

Awards are a chance to celebrate unsung heroes

Town council launches honours to recognise volunteers' achievements

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THE Newbury Town Civic Awards have been launched for 2025.

The Newbury Town Civic Awards celebrate outstanding achievements, honour volunteers and recognise those who make a difference.

These awards highlight the voluntary work carried out by countless individuals in various ways throughout the town.

There are five award categories.

Newbury mayor Andy Moore said: "I'm truly looking forward to the upcoming Civic Awards ceremony."

"It's a wonderful opportunity to recognise and express our gratitude for the creativity and compassion shown by our residents."

"It's always inspiring to hear about the dedication and hard work our community volunteers put into various projects that make a positive



Winners of the 2024 Civic Awards with former mayor Nigel Foot

impact on our town."

The winners for 2024's awards were June Milsom, Daniel Udry, Community United West Berkshire, The Ugly Duckling and ARK Action for the River Kennet.

June Milsom received the Newbury Town Civic Award for more than 50 years' service to the local Guiding and Scouting community in Newbury as badge secretary and uniform shop organiser.

Daniel Udry was the winner of the Young Persons Civic Award for his volunteer work as a young sports leader at Trinity School.

The Newbury Town Local Community Group Civic Award went to Community United West Berkshire for its work championing minority rights and integration.

The winner of the Business Civic Award was The Ugly Duckling, for being an out-

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standing ambassador for supporting inclusivity in Newbury.

Finally, ARK (Action for the River Kennet) was the winner of the Environmental Contribution Award, for improving habitat diversity and quality of half a kilometre of the River Lambourn.

Nomination forms can be completed online or printed off from the Newbury Town Council website: <https://newbury.gov.uk/the-council/civic-office/civic-awards/>

The closing date for nominations is Friday, February 28, with the awards presentation taking place on Wednesday, March 19.



A tractor at the Calcot protest

Farmers' store protest

DOZENS of farmers – and four tractors – flocked to the Sainsbury's store in Calcot on Saturday morning to protest about the announcement in October's Budget that farms worth more than £1m will be liable to pay 20 per cent inheritance tax from April 2026.

Their demonstration was part of a Farming Day of Unity and they handed out leaflets to shoppers.

The NFU has said that this is

"a fight we will not abandon". Back British Farming said the national events would "show MPs and ministers clearly that agriculture across the whole of the UK is united in rejecting this awful policy – a policy we were promised would never happen".

It said: "It is not too late for the Government to review its plans for the family farm tax and pause and consult with farmers and growers."

What's on

FRIDAY

Newbury Pride Drag Bingo, Thatcham Rugby Club, Henwick Lane, 7.30pm to 11pm, £15 advance or £16 on the door. A fabulous night of bingo, drag performances and plenty of fun at Thatcham Rugby Club. Get ready to dab your way to some amazing prizes while being entertained by fabulous drag queens. This event is all about celebrating diversity, inclusivity and having a great time together. Don't miss out on this unforgettable evening of laughter and entertainment.

SATURDAY

Newbury Record Fair, Saint Nicolas Church Hall, 10am to 4pm, free. Twenty-five tables selling records, CDs and music memorabilia.

Jumble sale, Padworth Village Hall, 2pm, free. In aid of St John the Baptist Church, Padworth.

SUNDAY

Chinese New Year Market, Thatcham Broadway, 10am to 4pm. Food lovers are in for a treat with more than 10 stalls serving the taste of Asia. Beyond the food, the market will showcase unique crafts, elegant jewellery and handmade accessories, alongside home and beauty products. A highlight of the market will be the traditional Lion Dance which will be performed at 11am and



There will be two Lion Dance performances at the Chinese New Year Market in Thatcham this Sunday

12.30pm, starting from outside Costa.

Choral evensong, St Mary's Church, Speen, 6pm, free. Beautiful music, followed by refreshments.

TUESDAY

Wash Common Library Fund Raising Quiz, The Bowlers Arms, 7pm, £15 with curry supper and £6.50 without. Raffle, prizes, maximum of six people per team. Don't be afraid to go alone or in a group of less than six as organisers will fit you into a team on the night.

Tickets available from the library or contact maryfitzpatrick10@icloud.com

Newbury and West Berkshire Neighbourhood Watch meeting, Waterside Centre, 7.15pm, free. Presentation from Amy O'Brien and Andy Bridport from Thames Valley Police on 'Contact management: understanding the journey of a 999/101 call'. Also talks from Inspector Matt Gow of West Berkshire Police and Phil Knight of Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service.

Kintbury Wildlife Group meeting, Coronation Hall, Inkpen Road, 7.30pm, £3. Dr Mike Pienkowski will speak on 'The experimental reintroduction of red kites across Britain'. Mike initiated this scheme in the 1980s and 90s, and he relates its progress and the status of the red kite today. There will also be a raffle. This meeting is jointly held with Newbury Bird Club.

■ If you are organising a charity or community event and would like to be included in these free listings, please email details – type of event, time, venue, date and contact – to report@newburynews.co.uk

Valentine's SET MENU

Starters

Zuppa afrosiaca
A rich spicy tomato soup with a drizzle of cream and parmesan crisp (v)

Fagottini di salmone e gamberi
Salmon and prawn parcel, served on rocket with a dill and lime aioli

Arancini ripieni di pollo e mozzarella
Chicken and mozzarella stuffed arancini with fresh basil and marinara sauce

mains

Fettuccine Alfredo
Fettuccine pasta tossed in our rich & creamy Garlic Parmesan Cheese Sauce, parsley crumb (v)

Fesa di manzo
8oz Rump steak, potato gratin and creamed spinach (£2 supplement)

Spigola glassata al peperoncino e lime
Baked seabass with a chilli and lime glaze, baby new potato's and seasonal vegetables

Desserts

Eton pasticcio con baci di meringa
ETON MESS WITH MERINGUE KISSES

Panna cotta con coulis di lamponi
Panna cotta with a raspberry coulis

Tiramisu con frutti di bosco freschi
Tiramisu with fresh berries

£30.00 per person

*T&C's apply, offer one bottle house prosecco per table

Limited availability book now to avoid disappointment

THE CHEQUERS HOTEL, NEWBURY, RG14 1JB

FOR RESERVATIONS PLEASE CALL 01635-38000