

village bulletin

March 2010

Issue 121

www.westbergholt.net

West Bergholt in the Snow

During January and February of 2010 we 'suddenly' found ourselves cloaked in a covering of fairly deep snow but not as deep as in the USA!

Congratulations to

the postmen and women who continued to get the mail through; the newspaper boys and girls who continued to deliver; the staff who kept the shops open; and the milkmen whose deliveries were still on the step. BT was again on call around the roads.

Thanks also must go to anyone who provided vehicle journeys when needed and the drivers who kept the buses going under difficult conditions.

It was pleasing to see everyone pulling together to keep their service going and we thank them all.

GOOD NEIGHBOURS

Dick and I would like to thank our friends and neighbours in Queen's Road for all the help offered and given during the long spell of bad weather this winter.

Although we were unable to venture out on many days we were never left to feel isolated with the phone or doorbell ringing daily.

These kind people did shopping, posted letters and cleared snow but most of all provided peace of mind knowing others cared and were looking out for us.

Our grateful thanks and bless you all.

Dick and Daphne Lambert



the village bulletin *information*

PROVIDED BY THE PARISH COUNCIL OF WEST BERGHOLT

Chairman

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



Vice-Chairman

Bob Tyrrell
Grey Gables,
8a Colchester Road
West Bergholt
☎ 240 016

PARISH COUNCILLORS

Sally Butcher	59 Mumford Road	☎	241 923
Jenny Church	Doran, Hall Road	☎	240 792
Bernard Colbron	64 Mumford Road	☎	240 297
Sue Day	62 Albany Road	☎	241 040
Andrew Savage	6 Garling Walk	☎	242 015
David Short	60 Albany Road	☎	241 715
Peter Sleigh		☎	07973 841104
Chris Stephenson	74 Mumford Road	☎	241 708
Harry Stone	Vindens, Chapel Lane	☎	241 026

PARISH WORKING COMMITTEES

<i>Halls</i>	Bernard Colbron, Sally Butcher, Sue Day, Peter Sleigh
<i>Land and Recreation</i>	David Short, Sally Butcher, Sue Day, Harry Stone
<i>Village Street Scene and Communications</i>	Bob Tyrrell, Bernard Colbron, Jenny Church
<i>Planning and Village Design</i>	Bob Tyrrell, Andrew Savage, Chris Stephenson, Peter Sleigh
<i>Finance and Personnel Advisory Team</i>	Andrew Savage, John Gili-Ross, Chris Stephenson, Harry Stone

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

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

ORPEN HALL ADMINISTRATOR

June Mayhew
☎ 240 694
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.

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

The Annual Council Meeting will be held on 28th April 2010. Annual reports will be presented on the various aspects of the Parish work.

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 Women's Institute



The new year did not start well for the WI, as the first meeting of the year in January was due when the snow was thick on the ground and it was cancelled. In February, everyone turned up with enthusiasm for the "first" meeting of the year, and enjoyed hearing Jonathan Moran who told us about the work of the Samaritans, which proved to be very interesting.

February is also the "birthday" month of West Bergholt WI and this was celebrated with lunch in the Balkerne Room at Colchester Institute.

On Wednesday 3rd March, WI members and visitors will be treated to a "Viyella" Fashion Show. A few tickets are still available for non-members at £3, which includes refreshments, and they can be obtained by phoning 240581. The event starts at 7.15pm at the Orpen Hall.

This year's membership card has on the cover, a full colour picture of Spring Bluebells in Hillhouse Wood. The photo was taken by member Joyce Hollock.

Three new members joined West Bergholt WI in February. If you want to try a meeting and see if it is for you, please come along to the Orpen Hall on the first Wednesday of the month at 7.15pm.

Jacqui Hunns



CHARITY NO: 299094

It is good to report that the Care Network is thriving and now that more volunteers have been recruited we feel confident that we can respond to most requests for help with transport. The Care Network is there to help any residents of the village, whatever their age, to get to appointments if transport is needed and other means are not possible or available. Most of our journeys are to the Doctors' Surgeries or the Hospitals but other local appointments can be considered. Telephone numbers and details are listed on the back page of this Bulletin.

The Care Network is holding its Annual General Meeting in the Methodist Hall in Chapel Lane on Tuesday 20th April at 7.30pm. Any residents are welcome to attend, especially if they are prepared to become volunteers.

Memorial Bench

The Parish Council decided to mark Peter Johnson's many years of service to the village. He worked tirelessly for the village and its environment and was interested in all aspects of village life. He dealt with all safety matters including trees and the village ponds. Many footpaths were walked by Peter and kept open in co-operation with the landowners. He was also instrumental in organising the play area on the Lorkin Daniell Playing Field. After discussions with his wife Marion, it was agreed that a new bench be sited under the cherry trees by the children's play area. The bench with a plaque to his memory is already in position. (pictured below).



The bench was made for us from ethically sourced, quality timber at the Miletree Workshop (www.miletree.org) in Cowdray Avenue. The purpose of this organisation is to provide opportunities and an environment for local people experiencing mental health difficulties. The aim is to assist people to develop skills, build confidence and enhance employment prospects. Miletree Workshop takes responsibility to care for the environment in everything they do and they have built us a fine piece of park furniture. A fitting memorial to Peter Johnson.



Wesley Guild

Our season of monthly meetings begins on Friday 26th March at 7.30pm in the Methodist Church Hall. We have invited a wide variety of speakers this year including:

March 26th 'A Visit to Iona' – do you know anything about the history of this community, please join us for a very interesting evening.

April 23rd 'Hunting the Northern Lights' – an illustrated tour above the arctic circle.

May 28th Members Evening – music, poetry and readings.

