



TOWN TALK

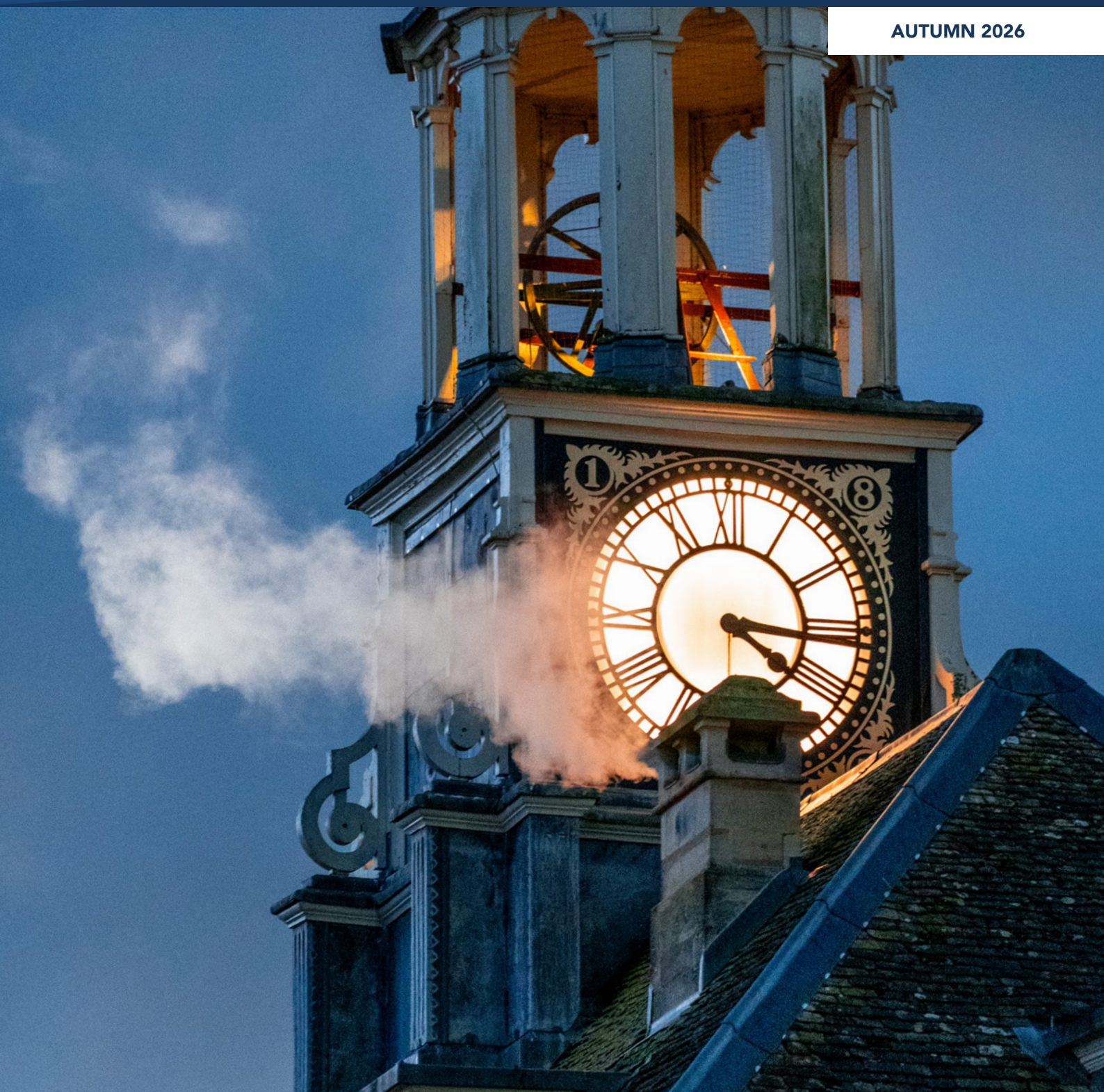


OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF BRACKLEY TOWN COUNCIL

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



AUTUMN 2026



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MAYOR’S MESSAGE

It has been a busy and rewarding few months, and once again I’m reminded just how fortunate we are to live in a town with such a strong sense of community. As we move gently into the festive season, I’d like to take a moment to look back over the last few months at some special moments that will stay with me long after my term as Mayor is over.

