



THATCHAM TOWN NEWSLETTER

Summer 2025

Historic Town, Thriving Community

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On Sunday 11th May, Councillor Petra Pemberton was elected Mayor of Thatcham at a ceremony at Frank Hutchings Community Hall. Petra's husband Justin is her Consort. The Mayor has chosen Bridge for Young People, Home Start West Berkshire and Swings and Smiles to be her charities this year, and will be working hard to raise funds and awareness. Cllr Mark Lillycrop was elected Deputy Mayor. At a Council meeting on Monday 12th May, Cllr Suzanne Adamantos was voted as Leader of the Council and Cllr Mike Cole as Deputy Leader.

To invite the Mayor of Thatcham to your event, please visit www.thatchamtowncouncil.gov.uk/the-mayor. Invitations will be dealt with on a first-come-first served basis and the Mayor will strive to accommodate all requests where possible.



Council Meetings

All Council meetings are held in the Thatcham Town Council Chamber. Members of the public are warmly invited to attend the following meetings:

Full Council

Monday 23rd June, 7pm
Monday 29th September, 7pm

Finance and General Purposes

Monday 21st July, 7pm

Planning and Highways

Tuesday 3rd June, 7pm
Tuesday 1st July, 7pm
Tuesday 29th July, 7pm
Tuesday 26th August, 7pm
Tuesday 23rd September, 7pm

Recreation and Amenities

Monday 16th June, 7pm
Monday 22nd September, 7pm

Events

Monday 2nd June, 7pm
Monday 8th September, 7pm

Town Centre

Monday 30th June, 7pm

Missed a Town Council meeting?

You can watch them all on the Thatcham Town Council YouTube channel



www.youtube.com/@thatchamtowncouncil

LONDON ROAD CEMETERY

London Road Cemetery is more than just a final resting place. It's a sanctuary for reflection, a habitat for wildlife, and a deeply loved part of our town's heritage. From peaceful wildflower meadows to the heartfelt 'Letters to Loved Ones' initiative, every element honours memory with care and beauty.

Baby Memorial Garden

We have now completed the Memorial Garden in the London Road Cemetery, within the children's burial area. This serene space now offers a place for quiet contemplation. To everyone who contributed, thank you so much. Your generosity is deeply appreciated, not only by Thatcham Town Council but also by the many families who find comfort in this special place. Memorial plaques are available to those who would like to remember their baby but don't have a place to do so. Please contact us for more information.



Useful Visitor Information

- The cemetery is open 24 hours a day every day of the year.
- Parking facilities are available.
- Watering cans and taps are provided for your convenience.
- Glass or ceramic tributes are not permitted on graves.
- Toilets are accessible during interments and events.
- Dogs are encouraged to accompany you while visiting your loved ones, but they must remain on a lead at all times, and not walk on memorial areas. We trust you will clean up after your dog.
- To promote wildlife, we do not cut all the grass in the cemetery, particularly to support the three Bs: Bees, Butterflies, and Birds. Our grounds are maintained to balance nature with remembrance.
- Interments are conducted only from Monday to Friday (no weekends or bank holidays).

Did you know?

