

Village Bulletin

March 2014 Issue 137

www.westbergholt.net

New Year's Award for West Bergholt Resident

A West Bergholt woman has been recognised in the New Year's Honours awards for her services to Higher Education.

Deanna Walker has been awarded the BEM (British Empire Medal) for her work at the University of Essex where she is administrator in the Registry Department. She joined the university staff 25 years ago in the Admissions Department working in several administrative roles before reaching her present position as Senior Academic Officer. Her work has included mentoring junior colleagues which, she believes, also contributed to colleagues recommending her for the award.

Her personal quest to record a local community led Deanna to make a significant contribution to social history. Her studies of the Basildon plotlands, where people lived on rural land and where she spent family holidays, led her to write a book on the subject. She and fellow writer Peter Jackson recorded memories of the disappearing community in another book. Deanna has shared her knowledge through giving talks and at day schools.

Even so Deanna is modest about her achievements. She says, "The award came out of the blue. When the letter came notifying me, I couldn't understand why I was chosen as I just do an ordinary working job."

It is work she loves and she has other reasons for considering the University of Essex a special place. It is where she studied for her History degree and where she met her husband, Paul, a fellow student. A keen writer, she takes advantage of the writers' workshops held at the University and she also enjoys studying at the WEA courses held in the village.

Her writing covers her wide range of interests ranging from J.B. Priestley to science fiction. She has combined her interest in science fiction with her writing skills to pitch story ideas to the producers of Star Trek. Her latest work, a radio play, In the 'Shadow of the Bulldozer', has been podcast as part of the Essex Book Festival and she is now working on children's stories.

Deanna and her husband Paul, a tutor, say of the village, "We have lived here for seventeen years and love it here."

She will be presented with her award at a ceremony at Ingatestone Hall and is also looking forward to the garden party at Buckingham Palace to celebrate her achievement.

Village Bulletin *Information*

PROVIDED BY THE PARISH COUNCIL OF WEST BERGHOLT

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John Gili-Ross
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Vice-Chairman

Harry Stone
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David Short	60 Albany Road	☎	241 715
Chris Stevenson	74 Mumford Road	☎	241 708
Bob Tyrrell	43 Albany Road	☎	240 016
Phil Walby	2 The Hop House	☎	240 000
Rachel Young	1 Ormonde Close	☎	240 360

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<i>Planning and Development</i>	Chris Stevenson, Andrew Savage, Bob Tyrrell
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CLERK TO THE PARISH COUNCIL

Val Walsom 17 Armoury Road, CO6 3JN ☎ 240 149
The Parish Clerk is available for Parish business at any reasonable time, but in particular on Tuesday evenings.

ORPEN HALL ADMINISTRATOR

Vicky Beckwith-Cole email: hall-admin@westbergholt.net ☎ 619 258
The Administrator is available to deal with enquiries at any reasonable time. Bookings should be made at the Hall on Thursdays between 7pm and 8pm. Please use the old side entrance.

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Marcus Harrington	Barn End, Cooks Hall Lane	☎	241 411
Dennis Willetts	dennis.willetts@btinternet.com	☎	240 314

ESSEX COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Anne Brown email: Cllr.Anne.Brown@essexcc.gov.uk

Parish Council monthly meetings are held in the John Lampon Hall on the fourth Wednesday of every month starting at 7.30pm. Prior to the start of the meetings, between 7.15pm and 7.30pm, the public are invited to raise any item for consideration by the Parish Council at its next meeting.

The village bulletin is funded by the Parish Council as part of a community service. It is issued quarterly and distributed to every household in the Parish. The views expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Parish Council.

West Bergholt Concert Band



The Band brought 2013 to a sparkling end at the West Cliff Theatre, with our Christmas Concert described by one audience member as “the most enjoyable Christmas Concert I’ve been to in many, many years”. As well as being a hugely enjoyable event, the packed house helped us raise over £1500 for St Helena Hospice, meaning we raised more for charities in our 35th anniversary year than in any other, and leaving us within a few pounds of having raised £30,000 in recent years. Prior to the Christmas Concert our November “Band Play Day” and Concert at St Botolph’s raised over £500 for CLIC Sargent, the Cancer charity for young people, and saw the band present a stunning performance of music ranging from ‘Peter and the Wolf’ to ‘One Direction’...the very definition of eclectic !

The start of 2014 sees us embarking on a major recruiting drive to replace the swathe of players who will be leaving for University in September. This year sees a double-whammy of a particularly high number of leavers combined with those leavers being some of our best players, so we will be doing everything we can to replace them. We’ve already held one of our popular Open Rehearsals as well as a Training Band schools rehearsal & mini-concert, and have another scheduled for March 29th at Millfields, Wivenhoe. As ever the band is very welcoming of new players, so if you did happen to receive a Brass or Woodwind instrument for Christmas...you know where we are. The band has always been a friendly bunch, we don’t audition new members, and the band’s uniqueness is that we have players from 7 to 70, so there’s always someone younger/older/worse/better than you. If not, you could help us spread the word about the band by letting schools and music teachers know about us...we will be very appreciative for you doing so.

