



What's On?

The Newsletter of Bulmer---September 2007

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

BULMER SAYS THANK YOU TO JOHN DIXEY

After serving 46 years, yes 46, as a Bulmer Parish Councillor from 1961 until 2007, 26 of those years as Chairman, John has decided to step down from Bulmer Parish Council.

In honour of this magnificent achievement and dedication, a reception was held in the Village Hall at which the current Parish chairman Margaret Mills presented John an engraved jug and two glasses. Margaret thanked John for all his hard work, in particular his considerable contributions in securing Coe's Meadow for the benefit of Bulmer and all future generations. John's knowledge of Bulmer will be missed.



Also to mark this occasion, which is unlikely to be achieved again for some time in Bulmer, the Parish Council has decided to award John the 'Freedom of the Parish', the first ever 'Freeman' of Bulmer. John was handed a certificate, signed by all the Councillors at the time John completed his term of office. There is to be a 'Roll of Honour' board hung in the Village Hall, for all residents and visitors to admire.

VILLAGE HALL NEWS



The racing world came to Bulmer on the 8th September when we held our first ever Ferret Racing. Ten very well behaved ferrets were entered and provided a highly entertaining evening for the many "punters" who had a little flutter on the Tote. The winning Ferret was Vicki who won a Ferret goodie bag and her trainer,



Dave Ingram, received prize money plus The "Bulmer Plate" Trophy. The runner-up received a Ferret goodie bag and the trainer was also rewarded with a cash prize. The evening was enjoyed not only by the adults but by many children, some who entered

their own Ferrets in the competition.

The Committee would like to thank Mr Minter of Bulmer Brick and Tile Co. and Henry Ford and Paul Bailey of The Fox for their generous donations of first and second cash prizes and to Mrs O'Reilly- Cicconi for her donation of the magnificent "Bulmer Plate" Trophy. Thanks also to the members of our community who were sponsors of other prizes.

The Ferrets were very appreciative of their prizes supplied by Supreme Pet Foods. It is hoped that this will be an annual event, so Ferret owners-- time to start your training sessions! This could become as big as Royal Ascot!

Other events for your diary: -

FAMILY BEETLE DRIVE
FRIDAY 5TH OCTOBER 7.30PM
PRICE £1.00 PER CARD

BARN DANCE
FRIDAY 12TH OCTOBER
PRICE £5.00 TO INCLUDE
PLOUGHMANS SUPPER

QUIZ NIGHT
FRIDAY 16TH NOVEMBER
TABLES of 6

For further information on any of these events or to book tickets please contact any Committee member or ring Maggie on 374758

BULMER AND DISTRICT W.I.

We are now entering the last quarter of our year and despite an initial fall in membership in January due to changes in policies from our governing body, we are pleased to report that we are flourishing and have welcomed many new and enthusiastic members. Our speakers this year have been very varied but all extremely entertaining and interesting. Some of our ladies have formed a Darts Team and enjoy nights out at a local hostelry to practice! Of course they could benefit from more players so if there are any ladies who would like to join please contact our President.

Next year's programme is being compiled and it looks very promising. Although we will be having our usual speakers we are also planning a "Bangers and Mash" night, Wine Tasting and a "Pudding Evening" which will play havoc with our waistlines!

After the success of our Craft Sale in April we are hoping to hold a further sale on November 10th, which will have a Christmas theme.

