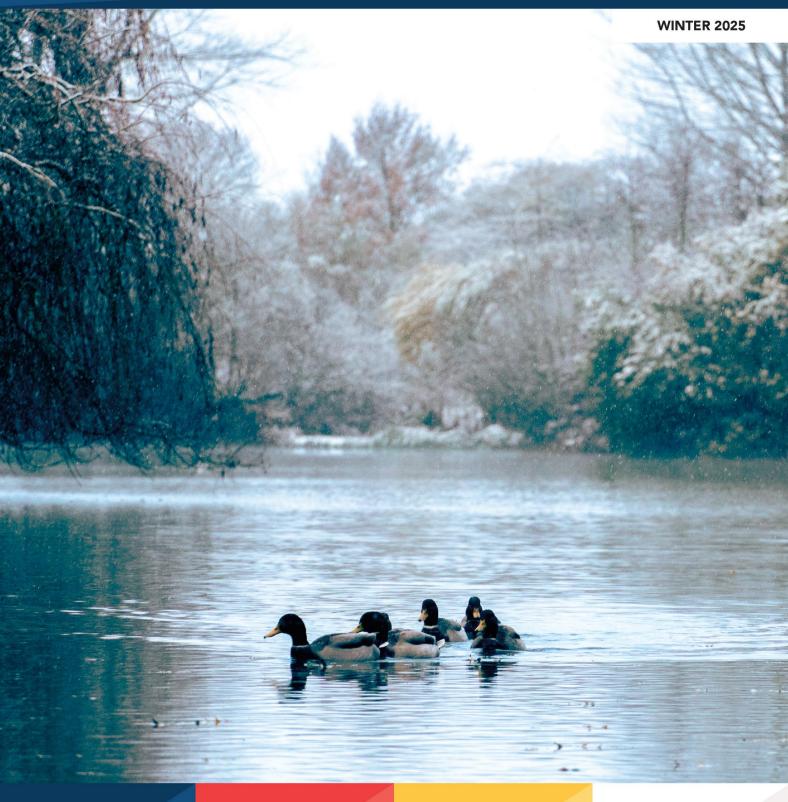


20 High Street, Brackley, NN13 7DS Tel: 01280 702441 Visit: www.brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk

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THE MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year to you all, I hope you had a good Christmas and enjoyed the first snow of the season.

It was lovely to see so many of you at the Christmas Lantern Parade/Light Switch On and Christmas Market. The trees looked absolutely stunning with their trunks adorned in lights. There were lots of lovely different shapes to see as you walked through the Town. The Christmas Market was a great success, and the local shops reported good footfall. Let's keep it up and get the Town thriving, which will encourage other empty premises to be opened up again. The Christmas Market is set to take place again this year.

In the Town, we have two empty premises being renovated by local entrepreneurs. The Bakery, which closed near the end of the year, and Lloyds Bank, which closed earlier last year. I am looking forward to seeing these busy very soon.

The Christmas Carols and Classic Car Show were both very enjoyable, lots of you turned out for these events. It was great having an impromptu children's choir.





Thank you all for some lovely singing, and for the Brackley Band for playing so beautifully in the cold and very windy weather. Both these events were fundraisers for the Mayor's Charities. I want to say a big thank you to all who donated for giving so generously at the events. Thank you to the Town Councillors for running the hot drinks and to the Brackley Masons for the Mulled Wine these were very much enjoyed by many.

The Christmas Classic Car Show was the biggest yet, with lots of very old vehicles. I had the privilege of being invited to sit in the back of a 1930s Rolls Royce for a photo. It brought back memories of doing the same back in the late 1950s when I was a bridesmaid at a family wedding. Thank you to the Classic Car Group for their generous donation to my charities.

Looking ahead to this year - I look forward to seeing many of you at the upcoming events around the Town. I have many to go to in the County and adjoining Towns. I will be putting Brackley on the map as an excellent place to come and visit.

