

# NEWSLETTER



Autumn 2015 Issue No.68



## TAKELEY PARISH COUNCIL, 2015/16 TPC RESPONSIBILITIES

AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY	REMIT		COUNCILLOR
<b>CHAIRMAN</b>			Carol Pratt
<b>VICE CHAIRMAN</b>			Geoff Bagnall
<b>FINANCE COMMITTEE</b>	Report & recommendations to full Council	4	Carol Pratt, Geoff Bagnall, Richard Cheetham, Sue Sprules
<b>PLANNING COMMITTEE</b>	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
<b>HIGHWAYS &amp; TRANSPORT</b>			David Daykin
<b>SPORTS FIELD</b>			John Green
<b>RECREATION GROUND</b>			John Green
<b>RIGHTS OF WAY/ FOOTPATHS/LAND</b>	Rights of Way/Footpaths/Land Tree Warden, Fitch Way	2	Tina Domigan, Trevor Allen , John Green
<b>MOLEHILL GREEN *</b>	Green, Hall & Community		Carol Pratt & Trevor Allen
<b>POLICE LIASON/PUBLIC SAFETY</b>			Trevor Allen
<b>PUBLICITY</b>	Notice Boards, Website, Newsletter, Grapevine, Press		David Daykin
<b>NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION</b>			John Green
<b>REGIONAL/NATIONAL POLICY</b>			Geoff Bagnall & Jackie Cheetham
<b>EMERGENCY PLANNING</b>	Coordinating key contacts & resources		Pat Burnett, Clerk & Asst Clerk
<b>SCHOOL HOUSE WORKING GRP</b>	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 20<sup>th</sup> May 2015

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

# Editorial

**In which the editor is attacked by his possessions, narrowly escapes drowning, survives an assassination attempt and proposes graffiti for a public toilet.**

*“Inanimate objects can be classified scientifically into three major categories: those that don't work, those that break down and those that get lost. The goal of all inanimate objects is to resist man and ultimately to defeat him, and the three major classifications are based on the method each object uses to achieve its purpose. As a general rule, any object capable of breaking down at the moment when it is most needed will do so.”*

Now I don't know about you, but I am beginning to find that more and more of my life is becoming taken up with a futile defence against the increasing malice of inanimate objects upon which I rely. The past week or so has subjected me to what can only be described as guerrilla warfare waged upon me by devices which are supposed to enhance and simplify life. “Ha”, he snarls with feeling.

When I bought my first computer, many years ago, I enquired about reliability and what faults might be most likely to occur. I was told that the most common repairs were to computers that had been thrown down stairs or out of windows. Maybe that's why the operating system is called Windows. It's always been a pane!!



I got quite close to defenestrating my own computer a few days ago when it suffered total failure. I ended up with a pile of components all over my office floor at 3am and eventually traced the problem to a faulty plug on one of the circuit boards. The only upside to the experience was the multitude of novel and colourful words that I invented on the way!

When I recovered consciousness the next day, I decided to get on with various chores that needed to be done, so out to my *giardino segreto* (You can refer to E.F.Benson for that quote).

One of my new garden wall lights had filled up with water and needed to be replaced. Beloved and I spent nearly two hours wrestling the blessed thing into place and bolting it to the wall. Checked it and it worked. Wonderful. Then I decided to cut the lawn. Plugged the mower into the garage sockets and found that all the sockets were dead. Calamity followed by much cursing. So we took the light off the wall to check if I had got the wiring wrong. I hadn't so we laboriously bolted it back. After a few brutal thumps and a less than gentle but very scientific tweak, the circuit breaker in the garage decided that it would allow the sockets to work. Oh joy of joys!! I cut the lawn and then proceeded to the final act of the day which was to mix a pack of nematode worms in water to deal with the ants' nests in the lawn. Simple, you say. "Ha ha", he laughs bleakly. Misplaced optimism, oh gullible reader! Realising that it would take too long to fill the watering can from a kitchen jug, I decide to use the hose. Obvious, intelligent and practical. I turned the hose on and nothing happened. Took it off the tap and the tap ran like a good 'un. With forensic precision, I unwound the hose, laid it out on the lawn and reconnected it to the tap. Then I turned the water back on to full pressure. Nothing happened so I bent closer to the hose reel to see what was wrong. At which point the hose union parted company with the reel, generating a huge jet of water that completely soaked me .....



I swear that I could hear the ants in the lawn laughing hysterically. Never mind, the nematodes'll wipe the silly grins off their faces. Apparently they don't kill the ants – they just persuade them to move. I'd love to know how. Maybe they dive into the nests and shout insults?

And if I hear *any* of you laughing at this extremely distressful turn of events, I'll put nematodes through your letterbox. So there.

Continuing the theme of minor disasters, I was recently involved with a play that needed a convincing explosion in it. There was no way that a sound system could produce the effect that I was after so I decided to use pyrotechnics. Therefore, I spoke to one of my theatrical friends and hired a detonation system and a bomb tank to do the job. Now to those of you who have never seen a theatrical bomb tank, it is a toughened steel cylinder, extremely heavy, with a heavy mesh lid to contain flying fragments from the charge as it detonates.

I set the equipment up for a test and loaded the maroon to be detonated in the bottom of the bomb tank. After a warning and a countdown, I pressed the firing button. There was an enormous bang and a column of smoke shot out of the top of the bomb tank. A couple of old chaps enjoying a quiet drink in the courtyard beside the hall managed to throw their drinks over each other. There was a deadly silence in the hall followed, a few seconds later, by a loud clatter as one of the hall lights fell off the ceiling and rolled around the floor. Then everyone started coughing as a nebulous layer of smoke slowly descended from the roof.



Oh joy!

Mind you, it put me in mind of an incident that happened some thirty years ago. We were enjoying a well-earned (we thought) party after a successful pantomime in Takeley. What I did not know was that some of the teenage members of Takeley Amateur Dramatic Society were plotting to blow me up with a left over maroon which had been planted in the road beside my car. The electric lead led back to the front door of a neighbouring house with the plug lying beside an extension lead. The plan had been to follow me out when I left to go to my car and to do the deed. Except that isn't what happened. One of our members, a mild-mannered fellow who wore a suit and said please and thank you when appropriate, needed to relieve himself. Since the toilet was occupied, he decided to go discreetly outside and ended up in the lee of my car, his decency protected by darkness. It started to rain and the owner of the house where the extension lead lay on the doorstep had also decided to go home to check his property. On seeing a plug lying in the rain by an extension lead, he decided to insert it in the socket to keep the pins dry. O wondrous fate! As our innocent hero was relieving himself by my car, the maroon went off a few inches away from him with a shattering roar. The flash illuminated him in stunning detail and he staggered back to the party in a semi - catatonic state, trying to zip himself up while gibbering, gesticulating and mouthing obscenities as his eyes swivelled wildly like a deranged pinball machine. Every light went on down the road and all the lights in the house where the party was being held went out. Now there's some sort of moral to be found in there, but I'm darned if I know what.