So ladies if you are interested in joining or would like to come along to find out more about us then please contact our President, Muriel, on 373464

Our programme for the last three months of the year is as follow: -

October 1st
MY HOLIDAY IN THAILAND

Speaker
Jaqueline Wisby

November 5th
MAYORAL RELECTIONS

Speaker
John Sayers

December 3rd
DINING OUT AT CHRISTMAS

BRAMBLEY HEDGE NURSERY TRUST NEWS

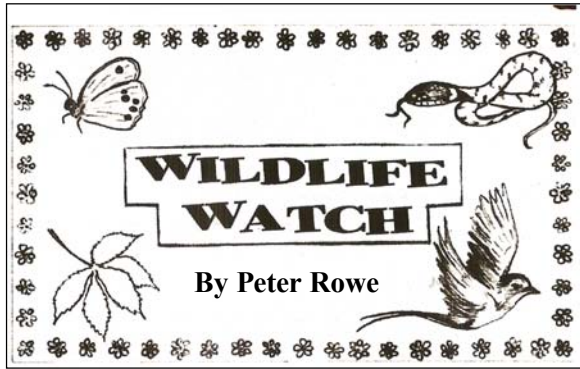
At their visit last July, the Ofsted inspectors judged the Brambley Hedge Nursery to be 'outstanding in all areas.' Such an all-round excellent review is rare, and it is a great credit to the work of the manager, Michelle Cottingham, and the other staff of the nursery. Needless to say, the trustees are very proud of the achievement too. Some of you will have seen the glowing reports in the local papers at the time.

From this term we are accepting two-year-olds into the nursery for our afternoon sessions. If you have children who might be eligible, do come and look round and meet the nursery staff.

Our other good news is that we have gained planning permission for the proposed new nursery building on parish land next to the school car park and adjoining the children's nature reserve, so we are working hard to raise the necessary funding for this. Our target is £250,000, and we already have £45,000. If you have

any ideas for fund-raising, or would like to make a personal donation, we would love to hear from you.

Noël Riley/Owen (01787 269315)



IMPORTANT Wild bird disease. You may have heard of this disease (trichomoniasis), which is being spread amongst finches, particularly Greenfinches. The disease has spread to Bulmer, a Greenfinch in our garden was showing all the signs, fluffed up plumage, lethargy, breathing and swallowing difficult. The disease is spread through their saliva and droppings. Precautions against further spread of the disease are as follows: - **Don't** put out more than they can eat in one day. **Clean** the feeding area daily (including the ground under hanging feeders) **Give** fresh water daily. **Disinfect** feeders weekly with a diluted household disinfectant and allow to dry. **Move** feeding areas around to lessen build up.

There are always special things to be anticipated with pleasure with the turn of each season. Autumn brings forth the wild fruits. Picking blackberries on a sunny September afternoon, when all around is mellow and comfortably warm. Be prepared for a few scratches though and take a **crome**, a long stick with a branched hook on one end, to reach the best ones. They will invariably be well out of arm's reach. The overripe berries will be attracting Comma and Red Admiral butterflies, which imbibe themselves on the sweet fruity liquor, through their long curved proboscis. Fitting the mood of the season and half drunk on the mellow juice, they lazily flit off, when disturbed by us more clumsy products of evolution.

A **crome** is also useful for gathering hazelnuts and what a fantastic year it has been for them. A great winter pastime is sitting by a good log fire, armed with the crackers, to deal with these armour plated capsules and freeing the often-minuscule nut inside. Then, of course, you get wrong for shooting the splintered shells across the carpet! These nuts are a great food source for many wild creatures. Especially the grey squirrel, that tree rat, which was stupidly released into the Wild decades ago, having been brought over here from North America. It has now displaced our native red squirrel from most of England. The last red squirrel that I saw locally was beside the Belchamp Brook in the mid 1950s. I can still picture it now; as it peeped put at me from behind an elm trunk, before scampering off into what turned out to be, local extinction.

