

What's On?

The Newsletter of Bulmer - January 2014

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



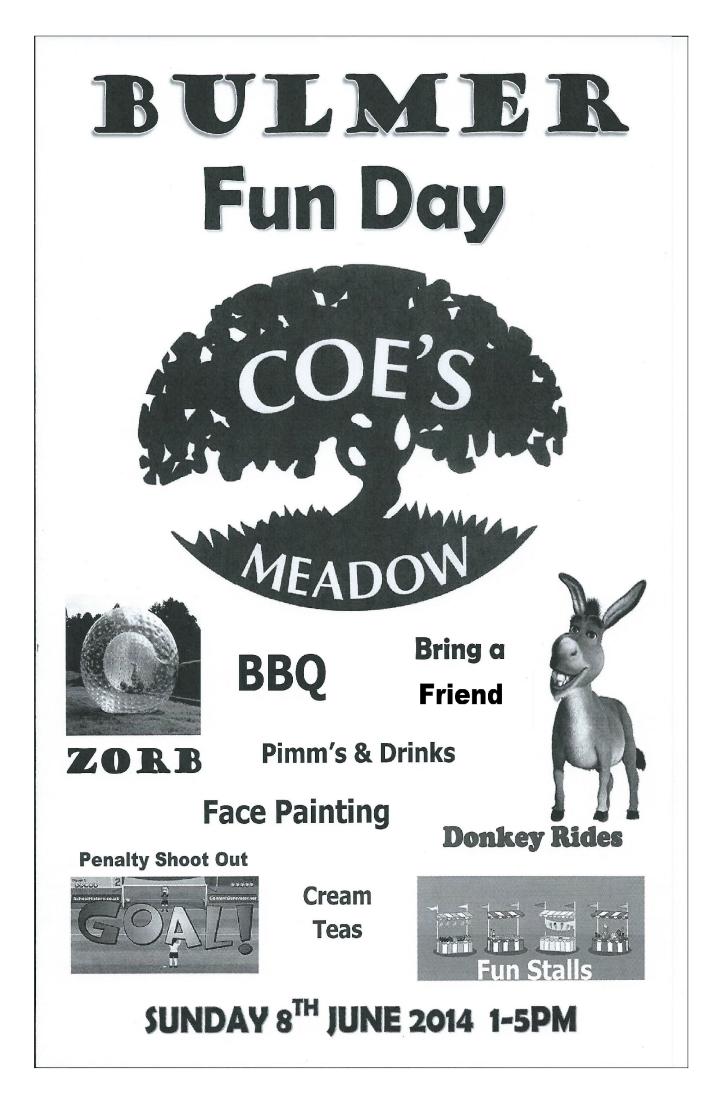
Your Annual Parish Meeting 25th April 2014

Village Hall, 7 for 7:30pm Come and find out about your community, and how we all can work together for the benefit of our village Wine and Refreshments included

PLANNED AGENDA

Welcome by Bulmer Parish Council Chairman News from Essex CC by C Cllr. David Finch News from Braintree DC by D Cllr. Julian Swift Belinda Duffle (PCSO)

How to get involved in your village community:-Bulmer Village Hall Management Committee Coe's Meadow Management Committee Skylarks Bulmer St Andrew's Parochial Church Council St Andrew's School How does your Parish Council keep Council Tax down, and what is in next year's Parish Budget? What is S106 funding and how can we spend it in Bulmer? What is happening with Broadband in Bulmer? How are the footpaths and trees in Bulmer looked after? What can be done about the traffic in Church Road? Open discussion/ questions Closing remarks by the Chairman of Bulmer Parish Council



BULMER NATURE DIARIES



Spring has sprung! Wood Anemones in Ryes Lane

As winter recedes and the days slowly begin to lengthen, I always feel that we are emerging from a long, dingy tunnel. Getting further away, but not quite escaped from, those cold, colourless, mid winter months. This year we got away so very lightly, in terms of temperature, albeit drenched half drowned and storm battered. Such a contrast to last year, having shivered our way through one of the coldest and most prolonged winters for years. This year most of the plants and flowers around us have got off to a flying start, we found both celandines and primroses flowering on 17th Feb, last year it was towards the end of March before any appeared at all.

