



# 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)

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**AUTUMN 2025**



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THE MAYOR’S MESSAGE

It has been a busy and exciting few months in Brackley, and I would like to begin by thanking everyone who has supported my chosen charity, **b Yourself**, at the many wonderful events we’ve held so far this year. We are really starting to build momentum, and every penny raised will go directly to supporting children’s mental health in Brackley. It is a truly brilliant cause, and I am very grateful for your generosity.

I want to thank the team behind the Big Party in the Park. Although this wasn’t council-led, it was a fantastic event that brought real energy to the town as summer came to a close. A special mention also goes to the Teddy Bear Picnic and the dog show at Brackley Care Home, both wonderful ways of bringing generations together. The smiles on everyone’s faces were a reminder of what makes this community so special.

I know that sometimes people feel they miss out on hearing what’s happening in town, so the team are working hard to improve how we share information. Please do keep an eye on our website and follow us on social media for the latest updates. You can also find details of upcoming events and news in the Town Council office window (opposite The Plough) and on noticeboards around Brackley.



This summer has been filled with events, and I want to say a huge thank you to everyone who joined us. The Teddy Bear Parachute Jump was a real highlight on a sunny day, and I was blown away with the view after being lifted up in the cherry picker to launch the first teddy! The Classic Car Show was another fantastic occasion, with a record number



of votes for the People’s Choice award. Judging was one of the hardest jobs I’ve had as Mayor, so many cars stood out this year. Congratulations again to all the winners, and thank you to everyone who came along.

Looking ahead, we have a wonderful line-up of autumn and winter events in store. Fireworks Night will kick off the season, you’ll hear me on the microphone throughout the evening! Then we look forward to the Remembrance Parade, the Christmas Lanterns, Lights and Market, the Tractor Run, Christmas Carols, and even the Christmas Classic Car Show, alongside many other community favourites.

Thank you, as always, to everyone who helps make Brackley such a brilliant place to live. I look forward to seeing you at the events to come.

Take care, and see you around the town.

Cllr Bernie Tiller  
**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 October 2026 publication. The next issue will be in January 2026. 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 print by: Banbury Litho.

YOUR LOCAL TOWN COUNCILLORS  
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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

OCTOBER 2025	
20 <sup>th</sup> October	Planning & General Works Committee / Direct responsibilities & General-purpose committee / Finance & Policy Committee
NOVEMBER 2025	
3 <sup>rd</sup> November	Full Council Meeting, Planning & General Works Committee
17 <sup>th</sup> November	Planning & General Works Committee / Direct responsibilities & General-purpose committee / Finance & Policy Committee
DECEMBER 2025	
1 <sup>st</sup> December	Full Council Meeting, Planning & General Works Committee
15 <sup>th</sup> December	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.

# ANNUAL REPORT SUMMARY 2024-25

2024–25 has been a year of growth and achievement for Brackley Town Council. From expanding green spaces and planting 40 new trees to starting the Egerton Hall extension and delivering vibrant community events, the Council has worked to strengthen our town, support residents, and enhance the environment

At our annual meeting in May 2024, Councillor Elaine Wiltshire was elected as Mayor of Brackley, with Councillor Fiona Baker appointed Deputy Mayor. At the end of Cllr Wiltshire’s term as Mayor, she had raised £6,500 for Northamptonshire Music & Performing Arts Trust (NMPAT).

Following the closure of Southfield School, the Council took decisive steps to safeguard the site for community benefit. A nomination was submitted to register the school as an Asset of Community Value, which was successfully approved in August 2024.

Investment in community facilities took a significant step forward with the construction of the new skatepark, which began in September 2024. Now completed, this facility provides a dedicated, safe, and modern space for young people and the wider community to enjoy.

## Environment & Biodiversity

The Council made strong progress in enhancing Brackley’s natural environment. Over the past year, we have:



Expanded habitats for local wildlife by creating wildflower areas and more nature-friendly spaces around the town.



