



BRACKLEY COMMUNITY RADIO RECEIVES ROSE OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE AWARD

The Unsung Heroes of Northamptonshire Initiative identifies and celebrates contributions made by those who live or work in Northamptonshire to the county's response to the Coronavirus Pandemic. Members of the public were invited and encouraged to nominate individuals or organisations whom they thought deserved recognition.

Under this initiative, BCR (Brackley Community Radio) has been awarded the 'Rose of Northamptonshire Award'. A recognition of the hard work and determination that has been shown when faced with the unprecedented threat from the Coronavirus outbreak and keeping our communities together and those most at risk safe.

BCR came about after a conversation between Bernie Tiller and Mark Morrell in March 2020, when they felt that the town could benefit from a local station. Bernie himself, was involved in local radio in the 80s running roadshows for Radio 210 Reading and 2CR Bournemouth and has been a key figure in Brackley events for a long time. Mark has previously been Mayor of Brackley, but also is known as 'Mr Pothole' for his battle against repairing badly damaged roads.

Officially the station launched online in May for the VE Day Celebrations, a whole day of programming was scheduled with the aim of allowing people to celebrate from their homes and in their streets whilst keeping to the lockdown rules. Since then there has also been the Virtual Carnival to cover the event which had to be cancelled, as well as Remembrance day specials and virtual events over the Christmas period to take place of the carol concert and light switch on events.

Our presenters have worked hard to keep the community entertained through these tough times. Alan and Tracy Smith, David Dingvean and Andy Bannard have all conducted interviews with local businesses and individuals and covered them in their shows and kept the public informed of local information.

The station has now grown, and we have a whole range of shows and presenters who are making sure the local community are entertained and informed. These include :

- Andy Bannard is on daily and oversees sports with the help of Olly Lloyd.
- Alan and Tracy Smith cover local news and events weekly.
- Jaylene Akimwumiju gives us daily news updates from around the country.
- Andy Anderson covers local health issues.
- Geeta Pandaer who is trained in mental health issues runs a support and well-being show.
- A dedicated Rock show from Julian Roberts
- Keith Lewis brings us daily shows
- Dave Watts takes us through the decades in music.

- Shows for kids and Teenagers with Hazza, Sophie, Amy, Thomas and more.
- Sunday pause for thought with Reverend Patricia.
- Social Media is covered by David Dingvean.
- Plus a range of other specialist shows from Lee James Taylor, Paul Baker, Martyn Brown, Alex East, Billy De Laine, Kevin Slaymaker, Charlotte Stevens, Jem Brittin, Joanne and Richard.

All our broadcasters are volunteers and do this purely for their own enjoyment and to keep others entertained.

As we look to the future of BCR, we are looking at the possibilities of FM and DAB options so we can reach a wider range of people, some who may not be able to listen to radio over the internet. We are also looking at keeping up with virtual events to bring the community together whilst abiding with restrictions, and to apply for grants and funding so we can continue and grow.

For media/press information :

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