



# What's On?

**The Newsletter of Bulmer - December 2009**  
(Including Bulmer St., Bulmer Tye, Finch Hill, Batt Hall, Upper & Lower Houses, Church Road and Heddingham Road).

## **A New Years Present from National Grid for you and future Generations!!**

The following is adapted from the website [www.stourvalleyunderground.org.uk](http://www.stourvalleyunderground.org.uk)

The government is working to a report (Electricity Networks Strategy Group) that shows that the line from Bramford near Ipswich to the Twinstead Tee is inadequate to the task of carrying the loads created by new power stations on the east coast including two new nuclear reactors at Sizewell, plus gas powered stations at Kings Lynn and New Holland. There are, also wind farms in process of establishment near Clacton though these produce negligible impact on this issue.

**There are four proposed "corridors" for the new power lines** that National Grid (NG) have identified but all end at the "Twinstead Tee" and pass through the lovely countryside of the Stour Valley past Lamarsh and Henny. So we in this area have in fact no choice.

**Corridor 1** would add yet another line of 46.5 metre tall pylons down the route of the existing 400kV line between Bramford and Twinstead but this idea seems to be discounted by NG already.



Though NG denies it, we have been reliably informed that **Corridor 2** is the NG preferred route. This would involve building a sub station, known as a **Grid Switching point (GSP)**, to take power from the 400 to the 132kV lines and a switching station will in this case have to be built between Twinstead and Heddingham. This will be a very large and ugly structure. It is understood NG are interested in the **land on the side of**



the **A 131 near the wooded areas (close to Butler Wood, just before the cross roads to Twinstead & Wickham St. Paul) for this installation.** The size of the site would be at least 150 x 150 metres (at least two football pitches side by side) and tall enough to be seen over tree tops.

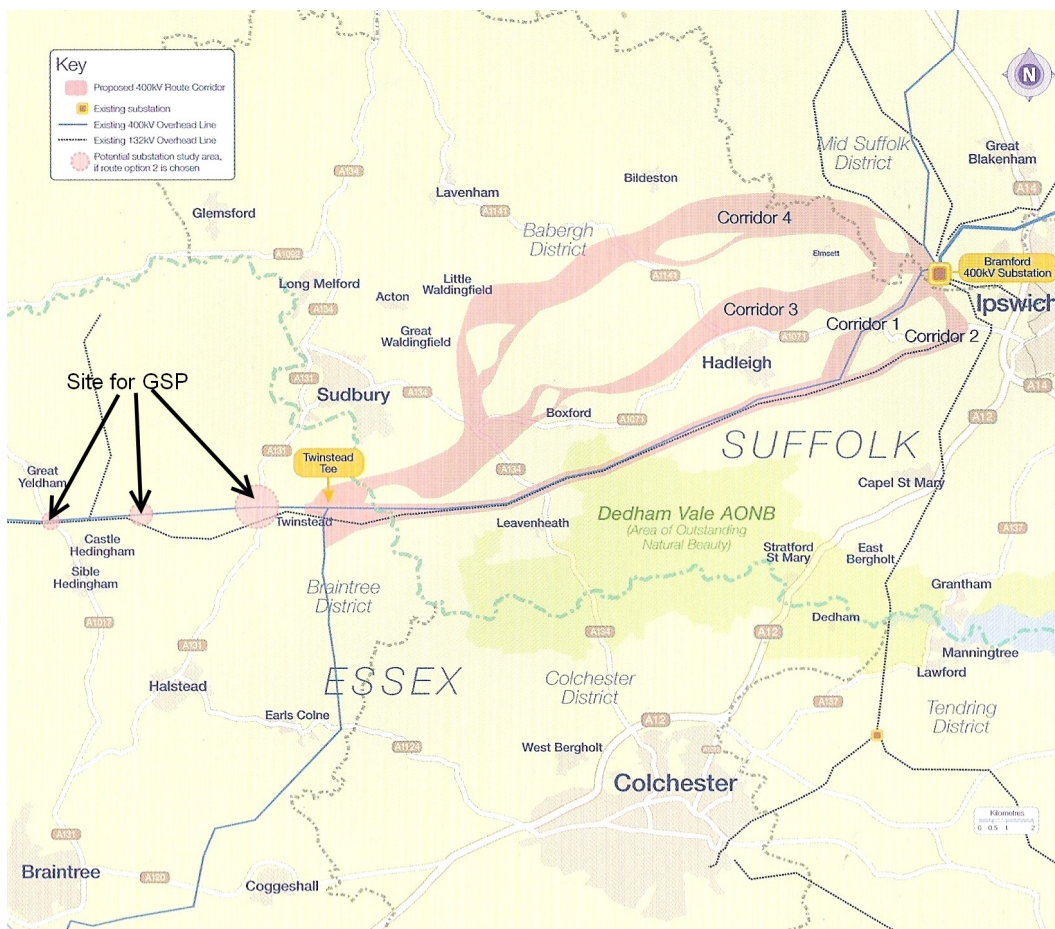
The new lines might replace the existing 132kV lines if NG can agree it with EDF meaning the smaller pylons would be replaced with 46.5m tall ones. All of the existing lines will be replaced during the project.

