

village bulletin

December 2010 Issue 124

www.westbergholt.net

First Responders

As the year draws to conclusion our First Responders can look back at 2010 with continued pride. At the time of writing (mid October) the group this year have attended seven 999 calls. These calls will have been to residents in and around the village with breathing difficulties or at risk of a heart attack. The reassurance the Responders provide patients and their relatives in those vital moments before an ambulance arrives cannot be underestimated. It is without doubt that the volunteers make our village a better place to be.



The group were joined at their October meeting by Wendy Risdale Barr, the new Essex First Responder Co-ordinator. Wendy spent time answering questions and thanked them for being proactive and welcoming. They were the first to extend an invite to her out of all the groups in Essex – testament to West Bergholt's friendliness!

To remind you:

The West Bergholt Community First Responders are volunteers aged 18+, male and female, working and retired who live in the village. All have been trained by the Essex Ambulance Service to attend certain emergency calls where time can make the difference between life and death. Care is provided until an Ambulance arrives, usually only a few minutes later. Very

often the role played is one of reassurance. In instances where someone has chest pains, simply giving them oxygen can make a big difference. In extreme cases CPR (cardio-pulmonary resuscitation) or a defibrillator to restart someone's heart can be used. The chances of having to use these techniques is low and full training and support is given.

Each volunteer offers to be 'on call' when they choose, either singularly or maybe with their spouse or partner who will be trained too. They carry basic First Aid equipment and a simple to use Automated External Defibrillator (AED). The Ambulance Service controller sends them to Category A (immediately life threatening) medical calls; they are dispatched at the same time as the ambulance crews but because they are in the village can often arrive more quickly than the ambulance service.

Volunteers do not need previous first aid experience to join the group as full training will be provided. The scheme can be incredibly rewarding as you could well end up making a huge difference to someone's life. To find out more give Annie Neish a call on 240469 for a chat.

*The First Responders wish you a
happy and healthy
Christmas and New Year.*

In your December Bulletin

Broadband Arrives!
WEA Chairman Retires
Plans for Hillhouse Wood

PLUS news from clubs and groups in the village

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

Premises and Recreation

Bernard Colbron, Sally Butcher, Jenny Church, Harry Stone,
Sue Day

Environment and Highways

David Short, Sally Butcher, Jenny Church, Sue Day, Harry Stone

Planning and Development

Bob Tyrrell, Andrew Savage, Peter Sleigh, Chris Stephenson

Finance and Personnel Advisory

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 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.

End of life in the slow lane

The equivalent of a dual carriageway in broadband has arrived in West Bergholt, and the improvement in speed should be more noticeable than joining a motorway from a country lane!

Earlier in the year residents and Village Bulletin readers will recall that the Parish Plan group started discussions with County Broadband to determine how the village could move away from its not-spot broadband backwater, and enter the mainstream of digital activity. Now after months of behind the scenes activity involving grant applications, discussions with the Parish Council, and the equivalent of digital water-divining by County Broadband, the basic plumbing-in activity has been completed, and the first high speed broadband users have started to enjoy a new service. County Broadband, a company specializing in wireless broadband connections for rural communities, is now actively stimulating interest in the facility, and has made contact with most residents in the village to establish their interest in subscribing to the service.



Here's what has happened in recent months:

- **April to August 2010:** discussions took place to determine how a service could be installed, and which company was best placed to deliver this. County Broadband was appointed to deliver the project and the Parish Council agreed to forward fund the installation costs under a legal agreement which will see these costs reimbursed as households subscribe to the service;

- **September 2010** saw the installation of the first Community Access Point at the highest point in the village; this allowed digital signals to be received from Braintree for subsequent relay across adjacent streets, – you will be lucky if you spot this, as it's only the size of an A4 piece of paper!;

- **In October County Broadband** in conjunction with the Parish Council started marketing the service, and began installing equipment in homes and businesses in the village. To begin with this will be confined to a line of sight distance from the first access point to individual properties;

- **By the end of the year** and depending upon the rate of take-up from residents, more access points will be installed to enable coverage of the whole village.

As I write this article (beginning of November) nearly 30 residents had placed firm orders with a further 150 households having been sent a pack of details explaining how to receive the service. A small leaflet has also been delivered to each household. If you are interested (and we are expecting that many households will be eager to get onboard quickly) you should start by registering your interest at County Broadband's website, www.countybroadband.co.uk, or call County Broadband on 0845 686 5000

The company is maintaining a register of interest, and will be forwarding contracts for service provision to every household who would like to have the service installed. Their website also contains all the technical and installation information you'll no doubt want to find out about, together with details of connection and subscription fees.

Whilst the Parish Plan Group and the Parish Council will maintain a dialogue with County Broadband, and oversee the delivery of the service in the village, the basic model for residents and businesses is that of traditional customer and supplier. Accordingly, any queries relating to the service should be made directly with County Broadband. Having said this, news about the introduction of the system will feature on the village website www.westbergholt.net and periodically in the Village Bulletin.

As an early subscriber myself I can tell you that the changeover process is painless, and the increase in speed remarkable. Anyone who would like to know more about a user 'sexperience' is welcome to contact me!

