

THATCHAM NEWS

Vote for the next blue plaque

Residents are invited to cast their vote by selecting one from the shortlist of three

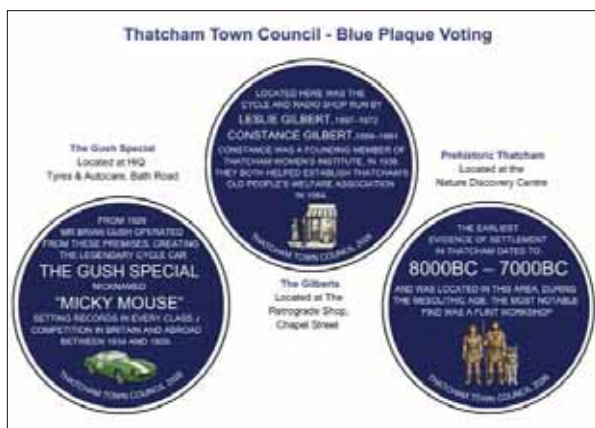
HAVE your say in commemorating Thatcham's rich history with this year's blue plaque vote.

Each year, Thatcham Town Council installs a blue plaque within the community to commemorate and celebrate the people, places and events that have shaped the town's history.

The town council's heritage working party invites residents to nominate individuals, buildings or events that best reflect and honour Thatcham's heritage.

Following this year's nomination process, three plaques have now been shortlisted.

The winning plaque will be selected through a public vote, giving residents the opportunity to choose which part of Thatcham's story will be recognised for future generations.



The three blue plaque options: The Gush Special, The Gilberts and Prehistoric Thatcham

Residents are invited to cast their vote by selecting one from the shortlist:

The Gush Special – this plaque would commemorate Brian Gush, who operated from a premises on Bath Road to create the legendary cycle car, the Gush Special, also nicknamed Micky Mouse.

The car set records in every class J competition in Britain and abroad between 1934 and 1939.

The Gilberts – if chosen, this plaque would honour Leslie and Constance Gilbert, who run the

cycle and radio shop on Chapel Street.

Constance was a founding member of Thatcham's Women's Institute in 1938 and they both helped establish Thatcham's old people welfare association in 1964.

Prehistoric Thatcham – Located at the Nature Discovery Centre, this plaque would be dedicated to the earliest 'residents' in Thatcham, from the earliest evidence of settlement in the town, dating back to 8000BC-7000BC.

The settlement was located in



Which part of Thatcham's story will be recognised for future generations?

this area during the Mesolithic age, and the most notable find was a flint workshop.

Voting closes on Monday, July 6.

The successful blue plaque will be unveiled during the Thatcham Festival, marking another chapter in the town's ongoing commitment to preserving and celebrating its heritage.

For details of the shortlisted plaques and to submit your vote, please visit thatchamtowncouncil.gov.uk

THATCHAM

Keeping in touch

Have you got a story? Contact our Thatcham reporter Madison Rolfe on (01635) 01635 886637 or email: newsdesk@newburynews.co.uk



News updates from Thatcham are now available online throughout the week. Go to newburytoday.co.uk and select the district pages

newburytoday.co.uk

Roll up! Roll up!

HUNDREDS of children are invited to enjoy a morning of circus fun tomorrow (Friday). The event has been rescheduled from Wednesday owing to the weather.

Thatcham Memorial Foundation will put on a morning of entertainment for hundreds of students from six Thatcham primary schools.

Pupils from Thatcham Park, Whitelands Park, Francis Baily, Spurcroft, Parsons Down and The Grange are invited to see the display by John Lawson's family-friendly circus, which has been visiting Thatcham for several years.

Vicky Caws, a trustee said "We will do our level best to go on with the show."

"We will be providing free bottles of water and the circus will be have fans in place, so the big top will be a great place to be."

"We just hoping that as many schools as possible, can join us on Friday. It will be a wonderful show and a fantastic end to the week."

Uninsured drink driver crashed BMW

A DANGEROUS driver who drank nearly three times the limit crashed into a traffic island – then made off.

To make matters worse, he had no licence or insurance.

Brian Dobson appeared in the dock at Reading Magistrates' Court on Friday, May 22.

The 34-year-old, of Roger Croft Drive, Thatcham, admitted driving a black BMW dangerously.

He further admitted failing

to report an accident after he careered into a traffic island, causing damage to property.

Furthermore, Dobson pleaded guilty to driving without insurance and driving without a valid licence.

Finally, he admitted driving after drinking more than the legal limit.

Tests showed 94mcg of alcohol per 100ml of breath in his system.

The legal limit is 35mcg.

All the offences were com-

mitted on the A4 in Thatcham on February 16.

District judge Davinder Sandhu made Dobson subject to a 12-week prison sentence, suspended for two years.

He was also ordered to complete an alcohol treatment programme.

Next, Dobson was ordered to pay £85 costs, plus a statutory victim services surcharge.

Finally, he was banned from driving for four years.

Cold Ash dealer admits drugs charges

A DRUG dealer who sold heroin and crack cocaine has been sent to the crown court in custody.

Daniel Goulding appeared in the dock at Reading Magistrates' Court on Wednesday, May 20.

The 35-year-old, of Southend, Cold Ash, admitted

possessing a quantity of diamorphine (heroin) with intent to supply it to others in Reading on May 19.

He further admitted possessing a supply of crack cocaine with intent to supply it to others on the same occasion.

Both heroin and crack cocaine are Class A-controlled drugs.

Magistrates declined further jurisdiction and sent the case to be sentenced by a judge sitting at Reading Crown Court on a date to be fixed.

Goulding, who was legally represented by Simon Ham-mudi, was meanwhile refused bail and was remanded in custody.

Banking hub brings face-to-face services back

AN essential service has now opened to the public in Thatcham.

The long-awaited Thatcham Banking Hub officially opened on Wednesday, June 17, in 44 The Broadway, next to Broadway Lifesmiles, meaning face-to-face banking services will return to the community.

The hub will see cash and everyday banking services available again after the only financial service left in Thatcham before the hub was

Newbury Building Society.

The hub is open Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm, with no appointment required.

Cash withdrawals and deposits (including notes and coins) and change-giving is available to everyone at the hub, regardless of which bank provider you use.

Residents will also be able to pay bills, enquire about their balances and top up utility and gas payments at the hub.

Community bankers from

the following banks will be available to assist with more directed support on the day your bank is in the hub.

■ Lloyds Bank, Halifax and Bank of Scotland – Tuesday
■ NatWest – Wednesday
■ Barclays – Thursday

HSBC will be joining the hub soon to assist customers on Fridays.

The Banking Hub is an independent business run by Cash Access UK and operated by the Post Office.

Prue

Scott Waters
Opticians
Tel: 01635 31113 | Website: scottwatersopticians.com