Our concerts for the year start at the West Cliff Theatre, with “Broadway to the Big Bands” featuring music from Artie Shaw, Dave Brubeck, Sousa, Henry Mancini...and many more.

Sunday 16th March – 3:00pm – West Cliff Theatre, Clacton.

After that we’re hoping to perform on Castle Park Band Stand for the first time, with the provisional date of Sunday 22nd June at 3pm...we should have the date confirmed by the time the next Bulletin comes out.

We’re then returning to a recently discovered but now favourite venue, St Peter ad Vincula in Coggeshall, for our Summer Concert of “A Centenary Of Music”, including pieces from Holst and Sousa through to Adele and Pirates of The Caribbean.

Saturday 12th July – 7:30pm – St Peter ad Vincula.

Everything you need to know about the band (including how to join us, details of all our events and, how to buy tickets) is on our website www.wbcb.org, or you can call Graham on 01206 824157 or email Graham@wbcb.org. We look forward to seeing you at some of our events this year...and wish you a belated Happy New Year.



Last December saw 38 members and guests attend the 19th Annual General Meeting of The Friends of Hillhouse Wood. Following the close of the meeting the guest speaker, Mitchell McLean, presented a fascinating talk on the subject of “*Foraging for Fruits of the Wood*”. This included spectator participation in both handling and tasting some of the samples!

We are now looking forward to the Spring and our events. We will shortly be deciding on a date for the ‘Bluebell Open Day’ based on guesses about the forthcoming weather! The ‘Dawn Chorus’ event is more dependant on which date certain people are available to meet outside St. Mary’s Old Church at 3.45am irrespective of the weather.

And talking of the weather, episodes of high winds throughout the winter created some damage in the Wood. However, coordinated work between ‘The Friends’ and The Woodland Trust has kept on top of the situation. And, of course, our Working Party, which achieves so much throughout the Wood, always welcomes new help. Anyone wishing to assist should contact David Bull on 01206 241684 for more information.

Andrew Savage, Chairman

<http://westbergholt.net/village-life/chubs/hillhouse-wood/>

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THE CHURCHES CONSERVATION TRUST

Friends of St. Mary's Old Church

The Church hosted a display of Christmas Trees which were decorated by a number of village organisations. Thanks are due to all who supported this and those who sponsored the trees namely, the History Group, Bluebells Pre School group, Guides and Brownies, Cubs Beavers and Rainbows and the West Bergholt Youth group. We were also visited by two of the sheep who were to be found around the village in the run up to Christmas. Our two visitors stayed for two weeks until they moved to the parish church for the big day. As well as the trees, the Church was festooned with winter greenery co-ordinated by the Friends. With lit candles a magical scene ensued.

The decorated trees made a splendid setting for the Annual Carol Service which was hugely popular with seats very much at a premium. In fact some people arrived 45 minutes early to ensure that they had a seat. The service was conducted by Reverend John Chandler and thanks are due to Caroline Finlay's Choir who were superb in their rendition of their Christmas anthems. Thanks also to Mike Neish who played the venerable organ with great aplomb and to the anonymous husband of one of the choir who was co-opted to pump the instrument.

Attendees were very generous with the retiring collection and this along with the many Friends who have paid their subscriptions means that the Friends finances remain in good order. If any member of the Friends has still not renewed then our Treasurer Rhys Lloyd will be delighted to receive your subscription.

The Christmas Cards produced by the Friends proved very popular and a big thank you is due to all the people who purchased these. It is interesting to speculate where the cards ended up in the world and if they will inspire people to come and see the building for themselves.

The half yearly attendance return upon which the Conservation Trust depend for their funding showed that over 3000 folk visited the church during the summer. It is very gratifying to the Friends to know that the Church remains a popular place to visit. We are also pleased that two couples are holding their Big Day at the Church in the summer. If anyone else is contemplating marriage or a marriage blessing, please consider using our wonderful and historic building thereby joining the thousands of villagers who have made their vows there over the centuries.

When visiting the Church either as an individual or as part of a group, please ensure that you sign the visitors book as it assists the funding of the Trust.

Martin Long, Chairman
Friends of St Mary's Old Church
Telephone 240443



The Care Network is here to help any residents of the village, whatever their age, to get to appointments if transport is needed and other means are not possible or available. Most journeys are to Doctors' Surgeries, Clinics or Hospitals, but other local appointments can be considered.

Telephone the number below for the day on which you make your call. Try to phone at least a day or two before you need transport. If there is no reply please try any other number but do not leave answer-phone messages as we are unable to respond to these.

Monday 241103 Tuesday 242185
Wednesday 247016 Thursday 240569
Saturday/Sunday 242075

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer driver - hours and times of your choice, please contact Harry Stone on 241026.

