



Wayfinders

Theale's Future has been leading in the delivery of new signing around Theale village which is due for public launch in April. The Wayfinder signs will make it easier for visitors to Theale to find their way to key sites of business, industry and recreation around the village via

three new "totems" or "monoliths" which, in turn, are supported by a number of directional finger posts. The "Theale Wayfinding" scheme is being delivered by All Points West, who supported the delivery of a similar scheme across other areas in Berkshire, including Newbury, Reading, Slough and Windsor. There will be three monoliths in total, each to be located at key strategic locations around Theale - one outside the new railway station building, another outside Brewery Court, and the third on the corner of High Street and Station Road outside the Co-op. Each monolith will show visitors a map of Theale and area, extending as far as the retail park in Calcot, and will be supported by directional information to key destinations around the village and beyond, with an indication of the distance and walk time. On the reverse of each monolith, Theale's Future has sourced some historical photographs depicting a key scene relating to its location from the early 20th century, as well as a story detailing the village's history. Supporting the monoliths are a number of "Fingerposts" which have been designed to help guide visitors to their destination, and these will be located as far south as the canal bridge, across the M4 to Pincent's Lane, and outside the Library to the West. Both the monoliths and fingerposts have been designed to support the look and feel of one another, and are linked using the beautiful watercolour painting of Holy Trinity Church by John Constable from 1832.

The project has been funded by the Department for Transport's Local Sustainable Transport Fund, and is supported by West Berkshire Council and Theale Parish Council. Delivery of the schemes forms part of the wider planned improvements around the railway station in the village, and will support any growth in visitors to the station as well as the surrounding businesses and leisure and recreation establishments. It is expected that the project will be complete before the end of April.

Dancing in the Street



On the 6th June Shinfield Shambles will be holding a day of dance in Theale. There will be Morris dancing at the various pubs during the day. It starts at 10:30 am from the Volunteer and will finish around 4 pm at

The Bull. The Shinfield Shambles Morris side was set up in 1994 and this year they are celebrating their 21st Birthday. There are still six founder members of the group dancing and playing and over the years they have been to a lot of places: North Carolina, USA, the Millennium Dome, many folk festivals around the country, and lots and lots of village fetes, weddings and anniversaries in all sorts of venues. They told us they dance because they enjoy it, it helps keep them fit and more importantly they are keeping alive an old English Tradition. The earliest known and surviving English written mention of Morris dance is dated to 1448, and records the payment of seven shillings to Morris dancers by the Goldsmiths' Company in London. Further mentions of Morris dancing occur in the late 15th century and whilst the earliest records invariably mention "Morys" in a court setting, and a little later in the Lord Mayors' Processions in London, it had adopted the nature of a folk dance performed in the parishes by the mid 17th century. The churches encompassed it and there are records in St Lawrence's Church, Reading dated 1512. In fact, in 2012, there was a big celebration in Reading to commemorate 500 years of Morris dancing in the town which the dancers were pleased to be part of.

The Group is pleased to welcome new members, both dancers and musicians. They meet on a Monday evening at Shinfield Parish Hall between 7:45 and 9:45. Please contact Hilary Tel: 0118 969 6926 or email hilary.tindall@tiscali.co.uk if you are interested. Practice season runs from September until April. You can also visit their website: www.shinfieldshambles.com

Theale Carnival and Fete



Theale Village Community Association (TVCA) is currently preparing for Theale Village Carnival and Fete which will take place at North Street Playing Fields on Saturday July 18th from 12 noon until 6pm. Through a fun packed range of activities and attractions, this not-

for-profit event aims to bring the whole community of Theale together and give local groups - including the Scouts, St John's Ambulance, Army Cadets, Theale Church and pupils from both the primary and secondary schools - an opportunity to raise awareness of their activities. Any profits from the event will be divided and invested back into local community groups. The day includes a Grand Raffle, displays from Urban Stylez Dance Crews and Reading Tae Kwon Do squads and fairground rides plus traditional games and a variety of independent traders. The lineup includes craft and produce competitions so get growing, baking and making if you want to be in it to win it! The highlight of the day will, of course, be the carnival procession around the arena, featuring a Hollywood theme so don't forget to enter your group and start getting creative with costumes for lots of movie mania!