Adopted Carpenter’s Place, furthering our commitment to maintaining and enhancing local green areas.



Planted 40 new trees across the town, strengthening Brackley’s urban canopy and contributing to long-term climate resilience.

These initiatives reflect our commitment to sustainability and to leaving a positive legacy for future generations.

How your money was spent in 2024–25	
Total Income	£1,984,859
Total Expenditure	£1,829,384
Placed in Reserves	£155,475

Work also commenced on the upstairs extension at Egerton Hall, which will provide two additional rooms and a kitchen area for hire by residents. This project will expand capacity for community events, activities, and local organisations, supporting the growing demand for flexible meeting spaces.

## Supporting the Community

A total of **£11,750** Community Grants were given to:

**St Peter’s Church Hall** – Refurbish kitchen (oven, freezer cabinets, cooker hood, stainless steel shelf).

**Brackley Jubilee Choir** – Public performance with musicians and soloists.

**Brackley & District Band** – Encourage young people to take up instruments by hosting a concert/event.

**Men in Sheds** – Purchase dust extraction system.

**South Northants Youth Engagement (SNYE)** – Skateboarding sessions (Skate Sundays).

**South Northants Youth Engagement (SNYE)** – Brackley Play & Activity Day.

**South Northants Volunteer Bureau (SNVB)** – Volunteer Car Service.

**Brackley Youth Theatre** – Summer concert.

## Community Events

Events brought Brackley’s community together across the year, honouring traditions, celebrating spirit, and creating memorable experiences. Highlights of the 2024–25 season included:

Mayor Making	Remembrance Service & Parade
D-Day Beacon Lighting – 80th Anniversary	Christmas Market, Light Switch-On & Lantern Parade
Brackley Community Showcase	Christmas Tractor Run
Teddy Bear Picnic	Christmas Classic Car Show
Summer Classic Car Show	

These events reflected the Town Council’s commitment to vibrant civic culture, remembrance, charity support, and family-friendly engagement.

## What you get for your £3.40 per week



Open Spaces



Offices



Community Spaces



Events



Litter & Dog Waste Bins



Halse Rd Cemetery

## Looking Forward

The year has reinforced the importance of partnership, investment, and long-term planning. Priorities for the year ahead include:



Maintaining the completed skatepark and ensuring it meets community needs.



Supporting local organisations through the 2025–26 grants programme.



Completing the Egerton Hall extension and opening the new spaces for residents’ use.



Exploring new opportunities to leverage regional funding for the benefit of residents.



Building further on biodiversity projects, tree planting, and green space stewardship.

Through these initiatives, Brackley Town Council remains committed to building a thriving, inclusive, and resilient community.



Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2024/25 for

EN Brackley Town Council

	Year ending		Notes and guidance
	31 March 2024 £	31 March 2025 £	
1. Balances brought forward	1,713,231	2,106,117	Total balances and reserves at the beginning of the year as recorded in the financial records. Value must agree to Box 7 of previous year.
2. (+) Precept or Rates and Levies	1,009,630	1,053,664	Total amount of precept (or for IDBs rates and levies) received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.
3. (+) Total other receipts	484,135	931,195	Total income or receipts as recorded in the cashbook less the precept or rates/levies received (line 2). Include any grants received.
4. (-) Staff costs	561,911	607,294	Total expenditure or payments made to and on behalf of all employees. Include gross salaries and wages, employers NI contributions, employers pension contributions, gratuities and severance payments.
5. (-) Loan interest/capital repayments	0	0	Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on the authority's borrowings (if any).
6. (-) All other payments	538,968	1,208,471	Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cashbook less staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5).
7. (=) Balances carried forward	2,106,117	2,275,211	Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. Must equal (1+2+3) - (4+5+6).
8. Total value of cash and short term investments	2,110,298	2,379,260	The sum of all current and deposit bank accounts, cash holdings and short term investments held as at 31 March – To agree with bank reconciliation.
9. Total fixed assets plus long term investments and assets	502,466	548,061	The value of all the property the authority owns – it is made up of all its fixed assets and long term investments as at 31 March.
10. Total borrowings	0	0	The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).

