



What's On?

The Newsletter of Bulmer --- June 2008

(Including Bulmer St., Bulmer Tye, Finch Hill, Batt Hall, Upper & Lower Houses, Church Road and Hedingham Road).

BULMER VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT GETS UNDERWAY!

On the morning of Saturday 14th June, 24 people came to the Village hall to take part in a workshop, which included a session of photographing all areas of the village. The workshop was led by Jan Cole from the Rural Community Council of Essex (field officer for Braintree District). Our first task was to identify what we thought were the positive & negative features of Bulmer, not surprisingly there were many more positives than negative items. These have been recorded and will be used, when drafting the statement.



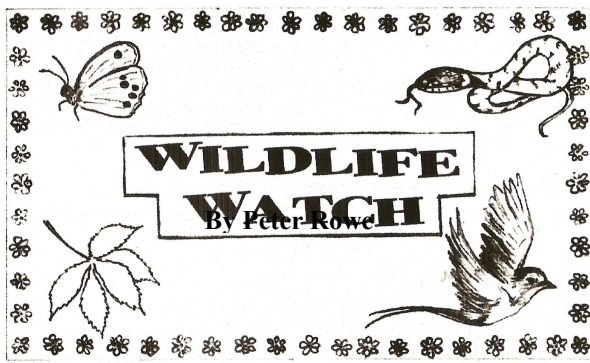
After this exercise all attendees were split into five groups, each led by a steering group member on a photographic tour of a specific area of Bulmer to take photos of the various streets/lanes, buildings to capture the different styles, materials used in their construction and the many landscape views & open spaces, highlighting both those positive and negative points raised earlier. These will be analysed and used in the character assessments of each area within the statement.

On returning to the hall, there were many comments regarding how surprised people were to find properties, gardens and features they had never seen before, despite having lived in the area for some time. A further exercise was completed, each group being asked to give a short presentation that would be suitable for a 'blind man' to enable him to imagine the area visited (useful for people outside the village, such as the planning office) illustrating how the statement should be written. There is still much to do,



including putting together a questionnaire to enable the views and opinions of all residents of the parish to be reflected in the Village Design Statement. The final document will include guidelines that will be used by Braintree District Council as a material consideration in the determination of planning applications. There will now be many tasks to complete over the coming months that can be achieved with or without attending meetings. So if you have a flare for designing questionnaires, organising exhibitions, drafting text (from prompts and your local knowledge, computer skills would be an

advantage but not essential), or if you just have some spare time to deliver and collect survey forms, then please contact either Irene Dickinson (370016), Jeff Wright (376083) or Mike Crome (378155 or email mike@mcrome.fsnet.co.uk) for further details on how you can become involved in this village project.



Well, we “enjoyed” the earliest Easter for the better part of a century, and didn't we know it! With freezing north winds and a couple of inches of snow, it would have been perfect for Christmas. But despite the Arctic weather, for us it was an Easter of bees. Not however of the buzzy variety, our first “B” was a buzzard. This we encountered whilst walking at Borley, on the Saturday, sailing high above the trees in a majestic arc, before disappearing down into an ancient water meadow. Not too uncommon a sight nowadays, but our next “B” was even more welcome. Back home, scanning the fields behind Bulmer Street, where a number of gulls had been feeding, a white bird drifted over the hedge. At first dismissed as another gull, until it suddenly hovered and dropped like a stone into the hedge-side ditch a barn owl. After a couple of minutes it took to the air again, only to be mobbed by a couple of carrion crows. The owl took off to the further side of the field, where it landed, again close to the hedge. Through the telescope, I could just make out its head above the tufted grasses. This was about 5.30 pm. It was still there over an hour later, until it was too dark to see, having sat out a mini blizzard, which howled in from the north. It was over two years since I had seen one in the village. I later found out that one had been seen quite regularly in the Goldingham Hall area, and once there were two seen together. My next “B” arrived amid another snowstorm, on Easter Day. It was a brambling, which perched on our garden wall in a couple of inches of snow, before dropping down to feed with the resident chaffinches. The second one we had seen this year, but far from common for us.

Goings and comings of migrant birds.

The last fieldfares we saw this year were on 28th March, of the arriving migrants, the following were noted in or close to Bulmer; 11th April - chiffchaff & blackcap, 17th April - swallow & cuckoo, 23rd April - whitethroat. 28th April - house martin, 2nd May - willow warbler (these are becoming increasingly uncommon, this one was at Hill Fm. Gestingthorpe), 3rd May - swift.

