

# Town & Country

Winter 2021

Brought to you by Bracknell Forest Council

## Gigantic boost to help rebuild our local economy

Plans to rebuild our local economy after the COVID-19 lockdowns and restrictions of 2020 and 2021, saw a giant success this summer, with more high-profile events due to flood the borough in 2022.

This summer saw the arrival of a gigantic installation in Bracknell town centre – with the UK's biggest ever tree giants taking The Lexicon by storm and generating lots of local and national interest to put the borough back on the economic map.

Three huge giants made from reclaimed wood loomed over shoppers and visitors in August, as part of a tree-mendous effort by the council and The Lexicon to encourage people back into the town centre, to shop and socialise safely.

The 10-day event, which also featured live theatre performances in the Forest Friends' Den as well as roaming entertainers, musicians and storytellers, created a real buzz in the town centre and a much-needed economic boost after an exceptionally tough 18 months.

As a result, 75 per cent of local retailers saw their sales increase when compared to the same period in 2019; and footfall in the town centre increased by around 23 per cent when compared to the same period in 2020.

Additionally, the love for Wise Woodland, Lady Greenwood and Little Acorn really showed how connected our residents are to the beautiful forest that surrounds us. Further events to help boost the



local economy will be coming to the borough in 2022, with planning now underway for a spring event around Easter time, The Lexicon Bracknell Half Marathon in May, The Queen's platinum jubilee in June and a gigantic summer event to tie in with The Lexicon's fifth anniversary. Our regeneration and economy team is also exploring how we can support smaller high streets and other retailers in places like Sandhurst and Crowthorne.

Cllr Marc Brunel-Walker, Executive Member of Economic Development and Regeneration said: "The Bracknell Forest Giants were a key part of the council's strategy to further the success of The Lexicon as a regional shopping destination.

"This has never been as important as it is now – after 18 very difficult months we needed something spectacular and unique to encourage shoppers and visitors to come back and feel like they could come back safely.

"Working alongside The Lexicon on the concept and event was incredibly important, collectively we achieved something very special for the borough this summer. It was amazing to see people of all ages engaging with the giants with huge smiles on their faces.

"We are already working on a spring event to further flood the town centre with additional fun and happiness, so watch this space!"

It took 2,456 hours to build the giants - that's 307 days of work for one person!

Over four tonnes of unprocessed slab wood (a repurposed waste product) was used to clad the giants.

Over 4,000 screws and 189 square metres of hessian were used.

## What's inside



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# Trusted to care

## Award winning care homes

Our highly trained care home teams are specialists in residential, nursing, dementia and respite care, so whatever your needs and personal preferences, we're here to help you and your family at every step of the journey.

If you're considering care for yourself or a loved one, call **01344 981618** or email **[suzanne.woodward@careuk.com](mailto:suzanne.woodward@careuk.com)**

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**Bickerton House care home**  
**Bracknell, Berkshire**  
**[careuk.com/bickerton-house](http://careuk.com/bickerton-house)**



**care UK**



## Leader's welcome

Hello and welcome to the winter edition of Town & Country.

With 2021 drawing to a close in a matter of weeks, we have a chance to reflect on all that has happened this past year. There's no doubt that the start of the year was a very difficult time for people, having had Christmas and New Year's plans cancelled and entering a national lockdown, it may have been hard to see light at the end of the tunnel. However, the successful vaccine rollout and gentle easing of restrictions definitely made the latter part of this year a much brighter one.

It has been a delight to see our shops and restaurants full of friendly faces once again and to see family and friends enjoy our wonderful parks and green spaces in the short spate of summer sun we had!

If we've learnt anything from the past 20 months, it's the value of our local community and how lucky we are to have so many great volunteers and services right on our doorstep. This Christmas why not take advantage of what's local to you, swap the online Christmas shopping for something from a local craftsperson, or nearby shop. Supporting our borough's businesses is one of the best gifts we can give this year.

There are also lots of activities to keep you entertained this winter, including the return of our Christmas market, you can read more about that on page 12.

I hope this Christmas brings opportunity for more celebrations than last year, but remember that COVID-19 does not take a break during the festive season. We should continue to be vigilant, wear face coverings in shops and on public transport (unless exempt), get vaccinated when eligible, wash our hands regularly and ventilate the room when we do meet up indoors with family and friends.

I'd like to wish you a very happy Christmas and all the best for a safe and healthy 2022.

**Cllr Paul Bettison OBE**  
Leader of Bracknell Forest Council

# Keeping safe and well this winter



Even though restrictions have eased, COVID-19 and other viruses are still very much with us. This means that we have to continue with, and reinforce, the good habits that are known to help keep us safe and healthy, these include:

- washing your hands regularly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and using hand sanitiser regularly throughout the day
- wearing a face covering on public transport and in shops (unless exempt)
- ventilating the room when meeting with others, even just a small opening reduces the risk of catching COVID-19 and other viruses

Keeping yourself and your home warm will reduce your risk of becoming unwell too.

Heating your home to at least 18 degrees is sufficient. Try using an electric blanket or hot water bottle to stay warm in bed and try to eat at least one hot meal a day. Eating regularly and staying hydrated will keep you energised and your body warm.

## Warm home discount scheme

You may be eligible for a discount of £140 over the winter on your energy bill. Those on the guarantee credit or pension credit will automatically be sent a letter between now and 31 December. However, those on a low income may also be eligible but will need to apply for this directly through their energy supplier.

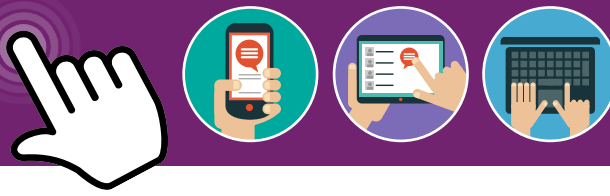
To find out more about the warm home discount scheme, visit:

[www.gov.uk/the-warm-home-discount-scheme](http://www.gov.uk/the-warm-home-discount-scheme).





## Quick links



Keep these links handy (or bookmarked in your internet browser) to find everyday and useful information you might need from us.

**Community groups, organisations and events in your area -**  
<https://helpyourself.bracknell-forest.gov.uk>

**Council tax enquiries -** [www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/council-tax](http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/council-tax)

**Refuse collection dates and recycling -**  
[www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/bins-and-recycling](http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/bins-and-recycling)

