



TOWN TALK

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF BRACKLEY TOWN COUNCIL

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



AUGUST 2023



BRACKLEY CHARTER MARKET, OPEN EVERY FRIDAY FROM 8AM

THE MAYOR'S
MESSAGE

pg 2

APPLY TO TRADE AT THE
BRACKLEY CHRISTMAS
MARKET

pg 12

MEET YOUR NEW
BRACKLEY SOUTH
WARD COUNCILLOR

pg 4

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE
FOR YOUR TOWN
SERVICES?

pg 11

THE MAYOR’S MESSAGE

It is wonderful to get the opportunity to write to you as the Brackley Town Mayor.

I have been a Brackley Town Councillor since 2015. I’m a Brackley girl and have been lucky enough to have brought my family up here. I believe this town is a very special place to live.

My chosen charities are Brackley youth provision run by SNYE and Brackley Foodbank. Both of these provide very valuable support to our community and we hope that you will come along and support the Mayor’s charity events throughout the year.

My husband, Ian, joins me this year as the Mayor’s Consort and we have Mayor’s Cadets from 5th Brackley Scouts and the Brackley Ranger Guides. I felt humbled by having so many residents, community groups, organisations and charities who I support

throughout the town, come along on Mayor Making day on Saturday 13 May to wish Ian and I luck for the forthcoming year. It was a very special and memorable day with family and friends also in attendance to watch me take my first steps as Mayor.

The Mayor Making ceremony is steeped in history and tradition, which included being dressed in the Mayoral Robe by the Town Clerk and the Mace Bearer before entering the hall to specially chosen music and my waiting guests.

Fellow Mayors and dignitaries attended from Northamptonshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire along with The Vice Lord Lieutenant, the Deputy Chair of West Northants Council as well as several former

Mayors of Brackley.

Our first civic engagement followed straight after Mayor Making, a quick change out of the robe and up to Brackley Community Hospital’s opening day. It was lovely to meet Hazel Reddy, the proud ribbon cutter.

The much-loved Mayor’s Coffee Morning is back, along with other Mayor’s events throughout the year so please look out for dates. I’ve had lots of experience of running events including coffee mornings for the Ukraine Appeal and the Turkey & Syria Earthquake fundraisers. I hope you can come along and enjoy some of Sarah’s famous cakes - lemon drizzle is my favourite! I look forward to grabbing a cuppa and a slice of cake, having a chat and sharing a funny story with residents.

We’ve already had some events including Pottery Painting, Bingo, a Mayor’s Coffee Morning at the Town Hall, a Drag and Dine Pride event and a Curry Banquet fundraiser. None of these would be possible without volunteers and I am very grateful to everyone.

I also have the privilege of being one of the patrons of the 800 years of St Peter’s Church fund. Revd Rich Duncan gave prayers at Mayor Making and I returned the favour by giving a reading at the recent anniversary service at St Peter’s.

We’ve had the honour to attend multiple Mayor Making ceremonies, a twinning anniversary with Les Pavillons-sous-Bois, Oak Apple Day in Northampton, The Lord Lieutenant of Northamptonshire’s afternoon tea, St Peter’s Church 800-year service of celebration, Armed Forces Day in Towcester, Northampton and Brackley and varied community groups and engagements.

It has been a busy start and I look forward to the year ahead.

Sue Sharps

Brackley Town Mayor



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 July 2023 publication. The next issue will be in October 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: Sue Sharps **Deputy Town Mayor:** Elaine Wiltshire

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

Cllr Will King
Email: cllrwill.king@brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk

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

AUGUST 2023

No meetings scheduled for August

SEPTEMBER 2023

Full Council Meeting	Monday 4 September - 19:00
Planning & General Works, Finance & Policy, Direct Responsibilities & General Purposes Committee Meeting	Monday 18 September - 19:00

OCTOBER 2023

Full Council Meeting	Monday 2 October - 19:00
Planning & General Works, Finance & Policy, Direct Responsibilities & General Purposes Committee Meeting	Monday 16 October - 19:00

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

MEET YOUR NEW BRACKLEY SOUTH WARD COUNCILLOR!

