

# Our Place

Issue 61



# Upcoming activities

## 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 for the whole family.



**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

Who doesn't love donkeys! It's the first time we've had any here on site, along with some other farm animals.



**Father's Day Meal**  
Sunday 8th June

A chance to enjoy a lovely Father's Day meal, whilst spending the day in a familiar and inclusive setting. BBQ food is included in the entry prices and there will be some additional optional activities such as tug of war and football on the day.

### ACCESSIVAL FESTIVAL

Saturday 5th July - 11am-10pm

Our festival that is accessible to the whole community is a full day festival, with music, endless activities, a bar and all day food. Current acts include NICK COPE and DAVE BENSON-PHILLIPS. A magical event that gives families the opportunity to experience the best of all local festivals in a safe, secure and familiar venue.



# May half term...



May half term is nearly here and we have lots of fun activities to keep you busy for the one week school holiday, kicking off with our camping night on Friday 23rd May.

Look out for a NEW external workshop, as some donkeys and farm animals are attending for one day. Plus look out for some other activities such as Music with Fred, Gardening Club and other Pirate themed activities. For those who receive free school meals, there may be no Holidays and Food Programme available, but we do have 50 Cash for Kids FREE visits available for those from any county, to benefit from this half term. Further information throughout this newsletter. Be sure to book in soon before we are full - we can't wait to see you then!



# Splash Park now open!

**WOW** we have had some amazing early summer sunshine throughout April - the splash park is now back on and our visitors have been loving it!

The splash park is now permanently open until the winter season. Just remember to bring your own towels, not eat and drink within the fenced area and to supervise the young people you are with. We do have spare towels for sale at reception however we don't have spare clothes.

We have recently installed some new benches around the outside of the area, which are nice and colourful!

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



# New Gardening Club...



**Thomley's new gardening club launched this April! We have had some fantastic sessions already, which have included planting strawberries, plants and flowers then tending to them each week.**

Gardening club will be every Tuesday and Thursday afternoons at Thomley, come along to give it a go! Whether you want to plant and maintain something of your own, help watering the produce, weeding or just be more active. All of our visitors on adult days are welcome!

Look our on the activity planners for additional gardening club sessions.

## Holiday Hunger FREE visits to Thomley this half term

For those in receipt of free school meals, from Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes.



We are thrilled to have received funding for 50 places this May half term from Cash for Kids after our successful application as part of the Holiday Hunger programme.

These 50 places are bookable on a first come first served basis. Those booking MUST be eligible for the Holidays and Food Programme and be able to provide their unique code when booking. This is open to those from Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire OR Milton Keynes who are in receipt of free school meals.

**There are spaces available of each of the following dates:**  
Monday 26th May,  
Tuesday 27th May,  
Wednesday 28th May  
and Friday 29th May

**And that's not all...As part of the free visit the child will also receive a free hot meal, which is bookable when you arrive for your visit, from the below menu:**

**\*Mains:** Cheese panini with crisps & salad; Jacket Potato with tuna or beans, crisps & salad; Sandwich with crisps and raisins (Jam, Choc spread or ham); Beans on toast

**\*Pudding:** Chocolate mousse or Fresh Fruit

There is a £2 booking fee to confirm your booking, which we will refund you when you arrive for your visit.

**You can book your visits, here: <https://online1.venpos.net/VenposJourneyUI/?-LocationId=743&Id=0c0ec7e8-6bd0-456e-ac28-d5c1fbcfdbef>**



# Lifeskills Programme at Thomley - join now!

Thomley and New Meaning run a post 16 provision for those with an EHCP. The course is designed to offer basic lifeskills development plus a qualification of varying levels. This is an opportunity for those who are not in education or not ready for a working environment. The classroom is based at Thomley and the students will engage in various work experience and learning based activities on Thomley's main site.



The course is run for a half day on a Wednesday, full day on a Thursday and full day on a Friday in term time. The course is led by an experienced Lead Tutor and Teaching Assistants. The course type and qualifications that can be achieved are below:

## Achieve Entry level 1-3

Each entry level qualification is available at three sub-levels - 1, 2 and 3. Entry level 3 being the most difficult.

### Qualifications include:

- Entry level award / diploma / certificate
- Entry level essential skills / functional skills
- Skills for life

## Boost Level 1

### Qualifications include:

- Level one award
- Level one diploma
- Level one certificate
- Level one ESOL
- Level one essential skills / functional skills
- Level one NVQ
- Music grades 1, 2 & 3

## Boost Level 2

### Qualifications include:

- CSE grade 1
- Intermediate apprenticeship
- Level 2 award / certificate / diploma / essential skills / functional skills / national certificate / national diploma / NVQ
- Music grades 4 and 5

**Please get in touch if you are interested in joining the course for the 2025/2026 academic year. Now is the time to apply so that there is plenty of time to get you enrolled on the course. Please contact us ASAP to register your interest, by contacting our Chief Executive Joe Kitchen: [joekitchen@thomley.org.uk](mailto:joekitchen@thomley.org.uk)**



## ANNOUNCEMENT

A brand new Multiply Music location near Thame & Wheatley

Opening this June at Thomley!

