

# Our Place

Issue 60



## A Pirate themed Easter at Thomley...



**Our Easter activities are planned and ready to go - with some eggciting Easter themed fun, with a Pirate themed twist throughout the schedule over the Easter break. The activities are now live and bookable on our online calendar.**

Please be aware that bookings on certain days will fill out quickly and we advise you book soon to ensure you don't miss out on your preferred days. We look forward to seeing you jolly shipmates soon!

# What's new at Thomley?



**New casual staff uniform!**  
Our casual play staff are here to play and supervise areas throughout your visits. You won't miss them in their new bright green tops!



**New go karts to race around site on!** With thanks to a very generous family who funded these. They are certainly going to be great fun for our visitors!



**New outdoor music fun!** Head over to our adventure area, watch out for the tiger as you ring a tune on our new alligator and monkey music equipment.

## New external workshops coming to Thomley over the Easter Holidays...



**New workshop for Thomley – Exotic animals on Monday 7th April.** Meet a new array of animals who have never visited Thomley before!

### **New workshop Music with Fred**

**Fred is a Multi-Instrumentalist and Composer based in London.**

Specialising in drum kit, playing all styles Fred can also offer vocals, bass and guitar. He also teaches privately and in workshops with current clients including Northamptonshire Music and Performing Arts Trust and various day centres for people with Learning Disabilities and Brain Injuries. We are excited for the session!



**Imajica Theatre specialise in creating Relaxed Inclusive Theatre Experiences for the younger audience.**

We create original musical productions, immersive workshops & interactive musical storytelling. Our work is SEN friendly, we focus on positivity, environmental education alongside health and well-being. We'll see you at Thomley this Easter!

# Upcoming activities



## 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.

## Easter Holidays!

### Exotic animals workshop NEW

**Monday 7th April, 1pm**

Meet some exotic animals, in this workshop that hasn't been to Thomley before!

### All day woodworking workshop

**Friday 11th April**

Paul will be in the art room all day, helping you make your designs come to life! Decorate and take home your woodwork at the end of the day!

### Music workshop with Fred

**Tuesday 15th April, 12-3pm**

Another new workshop at Thomley, for our music enthusiasts.

### Pirate Theatre Workshop

**Friday 18th April, from 11:30am - 3:30pm**

The last of our new workshops as the Easter Holidays draws to a close. An inclusive theatre experience for all run by Imajica Theatre.

## May half term!

### CAMPERS ONLY!

One night camp from Friday 23rd, after 4pm, to Saturday 24th May, close at 3:30pm. An inclusive and fun camping experience.

### Music workshop with Fred

**Wednesday 28th May, 12-3pm**

Another new workshop at Thomley, for our music enthusiasts.

### Donkeys and farm animals at Thomley

**Friday 30th May, all day**

Paul will be in the art room all day, helping you make your designs come to life! Decorate and take home your woodwork at the end of the day!



# Splash Park re-opening...



**It may feel like the cold weather hasn't quite left us yet, but that doesn't matter to some of our young people - who will be delighted to hear the splash park will be switched back on very soon!**

All of the testing and behind the scenes works will take place in March, ready for a switch-on prior to the beginning of the Easter Holidays.

The new area was a massive hit in the summer holidays, so we are super excited to have this back open for the spring and summer seasons.

Please remember to bring your own towels, however if you forget, we have spares for sale at reception. Please also remember to supervise your children in this area at all times. We may introduce timed slots if the area is over-crowded, however in the summer this wasn't necessary and ran very smoothly.

Have fun and remember to share your photos with us on social media!

# Holidays & Food Programme...



We are thrilled to be offering the Holidays and School Programme again this Easter, for all families in receipt of free school meals in **Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Milton Keynes.**

To book your Thomley places you will need to use the links below. Please do cancel your places in advance if you can no longer make the visit, so that someone else can benefit from your space.

On the day of your visit you will be able to pre-book your hot lunches when you sign it at reception. Thomley is open from 10am-3:30pm. Please see the below opening dates that apply to the county you live in / the scheme you qualify for:

**Bucks and Oxon families can put themselves forward to win a camping pod stay this Easter! Competition will be on Facebook from 12th-14th March.**

## **Buckinghamshire**

Available on: 7th April – 17th April  
Buckinghamshire visitors please use this link for booking details:

<https://familyinfo.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/advice-and-support/buckinghamshire-haf/how-to-book-haf-places/>

## **Oxfordshire**

Available on: 7th April – 19th April (but not Friday 18th April).

Oxfordshire visitors please book here:

<https://thomley.coordinate.cloud/list>

## **Milton Keynes**

Available on: 7th April – 10th April.

Milton Keynes visitors please book here:

<https://eequ.org/hafmiltonkeynes>



# An Introduction To Autism Taster Session With Paul Isaacs

3rd April 2025

Thomley Pavilion

5pm - 6pm

With Question & Answer Session

Session aimed at parents, carers and people on the autism spectrum



We are delighted that Paul Isaacs is now based on site at Thomley, as he rents an office on our premises. He is offering this FREE taster session in April for anyone to attend.

If you would like a private session with Paul, please contact him directly to arrange: [staypuft12@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:staypuft12@yahoo.co.uk)

## New feedback system...



We are always keen to hear about what you love and what we can do better. We have a brand-new feedback machine in reception which means visitors, families and carers can now easily share their thoughts with us.

