



# 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)



SUMMER 2025



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# THE MAYOR'S MESSAGE

It is an honour and privilege to stand as the Mayor of Brackley for the year 2025/26. This moment represents not only a personal milestone but also an opportunity to work together to serve and uplift our wonderful community.

Brackley is a town that thrives on its heritage, culture, and the spirit of unity amongst its people. As Mayor, I am committed to building on the foundations laid by my predecessors, ensuring that our town continues to prosper and develop. I will strive to listen to your concerns, champion your ideas, and celebrate your achievements, for it is the people of Brackley who make this town such a remarkable place to live.



Looking ahead, my vision for the upcoming year revolves around fostering inclusivity, sustainability, and innovation. Whether it's supporting local businesses, enhancing our green spaces, or creating opportunities for young people to thrive, every initiative will be guided by the values that unite us as a community.

As we embark on this journey together, I invite each and every one of you to share your thoughts, your aspirations, and your passion for Brackley. Let us work collaboratively to make our town an even brighter beacon of hope and opportunity. The future of Brackley is ours to shape, and I am excited to begin this chapter with you.

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to my family and good friends, whose unwavering support have been my anchor throughout my life journey. My sincere thanks to Elaine Wiltshire for her dedication

and contributions over the last year as Mayor and consort, her friendship for many years has been invaluable.

To all the Brackley town councillors old and new. Thank you for believing in me and for your tireless efforts to bring positive change to our community. Let us move forward with optimism, determination, and a shared commitment to the success of Brackley.

Now, I would like to introduce you to my chosen charity for the year, *b*. This local organisation plays a vital role in supporting young people's mental health and wellbeing within the Brackley community and across South Northamptonshire.

*b* was founded in 2018 by two Brackley GPs who identified a growing need for improved mental health provision in our local primary and secondary schools. Since then, the charity has been funded through the generosity of a local donor and various fundraising efforts.



Their mission is to empower young people by providing access to group and one-to-one therapy, wellbeing sessions, and a range of seminars that include yoga, mindfulness, and art therapy. Beyond this, *b* is also dedicated to equipping teachers and parents with the tools and knowledge needed to support mental health in young people. I am proud to support such an inspiring and impactful cause.

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 July 2025 publication. The next issue will be in October 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 print by: Banbury Litho.

## YOUR LOCAL TOWN COUNCILLORS CONTACT DETAILS

**Town Mayor:** Bernard Tiller

**Deputy Town Mayor:** Cllr Jason Kew

### NORTH WARD

**Cllr Anthony Bagot-Webb**

Email: [cldr.bagot-webb@brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk](mailto:cldr.bagot-webb@brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk)

**Cllr Tim Carroll**

Email: [cldr.carroll@brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk](mailto:cldr.carroll@brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk)

**Cllr Penny du Sautoy**

Email: [cldr.dusautoy@brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk](mailto:cldr.dusautoy@brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk)

**Cllr Kate Nash**

Email: [cldr.nash@brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk](mailto:cldr.nash@brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk)

### SOUTH WARD

**Cllr Scott Langford**

Email: [cldr.langford@brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk](mailto:cldr.langford@brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk)

**Cllr Stewart Manley**

Email: [cldr.manley@brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk](mailto:cldr.manley@brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk)

**Cllr Barb Neivens**

Email: [cldr.neivens@brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk](mailto:cldr.neivens@brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk)

**Cllr Bernard Tiller**

Email: [cldr.tiller@brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk](mailto:cldr.tiller@brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk)

### EAST WARD

**Cllr Jason Kew**

Email: [cldr.kew@brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk](mailto:cldr.kew@brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk)

**Cllr Peter Rawlinson**

Email: [cldr.rawlinson@brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk](mailto:cldr.rawlinson@brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk)

**Cllr Simon Weaver**

Email: [cldr.weaver@brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk](mailto:cldr.weaver@brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk)

**Cllr Adrian Watt**

Email: [cldr.watt@brackleynorhtants-tc.gov.uk](mailto:cldr.watt@brackleynorhtants-tc.gov.uk) 0

