

NEWSLETTER



Spring 2014 Issue No.62

TAKELEY PARISH COUNCIL

2013/14 TPC RESPONSIBILITIES:

AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY	REMIT		COUNCILLOR
CHAIRMAN			Carol Pratt
VICE CHAIRMAN			Richard Cheetham
FINANCE COMMITTEE	Report & recommendations to full Council	4	Richard Cheetham, Carol Pratt, Geoff Bagnall, Susan Sprules
PLANNING COMMITTEE	Report & recommendations to full Council re Planning Applications, Stansted Airport, Housing Policy, SSE PC Liaison	4	Carol Pratt, Trevor Allen, Tricia Barber, Geoff Bagnall
HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORT			Brian Baldwin
SPORTS FIELD			John Green
RECREATION GROUND			John Green
RIGHTS OF WAY/ FOOTPATHS/LAND	Rights of Way/Footpaths/Land Tree Warden, Flitch Way	2	Tina Domigan, Trevor Allen, John Green
MOLEHILL GREEN *	Green, Hall & Community		Carol Pratt
POLICE LIASON/PUBLIC SAFETY			Trevor Allen
PUBLICITY	Notice Boards, Website, Newsletter, Grapevine, Press		David Daykin
NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION			John Green
REGIONAL/NATIONAL POLICY	Including Localism Act		Geoff Bagnall
PARISH PLAN			David Daykin & Susan Sprules
PUBLIC AMENITY WORKING GP	Maintenance & improvement of public spaces	3	David Daykin, John Green, Trevor Allen, Sue Sprules, Pat Burnett
EMERGENCY PLANNING	Coordinating key contacts & resources		Pat Burnett & Jo Edmonds (Asst Clerk)
SCHOOL HOUSE WORKING GP	Consider the future (USE & Ownership)		Carol Pratt, Richard Cheetham, Tricia Barber, Pat Burnett, Tina Domigan, Trevor Allen

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

TPC REPRESENTATIVES:

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

All roles confirmed & agreed TPC Meeting May 2013

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

Editorial

In which the editor joins the cast of the Pirates of Penzance, has a near escape with a cut throat razor, passes out (nearly) in a geography lesson and investigates the advantages of an insect diet.

*“Blow, winds, and crack your cheeks! Rage! Blow!
You cataraacts and hurricanoes, spout
Till you have drenched our steeples, drowned the cocks!”*

At dead of night last week, as hurricanoes roared, I went out to tighten the straps on the saplings in the garden. Maybe *dead* might be the wrong term to use to describe the night. Demented might be a better adjective.

As soon as the kitchen door opened and I felt the rush of wind and heard its subterranean roar, I knew what King Lear must have felt when he



raged at the storm that seemed to engulf his world. At one in the morning, the wind was howling and shrieking like the proverbial banshee as it eddied round the gutters and chimney stacks, whistling between branches which thrashed about, rattling and shimmying like spidery contortionists. If ever there was a witching hour, then this was it! No shadow of a doubt.

The gale clutched at my flapping coat as I leant into it. The garden fence waved back and forth, one of its posts torn from the ground. Dismembered twigs and leaves hurtled out of the gloom, rattling against the swaying fence. A shed door banged repeatedly in the distance as I beat a retreat into the comparative calm of the house.

It's a long time since I have experienced a gale like that! One of those moments in time when nature, with contemptuous ease, shows us our true place in the scheme of things. But it was rather wonderfully magnificent.

And yet, these storms that we have experienced of late are as nothing compared to natural disasters that have afflicted other countries. And, of course, all the newspapers find someone to blame; politicians posture and angry letters are written to the Daily Wail full of atrocious grammar, bad spelling, retrospective wisdom and general ignorance.

*“Let us shut our eyes,
And talk about the weather.”*

It has always been a very British obsession to talk about the weather, as W.S Gilbert observed, but of late it *has* proved to be a truly worthy topic of conversation and consternation.

“Orrid weather out there,” observes my barber holding a cut-throat razor an inch or so away from my throat, “what do you think about it?”

Banishing thoughts of Sweeney Todd, I swiftly reply, “It’s all the fault of the education system. Sack all the teachers and the weather’ll improve.” Mutters of approval and assent. What intellectual peaks we reach in these conversations.

Mind you, judging by the size of the puddle that I once saw spreading towards me from the reception class row when I was taking assembly, some time in distant antiquity, there may be a germ of truth in that comment

*“Continue fine I hope it may,
And yet it rained but yesterday.
Tomorrow it may pour again
(I hear the country wants some rain),
Yet people say, I know not why,
That we shall have a warm July.”*

Now that, dear reader, is remarkable. The first performance of *The Pirates of Penzance* was in 1879 and Mr Gilbert got the weather forecast dead right, for verily, the Wizards of Weather dictate that we shall have a hotter than average summer. Never fear. I’ll put an end to that by having a barbecue. It’s my version of the rain dance and it never fails! Get your wellies and brollies ready! No, that sound you hear is not me sniggering. It is an ethereal hallucination, which is how some of my friends like to describe me.

Meanwhile, Christmas has become a fleeting memory. The decorations are hibernating in the loft and not the faintest trace of tinsel remains in the carpet as February unravels like a faded tea towel, damp, drab and full of germs. A chilly time of bare branches and hacking coughs, punctuated by icy squalls and scudding clouds.

Have I got you really depressed?

Well that was my view of January and February when I was a child.

At school, we were forever cold. PT after breakfast was supposed to warm us up but, by lunchtime, the cold got through and attention wavered. Endless geography notes on the board that we had to copy down blurred into mush. If it was possible to suffer the effects of hypothermia in a classroom, then we did!

And then to lunch, which was announced by the ringing of a camel bell. I know, but don’t ask me why a camel bell. None of us ever found out.

Now lunch was usually interesting. Over the main table was a motto, known to us as the cannibal motto. It read: “The company makes the feast.”

The meal was generally served by matron and if you have ever seen the film "If" you will have a perfect picture. If it was a really cold day, the cook would somehow contrive to produce cold mutton and salad. The salad was usually prepared by a downtrodden Spanish lady by the name of Maria who was the wife of Pepe, the handyman. I had once nearly assassinated him with one of my explosives tests and he always looked ready to run for his life whenever he saw me.



The salad had to be approached with caution as it usually contained a fair amount of sliced slugs and decapitated caterpillars.

If a complaint was made, then all you'd get for the next meal was bread.

Ah yes, the bread. This was an exclusive wholemeal variety specially baked and delivered from a bakery in Tring. There would be plates piled high with this crusty delicacy in the centre of the table. When it got overly warm or towards the end of the week, it was quite common for weevils to wriggle out from between the slices.



Then it was a case of quietly ignore them and hope that one hadn't burrowed into the slice that you were eating, or go hungry. I generally opted for the lesser of two weevils.

There was no refrigerator in the school kitchen. It was felt that it might consume too much electricity. Instead, there was an old-fashioned cold larder with marble slabs and a meat safe.

This was all part of the benefit of a private education. It would make headlines now, but it was just par for the course back in the fifties and sixties. (We once had a paraffin fridge – there were such things – when we lived in Cyprus in the nineteen fifties. It exploded spectacularly and gave our Turkish maid a nervous breakdown.)

Before Pepe and Maria made their appearance at the school, the kitchen dogsbody was an Italian youth called Giuseppe. He had a sallow complexion and wandered the back corridors of the school in stained and wrinkled

kitchen whites, a rather shabby version of Banquo's ghost. He had a Lambretta scooter that he liked to dismantle, usually in the dark, in the yard. We found him close to tears once, when he couldn't put it back together again. He left under mysterious circumstances. Apparently, it had something to do with a goldfish that he won at a fair. Make what you will of that. Come to that, a lot of staff seemed to leave without trace or explanation.

