

CROSS *talk*



How things have changed

Prior to writing my Mayor's article I like to take the time to sit and re-read the previous edition of *Crosstalk*. I find it gives me an opportunity to reflect on what has changed and what work we still have to complete. I would never have imagined so much would change in such a short space of time. However, as life begins to return to a little more stability, we hope improvements will continue across the country and within our town.

The Government's decision to postpone elections for both the Town and the new Buckinghamshire Council until May 2021 results in all existing Councillors staying in post for a further year. At our first ever virtual meeting in May, I was greatly honoured to be re-elected as Chairman and Mayor for a fifth successive term.

So, with another year to run, we have been able to double down our focus on our priorities. Working with our community, enhancing our community facilities, strengthening businesses, and safeguarding our environment – much of which you can read about within this edition of *Crosstalk*.

I hope you and your loved ones are staying as safe as possible during this extraordinary time. COVID-19 has affected communities in every corner of the world – Risborough is no exception. But how this community has risen to the challenge. You have shown the most amazing community spirit – as we have come to expect. The community responded with speed and commitment with many people doing things for others. We are working on how to best recognise the generosity and selflessness of volunteers. The first stage in this is our special COVID-19 Champion awards. We need your help in identifying the right people to receive these, so please take a moment to nominate those who you feel have played a significant part during the pandemic. Further details on how to do this can be found on page 10.

The Risborough Basket is without doubt the greatest achievement of this Council and has been widely appreciated, copied by others, and acknowledged as one of the significant supportive projects across Buckinghamshire during the pandemic. As we move to a 'new normal' we are accelerating plans to support our High Street and will be making a significant announcement about the future of the scheme very soon.



I look forward to seeing you in a safe and socially distanced way in our High Street. Be sure to say hello!

***Cllr Matthew Walsh –
Chairman***



**Exploring our parks
and gardens**
(see page 4-7)

Well Underway

An update on the Community Centre extension



building site hoarding surrounding the community centre. There will be a new function room complete with bar and kitchen, which will be a great addition to our town and available for hire (with discounts for local residents and groups). It will provide a wonderful venue for birthdays, anniversaries and many significant life events.

I am pleased to report that work on the expansion of the Community Centre started in March and has continued, despite the pandemic. Just recently the new roof trusses went on and you can already see the shape of things to come.

Due to the proximity of the Community Centre to the Mount, an archaeological dig was required prior to the groundworks being undertaken. Initial work discovered

a ditch that potentially formed part of the Black Prince's Manor. A full archaeological survey took place at the request of Buckinghamshire Council, and was completed in May. The larger dig didn't discover anything of significance, but we will place the final version of the report on our website.

Due to the architectural dig, work on the building project is running nine weeks behind schedule, though we are working closely with Barry Phipps of BEP Building and Paul Morgan our designer to try and reduce the delay.

When completed the refurbished Community Centre will be significantly enhanced. You can see the shape of things to come on the information panels on the

If you are interested in using this space in 2021 please contact Cate our Bookings and Property Officer, at the Town Council.

Alongside the new function room and bar, new entrances and toilets, the Centre will benefit from creation of our new self-contained Café facility. We have instructed our property agents to begin the process of finding a tenant to operate the Café. We have already received significant interest which I am certain will increase as we go out to market.

If you are interested in being considered, please contact our agents Duncan Bailey Kennedy.
Cllr Matthew Walsh – Chairman

Can you help us?

We are disappointed to report that the Community Centre, Stratton Road was vandalised in early August. Reckless vandalism is a senseless cost to you, the tax payer. If anyone witnessed the incident, please do contact us or the police directly on 101.

May we remind our residents that the Town Council is offering a reward for any information leading to the arrest and prosecution of the person(s) responsible for this act of vandalism.

CCTV is due to be installed to the newly refurbished building.





Town Events

For the Events team here at the Town Council 2020 has been a disappointing year, but despite the disappointments of our cancelled markets and town festival, we are looking forward to events that are planned for the rest of 2020.

