



the NEWS

Bradford on Avon Town Council
Summer 2023



Bradford celebrates Coronation

The King's Coronation celebration in Bradford on Avon was a great success, with the big screen showing of the Coronation ceremony drawing viewers despite the dreary weather.

As the rain eased off, many more turned out for the outdoor screenings of *Paddington* and *Mamma Mia!* And on Sunday, crowds of music lovers watched Katy Perry, Lionel Richie and Take That as Windsor Castle's Coronation Concert was shown at Victory Field.

Councillor Katie Vigar, the Mayor of Bradford on Avon, said: "It was a wonderful Coronation weekend and it was great to celebrate it with residents and visitors. The screening of the Coronation Concert from Windsor Castle was a particular highlight with hundreds of people enjoying a great evening while viewing the concert on our fantastic big screen."

● Turn to page 3 for more pictures and stories from the Coronation weekend.



■ The Coronation Concert shown on Sunday at Victory Field attracted the crowds, while Saturday's weather failed to dampen the spirits of those who watched the celebrations on the big screen (inset)



Talk of the town: news in brief



■ The Town Council office in Kingston Road is now a donation station for Wiltshire Digital Drive (WDD): we will be collecting unused laptops, smartphones and tablets to send to the charity. Refurbished devices are then given back to the community for educational use and to help bridge the digital divide in Wiltshire. To date, WDD has saved 6 tonnes of digital waste from going to landfill.

■ A wreath was placed at the newly refurbished V for Victor memorial, left, in Westbury Garden on Sunday 26 March, marking 79 years since the Handley Page Halifax Bomber crash in Bradford on Avon. The plaque honours the six Royal Canadian Air Force members who died in the crash.

■ The results are in from the fourth Residents' Panel survey. These regular surveys help to guide the Town Council's engagement, events and communications – such as the fortnightly email newsletter *BoA Snippets*. You can read the latest Residents' Panel report at bit.ly/3t54eLv and subscribe to *BoA Snippets* at eepurl.com/iaLHYz

■ The Town Council is currently involved in setting the specification for traffic modelling in Bradford on Avon and recently held an initial scoping meeting with the company working on behalf of Wiltshire Council. Keep an eye on our website and social media for further updates.

Sign up to our e-newsletter at <https://bit.ly/3zkl6Rb>



■ Councillor Katie Vigar, left, has been elected as Mayor for a second term, with Councillor Emma Franklin as her deputy

Second term for Town Mayor

Bradford on Avon Town Council has elected its Mayor and Deputy Mayor for 2023/24.

Katie Vigar was re-elected as Mayor of Bradford on Avon for a second term.

Councillor Vigar was unanimously voted in as Mayor at the Annual Council meeting on 2 May, with a second unanimous vote electing Councillor Emma Franklin as Deputy Mayor.

"I am delighted to have been given the opportunity to chair the Town Council and be Mayor for the coming year and to continue to engage with residents and community groups, as well as to represent the town across the area,"

said Councillor Vigar. "I very much look forward to working with Councillor Franklin, who will make a great Deputy Mayor, as well as with other Councillors, staff and volunteers."

Councillor Franklin added: "It is my honour to be accepted as Deputy Mayor for this year. Growing up in Bradford on Avon gave me a wonderful childhood and it would be fantastic to give some of my energy back to the town. There are so many projects underway and to see them completed will be a huge achievement. Helping the community at large is going to be incredibly rewarding."

Making a splash

Hundreds of people turned out for the annual Duck Race on Easter Monday. Despite the wet weather, residents and visitors flocked to Westbury Garden and a huge cheer went up as 1,000 yellow ducks and 50 blue ducks - entrants in the town's first Business Duck Race - were tipped into the river from the Town Bridge.

First prize winner Harlow Brown won swimming lessons for under-4s with race sponsors Puddle Ducks. Runners-up Isabelle Coveney and Katherine Pitman won avian-themed prizes kindly donated by Dible & Roy and Strawberry Blue, while Business Duck Race winners Dible & Roy received a glass trophy.



■ The moment when 1,050 ducks were launched from the Town Bridge

Rail bridge work timetable extended

Network Rail's work on the St Margaret's Street rail bridge is taking longer than planned - so the road closure will now be in place until October.

