



# What's On?



**The Newsletter of Bulmer---December 2006**

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

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## FROM THIS.....



Most people in Bulmer must have admired the transformation of these corrugated iron roofed cottages in the Street, now that Phil Rowe has renovated them. During his work some very ancient documents were discovered, and Peter Rowe has painstakingly examined these documents. The following reveals a wonderful piece of village history.

The building dates, I think, from around 1550 - 1600. Initially built as one dwelling, for someone of some means (at that time brick chimneys were only for the rich) it subsequently became divided and extended

until, at one time, it became 4 cottages. This is how it was when the tin roof was constructed over the top of the old thatch in 1900, carried out by the estate carpenter of Goldingham Hall, although the Goldingham estate were not the owners.

Some ancient deeds fill in a lot of the history of the cottages the earliest being dated 1685. Then two cottages, owned by Anne Brand, a widow, of Belchamp Otten, she passed them on to John Brand, probably her son, for £24. In 1704 John sold them to William Hawkins, wheelwright, of Bulmer for £55. By this time there were three "messuages or tenements under one roof". It's almost certain that John Brand had extended on to the left hand side. The tenants were Daniel Kingsbury, John Johnson and Thomas Butcher.

The story now gets interesting, in 1717 William Hawkins takes a £50 mortgage, from one Samuel Dale of Braintree, Apothecary, possibly to enable him to build his Wheelwrights shop and set up in business. Dale, who was 57 at the time, was a very keen botanist and a close friend of the famous John Ray of Braintree, "The father of botanic science". Another colleague of Dales, was apothecary and botanist Joseph Andrews of Sudbury, whose preserved plant collection is the oldest in existence in the Natural History Museum, in London. For more details on these two and to see a painting of them, see Ashley Cooper's book Our Mother Earth.

Dale didn't collect any interest on the loan till 1722, when he received £3 "in part interest" Various amounts were paid up to 1727, when we read "allowed towards boarding my daughter 50 shillings". Another four payments of 50 shillings were acknowledged, "against lodging my daughter" the last in 1729. By that date Dale was almost seventy. Had he a younger wife, or was he still supporting a spinster daughter, or was there a child he had to keep quiet about? Remember, Bulmer was well out of the way from Braintree in the horse and cart era! Whatever the explanation, in 1730 Hawkins sells the property to Robert Butcher, Blacksmith of Bulmer, for £80, but remained living there himself. It is obvious that he had hit on hard times. Between 1717 and 1730 the interest on the £50 loan amounted to £25.5.s, the equivalent of just under 4% per annum, without compound.

1735 sees Robert Butcher buying an orchard, adjacent to the cottages, from John King, senior and John King junior, collar makers of Castle Hedingham. Having studied these deeds and the 1840 tithe map, it is clear that the orchard is now the site of our home, "Cornfields" and "The Bungalow" of Maudie Rowe.

In 1763 Butcher, now described as a farmer and maltster, had really prospered. He owned 30 acre Church Field in Bulmer, a farmhouse, a farm in Wickham St.Pauls, as well as property in Belchamp Otten, Cavendish and Glemsford. The copy of his will is fascinating. He had 4 sons and the Street cottages were left to his son James.

1785 James Butcher (now of Saling Essex) sells to William Ray clockmaker of Sudbury, for £65 the occupiers then, were James Lofts, Harry Row (have we gained an "e" since then?) and Isaac Coot.

1786 William Ray sells to joint owners, James Nelson husbandman, of Bulmer and Thomas Flower the elder cordwainer (shoe maker) of Lazell (Lawshall?) Suffolk, for £75. Then in the occupation of James Montague, John Dixey and Isaac Coot.

Nelson and Flower each lived in one of the cottages and each had a half share in the wheelwrights shop of George Daniels, who presumably lived in the third cottage.

1800 Severance of joint tenancy, Flower sells his part to John Cooper of Great Cornard. His cottage then consisted of "One lower room and buttery with two sleeping or upper rooms".

1818 Nelson and Cooper sell to Thomas Pung, But each of them remain in their cottages. They get £40 each. Pung owned Blackhouse Farm, but probably didn't live in Bulmer.

1851 Pung dies, occupiers were then Thomas Shorten, Robert Moss and George Daniels.

The cottages were then sold to Abraham Mayes, innkeeper (Blackbirds) for £320. He already owned what are now Chapel Cottages and had the two pairs of flint cottages built around 1850. He was one of the overseers of the poor for Bulmer at one time.