The summer temperatures that we revelled in during early May, suited the spring butterflies, especially the orange tip.

I don't think I remember a better year for them. It's only the male that has the bright orange tips to it's forewings, the female can easily be mistaken for the small white (cabbage white). However the orange tip is no enemy of the gardener, it's caterpillars feed on



the wild garlicmustard, otherwise known as “Jack by the hedge”. Another colourful spring butterfly is the brimstone, a vivid yellow, which has also been reasonably plentiful.

Road Rage?

One of the unfortunate sights encountered when driving, whether on country lanes or motorways, are road kills. Birds or animals, not fleet enough to escape on-rushing vehicles. One most frequently seen is the pheasant. When it comes to the Highway Code, they clearly don't do any homework! The times one has to almost stop to avoid them. They all seem most intent on committing suicide. By complete contrast, some members of the crow family, especially rooks, show complete mastery of the feat of snatching some tasty morsel (probably a hare brained pheasant, or a bird brained rabbit) from just in front of some juggernaut's wheels, missing their own demise by a nanosecond, sweeping off onto the safety of the verge. These birds must have an inbuilt ability to assess both the speed and the exact line of the vehicles bearing down on them. This lead me to ponder the difference between the clueless pheasants and the more calculating rooks. A flock of rooks taking flight, especially in a blustery wind, will duck and weave through the air, crisscrossing with one another, diving and weaving through a mad maelstrom of speeding black bodies, yet never colliding with each other. Clearly, this inherited skill stands them in good stead for life in the fast lane!

A “Harey” moment.



We had a memorable encounter back in April. We were conducting an RSPB farm survey at Lavenham. Crossing a field on one of the tramlines, we suddenly realised that a hare was speeding along towards us from the opposite direction. We froze in our steps and the hare carried on straight towards us. It stopped about six yards from us, and started feeding! After about a minute, suddenly aware of our company, it turned and sped off to the far hedge.

Every picture tells a story, a pile of hen pheasant's feathers on the field edge. Less than a yard away her nest, tucked neatly into the tall grasses, with half a dozen eggs still intact. The murderer was probably a fox, which grabbed the sitting bird, for an easy meal.



Another really good year for bluebells, both Brakey Hill and Deal Nursery were awash with a haze of blue, the colour intensifying as you drew closer. At the moment these are all true native bluebells. There has been a lot of talk about “Spanish bluebells” invading our countryside. These are the flowers that are normally grown in gardens, where they are fine. The problem arises when well meaning, but misguided folks decide to plant some out in the wild. Unfortunately, they all too easily cross-pollinate with our native bluebells, which, in Bulmer are at present of a pure strain. Spanish flowers differ from our native species, in having shorter and fatter bells and are of a paler blue. It is most important to protect

the pedigree of our native bluebells and not allow them to hybridize with the Spanish and produce what in doggie terms, would be mongrels.

Peter Rowe

NEWS FROM St. ANDREWS SCHOOL



Bulmer School's Sporting Stars



Bulmer School has had a fantastic year of sport. We have done well in competitions for football, netball, quik cricket, multi skills, dance, rugby, swimming and cross-country!



We offer a wide range of after school sports clubs that many of our children enjoy regularly. Our two new clubs, street dance and athletics, are proving to be really popular, with half of our children staying after school to attend them.

Sport is taught at Bulmer by the school staff as well as professional coaches from the community. We also have ex – Bulmer pupils who are students at Hedingham School to coach our after school clubs. They have built up a great rapport with the children.

We are really looking forward to our summer athletics festival and rounders rally and we are hoping to organise a whole school strawberries and cream tennis tournament during Wimbledon fortnight.

It's great to see the enjoyment on the children's faces when they are taking part in sport and we are all very proud of how well they work together as a team and support each other. Perhaps if Bulmer children continue to have such a great attitude we may even see them at the 2012 Olympics and beyond!

Ellena Mortimer - Headteacher



VILLAGE HALL NEWS

We are pleased to report that all new fire regulations have been implemented and that the Village Hall is as safe as it possibly can be. However it is still up to all hirers to be forever diligent and to ensure that everyone is aware of the regulations.

If we do ever have a few weeks of settled fine weather our plan is to re-decorate the outside of the building so let's hope summer arrives very soon! This year we have purchased new, lighter, trestle tables which will "mix and match" with the smaller ones. We have also provided new padded chairs for the rear committee room, which should provide more comfortable seating for the longer business meetings.

