

Village Bulletin

March 2015 Issue 141

www.westbergholt.net

Your Village Future is in Your Hands – Lets Take Control Together

West Bergholt's future for the next 30 years is being shaped and developed using a National planning scheme known as the Neighbourhood Plan. For the first time in our history the people of West Bergholt have the opportunity to shape our village future in terms of what is most important to us as residents and includes

- New homes – acceptable numbers and preferred locations.
- Sport and recreational facilities that meet future needs and where these should be located.
- Village hall enhancements that meet future needs and are environmentally sustainable.
- Ensuring our pre-school and primary school are not constrained by space. Provide the right environment to develop our future generations.
- Children's play area enhancements to match the best in Essex .
- Improved footways, cycle ways and traffic safety plans that reflect a vibrant and an interesting place to live.
- Business enhancements – shaping the development of our existing business parks to reflect job creation, local needs and sustainability.

All these points and more must form part of our Neighbourhood Plan before it can be accepted as the model for our village future. This is our opportunity to state what we want to avoid our village future being determined by housing developers and/or external government bodies.

2015 will see the completion of the Neighbourhood Plan prior to it being subject to a village wide referendum before it can be adopted.

The plan outline findings and the vision for the future compiled from surveys and questionnaires will be on display and discussed on

WEDNESDAY 25th March 2015 at 7.30pm

in the Open Hall at the Annual Parish Meeting. All are welcome and encouraged to attend - refreshments provided.

continued on page three

Village Bulletin *Information*

PROVIDED BY THE PARISH COUNCIL OF WEST BERGHOLT

Chairman

John Gili-Ross
67 Mumford Road,
West Bergholt
☎ 242 236



Vice-Chairman

Harry Stone
Vindens, Chapel Lane
West Bergholt
☎ 241 026

PARISH COUNCILLORS

Jenny Church	Doran, Hall Road	☎	240 792
Murray Harlow	25 Valley Crescent	☎	242 007
Rachel Howard	1 Ormonde Close	☎	240 360
Rosemary James	98 Chitts Hill	☎	241038
Andrew Savage	6 Garling Walk	☎	242 015
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

PARISH WORKING COMMITTEES

<i>Premises and Recreation</i>	Phil Walby, Jenny Church, Murray Harlow, Rosemary James, Harry Stone, Rachel Young
<i>Environment and Highways</i>	David Short, Jenny Church, Murray Harlow, Rosemary James, Harry Stone, Phil Walby, Rachel Young
<i>Planning and Development</i>	Chris Stevenson, Andrew Savage, Bob Tyrrell
<i>Finance and Personnel Advisory</i>	Andrew Savage, John Gili-Ross, Chris Stevenson, Harry Stone

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
Mobile 07434949631

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.

BOROUGH COUNCILLORS

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 circulated on behalf of 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.

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Two other exhibitions will also be held at the Orpen Hall on Saturday April 11th and Saturday April 18th, both from 11am. Choose which event will suit you best. Questionnaires will be available at all events for comment and to express your views for the final time on the future of West Bergholt.

Within this Village Bulletin is a paper copy of the questionnaire which readers can send in at any stage in the consultation which runs from March to April 2015.

Now is your unique opportunity to influence the development of the village over the next few decades.

**Your Village Future
is in Your Hands –
Let's Take Control
Together.**

See Insert in centre.

Please Keep West Bergholt Clean and Tidy

The Parish Council recently received complaints from some residents regarding dog fouling. We have a village Handyman who helps to clear up litter but he does not deal with dog poo. It is only the irresponsible dog owners who do not clean up after their dog.

It is important when walking with your dog along roads and pavements that you keep your dog on a lead. Dogs are not allowed on the Lorkin Daniell Field but are allowed on the Heath and on Poors Land. Your dog must be kept under control and remember these areas are where children are playing. Use a plastic bag to pick up any dog poo and place in any of the many dog bins in the village. Please help to keep the village clean.

Parish Council Awarded Quality Status

West Bergholt has been awarded "Quality Status" as part of the national local council award scheme launched in November 2014. Only ten other councils nationally have so far been awarded quality status under the new scheme introduced by the National Association of Local Councils (NALC).

The local council award scheme itself has been designed to celebrate the successes of the very best local councils, and to provide a framework for local councils to improve and develop to meet their full potential. In line with modern practice all submissions to the awarding panel are Internet based.

Commenting on the West Bergholt application the judging panel said:

"The Panel agreed this was a good application and the Council had provided excellent information through its web site. The web site was well organised and easy to navigate. The Village Bulletin was also excellent giving up to date information."

