

village bulletin

June 2007 Issue 110

www.westbergholt.net

West Bergholt Women's Institute



Over the past few months members and visitors have listened to a wide variety of speakers, learned about the value of natural remedies of Aloe Vera and Bee products, walked the highways of New Zealand (in slides of course), been entertained by our own members including being taught some new dances, and then on to Russia where we learned about the history and decoration of Russian Dolls.

A renewed initiative of our WI is the introduction of a Drama and Play Reading Group – which is proving extremely popular. We hope to witness some of its success at one of our meeting nights in the near future.

Members also took part in the village quiz evenings and joined other WI meetings around the area for their special events and outings.

Visitors are always made welcome so why not join us at 7.15pm on the first Wednesday of each month in the Orpen Hall.

West Bergholt - First Responder Group (FRG)

It is almost exactly twelve months ago since the idea of a First Responder Group for the village was originally proposed. Since then a team of some ten volunteer responders has been formed.

During the last winter, and with the assistance of the Essex Ambulance Service, the Responders have undergone the required training and the new group officially became operational on 12th March 2007. A duty rota has been set up, which gives the village cover for about 50% of the week.

At the time of going to press, the FRG have received two

call outs. On the first occasion, the responder arrived on the scene only moments ahead of the ambulance, but on the second call, the responder was there for a good four minutes before the ambulance arrived, as it got held up at the level crossing.

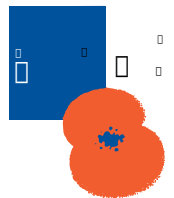
Both patients were treated in Hospital, but these first two incidents have shown what a real value this voluntary service can be to the village.

The FRG meets once a month to discuss call outs and the lessons learnt from them, training and organising the rota. However, further volunteers are still needed, if the FRG are to increase their coverage time.

Anyone interested should contact the Group Organiser, Annie Neish, on 01206 240469.

From strength to strength

The Royal British Legion



Veterans Day 2007

The official 'Veterans' day for 2007 is Wednesday 27th June. Our Branch is celebrating this event by hosting branches from North Essex, with a service in St Mary's Church on Sunday 1st July.

The service will commence at 11.15am with Standards and personnel from Great and Little Horkesley – Wormingford, Fordham, West Bergholt - Mile End and hopefully Boxted.

This is quite a coup for our Branch, hosting so many North Essex branches to parade their Standards in our village Church, so we are hoping for support from the many ex-service personnel who live in the village and other people who are interested in the Royal British Legion and the work they do.

To find out more, or hopefully if you wish to join our Branch of the RBL, please contact the secretary Mr Roger Drury ex-RN, (271454) or Hugh Brivent-Barnes ex-RAF and Army (243717) who lives in the village.

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	☎	240 314

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.

West Bergholt Historic Vehicle Show

The West Bergholt Vehicle Show will take place on Saturday and Sunday, 28th - 29th July, starting on both days at 10am. It will be held at the usual venue off Nayland Road, West Bergholt. Over the two days we will have over 500 historic vehicles of all descriptions plus Trade Stands, Charity Stalls and Static Exhibitions plus a funfair for the younger generation.

We will have a full arena programme of entertainment on the Saturday afternoon, which will include a parade of Suffolk Horses by kind permission of Bunting and Sons.

On Saturday evening there will be a country and western concert, starting at 7.30pm. This is a FREE concert so come along and support us.

On the Sunday, again we will have a full arena programme which will include the Suffolk Horses. We are pleased to welcome back to West Bergholt THE HONDA IMPS MOTOR CYCLE DISPLAY TEAM which will give two performances. There will also be massed bands from Melton Mowbray and a Scottish Pipe Band. We also welcome back to West Bergholt THE PRINCESS OF WALES' ROYAL REGIMENT PARACHUTE DISPLAY TEAM known as THE TIGERS which will parachute into the showground at around 3.30pm on the Sunday afternoon.

Also in attendance will be the usual licensed bar and catering facilities.

So please come along to Nayland Road and join us in what is hoped will be a weekend to remember.

West Bergholt Gardeners' Association



At the time of going to press we are busy preparing for our Annual Plant Sale on May 21st and we are hoping that this will be at least as successful as in previous years - whatever the outcome the proceeds will go to local charity. In March and April we enjoyed visiting speakers on "Wildflower gardening" and "Unusual plants". Patrick Cadman of Growing Together, who gave the second talk, produced a wide range of plants, some being new varieties and others perhaps neglected. We shall visit the Nursery on a June evening in 2008 for a further demonstration.

Our coach trip to Helmingham Hall on June 20th is almost fully subscribed but there may be one or two seats for latecomers. Pat Fosker (241103), Gordon Dean (242194) or Ian Collin (240728) have the details if you are interested.