For Local Councils Only	Yes	No	N/A	
11a. Disclosure note re Trust funds (including charitable)		✓		The Council, as a body corporate, acts as sole trustee and is responsible for managing Trust funds or assets.
11b. Disclosure note re Trust funds (including charitable)			✓	The figures in the accounting statements above exclude any Trust transactions.

I certify that for the year ended 31 March 2025 the Accounting Statements in this Annual Governance and Accountability Return have been prepared on either a receipts and payments or income and expenditure basis following the guidance in Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities – a Practitioners' Guide to Proper Practices and present fairly the financial position of this authority.

Signed by Responsible Financial Officer before being presented to the authority for approval

**CONFIDENTIAL**

Date 19/05/2025

I confirm that these Accounting Statements were approved by this authority on this date:

19/05/2025

as recorded in minute reference:

MINUTE REFERENCE

Signed by Chair of the meeting where the Accounting Statements were approved

**CONFIDENTIAL**

Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2024/25 Form 3  
Local Councils, Internal Drainage Boards and other Smaller Authorities\*

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In Aid of..  
Yourself

b Yourself

Supporting Young People in Brackley

DONATE TO  
b YOURSELF

By scanning the  
QR code →

The Brackley Town Council elects a new mayor every year. One of their first responsibilities on the job is to select a charity to support during their term. This charity receives all the funds raised at mayoral and council events throughout the year.

This year, the Brackley Town Mayor, Cllr Bernie Tiller, has chosen b Yourself as his charity. He wanted to select a local organisation that directly supports the people of Brackley and has a tangible impact in the community.

b Yourself is a mental health and wellbeing charity that works primarily with young people, their families, and local schools. Their mission is to promote emotional wellbeing, build resilience, and provide early support for mental health challenges. The charity offers a range of services, including one-to-one counselling, group sessions, workshops on mindfulness and resilience, and support for families navigating mental health issues.

The charity also works closely with schools in the area, helping to embed mental health awareness into everyday learning and providing guidance to staff, students, and parents. By taking a holistic approach, b Yourself aims to ensure that young people receive consistent support at home, at school, and in the wider community.

The charity's trustees are active members of the Brackley community, bringing a wealth of local knowledge and commitment to their roles. This community involvement ensures that b Yourself's initiatives are closely aligned with the needs and values of Brackley residents.

By selecting b Yourself as his chosen charity, Mayor Cllr Bernie Tiller hopes to shine a light on the importance of mental health support for young people in Brackley, and to encourage the community to get involved with a cause that makes a real difference in the town.

Community Grant Applications for 2025/2026

Each year, Brackley Town Council sets aside a designated amount of funds to be distributed as grants to voluntary organisations and community groups that offer services benefiting the residents of Brackley.

It's important to note that these grants have certain limitations and will only be accessible to those organisations capable of demonstrating a genuine need for assistance.

For the upcoming financial year of 2026/2027, grant applications are open on Monday 6 October 2025 and will remain open until 12 noon on Friday, 30 January 2026.

If your organisation falls into this category and seeks financial aid to continue its valuable work in the community, we encourage you to apply now.

Please visit our website:  
[www.brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk](http://www.brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk)  
or email [accounts@brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk](mailto:accounts@brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk)  
for the Grants Policy and this year's application form.

