



What's On?

The Newsletter of Bulmer - June 2011
(Including Bulmer St., Bulmer Tye, Finch Hill, Batt Hall, Upper & Lower Houses, Church Rd & Hedinaham Road).
View in colour at www.bulmeressex.co.uk

A NEW ERA BEGINS!

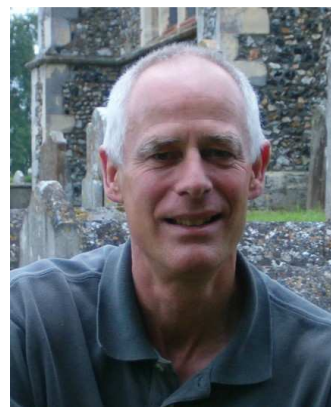
Following the elections held at the beginning of May and the first meeting of the council, your new Parish Council and Clerk looks like this:



Mike Crome - Chairman



Hannah Fraser - Parish Clerk
(from the July meeting)



Peter Fulcher - Vice Chairman
and Emergency Plan



Christine Leigh - Coe's
Meadow & Planning



Stephen Morgan -
Allotments



Bethan Cook



Rose Raymond



Phil. Bennis - Footpaths

Details of how to contact any of your councillors and the dates for future meetings can be found within this newsletter. You can also read more about each councillor on www.essexinfo.net/bulmer/your-councillors All are welcome to attend Parish Council meetings, at which you are able to address the council by giving notice to the Clerk at least seven days before the meeting. The reason for this is to allow the councillors to do any necessary research before responding to your statement or questions.

Hannah our new Clerk has lived in the village for 8 years (Yew Tree House - Bulmer Street), has a young family and a mad spaniel, has taken part in the VDS project and until recently was Vice Chair & Secretary for Brambley Hedge Nursery.

If you need to contact Hannah you can email her at hannah.fraser@sky.com anytime, or by telephone on 01787 374310 but would prefer these calls to be during the morning only.

**CAN YOU HELP!
DO YOU LIKE OLD BUILDINGS!
DO YOU WISH TO HAVE A CHURCH IN THE
VILLAGE!**

St Andrew's Church is Grade I Listed and has been the church in Bulmer from the 12th Century. As with any very old building there is much work required to keep it in good order. The cost to provide services and generally run the church, without carrying out any building work, is over £20,000 per annum. This sum, which does include insurance of the church, is provided by those attending the church and some other people in the village. The Parish Council also provides a grant of £650 towards the grass cutting in the churchyard: this covers about half of the costs and is given as the churchyard is the cemetery for the parish.



Every five years the church has to be inspected by an Architect who details all the work required. The last inspection was in 2008 and the following work, to be completed by 2013, is still outstanding:

Repainting of the tower walls and stonework repairs; internal repairs and decoration within the tower chambers; repairs to the churchyard boundary walls. Total estimated cost £43,000.

In addition further less urgent work (i.e. after 2013) was recommended including:

Repainting of the porch; provision of a lightning conductor; internal plaster repairs and general redecoration work; improved access for the disabled. Total estimated cost at least £26,000.

The church does not have the money to do all these repairs or the future work. We have also recently been given Planning Approval for a much-needed extension to provide toilets, kitchenette, small meeting room, office and storage. This extension would provide access for the disabled. The estimate for this is between £210,000 and £250,000 excluding furnishings.

Many churches have a 'Friends' organisation made up of people in the community who wish to see a church building remain there. They are not necessarily regular churchgoers rather they are people who seek to preserve an historic building in the village and believe that the church should be available for all. Such an organisation can have charitable status and would seek to obtain finance for the works required by applying for grants and undertaking other fund raising activities. Setting up a Friends of St Andrew's Bulmer

seems to be a way by which the church building could be maintained and improved for all.

If you are interested in helping to set up a 'Friends' organisation or wish to know more please contact Fr Eoin on 277850, Peter Fulcher on 269935 or Margaret Mills on 269377.