The Orpen Players



This year's panto for the Orpen Players was the classic fairy tale of 'Jack and the Beanstalk', which was brought to life in a NEW version, with a brand new script written exclusively by their very own David Wenden, who also directed with the help of Debra Hornigold. Full of the usual thrills and spills, and this time with a classic sing-along-sound track.

The show commenced with a rousing rendition of "Zip-a-dee-doo-dah" from a very colourful and spirited chorus who captured your attention from the word go!! The Show was full of wonderfully named characters, like Baron Landscape, Fairy Nuff, Willy Nilly, etc. and welcomed the long overdue return of Malcolm Barrett as the Dame, named Widow Steffineffieeffiennaffanie (cos the vicar who christened her had a stammer or too much to drink) Reilly. Malcolm brought out lots of humour and banter with the audience.

Abby Stringer (who won Best Young Actress award last year for her portrayal of Aladdin) played Jack, who makes fun of the Giant for not being very tall. "I'm a Pygmy Giant and one of the biggest in my family," retorts the Giant, (Nigel Walford) Great Stuff!!!

The Costumes were very colourful, as was the set design. Nice to see so many youngsters on stage who did a brilliant job. Phoebe Stringer was an example of this in a cameo role of a cheeky Child who tricks the Baron's two henchmen out of their money. Played to full houses, this was an excellent production, which the audience seemed to really enjoy.

Congratulations to everyone involved both on and off the stage. A real team effort!!

Make a date for the Spring production 29th, 30th April and 1st May 2010 which is to be directed by Fiona Hunt.

Colin Downer

The Cast of the Orpen Players Pantomime 2010



Colin Downer, Malcolm Barrett, Abby Stringer, Francesca Wenden, Phoebe Stringer, Jackie Marsh, Matilda Bonham-Carter, Natalie Rogers, Abi Henderson, Nicola Fielding, Ciara Harlow, Katie Grace, Tom Stringer, Jasper Pollitt, and Ellie Lumb.



From strength to strength The Royal British Legion

The Chairmen and members of the Gt and Lt Horkesley Branch which incorporates members from West Bergholt, thank all who gave so generously to the 2009 Poppy Appeal. Well over £8277 was collected by the Branch. Of this sum £6750 was donated by the people of West Bergholt.

The Branch meets every second Thursday of the month at 8pm in the Beehive pub Little Horkesley. Other than our annual dinner in the 'Lion' restaurant we often have smaller socials with other Branches. The monthly Branch meetings are always held in an enjoyable relaxed atmosphere, so making a good night out.

Now that it is no longer necessary to have been in the services, why not join this worthwhile 'Worldwide Club'

Please contact the secretary Roger Drury 271454 or Hugh Brivert-Barnes 243717 who lives in the village.



West Bergholt Concert Band

Mozart to Miller and more !



2009 turned out to be the band's busiest year ever and rehearsals are already well underway for our 2010 concerts. We start the year with a concert of music ranging from "Mozart to Miller", such as The King And I, Comedy Tonight, Glenn Miller In Concert, Over The Rainbow, Tiptoe Through The Tubas, Neil Diamond and Mozart Suite, most of which are new arrangements you won't have heard elsewhere.

Sunday 28th March – 3:00pm – West Cliff Theatre, Clacton (in aid of Rotary)

After that, we'll be performing our first ever concert at the East Anglian Railway Museum, with a programme themed around "A Little Travelling Music". It's an unusual and atmospheric venue, so come along to hear some obvious choices such as Night Train, Chattanooga-Choo-Choo, Clear Track Polka, Drive My Car, and The Locomotion, as well as some slightly oblique references...Cats (The Old Railway Cat), The Flower Duet (used in the British Airways Advert) and Hootenanny (Arkansas Traveller)...you get the idea ! Saturday 24th April – 7:30pm – East Anglian Railway Museum

For our summer concerts, we've been asked to reprise last year's "Last Night Of The Proms" concert with the

Cavender Singers after it proved to be one of our most successful and popular events ever :
Sunday 13th June - 3:00pm - West Cliff Theatre, Clacton (in aid of Rotary)...and we round off the first half of the year with a concert at another new venue, with music including Porgy & Bess, Send In The Clowns, Capriccio Espagnol, The Magic Flute and A Tribute To Elvis :
Saturday 10th July - 7:30pm – St Peter's, Ipswich

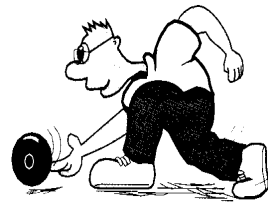
As always, new members are always welcome, so come and see us any term-time Friday evening at Heathlands school if you'd like to join up or check us out. There's no audition, and the band's uniqueness is that we have players from 7 to 70, so there's always someone younger/older/worse/better than you...plus it's great fun, and is one of the best ways of improving your playing.

Everything you need to know about the band (including concert details and directions, how to buy tickets, and how to join us) is on our website www.wbcb.org, or you can call Graham on 01206 824157.

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



West Bergholt Indoor Bowls Club



Despite the winter weather Bowls continued at the Orpen Hall. It's a very good way of getting gentle exercise whilst learning or playing the game we all enjoy.

Our annual competitions are nearing completion. Full results in the next Bulletin.

Two teams entered a Charity Match at South Woodham Ferrers. No prizes but a good day for the teams that played.

Another game was the Walton Christmas Charity held at Great Bentley Village Hall. We had four teams enter the Two Wood Charity Pairs at Braintree Leisure Centre. One of the teams, Paul Leach and Doreen Payne, reached the knock out rounds but were not prize winners. Better luck next time.

