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## FULL STEAM AHEAD IN THE NEW VILLAGE HALL!

The long-anticipated handover of the new Thakeham Village Hall and football facilities in the Abingworth Meadows development finally happened on 13 December 2018 – replacing the old hall 32 years to the day after the old hall opened. The Village Hall Trust has already made great strides with setting up the new facilities and engaging with lots of new groups of users. The new spaces and playing fields can be booked for business meetings, groups and clubs, celebrations and parties. The new website ([www.thakehamvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.thakehamvillagehall.co.uk)) gives full details of the facilities, information about upcoming events, and facilitates online booking of the various spaces. Events are also advertised on the Thakeham Village Hall Facebook page.

The large Hall and the Chesswood Room (suitable for meetings/functions) can be booked with access to a well-appointed kitchen, and an outside patio area. The building is fully accessible, including accessible WC facilities and parking. There are two baby change areas.

Chair of the Village Hall Trust, John Bearman says: 'We aim to create a community hub for Thakeham with a broad offering of activities for all ages and interests. With this in mind we want to hear from you. If there is something you'd like to see taking place at the hall or if you are interested in starting up a new group of any kind please do get in touch.'

Reflecting this philosophy, the Village Hall will be holding drop-in coffee mornings the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month – all are welcome. And on the evening of the third Wednesday of the month the PC is running open, ticketed, community events; on 20 February there will be wine tasting and on 20 March a chocolate extravaganza! For more information or if you would like to get involved with helping run a Community Event please contact the Chair of the

Community Group, [caroline.instance@btinternet.com](mailto:caroline.instance@btinternet.com) 07969432923.

The new Hall is also due to host some HDC Year of Culture 2019 events: there will be Samba and Stomp workshops on 9th March and a play about a local football club "Red Lion" provisionally set for Saturday 14 September.

The football facilities are used by Thakeham FC seniors and Ashington Cougars youth team for in-season weekends, but are available for other bookings – contact the Village Hall managers.

**To contact Sarah or Amanda, the joint Hall Managers, you can use their website contact page, email [info@thakehamvillagehall.co.uk](mailto:info@thakehamvillagehall.co.uk) or call 01798 815467.**



### OTHER ABINGWORTH UPDATES



The Parish Council also expects the new Cricket facilities, with its attractive new pavilion, to be handed over very soon. West Chiltington & Thakeham Cricket Club are eagerly looking forward to their youth team making this their home ground from summer 2019.

As many residents will be aware, planning proposals have been made to amend arrangements in the nearly-completed Abingworth shop building, to include a veterinary practice sharing the ground floor with a combined shop and café, and additional flat. The PC's Planning Committee did not oppose these proposals because it felt it was more likely to get a viable shop in a

smaller area and a vet would provide a service to the community. The decision lies with Horsham District Council in February and a large number of Thakeham residents have submitted their own views.

**Opening of the new play area** for young children has been delayed for reasons to do with insurance. This playground will remain owned by Abingworth Homes, who need to set up the entity that will manage the landscaped areas of the development, and take out public liability cover. We are continuing to press for this facility to be opened as soon possible, but unlike the High Bar Lane playground the PC is not in direct control. We would still welcome donations to the fund to continue to improve the High Bar Lane facility (visit [www.thakehamparish.co.uk/new-mega-play-tower-at-high-bar-lane](http://www.thakehamparish.co.uk/new-mega-play-tower-at-high-bar-lane)).

**New allotments:** although the location and specification of the new Abingworth allotments have been known for a long time, pinning down a delivery time is problematic because of the need to build the final phase 3 of the development in the same southern area of the site. We should have a clearer timeline once the developers submit further proposals, we think by March/April.

**Rights of Way** in the Abingworth area have gained a new permissive route across the north of the cricket field as well as the new east-west bridleway linking Strawberry Lane to the B2139 through the new development. The surface of Strawberry Lane is being improved, and progress continues to be made towards a safer walking/cycling route from central Thakeham to the Rock Road area – to find out more visit [www.thakehamparish.co.uk/rights-of-way-improvements](http://www.thakehamparish.co.uk/rights-of-way-improvements).

## **✕ JOIN THE PARISH COUNCIL: MAY ELECTIONS**

Have you ever thought about becoming a Parish Councillor? The current Council's four year term ends in May 2019. We have 11 members – if there are more than 11 candidates, an election will be held; if 11 or less, candidates will be deemed duly elected! Being a Parish Councillor is a great way to give something back to the community and to influence its future. The PC operates in a non-party-political way. As well as monthly full Council meetings, you can join several sub-Committees and Working Parties focusing on particular areas. Although an unpaid role, the Council funds and encourages Councillors to attend training courses, and it is rewarding work. If you would

like to find out more, please contact the Clerk or any of the existing Councillors for an informal chat about what the role entails. If you decide to stand in May, you will need to contact Electoral Services at Horsham District Council to find out about the necessary forms to complete and deadlines.