*“There's letters seal'd, and my two schoolfellows,  
Whom I will trust as I will adders fang'd—  
They bear the mandate, they must sweep my way  
And marshal me to knavery. Let it work;  
For 'tis the sport to have the engineer  
Hoist with his own petard, an't shall go hard  
But I will delve one yard below their mines  
And blow them at the moon.”*



So there you go. It was Yorick wot dunnit! If anyone tries to implicate me, I shall point to my ancient teddy bear in an accusing manner. And since I attempted unsuccessful surgery on his growl, he can't deny anything.

Ah yes, another achievement comes to mind. Since my last missive, we have completed the construction of our palatial new convenience at the Gliding Club. Blimey, it's even got a shower. The fact that it nearly got run over by a tractor a few weeks after completion is neither here nor there, though it would have been an *inconvenience*... It stands in rural splendour, a tribute to British ingenuity and a suitable memorial to Thomas Crapper. (*Cue the Dambusters theme.*)

People would ask me what I had been doing all day at the Gliding Club. I would reply, with suitable nonchalance: "Building a toilet, don't y'know."

"Ah," they would say, "what else would you be doing?"

I am sorely tempted to fix a small plate to it with a prayer to the goddess Cloacina inscribed upon it. Cloacina, for those of you who have not had the benefit of a Classical education, was the Roman goddess of lavatories. Named after the Roman word for a sewer, actually. Really, I promise you. People tend not to discuss her in polite company as they get a bit flushed ....

The prayer that I have in mind, discovered in an ancient Roman privy, reads thus:

*"O Cloacinam , deam loco isto ,  
Suscipe servum tuum blanditur.  
Mollis et cohaerentis meum munus fluxus -  
Non hactenus relaxare sustinuit esse cursum, nec pertinaciter tardi. "*

Which, translated, reads:

*"O Cloacina, goddess of this place,  
Look on thy servant with a smiling face.  
Soft and cohesive let my offering flow –  
Not rudely swift, nor obstinately slow."*

I could go on to ruminate sagely about Cardea, who was the goddess of hinges. But then, I thought, some readers might suffer a strange turn and



consider that the editor had become unhinged (he has been for many years, I fear). But next time a door whacks you in your face, quickly sacrifice a sheep or two to Cardea. That'd go down really well, especially in the entrance to your local cinema. But then, I wouldn't particularly mind if the world called me baaaahrmy, if you'll pardon the pun.

Since my brain is becoming feverishly overworked and several of my screws appear to be getting rather loose, I shall close with a gentle little anecdote for you to muse over.

Beloved and I were ensconced on the sofa watching a wildlife programme about a pride of lions which, through lack of other prey, had been reduced to hunting elephants, a risky endeavour even for a lion.

The opening pictures showed an elephant with a ferocious looking lioness on top of its back, claws sunk in to its skin and hanging on for dear life.

"That's a bit stupid," came the comment from Beloved, "attacking something that size." The she reflected and said, "Or perhaps it wants a ride."

After which illuminating thought, I shall take my leave, dear reader and wander down to the kitchen where Caledonian medicine is to be found. To calm my fevered imagination, y'know. And if I come across a lion in the kitchen, there's no need to worry. It'll only want a ride.

**Paul Regeli,**

**Contributing Editor, Sanitary Engineer by Appointment to the Aristocracy, Official Village Idiot, Fellow of the Institute of Amateur Safe Crackers, R.A. (Reject)**

## **TAKELEY GARDEN WASTE SKIP COLLECTION**

**GARDEN WASTE DISPOSAL  
AT CRUMPS FARM, DUNMOW ROAD B1256**

**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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**August 2015**  
**TAKELEY PARISH COUNCILLORS**  
 UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

NAME OF COUNCILLOR		HOME ADDRESS
<b>ALLEN</b>	Trevor John	12 Elm Close, Takeley, Essex CM22 6SF
<b>BAGNALL</b>	Geoff	2 Maggott's Cottages, Warish Hall Road, Takeley, Essex, CM22 6NY
<b>BARBER</b>	Patricia Ann	Woodside, Smith's Green, Takeley, Bishop's Stortford, Herts, CM22 6NX
<b>BURNETT</b>	Patricia	47 Roseacres Takeley Essex CM22 6QZ
<b>CHEETHAM</b>	Richard Froggatt	Beech Cottage, Smiths Green, Takeley, Essex CM22 6NR
<b>CHEETHAM</b>	Jackie	Beech Cottage, Smiths Green, Takeley, Essex CM22 6NR
<b>DAYKIN</b>	David Roy Southan	St. Omer, Dunmow Road, Takeley, Essex, CM22 6SH
<b>DOMIGAN</b>	Tina	2 Chapel Fields Brewers End, Takeley Essex CM22 6TR
<b>GREEN</b>	John Albert	50 Takeley Park, Hatfield Broad Oaks Rd, Takeley, CM22 6TG
<b>PRATT</b>	Carol Ann	Woodfield, Brick End, Broxted, Gt. Dunmow, Essex, CM6 2BJ
<b>SPRULES</b>	Susan Elizabeth	The Lodge, Dunmow Road, Takeley, Essex, CM22 6SH
<b>STEER</b>	Linda	1A South Road Takeley Essex CM22 6RB
<b>SULLIVAN-SMITH</b>	Natalie	23 Orchid Close Takeley Essex CM22 6TN

# TAKELEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

## **2014/15 Year End/ Annual Return:**

TPC Finance Committee reviewed the following documents & recommend them for approval:

- Payments & Receipts Summary
- Bank Reconciliation to 31/3/2015
- 2014/15 payroll
- Feedback from Internal Audit 22/5/15
- Audit Commission Annual Return Section 1- Accounting Statement
- Audit Commission Annual Return Section 2- Governance Statement
- Variance Report

**TPC approved the Audit Commission Annual Return** sections 1 Accounting Statement & 2 Governance Statement & authorised the Chairman to sign on behalf of TPC

## **Parish Council Vacancy:**

7th May 2015 - in an uncontested election 12 members were elected to TPC. The Representation of The People Act 1985 allows parish councils to co-opt in these circumstances. At the AGM 20th May 2015 TPC agreed to advertise the vacancy - closing date 24th July 2015. TPC received 5 written applications.

Members selected a candidate (based on written applications) with a paper vote.

After one round of voting, Natalie Sullivan Smith held 6 votes (other candidates received a combined total of 5 votes). Therefore by an absolute majority Natalie Sullivan Smith is co-opted to the Parish Council.