The Christmas Party was a very well attended and eventful evening. We played Bingo, had a quiz, enjoyed drinks and food but then a big shock came, SNOW had fallen to a depth of six to eight inches and we had a lot of trouble getting home, even though most of us live within half a mile of the Orpen Hall.

Don't forget, we look forward to seeing you at the Orpen Hall on a Thursday or Sunday evening at 7.15pm.

Further information on 240379.

First West Bergholt Guides

We cooked outside on November 5th on altar fires.



Girlguiding UK

Many of the Guides had never cooked outside before and some of them had never even lit a match.

We joined up with the Rainbows, Brownies and the Scout Group on Remembrance Sunday at the Orpen Hall and again on December 5th at the Methodist church for the Gift service.

We held a Fair Trade tasting evening and had many different types of foods including chocolate which went down very well with everyone. It was noted that the Co-op is one of the only shops that holds such a large range of Fair Trade items especially compared with the larger supermarkets in the area.

On December 3rd we held a special party evening to celebrate all of the time Shirley Rippingale has spent with us since 1996. We presented her with a beautiful bouquet, an engraved votive and an album covering everything since 1996 to date. She loved the album which included photos from the past; these brought back many memories. Shirley finished with us on January 14th; we brought in a lovely birthday cake to help her celebrate her retirement. Of course Shirley will be invited to our special events during this Centenary year.

This term we are working on Tracking Through Time and Adventure 100 which cover many different challenges. We made pizzas this week which were enjoyed by all. This was one of the Tracking Through Time challenges.

We still have many exciting things to come this term including celebrating the Chinese New Year.

Sandra Gates, Guide Guider

The Friends of Hillhouse Wood



After the prolonged cold spell stretching from late December until mid-January, David Bull and his intrepid work parties have resumed their essential programme of clearances in wild flower areas; protection and security of paths; clearance of drainage channels and streams as well as the maintenance of protective fences and benches.

At the annual general meeting of the Friends of Hillhouse Wood at the Orpen Hall on December 9, David reported that during 2009 ten work parties were held representing 200 man-hours of work. He also commented that the provision of a new store for tools and equipment had been a great help in the management exercise.

Also at the AGM, Joe Firmin in his report on the flora, moths and butterflies said 2009 had been a year of mixed fortunes because of climatic variations, which had a pronounced influence on both populations and distributions. Weeks of drought in July, August and September seriously affected not only the wood's ground flora but also trees and

shrubs with many mature trees showing considerable stress because of the lack of moisture and, in some cases, leading to premature leaf fall. However spring brought stunning displays of bluebells, wood anemones and many other species including early purple orchids. Primroses are continuing to spread as well as foxgloves. Some clearance around the wood's two ponds has led to establishment of colonies of lady's smock (cuckoo flower) which is one of the larval food plants of the orange-tip butterfly which, as a result, is increasingly seen in open areas of the wood in spring. At the summer insects' walk led by Joe Firmin and Philip Smith on July 12, fourteen butterfly species were seen in or near the wood.

Philip said in his AGM report on birds and dragonflies that there was concern that in 2009 nightingales failed to return to the wood but there was a singing male in the privately-owned Hill Field area of the secondary woodland adjoining Hillhouse on the north side. This bird delighted those who came for the dawn chorus walk in May. Philip added that the decline in nightingales should prompt the Woodland Trust to undertake suitable conservation measures to resume coppicing at the western edge of the wood beside the stream. This stream holds a population of the rare beautiful demoiselle damselfly and there has been some clearance of vegetation to help their survival and encourage them to spread. The overgrown state of the wood's top pond continues to concern local naturalists as it is home to uncommon damselflies and dragonflies as well as rare crested newts. Application was underway to try and secure a grant towards partial clearance in 2010.

A memorial plaque to the late chairman of The Friends, Peter Johnson, has been placed on the seat next to the bottom pond.

Joe Firmin, Friends of Hillhouse Wood



COLCHESTER & DISTRICT MODEL RAILWAY CLUB

will be holding an

OPEN DAY

on Sunday 11th April, 2010 at

ORPEN HALL,
Lexden Road, West Bergholt
from 11am to 4pm.

Layouts, displays, secondhand stall.

Light refreshments available. Admission *FREE*

'Eggheads' BBC QUIZ

West Bergholt WI member Susan Leng together with her friends Anne from Berkshire and Mary from Liverpool, who are all members of the Mastermind Club, were joined by two young men to form a team for the BBC Two quiz programme 'Eggheads'. The team was called PRS-Plus (Pre Raphaelite Sisterhood). PRS is the name they compete under in Mastermind quizzes at the Club's annual weekend away. The 'Plus' in the team's name refers to the addition of two young men, Steve and Tom, who were vital for their knowledge of Sport (especially football) and Films

Susan, Anne and Mary already knew four of the Eggheads quite well, as they too have competed on Mastermind and are members of the club. This didn't make it any easier. In fact, just the reverse, as the 'Eggheads' try harder than ever to defeat anyone connected with Mastermind!

As her two specialist subjects of geography and science had not come up in the first four rounds, Susan was in the final General Knowledge round along with Tom, who is an Actuary in London. Three of the PRS team had been eliminated in the specialist rounds, although each one of them had put up a really good fight, so there were only two members left in the PRS-Plus Team against four in the mighty 'Eggheads' team.

The contestants on 'Eggheads' rarely win, but to everyone's joy, after a cliff-hanger of a final which went to a tie-breaker, PRS-Plus were the victors and the team received the prize of £6,000.



Susan is seated on the right, in front of the quiz master, Jeremy Vine in the picture.

As well as having local WI members cheering for her, Susan also had Girlguiding friends watching, as she was Brown Owl of the 3rd West Bergholt Brownies for 20 years until 2005.