AGM Wednesday 30th April, at 7.30pm,
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Friendship Club

The Friendship Club met in the Orpen Hall in January after a Christmas break. At the first meeting in 2014 members heard a talk by Mr. Frewer about his time as a journalist in Spain. Two weeks later, a very interesting talk with slides was given by Mr. Rose on Yellow Stone Park. The speaker for February was Susan Leng on her trip to Norway. Future talks and outings have been arranged for the coming months.

The Friendship Club meets every second and fourth Thursday afternoon between 2pm and 4pm at the Orpen Hall. We look forward to seeing you if you are over 55 years (men and woman)

Please telephone 240824. for further information



St. Mary's Church

Good News! – not only the title of our church magazine – just call 752056 to get a copy delivered to your door, but also that an advertisement was placed in The Church Times early in January for a new Priest in Charge. Exciting times for St. Mary's as we look to link up – not only with the churches of St. John's and All Saints in Great Horkesley but with St Mary's, Langham and St. Peter's, Boxted too. At the time of writing we are awaiting responses to our advert and plans are being made for any prospective applicants to be interviewed by all three parishes in March. Please pray for everyone involved in the recruitment process.

Chelmsford Diocese of which St. Mary's is part, is celebrating its centenary this year and as part of the celebrations, Bishop Stephen has called for all parishes to celebrate its size and diversity. We are trying to arrange some special events to celebrate this – more details in due course.

Our Annual Parochial Church Council Meeting is on 27th March at 8pm in the Church.

A series of Lent Bible studies start on 11th March at 8pm and will be held in the Church Hall. All are welcome. Meetings start with refreshments and will finish by 9.15pm. If you would like further information please contact Michael Foster on 241022.

Regular events at St Mary's include Open House – weekly on Thursday mornings, Squeals on Wheels during Open House, 5T's – fortnightly on Thursday afternoons, Wired – youth group for secondary school aged children – monthly, Groundbreakers – holiday club for primary aged children – termly, senior citizens' lunches – as announced.

Our Sunday services are at 9.30am with BUGS (St. Mary's Sunday School). Holy Communion is celebrated on the 1st and 3rd Sundays.

Services for Easter include:

5th March, 8pm – Ash Wednesday Holiday Communion at Methodist Chapel

17th April, 8pm – Maundy Thursday Holy Communion at St. John's, Gt. Horkesley

18th April, 10.30am – Good Friday service at St. Mary's

20th April, 9.30am – Easter Sunday Celebration service with family Communion St. Mary's

Our website – which includes details of the Church Diary is

www.sites.google.com/site/stmaryswebbergholt/

Slim for Charity

Members of the West Bergholt Slimming World group (held every Tuesday 5.30pm and 7.30pm at the John Lampon Hall) are taking part in a national 'Slim for Good' campaign running across all Slimming World groups. The aim of the six-week drive, which kicks off on 24th February, is to help people lose weight and improve their health whilst raising money for a good cause in the local area. The Bergholt group chose to support St Helena Hospice for all the help they give people and their families with life limiting illness. Katie, the group's consultant, wants to invite anyone that feels like they would like to lose some weight to join us!

If you would like to take part in the six-week 'Slim for Good' campaign you can do so anytime from 25th February. Sponsorship forms are available from the group. For more information please contact Katie on 07774 003616.

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West Bergholt Women's Institute



December was our Christmas meeting. During the meeting the President, Susan Leng, presented a voucher to Marie-Louise Fuell who was the 2013 winner of our monthly competition. Hillary Nugent and Manya Barrow were runners up.

The evening continued with a supper provided by the members. Magic Marvo, a magician entertained, with everyone puzzled by his clever tricks. A grand raffle enabled everyone to receive a prize.

Later in the month member, Manya Barrow, invited all the W.I. members to her house for mulled wine and mince pies with entertainment and Christmas carols which everyone joined in. A convivial afternoon to end the W.I. year.

In January the Vice-president, Bea Girkin, welcomed several new members and a guest. There was no speaker so members brought CD's to play for 'Desert Island Discs' and talked about the reason for their choice. The competition was a luxury item to take to the Desert Island. The winner was Mary Brent with her suggestion – a pillow. Social Time was enjoyed by all with a team word game.

In February the President was back in the chair and pleased to see so many new members. Gary Egerton, a blue badge London Guide, made a welcome return visit with his talk on Strange and Unknown Facts about London.

Our social time was enjoyed by everyone with a Power Point presentation showing the W.I.'s varied activities during 2013.

We celebrated West Bergholt W.I.'s 93rd Birthday with Lunch at the Cricketers on 19th February.

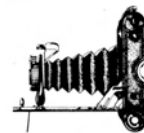
The monthly coffee morning at the Treble Tile continues to be well supported with an average of nineteen members each month. Play reading afternoons are still flourishing.

Our Open Evening on 2nd April sees the return of Brian Carline, speaker, author and broadcaster. His talk is entitled 'An Amusing Account of Life in our Schools'.

Look out for posters around the village with more information during March. All ladies welcome to come along to this special April meeting - £3 including refreshments.