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**Cllr Tod Booth**

Email: [cldr.booth@brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk](mailto:cldr.booth@brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk)

**Cllr Richard Butler**

Email: [cldr.butler@brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk](mailto:cldr.butler@brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk)

**Cllr Andrew Lawrie**

Email: [cldr.lawrie@brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk](mailto:cldr.lawrie@brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk)

**Cllr Sue Sharps**

Email: [cldr.sharps@brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk](mailto:cldr.sharps@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

### JULY 2025

**21st July**

**Planning & General Works Committee / Direct responsibilities  
& General-purpose committee / Finance & Policy Committee**

### SEPTEMBER 2025

**1st September**

**Full Council Meeting, Planning & General Works Committee**

**15th September**

**Planning & General Works Committee / Direct responsibilities  
& General-purpose committee / Finance & Policy Committee**

### OCTOBER 2025

**6th October**

**Full Council Meeting, Planning & General Works Committee**

**20th October**

**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.





## MEET YOUR NEW COUNCILLORS

**Following the recent local elections, Brackley residents have elected a new team of councillors to serve on Brackley Town Council.**

We're pleased to introduce the members who will be representing our town for the next four years.

This new council is made up of both returning councillors and newly elected members, all committed to working together to make a positive difference for Brackley and its residents.

On the next page, you'll find a summary of the key areas Brackley Town Council is responsible for. If you have questions, suggestions, or concerns about any of these topics, please don't hesitate to contact the councillor representing your ward. Unsure which ward you live in then view the map on the 'Councillors' page of our website at [www.brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk](http://www.brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk).

### NORTH WARD



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## WHAT DOES BRACKLEY TOWN COUNCIL DO?

**Brackley is part of the West Northamptonshire Unitary Council (WNC) area.**

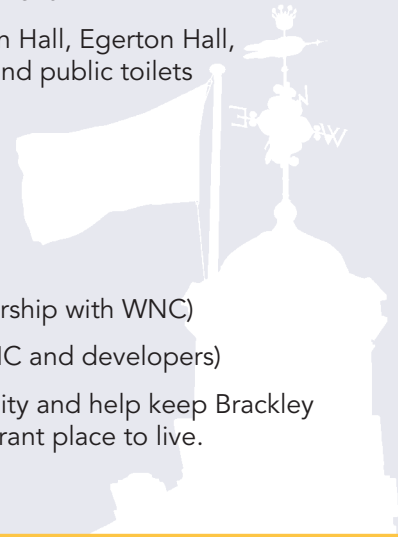
WNC looks after major services such as highways, waste collection, planning, council tax, and social care.

Brackley Town Council, meanwhile focuses on the services and spaces that help shape daily life in our town.

These include:

- Green spaces, parks and play equipment
- Public buildings – including the Town Hall, Egerton Hall, Old Fire Station Community Room and public toilets
- Brackley Cemetery
- Town Events
- Community Grant Funding
- Brackley Charter Market
- Litter and Dog Waste Bins (in partnership with WNC)
- Bus Shelters (in partnership with WNC and developers)

We're here to serve the local community and help keep Brackley a welcoming, well-maintained and vibrant place to live.



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[cllr.kew@brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.kew@brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk)



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[cllr.sharps@brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.sharps@brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk)



# BRACKLEY CELEBRATES 50 YEARS OF TWINNING WITH MONTABAU



Brackley recently marked 50 years of friendship with its twin town of Montabaur, Germany, with a special visit from the *Bürgermeisterin* and a group of Montabaur residents who have been involved in visits and exchanges over the years.