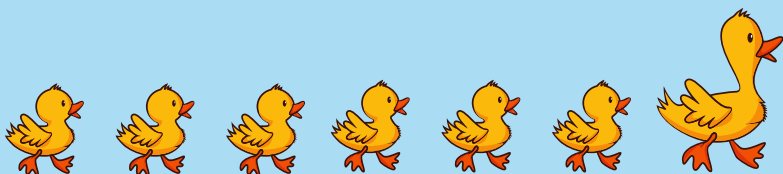
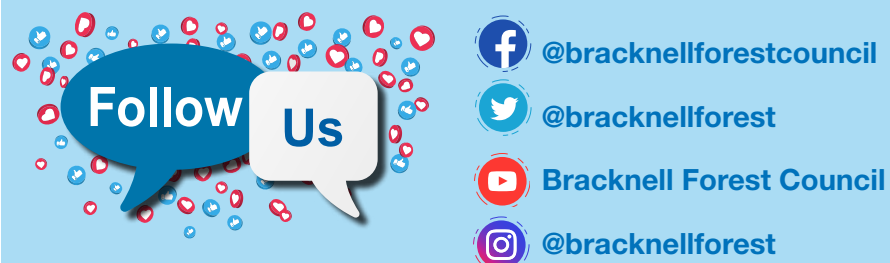
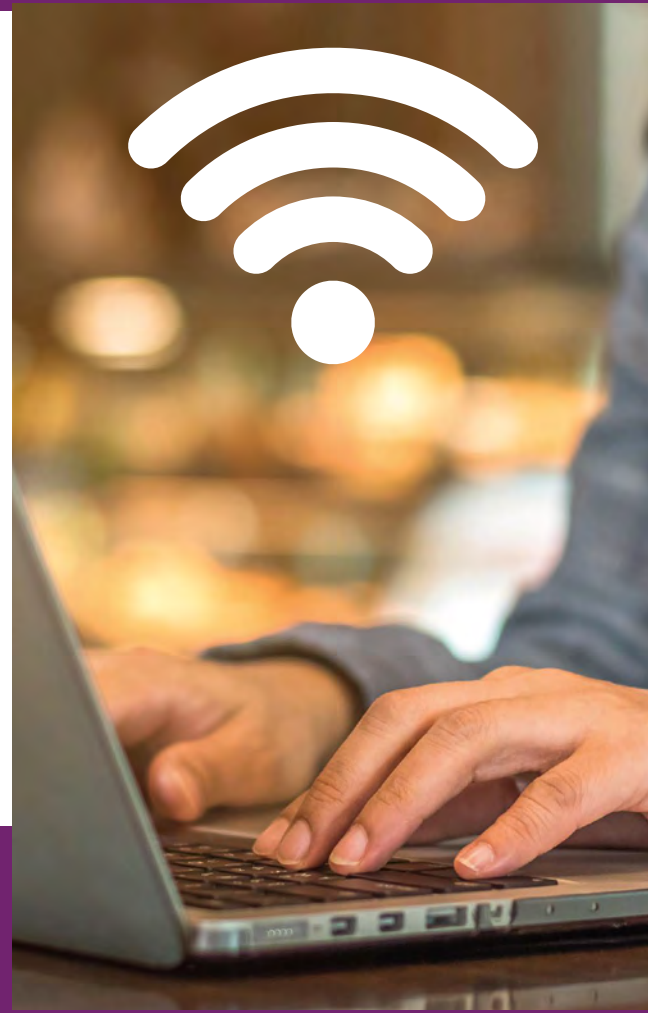
**Brown bins -** [www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/bins-and-recycling/garden-waste](http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/bins-and-recycling/garden-waste)

**Leisure facilities -** [www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/leisure-services](http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/leisure-services)

**Jobs -** [www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/jobs](http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/jobs)

**e+ account -** [www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/e-plus-card](http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/e-plus-card)

**Find out about self-service accounts:**  
[www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/help/my-account-help](http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/help/my-account-help)



## COVID-19 translated resources

Do you know someone whose first language is not English? If English isn't your first language, it may be difficult to keep up with the latest guidance on COVID-19.

We've compiled a list of translated information which is currently available in a number of different languages. This is being added to as additional translations become available.

If you know someone who might benefit from access to the latest advice translations, share the link to our webpage with them. Visit: [www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/coronavirus-alternative-formats](http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/coronavirus-alternative-formats).



## About Town & Country

Town & Country is published by Bracknell Forest Council.

It is printed on environmentally-friendly paper.

Town & Country is delivered to more than 50,000 households in the borough and is also available on our website: [www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk](http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk).

A summary of Town & Country can be made available in large print, in Braille or an audio cassette. Copies in other languages may also be obtained.

**Editorial:** [comms@bracknell-forest.gov.uk](mailto:comms@bracknell-forest.gov.uk)

**General council enquiries:** [www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk](http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk)

**Email:** [customer.services@bracknell-forest.gov.uk](mailto:customer.services@bracknell-forest.gov.uk)

# Boost your immunity this winter

This winter, those eligible are being urged to book their COVID-19 booster along with their annual flu jab, to prevent serious illness and protect the NHS.

Bracknell Forest Council is encouraging all residents to check their eligibility and book their COVID-19 booster and flu jab as soon as they can.

The COVID-19 booster is currently offered to everyone over 18, three months after their second dose, and those over 16 with health conditions that put them at a higher risk from COVID-19. A second dose is now being offered to 12 to 15 year olds as well as 16 and 17 year olds, 12 weeks after their first dose.

You will be contacted when it is your turn and informed how to book your appointment.

The flu vaccine is also available to everyone over 50, as well as people with certain health conditions, those who live with someone at risk from

infections, carers, pregnant women, and frontline health care workers. Children (up to secondary school year 11) will be offered the nasal spray version of the flu vaccine either at school or via their GP surgery.

Cllr Dale Birch, Executive Member for Adult Services, Health and Housing, gets his flu jab every year and encourages Bracknell Forest residents to do the same, he said:

“As the weather turns colder, more people are naturally meeting indoors. This can increase the chance of catching viruses and so it is vital that everyone eligible books their flu and COVID-19 booster jabs. It is not necessary to get these at the same time, so you can get your flu jab straight away and your booster once you become eligible. Let’s boost our immunity this winter and protect ourselves and our loved ones.”

To book your flu jab you will need



to contact your GP or your local pharmacy. Three months after your second COVID-19 vaccination, those eligible will be contacted to book their booster appointment. If you have not received an invite after

three months, you can book on the NHS website. For more information on both flu and COVID-19 vaccinations, go to [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk).

## Know where to go when feeling unwell



Self care	Pharmacists	GP surgery	Visit 111.nhs.uk or call NHS 111	Minor injuries	Emergency department or call 999
Be prepared to care for yourself with a well-stocked medicine cabinet and plenty of rest if you have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• an upset tummy</li><li>• pain or headache</li><li>• sore throat (but if it lasts for two weeks or more contact your GP)</li></ul> for health advice, visit: <a href="http://www.nhs.uk">www.nhs.uk</a> for self care advice, visit: <a href="http://www.frimleyhealthandcare.org.uk">www.frimleyhealthandcare.org.uk</a> and search ‘stay well’	Are qualified healthcare professionals, who can offer clinical advice and over-the-counter medicines. Ask for help with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• minor aches and pains, burns and scalds, head lice</li><li>• bites and stings</li><li>• queries about medication dosage, type or suitability plus urgent requests</li></ul>	Visit your GP surgery website and click on eConsult to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• get help for a condition that has not improved after seeking help from your pharmacy</li><li>• report urgent conditions that are not life threatening</li><li>• to report a deteriorating chronic condition</li></ul> Please continue to use usual routes, including online patient access, to order repeat prescriptions. If you do not have access to the internet, you can continue to phone your surgery.	When the situation is not life threatening and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• if you think you need to go to hospital</li><li>• if you don’t know the most suitable place to go or call</li><li>• if you don’t have a GP to call or if your GP practice is closed</li><li>• if you need advice or reassurance about what to do</li></ul> Available 24 hours a day, every day. If needed, an NHS advisor will help you to be seen quickly and safely.	A minor injury service is only for conditions such as the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• sprains and strains</li><li>• suspected broken limbs</li><li>• minor head injuries</li><li>• cuts and grazes</li><li>• minor scalds and burns</li><li>• skin infections</li></ul> Whether you’re booked into the minor injury service via your GP, NHS 111 or you decide to walk-in, the service is available 7 days a week, from 8am-8pm. The minor injury service is located at Bracknell Urgent Care Centre (Brants Bridge).	Only for very serious or life-threatening situations. This can include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• loss of consciousness</li><li>• an acute confused state</li><li>• fits that are not stopping</li><li>• chest pain</li><li>• breathing difficulties</li><li>• severe bleeding that cannot be stopped</li><li>• severe allergic reactions</li><li>• severe burns or scalds</li></ul> Call <b>999</b> immediately if you or someone else is having a heart attack or stroke. Also call <b>999</b> if you think someone has had a major trauma, such as after a serious road traffic accident, a stabbing, a shooting, a fall from a height, or a serious head injury. <b>If you are unsure, call NHS 111 or go on line at 111.nhs.uk.</b>

