



# Whats Going On?

## The Newsletter of Bulmer - June 2026

(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/)

## BULMER 1988 FESTIVAL

Do you remember this event, were you there? Have you any memories or photographs. Bulmer History is very keen to gather details of this event. Please email [info.bulmerhistory@gmail.com](mailto:info.bulmerhistory@gmail.com) or call Mike on 01787 378155 if you can help.



A FAMILY of five was turfed out of Bulmer, over the weekend — ' but all in fun. ` The village held a festival on Saturday and Sunday (in July 1988) with an 18th century theme, including the re-enactment of the annual event of "Hiring of Farm workers by auction" and 100 villagers dressed the part for a period frolic, including the vagrant mother, father and three children who the Constables thought, might become a charge on the parish.

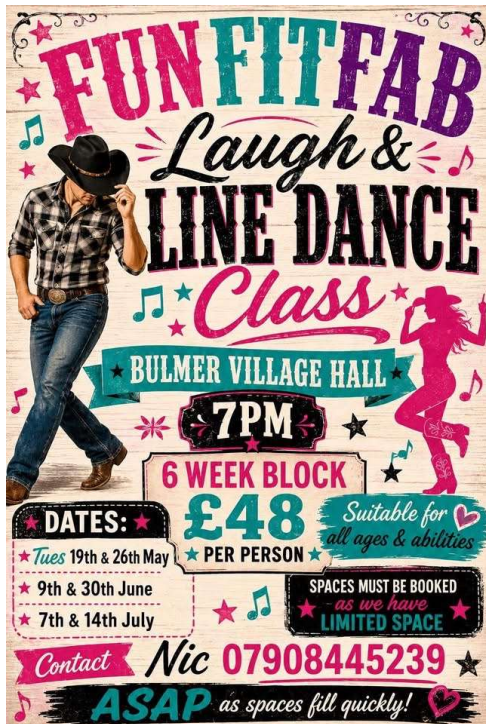
Around 1,000 people visited the village over the weekend to enjoy the various goings on, which raised more than £1,500 to be shared between the parish church and village hall. On both days there was a flower festival, local history and art exhibition, and much more.

## Village Hall News

We all thank you for your patience and understanding regarding the lottery. The bank has been very slow in setting up a new account to their liking. However it will probably only be a few weeks before it will be up and running again. We hope you will join it again as it is a help to our finances and in keeping our hiring costs as low as possible.

It has been wonderful to see so many children's parties in the Hall this spring. It has been delightful to hear so many children laughing and having fun at their event.

There has been a new club using the Hall on Tuesday evenings. A very popular Line Dance class meets every week and it is good fun and an excellent way to keep fit. Just a little reminder of other activities taking place in the Hall on a regular basis.



**FUN FIT FAB**  
*Laugh &*  
**LINE DANCE**  
*Class*  
**BULMER VILLAGE HALL**  
**7PM**  
**6 WEEK BLOCK**  
**£48 PER PERSON** *Suitable for all ages & abilities*  
**DATES:**  
★ Tues 19th & 26th May  
★ 9th & 30th June  
★ 7th & 14th July  
**SPACES MUST BE BOOKED - as we have LIMITED SPACE**  
**Contact Nic 07908445239**  
**ASAP** *as spaces fill quickly!*



Every first Monday of the month there is stitch and sew, on the second and

4th Monday the popular Folk Dance club meets.



There is a yoga class meeting at 6pm every Monday evening.

Skylarks meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month



and a Pilates class meets from 6pm until 7pm every Wednesday evening.



Every Thursday Bulmer Bowls Club meet from 7 until 9.

So as you can see there is just about



something for everyone. We are planning several activities in the next few months. East Anglia Air Ambulance will be at the hall from **7.30 on 2nd June for resus and defibrillator training**. Even if you

came along last year it is always imperative you attend refresher courses. There is no charge for this. The **Bingo** sessions which we have been holding have been so popular the we will be holding another evening on **27th June**. There will also be a **Coffee Morning on 12th September**. Watch out for more on Facebook, [e-voice.org.uk/bulmervillage/what-s-on/](http://e-voice.org.uk/bulmervillage/what-s-on/) and on notice boards. As always may we as a Committee thank you all for your continued support.

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**Bulmer Skylarks**

We are now looking forward to the summer where we hope we can enjoy our meetings with doors and windows open and feel the warmth of the sun coming in. However the weather doesn't seem to bother our members too much, they are always there come rain or shine.



