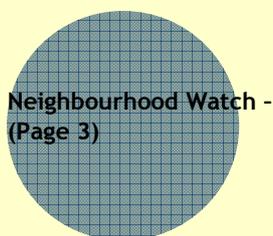




Theale Newsletter

Published by Theale's Future: www.thealesfuture.org

Welcome to the first issue of the Theale Newsletter, published by *Theale's Future*. Please contact us (see back page) with any feedback, suggestions, or offers of assistance.



Village Questionnaire: Results

Remember the Village Questionnaire?

We had an amazing 50.1% response (double the normal response rate), for which we **THANK YOU!** 618 copies were completed and returned, representing the views of 1,228 people. Almost 100,000 pieces of data had to be processed, and we would like to publicly thank the Greenham Common Trust for taking on most of this enormous task.

Since we received the analysis in October, we have been looking at the results with a view to identifying the projects that need to be undertaken. The full analysis is available on www.thealevillage.com or from the Parish Office in Englefield Road.

A few of the key results:

- Only 18% of households were knowingly in a Neighbourhood Watch scheme, though 50% said they would join one if it were available - **See Page 3.**
- 42% of households on the Meadow Way estate report having problems with sewers.
- 72% said that the Community is important to them.
- Only 6% of (long term) residents think that the quality of life in Theale is better than it was 10 years ago. 51% think it is worse.
- 61% say that speeding traffic is a problem in the village, though 58% think that speed restrictions in the village are adequate.
- 78% say that there should be safer pedestrian access to Arlington Business Park, and 69% think that a footbridge would be

the most appropriate means.

- Only 26% think that law enforcement in the village is good, and only 19% think that police response times to incidents in Theale are satisfactory.
- 78% see vandalism as being a problem in the village, and 57% think dog fouling is a problem.
- Only 19% think that local facilities and provision for young people are adequate. There is enormous support for an indoor swimming pool in Theale, across all age groups.
- 81% of people would like information about local events to be easily available, with a clear preference for it being on a website or in a newsletter.

As you can see, there are plenty of potential projects arising from these responses. We have made a little progress so far, but this work is being carried out by only a few volunteers, so progress is slow. We really need more people to help us with this so, **if you want to make a positive difference to the future of your village - your community - please** make yourself known to us, either by emailing us at "info@thealesfuture.org" or by phone: 0118 930 6592 (Jo Rueth will pass on any message) or by post: Theale's Future, c/o TPC, The Pavilion, Englefield Road, Theale RG7 5AS. Or come to one of our meetings - we meet on the third Tuesday of every month at 7.30pm in The Red Lion, Church Street.
Andy Button, Vice Chairman, Theale's Future



Introducing ThealeVillage.com



A village website was long overdue, says Andy Lynam, IT Co-ordinator for Theale's Future. A number of attempts had been made over the years to get Theale online, but have tended to fizzle out.

Andy was in the process of designing and publishing a new website for Theale when he was asked to help Theale's Future to establish a web presence. This gave further impetus to the project, and the two were combined under the umbrella of www.thealevillage.com.

Full information about the aims of Theale's Future can be found at the site, along with minutes of meetings, history, and news.

Although they are complementary ThealeVillage.com is independent from Theale's Future. The plan for the website is to provide a central resource for the village, and will largely be driven by the needs and wishes of its users.

Key contributions from Theale's Future include the **village directory**, providing information about not-for-profit clubs and organisations, and the **Environment** pages, which offer news

of current initiatives, useful local contacts, and opportunities to get involved.

The site has an **interactive forum** to encourage dialogue between residents, on both serious and light-hearted issues. Argue about environmental issues or chat about the band you saw at the pub on Saturday night. Feel free to create a new discussion.

Other pages currently feature **Local History**, **What's On**, **Photo Gallery**, **Transport**, **local websites** around Theale, **Food & Drink**, and plenty more. Useful links are being created with Theale Green School, and will result in joint creative ventures.

A big new section will deal with **Businesses** in and around Theale.

Please visit the site to see what's happening, or to make a contribution. You can do this in many ways:

- Contribute an event to What's On.
- Add an organisation to the Directory
- Post a message on the forum, or offer direct feedback to an item.