Breakfast was usually an equally gloomy affair. Ever trying to economise, those on high had dictated that the dining room should be lit with forty-watt bulbs. Our new housemaster was outraged by the subterranean illumination and would bring a torch to table to shine on his meal. On one particularly bleak morning, the same master – he went by the name of Ashplant, I seem to recall – picked up his cup. The saucer stuck to the bottom of the cup and detached itself as he was about to drink. He glared at the remains of the saucer on the table and then stared at the cup, which promptly came away from its handle and deposited its contents on his lap. He rose from his seat with a reptilian hiss, muttered something in Latin and departed into the Gothic gloom. He left after a term.



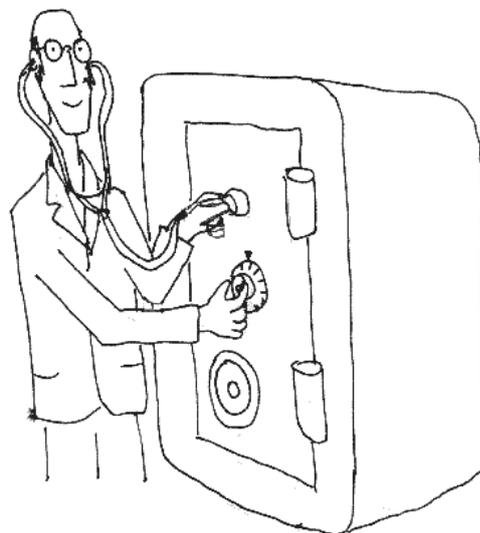
But at least we could wear pullovers in winter. However, the dormitory windows were kept wide open at night and we were only allowed two blankets. In the end, one just got used to it.

Now, you'd think that we would fare better in the summer. But no, on the appointed day, whatever the temperature, we all changed to short sleeved shirts and you *know* what English summers are like. So we sat through the blessed geography lessons shivering, with goose bumps on our arms. To this day, I loathe geography. It feels cold and hungry!

Even in my doddering dotage, I can't stand to have my central heating turned up too high. Old habits die hard. Remnants of my polar past!

Ah happy, happy days! The best days of my life, so my father kept telling me. Being Polish, it was his ambition that I should become a model English gentleman. (Please stifle your laughter at this point.)

Well, look at the bright side; I left school with much experience in creating explosive devices, brewing illicit alcohol in the bike shed and safe cracking. In fact, whenever the secretary lost the key to the office safe, I would be called to break into it. Poor old dad. He missed the point. The simple truth is that the upper crust is composed of a lot of old crumbs held together by dough. So there.



And on that half-baked note, no bun intended, I shall take my leave. I shall slither silently and surreptitiously to the cupboard where the Scottish medicine is kept.

We're all doomed, Mr Mainwaring. But I'll drink your health anyway.

Night night.

Paul Regeli, Contributing Editor, Official Village Idiot, RA (Reject), Fellow of the Institute of Amateur Safe Crackers.



TAKELEY YOUNG WIVES, 1964 – 2014
TAKELEY WIVES,
TAKELEY LADIES CIRCLE

“First meeting of Young Wives, 7th April 1964, call for volunteer to take the minutes. Object of meeting to form a friendly gathering for mutual benefit and pleasure. This group will not be part of the Mothers Union as such, and although we have met in the vicarage and I am a Churchwarden, this is not a “closed shop”, anyone is welcome We hope to have interesting speakers on different subjects, discussions, outings, socials, and anything to get away from the usual routine and to think of things other than the household chores for a few hours”. ---- Mrs Hulks 1964

This is a quote from that first meeting and over the years we have managed to fill the brief set out by the first Chairman, Mrs. Hulks, and her committee of four. Our meetings are held in Takeley Silver Jubilee Hall on alternate Wednesday evenings from 8 p.m. As you can see from the title, we have had to amend it as we matured and latterly dropped the ‘Wives’ in order to encourage non Wives into our circle.

Takeley was just beginning to expand with new estates popping up in the early ‘60s. I came to Roseacres at the end of 1967 and was taken to my first meeting, a guest evening, by a neighbour sometime in ’68 and have been a regular member ever since. I was elected onto the committee in the early ‘70s and in 1976 to the position of Chairman, which I still hold. When our last Secretary resigned and with no one willing to take that position, I took it on. Phyllis Altham, a native of Takeley, has been our Treasurer since 1971. Pauline French, our Vice Chairman and provider of the tea and biscuits, is also a native. Other longstanding committee members are Jill Baldwin and Viv Woods, not to mention many of our members. A few years ago we were delighted to welcome to our committee Linda Harris and Ruby Rayner who have come to live in the new development at Priors Green. We have seen our members

come and go over the years and are delighted to welcome new members who are coming into an ever-growing Takeley.

Over the years we have welcomed many speakers to our meetings, seeing the world through their slides (the projector eventually giving way to a laptop), seeing potters work their clay to produce something useful or decorative, an artist compose a picture, what to do with that bunch of flowers, hear of the work of a very wide variety of charities, cooking demo's, how to make a Will, choose a good wine, not to mention all the outings to gardens, theatres and local hostleries for our birthdays and Christmas meals. It was at one of our birthday meals that Pauline who, when asked by a young man who we were, replied Takeley Young Wives and his response of "well you don't look very young" that we, after much consideration dropped the Young.

Charges in 1964 were (I quote) "5/- annual subscription and 6d for tea & biscuits or maybe 1/- or is that too much?" Today it is £10 annual subscription and £2 per evening inc. tea & biscuits. Needless to say, new members are always welcome or just come along if you are interested in the subject on offer. Obviously we won't be around in another 50 years but it would nice to think that our group might be!!

Barbara Aviet, 01279 870653, Phyllis Altham, 870615, Pauline French, Jill Baldwin, Viv Woods, Linda Harris and Ruby Rayner, the committee.


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TAKELEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

Derek Collier: In February TPC members were saddened by the news that Derek Collier has died.

Derek had lived in Takeley for many years and had contributed to many of the community groups and activities. Since moving from Takeley he had continued in the role of internal auditor to the Parish Council.

The Clerk has sent condolences to his wife on behalf of the members and TPC will be represented at the funeral. Rather than provide flowers at the funeral, his wife has indicated that Derek would prefer a donation to two nominated charities.

TPC agreed to make a contribution.

Appointment of an Assistant Clerk: TPC welcomed the new Assistant Clerk, Jane Bridgeman, who started on 27th Nov 2013.

Open Forum: Cllr Richard Cheetham requested clarification re the **Precept calculation**.

The Clerk reported that the Govt has announced (5/2/14) that there will not be a referendum limit/cap on Council tax increases; although they do expect Councils to refrain from increasing household Council Tax charges.

This announcement has no affect on the TPC budgets and precept request agreed at the January meeting.

DC Jackie Cheetham reported:

UDC approved a 2% reduction in Council Tax following a 'good' settlement from Govt.

UDC has agreed a **£1m fund for strategic investment/community projects** and an additional **£200k for infrastructure projects**.

UDC aim to fund a **study re. car parking provision** in the district.

UDC has allocated **funding for more PCSO's & Special Constables**. TPC highlighted that there is a shortage of police vehicles which curtails the work of the local Police teams in rural areas.

UDC have allocated **funds for the Tour De France**.

Additional **hardship funds** have been put aside for residents receiving Council Tax Benefit.

UDC are funding **restoration of Saffron Walden Castle**.

A Local Plan Working Group meeting will take place on Friday 7th February re. **UDC Local Plan consultation**. This is a closed meeting for members

and officers. Proceedings have been delayed as UDC are awaiting a report from Highways Agency.