The Quality Standard has three levels of accreditation, including a 'Gold' level, which West Bergholt are not qualified to participate in until after Parish Council elections in May.

In response to the award being made, Chairman John Gili-Ross said:

"Achieving the foundation level is very satisfying from a Councillor's perspective but our community deserves a "Gold Quality" Council and it is our objective to achieve that in 2015."

Friendship Club



The Friendship Club started the new year with an afternoon of quizzes and games. Due to ill health the second meeting in January had to be cancelled.

In February and March speakers and activities are being arranged.

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

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of the
Bulletin Quiz
in the next Bulletin

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Orpen Players

Peter keeps the score with Pantomime number four, and what a wonderful time was had by all.

“Ali Baba” Peter’s fourth Pantomime written and directed by him was a delight from start to finish. The set design and painting again by Peter was of a very high quality, and the costumes arranged by Jenny Deal with the help of group members were magnificent.



*Left to right
Nathan Usher, Robin Warnes, Isobel Pike, Frank Barker,
Holly Snowling, and front Millie Hack.*

Ricci Mussi’s debut as Dame Babs Baba was an instant hit, and every member of the cast, back stage crew, and the band gave it their all to ensure that everything went to plan for a smooth and polished production. Special mention must go to our younger players Sophie Peterson, Isobel Pike, Millie Hack, Jack Hykel, Nathan Usher and Finlay Bloomfield who all rose to the occasion and played their characters with panache. So a big ‘well done’ to everyone involved.

Our next production is to be directed by yours truly. I have chosen a comedy called “Death by Fatal Murder”. It is very funny and I have a brilliant cast, so please make a date to come and see it. Production dates are 14th/15th/16th May 2015.

Colin Downer.

Bulletin Team Members Retire

Nora and John Bates have retired after many years as members of the Village Bulletin Team. We would like to thank them both for the valuable contribution they have made to the community in many ways, and particularly to Nora for her work with the Bulletin distribution. John Gili-Ross, Chairman of the Parish Council added his thanks to Nora and John at the annual “thank-you” party for the Bulletin Distributors.

We need to find a volunteer (or two) to join the Bulletin Team to take delivery of the Bulletins and count them into bundles for the different areas of the village. These are then collected by other members of the Team who in turn distribute them to the many people who then deliver them to your door.

Could you be the first link in this chain, do you think? For more information about volunteering, please get in touch with Bernard on 01206 240297. You will be needed four times a year for the Bulletins which come out at the beginning of March, June, September and December.

**Copy for the June 2015 edition should
be received by 1st May 2015.**

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

Advertising:

Vicky Beckwith-Cole telephone 619258

Mobile: 07434949631

hall-admin@westbergholt.net

Susan Swan - telephone 242319

Susan Leng - telephone 241748

Jane Williams - telephone 243636

Distribution:

Volunteer Required

Editor: Bernard Colbron - telephone 240297

bernardcolbron@btinternet.com

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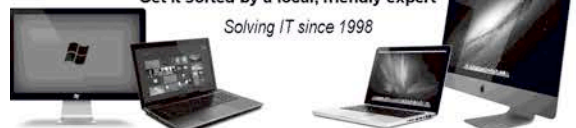


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Bergholt Youth Group

Dates for our next Friday meetings are
13th March 27th March

We have enjoyed lots of activities at our last meetings - football in the outside games area, play station, x-box, card making, table tennis, wii, dodge ball and table football.

We are always looking for volunteers to help at our fortnightly evenings and people with talents to share.

For further information contact Harry Stone 241026

Nayland Choir Celebrates the Jazz Age

Nayland Choir are set to take the community back to the heyday of the jazz age in their next concert on 29 March, at 7pm in Nayland Village Hall, with licensed bar.

'Songs from the Jazz Age' celebrate the music of George Gershwin, Cole Porter, Irving Berlin and friends. The songs will be accompanied by appropriate prose by the likes of Dorothy Parker.

'It's time this great jazz came to Nayland,' said choir chairman Ian McKay. 'We've enjoyed our rehearsals so far and hope that people will join us in the village on 29 March for a great night out.'

Tickets are £10 with under 16s free. Details available at naylandchoir.org or from 01206 242319.



If you live in the village and need help with transport for a medical or important appointment, please contact us on

0300 777 3100

If you feel able to volunteer and offer some time as a driver please contact Harry Stone on 241026.