Susan is also a member of the West Bergholt Village Bulletin Team and has been the Quiz Master of the Bulletin Quiz for the past three years.

A LITTER FREE VILLAGE

If only

In the December edition of the Bulletin the litter pick organised by The Parish Plan Group was recorded and thanks were offered to volunteers, especially the Youth Group (BYG) members. The article concluded "We now have a cleaner and greener village".

If only.....

To many observers West Bergholt may seem comparatively litter free. The accompanying picture



and many others like it, which were shown at a recent meeting of The Parish Council, tell a different story. Without the weekly efforts of our village handyman, Gary Walls, our village would quickly resemble some of the worst slums in one of our largest cities. The Members of the Parish Council appreciate this and in order to keep on top of this depressingly increasing problem have decided to double the eight hours already spent on this soul destroying job each week. It goes without saying that we all pay for this from our Council Tax; money which of course we would all want to see put to a more constructive use in the village.

If only.....

If only all members of our community, young and old, valued the environment in which we choose to live and learnt to deal with their litter in a responsible way, making use of the facilities and service provided by Colchester Borough Council, we could eliminate this problem. Realistically this will never be totally achieved, but if only all of us on discovering litter picked it up or reported it immediately if the problem is too large, we could go a long way to achieving "A cleaner and greener village".

Methodist Church News

Four large boxes of Christmas presents were delivered to the Women's Refuge, Night Shelter and Beacon House after a wonderful response from the village uniformed organisation and church members. Letters of thanks have been received for the gifts given to children and adults in Colchester who find themselves in very difficult circumstances.

The wintry conditions made it very difficult to arrange all our usual Christmas events. We did go ahead with our Candlelight Service and New Year Social which were appreciated by the many visitors who enjoyed the opportunity to escape the confines of their homes.

The Women's World Day of Prayer takes place on Friday 5th March in the Methodist Church at 1.30pm. We shall be serving a 'Soup 'n Snack' Lunch at 12.30 in the Hall. All are welcome to this special service prepared by the Christian Women of Cameroon. Gentlemen are also very welcome at this event.

Our Quiz Night takes place on Saturday 13th March at 7.00pm. Tables of 4 at £16.00. Light refreshments will be provided. Book your table at this very popular fun evening - contact Judith on 01206 241969.

Colchester Methodist Circuit are welcoming the NYACK College Choir from New York to perform at Castle Methodist Church on Thursday 18th March at 7.30pm as part of a U.K. tour. Tickets: £8 adult, £5 under 16's.

Please join us for our regular services, especially our Easter Sunday service led by Rev. Ruth Ridge on April 4th at 11.00am.

A Bereavement Service will be held on Monday 19th April at 7.30pm. Join us at this special service and light a candle in memory of a loved one.

Christian Aid Week in the village is 9th – 15th May. If you feel you are able to help collect around the village this year contact Susan on 01206 241431.



Workers Educational Association

We have started our annual procedure to choose subjects for the next academic year that starts in October. However, we won't have firm details in time for this edition of the Bulletin, and must ask you to wait until the June publication. At that time we should also be able to advise the revised fee levels for October.

Our current course on Brunel is doing well both educationally and financially.

Cyril Biddulph, Workers Educational Association

METHODIST CHURCH Diary

- March 5th** Women's World Day of Prayer
12.30 Soup Lunch, 1.30pm Service.
- March 9th Shared Village Communion with St Mary's 11.00am.
- March 10th Coffee Morning, Church Hall 10.00am
- March 13th** Quiz Night 7.00pm Church Hall
- March 17th Women's Fellowship, Church Hall 2.30pm
- March 18th Bible Study Church Hall 2.30pm.
- March 21st** Methodist Sector Service led by Rev Ruth Ridge 3.00pm
- March 26th** Wesley Guild Church Hall 7.30pm.
'A Visit to Iona'

- April 4th** Easter Sunday Service 11.00am
- April 13th Shared Village Communion with St. Marys 11.00am.
- April 14th Coffee Morning, Church Hall 10.00am
- April 19th** Bereavement Service 7.30pm.
- April 21st Womens Fellowship, Church Hall 2.30pm.
- April 22nd Bible Study, Church Hall 2.30pm.
- April 23rd** Wesley Guild, Church Hall 7.30pm
'Hunting the Northern Lights'

- May 9th** Christian Aid Sunday
- May 11th Shared Village Communion with St Marys 11.00am
- May 12th Coffee Morning, Church Hall 10.00am
- May 19th Women's Fellowship, Church Hall 2.30pm
- May 20th Bible Study, Church Hall 2.30pm
- May 28th** Wesley Guild, Church Hall 7.30pm
'Members Evening'.

Every Tuesday 9.30am – 10.00am Minister Ruth Ridge is available in the Church for quiet prayer.

Minister: Rev Ruth Ridge. Tel. 01206 242182

1st West Bergholt Brownies

During January twelve girls and two leaders started their Centenary Celebrations in Guiding with a weekend away at Skegness, call Starburst. There were nearly 3000 of us joining together in many activities such as swimming, ten pin bowling, camp fire songs, cheer leading, cinema, party dancing and a Celebration Disco and Show. At 20.10 on Saturday evening we all renewed our Guiding promise, sang 'Happy Birthday to us' with a large birthday cake and danced the night away – well not quite!

During this weekend away the girls enjoyed making new friends, renewing old, having lots of fun and for many this will be their 'mountain top moment' in this centenary year.