My Civic Dinner will be in the Town Hall on the evening of Friday, April 25th. Please save the date. More information and tickets will be available soon.

Best wishes to you all,

Elaine Wiltshire

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 January 2025 publication. The next issue will be in May 2025. 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: Cllr Elaine Wiltshire Deputy Town Mayor: Cllr Fiona Baker

NORTH WARD

Cllr Anthony Bagot-Webb

Email: cllr.bagot-webb@brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk

Cllr Kate Nash

Email: cllr.nash@brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk

Cllr Paul Wiltshire

Email: cllr.pwiltshire@brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk

Cllr Luke Young

Email: cllr.young@brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk

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Cllr Adrian Watt

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Cllr Will King

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Clir Stewart Manley

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Cllr Bernard Tiller

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WEST WARD

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Cllr Sue Sharps

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Cllr Fiona Baker

Email: cllr.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

FEBRUARY 2025				
Planning & General Works Committee / Direct responsibilities & General-purpose committee / Finance & Policy Committee				
MARCH 2025				
Full Council Meeting, Planning & General Works Committee				
Planning & General Works Committee / Direct responsibilities & General-purpose committee / Finance & Policy Committee				
APRIL 2025				
Full Council Meeting, Planning & General Works Committee				
Planning & General Works Committee / Direct responsibilities & General-purpose committee / Finance & Policy Committee				

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

COUNCIL ELECTIONS



This year on 1 May, residents of Brackley will have the opportunity to vote in the local elections to decide who will represent them on the Brackley Town Council. The elected councillors will serve a four-year term, guiding the town's development and initiatives

through to 2029. Adding to this era of transformation, once elected, the new council will appoint a Town Mayor and Deputy Mayor. 2025 promises to be an exciting time for our little market town.

As a councillor, your role is to represent your community. It can be incredibly rewarding to work with residents, listen to their concerns, and turn ideas into action. You are given the rare chance to express the opinions of the residents in the ward you serve and make a meaningful difference to our Town. Together with the other councillors, you make decisions and help to bring about change in your parish. Ensure that Brackley is a great place to both work and live by shaping long-term plans that impact future generations.

The full council meets on the first Monday of each month to discuss town-wide matters. Additionally, committee meetings are held on the third Monday of the month which focus in more detail on finer issues such as planning, finance and direct responsibilities. In both settings, councillors contribute by sharing their own perspectives and representing the views and concerns of the community on agenda items.

The four wards of Brackley - North, South, East and West, are each represented by four councillors. So, the Brackley Town Council is comprised of four sets of four, totalling sixteen councillors. To see how the wards are divided, see the figure X.

In addition to the core role, there are multiple opportunities throughout the year to engage and connect with the community. Although not an essential responsibility of a councillor, the many events hosted by Brackley Town Council are a great chance to interact with the people of the town.

Seeing councillors contribute with a hands-on approach helps foster a real sense of connectedness in the community. It's not uncommon to see our councillors serving coffees or donning high-vis jackets at these events.

The restrictions on standing as a councillor are relatively minimal. You must be at least 18 years of age, registered to vote in the area, and be a British or Commonwealth citizen. You may also be eligible as an EU citizen, the gov.uk website is a good source of information on this subject.



Local elections are always an exciting opportunity to bring fresh perspectives to the meeting table. Since the late 1800s the parish councils have been a cornerstone of British local government. Unlike the distant and out of reach houses of Parliament, any member of the local community can stand as a parish councillor to make meaningful change in their local community.

Leave a lasting legacy in Brackley. Whether championing local projects, ensuring the smooth running of community events, or addressing residents' concerns, every action contributes to the town's progress. By standing for election, you're not only stepping into a position of responsibility but also taking part in something bigger—a collective effort to make Brackley the best it can be for

current and future generations.

YOU

COULD BE A

BRACKLEY TOWN

COUNCILLOR

Do you have what it takes to be a Brackley Town Councillor?

