



WHAT'S GOING ON?

The Newsletter of Bulmer - December 2025

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

[VIEW AT E-VOICE.ORG.UK/BULMERVILLAGE/WHAT-S-ON/](http://E-VOICE.ORG.UK/BULMERVILLAGE/WHAT-S-ON/)



Would you like a new playground in Bulmer?

Please help shape the future of Coe's Meadow (Bulmer Park) by completing our survey.

Scan this QR code to link to the survey

Or use this website address link:

<https://forms.microsoft.com/e/yGC7vyPNzB?origin=lprLink>



Coe's Meadow is a park and children's playground in Bulmer, a village situated between Sudbury and Halstead. The park and playground were created and installed over 20 years ago and is managed by volunteers within Bulmer village. The playground is now nearing end of life. We need to raise significant funds to replace and install the play equipment and to repair the car park surface. Replacing all the current play equipment with similar wooden items could cost near to £150,000. As the park has no secure income streams, funds will need to be raised by the community and through grant applications.

We want to ensure any project to replace the playground meets the requirements of our community and as such we ask for you to help shape the future playground of Coe's Meadow and ensure the park is inclusive for all. All playground equipment will be installed to the BS EN 1176 standard.

Please could you help us by sparing 5 minutes to complete this survey. For more information or a paper copy of the survey, please contact coesmeadow@gmail.com or call 01787 383148.

As the year draws to a close, the Coe's Meadow Management Committee would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who has supported us throughout 2025. Our volunteer working days have been especially productive and we are incredibly grateful to all who turned up, rain or shine, to help care for this much loved village space. Together, we removed old and unsafe play equipment, cleared around the pond and car park, and gave Lime Avenue a much-needed tidy.

Thanks to a number of fundraising events and generous donations we have been able to raise over £2500 this year, and we hope to do even better next year!

We would also like to give a special thank you to Horsemat for their generous donation of matting for the play area, and PlanFree for the submission of planning for tree works on Lime Avenue. Support like this makes a huge difference to what we are able to achieve.

We are pleased to share that we have secured funding for the pollarding of Lime Avenue, with work planned to take place over the winter. This will help restore the avenue and keep it healthy for years to come.

A big thank you as well to everyone who completed our recent questionnaire. Your feedback has given us a clear picture of the play equipment the village would most like to see. Our aim for next year is to begin installing brand new play equipment that reflects this community vision. If you haven't yet filled out the questionnaire, there's still time, your voice really does guide our decisions!

As a registered charity, Coe's Meadow relies entirely on grants and the generosity of supporters both within and beyond the village. Every donation, every hour volunteered and every bit of encouragement helps us continue improving this special community space. Thank you all once again, and we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Bulmer Skylarks

We have had some interesting presentations over the Summer and Autumn period. In August we had a wonderful talk by our own Alison Brett who spoke about the history of Quilting and her own interest in such a lovely subject. She brought along many beautiful examples of her own work. We held our AGM in September and it was rewarding to have all our members joining again for another year. We held the usual Quiz followed by a horse race! Oh my that was such a noisy activity with plenty of laughter. In October we had a visit from John Thurman AKA Mr Scissors. He demonstrated the art of silhouettes cut from black paper and then framed. He was so swift in producing a portrait of a few of our members but unfortunately his is a dying art. November will see us welcoming Amanda Sutherland, a dress designer who produces fantastic pieces of jewellery, sometimes using recycled objects as well as hats, wrist warmers, bags to name but a few. We will end our year with a Christmas party and look forward to welcoming everyone back in the New Year. Our programme for the New year will see us welcoming Kim Smith on 27th January who will present Laurence of Arabia and Felixstowe. On 24th February Peter Tatum will be speaking on Suffolk Villages followed on 24th March by Ashley Cooper with one of his very enjoyable talks. If you fancy an afternoon with enjoyable company, interesting presentations and a cup of tea and cake then pop along to the Village Hall. You will be made very welcome .

Village Hall News.

