



What's On?

The Newsletter of Bulmer --- March 2008
(Including Bulmer St., Bulmer Tye, Finch Hill, Batt Hall, Upper & Lower Houses and Hedingham Road).

LITTER, LITTER.....EVERYWHERE - NOT ANYMORE!!



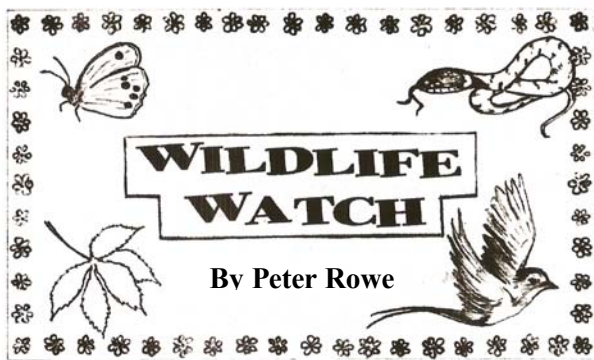
We (Barbara and Margaret) would like to say a big **THANK YOU** to all the people who turned out on the 15th March for the village litter-picking day. We were able to clear the woods at the corner of Church Road/A131 and other 'hot spots' in the village. Since our last notice in the Newsletter, 5 more residents have joined the litter team. This is good news as we are now able to cover most of the village. Braintree would like litter collected by our volunteers to be put in **lilac bags** - this keeps it separate from domestic rubbish and we are assured that it will be collected when put out with the black bags. If it isn't please let us know.

Some of you might be saying why should we do this when we pay Council Tax? Well, there are at least 2 very good reasons. The first is Braintree DC gives back this year to the Parish Council £645, and secondly we care about our village & how it looks to visitors.

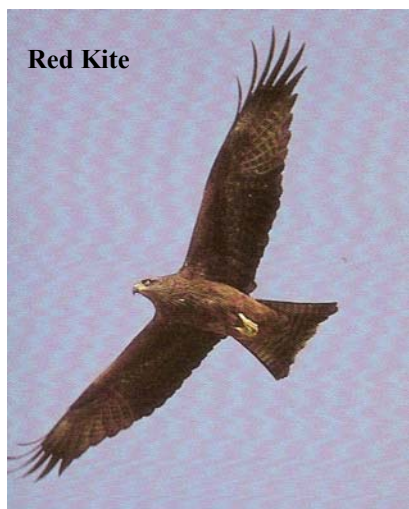
We have also been asked by Braintree Community Warden (Trevor Lawrence) to make residents aware that rubbish bags put out early in the morning the **day before** collections constitutes '**dumping/fly tipping**' and that persistent offenders will be notified by letter from Braintree DC, resulting in a penalty. We are advised that the **evening before** the collection day is more suitable.

Thank you once again for helping to keep our village clean and don't forget, if you see any dumping anywhere in the village, please contact Margaret Mills 269377 or Barbara Rawlins 370845.





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. Seemingly very wary, they frequently took off and re-landed, only to spring into the air again a moment later. With a very erratic, bouncy flight they wheeled around, each bird dipping up and down, as if hung on a strand of elastic. This was an unusually large flock of linnets, members of the finch family. This flock, which several people have commented on, are likely to be migrants, only wintering here and nesting either further north, or on the continent. In fact they are becoming increasingly rare as breeding birds and have been put on the red list of endangered species. There are always a few that nest locally, but their numbers have dropped by about a quarter in eight years. It's not unusual to find a flock of mixed finches, especially where there's a plentiful food source, chaffinches, greenfinches, goldfinches making up the bulk, with maybe the odd linnet or yellowhammer amongst them, but these linnets were in a flock of their own. Buzzards are being sighted more and more frequently in the village, but a more notable bird of prey was spotted by Ashley Cooper along the Gestingthorpe road in late Feb. It was a red kite, these are being re-introduced in Northamptonshire and the odd one strays across into our area. Much larger than buzzards, although less chunky in build, their main distinguishing feature is their forked tail.



