

Quarter 1: 2018

Thakeham

Photo by Sophie Ward Photography



Children enjoying the outdoor area at the new Pre-School

In this edition

New Pre-school.....	2
Parish Council news.....	2
Thakeham Primary.....	3
Community matters.....	4
Road & travel news.....	4

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Thakeham Pre-School — Our New Chapter

We were delighted to cut the ribbons on Friday 5 January to mark the opening of our brand new premises at Abingworth Crescent, Thakeham. George Baker (whose older brother Stanley also attended Pre-School and little sister Violet is on our waiting list) assisted with the ribbon cutting. This represents the first of hopefully many generations who will attend Pre-School and enjoy this wonderful facility. The afternoon was a great success, attended by approximately 80 people – past, present and future families as well as many visitors from within our community.

"We are all delighted with our new 'home' and the wonderful difference it will make to the children and to us. We know everyone will love it as much as we do – there's so much space for the children to enjoy, and it's so light and bright and spacious. A lovely space to enjoy our weekly PE Sessions too. We're very passionate about creating a 'home from home' environment with lots of natural resources – lamps, plants, cosy areas with rugs where children can be relaxed and comfortable and happy to explore the exciting environment around them.

We also have a fantastic outside area where children can explore nature – experience the seasons first hand; plant and grow vegetables and flowers, build bug hotels, play in the muddy kitchen, climb, ride bikes and run freely. As well, we are continuing to enjoy our fantastic camp fires where we toast muffins and sing camp fire songs.

Our opening hours are currently Monday-Friday 8.30-3.30pm. We are considering the possibility of opening all year round. If you are interested in this please give me a call!

If you would like any further information or to arrange a visit please contact Sharon Rance (Manager) on 01798 817437 or via thakeham@hotmail.co.uk or visit thakehampreschool.uk.com

YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

As the article above explains, the Parish Council is delighted to see the staff and children of Thakeham Pre-School enjoying their wonderful new facilities since moving into their new building in Abingworth Crescent in January. This is the first of the Abingworth community assets to be delivered and transferred to Parish Council ownership, and we are looking forward to working in long-term partnership with the Pre-School.

The management of new community assets brings new costs but we are also very mindful of the need not to add to residents' financial burdens. The Parish Council has agreed a 2018/19 budget that will hold our total operating budget steady at the same level as 2017/18, allowing us to set an unchanged precept (the parish share of Council Tax bills) of £51 for a Band D house. More detail on our budget can be found at thakehamparish.co.uk/policies-finance

Amongst our future plans is that the PC will lease the Glebe Field from Chichester Diocese, to safeguard it as a communal green space. We hope to confirm this shortly.

The Abingworth development has now delivered 20 new 3-bed affordable/shared ownership houses which are being marketed by Fowlers estate agents. Work remains on schedule to deliver the new Village Hall, Pavilion and football changing rooms by mid-2018. We are also discussing with the Abingworth developer and the Blue Idol Quaker group a plan to re-site the 'Penn

Parish Councillor vacancy

A vacancy has arisen for a new member, and we would like to hear from Thakeham residents interested in becoming a co-opted parish councillor. This is a great time to get involved, as we prepare for delivery of the new Village Hall and other facilities in mid-2018. The deadline for applications is 9 March 2018. We would particularly welcome new members with an interest in community events and communications. To find out more about what's involved, contact the Clerk or any of our current Councillors.

Stone' in an attractive landscaped setting within the Abingworth development. More on this in our next edition, when we will also update residents with progress with the plans to refurbish equipment in the High Bar Lane playground.

Planning is also in hand for more Thakeham community events in 2018, and we are liaising closely with both the primary and secondary schools at Rock Road, and the great team who run the biennial Thakeham Festival. Current thinking for this year is pointing towards a new main event in mid-September: we will publish details as soon as possible. If you would like to get involved in helping to organise events, do get in touch with us, and we are also still keen to hear from anyone interested in helping coordinate a new community minibus scheme.

In the midst of another wet winter we are aware that floodwater on local roads creates dangers, especially when

frozen. We are working with Highways and landowners to fix known issues, but there is a wider and increasing problem with poor drainage across our countryside caused by maintenance of ditches and culverts being neglected. Please help by ensuring that the ditches around your land aren't part of this problem!

**Alan Hunt, Chairman
Thakeham Parish Council**

Mr B Thornton — an apology

The Parish Council apologises that our lack of communication meant that Mr Thornton and his family were not given the opportunity to attend the memorial event for Ellie of 10th July 2017, and for any distress this has caused.

Contact the Parish Council

Clerk: Owen Richards
Web: www.thakehamparish.co.uk
Email: clerk@thakehamparish.co.uk
Telephone: 01798 815305
Office:

Thakeham Parish Council, Storrington Road, Thakeham RH20 3EJ
Councillors' full contact details can be found at:

<http://thakehamparish.co.uk/councillors>

Exciting times at Thakeham Primary!

What an exciting time, growing and becoming a Primary School and moving to our new site at Rock Road! We returned to school excited by our new topics and our new and improved resources. We have big classrooms, with new Clevertouch screens to help our learning, a fantastic new library, hall and lots of field and playground space. One of our Year 6 responsibilities is to be a 'buddy' to the Reception children which we love! The extra space and working alongside Steyning Grammar School PE teachers, are helping our skills and confidence in sports tournaments.

Our new Cookery room is a hit and well used by all our classes, preparing and cooking delicious treats! We've even developed a new Forest School site with the help of students from Chichester University and sponsorship from Oakford Homes.

