

Residents kept awake by generator

NOISE coming from a sewage treatment works kept residents awake all night in Thatcham.

A loud humming noise coming from the Newbury STW was heard inside properties in Lower Way and the Derwent Road estate on Sunday.

And what was the cause? Thames Water has now told this newspaper that one of its generators was responsible and confirmed the issue was fixed early on Monday.

A spokesperson said: "This was caused by a generator used to power our screening units, which remove wet wipes and other unwanted items before the wastewater moves on to be treated.

"We are sorry to those who were impacted."

But West Berkshire Council leader Jeff Brooks (Lib Dem, Thatcham West) has called on the water company to do more.

Posting on social media on Monday, he said: "We have had assurances from Thames Water that the noise that has been coming from the sewage works and that went on all last night, will not happen again.

"I have also asked they provide an apology by letter to local residents and in that letter give us a 24/7 phone number so that we can contact them in the future if something like this happens again."

It's time to nominate community heroes

Applications open to recognise people who have made a difference

APPLICATIONS are now open for **Thatcham's Community Awards**.

Members of the public are invited by Thatcham Town Council to nominate exceptional individuals, groups and businesses that have made a difference in the community.

The winners will be invited by Thatcham mayor Suzanne Adamantos to receive their award at the Annual Town Meeting in April.

Mrs Adamantos said: "Since becoming mayor, I've been inspired by the incredible community groups and volunteers in and around Thatcham.

"Their tireless efforts and enthusiasm make our town a better, more caring place. I'm excited to read the nominations."

A panel of councillors will review all nominations and select winners based on the criteria outlined below.

The award categories are:

Community Contributor Award
This award recognises individuals, charities or organisations which provide outstanding service for the wellbeing of residents, demonstrate exceptional community spirit and civic responsibility.



Volunteer Champion Award

This category honours a volunteer who has gone above and beyond for the community.

Environmental Champion Award

This award is for individuals, businesses or organisations who have made a positive environmental impact in Thatcham through either volunteering, reducing waste, recycling initiatives, wildlife conservation, green projects or raising environmental awareness.

Inspiring Young Person Award

This category recognises people under 25 who have made an out-

standing contribution to their community or achieved personal accomplishments that have brought pride to Thatcham.

Lifetime Achievement Award

This prestigious award honours someone who has demonstrated exceptional dedication and commitment over a significant period, whether through volunteering, involvement in a project, or creating a legacy.

Their efforts must have delivered long-term benefits to the community.

Previous winners of civic or community awards are eligible for consideration.

Visit <https://thatchamtowncouncil.gov.uk/communityawards2025> for nomination forms and full details of the judging criteria.

Paper copies of the application form can be picked up from the town council offices in Brownsfield Road.

Applications close at noon on Thursday, March 20.

Anyone can submit a nomination, provided the nominee meets the relevant criteria.

Nominees do not have to live or be based in the Thatcham parish, but their contributions must primarily benefit the parish or its residents.

THATCHAM

Keeping in touch

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newburytoday.co.uk

Man admits harassment

A MAN who refused to leave a woman's home address has been issued with a restraining order.

Andrew Wooderson appeared in the dock at Reading magistrates' Court on January 7.

The 42-year-old, of Boscawen Way, Thatcham, admitted harassing his victim by attending her home on multiple occasions and refusing to leave when asked, on Sunday, January 5.

He further admitted causing criminal property belonging to Thames Valley Police on Monday, January 6.

Wooderson was fined £165.

In addition, he was ordered to pay £85 costs, plus a statutory victim services surcharge of £64.

Finally, Wooderson was made subject to a restraining order preventing him from contacting his victim, either directly or indirectly, and from attending her home in Thatcham.

The order lasts until July next year.



Burns Night with Thatcham Rotary Club

Rotarians celebrate Burns Night

THATCHAM Rotary Club celebrated Scottish bard Robbie Burns in style.

More than 60 guests attended a supper to mark the popular Scottish Burns Night tradition, which celebrates the life and poetry of Robert Burns, at The Chequers Hotel in Newbury last Wednesday (three days before Burns Night).

A traditional meal of haggis, neaps and tatties was followed by roast lamb, with cranachan

for dessert.

The haggis was ceremoniously brought to the top table, accompanied by the piper Dennis Shaw.

Rotarian Mike Cole 'addressed the haggis', followed by the *Selkirk Grace*, recited by Rotarian Bill Scott.

The entertainment commenced with Rotarian John Gleeson reading his interpretation of the *Immortal Memory*.

Rotarian Frank Quinn gave

a toast 'to the lassies', while Ros Quinn responded with her toast 'to the laddies'.

A valuable bottle of Scotch was won as a raffle prize by a guest who wishes to remain anonymous, as he has no intention of sharing.

The master of ceremonies, Rotarian Maurice Franks, thanked everyone for a wonderful evening, which was rounded off by a hearty rendition of *Auld Lang Syne*.

Swimming pool closes due to ventilation issue

A LEISURE centre pool in Thatcham was closed briefly due to a ventilation issue.

The pool at Kennet Leisure Centre, based in Stoney Lane, was closed to customers on Wednesday night last week but

opened again early the next morning.

Contract manager Richard May at Everyone Active, which manages the site, said on Thursday: "We can confirm the pool was closed at 8pm on

Wednesday due to an issue with air ventilation.

"The situation was quickly resolved by experts and the pool reopened at 7.30am today.

"We apologise for any inconvenience caused."

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