Your feedback helps us improve our activities, facilities, gain funding and find out if our work has had a positive impact, making sure we provide the best experience for everyone. Next time you visit, give it a go!

# Spring Camping Pod offers...

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 all of you who are staying overnight with us.

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



## SPECIAL OFFERS

- \* Buy a one night stay in March and receive one night for free!  
Quote code: 'Marchtwoforone'
- \* Get 20% off two-night stays on weekends in April and May.  
Quote code: 'SpringWeekends'
- \* Buy a two-night stay in Easter Holidays and get an extra night for free! Quote code: 'Eastertwoforone'
- \* FREE continental breakfast box for everyone who stays in May half term. Email to claim: [campingpods@thomley.org.uk](mailto:campingpods@thomley.org.uk)

PLEASE NOTE: Only one offer can apply to each booking

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>

# Camp site re-opening date with new features...



The campsite will re-open on Friday 28th March. An affordable overnight camping stay where you can experience Thomley's facilities during the daytime too.

We have recently added a toilet and shower as requested by our visitors in our 2024 survey.

The campsite has 5 pitches, three are 'bring your own' and two come ready with a bell tent pitched up for you. Every pitch has an electrical hook up and a station to do a disposable BBQ on. All pitches can also access the toilet and shower, pot-wash station, drinking water and a fridge for your convenience. The price of your overnight stay includes a day in the centre.

Book a bell tent or camping pitch, here: <https://buff.ly/6TxVkYE>

You can also save £10 on stays this April and May by quoting code 'SpringCampers' when you book online.

# Life-skills Opportunities for students 16+ with an EHCP...



Our on-site life-skills 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 life-skills that will help them to gain employment and in their day to day lives. We are now signing up new students for the 2025/2026 academic year. Contact our Chief Executive Joe Kitchen to express your interest: [joekitchen@thomley.org.uk](mailto:joekitchen@thomley.org.uk)



# Last two spaces at Thomley available to rent...

- \* Three person first floor office / room.
- \* Four person first floor office / room.

**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)



## Spring birthday party availability...



**Parties at Thomley are very popular. We have some upcoming availability, which will book out quickly:**

**Sunday private hire party availability:**

May 4th – AM/PM or All day

May 11th – PM only

May 18th – AM/PM or All day

**Saturday party availability:**

April 5th & 26th

May 3rd, 10th, 17th & 31st

**Private hire after school parties are available on most days of the week.**

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>

# General tickets for Accessival on sale including family saver ticket..



Accessival planning is well underway and general tickets are now on sale!

If you are a family, you can benefit from the family ticket which is also on sale now. Join us for a fantastic day of live music, food, drink and endless festival activities. All in an inclusive setting. There are also camping plots still available for the night before and night of the event.

Book tickets: <https://buff.ly/48mm8vB>  
Email for camping: [bookings@thomley.org.uk](mailto:bookings@thomley.org.uk)

## Last few skydive spaces available...

We have 7 places left on Saturday 17th May and 4 spaces left on Sunday 15th June.

Join us for this incredible experience! We buy your place for you and our team will support you throughout the lead up to jump day!

We would love to hear from you:  
[fundraising@thomley.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@thomley.org.uk)



## Join our large team of Tough Mudders!



Our Tough Mudder teams are nearly full! There is a choice of the following dates in Henley for you to sign up:

**Saturday 10th May**  
**Sunday 11th May**

No fees to sign up, small fundraising targets, lots of fun!

We would love to hear from you:  
[fundraising@thomley.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@thomley.org.uk)

# We are Recruiting for an Events Manager...

**Start date:** ASAP in 2025

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

**Hours:** Full time (40 hours) will consider part time

**Salary:** £30,000-34,000 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)

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

## 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.

## 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 new Trustees...

## The role

As one of the trustees you will make a significant contribution to the future direction of the organisation, enhancing the experiences and lives of our visitors and their families.

Our existing Board of seven trustees is friendly, positive, outward looking and determined to sustain and improve Thomley. This is an exciting time to contribute your enthusiasm, time, and abilities in order to help us!

## Your role will include oversight and development of:

- \* Strategic direction – we are clear on our overall vision and would value your contributions in making this a reality.
- \* Being a critical friend for members of the operational team and to support them in delivering Thomley's strategy.
- \* Overseeing all aspects of the charity to ensure it is compliant with all regulatory requirements and accountable to all of our beneficiaries and supporters.

## We would also welcome the following specific skills:

- Finance in relation to reporting and compliance.
- Income generation through fundraising/utilising our assets. We are actively diversifying our income streams.
- Property knowledge.
- Marketing – to enhance Thomley's reach.

The above specific skills are not essential, and we would not want to dampen your enthusiasm to apply! A knowledge of disability is desirable but a willingness to understand what this means to our visitors and their families would be essential.

View the full specification on our website:

[www.thomley.org.uk/about-us/current-staff-vacancies](http://www.thomley.org.uk/about-us/current-staff-vacancies)

For an informal conversation about the role please contact: Joe Kitchen, Chief Executive – 01844 338380 / [joekitchen@thomley.org.uk](mailto:joekitchen@thomley.org.uk)