

New home for House of Cards

Store moves to new base in Kingsland Centre

HOUSE of Cards officially opened in its new store in Thatcham's Kingsland Centre on Thursday.

Mayor of Thatcham Suzanne Adamantos cut the ribbon at an opening ceremony in front of an eager crowd of onlookers, who then poured in to explore the new layout and items on offer.

The new store, formerly Lloyds Pharmacy, boasts a selection of cards, gifts, window displays – and Jellycats.

It vacated its former spot at unit 14 on Monday, March 31, soon to be occupied by Savers.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, manager Mandy Barker, who joined the greeting card and gift retailer in 2021, gave the *Newbury Weekly News* an idea of what customers can expect.

She said: "The whole new concept, news colours, new signage, new layout and the gifting element is something we wanted to focus on more, because we didn't have the space over there."

"The space is, in terms of square footage, is probably the same, but the shape of the new shop works better."

"It's been in the planning for a year."

"But the card offer is still as amazing as ever; that hasn't changed."

Mrs Adamantos added: "It's fabulous. It looks like a completely different shop."

"It's in a much better place, because people will come out of Waitrose and think, 'oh, I need a card', when they see it."

"I think it'll encourage more people to come in."

House of Cards was founded in the small market town of Tring, in Hertfordshire, by Nigel Williamson and Miles Robinson in 1990.

Today, it has seven branches in total trading in Thatcham, Caversham, Woodley, Wallingford, Kidlington, Tring and Chalfont St Peter, in Buckinghamshire.



Mayor of Thatcham Suzanne Adamantos officially opens the new House of Cards



Pippa Methven and manager Mandy Barker

Ref: 15-2325A



A new look for House of Cards

Ref: 15-2325D

THATCHAM

Keeping in touch

Have you got a story?
Contact our Thatcham reporter MIREK GOSNEY on (01635) 886637 or email: mirek.gosney@newburynews.co.uk
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News updates from Thatcham are now available online throughout the week. Go to newburytoday.co.uk and select the district pages

newburytoday.co.uk

Driver gets another ban

A MAN caught driving while disqualified has received another, lengthy, roads ban.

Daniel Wilder appeared for sentencing at Reading Magistrates' Court on Wednesday, March 26.

At a previous hearing the 29-year-old, of Montacute Drive, Thatcham, had denied driving an Audi A3 near his home on November 11, 2023, when he was banned from doing so. However he subsequently changed his plea to guilty.

Wilder further admitted two charges of driving without insurance – once on the above occasion and again on Longcroft Road, Thatcham, on November 8, 2023. Magistrates adjourned for pre-sentence reports.

At the sentencing hearing, Wilder was fined £76 and made subject to an 18-month community order.

In addition, he was ordered to pay £485 costs, plus a statutory victim services surcharge.

Finally, Wilder was banned from driving for a further three years.

Market celebrates VE Day anniversary

THATCHAM Town Council is hosting a Best of British Market to celebrate the 80th anniversary of VE Day.

Whether you're a history enthusiast or market lover, residents are invited to visit the market on Monday, May 5, from 10am to 3pm at the Broadway.

The market will feature British food and drink and handmade crafts showcasing the best of UK talent, echoing the spirit of the street parties held locally and nationwide at the end of the Second World War.

Visitors will be also able to enjoy a variety of treats, including freshly-made crêpes and artisan doughnuts, as well as a traditional ice cream van.

And for those craving something savoury, there will be local cheeses and roast pork, with a cup of tea or glass of fizz.

The Thatcham Women's



Thatcham Broadway market

Institute will also be on hand serving free cake and jam. Tables and chairs will be set out for picnics.

Visitors are encouraged to wear their best 1940s attire, whether vintage suits or Land Girls, to bring the era to life.

Rotarians' grand gesture

MORE than 55 Rotarians gathered for their annual fundraising dinner last month.

Members of Thatcham and District Rotary Club dined at the Szechuan Restaurant in Thatcham High Street on Wednesday, March 26.

Club president Audrey Kelly said the evening was a genuine success that raised more than £1,000 for the club, which will now be used to support various charitable

causes.

Diners also enjoyed a generous raffle to ensure as many entrants as possible won a prize.

Rotarian Maurice Franks, who organised the evening, expressed his thanks to the restaurant owner Jeffrey Wu for his continued support over the years.

Mr Franks also thanked the many donors of the raffle prizes.



Club president Audrey Kelly and Rotarian Maurice Franks

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