Visit us in the office to find out more.

MACE-BEARER

The position of Mace-Bearer will soon be available, register your interest!

After three years of service as Brackley Town's Mace-Bearer, Peter Rawlinson is stepping down from the role this year. Peter has also previously served the town as a Councillor, and as Mayor of Brackley during 2013-2014. We wish him all the best for the future, and bid him a heartfelt thank you and farewell.

Historically, the Mace-Bearer served as a bodyguard, responsible for protecting the Mayor during public appearances. The Mace itself, once a formidable weapon carried over the shoulder, has since evolved into a symbol of justice and protection. Today, the role is entirely ceremonial, with the Mace-Bearer supporting the Mayor at civic events and Council meetings throughout the year. During key ceremonies, the Mace-Bearer dons a full-length purple gown, adding to the tradition and pageantry of the occasion.

The Mace-Bearer's duties include attending Full Council meetings, where they assist the Mayor in preparing their ceremonial regalia. At the start of

Do you think you're worthy to bear the Brackley Mace?

For more information email: office@brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk



each meeting, they formally announce the Mayor's entrance, calling on Councillors and attendees to stand as a mark of respect.

During the meeting, the Mace is placed on a stand before the Mayor as a symbol of authority. At the meeting's conclusion, the Mace-Bearer once again calls for Councillors to stand, retrieves the Mace, and ceremonially leads the Mayor out of the Chamber.

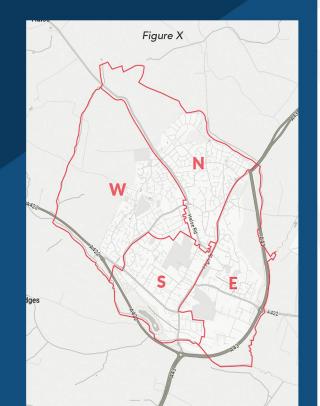
The Mace-Bearer is also required to lead parades and take part in events on Remembrance Sunday, Armistice Day, Mayor Making, and the Mayor's Civic Church Service.

HOW TO STAND AS A COUNCILLOR

We're still in the early stages of the election process, with specific deadlines yet to be announced. However, if you're interested in standing as a Councillor, you can visit the Brackley Town Council office at 20 High Street (opposite The Plough) to register your interest. Leave your contact details with us, and we'll notify you as soon as the nomination papers are available. You'll also receive an information pack outlining the application process.

For further details, West Northamptonshire Council's Electoral Services team is a great resource. Brackley Town Council will also share all the necessary information in the coming weeks on our website: www.brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk, and via social media.

Additionally, we'll host drop-in sessions for those curious about the role of a Councillor. These sessions will be held on weekdays and weekends across multiple locations, making it easier for everyone to attend. Keep an eye out for updates!











Since the late 1800s, Brackley has been home to a dedicated team of firefighters, always ready to respond at a moment's notice to keep people safe. Whether tackling fires, floods, road traffic collisions or other emergencies, these courageous men and women serve our community with unwavering commitment.

The Brackley station is run entirely by an on-call team who provide fire service cover in their own time, responding to a pager when there is an incident. Their crew include full-time firefighters who serve at other stations as their main job, but also include a computer programmer, bar worker, Mercedes engineer, local business owner, accountant and even a trainee pilot! The moment an alert comes in, they drop everything and head to the station.

Being a firefighter is about much more than responding to emergencies. There's a strong focus on prevention and community work - varying from visiting schools and educating young people, to attending public events and fostering meaningful connections with local residents and businesses. The crew also need to maintain the station's cutting edge equipment, which includes a main fire engine, a high-pressure hose capable of cutting through

walls, advanced thermal imaging cameras and breathing apparatus. They all require constant care to ensure they are ready for action.

Despite the demands of drills, training and maintenance, every team member speaks about their role with pride and a beaming smile.

DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES?

No matter your job or work hours, if you think you've got what it takes, you can apply. As long as you're over 18 and can reach the station within eight minutes (covering all of Brackley and nearby villages by car), you just need to let the team know when you're available to be on-call, day or night. On-call time is paid, with additional hourly pay for callouts.

Visit the Brackley Fire Station to learn more at one of the upcoming taster sessions:

Monday March 3rd 7pm to 8pm Monday April 7th 7pm to 8pm Monday May 12th 7pm to 8pm

Get in touch via email: ret08@northantsfire.gov.uk

VOLUNTEER CAR SERVICE



The Brackley Area Volunteer Car Service has been a local lifeline for over 20 years, supporting individuals without access to transport in Brackley and its surrounding villages. This invaluable service ensures residents can attend vital medical appointments, providing a critical connection for those in need.

Currently, the service is limited to essential journeys, such as hospital and doctor visits, but they aspire to expand their offerings to include everyday travel needs. Passengers contribute 45p per mile toward their journeys. With 20 active volunteer drivers and over 600 registered clients, their impact on the community is already significant, however new volunteers would greatly increase the scope of the service and help to meet the growing demand. Your contribution as a driver could help transform lives.

If you'd like to join or learn more about this dedicated group of local heroes, please contact Rachel at SNVB, email rachel@snvb.org.uk or phone 01280 841 099.

FOOD BANK

In challenging times, it's truly inspiring to see members of our community dedicating their time to help those who need it most. The Brackley Food Bank team, powered by hardworking volunteers, has been a lifeline for local families since its founding in April 2010 by Jenny Nisbet and Reverend Duncan Tuck, then Minister of the Brackley Community Church.

Over the past 15 years, the food bank has become a cornerstone of support for residents facing tough circumstances. This dedicated team,



made up of individuals from all walks of life (students, pensioners, and everyone in between) work tirelessly to collect, sort, and distribute the generous donations from our community.

The need for support has grown in recent years, making the food bank's efforts more vital than ever. Each week, the volunteers ensure that donations are transformed into essential supplies for those in need, providing hope and relief during difficult times.

Donations are welcomed every Thursday from 10am to 12pm at their unit just off Buckingham Road. You can also contribute at collection points in Sainsbury's, Waitrose, and the Co-op stores on the High Street, Radstone Fields, and in Croughton

A heartfelt thank you to the Brackley Food Bank volunteers. Your selflessness and commitment make Brackley a kinder, more caring town.









LITTER WOMBLES

We're fortunate in Brackley that our lovely Market Town stays almost entirely litter-free, thanks to the hardworking Brackley Litter Wombles! Recognisable by their iconic purple high-vis vests, these selfless volunteers dedicate their time to clearing and cleaning "the everyday things that folks leave behind."

Meeting every Wednesday at 9am in various spots around town, the Wombles collected an incredible 1,560 bags of rubbish last year! That's one and a half thousand bags of litter that would otherwise clutter our beautiful town. They also gather one Saturday a month, and some even go on solo missions to tidy up.

The Wombles aren't asking for more volunteers—though they're always welcome—or even for funding. All they ask is that we each do our bit to keep Brackley tidy. Whether it's picking up stray rubbish or disposing of waste properly, small actions make a big difference. One long standing Womble Brian "Dangerman" Wren quipped, "Who is hanging dog bags in trees?" Tidying up as we go means the Wombles can focus on "hardcore wombling," tackling areas like laybys and roadsides to protect local wildlife. As Trish Savill, a Womble founder, says "You don't have to be a full-on Womble to help—anyone can do it!"

Thank you Brackley Litter Wombles! Let's help them to keep our Town tidy!

VENUES FOR HIRE

Brackley Town Council proudly offers three versatile venues for hire: the Town Hall, Egerton Hall, and The Old Fire Station Community Room. Each of these spaces boasts its own unique charm and character, making them perfectly suited for a variety of occasions. Whether you're planning a birthday celebration, a business meeting, a community group gathering, or a training session, one of our venues is sure to meet your needs.

