



TOWN TALK

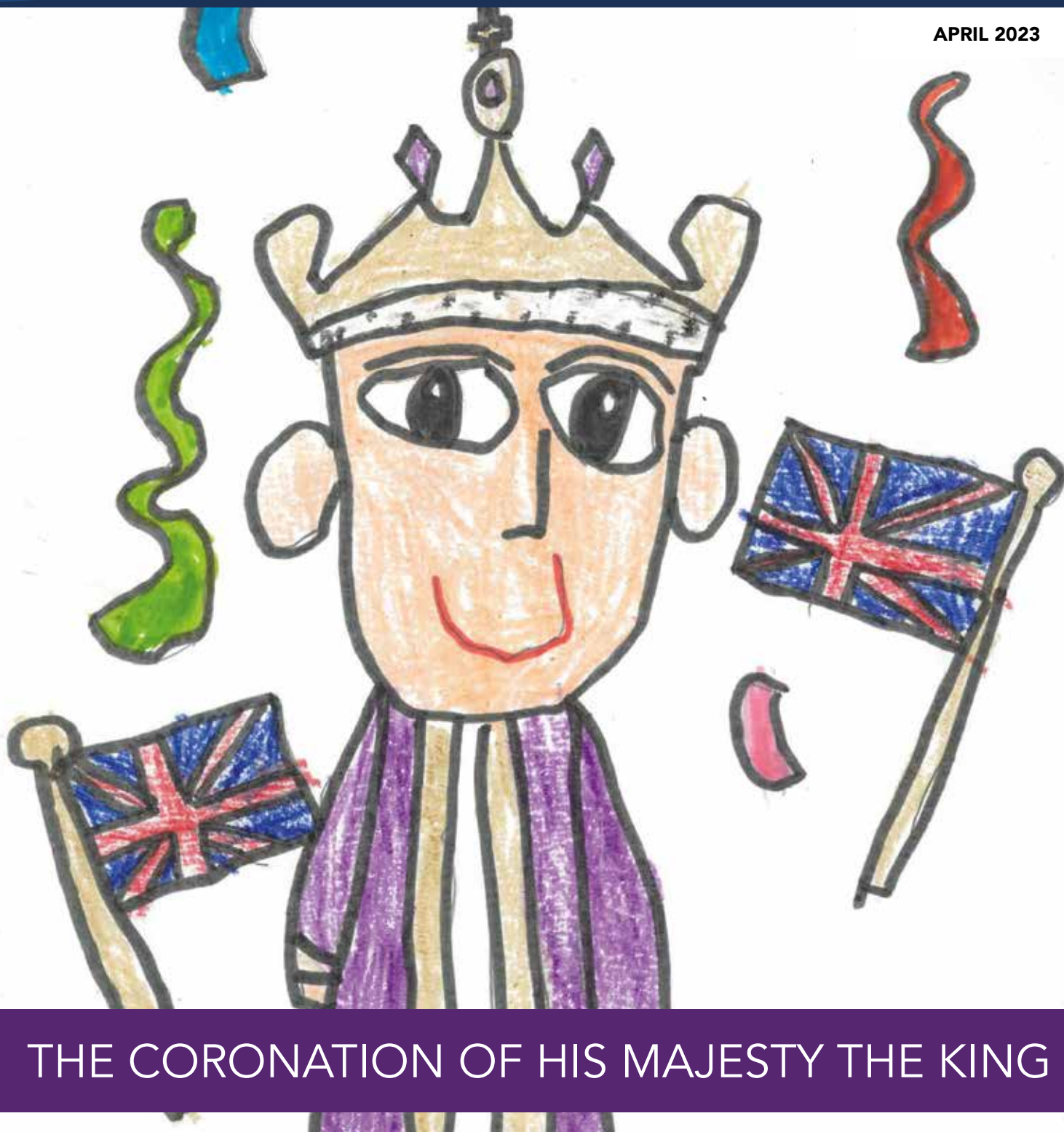
OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF BRACKLEY TOWN COUNCIL



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



APRIL 2023



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THE MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Well, that's it, by the time you read this, I will be in my final two weeks of my mayoral year before I return back to the benches.