**Takeley 10k Run - 6th Sept 2015:** This is a successful community event raising funds for Silver Jubilee Hall development. TPC has received a request from organiser Rob Newman for funding towards the running costs of the event. TPC resolved to contribute £1k towards the cost of the event.

## **Takeley Cubs & Scouts - Request For Funding:**

A request to sponsor the bouncy castle for Takeley Cubs & Scouts Summer Fete has been received. Cllr Trevor Allen proposed £150 the same as last year this was seconded by Cllr Geoff Bagnall. All agreed.

## **CC/UTT/28/15 Takeley Primary School, Roseacres**

**Brief Description:** Erection of single storey extension providing 2 classrooms & associated infrastructure.

## **Parish Council comments submitted to Essex County Council:**

Whilst ECC has approved a significant budget for the refurbishment of the primary school site, there are a number of historical problems that have not been identified and considered within

the refurbishment scheme. The Parish Council is keen to see these issues addressed within a comprehensive plan.

TPC strongly advocates the following issues are considered and addressed within the scheme:

- A vehicle pull-in (drop off/pick up) area is required to alleviate congestion that will undoubtedly result when the school re-opens (this has been a historical issue that was a persistent problem that frequently required both school and police intervention).
- Re-introduce/re-vamp the parking restrictions & yellow lines throughout the surrounding roads (Roseacres, Long Croft, Priors Wood etc).

In addition, please verify the western boundary on the plan; including ownership of the public footpath and ditch. The drawings appear to indicate that both the public footpath and the ditch is within the site boundary.

### **Planning Appeal APP/C/1570/W/15/3006725 re UTT/14/2306/OP Land west of Canfield Road.**

#### **Outline application, with all matters reserved except access, for development of up to 211 homes.**

Following refusal of the application by UDC, the developer Gladman Development Ltd & Takeley LLP has launched an appeal. The planning inspectorate has asked for representations by 22nd June 2015. Gt. Canfield PC has requested support from TPC to provide appropriate representation/s to the appeal inspector.

The Planning Committee recommended that the Clerk should make contact with Gt. Canfield PC to request a meeting, & contact the UDC Planning Officer to discuss.

TPC agreed (11-1) to:

- to schedule a meeting with Great Canfield Parish Council and Richard Haynes (Thaxted appeal) to discuss the option/need for expert representation.
- A proposal for funds of £5k to be made available for professional/legal advice.
- TPC submitted further representations to the Planning Inspectorate 22/6/15 as agreed 3/6/15
- TPC approved a report from the joint meeting of Gt Canfield PC & TPC reps on 10th June 2015, and subsequent action as follows:
  - CGPC & TPC have jointly obtained 'Rule 6' status for the appeal inquiry to be held in Jan 2016. This will enable the councils to view and comment on documentation/actions between all parties between now & Jan. 2016, and allow the PCs to cross exam at the appeal inquiry.
  - TPC received an update re funding for expert support, Statement of Case, and appeal timetable.
  - A fund of £7k has been put aside to pay for consultant & legal fees (£5k Takeley PC, £2k Gt. Canfield PC). Residents of Hope End are willing to make a contribution to funds.
  - A Planning Consultant will be appointed to prepare a Statement of Case which must be submitted by 14th August.
  - GC & TPC to meet with UDC's Planning Consultant to gain a better understanding of what we need to focus on.

An update will be given at the August TPC meeting.



- A planning consultant has been engaged (as agreed) to draft the Statement of Case to be submitted to the Inquiry by 14th August 2015.
- TPC received a report from the joint meeting of Gt Canfield PC & TPC reps, & UDC planning consultant which aimed to agree & define the focus of the Statement of Case, & how to evidence the SoC (resources & costs).

SoC agreed points of focus:

- highways/access (we need to engage an expert witness)
- Coalescence (UDC & PCs jointly)
- 5 year land supply (UDC & PCs jointly)
- Infrastructure, particularly primary school education (PCs)
- Impact on Canfield Park

TPC unanimously approved the following recommendations:

1. That the SoC needs to be fully supported by a highways expert, professional preparation of case, & advocacy as quoted by Geoff Gardner (total fund required £20k)
2. to engage Highways expert (cost approx £5k) - *from existing £7k fund*
3. to agree a principle to split any further costs with GCPC on current basis i.e. 5:2 or 70%  
Takeley PC: 30% Gt Canfield PC
4. TPC to ring fence a further £10k

**Bullocks Farm:** Due to a changes in Govt policy ECC must update their **Local Waste Plan** which is now subject to further consultation. Bullocks Farm is a preferred site for hazardous waste. A response is required by the 30<sup>th</sup> July.

TPC agreed that the Planning Committee should coordinate the response in order to meet the deadline.

#### **Old School House:**

Chelmsford Diocese has now provided a valuation for the building but is yet to provide evidence of the Title and any covenants that would apply. This is on the basis of 'market valuation'. TPC will request the same valuation for the car park area from ECC. TPC are still trying to set up a meeting with the Diocese to view documents.

**Priors Green matters:** TPC agreed a proposal to resurrect the joint parish working group (Takeley & Lt Canfield PCs) to discuss common issues & agree appropriate action e.g. parking, footpath in car park, maintenance of public spaces etc. The Clerk will contact Lt. Canfield PC to agree representatives, dates and agenda items for future working group meetings. The group will report back with recommendations to both full councils.

#### **TPC Strategic Plan 2015-2019:**

TPC discussed a process to formulate the village priorities for the next 4 years (term of Parish Council) including community facilities, services, and potentially a Neighbourhood Plan which might involve surrounding parishes.

TPC resolved to set up a working party to move the project forward. Members of the working group are Cllrs Jackie Cheetham, Geoff Bagnall, John Green and Linda Steer. The working party will report to the full council.

### **Highways Issues:**

**Takeley Street Traffic Calming:** The scheme has been awarded funds to complete the entire project. ECC Highways informed TPC that the confirmed commencement date for the work to start is Monday 24th August 2015.

**Potholes:** updated a running list of items raised with ECC Highways.

**Mud on road & pavements Start Hill to Brewers End:** will be reported to ECC Highways.

**Parking in Parsonage Road:** Complaint from resident. Request for parking restrictions in Parsonage Road. Forwarded to UDC Highways Panel.

**Priors Green:** A group of residents on Priors Green continue to seek consensus on which measures should be requested/implemented to alleviate the congestion and parking issues on Honey Road & Bennett Canfield in particular. The group has requested that TPC publish their observations and proposals in order to gather feedback/consensus from residents.