Mr. Paul Edon and Mr. Trevor Pope (residents from **Priors Green**) addressed the Parish Council re. **parking problems** on the development. They believe that the problem exists not because of airport related parking but due to local residents parking on the road rather than using garages and allocated parking. Some households have more vehicles than their allocated parking spaces. Residents would like parking restrictions put into place.

TPC reported that some but not all of the roads have been adopted by Highways. County Cllr Susan Barker has asked TPC to coordinate views from residents re parking restrictions and a proposed 20mph speed limit. The information will be shared with Lt Canfield PC and Essex Highways.

District Cllr Cheetham remarked that funds can be provided for parking restriction schemes to deter airport related parking.

Takeley British Legion: TPC agreed a donation of £250 towards funding the Christmas gifts for veterans & widows in the community.

Holy Trinity Churchyard Maintenance: TPC reviewed a request from the PCC for financial support towards churchyard maintenance and approved a grant of £1k.

Commemorating WW1: Silver Jubilee Hall is booked for July 25th 2014. This event will commemorate the events that led up to, and the start of, World War 1. Any profit from the event will go to the British Legion (Takeley Branch).

Volunteers are needed for a variety of things and a request will be included in the next TPC Newsletter. A request for the loan of archives and memorabilia will also be circulated.

Cllr Burnett confirmed that the committee (8 members) has now been formed. They have received a £1k donation for the lighting from 119 Productions. Raven Graphics have agreed to print tickets free of charge. The next meeting is 7th February. The committee has asked for a budget of £500 for hire of hall, hire of costumes, providing a ploughman's meal & incidental costs.

TPC members thanked Councillors Trevor Allen & Pat Burnett and agreed to ring-fence an initial budget of £500 towards the cost of the event.

2014/2015 Budgets & Precept:

TPC approved the draft 2014/15 Budget schedule agreed by the Finance Committee (2/12/13)

Summary:

	£
Receipts	10750
Expenses	98745
Net	87995

TPC approved 2014/15 Precept request as follows:

	£
Gross Precept	95000
UDC LCT Grant	7968
Actual Precept Request	87032

Net Parish Tax Base 2014/15	1672.90
Actual Parish Band D 2014/15	52.02
Inc/dec	- 0.12
% Inc/dec	-0.23%

The Clerk will submit the request to UDC before 31st January 2014

TPC previously agreed (13/253) that the 'Projects & Reserves' should exclude **Skate Park** proposal from wish list.

Following investigation/quotes for initial installation costs (£60-90k plus ground work), future maintenance, and periodic upgrade/redevelopment (4-5yrly intervals), this project is considered too expensive relative to the small numbers within the community that the facility would serve.

Members would prefer to focus on development of a 'youth club'.

S106 Allocation of funds from UDC -'Sports & community allocation' £64128.47

TPC approved the detail of projects that will be financed as follows:

Project	Amt (£)
Proposals:	
SJH Devel - Phase 2	15000
Youth Provision	10000
Sports Field Devel - one year of maintenance	8000
	33000

Previously agreed:	
SJH Devel - Phase 1	25000
Dog & Litter Bins.	5884
	30884
TOTAL	63884

The Clerk will communicate to Andrew Taylor (UDC)

TPC Planning Committee Report & Recommendations 22/01/2014: UDC PARISH FORUM (at Dunmow) 20/1/14

Cllrs Richard Cheetham & Geoff Bagnall reported:

- Nigel Brown & Ann Howell represented UDC
- Update on the planning process, enforcement and building control.
- TPC stressed the need for a strategic infrastructure plan for the district (including roads, schools, health facilities)

Recommendation:

TPC should write to Nigel Brown:

- Thank you for the Parish Forum 20/1/14
- Once the other local forums are complete it would be useful if you would send out a note summarising the key points with confirmation of the actions agreed at the meetings. In particular, TPC would welcome confirmation of the actions agreed at the Dunmow Forum.
- TPC would welcome the opportunity for future local forums and a newsletter to parishes in 2-3 months time that provides an update on the issues discussed.

UDC UPDATE RE AIRPORT COMMISSION (20/1/14)

Cllr Cheetham reported:

Anna Mahoney, Director Strategic Aviation Special Interest Group

- Vice Chairman is DCllr Jackie Cheetham.
- Representation from 34 local authorities nationally
- Influencing national policy
- Role of Commission
- Timetable
- Proposed options including assessment for Stansted
- Proposed rail improvements 4 track line as far as Broxbourne Junction subject to business case
- SUMMARY FOR STANSTED:
 - New runway likely to be needed by 2040's
 - Focus on rail improvements associated with existing airport

- Consider removing restrictions (planning & physical infrastructure on-airport)
Commission to consider case for lifting existing 35mppa & 264k atms planning conditions
- Road improvements may be needed as & when passenger numbers increase.
- Surprised at relatively few options shortlisted.
- Concerns that the Commission is only making recommendations to a future Govt who may change policy.

LOCAL PLAN - WHAT NEXT?

- UDC is collating a report of the representations received which will be considered by UDC Cabinet in 'Spring 2014'
- **Questions:**
 - Can TPC view the summary of representations prior to the UDC Cabinet meeting?
 - Can TPC attend the Cabinet meeting? and speak?
 - Who is Uttlesford Planning Inspector?
 - What is the procedures for the Planning Inspectorate?
 - How long is the inspection process?
 - Can TPC communicate with them directly?

Dept for Transport Night Flying Restrictions consultation (Stage 2):

Following a request from TPC, Mr. Martin Peachey (as SSE representative specialising in noise) presented a proposed response.

TPC approved the draft response adding comment on the ground noise associated with flights.

A copy of the response will be sent to MP Sir Alan Haselhurst.

Health Services in Takeley: TPC approved the health questionnaire for residents which will be included in the next TPC newsletter. The cut-off date for submitting the forms will be 29th March 2014. The Clerk will coordinate the responses.

Clerks Report:

- **Network Power** - A new number has been provided for residents who are experiencing any problems: 0800 783 8838.
Clerk to confirm if low hanging electric cable along the bridleway, Mole Hill Green Road, is safe
- **Environment Agency** - has completed works to open up the water course adjacent to the rear of Chestnut Way/Recreation Ground.

Weekly maintenance visits to Takeley have been preserved despite a reduction in scheduled maintenance man hours of almost 50%.

Clerk to send letter thanking them for their service.

- **Bus Stops B1256 Tesco, Dunmow** - ECC has approved 2 new bus shelters to be installed in March 2014 either side of the Dunmow Road. Work will take place in April 2014 to provide safe crossing for pedestrians.

Youth Project: The Youth Project now has 2 committees. A chairman, treasurer and secretary have been appointed and a constitution agreed. A list of all members and their responsibilities to be sent to the Clerk. A bank account will be set up. Funds from UDC have been requested and should be available shortly. A wish list of equipment has been drawn up.

DBS checks are currently being carried out and training for volunteers is being set up by Essex Youth Services.

The launch date has been delayed until 12th March. Posters have been designed and are ready to be displayed around the village.

Essex County Council has approved use of the Station House for Youth Group meetings for a 3 month period (Feb - April). Clerk to contact ECC to confirm the 3 month period from March to May.

ECC are committed to providing 2 youth workers each week (Wed evenings) until August/September 2014.

Priors Green Community Hall:

- UDC has transferred the freehold to Takeley Parish Council.
- TPC has received £122,426.13 S106 payment. This money will be ring fenced for the benefit of the hall (only).
- The trust deed has been executed by Takeley Parish Council to allow the Management Committee to use the Trust Deed as the constitutional document
- The Management Committee will now register to set up the Charity using the Trust Deed as its constitutional document.
- The lease will be executed by 2 trustees of the Charity as the Tenant and Takeley Parish Council as the Landlord once the Charity has been set up; along with transfer of S106 funds as agreed.
- The management committee has agreed to taking on the running of the hall on an informal basis for the period of time between completion of the transfer and the execution of the lease; and will abide by the terms of the trust deed and be responsible for the hall.