Press down that digital accelerator and hang on to your hats!

Article composed by Chris Stevenson:
Chair West Bergholt Parish Plans Group (cdstevenson@gmail.com)

Bergholt Youth Group

BYG Progress

The Bergholt Youth Group now has between fifty and sixty young people of the village attending the Club meetings every other Friday at the John Lampon Hall. Membership is open to Years 6 to 11 but most are between the age of 10 and 13.

Graham Pullen and Amber Harlow continue to provide the leadership of the Club meetings and they are supported by a dedicated team of on average a dozen volunteers, drawn from the village and beyond and of a range of ages and experience. More help is always welcome, especially if the numbers continue to grow.

At the Club meetings there is a variety of activities available, both inside and out, from table tennis, electronic games and craft activities to football and tennis. The programme does attempt to follow topical and seasonal events as shown in the photograph of the recent Halloween evening.



By the time this Bulletin is distributed there will have been a "Bergholt's Got Talent" competition followed by a general meeting for parents. There will be a Christmas party at the last meeting of the year on the 17th December.



West Bergholt Girlguiding Units



We have now finished our Centenary Celebrations but looking back over the last 13 months we have all had a great time with a weekend away for the Brownies, large-scale sleepover for the Guides at the Colchester stadium, Princess Party for the Rainbows and lots of gatherings at District or Division level throughout this period.

At 20.10 on 20/10 in 2010 all members of Girlguiding renewed their promise with a live link up with our Chief Guide. Our gathering was as a Division with all units enjoying a power point presentation of photos and songs.

We have enjoyed all these events but must now move on building for the future of Girlguiding for the girls with us now and new ones who will be joining us.

Carol Clarke - Division Commissioner



*The Bulletin Team -
Susan Swan, Susan Leng,
Jane Williams, John and Nora Bates
and Bernard Colbron
wish all our readers a Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year*

Allotment Tips

Gardeners and farmers are never satisfied with the weather. Despite some long dry spells early in the season and then a wet period, it has been a good productive season for most of us at the allotments. The weeds seem to have been harder to control than ever but amongst them all everything from potatoes to cabbages and courgettes have cropped well. With only the winter vegetables left to harvest, plot holders can begin to turn their minds to next season. The manure has arrived and digging can begin.

Tips for the winter months:

Begin to lift leeks as required and store carrots in peat or sand.

Remove weeds such as the deadly nightshade before they drop their seeds but others such as chickweed can be dug in deeply.

Broad beans can be sown in late autumn for an early crop, but might need some protection, otherwise sow again in February.

Plant shallots on the shortest day and then harvest them on the longest day.

Prune autumn raspberries and reduce the dead wood in blackcurrant bushes by about a third.

Plan for next year, using a three year rotation if possible.

Peruse the catalogues and order seeds and potatoes.

A good internet link for further advice can be found at - http://www.allotment.org.uk/garden_october.php

Allotments Holders Site Committee

The Orpen Players

In July this year we found a new director to produce our Autumn production.



Michelle Borrows had directed me before for Chameleons Web Theatre Company, and I knew how good she was for attention to acting detail. We read three plays, and finally settled on "The Ghost Train". A classic tale of suspense, thrills, excitement, and a little comedy. With a cast of seven men and four women, it was a real challenge on the Orps small stage, as there would always be a possibility of masking one another. We also had to enlist the help of three established actors from the amateur circuit to complete the male cast. Kevin Topple, Paul Reed and Joseph Sales joined us, and so there were some new faces to introduce to our audiences.

Everybody blended so well with each other and we all felt at the end of the day that we had a really good production on our hands and felt that it would go down well with all who came to see it.

This year we decided to do a leaflet drop to every house in the village, and this proved to be very worthwhile as our attendance figures were much improved. We played to a full house on Friday and not falling far short of that on Thursday and Saturday. From the audience response and comments to front of house it would seem that our thoughts were confirmed.



Pictured left to right
David Wenden, Joseph Sales, Kevin Topple, Debra Hornigold, Anne Sexton, Chrissie Wenden, Ben Maytham, Francesca Wenden and Colin Downer

The Players would like to thank you all for your continued and new support.

Our next production is of course our pantomime "Babes in the Wood" which has been written by David Wenden, and will be directed by him, assisted by Debra Hornigold. Performance dates are 28th/29th January and 4th/5th February 2011. Make a date for a fun filled adaptation of another classic tale!!

Colin Downer

Bergholt Heath Football Club



Our 2010/11 season commenced with our usual kick-off barbecue. This season we dedicated the event to Peter Redhead and the funds raised (together with our planned events) will contribute to a permanent memorial to Peter.

With six teams this season the Club is bigger than it has ever been, boasting teams from Under 8 - who play non-competitive football so I am not allowed to report on how good a start they have made! - through to Under 18.

The season to date has been difficult for some of the other senior teams but they have good-sized squads so we hope for an improvement. The Under 12 team continue to be successful - currently in the top three of the A-League.

