

FRIDAY 10TH - SUNDAY 19TH OCTOBER

NATURE - HISTORY - LITERATURE - COMEDY

THEATRE - DANCE - MUSIC - ART & CRAFTS









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



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# **MAYOR'S WELCOME**

It is my great pleasure to introduce Thatcham's 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Festival – a much-loved tradition that, for 10 vibrant days, transforms the heart of our town into a stage for entertainment, creativity and celebration. The Festival is a wonderful showcase of the artistic talent within our community – from dancers, writers and dramatic performers to musicians of every style – while also offering moments to reflect on our rich local history and the beauty of the surrounding countryside.

Each year the Festival grows in ambition and variety, and I would like to thank our sponsor Picture It Framed for their generous support which helps to make it all possible.



Mayor of Thatcham (right) with Deputy Mayor of Thatcham Cllr Mark Lillycrop

Please take a few moments to explore this Festival Guide and discover the many events on offer. Highlights this year include:

- The Big Thatcham Fest-Off opening the celebrations in style with artisan stalls and two lively performance stages along the High Street.
- An evening with Cara Hunter bestselling thriller author.
- The ever-popular Thatcham Comedy Club back to bring us plenty of laughs.
- Leisure and Craft Fair at the historic St Mary's Church.
- A variety of walks, talks, exhibitions and workshops celebrating the environment, local heritage and artistic talents.

Many events are free, though some carry a small charge to cover costs. You will also find collection boxes throughout the Festival for my chosen Mayor's charities: Bridge for Young People, Home Start West Berkshire, and Swings and Smiles. I hope you will join me in supporting these wonderful causes.

Whatever your interests, there is something here for everyone to enjoy. I look forward to sharing these special days with you and celebrating the creativity, heritage and community spirit that make Thatcham so special.

Councillor Petra Pemberton Mayor of Thatcham, 2025–26





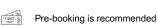


# Visual Arts & Exhibitions Music & Performance Community & Hobbies Wellness & Creativity

# **WHAT'S ON**



Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> October	
Author Talk with Cara Hunter *	TICKET
Film Screening of 2040 *	KET FREE
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> October	
Thatcham u3a - Open Afternoon	FREE
Thatcham Unplugged *	TICKET
Astronomy Evening *	(ET) FREE
Newbury Pride in Thatcham - Drag Bingo *	TICKET
Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup> October	
Leisure and Craft Fair	FREE
Have a Go at Handbell Ringing	FREE
Thatcham Then and Now - Coffee Morning	FREE
Photography Exhibition	FREE
Diwali Market	FREE
Retro Computer and Games Console Exhibition	) FREE
KATS Perform *	TICKET
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> October	
Photography Exhibition	FREE
Nature Discovery Centre Wildlife Walk *	TICKET
Getting to know the Birds in your Garden *	TICKET
Blue Plaque Unveiling	FREE
Be a Radio Presenter *	TICKET
Thatcham Festival Finale Concert *	TICKET
Tickets also available on the door subject to	)



availability

The Festival also has a Box Office at Thatcham Town Council and they can assist you (during opening hours) in booking Festival Tickets.

A free event. There may be paid elements



# Friday 10th October, 7.30pm Beating of the Bounds Talk



Thatcham Town Council, Brownsfield Rd, RG18 3HF

Step into history with local historian Dr Nick Young as he explores the ancient tradition of "beating the bounds"—a fascinating ceremony once used to mark parish boundaries. The talk will delve into the boundaries of Thatcham Hundred and through the Thatcham Parish, offering insights into how these historic divisions shaped the local landscape.

\* Tickets also available on the door subject to availability

## Friday 10th October, 7.30pm Thatcham Comedy Club

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

Prepare for an evening of big laughs as up to eight comedians take to the stage in a high-energy stand-up showdown. You decide the winner in this fast-paced, feel-good night of comedy!

Tickets £7.00 including booking fees

\* Tickets also available on the door subject to availability





# Saturday 11th - Sunday 12th October, 10am - 4pm Thatcham Festival Arts Exhibition Old Bluecoat School, Chanel St. RG18 400



Discover an inspiring collection of work from local artists, showcasing paintings and drawings in a variety of styles and media. Many pieces will be available to buy.

