

# *village bulletin*

*December 2007 Issue 112*

*[www.westbergholt.net](http://www.westbergholt.net)*

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## **ROAD BLOCK**

A major disruption took place in Chapel Road, West Bergholt during October. These pictures show the road closure while the infill development was being connected to the main drainage. It meant that buses had to travel along New Church Road and turn left into Lexden Road. They then turned into Mumford Road down Donard Drive and back into Chapel Road to continue their journey.



The contractors produced information notices which were put up on the bus shelters.

A few times the buses overshot New Church Road and had to manoeuvre around to achieve access to follow the temporary route.

Luckily Heathlands School was on half-term so there were no children or parked cars outside the school entrance.

Was this planned? - I wonder!



# 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
Mrs J Church	Doran, Hall Road	☎	240 792
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 Sleight		☎	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 Sleight, Mr Stevenson, Mr Short, Mr Stone
Finance & General Purpose Hall	Mr Savage, Mrs S Bowden, Mr Gili-Ross, Mr Johnson, Mr Tyrell Mr Gili-Ross, Mrs S Bowden, Mr Colbron, Mr Sleight, Mr Short, Mr Stevenson
Planning	Mr Tyrell, Mr Stone, 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	Rev. Ruth Ridge, Marks Tey office	☎	210 141
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](mailto: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.*

# Allotment Holders

A distinctive feature of West Bergholt which helps it retain its village character is the central allotment site. At a time when house building is rampant and other villages around us are changing out of recognition it is some comfort to see our site so well used. The eighty plots are all taken by local residents and although there is a waiting list the Parish Council has allocated a plot for the use of the Primary School. The numerous loads of 'muck' transported to the site by Ian Plowman at this time of year are a further indicator of the upsurge in popularity.

The full use of the plots coupled with a vigorous growing season and overgrown hedges which needed cutting back has resulted in an unusually large amount of waste vegetation for disposal. Many plot holders are now creating compost heaps where possible and despite the positive advantages of this the down side is that heaps of rubbish can encourage vermin.

The Parish Council does provide one skip to ease this problem but could not afford to fund the removal of all the waste material in this way. It is for this reason that for two weeks during each year the Parish Council has sanctioned bonfires on one central site. Allotment plot holders are conscious of the potential nuisance of smoke to nearby residents and have drawn up a set of guidelines to try to minimise any effect.

It is now felt that a more workable plan to reduce any large accumulation of waste and so the size of the bonfires is to have a single fire once each month. It is proposed that this should take place on the first Monday evening of each month from April, (unless this is a Bank Holiday in which case it will move to the Tuesday), starting at 5.00pm. Plot holders have guidelines to manage the bonfires and they will only take place if the conditions are suitable. A skip will also be provided earlier in the growing season to deal with the bulky early season waste and the results of potato blight should it strike again as it did this year.

In the Spring it is the intention to circulate the immediate local residents with the actual dates although it is hoped that these plans cause the minimum nuisance. Any comments or further suggestions can be sent to the Parish Clerk who will pass them on to the Allotment Committee.

Harry Stone

## Art Exhibition

Cuckoo Farm Studios, Boxted Road, Colchester  
"Winter Lights" - original art for sale  
weekends Nov 24/25 and Dec 1/2

[www.cuckoofarmstudios.org.uk](http://www.cuckoofarmstudios.org.uk)

# Friendship Club

Highlight of our autumn programme was an all-day visit to Langenhoe Village Hall for Age Concern Rural's annual summer seminar, where we joined members of other clubs in the Colchester area.

On the day, travelling the few miles from West Bergholt to Langenhoe was complicated by a digger stuck on the North Station roundabout and a traffic accident just before Langenhoe which caused the Mersea Road to be closed. After the diversions we eventually all arrived safely for a welcoming coffee and biscuits.

Main speaker at the seminar, which was opened by Age Concern Colchester Rural's chairman Councillor Tony Webb, was Mr Tony Southam, chief executive of Age Concern Essex, who talked about the organisation's activities across the county.

After an excellent buffet lunch, musical entertainment was provided by a duo called 'Touch and Go' with a good deal of audience participation, and the event closed with a grand draw from which several of our members walked away with prizes.

In the lead-up to Christmas we are looking forward to another visit by the children of Heathlands School at the end of November and an outing to Fingringhoe in December for a Christmas lunch.

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

Gerda Rumsey, Chairman

## Thank You to all the People of West Bergholt

We would like to thank everyone for their kind words and offers of help since Harry was injured in Norfolk at the end of June.

Harry spent many weeks in hospital and is receiving ongoing treatment, but has greatly appreciated all the visits, cards and gifts from his friends.

Your support has meant a great deal to us.

Thank you.  
Tracy, Harry, Laura and Paul Bowers.

# Workers' Educational Association

It is now timely to bring into focus our next course. This starts on 8 January and is entitled What the Rocks Say. This is a rare visit to the subject of Geology. The main thrust concerns two rock layers in Essex that underlie ice age deposits and overlie much older rocks. Their story will take us through global and regional events. The tutor will be Lynn Porter.

Following the usual pattern, the course runs for ten Tuesday evenings 8 to 9.40pm at the Methodist Church Hall with its wheel chair access; LOOP system can be arranged by prior request.

Course fees remain at standard £40; concessions £34 (for retired or net income under £15,050pa). Those on income related benefits or JSA can enrol free.