1865 Mayes sells to Samuel Brown a butcher of Sudbury, for £300. Described as "All those 4 messuages under one roof (formerly 3) with the wheelwrights shop etc. Now in the occupation of William Daniels, Robert Blandon, Samuel Barrell and Mark Searles".

1880's Brown dies and leaves the cottages between his four spinster daughters. The last remaining one, Alice Brown, died in or about 1928. The cottages were only a small part of her estate; it also included 2 shops 10 cottages and a house, and all in Sudbury. They were all auctioned at The Four Swans Sudbury, in 1928.

The cottages were knocked down to **Albert Rowe, Phil's great grandfather, for £120.** Albert's brother Jim occupied two, P.Younger and Sam Searle

occupied the other two.

*Peter Rowe*



.....**TO THIS!**



## **BULMER HISTORY GROUP**

As an additional feature to What's On, Ashley Cooper has very kindly asked me to compile an article on the activities of the Bulmer History Group. As an accomplished writer himself I feel very honoured that Ashley has invited me to inform you of what we get up to. Hopefully this will then encourage more of you, especially some of the younger generations to come and join us and maybe even suggest some ideas for meetings you would like to attend. It would also be a step towards making sure that the historical information learnt is passed down through the generations and not lost.

One piece of local history I'm sure will not be forgotten is the zeppelin raids on Sudbury during the First World War. For our last meeting of 2006, way back in October we were treated to a visit from Tony Wheeler who came to share his knowledge of the raids with us. We had a very in-depth and fun talk on all aspects of the raids and how they actually affected Sudbury.

It was finally established that the bombs dropped from the zeppelin balloons didn't really cause that much devastation as a whole due to poor navigation of the ships. As a result very few casualties or fatalities occurred and listening to Tony Wheelers entertaining account of the raids on the 31<sup>st</sup> of March 1916, you could be forgiven for thinking that he may have gained some of his material from a Dads Army script.

In all seriousness though, we must not forget those that have been affected by war and remember that this is why your local history group is so important. **Our next meeting is Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2007 at 8pm** when we will be looking at some old photographs of Bulmer in the village hall. Entry is free so come along and see what you can learn from history. *Lisa Sandford*



**SPECIAL EVENING FAMILY  
SERVICE & BLESSING OF  
COE'S MEADOW**



**An event for the whole community to give thanks  
for the gift and development of Coe's Meadow and  
the visit of the Three Kings to the Baby Jesus!**

Epiphany Sunday 7th January  
6.00pm at Coe's Meadow  
followed by Candlelight procession to  
St Andrew's Church.

**MAKE A CROWN FOR THE  
BEST CROWN COMPETITION!**

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**A COUNTRY WAKE**

There had been a death out in the middle of the field and the wake was in full swing. The mourners were gathered round, all anxious to pay their respects. As was only fitting, they were all clad in sombre black. But an interloper in their midst, improperly dressed in dirty white and dingy greybrown, had taken on the role of chief mourner and undertaker, having administered the last rites. He was now busily attending to the corpse and re-arranging its form. The mourners, in case you hadn't guessed, were our local mafia of twenty or so carrion crows, which rule the field behind our bungalow with their own brand of mob violence. The interloper, who the crows treated with watchful respect, was an immature lesser black backed gull. It was intent on procuring as much nourishment as it could from the rabbit's carcass. The crows, jealous of being ousted from their usual roles, milled around the gull, looking for the least opportunity to regain their rightful position and claim their customary perks. The gull, slightly larger than the crows, was seriously outnumbered.

In a similar incident about a year ago, just two crows mugged a sparrow-hawk and robbed it of its prey. Now the boot was on the other foot. Despite their superior numbers, the crows were just no match for the gull, which only had to threaten with its viscous beak, to send any of its would-be assailants into feather ruffled retreat. In fact it treated them with admirable contempt, which I found most pleasing.

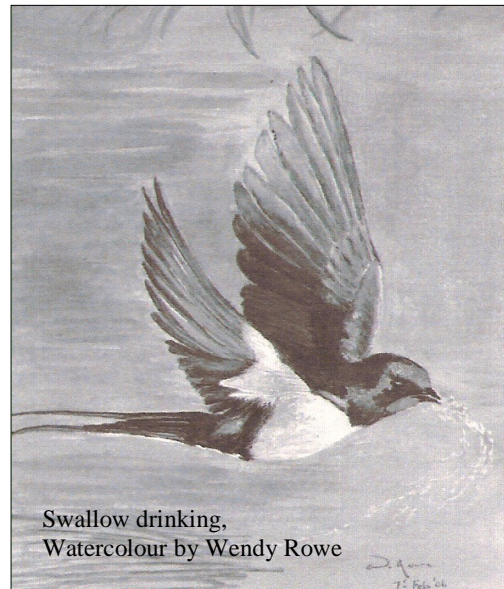
The lesser black back gull only comes inland in small numbers and is much larger than the black headed and common gulls, with which we are all so familiar, as they follow the plough, in white, swirling multitudes.