Firstly we had the honour of welcoming the Lord Lieutenant of Northamptonshire to Brackley. I was delighted to see him light up as residents spoke about life in Brackley with enthusiasm and kindness, each of whom contributes so much to our community every day. It was also a pleasure to visit one of my chosen charities, Brackley Men in Sheds. I was struck by the beautiful setting at Evenley Wood Garden and was welcomed with real openness as the team showed me the various sheds, workshops, tools and projects they have on offer.

Another exciting milestone for our town was the opening of the 20 Arches Micro Brewery. With our rich brewing history, something that I am personally rather passionate about, it’s excellent to see an independent local business breathing new life into our heritage and adding something unique to the town.

Summer in Brackley is always packed with events, and this year has been no exception. As I don’t have space to mention everything, here are a few personal highlights.

The Brackley Classic Car Show saw a record turnout in both vehicles and visitors, and I had the pleasure of hearing the fascinating stories behind so many of



the cars on display. Picking a winner was extremely difficult, whittling down nearly 200 classic vehicles to just one choice, and even with the microphone in hand making the announcement, I was still torn between two entries!

I also loved The Teddy Bear Picnic and Skate Park Jam. I was lucky enough to open the Teddy Bear Picnic from atop the cherry picker, soaring high above the field launching the first brave bears. At the Skate Park Jam I also saw our young people demonstrate such impressive talent as they competed to be the best in Brackley.

We have also seen some fantastic community spirit outside of our events. I’d like to give a special thank you to everyone who took part in the Brackley Poppy Project this year. The stitching sessions were a great success, but without the generous members of the community who spent weeks knitting and crocheting poppies throughout the year, we simply couldn’t have done it. Thank you to everyone who helped bring the project to life.

As I continue my year as Mayor, I remain humbled by the warm welcome and support I receive wherever I go. Every event, visit and conversation reinforces what I love about our town. Brackley is beautiful, but it’s the people who make it great. Thank you, Brackley. You never fail to make me proud of our wonderful market town and, more importantly, the people who call it home.

Cllr Jason Kew
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 Autumn 2026 publication. The next issue will be in Winter 2027. 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.

The cover photo for this issue was taken from the Piazza on a winter’s evening in 2025. If you have a photo you would like to submit for a future Town Talk cover, please send it to comms@brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk

YOUR LOCAL TOWN COUNCILLORS
CONTACT DETAILS

Town Mayor: Cllr Jason Kew **Deputy Town Mayor:** Cllr Kate Nash

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.

NORTH WARD

-  **Cllr Anthony Bagot-Webb**
Email: cllr.bagot-webb@brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk
-  **Cllr Tim Carroll**
Email: cllr.carroll@brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk
-  **Cllr Penny du Sautoy**
Email: cllr.dusautoy@brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk
-  **Cllr Kate Nash**
Email: cllr.nash@brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk

EAST WARD

-  **Cllr Jason Kew**
Email: cllr.kew@brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk
-  **Cllr Peter Rawlinson**
Email: cllr.rawlinson@brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk
-  **Cllr Simon Weaver**
Email: cllr.weaver@brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk
-  **Cllr Adrian Watt**
Email: cllr.watt@brackleynorhtants-tc.gov.uk

SOUTH WARD

-  **Cllr Scott Langford**
Email: cllr.langford@brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk
-  **Cllr Stewart Manley**
Email: cllr.manley@brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk
-  **Cllr Barb Neivens**
Email: cllr.neivens@brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk
-  **Cllr Bernard Tiller**
Email: cllr.tiller@brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk

WEST WARD

-  **Seat vacant at time of publication.**
-  **Cllr Richard Butler**
Email: cllr.butler@brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk
-  **Cllr Andrew Lawrie**
Email: cllr.lawrie@brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk
-  **Cllr Sue Sharps**
Email: cllr.sharps@brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk

WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL

-  **Cllr Andrew Last**
andrew.last@westnorthants.gov.uk
-  **Cllr Fiona Baker**
fiona.baker@westnorthants.gov.uk
-  **Cllr Richard Butler**
richard.butler@westnorthants.gov.uk

BRACKLEY TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

OCTOBER 2026	
5 th October	Full Council Meeting, Planning Committee
19 th October	Planning Committee / Council Services Committee / Finance Committee / Biodiversity & Environmental Committee
NOVEMBER 2026	
2 nd November	Full Council Meeting, Planning Committee
16 th November	Planning Committee / Council Services Committee / Finance Committee
DECEMBER 2026	
7 th December	Full Council Meeting, Planning Committee
21 st December	Planning Committee / Council Services Committee / Finance 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 2025-26

It has been another busy and productive year for Brackley Town Council as we have continued to support residents, maintain valued community facilities, and celebrate the vibrant spirit of our town.

