

village bulletin

March 2007 Issue 109

www.westbergholt.net

THE DEMISE OF BRAISWICK ROAD BRIDGE

The Braiswick road bridge has finally been demolished. The pictures show the last hours of the bridge. In the run up to the weekend a number of cabins were placed on the old road to accomodate equipment and provide offices for the contractors. At the same time work took place to make the area and road safe to begin work.

The A12 was closed at midnight on Friday 27th January to allow work to start. The work continued throughout Saturday and Sunday. Large mechanical hammer drills were used to demolish the roadway. The A12 was due to re-open early on Monday morning but it was opened eight hours earlier than predicted.

All the photographs were taken by the Bulletin roving reporter who was able to stand in the outside lane of the Ipswich bound carriage way of the A12!



The Final Sweep-up

the village bulletin *information*

PROVIDED BY THE PARISH COUNCIL OF WEST BERGHOLT

Chairman

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



Vice-Chairman

Mr R W Tyrell
Gray Gables,
8a Colchester Road
West Bergholt
☎ 240 016

PARISH COUNCILLORS

Mrs S Bowden	18 Valley Crescent	☎	241 201
Mr B M Colbron	64 Mumford Road	☎	240 297
Mr P S Johnson	135 Chapel Road	☎	241 114
Mr A P Savage	6 Garling Walk	☎	242 015
Mr D Short	60 Albany Road	☎	241 715
Mr P Sleigh		☎	07973 841104
Mr C Stevenson	74 Mumford Road	☎	241 708
Mr H Stone	Vindens, Chapel Lane	☎	241 026

PARISH WORKING COMMITTEES

Environment	Mr Johnson, Mr Colbron, Mr Sleigh, Mr Stevenson, Mr Stone
Finance & General Purpose	Mr Savage, Mr Gili-Ross, Mr Johnson, Mr Tyrell
Hall	Mr Tyrell, Mrs S Bowden, Mr Colbron, Mr Sleigh, Mr Short
Planning	Mr Tyrell, Mr Savage

BOROUGH COUNCILLORS

Cllr. Jill Tod	cllr.jill.tod@colchester.gov.uk	☎	574 896
Cllr. Dennis Willetts	dennis.willetts@btinternet.com	☎	

CLERK TO THE PARISH COUNCIL

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

ORPEN HALL ADMINISTRATOR

Mrs J Mayhew		☎	240 694
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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.

SOME USEFUL NUMBERS

Police	210 441 or 211 680 or 762 212	In an emergency dial 999	
Doctor	Surgery - 2 Erle Havard Road	☎	241 137
Pharmacy	Chapel Road	☎	240 352
Post Office	Chapel Road (Half day Saturday)	☎	240 355
St Mary's Church	Rev. C Horseman, The Rectory, Ivy Lodge Road, Gt. Horkesley	☎	271 242
Methodist Church	Mrs. Ros Hollingsworth, The Manse, Chapel Lane	☎	240 098
News Correspondent	Mrs J Hunns, The Laurels, Firmins Court	☎	240 712

(for Essex County Standard & The East Anglian Daily Times) - submissions for news items to be in 2 weeks prior to publication.
Email address for News Correspondent allanhunns@aol.com



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.



Orpen Players

Instead of the usual annual pantomime this year, the Orpen players staged an adaptation of *The Wind in the Willows* by Kenneth Grahame. It was directed by Fiona Hunt who also arranged the musical numbers and played the piano accompaniment.

It was full of colourful characters, the swaggering boastful Toad, the debonair Ratty, the shy little Mole and the dodderly old Badger. The rest of the cast portrayed all the goodies and baddies from the timid rabbits and otters to the evil stoats and ferrets. They transformed themselves from washerwomen to gypsies and to keep law and order there was a magistrate and a policeman. The goodies triumphed in the end and they all lived happily in Toad Hall. There were several new faces making their debut this year but also one or two longstanding ones. Viv Young who played Mrs. Otter was in the first one thirty years ago and Holly Raymond who was Mrs Rabbit has been in them since she was a small child. Ben Maytham is following his grandfather Paul who was with the group for a number of years.



As soon as the costumes and props were put away rehearsals started for the Spring Production to be directed by Andrew Hodgson on April 26th. 27th. 28th. 2007 so make a note of the date.

The Orpen Players appreciate their loyal following who support the productions.

West Bergholt Concert Band



Mozart, Miller, Mancini & more !

The band have a great programme of new music for our March 2007 concerts, including Mozart's Clarinet Concerto, Flight Of The Bumble Bee, an overture of music by Leonard Bernstein, and medleys of The Beatles music and Big Band Signature tunes. Both concerts are raising money for charities (the Mayor's Charities and Tendring Community Voluntary Service), so come along and help us to raise money and raise the roof !

Saturday March 17th (7:30pm)-St Botolph's, Colchester
Sunday March 25th (3:00pm)-Westcliff Theatre, Clacton (*)

Summer 2007 sees us return to the "Last Night Of The Proms" theme, but with a first half dedicated to Swing Music, including pieces such as St Louis Blues, Tuxedo Junction and Stranger On The Shore.

