



# TOWN TALK

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF BRACKLEY TOWN COUNCIL

20 High Street, Brackley, NN13 7DS Tel: 01280 702441 Visit: [www.brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk](http://www.brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk)



JANUARY 2023

**£3,326 RAISED  
FOR YELLOW  
WELLIES!**



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THE MAYOR’S MESSAGE

Looking at my diary, it’s three months since I wrote my previous Mayor’s Message and I realise that I am two thirds of the way through my term of office.

In October the financial planning for the 23/24 budget began and the councillors and council officers began to work out what the next financial year will look like.

Further details of our 23/24 budget are included in this publication and on our website.

The 5 November being a Saturday, meant that the annual fireworks display could be held on the actual day and not somewhere near it. A great display on the St John Field (which was once again sponsored by Mercedes – thank you) was attended by well over 10,000 people, and, from their reactions on leaving the site; thoroughly enjoyed. Thank you to all our staff and volunteers who worked hard to make it such a success.

On Armistice Day, a short ceremony was held at 11am, when children from Brackley schools assembled at the War Memorial to remember the fallen, particularly those from Brackley.

The full Remembrance Day ceremony was carried out on Sunday 13 November when the people of Brackley came together in commemoration of those who suffered and died in conflicts that seem to have been continuous since 1945. Remembrance Day is always a sombre experience, reminding us every year of those who put themselves in harm’s way in defence of other people and their wellbeing and the effect it has on everyone, particularly those left behind. Those of us who have soldiered know the cost of war on our comrades and their relatives.

As always, We Will Remember Them.

On 17 November I was delighted to attend a performance of The Pirates of Penzance produced by Nick Planas at Egerton Hall. A band of young musicians conducted by Nick played for an excellent cast of singers and resulted in a delightful performance that was greatly enjoyed by the capacity audience. Thank you, Nick and everyone who took part.

As the build up to Christmas began it was a pleasure to look in at the lantern making workshops held in the Old Fire Station Community Room where youngsters were making the lanterns they would be carrying at the procession prior to the switch on of the Brackley Christmas Lights. I was really impressed at the artistic ingenuity of the lantern makers, not being of an artistic nature myself I can still recognise it in others and see the pleasure they have in it.

Saturday 26 November was a busy day starting off with the planting of a tree from the Queen’s Living Tree at the Jubilee celebrations in the open space at Rose Drive. The Living Tree, consisting of young trees and saplings was distributed across the UK to be planted as part of the Queen’s Canopy of Trees campaign. Northamptonshire received four trees, one of which was presented to Brackley in recognition of the efforts of 5th Brackley Scouts in their planting and nurturing of trees in Brackley. They were well represented at the planting ceremony

which was attended by Morcea Walker, the Vice Lord Lieutenant of Northamptonshire and Paul Parsons, representing the Queen’s Canopy and the scouts were proud to be honoured for their efforts.

Quickly changing footwear, we then went to Waynflete Infants School to open their Christmas Bazaar and enjoy a good browse among the various stalls. An excellent attendance at a well organised event which was greatly enjoyed by all the pupils, parents and friends who attended.

After that there was time for a quick meal and then down to the St John field for the lantern procession leading to the switch on of the Christmas lights. Once again, many thanks to all who attended - the lights looked magnificent as usual.

The next day I was at Skate Sunday, a skateboard training event organised by South Northants Youth Engagement to get young skaters ready for the long-awaited arrival of the Brackley Skate Park, which we hope to bring you further news on very soon.

I had great pleasure in opening the Christmas Bazaar at Brackley Care Home and somehow found myself singing with the Brackley Male Voice Choir. It must have been the mulled wine as normally I keep a discreet silence except in large crowds, my singing voice being rather raucous. However, generosity and Christmas spirit prevailed and on-one complained. Elaine and I attended the WI carol service at Brackley Methodist Church in December and I was able to hide my voice in a larger congregation.

The third last event of the year was the Tractor Run around Brackley in aid of the Yellow Wellies charity. A total of 64 decorated tractors and four other vehicles including the Brackley fire tender toured the town to the delight of a lot of people spread all around Brackley to see the show.

The penultimate event of the year was the Carol Service outside the Town Hall with Brackley Band providing the music, Waynflete Lodge offering mulled wine and town councillors and staff handing out hot chocolate. Bad weather and a football final limited attendance this year, but, people had a thoroughly enjoyable evening with the Rev Rich offering a blessing to mark the meaning of Christmas as celebrated by the Christian Church.

