



TOWN TALK

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF BRACKLEY TOWN COUNCIL



20 High Street, Brackley, NN13 7DS Tel: 01280 702441 Visit: www.brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk



OCTOBER 2022



HM QUEEN ELIZABETH II, 1926-2022

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THE MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Well, that's one third of my Mayoral year gone so it's time for me to review the last couple of months and see what's happened. Obviously, the major event was the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and the accession of King Charles III; the effect on the nation was profound and extended to Brackley where the council staff responded quickly to set in motion the plans to mark the passing.

The lowering of the Union Flag on the Town Hall to half-mast was achieved within 30 minutes of the announcement and the setting up of the flower garden in Town Park, first thing next morning. Books of Condolence were made available at various locations in the town and arrangements made for the acts that would follow in the period of national mourning. After the Accession Council had met and declared HM King Charles as monarch, instructions went to High Sheriffs across the country for a proclamation to be made of the accession. This was done at Northampton on Saturday and I had the honour and historic duty of making that proclamation outside the Town Hall on Sunday afternoon. I was delighted to see a large crowd in attendance to witness this event which probably will not occur again in my lifetime.

The following Sunday I, several Town Councillors and families attended a Memorial Service for our late Queen at St Peter's Church where a moving sermon on service and duty was preached by the Rev Rich Duncan, Vicar of Brackley. Light refreshments followed with a chance to chat to many people who had been in the congregation.

The Mourning Period ended on Tuesday 22 September, the Mayoress and I together with members of the council ground staff, collected the flowers that had been laid at the memorial site. These will be composted and used in the planting of a new tree in Brackley, to be known as The Queen's Tree. The exact location hasn't been decided yet – we will let everyone know when and where it will be.

That part of my 'mutterings' has dealt with a total of 13 days from the last two months – a very busy period indeed. However, the world does not stand still, even for the death of sovereigns, and life in Brackley continues.

Rather late in the article I bid a hearty welcome to our new Councillor for South Ward, Jeremy Gladwin. He won a hard-fought by-election to take his seat and will be an asset to the town and council.

During August I attended two events in the Town Park for young people and one for all ages. The first was the South Northants Youth Engagement Activity Day where lots of games and pastimes were available for all ages of 'youngsters'.

Somehow, I managed to find myself doing a commando crawl under netting while someone was photographing me. I haven't seen the pictures; I just hope the results aren't too embarrassing.

The second event was the Teddy Bears Picnic which involved me being hoisted aloft in a cherry picker and acting as Launch Chief for a couple of hundred parachuting teddies. I'm beginning to think that a full medical examination and check of life insurance is required of incoming Mayors.

The third event was the Brackley Classic Car Show which, due to Covid, had not been held for two years. A total of 153 cars were entered and displayed and a sum in excess of £2000 was raised for my charities, which just to remind you, are Medical Detection Dogs and Warwick and Northants Air Ambulance. Many thanks to Chris Cartmell, Jody Bowman and Atec Auto Technic for their help and support.

On 24 August a new name was added to the War Memorial in Brackley. Joseph Doherty, who was raised as an adopted child in Moreton Pinkney, married and lived in Manor Road, Brackley was killed on the Somme in August, 1916. His body was not recovered until 1928 and was re-buried in a Commonwealth War Graves cemetery in France. The Brackley War Memorial was erected in 1922 and, for some reason, his name was not entered on it. After a great deal of research by his family and assistance from the Brackley branch of the Royal British Legion and Brackley Town Council a coping stone was removed, engraved and replaced on the surrounding wall. Unfortunately, the War Memorial was designed to hold the names of the fallen only, with no space for additions. This is why the names of the fallen from World War 2 are engraved on slabs on either side of the gate.

Having opened Buzzy's Girls and the Old Fire Station Cafe in High Street, it was pleasing to see life returning to some of the town trading spots. I also attended the opening session of Chatty Café in the Lounge and, I am pleased to say, all have taken off very well.

Finally, the Charter Fair; I opened this at 5.30pm before the announcement of the Queen's death. On hearing the news, the fair stall owners decided to close the fair as a mark of respect to Her late Majesty. Happily the fair will return in October for a slightly shorter period, but, welcome none the less.

