



THATCHAM TOWN COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2022



COUNCIL SURGERY

Saturday 5th November, 10am - 12pm, The Broadway*

Friday 2nd December, 5pm – 7pm, The Broadway, at Christmas Lights event

Thursday 19th January, 6pm – 7pm, on Zoom

Saturday 4th February, 10am - 12pm, The Broadway*

*with our partners from Thames Valley Police neighbourhood team

COUNCIL MEETINGS

All Council meetings are held in Thatcham Town Council Chamber at 7pm unless otherwise stated.

Recordings of all Council & Committee meetings can be viewed on our YouTube channel.

Members of the public are warmly invited to attend the following meetings:

Planning & Highways
Tuesday 11th October

Finance & General Purposes
Monday 24th October

Planning & Highways
Tuesday 1st November

Events
Monday 7th November

Town Centre
Monday 14th November

Recreation & Amenities
Monday 21st November

Planning & Highways
Tuesday 22nd November

Full Council
Monday 28th November

CELEBRATING THATCHAM'S HERITAGE

You may have heard that Thatcham was in the Guinness World Records for 20 years as the strongest claim to the oldest continually inhabited settlement in Britain, but the Town has an incredibly rich & varied history, fascinating & noteworthy citizens and significant buildings and sites of scientific interest from when it welcomed its first inhabitants during the Paleolithic era over 12,000 years ago.

Thatcham Town Council's Heritage Working Party celebrates the history of Thatcham. The Working Party, which meet 4 times per year, consists of elected Councillors and members of the public who share an interest in heritage. New members are always welcome to join to support its work, which includes the annual installation of a Heritage Blue Plaque, celebrating a person, place or event voted upon by members of the public. This year's plaque for Lieutenant Colonel Vernon Watkins Urquhart, who was the first commander of the Ordnance Depot and was killed outside his house on 16th August 1940 by a bomb intended for the depot, will be unveiled during Thatcham Festival, see overleaf for more information. Other blue plaques installed since 2018 can be found at The Kings Head Public House, celebrating its role in Britain's first mail coach run, Thatcham Parish Hall to commemorate the first ladies elected to Thatcham Parish Council, the life of colourful innovator Harry Lester and his famous Lester MG's, and at Thatcham Garden Centre commemorating the long history of horticulture associated with that site - particularly its embrace of the pioneering French Cultivation methods. Another notable installation by the Heritage Working Party this year is the Town Centre History Trail which can be followed by scanning the 8 signs erected around the town with a smart phone, by collecting a leaflet from Thatcham Town Council Offices or Thatcham Library, or by visiting the trail here: www.thatchamhistorytrail.info



COUNCIL NEWS IN BRIEF

On Sunday 11th September, Mayor Jeff Brooks, was honoured to read the Proclamation of HM King Charles III, following the sad passing of HM Queen Elizabeth II. A large crowd gathered on The Broadway Green at 5pm to hear the proclamation of Charles as King. A recording of this historic event can be viewed on our Facebook page or YouTube channel.

We've received £19,950 of funding from Thatcham's West Berkshire District Councillors' Members Bid programme, to match our £20,000 to install inclusive play equipment in up to 4 of our play areas. Final plans are being developed and we'll have more news in our next newsletter.