**THE DISAPPEARING LAKE.**

We've got a magic lake in Bulmer; it must lie submerged somewhere beneath our feet, in some mystical parallel world. Occasionally it surfaces, to show itself in awesome splendour. I've seen it recently, on a warm afternoon this October. Shimmering waves, softly undulating to the kiss of a gentle breeze and glistening under the rays of the lowering sun. It's whole surface so dazzling that one had to look away. The entire field beside the Village Hall was submerged under its delicate waves.

This spectral lake is a child of the sun, one cloud will dispel its delicate beauty and render it invisible, and to be replaced by the rough clods turned up by the plough. But this apparition, although summoned - up at the whim of the Sun, is created by the earth-bound members of the Araneae tribe, spiders. The whole field, acre upon acre, was covered with gossamer. This, the product of countless thousands of spiders, made a fine floating layer, which stretched to every hedge. As the sun caught this gently undulating mass, it was impossible to believe that it was not some pristine body of water, the setting sun mirrored in its waters. The manner in which the gossamer occurs sounds almost as far-fetched as my magic lake. Apparently, money spiders are responsible for this phenomenon. Millions of them spin long single strands of web in the early mornings. The warming air rises and carries each individual strand upwards, complete with its spider. At the mercy of the winds they are carried aloft until cooler air brings them down, sometimes as much as 100 miles away. So, that being the case, we may have uncovered another case of mass illegal immigration, if they had floated across from the continent.

Of course the gossamer must have covered our whole area, just how many millions of spiders took to the air on that day? As a measure of the fineness of a spider's web, if a spider could spin a thread right around the world, it would weigh less than 6 ozs!



Swallow drinking,  
Watercolour by Wendy Rowe

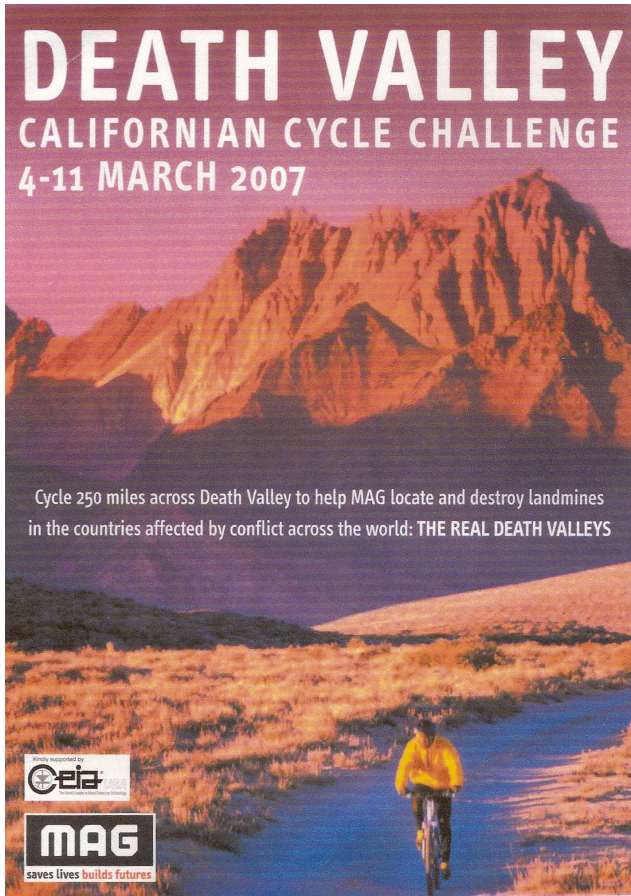
## NATURAL HISTORY?

I recently chanced upon some of my old bird notes that I had made as a teenager, about fifty years ago. (1954 - 1956) It has been interesting to compare these records with today's. Although not all doom and gloom, this does pinpoint what we have lost as breeding species and in the much-reduced numbers of many others. Nightingales singing, a Lesser spotted woodpecker on our apple tree, Tree sparrows nesting and Barn owls hunting, all in, or within 100 yards of our garden at Upper Houses. All of these birds were Bulmer residents then, but alas, not today.