NAME: Will King

WARD: Brackley South Ward

COMMITTEES: Full Council, Finance & Policy, Planning & General Works



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

I usually describe myself as "fifty-one-year-old father of three, Ausra's partner, follow Aston Villa and Brackley Town, run and cycle, Classic and Prog Rock obsessive." That summarises me nicely.

I was brought up in Birmingham; managing to escape to work around the UK, Europe and Asia. I'm a transformation director, which means I improve how organisations work to achieve more and become better places to work. My globe-trotting life changed significantly following Lockdown. This greater time at home allowed me to meet an amazing Buckingham lady. We moved into Brackley in September 2021 to begin our new life together.

What do you love most about Brackley?

There is a lot to love about Brackley, most importantly the people.

I was brought up to be interested in those around me, you learn a lot from talking to people and listening to their views. I love Brackley's atmosphere: there is always somebody to talk to who is willing to pass on their wisdom.

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

My family take full advantage of local running routes (we're parkrun obsessives), woodland walks, TURFing (look it up!) and cycling in and around Brackley. We support many sports. We are regulars at St James' Park, we help out with coaching kids' football and cricket, and we follow my partner's volleyball team around the UK.

Aside from that, you'll find me trying to play a variety of musical instruments, still trying to emulate my rock heroes from the 1970s and 1980s.

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

Brackley already has lots going for it. This will increase with the opportunities that HS2 and Mercedes expansion will bring. It is important to take those opportunities without losing the things that make Brackley unique.

To start with, I'll focus on the priorities that I hear the most: managing the traffic, helping our high street to thrive, and recovering our pre-lockdown sense of community. As a newcomer to the area, I'm keen to understand the experience of others. So please share your thoughts, either in person, or send me an email (cllrwill.king@brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk).



THE WOMBLES ARE COMING.....

If you are old enough to remember the Wombles of Wimbledon Common, their T.V. programmes, music and merchandise, you might be delighted to learn about the new Brackley Litter Wombles. After the town's presentations at Egerton Hall in April by the wide range of activities and groups, I was amazed to find out that there are many fellow invisible wombling litter pickers in the town. As a result, we have become the Brackley Litter Wombles and so much has suddenly developed since April. We are not invisible anymore and hopefully the litter will dwindle to invisibility too!

I believe we have made a difference to the town, keeping the streets, roads and footpaths cleaner by being clear of litter. Anybody can help; being aware of litter near where you live, and if possible clearing it away; indicating where you can pick up and keep an eye on a street or area near you; or joining an organised, short event.

We had our first "blitz" session on Saturday 13 May, 10am till 12pm, in and around the larger Tesco store. In those 2 hours, 30 of us filled 73 bin bags, some of it out of sight, out of mind. Since then we have attacked the bottom of Buckingham Road, close to the River Ouse, as well as the area behind Sainsbury's and Paisley Pear. I hope you saw the warning road signs!

Other target areas have been planned right up until October and will be doing weekly Wednesday Wombles during the school holidays. Could you help at one of these activities? We can provide you with everything you need to pick up litter and to keep you safe.

"But when and where are they happening?" I hear you ask! Do pop into the Library to look at or ask about our wombling wallboard, visit our Facebook group, blog www.brackleylitterwombles.co.uk or visit the Town Council Office opposite the Plough Pub. Helpful staff will keep you updated. Look out for the "Purple Army" tabards we wear - now that we are part of the Northants Litter Wombles. If you see a womble out and about, give us a smile and say hello!

Thanks,

Conrad – Brackley Litter Womble



HS2 UPDATE

A43 OVERBRIDGE BRACKLEY | SUMMER 2023



Building HS2 near Brackley

Our newsletters are an important tool used to update local communities on the progress of the HS2 project. This newsletter has been created to specifically update the local communities on our work constructing the A43 Overbridge, near Brackley. It includes the latest information on upcoming construction activities and expected timelines.

The A43 Overbridge will carry traffic over the new High Speed Railway Line. The overbridge will be located between the Brackley BP roundabout and the A43 junction for Syresham.

ur preparatory works for the overbridge have involved utility diversions, extensive earthworks and the creation of a temporary site access road that is for the sole use of our construction teams as they travel up and down the project.

Throughout the spring of 2023, we have been preparing for the main construction phase of the new temporary diversion.



Figure 1: The image above details the location of the temporary diversion that will be constructed this year for a section of the A43 near Brackley.