Colne Valley Flower Club



A warm welcome to our members for 2015. Our programme for the spring is as follows;

Wednesday March 18th Helen Sheard from Chelmsford is coming to demonstrate to us 'Spring into Spring'. On Wednesday 15th April Sandra Adcock is demonstrating her 'Tales from the River Bank' and Wednesday 20th May sees the return of Helen Bird from Colchester demonstrating 'This is my Way' On this evening there will be a Plant Produce stall always a hit with our gardeners.

We are carrying on with our 'Hands on Group' this year. We hold this on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at the Scout Hut in West Bergholt at 2pm. We welcome anyone to come along even if you haven't any flower arranging experience, come and see what we do and join us for a chat and refreshments.

For any further information about our club please telephone Jayne on 01376 564135 or Alison on 01206 240262

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West Bergholt Concert Band –



During 2014 we continued our work to promote music to young musicians by reaching out to a number of new schools as well as to a couple of old favourites. These “band experience days” also help us to recruit new young musicians to replace those who step up into Concert Band. Our 2015 events are already underway, with Training Band visiting two schools during the Spring term, and we of course also have our popular open rehearsals for players of all ages, so feel free to come along to any of these events if you’re interested in giving the band a try.

Our performances this year start with a concert titled “*We’ll Meet Again*” to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the end of WWII. The programme features some of the wonderful music from WWII and the 1940s, including Spitfire Prelude, Colonel Bogey, The Dambusters, Glenn Miller, and a finale of classic WWII songs such as White Cliffs of Dover and We’ll Meet Again.

Sunday 22nd March – 3:00pm – West Cliff Theatre, Clacton.

The concert also marks a poignant anniversary for the band, as it is exactly 25 years since we performed a memorial concert at the West Cliff after the passing of the band’s founder, Sid Cooper. There wasn’t an empty seat or a dry eye in the house on that afternoon, so we’re hoping this year’s concert is just as popular, but nowhere near as difficult to perform. As with the 1990 concert, this year we will again be supporting St Helena Hospice, for whom we’ve raised many thousands of pounds in the intervening years.

After that we’re hoping to return to Castle Park Band Stand in June, and will follow that with our Summer Concert on Saturday 11th July, with a programme ranging from Ballet Egyptian to Sinatra.

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

Rotary Junior Choir Competition

On the evening of Tuesday 14 October 2014, at Heathlands C of E Primary School, four choirs competed in the final of the first Colchester Forum Rotary Club junior schools choir competition sponsored by Thompson Smith and Puxon Solicitors.

Choirs from nine local primary schools had previously battled it out in two heats to reach the final. The four choirs reaching the final, which was judged by an independent panel of three, were:

Heathlands C of E Primary School – Choir Leader, Sarah White

King’s Ford Junior School – Choir Leader, Hannah Smith

Bishop William Ward C of E Primary School – Choir Leader, Nikki Davis

Montgomery Junior School – Choir Leader, Nicola Summers

Performing in front of a packed assembly hall of family and friends, each choir sang two songs, including “This Little Light of Mine” by Derek Jones and a song of their own choice.



The judging panel had a very difficult task in deciding the winner, as each choir sang brilliantly with much enthusiasm and it was clear a lot of hard work and practice had gone into every performance. But there could only be one winner and the choir from Bishop William Ward School were deservedly victorious on the evening.

From Thompson Smith and Puxon Solicitors, Richard Porter (Director, Head of the Employment Law team, and member of the Colchester Forum Rotary Club) and Shelley Cumbers (Family Law solicitor) presented the winning choir with a fabulous trophy, as pictured, and certificates.

Shelley Cumbers, a West Bergholt resident, was particularly pleased to attend the event and said, “*I am honoured that Thompson Smith and Puxon Solicitors was invited to sponsor this competition, especially with the final taking place in my local village school. All of the choirs were amazing and it was a delight to be able to present the worthy winners from Bishop William Ward School with their trophy and certificates.*”

Methodist Church News

We began the New Year with our Annual Methodist Covenant Service led by our Minister Rev. Ruth Ridge. Members of the congregation renewed their vows of Christian Service. Later in the month we welcomed friends from the village and other sector churches to a very enjoyable Social and Tea. After all the rush and bustle of Christmas everyone enjoyed the opportunity to meet, relax and chat in good company.

As a church we support many events in the village offering invitations to join us and make new friends of all ages.

We begin on March 1st with SILVER SUNDAY. Have you seen the information - the plan is for anyone who is housebound, lonely or elderly living in the village to be invited to an afternoon tea at 3pm in the Methodist Hall. We can provide transport but just need to know who and where you are. Contact Andrew on 242511 or Judith on 241969 and we will make all the arrangements. We look forward to seeing you.

