



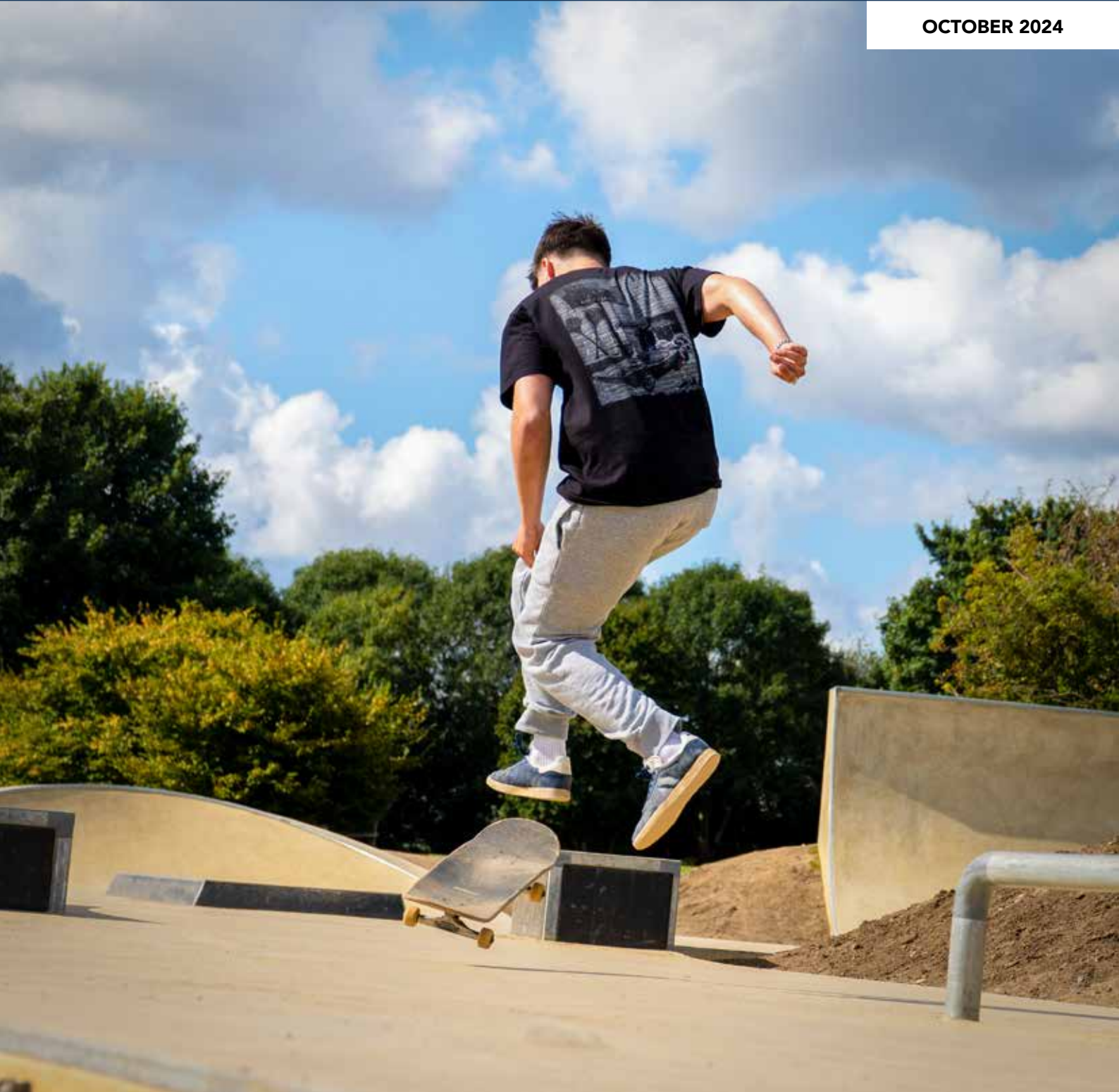
TOWN TALK

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF BRACKLEY TOWN COUNCIL

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



OCTOBER 2024



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THE MAYOR'S MESSAGE

What a fantastic summer we have had in Brackley with all the events put on in town. The Brackley's Got Talent event every Saturday afternoon over the month of August was well attended and we had some great artists, dancers and players performing on the Market Square. Thank you to Samantha Hosking and Bernie Tiller for putting it on and getting residents of Brackley and the surrounding villages into town to visit the shops, cafés and bars.

Brackley Teddy Bears' picnic was also very busy. I was 80 feet in the air on a cherry picker launching parachuted teddies for their jumps and awarding certificates to all teddy bears that took the leap.

The Classic Car Show celebrated its 10th Anniversary of raising funds for the Mayor's Charities. Over the last ten years, we believe it has raised nearly £20,000 towards the Mayor's chosen Charities. A big thank you to Chris Cartmell and his team for their hard work over the years. In recognition of the event I presented to Chris Cartmell a scroll from all the Mayors of Brackley over the last ten years and I invited all the neighbouring Town Mayors to come to the event.