My year has been one of national change, I started my term as Mayor in the second Elizabethan age and ended it in the third Carolinian age. One of the first large events of my year was the very successful Queen's Jubilee celebration held at Brackley Rugby Club to celebrate 70 years of Queen Elizabeth II reign. Three months later we were mourning her death and I was announcing the accession of King Charles III to the throne. The week before I hand over to the new Mayor we will be celebrating his coronation. A year of change indeed.

As for my last few months, it has been fairly quiet, the work of the town council has ticked along successfully. We've had a few of our Estates staff move on to other jobs and welcomed Nathan and Jack as replacements and new positions. In addition, following the resignation of Russell Barrie as a town councillor, Adrian Watt was co-opted to replace him a councillor for East Ward. We bid him welcome and hope their time on the council is enjoyable and valuable.

That is the end of my final letter, I wish my successor and all the citizens of Brackley that we are here to serve well for the ensuing year.

Paul Wiltshire
Brackley Town Mayor 2022/23



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 this April 2023 publication. The next issue will be in July 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.

YOUR LOCAL TOWN COUNCILLORS CONTACT DETAILS

Town Mayor: Paul Wiltshire **Deputy Town Mayor:** Sue Sharps

NORTH WARD

Cllr Anthony Bagot-Webb
Email: cllranthony.bagot-webb@brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk

Cllr Kate Nash
Email: cllrkate.nash@brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk

Cllr Luke Young
Email: cllrluke.young@brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk

Cllr Paul Wiltshire
Email: paul.wiltshire@brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk

EAST WARD

Cllr Jason Kew
Email: jason.kew@brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk

Cllr Simon Weaver
Email: cllrsimon.weaver@brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk

Cllr Elaine Wiltshire
Email: elaine.wiltshire@brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk

Cllr Adrian Watt
Email: cllradrian.watt@brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk

SOUTH WARD

Cllr Don Thompson
Email: don.thompson@brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk

Councillor Vacancy
Brackley South Ward

Cllr Bernie Tiller
Email: cllrbernie.tiller@brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk

Cllr Scott Langford
Email: cllrscott.langford@brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk

WEST WARD

Cllr Christopher Cartmell
Email: cllrchris.cartmell@brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk

Cllr Graham Judd
Email: cllrgraham.judd@brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk

Cllr Sue Sharps
Email: cllr.suesharps@brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk

Cllr Fiona Baker
Email: cllrfiona.baker@brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk

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

BRACKLEY TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

MAY 2023	
Mayor Making Ceremony	Saturday 13 May - 12:00
Full Council Meeting	Monday 15 May - 19:00
Planning & General Works, Finance & Policy, Direct Responsibilities & General Purposes Committee Meeting	Monday 22 May - 19:00
JUNE 2023	
Full Council Meeting	Monday 5 June - 19:00
Planning & General Works, Finance & Policy, Direct Responsibilities & General Purposes Committee Meeting	Monday 19 June - 19:00
JULY 2023	
Full Council Meeting	Monday 3 July - 19:00
Planning & General Works, Finance & Policy, Direct Responsibilities & General Purposes Committee Meeting	Monday 17 July - 19:00

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



WE HAVE REDUCED OUR VENUE AND WEDDING RATES!

We have some great news! Whilst the cost of living continues to go up, we are pleased to announce that our venue and wedding rates reduced on 1 April 2023.

Here are some examples of what this means:

Looking to have a birthday party for your child in the day during half term?

Hire the large room at Egerton Hall - now only £12 per hour (old price = £25 p/h). For a 4-hour party hire, that's a total of £48!

Looking to have a family get together but don't have enough room to host at home?

Hire the Old Fire Station for a couple of hours on a weekend for £15 per hour or the Town Hall for £20 per hour.

Work from home? Need a meeting room?

Hire the small room at Egerton Hall for only £12 per hour during business hours Monday-Friday.

Do you have a larger business and need to meet in town?

Hire the Town Hall for £15 an hour (old price = £50 p/h) during the week before 5pm. Even better, there is no minimum booking time.

Are you a local charity or not-for-profit organisation?

Hire the Old Fire Station Community Room during the week between 8am and 5pm for only £5 per hour (old price = £10 p/h).