At the heart of the celebration was the Iron Flame – a symbol of unity first gifted to Brackley by Montabaur in 1975 – which has recently been restored and was proudly displayed at a celebratory dinner held at Egerton Hall. During the event, the Mayor of Brackley read aloud the original message of friendship that accompanied the

Iron Flame when the two towns were officially twinned in May 1975:

***"This is the flame of friendship. Guard it against the winds of prejudice and indifference. Tend it with a belief in, and striving towards, high ideals that in the years to come this small flame shall grow, burning, cleansing our nations of intolerance of race, colour or creed."***

Among the guests were The Hon Mrs Alexandra Williams, Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Northamptonshire; Mrs Anita Robbins, Chair of the Brackley European Association; Melanie Leicher - Stadt Bürgermeisterin of

Montabaur; the Mayor of Brackley; Cllr Elaine Wiltshire, and Cllrs Nash and Sharps from Brackley Town Council. Brackley Wind Orchestra also performed a short concert to honour the occasion.

As part of the tradition, gifts were exchanged. Montabaur presented Brackley with a slate stand crafted from locally quarried slate, while Brackley gifted Montabaur a wooden plaque marking 50 years of town twinning friendship. The plaque, made in Brackley using ethically sourced wood from Whittlewood Forest, will be displayed in Montabaur Town Hall.

Article and photos by Cllr Kate Nash

## A MESSAGE FROM THE OUTGOING MAYOR OF BRACKLEY

It has been a great pleasure and privilege to serve the Town as Mayor of Brackley over the past year. I've had the honour of representing Brackley at many wonderful events across Northamptonshire and Oxfordshire – from concerts and civic dinners to fetes, fundraisers and even the occasional murder mystery!

A particular highlight for me was the VE80 Day Commemoration – a truly moving day of remembrance and celebration. From the morning's flag raising and proclamation reading, to the school choirs and evening performances in the park, it was a proud moment to share with our community. Thank you to everyone involved, especially our dedicated Town Council staff.

Another proud moment was celebrating the 50th anniversary of Brackley's twinning with Montabaur, Germany. It was an honour to visit Montabaur last year and to welcome their Mayor and delegation



here in Brackley for the anniversary celebrations.

I've been delighted to support NMPAT as my Mayoral charity, with wonderful contributions from local events including the Classic Car Shows, the Civic Dinner, and even a Teddy Bear Parachute Drop! A heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped raise an incredible **£6,500.**

After 14 years representing the East Ward as a Town Councillor, I have now stepped down, but I'll continue to support Brackley wherever I can.

To my fellow councillors, council staff, friends, family and the residents of Brackley – thank you all for your generosity, kindness and support throughout my time in office. It's been an unforgettable experience, and an honour to serve.

**Elaine Wiltshire**  
Mayor of Brackley, 2024 - 2025

## BRACKLEY MARKS VE DAY WITH MUSIC, MEMORIES AND COMMUNITY SPIRIT

Brackley came together in style this year to mark the 80th anniversary of VE Day with a day of remembrance, celebration, and community spirit in the Town Park.

The commemorations began with a poignant proclamation and flag-raising ceremony on the Piazza – a respectful and heartfelt start to the day. As the sun came out, so did the crowds, bringing picnics, patriotism, and plenty of smiles.

Throughout the afternoon, visitors enjoyed live performances from local school choirs, fascinating Morse code demonstrations, and displays of wartime artefacts

that helped bring history to life. The evening saw the park filled with music as The Cherry Belles and Brackley Glee Choir took to the stage, delivering brilliant performances that had toes tapping and voices singing along.



Hot food vans, refreshing drinks, coffee, and ice cream added to the atmosphere, and the beautifully decorated park created the perfect backdrop for a day of celebration. The night was brought to a fitting close with the lighting of the Brackley Beacon, joining towns and cities across the country in this national moment of unity.



Photos from the day can be viewed at: [www.brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk/event-gallery](http://www.brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk/event-gallery)



Brackley Town Council would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who helped make the day so special – from the performers and stallholders to staff, volunteers, and everyone involved in decorating the park. And of course, thank you to our wonderful residents for turning out in such numbers to support the event.