Pre-book Tanya Patey's art workshops by emailing: tanyasArtnCraftStudio@yahoo.com.





## Saturday 11th October, 10am - 4pm

#### **Thatcham Memorial Classic Car Show**

Thatcham Memorial Playing Fields, RG18 3AG

Motors, memories and more! This fantastic event brings together classic cars, motorcycles, military vehicles, steam engines and more—with craft and auto-jumble stalls to explore. All in support of Thatcham Memorial Foundation. Donations welcome.



## Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> October, 10am - 4pm Thatcham Model Show

Thatcham Memorial Hall, RG18 3AG



Marvel at a remarkable range of scale models—from intricate kits to impressive scratch builds. From a 4mm model funfair transport display, through to a 1/3rd scale steam train. Come and see the skill and craftsmanship that has gone in to making the fantastic models on display.



# Saturday 11th October, 3pm-5pm

St Mary's Organ Gala & Cream Tea

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

Enjoy a relaxed afternoon of uplifting organ music played by local performers on the historic Grey & Davison pipe organ. This informal, drop-in concert is free and suitable for all ages. Cream teas, cake and refreshments will be available throughout for a donation to the St Mary's Pipedream Organ Restoration Fund. Children's crafts also available.







# THE EIG THATCHAM FEST-OFF

SATURDAY 11TH OCTOBER

4.30PM - 9PM
THATCHAM HIGH STREET













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# Saturday 11th October, 1pm Storytime with Fiona Barker

Thatcham Library, RG18 3AG

Join children's author Fiona Barker at Thatcham Library for a fun-filled monster-themed story session! Enjoy readings of The BIG Monster Bake and I Definitely Don't Like The Dark, plus drawing, singing and a craft activity. Perfect for ages 2–8.





Tickets £3.00 including booking fees

\* Tickets also available on the door subject to availability

BOOK VIA THE LINK OR QR CODE BELOW



### Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> October, 2pm Storytime Draw-a-long with Steve Antony Thatcham Library, RG18 3AG

Award-winning author and illustrator Steve Antony brings his popular characters to life in this interactive story and drawing session at Thatcham Library. Come along and bring your creativity to life as Steve guides you step-by-step to draw some of his much-loved characters—yes, even a panda or two might show up! Perfect for ages 3–8.





Tickets £3.00 including booking fees

\* Tickets also available on the door subject to availability

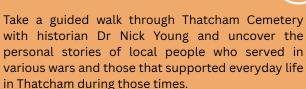
BOOK VIA THE LINK OR QR CODE BELOW





## Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> October, 11am Soldiers of Thatcham

London Road Cemetery, Thatcham, RG18 4LQ



\* Tickets also available on the door subject to availability



# Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> October, 1pm - 4.30pm Thatcham Board Game Club

Frank Hutchings Community Hall, RG18 4QH

Join a friendly community group of adults and kids aged 11+ for a chance to learn and play new games, in a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere. Play favourites like Carcassone, Azul, Ticket to ride, Pandemic, Forbidden Island, Barenpark, Splendor, Labrinth, Tsuro, Wingspan and many more. Games provided, or bring your own to play with others. Free entry for the Festival, usually meets monthly.



## Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> October, 7pm - 9pm InCantata: A concert of musical delights with No Strings Attached St Mary's Church, Church Gate, RG19 3PN

FREE

Enjoy a harmonious evening with InCantata, a local community choir for upper voices led by musical director, Nic Cope. They will be performing a wide range mix of songs from musicals, films, pop, jazz, and classical genres. They're joined by Thatcham based clarinet ensemble, No Strings Attached. Refreshments available. Donations to West Berkshire Food Bank appreciated.



# Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> October, shows at 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 with performances in a diverse range of styles featuring ballet, tap, contemporary, kathak, jazz, lyrical, hip hop and gymnastics numbers.

Featuring: AC Gymnastics, All Stars Theatre Academy, Allenova School of Dance, C&M Gymnastics, Chance to Dance CIC, Dance Fusion, Dance Phaze, Dance with Sonia Brown, Kennet School, MF Dance, Natraj Dance Academy, Senior West Berkshire Youth Dance, Steps Ahead and The Just Ballet School.

