



THATCHAM TOWN NEWSLETTER

Winter 2025

Historic Town, Thriving Community

A note from the Mayor

As the evenings draw in and the festive season approaches, I am more thankful than ever for our vibrant community and the unity that defines us. We have much to reflect on and celebrate.

A heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed to this year's Thatcham Festival, whether as an event organiser or as a visitor. Your enthusiasm and dedication made it an unforgettable 10 days showcasing everything Thatcham has to offer, and made it the most successful Festival to date!

Remembrance Sunday is always a poignant reminder of the sacrifices many have made. I hope you appreciate the beautiful display of poppies in the town centre, along with the parade on Sunday November 9th.

I'm especially eager to see the creativity and talent in the Mayor's Poetry and Christmas Card competitions! I look forward to the amazing words and designs you all will create - it's going to be hard to pick a single winner.

May the festive season bring joy, peace, and a renewed sense of community spirit to you all. Together, let's continue to build a thriving, inclusive, and supportive Thatcham.

Warmest wishes,

Councillor Petra Pemberton
Mayor of Thatcham



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CHRISTMAS IN THATCHAM

Do you want to
design the official
Mayor of Thatcham
Christmas card?
See page 5 for more
details.

Christmas Lights Switch-On Friday 5th December, 5.30pm -8pm Thatcham Broadway and High Street

Thatcham is set to sparkle once again as the highlight of the town's winter calendar returns to warm everyone up for Christmas.

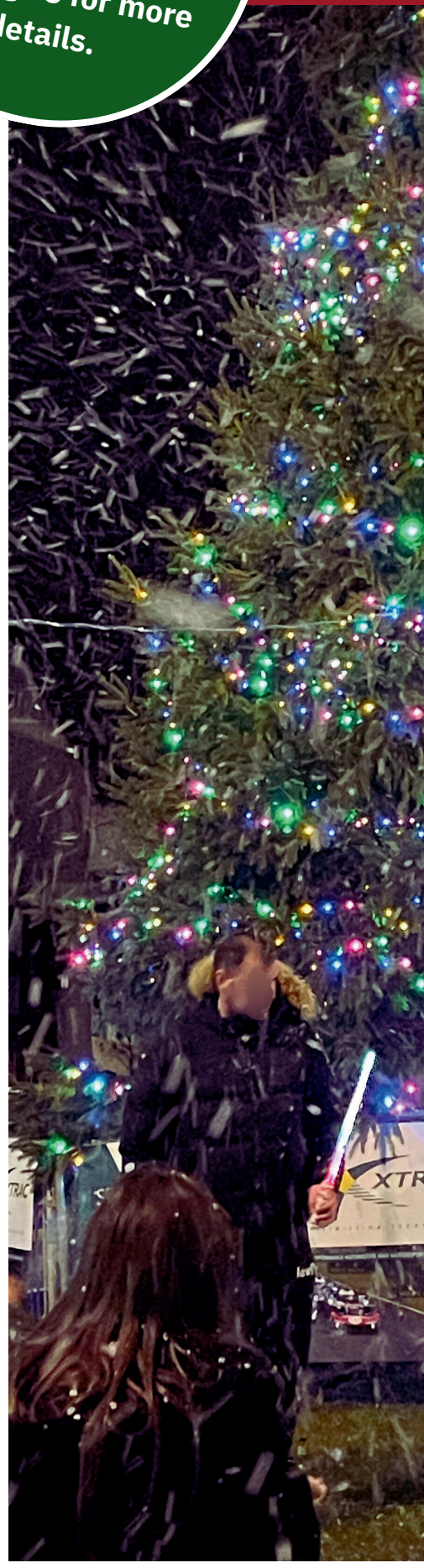
The festivities kick off at 5.30pm with a variety of performances on stage from local performance groups including Sonia Brown's Dance School, Dance Fusion and ending with, the hit from last year DJ Stop and Start who will be there to keep the Broadway dancing into the evening. The Christmas Lights Switch-On itself will take place at 7.15pm.

As always, the Broadway will be bustling with activity, offering an opportunity to support local charities and organisations. This area will be lined with stalls, showcasing the incredible work of these groups and allowing visitors to engage with their community in a meaningful way.

Meanwhile, the High Street will transform into a lively marketplace, packed with stallholders offering an array of goods perfect for starting your Christmas shopping. From handmade crafts to unique gifts, there will be something for everyone, making it an ideal time to pick up special presents for loved ones.

Be sure to arrive early to fully enjoy everything the evening has to offer, including delicious hot food and drinks to warm you from the inside out.