Skatepark – On Friday 6 September, it gave me great pleasure to open the long awaited Skatepark. The park has been wanted for nearly 20 years and has been over 10 years in the planning. It has been built by one of the top skatepark builders in the country called "Maverick". The designers and builders are all skateboarders and tested the skatepark thoroughly before the RoSPA inspection which took place before



the opening. The skatepark is for all age groups and can be used for skating, skateboarding, cycling and scooters. I took a photograph with two riders I met at the skatepark on the afternoon of the opening who both told me that the skatepark was a fabulous asset to the town - very smooth to ride on, well built and would last for many years. Well done to all those who worked hard in bringing it to fruition.

On Friday 25 October at 7.30pm there is a production of 'The Signal Man' a play by Charles Dickens set to music which is being produced by Nick Planas and the Northamptonshire Music and Performing Arts Trust children and young adults in Egerton Hall. These children and young adults are local and are rehearsing very hard. You can buy tickets on the events page of the Brackley Town Council website. The funds raised will be for my charity - Northamptonshire Music and Performing Arts Trust Brackley and Middleton Cheney Branch.

Best regards

Councillor Elaine Wiltshire
Brackley Town Mayor

Editorial Notes:

This magazine is produced by Brackley Town Council. Town Talk magazine is for the people of Brackley to help keep residents informed of community news, services and events, and to meet its statutory duty to inform residents of council business.

Where copy is supplied we retain the right to refuse, edit: spelling, grammar, any material that may cause offence or upset and non-essential copy in order to fit the space allowed.

Thank you to all who have contributed to this October 2024 publication. The next issue will be in February 2025. Until then, please visit our website or social media channels for regular updates, news, projects, events and services in Brackley.

This edition is also available on our website as a PDF copy.

Artwork and printed by: Banbury Litho.

YOUR LOCAL TOWN COUNCILLORS CONTACT DETAILS

Town Mayor: Cllr Elaine Wiltshire **Deputy Town Mayor:** Cllr Fiona Baker

NORTH WARD

Cllr Anthony Bagot-Webb

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

Cllr Kate Nash

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

Cllr Paul Wiltshire

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

Cllr Luke Young

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

EAST WARD

Cllr Jason Kew

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

Cllr Simon Weaver

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

Cllr Elaine Wiltshire

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

Cllr Adrian Watt

Email: cllr.watt@brackleynorhtants-tc.gov.uk

SOUTH WARD

Cllr Will King

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

Cllr Stewart Manley

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

Cllr Bernard Tiller

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

Cllr Scott Langford

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

WEST WARD

Cllr Christopher Cartmell

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

Cllr Graham Judd

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

Cllr Sue Sharps

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

Cllr Fiona Baker

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

Brackley Town Council is made up of 16 councillors who are elected every four years to represent their particular Wards. All Town Councillors are volunteers and receive no payment.

BRACKLEY TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

OCTOBER 2024

Planning & General Works, Finance & Policy, Direct Responsibilities & General Purposes Committee Meeting **Monday 21 October - 19:00**

NOVEMBER 2024

Full Council, Planning & General Works Committee Meeting **Monday 4 November - 19:00**

Planning & General Works, Finance & Policy, Direct Responsibilities & General Purposes Committee Meeting **Monday 18 November - 19:00**

DECEMBER 2024

Full Council, Planning & General Works Committee Meeting **Monday 2 December - 19:00**

Planning & General Works, Finance & Policy, Direct Responsibilities & General Purposes Committee Meeting **Monday 16 December - 19:00**

JANUARY 2025

Full Council, Planning & General Works Committee Meeting **Monday 6 January - 19:00**

Planning & General Works, Finance & Policy, Direct Responsibilities & General Purposes Committee Meeting **Monday 20 January - 19:00**

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

ANNUAL REPORT SUMMARY 2023-24

Welcome to our latest annual report. We have a good mixture of experience and enthusiasm in both our staff and councillors with a shared commitment to improve the physical and social environment of Brackley. We aim to keep Brackley a space where people are proud to live, work and enjoy visiting.

Our estates team extended "No Mow May" to include areas in St James Lake, Mill Lane, Rose Open Space, the front section of the Swift Way, Halse Road and the open space near the Rugby Club. They also planted more wild flower areas at several locations throughout the town as well as further trees. Hanging baskets and planters continue to be an attractive feature of the town. Our parks and open spaces are loved and enjoyed on a daily basis by lots of residents and visitors.

The excellent and well-maintained community venues saw an increase in bookings taken from residents. Our rates for venue hire are kept very competitive for the benefit of residents that wish to use them. Further details can be found on our website.

The expertise we have on our planning committee ensures that our views are respected and considered by the decision makers at West Northamptonshire Council. In the year 2023-24, we commented on 81 planning applications.