If you are unsure whether this course is really for you, you are welcome to sample the first evening free. Further information is available from the Secretary on 240791.

## Friends of Hillhouse Wood

### Farm changes could affect the wood



This year has seen a significant change in farming practice in fields adjoining or surrounding the wood which could have an impact on its future ecology. Some fields which have been fallow or set-aside under the Common Agricultural Policy scheme have been brought back into full arable cultivation following the cessation of the set-aside scheme and because of the pressure for more crops to supply biofuel. Of course set-aside by its limited duration was never a permanent habitat for wildlife, but it nevertheless helped biodiversity in the wood's surrounds, especially for invertebrates such as butterflies, moths and bees and provided nest sites for skylarks and meadow pipits in grassy areas.

The Friends' committee is approaching the farmers and landowners concerned who have ploughed up former set-aside fields to see if there can be margins and headlands left to establish habitats for invertebrates, birds and wildflowers. The committee will also see if there can be wildlife corridors created through appropriate plantings of hedges and trees aimed at linking with the nearby Woodland Trust's extensive new woodlands and grasslands at Fordham Hall.

Management work has resumed in the wood and regular work parties are being held under the direction of David Bull. Help with maintenance and necessary clearance work in the wood is always needed and anyone in the Friends or in the village community who would like to join the team should contact David Bull by writing to him at 25 Albany

Road, West Bergholt (tel:241684) or e-mail on david.db@ntlworld.com.

The Friends' committee has received comments from some members of the public visiting the wood that it appears "untidy" while at the other end of the comments spectrum have come the view that the wood is now "too tidy" after scrub, bramble and bracken clearance. Committee chairman Andrew Savage has replied that he and his colleagues are working on the basis of trying to achieve a natural environment as well as a managed woodland and do consider that excessive tidiness is detrimental to the ecological value of the wood. Therefore "tidiness" tends to be restricted to trying to ensure that the paths and bridges are maintained and kept clear so that the public can get round and enjoy the wood. As a lot of the planned work on behalf of the Woodland Trust can only be undertaken at specific times of the year there are occasions when certain areas look overgrown and, possibly, to some "untidy." This is usually only for a short time and often contributes to the wood's important biodiversity.

The Friends' annual meeting will be at the Orpen Hall on Wednesday December 12 (7 for 7.30pm). All welcome and refreshments provided. Speaker after the business side of the meeting will be well known wild life expert Ian Rose who will be showing some of his renowned coloured photographs of woodland wild life. Ian, of course, conducts the annual fungus foray in the wood which this year was on October 31. A date for your diary is the winter bird walk led by Philip Smith and myself on Monday, January 6, 2008. Meet at the Old Church at 10.00am. Warm clothing and stout footwear recommended.

Joe Firmin

## NWR Group



After our summer break we started back with lots of enthusiasm and told everyone about the place where we were born and grew up. Much reminiscing took place! For our next meeting we researched our favourite building in the world that gave us a great insight into places that some of us hadn't been to. We have looked into the origins of well-known phrases or sayings, which was both very interesting and funny. One of our members then led an evening on Elgar and William Blake, which taught some of us a lot, and everyone enjoyed. Some of our future meetings are: Choosing a holiday destination abroad and saying how you will get there without going on an aeroplane, a Speech Therapist telling us about her job, Interesting Biographies as well as our annual Telephone Quiz and Christmas Evening. We will also be spending a pre-Christmas day in London, finishing with a meal.

We are a small group who meet (very) informally in someone's house every fortnight. If any of the above type of varied subjects appeal to you and you feel that you might like to come along one evening to see what a meeting is like, then please give Shirley a ring on 240588 and we would give you a warm welcome.



# West Bergholt Bobbin Lace Class

September saw the start of classes in how to make bobbin lace at St Mary's, New Church Road, on a Monday afternoon. The students who started this term have all made lace before, but not for some years, so they chose to start with the beginner's course. We have made flower petals and leaves in different colours using three basic lace stitches. These petals can all be made in a range of threads, as fine or heavy as desired. They can then either be combined with some embroidery to make a picture or used to construct flowers for a three-dimensional display.

Some students have progressed to applying these stitches to create a torchon lace background and add some patterned areas to make a series of coloured bookmarks. In the next few weeks we will also be working on some Christmas decorations.

The classes will continue next year, starting on Monday 7th January. They take place during term time from 1pm until 3pm. They cost £65 for a course of 10 lessons. Please contact me if you would like to join us, to discuss what you would like to learn. I can teach the following English laces: torchon, basic Bedfordshire or Buckinghamshire laces. I can also teach the following Belgian laces: Bruges flower lace, Flanders and Binche lace.

Carol Maxwell - Tel: 0771 2648468

## West Bergholt First Responder Group (FRG)

### Healthy West Bergholt

At the end of September we held a very successful recruitment morning at the Co-op. As a result there are now 15 fully trained First Responders with a further nine applications received. These prospective members will be trained by the Ambulance Service in the next few months.

In August our group received just over £200 from the farmers market held at The Thatchers' Arms in Mount Bures. As a result of their generosity, and a further £100 from a local accountancy company, the group have been able to purchase a training defibrillator and resuscitation mannequin. We would all like to give a very special thanks to all those who have donated to date (names too numerous to mention).

