

Community, Leisure & Recreation Committee

Title: Report - External Organisations
Date: 12 July 2022

a) Cuttle Brook Management Committee (Cllr Jones)

Japanese knot weed has been discovered at the edge of the Old Tip Wood on the slope leading down to the sedge beds. This will need eradicating. Poison is effective but will need a licensed operative. Andrea Oughton will ask if any of the TTC maintenance team is qualified.

Measures have been taken to discourage dogs to enter the sedge beds and reed, sedge and Cetti's warblers have been observed as a result.

The black poplars (relatively rare species) are doing well.
A new section of board walk has been put in under Coombe Hill Cresc.

The stream by Cox's Wood is suffering heavily from dog erosion. Spiling will be put in place in the hope of preventing it. In better news the camera traps have caught 3 otters (probably a mother and 2 kits) on a regular basis. Their presence has resulted in a decrease in the number of adult American crayfish (invasive species) in the brook.

The ash suffering from ash die back in Cox's wood will be felled in late summer/early autumn. A number of new trees were planted near the entrance to Maple Road but the weeds need knocking back to allow the saplings to thrive.

The old hedge by the meadow leading to the Oxford Road was coppiced and new growth is already evident. That and infilling with new whips will ensure a much thicker hedge in future. The meadow behind this hedge is benefitting from paths NOT being mown along the river bank. The fish refuges here, and up by Watkins bridge, are working well.

Rycote meadow had a new hedge planted plus a good number of trees all of which are doing well. Plan to incorporate this into the nature reserve although, for bureaucratic reasons it may not be OFFICIALLY a Local Nature Reserve (as defined by the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949). It will be handed over to the Cuttle Brook by Thame Green Living once the new footpath and gate are in situ.

b) Friends of Elms Park (Cllr Champken-Woods)

A successful Mini Muster of the Sealed Knot was held on the weekend of the 18 & 19th of June. This was a joint effort between the Sealed Knot, Chinnor Rugby Club and FOEP and whilst the weekend was not a huge success mainly due to the weather and lack of advertising it was deemed successful enough to hold a full muster in 2024.

c) Thame Carnival Committee (Cllr Emery)

The annual Carnival Parade on 4th June 2022 was decided to be held over this year's historical and important week-end on the calendar for the whole of the country the "Queens Platinum Jubilee". We launched our week-end event with our very popular and fun packed Annual Pre-Carnival Quiz at the Cricket Club on Thursday 2nd June hosted by Sue Boyle and her husband, this was a complete sell out. The Trophy was won again this year by our super team, one of the most successful quiz teams in Thame; Wild Geese.

Saturday 4th June arrived with major downpours in the morning. This did not dampen the hearts of the volunteers of 21st Century Thame and the Maintenance Team of Thame Town Council they came to set up the marquees and stalls in record time. The show could not go on without their help. Many thanks go to them for the amazing help they gave us to transform a playing field into a festive Carnival.

Thame Community got together and paraded its way through the High Street to Southern Road Recreation Ground, the streets were lined with people watching the procession. We had a fantastic number of entrants representing the community of Thame in the parade from John Hampden School, Thame Belle's WI, Thame & Montesson Twinning Association, Thame Fire Service, Classic Car and Thame Town Council. The winning entry of the parade was John Hampden School wearing spectacular costumes with their interpretation of saving the planet "The Queens Canopy" all made from all recycled and sustainable materials and textiles. There were many comments of how "the carnival is part of most people's childhood and long may it continue".

This year, Thame Wombles followed the parade to ensure that we left no rubbish behind and they were on the Rec encouraging people to dispose of their rubbish correctly.

What's a performer without a stage BIG thank you to K&A scaffolding for supporting us again this year - allowing our performers to take centre stage by providing us with our Carnival stage. Our brilliant line up for the Thame Carnival - thanks to John Reid-Hansen!! The talents of Maria Karteris, Lewis Branch and Anoushka Battacharya. Great musicians and all local to Thame.

Thame Womble Uncle Bulgaria and Thame Deputy Mayor Adrian Dite opened the carnival to the razzmatazz of song and music. The Deputy Mayor, Adrian announced our three chosen charities that will receive funds collected from the proceeds of this year's carnival are Thame Girlguiding, Lord Williams Young Carers and Thame Friendship Centre.

Montesson Twinning Chair from France, Anne Gillet gave the winning prizes for the Carnival winner John Hampden School and other prizes for completions that were held during the Carnival.