This year we are taking a stall at the Village Fayre on Saturday, June 16th with a view to getting children to take part in a PUMPKIN GROWING COMPETITION. The

Association will provide the seeds and later in the year will arrange for entries to be judged. We hope that participants (and their parents!) will enjoy seeing the results of their efforts over the next few months.

Normally we do not have a meeting in July, but this year one of our most prolific and experienced members, Pat Kerr, has kindly offered to open her gardens in Braiswick to members during the evening of July 16th

We have been pleased to welcome several new members recently and extend a warm invitation to anyone interested to come along to the first meeting of our new season, starting on Monday, September 17th, when our speaker will have "Bugs and beasts" as his subject.

1st West Bergholt Guides



We celebrated Thinking Day with the rest of Braiswick District at St. Helena School. We started the celebration with our Senior section telling us what Thinking Day meant, followed by presentation of awards by our County Commissioner, Mrs Bonnie Hill. Mrs Hill presented both Amy Bates and Sarah Ayton with their Baden Powell awards. We then took part in various worldwide activities taken from the idea of a theme around the four World Guiding Centres, India, Mexico, Switzerland and England. We finished the celebration by renewing our promises.

Since then we have celebrated St. David's day by making Welsh cakes and the world's smallest ever pancake on the top of a baked bean tin!!

For Comic Relief the Guides helped raise £40.00 and painted shirts with red dye. Amazingly the dye did not get spilt!

This week was spent making jewellery with tiny beads and Fimo (a type of coloured clay that has to be cooked in the oven).

Next week the Guides will start to write their own magazine to gain the Publisher Go For It. This will take at least four weeks and we will let you know more in the next edition.

Sandra Gates, Guide Leader

Christmas service at St Mary's old church

The Christmas Service at St Mary's old church was well attended. The church was full to overflowing with people standing throughout the service.

Thanks to the organist and Reverend Horseman who took the service. The collection took £238.50. Donations are to be divided between the Churches Conservation Trust and St Mary's New Church.

Thanks to everyone who attended the service.

Late Bulletin insert due to an IT glitch!

Neighbourhood Watch Scheme



TWENTY YEARS OF THE VILLAGE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH (NW).

From small beginnings, and with only some five co-ordinators at the start, Neighbourhood Watch has expanded hugely, particularly over the five last years, and it now boasts more than 25 co-ordinators, who actively cover most of the village, in the constant battle against crime and anti-social behaviour. The scale of this achievement can be measured by the fact that there are no neighbourhood watch representatives in the nearby villages of Eight Ash Green, Fordham or the Horkesleys, despite Police efforts to expand the NW organisation.

However, volunteers are still required to join the team, and anyone interested should contact the Area Co-ordinator, John Ford, (see below). At the moment NW team has only one co-ordinator from the 18-25 year age bracket and we are particularly anxious to recruit from this group to assist the team with its crime prevention activities in the village.

WORRYING CRIMES.

Three of the more unpleasant crimes, which unfortunately seem to be on the increase, are Distraction Burglary, Identity Theft and Mobile Phone Theft. Distraction Burglary usually involves two people who target a property and then gain entry on some spurious pretext such as a gas or water engineer investigating a problem. Once in, one of the villains will keep the occupier engaged while the other carries out a search and rob exercise. DON'T allow access to your property unless you know with whom you are dealing. If unsure ask for some form of Identity.

The problem of Identity Theft was covered in the December 2006 Bulletin, but it is necessary to point out that 'bin raiding' is now one of the most common methods by which the criminal obtains personal information, gained from papers, such as bank or credit card statements, which have been put out for the refuse collector, without being properly destroyed. Shredding or burning should be carried out as a matter of course

Did you know that Mobile Phones can be registered for free and registration will assist in the recovery of the phone if stolen (or lost)? For information go to: www.immobilise.com

WANTON VANDALISM.

On 5th October at around 9.20pm vandals were seen breaking into a car in Albany Road, but when approached took off. The road fund licence was stolen and the hub caps were removed, but were left behind by the vandals in the rush to get away. Though the vandalism was reported to the Police within ten minutes and a description of the driver and car provided, the Police were unable to react immediately and the opportunity may have been missed to catch the vandal(s) while still in the area. The Police did not make enquiries until over 55 hours had elapsed, but it is understood this was due to pressure of work at the time.

Further recent incidents of vandalism have also taken place at the Football Club, Orpen Hall - again, the Allotments and the Telephone Kiosk. If anyone has any information about

these incidents, advise the Police and/or NW. (See below for reporting crimes).

DOORSTEP TRADERS.

This is the time of year when these people are at their most active. They come knocking on the front door offering to fix problems with your property at a 'low' price. The quality of work is, more often than not, of a poor standard and what makes it worse, it is extremely difficult to obtain any redress from the Trader in question. This type of unsolicited call is illegal and advice on how to deal with them can be obtained through Consumer Direct & Trading Standards (who work in partnership) on 0845 040506.

