

## Community, Leisure & Recreation Committee

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**Title:** Report - External Organisations

**Date:** 20 February 2024

**a) Chinnor RFC (Cllr Bretherton)**

*Nothing received at 14/02/2024*

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

Cricket activities continue indoors at LWS Lower School Sports Hall where we have coaching sessions for our juniors on Saturday afternoons, and on Sunday afternoons for our adult players. At Church Meadow we are continuing winter maintenance work and have repaired some storm damage to our fencing around the clubhouse.

Community use of the building is busy throughout the year and we are hosting a number of mid-week parties, wakes and business meetings.

The new season begins at the end of April with league matches commencing at the beginning of May.

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

A plea to reduce footfall has gone out on various media and hopefully the Cuttle Brook reserve will be recovering following heavy usage through a very wet winter which has resulted in damaged footpaths. The excessive rainfall also resulted in a flooding issue at the latter end of 2023 and there will be a report in Agenda Item (9). The application to the EA for a permit to carry out works to improve the biodiversity of the Brook has now gone in - submitted by RTCT. Dave Laver, Richard Hammond and Mike Furness have had training for mink monitoring- the first stage in a water vole reintroduction process that will take a few years! The hedge in Rycote meadow has been filled in where the mowing damaged it. And residents with properties which back onto the Cuttle Brook are being encouraged, via a leaflet drop, to make their boundaries porous to allow hedgehogs greater freedom to roam. The museum exhibition was very successful. Other than that the volunteers continue to keep the area in good order.

**d) Thame Good Neighbour Scheme (Cllr Dollman)**

On Wednesday January 10, Jane Webster plus 3 volunteers attended Cuttlebrook Hall Care Home where they were presented with a cheque for £500.00 by Care UK for their Local Heroes Award.

The TGNS continues to support the community with the help of our wonderful volunteers and as always, most of the requests we receive are for transport to medical appointments and befriending. To date (29 Jan) we have only had 2 requests so far this year, compared to 7 in the same period last year. This could be due to the fact that we haven't yet experienced any particularly adverse weather conditions and also that several of our volunteers regularly help clients who they make arrangements with directly.

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

This years annual Carnival Parade on 15th June 2024 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 proved a very popular format last 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. No decision has been confirmed as the committee are still receiving applications.

An application for a fly-past has been submitted; awaiting conformation.

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.

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

Nothing new to report, awaiting notification of next Board Meeting.

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

1. The Museum opened to the public on Saturday 3rd February after the Christmas break.
2. Financial status; our current situation is healthy with income and expenditure achievements in-line with our budgets.
3. We have a full calendar of displays and “talks” in position and planned for the rest of the year. Keep in touch with the Museum website for details. [www.thamemuseum.org](http://www.thamemuseum.org)
4. A Genealogy website facility is being explored.
5. We are continuing to capture email data from Museum visitors to develop a larger data base to market future events and talks.
6. We recognise the importance of recruiting additional Trustees who have significant experience in the Museum sector. Three new individuals have joined the team with these skill sets.
7. Work is ongoing on for a potential Lottery Grant proposal. Lead experienced Consultant in place.
8. The recent weather damage to the Museum is in the process of being resolved.
9. Planned exhibitions are LWS Art , Services, Sports over the coming months.
10. Work continues on the Forward plan, due for completion by March 2024.

11. It is hoped the post of TTC fundraiser will support the Museum, as this identified as key risk in the forward plan.
12. A new Code of Conduct has been adopted,
13. A draft learning strategy is in development, this will form the basis of the visitor story to the Museum in the future, focusing on the development of Thame.

**h) Thame Remembers (Cllrs Bretherton & Dyer)**

A total of sixty house plaques have now been installed, commemorating sixty-four men who gave their lives in conflict. We have had many reports of groups, including the Army Cadets and Yr.5 pupils from John Hampden School, organising plaque-spotting walks around Thame.

The Thame Remembers team also continue to liaise with TTC Officers regarding the additional names to be added to the war memorial, for which the new plaques are currently being manufactured, and we are working on the information displays to populate the Memorial Lectern.

**i) 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 10th to 12th May 2024. 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://thametwinning.co.uk/>

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

*Nothing received at 14/02/2024*

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

Music in the Park will take place on Sunday 5th May 2024. The acts have been booked including the headline one, sponsorship is coming along but more would be good to cover the ever-increasing cost of running the event. The stages, loos, security, first aid and marquees are all booked too. The Thame Wombles have confirmed they will conduct a litter pick and Thame Church will be running the children's area. They have sourced haybales for extra seating near the stage. However, more volunteers are still needed on the day and in advance.

**l) Thame Shed (Cllr Wyse)**

The Shed was closed over the Xmas to New Year period.

A carousel which is owned by the Museum has had 250 hours of very skilled work completed by the Shed people so it should soon be on display in all its glory at the museum.

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

Both the bowls and tennis clubs are doing well. New LED lights have been installed over the tennis courts. The Club will be celebrating its centenary this year and they have lots of events planned in May/June. The Clubhouse is pretty much booked to capacity when not in use with Club activities. The Sports Club was very pleased to receive a £1,000 grant from the Councillor Priority Fund sponsored by Thame's 2 County Councillors, Nigel Champken-Woods and Kate Gregory. These funds will be spent on battery-powered ground-keeping equipment which will help club volunteers to continue to look after the surroundings without having to resort to paid help.

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

Nothing to report.