Saturday June 23rd (7:30pm)-Westcliff Theatre, Clacton (*)
Saturday July 14th (7:30pm)-Stoke By Nayland Golf Club

Looking further ahead, 2008 marks the band's 30th anniversary, so we'll be celebrating in style with concerts at some of our favourite venues, as well as treating ourselves to a birthday concert at (hopefully) Snape Maltings. Watch this space !

We're also actively recruiting new members for Training Band this year, with a number of youngsters already joined-

up and getting used to playing under a conductor's baton. New members of any age are always welcome – come and see us at Heathlands on any term-time Friday evening, or at our next "New Member Night" on Friday 4th May.

Everything you need to know about the band (including concert details and directions) can be found on our website (www.wccb.org), or you can call Graham on 01206 824157.

We look forward to seeing you at some of our concerts...and wish you all a belated happy new year !

(*) Concert with the Sweeting Swing Band



New number for Wednesday: 241103.

The 20th AGM of the West Bergholt Care Network will be held in the Methodist Church Hall at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 17th April. Refreshments will be served after the short meeting.

All are welcome to attend and if anyone is interested in knowing more about the Care Network and joining our team of volunteer drivers, not usually more than an hour or two a month, you will be particularly welcome!

Friends of Hillhouse Wood



Friends chairman retires

Peter Johnson, the popular chairman of the Friends Committee, has retired for health reasons after ten years and as a mark of appreciation, colleagues and friends presented him with a copy of the acclaimed new naturalist book "Woodlands," written by Dr Oliver Wrackham. All hope that Peter will make a good recovery after an operation and that he will be able to maintain his interest in the wood and its wildlife.

Major clearance work in Hillhouse Wood will ensure an even better display of wild flowers this year than in 2006 when it was generally agreed that the carpets of bluebells, campions and foxgloves were the best to date. The work was carried out by Friends of Hillhouse Wood working parties led by David Bull and helped by Woodland Trust contractual mechanical support. There has also been removal of dead elms and fallen timber has been raked out of the lower pond boundary stream. The wind storm of January 18 caused some damage to trees necessitating further tidying up.

The winter bird walk led by Philip Smith and myself was supported by ten, but sightings were fewer than usual at this time of year, though blue tits and great tits were well in evidence, as well as robins and wrens.

On January 13 a special wooden owl box was erected on an oak tree on the eastern edge of the wood to commemorate the love of the wood by the late Mr Warren of West Bergholt. It was done at the request of his family. The box was placed by David Wilkin, the area expert on barn owls and other owl species and licensed handler, who will monitor any occupation. A special large bat roost and breeding box will also be placed on a tree near the lower pond by Darren Tansley, Colchester Natural History Society's mammals recorder and licensed bat handler. The box is also dedicated to the memory of Mr Warren.

An ongoing problem is the extensive growth of reedmace in the wood's top pond and clearance of this has been delayed while specialist help is sought. Meanwhile, the pond will be surveyed by Colchester Natural History Society pond experts to ensure that future clearances are balanced to protect aquatic wildlife.

Two dates for the diaries of all interested in the wood and its many natural attractions are the spring nature walk on Saturday, April 14 (meet at the Old Church at 10.00am) and the Dawn Chorus of Birdsong meeting on Sunday, May 13, both to be led by Phil Smith and myself. For the Dawn Chorus, meet at the Old Church at 3.45 am equipped with warm clothing and stout footwear. It is advisable to bring a torch and, if possible, a flask of warm drink. If conditions are good, the songs of nightingales are guaranteed, plus many other early songsters.

Other events planned (dates to be notified) are a bluebells and spring flowers open afternoon and a moths and bats evening in the wood in June.

Joe Firmin

Methodist Church News

Owing to the work being carried out in St. Mary's we are holding this year's World Day of Prayer on Friday 2nd March in the Methodist Church. We begin with Soup Lunch at 12 noon in the Hall followed by a Service at 1.30pm in the Church. Pastor Ros Hollingsworth is our speaker at this special service prepared by the Christian Women of Paraguay. Everyone is welcome.

Teams are again entering our Annual Quiz Night which takes place Saturday 24th March at 7.30pm. The event has become extremely popular and very enjoyable. There is still time to enter, ring Judith on 01206 241969 to book a table for four at a cost of £4.00. Light refreshments will be available.

During Holy Week, 1st – 7th April an exhibition of paintings is being arranged. Plans are in hand to decorate the whole Church with a large display of art by David Hollingsworth, husband of Pastor Ros. The church will be open for viewing.

Christian Aid Week is 13th – 19th May. We are always looking for more volunteer collectors in this very important week in our village. The Hunger Lunch will be held at St. Mary's at 12.30pm.

The Wesley Guild now will be meeting at 7.30pm in the Hall on the 4th Friday of each month beginning on 23rd March.