Looking back to last winter, (2006-07) I remember that many of our garden birds deserted us through December and part of January, for no accountable reason, very different this year, we have had good numbers of greenfinches,

chaffinches, goldfinches, blue and great tits stripping the feeders in quick time, right through the winter. We also get regular visits from long tailed tits. On January 8th the chaffinches feeding in our garden were joined by a fine cock brambling, a visitor from Scandinavia. Very like a chaffinch, but with orange, rather than pink on its breast and flanks.

Another good sighting in mid February was a nuthatch, investigating a hole in a half dead sycamore, near the back entrance to the Auberries, in Sandy Lane. These delightful

little birds, like the treecreeper, find most of their food on the trunks and larger branches of trees. The nuthatch is the only one which will actually come down the trunk head first. One sight that was not so welcome, close to that spot, were several large rats, attracted by the sweet corn strip just over the hedge. There does seem to be large numbers of rats all over the place at the moment.

Changing tastes? A few weeks before Christmas, I spotted a wood pigeon scoffing berries from a small holly in a neighbour's garden. I couldn't remember seeing this before and mentioned this to an old mate. Strangely enough he had noticed the same happening to his holly and like me, it was something new to him. He added that his brother, a shooting man, had opened the crop of a wood pigeon to find it crammed with holly berries, which again he thought unusual. I'm sure that pigeons have eaten holly berries before, but it does seem strange that it was new to all three of us.

Spring has arrived early again this year, first sign for me was the celandine that peeped through by the side of the lane to Upper Houses on 30th Jan. Primroses and wood anemones were showing well near Henny Ryes by the third



week of February. Some years they can be at least a month later. We also discovered a red campion flowering, but this was a hanger-on from last year, that had survived the mild winter, rather than a fresh spring growth. Before long we will be braving the "blackthorn winter", which like last year looks like being early.

Several birds were nesting by the start of March, with blackbirds and collared doves collecting nesting material in the garden. On 1st March we came across a pair of long tailed tits building in a bramble thicket. As we watched, each bird took its in turn to fashion the nest, shuffling down into the nest hollow and carefully arranging it around its body. Moss, lichen, hair and spiders webs are among the materials they choose. When finished the nest will be domed right over, with an entrance hole in the side. Then it is lined with feathers. Someone once counted over two thousand feathers in an old nest.

It's always nice to see the back end of February, with the return of the lighter evenings. By the end of March we will be listening out for the song of the chiffchaff in the woods, nearly always our first migrant to turn up. Always an interesting time of the year, with the new migrant birds turning up, but still a few redwings and fieldfares around as they work their way back up Scandinavia for the summer.

Peter Rowe

BULMER HISTORY GROUP - MARCH 2008

With the month of march upon us it was time again for the history group to come up with something to get the masses flocking back into the village hall. Once again I think we did quite well, or maybe, should I say Ashley did quite well.

Arriving on the evening of Friday the 7th came a self confessed church crawler complete with boxes of various literature and some rather handy slides of churches, so that we too could learn to understand and enjoy the churches nearly as much as Roy Tricker does.

They weren't just any old churches though, no, they were all Medieval and there are thousands of them around the country so if the notion strikes you to try and see them all in a life time like our man Roy you'd better start now or hope to live for a very long time. Working his way through the slides accompanied by his patter and tales of various excursions to sometimes odd, sometimes quaint and sometimes almost unique churches, I think we did begin to see why from the age of six Roy Tricker had spent most of his time laying on his back in church pews and conning people into handing over their Polaroid's from a days church seeing to save himself a few bob.

Unfortunately due to the seriously large quantity of slides obtained by Roy and the shortage of time available we only got to see a small selection of the churches situated around the country, but had he not been so restricted I'm sure we could have seen all the slides if we didn't mind leaving the village hall sometime on Saturday. But well done and thank-you to Roy Tricker for a fantastic evening as I'm sure that by the time we all left on the Friday evening we had all started to look at our churches in a different light.

