



What's On?

The Newsletter of Bulmer-----March 2007
(Including Bulmer St., Bulmer Tye, Finch Hill, Batt Hall, Upper & Lower Houses and Hedingham Road).



EXPERIENCE OF A LIFE TIME - TO DEATH VALLEY & BACK by Tom Dickinson

Hottest, Driest, Lowest. A superlative desert of streaming sand dunes, snow-capped mountains, multicoloured rock layers, water-fluted canyons and three million acres of stone wilderness. With all this information why on earth would I want to cycle 263 miles in 5 days through the desert on a tandem with Steve Harley. Well the honest truth is he asked me and I didn't have the heart to say NO. When he told me the charity was Mines Advisory Group (MAG) and the wonderful work they do throughout the war torn world – how could I possibly refuse.

Months of training from July 2006 to get my daily mileage up as high as possible was not easy as the winter weather closed in and Steve was touring Europe up to Christmas so little time was spent together on the tandem.

DAY 1 London to Las Vegas/Beatty

March the 4th 2007 soon arrived and ready or not a large group of us assembled at Gatwick Airport for our Virgin flight direct to Las Vegas. After our 10hr 45min flight we arrived lunchtime in Las Vegas and transferred by coach to Beatty Junction still in Nevada on the edge of the desert.

DAY 2 Beatty to Stovepipe Wells 34 miles

After a good nights sleep and a hearty American breakfast we spent the morning with everyone adjusting their cycles ready for the off. The tandem was of a good quality American manufacture – so I am told- but the brakes were standard blocks on the wheels not hub or disks – more of this later! We set off on a gradual 14-mile climb (1000ft ascent) and a gentle 20 miles undulating downhill to Stovepipe Wells.

DAY 3 STOVEPIPE WELLS TO PANAMINT SPRINGS 56 MILES

A steady three part climb to Emigrant Pass at 5318ft followed by 32 miles of undulating downhill. The tandem was not made for low gear work and after pushing up hill for mile after mile we ground to a halt and Steve jumped on the back up truck while I continued on a solo cycle to the top and onto the lunch stop. I descended to the valley floor where we jumped on the tandem again and 'powered' our way along the valley floor 32 miles in the hot afternoon sun to Panamint. On arrival at Panamint Springs – best described as a remote motel with camping site – no telephones or televisions – a cold American beer was for once very welcoming. A couple of the guys were looked at by the doctor having suffered minor sunstroke – the temperature having remained in the high 80's all day. Thank God for my factor 50 sun cream.

DAY 4 PANAMINT SPRINGS TO FURNACE CREEK 56 MILES

We set off for Towne Pass 4956ft – the first stop after 10 miles riding solo –then the road was almost 'vertical' – two more stops before the summit. Change onto the tandem with Steve and everybody else looking forward to the 15 miles downhill dropping nearly 5000ft. What a nightmare on the front having to break all the way down to prevent the speed of the tandem running away out of control. I tried to keep in the mid 20's mph but we recorded a max of 33.5 which Steve thought was great looking all around whilst I hung on until my hands were locked and stopped halfway down to get some life back into my fingers. Lunch at Stovepipe Wells followed by 27 miles along the valley floor passed sand dunes and salt flats to Furnace Creek Ranch at -170ft. A beautiful oasis resort with 18-hole golf course, large outdoor pool, riding stables and many visitors who probably go no further into the desert.

DAY 5 FURNACE CREEK TO PAHRUMP 61 MILES

A steady climb of 19 mile up to 3200ft followed by 10 miles down. A few miles on the road and we stopped at the Zabriskie Point to look back on the desert below and the outstanding effects the rain has caused to the sand hills close by. It was here that Steve came very close to a nasty accident when the cycle mechanic Ben decided to save time by taking the tandem up to the top of the point and invite Steve to ride down with him and save a 15 minute walk. I saw what was happening from the



car park just before we all cycled off up the road. I realised it would be foolhardy but convinced myself that Steve would not get on the tandem. However at the next stop when the bus arrived with Steve aboard we were all told the story how halfway down the steep slope the back brake failed and the tandem gathered momentum down the slope and was only stopped by the gradient of the car park rising in front of them. A very close shave!! In the afternoon; having completed a 17-mile ascent the road went gently down 13 miles to the town of Pahrump (which was immediately nicknamed ‘the dump’).