Highways Matters:

- **Takeley Street** - Clerk has submitted a request to UDC (Principal Environmental Officer) re the monitoring of NO2 and particulate emissions levels for Takeley Street and Four Ashes junction (B1256).

UDC has offered monitoring equipment to measure NO2 emissions in both locations. A decision re. monitoring of particulates (which requires additional/different equipment and installation) will be made should the results of NO2 monitoring suggest evidence of unacceptably high levels.

Locations for the equipment to be confirmed which will be available in April.

- A letter of complaint has been sent to ECC regarding the delay of traffic calming measures for Takeley Street. A design for the traffic calming scheme including costs will be available in March.
- A vehicle in Roseacres has been jacked up on 3 wheels and parked on the road, contravening parking restrictions, for a number of weeks. Clerk to contact Police/Parking Enforcement.
- TPC noted some broken fencing at Morrells Green.

Flooding in the South Road, Roseacres, Parsonage Road Area:

The local Environment Agency Officer has suggested a number of improvements to the drainage/ditch system in the area. The local EA officer has been extremely helpful and supportive, and has continued weekly inspections of the area.

Proposed Programme:

- Regrading & desilting of sections of the stream (piped section) adj to Priors Wood day Centre. Removal of piped section & change to open channel with fencing/pedestrian barrier - £8k.
- New sloping trash screen at the rear of High Trees, Parsonage Road approx £5k.
- New trash screen at the rear of 20 Roseacres.
- Clean & flush all surface drains in Longcroft/Roseacres/Priors Wood (including School site) (Essex CC).

Takeley is not in designated 'flood zone' and therefore is not considered a priority for funding.

TPC undoubtedly wants this issue resolved however, there is some reluctance to finance work that is the responsibility of Govt agencies. TPC agreed that the Clerk should request a detailed specification & costs with confirmation of how much of the project the Environment Agency can commit, and then explore funding that maybe available from other agencies/authorities.

TPC Newsletter Printing: Immediately before Christmas the previous printers (M&B) for the newsletter went into liquidation. The Clerk was unable to source an alternative supplier prior to the printing shutdown (20/12/13). The Clerk has published an apology to residents in the next edition of the Grapevine and has written to advertisers offering one complimentary advert to compensate them.

The Clerk has obtained 4 quotes from other print companies. TPC agreed that 'Copyzone', a local company, provided the best value.

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

**Public Participation on Local Plan Document,
Consultation on Additional Housing Numbers and Sites
(November 2013)**

**THERE IS NO REASON TO DISPUTE THE 15 YEAR PLAN PERIOD
HOWEVER, THIS CONSULTATION IS FLAWED.....**

- In June 2012, UDC conducted a public consultation on the draft housing strategy that assumed a build rate of 360 homes per year. On 9 October 2013, UDC proposed that the new Local Plan would be extended to cover the period to 2031 with in excess of 40% increased new homes requirement (523 new homes/year) from that previously published. The current consultation assumes that the June 2012 draft Plan will continue and that the latest 2,680 houses will simply be added to the sites.
- The vast increase in housing numbers (10,460 homes) appears to be partially driven by a recognised need for affordable homes. UDC reports target a requirement in excess of 40%, and yet the proposed plan in no way guarantees the delivery of these homes. UDC's poor track record of assuring the delivery to the target suggests that even accepting such a significant increase in house building numbers will not necessarily deliver the affordable homes the community needs.
- The NPPF requires that UDC's Local Plan should 'reflect the collective vision and agreed priorities of the residents' of Uttlesford. How has UDC arrived at the 'Residents Vision' - what was the process? There is a lack of evidence within the consultation documents to demonstrates that UDC has listened to and indeed agreed the vision in conjunction with residents?
- The NPPF states that the 'purpose of planning is to achieve sustainable development' and that 'sustainable development means ensuring better lives for ourselves don't mean worse lives for future generations'. 'The economic, social, and environmental roles of sustainable development are mutually dependent' and it advocates 'a clear and up to date assessment of need' and says '**new style Local Plans should set out strategic priorities for the provision of infrastructure including transport**'. Therefore UDC should ensure that the need for all forms of infrastructure is planned strategically to support development and ensure its viability.

- In fact, **Uttlesford Sustainable Development Guide** (published Nov 2013) advocates the avoidance of growth of traffic or congestion. It states: 'New housing should be sited in such a way that it does not contribute to further traffic growth & congestion in existing settlements thus reducing their quality of life'. It promotes development that avoids segregation and commuter dormitories. Accessible schools, healthcare, and public services without the need to travel by car, and local employment, should be integral to the strategy . 'Sustainable development' requires a clear strategic plan which integrates all the above issues. 'Any proposals which cannot meet sustainability criteria outlined above should be rejected unless they can be modified sufficiently to meet them'.
- The NPPF requires that the Plan should reflect **the most 'sustainable' solution** based on a proportionate evidence base. There is no evidence that UDC has done so. Takeley Parish Council (TPC) does not believe that UDC could have properly considered and compared all reasonable strategic options in the time before the announcement of UDC's current proposals on 9 October 2013.
- Under the NPPF, UDC should be revisiting its entire housing strategy to identify **the most sustainable** solution for Uttlesford given the vastly increased housing numbers. The current consultation should be stopped immediately until UDC have prepared a proper housing strategy in accordance with the NPPF.

SPECIFICALLY:

- Page 2, Para 1 of the covering letter by Cllr Jim Ketteridge is misleading 'our plan must meet Office of National Statistics population projections' and 'The Council has a statutory duty to plan for growth - there is no option around this'. UDC has purported that housing targets are provided by Govt. This is not true. UDC has a duty to assess relevant statistics & 'objectively assess housing needs for the area '. There is no obligation to use National Stats.
- What percentage of the proposed plan will meet Uttlesford's current projected need?
- The consultation is too narrow.
- Q1. It is completely unfair to ask people to provide an alternative plan.
- Q2 cannot be answered because it is not clear why UDC has chosen the 2010 population projections to assess future need. What is the rationale? It seems it is just because they are the biggest numbers.
- The decision was made in haste between the LPWG briefing in the morning of 1st Nov. 2013 & a Cabinet meeting in the afternoon which lasted 30minutes.
- Does this plan meet or manage the need?
- What opportunity did people have to comment on the housing need? There is no opportunity for people to comment on the numbers, the sites selection, or the change of policy from (option 4) 'dispersal through hierarchy of settlements'.

- An alternative process would be to review the districts infrastructure and to make logical decisions. There should be a vision for infrastructure requirements. Without a proper assessment of infrastructure, & need for the district, it is not possible to demonstrate 'sustainable' development (roads, schools, health services). Roger Harborough's letter (7th Jan. 2014) asserts that this has already been completed. Where is the review with evidence of how it has informed the current proposals?
- Application for large developments should not be approved until infrastructure requirements or planning conditions are agreed in conjunction with local community (s). Infrastructure elements of proposals should be built and ready to open before occupation of dwellings.
- **TPC objects to the Elsenham proposal.** How will residents get to the 'key transport links' (M11, A120, Stansted Airport)? Access would be via country roads which are not suitable for the proposed increased volumes of traffic. HGVs cannot use Grove Hill because of a weight restriction, and there is no access via Chapel Hill, Stansted. Lorries (over 7.5T) are not permitted on airport land and therefore will travel via Molehill Green Road, along Parsonage Road & then via B1256 through Takeley.
- **The consultation excludes any mention of the impact on Takeley.** Despite the 'Uttlesford Sustainable Development Guide' (published Nov 2013) which advocates the avoidance of growth of traffic or congestion. It states: 'New housing should be sited in such a way that it does not contribute to further traffic growth & congestion in existing settlements thus reducing their quality of life'.
- The Highways Agency has acknowledged capacity issues at M11, Jtn 8; particularly at peak times with evidence of congestion and queuing on the approaches to the junction. Further development in Elsenham (& Takeley/Lt Canfield) will exacerbate the existing problem.
- Great Chesterford has better highway access, including connection to the M11.