Grants Allocated In 2025/26

Organisation	Amount Granted
South Northants Volunteer Bureau	£2,000
Saints (Brackley) Community Trust	£1,400
Brackley Sea Cadets	£1,000
Brackley Hogwatch	£1,000
Brackley European Association	£1,800
Brackley Jubilee Choir	£400
Food for Thought	£1,300
Brackley & District Round Table	£600
Brackley Players	£1,000
1st Grafton SEND Scout Group	£1,296
Brackley Rugby Club	£2,000
Brackley Youth Theatre	£1,385



EVENTS



1. Fireworks Display

Sponsored by Mercedes-AMG Petronas Formula One Team

Date: **Saturday 1 November**

Location: **Magdalen School Playing Field**

Time: **19:00**

On Saturday, November 1, Brackley is gearing up for its annual spectacular free-entry fireworks display, proudly sponsored by the Mercedes-AMG PETRONAS Formula One Team.

The event promises an unforgettable evening of family fun and entertainment. The display will take place at St John's Site, Magdalen College School (bottom site), with gates opening at 5 pm. Enjoy a variety of delicious hot food and drink stalls to keep you warm, along with fantastic local community activities for children. Don't miss the pre-show entertainment – LED Robots!

The Mercedes-AMG PETRONAS Formula One Team's show car will be on display, and team members will be present to discuss the car and raise vital funds for their Official Team Charity Partner for 2025–2026, Helen & Douglas House, through collection buckets at the gates.

The fifteen-minute firework display will start at 7 pm. This event is always popular, so arriving early is best to secure a good viewing spot.



2. Remembrance Service & Parade

Date: **Sunday 9 November**

Location: **Brackley Town Centre**

Time: **14:45**

The Brackley Remembrance Service and Parade is an important event in the town's calendar. Held annually to remember and honour those who have given their lives in service to their country. This year's parade and service will take place on Sunday, 9 November. The parade will start at 2:30 pm from Winchester House and proceed down the High Street. At 3 pm, a service of Remembrance will take place, followed by wreath-laying at Brackley War Memorial.



3. Christmas Lantern Workshops

Date: **15 & 16 November**

Location: **Egerton Hall**

Decorate your lantern ready for the Christmas Market, Lights & Lantern Parade!

If you would like to book a slot for your child at a workshop, please visit the events page on our website, or visit us in the office, Mon/Wed/Fri. All children will need to be accompanied by an adult.

If you are unable to attend a workshop on any of the above dates, do not panic - we are selling the lantern packs for parents to purchase and collect from the Brackley Town Council office so you can decorate at home instead.



4. Christmas Market, Lights & Lanterns

Date: **Saturday 29 November**

Location: **Brackley Town Centre**

Time: **Market from 15:00, Parade at 17:15, Light Switch on at 17:30**

Nestled in the heart of town, this festive celebration transforms the Piazza into a wonderland of twinkling lights and seasonal cheer.

From 3 pm, on the Piazza and Market Place car park, there will be a range of community group activities, craft stalls, home goods and festive food all supplied from local traders. The lantern parade will be led by none other than Father Christmas himself and The Mayor of Brackley, Cllr Bernie Tiller.

The lantern parade will gather at Winchester House at 4:45 pm and commence at 5:15 pm. The parade will slowly walk down the High Street and finish just in front of the War Memorial where the Christmas lights will be switched on at 5:30 pm.



5. Christmas Tractor Run

Date: **Sunday 7 December**

Location: **Town Wide**

Time: **Set off at 18:00**

This year marks our fifth Brackley Christmas Tractor Run, now a firm favourite in the BTC events calendar! Once again, we'll be raising money for Yellow Wellies, the award-winning charity supporting the physical and mental wellbeing of UK farmers. Last year, we raised an incredible **£3901!** ...can we top that in 2025, Brackley?

We're aiming for 100 tractors, decked out in lights, tinsel, and festive decorations. Spectators line the route to enjoy the magical parade – don't forget to give them a wave!

The run starts at 6 pm and follows a set route through town. Full details will be shared on our website and social channels as December approaches.



6. Christmas Community Carol Service

Date: **Sunday 21 December**

Location: **Piazza**

From 6 pm, on the Piazza, we invite you to join Brackley Town Mayor, Cllr Bernie Tiller, councillors and council staff to sing Christmas carols outside of the Town Hall and under the lights of the Christmas trees. Refreshments will be available and song sheets provided for everyone to join in the community singing.