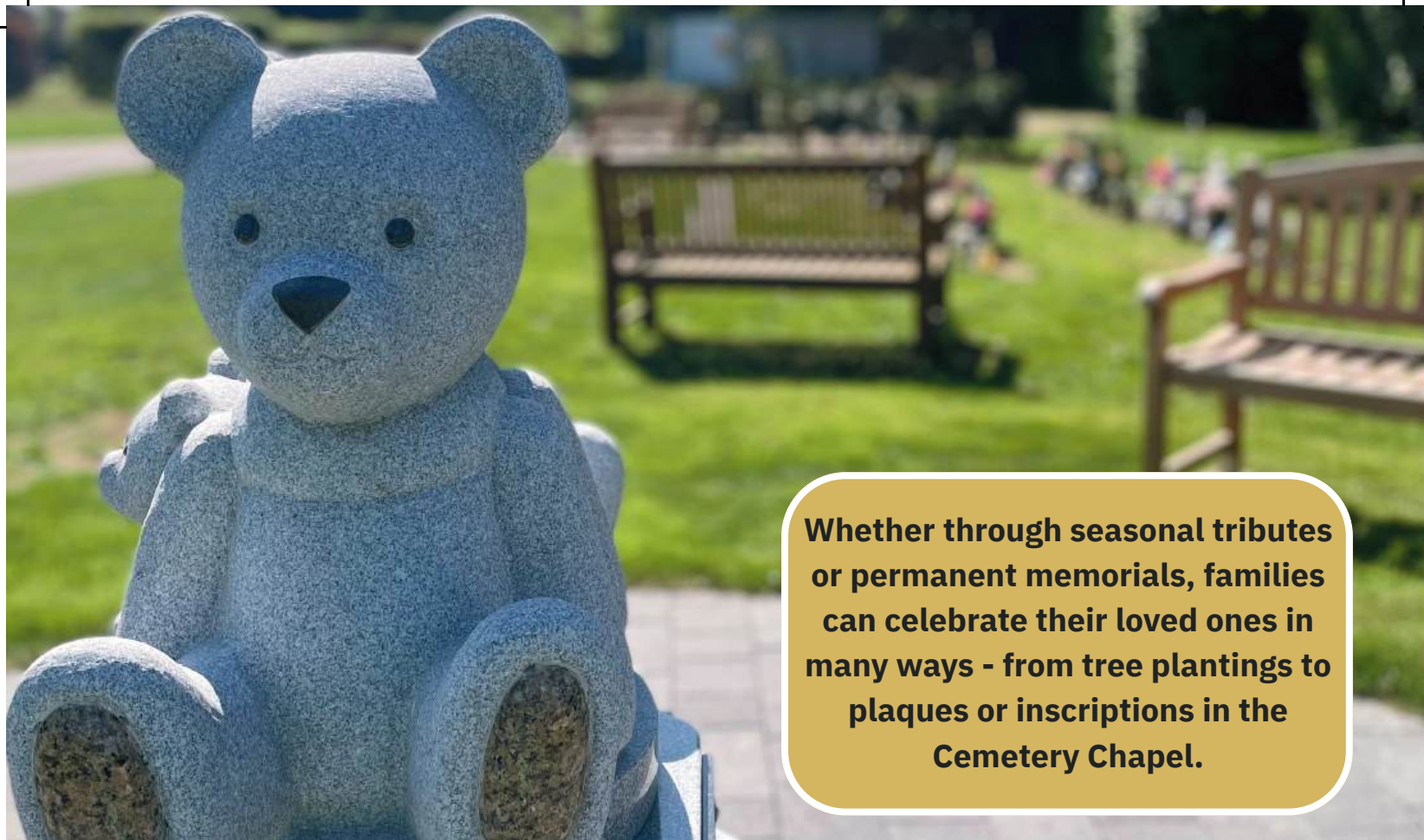
We can arrange for the interment of ashes without the need for a funeral director. Simply get in contact for more information

We'd love to hear from you about how you would like to use the cemetery and the chapel. Please share your thoughts on whether you'd like:

- The Chapel to be open more regularly, and what times would suit you best
- To use the Chapel as a venue for your club, singing group, or if you're part of a budding band in need of a great practice space
- To organise a one-day art class to capture the breath-taking scenery
- A Q&A session with a local funeral director to address those lingering questions you've always wanted to ask
- Any other ideas!



Please contact our Cemetery Officer by calling 01635 863592



Whether through seasonal tributes or permanent memorials, families can celebrate their loved ones in many ways - from tree plantings to plaques or inscriptions in the Cemetery Chapel.

Letters to Lost Loved Ones

A beautiful addition to the Cemetery is the cream Letters to Lost Loved Ones postbox. This enables visitors to post messages, cards or memories - offering comfort and a lasting connection to those no longer with us.