Parish Plan Questionnaire

The evaluation and analysis of the questionnaire responses is continuing. Due to the high cost of professional services it has been decided to continue to rely on the expertise of volunteers which means a slight delay in having the full results.

From the initial examination of the written comments in the various sections, a number of points can be highlighted:

people enjoy living in West Bergholt because they appreciate the facilities available. They feel relatively safe and enjoy the friendly village atmosphere.

Issues of concern include traffic problems, in particular speeding and inappropriate parking in the village. Some useful suggestions have been proposed by respondents that could be incorporated in the final Parish Plan.

Once again we thank all those villagers who took the time to complete the questionnaire.

The response to the organisation questionnaire, sent to businesses within the village, has been very good, as has the response to the schools questionnaire. Results from the latter are coming in now thick and fast.

For further information or to get involved with the Parish Plan please contact Catherine Bailey at: catherine@bailey72.co.uk.

Jo Gouldthorpe, Publicity and Information

NWR Group



We started our 2007 Spring programme finding out about the history behind some of the big British companies which, perhaps a little surprisingly, proved to be very interesting. This was followed by the lives of Queen Victoria's nine children, which everyone found fascinating. We had a French evening during which we sampled food and wine and then taxed our brains with facts and a quiz. Our next subject was coincidentally very topical - 'Should we send fewer people to prison?' Someone involved with the prison system came along to discuss this with us and it was a very thought-provoking evening.

Our next few meetings will include subjects such as discussing a Defunct Profession and researching a famous Mother and Daughter plus enjoying our annual meal at The Boathouse.

If anyone would like to join us please call Shirley on 240588 and you will be made most welcome.



Pilates

Apart from the Thursday morning Pilates classes at the Scout Hut, there are plans to start an evening class in the village, possibly on a Thursday night. Please phone Pat Smith, 564348, for more information.



West Bergholt Friendship Club



The Club's Christmas festivities commenced early at the end of November when we were once again visited by some of the children from Heathlands School. They entertained us with a programme of music taking in a wide range of instruments, from guitar to saxophone and cello, and with some very energetic dancing displays.

Members much appreciated the enthusiasm of the young performers and we are most grateful to the Headmaster John Watts and his staff for the work put in to provide us with such an enjoyable afternoon.

Highlight of our end-of-year Christmas party was the entertainment provided by the 'Semi-tones' with a wide range of songs to suit all tastes. The event finished with mince pies and a big raffle providing prizes for everyone.

Our first meeting of 2007 at the end of January was a social occasion. Events coming up for the spring session include a Mick Morrissey Quiz, a luncheon engagement and a talk on Russian dolls, concluding with the club's annual meeting on 26th. April.

New members are always welcome. Club meetings take place at the Orpen Hall at 2pm. on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month.

Gerda Rumsey, Chairman.

West Bergholt Women's Institute



We have come through another successful year with the re-election of our committee, a very enjoyable Christmas Party and attendance by members at the Federation Christmas Carol Service at Chelmsford Cathedral.

2007 promises to be another exciting year. The Federation of Essex is celebrating 90 years, with many enticing events planned throughout the area as well as own monthly meetings and outings. Some members enjoyed a visit to the Mercury Theatre to see 'Camelot'. Our January meeting was 'Desert Island Discs', with a varied selection of music and prose arranged by our members. It was difficult to include everyone, I am sure will we be having another similar evening.

We look forward to another varied and interesting programme. Why not come along!



From strength to strength

The Royal British Legion

The Great and Little Horkesley Branch that incorporates personnel who live in West Bergholt, has recruited two more members from this village and one from Gt Horkesley recently.

The 'Poppy Appeal' 2006 raised a staggering £8,500, an increase of over 20% on the 2005 figure – a tremendous effort by the Branch Membership and many helpers who did the House-to-house collection.

Many grateful thanks to all who contributed.

Our Spring Dinner will be held at the 'Lion' Leavenheath on Thursday 19th April. All Members and their wives/partners are accordingly invited. Please reserve your place as soon as menus are distributed as space is limited.



First Responders

Update

Training for First Responders will be complete on 3rd March. We hope to go "live" by 12th March. This means that if you call an ambulance the chances are that one of the First Responders may arrive first. They are trained and equipped to use oxygen and a defibrillator. They are there to reassure you and stay with you until the ambulance arrives. More next month.

West Bergholt Gardeners' Association



We rounded off the old year with a seasonal social evening in December and although we do not have a speaker meeting in January, we did what all gardeners do when winter weather halts outdoor activity by planning ahead, in particular for our annual Charity Plant Sale.

Given the problems many gardeners seem to come up against, the choice of our February speaker's subject "Plants for Problem Places" was enthusiastically welcomed! On March 19th, a Senior Gardener from Hyde Hall RHS Garden is giving a slide-illustrated talk on "Wildflower Gardening". On April 16th Patrick Cadman of Growing Together Nursery will give a talk on "Unusual Plants" and in May we have our PLANT SALE, briefly referred to earlier. This year we plan to have a greater variety and quantity of bedding plants than in previous years together with shrubs and other items, and it promises to be a really special event. As usual, all proceeds will be for charity so come along to Orpen Hall on Monday, May 21st, doors open at 7.30pm...you will not be disappointed! We are also planning an event specifically for children, look out in the next bulletin for details.