We are hoping to take the boys to a Colchester United game (as we tried to do before Christmas last season) but that plan might change. What we do know is that we can announce the return of the ever-popular Bergholt Heath Race Night on Saturday 12th March 2011 - a date to keep clear. This will be for young and old and is always popular. As usual we will be looking for Race Sponsors!

Whilst on that theme, many thanks go to Mark Duffy, having retired from management, he continues - through his Personal Injury Claims company CFPI Ltd - to be a most generous shirt sponsor.

Best wishes to all for the forthcoming Christmas and holiday season.

Leslie Wright, Chairman, 01206 241438



Friendship Club



The first meeting of the Friendship Club, after the summer break, took place in the Orpen Hall in September when members enjoyed a very interesting talk with slides on Peru given by Mick Morrissey. The following meeting members tested their brains with a quiz and card bingo. In October we welcomed Fiona Stewart who showed us how to arrange silk flowers.

In the next couple of months we have a talk on 'The Great Wall of China', Heathlands School pupils singing and dancing and of course our Christmas party.

We meet at the Orpen Hall every second and fourth Thursday afternoon, between 2pm and 4pm. We look forward to seeing you if you are over 55 years old (men and women).

For further information telephone 240824.

West Bergholt Concert Band Home For Christmas



After another busy and successful year the band is coming home for Christmas for our favourite concert of the year, the Christmas Concert at St Mary The Virgin on Saturday 11th December at 7:30pm. This year's programme again contains nothing but Christmas music, including ten brand new pieces ranging from the lovely Fantasy On Coventry Carol to Waldteufel's Roses De Noel, Christmas classics from I'll Be Home For Christmas to White Christmas and Happy Holiday, plus more recent classics such as Feliz Navidad, Little Saint Nick, and the Carpenters' Merry Christmas Darling. We'll also be playing some of our Christmas favourites, including Leroy Anderson's Christmas Festival, The Thirteen Days of Christmas (yes, thirteen), and medleys of the classic Christmas tunes including Here Comes Santa Claus, Santa Claus Is Comin' To Town, Frosty The Snow Man, and Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas. This year also sees the premiere of a wonderful new arrangement of Carols for Band and Singers, with you as the singers of course, so please come along for what is always a cracker of a concert and a really fun evening of Christmas music.

The band have also been busy leading up to Christmas, running a series of Training Band workshops for Primary School players from across the area, which culminated in a concert at St Botolph's in aid of Riding for the Disabled on Saturday 20th November at 7:30pm. Training Band's programme featured music from Glee, Toy Story, West Side Story, Herb Alpert, Glenn Miller, The Beatles and Ellington among others, with Concert Band performing a programme of "The Best Of British", including pieces by Holst, Queen, Andrew Lloyd-Webber, John Lennon and Kenneth J. Alford. Attendees MP Bob Russell and Colchester's Mayor again congratulated the band on the standard of musicianship displayed and for its work promoting music to the area's young musicians.

This combination is what makes the band unique – young and not-so-young players enjoying performing together, and to top that, we also raise thousands of pounds annually for a range of charities. So if you are lucky enough to receive a musical instrument from Santa...have a look on the band website for information on becoming a band-member.

Anyone can join Training Band or Concert Band, and new members are always made to feel welcome – the band is above all a really fun place to make music amongst a great bunch of players.

If you'd like any more information on the band, please either call Graham on 01206 824157, or visit our website, where you can also find details of our 2011 and 2012 Concerts.

Finally...on behalf of the band...we look forward to seeing you at our Christmas Concert, and We Wish You a Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year.

Wired St Mary's Youth Club

I just thought I would let you all know of a newish monthly Youth Night held at St Mary's Church for those in Year 6 and above (roughly 11's - 16's).

It's held either the first or second Friday of the month, trying to avoid the BYG, which meets every other week. It is run by myself, who moved into the village over a year ago and now hopefully accepted!!!! (I am from Suffolk), and a close friend who works for Scripture Union and is experienced at running Youth events (particularly as he has two teenage daughters and a 20 year old son), along with some much needed assistance from Rachel (food provider) and Kate (like me still very much youth!!!).

We have been building each month since April this year, and had a very successful Light Party at the end of October - its amazing what you can create out of glow sticks. We finish this year with a Christmas Party on 10th December from 7.45 - 9.30pm. We will meet at St Mary's (I think along with a band practice that night) so it really will be a festive night with games, food, fun, laughter, and of course chat (the club at the moment is made up of girls - we need some boys so I can talk to them about football and the joys of being an Ipswich Town supporter).

Come dressed in a festive outfit - a prize awarded for the best dressed person - give us a look on 10th December. We normally have at least one new person each month so you won't be alone. I will let you know more in the next edition for further exciting plans next year. If you need to know more look at St Mary's Church website.

Thanks to all those that have supported us so far, and look forward to ending the year on a high, with a fantastic Christmas party...see you in December, if not before.

Mark Partridge



Colne Valley Flower Club



The Club does not meet in December. The first meeting in 2011 is our Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 19th January at 7.30pm. There will be a social event at this meeting. Our first demonstrator of the new year is Helen Bird from Marks Tey on Wednesday 16th February at 7.30pm and her title is 'Take a Blank Canvas'.