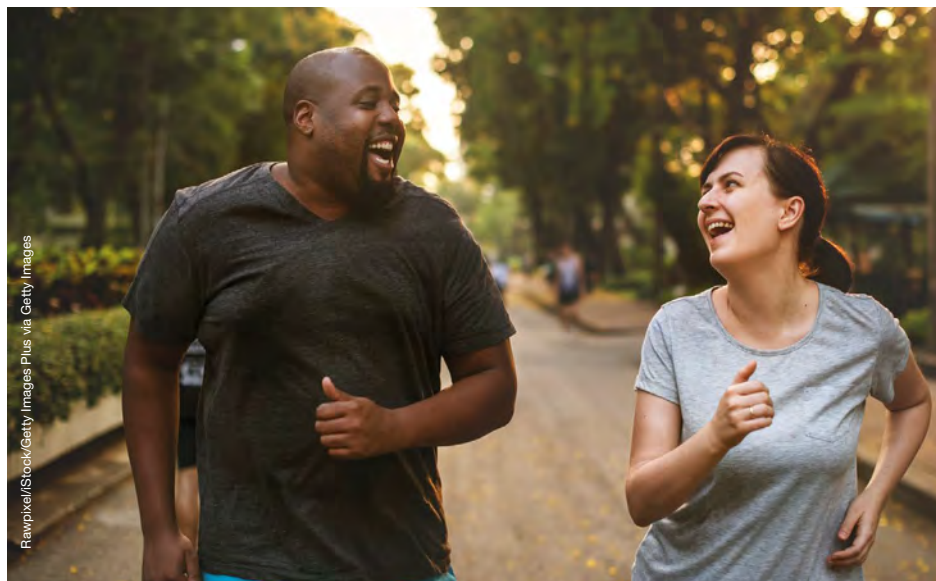
Download the NHS app to:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• view your COVID-19 vaccination details</li><li>• order repeat prescriptions</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• book appointments</li><li>• get health advice</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• view your health record and more</li></ul>
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**Not sure what to do when your child is unwell?**  
If you are worried about a child, visit the Frimley Healthier Together website: [frimley-healthiertogether.nhs.uk](http://frimley-healthiertogether.nhs.uk)

 For more information visit: [www.frimleyhealthandcare.org.uk](http://www.frimleyhealthandcare.org.uk)



# New year, better health



As 2021 draws to a close, many of us will be thinking ahead to next year. Why not make 2022 the year to get healthier and focus on you! Whether you want to lose weight, stop smoking, or get connected, there are a range of services available for free to those living or working in Bracknell Forest.

## Social prescribing

As the temperatures drops and the darker days set in, it's understandable if you begin to feel lonely or socially isolated. This new year don't let the colder

weather stop you from doing the things you enjoy. Our social prescribers are here to help. Social prescribers can empower you to join local activities in your community and set goals to improve your overall wellbeing. Whether you want to get more active, find a new hobby, meet new people, or access more support, the Bracknell Forest social prescribers can help.

## Weight management

Losing weight can be difficult, but with the right support and advice it doesn't need to be. You can get

free support to lose weight from our new weight management service, Everyone Health.

Everyone Health supports people to lose weight through a combination of healthy eating, physical activity, and behaviour change support.

Sessions are available both online and face to face in local community settings. To sign up contact Everyone Health on 0300 005 0095 or email: [eh.bracknellforest@nhs.net](mailto:eh.bracknellforest@nhs.net).

## Smoking cessation

If you're a smoker, quitting is the best step you can take to improve your health and the health of those around you. Our stop smoking service, Smokefreelife Berkshire, is here to help.

Smokefreelife Berkshire provides free specialist support for residents and those working in Bracknell Forest. The team works through a range of methods including face to face, digital and online. As well as providing nicotine replacement therapy to help individuals to quit.

## Smoke free homes

If you're a smoker, you might be tempted to smoke indoors at this time of year. But second-hand smoke can be dangerous for those around us, especially children.

In the UK, second-hand smoke is the cause of over 300,000 children's visits to the doctor every year, and nearly 10,000 children being admitted to hospital.

If you can, the best way to protect your family and friends is to make your home completely smoke-free. The best way to do that is to quit smoking completely. However, if you're not ready to quit, smoking outside, asking visitors to not smoke in the house and not smoking in the car can help.



## The morning after guide

As the festive season approaches, many people will be attending Christmas and New Year parties and get together, particularly after missing out last year.

Before going out for drinks, you need to think about the morning after. Driving over the limit could result in losing your driving licence or worse, injuring yourself or someone else.

The guide to the right shows how long, on average, it takes for alcohol to leave your system.

If you think that drinking has become a problem for you, or someone you know, call New Hope on 01344 312360 for advice, information and support. Alternatively, visit: [www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/drugs-alcohol-advice](http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/drugs-alcohol-advice).

## Can you count? The morning after guide

After a night out, you could still be over the limit the next day.

Please note: Your BAC (blood alcohol concentration) can vary according to numerous factors such as metabolic rate, height, weight, gender, amount of food in your stomach and what and how long you have been drinking.



**PINTS:** 1 pint of 4% beer or cider takes at least 2 hours to leave your blood stream; 5.5% strong beer takes at least 3 hours. If you drink 4 pints of strong beer, you may not be safe to drive for at least 13 hours.



**BOTTLES:** 330ml bottles of alcopop/beer take at least 2 hours to leave your blood stream; large beers (500ml) take 3. After 5 large beers, you aren't safe to drive for at least 16 hours.



**WINE:** A 250ml glass of 13% wine takes 3 hours to leave your blood stream. If you have a bottle you aren't safe to drive for at least 10 hours after your last drink.



**CANS:** If you drink 5 super strength cans or strong ciders you should not drive for at least 21 hours.



**SPIRITS:** A standard shot of 25ml is 1 unit, which takes at least 1 hour to leave your blood stream. 50ml doubles can take up to 2 hours. If you have 4 doubles, you should not drive for at least 9 hours. *And remember, if you are pouring spirits yourself at a party, you'll probably pour generous doubles, triples or more!*



## Make a difference - start a career in adult social care



Working in adult social care (ASC) is a career that makes a real difference to other people's lives. Locally, there are lots of great roles within the sector that provide varied and rewarding work.

Whether you are a young person starting out in your career, or someone with valuable transferrable skills and experience from other industries wanting to make a positive career change, there are opportunities available for everyone.

Care organisations in Bracknell Forest are now recruiting. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the demand for ASC now more than ever, and over the past 18 months, a spotlight has been shone on the amazing work of social care staff throughout our communities. The sector offers rewarding, varied and flexible roles, supporting and enabling people with ASC needs to live as independently as possible. Jobs are varied and include direct care and support, as well as administration and domestic roles.

There are opportunities for both qualified and non-qualified roles, and the chance to work in a care or nursing home setting, or out in the community caring for people in their own homes. Some roles may require you to drive and have use of a car.

