



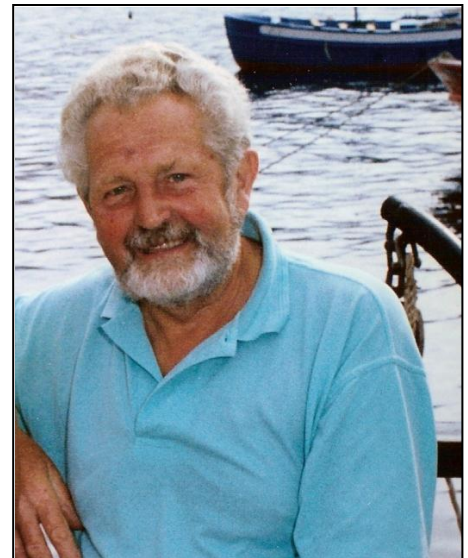
What's On?

The Newsletter of Bulmer - March 2010

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

A Tribute to Ron Mansfield

With the death of Ron Mansfield on Christmas Eve, Bulmer lost a much-respected resident. A local lad, born in Foxearth, Ron worked as a motor engineer and later as garage manager in Sudbury. He was elected to Bulmer Parish Council in May 1988 retiring in January 2009 due to ill health. He served as chairman of the council for 9 years during which time he managed the deliberations, which led to parish land being leased to Bulmer School and Brambley Hedge Nursery. Earlier he had been involved in the work to secure Coe's Meadow for the village.



Ron also served the local area as a retained fireman for 25 years, and through his membership of the Farm Machinery Preservation Society he was well known to many over a wide area. He was chairman of the society for many years organising their big annual events.

Ron leaves his widow Vera, two sons and four grandchildren. After a life of so much service to others many, both in Bulmer and beyond, will sadly miss Ron.

Margaret Mills - Chairman, Bulmer Parish Council

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## **Bulmer Village Design Statement Exhibition**

This took place on the 20<sup>th</sup> March at which a steady stream of residents attended to view the results of the questionnaire issued to all residents last year. Residents were then requested to comment on recommended planning guidelines that will appear in the final document, which once adopted by Braintree District Council will require their planning officers to comply with. The response and comments by those who attended were many, and will now be analysed to ensure the guidelines reflect the residents' majority opinions. After which the document will be drafted and approved by interested bodies, with publication and

distribution to all residents anticipated to be achieved by the end of the year/early 2011.



## PARISH EMERGENCY PLAN

The Parish Emergency plan has now been reviewed and updated by the Parish Council. It is flexible to cover any emergency and is there to support Braintree District Council's Emergency Plan or to assist in any emergency within the parish.

If there is an emergency in the parish you can contact Peter Fulcher the Councillor responsible for the Emergency Plan, the Parish Clerk, or any of the Parish Councillors. We are particularly concerned about vulnerable people in the village who may be adversely affected by simple things like a power cut, which goes on for a long time and may mean they cannot get a hot meal or keep warm. As you will have seen recently in the news we need to be good neighbours and look out for those around us who may need assistance.

You will find the contact no. for Peter Fulcher & the Clerk plus all other councillors later in this issue & every other issue of 'What's On'.

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HEDGE FUND JACKPOT

Hedge Funds have come in for some heavy criticism in the financial meltdown, but this one's a bit different. Last year the brewer Stella Artois set up a fund to promote the planting of hedges and hedgerow trees across Britain, which I came to hear about when I attended a Tree Council conference in September. The problem was, it seemed they were not getting enough applications and delegates were urged to come up with appropriate schemes to spend the money on.

This prodded me into action. It had always struck me that as you drive from Bulmer Tye towards Twinstead the landscape deteriorates rapidly as the edges of the highway are denuded of cover, the result of a major County Highways road improvement over 20 years ago. So the moment I got home I dashed off a preliminary grant application and very soon got the green light from the Hedge Fund's team at the Tree Council. Even more surprising: attached to the approval was a cheque for £2,000 as a down payment for the plants and materials in the proposal.



