

Town Talk

Spring 2018



BRACKLEY TOWN COUNCIL

TELEPHONE 01280 702441 www.brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk

Message from the Mayor, Councillor Don Thompson

Well here we are again I trust you all had a good Christmas and are enjoying the first part of 2018.

I certainly had a busy time; the Lantern Parade was fantastic, the Carol Service was brilliant and during these 2 events I met with lots of families. Both these events had tremendous community support and it was good to see you all there. So here's to 2018, with lots of events happening so let's keep that support going.

Brackley Football Club's 'Saints Community Project' gave a great Christmas party to those residents who regularly attend, Liveability and senior citizens. Santa dished out the presents, and even I got one. Didn't expect that. The next big event for them is the Pantomime in which I have been given a small part!

Christmas Eve was spent visiting care and residential homes in the town. Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas I was made to feel most welcome by staff and residents alike. I can only praise the very crucial work being done by these dedicated staff. Quite a challenge, emotionally as well as physically, each home is a small community in its own right.

I was able to find time to walk around the lake and admire the work done by our grounds team in clearing the Pocket Park and I am looking forward to seeing the vegetation start to grow. The whole area down there is a great place for families to walk and as the weather gets better, picnic!

In my last message there was a lot going on and things were happening thick and fast and all I will say is that your Town Council is working hard to achieve the best results possible for our town and as things happen and progress is apparent, the information will become available via our Facebook page and website, so keep watching.

I was pleased to see the scaffold on the Town Hall start to come down and the wonderful sight of the newly refurbished Cupola, then the roof and recently the top of the walls. I can't wait to see the whole building as what has been revealed looks really good.



Image: courtesy of Linda Cataldo

When I talk about Sea Cadets I hear "But we are nowhere near the sea!" it is easy to forget that we actually live on an island and 94% of what we consume is brought in by sea. I hope our Sea Cadet Unit has brought the sea a little nearer and provided of our youngsters extra fun and life skills for their future. I can't thank the wondrous generosity of our town's folk enough for the money raised so far

On that subject I will be holding a **Ceilidh on the 10th of March** at the W.I. Hall on Manor Road; tickets are available from the Town Council office, Library and Old Fire Station Café. This event is to raise funds for my charity 'Brackley Sea Cadets'. My hope is that this time next year we will have seen our small ship 'T.S. Tidespring' commissioned by the Royal Navy.

Best wishes

Cllr Don Thompson
Town Mayor

Save Brackley Library



Image: Library Supporters Group

'SAVE OUR LIBRARY'

This has been the cry from a significant number of our residents as Northamptonshire County Council announced its Library Service Review Consultation. The consultation contained three options, of which only two would see Brackley Library continue to exist in some form. It appeared that the County Council's own preference is to transfer the library to a Community Managed Library - a model that exists in other parts of the country.

With this in mind, and working closely with our County Councillor Fiona Baker, Brackley Town Council is pressing the County Council to re-classify Brackley Library as a 'large' library, based on the town's geography and growing population, to secure its future. The Council also commissioned a feasibility study to look at future options.

At the same time, the Brackley Library Supporters Group have been campaigning hard to publicise the threat to the library, to emphasise the wide range of people who use the facility and who will be disadvantaged by its closure, and also to galvanise support for its petition and encourage people to respond to the consultation.

Now we just have to wait for the outcome of the consultation, and the County Council's response, which is due by the end of February.

A43/A422/Oxford Road Roundabout, Brackley

Highways England together with Taylor Wimpey & Barratt Homes would like to advise of ongoing improvement works at the A43/A422/Oxford Road Roundabout, Brackley expected to last a 13 week period from Tuesday 2nd January 2018.

This work is being done under the supervision of Highways England, and comprises minor widening of the approaches to the roundabout and circulatory carriageway, the installation of traffic signals and the upgrade of drainage and lighting.

Most of the work will be undertaken at night between 20.00 and 06.00 Monday evening to Saturday morning with traffic management in place for the duration of the contract. Apart from nighttime lane closures and road closures all traffic lanes will be maintained at the roundabout, albeit there will be narrower lanes through the works and a 50mph speed limit. The roundabout will continue to function as a roundabout until the traffic signals become operational.

The nighttime road closures are mainly at the end of the contract period to allow the surfacing to be undertaken in a safe manner. The dates for the road closures will be advised by the Contractor nearer the date. Diversion routes will be signed when the road is closed. Rest assured, Emergency services (i.e. Fire Brigade, Ambulance and Police as well as Special Forces vehicles) will be allowed access during the works if required to ensure the safety of the general public.

Every effort will be made to keep general disturbance to a minimum and to keep to the dates given, however the works programme may be subject to change if poor weather conditions or other difficulties are encountered.