The remaining funds will be used towards the purchase of uniform polo tops. The colour and style will be decided at the November meeting. There will be a slight shortfall so any further donations will be gratefully received. We have also had a donation of magnetic, reflective signs for our cars which will be particularly useful on a night call out.

The Ambulance Service welcomed Annie Neish to observe two shifts which proved a very useful exercise. All trained

Responders are also given the opportunity to be observers for the day. We have responded to one call since the last bulletin (total since July comes to 7) and the Responder was with the patient for four vital minutes before the ambulance service arrived. It shows what a healthy population we have!

In the New Year Annie will happily accept invitations from any village group who would like a talk about the activities of the Responders.

Anyone interested in joining the group is welcome to contact Annie Neish telephone 240469. The group are also looking for someone with IT skills to help with our website which can be found at

[www.west-bergholt-first-responders.co.uk](http://www.west-bergholt-first-responders.co.uk).

### Can you help?

A 10-year-old boy who is keen to help look after a dog, with his mother's help, would like to know of anyone in the village who would appreciate help with their dog. Please phone 243636.

♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦

## BULLETIN DELIVERY

### Thanks for long service

One of the longest serving members of that gallant band of people who deliver the Village Bulletin has retired from the job. Jack Prince, whose tall bearded figure is a familiar sight in the village, has delivered the Bulletin, rain or shine, since 1981. At that time, he was editor of the magazine as well as a member of the Parish Council. More recently he was the long serving chairman of the Gardeners Association.

Thank you, Jack, from the present Bulletin team for your long service to the magazine and to the village. The Bulletin is delivered to every house in the village once a quarter, thanks to people like Jack.

♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦



Registered Charity: 299094

The main purpose of the West Bergholt Care Network is to provide transport for those unable to make their own way to appointments. As always we are short of volunteer drivers for short trips to the local surgery, hospitals and clinics at times to suit you.

The Care Network is also looking for a person willing to be the Friday telephone contact and in addition will be looking for a new Chairperson from next April. Please telephone 241672 if you feel you can help.

# Methodist Church News

Our Quiz Night in September was very successful. Many of our regular teams took part and enjoyed another evening of fun. We look forward to another quiz in the New Year.

The Village uniformed organisations have again been invited to our Gifts and Parade Service on Sunday 2nd December at 11am. Our Minister Rev. Ruth Ridge looks forward to leading this service when gifts for Christmas are donated to the men, women and children who visit the Night Shelter, Beacon House and the Women's Refuge.

We will again be Carol Singing around the village on Tuesday evening 18th December. Why not join us at 6.30pm at the Brewery Gates – don't forget your torch! Our collection is for National Children's Home.

Our Candlelight Carol Service takes place on Sunday 23rd December at 6.30pm followed by mince pies and coffee in the hall after the service. join us for a traditional service of Carols.

This year we are holding our Christmas Morning Service at 10.00am.

In the New Year we will continue our usual meetings including Village Communion and Coffee Mornings but the regular Women's Fellowship meeting has sadly closed.

## West Bergholt Gardeners' Association



Our new season started well on September 17th with a very informative talk by Bill Wye on Fuschias and this was followed by our Annual General Meeting. Unfortunately, our speaker for the October meeting, Steve Canham, was taken ill shortly before he was due to appear. Chairman Alan Mullis conducted an ad-hoc "gardening problems and solutions" session and members discussed possible additional events in the months when we have no formal meetings. On November 19th we shall have Malcolm Macbeth as our speaker on Thatching. We end the year in December with our Members' Evening, with our speaker, Melvyn Prentice, this will be followed by enjoyable Christmas fare.

This year, as part of the Village Fayre, we ran a Pumpkin-growing competition for children. Originally there were over 50 children taking part and judging took place on October 27th at Orpen Hall. Congratulations to the winner of the Best Halloween-decorated Pumpkin, Daniel Green, and to the runners-up, Koel and Sarah Clubb

Included in our programme for 2008 is a day trip by coach to Sissinghurst Castle Gardens, a National Trust attraction in Kent, on June 17th, and if there are seats available, non-members of the Association will be welcome to join us. Further details will be published in the next Village Bulletin.

The Association has a collection of trophies which were competed for over the years from 1913 to 1988, but for which there are no longer any competitions. In the

circumstances it is our intention to offer these firstly to the most recent winners or to the donors of the cups if they can be traced, and if any reader is interested, Gordon Dean (tel:242194) has a list of all the items.

Finally, we invite anyone to come along to our meetings at Orpen Hall in November and again from February to May next year you will be made welcome as a visitor or potential new member. As from October 2008 the yearly subscription for adult members will be £6 - £5 for those with more mud on their boots!

## HAPPY CHRISTMAS



We wish you  
all a happy,  
healthy and  
prosperous  
2008

From the Bulletin Team

## EDITORS KORNER

Apologies to the Bowls Club are needed from me. Unfortunately, due to a slip of the keyboard, I put the wrong telephone number in the last Bulletin. It should have read 'telephone 240824 for further information.'

The West Bergholt Village Bulletin is placed on the village web site during the month of publication - you all get to see your copy first. The web site receives a large number of enquiries every month. If any clubs and organisations are not included in the Bulletin they are missing an opportunity to advertise their activities. If anybody wants to 'go' into the Bulletin get in touch with anyone on the Bulletin Team.

