

## Community, Leisure & Recreation Committee

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<b>Date:</b>	<b>11 February 2020</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Report - External Organisations</b>

### **Cuttle Brook Management Committee** (Cllr Jones)

The draft 5 year plan is in the drop box to be considered at this meeting for adoption. The Cuttle Brook has seen positives since the last report including more volunteers who have stepped forward, many sightings of otters on the camera trap, a very large number of fish fry in the fish refuge in Nontron Meadow and positive evidence of hedgehogs following a recent survey. Sadly the relentless progress of ash die-back is a worry as is a disease affecting the alders. The management committee is actively working on plans to replace these dying trees.

### **Friends of Elms Park** (Cllr Champken-Woods)

There is a meeting scheduled for the end of February of FOEP. We have now opened a bank account and transferred £50 from the ring fenced money held by TTC in order to keep a balance in that account.

### **Thame Carnival Committee** (Cllr Emery)

A small committee met on the 4th February 2020. The format will be the same as last year.

- The theme is "Heart of Thame"
- Date confirmed as 13th June 2020
- Fly pass being organised to celebrate Queens Birthday
- Invitations to a wider audience to increase the size of the parade.
- Recruitment of more local stand holders, both charitable and commercial business to help raise more revenue.
- Recruitment of Project Leader, still not in place.
- The council provide resources to set up the event,
- As yet there is no resource to dismantle the Carnival at its close.

Requirement for additional committee members and support staff on the day.

### **Thame Football Partnership (TFP)** (Cllr Dyer)

Matters are now moving at a pace towards the provision of a full size artificial pitch at Meadow View Park. The planning application has been approved, s.106 funding availability has been reconciled, and the funding application to the Football Foundation has been submitted with a decision anticipated in late March. TFP are now seeking bids from three of the approved contractors and, if everything falls into place, work will commence after the Festival of Football in June.

The turnaround in finances over the last two years is continuing and the club is running ahead of budget on virtually all income streams including junior memberships, gate receipts, bar takings, and food kiosk sales. There was actually a Corporation Tax liability at the end of last financial year but it is expected that will be recoverable this year.

On the pitch Thame United are currently sitting in sixth place in Southern League Division One Central, with the possibility of achieving a place in the play-offs at the end of the season. The next Board Meeting is scheduled for Monday 2nd March.

### **Twinning Association (Cllr Francis)**

\*VE Day weekend visit by Montesson – May 8-10, 2020 – VE Day Anniversary Week-end.  
This date has been welcomed by the French and planning is underway for the weekend's itinerary. (Cllr Linda Emery can update if necessary)

\*NEXT march (9-13th), a group of students from Saint Anne's College in Montesson (11/12 year- olds) are travelling to the UK for an educational visit. They will visit Canterbury, Bath and Oxford and would like to visit Thame, their twin town, as it's close to Oxford. Montesson has asked us if we could welcome the students at the town hall, for a short presentation, to show them what twinning is all about! We are awaiting confirmation as to which of the days they will be in Oxford, to see if such a visit would be practical.

### **FUND RAISING**

\*QUIZ Night – November 8, 2019

This was a great success – 10 teams (56 people) and we raised £261 after expenses and after making a donation of £70 to the Stroke Association.

\*MONTESSON Xmas Market, November 22-24, 2019

Another great success and great fun. Sold £672 worth of Christmas and other British goodies After expenses of £239, a net profit of £386 – slightly more than last year.

\*THAME Xmas Market (Lights switch on event) December 6, 2019

This proved to be a great success, both for us and the French, resulting in a net profit for Thame Twinning of £113.20. Unfortunately their pancake machines caused problems with the electricity. This was unfortunate because once they turned the power down on the machines there were no more problems. The committee will liaise with Cassie to try to find a solution for next year, which may unfortunately end up being the last year of the French stall at the Xmas market, depending on any Brexit deal.