The challenge was, of course, that the grant did not cover labour, and we needed squads of volunteers to do the planting. It's a great pleasure to report that

residents of both Bulmer and Twinstead responded readily to the call, and over 5 or 6 days we succeeded in planting nearly a kilometre of hedging across half a dozen sites. In fact over 40 people got involved in the work at different times, and only the harsh winter weather prevented us from doing another 400 metres. This means we spent £1,000 less than the grant, but the Hedge Fund has kindly agreed to hold this back for us to draw on next planting season.

Sites

Location	Metres	Plants	Trees	Grid Ref
Church Road, Twinstead CO10 7NA	430	1,720	16	TL 85396 36695
Old Road, Twinstead CO10 7NE	115	460	5	TL 84526 36734
A131 Watery Lane CO10 7NG	300	1,200	3	TL 84703 37563
B1058 Hedingham Road CO10 7EF	100	400	1	TL 8415 38030
Rookery Farm, Belchamp Walter CO10 7AL			20	TL 83721 41956
Total	945	3,780	45	

Planting Teams

Bulmer	Twinstead and Henny
Peter Fulcher	David Tooth
Mike Crome	Vernon & Ben Nott
John Duck	Antony Flower
Tim Fagan	
Trevor Harvey	
Geoff Frakes	
Trevor Harvey	
Tony & Bart Minter	
Bob & Ann from Sudbury	

Warm thanks also to:

Richard Parmee of Braintree District Council, for his practical advice and ready support
 John Boon and his team from the Witham Boys Brigade (pictured)
 Gemma Slaven and her team from the BTCV (British Trust for Community Volunteers)
 Catherine Armstrong from the Tree Council
 Graham Nicholl, Tree Surgeon, for providing wood chip mulch
 King & Co, the nursery at Rayne, for their keen prices and excellent service
 Peter Wheeler, Michael Crawford, Gerry Ford and Vernon Nott, the landowners concerned.

Simon Harris, Tree Warden

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**NEIGHBOURHOOD  
ACTION PANEL  
(NAP)  
COMMUNITY  
MEETING**



A NAP community meeting for Great Yeldham & Stour Valley North is to be held on **Monday 17th May 2010, at 7.30pm at Bulmer Village Hall.**

The NAPs purpose is to assess policing issues raised by the local community agree community priorities and decide upon realistic and achievable courses of action to address them. (A NAP consists of people who live or work in the neighbourhood or those who provide service to the local community).

To find out more about a NAP go to [www.essexpolice.uk](http://www.essexpolice.uk) and follow the link contacting your neighbourhood policing team. The first hour of the meeting will be given over to consulting with the community to discuss any issues or concerns that might be raised. Afterwards the NAP will meet to consider the priorities. The priorities will then be published on the Essex police website.

Please join us if you can so we can work together, to identify and tackle issues of concern within Great Yeldham and the Stour Valley North.

You can also raise issues for discussion, if you are not able to attend the meeting, by telephoning 01787 237235 and speaking with Maria Trappitt (Chair of NAP).

*Ms Maria Trappitt (Chair of NAP)*

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VILLAGE HALL NEWS

The Committee is once more busy planning events for the forthcoming year. As our Committee has diminished in numbers due to members moving away from the area we are finding it a rather daunting task. However we have a Barn Dance planned for May 7th with our ever-popular caller Ron Coxall. If you have never attended a Barn Dance then why not come along, in some cases two left feet are almost essential but a sense of fun is the most important ingredient for the evening. If you want more information on the event please ring Maggie on 374758. Watch out for other events on the Parish notice boards or on the website (www.bulmeressex.co.uk)

Our A.G.M. will be held in the Village Hall on Friday 4th June. Please try and come along and show your support and if you feel you can commit a few of your precious hours to serve on the Committee please let us know either by attending our A.G.M. or ringing John on 466030. We really do need your help.

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

Month	First	Second	Third
Jan.	Mrs V Mansfield	Miss E Mack	Mr & Mrs R Tomlinson
Feb.	Mrs K Macaree	Mrs T Bowler	Ms N Harding

prize! Please contact Dawn at the Post Office (376676) if you would like to join.