**What a fantastic day for Brackley!**



# Teddy Bear

## Picnic in the Park

BRACKLEY TOWN PARK

**6 AUGUST**

**10 AM - 2 PM**

RAISING MONEY FOR THE  
BRACKLEY TOWN MAYOR'S CHARITY





## ACTIVITIES & GROUPS



### THE CHATTY CAFE SCHEME CHATTER & NATTER TABLES IN BRACKLEY

The Chatty Cafe Scheme is the UK's leading charitable organisation dedicated to tackling loneliness and social isolation. Founded in 2017 by Alex Hoskyn, a new mum experiencing loneliness, the idea was born out of a simple but powerful observation: people from all walks of life can feel isolated, and sometimes, a short conversation can make a big difference.

While visiting a cafe, Alex saw several people, including an elderly woman and a young man with additional needs, looking fed up

and like they could benefit from a bit of conversation. She envisioned a space in cafes where anyone could sit and chat if they felt like it, without pressure or commitment. This idea became the 'Chatter & Natter' table.

A Chatter & Natter table is a designated table in a café or other venue where people can sit if they are open to having a friendly chat. It's not necessarily about forming long-lasting friendships, just simple, everyday conversations that can help brighten someone's day.

Since its launch, the scheme has grown to include over 600 hospitality venues across the UK. In 2020, the scheme launched a national volunteer programme, training hundreds of volunteers to host tables and ensure a warm, inclusive atmosphere.



We are really pleased to share that there are three venues in Brackley running Chatter & Natter tables, all hosted by friendly volunteers running on the days and times shown below:

#### **ESQUIRES COFFEE**

U4 Juno Cres, Brackley NN13 6RF  
Mondays, 2pm – 4pm

#### **THE OLD FIRE STATION**

37 High St, Brackley NN13 7DW  
Tuesdays, 3pm – 5pm

#### **PAISLEY PEAR**

Northampton Rd, Brackley NN13 5FH  
Thursdays, 6:30pm onwards



## MEN IN SHEDS BRACKLEY

With the recent assembly of a second shed, the aim of Men in Sheds Brackley has now been realized; establishing a woodworking workshop, termed 'The Shed', to prevent social exclusion by promoting the opportunity for friendships, social engagement and skill sharing in a safe and enjoyable environment for the community of Brackley and surrounding villages.

Following the award of a WNC Community Grant, for the purchase of a shed, back in August 2023, they were invited to occupy a piece of land within Evenley Wood Garden and offered assistance from EKFB (HS2) in both site clearance and laying the Shed's concrete slab. More recently, they were also successful in a bid to the National Lottery Community Fund for the purchase and fitting-out of a second shed; Shed 1 for noisy and dust-generating machinery and Shed 2 for assembly and finishing.



None of this could have been achieved without the generosity of Evenley Wood Garden and the communities of Brackley and Evenley. Additionally, the financial donations from Brackley Town Council, EKFB (plus several subcontractors), Waitrose, Tesco, Evenley Matters and residents of Evenley have resulted in a well-equipped workshop. Furthermore, support and equipment from local companies, such as Dulux, DURA, Karcher and Oxford Plastics, have enabled the Men in Sheds Brackley team to create an outstanding facility that is now operational.

Whilst progress continues on the facilities, the focus remains on developing the skills of the members (men and women), in support of their mental and physical wellbeing. With several community projects currently underway, they are now looking forward to engaging further with local councils, charities and organisations to assist in any future projects.

If you are interested in joining Men in Sheds Brackley, please go to their website [www.meninshedsbrackley.uk](http://www.meninshedsbrackley.uk) for further information.





Brackley and District Band filled Egerton Hall with music, magic, and memories on **Saturday 19 April 2025** during their enchanting *Disney Showcase*, a family-friendly afternoon event that blended live performance with interactive fun for all ages.

Running from 2:00pm to 4:30pm, the event proved to be a hit with the local community, drawing families, *Disney* fans, and music lovers alike. The hall buzzed with excitement from the moment the doors opened, as the band set the stage for an afternoon packed with entertainment and activity.

Beloved *Disney* characters **Elsa** and **Ariel** met guests as they arrived and were on hand for photos before the band kicked off the first set with the theme from *Star Wars*, an impressive and attention-grabbing opener.