Well, that's a fairly lengthy resume of the last two months of my mayorship. I'll write again in the next edition.

Paul Wiltshire

Brackley Town Mayor



HEDGEROW WILDLIFE

Hedgerows are teeming with life. The importance of our hedgerow network cannot be overstated, especially at a time of worrying wildlife decline.

As we head into the colder months of the year our hedgerows serve as an important habitat for many species of our wildlife such as birds, mammals and insects, providing food and shelter. During the winter they provide feeding and roosting sites for both resident birds and winter visitors such as Fieldfares and Redwings.

Did you know? Hedges support up to 80% of our woodland birds, 50% of our mammals and 30% of our butterflies. A single hedge can support well over 2,000 different species of animals, plants, insects and fungi!

As well as helping to reverse the decline of biodiversity, the humble hedge also makes a huge contribution towards tackling climate change, preventing soil erosion, improving our air quality (by producing oxygen and trapping harmful particulates), assisting with reducing the air temperature in summer as well as making where we live more visually pleasing.

They can also provide food for humans – blackberries, sloes, elderflowers and haws have been used over the centuries in many recipes and are still foraged today by people keen for some wild food.

This long list of benefits shows how important hedgerows can be in the landscape and the need for them to be maintained, now and in the future.

Did you know? It is best to trim hedges in February so they retain their berries for birds over the winter. This is also outside of bird nesting season which is generally considered to be between March – September each year. It is an offence under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 to damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while it is in use or being built.

The Brackley Wildlife Trust Local Group has recently surveyed some hedges in Brackley on behalf of Brackley Town Council with a view to providing information on how best to manage those hedges for wildlife.

Upcoming Brackley Wildlife Events:

- Wednesday 26 October 7.30pm – A talk by BCN Wildlife Trust on wildlife work in Northamptonshire.
- Wednesday 23 November 7.30pm – Festive quiz night!

For further details visit: www.brackleywildlife.wordpress.com/talks-events

If you'd like to receive emails from Brackley Wildlife please visit the home page of the website and enter your email address.

Contact email: brackleywildlife@gmail.com



Editorial Notes:

This magazine is produced by Brackley Town Council. Town Talk magazine is for the people of Brackley to help keep residents informed of community news, services and events, and to meet its statutory duty to inform residents of council business.

Where copy is supplied we retain the right to refuse, edit: spelling, grammar, any material that may cause offence or upset and non-essential copy in order to fit the space allowed.

Thank you to all who have contributed to the October 2022 publication. The next issue will be in January 2023. Until then, please visit our website or social media channels for regular updates, news, projects, events and services in Brackley.

This edition is also available on our website as a PDF copy.

Artwork and printed by: Banbury Litho.

ANNUAL REPORT 2021-22

What did we do in 2021-2022?

Like 2020/21, 2021-2022 was dominated by the Covid-19 pandemic which continued to bring challenges at operational levels - our first meetings in 2021 were held remotely.

There were many highlights during the year with the return of some of our events following Covid-19. We also introduced several new events including the Teddy Bear Festival (in conjunction with the Brackley Elves), Party in the Park and the Christmas Tractor Run - we hope you all enjoyed them and we will be running them again in 2022/23. Other events included the South Northants Art Trail, Witchcraft and Wizardry Geo-Gaming, Brackley Fireworks, Lantern Workshops and the Brackley Wedding Fair. Our thanks must go to Mercedes AMG Petronas for their sponsorship of our Fireworks evening.

Our venues (Egerton Hall, the Old Fire Station and the Town Hall) were opened again in May 2021 and continued to be popular. Bookings for these can be made through our website or by telephoning the office.

Our open spaces and parks had a marked increase in usage and as a result of this, we installed extra dog waste bins and litter bins.

Extensive work was carried out on our existing tree stock as well as planting new trees and hedges. Our grounds team attended school assemblies to encourage pupils to plant and then nurture seeds until they are ready to be transplanted to our open spaces.