**Corridors 3 and 4** run through beautiful unspoiled countryside. **Corridor 3** is the most direct route and probably involves the most environmental damage. **Corridor 4** weaves its way by the longest of the routes avoiding environmentally important sites. Both of these routes have the unconscionable effect of spoiling the currently unfettered landscape of the Brett and Box valleys.

Much more information can be found on the website [www.stourvalleyunderground.org.uk](http://www.stourvalleyunderground.org.uk) including pictures of the type of GSP required if **Corridor 2** is selected. You can also attend one of many 'drop in' information displays being put on by National Grid as part of the consultation process, the nearest to Bulmer are: -

**Wickham St Paul,  
Tuesday 05 January  
2010 (12 noon to  
9pm)**  
Wickham St. Paul  
Village Hall, The  
Green, Wickham St  
Paul, Halstead, CO9  
2PT

**Castle Hedingham,  
Thursday 11  
February 2010 (12  
noon to 9pm)**  
Castle Hedingham  
Memorial Hall, Pye  
Corner, Castle  
Hedingham, Halstead,  
CO9 3DF



These dates and others are displayed on the Bulmer notice boards. This is **your** opportunity to **have** your say.

## BULMER HISTORY SOCIETY

Linking the themes of landscape and local heroes, our October meeting commenced with an extract from the Newspaper Archive, and concluded with the launch of a new book about Bulmer.

Joseph Felton, reported *The Bury and Norwich Post* of 1841, was both blind and deaf. He regularly attended Bulmer Church however, where he sat on the steps to the pulpit, with a horn to his ear. Despite his disabilities he gained employment, fetching and carrying parcels to and from Sudbury, which he visited daily, until being struck by a gig in his seventieth year.

From the Book of Remembrance we heard of farm worker Alfred Willis, who lived at Butlers Hall Farm. During the First World War he served in France with the Northamptonshire Regiment. Alfred was killed in action on 29<sup>th</sup> October 1918—just *thirteen* days before the Armistice.

To honour those who paid the supreme sacrifice, the History Society places a wreath on the War Memorial each year, during the Remembrance Sunday Service. This November it was laid for us, by Chairman of the Parish Council, Margaret Mills.



Our final local hero was Philip 'Tulip' Rowe (1871-1955). Born into a farm-working family, Tulip left Bulmer School at the age of twelve, subsequently earning his living 'on the land' and as a rural craftsman. A second volume of his handwritten memories has now been edited, and published by his grandson Robin Rowe, assisted by cousin Peter. Entitled **Pollards and People**, the book takes the reader on a journey around Bulmer.

Launching **Pollards and People**, Robin provided an expert explanation of Bulmer's landscape, about which his Grandfather makes so many enquiring observations. ('Why are Bulmer's lanes and ponds where they are?')

Glimpses of the book were then recounted. We heard of otters in the Belchamp Brook; of families in Smeetham Hall Cottages having to go Bardfield Bridge for their water 'in a dry time', and of the tragedy of a little boy drowning in a well at Batt Hall.

