



We wish you all a Very Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year

Christmas Lights 2013

Put a note in your diary for **Saturday 7th December** when Theale's Christmas Lights will be switched on by Father Christmas himself!

This popular community event, organised by Theale Parish Council, will feature market stalls lining the High Street, two Nativity play performances in the Falcon yard featuring real donkeys and sheep, and Father Christmas will be in his Grotto in Cumber Hall.

Many of the shops will be taking part in the hotly contested Christmas Window competition, the judging this year to be conducted by a panel representing Theale Parish Council, Holy Trinity Church, Theale Primary and Theale Green schools.

The event runs from 5.30pm to 8.30pm and the lights will be switched on at 6pm.

Please note that this year Santa's Grotto will have a time slot booking system, available on the night, so hopefully long waiting times will be avoided!

IKEA Calcot, Reading



With the closure of Homebase on November 23rd, there is increased interest in when the proposed Ikea store will be open. Whilst Ikea has been making preparations to the site, it is too early to say when the store will be open and at present there is no confirmed opening date.

On the High Street

One of the most notable changes to the High Street in recent years has been the increase in the number of food outlets and eateries. With the development of Arlington Business Park came a demand for takeaway food at lunchtime to which Theale responded readily.

Today the village offers a wide range of outlets catering for all tastes. Theale is well served with quality restaurants like Theale Tandoori offering excellent Indian dishes and the long established King Wok with a delicious range of Chinese specialties, both restaurants offering a takeaway menu too. Shimla Pinks at the Crown is the latest addition to offer a range of Indian cuisine. The Oriental Bar is under new management with a good revamped takeaway menu. If, on the other hand, you fancy a pizza then this is just one of the items on the menu both at Kayas and Tasty Bites.

For freshly cut sandwiches and other lunchtime treats there is the Lunchbox and if it's a delicious baguette you fancy then look no further than La Baguetterie, which caters for in-house lunches as well as takeaways. La Baguetterie is a great place for local residents to meet up for coffee and now they are open on Sundays from 9.30 am until 2pm.

(And if all of this is not enough for you, One-stop, Courts, Premier and the Co-op also carry a wide range of sandwiches and snacks....)

No matter what your taste, the village's public houses, The Bull, The Falcon, The Crown, The Red Lion and The Volunteer provide freshly cooked lunches and dinners as well as a wide range of excellent beers and wines.

Offering such a range of quality eateries brings more people into the village and all businesses benefit. Long may it continue.

Following the death of owner Bill Garvey, the closure of Q-Tel after so many years is a great loss to the High Street. His son, Will, did sterling work in keeping the business running for so long during his father's illness but sadly it was not possible for him to continue trading and we wish both Will and his brother the very best in the future.

The arrival of Parkers in our High Street is a sure sign that the local housing market is thriving. It is now announced that Sansome and George will also be returning to the High Street soon, having taken the outlet where Slurpz used to be.

The charity shop, Mercy in Action, currently has a good range of reasonably priced Christmas cards for sale. They are also holding a Christmas raffle with some great prizes, the draw to be held on 7th December.

For further information about Theale village, visit the website www.thealevillage.com



A Nice Place to Live

Theale became the focus of attention on BBC Radio Berkshire recently. It was great to hear from a number of residents interviewed that they consider the village a good place to live. In the words of one resident "We have everything you want in a place to live - shops, post office, library, schools, good communication links and very friendly people". With this in mind please read the next article and let us have *your* input to make this an even better place to live.

Theale's Future - Parish Plan Refresh



It has been five years since Theale's Future published the Parish Plan. It started with open meetings,

group discussions and then a questionnaire to enable the parish plan team to understand how the community of Theale was made up and to identify the main issues facing the community. The fantastic response to the questionnaire (52%) led to the Parish Plan and the Action Plan of 20 key issues that needed to be addressed. Some of those actions have been completed (website, newsletters) or are well in hand (e.g. railway station access) while some others have made no progress.

Five years on, the steering group believes it is time to ask the community what the main issues are **now**. We have been holding meetings and you may have seen the suggestion boxes in various shops and public offices in Theale. The suggestions we receive will go towards the development of a new questionnaire to find out what are the most important issues for the community as a whole.

We are in the final stages of gathering suggestions. If you have any ideas, suggestions or problems that you believe may apply to Theale as a whole, please let us know. With your ideas and assistance and our organisation we can influence public and other services and make the improvements you want.

Please send your ideas for the improvement of Theale to us, by post or e-mail to the addresses below, or in a suggestions box, and, together, we can make Theale a better place to live and work.

Roger York
Chairman, Theale's Future

What's On

Holy Trinity Church has Family Communion each Sunday at 10.30 am. During the Festive season there are additional services:

Sunday 1st December - 6.30 pm Advent Carol Service
Sunday 8th December - 4pm Christingle at St. Luke's
Sunday 22nd December - 6.30 pm Carols by Candlelight
Christmas Eve - 11pm Midnight Mass with Carols around the Crib
Christmas Day at 10.30 am Family Communion

Theale Christmas Lights event

Saturday 7th December - 5.30 pm with the lights switch-on at 6 pm

Christmas and New Year:

The Bull, The Falcon, The Crown, the Red Lion and The Volunteer and The Fox and Hounds will all be open during the Christmas period and all but the Red Lion will be hosting New Year's Eve Parties with music and entertainment.

They all have a wide range of events during the whole Festive season so do check their websites for details of opening times and more information on what's occurring.

Theale Social Club has a disco on Christmas Eve and on the 31st December will be holding a New Year's Eve Gala.

General Events:

Theale Village Hall:

High Society Jazz Band every Tuesday at 8.30 pm
Bingo at every Wednesday at 8 pm

The Crown December:

Open Mic on Wednesday 4th December at 8 pm
Folk Music Night on Wednesday 18th December at 8pm

The Bull has quiz nights on:

Thursday 12th December at 8.30 pm
Thursday 26th December at 8.30 pm
Thursday 9th January at 8.30 pm

The Falcon's Quiz nights are:

Thursday 5th December at 8.30 pm
Thursday 19th December at 8.30 pm
Thursday 2nd January at 8.30 pm

For further information on local events and more go to our website www.thealevillage.com

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

NOTE: These newsletters are available online at www.thealevillage.com. You may also sign up on this website to receive our newsletters regularly by email.

Safer

Prosperous

Healthy

Accessible

Greener