



Broad Town Life & News

Keeping everyone in touch with what is going on in and around our parish.

Dec 2025 & Jan 2026



Wishing you a Merry
**Christmas and a Happy New
Year from the Broad Town
News Editors**

Welcome to this one-off paper edition
of your Broad Town News.

If you would like to be kept in touch with what is
going on in and around your village please
subscribe to receive future copies of the BT News
electronically by e-mailing your contact details to:

Broadtownnews@gmail.com



Thanks to everyone who bought a bottle(s) of
our delicious Broad Town Apple Juice. All 160
bottles were sold making a profit of £450 which
went directly to Prospect Hospice Wroughton.



Broad Town White Horse

BROAD TOWN WHITE HORSE RESTORATION GROUP REPORT FOR 2025

It's been a hectic year for the Broad Town White Horse Restoration starting with liming in May. Funded by the Bluefield Solar Income Fund and with support from the Horton Brothers at Cockroost Farm, 18 volunteers weeded and limed the Horse on a Sunday morning in May leaving it gleaming white and visible for miles.

In the background, preparations were being made for the commencement of a project which had been initiated in the light of the landslip below the Horse in 2024.

It was agreed that 5 elements should be addressed and funding was requested and obtained from the North Wessex Downs National Landscape and the Bluefield Solar Income Fund.

1. Survey using GPS and UAV photogrammetric survey.
2. A condition survey involving a geological survey of land slip activity and an augur survey of the horse itself.
3. A historic review of the Broad Town White Horse.
4. Archiving of the results.
5. Public dissemination of the results.

Interest in the Project was evident when a talk in the Village Hall in July attracted an audience of over a hundred with standing room only for the latecomers. Fascinating talks were given by experts Garry Gibbons and Mike Allen while Derek Greer and Andrew Law completed the line-up. At a later date a school assembly about the Horse and its history was delivered by Derek and Andrew to an appreciative audience at the Broad Town School.

Tasks 1 and 2 have now been completed and the associated reports drafted. Task 3 remains underway and work continues searching out old documents relating to the White Horse to build up a more comprehensive understanding of its history. In parallel a number of interviews have been recorded with villagers who have been involved in the maintenance of the horse and in due course all of this material will be stored in local archives and also the Broad Town History Website -

<https://www.broadtownhistory.com> .

The Broad Town White Horse Restoration Group would like to thank all of the people who gave their time for this project in 2025 and hope that they enjoyed their involvement. As the Group reviews the results obtained from the project, thought will be given to whether there is further work that might enhance our knowledge of the Horse and also identify work that might be done to improve the long-term stability and future of the Horse. It is hoped to deliver a second public talk in the Village Hall early next year to cover the results achieved. Looking ahead, we will be out liming the Horse again next spring so please look at the Broad Town News for future dates and help us in our aim to maintain this important symbol of Broad Town.



Rupert Bastin, Derek Greer and Tony Currian get to grips with an augur

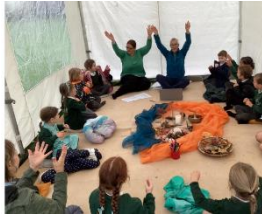
"You too can participate in maintaining the white horse and be part of its evolving story"

News from BT C.E Primary School



It's been a busy start to the new academic year with children & staff making the most of our mild autumn with lots of outdoor learning.

Class 1 have been enjoying their forest Friday sessions making clay figures, leaf rubbings and identifying trees; In October Mandy Cook led a school Spirituality Day with lots of fun outside and we had a visit from local volunteers who told us more about the history of BT White Horse and organised a fun White Horse playground trail.



Children in Classes 2&3 greatly enjoyed a school trip to Hampton Court Palace, where they learnt a lot about the Tudors. The school were beneficiaries of a grant from Historic Royal Palaces Access Fund which funded the whole trip.



Seeking outside support & funding is essential to maintain our school and provide enrichment to our curriculum. Thanks to a grant from the Spackman Trust the school were able to purchase a new set of laptops to add to the ones we already have in school. And thanks to one of our parents we were able to receive some new books for our school library. We also held a fundraising walk /run and raised a fantastic £1,427 to provide much needed maths & phonics resources.

Looking beyond the school, at our Harvest Festival pupils donated a large number of items to pass on to the Swindon Food Collective which were greatly received.

