



## Sad news...



It is with great sadness that we pass on news about Sheila Coates who passed away on Wednesday 27th October. For those of you who did not know her, she was one of the founding Trustees of Thomley Activity Centre. Throughout Sheila's career she worked to support children with autism and their families, during which time she established the Autism Resource Bases within the education system of Oxfordshire. She was also a founding Trustee of Children in Touch, a charity to support the therapeutic education of autistic children. Sheila had a very personal approach and will be missed by very many people.



Sheila had been unwell for a number of years however she has continued to be closely involved in the governance of Thomley throughout this time. Thomley is a legacy of Sheila's efforts to support disabled children and we will strive to continue her ethos through our work.

Sheila's wishes were that any donation should be channelled through [www.justgiving.com/sheilacoates](http://www.justgiving.com/sheilacoates) .... Thank you Sheila.

## Welcome Hayley!

**Hayley Pratley-McGill** has now started as our new Activity Centre Manager! We are delighted to have Hayley on board, and she had this to say...

"I am really pleased to be supporting Thomley Hall in my new role as Activity Centre Manager, it has always been a charity & venue close to my heart whilst working in my previous post with Barnardos Community Short Breaks, supporting young people with disabilities. The staff were always welcoming and the activities provided were always fun and appropriate for all abilities and ages. I've joined Thomley at a really exciting time with lots of developments and changes, I look forward to continuing this great work as well as supporting lots of new opportunities in the future.

As part of Thomley's amazing team I can't wait to welcome you all the next time you visit."



## Saturdays at Thomley

It has come to our attention that Quiet Days are proving to be very popular, and are always filling up very quickly...This is also the case with Community Saturdays. However, the Saturdays in between are not so busy, and the Quiet Days are now ironically busier than a normal Saturday! We are introducing Saturday planners which will be sent out with the Newsletter on the reverse of the holiday planner, so families can see what's going on in advance...We will also be aiming to introduce workshops on various Saturday's; these again will be on the Saturday planners so families can book them in advance. If any one has any suggestions for workshops or what they might like to see on a Saturday then please email [dawn@thomleyhall.org](mailto:dawn@thomleyhall.org) .

## Christmas period - bad weather

As some of you may remember the weather forced Thomley to close over Christmas last year. Hopefully we can remain open for our listed days this year, although if we do unfortunately have to close we apologise in advance! If you are booked in then please check the website on the morning of your booking, and we will always update this by 9:30 am.



## Thank you!!

A big thank you to all families who rang and cancelled their bookings they couldn't attend over the October Half-term...We only had 5 families not turn up losing a potential donation of £60 which is a huge improvement on the summer. Please continue to let us know so we can offer your space to someone who needs it.

## School awareness

Fundraising is vital to keeping our centre running and being able to support more children. School fundraising is one of the great ways to help us raise funds while also raising awareness of disability and Thomley. Lots of you reading this newsletter will have links with many different schools – through your children, friends or family. We would like to ask you to encourage these schools to consider supporting Thomley.

Schools can do one off events or pupils can adopt Thomley as their chosen charity for a term and donate proceeds from any activities to help support the children who visit Thomley. If you would like copies of our school fundraising leaflet or know a school that might be interested in supporting Thomley, please get in touch with us.

## Upcoming dates

Open 10am-3.30pm

### Christmas Holidays

20th December - 23rd December

### Christmas Party

18th December

### Pre-School Days

14th December

11th January

### Adult Days

7th December

4th January

### Quiet Days (Max 30)

27th November

29th January

### Teenage Day

21st December

### Community Day

4th December

8th January

**Thomley will be closed from 24th December and will re-open 4th January.**

**If your booking changes, please let us know.**



## Building update

All the building work on the manor hall is now underway! This will hopefully cause minimum disruption to visitors...

The disabled parking has been moved next to the small open barn as indicated by the signs, and all staff will park around the back of Thomley; so if you arrive and there's no cars out the front don't be alarmed, we are actually here!

Now that there is no clear route to the fire meeting point by the music room, we have moved the meeting point to the outdoor music area (just past the swings).

## Cards and wrapping paper



Look no further for all of your Christmas cards and gift wrap as we have lots available and it's all on display in the Art Room. Feel free to come down within office hours if you would like to make a donation and walk away with all of your Christmas cards! (Please call the office before turning up!)

## Physically Vulnerable Children Day – May 14th and August 16th

Thomley is delighted to introduce a new focus day for 2011. The day is open to PMLD children who may struggle with the hustle and bustle of lots of children, and may need that extra bit of space to play and explore. By May we should have the new fully accessible disabled toilets including ceiling hoist. Family and friends are also welcome to come along for the day.

## Barclays volunteering

On the 1st November, a group of volunteers from a local branch of Barclays bank gave up their time to help us with jobs around Thomley. They were taking part in the annual 'Make a Difference Day' campaign that encourages people to give their time and skills to projects in their local community.

In just one day our fantastic volunteers gave our sensory room a fresh coat of paint, planted bulbs, gave garden furniture a new lease of life and helped tick lots of other jobs off our to-do list! Barclays also generously covered the cost of all the materials used on the day and we would like to say a very big **thank you** for all their help.



## Dads Day

A reminder to all Dads out there who are looking for something fun to do with their children in at Thomley on November 21st and play lots of sport; do cartoon drawing or just chill out for the day!



## Christmas Craft Fair!

Over a hundred and fifty of you came through the gate to buy all your Christmas goodies! Thank you to every one who came, we managed to raise £952! We hope you all return again next year.

## October Half term



Zoolab came out and entertained us with a variety of animals and bugs including giant snails, snakes and rabbits!

Many of you came in fantastic fancy dress outfits and got stuck into the variety of Halloween activities!

Our American themed week saw lots of American inspired Art and craft which is now on the Art room walls! We hope you all enjoyed your week as much as we enjoyed having you!



## Makaton training

In the New year Thomley will host a makaton course for parents/ professionals/ carers of children who have additional communication needs. We will advertise for this in January, if you are interested please email [hayley@thomleyhall.org](mailto:hayley@thomleyhall.org)

## Reminders

- ☆ To make a booking please call the office or email Joe on [joe@thomleyhall.org](mailto:joe@thomleyhall.org)
- ☆ To discuss fundraising or if you have any links with a company who might be interested in supporting us in some way, then please call the office or email Ruth on [ruth@thomleyhall.org](mailto:ruth@thomleyhall.org)



## This months wish list...

We now regularly update out wish list online!

Please visit <http://thomleyactivitycentre.org/sup-port-us/> to see if you can tick anything off of our list!



**Happy Christmas to you all from the Thomley team!**



HOW TO CONTACT US  
[www.thomleyhall.org](http://www.thomleyhall.org)

THOMLEY ACTIVITY CENTRE  
MENMARSH ROAD  
WORMINGHALL  
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE  
HP18 9JZ  
TEL/FAX: 01844 338380  
[enquiries@thomleyhall.org](mailto:enquiries@thomleyhall.org)