

THRAPSTON TOWN NEWS



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Issue 3 December 2023

CLOVER DRIVE PLAY AREA

Work on a brand new children's play area in Clover Drive has begun after Thrapston Town Council received a grant of £50,000 from FCC Communities Foundation.

The brand new children's play area will accommodate play equipment suitable for children aged between 4 and 11 years old. It also includes new flooring and accessible equipment so children of all abilities can use it.

Mayor of Thrapston, Councillor Craig Wilcox, is looking forward to a new play area being available for the children in the town, especially as Thrapston continues to grow.

He said: "We are delighted that FCC Communities Foundation has awarded Thrapston Town Council a grant to replace the existing play area in Clover Drive. The new park, designed and built by Kompan, will also ensure a wider age range of children can enjoy the equipment, as well as those with additional needs. It's important that play areas are inclusive and we look forward to seeing more families in the area be able to use this."

FCC Communities Foundation is a not-for-profit business that awards grants for community projects through the Landfill Communities Fund. Richard Smith, FCC Communities Foundation Senior Grant Manager, says: "We're delighted to be supporting the Clover Drive play area refurbishment and pleased our funding will improve such a valuable asset for families to enjoy in Thrapston. FCC Communities Foundation is always happy to consider grant applications for projects that make a difference to local communities and we're really looking forward to seeing this one take shape soon."

Work is due to be completed towards the middle of December and an official opening will take place on Thursday 21st December at 11am. Please do come along if you can and all are welcome.



MAYOR'S WELCOME

Welcome to this December edition of our newsletter. As we gather once again to celebrate the festive season, I'd like to wish a Merry Christmas to each and every one of you. The holiday spirit is in the air, and our community is aglow with the spirit of togetherness.

The past year has been filled with both challenges and triumphs, most significantly with the recent school bus situation. It's the strength of our town's spirit & teamwork that helped us overcome this hurdle which is going to benefit so many, I'd like to thank everyone that helped and showed their support.

This year's festive newsletter is a testament to the wonderful events, achievements and people that define our town. From the varied events, such as the Christmas Festival, King's Coronation & Firework Display to the heartwarming charitable acts carried out by you, our residents.

This year so far, with your kind generosity we have raised over £4,000 for the Mayor's charity, CHAT Youth Counselling. I'd like to extend my personal thanks to everyone that has given up their time and money to support this worthwhile charity.

I encourage you all to enjoy the festivities, support our local businesses, and, most importantly, appreciate the time spent with family and friends. Let us come together, in true Thrapston spirit, to make this holiday season memorable for all.

I wish you all the best for the festive season, and I look forward to the exciting events and opportunities the new year will bring to our amazing town.

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MAYOR'S MUSIC NIGHT

On Saturday 14th October, Mayor Craig Wilcox hosted a charity music night, alongside the Royal British Legion, to raise money for both the RBL and Cllr Wilcox's chosen charity, CHAT Youth Counselling. The Top Banana Band provided guests with a host of party favourites and everyone spent the night up on their feet, dancing away! There was also a fantastic raffle and altogether £1,454 was raised with the amount being split between both charities. Thank you to everyone who came along and enjoyed a great night of live music.



The Top Banana Band have everyone up on their feet



Mayor Craig Wilcox and Chair of the Thrapston and District RBL Matthew Ellmer announce the raffle winners

FACILITIES WOODLAND UPDATE

Thrapston has many lovely green spaces throughout the town from meadows along the edge of the River Nene to woodlands that follow the old route of the Nene Valley Railway Line.

These areas are cared for by the Town Council's Facilities Team and the Council's contractors, and more recently by volunteers from the Thrapston Nene Valley Park Project.

The three main woodlands in town, until now, have been left as wild. Any work undertaken has been to remove broken branches or damaged or diseased trees, to allow the community to continue to use the areas safely. Over the past two years, the Town Council has been working with both Natural England and the Wildlife Trust to determine what work is required to allow these areas to flourish, whilst still making them accessible to the local community. The list of work required includes:

- Thinning of areas of trees to promote good strong stock to remain.
- Thinning of trees to allow light to reach the floor, allowing the understorey to recover and flourish.
- Define pathways to protect sensitive habitats, such as wet woodlands.
- Thinning of the canopy to create a couple of glades, increasing the biodiversity of the area.

The Town Council will continue to undertake any work as sensitively as possible and therefore these projects will take place over several years, little by little. The first project will be to thin the trees along the edge of the Meadow Lane car park that were overhanging the cars this year. Over several years the projects will be completed and then a new maintenance plan will be introduced to keep the areas from returning to a wild state.

If you would like to get involved in the woodland projects, or you would like to get involved with looking after some of the other green spaces around the town, please contact Thrapston Town Council on 01832 734673 or by email office@thrapstontowncouncil.gov.uk.

FRIENDS OF THE PEACE PARK BULB PLANTING

On Thursday 26th October, Friends of the Peace Park community gardening group, along with volunteers, braved the miserable weather and planted the bulbs that were kindly bought through donations from local businesses.

Squirrels Day Nursery also came along with the young children enjoying finding worms as they dug up the ground and generally getting involved and their hands dirty!

£300 worth of various bulbs were planted along the bottom of the Peace Park in the beds lining the Poppy Garden.