DAY 6 PAHRUMP TO LAS VEGAS 57 MILES

Last day of cycling – the whole group of 48 riders, five backup, doctor, coach driver and two MAG girls all up ready to go 7.30.am. Long steady uphill 32 miles (2790ft) to summit of Mountain Springs 5490ft and then 8 miles descent followed by 17miles on the highway to the centre of Las Vegas. At the summit, suddenly one of the cyclists appeared in a full Elvis outfit that



he had clearly brought all the way from London. Elvis lead the way for the downhill and ride to LV. Steve and I on the tandem are following behind two riders going rather slow downhill and to maintain our stability we needed to pass. The cycle lane is very narrow and we would have to cross the rumble strip onto the highway. Steve checked ‘no traffic behind’ and I eased out over the rumble strip – unfortunately both of Steve’s legs come out of the cycle clips causing him to wobble and send shock waves through to the steering. I grappled to gain control and veered back over the rumble strip heading towards the steel safety barrier and again back over onto the highway. How I straightened up and braked to a halt I will never know but we did and survived without injury. The staff from MAG draped a finish line at our hotel. Only two riders had minor falls during the journey, the second at a red traffic light in Las Vegas

DAY 7 LAS VEGAS TO GATWICK

The last morning was free time in Las Vegas. Many of the group had ‘burned the midnight oils’ going all around ‘The Strip’ and so did not rise early. Not for me – I left it to the mugs and there are plenty of them.

Lasting impressions: a great trip very tough on occasions but a good feeling at the end.

The views of the desert were truly amazing and the temperatures between 85 and 93 degrees all week gave us some idea of the tough lives the old ‘49ers’ (miners) must have had in the old days with summer temperatures well in excess of 100. The riders all got on well together and in excess of £70,000 will have been raised by all for the worthy cause MAG. I thank all of those local people who insisted on sponsoring me and I have raised just over £1500 which I will round up to £2000. Would I do it again –NO – once is enough – but MAG will be going again in November – so if you fancy it – go for it!

Editor: This is an abridged version of Tom’s experience, due to availability of space, for the full story log on to www.bulmeressex.co.uk

Quiz Night at Bulmer Village Hall by Helen Coulson



Almost 90 people came along to take part in the quiz night at the Village Hall on 23rd February in aid of my charity trek to Peru for **Little Havens Children’s Hospice**.

I decided that this year I would do something challenging that would make a difference for someone else. I’ve never done anything like this before but the chance to try my hand at fundraising and also push myself physically was too good to miss. The trek will last 10 days, starting with a long flight to Peru and then an uphill trek through the Andes taking me to over 4,200 metres above sea level. All the kit must be carried in a rucksack and we’ll be sleeping in tents and cooking over a camp fire. So training is tough with lots of exercises to do and a stiff programme

of walking that is now up to 4 to 8 hour walks every weekend with 1 to 2 hour walks in the week as well. I thought that it would be great to become more involved in village life, having lived in Bulmer Tye for over 2 years now. The suggestion of a quiz night was received well by local friends and I benefited from a great deal of good advice and huge support in getting in touch with likely “quizzers” from both Dawn at the Post Office and Maggie Skipper from the Village Hall committee.

The Hall was packed and the atmosphere was great with everyone taking an active part in the fun. Team names were chosen, jokers played and the raffle wonderfully supported with prizes kindly donated by local businesses and generous Bulmer residents. Mike Crome won the silent auction for gliding lessons and will hopefully enjoy some time in the sky once the runway has dried out enough to get launched. The quiz itself was a close run thing with the Marmalade Sandwiches team winning by half a point in the final round.

The event was a great success with **a massive £670 raised for Little Havens**. By the end of the evening, Michael and I were exhausted and my voice was ready for a rest, having read out so many questions and answers. The whole experience was absolutely wonderful. Bulmer is a very special place to live and there are so many kind and supportive people who made it possible for us to put on an evening like this. Special thanks go to my husband Michael who spent all day and half the night cooking, Carrie who spent the whole morning helping us create the puddings; Pat and Edward, who sold all the raffle tickets and helped behind the scenes with the refreshments and Jenny Leech who made a superb scorer and kept me on my toes and running (just about!) to time.

A huge thank you to everyone who took part and gave me such generous support. We couldn’t believe the many helping hands we had - from the loan of kitchen equipment, setting up the tables and chairs, the washing up, and clearing away the hall in no time at all at the end of the evening.

When I'm up the mountain, I shall take with me the warmth and support of my neighbours and know that by doing something for others I actually have been given so much, unexpectedly, in return.

I'm told that some of you would like the recipe for the dessert involving blueberries and white chocolate – I've named it "Bulmer Surprise"!