We added additional wild flower areas, had 2 play areas resurfaced and worked in collaboration with the Brackley Wildlife Trust to further improve biodiversity.

Halse Road cemetery has been managed and maintained by the council since it opened in 1963. This management included some clear up after a family of foxes partied hard and had a great time knocking things over and carrying things off. Tree maintenance and grass cutting is carried out throughout the year to maintain a pleasant appearance along with the flowerbeds at the entrance.

Town Council Staff

Town Clerk, Deputy Clerk, Communications, Marketing & Events Officer, Finance Officer and Administrative Assistant.

Operations Manager, Team Leader - Buildings and Grounds, Facilities Co-Ordinator, Assistant Groundsman/Cemetery Lead, 2 groundsmen and a part time Street Warden.

Council Meetings 2022/23

All meetings take place in the Civic Hall of the Town Hall and start at 7pm. These meetings include a public participation item where members of the public can address Councillors on matters relevant to the business of the council or its committee.

Our Full Council meetings take place on the first Monday of each month and all councillors are members. The schedule is subject to Bank Holidays and there are no meetings held during the month of August. Agendas are displayed outside the Town Hall and can also be found on the council's website.

Planning & General Works Committee

Committee meetings are held on the first and third Monday of each month. Planning applications can be viewed by visiting the West Northamptonshire Council planning portal and a list is also displayed with meeting agendas on the noticeboards and on the Town Council's website.

During the year 2021/22 Brackley Town Council received and made comment on 142 applications from the Local Planning Authority (West Northants Council).

2022/23 members: Councillors Bagot-Webb, Baker, Barrie, Gladwin, Kew, Langford, Nash, Sharps, Thompson, Weaver, P Wiltshire.

Direct Responsibilities & General Purposes Committee

Committee meetings are held on the third Monday of each month. This committee makes decisions and recommendations to the Full council on the management of parks, open spaces, cemetery and considers matters relating to the local environment in general.

2022/23 members: Councillors Baker, Barrie, Cartmell, Gladwin, Judd, Kew, Langford, Sharps, Tiller, E Wiltshire, P Wiltshire, Young.

Finance & Policy Committee

Committee meetings are held on the third Monday of each month. The committee makes decisions and recommendations to Full Council on all financial and policy matters under the discretion of the Town Council. This committee is also responsible for Best Value.

2022/2023 members: Councillors Bagot-Webb, Cartmell, Judd, Nash, Sharps, Thompson, Tiller, Weaver, E Wiltshire, P Wiltshire, Young.

Staffing Committee

Meeting on an ad hoc basis, this committee deals with all matters relating to staffing including recruitment, remuneration, welfare and other conditions of service of all employees.

2022/2023 members: Councillors Kew, Nash, Sharps, Weaver and P Wiltshire.

How is the Town Council Financed?

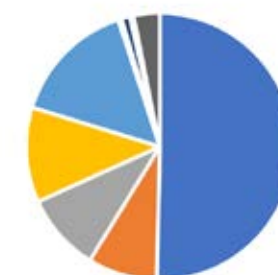
The majority of the Town Council's funds come from a Precept which is added to the Council Tax Levy set by the Principal Authority (West Northamptonshire Council). In 2021/22 the Precept was £865,450. Our other income is from the hiring of our venues and events.

Full details about the Town Council accounts can be seen at www.brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk.

Councillor Attendance Records for Council Year 2021/22

Councillors	Full Council 11 Meetings	Planning & General Works 21 Meetings	Direct Responsibilities & General Purposes 11 Meetings	Finance & Policy 11 Meetings	Extra Ordinary Meeting 2 Meetings
Anthony Bagot-Webb	11	18	non-member	7	2
Fiona Baker	10	19	6	non-member	1
Russ Barrie	8	19	7	non-member	2
Richard Butler	9	13	6	5	2
Chris Cartmell	11	non-member	10	10	1
Graham Judd	11	non-member	9	9	2
Jason Kew	11	18	8	non-member	2
Scott Langford	5	18	6	non-member	2
Kate Nash	10	19	non-member	6	2
Sue Sharps	11	non-member	9	9	1
Don Thompson	11	20	9	9	2
Bernie Tiller	8	non-member	11	11	2
Simon Weaver	10	19	non-member	8	2
Elaine Wiltshire	11	21	8	non-member	2
Paul Wiltshire	11	21	non-member	9	2
Luke Young	11	non-member	10	10	1