As a young man Tulip had helped fill the Auberies 'ice house' beside Sandy Lane. The older men he worked with provided memories from the mid 1800's. Some recalled the stagecoach passing through Bulmer Tye. Others told him of carpenters from Acton, walking seven miles to— and from— Jenkins Farm every day during renovations. (It was then part of Earl Howe's estate.) The flints used in the farm buildings, Tulip reports, came from Acton too.

The hardness of life is all too apparent. Aged ten, Tulip's uncle had to spend the Christmas Day of 1835, by himself, scarring birds off a field adjoining the Hedingham Road; at about the same age he 'trod the clay' bare-footed at the Brickyard.

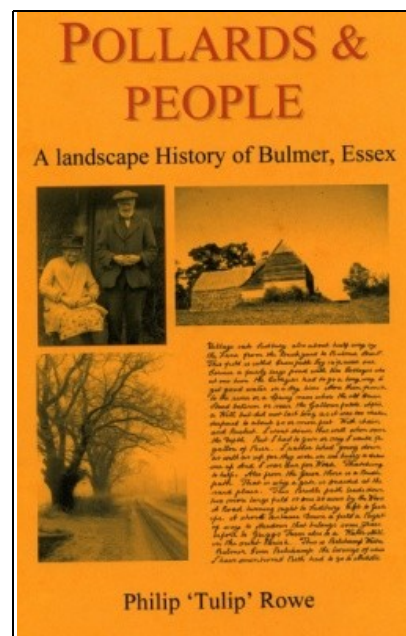
On other pages Tulip wrote of life as he knew it; of 'a poacher of the highest class', of the 'night rangers' employed to deter them, and of controversial attempts to stop bridleways being gated. He described the road from Lower Houses to Gestingthorpe as 'Watery Road' for a rivulet sometimes flowed along it.

There were amusing extracts too. The carpenter in Bulmer Street who made a coffin, then sat in it, but couldn't get out! The thatcher's mate who fell in a pond near Kitchen Farm and was asked by the on-looking farmer whether he was wet... There were references to swimming in the Vicarage Ponds; the Bulmer Scout Troop; the large clumps of mistletoe near Butlers Hall; thefts of chalk from Goldingham chalk pit; and of filling in a grave during a driving snowstorm, one April night. We were told of the extraordinary attempt to start a brickyard at Upper Houses in the early 1930's; of a farm having existed at Haven Ground; of bulrushes growing in a pond not far from the top of Finch Hill; and of Tulip brewing the beer, and making the mead for his wedding in 1896.

**Pollards and People** takes us back to the era of Thomas Hardy; it is possibly unique; a 'Victorian farm workers travelogue' around the parish of his birth and lifetime's labour. It is surely one of the largest bodies of work ever written in the North-Essex vernacular. It is an outstanding contribution to our local historical knowledge, and an unparalleled resource for future generations of Bulmer inhabitants.

**Pollards and People** can be obtained from Peter Rowe at Cornfields in Bulmer Street, (tel. 375935) or The Kestrel Bookshop in Sudbury. Price £7.50

*Ashley Cooper*



**BULMER SKYLARKS**

We have now been running for 6 months and have enjoyed a varied amount of activities including "horse racing", quiz afternoons, and visits from the Emergency Services. However, the highlight of our year was our



Christmas lunch held at St. Andrew's school. Little did we know just how magical it would be as we all arrived at the school and were met by some delightful pupils who were attentive to our every need. We enjoyed a wonderful Christmas lunch, again served by the pupils (supervised by the Head Teacher), and this was followed by music and Carols performed by the schoolchildren. What a lovely start to Christmas for us, and our thanks must

go to all the staff and pupils at the school.

If you want to know more about us why not ring Maggie 374758 or Barbara on 370845



**VILLAGE HALL NEWS**

Are you interested in what happens to your Village Hall? Would you like to become more involved in its running or events held there? Would you be prepared to give up an hour or two during the year to join the Committee? Due to two of our members moving from the area we now have vacancies on the Committee and would welcome volunteers to come





forward. It would be nice to have a representative from the younger members of the Village as everyone should have a voice on the running of the Hall. This belongs to us all and we want to see its future secure.

