

NEWSLETTER



SUMMER 2015 Issue No.67

TAKELEY PARISH COUNCIL, 2015/16 TPC RESPONSIBILITIES

| AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY | REMIT | | COUNCILLOR |
|--------------------------------------|--|---|---|
| CHAIRMAN | | | Carol Pratt |
| VICE CHAIRMAN | | | Geoff Bagnall |
| FINANCE COMMITTEE | Report & recommendations to full Council | 4 | Carol Pratt, Geoff Bagnall, Richard Cheetham, Sue Sprules |
| PLANNING COMMITTEE | Report & recommendations to full Council re Planning Applications, Housing Policy/Local Plan, Stansted Airport, SSE PC Liaison, coordination of consultations responses. | 4 | Carol Pratt, Pat Burnett, Jackie Cheetham, Tricia Barber, Geoff Bagnall |
| HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORT | | | David Daykin |
| SPORTS FIELD | | | John Green |
| RECREATION GROUND | | | John Green |
| RIGHTS OF WAY/ FOOTPATHS/LAND | Rights of Way/Footpaths/Land Tree Warden, Fitch Way | 2 | Tina Domigan, Trevor Allen , John Green |
| MOLEHILL GREEN * | Green, Hall & Community | | Carol Pratt & Trevor Allen |
| POLICE LIASON/PUBLIC SAFETY | | | Trevor Allen |
| PUBLICITY | Notice Boards, Website, Newsletter, Grapevine, Press | | David Daykin |
| NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION | | | John Green |
| REGIONAL/NATIONAL POLICY | | | Geoff Bagnall & Jackie Cheetham |
| EMERGENCY PLANNING | Coordinating key contacts & resources | | Pat Burnett, Clerk & Asst Clerk |
| SCHOOL HOUSE WORKING GRP | Consider the future (Use & Ownership) | | Carol Pratt, Tricia Barber, Trevor Allen, Tina Domigan, Pat Burnett. |

*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 Community Hall Liaison | Clrs Carol Pratt, Geoff Bagnall |
| Takeley History Society & School | Clr Trevor Allen |
| Silver Jubilee Hall | Clr Trevor Allen |
| SSE Parish Liaison Group | Clrs Richard Cheetham & Tricia Barber |
| Health Provision | Susan Sprules |
| Takeley Youth Club | Linda Steer |
| Takeley Primary School | Sue Sprules |

All roles confirmed & agreed TPC Meeting 20th May 2015

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

Editorial

In which the editor is humbled by the bravery of his forebears

“The true soldier fights not because he hates what is in front of him, but because he loves what is behind him.” G.K. Chesterton.

On the seventieth anniversary of the end of the Second World War in Europe, I find myself in reflective mood. For my generation, the war was omnipresent. It was almost the mood music of our childhood. My heroes were Rockfist Rogan and Paddy Payne, intrepid fighter pilots in the comics that I avidly devoured each week. They were glamorous and immortal, surviving everything that the dastardly Hun could throw at them. My friends and I built Airfix Spitfires and chased each other round the playground, having dogfights and making machine gun noises in our shrill boys’ voices. I read Biggles and watched war films – “Ice Cold in Alex”, “The Dambusters”, “Reach for the Sky” – the list was endless.

Brought up in an RAF family, I spent my childhood on various air bases. Most of my father’s fellow officers had seen service in the War and sported a fair assortment of medals on their uniforms.

In fact, having fathers who had been wartime aircrew was so commonplace that we kids just assumed that it was normal. Our parents might occasionally mention something of their experiences, but only briefly. To me, those dark days of conflict were like a heroic dream and I (as well as, I suspect, thousands of other kids) felt cheated that we had not been alive in the War. Well, that’s the ignorance of youth for you, I suppose.

It’s only as one grows up that the more sombre realities of war begin to make themselves apparent, along with a growing understanding of the nature of mortality.

“Glories, like glow-worms, afar off shine bright, But look’d too near have neither heat nor light.” John Webster.

My mother would often tell me stories of her preposterously eccentric family. She was the youngest of eight children, four boys and four girls, all brought up in a ramshackle Gothic pile in Highgate. Grandfather had multiple sclerosis and was confined to his wheelchair on the ground floor, enabling the four boys to run riot in the rest of the house. They hardly bothered with stairs, preferring instead to reach the first floor by climbing a tree and clambering in through a window. They drove the gardener to distraction by riding their motorbikes all over the flowerbeds and somehow managed to shoot one of their sisters with a knitting needle fired out of a rifle. They were heroes to my mother, who was nearly a decade younger than them. She loved them all dearly, but had a special affection for Peter and Paul. Peter joined the Merchant Navy in the 1930’s and thrilled her with his tales of

adventure and exotic places. When the war came, Paul joined the RAF and became a pilot with 61 Squadron, Bomber Command.



Paul Campbell

Recently, while researching for a play that I am writing about the effects of the War on our family, my cousin presented me with a huge amount of information about Paul's wartime career and, in particular, one operation that he was involved in. I was stunned and humbled by what I read.



Lancaster and crew before the mission

On the night of 24th/25th September, 1942, a Lancaster, with Flight Sergeant Paul Campbell in command, took off for a “gardening” (mine-laying) operation in the Baltic. Denmark was successfully crossed without incident and a course was set for the mine drop zone. At 1500 ft they were shot at and superficially damaged by a convoy. They continued and dropped their “vegetables” (mines) and then set course for home. Crossing the Danish coast at 6000ft, they were caught by heavy anti-aircraft fire. The first shot hit the bomb bay and started a very serious fire as the flares and distress signals, hydraulic oil and fuselage caught alight.

At the same time, another burst hit the nose of the aircraft, blowing out the bomb aimer’s window and all the glass of the pilot’s cockpit, except for the windscreen. The bomb aimer was physically blown from his position in the nose and ended up beside the pilot!

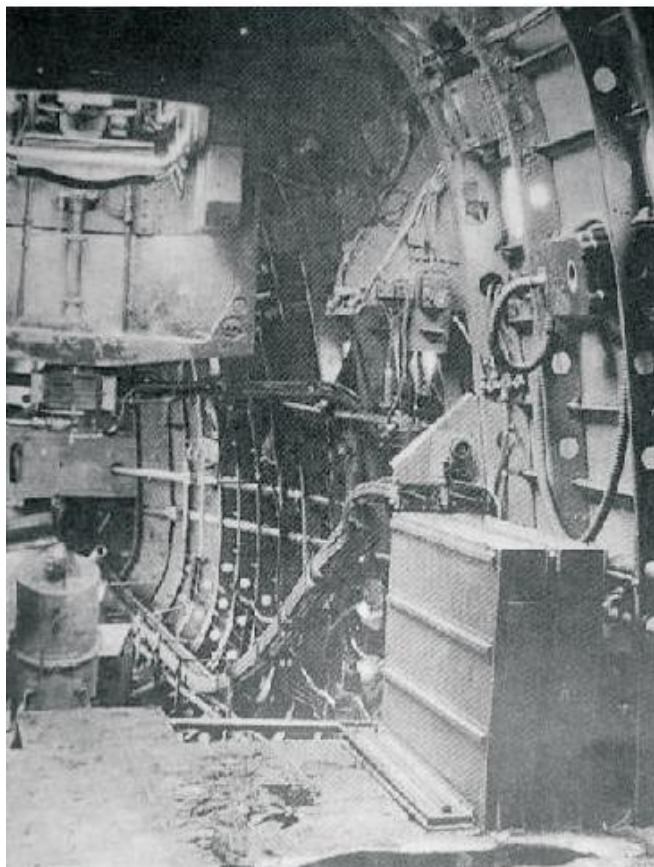


Then, two night-fighters that had been shadowing the Lancaster attacked, wounding the rear turret gunner in the leg. A cannon shell also hit the mid-upper turret, setting off ammunition and badly burning the gunner.

The aircraft filled with so much smoke that the crew were choking and Paul was unable to see the instruments, with the result that the aircraft stalled and plummeted for 2000ft before the smoke cleared enough for him to regain control. With the night-fighters in pursuit, he dived the big aircraft into cloud at under 4000ft and managed to lose them and the anti-aircraft fire. The mid-

upper gunner got out of his turret, fell over into the fire and with two other crew, managed to get the flames under control.

They then got the rear gunner out of his turret and onto the rest chair. The fire smouldered for the rest of the journey as there were insufficient fire extinguishers. The injured gunners could not be treated as the first aid kit was unreachable in the shattered rear of the aircraft. Many of the parachutes, stowed in the rear fuselage, had been destroyed. Bailing out was not an option for the crew.



The two badly injured gunners had to endure their pain without any relief as the emergency morphine had been blown out of the aircraft, which was like a flying wind tunnel as a howling gale rushed through the open nose section. All the maps, charts and navigation equipment had been blown out of the navigator's station so navigation was an impossibility. The blast of air tearing through the cockpit was so intense that it was impossible to stand against it.