The first musical set continued with more *Disney* favourites, including magical renditions from *The Lion King*, *Frozen*, *The Jungle Book* and *Mary Poppins*. Children were encouraged to get up and dance by Elsa and Ariel, and many eagerly joined in, filling the front of the hall with energy and joy.

Midway through the afternoon, the focus shifted from music to magic as local magician **Chris Webb** took centre stage for a full hour. The magician's performance kept children wide-eyed and laughing, and following the show, he continued to entertain by making balloon animals and creations while the band returned for their second musical set. Favourites such as *Colours of the Wind*, *Under The Sea*

and *How Far I'll Go* were amongst some of the tunes performed by the band and the set concluded with a rousing finale featuring the iconic *Pirates of the Caribbean* theme. By this stage some of the kids had been armed with balloon swords and were battling it out in front of the band.

In addition to the music and magic a colouring station offered a creative outlet for younger guests, while one of the day's highlights was the "have-a-go" brass area, where children could try out instruments under the guidance of friendly band



members. Many young attendees seized the opportunity to make their first sounds on a selection of instruments, including cornets, flugel horn, tenor horn, a trombone and a bass, with big smiles all around.

The band also used the event to raise funds for an exciting opportunity later this year. Following their impressive 3rd place finish at the Midlands region of the National Brass Band Championships competition, Brackley and District Band has qualified to represent the town in the Finals in Cheltenham this September, where donations collected during the showcase

event will help support the band's travel and participation in the prestigious event.

*"We wanted to create an afternoon that would attract people for whom perhaps it might be the first time they have come to watch a brass band and an event that would inspire youngsters to enjoy brass music in the future or possibly even give playing a brass instrument a go."* said **Nick Wilson**, Solo Baritone of Brackley and District Band.

*"It was wonderful to see so many children dancing, playing instruments, and getting involved. We were blown away by how popular this event proved to be, all the costumes that everyone had made the effort to dress up in and delighted that everyone had so much fun! We've had nothing but positive comments from those who attended and suggestions that people would very much like for us to put on another similar event in the future."*

The *Disney Showcase* highlighted not only the band's musical talent but also their commitment to community engagement and inspiring the next generation. Brackley and District Band is proud to be part of the community and we look forward to entertaining the people of Brackley in the years to come.

For more information on upcoming events or guidance on how to take up an instrument and play in a band please contact us – [brackleyband@gmail.com](mailto:brackleyband@gmail.com)

You can also keep up to date on what we are up to by following our Facebook page.







# THE BRACKLEY TOWN FC STORY



**You may not be a sports supporter or football follower but you live in a town that is home to a team that is making waves and shaking up the world of non-league football. Brackley Town's St James Park ground is tucked away in a quiet back-water but big things have been stirring at SJP.**

*Here is the story so far ...*

Founded in 1890 Brackley Town Football Club was, around the turn of the century, a prominent side in the local area. At one time the name of Tottenham Hotspur appeared on the fixture list, London being a short journey away on the newly opened Great Central Railway.

The Club then slipped into relative obscurity, competing mainly at a very junior level. Before the war games were played in Manor Road and then to a ground on Buckingham Road with the changing facilities in The Plough public house.

In 1974 the club moved to the current St James Park ground. A small clubhouse and changing rooms were built and promotions were gained up through the leagues. There then followed some difficult years with even the very survival of the club in doubt. The 1992/93 season ended with the ignominious distinction of having the worst playing record of any senior side in the country. Fortunes turned around but with finances at full stretch the club was forced into voluntary liquidation in 1999. It was saved at the last minute but the "new" club finished bottom of the Southern Section and were demoted.

The 2003/2004 season saw an exciting run-in with the championship shield being lifted on the last day of the season together with promotion back to the Southern League. The club were promoted into the National League North in 2012.

After near miss upon near miss, in May of this year the team finally triumphed gaining promotion to the National League as champions in a thrilling finale to the season with a six game winning streak to finish above the likes of big hitters such as Scunthorpe United, Kidderminster Harriers, Hereford and Chester.