Look on the floor under any Hazel stub and you will find it littered with opened shells. Look carefully, there

will be splintered ones, roughly opened by grey squirrels, some with quite neat round or oval holes, the work of field or wood mice. If however, the holes are round and so perfect that they appear almost machine made, you could be looking at the work of that very rare little creature, the dormouse. Not only rare, it is also extremely secretive, only coming out at night. This brings me to another highlight of our autumn. On a nature reserve in south Suffolk, we assist the warden in checking the dormouse boxes. This is the only way that anyone is likely to see one of these cute little animals. Around 5 ins in length, about half of which is the bushy tail, large protruding eyes with a golden, ginger tinged coat of soft fur. Only the warden is licensed to handle these little gems, as he records their sex, age and weight. Once, a particularly lively one escaped his hand, ran up his arm and sat on his shoulder, (see picture) before darting up a hazel stem. From about



10 ft up he surveyed us with big liquid eyes, whilst clinging to the stem, head down. They spend the winter hibernating in a cosy nest, tucked into the roots of a coppiced hazel stub or at the base of one of the big trees. To survive the winter they must build up a supply of fat and need to weigh at least 20 grammes (3/4 oz) or more. A good nut year should enhance their chances of making it through their long winter sleep.

Thanks to everyone who contacted me about the pyramidal orchid by the side of Church Road in July, This has always been an interesting road verge, bee orchids, broomrape, blue fleabane and many other interesting plants can be found there.

Apart from the obvious pleasures of a country stroll, it's nice when you meet and chat with others who share similar interests. One couple that we occasionally bumped into were Lyn and Roger Hunt. There was always an interesting discussion on local and rural matters. Roger had that instinctive understanding of the countryside and wildlife, that only comes from a life spent in close contact with the land, working through seedtime and harvest on Bulmer's soil. The news of his passing came as a shock to us all. He will be sadly missed.

Little Dean Spinney update.

The extraordinarily wet May and June we suffered this year, resulted in a "crop" of grass and other herbage much higher

and more lush than usual. As usual we have had some areas of the site cut again this autumn, we try to cut each area once in two years, except at the top of the site and on the right side, where the slow-worms and common lizards were released two years ago. George Millins, who was in charge of the release programme, surveyed the site in April this year and found seven lizards and three slow-worms. He was well pleased and optimistic about their future on the site. You may remember, they were rescued from construction sites in Sudbury. Whitethroats again nested in the hedge and blue-tits in one of the nest boxes. On the plant front, we have had cowslip, common centaury, wild basil, burnet saxifrage, toadflax, dark mullein, perforate st. Johnswort, agrimony, corn spurrey (a rare arable weed native to the site) and three species of vetch flowering this summer, as well as ragwort, which we do prevent from seeding. The black and yellow striped caterpillars of the cinnabar moth feed on ragwort and we found many of the plants stripped by them this year. The moth is a mixture of crimson and grey, very striking. I saw a couple there in June. On 15th July I found a privet hawk-moth clinging to a fence post, one of our largest moths with a wingspan of over four inches. I am greatly indebted to Steve and Chris Davies, who have taken on the task of cutting the paths around the site, many thanks. Thanks also to the other members of the "last of the summer wine" gang, who turn out so willingly for our work parties. We usually meet on Thursday afternoons, on an irregular basis. Anyone is most welcome to join us, please ring 375935 if you feel like a little fresh air and exercise.

BULMER HISTORY GROUP - SUMMER 2007

As part of the history group's annual calendar we like to include a summer meeting that can be held outdoors. This year was no exception and a large number of people arrived at Hill Farm, Gestingthorpe on the evening of Thursday 21st June to be welcomed by Ashley Cooper. With the help of family and friends Ashley led a superb walk around the fields and woodland of Hill Farm sharing with us the history of the land and plans for ongoing and future projects. This year also marks the 60th anniversary of Ashley's father discovering the site of the Roman Villa, making it quite appropriate that the Coopers hosted this summer's history group meeting. Before visiting the Roman Villa site our evening began with an insight as to how farming and nature can co-exist showing the advantages of the countryside stewardship scheme to which Hill Farm is proving can be a great success. Our evening also included a small theatrical performance in Wiggery Wood to enlighten us to the uses of woodland plants and trees, old and new before being taken to the Roman Villa site itself which is clearly marked out. To accompany the remains and the brief talk given by Ashley's father there were some colour prints to give us more of an idea as to how the villa would have looked and what life may have been like in the time of its construction. Departing from the Roman Villa site before our evening came to an end, we were given a little more history of the land as we made our way back to the museum barn for refreshments and a look at the displays of old farming methods and machinery.