And, of course, no Christmas event would be complete without a visit from Father Christmas himself! So, gather your family and friends, embrace the festive spirit, and join in celebrating this joyous community occasion in Thatcham.



Warming Up For Christmas Market
Saturday 6th December, 10am - 3pm
Thatcham Broadway

The Christmas Market will take over the Broadway and is the perfect place to find unique, locally sourced gifts while supporting Thatcham businesses.

Performances from local choirs will be taking place all day in front of the giant Christmas Tree.



Santa Fun Run
Sunday 7th December, 10am - 3pm
Thatcham Broadway

Whether you are one of the hundreds of runners donning a red suit or supporting from the sidelines, the Thatcham Rotary Club Santa Fun Run is always a sight to behold. There is still time to sign up via the Rotary Club website, or head into Thatcham on the day for a sight you have to see to believe!



Civic Carol Concert
Sunday 14th December, 3pm
St Mary's Church

Join the Mayor of Thatcham for this free, traditional carol concert, with classic carols and Christmas songs. Refreshments are available, with donations for the Mayor's Charities welcome.



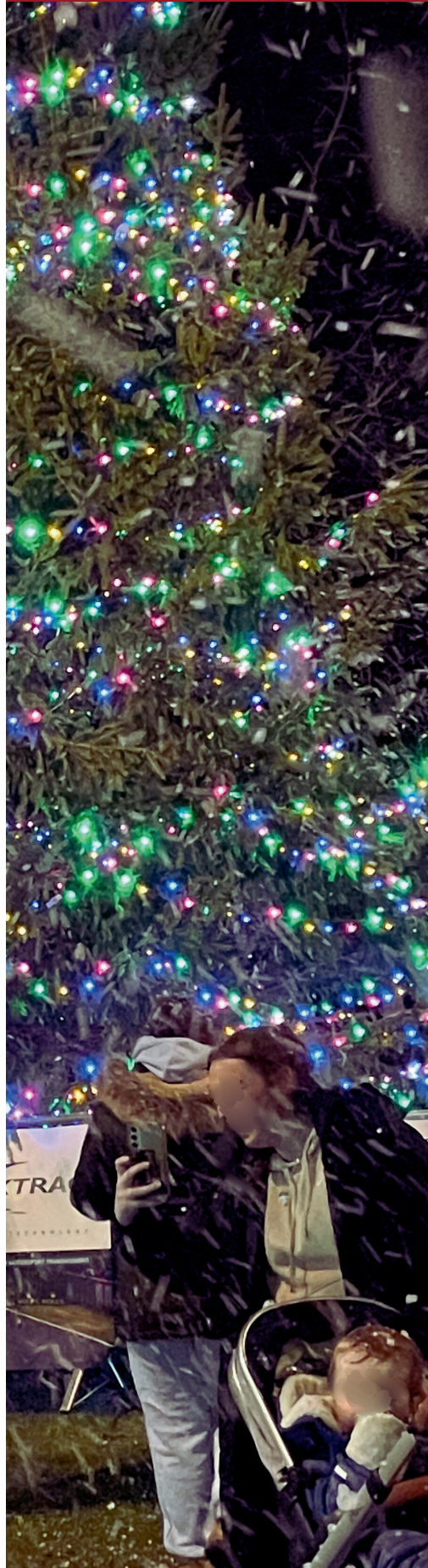
Thatcham Friday Market Christmas Party
Friday 19th December, 8am - 2pm
Thatcham Broadway

Join our market traders for the last Friday market of 2025 and stock up for the weeks ahead. Alongside all your usual Friday favourites, enjoy Christmas music, mince pies, a free children's treasure hunt, and plenty of festive cheer - all in the heart of our community.



The Memory Tree
From Monday 1st December
London Road Cemetery

Every year, a Christmas tree is installed in our cemetery. Known as The Memory Tree, it offers visitors the opportunity to leave messages to their loved ones using the wooden tags and pens provided. You are also welcome to post letters in the Lost Loved Ones postbox, which is available all year round. This year, the tree is kindly donated and installed by Scofell, our dedicated grounds maintenance team.



REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Remembrance Parade & Service Sunday 9th November, 10.45am

With over 500 Parade participants of local uniformed groups including military contingents, Remembrance Sunday is a commemorative Parade and Service which every year is supported by the communities of Thatcham.