Training is provided on the job, you can also gain new skills and qualifications along the way. You will be fully supported to carry out your role safely, including access to PPE and support with vaccinations. Part-time or full-time roles are available, and hours can be flexible.

Susan Knight, Community Support Worker from the Intermediate Care Service, said: "To me, it's not like a job, it's like visiting friends, such a pleasure."

Having a career in care can be very fulfilling, and these roles are so important in helping our community and residents who are most in need. You can support people and enable them to live their lives the way they want to.

If you think you have the right values and personal qualities to work in ASC, visit Berkshire Opportunities: [www.berkshireopportunities.co.uk/eastberkshire](http://www.berkshireopportunities.co.uk/eastberkshire) to find out about current job vacancies.

**Safeguarding adults means protecting the most vulnerable from abuse and neglect.**

**We need your help to support and protect vulnerable adults from all forms of abuse and harm.**

**If you see something, are told something or something doesn't feel right, you need to report it.**

Call Bracknell Forest Adult Social Care on 01344 351500.

**Don't ignore it, report it.**

For more information visit:  
[bracknellforestsafeguarding.org.uk](http://bracknellforestsafeguarding.org.uk)







## Age Concern Bracknell Forest Day Centre (Dementia Friendly)

We provide respite for carers, social interaction and cognitive stimulation for older people and those with dementia.

Our experienced and compassionate team create a welcoming environment with care, dignity and respect at the forefront of our service. We always go the extra mile to ensure everyone receives a bespoke personalised service.

Each day at the Day Centre is different and comprises multiple activities, games, quizzes, music, arts & crafts. Included is a two-course meal and exclusive use of our cinema room. We encourage friendship building, conversation and fun, ending loneliness and isolation in our community.

Located in Forest Park, Bracknell.

We offer full-day placements (9 am — 4 pm).

**OPEN NOW — £45 per person, per day.**

tel: **01344 422048**

email: **info@ageconcernbracknell.org.uk**



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**info@ascotchiropracticclinic.com**

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**Contact Your Local Office:**

**Bracknell & Ascot**

01344 609097

**Reading & Wokingham**

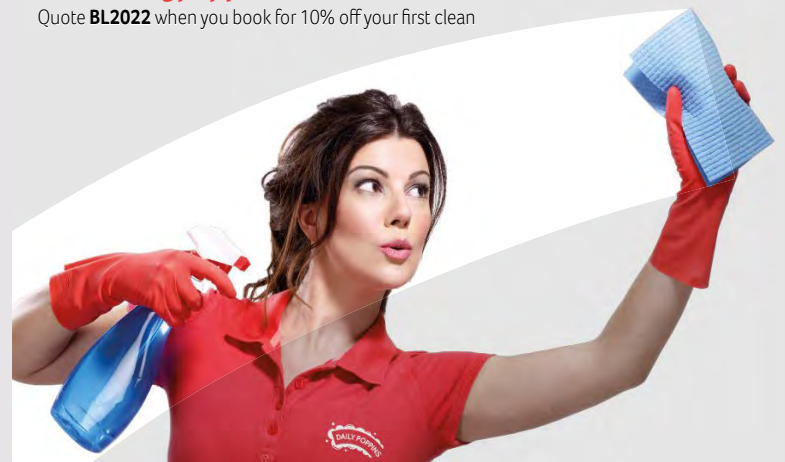
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*"We poppin, so you can pop out"*



# Bracknell Forest's brilliant parks and open spaces

The parks and countryside team has been busy carrying out improvements to our green spaces over the spring and summer, which will benefit people and wildlife.

## Blooming marvellous!

Our rangers are creating new wildflower meadows at The Greenway, Sandhurst, for people and wildlife to enjoy. New information panels explain how we're creating these meadows and what wildlife they will support. Residents can also enjoy restored raised planters at this open space.



## Walking on the wild side

Access to a designated footpath in Wildmoor Heath has been improved thanks to a joint project between the council's rangers and the Berks, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust (BBOWT). The footpath's rotting boardwalk has been replaced with a new one composed of recycled plastic that is made to look like timber. The improvements will reduce maintenance costs and mean that residents can continue to enjoy year-round access to this beautiful site, while protecting the important wildlife that lives there.



## Tree-mendous effort

The first part of a project to rejuvenate Tarman's Copse in Bracknell has been completed. Coppicing work was carried out this autumn in a 0.5 hectare area of the woodland to rejuvenate the trees and improve biodiversity. Nothing is going to waste. The woodchip from the work is going to biomass and the main timber is being used to produce chestnut fencing. To aid regeneration of the woodland, the rangers will work with volunteers next winter to plant native trees.

## Wetland wonder

The heritage parks team has renovated the pond boardwalk at Lily Hill Park. The new structure is made from recycled plastic, which will require less maintenance than wood. A new information panel has been provided for visitors to learn about the wildlife that lives in the pond.



## Plant power

The heritage parks team and local volunteers have planted over 600 native plants at South Hill Park to improve local biodiversity. The plants include fern and a mixture of other species, some with weird and wonderful names, such as butcher's-broom and roast beef plant! Work will continue through the winter to remove invasive rhododendron and laurel and replace them with native trees such as rowan and bird cherry.



## Countryside capers

New waymarkers, finger posts and information panels are now available along two local recreational routes. The Cut Countryside Corridor forms a circular route of approximately 7.5km that follows green spaces along The Cut river in Binfield and Warfield. The Bullbrook Countryside Corridor is similar in length and links nine green spaces in Warfield, Winkfield and Bracknell. The new signs will better connect these natural spaces and will promote residents' enjoyment of them. Find out more about circular walks on our website.





# Making a splash at Coral Reef Waterworld



One of the borough's much-loved leisure facilities, Coral Reef Waterworld, has installed a brand-new splash pad for children and families to enjoy.

The new feature opened to the public in November and includes a wide range of equipment, including jet sprays, fountains and aqua domes.

Mark Tennant, Contract Manager at Coral Reef Waterworld, said: "As one of the largest interactive waterparks in England, we know this is something the children of Bracknell Forest will love.

"Splash pads are not only a great way for children to explore and learn through water

play, but also great fun for the whole family. "Introducing this feature offers something for slightly younger children who may not be quite ready for the fun of the water slides.

"Everyone Active and Bracknell Forest Council have made a significant investment into these new facilities, which we are sure will be enjoyed by our visitors for many years to come."

Cllr John Harrison, Executive Member for Culture, Delivery and Public Protection, said: "We are so delighted to see the completion of the new splash pad at Coral Reef Waterworld.

"After what has been a turbulent couple of years for everyone, we hope these

improvements will give families the fun experience they deserve when visiting our leisure facilities. A chance to let go and enjoy the thrill of the water slides, rapids, water volcano and now the splash pad."

To book your session at Coral Reef Waterworld, visit: [everyoneactivecoralreefwaterworld.digitickets.co.uk/tickets](http://everyoneactivecoralreefwaterworld.digitickets.co.uk/tickets).





# The Look Out Discovery Centre

A great family day out whatever the weather!



**We look forward to seeing you soon.**

Please check our website/social media for full information and to book.

