



Welcome to Spring

Swans on the flooded fields by Station Road enjoyed themselves even if no-one else did! Hopefully, the recent weeks of rain and awful flooding are behind us and we can look forward to a more settled outlook. West Berks Council must be applauded for doing their best to alleviate the worst problems in overwhelming circumstances but much remains to be done to prevent the same crises arising in the future.

Improving life in Theale

There have been many attempts by Theale's Future to collect new ideas and suggestions for improvements to life and the environment in Theale and we continue to welcome all that we receive. Some suggestions refer to things that are beyond our power to arrange or influence, such as setting up shops or businesses in Theale, and we have to ignore them, but if you have ideas or suggestions that are achievable by members of the community or by the parish or district councils then please send them to us (contact details below). Many ideas only require a bit of support or publicity and if you have an idea that you want to pursue then contact us to see how we can help.

We need YOU. Please remember that, without volunteers, Theale's Future will not be a viable organisation. For a commitment of just two hours a month, you can help improve life in this village, not just for yourself but for the whole community.

Theale's Future Chairman

Roger York has decided to stand down as chairman of Theale's Future although he will remain in the group and is willing to continue to serve as treasurer. This means that a new chairman is needed. There are two main tasks of which the first is to manage the steering group meetings and the second is to be the main point of contact for Theale Parish Council, West Berkshire Council, and Community Council for Berkshire. If you would like to be involved in Theale's Future, come to one of our regular meetings which are held on the third Tuesday of the month, in the Red Lion at 7:30pm (the next is on April 15th).



Building Stronger Communities Conference 2014 10am - 3pm Saturday 5 April 2014 at Newbury College, Monks Lane, Newbury RG14 7TD

West Berkshire Council has teamed up with the Community Council for Berkshire to run a special FREE event to help local people to Build Stronger Communities.

Peter Couchman, Chief Executive of the Plunkett Foundation is the inspirational key note speaker who will give real life examples of community-owned projects in rural communities.

Attendees will be given practical advice about how to fundraise for community projects.

There will be workshops running throughout the conference covering a range of topics including the use of social media for communities; providing support for the elderly through befriending schemes and a session where members of Parish Planning Groups can swap ideas and share successes.

This conference is FREE and open to the public, Parish Planning Groups, the voluntary sector, Parish Councils and anyone involved in the West Berkshire Partnership. Refreshments and a light lunch will be provided.

To book a place and download a programme for the day visit <http://www.ccberks.org.uk/building-stronger-communities> For more information or to book contact Tessa Hall, CCB phone: 07966 236408 or email: tessa.hall@ccberks.org.uk

Recycling Collection

There have been some complaints about litter in the streets after a recycling collection and of bins not being returned to the right place. Theale's Future has been told by WBC that staff are instructed to clear up if there is any spillage and to return bins. If these problems occur then you should complain directly to Streetcare (01635 519080, or customerservices@westberks.gov.uk) for them to take action.

Foil and milk bottle tops (aluminium) should not be put in with the cans. They should be kept separate and recycled through a local charity collection or go into the domestic waste for incineration or landfill. If you know of a local charity in or near Theale that collects foil please inform Theale's Future through the contact points below.

Other Recycling

Sainsbury's no longer has a collection point for tetra packs, for plastic tubs and trays or small electrical goods. WBC has tried to persuade them but with no success. Can you try to persuade Sainsbury's to re-instate these bins by writing to them.

Dog Fouling

Most dog owners use the dog bins that are distributed around Theale but, on occasions, have commented that dog bins are full. The dog bins in the recreation ground and North Street playing field are owned and emptied by Theale Parish Council (TPC). All the other bins are emptied by WBC. Theale's Future is in contact with WBC to see if the bin emptying schedule needs to be changed. If you find that a dog bin is full please tell the Parish Office (details below) or WBC Streetcare (01635 519080, or customerservices@westberks.gov.uk) depending on where it is. If a dog bin cannot be used then the waste should be taken home and disposed of in your domestic waste bin.

For those irresponsible dog owners who continue to allow their animals to foul public places, be aware! The dog wardens are increasing their vigilance and WBC will have no hesitation in prosecuting offenders, the result of which could be a very hefty fine.

1st Theale & Calcot Beaver Scout Group



WANTED: JUST 1 HOUR. Can you help a charity claim for Gift Aid, maintain their CRB database or raise some funds? Can you help 14-18 year olds plan their own activities in order to gain their Duke of Edinburgh Award, support their community and learn new things? Can you teach 6 year olds about knots, hygiene and safety?

There are many ways that Scouting supports the young (and the not so young!) from abseiling to dinghy sailing, communication to community, teamwork to hard work. We're safeguarding our future by challenging, supporting and encouraging young people every day to be the best they can be.

Can you help us say "yes" to more young people in Theale? We need people of all ages and backgrounds to help. Have you at least 1 hour a month you could spare to help in a way that fits with your life? The pay's nonexistent but the rewards you get by making a REAL difference to the youth of today (rather than feeling desperate for the youth of today!) are priceless! Find out more - without commitment - by calling Ross on [07881 625192](tel:07881625192) or emailing scouts@hammett.biz

St Luke's Church

In a rationalization programme, the Diocese of Portsmouth is considering the closure of St. Luke's Church in Englefield Road. Since the church is also widely used by a number of other organisations on a regular basis, its closure would be a loss to our community. Various groups, including Holy Trinity, are writing to the Bishop to ask that the church remains available. If your organisation is one of those affected, please add your voice to those of us who have already written.

What's On

As well as the usual regular events around the village in our pubs and at the social club, (see <http://thealevillage.com/whatson/>) details of other activities for all the family may be found on the following website: www.netmums.com/west-berkshire/whats-on

The UK Wolf Conservation Trust at Butlers Farm, Beenham will be open on Wednesdays during the coming months. See <http://www.ukwolf.org> for details.

Reading Model Engineers will be offering rides on their miniature railway at Prospect Park on April 6th. See www.rsme.co.uk for details.

The National Trust at Basildon Park has an Easter Egg Trail around the grounds from 1st-21st April and the Great Ball Run returns on 26th April until 7th September. Basildon Park was used as the location of the Grantham's London Home in last year's Downton Abbey Christmas Special and currently has both photos and costumes relating to this on display. See website for opening times.

Holy Trinity Church:

Mothering Sunday 30th March:

Family Church at 10.30 am

Making Posies, refreshments and family fun 4pm at St. Luke's, Englefield Road.

Palm Sunday 13th April: 10.30 am Family Communion

4p.m. Family Church Procession with Donkeys from St. Luke's to Holy Trinity

Good Friday 18th April:

Walk of Witness at 12 noon. Meet at Holy Trinity

Easter Day 20th April:

Communion Service at 10.30 am. Easter Egg Hunt for Children

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.

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