For anybody interested, groups are most welcome at Hill Farm for guided tours, (already a great success with the local school children), and arrangements for your tour can be made by contacting Ashley Cooper on 01787 462027.

And finally, a very big thank-you to Ashley and his family and friends, not only for hosting such a wonderful evening but for their continual efforts and dedication to farming and history to which they share so enthusiastically and generously.

Dates for your diary: -

October 19th – ESSEX HISTORY THROUGH TOWN & VILLAGE SIGNS by the Rev'd Keith Lovett

March 7th 2008 – UNDERSTANDING & ENJOYING OLD CHURCHS by Roy Tricker

All events are held in the Village hall commencing at 8pm and **entrance is free.**

VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT (VDS)

As you will have seen from the enclosed flyer, over the winter there is to be an awareness campaign to publicise more information regarding the details of a VDS, this will be at most Village Hall functions, in the village newsletter 'What's On?' and on the Parish Council website www.essexinfo.net/bulmer/vds. This will lead to a project launch in the Spring of 2008 when is hoped a large number of residents (including children) will be involved, and a steering group will be formed to organize & produce Bulmer's own Design Statement for future planning guidelines.

But what is a VDS?

The focus of a VDS is to describe the character of the local area and include guidance to influence change and improve the physical qualities of Bulmer

A VDS can give a clear statement of what is special, unique and distinctive about the character of your village.

But it is not a general community plan, such as a parish plan.

A VDS adds local detail to development plan policy and once approved by Braintree District Council it can be used as material consideration in the determination of planning applications.

However, it is not a statutory planning document and it is not a tool to generate or prevent development.

A VDS is a tool that can influence the people who live and work in the village, increase local pride and encourage care when making changes to the appearance of property.

It cannot take away people's rights to make alterations to their property.

A VDS can help improve physical change and is a positive opportunity to suggest environmental improvements to enhance your area.

Though it cannot make direct orders for action.

A VDS can observe how the qualities of the village have evolved and help to explain current conditions.

But it is not simply a history project.

A VDS can provide an understanding of how the land uses, employment and social make up have influenced the village and its physical qualities.

However it is not an appraisal of social or economic issues.

There will be wide involvement in its production so that the finished VDS represent the views of Bulmer as a whole and **not** the views of the Parish Council alone.

For more information and the latest news on the progress of Bulmer's VDS log on to: [-www.essexinfo.net/bulmer/vds](http://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**

VILLAGE LOTTERY WINNERS

The Lottery still provides 3 lucky winners each month. Are you a member? The more members, the bigger the prize! Please contact Dawn at the Post Office if you would like to join.

Month	First	Second	Third
June	Ms J Compson	Mrs B Mauldon	Mr & Mrs P Owen
July	Mr & Mrs Tomlinson	Mr & Mrs Armstrong	Mr & Mrs Armstrong
August	Mr & Mrs T Dickinson	Mr & Mrs Armstrong	Mr & Mrs E Wood

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

BONFIRES

It has been brought to the attention of the Parish Council on several occasions in the last couple of months, that some residents' bonfires are causing annoyance to nearby properties. An information leaflet published by Braintree DC Environmental Dept. gives the following advice: -

If you MUST have a bonfire, remember to warn your neighbours, and take the following into account:

- To limit smoke, burn only dry material.
- Never burn household rubbish or rubber tyres, or use oil to light the fire.
- Never light a fire in unsuitable weather conditions – smoke hangs in the air on damp, still days and in the evening.
- Never burn when the wind will carry the smoke over roads or other peoples' property.
- Avoid burning at weekends and on bank holidays when people want to enjoy their gardens.
- Never leave a fire unattended or leave it to smoulder – douse it with water if necessary.

