

## Buckden Gala 2022 - Information and FAQ

**Buckden Gala 2022** After two years without a Gala, the Institute Committee have decided that the 2022 Buckden Gala will go ahead, subject of course to any unexpected developments in the course of the pandemic.

The Gala will be held, as is traditional, on the third Saturday in June – so please put **Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2022** in your diaries.

The format of the Gala will be similar to that of previous years; the usual mix of stalls, games, children's activities and races, tearoom, beer tent, ice-cream, raffle, musical entertainment and dog show, the famous Buckden Gala Hot Dog stall, and the traditional egg-throwing contest to round the afternoon off. We are hoping that the Sheep Show will be back and we can confirm that the Buckden Pike Fell Race will be run over the usual course. This year's race has been designated a championship race by the Fell Runners Association so we can expect a great turn out for both the women's and men's races.

The Gala plays a really important part in the life of the village, raising funds which allow us to run the Village Hall and providing a great opportunity for the community to work and have fun together. As always, we rely on the support and help of residents and second-home owners to make the day, whether it be putting up tents, setting up the field, putting in an hour or two on a stall, helping in the tearoom or with car parking.

In the new year we will be asking for volunteers, but in the meantime – **please make sure to save the date.**

For those of you who are new to the village and have never been to a Gala, and for those of you who would like to be reminded of what it's all about, we have made a short video which we hope conveys something of the character and atmosphere of this special event. [Click here](#) to watch

Finally, we have put together some "Frequently Asked Questions" so that those of you who have not been involved in a Gala before can find out a bit more about the Gala and about the Institute. See below:

### Buckden Gala & The Institute – FAQs:

**How long has the Gala been going on?** Dating back to before the War, Buckden Feast and Sports, as it was then known, featured *"skittles, coconut shies, rolling penny stalls and others plus donkey rides, which went round by Hubberholme and back . . ."* The tradition was revived in 1962, and in 2012, Buckden Gala, in its current form, celebrated its Golden Jubilee.

**What is the Gala for?** First and foremost, it is a community event where people get together for an old-fashioned afternoon of fun in a beautiful (and very occasionally, damp) Dales setting – however it is also the main opportunity to raise the funds needed to run the village hall for the year.

**Where is the Gala held?** On the Gala field – the field opposite the school room

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**What is involved in running the Gala?** A lot of planning and hard work! There is a huge variety of tasks to be done, including:

- **Before Gala day:**
  - Obtaining permits and licenses from local farmers and statutory bodies
  - Liaising with external stall holders & exhibitors
  - Liaising with the Sheep Show and the Fell Race organisers
  - Publicising the event – banners, Gala web-site, bunting, local press, social media etc.
  - Producing the souvenir programme and selling the advertising
  - Organising the raffle and obtaining the prizes
  - Buying supplies for the tea-room and the hot-dog stall and doing the prep
  - Organizing the rota for all the stalls and activities
  - Planning the running order, field layout and car parking
  - Setting up the tents (the day before Gala day)
- **On the day**
  - Setting up all the activities, stalls, PA etc. on the field, and transporting tables, chairs and equipment from the hall
  - Managing the car-parks and the gates
  - Looking after the stalls (mainly one-hour slots on a rota)
  - Controlling the activities and ensuring running order and time slots are adhered to
  - Serving refreshments
  - Clearing the field, taking down the tents and storing everything away
  - Cashing up
  - Drinking wine
  - Sleeping

### What is the timetable for the Gala

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| • Day before:                 | Transport the tents to the field, and put them up      |
| • Gala Day - 8.00 -12.00:     | Transport everything else to the field and set up      |
| • Gala Day - ~12.00 - ~16.00: | The Gala   |
| • Gala Day - ~16.00 - ~18.30: | Clearing the field and returning everything to storage |

**What if I can't be here on Gala Day?** You can still help with the planning, by selling raffle tickets, giving raffle prizes, baking cakes for the tearoom, or by making a donation.

**Who organises the Gala?** The gala is organised by the Buckden Village Institute management committee.

**So what is the Village Institute?** The hall, or Buckden Township Hall to give it its proper name, was built in 1912, and for its first 60+ years was operated by the Parish Council. In 1976 a charitable trust was established by the PC, which assumed full the responsibility for the operation, maintenance and development of the Institute, and for its finances; the Parish Council retains ownership of the hall on

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behalf of the parish, but that is the extent of its responsibility in relation to the building and its activities.

The purposes of the charitable trust as defined in the trust deed are: *“To provide a village hall for the use of the inhabitants of the Parish of Buckden in the county of North Yorkshire without distinction of political, religious or other opinions including use for meetings, lectures and classes, and for other forms of recreation and leisure time occupation with the object of improving the conditions of life for the said inhabitants”*

So that is what we seek to do, organising events and activities, both for the benefit and enjoyment of residents and to raise money to keep the hall going. In 2018, we undertook a major project to upgrade the hall, raising funds from a number of grant-awarding bodies. We get no financial support from the Parish Council for day to day activities, although the council did very generously donate £2000 to the refurbishment project.

In real life (pre-pandemic) a wide variety of activities used to take place in the hall, including:

- Coffee mornings
- Buckden Singers rehearsals
- Whist
- Buckden Art group
- Theme nights
- Skittles
- Training for First Responders and the Upper Wharfedale Venturer
- Elections
- National Park and National Trust meetings
- Concerts
- Private parties
- Craft workshops
- Harvest auction
- Pilates
- Etc.....

We very much hope to be able to resume many of these activities over the coming months.

Buckden Singers has operated under the auspices of the Institute since it was formed in 2007 and pre-pandemic was the second biggest source of funds for the Institute (after the Gala).

The village quiz used to be held in the hall, but moved to the Buck when the hall was closed for refurbishment in 2018. The quiz is still organised by the Institute, even though it is still held in the Buck. Proceeds go to the Air Ambulance.

**Buckden Village Institute Committee**  
**November 2021**