

NEWBURY NEWS



A variety of animals visited residents at Argyles Bupa Care Home



Animal magic at local care home

Residents are 'thrilled' by visit from Kelly's Donkeys

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RESIDENTS at a Newbury care home enjoyed a special visit last week.

A donkey and two rabbits were just some of the animals which spent time with residents and their families at Argyles Bupa Care Home.

And they were absolutely thrilled by the whole experience.

"It was so lovely being able to see the donkey and other animals," said resident Pauline Carter.

"My daughters adopted one for me for my birthday."

Activities coordinator Emma Povey-West organised for 'Kelly's Donkeys' to visit the residents.

She added: "Kelly's Donkeys were wonderful."

"They brought the animals into the garden for the residents and took the donkey to



A resident with one of the animals

resident rooms if they weren't able to come outside."

As well as helping to create new memories, animal ther-

apy has also shown health benefits through the release of endorphins that comes from interacting with the animals.

Young runners wanted for family fun day

YOUNG runners are being invited to join Thatcham Town Council's annual flagship Family Fun Day, returning this month.

The Fun Run is returning to Henwick Worthy Sports Ground on Sunday, June 29.

And children of all primary school ages are encouraged to take part in a series of fun, age-appropriate races.

Whether they are sprinting for gold or simply enjoying the run, every child is welcome to take part.

The Fun Run schedule is as follows:

1pm - 100m Dash (Reception & below),

1.15pm - 200m Sprint (Years 1 & 2),

1.30pm - 400m Run (Years 3 & 4),

1.45pm - 600m Challenge (Years 5 & 6),



Children taking part at a previous Thatcham Family Fun Day

2pm - Non-Stop Run (Primary-aged children).

Advance registration is essential.

Parents and carers can visit <https://thatchamtowncouncil.gov.uk/event/thatcham-family-fun-day/> to sign their children up. The runs are organised and sponsored

by Everyone Active.

Slots are also still available for groups to showcase their talent at the Dance Zone, which will feature performances from local dance and gymnastics schools.

Contact enquiries@thatchamtowncouncil.gov.uk to take part.

Music & More

Let Battle commence!

HIGHCLERE Castle Battle Proms has announced its orchestral programme - and it has something for everyone!

When the Battle Proms returns on Saturday, August 2, they promise an uplifting celebration of music, with iconic themes from film, TV and the musicals alongside much-loved classical favourites, all culminating in a Last Night of the Proms' style finale under a sky of dazzling fireworks!

The audience will enjoy orchestral favourites, perfect for a summer's evening in this special VE and VJ Day anniversary year, taking in themes from Hollywood epics such as the *633 Squadron* and *The Great Escape*.

The theme from classic Western *The Big Country* will also feature, plus *Gabriel's Oboe*, the moving theme of *The Mission* by Ennio Morricone, performed by the hugely talented young soloist Alex Franklin.

These performances will be complemented by classical favourites you know and love.

The concert opens with the Grace Spitfire flying overhead alongside Holst's *Jupiter (I Vow to Thee My Country)*.



The horsemen and women of the Worcestershire Cavalry will ride along to *The Light Cavalry Overture* and, as ever, there will be a ground-shaking, breath-taking performance of Tchaikovsky's *1812 Overture* and Beethoven's *Battle Symphony* in true Battle Proms style, with over 200 cannons providing the percussion.

The orchestral programme will be performed by the New English Concert Orchestra, led by Douglas Coombs MBE, who has been the musical genius behind these spectacular open air concerts since they began in 1997, and has conducted every Highclere Castle concert

since they began in 2000!

In 2025 Battle Proms celebrate 21 years of working with the acclaimed soprano Denise Leigh, who will give an uplifting performance of *Somewhere from West Side Story* and *Voi che sapete* from Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro*, before returning to lead the crowd in the finale pieces including *Jerusalem, Rule, Britannia!* and *Land of Hope and Glory*.

The Battle Proms have something for everyone and you can treat your ears to a taste of things to come with their Spotify playlist at www.battleproms.com/2025-programme

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