TELEPHONE CONTACTS. ~

For reporting crime, please contact in the first instance the Police - *remembering to ask for an incident number* - and then Neighbourhood Watch.

1. 999 for all serious crime
2. 01206 210441 Copford Police station.
3. 01206 762212 Colchester Police Station
4. PC Neil Everett 07966 197134
5. Neighbourhood Watch 01206 240995 or 241716

FLYING WINNERS OF THE PARISH PLAN COMPETITION

Keith and June Pritchard were two of the winning entries for the Parish Plan Questionnaire completed in October 2006. It was finally third time lucky, that weather and diary commitments aligned so they could make use of their prize. On the 6th February on a sunny but cold winter's day they took to the skies from the Earls Colne airfield. They flew over Abberton Reservoir, Mersea Island, Brightlingsea and Clacton. Unfortunately low cloud over Felixstowe and Ipswich meant they could only travel as far as Manningtree before turning back towards Colchester and West Bergholt.

Keith and June have been living in West Bergholt for nearly three years having moved from Braiswick. They were flown around the village several times taking aerial photographs of their house before heading towards Stoke by Nayland Golf Course where Keith is a member.

On occasions the visibility from the air gave a view of Essex, Suffolk and Norfolk that extended to approximately 60 miles. They both wore huge grins when they finally returned to earth back in Earls Colne nearly one hour later.

Workers Educational Association

The branch has already made arrangements for their autumn course, starting 25 September. The subject is Britain and the Sea. The tutor, Roger Beckett, will be looking at various aspects such as exploration, trade, slavery, empire and the social history of the sailors. The standard student fee is unchanged at £40 for the course with the concessionary rate slightly up at £34. Fuller details will be in the next Bulletin.

West Bergholt Parent and Toddler Group



The children at West Bergholt Toddler Group have enjoyed a spring term full of fun and activity!

We have had lots of visitors, including the Children's Librarian from Colchester Library who came to help us celebrate World Book Day. The children had a great time listening to stories and all received a Book Token and a fun Book Mark.

We have had lots of fundraising activities including a 'bring your (toy) animals to Toddlers' day' to raise money for the new Orang-Utan Enclosure at Colchester Zoo and a cake sale for Meningitis UK. We finished our term with an Easter Celebration with Hot Cross Buns for the grown-ups and Eggs for all the children.

The Summer Programme is full of more fun things including craft activities for the children, a Potty Training Day and visits from the local Pre-school and other Child Care Providers. We will finish our term on 9th July with a Summer Party. Come and find us every Monday term-time at the Methodist Church Hall, 9.30-11.30 or for more information call Steph on 843761 or Rachel on 242431 or come and find us at Heathlands School Fair on 16th June!

Rachel Hutchings

Friends of Hillhouse Wood



Wildflower wonderland

The value of the hard work put in during the autumn and winter months by Friends of Hillhouse Wood working parties under the direction of David Bull was clear to see in April. First there was a marvellous display of wood anemones followed mid-month by a dazzling and fragrant carpet of bluebells.

As well as the essential management work carried out by the Friends' volunteers, a contractor with a tractor-mounted flail was commissioned by the Woodland Trust and this resulted in clearance of an area near the main notice board, the central clearing down to the bottom pond, a large vista area through from the field entrance to the Colne Valley view and a new small dell.

On April 14, Philip Smith and I led a spring nature walk in and near the wood attended by a record 28 people who enjoyed an unusually warm day when the temperature rose to 23 degrees Centigrade. Several chiffchaffs and blackcaps were seen and heard plus a garden warbler. A lesser whitethroat was seen and heard along the hedge bordering the lane leading to the wood. Bluebells were already coming into bloom and other wild flowers noted were wood anemones, several spikes of early purple orchids, cuckoo flowers (ladies' smocks), moschatel and

primroses. Ransoms (wild garlic) were coming into bloom in the large colony next to the bottom stream and were full out by the last week in April. Butterflies noted on the walk were green-veined white, male brimstone, comma, speckled wood, red admiral and peacock.

Following the retirement of Peter Johnson as Friends' committee chairman on health grounds, Andrew Savage has been elected chairman and Steve Hallam as vice-chairman. Peter Johnson will remain a member of the committee.

Following the erection of an owl box on the eastern edge of the wood, a bats' roosting and breeding "box," known as a hibernaculum, has been placed on a tree near the lower pond. Both are dedicated to the late Mr Warren at the request of his family and a small engraved plaque in dedication has been placed on the left leg of the notice board.