Our next celebration event is for 'Thinking Day' in February, when members from all units in Colchester North and South will join together at Charter Hall to celebrate the joint birthdays of our founders, Lord and Lady Baden Powell, giving us an opportunity to think of those guiding around the world, our theme being 'One world, One Beat'. More details of that in the next village bulletin

Carol Clarke – Unit Guider

West Bergholt Parish Plan Update

Focus on Community Policing

A need for an overall Neighbourhood Watch (NW) co-ordinator emerged as the top priority in a discussion on Community Policing at a recent Parish Council meeting. Parish Councillors debated a range of local policing matters following the presentation of a report from the West Bergholt Parish Plan Steering Group. The report which can be viewed on www.westbergholt.net contained a number of recommendations:

- ☞ The re-establishment of an overall Village NW Co-ordinator position
- ☞ Better reporting of crime activity in the village
- ☞ Increased dialogue and liaison with local police representatives
- ☞ Research into the provision and funding of a dedicated PCSO for the village



The report was compiled following discussions with the police and neighbourhood watch representatives into local policing, crime levels and the activity of agencies such as the neighbourhood action panel (NAP) and the crime and safety partnership.

Crime levels and safety matters were key concerns in the compiling of the Parish Plan and the report enabled a number of important areas to be researched in detail. Crime levels were found to be low at around 15 crimes per month, but official statistics for the village are not routinely published as the statistics published regularly on http://www.essex.police.uk/my_neighbourhood/colchester_district/horkesley/horkesley-7.spx refer to both West Bergholt and Eight Ash Green combined. In a meeting with the police it emerged that the local policing team headed by Sgt Mike Lee contains 4 PCs, a designated Neighbourhood Police Officer and 2 PCSOs. Although these resources are available for a range of activities, the areas they cover are quite widespread extending from Copford right round to Dedham.

Some villages and parishes in Colchester employ their own dedicated PCSO, but it is not clear that the village requires this level of support. Nevertheless this matter will be kept under review, but in the meantime it was considered that better dialogue with the police, and the re-establishment of a NW overall co-ordinator should be the focus for the next few months.

If any Bulletin reader is interested in becoming a co-ordinator they can in the first instance contact me and I will put them in touch with the Borough NW Colchester organisers.

Chris Stevenson chrisstevenson@orange.net

Chair, West Bergholt Parish plan Steering Group

DON'T FORGET

British Summer Time
begins on

Sunday 28th March 2010

Put your clocks forward by one hour

Library Times

The Mobile Library visits the village

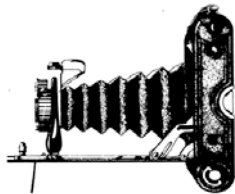
fortnightly on a Tuesday.

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

West Bergholt Local History Group



The last History report was in the June 2008 Bulletin so this continuation spans three calendar years! It has been kept brief just to give an indication of the Group's varied talks and visits.

2008

October - Stanway 1900 to 1920, Christine Edwards
November - Old Vehicles and the West Bergholt Vehicle Rally, Michael Cullam

2009

January - Town Cryer, Robert Needham
February - Bury St. Edmunds - a Town in Suffolk, Geoffery Tickess
March - AGM followed by Bygone Film Part 1
April - Copford, Christine Edwards
May - Sudbury Walk Rained off
June - Visit to Flatford
July - Visit to Naze Tower, Michelle Nye-Brown
August - Tour of Dedham, Mark Davies
September - Elizabethan Hunting Lodge at Wormingford, Don Goodman
October - Old Newspapers, Pip Wright
November - Colchester's Dutch Quarter, Roy Waters

2010

January - Bygone Film Part 2
February - we are due to have Colchester History Alive!
March - Annual Meeting and short talk



What's in a name?

I have recently been asked why 'formerly Bergholt Sackville' appears on our village entry signs

Briefly, in Anglo-Saxon times, West Bergholt was known to residents as Bercolta (which means copse on a hill).

Soon after the Norman Conquest the land and property of local Anglo-Saxon aristocrats was confiscated by King William First and the village was divided into two manors. One, Netherhall (Cooks Hall) was given to Richard Fitzgilbert. The other, Bergholt Manor, which was on the site of what is now Bergholt Hall, next to the old church, was given to Roger de Poitou.

In about 1102 Roger de Poitou was banished from the country and King Henry First gave the confiscated properties to his nephew Stephen. Robert de Sackville took up residence as Stephen's steward and became Lord of the Manor, which then became known (for much of its history) as the Manor of Bergholt Sackville.

The Sackville family held this manor until 1578 and for all that time, the village was known as Bergholt Sackville. Today that name survives only to identify a cottage and a cul-de-sac of a dozen houses.

Full details are in Jon Lander's booklet available from the History Group. Bernard Colbron 01206 240297 for details.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Sir

I was unable to attend the meeting of The Friends of Hill House Wood on Wednesday 9th December so regrettably must put my points in writing.

I am alarmed at the comments from Joe Firmin in issue 119 and 120 of the village bulletin concerning plans to restrict the use of our woods for those of us who exercise our dogs. One of the joys of our village is the proximity to the one and only wooded area open to the public. So much of the surrounding countryside is off limits and all of the many wooded areas are under lock and key. Our dogs greatly enjoy and benefit from exercise and play in the woods and this time of freedom from the leash is most important to their (and our!) well being. The idea that dogs are "partly responsible" for the absence of nesting Nightingales is far fetched indeed.