Last term our oldest class experienced the adventure of a lifetime at a PGL residential centre at Hindhead, Surrey. We had so much fun with the thrilling activities developing lots of skills such as: bravery, teamwork, co-operation. Many of us conquered our worst fears and felt very brave!

There is always something exciting happening at our new school and everyone looks after each other, like one big family!

Ollie, Dylan & Isabella (Year 6).



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COMMUNITY MATTERS

■ Can you help support our Parish Councillors?

Our councillor team is kept busy covering the various aspects of the Parish Council's remit, but we could be more effective with a bit of extra help from local residents on some specific projects. Current priorities that would benefit from extra person-power are: assisting with community events and communications, and setting up a volunteer-based local minibus scheme. Contact the Clerk to find out more!

■ Village Hall news

The Pre-School will soon be moving out from the Village Hall into their new premises. This means the hall will be available to hire during the daytime for other clubs and activities. **Contact Barbara Laker (Bookings Secretary) on 01798 812266.** It is also hoped to run a drop-in café at least one morning a week, for anyone who would like to meet up for a drink and a chat with friends and others.

The new village hall is scheduled for this summer, and we are looking for more volunteers to join the Committee and help run the new facility. **Contact John Bearman (Hall Chairman) on 01903 744971/johnbearman47@hotmail.com**

We are also looking for ideas from everyone about what sort of activities and clubs you would like to see in the new hall. **As part of this there will be drop-in sessions in the current Village Hall on Thursday 1 March (11am-4pm) and Saturday 10 March (10am-4pm)** when you can meet the current team and give your input.



■ 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 <http://thakehamparish.co.uk/thakeham-bellringers> Contact Christine Hounslow (01798 815993) christinehounslow@hotmail.com or Roger Watts (01798 813775) working.cap@btinternet.com.

■ Thakeham Gardeners Club

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

■ Thakeham Parish History: Can You Contribute?

The Parish Council has begun the process of creating a local history archive web page (<http://thakehamparish.co.uk/archive-area/>). We are seeking 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)**

ROAD & TRAVEL NEWS

Traffic Calming

The situation relating to traffic calming in the Abingworth 30mph zone is that, after a frustrating series of technical delivery glitches and delays, we understand that the long-agreed installation of new vehicle-activated signs will be happening in February. This will be followed by new village 'gateway' features.

In relation to the 'phase 2' proposals for a new 'pinch point' system, after taking on board very useful feedback from residents in October, formal consultations on the scheme opened in December and closed in January. A detailed engineering scheme based on the consulted plan is now being worked-up and submitted for Highways sign-off. All being well, work will begin in spring 2018.

While initially prioritising the Abingworth area, we are also pursuing the extension of the 40mph limit from the northern edge of Storrington over Jackets Hill. We also remain concerned about the safety of pupils commuting on foot/bicycle around Rock Road, and are working with the WSCC Safe Routes to Schools Team on this.

If you witness cases of speeding, driving while using a mobile phone or other anti-social driving behaviour, and you have the registration number, report it! www.operationcrackdown.org

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SPORTS CLUBS



West Chiltington and Thakeham Cricket Club

As the start of the 2018 cricket season draws closer, we would like to update everyone about some of our plans for the year ahead.

With regard to the new cricket ground which is at the heart of the Abingworth Meadows development in Thakeham, discussions are underway between the Parish Council and ourselves and we are confident of securing tenure for 2018 and beyond. As the club has gradually expanded over the past few years, it has become increasingly important to have access to an additional home ground, to allow us to accommodate more matches for our junior, women's and 3rd XI sides. The cricket square was laid a couple of years ago and the construction of the pavilion is now well underway.

In 2018 our 1st XI will be playing at the highest league level the club has ever achieved, which puts us amongst the top 40 clubs in Sussex. However, we do also pride ourselves on remaining a village club. We run 3 men's competitive league sides on Saturdays but we also welcome occasional players who enjoy friendly cricket on Sundays, boys and girls from 5-16 years who are keen to learn the game and ladies who would like to play in our women's teams or who would like to take up a new sport. We are also pleased to welcome social members and supporters to the club at anytime, to watch our matches or join in with our many social events.

www.wctcc.org.uk

Thakeham Community Bulletin is produced four times a year by **Eyelevel Design**
Telephone: 01798 865480 Email: bulletin@eyeleveldesign.co.uk

The Sisters Memorial Fund

Christine Hounslow is pleased to report that at the end of November the Memorial Bench for Eileen Davies and Doreen Thompson was installed, as planned, adjacent to the bus stop at the southern end of Abingworth Crescent. There is a surplus of £180 in the fund which will be sent to St. Barnabas in their name. Thanks again to those of you who have made this memorial possible.

Waste collections are changing

From February 2018 Horsham District Council will be rolling out changes to your waste and recycling collection service.

Your recycling will be collected one week and your household waste will be collected the same day the following week. Garden waste will continue to be collected fortnightly for those who have subscribed to this service.

Remind yourself of your new collection dates via your online personalised collections calendar:

www.horsham.gov.uk/bincalendar

If you have any questions about this please visit www.horsham.gov.uk/newbincollections in the first instance which will answer most of your queries and includes a Frequently Asked Questions section. Tel: 01403 733144.



A note from the publisher

Do you have any events in the Parish that you would like to promote? Please email: bulletin@eyeleveldesign.co.uk and we will try to include in the next issue due out in April.

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Kerry at Eyelevel Design

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