What a great display of snowdrops we've enjoyed everywhere, particularly notable was the roadside bank outside Church meadow. I've mentioned this before, but snowdrops link a little bit of natural history with my own family history. Each year at Upper Houses, I seek out some double snowdrops which flower on the bank beside the lane, amidst all the single flowered ones. Their ancestors were planted there by my maternal grandmother Ellen Theobald, when a child. This was in the 1870s. She lived in a thatched cottage, long since gone, where "Leycroft" now stands. By a strange twist of fate, later on my Paternal grandparents lived in the same cottage and was where my Father was born in 1904. I suppose that it must have been getting on for seventy years ago that my parents first showed me these heroic little survivors and I look out for these special flowers each year now. The cottage is shown in a 1920s photograph, with one of this years blooms inset.



For the past twenty winters at least, a large flock of rooks and jackdaws, usually 500-600 birds, have made their roost in the Belchamp Valley, about a mile beyond and below Bulmer Street.

The rooks always well outnumber the jackdaws, the latter making up less than ten percent of the flock. Towards dusk, you can often see them "leapfrogging" from field to field, as they make their way to the tall poplars in the valley, where they spend the night. Some years we hardly see them at all in Bulmer, as for whatever reason, they head out to seek their food in other directions, instead of invading Bulmer's fields. This winter they seem to have targeted us and I have seen them all over the place, behind Bulmer Street, Upper Houses, Lower Houses, Church Road, Finch Hill, Goldingham Hall etc.

Several times they have been really close on the stubble field behind us, busily seeking out worms and other invertebrates from the saturated soil. From time to time they will take wing, often hell bent on displaying their aerobatic mastery, twisting and turning, stalling, ducking and weaving, the air full of ragged black shapes, somehow dodging each other, as they dance in a frenetic airborne ballet. It is a miracle that they don't collide, and underlines the rapid communication between eye, brain, and wing.

These highly attuned reactions are a great asset to them in dealing with the modern world. How many times have you seen them feeding close to the verge on a motorway or dual carriageway? They will feed up to the last second on front of a speeding car, but will always hop to safety at the last moment, to return again within seconds. Seldom do you see *them* flattened on the tarmac.

It's not too usual to see jackdaws on their own around here, they seem to actively seek out the company of their larger relations the rooks, happily feeding and flying with them, in some form of mutual acceptance. Recently however, four carrion crows were feeding on the field and suddenly a group of about 25 jackdaws flew in and milled around, just as if they were going to land with the crows. Having had a good look at the crows however, they flew on elsewhere. Had the jackdaws mistaken them for rooks, until closer on inspection? I doubt if the carrion crows would have tolerated them for long.

Sunday March 9th was amazingly sunny and warm. This mini summer brought out four different species of butterfly in the garden, 3 small tortoiseshells, a comma, a peacock and the dazzlingly bright yellow of a male brimstone, together with the less flamboyant female. We thought that this was doing well that was doing well, but Hugh and Veronica Owen had five species in their garden, the same four that we noted, plus a small white.



Ken and Margaret Mills must certainly be offering the right menu on their bird feeders.

Margaret tells me that one day in early March, they had five different species of tit in their garden. These were the very common blue and great tits, the slightly less common coal and long tailed tits, but the fifth one, the marsh tit is much scarcer. (Marsh tit picture by David Carter) To get them all in one day is pretty exceptional. We were lucky to see two pairs of marsh tits over at Belchamp Walter on 22 January, they were already chasing around and calling loudly, getting in the mood for nesting.

On the mammal front, we had a fine sighting of a small herd of fallow deer on the same day. They were huddled together in the middle of Church Field, Goldingham Hall. When they moved off in the direction of Heaven Wood, I counted twelve of them. I haven't seen so many for quite a while, they clearly hide up well down in the Belchamp Valley.

Peter Rowe

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

We are planning further improvements to the Village Hall over the forthcoming year and although some are minor points it is hoped that they will make hiring the Hall more acceptable. We plan to purchase a chair carrier which will make moving the stacks of chairs for events much easier and there will be some further redecoration to the bar area. We have also been researching the possibility of a change to the heating system. This is proving quite difficult due to the nature of the building, the lack of gas in the village and the running costs of alternative heating. We do appreciate that some of you find that the heaters are expensive but we have established that alternative forms of heating could cost much more. We do negotiate price with our power suppliers in order to keep price to a minimum. We shall however continue to investigate this matter and have support and help from the Village Hall's advisor.

We are once more planning a **Bygones Exhibition on 25th May**. Watch out for more details on the Parish notice boards or if you would like more information please ring Alan Dixey on 312915.

