

NEWSLETTER



SUMMER 2011 Issue No.51

TAKELEY PARISH COUNCIL

TPC RESPONSIBILITIES:

AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY	REMIT	COUNCILLOR
CHAIRMAN		Richard Cheetham
VICE CHAIRMAN		Carol Pratt
FINANCE COMMITTEE		Richard Cheetham, Carol Pratt, John Orpin
PLANNING COMMITTEE	Planning Applications, Stansted, Housing Policy	Carol Pratt, Trevor Allen, Tricia Barber, John Orpin
HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORT		Brian Baldwin & John Gregory
SPORTS FIELD		Trevor Allen, John Gregory, Alan Jones (Youth football project)
RECREATION GROUND		John Green
RIGHTS OF WAY/FOOTPATHS/LAND	Rights of Way/Footpaths/Land, Tree Warden, Flich Way	Trevor Allen & John Green.
MOLEHILL GREEN *	Green, Hall & Community	Carol Pratt
POLICE LIASON/PUBLIC SAFETY UPCC & NAB rep.		John Gregory & Trevor Allen
PUBLICITY	Notice Boards, Website, Newsletter, Grapevine, Press	tbc
PRIMARY CARE TRUST	Health Care Policy	tbc
REGIONAL/NATIONAL POLICY		Geoff Bagnall
PARISH PLAN		Carol Pratt

*NOTE: Cllrs. Carol Pratt & Trevor Allen are trustees of Molehill Green Village Hall

TPC REPRESENTATIVES:

REPRESENTATIVE	COUNCILLOR/RESIDENTS
Essex Assoc. of Local Councils	Cllrs Richard Cheetham, Carol Pratt
Area Forums	Clr Tricia Barber
Parish Passenger /Transport Gps	Clr Brian Baldwin, Clr John Gregory, Martin Peachey, Phyllis Altham
Priors Green Working Party	Cllrs Carol Pratt, Alan Jones, Geoff Bagnall, John Gregory
Local Council Liaison Committee	Cllrs Richard Cheetham, Carol Pratt
Takeley Local History Society & School	Clr Trevor Allen
Silver Jubilee Hall	Clr Trevor Allen

All roles confirmed & agreed TPC Meeting May 2010

DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLORS

REPRESENTATIVE	COUNCILLOR
District Councillors	Cllr Jackie Cheetham Tel/Fax: (01279) 870706 cllrcheetham@uttlesford.gov.uk Cllr Derek Jones Tel: (01279) 870870 cllrdjones@uttlesford.gov.uk
County Councillor	Cllr Susan Barker Tel: (01245) 231250 Fax: (01245) 231810 Cllr.Susan.Barker@essexcc.gov.uk

This and back issues can be viewed on our website www.takeleypc.co.uk

Editorial



In which the editor is attacked by a rat, discovers that toilets have infinite capacity and tends to an alcoholic teddy bear.

“The past is a foreign country; they do things differently there.” Thus said L.P.Hartley at the beginning of that wondrous novel, *“The Go-Between”*. And how perceptive that statement is.

Maybe it is because I have recently moved house, or perhaps it is simply the passing of years and anniversaries, but I find that, these days, I am often immersed in a sort of gilded nostalgia.

Coming across some photographs of Takeley School taken over forty years ago, I suddenly realised that these faded images of half-forgotten moments woke sleeping memories – like opening the curtains and watching sunlight streaming into a dusty, long-abandoned room. It is extraordinary how vivid the memories of schooldays are.



I remember being bundled into a taxi, one cold January evening in 1957, and being driven off to prep school. Everything was alien to the boy who was not yet nine years old. My father had been posted abroad to Cyprus and it was determined that I should stay in England for my education. The prep school where I ended up was probably quite typical of its day: shabby classrooms with ancient desks carved with initials and dates by bored pupils over the years. Textbooks

which hadn't changed since the turn of the last century and a collection of extraordinarily eccentric teachers, some brilliant and some, well ...

And of course, there were the dormitories – great bare-boarded rooms with rows of iron bedsteads. There was a chair by each bed to put



one's clothes on but that was it. And boy, were they cold in winter! Of course, we got up to all sorts of mischief after lights out but if you got caught, it was up at six o'clock, a cold shower and sweep the classrooms before breakfast. There was one master who had artificial legs. He removed them at night when he was in his study. If he heard talking from the dormitories down the corridor, he would come clumping out of his room, half

crawling and half bouncing legless along the passage, propelled only by his hands and arms, like some large insect. Seeing *that* coming through the doorway was enough to silence any conversation!



So you can imagine the culture shock that I felt when I had my first experience of the state system as I started my first teaching practice as a trainee teacher. When I stood up to teach my first lesson, my voice steadily rose in pitch until all I was doing was emitting bat – like squeaks at the limit of human hearing while the class teacher looked on with a slightly startled expression.

“I think, perhaps, that you were a little nervous,” he remarked sympathetically. The odd thing is that, years after that first moment of undiluted terror, I often found myself, in the role of mentor, empathising with trainee teachers in my class, feeling the same knot in the stomach as they took over the class for the first time.

In those days, class sizes of forty were the norm, there was no school uniform and the curriculum was sketchy. At the end of the day, my clothes and hair would be full of chalk dust.

Not many of us could afford the luxury of a car and the caretaker would often give me a lift home at locking up time, along with my usual enormous pile of books.



The school building was in a constant state of decay – it was a temporary construction, as the permanent building had been cancelled because – you’ve guessed it – the first Stansted expansion scheme had just been

mooted. I have vivid memories of painters turning up one week and painting all the window frames only to be followed a couple of weeks later by a bunch of carpenters who proceeded to replace all the rotten wood in the newly painted frames. Of course, the new wood wasn’t painted and so proceeded to rot ...

At one point, I kept a small menagerie of creatures in my class. Now is not the time to go into the Great Gerbil Population Explosion, but we did have quite an exciting time. Like the day that the hamster escaped and we found it floating, nearly dead, in a large jug of paste just below its cage. It was revived, dried, and spent the rest of the day glaring indignantly at everyone like an infuriated puffball.

Oh yes, and there was Jeremy. Jeremy, I must tell you, was a rather handsome white rat, donated to the class by one of my mums. Now, there were no safety elves in those days so Jeremy spent every day out of his cage being nursed by one or other of the children. Visitors would be quite

disconcerted when they saw a little rat face peeping out of the collar of someone's shirt!

Jeremy was such a success that we acquired Jemima. Unfortunately, Jemima turned nasty one day and managed to bite nearly everyone in the class, including me! Responsibly, I suggested to the various mums that they should take their offspring for a tetanus jab. That evening, I went to my doctor – a rather dour Scotsman – to get an injection myself. “I've been bitten by a rat and I think I need and anti-tetanus injection,” I said.

He looked at me rather quizzically.

“That's odd,” he said, “you're the sixth person I've had in today who's been bitten by a rat!”

And there was the lad who came in with a plastic lunch box and thrust it on my desk.

“It's a grass snake,” he said excitedly, “I found it in the Forest.”

Only when I opened the box, it turned out to be a very bad-tempered adder which was now fully awake. I don't think that the class had ever seen me move that quickly as I slammed the lid back, sprinted outside to the field and loosening the lid, hurled the whole lot over the fence!