We look forward to new members joining us. We meet on the third Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm in the Orpen Hall. Please telephone 01206 241145 or 01206 240262. for any further information

Pat Sharman

Cricket Club

The club celebrated its Trophy Presentation Evening at the clubhouse in October. Many fine individual performances were recognised with some 60 senior and junior members attending the event and enjoying a Curry meal along with a temporary bar licence. Peter Twydell was awarded the distinction of Honorary Life Membership in recognition of his service to the club over many years.



The club had another difficult season at senior level but managed to retain its Division 3 status in the PDQ North Essex League with some fine wins over the last few matches. The Juniors enjoyed some considerable successes in their respective Under 14 and Under 12 levels; the new Kwik Cricket teams played in many tournaments winning more matches than they lost.

Indoor cricket is now underway with the Over 40s competing in Chelmsford and the club team in the Braintree Indoor Cricket League. Indoor practice net sessions are being planned once more for the New Year at Littlegarth School, near Nayland.

Sadly, the club suffered break-ins in early October with various key items of equipment being stolen. We would urge other clubs and societies to be on their guard this winter if they have any valuable items in storage.

We have re-designed our website so please keep an eye on all developments at the club at www.westbergholtcc.co.uk.

The club is now preparing for next season and is actively seeking new cricketers to join up. We also will need to appoint a new Treasurer at our AGM in February and welcome any suitable volunteers to call me on 240225 or 0776 9697542 or e-mail npassmore@skv.com.

Nigel Passmore



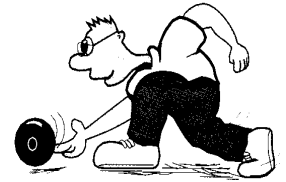
SOME USEFUL NUMBERS



Police 0300 333 4444
In an emergency dial 999
Doctors Surgery - 2 Erle Havard Road
Telephone: 241137
Pharmacy Chapel Road Telephone: 240352
Post Office Chapel Road (Half day Saturday)
Telephone: 240355
St Mary's Church Rev. C Horseman
The Rectory, Ivy Lodge Road,
Gt. Horkesley Telephone: 271242
Methodist Church Rev. Ruth Ridge
The Manse, Chapel Lane,
West Bergholt – 01206 242183
News Correspondent Jacqui Hunns
The Laurels, Firmins Court
Telephone: 240712
Email allanhunns@aol.com

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

West Bergholt Indoor Bowls Club



The autumn season has seen a continuation of top quality bowling by our members. The annual competitions are well under way, with some surprising results.

County competitions are also held during the autumn and the club gets a better than average result in these competitions.

Our newer members are all doing very well in all the friendly games that we have played – the results have been excellent. One or two of note are runners-up to Chelmsford Social at Earls Colne, runners-up in the Peggy Brooks Trophy at Nayland and a pairs team of Barbara Davis and Jan Lumb getting through to the final play round.

Now that the dark nights are here how about coming to bowls on a Thursday or Sunday evening at 7.15pm. It certainly helps to keep the body active as well as the reward of a cup of tea or a chance to win a raffle prize. Telephone 240379 for further information or just turn up at the Orpen Hall.



West Bergholt Women's Institute



Instead of our usual tea get together in August coffee was served in the John Lampon Hall with members taking part in the federation walk of three and a half miles around the village or a gentle saunter of one mile. The committee and friends served a ploughman's lunch when everyone had returned. A thoroughly enjoyable day.

In September Liz Mullen an ex-presenter on BBC Essex gave a talk entitled 'Not Just a Game of Soldiers'. Liz is now involved with the Barrack's Radio station.

Members enjoyed hearing about Tiptree past, present and future from guest speaker Chris Newenham. A visit to their orchards is planned for next year. Four members attended the Autumn County meeting held this year at The Princes Theatre, Clacton.

At the AGM in November Pat Moran was re-elected as President. She thanked Rachel Colley who was Secretary for 2010 and welcomed Jacqui Hunns as the new Secretary.

As it is our 90th year in 2011 a lunch has been arranged in February at the Institute's Balkerne Restaurant.

1st West Bergholt Guides

We joined with 5,000 other Guides and Scouts in Norfolk on an International Jamboree in the summer. The Guides had



so many activities that as soon as they were up, they were off enjoying themselves all day. They even had activities in the evenings. Some of the activities included trapeze, scuba diving, parascending, kayaking and canoeing. We spent our last day off site at Sandringham estate where the girls did backwoods cooking, rafting and cross country cycling around the estate. One Guide learnt how to skin a rabbit, which was very interesting and not expected! In the afternoon we went round Sandringham House and gardens and the staff there were very helpful and keen to tell us about everything in each of the rooms.

On September the 18th and 19th our unit joined others from Colchester North and Colchester South Division and took part in our Centenary Sleepover at the Colchester Football stadium. The Guides took part in many football related activities and met the Colchester United mascot. They gained the Football Go For it along with a special badge created just for the event.

