



Photographic Competition

Our worthy winner is Helene Burningham who took this photograph at the end of the village at sunset. Helene wins dinner for two at The Volunteer.

We were, however, disappointed not to receive any entries in the Under-18 section. Look out for the next competition when it could be your photo that wins!

Christmas Lights 1st December

Theale Parish Council are once again organising a Christmas event to accompany the switch on of the festive lights.

The date for your diary is SATURDAY 1st DECEMBER. The Christmas Lights will be switched on at 6pm, after a countdown led by our local PC Julie Hamilton. Santa will be in his grotto from 5.30pm keen to meet the children. There will be market stalls and activities in the High Street and the shops will be decorating their windows all hoping to win the coveted 'Best Christmas Window' shield. Two performances of the Nativity play will be staged, both featuring a cast of local primary school children and, of course, the donkeys. You can join in with the Carol Singing, have your face painted or take part in the children's Treasure Hunt - just come and be part of this wonderful community event.

The Village pubs are providing their usual excellent support for the Christmas Lights. The Crown, The Bull, The Falcon and the Red Lion will all be open. Iain and Gary from The Volunteer will even have a stall offering free beer tasting (yes, that's right *free* beer!).

Thank you to our Supporters

We would like to express heartfelt thanks to the following companies and individuals for their generous support in our appeal for funds needed to be able to continue to publish this newsletter as well as providing prizes for our present and future competitions.

Our thanks to Sarah and all at The Style Guru for their generosity in donating a prize for a future photographic competition. We would also like to congratulate the team on being awarded the National Apprenticeship Award (Small Employer), which recognises the Style Guru as one of the top 100 employers in the UK - WELL DONE

Other generous contributors include:

- Mr. Robert Hurn of Hurn Accountants, Tilehurst
- A Resident of Theale
- Michael and Lisa of Theale Wellbeing
- Iain and Gary of The Volunteer
- Theale Tandoori
- Ms Paula Rivers of The Cutting Room
- Mr. Malcolm K. Morris of The Winning Post
- Warren and Michaela of The Crown
- An Anonymous Donor

Roadworks Postponed to New Year

Southern Gas Networks have announced they are postponing the replacement of the gas mains in the High Street until early next year otherwise the Christmas Lights event would have had to be cancelled.



They will just complete the section between Hoad Way and the M4.

Unfortunately this postponement also delays the proposed resurfacing of the road in Church Street since it would mean the area between Crown Lane and Station Road being dug up twice.

Station Lift Access

The project to develop the new bridge and lifts spanning the platforms of Theale station is progressing, following the announcement of the £1.25m investment from the Department of Transport in December 2011. The options for the improvements additional to the bridge - such as a new ticket office, a public toilet - are being assessed. It is envisaged that the new bridge will be located at the Reading end of the platforms. The completion date for the improvements is expected to be Summer 2013. One consideration for the project is that the lifts constructed at other stations are operated only when staff are present. With the current opening hours of Theale's ticket office this was raised as a concern by Theale's Future months ago, as the station is unmanned for the majority of the day. We will keep you informed as progress continues.

Theale Pumpking 2012

On 26 October 2012 the Volunteer pub hosted the annual weigh in for the heaviest pumpkin grown on the Dr Ellerton's Allotment site in the Village. The specifically designed weighing equipment (two bits of wood and a set of bathroom scales) was carefully calibrated and the competition began. There being no recounts or objections during or after the weigh in, the magnificent and much sought after "Pumpking" cup was awarded to Phil Fisher whose pumpkin weighed in at 45.5 kilos followed by Alison Stewart whose pumpkin weighed 37.5kilos.

There was one moment of panic among the competitors when the Volunteer's chef appeared and seemed to be sizing up our pumpkins for his menu. Happily all pumpkins left with their owners having had a very enjoyable evening.

Theale Parish Council - Emergency Plan

Theale Parish Council was asked by West Berkshire Emergency Management Team (WBEMT) to set up a group of people to deal with or assist at major incidents in or near the village. This has been done and a team of people known as Emergency Coordinators are in place, their main role being to get residents or workers to a place of safety if necessary.

Should a major emergency arise in or around Theale the relevant Emergency Service will be called first, and they will contact West Berkshire Emergency Management team if they feel there is a need. If WBEMT cannot get to the incident in a reasonable time they will call the Parish Emergency Coordinators and

advise them on what action to take. There are seven Coordinators who live or work in the Parish and all have a list of places to accommodate people needing immediate shelter. They also have maps of the village which may be of assistance to the Emergency Services. The Parish Council feel that this plan is important for Theale residents and workers in view of the dangers of spillage from vehicles on the M4 and by-pass, our location under the Heathrow flight path and our proximity to A.W.E., a high speed railway line and the local petrol storage facility.

We Need You

What would you like us to include in our next issue. If we are to produce a newsletter that is relevant to everyone who lives in Theale then we need **YOU** to let us know topics you would like to see. Give us your input so that we can have a better idea of what concerns this community.

Email: tf@thealevillage.com

Post: **Theale's Future**, c/o TPC, The Pavilion, Englefield Road, Theale RG7 5AS

Did you know Theale has its own Twitter account? Follow *@Theale* to keep abreast of village affairs, or contact us there also.

What's On

Why not tell us?

We already have a list of some events happening in the village on our website. Now is an opportunity for you tell us what other things, big and small, are going to happen in the coming months in Theale. We want to hear from any organisation, private or commercial, about events of interest to the village in general.

Holy Trinity has a Christmas Fayre from 10 am-12.30 on Saturday December 1st in the Kirby Room at St. Luke's. On Christmas Eve there is a Crib service at 4.30 pm and a Midnight Communion service at 11.30pm. On Christmas Day there is a Family Communion service with Carols at 10am.

Click Online

For regular information about our village click onto our website: www.thealevillage.com

News, views and contributions always welcome.

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