▪ **Draft Plan for Takeley & Little Canfield (to Oct 2013)**

Site of 6+ with PP at April 2013	Housing Nos	Comments
Takeley Priors Green	116	
Takeley/Lt Canfield Policy Area 5 - Olivias - New Cambridge House	6	
	122	

Sites without PP @ 31/3/13		
Priors Green - Island Sites	39	
	39	
Site granted since April 2013		
Brewers End	100	
Chadhurst	12	
	112	
Proposal sites without PP @ April 2013		
TAK 1 - former Takeley Primary School, Roseacres	75	TPC is promoting the former primary school be reopened to accommodate the growing demand for primary school places. The new Takeley Primary School at Priors Green is already oversubscribed. This site should be excluded from the housing allocations in the plan.
TAK 2 - Adj Morrells Green	41	
TAK 3 - North View - 3 The Warren	46	
TAK 4 - Takeley Service Station Ridge House - Remarc	15	
TAK 5 - Olivias - New Cambridge House (outstanding capacity)	13	
	190	
TOTAL IN PLAN PERIOD	463	

- **Housing without infrastructure** - the plan does nothing to address Takeley & Lt. Canfield's shortfall in primary school places and healthcare provision despite including over 450 additional homes in the plan period. Essex County Council Education Dept agrees that there is an issue accommodating primary school

pupils from this scale of development and points out that further expansion of Takeley Primary School (Priors Green) may not be feasible.

TAK 1: TPC is promoting the former primary school be reopened to accommodate the growing demand for primary school places. The new Takeley Primary School at Priors Green is already oversubscribed.

This site should be excluded from the housing allocations in the plan.

TPC urges you to tear up this consultation, re-visit your evidence and create a sustainable solution that meets the long-term needs of the District.

TAKELEY PARISH COUNCIL

MEETING SCHEDULE 2014

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

JANUARY 8th	FEBRUARY 5th	MARCH 5th
APRIL 2nd	AGM MAY 7th	JUNE 4th
JULY 2nd	AUGUST 6th	SEPTEMBER 3rd
OCTOBER 1st	NOVEMBER 5th	DECEMBER 3rd

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HEALTH SERVICES IN TAKELEY

Questionnaire

Following our previous advert regarding potential provision of health care facilities in Takeley, please find an anonymous survey form for completion. The information collated regarding the patient population will provide further evidence of the health requirements of the young through to the very old which will reflect the necessitating and the urgency to establish a local health care centre within Takeley.

We would be grateful if your could complete this form ASAP and return to :
Takeley Parish Council, Station House, Sycamore Close, Takeley, Essex CM22 6QA

You can also find at copy of the survey on the Parish council website, which can be emailed to: takeley.pc@ntlworld.com

ABOUT YOUR HOUSEHOLD

What is the first part of your postcode?: CM____

How many people in the household? : _____ people

What is their age and sex?

	sex	Age Range					
	Male/Female	0-3	4-10	11-18	19-25	25-65	65- and above
Person 1							
Person 2							
Person 3							
Person 4							
Person 5							
Person 6							

HEALTH SERVICES IN TAKELEY

CURRENT HEALTHCARE PROVISION:

How far do you have to travel to visit you GP? _____ Miles

Which GP surgery(s) do you currently attend?

How do you travel to your GP? Walk/ Car/ Public Transport/ Taxi / Other

How soon can you get an appointment with your current GP?

- a- Same day
- b- 1-3 days
- d- More than 1 week

When you get an appointment how convenient is it?

- a-very convenient
- b-convenient
- c-not convenient
- d-not convenient at all

Are you happy with the service provided by your current GP surgery?

- a-very happy
- b-happy
- c- not happy
- c- not happy at all

Would you like to see a health centre built within the Parish of Takeley?

Yes/No

Would you, and the people in your household, be prepared to change to a GP in the village?

Yes/No

What would be a convenient time for appointments?

- a- early morning surgery
- b- late evening
- c - weekends
- d- other (please specify) _____

HEALTH SERVICES IN TAKELEY

What would be your perfect time to be seen by?

GP :morning afternoon late evening
Nurse: morning afternoon late evening

SERVICE PROVISION:

We aim to provide all the traditional GP health centre services which include:
Chronic disease management (i.e. Diabetes, Asthma, COPD, Heart related disease), Baby-clinics for immunisations , 8 week checks and baby concerns, Minor surgery (i.e. Ingrown toenail and removal of skin lesions), Management of pregnancies, Family planning, Women's health,contraception advice and sexual health awareness, general clinics (i.e. minor illness, dressings, ear syringing, phlebotomy, travel vaccinations)
Mental health issues

Would you like any additional service?

Would you like to have a pharmacy in the health centre? Yes/ no

If yes, which services would you like to be provided by the pharmacy?

Dispensing medication, Repeat prescriptions, Over the counter medicines, Prescription collection service, Prescription delivery service, Disposal of old or unwanted medicines, Health and medicines advice, Stop smoking services, Sexual health services, Substance misuse service, Emergency Contraception, Health Promotion, Needle Exchange

Any other : _____

Would you like the pharmacy to be open for as long as the gp surgery is?

Yes/no

HEALTH SERVICES IN TAKELEY

Any other comments:

We would be grateful if you could complete this form ASAP and return to :
**Takeley Parish Council, Station House, Sycamore Close, Takeley, Essex CM22
6QA**

You can also find a copy of the survey on the Parish council website which can be
emailed to:

takeley.pc@ntlworld.com

**PLEASE RETURN YOUR FORM NO LATER THAN
SATURDAY, 29th MARCH 2014**

“Singing from the Heart”

Welcome to the start of our 2014 sessions of 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 (a cappella) 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

We try to meet on or around the third Wednesday of every month and this depends on the availability of our voice coach, venue and numbers and so we adjust the dates accordingly. Sometimes we are earlier and sometimes later in the month, but rarely do we miss a month. The time and venue are the same

7-30pm at Takeley Chapel
Our next sessions will be on
26th February & 19th March 2014

The cost is just £5.00 per session with refreshments afterwards
Have I whetted your appetite? Do you want to know more? Then call me.

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01279870578

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March 19th

April 23rd

July 23rd

October 1st

May 21st

August 27th

November 26th

June 25th

September 24th

December 3rd

Contact your local officers:

PC Brad Healey

PCSO Joanna Macmillan

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

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

Telephone:

Non-emergency- 101

NPT mobile- 07989174801

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Takeley Cricket Club

Feb 2014



Certainly not cricket weather at the moment, but despite that, thoughts are beginning to be put towards the new season, and our league fixtures have now been released. Our first team have been given a nice local opening game at Farnham on Saturday 3rd May, and our first Div 2 home game will be the following weekend against Woodford Wells. Matches against our newly promoted local rivals, Molehill Green, will be on 31st May (at Takeley) and 2nd August (away).

In Division 5, our 2nd XI will begin their campaign at home to Potter Street II's, followed by a trip to Stansted II's the following week. Fixtures will be published on our website – www.takeleycc.co.uk

In advance of the season, the Cricket Club will be running their usual spring quiz, which we hope will be run in the Village Hall (pending completion of the works there) on Saturday 5th 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. (If the venue does need to change, we will notify all teams well in advance).