On 20th October we joined our division for our Vision event at St. Benedict's College. This was our final event celebrating what we have done in the last year for our Centenary year. We finished the event by renewing our promise with the Chief Guide, Liz Burnley.

This term is again a busy one with us celebrating Remembrance Sunday on 14th November, a ceramics evening, and our play, Rags to Riches on the 16th December.

Our term starts again on 13th January 2011.

Sandra Gates, Guide Guider



Lifeboats

This is a very belated Thank You and many congratulations to the people of West Bergholt who gave so generously once again to this year's lifeboat collection back in June.

You all excelled! and the collection totalled £1,149.37p - the most ever collected for the lifeboats in the village.

Of course a huge 'Thank You' too, to all the band of collectors - especially Angela and Jean who helped out in my absence.

Obviously, I must go away more often.

Thank You everyone.

Sandy Reeve

St. Mary's Church

Services and functions

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

December

Sunday 5th	9.30am	Morning Worship
Saturday 11th	7.30pm	Christmas Concert by: West Bergholt Concert Band
Sunday 12th	9.30am	Formal Holy Communion and Bugs
Tuesday 14th	6.30pm	Village Carol Singing see notices
Sunday 19th	9.30am 2.30pm	Family Service with Bugs Carols by Candlelight at OLD CHURCH
Monday 20th	2.00pm	Groundbreakers Holiday Club followed by
	4.00pm	Christingle Service
Christmas Eve	3.00pm	Crib Service
	6.30pm	Carol Service
	11.30pm	Midnight Communion at All Saints Great Horkesley
Christmas Day	9.30am	Christmas Family Service
Sunday 26th	9.30am	Informal Service

January 2011

Sunday 2th	9.30am	Morning Worship
Sunday 9th	9.30am	Formal Holy Communion and Bugs
Sunday 16th	9.30am 6.30pm	Family Service with Bugs Prayer Book – Evening Service
Sunday 23rd	9.30am	Communion Service and Bugs
Wed. 26th	10.00am	Holy Communion BCP
Sunday 30th	11.00am	Combined service in Methodist Hall

February

Sunday 6th	9.30am	Morning Worship and Bugs
Sunday 13th	9.30am	Formal Holy Communion with Bugs
Sunday 20th	9.30am 6.30pm	Family Service Prayer Book – Evening Service
Wed. 23rd	10.00am	Holy Communion BCP
Sunday 27th	9.30am	Holy Communion and Bugs

The above are the known times and dates of service 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

Workers Educational Association

Our autumn course on Art in the Age of William Morris is proving to be a great success and is due to continue until the end of November. During the half-term evening, which encompassed the Annual General Meeting, the chairman announced that he was retiring. This evinced many good wishes and "goodies" which were much appreciated. The new chairman, Gill Poole, will assist with the continued provision of interesting courses for the branch.

The next course starts on 11 January 2011 – 'A Journey Through Ancient Egypt', which should not only give us the lowdown on life for kings and queens of the time but also the farmers, fishermen and other workers who kept the country going. The tutor will be Frances Boardman who is only available for EIGHT Tuesday evenings, rather than the usual ten, from 8pm to 9.40pm at the Methodist Church Hall with its wheelchair access and, if required, a loop system. The fee for this course has been reduced to £35.20 for the term with nil fees for those on Income Related Benefits or JSA. Also financial help should be obtainable from the Discretionary Learner Support Fund via WEA Cambridge if net household income is under £15,000pa. Unfortunately the branch itself is no longer allowed to offer discounts.

You are welcome to come along and sample the first evening free to make sure that the course is really for you before you sign-up. Further information is available from our Secretary on 01206 240791.



Celebrating Cyril's 25 years service

At the AGM on 26 October 2010, after 25 years of loyal service Cyril Biddulph stood down as Chair of the village branch of the WEA. For many years he and his wife Shirley, who also gave long service as local Treasurer, represented the branch at District and Regional Council meetings in Cambridge. His real value, however was to the West Bergholt branch where it is believed that, until very recently, he never missed a meeting. Cyril was a 'hands on' Chair, prepared to unlock and lock up the Methodist Hall where meetings are held, set out the chairs, buy the milk and many other mundane but very necessary tasks so that class members could come to enjoy and gain something from the many and varied courses of lectures. As Chair of the committee meetings, he was a sage and steady guide through the years. Although he has resigned as chairman he still intends to take part as a member of the committee.



Cyril was presented with a 'Certificate of Appreciation' and letter from the Eastern Region, in recognition of his important contribution. The branch gave him an inscribed book *The Illustrated History of Workers' Educational Association*; an illustrated Catalogue of the Wonderful Offerings from West Bergholt Branch of WEA, which recorded the courses during his long Chairmanship; a magnifying glass and a decorated cake which was shared over coffee after the AGM.



West Bergholt Gardeners' Association



It's getting even colder

Sunshine hours are reduced and it can be bitter with risk of frost, winds and snow! Luckily there's not much to do outside, except manage winter protection.

