



# BRACKLEY TOWN COUNCIL TOWN TALK

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

August 2008

Telephone 01280 702441

## TEDDY BEARS PICNIC!!!!!! AUGUST 17TH IN THE PARK

**Hello**, my name is Rupert. I'm the Mayor's official fund raising mascot. The Mayor wants me to go on lots of outings and clock up loads of miles. Later in the



year I will ask you to work out how many miles I have travelled altogether and you could win a prize. I've already been to lots of exciting places starting off with a trip to Barcelona, then off to South Africa.

I've also been to Wales a couple of times and met the Buckingham Mayor Bear. As you can see from the photograph above he's a bit grander than me, but he's still a nice chap!



I've even been to the WI's 90th birthday celebrations. What a lovely bunch of ladies! They make excellent tea, and what scrummy biscuits!

The Mayor now wants me to start earning my keep so I'm having a Teddy Bears Picnic in Brackley Park on Sunday 17th August from 2pm. I want lots of families to come and join me for a fun afternoon. There will be a bouncy castle, Punch & Judy, a prize for the bear the Mayor would most like to take home with him although I'm not letting him take anyone home unless I like them too! There will also be competitions, Teddy Tombola and a chance to win a cuddly Winnie the Pooh and more. Best of all, you get a chance to meet me!

Alas a Bear's work is never done, and I am busier than ever so I must go as another function beckons.

See you all  
in August.  
R x



## HEDGE LAYING

HEDGE RUNNING FROM HALSE ROAD TO FALCON WAY. Continuing the work which started in January of this year, a 'site' meeting is scheduled for the **1st October 2008 at 4.00 pm.** (In the Town Hall in the case of inclement weather). Mr Simon Denness from March Hare Heritage will be on hand to answer your questions about this traditional method of maintaining hedge boundaries.

## AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR BRACKLEY

With this edition of Town Talk you will have received a Housing Need Survey form. This is because South Northamptonshire Council want to assess housing needs in Brackley and to decide whether or not an affordable housing development is required. The starting point for this is a housing needs survey distributed to each household in the town.

Your views are very important to the Council. The survey covers two areas. Firstly, general views from residents about an affordable housing development in Brackley, secondly the actual housing need within the town. The survey results will identify who needs to move in the next five years and wants to live in Brackley

It's a chance for you to have your say. Even if you don't have a need for housing yourself, you may know family members or local people who may have a need. If the results indicate a housing need, this will help the Council to identify the appropriate numbers and type of housing required and also a suitable piece of land.

If you would prefer to complete the survey on-line, please visit [www.brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk](http://www.brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk). Completed survey forms should be returned to [paul.brunige@southnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:paul.brunige@southnorthants.gov.uk) by Friday 5th September. If you would like any further information, or if for any reason you have not received a survey, please contact Paul Brunige, Strategic Housing Officer at SNC, on 01327 322373.

### STOP PRESS

Supported Living Flats in Brackley available for people with learning disabilities. There are 7 one-bedroom flats available in Winston Crescent for adults with learning disabilities to rent from Bromford Housing Group. If you, or you know someone who might be interested, please call Susan Hope at South Northamptonshire Council on 01327 322371 or email [susan.hope@southnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:susan.hope@southnorthants.gov.uk)

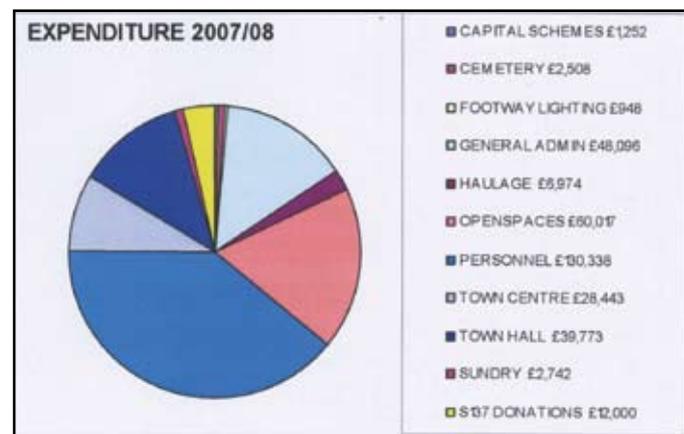
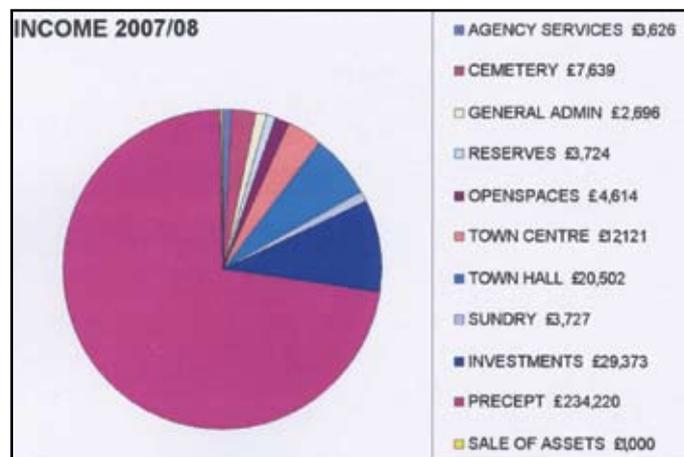
## VANDALISM TO PLAY AREA IN SWIFT WAY