We will be planning future events at the Village Hall at our next meeting in December. We are also planning on improvements to the building in the near future. Our first priority is to replace the bar hatch doors as the present ones are now past their best. We have a few ideas which we hope will not only be easier to use but will enhance the area. Internet connection is still ongoing but hopefully will be resolved in the new year. Our last two

events were enjoyed by all. The family Bingo night produced much hilarity but it was so disappointing that there was a shortage of families as it had been requested by many. However it was a trial event and requests have been made to repeat the night which we will be happy to do. The Quiz night was again a great evening as usual. Fifteen tables of enthusiastic quizzers filled the Hall and Dave and Becky did a great job keeping them in order. The fish and chips arrived on time always hot and well cooked. Thanks to everyone's generosity we were able to make a small profit from the raffle which not only will go into the Village Hall's fund but we were able to donate a small monetary gift to Coe's Meadow fund. Thank you to everyone for your support. May we wish everyone a very happy Christmas and a quiet peaceful New Year.

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### PARISH COUNCIL YOUR COUNCILLORS

|                                   |                               |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Rosemary Raymond<br>(Chairperson) | cllrraymond@bulmer-pc.gov.uk  |
| Antonia Crawshay                  | cllrcrawshay@bulmer-pc.gov.uk |
| Rebecca Burke                     | cllrrburke@bulmer-pc.gov.uk   |
| Dominick Burke                    | cllrdburke@bulmer-pc.gov.uk   |
| Sam Rowe                          | cllrrowe@bulmer-pc.gov.uk     |
| Paul Paxton                       | cllrpaxton@bulmer-pc.gov.uk   |
| Theodore Bird                     | cllrbird@bulmer-pc.gov.uk     |

**Locum Clerk: Kevin B Money -**  
**Telephone: 07810 781509**  
**clerk@bulmer-pc.gov.uk**

### DATES OF FUTURE PARISH MEETINGS

All meetings are bi-monthly, agendas are posted on the noticeboards & online at [bulmer-pc.gov.uk/](http://bulmer-pc.gov.uk/) and held in the Village Hall at 7:15pm

|                               |                             |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 26 <sup>th</sup> January 2026 | 23 <sup>rd</sup> March 2026 |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|

**Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 29<sup>th</sup>. September 2025 at 7.15pm in the Village Hall.**

Present: Cllrs R. Raymond (Chair), T. Bird, R. Burke, D. Burke, A. Crawshay, P. Paxton, S. Rowe, ECC Cllr P. Schwier, BDC Cllr D. Holland and Kevin B. Money (Locum Clerk to Parish Council).

There were also 4 members of the public present

**098/2025 Apologies for absence.**

None were received.

The Chair informed the meeting of the passing of Richard Hayto. The Chair asked the meeting if some flowers can be sent

**099/2025 Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests**

To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary, Pecuniary or non-Pecuniary Interest relating to items on the agenda

Cllr S. Rowe and Cllr A. Crawshay declared an interest in 107/2025 Coe's Meadow

**100/2025 Minutes of previous meeting**

- To approve the minutes of the meetings held 28<sup>th</sup>. July 2025

**All Agreed**

**101/2025 Public Questions: 15**

minutes time allowed for this item:

Members of the public in attendance may ask the Parish Council a question.

Footpath on A131 is becoming impassable.

This has been reported to Essex highways.

This hedge, according to Cllr P. Schwier is a private hedge and footpath. Cllr P. Schweir to take this problem with Highways.

The hedge along Vicars Orchard is becoming overgrown. Can this hedge be cut back. Cllr S. Rowe informed the meeting that when he is next in the area this hedge will be cut back.

**102/2025 Report from the Essex County Councillor**

**a) Essential - Safety - Landowners urged to cut vegetation now bird nesting season is over**

Local Government reorganisation ECC meetings happen very frequently. All information has been sent to the Clerk for distribution.

Cllr P. Schweir spoke about

- Highways - Over 62,000 drains cleared across Essex ahead of winter months

- Highways works Tilbury Rd Gt Yeldham
- Essential - Safety - Landowners urged to cut vegetation now bird nesting season is over.
- Voi announced as new e-scooter trial operator in Essex
- Highway Highlights August 25
- Highways - North End Rd Gestingthorpe - drainage improvements Sep 25
- Highways - Innovative 'Roadmender' method is faster, more cost effective and better for the environment.
- Jan '23 5,000 potholes reported = Jan '25 1600 potholes reported
- Councillor community grant is available to March '26
- Essex election for Mayor will be May '26
- The new Unitary Councils will be Tendring, Colchester, Braintree and Uttlesford. Local Parish Councils will not be affected apart from seeing just one Councillor at the meetings

**103/2025 Report from Braintree District Councillor**

Essex Local Nature Recovery Strategy – It is an important document which has been adopted by ECC.