We will also be aiming to run one or two 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. Please contact our Captain Chris Thake on 01279 757549 if you are interested, for details of training dates etc. or complete a contact form on our website.

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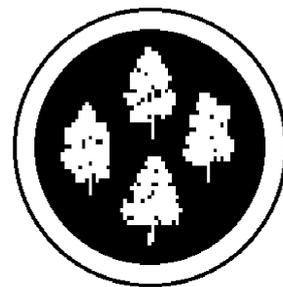
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TAKELEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

"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 Little Nativity', with some lovely singing, thanks to the staff for all their hard work. Mrs Dann and her team once again cooked and served a wonderful Christmas dinner of turkey, fresh vegetables and all the trimmings. 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 this year to support the charity 'Save the Children' who have been working in the Philippines following the devastation left by the hurricane in 2013.

In January we opened a Breakfast Club at school for our pupils run by our staff. Children are able to arrive from 7.45 am and are served with a light breakfast, e.g. toast, cereals, fruit and drinks. There is then time for activities, games, books etc. Costs are £3.50 per session. Children do not have to attend every day but all days must be pre booked and paid for using the Breakfast Club Booking form. This can be downloaded from our website.

Lots has happened this half term. Our choir went to London to sing at the O2 as part of the Young Voices Concert where we joined other schools and children to form a choir of over 3,000 children. It was a fantastic event. Our children had to work really hard to learn a large repertoire of songs, medleys and actions. Our thanks to Charlie Chamberlain and Audra Williams for making this happen. The children spent the day at the O2 rehearsing and then performed in the evening singing along with Stacey Solomon from 'The X Factor'. It was great to see so many parents come along to support the children. You may have seen their picture in the local paper.

Although our bees are currently sleeping through the winter, our Buzz Club have been busy. The children attended a special 'Food Day' at

Station House Community Café

Sponsored by Takeley Parish Council

For good wholesome food in friendly surroundings, Station House community café offers you great value for money and a very warm welcome.

The café is open for a selection of hot/cold food and drink whether it's a light lunch, a snack or just a drink the community café has just what you need to fill the gap.

So please drop in – we'd love to see you!

Your Community Café

Thursday 12 noon – 4 pm

Friday 9 am – 1 pm

Station House, Sycamore Close, Takeley
off Station Road at the Four Ashes junction



PRIORS GREEN COMMUNITY HALL

Bennet Canfield, Takeley, Little Canfield, Essex CM6 1GB

Priors Green Community Hall is now in the hands of the community.....

The freehold of the hall is held by Takeley Parish Council on behalf of the residents of Priors Green, and Takeley & Little Canfield parishes.

The hall is being managed by a committee of volunteer local residents who will ensure that the hall is run in the best interests of the community. The committee is in its infancy and will be registered and governed by the Charity Commission.

VACANCIES: Any resident who is interested in joining the management committee, and can spare a couple of hours each week to assist with the running of the valuable community asset, should contact us for further details:

Phone: 07538 049730

Email: takeley.pc@ntlworld.com

Tallen's Country Notes

I will start 'Tallen's' with the latest language to be included in the country's linguistic repertoire, so to many new readers I would like to say, "Quack quack quack quack." Which, when translated, is unprintable. But it does have something to do with water. Also my cat has grown webbed feet and patrols the garden with a snorkel around her neck. Apart from this I suppose we must be thankful that Takeley, being one of highest point in Essex, was not as affected as other areas of the country. That is with the exception of Roseacres. A reliable source told me that there is to be an RNLi lifeboat station somewhere in that area...



I am pleased to say that spring is on its way. I know I said that last year and then we had three feet of snow in April but I am confident that this year we will experience a 'British Spring Time'. The signs are all there. Blue tits are visiting last year's nest boxes and the blackbirds are beginning to chase one another around the garden. The game of "Who owns my back garden?" is still being played but the players have increased from four to five male blackbirds.

The goldfinches are still in their family group as are the greenfinches. I expect them to soon split up and look for a nest site away from my garden, either along the Flich Way or in a nearby hedgerow. The other day a pair of collared doves was feeding under the bird feeders, picking up fallen sunflower seeds, when the male started to be a little frisky. However, the female was more interested in feeding and attacked him. He left with his feathers ruffled.

Returning to the horrendous weather that has been experienced this winter, "the experts" (I use that terminology advisedly) seem to have at last acknowledged that the seasons are changing. I recall some twenty years ago I wrote that 'things' were not right out in the countryside. I was not alone in that observation. Other bird and wildlife watchers were also reporting that the then usual seasonal weather patterns were awry. Why did it take "the experts" so long to recognise the situation?

Tallen



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“THE GREAT WAR”

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COMING TO THE
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JULY 15TH 7PM

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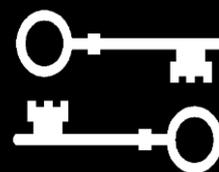
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WATCH THIS SPACE FOR FURTHER
INFORMATION

TAKELEY LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY UNLOCKING THE PAST

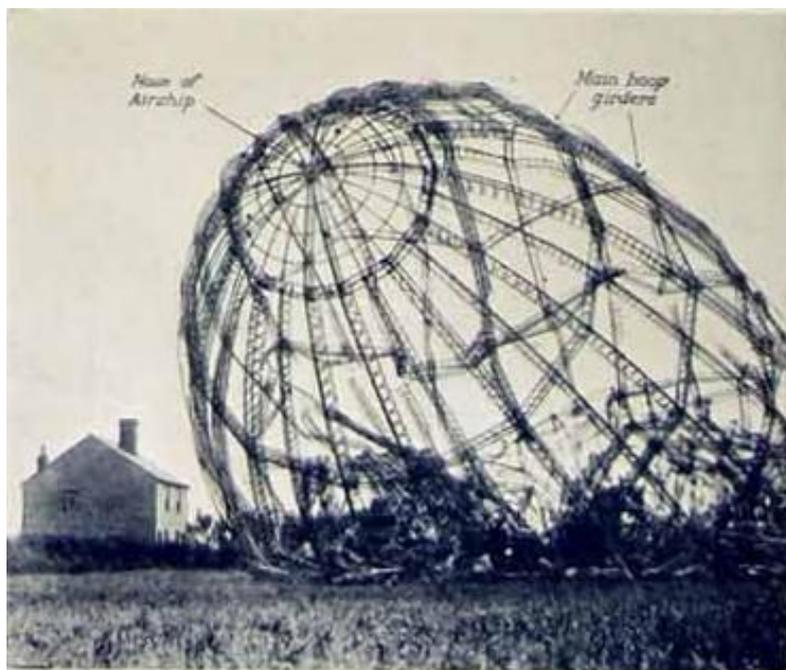
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chairman@tlhs.org.uk



This year marks the centenary of the outbreak of the Great War – the war to end all wars. If only that had been true. You have probably noticed the trailers for TV programmes covering WW1 and there are plans afoot (see previous page) to ensure that it doesn't go unremembered within Takeley. Anyone who has ever looked at our War Memorial or attended the Remembrance Day Parade will know that several men from the village were lost, which must have had a significant effect on the village. Even for those who did not fight it would have been one of those "life will never be the same" events as it marked significant social change with so many men being lost, women taking over some of the jobs and, as we learn from such programmes as Downton Abbey, far fewer working class people serving the upper classes.

Although the fighting was "over there" (and if you have never visited the battlefields and museums in Belgium you really should), the fight was on occasion brought onto our own soil in the form of Zeppelin bombing raids. Some of these were shot down in Essex. In our November 18th meeting we will have a talk by Martyn Lockwood about Zeppelin raids into Essex.