Ten new members have joined our W.I. since last November - if you want to try the W.I. to see whether it is for you, please come along on the first Wednesday of any month at 7.15pm in the Orpen Hall. Details from Susan Leng telephone 241748

West Bergholt History Group



For our November meeting Peter Noakes, one of our members, gave a talk about some West Bergholt road names, This followed on from his talk to children at the local school about the history of their 'house' names.

We did not meet in December. January was a social gathering with mulled wine and nibbles. After looking at some of the archive pictures and documents that the group holds, we watched a short local film depicting times gone-by.

In February we are due to have Dr. Jane Pearson talking about the demise of Marks Hall in Coggeshall.

March will be our Annual Meeting. Following a short report, a film about old times will be shown.

In April we are due to have a talk about pargeting given by Anna Kettle .

We meet every second Wednesday (NOT December) in the Orpen Hall starting at **7.30pm** come along and give us a try!.

During the summer months in better weather (hopefully) we visit churches and other buildings of interest.

65th Wedding Anniversary

Gerda and Geoffrey Rumsey celebrated their 65th Wedding Anniversary in February and were honoured to receive a card from Her Majesty The Queen.

Congratulations to you both.

Library Times

The Mobile Library visits the village **fortnightly on a Tuesday.**

The stops and times for West Bergholt are:

Albany Road	13.55 – 14.20
Scout Hut, Lexden Road	14.45 – 15.30
Queens Road	15.35 – 15.55
Chapel Road	16.00 – 16.45

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Bergholt Heath Youth Football Club



The best thing that can be said about the season at the moment is that there have been few frozen pitches! There have, however, been a number of waterlogged pitches and consequent postponements. It has been a fitting follow-on from the Christmas treat at Leisure World – probably wetter! Everyone seemed to enjoy it so we will probably repeat the format this year.

The Under 9's have become the draw specialists of the CDYPL Singles West League with four of the five games ending with both sides equal. Of those draws two came against arguably the best two teams in the league, so we are very pleased on the continued improvement in their performances. Since the last update to the Bulletin the Under 9's have acquired two new players who have helped strengthen the squad.

Along with the members of the Under 11 squad, the Under 9's are looking forward to being a Guard of Honour at the Colechester United vs. Coventry City football match on the 8th March.

The Under 11's have also fared well of late with two wins since the last Bulletin and the Under 15 team are progressing well in two cup competitions.

The club is looking to expand next season and welcomes youngsters who may be interested in playing at Under 7. This is in a five-a-side format now and the relevant school year will be those children who will be in Year Two come September this year. If you are interested please let me know on the telephone number below.

We are pleased to report that we are making good progress with the Club's quest to be Charter Standard. Ian Turner has headed our initiative in this area and we should be in a position to discuss further at our Awards Evening which is scheduled to be held at 6pm on Saturday 14th June at the Orpen Hall. We hope to have the status by the start of next season and we need to explain it to all members prior to achieving it.

This date is also the day that England starts their World Cup campaign against Italy. This match kicks off at 11.30 pm so we should be finished up and everyone home by then. The evening will have a World Cup theme to get everyone in the mood.

Leslie Wright, 01206 241438

Workers' Educational Association

We ran an interesting ten-week course last autumn. It was all about coastal ecology and conservation and we were fortunate to have the well-known local wildlife man, Fred Boot, who enthused the class with his knowledge and slides of areas in East Anglia.

This spring term we are trying out running a shorter, six-week, course which we hope will avoid the worst of the winter weather and cost less. Our tutor is a teacher who lived and worked in Oman for a number of years and he is giving us an illustrated introduction to the Sultanate of Oman. He is talking about all aspects of the Sultanate from its physical characteristics and resources, its history before the modern development, Oman as a colonial power and the development of its crafts of all sorts. The last session gives a glimpse of the modern day Omanis and what one might see there. Fascinating!

We do not know what our next season's courses will be yet but generally they are illustrated and full of interest and we consider them good value for money. Look out for information later on, on the WEA and Village websites, posters and flyers in the village and in the Bulletin and the local paper. The classes are open to all. Everyone is welcome.

Bluebell Pre-School - Learning Through Play

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If you would like to know more or put your child's name on our waiting list, contact Jackie Leach on 241677.

WANTED

Volunteers needed at the Bulletin
We need people to deliver on a regular basis and to cover for illness and holidays. The Bulletin is produced four times a year.

If you are interested please telephone Nora on 240741 or Bernard on 240297 for more details.

West Bergholt Gardeners' Association



We ended the year with interesting talks by Sally Hepher on the Woodland Trust and Barry Kaufmann-Wright on his former occupation of Wildlife Crime Officer with Essex Police.

Sally Hepher's talk illustrated the value of the Woodland Trust in creating new woodland, restoring old woods and in particular protecting ancient woodlands from the pressure of today's road, rail and housing developments. It was becoming increasingly important to retain woodland to save endangered species and their habitats for future generations. The talk was well appreciated by the Members and it is more than likely that she will be asked to return to give a further talk on one of her varied interests.