This has included the installation of temporary narrowed lanes and a reduction in the speed limit on this section of the A43. The new temporary diversion is expected to become operational in early 2024.

At the end of April, we began introducing periodic overnight closures of the A43, on both the southbound and northbound sides.

Where possible, to minimise disruption, these overnight closures will be reduced to single lane closures.

Throughout the summer and into autumn, our activities will focus on earthworks, which will involve excavating

approximately 11,000 cubic metres of material from the north side of the A43. This material will be temporarily stockpiled and eventually reused as part of the final landscaping designs for HS2.

Once we carry out our main earthworks for the temporary diversion, we will then begin installing drainage. Following the completion of the drainage works, we will begin constructing the new road, which will involve surfacing works, white lining and the installation of road signage. After the road is finished, the local authority will conduct a thorough road safety audit before it is opened for public use.



In order to safely tie in the new temporary diversion into the existing road network, we will require two 57-hour full road closures of the A43. To reduce disruption as much as possible, the northbound closure and the southbound closure will take place on alternate weekends. These closures are expected to take place in late 2023. Once dates are confirmed we will update the public two weeks in advance of the closures.

In addition to our formal Advance Work Notices, the road closure information will also be communicated through traditional road signage as well as electronic signage. These signs will be located in strategic locations and placed in a safe location.

Once the temporary diversion is operational, we will then be able to safely begin construction on the new A43 Overbridge, which is expected to be completed in late 2025.

We will continue to collaborate with National Highways and update local communities on the progression of our works. These works are currently subject to consents.

Should you have any questions about our works you can contact the HS2 helpdesk 24-hours a day.

CONTACT US

Contact our HS2 Helpdesk team all day, every day of the year on:

Freephone **08081 434 434**

Minicom **08081 456 472**

Email **HS2enquiries@hs2.org.uk**

Write to:

FREEPOST

HS2 Community Engagement

Website **www.hs2.org.uk**

To keep up to date with what is happening in your local area, visit: **www.HS2inyourarea.co.uk**



COME & JOIN US FOR

HAPPY'S CIRCUS

TUESDAY 22 BRACKLEY
AUGUST TOWN PARK

GATES OPEN 12:30

14:00 - 16:00



SCAN QR CODE TO BOOK

EARLY BIRD OFFER

£10 pp throughout July

£12 pp from 1 August

(under 3 years on lap for free)



WWW.BRACKLEYNORTHANTS-TC.GOV.UK

BRACKLEY TOWN COUNCIL AWARD GRANT FUNDING TO THE CHATTY CAFÉ GROUP



The cost-of-living crisis is hitting many people hard, and for some, buying a coffee is a luxury they can't afford. We are therefore delighted that Brackley Town Council, have awarded grant funding to the Chatty Café group, to cover the cost of drinks at the sessions. This takes away the cost of a drink being a barrier to attendance and ensures the Chatty Café group can be as inclusive as possible and open to anyone.

At the Chatty Café sessions there's no agenda, or topic to discuss, it's simply a place for local people to get together each week and chat. Anyone can get lonely sometimes - so let's get talking. It's amazing what a mug of tea and chinwag can do.

Research shows people living in poverty or experiencing financial stress are more likely to experience loneliness and social isolation. The Chatty Café group is all about encouraging conversation and interaction, to tackle feelings of loneliness, and it is for this reason, that offering a free tea, coffee or cake is so important and we want to encourage as many people as possible to come along.

Alex Hoskyn, Chatty Café's Founder said; "Jon [the volunteer] and Richard [Owner of the Lounge Bar] have done an incredible job of bringing the Chatty Café concept to life for the people of Brackley. They have successfully created a welcoming and friendly space for anyone to visit and by offering free drinks, I hope more people can now attend, grab a drink and experience the benefits of how a simple chat can brighten their day."

The Lounge Bar, Market House Courtyard, Market Pl, Brackley, NN13 7AB hosts a Chatty Café group every Thursday from 3pm – 5pm. Led by Jon Haslam, a volunteer who helps host the table, the group meets every week simply to chat. If you'd like to join, please do go along – they are a very welcoming group.

"I hope more people can now attend, grab a drink and experience the benefits of how a simple chat can brighten their day."



