



# 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)



FEBRUARY 2024



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## THE MAYOR'S MESSAGE

We hope that you had a Merry Christmas and that your New Year will be filled with new and exciting adventures. Thank you for the continued support and we both look forward to many more memories being made in the future with you all.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Staff at Brackley Town Council and wish them a Happy New Year.

In September, Brackley was visited by our twin town of Montabaur, which was a lovely opportunity to celebrate this long-term friendship. A

welcome afternoon tea, a band concert, a trip to Stratford, and a celebration dinner were enjoyed by all who attended.

Local musician, Harry Pane, played an acoustic concert in the Town Hall raising money for the Mayor's charities - South Northants Youth Engagement and Brackley Foodbank, which was a great success.

In November, the Armistice and Remembrance services in Brackley saw residents come out to pay tribute to those who fell in conflict. It was my honour to lead the parade down Brackley High Street with honoured guests and Councillors and with clubs, groups and organisations

following. The Mayor's Cadet, Freya, took on an important role being in charge of receiving the wreaths and placing them on the War Memorial. Freya did a fantastic job and I am grateful to her, Brackley Royal British Legion for the organisation of the event and everyone in or out of uniform of all ages who attended.

The run-up to Christmas in Brackley is always magical. So much effort goes into the events that included lantern making, pottery painting, and coffee mornings. I met Santa at the Lantern Parade when I turned on the Christmas lights. Many thanks to the Brackley Round Table for all their help. I enjoyed greeting the tractors before they went off around the town in another twinkling event which is much loved.

I've enjoyed visiting residents in local care homes which is a Brackley Mayoral tradition. I was accompanied by Rev Rich Duncan, Rev Sarah Cliff and volunteers where we sang carols and took in mince pies. I have enjoyed trips to multiple groups and organisations receiving a friendly welcome every time. Thank you to so many of you for the donations to Brackley Foodbank this Christmas.

The last event before Christmas was the carols on the Piazza with Brackley and District Band surrounded by family and friends. Hot chocolate and mulled wine made the event a success.

Councillor 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 February 2024 publication. The next issue will be in April 2024. 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.

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## YOUR LOCAL TOWN COUNCILLORS CONTACT DETAILS

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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

### FEBRUARY 2024

**Full Council Meeting**

**Monday 5 February - 19:00**

**Planning & General Works, Finance & Policy, Direct  
Responsibilities & General Purposes Committee Meeting**

**Monday 19 February - 19:00**

### MARCH 2024

**Full Council Meeting**

**Monday 4 March - 19:00**

**Planning & General Works, Finance & Policy, Direct  
Responsibilities & General Purposes Committee Meeting**

**Monday 18 March - 19:00**

### APRIL 2024

**Full Council Meeting**

**Monday 8 April - 19:00**

**Planning & General Works, Finance & Policy, Direct  
Responsibilities & General Purposes Committee Meeting**

**Monday 15 April - 19:00**

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



# BEAT THE BLUES AND GET DRUMMING!



Accent Percussion is a community percussion group which provides a musical platform for attendees to learn essential fundamentals of music, build confidence and, above all, enjoy themselves. You'll learn about drums and different types of drumming; our aim is to have fun and perform at local festivals.

Drumming offers many benefits for both physical and mental health. It can reduce anxiety and stress, help relieve depression, lower blood pressure, can help to control chronic pain, burn calories, develop confidence and improve coordination. Playing for just a few minutes has been shown to boost your mood. The physical stimulation of drumming and the vibrations that resonate through every cell in the body stimulate the release of negative emotions. Drumming as a group is inclusive; it is for everyone.

This is why Accent Percussion has been set up; with the aim of helping people improve their mental



health and their general wellbeing. Being part of a group helps each other, provides social interaction, companionship and support.

We meet on Tuesday evenings, 5pm-6.30pm, at Egerton Hall. A session is just £5.00 per person (places are limited). You can dip in and out, there is no pressure to do anything you don't want to do.

Accent Percussion is an all-inclusive

group, regardless of age, ethnicity, gender, ability or experience. Accent Percussion creates a safe and accepting space for everyone to fully express themselves through the power of percussion.

Whoever you are, we'd love to see you.

Find us on Facebook, Instagram or email [accentpercussiongroup@gmail.com](mailto:accentpercussiongroup@gmail.com)

## ***BRACKLEY EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION - THE BEA***

The Brackley European Association (BEA) comprises a lively and friendly group of volunteers who work on behalf of the Town Council to sustain Brackley's twinning links with Les Pavillons-sous-Bois, an outer suburb of Paris and with Montabaur, a small town 20km from Koblenz in Germany. The twinning with les Pavillons-sous-Bois began in March 1972 and with Montabaur in 1975.

Membership of the BEA is open to anyone living in Brackley or the surrounding district. We share home visits, outings and entertainment with our French and German friends annually. We operate on a self-funding basis, paying for our own travel expenses when travelling abroad and raising funds to entertain our twin colleagues when they visit Brackley.

Meetings are held on the last Thursday of every month at 20:00 in the Old Fire Station Community Room, excluding December. Fundraising is through an active programme of social events organised throughout the year, to which everyone is very cordially invited.

