
Community, Leisure & Recreation Committee

Title: Report - External Organisations

Date: 25 October 2022

a) Cuttle Brook Management Committee (Cllr Jones)

The hedge work that was done in the spring, both on Nontron and Rycote Meadow, has been very successful with good rates of establishment. Although a slight fly in the ointment is that about 50 plants were accidentally mown out of Rycote by the hay cutting contractor. These will be replaced this autumn/winter with plants to be supplied by the contractor.

Plenty of otter sightings still going on but also a couple of recent records of mink - which are less desirable.

A review of work done on the reserve, especially the wet bits, was well received at the recent River Thame Catchment Partnership's Water Conference.

The diseased ash trees have been felled. This was carried out by a local firewood contractor using a harvester and forwarder to safely fell and extract the logs while the ground was very dry and firm, so no ruts were made. The contractor also paid the Town Council about £750 for the firewood.

The Town Council staff and Cuttle Brook volunteers are now clearing and chipping some of the branchwood that was left so the central area can be replanted in the winter with broadleaved trees.

The dry meadows were cut for hay in early August and the grass etc has greened up after the rain in September.

The brook has been very low for much of the summer and the invertebrate samples have also been disappointingly low.

The next major job will be the powerline wayleave clearance by specialist contractors of undergrowth, side branches, willow pollards and deteriorating ash etc along all the electricity wires at Cuttle Brook, with the work expected to start in the next few weeks and be finished before Christmas. John Morris met with the contractors and TTC's Asset Manager to discuss this tree work and agree it is necessary. It will leave a clear area beneath the wires but it will soon start to grow back

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

Thame Concert Band played in Elms park on Saturday July 23rd which was well attended. The crowd was made up of family groups and the elderly so covered all age ranges. The day was fine, even one lady had cycled 8 miles from a local village with her lunch to listen to the music.

They raised £140 which was to go towards the hiring of a minibus so that TCB could attend their first competition in Warwick in November. During the break the band and members of the public had the opportunity to purchase ice creams which went down extremely well.

Comments were made that TCB have improved immensely and that there was a wide range of music.

c) Thame Carnival Committee (Cllr Emery)

No official meeting has been arranged for this year.

The carnival team have been in contact with TTC to request setting up help from the maintenance team on the day. This is being reviewed.

All three cheque's of £800 each have been distributed to the Charities that the Carnival supported this year. LWS Young Carers, Thame Guides and Thame Fellowship Centre. All three charities we supported were delighted with the donations.

Thank you to all the sponsors and supporters of Thame Carnival. A special thank you must go to Sharon Smits, Ashley Dearlove, Cassie Pinnells and TTC Maintenance Team whom we could not have had a Carnival.

The date for next years carnival was decided by the committee and TTC Saturday 17th June 2023.

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

TFP continues to flourish with more members, more teams, and a healthy financial base. The Festival of Football attracted a record number of teams and contributed £ 15k+ in income, enabling the partnership to achieve its predicted £ 50k surplus for the financial year to end-June, and at the AGM in July the current Board were all reappointed.

For Thame United first team it has been a mixed start to the new season, having been eliminated from both the FA Cup and the FA Vase in the early rounds and currently sitting in the bottom half of the league, but they do have a number of games in hand over most of the other clubs. Many of the first team squad have recently risen through the ranks and are finding their feet at the higher level but, pleasingly, the first team now includes more Thame based players than in recent years.

The only current concerns are, inevitably, the increases in energy costs and the weather. Whilst the main pitch is in excellent condition the outer pitches are suffering due to lack of rainfall.

e) Twinning Association (Cllr Emery)

Montesson and Thame bond is still as strong as ever. This year we celebrated our 21st Anniversary of our association between the community and individuals.

In June 20 members of the Montesson Association came to visit the UK for our week-end exchange joined in with the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations around Thame over the week-end. Particular emphasis was placed on our week-end of Jubilee celebrations that had been organised around Thame.

September soon came around for Thame Twinning members to arrive in Montesson to celebrate their annual Fête du pâté à la Carmen. We had 30 members travel by coach for an active fun filled week-end. This was made possible by the generous contribution of £1000 towards the visit.