During 2025/26 the Council has worked closely with community organisations, local businesses, volunteers and partner authorities to deliver events, manage council assets and represent the interests of residents. The year has seen strong community engagement through civic events, seasonal celebrations, town centre activities and local initiatives that collectively help make Brackley a welcoming and thriving place to both live and work.

Council Tax Made Simple

Brackley Town Council does not collect council tax directly from residents. Instead, our local unitary authority, West Northamptonshire Council, passes money to the town council in the form of a precept.

The precept is a single annual payment which, in essence, forms the budget provided to the town council to cover its operational costs for the year.

For the 2025–26 financial year, an average Band D household paid £2,575.22 in council tax. Of that total, Brackley Town Council received £181.88 through our precept, or roughly £3.50 a week!

Total Income	£1,806,290
Total Expenditure	£1,671,630
Placed in Reserves	£134,660

Community Support

Brackley Town Council supports local community groups and charities through our Community Grants Scheme. Each year, we set aside funding to support organisations that provide valuable services, activities and opportunities for the local community. Find out more about the scheme, see which groups have received grants, and learn how to apply on page 7.

The Council comprises elected members representing the North, South, East and West wards of the town. At our annual meeting in May 2025, Councillor Bernie Tiller was elected Town Mayor and Councillor Jason Kew was elected Deputy Mayor. At the end of Cllr Tiller’s term as Mayor, he had raised £7,600 for his chosen charity *b yourself*.

The Council continued to manage and support community facilities and services. The extension to Egerton Hall was completed and has now established itself as a valuable community asset. The additional rooms added in the extension project enable the venue to accommodate a wider range of activities.

Your £3.50 per Week

Brackley Town Council works to understand and respond to the views of Brackley residents, protect the town’s rich history and heritage, and contribute to wider discussions to ensure Brackley is properly represented and recognised.

In addition, residents’ average contribution of £3.50 per week helps the council provide a range of additional services, facilities and initiatives, including:

- Open Spaces
- Hireable Community Venues
- Children’s Play Parks
- Litter & Dog Bins
- Events
- Community Grants
- Brackley Skatepark
- Council Office & Staff
- Regular News Updates
- Town Council Website
- Town Talk Magazine



Looking Forward

The coming year presents both exciting opportunities and challenges. By continuing to work collaboratively with residents, community groups, businesses and partner organisations, Brackley Town Council aims to build on the successes of 2025/26 and continue delivering positive outcomes for the whole community.

Councillors represent and act on behalf of Brackley residents, and we encourage you to share your views with them. By working together, we can help ensure that Brackley remains a thriving market town with a strong sense of identity, pride and community spirit.

Councillor Attendance

Brackley Town Council has 16 elected members and six main committees - Full Council, Staffing, Planning, Council Services, Finance and Environment & Biodiversity. All councillors sit on Full Council, and at least two other committees. All meetings take place in the Civic Hall of the Town Hall and include a public participation item, where members can address the Council on matters relevant to the business of the council or its committees.

Councillor	Summoned	Attended	Apologies	Absent	% Meetings Attended
A. Bagot-Webb	51	41	10	0	80.39%
T. Booth	33	14	19	0	42.42%
R. Butler	45	32	13	0	71.11%
T. Carroll	45	42	3	0	93.33%
P. Du Sautoy	48	44	4	0	91.67%
J. Kew	49	49	0	0	100.00%
S. Langford	46	24	12	10	52.17%
A. Lawrie	43	38	5	0	88.37%
S. Manley	46	44	2	0	95.65%
K. Nash	48	35	10	3	72.92%
B. Neivens	48	26	20	2	54.17%
P. Rawlinson	36	35	1	0	97.22%
S. Sharps	36	30	3	3	83.33%
B. Tiller	51	45	6	0	88.24%
A. Watt	46	44	2	0	95.65%
S. Weaver	36	35	1	0	97.22%