Some garden tasks to do in December are:

Prune deciduous trees to shape, and shorten or tie in long stems to prevent wind damage

Check greenhouse heaters are working OK

Complete tidy up of leaves from beds and borders

Check on tender plants to ensure winter protection is still in place, especially after storms

Continue to cut back faded herbaceous perennials and add them to the compost heap

Clean all your old pots and seed trays, so that they are ready for next spring's activity. Thorough cleaning will reduce pest and disease problems.

Plants to enhance the garden in December are:

Semi-evergreen Cotoneaster x watereri with heavy trusses of bright red berries

Male forms of Garrya elliptica with silvery-grey winter catkins

Trailing Jasminum nudiflorum bearing a succession of bright yellow flowers

Hybrid Mahonia x media 'Charity' with large upright-arching racemes of yellow fragrant blooms

The Association's 2010-2011 programme commenced with the AGM in September. The speaker Darren Tansley, Essex Wildlife Trust, spoke passionately on 'The Search for Ratty'. Members learnt about his project on water vole restoration to the stretch of the River Colne between West Bergholt and Chappel. In October Mike Logan-Wood, RSPB Lead for Chelmsford and Central Essex, delighted his audience with his topic 'Secret Lives of Garden Birds'.

At the November meeting Ian Rose will educate members on 'Fungi – edible and otherwise'. In December Maureen Sayer will demonstrate on 'Do Your Own Christmas Arrangements'.

Hilary Thomas will speak on 'Garden and Planting Design' in February; followed by Barry Kaufmann-Wright's presentation on 'Wildlife in the Garden' in March.

East Rusden Old Vicarage

Looking forward to summer? A day outing is planned to East Ruston Old Vicarage Garden, Norfolk, on 15 June, stopping off on route at Taverham Garden Centre. The cost is £18.50 and is also open to non-members.

Large garden, allotment holder, small window box, devoted gardener or just a passing interest! Why not join our gardening club?

There is always a warm friendly welcome for members and visitors. Joining us is simple and inexpensive. Annual member subscription is £8; visitor entry is £3.

For further information please contact:

Valerie Lofthouse (Chair) 01206 855450

valerielofthouse1@hotmail.co.uk

Terry Claydon (Treasurer) 01206 242124

terryclaydon@aol.com

Visit: <http://www.westbergholt.net/gardeners.htm>



West Bergholt Football Club



We have made a flying start to the season. The first team is currently unbeaten in the league, after nine games, scoring 36 goals with only three against, and currently topping the table. The reserves have also made a good start under their new manager, Jimmy Michie, and are mid table with a rapidly improving team, which is largely due to some astute new signings by the management team, giving extra strength in depth to the teams. To their great credit, several former first team players have happily turned out for the reserves to fight for their places, which makes for a very competitive squad, with most of the reserves being quite capable of stepping up to the first team. Our new under 16 team has also made a great start, and are unbeaten, having scored 14 goals in three games with none against. They are playing some very attractive football. The future looks bright!

The refurbishment to the changing rooms has now been completed and everyone seems impressed by the improvement. Credit to S T Carpentry and a big thank you to all the members who gave their time and efforts to the project. We hope to have some sort of official opening in the near future.

On the social front, we are due to hold a Quiz Night on 6th November, and will be having a Christmas Draw night.

Junior training is well under way and very popular, so bring your children along on a Saturday morning at 9.30. You can register them on the day. For any interested players, training is on Wednesday evenings, and all are welcome.

Watch our website for news and dates.

www.westbergholtfc.co.uk

We look forward to seeing everyone on match days

Michael Bell, Chairman

The Friends of Hillhouse Wood

looking forward, looking back



The Friends of Hillhouse Wood was established in 1995, in the aftermath of the appeal to save the wood from possible use as a paintballing site. Since then we have worked with The Woodland Trust, who own the wood, to enhance its value as a place both for wildlife and for peoples' quiet enjoyment. A framework for these activities has been provided by a management plan, developed by The Woodland Trust. We have also benefitted from guidance from members of Essex Wildlife Trust and Colchester Natural History Society.

The Friends have also been active in publicising the wood, and running guided walks each year to enable people to learn more about its attractions. These walks variously cover birds, spring flowers, moth trapping, fungi, mammals and butterflies. The Friends publish a regular newsletter, attend village events such as the Summer Fayre, and maintain pages on the village community website.

A new management plan for the wood will be prepared in 2011. So this is an opportune time to review what we have been doing in the wood, and then to look forward.

When the wood was bought it was suffering badly from brambles, bracken and, in places, an overly dense understory. The paths were overgrown and in poor condition. Accordingly the emphasis of the first few years was on clearing this undergrowth, improving the paths, and creating new ones to form a circular walk.

The upshot of these efforts has been, first and foremost, a significant increase in the numbers of people who use and derive pleasure from the wood. Many of you will be aware of the increase in spring flowers, such as the Bluebells, Wood Anemones, Primroses, Yellow Archangel, Ramsons and Early Purple Orchids. However less well known is the number of new species of plants and animals that have been spotted over the last few years, along with a number of rare species that occur there. These include Otters, Great Crested Newts, Beautiful Demoiselle damsel flies, White Letter and Purple Hairstreak butterflies, Bugle, Moscatelle, Golden Saxifrage, ferns, the Pendulous Sedge, some species of bryophyte, fungi, and over one hundred species of moth.

