

# NEWSLETTER



Spring 2013 Issue No.58



# TAKELEY PARISH COUNCIL

## 2012/13 TPC RESPONSIBILITIES:

AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY	REMIT		COUNCILLOR
<b>CHAIRMAN</b>			Carol Pratt
<b>VICE CHAIRMAN</b>			Richard Cheetham
<b>FINANCE COMMITTEE</b>	Report & recommendations to full Council re TPC finance matters	4	Richard Cheetham, Carol Pratt, Geoff Bagnall, Susan Sprules
<b>PLANNING COMMITTEE</b>	Planning Applications, Stansted, Housing Policy SSE PC Liaison Group.	4	Carol Pratt, Trevor Allen, Tricia Barber, John Green (temp), John Gregory (temp)
<b>HIGHWAYS &amp; TRANSPORT</b>			John Gregory
<b>SPORTS FIELD</b>			John Green
<b>RECREATION GROUND</b>			John Green
<b>RIGHTS OF WAY/ FOOTPATHS/LAND</b>	Rights of Way/Footpaths/Land Tree Warden Flich Way		Trevor Allen (temporarily)
<b>MOLEHILL GREEN *</b>	Green, Hall & Community		Carol Pratt
<b>POLICE LIASON/PUBLIC SAFETY/ NAP rep.</b>			John Gregory & Trevor Allen
<b>PUBLICITY</b>	Notice Boards, Website, Newsletter, Grapevine, Press		David Daykin
<b>NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION</b>			John Green
<b>REGIONAL/NATIONAL POLICY</b>	including Localism Act		Geoff Bagnall
<b>PARISH PLAN</b>			David Daykin & Susan Sprules

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

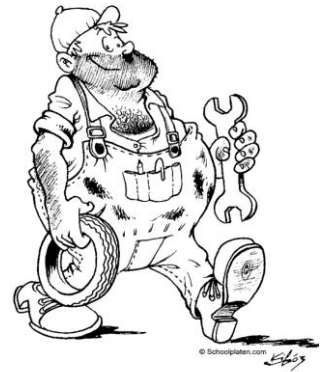
## TPC REPRESENTATIVES:

REPRESENTATIVE	COUNCILLOR/RESIDENTS
<b>Essex Assoc. of Local Councils</b>	Clrs Richard Cheetham, Carol Pratt
<b>Area Forums (incl. PCT)</b>	Clr Tricia Barber, Clr Richard Cheetham
<b>Parish Passenger /Transport Gps</b>	Phyllis Altham (resident)
<b>Priors Green Working Party</b>	Clrs Carol Pratt, Geoff Bagnall, John Gregory
<b>Localism Working Group (Coordinator)</b>	Clr Geoff Bagnall
<b>Takeley History Society &amp; School</b>	Clr Trevor Allen
<b>Silver Jubilee Hall</b>	Clr Trevor Allen
<b>SSE Parish Liaison Group</b>	Planning Committee Rep.
<b>Health Provision</b>	Susan Sprules

All roles confirmed & agreed TPC Meeting May 2012

This and back issues can be viewed on our website [www.takeleypc.co.uk](http://www.takeleypc.co.uk)

# Editorial



**In which the editor visits a pathologist, has a strange experience at the zoo and tries his hand at car mechanics**

It is a truth, universally acknowledged, that an elderly bloke in possession of reasonably good faculties must be in want of a sense of humour. This universal rule applies since grumpiness is the cumulation of a natural evolutionary process that afflicts all us oldies at some point in our decline.

I didn't really notice that this state had befallen me until an incident that happened a couple of weeks ago.

Beloved and I were making our way back from a pleasant day in London. As the doors of the tube train slid open, I was confronted with a carriage full of people tapping on i-pads, conversing on i-phones or standing, fused to their i-pods, with glazed looks on their faces. I struggled past a chap who was twined round the handrail like a well developed vine, gesturing and tapping on his tablet computer as though his life depended on it.

Reaching the other side of the carriage and holding on to the roof rail as the train started to move, I began to mutter.

"Look at them all," I grumbled to Beloved, "on their i-phones, on their flippin' computers. Can't get away from them!"

Then I saw the man directly facing me, engrossed in whatever it was that he was doing on his tablet computer. "I mean, look at him. Stuck to his flippin' computer. Joined at the hip."

Beloved said nothing. Then I noticed that she was quietly shaking. With laughter. At my grumpy outrage, I presumed.

"You haven't noticed," she said.

"Yes I have," I growled.

"You're unbelievable," she continued. "You're the only person that I know who can complain about everyone using their i-phones and not notice that the bloke in front of you isn't wearing any trousers!"



And indeed, he wasn't.

In my outrage at the cyber mania that seemed to afflict most occupants of the carriage, I had simply not noticed that his clothing stopped short at the waist, terminating in a pair of y-fronts and resuming at his socks. Now I can't explain how I managed to find myself standing, on the London Underground, in front of a man who was wearing no trousers. That is something that will baffle me for the rest of my days. I retell the incident to illustrate the fact that I have become so easily outraged by the norms of modern behaviour that righteous indignation seems to have become my default position in most situations. I now realise that, without knowing, I have crossed the Rubicon and have finally become a Grumpy Old Man – the peak of human evolution!

I can now berate all and sundry with a litany of complaints against the more lunatic manifestations of modern life. My mobile 'phone is always switched off and I don't belong to Facebook. I am an electronic recluse, dreaming of the days when everything was somehow simpler. Oh yes, and I still play vinyl records and talk about *gramophones*. And let's not forget *metrication*. I was sent, along with every other teacher in the county, on a special course to prepare for our entry into the Common Market (as it was then known). We spent hours being initiated into the marvels of the metric system that was going to be the norm in this country.

I suppose that's why, over forty years later, we still measure speed in miles per hour while we put litres of fuel into our tank. And now that we have nearly achieved the goal of metrication, our beloved Education Secretary seems hell bent on reintroducing imperial measures. Good on him, say I, trying to muffle my hysterical laughter. Go on! Let's re-equip the army with longbows and chain mail to complete the job!

In those halcyon days, cars were simple enough for the average bloke to be able to perform a full service on his front drive. I used to service

my car on a Saturday and then take it to the garage (Takeley Service Station) on a Sunday to repair the damage that I had managed to do. It always ended up with my car being surrounded by mechanics, sucking their lips and looking serious. "Oh dear," they used to say, "Ooooooh dear!"



But at least you could get a functioning car for a reasonable cost, even if it did disintegrate into a pile of rust as the first rain drop landed on it.

I remember discussing cars with a friend some forty years ago.

“You know,” he said with gravity, “I can see the day coming when a Mini will cost a thousand pounds!”

The thought was so unbelievable that we downed another couple of pints, forgot all about it and crept into his garden to test a few fireworks. Since it was one in the morning, we were verbally abused by all and sundry.



Now, of course, a car costs considerably more than the then purchase price of a house. The only car that I could afford was a clapped out old Escort with a dubious history and hardly any floor. It smelt so evil that I resorted to hanging a lavatory freshener under the dashboard. And, let me tell you, I had to make an appointment to see my bank manager to plead for a loan to buy said foetid vehicle. My nose carved a furrow in his office carpet as I prostrated my self in financial supplication. “I’ll let you have three hundred quid. Now buzz off,” he had said.

That bit of humiliation made me treasure the awful vehicle even more. I fitted an expensive electronic rev – counter to show the power delivered by the mighty 1100cc engine. It went well with the faux sheepskin covers that I fitted to the seats to hide the various bits of upholstery that were missing. In fact, without them, the seats looked as though they had fallen victim to a particularly vicious shark! I spent months rebuilding the bodywork with vast amounts of fibreglass, spraying it with equally huge numbers of aerosol spray paint cans. I even fitted an alloy race steering wheel and bought myself a pair of sunglasses to complete the look. How we lads loved our bangers!

A young friend of mine, an ex-pupil in fact, had a penchant for very tatty old American cars with enormous engines. I always knew when he was coming to visit because I could hear his engine start up over half a mile away and then get steadily louder as he came down the road. It sounded like a Second World War bomber taxiing up to the house.