If being a full PC member sounds too great a commitment, you can still join our Community Working Group, whose role includes oversight of events and communications. You will also find other volunteering opportunities on the Village Hall website: [www.thakehamvillagehall.co.uk/volunteering-in-thakeham](http://www.thakehamvillagehall.co.uk/volunteering-in-thakeham). This includes helping to organise Thakeham Village day and Fun Guy Fest, which this year will be on 6 July, and we would like lots of people to be involved to make it a success.



## **ASSISTANT PARISH CLERK ROLE**

The Parish Council seeks an Assistant Clerk. This new role will focus on communications, as well as providing administrative support and cover in the absence of the Clerk. Key duties include:

- Administering the Parish website and Thakeham Community Facebook page
- Drafting the quarterly Parish Bulletin and liaising with local community groups and media
- Assisting with managing land and buildings owned by the Parish Council, and supporting other projects
- In the absence of the Clerk, covering some PC meetings and general administrative duties.

The role-holder will need to offer good written and verbal communication skills, computer literacy including social media expertise and must be able to work independently. S/he will need the aptitude to learn the PC's office systems and how the work of the PC relates to other local government and external agencies.

Hours: 5 hours/week (on average, but flexibility will be needed)

Salary: Local government scale SCP 22-25. (£11.22-12.39 per hour), paid monthly.

Applications should be submitted by Friday 1 March. Interviews will be held in mid-March with a view to the successful candidate beginning work in April 2019. For further particulars and details of how to apply, or to find out more about the role, contact the Parish Clerk, Owen Richards ([clerk@thakehamparish.co.uk](mailto:clerk@thakehamparish.co.uk) / 01798 815305 – or call in at the Parish Office).

## *Contact your Parish Council*

Clerk: Owen Richards  
Email: [clerk@thakehamparish.com](mailto:clerk@thakehamparish.com)  
Tel: 01798 815305  
[www.thakehamparish.co.uk](http://www.thakehamparish.co.uk)

Office: Thakeham Parish Council,  
NOW AT NEW Thakeham Village Hall,  
1 Abingworth Crescent, Thakeham,  
West Sussex RH20 3GW

Councillors' full contact details can be found at: [www.thakehamparish.co.uk/councillors](http://www.thakehamparish.co.uk/councillors)

## *Traffic calming*



Thakeham's new Speedwatch Group with Sophia Wilton (front)

## **! NEW THAKEHAM SPEEDWATCH GROUP**

As readers will know, the Parish Council and other concerned residents have been working in various ways to tackle traffic speed along the B2139 through the centre of our village. Following the recently installed traffic calming measures (still a work in progress) we are delighted to announce that we now have an active and properly equipped Thakeham Community Speedwatch Group! We are very grateful to Linfield Cope resident Ian King for setting up the group, and also to Global Associates Ltd. for their generous donation to buy a speed gun for the group to use, which was presented at an initial Sussex Police briefing event last week (see image above). Young Sophia Wilton, holding the speed camera above, attended the event in honour of her sister, Ellie, who lost her life as a result of an accident in 2017.

The new Speedwatch Group now needs more members to start regular 'patrols', and show that positive action can slow down the vehicles passing through our village. Anyone wanting to join the group should contact Ian King: you can PM Ian via the Thakeham Parish Community Facebook page or email

[iankingmr@gmail.com](mailto:iankingmr@gmail.com). The Parish Council will continue to support the group to be effective as possible. Its role is educational, reminding people who travel through our village that speed limits are maximums and that the most important thing is to drive with due care and attention and at a speed that is appropriate to the conditions of the road and the situation. Slow down in residential areas where there are likely to be children and pedestrians.

## **! CENTRAL ABINGWORTH TRAFFIC CALMING**

Readers will have noted the arrival of new 'village gateways' in December. The 'Welcome to Thakeham' message on these features does not, of course, change any real boundaries – the aim is just to have a visual impact that reinforces the 30mph zone by reminding drivers that they are entering a built-up area. Although the new measures have undoubtedly reduced average speeds since installation last August, they have also attracted some criticism. Following a safety review in October, highways specialists have agreed the need for further improvements, including – for the northern build-out – more visible bollards and road markings, additional 'give way' signage for northbound drivers, and more vegetation clearance. The southern build-out is in general considered to be working satisfactorily, but the 'Slow' road marking will be reinstated. At time of writing we expect this further work to happen in late January.

