

village bulletin

June 2011

Issue 126

www.westbergholt.net

Bergholt Youth Group

THE BIG ROW

Question: How do 32 BYG members manage to row to France without getting wet?

Answer: The BYG sponsored channel row.

On 8th April 2011 BYG held its first sponsored event. The aim was to row the distance of the English Channel, on two rowing machines set up in the Orpen Hall. However it soon became clear that this distance was going to be well beaten. In fact in three and a half hours they managed to row to France and back again, a total distance of 68,000 metres and currently £186 has been raised for the club.

A big congratulations to Jenson, Luke, Thomas, Gregory, Jamie, Jamie, Graham, Andrew, William, Billy, Luke, Joe, James, Andy, Sam, Ronan, Matt, Oli, Tom, Jodie, Hannah, Emily, Flossie, Sarah, Ruby, Selina, Katie, Xena, Ruby, James, Ciara and Diane. Even bigger thanks to Sam for all his hard work in organising the event.

Royal Electrical Mechanical Engineers

Did you once wear this badge with pride?

Did you think that you were the brains of the Army and without REME help, the armed services would not have been the efficient fighting machine it is.

Why not join your association? They meet every third Monday of the month in the Garrison Sergeant's Mess, Merville Barracks.

Please ring the Chairman, Bill Dyer on 273071 of Gt Horksley, or Hugh 243717 who lives in our village.

1st West Bergholt Guides

We have had a very busy spring term. We made some lovely gifts and cards for Valentines and Mothers Day.



Girlguiding UK

We celebrated Thinking Day with Braiswick District at St Helena School. Our unit leaders ran an activity relating to events of interest dating from 1910 to 2010. We had many events for the Rainbows, Brownies and Guides to learn and stick onto the relevant year. After this they could then write their own ideas of what they expected from 2011 onwards. This went very well.

On 3rd March, we had an evening of making pancakes which was enjoyed by everyone. We divided into small groups (as the kitchen is not large enough for all of us!) and while some were cooking the remaining were rehearsing for the play.

On Thursday 7th April we invited all family and friends to come and watch our performance of Rags to Riches. This was a story based on Oliver Twist and Dick Whittington.

The Guides put on an excellent performance – well done to all of you! Mrs. Custard was very funny and could the rats dance anymore!

This term has started with a fantastic Royal High Tea to celebrate the wedding of Prince William to Catherine Middleton. Everyone dressed up for the occasion and all enjoyed the party.

Later we are going to try and raise funds for Teenage Cancer Trust and are holding a Rock Your Shades evening.

Sandra Gates, Guide Guider

In your June Bulletin

Late night ladies-only walk! • Bowls results • West Bergholt Vehicle Show

Gardeners trips • St. Marys Old Church invite • Bulletin Quiz

and The First 90 Years of the WI

PLUS other 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

| | | | |
|-----------------|---------------------------|---|---------|
| Jenny Church | Doran, Hall Road | ☎ | 240 792 |
| Bernard Colbron | 64 Mumford Road | ☎ | 240 297 |
| Liz Harrington | Barn End, Cooks Hall Lane | ☎ | 241 411 |
| Andrew Savage | 6 Garling Walk | ☎ | 242 015 |
| David Short | 60 Albany Road | ☎ | 241 715 |
| Chris Stevenson | 74 Mumford Road | ☎ | 241 708 |
| Harry Stone | Vindens, Chapel Lane | ☎ | 241 026 |

PARISH WORKING COMMITTEES

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| <i>Premises and Recreation</i> | Bernard Colbron, Sally Butcher, Jenny Church, Harry Stone, |
| <i>Environment and Highways</i> | David Short, Sally Butcher, Jenny Church, Sue Day, Harry Stone |
| <i>Planning and Development</i> | Bob Tyrrell, Andrew Savage, Chris Stephenson |
| <i>Finance and Personnel Advisory</i> | Andrew Savage, John Gili-Ross, Chris Stephenson, Harry Stone |

BOROUGH COUNCILLORS

| | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|---|---------|
| Marcus Harrington | Barn End, Cooks Hall Lane | ☎ | 241 411 |
| 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 fourth 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.