He took me for a run along the A12. To demonstrate the power of the engine, he put his foot down hard on the accelerator. At once, there was the most horrendous tearing sound as the engine, rocking with the sudden torque, ripped the exhaust pipe off the manifold. He didn’t seem worried so we proceeded, making a sound like an elephant





stirring a cup of tea with a chainsaw. Eventually, I noticed a burning smell coming from the foot well. The carpet under my feet was starting to melt with the heat of the flames coming out of the uncovered exhaust.

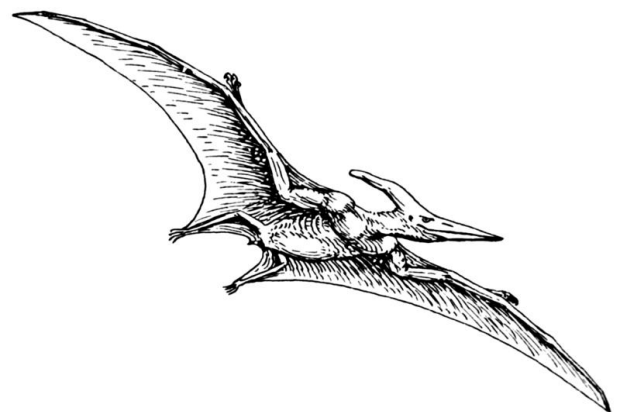
Happy days!

One day, the same lad helped me to clear out my garden shed. Amongst all the tat and

rubble, he found a broken aquarium that I had used as a vivarium to keep locusts in at school. He confided that he had always wanted an aquarium to keep terrapins in and wondered if he could mend it for that purpose. This seemed a good idea to me and he took the shabby object away with him.

Some weeks later, he reported that he had completed the repairs and was now ready to get his terrapins. However, he had no idea how to look after them. Ever the educator, I suggested that the telephone the reptile house at London Zoo for the information. I handed him the telephone and he dialled the number. "Is that London Zoo?" he asked. The voice at the other end confirmed that this was so. "Can I speak to the reptile house?" He politely enquired.

He was soon speaking to a sympathetic keeper who wanted to know what advice he could supply. By now, our young hero was getting quite flustered and blurted out: "I need some advice. You see, I'm thinking of keeping pterodactyls ...." !!!!!



Which, since my mind is in a wandering mood, brings to mind a particularly surreal day that I spent at London Zoo with my mother and a young friend.

The aim of the outing, you see, was to visit a pathologist whose practice was located by Regent's Park.

Why a pathologist?

Without delving too deeply into my family history, one of my aunts was convinced that a family member who was lodging with her was trying to murder her by poisoning her whisky. She had given my mother the suspect bottle and fifty pounds in crisp notes – a considerable sum at that time – with a request that she found a pathologist to carry out the requisite tests. Ultimately, all tests proved negative but we never got the bottle of Scotch back.

The murder suspect eventually left the house after a period when my aunt became convinced that she was dabbling in Black Magic. That chapter, however, must remain firmly closed! For now at least.

Well, once we had deposited the bottle, we decided to go to the zoo.

After a pleasant amble around, we eventually came to the Charles Clore pavilion for small mammals, the ones that Gerald Durrel so memorably called the little brown jobs. When we emerged into the sunlight again, our friend looked puzzled. My mother asked him why he seemed so bemused.

“Well, where are all the Charles Clores?” he asked. “I looked but I couldn’t find one!”

At which point, I think that I shall conclude.

Night night children everywhere. Grumpy’s heading downstairs for a cuppa!



**Grumpy Regeli, contributing editor.**

# TAKELEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

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The following are extracts from the December, January and February Parish Council minutes, which can be viewed on the TPC website: [www.takeleypc.co.uk](http://www.takeleypc.co.uk)

**Precept 2013/14:** The Govt announced an unexpected change to central Govt funding (relating to Benefit Reforms 2013) which will impact on the Council Tax calculations, including parish precepts. The Clerk met with Stephen Joyce (UDC) on 11th December 2012 to understand the detail. The Govt/Uttlesford DC is providing a grant for 2013/14 to each parish to alleviate the negative impact of the new Council Tax/Precept calculation.  
Takeley will receive £7931.

TPC agreed the 'gross' precept required is £86000.  
Less UDC grant (£7931) the 'net' reqd = £78069  
**+0.91% on last year for each household**

**Takeley Royal British Legion:** TPC considered a request to contribute to local veterans/widows Christmas gift. TPC approved a grant of £225.

**Uttlesford Homestart:** Request for funding following decision by one of the statutory funders, Essex County Council, to discontinue funding in 2013/14 (£41k).  
TPC approved a grant of £500.

**District Councillor Jackie Cheetham** reported:

- She had fought Takeley's case when UDC recently agreed proposal for new warding arrangements as part of the Boundary Commission review of electoral wards. In the end UDC agreed that Takeley & Lt. Canfield should be kept within the same ward. A 3 member ward was proposed that includes Takeley, Lt. Canfield, Broxted, & part of Bush End.
- **UDC Council Tax 2013/14 proposal = -1%**  
Govt grant has reduced by 42% in the past 3 years. This has been compensated by New Homes Bonus money.  
Essex County Council proposes a freeze, Essex Fire Service proposes a freeze, Essex Police have proposed an increase of 3.5%
- UDC intend to put **more money into enforcement**
- Cllrs Derek Jones & Jackie Cheetham have **£4k each to allocate to community projects - applications please.**



**Youth Facilities in Takeley:** Cllr Linda Steer has consolidated feedback from various groups within Takeley including ACM group, Takeley Primary School, Takeley Scouts and the responses from 110 returned questionnaires. A 3 page report has been circulated to members.

In summary, there is demand within Takeley for more facilities for young people to use and enjoy. There was a general view that Takeley is a good place to live but it lacks some facilities. Requests to improve the existing skate park span across all age groups. The ACM Group are working with TPS and will have some draft plans for improvements to present to TPC.

All but one of the activities which received support across the age groups can be done indoors with minimal supervision, i.e., table tennis, film, snooker/pool and dance.

Recommendations: -

- Skate park improvements - consider proposals from ACM Group (when available)
- Establish a Youth Council in Takeley
- Information on setting up youth group to be obtained (consideration for this to be done by Takeley Youth Council)
- Review of village venues to ensure the most appropriate venue for each activity. Establish availability.
- TPC sponsorship/budget to contribute towards hire charges, CRB checks for volunteers, and equipment such as table tennis tables, large screen to show films, electronic games consoles, etc.
- Feedback on questionnaire and proposed actions to be published

TPC wishes to thank everyone who has contributed to this exercise and especially Cllr Linda Steer who has coordinated the work. TPC agreed that there are a number of strands that need to be developed.

In February, Adam (ACM Group) presented proposals for a **new skate park**.

It was agreed that these should be combined with ideas from Takeley Primary School ideally with pictures/photos of each piece of equipment.

It was concluded that a new skate park would require a larger area of the Sports Field than currently occupied.

TPC agreed an advert that will be published in the next Grapevine & TPC Newsletter summarising the feedback from the recent survey & asking adult volunteers to come forward to supervise groups/activities. TPC agreed to fund CRB checks for suitable volunteers.

**South Road ditch flooding:** Working with ECC the Clerk has established that the ditch running along the back of South Road is classified as 'main river' and is therefore the responsibility of the Environment Agency. ECC Highways are responsible for the culvert underneath Parsonage Road.

The Clerk will now follow up with the Environment Agency to ensure the ditch is maintained to prevent further flooding in South Road. Contact details for the EA will be circulated to residents.

**Takeley Park/Regency Homes:** TPC received a letter from Regency Homes responding to TPC's letter that raised the concerns of the residents. Regency Homes accept that work has been carried out with 'only a short period of formal notice'. They have agreed to provide formal notice of work in the future and are considering a site notice board. TPC agreed to share the letter with residents of Takeley Park, and to send a copy to Sir Alan Haselhurst MP & Mr. John Mitchell (UDC).

**Recreation Ground Project:** TPC received a report on the site visit 28/11/12 & agreed action required.

The contractor is a specialist in play equipment installations, is ROSPA certified & has provided evidence of public liability insurance. A payment of 50% is required to purchase equipment & materials. Final payment will be made after completion and sign-off.