The radio operator managed to coax his radio into life and sent an SOS requesting a navigation fix. He received a course to steer which he gave to Paul who turned the aircraft onto that heading. During this whole time, the badly wounded rear gunner was conscious and in shocking pain.

He never uttered a word of complaint. The second pilot was busy nursing the engines, which all seemed to be running properly.

Paul continued to fly the aircraft until the second pilot offered to take over for, by now, he was too cold to hold the control column. They tried the auto pilot and found that it worked. The second pilot flew the Lancaster for two hours and fifteen minutes, in a freezing gale, without relief. This enabled Paul to get some rest before taking over the landing.

They crossed the coast at Maplethorpe and recognised the Wash despite low cloud and bad visibility. They spotted the beacon at Wittering. As they flew over the airfield, two green flares were fired giving them a clear runway for landing. Paul warned the crew to prepare for a belly landing as the hydraulics were jammed and the undercarriage would not lower. The flaps were jammed at 20 degrees.

The bomber made a smooth belly landing and did not catch fire. The crew tumbled out but it took a lot of time and great difficulty to gently remove the rear gunner from the wrecked fuselage.



Paul received an immediate commission in the field. He and all the members of the crew were awarded the Distinguished Flying Medal in recognition of their bravery. The commander of 5 Group, Bomber Command, wrote the following: *“After having inspected this aircraft, I most strongly support this recommendation. It is almost inconceivable that any crew would have carried on in the four hundred mile trip to land without further incident.”* 30.9.42

This, sadly, was no film with a happy ending, for Paul never collected his medal. On November 19th, Paul and his crew, with two new gunners who were the replacements for the pair who had been injured, got lost in bad weather and crashed into a hillside in Devon. The Lancaster exploded on impact and was totally destroyed. There were no recognisable remains of the crew but Paul's bent and buckled cigarette case was found amongst the debris.

The RAF sent it to his oldest brother, Stephen, who had it repaired so that my grandmother would be spared the full horror of his end. She kept it until she died. Paul's twin sister never entirely got over his death. She said that all the colour had gone out of her world.

Peter transferred from the Merchant Navy and became a submariner. His submarine was sunk on Christmas Day 1941. Grandmother was never able to accept that he was dead.

The fourth brother, Andrew, was in the army and fought in Crete before being evacuated to Egypt. He continued in the Army after the war, ending up as a

colonel. Latterly, he devoted himself to the rebuilding of a mediaeval manor house in Wales.

Stephen was unable to go into the services as he had broken his back in a riding accident before the War. For the rest of his life, he was tortured with guilt. He mourned his two dead brothers until he died. It was a wound that never healed.

War is a truly dreadful business. Plato once said: *“Only the dead have seen the end of war.”*

I could tell some of the hilarious incidents that happened to my family during the War, but somehow, it doesn't seem appropriate at this moment.

Instead, I think that I shall go quietly downstairs, pour a dram of the finest Scotch medicine that I can find and raise a glass in honour of some very gallant young men.

Paul Regeli, Contributing Editor.



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**GARDEN WASTE DISPOSAL
AT CRUMPS FARM,
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**Saturday, 21st March until
Sat 28th Nov. 2015
Between the hours:
10am - 12.30pm**

**A manned skip will be
situated near the entrance to
Crumps Farm.**

**RESIDENTS WILL BE REQUIRED TO
PROVIDE PROOF OF ADDRESS**

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Wednesdays.*

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MAY 2015
TAKELEY PARISH COUNCILLORS
 UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

| NAME OF COUNCILLOR | | HOME ADDRESS |
|--------------------|-------------------|---|
| ALLEN | Trevor John | 12 Elm Close, Takeley, Essex CM22 6SF |
| BAGNALL | Geoff | 2 Maggott's Cottages, Warish Hall Road,Takeley, Essex, CM22 6NY |
| BARBER | Patricia Ann | Woodside, Smith's Green, Takeley, Bishop's Stortford, Herts, CM22 6NX |
| BURNETT | Patricia | 47 Roseacres Takeley Essex CM22 6QZ |
| CHEETHAM | Richard Froggatt | Beech Cottage, Smiths Green, Takeley, Essex CM22 6NR |
| CHEETHAM | Jackie | Beech Cottage, Smiths Green, Takeley, Essex CM22 6NR |
| DAYKIN | David Roy Southan | St. Omer, Dunmow Road, Takeley, Essex, CM22 6SH |
| DOMIGAN | Tina | 2 Chapel Fields Brewers End, Takeley Essex CM22 6TR |
| GREEN | John Albert | 50 Takeley Park, Hatfield Broad Oaks Rd, Takeley, CM22 6TG |
| PRATT | Carol Ann | Woodfield, Brick End, Broxted, Gt. Dunmow, Essex, CM6 2BJ |
| SPRULES | Susan Elizabeth | The Lodge, Dunmow Road, Takeley, Essex, CM22 6SH |
| STEER | Linda | 1A South Road Takeley Essex CM22 6RB |

TAKELEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

At the May meeting, Chairman Carol Pratt spoke on behalf of TPC and **thanked Cllr John Mitchell for all his hard work over the past 3 years**. TPC also **thanked Cllr Brian Baldwin for his hard work and outstanding dedication to the village over the past 30 years**. Cllr Richard Cheetham also extended his gratitude as the previous Chairman of the Council and thanked Cllr Baldwin for his service to the community. Members presented Cllr Baldwin with a clock in recognition of his extraordinary long service (1985-2015)

Open Forum: District Cllr Jackie Cheetham reported:

Gt Canfield/Gladman Development: UDC refused permission for 180 homes at Gt Canfield. Officers determined that 'the applicant has not defined a demonstrable need for the development to take place in this particular location that would override the harm caused to the countryside. The proposals would harm the local distinctiveness of the area and the character of the open countryside through the coalescence of settlements and the introduction of a large scale urban development between rural settlements. As such the application fails to accord with the core principles of the NPPF and policies of the ULP 2005'.

Takeley Youth Club:

On 29th March, a Quality Assurance inspection was carried out by Essex County Council inspectors. Less than a year since the start of the Youth Club, the Club was awarded an 'outstanding' grade. TPC agreed to write to the club to congratulate them on their fantastic work.

The Club has 93 members, with an average of 25-30 of those members visiting on a weekly basis, and 5 adult volunteer/helpers.

There is a schedule of planned activities for the next few months. A session on sexual health will be held in June.

Silver Jubilee Development:

Phase 1 completed work = £103k. TPC provided £40k

Phase 2 cost will be £435 431 (inc professional fees & VAT)

Hall will contribute £50k

Seeking grants to the value of £340k

Requesting support from TPC.

In addition SJH has requested information re PWLB terms and rates which the Clerk has provided

Recommendations approved by TPC:

- SJH to confirm result of grant applications (although this may require some commitment of financial support from TPC as a minimum)

Propose TPC minimum contribution = £50k (PWLB)

- PWLB - SJH may agree to underwrite a level of repayments (based on profitability of the hall). SJH to check constitution

- Amount & term of loan tbc and agreed once balance required is known.

2014/16 NALC Local Council Clerks Salary Award:

The National Joint Council for Local Government Services (NJC) has reached agreement on the following:

- New pay scales for 2014- 2016 to be implemented from 1 January 2015 (2.2% increase)

- A non-consolidated (one off) payment for employees on SCPs 5 - 49

TPC approved NALC salary award be applied to clerk's salary as above.

Clr Richard Cheetham has verified all calculations from source documents.

PRECEPT 2015/16:

The proforma submitted to UDC requesting the **2015/16 precept has been overstated by £7.5k**. Therefore, on the published Council Tax bills to residents it shows the Parish Council Precept has increased by 8.1%.

This amount requested was £95500 - gross amount agreed by TPC 7/1/15.

The Clerk failed to deduct UDC Local Council Tax Support Grant of £7546.

The error is £7546; **equating to £4.44 per household for the year (based on band D)**.

Unfortunately, it would cost more than the amount of the error itself to correct in this financial year.

The Clerk apologised for her error and has published an apology in the Grapevine, next TPC Newsletter, & TPC website & Notice Board.

| | BAND D charge £ | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|---|
| 2014/15 | 52.02 | |
| 2015/16 should be | 51.79 | |
| 2015/16 showing | 56.23 | 8.1% increase. (£4.44 per household for the yr) |

TPC agreed to reduce the Precept for 2016/17 accordingly (reduce by £7546).

Update re. current contracts: TPC approved the schedule of contracts & direct debits

Dog Waste & Litter Bin Collections: TBS Hygiene record the used capacity of each bin when collected. This has identified that a number of bins on Priors Green are regularly over full (collected fortnightly). There are issues with people filling the bins with carrier bags full of cat litter & dog waste.