If you are interested or would like more information please ring John on 466030. The Committee is busy preparing a programme of events for next year so watch out for the notices on the Parish boards and the village website [www.bulmeressex.co.uk](http://www.bulmeressex.co.uk)

We would all like to thank you for your support in 2009 and wish you a very Happy Christmas with a peaceful New Year.

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#### VILLAGE LOTTERY WINNERS

The Lottery still provides 3 lucky winners each month. Are you a member? The more members the more funds for the Village Hall and the bigger the prize! Please contact Dawn at the Post Office (376676) if you would like to join.

Month	First	Second	Third
Sept.	Miss E Mack	Mr C Bowler	Mr J Mortimer
Oct.	Mr & Mrs L Raymond	Mr & Mrs S Puddephatt	Mrs E Wenbourn
Dec.	Mr & Mrs E Wood	Mrs J Dutson	Mr & Mrs J Duck

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#### St. ANDREWS SCHOOL

A chorus of barks accompanied this year's Harvest and Pets' service at Bulmer Church. Father Eoin was disappointed not to be accompanied by the previous few years' clucks from a collection of chickens. The pony however did make the service and had a great view of the altar through the vestry door. I'm always amazed how the small animals get through the service unscathed. Charlotte and Oli Moulden were cradling our two school guinea pigs whilst, only a couple of metres away, there were numerous pooches that may have found them entertaining chew toys if they'd wriggled out of safe hands.



Our school joined Bulmer community with our contribution to the service. The church was beautifully decorated and our children's selection of prayers, poems, posters and art work which were displayed with the help of Peter Fulcher.

Children from Classes 2 and 3 sang; Ellie Shaw, Charlotte Moulden and Sian Evans entertained us with two flute pieces; a small group from Class 1 recited a harvest poem and the whole school sang a Harvest Samba. It was a delight to see 5-year-old Charlotte dancing along in the pew. Children from

Class 2 made our harvest loaf, pictured above, with the help of Mrs Bolwer. Prayers were especially written for the occasion by Year 5 and 6 children.

There's always a relaxed feel to the service and we appreciate being welcomed as part of the regular village service.

Our annual McMillan Coffee morning. Mrs Bolwer did a wonderful job of organising the event with parents and grandparents popping in and joining the children for refreshments and cake. With contributions from parents and carers, our green raffle and bear competition we raised over £250 for the charity. Thanks to all the helpers that assisted during the morning.

*Ellena Mortimer - Headteacher*

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#### PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

##### YOUR COUNCILLORS

Margaret Mills (Chairman)	- 01787 269377
Mike Crome (Vice Chairman)	- 01787 378155
Peter Rowe	- 01787 375935
Peter Fultcher	- 01787 269935
Stephen Morgan	- 07973 341048
Chris. Leigh	- 01787 378133
Bethan Cook	- 01787 370435

Barbara Rawlins (Parish Clerk) - 01787 370845

##### 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> January 2010    13<sup>th</sup> March 2010

All parishioners are welcome to attend

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##### \*\*\*\*\*SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT\*\*\*\*\*

At the meeting held on the 11<sup>th</sup> Sept. Barbara Rawlins advised the Parish Council that she is to retire from her post as Parish Clerk at the next **Local elections in May 2011.**

Therefore there is a vacancy for a new clerk. Barbara has said she is happy to work alongside anyone until they have settled in and are managing the Parish affairs. This post is a part-time salaried position & any equipment required such as a computer or printer etc. will be provided.

The Council is keen that the position should be filled by someone from the Parish. If you wish to discuss the position in more detail before making an application in writing, then please contact Barbara on 01787 370845.