Want to get married locally?

Hire the Town Hall for a wedding ceremony (up to 5 hours) on a weekend and it will now only cost you £350 (previously £500). If you want to carry on with the party then hire the whole of Egerton Hall for your evening reception, for £35.00 per hour.

Why hire our venues?

We offer a dry hire in our venues 7 days a week. Dry hire means you are only hiring the venue and its space. This gives you greater flexibility over which suppliers you use and how you style the space.

Please note when booking that set-up and tidy up/cleaning time will need to be included in the timings of the hire so don't forget to add some additional time before and after the event.

Full details about our venues and virtual venue tours are available on our website at www.brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk

Please contact us for further information about our venue and wedding hire on office@brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk. Even better, speak to a member of our friendly office team by calling **01280 702441**.

All of our venues have Wi-Fi and are fully accessible for wheelchairs.

THE NEW RATES FROM 1 APRIL 2023

	Rate Guide						
	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
08:00 to 17:00	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	High	High
17:00 to 00:00	High	High	High	High	High	High	High

Venue Hire Rates (per hour)							
Location	Room	Commercial		Private		Not-for-Profit	
		Low	High	Low	High	Low	High
Egerton Hall	Large Hall	£15	£25	£12	£20	£10	£15
	Small Hall	£12	£20	£10	£15	£5	£10
	Car Park Pitch	£5	£10	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Town Hall	Civic Hall	£15	£25	£12	£20	£10	£15
Old Fire Station	Community Room	£12	£20	£10	£15	£5	£10

NB: Security Staff and refundable damage deposits are compulsory for some events with POA.
NB: Bank Holiday bookings will be charged at the high rate.

Wedding/Civil Ceremony Rates					
Event	Town Hall		Egerton Hall		Comment
Ceremony	£200.00	£350.00	X	X	Up to 5 hours. Additional hours will be charged at normal hourly rate.
Breakfast/Reception	£22.00ph	£35.00ph	£22.00ph	£35.00ph	Charged for hours required.
**Security	£17.00ph	£17.00ph	£17.00ph	£17.00ph	Minimum 5 hours, additional hours will be charged after the event.
Deposit	Damage deposit will be required at all Ceremonies/Receptions - Price on application				Refundable after the event.



AN INSIGHT INTO WORKING LIFE AT BRACKLEY TOWN COUNCIL...

At the end of March, two Year 12 students from Magdalen College School, Eliza Green and Charlotte Ansell spent a week with our town council team for their work experience placement.

Eliza and Charlotte concluded their time by writing a short blog about how their week went and what they got up to on each day...



MONDAY 27TH MARCH

When we walked in at 9am we were quite nervous, but it was refreshing to see friendly faces, and talk to people who were very happy to talk to us about their job roles.

One of the first things we did was learn about the history and layout of Brackley Town Council, particularly concerning the legal background to all its activities, which have to be run according to the Local Government Act of 1972. Additionally, we learned about how often Council Meetings and Committee Meetings are held, and the responsibilities of Brackley's 16 Councillors. We were also briefly taken through the revised budget of the town council, and the budget of 2023-4.

At about 10.30am, we were very kindly given a tour around Brackley, where we looked at the three venues owned and maintained by the town council: the Town Hall (including The Loft), the Old Fire Station, and Egerton Hall.

To finish off the day, we started creating posters to inform the public of the renting rates for each of the three venues we looked at earlier in the day. It was interesting to learn how the rates have actually lowered since last season, effective from the start of April. Designing the

posters was such a fun and creative way of learning about the three different types of rent, according to: commercial (business) rates; private rates (e.g. for weddings and birthday parties); and not-for-profit rates (for charities and church events).



TUESDAY 28TH MARCH

The second day was much less scary, as we had both rather enjoyed the day before.

We started off by going out with the estates team in our hi visibility vests, to clean and pressure-wash the playground in the town park; we also learned about how the town park is actually owned by the National Trust, but is leased to the Town Council via a 'peppercorn rent'. The town council cleans and maintains many playgrounds throughout Brackley, in order to preserve and provide the local community with fresh open spaces, and today we cleaned the playground adjacent to the Old Fire Station. This included pressure-washing the floor and equipment, in order to get rid of any moss or mud, so that the playground continues to be a fun and safe space for children to enjoy, and we also got rid of any large clumps of weeds on the outskirts of the play equipment, so that any further trip hazards to younger children were removed.