Smoke can obscure visibility in the neighbourhood and on the roads. The most common problem from bonfires is nuisance. Under the Highways (Amendment) Act 1986 anyone lighting a fire and allowing smoke to drift across a road, faces a fine of up to £2,000.

So please, consider the above before you light the next bonfire, or perhaps use the re-cycling centre in Ballingdon instead.

COE'S MEADOW MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

At a recent committee meeting it was decided that now the Meadow has reached the end of the development phase, it was time to seek a new committee for its ongoing maintenance.

The Parish Council would very much like to thank all members of the committee for their hard work over the past 4 years. In particular, the Council thanks Ted Wood the outgoing chairman, and Simon Harris the previous Chairman, for the many hours spent arranging for the development work to be carried out, and specifically Ted in raising the grants to enable the work to be carried out.

A contractor already looks after the maintenance of the grass areas. The play equipment is currently inspected and the refuse bins emptied on a regular basis by Allen Burbidge, who has kindly volunteered to continue this work. In order to form a new committee of around 4 – 6 people, the Parish Council is now looking for volunteers. If you would like to be involved in continuing to look after this village asset or would like to know what the committee is expected to do, then please

contact the Parish Clerk – Barbara Rawlins on 370845. More working party volunteers would also be welcomed.

LAWRENCE COE RECREATIONAL TRUST SUMMARY ACCOUNTS TO 31ST MARCH 2007

Preperation Project 2003	
Total Receipts	£3,638.11
Total Payments	£5,423.78
Excess payments over receipts (A)	£1,785.67
Creation Project 2003 - 2007	
Total receipts	£137,352.56
Total payments	£140,513.89
Excess payments over receipts (B)	£3,161.33
Total liability (A + B)	£4,947.00
Note: This total liability has been funded by Bulmer Parish Council	

FUTURE PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

9th November 2007

11th January 2008

14th March 2008

9th May 2008

All meetings are 'open meetings' i.e. the Public can attend and there is time allotted for questions from the Public, but notice must be given in writing to the Parish Clerk at least ONE WEEK prior to the meeting.

Meetings commence at 7.45pm – in the Village Hall

YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS

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

Barbara Rawlins (Parish Clerk) - 01787 370845

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BULMER PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 13TH JULY 2007

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

David Finch C Cllr.

6 members of the public.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Ron Mansfield, Nigel Harley DCllr.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME: At the request of the Parish Council, Martin Richards and Ray Cook, local co-ordinators for the **Sudbury Community First Responders Scheme**, (*see last page*) came to the meeting to give a brief outline of the workings of the Scheme. First Responders are volunteers who work with the ambulance service. When a person calls 999 the Responders are notified of the emergency by ambulance control via mobile phone. As the Responder lives or works in that area they should arrive before the ambulance and be able

to treat the patient Once the ambulance crew arrives the Responder returns to their normal daily routine. The few minutes spent with the patient could help to save a life.

Funding:- the NHS provides the training and insurance, also the mobile phones. The rest of the funding comes from charities, grants and donations.

Bulmer is on the edge of the Sudbury based Response Team.

DECL. OF INTERESTS: Cllr. Coombes declared an interest in the planning application at 3 Park Lane as he is a neighbour.

CODE OF CONDUCT: It was proposed by Cllr. Crome, seconded by Cllr. Rowe that the Parish Council pass a RESOLUTION to adopt the new Code of Conduct 2007 (No.1159) to include para. 12(2). This was carried unanimously.

APPROVE THE MINUTES of the meeting held on 18th May 2007. Proposed Cllr. Crome, seconded Cllr. Morgan.

MATTERS ARISING:

Dog waste bins were in situ.

Cllr Fulcher reported that the **Community Speed Watch** were regularly catching speedsters during the time of 5.30 – 6.30pm. and that they had requested the attendance of the Traffic Police to issue tickets. More volunteers are needed.

The Village Design Statement – Volunteers will distribute leaflets to all householders during September with the intention to launch the project next spring, when a Steering Committee will be formed. The winter will be spent raising the awareness of what a VDS is and generating interest.