Let's consider the real reasons:

The RSPB quote changes to woodland management, and coppicing together with increased ground clearance as the main threat to ground-nesting birds. They make no reference to dogs. Nightingales choose to nest in dense, very thick undergrowth from late April to July when they return to Africa. Dogs and other large animals cannot access this type of undergrowth, which is thick with brambles. Unlike us, birds are not excluded from the woods and thickets that surround our village. The vast number of people visiting the marvellous Bluebell display in April and May (when the Nightingales are arriving and choosing a nest site) must surely cause the greatest disturbance to the woods and all its wildlife and are the principle reason that birds and other animals choose to make their homes elsewhere. Power driven flails and brush-cutters used to clear large areas of undergrowth and thus encourage the growth and views of the bluebells, remove the very environment favoured by the Nightingales. The increase in the numbers of foxes, deer and badgers may also be a contributing factor.

If wildlife conservation is a major concern of the Friends they should perhaps consider acting upon the actual threat to ground-nesting birds rather than inflicting further restrictions to our freedom to wander and enjoy our countryside. I would argue that birds have a wide choice of suitable nesting habitat within a few seconds flight of our woods, our dogs on the other hand may soon have no access to any woodland.

The friends do a great job of caring for the woods but I would ask them to remember that they have no remit from those who purchased the woods to restrict the normal use of the wood, nor to create a woodland theme park or visitor attraction.

Stephen J, Miller

Village Speed Watch Volunteers Wanted

Until I came to live in West Bergholt I did not know about noise and fast traffic.

In the rush hour all you seem to hear is traffic thundering to and from Colchester and past my house. Some are local boy racers with big exhausts, but the majority is through traffic.

I contacted Essex County Highways in 2007 when we moved here to ask why the traffic is so fast through the village. I was told nobody had been killed or seriously injured in the last three years, so they would not enforce the speed limit.

Two years ago there was the tragic incident, note I do not say accident, when a young couple were killed inside the speed limit when the car in which they were travelling hit a wall and lamp standard. If the car had been travelling at 30 miles per hour or less the lives of the young couple may have been saved.

I contacted Essex County Highway and they still said they would not enforce the speed limit. My reply is unprintable.

I contacted John Gili-Ross the chairman of our parish council. He invited me to a NAP meeting and the Parish Council meeting to discuss the problem. I mentioned the problem to our Borough Councillor and who told me they won't do anything. The outcome is I am going to set up a village speed watch with the help of our Parish Council, Essex Police and I hope Colchester Borough Council.

If you feel you can help your village contact
Martin Lees on Colchester 240963 or 07867988989

West Bergholt Football Club

Unbeaten since January 2nd 2009.

At the time of writing, that's the proud record for the First Team. Also in to the quarter final of the Essex Premier Cup with a battling 3-2 victory against Brightlingsea, after going 0-2 down, and still in the Border League Cup. So currently sitting top of the league, with everything still to play for, the season is going very well so far.

The reserve team has also continued their good start and is currently in sixth place in their league providing quality back up for the first team. As in the professional game, strength in depth is all-important. Our newly formed veterans side is top of the N E Essex vets league, albeit after only four games, the weather having taken its toll on fixtures.

The ladies team is joint top of their 1st Division, and has also suffered weather problems, with only one game since the last report that being a 3-1 victory over Chelmsford City reserves.

So, West Bergholt is building a formidable reputation for success in non-league football in the area. Long may it continue.



We look forward to the coming visit at Easter of our twinned club, RSV Bublingshausen, from Wetzlar, Germany, who we will entertain socially, and on the football pitch. We look forward to seeing friends, old and new.

The better weather sees the resumption of junior training sessions on Saturday mornings and I'm sure parents will welcome the break. On a sad note, we lost our long serving ex Chairman Graham Farthing (Grimble) who sadly died just before Christmas. He was heavily involved with the club for many years, and played a big part in bringing the club to where it is today. One of his passions at the club was the twinning with RSV Bublingshausen, and he enjoyed many trips to Germany as well as their visits to us. I'm sure that they, as well as us, will have many fond memories of 'Grimble'. He was a character, who will be hard to replace. I know he would be proud of our achievements, the fact that his son carries on his association with the club, and that his grandson plays for the team.

As always, keep up with events on our web site www.westbergholtfc.co.uk. Have a look! We hope to see as many supporters as possible on match days. Come and watch the teams, you may be pleasantly surprised.

Michael Bell (Chairman)



Colne Valley Flower Club



At our January meeting, which was our AGM, cheques were presented to our two charities for 2009, First Responders and West Bergholt Youth Group. Members then enjoyed the showing of a DVD of the NAFAS 50th Anniversary floral display in Westminster Abbey, which took place in May 2009.

At our February meeting Shirley Perkins from Southend came to show us her flowers titled the 'Spectrum'

On March 17th Eve Regelous from Witham will be coming along to demonstrate and her title is 'It's a Land of Magic'.

April 21st Christopher White will be with us from Dublin showing us 'The Beauty of Flowers'.

May 19th Julie Woods from Cambridge is demonstrating flowers and her theme is 'Pop Corn'. At this meeting we will be having a plant sale, please bring along any cuttings, plants etc. which we could sell. Proceeds of plant sale to our 2010 Charity.

If you have a love of flowers and would like to join us please come along you will be made very welcome. Meetings take place on the third Wednesday of the month at the Orpen Hall from 7.30pm.

For further information please contact Clare Heyes on 01206 241145

Joint CBC and Police anti-social behaviour hotline

Colchester Borough Council and Essex Police have joined forces to provide you with a direct line to report anti-social behaviour.

You can now speak to a team of dedicated specialists who can talk through your problems and deal with your call more efficiently by assigning it to the correct agency.

The ASB hotline number is 282731, it will operate between 8.30am and 5.30pm Monday to Friday.

Callers outside these times should leave a message, but urgent calls (i.e. threats to life) should ring 999.

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.

WHAT IS YOUR BABY SAYING?