Sadly the play equipment has suffered repeated damage from vandals to the extent that it will have to be removed altogether. There will be further discussions on this issue in future meetings of the Town Council. A more serious aspect of this vandalism is the destruction of the Lifebuoy Housing and the Lifebuoy being removed to use as an extension to the play equipment. Obviously these have been positioned for safety reasons near the pond and need to be in place in case of emergencies.



## BRACKLEY TOWN COUNCIL ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

Full details are available in the Town Hall or can be downloaded from [www.brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk](http://www.brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk).



### INCOME

The Town Council undertakes grass mowing for NCC Highways for which it receives £1,850 per annum. Burial fees for the Halse Road Cemetery £7,639, Administration costs from sales of Civic Ball tickets was £2,696, Transfer from reserves £3,724, open space income from the Angling Club and National Trust £4,614. Market rents £12,121, rental of the town hall £20,502 Sundry income £3,727, Investments with NSI £29,373, Precept received from SNC £234,220.

### EXPENDITURE

The Cemetery incurs costs of approx. £2,508 for maintenance. Streetlight repairs to the Council owned streetlights in Fox Lane, St Peter's Church, Market Place, Herrieffs Farm Road cost £948. The running costs of the Council £48,096. The running costs of the grounds equipment and the depot is £6,974. £60,000 was spent on the Open Spaces which included £8,000 on litter, £5,000 on replacement of play equipment through vandalism, £9,500 on emptying of dog bins, £13,000 on hedges and tree surgery and £26,000 on grass mowing. £28,000 was spent on the Town Centre one of which was for the costs of Christmas Lights and Blooming Brackley. £39,000 was spent on the running of the Town Hall. Donations were made to Brackley Scouts, Brackley Cottage Hospital, South Northants Volunteer Bureau, Victim Support, Soap Box Derby, Girl Guides, CAB, Brackley Buzzer, Brackley Community Events Ltd, Brackley Music Festival and the Brackley European Association.

## BRACKLEY YOUTH EVENT, YOUTH SURVEY AND PRIZE GIVING.

An event was held at Brackley Leisure Centre on the 11th April 2008 to publicise the facilities and activities available for young people in the local area. It was organised by PC Mitchell and his colleagues of the Brackley Safer Community Team, together with Emma RALLS, Deputy Youth Sports Development Officer from South Council.

The organisations participating included;

Brackley Leisure Centre, Time to Talk, Army Cadets, St John Ambulance, Northants Voluntary Youth Association, Northants Police, Various sporting coaches and Northants Fire and Rescue Service.

Youth Survey:

During the event young people were invited to take part in a survey to find out what they would like to see in the town. Each person completing a survey card was entered into a prize draw.

Thanks go to the following locally-based companies, who donated some excellent prizes, including a state-of-the-art skateboard, beauty treatments and other merchandise;

Honda F1 Racing Team, I-Five Distribution, Skins Café, Topsy's, The Hair Gallery, HRH and The Retreat.

The event was well attended, about 60 survey cards were completed followed by a further 218 from students of Magdalen College School.

The top ten suggestions from the survey are as follows:

Equal 1st place goes to.....

- More shops in town centre and a Cinema
- 3rd Skate Park
- 4th Park for Youths
- 5th Fast Food Outlets i.e.. MacDonald's, KFC, Pizza Hut
- 6th A Bowling Alley
- 7th Youth Club
- 8th BMX track and jumps
- 9th A Youth Cafe
- 10th All Weather Sports field available all times

Other suggestions that have come out of the surveys are as follows - Upgrade the swimming pool, put more litter bins around the town, a better and cheaper bus service to Banbury, some more youth shelters.

A number of young people requested better, cheaper and more accessible sporting facilities.