Review the details to find the venue that best fits your needs. Our team is also on hand to assist with any questions you may have. Booking is simple and convenient. You can call the Brackley Town Council office directly to reserve your date or use our easy online booking system via our website.

BOOK ONLINE
VIA OUR WEBSITE OR
CALL THE OFFICE ON

01280 702 441

CIVIC HALL

Seated Numbers: Kitchen:

Features

- Chairs & Tables
- Welcome Area
- Projector & Screen

BRACKLEY TOWN HALL



MAIN HALL

Seated Numbers: 150 Kitchen: Yes

80

Yes

Features

- State-of-the-art sound & lighting
- Retractable Seating
- Private Car Park

EGERTON HALI



MEETING ROOM

Seated Numbers: 30 Kitchen: (if available)

Features

- Conference Table & Chairs
- Private Car Park
- Projector & Screen

EGERTON HALL



COMMUNITY ROOM

Seated Numbers: Kitchen:

Features

- Sink & Hot Water Boiler
- Chairs & Tables
- Projector & Screen

OLD FIRE STATION



COMMUNITY GROUPS

Brackley is home to a vibrant array of community groups which meet at the Brackley Town Council venues. These groups offer something for everyone, whether you're looking to explore a new hobby, to connect with like-minded individuals, or to get involved in local activities. Spanning a wide variety of topics and interests, they offer an excellent way to meet people and make lasting friendships.

We've compiled a list of some groups that have kindly shared their details with us. If any of these catch your interest, don't hesitate to reach out to them using the contact information provided. Your next adventure or connection could be just a phone call or email away!

WEEKLY

MONTHLY

EGERTON HALL

50

No

Jado Kuin Do	Mon	markbrucewjo@hotmail.co.uk
Mini Music Time	Mon	info@lifechurchbrackley.com
Bad Gamers	Tues	frankareynolds@hotmail.com
Tiny Toes Ballett	Tues	debbie@tinytoesballet.co.uk
Accent Percussion	Tues	agsmith2068@gmail.com
Ginger Warrior Dance Fitness	Thurs	thegingerwarrior78@gmail.com
Babies & Barbells	Fri	rosiek.pt@gmail.com
Community Larder	Fri	foodlardercommunity@gmail.com
Life Church	Sun	info@lifechurchbrackley.com
U3a Family History	Thurs	graham.archdale@gmail.com

OLD FIRE STATION COMMUNITY ROOM

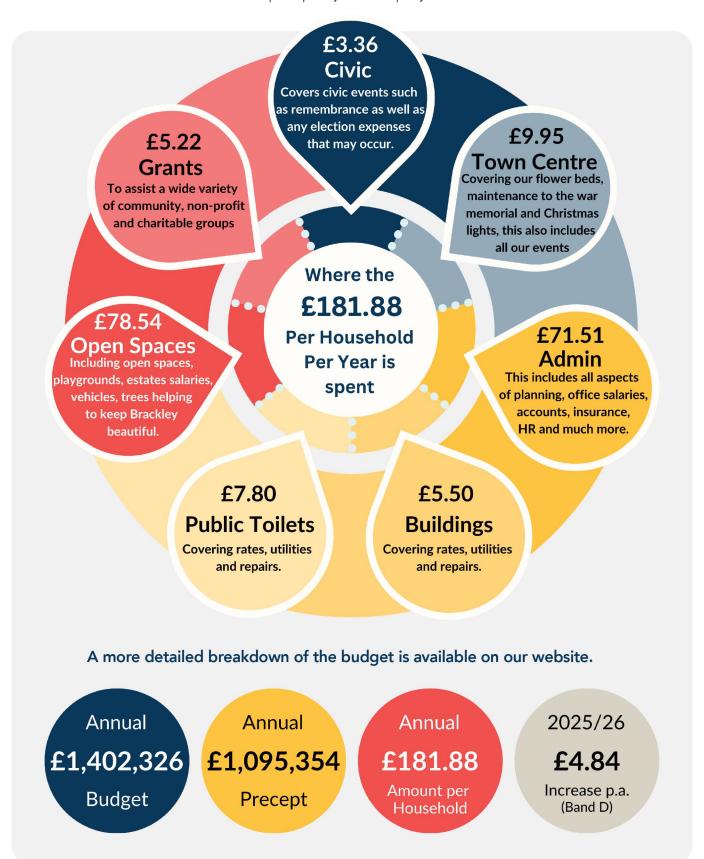
Parent & Baby Yoga	Mon	blossomwithmidwiferachel@gmail.com
Chatty Café	Tues	info@thechattycafescheme.co.uk
Toddler & Parent Yoga	Wed	blossomwithmidwiferachel@gmail.com
Zumba	Thurs	sue_j_nee@yahoo.co.uk
Brackley European Association	Thurs	graham.archdale@gmail.com