On June 20th we have a coach trip to the gardens of HELMINGHAM HALL, leaving Orpen Hall at 12.45pm. The gardens open at 2pm and we shall leave at 4.30pm. The cost is £11 for Association members (£13 for non-members), including admission. If you would like to join us please telephone Gordon Dean (242194).

The Association welcomes new members, our meetings are informative and friendly, and the cost of membership is very modest...do come along.

Neighbourhood Watch Scheme



Village Crime Levels Falling.

Over the past twelve months we believe crime levels have fallen. Feedback from our team of Co-ordinators, the Police and Individuals, suggest that this is the case. This is good news and everyone who has made a contribution to reducing crime levels is to be congratulated. A higher level of reporting incidents, positive police response to incidents and a general increase in anti-crime communications including the Village Bulletin have all played their part.

We need to build on this success in 2007 - the long awaited introduction of "New Neighbourhood Policing" is already under way - PCSO Malcolm Dyer is already "on the beat" and you should catch him in West Bergholt from time to time. He will be joined at the end of February by an additional PCSO. If you get the chance to speak to them make them welcome and give them your full support. New Neighbourhood Policing will help to reassure those who feel threatened by petty crime and anti-social behaviour.

Please continue to report all crimes including unsociable behaviour, graffiti and vandalism.

* Use 999 for all serious crimes where there is danger to life and property.

* Use 210441 and/or 762212 for less serious incidents.

* Obtain Incident numbers for the above.

* Use Dedicated Mobile Number 07966 197134 if you want to speak to PC Neil Everett, or his deputy, for help or general discussion on crime and safety.

* Keep NW in the picture using 240995 after you have reported an incident.

If you would like to be involved or just be kept informed please send an e-mail to WBergholtNW@aol.com

Constable Neighbourhood Action Panel

This is another opportunity to voice your concerns about Security, Safety and the "Quality of Life." The next meeting is planned for 15th March 2007 at Eight Ash Green.

West Bergholt Bulletin Quiz

The Quiz for the West Bergholt Challenge Cup is to be held on the 19th May 2007 at 7.30 pm, in the Orpen Hall.

It is organised by the Bulletin Team and is open to all village organisations, either social or commercial. Any member of an organisation can apply to enter a team of four selected from work colleagues or friends and neighbours to make up the number.

There will be an entry fee of £12 per team, to include refreshments, with all proceeds going to East Anglia's Children's Hospices. Bring your own drinks.

Please send your completed entry form, with the entry fee,

VILLAGE QUIZ 19th MAY 2007 ENTRY FORM

Name of Team

Name of person applying

Address

Phone Number

For each team of four people per table, please enclose cheque for £12 made payable to West Bergholt Parish Council.

West Bergholt Parish Council News

TRUSTEES

Hall - It was reported that significant expenditure was needed over the next two to three years:

Heating – the boiler is working only intermittently and the hall is not warming up enough, particularly for the playgroup. Quotes are to be sought to replace the system together with the necessary pipe work and low heat with radiators. Only reputable companies will be asked to quote. Mrs Bowden has agreed to look into this.

A leaking pipe in the projection room will be dealt.

The elections will take place in the John Lampon Hall on 3rd May 2007. Colchester Borough Council will be charged £160 for the use of the facilities.

A phone line and answerphone will be installed to assist Mrs Mayhew, and will be dedicated to the Orpen Hall.

Allotments

It was agreed to amend the Allotment rules as discussed. Use of weed control spray, which is held by Harry Stone is to be controlled by the Allotment Committee. Mr Broom will be asked to undertake this work.

A trench for pipe work has been dug. The connection is still to be organised by the Allotment Committee.

The oak tree allegedly causing subsidence to a property in Albany Close is to be removed by order of Allianz Cornhill. Quotes range from £540 - £1400. The lower quote was accepted and the work will be carried out as soon as possible.

A tenant has been given notice to quit two allotments should they not be cleared by June 2007.

Poors Land - Temporary fencing is still in place to prevent vehicular access. Replacement of the gate from Colchester Road onto Poors Land is to be organised. Costs are being obtained for the work.

Heathlands PTA were given permission to use Poors Land for their fireworks event on 3rd November 2007. They will be able to use the field until 11a.m. the following day to give them a chance to clear up. Over £5,500 was raised at the event last year.

Lorkin Daniell Playing Field - A letter was received from a nearby resident complaining about the football club's excessive use of the Multi Use Games Area (MUGA). This will be passed to the WBMSC committee. Because the Cory grant for phase three of the play area was not accepted, CBC will be asked if they will accept a smaller project for their part of the phase three funding. Also, there is an underspend in the grant funding for 2005/2006. The possibility of securing some of this will be looked into.