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

Tickets: Adults & Children £6, including booking fees

\* Tickets also available on the day subject to availability



# Monday 13<sup>th</sup> October, 1pm & 2pm Moo Music

Frank Hutchings Community Hall, RG18 4QH

Come and join us for some MOOsical fun with sessions full of props, bubbles and plenty of giggles. Mini Moo is suitable for anyone walking confidently up until age 4 (and baby siblings) and Baby Moo is suitable for all non walkers from newborn. (1pm Mini Moo, 2pm Baby Moo)

#### Tickets £5.50 including booking fees

\* Tickets also available on the door subject to availability





# Monday 13<sup>th</sup> October, 2pm Andy's Fun Afternoon Quiz

Thatcham Parish Hall, Chapel St, RG18 4QL

A Fun, competitive and enjoyable afternoon quiz event aimed at the over 50's. To encourage friendly gatherings and for a mix of people to engage and interact in a sociable and enjoyable event, without being too serious. Teams of up to 6 people.

Tickets £3.50 including booking fees

\* Tickets also available on the door subject to availability







# Monday 13<sup>th</sup> October, 7pm Beeswax Candle Making

Old Bluecoat School, Chapel St, RG18 4QN

Ben's Berkshire Bees invites you to learn the traditional art of beeswax candle making. Discover how the wax is harvested and cleaned, then make your own rolled beeswax candle to take home.

Tickets £5 including booking fees

\* Tickets also available on the door subject to availability

# Monday 13<sup>th</sup> October, 7pm Art Workshop - Paint a Barn Owl

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. With a step by step demonstration, practical advice and quality art materials you'll leave with a piece of art to be proud of.

#### Tickets £6 including booking fees

\* Tickets also available on the door subject to availability



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# Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> October, 3.15pm - 4.30pm

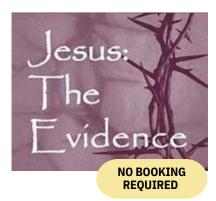
# **Museum Family Craft Workshop**

Thatcham Library, RG18 3AG



There is evidence of Roman occupation in and around Thatcham, particularly along the Bath Road, and so this afternoon West Berkshire Museum will be hosting a free, drop-in Roman inspired craft workshop at Thatcham Library. It's ideal for ages 6–11, but open to all. (with adult supervision)





## Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> October, 7.30pm Jesus the Evidence

Thatcham Parish Hall, Chapel St, RG18 4QL

There is a wealth of evidence pointing to the life, death and Resurrection of Jesus being an actual historical event. "Jesus: The Evidence" draws upon current historical, textual and archaeological research to present this evidence in a clear, rational manner - open to people of all beliefs or none.



## Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> October, 8pm Bouzouki Bellows

Old Bluecoat School, Chapel St, RG18 4QN

Join Bouzouki Bellows for an evening of Irish music with songs from Sara Daniels. Also on the programme will be some Welsh and Scottish music played on Uillean pipes, concertina, bouzouki, whistle and guitar.

Tickets £3.50 including booking fees

\* Tickets also available on the door subject to availability





# Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> October, 7.30pm Thatcham Around and About Talk

Thatcham Town Council, Brownsfield Rd, RG18 3HF



Local historians Graeme Stewart and Dr Nick Young will give a talk about old Thatcham, exploring history around the edges of old Thatcham.

\* Tickets also available on the door subject to availability



## Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> October, 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 & cocoon yourself so you can really relax.

Please note: not suitable for those in the first trimester of pregnancy, with tinnitus, a heart condition or pacemakers.

Tickets £7.00 including booking fees

\* Tickets also available on the door subject to availability



# Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October, 2pm & 7pm Film Screening of 2040

Thatcham Town Council, Brownsfield Rd, RG18 3H

What would you like the future to be for the next generation? This optimistic film looks at the technologies and opportunities already available to us, to help protect our families and the environment. It will be followed by an informal discussion on what local people are already doing for nature and climate, and how can we best support each other. Donations welcome at the end of the film.

\* Tickets also available on the door subject to availability



# Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October, 6.30pm Author Talk with Cara Hunter

Thatcham Library, RG18 3AG

Meet bestselling thriller writer Cara Hunter at Thatcham Library as she discusses her latest novel Making a Killing. Cara will discuss the ideas behind her latest thriller books, along with insight into how the book was created. Includes audience Q&A, opportunity to buy signed copies of the books, and refreshments from Friends of Thatcham Library. **Tickets £5** including booking fees

\* Tickets also available on the door subject to availability



# Friday 17<sup>th</sup> 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—from book and lunch clubs, singing and photography, science and technology, barn dancing, mah jong and art and craft. u3a is a self help organisation for those no longer in full time work. Refreshments will be available.



# Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October, 7pm -9pm Astronomy Evening

The Nature Discovery Centre, RG19 3FU

Join the Newbury Astronomical Society for an evening of stargazing (weather permitting), beginner-friendly talks, and fascinating displays. A great introduction to the night sky for all ages.

\* Tickets also available on the door subject to availability



# Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October, 7.30pm Thatcham Unplugged

Frank Hutchings Community Hall, RG18 4QH

Join us for a vibrant night of music featuring talented local musicians performing across a variety of genres, including indie, rock, folk and country. All proceeds from the evening will go directly to the Mayor's chosen charities.

#### Tickets £6 including booking fees

\* Tickets also available on the door subject to availability



www.thatchamtowncouncil.gov.uk/thatcham-festival





# Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October, 7.30pm Drag Bingo - Newbury Pride in Thatcham

Thatcham Rugby Club, Henwick Lane, RG18 3BN

Get ready to sashay, slay and play some fierce Drag Bingo with Newbury Pride in Thatcham - it's gonna be a fabulous night of fun and fab cash prizes! Our talented drag queen Wilma Fingadoo will be calling out the numbers and keeping the energy high all night long. Come dressed to impress and ready to party with the local LGBTQ+ community. Don't miss out on this exciting event celebrating diversity and pride in Thatcham!

**Tickets £7** \* Tickets also available on the door subject to availability







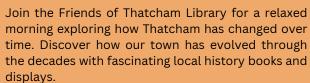
#### **BOOK VIA THE LINK BELOW OR QR CODE**

https://www.eventbrite.com/e/newbury-pride-drag-bingo-tickets-1606820225549?aff=ebdsoporgprofile&keep\_tld=1



# Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> October, 10am - 12pm

# **Thatcham Then and Now Coffee Morning** Thatcham Library, RG18 3AG

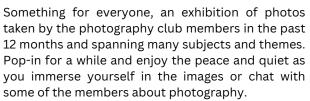


Contribute your ideas for future Blue Plaque nominations. Local historian Sue Ellis will be there to take nominations and offer her expert insight.



# Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> October, 10am - 4pm Photography Exhibition

Old Bluecoat School, Chapel St, RG18 4QN





# Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> October, 10am - 4pm

## **Retro Computer & Console Exhibition**

The Pavilion, The Moors Playing Field, RG19 3AZ

Step back in time and try your hand at classic computers, vintage consoles and even test your skills on the droid track! A must for tech fans of all ages.



# LEISURE and CRAFT FAIR

ST MARY'S CHURCH

SATURDAY 18TH OCTOBER, 10AM -3PM

Kick off your festive shopping in style at the Craft Fair at St Mary's Church, where you'll find a selection of handmade treasures crafted by local artisans. From unique cards and candles to beautiful jewellery, papercrafts, handbags, paintings, and more – there's something special for everyone. In the Church grounds, local clubs and community groups will be showcasing their activities, giving you the perfect opportunity to discover what's happening in your area.

# Diwali Market



Thatcham Broadway
Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> October, from 1pm

Diwali, the Festival of Lights, is one of India's most treasured celebrations. At its heart lies the power of light — symbolising the triumph of good over evil, hope over despair, and the joy of new beginnings. Join us at the Diwali Market in Thatcham, to share food, culture, and the warmth of this beautiful tradition. Organised by Community United.

Traditional Indian Food stalls Indian Face painting and Henna stalls Traditional dances and art work through the day Light festival with traditional earthen lamp art at dusk



# Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> October, 11am - 1pm Have a go at Handbell Ringing St Mary's Church, Church Gate, RG19 3PN

Discover the joy of handbell ringing in this fun, hands-on session. They are fun to play and learning how to make a sound takes just a few minutes: there is no complicated fingering, no scales to tackle and no previous musical experience needed.



## Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> October, 7.30pm Kats Perform

Thatcham Parish Hall, Chapel St, RG18 4QL

Kennet Amateur Theatrical Society makes a triumphant return to the Festival stage! Join us for another of our acclaimed radio play performances—this time with a delightfully devilish twist perfect for the festive season. Expect an evening of fun, suspense, and festive chills.

Refreshments available. Age 12+ recommended. **Tickets £2** including booking fees

\* Tickets also available on the door subject to availability



# Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> October, 10am - 4pm Be a Radio Presenter

n (FREE)

Thatcham Town Council, Brownsfield Rd, RG18 3HF

Have fun learning what it's like to be a radio presenter, introduce and play music, read the weather and use links and promos with all equipment provided by Thatcham Town Radio. You will also get the chance to broadcast your own show!

To Book please contact hello@thatchamtownradio.uk





# Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> October, 10.30am Nature Discovery Centre Wildlife Walk

The Nature Discovery Centre, RG19 3FU

Join Ailsa on a gentle walk of about a mile, around the lake (all on paths). Spot birds on the lake and nearby, and stop in the woodland hide to see what you can spot. Observe signs of autumn, and take in the natural beauty of the season.

Tickets £5 including booking fees

\* Tickets also available on the door subject to availability

# Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> October, 2pm Getting to know the Birds in your Garden

The Nature Discovery Centre, RG19 3FU

Join Ailsa and learn how to identify and support the feathered visitors in your garden with this engaging and informative talk. Learn how to tell which is which, why they do what they do, and how to help them.

Tickets £3.50 including booking fees

\* Tickets also available on the door subject to availability



# Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> October, 2pm Blue Plaque Unveiling

Moorside Community Hall, Urquhart Rd, RG19 4RE

Join the Heritage Working Party as they proudly unveil Thatcham's 7th Blue Plaque. This latest plaque commemorates the site's vital role as the largest storage depot during World War Two, a key supply base for the D-Day Landings and operation Market Garden. The event will be followed by light refreshments and a short historical talk.

If you have an idea for a future Blue Plaque, we'd love to hear from you—please get in touch; officer.events@thatchamtowncouncil.gov.uk





# Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> 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 festival of British music. They will take you on a tour of the British Isles from Alloway to Llanelli, the Westmerlands across the Irish sea to Erin Shore. They're delighted to be welcoming back the Choir and Brass Band from Whitelands Park Primary School who will join us for a rousing massed piece.

Tickets £3.50 including booking fees

\* Tickets also available on the door subject to availability

# Thank you

Thatcham Town Council extends its heartfelt thanks to all the venues that so kindly host events throughout Thatcham Festival. We are also deeply grateful to the artists, craftspeople, community groups, dancers, musicians, teachers, performers, volunteers, and everyone who generously give their time and talents to make the 2025 Thatcham Festival such a success.

#### **Photo Disclaimer**

Please note, filming and photographs may be taken at Festival events. By taking part in the events you grant the event organisers permission to use the images resulting from the photography/video filming, and any reproductions or adaptations of the images for publicity or other purposes to help achieve the group's aims. This might include (but is not limited to), the right to use them in their printed and online publicity, social media, press releases and funding applications. If you do not wish to be photographed, please inform an event organiser.

### **Feedback**

We'd love to hear what you enjoyed about Thatcham Festival this year and welcome suggestions about what you'd like to see in the future. Feel free to send us your feedback after each event whilst it's fresh in your mind, or complete at the end of the Festival.

Scan here for the feedback form





Find us at 17 High Street, Thatcham, RG19 3JG



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# PICTURE IT FRAMED

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# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

#### Nov REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

TOWN CENTRE & WAR MEMORIAL CAR PARK 10.30am

#### WARMING UP FOR CHRISTMAS: LIGHTS SWITCH ON

THATCHAM DOGADWAY AND

THATCHAM BROADWAY AND HIGH STREET 5pm, lights on at 7pm

Dec 6

9

Dec

5

### WARMING UP FOR CHRISTMAS:

MARKET

THATCHAM BROADWAY 10am - 3pm

Dec 14

#### CIVIC CAROL SERVICE ST MARY'S CHURCH 3PM

MUSIC + CRAFT STALLS

# STREET BEER S

# THE BIG THATCHAM FEST-OFF

# SATURDAY 11TH OCTOBER

4.30PM - 9PM

THATCHAM HIGH STREET