The final event of 2022 was the Classic Car Show held on the Market Place, car park and High Street on the Tuesday after Christmas. This event was organised, as before by, Cllr Chris Cartmell and the team from the August show. A good attendance of interesting cars and drivers made an excellent break between Christmas and New Year.

I started this message wondering how I was going to write enough but I seem to have succeeded so I finish here and since it will be February before you see my efforts, wish you all a belated Happy New Year.

Paul Wiltshire  
Brackley Town Mayor

Thank you to all who have contributed to this January 2023 publication. The next issue will be in April 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.

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.

YOUR LOCAL TOWN COUNCILLORS  
CONTACT DETAILS

Town Mayor: Paul Wiltshire Deputy Town Mayor: Sue Sharps

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Cllr Paul Wiltshire  
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Councillor Vacancy  
Brackley East Ward

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Cllr Sue Sharps  
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Cllr Fiona Baker  
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Brackley Town Council is made up of 16 councillors and are elected every four years to represent their particular Wards. All Town Councillors are volunteers and receive no payment.

BRACKLEY TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

FEBRUARY 2023

Planning & General Works, Finance & Policy, Direct  
Responsibilities & General Purposes Committee Meeting Monday 20 February – 19:00

MARCH 2023

Full Council Meeting Monday 6 March – 19:00

Planning & General Works, Finance & Policy, Direct  
Responsibilities & General Purposes Committee Meeting Monday 20 March – 19:00

APRIL 2023

Full Council Meeting Monday 3 April – 19:00

Planning & General Works, Finance & Policy, Direct  
Responsibilities & General Purposes Committee Meeting Monday 17 April – 19:00

All meetings are held in the Civic Hall (Brackley Town Hall). Members of the public are welcome to attend all meetings.



## KING CHARLES III CORONATION SATURDAY 6 MAY 2023 – SAVE THE DATE!

Brackley Town Council is working with Councillors and the local community groups to organise a one-day family fun event in Brackley to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III. More information will be announced to residents as soon as the finer details are confirmed.

The Government has also confirmed an extra bank holiday to extend the celebrations on Monday 8 May.

If you would like to express your interest in becoming a food trader or having a community stall at this event, please get in touch with [georgia.connor@brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk](mailto:georgia.connor@brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk).

## REFLECTION OF EVENTS 2022

Whilst writing this in January, the council staff have now had a well-earned rest from the busy festive events season and eager to go for 2023!

Once again, we would like to say a big thank you to the residents of Brackley for giving us such an incredible turnout for all events in 2022. It was quite the year with the Platinum Jubilee celebrations, Classic Cars, Teddy Bear Festival, Fireworks, Remembrance Service, Lanterns, Light Switch On, Carols and many more!

Our second annual Christmas Tractor Run went ahead on Sunday 11 December. Due to the large number of tractors we had signed up this year, we had to begin at Sainsbury's car park. For the second year running, local farmers and tractor drivers came together to put on a spectacular festive convoy, all with the aim to raise money for the Farm Safety Foundation – Yellow Wellies. We were overjoyed to announce that the total raised reached an outstanding £3,326.00. Thank you to everyone who donated and showed great generosity to this much-loved charity event in these difficult times. See our front cover for a marvelous tractor photo outside of the Town Hall!

A special mention and thank you to our volunteers who selflessly put themselves forwards to help at our events and play a vital role in the community. If you are able to give up some time in 2023 and want to join the exciting events team, please get in touch.

We have also published an events feedback form on our website and social media. Please do head over when you have five minutes and fill out this short survey. We would love to hear your thoughts and feedback which will help us improve and shape the future of the events calendar going forwards.

Keep an eye out on our website and social media for the Brackley Town Council 2023 event dates. They will be published this week online and also in the next Town Talk magazine.

Finally, if you are a local trader that would like to be on our radar for any future events, please get in touch with [georgia.connor@brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk](mailto:georgia.connor@brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk).

Thank you.



# BRACKLEY TOWN COUNCIL



## Let's talk about the budget...

The Town Council is required by law to prepare a budget in order to calculate its precept requirement. The budget must give details of planned expenditure for the financial year ensuring that financial resources are aligned to the priorities of the Council. The Town Council is keen to provide local services for Brackley residents as your first tier of Local Government.