If you think that any of the subjects explored by the history group are of interest to you please feel free to come along to the next meeting, even if you don't think they are of interest to you why not come along anyway you may be surprised as to how entertaining some of our guests are. If ravings your thing then ok this may not be for you but why not come and spend an evening passing the time with some pleasant members of your local community whilst learning about your local history. Further meetings will be advertised in later editions of your local What's On or for further information concerning the Bulmer History Group please contact Ashley Cooper on 01787 462027.

Lisa Sandford

PLANT SALE

Noël's annual plant sale in aid of Brambley Hedge Nursery Trust and St Andrew's Church, Bulmer will take place on **Saturday 7 June** (10am - 4pm) at Bulmer Tye House. As always, contributions of plants or produce for sale, as well as help on the day, will be most welcome (01787 269 315).

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

The Village Hall Committee has the following plans in mind for the current year: -

- Painting the exterior of the hall
- The purchase of new trestle tables
- The purchase of new chairs for the Committee Room
- The placing of an external 'Bulmer Village Hall' sign

Future events

Friday, 11th April at 7.30

Gardening Evening with Andrew Tokley
of

Thompson and Morgan

An illustrated talk followed by questions and answers
Light refreshments

Tickets £3.00 in advance
from Maggie on 374758
or £3.50 at the door

Friday, 18th April at 8pm

Time of Your Life Music Theatre presents



Tickets £8.50
from Maggie 374758 or John 466030

Come and let your hair down!!

Annual General Meeting

Friday, 23rd May 2008 at 8 o'clock
in the Village Hall

Please come & support your Village Hall!

Watch this space for details of
Quiz Night and Barn Dance

Also www.bulmeressex.co.uk for all the latest news

BULMER VILLAGE HALL ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

The week at a glance

Monday

First Monday of the month

Women's Institute 7.30pm Cost Annual fee plus 30p per week for a cuppa.

The WI needs no introduction! Our very small group would welcome new members. Future attractions include Wine Tasting, Memories of Nursing and The Craft of the Potter. Why not come along as a guest to find out more! Contact Muriel Wood 373464

Second & fourth Monday of the month

Folk Dance Club

7.30pm
Contact Wendy Rowe 375935

Tuesday

First Tuesday of the month

Book Club 7.30pm Cost £1.00 per session includes tea or coffee. Join a small group of readers who meet to discuss the read of the month, from Bryson to Binchy, and books in general. Contact Pat Willet

Second Tuesday of the month

Flower Club 7.30pm Cost varies according to material provided. Learn the art of flower arranging or brush up your skills and produce a flower arrangement. Provide own flowers and work under expert guidance.

Contact Carol Morris 881797

Fourth Tuesday of the month

Stitch and Sew 7.30pm Cost £1 per session plus a £3 joining fee payable after having attended three sessions. As its name suggests, this group meet to 'stitch and sew' anything from knitting to cross-stitch, plus of course, a 'good old chatter!'

Contact Jean on 376392 or Margaret on 312915

Wednesday

Stretch with Margaret 8.00 till 9.00pm Cost £1.50 per session. What's it all about? A bit of stretching, floor work and pilates but definitely no posing with silver leotards! Why not come along and find out?

Contact Margaret Mills 269377

Thursday

Carpet Bowls 7.00 till 9.00pm

Cost £5.00 per year membership fee plus 50p per week which includes tea or coffee.

We have three carpets and all equipment is provided. Numbers of bowlers are dwindling so we would like to see a few more people. Why not give us a look?

Contact Barbara Rawlins 370845 or just bowl along to the Village Hall!

Friday

Special events as advertised or Bulmer History Group

Sunday

Third Sunday in the month

Junior church Contact Linda Wright

BULMER AND DISTRICT W.I.

Bulmer W.I. meets on the first Monday of the month and is always ready to welcome new members. If you have never experienced a W.I. meeting why not come along and find out what it's all about. It's not all "Jam and Jerusalem" as we do have a voice on certain issues of the day both here and abroad and our views are listened to. We welcome a variety of speakers who are not only very informative but also often highly amusing.