THE A.G.M OF THE VILLAGE HALL WILL BE HELD ON FRIDAY 30th MAY AT 8pm. PLEASE COME ALONG TO GIVE US YOUR VIEWS AND IDEAS.

BULMER SKYLARKS

Our last meeting of 2013 was held at St Andrew's school where we enjoyed a wonderful Christmas lunch followed by carols, readings and music performed by the children. We would like to thank all the pupils and staff for making the afternoon so special.

The attendance at our meeting is growing month by month and we have enjoyed some very interesting speakers. We now look forward to our spring and summer meetings when, on **22nd April, we will be** welcoming Vernon Lever who will be giving a watercolour painting demonstration. On May 27th we will have a visit from a Tudor time traveller and on 24th June a summer party is planned. Some of our members have been invited to St Andrew's school to talk about their experiences as children during the last war which is in conjunction with a class project on the subject. It is wonderful that we can interact with the school in this way and to bring the generations together. Our summer trip this year will be to **Clacton** followed by afternoon tea at Beth Chatto's Garden so we are hoping for some much needed sunshine.

If you would like to know more about us please ring Barbara on 370845 or Maggie on 374758

VILLAGE LOTTERY WINNERS

Month	First	Second	Third
Jan.	Mr A Skipper		Mr J O'Reilly- Cicconi
Feb.	Mrs B Mauldon	Mrs J Steed	Mrs M Wood
Mar.	Mrs J Steed	Mrs E Wenborn	Mr & Mrs A Burbidge

The Lottery still provides 3 lucky winners each month. It is a vital fundraiser for your village hall. Are you a member? The more members the more funds for the village Hall and the bigger the prizes!

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

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS



YOUR COUNCIL HAS A VACANCY

Would you like to have a say in how the Parish Council should manage the village? Perhaps you have ideas on how the area could be improved or how residents' money is better spent. If the answer to any of these questions is yes, then please contact the Parish Clerk, Hannah Fraser on 374310 or email <u>hannah.fraser@sky.com</u> for more details. Or you can speak to any of your current Councillors, their details can be found below and on the Parish Council website <u>www.essexinfo.net/bulmer/your-councillors</u>

YOUR COUNCILLORS

Mike Crome (Chairman)	01787 378155
Peter Fulcher (Vice Chairman)	01787 269935
Stephen Morgan	07973 341048
Chris. Leigh	01787 378133
Rose Raymond	07813 205743
Cathy Ponty	01787 313344
Vacancy	

Hannah Fraser (Parish Clerk) - 01787 374310 or email <u>hannah.fraser@sky.com</u>

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

25 th April (Parish	16 th May (Including	
Meeting)	AGM)	
27 th June	12 th Sepember	
14 th November		

All parishioners are welcome to attend and there is a 15 minute slot for questions from the floor.

Bulmer Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting Held on Friday 10th January 2014 at the Village Hall, at 7.45pm

Present: Cllrs. Cook, Crome, Fulcher, Leigh, Morgan, Raymond; Mrs H Fraser (clerk); 1 member of the public.

The Chairman welcomed all present and asked them to be brief due to the long agenda.

1. Apologies for absence

Peter Darlington (Village Agent – awaiting news re: the funding of the service), CCllr Finch. The Chairman noted with regret the resignation of Cllr. Hill. The clerk was asked to write a letter thanking him for his service.

2. Declarations of interest (existence and nature, with regard to items on this agenda) Cllr. Fulcher declared an interest in item 11. 3. Public question time (15 minutes) None.

4. Approval of the minutes of the meeting. held on Friday 8th November 2013

Acceptance of the minutes was proposed by Cllr. Raymond and seconded by Cllr. Fulcher, all were in favour.

5. Matters arising from the minutes

i) Salt bin update: the resident who was approached to have the bin on his land is not happy to have the bin in his garden, nor in his hedge. The Clerk was asked to return to Highways and offer to buy and maintain a bin at Ryes Lane, with a copy sent to CCllr. Finch.

ii) Speed limits update: The A131 50mph is to be installed by April. On New Year's Day morning there was another collision on this stretch, this time actually hitting The Fox's brickwork. A new limit of 50mph (between Park Lane traveling down Church Road to the 30mph limit) will be advertised shortly. The Clerk is to contact the new Parking Enforcement Officer about the problem corner outside No. 10 Church Road. The proposal for a limit on Finch hill was rejected. We await a decision on the 20mph outside the school.

6. David Finch, County Councillor; Julian Swift, District Councillor; Peter Darlington, Village Agent (if present)

Not present.