Village Heath - The high barrier at the entrance is still under discussion with the insurance company. Complaints are still being received about broken bottles. This will be monitored.

PARISH COUNCIL

Environment Report - Discussion is ongoing with Essex Highways regarding footpaths and road issues, and

timescales for repairs. The bus lay-by in Chapel Road is also under discussion with a view to replacing the road surface. An entrance across a field along Colchester Road, before the A12 bridge, has been filled in.

Allotments. The Environment Agency will be asked for their advice on some Japanese Knotweed which has been found on a footpath opposite the Scout Hut. There is also some at Macnally's Yard. A letter will be sent to CBC about the possibility of removing a Chestnut Tree on Colchester Road (opposite Ash's shop) following a letter from a resident who believes it may be diseased and is causing some damage to her patio. New bridge over A12 – a cycle lane will now be incorporated into the bridge. The possibility of keeping the 30mph zone will be re-assessed. A cantilever bridge cannot be fitted on the bridge during its construction. St Mary's PCC had written to request signs to the church, to be placed at either end of New Church Road. However, it is against the principle of the Parish Council to put up signs around the village.

Planning Report - Planning Applications were discussed at the Parish meetings with further details in the Parish Minutes. The Football Club had provided new drawings for their new clubhouse. There was concern at the size of the building, in particular the size of the bar area. The bar servicing area was considered too close to residents and parking could be an issue. However, the plans were approved by the Parish Council with minor comments which will be passed on. Macnally's Yard – The Parish Council has had a request to relax the covenants on the land. It is the feeling of the Parish Council that these should be relaxed for financial gain to the village. This will be taken further.

Parish Plan - A response to CBC Core Strategy Plan was sent thanks to Mr Stevenson.

Finance Report and Proposed Expenditure - The grant from RCCE for the Parish Plan has been passed to the Parish Plan committee. It was proposed by Mr Savage and seconded by Mr Tyrell that the Precept be set at £33,500. The Council Tax for Parish purposes is £16.05. The Annual Return for 2005/2006 has been approved by Lubbock Fine.

Correspondence - A leaflet about the new bridge over the A12 was placed on the website. The website has been entered into a website competition. Dave Kingaby will be asked to make a presentation at the Annual Meeting.

Borough Councillor's Report - Councillor Willets reported that a decision would be made about the proposed wind turbine. Tax increases of 5% are being discussed.

Village Bulletin - There is still a waiting list for advertisers in the Bulletin. Advertisers may be asked if they would be willing to pay an additional charge to have their adverts placed on the website.

Joyce Lucking has resigned from the Village Bulletin Team. A letter of thanks will be sent to her.

Heathlands School



My letter in a bottle – by Pirate Lilly

I'm pirate Lilly. I'm stuck on a dark and cold island. Be careful because there are dangerous things like quick sand and a waterfall. There is a gloomy swamp and two palm trees. There are reeds there is a shark that is swimming about. Now be careful of the things that I told you that are dangerous or you will be dead before you get here and that would be very sad. Please help me soon. I miss my home.

My letter in a bottle – by Pirate Joshua

I am a pirate stuck on a island and it has dead people there and some bad pirates and they took my treasure. Please come and help me to get it back and I will share it with you. Help! It is too late they are about to push me off the plank. Love from Pirate Joshua

Do you recognise this child?

Dear Father Christmas
For Christmas I would like a Play Station and a Nintendo DS. I will give your reindeers some carrots to see better and for you some cookies. My behaviour is medium!

The role of the Vicar:

A vicar does much more than a Sunday service. He can do anything, weddings, christenings, funerals and even paper work and all that stuff like meetings with other vicars. He even helps people learn about God.

Who would have thought it??

Farewell

At the end of January we said goodbye to Monica who has been at Heathlands for 13 years. She has worked all that time with the youngest children of the school as a Learning Support Assistant. A special assembly was held with many of the children contributing some very funny and poignant memories. Monica said she is looking forward to being able to sit on a big chair at work.

Rotary Public Speaking Competition

Three Heathlands' children took part in the Rotary Public Speaking competition in the Council chambers at the Town Hall. Nine schools took part. Heathlands came second and Jack Slater delivered the best speech. Well done to Jack, Zoe Stephenson and Vicky Smith.

World Book Day

Thursday 1st March is World Book Day. All children and staff will be dressed ready for a book at bedtime. This should be an entertaining day in more ways than one!

Village People

Village man's film triumph

The public loved it and the critics praised it, so film maker John Worland has every reason to be proud of his part in the production of *Witchfinder*, the story of a dark period in Essex history.

Mr Worland, who moved to the village from Eight Ash

Green in the 1990s and built his own house on Newbridge Hill, worked with Kerry King of the Headgate Theatre to write and produce the one-hour film.

It tells the story of Matthew Hopkins, the self-styled "Witchfinder General," who was responsible for the execution of more than 80 witches in North Essex in the 17th century. The film, using amateur actors, shows how ignorance and superstition led to the persecution of so many harmless women.