We are holding a **Quiz Night on 2nd May**, tables of 6 price £6.00 per head to include a Fish and Chip supper

A **Craft and Table Top sale** will be held on **28th June** in the Village Hall. To book a table for either event please ring Muriel on 373464

Our programme for our meetings over the coming four months will be:

April 7 th	May 1st (Tuesday)
"Growing Old Disgracefully"	Wine Tasting
Coos Winter	Bob Martin
June 2nd	July 7th
Memories of Nursing	Ladies Day at Ascot
Liz Powell	Barbara Faulkner (This will be an open evening)

Latest News on all Village Events can be found on

www.bulmeressex.co.uk

GREEN WASTE COLLECTIONS

These will continue again this year throughout until October/November. The locations will be as last year:

Park Lane, Bulmer	Vicars Orchard, Bulmer
9:25 – 9:45am	10:00 – 10:30am
12 April, 17 May, 21 June, 19 July, 16 Aug., 20 Sept., 18 Oct.	

VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT (VDS)

The displays during recent months were well received, and created much interest. The next stage is for a village workshop scheduled for the 14th June at which all interested parties (including children) are invited to participate, in an exercise, which includes photographing the village. One comment expressed during the displays was why bother with a VDS, nothing ever came of the appraisal carried out in 2003?



The following represents some of the issues raised by the questionnaire, which have been addressed since 2003.

Environment

There was a request for more trees in the village.

1. There has been a number provided in Coe's Meadow and the Conservation area at Upper Houses.
2. Coe's Meadow design & development was created as a result of the suggestions obtained from the questionnaire.
3. If BDC provided a door-to-door collection for recycling almost 100% of replies said yes. This is now in place.

Hire of the Village Hall

- Large main hall with coloured lighting and stage.
- Carpeted Committee Room.
- Fully equipped kitchen (bring own cutlery).
- Bar area available (not licensed for alcohol).
- Ladies and Gents toilets.
- Adequate Car Parking with outside lighting.
- Chairs & tables to seat ninety people.
- Trestle tables.
- Slide projector & screen available.
- Heated.

Complies with Fire Regulations
The hall is available for hire to residents and non-residents of Bulmer.
Residents can hire the Hall for as little as £55 (or £80 non-residents) per day
Or
£8 (£10.50 non-residents) per hour
Special concessionary rates for children's parties £21.50
Car Boot Sales £25
All enquiries to: -
Mrs D Allen 376676

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
Dec.	Ms L Evans	Mr G Skea	Mr & Mrs Armstrong
Jan.	Miss Mack	Mr & Mrs Bennett	Mr & Mrs Howard
Feb.	Mrs P Daniels	Mr & Mrs P Maynard	Mrs T Stuart

Housing

If there were to be any new houses built in the village, starter/small homes were the most favoured and should be a small number.

1. These have been provided at Havenground near the school.

Safety & Security

1. A footpath was suggested from the village hall to the school, to allow access on foot from Bulmer St. to the school. A permissive path is now open for use.
2. The new speed limits should be more rigorously enforced. The 'Community Speed Watch' is now in operation along with the mobile 'Speed Indicator Device'. Drivers exceeding the speed limits are being reported to the Police & warning letters are issued to the vehicle owners.
3. The speed limit of 40mph near the school should be lower. This is now 30mph.
4. The Neighbourhood Watch scheme should be re-introduced. This has been done with new contacts provided in all parts of the village.
5. Policing should be more visible. A full time police officer has been appointed to the village together with PC Support Officer, and the Parish Ranger/Warden scheme has been introduced.

Leisure

1. Coe's Meadow development was influenced by the responses to the questionnaire.
2. Local Footpath walks on a regular basis were requested. These are now provided monthly.
3. Improved facilities at the Fox public house were requested.

Notes:

1. Bulmer Parish Council is not claiming it introduced all these, but wherever possible it has lobbied for their introduction either with Braintree DC, Essex CC or the Police. In number of cases it has been by the dedicated support & action of residents who live & work in the village.
2. A VDS differs from an **Appraisal** in that it is **not** about changing things in the village, it is about **preserving what we have** and influencing how it is developed in the future.

Funding for the project has now been obtained, and we are ready to commence the next stage on the 14th June.

