



Thakeham

Parish Council News

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Welcome to our Winter newsletter. After the warmest and wettest December for many years another year is upon us which unfortunately for many in the north of UK has involved the misery and heartache of flooded homes and ruined businesses. Although the situation is not as severe here, we too have had an excess of rainwater to contend with in Thakeham and surrounding areas, including road flooding causing dangerous driving conditions.

The cause of most of the flooding problems seems to be the poor drainage that we now have across our countryside. Water courses, roadside ditches and culverts become and are allowed to remain blocked through leaf and other debris. West Sussex County Council needs to look at how to improve the situation in our area, especially as we can expect that construction of more housing will only add to the problem.

On the housing front, we are still in dialogue with the Abingworth developer on design details. Construction on site has been delayed but will commence in the coming weeks. We have also been working with Crest Nicholson to improve designs for their Water Lane development, where work is now underway.

We have strongly objected to the recent planning application from Gladman Homes for 107 homes off the Storrington Road and await Horsham District Council's ruling on this one with great interest as it is not part of their district planning framework, nor our Neighbourhood Plan.

Our Neighbourhood Plan completed its public consultation stage in December. We are reviewing submissions received and will continue to work for a plan that ensures that the fabric of the village way of life is retained for future generations to enjoy, without being engulfed in urban sprawl. We still hope that the referendum to adopt the plan will take place within six months.

Discussions relating to the future of Rydon Community College and Thakeham First School have come to a head with further public consultation on proposals published by WSCC in December. The Parish Council will consider the arguments carefully before submitting its response. Anyone can submit a response via the online consultation site at <https://haveyoursay.westsussex.gov.uk/>

We want to improve communication with everyone and bring greater vibrancy into the community. As part of this, we will be reviving the Village Day this year, as a joint event with local schools. We are still looking for volunteers to help us with this, so, come on, please contact us and show your support for our lovely village (see further details overleaf).

I would like to warmly welcome Craig Macpherson who joined the Parish Council late last year, and brings the team of councillors up to full strength. We are here to work for you, so do get in touch about local issues: we may be able to help.

Alan Hunt,

Chairman, Thakeham Parish Council

GET INVOLVED!

JOIN OUR NEW COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

We are looking for people to get involved with developing our website, writing this newsletter and helping with social media. We would particularly welcome input from younger members of the community. Contact Caroline Instance (details overleaf).

PARISH DESIGN STATEMENT

Councillor Neil St Clair is looking for help to update the current Parish Design Statement (viewable on the Parish Website). Neil's contact details are overleaf.

THAKEHAM WEB ARCHIVE

If you have photographs, maps, sketches or other documents relating to the parish from Victorian times to the end of the 20th century, they could become part of a new Parish Council website resource. Contact Cllr Roger Taylor (details overleaf).

VILLAGE HALL TRUST NEEDS YOUR HELP

A new volunteer minute secretary is still needed to support the Village Hall Trust, which meets 5-6 times each year. If you think you can help, please contact John Bearman (johnbearman47@hotmail.com, 01903 744971)

THAKEHAM GARDENERS CLUB

This friendly, informal club for anyone interested in gardening meets at 7.30pm on the second Monday of each month in the Village Hall. Contact: Linda Turk on 01903 743640.

CLEAN FOR THE QUEEN THIS SPRING!

On the weekend of 4-6 March we are joining a national 'Clean for The Queen' scheme, linked to the Queen's 90th birthday. Enjoy a few hours litter-picking to make our parish more beautiful. See our website or contact the Clerk for details.

ST MARY'S CHURCH

Historic church and active congregation; activities range from bell-ringing to the Thakeham Curry Club! To get involved call 01798 813121 or email info@thakehamchurch.com and see thakehamchurch.typepad.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THAKEHAM PRE-SCHOOL

We look forward very much to moving into our new Pre-School which we understand is going to be at some point in 2017. In the meantime we will continue to enjoy making the most of our wonderful outside area, exploring the natural environment and having camp fires etc. We currently have some spaces available and welcome visitors at any time. Contact Sharon Rance 01798 815467.

BEEKEEPING FOR BEGINNERS – TASTER EVENT

A one day course by Wisborough Green Beekeepers Association, Saturday 5 March in Pulborough. See www.wgbka.org.uk or contact Roger Patterson 01403 790637, roger-patterson@btconnect.com



WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING IN THAKEHAM

FIRST SCHOOL NEWS

We have had a busy time at Thakeham First School. Christmas was exciting with parties, a visit to the pantomime, and of course our wonderful nativity and service at St Mary's Church. Our Christmas Fayre was amazing with lots of fun things to do and even a visit from Father Christmas! Willows class helped run stalls and our choir performed Christmas carols to a packed hall. Our choir also entertained residents at Sussex Downs Care Home, which brightened their Christmas and even brought some tears of joy! Following our success in achieving our International School Award we took part in the 'Christmas Tree Festival' making traditional decorations from all over the world. We were lucky enough to meet MP Nick Herbert and talk to him about the stories behind the decorations from each of the countries.