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##### **UN-APPROVED NOTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BULMER PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 13th NOVEMBER 2009**

**PRESENT:** Councillors: Margaret Mills (Chairman), Bethan Cook, Mike Crome, Peter Fulcher, Chris Leigh, Steve Morgan & the Clerk  
Nigel Harley DCllr , Peter Darlington (village agent)  
1 member of public

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** David Finch CCllr, Cllr. Peter Rowe, Dave Walls (Community Warden)

**DECLARATION OF INTERESTS:** None

**PUBLIC QUESTIONS:** None

**APPROVE THE MINUTES** of the meeting held on 11th September 2009. Proposed by Cllr. Crome, seconded Cllr. Leigh.

**MATTERS ARISING** None

PETER DARLINGTON introduced himself to the Council as the Village Agent for Bulmer. **'Village Agents'** is a new project sponsored by ECC, NHS Mid Essex and Braintree Local Strategic Partnership who have commissioned RCCE to deliver the project.

The main focus is to provide isolated or disadvantaged older people in rural communities with easier access to information and services from a trusted and well-known friendly face. Village Agents will be responsible for signposting local residents to a range of services and information sources that are able to provide the right help, advice and support and identifying any unmet needs in the local community for older people in rural areas.

Peter can be contacted on 07540 720604 and will be able to help with; welfare benefits, fire and home safety, health and fitness, how to travel, services and carer's support and volunteering.

#### **COE's MEADOW:**

A good report was received from RoSPA. There were some 'low risks' requirements made which were reported to Timberplay by Chris Leigh (Chairman CMMC) and cleared by them. The splits that appear in the play equipment wood is a seasonal occurrence that will open and close with weather conditions.

The car park surface is becoming a problem. Following a quote for resurfacing the area, the cost of which was out of the question, it was suggested that in the Spring a pebble surface should be laid down. Two new items of play equipment are being considered, for which grant funding is being sought. Action: Clerk to apply for grant funding. Chase up the Playground Ahead sign and to thank the Dedham Vale & Stour Valley Project Team for their work in clearing out the pond, which was done free of charge.

#### **PLANNING:**

**Keys Barns, Church Road** - change of use of an agricultural building to a 2-bed dwelling. This application was granted to encourage the small business. A domestic property is allowed where it is subordinate to the business.

**Carters, Bulmer Tye** - an amendment to the gable wall window. The Parish Council were unanimous in their views that a fanlight would be the best solution. Bulmer Parish Council did not support this amendment to the original application.

**Bulmer Brickyards, Hedingham Road, Bulmer Tye** - potential site allocation for future brick clay extraction. No objections from Bulmer Parish Council.

**Bramble Hedge Nursery Trust** - consent requested to change the Trust to a private limited company. No objections from Bulmer Parish Council.

#### **BUS SHELTER**

It has now been agreed with ECC for a bus shelter to be sited in Church Road between the A131 and Park Lane. However, ECC want to retain a shelter on the A131 and plan to erect a reconditioned shelter in place of the one that is damaged. **Action:** Clerk to make known to ECC Highways that the Parish Council is not happy with this arrangement and feels that it cannot take responsibility if a person should be injured due to a vehicle crashing into the shelter. The Parish Council has a duty to minimise risk where possible.

#### **GREEN WASTE**

The green waste collection on **Saturday** mornings at Park Lane and Vicars Orchard has finished now that every household has its own green waste wheellie bin. The collection could be retained at a cost, but the Parish Council felt the cost was too high for the relatively small number of residents using the **Saturday** collection.

**Action:** A notice is to be put in Newsletter

#### **CORRESPONDENCE & NOTICES:**

**1. The BT kiosk in The Street** has again been targeted for removal. The Parish Council continues to write to BDC insisting that it is essential the public phone remains in situ. for emergency purposes which may occur on the recreation ground, especially as there is poor mobile reception from some providers in that part of The Street. It may be that BT will not agree to two kiosks in the village and insist that one must go.

**NB.** Neither card nor cash is required to call 999 from a kiosk.



**2. The Speed Indicator Device**

is to be mounted inside the Park Lane allotments on the A131 side. As it is not allowable to have a SID on a 'no speed limit' road, the head will be

covered. Nevertheless, the CD will still be recording the speed of vehicles and this information can be passed to Traffic Control

**3.** A resident has asked if a **bus shelter** could be sited in **The Street**. There is only one suitable site.

**Action:** the Clerk to write to the resident on whose land the shelter could be placed.

**4.** A request has been put to Public Transport in Braintree District for consideration to be given to diverting bus service 11/12/13 to serve residents at **Finch Hill**. If a favourable assessment is made, consideration will be given to the request and we will be informed.

