



What's On?



The Newsletter of Bulmer – December 2010

(Including Bulmer St., Bulmer Tye, Finch Hill, Batt Hall, Upper & Lower Houses, Church Rd & Hedingham Road). View in colour at www.bulmersex.co.uk

Could this be Bulmer in bloom?

Following a donation of 5,000 (yes five thousand) daffodil bulbs to Bulmer Parish Council by the British Trust Conservation Volunteers (BTCV), with a very hard working group of volunteers (mentioned in dispatches on the left), there should be an excellent display of colour around the village next spring.

Bobbie Franklin
Barbara Rawlins
John Brett
Denis Armstrong
Peter Fulcher
George Pennington
Rod Howard
Derek Smith
Margaret Mills
Mike Crome
BTCV (4)



Whilst the men dug the trenches, Bobbie & Barbara placed bulbs (the right way up, of course), and then the back up crew of men refilled the trenches. Bulbs were planted along both sides of the church walls facing on to Church Meadow, and the wall to the graveyard.



Once this area was completed the crew then moved to the village hall and bulbs were planted around the perimeter of the entrance & car park.

Rod planted many bulbs in the grass on one side of the entrance to Vicars Orchard, but due to the inclement weather and the ground being so hard it has prevented the other side from being completed. Hopefully there will be a suitable break in the weather early in the New Year to complete the task.

Margaret and the volunteers from BTCV planted their bulbs around the green at Bulmer Tye.



So with many thanks to the volunteers who came out on a cold November morning, we all can now look forward to a wonderful display of yellow in the spring to brighten our days. After it looks like it is going to be a long & hard winter ahead, in more ways than one.



VILLAGE HALL NEWS



The last quarter of the year ended with two popular events. The first was the Ferret Race evening held in October. Unfortunately, for reasons known only to themselves, some of the Ferrets booked for the event failed to attend. However this did not spoil the evening and we were able to run all the races without a hitch. The evening was made doubly rewarding as it was attended by a group of German students on an exchange visit with our local schools. It would be interesting to know how they related their experience to their families when they returned home! The Quiz night held in November was again well attended with the fish and chip supper enjoyed by all. The proceeds from the well-supported raffle were, as always, donated to Macmillan Cancer Care and as a result we were able to send £140.00 to the charity. The Committee will be busy planning events for next year. We are hoping to hold a Fete in the summer, which will involve the whole Village coming together. May we take this opportunity to thank all of you for your support over the past year at events, attending the various clubs running at the Hall, and joining the Lottery. If you are not a member of the Village Lottery and would like to join, please contact any member of the Committee and we can get an application form to you, or logon to www.bulmeressex.co.uk where you will find an application form that can be printed & passed to the organizer.

We wish you all a Very Happy Christmas and a bright trouble free New Year.

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
Sept.	Mr & Mrs B Smiles	Mrs M Cutter	Mr L Raymond
Oct.	Mr & Mrs B Smiles	Mr & Mrs K Mills	Mrs M Skipper
Nov.	Mrs E Wheeler	C Massey & S Davies	Mr & Mrs J Duck

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

BULMER SKYLARKS

Our year concluded with our Christmas lunch once again being held at St Andrew's School. We were made very welcome by the staff and the children, some who served us at the table. The school then entertained us with Carols and the wonderful choir sang for us. We were also privileged to see the first showing of a "silent movie" made by the drama group. We would like to thank publicly all the staff at the school and especially the pupils for their good manners, excellent behaviour and amazing talent. We are looking forward to next year when we will be hearing about The National Stud at Newmarket, watching a presentation of Gardens & Stunning Scenery and learning about wool and spinning. We will

also be holding a Fashion Show at Edinburgh Woollen Mills in May when some of our members will be modelling their garments. Of course we will still have our usual mix of lighthearted quiz and games afternoons.

If you would like to join us please come along to the Village Hall on the fourth Tuesday of the month. Our first meeting in 2011 will be on Tuesday 25th January. If you would like to know more please ring Barbara on 01787 370845 or Maggie on 01787 374758

KIRI VILLAGE AGENT REPORT

Hello everybody; it doesn't seem possible that Christmas is so close! I hope you don't mind but I am letting master tell you how the first year of Village Agents has gone.