In between years the team has achieved cup glory reaching the second round proper of the FA Cup on numerous occasions and winning the FA Trophy at Wembley in 2018 on a magnificent day that nobody connected with the club will ever forget.

The club is about much more than the first team however. Brackley Town Ladies won their league this season and both cup competitions to bring yet more silverware to St James Park. The junior section provides training and competition for almost 400 boys and girls, the club is establishing a post-16 football and education programme with Magdalen College School Sixth Form, older players enjoy walking football and the club's award-winning charity, the Saints Community Trust, supports the elderly and vulnerable with the Wednesday luncheon club.

The club aims to be at the heart of our town as encapsulated in our motto...

**OUR CLUB.  
OUR TOWN.  
OUR COMMUNITY.**





## LOCAL CHAMPIONS: BEACHBOROUGH & BRACKLEY TRIATHLON CLUB WINS SOUTH CENTRAL CLUB OF THE YEAR!



In a huge win for local sport, Beachborough & Brackley Triathlon Club has been named South Central region club of the year by British Triathlon. This prestigious accolade recognises a standout year of racing success, community impact, and unwavering dedication to athlete development - right here in our corner of Northamptonshire.

Founded in 2012, the club is run entirely by volunteers, passionate coaches and parents who generously give their time to help young athletes thrive. Offering a mix of swimming, cycling, and running, the club trains junior triathletes aged 8 and up. From complete beginners to seasoned competitors, every child is welcomed and supported in a positive, encouraging environment that builds both fitness and confidence.

Beachborough & Brackley is a regular fixture in the South Central Series, a regional race series where athletes earn points throughout the season. The top performers then have the honour

***"We're so proud of this award – it reflects the hard work and spirit of our entire community.***

***The best part is watching our athletes grow in confidence and discover the joy that sport can bring."***

Hester Pollock, Head Coach

of representing the South Central region at the British Triathlon National Championships – a stage where the club is proud to have had athletes reach the podium and made their mark.

But the club is about far more than competition. Coaches put a strong emphasis on fun, skill-building, and all-around athlete development. Young members improve their agility, balance, and coordination, all while forging lasting friendships and nurturing a lifelong love of being active.

A key part of the club's success is its pathway for older athletes. These juniors are encouraged to step up and support coaching sessions, mentoring younger members while gaining valuable life skills. This experience builds their confidence, leadership, and communication, helping them grow not only as athletes, but as individuals ready to face challenges on and off the field.

The club runs a structured weekly training schedule with three swim sessions at Brackley Leisure Centre and bike/run sessions on Saturday mornings at Beachborough School during term time. Training is flexible, athletes can attend the sessions that fit their schedules, making it easy to stay involved and progress at their own pace.

New athletes are always welcome to come along and try out some sessions free of charge. This is a fantastic opportunity to meet the friendly coaching team, experience the supportive atmosphere, and see firsthand what the world of junior triathlon is about.



To find out more or get involved, contact club secretary Sara Wilks at [wilks.sarahe@gmail.com](mailto:wilks.sarahe@gmail.com) or visit the club's website at [www.beachboroughandbrackleytriathlon.club](http://www.beachboroughandbrackleytriathlon.club).

# DISCOVER BRACKLEY CHARTER MARKET

Brackley Market's history can be traced back over eight centuries, evolving from informal trade gatherings in the town centre to the formally constituted Charter Market we enjoy today.

In 1260, during Henry III's reign – just 45 years after the barons gathered in Brackley to compile the list of laws, customs, and practices that would later become Magna Carta – the town received royal assent (the king's formal approval) for both a Charter Fair and a Charter Market. This royal sanction officially established Brackley Charter Market, launching a centurieslong tradition of Friday commerce on the Market Place outside the Town Hall.

The Market now has an excellent and exciting range of products you won't find in your average supermarket. Local traders offer hot street food made in front of you, exotic cheeses and olives, fresh fruit and veg,



scrumptious cakes and baked goods, wonderful fish and seafood, lush colourful flowers and plants, and even treats for your fourlegged friends! Every sale supports independent producers and helps strengthen the sense of community that makes Brackley such a great place to live.