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**VILLAGE HALL NEWS**

Following the A.G.M. the Committee will continue to maintain the Village Hall and also ensure all safety regulations are up to date.

It is still our aim to keep hiring charges low and competitive and we believe they are some of the lowest in the area. If you are thinking of holding a party, reception, a meeting or forming a club why not come along and see what's on offer in the Hall. We are busy putting together a programme of events at the Hall for the late summer and early autumn including a Barn Dance in October and a Quiz Night in November.

There will also be a Christmas Craft Fayre in the autumn.

You will all have been informed of the Summer Fete which is being held at St. Andrew's School on 16th July 12 mid-day until 4pm. This is being organised between the School and the Village Hall Committee and will be an action packed afternoon offering something for everyone. Help is still needed on the day or with items for the tombola stall, cake stall and other events. A grand raffle is also being held so watch out for ticket sellers either before the event or one the day. Please support us as it will benefit the School and the Village Hall but more importantly it is hoped the whole Village. If you can help in anyway please ring Tina on 464075.

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VILLAGE LOTTERY WINNERS

The Lottery still provides 3 lucky winners each month. It is a vital fundraiser for your village hall. Are you a member? The more members the more funds for the Village Hall and the bigger the prize! Please support

Month	First	Second	Third
Apr.	Mrs V Mansfield	Mr & Mrs J Duck	Mr & Mrs P Maynard
May	Mr E Nevard	Mrs E Mack	Mr & Mrs N Fraser
June	Ms V Martin	Mrs B Mauldon	Mrs E Wheeler

your village hall and contact Dawn at the Post Office (376676) if you would like to join.

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**BULMER CYCLE ROAD RACE**

On a beautiful spring day in May the Hackney Cycle Club came to Bulmer. In the morning they shared their BBQ breakfast on Coe's Meadow with us. The children then took part in a variety of activities including races and agility tests. Local children were also able to join in.





The main event took place in the afternoon with some 50 riders completing 4 laps of a 13mile course starting and finishing at Finch Hill. The race was started and finished by Margaret Mills waving the appropriate flag. The winners also received their prizes from Margaret. An excellent day, very well organized by a very friendly group from Hackney who wanted to involve the local community and not just come and use our roads. It is hoped they will make a return visit next year, and perhaps more children & families will join in the fun from Bulmer.

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BULMER SKYLARKS

We have had a very busy and enjoyable spring and lived up to our "Skylarks" name.

We began with a most interesting trip to the National Stud at Newmarket in April and with Peter Darlington as our guide, we are all better informed about the breeding of a racehorse.



The Royal Wedding was celebrated in style by our members arriving at the Village Hall in their best wedding attire with one of our gentlemen looking very resplendent in his kilt. Following afternoon tea a glass of Bucks Fizz was raised to wish the happy couple a long and happy life together.



The fashion show at Edinburgh Woollen Mills was a great success thanks to our wonderful members who volunteered to be models. They did a fantastic job and it was a fun filled evening. A huge thank you must go to the staff at the store who made

it all possible and provided the half time refreshments. For those of you who were there, Brian is "still available"!



Our programme for the summer is: -

July 26th

A Vicar of Many Dibleys.
Father Eoin Buchanan

August 23rd

Quizzical

September 27th

A.G.M. and Tai Chi

Sarah and Kim

October 25th

History of Walnut Tree Hospital
Phylis Felton



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**BULMER NATURE DIARIES**

It must be a measure of the extremes of climate that we have endured during the past year, that I am starting this column with yet another account of record-breaking weather.

