

Family Fun Day is back

THATCHAM Family Fun Day is returning on Sunday, June 28, promising another unforgettable celebration of community, entertainment and family activities – with thousands of visitors expected.

The free event features a packed programme of attractions, including the popular funfair, maze, circus skills, crafts, zorbing and inflatables.

Entertainers Juggling Jake and the Punch and Judy show also return.

Live music and theatre from Project Band, West Berkshire Rock Choir and Moonstate take place on the main stage.

And new this year the Super Pirates team will provide high-energy entertainment throughout the day.

The Dog Show returns with classes for all breeds and personalities, including the popular 'Dog That Looks Most Like Its Owner'.

The Fun Run offers age-based races alongside the popular Continuous Run, for young participants.

Car enthusiasts can enjoy a classic car show delivered by the Rotary Club, featuring more than 150 vintage and classic vehicles.

A wide range of stallholders include local crafts, community groups and charities, showcasing the best of the local area.

Freedom of town march

67 Military Intelligence unit from Hermitage will take part in ceremony

THATCHAM will celebrate one of its most meaningful civic traditions next week.

The 'Freedom of the Town' will be formally granted by the town as a symbol of respect and recognition to 67 Military Intelligence Company, based at Denison Barracks at Hermitage.

The ceremony will take place in the centre of Thatcham on Thursday, June 4, at 1pm, marking a significant occasion for both the town and the unit.

The Freedom of the Town is one of the oldest and most significant honours a community can bestow, recognising the strong connection between the town and the group, as well as the important role they play in local life.

This includes their regular attendance as the permanent military contingent at Remembrance Sunday commemorations.

Thatcham Town Council will confer upon 67 Military Intelligence Company "the right, honour and distinction of marching through the streets of the town on all ceremonial occasions with colours flying, bands playing, drums



Thatcham's Remembrance Sunday parade last year

Ref: 46-1725F

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Following the civic proceedings, 67 Military Intelligence Company will exercise their Freedom of Thatcham by marching through the Broadway,

led by a military band.

Residents are warmly invited to line the streets and show their support and it will also be live streamed for those that are unable to make it.

The parade will mean the closure of the Broadway and High Street from 11.30am to 4.30pm.

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

Police launch town crackdown

POLICE officers have been cracking down on antisocial behaviour, road traffic offences and outstanding criminal matters in Thatcham.

As part of these efforts, a man was arrested on Tuesday in connection with an assault investigation.

The individual has been taken into police custody for questioning as enquiries continue.

In a separate incident, officers also seized a pit bike after it was found being ridden without valid insurance and the vehicle was removed.

Classrooms taking shape at school

A PRIMARY school has given an update on the progress of building work costing more than £800,000.

Work is moving at a rapid pace on the early years expansion at Thatcham Park CofE Primary School ahead of its summer completion.

The space, costing £850,000 to build, is now taking shape, transforming what was previously an unused building into new classrooms for the school's youngest pupils.

Portfolio holder for children and family services Heather Codling (Lib Dem, Chieveley and Cold Ash) said: "This is a brilliant investment for Thatcham's youngest residents and for the town's future."

"It's exciting to see these



Thatcham Park's early years project is costing £850,000

bright, modern spaces coming together so quickly, creating more nursery places for local

families and giving children the best possible start in a high-quality, sustainable setting close to home."

In April, solar panels were installed, the floor has been levelled, and internal decoration has now started.

The latest job is the installation of the air source heat pump and the external works.

Once finished, the project will provide two new classrooms and increase the nursery capacity from 32 to 45 places, helping more families access education close to home.

The refurbishment has been designed with sustainability in mind, to improve energy efficiency while creating a healthier learning environment for children.

New access markings

AN access issue regarding a kerb outside a hall in Thatcham has been partially fixed following complaints by residents.

The walkway leading to Thatcham parish hall is in regular use by elderly townsfolk, with wheelchairs and walking aids, plus mothers and toddlers with pushchairs and buggies, but was previously often blocked out of use by vehicles in the car park, which is owned by West Berkshire Council.

Following a successful campaign by residents and users of the hall, the previously unmarked space has now been painted with yellow lines to mark out the space, allowing easier access to the entrance.

The space is in regular use by many groups, such as the table tennis club and mother and baby groups, meaning accessibility is essential.

However, wheelchair users and those with buggies who regularly use the hall are still faced with the issue of the heightened kerb.

Mr Waters, from Thatcham, told the *Newbury Weekly News* in February how a woman had experienced a fall due to the inaccessible nature of the kerb last year.

He wrote to both West Berkshire Council and Thatcham Town Council at the time to raise awareness of the issue.

At the time of publication,



New access markings to the parish hall in Waitrose car park

West Berkshire Council had not replied to a request for comment.

COMING SOON-THE MAGIC OF OPERA

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A choice of 3 events over one weekend in June:

- 7:00 pm 12 June: St Martin's Church East Woodhay £17 (Including refreshments)
- 6:00 pm 13 June: Shaw House £15 (Café will be open)
- 2:30pm 14 June: Brimpton Village Hall £15 (Including refreshments)

Tickets available online from: www.jumblebee.co.uk/kennetopera1

Some tickets MAY be available on the door.



JOIN OUR MIDSUMMER WEEKEND!