July and September saw our farmers' market in the format of a pop up high street and market. There was a range of high street retailers and independent market traders on the King George V Field. The event was well attended and it was great for everyone to get outside for the first time after the lifting of government restrictions and support our local retailers. I hope you had a chance to visit the markets and see how fortunate we are to have some amazing traders on our doorstep.

As we begin to move through to Autumn and Winter everyone's thoughts will no doubt turn to Christmas. We have been thinking about our annual town festivities for some time! For the first time lights will be on display along New Road and will include more lights on Horns Lane. These lights will be great new energy efficient LEDs and will give the whole town centre a much more festive vibe. We are of course working on the best way of holding an event to turn on our brilliant Christmas Lights in the safest way possible - it may be the case that this isn't in the High Street but it will no doubt be a great event, which we hope to hold on Saturday 28th November. However, please keep posted for further updates on this event Our thoughts will soon be turning to 2021 and we all hope that we can return to a full programme of town events in a way that is safe for the whole community. In order to get more info about town council events follow us on social media and keep a look out for future editions of *Crosstalk*.

Cllr Nathan Davis



WE ARE RECRUITING!

**We are looking for a
MAINTENANCE TEAM
MEMBER**

to join our team!

We are looking to expand our Maintenance Team and have a vacancy available. Please visit the Town Council website for an Application Form. Applications must be received by 30th September 2020.

Our Wonderful Open Spaces

As residents of Risborough we know how lucky we are to live in such a beautiful part of the country. With the open fields and countryside of Aylesbury Vale to the west of the Town, and the unspoilt scenery of the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty to the east, we really are spoilt for choice in terms of green space to enjoy; whether for a walk, a cycle or just to take in some absolutely stunning views.

But what about if we take a look even closer to home?

In Princes Risborough itself, we are equally lucky. The Town Council manages our six wonderful parks and gardens from the historic King George V Recreation Ground through to the Stratton Memorial Garden. With each park as unique as it is beautiful, it is the Town Council's responsibility to ensure that these public spaces remain safe, well-tended and maintained, free from litter and generally in wonderful condition.

The Town Council's maintenance team undertakes frequent mowing of the parks throughout the summer months, maintaining trees and hedges within our parks, and daily litter picks to remove any rubbish which has been left behind by visitors. Supported by a dedicated gardener who looks after Stratton Memorial Garden, you can rest assured that our parks and gardens all receive the care that they need and are in kept in the best possible condition for you to enjoy all year round.

September Focus: Earle Mitchell Playing Field: Salisbury Close, Princes Risborough

Located above Salisbury Close and accessed from the Upper Icknield Way, Earle Mitchell Playing Field is a hidden gem. Nestled on the slopes of the Chilterns it overlooks Risborough's rooftops to the north and the Chiltern escarpment to the east. It is a truly beautiful spot.



Earle Mitchell Park

And for those of us who enjoy a bit of local history...

The Earle Mitchell Playing Field was established in 1960 by District Council tenants of the Fields estate who had formed the Risborough Tenants Football Team. Local tenants Thomas Earle and Harold Mitchell were heavily involved in acquiring the land for the team's new football pitch.

However, given its location off the Upper Icknield Way, the land itself sloped quite dramatically so Thomas and Harold had a lot of work to do to create a playable pitch! With the help of volunteers, the two men moved hundreds of tons of soil and removed all the flints and stones to create the playing field. The fruits of their significant labours can be seen today in the level pitch, the high bank to the left of the entrance and the steep bank which runs down to Salisbury Close.

The football club played at the Playing Field until the late 1980s with Harold Mitchell as the main organiser and manager of the ground's facilities. In 1993 the Town Council acquired the land and took on the running of the Playing Field at the request of Mr Earle and Mr Mitchell, and the Council named it the Earle Mitchell Playing Field in their honour.

To this day the Earle Mitchell Playing Field remains a wonderful asset for the Town; always enjoyed by those who visit. From walkers along the Icknield Way and on the Field itself, to Risborough Rangers' Junior teams, the vision and labours of Thomas and Harold have created an open space to be enjoyed for generations.