After leaving school, Mr Worland worked in cinema management before joining Essex police for whom he set up a TV production unit to make training films. He left the force after 21 years with the rank of Inspector and concentrated on his first love – film-making.

His interest started when he joined the film club at school. He now makes corporate videos and documentaries. A film he made recently of racing at Le Mans was shown on Channel Four and the BBC's Money Programme. He also produced a film of the re-enactment of the Siege of Colchester. So *Witchfinder* was not his first venture into local history.

Witchfinder was shown at the Headgate Theatre in January and was such a success that the planned one-week run had to be extended. With a cast of 120 and some 60 helpers behind the camera, this was Mr Worland's biggest production so far.

Another village man was also involved – amateur actor Mike Poole, who played the part of clerk of the court when the witches were put on trial. Both he and Will Parrick, the actor who was so successful in the role of Matthew Hopkins appeared in the Orpen Players' panto *The Wind in the Willows* in January.

Witchfinder is available on DVD and can be obtained from the Headgate Theatre.

Editor's Korner

Joyce Lucking has decided to retire from the Bulletin distribution team. Joyce has been involved with the Bulletin since its inception 108 editions ago (probably longer if you include the original planning of it). Our thanks and appreciation of the work put in go to Joyce and also to her husband Fred. Nora Bates has kindly taken over the reins for the distribution. I am sure that the change over will run smoothly.

Don't forget the Bulletin Quiz.

Please Note: after the March edition the editor will have moved along the road to *64 Mumford Road*. The e.mail address will also change, further details later.

Bulletin contacts:

Editor: Bernard Colbron 240297

Advertising: Susan Swan 242319

Contributions: contact any member of the editorial board listed on the back page.

West Bergholt Parent and Toddler Group



At Christmas we said Goodbye to the Group's Secretary - Deborah Lepley - after many years of outstanding help - Thank you and Good luck. In January we held a special day Orangutan fundraising for Colchester Zoo - where the children bought along their cuddly animals and fun was had by all. This term we have also enjoyed our regular events - the health visitor, the hairdresser and craft sessions. During February we hold our annual cake sale for Meningitis UK.

The Group meets Mondays during term time 9.30am - 11.30am in the Methodist Hall. New Members are always welcome. For more information please call Rachel on 01206 242431 or Steph on 01206 843761.

1st West Bergholt Guides



Amy Bates and Sarah Ayton have both gained their Baden Powell Challenge Award. They worked very hard to gain this award by doing 10 different challenges both with their Patrols and the unit.

We went to the Big Gig at Wembley in October with Guides and Senior Section members from our district. All enjoyed this. The Guides saw many stars including Little Chris and Lemar.

We held a few themed evenings including a camp fire and a Peter Pan evening. We also held a joint evening with the Brownies and played Crackerjack. Everyone went away with a Crackerjack pencil.

We joined with the Scouts and took part in the Remembrance Sunday service at the Orpen Hall and the Gift Day parade at the Methodist Church at the beginning of December.

We finished the term carol singing around part of the village. With so many members it is difficult to visit everyone's home but we did raise £20.00 for Breast Cancer that evening. The Guides sounded brilliant and all enjoyed the evening finishing with hot chocolate and cakes.

We are now preparing for Thinking Day on 22nd February.

Sandra Gates, Guide Guider

West Bergholt Railway Club

Colchester and District Model Railway Club

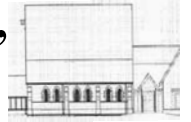
OPEN DAY

Orpen Hall, West Bergholt

Sunday 1st April 2007 11 am to 4.30 pm

Entry Free – Light Refreshments available

St. Mary the Virgin, West Bergholt



Developing St.Mary's for a growing community

St Mary's looked beautiful over Christmas, decked out with Poinsettia and a wonderful display of red and white flowers. On the 22nd December the church was packed with nearly 100 children who had come for a Christingle service and anyone who was there to see all those little faces lit by the light of their candles, brimful with joy and expectation for the celebrations ahead, will surely never forget the sight. Christmas Eve saw the church full again packed with worshippers coming to sing some wonderful traditional carols and to listen to some beautiful arrangements sung by the all-age singing group.

It feels like the celebrations, the excitement and the sense of expectation just goes on as work to improve the interior of the church began in earnest on Monday 15th January. With the doors almost permanently open during the day now and for the next 7 weeks as workmen come and go it is very hard to resist the urge to "sneak a peek" at what's going on inside. The pews have been removed to make way for comfortable upholstered chairs and the wood panelling is being reduced and what's uncovered is being re-plastered. Work will begin in earnest over the next few weeks to improve the lighting, heating and audio-visual projection.

If you don't get a chance to look in soon don't worry. A week of hospitality to which all will be welcome is being planned for as soon as the work is finished culminating in an official re-opening by the Bishop of Chelmsford on Palm Sunday. In the meantime, St Mary's will hold its Sunday services in the hall at Heathlands School every Sunday at 9.30am. We would love to see you and your family there whenever you can make it.