At the annual meeting in May 2022, Cllr Sue Sharps was elected Mayor of Brackley with Cllr Elaine Wiltshire as Deputy Mayor. At the end of Cllr Sharps's term as Mayor, she had raised £11,300 which was split between her chosen charities – South Northants Youth Engagement and Brackley Foodbank.

Bleed kits were installed at 3 locations – The Old Fire Station, Egerton Hall and the Town Centre toilets.

Council Tax Band D Split 2023-24

In 2023-24 Brackley Town Council cost a Band D council tax payer £196.70 per year.

£3.26 per week



Up 30p from the previous year!



For every £1 of Council Tax, Brackley Town Council received 7.5p

How your money was spent in 2023-24

£1,576,608
Total Income

£1,350,398
Total Expenditure

£226,310
Placed in reserves



What you get for your £3.26/week Council Tax

Open Spaces 74 open spaces, 15 playgrounds, over 290,000 square metres of grass, over 8,800 trees, over 15,000 bedding plants, wildflower areas, community orchard



Community Venues
Town Hall
Egerton Hall
Old Fire Station
The Loft



Events

Litter & Dog Waste
Over 70 litter bins
94 dog waste bins



Halse Road Cemetery



Office
Open 9am-4pm,
Monday - Friday

ANNUAL REPORT SUMMARY 2023-24

A total of £12,400 Community grants were given to the following:



Brackley Youth Theatre

Toward the staging of 2 musicals in the summer holiday for 2 age groups working with professional theatre practitioners



Brackley Jubilee Choir

Public performance with musicians and soloists



South Northants Volunteer Bureau

Volunteer car scheme



South Northants Youth Engagement

Skateboarding sessions (Skate Sunday sessions) and an accredited training course for an assistant



South Northants Youth Engagement

Brackley Play and Activity Day. Further qualification of coaches, teachers and poolside staff



Brackley European Association

Entertaining councillors and Mayor from our twin town, Montabaur



St Peter's Church

Putting on various project events throughout the year to celebrate 800 years



Chatty Café Scheme

Advertising and "Pay What you Can" Scheme



Do it for Defib

Replacement of batteries and pads for 7 defibrillators

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Brackley Town Council has 16 elected members and 5 main committees – Full Council, Staffing, Planning & General Works, Direct Responsibilities & General Purposes and Finance & Policy. All Councillors sit on Full Council and 2 other committees.

All meetings take place in the Civic Hall of the Town Hall and include a public participation item where members of the public can address the council on matters relevant to the business of the council or its committees.

Councillor Attendance 2023-24

Councillors	Present	Expected	% Attendance
Anthony Bagot-Webb	37	52	71%
Fiona Baker	35	47	75.5%
Chris Cartmell	30	39	77%
Graham Judd	34	39	87%
Jason Kew	45	47	96%
*William King (joined July 23)	26	43	61%
Scott Langford	26	47	55%
Stewart Manley (joined Jan 24)	18	18	100%
Kate Nash	40	47	85%
Sue Sharps	60	64	94%
Bernie Tiller	33	43	77%
*Adrian Watt	41	47	87%
Simon Weaver	47	52	90%
Elaine Wiltshire	64	64	100%
Paul Wiltshire	41	48	85%
Luke Young	36	39	92%

Key

Expected The number of meetings a Councillor was summonsed to

Present The number of meetings a Councillor attended that they were summonsed to.

% Attendance The percentage of meetings a Councillor attended of which they were summonsed to.

The full annual report for the year 2023-24 is available on the Brackley Town Council website under the Council Financial information/transparency section.

EVENTS

Over the last mayoral year, we delivered a series of events and activities which we hope were enjoyed by the entire community; Annual Town Meeting, Community Showcase, King Charles III Coronation, Muddy Feet Workshop, Happy Circus, Fireworks, Remembrance Service and Parade, Christmas Lantern Workshops, Christmas Market/Lantern Parade and Light Switch On, Christmas Tractor Run and Christmas Carol Service.

Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2023/24 for

Brackley Town Council				
	Year ending		Notes and guidance	
	31 March 2023 £	31 March 2024 £	Please round all figures to nearest £1. Do not leave any boxes blank and report £0 or Nil balances. All figures must agree to underlying financial records.	
1. Balances brought forward	1,601,308	1,713,231	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	896,765	1,009,630	Total amount of precept (or for IDBs rates and levies) received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.	
3. (+) Total other receipts	343,683	484,135	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	527,713	561,911	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	600,812	538,968	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	1,713,231	2,106,117	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	1,743,266	2,110,298	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	495,825	502,466	The value of all the property the authority owns – it is made up of all its fixed assets and long term investments as at 31 March.	
10. Total borrowings	0	0	The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).	