TOWN HALL

Brackley Morris Thurs 7936841240

2025/26 BUDGET

At its Full Council meeting on 20 January 2025, Brackley Town Council approved the annual budget for 2025/26 which will result in a modest increase to the precept of just £4.84 per year for residents.



THE BIRTH OF THE MAGNA CARTA IN BRACKLEY

The Magna Carta, a cornerstone of modern constitutional law, was in a sense born in our small market town of Brackley. Its origins date back to the early 13th century, an era shaped by influential figures like Genghis Khan and Fibonacci, and momentous events such as the sack of Constantinople and Marco Polo's explorations.

This historic document, which established key principles such as the rule of law, protection from arbitrary imprisonment, and the right to a fair trial (widely regarded as the foundation of modern law) emerged from tensions between the monarch, famously known as 'Bad King John' and England's barons. At the time, these barons served as vital intermediaries between the king and the wider population.

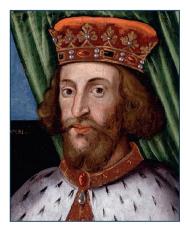
'This list, created in Brackley in 1215, became the basis for all the great charters which followed.'

John remains the only king to bear that name, as his disastrous reign left such a stain on history that no monarch has since wanted to evoke memories of this reviled tyrant. His rule was marked by coercion, with accusations of blackmail, extortion, murder, and exploitation of women. While the people of England were powerless against him, even the barons eventually lost patience with this unfit self-serving king.

Five earls, forty barons, around two thousand knights, and countless foot soldiers marched to Northampton to begin negotiations for change. Despite his ruthlessness, John was known as a coward in battle, earning him the enduring nickname 'John Softsword.'

Upon arriving at the Northampton tournament ground, they found The King had fled to Brackley.

On their arrival in Brackley it became clear that John intended to remain out of reach, but he sent an envoy to learn what the barons sought. They compiled a long list, mostly outlining laws, customs, and practices that had



Bad King John

been accepted but unwritten. This list, drawn up in our home town of Brackley in 1215, eventually became Magna Carta — The Great Charter.

After King John initially refused to accept their list, the group seized Lincoln and London, quickly gaining support as they campaigned. Despite claiming it would make him 'no more than a slave' — a statement rich with irony given his own rule — John eventually capitulated. Fearing for his throne, he reluctantly agreed to sign and seal the Great Charter, born in Brackley, at Runnymede on 15 June 1215.

Despite this, John refused to go quietly, seeking the pope's help to officially declare Magna Carta 'null and void of all validity forever,' going back on his word in a characteristically underhand move to regain control. However, his actions could not undo the barons' work, as three of its laws still remain in both the UK and USA — almost verbatim — today.

It's humbling to think that the history of the Magna Carta, a document with such lasting impact, can be traced back to our small market town of Brackley.