### Bulletin contacts:

Editor: Bernard Colbron 240297  
colbronb@tiscali.co.uk

Advertising: Susan Swan 242319

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

# Slimming World

As a nation, we are in the grip of an obesity crisis – 65% of men and 56% of women are now either obese or overweight and sadly children are following the same pattern. Currently, over 30% of children fall into the obese category which makes them a target for bullying and teasing at school. As the obesity crisis continues, Slimming World is warning families to take extra care during the coming festive season, a notoriously common time for weight gain.

Diets go out the window, and too much food and drink play havoc with usual eating routines. The result? We end up several pounds heavier over the course of just a few days. According to Carol French from the Slimming World group in the Village, it doesn't have to be like that. It might sound too good to be true, but with Slimming World you can eat till you're full, never feel hungry and still lose weight! Our brilliant food optimising plan cannot be called a 'diet'. How many of you could eat curries, egg and chips, or chocolate cheesecake on other diets without feeling you'd blown it? We encourage healthier eating rather than 'going without', which just leaves you feeling deprived or hungry. You can still enjoy Christmas treats, have a proper Christmas dinner and even a bit of Christmas pud!

I spent years struggling with my weight and have tried just about every diet in the book. They all work but as soon as you start eating 'normally' again the weight piles back on plus more. Sadly the help and advice available to slimmers is sometimes less than helpful – it can be half hearted and hard going most of the time. Thanks to the advice and support from Slimming World, I've now lost over 3 stone and kept it off - I still enjoy Sunday roast dinners, too much wine(!) and some yummy deserts, but I balance them out with plenty of fresh fruit and vegetables. I was so impressed with the plan and my weight loss that I gave up my job in the motor industry to start running Slimming World classes. It's so rewarding now to be able to help people shed those extra pounds that make them feel tired and unhappy. I love it when my members reach their target weight, it's like watching butterflies emerging from cocoons!

If you'd like to know more about weight loss with Slimming World, phone Carol on 0794 660 3939, or come along to the group at the Orpen Memorial Hall, every Tuesday at 7pm.

## West Bergholt Concert Band



### A Most Wonderful Christmas.

The band will be wrapping up another successful year with the traditional village Christmas Concert at St Mary's (Saturday 15th December at 7:30pm). As always we'll be playing some old favourites (Leroy Anderson's Sleigh Ride and Christmas Festival), some new Christmas pieces (A Most Wonderful Christmas, Good Swing Wenceslas), as well as classical (Suite from Messiah, Bizet's Intermezzo), pop (A Tribute to John Lennon, Fun Fun Fun), and film music (Can You Feel The Love Tonight, James Bond

Returns). Not only will you hear all of that fabulous music...but... you'll have nice comfy chairs instead of pews. It'll certainly be our most comfortable Christmas - so come and join us for our favourite concert of the year.

2008 marks the band's 30th Anniversary, so we've filled the year with our favourite pieces at our favourite venues - guess you could call it a "Greatest Hits" tour! We start the year at Clacton's Westcliff Theatre (Sunday March 16th, 3pm) with music including Phantom Of The Opera, Big Bands In Concert and The Stripper...and then move on to St Botolph's (Saturday April 19th, 7:30pm) for a concert commemorating the band's founder Sid Cooper, with musicians from schools Sid taught at joining us for an "Instant Concert". We're also taking our Training Band out on tour for some weekend workshops at local schools to show how much fun playing in a band can be...so it's looking like another busy year for all!

Anyone can join in with all of this fun – you just need to play a woodwind or brass instrument, and can join Training Band, Concert Band or both. New members are always welcomed on Friday evenings at Heathlands – there's never been an audition, and if you're not sure about joining, just come and say hello one week and there'll be someone who plays your instrument to talk to. The band is above all a fun place to make music amongst a great bunch of players, so either have a look at the band website ([www.wbcb.org](http://www.wbcb.org)) or give Graham a call on 01206 824157 for details of how to join us.

Our website includes details of all of our 2008 (and 2009) concerts, and they'll also appear in the village bulletin in the New Year. Finally...on behalf of the band...we look forward to seeing you at our Christmas Concert, and wish you a Most Wonderful Christmas and a Happy and Healthy 2008.

## West Bergholt Women's Institute



What a variety of topics and speakers we have seen in the past few months. The History of Bricks may not sound like a very interesting subject but Mr Peter Minter certainly held our attention telling us how his family had been involved in producing bricks and rebuilding parts of many historical buildings over the years to retain their original appearance. What intricate work it is.

We welcomed back Peter Webb to continue his talk about The Good Life-part 2, how he adapted his life style over the years on his smallholding. What a sense of humour he has with all the trials and mishaps that have presented themselves, and such an understanding wife without whom he definitely would not have survived.

Our Christmas Party in December brings us to the end of another busy year. Why not come along next year and sample some of our interesting meetings and make new friendships. We look forward to seeing you.

# West Bergholt Parish Council

## Notes from meetings

### ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

#### AUGUST

Footpath 17 is still under discussion due to ongoing problems. Complaints received about smoke from allotment bonfires - this problem is being discussed with the householders around the allotments. New play equipment will be installed this month.

#### SEPTEMBER

It was agreed to have bonfires once a month on the allotments with the agreement of residents adjoining the land. They will be circulated with date(s) before the event. Plot holders who are unable to cultivate their plots are to be asked to vacate the plot or work half a plot. This is to reduce the waiting list before the sowing season. Poors Land entrance is still awaiting the plans for the new layout of the entrance. The entry bars are suffering from broken padlocks and people trying to push the entry bars over.