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

I certify that for the year ended 31 March 2024 the Accounting Statements in this Annual Governance and Accountability Return have been prepared on either a receipts and payments or income and expenditure basis following the guidance in Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities – a Practitioners' Guide to Proper Practices and present fairly the financial position of this authority.

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

CONFIDENTIAL

Date 13/05/2024

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

13/05/2024

as recorded in minute reference:

MINUTE REFERENCE 26/24

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

CONFIDENTIAL

COMMUNITY GRANT APPLICATIONS FOR 2025/2026

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

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

For the upcoming financial year of 2025/2026, grant applications are now open and will remain open until 12 noon on **Friday, 31 January 2025**.

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

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

GRANTS ALLOCATED IN 2024/25

ORGANISATION	AMOUNT GRANTED
St Peter's Church Hall	£2000
Brackley Jubilee Choir	£300
Brackley District Band	£1000
Men in Sheds	£1000
South Northants youth Engagment (SNYE)	£2000
South Northants youth Engagment (SNYE)	£2000
South northants Volunteer Bureau (SNVB)	£2000
Brackley Youth Theatre	£1450



Now, you've probably seen us in here before... well, we wanted to update you on what we've been up to over the last months and what's ahead!

For those who don't know, we are SNYE (South Northants Youth Engagement), a youth charity running youth clubs, projects and events here in Brackley. The summer is always a super busy time for us, but busy in the best possible way!

We hosted our biggest events of the year, our annual Play & Activity Day, held in Brackley Town Park and we are so grateful to everyone who joined us to have such a fantastic day – the sun even made an appearance! This event included face painting, a giant obstacle course, rodeo bull

and so much more. We would also like to take this opportunity to say a HUGE thank you to our local emergency services, who were able to join us on the day with their Police cars, cell vans, fire engine and St John's mobile treatment centre! This event would not have been possible without the help of Brackley Town Council and all of our amazing funders, who enabled us to provide this action packed day for free.

We also held our Multi-Art Summer Sessions at our SNYE Hub at Southfield Primary School over 2 days. We had a great time creating all things space and out-of-this world. The young people made some awesome flying saucers and solar systems! Thanks to all the young people that joined our team.

Now for what's coming up... we have both our youth clubs starting back up W/C 9th September. Tuesday Youth Club runs at the old Southfield Primary School site for **9-11yrs** and from **6-7pm**. Friday Night Youth Club runs at Brackley Leisure Centre for **11-15yrs, 7.30-9pm**. Both clubs run in term time only and they are drop in, so just come along. We offer games, sports activities, arts and crafts, tuck shop and so much more! It's a great place to make new friends and have fun!

If you would like any further information, please don't hesitate to contact us at admin@youth-engagement.co.uk or find us on Facebook @SNYE



BRACKLEY TOWN COUNCIL EVENTS AUTUMN/WINTER 2024

BRACKLEY FIREWORKS SPONSORED BY MERCEDES-AMG PETRONAS FORMULA ONE TEAM

Saturday 2 November

On Saturday, November 2, Brackley is gearing up for its annual spectacular free-entry fireworks display, proudly sponsored by the Mercedes-AMG PETRONAS Formula One Team. The event promises to be an unforgettable evening of family fun and entertainment. The display will be held at St John's Site, Magdalen College School (bottom site) and gates will open at 5 pm.

A range of delicious hot food and drink stalls will be available to keep you warm, with a fantastic range of local community stall activities for the children to enjoy. The Mercedes-AMG PETRONAS Formula One Team's show car will also be on display, and members from the team will be in attendance to talk about the car and raise vital funds for their Official Team Charity Partner 2024 – 2025, Mind, via collection buckets at the gates.

Ensure you don't miss the pre-show entertainment – the LED drummers are returning this year! The fifteen-minute firework display will start at 7 pm. This event is always popular, so arriving early is best to secure a good viewing spot.



REMEMBRANCE SERVICE & PARADE Sunday 10 November

The Brackley Remembrance Service and Parade is an important event in the town's calendar. Held annually to remember and honour those who have given their lives in service to their country. This year's parade and service will take place on Sunday, 10 November.

The parade will start at 2:30 pm from Winchester House and proceed down the High Street. At 3 pm, a service of Remembrance will take place, followed by wreath-laying at Brackley War Memorial.

CHRISTMAS LANTERN WORKSHOPS Saturday 16 November and Sunday 17 November

Kicking off the festivities, get ready to decorate your lanterns for the Christmas Lantern Parade and Light Switch On! If you would like to book a slot for your child at a workshop, please visit our events website page to book online.

Price: £5.00 per child (includes lantern, light, elastic bands and cane) + £2.50 for additional siblings.

Venue: Old Fire Station Community Room

Workshop sessions: 9:00-11:00, 11:00-13:00, 13:00-15:00, 15:00-17:00

All children will need to be accompanied.