**TPC resolved to publish the article. Feedback will come to the Clerk & be fed back to the group.**

**ECC Minerals & Waste:** Andrew's vehicles are still causing problems re-speed limits and behaviour. Vehicle registrations are being obstructed by dirt. There are further concerns regarding the damage they are doing to our roads. Information will be fed back to the Enforcement Officer for Minerals & Waste. A question has been raised previously as to why contractors for Stansted Airport cannot use the airport roads. There is apparently weight restriction at the Coopers End roundabout which prevents HGV vehicles from using it.

**Verge Cutting:** A letter of complaint was sent to ECC from TPC regarding the recent poor standard of cut and the lack of a cut to hedges and trees. The response back has requested that TPC report each individual location and specific details. Cllr David Daykin has asked when we can instruct our own contractor to carry out this work? ECC has previously declined this offer and not confirmed if this is currently an option.

TPC will ask ECC Highways when the current verge cutting contract will expire/be reviewed.

**Buses, Route 301:** Asst Clerk attended the recent Bus Passenger Area Forum. Changes to the service from ECC will be agreed by April 2016 and implemented within in 5-7 years. ECC are looking at alternative transport solutions that will work in conjunction with the service the commercial bus companies provide. There have been changes to route 301. The bus will no longer call at Stansted Airport or travel through Takeley. This is due to road changes at Wendens Road which would have extended the running time of the 301 route and could not be accommodated within current resources. The Clerk will write to ECC to object to the cancelled service for Takeley and ask if school children that use this service have been considered.

**NO2 Monitoring:** UDC has provided the results for 2014 from the monitoring tubes at Takeley Street and the Four Ashes. Both results are below the air quality objective for England. They will continue to be monitored.

Takeley Street 21.2ug/m<sup>3</sup>, Four Ashes 27.42ug/m<sup>3</sup>.

Maximum acceptable level for England is 40 ug/m<sup>3</sup>

**Policing:** TPC wrote to the Police Commissioner regarding lack of Police presence in the village since the latest re-structure.

TPC has received a response from the Police & Crime Commissioner, Nick Alston, which outlines the operational changes that are necessary as a result of the cuts to Police budgets. TPC is waiting for confirmation of a date to meet with the local sergeant to discuss the recent local changes.

**Stansted Airport Pick Up/Drop Off :** As of 1<sup>st</sup> July a reduced fee of £0.50 will be given to residents within a 5 mile radius of the airport when using the drop off/pick up point.

For further information about Takeley Parish Council  
please contact the Clerk or  
visit the website: [www.takeleypc.co.uk](http://www.takeleypc.co.uk)  
Jane Heskey, Takeley Parish Council,  
Station House, Sycamore Close, Takeley, Essex, CM22 6QA  
Phone: 020 8270 1149  
Email:takeleyparishcouncil@virginmedia.com

## TAKELEY PARISH COUNCIL

### MEETING SCHEDULE 2015

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

**OCTOBER**

**7<sup>th</sup>**

**NOVEMBER**

**4<sup>th</sup>**

**DECEMBER**

**2<sup>nd</sup>**



# **PRIORS GREEN PARKING & CONGESTION GROUP**

*This is a group of Priors Green residents who have come together to gain consensus on the measures that might be implemented to alleviate the current parking & congestion issues in Bennett Canfield & Honey Road specifically.*

***The group has requested that Takeley Parish Council publish these observations and proposals in order to consolidate feedback from Priors Green residents, and the wider community who use these roads.***

## **Parking**

1. Petition of all residents on Warwick Rd, Honey Rd, Bennet Canfield, Fleming Road and Roding Drive indicated 98% against yellow lines.
2. All properties on these roads were built to old planning guidelines where garages are built with no storage facility (in some cases even too small for a modern car), and no visitor parking, resulting in on street parking.
3. Parking on these streets amounts to 60 vehicles overnight and on average a minimum of 35 during the day. There is nowhere else for these vehicles to be parked other than adjacent side streets which would themselves then become congested.

## **Buses**

1. Roads for bus routes need to be a minimum of 6 meters in width, the preferred width being 6.75m (without parked cars)
2. Warwick Rd, Roding Drive, and Burgattes Rd are 6.75m wide. Fleming Rd and Bennet Canfield are 6 m wide. Honey Rd is only 5.9 m wide.
3. Our suggestion is, (a) for the bus route to be eliminated from Priors Green, (b) to be redirected along Burgattes Rd (where the road is wider and bus stops are already installed). This part of the development has been built to current guidelines where off street parking is adequate and Burgattes Rd has less parked cars.
4. Waiting for bus passenger numbers from the bus company.

## **Access re parked cars.**

1. The suggestion is for Honey Road to be made a cul-de-sac where the traffic would have to pass along as an alternative route along Burgattes Rd where as described above it is a less congested road for parked cars, is a wider road and a longer road than Honey Rd so the same traffic volume would be spread out over a longer distance.
2. Reduce or remove hedges at junctions to improve sight lines.

## **Speeding**

1. Introduction of 20 MPH speed signs
2. Parked cars reduce speeding.

## **Airport Parking**

1. We have concluded that airport parking has decreased since the restrictions have been in place at the community centre and signs have been put up at the front of the development. However, we feel this should be monitored by way of an email / telephone hotline facility for residents.
2. Nothing more should be done about this at the moment as any parking restrictions would be more inconvenient to residents than the airport parking.

## **YOUR RESPONSES WILL BE COLLATED FOR THE PRIORS GREEN PARKING & CONGESTION GROUP**

**Please email your comments on these proposals to:**

takeleyparishcouncil@virginmedia.com

**Subject:** 'Priors Green Parking & Congestion'

- If you are a resident of Priors Green please include your road name
- If you live elsewhere in the community please include how often and your reason for visiting Priors Green e.g School, Community Hall, shops, visiting friends/relatives

**CLOSING DATE 2nd OCTOBER 2015**

# **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

# AIRPORT PARKING

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

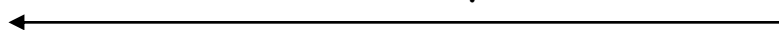
This is a central database. A list of all cases goes to the Stansted Airport Highways Working Group (which includes Stansted Airport, Essex County Council Highways and Uttlesford District Council) which identifies 'hotspots'.

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



## EARLY WARNING

Saturday 22nd November

## TAKELEY CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Venue, Takeley Silver Jubilee Hall and Scout Headquarters

Time, 11 am - 3 pm



Visit Father Christmas in Scout Headquarters, sample one of H.E.A.L's All Day Breakfasts in the Jubilee Hall, do some Christmas shopping at a variety of stalls and meet up with old friends. You will be most welcome at this popular event. Entrance is FREE and parking available.



# Parents & Carers

We need your help.....

