

# Our Place

Issue 62

## Summer Holidays...



**Can you believe it's almost summer! We are excited to host lots of summer fun for our visitors, all we ask is that you bring the sunshine with you!**

This summer will be our first full summer holidays with the splash park and the full use of our outdoor snack-shack. We will also have our new wheelchair trampoline open and offer many new workshops for you to experience for the first time. Our summer camping weekend is always a brilliant occasion, where you can stay one or two nights. The Holidays and Food Programme is back for Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire families in receipt of free school meals.

Lastly, we will kick off summer with our 25th Anniversary affordable party day and end the summer in style with our affordable end of summer Family Fun Day. There is lots to look forward to. Read on for more details about all of the above.



## Holidays and Food Programme at Thomley this summer...

**You can now book for the holidays and food programme for this summer. You must be in receipt of free school meals and live in Buckinghamshire or Oxfordshire.**

Buckinghamshire families can book from Monday 28th July to Wednesday 3rd September and Oxfordshire families can book from Monday 28th July to Monday 1st September in Oxfordshire.

You can make bookings via the website of either local authority. The full details will be sent directly to all who are eligible for the programme.

Information for Buckinghamshire can be found here:  
<https://familyinfo.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/advice-and-support/buckinghamshire-haf/>

Information for Oxfordshire can be found here:  
<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/children-and-families/information-parents/holiday-activities-and-food>

**We are also delighted to be offering 24 one-night stays in our pods throughout the summer delivery period for Buckinghamshire families, and 10 one-night / 5 two-night stays for Oxfordshire families. These stays include the use of the centre in the daytime, plus lunch, breakfast and dinner. What a treat! (please note the stay, breakfast and dinner are for the whole family with lunch for HAF eligible children only)**

If you would like to take advantage of this fantastic offer, we will be picking the names at random from all entrants on Wednesday 9th July. So please enter no later than Tuesday 8th July 23:59pm. Winning entries will be notified via email on Thursday 10th July.

To enter please email us stating: which county you are from, the full names of your child/ren and confirming you access the Holidays and Food Programme. To qualify you must book your day place(s) for HAF with Thomley via your council provider booking website, to coincide with your overnight stay.

Email us here to enter: [campingpods@thomley.org.uk](mailto:campingpods@thomley.org.uk)



# Upcoming Summer activities & events...



## 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.



## SUMMER HOLIDAYS

Thomley's 25th Birthday Party - Affordable Family Day

Friday 25th July

Celebrate everything Thomley on our 25th birthday! Low family ticket prices to come and play with us!



Yoga with Jess

Monday 28th July, 1pm

Join in with a relaxing yoga session!

**CAMPERS ONLY!**

One or two night camp from Friday 1st August - Sunday 3rd August

An inclusive and fun camping experience for the whole family.

Disability Water Day

Tuesday 5th August

Water Day is back and wetter than ever - prepare to get drenched! While the indoor areas of Thomley remain closed, we bring you a super soaking of outdoor fun. Bring towels, swimming costumes, sun cream, and a change of clothes. As always at the end we will have a huge water battle!



Gardening Club

7th, 21st and 28th August

Grow and learn in our horticultural area with a member of our team.

Skateboarding workshop

Friday 15th August

Fancy yourself at the next Tony Hawks? Our workshop is for all standards, but primarily will help you grasp the basics of skateboarding!

Glazing plates workshop

Wednesday 19th August

A new workshop for you to try out! Something to make and take home with you!

Electric Umbrella Music Workshop

Thursday 21st August

The amazing Electric Umbrella join us for musical fun - as seen on Britain's Got Talent!

Woodwork workshop with Paul

Wednesday 27th August, all day

Get creative and design your own piece of woodwork, to decorate and take home with you at the end of the day too!

End of summer affordable Family Fun Day

Friday 29th August

An affordable treat for the end of summer, as we slash our prices to let you finish the summer with a full day of fun activities!

PLUS activities every day of the summer holidays. Please check out our online calendar for the full schedule, where you can also book your visits.



# It's time for Accessival Festival - full details...

All of the planning and organising of an event like Accessival is completely worthwhile when you see the joy on the faces of those that attend. We can't wait to welcome everyone who has bought tickets and welcome the whole community to our festival.



**Book tickets:** <https://buff.ly/48mm8vB>

## 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).



## The Main Stage



**11am**

Introductions from the MC - Nathan

**11:05am Amelia**

Amelia is a singer-songwriter who loves writing and performing original pop songs, as well as covers from her favourite artists. Inspired by the likes of Coldplay, Billie Eilish and Adele she has been composing on piano and guitar for five years.