Ingredients:	Method:
4 Croissants ½ Pint double cream 3oz caster sugar 2 eggs Zest and juice of 1 lemon I box of blueberries (about 150g or whatever you can find) I small bar of white chocolate (about 125g) Half a jar of lemon curd	1. Put the cream, sugar, eggs, lemon zest and juice into a bowl and beat together well 2. Chop 2 croissants into small chunks and add to the mixture in the bowl, mixing well 3. Fish the croissant chunks out of the mixture and place into a shallow serving dish, reserving the rest of the liquid mixture 4. Scatter the blueberries on top of the croissant chunks 5. Break the white chocolate into small pieces and scatter over the croissant chunks and blueberries 6. Dollop spoonfuls of lemon curd all over the croissants, blueberries and chocolate 7. Chop up the other 2 croissants and add to the liquid mixture and mix well. 8. Spread this last croissant and cream mixture over the rest of the dessert 9. Cook in a moderate oven for about 20 minutes until it is golden and the blueberries are bubbling. (I make this in the Aga – cooking it in the top oven with the cold shelf over the top) 10. Can be eaten hot or cold.

Editor: There is still plenty of time should you wish to sponsor Helen on her epic trip, please call her on 373304

BIRDNAPPING?

Towards the end of October, someone must have kidnapped all the birds from the garden. One day the garden was full of the usual throng of birds, stuffing themselves with peanuts and sunflower seeds, the next day they were gone. Up until then we had to fill the feeders about every other day. They had completely deserted us. The feeders hung untouched right through November, with hardly a visit from any bird, till we threw away the old seed just before Christmas. After the New Year we had the occasional visit, but it was not until the middle of January that they started to drift back. By the end of the month, greenfinches, blue and great tits, goldfinches and house sparrows were again stripping the feeders with gusto. Even allowing for the extremely mild conditions, which would allow them to find natural alternatives away from habitation, it seems most odd that they could disappear for so long and then turn up again in large numbers.

GOLD RUSH

We had a golden day towards the end of January. In one sheltered spot the first celandines shone like varnished *gold* stars, from an emerald bed of sprouting cow parsley (sheep's parsley to us locals). Round our pond the first coltsfoot held up their proud heads on tall, silkily downy stems, with flower sofa softer gold. On the bird feeders goldfinches were sharing their ever-changing perches with greenfinches. The male greenfinches are now in full breeding splendour, displaying vivid flashes of gold from both wings and tail, to complement the mossy green of their breasts. At the same time a small flock of larger birds were flying in tight formation to and fro across the fields. They twisted and turned incomplete unison, sometimes almost invisible, then with a sudden turn, flashing brilliant white as their lighter parts caught the sun, only to disappear just as abruptly as they veered sharply again. Backwards and forwards they sped on sharply pointed wings till, feeling it safe, they landed as one, out in the field. These *Golden* plovers, equally at home on farmland or coastal mud flats, are winter visitors, nesting on the moors of northern Britain and way up into the Arctic Circle. Still in their winter plumage, these elegant little birds have an overall colour more light sand than gold. However seen in their full summer regalia, no one would begrudge them their name. If you've got a bird book, look them up and see for yourself.

I wrote last year about the abnormally late spring that we experienced. This year shows all the signs of being abnormally early, but time will tell. The first celandines were coming into bloom about the third week of January. Early February saw the first blossom on cherry plum trees, last year it was towards the end of March before it dared to burst forth. First coltsfoot flower end of January this year, early March last year. Many reports of red admiral butterflies on the wing, during Jan. and Feb. most unusual.



Certainly one pair of collared doves thought that spring had arrived early. In mid February the female was already sitting on two eggs, the nest tucked neatly into the ivy that covers our old apple tree.

However, I must try not to repeat my mistake of last year, regarding nests..... We have a Morella cherry tree growing against the wall of our bungalow, every year we have to net it in, to ensure that we get our share of the fruit. Neglect to do this and our local blackbirds arrive in droves, to make short work of the crop, as we found out to our cost, years ago. That year, in their feeding frenzy they redecorated our stone coloured walls with a delicate, if blotchy, shade of pink, as the juice squirted out of the ripening fruit. Last year on the 30th June, we fixed the net, as always, being careful not to leave any gaps. It is all too easy for a small bird to find it's way into the

net, panic, and find itself trapped. Well, we were out all the next day, but that evening the constant cheeping of a bird led us to the net. To our dismay, we found a young chaffinch well entangled in the net. With great care we cut the little bird free, getting a few spirited pecks, and off it flew into our rowan tree. Back indoors; Wendy again heard the cheeping, as before it came from

the net. But this time the bird was inside the net, so we lifted the net and released this second young bird. Scouring the net for possible points of entry, I spotted a nest, hidden cleverly in a forked branch, a real masterpiece of camouflage. So, rather than netting the birds out from the cherries, we had netted these ones in. We had noticed, that morning, a chaffinch carrying a beak-full of wriggly green caterpillars, flitting about close to the kitchen window. It then became obvious to us that for over a day the parent birds had been feeding their incarcerated young through the mesh of the netting. A happy ending to a potential tragedy.