Community Events

Events brought Brackley’s community together, highlights of the 2025-26 season included:

- VE Day 80th Anniversary
- Skatepark Jam
- Teddy Bear Picnic in the Park
- Summer Classic Car Show
- Fireworks
- Remembrance
- Armistice
- Christmas Lantern Workshops
- Christmas Market, Lights & Lanterns
- Christmas Tractor Run
- Christmas Community Carol Service
- Christmas Classic Car Show



ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS

Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2025/26 for

EN Brackley Town Council

	Year ending		Notes and guidance
	31 March 2025 £	31 March 2026 £	
1. Balances brought forward	2,106,117	2,275,211	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	1,053,664	1,095,354	Total amount of precept (or for IDBs rates and levies) received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.
3. (+) Total other receipts	931,195	464,266	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	607,294	683,451	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	1,208,471	779,092	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	2,275,211	2,372,288	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	2,379,260	2,402,222	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	548,061	590,978	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	
11 Do the figures in the accounting statements above exclude any trust transactions?		✓	For guidance refer to the Practitioners' Guide sections 2.31 to 2.33.

I certify that for the year ended 31 March 2026 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

01/06/2026

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

01/06/2026

as recorded in minute reference:

68/26 MINUTE REFERENCE

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

CONFIDENTIAL

COMMUNITY GRANT APPLICATIONS

Each year, Brackley Town Council supports residents and gives back to the town through its Community Grant Scheme. We are excited to announce that applications are now open for the 2027/2028 financial year and will close at 12pm on Friday 29 January 2027.

The scheme offers financial support to local voluntary organisations and community groups. These grants are designed to help fund projects, activities and services that benefit the residents of Brackley and aim to make our town a better place to live.

Before submitting an application, we recommend reading the full eligibility criteria, which can be found on our website alongside the application form.

If your group could benefit from financial support to continue its valuable work in the community, we encourage you to apply now!

Community Grants Awarded 2025/26		
Organisation	Amount Granted	
Primary Coding League	£	800
Brackley & District Round Table	£	1200
Do it for Defib	£	1600
5th Brackley Scouts	£	1000
SNYE - Pilot project	£	1958
SNYE - Skate Saturdays	£	1300
1st Grafton SEND Scouts Group	£	800
Brackley & District Band - Expansion	£	1000
Brackley & District Band - New Music	£	1000
Brackley Royal British Legion	£	800

How to Apply

Visit our website, email us, or pop into the office for this year's application form:

Website: www.brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk
Email: accounts@brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk
Address: 20 High St Brackley, NN13 7DS (Mon - Fri, 9am - 4pm)



OTHER LOCAL GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

If you're looking for local funding but don't quite fit the criteria for the Brackley Town Council Community Grant Scheme, there are plenty of other options available. Whether you're looking for support at home, funding for a community group, or help developing a local project, the schemes below could be just what

you need to get started. Simply search the name of each organisation online to see their website and find more information about the grants they offer, specific eligibility requirements for each scheme, and details on how to apply.

Community Groups & Organisations

- Northamptonshire Community Foundation
- West Northamptonshire Council Community Funding Grants
- National Lottery Community Fund
- Brackley Town Centre Grants

Residents & Households

- Crisis and Resilience Fund
- Warm Homes: Local Grant
- Disabled Facilities Grant
- Household Support Fund

PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT

Did you know that Brackley Town Council’s Estates Team carries out weekly inspections of playground equipment to help ensure that play areas across Brackley remain safe, well maintained and in good condition?

During these inspections, members of the team check swings, slides, roundabouts and other play equipment to ensure that everything is in good working order. Inspections also cover gates, fences, benches and other items in and around the play areas.

We work hard to maintain parks and play areas to a high standard, so if you identify an issue that may require attention, we encourage you to report it so that the Estates Team can investigate.

Where possible, including a photograph of the issue can assist the team in assessing what action may be required, and whether an item needs to be repaired or replaced.

We have also recently purchased new accessible playground equipment, which will soon be installed in several play areas across the town. This will provide



additional opportunities for children of all abilities to enjoy Brackley’s parks and play spaces.

We would like to say a special thank you to the resident who brought the need for additional accessible equipment to our attention, and helped us better understand what was needed to make a meaningful difference to local families.

To report an issue with playground equipment, contact us by phone on 01280 702 441, or via email at office@brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk.