Want to see what's coming up in Brackley?

Head to our events page to find out! You'll see our classic highlights like the fireworks and Christmas market, plus lots of brilliant community-led events. It's an easy way to see everything in one place. Visit: [www.brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk/events-listings](http://www.brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk/events-listings)





# WORK EXPERIENCE

This year, we were delighted to welcome two outstanding students from Magdalen College School for their Year 10 work experience placement, Nathan, an aspiring accountant, and Charlie, looking to go into personal training.

Throughout the week, they enthusiastically got involved with our grounds, facilities, and office teams. Their attitude and effort were fantastic, and we were genuinely impressed by the commitment they showed in every task.

## Day 1: (Charlie)

On arrival, Kathy (the Deputy Clerk) and Ali (the Clerk) explained how the council works, and the difference between Brackley Town Council and West Northamptonshire Council.

After lunch, we met Cllr Bernie Tiller who is the Mayor, who told us what it's like, and how he got elected. Then, we went to the Town Hall and were shown all of the robes and the meeting room. They also told us about some interesting history of Brackley.

## Day 2: (Nathan)

We were with Luke (Communications and Marketing) in the morning, where we learnt about how they promote their events. We also wrote some articles ourselves, which we posted on the Brackley Town Council website, Instagram, and Facebook. Then we went down to the lake to take some pictures, which we later uploaded to the website to help promote the area.

In the afternoon, we joined the Admin team and learnt how they report road issues to West Northamptonshire Council. We also learnt about the process of buying a grave at the cemetery and how deaths are properly recorded.

## Day 3: (Charlie)

In the morning, we were with Julie (Facilities), who looks after the buildings owned by the council, and prepares them for guests. We also went up to the clock



tower! In the afternoon, we were with Angela and Claire, who look after the council's finances. Angela explained how she manages the money and how every payment has to be recorded. Claire showed us how to create invoices, and then we took turns doing it ourselves.

## Day 4: (Nathan)

On Day 4, we went out with the Grounds team and helped crown trees, which keeps footpaths clear and makes it safer for people to walk through. It also helps ensure the trees stay healthy, as removing the lower branches prevents them from snapping and allows the team to check for signs of disease. Later on, we went out on the tractor and even had a go at driving it!



## Day 5: (Charlie)

In the morning we went down to the market and took some photos to promote it. After that we finished off our reports for Town Talk and finalised our social media posts.

A huge thanks to the boys for their week of hard work. Charlie said his favourite day was with the Comms team, while Nathan most enjoyed working with the Grounds team. Both agreed the fun fact of the week was learning that a zebra crossing costs £160,000! Brilliant work, we're already looking forward to next year's placements!

# STAY IN TOUCH

Feeling out of touch with life in Brackley? We want to make sure everyone can stay up-to-date with the latest news and information from around town. We're here to help and to foster the connected, vibrant community we're so lucky to have in Brackley. To make it easier, we've highlighted some of the best ways to stay informed about council news, local events, and interesting stories from across the town.



## Website

Our website is the go-to hub for all things Brackley. Check out our news page for the latest stories and updates about life in the town:

[www.brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk](http://www.brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk)



## Noticeboards

Keep an eye on our noticeboards for upcoming events, council agendas, and helpful updates. You'll find them outside Egerton Hall, the Town Hall, and the Council Office.



## E-newsletter

Not a fan of social media? No problem! Sign up for our e-newsletter and receive all the latest news and useful information straight to your inbox every other week. Sign up by visiting the web address below:

[www.brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk/subscribe](http://www.brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk/subscribe)



## Social Media

Follow us on social media for regular updates, news, and a snapshot of what's happening around Brackley.