As you might expect, our migrant birds are now arriving a little earlier in the spring, than they were 50 years back, underlining the reality of global warming.


My findings, taking three year averages for '54, '55 and '56 and comparing them with the averages for '04, '05 and '06, were as follows:- Chiffchaff and House martin now arrive 6 days earlier, Swift 3.5 days earlier, Whitethroat 2.5 days earlier and the Swallow just one day earlier. The Cuckoo averages 3 days *later*, but this is because they are now quite scarce and my 2005 record was abnormally late. Although I had arrival dates for Nightingale, Turtle dove, Willow warbler and Spotted flycatcher from the fifties, there are not enough current records (or in some cases no records) to make any meaningful comparison.


*Peter Rowe*



**DEATH VALLEY  
CALIFORNIAN CYCLE CHALLENGE  
4-11 MARCH 2007**

Cycle 250 miles across Death Valley to help MAG locate and destroy landmines in the countries affected by conflict across the world: **THE REAL DEATH VALLEYS**

Officially supported by 

  
saves lives builds futures

## DEATH VALLEY CALIFORNIAN CYCLE CHALLENGE

**MINES ADVISORY GROUP  
4 – 11 March 2007**

MAG has once again invited Steve Harley, the original 'Cockney Rebel', to lead a challenge event to raise landmine awareness, this time to the hottest place on earth - Death Valley.



Steve being a resident of a near by parish has **invited one of our local residents Tom**

**Dickinson** to lead him on the cycle tandem across the 250 miles of Death Valley. In addition Steve is personally paying all expenses for his team so that every pound in sponsorship goes directly to MAG in support of their mine clearing operations in many countries throughout the world.

Steve was in the vanguard of a 350-mile trek around Cambodia for MAG in 2003, and responded to their latest invitation with the words, "*How can I say no? It's a fantastic opportunity to see one of the most desolate and inaccessible places on God's earth, and another chance to raise the problem of landmines, still a major issue in many far-east lands, and African nations, in the UK media. Being a gambling man, I have a highly-developed sense of adventure, so I can't help myself when a chance like this comes up. Life's for living. I live this way: the answer is yes, what's the question? All things being equal, I'm in!*"



The cycle ride will be looking for volunteers to take part, departing the UK in early March 2007, and cycling 250 miles through the Las Vegas/California landscape, in temperatures of up to 120F. Each volunteer will need to raise in the region of £2,750 in sponsorship.

Since 1989 MAG has worked in more than 20 conflict-affected countries including Angola, Cambodia, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Kosovo, Iraq and more. MAG is a UK based charity, non governmental, non political and a world leader in humanitarian mine action. Through its programmes of employment, clearance, education and aid partnership, MAG reduces the suffering caused by forgotten landmines and bombs by working with communities' daily and training local staff to physically get mines and bombs out of the ground.

If you wish to complete the Challenge please apply on their website: [www.mag.org.uk](http://www.mag.org.uk)



**Tom Dickinson** would be very pleased to receive sponsorship by either sending a cheque direct to him at 11 St. Andrews Rise, Bulmer, Sudbury CO10 7TH (cheques payable to MAG) or by using your computer on Steve Harley's website: [www.steveharley.com](http://www.steveharley.com) where you can donate on line.

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**VILLAGE LOTTERY WINNERS**

Month	First	Second	Third
Sept.	Mr & Mrs D Armstrong	Mr & Mrs M Clarke	Mrs Barclay-Edwards
Oct.	Mrs T Stuart	Mrs J Coombes	Mrs B Rawlins
Nov.	Mrs J Crawford	Mrs M O'Reilly-Cicconi	Mr & Mrs N Fraser

If you are not a member and would like to join the Village Lottery, which costs a minimum of 50p per month, please contact Dawn at the Bulmer Post Office on 376676 for more details.

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**IT HAS GOT TO STOP!!**

Even after inserting a special item in the last edition of 'What's On, some irresponsible dog owners are still allowing their animals to foul public areas. This is a totally unnecessary extra hazard on dark mornings and evenings, which has recently led to more than one resident inadvertently bringing dog mess into their homes. Offending dog owners must be more responsible. **Would anyone who sees such offences please report the owners to the dog warden at Braintree District Council (01376-331616) or report the incident to the Parish Council (01787 370845).**

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**NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**

Parcel delivery service scam warning; please be aware of this scam that can con you out of a lot of money.