From the survey 61 people indicated an interest in participating in a youth forum.

Prize Draw:.

The names of the prizewinners were drawn by Brackley Town Mayor, Cllr. Kevin Dixon, during the Soapbox Derby on 8th June. The prizes were finally presented on 24th June at Magdalen College School.

## BRACKLEY PERFORMING ARTS

**Brackley Male Voice Choir.**



Distinguished guests, Mayor of Brackley Councillor Kevin Dixon, Mayoress Elaine Dixon with Rylan Morris, Chairman BMVC. Also Sarah Haigh (Soprano) Jacob Stone (Accompanist) Trevor Jones (Music Director BMVC) At the very successful concert on June 30th New members for the Choir are welcome; all you need is a love of singing. Practice is on Monday evenings at 7:30p.m in Magdalen School Chapel. No auditions or musical experience is required. Contact John on 01280 704149.



### Brackley Music Festival 2008

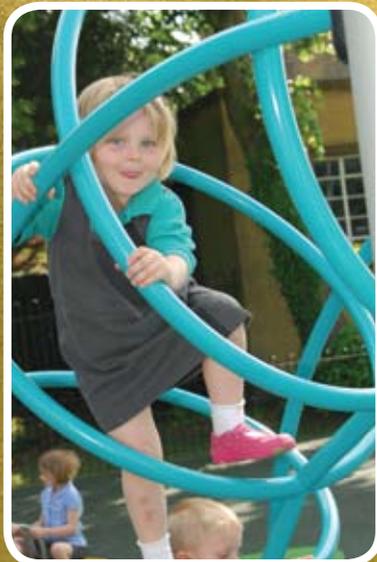
And what a Festival! The best acts, the largest audiences and the most enthusiastic receptions. Residents of Brackley and further afield were treated to sixteen days of exhilarating music from the most varied programme ever. Jazz, choral, orchestral, folk, pop, brass, organ and musical mayhem were just some of the treats on offer, plus the added bonus of a new work by locals George Simmers and Steve Pogson - Whiteknuckle Park performed with talent and gusto by pupils from our local schools in and around Brackley. As the song says, 'Who could Ask for Anything More?' Only one problem: the Festival Committee will have to aim even higher for 2009!!

### Brackley Jubilee Choir.

Invite you to join us at our Scratch Performance of the 'MESSIAH' Saturday 27th September Magdalen College School Chapel, High Street. Rehearsals from 10.00 am until 4.00 pm, Evening performance 7.30 pm. A full day's singing including coffee and delightful lunch plus an evening performance with fantastic soloists all for £17.50. Please do try to join us! If you require an application form please call Audrey Baines on 0769732182, tickets are limited so please enquire early to secure one. Tickets for the evening performance are £5.00 at the door or from choir members.

# BRACKLEY

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# AT PLAY

## PLAY AREA IN BRACKLEY PARK



The New Adventure Play Area in Brackley Park was officially opened by the Mayor of Brackley Councillor Kevin Dixon on Thursday June the 5th. Children from Bracken Leas School were playing on the equipment during the opening ceremony.

This modernisation of the area is providing a great experience for both the parents and children who use it. Offering an excellent meeting place for parents as well as a source of fun and pure enjoyment for children, in a safe environment and it is hoped it will continue to do so for many years to come.

STOP PRESS Second Phase to Play Equipment for ages 12 - 100! Site Meeting at Humphries Drive Tuesday 2nd September between 2.00 - 7.00 pm. Representatives from the Town Council and Sutcliffe Play will be on hand to answer your queries.

## SUMMER AT ST JAMES' LAKE AND POCKET PARK



“What summer?!” I can hear you say. Wellies are still needed after rain, particularly along the dis-used railway line. However, the warm and damp conditions have made for lush growth of plants.

Plants such as ferns, mosses and liverworts love these conditions and if you know where and what to look for, you will see a good ‘showing’ of these primitive plants. The wonderful display of hedgerow flowers has long since disappeared, but these shrubs are now directing their ‘activities’ towards what should be a plentiful supply of fruits for autumn and winter food stores for the resident birds and mammals. All activities of the flora and fauna are geared towards ‘making hay while the sun shines’ or perhaps more appropriately ‘while the weather is warmer’ in as much as making sure the young are reared, fruits and seeds are produced and all are prepared for the coming cooler winter period. Thinking back to the last edition in this series about the lake and pocket park, have you seen the Cuckoo-Pint plants? The flowers have gone and the distinctive cluster of fruits is developing, which will eventually become bright orange in colour. Remember, don’t touch the leaves and fruits because the sap can cause a skin rash and stomach upset. Has anyone seen any bats along the pocket park? They are there, and can be seen at dusk, especially on warm fine evenings.

