

THATCHAM NEWS

Isabella's £700 footballathon

Seven-year old utilises her passion for the sport to achieve charity fundraising goal

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COLD Ash FC footballer Isabella Schiffer-Harte has raised more than £700 for the charity Swings & Smiles.

Seven-year-old Isabella has kicked her way to an incredible fundraising goal – and beyond – in support of a charity close to her heart.

The young Brownie decided to combine her charity badge completion with her passion for football.

Isabella, who has been playing football since she could walk, chose Swings & Smiles as her charity because it provides vital support for children with disabilities and their families.

She currently plays for Cold Ash FC and also trains with Reading FC and these were two of the kits she wore on the day.

Her charity challenge took the form of a six-hour footballathon



Football-mad Isabella is supporting Swings & Smiles



Isabella practising her skills

... she played continuous football in the form of drills, skills games and penalty shots without a single break in determination

from 7am to 1pm on Friday, where she played continuous football in the form of drills, skills games and penalty shots without a single break in determination.

Friends, family, and teammates joined in to keep the ball rolling, with supporters cheering her on from the sidelines throughout the day.

The event tested both her stamina

and her commitment, but Isabella kept smiling and playing right up until the final whistle.

Adding to the occasion, Thatcham mayor Petra Pemberton dropped by to cheer her on.

Swings & Smiles is one of the mayor's chosen charities for the year, making Isabella's achievement even more special.

As of 2pm on Sunday, Isabella had raised an amazing £704 for the cause through her JustGiving page <https://www.justgiving.com/page/isabellafootballathon>

She was also planning visit Swings & Smiles to see first-hand how the money she has raised will help make a difference.

She said: "I'm so excited to go and see how it will be spent."

THATCHAM

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22-year-old charged with dealing drugs

A MAN has been sent to the crown court charged with dealing drugs.

Corey Braybrooke appeared in the dock at Reading Magistrates' Court on Wednesday, July 23.

The 22-year-old, of Park Avenue, Thatcham is charged with being concerned in the supply of MDMA, or ecstasy, a Class A-controlled drug. He is further charged with possessing the Class B-controlled drug ketamine, with intent to supply it to another.

Both offences are said to have been committed in Thatcham between January 1 and April 18 last year.

Braybrooke, who was legally represented by Robert Jacques, spoke only to confirm his details and did not enter pleas to either charge.

Magistrates declined further jurisdiction and sent the case to be dealt with by a judge and, in the event of a trial, by a jury sitting at Reading Crown Court on a date to be fixed.

Braybrooke was meanwhile released on unconditional bail.

Calling all young dinosaur fans ... don't miss KidsFest

GET ready to stomp, roar, and explore! KidsFest Thatcham is back for 2025 with a free dinosaur-themed day packed with family fun before the school term begins.

Organised by Thatcham Town Council, this much-loved event brings the community together for a Jurassic-sized day of entertainment and activities across the town centre on Thursday, August 28, from 10am to 3pm.

Turnfields Recreation Ground will transform into a Little Dino Explorers Zone, featuring inflatables perfect for tiny T-Rexes, an ice cream van and the ever-popular Juggling Jake with circus skills workshops to keep your hatchlings entertained all day.

On the Broadway, discover a prehistoric paradise of arts and crafts and activities, refuel at one of Thatcham's brilliant food spots before relaxing in



Join the dinosaur hunt and test your spotting skills

the picnic area to enjoy the Dino Disco throughout the day hosted by Kennet Radio.

Keep your eyes peeled for a baby dinosaur!

Thatcham Library will also be getting in on the action with a roaring line-up of free activities for young dino-fans.

Join the dinosaur hunt and test your spotting skills, get creative with dinosaur colouring, and settle in for dinosaur stories at 2pm, followed

by dinosaur mask making from 2.30pm to 4.30pm – the perfect way to end your dino adventure.

Don't miss the dinosaur trail – hunt for dino-letters hiding in shop windows, jot down the letters they hold, and crack the secret word for a chance to win a prize.

KidsFest Thatcham 2025 is made possible thanks to the support of sponsors PictureIt-Framed and Gardner Leader.

Stalking charges against man are dismissed

A MAN has had a stalking charge against him dismissed.

However, James Heath was nevertheless made subject to a restraining order when he appeared in the dock at Reading Magistrates' Court on Tuesday, July 29.

The 32-year-old, of Dickson Glade, Thatcham, had pleaded

not guilty to pursuing a course of conduct which amounted to the stalking of Rachel Trigg.

Specifically, he was said to have persistently called, emailed and messaged Ms Trigg and attended places he knew she would be between May 1 and June 7.

At a previous hearing he had been denied bail and remanded

in custody.

However, at Tuesday's hearing, the prosecution offered no evidence and Heath was cleared of the single charge.

The court made him subject to a restraining order preventing him from contacting Ms Trigg, directly or indirectly.

The order will last for 12 months.

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