

# Our Place

Issue 9

Welcome to our new patron...



**“I am very pleased and excited to announce that we have a new member of our patron team here at Thomley. Would you join me in welcoming Paul Isaacs. He will be joining Ken Bruce in helping us promoting the work of Thomley.**

Paul brings with him a range of personal and professional skills and experiences in the field of autism spectrum conditions that I believe will be a benefit for Thomley and our visitors. Paul has also agreed to continue to hold regular support and information sessions for anyone wishing to take advantage of these opportunities. We will let you know when these events will take place,”

**Warren, CEO.**

# Upcoming workshops...

## May half term:

### Woodwork with Paul

**Tuesday 31st May & Thursday 2nd June**

Do you have something in mind you'd really like to make? Paul will be happy to help you create it at his wood workshop.

### Oxfordshire Cricket Workshop

**Friday 3rd June, 2-3pm**

This fantastic interactive workshop went down a storm last time it came to Thomley. Throwing, batting, team activities and of course a game of cricket at the end!

## Also in June & July:

### Giant Bubble Display

**Saturday 11th & 25th June, 11am**

Everyone loves bubbles. Enough said!

### Ignite Sport - Boccia

**Saturday 18th June, 1-2pm**

Ignite are back, join them and become an expert at Boccia!

### Tomcat Trikes

**Saturday 18th June, 10am-12pm**

A great opportunity to trial a range of accessible bikes and trikes.

## Camping...

### July 1st / 2nd

Bring your tent and pitch up at Thomley for a night under the stars. A great place to try camping for the first time, to do something different and to use Thomley with less people on and around site.

**Call reception for more information:  
01844 338380**





# Meet Tracy, Thomley's new receptionist...



**“Hello Everyone, I’m Tracy and I look forward to joining the Thomley Team in June as the new receptionist.**

Over the last 10 years I have worked for the NHS, with the last 8 years supporting families within the community.

My interests include: travelling, arts & crafts, baking & cooking, oh and talking.....which I appear to be quite good at!

Please come and say ‘hi’ to me when you visit!”

## Building update...

**There have been bones (luckily just animal bones!) and the the odd disruption to the water! But as I’m sure you’ve noticed, the building is well underway for our new Pavilion.**

Pavilion I hear you say, what pavilion? Formerly known as ‘Cafe’ we have changed the name. Mainly because this building will provide more than just food and drink for our families. Hopefully this will enable us to host more private functions, disability forums, parent support groups (to name a few). This could generate us fabulous publicity and much needed income to help sustain and improve the service we are offering.

You will see the foundations of the building are now taking shape, how exciting!



## Message from Hayley...

It’s been great seeing you all have fun over the last term and over the Easter holidays, it was amazing to catch up with the 635 of you who came to play and enjoy all the awesome activities planned by Anna and Amy. Check out our new planner to see what Thomley has scheduled for you including activities and workshops like – Lego days, giant bubbles, accessible bike displays and camping.

Please continue to support my team by following rules on-site regarding medication control and disposal of used medical items; eating only in designated eating areas and using correct bins when disposing of pads & nappies.

On a separate note check out our feedback boards on site to let us know what you think about Thomley or would like to do at Thomley... Your feedback is always valued and welcome!

See you all soon!



## Have your say...

**We are always keen that your input is heard when we make developments or when planning for the future of Thomley.**

On Tuesday 31st May, Warren will be based somewhere on site to talk to families about the current changes, such as the pavilion and the plans for our new playground. Plus you can chat through any ideas you have for the future of Thomley. Warren will be available from 11am-12pm and 2-3pm.

**If you can’t make it on the 31st, there will be other opportunities to chat with Warren and what you think is important as we shape our service for the next 5 years.**

## Summer Club...

**We are looking to run an evening club once a week in the summer holidays for young people aged 12 and over.**

This would be on a similar basis to our current Youth Club, where there would be some structured activities, and some free time for the young people to do what they wanted. For example, the current Youth Club members have a gaming session, and all bring their handheld consoles in.

**Any feedback, ideas or to express an interest, please get in touch with Anna:  
anna@thomley.org.uk or call her on 01844 338380 Ext. 104.**



# Events...

## Handlebards...



Described by none other than Sir Ian McKellen as “uproariously funny”, the four-strong all-male HandleBards present Shakespeare’s plays as you’ve never seen them before - fast-paced, irreverent and bicycle-powered. Since 2013, the HandleBards have pedalled over 5000 miles across the world, carrying all their set, props and costumes on just four bicycles.