A huge thank you to Simpson & Partners, Jute Coffee, Stratos Control, Scotts of Thrapston, Thrapston Farmers Market, Jollys Toys, Arty Designs, Flair Hair Salon, RJ Barbers, The Bridge Hotel, Crowsons Funeral Directors, Thrapston Town Council, Hermitage House Care Home and Pedal Barn Cycles.

We can't wait for spring to see them bloom!



REMEMBRANCE WEEKEND

At 11am on Saturday 11th November, Thrapston fell silent as we honoured and remembered the fallen from the British Armed Forces involved in the two World Wars and all conflicts since.

Representatives from East Northants First Responders, North Northamptonshire Council and the Royal British Legion laid wreaths at the stone memorial in Coronation Gardens. Once the service concluded, Chairman of the Thrapston and District Royal British Legion, Matthew Ellmer, led the Walk of Remembrance up to the cemetery to lay crosses on the graves of the war dead.

On Sunday 12th November, the community gathered back in Coronation Gardens to commemorate the national silence at 11am. Thrapston Town Band's bugler player sounded the Last Post & Rouse, before the names of the fallen were read out.

Later in the day, the parade through the High Street took place before a service in St James' Church, led by Reverend Nolan Robson. It was wonderful to also welcome LTC Charles Gill and SSGT Michael Kingston as representatives from the United States Air Force and Deputy Lord Lieutenant Dominic Hopkins. Thank you also to all local groups who took part in the services and parades.



L-R Reverend Nolan Robson, Unitary Councillor David Brackenbury, Chairman of the Thrapston and District RBL Matthew Ellmer and Secretary of the Thrapston and District RBL Ian Byrnes



L-R Unitary Councillor David Brackenbury, LTC Charles Gill, Deputy Lord Lieutenant Dominic Hopkins, Chairman of the Thrapston and District RBL Matthew Ellmer, SSGT Michael Kingston and Unitary Councillor Wendy Brackenbury

WINTER WARM FACILITY



Winter Warm Facilities

If you're struggling this winter with the cost of heating your home, why not use one of Thrapston's warm facilities and share a coffee with friends?

Baptist Church

St Paul's Gardens

Tuesday 9am - 12noon

St James' Church

Oundle Road

Tuesday and Saturday 10am - 12noon

Thrapston Library

High Street

Tuesday 10am - 1pm & 4pm - 7pm

Friday & Saturday 10am - 1pm

Thursday 2pm - 5pm

THRAPSTON FIREWORKS

The fireworks returned to Thrapston on Sunday 5th November and was enjoyed by many families who gathered down at the Castle Playing Fields to watch the display.

The show was fantastic and the feedback from residents has been wonderful to read. As a Council, it's brilliant to be able to put on events like the fireworks each year for the Thrapston community to enjoy together.

There were bucket collections for CHAT Youth Counselling and a phenomenal **£2,398.22** was raised!

Thank you, Thrapston. The fireworks next year will take place on Tuesday 5th November 2024, so make sure to mark it in your diaries.



COUNCIL MEETINGS

Upcoming Thrapston Town Council meetings:

Tuesday 9th January 2024

7.15pm at Thrapston Town Council office
Events and PR

Tuesday 16th January / 20th February

7.15pm at Thrapston Town Council office
Full Town Council

Tuesday 13th February

7.15pm at Thrapston Town Council office
Finance and General Purposes

Thrapston residents are represented by **13 Town Councillors**. All Town Councillors attend Full Town Council meetings and sit on at least one of the three Committees, except for the Chairman who sits ex-officio on all committees.

Thrapston Town Councillors:

Clr Craig Wilcox (Chairman)
Clr Andy McGovern (Vice-Chairman)
Clr Kathy Cairns
Clr Stuart Glover
Clr Jerry Hawkins
Clr Lindsay Latimer
Clr Rachael McLuckie
Clr Michele Storey
Clr Anthony Twigger
Clr Craig Wheeler
Clr Alan Winter
Clr Daniel Worley

More information on the Councillors and Council meetings can be found on the website - www.thrapstontowncouncil.gov.uk.

OFFICE CHRISTMAS CLOSURE




We would like to take this opportunity to wish all residents in Thrapston a wonderful Christmas and a happy and healthy new year, from all at Thrapston Town Council.

QUIZ AND CHIPS



**SATURDAY 20TH JANUARY
7 FOR 7:30PM**

At Thrapston Plaza, team size of 4-6 people
Tickets are £10 including supper & must be booked in advance through the Town Council
01832 734673
office@thrapstontowncouncil.gov.uk
Proceeds from the bar go to the Mayor's chosen charity, CHAT Youth Counselling (so please don't bring your own drinks) 

IN THE COMMUNITY

TADS have entertained the Thrapston community and surrounding areas with performances stretching back as far as 1913. Formerly known as The Corn Exchange Players, the faces and plays have changed much over the years, but their aim remains the same: to put on a good show and have fun doing it.

Based in Thrapston Plaza, TADS take to the stage twice a year with their spring and autumn productions. TADS also perform at local events and work with regional groups and charities, writing and hosting multiple Murder Mystery evenings throughout the season.

TADS prides itself on its friendly atmosphere and welcomes new, enthusiastic and dedicated members, whether you want to help backstage or tread the boards! For more information contact tadsthrapston@gmail.com.



OFFICE CONTACT

The office is open **Monday to Friday, 9am until 1pm**.
77 High Street
Thrapston
Northamptonshire
NN14 4JJ

01832 734673 / office@thrapstontowncouncil.gov.uk

