



Fire! Fire! Bucks on fire!

THE GREAT FIRE OF BUCKINGHAM IN 1725 WAS NOT OUR COUNTY'S ONLY MAJOR DISASTER: OTHER TOWNS, VILLAGES, GREAT HOUSES, MILLS AND WORKSHOPS ALSO BURNED...

This year is the 300th anniversary of **the Great Fire of Buckingham**, which destroyed 138 houses and left 507 people homeless.

But thirteen years later Stony Stratford also burned, then Great Horwood in 1781, Cliveden House 1795, Marlow 1826... the blaze at Stoke Poges was seen by Queen Victoria from the windows of Windsor Castle.

These fires, their causes, their destruction, how they were fought, and what was done to prevent them happening will be the centrepiece for this year's conference.

But this is not just history, because with climate change **Fire!** is an increasing danger. So what can we learn from our history that will protect our future?

TIMETABLE FOR THE DAY

- 9.30am *Conference doors open – coffee/tea/juice/biscuits*
- 10am *Welcome by John Lovelock, of Hedgerley Historical Society*
- 10.10 **Fire! in context: past... and present?** – Peter Marsden, of Bucks Archaeological Society
- 10.30 **The Great Fire of Buckingham 1725** – Julian Hunt, of Bucks Archaeological Society
- 11.10 **Q&A:** *At the end of each session there will be a short [Question and Answer session](#)*
- 11.20 **COFFEE/TEA BREAK:** *and a first chance to see societies' displays and bookstalls*
- 11.50 **The 'Great Enemy': causes and consequences of north Bucks fires**
– Gary Marshall, former National Trust archaeologist
- 12.30 **LUNCH BREAK** – *buffet lunch available (see tickets overleaf)*
Your chance to visit displays and bookstalls by our local history and archaeology societies
- 2.20 **Fire, risks and recovery in High Wycombe** – Jackie Kay, of the Wycombe Society
- 3.00 **Cliveden, setting high society alight... twice!** – Nigel Smailes, Taplow local historian
- 3.50 *Conclusions and thanks* – John Lovelock

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE
LOCAL HISTORY NETWORK

◆ **One-day Conference**

◆ **Local History Fair**

Saturday 4 October 2025
University of Buckingham

BLHN ♦ 2025

Get your conference and lunch tickets – see overleaf ►

BLHN ♦ 2025

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE'S LOCAL HISTORY

CONFERENCE AND FAIR

- The BLHN 2025 Conference and Local History Fair will be held in Buckingham in the University of Buckingham's Vinson Building, which seats up to 200 people.
- The Vinson building also has plenty of space for the **LOCAL HISTORY FAIR**, which every year features stands and displays by the county's local history and archaeology societies and organisations – plus the chance to buy local history books published in the past year.
- Societies have also been asked to bring displays relating to fires in their local towns and villages.
- Coffee, tea and fruit juice will be available free at breaks and at lunchtime for everyone attending. The buffet lunch is optional (you can bring your own) – see tickets below.
- The Vinson Building is on the main university site south-east of the town centre off Hunter Street (postcode MK18 1EG). This is a 10-minute walk from the town centre.
- The university has its own free car park.

CONFERENCE TICKETS IN ADVANCE

- **Conference AND lunch – £28** – includes a buffet lunch of sandwiches, rolls, cakes and fruit.
- **Conference and Fair only – £22** – You are welcome to bring your own food for lunch, and the conference is only 10 minutes' walk from cafes, pubs and food shops in Buckingham town centre.
- **Full-time students under 25 – FREE**, but please apply in advance (the buffet lunch is £6 extra).

►►► TO GET YOUR TICKETS:

- **ONLINE:** Get your tickets at <https://bas1.org.uk/blhn-conference-2025-tickets>, with online card payment via TicketSource (there is no extra charge for this).
- **BY POST:** Please write, specifying which ticket(s) you require, to BLHN Conference, BAS Library, Discover Bucks Museum, Church Street, Aylesbury HP20 2QP. Enclose a cheque made out to 'Bucks Archaeological Society', and please remember to include your name, postal address and email.
Your payment will be acknowledged and your tickets will be sent to you by post.

*An ESTIMATE of the LOSS
by the dreadful Fire that happened to
the Town of Buckingham the 15th of
March, 1724-5, more than was insured
by any Fire-Office whatsoever.*

THE Amount of Goods lost
and burnt by the said Fire, } l. s. d.
as by Estimation of Experienced } 8542 13 6
Persons. —————

For 603 Bays and a Half of Build-
ing totally destroyed, valued one } 24140 00 0
with another by Experienced Work-
men at 40 l. per Bay. —————

32682 13 6

N. B. 138 Houses and Families burnt out 507 Per-
sons belonging to the same; and 'tis desired, what Mo-
ney is collected for the Use of the poor Sufferers in
this dreadful Fire, be paid to Mess. Henry and Joseph
Hankey at the Golden Ball in Fenchurch-street, London,
Bankers.

*William Turpin, Bailiff.
John Muscott.*

ABOVE: A 1725 handbill listing the losses
to from Buckingham's Great Fire.

BELOW: An estate fire service in 1920.