I've been chatting to my old mate Brian Ambrose, from Sudbury. He has been keeping weather records for over forty years. In January and February this year he had a total of 123mm of rain, but from 1st March until 26th May he only recorded 13mm in total. Brian compared this with the big drought year of 1976, when for the same periods his figures were 55 mm and 50mm. respectively. The drought of '76 dragged on until 26th Aug, but between then and the end of the year we were deluged with a staggering 330mm of rain. This spring has now been officially recognised as the driest on record, but what a relief it was in the third week of June, when a couple of heavy deluges saw the water-butts overflowing and a green tint returning to the lawn!

After last December's freeze up and a more normal Jan. and Feb, the early flowers, such as Celandine & Cherry Plum were slow to show, but from the end of March on, things changed. April saw a mini heat wave and from then on most plants were early rather than late, with temperatures topping 26 deg C on the 23rd (that's 80 F in old money). This almost tropical heat certainly hastened the bud burst. I cannot recall a year when all woods and hedges were in full leaf by the end of April, at least a couple of weeks early. Only a few Ash trees remained bare. Most flowers were early, with Bluebells being past their best by the end of the month. The premature warmth certainly suited the early butterflies. Brimstone, Holly Blue and especially Orange Tip turning up in really good numbers.

**Comings and goings** The dates I have recorded for migrant birds in or close to Bulmer, **last years dates in brackets.**

*Last winter visitors*, Redwing 13th Mar, Siskin 28th Mar, Fieldfare 30th Mar (3rd Apr) Brambling 4th Apr. *First Spring visitors*, Chiffchaff 2nd Apr (28th Mar) Blackcap 2nd Apr (18 Apr) Swallow 3rd Apr (16thApr) Cuckoo 23rd Apr (25th Apr) Whitethroat 28th Apr (20th Apr) Swift 2nd May (30th Apr) House Martin 1st May (1st May). We do seem to have heard a Cuckoo and have seen House Martins more frequently this year. The martins must be nesting somewhere in the Street and are no doubt having to travel further to get a supply of mud for their nest, with everywhere so parched. We have a Wren that nesting under our summerhouse roof. The picture is of a nest in the same spot, a few years ago.



On 21st March a herd of about 25 Fallow Deer raced across the fields towards Heaven Wood having been startled by some dogs. On the Hedingham road, the number of Roe Deer being hit by cars has led to a request that deer warning signs be erected. It may seem a bit bizarre, but road kills are a good indicator of the status of our local mammal populations, especially the nocturnal ones. Extraordinarily, in the first week of May, two Badgers and a Fox were killed between Bulmer Street cross roads and Dogs Pit corner, which I would think is more like the average for a normal year than just one week. But I'm sure that this indicates a healthy population of both, some might say too healthy. Rabbits, of course, are the most commonly encountered victims, along with the odd Grey Squirrel. I'm sure that we don't see as many flattened Hedgehogs as in the past, which points to a drop in their population. Their inbred defensive mechanism of rolling up into a ball when threatened, doesn't exactly provide a lot of protection against our speeding wheels and must make them the most vulnerable creature to venture onto our roads. I certainly don't think that there's any reason to rejoice because we see less of them killed on our roads, it just reflects a drop in their numbers. It may not be coincidental that as the road toll of Hedgehogs decreases, those of Badgers are on the increase. By and large, the hedgehog's coat of spiky armour serves it very well in protecting it from would-be predators, but not from the badger. With their massively strong forepaws, armed with very long, steel-like claws (see photograph) they can unroll a hedgehog to expose the



little creatures' soft underbelly, and there's dinner. These strong claws can also dig through rock hard soil to open up wasp and bumble bee's nests. My neighbour Bill had this very thing happen to a bumblebee's under his front hedge, just a few of weeks ago, showing that Badgers are active in Bulmer Street.

There's no doubt that certain animals and birds have a higher degree of "road sense" than others. On the couple of occasions that I have had to screech to a halt to avoid a Badger, it seems that they are quite oblivious of any danger approaching; they just bumble along, ignoring all else. On the other hand, Foxes are far more likely to dart into the nearest hedge. The one bird, which seems almost as vulnerable as the hedgehog, is the Pheasant. At times they seem to wilfully throw themselves to their fate under our wheels, their squashed carcasses being all too common a sight. These make easy pickings for the scavenging Magpies and Carrion Crows. Now, these are birds that appear to have developed a very acute road sense, often feeding until the last fraction of a second, before niftily hopping aside or winging their way out of danger.