Of course, we did trips to London. In those days, London Zoo was an affordable outing. I remember taking a well-behaved group of Takeley children into the small mammal pavilion. Since most of them were nocturnal (the animals, that is), the whole building was kept in semi-darkness with large notices everywhere demanding quiet from the visitors. Well, the place was packed with school parties and, of course, there was general uproar. I tried to identify my children in the gloom to make sure that it was not my group that was responsible for the din. To my horror, I saw what looked like one of my boys pounding on the glass of one of the enclosures with both fists. Moving swiftly, I grabbed him and lifted him bodily off the ground with his fists still pounding in the direction of the glass. At that moment, the lights went on and I discovered that I was holding a boy by the scruff of the neck who I had never seen before. “Don't you dare do that again,” I roared. The boy stared at me with a look of terror and departed the scene at speed!

On another occasion, I took a group of children to the Science Museum. We were doing a project on space travel, so I gathered my class and helpers about me and standing in front of the exhibits, started to deliver a lesson about the beginnings of rockets. As I raised my eyes beyond the first row, I noticed a large group of Japanese tourists who had joined my class and were hanging on every word.

And finally, most glorious of all, was the time when we went to the theatre to see *The BFG*. We had chosen the very same day as the Duchess of York and her children. They were a couple of rows ahead of us, surrounded by security men. Come the interval, I found myself doing what all male primary school teachers do, manning the boy's loo, counting them in and counting



them out. So there I stood, pushing bursting boys through the toilet door in a never-ending stream. One of HRH's security men was standing just opposite me, watching with admiration as I dextrously and nonchalantly funnelled more and more boys through the door.

Noting the fact that none, so far, had actually emerged from the toilets, the security man leant in my direction and said, "It's not a TARDIS, you know." But that was then and this is now.

As I sat in the school hall a couple of evenings ago, I remembered the excitement that we all felt when we finally managed to get a permanent school building. All new and shiny. It was amazing. And now it's going to be abandoned as the school moves to newer and better premises.

Change, I suppose, is inevitable but I never quite get used to it. Like that evening when I was bundled into a cold car to go off to boarding school. Life always changes and never goes backwards. In a funny way, I realised that for the first time that January evening.

The past *really* is a foreign country. I know – I've been there, you see.

And while you ponder that profound thought, I think that the time has come for all good children to be in bed. So I'm going to pour a stiff drink. For my Teddy bear. It suffers from insomnia. And don't you dare say that you don't believe me!

Paul Regeli, Contributing Editor

Buffy Bus



during term time calls

Tuesday	Thursday
11.30am-12.30pm	1.45pm-3.00pm
Takeley	Little Canfield
Station House	Warwick Road
Sycamore Close	Priors Green

Buffy Bus costs £2.50 per family, per visit,
please talk to our staff if this causes difficulties
Phone: 01799 522130 Email: info@buffybus.co.uk
Website: www.buffybus.co.uk

TAKELEY PARISH COUNCIL

The following are extracts from the March, April and May Parish Council minutes, which can be viewed on the TPC website: www.takeleypc.co.uk

In April **COUNTY CLLR SUSAN BAKER** reported:

- ECC budgets cut by 28% over 4 years
- 450 managers to be made redundant
- School escorts to be reviewed/cut
- Special educational needs transport to be reviewed.
- The 33 bus in now the 42A - this route has been losing money since 2008 & is no longer viable
- Chelmer Valley park & ride is now open (£2.20)
- ECC Big Society Fund - £1.4m for community projects
- Money available for pothole repairs - report to ECC via phone or website.

In April **DISTRICT CLLR JACKIE CHEETHAM** reported:

- There will be no redundancies at UDC
- The Council is forming partnership working arrangements
- **Olympics 2012** - Essex presentation event to be held at Saffron Walden Museum. Essex is facilitating the mountain biking and will be recruiting volunteers to assist visitors.
- **Stansted Airport Endeavour House Inquiry** - appeal to vary conditions to allow non-airport related business activity to rent space in Endeavour House dismissed.
- **Priors Green marketing suite** - application to vary conditioned opening hours: Mon - Fri 9am - 6pm allowed (was 9am - 5pm), Sat, Suns & bank hols - 10am - 4pm (10am - 6pm refused).
- **Priors Green UTT/0337/11/FUL & UTT/0338/11/FUL** 3 storey Barrett Homes along Dunmow Rd approved by UDC. **TPC is extremely disappointed with the outcome of these applications** and agreed to initiate a meeting with Andrew Taylor (Divisional Head of Planning & Building Control) to discuss TPC's disappointment with the outcome of these applications. TPC will invite Mr. Taylor to visit Takeley to tour some of these sites and to review other planning issues.

Vice Chairman Cllr Carol Pratt reported on the first **SSE LIAISON MEETING** held on Wed. 30th March. The aim of the parish liaison group is to maintain momentum and to develop SSE strategy in conjunction with parish council representatives. The group discussed BAA owned property within the parishes (including listed buildings), the lack of maintenance, and BAA's reluctance to sell back homes in the community. The next meeting will be hosted by Takeley Parish Council on 23rd June 2011.

TAKELEY PRIMARY SCHOOL: The Clerk has examined the approved documents and has written to Essex County Council expressing TPC's disappointment that whilst the pavement widening scheme (village centre, along

B1256 to Priors Green) is included in the approved plans, a number of significant issues are not addressed:

- Drop off/collection point for car journeys
- No provision of cycle ways through Priors Green
- Insufficient staff car parking
- Potential airport expansion - no measures to address increased noise levels & adequate heating & ventilation systems.
- Long standing problems with Broadfield Road ditch.

ROUNDABOUT AT RODING DRIVE/B1256: Vehicles travelling both eastbound & westbound are driving straight over the roundabout. This creates an extremely dangerous junction at Roding Drive. Both the speed of traffic & poor sightlines create a hazard. ECC Highways Dept modified the junction last autumn by doming the r'about (raised to 75mm). The changes have made no difference to the speed of approaching traffic, and have resulted in noise pollution to nearby residents.

The Clerk has written to ECC Highways requesting an urgent meeting.

PRIORS GREEN SITE VISIT 23/3/11:

Cllr Allen reported on a site visit with Andrew Fisher (Countryside) to review progress on public spaces north of Jacks Lane. The 'kick about' area is virtually complete and looks very good. As requested, the entrance has been widened to allow access for maintenance machinery.

We also toured the rest of the construction site north of Jacks Lane.

The group discussed the latest breaches in the buffer zone by residents of Moat Housing on the western edge of Priors Green. Andrew Fisher has written to Moat Housing to inform them of the situation requesting that residents are informed of the purpose of the buffer zone and the restrictions that apply.

PRIORS GREEN COMMUNITY HALL - TRANSFER OF TITLE:

TPC has received the draft transfer documents from UDC.

TPC agreed to consult with the PC solicitor, arrange a Q&A session, before responding to UDC. The Clerk will query the details of S106 payments which are not mentioned in the documentation.

NICK BARTON, MD STANSTED AIRPORT: has responded to TPC's letter re Molehill Green Road.

TPC agreed to respond, thanking Mr. Barton for his response, and requesting that BAA block off gateways & entrances to airport land, and 'as a good neighbour' continues to support UDC clean up costs

UDC PLANNING SERVICES - ENFORCEMENT STRATEGY: TPC welcomes this policy (as opposed to no policy at all). Members agree with the priorities and response timescales. TPC urges the Head of Planning & Building Control (Andrew Taylor) & Asst Chief Executive (Michael Perry) to implemented this policy **immediately** thus protecting our communities.