I have received comments about some grass areas being kept mown short while other grass areas around the lake are apparently not cut at all. This is all part of the



biodiversity management plan and is a way of simulating grazing by animals such as sheep and cattle. Some areas with long grass will be cut later in the year and the cuttings removed. Successive cutting and removal cycles will encourage particular plant and insect species to colonise these areas. The types species will be quite different to those species in the short grassland areas. From a biodiversity point of view it is amazing the impact that frequency of mowing and leaving or removing grass cuttings can have on the flora and fauna. For example, leaving grass to mulch where it is cut attracts insects that eat rotting vegetation and return nitrogenous, nitrate and potash nutrients quickly to the soil. Plants that like a plentiful supply of these nutrients will thrive. However, where grass cuttings are removed the soil will have lower levels of these nutrients and other types of plants and animals will predominate. These differences are further augmented by the different tolerances of plants to being nibbled, or this case, mown. Thus it is not just a case of leaving grassland un-managed. Ecologists will tell you that in our English climate if you leave grassland alone for long enough (without grazing, mowing or management for perhaps 50 years or more) the natural succession of the flora and fauna will be towards scrubland and ultimately a woodland ecosystem. That’s the ecology lesson for this instalment!



There are modest plans afoot for work to the lake and pocket park areas, but much of this will be done during the late autumn and winter months so disturbance to the flora and fauna is minimized. Some of the work will benefit human visitors, while other work will, we hope, be welcomed by the natural inhabitants of the area. Regular visitors to the lake will have noticed the improvements to some of the fishing stands and when complete will make for more pleasant fishing and help protect the banks of the lake. This work has been undertaken by the Brackley and District Angling Club.

Finally, would you like to help the flora and fauna of lake and pocket park? It’s not about digging ditches and clearing undergrowth. Why not learn about plants and animals by recording when you see them. You do not have to be an expert, just have an interest in natural history and make an occasional visit to the lake area. If you would like to help please contact Sue Crouch (The Town Clerk) in the Town Hall, Brackley (Tel. 01280 702441).

## WHO NEEDS THE EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

When you have the Carnival 6 a side? This years event had a taste of international competition with the appearance of the Croughton Moose knuckles based at the air force base at Croughton. With seven other sides entered a full afternoons entertainment was assured. The teams were formed into two groups, Brackley Sports A, DLC, Ultimate Brass and Moose Knuckles in group A and Brackley Sports B, The Sun Inn Whitfield, Nobby Rovers and Hill View United from Banbury in group B. Last years winners Brackley Sports kicked off the tournament with a hard fought 1-0 victory over local company, DLC in group A and The Sun Inn overcame Nobby Rovers 3-2 in a tight encounter, in group B.

In the following 10 group games the results were:-

Brackley Sports A 1	v	DLC 1
Sun Inn 3	v	Nobby Rovers 2
Ultimate Brass 2	v	Moose Knuckles 0
Brackley Sports B 2	v	Hill View Utd 0
Brackley Sports A 1	v	Ultimate Brass 0
Nobby Rovers 1	v	Hill View Utd 5
Moose Knuckles 0	v	DLC 1
Sun Inn 1	v	Brackley Sports B 0
DLC 0	v	Ultimate Brass 0
Nobby Rovers 1	v	Brackley Sports B 2
Brackley Sports A , 4	v	Moose Knuckles 0
Sun Inn 0	v	Hill View Utd 0

With all the group games completed the semi final line ups were:-

Winner of group A, Brackley Sports A v Runner up of group B, Brackley Sports B Winner of group B, Sun Inn v Runner up of group A, DLC

In the first semi Brackley Sports A and Brackley Sports B played in a spirited tie with both sides producing some excellent football in an evenly matched game. In the end it was the A side that went through to the final 1-0.

The second semi saw a pulsating game involving The Sun and DLC. It was end to end stuff with both sides going close early on, in the second half, early goals for both sides, set the stage for a tense last few minutes and it was the Sun that came out on top scoring in the last minute.

So the stage was set for the final, the holders, Brackley Sports A, against The Sun Inn. Again this was a close and hard fought game with scoring chances being few and far between. May be the fact that this was the fifth game the teams had played in the afternoon had a part in the lack of goals but the game finished 0-0 and the dreaded penalty shoot out beckoned. This proved as tense as the final itself and after the requisite 5 penalties apiece the Sun Inn held their nerve and ran out 3-2 winners.