So far we have been able to help over a 1000 people and have the help of nearly 100 various support providers.

We have had intensive training from Essex Fire & Rescue, now we are able to carry out fire and safety checks and supply free smoke alarms.

Other training completed was with Social Care and Essex Equipment so we can survey and supply items to help make peoples lives easier.

We have been able to highlight various problems in many areas, which have lead to both cost savings and in more efficient working

All that we do has been evaluated and not only have we covered all our running cost but that has been an economic benefit.

The Parish Council has as you can see allowed me to provide a leaflet with some tips during the winter.

Now back to the important Village Agent.

My preparation for the cold weather is to move my bed closer to the fire; I have been moving it a little bit each day so master will not notice.

On both the 5th & 6th November there were lots of fireworks going off and as master does not like them I lay on his feet under his desk and every so often gave him a lick to let him know he was safe with me there to look after him.

Just a quick note from my good friend Buddy who works for Essex Police with his handler, when you go Christmas shopping please be careful with your purses and wallet and don't put presents on the back seat of the car, there are some not very nice people about.

Well, off to move my bed a bit closer to the fire

Merry Christmas and wags.

KIRI & Master

BULMER STITCH & SEW CLUB

The Stitch & Sew club is back in action! We started in October and have had attendance from 14 Ladies, and we musn't forget our one Gentleman, which is great. For only £1 per session incl. Tea /Coffee & biscuits, come and join in, no matter what your hobby is. Our next meeting is on January 25th 2011, and every 4th Tuesday in the month thereafter. For further details please contact Jean on 476828 or Margaret on 312915. We meet in the village Hall at 7 – 9pm.

BULMER NATURE DIARIES

What a glorious array of Autumn colours we had shining out from our woods and hedgerows this year. Most people seem to agree that they are the finest we have enjoyed for several years. From here, the Belchamp Valley was aglow with a patchwork of subtle colours. From the russets, yellows, and oranges of the Poplars, Willows, Maples and odd Elms, to the almost startling reds and pinks of Wild Cherry and Dogwood. All too soon, these multicoloured leaves were banished by the first frosts and winter gales, leaving only the Oaks, clad with foliage that shaded from palest green to a deep, mellow rust. These remaining trees contrasted dramatically against the dazzling cloak of that late November snowfall. At closer range some of the hedges glowed with the glossy red berries of Hawthorn and Dog Rose, advertising themselves to the birds and small mammals that will seek them out in the harsher months to follow. The Blackberries hung on late; we picked some beauties on Oct. 21st.

Another thing that we treated ourselves to were some wild mushrooms, having very carefully checked their true identity. Firstly Common Parasol, a tall, usually quite large mushroom, with a good flavour and then Wood Blewits, also known as blue stalks, which have a very delicate flavour, or are rather tasteless, according to how discerning your palate is (or so I'm told!)

Dates of the comings and goings of migrant birds in and around Bulmer. Last year's dates in brackets. Summer migrants, last dates recorded by me: - Swift 3rd Aug. (27th Aug.); Blackcap 20th Sept. (6th Sept.); Whitethroat 22nd Sept. (21st Sept.); House Martin 5th Oct. (17th Sept.); Swallow 7th Oct. (4th Oct); Chiffchaff 8th Oct. (8th Oct) Autumn migrants, first dates: - Redwing 11th Oct. (13th Oct); Fieldfare 20th Oct (27th Oct).

A few other bird sightings from this Autumn's diary: - 20th Sept. about 12 Mistle Thrushes flew across, usually only seen in ones or twos. 22nd Sept. 3 Buzzards over Brakey Hills, have been seen several times this Summer, I think they must have nested close to the area.