There's a large pond in the valley below Goldingham Hall. Up to about ten years ago, in early March, this used to be the gathering point for hundreds of Toads that had made their way there with one object in mind, to mate. Their croaking made an almost musical sound and could be heard from quite some distance. As well as the toads, there were always a goodly number of frogs, also intent on spawning. I visited this March, but not so much as a single croak met my ears and we found only one little clump of frogspawn, with no toad spawn at all.

There were some interesting bird sightings around Bulmer Street over the past little while. I have twice watched a Red Kite soaring over, the huge wingspan and forked tail of this magnificent raptor, made it easy to identify. Dean Byford told me he was sure that he had seen a Goshawk down on the footpath. He said that it had caught a Jay and had flown off with this sizeable bird with little effort. I was a little sceptical at first, but Dean was at one time into falconry and would certainly recognise a Goshawk if he saw one. Another bird, this time not positively identified, had me puzzled. I had sighted this large brownish bird, some way down the field. It quickly disappeared into the crop, but despite watching for over an hour, failed to see it again. A near neighbour, Roger Collorick also saw it. My first thought was that it was possibly a Hen Harrier, but it did look a bit owl like and having compared notes with Roger, decided that it was probably a Short Eared Owl.

These birds nest in the more northerly parts of Britain, usually on open moorland. In winter they often turn up on our coastal marshes such as Old Hall Marshes near Tollesbury.

*Peter Rowe*

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**ST. ANDREW'S SCHOOL
A Right Royal Wedding**

Children at Bulmer School celebrated by living the Royal Wedding last

Thursday. Father Eoin Buchannon conducted the service at Bulmer Church, dressed richly for the occasion. Children took on the roles of Prince William (Eddie Hoogewerf) and Kate Middleton (Tilly Snell), along with bridesmaids (Bea Maynard, Kaia Nicholl, Jenna Benns, Shontel Clackett, Holly Rash, Bella Fairs, Amber Clackett, Nuria Everett, Tara Clackett) and Best Man Prince Harry (Joe Snell). Proud parents, Prince Charles (Ethan Barber), accompanied by the Duchess of Cornwall (Lauren Christmas) and Mr and Mrs Middleton (Robert Kinge and Jessica Mattock) also looked on the proceedings. The whole school turned out smartly dressed, complete with hats and handbags to celebrate with them.



Following the service, where the children saw the 'royal couple become Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and sign the register, our official photographers (Joe Pearson and Sian Evans) took shots of the happy couple and guests, ending in a flurry of confetti as Prince and Princess walked through the avenue of Lime trees which line the pathway to Bulmer Church.



The reception was a buffet affair, just like as the Queen hosting at Buckingham



Palace on the big day. Our Master of Ceremonies (Freddie Hoogewerf) presented the Bride and Groom and went on to introduce speeches following the wedding breakfast. We heard fine words from the Best Man, Father of the Bride and the Groom himself. After cutting of the cake, the royal couple took to the

floor for their first dance, followed by other members of Owl Class for support.