BARCLAYS BANKING VAN SERVICE TO END

We are disappointed to share that Barclays plans to withdraw its Banking Van service from Brackley, with the final visit currently scheduled for 20 October 2026.

A number of residents have contacted us to express their frustration about the decision, explaining that the Barclays van, which has visited the Piazza every other Tuesday, provides a valuable face-to-face banking service for many people who prefer in-person support or have limited access to online banking services.



The service has also been particularly important for residents who value being able to speak directly with a member of banking staff and carry out everyday transactions locally.

Barclays has advised that the decision follows a review of its mobile banking routes, and affected customers will be contacted directly, with further information to be displayed on the banking van ahead of the service’s final visit in October.

While the decision has been made by Barclays and is outside the Town Council’s control, we understand and share the disappointment many residents will feel at the loss of this service, which has provided a valued and convenient banking option for people across the town.

Anyone who wishes to comment on, or make a complaint about, this decision is encouraged to contact Barclays directly through its official complaints process.

Barclays Complaints: **0800 282 390**

POPPY CASCADES

A huge thank you to everyone who has supported this year’s Brackley Poppy Project.

Over the past few months, residents, community groups and volunteers have come together to create hundreds of beautiful handmade poppies. The response has been truly fantastic, and we have been overwhelmed by the time, effort and creativity shown by so many people across the town.

We are delighted to announce that following the stitching sessions this summer, the poppy cascades have now been completed. We hope you agree that the finished displays are a meaningful tribute to those who selflessly served and sacrificed, and a wonderful example of Brackley’s community spirit.

From experienced crafters to complete beginners, every single poppy contributed has helped bring this project to life. Whether you attended a stitching session, donated materials, helped with organisation, or made poppies at home, your support has played an important part in making the project such a success.

The completed cascades will be proudly displayed on Brackley Town Hall throughout November and will form a striking focal point during Brackley’s Remembrance Parade on Sunday 8 November.

We look forward to seeing the displays in place and sharing this special tribute with residents and visitors alike. Thank you once again to everyone involved for helping create this lasting display of remembrance.

SAINTS ON WHEELS

Saints (Brackley) Community Trust, with support from Brackley Town Football Club, has launched Saints on Wheels, a new community-led transport service for Brackley and surrounding villages.

The service provides scheduled journeys within Brackley, with trips to the Saints Community Project on Wednesdays and supermarket runs on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Pick-ups will also be available from sheltered accommodation complexes within the town, helping residents access essential shopping and community activities.

Journeys will be provided by local volunteer drivers, all DBS-checked and known within the community. Each bus will also have a volunteer on board to help

passengers get on and off safely. Booking is simple, with no apps or forms required. Residents can call the team and let them know where and when they need to travel.

Membership costs £40 per year for Brackley residents and covers journeys within the town. Members from surrounding villages will pay £50 per year. Journeys are then free, although voluntary donations are welcome to help with running costs.

Saints on Wheels aims to provide an affordable, friendly and accessible transport option, helping residents get out and about, access local services and stay connected with the wider community.



RBL
ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

RBL Brackley needs volunteers to help with the Poppy Appeal between 24 Oct and 7 Nov.
To lend a hand email: anamezciems@hotmail.com



Booking Information

To find out more about becoming a member or booking a journey, simply call **01280 704077** (option 5) or **07717 859925**, and a member of the Saints on Wheels team will be happy to help you get started.



West Northamptonshire Council

There are many parts of our day to day life that West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) are responsible for, but it's not always clear who to talk to, and how to get in touch. Whether it be council tax, blue badge applications, waste collections, bus passes, roads and highway issues or council housing,

there are so many teams at WNC that sometimes it can be difficult to know who to contact. Below we've collected a few different ways to get in touch with the team at West Northamptonshire Council to help you get things sorted out as quickly and easily as possible.

In Person

If you would rather speak to someone from the West Northamptonshire Council team in person, there are a couple of options. Firstly, WNC have a representative from WNC in the Brackley Library on the last Thursday of the month, every month, between 10am and 2pm. No appointment is needed, just turn up and discuss your issues with a member of the team directly. Alternatively, WNC offer lots of in person sessions from their office in Northampton. To find out more about what sessions are on offer, and when to visit, head to their website using the address below:

www.westnorthants.gov.uk/one-stop-shop-drop-sessions

Phone

To get in touch with West Northamptonshire Council by phone, simply call the number below. After you dial, you will be prompted to say which department you are looking for. Alternatively, you can hold the line, and wait for the automated voice to list each team, and press the relevant number on your keypad when you hear the department you require.