Workers Educational Association

Last term we had an interesting course about 'The Ancient Egyptians'. This concentrated more on the lives of the ordinary people than the rulers and our tutor was excellent at bringing the subject alive, with the aid of Powerpoint presentations.

We have just heard that the subject for next autumn term is to be 'Art in East Anglia' which will be an examination of artists historical and present. The tutor will be John Parker who lives just over the border in Suffolk. The fees are hardly increasing, which is good news. They will be £45 for the ten-week term, which working out at £4.50 per hour and a half each evening (with coffee/tea thrown in) compares well with other activities. The course will start towards the end of September.

We are always pleased to welcome new as well as familiar faces. Further information will be available from our Secretary on 01206 240791 nearer the time.



First Responders

Voluntary work by the First Responders continues with a core of thirteen active members, made up of nine solo volunteers and two husband and wife pairs who go on shift together.



We are supported in training and awareness by a local paramedic who attends meetings. We continue to meet once a month to brush up on skills and to keep up to date with issues surrounding being a Responder.

As part of our ongoing campaign for awareness and support of the First Responders, one of our most active members, Jenni Pizzuto recently gave the Beaver Group a talk and demonstration on resuscitation skills. The boys enjoyed using the training kit including the automated defibrillator, proving that learning life-saving CPR skills really is child's play!



Pictured some of the Beavers practising using the automated defibrillator on our practise dummy.



St Helena Hospice

ZOE TYLER ON BOARD

Zoe Tyler to support St Helena Hospice's Midnight Walk.

We are thrilled to announce that Zoe Tyler is on board to support St Helena Hospice's third Midnight Walk, which will take place on Saturday 4 June.

We are really pleased that the vocal coach, performer and *Loose Women* regular took time out of her busy schedule to come along to the Hospice, based in Colchester, on Friday 25 February, to meet the Midnight Walk team and encourage people from across the region to get involved and support their local hospice.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AT THE EVENT!

The ladies-only midnight Walk event will commence on the stroke of midnight on Saturday 4 June 2011, when 2,000 ladies will start their walk through Colchester in aid of St Helena Hospice. The walk will start and finish at the Weston Homes Community Stadium, the home of Colchester United and walkers will follow a circular route of 12km (7.5 miles).

We've had a fantastic response with ladies signing up for the walk, but in order to make the event as successful as the last two years, we still need more volunteers to help on the night. Any gentlemen that would like to help out, or if you're a lady who may not want to walk but would still like to be involved, then we would love to hear from you.

There are many different roles that need to be undertaken on the night and these include: assisting with registration, selling bunny ears, walking marshals, lead cyclists, issuing drinks at the half way point, route marshals and issuing medals. Prior to the event, help is also needed packing t-shirts and registration packs.

If you know somebody who can help, please contact Kate Alden at St Helena Hospice Fundraising Office, on 01206 791740 or by email to kalden@sthelenahospice.org.uk



St Helena Hospice
your time...your hospice

Registered Charity Number 280919

About St Helena Hospice

St Helena Hospice is for anyone who has been diagnosed with a life-limiting illness and all services are free of charge to patients and their families. The Hospice is open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and offers a diverse range of services which are delivered by highly qualified teams of specialists.

Bergholt Heath Youth Football Club



We have reached the end of the season which has proved to be a tough one for some of our teams. No silverware will be adorning the sideboard. At least the Under-12 side had another good season in the A League and the Under-8 team had a good first season. The Under-8's (which will become Under-9) need a goalkeeper for next year though, so if your son is Year 4 come September then give me a call.

All of our teams will go forward next season except our Under-18 team that will not be playing any more. Our good luck extends to the boys and to Stuart Hill who has managed the team throughout, becoming the first of our sides to achieve A League status. This was no mean feat bearing in mind that they had to start at the bottom as an Under-11 team.