The Memory Tree

In December you can add a message to The Memory Tree, which has become a popular way to remember loved ones during an often-difficult time of year.

Book of Remembrance

The Cemetery Chapel houses the Book of Remembrance, a fitting and lasting tribute to the memory of a loved one's name, date of passing and sometimes a small epitaph or motif. The book can be viewed on prior arrangement with the Cemetery Officer.

Memorial Plaques and Trees

A memorial planting area can be found in the newest section of the Cemetery, near to the ashes plots. Memorial plaques can be installed on Thatcham Town Council owned benches at the Cemetery, or on the wall inside the Chapel. In both cases permission must be sought from Thatcham Town Council.

United Service of Remembrance

Taking place biennially in July, bereaved family and friends are invited to meet at London Road Cemetery for a simple service of Remembrance. The service is led by members of Thatcham Clergy and music is provided by Cold Ash Brass Band.

The next United Service of Remembrance will take place on Sunday 20th July, 3pm. Please contact us if you would like to register your interest in attending, or request your loved ones name to be read out during the service.

If you are the EROB owner of a grave please contact us with up to date contact information, if we have current addresses, email addresses and phone numbers this will help us contact you with any information regarding your cemetery.

Volunteering at the cemetery

Do you have an interest in helping clean some of our older, unvisited graves to keep them clean and tidy? If you, or a group you might belong to, would be interested please contact us to hear more information.

or emailing enquiries@thatchamtowncouncil.gov.uk.



KIDSFEST

THURSDAY 28TH AUGUST, 10AM - 3PM
THATCHAM TOWN CENTRE, TURNFIELDS & LIBRARY

Join us for a FREE fun-filled dino day, brought to you by Thatcham Town Council! KidsFest is a fantastic event designed to bring families and the community together for a day packed with entertainment, activities, and joy for all ages.

Our mission is to give Thatcham's youngest residents a memorable experience full of laughter and excitement before they head back to school.

We can't wait to see the community come together to create lasting memories and celebrate in a vibrant, welcoming atmosphere. See you there!

FREE



THATCHAM'S BIG GREEN WEEK MARKET

FRIDAY 6TH JUNE
8AM - 3PM
THE BROADWAY, THATCHAM

Sustainable Household Products
Sustainable Makeup & Skincare
Jewellery, Gifts & Crafts
Food & Drink
Local Environmental Organisations
Plus all our usual Friday Market regulars



- Large Wild Garden
- Outdoor Play Areas
- Fresh Cooked Meals
- Forest School
- Sensory Bubble Room

Quality Childcare



www.tigersdaynurseries.co.uk

FAMILY FUN DAY

FREE

Sunday 29th June, 11am - 4pm
Henwick Worthy Sports Field

Get ready, Thatcham! The flagship event of the year returns for an incredible 25th year! Last year, thousands joined us for a day of non-stop fun and this year brings back your favourites, plus exciting new surprises. Proudly supported by Gold Sponsor **Tigers Day Nursery**, the day will be packed with activities, entertainment, local talent, and plenty of community spirit.

Play All The Way

There's no shortage of fun for the little ones - from the ever-popular funfair to the climbing wall, mini golf, giant bubble maker and more! The Crafting Tent will be making its debut thanks to **Toddle About Magazine**. Other favourites include Juggling Jake's circus skills, Punch and Judy, zorbing and inflatables.

Planet Friendly Finds

This year's Eco Zone, sponsored by **Weylands Volvo**, features a Vegan Street Market, packed with sustainable products, engaging activities, and a water refill station hosted by Eco Friends West Berkshire.

Get Those Tails Wagging

The beloved Dog Show is back! From playful pups to seasoned seniors, there's a category for every canine. Registration opens at 11am on the day - just £1 per category. Proudly sponsored by **Donnington Grove Small Animal Vets** (Weather permitting.)

Run, Thatcham, Run!

Kids bursting with energy? The Fun Run, sponsored by **Everyone Active**, features age-based races plus a Continuous Run - a highlight of the day!