The warmth of the burgeoning spring brings forth creatures that spend the winter in a state of torpor. Queen wasps venture out and seek a suitable site to begin their Herculean task of nest construction. The nest is built with "paper" which the queen manufactures from chewed up wood, which she scrapes from any exposed wood, which is not too hard. Once the structure is big enough, she laid her first eggs. Still adding to the nest, she feeds her offspring. They hatch as grubs and eventually pupate into workers (non fertile females). These workers then take on the task of enlarging the nest and caring for their siblings. This leaves the queen free to fulfil her real purpose in life, to lay the eggs that provide the thousands of wasps that will make up the final colony. Towards Autumn, the slightly larger males and even larger queens are produced. Once the new queens and males leave the nest, they mate. She looks for somewhere to hibernate, to start next year's population. The last workers and males all die with the onset of winter. The old nests are never re-used.



Cowslips on Little Dean Spinney 2006

It looks like being another good year for cowslips on Little Dean Spinney, our village conservation area near Upper Houses. Take a stroll up there towards the end of April, when they should be at their best.

Sad to say that as soon as the collared doves hatched out, they were taken from the nest by the large tabby cat that often frequents the garden.

Peter Rowe

BULMER HISTORY GROUP

On the evening of March 2nd the Bulmer History Group had a record number of people gathered in the village hall to attend a presentation by Peter Rowe and John Dixey of Bulmer in old and new photographs.

Most of the old photographs, some dating as far back as the 1800's were owned by Basil Slaughter who kindly passed them onto Peter Rowe who then had them transferred to slide format, along with some of his own more up to date photographs documenting the changes in the village. As well

as viewing the slides there was also a chance to look at the original photographs as these were on display around the hall.

We had a very informative and entertaining narrative guide through a selection of slides portraying the growth and change of the village and its community. Images ranged from the daily goings on of life, to social activities, social groups and the village celebrations on Coronation Day. Other images included family portraits, how buildings evolved through the generations and new ownership and how the landscape has changed through development and nature's hand. Not only did we have some marvellous photographs we also had a great deal of reliable information to back up the names, places and history of the contents of the photographs due to the presentation being given by two members of the community that originate from what must be the most two well established families in the parish.

From what I have witnessed, Bulmer is fortunate that it still has such long-standing members of its community and those that still care about its history and heritage. Unfortunately though it looks like the memories and information that is currently held may all too soon be lost due to what seems a lack of interest from younger generations. Perhaps due to modern life and changing family values in our ever too busy lives, the faces and history that bind our local communities together are just sadly and regrettably becoming less important.

For those of you who may be interested in the Bulmer History Group or have any suggestions for future meetings you think would be of any local interest, you can either come along to the next meeting, (to be advertised in the next edition of What's On and on Bulmer's website www.bulmeressex.co.uk when confirmed), or contact Ashley Cooper on 01787 462027.

Lisa Sandford

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

New Government Fire Safety Regulations were introduced at the end of last year and a risk assessment was carried out on the Village Hall. Fortunately we have kept up well with requirements although there are a few issues which we must address this year.

As many of you know, the Village lost a good friend at the end of last year when Ken Leech sadly passed away. However it was his and his wife Jenny's wish that the Village Hall was a beneficiary from his estate and a generous donation was given. Due to unforeseen circumstances, the back room has to be redecorated and the floor covering replaced. With Jenny's approval, this will be financed from the donation and the room dedicated to Ken's memory.

The next event at the Hall is the welcome return of the "Time of Our Lives Music Theatre" who will be presenting "All The World's a Stage" on **Friday 27th April**. DON'T MISS IT. To book, please ring - 466030 or 374758 - Tickets £8.00.

The **A.G.M.** will be on Tuesday 15th May
Please come along and support your Village Hall.

Events to look out for in the future:

Ferret Racing. (Ferret owners, please contact John on 466030)

Quiz Night and Barn Dance and Peter Rowe's film on Wildlife in and around our area.

Watch the Parish Notice boards and www.bulmeressex.co.uk for dates and details.