Our plans for future events at the Hall include a return of the very popular Ferret Racing on September 27th. We will also hold a family Beetle Drive in October and a Quiz Night in November. Please watch out for details of all these events on the Parish notice boards.

The Committee again thanks you for your support both with the Lottery and attendance to the events organised. We are always eager to hear of any events that you would like to have in the Village so please contact any Committee member with your ideas.

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
March	Mrs Mack	Mr M Crome	Mr & Mrs D Willock
April	Mr & Mrs K Mills	Mrs K Macaree	Mr & Mrs M Clarke
May	Mr & Mrs K Mills	Ms J Compson	Mr & Mrs N Fraser

BULMER AND DISTRICT W.I.

We have all enjoyed a very varied but extremely interesting succession of speakers at our meetings this year. We have picked up a few tips on "Growing Old Disgracefully", have been given a glimpse into the fascinating world of the Forensic Scientist, and taken back to our childhood and our school days by Liz Powell reminiscing on her life as a School Teacher.

Our Summer programme looks just as promising so Ladies why not come along and enjoy our evenings with us. Our July meeting looks especially inviting as we will be enjoying a "Ladies Day at Ascot" which will give us an opportunity to dress up in our finery, (hats included) and get some idea of what the real thing is like. We will be partaking of Strawberries and Cream and a glass of Bubbly. This is an open meeting so how can you resist the offer to come and join us!

The programme for the following 3 months is **August 4th** - The Craft of the Potter; **September 1st** Memories of Nursing; **October 6th** Being a Police Chaplin.

For more information please ring Muriel on 373464

Latest News on all Village Events can be found on

www.bulmeressex.co.uk

SPEED INDICATOR DEVICE (SID)

During its time (17/3/08 to 13/5/08) outside 'Griggs farmhouse' in Bulmer Street the following statistics were produced.

Total no. of vehicles passing the device in the direction of Sudbury 27,769

Total no. exceeding 35mph 3,078 or 11% and would have been reported to the police under the Community Speed Watch Scheme.

Total traveling between 1 – 30mph incl. 14,068 or 51%
 Total traveling between 31 – 35mph incl. 10,623 or 38%
 Total traveling between 36 – 40mph incl. 2,773 or 10%
 Total traveling between 41 – 50mph incl. 301 or 1%
 Total traveling between 51 – 60mph incl. 4 or 0%

Would be interesting to have seen the 4 exceeding 50 mph around a blind corner.

These statistics and others have been passed to the police for further analysis. All future readings will also be communicated to the police. So *please* watch your speed.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS

Margaret Mills (Chairman)	- 01787 269377
Mike Crome (Vice Chairman)	- 01787 378155
Peter Rowe	- 01787 375935
Ron Mansfield	- 01787 375301
Peter Fultcher	- 01787 269935
Stephen Morgan	- 07973 341048
Stephen Coombes	- Ex Directory

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

- 4th July 2008
- 12th September 2008
- 31st October 2008

Public Question Time - there will be a period of up to 15 minutes of public question time at each meeting. Members of the public will be able raise questions about Parish business or other matters of local concern. The Council requests that questions be submitted to the Chairman or Clerk, **in writing**, at least **ONE WEEK PRIOR** to the meeting in order that the letter can be circulated to all Councillors.

COUNCILLORS SURGERIES

Are you happy with how your Council is managing the Parishes affairs? These surgeries have now taken place on two occasions with very few residents using the facility, so the answer must be yes?

This is your opportunity to to talk in private on any Village or Council issues with two of your councillors along with either our District Councillor (Nigel Harley) or our County Councillor (David Finch). No appointment is necessary, and you may approach any of the councillors in attendance on issues on a one to one basis. Perhaps you have a question on minutes that you have read, or want more information.

The next surgery in the Village Hall will be

11am, Sat. 16th August

Reminders will be advertised on the noticeboards and on the Parish Council website www.essexinfo.net/bulmer

BULMER PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

2007 -2008

The Parish Council continues to be kept busy throughout the year. The amount of reading to be done seems to increase annually. A very wide variety of matters is brought to our attention by residents, the Braintree District and the Essex County Councils, and many others.