0300 126 7000

Virtual Assistant

The WNC ai chat is currently under development, and can't help with complex enquiries, but it is available 24/7, and can be a great place to get started. To try out the new ai chat, visit the web address below.

chat.wnc.ai

Mobile App

The WNC app makes it easy to access a range of council services on the go. It's a convenient way to report issues, check bin collection dates and even use the recycling scanner to find out how to dispose of items correctly. To download the app, simply search **West Northamptonshire Council** on either the Google Play or Apple App Store.

Reporting Issues

If you would like to report an issue, but don't need help from an advisor, visit the web address below for a full list of ways to report issues to WNC online in one helpful place.

www.westnorthants.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/report



For a full list of ways to contact the West Northamptonshire Council, visit the link below or scan the QR code with the camera app on your phone.

www.westnorthants.gov.uk/contact-or-visit-us/contact-us

YOUTH SUPPORT

It can be difficult to know where to turn if a young person finds they need extra support, but there are a wide range of organisations across West Northamptonshire offering help. From counselling and mental health support to holiday activities and youth programmes, there are services available for a variety of needs. Search for the organisations below online to find out more about the support they provide and how to access it.

The Lowdown Free and confidential counselling, wellbeing, sexual health and LGBTQ+ support for young people aged 11-25.	CAMHS Community Services NHS specialist mental health services for children and young people experiencing more complex mental health difficulties.
Time2Talk Provides free counselling, wellbeing support and drop-in services for young people across West Northamptonshire.	Service Six Provides counselling, mentoring, youth groups, family support and wellbeing services for young people.
REACH Collaborative Delivers youth counselling and emotional wellbeing services through a partnership of local organisations.	Youth Works Runs youth clubs, mentoring and positive activities that help young people build confidence, develop skills and access support.
HAF Northants Offers free holiday activities and healthy meals for eligible children during the school holidays.	Kooth Free, anonymous online mental health and wellbeing support, including self-help resources and professional counsellors.

BRACKLEY YOUTH COUNCIL'S

LIGHT THE PATH

We, the Brackley Youth Council of SNYE, have ambitions of lighting up Brackley's pathways. We believe that adequate lighting is essential for public safety and we need your help in establishing where!

SCAN TO TAKE THE SURVEY



NEW COMMUNITY GROUP

Happy Brackley is a new community initiative dedicated to connecting people, inspiring kindness and supporting wellbeing across the town. Through a range of activities, partnerships and volunteering opportunities, the project aims to strengthen community spirit and help residents feel more connected to the people and places around them.

The initiative provides a platform for community conversations, helping local people share ideas and identify ways to make Brackley an even better place to live. Happy Brackley also highlights wellbeing resources, activities and support available within the community, making it easier for residents to access help when they need it.

Volunteering plays a key role in the project, offering rewarding opportunities for people to give their time, develop new skills and make a positive difference. Local stories celebrating Brackley's people, projects and achievements help showcase the many reasons to be proud of the town, while partnerships with community groups, organisations and businesses strengthen local connections.



Residents are encouraged to get involved by meeting new people, volunteering, sharing ideas or simply finding out more about the support and activities available.

Find Out More

To learn more, visit www.happy-brackley.co.uk or contact the team at info@happy-brackley.co.uk. Together, we can continue building a happier, healthier and more connected Brackley.

1ST GRAFTON SEND SCOUTS GROUP

At 1st Grafton SEND Group, we believe that every young person deserves the opportunity to experience adventure, friendship and achievement. Our specialist Scout Group is designed for children and young people aged 4+ with additional needs who may find it difficult to access mainstream Scouting.

We meet twice a month on a Sunday afternoon in Brackley and provide a safe, welcoming and supportive environment where young people can learn new skills, build confidence and have fun. Our sessions are adapted to meet a wide range of needs, abilities and communication styles, ensuring that everyone can take part at their own pace.

The activities we provide are varied and exciting. Young people can enjoy outdoor adventures such as climbing, nature exploration, den building and campfire activities, as well as creative sessions including crafts, cooking, sensory play and team games. We also focus on developing important life skills such as communication, independence, problem solving, resilience and working with others.