WOMENS WORLD DAY OF PRAYER is on Friday March 6th at the Methodist Church. A Soup 'n' Snack Lunch will be served in the Hall at 12.30pm with the Service in the Church at 1.30pm. This year's service has been arranged by Christian Women of the Bahamas with the theme "Do you know what I have done for you". After the chilly days of winter why not join us to think about the warmth of this joyful country.

FAMILY CRAFT and COFFEE MORNING - Since our Half Term event in February we are planning an Easter Themed Morning on Monday 30th March in the Hall 10.30am - 12noon. Numbers are growing with many regular families attending. Don't miss out. Parents make sure you book - ring Andrew on 242511.

Our Holy Week celebrations begin on 29th March when we join with St Mary's for Palm Sunday. Monday 30th March begins our own preparations for Easter when we look forward to our Coffee and Craft morning with young families. Rev. Ruth Ridge will be leading services here on Good Friday 3rd April, Holy Saturday 4th, and Easter Day 5th April. Please check all times on Notices and in Church Diary.

Our Quiz Night on Saturday April 25th starts at 7.00pm. Teams of four at £16 to include light refreshments. You are welcome to bring along your own nibbles and soft drinks (sorry no alcohol allowed) to keep you going. Always an enjoyable

evening - Telephone Judith on 241969 to book a table.

Christian Aid Week is 10th – 16th May. Village collections are always well supported with many regular collectors but there is always room for more volunteers. If you could help this once a year collection please contact Susan on 241431.

See our Church Diary and Notice Board for all regular weekly and monthly events.

METHODIST CHURCH DIARY

March

1st	SILVER SUNDAY TEA	3.00pm
6th	WOMENS WORLD DAY OF PRAYER - Church Service	1.30pm
	Lunch in hall 12.30pm.	
10th	Shared Village Communion	11.00am
11th	Coffee Morning in Hall	10.00am
15th	Mothers' Day	11.00am
18th	Women's Fellowship - in Hall	
	Rev Rodney Sawtell	2.30pm
26th	Bible Study the Manse	7.30pm
29th	Palm Sunday - United Service	
	At St Mary's	9.30am
30th	Family Coffee and Craft in Hall	10.30am

April

3rd	Good Friday Meditation	11.00am
4th	Holy Saturday- short service	8.00pm
5th	Easter Day with Holy Communion	11.00am
8th	Coffee Morning in Hall	10.00am
14th	Shared Village Communion	11.00am
15th	Women's Fellowship - in Hall	
	Mr George Hay	2.30pm
16th	Bible Study - the Manse	7.30pm
25th	QUIZ NIGHT	7.00pm

May

10th-16th	Christian Aid Week	
12th	Shared Village Communion	11.00am
13th	Coffee Morning in Hall	10.00am
20th	Women's Fellowship - in Hall	
	Mrs Margaret Jackson	2.30pm
21st	Bible Study the Manse	7.30pm
31st	United Service at Methodist Church	11.00am
	Pre-service Coffee at 10.30am	

All regular Sunday Services at 11.00am

Please check the Notice Board for any special or combined services and change of times.

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

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Shelley, who lives in West Bergholt, is a solicitor in the TSP Family and Divorce team. Shelley advises clients on all aspects of family law and is able to offer a free half hour initial chat for prospective clients.



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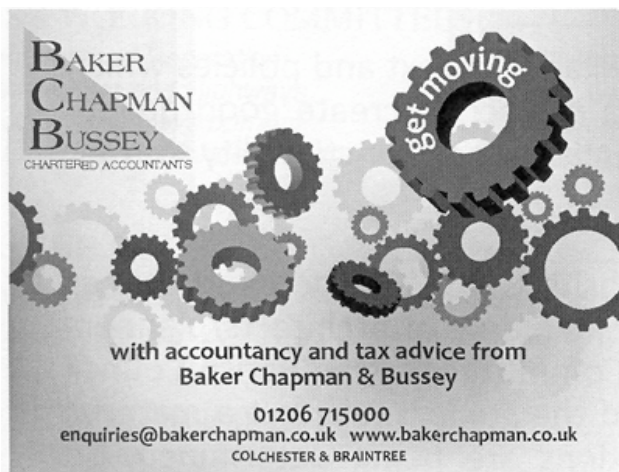
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**Don't Forget Clocks go
FORWARD on 29th March 2015**

West Bergholt Cricket Club



Last season was one of the most successful for some years both on and off the pitch and we are now looking to build upon this for this year.