Our spring programme gave us some very interesting speakers. Ashley Cooper, as always, held everyone's attention and our gentlemen in particular were asking lots of questions such was their interest. We had the welcome return of the Magistrate who talked about children's court. As you can imagine it was a little emotional at times but extremely interesting. We now look forward to our summer programme. On **23rd June we will be enjoying our summer party**. The theme this year is "At the seaside" so we will hopefully be enjoying food usually associated with that. On **28th July, John from E.A.C.H** will be with us and on the 25th August Jane Paley will be presenting Our Special Friends. We will hold our **AGM on 22nd September**, 10 mins of business and the rest of the afternoon with fun and games. Why not come along (4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month) and enjoy an afternoon with some lovely friendly people and enjoy a cup of tea and cake.

We would love to see you and you will be made very welcome

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**PARISH COUNCIL YOUR COUNCILLORS**

Rosemary Raymond (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

28 <sup>th</sup> May 2026 (Thurs)	27 <sup>th</sup> July 2026
28 <sup>th</sup> Sept. 2026	23 <sup>rd</sup> Nov. 2026

**DRAFT Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> . March 2026 at 7.15pm in the Village Hall.**

Present: Cllrs R. Raymond (Chair), R. Burke, A. Crawshay, P. Paxton, S. Rowe, BDC Cllr D. Holland and Kevin B. Money (Locum Clerk to Parish Council). There were also 7 members of the public present

**020/2026 Apologies for absence** were received from Cllr T. Bird and Cllr D. Burke

**021/2026 Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests**

To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary, Pecuniary or non-Pecuniary Interest relating to items on the agenda Cllrs A. Crawshay and S. Rowe declared an interest in item 030/2026

022/2026 Minutes of previous meeting

To approve the minutes of the meetings

held 26<sup>th</sup> January 2026 All Agreed

**023/2026 Public Questions:**

15 minutes time allowed for this

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

A water leak on A131 can this please be repaired ASAP. The footpath on the A131 still remains a problem. A resident raised concerns about the BESS Battery storage at Watery Lane. Councillors wanted to know about fire risks and explosion. Cllr D. Holland responded by saying the planning application addressed the probability of fire at a battery site. All documents should be examined thoroughly by BDC officers. There have been fires in the past. This siting of a battery storage is a risk but it needs to be mitigated.

There a 2 main access to allow fire appliances getting to the site. Cllr D. Holland spoke about the weak water problems in Bulmer.

Noise, amenity and light is also detrimental to local residents. Could this BESS battery storage be sited further back to the far field in Watery Lane to stop any water going into the river Stour? Cllr D. Holland spoke about a further 3 alternatives in the siting of the battery storage which are all advantageous to the local residents.

There is a resident meeting on this item on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at 6pm in the village hall.

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- a) Dog pit corner is being dumped in again and ask if BPC can think about closing layby

**024/2026 Report from the Essex County Councillor No report was given**

**025/2026 Report from Braintree**

**District Councillor**

- Local Government reorganisation will be decided this week as to how many Unitaries will be in this area
- Hopefully they will go with 3 Unitaries (Braintree, Colchester and Tendring) • Green bin charges are not rising in 2026-2027
- New coloured bins are coming
- £1m cost to BDC to dump the waste in landfill sites.
- Black bin is every 3-week circle

**026/2026 Watery Lane, Little Henny regarding the proposed BESS Battery Storage Site** This item was covered at length in the Public Questions item

**027/2026 Beacon post to be repaired**

An idea needs to come up with i.e. metal or wooden post. A telegraph pole would be the ideal solution with the same height as before and sited in the same place.

**028/2025 Allotment**

**1) Condition of the allotments** No further updates. Plot 3 still remains vacant **2) Garden Allotment** No further update following the letter sent to Mr. Coombes **3) Allotments generally** Allotments still need tidying up.

**029/2026 EALC Councillor Training**

All EALC training course have been circulated to Councillors

**030/2026 Coe's Meadow** – update on Committee meeting

Cllr S. Rowe spoke about grant funding and circulated an undated and unsigned Framework agreement between BPC and Coes Meadow.

Cllr P. Paxton proposed that the Parish Council undertake the grass cutting costs for Coes Meadow for a 1-year period (2026-2027). Cllr R. Burke seconded. **All Agreed**

A dog bin in Coes Meadow requires moving. Coes Meadow to contact the Clerk who will contact BDC to inform



for Coe's Meadow: [e-voice.org.uk/coesmeadow/](http://e-voice.org.uk/coesmeadow/)

We also now have an Instagram and Facebook page which you may follow: Links can be found at the bottom of the 'Home' page of the website.

The Committee are also busy putting a plan together to replace the playground equipment and make other improvements. Plan Free has been helping with this. This is being presented to the Parish Council in May. The next step will be to make a planning application and then make grant applications, which may or may not be successful.

