



Thatcham

FESTIVAL

9TH - 18TH OCTOBER 2026



#LoveThatcham

www.thatchamtowncouncil.gov.uk
enquiries@thatchamtowncouncil.gov.uk
01635 863592



PICTURE IT
FRAMED

SNOWS
BYD



It is my great pleasure to welcome you to this year's Thatcham Festival – a much-loved celebration that brings our town to life with 10 days of entertainment, creativity, culture and community spirit.

The Festival is a wonderful showcase of the wealth of talent within our community – from dancers, writers and dramatic performers to musicians of every style. It also gives us the opportunity to celebrate our rich local heritage, enjoy the beauty of our surrounding countryside and discover more about the people, places and stories that make Thatcham so special.

Each year, the Festival continues to grow in ambition and variety, offering something for everyone. I would like to thank our sponsors, Picture It Framed and Snows BYD, for their generous support and for helping us to make this year's programme of activities possible.

Please take a few moments to explore this Festival Guide and discover the many events taking place throughout the town. Highlights this year include:

- The Big Thatcham Fest-Off – kicking off the celebrations in style, with artisan stalls and two lively performance stages along the High Street.
- Leisure and Craft Fair – taking place in the beautiful and historic setting of St Mary's Church.
- Walks, talks, exhibitions and workshops – celebrating our environment, local heritage, creativity and the many talents within our community.

Many events are free to attend, while others carry a small charge to help cover costs. Throughout the Festival, you will also find collection boxes for contributions to my chosen Mayor's charities - PALS and West Berks Food Bank - and I hope you will join me in supporting these wonderful local causes.

Whether you are interested in music, literature, history, art, crafts, comedy or simply spending time with friends and neighbours, I am sure you will find something to enjoy.

I hope you will come along, get involved and make the most of these special 10 days. I look forward to seeing the people of Thatcham come together once again to enjoy this unique event in our calendar.