Gross Expenditure



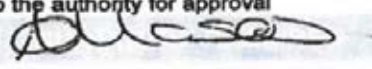
- General Admin & running costs 50.36%
- Units/Vehicles 8.42%
- Venues 9.46%
- Town Centre 11.51%
- Parks/Open Spaces 15.20%
- Cemetery 0.43%
- Grants 0.99%
- Civic 0.48%
- Events 3.16%

Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2021/22 for

Brackley Town Council				
	Year ending		Notes and guidance	
	31 March 2021 £	31 March 2022 £		
1. Balances brought forward	1,345,228	1,665,947	Total balances and reserves at the beginning of the year as recorded in the financial records. Value must agree to Box 7 of previous year.	
2. (+) Precept or Rates and Levies	839,867	865,450	Total amount of precept (or for IDBs rates and levies) received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.	
3. (+) Total other receipts	431,512	257,962	Total income or receipts as recorded in the cashbook less the precept or rates/levies received (line 2). Include any grants received.	
4. (-) Staff costs	438,349	483,176	Total expenditure or payments made to and on behalf of all employees. Include gross salaries and wages, employers NI contributions, employers pension contributions, gratuities and severance payments.	
5. (-) Loan interest/capital repayments	0	0	Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on the authority's borrowings (if any).	
6. (-) All other payments	512,311	704,875	Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cashbook less staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5).	
7. (=) Balances carried forward	1,665,947	1,601,308	Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. Must equal (1+2+3) - (4+5+6).	
8. Total value of cash and short term investments	1,682,603	1,611,361	The sum of all current and deposit bank accounts, cash holdings and short term investments held as at 31 March – To agree with bank reconciliation.	
9. Total fixed assets plus long term investments and assets	4,475,586	4,525,736	The value of all the property the authority owns – it is made up of all its fixed assets and long term investments as at 31 March.	
10. Total borrowings	0	0	The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).	
11. (For Local Councils Only) Disclosure note re Trust funds (including charitable)	Yes	No	N/A	The Council, as a body corporate, acts as sole trustee for and is responsible for managing Trust funds or assets.
			✓	N.B. The figures in the accounting statements above do not include any Trust transactions.

I certify that for the year ended 31 March 2022 the Accounting Statements in this Annual Governance and Accountability Return have been prepared on either a receipts and payments or income and expenditure basis following the guidance in Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities – a Practitioners' Guide to Proper Practices and present fairly the financial position of this authority.

Signed by Responsible Financial Officer before being presented to the authority for approval



Date 03/06/22

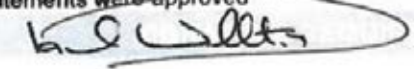
I confirm that these Accounting Statements were approved by this authority on this date:

06/06/22

as recorded in minute reference:

72/22

Signed by Chairman of the meeting where the Accounting Statements were approved



THE LATE JACK YATES - MAYOR OF BRACKLEY 1970 & 1971

FAMILY DONATION OF ARTWORK TO TOWN COUNCIL

Jack Yates moved to Brackley with his family in 1963. Encouraged by friends, he stood for the then Borough Council and became Mayor a few years later. (The Council became a Town Council, with a different remit, as part of the local government re-organisations of 1974 when the District Council was formed and based in Towcester.)

He always liked to do new things and to do existing tasks a little differently. Therefore, when it came to the official Christmas card that year, he decided that instead of again producing a card with just the town crest on it, he would commission, at his own expense, a picture from a local artist, Robert Pell. Mr Pell was already quite well-known and became more so.

This first card was the atmospheric depiction of the Town Hall on a drizzly winter day which resonated with many residents! The card was a great success and so a second was commissioned for the following year, also from Robert Pell. This picture has a different feel and style but is nonetheless a wonderful rendering of the beautiful church.