VILLAGE LOTTERY WINNERS

Month	First	Second	Third
Dec.	Mrs S Herring	Mr & Mrs N Fraser	Mr R Stuart
Jan.	Mrs J Ward	Mr S Ward	Mr & Mrs Dickinson
Feb.	Mr D Audsley	Mr & Mrs Bennett	Mr A Skipper

The Lottery still provides 3 lucky winners each month. Are you a member? The more members, the bigger the prize! Please contact Dawn at the Post Office if you would like to join.

BULMER and DISTRICT W.I.

Our year started on a sad note when we lost a very dear friend, Shirley Battersby. Shirley had been a W.I. member since the age of 16 and had been an inspirational and dedicated President during her membership. She will be greatly missed by us all.

We continue to welcome new members especially the younger ladies of our community. You can join W.I. at 16. So girls, why not bring your Mums along or, Mums why not bring your daughters. We even have events where well-behaved husbands are occasionally invited! Our speakers are informative, creative and amusing. We have a voice on the pressing issues of the day and we are listened to.

Interested? Why not join us on the first Monday of each month, 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Our programme for the next three months is:

April 2nd Flower Arranging - Carol's Flowers of Distinction.

April 30th Jewellery - Jonathan Lambert.

June 4th A Gamekeepers Year - Graham Bendall. (Open meeting to all Spouses, Partners & Friends)

We will also be holding a **Table Sale on Saturday 28th April** in the Village Hall, 2pm until 4.30pm. Tables booked in advance £5.00, on the day £6.00. **For further information on W.I. or to book a table please ring Muriel on 01787 373464**

BULMER FOLK DANCE CLUB

We usually meet on the 2nd & 4th Monday of each month, but due to Bank Holidays over the next few months some dates have changed.

April.	May	June
Tuesday 10 th Monday 23 rd	Monday 14 th Tuesday 29 th	Monday 11 th Monday 25 th

Newcomers are always very welcome, contact Wendy or Peter on 375935

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS UNTIL 3rd MAY

Margaret Mills (Chairman)	- 01787 269377
Peter Rowe (Vice Chairman)	- 01787 375935
John Dixey	- 01787 376673
Ron Mansfield	- 01787 375301
Mike Crome	- 01787 378155
Jeff Wright	- 01787 376083
Christine Leigh	- 01787 378133

Barbara Rawlins (Parish Clerk) - 01787 370845

FUTURE PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS 2007

18th May 2007 – AGM & Ord. Meeting

13th July 2007

14th September 2007

9th November 2007

All meetings are 'open meetings' i.e. the Public can attend and there is time allotted for questions from the Public, but notice must be given in writing to the Parish Clerk at least ONE WEEK prior to the meeting.

Meetings commence at 7.45pm – in the Village Hall

Please note the **Community Police Support Officer** is now **71507 Rob Sippitt 01376 551312** based at 1-2 High Street, Great Yeldham.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BULMER PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 12th JANUARY 2007

PRESENT: Councillors Margaret Mills (Chairman), Peter Rowe, Mike Crome, J. Dixey, Chris Leigh, Ron Mansfield, Jeff Wright and the Clerk. Jan Cole - Field Officer for Rural Community Council of Essex. 2 members of the public

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: David Finch Cc., Nigel Harley DC., Ted Wood - CMMC

DECL. OF INTERESTS: Cllr. Rowe re planning application at Back House Croft - related.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS: None

APPROVE THE MINUTES of the meeting held on 17th November 2006. Proposed Cllr. Mansfield, seconded Cllr. Crome.

MATTERS ARISING: None

JAN COLE - was invited to the meeting to give Councillors information on the structure of a Village Design Statement (VDS).

- a VDS can give a clear statement of what is special, unique and distinctive about the character of our village, but it is not a Parish Plan.
- adds local detail to development plan policy and once approved by BDC it can be used as material consideration in the determination of planning applications. It is not a tool to generate or prevent development.
- it can influence people who live and work in the village, increase local pride and encourage care when making changes to the appearance of property. It cannot take away peoples' rights to make alterations to their property.
- it can help improve physical change and is a positive opportunity to suggest environmental improvements to enhance our area.
- it can observe how the village has evolved.

For the village to take on such a project there would need to be a public meeting to assess residents interest and perhaps an exhibition event or workshop. A steering committee would need to be formed incorporating 6/8 members. Grant funding is available for the production of the final document. The project would take 2/3 years to complete.

The Parish Council will decide at the next meeting whether to proceed. (*Editor: It was decided to go ahead, provided sufficient volunteers come forward.*)

COE'S MEADOW

Comments and recommendations from the annual RoSPA Report have been seen and dealt with by the CMMC. Whilst the Parish Council does not like the thought of the many notices, suggested in the Report, being placed over the

recreation ground, it was felt that a notice should be in the car park area warning the public that there is 'deep water on site'. This would make parents/minders watchful in case the children should wander off on their own.