Thomley, Menmarsh Road, Wortinghall, HP18 9JZ

multiply  
music

x

  
**Thomley**  
A place for people of all  
abilities and disabilities



**We are thrilled to have Multiply Music Group moving in at Thomley in the coming months. They will be basing themselves in a section of our barn and hopefully opening at some point in June.**

We know that many of our visitors will benefit from the services they offer. Being based at a familiar venue like Thomley will hopefully make this easier for our visitors that want to book these new services.

Take a look at what they do and how you can benefit from their services, here: <https://multiplymusic.co.uk/>



# Camping Pod May 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.

You also get to experience Thomley in the evening, where the majority of outdoor facilities are available to use, with only other campers to share with!

**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 camp-site is now open! 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 camp-site 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 your camping stays here:  
<https://thomley.org.uk/visit-us/camp->



# TWO NEW spaces 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)



## SPECIAL OFFERS

\* Get 20% off two-night stays on weekends in June (May half term not included). Quote code: 'Weekend20'

\* 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



# 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)

# Nick Cope and Dave Benson-Phillips both confirmed to perform at Accessival...

We are so pleased that the amazing Nick Cope will be performing at our festival on Saturday July 5th.

He unfortunately couldn't make it to last year but is back this year! His fun array of family songs will be performed after 12pm on the main stage...Lots of giggling parents to follow!



Dave Benson-Phillips was a last minute guest at the festival last year! He is booked in to give a fun performance on stage plus a meet and greet with any fans.

It will be a pleasure to have him at Thomley again and he's certainly not to be missed!



# Make a weekend of it - festival camping...

Camping over the night before and night of our festival is a popular choice. You can choose to stay one night or both, but if you choose to stay the Friday and Saturday we have an offer for you.

\*Weekend package of 2 night camping is £44 per person, but this includes: Camping stay overnight (Fri and Sat), Festival Ticket to Accessival on the Saturday and then Friday night entertainment including a movie on the big screen. There will also be hot food and drink to purchase on the Friday night.

If you would like to book the camping, please email us - limited pitches available: [campingpods@thomley.org.uk](mailto:campingpods@thomley.org.uk)

If you would just like to book to camp on Saturday night after the festival, you can do so for £10 per person (this does not include festival tickets).



# Thanks go to our Accessival Sponsors...





# Thomley Chief Executive and team take on The Three Peaks challenge...

Thomley have TWO teams taking part in the Three Peaks Challenge this year. One of the teams has two spaces left on the bus, anyone who wants a challenge this year, join the team!

The team includes our Chief Executive Joe Kitchen, along with other staff, friends and parents of some Thomley visitors. The challenge will be led by experienced Royal Marine Sgt 'Bonners'.

The team will embark on the challenge to climb the three tallest peaks of Scotland, England and Wales within a 24 hour period, hoping to generate valuable funds for Thomley in the process. The famous Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike and Snowdon offer beautiful views after a challenging climb to the top. The team will depart from Thomley on Friday 11th July and return to Thomley by Sunday 13th July. If you'd like to enquire or sign up, please contact us: [fundraising@thomley.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@thomley.org.uk)



Sponsor our Chief Executive Joe, here: <https://app.givematch.com/fr/5fx5NOSa>

# Thanks go to The Three Horseshoes...

A massive THANK YOU to The Three Horseshoes in Towersey for their amazing and ongoing support! Through their regular quiz nights, they've already raised £640 in 2025 for Thomley – and it's only April!

Do you work in a pub or workspace that could raise money for us through events or a collection pot? Get in touch if so!  
Email: [fundraising@thomley.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@thomley.org.uk)



# Popmaster Quiz with Radio DJ Ken Bruce



## Saturday 14th June, 6pm

Join us at Thomley for the popmaster quiz hosted by our Patron and Radio DJ Ken Bruce. There are limited tables and seats for this event so please book well in advance to avoid disappointment.

There will be six rounds of quizzing and of course a prize for the winners of the quiz (plus a photo alongside Ken of course). We will also have a raffle on the night to generate some additional funds for the Charity.

Tables / teams of a maximum of 8 people can be purchased through our website. We strongly encourage people to pre-order drinks packages, food boards (charcuterie or cheese) or pizzas on the website prior to the event. Hot food and fully stocked bar also available on the night itself.

Book your tables, food platters and drinks packages in advance here: [www.thomley.org.uk/Ken-Bruce-Quiz](http://www.thomley.org.uk/Ken-Bruce-Quiz)

**A place for people of all abilities and disabilities**

[www.thomley.org.uk](http://www.thomley.org.uk)

## Five star cafe hygiene rating...

We've done it again! Thomley has just received another 5-star hygiene rating for our kitchen!

A HUGE thank you to our amazing Catering Coordinator Hayley and her super kitchen crew for keeping everything spotless and serving up the most delicious meals with love and care every single day.

A lot of work goes into ensuring our visitors are fed, dietary needs met and schemes such as the Holiday and Food Programme are delivered to a high standard.



## 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)

# Join our bank of casual staff in the following roles...

**\*Kitchen staff**

**\*Duty Managers**

## Apply for either role

You can find out more about either role and apply on our website on the following link:

<https://thomley.org.uk/about-us/current-staff-vacancies/>