For more information and what a VDS is log on to: -

www.essexinfo.net/bulmer/vds

Or should you wish to become involved, then please contact:- **Irene Dickinson 370016, Christine Leigh 378133 or Jeff Wright 376083**

SPEED INDICATOR DEVICE (SID)

During its time outside 'Clement Cottage' in Bulmer Street the following statistics were produced.

Total no. of vehicles passing the device in the direction of Sudbury 33,695

Total no. exceeding 35mph 6,765 or 20%
Total traveling between 1 – 30mph incl. 17,061 or 51%
Total traveling between 31 – 40mph incl. 14,631 or 43%
Total traveling between 36 – 40mph incl. 4,762 or 14%
Total traveling between 41 – 50mph incl. 1,916 or 6%
Total traveling between 51 – 60mph incl. 84 or 0.3%
Total traveling between 61 – 70mph incl. 3

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 VACANT AGRICULTURAL PADDOCK TENANCY

Due to the sad death of Richard Harding-Payne, the land that he rented at Bulmer Tye is now vacant for the purpose of agricultural or paddock use.

The land is in three plots, namely, Almshouse Field and two parts of Almshouse Piece. The Parish Council would prefer to rent all three plots to one tenant. As the land has been left untouched for some while it will require attention i.e. ploughing and seeding.



If you are interested in the tenancy, please write to the Parish Council (via the Clerk) stating how you would propose to manage the areas.

Clerk: Mrs Barbara Rawlins, Belchamp Brook House, The Street, Bulmer C010 7EW

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

- 9th May 2008
- 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

At the last Council meeting it was agreed to hold surgeries on a trial basis at which two of your councillors would attend 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. This is your opportunity to talk in private on any Village or Council issues.

These will be held in the Village Hall between **10am and 12 noon**, initially on a Saturday mornings. Dates for your diary booked so far are: -

Sat. 19th April, Sat. 7th June and Sat. 16th August

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

MINUTES BULMER PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 11th JANUARY 2008

PRESENT: Councillors Margaret Mills (Chairman), Stephen Coombes, Mike Crome, Peter Fulcher, Stephen Morgan, Peter Rowe and the Clerk Trevor Lawrence (Community warden)

6 members of the public

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Ron Mansfield, Nigel Harley DC, David Finch CC, Rob Sippitt (PCSO)

DECL. OF INTERESTS: None

PUBLIC QUESTIONS: Mr. Kevin Wicker asked the question of Cllr. Crome (who spoke at the Planning Committee meeting on 18th July 2007), if he could confirm there was no discussion by the Committee on the design of the house in his application. Cllr. Crome assured Mr. Wicker that the house was not discussed, only the access onto the A131. The Parish Council also confirmed they have no objection to the dwelling and have said as much in all their correspondence with the Planning Committee.

TREVOR LAWRENCE (Community Warden) - gave a very informative summary of his patrols in Bulmer. He had met with members of the village, picked up litter, reported dumping and noted that Ryes Lane was a hot spot for litter and dumping. Trevor was also willing to help with any village events. Cllr. Fulcher said that although we acknowledged the monthly Community Warden's report, it carried no detail, just the number of activities and incidents. Cllr. Fulcher asked if the report could be expanded to inform the Parish Council when the patrols took place and in what area any incidents occurred.

APPROVE THE MINUTES of the meeting held on 9th November 2007. Proposed Cllr. Crome, seconded Cllr. Rowe.

MATTER ARISING: None

COE'S MEADOW: The Parish Council is still in the process of forming a new management committee.

PLANNING: No further movement, at present, on the 3 Park Lane appeal.

CORRESPONDENCE & NOTICES

1. Complaints had been made to Braintree DC regarding **loud music** and **fireworks** from a residence in Church Road. Braintree advised that they had written to the occupiers requesting their co-operation in reducing noise levels and advising them that there are restraints on unacceptable noise between 11.00pm -7.00am. It is also courteous to advise neighbours if such an event is to take place in order that domestic animals can be protected.