Find out more on our website: 1stgrifton.org.uk

BEREAVEMENT SESSIONS

Residents in Brackley who have experienced the loss of a loved one can now access a new free bereavement support group. The first session took place in August this year at Brackley Medical Centre Community Hospital.

The Hummingbird Bereavement Service and sAge Bereavement Service are introducing structured bereavement support groups across Northamptonshire, including a new monthly group in Brackley.

The groups are open to anyone aged 18 or over, living in Northamptonshire who has been bereaved within the last 18 months. Led by trained bereavement counsellors, the sessions provide a safe and supportive space for people to talk about their experiences and receive guidance through their grief.

Alongside professional support, the groups offer opportunities to connect with others who have experienced bereavement, helping to reduce feelings of isolation and build supportive social connections.

Sessions are free to attend and last two hours. For more information or to register, contact the organisers using the contact details adjacent.



Register for Bereavement Sessions

01604 215839
bereavement@ageuknorthants.org.uk
enquiries@hummingbirdbereavement.org.uk

Bereavement Support Group Details

First Wednesday of every month
10.30am to 12.30pm
Brackley Medical Centre Community Hospital
(Wellington Road, Brackley NN13 6QZ)

SNYE

It's been a busy summer for SNYE! The team have been running the popular Skate Saturdays, giving local young people the chance to develop their skating skills, enjoy time together and learn how to use the skate park safely.

They've been delivering detached youth work too, speaking with young people across the town to understand what they need from local youth provision. Listening to young people's views helps shape the activities and opportunities we offer.

We enjoyed attending Brackley's Teddy Bears' Picnic and Classic Car Show, meeting local families and sharing information about our youth clubs and opportunities.

Another highlight was our annual Play and Activity Day, bringing families from across Brackley together for a free afternoon of fun. Delivered in partnership with West Northamptonshire Council's Summer of Sport, the event gave children and families the opportunity to try something new, be active, connect with others and find out more about local services and activities.

As we head into the new school year, we're excited to welcome familiar and new faces to our youth clubs.



Whether you're looking to make friends, try something different, learn new skills or simply have somewhere safe to relax, we'd love to see you.

From September, our clubs will be organised by school year groups:

Years 5 to 6	Years 7 to 10	Years 11 to 13
Tuesdays 6:00pm - 7:00pm Brackley Library	Fridays 7:30pm - 9:00pm Leisure Centre	Thursdays 8:30pm - 9:30pm The WI Hall

For more information, visit our website:
www.youth-engagement.co.uk



In these modern times, it can be very tricky to find what you're looking for. Between social media, websites, flyers and adverts, it can feel almost impossible to keep up with everything that's going on. The team at Discover Northamptonshire are working to bring it all together in one helpful place, focusing on the things that make our home county worth exploring.

Discover Northamptonshire is an excellent - and often overlooked - local tourism website, packed to the brim with things to do, independent shops, restaurants, attractions and more. As the festive season approaches, we highly recommend checking out what the site has to offer.

Although it's great for tourists, as a Brackley local it's also well worth taking a look, as you might just stumble across a hidden gem! With Autumn now setting in, it's the perfect time to explore somewhere new and get some inspiration for days out close to home, whether that's a frothy drink in a cosy café or a countryside walk amongst the crunchy leaves.

For local business owners wanting to get in on the action, you might like to know that you can feature on the site free of charge with only a few clicks. Northamptonshire's ever growing tourism scene

continues to attract people to the area, events like Silverstone's Formula 1 weekend have Brackley gaining momentum as a destination in its own right.

If you own an independent business - whether it's a café, shop, restaurant, pub, hotel, B&B or something completely unique - we encourage you to add your details to the Discover Northamptonshire platform to reach more potential customers.

In just the same way, you can also add activities and events to the platform. It's a great way to save money on marketing while still reaching a wider audience. Adding events is completely free, only takes a minute, and helps your event gain visibility with people from across the county and beyond.

So whether you're looking for a cosy spot to warm up on a chilly afternoon, hoping to stumble across a hidden gem, planning festive activities with friends and family, or searching for inspiration for a weekend adventure, Discover Northamptonshire is well worth a visit.

As the nights draw in, there has never been a better time to discover what's on your doorstep. There's no shortage of experiences waiting to be discovered, and your new favourite place might be much closer than you think.