Finally the school would like to recruit some parents, governors and community helpers who would be willing to come into school on a regular basis and read with the children. We are looking for people with an hour or two to spare in the afternoon on a regular basis. Full training will be given.

Please contact the headteacher if you would be interested at admin@broadtown.wilts.sch.uk.



Thank you, Nigel, David, Rupert & Paul for serving refreshments, cake & demonstrating a 3D printer at work at the Community Coffee Morning



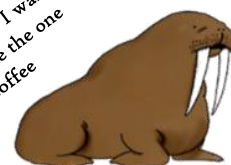
all I want for
Christmas is
my two front
teeth



you already
have that



Oh,
then in that case, I want
a 3D printer like the one
I saw at the coffee
morning



Christ Church

As we celebrate the birth of Jesus, the messages of Christmas seem more relevant than ever. We sing 'LOVE came down at Christmas', 'JOY to the world', 'PEACE on earth, GOOD-WILL to all.

We are delighted that this year, the annual village carol service on Thursday 18th December will be held in our 'warm' village church! Come and sing carols, listen to the nativity story read by people from the village and beyond with children creating the crib scene ready for Christmas Day and stop a while after to mingle and chat over a glass of mulled wine, hot drinks and mince pies. The door is open wide and everyone is welcome so please put the date in your diary and bring your best singing voice along for a festive and joyous evening. Christmas blessings to all.

As 2025 draws to a close, it is a time to reflect on the year and to give thanks to the many people from the village and further afield who have in any way volunteered their time or given financial support to the church. It is much appreciated.

The church now looks forward with HOPE and we pray that a vicar will be appointed early next year to lead us on our journey.



Church Service dates

14th December at 10.30 am Morning Worship

18th December 7.00 pm Carol Service

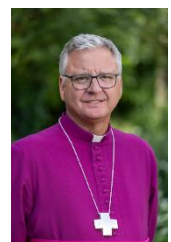
25th December 10.30 am Communion

11 January 10.30 Morning service

25 January 10.30 Communion

Bishops Message December 2025

At Christmas, wherever we are, and however full or fragile our lives are, we mark perhaps the greatest moment in human history. The very fact that God chooses to lower himself and to be born among us, and to make His home as one of us, marks out the Christian experience from any other in our world. Our preparations and our celebrations make it all too easy to miss the full meaning of the incarnation. The fact that God is with us is a liberation all of its own and calls us to make every home in our world as safe and as free as possible. This Christmas as families, and as some remain alone, let us remember before anything else that the God who made his home among us calls us to return to Him and to live lives that proclaim the good news. May the home coming of Jesus be with you this Christmas.



'Made in Broad Town' Crafts & Hobbies Group

Made in Broad Town is a crafts and hobbies group which meets every first and third Wednesday of the month in the village hall. No crafting skills or experience are necessary, and you are also very welcome to come long just for refreshments and a chat. Some people bring along their own crafts or hobbies to work on whilst others like to have a go at the activities we organise every session. So far this year our activities have included clay work, cushion making, collages, gift box making, paper iris folding, watercolour painting, potato printing, glass painting and Christmas cracker making.



Following our very enjoyable glass painting session led by Terri at the end of October, our long-awaited visit to Great Cotmarsh Farm took place in early November.

Organic farmer and sustainable fashion producer Katie Allen (pictured with some knitwear made from her sheep's wool), gave us a fascinating talk about their organic and sustainable farming methods, and the animals bred at the farm. This was followed by a tour of the tannery and the dye garden. A big thank you to Katie for facilitating such an enjoyable morning and also thank you to Jacki for helping to organise this event.

Several times during the year we sell items we have made to raise money for charity, and we are proud to have raised almost £2,500 in the two and a half years we have been running. Our plant sale in May raised over £600 for the Wiltshire & Bath Air Ambulance, and we would love to see you at our stall at the 'Christmas Cracker' event on November 29th when we will be supporting Julia's House Children's Hospice.