Barry Kaufmann-Wright described the ongoing work aimed to protect our wildlife population from both man and machine. He talked of the protective works which had been carried out to save several species. He referred in particular to his knowledge of both newts and badgers, the former still threatened by new developments and the latter from man and illegal baiting. In all an interesting as well as an educative talk.

In 2014 we embark upon a new year, full of sunshine? and gardening promise. It is hoped that the programme for the next six months will encourage people to come along to one of our meetings and participate in our outings – you may well like to join the Association.

Spring Summer Programme

17 February - Eddy Harris - Looked for plants in South Africa

17 March - Geoff Hodge - Luscious Lawns – Lawn Care

14 April - Richard Ford - Hostas

May - PLANT SALE - All proceeds to Charity

19 June - Day Trip - Waddesdon Manor

Includes House and Gardens and Aviary, Woodland also Shops, Restaurants and Wine Cellars.

We welcome new members and anyone that may be interested in either joining the club or participating in our summer outing should telephone 01206 241256 or email at wbgardeners@gmail.com

Tom Souter (Publicity)

The West Bergholt Gardening Association is organising an open gardens event on 22nd June 2014. The gardens will open between 1pm until 5pm and there will be an opportunity to buy plants and other gardening goodies. There will be a small charge for the programme (children free) and profits from this event will be donated to the Teenage Cancer Trust. The Methodist Hall in Chapel Lane will be open for teas, plants and some parking and the Orpen Hall in Lexden Road will be open for teas and ample parking is available too.

We are looking for all types of gardens and if you would like to offer yours for this event please email wbopengardens@gmail.com. If you feel unable to offer your garden, but would like to donate plants for sale, these can be left at the Methodist Church Hall or Orpen Hall on the day. All donations are appreciated.

Contact David Withnall on (01206) 520361 or 07854 763977 or Deena Moore on (01206) 241324

Please support this event and put West Bergholt on the gardening map!

Copy for the June edition should be received by 1st May 2014.

Late additions cannot be guaranteed entry
Submissions to any of the Bulletin team.

Advertising:

Vicky Beekwith-Cole telephone 619258
hall-admin@westbergholt.net

Susan Swan - telephone 242319

Susan Leng - telephone 241748

Jane Williams - telephone 243636

Distribution:

John and Nora Bates telephone 240741

Editor: Bernard Colbron - telephone 240297
bernardcolbron@btinternet.com

All articles and letters are accepted on the condition that they may be edited.

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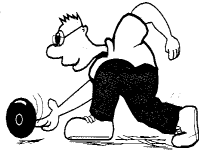
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West Bergholt Indoor Bowls Club



After the festivities of Christmas the club is enjoying lots of competitive bowling.

A match against Ardleigh away was lost by the narrowest of margins.

The club's annual fours trophy match was also the tightest of result for many a year, two shots separating two top teams after three games of nine ends. Great bowls was enjoyed by all who took part. It was followed by afternoon tea.

Our match competition's member, George Coppin, has had a good spell of late by winning both a county discipline for Team Bowl and winning his heat for the County Singles elimination. Good luck to him in the finals in March.

All members are looking forward to the drawn pairs evening in February which is the last competition of the season.

We have a few vacancies in the club and welcome new players to join us on Sunday or Thursday evenings at 7pm in the Orpen Hall. We look forward to seeing you, just come along or call 01206 243301.

Danger to wildlife

A resident of the village found a dead young roe buck after a lady reported seeing a large brown dog chasing deer in the fields behind the church adjacent to Hillhouse Wood. In addition, an older doe (his mother?) was discovered lying wounded with her entrails hanging out – and had to be humanely dispatched.

As you can imagine, these animals must have suffered terribly and it can only be assumed that the dog, (or dogs), responsible were not deliberately set on the deer for poaching reasons as both animals were left behind.

Whilst most people appear to be in control of their dogs when walking around the area, there must occasionally be times when some owners aren't aware of what their dogs are doing.

Hopefully this will act as a reminder to such owners to ensure that their dogs are not responsible for such carnage in the future.

Garage and shed security

Whilst most houses have adequate security what is often neglected is the shed or garage, “nothing much in there” I hear you say, “Just a garden spade and fork”, **but these are perfect tools for burglars to use to get in your house.** Adds insult to injury when the tool used to break into your house is your own, so give it some attention.

Garages and sheds by the nature of their construction and position especially when away from the house are always going to be vulnerable. Quite often the supplied locks provide just the barest minimum security and are easily overcome so always consider supplementing the existing locks with further locking systems both for the doors and items within.

On **garage** doors this could be by adding locking bolts to both sides of the “up and over door” or a garage door defender in the ground in front of the door. With **sheds** coach-bolt and plate the padlock hasp sections to the frame and door, use a good quality “Close Shackle” padlock; don't forget the hinges - ensure they cannot be unscrewed.

Consider using “Ground Anchors” or “Shed Shackles” to chain larger items to (again good quality padlock and chain); keep chain tight so that it is not in contact with a surface it can be struck against. Protect windows with a wire mesh and fit a curtain or white wash the windows to prevent prying eyes.