ESS/06/11/UTT LAND TO THE NORTH OF THE A120 AT FROGS HALL

FARM, BAMBERS GREEN: TPC has 'no objection' to the alternative restoration scheme providing that this scheme will include raising the level of bridleway/footpath 29 to prevent the risk of flooding.

Bridleway/footpath 29 dissects the site. It is flooded and totally impassable. The Parish Council suggests that the level of the footpath is raised to ensure that flooding is prevented and public access is maintained.

Footpath 28 joins footpath 29 and has been ploughed back and is no longer passable.

CRUMPS FARM UPDATE:

Update from Claire Tomlinson (ECC Senior Planner) 15/4/11:

Baker Tilly acting as Administrative Receivers for Edwards Waste Management.

The site is not operational. There are a number of planning issues on the site which the Waste Planning Authority are seeking to resolve and enforcement action may be necessary if no progress is made.

ESS/46/08/UTT - 'Continuation of mineral extraction & development of waste recycling & composting facility, including demolition of existing mineral processing plant, construction of waste reception & sorting building including sorting of domestic & commercial & industrial waste to recover recyclables, construction of in vessel composting units for composting of sorted waste, reprofiling of levels of restored landfill site utilising on site materials, with restoration to parkland, landfilling of mineral void with composted material with progressive restoration to agriculture, widening of access road to allow 2 way traffic, installation of landfill gas & leachate management systems.'

This application was granted subject to completion of legal agreement & conditions by 30/4/11. The landowner's planning agent has requested an extension of time of 6 months.

The landowner is looking for a new operator. ECC is monitoring. Permissions are outstanding.

TPC noted this information and agreed to write to ECC to request notification of further/future developments.

ESSEX LIBRARY SERVICES: The consultation document suggests that there will be no change to the **mobile library service** for Takeley (despite ECC reducing the number of vehicles in the fleet).

TPC agreed to thank ECC for this news & seek confirmation that, although the day or time of visits may vary, the frequency of visits will remain unchanged.

Changes to operating hours at **static Libraries** in this locality appear minimal. There are no library closures. TPC agreed to thank ECC. Local residents will be pleased to know that local library services will only experience minor changes.

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW – FINAL RECCOMENDATIONS:

The Clerk reported the final proposals agreed at UDC Finance & Administration Committee 28/3/11:

- No change to the parish boundary, but UDC did agree to review the boundary again in 3 years.
- From May 2012 the number of parish councillors will increase to 13

- Parish Election May 2012 (3 year term of office).
- UDC members resolved that UDC officers should no longer seek to resolve the problems of Priors Green residents who were dissatisfied with the current postal code allocations. This matter should now be pursued via the respective parish councils.

TPC noted the report and agreed the following response:

- TPC is surprised and disappointed that UDC members have advised that parish council should pursue the issues of post code allocations on Priors Green. What 'preliminary work' has UDC completed?

TPC disagrees with the proposed further review in 3 years. Members believe that this is a waste of time and money. The proposed review will clash with 2015 elections.

STATION HOUSE:

TPC noted the minutes of a meeting with Mark Handford Jones (ECC Property Division) on 9/2/11:

- ECC will assess the cost of TPC leasing the large office
- ECC will provide details of annual running costs (both internal & external)
- ECC aim to engage a commercial operation to rent the Station House (grd floor) on a basis compatible with PC use (rules to be written into commercial lease)
- A cafe arrangement would be predominantly weekends.
- ECC will confirm what happens to the children's groups
-

Clr Trevor Allen reported on his visit to the cafe at Rayne Station.

TPC noted the information & agreed to discuss further at the April meeting.

TPC noted an update from Mark Handford Jones, ECC:

- It has been difficult to extract annual running costs for the Station House however utilities cost approximately £1k per annum. There has been no experience of maintenance charges to date.
- Mr. Handford Jones proposes a visit to the Station House on Tues. 12/4/11 with the tenant of Rayne Station cafe with a view to discussing a commercial lease that will accommodate the needs of the Parish Council.

TPC received an update from a meeting with Mark Handford Jones, ECC 18/4/11. Waiting for terms of reference for a lease from ECC.

As no further details have been received from ECC, TPC resolved that the terms of reference will be considered at the next meeting in June. TPC agreed that the Clerk should write to ECC informing them of the date of the next Parish Council meeting and asking that they provide detail of the terms of a lease at least 2 weeks prior to the meeting so that members can give this matter due consideration in June (copied to County Cllr Susan Barker).

HIGHWAYS:

- **Bush End Road/B1256 Takeley Street:** a resident has reported HGV vehicles reversing out of Bush End Road onto the B1256. There are no 'bridge height'

warning signs on the B1256 (east or westbound). The Clerk has reported to ECC Highways.

- **Morrells Green parking:** complaint from local resident. TPC agreed that whilst members should be made aware of parking issues around Takeley, it is important for local residents to report to the proper authority at the relevant time (Police, UDC Enforcement Team, ECC Highways).
- **Footpath widening along the B1256 village centre to Priors Green:** ECC Highways has confirmed that a scheme will be designed shortly & will be paid for from S106 Highways fund.
- **Bus Stop at Tesco's, Dunmow:** Clerk has made contact with Team Manager at ECC. Awaiting details.
- ECC PROW has confirmed that they will address problems reported on **footpaths 21 & 29.**
- Cllr Brian Baldwin has completed an audit of outstanding highways issues which will be notified to ECC Highways Dept. In addition there are various potholes in **Warish Hall Road/Smiths Green** between B1256 & A120 bridge.
- ECC Highways has responded to last month's reports:
 - Lining of junction boxes at Roseacres/Parsonage Road & Elm Close/Station Rd B183 will be completed during next planned visit.
 - Carriageway defects in Parsonage Rd (sunken manhole cover & road surface near Roseacres) have been inspected and deemed non-urgent. TPC agreed that this decision should be challenged as this defect is hazardous.
- A resident of North Road raised the issue of **airport related parking in North Road.** There are no parking restrictions in North Road and therefore cars are left parked for weeks. Request signage or parking restrictions.

TPC agreed the following action:

- (i) Establish ownership/responsibility for verges & road (UDC or ECC Highways)
- (ii) Establish options/proposals
- (iii) Survey North Road residents

- Mike Letchford raised the issue of **Jacks Lane.** The byway is deeply rutted and 4x4 traffic is using it regularly. Residents are totally opposed to Jacks Lane being used by motorised vehicles – it is not safe for pedestrians. What about the safety of children walking to the new school?

Chairman Richard Cheetham reiterated that TPC shares these concerns.

Mrs Carol King raised **traffic calming measures in Takeley Street.** She claims the speed of traffic is 'horrendous' and has increased since the development of Priors Green. Mrs King requested that the Council resurrect the project to introduce traffic calming in Takeley Street. Mrs King offered to canvass Takeley Street residents

The Chairman explained that following previous requests from residents of Takeley Street, TPC had coordinated speed surveys (by volunteers and the Police), and worked with ECC Highways to design a suitable scheme (cost

£123k). When TPC surveyed support for the scheme in May/June 2010 very few residents responded to the survey, and several objected to the proposal. Based on the lack of support TPC agreed to 'mothball' the proposal in August 2010. It was also noted, that despite making application to ECC Highways Community Initiative Fund, and numerous correspondence with Highways Dept, TPC has been unable to secure any funding thus far.