TinyTalk, the UK's favourite baby signing classes since 2002, was founded by Katie Mayne, an ex-primary school teacher and a mother of two. She explains the increasing demand for baby signing classes 'Babies understand and are able to communicate far earlier than they're able to clearly pronounce words. Signing helps ease the frustration that can come from this.' It also usually helps babies to speak clearly much more quickly and to express themselves much earlier as well.

Families often report feeling a much closer bond with their children as baby signing provides a 'window to their baby's mind', a way to have a much deeper understanding of them.

TinyTalk Colchester is being launched in West Bergholt this April by Debs Taylor, a BSL signer (Level 2) and mum to two young boys. Classes consist of half-hour singing popular nursery rhymes and action songs with appropriate signs followed by half-hour social time when babies can interact and play with toys, whilst the adults enjoy a well-earned drink and chocolate biscuit (or two). To find out more about baby signing classes why not come along to a

FREE TASTER SESSION?

Friday 16th April, 10am in West Bergholt Scout Hut

To book your place or find out more please contact :

Debs Taylor (BSL Level 2 qualified)

Tel: 01376 573241 or Email: deborah@tinytalk.co.uk

For further class details, our accreditations and endorsements please visit our website www.tinytalk.co.uk

An Essex Saga

Miss Margaret Roding came of quite good Stock (her father was the renowned Leaden Roding). She was courted by two men: Harold Wood, a commoner, and Black Notley, a wealthy villain.

She was a Great Tey drinker (someone once said "She Marks Tey every Sunday after Chappel") This was true. She invited the Wickham Bishops and the Tolleshunt Knights, but they declined. Now she entertains a horrid child - the smallest of the Theydon Bois, Little Totham. She considers him Braintree, but he is just precocious and rude. He shouts with his mouth full "Pass the Salcott" and after over-eating he plays his favourite game of Stebbing. "Dedham!" he shrieks, wielding his Broomfield for all he's Inworth. He deserves to have his ears Boxted.

* * *

But to the main business. Virley one Mundon evening Miss Roding was Fryerning herself eggs, West Ham and chips. She also prepared a Heybridge Basinful of rice and a Saffron Walden cake. (Her diet was Prittlewell the same every day.)

She said Grays and ate it all up. Later, when she was easing her Orsett laces a trifle, it grew Mistley outside. Rayne fell, then there was Thundersley. Margaret attended to the lamps, turned up their Wix and drew the curtains.

Outside a car drew up. it was a Great Bentley, and at the Weeley was Black Notley. He can be described as an Ugley middle-aged rake, red-faced and Pleshey. As to his habits, he was always Tendring hundreds of pounds for big used cars. He cheated at cards too, and once had a hand containing Seven Kings. He was clad in a Greensted suit with a Matching Tye.

He lit a filter-Tiptree cigarette, got out of the car and rapped on Margaret's door with the Silver End of his cane.

Brightlingsea she opened the door. Feering out into the Foulness night, she discerned the dreaded Notley. "Have Mersea on me" she thought as he forced his way in. Her face was Ashen.

"My Barling Margaret," exclaimed Notley as he embraced her roughly, (no Ongar will I wait for you, you Essex dish." He Hadleigh impudence to attempt a kiss. She could Ardleigh Aldham away from her lips. Canewdon wonder at her terror ?

* * *

Suddenly Harold Wood was framed in the still-open front door. he had come to call, and when he saw Margaret and Notley he nearly had Twinstead. "Harlow! What's this?" thought he. Then, "Stop Mucking about, varlet!" he bawled. "No Messing now, do I make my Point Clear?" he added. "You Writtle pipsqueak!" snarled Black Notley. "I'll make you feel proper Borley." And he landed the first blow. A violent Battlesbridge developed. Margaret Burstead into tears of relief and joy when Harold knocked Notley out.

Harold, the commoner, proposed and Margaret became his Lawford wedded wife. they lived Hallingbury Epping afterwards.

As for Notley, rich as he was, nobody would marry him. he came to a Blackmore end. which rather proves that affluence Hainault it's cracked up to be.

J.Pearson, From "The Essex Countryside" Christmas 1979

West Bergholt Cricket Club



Preparations are well in hand for the forthcoming season with the club's AGM coming up on Monday 22nd February. All the fixtures have been arranged with our Seniors competing in the Two Counties League on Saturdays, the North Essex League on Sundays and the Colchester Community Evening League on Wednesdays. Our Juniors will be playing league matches at Under 16, Under 14 and Under 12 levels and, in addition the Under 10s will be involved in several Kwik Cricket tournaments.

Cricket never stops at WBCC as we have been competing in two indoor winter leagues, in Braintree and Chelmsford for the Over 40's. We have just completed two 'internal' matches between these two sides, resulting in keenly fought matches, both narrowly won by the youngsters!

Thanks to generous grant aid from the Essex County Council Youth Trust and Lords Taverners, as well as club fundraising efforts, there will be a new practice net facility in place before the start of the season. This means that the club will be able to boast two ECB standard nets, next to each other. With the expected demand from the local community for cricket this year, this is an essential new facility for Friday evening Junior coaching sessions, in particular.

We will be organising our annual Festival soon and this will be held between Thursday 24th and Sunday 27th June. There is lots of work to do so we welcome any volunteers in the village to get involved! Again, it will be a fun weekend for all the family and we will be welcoming a number of visiting cricket teams to add to the overall enjoyment. We do want to recruit new players to the club and a very competitive membership package is on offer. You will be made very welcome to play cricket at the beautiful Manor Ground as well as attractive away locations. In the first instance, please contact me, Nigel Passmore, on 240225/07769 697542 or npassmore@sky.com. Also, check out www.westbergho;tcc.co.uk for the latest club news and information.