23rd Sept. A hobby flew over towards Goldingham Hall. 15th Nov. Flock of about 50 Skylarks on the backfield. On the butterfly front, a Brimstone in Bulmer Street on 10th Oct. very late record, the second brood are usually on the wing in August. Really out of season were two Cowslips flowering on Little Dean Spinney on 18th Nov. Can't decide whether they were very early or late!



Never underestimate nature. In early November, Moira Germaine who lives a stones throw from us in Bulmer Street contacted me. Something was raiding her fishpond and had been taking her magnificent Coy Carp, over a period of weeks. They were put in there over twenty years ago when only



small, by her late husband, Dan (a local GP) and were his pride and joy. From over thirty, the numbers had plummeted till there now were only four left. The morning before she had found three laying close by, one half eaten but the other two barely touched. Needless to say it was devastating for her to see the fish being so wantonly attacked. It clearly wasn't a Heron, as the pond was well netted and these fish were far too big for a Heron to have hauled out. My other suspect was a Mink.

I contacted Nick Oliver, who is a very knowledgeable, hands on, conservationist and naturalist. He inspected the remains of the fish, and was in no doubt that the culprit was an Otter and thought that it would be back after the remaining fish. My joy at the discovery of this still rare mammal right here in the middle of Bulmer, was somewhat tempered by the distress and worry it was causing Moira. I was very surprised that an Otter would be operating so far from a main river, but Nick assured us that they would travel large distances overland to get to stocked ponds. Otters have a very acute sense of smell and he believes that they can actually smell out a pond that contains fish. He was often called out on behalf of Suffolk Wildlife Trust, to find similar situations where large fish were being taken. He doubted if there was a pond in Suffolk that was not within the range of an otter. As fencing the pond would have been near impossible, Nick suggested that she found someone with a secure pond to take them, which by the end of the day, she had arranged. Moira, who is Scottish and a great nature lover, was very stoical about it "Fancy that, I'd never have believed it, an Otter right here in my own garden. I know they had my fish, but I do love the wee beasties!" Nick Oliver, who kindly allowed me to reproduce it, took the photograph of the otter in a local river.

PLEASE NOTE

Due to reasons of copyright, the picture of the Otter is unable to be displayed here. It was however displayed in the printed hard copy

My neighbour Bill has a freestanding pyracantha bush in his garden. Kept tightly pruned, in the autumn it is always thickly covered with red berries. This year I noticed that it had a clearly cut band of berries around the middle, but the top and bottom of the bush was bare and I must say looked quite attractive. At first I thought that Bill had trimmed them off for effect, until I saw a Woodpigeon arrive on the top. Craning over, it was attempting to reach down to snaffle up any berries within its reach. At the same time another pigeon arrived on the ground and was stretching up for all it was worth to reach the berries above it's



head, leaving an untouched band of berries around the bush. What they had done was to create the equivalent of a double browse line. To explain, a browse line is created when grazing animals eat away at the lower branches of any tree or hedgerow in their field. This leaves a clearly cut line around the trees or hedges, below which any new branches will be quickly eaten off, showing just how far up the animals can reach. Browse lines aren't restricted to just cattle and horses, on Little Dean Spinney I have noticed where Rabbits have left exactly the same effect on the bramble thickets. Some of our woodland will show a browse line created by deer, especially where culling is not carried out and the deer population builds up beyond reasonable numbers.

I hope, by the time you are reading this that temperatures will have returned to some sort of December "norm". Its Mid afternoon on Dec. 3rd and outside the thermometer stands at -3 C. under a dull, leaden sky, with thick snow underfoot. Had we any sun today, I'm sure it would have been an awfully pretty scene.... as it is, it's just pretty awful! All the birds and animals must be finding it a struggle to survive. A couple of nights ago I switched on the outside light, to see if it was still snowing, it was, but that was not all, across the frozen pond came a Fox. It searched hither and thither, and then spent a long while snuffling in the snow underneath the bird feeder. Earlier we had hung up some fat and the fox had probably scented some of the scraps that the birds had dropped.

10th Dec Suddenly milder, but not for long, according to the forecasters we're in a mini interglacial, which will last for all of 3 days. We've been on a wild goose chase today, or more exactly a wild Waxwing chase at Long Melford. Dave Carter saw 70 there yesterday and sent me this super picture that he took, but we didn't see so much as a feather today!