Other dates for your diary, on 6th May Sarah Turner will talk to us about recent developments at Bishops Stortford Museum and on 16th September Richard Thomas will talk on Guy Fawkes. All to take place at Takeley Primary School starting at 7.30pm and all will be welcome.

Steve Hazon,
Chairman, Takeley Local History Society

Articles from the past, by Pat Salmon

Report in the Herts & Essex Observer Saturday 27th October 1917 (Page 5)

TAKELEY SOLDIER HONOURED

It has been announced this week in the 'London Gazette' that Private A C Garrett, of the Bedfordshire Regiment, of Takeley, has been awarded the Military Medal for gallantry.

According to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Web Site Arthur Garrett (No-201222) of the 5th Battalion, Bedfordshire Regiment, was killed in action on Friday 27th July 1917, and is remembered on the Jerusalem Memorial, more information required.

Arthur C Garrett was baptised at Takeley Church on 31st May 1891, according to the 1901 census he was living at Jacks Lane with his parents, he was then aged 9 years, his parents were Arthur & Annie and he was one of six children The family was Arthur J, aged 36. - Annie, aged 30. - Arthur C, aged 9. Ernest J, aged 7. - Joseph W, aged 2, - Gertrude Eva, aged 8. - Annie E M, aged 1. Also James Matthews (Father in Law), aged 55.

Report in the Herts & Essex Observer Saturday 8th December 1917 (Page 5)

TAKELEY SOLDIER KILLED IN ACTION.

The news was received by his parents on November 24th, that private Harry Rolfe third son of Mr & Mrs John Rolfe of Smiths Green, Takeley, (and formerly of Coopers End) was killed in action in Palestine on November 3rd, at the age of 35. Before joining the army, the deceased who was a single man, worked for many years for Mr A Hockley of Coopers Farm, Takeley. There are two more sons serving their country - Private John Rolfe in the Cheshire Regiment, and Private George Rolfe in the Essex Regiment, now both in Egypt.

According to the 1891 census the Rolfe family were living at Little Coopers Cottage. They had a large family and were as follows. John aged 45, Susan aged 40, John aged 15, George aged 14, Emily aged 11, Elizabeth aged 10, Harry aged 8, Nellie aged 6, Willie aged 4, Eliza aged 2 and Walter aged 10 Months.

Report in the Herts & Essex Observer - Saturday 22nd December 1917 (Page 6)

MILITARY MEDAL

Lance Corporal Claude Tebbitt, son of Mr Edwin Tebbitt, of Smiths Green, Takeley. Has been awarded the Military Medal, for gallant conduct and devotion to duty in the field on October 22nd. Lance Corporal Tebbitt was wounded in the fighting some months ago.

The 1901 census shows Edwin Tebbitt and his family living at 'Smiths Green Farm' and that he was a farmer and manure agent. The family appears to have moved around quite a bit with three of his family, including his son Claude, being born at Little Canfield. His

complete family was: Edwin aged 47, Ada aged 31, Daisy aged 10, Reggie aged 8, Claude aged 7, Ethel aged 5 and Frances aged 2.

Report in the Herts & Essex Observer -- Saturday 9th December 1916

WOUNDED IN FRANCE.

Private Jonathan Salmon, of the Hertfordshire Regiment, but attached to the Royal Berkshire Regiment, has been seriously wounded in both legs, and is in a Military Hospital in Dublin.

In a communication received a few days ago, it was stated that it was feared that one leg would have to be amputated. Private Salmon is the son of Mr Edward Salmon, farmer of Mole Hill Green, and had been in France for about 18 months.

Jonathan was born at Mole Hill Green in 1888 and was the youngest child of Edward & Emily Salmon. He must have volunteered soon after the outbreak of war. He did subsequently have one leg amputated. He moved to Wembley where he was a manager of a power station. He married Ada and had two children, Percy and William.



1st Takeley Scout Group

RACE Night

Saturday 8th March 2014

The Silver Jubilee Hall, Start 19:30

Tickets: £7.50, Including Supper

Please Book Tables In Advance From

Grant 870872 or Louise 870924

From the Village Recorder

The Norman Conquest and beyond

The year 1066 probably marked the greatest change that the British Isles have ever known in all their history. There was a complete change of monarchy and aristocracy. The focus of political focus moved from Scandinavia and the north to France and the southern part of the Continent. The reign of Edward the Confessor had been characterised by some Norman bias at the upper levels of society but changes under William the Conqueror extended all the way down through the classes and the church.

We have no idea what happened to Wulfmer, Thorkil and the third unnamed Saxon who owned land in Takeley. They were certainly deprived of their manors—that is if they were still alive. The new owners of Bassingbourne and the northern manor were high ranking Normans who held numerous estates spread over Essex and other counties. Robert Gernon at Bassingbourne also held the manors of Elsenham and Stansted, where a Norman castle was built. Eudo Dapifer was a close friend of William the Conqueror and a leading baron. He was allocated the northern manor as one of his many holdings and was made responsible for building the great castle at Colchester. Takeley would not have ranked very highly in the calculations of these men and the day to day control of the manors would have been in the hands of bailiffs – again probably Normans.

Warish Hall, called St. Valery, was granted by William to the French Priory of that name and the Priors who lived there some of the year were the collectors of rent from all the other Priory manors in Essex. From their names these Priors were all Norman-French in origin.

It is in the late 12th century that we begin to get documents that relate directly to Takeley. The Leger book of St. John's Abbey at Colchester has a collection of documents concerned with land tenure, and the gifts from Eudo Dapifer's original manor which would eventually split into two parts, - Colchester Hall and Waltham Hall. They reflected the names of the two monastic establishments that acquired the land in Takeley from both Dapifer and the de Hauville family. Smaller gifts came from other men and women of a lower social status, often as little as one or two acres. Michael de Martinsford, faber or smith, and his wife Alicie gave one and a half acres in the common field of Netheridone to Waltham Abbey in 1237. Martinsford is the name given to the crossing of Pincey Brook by Stane Street, and Michael's existence helps to confirm my opinion that there had always been a forge at this place, possibly even since Roman times.

By the 14th Century the manors of Sheering Hall and Tilty Grange had been created. Sheering Hall records now form part of the New College, Oxford archives. The Grange belonged to the Cistercian Abbey of Tilty and their records only survive in a copy which is held at the Essex Record Office. The

originals were burnt in a fire at Easton Lodge. Thremhall Augustinian Priory established by the Mountfichet family, the descendants of Robert Gernon, also held land in Takeley. These records are sparse and are also at the Essex Record Office. I will eventually look at the main manors separately and alphabetically. This will be Bassingbourne, Colchester Hall, Waltham Hall, and Warish Hall. However I will start with the two smallest manorial holdings in Takeley belonging to Thremhall Priory and Tilty Abbey.

There are now no visible remains of the Thremhall Priory except for parts of a moat that can still be seen from the road. This Priory of the Augustinian canons was established by either Gilbert de Mountfichet or his son Richard. It is said that just before he went on a crusade to the Holy Land, Gilbert gave land to a man named Daniel, a Scot, to build the Priory.

In 1355 the Prior was named John de Takeley and his argument with Richard de Branketre as to who should remain as Prior had to be resolved by the Archbishop of Canterbury. "Branketre" is a version of the name Braintree but it is also the name of a farm to the south of Takeley.

Takeley men and women holding land from the Priory in the 14th Century whose names we know included William Payn, and Richard and Matilda Hankyn who held "Petits" and were awarded timber to build houses. In 1393 John Liftot had permission to repair "Gardinerstenement" which consisted of a house, bakehouse, grange, a longhouse, a chamber next to the gate and a cart house, all surrounded by walls and ditches. [We would probably call this a moat]. A house called Gardiners still exists at Bambers Green, but there is no evidence that it is the same place.