2. **Proposed planning process** - following our letter to Sir Alan Haselhurst MP, a copy letter was received from Hazel Blears MP., who agreed that there was some concern among parish/town councils regarding the difficulty in measuring

plans accurately on a computer screen. Mrs Blears went on to say that her department was currently piloting with a number of local authorities the use of a tool (planning portal), which enables accurate on screen measurements to be taken and that they will be assessing its effectiveness.

3. There has been interest in the **tenancy of land** at Almshouse piece and field (Bulmer Tye), following the sad death of Richard Harding-Payne. Cllr. Mills said she would speak to Mrs. Harding-Payne regarding the tenancy.

4. Balfour Beatty gave a cost of £185 to erect a **noticeboard at Finch Hill**. The Parish Council agreed to go ahead and erect the board on the grass verge to the side of the field gate adjacent to Beggars End cottage.

5. Following the revised Code of Conduct (2007), sections 70A and 70B will be amended on the **Standing Orders** of the Bulmer Parish Council.

6. The Parish Council has been **granted £2500** from the RCCE Community Planning Fund towards costs in setting up the **Village Design Statement**. Display boards have been ordered for the VDS consultation and will be useful for other display events in the village.

7. Copy correspondence has been received from residents in Hedingham Road who have written to County Highways regarding the number of **accidents** involving cars that have occurred during 2007 in **Hedingham Road**.

8. Cllr. Crome is still seeking advice on reading the data captured by the **Speed Indicator Device**. It logs every vehicle passing the SID, giving time and speed.

9. Residents in Park Lane raised objections to the **removal of a trees** in the centre of the Park Lane allotment Cllr. Rowe (allotment officer) said he would write to the residents explaining that the trees removed were a birch and willow and due to their position on the allotment it was not plausible to allow them to grow any larger. The roots of these trees spread a great distance and would rob the fertility of the plots on either side. Also, it was important to keep the plots in one block and not have an uncultivated area in the middle, which could not be accessed by the tractor for grass cutting each year. Once the roots have been removed the tenant will plant fruit trees, which do not have invasive roots. There are no plans to remove any more trees.

RECEIPTS:

Allotment rent	£338.32
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PAYMENTS:

Cllr. Crome	- mileage expenses	£42.40
J.Doe	- hedge/grass cutting	£282.00 inc VAT
R Mortimer	- grass cutting	£113.98 inc VAT
EALC	- fees re training days	£150.00

Following a slight **adjustment to the precept** for 2008/2009 it was agreed at £4500 (see Minutes 9.11.07 F.212)

The **annual return** to the **Charity Commission for Coe's Meadow** was duly adopted and signed.

OTHER BUSINESS

It was agreed to hold a village **'litter pick'** on **15th March**. Leaflets would be dropped to each household requesting volunteers.

Braintree are to host another **Activity Day** for children between the ages of 5 - 11 at the Bulmer village hall on 14th August 2008. It will be advertised more fully nearer the event.

The Clerk was asked to write a letter of thanks to **Ashley Cooper** for **clearing rubbish** and cuttings from Coe's Meadow.

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

MARGARET'S PARISH PATH WALKS

WINTER 2007-2008

Throughout the winter months Margaret's parish path walks have proved increasingly popular with attendances reaching well into double figures on all three occasions. This may be due to our ever increasing awareness to get fit, the very fine weather or just the fact that more people are finding the walks an enjoyable way to spend their time. Whatever the reason, another three superb walks have been led by Margaret starting on Boxing Day when setting the pace Margaret led us along some of the paths of Henny, Great and Small. We set off from Plough Green heading for the rear of the Fox car park where we took the path across the fields before embarking along the road a short distance to reach the Ryes Lane byway. About halfway down we left the byway as our path then wound its way through a little conservation area where we stopped to admire a very impressive and imaginatively designed hedge that surrounds



Noah's Ark?

its dwelling to resemble Noah's Ark. Leaving the view of Noah's Ark we moved on to take in the views that surround Henny church as we continued the paths of The Stour Valley before heading back to Plough Green via the Old Rectory and Ryes Lane.