Will we get a white Christmas? Or will the weather gremlins do a smart U turn and send us a mini heat wave. Whatever we have in store, can I wish everyone a very happy Christmas and good fortune for the New Year.

Peter Rowe

BULMER HISTORY GROUP

'Who died on October 22nd 1780, aged 48, and is commemorated in Bulmer Church?' was a question posed at our autumn meeting exactly 230 years later. 'Robert Andrews's first wife Frances Mary', came several correct answers.



This preceded the announcement that a website—with the details of all the graves in the churchyard—has been launched through the technical skills of Mike Crome and hard work of Allen Burbidge. Allen has assiduously photographed the graves, and copied all the details from the headstones, which were gathered by the Graveyard Recording Group, lead by Doreen Desmond and Thelma Dallimore between the late 1970's and early 1990's. (The website's address is www.bulmerhistory.co.uk).

Derek Lamb read from the Book of Remembrance. Wing Commander Harry St. George Burke served with 151 Squadron in the R.A.F. Initially the squadron flew Defiants and then Mosquitos, in night flying missions over the North Sea. Harry died on October 15th 1942, aged 33, and is buried in Bulmer Church.

Extracts from 'Tulip' Rowe's superb memories of Bulmer, contained in *Pollards and People* followed. These included an account of his wedding celebrations held at Lower Houses in 1896, for which he had brewed a sack of malt and also made mead, for the 'thirty friends and relatives who joined in with music and songs.'

Our principal speaker saw the welcome return of Pip Wright. His talk entitled '*Finding out about History from old Newspapers*', included reports of Blondin tightrope walking over the River Orwell, hot air balloon flights from Bury St Edmunds in the late eighteenth century, and local examples of the selling of wives. Other colourful snippets included a young chimney sweep discovering a dead man as he ascended a chimney, together with accounts of smugglers landing gin—and also tea—along the Suffolk-Essex coastline. Pip Wright has performed sterling work in revealing the 'human face' of local history, and was warmly thanked for visiting us again. (Suggestions for speakers, and ideas for future meetings are always welcome, please phone 462027) On Remembrance Sunday, Irene Dickinson laid a wreath at the War Memorial of St Andrew's Church on behalf of the History Society.

Our next meeting on **March 4th** will feature a number of speakers with local themes. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Ashley Cooper

COE'S MEADOW - UPDATE

Another year has gone by and I want to start off by thanking everyone who has helped this year, be it ladies who baked for the Fun Day or people who helped on the day. I also want to thank Tony Dixey for all the wonderful maintenance work he has carried out over the year, Allen for his fortnightly inspections and Allen's son in law for helping Tony to make lids for the bins. Finally I would like to thank all the people who gave up their time to join in our work parties.



It's been a very busy year for Coe's Meadow. New play equipment was bought and lots of maintenance work carried out. In September we had a very good ROSPA inspection (health and safety).

Lots of conservation research was carried out in order to find the best way to conserve our wild flowers. If you have been on the Meadow recently you will have seen that we have some "set aside areas". This is a year's trial so we await the results next spring.

On behalf of Coe's Meadow Management team I would like to wish everyone a Very Happy Christmas. We look forward to seeing you with your children enjoying this wonderful facility. And we also look forward to seeing villagers of all ages at next year's Family Fun Day.
Chris Leigh (Chair CMMC)



MESSAGE FROM YOUR MP-BROOKS NEWMARK

I was first elected to serve as the MP for Braintree in 2005. However, as a result of boundary changes, I only became your MP at the last general election.



Following the formation of the new Coalition Government, I have been made a Government Whip for the Department of Business Innovation and Skills, and for the Welsh Office. This means that I keep MPs informed of what is going on in those departments, and I let the government know what MPs think about current legislation. But most importantly, it is my responsibility to ensure the smooth passage of legislation relating to my departmental responsibilities. Although this does give me additional duties in the House of Commons, this doesn't mean that my work for you, my constituents, changes in any way, my priority will always be to represent your interests in Parliament. I am available for you to contact me at newmarkb@parliament.uk or on 020 7219 3464 if you have an issue that you would like me to help with, or if you wish to share your views.