On 14th June they’re stopping off at Thomley, to perform their rib-tickling production of Shakespeare’s joyous comedy ‘Much Ado’ (there are no deaths whatsoever!). Expect a “gloriously eccentric and very, very funny” (The Stage, on A Midsummer Night’s Dream) night, delivered on eight very sore legs. The HandleBards will be accompanied by live music from a local musician.

Tickets are £12, £10 concessions (under 18, students, OAPs) and under 10s go free. 6:30pm start, bring a picnic and arrive anytime from 5:30pm.

For more information visit: [www.handlebards.com](http://www.handlebards.com)

To purchase your tickets contact Hayley on 01844 338380 or the Handlebards team.

## Professionals Day - Friday 10th June

For anyone wanting to know more about Thomley, what we can offer a family you know or support, what there is to do here, come and have a look. We are inviting professionals, teachers, social workers, doctors, TA’s or anyone who works with disabled people to come and take a look at what’s here, and what we do.

*“All staff were exceptionally helpful while answering questions. It was lovely to gain information about the day to day running of Thomley, but also the planning and thought that goes into the development of the centre. The passion of all the staff is clear.”* From our 2015 event.

To book onto our morning or afternoon tour, get in touch with Joe on: [joe@thomley.org.uk](mailto:joe@thomley.org.uk) or 01844 338380.

## School Open Day - Friday 24th June

Our school open day is for any school looking to try Thomley out for the first time. Would your child’s class benefit from a day here? Suggest it to their teacher, in return they would get a free visit to try us out for the day!

Do they need transport? If so, we have a minibus that we could pick you up in.

To enquire about taking advantage of this FREE day out and booking the minibus, get in touch with Joe on: [joe@thomley.org.uk](mailto:joe@thomley.org.uk) or 01844 338380.

# Fundraising...

## Join our Parallel London Team for a training session at Thomley with George Anderson

After touting for people to take part in Parallel London we now have a team of thirty people including families, staff and our patron, who have kindly agreed to either walk, wheel or run, raising money for Thomley in the process.

Our participants will be travelling 1km, 5km or 10km distances, so to help training for distances such as this we have linked up with well known local fitness guru George Anderson. George previously ran 10 marathons in 10 days for Thomley, raising in excess of £10,000 (yes we love George). He is going to put on a training session, at Thomley on Sunday 10th July. The session will also include guidance on a ten week training programme for a 10km run.

If you want to book and join in then please contact Joe on: [joe@thomley.org.uk](mailto:joe@thomley.org.uk) or call 01844 338380. It’s £5 for the session, which will be (very kindly) donated to Thomley by George.



## Vote for Thomley!

You may have already seen our pitch to Virgin Voom on our social media, if not, take a look: <https://www.vmbvooom.com/pitches/everyone-can-play>



Virgin are offering cash of up to £250,000 for providing a great pitch, that is well followed by an organisation’s supporters. We are pitching for money towards a new playground that we are having designed by Russell Play.

The more votes we manage to get the better the chance of us receiving some money. Please don’t just watch the pitch, vote for it and share it too!

The photo to the left is a little glimpse of some of the plans we have for the new playground.

## Art competition...

Enter your piece of art in our May half term competition. Your painting will be exhibited at reception, and the winner from each age group will get a free day pass to Thomley. They will also have their work in the next newsletter and we will auction their work off, the proceeds coming to Thomley.

There are four age categories: 4-7, 8-12, 13-17 and your work can be done by painting, sticking, mosaic, whatever you fancy (as long as it hangs on the wall!).

Hand in your art at reception, with your name, age, and contact details on the back.



## Book your holiday at the Thomley travel agents...

The summer isn't far away, have you booked your holiday yet? You better get a move on! The Thomley travel agents are open and ready to take your booking.

*(Please note: all bookings are fictional, we can only apologise for the service you may receive from any of our travel representatives who are voluntarily booking you in to random and unknown destinations. Please do not hand over any sums of cash to a child claiming to have booked you a 4 week trip to Barbados!)*



## Don't forget to follow us online...

Follow us on Twitter: [https://twitter.com/Thomley\\_](https://twitter.com/Thomley_)

Like our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/thomleypublic>

Connect with us on LinkedIn:

[http://uk.linkedin.com/company/thomley?trk=ppro\\_cprof](http://uk.linkedin.com/company/thomley?trk=ppro_cprof)

Share your photos and Thomley stories with us on our private families page:  
<https://www.facebook.com/FriendsOfThomley>