Coe's Meadow

This has moved into a new phase with a new management committee, under the chairmanship of Chris Leigh: the committee's remit is to maintain the Meadow and plan for

its future. It continues to be a source of great pride and is well used by both residents and visitors.

Roads and Traffic

The Speed Indicator Device was eventually erected and is now in its third position. Data from its in-built computer indicate that about one-third of vehicles passing along the Street exceed 35mph. The Community Speed Watch Team has continued to monitor traffic, occasionally with police help. Unfortunately, traffic police have not, as yet, attended at peak hour times.

Planning

Quite a number of plans for home extensions have been commented upon as well as proposed tree work. The Council has had to work very hard to try to prevent a proposed new house being accessed from the A131. An appeal against the decision of Braintree District Council to reject the plan is presently in progress.

Allotments

The number of holders continues to increase as Sudbury has a waiting list. Some residents of Park Lane were unhappy that self-set trees had to be cut down to increase the area in use. A number of residents have shown interest in leasing the three small fields previously let to Richard Harding-payne.

Litter

A successful litter clean was held in March when some councillors and residents cleared problem areas. Five new volunteers have joined the regular litter pickers who do sterling work throughout the year. You can recognise who they are when the new violet coloured bags are put out thus distinguishing them from their own black waste bags. Braintree's Clean Team continues to respond very rapidly to reports of fly tipping and dumping. Our Community Warden Trevor Lawrence also supports this work.

Little Dean Spinney

The Spinney continues to provide a peaceful spot for both human and animal residents. The relocated reptiles appear to be happy there. We are indebted to Peter Rowe and his helpers for its excellent management.

Footpaths

Paths are well used and monthly walks are popular with people from the village and elsewhere. The permissive path between the School and the Village Hall is very popular with the good views from it being mentioned by many.

Communications

Mike Crome continues the important work of editing What's On and maintaining the Village Website. Under the lead of John Dixey our team of distributors ensures all can keep in touch with village affairs.

Other matters

The future of Sudbury's healthcare has been closely followed and I represented the Parish Council speaking to the Independent Review Panel. The expansion of Stansted Airport is again on the agenda. Our district and county councillors have supported us on various matters and have attended some meetings.

The Council

A big thank you to all councillors for their work throughout the year. Our new members very quickly settled in and have added new areas of experience to help with parish matters. The Parish Council could not run smoothly at all without the care and skill of our clerk. Thank you Barbara for another year of hard work and dedication. My post of Chairman would be very difficult without your expert help.

Margaret Mills (Chairman)
9th May 2008

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 9th MAY 2008 (NOTE THESE ARE UN-APPROVED UNTIL NEXT MEETING ON 4th JULY 2008)

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN: Cllr. Mills was proposed by Cllr. Crome, seconded by Cllr. Rowe. There being no other nominations, Cllr. Mills was duly elected Chairman of Bulmer Parish Council for 2008/2009.

VICE CHAIR: Cllr. Crome was nominated by Cllr. Rowe, seconded by Cllr. Mills. There being no other nominations, Cllr. Crome was elected Vice chairman for 2008/2009.

OFFICERS: Allotments - Peter Rowe, Footpaths Margaret Mills, Litter – Margaret Mills and Barbara Rawlins, Planning - Mike Crome, Trees/hedges - Simon Harris, BVHMC - Barbara Rawlins, CMMC - Peter Fulcher.

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS: Cllr. Morgan expressed a prejudicial interest in - vacant allotment land at Bulmer Tye. Cllr. Morgan will leave the meeting whilst the item is being discussed.

APPROVE THE MINUTES of the meeting held 14th March 2008. Proposed Cllr. Fulcher, seconded Cllr. Crome.

MATTERS ARISING: None

DAVID FINCH CC - the Clerk advised Cllr. Finch that the meeting was going to be very long. In view of this Cllr. Finch decided that unless there were any questions the Council would like to put to him, he would take his leave.

COE's MEADOW REPORT: Cllr Fulcher asked if Mortimer's could hand trim the land behind the bungalows in The Avenue. The Clerk was asked to arrange for strimming to be carried out 4 times a year. Work needed to be done on the pond to thin out the reed before it got too much of a hold. It was suggested that this should be done by hand, if possible, so as not to disturb the base soil of the pond. The Fun Day date has been changed to 29th June. The weekly maintenance reports were seen by all Councillors and the latest report signed by the Chairman.