TPC agreed the following recommendations:

- Change collections from weekly to fortnightly on Takeley bins noted above.

- Increase 2015/16 budget by £300 (5bins x 26wk x £2.20).

- Write to Lt Canfield PC to request they pay for additional collections on 6 x bins above.

TPC approved 2015/16 detail budgets schedule

TPC noted the following Reserves to Feb. 2015:

| | £ |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| Community Projects | 44009 |
| Sports Fields Phase 1 maintenance | 21700 |
| Station House | 29860 |
| Sports Field & Rec. Grd Equipment | 5645 |
| Legal Advice | 5875 |
| Clerks Pension Fund | 5170 |
| TOTAL | 112259 |

Royal British Legion - Veterans & Widows' Lunch:

A request from the Royal British Legion for support towards their lunch on 4th July. Approx. 18 veterans & widows will be attending. TPC resolved to provide £350 but would like to know if this contribution meets their needs. If there is a shortfall, TPC will consider a further award at a later date.

Support 4 Sight: Local charity request for funding. 7000 people in Essex registered blind or partially sighted. TPC resolved to donate £250.

Uttlesford Food Bank: TPC have been approached to evaluate a need and potentially provide a distribution point for Uttlesford Food Bank. TPC agreed that further information is required by the Council before they can make a decision. The Clerk will coordinate a list of questions from the councillors and arrange a meeting with the organisation.

Morrells Green Replanting - the Green at The Pastures:

TPC considered quotes to rotavate, feed and re-plant the Green.

TPC approved the following actions:

- 30 shrubs to be planted on the Green. - Retain roses - weeding by Mick Burke.
- Michael Coleman will rotavate and assess if topsoil is needed.- TPC agreed to reduce the number of trees to be planted to 4 in order to avoid creating too much shade. - TPC agreed a budget of £500 for plants and £80 for labour.

Old School House:

TPC representatives met with ECC Cabinet Member Cllr Ray Gooding regarding the future of the old School House. Following on from that meeting, Cllr Gooding has confirmed that ECC does not expect to put the land on the open market until the end of 2015. A request has been made for this to be put in writing along with a valuation. Cllr Gooding and Stuart Moulder (ECC) will meet with the Diocese within the next 7 days. The Clerk has written to Brian Leicester (Diocese Education Dept.), the Archdeacon of Stansted & the Bishop of Colchester relaying TPC's total dissatisfaction regarding the Diocese giving TPC 10 working days to put together a business plan when the Diocese has yet to provide any definitive information regarding any covenants/restrictions on the land (copy of the deeds) or any valuation. Before the land can be disposed of the Charity Commission will require a valuation.

The Clerk will reinforce to ECC that TPC should be given the option to either lease the School House (at a peppercorn rent) or purchase the building for community use.

Priors Green Community Hall: The AGM for the Hall took place on 24th February 2015. Three new committee members were elected. The first ordinary meeting took place on 11th March 7.30pm. A new committee of 3 members has been elected and chairman, secretary & treasurer roles filled. A prioritised handover list has been provided by the Clerk/Asst Clerk. The handover will be phased to ensure that the new committee is supported as required, and that the Hall continues to operate. The old committee members have been contacted regarding a handover of all documentation, bank accounts and funds. The Secretary has already met with all Hall users. The temporary caretaker is working well and will provide some reassurance to the new trustees until they have had time to consider a more permanent arrangement.

Highways:

There have been a numerous amount of reports made to Highways regarding potholes in the village. Highways have repaired the most urgent and others are being monitored.

Takeley Street: Rissa Long - ECC Highways Dept attended a meeting at the Station House on April 8th at 10.30am to discuss the costs and scheduling for the Takeley Street traffic calming scheme. TPC advocate the scheme be started from the midpoint. £100k has been secured from the Uttlesford Highways Panel budgets for 2013/14 & 2015/16 for the first phase; design & consultation fees will be deducted from this figure.

Roseacres: Cllr Brian Baldwin reported a missing bollard from outside the school, believed to have been removed to enable residents to park.

Coopers End: The Clerk will speak to ECC Highways and request that mounds of earth will be re-instated on the verges & manmade lay-bys to prevent airport related parking.

Warish Hall Road: 30mph road sign has now been replaced.

Essex Highways to be contacted regarding the unsafe road conditions outside the **Bovis development at Cooks Hill** due to large amounts of mud which are not being swept regularly. Nigel Brown at UDC to be advised of every report made to Essex Highways regarding issues/complaints with the Bovis development.

Verges: Cllr David Daykin requested a date for the first cut on the verges.

Buses: The Clerk received a report from the village bus rep. Issues were raised at the recent APA regarding their frequency in peak hours .This will be discussed at a later date.

Village Services:

Green waste skip available at Crumps Farm to start on 21st March 10am - 12.30pm. The Bishop's Stortford household waste recycling centre is now closed all day on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Kingfisher Meadows - TPC noted that resident's planters at Kingfisher Meadow, Takeley Street had recently been stolen. It is very disappointing that the good efforts of local residents are dashed by those less community minded.

Four Ashes Village Green: Cllr Trevor Allen has inspected the Green at the Four Ashes and is unhappy with the condition of the grass. Works were carried out at the end of 2014 by UK Power Network and the grass has not recovered well. Cllr Geoff Bagnall will inspect it and contact them regarding the Wayleave agreement.

Mole Hill Post Office: A thank you letter was sent to Jill Day who had worked in the shop for more than 20 years. Jill closed the shop on 28th February and will be missed.

Health/GP Services: The Clerk received feedback from the GP interested in opening a surgery in the village. The NHS have no money to provide additional surgeries. They feel that Takeley is sufficiently serviced by Broad Oak and Dunmow. Applications would have to be made to NHS England and the local authority and if agreed an open tender process would follow. The Clerk is investigating the most appropriate person within the NHS to contact re Takeley's need.

Local Policing: Cllr Tina Domigan attended the Police Community meeting and received an update on the recent crimes. Essex Police are running a campaign 'Register it. Protect it'.

Local Policing Team Contact: From 19th May our local PCSO will be 71102 Simon Horne email:71102@essex.pnn.police.uk Tel: 07989 174801.

Local Plan: There will be a clean slate from the previous plan. Currently there is a call for residential & traveller sites. Everything will need to be re-assessed. UDC will consult in the autumn and publish early 2016.

UDC Consultation on Updated Statement of Community Involvement:

TPC approved the following response:

As in May 2013, the draft document adequately provides for community involvement, however, TPC advocates the inclusion of the following detail to strengthen the document:

- Strategic Environment Assessment - how will UDC provide appropriate expertise to assess the 'expert' report(s)?
- Departure from expert advice should be reasoned (both for consultation on policy & determination of planning applications).

Page 16 Pt: 20.5 explains how the consultation responses/representations received will be reported and evaluated. It is vital that this process is used consistently, and that officers do not 'cherry pick' from the responses in order to provide reassurance to the community that UDC is listening.

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:takeleyparishcouncil@virginmedia.com

TO: RESIDENTS OF TAKELEY 2015/16 COUNCIL TAX/PRECEPT

Apologies to all Takeley residents

At the January Parish Council meeting the Council approved the 2015/6 Precept request of £95,500 to submit to Uttlesford District Council. This ensured that there would be no increase to the Parish Council part of the Council tax bill for each household.

Unfortunately, **I have made an error.**

When I submitted the request to Uttlesford DC, I submitted a request for £95500 but forgot to reduce it by the UDC Local Council Tax Support Grant of £7546. Therefore, **on the published Council Tax bills to residents it shows the Parish Council Precept has increased by 8.1%**

| | BAND D charge £ | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| 2014/15 | 52.02 | |
| 2015/16 should be | 51.79 | |
| 2015/16 showing | 56.23 | 8.1% increase. (£4.44 per household for the year) |

Unfortunately, it would cost more than the amount of the error itself to correct in this financial year.

I will therefore ask the Parish Council to reduce the Precept for 2016/17 accordingly.

Jane Heskey

Jane Heskey
Clerk to Takeley Parish Council
March 2015

Takeley Ladies Circle invite you to a STROKE fundraising evening on JULY 15th 8pm- 10pm in Takeley Silver Jubilee Hall, £3.50 at the door includes refreshments. We will have a Bring and Buy and Raffle.

TAKELEY PARISH ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

Wed. 29th April 2015

SUMMARY OF 2015 ASSEMBLY

*The Annual Assembly of the Parish of Takeley was held on
Wednesday 29th April 2015
at Takeley Station House at 7.30pm.*

The Chairman of Takeley Parish Council, Cllr. Carol Pratt, welcomed 27 members of the local community to the Annual Assembly.

Parish Council Chairman Cllr Carol Pratt opened the meeting. She explained that the purpose of the meeting is to welcome residents and representatives from community groups, to hear about what is going on in Takeley and to share the success of local groups.