Brackley Town Council owns and manages a wide range of facilities and services on behalf of the community including the Town Hall, Old Fire Station, Egerton Hall, public toilets, open spaces, parks and playgrounds. For a full list please see our website [www.brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk](http://www.brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk).

This coming year is expected to bring additional pressures as caution remains from the impact of the cost of living and in particular the rising costs in energy, fuel and food. As a result of this, we have been carefully reviewing the impact of the economic difficulties in the setting of the 2023/24 budget.

The figures relating to the Town Council's 2023 budget are shown overleaf to a total of £1,233,635.

# Where does the £1,233,635 Brackley Town Council budget come from?

## What is the precept?

The precept is the Town Council’s share of the council tax. It is collected on our behalf by West Northamptonshire Council and fills the gap between the Town Council’s planned expenditure and its estimated income. Town Council do not receive any direct funding from central government and so the precept is a hugely important part of a Town Council’s income.

**Total precept for Brackley Town Council: £1,009,630**

ANNUAL PRECEPT	INCOME FROM SERVICES
£1,009,630	£224,005
81.84%	18.16%

## What does it cost per average household (Band D)?

Annual cost per household from 1 April 2023:

- £169.70 yearly
- £3.26 weekly

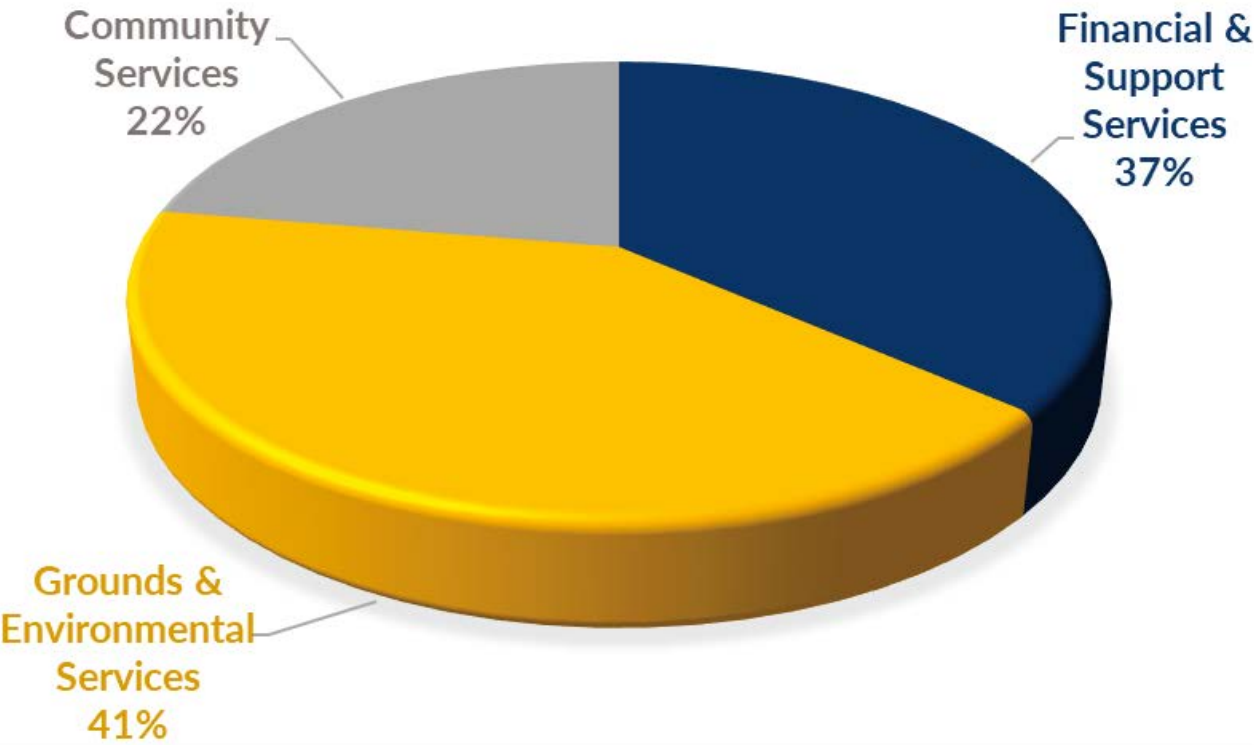
An increase of **£15.77** per year / **30p** per week for each household.