However like some recent correspondents, we are aware of, and concerned about, the reduction in some bird species, particularly the Nightingales (but also affecting some species of warblers and woodpeckers). These declines are common to woodland across the United Kingdom. The reasons are not clear and are the subject of vigorous debate – both within and beyond the Friends.

Some of your correspondents have pointed to the clearance work that has been carried out in the wood but this has only ever affected about 15% of the area of the wood. It has been focussed on those areas which had been kept open for many years by the previous owner, and has not been near the areas in which most of the Nightingales nested. Other possible contributory causes could be the maturation of certain parts of the wood, disturbance due to the greater number of visitors, disturbance from adjacent farming activity, undergrowth damage by increasing numbers of deer, or general declines in the numbers of summer migrants.

Because of these concerns, for the last two years we have been reducing the area of the wood that is tractor flailed. This winter this will be down to 10% of the wood. Hopefully this will allow a larger buffer area of scrub to re-establish itself, providing a greater level of seclusion for woodland birds. We are also now regularly monitoring and recording deer activity and damage in the wood, so that we can evaluate its impact.

Another aspect of the wood that has been causing concern has been the progressive clogging of the pond near the main entrance. This has reached the stage where mechanical silt removal is required, to increase the depth beyond that which enables the Reedmace to dominate. I am glad to be able to report that this will be done during the coming winter.

Some of the issues that the next update of the wood's management plan will be addressing are:

The maintenance of the two ponds in the wood.

Scrub creation and management, including the role of coppicing in the wood.

Facilitating re-growth, in the face of grazing by both rabbits and deer.

Achieving a sustainable balance between visitors' enjoyment, plants and animals.

The scope to develop wildlife corridors between Hillhouse Wood and adjacent areas of woodland, in line with the topical idea of living landscapes.

We and the Woodland Trust are keen that local people can influence what the next management plan should cover, and what its emphasis should be. Accordingly we will be providing a number of opportunities for you to offer your views over the next few months.

Andrew Savage
Chair of The Friends of Hillhouse Wood

Thanks for Local Support

Tracy and Harry Bowen have written of their appreciation of the local support to help provide mobility equipment for Harry. He is still undergoing treatment for pelvic and hip injuries received when a tree fell on Heathlands pupils during a school trip to Norfolk three years ago.



"During the summer Heathlands School organised some fundraising to help fund a basketball wheelchair for Harry, and impressively, raised over £900. While Rachel Young and I took part in a sponsored 25 mile bike ride.

Harry has a great time training with the Essex Outlaws wheelchair basketball team. He gets so much out of it and thanks to the generosity of everyone at Heathlands school and everyone who sponsored our bike ride, Harry will have his own basketball wheelchair soon.

I'd like to say a big thank you to Rachel – I couldn't have done the bike ride without her, and also to Jo Farthing. We could not have got so far so soon without their help."

Many thanks,

Tracy and Harry Bowen



Library Times

The Mobile Library visits the village
fortnightly on a Tuesday.

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

Queries about the service telephone Answers Direct 0845 603762



Worlds Biggest Coffee Morning

A big thank you to all who supported this event. We made a great £288.76. This amount has been sent off to Macmillan Cancer Support.



From strength to strength The Royal British Legion

By the time you receive this edition of our Village Bulletin, the 2010 'Poppy Appeal' will have finished.

Preliminary rough checks show that maybe we are on par with last year's total of well over £8040. The Branch is hoping to beat this, but 'Home for Heroes' and similar Regimental pleas for help have taken quite a lot of spare cash, so perhaps this year we will be slightly down. Still, we are grateful to the public being by our side year on year.

Beside other inter branch functions, members and their guests enjoyed the Autumn dinner at the Lion, Leavenheath, which is our starting point for the 'Poppy Appeal'.

Finally a reminder that the branch meet every second Thursday of the month in the Beehive pub, Little Horkesley and the RBL is now open to non ex-service members as well as ex-serving personnel.

If you would like more information about the Legion please contact the Secretary Roger Drury (01206 271454) or Hugh Brivent-Barnes (243717) who lives in the village.

METHODIST CHURCH DIARY

- Dec. 5th Gift and Parade Service - 11am
 8th Coffee Morning - 10am
 14th Shared Village Communion with St. Mary's - 11am
 14th Village Carol Singing, meet Methodist Church Hall - 6.30pm
 15th Women's Fellowship Christmas Carols and Tea - 2.30pm.
 19th Candlelight Carol Service - 6.30pm followed by coffee and mince pies in Church Hall
 25th Christmas Day Sector Service at Eight Ash Green Methodist Church - 10am.
 26th Boxing Day Carol Service - 10.30am at Lexden Methodist Church
- Jan. 2nd Covenant Service - 11am
 11th Shared Village Communion with St. Mary's - 11am
 12th Coffee Morning - 10am
 19th Women's Fellowship - Mr George Hayes - 2.30pm
 22nd New Year Social, 'Bring and Share' tea - 3pm to 5.30pm.
 30th United Service with St. Mary's at the Methodist Church - 11am. Coffee before service at 10.30am.
- Feb. 8th Shared Village Communion - 11am
 9th Coffee Morning - 10am.
 16th Women's Fellowship - Rev. Colin Horseman - 2.30pm.