**5.** Notices have been put on village noticeboards publicising meetings over the proposed **pylons route**, which comes very near to Bulmer.

**6.** Braintree DC is reviewing its services with a requirement to identify savings and the **Parish Support Grant** (PSG) is one element being reviewed. The Parish Council wrote to BDC pointing out that the PSG was essential to outlying parishes as it compensated for providing concurrent functions for their communities, which the District Council would otherwise have to provide. The Parish Council urged Braintree to consider the effect the loss of the PSG would have on residents and village life throughout the District.

**7. Vehicles being parked** on the road and footpath near the **bend in Church Road** is a worrying problem. The Yeldham Police are being lobbied by several residents in the village, also County Councillor David Finch, the Parish Council and Neighbourhood Action Team. It appears that traffic police view the parking as a non issue since there have been no recorded accidents and Sgnt. Montgomery suggested yellow lines be painted. C Cllr. Finch replied that this would then make it a council enforcement issue and not a police issue. Not acceptable. **Action:** C Cllr. Finch has suggested that he and the Parish Council write again.

**RECEIPTS:**

Various	- allotment rents	£171.14
Braintree D C	- precept	£2,250.00

**PAYMENTS:**

Cllr. Rowe	- water standpipe keys cut	£13.20
Cllr. Fulcher	- travel expenses	£26.72
Cllr. Crome	- travel expenses - computer ink (VDS)	£26.72 £29.33
Mrs. A. Jewell	- refund for return of water key	£10.00
R.A.Mommer	- grass cutting	£299.00 inc VAT
Playsafety Ltd	- RoSPA report	£140.30 inc VAT

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Cllr. Fulcher has put together an Emergency Plan for the village, this is now being seen by all Councillors for approval.

The Council has asked Tony Dixey if he could fill in the **large hole** by the side of the manhole cover/sewage pipe on **Park Lane allotment**.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 10.20pm

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**GREENWASTE**

With the introduction of 'Green' wheelie bins the monthly service of collection on Saturday mornings at Park Lane and Vicars Orchard has now ceased. The service could have been retained at a cost to the Parish, but the Parish Council felt the cost was too high for the relatively small number of residents using the service.

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**PARISH PATHS WALKS**

Have you put on weight over Christmas? Are you feeling a bit unfit? Walking is a good way of getting fitter and helping weight loss. Why not join the monthly walks to help get you motivated. The next walks, given below, are suitable for most children accompanied by adults. Strong footwear is recommended. Dogs are welcome but should be kept on a short fixed lead.



**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> January at 2.30pm**

**MELFORD TO BRIDGE STREET**

Approximately 5 miles. Meet at entrance to Long Melford Church yard.

**Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> February at 2.30pm**

**OVER THE FIELDS TO WICKHAM**

A 5½ mile walk. Meet on Plough Green, Bulmer Tye.

**Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> March at 2.30pm**

**ROUND ARGER FEN**

About 5 miles. Meet at the Arger Fen Nature Reserve car park.

Ring Margaret Mills 269377 for further details.

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**PARISH PATH WALKS - AUTUMN 2009**

As the winter approaches another season of parish path walks has been completed and approximately another fifteen miles of countryside has been enjoyed by the parish path walkers. So as the autumn arrived so did the much needed rain but on all three occasions we escaped a drenching, all be it narrowly sometimes.

The first of our walks this season way back in September saw us still holding on to the warm sunny days as we walked paths we seldom use. We met at Bulmer village hall and walked the path behind the houses on The Street before reaching the paths around Goldingham Hall. Leaving Goldingham Hall territory we then crossed the road to take some slightly different paths across the fields of Hill Farm, Gestingthorpe before reaching Upper Houses and returning to the village hall by Brakey Hill.