Cllr D. Holland talk about the 124 page document. This document has been adopted by Essex County Council. The Clerk asked Cllr D. Holland if he could send him the document. To view document go to Essex Local Nature Recovery Strategy at <https://bulmer-pc.gov.uk/>

Local Government reorganisation. The mayor will head-up strategic departments. Powers from Westminster is being devolved to Unitary Authorities. BDC Full Council met on Monday and discussed future shape in Essex producing either 2, 3, 4 or 5 Unitary Authorities. The decision was to go with 4 Unitary Authorities. Uttlesford, Braintree, Tendring and Colchester. The changes will be made before May '26

This proposal may benefit the residents better than any other proposal.

National Grid – Have to provide Community Benefit structure to take into the impact on this project. An allocation of a Community Fund in total of £4m. spread across the whole of the area. A battery storage is also being considered in the

proposal. Public consultation will be set up to see how these grants are allocated. Cllr T. Bird asked the Essex and District Councillors about Neighbourhood Planning for the area.

Cllr D. Holland gave an overview of past Neighbourhood Plans in conjunction with Babergh and Suffolk Councils. To undergo this project will be very challenging and time-consuming.

ECC Cllr P. Schwier left the meeting

#### **105/2025 EALC Councillor Training.**

The Clerk has submitted the training courses from EALC

#### **106/2025 Neighbourhood Plan opportunities – Cllr T. Bird**

Cllr D. Holland asked Cllr T. Bird to contact him outside this meeting to discuss this further

Cllr T. Bird informed the meeting of the process and format of producing a Neighbourhood Plan. The cost to have this neighbourhood plan could be between 25% and 30% increase in the Precept with ongoing costs.

#### **107/2025 Coe's Meadow – update on Committee meeting**

A meeting happened with 2 working group days. Grant application has been submitted

- **Update on the tree on Church Meadow** – Cllr D. Burke. The main problem has gone

#### **108/2025 Beacon post wood worm.**

The beacon it still to be taken down and tree still needs more work

#### **109/2025 Allotment**

##### **1. Garden Allotment Park Road decision**

A reply to the Parish Council letter. Councillors decided to back the garden allotment and an email to be sent to Mr. Coombes to inform him of the decision

##### **2. Allotments Park Road Garden allotment tree – As discussed in item above**

##### **3. Decision over allotment garden - As discussed in item above**

**4. Allotment Officer vacancy** No residents have applied for this position. Cllr R. Raymond will take over as Allotment Officer

**5. Should the allotments holders pay an increase amount in water charges due to UKPN heavy usage.** The RFO is working on the 2025-2026 allotment invoices with a small increase of just £1.10p per allotment plot. Councillors agreed with this figure.

#### **110/2025 Over grown trees, bushes and hedge rows in Vicars Orchard**

Cllr S. Rowe to investigate this matter and will have the hedge trimmed in Vicars Orchard

#### **111/2025 Footpath at Batt Hall letter to Suffolk Council – Cllr R. Raymond**

This footpath is in the Suffolk County Council area. Cllr T. Bird to approach a local SCC Councillor to see if this footpath can be cut.

#### **112/2025 Planning – including any Current Planning Applications requiring a response**

##### **25/01667/TPOCON - Linwood Church Road Bulmer**

Notice of intent to carry out works to trees in a Conservation Area: T1 - Remove to ground level

On 17<sup>th</sup>. August 2025 the planning response was sent to BDC prior to the planning deadline.