The children took part in country dancing led by Fox class and went on to end the afternoon with a disco. The children and staff had a memorable day, which truly did reflect the spirit of the Royal Wedding. More pictures can be found at <http://www.bulmerschool.co.uk/school-office/news/royalwedding-1>

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**PARISH COUNCIL NEWS  
YOUR COUNCILLORS**

|                               |                |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| Mike Crome (Chairman)         | - 01787 378155 |
| Peter Fulcher (Vice Chairman) | - 01787 269935 |
| Stephen Morgan                | - 07973 341048 |
| Chris. Leigh                  | - 01787 378133 |
| Bethan Cook                   | - 01787 370435 |
| Phil. Benns                   | - 01787 371600 |
| Rose Raymond                  | - 07813 205743 |

Hannah Fraser (Parish Clerk) - 01787 374310

**DATES OF FUTURE PARISH MEETINGS**

All meetings are bi-monthly, normally held on the second Friday of the month in the Village Hall at 7:45pm

|                           |                               |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 8 <sup>th</sup> July      | 9 <sup>th</sup> September     |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> November | 13 <sup>th</sup> January 2012 |

All parishioners are welcome to attend and there is a 15 minute slot for questions from the floor, however in order to receive a response, notification of any question should be given to the Clerk at least 7 days before the meeting.

**MINUTES OF THE BULMER PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 11th MARCH 2011**

**PRESENT:** Councillors: Margaret Mills (Chairman), Mike Crome, Bethan Cook, Peter Fulcher, Christine Leigh, Stephen Morgan, Peter Rowe and the Clerk. David Finch CC

Nigel Harley DC together with visitor Julian Swift 5 members of public.

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Peter Darlington  
**DECL. OF INTERESTS:** Cllr. Mills · planning application Jenkins, Plough Green, The Tye.

**PUBLIC QUESTIONS:** None

**APPROVE THE MINUTES** of the meeting held on 14th January 2011. Proposed Cllr. Crome, seconded Cllr. Rowe.

**MATTERS ARISING:** Cllr. Crome advised the Council that he had passed the NRSWA course on New Roads and Street works Operative Units. This enables the Parish Council to carry out work on roadways and highways, providing a qualified operative (Cllr. Crome) is on site. The Parish Council thanks Niall Fraser for his donation of special clothing to the Parish for use by the operative.

**DAVID FINCH CC** spoke briefly on the following subjects: -

- budget
- parish updates
- big society
- mobile libraries

- how ECC was proposing to deal with the current economic situation.

**NIGEL HARLEY** spoke on how Braintree DC, was endeavouring to make savings, e.g.

- by delaying some planning applications to 2/3 weeks
- reduce the number of councillors and despite reduced government funding, BDC was promising -
- no cuts to front line services
- green clean campaign maintained
- Village agents to carry on for another year
- to pay more attention to the needs of the north of the District.

Nigel announced that he would not be standing for re-election in May and that Julian Swift would be representing this ward, if elected.

Cllr. Mills thanked Nigel for all the time, help and assistance he had given to the Parish during his term as District Councillor.

**COE'S MEADOW REPORT** - Cllr. Leigh (chairman CMMC) reported that the committee was getting ready for this years Fun Day and that they were applying for and hoping to get funding from Nat West Bank.

There is to be a working party to clear scrub from behind the bungalows in the Avenue and trim the laurels on 2nd. April.

#### PLANNING

**1 Finch Hill** — alteration of external materials from painted render to off white hardiplank boarding and new first floor window. Granted

**4 Bulmer Tye** - retrospective consent for new vehicular access over The Fox car park leading to rear of 4 Bulmer Tye. The Bulmer PC supports this application with the proviso that the temporary screen remains until the bund planting is sufficiently grown.

**Back House Croft, Bulmer Street** — variation of conditions. The Bulmer Parish Council was of the opinion that if these variations were granted, it would leave Back House Croft without a garage and now that the new access has been granted there is likely to be a further application to build a garage close to the village envelope boundary. This would constitute further overdevelopment. Because of the original reasons of why these conditions were applied, there seems to be no logical reason why they should be removed. The Bulmer Parish Council does not support this application. However, the recommendation of Braintree Planning Committee is for the application to be granted.

**Jenkins, Bulmer Tye** — installation of 16 photovoltaic solar panels to the south-facing roof of the barn. This application has gone to Appeal. The Parish Council, will be writing to the First Secretary of State to support the Appeal.