Please note: on Thursdays our coffee and chat opportunity ("Open House") continues in the Church Hall starting at 9am and on Thursday afternoons there is the chance to do the same at 5Ts running from 2.30pm.

Looking forward to welcoming you to our "new" home in March.

Church Wardens, St Mary the Virgin, West Bergholt

Sundays

'Bugs', Sunday School for pre-school to 11year olds. Held in Church on 1st, 2nd, and 4th Sundays during services.

'Buzz' for children of year 6 and upwards starts after 'Magnificat' at 7.30pm on the 2nd Sunday in month and at 73 Chapel Road.

'Magnificat' An alternative form of worship. Ring Jon or Lydia 242017 for details.

Thursdays

5 T's – Together on Thursday for Tea at Two Thirty.

2.30 til 4pm informal chat for whoever wants to come and share their views on whatever?

West Bergholt Football Club



Going into the last third of the season, and a familiar scenario on the football front, with the First team pushing for second spot and the reserves in the top quarter of their league.

The First team had a great success at Epping in the Intermediate cup, running out 4 - 3 winners after extra time, and are the only Border league team left in the competition, having to face more London opposition in the next round.

New plans for the clubhouse have had a favourable response from the Parish Council, and we hope to submit for planning in the near future. If successful we will then continue with the fundraising and grant applications. Any help in that area would be much appreciated.

The junior football coaching sessions on Saturday mornings are still going strong, and proving very popular, with continuing good attendances. Club T-Shirts for participants are now available at a small price. Please contact the organisers if you would like to purchase one.

Visit our web site www.westbergholtfc.co.uk for the latest news and league tables.

M.R.Bell, Chairman

West Bergholt Cricket Club



The Cricket Club has continued to compete in the winter months. The Over 40 section managed to win a couple of matches in the all-Essex tournament in Chelmsford while the younger members continue their phenomenal success in the Braintree Indoor League with promotion almost guaranteed for the third consecutive year.

Plans are well in hand for the coming season. Apart from the two senior teams competing again in Divisions 1 and 4 of the PDQ North Essex League, the club will now be playing in the Colchester-based Evening League. The latter will enable some younger members to experience senior cricket as well as providing the opportunity to welcome cricketers who find it hard to commit the time to play at the weekends.

The junior section continues to expand and our qualified coaches will be busy running no less than four teams in local league cricket. We will be represented at Under 16, Under 15, Under 14 and Under 12 levels. In addition, there will be a Kwik cricket section with details yet to be confirmed.

Practice net sessions in March and April have been organised again for both seniors and juniors at the University of Essex and we look forward to welcoming existing and new members to practise and stake their claims for selection when the season commences.

If anyone is interested in joining the club, please contact:

Seniors: Nigel Passmore on 240225,
nigel@weboffset.freemove.co.uk

Juniors: Neil Storey on 240164, store:_1@btopenworld.com
Nigel Passmore, Chairman.

Karate

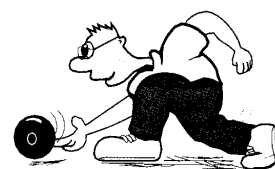
The karate club has been based at the Scout hut for over three years. It is a small friendly club with the emphasis on fun, fitness and self defence. New members are always welcome, whether they be complete beginners or experienced Karteka. If you would be interested in joining us and like further information please ring Stuart on 01206 365150 or 07854 048741.

Stuart Glister 2nd Dan Black Belt

National Association of Karate and Martial Arts Schools (NAKMAS)

Register of Exercise Professionals (REPS)

West Bergholt Indoor Bowls Club



Early in January five pairs from the club played in a two woods competition in aid of the London Chest Hospital charity. No winners but a good day was had by all.

Three players represented the club at the county single's preliminary competition held at the Braintree Leisure Centre. One player, George Boppin, won his group to qualify for the final group matches to be held in March. We look forward to hearing how he gets on.

South Woodham Ferrers sees the next competition in which the club has teams playing. The Mayor of Chelmsford is hosting this event in aid of the Helen Rollaston Heal Cancer Charity and Families Infocus (Essex). Good luck to all who take part.

The club reached the climax of their season with a fours competition in early February, all matches were very keenly contested and the results were awaited eagerly.

On Sunday 15th April at the Orpen Hall we are holding an 'open afternoon' for all the village to try carpet bowls. We would love you to enjoy your bowls as much as we all do. A cup of tea and a biscuit awaits your efforts, please come and enjoy yourself. For further information 01206 240379.

Library Times

The Mobile Library visits the village every Tuesday.
The stops and times for West Bergholt are:

Orpen Hall	14.00 – 14.20
Erle Havard Road	14.30 – 15.10
Queens Road	15.30 – 16.00
Corner of Spring Lane and Chapel Lane	16.05 – 17.30



village bulletin *what's on guide*

Regular Village Events

Sundays:

Prayer Meeting, 10.15am 1st Sunday every month - Methodist Church
Service of Worship, 11am Morning Worship - Methodist Church
Bowls Club, 7.30pm - Orpen Hall
SG KARATE, Scout Hut - Mondays 8:30 - 9:30 pm. £4.00 per class.