Visibly security mark your property with your post code and house number this reduces the value to the thief; you can even register serial numbers free of charge at www.immobilise.com

It is also worth fitting a shed alarm to the shed or garage, and adding security lighting. These are relatively inexpensive and available from most DIY/hardware stores.

If siting a new shed, where possible, position it within sight of rooms in the house routinely occupied.


Products that are fit for purpose can be found by looking for the “Secured by Design” or “Sold Secure” logos, or on their websites <http://www.securedbydesign.com/> or <http://www.soldsecure.com/>.



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First Responders

Following the article in December's bulletin I would like to update about the current situation regarding the West Bergholt Community First Responders. Amanda Osborn, who lives at Fordham Heath, has kindly agreed to continue the smooth running of the group. She has already made contact with five potential members, one of whom is a returning responder. In addition, a trained responder from Stanway has recently taken on responsibility to respond for a five day period.

The dynamics of the group have changed but I am confident that West Bergholt will continue to be covered as we have been previously.

Any enquiries should still be made to me, Annie Neish. I will pass the details to Amanda.

Watch this space!

Annie Neish 240469

Allotment News

Another new season is upon us with once again weather conditions being the key to the endeavours of plot holders during 2014. You would be forgiven if you thought that ever since the hosepipe ban in 2012 it has not stopped raining, particularly these last few months during the winter period, which has really been challenging for those on the allotments.

Looking back on 2013 the allotments continue to provide a central recreational function for the green fingered residents in West Bergolt with the number of plots being made available increasing to 141. This creditable increase has been achieved with the introduction of starter plots (2.5 rods) and 5 rod plots. In addition, during the year, a successful bid by the allotment committee secured a grant from the Essex County Council's Editable Essex funds for the purchase of a powerful rotovator to be available for members in future times. Amongst other things the award recognised how the profile of allotment users had changed in recent times with a significant increase in numbers of female/family participants and more senior citizens.

The 2013 growing season yielded good success for all, in particular, soft fruit such as strawberries, raspberries and blackcurrants. Conditions were equally favourable for various salad produce along

with the traditional vegetables of broad beans, potatoes, carrots, summer greens, corn on the cob along with the winter crops of leek, parsnip, swede cauliflower and Brussels sprouts. One thing all plot holders appreciate, in addition to the reward and taste of growing one's own fruit and vegetables, is the savings achieved to the weekly household budget.

The allotment committee continues to ensure that the allotments cater for the novice as well as the seasoned grower. If you are a resident in the community and interested in acquiring an allotment plot simply contact the Clerk for West Bergholt Parish Council, Val Walsom. She can be emailed at westbergholtpc@googlemail.com or contacted by telephone at reasonable times at Colchester 240149. Your name may be added to a waiting list but a member of the committee will be in touch to make introductions and aid you in your selection of an allotment plot when available.

Before making contact you may wish to visit us on the Parish Council website
<http://westbergholt.net/village-life/clubs/allotments/>.

The website provides plot holders with up to date contact details of the allotment committee, minutes from quarterly meetings, site rules, important dates for site meetings, bonfires, etc.

Also, during the past year an increasing number of plot holders have joined other voluntary networks within the community from providing transport to snow clearing.

Within the allotment community there are no strangers - simply just new acquaintances to be made.

Finally, to quote a phrase of a well known celebrity – let's Keeeeeeeeeep GROWING!!!!

West Bergholt Badminton Club



The Badminton Club 'still' meets at the Orpen Hall on Tuesday evenings between 7.45 pm and 9.45 pm. If you are over sixteen and would like to join us, please come along and play.

We also have space for a limited number aged between fourteen and sixteen but please contact Bernard on 240297.



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Methodist Church

We are always overjoyed with the collection of Christmas Gifts donated by the members of Uniformed Organisations of our village. Two large boxes of gifts and toys were delivered to the Women and Children who are currently staying in the Colchester Refuge and other gifts were shared between the Night Shelter and Beacon House. Letters of thanks have been received.

As a church we are always pleased to accept donations all through the year for these organisations. Any unwanted toiletries, good quality clothing, jackets and household linen can be left in the vestibule, with church members or contact Judith on 241969 for further details. Please do not leave any goods outside the Church.

On 5th March an ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE will be held at 8pm. in the Church.

The WOMENS' WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE takes place this year on Friday 7th March. We are holding a Soup'n'Snack lunch in the Hall from 12.30pm followed by a service in the Church at 1.30pm. The service this year has been arranged by women in Egypt, and is titled Streams in the Desert. One of the oldest civilisations in the world currently experiencing conflict and terror. Our prayers are needed Worldwide particularly for the women and children of Egypt.

Please join us - all are welcome.

Our QUIZ NIGHT is Saturday 29th March at 7pm. A real fun evening with our regular quiz master Michael Morrissey arranging a wide variety of questions. If you have not been before book a table early and join all our regular teams. Tables of four at £16 including light refreshments.

Telephone Judith on 241969 to book.