**12:20pm Codie West**

London-born recording artist Codie West began his career at just five years old and has since carved out a dynamic path across TV, music and international stages. Mentored early on by Soul II Soul's Jazzie B, Codie's passion for music took centre stage, leading to stand-out performances, major brand collaborations and appearances from prime-time TV to the House of Commons. Fresh off a run of high-profile shows across Europe, Codie is now focused on his debut album. His new single Ibiza Nights will be out summer 2025.

**1:45pm Dave Benson Phillips**

We welcome TV legend Dave Benson Phillips to Thomley! His appearance on the main stage will consist of a mixture of music and fun! Have a sing-along and enjoy!

**3:15pm Mike Carroll**

Mike Carroll, singer songwriter based Aylesbury. Original songs, solo on Acoustic Guitar or Frank Sinatra Tribute, 70s covers. Over 45 years in the musicBusiness.

**4:20pm The Jeremy Harmsworth Band**

Jeremy Harmsworth 's combo play a mixture of Jazz Classics, with and without vocals. We also perform more recent, easy listening numbers, according to our audience demographic. Our aim is for them ( and us) to have a good time, tap their feet, sing along and even dance if they like!

**5:25pm Everybody Loves the Sunshine**

Everybody loves the sunshine "are a local roots reggae and scar band playing a number of traditional Jamaican and British tunes but with their own twist .

**6:30pm Andy Robbins**

Andy Robbins is a singer songwriter from Oxford, England. His sound being described as Americana with folk and blues influences. Growing up listening to his Dad's music, which consisted of The Beatles, The Rolling Stones Eagles & The Clash to name a few. In 2016 he signed to "BFS Records" His debut release "Element Of Surprise" received rave reviews from critics & musicians alike.

**7:35pm Elastic Cats**

We're Tring's hardest rockin and fun covers band playing 90s and 00s indie rock hits. Having played many pubs, party's and festivals over the last 6 years including Pennfest, Astonbury, Pendley Theatre, The Aston Clinton Beer Festival, RAF Halton events to name but a few!

**8:35pm DISCO TIME**

As the sun sets and the festival begins to wind down, get ready to turn up the energy one last time! Our brilliant compère for the day, Nathan, will be swapping the mic for the mixing decks as he dusts off his legendary DJ-ingUK disco decks for a sensational revival set! Good vibes, great tunes and a whole lot of dancing – the perfect ending to an unforgettable day!



# Activity Schedule

Timed activities (**activities in red** are not included in the entry wristband and are an additional cost):

Multiply Music Drumming	11:00 - 15:00
Splash Park	11:00 - 17:00
Circus Skills	11:00 - 12:30
Tombola	11:00 - 17:00
Archery	11:30 - 12:30
Giant Bubbles	12:00 - 12:30
Lionel the Train rides	12:30 - 13:30
Treasure Hunt	13:00 - 13:30
Archery	13:30 - 14:30
Giant Bubbles	14:00 - 14:30
Parachute games	14:00 - 14:30
Circus Skills	14:00 - 15:00
Poi workshop	14:30 - 15:30
Lionel the Train rides	15:00 - 16:00
Archery	15:30 - 16:30
Giant Bubbles	16:00 - 16:30
<b>Hair Braiding</b>	16:00 - 18:00
Tug of war	16:30 - 17:30
Giant Bubbles	18:00 - 18:30
Fire pit, stories & <b>smores</b>	19:00 - 19:45

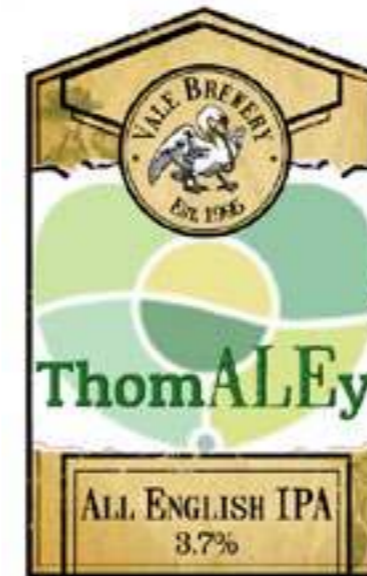
## All Day activities:

Trampolines, Jumping Pillow, Bouncy castle, inflatable assault course, inflatable slide, park, sandpit, Lego Zone, Roll up and Rock sensory domes, inflatable slide, football, sensory play areas, **Face painting, Airbrush tattoos, candy floss stall, ice cream stall**



# All day food & drink

All soft drinks can be purchased at the cafe. There is an all day bar serving a lovely ale including our very own 'ThomALEy' brew. Also serving lager, cider, Prosecco and mixers. You can also try our special Thomley cocktail! Buy all food tokens from the cafe. Present your tokens for chips and pizza at the outdoor snack shack and at the BBQ for your burgers and hotdogs.