Summary of Reports from Local Organisations:

Takeley Primary School

Children from Yr 6 provided a short informative presentation on life at Takeley Primary School.

Cllr Carol Pratt, on behalf of the assembly, expressed thanks to the children and wished them well with their upcoming exams.

Takeley Parish Council Chairman's Report

Cllr. Carol Pratt reported:

- **Thank you to all** Council members
- **Thank you to:**
 - Bob Muddle
 - Local Police Team/PCSO's especially PCSO Joanne MacMillan who leaves us on 19th May to go on maternity leave.
 - Martin Peachey - CSW coordinator
 - Michael Coleman for all the extra uncontracted help that he provides for TPC,
 - & Gordon Sylvester who this year took it up himself to rescue and renovate the finger post signs at Molehill Green, Waltham Hall and Bambers Green
 - Steve Hazon - TPC Newsletter & website
- **In 2014/15 TPC has** provided £10k to support for Local Groups, **as well as continued funding for the Takeley Youth Group.**

- **Finance:**
2013/14 Accounts were approved by the Audit Commission & 2014/15 Accounts will be submitted in June. TPC finances are a matter of public record and are open for inspection at any time of the year. Please contact the Clerk.

- ***In the past year TPC has focused on:***
- Planning & Development in Takeley:
Brewers End/Cooks Hill - 140 new homes have been granted approval. In addition several of the Priors Green island sites have been/started to be developed.

- The Parish Council is glad to report that the primary school at Roseacres will be re-opened in September, however, we are aware that this will not entirely satisfy the demand for primary school places in the community.

- Thanks to the efforts of Clr Pat Burnett the Station House is providing a **Community Cafe** & public information point to the community. This is a non-profit making operation.

- We also host a pilot on behalf of **Uttlesford Citizens Advice Bureau** which offers residents face to face conversations with CAB experts. It is hoped that those living in rural villages will be able to access support services from within their own communities.

- **Priors Green Community Hall** has now been transferred to the community. TPC is 'custodian trustee' holding the title/freehold to the building. The hall is run by a newly appointed independent Management Committee of local people.

- **School House:** we are trying to secure this for the village. It is the last site in the centre of the village that could be used as a community building. It could provide a home for the Youth Club, community cafe, library, village archives, parish council office and future health services.

- **Litter & Dog Fouling:** Despite the investment in additional dog waste & litter bins around Takeley (including Priors Green) and the provision of regular emptying this is a persistent problem. We would ask all the community groups to assist us to promote a clean and tidy village. Encourage everyone to take responsibility for their litter, use the bins provided and make it socially unacceptable for people to litter community spaces.

- We have also invested in a new village services contract for 2015 to maintain the green spaces and public property that TPC owns.
- **Village Planters:** Thank you to Cllr Sue Sprules who has ensured that the village planters have been planted and maintained over the past 12 months. We do need volunteers living close to the planters to ensure that they are watered through the summer months.
- **Footpath maintenance:** Thank you to Cllrs Trevor Allen, Tina Domigan & John Mitchell for co-ordinating maintenance of our parish footpaths. We do need more volunteers to assist with walking and reporting on the condition of our paths so regular walkers please contact us.
- **Traffic Calming measures in Takeley Street**
The first phase is scheduled to be installed this summer. We recently met with ECC Highways representatives to confirm that the scheme will be started from the mid-point in Takeley Street.
- Yet again this year we have seen significant **vandalism to public property**, especially in the **Recreation Ground**. Please encourage your neighbours to report any anti-social behaviour to the Police (101) or TPC. As a community we must let the vandals know that their behaviour will not be tolerated.
- **Community Achievement Awards:** congratulations to Mr. John Monk & Mr. Pat Salmon who received Uttlesford Community Achievement Awards following nomination by TPC.
- We congratulated **Takeley Ladies Circle** who celebrated 50 years last year.
- Congratulations and thank you to all those who gave of their time to stage a **production to commemorate those who served and lost their lives in WWI**. Saturday, 25th July 2014 was an evening not to be missed!!
- Probably the biggest success of the past year has been the **Youth Group**. A committed group of volunteer parents have come together, planned and undertaken training, to deliver a much needed Youth Group for the village. Since last summer weekly sessions are held in the Silver Jubilee Hall during term time. The Group has over 80 members. Thank you to Becky Picton and the team who have invested their time and tenacity to make this happen.
Having recently undergone a Quality Assurance Inspection the Youth Club was graded 'outstanding'.

This is a fantastic achievement, especially within your first year!!

Takeley Primary School

Ms Claire Berry reported:

The School has had a very challenging year. It is set to become an academy within a 3 school partnership trust. Pupils from Takeley School gave an update on activities. The school has retained the “Gold Food For Life” rating after being re-inspected at the end of 2014. The school was also featured in a series of on-line field trips filmed by Tesco. The School’s bees had a good harvest of honey and were visited by Martha Kearney (Radio 4 & TV broadcaster). The school has welcomed a range of sports coaches to help develop their skills and also hired a set of wheelchairs so that pupils could learn about wheelchair basketball. The whole School has raised money for Children in Need, Comic Relief, Clic Sergeant and Rotary with different activities and fancy dress days.

County Councillor

ECC Susan Barker explained the various roles she performs for County & District Councils.

Report from District Councillors

DCllr Jackie Cheetham reports:

- Congratulations to Takeley Youth Club!
- Following representations, the increase in charges for the pickup/set down point at Stansted Airport was discussed at a recent STACC meeting. It is being reviewed. MAGS will report back.
- Again at STACC, MAG agreed to continue with the Community Trust Fund.
- UDC Highways Panel is looking to see if the remaining funds required can be found for Takeley Street traffic calming scheme to allow earlier completion. The scheme will be carried out in phases and is due to begin in May/June, however if UDC Highways Panel agrees a new budget the scheme could be completed in 2015.
- UDC reduced the council tax by 2%.
- £372,000 has been set aside for voluntary sector.
- £135,000 CAB (Citizen Advice Bureau). Takeley have been very proactive and are piloting a new scheme enabling residents to contact CAB through video conferencing based at the Station House.
- UDC is looking to improve the Flich Way for cyclists.
- Local Plan – Until a new local plan is in place you are under threat. The need for new houses has now increased.

- The call for Traveller sites has gone out again.
- Jackie is retiring after 24 years on the Council and after living in Takeley for 42 years she has decided to join the Parish Council and continue her efforts improving the village.

Singing from the Heart

Cllr John Mitchell reported on behalf of Mr Paul Burnett:

The group has grown in numbers over the past year from around 12 to 20. A group with varying degrees of abilities singing all types of songs from rock, pop and folk music. The vast majority of our participants come from Takeley with others coming from surrounding areas. A professional natural voice practitioner leads us, sincerest thanks to Angela Dennis.

Takeley Ladies Circle

Mrs Barbara Aviet reported:

Last year the TLC celebrated its 50th birthday. Celebrations were held and members from past and present were invited. Donations were received from TPC and UDC to help towards the costs.

A recent trip to Mersea Island was enjoyed by all with a lunch invitation from St John's Ambulance. Thanks to Cllr Pat Burnett for organising the trip.

Takeley & District British Legion

Mr John Monk reported on behalf of Jackie Rogers:

There are currently 107 members, new members are welcome. Thank you to TPC for their continued support which helps fund the veterans'/widows' Christmas presents and the veterans' lunch later this year, this is now open to everyone. Always looking for new active members.

Silver Jubilee Hall

Mr John Monk reported on behalf of Michael Coleman:

Bookings are good and the first phase of the refurbishment is excellent. Fundraising for phase 2 is not going as well as expected. Thanks were relayed to TPC for their continued support. The Hall Committee are pleased to be associated with Takeley Youth Club. The outdoor play area for the pre-school is being relocated after a recent Ofsted report found its current position unsatisfactory. The Committee would like to thank the organisers of the Takeley 10k Run. They are hoping for 1200 runners this year.

Helen Rollason Heal Cancer Charity (Takeley Branch)

Mrs Pat Caiger reported:

Various organised events over the past year from coffee mornings, "soup & pud", Xmas fair and all day lunches. The total amount raised is £3700. Jill Baldwin & Nia Watkiss have been unwell, our best wishes to them both. Thank you to TPC for their support.

Takeley Community Centre

Chairman Brian Baldwin reported:

The Centre is used for a 2 course lunch for the over 55's for £3.50. Sparklers playgroup and a needlework group are also at the centre. The hall is available for hire.

Takeley Community Group

Rebecca Joyce reported:

Relayed thanks to TPC for their support over the last year. The group has continued with their family themed events in the last 12 months including Easter, Halloween and Christmas activity parties. As in previous years the intention was to bring the community together in an affordable and enjoyable way. However the few people involved in organising the events have made a decision to stand down leaving the group without people willing to carry it on. The current TCG committee would be only too happy to hear from anybody willing to take this task on and offer their full support and advice if needed. Once again thank you for your support.

