VOLUME 18



Macclesfield Town Council Community Newsletter

CHRISTMAS in Macclesfield

WHAT'S INSIDE?

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Plus everything happening over the festive season

Mayor of Macclesfield Cllr Chris Wilcock

Welcome to the latest edition of the Macc Update.

In this issue we are looking forward to the events being held in Macclesfield by the Town Council over the winter and into 2024.



It seems strange writing this as the year so far seems to have flown by, almost 6 months feels like a few weeks ago.

My Mayoral year got off with a bang with four engagements within the first week. I have had a wonderful time meeting so many hard working and dedicated Maxonians that work to benefit the community in Macclesfield.

In September I held my first charity event; a bingo night at Pack Horse Bowling Club, which raised over £450 for my charities; East Cheshire Hospice and East Cheshire Eye Society. It proved so popular that I was asked when the next bingo night is, so watch this space for more details. I would especially like to thank those businesses that donated prizes to this event and for future events, your generosity hasn't gone unnoticed.

I have attended so many engagements so far including prize giving at Park Lane School, the opening of the refurbished North West Ambulance Service NHS Trust's Macclesfield Ambulance Station, cake judging at East Cheshire Hospice as well as inviting 1st Moss Scout Group to the Town Hall to talk to them about the Mayoralty.

I look forward to the remaining 6 months of my term and seeing many of you at future events.

Live Macclesfield, Love Macclesfield

Mayor's Events

Each year the Mayor of Macclesfield chooses two charities to support, through spreading the word about the good work that they do, but also by holding various fundraising events where the proceeds then go to the charities.

The Mayor recently held a Bingo night which raised over £400 and next on the cards is Blind/Partially Sighted Paired Pool Tournament in November, followed by Wreath Making with Grow Macclesfield which was so popular last year it sold out immediately.



Book the Mayor

- Are you opening a new business in town and need an important figure to cut the ribbon?
- Are you a teacher in a local school, whose class might love to see the Mayor in his robes and chain and find out what his job involves?
- Is your local allotment holding a biggest veg competition and you need someone to declare the winner and hand over the prize?

The Mayor of Macclesfield is pleased to support local organisations in Macclesfield by attending voluntary and charitable events, visiting schools or youth groups and attending local association events

For more information on how to book the Mayor's presence at your event, please visit www.macclesfield-tc.gov.uk/your-mayor/request-the-mayor-visit/

Live Macclesfield, Love Macclesfield



Macclesfield Town Centre ...

..... What are the council doing about it?

Cllr Fiona Wilson, Town Centre Champion for the Town Council provides some background on how Macclesfield Town Council can and does help the town.

There is no doubt that Macclesfield Town Centre is changing and the Town Council continues to do all that we can to support local businesses and encourage residents to visit our lovely town centre.



People often comment on the changing nature of the businesses in the Town Centre. Some think there are too many coffee shops and ask why we aren't doing more to try and get big chains or clothes shops to come to the town, or why we don't reduce rents or rates.

The Town Council doesn't own any buildings in the town centre and the owners of new shops and cafes don't need the permission of the Council (or Cheshire East Council) to open in Macclesfield. Neither are the Council's responsible for setting rents, which are the responsibility of private landlords, nor do we set the Business Rates, which are the responsibility of the Government. The vast majority of income from business rates also goes directly to Government and not to Cheshire East or to the Town Council.



However, there is a great deal that we do to support local businesses and to encourage visitors to our town.



We organise free events, which are so important in the current economic climate. Our Do Something Summer series of events, drew many families into town and we have great plans for the rest of the year including Halloween, Remembrance and Christmas including festive lights and various fun events in the town centre. Last year we received great feedback from traders who were busy all day for our Step into Christmas event.

We have also provided grants to support a number of events which are bringing people to the town centre including the Pride and Barnaby Parades. The Town Council has also provided support for the outdoor hospitality area in the Market Place which has been extremely well used.



Our Town Rangers are responsible for the majority of the floral arrangements in the town, they also remove graffiti and clean street signs to keep our town looking clean and tidy. Working with the community and Councillors they also prepared the town and the estates for Britain in Bloom.