Once your lantern is complete, you will have the opportunity to showcase your creation in the lantern parade, which will culminate in the town's light switch on event on Saturday 30 November. This is a wonderful opportunity for families to join with your community in celebrating the start of the festive season.

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



BRACKLEY TOWN COUNCIL EVENTS AUTUMN/WINTER 2024

CHRISTMAS MARKET, LANTERN PARADE AND LIGHT SWITCH ON Saturday 30 November

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

From 3 pm, on the Piazza and Market Place car park, there will be a range of community group activities, craft stalls, home goods and festive food all supplied from local traders.

The lantern parade will be led by none other than Father Christmas himself and The Mayor of Brackley, Cllr Elaine Wiltshire. The lantern parade will gather at Winchester House at 4:45 pm and commence at 5:15 pm. The parade will slowly walk down the High Street and finish just in front of the War Memorial where the Christmas lights will be switched on at 5:30 pm.



CHRISTMAS TRACTOR RUN Sunday 8 December

This year will be our fourth Brackley Christmas Tractor Run and it is now very much a firm favourite in the BTC office events calendar.

Once more, we will be raising money for the charity Yellow Wellies. Yellow Wellies is an award-winning charity that supports the physical and mental wellbeing of UK farmers. In 2023, we raised £3,979. Incredible! But can we do even better this year, Brackley?

We hope to bring you between 50-100 tractors who will participate by decorating their tractors with lights, tinsel, and other Christmas decorations. Spectators gather along the route to watch the parade of tractors pass by – please give them a wave as they drive past!

The tractor run will begin at 6 pm and covers a predetermined route through the town. More details will be announced on our website and social media as we head into December.



CHRISTMAS COMMUNITY CAROL SERVICE Sunday 22 December

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



JOIN US AS A VOLUNTEER FOR OUR WINTER EVENTS

Are you passionate about making a difference in your community? We're looking for enthusiastic volunteers to help with our events. Your time and energy can make a real impact and bring positive change. Whether you can spare a few hours or commit long-term, there's a place for you in our team! If you're interested, please email ellie@brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk for more information.

WHAT DID THE ROMANS DO IN BRACKLEY?

By Kate Nash

Brackley has a long history that goes back some two thousand years to the Roman era. This was showcased by Brackley Museum community group at Brackley Library last autumn. Brackley was near to the important Roman town of Lactodurum (now Towcester) on the major Roman highway of Watling Street (now the A5) which connected Londinium (London) to the fourth largest settlement in Roman Britain, Viroconium (Wroxeter), and also the extensive Roman trading settlement recently discovered at Blackgrounds (Chipping Warden). Therefore it is not surprising that Brackley has its own evidence of Roman settlement. What the Romans / Romano-British were doing in Brackley is, however, still poorly understood. Here is what we know.

A number of finds, studies and excavations have shed some light on what was going on in Brackley in the Roman period and this is what archaeologists have discovered:

- Building work in the 1970s on land SSE of St Peters Church, for construction of what is now known as the Roman Estate off Buckingham Road, revealed evidence of an extensive and high status Roman settlement, probably a villa complex. Finds included pottery, Samian ware, roof and flue tiles, tesserae, plaster and much coarse ware indicating late Roman occupation. Coins of Severus Alexander, Tetricus I, Gallienus and Crispus were also found as well as foundations of walls, a cobbled floor and a covered stone gully.
- Roman finds have been uncovered in Old Town. Recently a possible Roman ditch along with numerous Roman finds were excavated at Pebble Lane, and in 2011 a trial archaeological trench was dug at Egerton Close which included some small Roman finds.
- Pottery sherds and a scraper have been found in Brackley. And in 1974 in a Brackley garden north of the Roman estate villa site, a gold signet ring cut with a representation of the goddess Ceres.

- West of Brackley, at Steane, an impressive cast-bronze head of Emperor Marcus Aurelius (2nd century) was ploughed up in the 1970s and sat on a farmer's mantelpiece until it was authenticated as a Roman find. Of fine workmanship and probably made in Britain, the eyes, made of blue glass, are still intact. It was likely the property of a wealthy villa owner who wanted a portrait of the Emperor, since a number of villa sites have been identified in the area between Brackley and Banbury. The bronze head can be seen at the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford.



Cast-bronze head of Emperor Marcus Aurelius

- A Roman coin hoard comprising 3,153 coins in an earthenware vase was discovered at Evenly in the 1850s. Most of the coins had been minted in London and Trier, the major mint of the Western Roman Empire, but the hoard also included coins minted in Carthage (Tunisia).
- NE of Brackley, at Illets Farm close to Radstone, HS2 are excavating a Roman temple and farm settlement and so more will be learned about that site soon.
- Evidence of a further Roman settlement NW of Brackley has been noted but little is known.

People lived, farmed and worked and were in the military in Roman times where we live now whether they lived here or were just passing through which is awesome to consider. Thank you to Brackley Museum for collating an excellent exhibition at Brackley Library to showcase our Roman local heritage.