Wheels of Time

The ever-popular classic car show, delivered by the Rotary Club and sponsored by **Xtrac**, returns with an anticipated 150 classic and vintage cars, motorbikes, and other vehicles for Family Fun Day.

Flavours to Savour

Craving global flavours or local brews? This year's event serves up a mouth-watering mix of local favourites and international bites. For the grown-ups, enjoy a refreshing pint from Delphic Brewing Company or a perfect pour from Gee Gee Gin while soaking up live acoustic music from talented local musicians. There will even be an open-mic hour on the new Acoustic stage so get practising!

Dance, Music, Magic

Hosted by **Kennet Radio**, the Dance Zone will showcase vibrant performances from local dance schools — a lively celebration of rhythm and talent. Over at the Main Stage enjoy a variety-packed line-up featuring live music, magic from Fred in the Shed, line dancing, and performances from local choirs.

Pride and Joy

Family Fun Day celebrates community in all its colours with the return of **Newbury Pride in Thatcham**. Expect vibrant festivities, live music, and the joyful Pride Parade bringing energy and inclusivity to the day.

Bring your family, your dog, your dancing shoes and your reusable water bottle. We'll see you there!



COMMUNITY NEWS



Communication Panel in Turnfields

We are proud to announce the installation of a new communications board in Turnfields Play Area (opposite Howden) designed to help children who experience difficulty with verbal communication, including those with Autism. The colourful, easy-to-use board allows children to express themselves by pointing to symbols and images specifically selected for playground settings. This inclusive initiative aims to ensure that every child can fully participate and enjoy their time at the park. The board is now available for use and is part of our ongoing effort to enhance accessibility across the community's public spaces.

Join the Fun: Volunteer for Our Community Events!

We're calling on all residents to help make our upcoming events a success! Volunteering is a fantastic way to meet new people, give back to the community, and be part of something special. Whether you can lend a hand with setup, assist guests, or help clean up, your time and energy are invaluable. No experience is necessary - just bring your enthusiasm! Together, we can create memorable experiences for everyone. Sign up today and make a difference right here at home. For more information or to volunteer, please contact enquiries@thatchamtowncouncil.gov.uk.

West Berkshire Comedy Festival launches in Thatcham

A new comedy festival is coming to West Berkshire this summer, running July 17–26 across venues in Thatcham, Newbury, and Hungerford. Organised by Graeme Coulam of Thatcham Comedy Club, it features acts like Paul Kerensa, Samantha Day, Nik Hill, Mike Capozzola, Michael Shafar, and President Obonjo. The Thatcham shows will be staged at Thatcham Rugby Club, and Frank Hutchings Community Hall, with profits from selected events supporting local and national charities. The festival promises affordable fun, with many tickets under £10 and some on a 'pay what you want' basis. Tickets: www.wbcf.uk (no booking fees). Thatcham Town Council is pleased to support this event with a grant of £250 and free use of Frank Hutchings Community Hall.

Council Surgery

Meet two of your Councillors on the first Saturday of the month on The Broadway, whether you seek information, advice, or wish to enquire about our services, your elected representatives are here to help. Representative from Thames Valley Police are usually in attendance too.

Saturday 7th June, 10am - 12pm
Saturday 5th July, 10am - 12pm
Saturday 1st August, 10am - 12pm

Community Award Winners

Every year Thatcham Town Council seeks nominations from members of the public for individuals, groups, organisations and businesses who have demonstrated outstanding service to the community, made a significant contribution to public life in Thatcham and have shown real dedication in helping local residents. A panel of Councillors met on the 1st of April to consider all of the nominations and the winners are announced as follows:

This year the Committee recognised two winners of the Community Contributor Award. The Therapy Gardening Group was selected as winner for all their hard work on the community garden at West Berkshire Community Hospital. Helen Randall was also selected highlighting Helen's 10 years working with disabled children with PALS, and appreciated her dedication to guides and volunteer work beyond her duties.

