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thakeham





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PARISH ELECTION RESULTS

We are pleased to confirm all 11 positions on Thakeham Parish Council have been filled. The first meeting on 20 May will welcome a full complement of 11 councillors, 3 of whom are new members. The 11 spaces on the Council were uncontested and, as such, all those nominated were duly elected. The new Parish Council will operate for the next 4 years and continue their good work representing Thakeham and the wider Parish.

If you would still like to get involved in your local community you can find other volunteering opportunities on the Parish Council website: <https://thakehamparish.co.uk/volunteering-in-thakeham/>. This includes helping to organise Thakeham Village day and the Fun Guy Fest which depend on volunteers to be a success.



New cricket pavilion

DEVELOPMENT NEWS

CRICKET PAVILION OPENING

We are excited to announce that the new cricket facilities delivered by the Abingworth development are being handed-over to the community and will shortly be in regular use by West Chiltington & Thakeham Cricket Club youth (and other) teams. There will be an opening celebration event for the Pavilion on Friday 24 May, with an open invitation for local residents to come and see the new facility and enjoy live music, bar and free hog roast on that afternoon/evening. Further information on this will be published on our website and community Facebook page closer to the time.

SHOP AND TODDLER PLAYGROUND

On 16 April Horsham District Council Development (South) Committee approved the proposal to amend the use of the Abingworth shop building to accommodate both a village store and a veterinary surgery. The Committee accepted the planning officer view that the community would be best served by enabling the two tenants who have already committed to this arrangement to get on and open their businesses. HDC's decision gels with the view taken by the Parish's planning committee. The PC has been very aware that there have been many resident objections to these proposals, but has remained guided by the evidence, and a focus on

delivering a sustainable arrangement for this important building, to offer the community good services and without further long delays. At time of writing we do not yet have a clear time-frame for when works will be complete and the new facilities opened but we will keep residents updated.

As many residents already know – but just to spread the word – the new playground for younger children by the new Village Hall is now fully open to the public.

RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENTS

Progress is being made on delivery of planned rights of way improvements. The first phase of this will include repairing the poor surface sections of Strawberry Lane and completion of new permissive paths within the Abingworth development. That will be followed by a new footway along the east side of the B2139 north of Merrywood Lane, connecting to the existing bridleway opposite Kingdom Hall. (Together, these works will create a safe walking/cycle route from central Thakeham to eastern Storrington, albeit not as direct a route as we would like.) The next phase, due for delivery over the summer, should involve a westward extension of the east-west bridleway through the Abingworth development, over the B2139 and through the Monaghans' site to rejoin High Bar Lane by the playground. This phase will hopefully also see the existing north-south footpath through the Monaghans site being opened as a permissive bridleway to allow equestrians to avoid the dangerous main road. More information will be on our website as these projects progress.

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ABINGWORTH PHASE 3 AND ALLOTMENTS

We are now expecting a public consultation exercise during May/June on the developer's proposals to amend the currently permitted final phase 3 of house-building. We will publish further details of this as soon as possible. This consultation will precede a formal planning application which the PC will obviously be considering very carefully. We do seem to be making progress with ideas to deliver the long-awaited new allotment area before phase 3 construction - the issue has always been how to give access to allotment-holders during that construction period, but some ideas are emerging which we will circulate soon.

THAKEHAM TILES

Looking ahead, one of the key upcoming planning issues is the Thakeham Tiles site. This is a designated site within the Thakeham Neighbourhood Plan, and the current 90 unit proposal now looks like it will be considered by Horsham District Council in May. Latest amendments to these proposals include pinch-point traffic calming features along that section of Rock Road.

Traffic calming

B2139 FROM STORRINGTON TO JACKETS HILL

West Sussex Highways have confirmed that they are moving ahead with lowering the speed limit to 40mph on this section of B2139, i.e. the speed limit will remain 40 from the edge of Storrington to the 30mph zone at Abingworth.

ABINGWORTH 30MPH ZONE

Indications from the latest and probably final Highways-led safety audit of the build-outs in the Abingworth 30mph zone seems to be a decision to retain the current arrangement, subject to further minor improvements. A further collection of traffic speed/volume data is being scheduled for the summer, to measure the impact of the calming works more clearly.

MONAGHANS ENTRANCE WORKS

The planning application to reshape Monaghans' entrance so that HGV vehicles cannot exit to the north is being iterated with WSCC Highways and we expect this to be signed off and works to begin before long.

COMMUNITY NEWS

THE VOICE



Residents banded together to support local singing star Jimmy Balito, who was a contestant on ITVs "The Voice". Jimmy, 23, lives in a nearby village and plays for Thakeham Village Football Club and Thakeham and West Chiltington Cricket Club.

Once through the initial audition stage Jimmy was mentored by singer Olly Murs. He gave an emotional performance of Radiohead's "High and Dry" which won him a well-deserved place in the semi-finals. He continued to wow the judges and audiences alike with a version of Coldplay's "Fix You" which secured him a place in the final four.

Ahead of the live final, Jimmy posted on his Instagram a heartfelt thank you to all his fans for their support. Local residents all rallied behind him and put a call to social media to get voting. Jimmy narrowly missed out on a spot in the final two, but his hard work will surely not go to waste as he has no plans to give up singing. To get to the top four out of thousands of applicants is an amazing achievement so well done Jimmy!