Visit the Discover Northamptonshire website using the address below, or scan the QR code with your mobile phone:

discover-northamptonshire.co.uk/online

PRIVATE WALTER ARTHUR TURVEY

When Private Walter Arthur Turvey joined the 4th Battalion Oxfordshire & Buckinghamshire light infantry in Oct 1939, he was given a service number of 5387488. Now he has another number which, sadly, is Plot 3, Row D, Grave 5 which is located in Rakowicki cemetery, Krakow, Poland, where he now rests along with another 482 commonwealth servicemen.

He was born in the year WW1 came to its end; little did he know that 25 years later he would be involved in a second world conflict and as a consequence would ultimately perish.

I am Steve Edwards, a resident of Brackley and member of the local Royal British Legion (RBL) Brackley Branch, and on a trip to Poland in May 2026 I visited Rakowicki cemetery where the 483 commonwealth war graves are located; one of which is that of Private Turvey. I located his grave and then placed a RBL cross, from the branch, at the base of the headstone. But there is more to Walter than just a headstone in a foreign land; so here is his story.

Walter Arthur Turvey was born on 3 September 1918, the son of George Harry and Mary Anne Turvey of Old Town, Brackley and prior to joining the Forces, Walter was employed locally by Mr E C Turner. Walter is the direct descendant of Mr Ian Walker, who owns Topsy Turvey on the High Street.

Post enlistment he joined his Regiment in France and he was involved in the fighting at Dunkirk, being wounded in action in May 1940; he was then taken as a Prisoner-of-War.

Walter was interned at Stalag VIII B in Poland. He remained there until he was taken ill on 6 November 1943 and according to a Brackley Advertiser article dated 7 Jan 1944; "he became gradually weaker, suffering from blood poisoning, and he died quietly and without pain on 14 November 1943, aged 25 years. He was buried with full military honours in the camp cemetery on 16 November, with a service conducted by one of the camp chaplains and concluded by the laying of many floral tributes." His Regimental Serjeant Major (RSM) at the time wrote to his parents saying; "So far away from you, nevertheless your son died in the service of his King and country. I trust that you and your dear ones will be comforted in your time of sorrow."

The War Organisation of the British Red Cross Society and Order of St John of Jerusalem wrote to Mrs

Turvey on 24 Nov 1944 saying; "that the materials for the crosses used were given free and these were made in the carpenter's shop which were run by the prisoners. The inscriptions were carved by 3 disabled men before the crosses were painted. The flowers were raised in the nursery at the camp, from seeds supplied by the Royal Horticultural Society, there is a border of the same flowers all-round the cemetery,



and the paths between the graves are covered by cinders from the kitchen. We are sure that it will be great comfort to you to know that your son is buried in such beautiful surroundings and that his grave is being carefully looked after."

At the end of the Second World War, the 'graves service' of the British Army of the Rhine gathered together Commonwealth Graves from all over Poland into three formal cemeteries; Rakowicki in Krakow being the largest. Those buried there died while prisoners of war during the German occupation, most of the graves coming from the cemetery at the large camp at Lamsdorf, Stalag VIII B (after 1943 known as Stalag 344); this is how Walter came to be laid to rest in Krakow.

Walter's parents had the following inscribed on his Commonwealth War Grave Headstone after the war - 'Living thoughts will always linger round the spot where he is laid.'

Remembrance Sunday 2026 is on 8 November. And at 1500 hours in the market place alongside the town war memorial the town of Brackley can pay their respects to all 85 Servicemen who are named on it; including that of Private Walter Arthur Turvey. Lest we Forget.

Article by Brackley resident, Steve Edwards



UPCOMING EVENTS

Fireworks

Magdalen College School (bottom site)

31 Oct

Remembrance Service & Parade

The Piazza - Brackley Town Centre

8 Nov

Armistice Service

The Piazza - Brackley Town Centre

11 Nov

Christmas Lantern Workshops

Egerton Hall

20, 21, 22 Nov

Christmas Market, Lights & Lanterns

Brackley Town Centre

28 Nov

Tractor Run

Brackley (a circuit around the town)

6 Dec

Christmas Community Carol Service

The Piazza - Brackley Town Centre

20 Dec

Winter Classic Car Show

Brackley Town Centre

27 Dec

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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.