



We wish everyone a Very Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year



Christmas Lights 2015

This year the Christmas Lights will be switched on at 6 pm on Saturday December 5th. Bigger and better than ever before, this popular community event, organised by Theale Parish Council, will feature lots of stalls lining the High Street, with the Children's Nativity play performance in the Falcon yard at 6.15 pm, featuring real donkeys. Sansome and George have very kindly lent their High Street premises, for one night only, to Santa for his Grotto. There will also be the hotly contested Christmas Window competition amongst our High Street traders. The event runs from 5.30pm to 8.30pm and the lights will be switched on at 6pm. An evening of family fun.

Theale Medical Centre

The Theale Medical Centre is very aware of the growing population and increasing demands on the medical services and has been taking a number of steps in an effort to ensure it can deliver a high level of service to all its patients.

With that in mind it was decided to build an extension at the rear of the practice in order to provide two more treatment rooms and nine additional car parking spaces and they are pleased to announce that this project was

completed at the end of August. Planning permission was granted for a further six car parking spaces and these will be finished before the winter sets in. This will ensure that patients visiting the centre should not encounter the car parking issues they may have experienced in the past.

Additionally Theale Medical Centre has been working hard to reach the high standards required to be recognized as a training centre and has now been formally awarded this status. Their first GP Registrar joined the team in September. This is something they are very proud of and speaks volumes for the medical skills/knowledge available at the practice and the general levels of management over the day to day tasks that are required to run an effective Practice.

Have Your Say on West Berks Council Budget Proposals for 2016/17



Over the last four years West Berks Council has had to make savings of £23m because they have received less money from central government. WBC

has endeavoured to do this by becoming more efficient at what they do, by reducing some of their administrative functions and increasing their income. The Council now has to find another £20m over the next four years, with almost £11m to be found in 2016/17. Much of this will come from further efficiencies within the council they assure us, but £4.6m will have to come from services that will impact on the public.

As they look at ways to meet this challenging financial situation they want your views on their budget proposals as they may have an impact on you or your community. Small examples of the proposals being put forward are:

- an increase in car park charges,
- funding for the CCTV cameras in the village to be suspended,
- Withdrawal of the 105 Bus service Newbury/Aldermaston/Tilehurst Bus

Safer

Prosperous

Healthy

Accessible

Greener

Before making any decisions, it is crucial that they hear your thoughts on these proposals and, more importantly, how the impact of such proposals could be reduced.

The consultation runs until **14 December 2015**. Details of all the budget proposals, together with how to take part in the consultation can be found at www.westberks.gov.uk/budgetproposals

As well as inviting you to take part in the consultation, they will also be talking to those organisations directly affected to listen to their views on any impact on them.



Theale Station

Until recently (October 2015) First Great Western - now re-branded to Great Western Railway - was

responsible for the construction of the lift and bridge at the railway station.

Network Rail already has a great deal of work planned to take place along the route between Reading and Newbury, due to route modernisation and electrification, with considerable work planned at Theale in particular. This includes platform extension and works to the existing road and pedestrian bridge to facilitate the electrification. With this in mind, Network Rail felt that *they* are in a better position than GWR to deliver the new bridge and lift at Theale as they can co-ordinate this with their other projects (for which they are already responsible).

Network Rail's intention is to pick up the project where GWR left it, and has stated that there should be little or no change to the proposals that have previously been shared. As it has been a considerable time since GWR obtained the original prices for the work from the contractors, Network Rail has said they will have to perform a tender process, which means re-engaging with contractors to do the work and obtain a fresh set of prices.

Network Rail expect this tendering exercise will be completed by March 2016 and hope the successful contractor will be able to start on site soon after. The Network Rail Sponsor promised that both NR and GWR are committed to this scheme which is "much needed and long awaited at Theale."

Theale Parish Housing Needs Survey

The pressure is on Theale village to accommodate more housing continues and so, with help from the Community Council for Berkshire, Theale Parish Council is keen to find out residents views on the matter. One way residents can tell us what they think is by completing the **Housing Needs Survey** which has been delivered to every residential property in Theale - (if you have not received a copy please contact the parish office who will arrange for one to be supplied to you).

Some residents have told us they are finding it difficult to stay in Theale because of the high cost of housing, whilst some older residents have said they would like to downsize a bit but that there is nowhere suitable to move to within the village. Would you support a small housing scheme to meet *local* needs or do you think the right type of development is being planned? Whatever your views we would like to hear from you.

The survey can also be completed online between now and 30th November 2015 at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NBK8BH7>

What's On

Saturday 5th December Christmas Lights at 6 pm

Sunday 6th December Toy and Christingle Service at St. Luke's at 4 pm

Saturday 19th December Carol Singing for everyone at the Co-op

Sunday 20th December Carols by Candlelight Holy Trinity at 6.30 pm

Christmas Eve at Holy Trinity Crib Service 4 pm
Midnight Communion preceded by Carols around the Crib at 11 pm

Christmas Day Family Service with Communion and Carols at 10.30 am



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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