

Our Place



Issue 58

Join us this Christmas...



We have lots going on this Christmas at Thomley including Breakfast with Father Christmas, the Holidays and Food Programme and we are open for the majority of the Christmas holidays.

Please make your bookings ASAP to avoid missing out, some days will have limited spaces. All the team at Thomley wish you all a very Happy Christmas and we look forward to spending it with you or alternatively seeing you at Thomley in 2025.

Christmas Holidays and Food Programme at Thomley...

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE



If your child is eligible for our HAF Christmas programme, don't miss out on booking their place.

Please remember to cancel if your child can no longer attend. Lots to do at Thomley this Christmas and still some spaces remaining.

Find info & guides on how to redeem their digital Holiday Activities voucher to book: <https://buff.ly/4fZXrZx>

Oxfordshire children who are in receipt of free school meals can now book places on our Christmas holidays and food programme, using your Oxfordshire HAF code.

This includes a day at Thomley, plus a hot lunch included. Spaces are filling up quickly so please book before it's too late and all the spaces are gone!

You can book places here: <https://buff.ly/3OFIaBl>



*** Breakfast with Father Christmas ***

There are also funded sessions to access our amazing Breakfast with Father Christmas, limited spaces so please hurry:

- 1 table on Saturday 21st December
- 3 tables on Sunday 22nd December
- 3 tables on Monday 23rd December

To benefit from this, please contact us on the following email address including the name of your child, their HAF code and the date you are requesting to attend: admin@thomley.org.uk

Upcoming activities



Paul Isaacs - 'Language Processing in the context of Autism'

Tuesday 17th December, 5:30pm

The talk will include breaking down the various identifiable challenges, giving both personal and observational experiences and potential strategies there can help with understanding.

Breakfast with Father Christmas

20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd December

A fantastic experience as Father Christmas visits your table with bespoke presents, plus you get a lovely full English Breakfast!

Christmas Opening

OPEN - Fri 20th - Mon 23rd December

CLOSED - Tue 24th - Thu 26th December

OPEN - Fri 27th - Mon 30th December

CLOSED - Tue 31st Dec - Wed 1st January

OPEN - Thu 2nd Jan - Sun 5th Jan

Silent Disco

22nd December

Join us for a silent disco, dance moves at the ready!

Christmas party games & Disco

23rd December

We'll be playing some Christmas party games, followed by a disco to get you in the mood for the big day!

Sensory jars and snow machine

27th December

A nice 'chilled' day to get out the house!

JANUARY SUPER SAVER TICKET

ATTEND ANY DAY IN JANUARY

FOR JUST £25 - this includes

weekends and in the Christmas

holidays from 2nd January.

Contact us to take advantage of this offer: admin@thomley.org.uk



Christmas appeal...



*** Our appeal to you, this Christmas ***

As we approach the end of another year and head into our Christmas activities, it's a common conversation we have with our visitors that Christmas is a hard time. Thomley is an invaluable facility but even more so during the festive period.

Please, if you can, support us this Christmas. We want to support as many disabled people as possible, offering them experiences and memories that they can't make in a community setting. This is their community. Without your support, it's extremely difficult for us to sustain the variety and quality of services throughout the Christmas period.

Please support our Christmas appeal, here: <https://buff.ly/4eQrH7Z>

2025 staff changes...

Joe Kitchen appointed Chief Executive

We recently advertised for an Operations Manager and that left several people asking us if Joe was therefore leaving Thomley. After 16 years of working for the Charity we are delighted to say that Joe has accepted the role of Chief Executive, leaving his role in operations.

“I am thrilled to be taking on a new role within the Charity and am excited to get going. Thomley is a very special place to work.

I welcome the support of anyone in our community who can contribute to the sustainability and development of this wonderful facility. Please keep Thomley in mind with the charitable efforts you may make as a business or individual, looking to support growing and local worthy causes.

Equally, please continue to use Thomley’s facilities, attend our events and support us as we further develop our services and facilities in the years to come for our visitors. My email address for anyone wanting to connect is: joekitchen@thomley.org.uk



Following the news that Joe is going to be the new Chief Executive we would like to announce that Anna is now stepping up to the role of Operations Manager. Many of you are well acquainted with Anna as she has been here years and worked directly with so many of you.

“I am immensely proud to be part of Thomley, and the amazing team we have. I often say if you cut me, I bleed Thomley green! I deeply care about Thomley and its future, and I promise I will continue to bring my best to this new role. I think it will provide me with fresh challenges and directions, and I am really excited for that. As always I will continue to advocate for the visitors.”

With Anna moving into Operations, we are delighted to have internally promoted Alice to be our new Service Manager.

