



## Theale Remembers - Centenary WWI 1914-18 Village Fete & Exhibition

On Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2014 Theale Parish Council will be holding a *1914-18 Village Fete & Exhibition* on the Recreation Ground in Englefield Road as part of its commemoration of the Centenary of World War I.

The Exhibition will show Theale as it was 100 years ago and visitors will be able to see how much the buildings and people's way of life have changed since the Great War. There will be displays on the stories behind the names on Theale War Memorial, Thames Valley Police Museum will be exhibiting artifacts from the period and Theale Library staff will be on hand to give advice on tracing your ancestors.

The Fete will give visitors a taste of village social life during this period with attractions from 100 years ago such as Bowling for a Pig, Punch & Judy show, a traditional Beer Tent as well as a Temperance Tent, an Exhibition Cricket Match, Morris Dancing and much more. Refreshments will be available in the old fashioned Tea Room and Beenham Wind Orchestra will be playing music of the period whilst history re-enactors in uniform mingle with the crowd.

Put the date in your diary and bring the whole family to what will undoubtedly be a Village Fete with a difference!

For more information or to get involved please contact Jo Friend at Theale Parish Council Offices, The Pavilion, Englefield Road Telephone 0118 9306592 or email [enquiries@tpcouncil.plus.com](mailto:enquiries@tpcouncil.plus.com)

***More volunteers welcome!***

## Theale Rail Station Update

A meeting took place on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> May with representatives from West Berkshire Council, Theale Parish Council, First Great Western, Network Rail and Theale's Future, where the latest status of the Theale Station Upgrade project was provided.

There is good news, in that the financial constraint which was preventing the work at the station from being completed (i.e. lack of sufficient funding) has been removed, thanks to the Department for Transport authorising the additional budget required to complete the work during the 2014/15 financial year.

First Great Western informed the group that the work should be completed - with the new lifts, ticket office and shop becoming operational - during the autumn of 2014. The precise dates are yet to be provided, but once we have them we will pass them on.

With the arrival of the retail outlet at the new station building comes an opportunity for a business venture. The retail outlet does not yet have a tenant, and this could be an opportunity for someone, perhaps an existing local business, to consider. First Great Western will be providing a specification of the retail space, and once we have this, the information and appropriate contact details can be passed on. In the meantime, perhaps anyone interested in taking on a retail space can keep this opportunity in mind.

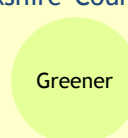
In addition to the station upgrade, there was a short update on another project due to influence the rail traffic at Theale: the Electrification Project. Currently the project team is investigating the options as to how they will implement the electrification infrastructure along the track at Theale, with special consideration for the existing road bridge at the western end of the station. This work is planned to take place in 2015.

## Theale's Future Public Meeting

It is planned to hold a public meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup> September to consider the future of Theale's Future. Roger York, who has chaired the group for several years, has decided to stand down as chairman and so a new chairman is required (so far no one has come forward). Additionally, because of work commitments, some members of the group find it very difficult to attend meetings regularly and we need more members who are able to attend the meetings every month.

Theale's Future has a steering group with a chairman, treasurer and secretary and a number of other members who decide activities for the group. The members contribute ideas and/or participate in the activities. Present activities include the railway station upgrade, web site, newsletters and the refresh of the Parish Plan.

The role of chairman has three parts. The first is to chair the group meetings; the second is to be the main contact for the Parish Council, West Berkshire Council



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and other organisations and individuals; the third is to ensure that the organisation runs smoothly by keeping an eye on all activities.

Past achievements of the group that you may recognise by their effects on the village include: newsletters (now up to number 15) distributed to all households in Theale, the [www.thealevillage.com](http://www.thealevillage.com) web site and contact point [tf@thealevillage.com](mailto:tf@thealevillage.com), the startup of Theale Friends (the befriending service), the trees planted in the recreation ground in 2011, new Parish Council and Theale's Future notice boards, the development of the railway station, pedestrian crossings, speed restrictions in Englefield Road, more dog bins, a directory to Theale organisations, and production and distribution of flyers for announcements of general interest to the village on subjects such as IKEA and dog fouling.

Current and future projects include more contact with the community, a safer crossing over the A4, monitoring the railway station development, future newsletters, a noticeboard by the canal, a cycle route to Pangbourne, a footpath to the farm shop at Wickcroft Farm, the Village Agent scheme, and the refreshment of the Parish Plan and Action Plan. We have had some suggestions for what the community wants Theale's Future to do in the future but *we need your help* with them.

The previous paragraph is the most important and requires assistance from you. Theale's Future has achieved a lot and can achieve even more but we need more members in the steering group and to help with activities. You can help, initially, by coming to the September meeting. The arrangements for this will be published in the next newsletter and on the web site. Please put the 16<sup>th</sup> September in your diary and please do come.

## Thames Water

A public meeting, arranged by Alok Sharma at the behest of Alan Macro, was held recently with Thames Water to discuss major issues of concern to Theale.

Questions were asked as to why Thames Water does not object to planning applications for new housing when sewage systems are already overloaded. Why is there major expenditure on tankering, which is very intrusive at night, rather than capital investment.

Thames Water said that locally a number of things had been done or were planned for the Lambfields Pumping Station, including new security fencing. The two pumps would be upgraded to new, more powerful ones, and these have been ordered for installation in early June. These modern pumps would also be less likely to block. A new control panel will be installed and there will be an investigation into the feasibility of installing an overflow into an adjacent sewer.

Residents raised the issue of the problems at North Walk. Thames Water was being called out every 6 to 8

weeks to deal with blockages. CCTV investigations have been promised repeatedly but have never materialized. Thames Water reiterated their promise to carry out such an investigation.

Another issue for residents was the irritation of having to repeat details of their problem every time when calling back on a previously logged problem, despite the fact that the call agent could view the history of the problems at the same address. Thames Water assured residents that they are planning to upgrade the call centre system.

Alok Sharma asked if a hotline number could be supplied to residents. Thames Water replied that there was a hotline, but this was restricted to use by council emergency officers and environmental health officers. Wider publication of the number would lead to it being inundated.

Thames Water undertook to produce a written response to all the concerns raised and it is hoped this response can be published in the next newsletter.

## What's On

Regular activities in the village such as Pub Quiz's, and Bingo and Jazz at the Village Hall, continue throughout the Summer. More details are at [www.thealevillage.com](http://www.thealevillage.com).

A number of local gardens will be open to visitors during the coming months as part of the National Gardens Scheme. These include:

Sulhamstead - Folly Farm

Stanford Dingley - Bridge Cottage, The Spring, Fairholme Farm, Jennett's Hill House, Kings Copse House.

Reading - The RISC Roof Garden, 35-39 London Street

For more details, opening dates and entry charges go to [www.ngs.org.uk/gardens/find-a-garden.aspx](http://www.ngs.org.uk/gardens/find-a-garden.aspx)

Mortimer holds its Fun Day on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> July with activities from 10.30 am.

Tilehurst Horticultural Association Summer Show will be held in Village Hall, Victoria Road, Tilehurst on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> August.

For more details of these and other activities go to [www.wherewego.com](http://www.wherewego.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](mailto: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](http://www.thealevillage.com). You may also sign up on this website to receive our newsletters regularly by email.



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