# Budget 2023/24

## Priorities 2023/24

- To continue providing a quality service to our residents
- To work with outside agencies to improve Brackley High Street
- Biodiversity – tree planting, rewilding and hedge laying
- Further engagement with schools and community groups
- To improve youth provision within the town
- To continue providing community events and a celebration event for King Charles III Coronation

## Expenditure 2023/24



Budget 2023/24 Expenditure

COMMUNITY SERVICES	GROUNDS & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	FINANCE & SUPPORT SERVICES
Town Hall	Grounds Administration	Council Administration
Old Fire Station	Open Spaces	Support Services – IT, professional fees, insurance, etc
Egerton Hall	Playgrounds	Civic Costs
Public Toilets	Biodiversity	Office Space
Elections	Vehicles	
Website/Town Talk/Newsletters	Grass Cutting	
War Memorial	Ditches, Hedges and Trees	
Christmas Lights	Flowerbeds	
Community Events		
£279,305	£505,203	£499,127

What do you get for your council tax?

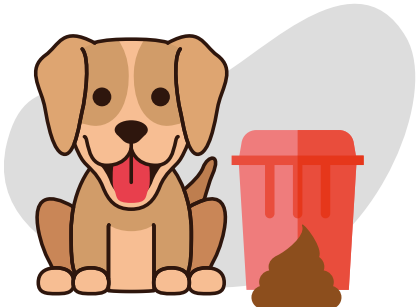
Some of the functions and facilities the Town Council provides for £3.26 a week...



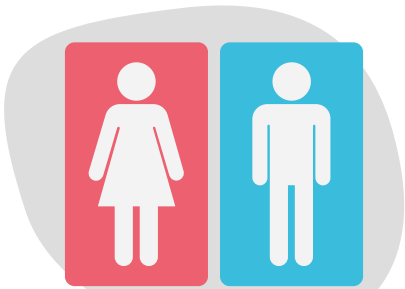
Community Events



Halse Road Cemetery



Litter & Dog Waste Bins



Public Toilets



Charter Market



Floral Displays & Christmas Lights



Open Spaces & Playgrounds



Community Venues x 3



## WE ARE RECRUITING!

Are you looking for a role that supports the community? We are looking for two enthusiastic and committed individuals to join our well-established team to help us keep our three community centres and open spaces maintained to a high standard.

The roles are varied and we are seeking people who are customer focused, with a great attitude and eagerness to develop skills and knowledge whilst having pride in the town and its assets.

### Facilities Assistant

- Salary scale 7-12 (£22,369 – £24,496)
- Minimum of 10 hours up to 37 hours. Working hours will vary and be mostly outside of office hours.
- Full job description available online or Brackley Town Council office.

### Estates Person

- Salary scale 7-12 (£22,369 - £24,496)
- 37 hours per week. Flexible including evenings and weekends.
- Full job description available online or Brackley Town Council office.

The roles will require an enhanced DBS and authorisation to work in the UK.

### Benefits include:

- Excellent local government pension scheme
- Holiday pay scheme and sick pay
- Employee assistance programme

For an application form and job description, please visit our vacancies page on our website ([www.brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk](http://www.brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk)) or email [deputy@brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk](mailto:deputy@brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk). Alternatively, you can visit our office to pick up an application pack.



## HEDGE LAYING PROJECT

From mid-January, the Brackley Town Council estates team will be restoring and laying around 100 metres of hedge at St James Lake. This is part of a CPRE grant funded project to help improve biodiversity in the town and create long lasting hedges which will provide a habitat for a wide range of wild life.

The project will start with a hedge laying course for some of our estates team and volunteers. In earnest, we are keen to involve the community so skills can be passed on and further areas of hedge can be restored in the coming years.

If you would like to get involved in this hedge laying project, we will be working during various week days and plan to run weekend sessions as well.

The restoration will involve laying the existing hedge by thinning out excess growth and replanting any gaps with new hedging plants.

Laying hedges promotes growth in the lower parts of the hedge which then provides a diverse habitat for a wide range of wildlife and allows wild flowers to flourish.

We will also be creating 100m of new hedge which again in time will improve much needed habitats and biodiversity.

We are keen to get as many people involved in this project from all age groups and abilities. There are many jobs which you can help with big or small.

If you wish to get involved in the project, please contact Brackley Town Council on **01280 702441** or email [office@brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk](mailto:office@brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk).