TVCA is currently recruiting volunteers to help organise the event and has a wide variety of roles available, such as compering the event, manning a stall or helping to sell programmes and raffle tickets. It's a great way to get more involved in your local community plus you'll get to meet new people, share your skills or learn something

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new! Local businesses are also being encouraged to be part of the event and there is a variety of advertising and sponsorship opportunities available at the Village Carnival and Fete.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer or own a local business that can help with raffle prizes or donating goods or services to help stage the event, please do get in touch! Keep an eye out for the posters advertising TVCA's regular public meetings, or you can email them at thealecarnival@outlook.com. And don't forget to join the facebook group to keep up with the latest news. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ThealeVCA/> Their next public meeting is on Wednesday 8th April at 8pm in The Bull. All are welcome.

Theale Station



A meeting took place on 5th February with representatives from Theale's Future, Network Rail, First Great Western, West Berkshire Council (Transport) and West Berkshire Councillor for Theale, Alan Macro.

Status of Lifts and Bridge

There has been a lack of progress with the planned works caused by Network Rail being re-classified as a public sector body. This means that Network Rail now has much tighter regulations when negotiating contracts with other companies and because of this, any contracts between Network Rail and First Great Western required a review by legal teams from both companies. This process has been underway since before Christmas, and is ongoing. Once the agreement between Network Rail and First Great Western has been reached, First Great Western can begin to plan the booking of the line to enable the planning of the construction of the lifts and bridge. The overall duration of the work at the station is anticipated to take approximately 40 weeks from start to finish, which can be affected by other works in the area (making the overall duration either longer or shorter).

Other Works at and around the Station

The ticket office and retail outlet building is almost complete, but it is not planned to be opened until the new lifts and bridge are installed. However, if a retailer is interested in opening the outlet beforehand, this could be a possibility.

- Three new shelters have now been completed. There are now two on Platform 2, which replace the old shelter, and three on Platform 1, including one new shelter
- There will be a new entrance ramp on Brunel Road which could possibly be opened before the lifts and bridge are installed, making it easier and safer for commuters to Arlington Business Park and Brunel Road. First Great Western and West Berkshire Council are to look into progressing this item.
- Brunel Road and Station Road will also benefit from replacement street lighting, again implemented by West Berkshire Council.

Electrification

A separate project from the upgrade to Theale Station, the railway line through Theale is due to have electrification technology installed. This is likely to take place towards the end of 2015. More details of the project can be found on <http://www.networkrail.co.uk/great-western-route-modernisation/>

Theale Parish Plan

Theale has a Parish Plan which lists various objectives to improve the quality of life and facilities in the village. These objectives range from promoting access to locally sourced produce, improving transport options and improving facilities for the younger generation - the list goes on. The full list of objectives can be found at thealevillage.com/thealesfuture. Theale's Future was formed to create the Parish Plan and assist in achieving these objectives. The plan was last produced over five years ago and it is now time it was refreshed. To refresh the plan, however, we need to understand the views of the community which involves creating a questionnaire and gathering responses, analysing the results and updating the objectives.

Unfortunately, Theale's Future consists of only a small number of people at the moment which means that what can be done is limited. And this is where we invite more people to get involved. We need to plan out how to undertake the refresh and create a new questionnaire. If you are interested in helping to keep Theale a rewarding place to live and work, please let us know and get involved! You can get in contact by emailing tf@thealevillage.com or by coming along to one of our meetings which take place on the third Tuesday of every month.

What's On

Easter at Holy Trinity

Palm Sunday 29th March at 10.30 am Parish Communion with distribution of Palm Crosses. 4pm Family Church at St. Luke's with real donkeys

Good Friday 3rd April 12 Noon Walk of Witness - meet at Holy Trinity. 2pm-3pm An hour at the Cross.

Easter Sunday 10.30 am Holy Communion and children's Easter Egg Hunt.

Mercy in Action the village Charity Shop is holding an Easter Raffle and do call in for bargains on their £1 rails.



Fresh LOCAL organic fruit & veg for sale

Every Wednesday and Friday 10 am - 5 pm:

Delicious ultra-fresh produce at the 5-A-Day

Community Garden (opposite Englefield Gdn Centre). Volunteers always needed. Call Pam 07939 676050

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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