The Parade leaves Thatcham Broadway at 10.30am and makes its way to Thatcham's War Memorial where a service takes place at 11am. There is also a service at St Mary's Church which starts at approximately 11.45am. The A4 is closed between Park Lane and the Catholic Hall from 10.30am until midday. The Parade forms up in the Kingsland Shopping Centre car park from 10am. Vehicle access to the car park will be restricted with parking limited until midday.

The Parade is visible from the Broadway and High Street from 10.30am as it makes its way to the Parade Ground. A rolling road closure of the Broadway and High Street will mean that between 10.30am and 10.45am and estimated times of 11.20am and 11.45am access through the Town will be via Lower Way and The Moors.

Community Crocheters Unite for Stunning Poppy Display

Our community has come together again for this year's crochet poppy installation, a heartfelt tribute to the sacrifices of our brave service members, on display until November 16th.

We especially thank Kennet School for their impressive contribution of 85 meters of poppies, showcasing the talent and dedication of both students and staff. You can see their poppies, made out of everything from repurposed bottles to old tablecloths. Their involvement highlights the importance of community spirit and offers an engaging educational experience, reminding younger generations about the significance of Remembrance.

Our gratitude also extends to the Women's Institute (WI) for their generous and skilled contribution. Their intricate craftsmanship and unwavering support have been crucial in bringing this display to life. The collaboration between Kennet School, the WI, and individual community members exemplifies the strength of collective effort.

The vibrant sea of red poppies is more than just a visual display; it is a powerful reminder of unity and remembrance. We invite everyone to visit the display and reflect on the sacrifices made for our freedom.

Thank you to all who helped make this possible.





Thatcham Town Council Invites Residents to Help Shape the Future of Blue Plaques

Whether it's a remarkable local figure, a historic building, or an event that left its mark on Thatcham, the Town Council wants the community to have its say.

You can submit your ideas by:

- Completing the proposal form on the Thatcham Town Council website
- Emailing officer.events@thatchamtowncouncil.gov.uk
- Visiting the Town Council offices in person at Brownsfield Road

When making a suggestion, please include:

- The name of the person, building, or event
- A short explanation of its historical significance
- A suggested location for the plaque, with reasons for your choice

This year's blue plaque, commemorating Moorside's role as a WWII storage depot and supply base, was unveiled on Sunday 19th October as part of Thatcham Festival.

Design the Mayor of Thatcham's Christmas Card

The Mayor of Thatcham challenges you to design her Christmas card for this year. Prizes to be won plus the accolade of seeing your design in print!

We have two categories for entries:

Under 18s
Over 18s

Please email your design (minimum of A5 size) to enquiries@thatchamtowncouncil.gov.uk or post to Thatcham Town Council, Brownsfield Road, RG18 3HF by Friday 21st of November.

Please include your name, contact details, and which category you are entering.

The competition is not open to Thatcham Town Council Officers, Members or their close relatives.



Childrens Poetry Competition!

WHAT THATCHAM MEANS TO ME

Unleash your creativity and share your thoughts on **what Thatcham means** to you! Whatever you think of Thatcham, this is a wonderful opportunity to express yourself through poetry and showcase your unique voice.

Deadline for entries: Friday 21st November 2025

★ Who can enter?

- Anyone aged 18 or under who lives in, goes to school in or visits Thatcham

★ What can I write?

- A poem up to 30 lines long
- Any style you like – rhyming, free verse, acrostic... it's up to you!
- It must be your own original work

★ How to enter

- Email your poem to: enquiries@thatchamtowncouncil.gov.uk
- Include your name, age, postcode and school

★ What happens if I win?

- You will receive a certificate, and be invited onto the stage at the Christmas Lights Switch-On, (Friday 5th December 2025)
- The Mayor will read out the overall winning poem in front of the crowd!

COMMUNITY NEWS

Council Meetings

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

Full Council

Monday 24th November, 7pm
Monday 26th January, 7pm

Finance and General Purposes

Monday 19th January, 7pm

Planning and Highways

Tuesday 18th November, 7pm
Tuesday 16th December, 7pm
Tuesday 13th December, 7pm
Tuesday 10th February, 7pm

Recreation and Amenities

Monday 8th December, 7pm

Events

Monday 17th November, 7pm
Monday 2nd February, 7pm

Town Centre

Monday 10th November, 7pm

Environmental Working Party

Monday 1st December, 7pm

Heritage Working Party

Tuesday 20th January, 7pm

Community Engagement

Working Party

Tuesday 6th January, 7pm

Missed a Town Council meeting?

Watch it back on the Thatcham Town Council YouTube channel



Green Roof Bus Shelters Bring Wildlife and Fresh Air to Thatcham

Thatcham residents can now enjoy a more eco-friendly bus ride with the introduction of new bus shelters featuring living grass roofs, a first in West Berkshire.