**ALLOTMENTS** - Cllr. Morgan attended an Allotment Management Day held by the EALC and came away with fresh ideas on making improvements to Turnpike Piece.

Some suggestions are as follows -

- drainage issues - land drains to be laid along the paths (quote being sought)
- spoil from the ditches is higher than the plots, causing flooding. This needs levelling.

- tenants to keep their plots tidy and when terminating a tenancy the plot should be cleared by the outgoing tenant.

- no hose pipes should be allowed, but a dip tank installed

- better liaison with tenants

- notice put up regarding dogs to be kept on leads

It was suggested that a sub committee be formed to come up with a master plan stating priorities. It was also suggested that an annual prize could be given for the best allotment.

Cllr. Rowe and Cllr. Crome said they would be willing to be on the sub committee.

#### CORRESPONDENCE & NOTICES

**1.** The Clerk reported to County Highways that there were several **potholes** at Batt Hall.

**2.** Following receipt of Mr. Kirby's report (Braintree Building Control Surveyor – see F.272), the Parish Council accepted his views and acknowledged there were **no defects to the sewer situated on**

**Turnpike Piece**, but would wish the area to be brought in line with his report. The Parish Council accepted Mr. Benns offer to carry out Mr. Kirby's suggestions. The Council also wrote to the occupants of Nos. 14 and 15 Park Lane to advise them it was their joint responsibility, with Mayhill House, for the maintaining, cleaning or renewing the sewer and not that of the Parish Council.

**3.** The Clerk was asked to advise Mortimers that they wanted the **wild flower** areas on Coe's Meadow to be cut & collected just once a year.

**4.** The **hedging scheme** opposite Parsonage Wood, Hedingham Road was taken up with another contractor.

**5.** The **handrail post** at the steps to the churchyard has been made safe and will be replaced in due course.

**6.** Following information sent to Brooks Newmark MP regarding **vehicle parking** at the corner of **Church Road**, Mr. Newmark had contacted the Chief Constable, whose response was ..... 'the matter had recently been raised at the Joint Action Group and discussed with partnership agencies in order to raise a satisfactory resolution. After visits from the local Neighbourhood Constable, the resident in question is showing more consideration as to where he parks his vehicles. After taking advise from both Highways and our own Traffic Dept., parking restrictions are not being breached' .....

**RECEIPTS** None

#### PAYMENTS

|                   |                                |                    |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| Designer Metal    | - tree guards                  | £102.00<br>inc VAT |
| EALC Training Day | - Hannah Fraser (grant funded) | £60.00             |
| CPRE              | - subscription                 | £29.00             |
| Hannah Fraser     | - travel exp. to Great Dunmow  | £21.45             |

|                     |                                                      |                   |
|---------------------|------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Cllr. Morgan        | - ditto                                              | £21.45            |
| Cllr. Crome         | - travel exp. to Rayne, Essex                        | £23.40            |
| B. Rawlins          | - Clerk's salary (6 months)<br>- Expenses (6 months) | £920.00<br>£76.52 |
| Clerks and Councils | - subscription                                       | £77.00            |

Capital Investments to remain with existing bankers.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Cllr. Fulcher advised the Council that there had been several near accidents from deer running across the road between Bulmer Orchard and Parsonage Wood and suggested that 'wild animal warning signs' be erected. This was agreed by the Council and the Clerk was asked to contact County Highways.

Cllr. Crome asked if the Council had thought about the Queen's Jubilee and suggested that a commemorative mug (or similar) be organised for the village children.

Cllr. Rowe mentioned that there should be a plaque to go with the oak tree for Ron Mansfield.

Cllr. Leigh (Chairman of CMMC) advised the Council that, if wanted, Timberplay would maintain their play equipment for an annual fee. The Council agreed this was not necessary.