#### OCTOBER

A parish notice board near the Co-op has been agreed in principle. The Parish Council is supporting a tree planting scheme. Further details later. A voluntary group will be working on the parish ponds during the winter. Allotment sub-committee has identified various problems. These will be addressed during the autumn and winter months. Scrub and trees have been cleared in one corner of the allotments. Discussions on further work are in hand. Request for a marquee to be erected on Lorkin Daniell Playing field. Discussions with the people concerned are taking place. Village sign on Newbridge Hill has been requested. Complaints have been received of speeding on the main roads also for parking at the junction of New Church Road and Chapel Road and also parking on the pedestrian crossing.

### HALL

#### AUGUST

Grants have been received for the new lighting for the Orpen Hall and insulation for all the building. Quotations are being sourced to repair the Orpen Hall flooring. This is after the heating system has been changed. Estimate to repair the hole by the exit from the car park has been accepted. The projection room over the entrance has been improved and will eventually be redecorated. This will become a meeting room to allow full booking arrangements for the John Lampon Hall. The Parish is investigating becoming a 'Village Hall Landmark' building. Questionnaires for users of the kitchen to ascertain useage. Cleaning complaints have been received, these will be investigated. New internal notice board is being investigated.

#### SEPTEMBER

Hall improvements discussed in August meeting have been awarded. Most of the work will take place in the Bluebells' half-term. The administrator's office will be refurbished. If West Bergholt is allocated Police Community Support

Officers the Parish Council can offer storage facilities in the Orpen Hall. Possibility of installing 'sleeping policemen' at the entrance and exit of the carpark is being investigated.

#### OCTOBER

Work to install new lighting is in progress. Work on the ceiling will start at the end of October. Trustees and the Orpen Players are satisfied with the loop system. Notices have been placed in the Orpen Hall to explain the work taking place.

### PARISH PLAN

#### AUGUST

Parish questionnaires have been received and these are being collated under assorted headings.

#### SEPTEMBER

Individual sections are being written up based on the questionnaires headings, which should be completed by November. The implementation of the Plan and priorities need to be worked on.

#### OCTOBER

Information about the Parish Plan is on the web site. It is intended that there will be a consultation on the Plan in December.

### PARISH COUNCIL PROFILE

The working party gave a presentation to the Parish Council at its October meeting. Following discussion it was agreed to take the plan further forward. This includes a sub committee to forward the plan for the 2008 Annual Parish Meeting. The agendas will follow a new format. After meetings with pupils from the Stanway School it was agreed to engage the youth of the village. The Parish Council supports the strategy and will continue to monitor the progress.

### PLANNING COMMITTEE

A number of plans were received from Colchester Borough Council, Planning Department. The Parish Planning Committee looked at the plans and submitted their conclusions to the Borough Council.

### FINANCE COMMITTEE

Grants are to be explored for re-surfacing the Orpen Hall car park. It was agreed that the Parish Council would continue with the web site and the expenditure has been agreed.

### CORRESPONDENCE

Various letters from local residents and official communications were received.

All details of the Parish Council meetings can be viewed on the Parish web site or the individual meeting minutes from the Parish Clerk.



# Neighbourhood Watch



## NOMINATED NEIGHBOURHOOD SCHEME

In October, an elderly lady living in the north of England was tied up and robbed after allowing two people who were falsely posing as Water Board Officials into her house.

Now the Colchester Neighbourhood Watch and Essex Police are introducing a scheme with the object of trying to tackle the problems posed by 'bogus callers'. The Scheme is also intended to discourage salesmen, who may be legitimate, but call without an appointment to sell double glazing, tree surgery or other such goods and services.

It is hoped as many households as possible in the Village might consider joining the scheme which will certainly benefit those living on their own and our senior citizens.

The basic plan is for someone in the scheme to nominate a neighbour, relative or friend, and then to display a notice in a prominent position where it can be seen by callers informing them you will not open the door, and advising the caller to contact your nominee as indicated on the notice.

Further information and details can be obtained from John Ford, Area Co-ordinator for Neighbourhood Watch on 01206 240995. Explanatory leaflets are available. The watchword, however, remains **DO NOT OPEN YOUR DOOR TO UNKNOWN CALLERS**.

## SPEED WATCH

Successful "Speed Watches" have been set up in Dedham, Kelvedon and some other local villages, where they have had some success in reducing speeding in 30 mph and other restricted zones. West Bergholt's Neighbourhood Watch Team is now considering setting up such a Speed Watch for the village.

The scheme would be run on a voluntary basis, with volunteers operating in pairs and targeting the main areas of the village where speeding is endemic, such as New Bridge Hill, Lexden Road and Colchester Road. Training would be given and, subject to the response, it is thought a watch would last between one and two hours every three or four weeks or so.

If anyone is interested in volunteering to take part in this proposed Speed Watch, please contact our Area Co-ordinator as shown above.

## NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING - Value for money?

It is now some eighteen months since Neighbourhood Policing (NP) was introduced as the 'way forward' for locally led policing. 17 Wards were set up in and around Colchester, with West Bergholt and Eight Ash Green being one such ward. Each ward was promised a Dedicated

Police Officer, a Police Community Support Officer (PC SO) and a Special Constable.