Instagram: [@brackleytowncouncil](https://www.instagram.com/brackleytowncouncil)  
Facebook: [@brackleytowncouncil](https://www.facebook.com/brackleytowncouncil)  
Twitter: [@brackleycouncil](https://twitter.com/brackleycouncil)



## Other Ways to Stay Informed

Look out for banners, posters, leaflets, around town, and information in the Council Office window to stay up to date with Brackley news and events.

# We want to hear from you!

Brackley Town Council loves celebrating the amazing talent in our community. You could be featured in the next issue of Town Talk, just email your story or creative works to: [comms@brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk](mailto:comms@brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk).

## We're excited to see what Brackley has to offer!

Share your stories, achievements, local successes, or showcase your creativity. Whether it's poetry, short stories, sketches, photography, paintings, or something else entirely, we want to see it.

Whether you're a seasoned pro or just starting out, young or young at heart, everyone is welcome! Share your good news stories, creative projects, or inspiring moments with us, and you might see your work proudly featured in print in the beloved Brackley Magazine. Let's celebrate our town and the incredible people who make Brackley shine!





## A Lakeside Meander (St James's Lake)

Summer is morphing, Autumnal air surrounds  
The lakeside beckons the feet to tread  
Crisp the air, golds and greens abound  
Trees preparing for the winter ahead

Geese white, contrast the grey-blue water  
Single file, a silent cavalcade  
A feathered flotilla it seems  
Displaying a quiet serenade

Leaves afoot seem to dance a tango  
As they swirl a partner in a sudden gust  
Listen listen, you can hear their laughter  
Imagine the dance?, you can, I trust

There are sloes a plenty still unpicked  
High in bare branches, out of reach, a sin  
They're there for the processing  
And then drowned in a gin

Occasional couples with dogs attached  
Make their acquaintance and tarry awhile  
'Good morning's' and 'how do you's'  
Exchanged, wagging tails, and friendly smile

A little further, it's the heron I favour  
Resolute and still, awaiting its prey  
Lovely to see, been gone some time  
'Ee by gum' that's fair made my day

And there, what's that I espy  
Scurrying away to the cover  
A pair of moorhens shy as ever  
There is so much wildlife to discover

Last but not least as we come to finish  
A cacophony of sparrows we hear  
Gathered in ivy-clad hedgerow  
Verbose excitement as we draw near

So ends our walk as to home we turn  
Content and refreshed of the spirit  
It's a 'good to be alive' sort of day  
And recommend you to take a visit



By Ray Pearse



## Brackley Man Sets *New World Record*

In a remarkable display of endurance, **Tony Hopkin** a Brackley local, officially set a new **Guinness World Record for the longest single-event triathlon**, covering an incredible 515.91km over the course of 14-15 June.

Tony's record-breaking challenge began with a 16km swim at Pitsford Reservoir, continued with a 400km bike ride through the rolling countryside of Northamptonshire and Buckinghamshire, and concluded with a 62-mile run, completing 100 laps around St James Lake in Brackley. His final distance surpassed the previous record of 503km, setting a new benchmark in the world of endurance sports. What an extraordinary feat!

The entire effort took just over 38 hours, pushing Tony to his physical limits. This wasn't just a personal milestone, it was a heartfelt mission. Tony took on the challenge to raise funds for **New Leaf Learning, a Northampton-based charity** that supports children with learning differences through outdoor, nature-based education. The organisation has had a profound impact on his autistic son, helping him develop coping strategies and reconnect with learning in a supportive environment. So far, his efforts have raised over **£6,100**, with donations still coming in.



*"They gave my son the tools to manage stress and build confidence through nature-based activities. I believe this kind of support should be available to every child who needs it,"*

Tony Hopkin

While Tony isn't planning to repeat this exact route, he hinted that another ultra-distance challenge might be on the cards in the future!

A heartfelt congratulations from all of us at the council to Tony Hopkin, not only for setting a new world record, but for raising an incredible amount for New Leaf Learning. This is a truly inspiring achievement, and a proud moment for our Brackley community. What a story to come out of our little town!