## RECYCLE WITH THE RADSTONE

We are the Year 6 class of The Radstone Primary School. Our school is opposite Poppyfields Park and our classroom overlooks the whole park. This park calls people to play with the fantastic equipment for children of all ages but one day we realised that there were no recycling bins in the park! We wanted to change this so we decided to take action. We contacted Brackley Town Council and were lucky enough to have Mark Stopps, Operations Manager come in to school to answer our questions. To our surprise, we learnt that the Town Council had already tried putting recycling bins in to the park but they weren't used properly – things that couldn't be recycled ended up in the recycling bins. We didn't realise this was a problem, but Mark explained that one piece of general waste in a recycling lorry means that none of the contents of the lorry can be recycled!

### WHAT'S GOING TO CHANGE?

We have persuaded the Town Council to give Brackley another chance and put a recycling bin back into Poppyfields Park! This will be unveiled in the spring. To keep this bin, we all need to use it well and put the right rubbish in the right bin.



### WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

Recycle your rubbish

Enjoy a cleaner park with us!

Clean your recycling... if it's not clean it can't be recycled!

You can make a difference!

Check before putting something in the recycling bin – if you're not sure, don't recycle it!

Look at the bins – will you Bin it with Billy or Recycle with Michael?!

Every one of us can make a difference!



## DID YOU KNOW?



Pringles tubes are one of the most difficult things to recycle because they are made of lots of different materials!



Polystyrene can't be recycled through kerbside recycling.

A plastic bottle takes at least 450 years to decompose.



There are three types of recycling – mechanical, energy and chemical.



## 3Bs Radio Broadcasting NOW

3Bs Radio are a community-based Radio Station based at The University of Buckingham, broadcasting to Brackley, Buckingham, Bicester and the surrounding areas.

The station launched in October with a number of local presenters providing a mix of shows and content tailored to the area. As part of the stations output, we provide live commentary of Brackley Town FC matches both home and away across the network.

3Bs Radio is an internet-based station, which is available online and also on the Amazon Alexa smart speaker. We are looking to be listed on other smart speakers as well and have also applied to be on DAB as part of the submissions of NOxDab and BucksDAB to OFCOM.

The presenters provide a variety of music, chat and local news across various shows. During the evenings a number of shows showcase different genres of music such as soul, rock, progressive rock, world music, northern soul and disco, covering songs from the 60s all the way to the present day.

Run by volunteers, 3Bs relies on the support of local businesses and clubs to broadcast and is looking for more local groups to join the station and highlight the good work they do to a wider audience.

**If you were looking to support the station or join our team, please contact us on: [hello@3bsradio.co.uk](mailto:hello@3bsradio.co.uk)**



## Can you help? Men in Sheds – Brackley Let's make it happen...



Join us in our quest to establish a Men in Sheds in Brackley. After a really encouraging first meeting in November 2022, we are now looking for premises where we can create a workshop. This will aim to bring together men and women of all abilities and ages to undertake projects for the community themselves or just to meet over a cup of tea or coffee with like-minded friends.

We have received a most generous donation of tools and are looking for short-term, secure storage for them until we have our own premises. Further donations and any ideas on the shed's potential location will be very much welcomed. If you are interested or can help, please contact Chick Parkinson on 07931 255562 or email: [parkin@flash.net](mailto:parkin@flash.net).

**For updates on Men in Sheds – Brackley, please go to: [meninshedsbrackley.uk](http://meninshedsbrackley.uk)**



## ANNUAL TOWN MEETING 2023

The Annual Town Meeting will be held at Egerton Hall on Thursday 13 April. Time to be confirmed.

We would like to hear from community groups and organisations who are interested in discussing their opportunities within the town for residents and youth groups.

Please contact [office@brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk](mailto:office@brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk) if you would like to register your interest. We look forward to hearing from you.



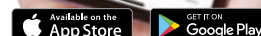
# EXPLORE

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## Brackley Area Volunteer Car Service

We are pleased to announce that we now offer a face to face service to compliment our telephone service for booking your car journeys or answering your queries.

We look forward to welcoming you to the following locations:

Wednesdays 1000-1200 Brackley Town Football Club

Thursdays 1000-1200 Brackley Library

Fridays 1000-1200 Brackley Medical Centre

# 01280 841099



Registered charity: 1104848

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## A NEW ACTIVITY FOR A NEW YEAR? JOIN THE BRACKLEY MORRIS MEN...