This season our Colts section will be running U11, U12 and U15 sides, together with our ever popular Kwik Cricket for school year 2 to 6. This is a soft ball competition.

The Colts practice sessions will start on Sunday the 1st March from 4pm to 5.30 pm.

We have a Colts signing on the evening of the 10th April at the clubhouse, Manor Road (opposite the Treble Tile) so if your children are interested in playing please come along to the nets or on that evening. There are further details available on the club website.

Due to the success of the "Invincibles" last year we are running an additional development side in the league on a Saturday. So if you are aged 16 to 60 and are interested in playing then please come along to the nets or contact us. The adult nets are again at Holmwood House each Sunday in March from 5.30pm to 7pm.

There are therefore two senior sides playing on a Saturday and one on a Sunday. We also have an

evening league side that plays on a Wednesday evening and a ladies side that plays on a Friday evening.

We will be running our popular Festival again this year on the 3rd, 4th and 5th July. We will have a twenty - twenty game on the Friday evening. Our popular six a side tournament followed by our Quiz night on the Saturday and a junior six a side tournament on the Sunday. Everyone in the Village is very welcome to come along and watch or join in the fun. We had lots of teams for the Quiz from the Village last year and we look forward to everyone joining us again for a fun night.

Finally I would like to thank everyone in the Village and our sponsors who have supported us and advertised in our handbook last year.

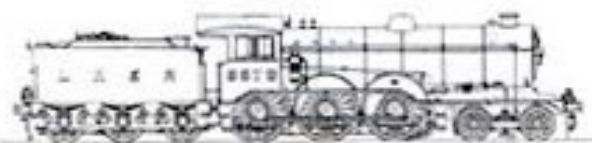
All we need now is a glorious summer.

We are always looking for new players so if you would like to play or support the club in any way then please contact me or go onto the club website.

Peter Twydell, Chairman on 01206 24178,

email: petertwydell@hotmail.co.uk

Club website: www.westbergholtcc.co.uk



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Vacant Allotments

As a new growing year approaches a small number of plots have become available to let to village residents. The standard price is £16 per year for up to a five rod plot with concessions for those over 60, and starter plots are available

The benefits of joining over eighty other village residents are:

Reduce weekly household costs by growing your own fruit and vegetables.

Enjoy organically produced produce.

Benefit from West Bergholt fresh air and exercise

Make new friends and enjoy the company of fellow plot holders

The downsides are:

The battle against the weather and pests.

The need for a regular commitment of a few hours a week.

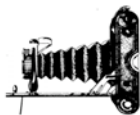
For further details contact

Terry Claydon 01206 242124/07902332085

or Email wballotments@gmail.com

Support is available through a “buddies” scheme for those with limited experience in growing fruit and vegetables.

West Bergholt History Group



The Group did not meet in December.

Our January meeting was a talk by Ken Rickwood speaking about the river Colne from estuary to source. He started at the sea end of the Colne and traced the course of the river up to the Hythe. During his talk he mentioned the many, now small, creeks and some of the channels that have disappeared.

The February talk also will be of a water nature! Roger Tabour spoke on Oysters and the Colne.

In March we will begin with our Annual Meeting. This will be followed by Nick Nickolson talking on

April will be a talk by Simon Gallup who is a National Trust Guide.

May will be a visit which has to be arranged.

June is to a home of a collector of memorabilia.

Bluebell Preschool Spring Term



The staff and children are very upset that repeatedly cars have been driving over our garden at the side of the Orpen Hall. The last time it happened all our daffodil and crocus shoots were crushed !! The children and staff spent a long time carefully digging and planting the bulbs – looking forward to them flowering in the spring.

**PLEASE PLEASE CAR DRIVERS
RESPECT OUR GARDEN.**

This half term the children have enjoyed animal and pattern themes. Activities have included making salt dough animals, biscuits, printing patterns and enjoying patterns on the laptop.

The children have also been enjoying frosty play outside – they especially enjoy the mud kitchen. A mixture of top soil, water and grass make lots of yummy recipe -- chocolate cake, pasta bake or soup!

During the next half term we plan to include Valentines Day, Comic Relief, Pancake Day, Mother’s Day and Easter in our activities.

We haven’t been able to get out and about in the turtle buses as they have been in the workshop having a maintenance check but we hope you see us around soon!

Bluebell Pre-School - Learning Through Play

Bluebell Pre-School employs Staff who are qualified to encourage the development of your child in all areas of the Pre-School curriculum, as defined by the Education Authority.

We are open from 9.15am to 3.15pm. Full day care and sessions available for 2 - 5 year olds. Sessions are held in two large halls daily.