TPC agreed to resurrect the proposal and make application for funding providing the majority of residents in Takeley Street support the initiative. Mrs King offered to canvass Takeley Street residents. Mr. Martin Peachey agreed to request updated speed survey information from the Police.

DC Jackie Cheetham described the remit of the new District Highways Panels which may provide an avenue to funding. County Councillor Susan Barker agreed to discuss with the Cabinet member for Highways.

TPC agreed that results of the survey and any response from the Police will be reviewed at the May meeting.

Following the April meeting a survey of residents is being conducted in Takeley Street. Mrs Carol King (resident of Takeley Street) reported on the ongoing survey of Takeley Street residents. Residents overwhelmingly support a traffic calming scheme to reduce the speed of traffic; and will support any scheme that TPC deems appropriate (202 residents support scheme, 1 objection, 6 abstentions).

Essex Police have agreed to carry out a 24hr 5 day speed data survey in May.

TPC agreed that this item will be discussed again in June when the results of the Police survey are also available.

WAR MEMORIAL RESTORATION: TPC approved the up to date quote for restoration works (including new inscription) £1502. A deposit of £751 has been paid. Work to be completed in May.

2010/11 BUDGETS v ACTUALS:

TPC approved the draft statement of budgets v actual for 2010/11:

	£
Income	71747
Expenditure	54678
Balance	17069
Project Funds	54023
Free resource	11304
	82396

TPC reviewed proposals for the **RECREATION GROUND REFURBISHMENT** Members agreed to circulate the current plans for comment prior to the next meeting. In June TPC will agree any revisions to the proposal.

YOUTH FOOTBALL FACILITIES IN TAKELEY (Sports field):

Following a meeting with Pat Curran (TFC) 20/4/11 TPC approved the proposed updated strategy:

FA funding has been cut by 50%; they will fund a maximum of 35-40% of any project. In the current climate there are too many barriers to achieve the scale of the original project. The project should be broken down into achievable targets and phased according to agreed priority:

PROJECT	Comment	Approx Cost (£K)	AGREED PRIORITY
SPORTSFIELD/PITCHES	Drainage & quality	40k	1
CAR PARK	Plastic matting (Iain Brown)	75k	2
ALL WEATHER PITCH Including flood lights	Will attract sports related funders. Will generate substantial income. Will allow TPC to accumulate deposit for pavilion.	250k	3
PAVILION		321k	4

Additional portacabins

An additional duplicate portacabin should be purchased immediately to provide (3 rooms): additional changing room, toilet & referee changing facilities. Cost £5-6k.

TPC agreed in principal to proceeding with phase 1 - cost £40K, and to reserve £25k to fund 50% of this phase plus additional portacabin. Applications for grants will be made to fund the remaining 50% of field upgrade.

VANDALISM IN TAKELEY:

The Parish Council has spent £1500 on new signage for the Sports Field and Recreation Ground.

The sign in the Recreation Ground (Chestnut Way) has been vandalised 3 times since it was installed in March. Essex Police are working with the Parish Council to pursue those responsible.

Any resident who observes damage to community property should contact the Police or Parish Clerk.

TRAFFIC CALMING IN TAKELEY STREET

Residents of Takeley Street have requested that the Parish Council resurrect the proposal to install traffic calming measures to alleviate speeding traffic through Takeley Street.

The scheme, designed by Essex County Council, incorporates a series of pinch points and central islands that will enable the flow of 2 way traffic whilst encouraging a reduction in speed. If the proposal is acceptable the Parish Council will seek grant funding.

Residents are invited to make comment by Fri. 24th June 2011

A set of drawings are available to view at the Station House, or an electronic copy can be emailed.

For further information about Takeley Parish Council please contact the Clerk or visit the website: www.takeleypc.co.uk
Jane Heskey, Takeley Parish Council,
Station House, Sycamore Close,
Takeley, Essex, CM22 6QA
Phone: 020 8270 1149 Email: Takeley.pc@ntlworld.com

Parish Council Office

Takeley Parish Council has an office within the Station House in Sycamore Close.

The Council aims to foster a more personal and supportive role in the community to facilitate the needs of the people in Takeley and includes an information point and direct liaison with council members through the clerk.

Any resident of the local community or member of a local group is welcome to attend the weekly surgery or contact the Parish Council via the Clerk.

The Parish Council Office, at the Station House is open to the public each Wednesday morning between 10.00am & 1.00pm

CONTACT DETAILS

Clerk to the Council: Jane Heskey

Address:

Takeley Parish Council
Station House
Sycamore Close
Takeley
Essex CM22 6QA

Email: Takeley.pc@ntlworld.com

Telephone: 020 8270 1149
(subject to change)

Office Opening Hrs:
Wednesday 10.00am - 1.00pm

Letters

Dear Editor

We would like to thank the electors of Takeley and the Canfields who helped return us to represent the ward on Uttlesford District Council once again. It is indeed an honour and we will continue, as always, to serve all our constituents to the best of our abilities.

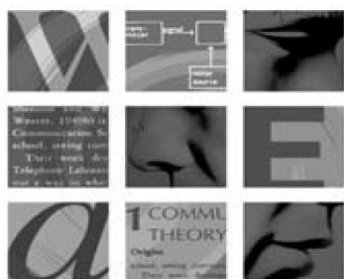
UDC will be using a 'Cabinet' system of governance from now on and we expect this to be a more cost effective and efficient way of working for the benefit of the whole community. This may bring challenges for constituents who need to contact the Council over the various matters within its control and we shall try to work with them to help resolve any problems arising.

The election also resulted in a number of our respected councillor colleagues from all parties either standing down or being unsuccessful at re-election. To all of those may we express our best wishes for the future and say it has been a pleasure working with you for the benefit of Uttlesford.

Jackie Cheetham
Beech Cottage
Smiths Green

Derek Jones
33 Parsonage Road
Takeley

WEa



Learning*for***Life**

We will be restarting on 12 September 2011 with a series of ten talks on "Boudicca and the resistance to Roman Rule in Britain". Meetings take place at 8 o'clock in the Community Centre and new members are always welcome.

FURTHER DETAILS FROM JOHN WATKISS ON
01279 870751

TAKELEY PARISH COUNCIL

PROVISIONAL

MEETING SCHEDULE 2011

Meetings start at 7.30pm & are held in the Station House,
Sycamore Close, unless notified otherwise.

JUL 6 th	AUG 3 rd	SEP 7 th	OCT 5 th	NOV 2 nd	DEC 7 th
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NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING

Neighbourhood Action Panel Dates 2011

Please see below dates for the NAP meetings being held throughout 2011 at **Hatfield Heath Police Station, Chelmsford Road, Hatfield Heath**. Starting at **19:30**. We look forward to seeing you there.

July 21st Sept 14th Nov 1st

Takeley Beat Surgery

A beat surgery is a two hour session where your local PCSO will be at a location for you to come and raise any concerns or just for a chat every month!

Come and see your local Police Community Support Officer at The Station House, Sycamore Close, Takeley Between **10:00 – 12:00**.