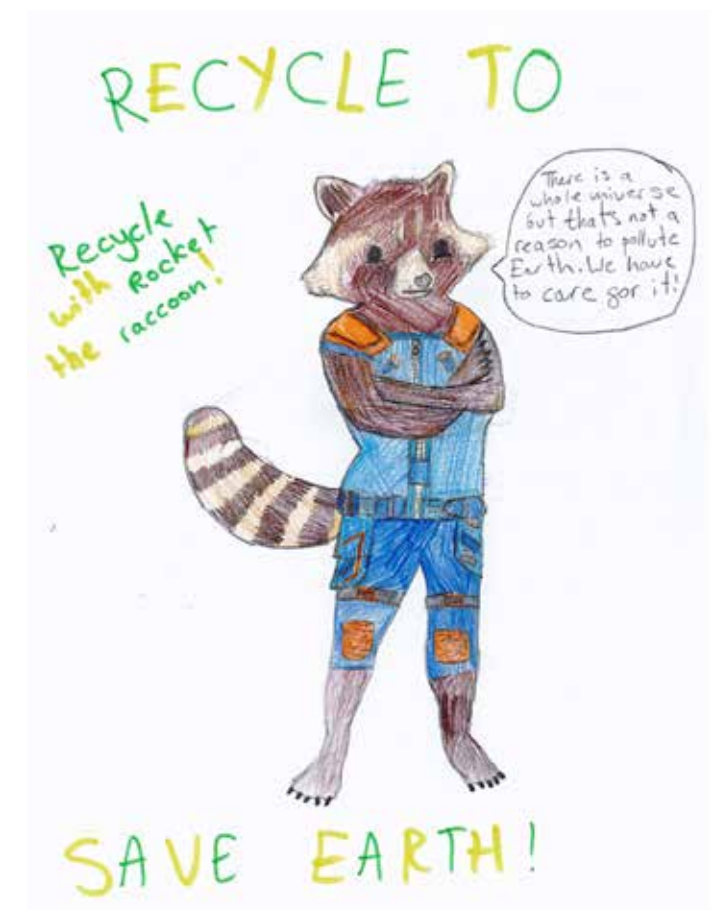
RECYCLE WITH THE RADSTONE



Some readers will remember that earlier in the year, the Year 6 class at The Radstone contacted Brackley Town Council to ask for a recycling bin in Poppyfields Park.

We know how important it is to recycle our rubbish, to save the planet and clean up our oceans. But through this project we have also learnt just how important it is to put the right rubbish in the right bin – if one piece of non-recyclable rubbish is put in the recycling bin it can contaminate a whole lorry, causing it to go into landfill.

There is now a new recycling bin in Poppyfields Park. We have created some posters for it, to remind all of the residents of Brackley how important recycling is and to remind everyone to put the right rubbish in the right bin.



**Pothole? Blocked Drain? Obstruction?
Abandoned Vehicle? Faulty Street Light?**

WHAT TO DO IF YOU NOTICE ANY OF THESE ABOVE?

STREET DOCTOR

It is quick and easy for anyone to report any street problems such as traffic lights not working, obstructions, broken pavements and potholes via the West Northamptonshire Council's (WNC) Street Doctor or via FixMyStreet, Northamptonshire.

Please note that if you consider that the defect is an emergency, do not log it onto Street Doctor but call 0300 126 7000 instead between 9am and 5pm, Monday to Friday. Outside of these hours, please ring 01604 651074.

Reporting:

Make a note of the specific location of the problem – not just the name of the road but how far up it is based on a house number or a nearby land. If possible take photographs of the problem – a close-up and a wide shot will help locate the problem.

- Log on to Street Doctor or FixMyStreet (see website links below)
- Enter a Northamptonshire postcode, street name and area or check to see if there is already an existing report number
- Locate the problem on a map of the area
- Enter details of the problem
- Confirm the report and Northamptonshire Highways will investigate.

ABANDONED VEHICLES

Abandoned, untaxed or nuisance vehicles should be reported to ELVIS – the End of Life Vehicle Impound Scheme – a joint operation between Northamptonshire's Arson Task Force, Northamptonshire Police and all councils in Northamptonshire.

Reporting:

To report an abandoned vehicle, please contact ELVIS on 08456 121 999 or email elvis.recovery@northants.pnn.police.uk

When you report a vehicle, you need the registration number, make and model, colour, location and condition of the vehicle.