Our historic Charter Market can be found on the Piazza every Friday morning. While supermarkets meet everyday needs, we strongly recommend checking out the brilliant array of goods that simply can't be found elsewhere.

Thanks to King Henry III's grant, each Friday's calm bustle, where the scent of artisan breads mingles with the sizzle of fresh treats, acts as a living reminder of Brackley's rich and interesting past, making every stroll into town a truly rewarding experience.



## SUMMER IS A GREAT TIME FOR READING WITH THE KIDS

Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> July sees the start of this year's Summer Reading Challenge at the library with their fundraising launch event organised by The Friends of Brackley Library. The Reading Challenge runs every year and it encourages primary school children to read 6 books throughout the summer holiday and earn stickers along the way with a medal and certificate at the end. This year the Friends of Brackley Library have a special gift for children that complete the challenge.

Reading throughout the summer holiday is important. A drop in reading age over the summer holiday, often called the "summer slide" or "summer learning loss," is a real phenomenon where children can lose some of their reading skills and knowledge during the break. This can manifest as a decline in reading



comprehension, vocabulary, and overall fluency. The most disturbing thing that has been spotted since COVID, and especially over the past year, is the drop in the number of

children taking part and, more importantly, finishing the challenge.

This year's theme is "Story Garden" and takes reading to the great outdoors. This lends itself, not only to days out and picnics, but it's also a chance to sit outside and read with your children.

Take them away from the lure of phones, TVs, laptops, iPads and tablets and get them, and you, into the fresh air and actively read together.

So let's make 2025 the year when we all encourage children to read outside of school. Let's have more children taking part in the summer challenge and more adults reading with them. The library will have volunteers who are not only there to help sign children up to the scheme, but also to listen to them read.

As well as the Reading Challenge there will also be lots of crafts to keep the children busy during the holiday so keep your eyes peeled!

**Trish Savill** Chair, The Friends of Brackley Library







BRACKLEY  
CLASSIC CAR  
SHOW

# August 17

Brackley Town Park  
11AM - 4PM

**FREE ENTRY**

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SOCCER SCHOOL 2025

# HALSE UNITED

FREE TASTER SESSIONS 9TH & 16TH AUGUST 2025

Ages 4-6

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Brackley Junior School



# BE THE NEXT BRACKLEY COMMUNITY HEALTH CHAMPION

Community Health Champions is a network of community-minded volunteers who want to help their community to access health and wellbeing information and support. It is a simple idea with the power to make a difference to the lives of many residents of West Northants, and a great example of collaboration between Voluntary Impact Northamptonshire and West Northamptonshire Council.



Andrea Newman, Project Coordinator, explains further, "I have recruited 23 Community Health Champions so far, across West Northants, of all ages and backgrounds. I provide them with a different health topic every month, which they share on to a group or community they are connected to. This way we can bring wellbeing information and signposting to a wide cross-section of our community, especially people who experience barriers in accessing health support."

The project began in April 2025 and is now reaching Brackley, with two Community Health Champions in the town so far. Let's help Andrea build the network further with more local champions in our town!

Could you be the next Brackley Community Health Champion? You do not need experience in health as all training is provided by Voluntary Impact. You just need to be friendly and have a good relationship with a group of people in West Northants who will be happy to receive a monthly health topic from you. Your audience could be your colleagues, neighbours, members of a club, people who worship with you, those you share a culture or lifestyle with, or your digital network. You can share your monthly update in any way that works for you and your audience. This isn't a time-consuming role as Community Health Champions add this onto an activity they are already doing.

To find out more, please contact Andrea: [andrea.newman@voluntaryimpact.org.uk](mailto:andrea.newman@voluntaryimpact.org.uk) 07907 864253



**Did you know that around 23,500 people in Northamptonshire are living with sight loss?**

That can mean giving up driving, struggling to read the local paper, or even finding it hard to recognise familiar faces. That's where we come in. At NAB, we've been supporting visually impaired people for over 125 years, helping adults, children, and families live life to the fullest.