A huge THANK YOU to Thame Fire Station for the best crowd pleaser demonstration, even being interrupted by the Lancaster Bomber didn't detract from their car chop!!! John and James from Westcott Medical Services Ltd for being our first responders, and the person trapped in the car!!! Also to ASM Auto Recycling for providing the car. A great team effort!!

One of the low moments was when we realised we only had half the number of marshals needed for the Thame Carnival parade to take place. This is a safety requirement that would have stopped the carnival in its tracks if Thame & District Round Table 753 had not come to our rescue. They came for the full briefing and stormed into action covering all the road closure points and street marshalling.

With thousands of people on the Recreation Ground for Thame Carnival, the potential for rubbish would be huge. Lucy Electric as one of our main sponsors requested they were involved in the sustainability of the event. The use of multiple bins, recycle, food and general waste, ticked their requirements and with the help of @Thame Wombles the site was kept very neat and tidy.

Did you notice?

That we did not deliver any paper Thame Carnival Programmes this year. Why? We are trying to make the Carnival greener / environmentally friendly / sustainable whichever word you would like to use. So, this year we went digital, Cassie Hooper from Buckinghamshire College Group, designed our logo and pulled together a digital programme, with a very loose remit from us. I'm sure you will agree it looked great. Pentangle Technology Limited worked their digital magic and posted it onto the home page of the Thame Carnival Website.

We were honoured to have been granted a fly-past by a Lancaster Bomber during this year's Carnival. The Avro Lancaster is the most famous and successful RAF heavy bomber of World War Two. There are only two airworthy Lancaster's left in the world - out of the 7,377 that were built. This was truly an unmissable opportunity to see one on your doorstep!

Our Carnival is only possible thanks to the incredible people behind the event. A big thank you to 21st Century Thame for all their carnival event management

Thank you to all our amazing Thame Carnival sponsors:

Lucy Electric B P Collins LLP Thame Bathroom Solutions Lightfoots Solicitors and BWK Solicitors, Thame Bathroom Solutions, Sarah Minchin Photography, DJ Dan Blaze and OX9ers for collecting your change during the Carnival Parade

You have all helped to make this year's carnival a wonderful success, pulling the Thame Community together to celebrate, not only the Platinum Jubilee, but also being able to have these events again!!!

Save the date, Thame Carnival 2023 is Saturday 17th June.

d) Thame Football Partnership (TFP) (Cllr Dyer)

Following a twelve month gap since the previous meeting the TFP Board finally met on 15 June. The mood of the meeting was generally upbeat and the merging of the senior and junior sections into a 'one club' constitution has been successfully implemented and has neutralised most of the inherited rivalries.

Financially the club is better placed than at any time in recent memory, with a positive cash flow and fairly substantial reserves. Following the unfortunate and untimely loss of the Treasurer in January a new accountant has now been appointed with minimum disruption and all financial reporting has been restored.

The year to date surplus to end-April of £ 35k will be bolstered further by the receipts from the annual Festival of Football, and the twelve month surplus to end-June is predicted to exceed £ 50k. Various capital investment projects are therefore now under consideration to ensure that the surplus is spent wisely and avoids Corporation Tax.

Essential ground maintenance is now under way in preparation for the new season, which will open with a series of pre-season friendlies commencing on 16 July (all details on the website).

The AGM is being held on 8th July and anything relevant will be reported verbally at the CLR meeting.

e) Twinning Association (Cllr Emery)

Nothing to report.

f) Thame Good Neighbour Scheme (Cllr Midwinter)

The TGNS has recently acquired 2 more volunteers who offer transport which is good as this is what we are mainly asked for and the Thame Community Car appears to be running at full capacity. Although the TGNS has always offered to reimburse volunteers for any expenses incurred, there is only one who regularly requests this. However I anticipate that requests for reimbursement might well increase with fuel costs rising so rapidly, but there are funds 'in the pot' to be able to cover this. On average we are probably only dealing with around 3 requests per week now.

g) Thame Town Cricket Club (Cllr Champken-Woods)

Pete Tervet was voted in as the new Chairman of Thame Town Cricket Club in early June. Pete has been a youth coach as well as a regular cricketer at Thame since 2014 when he and his family moved to the area. The handover from Matt Swain to Pete will be easier in some areas than others, but Matt is still very involved at the club as an under 9's coach and will be looking after the relationships with key sponsors and stakeholders for the time being.

There have been two committee meetings since Pete joined, both of which concentrated on the renewal of the ECB 'Clubmark' scheme, an accreditation scheme for cricket clubs demonstrating that a club is sustainable, well run and provides the right environment for its members. Other day-to-day operational topics were discussed at these meetings, but the focus at the moment is the handover process from Matt to Pete, ensuring that all key stakeholders are aware of the news, and that current relationships are managed.