July 13th Aug 10th Sep 14th Oct 12th Nov 9th Dec 14th

Contact your local officers:

PC Brad Healey

e-mail: 1712@essex.pnn.police.uk

PCSO Jo Trevail-Phillips

e-mail: 73377@essex.pnn.police.uk

PCSO Emma Webb

e-mail: 71226@essex.pnn.police.uk

Telephone: Non-emergency: 0300 333 4444

Neighbourhood Mobile: 07779316979

Mobile Police Station Visits – 2011

For enquiries please call 07989 335719

Fridays 13:45 – 14:45 Takeley – Car Park rear of Post Office

Jun 24th Jul 22nd Aug 19th Sep 16th Oct 14th Nov 11th Dec 9th

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Neighbourhood Policing Team



www.essex.police.uk

SPARKLERS

The "Sparklers" group is for pre-school children, their parents, and carers. It is an informal meeting in Takeley Community Centre, South Road, with a short time of Christian worship, craft activities, toys, and refreshments.

There will always be a warm welcome for other children if they would like to come and join us.

We shall be meeting:

13th, 20th and 27th June

11th, 18th and 25th July

8th, 15th and 22nd August

12th, 19th and 25th September



Each meeting starts at 10am and finishes at 11.30am.

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TAKELEY FARMERS' MARKET

It was yet another sunny day for the May Market! Perhaps this is why it was a little quieter than usual, but it was good to see our regular customers. One notable absence (and very much missed) was Sue Sadler; who was enjoying the hospitality and fine cuisine of Princess Alexandra Hospital, Harlow. Thankfully, she is now home and recovering and will be back at the helm for the June Market.



A big “thank you” to Rebecca Brett and her team who ran the kitchen in support of VICTA, a charity for the visually impaired.

For the June Market it will be the turn of Takeley Scouts to cook up tasty bacon rolls and breakfasts (not over a camp fire!). These will feature Julie's bacon & sausages and Ian's eggs.

Highlights for June will include the return of Kate's ever popular bread stall, The Saffron Brewery and Meah's Indian Cuisine - plus any “extras” Sue can find!

As ever, our wonderful regular stall-holders will all be in attendance. Pickles, Lamb, Beef, Pork, Sausages & Bacon, Cards, Venison, Jewellery, Vegetables, Eggs, Pies & Cakes, Gluten & Dairy-Free Products, Soap – so please do come and support your local producers and enjoy the delicious non-camp cooking.

NEXT MARKETS IN TAKELEY: SATURDAY 4th JUNE & 2nd JULY
Meanwhile you can visit other local Farmers' Markets on:

2nd Saturday at Great Garnetts in Barnston, and Newport

3rd Saturday at Ugley and Matching Tye

4th Saturday at Sheering and Little Hadham
(last Saturday when 5 weeks)

Sue Sadler tel: 01279 873409

SCOUT FETE June 19th

Tallen's Country Notes

They have returned!! That is, my house martins have returned although they are a month overdue and had caused me considerable heartache. They turned up at 1120 hours on the morning of the 29th of April. If that date at first is of no consequence then I will remind you that most of the country were glued to their television sets watching THAT wedding!

I will admit that I also was tuned in, but in my case I was more interested in the horses. Anyhow, a pair of house martins swooped into the nest site and I leapt out of my chair to welcome them back. I admonished them for being so late. They took no notice and just twittered at me. They normally arrive the end of March. My records show that this is the second time the birds have been this late and I have given a lot of thought as to their lateness. I put it down to adverse wind direction, for if you recall throughout the months of March and most of April the wind blew from the east or north east and was very cold. As most of our summer migrants travel from Africa the wind direction is of great significance.



Within a week all four nest sites had regained their residents, but all was not well as I noticed one of the nests had collapsed and fallen to the ground. The mud nest was so dry that as the bird tried to enter the nest it just fell away to dust, caused again by the cold drying easterly winds. So I was pleased that the usual April showers arrived in May as this help dampen the mud of the three existing nests. It

will also help the unfortunate birds to find a muddy puddle so they can re build their nest.

There is great activity in and around the garden with sparrows having 'parties' and gathering nesting material. I try and help them by putting out my cat's hair (after I have combed her of course) onto a bush. It quickly disappears, taken by them to line their nest; sheer luxury! If you recall, I told you about the two young sparrows last year who had a lot of white feathers on their wings. Well, they are still flying around and appear to have paired off! So I might have even more white-feathered sparrows in the garden this year.

The continuing blackbird saga seems to have abated somewhat, for although the individuals are still around their territories have moved away from the back garden. Where once the garden was



divided three ways, with the intrusion of a fourth individual it seems that area now is in the ownership of one pair. The others are further away for I can still hear them singing. However, a thrush has included us in its territory and has already raised its brood. The proof of this is that a young thrush, barely able to fly, was rescued from my neighbour's garden and placed in a hawthorn bush to be claimed by its parents and not the local cats.

I have only managed once this year to bird watch outside the area by taking a trip to an Essex Wildlife Trust Reserve near Colchester. The purpose of going there was to listen to nightingales. This is a trip I try and make every year as the song of this bird is one of extreme delight. Once the nightingale could be heard in Hatfield Forest but not any more and I don't know why. I have tried to answer that question. Is it loss of habitat? Is it a decline in food source? Or is it because of an increase in human activity? They are the questions. Have you the answer?

Fallen

REPORTING POTHOLES



Essex County Council has been given additional Govt funding to repair potholes in our roads. Please help yourself and the local community by reporting potholes to Essex Highways West Area office (Harlow)

Phone: 0845 603 7631

Email: H&TLocalism&Customerwest@essex.gov.uk

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Garden Waste Collections



For residents who do not have access to Saffron Walden, Uttlesford District Council provides weekend drop-off points, at various locations and times across the district.

The service runs from 2 April to 27 November 2011.

Takeley Sports Field Saturday 3pm to 4pm



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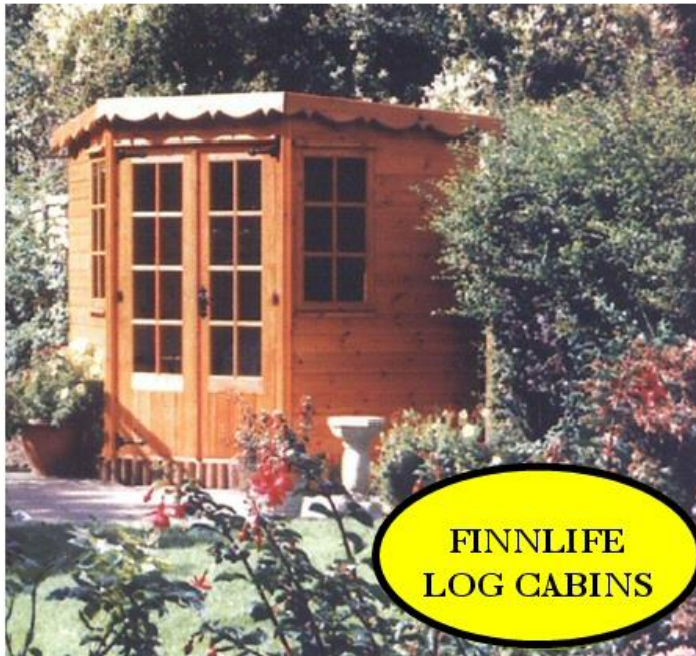


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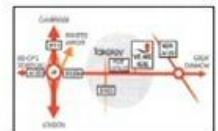
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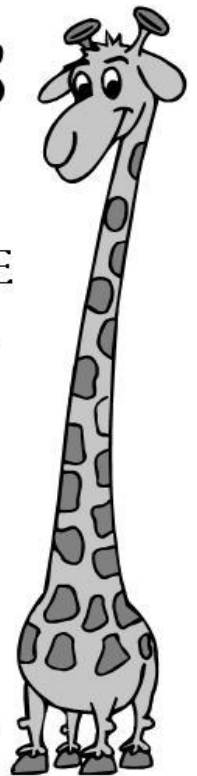
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Rt. Hon. Sir Alan Haselhurst M.P. Interviews 2011