January's walk started from Rodbridge picnic site on a very warm and sunny afternoon. I would say a very unusually warm January afternoon but with our now fairly erratic weather patterns I think it's becoming less unusual and such episodes of good weather have to just be enjoyed whenever they arrive, so enjoy we did on our circuit of Borley and Brundon. Our afternoons circuit gave us the chance to take in the sights of Borley church (where a huge number of snowdrops were in flower) from paths along the field edges before joining the road into the beautiful village of Borley itself. Our next path, which was situated down beside the garden of one of the villages lovely properties then led us



Re-built bridge at Rodbridge

back to cross another field which brought us out at the road junction by Bardfield bridge, where we took the bridleway towards the old railway line track which is

The Valley Walk. From here we had the chance to witness the extent of the flooding across the fields from the previous weeks of heavy downpours and where I also had the chance to see the completed work on the bridge of the Rodbridge to

Melford stretch of The Valley Walk which we found walking across quite arduous on a previous walk. Well, not quite the original construction but certainly much better going underfoot.

February's walk once again found us in Henny to partly retrace our steps of a former walk. The last time Margaret led this walk we started from Bulmer adding an extra four or five miles onto the route which meant we made a day of it, dining at Little Cornard church on the way. The shorter route saw us leaving from Henny church down past the rectory where we picked up the original route heading for Little and Great Hickbush. At the end of this path we walked a short stretch of the Henny Road past Boutells Farm before taking the path off to the nature reserve around the river, where on our last visit Tom Dickinson very excitedly declared he'd sighted a kingfisher. Unfortunately the rest of us disappointedly declared that we'd missed it. However, moving on, our route then followed a path to where we crossed the Bures Road up to Workhouse Green. Passing through Workhouse Green our ramble then diverted us back onto more softer, slightly boggy ground where passing through a small wooded area we came across some trees which had rooted into a fairly unstable part of bank beside a stream which had caused them to overturn. After leaving the wood more hard tracks paved our way up to Little



Overturned Trees

Cornard church from where we headed for the country park. These paths then brought us back to cross the Bures Road again but by Stones Farm. On the opposite side of the road here we passed under the railway bridge by the sewer works where the path then leads onto open fields where we managed to frighten about a hundred geese into flight, that's how many of us there were. Leaving the fields, the last part of our walk meant crossing the Henny Road once more but this time on the junction by Greathouse Farm leading up to Applecroft and the track back up to Henny church, to return on the opposite side to which we departed.

Fantastic. Thank-you Margaret and here's to the spring season and hoping the bluebells flower at the correct time this year.

For those interested in future walks, these listed in below and on the Bulmer website

www.essexinfo.net/bulmer/parish-path-walks

Lisa Sandford

FUTURE PARISH WALKS



Another collection of monthly walks around Bulmer and our neighbouring parishes. As usual strong footwear is recommended. They are all suitable for children accompanied by adults. Well behaved dogs on fixed leads are also welcome.

Saturday 26th April at 2.30pm

The Bulmer Bluebells (if they are not too early or too late in blooming!)

Meet on Plough Green for 5-mile walk to visit our local "blue spots". A shorter 3-mile option can be taken.

Bank Holiday Monday 26th May at 2.30pm

A 5 mile walk to Henny Church and back past the Butler and Parsonage Woods.

Meet on Plough Green. There are 3 stiles on this walk but we should hopefully see many spring flowers.

Sunday 29th June at 2.30pm

A 6 mile "figure of eight" walk to Belchamp Walter from the Village Hall.

Ring Margaret Mills 269377 for further details.

Note: It may be possible to have some short weekday evening walks or daytime ones of about 2 miles length.

Please contact Margaret if you would be interested

ESSEX POLICE – NON-EMERGENCY

A **new non-emergency number** for Essex Police went live on Thursday, March 6, 2008.

The new number is **0300 333 4444**. It is a **24 hour, seven days a week service** that will connect callers from across the county to the switchboard at Essex Police. Calls will then be directed to the most appropriate person, department or station.

The non-emergency number should be used for all enquiries to Essex Police but does not replace the emergency number 999. If there is a crime or serious incident in progress, a **serious risk of injury or a risk of serious damage to property you should always dial 999.**

You can still contact your local neighbourhood police officer on their mobile telephone number, which can be found on our website www.essex.police.uk or by texting your postcode to 07624-800101."