This was all rather muddy work (but quite fun), and it took all morning, so once we had our lunch break and dried up a bit in the warm, we continued making the posters that we had started on our first day.

Finally, we learned about the important role that the town council plays in maintaining cemeteries, arranging burials, and both organising and checking the stability of gravestones.

WEDNESDAY 29TH MARCH

To start off our third day in the office, we went out with the estates team again, to chip logs and operate tractors to turn the woodchips over. This was simultaneously both incredibly fun and very informative, since we were learning about how the Brackley Town Council estates team is self-sufficient in that it makes its own compost

FRIDAY 31ST MARCH

For our last day, we finalised any projects we had started over the past week, including this blog! We also helped to update the forms for regular hirers for the three venues that Brackley Town Council has to offer. All that needed doing was to check the computer system to see if these regular hirers were still renting from the town council, and then update their forms to 'April ongoing', but it was still really cool to have a look at the behind-the-scenes action regarding venue bookings, and it was amazing to feel like we were a part of such an important (and somewhat complicated) process.

We were also very fortunate to hear all about the role of the Communications, Marketing and Events Officer. She works unswervingly to organise key events for the community, and liaises between multiple parties to make celebrations (such as last year's Jubilee, the fireworks display, all of the Christmas events etc etc) possible, all within a small budget. She is also in charge of running all of the town council's social media accounts, and creates all of the advertisements and flyers that we may see both online and around town.

She spoke to us also about the difficulties that Brackley Town Council faces when unexpected circumstances occur, such as the sudden passing of the Queen in September last year, and how she had to rearrange certain events on an even smaller budget because the events that had to be cancelled involved payments that were non-refundable. Her efforts (and that of the whole team) are simply inspirational because trying to keep all of the residents of Brackley happy is no easy task, yet they all work persistently year-round to achieve it.

We would like to thank the team for being patient with us over the last week, and for letting us being a part of such a unique and diverse town council, which tirelessly operates every day, both visibly and behind the scenes, to serve the community that we are so proud to live in.

- Eliza Green and Charlotte Ansell



(consisting predominantly of the woodchip we made today), while also having fun and driving the tractors! Charlotte was definitely a natural at this: it looked like she had been driving tractors all her life!

On the way back from chipping wood and driving tractors, we stopped in at the building (near the old train station), where the town council estates team keep all of their equipment, as well as all of the stuff used at events. It was quite surreal to see the large Christmas tree (which is put up in December outside of the Town Hall) dismembered and packed up into loads of little boxes!

Once we had dried up again (we were even muddier than yesterday), we went down to the Town Hall to post notices on the board outside, concerning the upcoming Committee Meeting – in doing this we learned that displaying the agenda for the meeting was a legal requirement, as otherwise the meeting would not have a proper founding and so would have to be postponed, or even cancelled.

We then went to the cemetery, in order to consolidate our learning from yesterday, and on the way back we learned all about TPOs (Tree Protection Orders).

THURSDAY 30TH MARCH

The main tasks done today were: finishing the posters on the new rent rates for the three venues maintained and hired out by Brackley Town Council; and we also designed some posts for Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, and for the Brackley Town Council website, regarding the fact that the council has actually won the Customers' Choice Awards 2023 for 'The Loft' (a holiday home situated on the third floor of the town hall). We were lucky enough to have been taken up to see The Loft on Monday (during our tour around Brackley), and so creating these posts was both really fun and quite special, because we were able to draw inspiration from a firsthand experience.



Happy 800th Birthday, St Peter's Church!

Throughout 2023, Brackley's parish church is celebrating 800 years since it was established.



Over the past 8 centuries, St Peter's has been a constant focal point for worship and weddings, festivals and funerals, baptisms and Brackley town events. This ancient church has been at the heart of the community across the ages and is, for many, a cherished part of our town's rich heritage.