We are also responsible for the festoon lighting which adds another light source to keep people safe and also makes the town look attractive in the evening.



We continue to work with Cheshire East Council, Macc Hospitality Action, Macclesfield Museums, CVS and Peaks and Plains Housing Trust on Town Centre Recovery and Regeneration. We are working on a funding bid to the Shared Prosperity Fund and were successful in a bid to the Welcome Back Fund which paid for deck chairs, gazebos and planters amongst other things.



A regular point which is raised with Councillors is the provision of toilets in the town centre and the Town Council has allocated £100,000 to pay for this and the new toilets at the back of the indoor market will be opening soon.

We have also seen a significant increase in new independent businesses, shops and cafes, who do look at footfall figures in Macclesfield to see if their new business will be worthwhile. Whilst we can't financially support individual businesses, we can help them with sharing their offers on social media and link them up with local independent groups. Whilst some businesses have closed, new ones are opening and there are many fantastic independent businesses in Macclesfield Town Centre.

Cllr Fiona Wilson Town Centre Champion



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Totally Locally is a proven initiative that has deep-rooted respect for the independent businesses that make towns unique. The Town Council were keen to resurrect the scheme which has been dormant in Macclesfield for a number of years. But the rules around Totally Locally state that is has to be run by the businesses for the businesses which makes sense!.

Cue Yvonne Lennard, co-proprietor at Artmaggedon Tattoo Studio on Church Street. She made the mistake of engaging Town Centre Manager Abi in conversation and is now responsible for pulling everyone together as part of the local Totally Locally Macclesfield campaign.

Here is what Yvonne had to say

Totally Locally Macclesfield is not merely a marketing campaign; it's a heartfelt celebration of the independent shops that define the character of our town. The best part is, it's completely free for businesses to be involved in. Our core aim is to inspire and empower our fellow residents, fostering a sense of enthusiasm and pride for the hidden gems they have right at their doorstep. Our message is clear: it's incredibly easy to invest in Macclesfield and secure a brighter future for all.

At the heart of our initiative is addressing a significant issue in our community: the need to raise awareness about the remarkable economic impact of seemingly small actions. For example, if each adult in Macclesfield were to spend just £5 per week in our town, this would translate into an astonishing £11.1 million annually. This isn't just about shopping; it's about community prosperity.

One of the primary issues we are working to alleviate is the changing public perception and evolving shopping habits. In an era of convenience and online shopping, it's crucial to remind our residents of the immeasurable value of local, independent businesses. We aim to rekindle the spirit of buying locally, supporting our neighbors, and preserving the essence of our town.

We are passionate about highlighting what makes Macclesfield special, and we want to share that uniqueness with our residents.

Our initiative also emphasizes how supporting local businesses triggers a positive domino effect. When local businesses thrive, they in turn, reinvest in other local enterprises, keeping the money circulating within Macclesfield, strengthening our community, and preserving its distinct character.



Apply now for a CLOW-UP grant

The Town Council supports local independent shops and helps with the regeneration of the town in many different ways ...

... and this winter we are continuing that support with



Glow-Up grants will be available to local independent SME's (Small to Medium Enterprise) to help them improve their shop fronts in a way which will enhance the look of their business and make them stand out as gems on our high street and in our town.

Shops will be able to apply for a one off grant of up to £1,000 and criteria will be;

- Local independent shop
- Situated in one of the Macclesfield Wards
- Is an SME
- Consideration could also be given to new shops, helping them to get ready to open.

Applications may include but are not limited to:

- Repainting
- Artwork for the windows
- Towards costs of awnings (subject to approval from CEC)
- New signage
- Blooms e.g. hanging baskets, window boxes etc

Macclesfield Town Council has produced a Shop Front Design Guide which aims to help local traders work to improve their shop fronts. This work was undertaken to ensure that Macclesfield preserves its character and uniqueness, and many residents were involved and contributed their views. A copy is available on request and will be given to anyone interested in the grant scheme.

For more information go to: www.macclesfield-tc.gov.uk/glowupgrants



Did You Know?