Other local parks and recreation grounds:

King George V Recreation Ground:

Aylesbury Road/Wellington Avenue, Princes Risborough

The following facilities are available: large childrens' play area, including zip-wire and skateboard park.

Wades Park:

Stratton Road, Princes Risborough

The following facilities are available: children's play area (designed for children under 6 and fenced off), Multi-Use Games Area and a selection of adult fitness equipment.



King George V Recreation Ground

St Dunstons' Park: Mill Lane, Monks Risborough

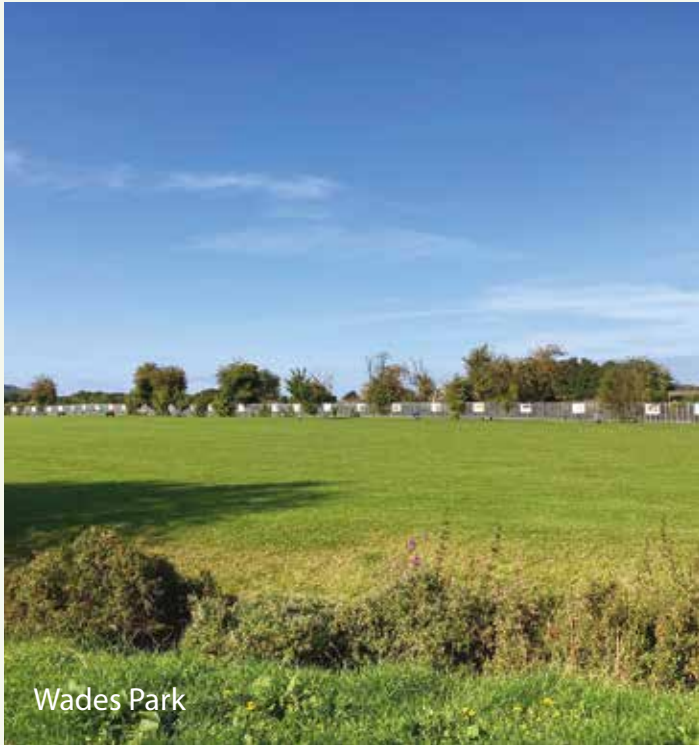
The following facilities are available: large childrens' play area (designed for all ages), including 40ft zip-wire, and many other items. This park also has a small toddler's play area. Both play areas are fenced off.

The Crescent: Fields Estate, Princes Risborough

The following facilities are available: childrens' play area, including zip-wire (designed for ages up to 11yrs).

You can rest assured that Risborough's parks and green spaces are in good hands with your Town Council. So, all that's left is for you to visit them and enjoy what they have to offer. Oh, and to keep your fingers crossed for some good weather this autumn!

Cllr Stewart Baxter, with thanks to Sandy McFarlane and Mike Payne





The Crescent



Stratton Memorial Garden

The Democracy Game

The Town Council values its collaborative relationship with all of our schools in Princes and Monks Risborough. With many of us having made numerous visits to the Polling Stations over the past few years, we believed it would be beneficial for our young residents and future voters to understand the importance of participating in the democratic process through our scheme, **The Democracy Game**.

We met with the leaders of each school to outline the scheme:

Pupils at each school were asked to discuss projects that would benefit their fellow pupils and decide on two final projects that could be put to the students for voting.

Thanks to Wycombe District Council we used real ballot boxes and voting booths from the 2019 General Election to enhance the voting experience.

Voting has taken place across all schools and the children and young people seemed to really enjoy the experience of taking part.



Cllr Walsh meeting Headteacher Mr Simon Baker at Princes Risborough School

The winning projects are be fully funded by the Town Council using our share of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and I look forward to sharing an update on these projects, and their implementation in our next edition of *Crosstalk*.



Charities in Princes Risborough

The town of Princes Risborough, which includes Monks Risborough, Whiteleaf and Askett, is looked upon by outsiders, and most insiders, as being affluent with little or any hardship. This may be so on the surface, but we know that there are many cases of family and individual hardship lurking below. This has always been the case and so in years gone by wealthy patrons have set up

charitable trusts to assist those in need. These charities are administered by trustees elected to the boards by various institutions, including the Town Council.