7. Coe's Meadow report

ROSPA will despatch Coe's Meadow award once the bridge of blocks is mended. The rocking horse company have donated a sweet chestnut tree. This will be planted in Ted Wood's honour on Coe's Meadow and the Tree Warden will advise on siting.

8. Allotments report

A report had been previously circulated. Considering the recent heavy rain, the allotments are in a reasonable state: the drainage work seems to be helping. Thanks were given to Cllr. Fulcher for clearance work, there is still some rubbish and nonmaintenance, but these are on hold till spring. Mrs B Rawlins has handed over the Allotments administration to the Clerk. The Clerk was asked to write a letter of thanks.

9. Clerk's report

The recent NALC pay scale rate was discussed. Cllr. Leigh proposed and Cllr. Cook seconded that the Clerk have a 1% pay rise to a rate of \pounds 9.21 ph from April 2014. All were in favour.

10. Planning – updates

Granted: Tin Tops, The Bungalow Plots 2 (in line with the Parish Council's view), The Bungalow Plot 3, Henny Solar Farm, Tom's Cottage, St Jude's.

11. Receipts & Payments

i) Balance in hand: The Clerk was asked to add the balance from the beginning of the financial year.

Receipts since	invoice no.		
last meeting			
Allotment rents	BR	287.62	
Reimbursement from BVHMC		2,347.00	
Interest on Barclays		8.06	
Interest on HSBC		5.25	
TOTAL (£)		2,647.93	

Payments since		chq.		
last meeting		no		
Payments signed at last meeting		160- 164	1402.66	
Anglian Water	Allotments Aug-Nov	165	60.28	Under
EALC	Risk Assessme nt Training	166	150.00	Over
JW Dixey Builders	Refurbish ment of Village Hall	167	2816.40 inc VAT	n/a
Anglian Water	Coe's Meadow Aug-Nov	168	13.74	Grant
Graham Nicholl	Emergenc y Tree Surgery	169	225.00	
Coastline Campers	Solar SID kit	170	100.00 inc VAT	
Barclays	Storage charge	-	1.00	
TOTAL (£)			4,769.08	
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Payments to be signal this meeting:	gned at			
Cllr S Morgan	Travel expenses	171	30.55	
Mrs H L Fraser	Salary Nov & Dec, expenses	172	644.37 inc VAT	
TOTAL			674.92	

TOTAL

ii) Review capital investments: It was agreed to maintain the current split of investments.

iii) Estimates for budget: Tree survey – A ballpark figure of £1,600 had been obtained by Cllr. Fulcher. This would include just work not replacement trees, and does not include the removal of the cherry tree on Vicar's Orchard alleyway. A figure of £2,000 was agreed for budgeting purposes. The cost of the Tree Survey was £450, it was proposed by Cllr. Cook and seconded by Cllr. Leigh that one-third of the cost is charged to the PCC to reflect the number of trees. 5 were in favour with 1 abstention due to a declared interest.

iv) Estimate for budget: Section 137 – the confirmed figure is £7.20 per elector (499) giving a total maximum of £3,593. Cllr. Fulcher reported that the intended toilet at the church has drainage designed for infrequent use – the Clerk was asked to add this to the next agenda, for a decision on the Parish Council's contribution.

v) Estimate for budget: Grass cutting – a figure of \pounds 2,918 has come from Mortimers, this is lower than last year but they propose to cut without collecting (new machinery). The Clerk was asked to check there would be no detriment to the grass and proceed. The wildflower cutting will remain with Stour Valley Volunteers.

vi) Cllr. Crome proposed and Cllr. Leigh seconded a motion to increase the grant for the churchyard maintenance to £1,000. 5 were in favour with 1 abstention due to a declared interest. vii) Budget/Precept for 2014/5: There was a discussion on the use of capital and the projected Band D tax rate. Cllr. Fulcher proposed and Cllr. Raymond seconded a motion to increase the precept by 1%. Due to the rise in the Tax Base this would mean a small increase of 2p on the Band D tax rate. All were in favour.

12. New updated Standing Orders

These had been circulated Three councillors had not seen the document, one because of a computer virus. The Chairman is to re-circulate the document, and the Clerk will add the matter to the next agenda, plus the vote to adopt the new orders.

13. AONB project Heritage bid `Wild Along the Stour Valley Path'

A document had previously been circulated. This is a Lottery bid, and learning and conserving project to get people involved in the Stour Valley Path. Cllr. Fulcher has filled in a questionnaire on the Parish Council's behalf, and it was agreed to submit this.

