

THATCHAM

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newburytoday.co.uk



The site of the proposed plan

Nail salon plan

AN application to turn a tattoo parlour into
a nail salon has been submitted in
Thatcham.

The change of use application, by Tri Van
Vu, would see the ground floor of Bank House,
13-15 High Street, turned into a nail salon
employing two full-time and two-part time
employees.

The opening hours will be 9am to 7pm,
Monday to Saturday, and 10am to 5pm on
Sundays.

The site is currently vacant and stopped
being used as a tattoo parlour in February.

The upper floor is separate and is not
included in this application.

West Berkshire Council is due to decide on
the application by Wednesday, July 23.

Research firm reveals
scale of vehicle crime

Organised gangs drive the export of stolen luxury cars

THATCHAM Research has
revealed the global scale of the
UK's stolen vehicle problem in a
joint investigation with the
National Vehicle Crime Intelli-
gence Service.

The Thatcham-based automot-
ive risk intelligence company said
a vehicle was stolen every five
minutes in 2024 – despite the UK
boasting the highest levels of on-
vehicle security in the world.

Its new data suggested the rea-
sons driving the illegal export of lux-
ury cars from the UK to abroad by
organised criminal gangs, include
the scarcity of vehicle parts,
desirability of certain makes and
models, geopolitical events and
even natural disasters.

It identified the top five coun-
tries for stolen vehicle export as
the Democratic Republic of Congo,
the United Arab Emirates, Cyprus,
Jamaica and Georgia.

Chief research and operations
officer Richard Billyeald said:
“Thatcham Research has played a
pivotal role in establishing secu-
rity standards and conducts testing
of vehicles for vehicle manufactur-
ers, which has resulted in the UK
having the highest levels of stand-
ard security equipment fitted to
new vehicles.

“The result is that the casual
theft and joy riding of the 80s and
90s has all but disappeared, with
vehicle manufacturers having suc-
ceeded in making it very difficult
for amateurs to steal modern
vehicles.

“However, the organised crim-
inal gangs who have replaced them



Stolen cars are exported all over the world

are well-funded and sophisticated
in their approach, combining spe-
cialist electronic equipment with
an international logistics network.

“Raising vehicle security alone
will not prevent thefts. We believe
that beating these criminals

“The result is that the casual
theft and joy riding of the
80s and 90s has all but
disappeared

requires cooperation between gov-
ernment agencies, vehicle manu-
facturers and ourselves to reduce
the value of stolen assets and the
incentive to steal them.”

The company has called for manu-
facturers to develop methods for
remotely disabling vehicles, as
well as making stolen parts more
difficult to reuse.

Thatcham Research wrote the
first widely-adopted vehicle secu-
rity standards in 1993.

It has been conducting security
impact testing and repair assess-
ments for the insurance industry
and vehicle manufacturers for
more than 50 years.

Come join in
the family fun

THE wait for Thatcham's 25th
Family Fun Day is almost over.

Thatcham Town Council's
biggest annual flagship event is
returning this Sunday from 11am
to 4pm at Henwick Worthy Sports
Ground, promising an unforget-
table day of fun, food and com-
munity spirit.

The event, visited by 12,000
people last year, will feature fam-
ily favourites such as the funfair,
inflatables, zorbing and a classic
car show.

New features include a creat-
ive Under 5s Tent and the Acous-
tic Tent with live performances
and open mic sessions.

Juggling Jake and Punch and
Judy will be back to entertain the
little ones, while adults can enjoy
tasty street food, a craft beer or
cocktail.

And don't miss the ever-popu-
lar dog show, fun run and the
vibrant Pride Parade – all adding
to the festive atmosphere.

From eco activities to the
Dance Stage, there will be
something for everyone.

Entry is free for all. Dogs are
welcome.

On site parking is limited, so
organisers recommend walking,
cycling or using public transport
to reach the event.

The event is supported by
Tigers Day Nursery and other
localsponsors.



Children's fun run



Mayor Petra Pemberton opens the new Savers store

Ref: 26-0425E



Shoppers rush in to the new store

Ref: 26-0425G



A long queue gathered for the opening

Ref: 26-0425C

Shoppers flock to super new Savers store

A SAVERS store celebrated
its grand opening in
Thatcham town centre on
Thursday.

Crowds filled the Kingsland
Centre as the popular discount
chain – known for its wide
range of food, household,

health and beauty products –
opened where House of Cards
used to be.

Mayor of Thatcham Petra
Pemberton said: “This is huge
for Thatcham. I'm looking
around and we've got queues
right from one end of the centre

to the other.

“I hope it's going to bring
more people into the town to
help our businesses.

“They're going to be spend-
ing more money, but hopefully
at Savers it's a little easier on
the pocket.”

The walls between units 13
and 14 were knocked down to
form a larger single unit for the
retailer.

House of Cards moved and
reopened in April in the unit
opposite, previously occupied
by Lloyds Pharmacy.



Celebrating the opening of Savers in the Kingsland Centre

Ref: 26-0425B