*Bulmer Parish Council supports this tree application subject to the Tree and Conservation Officers approval*

##### **25/01720/FUL - Keys Barns Church Road Bulmer**

Change of use from class E to residential to become part of existing dwelling

**RESOLVED:** Bulmer Parish Council has no objections to this planning application

##### **25/01954/HH - Oakview Finch Hill Bulmer**

Erection of garage

**RESOLVED:** Bulmer Parish Council has no objections to this planning application but request that the hedge is cut back to assure adequate visibility



**113/2025 Councillor's Reports.** No reports from Councillors

**114/2025 Grant application**

Cllrs S. Rowe and A. Crawshay left the meeting

- 1) Coe's Meadow Management committee requesting £1350.00p

Cllr R. Burke proposed accepting the grant application of £1200.00p. Cllr P. Paxton seconded **All Agreed**

This payment will be made at the November '25 meeting

**115/2025 Finance**

- a) To receive the Bank Reconciliations as at 31<sup>st</sup>. August 2025

Councillors noted the Bank Reconciliations as at 31<sup>st</sup>. August 2025

- b) To receive the comparison of Actual against Budget for 2025/2026

Councillors noted the comparison of Actual against Budget for 2025/2026

- c) To approve the payment of Accounts for August and September 2025 and to agree a transfer of

funds to meet the Parish Council financial arrangements **All Agreed**

- d) To consider Grant application/s received – See item 114/2025

**116/2025 2026-2027 Draft Budget –**

Councillors to discuss proposals for the draft 2026-2027 budget

Councillors were asked to consider project, with costings, for 2026-2027 financial year

**117/2025 Items for next agenda**

**118/2025 Date of next meeting:**

**Monday 24<sup>th</sup>. November 2025 at 7.15pm in Bulmer village hall**

**119/2025 2026 meeting dates: 26.01: 23.03: 28.05: 27.07: 29.09: 23.11.26**

**120/2025 Closure of the meeting**

To close the meeting having considered and determined all items of business

The Chair then closed the meeting at 9.15pm and thanked everyone for attending.

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**DRAFT Minutes** of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 24<sup>th</sup>. November 2025 at 7.15pm in the Village Hall

Present: Cllrs R. Raymond (Chair), T. Bird, A. Crawshay, ECC Cllr P. Schwier, BDC Cllr D. Holland and Kevin B. Money (Locum Clerk to Parish Council). There were also 1 member of the public present

**121/2025 Apologies for absence** were received from Cllrs R. Burke and D. Burke

**122/2025 Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests**

To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary, Pecuniary or non-Pecuniary Interest relating to items on the agenda

**None Declared**

**123/2025 Minutes of previous meeting -**

To approve the minutes of the meetings held 29<sup>th</sup>. September 2025 **All Agreed**

**124/2025 Public Questions:** 15 minutes time allowed for this item: Members of the public in attendance may ask the Parish Council a question. No questions were asked

**125/2025 Report from the Essex County Councillor**

- ECC budget is ongoing. With costs increasing on Adult and Child social care
- Highways Highlights have been circulated
- Highways contract is coming up for renewal which is a major project
- Winter conditions are here and 40% of Essex roads are being covered each night which is 2,000 miles. Schools have priority in gritting
- Pot hole repairs are continuing
- Scheduling of footpath cutting in Bulmer Tye from April '26
- ECC Highway initiative is continuing into 2026
- Signage by landowners fields must be kept clear and cut vegetation back

ECC Cllr P. Schwier left the meeting

**126/2025 Report from Braintree District Councillor**

6. Respond to National Grid consultation together with access to funding for community benefit
7. The largest battery farm will be built in Bulmer Parish
8. Coe's Meadow could be a good group to obtain some of this funding
9. The Church is also permitted to apply for this funding
10. Cllr D. Holland, next year, is trying to organise a BDC Surgery in Wickham St. Paul village hall

**127/2025 EALC Councillor Training** All training courses have been sent to Councillors

**128/2025 Neighbourhood Plan to finalise** whether a neighbourhood plan is required for

**Bulmer – Cllr T. Bird.** This item cannot be taken any further

**129/2025 Coe's Meadow** – update on Committee meeting

- b) **Update on the tree on Church Meadow**  
– Cllr D. Burke No update
- c) **RoSPA play inspection report** No update given
- d) **Coe's Meadow Safeguarding Policy**

Cllr R. Raymond informed the meeting that the Parish Council will support Coe's Meadow but cannot sign this policy as the Parish Council does not have a say in what Coe's Meadow Recreational Trust does.