Pottery Sherds



Roman Coins

Northamptonshire Carers

COMMUNITY FUND

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE CARERS

DO YOU LOOK AFTER SOMEONE? ARE YOU AN UNPAID CARER?

Carers are people who look after someone who may have a physical or learning disability, mental health problem, drug or alcohol addiction or elderly/frail.

CARER SUPPORT GROUP DROP-IN BRACKLEY

Brackley Care Home
Wellington Road
Brackley NN13 6QZ

Last Wednesday of every month
10:00am - 12:00pm

Pop in for a teal coffee, we are here to help and support you.

CONTACT NORTHAMPTONSHIRE CARERS
admin@northamptonshire-carers.org
01933 677907 Option 1

BRACKLEY RUGBY CLUB

SOCIAL TOUCH RUGBY

Friendly, adults mixed touch rugby sessions. Come and join us for a run around and a drink in the bar afterwards. Great for fun and fitness. No experience necessary.

7-8.30pm EVERY MONDAY

For more information, find us on Facebook 'Brackley Touch Rugby' or pop down and see us on a Monday night!

HALSE UNITED

HOME OF BLACK & WHITE
England FA Accredited Football Club

Halse United has been offering football in the community for over 70 years now and although it all started at Grange Farm in Halse we have excellent facilities at Brackley Junior School and Syresham Sports and Social Club.

The club already has numerous coaches who are all qualified including UEFA B licensed coaches, and we want to continue to grow our Coaches population by supporting new potential coaches wanting to get involved at the club.

The club want to offer football for all age groups including our open aged teams so if you're considering starting a team then the club can give you all the support and guidance to deliver a new team and facilities at the black and white.

As a club we offer football from under 9's through to our very successful First Team who are pushing for step 6 season in 2025/26.

It's important for us to offer a clear pathway for players to learn and develop into senior football all under the club banner.

Want to know more or have questions then please get in touch at: secretary@halseunitedfc.com.

www.halseunitedfc.com @halseunitedfc Grange Farm, Halse, Brackley

Girlguiding

Rainbows welcomes all girls to come together to laugh, learn and have fun in a creative, safe space. It's a wonderful world of adventure, week after week, just for her.

Rainbows
For ages 4 to 7

Brownies is full of firsts: she can explore her creative side, get out into the great outdoors, learn how to look after herself, others and the world we live in.

Brownies
For ages 7 to 10

Guides is a fun-filled space, she'll have one big adventure with friends, learn how to be herself, explore the things she loves and do stuff she's never done before!

Guides
For ages 10 to 14

Rangers is an open and relaxed space, where you can regularly meet up, go on trips at home and abroad, to help make a difference to the things you care about.

Rangers
For ages 14 to 18

Find a group near you girlguiding.org.uk

Registered charity number: 305018

WHEN STRICTLY CAME TO BRACKLEY

By Theo Hayward

With excitement mounting at the return of this year's Strictly Dancing programme on TV it reminded me of when the first tribute Strictly came to Brackley, way back in 2011. A young Polish dance enthusiast, Andrzej Mialkowski, who was already running classes in Banbury was also now holding dance sessions in Brackley Town Hall. A chance meeting in the Town Council office just after Andrzej had staged a very successful tribute Strictly competition in Banbury prompted the question, asked in a rather injured tone "if you are holding classes in our Town Hall, why can't we have a Strictly competition in Brackley too?" And before you could say cha-cha-cha Strictly By Brackley was on its way!

The word went out for Volunteers to participate and after varying degrees of persuasion there were 18 'celebrities' ready to meet the 'professionals'. They came from across the local community, representing businesses in the town, the sporting life, the comparatively new Head of MCS and of course, since the idea was formed in her office, the Deputy Town Clerk. The dates were set for the first weekend in September and intensive weekly practices were held throughout August in the Town Hall. The event itself was held in Waynflete Hall, complete with Glitter Ball and the stage from which the couples could descend to make a dramatic entrance on to the dance floor. There were four judges who took their roles very seriously, the audience waited with baited breath to see which number between 1 – 10 would be revealed on each 'Paddle'.



There was no precedent to show us what to do. The novelty of the event which made it all great fun also brought an air of determination to make it a great success for both audience and dancers. One of the celebrities, Ian Mr Topsy Turvey Walker, recalled being very nervous on the competition night but found the experience so infectious he went on to become a professional, dancing in 15 more Strictlies and winning the trophy at Strictly Brackley 2012. 14 years on Strictly keeps Brackley dancing. And this year, is it Brackley who has given the TV programme a good idea? The blind comedian, Chris McCausland has been asked to join the celebrities but as Ian pointed out, he danced to second place with his blind partner Rachel Nafzger in 2016 – we did it first in Brackley!

WHAT A THROWBACK!