On Sunday 7th January a Blessing was held on Coe's Meadow for the gift and development of the recreation ground. This was followed by a candlelight procession to St. Andrews Church. It was quite well attended.

ALLOTMENT LAND AT BULMER TYE - Clapps Farm piece.

Following a Decision (F.188) to sell the piece of rented allotment land (currently a builders yard) to Mr. W. Dixey and after taking advice from both land agent and solicitor, the Council placed a value of £25,000 on the land, with a 'claw-back' clause (overage agreement) of not less than 50% of an enhanced valuation should planning permission be obtained in the future. The Clerk was asked to convey this Decision to our solicitor.

BUS SHELTER

The bus shelter has been ordered (2.1.07) and Mr. Tony Dixey was asked if he would dig the concrete base to take the four posts. Delivery is expected within 4 weeks.

SID

The Speed Indicator Device has been purchased and delivered. We are now waiting on County Highways to arrange for the setting up of the equipment.

PLANNING

4 Finch - erection of 2 single storey extensions. No objections from Bulmer Pc.

Back House Croft, The Street - proposed conversion of first floor garage store and extension to garage. No objections from Bulmer PC, but the Council did take issue with yet another retrospective application and feel that the planning services should take a strong stance and make it quite clear to applicants that no work must commence before consent has been granted.

8 Park Lane - proposed detached bungalow/garage. *Refused* by BDC.

CORRESPONDENCE & NOTICES

1. Community Speed Watch (CWS) - a meeting has been arranged with Adam Pipe of Traffic Police to give a briefing on the criteria for acceptance on to the CWS scheme and the working of the equipment.

2. It was agreed to make the village hall available for an **Activity Day**, run by Braintree Leisure Development Team. The Day is Tuesday 14th August and is for children between the ages of 5 - 11 to take part in art, craft and sport activities. There is a charge of £5.00 per child, which is a contribution towards materials and equipment.

3. The Parish Ranger service has now been replaced by a **Community Warden Service**. The Warden for Bulmer is Dave Wade 07785515514. A key part of the Wardens' role will be to develop relationships with the local community by organising and participating in local events, carrying out regular patrols, attending Parish Council meetings and responding to 'Concerns' raised by local residents. They will also help to resolve environmental issues such as litter, graffiti, fly-posting, fly-tipping, abandoned vehicles etc.

4. BT Payphone in The Street. It is nearly a year since the Parish Council was informed that the kiosk in The Street is to become a 'cashless' payphone. The Clerk contacted the BT Liaison Officer to ask when we can expect the phone facilities to be installed.

5. Broadband mast at Bulmer School - a letter from Siemens Communications Ltd., stated that there were no safety issues with the type of device proposed because the power output is very small. They state that the TV transmitter in Cornard (about 5km from the school) uses the same modulation

technique, but the power output is 64,000 times the power output of the proposed device at the school).

6. Brambley Hedge Nursery School car park access. Waiting to hear of any objections from ECC, who lease the land

7. Simon Harris (tree/hedging warden) has been asked to arrange/purchase infill to the **damaged hedging at The Tye.**

8. School travel plan - ECC have asked St. Andrews School to review how children/staff get to and from home to school. The Parish Council was asked for an update on the proposed permissive path. The path, which will run from the village hall to Old Church Lane, should be ready for use in the Spring.

RECEIPTS

Essex County Council	- grant for bus shelter	£3,000.00
Customs & Excise	-VAT refund	£ 3,816.96
Allotment rents		£249.52
Doorsteps Green	-final grant funding	£5,190.59

PAYMENTS

Cllr. Crome	- travel expenses	£25.02
J. Doe	- hedging/ditching	£320.78 inc VAT
Harcourt-Powell	- fees re Clapps Farm piece	£235.00 inc VAT
R & R Lawnmowers	- strimmer service/repair	£103.27 inc VAT
Percey Brown	- assembling noticeboard	£1,737.83 inc VAT
A. J. Dixey	- excavating base holes for bus shelter	£225.00
Chilton Office Supplies	- Newsletter	£81.78 inc VAT
Traffic Technology	- speed indicator device	£4,728.21 inc VAT
M. Clarke	- refund deposit for standpipe key	£10.00
Elsey Adcock Assoc.	- information poster noticeboard	£246.75 inc VAT
King & Co	- saplings	

PRECEPT - although the Clerk budgeted for a precept of £5600 for the coming year, the Council felt that the parish should benefit from capital in hand. It was, therefore, proposed by Cllr. Crome, seconded by Cllr. Leigh and carried unanimously, that the **precept for 2007/2008 be held at £4500 for a third year.** The Clerks salary was set at £1700 pa.