- e) **Coe's Meadow Equality and Diversity Policy**

Cllr R. Raymond informed the meeting that the Parish Council will support Coe's Meadow but cannot sign this policy as the Parish Council does not have a say in what Coe's Meadow Recreational Trust does.

- f) **Coe's Meadow Reserves Policy**

Cllr R. Raymond informed the meeting that the Parish Council will support Coe's Meadow but cannot sign this policy as the Parish Council does not have a say in what Coe's Meadow Recreational Trust does

- g) **Permission to confirm a new playground** No update given

**130/2025 Allotment**

- **Garden Allotment Park Road decision**

This was, originally, let as a whole plot. Then it was divided.

Cllr R. Raymond proposed taking the plot back and to offer the plot to Mr. Wicker. Cllr T. Bird seconded.

**All Agreed**

- **Allotments Park Road Garden allotment tree** As above at item 1
- **Decision over allotment garden** As above at item 1
- **Allotment Officer vacancy** This vacancy still exists
- **Should the allotments holders pay an increase amount in water charges due to UKPN heavy**

**Usage**

Cllr R. Raymond proposed that as the water costs have increased by 50%. Therefore, the Parish Council will contribute 25% of this increase and the allotment holders also pay 25% of the increase. Cllr T. Bird seconded. **All Agreed**

**131/2025 Over grown trees, bushes and hedge rows in Vicars Orchard**

This item to be differed to the next meeting

**132/2025 Planning – including any Current Planning Applications requiring a response**

**25/02428/HH - Griggs Farm Bulmer Street Bulmer**

Proposed double garage and reconstruction of existing brick wall to form 1no. pedestrian and 1no. vehicle access with drop kerb and associated hardstanding.

**RESOLVED:** Bulmer Parish Council has no objection to this planning application

**25/02551/HH - Woodlands Smeetham Hall Lane Bulmer**

Proposed single-storey and two-storey rear extension with partial flat roof with lantern, alteration to fenestration, proposed front porch, garage extension and widening of existing access with new gates and brick piers.

**RESOLVED:** Bulmer Parish Council has no objections to this planning application

**25/02621/LBC - Griggs Farm Bulmer Street Bulmer**

Proposed internal alterations to form a new kitchen and bathroom, restoration of bakehouse, installation of heating system and multifuel stove, replacement and repair of timber floors, electrical works, and reconstruction of dining room chimney stack.

**RESOLVED:** Bulmer Parish Council has no objections to this planning application

**133/2025 Councillor's Reports**

**134/2025 Finance**

- a) To receive the Bank Reconciliations as at 31<sup>st</sup>. October 2025

Councillors noted the Bank Reconciliations as at 31<sup>st</sup>. October 2025

- b) To receive the comparison of Actual against Budget for 2025/2026

Councillors noted the comparison of Actual against Budget for 2025/2026

- c) To approve the payment of Accounts for October and November 2025 and to agree a transfer of

funds to meet the Parish Council financial arrangements **All Agreed**

- d) Councillors to sign Unity Trust Bank form for The Lawrence Coe Trust account

**135/2025 2026-2027 Draft Budget –**

Councillors to discuss proposals for the draft 2026-2027 budget

Councillors discussed the 2026-2027 budget.

This budget will be finalised at the 26<sup>th</sup>. January 2026 meeting.

**136/2025 Items for next agenda**

**137/2025 Date of next meeting: Monday**

**26<sup>th</sup>. January 2026 at 7.15pm in Bulmer village hall**

**138/2025 2026 meeting dates: 23.03: 28.05: 27.07: 29.09: 23.11.26**

**139/2025 Closure of the meeting**

To close the meeting having considered and determined all items of business  
The Chair then closed the meeting at 9pm and thanked everyone for attending.

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VILLAGE HALL LOTTERY

If you are new to the Village and would like to support the Village Hall why not join the Lottery. You can join for as little as 50p per number and can hold up to 4 numbers per month. If you would like to know more, please ring Dawn at the Post Office on 376676 or Maggie on 374758.

Month	First	Second	Third
Sept.	Mr & Mrs Burbidge	Mr & Mrs Crawshay	Mrs M O'Reilly-Cicconi
Oct.	Mrs Smith	Mr & Mrs Hammond	Mrs B Duck
Nov.	Mrs M. Francis	Mr and Mrs T. Dickinson	Mrs S. Toy

BULMER HISTORY

During some recent research I came across an article with a lot of previously unknown details about Bulmer and its church following restoration of St. Andrew's Church and its reopening published in 1863.