Cllr. Mills advised that Parish Paths Partnership (P3) was now linked with County Highways. Cllr. Mills said she was willing to continue being the Footpath Officer and cutting some paths etc., but would like to give it up eventually. Would someone in the village like to take over the position?

Cllr. Margaret Mills told the meeting that she would not be standing for re-election on 5th May and unfortunately, due to an unavoidable commitment, would not be able to attend the next meeting and AGM. Cllr. Mills will, however, remain a Councillor and Chairman until including the 4th May 2011.

The Parish Council thanked Margaret for all of her time, effort and energy and also knowledge she has put into the parish over the last 25 years.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.40

Latest Parish news go to [www.essexinfo.net/bulmer](http://www.essexinfo.net/bulmer)

**VILLAGE AGENT**

I was sitting and writing this in a sun soaked garden having returned from a very pleasant lunch in one of the pubs in the area, one thing that strikes me is the large portions that are served (Kiri – I'm not complaining as master brings home a doggy bag) or is it that as I get older I need to eat less.

There was a knock on the front door and the pleasant afternoon was brought back to reality by the presence of a police officer who informed us that the house next door had been burgled; fortunately the people had been apprehended. What they had done was knock at a house and say that they had run out of petrol and wanted to know where the nearest petrol station was, this was to see if the house was empty (Kiri - I barked at them when they knocked), they then found a house where there was no answer and

proceeded to break in This made me think about security, please make sure that when you go out make sure all windows are closed and locked as well as doors, another thing to remember is make sure your car is locked. Talking to the police officer he commented that there had been a large number of thefts of mowers, strimmers, and tools from garages and sheds, so please put a lock on the shed, also be careful about leaving tools in the garden when you pop in for a cup of tea.

On a lighter note this is the time when we get invited to fetes and shows, so we hope to see you there.

Peter & KIRI

Mobile: 07540 720604

Email: peter.darlington@vaessex.org.uk

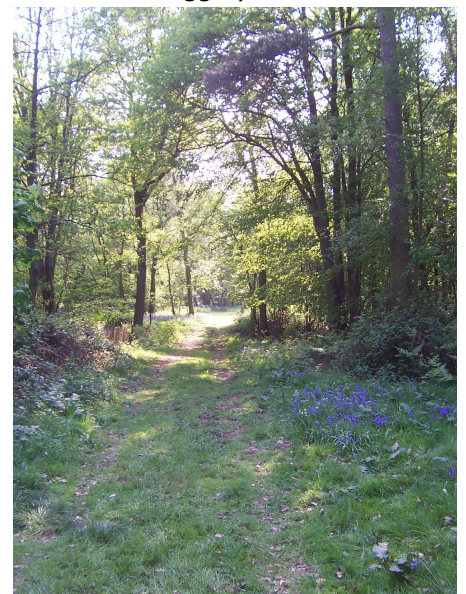


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PARISH PATH WALKS - Spring 2011

After what appeared to be yet another drawn out cold and wet winter the weather of April and May felt like we'd shifted directly into summer. With spring passing us by so swiftly there seemed hardly any time at all to appreciate our most wondrous season, and this combined with a late Easter and several bank holidays almost tripping over each other the parish path walkers were only able to accomplish two outings. Our first walk was on Easter Monday when we headed west. Peter Minter kindly permitted us to gather at the Bulmer brickworks from where Margaret led us out onto the field paths towards Gestingthorpe. It was a glorious afternoon with the sun blazing as we reached Gestingthorpe where we arrived in the locality of the pheasant and our paths took us off in the direction of Great Maplestead and Castle Hedingham. These fields are criss-crossed by several paths, many of which we haven't walked before but give an opportunity to marvel at swathes of our beautiful landscape. We returned by the perimeter paths of Over Hall and the church then headed for Hill Farm where we welcomed the chance of some shade in Wiggery Wood.

The sun only shining through the trees in shafts to illuminate the beautiful blooming bluebells, one of the few signs that we were still actually in spring. Leaving Wiggery Wood our paths then brought us back to the brickworks.