Woodlarks Café  
**OPEN**

[www.facebook.com/thelookoutdiscovery](https://www.facebook.com/thelookoutdiscovery) [@thelookoutbracknell](https://www.instagram.com/thelookoutbracknell)

[www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/leisure-services/look-out-discovery-centre](http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/leisure-services/look-out-discovery-centre)  
Nine Mile Ride, Bracknell, Berkshire, RG12 7QW



## School Governors are people like you



**Interested in influencing the future of young people?**

**Want to use your skills and develop new ones?**



Email: [governors.helpdesk@bracknell-forest.gov.uk](mailto:governors.helpdesk@bracknell-forest.gov.uk)  
[www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/schoolgovernors](http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/schoolgovernors)

### Bracknell Forest Family Services Directory and SEND Local Offer



“Providing free, impartial information & advice about all family matters and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)...”



- SEND information all in one place - How to access services and support including Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs)
- Education, childcare and early years funding
- Leisure and holiday activities
- Advice and support services
- Help for those struggling to find childcare
- Parenting courses
- Childminding qualification and training

**Family Information Service**  
[fis@bracknell-forest.gov.uk](mailto:fis@bracknell-forest.gov.uk)  
01344 353133  
[www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/localdirectory](http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/localdirectory)

Where can I get help with an EHCP?

Where is my nearest baby clinic?

I'm struggling with my child's behaviour – where can I get help?

How do I apply for free 30 hour childcare funding?



# Christmas market returns to The Lexicon



The Christmas market is back in town to add a bit of festive cheer! The ever-popular German grill has returned, along with a range of stalls selling gifts, delicious food, and Christmas treats. Enjoy a glass of mulled wine as you browse. Pick up a beautiful wooden toy or some luxurious skin care, there is something for everyone. It's in Union Square (by Bill's and Boots) until Christmas Eve, so pop in and support our local traders while you are shopping for Christmas gifts!

## Crowthorne market this Christmas

The market will be at Morgan Recreation Ground, Lower Broadmoor Road, Crowthorne, RG45 7LA, from 9am – 2pm every Friday and Sunday throughout December, with the exception of the following dates:

Friday, 24 December - closed

Sunday, 26 December - closed

Friday, 31 December - closed

Sunday, 2 January - closed

This gives all market traders a well-earned rest over the festive period. Normal market days will resume on Friday, 7 January.



## Shine Bright this Christmas

Sparkling gifts, glittering lights, dazzling entertainers, a musical tree, glowing gastro delights and shimmering selfie spaces. Come and join us for a twinkling array of entertainment, family fun and much more at The Lexicon this Christmas.



#shinebrightTheLexicon

[thelexiconbracknell.com](http://thelexiconbracknell.com)

T&Cs apply

THE  
LEXICON  
BRACKNELL



**If you are meeting friends and family,  
it is always best to meet up outside.**



**If you do have to meet indoors,  
make sure the room is well ventilated.**



**You must  
wear a face  
covering  
on public  
transport and  
in shops.**



**And remember  
to wash your  
hands regularly.**

**Be courteous - please wear a face covering in crowded  
areas, test regularly and give people space.**



## Full fibre broadband for Bracknell Forest schools and public buildings



Nine eligible primary schools in Bracknell Forest will be offered a broadband upgrade in the new year, as part of a Berkshire wide project that could benefit more than 3,800 of the borough's school pupils.

The following schools will be offered the opportunity to benefit from future-proof full fibre connections:

- Crown Wood Primary School
- Fox Hill Primary School
- Great Hollands Primary School
- Harmans Water Primary School
- Kennel Lane School
- Meadow Vale Primary School
- Sandy Lane Primary School
- Warfield CE Primary School
- Whitegrove Primary School

COVID-19 has led to schools dramatically accelerating their digital learning programmes, which has caused challenges in some areas. Full fibre infrastructure will support and strengthen digital learning for the borough's pupils.

Cllr Gareth Barnard, Executive Member for Children, Young People & Learning, said: "This exciting project will make a dramatic difference for students in the classroom - a fast, reliable internet connection has never been more important, and this project will benefit those who need it the most."

The full fibre broadband installation is part of a Berkshire wide scheme working in conjunction with other Berkshire local authorities. Virgin Media Business has been awarded the contract to supply full fibre infrastructure to schools, GP surgeries and public libraries across Berkshire by spring 2022.

The £1.7m project, which will benefit 80 sites across Berkshire, funded by Thames Valley Berkshire LEP, will also be offering two local libraries, Binfield and Harmans Water, the chance to access full fibre broadband. Work will start in the new year with further sites being added later in 2022.

Alison Webster, Chief Executive of Thames Valley Berkshire LEP added: "The pandemic has demonstrated that schools and communities need to be equipped with the latest technology; it's not a nice to have but is vital to our prosperity. The rollout of full fibre will not only keep our communities connected during times like this, but will also future-proof Berkshire's economy, ensuring our capacity to attract and retain cutting edge businesses from across the digital sector, life sciences and the emerging film and TV production sectors. We're delighted to be playing a leading role, alongside our partners, in connecting Berkshire, which has never felt as important as it does right now."

Mike Smith, Director of Large Enterprise and Public Sector at Virgin Media O2 Business said: "This investment will bring next-generation connectivity across Berkshire and help the region to thrive. With so many schools being connected, young people are set to benefit from the infrastructure they need to get ahead in the digital era."

**HELP PAYING FOR CHILDCARE**

Childcare Choices

**MONEY TOWARDS CHILDCARE**

Any **one** of the following schemes...

Age 0-11	Age 0-15	Age 0-15
Get up to £2000 per child	Claim back up to 85% of costs	Claim back up to 70% of costs
For working families	For working families	For working families
<b>TAX-FREE CHILDCARE</b>	<b>UNIVERSAL CREDIT</b>	<b>TAX CREDITS</b>

... **can** be used with

**FREE HOURS OF CHILDCARE**

Age 2	Age 3 & 4	Age 3 & 4
For families getting certain government support	For all families	For working families
<b>15 HOURS FREE CHILDCARE</b>	<b>15 HOURS FREE CHILDCARE</b>	<b>30 HOURS FREE CHILDCARE</b>

For full details visit [childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://childcarechoices.gov.uk)

Getting childcare vouchers? Go to GOV.UK to find out more

# Childcare Choices

## Get up to £2,000 towards your childcare cost!

### Working parents can reduce the cost of childcare

With tax-free childcare, working parents can get up to £2,000 towards childcare costs. Parents of three or four year olds can take advantage of the offer at the same time as 30 hours free childcare, maximising the support available, and could save up to £5,000 a year.

Apply now for funding starting in the summer term. You must have a valid eligibility code on 31 March to claim 30 hours free childcare in the summer term.

Speak to your childcare provider about claiming a funded place or share your eligibility code with your childcare provider via the Citizens Portal: [https://oneservices.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/CitizenPortal\\_LIVE](https://oneservices.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/CitizenPortal_LIVE).

### To find out more and apply

Visit the Childcare Choices website today at: [www.childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk) to apply for 30 hours free childcare and tax-free childcare. If you need help with the online application or further information, call the Customer Interaction Centre on 0300 123 4097.

For help finding a childcare provider offering funded places, visit the Family Information Service at: [www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/children-and-family-services/family-information-service](http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/children-and-family-services/family-information-service) or call 01344 353133.







## Improve your home's energy efficiency

To help reduce fuel poverty and improve energy efficiency for Bracknell Forest residents, the council has teamed up with Affordable Warmth Solutions (AWS) and Cadent Gas to replace electric storage heaters with gas central heating in the most energy inefficient homes.

Gas central heating is considered one of the most cost-effective ways to heat the home. The Warm Homes Scheme not only provides residents with greater control of their heating regime but could save them money on their heating bills too.