Nigel Passmore, Chairman

COMMUNITY FIRST RESPONDERS

will be holding a
SCAVENGER HUNT
for all the family

Sunday 27th June
starting from St Mary the Virgin Church Hall at 2pm.

Get to know the village and have bit of fun on the way.

Tea and cake at the finish.

50p per team for quiz sheet.

Donations for refreshments.

St. Mary's Church Services and functions

News of other clubs, committees etc. that use the Church and Hall can be found elsewhere in this Village Bulletin, or www.stmaryswestbergholt.web.officelive.com for the Village Diary where you will find what else goes on in West Bergholt

March

Sunday 7th	9.30am	Formal Holy Communion and Bugs
Sunday 14th	9.30am	Mothering Sunday with Children from Heathlands School
Tuesday 16th	11.00am	United Communion service in Methodist Chapel
Sunday 21st	9.30am	Morning worship
	6.30pm	Prayer Book – Evening Service
Wed. 24th	10.00am	Holy Communion BCP
Sunday 28th	9.30am	Palm Sunday, Holy Communion Service

April

Thursday 1st.	TBA	Maundy Thursday service at 'All Saints' Church, Gt. Horkeley
Friday 2nd	TBA	Good Friday Service St Mary's
Sunday 4th	9.30am	Easter Sunday Holy Communion
Sunday 11th	9.30am	Morning Worship
Tuesday 13th	11.00am	United Communion Service in Methodist Chapel
Sunday 18th	9.30am	Family Service with Bugs
Wed. 21st	10.00am	Holy Communion BCP
Sunday 25th	9.30am	Communion Service and Bugs

May

Sunday 2nd	9.30am	Morning Service with Bugs
Sunday 9th	9.30am	Formal Holy Communion
Sunday 16th	9.30am	Family Service with bugs
	6.30pm	Prayer Book - Evening Service
Tuesday 18th	11.00am	United Communion Service in Methodist Chapel
Sunday 23rd	9.30am	Morning Worship
Sunday 30th	9.30am	Joint Service with Methodist at St Mary's

The above are the known times and dates of services at time of going to press. Accurate times and services are to be found in Good News, the monthly church magazine.

If you would like a copy delivered to your door, please contact Kate Wilson on 01206 752056

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

Rector – The Rev Colin Horseman telephone 271242



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, 2pm - 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
Dru Yoga, 8-9.30pm - John Lampon Hall, 07887 511412

Tuesdays:

NHS Primary Care Trust Baby Clinic, 10am to 11am - Methodist Hall
Miss Jackson's Dancing Class, 5.30-7.30pm - Orpen Hall
Taost Tai Chi, Beginners Class 7.30-9.30pm - Scout Hut - Fiona 240339
All Welcome
Methodist Church, 11am 2nd Tuesday Communion Service
Badminton Club, 8.15pm - Orpen Hall
W.E.A., 8pm - Methodist Hall (Sept. to Dec. and Jan. to Mar.)
Slimming World, 7pm - Orpen Hall, Carol French 0794 660 3939
Morning Prayers, 9.30am-10am - weekly in Methodist Church

Wednesdays:

Coffee Morning, 10am 2nd 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
West Bergholt Craft and Quilters Group, 2nd Wednesday (except Christmas) - Joyce Lucking Room
Ladies' Afternoon Badminton, Orpen Hall, 2.30pm to 4pm.
New members welcome - contact Pat Butcher for details 242075
Aerobics-Legs, Bums and Tums, Methodist Hall, 6.45pm-7.45pm. Tel 243773.
Women's Fellowship 2.30pm third Wednesday each month
Methodist Church Hall.

Thursdays:

Friendship Club, 2pm 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, 8pm fortnightly, telephone 576293 for details
British Legion, Gt and 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, 7.30-9pm St Mary's Church Hall
Pilates, 9.30am, - Scout Hut, Methodist Hall evenings tel: 564348 for details
Bible Study, 2.30pm, - Methodist Church Hall - third Thursday

Fridays:

West Bergholt Concert Band,
6.00-7.00pm (Juniors), 7-9pm (seniors) - Heathlands school
Wesley Guild, 7.30pm, 4th Friday - Methodist Hall (March to September)
Open Players, 8pm - Orpen Hall
Dru Yoga, 9.30-11am - Methodist Church Hall, 07887 511412
TinyTalk Baby Signing and Singing Classes, 10 to 11am - Scout Hut
During school term times only. - First Class starts 23rd April.
Contact: Debs Taylor Tel: 01376 573241 or Email: deboraht@tinytalk.co.uk

SOME USEFUL NUMBERS



Police 0300 333 4444
In an emergency dial 999
Doctors Surgery - 2 Erle Havard Road
Telephone: 241 137
Pharmacy Chapel Road Telephone: 240 352
Post Office Chapel Road (Half day Saturday)
Telephone: 240 355
St Mary's Church Rev. C Horseman
The Rectory, Ivy Lodge Road,
Gt. Horkesley Telephone: 271 242
Methodist Church Rev. Ruth Ridge
Marks Tey office Telephone: 210 141
News Correspondent Jacqui Hunns
The Laurels, Firmans Court
Telephone: 240 712

(for Essex County Standard and The East Anglian Daily Times) - submissions for news items to be in two weeks prior to publication.

Email address for News Correspondent
allanhunns@aol.com



CHARITY NO: 299094

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 reply, please try any other number. Please note that we cannot respond to messages left on an answering service.

Monday	241 103	Tuesday	242 185
Wednesday	242 319	Thursday	240 569
Friday	240 167	Saturday/Sunday	242 075

Copy for the June edition should be received by 1st May 2010.

Late copy cannot be guaranteed entry

Please submit copy to any of the Bulletin team -

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