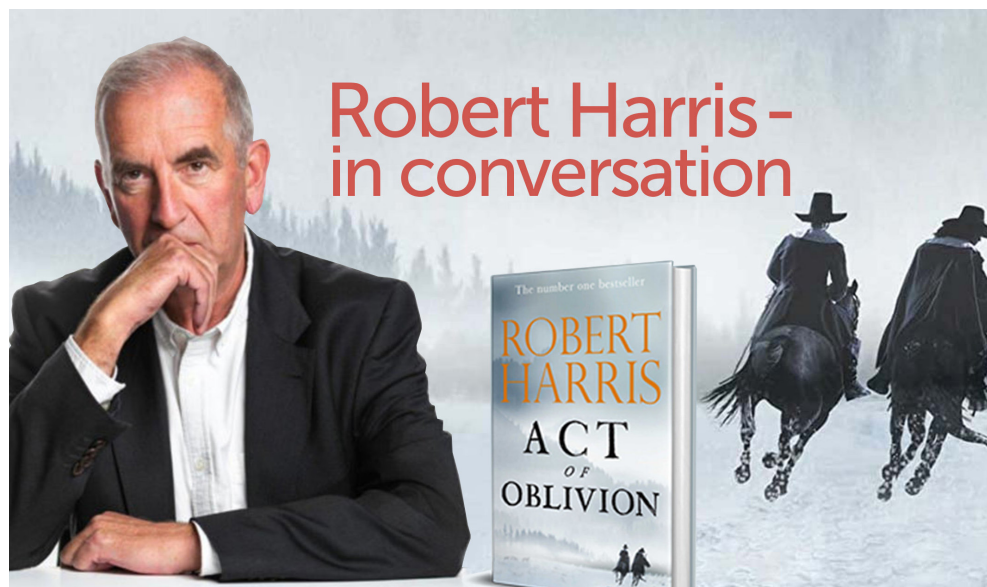
June saw our biggest Family Fun Day ever, with around 10,000 enjoying the fun at Henwick Sports Ground on Sunday 26th June. The day included a whole host of activities and entertainment, including live music, dog show, fun fair, community stalls, sports activities, fun run and lots more! This was followed in July by the annual United Service of Remembrance at London Road Cemetery. A highly valued, poignant service of reflection for those recently bereaved.

Despite our best efforts, the dry summer has taken its toll on many of our newly planted trees and shrubs, most notably in The Broadway. We're hopeful that some may recover over the autumn, before we assess which might need replacing.

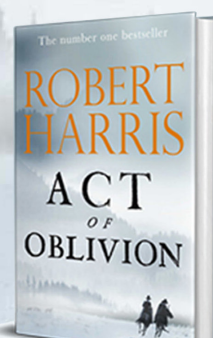


**PLEASE RECYCLE
THIS NEWSLETTER**

THATCHAM FESTIVAL 2022

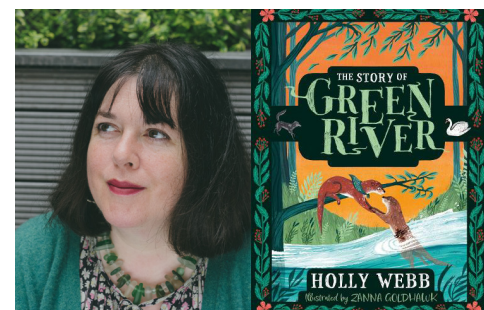


Robert Harris - in conversation



This is the 22nd year of Thatcham Festival with our most extensive and diverse programme yet.

This year we have a strong programme of walks where we will explore and appreciate the wonderful countryside surrounding Thatcham as well as the heritage of the Town Centre. With concern for the environment such an important issue, we are delighted that we have talks that focus on re-wilding and how we can make a difference, as well as a talk from acclaimed children's novelist Holly Webb, who will present a talk on her new novel which shows the importance of nature to wildlife.



The return of Apple Day, after a few years absence, is a wonderful family day out and again connects strongly with nature. There's also the Thatcham and Newbury Sustainable Living Market which, aside from buying sustainable products, also provides advice on how you can make changes to become more sustainable.



We also welcome children's author Anita Loughrey to the Leisure & Craft Fair on the 22nd October, where she will be inspiring young writers to have a go at story telling. Former editor of Sporting Life magazine Geoff Lester will be giving audiences the inside scoop of his time meeting and interviewing famous sporting legends. Then on Thursday 20th October, we are thrilled to be welcoming world famous, master storyteller Robert Harris as he discusses his brand new book Act of Oblivion. This event, supported by Hungerford Bookshop, is expected to sell out and so we encourage you to book your tickets early.



The town's rich history will be celebrated with fascinating talks by Dr Nick Young & Graeme Stewart, as well as the opportunity to accompany Dr Young on the QR code history trail installed in Thatcham this year. On Sunday 23rd October, we unveil our 5th commemorative blue plaque in the town on Station Road, near the site where Lieutenant-Colonel Urquhart was killed during the bombing in 1940.