PLANNING:

3 Park Lane Appeal - Cllr. Mills attended the Appeal meeting, which was held at Braintree Town Hall to begin with, then later on site at Park Lane. It will now be 6 weeks before The Inspector makes his ruling.

Land off Church Road - change of use of agricultural buildings to warehouse for piano storage workshop and ancillary sales, including alterations to front elevation and car park. No objections from Parish Council.

4 Park Lane - erection of rear conservatory. No objections from Parish Council

7 Park Lane - erection of garage. No objections from Parish Council

6 Vicars Orchard - to fell a blue cedar in rear garden. No objections from Parish Council.

BRAINTREE GREEN SPACES STRATEGY (Draft):

The Parish Council felt that Braintree had left off many of Bulmer's green spaces from the draft. The Clerk was asked to deal with the matter.

VACANT ALLOTMENT LAND at Bulmer Tye: Cllr. Morgan left the meeting for the duration of the discussion.

The Council determined that it would be more beneficial to the Parish if the land were rented out for paddock/grazing. It was also preferred that the 3 parcels of land should be rented as a whole and not split up. As there were several residents applying to rent the land, the Council decided applicants should be asked to tender. The Clerk will send a draft copy of a Grazing Licence, together with a letter advising the current rental of grazing land and will advise that the land must be kept in good order and hedges cut at least once a year.

Cllr. Morgan returned to the meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE & NOTICES:

1. The **community warden** continues to send in his monthly report. Trevor has been an asset to the village, but unfortunately it seems that he may be moving on to another position.

2. The next **Councillor's Surgery** will be held on Saturday 7th June - attending Councillors will be Stephen Coombes and Mike Crome.

3. The Council asked the Clerk to order 15 **Bago holders**. This is a tubular ring, which fits round the opening of the plastic bag to hold it rigid. As our litter pickers know, it is very frustrating getting litter into a bag on a windy day.

4. The Council continues its efforts to have the **BT pole** moved away from the corner of Park Lane/ Church Road. Latest correspondence from BT advised the Parish Council that it would need to make an appeal to the County Court. The Clerk was asked to advise Essex County Highways and David Finch CC of the situation.

5. **BT payphones** - once again BT are threatening to remove the payphone in The Street. The Clerk was asked to write to Braintree (who are collating all objections to the removal of under-used payphones throughout the district), emphasising how essential it is have the payphone remain in The Street, in case of an emergency/accident occurring at the recreation ground. Mobile reception is not good, besides which, not everybody carries a mobile. The Parish Council has applied to English Heritage have the phone box 'listed'.

RECEIPTS:

Essex CC	- P3 grant	£114.87
Braintree DC	- litter grant	£644.56
Precept		£2,250.00
Support		£2,032.00

PAYMENTS:

BVHMC	- grant	£1,000.00
BPCC	- grant	£650.00
R. Mortimer	- grass cutting	£559.30 inc VAT
Chilton Office Supplies	- newsletter	£81.78 inc VAT
	- re village design statement	£8.88 inc VAT
EALC	- subscription	£142.88
Rigby Taylor	- football nets	£80.33 inc VAT
Braintree DC	- litter pickers	£43.80
Sudbury Office Supplies	- folding tables for village hall	£1,308.48 inc VAT
Little Dean Spinney	- wood preservative	£29.72 inc VAT
BVHMC	- hall hire (inc. CMMC meetings)	£75.00

Mr. Mills advised that there was £35.06 remaining in the Village Appraisal account, which is now complete. The Council asked for the money to be put towards the Village Design Statement funds.

It was proposed by Cllr. Coombes, seconded by Cllr. Crome that the **Annual Accounts for 2007/2008** be adopted and signed off. Carried.

Cllr. Rowe proposed and Cllr. Crome seconded that the Council agree and sign the **Auditors Annual Report for 2007/2008**. Carried

The **Risk Assessment** was also agreed by the Council.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Cllr. Crome asked to go on the Advanced Councillors Training Day. Various road defects to be reported by the Clerk.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 10:05pm

PARISH PATH WALKS - SPRING 2008

As we mark the passing of the longest day and we continue to hope for some sort of a summer it's time to look back at some of our spring, when Margaret led us once more around some of our beautiful countryside. We managed three walks this season but none of them in really typical spring weather.

Our first walk on Easter Monday titled, One Hole, (Hole Farm), Bulmer brick and tile to you and me, Two Hills, (Wesborough Hill and Chapel Hill), and Three Halls, (Princes Hall, Nether Hall and Over Hall), was mostly fine except for being caught in the tail end of the Easter weekends snow storms.