Nightingales were heard in the wood in the last week of April, encouraging hope that several may be heard singing by day and night in May and on the occasion of the popular dawn chorus of birdsong walk led by Philip Smith and myself. It started at 3.45am on Sunday, May 13, at the Old Church. Last year the dawn chorus event was rained off!

Clearance work on the main pond near the wood entrance has been deferred until the autumn and, in the meantime, expert advice and some site meetings will be sought and arranged.

A combined moth lamp and bat detector evening has been fixed for Friday, June 22. Ian Rose, of Essex Moth Group and Colchester Natural History Society, and I will be running the moth lamp with a portable generator, and Darren Tansley, mammals recorder of the CNHS, will be operating the bat detector. Meet at the entrance to the wood at 9.00pm. Be prepared for a late night as the moth lamp is not "lit" until after 10.00pm and the session will not finish until after midnight, weather permitting. Bring a torch and a hot drink as well as warm clothing as it chills off at night even in summer. There will be plenty of help from the experts on moth and bat identifications and the moth species tally could reach as high as 70.

Joe Firmin

Colne Valley Flower Club



Colne Valley Flower Club has had a colourful and humorous start to its year welcoming demonstrators from the local area. We have lots to look forward to with a Charity event in aid of the Colchester YMCA Foyer in July at the homes of two members as well as a variety of entertainment provided by flower arrangers from Cheshire to Walton!

New members and guests are always welcome at the Orpen Hall, 7.30pm on the third Wednesday in the month. For any more information contact the Secretary, Alison Bradshaw on 01206 240262.

West Bergholt Concert Band



Land of Holst And Brubeck

Summer 2007 marks the first time the band have performed their most requested styles of music in one concert...Last Night of the Proms with a Swing. Our two summer concerts include a swinging first half with music from Take Five to Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy, and a classical second half with music from Strauss, Elgar and Holst rounded off with all the traditional Last Night of the Proms splendour. Dust off your flags and join us for an evening of fabulous music !

Saturday June 23rd (7:30pm)– Westcliff Theatre, Clacton
(Concert with the Sweeting Swing Band)

Saturday July 14th (7:30pm) – Stoke By Nayland Golf Club

Another first for the band is the “scratch” concert we’re performing at Stanway School on June 9th (7.30pm) – the first time Stanway School band and ourselves see the music is in the afternoon, and we perform a concert in the evening. It’s a great programme including medleys from Joseph and Grease, plus music from the Harry Potter and Indiana Jones films. It’s bound to be an entertaining evening...so come along and join in the fun.

The band continues to raise money for Charity, with our two Spring concerts raising over £1300 for The Mayor’s Charities and Tendring Community Voluntary Service. We also continue to welcome new members, so wander up to Heathlands on any term-time Friday evening if you’re interested in joining, or would just like more information. The band’s uniqueness is that we have players from 7 to 70, so there’s always someone younger/older/worse/better than you...we’re always glad to see new players of all ages and abilities.

Everything you need to know about the band (including tickets, details and directions for our concerts) can be found on our website (www.wbc.org), or you can call Graham on 01206 824157. We look forward to seeing you at some of our concerts !

1st West Bergholt Scout Group

In a break with “tradition”, this year the Group attended the St George’s Day parade in Colchester (rather than in the village). As part of the centenary celebrations for the movement, Scouts paraded through the town, with the salute being taken by the Mayor at the Town Hall, followed by a civic ceremony in Castle Park. Both of the Colchester Scout districts joined together for the ceremony, which saw several hundred Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorers and Leaders renewing their promises. In brilliant sunshine, it was a great occasion which should last in the memories of our young people for many years. If only more of us had been able to participate in the singing of “Crest of a Wave” perhaps we should take lessons before we attend again!

The next event in the centenary programme is a District Camp at Thorrington Scout Camp in May 2007. We expect to have around 60 youngsters participating in the camp, “travelling” around the world and taking part in activities loosely based on the countries adopted by the participating groups: this group’s base is “Hawaii”. In August 2007, we will be following up with a “sunrise ceremony” when Scouts around the world will celebrate the centenary of Scouting at around the same time.

Recent activities by the sections include a night hike by Scouts, a multi-sports event, outings by Beavers (including a visit to Wildwood, a Beavers Fun Day, cooking and craft sessions and much badge work. All of the sections are working towards the Centenary Camp in terms of teaching new members to pitch tents, cook on stoves and open fires and so on. We have even reminded young and old members how to tie knots (but, to be honest, that has to be done every year!).

In the census taken at 31 January 2007, I am delighted that the Group reported an increase in its membership and is now the largest group in Colchester North District.

Congratulations to Bill Dyer (Akela, Otters Cub Pack) on being presented with a long service award for 10 years as a leader.

Once again, we are grateful to Andrew Wilks who has coached and managed the Cubs football team in the local Cubs league over the last season. Sadly the results did not match Andrew’s enthusiasm!