Having a strong local community is important, and I know that our parish councils are at the heart of this powerful link. A community that works together can achieve good results for their local area, and parish councils provide a wonderful forum for this community collaboration. I'm proud of the strong local community spirit that we have in our area.

Parish Councillors are also important for their role in keeping me informed about the issues that are important to local people. I want to ensure that local opinions are truly represented in Westminster, and I look forward to continuing to forge a strong working relationship with the Parish Councils, and representing the interests of all my constituents.

Brooks Newmark MP



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH – UPDATE

Bulmer neighbourhood watch scheme covers all parts of the village.

An updated list of all the village co-ordinators is shown below. Your co-ordinator is there to help and if you cannot contact him/her, contact another co-ordinator, but please remember that they are **not** policemen, and **if in any doubt always call the police first.**

Area	Co-ordinator	Contact No.
Lower Houses	Bob Scott	312228
The Street South West	John Duck	372805
The Street Middle & St. Andrew's Rise	Tom Dickinson	370016
The Street & Smeetham Hall Lane	Simon Ward	319707
Vicars Orchard & Church Rd North	Alan Skipper	374758
Finch Hill	Cathy Pony	313344
Haven Ground, Church Rd South,	Ted Wood	373464
Park Lane	June Coombes	377357
The Tye	Ken Mills	269377
The Brickyard	Peter Minter	269232
Upper Houses	Chris. Massey	378092
Batt Hall	Felicity Gore	372439

If you have moved into the area recently, please contact your coordinator. If anyone wishes to receive crime circulations, which have been received from the local police, they can e-mail: tomdick@talktalk.net who will be happy to add your name to the circulation list. Fortunately, Bulmer is a very low crime area and most circulations are of a general nature or advice regarding security, latest scams etc.

**PARISH COUNCIL NEWS
YOUR COUNCILLORS**

Margaret Mills (Chairman)	- 01787 269377
Mike Crome (Vice Chairman)	- 01787 378155
Peter Rowe	- 01787 375935
Peter Fulcher	- 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

14 th Jan. 2011	11 th March 2011
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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.

COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2011

In May 2011 it will be time for Local Elections and if you would like to represent your village on the Parish Council, then this is your opportunity to join the Council. If you would like to know more about being a Councillor, then just speak to anyone of the current Councillors above. Or logon to www.nalc.gov.uk/Toolkits/Become_a_councillor/Become_a_councillor.aspx

MINUTES OF THE BULMER PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 10th. SEPTEMBER 2010

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

6 members of the public.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Peter Darlington

DECL. OF INTERESTS: None

PUBLIC QUESTIONS: None

APPROVE THE MINUTES of the meeting held on 9h July 2010. Proposed by Cllr. Crome, seconded Cllr. Rowe.

MATTERS ARISING: Cllr. Fulcher asked if **grant funding for the allotments** was forthcoming. The Clerk replied that, unfortunately, due to cutbacks the funding had been withdrawn.

DAVID FINCH CC reported the following – ECC and other authorities are anticipating budget reductions of 25% - 40% in line with similar cuts being planned for Government departments. The Government has already reduced the County Council's annual funding by around £13m. The Council will have more details in Nov/Dec.

Front line services will be protected.

Essex and Kent are combining to form a Local Enterprise Partnership.

COE'S MEADOW REPORT:

- Noticeboard has been treated.
- Lids for the waste bins have been made and will be fitted FOC.
- A work party was organised, for the conservation areas, to remove unwanted seed heads before they burst and new seed has been sown.
- A small section of the ground has been set aside for a conservation experiment - to encourage butterflies - where the grass will not be cut for a year.
- Hedges are to be cut and a dead tree has been removed.
- A coffee/tea and cakes day was held at Linda and Jeff Wright's house in The Street where £60-25 was raised. The organisers were rather disappointed at the turnout.