If you want to help or comment, or have an idea for the site, please email andy@thealevillage.com



Check out the Theale Directory at the new village website--
www.thealevillage.com



Think about getting your hands dirty -- Why not help out with one of the environmental projects around Theale?
environment@thealevillage.com



Need to book the Village Hall for a meeting or function? Full details at www.thealevillage.com or call Lorna Roger, Secretary, on 0118 9549126

Theale and the Environment: we need your help

An Environmental Group (EG) for Theale was a popular request from the questionnaire. In response Theale's Future is in the process of:

- Contacting neighbouring communities with existing environment groups
- Identifying local environmental projects
- Making contact with the local authorities and charitable organisations

We need your involvement to help implement the ideas in the questionnaire. Key areas identified included:

- Conservation
- Traffic, Transport & Pollution
- Cycling & Pedestrian Access
- Recycling
- Energy use reduction/Money saving ideas

We need your ideas and assistance to

help us progress these projects.

If one or more of the above grabs your attention, or one of the many listed on the Environment pages at www.ThealeVillage.com, or if you have a pet project of your own that you want to discuss, please contact us.

You can email us at environment@thealevillage.com, or post a message on the forum at the village website. All ideas and contributions are welcome. Please help us to make a difference to the environment in and around Theale



Neighbourhood Watch - Time to join?

In the recent survey by Theale's Future, only about 18% of respondents were in a Neighbourhood Watch scheme but about 50% of the rest said you would like to join one. You can join an existing scheme, start one yourself with your neighbours, or join in by yourself as a community member. This is to tell you how to go about it! Neighbourhood Watch is about people working together to make their communities safer, bringing back community spirit that is lacking in some areas and help people protect themselves. At the same time, you feel secure, knowing your neighbours are keeping an eye on your property. Even small pieces of information can help the Police catch a criminal. All over the country active NHW schemes have reduced crime rates. Debbie Morton is the Neighbourhood Watch Administrator for West Berkshire. If you are interested in joining an existing scheme, starting a new one yourself, or just joining in by yourself, the first step is to contact Debbie 01635 264718, or Deborah.morton@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk. Debbie will send you a starter pack of information and an application form. There are currently Neighbourhood Watch schemes in the following roads in Theale - Blossom Lane (including members in Myton Walk), North Street, Church Street, Spring Gardens, Roundhead Road and Englefield Road. If you want to join an existing scheme then contact Debbie Morton. In order to start a new scheme a volunteer is needed to act as a co-ordinator for their road. The number of homes they have in their scheme depends on how many they feel they can cope with. Around 10 is the average but it can be between 4 and 40. The co-ordinator and their deputy or helper are responsible for issuing messages to their scheme members about crimes in their area and other general information. The messages are distributed to the co-ordinators by Debbie Morton, on behalf of Thames Valley Police. Co-ordinators can opt to receive these messages by phone or e-mail. The messages may relate to distraction burglaries, rogue traders, crime in your area, vehicles that the Police are trying to trace and various other useful information. Co-ordinators are also given crime reduction literature to pass onto their scheme members and the numbers to call should they be a victim of crime or witness a crime. All co-ordinators and deputies have to be vetted under Thames Valley Police procedures. Once vetted Debbie will add you to the database to receive the

messages and invite you to attend a meeting at Pangbourne Police Station where she will explain how you go about setting up your scheme and your role in more detail.

If you want to receive messages without joining a formal scheme you can become a Community Member. Contact Debbie Morton for an application form. Other advantages of being in a Neighbourhood Watch scheme are that you are able to get discounts on household insurance from most Insurance Companies and may be able to obtain local discounts from companies for security products

N.A.G. in Theale

The Neighbourhood Action Group (N.A.G.) in Theale has meetings attended by Parish Councillors from Beenham, Bradfield, Englefield and Theale. The Police and a member of the Church and members of the Local Schools in Theale also attend. Richard Anderson is the Chairman and Sandra Mccarron is the Secretary. There is also, usually, someone from Highways West Berks Council. The venue is Englefield Estate Office at 10.30am. The meetings are held every two months. The next meeting is on Tuesday 28th April then Tuesday 30th June. The purpose of the meetings is to discuss crime issues within the local area, for example speeding, theft and vandalism. Solutions will be found and action taken by the Police.

Everyone is welcome at the meetings - in fact it would be very beneficial if more villagers attended as they can speak to the Police and voice their concerns about crime in the village. The meetings last 1 -2 hours depending on what the problems are.

There is no budget, we all come together voluntarily and The Chairman, Richard Anderson, who is also a local businessman, helps with paper etc and photocopying. Minutes of the meetings are recorded. More information can be obtained by telephoning Richard on 0118 9303943.

