

# THE HERALD

Wednesday, June 4, 2014

## WALLINGFORD

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### Online petition over books row

Town teacher protests at idea to drop classic US novels: **Page 7**

### Boats built for a race across lake

Pupils team up with company for skills challenge — **See Page 23**



### Keeping up with music fans' thirst

BAR worker Jum Hall, *pictured*, was kept busy pulling pints for thirsty music fans at the Wallingford Blues and Beer Festival held over the weekend.

Almost 500 people enjoyed the sounds of the delta on both the Friday and Saturday nights at the Regal Centre.

Event organiser Emma Anderson was delighted to see the event sell out for the first time since it was launched in the 1990s.

Since then, it has raised more than £40,000 for youth music and development schemes in the area.

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- Picture: OX67522 **DAVID FLEMING**



### Also this week



● Five Oxfordshire farmers will open their gates to the public for Open Farm Sunday this weekend — **Page 15**



# No blues for organisers after festival is sold out

## Regal Centre plays host to the annual charity event

By **Andrew Ffrench**  
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WALLINGFORD came alive to the sounds of the delta at the weekend.

The town played host to the annual Wallingford Blues and Beer Festival, which took place over two days at the Regal Centre.

Artists such as Ian Parker, Big Boy Bloater and Mumbo Jumbo played, as well as The Blockheads who performed on Friday.

Delta blues musician Thomas Ford, 28, from Plymouth, said: "It was fantastic. I have not played in Wallingford before and I go all over Europe."

"The people running it were lovely and there was a real family feel, with children running around all over the place."

Launched in the 1990s, the charity event has raised more than £40,000 for youth music programmes and youth development in the Wallingford area.

Emma Anderson, who organised the festival, said: "It was an amazing weekend and sold out both nights, which is a first."

"Overall it was a great success."

As well as the music, people attending the festival enjoyed a range of real ales and there was also a barbecue.

The event was mainly for over-18s but the Saturday afternoon session was open to families.

This year's event supported two local charities — Oxfordshire Young Diabetics (for insulin-dependent children with type 1 dia-



On stage . . . Blues singer and musician Thomas Ford performs

Pictures: OX67522 DAVID FLEMING



Music fun . . . Blues fans Ellie Cazie and Jason Dale enjoy the occasion, left, and event organiser Emma Anderson sinks a welcome pint, right

betes) and the National Orchestra For All (Oxford branch).

The Blockheads were formed

from the band launched by singer Ian Dury in the 1970s.

Ms Anderson added: "We were

delighted that such a well-known band was able to join us for this year's festival."