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We are delighted to have various vendors on site, including: \*Melcer Creations with a wide selection of personalised merchandise, SEN gifts, toys and clothing. \*Just Jose Book Series stall, selling lovely inclusive books \* Cake stall \* Tombola

There is also an ice cream and candy floss stall outside the pavilion which includes the below amazing choices! Including gluten free & vegan options.



# Use the snack shack this summer...

We realise that on busier days it can be frustrating queueing or difficult for some children waiting to order food or drink.

To make this easier, our outside snack shack (on the outside patio) will be open on busier days. You will be able to purchase cold drinks, ice creams and snacks from here. This will reduce queues and hopefully mean it's easier to also just grab something small. Please continue to order your meals and hot drinks via the normal cafe serving hatch. We hope this helps.



*We recently had our lifeskills students running the snack shack for the day, as part of their work experience.*

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



The camp-site is open for summer! 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.

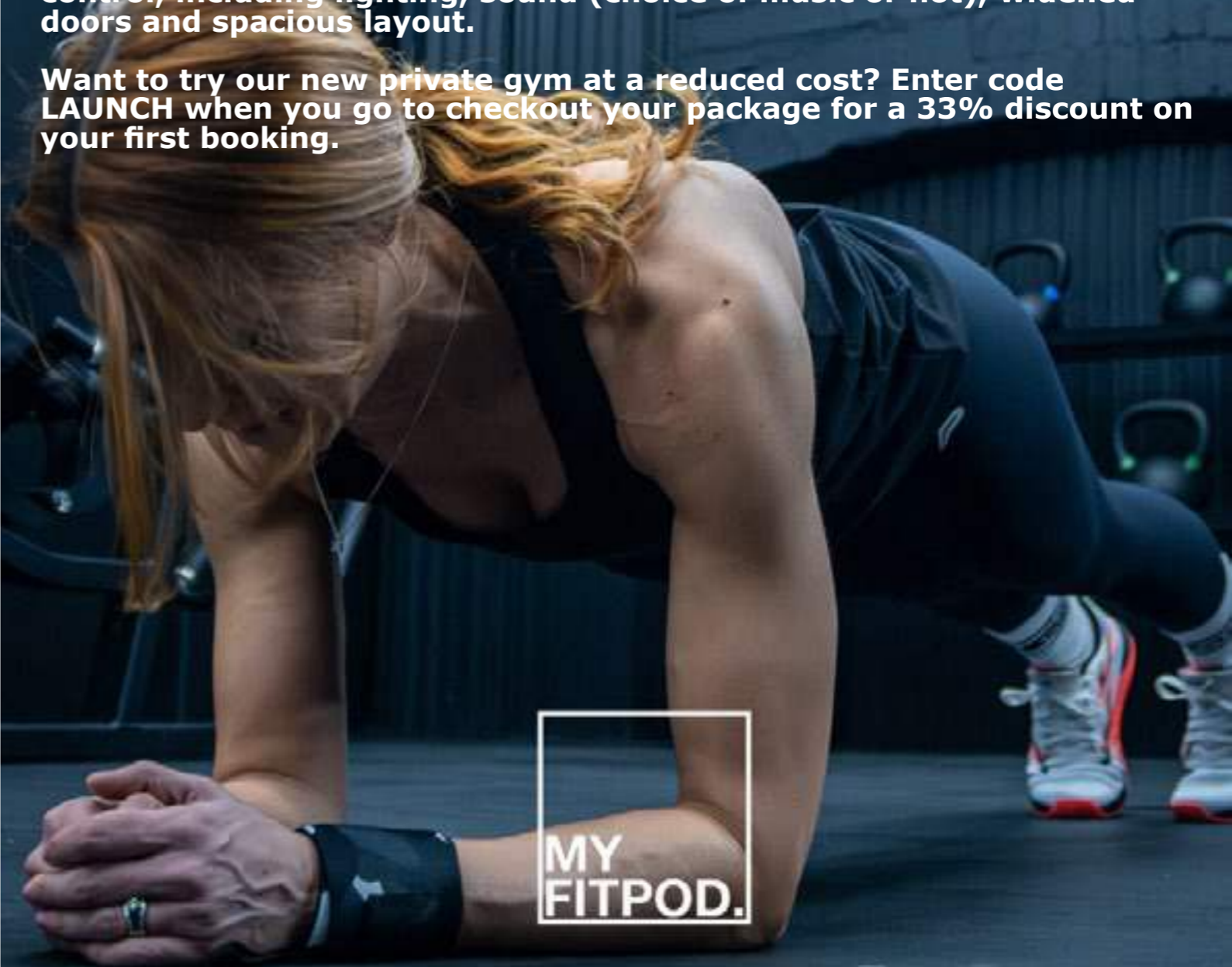


# Oxford East Opening 16th July

We recently announced that our new Gym would be opening here on site. The new My Fit Pod private gym space will open on 16th July 2025.