Holy Week meditation services will be taking place around our sector's churches from 14th to 19th April. This year our Good Friday Service will be at Boxted Methodist Church at 3pm. On Saturday 19th April a meditation Service will be in our Church at 8.00pm. For the young children we are holding a FAMILY COFFEE & CRAFT EASTER themed morning on Monday 14th April from 10.30am-12 noon. Children up to eight years. If you came along to our Christmas morning you will know how much fun the children had. The cost is £2.50.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK takes place from 11th to 17th May. Our village collections are always well

supported but without our band of door to door collectors this would not be possible. Extra helpers are always needed. Contact Susan on 241431 if you would like to help.

All our regular services, weekly and monthly events can be found in the Church Diary or on our Church Notice Board.

Methodist Church Diary

March

5th	Ash Wednesday Service	8pm
7th	Womens' World Day of Prayer	
	Church Service	1.30pm
	Soup-n-Snack Lunch in Hall	12.30pm
11th	Shared Village Communion	11.00am
12th	Coffee Morning in Hall	10.00am
16th	Circuit Service at	
	Castle Methodist Church	10.30am
19th	Womens' Fellowship in Hall	
	Speaker Mr Derek Webber	2.30pm
20th	Bible Study - the Manse	7.30pm
23rd	United Service at Gt. Horkesley	11.00am
29th	Quiz Night in Hall	7.00pm.
30th	Mothering Sunday	11.00am

April

8th	Shared Village Communion	11.00am
9th	Coffee Morning in Hall	10.00am
13th	Palm Sunday	11.00am
14th	Family Coffee and Craft in Hall	10.30am
16th	Womens' Fellowship in Hall	
	Rev. Alan Jenkins	2.30pm
17th	Bible Study - the Manse	7.30pm
19th	Holy Week Meditation in Church	8.00pm
20th	Easter Day Service	11.00am

May

11th - 17th	Christian Aid Week	
13th	Shared Village Communion	
14th	Coffee Morning in Hall	10.00am
15th	Bible Study - the Manse	7.30pm
21st	Womens Fellowship in Hall	2.30pm

Speaker - Vivienne Wright - Beacon House:

All regular services at 11.00am.

Please check Notice Board for any combined or changed times.

Rev. Ruth Ridge is available in the church for a time of quiet prayer or support from 9.30-10.00am each Saturday or can be contacted on 242183 at other times.

Orpen Players – Cinderella



It was great to see this year's pantomime from this long established village group (Oh no it wasn't! Oh yes it was.... let's not go there!) that has served up a delicious feast of mirth and merriment once again. In fact this was the 38th Christmas show!

Peter Cox's Cinderella was no exception to the rule and this colourful, beautifully set show was a delight to behold. The energy and passion with which the performers endow the production bears testimony to the hard work put in by everyone concerned from director to props lady, stage management, construction, lighting and FOH give yourselves a pat on the back.

The Ugly Sisters treated us to a vitriolic display of bad manners and stupidity as befitting of the roles. The Fairy Godmother was suitably scatty for one so ancient but very endearing to both Cinderella and

audience alike. Buttons was superb and had the audience with her throughout as they clapped and cheered her every entrance. Moose Forthright was superb and for a moment many of us believed the great man himself had just entered the building! Dandini supported her Prince very ably and obviously enjoyed the role. A tremendous performance from a

young Cinderella must herald a new find for the Orps as she sang and danced her way into every heart. A new approach to the music was provided by a very tight knit band of keyboard and guitars – well done. But the top accolade must go, very fittingly, to Clopper the horse – 'Best in show'!



Join us in May for our Spring Production

Terrance Rattigan's *'The Deep Blue Sea'*
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- Post Office Chapel Road (Half day Saturday)
(in Co-op) Telephone: 240355
- Methodist Church Rev. Ruth Ridge
The Manse, Chapel Lane,
West Bergholt – 01206 242183
- News Correspondent Jacqui Hunns
The Laurels, Firmins Court
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To book hall-admin@westbergholt.net

St Marys Church - 60 persons **Church Hall** - 20-40 persons **Vestry** - 12 persons.
to book Phone Murray Harlow 07989720256

Methodist Church Hall - 20-60 persons. To book Phone David Kay 243 574

Sundays:

Service of Worship, 9.30am St Mary's Church.

Contact: stmaryswestbergholt@googlemail.com

Service of Worship, 11am Morning Worship - Methodist Church.

Contact: Rev. Ruth Ridge; 242183

Bowls Club, 7.30pm Orpen Hall. Contact: Eileen Brown 243301

Mondays:

West Bubs Cubs, 6.30pm-8pm Scout Hut.

Contact: Charles Hart; 241666

Bluebells Preschool, Monday to Friday 9.15am - 3.15pm

Orpen Hall. Contact: Jackie Leach 241677

Baby & Toddler Group, 9.15-11.30am Term time.

Methodist Church Hall -

Contact Jess Whitbread 07807 840964

WB Art Group, 2pm Methodist Church Hall.

Contact: Mrs Pearce; 240200

Gardeners Association, 7.30pm 3rd Monday

Contact: Terry Claydon; 241256

SG Karate Club, 8.30pm-9.30pm Scout Hall.