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**BULMER SKYLARKS**

We are looking forward to an eventful year in 2010. Our numbers are steadily increasing and help and support has been very gratifying.

We started the year with a Quiz afternoon, which proved to be both extremely noisy and exhausting for the "Quiz Master". We never realised that a gathering of genteel ladies (and one gentleman) could be so rowdy!

We had a visit from our **Village Agent, Peter Darlington**, in February. What a mine of information! We now feel there is someone we can call upon should we need it.

If you feel you would like to join us at anytime, please come along to the Village Hall on the 4th Tuesday of every month, there are no age restrictions, young or young at heart, we will be pleased to welcome you. Our programme for the next few months is:

**March 23rd**

Nena Harding talking about her work with the Samaritans Purse Charity

**April 27th**

Colin French from Suffolk Accident Rescue

**May**

A Coach Trip (still in the planning stage!)

**June 22nd**

Strawberry Tea and Horse Racing

If you would like more information please ring Barbara on 370845 or Maggie on 374758

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**BULMER FOLK
DANCE CLUB
Spring meetings ..**

Mondays 8-10pm
12th April and
26th April
£1.50 pp.



The club has two callers, Kate and Jan, and celebrates its 30th Anniversary this year. Wendy Rowe still runs the club and any other details can be found on 375935. New members always welcome.

BULMER NATURE DIARIES

Well, I'll bet no one's complaining that we "*haven't had a proper winter this year!*" But those of us who are



long enough in the tooth to remember prolonged winters of 1947 and '63, will be more than grateful that this year hasn't matched up to those two years of truly Arctic conditions. In each of those two big freeze ups, the mercury in the thermometers hardly ventured above zero during those icebound months of January and February. The effect on wildlife was truly devastating, especially the smaller birds. There was a report of 20 or so Wrens, found dead up in a nest box, where they had all huddled up together to try to keep warm. Their numbers decreased noticeably in the following few years, before they gradually built up their numbers again. Many other birds took a hammering as well, particularly those water birds that find their food under the water (whether fish or submerged vegetation) as all the rivers and watercourses were covered by ice thick enough to skate on. Kingfishers and Herons had a very hard time, mostly having to resort to moving down to the estuaries, where there was at least some clear water.

This year, we have had the odd milder spell, which gives the wildlife a chance to recuperate for a few days. Birds then have a chance to re-fuel and not deplete still further their body fat, which they build up in earlier months, to help them survive the winter. Fieldfares are a good example of this, as soon as the frost loses its grip on the soil, they will be out on the fields, wheedling out the odd worm or slug from the now softened ground amongst the blades of the winter sown cereals. They were feeding on the field behind us recently, but seemed very wary, the whole flock taking to the air, to line the electric wires or crowd together in the crown of one of the oaks. Once they burst off the field in a frenzy and looking up I saw a Sparrow-hawk wheeling round, the cause of their panic.

All birds panicked the next day, when a couple of the Army's Apache helicopters hovered at zero feet only a couple of hundred yards behind Bulmer Street! The Wood Pigeons did a sort of bomb burst, hurtling out to all points of the compass in their haste to escape from these monster robotic birds.

Settling back on the field, the Fieldfares had an unwelcome companion, a lone Black Headed Gull. This gull had cottoned on to the fact that it was quite easy for it to mug the Fieldfares, whenever they had dug up a tasty morsel and rob it of its food. In the short while that I watched, it purloined a couple of juicy worms from the unlucky thrushes. A few days later, a Magpie turned the tables on another gull, which had procured a sizeable chunk of crust from some generous person. The gull needed to settle somewhere free from interruption, to hack this into

