

Bracknell Town Centre Family Sculpture Trail



This trail is designed for families with young children to help you explore, appreciate and understand the art in your town.

There are three stops on the trail which show examples of public art in the Bracknell Town Centre– the Floating Ball Fountain, (outside The Bull Pub near McDonalds) the Clock Fountain (in the main square) and the mural of Bracknell history (above Mothercare).



Floating Ball Fountain

- Can you guess when the fountain was made? Has the fountain been in Bracknell for longer than you have?
- Try touching the floating ball. Circle the words that describe how it feels to you
 - Smooth ▪ Soft ▪ Rough ▪ Cold ▪ Hard ▪ Dry
 - Hot ▪ Wet ▪ Shiny ▪ Flat ▪ Bumpy
- Now try touching the base of the fountain. Does it feel different? Which words do you think describe it?
 - Smooth ▪ Soft ▪ Rough ▪ Cold ▪ Hard ▪ Dry
 - Hot ▪ Wet ▪ Shiny ▪ Flat ▪ Bumpy
- Can you think of any other words that describe the fountain?
- Now that you have touched the fountain, what material do you think it is made from?



Using these words, can you write a short poem about the fountain?

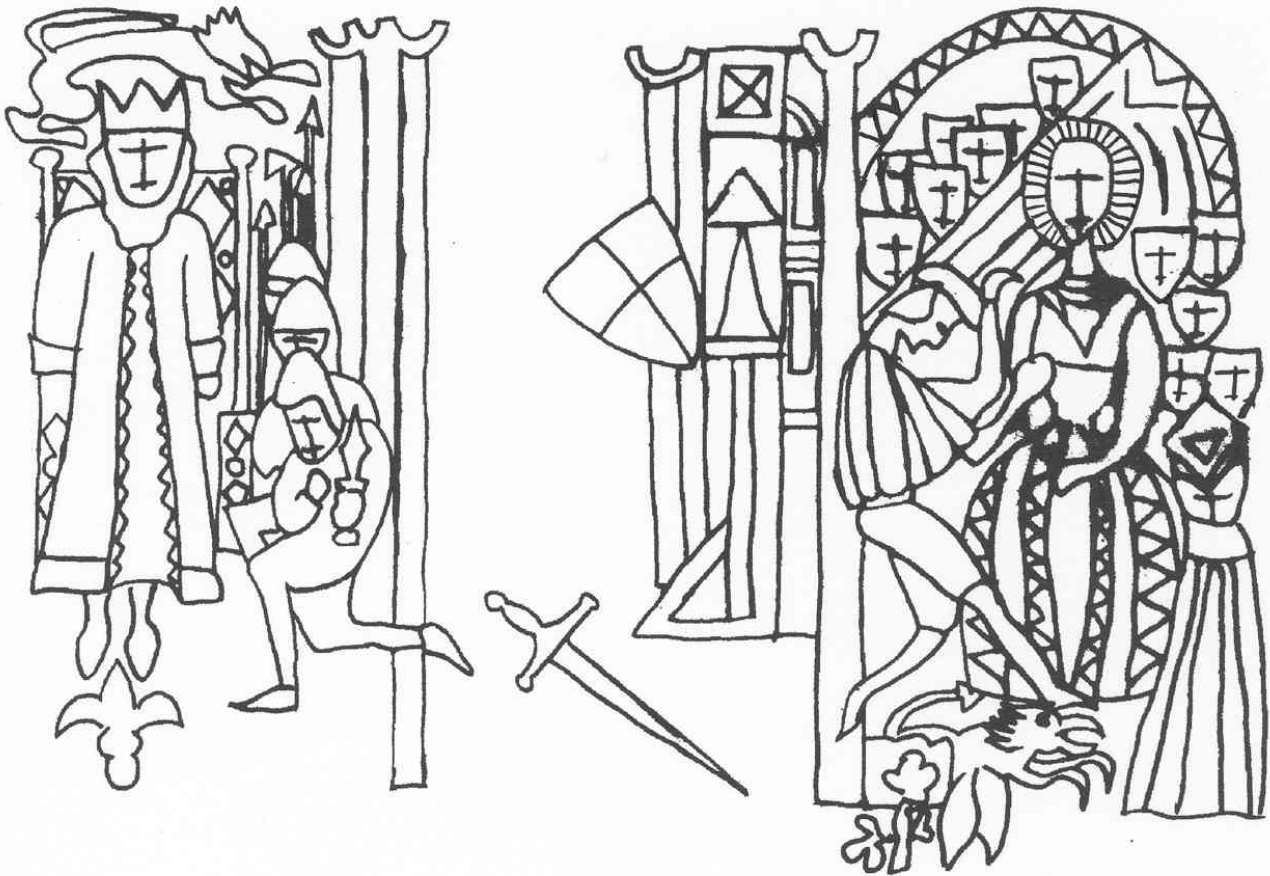
Clock Fountain

- Try touching the face of the clock. Does it feel the same or different from the previous fountain?
- Do you think it is made from the same material?
- If the fountain is switched on, can you work out what the time is?
- If the fountain is turned off stand in the middle of the clock face. Using your shadow, can you work out the time?
- What shape is the clock dial?
- Can you name the other shapes that appear on the clock face?
- Count how many there are.



Mural of Bracknell history

- Look very carefully at the mural. There are lots of animals hiding in the design, how many can you count?
- Can you name all of the animals?
- There are some Kings and Queens in the mural. King Henry VII who is carrying a shield is missing from the drawing below. Can you find this part of the mural and complete the drawing?



- Which is your favourite part of the mural?

Use the next page to draw your own version of the mural, showing what Bracknell looks like today

Fact Sheet

Floating Ball Fountain