DAVID FINCH CCllr – recapped and updated achievements of Essex County Council. He also took questions from the Councillors and the public. Cllr Finch volunteered to take on board the dispute between County Highways and Bulmer PC regarding the moving of the advisory 30mph speed sign at Bulmer Tye opposite the Fox. He would endeavour to have it placed at a more appropriate site.

COE’S MEADOW: Nothing to report at this stage.

PLANNING:

Wattles, Lower Houses – erection of conservatory. No objections from Bulmer PC.

1 and 2 Kitchen Farm Cottages, Kitchen Hill – demolition of existing extensions, erecting new two storey extensions – No objections from Bulmer PC

Land adj. 3 Park Lane – erection of dwelling/garage. This application has been referred to the Braintree Planning Committee, which will meet on 18th July. The concern of the Parish Council is the access for the new dwelling onto the A131. On visiting the site again Cllrs. Mills and Crome took measurements from the point of access to the dip in the road where vehicles from Halstead were not visible until 73m. from the proposed access. The shortest stopping distance for a vehicle travelling at 50/60mph is 73m. Cllr. Crome was to attend the Planning Meeting to emphasise this point

The Council was also concerned that there was not enough space between the proposed dwelling and the hedge (to be replanted). The Clerk was asked to convey this to the Planning Services and suggest that the dwelling be moved slightly eastwards.

Appeals lodged; land adjacent **8 Park Lane** – erection of bungalow/garage.

4 Bulmer Tye – change of use of land to garden. **3 Park Lane** – construction of balcony at first floor level.

Planning Consultation changes – Braintree Planning Services are proposing that Town/Parish councils will be notified of new applications by email on the day of validation. All forms, drawings and correspondence received with the application will be viewed on Braintree’s web page 48 hours after validation. Comments from Town/Parish Councils to be received electronically. It was proposed that there would be no more paper drawings issued. The Bulmer Parish Council,

whilst quite happy to make comments electronically, were unanimous in their views that it is essential to continue with paper drawings, now and in the future. Measurements need to be checked, some quite minutely and this cannot be carried out satisfactorily from downloaded A4 prints. The Clerk was asked to convey the Parish Councils’ concerns to the Planning Services.

CORRESPONDENCE & NOTICES

1. Community Warden – the Parish Council felt that the CW scheme was not as good as the now discontinued Parish Ranger scheme. The Ranger would visit/patrol the village when the youngsters were home from school and chat with them. Although the Parish receives a monthly report from Braintree stating the number of patrols made by our warden – Dave Wade, nobody appears to see him, either on foot or in his car.

2. Noticeboard at Finch Hill – the grass verge at Finch Hill is public highway land and as such County Highways would not like to see a noticeboard placed at the junction of Finch Hill/Smeetham Hall Lane as it would encourage the public to stop at the junction to read notices. The Clerk was asked to point out that there is room to place the board well away from the junction and that it would probably only be read by the residents of Finch Hill who would visit it on foot.

3. Noticeboard in The Street – the backing boards (sponge) have proven to be very unsatisfactory. The Clerk has written to the manufacturer for their comments and put forward suggestions as to how they could be made better. No reply has been received to date. **4. Contracts** have been signed regarding the sale of allotment land (builders yard) at part **Clapps Farm piece**.

5. There are still problems with County contractors installing our **Speed Indicator Device**. The Clerk has contacted Mr. Bob Wiltshire – area manager County Highways – over the unacceptable delay in setting up the device.

6. NO SMOKING signs have been put up in all three bus shelters, as is the legal requirement.

7. Brambley Hedge Nursery School has approached the Parish Council for a grant towards their new building. On consulting the legal services at BALC, Parish Councils do not have the power to loan or grant monies to a project unless it can be used by the public. Cllr. Mills will contact Brambley Hedge to suggest they speak to Ted Wood who was very successful at raising funds for Coe’s Meadow.