At a recent Neighbourhood Watch meeting with the Police from our designated office in Copford, the failure to implement fully Neighbourhood Policing in West Bergholt was discussed at length but unfortunately could not be resolved. A full time PCSO has still not been appointed and we were unable to ascertain when this was likely to be. Dedham has a dedicated PCSO, but she is partly funded by the residents.

Should West Bergholt follow Dedham's example? Part funding could well speed up the process. Any views, please, to the Area Co-ordinator.

## CONTACTS

1. Neighbourhood Police Team at Copford 01206 210441 or mobile 07966 197134.
2. NW Area Co-ordinator - J. Ford 01206 240995.
3. Crime Stoppers - 0800 555111

*For EMERGENCIES use the 999 system.*

## West Bergholt Football Club



There was a mixed start to the season for the first team. After a poor start, the team has found some form and are now getting some wins and moving up the table.

The reserve team has had a good start and to date has only lost one game, which must bode well for the future.

The ladies' team (a new venture in its first season) has started really well, and they are unbeaten to date, running up some pretty hefty score lines in the process.

We continue to host Bergholt Heath youth side which no doubt will be making its own report.

Having reached agreement with the Parish Council on the design for a new clubhouse, planning permission has now been applied for and we await the decision from the Borough Council. As part of our fund raising efforts we have had apple tree picking sessions at Manor Farm and our thanks go to Owen and Lois De'ath for very generously donating the proceeds to the new building fund, also thanks to all who participated.

Saturday morning junior football coaching sessions are once again under way and well attended. So bring your children along for some football fun. As always we welcome new players to the club, and that now includes the ladies.

Keep in touch with all the club news on our web site [westbergholtfc.co.uk](http://westbergholtfc.co.uk)

M.R.Bell, Chairman

# Bergholt Heath Youth Football Club

The new season is well underway and it is pleasing to report that our latest team, Under 9, is lying second in their league, having won four of their first six games. Our Under 12 team is finding it tough going following their promotion and is looking for more players, So let me know if you have a budding Gareth, Barry or Gabby Agbonlahor (sorry I am biased!)

The two older age groups are progressing well with the Under 13 team mid-table and the Under 14 team blazing the trail at the top of their league. The possibility of a Bergholt Team in the A League next season looks good - but as Stuart Hill, our manager, says - it is a marathon not a sprint. He is clearly over the moon at the moment though!

Our kick-off barbecue provided a great curtain raiser to the season - raising funds for the cause. The Under 14 team will be carrying on the theme for the season by selling burgers and sausages at their home games at Orpen Field - so why not come along, cheer the lads on and tuck in. Hot drinks and other solid and liquid refreshments are always available as well.

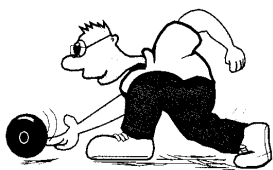
The next social event is our traditional bowling evening for the boys on the day of the last game before Christmas. This falls on 16 December and is free to all playing members. More details are obtainable from your manager.

Please continue to support the club and offers of sponsorship on any basis are welcome, be it our awards evening, kit or even a donation!

Happy Christmas to all and if you are a budding player (or know one) call me.

Leslie Wright, Secretary, Telephone 241438

## West Bergholt Indoor Bowls Club



The Bowls Club got off to a good start for the autumn season with one team getting through to the knockout round in the County Fours. In September one team, Eileen Brown, Nora Bates and Jan Lumb, won through to the semi-finals in the County Triples playing against Great Bromley. The score after seven ends was 6-6, so an extra end had to be played, unfortunately for West Bergholt, Great Bromley scored one point on the eighth end to go on and play in the final.

The club has played a number of friendly matches at home and away, and at the present time have only lost one, well done everyone! At the moment the club's own singles, pairs

and triples competitions are in progress – more of this next time. A success of a different kind came on a Saturday in September when a team of six, Paul and Kitty Leach, Pat and Bet McCarthy, Marie Fitzjohn and Jan Lumb, won the Eight Ash Green Bowls Club's Annual Quiz. Well done to you all.

The Bowls Club welcomes new members at the Orpen Hall at 7.15pm on Thursday and Sunday evenings or telephone 240824 for further information.

## The Orpen Players



The Orpen Players have selected "Hansel and Gretel" by Norman Robbins for their pantomime. It is a relatively new pantomime, with a strong story line of good triumphing over evil. It has a Wicked Witch (but not too wicked), a Forest Fairy, a Young Forester, a Self Important Mayor, his Kitchen Maid, two Village Idiots, and of course Dame Do Good, and the Children.

There will be many new faces to be seen in this production. Roxy Boyce-Bown as The Witch, Abbey Stringer as Karl, Eli Lumb and her friend Emily as Hansel and Gretel, Graham Skinner as Dickie Dymwit, and a very welcome return of David Wenden as The Dame. Fiona Hunt will be directing, and assisted by Colin Downer. Pantomime dates are 25th/26th January, and 1st/2nd February 2008. Make a date to enjoy this show, which promises to be full of fun, comedy routines and laughter. Family entertainment at its best.

The Orpen Players are always interested in new members, and would welcome any help they could get for costume making, set painting, etc. If you would like to help in any way please contact Colin Downer on Colchester 242265.