These shelters provide mini green spaces that boost local biodiversity while offering a stylish update for passengers.

The grass roofs absorb carbon dioxide and pollutants, support pollinators like bees and butterflies, and add greenery to the town. They also help manage rainwater and keep the area cooler in warm months.

The robust, low-maintenance plants are designed to thrive in all weather, making the shelters a lasting benefit for the community and wildlife.

You'll find the new shelters at Paynesdown Road Westbound, Garden Centre Pound Lane Eastbound, Flagstaff Square Southbound, and Braemore Close Westbound, alongside traditional shelters for a more pleasant wait.

These shelters are part of broader efforts to make public transport in Thatcham more sustainable, reliable, and appealing for everyone.



Thatcham Train Station Updates Thermal Image Camera

A new initiative at Thatcham Train Station, led by the community, has transformed the platform into a vibrant and inviting area for everyone.

In collaboration with Thatcham Town Council and Together for Mental Wellbeing - Reading Services, a colourful mural has been painted in the outside waiting room, and posters are now in place in the ticket office with artwork from local schools adorning the walls whilst you wait. Planters will be decorated around the station and added in the Spring.

This project also offers free suicide prevention training for volunteers, helping to recognise signs of distress and provide support to those in need.

Supported by Great Western Railway's Station Adoption scheme, this initiative is open to those who wish to volunteer or support. For more details, please contact enquiries@thatchamtowncouncil.gov.uk.



Meet your Councillors and Share Your Thoughts

Whether you seek information, advice, or wish to enquire about our services, your elected representatives are here to help. Find them on the Broadway on the first Saturday of the month.

Saturday 1st November, 10am - 12pm
Saturday 6th December, 10am - 12pm

As part of Thatcham Town Council's environmental actions, and to support our community, we've invested in a thermal image camera that residents and organisations can loan, free of charge, to capture valuable data about hot and cold spots of your home or workplace.



The camera generates images that can be downloaded and used to identify potential areas for maintenance to improve the property's insulation. A small, refundable, cash deposit is required, along with proof of ID. To loan the camera, please contact the Town Council office on 01635 863592.

New Stalls at Thatcham Friday Market

There have been some exciting new additions to the Friday Market which we can't wait for you all to see.

As many of you will know, the much-loved pet stall has returned, now being run by Tails & Claws (who also run Ts & Cs coffee), and selling all the old favourites including bird seed. And Trudie from Toddingtons is your pup's new best friend as she offers delicious natural dog treats to only the best girls and boys!

We are also delighted to welcome The Olive Three selling fresh, homemade pasta, soft Italian cheese and olives perfect for a weekend feast.

And plans are in the works for a colourful new feature that many of you have been asking for - more details to follow!

These new stalls are welcomed alongside our current regulars including Joe on fruit and Veg, Jenny and Tom from Thatcham Refillable, Neil at Crazydayz Doughnuts Neil at the Blade Sharpening Company, and the teams behind Bracknell Meats and the Fish stall.

If you've not been down in a while, the Friday Market is becoming more than just a place to pick up your veg - it's a social hub for the community, where you can meet friends, enjoy a drink, and soak up the welcoming atmosphere in the centre of your town every Friday.



Chinese New Year Celebration Market

**SUNDAY 1ST MARCH
10AM - 4PM**

THATCHAM BROADWAY, THATCHAM, RG19 3HX

Chinese Lion Dance Performance
11am and 12.30pm
Gifts and crafts
Food Stalls
Plus lots more!

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: _____

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
- Public Toilets
- Thatcham Market
- Community Events
- Street Furniture
- Play Areas and Open Spaces
- Burdwood Community Centre
- Frank Hutchings Community Hall
- Red dog waste bins



West Berkshire District Council is responsible for:

- Tax and Benefits
- Business Rates
- Rubbish and Recycling
- Care and Housing
- Planning
- Roads, Transport and Parking
- Schools, Learning and Libraries
- Consumer and Environmental Protection
- Leisure, Parks and Countryside
- Green dog waste bins
- Children and Family Services
- Adult Social Care



To report a problem to West Berkshire Council please visit: www.westberks.gov.uk/reportaproblem

Town Councillor Contact

Town 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 North East

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

Thatcham Colthrop & Crookham

John Boyd
Owen Jeffery [D]
Val Watts

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 Messges: 07503 634761

Visit a Council Surgery

www.thatchamtowncouncil.gov.uk/faqs



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