Our next outing was on the last bank holiday of May. A good crowd of us gathered on Plough Green to follow Margaret around our local parishes for another wander to see the delights of our now severely parched countryside. From Plough Green we headed

for the Fox where the paths to the rear were a complete contrast to the last time we waded across them. From Ryes Lane we took the road down Amos Hill and towards Green Lane and up into Twinstead,



where amazingly we came across a pond that still contained a small amount of water. From Twinstead we crossed the A131 in the direction of

Wickham St Paul then took the bridle path along to Butlers Hall Farm. Our paths continued on bringing us to the Bulmer brickworks, up onto Wesborough Hill and Hilltop Farm where taking the bridle path back to Jenkins completed our walk.

As ever our thanks go to Margaret in giving her time to organise and lead us around our wonderful countryside.

Lisa Sandford

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**PARISH PATHS WALKS**

It is good to see so many people walking our local paths. Living on a popular route I see many regulars go by with and without dogs, as well as cyclists on the bridleway. There are also quite frequent visits by rambling groups from further afield.



I am having difficulties with walking myself at present so there will be guest leaders for the next few monthly walks. Details of the first one are below. Watch the notice boards or the website for later walks

**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> July at 2.30pm**

Pat Matthews will lead a 5 mile walk from Long Melford. Meet at the Melford Garden Centre. You can park at the bottom end of their car park.

Please continue to report path problems to me. I will also be happy to hear from anyone willing to lead a walk. Please contact Margaret Mills 269377

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Friends of Essex Churches

Sponsored Ride & Stride

Saturday 10th September 10am to 6pm

St Andrew's Bulmer takes part in this annual event. Half of the funds raised go to the Friends to be used to help repair and maintain Essex churches and chapels of all denominations. The other half is returned to our village church helping us to look after St Andrew's Bulmer.

Participants walk or cycle around their chosen area visiting churches and chapels where they can sign in. They can ask family and friends to sponsor them for churches visited or miles travelled. It is not necessary to spend all 8 hours out on the road or track. Some

walkers in the past have visited the eleven Sudbury churches in less than 2 hours

If you are interested in helping conservation in this fun way please contact Margaret Mills 269377 for sponsor forms and further information.

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**MORE NEWS FROM ST. ANDREW'S SCHOOL**

Our Spring term finished this year with a fabulous event, our now annual Spring Concert. It was absolutely delightful afternoon, with a vibrant buzz in the air. The show was not a competition, but an opportunity for the children to show case their talent, no matter how long they have been



practising. We had a marvellous a range of talented youngsters with performances including drama, gymnastics, singing, puppetry, guitars, recorder groups, piano players and The Band (a groups of Year 6 pupils) who played a fantastic version of Hallelujah. I was so proud of each and every one of the children that mustered the courage to stand up in front around 150 people and perform. I'm sure that there are many adults that would shy away from such a prospect.



The children performed to an audience of their peers, parents, grandparents, Governors and helpers from the local community. It was wonderful supportive atmosphere from the adults and the children in the audience. Friends of Bulmer School also supported the event through organising our

refreshments, many thanks to all our helpers that made the afternoon so special. The children finished the term feeling confident and quite rightly very proud of their achievements.

**Band** - Kaia Nichol, Jenna Benns, Joe Snell (not pictured - Joe Pearson, Ethan Barber)

**King Blingers** - Half of the rapping group Gabe Slatter, Sam Pearson. Also their brothers Louis Slatter and Joe Pearson (not pictured)

More information, including recordings of some of the acts, can be found on our school website

[bulmerschool.co.uk](http://bulmerschool.co.uk)

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I have now been editing this newsletter for 6 yrs. If anyone else would like to have a go, please let me know. 378155 or mike@mcmcrome.fsnet.co.uk

The next edition will be published in early October. All your pictures and articles, please by the 15th September. Mike Crome