Of course, we have our usual programme of art-based events comprising photography, a visual art exhibition and a strong programme of live music, from contemporary at The Big Thatcham Fest-Off, to the traditional with a selection of quality Thatcham based Choirs, Hand Bell Ringers, String Quartets, Wind Orchestras and our Festival Finale with Cold Ash Brass Band.



Brochures are available to collect from the following venues: Thatcham Town Council Offices, Thatcham Library, Frank Hutchings Community Hall, Burdwood Community Centre, Thatcham Memorial Hall, St Mary's Church and other participating venues. The brochure can also be read online at:

www.thatchamtowncouncil.gov.uk/events/a-festival

where you will also find the link to the ticketing website:

<http://thatchamfestival.eventbrite.com>

and dedicated Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/thatchamfestival



There will be the opportunity to give generously at many of the events to the Mayor's nominated charities which this year are Thatcham Tornadoes and Daisy's Dream. The Mayor, Mayoress and Deputy Mayor will be attending as many of the 45 events as possible and will be delighted to meet as many residents as possible.



DON'T MISS OUR LAST EVENTS OF THE YEAR!

NOV 13 REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY
TOWN CENTRE & WAR MEMORIAL CAR PARK
10.30am

DEC 2 WARMING UP FOR CHRISTMAS
THATCHAM BROADWAY
Entertainment from 4pm,
Lights switch on at 7pm

DEC 11 CIVIC CAROL CONCERT
ST MARY'S CHURCH
4pm

WWW.THATCHAMTOWNCOUNCIL.GOV.UK
01635 863592 @THATCHAMTC

THATCHAM FESTIVAL 2022



Friday 14 October

Talk: Dr Nick Young and Graeme Stewart
Ghost Walk
Beenham Wind Orchestra

Saturday 15 October

Sustainable Living Market
Art Exhibition
Walk: History of Thatcham Town Centre
Talk: Rewilding, Connectivity and Verges
Infants 5-a-side Football Festival
Talk: Refugees as Rebuilders
The Big Thatcham Fest-Off with West Berks Rock Choir and Beyond the Sons
Singing Workshop with Watership Cantabile
Bird Walk
Classic Car Show

Sunday 16 October

Art Exhibition
Thatcham Apple Day
Festival Service
Dance Gala
Incantata Ladies Choir
Simon Jardine – painting workshop

Monday 17 October

Dementia Friendly West Berkshire
Talk: Geoff Lester, sportswriter

Tuesday 18 October

Mini Fest – Pre-Schoolers Fun
Music: Mark T, Paul Hancock and Sara Daniels

Wednesday 19 October

Talk: Greenham Common
Talk: A brief History

Thursday 20 October

Thatcham u3a
Kennet School Dance Show
Robert Harris – in conversation

Friday 21 October

Thatcham Market
Walk: Greenham Common
Nigel's Funny Rhymes
Astronomy Evening

Saturday 22 October

Photographic Film Exhibition
Talk: Holly Webb
Leisure and Craft Fair with Barfield Handbell Ringers and Anita Loughrey, storytelling
Retro Computer and Games Exhibition
Church Bell Ringing Workshop
Theatre: Half-Light
The Pretty Sure Tour

Sunday 23 October

Photographic Film Exhibition
Walk: Bowdown Woods
Blue Plaque Unveiling
Bird Walk
Festival Finale: Cold Ash Brass Band and No Strings Attached

PLUS

Focus on Thatcham Exhibition

West Berkshire Museum, RG14 5AS
17 September 2022-17 September 2023

Museum opening hours,
Wednesday-Sunday
10am-4pm

In 2019, West Berkshire Museum commenced a series of exhibitions focusing on each of the parishes in the area and from September will be featuring Thatcham. Historic objects representing the area will be on display and range from prehistoric flint tools to wooden brushes made in the 1900s. Focus on Thatcham is the first in this series of exhibitions to be installed in two connecting galleries, reflecting the wealth of history and large number of related items in the collection.
www.westberkshireheritage.org/west-berkshire-museum



PLEASE SCAN THE QR CODE TO LEAVE US YOUR FESTIVAL FEEDBACK



ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

Nobody who watched the news this summer and saw the floods in Pakistan can fail to be moved by the plight of the people who have lost their homes and livelihoods, or their lives. Most people would agree that this abnormal weather phenomenon is the result of global heating caused by humans. It is yet another catastrophic example of why collectively we need drastically to reduce our carbon dioxide emissions.

And yet we carry on without changing our lives, perhaps expecting the first move to come from somewhere or someone else. While governments and councils should do all they can to help us to reduce our emissions, the responsibility is ours alone to do so.

Thatcham Town Council has identified seven areas of our lives where we can make changes that make a difference.

We call them 'challenges'.

One in particular is called 'Join In'. It encourages you to lobby other people and organisations, including this council, West Berkshire Council and our national government, to take actions that will help you reduce your emissions.

Do please try all the seven challenges for yourself and your families and work colleagues. See <https://thatchamtowncouncil.gov.uk/environment/7-everyday-challenges>

Councillor Richard Foster
Chairman
Environmental Working Party



COME AND JOIN US!

Are you keen to help shape local affairs?

Would you like to join the debate and make a difference?

Is it time to make your voice heard?

We're looking for a number of local residents to join our Working Parties, who help inform the Council and aid decision making. We're keen to hear from people of all backgrounds and areas of the community. The following Working Parties are ready to welcome you on board:



Our Environmental Working Party meets online, every other month and oversees implementation of the Town Council's Environmental Action Plan (which can be found on our website).

Our Community Engagement Working Party also meets online every other month and looks at how the Town Council engages and communicates with residents.

You can read all about our Heritage Working Party, and the exciting projects they oversee, on the front page of this newsletter! They meet in person four times a year with a hybrid opportunity to join remotely.

If you're interested, we'd love to hear from you. Please drop an email to enquiries@thatchamtowncouncil.gov.uk and we'll be in touch.

GRANTS AWARDED

We were delighted to support the following good causes, who make such a difference to the lives of our residents, with grant awards:

West Berkshire Homeless (Newbury Area) - £812.50 - Emergency Utilities and Food Support

Thatcham Town Cricket Club - £1,500 - Live Streaming

Parkinson's UK, Newbury - £226 - Yoga, Exercise & Voice Therapy

Time To Talk West Berkshire - £2,000 - Thatcham Outreach

West Berkshire Action for Refugees - £1,500 - Activities and low cost transport for asylum seekers

Thanks to an agreement with Greenham Trust, these awards received matched funding.

Also receiving funding through our small grant process were:

Thatcham Women's Institute - £250 - Gazebo

Daisy's Dream - £250 - Gazebo



CONTACT THATCHAM TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN COUNCILLORS

Each Thatcham Councillor can be contacted by email using the format firstname.surname@thatchamtowncouncil.gov.uk

Thatcham Colthrop & Crookham

Steve Ardagh-Walter  07790 932545

John Boyd 07853 151871

Richard Foster 07803 203292

Thatcham West

Jeff Brooks  - Mayor

Mark Lillycrop 07717 858284

David Lister

Simon Pike 07787 154070

Keith Woodhams 

Thatcham North East

Mike Cole 01635 869893

Jeremy Cottam  01635 871733

Lourdes Cottam 01635 871733

Lee Dillon  07393 288712

Christine Rice

Thatcham Central

Ellen Crumly

Richard Crumly 01635 867283

Paul Field

Owen Jeffery  07968 251370

Jennifer Walker

 = also West Berkshire District Councillor

REPORT IT...

Have you seen something that needs reporting that we haven't spotted yet? It's easy to let us know about things like broken glass, dog fouling and litter using the "Report It" page on our **website**.

Or call the Council Office on **01635 863592**, message us on **07503 634761** or visit a Council Surgery.

To report a problem to West Berkshire Council visit:

www.westberks.gov.uk/reportaproblem

Follow us on social media to receive regular local news and information.



@ThatchamTC