Our next sessions will be on:

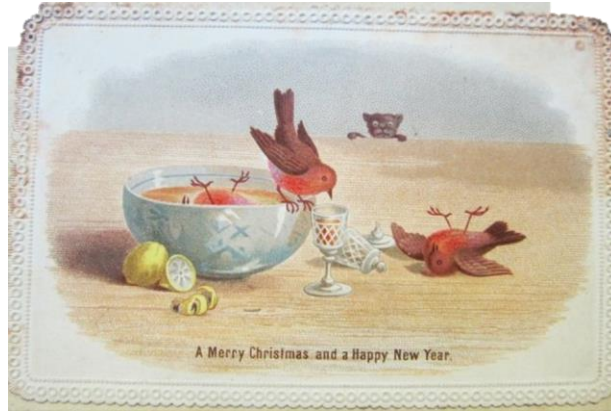
Wednesday December 3rd; Wednesday December 17th (Christmas bring and share nibbles, and making floral table decorations); January 7th and January 21st, all from 10 – 12 noon in the village hall.

Everyone is welcome to come along to our sessions. We're very friendly (our photos are below!), and if you do feel creative there are always activities available for you to try. If you are able to make a £2 voluntary donation, to help cover hall hire and refreshment costs, we'd be very grateful. If you have any questions, please email us, we would love to hear from you. If you haven't been before simply come along to any of our events or email us at: madeinbroadtown@gmail.com

Wishing you a very Happy Christmas from Linda, Helen, Corinne & Heather



Robin Redbreast Legends



From *Victorian Christmas Cards: an Everyday Work of Art*

The Legend Of Robin Redbreast is from *A Christmas Stocking* by Louise Betts Egan. It tells the story of how the robin got his red breast after burning himself on a fire he fanned to keep the baby Jesus warm.

On that first Christmas, it is said, the night was wrapped in a bitter chill. The small fire in the stable was nearly out, and the Mother Mary worried that her baby would be cold. She turned to the animals about her and asked them for help.

“Could you blow on the embers,” she asked the ox, “so the fire might continue to keep my son warm?”

But the ox lay sound asleep on the stable floor and did not hear her. Next, Mary asked the donkey to breathe life back into the fire, but the sleeping donkey did not hear Mary either. Nor did the horse or sheep. She wondered what to do.

Suddenly, Mary heard a fluttering of little wings. Looking up, she saw a plain, brown-coloured little robin fly into the stall. This robin had heard Mary calling to the animals and had come to help her himself. He went over to the dying fire and flapped his wings hard.

His wings were like little bellows, huffing and puffing air onto the embers, until they glowed bright red again. He continued to fan the fire, singing all the while, until the ashes began to kindle.

With his beak, the robin picked up some fresh, dry sticks and tossed them into the fire. As he did, a flame suddenly burst forth and burned the little bird’s breast a bright red. But the robin simply continued to fan the fire until it crackled brightly and warmed the entire stable. The Baby Jesus slept happily.

Mary thanked and praised the robin for all he had done. She looked tenderly at his red breast, burned by the flame, and said “From now on, let your red breast be a blessed reminder of your noble deed.”

And to this day, the robin’s red breast covers his humble heart.

Another legend says that the robin’s breast is red because of his association with Christ’s death and crucifixion. When Jesus was on the road to Calvary it is said that a robin plucked a thorn from Christ’s temple and a drop of Jesus’ blood fell on the robin’s chest, turning it red.

Parish Council

Sign up for free priority service in the event of a power cut

If you, or someone you know, might need extra support in a power cut you can join the SSEN free Priority Services Register. Full details are on the parish council website: <https://www.broadtownparishcouncil.org.uk/news/ssen-winter-measures/>



Help support your Community – Join the Parish Council

The Parish Council has two vacancies and would love to welcome new members. If you are passionate about your community and keen to make a change to help improve residents' lives then the Parish Council is where you can make a start. A Councillor's role includes setting the council tax precept for the coming year, commenting on planning applications, helping with problems and ideas, representing the community, talking to the community about their needs and what the council is doing. If you are interested then come along to the next meeting to see what we do.

Next PC Meeting - Monday 8th December

The next Parish Council meeting will be at 6.30pm in the village hall on 8th December. All are welcome and the agenda will be posted on our website and on the notice boards in due course. As it is the last meeting before Christmas we will be offering mince pies and mulled wine after the meeting to allow residents to chat to the Councillors in a more relaxed social gathering.