Celebrate with us

To celebrate this 800-year milestone, we're running events for all the community to enjoy throughout the year. We invite you to join us at any of them – we hope there's something for everyone! Discover what's happening at: www.stpetersbrackley.org.uk/800events.

Secure the future

As we celebrate the church's past, we also want to secure its future, so that St Peter's can continue to serve Brackley for generations to come. A recent architectural report of the building and its surroundings highlighted many essential works, meaning we now need to raise a whopping **£412,000**.

St Peter's needs you!

As a charity, we have to raise all our own funds and so rely upon donations. In addition to asking the congregation to give generously and appealing to trusts and businesses, we are therefore asking the whole Brackley community to help us keep this beautiful building standing (seeking to raise just a small proportion of our total from Brackley residents). Many in the past have given to St Peter's so that we can enjoy it today. Now it's our turn.

If every household in Brackley gave £14, that would raise the full amount of our community fundraising goal to secure St Peter's for the future

How can I give?

- You can donate online at www.stpetersbrackley.org.uk/800appeal
- By cheque or cash to The Treasurer, John Carter, The Croft, Buckingham Road, NN13 7EL (with a note clearly stating it is for the 800 Appeal).
- By standing order or bank transfer (again, for details visit the above webpage).

Here for you

Regardless of whether you can donate or not, St Peter's is always here to serve you and your family. Our aim is to improve the lives of all those living in Brackley. Please don't hesitate to look to the church if you would like some support, need guiding through a major life event, or want to think through the big questions of life. And, whatever else you do this year, be sure to come along to one of our many events to celebrate *800 years!*



Find out more by scanning the QR code here!

DID YOU KNOW?

8 FACTS ABOUT THE CHURCH

1. St Peter's is Brackley's only Grade 1 listed building
2. St Peter's is Brackley's largest public indoor venue
3. The churchyard is the biggest in the county
4. The church is open every day of the week
5. It costs around £500 a day to fund St Peter's and its activities
6. The churchyard is home to several Commonwealth war graves and the grave of acclaimed poet Mary Leapor
7. 51: the number of vicars since 1223 and the years clocked up by the longest-serving vicar
8. During the bubonic plague, St Peter's went through 5 vicars (including 2 within a single year)



MEET YOUR NEW BRACKLEY EAST WARD COUNCILLOR!



Name: Councillor Adrian Watt

Ward: Brackley East Ward

Committees: Full Council, Direct Responsibilities & General Purposes, Planning & General Works

Tell us a little about yourself and how long have you have lived in Brackley?

I am a life-long resident of our lovely town. My family's long and deep-rooted history in Brackley has instilled a strong sense of pride and dedication in me towards our community.

What do you love most about Brackley?

The main aspects I love about the town are the mixture of rural and town life, the beautiful green spaces and a thriving business infrastructure, as well as a diverse range of fun community events throughout the year.

Do you have any hobbies that keep you busy in your spare time?

As a personal trainer and business owner, I'm committed to promoting health and well-being throughout our town. When I'm not working, I enjoy spending time with family and participating in traditional English folk dancing. I'm currently the squire elect for the Brackley Morris Dancers, an honour I hold close to my heart, as my great-grandfather was also a member of the side.

My hobbies extend beyond Morris Dancing; I love climbing & web development and to balance that, long walks in the countryside with my wife and our young Labrador. These shared moments allow me to combine my passion for fitness and nature, while creating cherished memories with my family.

How would you like to make a difference to the local community?

I'm eager to make a difference in the lives of my fellow Brackley residents by engaging with our local community on important topics. I feel that communication is key, so that residents feel properly represented on issues that affect us all. I believe that together, we can continue to improve and grow our town, making it an even more vibrant and thriving place to live.