## **! WATER LANE ROUNDBOUT**

WSCC Highways have confirmed that they are aiming to install new pedestrian safety measures during 2019. We await sight of the specific design.

# Your local schools

## INSPIRED THAKEHAM LEARNERS!

Learning at Thakeham Primary School has sprung into the new year with some very exciting stunning starts to inspire and excite the children about their new topics.

Our Reception children had a freaky start to the year. When they came into the class on the first day they found lots of eggs on their carpet. They were trying to figure out what was in them. Some of them thought there might be some dinosaurs or chicks in them. The eggs were multi-coloured and very intriguing. They are all still waiting and hoping to see if they hatch.

Our Year 1/2 children had a visit from Daniel Gilmore at Sussex Music Workshop to link with their Australia topic. There were many interesting instruments, such as the didgeridoo, the banging sticks and the water sounding picture frame. The visit was very much enjoyed by Oak Class and even the teachers! There was also an instrument that when you twirled it round the animals can come and rescue you. This was



very interesting, as we didn't even know there was such an instrument! Daniel also read Oak class a story, and played some music for the Oak children – which they loved. Hopefully we will see Daniel in the future, with his musical instruments.

This term's topic for Maple class (Year 3/4) is light and sound, so Fizz Pop Scientists introduced lots of cool experiments about how to measure light and sound. The scientist 'Goopy Stewey' showed them how to make sound machines, glowing

beads that charge up in the sun and flutes made out of straws and lots of other interesting challenges. As you can imagine it was lots of fun. Also, the children learnt what types of materials glow under ultra violet light and how different types of chemicals make water glow under ultra violet light. Maple class finished off with a big bang of making lots of NOISE and playing with plasma balls to end their amazing day of science.



For Elder class's stunning start, Joe from Zoo Lab came to start the topic off by showing some amazing animals to the class. He started talking about classifications of animals whether they are invertebrates or vertebrates, herbivores or carnivores. The first animal we saw was Bruce the Giant African land snail. He was a huge snail and was a very interesting species of snail. 'He was very heavy and was all slimy' stated Brooke. Next was

Felicia the Chilean rose tarantula but nobody was allowed to stroke or hold her because she is incredibly delicate and if we dropped her she could damage her legs, or even die.

As you can see, a very exciting start to the term has been had by all.

**Brooke, Millie, Josie, Mabel and Emma-Rose**



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We look forward to hearing from you - and in the meantime, please make a note of our five Ps and start putting your plan into practice!

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### THAKEHAM PRE-SCHOOL

We have now been operating from our new building for a year and we are so pleased with the wonderful environment we have created inside and outside.

We are looking forward to further developing our planting project under the guidance of our gardener, Peter. We have already planted some seeds & bulbs and look forward to growing a wide range of vegetables which the children can try at Pre-School & we can also cook with the vegetables too.

We are also planning to further develop our Story Area, adding props & story sacks and providing opportunities for the children to act our familiar stories with their friends.

And we are planning to introduce a tropical fish tank which will provide some lovely hands on learning experiences for the children.

We are looking forward to our camp fires this term too, we have purchased some new resources which will allow us to cook a wider variety of food.

We currently have a couple of spaces available for the Summer Term and are registering children for the Autumn Term. If you would like to come and see us in action and register your child please call 01798 817437.

**Sharon Rance (Pre-School Manager)**

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## Community matters

### THAKEHAM PARISH HISTORY:

The Parish Council is in the process of creating a local history archive web page (<http://thakehamparish.co.uk/archive-area/>). We seek photographs, maps, sketches etc. relating to the parish from Victorian times to the end of the 20th century.

**Contact Cllr Roger Taylor ([edstrct@gmail.com](mailto:edstrct@gmail.com); 01798 815969.**



### THAKEHAM GARDENERS CLUB:

Meets second Monday of each month, 7.30pm, Village Hall. Annual Flower Show, 2 plant sales, outings and talks. **Contact: Linda Turk on 01903 741068.**



### THAKEHAM BELLRINGERS:

Based in St. Mary's church, we practice on Wednesday evenings from 7.30 to 9.00 p.m. and organise outings and links with other societies. We welcome anyone who is interested in finding out about ringing, and to see the bells. **To find out more visit [www.thakehamparish.co.uk/thakeham-bellringers/](http://www.thakehamparish.co.uk/thakeham-bellringers/) contact Christine Hounslow (01798 815993 [christinehounslow@hotmail.com](mailto:christinehounslow@hotmail.com)) or Roger Watts (01798 813775 [country.crafts88@gmail.com](mailto:country.crafts88@gmail.com)).**