Priors Green Community Hall

Parminder Badham reported:

The first AGM took place in February and a new committee was formed. Parminder as Chairman, Sam Perry as Treasurer and Steven Casey as Secretary. Meetings will be held every month and everyone is welcome. The hall has a high occupancy with sports groups throughout the week and private parties at the weekends. The new Committee would like to thank TPC especially the Clerk Jane Heskey and Asst Clerk Jane Bridgeman for their help and support.

Takeley Youth Club

Cllr Linda Steer reported:

The club opened its doors on 12th March 2014. A small group of volunteers run the club and are affiliated to "Essex Boy & Girls. They have signed their 93rd member last week and members are now coming from further afield. A recent Quality Assurance review by ECC graded the club as 'outstanding' which is a huge achievement in its first year. More volunteers are needed.

Stop Stansted Expansion (SSE)

Mr Peter Saunders reported:

There are so many unknowns..... the publication of the Airports Commission's final report is due and then how the new Government responds ?. Meanwhile MAG is promoting Stansted for more capacity. It may be thought that Stansted is no longer in the firing line at least for the

immediate future but there is no certainty that the Commission's recommendations will be accepted. In the meantime SSE is campaigning for the elimination of all night flights at Stansted and to redefine night (11pm - 7am), and they are continuing to resist NATS' proposals for revising the flight paths from Stansted.

Takeley Christian School & Chapel

Mr Emlyn Humphries reported:

The school has now been open for 25 years and continues to grow. The nursery opened this year. Not only is it thriving but it also received a good Ofsted report. The Chapel has a good number of people attending. Everyone is welcome to the breakfast meetings held on a Sunday for 30 minutes and coffee evenings. Attempts are being made to maintain the green space.

Takeley Art Group

Cllr Richard Cheetham reported:

The group's tutor remains and is incredible at teaching in any style. There are 15 members and sessions are on a Thursday at SJH.

Community Cafe

Jane Heskey reported on behalf of Cllr Pat Burnett:

The Café is run by volunteers, recently increasing to 6 enabling them to have a shift system. It remains a 'not for profit' establishment. Thanks were relayed to all the volunteers for their hard work and dedication and to TPC for their continued support.

Community Speed Watch

Jane Heskey reported on behalf of Mr Martin Peachey:

Monitoring of traffic speeds in Brewers End continued at times throughout the year and the results were sent to Essex Police. The CSW team are looking for more volunteers. Following 7 years of CSW monitoring, residents' surveys and TPC efforts, Essex Highways has proposed a traffic calming scheme for Takeley Street.

Following concerns about levels of vehicle exhaust fumes on the B1256, UDC has now installed NO2 monitors in Takeley.

Holy Trinity Church

Jane Heskey reported on behalf of Rev Rob Burles:

The weekly pattern of services at both churches continues. Rob Burles attends weekly assemblies at Takeley Primary School. Rob is due to take 3 months' extended leave and the Curate Kim will be ably assisting (June - Sept). Once again our thanks to TPC for their grants towards the upkeep of the churchyard.

Clr Tricia Barber proposed a vote of thanks to DClr Jackie Cheetham for 23 years of service as a District Councillor.

Station House Community Café

Sponsored by Takeley Parish Council

We cater for all ages and our aim is to provide affordable food and great service within a relaxing and accessible environment.

We use fresh, quality ingredients which we source locally.

So if it's a light lunch or just a drink and chat the community café is the place to visit.

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

RESPECT OUR COMMUNITY

Dog fouling & littering

The Parish Council has invested over £7k installing more than 30 new dog and litter bins throughout the village. The Parish Council is also financing the ongoing cost of emptying & collections.

Please be aware that, if you cannot locate a dog bin, dog waste can be disposed of in a litter bin providing that it is wrapped.

If you cannot locate a bin please take your rubbish home with you.

The entire community will benefit if everyone would please use the bins provided.

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

Email:takeleyparishcouncil@virginmedia.com



Superfast Essex Programme Launches Interactive Mapping

The Superfast Essex programme team has launched an interactive mapping tool, which can be found on their website. This is currently unique to Essex allowing users to view their property and determine when it is earmarked for connection to the Superfast Essex broadband service. Previously, information was available at a street cabinet level and this led to complications where communities are served by different BT exchanges, each being connected at different times. The new interactive mapping service clarifies things immensely.

You can access the interactive maps at <http://www.superfastessex.org/Maps.aspx>

AIRPORT PARKING

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

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

Where recorded evidence supports identification of a 'hotspot' Stansted Airport 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.

Thank you

TAKELEY YOUTH CLUB

CONGRATULATIONS!!!!

At the April Parish Council meeting Cllr Linda Steer reported that having recently undergone a Quality Assurance Inspection the Youth Club was assessed as 'outstanding'.

This is a fantastic achievement, especially within the first year!!

The entire volunteer team are to be congratulated on the incredible work that they have done and continue to do. It appears that the Club is thriving and continues to go from strength to strength, which is evident by the popularity of the Club with the children of the village.

The Youth Club meets in the Silver Jubilee Hall

| JUNE | | JULY | | AUGUST | SEPTEMBER | |
|------|------|------|------|--------|-----------|------|
| Fri | 5th | Fri | 3rd | CLOSED | Wed | 16th |
| Wed | 10th | Wed | 8th | | Fri | 25th |
| Fri | 19th | Fri | 17th | | | |
| Wed | 24th | Wed | 22nd | | | |
| | | Fri | 31st | | | |

Report a Highway Problem

Report potholes or other road defects to:

1. Essex County Council Highways online at:
www.essexcc.gov.uk/Highways/Report-a-highway-problem
2. Essex County Council by phone: 0845 603 7631
3. The [Highways Agency](#) - For enquiries and reports relating to trunk roads and motorways, please call 0300 123 5000.

Uttlesford CAB – access for all.



If you find it difficult to access CAB services in Saffron Walden or Great Dunmow, don't forget that face to face appointments are available at outreach services operating in Thaxted and Stansted Mountfitchet. Free advice sessions are also available via video link from the old Station House on Sycamore Close, Takeley, where you have access to a private room to speak confidentially to a trained adviser - no computer skills are necessary! Call 01799 618840 to arrange an appointment.

“We understand that many people find transport to the main offices in Saffron Walden and Dunmow difficult and we are aware that people often prefer to see someone rather than just use the phone, particularly in more complicated issues”, said Kate Robson, Manager of Uttlesford CAB. “We therefore believe that in our rural area, outreach services are vital to ensure that access difficulties do not prevent people seeking advice for their problems”.

Uttlesford CAB urgently needs volunteer ‘chaperones’ to join a rota to support their advice service in Stansted Mountfitchet. The chaperone welcomes and settles each client while the adviser works through the morning’s appointments. It is the perfect opportunity to read a book and be useful all at the same time! If you have a few hours to spare on a Monday or Thursday and can make a regular commitment, whether it is once a week or once a month, the CAB would love to hear from you!

The CAB welcomes all applications; please call Kate Robson on 01799 526557 to arrange an interview. No training required, but a DBS check would be necessary.

Barnards Yard, CB11 4EB

T: 01799 618840

W: uttlesfordcab.org.uk

E: bureau@uttlesfordcab.cabnet.org.uk

Saffron Walden 9.30 to 3.30 M.T.Th.F. (appointments available Weds)

Great Dunmow 9.30 to 3.30 T. W. Th.

Thaxted 9.30 to 12.30 Monday (fortnightly – appointments only)

Stansted Mountfitchet 9.30 to 12.30 Monday (fortnightly) and 9.30 to 12.30

Thursday (weekly) – appointments only

Takeley (by video link) Thursday and Friday (appointments only)

Help us reduce the risk of flooding in Takeley.

The Environment Agency is the largest environmental organisation in England and Wales. As well as protecting and improving the environment we are also responsible for reducing the risk of flooding. We need your help to do this in the Takeley area.

The main watercourse that runs through Takeley is called the Takeley Drain. Although normally dry, in times of extended or heavy rainfall the water level rises in the channel. During the last few months of wet weather the river has carried large volumes of rainwater and snow melt through the village.

Keep the channel clear of rubbish

A recent inspection of the Takeley Drain found that household and garden waste had been dumped into the channels and on the riverbanks. Whilst the majority of householders dispose of their waste properly, it only takes a few people to use the channels in this way for it to potentially have a huge impact on the area.

For water to pass through the village without causing flooding, the channels have to be kept clear of blockages. In many places the river runs in narrow pipes and these can become blocked if rubbish and branches are washed into them. Blockages can then cause water to back up and flow out of the channels and cause flooding to the surrounding area. In addition any waste, including cut grass and branches, dumped into the watercourse or on its banks can attract vermin to the area and cause damage.