PLANNING:

8 Vicar Orchard - TPO to remove a cypress tree. No objections from Bulmer PC

4 Bulmer Tye - retrospective consent for new vehicular access of the Fox car park leading to the rear of 4 Bulmer Tye. This application was **refused**. The applicant is to Appeal.

When the extension to the Fox car park was granted a bund was built around the perimeter to protect the residents of Ryes Lane from the headlights of cars manoeuvring in the car park.

This bund has now been partially removed. The residents, who are being disturbed at night with car headlights shining into their windows, attended the Parish Council meeting to express their concerns.

The Clerk was asked to contact Planning Services stating that the PC felt it unreasonable to expect residents to put up with this nuisance throughout the winter months (6.00pm - 12.00am) while the Appeal is

proceeding. An Appeal can take up to 20 weeks before being decided. Meanwhile, would Braintree DC please ask the applicant to erect a temporary solid structure/gate across the opening of the bund to cut off the beam from the headlights?

CORRESPONDENCE & NOTICES:

1. County Highways have advised BPC that the ditch running alongside 10 Church Road is the responsibility of **Greenfield Housing Asscn**.

2. The Clerk was asked to contact a trustee of the late Lawrence Coe to enquire if they would object to the Parish Council opening up the ransom **strip of land adjoining Coe's Meadow**. The suggestion is that it could be an extension to the Meadow as a woodland wildlife area with one or two grass paths running through. Also, would the trustees consider selling or leasing the strip?

3. Estimates were received from John Doe and Tony Dixey to carry out work on **Turnpike Piece allotments**. It was proposed by Cllr. Mills, seconded by Cllr. Crome to accept John Doe's quote and to ask that he let them know when he would be starting in order that notices can go up on the allotments advising the tenants.

4. It was proposed by Cllr. Crome, seconded by Cllr. Leigh to accept the Braintree, Essex **NRSA Course** through Project Skills Solutions.

5. Sewage manhole covers on Turnpike Piece. Following solicitors' advice the Parish Council is to obtain quotations, for repair to the covers, which will be passed onto the resident concerned.

6. Brooks Newmark MP for Braintree has asked if he may write a short contribution to the parish magazine. The Parish Council agreed to a trial run so long as it was short and non political.

7. The Parish Council is asking EALC to assist in improving **broadband** in this area.

8. Following a publication on Essex Speed Management - **Village Speed Limits**, the PC had written to the Highways Director to express how pleased they were to read of the new criteria for village speed limits and would be looking forward to seeing speed restrictions of 40mph being imposed on the A131 at The Tye in the near future.

9. The Clerk wrote to Mr. Brown expressing concern at the large building lorries straddling the pavement on the A131 opposite The Fox delivering building materials to **his new build in Park Lane**. It meant that pedestrians had to walk into the road, which is well known to be very dangerous.

10. The Parish Council wrote to Thea Stuart expressing their sympathy at the death of Richard. **Richard** was a councillor for many years and with his sharp legal brain had been indispensable in the parish's battle to obtain Coe's Meadow.

11. A letter was received from **nationalgrid** advising that the Parish Council's comments will be taken into account in determining which route corridor should it be selected for the **overhead line project**. A factsheet was enclosed outlining why undergrounding is not always suitable and the additional high cost it would incur.

12. It was proposed by Cllr. Crome, seconded by Cllr. Fulcher that the Parish joins up with the **Community**

Led Planning Network for another year (£35), whilst the VDS is still on going.

RECEIPTS:

BDC Halstead Local committee ECC Community Initiatives	- grants funding for Coe's Meadow	£3,000.00 £1,500.00
Allotment rent	- Tye Corner	£24.00
Paddock rent	- Almshouse Field/piece	£1,150.00
Coe's Meadow	- Coffee/tea and cakes day	£60.25

PAYMENTS:

Timberplay	- tractor & trailer on Coe's Meadow	£2,621.43 inc VAT
Playquip Leisure	- outdoor gymnasium equipment on Coe's Meadow	£2,754.20 inc VAT
Blackwells	- footpath gravel Coe's Meadow	£215.87 inc VAT
Mortimer	- grass cutting	£786.08 inc VAT
BALC	- subscription	£18.00
Cllr Leigh	- expenses re Fun Day	£280.79 inc VAT
B. Rawlins (clerk)	- salary/expenses (6 months)	£964.31

Recent interest rates received –

Arbuthnot Latham 0.50%
HSBC 0.07%
Barclays 0.05%

It was agreed to **leave the capital** split between the three banks.