**Royal Mail postal scam.**

The Trading Standards Office are making people aware of the following scam:

A card is posted through your door from a company called **PDS (Parcel Delivery Service)** suggesting that they were unable to deliver a parcel and that you need to contact them on 0906 6611911 (a premium rate number). **DO NOT** call this number, as this is a mail scam originating from Belize. If you call the number and you start to hear a recorded message you will already have been billed £15 for the phone call.

If you do receive a card with these details, then please contact **Royal Mail Fraud on 02072 396655 or ICSTIS** (the premium rate service regulator) at [www.icstis.org.uk](http://www.icstis.org.uk)



**GIVE COLD CALLERS THE COLD SHOULDER**

Every year Trading Standards deal with consumers who have been conned on their own doorstep by cold callers.

**What exactly is a cold caller and why should we be concerned about them?**

Well it is important to remember that not every cold caller is a rogue, in fact there are numerous professional companies who operate legitimate businesses by offering goods or services to consumers on their doorsteps. However, there are also a large number of cold callers who knock on your door for various reasons such as artifice burglary, sometimes they pretend to be from a utility company and say they need to check inside the house for water leaks or gas leaks. These people should never be let in. Always ask to see identification of people asking to enter your premises and if necessary make a telephone call to establish their identity, a genuine representative of a utility or any other genuine company will understand if you refuse to let them in until their identity can be confirmed.

Other cold callers knock unannounced on your door to offer to do work for you maybe garden work, new driveway, security equipment or they may suggest for example that there are tiles missing from your roof and persuade you to allow them to do this urgent work by offering a small estimate of the cost. If you agree to this they will go onto the roof and possibly do unnecessary work and present you with a bill running into thousands of pounds and can use intimidating tactics if the bill is not paid. Other variations on this practice currently include damp proofing surveys and security equipment companies, but remember somebody knocking on you door could be trying to sell you anything so always be on your guard.

Currently in the UK the main piece of legislation protecting consumers from the illegal behaviour of cold callers is **The Consumer Protection (Cancellation of Contracts Concluded away from Business Premises) Regulations 1987** these regulations were amended in **1998** and are more commonly known' as the **"Doorstep Selling Regulations"**. In brief the Regulations give consumers the right to a seven day cooling off period, during which they may cancel any agreement worth more than £35 from a trader whose visit is unsolicited (i.e. not requested by the consumer) this also applies where a visit by a trader follows an unsolicited doorstep or telephone approach. Traders who fail to inform consumers in writing of their rights to a cooling off period commit a criminal offence. If a trader does not supply a written notice outlining cancellation rights when the agreement is made the agreement is unenforceable, whether or not a deposit is paid. This is the law as it currently stands however it may be that in December 2007 when the Unfair Commercial Practices Directive is implemented we may see further protection for consumers on cold calling issues.

Remember an unsolicited call may come from a telephone call or by mail, which you can prevent such actions by registering with the **Telephone Preference Service on 0845 070 0707 and the Mailing Preference Service on 0845 7034599**. To register a complaint about a cold caller, seek advice or to obtain more information please call **Trading Standards on 0845 404 0506**



## PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

### REMINDER OF COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2007

The Parish elections are scheduled to take place in **May 2007** when the term of office for your current Councillors 4yr term ceases.

It has been more than 10 years since Bulmer Parish councillors were elected to office and the Council is keen for there to be an election next year. For this to happen, there must be at least 8 (eight) nominations. If you are thinking of standing for election and would like to discuss the matter further, then please contact the Parish Clerk, or any of the existing Councillors listed below.

This is your opportunity to have a say in how the village is maintained & developed for future generations.

#### YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS

Margaret Mills (Chairman)	- 01787 269377
Peter Rowe (Vice Chairman)	- 01787 375935
John Dixey	- 01787 376673
Ron Mansfield	- 01787 375301
Mike Crome	- 01787 378155
Jeff Wright	- 01787 376083
Christine Leigh	- 01787 378133
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Barbara Rawlins (Parish Clerk)	- 01787 370845

#### FUTURE PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS 2007

**12<sup>th</sup> January 2007**  
**16<sup>th</sup> March 2007**  
**18<sup>th</sup> May 2007 – AGM**  
**13<sup>th</sup> July 2007**  
**14<sup>th</sup> September 2007**  
**9<sup>th</sup> November 2007**

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

#### MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BULMER PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 8th. SEPTEMBER 2006

**PRESENT:** Councillors Margaret Mills (Chairman), Peter Rowe, Mike Crome John Dixey, Ron Mansfield, Jeff Wright and the Clerk.