Councillor Mark Lillycrop
Mayor of Thatcham, 2026–27



Mayor of Thatcham with Deputy Mayor
of Thatcham Cllr Petra Pemberton



WHAT'S ON

Friday 9th October

Festival at the Market

Thatcham Broadway, 8am-2pm

Thatcham Comedy Club

Bowling Club, 7.30pm-10pm

Table Tennis - Give it a go

Parish Hall, 7.30pm-9.30pm

Saturday 10th October

Art Exhibition

Old Bluecoat School, 10am-4pm

Car Show

Memorial Fields, 10am-4pm

Scale Model Show

Memorial Hall, 10am-4pm

Celebration - Bayeux Tapestry

Thatcham Library, 10am-12pm

Nature Walk

Nature Discovery Centre, 11am

Apple Day

Nature Discovery Centre, 10am-3pm

**THE BIG THATCHAM
FEST-OFF
SATURDAY 10TH OCTOBER
4.30PM - 9PM**

THATCHAM HIGH STREET

Sunday 11th October

Art Exhibition

Old Bluecoat School, 10am-4pm

Dance with Sonia Brown

Frank Hutchings, 11am-12.30pm

Graffiti Art Workshop

Frank Hutchings, Sessions from 2pm

Incantata Concert

St Mary's Church, 7pm-9pm

Monday 12th October

Art Workshop

Parish Hall, 7pm-9pm

Tuesday 13th October

Author Talk, Tom Hindle

Thatcham Library, 6.30pm

Bouzouki Bellows

Old Bluecoat School, 7.30pm

Wednesday 14th October

Sound Bath

Old Bluecoat School, 2.30pm & 7pm

Town Centre, a Brief History

Town Council Offices, 7pm-8.30pm

Presentation & Public Speaking

Frank Hutchings, 7pm-9pm

Thursday 15th October

Thatcham in 1966

Town Council Offices, 7pm-8.30pm

Friday 16th October

World Food Day Market

Thatcham Broadway, 8am-2pm

Thatcham u3a Open Afternoon

Catholic Hall, 2pm-3.30pm

Restart a Heart Day, Hands on CPR

Town Council Offices, Sessions from 5pm

Stargazing and Astronomy Evening

Nature Discovery Centre, 7pm-9pm

Saturday 17th October

Photography Exhibition

Old Bluecoat School, 10am-4pm

Herbal Histories

Town Council Offices, 1pm-2.30pm

Music Discovery Day

Kennet School, 1pm-4pm

Retro Computer Games

The Pavilion, The Moors, 10am-4pm

KATS - Comedy Radio Plays

Parish Hall, 7pm-9pm

Salsa Night

Glendale Church, 7pm-8.30pm

LEISURE *and* CRAFT FAIR

**SATURDAY 17TH OCTOBER
10AM - 3PM**

**ST MARY'S CHURCH &
THATCHAM BROADWAY**

Sunday 18th October

Photography Exhibition

Old Bluecoat School, 10am-4pm

Blue Plaque Unveiling

Nature Discovery Centre, 11am

Thatcham Thrives

Kennet School, 4pm & 6.30pm

Cold Ash Finale Concert

St Mary's Church, 7pm

**The Festival also has a Box Office at
Thatcham Town Council Offices and
they can assist you in booking Festival
Tickets.**

BOOK NOW



www.thatchamtowncouncil.gov.uk/thatcham-festival





Friday 9th October, 8am - 2pm

Festival at the Market

Thatcham Friday Market, Thatcham Broadway

Discover some of the fantastic local groups, organisations, artists and community activities taking part in this year's Thatcham Festival, with Festival participants joining us at the market throughout the morning.

Come along, browse the market, meet the people making this year's Festival happen and discover something new!

Just drop in 

Friday 9th October, 7.30pm - 9.30pm

Table Tennis - Give It a Go

Thatcham Parish Hall, Chapel St, RG18 4QL

Come along and have a go at table tennis in Thatcham. If you've never tried it before, now is your chance to discover just how much fun table tennis can be.

Fancy some sport in a social setting? Table tennis helps you keep fit, learn a new skill and make friends. All ages and abilities are welcome, and equipment is available if required.

Just drop in 



Friday 9th October, 7.30pm

Thatcham Comedy Club

Thatcham Bowling Club, Memorial Playing Fields, Bath Rd, RG18 3AG

Seven comedians compete for the audience vote, with the winner earning a booking at one of our regular comedy nights in Thatcham. Come along, enjoy an evening of comedy and help choose the winner!

Book via the website or QR code



BOOK NOW 

www.thatchamtowncouncil.gov.uk/thatcham-festival





Saturday 10th October, 10am - 4pm Thatcham Memorial Classic Car Show

Thatcham Memorial Playing Fields, RG18 3AG

A celebration of all things motoring, bringing together a range of classic and cherished cars, motorcycles, military vehicles and steam engines, alongside craft and autojumble stalls.

This event is a charity fundraiser for Thatcham Memorial Foundation. Donations are welcome.

Just drop in 

Saturday 10th October, 10am - 4pm Scale Model Show

Thatcham Memorial Hall, RG18 3AG

On display at the model show will be an eclectic mix of scale models, some scratch-built and some built from kits. The models range from 4mm scale through to 3-inch live steam traction engines.

Pop along and see the skill and craftsmanship that has gone into making these fantastic models.

Just drop in 



Scale Model Show



Art Exhibition

Saturday 10th & Sunday 11th October, 10am - 4pm

Thatcham Festival Arts Exhibition

Old Bluecoat School, Chapel St, RG18 4QN

Enjoy an exhibition of paintings and drawings in a variety of media by local artists. Many pieces will be available for purchase.

Tickets are not required for the exhibition, but Tanya Patey's free workshops do need to be booked in advance at TanyaArtnCraftStudio@yahoo.com.

Just drop in 

Saturday 10th October, 10am - 12pm

Celebration of the Bayeux Tapestry

Thatcham Library, RG18 3AG

Come along and find out about the Bayeux Tapestry. Enjoy some family fun with free crafts, along with tea, coffee and cake for a small donation.

