

The need for speed!

Thousands of fans witness thrills and spills at Burghfield Box Kart Bash

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AND they're off.

And, in some cases, airborne!

Thousands of people enjoyed the spectacular fun of the Burghfield Box Kart Bash on Sunday.

Powered only by gravity, racers of all shapes and sizes hurtled down the Auclum Hill Climb slope.

The tradition is a celebration of creativity and controlled chaos.

It is held in tribute to the original Auclum Hill Climb, which began in the 1930s on a private drive near Burghfield Common.

This stretch of tarmac became a staple of British motorsport through the 1950s and 60s, drawing huge crowds and cars from across the country.

It hosted everything from modified saloons to sleek single-seaters, earning a place in the annals of motorsport history for its technical challenge and competitive spirit.

First launched in 2017, the Box Kart Bash was created by the Burghfield Santas to bring racing back to its historic roots – with a distinctly fun, family-



The Flintmobile takes the aerial route

Picture: Richard Baldwin

friendly twist.

By transforming a stretch of Reading Road into a thrilling box kart course, they've reimaged the hill climb for a new generation of racers, designers, spectators and sup-

porters.

The Burghfield Santas are the volunteer group behind popular local events including Burghfest and the Burghfield Santa Cruise.

Over the past 20 years, their

events have raised more than £350,000 for Thames Valley Air Ambulance and other local causes – and the Box Kart Bash is no exception, delivering high-octane entertainment with a charitable heart.

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What's on

THURSDAY

and Sunday, Enjoy home-made cakes at **Sherborne St John Watermill**. Mill House, on the picturesque Wey Brook, is opening its curated garden to the public. Free car parking and children not charged for entry. Adults £5. Entrance fees donated to the National Garden Scheme charity. The garden is open only twice this year, from 2pm. It closes at 6pm. More details at ngs.org.uk/gardens/mill-house-rg24

The Dundas Arms, Butcombe Outdoor Cinema Tour 2025, big screen outdoors: *Wicked*, 7pm. Spend a summer evening of classic film, delicious food, and award-winning Butcombe beers. Fancy dinner before the film? Book a table via the pub website. Bring your own blankets etc to stay warm.

FRIDAY

Royal British Legion, Pelican Lane, Newbury, games night.

The Dundas Arms: Dirty Dancing, 7pm. (Details see Thursday.)

Beenham Wind Orchestra Band annual fun family musical evening Band on the Rec, Beenham Village Recreation Ground (7.30pm, free). Bring family, friends and rugs/chairs. Enjoy a barbecue by the Six Bells and ice creams by Dave's Ices.

SATURDAY

The Dundas Arms: Mufasa:



Mill House, situated on the Wey Brook, see Thursday

The Lion King, 2pm, **Top Gun Maverick** 7pm. (Details see Thursday.)

Royal British Legion, Pelican Lane, Newbury, band **The Soutones**, 7.30pm-late, £5, £7 non-members.

Kingsclere Music Festival – enjoy live music on your doorstep. Event in two parts; free afternoon fun for all outside and in, with live music and entertainment, a range of attractions and food vendors, until 6pm then ticketed session inside from 7pm. On two stages, music suitable for all tastes – acoustic, electric and all things in between, single artists and groups. £10 donation helps support the whole event and gives access to the indoor ticketed event.

SUNDAY

Thatcham 25th Family Fun Day, **Henwick Worthy Sports Ground, Thatcham**, RG18 3BN 11am to 4pm. Free

entry. Featuring fun fair, still walkers, dance zone and more.

Royal British Legion, Pelican Lane, Newbury, tea dance, 1.30pm-4pm, entry £4, all welcome.

Newbury and Thatcham Repair Café at Frank Hutchings Community Hall, RG18 4QH, 10am-12.30pm. Take your items, whether household and garden items, or other items such as textiles and toys, for free repairs. Coffee and tea available. More details at <https://tinyurl.com/NTRRepairCafe>.

The Dundas Arms: Paddington in Peru 5pm, **Top Gun Maverick** 7pm. (Details see Thursday.)

TUESDAY

Graeme Hewitt's High Society Jazz Band, noon-2pm. Guest trumpeter Ben Cummings.

WEDNESDAY

Afternoon Teas at St Mary's Church, Aldworth, every Wednesday in July, August and September, 2.30pm-4.30pm. Delicious homemade cakes in the company of The Aldworth Giants. Further details and to book groups contact: Gill Wilding on (01635) 578624 or gillwilding@hotmail.com
Hungerford Town Hall, Indoor and Outdoor Markets 9am-3pm; **Community Support: Free Bills Clinic** 10am-2pm