if you:

- Have strong customer service skills & can communicate well with a range of different partners
- Can offer excellent administration or organisational skills
- Enjoy working in a thriving team & can work flexibly when needed
- Are interested in making a contribution to the community.

Prior local government experience or an interest in working to support the community is desirable but not essential.

Salary range between £9.55 - £10.54 per hour dependant on experience.

### For full information please contact

[towncouncil@princesrisboroughtowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:towncouncil@princesrisboroughtowncouncil.gov.uk)  
or call 01844 275912



## How well do you know your neighbours?

The Princes Risborough Street Association is encouraging residents to get to know theirs.

Residents who have a Street Association on their road are checking on theirs, saying 'hello' or stopping to chat. The initiative looks to residents to be the eyes and ears in their community to be aware of the most vulnerable around them and bring a sense of security to the street.

Isolation and loneliness create a breeding ground for scams, leaving residents more likely to respond when contacted by fraudsters. The Street Association provides a handy pack encouraging steps to tackle isolation so communities can make themselves and their residents more resilient and safe.

The packs include letters to inform neighbours you're a contact on the street, a directory of local organisations to signpost support if needed, community safety and scams information to share and tips on being neighbourly. The Street Association model also works well with Neighbourhood Watch and letters in the pack can be adapted for coordinators.

With dark, winter evenings and bad weather, our vulnerable neighbours fall under the radar. Why not make sure yours don't?

If you'd like to request a pack for your street, contact [communities@buckscc.gov.uk](mailto:communities@buckscc.gov.uk) or call 01296 382345.

*The Street Association model in Buckinghamshire is a Bucks County Council initiative and has been developed with funding from the Police and Crime Commissioner.*



## FREE Public Bike Pump

You may have noticed a new addition to the street furniture in the Market Square recently.

Next to the bike racks outside Domestic Appliances we have recently installed a bike pump. This was part funded by a bid to Bucks County Council's Local Area Forum.

It was installed to help encourage sustainable transport within the town so that any resident, or the many passing cycle tourists, passing on their bike can top up their air making their trips safer and more comfortable.

Cllr Iain McLauchlan



# EASTER EGG HUNT



5th – 20th April

PRINCES RISBOROUGH TOWN CENTRE



Pick up an Egg hunt form at the Library and help the Easter Bunny find the missing **Orange Eggs** which are in shop windows around the Town Centre! When you find an **Orange Egg**, pop inside and get a stamp for your form. There are 18 eggs to find, but if you collect 10 or more stamps, you can bring this card to Market House (Market Square) on 20th April between 10-12pm where Egg-hunters can receive a prize from the Mayor! We will also have face painting and craft activities for children to enjoy! If you are away over Easter then you can also collect your prize from the library during opening hours between 23rd-27th April.

Thank you to Tesco's for donating the prizes and to all of our participating retailers for taking part:

**Princes Risborough Library, WH Smith, The Retreat Beauty, Wainwrights Shoes, Fullers Flowers, Sally's Sewing Box, George & Dragon, Children's Air Ambulance, Risborough Dry Cleaners, K&B Family Butchers, JNP Estate Agents, Quickstep, Dukes Wine Bar, Helen & Douglas House, TSB, Fonehouse, Kado Gift & Home Store and Oxfam.**

## CUT OUT & KEEP - DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### 5th - 20th April

#### Easter Egg Hunt in the Town Centre

Pick up your Egg hunt form at the Library and help the Easter bunny locate his missing Orange Eggs!

### 20th April

#### Easter Egg Hunters - Prize Giving from 10-12pm

Meet the Mayor at Market House and hand in your Egg-hunt form to get your prize\*

Free Face-painting and Easter crafts for children!