TPC approved the plan/proposal and accepted the final quote for £32211.

Work to the Recreation Ground will start on 14th January 2013.

**Sports field hedge cutting:** Following further incidents of vandalism to property on the sports field, TPC approved a quote of £400 to reduce the height of hedging at the front of the Sports field. TPC agreed to delay relocation/removal of the earth bund until the Spring (possible refurb of dirt jump bike course) .

**Four Ashes Bus Shelter (B1256 eastbound - outside shops):**

Following continuous vandalism of the bus shelter this year, TPC discussed a proposal to remove this shelter & to replace it with a more robust structure.

The Clerk has sought quotes from a contractor recommended by ECC Transport Dept.



The quote: to remove both shelters, make good the ground, install refurbished '3 bay shelters' with end panels & seats is approximately £10500.

TPC agreed that this amount was excessive and agreed to gather quotes from alternative suppliers.

**Bench at Roseacres:** This was originally a bench commemorating the Millennium.

Following vandalism of the bench TPC has had it inspected & concluded it is uneconomical to repair.

TPC reviewed quotes for a wood and wood/metal bench ranging from £400 to £450 to supply & fit. TPC agreed that none of these seemed appropriate or sufficiently robust. TPC has requested quotes for a metal or recycled plastic/composite bench.

**Pedestrian access to rail & bus station, and the terminal at Stansted:** Following a request from Cllr David Daykin, TPC discussed road safety in relation to accessing the railway & airport. People should be entitled to use the station without unnecessary personal risk. There should be a safe means to walk from the airport perimeter to the bus and train station.

Cllr Daykin relayed an email from the 'Customer Insight Assistant' at the Airport:

'The Stansted Airport Transport Forum/Local Access Working Group is reviewing a scheme to extend a footway from Takeley into the Airport road network across Coopers End roundabout into the short stay car park'.

TPC agreed to write to request a copy/details of the scheme, and to question why Takeley PC has not been consulted. In response to TPC's complaint regarding the lack of safe pedestrian access into the airport, TPC has received details of a proposed footpath improvement scheme.

In response members agreed to respond as follows:

- The problem has not been fully addressed by the proposal. This affects both staff & customers.
- In the spirit of localism we would have hoped to be involved.
- How can TPC assist you?
- The proposal does not address the problem of crossing busy roads. TPC would recommend a controlled crossing point or footbridge to cross Terminal Road.

Further comment has been received from Stansted Airport:

'The project group have looked at demand and it would not justify the provision of a controlled crossing/footbridge. The group is specifically

looking at resolving a problem where cyclists come to the end of the footpath & then have to join traffic on the road. The scheme is a simple extension of the footpath and provides safe crossing of Terminal Road South'

TPC agreed a response:

- It is illegal to cycle on pavements (over 11 yrs of age)
- This scheme does not achieve anything.
- TPC agreed to write to the new airport owners offering TPC's help/support to work together to resolve the problem of safe pedestrian access to the public railway station & airport.

### **Priors Green Community Hall**

UDC has confirmed transfer of S106 monies.

TPC agreed that the 3 previously nominated councillors should sign the transfer documentation.

In addition, TPC agreed that the start up fund for the PGCH Management Committee should be £7360.13 (to provide equipment) plus £45k. The Clerk should arrange a meeting with members of the working group & PGCH Mgmt Committee to finalise terms of the lease & start up fund.

**Community Speed Watch:** Mr. Martin Peachey has submitted a written end of year report:

'The group re-commenced Community Speed Watch (CSW) in Brewers End, Takeley in July 2012 and the team is Trevor Allen, Brian Baldwin, John Green and myself, all of whom had refresher training with Essex Police. We have been joined by Les Thurston who also completed the Essex Police training course. We share the radar gun with Hatfield Broad Oak for alternating three week periods. Monitoring has been carried out in Station Road, Parsonage Road and Dunmow Road (outside the village hall).

The hot spot still appears to be Station Road. Essex Police have been reinforcing our activities by speed checking motorists on this section of road, handing out verbal warnings, speed awareness courses and fixed penalties where appropriate.

**DFT consultation - speed limit for HGVs over 7.5T on single carriageway roads.** Current limit 40mph. Stakeholders have asked for limit to be raised to 50mph in line with smaller HGVs (3.5-7.5T).

TPC strongly objects to this proposal especially on rural roads.

Vehicles should travel at slower speeds which would be safer, more fuel efficient and therefore more economical. TPC suggests 30mph would be a more appropriate speed limit.



**Uttlesford Ward Boundaries Review:** The Clerk updated members on current concerns relating to UDC's draft proposal that would entail splitting Takeley, and other communities, to fit new electoral wards. The Clerk has already submitted a letter of objection to UDC.

TPC agreed that it is alarmed that the District Authority is on the verge of accepting a proposal that would splinter existing communities. It should be an imperative that whole communities are maintained thereby giving equal weight to the Boundary Commission criteria. Whilst on paper it may appear that to establish equality of representation is the most important facet of the democratic structure, in reality it should not be the most important driver for rural communities as it will undermine the fundamental principles of localism.

The electorate already struggles to identify the responsibilities of the parish/community council v district authority v county council v central govt functions. Any proposal that seeks to splinter existing parishes will further add to the confusion and undermine community cohesion.

This exercise should be used as an opportunity to enhance the democratic structure. Whilst it is appreciated that Uttlesford is required to reduce the number of ward councillors from 44 to 39, and at the same time seek to achieve equality of representation, the process should not be allowed to undermine communities. The democratic structure should be built around communities and underpin the 'localism' principles.

Takeley is a sprawling and growing community. Nevertheless, Takeley has a strong community identity and the Parish Council works hard to represent the needs of the entire community. The development at Priors Green straddles both the parishes of Takeley and Little Canfield. Recent extensive consultation established that both Takeley and Little Canfield want to retain their independent identities. However, the 2 parish councils have worked together for a number of years to ensure that residents of Priors Green are integrated into the existing communities, and that decisions about the development itself are taken jointly to ensure a consistent approach.

It is therefore vitally important that any ward restructure respects the identity and interests of this community and pairs the parishes of Takeley and Little Canfield together, in their entirety.

Takeley Parish Council has urged Uttlesford DC to reconsider the warding proposal. In this rural district it should be an imperative that whole communities are maintained thereby giving equal weight to the criteria to ensure a democratic process that best represents our

residents thereby underpinning the fundamental principles of community and 'localism'.

TPC will submit representation to the Boundary Commission.

### **Essex Replacement Minerals Local Plan Consultation**

*At this stage the engagement period is to provide an opportunity to consider the soundness of the plan ahead of its submission for independent examination by a Planning Inspector. The document sets out the strategy & policies for how Essex will approach minerals development until 2029.*

Having reviewed operations near to/in Takeley the focus of TPCs concern is vehicle movements to & from these sites.

In **Policy S11 Access & Transport** it claims:

**3.172** The transportation of minerals and associated traffic is one of the most significant impacts relating to minerals development and it is what usually causes most concern to communities. It is of utmost importance when permitting new minerals related development (including new extraction sites, extensions to existing sites and transshipment sites) that lorries use appropriate routes.

**3.176** Whilst this Plan must ensure economic viability, it must also direct lorries onto suitable routes, optimise the efficient use of the main road network and apply the route hierarchy. The route hierarchy catalogues roads by capacity, and mineral traffic will be expected to use those roads in the upper tiers, defined as trunk roads (including motorways), strategic routes and main distributors, and in some circumstances appropriate suitable secondary distributors.

**3.178** This third tier involving the use of roads outside the main road network will also only be acceptable if there is no adverse impact on road safety and the environment, including local amenity.

**3.182** It is important to ensure that the effects of traffic on any local community, the environment and the local road network are carefully considered, including the cumulative impacts of these. Where Preferred Sites are extensions to existing quarries, these areas should be worked consecutively in order that mineral extraction in the existing quarry be completed prior to mineral extraction commencing in the new "extension area". This is to ensure that there is no cumulative increase in associated vehicle movements (such as by having two areas operational), and that workings are progressive. Furthermore the new extension areas should not involve an increase in vehicle movements at that site, when compared to vehicle movements under existing permissions.



