



We wish all our Readers a very Happy Easter.



Southern Gas Networks - Theale Road Works

The latest information from Southern Gas (07/03/13) is that there is still no date for the start of the (estimated) 16 weeks of gas road works in the High Street. The gas road works in Hoard Way (from the High Street to James Butcher Drive) are going to be done before the High Street works but, again, there is no date yet.

Bluebell Walks

It will soon be time for bluebells and, we are informed, there will be plenty to be seen locally. Moor Copse is beautiful ancient woodland on the banks of the Pang, just north of the motorway. It can be reached by car from the car park (on the east side of the A340, just north of the bridge over the M4) or, on foot, from Theale over the footbridge at Malpas Farm, or by path to the A340 bridge then via the car park. There are three wet woodland copses, a small meadow and a chalk stream.

Other Berkshire bluebell walks are listed at <http://www.familiesonline.co.uk/LOCATIONS/Thames-Valley-West/Articles/Days-Out/Bluebell-Walks>

Recycling

The kerbside collection of paper, glass, and plastic bottles and cans for recycling done by West Berkshire Council is very successful and improving. In addition, the availability of recycling centres and local collection points makes it easy for households to dispose of other waste for recycling. Recycling saves the council tax payer money by not using landfill, and don't forget that your unwanted items may be useful for someone else - furniture, working electrical goods, etc.



But what about the small quantities of small items such as batteries, light bulbs, small electrical items, printer cartridges - both inkjet and laser - and other plastic? These can all be recycled but, if put in domestic waste, get burnt or go to landfill. Modern light bulbs must not go into domestic waste and so should be returned to the dealer or to a recycling point.

Small, local, recycling points are needed for specific objects. For example, batteries are collected at the library - easy to get to, regularly visited. Some recycling schemes can earn charities extra funds; for example, recycling inkjet printer cartridges. Do you know of, or even have, other specific recycling points in a local shop, office or public place? Does your workplace have recycling points? Would they be available to accept items from elsewhere?

If you would like to see more recycling, have some ideas about it or could spend a little time organising it, please let us know through the contact details below. Or enter "recycle" into Google for ideas. Recycling saves waste, helps the environment and can make money.

Green Theale

In West Berks our recycling levels in 2011/2012 were 46% and the plan is to increase this much further. Full details can be found on the following website <http://www.westberks.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=5512&p=0>. Beside the West Berks kerbside collections (<http://www.westberks.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=19972>), the mini recycle points distributed across West Berks, (<http://www.westberks.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=19876>) and the Waste Recycling Centres, (<http://www.westberks.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=19877>)

we know of two local recycling points in Theale. As stated in the previous article, small batteries can be recycled at the Library, and Bridle Eyecare recycle old spectacles, but if you know where additional items can be recycled then let us know and we'll spread the word!

A4 Crossing - Theale village and Arlington Business Park

Since the last update, Theale's Future has attended a meeting with MP Alok Sharma, West Berkshire Council's Highways department and representatives from some of the businesses based at Arlington Business Park and Brunel Road. As a result of that meeting Mr. Sharma sent a letter to all businesses on the Business Park encouraging any views regarding assisting with investment to improve the crossing for pedestrians.

There were a small number of responses, but none of them could offer financial assistance. Given these responses and the lack of any response from most companies, the decision has been taken by Theale's Future not to progress this point any further unless the



villagers of Theale decide that it is still a worthy cause when the Parish Plan is refreshed.

Railway Station Improvements



Following the article in the last newsletter, unhappily, we must report further delay in the progress of the project to improve the station. The expected completion of the work is now December 2013. You can see more details - including diagrams of how the station might look once improvements have been completed - at www.thealevillage.com on the "Station" page.

STANDBY Volunteer Group

STANDBY was started in 1991 to take people who do not have access to transport to hospital, surgery, dental or optician appointments. Volunteer drivers pick up the client, take them to the appointment, wait for them and take them back to their home. A reasonable donation would be expected from the client towards STANDBY's expenses. The scheme covers Theale, Englefield, Holybrook, parts of Tilehurst, Bradfield and Stanford Dingley.

STANDBY URGENTLY NEEDS DRIVERS. The drivers must have their own car and have comprehensive insurance. They receive a mileage allowance.

STANDBY are also looking for volunteers who could occasionally cover telephone answering in Theale Medical Centre -to cover holiday or sickness. Anyone interested should contact Peter and Marion Moulder (Co-Chairmen STANDBY) on 0118 9744439.

Newsletter Survey

We look forward to learning your views so don't forget to fill in and return the FREEPOST survey you recently received from us by the deadline of 31st March. Alternatively, complete it online at thealevillage.com.

What's On

Theale Friends

This is a new befriending service primarily for older people. The aim is to reach out to those people in our community who could do with a little extra company. Theale Friends will provide volunteers to visit local residents around once a week or so, in order to offer friendship and support. Perhaps due to illness or relocation, bereavement or disabilities, people can find themselves feeling far from friends and family and end up spending long periods of time on their own. Yet meeting new people and developing new friendships is nearly always life-enhancing and no-one is too old to start. New friends can be found at every stage of life. To learn more you are invited to attend a presentation at St. Luke's Hall, Englefield Road at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 30th April. Refreshments provided.

We are seeking both volunteers and participants for this new scheme. If you are interested then please contact Pauline McKay on 01189303041

Trinity Bunnies

The new Toddler Group supported by Holy Trinity Church, opened its doors at Theale Village Hall on 26th February and is open to everyone, cost £1 per family, every Tuesday from 10 am to 11.30 am during term time.

Theale Village Hall - Table Top Sale

Saturday 6th April 2013 11.30am to 1.30pm at Theale Village Hall. Refreshments and Raffle. 20p Entrance fee. To book a table (£10 per table) please e-mail thealevillagehall@hotmail.co.uk or telephone Sue Haines on 01189 302719.

Fresh LOCAL organic fruit & vegetables for sale

Every Wednesday and Friday 10 am - 5 pm: Delicious ultra-fresh produce for sale at the 5-A-Day Community Garden (opposite Englefield Garden Centre). Volunteers always needed. Call Pam 07939 676050

Berkshire Country Fayre

Amners Farm, Burghfield. Sunday 26th May from 9am to 5 pm. A fun day out for all the family. Adults £6 children and concessions £3.

Easter Church Services

Good Friday - March 29th

Walk of Witness - meet at Holy Trinity 12 noon
An Hour at the Cross - Holy Trinity 2-3pm
St Luke's - Passion of the Lord 3 pm

Easter Sunday - March 31st

Holy Trinity - Family Communion Service 10 am
with a Children's Easter Egg Hunt afterwards
St Luke's - Easter Mass 10 am

How to Contact Us

If you would like to contact Theale's Future regarding any of the articles in this newsletter, or be involved with the group, we would love to hear from you:

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](https://twitter.com/Theale) to keep abreast of village affairs, or contact us there also.

NOTE: These newsletters are available online at www.thealevillage.com (you can copy internet links from there). You may also sign up on this website to receive our newsletters regularly by email.

Safer

Prosperous

Healthy

Accessible

Greener