Members are asked for an annual subscription (presently £15). If you are interested in becoming a member, please contact our chairman or treasurer.

**Anita Robbins - Chairman: 01295 712388 | Graham Archdale - Treasurer: 01280 704018**



## BRACKLEY & DISTRICT BAND INVITES NEW MEMBERS

Brackley and District Band is your local brass band and is celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2023. The band provides an opportunity for musicians of any age to gain valuable musical experience whilst having some fun, making some new friends and allowing youngsters to acquire life skills along the way. We play a wide range of music that appeals to both members and audiences alike, including film themes, marches, pop music and classical, as well as music written specifically for a brass band.

The band rehearses on Friday evenings at the Brackley Band Supporters Club in Draymans Walk and performs regular concerts at St Peter's Church with its tremendous acoustics and often with a tea thrown in! You may have seen us performing at local functions, including Remembrance Sunday and Carols on the Piazza. We also get hired to play at various fetes and other events in the area.

We would love to have more players and are currently looking in particular to recruit more cornet players. We feel sure that there must be lots of brass musicians in the town who have maybe not played for a while or have recently moved into the area. We would encourage you



to get in touch and come along. We have plenty of instruments for members to borrow if you don't have your own. We also have a drum kit, a set of four timpani and various other percussion instruments that would love to be played on a regular basis.

Please call Nick Wilson on **07737 077009** or email **brackleyband@gmail.com** if you'd like to find out more or discuss coming along to give us a try.

## BENEFITS FOR BOTH!

Brackley Bowls Club helps keep the residents of Brackley Care Home active!

The members of Brackley & District Bowling Club and the residents and staff of Brackley Care Home are enjoying the benefits of a growing relationship. Over the last few months the two organisations have come together to enjoy social and sporting activities.

The Bowls Club have been delighted to welcome staff and residents from the home to the indoor rink at the club where the residents have enjoyed bowling at targets. Members of the club have been on hand to support them and enjoy a chat over tea and biscuits.

In return, Brackley Care Home welcomed members of the Bowls Club to a coffee morning where they were delighted to chat with the residents and enjoy the fantastic cakes! The club members also spent a great afternoon at the home playing carpet bowls with the residents!

As part of this relationship Kingsley Healthcare have provided sponsorship to the Bowls Club by the provision of new bowling mats and sponsoring the newly designed club shirts. This is a mutually beneficial relationship which is enjoyed by everyone involved.





### CHATTY CAFÉ SCHEME

The Chatty Café Scheme, launched in 2017, helps reduce loneliness via the use of Chatter & Natter tables. Designating a few tables in a café, pub or community centre creates a space for people to connect, have conversations and meet new people. The sessions are supported by Chatty Café volunteers, welcoming people to the table and helping to create a friendly atmosphere.

Jon Haslam, a Brackley resident, approached Richard Rainbow, the owner of The Lounge Café Bar, about collaborating with the scheme to provide the setting for a weekly warm and welcoming Chatter & Natter table. Jon's positive nature has led to the concept being warmly embraced by the people of Brackley and it has gone from strength to strength.

Following incredible local support, the Chatty Café has expanded across Brackley and is currently running a daytime group every Thursday from 3pm – 5pm and an evening session every Wednesday from 6pm – 8pm, both at The Lounge Café Bar. Earlier this year, Brackley Town Council provided a grant to cover the cost of hot drinks, ensuring those who might be struggling financially could still benefit from attending.

The Chatty Café volunteers, together with some of the regulars, even take the Chatty Café on tour, regularly visiting Brackley Care Home to spend time and connect with the residents! Along with 6 month and 1 year anniversary celebrations, the group also enjoyed a very well attended Christmas meal to celebrate the incredible success.

There is plenty of capacity for more people to come along and we would warmly encourage you to join either a daytime or evening group (or both!) at The Lounge Café Bar, Brackley in order to meet new people, feel happier and better connected to others.



### Men in Sheds

Men in Sheds have been selected for the Tesco Stronger Starts Scheme – customers will be able to vote in store from 16 January to 31 March, you'll be able to vote at Tesco Superstore Brackley and Tesco Express, Lark Rise. A vote from people in the local community would be appreciated.

The aim of Men in Sheds is to promote social inclusion, good health and mental wellbeing to its members within both men and women in the Brackley community. Within the shed, members are able to undertake creative activities and projects using tools and equipment that they may not have access to at home.

If you would like any information please enquire at [contact@meninshedsbrackley.uk](mailto:contact@meninshedsbrackley.uk)





# February Fundraiser

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2024

10am – 1pm

Brackley WI and Girl Guide Hall (on Manor Road, opposite Waitrose)

Most activities only 50p

Free entry!