***Subject to change, please confirm dates with the office
01799 506349.***

Friday 8th July

STANSTED

Parish Council Office, Crafton Green 5.45 - 6.30 pm

SAFFRON WALDEN

The Old Armoury, 3 Museum Street 7.00 - 7.45 pm

Friday 9th September

WRITTLE

Writtle Village Hall
18 The Green 5.15 - 6.00 pm

DUNMOW

Foakes House, Town Council Office
47 Stortford Road 6.30 - 7.15 pm

Friday 7th October

THAXTED

The Guildhall, Town Street 5.45 - 6.30 pm

SAFFRON WALDEN

The Old Armoury, 3 Museum Street 7.00 - 7.45 pm

Friday 11th November

BOREHAM

Village Hall, Main Road 5.15 - 6.00 pm

DUNMOW

Foakes House, Town Council Office
47 Stortford Road 6.30 - 7.15 pm

Friday 2nd December

STANSTED

Parish Council Office, Crafton Green 5.45 - 6.30 pm

SAFFRON WALDEN

The Old Armoury, 3 Museum Street 7.00 - 7.45 pm

*No appointment necessary but if you require any assistance please ring
01799 506349*

DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS 2012

To mark 60 years of the Queen's reign the Diamond Jubilee will take place in 2012.

The celebration will centre round the first week of June. The Government has announced plans for a special four-day Jubilee weekend (Sat. 2nd-Tues. 5th) allowing communities time to come together to celebrate & commemorate the events of the last 60 years.

The Parish Council would appreciate your views on how this occasion should be celebrated in Takeley. Please send your suggestions to us by Friday, 1st July.

Takeley Parish Council, Station House, Sycamore Close, Takeley, Essex, CM22 6QA

Phone: 020 8270 1149

Wireless Broadband

Uttlesford District Council is working in partnership with Buzcom to deliver a fast radio broadband service for residents and businesses of the district.

The council has given Buzcom a grant of £30,000 to set up the broadband service which will deliver 25Mb broadband for only £12.25 per month.

As the broadband is delivered via radio there is no need for a telephone line. This should be a solution for those residents who live in areas where conventional telephone line broadband is either non-existent or only available at a slow rate. The signal is transmitted from masts on existing water towers and received via a small device which is attached to the existing television aerial.

The service is expected to be available in August 2011.

More information can be obtained from <http://www.fibrewifi.com/>.

To be kept up-to-date with this project please email your details including name, address, postcode, phone number and current provider to broadband@uttlesford.gov.uk.



Takeley Cricket Club

May 2011

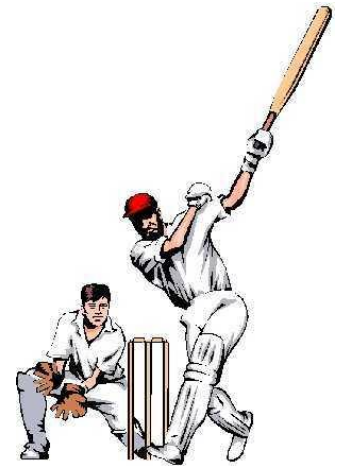


As I write, we are two weeks into the 2011 season. We have had a very encouraging start; our first team have won their first two games (home to Dunmow II and away to High Roding II) and our second XI beat Potter Street II after a first game defeat to the hands of League favourites, Three Caps. Our Sunday team also recorded a victory in their first game against Ardleigh Green.

Our U13 team also had a very close opening game against Stansted Hall & Elsenham, losing out by just 2 runs.

Our first quiz of the year will have been held by the time this piece is published. However, by way of an advance diary note, our autumn quiz date has been set for Saturday 15th October, 2011.

I also take this opportunity to advise that our new website is operational and latest news on the club together with statistics and reports can all be found by viewing the site at www.takeleycc.co.uk



We are always keen to recruit new players. If you would like to play, please contact our Captain, Chris Thake, on 01279 757549. If there are any U13 players that have recently moved into the area, our youth managers would be pleased to hear from you; contact Grant Widdowson on 01279 870872 or Tim Connolly on 01279 870138.

Malcolm Brown

SWITCHOVER IS COMING AND HELP IS AT HAND

For older and disabled viewers who may find making the switch difficult, the Switchover Help Scheme is at hand to provide practical help and assistance to turn one TV set to digital.

Most people will be asked to pay £40 towards the standard option of help. This includes easy to use equipment to switch one TV, an approved installer, aerial upgrade if needed and a 12 month aftercare service, including a free helpline.

The service is also free for people who are eligible and who also receive pension credit income support, income-based jobseeker's allowance or income-related employment and support allowance.

We can help you convert your TV to digital if you:

- Are aged 75 or over, or
- Have lived in a care home for six months or more, or
- Get (or could get)
 - Disability Living Allowance (DLA), or
 - Attendance or Constant Attendance Allowance, or
 - Mobility Supplement, or
- Are registered blind or partially sighted



If you are eligible, the Help Scheme will write to you directly and in plenty of time to ask if you want our help. All you need to do is respond to our letter by sending back a completed reply form or to make things even easier you can call the Help Scheme free to respond. The Switchover Help Scheme has already helped hundreds of thousands of people make the switch to digital.

Run by the BBC through an agreement with the Government, the Help Scheme has been designed around the needs of older and disabled people. Equipment has been chosen to be easy to use, and contact centre, delivery staff and installers have all been trained to understand and respect older and disabled people. All installers are vetted, carry identification and will never call without having made an appointment.

Eligible people in our local area have been identified and should have received a letter to explain the switchover programme, and the people must respond to get help. There will be 2 further reminders. Many of the eligible people will be fortunate to have relatives, friends or neighbours to assist them with their response. However, some are not so fortunate, and the concern is that these people are amongst those least likely to understand the process.

To ensure that they do not get omitted, a community support programme has been established to reach these people. The support team consists of a number of volunteers, each covering a number of villages in their locality, and it is the objective of these volunteers to get the message across to the eligible people by engaging with organisations and services that are most likely to interface with them, such as Parish Councils, GP's, Pharmacists, Libraries, Day Centres and Community Transport.

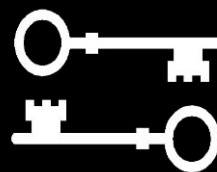
If you feel that you know of people that are most in need and who may not be aware of the switch over or where to go to get help, then please contact:
Ken Wheatley – designated support volunteer for Stansted Mountfitchet
Telephone: 07817 585174
Email: ken.wheatley@vaessex.org.uk

For further information on the Switchover Help Scheme visit helpscheme.co.uk or call 0800 40 85 900. Textphone users can call 0800 40 85 936.

TAKELEY LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY UNLOCKING THE PAST

<http://tlhs.org.uk>

chairman@tlhs.org.uk



In this country we are inclined to take our wealth of history very much for granted but have you ever stopped to think just what we have compared, say, to America or Australia. You won't find any 12th Century churches in either of those places but we have one here in Takeley.