RECEIPTS

BDC	- street cleaning grant	£567.17
Chris Massey	- standpipe key	£10.00
Peter Madigan	- ditto	£10.00
Alastair Smith	- ditto	£10.00

PAYMENTS

Peter Rowe	- Cost of cutting standpipe keys. (no cheque was issued. The cost was deducted from cash received. £14.80 was paid to the bank).	£15.20inc VAT
Mike Crome	- travel expenses to Halstead planning meeting	£8.37
Chilton Office Supplies	- newsletter	£81.78 inc VAT
Simon Harris	- keys cut for storage of CSW equipment	£18.45
BDC	- election costs	£23.12
EALC	- new councillor packs	£22.50

Earth Anchors	- dog waste bins	£108.34 inc VAT
Roy Mortimer	- grass cutting	£520.53 inc VAT
Allianz Cornhill	- additional premium (Fidelity Guarantee)	£201.41
First Responders Scheme	- donation	£100.00
Margaret Mills	- fuel for strimmer	£9.68 inc VAT

OTHER BUSINESS

The Clerk was asked to arrange for R. Mortimer to cut the grass around the noticeboard in The Street, the telephone box and the verge from the recreation ground gateway to the Avenue. Also for County Highways to cut the grass at the junction of Hedingham/Halstead roads.

The councillors who attended the Cluster meeting at Twinstead reported:-

- 1) wheelie bins could be coming to the area in the autumn.
- 2) a suggestion was put forward that Bulmer, Borley and Belchamp Water amalgamate with the North Cluster area.
- 3) other parishes were against the withdrawal of paper drawings for planning applications.
- 4) community wardens, were they value for money in the rural areas.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 10.15pm.

PARISH PATHS WALKS



Put on your strong footwear and join the monthly walking group. Get to know your own local paths and some further a field. Most are suitable for adult accompanied children; dogs on fixed leads are also welcome.

Sunday 28th October at 2pm

“Both sides of the Belchamp valley”

Distance 4½ miles. Meet at Village Hall.

Saturday 1st December at 10.30am

“Pebmarsh and round Colne Engaine”

Distance 7 miles. Meet near the public house in Pebmarsh.

Boxing Day 26th December at 10.30am

“Hennys Great and Small”

Distance 5 miles – some stiles. Meet on Plough Green.

Further details on all walks from Margaret Mills 269377.

MARGARET’S PARISH PATH WALKS – SUMMER 2007

Another season’s walks under our belts and a few more miles of tread worn from our boots, our parish path walks have taken us across some beautiful countryside throughout the summer months. Although not always feeling much like summer the weather has been good for us, only encountering one heavy shower whilst walking in June. This was our first walk of the season and took us across seven miles of the staggeringly beautiful Stour Valley. Our trek initially began with a short train journey from Sudbury to Bures before picking up the Stour Valley Path at the rear of the houses on Bridge Street in Bures to make our way back to Sudbury. Following the Stour Valley Path on its ascents and descents the first village we passed through was Lamarsh, but not

before taking shelter from a short sharp shower in their lovely little church. We then continued



neighbouring Henny through Valley Farm and Gt and Lt Hickbush where I think we unsuccessfully tried to appear unconcerned by some sturdy looking cattle advancing on us as we quickened our step and fairly rapidly threw ourselves over



the stile at the end of their field. All the same we did regain our composure to reach the section of the Stour Valley Path where it becomes the

St Edmund Way for a short distance (where somebody had very helpfully situated some very active bee hives) before becoming the Stour Valley Path again taking you through to Middleton and Ballingdon where we began the final part of our walk along the old railway line back to Sudbury station unhindered.