The Town Council strive to use local providers/suppliers wherever possible. Since January 23 we have worked with; Dinahs, Macclesfield Football Club, Macclesfield FC Community Sports Trust, Matthew Rigby PT, Cakeface by James, Tatama, Cherry Blossom Bakery, Dolly Daydream, Brown & White, Macclesfield Community Artspace, Marc Makes Comics, Lord of the Pies, Classworx, Christ Church, Granellis, Grosvenor Centre, For Me and For You, ELOV, Libbys Pumpkin Patch, Viva La Tipi, R&G Beer Vault, Party in the Pews, Silk FM, Canalside Radio. Bailey Audio, L&J Print, Stump Up, Spiveys Web, ANSA, Darren Lloyd and the Dixie Land Duo, Chelford Farm Supplies, Painters Supply Limited, Four Oaks Nurseries, Macclesfield Lawnmower Services, Richard Delaney, Oak Nurseries, Shenton Garden Supplies, John Potts, Technikk, PR Jones, Silk Brass, Macc Youth Brass Band, Bar Twenty Seven, Rolph & Co Photography, Olympus Trophies, Flour Water Salt, Monocle Cafe, Visitor Information Centre, St Michaels Church, Flower House.

Did You Know?

A lot of the work done by the Town Council goes unnoticed.

We have pulled together some information on the things we do - we hope you find them interesting



That all 12 of our Town Councillors are volunteers.

They do not get paid for the work they do for the Town Council and they put in a combined average of 200 hours each a year





The Town Council funded places for 28 vulnerable children to attend 910 hours of summer holiday camps provided by **Macclesfield FC Community Sports Trust**.



The Town Council has supported 17 charities and organisiations with grants totalling £29,506.52 since 1st May 2023.

The money has gone towards; lunch & breakfast clubs, environmental events, 3 different projects for people with disabilities, sports equipment plus much more





The Town Council ran 24hrs of FREE workshops over the summer holidays covering everthing from chalk art to comics and circus skills.

This ensured that all children in Macclesfield had the opportunity to do something they could tell their new teachers about in September.





The Town Council are not responsible for waste collections, council tax, pot holes or car parks.

For all these things, you will need to contact **Cheshire East Council** who are the authority for the borough.

Their number is 0300 123 5500





You said ... We did

We take all feedback very seriously at Macclesfield Town Council, and if we can improve or change the way we do something, then we will!



This year the Town Council are working with **Party in the Pews** organisers to ensure a fantastic afternoon of live music from local artists, on the **Silk FM** stage at Christmas

We did



We'd like the stars that hang on the town Christmas tree to be recyclable.

The Town Council have been working on a solution to the plastic stars we have previously used. Unfortunately the option we went with last year could not withstand the heavy rain.

We did

This year we have sourced wooden shapes, which can be chipped along with the tree and are weatherproof.



You said

It would be good to know what is going on in Macclesfield that we can get involved in on our own time

As part of Heritage Open Day, the Town Council invited over 30 clubs, societies and charities to have a stand in the Town Hall. This 'freshers' style fair joined up many people

looking for a new hobby or outlet for their skills. We are hoping to run this event again in the New Year







Lest We Forget Remembrance Weekend Events

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 12th NOVEMBER

Join us for Macclesfield's Annual Remembrance Parade and Service.

From 10:25am the Parade will march from behind the Town Hall via Brunswick Street, Market Place and Mill Street to arrive at the Park Green Cenotaph in time for the two-minute silence at 11am.

The wreath laying ceremony will be followed by the Service of Remembrance. At the end of the Service, the procession will re-form and march back, past the front of the Town Hall where the Mayor will take the Salute. Residents are invited to gather at the Park Green Cenotaph for the Service.

> Please note that road closures will be in place around the Town Hall, along the parade route and around Park Green.

ARMISTICE DAY Saturday 11th NOVEMBER

In remembrance of those who made sacrifices in past wars and the end of WW1 hostilities. Gather in the Market Place outside the Town Hall to observe two minutes of silence at 11am.



Step into Christmas in Macclesfield! We've got lots of festive treats for you in town this year - from music and magic to carols and Christmas trees.