Thank you to everyone who completed our community survey. The results can be found here: [e-voice.org.uk/coesmeadow/survey-results/](http://e-voice.org.uk/coesmeadow/survey-results/)

St Andrew's CoE Primary School and Pebbles Pre-school have also been sharing their thoughts on our plan.

All donations to Coe's Meadow are gratefully received and can be made via our Go Fund Me page: [www.gofundme.com/f/2025coesmeadowappeal](http://www.gofundme.com/f/2025coesmeadowappeal) or [e-voice.org.uk/coesmeadow](http://e-voice.org.uk/coesmeadow)

### **Coe's Meadow Management Committee (CMMC) 6pm, Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2026 at Blackbirds**

Minutes taken by Laura Little.

#### **Present:**

Cllr Antonia Crawshay, Emma Hamilton-Russell, Jenny Kenson, Laura Little, Cllr Sam Rowe,

1. **Apologies for absence:** none.
2. **Approval of minutes from AGM held 18<sup>th</sup> March 2026:** approved.
3. **Matters arising from the last minutes:** None.
4. **Finance**

- a. Bank balance – Antonia shared the current bank balance.

#### **5. Habitat Management and Grounds Maintenance**

- a. Rabbit holes – it was discussed as to what could be done about the rabbit holes. Sam suggested that a heap of top soil could be placed on the meadow with a bucket and spade. A sign could be put up asking park users to fill holes with soil if they come across any. It was agreed that Sam could arrange this.
- b. Next working party date – a date in the Autumn will be confirmed at the next meeting. Weed matting removal and the basketball surface are the priority tasks. CMMC are considering the possibility of removing the soft tarmac basketball surface to reveal and repair the original tarmac surface. Sam will consult with parish council, and Laura will consult with the park's neighbours at St Judes.

#### **6. Playground Update**

- a. Maintenance (inc. Bins) – the small seesaw is in disrepair. Jenny said she would ask Dario to have a look at it.
- b. Plan for playground and other improvements – Laura presented a draft 5 year plan based on the committee's ideas to date. Amendments were suggested and will be made by Laura. Sam will present the plan at the next parish council meeting.

#### **7. Website, social media and engagement**

– a date has been arranged with Mike for website training in June. It was agreed that

we do not want users to join the website as is available with the e-voices websites. The CMMC discussed that they were happy to continue with making social media posts as and when events are planned and held but we do not need to do anything beyond this.

**8. Fundraising events for 2026**

- a. Bring and Buy Plant Sale – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2026 – Jenny shared her plan for the event and roles of volunteers on the day.
- b. Beer festival – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2026 – Sam shared that everything is in hand for the day.
- c. Music Event – 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2026 – a poster is to be shared looking for a band to play.

**9. Date of next meeting –**  
Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> July 7pm

- 10. Any other business** – Laura intends to attend the CPR training in June and Emma may also do so.

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**Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June**

**REMINDER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

|                            |                             |       |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-------|
| 28 <sup>th</sup> May       | Parish Council Meeting      | 19:15 |
| 29 <sup>th</sup> May       | Quiz Night                  | 19:30 |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> June       | Air Ambulance CPR Training  | 19:30 |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> June       | Village Hall AGM            | 19:30 |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> June      | Church Service              | 11:15 |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup> June      | Skylarks Summer Party       | 14:00 |
| 27 <sup>th</sup> June      | Bingo                       | 18:30 |
| 28 <sup>th</sup> June      | Church cafe Service         | 10:15 |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> July       | CMMC Committee Meeting      | 19:00 |
| 27 <sup>th</sup> July      | Parish Council meeting      | 19:15 |
| 28 <sup>th</sup> July      | Skylarks E.A.C.H            | 14:00 |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> August     | Oil order cut-off           | 23:59 |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> September | Village Hall Coffee Morning | TBA   |
| 22 <sup>nd</sup> September | Skylarks AGM & Games        | 14:00 |
| 28 <sup>th</sup> September | Parish Council Meeting      | 19:15 |

Should you wish to publish information about your club or event in the next issue for September 2026, then please contact Mike Crome the editor on 01787 378155 or by emailing [bulmerwgo@gmail.com](mailto:bulmerwgo@gmail.com) by the 15<sup>th</sup> August

# Now Bulmer has a real history

"Happy is the place that has no history" so a Bulmer parson was told in 1934, and that has been the situation in the village right up to the present.

But tomorrow things will change for that is the day when Bulmer's very own home-made history will be launched on the public in the village school.

Contributions from about sixty Bulmer people, and memories from the past, have been put together during the past year to produce "Bulmer Then and Now", which is on sale for £1.20.