### 'Village' Cat

Sadly Oscar the black cat known by so many of us in the Village was killed in a road accident on Saturday evening 2nd November. Abandoned some nine years ago he was adopted by Patricia Downer, who has looked after his welfare ever since. He loved to roam the village, and was a favourite of the children at Heathlands. Patricia intends to scatter his ashes near to the school where he loved to be.

### Library Times

The Mobile Library visits the village  
**fortnightly on a Tuesday,  
from 4th December.**

For queries about the service telephone  
**Answers Direct 0845 603762**

The stops and times for West Bergholt are:

Albany Road	13.45 – 14.20
Scout Hut, Lexden Road	14.45 – 15.30
Queens Road	15.35 – 15.55
Chapel Road	16.00 – 16.45

# PARISH PLAN GOES ON-LINE!

The draft Parish Plan is entering the final stages of its gestation, and all the information which is helping to form the plan is now available on the village website.

Simply follow the link: [www.westbergholt.net/news.htm](http://www.westbergholt.net/news.htm) and then click on Parish Plan which you will see in a box on the left hand side of the page.

The link will take you to a dedicated section of the website and allow you to browse a number of pages which try to answer some of your likely questions (FAQS) such as those highlighted below:

- What exactly is a Parish Plan and who is putting it together?
- What is the government expecting parishes to do?
- How does the plan fit into other plans for the Colchester area?
- What aspects of village life are going into the plan and what will it actually result in?
- How have you gone about finding out what is important to people in the village?
- Can I see the results of the consultations?
- Do you have a timetable for preparing the Plan and what are the key stages?
- How does the Steering Group work and can I get involved with the plan?
- Where can I find out more about Parish Plans?
- I want to make a suggestion, how do I do this?

The web pages include all the results of the consultations (Households, Businesses, Village Organisations and Young People) as well as allowing people to send in further comments by way of a dedicated message facility which sends your comments electronically to the Chairman!!

Following the analysis and evaluation of the four questionnaires the small group of volunteers is creating the plan to an agreed template which will outline the main findings and observations. Aims and objectives will be identified from which actions can be proposed.

The next stage of the Plan's preparation is to produce a consultation draft which will be placed on the website and a summary sent to all village households, organizations and businesses in January 2008. The consultation will allow feedback on all aspects of the draft plan and the proposed action plan. Thereafter the plan will be presented to the Parish Council for their consideration. A final version of the plan will then be produced which incorporates the feedback received during the consultation.

We welcome and seek advice and input so that we can produce a Plan that is agreed and that will set achievable goals for the future of the village. So if you want to get involved or simply find out what progress is being made, please visit the website and let us have your views!

Chris Stevenson, Chair, West Bergholt Parish Plan Group

During the year the West Bergholt Village Bulletin was invited to enter various competitions. The entries are from all over the county of Essex ranging from simple newsletters to larger magazines, all of different qualities, sizes and expertise.

This year the Essex Association of Local Councils awarded us a certificate commending the Bulletin for its style and content, which means we are up with the best of the magazines.



We also entered another competition which was run by the Rural Community Council of Essex in association with Essex Life. In this competition 90 magazines were entered, again all from Essex. The Bulletin editor was one of the fourteen finalists invited to a presentation. Unfortunately we did not receive any of the three awards. We hope to have better luck next year!



# WEST BERGHOLT SOCIAL CLUB

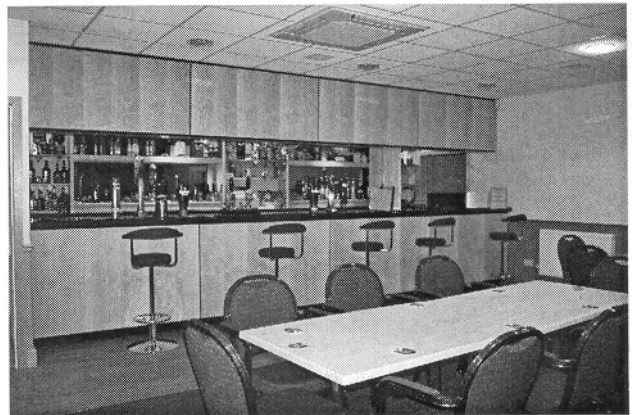
## IT'S ALL NEW!

In the month of August, West Bergholt Social Club underwent a complete refurbishment.

The existing bar and kitchen area were removed, along with the old ceiling. A new ultra modern bar was installed complemented by the all new air conditioned seating area.

I would like to convey my many thanks to all the parties who devoted their time and efforts to complete the transformation of the club.

THANK YOU!

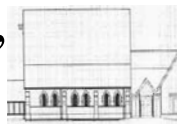


So why not become a member, have a drink, choose from our latest selection of super chilled draught beers and traditional ales. Be seated in air conditioned comfort, watch Sky Sports on our big screen TV. Take part in family bingo every Tuesday evening. Enjoy live music at weekends.

All this, for a membership fee starting @ £5.00 per year. So please come and see for yourself the all new West Bergholt Social Club, Orpen Memorial Hall, Lexden Road, West Bergholt CO6 3BW

David Osborne Chairman

# St. Mary the Virgin, West Bergholt



Developing St.Mary's for a growing community

## St. Mary's Youngsters



St Mary's will be holding a 'Groundbreakers Holiday Club' on 21st December between 2 and 4pm. This club is open for all children aged 5 to 11, and will be followed by a 'Christingle service' at 4pm for children and their parents.