Mondays:

Bluebell Preschool, Monday to Friday - Orpen Hall
Parent and Toddler Group, 9.30-11.30am - Methodist Hall
Village Art Group, 2.00pm - Methodist Church Hall
Gardeners' Association, 7.30pm 3rd Monday - Orpen Hall
 (Sept-Dec, Feb-May)

Tuesdays:

NHS Primary Care Trust Baby Clinic, 10am to 11am - Methodist Hall
Miss Jackson's Dancing Class, 5.30-7.30pm - Orpen Hall
Tai Chi, Continuing Class, 7.30-9.30pm - Scout Hut - Wendy 272745
Methodist Church, 11am 2nd Tuesday Communion Service
Badminton Club, 8.15pm - Orpen Hall
W.E.A., 8.00pm - Methodist Hall (Sept. to Dec. and Jan. to Mar.)

Wednesdays:

Coffee Morning, 10.00am 2nd Wednesday - Methodist Hall
Women's Fellowship, 3:00pm 1st and 3rd Wednesday - Methodist Hall
Women's Institute, 7.15pm 1st Wednesday - Orpen Hall
Colne Valley Flower Club, 7.30pm 3rd Wednesday - Orpen Hall
 (not August or December)
History Group, 2nd Wednesday (not December),
 telephone (01206) 240297 for further details
Parish Council Meeting, 7.30pm 4th Wednesday - Orpen Hall
Tai Chi, Continuing Class, 1.30-3pm Orpen Hall - Wendy 272745 and
 New Beginners Class 1.30-3pm - John Lampon Hall - Tel. Nick 853127
West Bergholt Craft and Quilters Group, 2nd Wednesday
 (except Christmas) - Joyce Lucking Room
Ladies Afternoon Badminton, Orpen Hall, 3.00pm to 4.30pm.
 New members welcome - contact Pat Butcher for details 242075

Thursdays:

Friendship Club, 2.00pm 2nd and 4th Thursday - Orpen Hall
Squeals on Wheels, a service for pre-school 'toddlers' and families in
 St Mary's Church, 10.30am every Thursday, in term time.
Colchester and District Model Railway Club, 8pm - Armoury Farm
National Women's Register, 8.00pm fortnightly,
 telephone 01206 240588 for details
British Legion, Gt & Lt Horkesley branch which includes West Bergholt
 - meet Beehive Pub, Lt Horkesley 2nd Thursday at 8pm
Bowls Club, 7.30pm Orpen Hall
Pilates, 9.30am - Scout Hut, tel/ 564348 for details

Fridays:

West Bergholt Concert Band,
 6.00-7.00pm (Juniors), 7.00-9.00pm (seniors) - Heathlands school
Wesley Guild, 7.30pm, 4th Friday every month - Methodist Hall (March to
 September)
Orpen Players, 8.00pm - Orpen Hall

Saturdays:

The Performing Arts Centre,
 10.30am-12.30pm for pupils aged 6 to 11 years old - Orpen Hall

West Bergholt Care Network

If you live in West Bergholt and need help getting to an appointment the Care Network may be able to help. Telephone the number below for the day on which you make your call. If there is no response, please don't leave a message on an answering service, try any other number.

Monday	242 319	Tuesday	242 185
Wednesday	241 103	Thursday	241 672
Friday	240 291	Sat / Sun	242 075

St. Mary's Church Dates

March

Sunday 4th Holy Communion 9.30am
If all goes well with the Refurbishment services will resume in St Mary's on either 11th or 18th March. Watch for posters!

Sunday 11th Family Communion 9.30am
 Sunday 18th Mothering Sunday Service 9.30am
 Sunday 25th Holy Communion 9.30am

April

Sunday 1st Dedication service for the refurbished
 'St Mary the Virgin Church'

Preacher: The Rt. Rev. Christopher Morgan
 Bishop of Colchester
 Service commences at 9.30am

Sunday 8th Easter Sunday Family Communion
 9.30am

Sunday 15th Family Service 9.30am
 Sunday 22nd Holy Communion 9.30am
 Sunday 29th Praise Service 9.30am

May

Sunday 6th Holy Communion 9.30am
 Sunday 13th Rogation Service 9.30am
 Sunday 20th Family Service 9.30am
 Sunday 27th Holy Communion 9.30am

St Mary's church Creche
 A 'Creche' is available, as required for
 Children under 5 years old.

Rector – The Rev. Colin Horseman 271242

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, please contact Jackie Leach on 241677.

Editorial Team:

John Bates 240741, Bernard Colbron 240297, Jon Lander 241288, Susan Leng 241748, Joyce Lucking 241743 and Susan Swan (advertising) 242319.
 Copy for June issue should be with the Editors before 1st May 2007 - Regretfully late submissions cannot be guaranteed entry into the Bulletin