We continue to encourage links with schools and cycling clubs.

Thank you to David Laver, Sue Motterum, Liz Barker and Bridget Truman and many members who put in a lot of hard work and time in keeping this worthwhile Association very buoyant.

This year it is hoped we can stimulate more awareness of our Association in Thame and encourage more families with children to join us.

f) Thame Good Neighbour Scheme (Cllr Midwinter)

This month we took our 1000th request since we started! Our main requests continue to be for transport and befriending and with the onset of winter we anticipate that there will be increased requests for help with shopping and prescription collection. We have however also seen an increase

in requests from various agencies hoping for regular/long term assistance for residents which highlights the lack of resources in the social care system.

We have recently seen an increase in the number of drivers claiming for fuel, which is quite understandable bearing in mind the rising prices, but TGNS have plenty of money from donations available to cover these expenses.

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

The cricket season at Thame finished with the Thame Women's team being promoted to the top tier of cricket at the local level. Our 1st X1 finished mid table in the Home Counties PL division 2, but unfortunately the 2nd, 3rd and 4th X1's were all relegated after difficult seasons. Spirits in the lower league teams have not been broken and we are optimistic that we can improve next year.

The immediate focus of the club is to recruit new players for next season (at all age groups), as well as provide additional free coaching for those junior players who have been nominated for the Oxfordshire Cricket pathway trials. We are also looking at strengthening the junior section, and by doing so we hope to be able to field a girls team in various tournaments in 2023.

After a very short break, next season starts now with planning for leagues next year, as well as planning and undertaking various maintenance tasks. The off season is a good time to engage with sponsors, local businesses, groups and members and we hope - Covid permitting - to be a little bit more sociable this Winter!

With the ever-increasing complexity of running a cricket club, the main committee have had to deal with a very wide range of topics over the last year. With this in mind we have created two additional sub-committees to cover cricket as well as fundraising / sponsorship activities.

h) Chinnor RFC (Cllr Bretherton)

Nothing received as at 24/10/2022

i) Music in the Park (Cllr Jones)

All progressing well although the date for the coronation might cause problems if the bank holiday is moved back from the Monday to the Friday immediately prior to MitP. A Queen tribute act has been booked to headline. The group is actively looking for sponsorship to help offset the cost of running the event.

j) Thame Sinaia Friendship Association (Cllr Bretherton)

Nothing received as at 24/10/2022

k) Thame Museum Trust (Cllrs Cowell & Emery)

Last Trustees meeting held on the 6th October, key points and actions are as follows

- Off-site storage (Shed) to the side of Museum, planning permission will be applied for
- Fundraising, trustees to explore option for experienced fundraiser
- Items from site F that will be returned in 2023, a partnership agreement with OMS and archaeology company is being investigated likely to be end of 2023.
- Financial status is secure mainly due to grants and success of Robin Gibb exhibit.
- Robin Gibb exhibition will be scaled back
- Calendar of exhibitions continues to move forward.
- Planning permission to be pursued for the side extension, previous permission has lapsed

- Museum frontage, to be investigated on how to use space / windows better to invite people in.

l) Thame Town Music Festival (Cllr Wyse)

TTMF had another successful year and the First Thursday Club was due to reopen on the 6th October at the Snooker Club.

The organisers have made the decision to not to continue with Thame Town Music Festival. A statement has been made on social media.

m) Thame Shed (Cllr Wyse)

Thame Shed has now been officially opened and a recruitment drive for members is ongoing.

n) Thame Sports Club (Cllr Jones)

There is a stand-in Chairman in place after the tragic demise of Peter.

The club house is seeing healthy hiring rates by outside organisations which is good for revenue.

A Thame Sports Club Short Mat team has been established, as has a Thame Sports Club Table Tennis group.

A website refresh in progress.

Finances are healthy but as you would expect in this environment potentially challenging. Directors Neil Morgan and Bill Giles still actively involved, even more so after Peter passing.

The Tennis Club are progressing with an eco friendly project to replace the existing halogen floodlights with LED lighting. A major project but with wide ranging benefits.