Just drop in 



Saturday 10th October, 10am - 3pm

Apple Day

The Nature Discovery Centre, RG19 3FU

Join us at the Nature Discovery Centre during Thatcham Festival for a wonderful celebration of apples, orchards and autumn.

Family apple trail and quiz. A range of stalls, including Growing Newbury Green and Friends of the Earth. Bring along a mystery apple from your garden and have its variety identified! Apple pressing/juicing. Children's apple crafts.

Just drop in 



Apple Day

Saturday 10th October, 11am

Nature Walk

The Nature Discovery Centre, RG19 3FU

A gentle walk of around a mile with Ailsa, taking in the lake and woodland, all on paths. Spot birds on and around the lake, and stop at the woodland hide to see what you can discover.

Take in the signs of autumn and enjoy the natural beauty of the season.

Book via the website or QR code 



BOOK NOW



www.thatchamtowncouncil.gov.uk/thatcham-festival

THE BIG THATCHAM FEST-OFF

SATURDAY 10TH OCTOBER, 4.30PM - 9PM

THATCHAM HIGH STREET



**LIVE
MUSIC**

**GIFT &
Craft
STALLS**

**STREET
FOOD**

**BEER &
CIDER**

**Silent
Disco**



Singin' in the rain

Sunday 11th October, 11am - 12.30pm

Dance with Sonia Brown

Frank Hutchings Community Hall, RG18 4QH

Grab a brolly and join Sonia for some theatrical dancing fun in her Singin' in the Rain masterclass! You'll learn some fabulous jazz-style moves to several of your favourite tunes from one of Hollywood's biggest musicals. No prior experience or special footwear is needed.

Recommended for ages 6-100+. Remember to bring your umbrella!

Book via the website or QR code



Sunday 11th October, sessions from 2pm

Graffiti Art Workshop

Frank Hutchings Community Hall, RG18 4QH

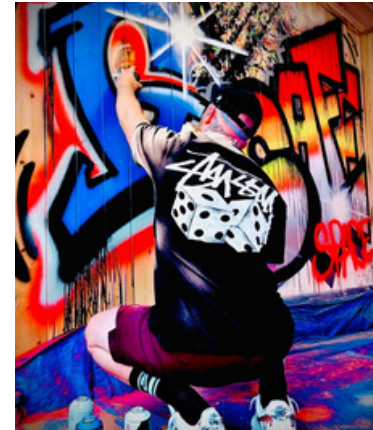
Come try your hand at graffiti art with professional artist Kev Waite!

Add your very own section to a mural on wood which will be produced throughout the day, representing everything great about Thatcham and surrounding villages! Kev will guide you through the sessions, so no previous experience with a spray can is needed.

All materials and protective gear will be supplied.

Suitable for both children and adults.

Book via the website or QR code



Sunday 11th October, 7pm

InCantata: A Concert of Musical Delights with No Strings Attached

St Mary's Church, Church Gate, RG19 3PN

Enjoy a concert of musical delights from InCantata, a local, non-auditioned choir for female voices led by Musical Director Nic Cope. The choir sings for fun, performing in up to four parts, with a wide-ranging repertoire including songs from musicals, jazz, pop, classical music and films. The event will also feature Thatcham-based clarinet ensemble No Strings Attached.

Refreshments will be available, with donations requested for Time to Talk

Just drop in



BOOK NOW



www.thatchamtowncouncil.gov.uk/thatcham-festival



Thatcham

FESTIVAL

Celebrating Thatcham

— • What it means to our community • —

Friendship Inclusivity Diversity Interests

Clubs Organisations Showcase

Community Learning Activities

Home Town

Entertainment

Together Local

Friends

Thatcham People

Residents

Appreciation

Culture

Celebrate Talent

Opportunity Engagement

Workshops

Author Talks

Autumn

Free

Community Spirit

Local Talent

Bringing People Together

New Things

Community Experience



Monday 12th October, 7pm-9pm

Art Workshop - Thatcham House

Thatcham Parish Hall, Chapel St, RG18 4QL

Unleash your inner artist in a relaxed painting workshop led by experienced artist Simon. All materials are provided, and with a step-by-step demonstration and practical advice, you'll have everything you need to create a piece of art to be proud of.