gull sized portions, but as soon as it settled down to do so, the Magpie barged in and put it to flight. It chased it all around the neighbourhood gardens, never allowing it to settle for more than a second. This went on for three or four minutes, before they disappeared over the rooftops, the gull still hanging on to its prize, the magpie in hot pursuit! We did the RSPB Garden Bird Watch on 31st Jan. We only recorded 11 species in the hour, but did include a pair of Bullfinches. After the hour's watching had been completed, we had a Goldcrest bathing in the pond, another unusual species for us. We're getting very few birds on our feeders of late; I think they have discovered a better restaurant in someone else's garden! There have been a few other unusual sightings over the last few months, on Christmas Eve we had two Snipe fly across the garden and on 9th Jan a Woodcock. Allen Burbidge had a Little Egret visit



his pond, while Nena Harding reported two Tree Sparrows on her feeders for a couple of days in Jan. These are now quite rare, having suffered a steep decline in numbers over the last 20 years or so. Although, checking them out, I did discover that they have been making a bit of a comeback recently, so, fingers crossed, we may be seeing more of them in the future.

Wintertime, with its bare trees, often brings to light birds nests that had gone unnoticed during the summer. One that was disclosed this year was on the huge chestnut tree that stands just inside the Churchyard. It has some long trailing branches, which



cascade down in tiers. Last year, at the extremity of one of these, a Goldfinch managed to secure its nest. To say that this was a somewhat precarious site to choose is something of an understatement. These slender twigs are very much at the mercy of the winds

and one can imagine the nest swaying and rocking quite violently in a fresh breeze. Believe it or not, they often site their nests in that sort of precarious position that was my clue to the identity of its builder. Obviously the birds don't suffer from seasickness. It may still be there, if you look carefully, on the south side of the tree.

Have you noticed, like us, that we are getting far more ladybirds hibernating indoors these last couple of winters? The majority of these will be the alien Harlequin Ladybirds, which have rapidly spread to Britain from the Continent, over the past four or five years. They are a little larger than our native ladybirds, come in an amazing combination of patterns and colours, and are definitely here to stay. Our first snowdrops didn't pop their heads up in our border until the 1st of Feb this year, about a month late by my reckoning. We did find a tiny coltsfoot flower just opening on 20th Feb, but had found no



celandines out by that date, when they are usually starting to put in an appearance. I certainly can't wait for the better weather to turn up and to be able to lounge around in the sun, amid Spring flowers, birdsong and butterflies. Ah well -- no harm in dreaming.....

Peter Rowe

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A date for your Diary,  
**COE'S MEADOW  
 FAMILY FUN DAY  
 SUNDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> JUNE**



Yes it will soon be that time of the year. We are hoping to make the Fun Day bigger and better to celebrate our **5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.**

- Both the Bramble Hedge Nursery and St. Andrews primary School are hoping to participate.
- Sports events for all ages.
- The **Morris Men** are joining us again after proving so popular last year. Come along and learn to Morris Dance (you know you want to!).
- Mums & Dads have a drink at the **bar** provided by the Bulmer Fox.

- Eat from our excellent **BBQ** or have a **cream scone and strawberries.**
- Children, how about having your **face painted** and join in the **Fancy Dress Competition** run by Bramble Hedge.
- Have a **pony ride.**

For the past two years we have been blessed with beautiful weather so keep your fingers crossed for this year!!

A Fun Day for all the family. If you're not feeling too energetic just bring a picnic and enjoy watching the fun.

Look out for posters nearer the time. We look forward to seeing you on June 27<sup>th</sup>.

*Chris Leigh (Chairman CMMC)*

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PARISH PATH WALKS - WINTER 2009-10

I heard on the radio this week that after this winters weather is has been decided to no longer broadcast long-term seasonal weather forecasts. Perhaps, I thought if they had of employed Margaret Mills their frequently inaccurate forecasts would have been near spot on. Having just experiencing the worst winter for almost twenty five years, once again Margaret managed to forecast the conditions well enough to choose the best three days of the last three months throughout all of the snow, sleet, rain and freezing conditions to lead the parish path walks. Admittedly it was cold and sometimes a little wet under foot but dressed correctly and having a brisk pace kept us warm.