We were walking the fields of Belchamp heading for Princes Hall when the storm very suddenly blew in. Visibility for about 60 seconds during the storm was considerably



reduced but if you look at the accompanying photograph you may just still be able to see Gestingthorpe church on the left hand side. The storm passed as quickly as it came to then leave us with the same fine conditions to complete our walk along the paths of Belchamp, Gestingthorpe and Bulmer before returning to Hole Farm.

On the 26th April Margaret was hoping that the Bulmer bluebells would be blooming for us, and as the sun bore down on us in temperatures now well above the seasonal average we weren't disappointed as Margaret took us around some of the blue spots of Bulmer and Gestingthorpe. We saw some lovely carpeted woodlands as we wandered round with just the bluebells on Wesborough Hill still having to share the limelight with some fairly persistent daffodils, but compared with us having to share our serenity with some fairly persistent motorcyclists I'm sure the bluebells got the better deal. Not content with using the bridle path to Hill Farm as a perfect run up to the bank for an Evil Knievel style jump they then decided to use Wesborough Hill as a high speed rally track as we tried to admire this annual spectacular. Between the daffodils and the motorcyclists though, I bet you can guess who was sent away first with the biggest flea in their ear. Had we been a

week later the bluebells were probably at their finest, to be viewed without a daffodil or motorcycle in sight.

For May's walk Margaret chose the last bank holiday Monday to take us for a stroll to Henny church and back via



Butler's and Parsonage wood. It was a wonderful afternoon, the sun shone down and we skipped our way through meadows filled with the scent of beautiful spring flowers that waved to us on the gentle breeze. Well, almost. Actually, being a bank holiday it was wet, and as for skipping through the fields, well that didn't happen either. Most of the paths around the Henny parish were so overgrown you had to watch out for the ankle grabbing blades of greenery that were trying to bring you down, or, just find another route round where in some cases they were obstructed completely. Now I can understand a farmers point of view on not wanting to clog machinery worth thousands of pounds with wet grass and mud for the sake of a few amblers, but when the paths in question are suggested paths where the permitted paths and public rights of way have been blocked and most of the evidence of their existence removed for ONE'S privacy, I think an effort could have been made to clear some. However, after following a very beautiful and professionally designed suggested route around Dove House Farm we headed off down some rabbit hole in the fields parallel with Water Lane. This was where we were able to re-join our intended paths and highways to reach Butler's and Parsonage woods to finally get back to Jenkins.

Once again, thanks go to Margaret for taking the time to organise the walks and also this season for leading us through some particularly difficult situations with the highest level of professionalism.

Please note that not all walks are this adventurous but are usually quite relaxing taking the chance to admire the countryside that surrounds us. Information on future walks can be found in the Bulmer What's On, on the Bulmer website (www.essexinfo.net/bulmer) or from Margaret herself on 269377.

Lisa Sandford

FUTURE PARISH WALKS

We live in a beautiful area so why not come on a led walk to see it from a different angle. Children are most welcome if accompanied by adults as are well-behaved dogs on fixed leads. Strong footwear is advisable as mud is often encountered.

Sunday 27th July at 2.30pm-TREAD THE TOPPESFIELD TRAILS

A walk led by Ann Read. Meet at the Green Man, Toppesfield. Approx. 5 miles.

Bank Holiday Monday 25th August at 2.30pm

ROUND BELCHAMPS OTTEN AND ST. PAUL

This will touch on Belchamp Walter too. Meet at Belchamp Otten Church. Approx. 5½ miles.

Sunday 28th September at 2.30pm

TWINSTEAD VIA LOSHES

Meet on Plough Green. Some stiles. Approx. 5½ miles.

Ring Margaret Mills 269377 for further details.

A big thank you to all those of you who keep the paths near your home cut. Some of the field paths have become very overgrown due to all the earlier rain. Cutting is progressing however, so it is upsetting to find that some dog owners are still illegally allowing their animals to foul paths and not clearing up afterwards. Flying dog dirt is very unpleasant for the kind volunteers who make the paths so easy for the dog owners to use!