14. National Grid – update

This project is delayed at present. Cllr. Fulcher reported that the intended substation at Butler's Wood will be able to take power from solar farms to return to the grid, so the matter needs to be monitored.

15. Broadband - update

The first faculty approval for a transmitter on a church tower has just been given, so the PCC will soon receive paperwork for submitting a faculty to allow the St. Andrew's installation to proceed.

16. Speed Indicator Device - update

The Solar panel has arrived. Mr Nice of Gestingthorpe is to make a bracket for approx. £40. ECC Rangers will move the device, to precise locations with no charge.

17. Telephone Boxes – update

The Clerk was asked to query maintenance with BT, and then to research the possibility of listing with English Heritage and other designed street furniture as this may generate interest and pride in our village. The Clerk was asked to add this to the Annual Parish Meeting agenda.

18. Footpaths

i) Permissible Footpath: There has been a complaint of this path being recently used by a horse or pony and getting cut up, but allegedly this person has permission. The Clerk was asked to write to Mr Burke to suggest the path is suffering, and for him to confirm that he has given permission.

ii) Volunteers and priorities: There are a few volunteers still. A decision is needed to agree priorities and reassign the work. A list will be generated by ClIr. Raymond and the matter added to the Annual Parish Meeting agenda. ClIr. Crome will store his safety mask with the equipment.

19. Parish Meeting 2014 – Friday 25th April The Clerk circulated a draft agenda and notice. The Clerk was asked to add CCllr. Finch, and to write to everyone on the notice asking if they would like a 5 minute slot at the meeting. A notice will be put through every door in the village advising them of the date and how to submit items for the agenda. Councillors were asked to return their comments to the Clerk so a final draft can be agreed at the next meeting.

20. Items for the next agenda

Risk assessment for contractors Update on church toilet project (Matters arising) Adopt New Standing Orders

21. Date of next meeting: 14th March 2014 at 7.45pm

Meeting closed at 9.34pm

ALLOTMENTS



How about becoming an allotment holder? Turnpike Piece allotments have availability for new tenants, come and have a look and become a member of a thriving group of gardeners and make new friends. Enjoy the pleasures of your own outside gym and keep fit along with enjoying the fruits and vegetables of your own gardening efforts at a very reasonable rent.

Contact Steve Morgan on 07973341048

email <u>steve.morgan69@hotmail.co.uk</u> or our Bulmer parish clerk Hannah Fraser on 01787 374310 email <u>hannah.fraser@sky.com</u>

CAN YOUR GARDEN STOP A BURGLAR?

Quite simply...Yes it can!

If this conjures-up images of giant man-eating Venus Fly-Traps then I'm sorry, it's nothing quite so dramatic! However, even without the need to keep your plants caged or on a leash, your garden can be a highly effective deterrent to criminals. Most domestic burglars are opportunists who need a quick way in and an even quicker way out. As such they can be easily deterred.

The seed of defensive planting was sown in Saffron Walden, about twenty years ago, where it grew and flourished until the concept spread world-wide! It is now an established security measure. In this short article I will explain you how you can mobilise your garden to become your first line of defence.

Like all the best ideas, defensive planting is very simple – just choose some impenetrable prickly/

thorny plants and put them where you don't want to the burglar to go.

Your perimeter has to be the first area to check. If possible, the plants should be introduced all around the boundary, either as stand-alone hedging or as an internal supplement to a wall or fence. If you can't afford to fill the whole boundary in one go, then at least fill any gaps in the perimeter and then save up to finish the job properly in the future.

Normally, intruders prefer to attack your house from the side or rear and usually will try to gain access by forcing a door or window. If you have flowerbeds beneath your ground floor windows, then defensive planting can be very effective. Establishing plants beneath a window so that they grow up to window sill height, and 12" deep or more, provides excellent protection and will deter thieves from trying to climb through.

Most nurserymen understand about defensive planting and should stock a good variety of prickly plants. My personal favourite is Common Hawthorn; apart from having nice flowers in the spring, they grow quite quickly and require minimal maintenance. Once they have attained the height you require, just trim them now and again to keep them at that level.

Other popular plants include Berberis and Pryacantha, both of which have many varieties to choose from.