If anyone is interested in helping the Group please contact the Group Chairman, Paul Brooks, on 01206 242292. If any of our parents do not want to become a leader or join the committee, perhaps they might take on organising an event? If you want to know about any aspect of the Group or its activities, please feel free to call me on 01206 240549.

Kevin Sturdy

THE VILLAGE SIGN

Memories of West Bergholt some thirty years ago,
A sleepy little hamlet, the pace of life so slow.
The focal point of the village was the local brewery.
The shire horses and the draymen were a wondrous sight
to see.

They’d set out to make deliveries every day without fail.
And in the air would hang a heady scent, a mix of horse
and ale.
The clip-clopping of their massive hooves, steam rising
from their backs,
A sight of good old England to stop you in your tracks.

Alas the brewery is no more - ‘It’s progress’ we hear them
shout.
All that remains is the shell, the heart’s been ripped clean
out.
Yet they have not been forgotten, their memory has been
etched in time.
Around the corner, to the left - on the village sign.

SUSAN CARSLAKE

West Bergholt Parish Council News

HALL COMMITTEE

A handrail has been installed and nosing replaced on the steps leading to the stage. Work is nearly complete on a new loft access hatch with a loft ladder to provide safe access. Mr Broom will carry out some of the maintenance work around the hall. Mr Johnson will control his time allocation.

Panther Security is to be asked to complete the work on Phase 2 of the CCTV before payment is made.

Mr Tyrell will stand down as Chair of the Hall committee next month.

Wax has been removed from the floor which is now in a satisfactory state.

The accounts showed 123% income and 137% expenditure (the expenditure includes payment for the new heating system).

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Allotments: The last remaining plot is being shown to a prospective user next month. Children have been running across allotments whilst family members are working their own plots. Mr Stone will approach the parents. However, if this has no effect a letter will be sent.

Poors Land: The gate on Colchester Road will be replaced with a galvanised steel kissing gate at a cost of £242 + £70 delivery and erection costs. The low level bar off School Lane has been broken for the second time. Mr Broom has repaired it with stronger bolt.

Lorkin Daniell Playing Field The Football Club was vandalised and debris strewn over the garage area. This has been cleared up. The Football Club have asked if a ladies football team can use their facilities. This will be looked into once they have supplied the Trustees with a list of teams currently playing for the club. The WBMSC have still not provided Graham Broom with a set of keys for the MUGA. The play equipment ROSPA inspection will take place in May. A sign to warn against fly tipping around the recycling area will be erected shortly. A quote will be sought to carry out tree surgery on a tree behind 29a Mumford Road.

Village Green: Mr Johnson will meet with Atkins to discuss reinstating the old entrance to the school in May. The seat near the village sign needs repairing with a new bracing bar. Mr Johnson will source a mobile welding firm. West Bergholt has entered the Best Kept Village competition. Notices have been displayed around the village. CBC has been asked to remove parts of a bicycle dumped on an Erle Havard footpath. The bus lay-by in Chapel Road will be resurfaced. No date has been given as yet. ECC does not currently have enough resources in its legal department to approve 'yellow lines' around the Co-op.

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Five applications were received by the Planning Committee

resulting in three 'no comments' and two requesting further information. Ten 'approvals' were passed on by Colchester Borough Council Planning Department.

CBC consultation response for Network Rail application to the Secretary of State for Transport for Chitts Hill Level Crossing replacement. Work will start mid July. Macnally Mews – Tarttelin and Co Solicitors have been instructed to act for the Parish Council to explore the relaxation of a Covenant on the land.

PARISH PLAN

An update on the position of the Parish Plan had been received. As there has been very little expenditure to date, the Parish Council does not feel it is necessary to carry out an audit. However, Mr Savage would be happy to do this should the Parish Plan committee request it.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

The General Account showed 104% income, 94% General expenditure and 114% Environment expenditure (101% overall expenditure).

The Annual Parish Meeting will take place on 23rd May 2007. This will be followed by the Annual Parish Council meeting and a Parish Council meeting. There will be no Trustees meeting in May, Dave Kingaby will make a presentation on the new website.

Lubbock Fine has been appointed Auditors for the next audit.

CORRESPONDENCE

ECC Transport Information Day – 19/06/07

CBC Argents Lane to be closed for five days from 8/05/07

The Parish Council will enter a team in the Village Quiz on 19/05/07. The Parish Council has been advised that there are people living in caravans on land behind the White Hart. CBC will be advised. Mrs Baker of Queens Road has made a complaint about the smells and disturbance from the takeaways operating at the Queens Head. However, whilst the Parish Council is sympathetic, the Queens Head is acting within the bounds of its Licence. Therefore, there is nothing the Parish Council can do.. Care Network thanked the Parish Council for its donation.

