

## Community, Leisure & Recreation Committee

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**Title:** Report - External Organisations

**Date:** 7 February 2023

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

The following have taken place since the last report:

- Re-planting of trees in the Cox's Wood felled areas (ash dieback clearance)
- Powerline clearance. There were a lot of trees felled, including some diseased ash at our request. Some of the felled material is earmarked for brook enhancement work - see later
- Regular postings on our new Instagram account, courtesy of Daisy Edinburgh - a DofE student
- A pollution incident caused by Thames Water contractors working in Coombe Hill Crescent which CBCV followed up with the Environment Agency (absolutely useless!) and with TW (who took it very seriously, investigated and kept Mike Furness in the loop, all of which was quite impressive)
- CBCV have started working with River Thame Conservation Trust on further brook enhancements through the reserve (including Rycote Meadow). The first stage is to complete a 'topographical' survey of the brook bed so that the best locations for enhancement works can be identified. The work is on hold because of freezing conditions and also very high water levels, both of which make it unsafe to work in the brook. It is hoped to re-commence the survey next week and complete it by the end of February.
- Thame Belles WI gave a donation towards the tree planting (c.£100) and five 'belles' turned out to help plant.

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

Nothing to report.

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

This year's annual Carnival Parade on 17th June 2023 does not have a "theme" so all parade entries can dress up, create a float or walk with a community group whatever costume or outfit you'd like. This is so that we hopefully make the parade bigger and better than it has been for the last few years.

Our new logo will be launched in the next couple of weeks. This has been designed again by last year's creator of the "Queens Platinum Jubilee" logo, Cassie Hooper from Buckinghamshire New University, Aylesbury Campus. We are very pleased that Cassie has decided to offer her support again this year.

Over the last couple of months, we have invited local charities to be considered as our Charities of choice to benefit from the funds we raise. The successful charities for 2023 are Thame Youth Memorial, Red Kite Family Centre, Thame & District Society for the Visually Impaired and Jack & Jill Pre-school Chinnor.

We have already been taking bookings for stalls, for more details on how to book a stall or a place in the parade or to be a sponsor, please go to the website <https://thamecarnival.co.uk/>.

We are looking for volunteers to help with the following:

- Website updates
- Email support
- Bookings co-ordinator
- Marketing
- Publicity
- Co-ordination of acts for the event
- Parade co-ordinator

- Road closure co-ordinator

If you have skills in any of these areas, we would be delighted to have you join us.

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

At the Board Meeting in early December it was reported that energy costs had tripled from £ 12k to £36k per annum, resulting in a small loss on the first half-year's trading. They are investigating the possibility of installing PV's and considering whether they might need to increase income through membership fees and bar prices.

All activities remain buoyant and the pitches have recovered from the Autumn drought and are in good condition. After a poor start to the season Thame United have now found some form and are slowly moving up the league table.

TFP have also been invited to take part in the FA Club Programme, a scheme which recognises clubs that excel against a range of key criteria including physical infrastructure, community links and senior/junior structure. Thame are one of just twelve clubs, from 84, in the Southern League to have been selected. Participation in the scheme enables access to specialist consultant support in key areas, plus improved access to grants and funding streams. They have, of course, accepted and are currently completing a self-assessment SWOT analysis as the first stage.

**e) Twinning Association (Cllr Emery)**

Membership remains strong.

Over the winter months the Association have organised a few fundraising and social events. Our most successful was quiz night at the Town Hall in November that was hosted by Sue Boyle. We were delighted to support and give a donation to her continuing fund-raising efforts for the Stroke Association.

We have not held any official meetings for the past few months. The Thame and Montesson Associations have agreed that our Annual Twinning exchange week-end will be 12th to 14th May 2023. As soon as the itinerary has been finalised it will be shared.

Everyone is welcome to join in the May week-end activities, contact us via the website <https://thametwining.co.uk/>

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

The Good Neighbour Scheme volunteers continue to help the community of Thame mainly with requests for transport to medical appointments, shopping, prescription collection and befriending. Many of them support residents on a regular ongoing basis. Several volunteers have helped out at the Warm Space which was set up at the Masonic Hall on Thursday mornings thanks to the generosity of Hampden and St Mary's Masonic Lodges. The update for this has been very low, so a decision will be made as to whether or not to continue as originally planned until the Spring.

We will also be arranging a tea party sometime in March for the volunteers as a chance for us to say 'thank you' and for them to get together.

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

Nothing to report.

**h) Chinnor RFC (Cllr Bretherton)**

*Nothing received as at 02/02/2023*

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

Plans for the next Music in the Park are well advanced with the bands booked and stalls organised. The event is due to take place on Sunday 30th April 2023.

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

*Nothing received as at 02/02/2023*

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

Thame Museum opens after the Christmas break on 4th February. We open with a brand new exhibition "Printastic" a celebration of the fantastic print work created by the Art students of Lord Williams School 2022. Communicating a wide variety of themes.

The recruitment Open Day on the 27th and 28th January was very successful. A report will be made available at next Trustees meeting.

Development Plan - there was a review of recent focus group meetings. Proposals include:

- Quarterly volunteer meetings
- Regular members meetings
- Creating a Who's Who organisation chart.

Marketing Team:

- created to promote museum, seek new sponsorship from leading Thame businesses and drive visitor attendance.

Operations Group Activity update:

- Discussion on acquiring the equipment required to support hybrid talks.
- Consensus at the meeting was to proceed with the purchase of the equipment
- 280 tickets sold in total for talks between 01 April and 31 December 2022
- Of those, 239 tickets were for talks which were offered as hybrid.
- 92 online tickets were purchased, meaning that 38% of our tickets sales in the period were for online viewing of streamed talks, as opposed to attending in person.

Museum Development Plan:

- The Museum Planning application has been approved.
- once a suitable draft is available then the next plan is to carry out workshops with Trustees.
- Programmes being developed to explain museum investment expansion.

Activity vs Space Assessment:

- The purpose of the meeting is to agree the top-10 most important activities for the Museum from a Trustees perspective.

U3A Bench:

- the U3A have requested that the bench be placed between the two planters at the front of the Museum. Following some discussion the request was approved by the Trustees. An email has been sent to Thame Town Council confirming this decision.

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

In agreement with the Town Clerk, as the Thame Town Music Festival has ceased, there will be no further external organisation reports from this organisation.

**m) Thame Shed (Cllr Wyse)**

Thame Shed now has 36 members and is open on Monday 13.00-16.00. and Thursday and Friday 09.00-12.00.

**n) Thame Sports Club (Cllr Jones)**

Following the sad death of Peter Bozier the club elected Gordon Taylor to be the new Chairman. All other committee posts remain the same. The club is in good heart financially and both the tennis club and the bowls club have strong active memberships.