## **VANDALISM AT TAKELEY RECREATION GROUND off Chestnut Way**

You may be aware of the recent spate of criminal damage in the Recreation Ground, off Chestnut Way. Unfortunately, there is a small minority of young people in this village spoiling the facilities enjoyed by many of our children and families.

In 2012/13 the Parish Council invested £35k to refurbish the Recreation Ground. Following consultation with local parents and children picnic tables, new play equipment, fencing, bins & signage were installed, and the footpath was resurfaced.

As we approach the end of this summer 2 picnic tables have been destroyed by fire, litter bins have been set on fire and ripped from their mounting, play equipment has been covered in graffiti and vandalised, fencing broken down, trees maliciously stripped of their branches.

The total value of the damage equates to more than £5k. The Council cannot keep funding repairs and replacement equipment. More importantly, it spoils the enjoyment of the children and families of our village.

Parents and carers, do you know where your children are, who they are with, and what they are doing?

**As a community we need to come together to ensure that the children of Takeley do not follow a path of criminality.**

Any information about those responsible for the destruction of community property should be forwarded to Essex Police via email or '101'.

Alternatively, you can contact the Parish Council Clerk. Any information will be handled confidentially.

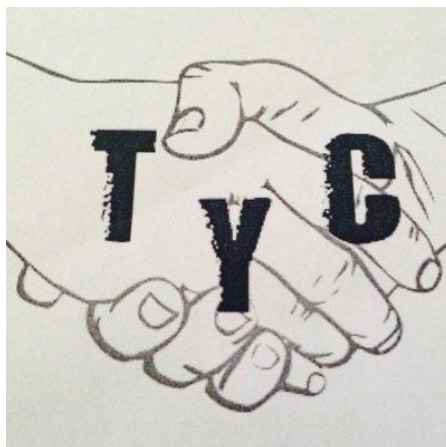
*Carol Pratt*

Chairman of Takeley Parish Council

# TAKELEY

# YOUTH GROUP

**13 - 19 yrs**



## SILVER JUBILEE HALL

**7 - 9pm**

*dates for 2015*

Wednesday 16th September

Wednesday 30th September

Wednesday 14th October

Wednesday 28th October

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> November

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September

CLOSED

Friday 23rd October

Friday 6th November

Friday 20th November

CLOSED

Friday 18th December

***email: [takeleyyouthclub@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:takeleyyouthclub@hotmail.co.uk)***

***Twitter: @TakeleyYC***

# THANK YOU-----

## TAKELEY COMMUNITY GROUP

*Karen, Annette & Becky*

Takeley Community Group, a committee of local volunteers, have worked tirelessly providing seasonal parties for up to 100 young children in the village for several years.

At the August Parish Council meeting members received notification that after much deliberation the group intend to close down due to lack of new members joining the organising committee (currently only 3).

Takeley Parish Council members were saddened to hear of the demise of Takeley Community Group, and **wish to express sincere thanks on behalf of the community to Karen, Annette & Becky.** The Parish Council recognises the time and immense effort you have made to deliver events/parties for the children of Takeley. The parties have always been very successful and will be greatly missed.

### **Call for volunteers.....**

Should any members of the community wish to volunteer to take up the mantle, to reform the committee and to continue to organise seasonal/themed parties for the benefit of children within the community, please contact Takeley Parish Council.

## **Takeley Ladies Circle**

### **SIP FOR STROKE**

A BIG THANKYOU from Takeley Ladies Circle to everyone who came along to our fundraising evening for the STROKE ASSOCIATION. We had a great response and raised £243.80 for this very worthy charity. It was a very enjoyable and rewarding evening and the Association was delighted to receive this donation.

If anyone would like to make a donation or hold a Sip for Stroke contact [tamasan.marshall@stroke.or.uk](mailto:tamasan.marshall@stroke.or.uk)

Regional Fundraiser - East of England

**Takeley Ladies Circle meetings, Sept. 9th Quiz Night Sept 23rd Pot Luck**





## **Superfast Essex Programme Launches Interactive Mapping**

The Superfast Essex programme team has launched an interactive mapping tool, which can be found on their web site.

### **Be happy at home**

No more frustration or waiting around at home for the broadband to be free, with better or superfast broadband the whole family can surf to their heart's content.

As part of a national programme, we are working to provide broadband speeds of 24Mbps and above to more than 120,000 homes and businesses in Essex. Use our Interactive Map to see if your home or business is covered by Phase 1. Phase 2a and 2b plans will be published soon.

You can access the interactive maps at

<http://www.superfastessex.org/Maps.aspx>

**IMPORTANT: PLEASE REGISTER YOUR INTEREST VIA THIS WEBSITE & CONTACT YOUR PROVIDER TO REQUEST MOVING TO THE FASTER SYSTEM**

## **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**

# SEPTEMBER TIDY TAKELEY MONTH

During the month of September PLEASE join Takeley Parish Council in our campaign to tidy the village and our parish. Your help is appreciated by collecting litter and pulling a few weeds to make our parish one to be proud of. Why not get a working party together in your street?

## COMPETITION

Takeley Parish Council will be awarding **four prizes** in Takeley (including Priors Green), for the best kept residential frontage/garden, the best kept commercial frontage, and the best kept street. There will also be an additional mystery prize!

So.... please get weeding, litter picking, planting, cleaning and sweeping and then complete our competition form for a chance to win.

---

## SEPTEMBER COMPETITION 'TIDY TAKELEY'

Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Contact telephone number:

Directions to your property for our judges to find you:

Category: (Please delete as appropriate)

Residential	YES	NO
Commercial	YES	NO
Street	YES	NO

Competition entries should be posted/delivered to:

The Clerk, Takeley Parish Council, Station House, Sycamore Close,  
Takeley, CM22 6QA

or email form to: [takeleyparishcouncil@virginmedia.com](mailto:takeleyparishcouncil@virginmedia.com)

**To reach us by 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2015**

# 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](http://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.

## TAKELEY STREET TRAFFIC CALMING SCHEME

*Update from ECC Highways on 24/8/15*

Please accept my apologies for the traffic calming construction work not commencing today as I had originally indicated.

I have just been advised that the crews have been unable to mobilise today but that the works **will definitely be commencing on the 7<sup>th</sup> September.**

**Rissa Long | Highway Liaison Officer for Harlow and Uttlesford Highways**

Ringway Jacobs | Essex County Council

County Hall A2 Annexe, Market Road, Chelmsford, CM1 1QH

## EXTERNAL LETTER BOX?

### Please beware...

If you have an external letterbox please note that recently a resident had her letterbox broken into in broad daylight which resulted in identity theft.

It's both very worrying and time consuming to have to report theft of your post to your bank(s) and companies that you may conduct business with, and then replace all your accounts when your personal information has been stolen.