BOROUGH COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Councillor Tod expressed her concern about parking around the Co-op area.

VILLAGE BULLETIN

Nora Bates has taken over the distribution of the Bulletin from Joyce Lucking. Over 1400 copies of the Bulletin are distributed in and around the village.



More information of all the Parish Council meetings are on the web site - www.westbergholt.net

Heathlands School



Most of the children will be going on educational visits this term.

1RL, 1RS and 1K/R are going to March Farm.

2S and 2B are visiting Daws Hall.

The lower juniors will be going to Hatfield Forest.

Year 5 will be going on their annual trip to Plopsaland in Belgium.

Year 6 have their residential trip to Aylmerton in Norfolk.

Before most of these visits take place many of the children will be sitting their end of year SATs and tests so these trips will be a welcome break.

The upper juniors have already begun rehearsing songs for their end of term production 'Hoodwinked' based on the story of Robin Hood. Hopefully, we won't all be dodging bow and arrows later in the term when full rehearsals start.

The Summer Fayre and Fun Run takes place on 16th June and we look forward to welcoming many visitors for, what will hopefully be, a sunny, enjoyable afternoon.

Donations received from the infants' production last Christmas were used to sponsor a child in Mali. Her name is Sounoumba Konate. The children will be writing to Sounoumba and sending pictures and photos and hope to receive information about her progress in due course. We feel this is a very worthwhile charity and both Sounoumba and the children at Heathlands will benefit by learning about each other's cultures.

Sally Smith, one of our infant teachers, took part in the London Marathon this year. On a very warm day she successfully completed the run in a very good time raising £1500 for "Well Child", £756 of this was raised at the school.

WELL DONE SALLY

Methodist Church News

Our Quiz Night in March was very successful and enjoyed by many regular teams as well as a few new faces. We are being encouraged to hold a second quiz night this year and may be looking at early Autumn. WATCH THIS SPACE.

What a wonderful display of Christian paintings we had during Holy Week. We hope you didn't miss it! The artist David Hollingsworth' as well as being available for some of the time to explain the background to his work, was also able to work on a new painting depicting Jesus in the Wilderness.

AT THE METHODIST CHURCH WE CONTINUE OUR REGULAR EVENTS: -

Sunday Service 11.00am

Women's Fellowship in the Hall 1st, 3rd Wednesdays.

Coffee Mornings 2nd Wednesday each month.

Shared Village Communion in the Church at 11.00am 2nd Tuesday each month.

Everyone is most welcome to join us at any of these times.

West Bergholt Friendship Club



The early part of the Club's year was marked by a well-attended lunch at the White Hart.

Back in the Orpen Hall in March, Val Carter brought along part of her extensive collection of Russian dolls, ranging from the traditional Russian dolls, some quite exquisite, to more exotic tourist versions now produced outside Russia.

The following month Norma Peckstone entertained us with a selection of the poems she has written on many topics and very much focussed on the Colchester area.

Our annual general meeting took place at the end of April, with a 'no change' situation emerging as far as officers and committee are concerned.

Coming up for the summer session will be a lunch at Fingringhoe and an outing to Felixstowe in July. At the Heathlands School Fayre we shall again be running a tombola stall. Our summer meetings will end with the customary garden party at Alcrofts Farm.

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

Gerda Rumsey, Chairman



The Wesley Guild

The Wesley Guild has opened its doors for the Summer season, why not come along and join us.

We began in March with a social evening and stories about Joyce Grenfell's early life and her presentations as a Nursery Teacher. Although we have all heard these stories many times before it certainly brought a smile to all our faces. In April we welcomed Geoff Eames who told us about his trip to the Galapagos Islands, what wonderful pictures – showing the barren islands volcanic scenery of the more recently formed islands and the greenery of the older islands, where the wild life reigns – turtles, lizards, seals and many different species of Booby birds – all of which will not move out of the way of visitors, but expect the tourists to either wait or walk around them.

On 22nd June we will be hearing about The Benin Christian Support Charity which is supporting work with children's education in West Africa as well as building an orphanage and adopting more small villages to help in the development of these communities in health care and education.

July 27th our speaker will be Eileen Warner telling us about her life as a missionary in Japan.

We meet in the Methodist Church Hall at 7.30pm. – Please come along.

People of West Bergholt

Claire Short

Claire and her husband David came to live in Chapel Lane in 1951. It really was just a lane then with meadows and scrubland on either side, she says. With her love of music and singing she soon became popular with the village organisations. Before long she had started a choir with the Darby and Joan Club with rehearsals and cups of tea at her house. Then at the other end of the age range she worked with the Girl Guides and produced *The Pied Piper of Hamelin*, an opera for children. She also went camping with them when camping meant sleeping under canvas cooking on an open stove and digging the latrines.