Book via the website or QR code

£6



Tuesday 13th October, 6.30pm

Author Talk with Tom Hindle

Thatcham Library, RG18 3AG

Thatcham Library welcomes Tom Hindle, author of *A Killer in Paradise*. Tom will talk about the inspiration behind his crime fiction, his writing process and the development of his novels. The evening will include an audience Q&A and the opportunity to purchase signed copies.

Book via the website or QR code

£5

Tuesday 13th October, 7.30pm

An Evening of Irish Music with Bouzouki Bellows

Old Bluecoat School, Chapel St, RG18 4QN

An evening of Irish jigs, reels and songs with Bouzouki Bellows, played on concertina, uilleann pipes, bouzouki, guitar and bodhrán.

Book via the website or QR code

£5



Bouzouki Bellows

BOOK NOW



www.thatchamtowncouncil.gov.uk/thatcham-festival





Wednesday 14th October, 2.30pm & 7pm

Meditative Sound Bath

Old Bluecoat School, Chapel St, RG18 4QN

Experience deep relaxation as sound healer Heather guides you through a calming sound journey using gongs, drums, chimes, voice and more. Bring a mat, blanket and pillow, and cocoon yourself so you can really relax.

Please note: this event is not suitable for those in the first trimester of pregnancy or for anyone with tinnitus, a heart condition or a pacemaker.

Book via the website or QR code



Wednesday 14th October, 7pm - 8.30pm

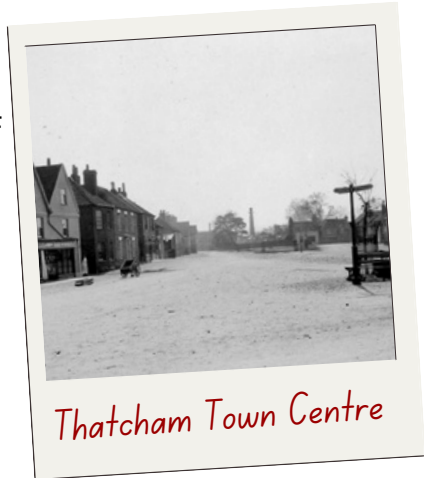
Thatcham Town Centre: A Brief History

Thatcham Town Council, Brownsfield Rd, RG18 3HF

Join historians Graeme Stewart and Nick Young for a fascinating look at the history of Thatcham town centre, including The Broadway, High Street, Church Lane and Church Gate.

Discover the origins of the town in the Saxon period, the Norman relocation, and how Thatcham developed through the Victorian era to the present day.

Book via the website or QR code



Thatcham Town Centre



Wednesday 14th October, 7pm-9pm

Presentation and Public Speaking Workshop

Frank Hutchings Community Hall, RG18 4QH

A unique opportunity to experience actor-led communication training completely free of charge. In just a few hours, you'll discover how to speak with greater confidence, engage any audience and communicate with authenticity and impact.

Whether you're presenting in meetings, pitching ideas, leading teams or simply want to communicate with greater confidence, this practical and engaging workshop will give you tools you can use immediately.

Book via the website or QR code





Thursday 15th October, 7pm - 8.30pm

Thatcham in 1966: Not Just the World Cup

Thatcham Town Council, Brownsfield Rd, RG18 3HF

Local historian Nick Young will guide you through what Thatcham was like in 1966, looking at various areas of the town and how they have changed.

The talk will also explore the news stories from Thatcham during the year, along with some of the wider district.

Book via the website or QR code



Friday 16th October, 8am - 2pm

World Food Day Market

Thatcham Friday Market, Thatcham Broadway

Join us at the Friday Market as we celebrate World Food Day with a morning of food, flavours and culture from around the world.

There'll be opportunities to discover ingredients and recipes, and enjoy music and entertainment while you shop. Whether you're a keen foodie or simply fancy trying something different, come along and taste the world at Thatcham Market.