*\*Prizes can also be collected from the Library between 23-27*

### 18th May

#### Princes Risborough Farmers Market

Market House, 9am-2pm

Over a dozen local food producers, hot food, food demo's, face painting and music

[princesrisboroughmarkets](#)

More details to be announced on our website and Facebook page soon

For more information or to participate in any of our Council organised events please contact [annabelle@princesrisboroughtowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:annabelle@princesrisboroughtowncouncil.gov.uk) or call 01844 275912

[@Risboroughtowncouncil](#)

[@Princesris](#)

[princesrisboroughtc](#)

### June 29th

#### Movies in the Park

3 movies throughout the day  
Ticket info & movie announcements will be made soon

Follow our facebook page or visit our website for more info  
[www.princesrisboroughtowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.princesrisboroughtowncouncil.gov.uk)

### July 4th

#### Community Tea Dance (over 60's)

Join us for an afternoon of singing, dancing and cake!  
More details to be announced on our website and Facebook page soon

### July 6th

#### Festival Day

Join us on the High Street for a fun-filled afternoon for all the family

# Princes Risborough School



It is an honour to be asked to write for Crosstalk. I see schools as being at the centre of communities like Princes Risborough and so it is a pleasure to communicate in this way with the community.

The School Council have chosen six 'values' for us to focus on, one for each half term. These form themes for assemblies and our Thought for The Week, as well as other aspects of our work. From Christmas to February half term, our Value was 'kindness'. To mark this theme, one form group was inspired to visit the residents of the Princes Centre. I am hugely proud of the students and their spirit of kindness and engagement with the community at the Princes Centre. This is a fine example of what our students are capable of. I would love these stories to be the inspiration that generates further acts of kindness, both amongst our students and in the wider community.



## Princes Risborough School

Lovely visit today from the **Operations Support Team** at **ercol** - our local and internationally renowned furniture company. Following a brief meeting to discuss various initiatives and how we can work together to build a sustainable partnership, the team were given a tour of our school Design & Technology facilities by our Headteacher, Nicholas Simms!

Positive Responsible Successful

Member of Insignis Academy Trust

Although the focus has changed, we don't want to forget kindness to others and the Student Council are organising a non-uniform day in aid of Bucks Young Carers on Friday 5 April. The Council have chosen this charity themselves, motivated by the personal experiences of some of our young people and the help the charity has been to them. I am fully behind the students in this and we hope to raise over £700 to donate to the cause.

To build better links with the community, I and a number of colleagues are visiting Ercol. There are a number of benefits for us and the company, not least that they are big local employers and would be a source of employment and apprenticeships for young people finishing school. They have also offered to support us with materials that would

be invaluable to the Design Technology Department at school. The groups from Ercol had a tour of the school last term and were very impressed and we are really looking forward to our return visit.

Finally we were delighted when our Y11 Boys Football Team won the County Cup in last month, a great result!

Warm regards to everyone in the Princes Risborough Community.

**Nicolas Simms – Interim Head of School**

Twitter: @PRSHedOfSchool

Aspire and Achieve

## LOCAL ARTISTS NEEDED

Art in the Park will be back this summer for its sixth year.

Once again we are looking for artists, in any media, to get involved. So if you paint, draw, sculpt, throw, splatter, spray or do anything else to create art we would love to hear from you. We will once again be displaying photographs of the art in Wades Park, and moving a selection of 2018 entries to St. Dunstan's Park, hopefully making it easier for everyone in the town to enjoy the wonderful art the people of this town create.

This year Art in the Park is being sponsored by Becky from Cymbeline in the High Street. The prize on offer, which is being supplied by Becky, is one year's friend's membership to the Royal Academy of Arts worth £130. If you want to get involved please contact the office for an entry form.



Cllr Iain McLauchlan

www.princesrisboroughtowncouncil.gov.uk **ART IN THE PARK** @princesrisboroughtc @Princesrfs

	Kindly sponsored by			
<b>Risborough Gallery</b>				
Fine art and Framing for over 30 years				



# Two Thousand Years of History at Culverton

It has long been a cause of regret that Princes Risborough and its environs, so full of human history reaching back some five thousand years, has had nowhere to display it. Now, through the generosity of the Town Librarian, space has been made available for the Heritage Society and Countryside Group to go some way towards remedying the lack and begin to share their collections of archaeological objects, documents and images illustrating both the social and natural history that surrounds us.

