



# Thomley Activity Centre Newsletter

Issue 3

April 2003



## EASTER EGG-STRAVAGANZA

Come and join us at Thomley on Easter Saturday (19th April) for our Eggs-traordinary Easter Egg Hunt! How many eggs will you be able to find? You'll also be able to try your luck in: the Guess the Number of Eggs competition, egg and spoon races, making Easter chicks, cards and baskets and decorating your very own Easter egg (please bring a chocolate egg with you). Don't miss out on this Eggs-iting fun!

### EASTER OPENING TIMES

Thomley Activity Centre will be open 10am—3.30pm on:  
Tue 15th, Wed 16th, Sat 19th, Wed 23rd, Thur 24th and Sat 26th of April  
**Make your booking now!**



## THOMLEY UPDATE

A big thanks to everyone for having been so supportive and understanding in what has been a rather difficult time for us here at Thomley. Following our unsuccessful National Lottery bid, the Board of Trustees had to take the decision to reduce levels of service and staffing in order to safeguard the future of our project. It was with great sadness that we had to say goodbye to Kirsty, Michelle and Roo at the end of February. I am sure you'll all agree that they were a great asset to Thomley and my warmest of thanks go to all three of them. You'll be pleased to know that both Kirsty and Michelle have very kindly agreed to continue working for us, on a casual basis, fitting around their new employment!

We would like to take this opportunity to confirm that we are open EVERY Saturday and on designated days during the school holidays for recreational use. Our educational facility to local special schools will resume, one day a week, after the Easter holidays, all thanks to Andrew, a new and enthusiastic volunteer. We will also be offering schools one day's recreational use of the centre after Easter.

We look forward to welcoming you all soon!

## PANTOMIME MANIA FUN DAY



On Wednesday 19th February, more than 40 children and their families took to their seats for a day of pantomime mania at Thomley! The Wonky Witch and her spotted green cat mesmerised everyone with her rhyming stories; Roo had everyone stomping like an Ogre, marching like a King, prancing like a Princess and crawling like a cat; all staff gave their version of a Puss in Boots performance the very best of shots; and puppet theatres and masks were made in an abundance! Many thanks to everyone who made the day so enjoyable and such a huge success!

## FESTIVE FUN



On 21st and 22nd December, over 30 children joined us in our Winter Wonderland! Santa and his little helpers guided everyone through his magical grotto, the art and craft activities, calendar making, tree decorating, games and tombola. Our mince pies and mulled wine were a hit with everyone!

## THAME 10KM ROAD RACE AND KIDS FUN RUN 29TH JUNE

Are you running Thame's 10km Road Race this year?



Do you want to run it in aid of a local charity?

If so, why not run it for the Thomley Activity Centre?

Please contact the office on (01844) 338 380 for an entry form and a bundle of sponsorship forms. Places are limited so please hurry!

We're also in the process of creating a **Thomley Team** for the **Children's Fun Run** and would like to encourage you and your child/ren to join us (1.25Km for 7-10 yr olds and 2.5Km for 11-14 yr olds). Again, please contact the office for entry/sponsorship forms!

[www.thomleyhall.org](http://www.thomleyhall.org)

Have a browse on the internet and take a look at our new and flash website! Let us know what you think...

## THOMLEY HALL CENTRE'S AGM

You are invited to join us for Thomley Hall Centre's Annual General Meeting on 24th April, 6.30pm, at Thomley.

## FUNDING UPDATE

Some good news! We have received £30,000 from Baily Thomas Charitable Fund to cover our rent for the year ahead!

CPM, based in Thame, have awarded us £10,000 to further develop the site. We are discussing the possibility of the money being used to install our ICT room and to purchase some access equipment (ramps, hoist and changing bed).

We have just re-submitted our National Lottery application and with a five month wait to hear of its outcome we can only keep everything crossed that its assessment will now be in our favour.

## COMMUNITY DAYS

The first Saturday of every month will be a "Community Day" when we shall be open to all families and groups from the local community, including those with children who do not have special needs.

## FRIENDS OF THOMLEY HALL

**FROTH**

A big thanks to everyone who has been involved in FROTH so far! Keep up the excellent work, especially the 'plodding' (distributing leaflets and posters everywhere!) As for everyone else, do you fancy your chances at being a 'plodder', an artist, DIY enthusiast, horticulturalist, capital fund accumulator, budding Nigella Lawson or Jamie Oliver? If so, then please contact Caroline on 01844 352555 to find out how you can become involved in supporting our Centre through voluntary work.

## SURE START: ROSEHILL FAMILY CENTRE



On 20th February, 60 children and their parents/carers flooded into Thomley with Sure Start from the Rosehill Family Centre in Oxford. As always seems to be the case, the sun shone down and every inch of our seven acre site was explored with great enthusiasm!

## FAMILY SERVICES DEVELOPMENT OFFICER FOR AUTISM

I, Rachel Pike, am currently involved with several initiatives that may interest you (see below). Please contact me to find out more.

The National Autistic Society's Jigsaw Befriending scheme trains and recruits volunteers to befriend a child or young person with an autistic spectrum disorder, or their family. If you would be interested in having a befriender for your child, or if you know of anyone who may be interested in becoming a volunteer with this scheme, please contact me.

The 'Oxford Aspies' group is a social group for people aged over 16 with Asperger syndrome. It meets monthly on a Monday evening.

In partnership with the youth service, I am hoping to set up a semi-structured youth group for 12-16 year olds with Asperger syndrome. The group should be up and running by the summer.

There will be an NAS 'Help!' programme taking place in September in Oxford. This is a six-session course for parents who have recently had a child aged between 12-16 years diagnosed with Asperger syndrome.

I continue to provide practical support and information, through telephone calls, home visits and attending reviews etc. I am now also a member of several joint agency groups and forums across the county.

Please feel free to make contact with a specific question or concern, or if you have suggestions or issues that you feel I should be involved with or know about. My office is in the Thomley Hall Centre, and my direct telephone number is 01844 338696.

## THE WISH LIST

We are always grateful for the donated items and whilst they may seem trivial or a load of rubbish (literally speaking), to us they are an invaluable resource for art and craft activities. Please keep them coming in!

The Thomley Activity Centre relies heavily on donations and fundraising to enable us to stay open. If you would like to organise a fundraising event or if you know of any local company who might be interested in supporting us then please let us know.

## COMMENTS...

"Good luck with the Centre - it's a brilliant and much needed initiative"

*Parent*

"I don't know of any other place where I can take the whole family with complete confidence that it will be a good day for everyone"

*Parent*

"I would like to thank you very much for a delightful morning when my group came to investigate the centre. In spite of the rain we all had a marvellous time!"

*Shires Spectrum Support Group*

"Every visit to Thomley has been different and uniquely special"

*Parent*

"Besides the happy faces and energetic dancing at the KEEN barn dance... (Thomley) was a dream venue for the professional and friendly staff as much as the wonderful atmosphere of the barn. Thomley really is a special place. I wish you the best of luck"

*KEEN Co-ordinator*

## HOW TO CONTACT US



[www.thomleyhall.org](http://www.thomleyhall.org)

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