Contact: Stuart Glister 365150

Zumba Fitness, 6.45pm - 7.45pm Methodist Church Hall.

Contact: Mrs Clark 272759

Tuesdays:

NHS Primary Care Trust Baby Clinic, 9.30-10.30

Methodist Church Hall second and fourth TuesdayS

Communion Service, 11am 2nd Tuesday Methodist Church

Badminton Club, 7.45pm Orpen Hall.

Contact: Bernard Colbron 240297

W.E.A., 8pm Methodist Church Hall.

Contact: Mrs Hurley; 240791

Slimming World, 5.30pm and 7.30pm John Lampon Hall.

Contact: Katie 07774003616

Little Stars, Scout Hut on Tuesday 9am - 11.30am.

Open to children 0-5 years throughout the year, older children welcome in the holidays. Contact: Yvonne 07812637607 or y.pickin@gmail.com for enquiries

WB Knitting & Crochet Group, is a house group

Meeting 1st Tuesday from 7.30pm - 9.30pm.

Phone 01206 242015 for details

Beehive Children's Centre, Methodist Church hall, Chapel Lane.

1st, 3rd and 5th Tuesday of each month from 9.30 - 10.30 am.

Clinic will run with our support as a drop in for families.

Wednesdays:

Coffee Morning, 10am 2nd Wednesday.

Methodist Church Hall

Women's Institute, 7.15pm 1st Wednesday Orpen Hall.

Contact: Susan Leng 241748

Colne Valley Flower Club, 7.30pm 3rd Wednesday

Orpen Hall. Contact: 241155

History Group, 7.30pm 2nd Wednesday Orpen Hall.

Contact: Bernard Colbron 240297

Parish Council Meeting, 7.30pm 4th Wednesday

John Lampon Hall

Ladies Afternoon Badminton, 2.30pm - 4pm Orpen Hall.

Contact: Carol Felton: 240126

W.B. Beavers, 4.45pm-6.00pm Scout Hut

Contact: Charles Hart 241666

W.B. Scouts, 7.30pm-9.30pm Scout Hut.

Contact: Kevin Sturdy 240549

Zumba Fitness, 6.45pm- 7.45pm. Methodist Church Hall.

Contact: Mrs Clark 272759.

Pats Pals, 2.30pm Methodist Church Hall

WB Craft & Quilters, 2nd Wednesday, Orpen Hall,

Joyce Lucking Room - 7.30pm-9.30pm.

Contact: Marie-Louise Fuell 240642

WB Knitting & Crochet Group, is a house group

Meeting 3rd Wednesday from 2.30pm - 4pm.

Phone 01206 242015 for details

Wednesday Fellowship, 3rd Wednesday 2.30pm, Methodist Hall

Thursdays:

Squeals on Wheels, 9.30am-11am St Mary's Church Hall

5T's, 2.30pm-4pm 1st, 3rd and 5th Thursday St Mary's Church Hall.

Contact: Murray Harlow 07989720256

Friendship Club, 2pm 2nd and 4th Thursday Orpen Hall.

Contact: Jan Lumb 240824

Colchester & District Model Railway Club,

8pm Armoury Farm. Contact: www.colchestermrcc.org

Zumba Club, 9.30am - 10.30am Methodist Church Hall.

Contact: Mrs Sanders 07909521306

Bowls Club, 7.30pm Orpen Hall. Contact: Eileen Brown 243301

Pilates, 9.30am-10.30am Scout Hut and

7pm-8pm Methodist Church Hall.

Contact: Mrs Smith 564348

Bible Study, 7.30pm 3rd Thursday at the Manse.

Contact: Rev.Ruth Ridge 242183

Fridays:

Little Ducks, 10am-noon St Mary's Church Hall.

Contact: Fay 262775

WB Concert Band, 6pm-7pm (Training) 7pm-9pm (Band)

Heathlands School. Contact: Karen Wilson 824157

Bergholt Youth Goup (BYG), 6.30pm-8pm

Alternate Friday, John Lampon Hall.

Contact: Amber Harlow 242007

Little Stars, Scout Hut on Friday 9am - 11.30am. Open to

children 0-5 years throughout the year, older children

welcome in the holidays. Contact: Yvonne 07812637607

or y.pickin@gmail.com for enquiries

Orpen Players, 8pm Orpen Hall.

Contact: Debbie Hornigold 242111

W.B. Beavers, 4.45pm-6.00pm Scout Hut.

Contact: Charles Hart 241666

W.B. Cubs, 6.30pm-8.00pm Scout Hut.

Contact: Charles Hart 241666

Wired, 7pm-9pm 1st Friday St Mary's Church Hall

Contact: Mark Partridge 241617

Saturdays:

N.E.E. 0 Gauge Model Railway Club, Noon-3pm,

St Mary's Church Hall - Contact: Richard Chadborn: 240541

Morning Prayer and Support, 9.30am-10am

Methodist Church. Contact Rev. Ruth Ridge 242183