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


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Speedwatch

Eight Ash Green works with West Bergholt on this project. Many people, including myself, have been concerned about the number of speeding vehicles in the villages. So a few of us have been trained by Essex Police, and we go to approved sites, with a radar speed gun, and pass on details of speeding motorists we observe to the Police.

The radar gun works on the Doppler effect and is regularly checked for accuracy. Initially the Police just send a polite letter, with the details of the time and place and speed, asking the motorist to obey the speed limits in future.

It is not our or their aim to raise money, or to prosecute but to get all to obey the speed limits. We are all motorists ourselves and our aim is to make the roads safer for all to use.

We know that some motorists resent our doing this, and even some regular road users like taxi drivers have been offensive. They should realise that,



especially in an urban environment, keeping ones maximum speed within the speed limit, only adds very little to the total journey time. Being stuck in traffic because some other motorist has caused an incident adds significantly to many people's journey time.

Some will claim that speed does not cause accidents, and in a sense this is true - the earth is travelling around the Sun at nearly 70,000 mph, for example. However on the roads higher speeds give one less time to react to incidents, even to the errors of others! It is better to give a few seconds to allow for someone else's error, than to have a collision and to spend months sorting out the consequences. When we do our sessions, we have warning signs and have to wear High Visibility clothing. Many motorists do see this, and slow

down accordingly, but some do not. If they are unable to see us, then they are unlikely to see other hazards, and really such people should not be on the roads. The braking distance increases with the square of the speed, which means that travelling at **double the speed, quadruples one's braking distance**. When the thinking distance is taken into account, the Highway Code gives total stopping distances of 75 ft (23 metres) at 30 mph; 96ft (29 m) at 35 mph; and 120 ft (36 m) at 40 mph. That extra 24 feet could make the difference between hitting another car or pedestrian, and avoiding them.

As readers will know, it is only possible to cross the railway line and the river, to the West of the town, either near North Station, Baker's Lane, or New Bridge, then Chitt's Hill or Spring Lane. Because Baker's Lane has been closed, and North Station is a notorious bottleneck, this has meant that a lot more traffic is using our villages, to get from say, Braiswick to the A12. Nothing wrong with this, of course, but they should obey the law. Argent's Lane is especially more busy. With a National speed limit of 60mph, few if any exceed this, but it is dangerous as in some places it is impossible for two cars to pass. There are regularly large farm vehicles, some with dangerous spikes on the front, and also some articulated HGVs. It is not illegal for them to use this route, but if they turn to go over the river bridge, then they are breaking the law, as there is a 7 tonne limit. Nevertheless it is extremely foolish to use this route, as if two were to meet it could be very difficult to resolve, as almost certainly a line of cars would quickly build up behind both vehicles.

When we do our sessions, pedestrians often complain to us about the excessive speed of some vehicles in both villages, many quoting 50 or even 60 mph. It is possible that some may be exaggerated, and it is not always easy to judge speeds. Most HGVs we see are within the limit, but they appear faster, and with narrow pavements (if any pavement at all) the turbulence they create can be intimidating to pedestrians.

If others are concerned about this issue and would like to join us, then please contact me.

Anthony C Robin, E-mail
anthony_robin@hotmail.com

West Bergholt Women's Institute



The December meeting took on a craft theme. Members were advised by the Colne Valley Flower Club president, Pat Sharman, and with the aid of greenery, decorations and candles individual Christmas Rings were made. It was a great success and even the less 'green fingered' ladies were pleased with their results.

Members provided savouries for the supper which followed and the evening concluded with a grand raffle so large that everyone received a prize. A fitting end to another enjoyable year.

The president welcomed members and a visitor to the January meeting. Following the business, Susan Leng gave a talk on St Petersburg with slides. The competition was My New Year's Resolution, which were read out to great amusement and members voted with coins. These were collected for a charity that the Essex Federation of W.I's supports which helps women around the world - ACWW. The evening concluded with slides covering our many W I activities during 2014.

February was our birthday month when we celebrated 94 years since the West Bergholt W.I. started in 1921, with a cake made by our president. The cake was cut by long standing members Jan Lumb and Val Talmedge. A large display of our archives, dating back to 1921, was on view - from minutes to programmes and photos. The speaker, Ken Guyton, talked about windmills and watermills with the aid of slides. Members were surprised to learn that not only grain but also bones were ground for fertiliser and stones for cement in windmills. The committee members are looking forward to March when a group of members will run the meeting.

Every month, as well as the meeting on the first Wednesday at 7.15pm in the Orpen Hall, there is a coffee morning at the Treble Tile, a play reading group and fortnightly Scrabble and Rummikub sessions.