On the weekend of the 10th July a Minor Counties Match Between Oxfordshire & Herefordshire will take place in Thame.

h) Chinnor RFC (Cllr Bretherton)

The club has 850 members with some 400 with voting rights. They are a not-for-profit community club that relies on membership income, sales and services, gate receipts and hirings to exist. They are extremely fortunate in having good loyal sponsors many of whom are local based businesses. The Club, has like all sporting and hospitality organisations, had a bumpy last two years. That has meant loss of planned revenue and led to creative ways to make use of the facilities. They have been well supported by TTC and benefitted from the Thame Sports Strategy contributing to the improvement of facilities.

Playing highlights.

Senior Rugby. The 1st XV finished in 7th in National 1. They won the Oxfordshire Cup via the Falcons who won the league and were promoted. The Wildboys Team finished a creditable 6 in the league for our Outlaws. The Kites (women's team) won the league and have been promoted. A good season for the club in its return to playing.

Junior Rugby. There was an appetite for youngsters to get to meeting their friends and there was a record number join the club. The club hosted a Junior Tournament for all ages and entertained over 1,500 youngsters at Kingsey Road for this event. The sides both boys and girls enjoyed the season.

Community Sports and use of the grounds.

The club has a regular group of over 30 playing touch rugby and 7s twice a week, in the season, once a week in the summer. A programme of activity for girls from 13 to 18 was launched last year and has proved popular. There are currently some 45 to 50 girls a week in two sessions.

Social use of the clubhouse

The clubhouse is used as a hospitality and events space for the local community. Currently there are; Thame Bridge Club, Baby Sensory, Pilates, Art Classes and many activities other business activities. The club also host wedding receptions and parties of all descriptions for the community.

Thame Shed

Thame Shed have been licenced to use one of the barns and they are converting it for use as Thame's very own Repair Shop. This space will also be used as the workshop for the RFC Friday Club.

Future Plans and Thame Sports Strategy.

New floodlights have recently been installed that allow the juniors girls and other exercise groups to use the facilities in the darker evenings. A bore hole has been installed which enables use of the water for pitches and to store water more easily. Currently a clubhouse extension is planned to enable more changing facilities for our female groups and to extend our changing rooms which are too small for the modern game requirements. At the same time a stand coming off the clubhouse is being considered as on a Saturday they can get up to 1000 people watching (always around 500) and can be wet and windy for our spectators. The club are grateful for the help of TTC and the funds available from the Sports Strategy.

i) Music in the Park (Cllr Jones)

The event was a success despite the weather being less than ideal but sadly it made a loss. With the weather being poor there were fewer ticket sales on the day and extra money was spent to make the event more special as it was the 10th Music in the Park.

The event was run by a largely new committee and as the event had not been run for two years it was a steep learning curve. But lots of good ideas came forward at the wash-up meeting which will be taken forward to next year and the committee is committed to the continuation of MitP

j) Thame Sinaia Friendship Association (Cllr Bretherton)

The Association continues to meet bi-monthly on Zoom as this allows our friends from Sinaia to join in. There are plans for a group to visit Sinaia this September for their Sinaia Forever festival.

k) Thame Museum Trust (Cllrs Cowell & Emery)

During the last few months, the Museum has been very busy with a number of exhibitions resulting in a considerable increase in visitors and enquiries from outside of Thame.

The AGM was held in the Town Hall on the 25th June.

The Museum continues to improve its finances.

- Increase in the number of volunteers currently 153
- Roof leaks appear to have been resolved
- Helen Johns has been elected to the Trustees
- There is still one vacancy for a Trustee
- Exhibitions
 - Thame Park
 - Robin Gibb
 - The Making of Midsomer

l) Thame Town Music Festival (Cllr Wyse)

TTMF is on course for this weekend, The Rat Pack will perform at St Mary's on Friday and Big Country will headline the main stage on Saturday.

m) Thame Shed (Cllr Wyse)

Thame Shed has now been painted a fetching white colour, four workbenches have been delivered and an electrician is installing the power sockets etc this week.

n) Thame Sports Club (Cllr Jones)

I am very sad to have to report the very sudden and unexpected death of the Sports Club's chairman, Peter Bozier after a short illness. He was a driving force behind the successful rebuild of

the new pavilion which came in on time and on budget despite Covid. He has left a huge hole in the management of the club but I am sure the membership will find the right personnel to fill it.