TPC expects this policy to be implemented/enforced in **full**. As an example TPC is currently in discussion with ECC re signage on the B1256 to Highwood Quarry. The designated route is however along the A120. Apparently the Highways Agency will not permit any directional signage on the A120. As a result lorry traffic is travelling through the heart of our community using the B1256.

TPC would also recommend that if operations are intended at the site at Little Easton Airfield it should merge/share access (onto the A120) with Highwood Quarry.

For further information about Takeley Parish Council please contact the Clerk or visit the website: [www.takeleypc.co.uk](http://www.takeleypc.co.uk)

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

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# ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PARISH OF TAKELEY

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17<sup>th</sup> 2013  
SILVER JUBILEE HALL  
7.30pm

## AGENDA

- CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME
- SUMMARY OF THE LAST ANNUAL ASSEMBLY
- MATTERS ARISING
- CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
- REPORTS FROM LOCAL DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLORS
- REPORTS FROM LOCAL ORGANISATIONS
- OPEN FORUM

*Members of the public & press are cordially invited to attend & members of the public are invited to participate in the meeting.*

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## CHRISTMAS FAYRE 2012

On behalf of my fellow organisers I would like to thank everyone who supported us again and assisted in any way to make this event another great success. Special thanks once again to the Scouts for allowing us to use their H.Q. the Chapel and Sports and Social Club for allowing us the use of their parking facilities. The weather was kind to us and we welcomed a steady flow of visitors throughout the day in the Hall and Scout Headquarters. Father Christmas once again took up residence in Scout H.Q., and was greeted by around seventy children. H.E.A.L (Cancer Charity) excelled themselves once again providing refreshments, their very popular all-day-breakfast a great favourite. There were some new stalls in both areas adding to a variety of arts and crafts, charities and of course our village organizations. Many of our stallholders have become regular participants not so much for what they might sell but because they enjoy the friendly atmosphere, and meeting up with old friends.

This is a non-profit making event and once our running costs had been covered, Village Hall Hire and advertising (both having increased in price) and an amount set aside towards the next Fayre, we are delighted to be able to donate £100 to the Scout Group for allowing us the use of their H.Q.

The date for next year's FAYRE is 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2013, and we look forward to seeing you there.

With best wishes to you all for 2013 from

Barbara Aviet, Phyllis Altham, Viv Woods, Linda Harris and Ruby Rayner

  
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# TAKELEY STATION HOUSE

Sycamore Close, Takeley, CM22 6QA

Takeley Parish Council has worked tirelessly for many years to secure the future of the old railway station building which lay empty, falling into disrepair, and the subject of frequent vandalism. The Parish Council has long held the opinion that the building should be safeguarded as a community building. Renovations were eventually undertaken by Essex County Council who offered to share the building with the Parish Council.

The Parish Council has recently secured tenure of the entire ground floor of the building and is now in a position to open up this extraordinary building for use by other groups/members of the community. This is truly a beautiful building that, as a smaller venue, offers users a different type of facility, in a central location that is easily accessible, with use of a kitchen.

If you would like further details or wish to view the Station House please contact the Parish Council Clerk - Jane Heskey:

Email: [takeley.pc@ntlworld.com](mailto:takeley.pc@ntlworld.com)

Or phone: 0208 270 1149

## HIRE CHARGES

### *HIRE OF MEETING ROOM & USE OF KITCHEN*

ROOM	Hourly Rate Mon-Sun 9am-11pm	Block booking (min. 10wks)	All day hire Mon - Sun 9am- 11pm
Community Groups & Residents	£10 per hour	£9 per hour	£50
External & Commercial Hire	£15 per hour	£13.50 per hour	£100



# AIRPORT PARKING

Please report on street airport parking to  
**BAA Hotline: 0800 731 2385**

This is a central database. A list of all cases goes to the Stansted Airport Highways Working Group (which includes BAA, Essex County Council Highways and Uttlesford District Council) which identifies 'hotspots'.

Where recorded evidence supports identification of a 'hotspot' BAA may contribute financial assistance to the statutory authority (ECC Highways) to provide a solution.

Neither ECC Highways nor Uttlesford District Council support resident parking schemes where off street parking is available.

The Parish Council has no statutory powers relating to Highways.

The Parish Council will make representations to UDC and ECC Highways Dept regarding airport parking issues but it is only the statutory bodies (UDC & ECC Highways) that have the powers to act.

# REPORTING POTHoles

Please help yourself and the local community by reporting potholes to Essex County Council Highways

**Online:** [www.essexcc.gov.uk/Highways/Report-a-highway-problem.aspx](http://www.essexcc.gov.uk/Highways/Report-a-highway-problem.aspx)

**Phone:** 0845 603 7631

**Email:** [H&TLocalism&Customerwest@essex.gov.uk](mailto:H&TLocalism&Customerwest@essex.gov.uk)

Thank you

# **BYWAY 25, TAKELEY**

## **(also known as 'Jacks Lane')**

### **PROPOSAL**

To apply to Uttlesford District Council, as the local planning authority, for an order under Section 249 Town and Country Planning Act 1990 for the 'extinguishment' of vehicular rights over Byway 25, Takeley (known as part of 'Jacks Lane') **to improve the amenity of the area.**

The byway at the end of Jacks Lane runs, east to Priors Green, through the crossing point and beyond to Bangers Green Road/Crumps Farm (1km) and west behind 'The Lodge' and Warish Hall/Smith Green Road. Mr. Euan Kennedy is the land owner is fully supportive of this application.

### **BACKGROUND**

The byway dates from the middle ages and includes ancient hedgerows. It was originally used as farmer access to fields. This is no longer a requirement. Byway 25 is of great historical and environmental interest (1000 yrs old) which should be protected and preserved as an asset and a leisure feature of the community.

The byway is regularly used by 4x4 vehicles and scramblers and is actively promoted on enthusiast websites which draws both local and non local use. Consequently it is unsafe for both pedestrians and horse riders.

Byway 25 is no longer surrounded by farm land. It is in the middle of a well established housing development (Priors Green) which poses a different set of problems. The Parish Council is fearful for the safety and well being of the residents of Jacks Lane, Smiths Green and Priors Green, and especially the pupils of the new Takeley Primary School opened in September 2012 which lies along the southern edge of the byway. For many pupils and parents alike access to the school will mean crossing the byway, or, indeed walking along it part of the way.

Only a local planning authority can resolve to adopt such a proposal for improving the amenity of its area which involves applying to the Secretary of State for an order extinguishing the right to use vehicles on that highway. The order may provide for the continued use of the highway, in specified circumstances, by certain classes of vehicles, or by vehicles belonging to certain people, or vehicular use at certain times for particular purposes.

### **HOW CAN YOU HELP?**

Takeley Parish Council believes that there are sufficient grounds for this proposal to be promoted by Uttlesford District Council.

The Parish Council is seeking evidence of local support and would be grateful to receive your support and comments/representations.

email: [takeley.pc@ntlworld.com](mailto:takeley.pc@ntlworld.com)

or write to: Takeley Parish Council, Station House,  
Sycamore Close, Takeley, Essex CM22 6QA

# **Changes to bus services affecting your areas from 3/3/13.**

## **Service**

Airport By Bus 133 Colchester-Braintree-Stansted

## **Changes**

Revised route and timetable. Now serves Colchester Bus Station in both directions and uses North Station Layby instead of Forecourt. Between North Station and Stansted the service will call at any stop instead of running limited stop until Braintree, including a new diversion via Asbury Drive and Godmans Lane in Marks Tey. The section between North Station and the University remains limited stop. The timetable will be split at Braintree but operated as a through service with no change of bus or ticket required (the destination display will indicate this). The Mon-Sat 0200 and 0500 journeys between Colchester and Stansted will now start at Braintree. The Sunday service will become 2 hourly between Colchester and Braintree and hourly between Braintree and Stansted for most of the day. On Sundays the 0515 & 0715 journeys from Stansted-Colchester will be withdrawn.