Methodist Church News

What talented people we have around us! The Craft and Hobbies Exhibition held in October certainly showed this. Displays in the Church and Hall gave visitors time to judge and even try for themselves. The model railway was also enjoyed by children and adults alike. We have been asked if we might repeat this event next year. Do you have a hobby to share and display? If so please contact Pat or David on 243574 and add your work for this enjoyable day.

Our Christmas celebrations begin with our annual Gift and Parade Service on Sunday 5th December at 11am. We welcome the uniformed organisations in the village and the many parents who donate wrapped and labelled gifts, which are distributed to The Women's Refuge, Colchester Night Shelter and Beacon House.

Do you enjoy Carol Singing? Please join us to sing around the village on Tuesday 14th December – meet at the

Methodist Hall at 6.30pm, young and old are welcome to swell the numbers and raise money for Action for Children. (don't forget your torches!)

The Candlelight Carol Service led by our minister Revd Ruth Ridge will be at 6.30pm on Sunday 19th December followed by mince pies and coffee in the Church Hall.

Christmas Day and Boxing Day services take place this year at Lexden and Eight Ash Green. Please join us at any of these special services to celebrate the Glory of Christmas.

We look forward to our New Year Social on 22nd January in the Methodist Hall from 3pm to 5.30pm. Come along and enjoy an afternoon of fun and games, No need for a ticket, everyone is welcome to our 'Bring and Share' tea - we supply the coffee and tea. Contact Judy for details on 241969.

Every Tuesday 9.30am - 10.30am in the Church our minister Rev. Ruth Ridge is available for quiet prayer.

Rev. Ruth Ridge Tel. 242182



St Helena Hospice
 your time...your hospice

Light up a Life

A time to remember ...a time to help others

When friends and family cannot be together at Christmas, it can be a difficult or lonely time. Maybe they are working overseas, unable to travel home or perhaps someone dear to them has died. St Helena Hospice's Light up a Life appeal gives everyone a personal way to let a friend, family member or a loved one know that they are thinking of them.

The Hospice will be holding Light up a Life services around the region and would like to invite everyone to come along to join them at one or more of these special events. Each event includes Christmas carols and readings. Local services are:

Sunday 12th December, – 4.30pm - Colchester Castle.

Thursday 16th December, - 6.30pm - St Helena Hospice, Barncroft Close, Colchester.

For additional information or to make a dedication to a loved one, please contact the St Helena Hospice Fundraising Office on 01206 791740. Dedication forms are available from each of the Hospice shops or can be obtained by phoning the Fundraising Office on the above number.

Registered Charity Number 280919



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
Baby and Toddler Group, 9.15-11.30am term time - Methodist Church 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, Continuing Class - 7.30-9.30pm, Scout Hut. Fiona 240339
Anyone who has completed the Taoist Tai Chi set will be very 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
Weight Watchers, Methodist Church Hall, 7-8pm,
www.karenrobinson@gmail.com.

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
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 272759.
Women's Fellowship 2.30pm third Wednesday each month Methodist Church Hall.
West Bergholt Craft & Quilters are now a house group
Meeting 2nd Wednesday from 7.30pm - 9.30pm.
For venue phone Marie-Louise Fuell on 01206 240642

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 240443 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
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, 6-7pm (Juniors), 7-9pm (seniors) - Heathlands school
Wesley Guild, 7.30pm, 4th Friday - Methodist Hall (March to September)
Orpen 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
School term times only. - Contact: Debs Taylor Tel: 01376 573241
or Email: deborah@tinytalk.co.uk

Copy for the March edition should be received by 1st February 2011.

Late additions cannot be guaranteed entry

Submissions to any of the Bulletin team -
Advertising: Susan Swan - telephone 242319
Susan Leng - telephone 241748
Jane Williams - telephone 243636

Distribution: John and Nora Bates telephone 240741

Editor - Bernard Colbron - telephone 240297

Email: bernardcolbron@btinternet.com

All articles and letters are accepted on the condition that they may be edited.

Printed on paper from a sustainable source by
MAIL BOXES ETC. St. John's Street, Colchester - 01206 368881



CHARITY NO: 299094

If you live in West Bergholt and need help getting to an appointment the Care Network may be able to help. It is also available to take people to visit relatives in hospital or to accompany people to appointments, etc. Telephone the number below for the day on which you make your call. All our telephone contacts are volunteers and are not at home all the time, so please try any other number if there is no reply, or try later in the day. Try to phone at least a day or two before you need transport. Please don't leave a message on answering service as we cannot respond to these requests.

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

Please the 2011 AGM will be held on Tuesday 19th April at 7.30pm in the Methodist Church Hall - everyone welcome, especially anyone interested in being volunteer driver which involves as little or as much time as you can give - an hour or two a month on average.

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.