In July we revisited the Sudbury water meadows. We departed from Finch Hill on a warm sunny afternoon to take in the sights of the various commons, marshes and meadows and their wildlife. We saw various species of insects and birds; the most popular sight of the afternoon though was probably the swans with their signets by the Mill Hotel. There were



also a huge number of swans at Brunton Mill, which were being fed on our arrival and not only bread but what looked like some special type of feed for swans. The number of birds

indicated they knew they were onto a good thing and that this was a regular source of food. Leaving the swans to feed we headed back to Finch Hill to complete our walk via the fields emerging at Bardfield Bridge before tackling the final uphill stretch.

For our final walk of the summer Margaret planned a route that took us on an almost circular walk of Bulmer, Wickham, Twinstead and Lt Henny. We departed from Jenkins heading for Upper House along the bridle path. Before reaching Upper Houses our path took us around the fields behind Parsonage Wood, which is not actually a public right of way but Margaret had gained permission for us to walk through here so we could pick up our next path, (after walking a short way

along the Bulmer to Wickham road) which brought us to Butlers Hall Farm. Here we walked along another bridle path so we could join the footpath through the fields into Long Gardens. Here we crossed the A131 to pass through the fields belonging to Old Roses Farm in Twinstead. After a slight diversion due to our path being blocked by a solid mass of brambles all seven of us managed to negotiate a fairly rickety stile, one way or another, to exit onto the road to reach Green Lane, which has just recently had some fairly major work undertaken. The path, which had become a little narrow in places, has now been widened considerably by cutting back a lot of the overgrown hedging as well as being smartly resurfaced. This has improved the going underfoot dramatically and compared to the dangerously rutted conditions I witnessed on my last visit has made all the difference. After a pleasant stroll down Green Lane picking fruit and berries from the bushes we then started on our final stretch through Lt Henny and up back towards Bulmer.

As always, thanks to Margaret for taking the time to organise these walks so a few more of us get out and about.

Lisa Sandford

East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust 

Wanted Community First Responders



Could you help someone in an emergency?

Do you have some free time?

Become a Community First Responder

Help your community

and

Save a life!

Who can be a responder?

You must:

- Be physically fit
- Agree to a Criminal Record Bureau check
- Have a full driving licence and use of a car
- Agree to undertake training

How does it work?

Each group will ideally consist of 10 people, one of whom will be the local coordinator. The coordinator is responsible for arranging the rota and the day to day running of the group. Each member will contribute as much or as little time as they are able.

The more responders there are the better the cover available. Being a responder should not change your lifestyle but it will give you new skills and the opportunity to make a difference in your community.

Why do we need your help?

It has been recognised that sudden cardiac arrest claims about 150,000 lives each year in the United Kingdom, with survival rates being about 5% outside of a hospital setting.

If a person's heart has stopped due to an accident or heart attack and is in a rhythm called ventricular fibrillation, the only way to get the heart into a more regular sustaining beat is to pass an electrical charge through the heart muscle. The first eight minutes are the most vital for the collapsed person and, **if first aid** and a **defibrillator** are on hand, then the chance of survival will increase considerably.

So how do you fit in?

When a person calls 999 you are notified of the emergency by ambulance control via mobile phone. As you live or work in that area you should arrive before the ambulance and be able to treat the patient.

Once the crew arrive you are then able to return to your normal daily routine. The few minutes you have spent with the patient could help to save a life.

What else is there to know?

Once you have qualified as a responder you will be expected to undergo regular training sessions to keep your skills up to date. This will be done on a monthly basis.

Each group will also arrange a monthly meeting, with the opportunity to meet up and chat as well as sort out any issues.

For further information, or to register please ring: Office Hours 9am-5pm: 01284-731802 Out of Hours: 01603-481220

Working with you to help your community

East of England Ambulance Service
NHS Trust

The next edition of **Whats On** will be published in **January 2008**. **Could I please have all your articles, photographs, and future events etc. by the 15th December. Either by email mike@mccrome.fsnet.co.uk or by post to 6 Vicars Orchard.**

Should you wish to read this Newsletter again but are unable to find your copy, it is now **available in colour** on the Parish Council website at: - www.essexinfo.net/bulmer/what-s-on/