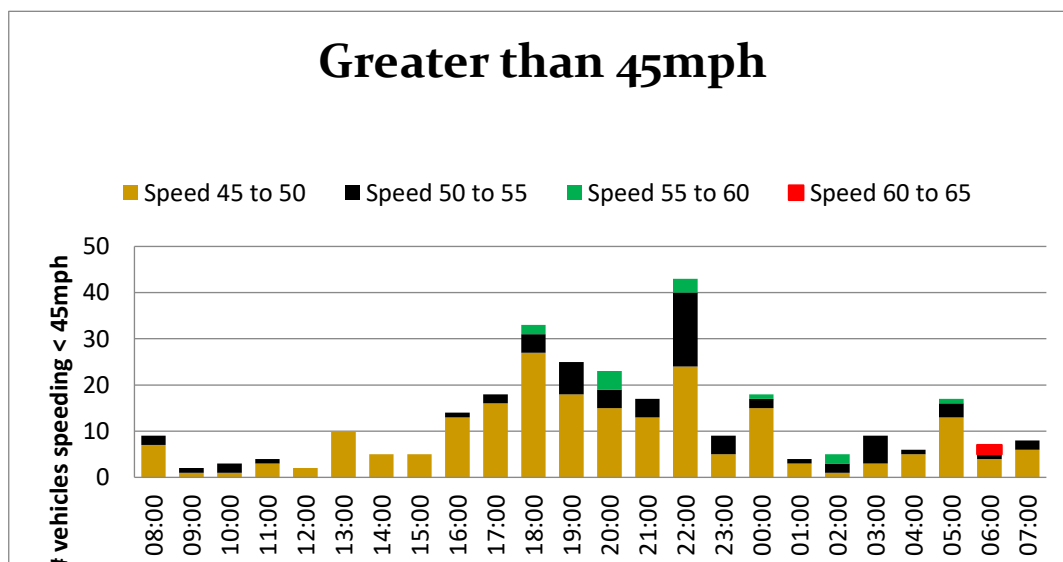
What our S.I.D. saw last month



- ③ The SID has been located at the School monitoring Northbound traffic (heading to RWB).
- ③ The SID captures traffic travelling in ONE direction only so the below figures represent approx. half of the overall traffic in both directions.
- ③ 47,824 vehicles passed the SID which equates to approx. 854 a day.
- ③ 11% of vehicles were speeding in the following Mph ranges :

MPH	Speed 35 to 40	Speed 40 to 45	Speed 45 to 50	Speed 50 to 55	Speed 55 to 60	Speed 60 to 65	Speed 65 to 70	Total
# speeding	3364	860	215	66	13	2	0	4520

- ③ The times of day when vehicles went thru the SID doing more than 45mph in the 30mph part of the village can be seen below



Social Club

Social Club

The social club is open every Friday from 8pm and members and their guests are all welcome. If you are not a member you can join for just £3.00 for the year - just ask Trevor behind the bar. Draught beers and lagers are for sale at just £3.50 a pint and there is a free pool table, so why not pop in and check us out.

AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the Social Club will take place at 7.30pm on Tuesday 16th December in the Village Hall at which the Officers and other members of the Committee will be elected. All member of the public are invited to come along and participate and if anyone would like to join the committee then please make contact with the secretary Chris Woodhouse 07790 815616 or woodhousecj@gmail.com.

Food for Thought Evenings

Food for Thought will be selling their delicious Fish and Chips (and burgers, sausages, scampi etc) outside the Village Hall from 5 – 8pm:

28th November
19th December
30th January 2026



History of Christmas Pudding

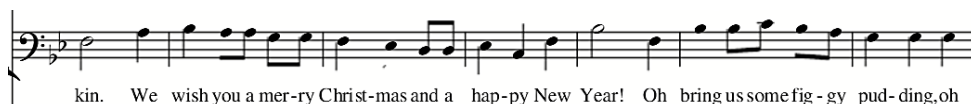
The pudding we know today began life as a pottage. This was a kind of broth, including raisins and other dried fruit, spices and wine. It was thickened with breadcrumbs or ground almonds. Not dissimilar to the mince pies of yesteryear, it often included meat or at least meat stock.

The original 'figgy pudding' was almost unrecognisable from modern Christmas pudding. For example, this medieval recipe was published in *Fygey from the Form of Cury* from 1392 period:

'Take almaundes blanchéd, grynde hem and draw hem up with water and wyne: quarter fygur, hole raisouns. cast perto powdour gyngur and hony clarified, seeth it well & salt it, and serue forth.' - *Fygey from the Form of Cury* (1392)

This plum pottage would be served at the start of the meal rather than at the end of the meal as we do today.