Currently the Heritage Society has a display in the Library reflecting on two thousand years of history at Culverton. This has largely been made possible by the generosity of Mr. Edward May who now lives in Australia, but spent several years metal detecting in the fields of Culverton Farm with the co-operation of the then owner, Mrs. Eithne Garner.

Mr. May recently contacted the Society in the hope that some of his collection might be welcomed back for all to enjoy, and subsequently sent some sixty items, including coins, decorative items and militaria. The timespan covers the Roman, Saxon, Mediaeval, Elizabethan and subsequent years.

This coin, perhaps lost by a Roman Legionary, was issued by Antoninus Pius in memory of his wife

A fine bronze Roman Sestertius



Faustina Senior who died in 141 A.D. He honoured her memory by giving her the title 'Diva' or Goddess, as can be seen on the left of the obverse of the coin, which shows her head.

Both the Heritage Society and Countryside Group have benefitted from generous gifts by the owners of similar treasures who are anxious to preserve and share them in the hope that they will bring pleasure to the town and ultimately to a permanent place for them to be enjoyed by everyone.

If you wish to know more about these two organisations, or are interested in furthering their hopes for a museum in the town, please contact Sandy Macfarlane or Francis Gomme on the email addresses below:

[sandymac35@talktalk.net](mailto:sandymac35@talktalk.net) [francisgomme@aol.com](mailto:francisgomme@aol.com)

## Princes Risborough Town Council

The Princes Centre, Clifford Road, Princes Risborough, Bucks HP27 0DP

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[@RisboroughTownCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/RisboroughTownCouncil)

[@Princesris](https://twitter.com/Princesris)

[princesrisboroughtc](https://www.instagram.com/princesrisboroughtc)

Mayor & Chairman of the Council: Cllr. Matthew Walsh  
 Chairman of Finance Cttee: Cllr. Alan Turner  
 Chairman of Events Cttee: Cllr. Andy Ball  
 Chairman of Planning Cttee: Cllr. Ian Pearce  
 Chairman of Commercial Services: Cllr. Andy Ball

Deputy Chairman: Cllr. Andy Ball  
 Chairman of Admin & HR: Cllr. Iain McLauchlan  
 Chairman of Town Cttee: Cllr. John Coombs  
 Chairman of Public Relations Cttee: Cllr. David Knights

### Councillors

Cllr. Lee Byrne  
 Cllr. Nathan Davis

Cllr. Gary Hall

Cllr. Pam Summerbell  
 Cllr. Janet Roberts

Clerk to the Council: Mrs. Susanne Griffiths  
 Deputy Clerk: Mrs. Kirsty Pope  
 Administration Officer: Jayne Mylchreest  
 Projects & Communications Officer: Mrs Annabelle Denbury

Maintenance Team Leader: Kevin Locke  
 Maintenance Team Operatives: Robert Powell, John Prince, Barney Heffernan and Christopher Dominey

**Office Hours** - Monday – Friday 9.30am – 3.30pm

The full Town Council meets at 7.00pm on the last Tuesday of every other month at The Princes Centre, Clifford Road. There is a 10-minute slot at the beginning of each meeting when the public can express a view or concern relating to Town matters. Please check the website to confirm time and venue.

The next meetings are: **Tuesday May 28th** **Tuesday July 30th** **Tuesday September 24th**

The Town Council aims to be as accessible as possible, and welcomes the views, comments and concerns of the Princes Risborough electorate. Although the views of the whole Council are given wherever possible, for constitutional and legal reasons we must state that the views expressed here in Crosstalk, and in any personal correspondence received from individual Councillors, are those of the author concerned and do not necessarily express the opinions or policy of PRTC unless explicitly stated.