In the past, financial aid was given to those known to the parish both in the form of money and goods to enable those in need to have a 'better' life.

Recently, and in some cases because

Princes Risborough War Memorial Trust

Charity No 800300

The present Charitable Trust, providing funds in cases of medical need, was established in 1988, but owes its existence to one originally set up in 1920 when funds had been raised by public subscription to restore and dedicate the Market House as the town's memorial to the fallen in the First World War. The response had been so generous that a balance remained, and the happy decision was taken to use it to provide a house known as Memorial Cottage held in Trust for the local District Nurse until the late 1970s after which it was no longer required for the original purpose. For some years it served as Headquarters for the local division of St. John Ambulance, but that tenancy came to an end in 2002.

With the approval of the Charity Commissioners, the Trust was amended to allow the property to be let or sold and the rent or proceeds of sale to be applied to medical services for the benefit of the local community.

There are five Trustees, two of whom are appointed by the Town Council and the remainder by the Trustees themselves.

Aims of the Trust

Princes Risborough War Memorial Trust provides support to any resident of the parish, or exceptionally to adjoining parishes, in relation to medical need, where such support is not otherwise readily available. Examples include:

The provision of a wide range of items such as home safety alarm call systems, items of medical and domestic equipment, and mobility aids.

- Services such as home nursing, help with housework, adaptation of homes for those with disabilities.
- Facilities such as periods of rest or convalescence or the temporary relief of carers, assistance with transport costs.

Contact:

Dr A J Macfarlane, 11 Wycombe Road, Princes Risborough HP27 0EE
Tel: 01844 343004 E-mail: sandymac35@talktalk.net



Monks Risborough Parochial Charities

The Monks Risborough Parochial Charities, registered with the Charity Commission in 1938, is the amalgam of three much older charities, namely:

The Recreation Ground, 1737

The Poor's Allotment, 1895

The Charity of the Unknown Donor, 1899

nces Risborough



During the current crisis the Rotary Club of Princes Risborough continues to help those in need and have recently donated in excess of £9000 to local charitable organisations and schools. However as with many things fundraising activities have been curtailed. If you feel you can donate to enable this continue support please visit [justgiving.com/campaign/rotaryclubofprincesrisborough](https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/rotaryclubofprincesrisborough).

of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have seen the provision of food banks at both the St. Mary's and Elim churches. These have proved a lifeline to less fortunate parishioners who have been furloughed or lost their employment.

A couple of other charities have been issuing vouchers for those in need to use to purchase the essentials for existence in these hard times.

Of course, these charities operate throughout the year and aid those in need on a regular basis, as well as one off occasions.

At Christmas time the charities organise food hampers for families individuals. Last year alone some 35 hampers were delivered to those in need of a bit of extra Christmas cheer.



Princes Risborough Charity

Charity No 205184

This charity was set up following the amalgamation of several smaller charities that had been operating within the parish, in some cases for many hundreds of years and derives its income from several allotment and field sites around the area.

The land is in the ownership of the Town Council but is administered by several trustees drawn from the parish of Princes Risborough, Longwick and Lacey Green.

The charity receives rents from tenants and holds the money in trust. There are six trustees elected by the Parish Councils of Princes Risborough, Longwick and Lacey Green.

The trustees meet a few times each year and decide where the money is to be spent to the benefit of those who are in need in the parish.

Aims of the charity

Princes Risborough Charity provides support to individuals, organisations, children/young people and the elderly who require financial or practical support as indicated below:

- Christmas Hampers for the elderly and vulnerable or for those with disabilities.
- Food vouchers for those suffering due to loss of employment and this year those affected by COVID-19.
- School uniforms for children attending local schools whose parents find it hard to budget for them.
- Provision of money to Food Banks.