Boxing day saw us keeping a brisk pace around Bulmer. From the village hall we headed towards the street and the fields behind to arrive behind Goldingham Hall where the pond still had a good



sheet of ice on it. Our circuit of Bulmer also included the fields onto Lower Houses and up to Upper Houses and the fringes of Hill Farm, Gestingthorpe. We continued up Wesborough Hill and admired the workings of the badgers before coming back to Upper Houses and taking the bridle path back to Jenkins and back up to the village hall.

At the end of January we took a walk from Melford round to Bridge Street and back. After another month of snow, sleet and rain it was very wet underfoot but

there was a good turnout of people and we had a lovely walk in fine conditions. This was a route we had taken about two years previous but we walked the opposite way round this time. Instead of starting from the garden centre and heading round to Bridge Street then Kentwell Hall, we started from Melford Green heading for Kentwell Hall, Bridge Street and back to the garden centre.

At the end of February, Margaret lead a walk up to Wickham-St-Paul and back. I unfortunately couldn't make the walk but I am assured that the six people who did had a lovely walk up to Wickham and back missing any of the scattered showers of the afternoon. Hopefully then, after all this cold weather the spring season of walks will be warm and sunny and encourage some of the lovely blooms to emerge and bring some colour to the countryside again. Although at the moment they're about three weeks behind. As always our thanks go to Margaret for taking the time to organise and lead such lovely walks and as ever bringing along the refreshments.

Lisa Sandford

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## St. ANDREWS SCHOOL

The Governors of Bulmer St. Andrews Primary School are delighted to announce that following an Ofsted

inspection; the school has been graded as 'Good'. The school's last Ofsted inspection, carried out in 2007, resulted in a 'Satisfactory'

grade and this most recent outcome is a direct consequence of the hard work of the staff under the guidance of Head teacher, Ellena Mortimer. Ofsted have raised their standards for inspection between the two visits, which makes the 'Good' outcome even more of an accomplishment. Everybody working for the school is delighted but the biggest congratulations must go to the pupils who consistently demonstrate good attitudes towards each other and towards their learning.

This news comes at a time when many rural primary schools find themselves struggling to fill the seats in their classrooms. We hope that this Ofsted result will encourage prospective parents to come and have a look at what is on offer at Bulmer St. Andrews School. The full report can be found on the Ofsted website at this

address: [http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/oxedu\\_reports/display/%28id%29/115493](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/oxedu_reports/display/%28id%29/115493)



*Ellena Mortimer – Head Teacher*

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PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

YOUR COUNCILLORS

Margaret Mills (Chairman)	- 01787 269377
Mike Crome (Vice Chairman)	- 01787 378155
Peter Rowe	- 01787 375935
Peter 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 May (AGM)	9 th July
10 th Sept.	12 th Nov.
14 th Jan. 2011	

All parishioners are welcome to attend

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BULMER PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 8th JANUARY 2010

PRESENT: Councillors: Margaret Mills (Chairman), Bethan Cook, Mike Crome, Peter Fulcher, Steve Morgan and the Clerk. David Finch CC 2 members of the public

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllr. Peter Rowe, Cllr. Chris Leigh, Peter Darlington

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS: None

APPROVE THE MINUTES of the meeting held on 13th November 2009. Proposed by Cllr. Crome, seconded Cllr. Fulcher.

MATTERS ARISING: Cllrs. Mills, Fulcher and Morgan, together with Tony Dixey met at the Park Lane allotments to assess the problem of the sewer/manhole cover and also the drainage situation, especially near the BT kiosk. If the drainage was improved on the Church Road side then more allotment holdings could be raised. The Park Lane hedge needed to be faced up on the allotment side and the ditch cleared. Mr. Dixey will probably be asked to carry out the work once cost and responsibility has been resolved. Residents would be advised if any major work was required.

DAVID FINCH CC

- The 7.5 tonne weight restriction on Bardfield Bridge, Finch Hill had been approved and is now official.
- Parking at Church Road - see Correspondence & Notices.
- Essex Cares was launched in July.
- Telecare eligibility has been dropped down to 80+ from 85.

COE's MEADOW

The Coe's Meadow hedge abounding the pedestrian path in Vicars Orchard has been faced back by Essex Rangers.