Over the next couple of months, Network Rail will be using a crane to remove sections of the old bridge. Some of this work will happen

overnight on the following dates:

- Saturday 24 to Sunday 25 June
- Saturday 1 to Sunday 2 July

In addition to the current road closure at St Margaret's Street, the road from the bridge toward Junction Road will also be closed between Thursday 22 June and Tuesday 4 July.

Town Council proposal sees way forward for woodland

In February 2023, the Town Council suggested that, to save an expensive legal battle, 2 experts (an ecologist and an arborist) be jointly appointed to inspect and produce a report that would become a 2-year management plan for Becky Addy Wood.

This was agreed by the other party in May, just as we would have had the opportunity to contest the temporary injunction at Bristol High Court.

We were served with the temporary injunction by the High Court on Friday 10 February 2023, without our attendance in court. The High Court hearing where we would put forward our case was scheduled for 3 May, but our proposal was accepted on 2 May and a High Court Order was issued the following day.

The High Court Order will require that independent experts (as mentioned

above) will be jointly appointed by their professional bodies. They will then produce the management plan for the ancient woodland.

We will be responsible for the implementation of the plan over the next 2 years.

Once the process of producing the management plan is complete, it is expected that the High Court will lift the injunction.

Contact Bradford on Avon Town Council by phone on 01225 864240

A right Royal weekend



■ These two didn't seem to mind the rain on Saturday ... and then the sun came out on Sunday for the Preservation Trust's family picnic, right



After Saturday's downpours, the rest of the Coronation weekend saw the sun shining on a host of community events.

Outside the Tithe Barn on Sunday hundreds of happy residents attended Bradford on Avon Preservation Trust's family picnic, which included crown making. Around 200 children (and the occasional adult) decorated golden crowns and were given the chance to be photographed wearing them, and holding the orb and sceptre.

On Monday, the town hosted a Big Help Out volunteer open day in St Margaret's Hall, attended by groups including the town's Museum, Riding for the Disabled, Mighty Girls and many more.

The fact that so many community groups came together was heartwarming. Additionally, the local Men's Shed unveiled its spectacular Bingham Pallets - an insect hotel fit for a king!



■ The 'Bingham Pallets' insect hotel caused quite the buzz at the Men's Shed stand in St Margaret's Hall; below, Kate Turnbull and Roger Jones of BoA Museum



Museum calls for stewarding help

One of the organisations taking part in the Big Help Out over the Coronation weekend was Bradford on Avon Museum. The museum, which is upstairs at the library in Bridge Street, is entirely run by volunteers.

Trustee Kate Turnbull, *pictured above*, said: "We have recently had to reduce the museum's opening hours as we currently have fewer stewards than pre-pandemic.

"In order to be able to open more often, for the benefit of both locals and tourists, we need more stewards. Can you help?"

"Stewarding is very rewarding as you

meet lots of interesting visitors from all over the world, and there's the opportunity to learn more about the history of our town. You will also be playing a part in preserving Bradford's rich heritage for others to enjoy.

"A stewarding session is just 2 hours, and you can choose which sessions and how frequently you steward by simply adding your name and preferred times/dates to our online rota."

Full training and a comprehensive guidance pack are provided. For more information, please contact Peter Mann at petermann46@btinternet.com or on 07779 347962.

Tackling food waste

Since its launch, Bradford on Avon's Community Fridge has gone from strength to strength and is playing a crucial role in the Town Council's efforts to tackle food waste locally. On average, the Lamb Yard Co-op donates 1 or 2 bags of food (around 5 kg) to the fridge each day. This means that over the course of the week, the Community Fridge is stocked with about 35kg of surplus food - adding up to 1.7 tonnes a year that would otherwise be thrown away.

The Community Fridge is open every day from 9am - 5pm.

Grant helps fund Music Centre defibrillator

A new defibrillator, part-funded by Bradford on Avon Town Council, has been unveiled at the Wiltshire Music Centre. The Town Council made a grant of £925 (about half the total cost) last year. The defibrillator is sited just outside the Centre's main entrance, next to the car park. Wiltshire Music Centre said: "It's a great initiative between Bradford on Avon Town Council and Wiltshire Music Centre to provide a vital service for the community."

Working towards a cleaner river

The Town Council's Environment & Green Spaces committee agreed on 14 March to set aside £2,000 for community training and education from the Bristol and Avon Rivers Trust to undertake its river detectives project in the town. This money was ringfenced while Councillor Kay further investigated the programme.