On behalf of the rest of the Committee I would like to thank Stuart and his wife Julie for all their hard work and dedication over the years. We will - no doubt - continue to call on their assistance.

Since last reporting we have enjoyed another Race Night and raised funds for the Club.

We have our Awards Night on June 11 at Orpen Hall which will be our biggest yet and our Annual General Meeting on June 21 at The White Hart (hopefully in the garden). All are welcome to both events

Finally a big thank-you to our main sponsors: CFPI Ltd and also to Oak View Landscapes, Boyden Estate Agents, Richard Arnold Financial Management, The Treble Tile, B Driving and S&J Trophies.

Have a great summer

Leslie Wright Chairman , Telephone: 241438



Deer in Lexden Road

It was reported to the Bulletin that during the Easter holiday a deer was seen drinking from the Lexden Road pond from the road side. Plenty of traffic went by, but the deer took no notice and carried on drinking.

Keep your eyes open - it might return!



Ear Bashing for Lost!

Male currently undergoing ear bashing after losing wedding ring. A 5mm gold wedding band was found in Lorkin Way park, Saturday 12th March. Please contact Bernard on 240297 if you have lost one or know of someone who has.



Time is running out to book your place for the Bulletin Quiz!

It is to be held on Saturday 25th June 2011 at the Orpen Memorial Hall, starting at 7.30pm.

The team who comes first will have the honour of holding the Challenge Cup for a year, then try to win it back the following year.

There will be a raffle and refreshments but please bring your own drinks!

Each table consists of four people to make up a team. They can be from your village club or just good friends as long as one member is a village resident.

Contact Susan Leng at 36 Albany Road to book.

The cost for each team is only £16 - so come and enjoy yourselves.

All proceeds will be donated to the St. Helena Hospice.



Colne Valley Flower Club



On Friday the 25th March four members of our flower club visited the West Bergholt Youth Group. We took along buckets of flowers and greenery and a few sundry items to let anyone who wished to try their hand at a small arrangement. They were able to choose their flowers and under some supervision were able to complete their task.

They were each given a raffle ticket. At the end of the evening the table was full of arrangements and looked a picture. The raffle was drawn giving one winner two tickets for two visitors to the Flower Club. This was a very successful evening and we hope that we can repeat it again in the future.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 15th June and local flower arranger Penny Stone will be coming to show us her flowers under her title of "The Kiss of the Sun". We shall be having a Cake and Produce stall at this meeting and we ask you to bring along goods to sell on the evening.

July 20th is our members evening and we will be having a workshop to show "Plant Manipulation". This will show how foliage can be altered giving it a different appearance.

The club does not meet in August.

Our meetings take place on the third Wednesday of the month in the Orpen Hall at 7.30pm. For any further information please contact Clare on 01206 241145.

West Bergholt Women's Institute



Following our 90th birthday celebrations Pat Moran, President, received many letters of thanks.

Rebecca Perry gave an enthusiastic and enlightening talk on Zoos and Conservation. Members were surprised to learn how many exchanges of animals took place between various zoos around the world to help endangered species and promote healthy animals.

In April we sent our usual batch of cakes to St. Helena Hospice.

Members enjoyed hearing about the cultivation of Mark de Roy's organic lavender Farm in the Stour Valley. Various products were tried and tested by his audience.

In May Diana Pettitt was welcomed with her talk on History of Adornment with jewellery and beads. Members saw pictures of various cultures around the world and their use of beaded work, gold and silver adornment worn by men and women. Diana makes beautiful jewellery which members were able to purchase.

Next month we are looking forward to ex Mayor of Colchester, Sonia Lewis, speaking to us. Visitors most welcome.

Anyone interested in joining the West Bergholt Women's Institute can contact president Pat Moran on 01206 240581.



A slice of history – Rene Keates and Joyce Lucking, members of West Bergholt WI, cut the 90th anniversary cake at a celebratory lunch at the Balkerne Restaurant, Colchester Institute.

Editors Note - this article was received too late for the March edition.

New recycling calendar now in use

As in previous years Colchester residents will receive a copy of the new recycling calendar in March in the post with their Council Tax bill. The recycling calendar applies from 1 April onwards unless you use communal recycling and rubbish bins. Please look out for your calendar and help Colchester recycle even more this year.

The calendar includes information on:

- what you can recycle in blue and green weeks
- when and how to put your recycling out for collection

Visit www.colchester.gov.uk/recycling for information and online services to help you reduce, reuse and recycle your rubbish, home compost and much more. Alternatively email recycling@colchester.gov.uk or phone 01206 282700.

The Recycling Calendar can be viewed online where you can print replacement copies. It is also available at a range of outlets across the borough including the Customer Service Centre on Colchester High Street. You can also go online to find information on when rolls of recycling and rubbish bags will be delivered to households (except to flats with communal bins), and find where to get more recycling boxes, bags and sacks.

For collection news, handy tips and local events register online for the Recycling and Waste E-Newsletter and 'like' Recycle for Colchester on facebook.

Thank you for recycling your rubbish!

Sarah Ward, Strategic Waste Officer

WEST BERGHOLT VEHICLE SHOW

NAYLAND ROAD, WEST BERGHOLT, COLCHESTER,
ESSEX

Saturday 30th and Sunday 31st July

Starting both days at 10am

Over 500 Historic Vehicles of all descriptions,
Plus Trade Stands, Charity Stalls, Static Exhibitions and
Funfair

Friday 29th July at 7.30pm

Free Country and Western Concert

Saturday 30th July

Vehicle Parades and Massive Kite Display

Saturday Evening at 7.30pm

Last Night of the Proms Concert.

*Tickets for Concert available from Manns Music Colchester
or A. Dickens 07887 934 726*

Sunday 31st July

Massed Bands of the City of Coventry

Jez Avery Honda Buggy & Trials Bike Stunt Show.

The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment Parachute Freefall
Team "The Tigers"

Show Opened on Sunday by BBC Radio's
Richard Spendlove, MBE

Licenced Bar - Usual High Quality Refreshments

Enquiries to M.J. Culham: 01206 271253

West Bergholt Football Club



Having started the season in the best possible fashion, going 22 games undefeated in league and cup, the first team suffered a dip in form, probably due to injuries to key players, and have, unfortunately lost three in the last six games which realistically puts the title out of our grasp. It is still a mathematical possibility as we have games in hand, but would depend on other results going in our favour, and third place looks the most likely conclusion. A good season by any standards, but we have had such success in recent seasons that we probably expected better.

The reserve team have had a really good season under new manager Jimmy Michie, and are currently fourth in their league with the possibility of finishing higher, having provided a good quality back up for the first team.

We have one major success to report as on 20th April at Sudbury Town's ground we won the Border League Knock-out Cup 4 - 0 against Lawford. This means that we have now won this cup three seasons in succession, which is the first time this has been achieved by any club since the start of the competition in 1971.

On the social front, we held a quiz night in April and will be having a Members and families party on the Royal Wedding Day.

Junior training remains very popular, and it's great to see so many young children enjoying their football on a Saturday morning. A big thank you should go to the coaches who give up their time to organize this, with no reward other than seeing the pleasure it gives to the participants.

The season is drawing to a close, but we would still like to see as many people as possible on match days. With the current sunny weather, it's a pleasant afternoon out and refreshments are available. Don't forget to visit the website www.westberholtfc.co.uk for results, fixtures, information, and the shopping link.

Michael Bell, Chairman

Cricket Club



The season is now in full swing with the usual set of mixed results. We were delighted to earn promotion to Division 3 of the Braintree Indoor League on the last day of the season in March. We are running two senior teams in the Two Counties and NECL leagues on Saturdays and Sundays respectively. In addition we compete on Wednesday evenings in the local Evening League.

There is plenty of cricket for our enthusiastic juniors who play in the Under 15, Under 13 and Under 11 leagues as well as many Kwik Cricket tournaments. Also we are now playing in the elite Peter Coe Cup.