The Clerk reported that the **Annual Audit** had been returned with no comments.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Cllr. Morgan (allotment officer) felt that the Parish Council should reconsider the rent increases charged to gardens allotment holders, as these tenants received no water or maintenance supplied by the Parish Council. It was agreed that the rent for the four tenants in question should remain at 11p per sq. m., until further reviews.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.30pm



PARISH PATH WALKS AUTUMN 2010

The weather for our first walk of autumn at the beginning of October was typically autumnal, wet and windy. We donned woolly hats and waterproofs as we set



off on a circuit of Sudbury. We retraced our steps of September 2005 when I remembered the afternoon as a warm and sunny occasion. As Margaret and Ken were somewhere quite possibly sunnier on this occasion I was left in charge of the map and wine gums. Although the weather was damp and gloomy we still had a good number of people arriving at the Kingfisher leisure centre to set off across Friars meadow and beyond. Winding our way across the meadows and the railway track we then came to the cemetery. By now the rain had cleared but as we walked through the playing fields of Sudbury Upper School the winds were still strong enough for a keen kite flyer to struggle to keep his feet on the ground. With our feet firmly pounding the ground we headed for North meadow where we caught a slither of pink sunlight setting down amongst the clouds. It gave a beautiful setting for the ducks that were sat on the stones around the edge of the old swimming baths. Leaving the ducks to watch the sunset we moved along to the croft and the mill before crossing the bridge over Ballingdon Street. We then walked the final stretch of our walk back to the Kingfisher along the old railway track where we were surprised by a muntjac jumping out of the hedge in front of us and quickly disappearing again into the hedge on the other side.

November saw Margaret in charge of the map and wine gums once more as we twixt Sudbury and Melford. The weather was a little better and the number of walkers that gathered at Rodbridge's picnic site was still good. Walking the old railway path into Melford we then walked along the main road for a short distance before picking up the track on the opposite side of the road. Leaving the old railway we diverted on to some field paths that I've not walked before leaving just about all of us wondering where we were. A short stretch of road before our next section of field path accommodated Hospital Farm and Highlanders Farm. Probably quite aptly named, as the wind was very apparent on this higher point. Heading back downwards the next field track held quite a surprise. From many a vantage points in the town the dizzy heights and bright lights of Tesco are unmistakable, but from the rear, it's almost



unrecognisable. You certainly have to look twice and if ever driving along the Northern by-pass you probably wouldn't give a second thought about the footpaths that drop away to either side. From the green fields on one side we dodged the cars on the bypass to reach the maze of paths through the houses on the other side. Shortly after we were back onto the water meadows and Brunton Mill where we took the Valley path back to Rodbridge to conclude our walk.

With the flying by of November, December arrived far too quickly along with some early winter weather. The snow, however from earlier in the week had nearly all disappeared by the time we ventured out on the 5th. A few sheltered spots still hung on to some of the white stuff but the previous days thaw had turned a great deal of the ground to mush. The views were still very picturesque though as Margaret led us on a short walk around the fringes of Belchamp and Gestingthorpe before sunset. Our route took us from the village hall through the churchyard and onto Bulmer Street. Using the fields behind the houses on The Street we headed down towards Belchamp Brook before turning back up to the rear of Goldingham Hall where the pond was still frozen and had remained fairly unaffected by the slight increase in temperature. Our walk continued by proceeding across more fields belonging to the Cooper family which brought us back to Upper Houses. Deciding Brakey Hill may be a little too sticky, we used the path behind the houses on the opposite side of The Street back to the church and village hall to end another year's walks.



