



July/August 2018

# Newsletter

[www.thealemedicalcentre.com](http://www.thealemedicalcentre.com)

## Theale Medical Centre website

Please remember you can go on our website [www.thealemedicalcentre.co.uk](http://www.thealemedicalcentre.co.uk) to book appointments, request medication, check/request referrals, fill out travel forms, registration forms, register for online access, find where your nearest pharmacy is, information on minor illnesses, fill out medication review forms and much more. Going to the website will save you time by not having to phone or come into the surgery.

## Bank Holiday closing dates

Please be aware that we are closed on the bank holiday date— Monday 27th August 2018



Our new GP Partner Dr Hillier has now started with us at Theale Medical Centre. If you were registered with Dr Bywater you will now be registered with Dr Hillier. I'm sure you will all join us in welcoming him to the surgery.



## Tips dates closed

Please be aware that we are closed on this date between 12.00pm and 5.00pm - Wednesday 11th July 2018

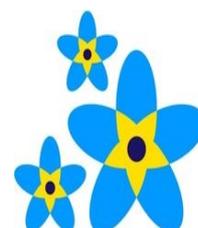


Inspected and rated

Good



Regulated by



Working to become  
**Dementia  
Friendly**  
2017-2018

## Standby Volunteer Group

Standby aims to provide volunteer drivers, using their own cars, to assist people who do not have access to transport. They take them to hospital and surgery appointments, including dentists, opticians etc. and return them to their home. Standby cover the Parishes of Stanford Dingley, Bradfield, Bradfield Southend, Theale, Englefield, Calcot and parts of Tilehurst.

Standby is manned by volunteers on Mondays and Wednesdays between 10am and 12pm and requests are dealt with by a simple call directly to them. The telephone number is 0118 9306419, if it isn't answered please leave a clear message on the answerphone.



## World Breast Feeding week

1st—7th August 2018

World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action (WABA) is a global network of individuals and organisations concerned with the protection, promotion and support of breastfeeding worldwide based on the Innocenti Declarations, the Ten Links for Nurturing the Future and the WHO/UNICEF Global Strategy for Infant and Young Child Feeding. WABA is in consultative status with UNICEF and an NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC).



## Cycle to work Day—15th August 2018

Cycle to Work Day is the UK's biggest cycle commuting event. Every year since 2012 we've seen thousands of enthusiastic riders hit the streets to celebrate everyday cycling. All you need to take part is a bike - new or old - and the desire to ride. You can go solo or be the change your workplace needs and organise an event for you and your colleagues. Whatever you do, however far your ride - have fun!

## Friends & Family

In the month of May patients rated up whether they would recommend the surgery to their family and friends, these are the results -

Extremely likely— 114

Likely— 55

Neither likely or unlikely— 8

Unlikely— 4

Extremely unlikely— 5



## Your Data Matters to the NHS

Information about your health and care helps us to improve your individual care, speed up diagnosis, plan your local services and research new treatments.

In May 2018, the strict rules about how this data can and cannot be used were strengthened. The NHS is committed to keeping patient information safe and always being clear about how it is used. You can choose whether your confidential patient information is used for research and planning.

To find out more visit: [nhs.uk/your-nhs-data-matters](https://nhs.uk/your-nhs-data-matters)

You can choose whether your confidential patient information is used for research and planning.

### How your data is used

Your health and care information is used to improve your individual care. It is also used to help us research new treatments, decide where to put GP clinics and plan for the number of doctors and nurses in your local

hospital. Wherever possible we try to use data that does not identify you, but sometimes it is necessary to use your confidential patient information.

### What is confidential patient information?

Confidential patient information identifies you and says something about your health, care or treatment. You would expect this information to be kept private. Information that only identifies you, like your name and

address, is not considered confidential patient information and may still be used: for example, to contact you if your GP practice is merging with another.

### Who can use your confidential patient information for research and planning?

It is used by the NHS, local authorities, university and hospital researchers, medical colleges and pharmaceutical companies researching new treatments.

### Making your data opt-out choice

You can choose to opt out of sharing your confidential patient information for research and planning. There may still be times when your confidential patient information is used: for example, during an epidemic

where there might be a risk to you or to other people's health. You can also still consent to take part in a

Specific research project.

### Will choosing this opt-out affect your care and treatment?

No, your confidential patient information will still be used for your individual care. Choosing to opt out will not affect your care and treatment. You will still be invited for screening services, such as screenings for bowel cancer.

What should you do next?

You do not need to do anything if you are happy about how your confidential patient information is used.

If you do not want your confidential patient information to be used for research and planning, you can choose

to opt out securely online

## PPG News

The PPG last met on 31<sup>st</sup> January. Rosemary Balsdon tendered her resignation as Chair having held the position for a number of years. Rosemary was thanked for her input over many years and has agreed to stay on as Vice-Chair. Andy Button was elected Chair for the coming year.

We had a very interesting presentation by Standby, who provide transport to e.g. hospital appointments for people who would otherwise have difficulty getting there. Please contact standby directly on 0118 930 6419.

We have set up an email address for the PPG - [ppg.tmc@nhs.net](mailto:ppg.tmc@nhs.net) - so if you would like to comment on any issues/concerns relating to the practice (NOT clinical issues, though!) please send your comments, queries, etc to this address and we will do our best to respond in a reasonable timescale. We have chosen an '@nhs.net' email address as we believe this will be more secure than other potential addresses. This email address can only be logged into by the PPG, so the practice will not be able to see what you have said.

We have decided to limit the size of the PPG to 15 people, as anything more would make for cumbersome meetings! We will, however, be setting up a 'virtual patient group'. People in this group may occasionally be contacted by the practice (by email) for purposes such as undertaking

surveys etc. We will also issue the Newsletter to people in the group. If you wish to be included, please let the practice know.



Andy Button—Chair

Rosemary Balsdon—Vice Chair

