

THATCHAM NEWS

THATCHAM

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Shoplifter caught again

A SERIAL shoplifter has been caught again.

Daniel Quenalt appeared in the dock at Reading Magistrates' Court on July 15.

The 37-year-old, of The Haywards, Thattham, admitted stealing an unknown amount of goods from Pets Corner in Thattham on January 7.

Quenalt also has around 80 previous convictions for theft and drugs offences.

For the latest theft he was fined £120. In addition, Quenalt was ordered to pay £85 costs, plus a statutory victim services surcharge.

Bag snatched in raid

POLICE have asked for information about a theft from a Thattham property.

The incident happened in the early hours of Sunday, July 20.

The offender or offenders stole a royal blue Jane Shilton handbag from inside a property on Capability Way.

If anyone has any information on the incident they should contact police on 101, quoting reference 43250365462. Alternatively the independent Crimestoppers charity can be contacted anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Council pledge over future of Memorial Playing Fields

Residents reassured that work to restore park will continue over coming months

By JOHN GARVEY
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COUNCIL chiefs have sought to reassure residents over the future of Thattham Memorial Playing Fields.

Last week the *Newbury Weekly News* highlighted local concerns that the once-pretty open space currently resembled the aftermath of a 'zombie' apocalypse.

Residents said that, while they understood the need for a flood alleviation project, they felt abandoned in its aftermath.

One told the NWN: "We've had promises to fix it – but nothing is done."

"It looks like [something out of] a zombie film, it's that bad."

More than 50 people attended a recent protest meeting in the park.

Now the district council has issued a statement seeking to allay those concerns.

It said: "West Berkshire Council is committed to fully re-opening the Thattham Memorial Playing Fields with work continuing on the site over the coming months."

"We know that residents are keen to see the space fully open to the public again following work on a flood alleviation scheme which will protect more than 70



Residents at Thattham Memorial Playing Fields

Picture: Jason Cutts

homes in the area from flooding." Plans are reportedly now in place to complete the landscaping,

"We're working hard to have this open as soon as we can but unfortunately the weather means that some of this is out of our hands

to reinstate a dog exercise area and install new fencing within the next three weeks.

The council conceded that recent, hot weather had delayed the landscaping.

The statement added: "It needs to be re-seeded but this cannot now be done until early autumn when the growing conditions are better."

This has had other, knock-on, consequences for the project, including the re-provision of equip-

ment for ball games.

The statement went on: "A new location on the playing fields has been found for the dog exercise area, but the weather is delaying the preparation of the area as that too needs seeding and time to grow so this is likely to be open in the spring 2026."

Meanwhile the flood alleviation project will protect more than 70 houses by helping to manage surface water.

It was launched following significant flooding in 2007 which affected more than 1,200 homes.

Iain Cottingham (Lib Dem, Thattham Central), who is a member of the Thattham Memorial Playing Fields Trust, said: "We know this is a popular outdoor space for Thattham residents and have been asked when the area will be fully open again."

"We're working hard to have this open as soon as we can but unfortunately the weather means that some of this is out of our hands."

"We'll get it done as soon as we can we appreciate residents patience while we complete this work."

"In the meantime, we are looking into whether the temporary fencing currently on the site can be removed to open some of the space for use sooner."

Come to tea in the sensory garden

THATCHAM Town Council is inviting residents and visitors to an afternoon tea with the mayor, Petra Pemberton, tomorrow (Friday), writes Grace Clift.

The tea will take place from 2pm to 3.30pm, in the tranquil surroundings of the Jubilee Sensory Garden, in front of the town council offices in Brownsfield Road.

This relaxed community event offers a unique opportunity to meet the mayor, enjoy a warm summer afternoon and connect with neighbours in one of Thattham's most beautiful outdoor settings.

Guests will be treated to a variety of refreshments, including tea, coffee, non-alcoholic Pimm's and a tempting selection of cakes.

Entry is free, and all are welcome.

Donations will be gratefully received in support of the mayor's three chosen



Thattham's mayor is inviting people to afternoon tea in the Jubilee Sensory Garden tomorrow (Friday)

charities: Swings & Smiles, Home-Start West Berkshire and Bridge for Young People.

Swings & Smiles provides sensory play and respite care for disabled children and their families, and is based in Lower Way,

Thattham.

Home-Start is based in Newbury and supports families facing difficulties with practical and emotional support.

Bridge for Young People provides care leavers and homeless young people aged

16 to 25 with housing and practical support.

"This is a wonderful chance to come together, share a cup of tea, and support some truly worthy causes making a difference in our community," said the mayor.

Drug-driver fined and handed 12-month ban

A MOTORIST took cocaine before getting behind the wheel.

Siamak Fanaspour appeared in the dock at Reading Magistrates' Court on Thursday, July 17.

The 56-year-old, of Station

Road, Thattham, admitted driving a black Vauxhall Astra on Stoney Lane, Thattham, on March 11 when the amount of a metabolite of the Class A-controlled drug cocaine in his system exceeded the specified limit.

He also admitted driving without insurance on the same occasion.

Fanaspour, who was legally represented by Heulwen Everton, was fined £160.

In addition, he was ordered to pay £85 costs, plus a statutory victim services surcharge of £64.

Finally, Fanaspour was banned from driving for 12 months.

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