Step into Christmas



FREEEVENT

Join us in the Market Place for a day of fun, music and festivities. Start the day around the Christmas tree, enjoying a seasonal selection from Macclesfield Youth Brass Band from 11am before a Christmas welcome from the Mayor on the Silk FM stage. We've got stilt-walkers, jugglers, facepainting, crafting, live music from Party in the Pews and more, all under the beautiful Macclesfield Christmas lights.

from Adven December It's cold out

Advent Window Trail

It's cold outside and snowmen are popping up all over town! Pick up your paper map from the Visitor Information Centre to follow the trail in Macclesfield's local business and shop windows.

Christmas Tree Festival

from December 1st 22nd Christ Church

Thursday December 7 6PM

Thursday December 124th Head over to Christ Church to see a range of illuminated Christmas tree's decorated by groups, businesses and charities from all over town. It's the perfect festive atmosphere to get you in the mood for the season.

Thursdays & Fridays: 5:30 - 7:30pm Saturdays & Sunday: 3:30 - 6:30pm

Tree of Light

Join us for a special ceremony of poetry and song for those experiencing grief and difficulty at Christmastime, taking place around the Macclesfield Town Centre Christmas tree.

Twilight Market

Meet at the Christmas Tree in the town centre to relax with friends under the heated tipi, explore the shops plus the Made in Macc market and enjoy live music with a delicious festive drink and local street food.

At Macclesfield Town Council we're proud to host and support events which bring residents and visitors back into our town centre and back into our amazing local businesses.



Lantern Parade is coming back! Will the big light up lobster be back too?



Lunar New Year celebrations will be back at Park Green



Will the weather be as good at Easter as it was in 2023?



Plus a mini summer festival, the return of the really popular Do Something Summer events which took place every Wednesday in Market Place, and so much more!

Check out the What's On page of the Town Council website www.macclesfield-tc.gov.uk/whats-on/



At many of our events we have food & drink stalls.



Our aim is for these to be from Macclesfield wherever possible.

If you own a food business, cafe, restaurant, bar in Macclesfield that has the ability and equipment to do outside catering, please get in touch. We would LOVE to have you at our events.

Email events@macclesfield-tc.gov.uk

South Park Pavilion Sponsorship Opportunities

There are many avenues for investing in the future of South Park. Our beautiful new pavilion will be a valuable resource for the community today and for future generations. We have several investment tiers available, each offering the opportunity to be an integral part of this exciting and ambitious project.

Treacle

Donation level: £1000 - £5000

Benefits for Treacle level supporters include:

- Bronze style plaque on the supporters wall in the new pavilion
- Invitation to the Opening Ceremony
- Use of the event space for training, team away days or business events one day per year for one year
- Ongoing publicity via the Town Councils channels for one year, including a half page advert in the 'Macc Update' Council newsletter

Silk

Donation level: £5001 - £10,000

Benefits for Silk level supporters include:

- · Silver style plaque on the supporters wall in the new pavilion
- Invitation to the Opening Ceremony
- · Use of the event space for training, team away days or business events one day per year for two years
- Ongoing publicity via the Town Councils channels for two years, including a half page advert in the 'Macc Update' Council newsletter

Tunnicliffe

Donation level: £10,001 - £20,000

Benefits for Tunnicliffe level supporters include:

- · Gold style plaque on the supporters wall in the new pavilion
- Invitation to the Opening Ceremony
- · Use of the event space for training, team away days or business events one day per year for three years
- Ongoing publicity via the Town Councils channels for three years, including a half page advert in the 'Macc Update' Council newsletter

Charles Roe

Benefits for Charles Roe level supporters include:

- · Platinum style plaque on the supporters wall in the new pavilion
- Invitation to the Opening Ceremony
- Use of event space for training, team away days or business events one day per year for four years
- Ongoing publicity via the Town Councils channels for four years, including a half page advert in the 'Macc Update' Council newsletter
- 10 exclusive South Park Pavilion branded hoodies

For more information about investing, including the William Frost Legacy level please go to macclesfield-tc.gov.uk/SPPsponsor



Donation level: £20,001 +



Volunteers

Events are a big part of what Macclesfield Town Council does and delivers for the town, and in order to keep things running smoothly, the Town Council relies on a vital team of volunteers. Volunteering with the Council is not about replacing paid staff, but about complementing and adding value to the work they already do.