That's our oldest surviving building but there are other less obvious places where the past has left its mark such as our narrow, twisting country lanes which follow ancient field boundaries. If you want to go back a bit further a trip to Colchester will allow you to see Roman sites. Excavations at the airport and for the new A120 revealed iron age and bronze age sites, now

reburied but the sarsen stone found at one of the sites is on display at the Four Ashes crossroads to remind us that our community goes back a long way.

Whichever way you look at it our history is all around us. Museums and organisations such as the National Trust and English Heritage ensure that we have more access to our past than ever before.

So don't just take it all for granted. Make a point of visiting some of the historic sites that are within easy reach of us. One of the bonuses of visiting historic sites in this country is that there is usually a decent cup of tea and a piece of cake to be found not too far away!



Our summer trip this year will be on 9th July to view local farmer Bob Smith's private collection of farming implements. This visit will be limited to members and their guests.

Our next meeting will be on 13th September when Tim Turner, an auctioneer from Sworders, will be talking about miniature furniture. All our meetings are held at Takeley Primary School, starting at 7.30pm, and visitors are always welcome.

**Steve Hazon,
Chairman, Takeley Local History Society**

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Takeley War Memorial



During the summer renovation work will be carried on the War Memorial. This will consist of power cleaning the Memorial and inscribing onto the Cross the dates 1939-1945 (the start and end of WW2). Also all the names on both plaques will be repainted, including a new inscription to commemorate Arthur Cyril Garrett

After research it was discovered that Arthur Cyril Garrett MM, (Military Medal), a Takeley resident and casualty of WW1, had been omitted. His exclusion on the War Memorial appears to have been an oversight at the original dedication of the Memorial. Further research by Pat Salmon and myself on behalf of the Takeley Local History Society discovered that although Arthur's name appears on the War Memorial at Jerusalem, there is no inscription to his memory on any local War Memorial. A case was made to the

Parish Council, (who are responsible for the War Memorial) to redress this oversight. Takeley Parish Council agreed and will rectify the omission

Arthur lived with his mother and father at Jacks Farm, Takeley, and joined the Bedfordshire Regiment in 1914 before the declaration of war, being assigned to 2nd Battalion of the Bedfordshire Regiment. At the outbreak of war he was sent to the Western Front where he was wounded and sent home to convalesce.

Arthur returned to active service and was assigned to the 5th Battalion Bedfordshire's and was posted to Palestine where the Bedfordshire's were part of the British Army, lead by Sir Edmund Allenby of Megiddo, to engage the Turkish army.

The first battle of this campaign was fought in Southern Palestine (what we now call Israel). Two engagements took place at a place called Umbrella Hill, near to Gaza City. Both battles sustained heavy casualties. It was during the second battle of Umbrella Hill that Arthur won his Military Medal (MM). His body was never recovered.

The Citation for the award reads: -

"His majesty the King has been graciously pleased to award the Military Medal for bravery in the field to the under mentioned Non-commissioned Officers and Men"

Once the work has been completed the War Memorial will re-consecrated. The date for this event will be in early September. This is will be a public event and everybody is invited for the service at the site. So watch out for the exact date, which will be advertised.

Trevor Allen



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From the Village Recorder

The sad death of Ron Halls marks the end of an era in Takeley. It is difficult to foresee another blacksmith of the calibre of Ron Halls operating again in the historic building on Mole Hill Green. It is not possible to say exactly how long there has been a blacksmith on this site, but it is certain that there would have been a blacksmith with an associated wheelwright in this area from at least medieval times.

If, as I think, Mole Hill Green was the centre of the Anglo Saxon Manor of what was to become Waltham Hall, then its history could go back over one thousand years. Obviously there are still farriers today, but Ron Halls was more than that. He produced work of great beauty and ability, as well as being a most interesting character. It would be good to think that the house in which he lived will be preserved and updated, as it is probably Elizabethan in origin. The smithy is more difficult to date but it was a fascinating place to visit even if one did end up perched on an anvil in close proximity to a roaring furnace.

Something else that has now gone out of fashion is the detached kitchen. A recent television series on the development of certain rooms in a house showed a detached kitchen situated some distance from the main building. This was more to eliminate the risk of fire than smell. As late as the 1880s houses in North Weald Bassett were built with kitchens situated at the end of a corridor away from the main structure.

We can still see where some of these detached kitchens were situated in Takeley by the existence of the field name "kitchen field". Most of these that I have so far found were on the road to Mole Hill Green and around the northern part of Takeley. It is difficult to see how anyone had a hot meal unless they actually ate in the kitchen. However the same was true of stately homes such as Kedleston in Derbyshire, where the staff had to run with the meal from kitchen to dining room. This kept the smell away from the living quarters, and also meant that the owners did not have to see their underlings. Today the fashion is for large kitchen/diners where all the family can gather. We also today have the benefit of extractor fans so we probably have the ideal combination of group family living and hygiene.

This item is very much "breaking news". Trevor Allen and I have been going over the survey of the church fittings and furnishings that was done in the 1980s. While we were checking the altar frontals we noticed the faint signs of wall paintings on the wall either side of the altar. These were commissioned by Miss Florence Ross of Hatfield Broad Oak at the same time as she paid for the rood screen, choir stalls and other furnishings to be installed. The Saturday 1st August 1914, Herts and Essex Observer says "Frescoes representing Biblical figures have been painted on the walls, and the beauty of the church greatly enhanced."

Articles from the past, by Pat Salmon

Report in the Herts & Essex Observer - Saturday 28th February 1903.

AFTER CONIES AT TAKELEY.

George Salmon and John Prior, labourers, of Takeley, were summoned for trespassing in search of conies on land in the possession and occupation of Mr W.Orpen, on February 1st, they were each fined 5s and 6s 6d costs.

ASSAULT AT TAKELEY.

Arthur Bolden, labourer, of Takeley, was summoned for assaulting and beating Edwin Suckling, straw binder, at Takeley on 9th February. Upon the evidence of the complainant the defendant was fined 1s and 9s costs.

VARIOUS OFFENCES.

Thomas Marshall, alias Cook, straw tier, of Takeley, for being drunk and disorderly at Takeley on the 8th February, was fined 8s and 4s costs.

Alfred Clarke, labourer, of Pledgdon Green, Henham, for using indecent language to the annoyance of Arthur Reynolds, on 15th February, he was fined 10s and 4s costs.

Report in the Herts & Essex Observer - Saturday 28th March 1903.

A FARMER FATALLY KICKED BY A COLT.

Mr George James Bailey, a well known Essex farmer, was helping to harness a young colt at Bullocks Farm, Great Canfield, on Friday, when the animal kicked him over the heart, killing him. Dr Harrison, coroner, of Braintree, held the inquest at the farm on Monday. It was stated by Miss Evelyn Bailey, deceased's sister, that her brother, who was thirty-four years of age, managed the farm for his mother - Evidence given by Joseph Matthews, horseman, and another workman named Poole, showed that on Friday morning the deceased was assisting four others to get a halter on to a four-year-old colt, and was standing behind it. He gave the colt a touch with the whip to make it go forward, when it lashed out with its legs, giving the unfortunate man a severe blow just over the heart. He was thrown heavily backwards, and died within a quarter of an hour. Dr Tench was summoned, and said he found deceased dead. There were no external marks on the body, and no bones were broken. Death, was caused by shock, following a severe blow to the region of the heart, - The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental Death" and passed a vote of sympathy with deceased's relatives. - Mr Charles Wall, foreman, expressed a hope that the neighbouring farmers would render the deceased's mother and sisters what assistance they could in carrying on the farm.