For October's walk we ventured to Bures and walked on to Wormingford. We set off prepared for more rain after the mornings wet weather and further looming clouds

but we were delighted after only a few minutes into the walk a sudden change to warm and bright conditions allowing us to shed our coats and woolly hats.



We had a lovely walk across some beautiful countryside passing through fields and some small areas of woodland where wild mushrooms grew abundantly but nobody being quite sure of the edible varieties. As well as fields and woodlands we passed through the grounds of Bures Mill at the beginning of our walk, where we came across some unsuspecting looking free range turkeys, and Smallbridge Hall in Wormingford nearing the end of our walk. Both beautiful properties with magnificent views of which we enjoyed on our walk along with frequently positioned kissing gates where no opportunities were missed. On our return to Bures the light quickly began to fade as the mist began to rise and darkness eventually fell.



At the end of November we booted it back to Ballingdon. It was a cold crisp morning and a reminder that winter was fast approaching as we gathered at the village hall before heading off for Sandy Lane. At the bottom of Sandy Lane we walked along Bulmer Road and over to Middleton Road where we made our way through to the back of the housing estate to reach the field paths joining the Ryes Lane byway. Along the byway we looked back across to admire the ever-beautiful Stour Valley as



well as stopping to remove the remains of a fallen tree from across the path. Reaching Ryes Lane we headed for Plough Green where we took the path up to the school and the path around the back of the houses on Church Road to walk along the field down to the village hall.

Our thanks as always go to Margaret for giving her time and expertise so freely to lead these lovely little walks. Oh, and of course, the wine gums.

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### 10 years on

How this first decade of the millennium has sped by, each year clocking up it's own little highlights. Below is a selection of what I have noted down over those years, in my "nature diary". I started keeping this in 2001. This was the year that work was started on Little Dean Spinney. A survey at the time revealed that there were 57 species of wild plants and 11 species of native trees already growing on the site.

**May 2002** - A cock Ring Ouzel "the mountain blackbird", paused in its migration to perch on a little ash tree just down the field. It would have been heading for the uplands of northern Britain. It is identical to our blackbird, except for a splendid white crescent across its chest.

**Mar 2003** - A female Stonechat, sitting on the name board of Little Dean Spinney.

**Feb 2004** - Over at Lavenham, 9 hares, having a right old "free for all" Sparring and boxing, going off on mad chases all over the field, only to return into a sprawling rugby scrum again! We must have been entertained by their antics for the best part of 15 minutes.

**Jul 2005** - Our Conservation site, Little Dean Spinney, was selected as being an ideal release site for lizards and slow - worms, that had been rescued from construction sites. So far 11 lizards and 4 slow-worms have been released onto the site. Three log piles were built to provide basking spots for the lizards and small sheets of tin, laid flat, make good places for the slow-worms to hide. We already have grass snakes living there.

**Mar 2006** - My first sighting of a Little Egret in the village. These striking birds are very speedily colonising the south and east of England, ten years ago they were



rarities. At first restricted to the coast, they gradually found their way up the river valleys and are now venturing into the smaller tributaries like Belchamp Brook, where I came across this one. As soon as the Egret disappeared, a largish bird glided into view, a Barn Owl, the first I had personally seen in the village for the better part of 25 years. A very memorable few minutes.

**May 2007** - I was awakened quite early, by some loud "cuckoos" obviously very close at hand. Clearly, the cuckoo was just behind our boundary trees, in our neighbour Maudie's garden. Unfortunately I turned my attention to a carrion crow, which was mobbing a buzzard, quite close at hand. By this time the cuckoo, which was still calling merrily away, had perched on our garden weather vane, in full view. Needless to say, it took off down the field before I



could even focus the camera on it. If it hadn't have been for that damned buzzard!.....

**Mar 2008** - Walking the footpath past the Village Hall towards Upper Houses in mid January, a sizeable flock of small birds arose from the game strip across the field to

the left. I estimated that the flock was between 150 and 200 strong. This was an unusually large flock of linnets, members of the finch family. Although they are British birds, the likelihood is that this flock were winter migrants.