## **Impact**

Service now available in both directions at Colchester Bus Station and more stops served west of North Station. The change to split timetables at Braintree will not affect passengers, who can remain on the bus for 5mins. Reduced Sunday frequency throughout.

Essex County Council is assessing its response to these changes.

**Paul Rowden - Senior Local Bus Officer**  
**Passenger Transport - Essex County Council**  
**Tel 0845 603 7631**

## **TAKECARE**

*Volunteers from Takeley providing transport for the  
elderly, disabled and infirm in the parish.*

**Please phone between 9am - 5.30pm giving a minimum of 24 hrs notice**  
**CONTACT:07949 932237**

# MOBILE LIBRARY TIMETABLE

<b>Wednesday visits fortnightly (week 2)</b>			
<b>Dates</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Arrives</b>	<b>Departs</b>
Feb: 13, 27 Mar: 13, 27 Apr: 10, 24			
	Takeley Caravan Park	11.40	12.20
	Takeley Street Coppice Close	13.40	13.55

<b>Friday visits fortnightly (week 2)</b>			
<b>Dates</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Arrives</b>	<b>Departs</b>
Feb: 1, 15 Mar: 1, 15 Apr: 12, 26 May: 10, 24 Jun: 7, 21			
	Priors Green Village Hall	9.45	10.15
	Molehill Green The Post Office 13.50 14.05	13.50	14.05
	Takeley Priors Wood	14.40	15.35

## QUIZ NIGHT

**ELSENHAM COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**

**SATURDAY 2 MARCH 2013  
ELSENHAM VILLAGE HALL**

**£8 per PERSON / TABLES OF 8  
7.00pm FOR 7.30pm START**

**SPECIALITY PLOUGHMANS, BRING YOUR OWN DRINK**

**CALL JENNIFER 814434 TO BOOK YOUR TABLE**



# FLOODING IN SOUTH ROAD

Essex County Council has confirmed that the ditch that runs behind properties in South Road is classified 'main river' and is the responsibility of the Environment Agency.

In the event of imminent danger emergency services should be called on 999. All other flooding events & maintenance issues should be reported to the Environment Agency on:

**0800 80 70 60 (24hrs)**

Takeley Parish Council is pursuing the EA to ensure that a proper programme of maintenance is in place to minimise the risk of flood events.

# RECREATION GROUND REFURBISHMENT PROJECT

Please note that work is underway to refurbish the Recreation Ground, off Chestnut Way. The aim is to complete the project by Easter.

We will need to close off parts off the Recreation Ground as the work progresses. Notices will be posted on the gates to alert users to the areas that are out of bounds as necessary.

**Thank you for your co-operation &  
patience.**

For further information please contact the Clerk or visit the  
website: [www.takeleypc.co.uk](http://www.takeleypc.co.uk)

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

Phone: 020 8270 1149

Email: [Takeley.pc@ntlworld.com](mailto:Takeley.pc@ntlworld.com)



## Takeley Youth Matters



We need adult volunteers who are willing to assist with youth activities in Takeley, including:- table tennis, drama, film, snooker/pool, dance, badminton, rounders

If you have a few hours to give, even if only once a month. You don't need to be a parent, sporty or active, just patient, enthusiastic and enjoy being part of something new that will benefit our young community and possibly your child or someone you know.



**Takeley Parish Council** is committed to hearing the views of young people living in Takeley. A questionnaire was circulated for young people (aged 9 - 17 years) asking what recreational facilities and activities they used and what they wanted to see in the village. A total of 108 questionnaires were completed and showed the following: -

- There was overwhelming demand for improvements to the existing skatepark at Takeley Sports Field
- There was demand for improvements to existing outdoor spaces and to make them more suitable for older age groups (age 12+)
- Everyone wanted more activities in the village that were accessible to various age groups; the most common were table tennis, snooker/pool, film, dance, rounders and badminton
- There was wide support for a venue to host a variety of different activities / entertainment; a youth centre (somewhere indoors to go and “hang out”)
- There was significant support for a Youth Council in Takeley

As a result of the above, the Council has asked a group of youths to develop ideas for improvements to the skate park. It also wants to set up additional recreational and social activities for young people in the village and needs adult volunteers to assist with these; without this support, it will not be possible to hold these.

If you are interested, please e-mail [takeley.pc@ntlworld.com](mailto:takeley.pc@ntlworld.com) or contact Jane Heskey - TPC Clerk on 0208 270 1149  
CRB checks for suitable volunteers will be paid for by the Council

# TRANSPORT

## LICENSED VEHICLE PROVIDERS FOR WHEELCHAIR USERS

Herewith details of companies licensed in this District who have available WAV's

Acme Transport - Takeley	07971 432376
24 x 7 Elsenham and Stansted Airport	01279 816126 & 01279 661128
E-Cabs - Great Dunmow	01371 873323
Ollys Wheelchair Friendly - Saffron Walden	07905 645849

It should be noted that all operators only provide this transport on a pre booking basis to comply with current legislation.

For further advice please contact: Murray Hardy, Licensing Officer, Council Offices, Saffron Walden. tel 01799 510510

*Updated April 2012*

## Compact Tractor Services

**Daniel Tamlyn**

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**Mobile:07595 022204**

**E-mail :tamlynandson@tiscali.co.uk**



# MARGARET UNDERWOOD

*January 2013*

Takeley Parish Council members were saddened to hear of the death of Margaret Underwood. Aged 90, Margaret died after a long illness.

In 1940 Margaret joined the Civil Service as a Temporary Clerk working in Bush House in the Strand, the head of the Inland Revenue. As a junior she helped reinforce windows with cloth strips to prevent total shattering of glass when the bombing began. In November 1940 the department was evacuated to Llandudno, Wales. She stayed in a boarding house as the larger hotels were used as offices. Working from 8am - 8pm it was understood that because tax collection was so important the girls would not be called up for 'war work'.



In 1944 Margaret was released and went to work in the testing labs of a Royal Ordnance Factory near Wrexham. The factory produced explosives and security was tight. When at the end of the war in Europe Margaret wanted to go back to London to make a home for her RAF husband, she had to attend a tribunal and present a case for release.

As resident of Takeley, Margaret was known to many in this community.

Margaret undertook a myriad of voluntary roles within the village including:

- Parish Councillor
- Chair of Takecare
- Voluntary cook at the Community Centre
- She ran WEA
- Takeley Bus Passenger representative at Essex County Council on behalf of the Parish Council
- Village litter picker, for which she was awarded a community award.

# TAKELEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

*"Learning and Achieving Together"*



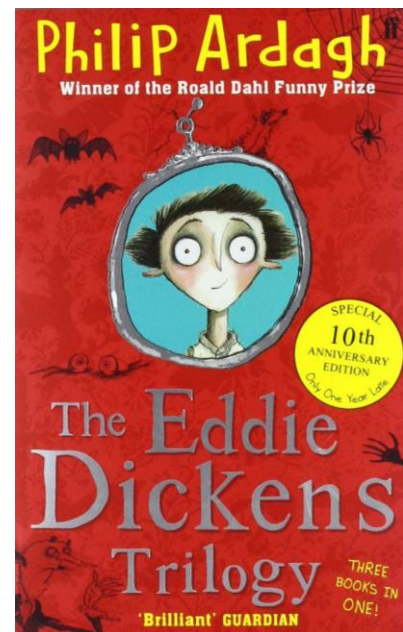
As usual, Christmas was an extremely busy period in School with much to enjoy. Our Reception children presented a delightful performance, 'A Wiggly Nativity', with some lovely singing. Thanks to the staff for all their hard work. Mrs Dann and Mrs Ross and their team once again cooked and served a wonderful Christmas dinner of turkey, fresh vegetables and all the trimmings. There was also the trip to the Civic Theatre in Chelmsford to see the pantomime 'Dick Whittington.' We ended the term with our Carol Concert, a lovely occasion brilliantly supported by our parents. However, Christmas is a time for giving and thinking of others, therefore our children and staff raised money for our Christmas present to the children in the care of the charity Barnardos. We were very pleased to send £432 to Barnardos, so well done to all.