Awards for All

The Big Lottery Fund's Awards For All has granted Theale's Future £9,380 towards the production of a Parish Plan for the community. The successful bid was written by local resident Roger York, who said: "We would not have been able to go forward with the Parish Plan without this funding. We had a lot of useful advice from Sarah Ward, the Parish Planning Expert at Community Action West Berkshire. We have also had support from Theale Parish Council, West Berkshire Council, and the Greenham Common Trust in carrying out the survey of local opinion earlier this year. But to progress to a full Parish Plan requires a substantial injection of funds, and Awards For All has come up trumps!" In 2008, one of the most pressing needs was to find some money to pay for the Questionnaire and the production of the Parish Plan. We also wanted funds for the other projects we had in mind. All of the work so far had been done by volunteers with the support of donations from local businesses. In addition to the organisations already mentioned, the Bull, the Red Lion, the Golf Club, the Village Hall, Angles of Art, Sansome & George, Theale Taxis all contributed. The Awards For All award was the largest given in Berkshire and the Theale's Future Steering Committee are now working to use the money to implement some of the projects that arose from the views expressed in the responses to the Questionnaire, to the advantage of the community of Theale.

Theale's Future
Web:
www.thealesfuture.org
E-Mail:
info@thealesfuture.org



Theale's Future Vacancies

If you are interested in getting involved with local issues we currently have vacancies for two roles: **Secretary** - required to attend monthly meetings, take minutes and distribute to Theale's Future members. To support the Chair in organising each meeting.

Publicity Officer - to contact local press, radio to promote the activities of Theale's Future. To be responsible for the advertising of the achievements and plans of Theale's Future.

Graphic Design/Publishing

Do you have Graphic Design and/or Publishing skills and experience?

We are looking for help with the Graphic Design and Publishing of the Parish Plan, which is due for publication later this year. **Some modest remuneration may be available for this work.**

If you are interested, please email us at info@thealesfuture.org

Visit us on the Web!

www.thealesfuture.org

Theale Green School Opportunities in the Arts on your doorstep

Theale Green Community School and Performing Arts College receives extra funding for developing and promoting the arts within the school and in the community, so we can offer you heavily subsidised workshops (subject to demand) in the following:

Art

Photography - traditional b & w and/or digital including the use of Photoshop
Drawing and painting
Printmaking

Drama

Set design and lighting, Directing
Stage fighting techniques

Dance

Contemporary dance techniques and choreography

Music

Composition, Recording
Singing, Instrumental lessons

Our aim is to meet the needs of the community. Consequently any requests for alternative workshops would be very welcome.

Contact: Mrs. M Royle, Assistant Head i/c of the arts, Theale Green Community School and Performing Arts College, Theale, Reading. RG7 5DA
Tel.0118 930 8587 email mroyle@thealegreen.org.uk

Win a new digital camera:

Theale photography competition

Two categories: Digital and 35mm/Print

Take photos with a Theale theme, and you could win a superb Canon Power Shot digital camera. Two runners-up will receive Jessops vouchers to the value of £25.

Digital images: email andy@thealevillage.com

Prints: Choose your two favourite images and post (with full contact details Mrs M Royle, Assistant Head i/c the arts, Theale Green Community school, Theale, Reading. RG7 5DA. For more details of this competition visit [Theale Village.com](http://ThealeVillage.com) All photos entered to be shown on village website and a selection to be exhibited in the Gateway library.

Closing date: Friday 1 July 2009

New! Neighbourhood wardens in Theale

On 6 April 2009 the Neighbourhood Warden Scheme began working in Theale village.

The budget for this comes from the Parish Council and Sovereign Housing Association. The Wardens are very approachable. Their job is to patrol the hot spots in Theale village, helping to minimise trouble. They will clean graffiti where possible and report damage, vandalism and fly tipping to West Berks for action to be taken. They will involve the Police with other serious matters. The Wardens send reports on their activities within Theale village by email to the Parish Council to keep them informed, and also to West Berks Council.

They have their poster with photographs of themselves now displayed on the Parish Notice Board outside the Co-op. The Wardens are very much frontline staff, and have been talking to villagers in the High Street and all over the village. They deal with all below and whatever falls within the duties of their role:

- Helping to reduce crime.
- Dealing with anti-social behaviour.
- Reporting suspicious behaviour.
- Discouraging drug dealing.
- Dealing with Neighbourhood disputes.
- Dealing with environmental problems such as
- Fly-tipping graffiti etc.
- Reporting Neighbourhood nuisance for example -dog fouling.
- Maintaining contact with vulnerable residents.

To contact Neighbourhood Wardens, call **0118 9455286**

Email: westberks.wardens@sovereign.org.uk