Any questions about these works please contact : Taylor Wimpey and Barratt Homes at the following email address: A43oxfordroadroundabout@barratthomes.co.uk



Police relaunch free message alert system to help keep communities safe – sign up today!

Northamptonshire Police has relaunched a free message alert system, to help people living and working in Northamptonshire be much better informed about crime and police activity in their local area, and help keep their communities safe.

The messaging service, called Northamptonshire Neighbourhood Alert (formerly known as Community Connect), now has greater functionality than previously, allowing frontline police officers to send alert messages direct from their mobile devices to thousands of local people. They will be able to do this in real-time while they are out and about policing the county.

The alert service is free and simple to activate by registering at www.northamptonshireneighbourhoodalert.co.uk and is available to anyone living or working in Northamptonshire.

After signing up to the messaging system, people will receive regular alerts from Northamptonshire Police, Neighbourhood Watch and other partner organisations, keeping them up to date and informed about crime and issues relevant to them and the area where they live or work.

Alerts are received either by email, text message or voice message – whichever suits. People will also be given the option of what they want to receive alerts about, and how often – you will only receive messages about topics that you have selected.

Chief Inspector Lara Alexander-Lloyd said: “Our communities play a crucial part in helping us prevent and detect crime and anti-social behaviour. Police officers and PCSOs will be regularly sending out message alerts via Northamptonshire Neighbourhood Alert, appealing for help, highlighting suspicious activity, offering crime prevention advice, and keeping people up to date about general police work and safety events.

“This re-launched community messaging tool means we can now do this in real time, with officers sending out alerts via mobile devices while they are still out on patrol. This allows information to be shared really quickly and much more directly with the public about crime and activity in their specific locality, helping us to involve and protect the community much more.

“If for example, there has been a spate of distraction burglaries in a particular district or an increase in vehicle crime, we can tell people immediately. So they can better protect themselves and be more alert to any potential threats and risks. We can also very quickly share descriptions of suspects or appeal for witnesses – giving us a greater chance of arrest.

“We already have more than 10,000 people signed up to the alert system and we want many, many more to register and receive information from Northamptonshire Police and our partners. By working together, we can make Northamptonshire a safer place to live and work and help to protect people from harm.”

Signing up to the messaging service is really simple and quick. The alert system is completely secure and registration is free. To register with Northamptonshire Neighbourhood Alert visit www.Northamptonshireneighbourhoodalert.co.uk.

It's going to be 'All Change' again!

Last year I said that it was all change, and this year is no different.

The Town Hall is still shrouded in hoarding and scaffolding but is slowly being revealed. It is still on target for completion at the end of July, and we are looking to arrange an official opening to coincide with Heritage Open Days so that everyone can come and view the finished results. I must admit that some of the problems that have been uncovered have been scary to witness, including the 'sprung floor' which was actually a series of floors all holding each other together with joists not entirely connected to the walls!

The central park on Radstone Fields is now in use, managed by TCL Ltd on behalf of the developers, and due to be handed over to the Town Council in November.

The construction of the new community building on Radstone Fields has just begun, with the building due to be completed at the end of October. Councillors spent some time deciding on an appropriate name and finally decided to recognise a family name associated with the town through the Lords Ellesmere and the Duke of Bridgewater – that of Egerton. The building will be called Egerton Hall.

Biodiversity payments from the developers of Radstone Fields are providing benefits to the south of the



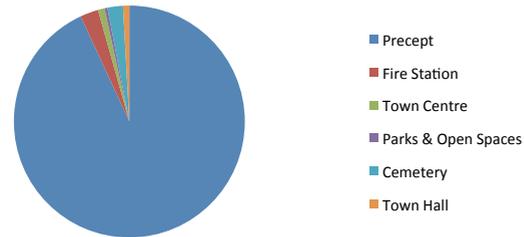
Town Hall scenic view by Linda Cataldo

town. There, recent improvements to the pocket park will begin to reap benefits for local wildlife, as spring arrives and the new open sunlit areas encourage a more grasses and wild flowers to grow, providing habitat for a variety of insects.

Pocket Park Biodiversity



Budgeted Income 2018/2019

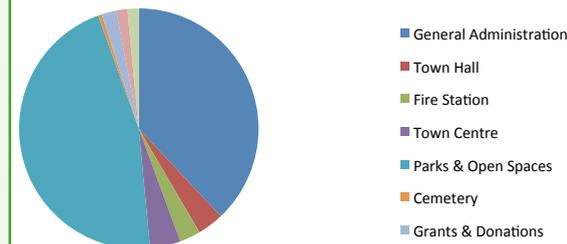


Land on Carpenters Place (the site of the old Sawmills) will be handed over to the council shortly, and we are due to take over responsibility for open space at the Old Glebe, including the avenue of protected lime trees. More areas to manage means an increase in staffing, but the developments come with funding to help to meet these costs.