FRIENDS OF ESSEX CHURCHES - RIDE & STRIDE Saturday 13th September 2008 from 10am to 6pm

The church of St. Andrew, Bulmer regularly takes part in this day of sponsored activity. The Friends of Essex Churches gives grants to help maintain churches of *all* denominations, but half of the sponsorship monies raised is returned to our village church. If you would like to walk, cycle or ride your horse please contact Margaret Mills (269377) for a sponsorship form. If there is enough interest it is possible she will lead a mini trek of our local churches.

COE'S MEADOW

Minutes of CMMC meeting held in the Village Hall 14th May 2008.

Present: Chris Leigh, Sarah Carpenter, Peter Fulcher, Jeff Wright, Harry Wright, Annie Reid, (plus two residents of the village)



1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Niall Fraser.

2. Maintenance

Maintenance had all been completed and signed off.

3. Cricket Pitch Preparation

Niall and Harry and started work on the cricket pitch strip and spray marked lines. They will cut the pitch as late as possible just before the Fun Day. Harry had sourced a softer ball for the cricket.

4. Basketball

The basketball net had been ordered and Chris will be receiving information to get the appropriate markings for the lines although there may be limited space for the whole grid to be marked up.

5. Noticeboard

The noticeboard is leaking. Chris has spoken to Barbara who has reallocated space until this has been repaired.

6. Work Party

- . There is a large area where the grass isn't cut behind the gate and it will require to be strimmed.
- . Reeds - there is concern that if a digger is used it may puncture the clay lining. It was agreed to try dealing with them by borrowing waders to enable them to be pulled out.
- . It was noted to ask Niall how to deal with the netting on the right by the hedge.
- . Work party agreed for 24th June, commencing at 6.00 p.m. and Chris would speak to Tom/Irene/Margaret/Ken re volunteers to help.

7. Nesting boxes

Peter Fulcher reported that Peter Innes has made a lot of templates for the Hadleigh show and if there are any left he would be happy to donate them. As they will be in pieces we could make them up on the Fun Day. Peter will contact Peter Innes following the Hadleigh show.

8. Benches

The benches are in Margaret's garage and it was agreed to leave them until after the Fun Day as they will need to be concreted in.

9. Fun Day -Sunday 29th June 1.00 p.m. - 5.00 p.m.

Donkeys - 4 donkeys (giving 14 trips/hour) Irene will be leading two of them so saving money in employing someone. Insurance in place for £1m.

Cricket - stumps and bats sourced as well as a softer ball. This is a light hearted event and it will be "tap it" - if outside the boundary you are out. Two teams - to be drawn - area to be marked off - half an hour each team. Blackboard for scorer - batting side to score

Children's races - Sarah helping, e.g. egg and spoon, netball races, three legged, relay team and family relay. Niall to mark out race area. Dip into bucket of sweets for winners

Face painting - Hannah and Nina

Penalty shoot out - at the beginning of the afternoon 1.00 p.m. to 2.00 p.m. - (donation of two £5 vouchers by the residents in attendance) Two penalty spots to be marked out.

Basketball - James to sort. 5 goes each and £5 voucher donated for the winner.

Lucky dip - lollipops, sweets, etc. - Annie to provide black dustbin and polystyrene chips required.

Boules - no longer happening

Pimms/non-alcoholic squash - Bulmer Fox are running the bar and are hoping to have Pimms umbrellas. They will also have their chutneys on sale.

Strawberries and cream - Peter offered to go to Spencers to pick on the morning - Annie will contact Wash Farm in Sible Hedingham to check on price. Chris will order the cream in large containers from the milkman.

Scones jam and cream. Chris has 12 dozen offered - Annie agreed to provide a further 2 dozen.

Publicity - flyers had been produced by Harry and Chilton Office Supplies to print off. Each child at Bulmer School and Bramley Hedge Nursery would take a flyer home. Peter had one of the banners and this was to be placed on the grass verge.

Small A4 notices to be placed on the Meadow inviting anyone who uses the field to the Fun Day.

Megaphone to be borrowed if possible.

Sarah has a friend with a marquee size tent that we could borrow for the day.

Publicise to bring garden chairs

10. Any Other Business

Wiles and Percy Brown Ltd. to be contacted for an estimate for the work to be carried out on the car parking area in the autumn.

Jeff to get a costing for the work required to replace the backing on the noticeboard for something more durable and to provide the name of the material to Barbara for the pinboards.

Peter said that following the PC meeting the question had been put that the meeting was a public meeting and should be put on the noticeboard. It was noted that there were two people who were present at the meeting as "in attendance". It was confirmed that Barbara had been provided with copies of the previous meetings.

11. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the CMMC would be held following the work party on Tuesday 24th June.

The meeting closed at 8.30 p.m.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH POLICE MESSAGE 2nd JUNE 2008.

Due to the current global economic position the price of all forms of metal is rapidly rising and is set to do so in the near foreseeable future.

We are seeing the knock on's in many ways but in particular locally a significant increase in metal theft.

This takes all forms:-

Theft of lead from roofs.

Theft from building sites.

Cable both below ground which is dug up and overhead lines. And, in particular favourite of late, catalytic converters from cars.

Please can you be particularly vigilant in relation to this type of crime.

The culprits appear to range from opportunists youths with a wheelbarrow through to older persons with vans and trucks where the crooks either are or appear to be legitimate builders.

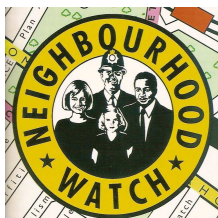
Should you have any concerns about any suspicious activity, please contact the Police by one of the following methods **depending** upon the urgency. Dial **999** or the new non-emergency number **0300 3334444**. Or use the Neighbourhood Specialist Officers mobile phone number. Many thanks for your continued support.

District Commander Chief Inspector Alan Gooden.

Clive Stewart, Neighbourhood Watch Administrator, Essex Police,

Braintree Police Station, Blyths Meadow, Braintree, Essex, CM7 3DJ. Tel: 01376 556 282.

clive.stewart@essex.pnn.police.uk



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH BULMER

In addition to the 'metal' thefts highlighted in the Police Ringmaster Message 2nd June 2008 – there is a further problem developing, associated with the rising costs of domestic heating oils, namely theft of oil after delivery to householders.

Householders with heating oil tanks should ensure they have a locking device fitted to the tank to prevent theft of the oil when the house is unattended or during the night.

Tanks, where possible, should be screened from public view.

Tell your friendly neighbours or your local Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator when you are going away on holiday in order that attention may be given to your premises.

There have **not been any** reported thefts of heating oil in our local area recently and by taking simple measures you may be able to prevent them occurring.

Local Crime Messages

Very infrequently – as we are fortunately a very low crime area – messages are received from the local police/Neighbourhood Watch Administrator Braintree for dissemination to the general public. These messages are then passed on by our local co-ordinators in their immediate areas. If any villager would like to receive messages direct by e-mail please contact: tomdick@talktalk.net - giving your name, address and e-mail address. The information will not be passed on to anyone else and will only be used for Neighbourhood Watch messages.

Tom Dickinson - Neighbourhood Watch Bulmer

LONG MELFORD SILVER BAND AT SMEETHAM HALL - Bulmer

(By kind permission of Mr and Mrs A Hyde-Parker)

Proceeds to St Andrews Church, Bulmer

WEDNESDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER 2008 at 7:30p.m.

MUSIC FROM THE SHOWS - PLUS SURPRISES!

Entrance £7.50 per person - Light buffet supplied

Wine and Soft Drinks available for purchase. Tickets available from

Peter Fulcher 01787-269935 or email gozna@greenbee.net

Sandy Maynard 01787 269285 maynards@live.co.uk



COLNE-STOUR
COUNTRYSIDE ASSOCIATION

The upper valleys of the rivers Colne and Stour and the unspoilt countryside around them are one of England's best kept secrets. Those of us who live here are very fortunate. The area is graced with many villages, full of charm, interest and history.

However, government moves to increase the population of both Essex and Suffolk, and to build large numbers of new houses mean that this fragile countryside is under relentless pressure from developers. The Colne-Stour Countryside Association recognises the inevitability of change, but at the same time is determined not to let such changes destroy the beauty of this bit of country, which for many of us is the reason why we have chosen to live here.

Government, both local and central, is influenced by public opinion given expression by amenity societies such as ours. The larger the membership the more influential we can be, and the more likely we are to achieve our objectives.

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

Our work goes on all the time, but we need your active support. You can help by becoming a member. Membership is not expensive. Annual Membership is £5 for a single person and £7.50 for a couple, but we do insist on a standing order in order to keep the cost to a minimum. Life Membership is £50 for a single person and £80 for a couple, payable by cheque.

For more information about the association visit our website: www.colnestour.org
Contact: The Secretary, The Old Rectory, Wickham St. Paul's, Essex CO9 2PJ. Tel: 01787 269250