Callers to the non-emergency number will be charged the same or less than calls to 01 (e.g. 01245) and 02 (e.g. 0208) prefixed numbers and will be included as part of any inclusive minutes or discount package.

COE'S MEADOW

Minutes of CMMC meeting held in the Village Hall 12th March 2008.

Present: Chris Leigh, Sarah Carpenter, Peter Fulcher, Jeff Wright, Niall Fraser.



Apologies for absence: Harry Wright & Emma Hamilton. Emma is not able to continue on the committee for family reasons.

Annie Reid – Brickwall Barn is to join the committee and become secretary.

The current committee;

Christine Leigh (Chairperson) 378133 (CL), Annie Reid (Secretary) (AR), Peter Fulcher (Parish Council representative) (PF), Jeff Wright (JW), Harry Wright (HW) Sarah Carpenter (SC), Niall Fraser (NF)

Wish to extend their thanks to the previous committee for all their hard work in establishing Coe's Meadow.

Maintenance.

The matting under the swing has been replaced. Goal and basketball nets have been ordered. Chris said that the goalpost sockets and pegs for the nets may need to be replaced. These will be ordered after inspection if necessary. A number of new willows have been replaced in the wigwam by Simon Harris.

Field Inspection.

On inspection it was noticed that there is some loose matting by the front hedge, which will need to be re-pegged. Chris said that there was nothing in the original budget for marking out the basketball court. Chris to research further.

Chris to look into the possibility of training 2 committee members to do a more detailed inspection of the equipment on the meadow.

Lime Avenue.

CL confirms that BPC advises that the maintenance of the Lime Avenue is the responsibility of CMMC.

Additional Benches.

CL reported that the 2 additional benches in Margaret Mills' garage need to be reinstated on the meadow. Discussion took place as to how these will need to be installed and a decision will be made at the next meeting. It was suggested that a bench be positioned near the swings – backing onto the Street and, possibly, re-site the bench near the pond.

Car Park Maintenance.

CL raised the point that a lot of maintenance needs to be carried out in the gate area. NF is to get an estimate from Blackwells. BPC advised that 2 further estimates are needed. All estimates to be in writing for the next meeting. After the gateway maintenance has been carried out, the car park needs to be prepared and re-seeded. The car park will have to then be closed for 2 -3 weeks to allow the grass to get established.

Work Party.

CL suggested we have a work party for general maintenance to get the meadow ready for the summer. The committee decided this would be better done once the work on the car park is complete. When this date is decided a notice will be put on the village notice board & village website to ask for volunteers.

General Maintenance.

CL raised the matter of tidying up the ditch along The Street. PF is to raise the matter with BPC.

Alan Burbidge advised the committee that the reeds need to be removed from the pond, as they are detrimental and invasive. Because they are deep rooted machinery will be needed to remove them.

Children's Project – Bird Boxes.

PF is looking into having bird boxes in the meadow and to involve the children to possibly assemble and fix the boxes in position. PF after advice from Peter Innes said that it was inadvisable to have bat boxes.

Proposed Fun Day.

Committee agreed the date should be **29th June**. It was proposed that we should have softball cricket / rounders, boules (tuition by Barbara Rawlins), basketball competition, children and parents races and, hopefully, donkey rides for the children. Cream teas to be served (volunteers to make scones etc.)

Date of next meeting – **16th April in Village Hall**, everyone welcome

CHARITY FUNDRAISING BALL



We are holding a Charity Fundraising Ball in aid of **CLIC Sargent childrens' cancer** charity at Stoke-by-Nayland Golf Club on **Friday 16th May**. Tickets are priced at £45, which includes Pimms on arrival and a 3-course dinner dancing to The Short People. This is a black tie event and there will be an auction and raffle. All proceeds for this worthy cause are going to **CLIC Sargent**.

Tickets can be purchased from Mandy Byham, Bulmer on 01787 372090

Next edition will be published at the end of June. Could I please have all your articles photographs etc. by the 15 June. Email mike@mcrome.fsnet.co.uk or 6 Vicars Orchard