**The Brackley Morris Men** have a long colourful history and are always delighted to welcome newcomers to help preserve this ancient piece of our local heritage.

**This year, 2023**, marks the four hundredth anniversary of their earliest record. It's a solid silver communion plate presented to the parish in 1623 by seven men understood to have been the Morris Men. Their names and the date 1623 are inscribed on the plate. The plate is still kept safely in St Peters Church to prevent further wear and tear but is brought out on special occasions and re-presented by the current side to mark their continued association with the Church.

**Their spiritual home remains in the heart of Brackley.** They hold weekly practices in the Town Hall and have regular performances on Brackley Market Place, including at midday on Boxing Day and at 5.30am on May Day morning. They also perform throughout the year at fetes, festivals and other celebrations both in Brackley and further afield.

**Newcomers are always welcome.** No cost, no commitment, just a chance to try it for yourself. Music and dance works wonder for your mental & physical wellbeing, so why not go along to the Town Hall at 8.00pm on Thursday evenings to see what it's all about.

**Website:** [www.thebrackleymorrismen.org.uk](http://www.thebrackleymorrismen.org.uk)

**Facebook:** The Brackley Morris Men

**Email:** [brackleymorris@gmail.com](mailto:brackleymorris@gmail.com)



## Brackley Sea Cadets

are pleased to announce **GROUNDWORK**,  
in partnership with **HS2**, have allocated a  
funding grant for water sports equipment.

Boating activities are from April through to  
October. We take cadets from 10-18 years  
and volunteers from 18 years upward.



Come and join Brackley Sea  
Cadets and join in the fun!



To join us call: 07955 896890 or email:  
[info@brackleyseacadets.org.uk](mailto:info@brackleyseacadets.org.uk)  
For further info scan the QR code below.



Working in  
Partnership with

# HS2



TS Tidespring



## BRACKLEY PLAYERS AN EVENING OF THREE ONE-ACT SEASONAL PLAYS

Come the Spring half-term in February, Brackley Players will be performing an Evening of Three One-Act Seasonal Plays. Directed by members Alice Adams and Lynn Milne, these are guaranteed to amuse and entertain.

**Venue:** Southfield Primary Academy, Banbury Road,  
Brackley, NN13 6AU

**When:** Wednesday 15, Thursday 16 and Friday 17 February

**Time:** The show will start at 7:30pm.

**Tickets:** Tickets cost £10 per person (concessions at £8) and are available from the Old Hall Bookshop in Market Place or via the Brackley Players website: [www.brackleyplayers.org.uk](http://www.brackleyplayers.org.uk)

You are invited to bring your own drinks and nibbles, but you are asked please to refrain from bringing any nuts on to the premises as some of the pupils have severe allergies. Brackley Players looks forward to welcoming you.



When not boating, we meet at Southfield School Brackley. Monday evenings 7-9pm.





## Have you heard about the ABILITY Bus? BUS SERVICE FOR BRACKLEY



The Bus Service operating in Brackley and surrounding areas is brought to you by **ABILITY**; a not for profit organisation operating a community bus service for residents in West Northants. The **BRACKLEY BEE** operates in and around Brackley taking people to where they need to go weekly on a Wednesday and Friday. We also run a service to Banbury once a month. With a valid bus pass, you can travel with us completely free of charge, otherwise a standard fare applies.

### WHERE DO WE GO?

Brackley town centre, direct to Waitrose, Sainsburys and Tesco.  
Banbury town centre, Gateway Retail Park and direct to all the supermarkets.

### HOW TO USE THE SERVICE

You need to register for the service via our website, call us or post a registration form and then phone to book your seat.

We can offer a plus service to our members picking people up from a landmark that is closer to your home than a bus stop or even pick you up from your own front door.

We also offer a range of exciting day trips to our members that includes gardens centres, places of interest and shopping outlets such as Rushden Lakes.

Contact us by email on [admin@abilitycic.org.uk](mailto:admin@abilitycic.org.uk)  
Check out our website at [www.abilitycic.org.uk](http://www.abilitycic.org.uk)

## CONTACT US

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## FOLLOW US

Visit our social media channels for all the latest news, projects, events and services.  
f @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](mailto:georgia.connor@brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk) or call 01280 702 441.  
We would love to hear from you.