A grant of £1000 to the village hall and £550 to the church.

OTHER BUSINESS

1. Marker posts on grass verge at Havenground opposite the school - although the Clerk did not get a very favourable response from County Highways when she last asked for shorter posts, it was suggested to try again. The Clerk was asked to point out that the existing posts were too flimsy and too tall and that similar posts to those opposite would be more suitable.

2. Since the hedges have been cut back clear of the grass verge at Lower Houses, vehicles have now cut the corner and churned up the verge. The Clerk was asked to put in a request to County Highways for **curb stones** to be laid along the bend, which at the very least, would stop the mud being splayed across the road.

3. It was reported that **dog mess** is again being left on pavements and at the recreation ground.

4. It was also reported that **cars are being parked across the pavement in The Street**, making it impossible for people to pass without going into the road. If it continues, the Community Warden will be informed.

5. The Clerk reported various **road defects** to County Highways, which included the missing 'Bulmer' sign at Lower Houses and the damaged sign post at the junction of Sudbury Road and Finch Hill.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.50pm

PARISH PATHS WALKS

Parish Path Walkers Winter Wadings

For the first two walks of 2007 the walk leaders clipboard was handed over to two guest leaders. Our first guest leader in January was Pat, who chose to lead us along some of the footpaths around Long Melford.

Conditions were overcast and we encountered one small drizzly shower but other than that the walk remained rain free. Unfortunately rain free did not mean risk free and we soon discovered that Pat was not adverse to a bit of danger and that you followed her at your peril.

After leaving the car park at Long Melford garden centre via Hares Drift we firstly encountered the Melford Motorway which thankfully on a re-count discovered all eight of us had made it safely across to continue on to discover why the rain had kindly stayed away for us today. After now officially



being the wettest Winter for three years and being faced with the consequences of one months rain in the last two weeks our next task was to wade the fast flowing rapids of Chad Brook with an extra ten pounds of earth glued to our boots. If successful you reached Bridge

Street. We crossed the road at Bridge Street and started on a path, which took us behind the houses opposite the Rose and Crown pub. This brought us to Ashen Grove where we stopped for a bite to eat. This stage of the walk was relatively without incident but as none of us had decided to dress as giant pheasants for the day we were mainly ignored by the various shooting parties being chauffeured around in trailers on the back of tractors. From Ashen Grove we headed towards Kiln Farm then took a left towards Kentwell Downs where another shooting party stopped us in our tracks. Whilst deciding on whether to change our route to miss any stray flying bullets by some not so friendly fire one ever so helpful member of the shooting party, on being asked replied that he had no idea in which direction the guns were being fired. On being asked whether he was an organiser of the event or just a punter, (which he seemed to take offence at), of this too he seemed unsure. At this point I was becoming a little concerned to the fact that somebody so vacant, and now a little irritated was in charge of such a deadly weapon. Time for a sharp exit. The final decision was taken when Pat headed off taking her chosen route anyway and headed straight for the line of fire. In the wood to the left of us we encountered the guns and dogs of owners who quite frankly looked annoyed that we should be there so without any delay we continued on our way to our next obstacle, a victim of the previous weeks heavy winds. After negotiating the fallen tree successfully we



surprisingly reached Cranmore Farm with the first aid kit untouched and the final stretch back to Melford Church was almost incident free, except for one of us who got caught and pulled down by the Mud Monster. The main topic of conversation though as we walked across Melford Green back to the car park was the early appearance of some Daffodils and Cherry Blossom in one of the gardens near to the church.

Thank-you Pat for a marvellous walk, even though a little bit white knuckle here and there I really felt I'd achieved something on my return. A medal for bravery.

February's walk was Martin's choice and we had a lovely uneventful afternoons walk around Bures and Lamarsh.

Since joining Margaret on her walks about two years ago, this is the only time I have seen such a large number of people attend except for one Bank Holiday. Altogether thirteen of us met at Bures railway station before being led down to the Stour Valley Path towards Lamarsh. Although a little wet underfoot the sky above was blue and the warming sun shone too, enhancing the beauty of the views across the Stour Valley.