It is incredible to think that we have now been in our new building for half a year and are now starting to plan for the new school year



in September. A lot has been achieved in those six months and our popularity continues to grow. We opened a new class in January to meet demand for places and I am pleased to say that we will be running two Reception classes again in September.

We firmly believe that reading is an essential key to successful learning. This is reflected in our new building with our library rising up in the heart of the school. Downstairs the children can choose a book or settle at the work area whilst upstairs we have our story deck, a fantastic space to enjoy books and storytelling, with inside and outside provision. Our children continue to make fantastic progress in reading supported by our new reading scheme 'Read, Write, Inc.' Having so much space in our new building means that we can teach the children in small focused groups according to their reading ability, enabling the children to rapidly gain the skills needed to become efficient readers, writers and spellers. We have also been fortunate to have had two comic book authors visit our Year 4, 5 & 6 children this term. Their visit inspired the children to write and draw some amazing dragon stories. Our next reading event is a book shop day run by the 'Just Imagine' bookshop in Chelmsford. The bookshop staff will run story sessions for the children throughout the day focusing on a few high quality children's books. Then in March we are really looking forward to Philip Ardagh, author of the Eddie Dickens series of books coming to talk to all the children about his writing and books, so lots of exciting reading opportunities still to look forward to this term.



**Mandy Line**  
**Headteacher**

# NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING

## Takeley Beat Surgery

Your local Officer will be available at **The Station House, Sycamore Close** from **10am-12pm** on Wednesdays on the below dates for you air any issues or concerns you may have or just for a chat.  
We look forward to seeing you!

February 6<sup>th</sup>

March 6<sup>th</sup>

April 10<sup>th</sup>

May 8<sup>th</sup>

June 12<sup>th</sup>

July 10<sup>th</sup>

August 14<sup>th</sup>

September 11<sup>th</sup>

October 16<sup>th</sup>

November 13<sup>th</sup>

December 18<sup>th</sup>

### Contact your local officers:

PC Brad Healey

e-mail: [1712@essex.pnn.police.uk](mailto:1712@essex.pnn.police.uk)

PCSO Joanna Trevail-Phillips

e-mail: [73377@essex.pnn.police.uk](mailto:73377@essex.pnn.police.uk)

### Telephone:

**Non-emergency- 101**

**NPT mobile- 07989174801**

Right up

your street

Neighbourhood Policing Team



[www.essex.police.uk](http://www.essex.police.uk)





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# TAKELEY PARISH COUNCIL

## MEETING SCHEDULE 2013

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

<b>JANUARY</b> <b>9<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>FEBRUARY</b> <b>6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>MARCH</b> <b>6<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>APRIL</b> <b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>AGM</b> <b>MAY 1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>JUNE</b> <b>5<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>JULY</b> <b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>AUGUST</b> <b>7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>SEPTEMBER</b> <b>4<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>OCTOBER</b> <b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>NOVEMBER</b> <b>6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>DECEMBER</b> <b>4<sup>th</sup></b>

### “Singing from the Heart”

“What,” might you ask, “is Singing from the Heart?” Well not only is it a name that describes how we sing but it’s also the location from where we sing, that is, in the heart of the village of Takeley (well almost!) . Sounds a bit profound and highbrow doesn’t it ? Well I have to say it is nothing of the sort. In fact there is absolutely nothing highbrow to it at all. It’s just a group of people who enjoy making music using just their voices (acapella) and having a lot of fun at the same time.

That’s not to say that it is not challenging, when groups of people are singing harmonies in different keys, at different times, whilst walking around a room and trying not to laugh so much as to stop you from losing concentration on the song you are singing ...that is challenging.

Make no mistake We Have Fun. The songs we sing are from all around the World. Folk songs and sea shanties, calypso and gospel, Afro Caribbean and native American, beautiful words and words with no meanings that come with enchanting melodies.

How can we create a beautiful noise? Well to do that we depend on our natural voice coach Angela Dennis. She gets the best from all those she teaches; those people with musical skills and those people who just sing in the shower. There are no auditions, no sheet music to read and no concerts to prepare for, it’s just a night of singing for fun

On the third Wednesday of every month @7-30pm

At Takeley Chapel

Have I whetted your appetite? Do you want to know more? Then call me

Paul Burnett 01279870578 [paul@pburnett1.orangehome.co.uk](mailto:paul@pburnett1.orangehome.co.uk)



# Takeley Cricket Club February 2013



Once again, the new season is fast approaching, although we have a slightly later start than normal, with the first games not being played until 4<sup>th</sup> May. The first team have been given an opening Div 2 journey to South Loughton, and follow up with 2 home games against new opposition, with visits from Woodford Wells IV's and Aspenden, Standon and Puckeridge. After promotion last year, the second team have an opening home game against Matching Green II's and then have trips to Hockerill II's and Ilford Catholics II's.

In advance of the season, the Cricket Club will be running their usual spring quiz, which will be run in the Village Hall on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April. We will provide ploughman's style food and will be holding a raffle. Tickets are £10 per person which includes 2 strips of raffle tickets. The quiz is open to everyone, and if you would like a table (ideally 8-10 people), please contact Malcolm Brown on 01279 871055.

We will also be aiming to run a couple of training sessions at the ground in advance of the season commencing, and if there are any players (rusty or regular) that are new to the village, or happen to be reading this publication, we would love to welcome you to our Club. We are always interested to hear from potential new players. We also run an U15 youth team (joint side with Hockerill) and it would be great to hear from younger players.

Please contact Tim Connolly (Youth manager) on 01279 870138 if you are interested. Any over 16 potential players can contact Captain Chris Thake on 01279 757549 for details of training dates etc.

**Malcolm Brown**

## **Elsenham Village Fete & Craft Fair 2013**

**Saturday 8 June 1.00 - 5.00pm Playing Fields, Elsenham**

(To reserve a pitch or stall contact Mrs Jennifer Jarvis,  
24 Broom Farm Road, Elsenham, Bishops Stortford, Herts. CM22 6LD,  
tel 01279 814434 before 9<sup>th</sup> March.)

# Tallen's Country Notes

This winter has been what one would expect, snow, icy drizzle and generally cold. That is what a winter should be. I'm not saying I like it, because I don't, but it was better than last year. If you care to remember it was snow, snow, freeze, freeze, snow. The younger generation being thrilled to bits frolicking in the snow; us wiser folk just gritted the teeth and put on another jumper wishing for it all to go away!!

The garden bird's population certainly did not approve of the snow and freezing conditions, so I did what I have always done when the weather turns nasty and that is lay on a spread every morning. Using the food mixer, the menu consists of; dog food mixed with bread, oats and diced apples. This treat was then scattered along the snow-cleared path and patio, not forgetting our shy smaller birds some of the food was thrown under the bushes. Sunflower seeds were put into the feeders. All this preparation and feeding takes the best part of an hour, so I have to wait before I prepare my own breakfast of porridge and coffee which takes only fifteen minutes. I have no answer to that! Words of advice, do not throw food out in the afternoon because the birds will not eat it all and what is left will attract vermin.



Spring is almost upon us; green shoots are thrusting their way through the soil all over the garden and some gardens already have snowdrops and crocus in their otherwise drab wintery surroundings. It is surprising what a



few hours of warm spring sunshine will do. Bees will rouse from hibernation and search for nectar from early flowering wild plants; butterflies will spread their brightly coloured wings bringing a flash of colour as they flutter across the garden searching for suitable plants on which to lay their eggs for this year's population. Of these early

butterflies, brimstone and small tortoiseshell will be the first to rouse from their winters slumber.

Altogether we are approaching what I believe is a magical time of the year with the rebirth of the countryside; it gives one hope for the future!



Watch out for your resident blackbirds and robins as they 'pair up' then have squabbles with their neighbours over territory. Then there is nest building for laying eggs and raising broods. So keep a eye on the shrubbery and other hedges, remembering not to disturb the nest site or the parents will abandon it. I was pleased to see a thrush in the garden again; this bird's territory is along the Flich

Way, which is of course is the old railway line, so venturing into the garden suggest that it has spread its territory to include my garden. As the weather hopefully improves the cuckoo will be heard in late March and in April/May the woods will ring to the song of chiff chaff and willow warblers. Of course I eagerly await the return of my house martins. I am hopeful that the nest that fell down in 2011 will be rebuilt this year, making four nest sites once more.