In 1520 the Prior of Thremhall is given as Simon Sponer. The list of Takeley clergy gives a Simon Sponer as the Vicar from 1513 to 1524 and I feel certain that this is the same man. Unlike many of the Benedictines and other monks, the Augustinian canons were priests and more involved in the local community. It is probable that it was the canons of the Priory who held the daily masses at Takeley church during his incumbency, with the Prior taking the main festivals and high masses. Thremhall land in Takeley appears to have been concentrated along the line of Stane Street and included the building that became the Guildhall for the village and is now called The Chestnuts. The west wing of Taylors and Raleigh Cottage in Takeley Street are both mid 14th Century houses probably owned originally by the Priory. Documents suggest that The Old Bakehouse was also part of their estate. These are not peasant houses but built by men of status in the community. Tilty was a Cistercian foundation dating from 1153 when seven brethren were given land on which to build. The Cistercians were the first industrialists, specialising in sheep farming, usually in fairly remote places. Wool from Tilty was of very high grade and was exported to nunneries as far away as Italy. The monks and lay brothers also developed fish farming and brick making. Land given to the Abbey was concentrated in the north – east of Takeley and centred on what is now The Grange. The crossing of the River Roding from

Takeley was known as “munkes brigge”, or the monks’ bridge. I am uncertain at present which landowner donated this land, but it was probably de Hauville.

By 1215 the order was powerful enough to attract the hostility of King John who attacked both Stansted Mountfichet Castle and Tilty Abbey. He may also have diverted to Bassingbourne to punish John de Bassingbourne for his defection to the Barons’ Revolt, but there is no evidence for this. Tilty came under attack during the Christmas Mass and it is thought that two tombstones in the church are those of monks who were killed. The remains of the Abbey can still be seen, although stone-hungry Essex residents have plundered much of the fabric. The chapel for the medieval village congregation is now the parish church, and its magnificent east window can still produce a gasp of wonder when seen for the first time. One of its later Abbots who died in 1460 was called Thomas de Takeley; either because he came from Takeley, or was a member of the de Takeley family. A rhyme in Latin on a brass plaque says he was “...renowned, good and of excellent life. Born in Takeley...”

Thremhall became the property of the Raye family after the Dissolution of the Monasteries, and Tilty was bought by the Wisemans who were based at Canfield. I will consider the later owners in future articles, but in many ways these two manors are not central to Takeley history because of the poverty of their records and the narrower scope of their holdings.

Until the reign of King John practically the whole of Essex, including Takeley, was under Forest Law jurisdiction, but there were two small Parks in the north east and north west corners of the village. The western park was known as Scete Park, and the eastern un-named smaller park left us the names of the houses Little Park and Parkers. We even know the name of one Parker who was called Benedict.

A close examination of a map shows some of the boundaries of this smaller park. They were prestigious possessions and allowed the owners to keep and hunt deer without infringing the Forest Laws. These laws have a fearsome reputation for imposing mutilation of men and dogs, but this is often exaggerated. A heavy fine was always of more use to the monarch who was continually short of money than bits of human anatomy. The occasional fierce sentence was imposed to discourage poaching, which was carried out by all sections of the community including the clergy. It was probably lack of money that forced John to sell the Essex Forest to the north of Stane Street in 1204. He received for this 500 marks and 5 palfreys. A mark was not an actual coin but a unit of accountancy worth 13s. 4d., or two thirds of a pound. During the 13th Century the land in the parks was slowly given away, mainly by the de Hauville family in small gifts of 3 to 20 acres to St John’s at Colchester. Part of the Little Park went to Tilty. Maintaining a park with its continual boundary fence was expensive, and this is why parks usually have rounded corners as these were cheaper to create; slowly both parks ceased

to function. The very ancient boundary ditch and bank in Priors Wood probably dates to an early manorial division not a park. Next time I will look at the manors of Bassingbourne and Colchester Hall.

Nia Watkiss

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Saturday 1st March 9 am – 11.30 am

Takeley Farmers Market

Takeley Farmers Market opened its door on the 1st of February after our Christmas break, in our new temporary venue at the Sports and Social Club behind the Silver Jubilee Hall.

We have a loyal following from the local community who support the market come rain or shine.

Our aim is to bring regional quality produce to the village as well as supporting local business. It has a friendly atmosphere and everyone is very welcome to attend.

You can shop with us for all your essentials, such as bread, vegetables, meat, eggs, honey, cakes and homemade crafts.

If you have time to linger, meet up with friends and neighbours for a chat over a cup of tea and a slice of cake.

The market is on the 1st Saturday of the month

Our next market will be on the 5th April



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Book Review by Elaine Wyld

The Last Runaway

**By
Tracy Chevalier**

Set in 1856 this story tells the sad and turbulent life of a young English Quaker girl. She leaves the comfort of her family home in Dorset with her sister Grace to travel to New England. Once in America the sisters plan to join the Quaker community in Ohio where Grace is to be married. Tragedy strikes on the journey and Honor finds herself alone in a strange country.

Befriended by Belle Mills, a seamstress who owns a hat shop, Honor is comforted by using her excellent sewing skills to mend and make hats for the shop. Belle has an unruly brother called Donovan. He is a slave hunter who takes pleasure in mistreating and hunting down escaped slaves. His fascination with Honor is an interesting sideshoot to the main story.

Soon Honor is taken by horse and carriage to live with her sister's fiancé Thomas and his brother's wife near Oberlin. It is not long before she meets Jack Haymaker, the son of a local farmer, at the Quaker meeting house. Once married, Honor learns how to look after farm stock and other interesting skills such as extracting maple syrup from the trees. She also joins the other women in craft groups where strong emphasis is put on the tradition of quilt making and appliqué. Honor finds that her beautiful stitches are far superior to her American counterparts. This is not the only cause of her sadness. Coming to terms with the concept of slavery and her new family's inability to assist the runaways is difficult for Honor.

As new laws are passed the Haymaker family decide they will not help runaway slaves. Honor's conscience causes her to act in a way contrary to Quaker resolutions. Consequently, her actions lead her into dangerous circumstances she has never encountered before.

In her regular letters to her family back in England, Honor relays her inner struggles. The story culminates in an exciting ending and Tracy Chevalier neatly joins all the plots together like the stitches in the signature quilts.

A gripping tale with interesting insights into Quaker traditions and the chapters in the book are named in single nouns denoting the simplicity of the Quaker lifestyle.

Harper Collins

£7.99

ISBN 978-0-00735034-6

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)

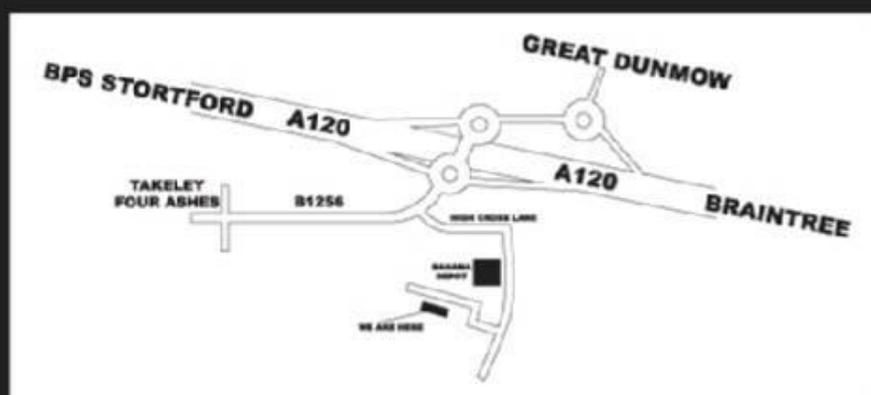
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