These pictures hung in the family lounge for the remainder of the lives of both Jack and Mary Yates and were much-loved and much-admired. When the house had to be emptied, however, the family decided that they belonged in the Town where they have their roots and where people will recognise and appreciate the subjects. They were therefore donated to the Council in 2022.

Jack and Mary Yates were well-known in the town, not just because of Jack's work on the Council. During his Mayoral period of office, they gained support for, developed and organised, both the French and German twinning arrangements. That was not without its challenges as there were then some people who were tentative about embracing friendly relations after the war. It was the young people, however, who swung public opinion, forcefully making the point at public meetings that they wanted to build strong friendly relations for a peaceful and happy future – and the twinings have certainly enabled many friendships, wonderful trips and experiences for many of the town's people over the years and continue to do so.

The official twinning documents are not signed by Jack as, by the time all the official agreements and arrangements were in place, his term of office was over. However, he did not do it for glory or recognition, just because he believed it to be the right way to give beneficial educational experiences to everyone, young and old, in the town and to promote friendship and understanding across Europe.

Jack and Mary also started the 50+ Club, which, continues to thrive and provide stimulating talks and experiences for approximately 100 of the town's mature citizens.



BRACKLEY TOWN COUNCIL LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE

Brackley Town Council is excited to announce the launch of our new redesigned website.

Over the past 12 months, we have been working with new website developers towards a website that is designed to help residents find what they need more easily. The brand-new site has been designed to make it easier to read council agendas, minutes, latest news, events and easily find and book our venue spaces online.

It is now easier than ever to access information and services from Brackley Town Council. The websites address will be exactly the same at www.brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk.

We are excited for residents to view our new site and welcome any feedback to georgia.connor@brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk.





A Statement from the Town Mayor Councillor Paul Wiltshire

All members of Brackley Town Council and staff were deeply saddened by the passing of our Sovereign and Head of State Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Brackley Town Mayor, Councillor Paul Wiltshire lead the community of Brackley during the 10-day period of National Mourning, showing respect and gratitude to the life and service of HM Queen Elizabeth II.

Councillor Paul Wiltshire
Town Mayor

HM QUEEN ELIZABETH II (1926-2022)

NATIONAL MOURNING: BRACKLEY TIMELINE

On Thursday 8 September, it was announced that our Head of State, Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II died peacefully at Balmoral castle.

The Union flag on top of Brackley Town Hall was lowered to half-mast on the same evening that Her Majesty passed away, whilst Egerton Hall was lit up in purple as a mark of respect to the Sovereign.

The next morning on Friday 9 September, the Mayor of Brackley, Councillor Paul Wiltshire opened the Books of Condolence in the Civic Hall of Brackley Town Hall with the first message of condolence along with his consort, Councillor Elaine Wiltshire.

Books of Condolence were open for all residents to sign from this day until Sunday 18 September. Council staff and councillors monitored the building from 8am in the morning until 7pm in the evening across the period of National Mourning.

In this time, many residents came along to write their deepest condolences and sympathies to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Councillor Paul Wiltshire also dropped off Books of Condolence to several care homes in Brackley for residents to sign.

All condolence books are now retained in the council archive.



On this same morning, a space was also made available in Brackley Town Park (High Street) where again Brackley Town Mayor, Councillor Paul Wiltshire lay the first bouquet of flowers to pay tribute to the life of Her Majesty.

Many poignant flowers and messages of sympathy were left from residents, along with drawings of Her Majesty Elizabeth II and her Royal corgis!



THE PROCLAMATION

On Saturday 10 September, His Majesty The King was proclaimed at the Accession Council at 10:00am, in the State Apartments of St James's Palace, London. The Union Flag at the Town Hall was raised to full mast.

A second Proclamation was then read at the Royal Exchange at midday, in front of the Lord Mayor of the City of London. The Proclamation was also read on this day in Edinburgh, Cardiff and Belfast.

On Sunday 11 September the County Proclamation was read by the High Sheriff in Northampton. The Union Flag was returned to half-mast.