Contrary to the opinion voiced by C. F. D. Sperling at Ballingdon Hall in his letter to the Rev. Pannell at Bulmer, the village is in fact steeped in history dating back to medieval, Saxon and Roman times.

Manor houses that still exist today, Goldingham Smeetham and Butlers Halls, are all identifiable in the Domesday Book.

Mr Basil Slaughter who is almost considered to be a "local" at Bulmer after being headmaster of the new village school for the 14 years since it opened, has edited the book

by Valerie Goodchild

The booklet contains no less than 18 drawings and a similar number of maps, most of which have been executed by local people.

### RESEARCH

Research for the different sections of the history was undertaken by parish council chairman John Dixey, local builder Peter Rowe, farmer Ashley Cooper, housewives Doreen Desmond and Sally Durnby.

Among the drawings featured in the book are a picture of the Auberies as it is today by Stephen Binks, a former pupil of Bulmer village school and another of the Brickfields by Belinda Minter, eldest daughter of Peter Minter who still makes bricks at Brickfields House, an activity which has a long recorded history in Bulmer.

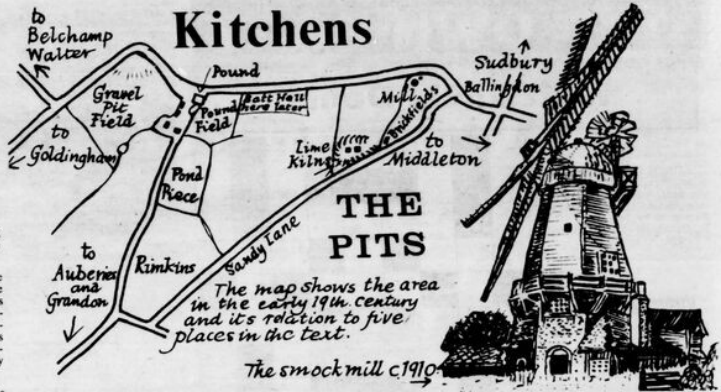
The Church and later the school played an important part in village life in times past and in fact still does today.

In 1814 this was in the form of a Sunday School for 26 pupils rising to 78 by 1918. In the meantime a day school had been established in 1830

catering for 40 pupils during the week and an extra 45 on Sundays.

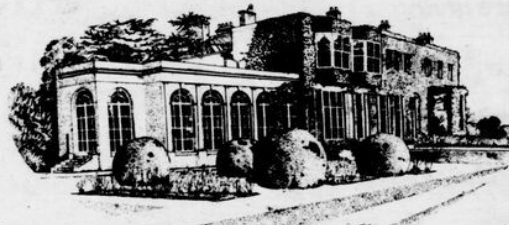
Present day members of the teaching unions who are pressing for reduced class numbers may find it interesting to note that the mistress received a salary, plus one penny per pupil as an inducement to obtain as many as possible.

The salary of the day was somewhat less also with the annual payment for a master and mistress being £25 between them. To assist in keeping the 47 children in order in 1846 two monitors - of about 13-years-old - were also paid.



The map shows the area in the early 19th century and its relation to five places in the text.  
The smock mill c.1910

This smock mill near Ballingdon played a vital role in the Bulmer harvest. It was preceded by a postmill with only two pairs of stones. To achieve the output of 101 quarters of ground wheat in six days and dress twelve loads of meal two men had to work 14 hours a day for six days. It is thought that the earlier mill and the smock mill were both working at the same time during the earlier part of this century.



A line drawing of the Auberies specially produced for the book "Bulmer Then and Now" by Steven Binks.



Many Bulmer villagers will probably recognise at least a few of the names of the boys in this picture. It is of the First Eleven Cricket Team from Bulmer School, thought to date from about 1925. The boys are back row left to right: Lee Raymond, George Harrington, Fred Hunt, Lee Downes (who loaned the picture for publication), Ken Raymond, and Derek Felton. Front row left to right: Chris Raah, Ken Raymond, of Bulmer Tys, Bill Messent, Jack Cornell, whose father used to run the Cock and Blackbirds, and E. Bird.

and for the launch on Friday he has prepared a slide-show and tape-recordings of old Bulmer residents.

As a lecturer of local and social history for the local branch of the WEA Mr Slaughter recognises that to make a book like this really "come alive" for its readers it should include as many personal memories and anecdotes as possible.

"The people of Bulmer have made this a real community effort. They lived the history and if you leave them out you leave out the most important part," he explained.

Several of the newer residents undertook painstaking research in local libraries, record offices and other places outside the village. While still others talked to older people in the village who had memories of village life in past centuries handed down to them by word of mouth from their forebears.

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