*Fallen*

## 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.

Sparklers meet on a Monday, but not the first Monday in the month and not bank holidays.

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

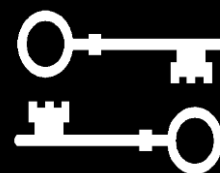




# TAKELEY LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY UNLOCKING THE PAST

<http://tlhs.org.uk>

[chairman@tlhs.org.uk](mailto:chairman@tlhs.org.uk)



I was very saddened to hear of Margaret Underwood's death. She had been a part of the village for as long as I have lived here and was a keen and long-term member of Takeley Local History Society having joined at its formation in 1998.

Margaret was a fiercely independent lady, always preferring to walk to meetings even when recovering from hip and knee operations. Offers of lifts were very politely declined and you didn't argue with Margaret. Her contributions to Takeley village life were very wide-ranging and her particular contributions to our TLHS archives included the transcription of all the Takeley Chapel records, which she carried out using her trusty typewriter. When I wanted copies of old Takeley Newsletters to archive Margaret again came to the rescue. Her contributions to this magazine for WEA and On The Buses were always on time and always neatly typed; Margaret was "Old School" – you just knew that everything she did would be done right. She will be very much missed.

We have already had our first meeting of the year when Robert Lodge told us about the history of Lodge's Coaches in High Easter. Coming up on 7th May, we have Peter Paye who will speak about Thaxted and Elsenham and on 17th September, Tim Turner of Sworders Auction Rooms, will deliver his latest talk, entitled "A Nice Cup Of Tea". As always these will be at the new Takeley Primary School on Priors Green, 7.30pm. All are welcome, especially anyone new to the village with a general interest in history. We also hope to arrange a trip to Ashfields Carriage and Polo Club in the summer to see the Carriage Museum there. Members will be contacted with the date nearer the time.

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



# MEDIA COMS

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## ***Articles from the past, by Pat Salmon***

**Report in the Herts & Essex Observer - 9<sup>th</sup> September 1893.**

DEATH OF THE TAKELEY STATION MASTER.

On Wednesday Mr Henry Farnham, died after a somewhat prolonged illness of acute congestion of the lungs, He was much liked and leaves a Widow and five young children.

**Report in the Herts & Essex Observer - 22<sup>nd</sup> February 1896.**

DREADFUL MURDER & SUICIDE IN CAMBRIDGESHIRE.

The Widow of the late Station Master of Takeley and four of her children dead.

Early on Wednesday morning a quadruple murder and suicide were discovered at Wimblington, a village about three miles from March, in Cambridgeshire. Since Michaelmas last a Widow named Mary Jane Farnham, whose husband was at one time Station Master of Takeley, had with four of her children occupied a cottage near the village. Nothing appears to have been heard of them since 'Saturday Night' and Mrs Farnham's parents, who live about a mile away. Thought she had probably taken a short holiday with her children. On Wednesday morning, as no tidings were forthcoming of the family, two brothers made enquiries regarding their whereabouts and eventually, with Police Constable Lee, entered the cottage by means of an unfastened window, and on going upstairs a most ghastly and sickening sight presented itself. In one room two children aged four and eleven respectfully, were found dead with their throats cut. They were attired in their night dresses, and were lying with their backs towards each other, and everything pointed to the fact that they had been murdered while asleep. In the other bedroom a girl aged three and a boy aged eight were discovered, they also had their throats cut, and Mrs Farnham was lying dead with her head lying on the youngest child's body the blade of a white handled knife still embedded deeply in the right side of her throat. The bed cloths were saturated with blood, and there appears no doubt that Mrs Farnham murdered her four children and then committed suicide. Mrs Farnham appears to have lead a very retired life, and is said to have been deeply attached to her children. She is said to have been possessed of some means, and so no reason can be ascribed for the tragedy.

The deed was premeditated, the Police on searching the house found £3 10s in a sealed envelope, which bore the inscription 'Mrs Fishers Rent'. It has also been ascertained that on Saturday Night the eldest daughter went to the baker's shop to pay for two loaves of bread, although it had previously been Mrs Farnham's invariable practise to pay on Wednesdays when the cart went round. The last that was seen of the family, was on Saturday night, at about eight O'clock, when a postman noticed Mrs Farnham in the yard with one of her children. The Police have formed an opinion that the boy was killed and thrown on the bed, after having been alarmed by the noise in the other room, and going thither to ascertain the cause,. Mrs Farnham has been at times much distressed and had often commented to her neighbours on the fact she had been left with five young children.

The news of the tragedy has caused a deep sensation here, and indeed throughout the whole district where the family were well known, and much respected. At Mr Farnham's death at about two and a half years ago, Mr Robert Marsh collected on behalf of the family £70, and for some time after Mrs Farnham continued to reside in the village, but a little more than a year ago, she left in order to be nearer her friends, The only member of the family to escape the terrible fate was the oldest girl, who was in service.

#### THE INQUEST

The Inquest was held on Thursday at Wimblington, when the evidence showed that the unhappy woman, had cut the throats of the two girls whilst asleep in one room, and then entered the other room. They had all confidently gone to bed, for they all had their night dresses on. Beside the envelope found in a draw containing £3 10s and marked 'Mrs Fishers Rent' there was also found a deposit note for £201 5s on Gurney & Co's Bank, and a Post Office Bank Book containing £130 2s 7d, Dr Stephens of Doddington gave evidence that he examined the five dead bodies on the previous day, and found the throats cut to a considerable depth, as though a very sharp knife had been pulled upward, the windpipe and jugular veins in some cases being nearly severed, and no cry could be uttered.

The jury returned a verdict that 'Mrs Farnham' murdered her four children, and committed suicide while temporarily insane.

#### **Report in the Herts & Essex Observer - Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> February 1896.**

#### THE CAMBRIDGESHIRE TRAGEDY - FUNERAL OF THE VICTIMS.

The funeral of Mrs Farnham and her four children took place at Wimblington churchyard on Saturday last. The remains were interred in a double grave, those of the mother being laid by the side of the two younger girls, and the bodies of the boy and the second girl were placed above. Thousands of persons from March and the surrounding district were present at the funeral. The eldest girl, the sole survivor of the family, who was away in service at the time of the tragedy, was present, and the greatest compassion was felt for her. She was heartbroken, but placed emblems composed of snowdrops, on each coffin as it was lowered into the grave.

*From the 1881 census for Takeley Station House and birth records we can see that Henry Farnham was born in Audley End in 1852 and Mary Jane Peacock was born at Upwell, Cambs. in 1855. Henry clearly worked his way up on the railways; in 1871 he was a Railway Porter at Stonea Station Wimblington, very near to where Mary Jane was brought up. The couple married in North Witchford, Cambs, in 1877. Henry was Station Master at Takeley from at least 1881 till he died and was buried in Takeley churchyard (Plot 18 Row 12) on the 10<sup>th</sup> September 1893, aged 41 years.*

*All of his five children were baptised at Takeley Church. - Lucille (24<sup>th</sup> June 1883) - Marjorie May (25<sup>th</sup> June 1885) - Sidney Harold (30<sup>th</sup> October 1887) Henrietta Marion (26<sup>th</sup> October 1890) Dorothy Esther (25<sup>th</sup> June 1893).*

*Lucille was the only member of the family to survive the tragedy, I wonder what happened to her ?*

## From the Village Recorder

In the past I have written the Recorder article according to what I am working on at the time, or as a response to events. At the start of 2013 I have decided to adopt a more formal approach and to try to give an outline of Takeley history from the very earliest times to the beginning of 1900. I am calling each episode an outline as there is not enough space to cover all topics in detail. Another reason for taking this on now, is that it has been pointed out to me [delicately] that at my age perhaps I should get going on this project!

I will begin at the beginning before there were people in Takeley. Most people know the date 1066, but there were many thousand years of Takeley history before that, little of it in a written form. It is written in the landscape, and that is where I shall begin. This early landscape evidence is not something with which I am very familiar so I am grateful to John for helping me with this material.