The Parish Council asked to see recent weekly Inspection Reports for the recreation ground, which

were duly checked and signed.
Action: the Clerk was asked to remind County Highways that the 'play area ahead' signs had not yet been erected in The Street.

PLANNING

Carters, Bulmer Tye - the application for amendments to the gable windows have been granted though not supported by the Parish Council. Councillors queried that they had not been informed of the planning meeting at which the decision was made. **Action:** the Clerk was asked to question BDC why the Parish Council had not received this information.

The Limes, Bulmer Street - TPO reduce height of leylandii hedge.

Chelsworth, Bulmer Street - TPO reduce height of leylandii hedge.

No objections from Bulmer Parish Council on either application.

CORRESPONDENCE & NOTICES

1. Our tree warden, Simon Harris, has obtained a **grant of £3500 for mixed hedge plants and small trees** to fill the gaps and install new stretches of hedge along the A131 approaching Bulmer from Halstead. The work will be carried out by trained volunteers and aided by a team from the Dedham Vale & Stour Project.
2. **Parking - Church Road.** CCllr. Finch is arranging for the Chairman of the Police Authority, Robert Chambers, together with the Divisional Commander, Michele Dunn, to visit the area and address the issue of the parking at the corner of Church Road, 'on site', The Parish Council will be advised of the date. CCllr. Finch said he had not given up hope, but felt that a new approach was needed. He also suggested that the Parish Council should speak directly to the resident pointing out the inconvenience and danger his 'Smart Maintenance' vehicles are causing. **Action:** Cllrs. Mills and Crome said they would go and see the resident.
3. The Parish Council was pleased to receive an application for the **position of Clerk** when our present Clerk retires in 2011. Hannah Fraser applied and was unanimously accepted by the Councillors.
4. Final decisions have been made on **telephone kiosks** in Bulmer. The kiosk in The Street will remain, as this is required for emergency use at the recreation ground, but the Park Lane kiosk will be removed due to low usage.
5. **Bus shelter, Church Road Dr. Park Lane.** **Action:** the Clerk to contact the landowners to obtain their approval over the exact positioning of the shelter.
6. No response has been received regarding the siting of a **bus shelter in The Street** or extending the bus service route to take in Finch Hill.

7. The **Emergency Plan** drawn up by Cllr. Fulcher has been approved by the Council. Cllr. Fulcher will be the Emergency Officer for the parish.
8. Costs for **grass cutting** in 2010 by Roy A. Mortimer was seen and agreed.

PRECEPT/ PSG (Parish Support Grant)

It was proposed by Cllr. Mills, seconded by Cllr. Crome and carried unanimously to adopt a precept of £4500 for 2010/2011. This figure has remained unchanged for 6 years.

The following grants and allowances were agreed -

- grant for BPC - £650
- grant to Bulmer Village Hall- £1000
- grant to Coe's Meadow - £1000 held in reserve for any expense that may occur.
- grant to Bulmer Skylarks Club - £70
- Clerk's salary increase of £40 (£1840)
- any overspend or unforeseen expenditure to be met from capital in hand.

Braintree advised parishes there would be no **increase in the PSG** for 2010/11.

Parish insurance - the Clerk had obtained a quote from Suffolk Acre, which proved to be very disappointing. The premium was more expensive. It was agreed to remain with our present insurers, Allianz.

RECEIPTS

Allotment rent	£348.70
Tree/hedge grant	£2,130.00

PAYMENTS:

Cllr. Crome	- travel expenses	£15.80
Anglian Water	- Park Lane allotments	£43.50
	- Coe's Meadow	£24.52
John Doe	- hedging/ditching	£323.44 inc VAT
T & R Services	- rubbish clearance at Almshouse Field	£520.00
Mortimer	- hole filling in car park at Coe's Meadow	£34.50 inc VAT
Chilton Office Supply	- newsletter	£74.52 inc VAT
BDC	- colour newsletter	£287.50 inc VAT

OTHER BUSINESS

It was agreed to offer the village hall and facilities to Braintree for one of their Activity Days in the summer. The Clerk was asked to speak to County Highways about the many potholes that have appeared after the bad weather.