Residents were invited to join Brackley Town Mayor, Councillors and staff on the Piazza outside of the Town Hall at 14.30 for the reading of the Local Proclamation of Ascension. Just before the reading, the Union Flag was raised to full-mast and after the reading, returned to half-mast

Hundreds of residents joined Councillors and Council staff on the Piazza, along with the 5th Brackley Scout Group and Brackley Athletic community groups. Thank you to everyone who attended the reading of the Local Proclamation of King Charles III, a fantastic turn out of support was made from Brackley on this historic day.



Video footage of The Proclamation can be found on the Brackley Town Council Facebook page.

Over the remaining days that followed, Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II left Scotland and returned to London. Brackley Town Council dressed the high street with Union Jack flags on the morning of her return to London. On each flag, there was a black sash attached as a mark of respect.

The flags stayed in place on the high street until the morning after the funeral (Tuesday 20 September).



On Sunday 18 September, the public were invited to take part in a National Moment of Reflection to mourn the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and reflect on her life and legacy.

The National Moment of Reflection took place at 8pm and was marked by a one-minute silence. Residents of Brackley were encouraged to mark the silence privately at home, or with friends and family.

The next day, on Monday 19 September, the nation observed a Day of National Mourning for the State Funeral for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. On this day, many shops, businesses, councils and services around the United Kingdom closed its doors and paused as the world took a day to reflect and pay their respects to The Queen and Royal family.

On Tuesday 20 September, at 9am lead by the Mayor and other Council members the first batch of flowers were sensitively removed to a trailer. The remaining flowers were then removed by Brackley Town Council staff, and these will be composted and used to plant a tree in the park which will be known as "The Queen's Tree". Further details on this tree will be announced next year.



MEN IN SHEDS

You've heard the one about the man who went into a pub, and...? Well, if he was with friends and not just sitting all alone, I trust he had a pretty good time, but if he had gone into a Shed, he would have had a much more enjoyable experience with people with similar interests. Of course, it could not be just any old shed, but a "Men in Sheds" shed. Never heard of them? Read on.

Men in Sheds is where people (and not only men) can bring their skills, however great or small, or none at all, to meet like-minded people and to undertake projects for themselves, or to support the local community: or just stop-by for tea and coffee with friends. This Australian invention has turned into an international enterprise with Sheds across the world and in the UK, including Buckingham and Banbury, but sadly not yet Brackley. But we can change that.

The aim is to build a membership, find a location, then beg, borrow, or buy the equipment and bring MIS to Brackley.

So, where do we start?

The first thing to do is set up a steering committee and begin the search for suitable premises, equip them and become part of the 600, non-profit, Men in Sheds in the UK. For more information you can go to: www.menssheds.org.uk.

Since most participants will likely have some sort of woodworking knowledge (however basic) the idea is, as a first step, to establish a facility concentrating on woodworking, though some other organizations have focused on metal work and electrical repairs. It will be up to the members to decide the direction the Brackley MIS will take. The aim is also to make it a support for members and for the community, by working with local volunteer organisations, repair cafes and the like to carry out projects for the benefit of Brackley and its residents.

Remember, experts, DIYers, and absolute beginners – all will be welcome. Anyone interested in forming a Men in Sheds and bringing this valuable amenity to Brackley: or believe that they can help, please contact Chick Parkinson at:

parkin@flash.net | Mobile: 07931 255 562

BRACKLEY COMMUNITY GRANTS NOTICE

GRANT APPLICATIONS FOR 2022/23 ARE OPEN

Brackley Town Council allocates money each year to grant fund local organisations which benefit the town. As the Town Council's funding comes from its precept, it is important that groups applying for funding is of benefit to Brackley residents.

Please visit our website or email accounts@brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk for the Grants Policy and this year's Application Form.

Grant applications for financial year 2022/2023 will close on Friday 27 January 2023.

Grants Allocated in 2022	
Organisation	Amount Granted
Brackley Wildlife Trust Local Group	£715.00
South Northants Volunteer Bureau (SNVB)	£2,000.00
Oxfordshire Play Association	£2,000.00
Brackley Community Carnival	£2,000.00* *Grant returned when Community Carnival Committee dissolved
Brackley Youth Theatre	£1,250.00
Brackley Jubilee Choir	£500.00

CHATTY CAFE SCHEME COMES TO BRACKLEY

PAINTING THE TOWN YELLOW!

