

# Our Place

## Issue 59



# The cost of running Thomley this year and what that means for visitors...

As Thomley continues to develop and provide more for visitors than ever before, expenditure is always increasing. For example our staffing costs, utility bills and stock have all gone up considerably in the last 12 months and will continue to do so in 2025.

Please see the statistics in this info-graphic which summarises the costs to run Thomley in 2025. To help cover these costs we have made our first increases to visitor prices in the last few years. This will see £2 added to the full price and reduced price ticket costs. We have also added £1 per 'Additional adult' that attends with visitors, please note this does not apply to the first parent or any carers that attend with a visitor. The majority of venues charge for parents and they charge considerably higher than this.

For the third year in a row our camping pod (and camping) fees are remaining the same, and we will continue to post special offers throughout the year. Similarly, the sensory fees will remain the same for the third year in a row.



# Happy New Year

**Our staff & Trustees are wishing all visitors, donors, volunteers and supporters of Thomley a very happy new year.**

We can't wait to make more memories for you and continue developing our provision to better serve our visitors and the community.

We look forward to welcoming you back on site in 2025 and will see you all very soon!

Thank you for your ongoing support, please continue to do so throughout 2025 too!



## To run Thomley in 2025 it will cost over **£880,000**

Thomley is a Charity and we rely heavily on our fundraising to cover our running costs every year. We want you to help us ensure Thomley is here providing essential services for people with a disability well into the future.

**Did you know?**

We invested over £300,000 in new facilities in 2024 thanks to grant funding

Approximately 63% of Thomley's expenditure is on staff

Utilities alone will cost Thomley in excess of £37,000 in 2025

Direct maintenance costs such as cleaning, repairs and servicing will cost us in excess of £90,000 in 2025



Lastly, our price of a membership will also stay the same, at £25 (reduced rate) and £30 (full rate) per child. These are incredible value and enable you to visit at weekends, term time and school holidays on an unlimited basis, plus provide discounts for all of our events. You can sign up for a membership at reception, or by calling to discuss or by emailing: [bookings@thomley.org.uk](mailto:bookings@thomley.org.uk)

Despite challenging times for Charities, we will continue to try and enhance the lives and experiences of our visitors. We hope these small alterations are easily explained and that the value in our safe and secure offering far exceeds the cost of your visits.



# Upcoming activities



## Roast Dinner Day

**Sunday 2nd February**

Join us for a lovely roast dinner with the family, in a safe, familiar secure setting. Pre-book your meal slot for 12pm or 1:30pm.

## Adult Cooking Club

**Tuesday 4th February and Tuesday 4th March**

Adult Cooking Club is a popular club for those aged 16+, prepare, cook and eat a three course meal with peers.

## Youth Club

**6th & 20th February and 6th & 20th March**

Every other Thursday we welcome teenagers at our youth club. We offer some structured activity plus free time to socialise and form lovely friendships.

## February half term!

### Crocodiles of the World

**Tuesday 18th February, 1-3pm**

A very popular workshop! Learn about reptiles, including a baby crocodiles and a snake! You may even get to touch or hold them too!

### Meet the chickens and ducks

**Wednesday 19th February**

Come and meet our very own, slightly less scary animals!!!

### Beatboxing class

**Thursday 20th February, 1pm**

A fantastic chance to take part in a beat-boxing workshop.

### Jungle slime making

**Saturday 22nd February**

Messy slime. What could go wrong?

### Mother's Day Meal

**Sunday 23rd March, 11am-3pm**

Come and join us for a lovely Mother's Day meal, where you can pre-book your meal slot for 12pm or 1:30pm.



# February half term...



February half term soon comes around doesn't it! Make the most of Thomley's facilities and additional activities this half term. We welcome some popular external workshops such as beatboxing and Crocodiles of the World. Whilst we also have lots of activities and crafts being delivered by our own staff team - our theme for this half term is 'jungle'!

Book soon to avoid missing out as we have limited spaces. Look out in the cafe for some permanent additions to the menu such as chips (as requested by visitors in our survey) and a special or two as well.

Why not stay in our pods this half term, check out the special offers further in this newsletter and book before the limited offers have been all booked up!

We look forward to seeing you, your friends and family for the first half term of 2025.



# We are Recruiting for an Administration Officer...

**Role:** Administration Officer

**Start date:** ASAP

**Closing date:** 31st January 2025

**Hours:** Part time (25 hours)

**Salary:** £15,990 per annum

**Apply:** Please visit [www.thomley.org.uk/about-us/current-staff-vacancies](http://www.thomley.org.uk/about-us/current-staff-vacancies) for a copy of the full job description and application form. If you have any questions please contact our Senior Administrator, Mary: [mary.coleman@thomley.org.uk](mailto:mary.coleman@thomley.org.uk)

**At Thomley, Menmarsh Road, Worminghall, HP18 9JZ**  
(On the Oxon/Bucks border, between Oxford and Aylesbury)

## The purpose of the role

\* To provide administration support for all employees within the Charity.