It was not until the end of the 17th century that the pottage took on a more solid appearance. It was served like a porridge or cooked inside a skin, like a sausage. Even then, it was more likely to have been sliced and cooked under a roasting joint and served alongside the main meal or as a starter – not a dessert.



Community Coffee Mornings

Community Coffee Mornings take place in the village hall on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month. We would like to extend a warm welcome to everyone in the village, and especially to those who haven't been to a coffee morning before, to join us from 10 - 12 noon.

Make new friends, have a chat and enjoy a range of delicious homemade cakes, sausage rolls, and hot drinks. We operate on a donation basis, there is no fixed price for anything, please just donate as much as you feel able to.

Surplus funds are regularly donated to various local charities and recent donations have been made to Prospect Hospice, Breast Cancer Now, Christ Church Broad Town and Macmillan, and we are looking forward to raising as much as we can for Julia's House Children's Hospice during our 'Christmas Cracker' event on November 29th. Since the coffee mornings started in 2016, over £11,000 has been donated to charity.

A big thank you to our Broad Town Baristas team of Rupert, Nigel and Dave who gallantly ran our last coffee morning and did an amazing job, giving the normal team a chance to relax and enjoy chatting to everyone for once!

Our regular team consists of Annie, Carolyn, Helen, Linda & Sandra, some of us are pictured below, please come along and meet us in the village hall on:

Wednesday December 10th – free Christmas raffle & Made in Broad Town sales table;

Wednesday January 14th & Wednesday January 28th, all from 10 – 12 noon.



Thanks to our regular attendees for all your support during the last year, and we extend our welcome to new visitors to come and enjoy scrumptious cake and a chat – please just turn up and come in.

We wish you all a very Happy Christmas and look forward to meeting you!

**DID
YOU
KNOW
?**

Japanese ovens aren't big enough to cook a turkey so on Christmas day you'll find millions of Japanese people sitting down to a hearty meal of KFC fried chicken, with orders placed with the restaurant months in advance.



Things to do



Zumba Classes

Bushton Village Hall
9.30 Monday mornings

Come along and lose yourself in the music and get yourself in shape! Latin inspired, easy to follow, calorie burning Dance Fitness Class. We have a lot of fun. Suitable for all ages and abilities.

Ring Flory on 07460 592998
Forentina_cata@yahoo.com



Broad Town Playgroup Bumps and Beyond

Broad Town Village Hall
9:30 Tuesday mornings

We are a friendly baby and toddler group for children aged 0-5 years old. The cost is just 50p per child. Snacks are provided at 10am along with a hot drink for the adults. We have a different craft activity nearly every week and finish with songs and games. We have a good selection of toys, ride on cars/trikes, books, puzzles and dressing up for the children to enjoy

Broad Town History

Immerse yourself in the interactive map showing the history of 60 places in Broad Town or simply enjoy looking at reminiscences from local people, aerial photographs, historic newspaper clippings, charities, clubs, shows, ancient maps, electoral roles & registers etc.....

<https://www.broadtownhistory.com>



The Benefice of
Lyneham and Woodhill

Christ Church, Broad Town

Carol Service



Thursday 18th December 7:00pm

May joy and peace fill your hearts this Christmas time.

BROAD TOWN FOOD BANK

PART OF THE SWINDON FOOD COLLECTIVE
GIVING FOOD TO THOSE WHO NEED IT

Sat 6th & Sun 7th December

Urgently needed

Small jars of coffee, Sugar (500gms/1kg)
Tinned Fruit, Tinned Tomatoes
Tinned meat - meatballs, corned beef, spam, hotdogs etc
Tinned vegetables - peas, carrots, sweetcorn etc
Tinned puddings - rice, sago, semolina, custard, angel delight, jellies
Plus any seasonal Xmas items – chocolates,
biscuits, selection boxes etc

*Please note -all items should be in date & preferably with a shelf life of
6 months or more*

Thanks for your generosity in continuing to support people in need.
Please drop off any unopened & unused items to the
village hall.



Things to do cont.....