Sorry about all the puns at the beginning of this article, maybe the editor will *weed* them out for you. Regards

Peter

Peter Caulfield Ad Cert ED&CP

Crime Prevention Tactical Advisor & Architectural Liaison Officer (Uttlesford & Braintree Districts), Essex Police, Trinity Street, Halstead, CO9 1JG Tel: 101 Ext 407110

SPEED INDICATOR DEVICE

You may have noticed that SID has gone green and is now powered by the sun/light, this now means it no longer needs the services of a dedicated resident to recharge and replace the batteries. For those interested the following statistics show the speed and number of vehicles recorded over the past 6 months or so.

18,076	31%
32,228	56%
7,033	12%
433	1%
28	0.1%
	32,228 7,033 433



PARISH PATHS WALKS

After all the wet weather resulting in one walk being cancelled and another re-routed it is wonderful to see the mud disappearing. I was not able to lead a walk in March but have planned two for April. Although perhaps now dry, some paths may be very uneven so strong footwear is always advisable. Adult accompanied children are very welcome. Dogs must be on short fixed leads.

Your suggestions for walks are always welcome. Phone 269377 for further details of the walks below, or to make suggestions.

Forthcoming Walks – all about 5 miles in length.

Easter Monday 21st April at 10.30am

'PONDS AND PEGGLES'. Meet at Belchamp Walter Church.

Sunday 27th April at 2.30pm

'EARLY BLUEBELLS?' Meet at CAR PARK BY Arger Fen, near Assington.

Monday 26th May at 10.30am 'FIELDS, WOODS & LAKES'

Meet at King's Head, Pebmarsh.

Sunday 29th June at 2.30pm

WINDING LANES & FLOWERY MEADOWS' Meet at Lamarsh Church. Queries to Margaret Mills 269377

SUFFOLK WALKING FESTIVAL

Now in its seventh year, the Suffolk Walking Festival, which runs from 10th May - 1st June 2014 is bigger and better than ever before, with nearly 80 guided walks planned, covering the whole of the county. We have a lovely mix of short strolls around medieval villages and



www.suffolkwalkingfestival.co.uk

market towns and longer rambles through the gentle landscapes of Suffolk, through Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and along the glorious Suffolk coast.

The Discover Suffolk Challenge Walk this year follows The Angles Way, which meanders for 90 miles along the Suffolk/Norfolk border, through the picturesque Waveney Valley and the sandy landscape of The Brecks. Do one day, two days or all six, the choice is yours, but as always, there will be treats and prizes for those completing the whole route.

Our themed, guided walks throughout the three week festival have some wonderful titles such as: 'Across the Marshes to the Castle', 'A Point to my Ramblings', 'Tiptoe Through the Heather' and 'Prickles' Story Walk'. You can Walk the Burma Road, learn about the Maritime Heritage of the Ipswich Waterfront, walk through Rolling Fields and a Cutting Garden and even try a free taster session of Nordic Walking.

Some include refreshments – a cream tea perhaps, or a glass of local wine and all of them are a fun and sociable way to learn about the lovely county of Suffolk. We will also be celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Stour Valley Path with a series of walks covering the length of the path over six days, with the Dedham Vale and Stour Valley Project.

We invite you to make the most of what the Suffolk has to offer in abundance: pretty countryside, lovely villages, warm hospitality and a fascinating history.

More information and the full programme of walks can be found the festival website.

Cameras to the Ready!

As part of the Centenary Celebrations of the Diocese of Chelmsford, the parishes of North Hinckford are holding a competition to celebrate our communities, from Lamarsh to Ovington, Pentlow to



Wickham. All villagers are invited to take part in the

North Hinckford Photographic Competition

There are 6 subjects and 2 age groups making 12 classes in total: the best 3 photos in each class will receive a prize!!

The overall winner will receive an 18" by 12" canvas mounted print: all prizes courtesy of **North Street Studios** in Sudbury.

An exhibition of photos will go "on tour" for three weeks in October at three different church venues.

The age groups are for adult and for those 16 yrs or under.

The subjects are 1) Portrait; 2) Landscape; 3) What makes you smile; 4) Your parish; 5) Architecture / Buildings; 6) Spiritual.

All entries must be submitted **by 12th September** to allow for judging on 26th September. Entry forms with further details will be available from mid - April. Further information can be obtained from the competition organisers as follows:

Becky Poynter 881620 Susan Langan 269482

or Ken Mills 269377

In the meantime, get out your camera and start taking photos!! You may have a winning entry.



North Hinckford Festival of Faith 2014



The next edition will be published around the end of June 2014. Can I please have all your pictures & articles, by the **15th June.** Call 378155 or email <u>mike@mcrome.fsnet.co.uk</u>