STREET LIGHTING

Street lighting in West Northamptonshire is mainly maintained by Balfour Beatty although Brackley Town Council is responsible for a few. You can check whether Balfour Beatty is responsible for a particular light or if responsibility lies with Brackley Town Council on West Northamptonshire's interactive mapping.

Reporting:

This can be done via West Northamptonshire Council's website.

Before reporting a faulty street light, make a note of the unique reference number which can be found on each lighting column although you can still report the issue by providing the location details.



USEFUL WEBSITES:

WNC Street Doctor
www.westnorthants.gov.uk/roads-and-paths-maintenance/report-potholes-or-highway-problem

FixMyStreet
fixmystreet.northamptonshire.gov.uk/

ELVIS
elvis.recovery@northants.pnn.police.uk

Street Lighting
www.westnorthants.gov.uk/roads-and-paths-maintenance/street-lighting

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR TOWN SERVICES?

Although described as a Town Council, Brackley Town Council is classified as a Parish Council and has the same status in relation to the other tiers of local government as the many smaller Parish Councils in the surrounding villages. West Northamptonshire Council is the single unitary Council responsible for providing a range of services to residents and businesses in the area of Daventry, Northampton and South Northamptonshire.

Sometimes it can be difficult to know which tier of Council is responsible for services within the town. For example, West Northamptonshire Council is the local Planning Authority and makes all planning decisions whilst Brackley Town Council has a consultative role.

We hope the following lists help guide you on who to contact should you need to discuss a matter with each Council.



WHAT ARE BRACKLEY TOWN COUNCIL (BTC) RESPONSIBLE FOR:

- Bus shelters (shared with WNC)
- Cemetery
- Dog waste bins
- Egerton Community Hall
- Flower beds & tubs
- Footpaths (Parks & St James Lake)
- Grass cutting
- Grit bins (shared with WNC)
- Litter bins (shared with WNC)
- Markets
- Old Fire Station Community Hall
- Park & open spaces
- Play equipment
- Town events
- Town Hall
- War memorial

For more detailed information on what Brackley Town Council are responsible for and to report any issues with the above, please visit our website: www.brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk or call 01280 702 441.



What are West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) responsible for:

- Abandoned vehicles
- Bus passes
- Community safety
- Council tax & Business rates collection
- Disabled parking permits
- Economic development
- Education
- Elections & electoral registration
- Emergency planning
- Environmental health
- Flooding, Gritting/Snow Clearance
- Highways/transport/crossings (incl public carriageways & public footpaths & potholes)
- Housing (Including homelessness)
- Leisure services and facilities
- Libraries
- Licensing (incl taxis & alcohol)
- Litter / Fly tipping
- Local town planning
- Parking control
- Pest control
- Planning consent for new buildings, alterations to existing public carriageways, public footpaths & potholes
- Recycling, refuse collections & tip
- Registry offices
- Social services
- Strategic town planning
- Street lighting
- Trading standards
- Waste management

For more detailed information on what West Northamptonshire Council are responsible for and to report any issues with the above, please visit www.westnorthants.gov.uk or call 0300 126 7000.

EVENT VOLUNTEERS

Why Brackley Town Council Needs Your Help...

We rely on the support of our community to achieve our mission to put on as many events as we can for the town, and volunteers play a crucial role in this effort. You may ask, why do we need your help? Here at the council, we have a very small team of officers (a team that love to put on events), however our town is growing and our events are getting bigger in audience size. Therefore, we simply need the help of more eyes and ears on the ground to ensure that our events run smoothly and our health and safety remains paramount.

When we put events on, our officers are generally running event control/operational decision making throughout the event. Some of the roles we need additional on the day help with include; general stewarding/marshalling, sign posting, handing out programmes, litter picking, bucket collections and coordinating vehicle movements.

Volunteering is a fantastic way to get involved with likeminded community members – not to mention the invaluable experience it adds to your CV. Whether you have a few hours a month or a few days a year, your time and skills can make a significant impact.