Macclesfield Town Council are looking for more volunteers to help with the events programme, which sees roughly one event a month take place in the town. Roles are varied, training and equipment will be provided, and you get to work with a great team at times that suit you. Examples include; road closure steward, performer liaison, refreshments coordinator, events promotion, grotto supervisor, panda escort plus many more. You can do as much or as little as you want, even an hour a month in a public facing or background role would help our events go without a hitch.

Three new volunteers have started with us over the summer and here is what one had to say -

"Volunteering with the town centre team has been fun and rewarding. It's great to be part of a team that is working to bring a sense of community to the town centre."

For more information go to: <u>www.macclesfield-tc.gov.uk/community/get-involved-volunteer</u>ing or call 01625 374142



Macclesfield Town Rangers

The rangers are one of the most loved services that the Town Council provides. The Rangers in their fluorescent yellow jackets are well known throughout town and receive great feedback from residents far and wide.

Whilst they are responsible for much of the planting and many of the blooms and floral arrangements you see around town during the spring and summer, they don't stop once the weather turns cold and wet.

What we do over the winter

- clear leaves on all access routes behind the Town Hall down to Sunderland Street
- clean graffiti around the town of Macclesfield
- painting of road signs and cleaning of street signs
- maintenance of flower beds at Park Green
- replenishment of dog waste bags
- any of the alleyways and ginnels that have been cleared throughout the summer, we then maintain and keep them clear throughout the winter
- plant out planters and hanging baskets with winter bedding plants
- watering of winter bedding plants if needed







James, Damon, Shaun

Macclesfield Town Council Rangers





Is your community group, charity or club looking for funding?

The Town Council's popular grants programme continues to support a wide range of Macclesfield's worthy community groups.

The Town Council has different tiers of grants:

- Micro Grants of up to £100 for small start up ideas or for one off projects that fit with the Macclesfield Town Council themes

- Small Grants up to £250
- Large Grants up to £2000
- And exceptional circumstance grants over £2000

Examples of recent grant awards -

- **Friends for Leisure** were awarded £2,000 towards a drama project for young people with disabilities

- **Weston Friends** were awarded £200 towards the provision of groups and breakfast clubs on the Weston estate

- **Roe-Naissance** were awarded £1,950 to buy plants for the gardens within the grounds of Christchurch

Micro grant applications can be considered at any time. Small and large grant applications are considered at the Finance Committee meetings.

Deadlines for applications is 9am on Friday 26th January 2024 – Decision meeting held on Monday 26th February 2024

> Visit www.macclesfield-tc.gov.uk/yourcouncil/community-grants for more information

Bloom



After winning GOLD at the Northwest in Bloom awards in 2022, in the Small City category (all to do with the size of the population), the committee and volunteers were keen to equal their result this year.

This year the committee not only entered the town as "Macclesfield in Bloom", but also put in additional entries in separate categories such as the "Small Retail" area of Upper Market Place, where the beautiful planters outside R&G's Beer Vault, Plums Kitchen and Five Clouds Tap & Bottle create a wonderful green space for people to sit and enjoy food and drinks from our local vendors, plus East Cheshire Hospice and St Albans Primary School who have worked with Food 4 Macc and Macc Wild Network to create food beds, a reading circle and plant trees.

The team attended the award ceremony at the end of October and came away with:



GOLD in the Pocket Park category for the Ian Curtis pocket park GOLD in the Small Retail category for the Upper Market Place area outside the bars/restaurants GOLD in the Small City category



Current Chair Janet Jackson MBE had this to say "I am so proud of everyone whose contributions to Macclesfield in Bloom helped us achieve this Gold award. From our Rangers, to the shops who keep their hanging baskets and planters looking so lovely, to the schools and community groups who work so hard to bring colour, biodiversity and sustainability to our town. This is a well deserved award and we plan on continuing our good work with another fantastic entry next year."

If you would like to be involved in next years entry for Britain in Bloom, as a volunteer or a business please email **abigail.sherratt@macclesfield-tc.gov.uk**



Park Fit People!

The Town Council originally partnered with Matt Rigby, a local personal trainer and run club organiser, back in June 2019 and commissioned him to run free Park Fit sessions in South Park.