The Parish Council felt that in the event of corridor 2 being chosen for the NG pylons, that they should be put underground. Also, Bulmer should be consulted if the sub-station is to be sited near Bulmer Tye. **Action:** the Clerk was asked to convey these views to NG.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.17pm

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## PARISH PATHS WALKS

The growing season is about to begin and some paths will require attention. It is a great help that some residents cut paths adjacent to their gardens. Please let me know of any problems you encounter on Bulmer footpaths. I would appreciate offers of help with path maintenance so that I can organise occasional work parties. There have been reports of dog fouling on some paths: please clean up after your dog, as it is most unpleasant for other users and for volunteers working on paths. Below are details of the next three walks I will lead.



### Bank Holiday Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May at 10.00am

#### STOUR VALLEY PATH

A walk from Baythorne End to Long Melford. As there are no weekend buses we will have to organise some cars to take us to the walk start leaving others at Melford. This is a 12½ miles stretch so we will need to bring some lunch although a pub / café stop en route will be possible as well. Meet at the top of the Green at Long Melford.

### Bank Holiday Monday 31<sup>st</sup> May at 2.30pm

#### HENNY AND HICKBUSH

A 6 mile walk. Meet on Plough Green, Bulmer Tye.

### Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> June at 2.30pm

#### ROUND CASTLE HEDINGHAM

About 6 miles. Meet at the Bell public house. Ring Margaret Mills 269377 for further details.

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ALLOTMENT AVAILABLE

An allotment is available at Goldingham Hall bungalow, preferably to a resident of Bulmer. For further information please contact Mrs V Mansfield on 375301.

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

## UPDATE FROM OUR VILLAGE AGENT

Hopefully, by now you have either met the Village Agent (Pete Darlington) or you have read about him in Bulmer What's On. So far he has been Ok but the big problem is that he is a man and as you all know men cannot multitask so I have been appointed to help him. My name is Kiri and I am 18 months old black Labrador friendly and with a waggy tail, and it is my job to help Peter.

He has started putting weight on, due to all the biscuits and cake that he has been eating so I will step in to save him having to eat them all, I prefer biscuits to cake.

Currently, to navigate his way round his patch he is using a Satnav but from now on it can be left at home as, despite what people say about us ladies having a problem with navigating I will be directing Peter around. I think a wet nose in either the left or right ear is far better than a lady with a funny voice telling him to go left or right.

This was hard work to write as my paws are a bit big for the keyboard and my spelling is not toooo good, but im only young.

So if you see me in the area, stop and please say hallo and give me a pat on the head (me not Peter) and if you need any help please ask Peter.

*Best woofs, kiRI*

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BULMER HISTORY SOCIETY

'Frolic, Fervour and Fornication in eighteenth century Suffolk' was the theme of our March meeting, when well-known author Pip Wright addressed an audience of almost seventy in the Village Hall.

Pip had examined literally hundreds of Parish Registers of births, marriages and deaths while conducting his research. The Registers, he explained, were initiated in the sixteenth century. Drawing from them, he brought to life the 'human aspects' of local history, including plague, poverty and adultery—when the latter required either penance in church or the threat of excommunication.. (He also quoted the pithy comments that clergymen had sometimes scribbled beside the names of more colourful parishioners!)

There were touching discoveries too; the raising of funds—by small parishes—for disaster struck towns all over Britain; of baptismal fonts being frozen in the winter; and the numerous instances of child mortality. Amidst them came an inspiring entry from the early nineteenth century. The marriage, near Bury St. Edmunds, of a village girl who had no arms. Somehow she had learnt to read and write, and signed her name by holding a pen with her toes.

Pip Wright is a master of entertaining but informative lectures. We look forward to welcoming him again.

As always the meeting ended with tea and coffee, and a mingling of friends old and new. Grateful thanks to all those who helped—by designing and distributing the flyers, putting out chairs, organising the raffle, and making and serving the refreshments.

Ashley Cooper