470 homes in Warfield Park

have already made the swap, but the scheme would like to help as many residents as possible to join the mains gas network and become more energy efficient, with the work being largely funded and in some eligible cases, free of charge.

Cllr Mrs Dorothy Hayes MBE, Executive Member for Environment, said:

"This is a fantastic opportunity for residents still living with electric storage heaters to come forward.

"In order to be carbon neutral by 2050, we will need the people of Bracknell Forest to take responsibility for their

own carbon footprint and look at how they can make their day-to-day lives more environmentally friendly.

"Having an energy efficient home is the perfect first step. Not only does it benefit the environment but could save you money on your energy bills, as well as having the benefit of timing your heating to your needs and comfort."

If you currently have electric storage heaters, please contact us by visiting the Warm Homes Scheme <https://beta.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/housing/energy-efficiency-home/warm-homes-grant>.

## More from our climate change action plan

### Waste and recycling success

Thanks to residents, in the first six months of the food waste service, crews collected over 3,100 tonnes of food waste.

This has produced a carbon saving of over 1.9 million kg of Co2e (carbon dioxide equivalent emissions) being prevented from entering the atmosphere. Reducing the frequency of general waste collections to once every three weeks has been a big part of the success of the scheme and has allowed for a 10 per cent improvement in our recycling rates compared to the previous year.



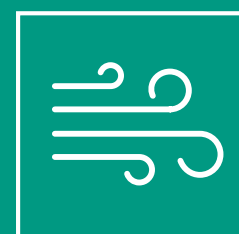
### Travelling around the borough

The highways team is encouraging residents to use more active forms of transport, such as walking or cycling, including promotional videos and interactive maps of all available routes. The council has secured £100,000 worth of funding to roll out 32 electric vehicle charging points that will be placed in community hubs across the borough. They will be low wattage and aimed at overnight charging.



### Cleaner air

Our anti-idling project focusing primarily on schools is growing. Idling cars are those that have stopped in the road with the engine on, increasing the amount of Co2 that enters the atmosphere. Licensing officers will be attending idling hot spots in the local area to start educating those who are idle in their vehicles.



## Success at South East Energy Efficiency Awards



Sustainable Energy Officer, Hazel Hill, has been awarded a South East Energy Efficiency Award for her work on the Warm Homes Scheme, as well as her work with the Green Homes Grant, and the Warm, Safe and Well Scheme, which helps the vulnerable, the elderly and those in poor health make adjustments to their homes, making them warmer and more comfortable to live in.

Hazel focuses her work on the most vulnerable in the community, assessing what the council can do to help them and implementing plans to get work completed.



## Winter gritting



As winter rolls on, staff in our Highway Network Management team and our contractors, Ringway Infrastructure Services, have been preparing for the cold nights ahead. Our gritting service is a vital part of our winter weather plan, keeping our roads, footpaths and most importantly, our residents safe. The team often works around the clock, to ensure the borough keeps moving throughout the colder months.

Did you know?

- Our contractor, Ringway, has three gritters with six drivers working on a rota basis.
- Over the summer months, Ringway calibrated and serviced all gritters and

associated plant and equipment and replenished the salt barn with fresh salt stock.

- We have three primary routes covering approximately 178km of roads and 56km of secondary routes.
- There are 78 salt bins throughout the borough.
- We started the gritting season with 2,000 tonnes of rock salt in storage ready for the months ahead.
- We use pre-wetted salt - a mixture of salt and brine.
- Last winter, gritters salted routes 73 times using 1,320 tonnes of salt.
- It takes around an hour to get a gritting truck ready to go out.
- It takes around three hours to treat primary routes.
- In severe conditions, the gritters go out up to four times per day.
- Salt works by lowering the freezing temperature of water and requires the action of cars driving over it to turn it into solution.
- Salt becomes less effective below minus six degrees centigrade.
- Salt cannot stop water freezing if temperatures fall below minus 10 degrees centigrade.
- During times of snow, our grounds

maintenance contractor, Continental Landscapes, helps with clearing snow from roads and public footpaths.

- Our heaviest truck weighs in at around 26 tonnes when fully loaded– so in severe conditions, it's not always safe or possible for gritters to navigate smaller streets.
- If road users park their vehicles without due care and consideration, there's every chance the gritter won't be able to access the road to treat it.

You can find more information about gritting, including interactive route maps and advice on how you can help yourself and others during bad weather, by visiting: [www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk](http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk) and searching 'gritting'.



## Community Learning at Bracknell Open Learning Centre



**Adult learning courses in well-being, arts, computing and employability skills.**

Visit: [www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/community-learning](http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/community-learning)

Phone: 01344 354220

Email: [community.learning@bracknell-forest.gov.uk](mailto:community.learning@bracknell-forest.gov.uk)

By post: Bracknell Open Learning Centre, Rectory Lane, Bracknell RG12 7GR

Follow us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/bracknelladultlearning](http://www.facebook.com/bracknelladultlearning)





## Highways update from Cllr Chris Turrell, Executive Member for Planning and Transport



"In recent years, we have introduced large-scale highway improvements on the borough's road network aimed at reducing congestion, providing for future growth and improving facilities for pedestrians and cyclists. Significant government funding has been sourced to deliver these projects which has allowed us to tackle the problem areas across the borough.

"As a result of the pandemic, we have noticed new and sustained travel patterns and therefore we need to consider how future work will take place and where our focus is needed. This includes focusing on more sustainable modes of transport and providing residents with greater choice for everyday journeys. Through the Government's Active Travel, Bus and Climate Change Strategies we can achieve this aim, and work is already underway locally to expand our work in these areas.

"Many areas within Bracknell Forest already benefit from good transport

infrastructure, especially our cycleways and paths. Therefore, part of our future challenge will be to encourage increased use of these. Combined with increasing provision for electric vehicles, these areas of focus will help contribute a healthier, more efficient, and environmentally friendly transport system.

"However, maintenance of our existing highway network is also important. There are many parts that require maintenance that might not be visible on our daily journeys. We have 14,500 streetlights, 451km of road, 103km of cycleways, 25,000 gulleys, 199 highway structures and many thousands of road signs and other street assets that we have to maintain, so our maintenance funding is always stretched. Prioritising this work is key to public safety and prevents unplanned disruption later down the line. An example of this will be the refurbishment of the A322 Birch Hill traffic light junction, which will start early in the new year.

"Our highways are extremely busy at present, with utility companies completing necessary upgrades and the expansion of digital infrastructure providers, whose networks are heavily relied on, more so as a result of the pandemic. Co-ordinating these activities as efficiently as we can is key, and we will continue to look for opportunities to collaborate on the use of road space.

"As current work to improve the A322 Sports Centre Roundabout reaches its final phase, we'd like to thank the borough's residents, businesses, and visitors for their patience whilst we've undertaken important projects like these."

For more information on our highways and transport network, visit the roads, parking, and transport pages on our website.

## FORESTCARE



### Emergency response telecare service 365 days a year

Based in central Bracknell, Forestcare provides a range of community-based response services including, the installation and monitoring of telecare equipment, emergency homecare and care calls;

- Forestcare can provide personalised solutions using assistive technology which can allow individuals to live independently at home.
- A standard telecare package consists of either a lifeline alarm and pendant (monitored at Forestcare) or a Care Assist device (monitored in the home).
- A mobile alternative to a lifeline alarm is the Pocket Pal, a personal GPS location device.
- Assistive technology can be used as a cost-effective alternative to having a (live-in) carer on-site.
- A range of sensors are also available which can be customised into a package, based on the needs of the individual.
- Our Responder Service provides emergency personal home care 24 hours a day.
- Once installed, a telecare package can give both the user and their loved ones the reassurance that help is at hand, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- We can provide short information sessions to local groups and are happy to attend meetings to give a presentation on Forestcare and its services. Individuals are also welcome to contact us directly for a conversation to find out more and how we might be able to help.