Please help to keep Takeley Drain clear of blockages by making sure that your rubbish is disposed of in a proper and responsible manner.

To report any blockages please call our Incident Hotline on 0800 807060.

Talk to us if you are planning any work near to the river

During our inspections we also noticed that some structures were built too close to the river bank.

Any works carried out near a river could increase the risk of flooding to the area or damage riverbanks, gardens, the local environment and wildlife. To try to prevent this any work on structures in, over, under or within 8 metres of a Main River require written permission from us beforehand. These permissions are called 'Flood Defence Consents'.

If you are planning any works within 8 metres of a river, please talk to us first to make sure that you are not increasing flood risk to yourself and those around you and not causing damage to the local environment and wildlife. You can call Christopher Bienemann of the Flood Risk Management Team on 01707 632409.

Are you a riparian owner?

If you own land or property next to a watercourse you are a 'riparian owner' which means that you have certain rights & responsibilities. You can find out more about these in our publication, 'Living on the Edge' which can be found on our website <https://publications.environment-agency.gov.uk/PDF/FLH00912BWUP-E-E.pdf>.

If you would like more information regarding flooding or flood maps please visit our website at www.environment-agency.gov.uk.

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Well stocked with mirror and
common carp, and tench.
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For more information call 01279 718702 or 07831 865881.

Sunday Saver Fare Revision

From Sunday 14 June 2015

The Essex Sunday Saver Day Ticket is a ‘multi-operator bus ticket’, offering unlimited all day travel on any of the qualifying bus services in Essex on a Sunday, except on services operated by Transport for London (TfL) and some premium bus routes*

Essex County Council has held the price of the Sunday Saver ticket at its current level since 2006. However, as a result it is now significantly out of line with commercial fare levels. The Essex Sunday Saver Day Ticket price will therefore change as follows from Sunday 14 June 2015:

| Ticket Type | Current Price | Price from 14/06/15 |
|--------------|---------------|---------------------|
| Single adult | £2.80 | £4.00 |
| Single child | £1.50 | £2.00 |
| Family | £8.00 | £10.00 |

While this is a substantial increase, the Sunday Saver still offers good value compared to single or return fares & to comparable offers from surrounding counties.

ENCTS card holders are entitled to free travel all day on Sundays. For more information please visit www.essex.gov.uk.

Contact: Essex County Council – 0845 603 7631 * See ECC Website for details



Essex County Council

Message from Priors Green Community Hall

Priors Green Community Hall is a **modern hall** for the use of the inhabitants of Takeley and Little Canfield parishes. The hall consists of a sports/community hall (161 square metres), a meeting room (33 square metres) and kitchen and toilet facilities. There is ample car parking.

The hall is **available for hire** for private parties and events as well as for community groups and local clubs/societies. The hall hosts a variety of regular classes and activities including keep fit, yoga, pilates, dance, drama, martial arts, football, badminton and bowls. There are also activities specifically for babies/toddlers and older children.

Did you know that the Hall is governed by a charitable trust formed in 2013, with the object to improve the conditions of life for the inhabitants of Takeley and Little Canfield. The Hall is managed by volunteers from within the community to help to ensure that it promotes community interests. The Management Committee currently comprises Parminder Badham (Chairman), David Turner (Vice-Chairman), Stephen Casey (Secretary) and Samantha Perry (Treasurer). The Committee aims to meet on a monthly basis (next meetings [on 4 June](#) and [13 July](#)).

The Committee invites your **feedback** (preferably by email) on how we can help towards building a better community. Please share your suggestions/ideas for classes, activities, events and new facilities that you would like to see at the Hall.

If you are interested in **volunteering** or wish to learn more about the Hall, please contact us by email for more information. With your support we are confident that we can make a positive difference.

Thank you for your support.

Priors Green Community Hall, Bennet Canfield, Takeley, CM6 1YE
tel. [07538 049730](tel:07538049730)
email: priorsgreenhall@gmail.com

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

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 |

TAKELEY PARISH COUNCIL

VACANCY FOR COUNCILLOR

Following the election on 7th May 2015 one vacancy remains to be filled.
The Parish Council must fill this vacancy by co-option.

All eligible Takeley residents are invited to apply including Takeley electors living at Priors Green.

Do you want to?

- Get involved with your Community.
- Have a say about local issues people care about.
- Influence the way local services are provided.
- Decide how local money is spent to improve your community.
- Keep the parish a place where people want to live, work and enjoy themselves.

Making a difference

A good and active council can make a big difference to the quality of life in the community it serves. In order to be a good and active council, however, it needs to have committed and enthusiastic councillors!

Council meeting and time commitments

The council holds a monthly meeting of the full Parish Council. These meetings are important as they are the place where decisions are made. The time spent will be governed by the individual's personal commitments. However, you must be prepared to serve your community to the best of your ability and you must be prepared to attend meetings.

Who can stand?

You can stand for the Council if you are:

- 18 years of age or more.
- A British citizen, other Commonwealth citizen, citizen of the Republic of Ireland or a citizen of another European Union state.

And if:

- You are registered as a local government elector for the parish or,
- You have, for the whole 12 month period up to the date of election, occupied (as owner or tenant) land or other premises in the parish or,
- Your principal or only place of work during that same 12 month period has been in the parish or,
- You have during that same 12 month period resided in the parish or within 4.8 km (3 miles) of it.

How can I stand?

Please contact the Clerk expressing your interest before **Friday, 24th July 2015**. Further details will be provided.

Clerk to the Council: Jane Heskey

Address: Station House, Sycamore Close, Takeley, Essex CM22 6QA

Telephone: 020 8270 1149

Email: takeleyparishcouncil@virginmedia.com

21st May 2015

Dance Act Sing & Parties

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web: www.rascals-uk.com

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ESTABLISHED



Audi



11am – 6th September 2015

- Prizes for 1st, 2nd & 3rd (m/f)
- 1st Veteran (m/f)
- 1st Super Veteran (m/f)
- 'Technical' T-Shirt to all finishers
- Marshalls & First Aid
- Water Station
- Strict limit of 350 entries
- 90% Off-Road Route

ENTRY FEES: £14 for 10k

Donations (on the day) for 1 Mile Childrens' Fun Run

Sponsorship Enquiries please call Tim De-Ats 07585 506306

Entries: www.entrycentral.com

For more information visit our website

www.takeley10K.co.uk

Queries: takeley10K@hotmail.com

All funds in aid
of Takeley Village
Hall & Social Club
redevelopment
project



MOBILE LIBRARY TIMETABLE

Effective 1st September 2014

| Tuesday visits fortnightly (week 2) | | | |
|---|------------------------------|---------|---------|
| Dates | Location | Arrives | Departs |
| Sep: 9, 23 Oct: 7, 21 Nov: 4, 18 Dec: 2, 16 Jan: 13, 27 Feb: 10, 24 Mar: 10, 24 Apr: 7, 21 May: 5, 19 June: 2, 16, 30 July: 14, 28 Aug: 11, 25 | | | |
| | Molehill Green Village Store | 14.05 | 14.20 |
| | | | |

| Friday visits fortnightly (week 2) | | | |
|--|-----------------------------|---------|---------|
| Dates | Location | Arrives | Departs |
| Sep: 12, 26 Oct: 10, 24 Nov: 7, 21 Dec: 5, 19 Jan: 16, 30 Feb: 13, 27 Mar: 13, 27 Apr: 10, 24 May: 8, 22 Jun: 5, 19 July: 3, 17, 31 Aug: 14, 28 | | | |
| | Takeley Caravan Park | 13.55 | 14.15 |
| | | | |
| | Takeley Priors Wood | 14.25 | 14.55 |
| | | | |
| | Priors Green Community Hall | 14.55 | 16.00 |

TAKELEY PARISH COUNCIL

MEETING SCHEDULE 2015

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

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| JULY 1st | AUGUST 5th | SEPTEMBER 2nd |
| OCTOBER 7th | NOVEMBER 4th | DECEMBER 2nd |

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Highest standard dance
classes for children
from age 3 – 7:

- **BALLET** (Royal Academy of Dance)
- **TAP** and **MODERN DANCE**



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the Silver Jubilee Hall,
TAKELEY

Classes for older pupils, along
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Classes also in Stansted,
Sawbridgeworth, Buntingford &
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We are a happy, successful dance school and our talented pupils regularly win places with national dance companies & schools such as The Royal Ballet School & Tring Park, gain excellent exam results, & take part in dance festivals and professional pantomimes

FOR FURTHER DETAILS & A FREE PROSPECTUS:

Telephone: **01279 654423**

E Mail: **info@grahamschoolofdance.co.uk**

www.grahamschoolofdance.co.uk

NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING

Takeley Meeting 2015

Your local Neighbourhood Officer will be available at **The Station House, Sycamore Close** from **10-11am** on a Wednesday at the below dates subject to operational requirements for you air any issues or concerns you may have or just for a chat.
We look forward to seeing you!