If you're interested in volunteering at our upcoming 2023 autumn/winter events, please scan the QR code (to the right) to learn more about our current opportunities. We appreciate your willingness to give back and help us make a difference. (Image above of Brackley Tangent Ladies volunteering at Coronation Picnic on the Pitch 2023)



Apply to Trade at the Brackley Christmas Market on Saturday 25 November 2023

Attention all stall holders! Don't miss out on the opportunity to be part of Brackley's Christmas market this year. It's the perfect chance to showcase your products and services to a large and festive audience. With hundreds of visitors expected for the annual Christmas Lantern Parade and Light Switch On, you don't want to miss out on this amazing opportunity to boost your local brand awareness. In order to have a stall, you will need your own gazebo and all of the relevant licencing documentation. All traders must submit an application form to be considered for a stall. How can you apply? See instructions below...

- Scan the QR code or email office@brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk by Friday 1 September to apply to be a market trader.
- We will confirm our acceptance of your pitch by Friday 15 September.



Raise hundreds of pounds for your not-for-profit organisation at our Brackley fireworks event!

Brackley Fireworks 2023 sponsored by Mercedes-AMG Petronas Formula One Team will take place on Saturday 4 November at St John's Site, Magdalen College School, Brackley. It is a popular event that attracts thousands of visitors every year. The free entry fireworks display is the main attraction of the event and is usually set to music. There are also food and drink stalls, fairground rides, and entertainment for all ages.

Part of the event involves our community stall section which enables local not-for-profit groups and organisations to fundraise for their own pots and raise awareness to thousands of residents. In 2022, in just two hours, local football team Halse United raised £566.00 and Whistley Scouts raised £750.00. A great community fund top up in just two hours!

Application forms are now available for your community stall pitch.

Email georgia.connor@brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk or scan the QR code to the left and fill out the online form by Monday 2 October. We will then be in touch with further details.



SAVE THE DATES!

BRACKLEY TOWN COUNCIL WINTER EVENTS 2023

Event and location timings will be confirmed in the October edition of Town Talk and on our website page:

www.brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk/events



BRACKLEY FIREWORKS SPONSORED BY MERCEDES-AMG PETRONAS FORMULA ONE TEAM

Saturday 4 November

REMEMBRANCE SERVICE AND PARADE

Sunday 12 November

CHRISTMAS LANTERN WORKSHOPS

Saturday 18 and Sunday 19 November

CHRISTMAS MARKET, LANTERN PARADE AND LIGHT SWITCH ON

Saturday 25 November

CHRISTMAS TRACTOR RUN

Sunday 10 December

CHRISTMAS COMMUNITY CAROL SERVICE

Sunday 17 December



SUMMER EVENTS

COMING UP IN AUGUST!

CLASSIC CAR SHOW | BRACKLEY TOWN PARK

Sunday 20 August | 11:00 – 16:00

For further details please visit: www.facebook.com/BrackleyClassicCarShow

HAPPY'S CIRCUS | BRACKLEY TOWN PARK

Tuesday 22 August | Gates open at 12:20 | Circus starts at 14:00

For further details, turn to page 7. To buy tickets, visit: www.wegottickets.com/event/586709



MAYOR'S COFFEE MORNINGS @ BRACKLEY TOWN HALL

Join the Mayor between 10am and 12noon for tea, coffee and cake! All ages welcome.

- Friday 4th August 2023
- Friday 6th October 2023
- Friday 1st December 2023
- Friday 2nd February 2024
- Friday 5th April 2024

All donations made will go towards the Mayor's charities. There will be a Brackley Foodbank collection box at each coffee morning and information on how to contact the foodbank for residents in need.



Brackley now has a Town Centre Manager!

Samantha Hosking has been appointed to work closely with the Town Council, businesses and the wider community to help revitalise and promote our much-loved, beautiful town centre. Sam will be working with businesses and residents over the coming weeks and months to gather community ideas on how to make Brackley centre thrive, making it an even better place to visit, shop and to be entertained.

Email: Samantha.Hosking@westnorthants.gov.uk | **Tel:** 01327 322 297 | **Mob:** 07780 260 427



www.westnorthants.gov.uk
0300 126 7000

Trust | High Performance | Respect | Innovate | Value | Empower



SHOP | VISIT |

EXPLORE
WEST NORTHANTS

Don't miss out
download the app today



HAVE YOUR SAY

Bringing back Councillor Surgeries

Brackley Town Councillors are hoping to bring back councillor surgeries from September.