Last year's Christingle service was truly special with over 60 children participating. As this year we will be celebrating in our refurbished Church, it should be better still. Invites will be sent out via Heathlands School early in December. If your children are not Heathlands pupils, but would like to come, please telephone Kate Wilson on 752056 or Caroline Finlay on 241517 to register them. There is no limit on numbers, but children must be registered in advance.



All donations received at Groundbreakers will be paid to 'The Children's Society'.

## Scout's Jumble Sale

January 12th 2008  
at 2.00pm

*We will be selling*

- Men's Clothes      ● Ladies Clothes
- Children's Clothes    ● Bric-a-Brac
- Toys and Books

*Refreshments will be available*

Entrance costs only 30 pence  
and you can fill one of our bags with  
clothes for only £1.

*Other items priced individually*

1st West Bergholt Scout & Guide Group  
Lexden Road, West Bergholt

Telephone 01206 241666 or 01206 240349

*Open all day on the 11th for donations*

Registered Charity No. 285352

# Heathlands School



The West Bergholt Firework display was held at the school on Saturday 3rd November. Thousands of people turned out to watch one of the biggest, and best, pyrotechnic displays we have ever put on. It was one of our busiest nights with over 2,000 people attending.

As always there was a great atmosphere at the event with plenty to keep the crowd entertained before the display, such as coconut shy, dart game, whack a rat, face painting and more. Local mum Angie wowed the crowd with a great live performance and there was mulled wine, burgers and hot dogs to help warm the spectators.

Most importantly the event proved what a great community spirit there is in the village; we also managed to raise vital funds for the school. Colchester Gazette sent a reporter to film the event and you can see this video by visiting their website [www.evening-gazette.co.uk](http://www.evening-gazette.co.uk) and clicking on the video link.

## West Bergholt Cricket Club



On October 20th, the Club held its Annual Awards Presentation Evening. Attended by many Senior and Junior members, there were many notable performances recognised with Scott McKillop and Trevor Rogers winning most of the 1st and 2nd X1 awards respectively. There were awards for the best batter and best bowler in each of the Under 12, 14, 15 and 16 sections and Ben Brooks won the club's Trophy for the Most Promising Junior.

The club is looking for a new Secretary and a new Treasurer due to forthcoming intentions of retirement. Please can anyone interested contact me on 240225 or [nigel@weboffset.freemove.co.uk](mailto:nigel@weboffset.freemove.co.uk). The same applies if you are interested in helping out next year with our increasing group of junior cricketers.

Sadly, we have an increasing vandal problem at the Manor Ground. There has been recent damage to the nets as well as deep cycle marks on the newly seeded cricket square. We appeal for any information to help stop this wilful and malicious damage.

Although the season has ended, our evergreen Over 40s are now well into their league matches at the Indoor Cricket Centre at the County Ground, Chelmsford.

Our next formal event will be the AGM, to be held at the Football Club on Monday 18 February 2008.

Nigel Passmore, Chairman

### Editorial Team:

John Bates 240741, Bernard Colbron 240297, Jon Lander 241288, Susan Leng 241748 and Susan Swan (advertising) 242319.

Copy for March issue should be with the Editors before 1st February 2008 - Regrettably late submissions cannot be guaranteed entry into the Bulletin



# 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.  
**Bobbin Lace Class**, 1pm-3pm, term time only, St Mary's Church - Carol Maxwell, 0771 2648468

### 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.)  
**Slimming World**, 7pm - Orpen Hall, Carol French 0794 660 3939

### 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) Phone 240297 for 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 24075  
**Aerobics-Legs, Bums and Tums**, Methodist Hall, 6.45pm-7.45pm. Tel 243773.

### 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 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  
**Table Tennis Club**, 7.30-9.00pm St Mary's Church Hall  
**Pilates**, 9.30am, - Scout Hut, Methodist Hall evenings 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 - 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.

<b>Monday</b>	<b>242 319</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>241 103</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>242 075</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>242 185</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>241 672</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>242 075</b>

## St. Mary's Church Services and functions

### December

Sunday 2nd	9.30am	Family Communion
Sunday 9th	9.30am	Holy Communion
Saturday 15th	7.30pm	West Bergholt Concert Band
Sunday 16th	9.30am	Family Service
	2.30pm	Carols by candlelight in Old Church
Friday 21st	2 till 4pm	Youngsters' Holiday Club followed by the Christingle Service
Sunday 23rd	9.30am	Holy Communion
Monday 24th	3.00pm	Crib Service, St Mary's
Christmas Eve	6.30pm	Carol Concert at St Mary's
	11.30pm	Midnight Communion
Christmas Day	9.30am	Short Family Service
Sunday 30th	9.30am	New Year Praise service

### January - 2008

Sunday 6th	9.30am	Family Communion
Sunday 13th	9.30am	Holy Communion
Saturday 19th	12.30pm	Senior Citizens' Christmas Lunch
Sunday 20th	9.30am	Family Service
Sunday 27th	9.30am	Holy Communion

### February

Sunday 3rd	9.30am	Family Communion
Sunday 10th	9.30am	Holy Communion
Sunday 17th	9.30am	Family Service
Sunday 24th	9.30am	Holy Communion

### St Mary's Church Crèche

A 'Crèche' is available in the church hall for children under five years old, if required.

Rector - The Rev. Colin Horseman. Tel. 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, contact Jackie Leach on 241677.