- Wednesday, 3rd June 2015
- Wednesday, 8th July 2015
- Wednesday, 12th August 2015
- Wednesday, 9th September 2015
- Wednesday, 7th October 2015
- Wednesday, 11th November 2015
- Wednesday, 9th December 2015

Contact your local officer:

PCSO Simon Horne e-mail: 71102@essex.pnn.police.uk

Telephone

Non-Emergency: 101

NPT Mobile: 07989174801

Right up

your street

Neighbourhood Policing Team



www.essex.police.uk

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Takeley, Herts CM22 6SH**

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COLLECTION & DELIVERY**

Takeley Primary School

At Takeley Primary we are always looking at different ways to improve our School. One of the ways that we have done this is to improve our School Council. Each class from Year 1 up to Year 6 selects two members of their class to come to our regular meetings and talk to the children in assembly about the decisions that they have made. Members of the Council have also taken part in activities outside the School such as laying the wreath on Remembrance Sunday and visiting other School Councils to share ideas. Last month three School Council members from Year 6 (Faraz Gul, Lily Wellock and Joshua Williams) spoke at the Parish annual assembly at the Station House and gave the audience an outline of events in School over the last year. Below is an outline of their speech which will give you a flavour of some of the highlights from this year.

Speech

Over the last year we have done a lot! One of the things that we have done is to build on our status as one of the few Gold Food for Life Schools in the country. We were re-inspected at the end of the last school year so that we could keep our rating. We have continued to grow salads and vegetables which have gone into our school lunches, which also contain a lot of other locally produced and organic ingredients cooked in our kitchens by our kitchen staff.

Our interest in food meant that we featured in a series of on-line field trips filmed by Tesco's. We were one of only four schools in the country who tried different foods and asked questions to growers. Our classrooms full of Year 2 children were then broadcast through the internet. We also featured in a film about bees. Last year our Buzzers managed four hives which kept them busy during the summer term but also kept them busy during the holidays because bees are at their busiest when we are on holiday! We had a good harvest of honey which we sold to our parents in the autumn. At the end of the summer term last year we were visited by the Radio 4 and television broadcaster Martha Kearney who talked to us in assembly about bee keeping and she was amazed at how much our Reception children knew about bees.

We have had other visitors including sports people, and authors who have talked to us about why they love writing. In June we are going to be lucky enough to host a visit from the famous author of children's books Cathy Cassidy. About three hundred other children are going to join us to find out how to be a best-selling author.

We have also welcomed a range of sports coaches who have helped us to develop our skills in a number of sports such as football, hockey, cricket and golf. We also hired a set of wheelchairs from Birchwood School last term so that we could learn what it is to play wheelchair basketball and we all agreed that it is a brilliant sport. As well as the visitors who came to our School we have had a number of trips to help us build on our learning. Our whole School visited Kentwell at the end of last year where we all dressed up as Tudors to help us understand our history better and to help it come alive. Year 3 went to the theatre in London recently to see a production of Matilda. They had been studying the Roald Dahl book in class and they had to run a number of events to raise most of the money to go.

Raising money for charity is another thing that we have done. The whole School raised money for Children in Need and Comic Relief by dressing up for School and bringing a donation. We have also raised money for Clic Sergeant cancer care to help sick children at Christmas. Last term we raise money for the Rotary by wearing crocuses to help get rid of polio around the world.

At the moment we are looking forward to the rest of the summer term when we will have sports day, a school disco and a music evening.

Currently we are working VERY hard to prepare for our tests in two weeks but once they are over we shall be putting all of our energy into our Year 6 production to make sure that the end of this year and the end of our time at Takeley Primary School is the best ever.

If you would like to find out more about what we have been doing then please have a look on our website.

Claire Berry
Head of School



Takeley Cricket Club

May 2015



The temperature has dropped a bit, so it must mean the start of the cricket season!

The first X1 have started very well with two opening wins in Division 2 of the Herts and Essex League. In the opening game, we faced newly promoted Bengo and restricted them to 188 in their 45 overs, thanks to 4-56 by Tom Brown and 2-32 from Gus Sammons. In reply, Takeley knocked off the runs in 33 overs, thanks largely to a great innings of 133 from new skipper Liam Brown. In week 2, Willingale put Takeley in to bat, and we totalled 224-6 with innings of 98 from Andrew Osborne and 74 from Chris Thake. In reply, Willingale didn't really get going thanks to some very tight bowling, with Gus Sammons taking 2-10 in 10 overs, and Chris Thake chipping in with two wickets at the end. Takeley won by 79 runs.

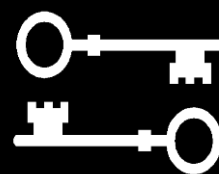
The second XI also got off to an excellent winning start away at Matching Green in Division 5 of the league. Takeley batted first and put on a total of 236-9, with Mike Sammons scoring 136. In reply Matching seemed to be cruising but some excellent bowling at the end from Tim Way (2-35) and captain Paul Jarvis (4-20) meant the chase came up 15 runs short. In game 2, we played newly promoted Wethersfield who proved just a little strong. They skittled us out for 118 but did struggle to reach the total, losing 8 wickets in the process. We hope to come back strongly in the next game.

Anyone interested in following the team can find fixtures on our website – www.takeleycc.co.uk. We welcome all support and there will always be a game at Takeley every Saturday (and some Sundays) during the season (weather pending of course).

We would also welcome hearing from anyone that might like to play cricket. Please contact our Captain, Liam Brown on 01279 871055, Chairman Mike Phillips on 01279 870134, or myself. There is also a contact form on our website if preferred. We are also running an U13 team this year with training nights on Fridays and five fixtures – four on Sunday mornings and one Wednesday night. Anyone that would like to play can attend on Friday or contact Paul Jarvis on 01279 870861.

I would like to thank everyone that supported our Spring Quiz in late March – I hope everyone found it enjoyable. The support given to the Club at such events is invaluable.

Malcolm Brown 01279 871055



It is with great regret that we note the passing of Nia Watkiss, the Village Recorder.

As well as being our representative with the Uttlesford Recorders, Nia was a key member of TLHS. She spent an enormous amount of time in records offices around the country extracting early records of Takeley. Nia not only produced booklets in her own right with her husband John, but also contributed to many of our other booklets. Nia was our medieval expert, but that does not do justice to her wide understanding of history in general and of Takeley in particular. Nia's response on discovering her illness was to work all the harder to finish as many of her studies as possible. The article that follows is the last that she completed in the series documenting Takeley history from the very earliest of times.

Nia will be very much missed by us all and our condolences go out to John and the family.

Steve Hazon,
Chairman, Takeley Local History Society

From the Village Recorder

Black Death to Bosworth.

The arrival of the Black Death or bubonic plague in 1348 was not the first catastrophe of the 14th Century. The country had endured exceptionally wet weather and poor harvests from about 1315 onwards, which would have badly affected the poorer citizens if it had not actually killed them. Nor was the Black Death a "one off"; there were to be many recurrences of the plague until the 1470s. A different form of plague was to reoccur for another two to three centuries. It is also one of the few central records references as to what was actually happening in Takeley during the century.

The Prior of St. Valery wrote to the authorities in 1361 asking to have his payments to the Exchequer to be suspended because the "late pestilence" had left him unable to find tenants for his manorial holdings and had reduced his income. The Hundred Years War with France meant that at various times the King was forbidding the export of money to the French and taking it over himself to help to finance the War. Today we expect to pay taxes of some

sort, but this is a relatively recent idea introduced during the first French Revolution in the late 18th Century. Until then the theory was that the monarch should “live of his own” and only ask for additional money to finance wars, the marriage of a son, or events such as the ransom for Richard I which had bankrupted the kingdom.

Since the wars with France brought many benefits to the barons and fighting men in the form of ransoms, booty and prestige, these extra taxes were usually passed by a Parliament that was slowly and inexorably strengthening its power. However the Black Death was to affect almost 50% of the population of England. This put extreme pressure on landlords to find tenants, especially for the manorial duties. Although the government attempted to keep wages at pre-plague levels, “market forces” meant that workers could move more easily from place to place and demand higher wages. Those who survived the plagues could expand their holdings and move themselves up the rigid social scales.

Apart from the one reference from St. Valery [Warish Hall] it is difficult to assess the effect of the plagues on Takeley as all the existing manorial material does not start until the mid 14th Century. There is some evidence from the St. Valery records, and the Waltham Hall Survey of 1621, which covers the period, that many holdings were falling vacant.

The Great or “Peasants” revolt.