Thomley are looking for an employee who is organised, efficient and who will act confidently when dealing with all administration tasks. The role is to ensure all aspects of our operations are supported, to include all general administration tasks. You will report to our Senior Administration Officer. We are ideally looking for a candidate who can come into the office Monday-Friday for a total of 25 hours.

## About Thomley (Charity No. 1089224)

Thomley is a place for people of all abilities and disabilities. We provide an exciting site for disabled people, their families, carers and friends. We support people at any stage of their diagnostic journey, whatever their additional needs. Thomley's site is packed with accessible activities for all ages and all abilities.



# We are Recruiting for an Events Manager...

**Start date:** ASAP in 2025

**Closing date for applications:** 31st January 2025

**Hours:** Full time (40 hours)

**Salary:** £29,000-33,000 per annum

**Apply:** Please visit [www.thomley.org.uk/about-us/current-staff-vacancies](http://www.thomley.org.uk/about-us/current-staff-vacancies) for a copy of the full job description and application form. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Joe Kitchen: [joekitchen@thomley.org.uk](mailto:joekitchen@thomley.org.uk)

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## The purpose of the role:

- \* Planning, delivering and reviewing all aspects of the events programme.
- \* Directing and supporting operational staff to create and deliver a programme of events to meet the requirements of strategic business plans and visitors.
- \* Plan, run and deliver events that either generate income, support beneficiaries or engage with our community.

Thomley has built an exciting and diverse events programme which is currently run by multiple staff within the organisation. As the programme has grown, there is a need to have one point of contact to run the whole programme. We are always looking for new ideas and it's essential any candidate brings new ideas and significant experience of working in events.

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# Refurbished Camping Pods...

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. The pods have just had a refresh, all have been painted and we've added fresh new flooring throughout. They look good don't they!

See some of our special offers below for you to benefit from:



## 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>

# Electrical Vehicle Chargers...

We are delighted to now have four EV charge points in our car park.

Instructions can be found on site at the charge points, but here is a summary of how to pay and use the system.

The chargers are available to visitors and anyone in the local community. Thomley owns the system, so when you charge your car with us, we generate money for the Charity!



## Lifeskills Opportunities for students 16+ with an EHCP...



Our on-site lifeskills programme has gone from strength to strength and we have now put several young people through the course over the past three years. The students have grown in confidence and learnt valuable lifeskills that will help them to gain employment and in their day to day lives. The beauty of the course being on site at Thomley is that it's a safe

and familiar setting for many of our young people, and knowing the site and staff makes it a much easier to settle. Parts of the course include work experience and cooking skills, both of which are done inside the Thomley fence. For example our current group of students have found it particularly rewarding to help look after our chickens and ducks as part of their weekly work experience. We still have spaces to join for the remainder of this academic year, but we also are looking ahead to September 2025 to get students lined up ready for the provision. If like to discuss the course or come and visit the classroom, please do get in touch. We would love to hear from you.

Contact Chief Executive Joe Kitchen on: [joekitchen@thomley.org.uk](mailto:joekitchen@thomley.org.uk)

Photo: Some of the group recently clearing up after the ducks and chickens!



# Offices available to rent...

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

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

The fees you pay for your office go directly into our Charity and therefore support our visitors. Please note these do not need to be used just as an office, all enquiries welcome.

To arrange a viewing or to discuss the terms of our offices, please contact Operations Manager Anna: [anna@thomley.org.uk](mailto:anna@thomley.org.uk)



# Book a birthday party in 2025...



What better venue is there for your birthday than here at Thomley.

Parties are extremely popular and have several flexible options, including on Saturdays whilst we are open to others, on Sundays with the site to yourselves OR after school evening parties.

We can even provide catering for your party for the children and also some options for the adults too!

To discuss a party please contact us: [bookings@thomley.org.uk](mailto:bookings@thomley.org.uk)

You can book your party date directly, here: <https://buff.ly/4eAq5QN>

# Accessival early-bird 50% off tickets...

Tickets for Accessival are on general sale, however for January only we are offering you the opportunity to get the tickets VERY cheap at 50% off of the ticket price!

The festival has grown in both years and this year will be bigger and better again! Grab your early-bird tickets, here: <https://buff.ly/48mm8vB>



# Fundraise for us in 2025...We need you!



We have lots of opportunity for you, your friends, family or colleagues to fundraise in 2025. We have some favourites booked in, such as the Oxford Half Marathon (we have limited places confirmed for this) and Tough Mudder (at any venue and date). JOIN as an individual and be part of our Thomley team. OR enter a group of you, perhaps your sports team, your work team or as a family.

After the success and amazing feedback from the Skydive in 2024, we are also putting on two dates again for this, in May and June.

We are also open to new events and will support anyone who has a challenge or event they want to take on. We are also looking for those who want to do a bungee jump or take on the three peaks - so we can organise a team for those also!

ALL places will be funded, so won't be at a cost to you. We just ask that you fundraise for us in return for your place. OR you can self-fund places if that's your preference. We would love to hear from you: [fundraising@thomley.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@thomley.org.uk)