Also Nigel Harley DC, PC Neil Tremain (Community Support Officer) and 7 members of the public.

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Chris Leigh

**DECL. OF INTERESTS:** None

**PUBLIC QUESTIONS:** PC **Tremain** reported that he had been patrolling the village with special attention to areas such as the village hall and recreation ground. He had also used his speed camera in The Street, on a weekday between 4 - 5pm, which picked up one vehicle travelling at 43mph. PC Tremain was happy to receive phone calls for any problems that may arise (01376 551312 - Yeldham NPT). His work is in

conjunction with the Parish Ranger - Tom Newman.

**Mr. and Mrs. Lambert** of Church Road queried the need for the proposed permissive footpath to run along the field edge inside the hedge from village hall to the school and suggested a path would be better served on the east side of the road where there is a wide verge. They felt it would become a very muddy area in winter. Cllr. Mills said that planning could be laid down along the path if necessary and explained that if it was found the path did not work, or was not used then, being a 'permissive' path, the landowner could close it down. The Clerk was asked to consult with County Highways over the possibility of a path being created on the grass verge side and also, if curb stones could be laid along the edge of the verges outside the houses/bungalows on the west side of the road near the school.

**Mrs. Eleanor Mortimer** - head teacher at St. Andrews School, asked if the Parish Council would object to a low level light being installed at the entrance to the school (throwing the light back towards the school), which would only be used during school hours or on any functional evenings. There was no objection from the Council and the Clerk was asked to confirm this in writing.

**APPROVE THE MINUTES** of the meeting held on 14th July 2006. Proposed Cllr. Crome, seconded Cllr. Rowe.

**MATTERS ARISING:** Cllr. Crome reported that the new Parish Council website was up and running ([www.essexinfo.net/bulmer](http://www.essexinfo.net/bulmer)).

#### COE'S MEADOW

- a user survey was carried out on behalf of Doorstep Green on Sunday 20th August.

- Wiles will be moving the basketball post to the south side of the court in readiness for the softer surface planned to be laid in a few weeks time.

- there is concern that the water level in the pond remains low. The CMMC is to look into this and seek grants to carry out a feasibility study as well as the actual work.

- the official opening of the whole of Coe's Meadow is planned for 2007.

**NIGEL HARLEY** - spoke on the changes about to take place with regards to the Housing Association. He reported that Braintree DC were confident that to accept Green Fields Housing Asscn. was the way forward.

- rents would remain the same.

- right to buy would remain for existing tenants.

- the Housing Asscn. would be able to obtain more money for maintenance.

- the Green Fields Management Board would include many of the tenants.

- tenants would have a big input.

- tenants will be asked to vote and a majority decision will be taken.

#### LAND AT BULMER TYE

Following the proposal to sell the land, with standing bungalow, to Messrs. Dixey and Dixey (leased since 1932), access for the land to the west of the bungalow (currently the builders yard), rented to Mr. W. Dixey, has been cut off. The Parish Council requested an 'easement' across the Dixey's land. This was not accepted.

After consultation, the Parish Council came to a **DECISION, proposed by Cllr. Crome, seconded by Cllr. Rowe** that they would be willing to sell the piece of rented allotment land to Mr. Dixey with a proviso that the Council would retain a financial interest in any future development that may take place. The Clerk was asked to convey this proposal to Mr. Dixey and for Mr. Dixey to put forward an offer.

**PLANNING**

**Overtime, The Tye** - proposed residential development. The Parish Council has no objections at this stage, but more detailed information is required.

**Clapps Farm, 7 Park Lane, The Tye** - demolition of garage and erection of single storey extension, garage/carport. No objections from Parish Council

**Wattles, Lower Houses** - erection first floor extension. No objections from Parish Council.

**Back House Croft** - The Street - proposed conversion of first floor garage into annexe. No objections, but the Parish Council would ask the Planning Services to take note regarding septic tank adequacy and whether it was proposed for the annexe to be used as rented accommodation, which would involve increased traffic to an already busy area.