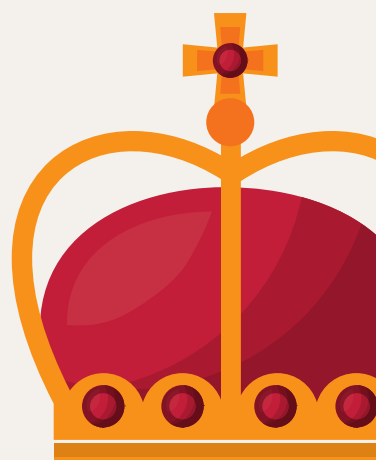
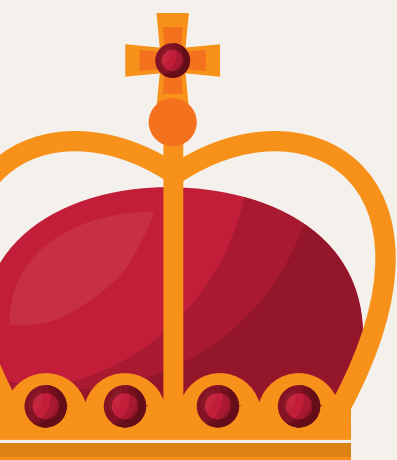
So, if you see me around town, please feel free to say hello and strike up a conversation. I am excited to be an active and dedicated member of Brackley town council.

YOU ARE INVITED TO A FREE COMMUNITY CELEBRATION

PICNIC ON THE PITCH & FAMILY FUN DAY

CELEBRATING THE CORONATION OF KING CHARLES III

10:00-18:00
SATURDAY 6 MAY
BRACKLEY RUGBY CLUB



COMMUNITY STALLS | MUSIC | BARS
KIDS ENTERTAINMENT | STREET FOOD | BBO

INCLUDING A BIG SCREEN SHOWING
THE LIVE CORONATION CEREMONY



WWW.BRACKLEYNORTHANTS-TC.GOV.UK



CORONATION COMPETITION WINNER ANNOUNCED!

Design the cover of our Town Talk magazine....

Throughout March and April, to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III, we invited the children of Brackley to design a front cover for our April Town Talk edition. We asked for a unique design which celebrates the King and Great Britain.

You may have noticed on the front cover of this edition, our first prize winner Freddie Cowburn, aged 6, has created a colourful and eye-catching drawing of King Charles III.

Freddie's entry certainly made everyone in the Brackley Town Council office smile.

We are delighted to announce that the winner and runners up are as follows:

1st prize - £100 Amazon voucher: Freddie Cowburn. Aged 6.

2nd prize - £50 Amazon voucher: Ellie Roderick. Aged 8.

3rd prize - £25 Amazon voucher: Andrea Montosi. Aged 6.

Congratulations and thank you to everyone who took part!

2nd



3rd



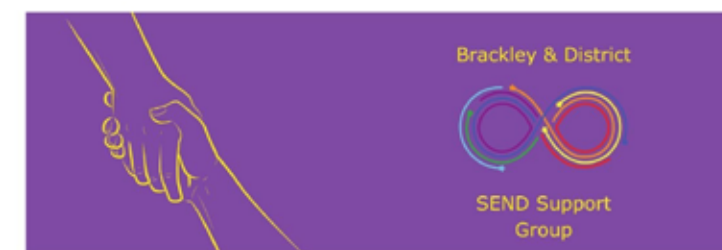
1st



Brackley Bowls Club
Open Afternoon
Sunday 28 May
14:00 – 16:00

Come and have a try at bowls whilst seeing the outdoor and indoor facilities.
All you need is flat shoes!

For more information,
please check our website:
www.brackleydistrictbowls.co.uk
Telephone: 01280 701 657



We are a supportive parent-led online community, who meet regularly in person for a cuppa and a chat.

If you are looking for a safe place to ask questions from others who have been there, are there and understand the challenges faced as a SEND parent/carer, this is for you.

How to find us:

@brackleydistrictsendgroup

Meet ups at Brackley Medical Centre Well Being Room, usually 1st Tuesday and last Friday of the month. See our events page for more details

All Welcome

A STEP CLOSER FOR BRACKLEY SKATEPARK

We are delighted to announce that our planning application for the Brackley Skatepark has been approved.

We will be working closely with Maverick Skateparks to iron out the final details, but the next steps will begin soon.

Please keep an eye on our website and social media channels for further updates.



CONTACT US

☎ 01280 702441 🌐 www.brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk

✉ office@brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk

📍 20 High Street, Brackley, Northamptonshire,
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 702441.

We would love to hear from you.