The gym is designed to offer those who require a private space, without others and without queues. All the equipment you need to have a valuable gym session. Variables in our gym that you can control, including lighting, sound (choice of music or not), widened doors and spacious layout.

Want to try our new private gym at a reduced cost? Enter code LAUNCH when you go to checkout your package for a 33% discount on your first booking.



Download the My Fit Pod app on iOS or Android to get started!



**Multiply Music Group have now opened at Thomley! They would be really pleased to hear from you if your child could benefit from their services.**

Being based at a familiar venue like Thomley will hopefully make it easier for our visitors that want to book these new services. Take a look at what they do and how you can benefit, here: <https://multiplymusic.co.uk/>

# Welcome to the team!

We are absolutely thrilled to welcome some fantastic new staff to our team. Please say 'hello' to them on your next visit, they'd be delighted to meet you! This includes a new role to Thomley, as we have expanded our events programme in recent years and now need someone to manage them full time going forwards.



**Meet Dawn — A new but also very familiar face at Thomley!**

Dawn Evans first joined Thomley in 2007 and worked with us until 2014. After spending time working in special schools and nurseries and raising her lovely family, she's back!

"Thomley has always held a special place in my heart, so when the opportunity came to return, I grabbed it!"

We're thrilled to welcome Dawn back as a Senior Playworker, as she dives into some fun activities and reconnects with old (and new!) faces.

Outside of work, Dawn enjoys time with her two teenagers and going to live music events.



**Meet Sophie Annison, our amazing new Senior Playworker!**

After 10 years as a tattoo artist, Sophie made the leap into a new career and we're delighted she's joined the Thomley team. Her passion for supporting others started in her previous role as a SEN teaching assistant, where she visited Thomley weekly.

When she's not at work, you'll likely find Sophie painting, exploring historic castles (she's a bit of a history buff!), or out on her motorbike soaking up the sunshine.

Welcome to the team Sophie, we're so happy to have you!



**Last but not least, a huge welcome to Kelly Houghton who joins Thomley as our Events Manager. Kelly joined us in May 2025 and brings a wealth of experience in Event Management and Fundraising.**

In her new role, Kelly will be creating inclusive, accessible, and engaging events that bring our community together and make every visitor feel welcomed, valued and inspired.

"Every event at Thomley is a chance to break down barriers, build confidence, and create lasting memories. I love seeing the joy on people's faces when they attend a well-organised, fun and inclusive event—it's truly the highlight of the year for so many families."

Outside of work, Kelly's passions include travelling, photography, reading, beachcombing for sea glass and discovering new foods and cultures.

# Summer Camping Pods...



The camping pods this summer are completely full. We apologise to everyone who is still enquiring about availability, but they have now become so popular that we have booked up in advance of the summer.

There are still some spaces in term time and at weekends, which you can book on our website. Similarly, we expect October half term to book out quickly, so please do book soon to avoid disappointment.

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

## Three spaces to rent...

- \* Two / three person first floor office / room.
- \* Three / four person first floor office / room.
- \* One person first floor office / room.

**Your space 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)



## Thanks to Ken Bruce and all the Popmaster Quizzers!



**The Ken Bruce Popmaster Quiz helps generate valuable funds for Thomley.**

What a night we had as we welcomed over 140 people to Thomley to take part in an amazing quiz with the legendary Ken Bruce! We ate, we drank and most importantly we quizzed - all in the name of raising money for Thomley.

THANK YOU to Ken for his time and support as always. THANK YOU to everyone who came and quizzed with us, your support means everything.

## Sky Divers risk it all for Thomley...

We are all so grateful (and in awe) to our two sky diving teams that took to the skies in recent weeks, to raise money for us as Thomley.

Thanks for your efforts and for supporting our Charity. The team have raised thousands between them, which will go directly to supporting our services.

If you'd like to sign up to an event for 2025 or 2026, get in touch with us:  
**Email:** [fundraising@thomley.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@thomley.org.uk)