**365  
DAYS**

For more information on these and other services please contact us on:

**T: 01344 786599**

**E: [Forestcare.enquiries@bracknell-forest.gov.uk](mailto:Forestcare.enquiries@bracknell-forest.gov.uk)**

**W: [www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/forestcare](http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/forestcare)**

Helping you stay safe and secure







# Care in Your Home Ltd

Become a **Care Assistant**  
Make a real difference to people's lives

## We offer:

- Excellent rates of pay
- Paid mileage
- Holiday pay
- Full training & ongoing development
- All uniform and PPE provided

## Requirements:

- Must be reliable, caring & responsible
- Full UK driving licence
- Use of a reliable vehicle
- Resident local to Bracknell Forest
- UK references



## Care In Your Home Ltd

Premier Gate, Easthampstead Road, Bracknell RG12 1JS

T: **01344 567675** E: **jobs@ciyh.co.uk**

**Shine Bright**  
this Christmas

MUSICAL TREE | TWINKLING LIGHTS | STAR TRAIL | LATE NIGHT SHOPPING  
SELFIE STATIONS | STORYTELLING | FAIRY GODMOTHER | UNICORNS  
CHRISTMAS MARKETS | WISHMAS WOLF AND MUCH MORE

#shinebrightTheLexicon  
thelexiconbracknell.com

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THE LEXICON  
BRACKNELL



# A message from the Mayor of Bracknell Forest

**“I am halfway through my second term as Mayor of the Borough of Bracknell Forest and continue to support my two wonderful military charities; SSAFA Berkshire and the British Forces Foundation. Despite the challenges of fundraising, more than £10,000 has been raised and shared between the two organisations. A huge thanks to the generosity of everyone who has contributed.**

It has been a great pleasure for my Mayoress, Cllr Isabel Mattick, and I, to have attended increasing numbers of engagements in person in a COVID safe way. Bracknell Forest is truly blessed to have so many residents who do so much for others and add real value to their communities. It is such a privilege to represent such inspirational people as Mayor and heartfelt thanks to each and every one of our volunteers.

In September, we bid farewell to Father Guy Cole. Father Guy had been Rector of Easthampstead for 20 years and was also Area Dean of Bracknell. He was Chaplain to no less than 10 Mayors and offered moral support to many councillors. We have been so fortunate to have had such a special and true friend in Father Guy. In my time as Mayor, I have been especially grateful to Father Guy for his uplifting and very pertinent prayers at the beginning of council meetings. He truly energised and inspired me whilst perfectly setting the tone for the gravitas of the agenda items. Our best wishes to Father Guy in his new appointment and our sincere thanks for all you have done for this fabulous borough.

Following on from Father Guy's departure, it is with huge pleasure that we welcome Father Malcolm Chalmers as the Mayor's Chaplain. Father Malcolm performed his first official duty at my civic service at the end of October, it was a very special occasion. Thank you to everyone who attended including Deputy Lord Lieutenant, Mrs Lindsey Beard, James Sunderland MP, dignitaries and friends from Hart, Slough, Surrey Heath, Runnymede, West Berkshire, Wokingham, and the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst.

2022 is a very significant year for Her Majesty The Queen. The Queen will become the first British monarch to celebrate a platinum jubilee marking seventy years of service. The Queen acceded to the throne on 6 February, 1952 at the age of 25. It is my intention to host a platinum ball on Saturday, 5 February, 2022, with other platinum-themed events. We will of course assess the COVID-19 situation at the time. Please register your interest in attending or finding out more by emailing: [mayor.parlour@bracknell-forest.gov.uk](mailto:mayor.parlour@bracknell-forest.gov.uk).

Finally, I would like to offer my best wishes to you all over the festive period. I recognise that this will be a bittersweet time for those who have lost family and friends and been most impacted by the challenges of COVID-19. My thoughts are with you. Thank you to our emergency services and other key workers who will be on duty over Christmas. We are so grateful and appreciative for everything you do and making a difference to so many lives.”

**Cllr Ms Ash Merry**

**Mayor of the borough of Bracknell Forest**



**Safeguarding children means protecting the most vulnerable from abuse and neglect.**

**We need your help to support and protect children from all forms of abuse and harm.**

**If you see something, are told something or something doesn't feel right, you need to report it.**

Call Children's Social Care on 01344 352005  
or email: [MASH@bracknell-forest.gov.uk](mailto:MASH@bracknell-forest.gov.uk)  
Out of office hours contact 01344 786543.

**Don't ignore it, report it.**

For more information visit:  
[bracknellforestsafeguarding.org.uk](http://bracknellforestsafeguarding.org.uk)





## Bracknell Forest Lottery celebrates its second birthday!



The Bracknell Forest Lottery is two years old, and since its launch has raised almost £70,000 for the local community and over £15,500 has been given away in prizes. So far more than 80 local groups have signed up as part of a fun and effective way to raise funds for their valued services in the community. If you are a local not-for-profit group looking to diversify your fundraising income, or

perhaps a PTA, sports club or other charity that is looking for an easy way to raise funds, then please sign up for free by scanning the QR code.

Supporters can win weekly cash prizes up to £25,000 for just £1 per ticket and if you enter



before Saturday, 1 January 2022 you will also be in with the chance of winning the national prize, a £1,000 Decathlon voucher. Buy your tickets today at: [www.bracknellforestlottery.co.uk](http://www.bracknellforestlottery.co.uk) or call 01344 590321.

50 per cent of every £1 ticket goes directly to the cause of your choice, with a further 10 per cent going to the community fund, which is used to further support local good causes.

Cllr Peter Heydon, Executive Member for Transformation and Finance, said: "We are so proud to celebrate the Bracknell Forest Lottery's second birthday.

"It was established in 2019 to help raise money in the local community for the local community and to have raised almost £70,000 is a testament to the charitable nature of our residents.

"Over the past two years it has helped support so many valuable causes - very often the good cause that matters personally to you, and we hope this can continue for many years to come."

*Figures correct on 2 November 2021.*

Nurture

Opportunity

Growth



Open Morning  
Friday 28th January  
[registrar@yateleymanor.com](mailto:registrar@yateleymanor.com)

  
Yateley Manor  
01252 405500

Come and visit our  
family school  
[www.yateleymanor.com](http://www.yateleymanor.com)



# Looking after your mental health



Looking after your mental health is essential. If you feel you are struggling with mental health issues, there is help available.

The Every Mind Matters website ([www.nhs.uk/every-mind-matters](http://www.nhs.uk/every-mind-matters)) is available to everyone, with advice and practical steps you can take to support your wellbeing and manage your mental health during the pandemic.

Anyone concerned about their mental health should speak to their GP or existing care team, or visit: [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk). Online self-referral options are commonly available for some services, including children and young people's mental health services, and psychological therapies services for adults with common mental health problems, such as anxiety and depression. A national service finder for local urgent mental health telephone lines is now available on the NHS website.

If you or someone you care for is experiencing a mental health crisis, please contact a local health professional immediately. You can ask your GP to refer you to the community mental health team.