The fountain was installed in Bracknell Town Centre in 1990, 19 years ago. It is made from two types of granite – the red ball is from Sweden, and the grey base is from India. The design for the fountain is by a German company and it was manufactured in Germany. The granites have been manufactured accurately to form the 'ball' and 'cup'. Both are set on a brick plinth where the pipes feeding the nozzles (under the cup) are located. The ball 'floats' on a thin film of water that is continually pumped under the ball. Water is re-circulated to the fountain by way of a single submersible pump in an adjacent underground tank. Water is automatically topped up from an adjacent water supply when levels get too low, to protect the pump from running dry.

Clock Fountain

This fountain is very different from the last; it can be used to tell the time. The circular raised clock face is finished with twelve radial strips of polished granite incorporating water jets, and the clock's outer edge is finished with stainless steel numerals. The middle ring of water jets represents the hours of the day, and the outer ring the minutes. The fountain tells the time every five minutes, reverting to a random display of water jets in between. It was installed in Bracknell Town Centre in 1994. Unfortunately, plans to develop the town centre mean that this fountain will be removed.

Mural showing scenes from the history of Bracknell

The mural was commissioned by Bracknell Development Corporation in 1974, and completed by artist William Mitchell. The mural is 2.89 metres high and 29.97 metres wide. It is made from a glass fibre mould that has been coloured to produce a bronze effect. It is a pictorial record of Bracknell's history throughout the ages, showing Kings and Queens including Edward III, Henry VII, Catherine of Aragon and Henry VIII. There are also many animals in the mural including horses, deer, a bull, birds, and a fish in a bower of leaves and bracken which symbolises the origins of the name Bracknell. The final panel portrays Bracknell after it was declared a new town.

Further information on these and other pieces of public art can be found on the council website at www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk, and also in your local library.

If you have any questions, please contact Kerry Lemon or Lynne Dick on 01344 351 756

For more information about the work of William Mitchell, artist of the Bracknell history mural, see his website www.william-mitchell.com

Concept and design by Eleanor King