Broad Town

Christmas Cracker

coffee &
craft sale

Sat 29th Nov

10am-12:30pm

Village Hall

Made in Broad Town crafts, gifts, preserves & decorations  **festive raffle**

bottle tombola  **FREE kids' activities table**

Church treasure quest  **homemade cakes**

 **Jonathan Bastin's wildlife photos & calendars**

Cash only please!



In aid of:
Julia's House 
Donat & Withrow Children's Hospices

Organised by:
Community Coffee Mornings,
Made in Broad Town
& Broad Town Church

Things to do cont.....



Things to do cont.....

BROAD TOWN NEW YEAR'S EVE

2025

See in the New Year at
Broad Town Village Hall

Wednesday 31st December 2025

8 till late

Dance the night away with live band

GOOD TIMES

Licensed Bar. Bring your own table top finger food / snacks

Admission by ticket only

£10 adults (including prize draw). **£5 under 16's**

Tickets available from Chris Woodhouse e-mail woodhousecj@gmail.com
or tel:- 07790 815616 or Friday evenings at the social club bar

Things to do cont.....

THE FULL MONTY

Winter Breakfast

(options include GF and Vegan)

17th January in the Village Hall

10:00 am to Mid-day

This is a TICKET ONLY event so please book early
to avoid disappointment

E-mail fullmonty1726@gmail.com or call Rosie on
07828023941

Pay as you feel all proceeds to Prospect Hospice

The Village Hall

**Urgently needs
more committee
members**

In order to continue to provide a
warm and pleasant room for
parties, dancers, artists,
youngsters, crafters, coffee lovers,
socialisers, councillors,
community events etc.....



If you would like to
meet new people and make new friends while
making a positive impact within your
community and beyond please contact Nigel on
01793 731281



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James and Katie
Allen 0771 8584615
Cotmarsh, Broad Town, Wiltshire, SN4 7RA

Our farm is based in Cotmarsh, Broad Town. We produce delicious, slow grown lamb and beef with hardy, native British breeds.

We are certified with Pasture for Life, which means our animals only eat hay and the grasses that grow beneath their feet, and we are converting to organic partnership with the Soil Association. Instead of using chemicals or synthetic fertilisers, we manage our farm by trying to understand and work with nature's processes. For more details about how we farm and the delicious produce you can buy, visit our website: hello@greatcotmarshfarm.co.uk

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craigb_27@hotmail.co.uk
07540 089420
CB Services is fully HETAS approved & insured



Every Wednesday Evening - Broad Town Village Hall

Please contact Jess for more information or to book:

hello@mypilatesclub.co.uk

Dates for your diary

What	When	Where
Food for Thought Fish & chips	28 th November 5-8pm	Village Hall
Christmas Cracker Coffee & Craft Sale	29 th November 10:00 - 12:30	Village Hall
Made in Broad Town' Crafts & Hobbies	3 rd December 10 am	Village Hall
Food Bank	6 th & 7 th December	Village Hall
Parish Council Meeting	8 th December 6:30pm	Village Hall
Community Coffee Morning	10 th December 10 am	Village Hall
Morning Worship	14 th December at 10.30 am	Church
Annual General Meeting of the Social Club	16 th December 7:30pm	Village Hall
Made in Broad Town' Crafts & Hobbies	17 th December 10 am	Village Hall
Carol Service	18 th December 7pm	Church
Food for Thought Fish & chips	19 th December 5-8pm	Village Hall
Communion	25 th December 10.30 am	Church
New Years Eve	31 st December 20:00 - late	Village Hall

Made in Broad Town' Crafts & Hobbies	7 th January 10 am	Village Hall
Morning service	11 January 10.30	Church
Community Coffee Morning	14 th January 10 am	Village Hall
The Full Monty breakfast for Broad Town	17 th January 10:00 am	Village Hall
Made in Broad Town' Crafts & Hobbies	21 st January 10 am	Village Hall
Communion	25 January 10.30	Church
Community Coffee Morning	28 th January 10 am	Village Hall
Food for Thought Fish & chips	30 th January 5-8pm	Village Hall

If you would like to be kept in touch with what is going on in and around your village please subscribe to receive future copies of the BT News electronically by e-mailing your contact details to :

Broadtownnews@gmail.com



**We hope you have a
Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year**

Please e-mail articles for publication to BroadTownNews@gmail.com by 22nd of the month.