For more information about the Women's Institute phone 241748.

Bergholt Heath Youth Football Club



At the break point of the season the record of our Under 8 team stood at Won seven: Drawn two: and Lost two in a purely non-competitive environment of course !!!! Along the way we have produced some great performances and scored plenty of goals. The children have all enjoyed it immensely and every one of them has progressed in terms of ability and confidence. In fact our performances have been so good that it appears that the Colchester and District Youth Football League have promoted us to a higher level that I am sure will challenge us more. Many thanks to all of the children and the parents involved in making the first half of our inaugural season such a success.

The Under 10's have also moved leagues and are now playing in the Andrews League. So far they have had a mixed bag of results against some tough opposition and have found goals harder to come by than the previous year. That said this season has seen the boys play some excellent football and, barring a couple of forgettable games, they should be pleased with their performances so far. We had a nine-a-side match in the winter break to get us used to the new format next year which proved a useful exercise and will plan to do more post-season.

Despite their bright start to the season the Under 12's have hit a spot of mid season blues. Promotion dreams are still viable but the current lack of form has led to the team dropping back from the frontrunners. Hopefully this will be addressed and the objective will once more become reachable.

Our Under 16's continue to be there or thereabouts but still a way off the dizzy heights of previous seasons league and cup exploits.

Such was the success of last year's Christmas Event that the Under 8, 10 and 12's once again enjoyed the flumes and pool at Leisure World, whilst the U16's had a meal out at Pizza Hut.

The next event will be our Awards Evening but we do not have a firm date at the moment.

Finally, we are looking to recruit a new team at either Under 7 or 8 level next year so, parents and players alike, let me or any other committee member know if you are interested.

Leslie Wright -

Mobile: +447891239117

Car key burglaries

In some cases burglars are breaking into houses while you sleep with the intention of finding your car keys and stealing your car and any other small items they find on the way, what can I do?

Firstly before you turn in for the night check that all doors, ground floor windows and easily accessible windows are closed **and** locked. PVCu doors – don't forget that the door is not fully locked until you have lifted the inside handle **and** turned the key. If you have an intruder alarm and can do so activate the downstairs zone. To stop the burglar getting to the vulnerable windows and doors to the rear ensure that side gates are closed and locked.

Please also ensure that you put your car keys somewhere safe and out of sight, when you return home. Put your car keys in a drawer (preferably one that is noisy to open) or some other secure place, but don't take them up to the bedroom with you.

If you have cars of different values, please park the higher value car in your garage. If you can't do this, please park the lower value car in front of the higher value car, as the thieves are more likely to target high value cars and will be deterred if they can't easily drive such a car away from the scene. With high value cars consider the fitting of a tracking system.

For further crime prevention advice contact your local Crime Prevention Officer using the police non emergency number 101.

Stephen Armson-Smith

Doctors urge local people to use pharmacists more as 'yellow men' visit Colchester

Local people across north east Essex are being encouraged to make greater use of pharmacies for the treatment of minor illness, and to avoid using A&E except for life-threatening emergencies.

Doctors at the NHS North East Essex Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) say that during the winter, hospital emergency departments and local GPs are under significant pressure with people coming in with coughs and colds. They add that a

lot of that pressure could be relieved if people use pharmacies more.

Dr Hasan Chowhan from the CCG explained: "I would urge everyone to consider visiting their local pharmacist for advice or treatment for minor ailments such as coughs or colds.

"You may be seen faster and get the treatment you need at the pharmacy. In some other parts of Europe, pharmacies are very well used in this way and I believe if we all considered using our local pharmacists the NHS would work better for us as patients. In addition to pharmacists, there are other alternatives to A&E and we want people to use the most appropriate service available, including looking after yourself at home where possible, stocking up on appropriate medicines or if in doubt by calling NHS 111 for advice. Trained advisors there will assess your symptoms, and direct you to the most appropriate healthcare service.

A&E should only be for people with serious and life-threatening emergencies.



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SOME USEFUL NUMBERS

Please note Police non-emergency number has changed.



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In an emergency dial 999

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Pharmacy Chapel Road Telephone: 240352

Post Office Chapel Road (Half day Saturday)
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Methodist Church Rev. Ruth Ridge
The Manse, Chapel Lane,
West Bergholt – 01206 242183

News Correspondent Jacqui Hunns
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St. Mary's Old Church

It has been a while since the Friends reported on the activities at the Old Church. Since our last report we have had two weddings in the summer followed by the hugely successful Christmas Carol Service. There are more weddings booked for 2015 which is a wonderful way to see our lovely building used. The collection at the Carol Service was hugely generous and a substantial amount was sent off to the Churches Conservation Trust which made the total for the year over £1500 (this includes the wedding fees etc). It is good to know that villagers appreciate and care for this venerable building with generous support.