Always a ready volunteer she was secretary of the committee that was formed to raise money for the Orpen Memorial Hall. She recalls the carnivals and fetes and the decorated floats parading the village. As a member of the Colchester Operatic Society, Claire played several leading roles that included *The Merry Widow*. Her interest in opera led her to join the music department of the Colchester Institute where she gained a performing diploma in singing from the Royal College and sang professionally mainly in Essex and Suffolk.

During her year in office at the Colchester Inner Wheel the money raised provided a disabled sports club at Prettygate. Also helping Claire with the project was Jean Clampin (Darville) another well-known local figure. The Ipswich football players came to the opening to play Wheelchair basketball. A great night she recalls.

One morning on the radio in 1988 she heard a talk about 'Care Networks' so she joined forces with Betty Heard and they started one in the village that is still helping people today.

Over the years Claire has given her time to many good causes including organising the Meals on Wheels service and contributing to the Talking Newspaper for the blind.

Always a staunch WI member she directed several choirs that entertained at venues around the area and at the village Carol concerts.

During the 1980's she became a Quaker and she is still actively involved. Her husband David's hobby was Motor Sport with the East Anglian Motor Club. She joined him on various rallies and says she enjoyed navigating without having to turn the map upside down. During their fifty-six years in the village they have had five wonderful children and thirteen grandchildren. They also moved their mothers to West Bergholt so they have many happy memories of family get-togethers with sailing and caravan holidays.

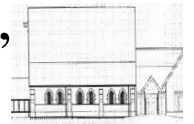
How the time has flown!!

Library Times

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

Orpen Hall	14.00 – 14.15
Albany Road	14.20 – 14.40
Scout Hut, Lexden Road	14.45 – 15.30
Queens Road	15.50 – 16.15
Chapel Lane	16.20 – 17.15

St. Mary the Virgin, West Bergholt



Developing St. Mary's for a growing community

The 'doubting Thomases' amongst us were delighted to be proven wrong, for St Mary's refurbishment was completed on time and reopened on 11th March, to a full-house! God has blessed us with a beautifully refurbished Church full of light and warmth and spirit. Since re-opening we have seen many people come through the doors, some familiar, some new and some returning after a period of absence. Very few have "just popped-in", preferring to linger a while to 'take-in' the differences and to enjoy the fellowship and hospitality which are part of our mission in the village.

Verdict – different; but very refreshing, warm, well lit with comfortable chairs. Most comments came concerning the newly polished parquet flooring and Church furniture made from the original oak pews. The following Sunday was 'Mothering Sunday' with a congregation of nearly 180!

The third Sunday after re-opening was 'Palm Sunday', when the Rt. Rev. Christopher Morgan, Bishop of Colchester joined in the procession from the duck pond, culminating in a service of dedication by the Bishop for the refurbished Church of St Mary the Virgin.

You and your family are very welcome, and we very much hope to see you there.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Sir

I know that this e-mail will miss the latest issue of the 'Village Bulletin', but none the less I choose to write as the problem I am concerned with affects everyone all year round in our village.

I have lived in West Bergholt for around 18 months and never have I seen a village so plagued with lazy dog owners who do not clear up after their pets! We are so lucky to live in a beautiful area which is safe, friendly and has access to so many countryside footpaths. But the dog mess that is left in public areas is disgusting. I live on Chapel Road, an unlit road which is a main thoroughfare to the shops, bus stops and Heathlands School and quite frequently there is mess left on the pavements for all to tread in. I also like to take walks to the Old Church and around the countryside footpaths and these areas are no different. Dog owners let their dogs run free and do not clear up after them. It is an unsightly health hazard and all dog owners should appreciate that they should treat the village and its residents with some consideration and respect.

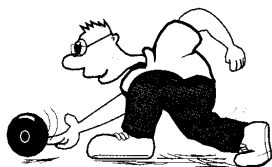
Thank you for giving me the forum to let off steam on this issue!

Kindest Regard

Gemma Goskie

Editor: This letter was received after the March edition went to press.

West Bergholt Indoor Bowls Club



The AGM was held in March and 25 members attended. A new committee was elected as follows:

Chairperson: Jan Lumb

Secretary: Greta Leatherdale

Treasurer: Marie Fitzjohn

Match Secretary: George Coppin

Catering: Nora Bates

and Barbara Davis, Paul Leech and Jill Nugent.

All members enjoyed a "Jacket Potato" supper. Fred Brown presented the trophies to -

Singles Winner: George Coppin

Pairs Winners: Nora and Molly Bates

Triple Winners: Iris and George Coppin and Eddie Taylor

Fours Winners: Iris and George Coppin, Greta Leatherdale and Barbara Davis

Points Winner: George Coppin.