Check out these fantastic snaps from Strictly Brackley over the years!



The Brackley Morris Men Taster Sessions

Thursday evenings, 8pm, upstairs in Brackley Town Hall.



Ever felt curious about what our Morris men get up to? Ever fancied trying your luck with hankies and sticks? Their winter practice evenings are always open to anyone wanting to have a go. No cost, no commitment. Just wear comfortable clothing and a happy smile. They can teach you the rest.

They have four hundred years of history behind them and new members are always welcome to help ensure that this wonderful colourful piece of our local heritage continues to thrive. There's nothing to lose by giving it a try!

www.thebrackleymorrismen.org.uk
 Facebook: The Brackley Morris Men
 e-mail: brackleymorris@gmail.com



Making every moment matter for people in Brackley



Did you know that you or your loved one could benefit from palliative and end-of-life care, completely free of charge? Katharine House Hospice already supports people in the Brackley area and wants to ensure everyone knows that they're here for you, if ever you need them.

Katharine House provides a wide range of services to support adults with life-limiting illnesses, as well as their family and friends, from the point of diagnosis onwards. Patients are sometimes supported over months and even years, based on their individual needs.

The specialist services don't just consider the physical effects of illness, but also the emotional, social, and spiritual impacts as well.

Services include:

- hospice care in the community
- wellbeing services
- Lymphoedema support
- Therapy
- financial advice
- spiritual care
- in-hospice care
- bereavement support.

Patients are cared for where and when they need it - either in their homes, at the hospice, in care homes or in hospital.

Ultimately, the hospice aims to make every moment matter for patients and help people spend the time they have left creating quality memories with their loved ones.

Katharine House accepts referrals from a range of GPs and health officials across south Northamptonshire, north Oxfordshire and south Warwickshire. Check to see if your GP can refer you or your loved one.

MENTAL HEALTH FRIENDS



MENTAL HEALTH FRIENDS WAS FOUNDED IN 2019 TO CREATE COMMUNITIES WHO COME TOGETHER TO HELP AND SUPPORT EACH OTHER WITH THEIR MENTAL HEALTH.

DROP-IN DATES

BRACKLEY LEISURE CENTRE @ 1PM
 2024

12TH SEPTEMBER		HALF TERM
19TH SEPTEMBER	26TH SEPTEMBER	7TH NOVEMBER
3RD OCTOBER	10TH OCTOBER	14TH NOVEMBER
17TH OCTOBER	24TH OCTOBER	21ST NOVEMBER
		28TH NOVEMBER
		5TH DECEMBER
		12TH DECEMBER

MENTAL HEALTH FRIENDS
 ADMIN@MENTALHEALTHFRIENDS.CO.UK
 WWW.MENTALHEALTHFRIENDS.CO.UK
 07598275970



Limited places available for morning and afternoon sessions.

Home educated and SEND provision for ages 4-11. Supporting pupils with ASD and social, emotional and mental health including PDA, OCD and physical disability.

Morning sessions 10am-12pm and afternoon sessions 1-3pm.

Wellbeing
 We strongly promote wellbeing and mindfulness of children's journey through periods of positive and negative personal, social emotional and mental health. We understand how positive wellbeing can affect our pupil's personal development and resilience. We understand how the wellbeing of others around us can be influenced by us and influence us.

Our Vision
 Our vision at Brackley STEAM Park Academy, we have a shared vision to ensure our education setting is a happy place, a healthy place, a safe place, and a place where our pupils are enthusiastic to learn, eager to explore, nurtured and inspired. Pupils are given opportunities to develop confidence and self-esteem.

Where Every Child Thrives, Nurtured, Succeed Together Further details, please get in touch 01280 811 356 or enquiries@steamparkacademy.org.uk





**BRACKLEY
CLASSIC CAR
SHOW**

**THE CHRISTMAS CLASSIC
CAR SHOW IS ON!**

29.12.2024
BRACKLEY MARKET PLACE



Brackley Athletic Football Club

Brackley Athletic Football Club has been a key part of the Brackley football scene since 1976. Today many coaches and committee members are giving back to the sporting community they themselves grew up in.

Brackley Athletic F.C. has come on significantly since 1976, when they only had a few teams. Today, we are an accredited club, with players starting their football journey as young as 4 at the Saturday Soccer School. With 18+ teams, including three girls' teams and the BAFC Tigers' Disability Youth team. Brackley Athletic offers young football lovers of Brackley a great opportunity not only to develop their football skills but also to develop their social skills, teamwork, and the opportunity to meet new friends.

Brackley Athletic F.C. has teams playing in the following leagues: Oxford Youth Girls, Oxford Youth Football, Witney and District Football, Milton Keynes District Development Football, and Berkshire, Oxfordshire & Buckinghamshire Inclusive League.