Plans continue to come forward for the various elements on the sites to the north of Turweston Road. The industrial units are built, the planning application for the hotel/pub has been approved, with a plan to be open later in the year and progress is being made on the much needed medical facilities.

To the South of Turweston Road, planning consent has been granted for up to 350 houses, with a significant proportion being built as 'affordable' housing.

Budgeted Expenditure 2018/19



It was good to see the firework display in the town in November, sponsored again by Mercedes AMG Petronas F1 following the team's achievement in securing its fourth successive Constructor's Championship. The event was again organised by the Town Council and thanks must go to the many volunteers, without whom the event would not be possible.

The Christmas lights again proved popular and our second lantern parade was bigger and better than last year with over 200 lanterns being carried by our (much) younger residents. We had to schedule in additional workshops to produce, them but it was well worth it.

The Council is updating its first five year plan to take account of all of these changes. It currently contains a financial forward plan increasing the precept gradually by about five per cent per year. Most of our assumptions continue to prove correct, and this year we are increasing the precept by 4.28% which will mean around £5 per year for the average household in Brackley.



On the 9th of June Carnival comes to Brackley this year's theme is Animal Kingdom

Brackley's Carnival is a long running community organised and run event we are always looking for new people to join the Carnival team either helping on the day or joining the team carnival committee.

If you would like to find out more, please contact us via our web site www.brackleycommunitycarnival.org.uk

Or call our chairman on 07778 629876

Bookings are now being taken for stalls on the carnival and craft tent craft tent full details and booking forms are on our web site

If you would like to take part in the carnival procession either with a float, a walking group or you have an interesting vehicle, or you want to promote your business you can find details on our web site.

A day in the life of Brackley Town Council Receptionist, Lisa Saffrey



*Lisa Saffrey,
Brackley Town Council Receptionist*

I have worked for Brackley Town Council for a year and a half, having lived in Brackley for 16 years.

I deal with all enquiries to the Town council office by telephone, email and in person. My knowledge of the town helps me to identify areas of concern quickly and I am then able to respond by reporting or re-directing queries and concerns to the relevant departments, such as South Northamptonshire Council and Northamptonshire County Council.

I try to keep up with key issues that affect Brackley residents and have any useful information to hand.

I also deal with the administration of Planning Applications, the preparation and recording of Town Council and Committee meetings and the keeping of Cemetery records

Not all the enquiries I receive are to do with Brackley Town Council's work, but I am happy to help wherever I can.

Standing Up for Sitting Down (SU4SD) Campaign



England's largest not-for-profit provider of housing and care for older people have launched this campaign. 'Standing Up 4 Sitting Down' (#su4sd) is Anchor's national initiative aiming to improve people's access to their local shops and high street by increasing the amount of seating available to those who need it.

The charity highlights that some older people have difficulty visiting their local High Streets and shopping centres because of a lack of places to sit in and take a rest.

The campaign is encouraging individual shops and businesses to provide a seat for those who just wish to take a break. This could, in turn, be good for business.

Shops and business taking part in the scheme can display a sticker supplied, in their window, showing that they are supporting it.

Brackley Town Council is supportive of this initiative and a sticker is already displayed on the window of the Town Council Office at 9 Market Place. Anyone who wishes is welcome to pop in and sit for a while before continuing on their journey.

The council website and social media pages will highlight the scheme and hopes that many more shops and businesses in Brackley will take part.

Brief information and a small supply of stickers can be obtained from Brackley Town Council or by visiting: <http://www.anchor.org.uk/media-centre/campaigns/standing-up-4-sitting-down> to register the support of your business

Brackley Town hall Project

The Town Hall Restoration Project has been underway for over a year now and in that time, nothing has been left untouched! The roof upgrade that began on 6th March 2017 is now finished. Every single slate was removed and as many as possible were salvaged for reuse on the building. The timbers were repaired, replaced or restored as necessary and lots of care was taken to ensure that the roof will protect the Town Hall for generations to come.

The cupola and clock tower has been completely refurbished with timber repairs and lead work and houses our beautifully restored bells and clock proudly.

The clock and roof are now visible as the top level of scaffolding has been removed. The clock will be switched back on when the building reopens, so don't look to the clock for accurate time for a few more months to come! Inside, renovations continue in all areas, each stone has been restored or replaced and the walls, joists and other structures have been strengthened. The ceiling in both the lower and upper hall has been completely replaced using traditional materials and techniques; this also gave the builders the opportunity to place utility and data cables above the new ceilings.

The stained glass roundels are all in place and if you look closely enough through some of the gaps in the scaffold wrapping you can get a sneak peek at a few of them and they look beautiful!