Look out for the 'Chatter & Natter tables' popping up in your community.



The 'Chatter & Natter table' is a wonderful way of encouraging people to talk to others. The scheme was founded by Alexandra Hoskyn OBE, after a morning sat in a cafe, where she noticed that no one was talking to each other. She found that by simply putting 'Chatter & Natter' signs on tables in cafes it created a space for people to come together and talk.

It's official! The Chatty Cafe Scheme is reducing loneliness and social isolation by getting people chatting! Coventry University have published their May 2022 initial report and the key findings are that 100% of Chatter & Natter table users said it made them feel less lonely and socially isolated, plus, 97% of venues feel that the Chatter & Natter tables are encouraging community spirit. The Chatty Cafe Scheme commented that, "The coronavirus pandemic has highlighted those experiencing loneliness and we know that simply having a chat can brighten someone's day."

Who can join in?

Anyone... if you are on your own; in a couple; with a friend; if you are a carer; parents/grandparents and babies; young people; older people; anyone over the age of 18 years old can attend. If you fancy having a chat, going along to a Chatter & Natter table can be a wonderful way to meet local people within your community. The scheme says, "It is not about making friends just having good old fashioned human interaction."

For more information, please visit their website: thechattycafescheme.co.uk

PAINT THE TOWN YELLOW CAMPAIGN

Chatty Cafe Scheme

The 'Chatter & Natter table' is a wonderful way of encouraging people of all ages to talk to others and not feel so socially isolated.

Location: The Lounge Cafe Bar

Day: Thursday's
Time: 3pm – 5pm
www.theloungecafebar.co.uk

How can I find a Chatter & Natter table?

Look for this sticker in the windows of venues in your local area. Venues displaying this sticker, will have a Chatter & Natter table set aside with a yellow table talker sign displayed in the middle.

Stay for five minutes while you have your drink or longer if you're enjoying the conversation!

Having a chat can brighten someone's day

www.thechattycafescheme.co.uk

BRACKLEY TOWN COUNCIL EVENTS AUTUMN/WINTER 2022

Event	Location/Date	Time
Brackley Fireworks sponsored by Mercedes-AMG Petronas Formula One Team	Magdalen College School – St John Site: Saturday 5 November	17:00 – 19:30 (Free Entry)
Brackley Armistice Commemoration	Brackley War Memorial: Friday 11 November	11:00
Brackley Remembrance Service & Parade	The parade will commence from Winchester House and finish at Brackley War Memorial for the Service of Remembrance: Saturday 13 November	Parade commences: 14:30 Service of Remembrance: 15:00
Brackley Christmas Lantern Parade & Light Switch On	Lantern parade will meet at Magdalen College School, St John Site car park and finish on: Saturday 26 November	Parade commences at 16:30 Light switch on at 17:30
Brackley Christmas Tractor Run	Route will start from Sainsburys car park, up to Egerton Hall, down Humphries Drive, across Banbury Road and back up the High Street: Sunday 11 December	18:00
Brackley Community Christmas Carols	Brackley Piazza (outside Brackley Town Hall): Saturday 18 December	18:00
Brackley Christmas Classic Cars	Brackley Market Place & Car Park: Tuesday 27 December	10:30 – 14:00

Christmas Lantern Workshops – Book On Now!

Decorate your lanterns ready for the Christmas Lantern Parade and Light Switch On! (See parade event details above).

If you would like to book your child onto a workshop, please call the office on: 01280 702 441 during office hours or alternatively email: office@brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk. All children will need to be accompanied.

Venue: Old Fire Station Community Room

Sunday 6 November | Saturday 12 November | Saturday 19 November | Sunday 20 November

Sessions begin from 10am, 12noon and 2pm.