To find out more about Brackley Athletic F.C. visit brackleyathletic.co.uk follow us on Facebook or if you have a question about a specific age group / team email info@brackleyathletic.co.uk

CHATTY CAFES ARE GROWING IN BRACKLEY!



The Chatty Café Scheme is a non-profit organization aiming to reduce loneliness and social isolation by providing opportunities for people to meet up and chat face-to-face. Participating venues designate a table as a 'Chatter & Natter' table, creating a space to bring people together for chatting. The Chatty Café Scheme runs a volunteer programme and trains local people to host the Chatter & Natter tables, at a set day and time every week.

We are delighted to share the news that more 'Chatter & Natter' tables have started across Brackley. If you'd like to meet other people for a chat, check out the participating venues below:



DAY TIME SESSIONS:

Esquires Coffee Brackley, Juno Crescent, Brackley NN13
Every Monday, 2pm – 4pm

The Old Fire Station, 37 High St, Brackley, NN13 7DW
Every Tuesday, 3pm - 5pm

Brackley Medical Centre and Community Hospital, Wellington Rd,
Brackley, NN13 6QZ
Every Thursday, 10am - 12pm

Helmdon Community Larder, 20 Church St, Helmdon, Brackley, NN13 5QJ
Every Friday, 1.30 - 3.30 p.m

EVENING SESSION:

Paisley Pear, Northampton Rd, Brackley, NN13 5FH
Every Thursday, 6.30pm - 7.30pm

Jon Haslam, a local Brackley resident helps host the table at The Old Fire Station. Jon said: "We have been made to feel so welcome by the venue, and I've noticed how comfortable chatters feel when they join us for the first time. It's a lovely group of people and there is always space at the table for someone new to join in the fun."

A Chatter & Natter table creates a space for people to talk; whether it's for five minutes or an hour of good conversation. Chatter & Natter tables are free to join, and there's no membership required. People can just find a table and sit down. Some say that a simple chat can brighten someone's day and that the scheme can help people realize that many others suffer from loneliness and lack of companionship.

For more information on the sessions above, please go to 'find a venue' on our website: thechattycafescheme.co.uk



THE BRACKLEY SKATEPARK

The Brackley Skatepark project has finally concluded and is open to the public. Locals of all ages have been enjoying the park since the moment it opened. It has not just been young up-and-coming skaters taking to the concrete half pipes, many pads, and rails at the new park; we have seen some local skating veterans who have been around since before the idea had ever been discussed using the park to its fullest extent, and showing us what is possible with hard work and years of practice.

The idea for a skatepark originated in the early 2000s when local skaters worked on putting together a wooden park on Turweston Road. Unfortunately, this didn't last, so Brackley locals and skaters from further afield put together a video on the town Piazza campaigning for a permanent local skatepark. The video was then posted on YouTube to raise awareness when the platform was still very much in its infancy.

Once the idea was successfully seeded in the town's collective consciousness, the long and challenging process of creating the skatepark began. Over the years, Brackley Town Council, West Northamptonshire Council, construction companies, and residents of Brackley discussed each element of the operation in great detail. For a project as substantial as this, location, planning, conditions, and contractors, among a myriad of finer points, took a significant time to negotiate to finally enable the park's construction. Once Maverick Skateparks had been selected as the contractor, a skatepark user group comprising of local skaters helped develop the skatepark's design to ensure it would fit the needs of all the individuals who would be using it.



After many long days of hard work from everyone involved in ironing out the details, construction began on June 10th, 2024. Maverick Skateparks worked tirelessly over the summer to finish the new park, which was finally complete after over 12 weeks of intense construction on September 6th, 2024. Initially, the skatepark was scheduled to be completed in April 2025; however, Brackley's Skatepark was brought forward due to a lucky cancellation, which allowed the construction to begin early.

From a concept born from residents nearly 20 years earlier, the Brackley Skatepark is now a shining example of how hard work and determination pay dividends, as Brackley now has a well-designed, sturdy, and exciting asset to show for all the years of effort on the part of everyone involved. The local community is already showing a lot of well-earned love, care, and respect for the park, and alongside skating, they are making sure to sweep and clean it in order to maintain its condition.

The Brackley Council would like to thank everyone involved throughout the process of inspiring, designing, and building the Skatepark. It has taken years of persistent effort to realise this dream. We want to express our gratitude to the residents, councillors, and staff who have dedicated their time to completing the project, and we look forward to seeing the skills of Brackley skaters develop as a result of our new skatepark.



CONTACT US

☎ 01280 702441 🌐 www.brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk

✉ office@brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk

📍 20 High Street, Brackley, Northamptonshire,
NN13 7DS

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

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📷 [@brackleytowncouncil](https://www.instagram.com/brackleytowncouncil)

Attention Brackley residents!

If you would like to advertise any community groups, achievements, events or services to feature in the next Town Talk magazine, please email comms@brackleynorthants-tc.gov.uk or call 01280 702441.

We would love to hear from you.