During the year, the Friends have had to take responsibility and bear the cost of the organ tuning and the grass cutting of the churchyard both of which were previously borne by the Trust. The Friends have also re-instated the electricity supply to the building and our thanks are due to Mr and Mrs Bonham Carter at the Hall for their co-operation on this matter.

The Churches Conservation Trust has received a generous legacy from a villager who loved the building and this will be used to keep the building presentable, weather proof and in good order for future generations. If anyone else is minded to leave a bequest to the Church we will be delighted to help with the formalities involved.

One of the aims of the Friends is to organise events and restore this historic building to its place at the heart of the village community. We are therefore very pleased to invite you to 'A Celebration of Words and Music' on Saturday 9th May at 6pm. Tom Cogan, from Sudbury will play the organ and there will be readings by local actors. Tickets are £7.50 but entrance for under 16 year olds is free so that the whole family can come and help to make our first event a success. After the concert, refreshments will be available and we hope you will join us.

The annual family subscription to the Friends of St. Mary's Old Church is now due and we would be grateful if you could send it to Rhys Lloyd the Friends' Treasurer, 4 Coopers Crescent, West Bergholt, CO6 3SJ.

The Church continues to be a popular destination for walks and we would ask every visitor to sign the book on each visit as this helps with the funding for the Trust.

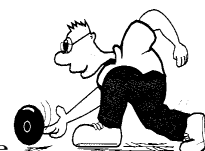
Martin Long, *Chairman Friends of St Mary's Old Church*

Baby and Toddler Table-Top Sale Fundraiser

Help us raise money for a very good cause and earn yourself some money by hiring a table at our *Baby and Toddler* sale and selling all that unwanted baby gear you have in the garage or loft. The sale will be on Saturday 7th March between 2 and 5pm, at the Orpen Hall West Bergholt. The cost of hiring a table is £25:00 (payable in advance) but you keep all money made on the day. So come on get digging and get selling or just come along to support a good cause and bag a bargain. Entrance fee £2.00 children free, refreshments on sale.

To book a table contact Cheryl on 01206 241456 or Mob: 07769913083.

West Bergholt Bowls Club



At the Bowls Club, despite the wintery weather, attendances have been quite good.

We had two players enter the Essex County Carpet Bowls Singles, George Coppin and Patrick McCarthy. We are very pleased they were both successful in reaching the final round which will be held at a later date, we wish them every success.

Recently we had a friendly match against Ardleigh. Sixteen players from the club completed a very successful evening winning the match sixteen points to eight points. This was followed by a raffle and supper.

I would like the lady who called me in December about coming to bowls in the New Year to call me as we still have a few vacancies, my telephone number is 01206 243301.

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

*Queries about the service-telephone
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Contacts and what's on guide

Orpen Hall - 150 standing or 108 seated persons **John Lampon Hall** - 30-50 persons. 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, at St Mary's Church.

Contact: stmaryswestbergholt@googlemail.com

1st Sunday 9.30am Holy Communion, 2nd Sunday 9.30am All-Age Worship, 3rd Sunday **11.15am** Holy Communion, 4th Sunday 9.30am Morning Worship, 5th Sunday variable. 2nd Sunday 4.30pm in winter, 6.30pm in summer, Evening Prayer

Contact Rev. Dr. Mandy Elmes: 240906

revmandyelmes@btinternet.com (Day off Fridays)

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

Parent, Toddler & Baby Group, 9.15-11.15am Term time only.

Methodist Church Hall -

Contact: Lizzy 07531454435, Fay 07941012439, Sue 07887931984

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: Gill Poole 240512

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.

(visits between April and September)

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.

Details Marie-Louise Fuell 240642

WB Knitting & Crochet Group, is a house group. Meeting 3rd

Wednesday from 2.30pm - 4pm. Details Phone 01206 242015

Wednesday Fellowship, 3rd Wednesday 2.30pm, Methodist Hall

Thursdays:

Open House with Squeals on Wheels, 9.00am -11.00am (in term time) 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:

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. 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. 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

Open House, drop in for coffee between 9am and 11am term

time at St, Mary's Church.

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

NEEGOG Model Railway Club, 1st Saturday at 2pm

St, Mary's Church Hall - Contact Martin Long 240443