**Please take care to ensure that your letter box is secure inaccessible to those who may seek to defraud.**

*Takeley Parish Council*

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TAKELEY

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# **BUS PASSENGERS**

The information below explains who you need to contact to make a suggestion or complaint about a bus service:

## **Essex County Council contracted bus service**

If you have a complaint regarding a bus service operated under contract to Essex County Council (a footnote under the service timetable will state this) please use our complaints form from the link below or the details below:

Passenger Transport Coordination Centre  
Contract Management Team  
County Hall  
Chelmsford  
Essex  
CM1 1QH

Telephone: 0845 603 7631 Monday to Friday between 8.30am and 5pm

Fax: 01245 469764

Email: [contract.managementteam@essex.gov.uk](mailto:contract.managementteam@essex.gov.uk)

## **Commercial bus service**

For commercially operated services, contact the bus operator directly and provide as much information as possible so they can investigate the matter thoroughly.

If you are unsure, please contact Passenger Transport on 0845 603 7631 who will be happy to advise.

Unsatisfactory response

**If you have complained to a bus or coach operator but are still dissatisfied, you should write to:**

The Traffic Commissioner  
Eastern Area Office  
City House  
126 - 130 Hills Road  
Cambridge, CB2 1NP

Tel: 0870 606 0440

## **Phyllis Altham is bus passenger representative for Takeley**

If you have a complaint Phyllis has hard copies of the complaint form and will willing represent your views at Parish Liaison meetings with County representatives.

If you make your complaint online please email a copy to:  
[takeleyparishcouncil@virginmedia.com](mailto:takeleyparishcouncil@virginmedia.com)

# 301 BUS SERVICES

## From 1st September 2015

You may be aware of proposed changes to Wendens Road, and the introduction of a cycle way. Construction works are planned to take place with effect from 10<sup>th</sup> August 2015, which will involve a full road closure. Bus operators will need to make temporary alterations to their effected routes whilst this work is in place, until around 28<sup>th</sup> August 2015.

After 28<sup>th</sup> August, the bus operators will need to operate via Wendens Road in one direction only (Northbound) and they will need to send in revised bus registrations prior to this date.

The changes to the majority of services will mean approximately an additional 3-5 minutes to their journey. However, Service 301 which currently operates between Saffron Walden and Stansted Airport will need to operate according to the revised route recently consulted over. These changes have now been approved. As a result a revised route and timetable will operate between Saffron Walden and Bishops Stortford only from 28<sup>th</sup> August 2015. Journeys from Takeley on to Stansted Airport can be made by using Arriva service 308. The bus operator has agreed to accept tickets for passengers wishing to travel on to Stansted Airport.

A bus notice will be placed on buses during this week.



### **That initial attraction**

Without that initial attraction most crimes could be avoided. Statistics show that most crimes are opportunist crimes, yes they may go out intending to commit crime but the victim is not yet chosen. So if there is no attraction then you may not become a victim.

What is the attraction?

- The shed or garage with minimal security and tools visible through the window.
- A lone person down a dark street talking loudly on an illuminated new iPhone.
- The house in darkness with the side gate flapping open welcoming.
- That accessible open window or door.
- The purse sitting in the open handbag on top of the shopping trolley.

- Group sitting chatting at a bar table with a mobile phone just sitting there on the table.
- The bag on the back seat of an unattended car. Even though the bag may only contain your sports clothes the thief does not know this until he/she has smashed the window and stolen it.
- The tradesman's sign-written van parked on the dark drive by the gate with accessible doors and unprotected pipe tube on the roof.
- The partygoer that's had too much to drink and is unaware of his/her surroundings.
- Shiny new ride on lawn mower sitting on the grass in full view of the road with no postcode/security markings visible.

The above is just short list. I am sure you can think of more. What can you do? STOP, think like a thief, spot the attraction and where possible remove it.

For further crime reduction advice contact your local Crime Prevention Officer using the police non emergency telephone number 101.



## **NEW U3A IN DUNMOW**

Please join us at our inaugural meeting. We will be very happy to welcome you to -

**E.T. FOAKES MEMORIAL HALL  
STORTFORD ROAD, DUNMOW  
AT 2.00 PM**

**ON WEDNESDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2015**

The U3A is a nationwide organisation for retired men and women who would like to enjoy the company of others in a friendly environment. As we establish our new organisation, there will be monthly meetings with interesting speakers and refreshments. You will be able to join groups for people with common interests wishing to learn more about subjects they enjoy, in an informal atmosphere. Outings and other events during the year will make it a sociable experience for all.

Membership will be £20 per person per year (first year extends until March 2017)

Come and enrol on 28<sup>th</sup> October 2015 at E. T. Foakes Memorial Hall, Dunmow (no enrolments before 28<sup>th</sup> October)

Second meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2015

We look forward to meeting you there.

**Enquiries: [info\\_dunmowU3A@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:info_dunmowU3A@yahoo.co.uk)**

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# Takeley Cricket Club

## August 2015



At the time of writing, the Cricket Club has just 3 League games before the season ends for another year. Once again, for both teams it has been a mixed season, with good wins and poor defeats, but it is with a degree of confidence that I am able to predict both 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> teams will finish the season in mid-table.

The First XI, having gone on a run of 6 straight defeats after 3 opening victories, has fared a little better in the second half of the season and has won 4 of the six games played to date, including a great recent win at Bishop's Stortford, made possible by Damon Miles's first century for us (scoring 110no). This was made doubly sweet as both of his sons, Coby and Olly, were playing with him in the same league team for the very first time. Other notable performances have included knocks of 77(no) and 72 by Chris Thake and Liam Brown respectively in our victory against Willingale, and 2 five wicket bowling hauls by James Fitten (5-43 v Cloghams) and Gus Sammons (5-25 v Epping Foresters). Our most recent game saw a rare tied match against Roding Valley, with both sides scoring 265-8, Mike Sammons hitting 73 on his return to first team action.

Our Second XI have won 7 and lost 7 of their 16 games (with two being lost to the weather). The return of our Captain, Ashley Harrington, after missing the opening 8 games due to work, is also welcome, and his recent run of form has seen him get knocks of 70, 80, 76 and 84 in the last 5 games. Other notable performances include Mike Sammons and Harry Wright scoring 81 and 83 respectively against Thorley, with Jay Maisey taking 5-34 in the same game, and David Gunn with 72 against Wethersfield, with Rob Harrington taking 4-14 to help win that match.