Price: £5.00 per child (includes lantern, light, elastic bands and cane) + £2.50 for additional siblings

If you are unable to attend a workshop on any of the above dates, do not panic, we are selling the lantern packs for parents to purchase and collect from the Brackley Town Council office so you can decorate at home instead. Price £2.50.



Peter Hodgkinson - Resident Achievement!

After 978 miles and 57,926 ft of climbing, Peter had made it to John 'O Groat from Land's End. It was a long last day in the mist and the cold and the last 10 miles felt like an eternity but he finally got there. Peter took on this challenge with the support of Alzheimers Research UK as his chosen charity raising a total of £2,334 for Alzheimers Research UK. The donations will mean a lot to Alzheimers Research UK who have been incredibly supportive throughout. Peter would like to pass on his thanks to his family for being there for him all the way from End to Ender. He couldn't have done this without them. Eat, Sleep, Ride, Repeat!

Well done Peter from everyone at Brackley Town Council! 🏆



BRACKLEY TOWN FC PLAYER DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

Brackley Town Football Club is an FA Community Charter Standard football club with a proud position in the local community. Our core values are based around not only helping young people to become better footballers, but also to become better people.

We have a myriad of teams, both boys and girls, at the PDC, ranging from Under 7s up to Under 18s. Each player is given the opportunity to train and develop their skills throughout their footballing journey. They play in local leagues and make their way through our age groups as they get older.

We run a multitude of clubs and programmes for all ages and abilities. Our popular half-term Football Camps run during the school holidays for boys and girls aged 5-15. During term-time, our Saturday Soccer School is great for little ones aged 4-6 years old.

Brackley Town PDC has also been appointed an SSE Wildcats Girls Football Centre by the FA. This means that we provide girls aged 5+ from Brackley and the surrounding areas with regular opportunities to play football.

For even younger children, we also run Soccer Tots for ages 2-4 years old. These sessions take place every Monday during term time from 9:30-10:30am on the all-weather pitch at St James Park.

One of our most successful programmes is our Schools Partnership Programme. Our UEFA-qualified coaches visit local primary schools to deliver fun, challenging and inspiring sports lessons throughout the academic year. We are proud to deliver such an important project and we are very pleased with the impact this has on children in our local area.

We are always happy to welcome newcomers to the PDC and we're sure that you will find something suitable for your child at Brackley Town Player Development Centre. Visit our website www.brackleytownfcpcdc.co.uk for more information.



LET'S RECLAIM OUR FOOTPATHS

As many residents will have seen, our grounds team have begun hedge cutting. Over the next few months, Brackley Town Council will be working to cut all the hedges that the council are responsible for – that's several miles of hedges!

In line with RSPB guidance, we do not normally commence hedge cutting until after the 1 September unless hedges are causing obstruction or at the request of the police to help with anti-social behaviour.

In Brackley, many of the hedges and trees at the sides and front of properties are resident's responsibility. Please ensure if you do have a hedge or tree next to a road or footpath, you ensure it is not obstructing the footway or causing a nuisance to the road.

During the winter, the grounds team will also be carrying out works on our many thousands of trees within the town. This will include felling or pruning. It is vitally important that we look

after our existing trees so sometimes over crowded areas are thinned out or trees that are in poor health are removed.

All works are carried out under guidance of our arboriculture expert and the wildlife trust, as part of our 3-year rolling tree surveying plan.

We will also be planting more young trees and hedges, and adding more wild areas and wild flower meadows. Despite looking a little brutal when first carried out, the team are also planning to lay some hedges this year which over time creates a great habitat for wildlife.

We are encouraging any residents or children within the town to grow trees from seeds, which our grounds team would then be happy to plant once they are a couple of years old. Please do get in touch with us if you would like to discuss any young trees for planting.



CONTACT US

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NN13 7DS

FOLLOW US

Visit our social media channels for all the latest news, projects, events and services.

📘 @brackleytowncouncil 🐦 @brackleycouncil
📷 @brackleytowncouncil

Attention Brackley residents!

If you would like to advertise any community groups, achievements, events or services to feature in the next Town Talk magazine, please email georgia.connor@brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk or call 01280 702 441.

We would love to hear from you.