In assemblies this term we are learning about British Values and democracy. MP Nick Herbert will be leading an assembly on this and we will also learn from visits by Thakeham Parish Council and our local UK Youth Member for Parliament, Stephen Gearing, who attends Steyning Grammar School.

There are lots of jobs we are involved in at school and the village as part of our responsibilities. We have 'adopted' Bramble Lane and Woodland Way and last term cleared up all the litter on Bramble Lane. We now have Eco Warriors who will be looking at ways to help our school and surrounding area to be as 'green' as possible. On the playground we have Play Leaders who help to organise and lead lots of fun games with the new equipment.

We look forward to bringing you lots more news of exciting things happening at our school!

Written by Lucy K and Saffron, Year 5.



THAKEHAM VILLAGE DAY, SATURDAY 18 JUNE

The 2016 Thakeham Village day will be on Saturday 18 June and will be a joint effort between the Parish, Thakeham First School and Thakeham Pre-school. We intend it to be a fun day for all generations in our community and will also have information stands about the developments in the village.

If you are interested in being part of the organising team or would like to have a stall to sell your local crafts and produce or promote your local club, or have other good ideas to make the event a success, please contact Cllr Caroline Instance or our parish clerk Owen Richards via the contact routes below.

Everyone else – please put it in your diary and come along to show your support for our lovely village!

ALLOTMENTS

After several false dawns in recent years there is now real prospect of Thakeham gaining an allotment amenity via the 23-plot site due as part of completion of the Abingworth development, hopefully in 2017. In advance, during 2016, the parish is inviting residents to express interest in becoming plot-holders, and to be volunteer members of an Allotment Society to run the site.

With apologies to those who have asked for plots in previous years, we feel so much time has passed that we should start afresh with this, **so to express your interest please contact the Clerk.**

DOG WASTE PROBLEMS

Unfortunately there's no such thing as the poo fairy! Please 'bag it and bin it', but **don't** use the litter bins in children's playgrounds.



THAKEHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE

Our Neighbourhood Plan continues its progress through the public examination process. Following the six-week consultation which completed in December we are reviewing submissions and liaising with Horsham District Council. The final version of the Plan will then go to an independent Examiner. All being well, a referendum to adopt the plan can still take place within six months, and we will aim for a high turnout. Having a Neighbourhood Plan endorsed by the Thakeham community will be a major boost to protecting the rural character of the area, and improving local amenities, infrastructure and environment. The Plan and supporting documents are on the parish website, and there is also a Facebook page: ThakehamNeighbourhoodPlan.

DID YOU KNOW? Could you or a loved one be missing out on benefits you are entitled to?

Age UK West Sussex (www.ageuk.org.uk/westsussex/information--advice/ 0800 019 1310) offer free impartial advice on a range of issues for people aged over 50, families and carers. Full advice on **Choosing Care options** is also available at www.westsussexconnecttosupport.org

HOW TO CONTACT US

Parish Councillors

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| Alan Hunt (Chair) | Tel: 01798 813506 |
| Christine Hounslow | Tel: 01798 815993 |
| Caroline Instance | Tel: 01403 741369 |
| Edwin Linnell | Tel: 01798 812151 |
| Dave MacEachern | Tel: 01798 815722 |
| Craig Macpherson | Tel: 01903 740207 |
| Fiona McConnachie | Tel: 01798 815176 |
| Norman Prince | Tel: 01798 813064 |
| Dick Scott Kerr | Tel: 01903 297020 |
| Neil St Clair | Tel: 01798 815202 |
| Roger Taylor | Tel: 01798 815969 |

District Councillors

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| Mr John Blackall | Tel: 01798 812432 |
| Mr Philip Circus | Tel: 01798 812719 |
| Mr David Jenkins | Tel: 01903 743671 |

County Councillor

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|----------------------|-------------------|
| Mrs Patricia Arculus | Tel: 01798 813258 |
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Clerk to the Council

Owen Richards

Website

Core office hours: 9:00-14:00 Mon-Fri

The Parish Office, Thakeham Parish Council, Storrington Road, Thakeham, RH20 3EJ

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