The trophies where awarded to The Sun Inn and, runners up, Brackley Sports A, by the Town Mayor Cllr Kevin Dixon and the Mayoress Elaine Dixon. A special mention must go to the men in black Dave Harris and Fred Houghton who refereed the games and without them this

tournament would not have been able to go ahead. As organiser I would like to thank all the teams that took part and hopefully they will be back next year.

Dave Shaw. Town Councillor - Brackley South  
Tel.07940517726. E-mail: david.shaw43@tesco.net

## SOAP BOX DERBY WINNERS



This year's Soap Box Derby ended up quite a family affair with Simon Lawton winning the adult three wheeler and his daughter Jasmine winning in the under 15. In the four wheelers Daniel Large won the under 15 with his father coming second in the adult section all on different Karts. But we all want to congratulate Jan Young of the Greyhound for not only winning best Kart and coming first in her class but also for raising a great deal of money for Brackley Cottage Hospital.

**Adults:** Jan Thomas 1st, Daren Large 2nd, The Stig 3rd.

**Under 15s:** Daniel Large 1st, Jack Chambers Young 2nd.

**Three-wheelers:** Simon Lawton 1st, Dan Butler 2nd, Jasmine Lawton 3rd.



# Brackley Town Hall - Dates for your diary

## AUGUST

1 Coffee Morning	10 to Noon
1 Cheese & Wine Evening	7.30 pm
4 W Slimming World	6 to 8 pm
4 BTC Council & Planning	7 pm
5 W Weight Watchers	6 to 7 pm
5 W Latin Dancing	7.30 to 9.30 pm
5 W Brackley Ladies (BLAGGS)	1 to 3 pm
6 W Weight Watchers	9.30 to 10.30 am
6 W Darby & Joan	2 to 4 pm
6 W Time 2 Talk	2.30 to 4.30 pm
7 W Evergreens	2 to 4 pm
16 Farmers Market	9 am to 1 pm
18 Charter 400 Tapestry Exhibition	
18 Blind Club	2 to 4 pm
19 Swing Afternoon	12 noon to 5 pm
23 Allotment Association Show	2 to 4 pm
28 Brackley European Association	8 to 10 pm

## SEPTEMBER

5 Coffee Morning	10 to Noon
11 to 13th Brackley Fair	
15 Blind Club	2 to 4 pm
19 Coffee Morning	10 to Noon
20 Farmers Market	9 am to 1 pm
25 Brackley European Association	8 to 10 pm
26 Coffee Morning	10 am to Noon
28 Civic Service Magdalen Chapel	3 pm

## OCTOBER

3 Coffee Morning	10 to Noon
10 Coffee Morning	10 to Noon
17 Coffee Morning	10 to Noon
18 Farmers Market	9 am to 1 pm
20 Blind Club	2 to 4 pm
26 Italian Market	
30 Brackley European Association	8 to 10 pm

## FUTURE EVENTS

August 17	Teddy Bears Picnic in the Park
August 23	Allotment Association, Annual Show
September 11 - 13	Brackley Fair
September 28	Civic Church service
October 25	Newport Male Voice Chior
October 26	Italian Market on the Piazza
November 2	French Market on the Piazza

## NEW COUNCILLOR

A CASUAL VACANCY HAS OCCURRED ON THE TOWN COUNCIL. ANYONE INTERESTED IN BEING CO-OPTED ONTO THE TOWN COUNCIL TO REPRESENT THE EAST WARD OF BRACKLEY SHOULD CONTACT THE TOWN CLERK. FOR MORE INFORMATION ON BECOMING A COUNCILLOR LOG ONTO THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS WEBSITE "http://www.nalc.gov.uk/"

BTC (Brackley Town Council) W (Weekly)

## CONTACT US:

 <http://www.brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk>

Tel:  Fax:

Email:

Town Talk, Brackley Town Council  
Town Hall, Market Place Brackley  
Northants NN13 7AB

**We would like to hear from you!** If you would like to contribute to this publication, respond to any article in this issue or receive this Newsletter by email, please contact us by any of the above means. The next Town Talk will be for November 2008. Closing date for copy will be: 10th Oct. All copy and pictures will be published at the discretion of the editors BTC.

Send us your email:

## CHALK BOARD

Thinking of a Coffee Morning?  
Fridays in the Town Hall

An excellent way to raise funds  
for your charity!

There are a number of Fridays  
available... please call Irene at the  
office (tel: 01280 702441) to book  
your event.