Charmaine Buckley from 'Factors' salon was unanimously selected as Environmental Champion. The Committee praised her zero waste policy and recycling of hair clippings

Georgia Tully was selected as Inspiring Young Person. Georgia raised funds for Bliss charity on her own initiative

Committee decided on Mo Rice as Volunteer Champion. Mo is the longest-serving RSPCA charity shop volunteer in the district (14 years)

Sue Dobinson was selected for the Lifetime Achievement Award for over achievement of volunteering for 40 years with Girl Guiding.

The nominations for next year's awards will open in January 2026



Can you help honour Thatcham's Heritage?

Thatcham Town Council will soon be announcing a public consultation to gather ideas for new Blue Plaques around the town. These plaques aim to celebrate our rich heritage and honour significant individuals, events, and landmarks that have shaped our history.



We invite residents to participate in this consultation and share their suggestions for potential Blue Plaque sites. This is a unique opportunity for the community to play an active role in preserving and promoting our town's history. Keep an eye out for more details on how to submit your ideas and get involved.

BERKSHIRE AFROFEST

RETURNS

Save THE Date

SAT 9TH, AUG 2025

ENQUIRIES
01189584633

THATCHAM Town Council

Avila

COMMUNITY LIMITED
Sustainable Futures Together

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

Join a Working Party and make a real difference

Are you passionate about making a difference in your local community? Thatcham Town Council invites you to join one of its dynamic working parties and play an active role in shaping the future of our town. We have exciting opportunities in various areas, including Events, Youth, Community Engagement, Environmental, and Heritage.

By joining a working party, you can contribute your ideas and skills to organise vibrant local events, support youth initiatives, foster community connections, enhance our environment, and preserve our rich heritage. These groups are instrumental in driving positive change and ensuring that Thatcham remains a thriving and inclusive community.

Participating in a working party offers a unique chance to meet like-minded individuals, develop new skills, and gain valuable experience. Whether you're an experienced professional or simply eager to get involved, your input can make a significant impact.

Don't miss out on this opportunity to make a difference. Join us in building a better Thatcham for everyone. For more information on how to get involved, please contact enquiries@thatchamtowncouncil.gov.uk.

Monthly eNewsletter

Would you like to receive news and updates from Thatcham Town Council more regularly? You can sign up to our monthly e-newsletter directly into your inbox!

☐ I agree that Thatcham Town Council can send me the monthly enewsletter and ad hoc news to the email address below.

Email Address: _____

Full Name: _____

Post Code: _____

Please drop this form into the Town Council offices or scan this QR code to sign up online



Thatcham Town Council is responsible for:

- Mayor of Thatcham
- CCTV on the Broadway
- Henleys Allotments
- London Road Cemetery
- Broadway Public Toilets
- Thatcham Market
- Community Events
- Street Furniture
- Play Areas and Open Spaces
- Burdwood Community Centre
- Frank Hutchings Community Hall
- Moorside Community Hall (Bookings Only)
- Red dog waste bins

Town Councillor Contact

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

Thatcham Central

Iain Cottingham [D]
Jay Lunn
Tom McCann [D]
Petra Pemberton
Stephanie Steevenson [D]

Thatcham Colthrop & Crookham

John Boyd
Owen Jeffery [D]
Val Watts

Thatcham North East

Mike Cole
Jeremy Cottam [D]
Mark Thomas
Dave Lunn
Ben Schiffer-Harte

Thatcham West

Jeff Brooks [D]
Mark Lillycrop
Justin Pemberton [D]
Simon Pike
Suzanne Adamantos

[D] = also West Berkshire District Councillor

Your Feedback Welcomed

We hope you enjoy the articles in the Thatcham Town Newsletter. To send feedback, suggestions, or to report an issue:

Online form:

www.thatchamtowncouncil.gov.uk/contact_us

Email: enquiries@thatchamtowncouncil.gov.uk

Phone: 01635 863592

WhatsApp or text: 07503 634761

Visit a Council Surgery

www.thatchamtowncouncil.gov.uk/faqs

Please recycle
this newsletter