Sight loss can affect anyone at any stage in life, and it often hits hardest when it starts to impact someone's independence and social life. That's why we're here – offering everything from friendly

social groups and one-off day trips to practical support that reaches people all across the county.

We currently run 9 social groups across Northamptonshire, including our Brackley group, which welcomes visually impaired people and their carers. We meet on the third Tuesday of every month, from 2:00pm to 3:30pm at The Lounge Café Bar (NN13 7AB). It's a laid-back and friendly meet-up where we chat, share tips, and swap stories – and sometimes just have a good old vent, which we all need from time to time!

### Need a bit of help or advice?

Come along to our Mobile Sight Centre (MSC)! You'll find it at the Piazza in Brackley Town Centre on the fourth Wednesday of each month, from 1:30 to 3:00 pm. Whether you've got questions about sight loss, need a bit of

guidance, or want to be referred to the right support, our expert team is there to help. No need to book – just drop in. It's free and open to everyone.

Our Brackley area Support Worker, **Nicky Dillon**, also runs the social group and is always happy to chat. Whether you want to know more about upcoming events or book a home visit, just give her a ring on **07842 413958** or drop her an email at [nicky@nab.org.uk](mailto:nicky@nab.org.uk).





## BRINGING **WILDLIFE** BACK TO BRACKLEY



Have you noticed more bees, bugs and birds as you're out and about in one of our many wonderful green spaces? The Brackley Town Council's 'Less Mow Brackley' and 'wildflower planting' initiatives have really taken shape over the last few months.

Islands of untouched greenery nestled amongst neatly mown lawns have popped up all over the town. These miniature forests, smattered with beautiful wildflowers have helped to push back against the declining habitats of British wildlife.

The new wildflower areas, intended to help foster biodiversity in Brackley have so far been a roaring success, giving back natural areas to mother nature and allowing

creatures of all shapes and sizes to find somewhere cozy and cool to live this summer.

We have already been contacted by several lovely residents expressing their gratitude and appreciation for the new wildflower areas around the town. We've even been sent some brilliant pictures (above) from the Friday Nordic Walking Group, showing us that the team's efforts are paying off!

Make sure you take care and leave these areas undisturbed wherever possible while you explore the many lush natural green spaces around our town. We want to say a big thank you to the Brackley Town Council grounds team, for providing

natural homes to the rich and diverse British wildlife that now call Brackley home.

The following is a list of areas included in the initiatives:

- **St James Lake**
- **Pavillons Way**
- **Mill Lane**
- **Burwell Hill**
- **Rose Open Space**
- **Swift Way**
- **Nether Close**
- **Halse Road**
- **Rugby Club Open Space**
- **Poppyfields Central Park**
- **Foxhills Way**
- **Carpenters Place**



# STAY IN TOUCH



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## SOCIALS

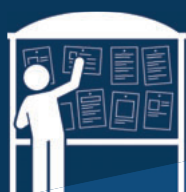
Follow us on Facebook, Instagram and X to keep up with the latest news, events, traffic updates and more. We post daily to keep you informed about everything happening in and around Brackley!

## DON'T LIKE SOCIAL MEDIA?

You can still keep up with everything happening in Brackley! Visit our regularly updated [www.brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk/news](http://www.brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk/news) for the latest stories, announcements, and useful local information. You can also sign up for our e-newsletter – a handy round-up of recent news delivered straight to your inbox. Plus, keep an eye out for updates on town noticeboards, in the Council Office window, and on posters and banners around Brackley.



WEBSITE



NOTICEBOARDS



OFFICE



BANNERS



E-NEWSLETTER

## CONTACT US

☎ 01280 702441 🌐 [www.brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk](http://www.brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk)  
✉ [office@brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk](mailto:office@brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk)  
📍 20 High Street, Brackley, Northamptonshire,  
NN13 7DS

## FOLLOW US

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