Just drop in



Friday 16th October, 2pm - 3.30pm

u3a Open Afternoon

Catholic Hall, 7 Bath Rd, RG18 3AG

Find out what the Thatcham u3a community has to offer at this friendly open afternoon. Discover a wide range of activities, from book and lunch clubs, singing and photography to jazz appreciation, barn dancing, mah jong, art and crafts.

U3a is a self-help organisation for those no longer in full-time work. Refreshments will be available.

Just drop in



Friday 16th October, sessions from 5pm

Restart a Heart Day, Hands-on CPR

Thatcham Town Council, Brownsfield Rd, RG18 3HF

Come along and learn some potentially life-saving skills. In this session, you'll get the opportunity to try CPR and use a defibrillator – simple skills that could make a vital difference.

Why not come along and get a taste of these important life-saving skills?

Book via the website or QR code **FREE**



Friday 16th October, 7pm - 9pm

Astronomy and Stargazing Evening

The Nature Discovery Centre, RG19 3FU

Experts from Newbury Astronomical Society will host an evening of stargazing and astronomy. Weather permitting, telescopes will be set up on the patio for views of the night sky.

If cloudy or wet, join us inside the Visitor Centre for two astronomy talks. Telescopes and other equipment will also be available, with experts on hand to answer your questions.

Book directly

www.bbwt.org.uk/events

£6



Saturday 17th October, 10am - 4pm

Retro Computer & Console Exhibition

The Pavilion, The Moors Playing Field, RG19 3AZ

Pop along and get hands-on with a fantastic selection of computers, games consoles and gadgets on display. Test your driving skills on our droid track, and see if you can guide your Bristle Bot to victory! Whether you're a gaming enthusiast or simply curious to try something new, there's plenty to get involved with.

Just drop in **FREE**



BOOK NOW



www.thatchamtowncouncil.gov.uk/thatcham-festival



Saturday 17th - Sunday 18th October
10am - 4pm

Photography Exhibition

Old Bluecoat School, Chapel St, RG18 4QN

Something for everyone! Enjoy an exhibition of photographs taken by our members over the past 12 months, spanning a wide range of subjects and themes.

Pop in for a while and enjoy the peace and quiet as you immerse yourself in the images, or chat with some of our members.

Just drop in 

Saturday 17th October, 1pm - 4pm

Music Discovery Day

Kennet School, Stoney Lane, RG19 4LL

Come and experience the magic of music-making at West Berks Music Centre, based at Kennet School. Hear performances by our bands, orchestras and choirs, have a go on a variety of musical instruments, and join in with parachute games and fun activities.

Enjoy a coffee and cake provided by our wonderful Parents and Friends Association.

Book directly

bookwhen.com/berksmusictrust



Saturday 17th October, 1pm - 2.30pm

Herbal Histories - Jubilee Sensory Garden

Thatcham Town Council, Brownsfield Rd, RG18 3HF

Join us for a walk and talk around the Jubilee Garden, looking at the historical and modern uses of different plants.

The session will be followed by an opportunity to learn how to make a herbal balm to take home.

Book via the website or QR code



BOOK NOW



www.thatchamtowncouncil.gov.uk/thatcham-festival



LEISURE *and* CRAFT FAIR



SATURDAY 17TH OCTOBER, 10AM - 3PM

**ST MARY'S CHURCH &
THATCHAM BROADWAY**

Get a head start on your festive shopping with a wonderful selection of handmade gifts, crafts, and treats at St Mary's Church

Visit Broadway Green to meet local clubs and community groups, discover new activities, and find ways to get involved.

Saturday 17th October, 7pm - 9pm

KATS Comedy Radio Plays - LIVE

Thatcham Parish Hall, Chapel St, RG18 4QL

Kennet Amateur Theatrical Society returns to the Festival stage with another of their acclaimed radio play performances – this time with an eccentric comedy set around a London terraced house, featuring otters, funerals, a poltergeist and a tortoise.

Expect an evening of sometimes cynical and sometimes surreal comedy fun.