## Be Mito Aware and Light Up Green!

September 14-20th was global mitochondrial disease awareness week. Mitochondrial disease is the most commonly inherited neurometabolic disease of childhood. It is incurable and life limiting.

Mitochondria are the powerhouses of our cells, converting the food energy we eat into the chemical energy that we use to grow, develop and function. If the genetic code for our mitochondria is disrupted, they can't function properly which results in clinical symptoms. Mitochondrial disease can affect any part of the body particularly those organs that require lots of energy, such as the brain, heart and muscles.

There are at least 4 families in Brackley affected, and several others in Northamptonshire.

Buildings and monuments around the world were lit up green for a week in September, to raise awareness. Dozens of landmarks took part in the annual global initiative, including Battersea Power Station, Mersey Gateway Bridge, Leeds Castle, Blackpool Tower and even our very own Egerton Hall lit up green for #MitoAware.



For further information on how you can show your support visit: [www.thelilyfoundation.org.uk](http://www.thelilyfoundation.org.uk) or [mitochondrialdiseaseweek.org](http://mitochondrialdiseaseweek.org)

## Brackley's Brewing Past



As interest in local produce grows, it feels timely to look back at Brackley's own history of making things that bring people together. Alongside politics, fabrics, and motorsport, the town was home to two thriving breweries for over a century. While the vats have long gone, their story still runs through our streets.

The first was Hopcraft & Norris, founded in 1842, as Victorian Britain was taking shape. By the early 1900s they owned more than a hundred pubs across the region, their barrels rolling daily through Brackley until 1946, just after the Second World War, when they merged with Chesham Brewery. For a short time, the "Chesham & Brackley Breweries" kept brewing, even launching a stout called Raven in the 1950s. But by 1959 the last pint was drawn, leaving only the street name Old Brewery Walk to remind us of the days when hops scented the town.

The second was William Blencowe & Co., recorded from 1859 (the year Darwin published On the Origin of Species and Big Ben first chimed). Their premises stood near today's Draymans Walk, once alive with draymen rolling barrels over cobbles toward Brackley's pubs. The nearby Band Club also sits on land tied to the brewery, further linking our streets with brewing history.

And perhaps the story isn't over. Local enthusiasts are exploring the idea of starting a new brewery, the first in more than 60 years. One day soon, Brackley's air may again carry the scent of its own beer.





## Brackley and District Bowls Club New Junior Section to open in October!

Brackley and District Bowls Club are to open their first ever Junior Section in October 2025. Earlier this year the club received a grant from Sport England to encourage children and young people to take up the sport. Part of the grant was used to hold a 3 day 'Summer School' in July for children aged between 7 and 11. A maximum of 16 places were quickly taken up and the children learnt about delivering the bowls, judging length, correct stance and bowls tactics through a series of fun and enjoyable exercises.



The new Junior Section will be for children of any age from age 7 upwards and will meet on Saturday mornings each week for 1.5 hours (exact times to be decided). A new 10 week coaching programme has been put together using our club coaches and existing players and will take place indoors at the bowls club during the autumn and winter months before reverting to our outdoor rinks during Spring and Summer. Once the children have completed their coaching we hope they will then be ready to start playing some competitive matches. Bowls is a great way to improve confidence, teach the importance of teamwork and make new friends.

If your child is interested in joining or if you would like any further information then please contact Graham Ablett, Brackley Bowls Club on **07880531765** or email **brackleybowlsclub21@outlook.com**.

## The Brackley Feoffee Charity: Centuries of Support for the Local Community



By Cllr Kate Nash

At the heart of Brackley lies an organisation whose roots stretch back more than 300 years. Known as the Feoffee (pronounced feffy), it began in the 17th century when trustees managed land to support the poor. Today, the Brackley United Feoffee Charity continues this tradition, focusing on:

**Relief of need within Brackley**

**Education for local young people under 25**

**An annual grant towards maintaining St Peter's Parish Church**

Though centuries old, its impact is very present. Schools, preschools, and community groups regularly benefit from grants that enable projects otherwise out of reach.