Staying on the Stour Valley Path we left the winding river to cross the railway line and head for the Lamarsh Lion pub which we passed before taking a left turn into a narrow lane that took us upwards towards Cook's Green. Before reaching Cook's Green we took a path between Shrub's Farm and Speck's Farm which took us through Longspring Wood and Parkhill Wood where the Bluebells are preparing to flower on the passing of the currently glistening Snowdrops. After coming round and exiting Parkhill Wood we headed for Clees Hall and then eventually came to Cook's Green where we turned right and then took a left onto a footpath that brings you to Ferrier's Farm. This path takes you through a small stretch of woodland where on the previous week we were

lucky enough to see two deer, unfortunately the week of the led walk the bracken had all been cut down and no deer were sighted so they'd probably moved on. On passing through Ferrier's Farm we continued on the path that then brought us back to Bures and the railway station. **A lovely walk to end the Winter Season, thank-you Martin.**

Lisa Sandford

FUTURE WALKS FOR 2007

9th April – Easter Monday at 2.30pm

A Family Nature Walk

Come along and see what we can find on a circuit of less than 2 miles.

Meet at Plough Green. Hard parking in Jenkins House yard.

7th May – Bank Holiday Monday at 2.30pm

The Bulmer Bluebells

With a bit of luck the right date has been chosen this year! Option of a 5 or 3-mile walk. Meet at Plough Green. Hard parking in Jenkins House yard.

Sunday 27th May at 2.30pm

Across the Brook and Back

A 6-mile walk from the Village Hall over Belchamp Brook to Belchamp Walter, and then back via Gestingthorpe.

Sunday 24th June at approx 2.45pm from Sudbury

The Stour Valley Path

We will catch the 2.45pm train from Sudbury to Bures and then walk the 7 miles back along the Stour Valley Path. (Train time provisional until the summer timetable is published.)

For these walks strong footwear is advisable as mud is often encountered. A responsible adult must accompany children. Dogs may come with their well-behaved owners on fixed leads!!

Further details from Margaret Mills 269377

COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH

You maybe already aware this is now in operation in Bulmer where there are 30 & 40mph speed limits. Out of 17 sessions which normally last for about 1 hour that have taken place



since mid January, some 60 vehicles have been reported to Essex Police as exceeding the permitted speed limit plus a tolerance level. Some of the sessions have produced no offenders, which it has been noticed that parked cars have a big influence on speeding vehicles causing them to slow down. So remember, watch your speed when driving through Bulmer, the sessions are taking place on different days & times each week. It is also the intention of Essex Police to use their mobile speed camera within the village once statistics have been analysed.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH



“I WAS ONLY AWAY A MINUTE OR TWO!”

What do you think takes only a few minutes?
A kettle to boil.

Read the headlines of a newspaper.

Leave your car unattended to post a letter or drop children off at school.

Which one of these do you think would mean there is an opportunity of your losing your personal property in a matter of a minute or two?

In recent months, there have been far too many incidents, where people have “lost” their bags/ personal items, which they have left on the back seat of their unattended cars.

On their return to their cars they find that their items have been “taken”, with all the problems of damage to their cars i.e.: broken windows.

Items stolen have include mobile phones, wallets, radios, driving licences, Sat Navs, power tools, dvd's & cd's, cash, credit cards, debit cards, address books, diaries, as well as clothing and shopping too!

In one area in Braintree District fourteen cars were broken into in two days!

Why do people still do it you may wonder?

They say that they were in too much of a hurry!

The only other “defence” said by the victims are that they “only left their car for a few minutes”.

It is important that the message from Neighbourhood Watch is given some more thought.

Please do not give car thieves the opportunity to “make their day”.

Remember remove all valuable items from your car or secure them in your boot.

Indeed think why you need to take them with you when you go on your journey?

Please make sure the car is locked before you leave it.

NW Groups encourage everyone to be more effective in looking after their personal property.

NW Groups help those in the community who may feel vulnerable (whatever their ages) to feel safer, as they know someone cares!

It is very difficult to give to or take advice from strangers.

So why not join your local Neighbourhood Watch Group- it will give you peace of mind that there are people around you who care!

WHAT'S ON? IN COLOUR

Should you wish to read this Newsletter again but are unable to find your copy, it is now **available in colour** on the Parish Council website at www.essexinfo.net/bulmer/what-s-on/

The village website at www.bulmeressex.co.uk is in the process of having a ‘make over’ and occasionally the site, some of the links or pages may not be available, my apologies for this and it is hoped normal service will return as soon as possible. Should you have any comments regarding the new format, which now has a lot more links, then please do not hesitate to contact me at mike@mcrome.fsnet.co.uk Please also note the address is now www.bulmeressex.co.uk

The next edition of **What's On** will be published in **July 2007**. **Could I please have all your articles, photographs, and future events etc. by the 15th June. Either by email mike@mcrome.fsnet.co.uk or by post to 6 Vicars Orchard**