Contact your Parish Council

Clerk: Owen Richards

clerk@thakehamparish.co.uk

Assistant Clerk: Charlotte Dumbrill

assistant-clerk@thakehamparish.co.uk

Telephone: 01798 815305

Facebook: @Thakeham Parish Community
www.thakehamparish.co.uk

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

Councillors' full contact details can be found at: www.thakehamparish.co.uk/councillors

VILLAGE SPRING CLEAN

Volunteers of all ages took part in litter picking on Saturday 13 April. The sun was (almost) shining and around 50 black bin bags of rubbish were collected. Several fly tipping spots were also discovered, and these have been reported to WSCC for safe removal. The annual Spring clean will be back next year but if you see litter on the floor when you're out and about please pick it up and put it in the bin.



MAY DAY WALK 6 MAY

Our annual Thakeham May Day walk will take place on bank holiday Monday 6 May. Walkers will meet at the car park of Thakeham Village Hall at 10am and set off to enjoy all the beautiful scenery that surrounds our village. Please share any photos you take along the way with us – email assistant-clerk@thakehamparish.co.uk

FIRE SAFETY EVENING 15 MAY

Local resident and full-time fire fighter Mike Coudray will be giving a fire safety talk to residents on the evening of Wednesday 15 May, starting at 7:30pm. It will include invaluable information and advice for home fire safety and business fire safety. He will have literature for people to take away as well as free smoke alarms. Please come along, show your support to Mike and learn something new to help keep you and others safe.

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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; 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/ contact Christine Hounslow (01798 815993 christinehounslow@hotmail.com) or Roger Watts (01798 813775 country.crafts88@gmail.com).**

OTHER NEWS

VILLAGE DAY 6 JULY

Plans are underway for the Thakeham Village Day on Saturday 6th July. Last year's event was our most ambitious one yet and we made sure to cater for all ages, this year we will build upon those successes.

If you can contribute with the planning beforehand, or help on the day, please get in touch. We need volunteers to help with stewarding, selling programs and directing cars to parking. If you would like to be a stall holder please contact Caroline Instance by email at: caroline.instance@bitinternet.com or you can download a form at www.thakehamparish.co.uk/village-day.

Caroline Instance

BUS SERVICE CUTS

We have been informed there will be changes to the Compass Travel 74/74A/74B route, our understanding is a few daytime revisions will be made but we await the finalised timetables. Once the final revision is known we will make residents aware.

NEW ASSISTANT CLERK

In our last bulletin we were advertising the role of an Assistant Clerk for the Parish Council. Interviews were held in March and Charlotte Dumbrell started the role at the beginning of April. The role will focus on communication between the Parish Council and residents, and you can expect to see more from Charlotte in the coming months, in print and on our online platforms. All the contact details for the Parish Council can be found on page 4 of the Bulletin.

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SPRING TERM HIGHLIGHTS AT THAKEHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL



World Book Day

On world book day everyone in Thakeham Primary had the most magical experience with a wonderful book breakfast to share with all their family and friends, then an absolutely amazing time with the author Abie Longstaff. Every class had to vote for their favourite costume and the very lucky children won a book for their age category.



Maths Day

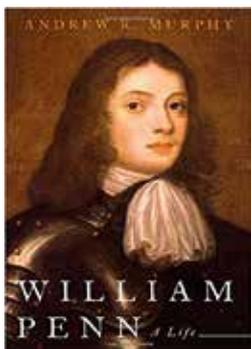
On Maths day the whole school took their time having lots of fun with Maths. We used the outside area, field, Forest School area and Cookery room to help us learn Maths in a practical, fun way. One class even did some amazing bowling using fractions and also did some great working outside with chalk.

Easter Service

Our Easter service was a time for us to reflect on some important themes in the Easter story including love, forgiveness, sadness and hope. Every child painted a rock to represent their class theme. Readings, and hymns were all part of our theme of 'Reflection.' We were delighted to have Rev'd Dawn Carn

help lead our service along with church helpers Mary Jane and Katherine. Rev'd Dawn has supported us over the past 2 years in her interim role at Trinity Church leading assemblies and welcoming us to the church too. We will miss her and wish her every health and happiness for the future.

Thakeham Primary School Reporters



WILLIAM PENN TALK 3 JUNE

Andrew R. Murphy, the author of the new book "William Penn: A Life" will be coming to Thakeham Village Hall on Monday 3 June.

Penn was a fascinating character – a major figure in the early Quaker movement who lived for a time at Warminghurst and helped establish the Blue Idol meeting house. He was a founder of the American colony of Pennsylvania, and its capital Philadelphia, and was one of the most prominent religious dissenters and political thinkers of his time.

Many local residents will know of Thakeham's Penn Stone, from which he is said to have preached in the late 17th century. But you may not know that an

attractive new permanent location has been provided for the stone by the Abingworth development - by the large pond towards the south-east of the site. As the planting matures, the setting will provide a leafy area open to all, for quiet contemplation, consistent with the Quaker outlook.

At time of writing options are being explored for some form of dedication for the new setting of the stone on 3rd June – further details will be published on the PC website and Community Facebook page.