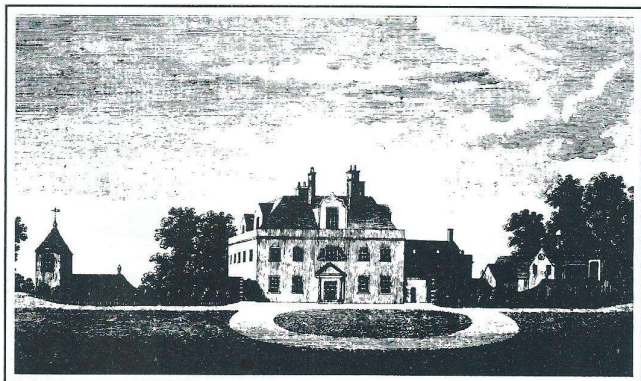
It is a long article some five or six pages long, so not able include all in this edition. It nicely splits into several sections covering different aspects and will be spread over future issues. What's follows is the first section which can also be found on the history website
at <https://www.bulmerhistory.co.uk/>

Bulmer and the Church setting 1863
The village of Bulmer is situated about two miles from Sudbury, and the parish contains 2,880 acres. In the time of Edward the Confessor the name was written **Bolemer**; in 1330 it is called in several documents **Bolomere**, but in modern times it has been abbreviated to Bulmer.

Several of the old halls in the parish are of very ancient date, and mention is made of them before the conquest.



Butler's Hall (Hedingham Road) was given by the Conqueror to Richard, son of Gislebert; Goldingham Hall, in the time of Edward the Confessor, was in possession of a Saxon freeman named Godwin, and was granted to Richard Maier, Lord of Eye and Great Chamberlain of England, by William I; Smeetham Hall was, under the Saxon government, a lordship in possession of a free woman, and was given by the Conqueror to Eustace, Earl of Boulogne. In the Domesday Book this lordship is named Smedeluna, afterwards it is written Smitbton.



The " Auberies " was built on the site of an old foundation by Lady Aubrey. In 1556 a chapel, dedicated to St. James the Apostle, was built on Chapel Green, attached to the mansion there, and being at a considerable distance from the parish church it was a great convenience to the inhabitants. Several of the estates are well wooded, particularly the Auberies, now in the possession of J. St. G. Burke Esq., Q.C., who has

much beautified the mansion, and protected with much care and taste the fine trees in the grounds. G. Coote, Esq., one of the Churchwardens, resides at Smeetham Hall, and D. Badham, Esq., county magistrate, lives in a substantial mansion near the church.



The church occupies a good position at a little distance on the left of the road from Sudbury to Gestingthorpe; it is approached by an avenue of fine limes, and there is a row of magnificent elms on the South. From the churchyard and neighbouring meadow a fine view is obtained of Belchamp Walter and its church nestling amid the trees, and over the Stour Valley of the woods at Melford, Acton, and the surrounding country. The Auberies Lane, running parallel with the main road, is noted for its picturesque appearance and ingenuous cool retreats, though recently much of the underwood at the top of the steep banks on either side, which used to meet over head, and presented a perfectly leafy bower, has been cut down. ***To be continued.....***

REMINDER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

9 th December	Skylarks – Christmas party	2pm
12 th December	Bulmer History -Charlie Haylock	8pm
15 th December	Carols by Candlelight	7pm

3 rd January	Oil orders for January	-
26 th January	Parish Council	7:15pm
27 th January	Skylarks – Lawrence of Arabia & Felixstowe	2pm
31 st January	Oil orders for February	-
24 th February	Skylarks – Suffolk Villages	2pm
23 th February	Oil orders for March	-
23 rd March	Parish Council	7:15pm
24 th March	Skylarks – Ashley Cooper	2pm

I wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and a very healthy New Year.



Should you have anything for publication in the next newsletter, and remember this is your newsletter and if you have any suggestions for items you wish to include for March 2026, maybe an event or club, then please contact Mike Crome the editor on 01787 378155 or by emailing bulmerwgo@gmail.com