



Grass roofs have been added to new bus shelters across Thatcham

## Green bus roofs will boost wildlife

**GRASS roofs have been added to four new Thatcham bus shelters as part of efforts to bring 'wildlife and fresh air' to the town.**

In a first for West Berkshire, it is hoped the new living roofs will help absorb harmful emissions like carbon dioxide while supporting pollinating populations of bees and butterflies.

The mini green spaces now growing on top of the shelters – created using hardy, low maintenance planting – will also help reduce rainwater run-off.

The shelters form part of a wider programme of improvements to make public transport more sustainable, reliable and attractive.

The grass roofs can now be seen at: Paynesdown Road Westbound; Garden Centre Pound Lane Eastbound; Flagstaff Square Southbound and Braemore Close Westbound.

# Friends put feet up after 100-mile run

## Izzy and Gabi complete Thames Path Ultra Challenge for charity

By LAUREN ABBOTT  
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**TWO Thatcham runners are resting their legs after completing the gruelling 100km Thames Path Ultra Challenge.**

Izzy Peacock and friend Gabi – who after a ski accident several years ago was told she may never actually run again – followed the River Thames from Putney Bridge to Henley last weekend.

The pair finished the course, coming 54th and 55th in their female category, cheered on by family, friends and Gabi's spaniel Percy, who had followed them to various pit stops along the route to greet them.

Izzy, a teacher, and Gabi, who works for Guide Dogs, are both members of JWS run club, which meets one Sunday morning a month in Newbury.

With Izzy having recently lost a friend to suicide, the pair chose to raise funds for charity Papyrus – the national charity for the prevention of young suicide.

Their JustGiving fundraising page, which has so far collected £1,500 in sponsorship and donations, explained: "We have had



Izzy Peacock and friend Gabi completed the Thames Path Ultra Challenge

friends who have lost friends to suicide and know teachers who

**So many young, valuable and special lives are lost daily to suicide and we would like to help prevent this as much as possible**

have lost students – sadly we all know someone who has been affected.

"We wanted to raise awareness to the help and support Papyrus give to families, friends and those struggling with their own mental health.

"So many young, valuable and special lives are lost daily to suicide and we would like to help prevent this as much as possible."

## THATCHAM

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## Suspended sentence for attack on police

**A MAN has been given a suspended prison sentence for attacking police officers.**

Stuart Nicholls appeared in the dock at Reading Magistrates' Court on Wednesday, September 10.

The 48-year-old, of Langford Way, Thatcham, admitted assaulting Insp Dixon by beating him. He further admitted assaulting a female officer by beating her.

Nicholls pleaded guilty to using threatening or abusive words or behaviour likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress. All the offences were committed in Newbury on April 24.

Nicholls also has previous convictions. Magistrates sentenced him to eight weeks imprisonment, suspended for two years. They also imposed an alcohol treatment requirement. Next, Nicholls was ordered to complete 160 hours of unpaid community work.

He was also ordered to pay £500 compensation in lieu of costs and a victim services surcharge.

## Lots to do this autumn at nature centre

**THATCHAM Nature Discovery Centre is hosting a wide range of events to enjoy this autumn.**

For adults, there will be a watercolour painting session on Friday, November 28, focusing on Christmas paintings.

The session will run from 10am to 1pm and costs £33.

Also for adults will be Birds and a Brew on Friday, October 24, Friday, November 21 and Friday, December 19, from 10am to 2pm.

These talks will cover a range of bird-related topics, including the naming of birds, festive feathers and success stories. Entry costs £10.

On Saturday, November 15, there will be a Nature Poetry Writing Workshop, 10am to 1pm, costing £25. This workshop is led by award-winning poet Eleanor Penny.

For families and children, the programme includes Nature Tots on Thursday, October 9 and Friday, October 10, Thursday, November 6 and Friday, November 7, and Thursday, December 4 and Friday, December 5.

Sessions run from 10am to 11.20am and cost £8 per child.

Tots can take part in outdoor nature play, stories, trails and



Thatcham Nature Discovery Centre

crafts.

Young Rangers and Teen Rangers will take place during October and November: Teen Rangers – Saturday, October 4, Saturday, November 4 and Saturday, December 6, from 10.30am to 12.30pm. Young Rangers – the same dates, but from 2pm to 4pm. All sessions cost £8.

There will be a Nocturnal Safari on Tuesday, October 28, 4.30pm–7.30pm, costing £10 per child.

This is a chance to see the centre at twilight, to explore the nature reserve and find out more about the animals that come out after dark.

The Happy Hedgehogs Family Trail will take place on Wednesday, October 29 and Thursday, October 30, 10am to 3pm, costing £7 per child. This is a fun fact-filled self-led trail and a spiky craft activity, where you can find out how to make a hedgehog happy!

On Friday, October 31, learn about Owl Pellet Dissection, 10.30am–11.30am and 1pm–2pm. £10 per child.

Find out more at [www.bbowl.org.uk/events](http://www.bbowl.org.uk/events)

The centre is closed on Mondays, and open Tuesday–Sunday, from 10am–4pm for the visitor centre, café, shop and toilets.

## Motorist admits drug-driving charge

**A MOTORIST took cocaine before getting behind the wheel.**

Oguzhan Caner appeared in the dock at Reading Magistrates' Court on Tuesday, September 2.

The 26-year-old, of Peers

Place, Thatcham, admitted driving a black Audi A4 on Lawrence's Place, Thatcham, on July 2 when the amount of the Class A-controlled drug in his system exceeded the prescribed limit.

Magistrates adjourned for

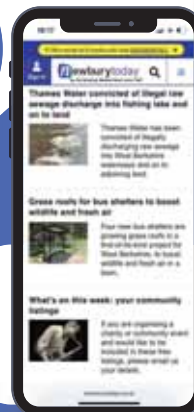
pre-sentence reports.

They stipulated that these should be prepared on an 'all options' basis, including custody.

Caner was meanwhile released on unconditional bail.

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