### Supporting Early Years Education

For Little Oaks Pre-School, Feoffee funding proved vital. Early Years Manager Naomi Brown explains:

"As a small independent preschool, we were so appreciative of the grant for fine motor skills equipment and a laptop. Both have been invaluable

in preparing children for school and supporting supervised online learning. We would have struggled to afford them without Feoffee's help."

### Enhancing Opportunities at Bracken Leas Primary

**Headteacher Paula Harwood recalls:**

"The charity helped us transform an unused storage area into a thriving Art room and later provided audio equipment for performances. More recently, it supported resources for our outdoor SEND learning area. I am so grateful for this ongoing support — it helps us innovate and develop as a school."

### A Legacy That Lives On

Last year, Feoffee grants supported every Brackley primary school, Magdalen College School, and local preschools. Centuries old, its mission remains timeless: strengthening Brackley by investing in its people, future, and heritage.

For more information, contact the Clerk at **brackleyunitedfeoffee.charity@gmail.com**.



Age UK Northamptonshire provides many services that enable older people to live independently in their own home and make more of life. They can help you claim benefits such as Attendance Allowance and Pension Credit, but it may surprise you to learn that they can also make the process of setting up a Lasting Power of Attorney much easier. We none of us know what the future holds, but a Lasting Power of Attorney gives someone you trust the legal authority to make decisions on your behalf and in your best interest if there comes a time when you are no longer able to make your own decisions.

The charity works with Maureen Evans, a local paralegal representative, who can prepare and register a Lasting Power of Attorney for property and financial affairs for you or a relative. Maureen can also arrange this for health and welfare, along with helping you draw up a Will. This can either be a single or a mirror Will for clients who have a partner.

Registered charity 1059995



As well as organising monthly appointments at The William and Patricia Venton Centre in Northampton, Roger Harris (seen here taking instructions from Roger Aris) can also visit you in your home. You can call Roger for more information and details of fees on **01604 631030** or email **roger.harris@ageuknorthants.org.uk**

**www.ageuknorthants.org.uk**



**If you enjoy gardening and giving back, we'd love for you to join our friendly team of volunteers!**

As a Garden Buddy, you'll meet new people, share your skills, and help foster a greener, happier community.



Scan the QR code or visit **snvb.org.uk** to learn more and register with Garden Buddies.





# GREAT NEWS FOR BRACKLEY BUS USERS!

## X88

### Service X88 (new)

A new, fast service using the A43 between Northampton – Brackley.

Runs **anticlockwise** in Brackley:  
Poppyfields Way → Pavilions Way → Market Place.

Alongside the 88, this means double the frequency of buses between Northampton, Towcester and Silverstone, with a much improved service for Brackley.

## 88

### Service 88

Now extended to Brackley, also serves Silverstone Park business area.

Runs **clockwise** in Brackley:  
Market Place → Pavilions Way → Poppyfields Way.

Some journeys go via Syresham, connecting Brackley shops and schools, including Magdalen College School and Silverstone UTC.

From **Monday 1 September 2025**, services have been improved to make travel easier between Brackley, Northampton, and the surrounding areas.

These changes are part of the Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP), which was shaped by local feedback. Many residents told WNC it was difficult to reach Northampton without a car, so the council has worked with operators to improve existing routes and introduce a brand-new service.

**For full timetables, visit the Stagecoach website and search for services 88 or X88:**

[www.stagecoachbus.com/timetables](http://www.stagecoachbus.com/timetables)

**Please note: Service 87 No longer runs to Brackley,  
this section is now covered by the 88 and X88.**

## CONTACT US

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## 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 [comms@brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk](mailto:comms@brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk) or call 01280 702441.

We would love to hear from you.