Contact:

**Sue Coombs (Clerk to the Charity) 5 Ash Road Princes Risborough HP27 0BH
Tel: 07774 944 324 Email: suecoombs@outlook.com**

The combined charity administers approximately 35 acres of various pieces of land within the ancient Parish of Monks Risborough. The oldest of the original charities land (now used as the cricket ground at Whiteleaf) was given in 1737 "for the purposes of recreation and exercise". Other land consists in part of allotments which were created in the 19th century to assist people who were affected by the land enclosures. The income from these earlier charities was originally used to provide stockings, clothing, fuel (coal) and medical aid to the poor of the Parish, although this definition has been relaxed/updated by the Charity Commission to allow the current Trustees wider discretion in allocating the funds. The current Charity is enabled to make grants to those in need within the Parish, in the form of individuals, organisations, children/young people and the elderly for the prevention or relief of poverty. The Charity maintains a modest income and can offer small grants, which meet the necessary criteria.

Contact for further details - Chairman of Trustees, Cllr Alan Turner, Princes Risborough Town Council.

Food Banks in our Town



The Princes Risborough Food Cupboard

People in the Risborough area who are finding it hard to make ends meet during the COVID-19 crisis are being helped by a team of people from the churches, who are making regular deliveries of emergency food and other essentials. The Princes Risborough Food Cupboard, based at St Mary's Church, was started in May in conjunction with Churches Together in Risborough, the Town Council and the Parochial Charity.

If you need help, or know of someone who does, please contact 07841 344127 between 10.00 and 1.00 on Wednesday or Friday, or email at prfoodcupboard@gmail.com

Elim Church Food Bank

In these challenging times, with the support of Churches Together, the Elim Church is operating an emergency food bank from the Elim Church, Bell Street every Saturday morning from 10.30 to Midday.

Understanding the struggles that some are facing, the Elim Church Food Bank strongly believes that no-one in our community should have to face going hungry.

If you need help, or would like to support the food bank, or are in desperate need please contact Rev. Wendy Pawsey on 07411 363376

COVID-19 Champions Awards

Over the last few months we have seen amazing acts of kindness, thoughtfulness and community spirit as we have coped with the lockdown and restrictions around the coronavirus pandemic. Many people have gone above and beyond what was expected and made a significant contribution to the community.

The Town Council has established a new set of awards specifically to recognise individuals who have played a major part in relief and support during the last few months. We have decided not to limit the number of awards that we will give, and are looking for nominations from the community. So if you know someone who has really stepped up and served thoughtfully in a way that was not expected, please nominate them, so their good work can be recognised. You can nominate as many people as you wish – do this by sending an email to the Council via our website or email (contact details can be found on the back page). You need to tell us the person's name, why you are nominating them and some detail about what they have done, so that the awards panel can pick-out the really significant COVID-19 Champions.

The closing date is 5th October, so please get your nominations in fast.

Art in the Park

Art in the Park is now in its 7th year and has gone from strength to strength. It has gone from a display of 6 artists in the first year to an amazing 41 artists this year. The display is once again along the fence in Wades Park and is now stretching almost the length of the fence.

This year we have a diverse collection of styles and media. We have textiles, ceramics, photography, pyrography as well as the more traditional paintings and drawings.

A number of pieces have obviously been influenced by the current pandemic.

Once again the prize was sponsored by Becky at Cymbeline. Becky also had the unenviable job of choosing a winner from the magnificent selection on display. Becky chose 'Derwent Isle & Catbells, Keswick' by Ian Austin. Becky described it as being "completely captivating" and "mesmerising and stunning". Becky also commented on the many other great pieces and said they were "all winners for putting their work forward" and I couldn't agree more.

Ian won the prize of a year's membership to the

Royal Academy of Arts and he has chosen to donate the value of the prize to charity and has chosen the Princes Centre.

The art is on display in Wades Park and I would encourage everyone to pop down and take a look at the phenomenally talented artists we have in Risborough.

Cllr Iain McLauchlan



A new way to tackle the issues that matter most to our community

There is a new way to tackle the issues that matter most to our community – through Buckinghamshire Council's new Community Boards. The boards will connect local people, organisations and groups with the council to improve our local areas. The Community Board, which covers the North West Chilterns area, held an introductory meeting on 9 July to start this conversation. Over the next few weeks organisers will be getting people, groups and organisations in the community involved and helping to identify our key priorities ahead of the official launch in September. Everyone is welcome - read on to find out more about what the board will do, how it will work and how you can get involved.

