

THATCHAM NEWS



KATS rehearsals for Cinderella 2: After the Ball, which will be performed at Kennet School over half-term

Relaxed matinee from KATS

Kennet Amateur Theatrical Society are putting on a sensory sensitive performance

THIS February half-term – from Thursday, February 19, to Saturday February 21 – Thatcham’s Kennet Amateur Theatrical Society (KATS) present not just their latest pantomime, but a first for the group, with the Friday matinee being a Relaxed Performance (2.30pm).

By **TRISH LEE**
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Cinderella 2: After the Ball takes place a year after Cinderella and Prince Charming have tied the knot.

This time they, and their friends, including Flash the pantomime horse, will have to defeat two wicked witches who are bringing doom and gloom to the kingdom, all in traditional panto style.

The show’s director Karen Richardson championed the move, taking inspiration from her time volunteering with young people who have physical disabilities at Newbury-based charity PALS

West Berkshire.

Karen said: “Seeing how brilliant a relaxed performance at The Watermill theatre was for the PALS, I knew I wanted to offer the same with our show.

“The team at The Watermill have been fabulous with help and advice for us to make it happen.”

As well as the adjustments to the performance, KATS are also investing in new video equipment which will provide a live feed to the foyer, so audience members can keep track of the show if they need to leave the auditorium.

Visit www.kats.org.uk to get tickets for the Relaxed Performance and all the other show dates.



THATCHAM

Keeping in touch

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Shoplifter arrested

THATCHAM Neighbourhood Policing Team have arrested a man following two shoplifting incidents at Sainsbury’s on Coombe Square.

The suspect was arrested on Tuesday, January 13, taken into custody, interviewed and he gave a full admission.

He will now receive a conditional caution and has been banned from the shop in Thatcham.

Prolific offender bailed

A ‘PROLIFIC offender’ from Thatcham has been arrested.

Officers from Thames Valley Police arrested him from the Thatcham area in connection with a number of offences.

These including an attempted robbery, a theft and two further shoplifting offences from the Co-Op on the Broadway, Thatcham.

The man is currently on bail while the investigation continues.

Chinese New Year Market returns

THATCHAM’S Chinese Lunar New Year Market will be returning on Sunday, March 1.

Thatcham Town Council has announced the return of the market to the Broadway from 10am until 4pm, marking the Year of the Horse in the Lunar calendar.

The market will feature a range of Asian street food, including Japanese dumplings and bento boxes, rice balls with savoury fillings, Thai dishes, Indonesian specialities and a selection of desserts and sweet treats.

As well as food stalls, traders will offer jewellery, handmade accessories, crafts, and home and beauty products.

Many of the businesses taking part are Asian-owned, or produce goods influenced by East and South East Asian traditions.

A traditional lion dance will be performed outside the Kingsland Centre at 11am and 12.30pm.

The event will also include performances from community groups, organised by



Last year’s Chinese Lunar New Year Market in Thatcham

Community United, with further details to be released closer to the day.

Thatcham mayor Petra Pemberton said: “It is great to see the Chinese New Year Market returning to Thatcham.

“Events like this help bring people together and reflect the diversity of our community.

“Thatcham is a fitting place to celebrate that diversity, and I would encourage residents to come along and take part.”

Work to footpaths on A4

WORKS by Volker Highways are set to start on Monday, February 2, for footway and crossing improvements adjacent to the A4 at Floral Way and Falmouth Way in Thatcham, estimated to last for five weeks.

A diversion will be in place due to the footway clos-

ures which may lead to longer journeys given the footways lead to various schools and businesses within the area.

The A4 will also be closed on two Sundays to remove the central island and then resurface the carriageway but the specific dates have not yet been confirmed.

Repair café time

THE Repair Café is this Sunday at Frank Hutchings’ Community Hall in Thatcham from 2pm until 4.30pm, for people to take along electrical items, clothing, textiles, soft toys and other household objects for repair.

The café also offers tool sharpening and advice on mobile phones and IT issues.




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