Sunday cricket has also seen some mixed results, but gives a chance for younger players to come through and shine. In particular, Sean Lemon has played some great knocks including 115no against Stansted, and skipper Andrew Osborne also scored 100 in that game, which incredibly we lost by 1 run. Pat Roach was also a centurion against Stansted Hall & Elsenham (with 107no), and it has been good to welcome new players in the Takeley area such as Callum Fleming who has also played for our 2<sup>nd</sup> X1 after starting on a Sunday



On that note, as I always say, we would love to hear from anyone that has recently moved into the area, and would like to play cricket. We have just one Sunday fixture remaining (on 13<sup>th</sup> September) and we will also be running our Club Day at which anyone is welcome to turn up, on 6<sup>th</sup> September. Please contact our Captain, Liam Brown on 01279 871055, or complete a contact form on our website, [www.takeleycc.co.uk](http://www.takeleycc.co.uk). Our fixtures are also on our website.

One final note – we have our Autumn Quiz Night fast approaching – it is earlier this year as we wanted to avoid any England Rugby World Cup games – so if anyone would like a table for Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September at the Village Hall, please contact me for details and booking

Malcolm Brown  
Hon Secretary  
Tel: 01279 871055

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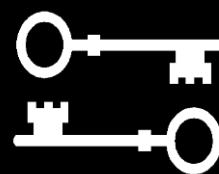
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Once again I have to report the sad passing of one of our members. David Venable was a committee member of TLHS for many years. His forte was quietly working away extracting gems of data from the records we have such as the old school log books or the Takeley Station goods-inwards books. From these he would compile an insight into the everyday workings of the village which could be used in our booklets. He will be very much missed.

Our annual outing on 1<sup>st</sup> August this year was to Takeley Church where Trevor Allen guided us through some of the history of the Church itself. This was well attended and we all left knowing more than when we arrived.

At our next meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> September (7.30pm at Takeley Primary School) I will be making a video presentation of the local area on film using old newsreels and other film resources.

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

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

Today, with our food coming from all over the world, we are inclined to forget the importance of the harvest. However, in times gone by the harvest was the most important event of the year. If the harvest failed then people suffered. A successful harvest was reason to give thanks.

### **Report in the Herts & Essex Observer -- Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> August 1869.**

#### **ACCIDENT TO HARVESTMEN.**

On Saturday evening about 9 o'clock an accident occurred on the New London Road, Chelmsford, which might have been attended with serious loss of life. It appears that a number of harvest-men from Takeley, who had been at work for Mr Bridge, of Stock, were returning home in a large van, with all the paraphernalia of sickle reaping, and all dangerously intoxicated, The driver seems to have been in the same plight, and when opposite the cemetery, to have driven onto the path and so jolted and turned the vehicle that one of the wheels broke and the contents of the van, helplessly drunken men, sharp sickles and empty beer bottles, were precipitated into the road in a mass.

Several of the men bled profusely, but such is the Providence which watches over us in our worst moments, not one was injured from the sickles scattered about among them. They were removed to the Lion Inn, where their wounds were washed and they were otherwise carefully attended to.

### **Report in the Herts & Essex Observer - Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> October 1877.**

#### **HARVEST THANKSGIVING SERVICE.**

On Friday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, the Annual Thanksgiving Service was held at Takeley Church at 4 o'clock p.m. The Church was very prettily decorated with flowers, fruit, and corn (the offerings of parishioners and others). The service was simple, but very hearty with special Psalms and hymns. The prayers were read by the Rev R.Hart, the vicar. The lessons were read by the Rev W.L.Scott, vicar of Dunmow, and the sermon was preached by the Rev Canon Borton, formerly rector of Wickham St Pauls, from Jer. V. 24; it was plain, earnest and practical, and was listened to by a very large and attentive congregation of parishioners, most of the farmers kindly giving their men the time to attend.

### **Report in the Herts & Essex Observer - Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October 1882,**

#### **HARVEST THANKSGIVING SERVICE.**

On Friday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, the Annual Harvest Thanksgiving Service was held at Takeley Church at 4 o'clock p.m. The congregation was large, in spite of the wet weather, and the principal farmers of the parish were present. The church had been prettily decorated with flowers, fruit, and corn by the vicar's wife, assisted by Miss Hart, Mrs Bowtell, the Misses L Orpen, E.Hockley, Ross, Captain Swan etc. The service was simple and very hearty. Proper psalms were used, and the lessons for St Michael's Day. Prayers were said by the vicar, The Rev R.Hart, and beautiful sermon was preached by the Rev E.E.W.Kirkby, M.A. vicar of Ware, from Jer viii,20 - "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved" . The collection amounting to £5 was given in aid of the Royal Agricultural Benefit Association.

### **Report in the Herts & Essex Observer - Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> September 1898.**

A HARVEST HOME -- was given at Old House Farm last Friday evening by Mr and Mrs J.W.Patmore. A company of 40 was present, with Mr T.Bowtell in the chair, and Mr James Scruby (Bishop's Stortford) in the vice chair. The health of Mr and Mrs Patmore and family was heartily drunk at the suggestion of Mr Scruby, and ringing cheers were given to them for their kindness. The proceedings were enlivened with music and songs by Miss Reynolds (Romford), Miss G.Patmore, Miss A.Patmore, Messrs H.O.Lee, G.B.Smith, S.E.Sharman, J.O.Sell, and many of the employees.

### **Report in the Herts & Essex Observer - Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> September 1900**

HARVEST HOME. Mr T.J.Patmore of Old House Farm, Takeley, entertained his harvest men at a harvest home supper, on Friday evening 21<sup>st</sup> inst. The supper was served in the large barn, which had been nicely decorated by Miss's A and G Patmore. The Chair was taken by Mr T Bowtell, and the Vice Chair by Mr W.A.Evans and Mr H.O.Lee, with the visitors the company numbered 40.

### **Report in the Herts & Essex Observer - Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September 1906.**

WALTHAM HALL HARVEST HOME --was held on Saturday, when Messrs Haslam & Sons, entertained at supper (a company numbering about 30) After a repast a few toasts were submitted, and songs and dancing followed. Those contributing songs were -- Mr Bert Haslam, - Messrs Mynott, - Tyrrell, - Baker, - Gypps, - Reynolds, - Prior and Rolfe.



# THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY

By the time this article appears in parish magazines, we will have finished updating all the parish introductions that appear on our website

[www.hundredparishes.org.uk](http://www.hundredparishes.org.uk). Each introduction now has a short description of key elements of the parish's history and heritage, as well as photos and links to further information, either online or in print. We have also updated population figures for each parish to show numbers derived from the 2011 Census. The overall population of the Hundred Parishes grew by 10% in ten years to 139,000. Half of that growth may be regarded as exceptional, arising from construction of four "airport-related" residential developments in the vicinity of Stansted Airport.

Our website's What's On page shows that July offers a number of opportunities to visit some of our treasured private houses and gardens, as well as churches and windmills that open to the public only occasionally. I will draw attention to two particular opportunities .

