

High Street queue for actor's book signing

Much bonhomie from Hugh Bonneville launching his new children's book

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IF you were walking down Hungerford High Street late morning on Saturday you may have noticed a long queue outside the bookshop.

If you looked closer you'd have spotted actor Hugh Bonneville as he signed copies of his brand new children's book, *Rory Sparkes and the Elephant in the Room* inside Hungerford Bookshop.

Nearly 100 books were signed, with Hugh explaining to some patient children that Paddington was having a 'marmalade day' and so could not be with him.

Nevertheless they looked



Queueing on Saturday morning to meet Downton Abbey and Paddington star Hugh Bonneville Ref: 41-0325N



Hugh with his brand new children's book, *Rory Sparkes and the Elephant in the Room* Ref: 41-0325E

Nearly 100 books were signed, with Hugh explaining to some patient children that Paddington was having a 'marmalade day'

very happy to meet the star, and have a copy of their book signed.

Lots of adults popped along too to see the *Downton Abbey* actor. It was a busy, joyful

occasion with lots of bonhomie from Bonneville!

To keep up to date with the bookshop's fantastic author talks and book signings visit <https://hungerfordbookshop.co.uk/>

co.uk/

The next event will be on November 5 at 7pm, with Mark Forsyth on *Rhyme & Reason: A Short History of Poetry & People*.

What's on

THURSDAY

Wash Common Library Book Club, 7.30 pm, discussing *The Sanatorium* by Sarah Pearse and sharing other reading recommendations.

Wash Common Library Rhyme Time, 3pm. Term time only. Dates for October 9, 16 and 23. Toddlers, parents and carers welcome to join session for stories, songs and rhymes.

and Friday, **Thatcham Nature Discovery Centre, Nature Tots**, 10am-11.20am. £8 per child

FRIDAY

Royal British Legion, Pelican Lane, Newbury. Singers Glam Resurrection, 8.30pm-11pm. All welcome.

Thatcham Festival Returns - 10 Days of Creativity, Heritage & Community to Sunday, October 19, activities that celebrate the town's local talent, creativity, and heritage. With many events completely free, and none costing more than £7, it's the perfect chance to enjoy something new, live music, talks, guided walks, children's storytelling, craft workshops and art exhibitions.

SATURDAY

Thatcham Nature Discovery Centre, Teen Rangers 10.30am-12.30pm. Young Rangers 2pm-4pm, £8.

The Big Thatcham Fest Off, Thatcham High Street becomes a vibrant hub of music and entertainment



Last year's Fest Off, see Saturday

from 4.30pm-9pm. Main Stage performances from Thatcham Musical Theatre Choir, the Casino Birds and headliners Moonstate. Acoustic Stage mix of local talent curated by local musician Sion Whitley. Silent Disco. Wide range of food and drink stalls, plus a mix of gift stalls, showcasing handcrafted goods and local produce. Free. <https://thatchamtowncouncil.gov.uk/thatcham-festival/>

The Spotted Dog at Cold Ash Party with a purpose, 2pm. Local musicians performing all day from 2pm until late into the night. Horse and carriage rides, animal pen for the children. Barbecue 2pm-4pm.

and Sunday, **Kingsclere Photo Club exhibition, at Kingsclere Village Club, George Street**. Saturday 10am-5pm, Sunday 10am-4pm. Work from club members, vote for your favourite picture! Calendar, photo and card sales - all welcome, free entry, donations welcome.

and Sunday, **Thatcham Festival Art Exhibition**, Old Bluecoat School, Chapel St., RG18 4QN, 10am to 4pm. Many paintings and drawings by local artists for sale.

SUNDAY

Caroline and Cindy's bingo night, at the **The Club Bar and Lounge**, 5 Cheap Street, Newbury. Raising money for local charities. Free entry, doors open 6.30pm and eyes down around 7.30pm. All cash prizes and a raffle. Ring 07857 677321 for info.

Hungerford Apple Day & Heritage Festival, **Croft Field RG17 0HY**, 10am-3pm. Apple fun and juicing, ferret racing, Morris dancing, have a go at cooking and crafts, stalls, street food, live music. Free entry.

Newbury Caledonians Scottish dance group, tea dance Highclere Village Hall, more than 80 people from surrounding dance groups making it quite a spectacular event. Starts at 2pm, with a break for tea etc around 3.15pm/3.30pm, commencing dancing again around 4/4.15pm.

MONDAY

Newbury & District National Trust monthly meeting at **West Berks Indoor Bowls Club, Pyle Hill, Newbury RG14 7SW**. Chris Leworthy: Disaster & Bravery at Dieppe, a fantastic story of courage in the most desperate situation imaginable through to the build up of the Dieppe Raid 'Operation Jubilee'. 7.30pm-9.30pm. Entry £3, coffee & drinks prior to talk.

Wash Common Library, Poetry Club, 3pm, theme will be fire in all its forms - physical or metaphorical.

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