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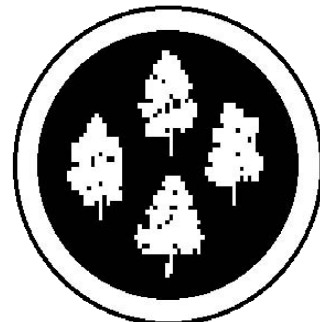
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TAKELEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

“Learning and Achieving Together”

We have just embarked on the Summer term, which is always a busy time at School with end of year assessments, sports day, musicians’ concert and the end of year production. This year it is Hansel and Gretel. There is also a full calendar of summer sports to look forward to, including athletics, rounders and cricket.



Our main priority this term is working to meet the criteria for the gold award from the Food for Life Partnership. We already hold bronze and silver, being the first school in Essex to have achieved the silver award. To achieve the gold award we need to ensure that every child has 12 ½ hours of cookery/tasting lessons per year and that all children are able to grow organically. If anybody in the village would like to help the children with their cooking or growing activities please come in and see us.

For our school dinners we are working on increasing our use of local and organic products. Using fresh high quality products ensures that the children receive good quality meals freshly cooked on site. If you know of any local organic producers who are able to supply us at an affordable price we would love to hear from you or them.

Plans for the relocation of Takeley Primary School to the new site on the Priors Green Development continue to progress well. Planning permission has been granted and all the County gateways have been passed. We are expecting work to begin on 16th June on services and on site on 4th July 2011, with completion in July 2012. The new school is due to open in September 2012. In order to compliment our Food for Life principles the design for the new school builds in growing beds for all the classes, outdoor learning areas for all children and a purpose-built teaching kitchen for the children. We are very excited about the prospect of our move as the facilities at the new school will greatly enhance our provision and enable us to offer a greater range of exciting and stimulating activities for our children to enjoy.

Thank you to everybody who has sent in Tesco or Sainsburys vouchers. If you have any more at home we would love to receive them. We are participating in most of the school voucher schemes that are operating and are always grateful for help in collecting these.

Mandy Line
Headteacher

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Book Review by Elaine Wyld

Miss Garnet's Angel By Sally Vickers

Venice is considered the most romantic city in the world and this is where the story of Miss Garnet's Angel is set.

When Julia Garnet's old friend, Harriet, dies unexpectedly Julia, a retired teacher and staunch member of the Communist party, decides to travel to Venice for a six month sojourn using the not inconsiderable amount of money which Harriet unexpectedly left her in her will. Julia rents an apartment from Signora Mignelli, a landlady with a characteristically Venetian personality.

Miss Garnet soon masters the art of exploring Venice using the regular water taxis and in admiring the Byzantine architecture Julia discovers the statue of the Angel Raphael, a boy carrying a large fish and a hound depicting a scene from an ancient story of "Tobias and the Angel". This discovery prompts her to research the story from the Jewish Scriptures. Miss Garnet is then drawn into an adventure of her own. On her quest she meets the curious twins, Sarah and Toby, who are stonemasons, carrying out some renovation works on a church in Venice. A mutual friendship results and Julia becomes party to knowledge of an old painting the twins have found hidden behind some screens. The treasure had been placed there during the Nazi occupation of Italy when the compulsory removal of Jewish citizens from the Jewish quarter of Venice took place in 1944.

The book then divides into two stories – the ancient tale of Tobias and the Angel and Miss Garnet's day to day life in Venice. Miss Garnet settles well into Venetian life, making some acquaintances and finding a pupil to teach English to. It is in her friendship with Carlo, the moustached art historian, that the intrigue begins, for Carlo is not all he purports to be. Playing amateur detective but suffering a broken heart in the process, Miss Garnet prevents the illegal sale of a valuable painting. Her work done, Miss Garnet on one of her many strolls through the backstreets unexpectedly finds rest from her labours.

The Apocrypha is a book of Jewish scriptures which was excluded from the 1611 King James Bible by the translators who took their readings from the Hebrew Bible as it was considered the book was not divinely inspired.

Harper Perennial
ISBN 978-0- 00651421-3

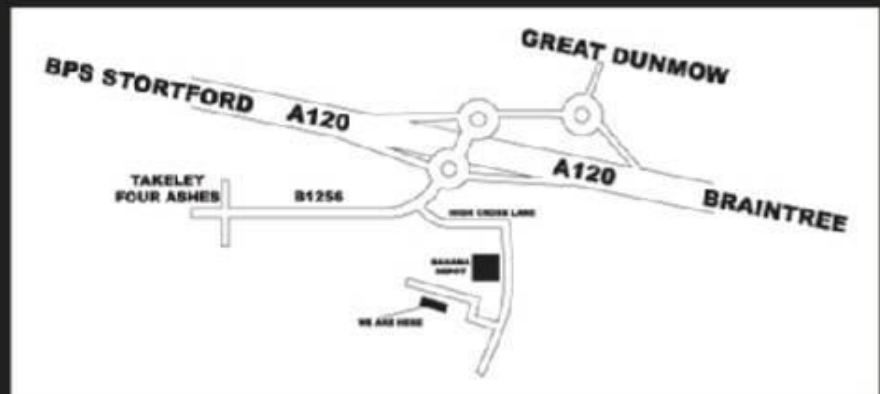
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About the Takeley Parish Council Newsletter

The Newsletter was started up again in the autumn of 1998 (after an interval of some 10-15 years) as a result of opinion expressed in the Village Appraisal. It is designed to provide a free community magazine for Takeley Parish. It is intended that the Newsletter should reflect all aspects of Parish life and should provide an opportunity for community matters to be raised and discussed.

The Newsletter team currently comprises a Contributing Editor (Paul Regeli), a compositor (Steve Hazon) and a distribution and advertising coordinator (Jane Heskey) but no official reporters. An interest magazine, therefore, depends on articles, news and advertisements coming from people in the village and nearby which can be sent to:

**Jane Heskey, Clerk of the Council, Takeley Parish Council,
Station House, Sycamore Close, Takeley, CM22 6QA
Tel. 0208 270 1149**

or email to newsletter@takeleypc.co.uk

The closing date for submission of material is the 15th of November, February, May and August for the respective quarterly issues.

It is not always possible to publish everything submitted and sometimes changes have to be made to the length of a contribution. Non-controversial articles cannot always be published immediately but they will appear later unless the contributor is told otherwise. Contributions of up to, say, 400 words, have a greater chance of being published in full than longer ones.

The name of the person (and in what capacity if appropriate) submitting the material must accompany the contribution. If you do not want your name published you must make that clear. However, articles without the author's name are only likely to be published if they are non-controversial. Ultimately the responsibility for publication rests with the Parish Council, which has veto powers as to content.

Advertising rates per issue (quarterly) are listed below. Payment and details must be supplied to the Newsletter by the closing dates listed above although we do prefer annual payment in advance to reduce administration.

1. Full Page (i.e. one half A4 sheet size), £25.00 Photo or disc ready
 2. Half Page, £15.00 Photo or disc ready
 3. Quarter Page, £10.00
 4. One Eighth Page or less, £7.00
- (10% discount for pre-booking all four issues in a year)

All cheques should be made out to Takeley Parish Council and sent to Jane Heskey.

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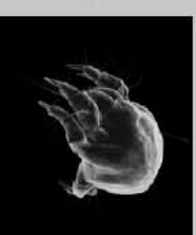
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