James atte Ford of Takeley is listed amongst the rebels. He had a holding of land of 18 $\frac{3}{4}$ acres and had purchased a substantial holding without manorial permission. He was fined 33s, i.e. nearly 2s an acre after the Court had seized his land, and then given it back to him on payment of the fine.

Five hundred rebels came to Chelmsford, barefoot, to plea for mercy..., and it seems that James escaped hanging as his name does occur later. Another man who was described as one of the leaders was a Walter de Teghelere. This could possibly be a variation of Takeley, but as yet I have not been able to verify this. The initial scare that had been delivered to the monarchy and nobility [the Archbishop of Canterbury was decapitated], meant that the ruling classes reacted with considerable ferocity and if Walter was a local man, as one of the leaders, he would certainly have been hung.

I have put the word “Peasants” in inverted commas, because this was not an uprising of ignorant men, but a well organised and sophisticated revolt. Communications were made in writing between the villages, and Essex was a County that played a major part in this event.

Nia Watkiss

Articles from the past, by Pat Salmon

Many public houses are going out of business at the moment due to lack of trade but we should not consider this to be a modern thing. This article from 1955 tells of the Doodle Oak pub closing after 300 years. This pub was named after the famous Doodle Oak tree in the Forest which grew to a great size.

Report in the Herts & Essex Observer - Friday 4th March 1955

THE DOODLE OAK TO CLOSE AFTER 300 YEARS.

After providing weary travellers with rest and refreshment for over 300 years, the "Doodle Oak" on the edge of Hatfield Forest is to close its doors for the last time at the beginning of May. Named after the famous 800 year old oak tree, under which assemblies were said to have been held in medieval times, the Inn is believed to be the only one in the country bearing this name. The last pieces of the oak tree disappeared a few years ago.

Mrs Mary Stewart, the licensee, told the "Observer" reporter that following the ploughing up of several footpaths, and the closing of the "Doodle Oak Gate" in the Forest to motorists, trade had deteriorated. She said that some days she had very few customers, although occasionally there was a full house.

A "REGULAR'S " VIEW.

Mr Jim Gunn, one of the "regulars", when asked what he thought about the closure, replied "Not much" He said that he had lived near the Inn all his life, and went in for a drink most days. He added that when it was closed he would become a 'Teetotaller' as the nearest house was over two miles away. The names of other regular customers are to be found in the darts team. Mrs Stewart, known affectionately by her customers as "Bloody Mary" said that the team used to play in the Bishop's Stortford & District League, but now preferred to play friendly games and always had regular fixtures.

TOBY JUG COLLECTION

During the Georgian period the tap room was added as a third bar, the old forest boundary ran through this room, which is decorated with Toby Jugs, as are the other two bars. Mrs Stewart has a collection of about 70, which she started thirty years ago, when she fitted up a country bar in a Kensington public-house. A cycling trophy and a frame full of sporting medals are reminders of Mrs Stewart's late husband, Mr W.G.Stewart, who represented Britain on three occasions in the Olympic Games, and was also a cycling champion. Mr Stewart was also a champion at putting-the-shot and golf. He rode to hounds with the Puckeridge and Essex Hunts.

DAMAGED BY ROCKET.

During the last war 53 members of the Artillery spent a night at the "Doodle Oak". Next morning Mrs Stewart was certainly kept busy -- making 53 cups of tea. When a rocket bomb, believed to be one of the last to fall in this country, exploded in the forest, the door, windows and part of the tap room were damaged. Mrs Stewart now seems resigned to the idea of the surrendering of her licence, although naturally she is a little sad.

During the last thirty years a number of public houses in Bishop's Stortford have disappeared, are the country inns to suffer the same fate? Hilaire Belloc apparently shared the view of many people when he wrote "From the towns all Inns have been driven: from the villages most. Change your hearts or you will lose your Inns and will deserve to have

lost them, but when you have lost your Inns drown your empty selves for you will have lost the last of England".



Wedding at the Doodle Oak 1920



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THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY

Whilst our lovely, historic area is a joy to explore at any time of the year, the summer months offer extra opportunities to enjoy our heritage and culture.

Several of our fine buildings and gardens will be open on specific days. Within the What's On page of our website www.hundredparishes.org.uk you will find dates when you could, for example, enjoy a guided tour of 16th-century Spains Hall in Finchingfield or 14th-century Old Sun Inn in Saffron Walden. Visiting is by prior appointment – details on the website. These buildings are listed as Grade I for their special architectural or historic importance. There are less than a hundred Grade I listings in the whole of the Hundred Parishes. The majority are churches.

What's On also gives details of when you can visit open gardens, for example in Arkesden, Clavering, Duxford, Helions Bumpstead, Little Easton, Stebbing, Thundridge or Wendens Ambo. Others will be added as we learn of them.

June will see more local events celebrating the signing of the Magna Carta in 1215. Several local churches will participate in the national peal of bells on the afternoon of Magna Carta Day, June 14, whilst Stansted Mountfitchet will unveil a tapestry that has been worked by volunteers to commemorate the anniversary.

Thaxted will be the centre of varied cultural activities through the summer. Visiting teams of Morris dancers will be performing there during the last weekend of May and the Thaxted Music Festival runs from mid-June to mid-July. Our website lists other music events, including concerts at Saffron Hall in Saffron Walden.

Before you set off to one of these special events, please review our short introduction for that parish – it will give some historic context and we hope will increase your knowledge and enjoyment.

Ken McDonald
Secretary





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Book Review by Elaine Wyld

The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry

By

Rachel Joyce

Harold Fry wakes up one morning and whilst sorting through his post he opens a letter from a former colleague, Queenie Hennessy. Harold, now retired, has worked most of his life in a local brewery and whilst working with Queenie, an incident occurred which caused her to move to Scotland. Queenie writes to Harold to say she is dying and to say goodbye to him and Maureen, Harold's wife.

As Maureen vacuums away upstairs, Harold reaches for the Basildon Bond and pens a short message to Queenie. He then leaves the house to post the letter. He ambles past his neighbour, Rex, and strolls to the nearby post-box. However, on reaching the letter box he finds himself walking past it and determines to deliver his letter personally. The story describes his journey, on foot, to Scotland. He experiences a few adventures along the way and encounters many strangers, some who are kind to him offering him nourishment, shelter and friendship. As he gallantly marches on, his feet become inevitably sore and his clothes deteriorate, but Harold is stalwart.

His quest inevitably catches media attention and soon he is joined by a posse of personalities, each with their own story and agenda. Harold is drawn into a happy existence of comradeship, camping and walking. As he journeys on his thoughts turn to painful memories of his upbringing and his lost son and he reminisces on past, happier times spent with Maureen and David.

At home in Kingsbridge Maureen eventually, confides in Rex and together they set out to bring Harold back. Their task of finding Harold is an onerous one. His whereabouts they glean from newspaper articles and the few telephone calls Harold makes from public telephone boxes. But bringing Harold back is not as straightforward as they had hoped and as Harold moves nearer to his destination, and meets up with his wife; Maureen and Harold are forced to reveal long-kept secrets and resurrect past hurts to overcome present milestones.

A poignant and touching story and although fictional is very believable, holding the reader's attention. Rachel Joyce's insight into human nature is honest and refreshing.

Published by Black Swan
£7.99

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About the Takeley Parish Council Newsletter

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

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

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

or email to newsletter@takeleypc.co.uk

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

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

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

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

1. Full Page (i.e. one half A4 sheet size), £25.00 Photo or disc ready
2. Half Page, £15.00 Photo or disc ready
3. Quarter Page, £10.00
4. One Eighth Page or less, £7.00

(10% discount for pre-booking all four issues in a year)

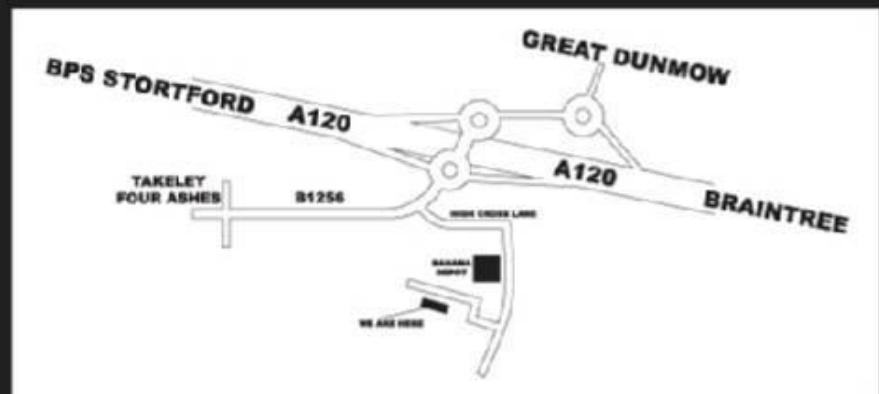
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