### And now for two entries from the last couple of months.



**Sun. 8th Nov. 2009** - Very surprised to see that a pack of hounds were meeting over on the other side of the Belchamp Valley, presumably drag hunting. The hounds and mounted followers

disappeared in the direction of the Rookery Farm. In that area they must have startled a herd of Fallow Deer, because only a few minutes later, this herd came streaming across the fields from Heaven wood, on Smeetham Hall land. Heading at first for Bulmer Street, but then pouring through a gap in the hedge to emerge in the next field, to disappear from our view as they crossed the Goldingham Hall drive. They made a fine sight, never pausing in their headlong rush.

There were about 20 of them, all without antlers, except for one stag, which brought up the rear, who was sporting a fine set of headgear.

**18th Dec. 2009** - Snow everywhere, garden full of birds, Tits, Chaffinches, Goldfinches, Blackbirds, Fieldfares, Starlings, Robins, Dunnocks all looking for an easy meal from the bird feeders or the remaining berries and apples on the trees and a Green Woodpecker digging away to get at the lawn under the snow.

A pair of Mistle Thrushes have taken ownership of my neighbour Bill's pyracanthas, which are heavy with berries. If any other member of the thrush family, Blackbird, Fieldfare or Song Thrush, dare to approach these bounteous shrubs, they are very speedily repulsed and sent scurrying back to our side of the fence!

**Peter Rowe**

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### TREE PLANTING

I (Simon Harris - Parish Tree Warden) on behalf of Bulmer Parish Council have put forward a plan for an extensive planting of hedges and trees along the A131 and adjoining roads in Bulmer and Twinstead. We have received a grant from the Tree Council of **£3,500** to pay for this. The total is 1,110 metres of hedging and 55 trees. It's a big scheme, with around two thirds of it in Twinstead and one third in Bulmer. The work will take place in late January and February, and we will be looking for volunteers to join a number of working parties.

Please call **Simon on 371463, or Peter Fulcher on 269935**, if you would like to be part of the working parties.

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**St. ANDREW'S CHURCH**

## PROVISION OF TOILETS, KITCHEN AND MEETING ROOM

We have now received approval from the Church of England for the extension to the Church to provide toilets, kitchen and meeting room. We are in the process of applying for Planning Permission from Braintree District Council. The application should be



submitted early in 2010. It is not anticipated that there should be too many problems as English Heritage have already agreed with the proposals in the Church of England's permission.

The design has altered since the Public Consultation exhibition in the Church to take in some of the comments made. It now extends out from the Church 6.5m as opposed to 10m in the previous design. The walls will be of vertical green oak planking on a red brick plinth. The window frames will be oak and the roof tiles the same as the existing ones. English Heritage specified the oak planking.

There is still a long way to go as we do not have the money to fund the building work and although we will be applying for grants from various bodies to help in this, we will have to provide some of the money ourselves.

Churchwardens

## VILLAGE AGENTS

As a Village Agent I can help you by providing easy access to services and information to support your individual needs. Working as a team we offer free confidential advice and a link to many services such as those above. Please do not hesitate to contact me.

Peter Darlington

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Above picture supplied by Mags Evans – Bulmer Tye



May I wish you a very happy Christmas and a peaceful and healthy New Year. With thanks to all those who contribute to this newsletter.

The **next edition** of 'Whats On?' will be published at the end of March 2010, could I please have all pictures, articles, events etc. by the **15<sup>th</sup> March**. Either by email to [mike@mcrome.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:mike@mcrome.fsnet.co.uk) or snail mail to 6 Vicars Orchard.

Peter  
Fulcher  
and  
Margaret  
Mills

VILLAGE AGENTS  
Mid-Essex Pilot  
Easy access to services and information

PETER DARLINGTON  
07540 720604  
[peter.darlington@vaessex.org.uk](mailto:peter.darlington@vaessex.org.uk)

HELP WITH  
WELFARE BENEFITS  
SERVICES & CARER'S SUPPORT  
FIRE & HOME SAFETY  
TRAVEL  
HEALTH & FITNESS  
LOCAL SERVICES

For further information please  
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