During the asset transfer of Barton Farm Country Park from Wiltshire Council to the Town Council, a survey of ash trees was completed. Ownership has transferred to the Town Council, which is establishing a long-term plan for managing the country park - including the river bank.

The Town Council also supported Climate Friendly Bradford on Avon with its part in the Great Avon River Pick. At the event, 12 volunteers collected 11 full bags of litter in Barton Farm Country Park.

Photo: Trevor Porter

Save the date

Town Council meetings

(all meetings start at 7pm)

Environment & Green Spaces Committee St Margaret's Hall, Tuesday 13 June

Community & Wellbeing Committee St Margaret's Hall, Tuesday 27 June

Full Council St Margaret's Hall, Tuesday 4 July

Town Development Committee St Margaret's Hall, Tuesday 11 July

Sustainable Travel Committee St Margaret's Hall, Tuesday 25 July

Community & Wellbeing Committee St Margaret's Hall, Tuesday 1 August

Environment & Green Spaces Committee St Margaret's Hall, Tuesday 29 August

Events

Wednesday Matinee Club: A Man Called Otto St Margaret's Hall, Wednesday 7 June, 1.30pm

Secret Gardens Sunday 25 June, 2-6pm

Wednesday Matinee Club: Empire of Light St Margaret's Hall, Wednesday 12 July, 1.30pm

Wednesday Matinee Club: Matilda St Margaret's Hall, Wednesday 9 August, 1.30pm

Bradford on Avon Walking Festival 2 September - 4 September 2023

Bradford on Avon Flower & Produce Show 2023 St Margaret's Hall, Sunday 3 September, 2-4 pm

Who does what

The Town Council has taken over a number of services previously provided by Wiltshire Council - but not all of them. The County retains responsibility for HIGHWAYS (including pavements), FOOTPATHS, REFUSE COLLECTION and STREET LIGHTING.

The Town Council looks after PARKS, PLAYGROUNDS and OPEN SPACES, LITTER BINS and STREET CLEANING, the CEMETERY and council-run ALLOTMENTS.

For queries about Wiltshire Council services, please contact Customer Services via www.wiltshire.gov.uk or phone 0300 456 0100



Tree planting takes off

■ Residents turned out in force for community tree planting at Poulton Park earlier this year

Thousands of trees have been planted across the town this year, thanks to a £96,000 grant from the Forestry Commission.

One of the first trees was a Kalyna (Guelder rose) in Westbury Garden, given by the local Ukrainian community to thank the town for its support over the past 15 months. And to commemorate the 70-year reign of Queen Elizabeth II, a Rockhampton Red hornbeam was planted in a ceremony attended by

Councillors, members of the Preservation Trust and volunteers, as well as Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Wiltshire, Air Vice Marshal David Couzens.

In February and March, the Town Wardens were hard at work planting trees in Barton Farm Country Park, Poulton Park, Sladesbrook and other areas of the town. By the time the planting plans were completed on 30 March, 3,500 new trees had been planted.

Building work starts on skatepark

As many of you will have noticed, Maverick has started work on the new skatepark at Poulton Park. Weather permitting, the whole build should take 14 weeks - meaning it could be ready before the end of the summer holidays. The final design for the skatepark was

approved by councillors at the Full Council meeting on Tuesday 7 March. The design was community led, with input from local skaters and riders.

● Keep an eye on our website and social media pages for regular updates on the project.

Efforts continue to green the town

To help the Town Wardens with their grass-cutting duties in the coming weeks, the Town Council has bought a new mower. Grass cutting and litter bin collections were brought in-house in December 2022 as part of the Council's undertaking to improve services and standards. The new Grillo FD2200 TS mower has now arrived and you will no doubt see it in action around the town over the summer.

This is the first season the Town Council has delivered this service, which will include looking at rewilding some areas of the town - so some grass is managed with regular cuts, while other areas are left to nature and cut only a few times during the year.

Councillor Katie Vigar, Mayor of Bradford on Avon, said: "This mower is one of various items bought since we have taken on care of our green spaces from Wiltshire Council.

"It represents the investment we are making to ensure we make our parks, play areas and grass verges the best they can be, for the benefit of residents and visitors. We will also manage hedgerows to ensure the maximum benefit for wildlife, by maintaining them only in the correct season."

You can keep up to date with local news, and contact your Town Councillor by visiting our website at www.bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk