

THATCHAM TOWN COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2023

Thatcham Town Council, Brownsfield Road, Thatcham, RG18 3HF
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Historic Town, Thriving Community



Jubilee Sensory Garden

There's certainly one perk from our slightly damp summer - our Jubilee Sensory Garden is thriving! If you haven't visited before, we have a beautiful and bountiful garden located just outside of our Offices on Brownsfield Road.

Please feel free to take a wander through, stop for a picnic or even help yourself to any produce! We also hold a monthly meet-up group for carers here, check online via our social channels or call us for dates and more information.



School Streets - Francis Baily

A School Streets scheme is a community-based approach, aiming to: cut down on traffic, encourage walking and cycling, improve air quality and road safety around the school. West Berkshire Council would appreciate your feedback! Have your say on important changes in this area via www.westberks.gov.uk/FBSchoolstreets or the QR code above.

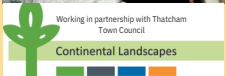


THATCHAM FESTIVAL

6th-15th October



MUSIC | TALKS | ART | DANCE | COMEDY |
CRAFT | COMMUNITY



Council Surgery

Members of the public are invited to meet with a Thatcham Town Councillor and a District Councillor for Thatcham between 10am and 12noon on the dates below for information and advice or to make a complaint or enquiry about our services with your elected representatives.

Saturday, 7th Oct 2023 - 10 am - 12 pm
Saturday, 4th Nov 2023 - 10 am - 12 pm
Saturday, 2nd Dec 2023 - 10 am - 12 pm

Where

Broadway Green

The Broadway, Thatcham, RG19 3HP

Council Meetings

All Council meetings are held in Thatcham Town Council Chamber at 7pm unless otherwise stated. Recordings of our Council & Committee meetings can be viewed on our YouTube channel. Members of the public are warmly invited to attend the following meetings:

- Monday 25th September - Full Council
- Tuesday 26th September - Planning & Highways
- Tuesday 17th October - Planning & Highways
- Monday 23rd October - Recreation & Amenities
- Monday 30th October - Finance & General Purposes
- Monday 6th November - Events
- Tuesday 7th November - Planning & Highways
- Monday 20th November - Town Centre
- Monday 27th November - Full Council
- Tuesday 28th November - Planning & Highways

Please recycle
this newsletter



THATCHAM FESTIVAL 2023

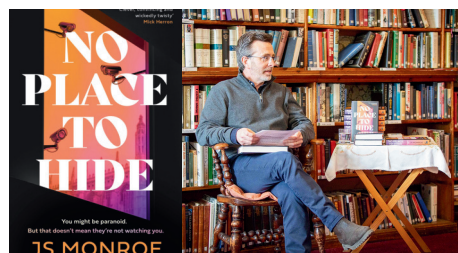
There is something for everyone in this year's Festival - a 10 day celebration of everything that Thatcham has to offer, and giving opportunities to many of the charities and societies that make our historic town their home.

TALKS AND WALKS

The Festival opens on Friday 6th October with an **author talk from crime thriller writer JS Monroe**, where you will hear him speak about his latest novel *No Place to Hide*, and pick up signed copies of his novel.

Learn more about the **Birds of Berkshire** with talks and walks from **Ailsa Claybourn** at Crookham Common and The Town Council Offices, whilst **Graeme Stewart** gives a guided walk around the Nature Discovery Centre, which is also the location for the **Astronomical Society** to take a look at Thatcham's night sky.

Discover the secrets of Greenham Common with walks and talks led by Greenham Control Tower's **Andy Kempe**. There's also another opportunity to see his brilliant play **The Common People** celebrating the history of the people that have lived and worked in Greenham.



COMEDY

Thatcham Comedy Club returns in a Britain's Got Talent style showcase of new and emerging comedians. Thatcham's own **Nigel's Funny Rhymes** as well as up to eight comedians will entertain in a comedy show, where the audience vote on who they want to come back to perform at one of their bigger shows in 2024.

Dr Nick Young will be taking a look at the History of Thatcham in two talks: **The History of Thatcham Cemetery**, which is preceded by the unveiling of the **6th Blue Plaque**, and **Listed, Lasted and Lost** which looks at the historic buildings in Thatcham with Graeme Stewart.

Inspirational speaker Sheryl Green asks **Who Was The Real James Bond?** and traces the links between Ian Fleming's life and naval career and his most famous characters.

MUSIC

There is plenty for music-lovers to enjoy this year, whether it's immersing yourself in the **Organ-athon, Watership Cantible** or **Incatata and No Strings Attached** at St Mary's Church, or being transported to Ireland with the stunning sounds of **Mark T, Paul Hancock and Sara Daniels** at The Old Bluecoat School. As always we are delighted to be ending the festival with the brilliant **Cold Ash Brass Band supported by Harmony Choir**.

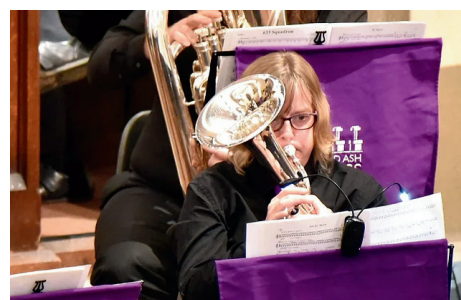
For our younger residents we have **singing workshops with Vox Fresh, Ukulele workshops** with local music maestro Pedro Santos, for all ages, and a **Mini Maestros** music session for under 5's with **Berkshire Maestros**.



DANCE AND THEATRE

Thatcham Thrives forms an ever-important focus on the dance landscape, and returns this year with a spectacular showcase of regional dance talent in a diverse range of styles. Kennet school also return with their school dance show **Battle of the Bands** featuring around 100 students in both contemporary and jazz dance.

We are delighted that **KATS** will be returning to the Parish Hall with a brilliant adaptation of the Radio 4 series **The Man in Black** featuring two thrilling plays for radio.



LEISURE AND CRAFT

The **Leisure and Craft Fair** returns on the 14th October to the Broadway and St Mary's Church providing the perfect opportunity to start your Festive shopping with a selection of handmade products including cards, jewellery, papercrafts, candles, woodwork, leatherwork, art and more. Join us on the Broadway as local organisations, charities and societies showcase both what they do for Thatcham's community, but also ways that you can get involved! The **u3a open day** is another opportunity to meet and join some of the many groups of Thatcham u3a including barn dancing and wine tasting!

Brochures are available to collect from:

- Thatcham Town Council Offices,
 - Thatcham Library,
 - Frank Hutchings Community Hall,
 - Burdwood Community Centre,
 - Thatcham Memorial Hall,
 - St Mary’s Church
- and other participating venues.

Facebook: @thatchamfestival
Twitter: @thatchamfest
Instagram: @thatchamtc
Online brochure:
www.thatchamtowncouncil.gov.uk

ART AND PHOTOGRAPHY

We are delighted to be hosting both the **Festival Art Exhibition** and the **Thatcham Photographic Exhibition** at the Old Bluecoat School. We are also opening the Frank Hutchings Community Hall to public viewings of the **Jubilee Tableau** which contains 48 pieces of art contributed to by local crafters, makers and artists.

GAMES AND GAMING

After the enormous success of last year, Hackspace return with their Retro Computer and Games Exhibition, or why not pop into the Library for a board game or two and help complete the giant puzzle!

THE MAYOR’S CHARITIES

During the Festival you will also see collecting boxes around for the Mayor’s two charities – **PALS West Berkshire** and **Sport in Mind** it would be greatly appreciated if you were able to spare a few coins for these two great causes.

And thank you to Continental Landscape for being this year’s Silver Sponsors.



Warming Up For Christmas

Thatcham Town Council will again be **Warming up for Christmas** as our countdown to the lights switch on takes place on Friday December 1st, with festive stalls open from 4.30pm and on stage entertainment starting at 5.00pm

We will be supplying some of the magic associated with this special time of year as we guarantee that there will be snow and a special appearance from Santa and some special sparkles in the sky when the lights are switched on.