They will be held at the three Brackley Town Council venues – Brackley Town Hall, Egerton Hall and The Old Fire Station Community Room. Councillors will be looking to host surgeries mid-week, evening and on a Saturday.

These surgeries will provide an opportunity for individuals to voice their concerns, ask questions, and engage in discussions with their local representatives. By encouraging attendance at councillor surgeries, we can work towards creating a more engaged and connected community. Keep an eye on our website and socials for further updates on the surgery times and locations.

Councillors will soon also be running a residents consultation on future aspirations for the town. Please watch our website and socials for updates on face to face and online opportunities to have your say.

PATIENCE IS A VIRTUE AS MEDICAL CENTRE FINALLY CELEBRATES OFFICIAL OPENING

The crowds were out in force on Saturday 13 May when Brackley Medical Centre finally celebrated its official opening ... some two years, five months and 28 days after staff first moved into the building!

And after waiting patiently for so long, who could be more appropriate to perform the honours than the practice's eldest patient – 105-years-young Mrs Hazel 'Bunty' Reddy?

It was on Monday 16 November 2020 that staff started working in the new building in Wellington Road ... just 11 days after the second national lockdown came into force in England.

Speaking at the official opening, Brackley Medical Centre partner, Dr Paul Parsons, said: "This day has been a long time coming but we are finally here! We all moved in during the second lockdown. I don't need to mention the 'C' word, but you will appreciate that the first plans for a grand opening were put on hold somewhat thanks to a tiny virus. But two and a half years later, finally cometh the hour. Time to open our new building.

"Within this building we have an exemplar of what first class medical care at local level can look like – integrated services complementing each other and providing a one-stop shop here in Brackley for the majority of folks' day-to-day medical needs.

"Those of us who have been involved in dreaming, planning and building this project are justifiably proud of what has been achieved. But I am particularly proud of the fact that this building is not the result of some high-level central policy and planning process; it has not been dropped into Brackley as a done deal from on high. It is only here because of the drive and determination of a small number of local people who have doggedly pursued a vision."



Morcea Walker MBE, Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Northamptonshire is pictured (centre) with retired BMC partner, Dr Philip Stevens and his wife Denise. Dr Stevens was at the forefront of the project to build the new Brackley Medical Centre and was described by Dr Paul Parsons as "our local hero, who by his tenacity over many years has done more than anybody to ensure this project succeeded."



Mrs Reddy receives a coronation teddy bear and flowers from nine year old Ariana (left) and five year old Arabella.



Mrs Hazel 'Bunty' Reddy with Brackley Medical Centre partner Dr Jane Charles-Nash.

BMC also took the opportunity to formally dedicate the centre's Wellington Suite, so named because the building stands on the site where a Vickers Wellington III aircraft, serial number BK352, crashed on 17 March 1944, killing six of the seven crew members. The dedication service was attended by Squadron Leader Rick Lipscomb from the RAF Heritage Centre and Peter Jackson and his wife Vanessa – Peter's uncle, Pilot Officer Roy Dennis, was one of those who lost his life in the crash.



MEN IN SHEDS - BRACKLEY

THINGS ARE MOVING



SHED SITE

Hooray! We have now located a site for our shed. The owner of Evenly Wood Gardens has kindly offered to lease a plot to us where we can build it. It is in one of the most beautiful wooded landscapes close to Brackley. Woodworking in the woods, what could be better?

Over the last month we have taken part in several events to advertise Brackley MIS. Including the Market Square and the Old Fire Station, where interest and support for our MIS has been most heartening. We will continue to advertise our shed as often as we can.



BUILDING PROGRESS

We are fortunate to have in-house experts. Men in Sheds members Ivor and David are currently refining the size, design and cost of the shed and its foundations. With that done we can move on with submitting formal funding applications which should happen this month.

We have been invited to meet with a number of potential donors, and I am pleased to tell you that all are very supportive of a Men in Sheds coming to Brackley and ready to financial assist us. But all, understandably, want know where any money they donate will be going. Answering those concerns is our immediate focus.

FOR MORE UPDATES, PLEASE TAKE A LOOK AT OUR WEBSITE:
www.meninshedsbrackley.uk

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.
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 or call 01280 702441.
We would love to hear from you.