



Theale Christmas Lights Event

Saturday 6th December 2014 5.30 - 8.30 pm
Lights Switch-on at 6pm - Countdown led by Father Christmas!

The nights are drawing in, Christmas is just around the corner and Theale Parish Council is once again busy organising the annual Christmas Lights Event.

The High Street will be closed to traffic and market stalls will line the road, tempting visitors with festive goodies. Many of the shops will be staying open for the evening and lots of them will be decorating their windows, and hoping to win the coveted 'Christmas Window Competition'.

Children can visit Father Christmas and his helpers in the Grotto in the John Cumber Hall. To enable as many as children as possible to see Father Christmas the Grotto will be open from 5pm and bookable time slots will be available on the evening so you won't have to spend your time queuing.

Once again, the church is organising a Nativity Play which will be staged in the rear garden of The Falcon PH. The parts will be played by pupils from Theale Primary School, aided by the donkeys and sheep from Rushall Farm. The Holy Trinity Church Choir will accompany the production, singing familiar carols.

So put the date in your diary and bring the whole family to this wonderful community event!

Theale Medical Centre



We are fortunate in Theale to have one of the best medical practices in Berkshire. When stricken with illness

requiring medical attention this winter, following the advice given below will ensure you get the appropriate help you need when you need it.

If you are a registered patient and need an appointment at the Theale Medical Centre you can:

1. Phone the Practice on 01189302513 and talk in person to a receptionist who will advise what appointments are available so you can choose a day/time that is suitable for you.

2. When patients register with the surgery they are given a pin number so it is possible to go on line and book any appointment that is available with their assigned Doctor. If you have forgotten your pin number you can contact the practice reception and they will reset it for you so you can log in and set up a new one. The website can be found on the following link:
<http://www.thealemedicalcentre.com/>

Ideally patients will see their normal Doctor for long term continuity of care but, where required, patients can see an alternative Doctor or attend one of the walk-in surgeries when urgent medical care is required.

The Practice also offers appointments for the minor illness clinics so that patients have the added option of seeing a dispensing nurse who can treat minor conditions such as ear infections, sore throats or chest infections etc.

If in doubt, speak to the surgery who will advise what options are available to best fit your situation and availability to visit the surgery.

Finally, please help the Surgery to help you, by keeping your appointment or letting them know as early as possible if there is a problem and you are unable attend so they can re-assign it to another patient.

During October the figures the Practice recorded for missed appointments were as follows:

144 missed appointments with Doctors, resulting in approximately 24 lost hours

159 missed appointments with Nurses, resulting in approximately 26.5 lost hours

This equals a total of 303 lost appointments, resulting in approximately 50.5 lost hours

If these appointments could have been re-assigned to other people then waiting times, choice and availability would have been greatly improved for the benefit of all patients. Your help in reducing this problem would be really appreciated.

World War I Centenary - Theale Remembers

On Saturday 13th September 2014 hundreds of people attended the 1914-18 Village Fete & Exhibition at the Recreation Ground, Theale, an event organised by Theale Parish Council as part of the commemorations of the Centenary of the First World War.

Visitors enjoyed attractions that would have featured at village fetes a hundred years ago, such as Bowling for a Pig, children's Roundabout, the Coconut Shy and a traditional Punch and Judy show. Experts brought along their collections of World War I uniform, weaponry and kit, allowing people to have a hands-on experience

Safer

Prosperous

Healthy

Accessible

Greener



whilst learning what life must have been like for a soldier at that time, and a local resident displayed his impressive collection of Trench Art. The WI ran a traditional Tea Room in the Pavilion, serving homemade cakes and loose leaf tea in china cups and saucers, and for those with a bigger appetite, hog roast or fish and chips were available, alongside a pint of local beer or cider.

Musical entertainment was provided by the impressive Beenham Wind Orchestra who played pieces from the period, many specially learnt for this event, whilst the Morris Dancers adopted an interactive approach, encouraging the enthusiastic crowds to join in. Pupils from Theale Green School presented two, very well received, interpretative dances entitled 'In Remembrance' and 'Blood Memories' and Pete Cranmer performed his original war poetry, moving much of the audience to tears.

As well as being enjoyable the day was also informative and thought provoking, from the reconstruction of a Privy on the field to the extensive Exhibition in the Village Hall. Here, members of Theale's local history group were on hand to tell the stories of the men whose names appear on Theale's War Memorial, and the Thames Valley Police exhibited items from the period and spoke about the life of a policeman one hundred years ago. A popular attraction was the display of old photographs of Theale and its residents, manned by the very knowledgeable Roy Townsend, who also drew the panoramic pen and ink sketch of the buildings in the High Street as they were in 1914.

To stage such a successful, large-scale event requires a huge amount of work and planning and the council is very grateful to all those individuals, groups and organisations that put so much time and effort into making the 1914-18 Village Fete & Exhibition such a memorable community event.

Thanks must also go to the Heritage Lottery Fund for their generous support which enabled the council to make this such a successful (and free!) event.

Theale Skate Park

August Bank Holiday saw the opening of the wonderful new skate park in the Recreation Ground, Englefield Road. This major project came about as a result of a group of local youngsters approaching the parish council asking for somewhere safe to ride their scooters. The parish plan had identified a need for more children's facilities in the village and so a public meeting was held to see if there was support amongst the residents for a skate park.

The main criteria when deciding upon the design of the skate park were -

- 1) Must be suitable for all ages, including young children
- 2) Easily accessible
- 3) Must look good!

The youngsters worked with the parish council on all aspects of the project - they helped decide upon a preferred contractor; were consulted on the features they wanted on the skate park; and they held a fundraising Scooterthon which raised over £500 to buy new litter bins.

The council set about applying for grants to cover the £45,000 price tag and was successful in obtaining funds from Veolia Environmental Trust, Englefield Trust, Vibrant Villages, WBC Parish Plan and WBC Developer Contributions.

The skate park has proved to be a resounding success and is used by a huge number of children every day. Residents have commented how well the children of different age groups and abilities share the facility and how nice it is to see them out playing in the fresh air. Now if only we could get them all to put their rubbish *in* the new litter bins.....!

What's On



Theale Christmas Lights Event
Saturday 6th December -

Reading Christmas Market
27th Nov - 7th Dec 11 am - 8 pm daily in
Reading Town Hall Square

Reading Winter on Ice Forbury Gardens
Dec 9th to Jan 4th (exc. Christmas Day)

Newbury Christmas Parade 30th November at 5.30 pm
from Market Street

Newbury's St Nicolas Christmas Market at St Nicolas
Church 11th - 21st December daily from 12 Noon - 8 pm

Holy Trinity Theale

Sunday 21st December 6.30pm **Carols by
Candlelight**

Christmas Eve Wednesday 24th December
4 pm **Crib Service** 11.30pm **Midnight
Communion** preceded by Carols around
the Crib at 11pm

Christmas Day Thursday 25th December
10.30 am Family Service with Communion



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

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