\*Mince Pies, Mulled Wine and Carols – December 16

Hosted by Cynthia and David Jackson for members and friends in their home. The evening raised £105.

\*FINALLY, we received the following poignant message from the President of Montesson's twinning committee:

Very dear friends,

It's with a heavy heart that we saw UK choose LEAVE and quit last Friday, as we all wanted to believe that this would not happen.

But you, dear friends, dear sisters and brothers, you will NEVER leave us and we won't EVER leave you! We are and we'll stay a great twinning family!

We wish you a lot of courage and the best possible to pass through this cloudy period.

Many thoughts of brotherhood and warm hugs to you.

Love, love, love

Anne, Jumelage and Montesson

### **Thame Good Neighbour Scheme (Cllr Midwinter)**

Town Council Officers continue to manage the TGNS. The scheme has recruited some new volunteers over recent months, and the main request for help continues to be for transport.

### **Thame Town Cricket Club (Cllr Champken-Woods)**

In the words of the chairman Matt Swain "The clubhouse is still standing!" and doing well with bookings etc.

The Club has its AGM on the 7th Feb to vote in officers and captains and to provide an update to the club about our cricketing objectives for the coming season.

Matt is now now into the 4th of his 5 year term as Chairman.

Thame Town Cricket Club will be hosting Oxfordshire v Cumberland for a one day match on Sunday 7th June. All councillors and staff would be most welcome to join us for a drink and watch the match. Unfortunately Alison and I will be in Canada.

**Chinnor RFC (Cllr Bretherton)**

Nothing received as of 07.02.20

**Music in the Park (Cllr Jones)**

Advance ticket sales are going well, especially for the Meet and Greet with United Vibe – the headline act. Most arrangements are now in place including the line up on all the stages.

**Thame Sinaia Friendship Association (Cllr Bretherton)**

Nothing received as of 07.02.20

**Thame Museum Trust (Cllrs Cowell & Emery)**

After many years of service David Bretherton and Allen Hickman have decided to resign as Treasurer and Secretary at the next AGM.

The latest accounts have been prepared up to the 12th January.

- The net surplus is slightly above budget.
- Income is slightly below budgets because of a decline in retail sales which has been off-set by saving in utilities.
- The new strategic proposals for the Museum for rebranding are on-going.

The refurbishing program is near completion and will be ready on time for the Museum re-opening on the 15th February.

Pat Hurrocks, a local builder, has generously given his labour free of charge to carry out the majority of the building alteration and carpentry works, and has also donated the materials for the rest room. Our volunteers have put in a great team performance to ensure completion is on time.

**Towersey Festival (Cllr Tipping)**

Despite efforts to arrange meetings and receive updates, no communication has been received from the festival organisers. Furthermore the festival has moved out of Thame and is unlikely to require the Town Council's support. Therefore this will be the last external organisation report for Towersey Festival unless circumstances change.

**Thame Town Music Festival (Cllr Wyse)**

The Thame Music Festival organisation is going according to plan. All venues have been booked. This year the Swan and the Snooker Club have dropped out but the Thatch has agreed to join in, and a new stage introduced by the BBC will be positioned on the other side of the Town Hall to the main stage.

**Thame Shed (Cllr Wyse)**

In short, The Shed project has not moved on, we are still unable to acquire a home although our support to obtain equipment still remains.

Unfortunately, the proposal put to the rugby club, for Thame Agricultural Association to release the barn storage area and then for half of this to be used by The Shed, was turn down by the Rugby Club Board. We are grateful for the support of David Bretherton, Thame Agricultural Association and Doug Humphries, Chinnor Rugby Club.

We hope to have a relaunch / refresh of the membership in the late spring so ensure the project continues.

**Thame Sports Club (Cllr Jones)**

The Sports Club's new clubhouse building project is coming on well. The building currently has a 'temporary roof' on the scaffolding, to hopefully speed up completion, which is projected to be by the end of April.