“Many of you will have met me around Thomley since the Summer, and I have absolutely loved getting to know everyone and having lots of fun! I am very grateful for this opportunity and am looking forward to this next challenge. With the amazing support from the whole team I am excited what we can accomplish for Thomley and our wonderful visitors. I am very passionate about SEN and disability rights and access and am proud to be working somewhere as wonderful and unique as Thomley”.



“I have had the privilege to have been Thomley’s Chief Executive for the past 5 years.

Retiring at the end of 2024 I will be leaving Thomley in the capable hands of Joe our new Chief Executive and Anna our new Operations Manager, supported by very dedicated staff, board of Trustees and generous funders.

We have made many improvements to Thomley and seen record visitor numbers over the past 5 years despite COVID-19 and a continuing cost of living crisis.



The vision we set when I arrived in October 2019 was make Thomley the charity that “enhances the lives and experiences of people with disabilities, their families and the wider community”. I genuinely believe that we have made great progress towards achieving our vision. I sincerely hope you will continue to support Thomley in whatever way you are able; to help ensure we able to continue providing marvellous experiences for people of all abilities and disabilities”.

2025 pod availability and some offers to start the year...

Take a short break in the coming months and enjoy an overnight stay at Thomley in one of our camping pods! All nights include a day in the centre for FREE. See some of our special offers below, which offer you very affordable options to stay and play with us over the winter season.



JANUARY & FEBRUARY SPECIAL OFFERS

* 50% off one-night stays throughout weekends in January.

Use code: 'January50'

* 40% off of one or two-night stays on weekends in February:

Use code: '40weekends'

* £50 off of two-night stays in February half term - HURRY these will sell fast! Use code: 'FebruaryFun'

* Early bird Easter offer - 20% off of two-night stays.

Use code: 'EarlyEaster'

TO BOOK your pod, please visit the website and select the first night of your stay, followed by the last night of your stay in your selected pod.

Book here: <https://buff.ly/3uZhr6m>

EV Car Charging at Thomley...

A small section of our car park was out of use in November as we were having four electric charging bays installed. Not only will this offer visitors and the local community an opportunity to charge their electric vehicles, but it will enhance our green credentials and generate income for the Charity. These will be available to use from Friday 13th December.



Large barn or workshop space available to rent...



Due to our tenant of five years moving on to larger premises, we have barn and workshop space available to rent.

We are open to the whole barn being rented or just a section of the barn. The total floor space is in excess of 400 meters squared.

All enquiries considered. For a viewing or more information, please contact Joe: joekitchen@thomley.org.uk

Offices available to rent...

- * One person first floor office.
- * Four person first floor office.
- * Three person first floor office with storage area.
- * Up to eight person 1st floor large office complete with mounted TV screen and fantastic views.

Your office includes: parking, use of shared tea and coffee facility, toilets, access to a shared meeting room and full internet access.

To arrange a viewing or to discuss the terms of our offices, please contact Operations Manager Joe. The fees you pay for your office go directly into our Charity and therefore support our visitors.

Email: joekitchen@thomley.org.uk



Thomley Ball raises over £9,000...



A massive thank you to everyone who came to our Charity ball in November. As always it was LOTS of fun, all in the name of Charity.

The night generated over £9,400 for Thomley - which is the most we've ever made from the ball by a long way. Thanks to our guests, to those who donated for the raffle, the band 'Far From The City', DJ Ollie East, the caterers and our staff for a fabulous evening. See you all next year!

Thank you for your generous support.

Future initiatives - can you help?

The Thomley board and senior management team have recently conducted a strategy day, looking at the next five years and the strategic priorities for the organisation.

We also utilised the visitor research and consultation from the previous few years to help shape Thomley for the future.

In 2025 our Chief Executive Joe will be looking to connect with people who have experience running a preschool or nursery, with the potential for an inclusive one to operate from Thomley. We also are looking at a therapy space, with potential to offer formal counselling or befriending services.

If you are interested or have experience with either of the above, Joe would love to hear from you: joekitchen@thomley.org.uk



Early bird 2025 fundraising places...



In 2025 we will have teams of people entering various events. Some of these will be events we have attended before, such as the Oxford Half Marathon, Tough Mudder and more recently the Sky Dive.

However we are looking for those interested in taking part in an event for Charity to contact us - we will enter your place into any fundraising event you'd like to do!



We also will be organising several new events, including a team to take on the 'Three peaks' and a team to do a sponsored bungee jump.

We want to hear from you! Sign up today for a challenge in 2025, supporting us!
Contact us: fundraising@thomley.org.uk