**3 Park Lane, The Tye** - retrospective application for retention of first floor balcony instead of ballustrade as approved under a previous application. The Parish Council could not support this application

**CORRESPONDENCE & NOTICES**

1. The Parish Council was informed that, once again, a **sewer blockage** occurred in part of **Church Road**. On writing to Anglian Water they informed us they would carry out a CCTV survey within the next four weeks and advise the PC of their proposals for remedial work as required.

2. **Bus shelter** - it was decided by the Parish Council to replace the demolished shelter at The Tye with a Rettendon (by Littlethorpe of Leicester). Before placing an order, the Clerk was asked to enquire if ECC would provide some grant funding.

3. The Parish Council agreed to go ahead with the purchase of a **Speed Indicator Device**.

4. The Clerk was asked to contact ECC Highways with regard to installing **MAX SPEED signage at The Tye**.

5. Tim Yeo MP and Sir Alan Haselhurst continue to update the Council on the impending judicial review on the future of **Walnuttree Hospital**.

6. The Parish Council continues to support the campaign to resist the expansion of **Stansted Airport**

**RECEIPTS**

ECC	- grant funding for village hall	£2,500.00
BVHMC	- repayment to BPC for work done	£1,538.33
BVHMC	- repayment for carpet tiles	£165.95
Countryside Agency	- grant funding	£1,318.98
ditto	ditto	£1,407.48

**PAYMENTS**

BVHMC	- carpet tiles	£195.00 inc VAT
Market Town	- website fee (3 months only)	£116.33 inc VAT
BALC	- subscription	£15.00
R & R Lawnmowers	- strimmer repair	£35.00 inc VAT
R. Mortimer	- grass cutting	£707.35 inc VAT
Allianz Comhill	- extra premium for bus shelter in Church Road	£58.30
B. Rawlins-Clerk	- salary (6 months)	£820.00
B. Rawlins-Clerk	- expenses ditto	£67.31 inc VAT



It was proposed by Cllr. Wright, seconded by Cllr. Mills to **ADOPT the Annual Return to the Charity Commission for Lawrence Coe Recreational Ground**, which was duly signed by the Chairman on behalf of the Bulmer Parish Council as Custodian Trustee.

**COUNCIL ELECTIONS**

The Chairman felt that it should be brought to the Parish's notice that Parish Council Elections are due next May and that some of the present Councillors may be standing down. The Parish needs residents to come forward to stand as councillors. There has not been an 'election' for the Parish Council for many years - councillors have either been nominated or co-opted - which is not always as satisfactory as an election.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

1. Cllr. Rowe advised the Clerk of **potholes** in Smeetham Hall Lane.

2. Cllr. Dixey had seen lorries **driving through the 'no entry'** section of road at Plough Green. The Clerk was asked to advise Traffic Police.

3. Cllr. Wright asked if the **BPC meetings could be changed** from Fridays. However, no other evenings, when the village hall was available, were compatible with other Councillors.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.50pm

**ANNUAL ACCOUNTS – Bulmer P C  
For the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2006**

	<b>31 March 2005</b>	<b>31 March 2006</b>
Balance Brought Forward	£83,411	£46,925
(+) Annual Precept	£3,500	£4,500
(+) Annual Support	£1,699	£1,869
(+) Total other receipts	£78,252	£46,778
(-) Staff Costs	£1,783	£1,725
(-) Loan interest/Capt. Repayments	Nil	Nil
(-) Total other Payments	£118,184	£36,020
(=) Balance Carried Forward	£46,925	£62,327
<b>Total Cash &amp; Investments</b>	<b>£46,925</b>	<b>£62,327</b>
<b>Total Fixed Assets &amp; Long Term Assets</b>	<b>£256,926</b>	<b>£268,721</b>
<b>Total Borrowings</b>	<b>Nil</b>	<b>Nil</b>

For further details of the accounts, log on to the Parish Council website at [www.essexinfo.net/bulmer](http://www.essexinfo.net/bulmer) and follow the link from Finances or contact the Parish Clerk.

**PARISH PATHS WALKS**

**Margaret's Autumn Adventures**

Well here we are again, another seasons walking over and quite possibly the festive season too by the time you receive your latest edition of What's On. But don't despair; it's good news for all of you that have over indulged during the Christmas period, as another season's walks will soon be underway to help you walk your way to fitness.