So here's to a very merry Christmas and a few more walkers in the New Year.

And as ever a big thank you to Margaret for her time given in organising and leading us around our beautiful countryside come rain, shine or snow.

Lisa Sandford

PARISH PATHS WALKS - WINTER

I am still looking for people to help me care for our footpaths. There are a variety of ways in which volunteers can assist. Some tasks require more strenuous activity but others just need the ability to walk and observe things. The next three monthly walks are all suitable for adult accompanied children, and well behaved dogs on short fixed leads. Strong footwear is necessary as paths may be muddy. All the walks use lanes, tracks and field paths.

New Year's Day Sat. 1st January at 10.30am

A walk over to Henny - 5 miles.

Meet on Plough Green

(Parking available in Jenkins House yard.)

There are a number of stiles along the route.

Sunday 13th February at 2.00pm

To Ballingdon and Back - 5 miles.

Meet at the Village Hall.

Sunday 13th March at 2.30pm

St Paul's to the Stour - 5½ miles

Meet at Belchamp St Paul Church

Details from Margaret Mills 269377

PRESERVING ST. ANDREW'S

Homemade jams, jellies and chutneys are sold in aid of our village church funds. In January, Seville orange marmalade will become available. Ring Margaret Mills 269377 to find out what other preserves are available.



TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS - Revised Policy

The Coalition Govn't following the spending review is implementing the following economizing measures.

1) The partridge will be retained, but a plastic hanging plant, providing considerable savings in maintenance will replace the pear tree, which never produced the cash crop forecasted.

2) Two turtledoves represent a redundancy that is simply not cost effective. In addition, their romance during working hours could not be condoned. The positions are, therefore, eliminated.

3) The three French hens will remain intact. After all, everyone loves the French.

4) The four calling birds will be replaced by an automated voice mail system, with a call waiting option. An analysis is underway to determine whom the birds have been calling, how often and how long they talked.

5) The five gold rings have been put on hold. Maintaining a portfolio based on one commodity could have negative implications for institutional investors.

Diversification into other precious metals, as well as a mix of T-Bonds and high technology stocks, appear to be in better.

6) The six geese-a-laying constitutes a luxury, which can no longer be afforded. It has long been felt that the production rate of one egg per goose per day was an example of the general decline in productivity. Three geese will be let go, and an upgrading in the selection procedure by personnel will assure management that, from now on, every goose it gets will be a good one.

7) The seven swans-a-swimming is obviously a number chosen in better times. The function is primarily decorative. Mechanical swans are on order. The current swans will be retrained to learn some new strokes, thereby enhancing their outplacement.

8) As you know, the eight maids-a-milking concept has been under heavy scrutiny by the EEC. A male/female balance in the workforce is being sought. The more militant maids consider this a dead-end job with no upward mobility. Automation of the process may permit the maids to try a-mending, a-mentoring or a-mulching.

9) Nine ladies dancing has always been an odd number. This function will be phased out as these individuals grow older and can no longer do the steps.

10) Ten Lords-a-leaping is overkill. The high cost of Lords, plus the expense of international air travel, prompted the Expenses Committee to suggest replacing this group with ten out-of-work civil servants. While leaping ability may be somewhat sacrificed, the savings are significant as we expect an oversupply of unemployed civil servants this year.

11) Eleven pipers piping and twelve drummers drumming is a simple case of the band getting too big. A substitution with a string quartet, a cutback on new music, and no uniforms, will produce savings, which will hit the bottom line.

Overall we can expect a substantial reduction in assorted people, fowl, animals and related expenses. Though incomplete, studies indicate that stretching deliveries over twelve days is inefficient. If we can deliver in one day, service levels will be improved.

Regarding the lawsuit filed by the attorney's association seeking expansion to include the legal profession ("thirteen lawyers-a-suing"), a decision is pending.

Deeper cuts may be necessary in the future to remain competitive. Should that happen, the Review Board would request management to scrutinize the Snow White Division to see if seven dwarfs is the right number.