Age 12+ recommended.

Book via the website or QR code



Saturday 17th October, 7pm - 8.30pm

Salsa Night

Glendale Church, The Well, Green Lane, RG19 3RG

A fun Salsa Night filled with Latin rhythms, great music and plenty of energy. The evening will be led by Daniela, who is originally from Colombia and is excited to share her love of Latin music and dance.

You don't have to be a salsa expert – just come ready to have fun, meet new people and enjoy a wonderful evening dancing to the vibrant sounds of Latin music.

Book via the website or QR code



Sunday 18th October, 11am

Blue Plaque Unveiling

The Nature Discovery Centre, RG19 3FU

Join us as we unveil a new blue plaque marking this site's remarkable prehistoric heritage.

Long before the streets, buildings and communities we know today, Mesolithic people moved through this landscape. Their presence offers a fascinating glimpse into life thousands of years ago—and connects this place to a much deeper human story.

Just drop in 



Sunday 18th October, 4pm & 6.30pm

Thatcham Thrives Dance Gala

Kennet School, Stoney Lane, RG19 4LL

The fabulous Thatcham Thrives Dance Gala returns this year with a spectacular showcase of regional dance talent.

Enjoy performances in a diverse range of styles, including ballet, tap, contemporary, kathak, jazz, lyrical, hip-hop and gymnastics.

Featuring: AC Gymnastics, AEL Dance, All Stars Theatre Academy, BPD Company, C&M Gymnastics, Chance to Dance Stars CIC, Dance Fusion, Dance Phaze, Dance with Sonia Brown, Drishti Dance, Elibah School of Dance, Kennet School, MF Dance, RS Dance Company, Steps Ahead.

The Kennet School PTA will be providing refreshments, available to purchase throughout the event.

Book via the website or QR code  **£6**

* Tickets also available on the day, subject to availability

Sunday 18th October, 7pm

Thatcham Festival Finale Concert

St Mary's Church, Church Gate, RG19 3PN

Join Cold Ash Brass and Musical Director Ian Walshaw for a concert of music taking you around the world.

Travel from New York to Paris and Rome, visit historical battles and even haunted schools, in what promises to be a rousing finale to the Thatcham Festival 2026.

Book via the website or QR code  **£3.50**



BOOK NOW



www.thatchamtowncouncil.gov.uk/thatcham-festival

The Mayor of Thatcham presents his fundraising

BARN DANCE

Friday 6th November at 7.00pm

Frank Hutchings Hall
Thatcham
RG18 4QH

Tickets

£10 per person
Includes a
welcome drink on
arrival

BYOB!

Bring your
own snacks &
drinks

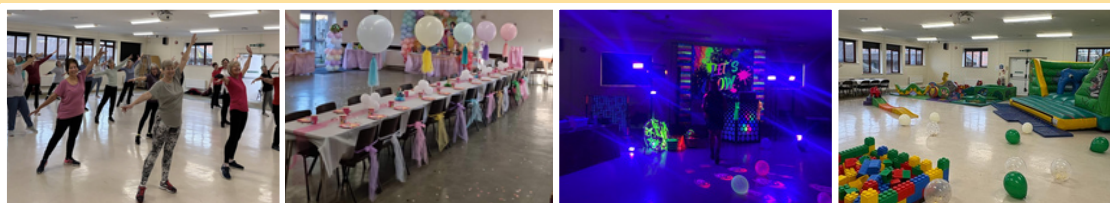
In support of The Mayor's chosen charities



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Presentations | Events and Celebrations | Clubs and Groups
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Thatcham

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON

SATURDAY 28TH NOVEMBER, 12PM - 7PM
THATCHAM TOWN CENTRE



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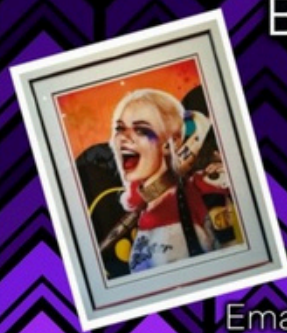
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