Firstly though we go right back to September last year when the weather was still warm and sunny. Although September, officially a month of Autumn we were still experiencing some very summery conditions for our tour of Borley, Liston and



Long Melford. We converged at Rodbridge Country Park and started on the paths that led us to the rear of Borley Church. We emerged onto the road a little way up from the church and headed for the crossroads towards Borley Smokery. At the crossroads we turned right to walk the paths towards and beyond Brook Hall. We had one short stretch of road to negotiate between these fields and the following paths before reaching Liston Church. The church is situated in Liston Lane where halfway along we joined the St Edmunds Way, or if headed in the opposite direction it becomes the Stour Valley Path. This was quite possibly the most picturesque part of the walk as the sun had completely exposed itself to shine on the once again green fields and weirs of Liston before bringing us to Melford. After taking varying paths through Melford we left by following the dismantled railway which then brought us back to Rodbridge where we discovered some work was being carried out on one of the bridges.

The sleepers which once lay between the girders of the bridge have now been removed and at the time of our walk



had only been temporarily filled with a narrow stretch of soil which wasn't that pleasant to walk along. It will be interesting to see the new surface on completion to see how it compares to its original construction.

In October a great number of people arrived to be taken by Margaret to meet the Loshes Giant. I dare say, as I was, these great numbers of people were intrigued as to discover who this giant was. For those of you who didn't make the walk I'm not going to tell you either. I will however, tell you how to get there if you feel inclined to meet the giant for yourself. We left Plough Green on an overcast afternoon that had threatened rain. (The weather isn't really relevant but adverse conditions may make your walk less enjoyable). You may not want to attempt this walk after a heavy snowfall either. Anyway, continuing on, we walked part of the Ryes Lane byway before turning right through a gate where the footpath takes you through a little conservation area. If you look closely whilst walking through here on your right you may spy Noah's' Ark. An unlikely looking construction of water going vessel but see what you think. Here the footpaths join the St Edmunds Way, which unless you desire a lengthy detour I suggest you join it. Follow the Saints Way through the grounds of Little Henny church and on reaching the road at the bottom turn left. Continue on to reach Tymperly Farm and take the next right. Here we say farewell to St Edmund and let him continue his way alone. At the end of this lane you will reach Loshes Meadow and encounter the GIANT. Not quite what I was expecting but I couldn't disagree. Our mission accomplished and our acquaintances made we strolled home. Loshes granted us permission to walk through his meadows to reach the lower fields of Fenn Farm where the beginnings of Autumn were now visible. Although the trees still clung on to their leaves and only one or two had changed colour the conditions underfoot were now becoming wetter. Since our last visit to Fenn Farm I discovered that the unusual looking

cow had vanished. I hoped it was still alive and well somewhere. The sheep were still present though. I wonder if they used to reside in Pebmarsh. The footpaths of Fenn Farm took us to meet with the paths that run across the fields of Dove House Farm where we rejoined the road to take the bridle path up to the Old Rectory before reaching Ryes Lane again where the first of our GIANT investigators departed.

By November Autumn had really made its presence felt and our trip beyond Belchamp Walter had to be cancelled. Due to the rainfall of the previous couple of weeks and the heavy downpours on the actual morning of our proposed walking date

Margaret was a little concerned as to the waterlogged state of the chosen paths and for the first time since I joined Margaret on her walks we were actually beaten by the weather.



We did however have perfect weather conditions for our moonlight walk around Bulmer on the evening of the 5<sup>th</sup> of December. We had a wonderfully clear night and were totally guided by the moon. We were also able to identify quite a few of the local landmarks with just a little help from some of the lights that surround Bulmer before a few of us returned to Jenkins for drinks, nibbles and mince pies.

Lisa Sandford

## FUTURE WALKS FOR 2007

### Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> January at 12 mid-day

**Pat's Choice.** 7 miles around Long Melford. Meet at Melford Garden Centre car park (park at the lower end). Bring some food if you might feel peckish. Enquiries phone Margaret Mills 269377.


### Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> February at 2pm

**Martin's Choice.** 6 miles around Bures. Meet at Bures railway station. Enquiries to Martin Hilder phone 474080.

### Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> March at 2.30pm

**Beyond Belchamp Walter.** Hopefully, no floods to stop us this time! 5 miles along some paths not taken by PPW before. Meet at Goldingham Hall by kind permission of Ashley Cooper. Enquiries to Margaret Mills 269377.

Strong footwear is recommended as mud is often encountered and some paths may be a bit rough. All walks are suitable for adult accompanied children of 6 or 7 upwards.

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 Finally may wish you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year. I would also like to say a big thank you to all those who write articles for What's On, who make it so interesting to read.  
**Could I please have all material for the next issue by the 15<sup>th</sup> March – Mike Crome (Editor)**