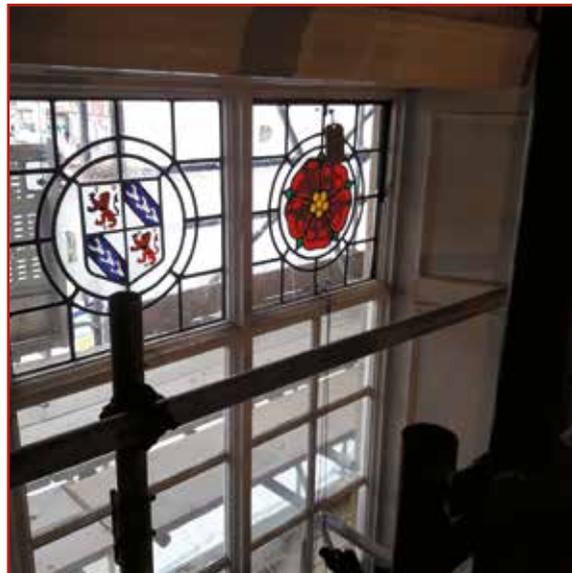
Activities and projects are as busy as ever, with our exhibition team volunteers researching in the library and Records Office so we can tell some of Brackley's stories inside its most prominent building.

Make sure you come along to Baa Baa Brackley on 21st April to watch the sheep show in the park!



Above: Roof tiles

Below: Stained glass roundels



THE RADSTONE PRIMARY SCHOOL APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

Applications are open for places in
Year 1 and Year 2 for September 2018.

The Hawksmoor Learning Trust is proud to be opening The Radstone, a brand new primary school in Brackley, in the heart of the local community on the new Radstone Fields development.

It is a uniquely attractive new primary school, combining both the traditional and the modern to provide state of the art facilities. It has extensive grounds, including three full sized football pitches and a Multi Use Games Area. We plan to make full use of this incredible resource to provide an outstanding curriculum in this exciting and stimulating setting.

We will be 'Building Excellence' in all aspects of our provision, delivering through the highest expectations, a talented staff team and a strong partnership with our community.

We aim to create a happy and vibrant school where doing the best we can for all children in our care is at the heart of everything we do.

Details of how to apply can be found using *The Hawksmoor Learning Trust* tab on the website: www.nicholashawksmoor.co.uk

Enquiries can be made to admissions@theradstone.academy
Telephone: 01327 351466



Dates for your Diary

Brackley Town Council currently meets in the Community Room within Brackley Old Fire Station, High Street on the 1st Monday of each month.

The Planning Committee meets twice monthly on the 1st and 3rd Mondays.

The Direct Responsibilities & General Purposes Committee and Finance & Policy Committee meet on 3rd Monday of each month.

Agenda's and Meeting Minutes can be found on the council's website:

www.brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk

Full details relating to events organised by Brackley Town Council can be viewed on the Community What's On Calendar by visiting www.brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk or Face Book Page Brackley Town Council where events organised by Community Groups can also be viewed if available.

MARCH	Event	Venue	Time
Thursday 1st	Community Bingo	Old Fire Station	2pm – 4pm
Saturday 10th	Town Mayor's Event – 'Mad March Ceilidh'	WI Hall, Manor Road	
		Tickets available from BTC Office	7pm – 11pm
Monday 26th	Annual Town Meeting	Waynflete Hall, Magdalen College School, Waynflete Avenue	7.30pm
Saturday 31st	Easter Egg Hunt	Brackley Town Park, High Street	T.B.C.
APRIL			
Thursday 5th	Community Bingo	Old Fire Station	2pm – 4pm
Sunday 15th	Town Mayor's Civic Service	St. Peter's Church, Brackley	3.30pm
Saturday 21st	Baa Baa Brackley	Old Fire Station & Town Park	10am – 4pm
Sunday 29th	Brackley Food Festival	Market Place, High Street	10am – 4pm
MAY			
Tuesday 1st	Brackley Morris Men	Piazza, Market Place	From 6.00am
Thursday 3rd	Community Bingo	Old Fire Station	2pm – 4pm
Saturday 12th	Annual Mayor Making	Waynflete Hall, Magdalen College School, Waynflete Avenue	12.00 noon

Brackley Town Council

9 Market Place, Brackley, Northants NN13 &AB

www.brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk

Telephone: 01280 702441



Brackley Town Council makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of all the information contained in this publication. However, the Council makes no representations or warranties whatsoever as to the accuracy, completeness or suitability for any purpose of the content and disclaims all such representatives and warranties whether expressed or implied to the maximum extent permitted by law. Any views expressed in this publication are the views of the authors and are not necessarily the views of Brackley Town Council.