**If you need urgent help, but it's not an emergency, you can contact the Mental Health Crisis Team by:**

**Phone: 111 and ask to speak to the Mental Health Crisis Team**

**Phone: 0300 365 0300 or 0300 365 9999**

**Website: [www.berkshirehealthcare.nhs.uk/our-services/mental-health-and-wellbeing/community-mental-health-team-cmht](http://www.berkshirehealthcare.nhs.uk/our-services/mental-health-and-wellbeing/community-mental-health-team-cmht)**

**If there is an emergency, please call 999.**

## Cancer screening saves lives - don't miss your appointment



NHS cancer screening programmes are vital in the early detection and diagnosis of cancers. If you have received any communications from the NHS requesting your participation in a screening programme, such as a cervical screening, breast screening and bowel screening, please make every effort to take up that offer.



## Care in Your Home Ltd

### Personalised support at home



- Personal care
- Medication
- Meal preparation
- Shopping
- Domestic tasks
- Companionship
- Activities - recreational or medical
- All staff are intensively trained and police checked
- Regular reviews mean we can tailor our service to your requirements, even as they change.
- Covering Bracknell, Binfield, Warfield Park & Crowthorne areas
- Registered with the Care Quality Commission
- Members of the UK Homecare Association
- We work in conjunction with NHS & local council professionals

**Care In Your Home Ltd**

Premier Gate, Easthampstead Road, Bracknell RG12 1JS

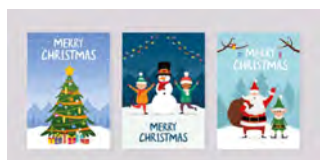
**T: 01344 567675 E: [jobs@ciyh.co.uk](mailto:jobs@ciyh.co.uk)**



# Recycling is snow joke!



Christmas is just around the corner, which often means more food, more packages through the post and, therefore, more waste. There are many steps we can take to reduce our waste over the festive period, and to recycle as much as possible.



## Christmas cards and packaging

Many Christmas cards are paper based and can be recycled in your blue bin. Any extras such as ribbons, glitter or bows cannot be recycled and need to be removed by tearing off that part of the card.

Cardboard boxes should be broken down and recycled in your blue bin. Bubble wrap and plastic film cannot be recycled in your blue bin, but they can be taken to your local carrier bag collection point at the supermarket.



## Wrapping paper

It's important to double check every part of wrapping is recyclable due to the amount of sticky tape and embellishments that can cause problems at recycling plants. Only non-foil paper will be accepted. To check, scrunch up the paper and if it doesn't spring back it is non-foil and can be recycled in your blue bin.



## Decorations

Tinsel cannot be recycled. If your tinsel has finally lost its sparkle and needs to be thrown away, please dispose of it in your green general waste bin.

Natural materials on wreaths, such as ivy, fir cones, mistletoe, and holly, can be composted as long as they are not covered with excessive glitter. Simply remove the greenery from the base and add to your garden waste bin or sack, or drop it off at the recycling centre. Artificial decorations such as ribbons and plastic flowers will need to be removed first as these cannot be recycled.

Unwanted decorations in good condition can be donated to charity shops for re-sale and re-use.



## Empty glass bottles

These can be recycled at your local bottle bank, or at Longshot Lane or Smallmead recycling centres. Glass bottles no longer need to be separated by colour, you can mix it up and they will still be recycled as normal. This will help reduce overflowing at bottle banks and increase efficiency.



## Food waste

Throwing away leftovers is a thing of the past, there are many post-Christmas dinner recipes that you can use to save your scraps from going in the bin. Don't forget the power of your freezer, you can freeze leftovers or spare ingredients to use them at a later date. Any food products that can't be frozen or reused, can be put in your food waste caddy that gets collected weekly.

To prevent leftover food in the first place, create a food plan before Christmas, so you only buy what you need. Not only will it save you money, but it will reduce the risk of wasting food too.



Christmas and New Year collection changes

Normal collection day	Revised collection day
Monday, 27 December	Tuesday, 28 December
Tuesday, 28 December	Wednesday, 29 December
Wednesday, 29 December	Thursday, 30 December
Thursday, 30 December	Friday, 31 December
Friday, 31 December	Tuesday, 4 January
Monday, 3 January	Wednesday, 5 January
Tuesday, 4 January	Thursday, 6 January
Wednesday, 5 January	Friday, 7 January
Thursday, 6 January	Saturday, 8 January
Friday, 7 January	Monday, 10 January
Monday, 10 January	Tuesday, 11 January
Tuesday, 11 January	Wednesday, 12 January
Wednesday, 12 January	Thursday, 13 January
Thursday, 13 January	Friday, 14 January
Friday, 14 January	Saturday, 15 January

Christmas trees will be collected as garden waste if cut up and put in your brown bin/council garden waste sack. Please ensure the lid/sack is closed and all decorations and lights are removed. Any trees not in a closed brown bin/council garden waste sack, or sacks that have not been booked will not be taken.

Alternatively, you can book a bulky collection to have Christmas trees removed or take them to Longshot Lane Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC). For information on the site and any restrictions, please see: [www.re3.org.uk](http://www.re3.org.uk).

Severe weather may cause collection days to change, visit: [www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk](http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk) for updates.

Please note, there will be no garden waste collections from 27 December. Collections will resume from 11 January.

During the winter months, our crews often start work in the dark. Please make sure your bins are left in a visible position to reduce the risk of missed collections.



Alamyut Lohacharnanich/Stock/Getty Images Plus via Getty Images



## Could you foster?

More safe and loving homes are needed to help prevent Bracknell Forest's most vulnerable children having to move out of the area.

Do you have the following?

- a spare bedroom
- some experience of caring for, parenting or working with children
- good general health
- time to devote to a child
- a caring and empathetic nature

If the answer is 'yes' why not consider helping change children's lives?

Following a six-month assessment process and approval, we offer:


- up to £475 per week, per child fostered
- choice of placements from a few days to long-term
- support from an experienced supervising social worker
- specialist training and 24-hour telephone support
- free use of local attractions such as Coral Reef and leisure centres

For more details, please complete our online enquiry form at: [www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/fostering](http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/fostering)

 Follow us on Facebook: [www.facebook.co.uk/BFFostering](https://www.facebook.co.uk/BFFostering)



## Bracknell Forest Council winter meetings 2021



### December

Thur 2	7.30pm	Overview & Scrutiny Commission
Tue 7	5pm	Corporate Parenting Advocacy Panel
Tue 14	5pm	Executive
Thur 16	7.30pm	Planning Committee

### January

Wed 12	7.30pm	Council
Thur 13	7.30pm	Overview & Scrutiny Commission
Thu 20	7.30pm	Planning Committee
Tue 25	5pm	Executive
Wed 26	7.30pm	Governance & Audit Committee
Thur 27	7.30pm	Overview & Scrutiny Commission
Mon 31	5.30pm	Bracknell Town Centre Regeneration Committee

### February

Thur 3	7.30pm	Licensing & Safety Committee
Tue 8	5pm	Executive
Wed 23	7.30pm	Council
Thur 24	7.30pm	Planning Committee

### March

Wed 3	7.30pm	Overview & Scrutiny Commission
Tue 8	5pm	Corporate Parenting Advocacy Panel
Tue 15	5pm	Executive
Mon 21	5.30pm	Bracknell Town Centre Regeneration Committee
Wed 23	7.30pm	Governance & Audit Committee
Thur 24	7.30pm	Planning Committee

Details correct at time of going to print.



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You no longer need to  
separate your empties by  
colour. We will do it for you.

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endlessly  
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