Before people can live in a place they need, primarily, water followed by access to a supply of food. Earliest Takeley would have had both. Indeed, initially, too much water as the whole place was under the sea. We have a fascinating record of this found by Pat Salmon in the bed of the River Roding and dated by Saffron Walden Museum to 80 million years ago. It was formed when soft bodied creatures such as sponges, died and fell to the sea floor. When the bodies decomposed the space was filled with other material and in this case formed a pear shaped fossil. Holding something so incredibly old in the hand is a quite remarkable experience.

When the seas retreated there were various stages of land formation that are very detailed. Flandrian, Devensian, Ipswichian, Wostonian, Hoxnian, Anglian, and Cromerian are too specialised to go into here. Only Anglian [478,000-423,000 BC] when boulder clay was deposited and the Thames diverted from Essex to its present route is probably of some interest. The original pathway of the Thames left behind the sand and gravel that was to be valuable in later centuries. The movement south of the glaciers brought us the sarsen stone that now stands on the green at Brewers End.

It is only after the retreat of the glaciers at the end of the Ice Age that a lasting impact was left on our landscape that can still be recognised today. The melting of the glacial ice formed the gentle valleys and hill slopes that determined our present day settlement patterns. In between the glacial periods were years of warmer weather that encouraged the growth of trees, shrubs and vegetation.

Before the Anglian glacial period, Britain had been joined to the Continent allowing the passage of animals and the precursors of Homo

Sapiens. The numbers of humans in the period 423,000-38,000 BC would have been very small. They were almost certainly small family groups of 25 to 30 people who moved from place to place following the animal herds. This way of living is still practised today in some places, and we can see from this lifestyle how few artefacts our ancestors would have left behind to be discovered. The speed of progress would have been minuscule in our terms, lasting thousands of years. The remains of animals are far more numerous than those of the humans who started to make their presence felt some 40,000 years ago. By 7,000 BC our climate was improving, but it is still noticeable that most evidence comes from the coastal regions. Early migration from Africa is said to have been along coastlines where fish and other seafood was more easily available. Takeley was a long way inland. The different phases of development are classified briefly as Upper Palaeolithic [10,000 BC] to Mesolithic [8,000 BC] to Neolithic [4,000-2,200 BC] and then Bronze Age, Early, Middle and Late Iron Age, Roman and Anglo Saxon. There is evidence for all these cultures in Takeley with finds increasing in numbers as we get closer to 1066; but there is a dip in finds during the Anglo Saxon period which I will talk about later.

Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic all relate to a time when stone and flint were the main material for tools together with bones and antlers. The people are commonly called hunter-gatherers but towards the end of the Neolithic period there was some evidence of settlement. This however does not really apply in Takeley where there is no settlement or agricultural evidence until the Bronze Age. What we do have are flint remains on the upper slopes of the Pincey Brook and Roding valleys. There is evidence of the onsite working of flint. The tools would have been used to kill animals and prepare them for consumption and also to clear a space for the temporary camps. The problem always with making sweeping statements about archaeological sites and finds is that they are happening all the time and there is always the possibility of suddenly becoming out of date and inaccurate. One thing that is certain is that in modern terms progress was extremely slow and happened gently and without the people involved being actively aware. No one woke up at the end of the Neolithic period one morning and said "Good heavens, now we are living in the Bronze Age". That however is where I will be looking in the next instalment.

**Nia Watkiss**





## Welcome to Takeley Farmers' Market

Takeley Farmers' Market is committed to supporting local food.

All our produce sold at the market will have been grown, reared, pickled or processed locally and is sold to you by the producer.

The February market returned after the Christmas break with all our regular stallholders and a good turnout of customers. We are still trying to source cheese for our market and we have lost our wine/beer supplier.

Are you looking for a venue to sell your produce or art and crafts? Maybe Takeley Farmers' Market is for you. Then get in touch A.S.A.P Our kitchen was run by The Christian School who had a very successful morning. We have at present nobody to run the March kitchen so could it be you?

If you are interested in running the kitchen for your charity or good cause then contact us as soon as possible.

For newcomers to the market we recommend coming to the market early. We open at 9am and you know what they say about the early bird!

Our markets are on the first Saturday of the month

9am – 11.30am

Silver Jubilee Hall

Contact details Pat Burnett 01279 870578

paul@pburnett1.orangehome.co.uk

## The Station House Community Café

The best thing about the community café is it's friendly, affordable and accessible. There is plenty of space for wheelchairs, pushchairs and our four-legged friends.

Whether it's a snack or cappuccino we have just what you need to fill the gap. We also sell homemade soup and from March our menu will include cream teas.

We are open

Thursday 12pm – 4 pm    Friday 9am – 1 pm

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## **Book Review by Elaine Wyld**

### **The Woman Who Went to Bed for a Year**

**By  
Sue Townsend**

Eva Beaver has arrived at a turning point in her life. Her gifted twins, Brian and Brianne, have left for University. Eva now experiences a mixture of elation and sorrow. Rejoicing in her new-found freedom but dropping into melancholy in the empty nest she finds herself in, Eva takes to her bed and stays there. To add fuel to her emotional turmoil she discovers that her astrologer husband, Dr Brian Beaver, has for the past eight years been living with his mistress, the redheaded Titania. Unbeknown to Eva, Dr Beaver has converted his garden shed at the bottom of the garden into a star-gazing studio and mini love nest!

Sue Townsend brings a huge amount of humour into this story relaying the events that take place as Eva refuses to budge from the bedroom. Over a period of time, Eva becomes the centre of attention, not only in her immediate neighbourhood but nationally as well and, as television cameras roll in, reporters are eager to print her story.

Eva's 79 year old mother, Ruby, and her stoic mother-in-law, Yvonne, take it in turns to look after Eva, but Sue Townsend brings other characters into the arena. Alexander the "odd job man" with his muscled torso and bulging triceps becomes a frequent visitor. In his tight white t-shirt and blue jeans he revamps her bedroom and falls in love with Eva at the same time! Then there is Nurse Spears with her "old school" training and no nonsense approach to patients. The two women make amusing sparring partners!

Eva and Brian's twins are having a tough time at University. Sue Townsend brings hilarious anecdotes of their first year by introducing their crazy and manipulative flatmate Poppy into the story. Poppy slowly entangles herself into their lives, attempting to seduce Brian junior and inviting herself back to the Beavers' for Christmas where she tries to seduce Brian senior!

As the seasons drift by Eva has a good view of the world from her bedroom window. Her newly whitewashed room soon becomes a place of refuge for the lost, lonely and troubled in spirit.

Although this is for the most part a very funny story the ending is disappointing and could leave the reader with a sense of sadness.

Sue Townsend enjoyed tremendous success with her novel entitled "The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole", which is celebrating its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

**Penguin Fiction**  
**ISBN 978-0-141-39964-5**

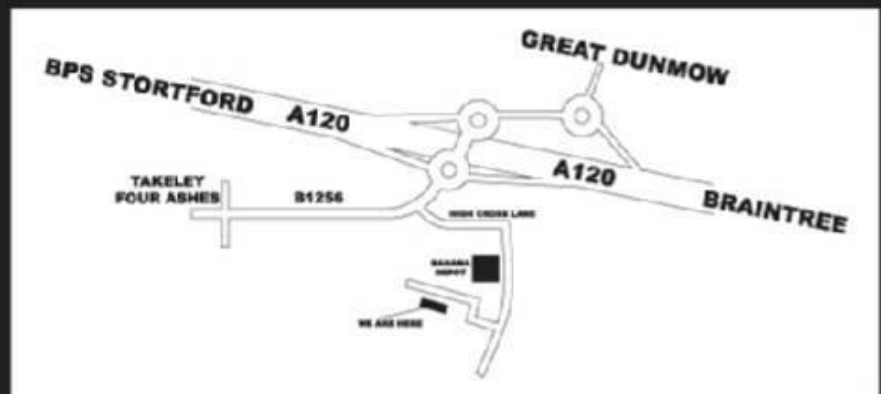
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# About the Takeley Parish Council Newsletter

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](mailto: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)

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