We are still compiling what will be a special stage line up and acts confirmed so far include:

- **West Berkshire Rock Choir**
- **KATS** (with a medley from Fiddler on the Roof)
- **Whitelands Park Primary School Performance Choir**
- **Dance with Sonia Brown**
- **Jamie Read Musical Theatre Group**

The stage will provide the focus with a steam engine, street food, gift stalls and a petting farm providing a perfect backdrop to the festivities.

Thatcham Town Council would like to thank Elysium Health Care who once again are Gold Sponsors to this year’s **Warming up for Christmas**



THE BIG THATCHAM FEST-OFF

Saturday 7th October, 4.30pm - 9pm

The Big Thatcham Fest Off will again see Thatcham High Street closed to traffic and in its place a range of stalls and street food. This year we have two music stages, and we're delighted to be welcoming back the locally-based rock band Beyond the Sons. They will be joined by covers band Groove X who will be playing from 7-9pm to keep the Fest-Off party swinging. At the other end of the High Street will be an acoustic stage with local acts put together by Sion Wiley, purveyor of the best open mic night in West Berkshire.





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www.continental-landscapes.co.uk



WBAR and Refugees at Home

Refugees at Home are working locally with **West Berkshire Action for Refugees** connecting people with spare rooms to refugees and asylum seekers in need of somewhere to stay. They recruit and support volunteer hosts who are willing to offer a temporary home and a helping hand. Hosting is entirely altruistic and hosts are not

paid for giving up their spare rooms. If you are able to, please consider offering a spare room to one of the local people they are supporting. Please refer to their website or WBAR for further information on becoming a host:

<https://refugeesathome.org/get-involved/id-like-to-host/>



Late Evening Bus

The new Friday and Saturday late evening local bus service is now running between Thatcham and Newbury. The E1 service, operated by Newbury & District Bus Company follows the same route as Reading Buses Jet Black 1 service between Newbury Wharf Bus Station and Thatcham Broadway, continuing as far as Falmouth Way.

The first departure from the Wharf will be at 2120, the last at 0020. The full timetable is available on Reading Buses and Newbury & District web sites. This new service has been made possible from a funding award West Berkshire Council received from the Department for Transport for it's Bus Service Improvement Plan.

Mayoral Engagements

Thatcham Mayor, Mark Lillycrop, has had a busy summer attending a number of varied engagements. If you would like the Mayor or Deputy Mayor to appear at your function, event or meeting then please do give us a call (01635 863592) or email on enquiries@thatchamtowncouncil.gov.uk



Thermal Image Camera

As part of the Town Council's environmental actions, and to support our community, we've invested in a thermal image camera that residents and organisations can loan, free of charge, to capture valuable data about hot and cold spots of their home or workplace. The camera generates images that can be easily downloaded and used to identify potential areas for maintenance to improve the

property's insulation. A small, refundable, cash deposit is required, along with proof of ID. To loan the camera, please contact the Town Council office on 01635 863592.



@ThatchamTC



Contact

Thatcham Town Council

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

Councillors

Thatcham Central

Iain Cottingham [D] 07813 922709

Jay Lunn

Tom McCann

Petra Pemberton

Stephanie Steevenson [D]

Thatcham Colthrop & Crookham

John Boyd 07853 151871

Owen Jeffery [D] 07968 251370

Val Watts

Thatcham North East

Mike Cole 07549 164506

Jeremy Cottam [D]

Lee Dillon D 07393 288712

Christine Rice 07767 391561

Ben Schiffer-Harte

Thatcham West

Jeff Brooks [D] 07836 388534

Mark Lillycrop 07823 322958

Justin Pemberton [D]

Simon Pike 07787 154070

Suzanne Adamantos 07721 865268

[D] = 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 please visit:

www.westberks.gov.uk/reportaproblem

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