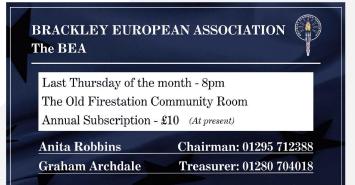


Every Monday 2pm - 4pm Esquires Coffee Juno Cres, Brackley

Every Tuesday 3pm - 5pm The Old Fire Station 37 High Street, Brackley

Every Thursday 6.30pm onwards

The Paisley Pear Northampton Road, Brackley







Running Youth Clubs, Youth Council, Projects & Events within Brackley.

We are also on the lookout for new volunteers!

Please contact <u>admin@youth-engagement.co.uk</u> for more information or see what we get up to on Facebook @<u>SNYE</u>

BRACKLEY WINNERS

WINDOW COMPETITION



Congratulations to **The Plough** and **Cutting Edge** for winning the Brackley High Street Christmas shop window display competition! The trophies, crafted by Wayne Ralph were presented by Mike Moran, Jan Dean from Men in Sheds, Town Centre Manager Samantha Hosking, Brackley Mayor Elaine Wiltshire, and Cllr Daniel Lister WNC. Runners up included Brook & Co, Defern, and Boughtons. Well done everyone!



CHATTY CAFE

Jon Haslam founder of the Chatty Cafe
Scheme recently won a special recognition
award at the West Northamptonshire Council's male
role model awards for his work and contribution to
the community. Huge congratulations Jon, well done!

BRACKLEY BOWLS CLUB

On 9 January 2025, Brackley Ladies Indoor Bowls Club secured their first-ever win in the Ivy and Horace Tarrant Trophy, a competition among eight Northamptonshire clubs. Despite being a small, volunteer-run club, the team triumphed by a single shot. Representing Brackley were

Elaine Urquhart, Mandy Godfrey, Elaine Pratt, Karen Hilder, Val Scott, Jackie Grange, Lorna Rolfe and Lynn Upton.

A remarkable achievement for this dedicated group!





CONTACT

PHONE 0300 126 7000

(Extensions)

- 1. Support Children/Adults/Schools
- 2. Blue Badge/Births/Deaths/Weddings
- 3. Council Tax/Housing Benefits
- 4. Homelessness
- 5. Home Tenants
- 6. Council Housing Applications
- 7. Noise Complaints/Flytipping/Stray Dogs
- 8. Waste Collections
- 9. Roads/Streetlights/Verges
- 10. Planning
- 11. Library/Bus Pass

LIVE WEB CHAT

Advisors can help you find information and services available online. This Webchat is currently in development, with improvements added frequently. Advisors are available Monday through Friday, 9am to 5pm

SEND A LETTER

West Northamptonshire Council

The Guildhall St Giles Square Northampton NN1 1DE

WNC APP

The WNC app has a 'report it' function that allows users to report issues in their local area directly to WNC. Simply search 'West Northamptonshire Council' in the Google Play or Apple App Store to find and download the app on to phone.

ENQUIRY FORM

This enquiry form reaches the appropriate team at WNC and guarantees a response within five working days once it is completed. Simple and fast to complete, this is one of the most effective ways to contact the team.

Search 'West Northamptonshire Council Contact' in your web browser, then navigate to the 'Contact Us' page to find the form.

FIX MY STREET

Fix My Street is a WNC website dedicated to reporting issues to the Council. It's always best to include images in your report to speed up the response process. Also, the more frequently an issue is reported, the more likely it is to be resolved quickly. Simply search 'West Northamptonshire Fix My Street'. Multiple counties have 'Fix My Street' sites, so ensure you don't forget West Northants when searching.

CONTACT US

- - **♀** 20 High Street, Brackley, Northamptonshire, NN13 7DS

FOLLOW US

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

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 or call 01280 702441.

We would love to hear from you.