St Mary's Church, Stansted Mountfitchet, is cared for by the Churches Conservation Trust. During July it will be open each day from 11am to 4pm to display the new "Stansted Heritage" embroidery, together with photos and postcards that trace the parish's history.

From July 4<sup>th</sup> to September 12<sup>th</sup>, Braintree District Museum in Braintree will be staging "World War II - The People's Story", an exhibition of the impact on Braintree District of the Second World War. Although the town of Braintree itself is outside the Hundred Parishes, eight of our parishes are within Braintree district, including Wethersfield and Great Saling that each had wartime airfields. The exhibition includes photos, objects and memories from the rural areas. Braintree District Museum is open Tuesday to Saturday, 10am to 4pm.

The very last parish introduction to go onto our website happened to be for Barkway. This parish lies in the far northwest of the Hundred Parishes area, one of just three (with Barley and Nuthampstead) in the district of North Hertfordshire.

Our introductions always include a few photos, usually recent images, but Barkway's also has a copy of a wonderful photo that had been published as a postcard in 1904. When I first saw the picture, I knew I had to go and find where it was taken and perhaps take an equivalent photo of today's scene. I hope it may inspire you to do the same.

I was not disappointed. The view down the main street had hardly changed – except that there were now pavements and the once-empty main road now had parked cars – including mine. Nearly all buildings are still recognisable, although their uses may have changed. Today there is just one pub, where once there were



many to service the horse-drawn coaches on this once-popular route between London and Cambridge.



The local lasses didn't all come out to marvel at my pocket camera, nor did they wear long posh frocks and bonnets. I also didn't see any lads in flat caps, but it wasn't difficult to find the spot where the photographer had stood. Besides, the stroll through the village was a most pleasant experience, with little passing traffic and lots of lovely old buildings. I hope this old

photo may inspire you to explore Barkway.

You may like to try the three mile walk around Stansted Mountfitchet that can be downloaded from the Walks section of our website [www.hundredparishes.org.uk](http://www.hundredparishes.org.uk). The description of walk number 3 is illustrated with postcard images of a hundred years ago. Each location can be readily identified today.

The Stansted walk, like each of the 20 on our website, starts and finishes at a railway station on the line from Cambridge to London Liverpool Street or on the spur to Hertford East.

Fifty years ago, there would have been far greater scope for walks between stations. More than twenty parishes had a train station then, compared with just seven today. A spate of line closures in the 1960s followed the recommendations of British Rail's chairman, Dr Richard Beeching. A third of Britain's rail track was deemed uneconomic because passengers and freight were migrating from rail to road. It may be hard for younger people today to imagine that before the 1960s only one household in ten had a car.

Our area was particularly affected by rail closures: in the north the line from Cambridge via Linton to Haverhill and the branch line from Audley End through Saffron Walden to Bartlow; in the west, the Buntingford line; and in the east the route between Bishop's Stortford, Dunmow and Braintree. The closure of so many stations probably constrained expansion and thereby helped the Hundred Parishes retain its rural characteristics.

Whilst the rails have been removed, the routes are still largely visible on maps and on the ground, with the Dunmow track finding new life as the Flich Way for people on foot, cycle or horseback.

**Ken McDonald**  
**Secretary**





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## Book Review by Elaine Wyld

### **The Garden of Evening Mists**

by

**Tan Twan Eng**

Tan Twan Eng's first book "The Gift of Rain" was long listed for the Man Booker Prize in 2007 and his latest novel "The Garden of Evening Mists" won the Man Asian Literary Prize 2012. Set in Malaya during the Second World War, Tan Twan Eng has woven his story around historical events that occurred during the brutal Japanese invasion and occupation of Malaya and the book moves between two time scales – the 1950's and the 1980's.

The main character Yun Ling lived with her sister and parents in Kuala Lumpur. They were taken prisoner by the Japanese. The girls were sent to an internment camp in the Jungle. Although Yun Ling survives, her sister Yun Hon does not. She was chosen as a 'comfort girl' to the soldiers. Yun Ling promised her sister that she would create a Japanese garden in their old home in the Cameron Highlands of Malaya. Yun Ling, a supreme court judge, now retired, who helped to prosecute Japanese war criminals is battling with her diagnosis of "Aphasia". Wishing to fulfil her promise and in an effort to overcome the memories of torture and suffering, she seeks out an old friend Magnus who owns a tea plantation in the Highlands, to assist her in building a beautiful Japanese garden her sister so admired. Magnus is married to a local woman and has a son Frederick, the heir to the plantation and an admirer of Yun Ling.

Magnus directs her to Nakamura Aritomo who was once the gardener of Emperor Hirohito now dismissed after a disagreement with the Emperor. Yun Ling finds Aritomo working on his own creation, Yugiri, "A Garden of Evening Mists". He turns down her request to help her create her own garden but suggests she become his apprentice. It transpires that he had links with the Japanese government during the war to help save local people, and agreements with the communist guerrillas CT's to protect his garden and neighbours from their attacks. Yun Ling and Aritomo start a love affair. Yun Ling agrees to allow Aritomo to create a horimono tattoo on her back before he disappears into the jungle. She realises that it is not just an accomplished pattern using the skills of a dying art that he has etched on her back, but a key to hidden treasure. Having agreed to have her skin preserved after her death, she finds herself with the dilemma of preserving the artist's last work and also revealing the map of the hidden gold to others.

Cannongate

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## About the Takeley Parish Council Newsletter

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

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

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

or email to [newsletter@takeleypc.co.uk](mailto:newsletter@takeleypc.co.uk)

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

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

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

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

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

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

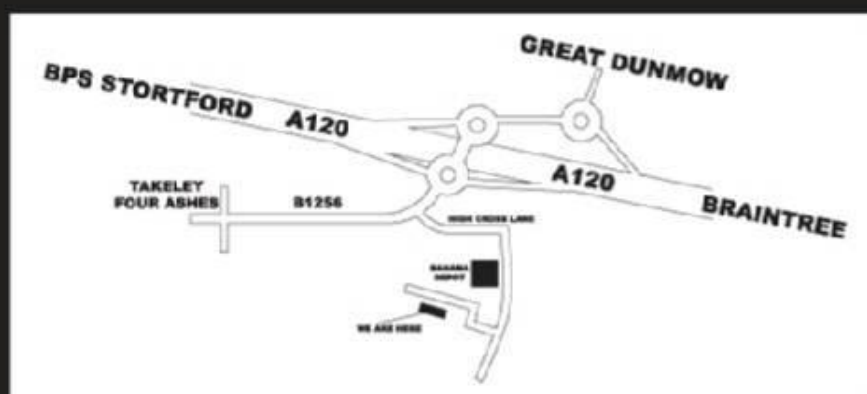
**All cheques should be made out to Takeley Parish Council and sent to Jane Heskey.**

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