These sessions are still running almost four years on, and the group have been meeting at the bandstand in South Park every Thursday in term time, with the 45 minutes sessions running from 6-6:45pm.

Bring a drink, and if you have a yoga mat or towel for any floor work bring that along too. Sessions usually just use bodyweight, but sometimes Matt will bring equipment.

From the start of October sessions move indoors to All Hallows sports hall, so that they can continue throughout the winter.

If you want any more information or want to discuss an injury with Matt that you think might impact you joining in, then you can call/message him on 07769 211684.

Make sure you follow Macclesfield Town Council and Matthew Rigby PT on Facebook to be kept up to date.



What We Do

We get a lot of phone calls at Macclesfield Town Council about parking issues, bin collections and council tax. Whilst we will always help by giving you the right phone number, why not cut out and keep this handy guide explaining what the Town Council does vs what Cheshire East Council does.





Macclesfield Town Council

is the parish council for the town of Macclesfield and supports the below services

- Community Grants/Development
- Floral Displays/Town Ranger
- Christmas Lights
- Making the Town Attractive
- Street Sports & Park Fit
- Support CCTV Services
- Tourism Promotion & Visitor Centre
- Community Events
- Eco Summit
- Mayor of Macclesfield
- Parkrun & Junior ParkRun
- Funding Parks & Play Areas
- Remembrance Events
- Statutory Consultee for all Macclesfield Planning Applications
- Allotments

01625 374142



Cheshire East Council

is the principal authority for all of Cheshire East and supports the below services

- Schools
- Libraries
- Highways (eg pot holes)
- Waste and Recycling Collections
- Council Tax
- Business Rates
- CCTV
- Benefit
- Licensing
- Social Services & Social Care
- Planning & Building Regulations
- Public/Environmental Health
- Parks & Play Areas
- Crematorium
- Car Parks
- Road & Footpath Gritting
- Regeneration

0300 123 5500

These lists are not exhaustive, but hopefully helpful WWW.MACCLESFIELD-TC.GOV.UK



2023/4 Council Meetings

Council Meetings

Council and Committee meetings are open to the public. If you would like to attend a meeting please email the Town Clerk, Laura Smith on laura.smith@macclesfield-tc.gov.uk. The full list of Council meetings is available on the MTC website, but listed below are the upcoming meetings for the next few months

Finance Committee

13th November 26th February

Planning Committee

15th November20th December10th January31st January21st February13th March

Services Committee

27th November 11th March

Full Council 11th December 25th March

Annual Parish Meeting 18th March



Videos of all meetings are available the next day on our You Tube channel, just search Macclesfield Town Council



Make sure you follow



@MaccTownCouncil on facebook
@MacclesfieldTC on twitter
@macclesfieldTC on Instagram





to be kept up to date with everything we do

or visit our website www.macclesfield-tc.gov.uk

Councillor Contact Details

Macclesfield Town Council - 01625 374142

Broken Cross and Upton Ward

Cllr Chris Wilcock - christopher.wilcock@macclesfield-tc.gov.uk Cllr Dr Ruth Thompson - ruth.thompson@macclesfield-tc.gov.uk

Central Ward

Cllr James Barber - james.barber@macclesfield-tc.gov.uk Cllr Sandy Livingstone - sandy.livingstone@macclesfield-tc.gov.uk

East Ward

Cllr Mick Warren - mick.warren@macclesfield-tc.gov.uk

Hurdsfield Ward

Cllr Sarah Bennett-Wake - sarah.bennett@macclesfield-tc.gov.uk

South Ward

Cllr Fiona Wilson - fiona.wilson@macclesfield-tc.gov.uk Cllr Neil Puttick - neil.puttick@macclesfield-tc.gov.uk

Tytherington Ward

Cllr David Edwardes - david.edwardes@macclesfield-tc.gov.uk Cllr Emma Gilman - emma.gilman@macclesfield-tc.gov.uk

West and Ivy Ward

Cllr Alift Harewood MBE - alift.harewood@macclesfield-tc.gov.uk Cllr Mike Hutchison - mike.hutchison@macclesfield-tc.gov.uk