Cash and card payments taken  
All monies go towards the maintenance of  
Brackley WI and Girl Guide Hall



MENTAL  
HEALTH FRIENDS

HELPING YOU LIVE



## Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April

at

St. James Lake, Brackley

11-3pm

Community stalls &  
refreshments available

Prizes for age groups

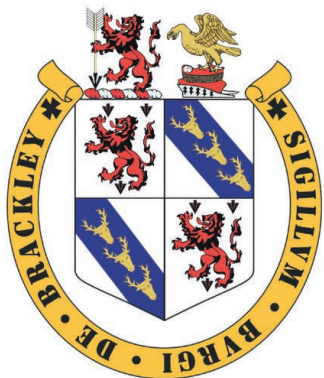
0-3

4-8

8-11



Entry Fee  
£2 per  
child



# ANNUAL TOWN MEETING 2024

THURSDAY 11 APRIL

Brackley Town Council's Annual Town Meeting is a great opportunity for residents to get involved in the local community and voice their opinions. The meeting is open to all residents and will be held on Thursday 11 April.

The upcoming meeting will host the recently appointed town centre manager who is there to hear community members suggestions about the town centre.



## BRACKLEY TOWN COUNCIL REFLECTION OF EVENTS 2023

As we reflect on the events that took place in 2023, the council staff are feeling recharged and ready for an exciting year ahead.

Once again, we would like to thank the residents of Brackley for giving us such amazing turnouts to all our events - we couldn't have done it without everyone's support. From the lively Christmas Carol Service to the Christmas Tractor Run, there was something for everyone to enjoy. We were thrilled to see so many of you come out and participate in the community events and we're already planning even more exciting activities for the upcoming year.

Our Third Annual Christmas Tractor Run raised an amazing contribution of £4,017 towards the Farm Safety Foundation - Yellow Wellies, which will go a long way in supporting the Foundation's cause. We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to each and every individual who generously donated.

Make sure to keep an eye out on our website and social media for updates on events coming up in 2024 - we would love to see you there!

If you are able to give up some time in 2024 to help the community and get involved with the volunteer team, please get in touch with [office@brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk](mailto:office@brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk).

Thank you.









# BRACKLEY TOWN COUNCIL



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

The overall expenditure is £1,314,288, of which £1,053,664 comes from Council tax in the Annual Precept. As with most councils and businesses, administration is the biggest cost – this covers a wide range of matters such as staffing, IT and infrastructure, legal, audit and insurance costs, training and so on. The Town Council has decided to focus on environmental maintenance, public services such as toilets and cemetery, events and venues. The Council does not deal with housing, highways, social care and benefits. To find out more about Brackley Town Council please visit our website.

ANNUAL PRECEPT	INCOME FROM SERVICES
£1,053,664	£260,624
80.17%	19.83%

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

Annual cost per household from 1 April 2024:

- £177.04 yearly
- £3.40 weekly

An increase of **£7.34** per year / **14p** per week for each household.



The below data reflects the 2024/25 expenditure budget agreed by the Council and the cost per household refers to a Band D house which totals £177.04 per year, an increase from last year of £7.34. The Council employs 13 people and serves around 18,000 residents making it one of the largest parishes in West Northamptonshire. There are 16 elected councillors who are unpaid volunteers.



# SNVB; the heart of community volunteering



Our award-winning local charity is the hub of community volunteering across Brackley, Towcester and surrounding villages.

Rachel Page has been presented with Northamptonshire Community Foundation's 'Northamptonshire Rose of the Shires' Award for her commitment to community action through the Brackley Area Volunteer Car Service, and for many more activities to which she donates her time.



SNVB Community Food Larders (Towcester and Roade) achieved Silver in the Weetabix Sustainability Awards; an accolade that shows the substantial impact made by over 100 volunteers to a service that reaches over 1000 people per week and saves 3 tonnes of food from waste each month.

SNVB was also invited to attend the launch of the Coronation Food Project, attended by Their Majesties King Charles III and Queen Camilla. Representatives from SNVB met His Majesty and we are so grateful to our friends at SOFEA and FareShare for inviting us to this event.

Our current campaign is to secure a long future for Garden Buddies; a project that has, for 10 years, been a 'lifeline that's so much more than mowing'. Our volunteers bring social contact and a welcome smile to our clients, many of whom are socially isolated and vulnerable. The project has also become a source of business volunteering opportunities and is a wonderful avenue for community action.

Last year we generated over £300K of volunteering value through our Social Action Projects. We know that in addition to these numbers, it is the warmth of interactions, the smiles raised, and the atmosphere of a place that truly makes a difference to the people who use our services, and to our volunteers who spread joy to the people we serve.

If you're interested in finding out more about our charity, volunteering your time or supporting our projects through donations or sponsorship, please email [volunteering@snvb.org.uk](mailto:volunteering@snvb.org.uk).

## Probus

Probus is an association of semi-retired and retired people who join together to provide regular opportunities for them to keep their minds active, expand their interests, enjoy the fellowship of like-minded people and make new friends.

We meet at the Rugby Club in Brackley on the first Tuesday of every month for a lively and enjoyable lunch, listen to interesting guest speakers and occasionally arrange outings to places of interest. We should very much welcome new faces and ideas so that our Club continues to grow.

Please contact Paul Wiltshire on [paulwiltshire@talktalk.net](mailto:paulwiltshire@talktalk.net) if you would like to come along for lunch to meet us.

## 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 [comms@brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk](mailto:comms@brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk) or call 01280 702441. We would love to hear from you.