What is a Community Board?

The North West Chiltern Community Board will identify the themes and issues that most need to be addressed for this area and create an action plan to do this, with working groups to

look at specific projects and issues.

The board will:

- represent the voices of local people;
- capture thoughts, ideas and suggestions in new ways;
- enable local conversations about priorities;
- identify needs within local communities and work to produce creative solutions;
- explore areas of interest;
- influence how decisions are made and public services are delivered.

How does it work?

Partnerships created in response to COVID-19 are enabling the new Community Boards to quickly get up and running.

All boards have a leader, as well as a coordinator who makes sure local people, groups and organisations feel connected with the boards and the council, ensuring information is shared and views are heard. There will be a mixture of core meetings and

working groups who will focus on a specific issue or local project.

Core meetings will agree priorities, allocate funding and feed back on the plan of action. Anyone who wants to get involved won't need to attend every session. You'll be able to read the agendas and minutes online and can participate in the issues that you feel passionate about.

You can join meetings, or take part in a specific priority or project working group. You can complete surveys, take part in polls or share your views.

Who's in the North West Chilterns Community Board?

The chairman for the North West Chilterns is Councillor Gary Hall, who like all of the boards' chairs is a member of Buckinghamshire Council. The North West Chilterns vice chair is Councillor Carl Etholen and its dedicated coordinator is Jackie Binning.

If you'd like to get involved, email jackie.binning@buckinghamshire.gov.uk or visit www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/community-boards



Councillor Vacancy

A vacancy has become available at Princes Risborough Town Council for a Councillor.

For full terms and conditions of eligibility, please contact the Town Council Office.

You do not need any formal qualifications to be a councillor; however, these are the attributes the council looks for in a councillor;

- A desire and commitment to contribute to the local community.
- A willingness to stand up and be counted.
- A good sense of humour and a lot of patience.
- Ability and willingness to attend meetings of the council (or the meetings of other local authorities and local bodies) in the evening and events in the evening and at weekends.

If you would like to serve as a Councillor please apply, in writing or by email, to the Clerk (details below), providing brief background details and stating why you would like to join the Council.

Contact Information:

Susanne Barter – Town Clerk, Princes Risborough Town Council
The Princes Centre, Clifford Road, Princes Risborough Bucks HP27 0DP

T: 01844 275912 E: towncouncil@princesrisboroughtowncouncil.gov.uk

Closing date for applications **30th September 2020**. Interviews will be held on an evening during the week commencing **19th October 2020**.



Princes Risborough Town Council

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

T: 01844 275912 **E:** towncouncil@princesrisboroughtowncouncil.gov.uk

W: www.princesrisboroughtowncouncil.gov.uk

f @Risboroughtowncouncil

t: @Princesris

i: princesrisboroughtc

Councillors

Mayor & Chairman of the Council:
Cllr Matthew Walsh

Deputy Chairman:
Cllr Andy Ball

Chairman of Finance Cttee:
Cllr Alan Turner

Cllr Stewart Baxter
Cllr Nathan Davis
Cllr Iain McLauchlan

Cllr Lee Byrne
Cllr Gary Hall
Cllr Tapashya Murali

Cllr John Coombs
Cllr David Knights
Cllr Ian Pearce

Clerk to the Council: Mrs Susanne Barter
Deputy Clerk: Mrs Kirsty Pope
Administrative Assistant: Jayne Mylchreest
Bookings and Property Officer: Cate Holloway

Maintenance Team Leader: Robert Powell
Maintenance Team Operatives: Barney Heffernan and Karen Quigley

Office Hours - Monday – Friday 9.30am – 3.30pm

The full Town Council meets at 7.00pm on the last Tuesday of each month. Meetings are currently held by video link via Zoom, as per The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panel Meetings (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020. 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, provided that they have notified the clerk in advance. Please check the website to confirm how to do this.

The next meetings are: **Tuesday 29th September** **Tuesday 27th October**

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 herein *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.