Also in March one team competed in the Methodist Church Quiz - we didn't win but had a very enjoyable evening.

An open afternoon was held in the Orpen Hall in April for anyone who felt they might like to take up the sport. For those who wish to have a bowl, but were unable to attend, you are very welcome to come on any Thursday or Sunday evening.

Two teams entered the Wimbish Pairs Tournament and George Coppin and Barbara Davis have got through to Finals Day in May. We all wish them the best of luck. Two teams of four players are off to play at Highwoods Bowls Competition at the end of April, more of this next time, and two teams to the Bee's Competition at Braintree in May.

The Bowls Club welcome new members at the Orpen Hall at 7.45pm on Thursday and Sunday evenings or call 240824 for further information.

West Bergholt Football Club



The end of the season draws near, and with four games left to play, the First Team require one more point to secure runners-up position in the league. With a bit more luck on our side, and a few less injuries, we may well have been in the running for league champions. Our great cup run came to an end in the quarter-finals, but all in all a very successful season with congratulations and thanks to manager Kevin Ketley.

The reserves look like finishing in fourth place in the first division with one of their best seasons of late. Their form has been a boost to the first team, enabling them to draw able replacements for first team duty. Thanks here go to reserve team manager Kevin Mather.

On April 27th we held our annual presentation evening at the Arena, Colchester. We tried a different format this year, with a Casino Night combined with a disco and buffet. Award winners announced on the night were as follows:

First Team

Managers Player of the Year: J. Thomson

Players Player of the Year: A. White

Supporters Player of the Year: D. Revie

Leading Goal Scorer: to be decided.

Second Team

Managers Player of the Year: K. Taylor

Players Player of the Year: J. Bethall

Supporters Player of the Year: S. McKenzie

Leading Goal Scorer: J. Bethall.

Clubman of the year was awarded to the team which runs the junior coaching sessions on Saturday mornings – Scott Smith, Richard Llewelyn, Jamie Thompson and Simon Ashurst.

Thanks to everyone who made this a successful evening, and all our helpers and sponsors throughout the season.

The coming season brings the added challenge of raising money for our proposed new clubhouse. Currently our total stands at around £19,000, which is a good start but leaves a long way still to go. Any help in this area would be appreciated. As always, keep up-to-date with developments on our web site www.westbergholtfc.co.uk

M.R.Bell, Chairman

West Bergholt Cricket Club



Our season is now well underway but both our senior sides have made a slow start, each suffering defeats. However, we are confident that our fortunes will reverse as our new members get into the swing and current members return to form.

At the end of May, no less than 60 youngsters registered to play competitive cricket at Under 12, 14, 15 and 16 levels for the Club. They are coached and practise on Friday evenings and we are proud that so many have chosen to represent our club which is officially recognised as 'child-friendly' by attaining Clubmark accreditation.

Plans are well in hand for our annual Cricket Festival which takes place at the Manor Ground over four days, from Thursday 21 June to Sunday 24 June. There will be cricket on each day involving both our senior and junior members and, as usual, there will be the annual charity match v the West Bergholt Church XI on the Sunday. All are welcome to attend and there will be a bar and barbecues throughout the weekend.

We are looking for someone to help with preparing and serving Teas at home matches on a commercial basis so please let me know if you are interested. Also anyone interested in joining the Club should also contact me.

Nigel Passmore, Chairman, 01206 240226

nigef@weboffset.freeserve.co.uk



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

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)

SG KARATE, Scout Hut - Mondays 8:30 - 9:30 pm. £4.00 per class.

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

June

Sunday 3rd	9.30am	Family Communion
Sunday 10th	9.30am	Holy Communion
	7.00pm	'Magnificat'
Sunday 17th	9.30am	Family Service
Sunday 24th	9.30am	Holy Communion

July

Sunday 1st	9.30am	Family Service
Sunday 8th	9.30am	Holy Communion
	7.00pm	'Magnificat'
Sunday 15th	9.30am	Family Service
Sunday 22nd	9.30am	Holy Communion
Sunday 29th	9.30am	Praise Service

August

Sunday 5th	9.30am	Family Communion
Sunday 12th	9.30am	Holy Communion
	7.00pm	'Magnificat'
Sunday 19th	9.30am	Family Service
Sunday 26th	9.30am	Holy Communion

'Magnificat', is an alternative way of looking at God?

St Mary's Church Creche

A 'Creche' is available, as required for Children under 5 years old.

Rector – The Rev. Colin Horseman Tel. 271242

Bulletin contacts:

Editor: Bernard Colbron 240297

Advertising: Susan Swan 242319

Contributions: contact any member of the editorial board listed below.

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 and Susan Swan (advertising) 242319.

Copy for September issue should be with the Editors before 1st August 2007 - Regrettably late submissions cannot be guaranteed entry into the Bulletin