A new development for the club is the addition of women's cricket. We have been welcomed into the local Development League and there will also be a number of friendly fixtures for us to compete in.

Plans for the annual club Festival are well advanced and once again there will be many senior and junior cricket matches played over the long weekend of 23-26 June. We look forward to welcoming all our members and their families, the visiting teams and the local community as well. There will be fun events for all ages apart from the cricket and a bar and barbecues on every day of the Festival.

Please visit our new website www.westberholtcc.co.uk and can anyone interested in playing cricket or just helping out contact me on 240225 / 07769 697542 or npassmore@skv.com

Nigel Passmore

Old St Mary's Church

Some villagers may not know that next to West Bergholt Hall stands the oldest building in the village, Old St Mary's Church. Replaced by New St Mary's in 1904, the old church was eventually declared redundant in 1975 and is now in the care of a national charity, The Churches Conservation Trust.

When you imagine that the earliest part of the church, the north doorway, was built over a thousand years ago, you realise that nearly 40 generations of West Bergholt residents have appreciated and used this venerable building.

The charm of the church is that it escaped wholesale Victorian restoration, so keeps its 18th century gallery, hat pegs and plaster ceilings. It has no electricity and a visit on a sunny day is recommended to appreciate the wallpainting of the Royal Arms of King James. The Trust is delighted that the church is open most weekdays, and that it is still occasionally used for worship.

The church is looked after by our local volunteer keyholders who lavish much time and care on it. However, the Trust would very much like to form a Friends group for the church, to expand our band of helpers and to try to get one or two more events taking place there each year. We are delighted to maintain the building but would like more people to appreciate and use it. Many of our churches here in the south-east have a Friends group and these have been the catalyst to bringing the churches back to life – not necessarily for religious services but for occasional concerts and exhibitions.

A public meeting will be held on Wednesday July 6th at the old church at 7.30pm and anyone with an interest in helping us or finding out more about our work will be more than welcome.

If you would like to have a chat beforehand please contact John Vigar, South East Development Manager at the Trust on 01634 400075 or email jvigar@tcct.org.uk

More details about our work may be found at www.visitchurches.org.uk

St Mary's Church

At the time of writing we are preparing for Phase 2 of the church development - improving the church hall. You may have noticed repairs to the roof being carried out to make it watertight and we are awaiting a "faculty" (permission) from the Diocese to carry out further refurbishment works and alterations including new kitchen and toilet facilities and alterations to the internal layout of the rooms.

The alterations will start once the permission has been received and will hopefully be finished by the end of June. Regular users of the church hall have made arrangements to meet either in the church itself or in other venues around the village. We look forward welcoming everyone into the newly refurbished hall when the works are completed.

School Easter Services

In the run up to the school Easter holidays we were very pleased to welcome all the children from Heathlands School, their parents and some of the children from Bluebells Playgroup into church for a retelling of the Easter story as John remembered it. It was a very exciting morning with even the very youngest children joining in with the singing.



Easter Groundbreakers

60 children came together at St. Mary's for fun on the first morning of the Easter holidays. The weather was very kind to us and at one stage we had four groups of children busy in four areas in and around the church. Some great models were constructed, relay races run, crafts made, food consumed, songs sung and games played. We also found time for a bible story and some time thinking about how we could be followers of Jesus.

Thanks to everyone who donated money to the Colchester Foodbank. We raised just over £75, which has been paid to them directly.



We're going to do it again during the first week of the summer holidays on 25/26 and 27th July so if you have a child who has already started school by that date look out for information either through Heathlands School, in the Church magazine or on the church website. Groundbreakers is open to children from any primary school.



Seniors Lunch

The next Seniors lunch is to be on Saturday 25th June.

Look out for more information in Good News, the Church magazine.

West Bergholt Gardeners' Association



Summer has arrived ...

And June is here and we are realising the most perfect gardening moment, a sun-warmed garden overflowing with life and packed with fresh foliage and the sense that the garden has built up to the main event. Extra light and warmth encourages the garden to put on an exuberant burst of growth. But weeds are growing as fast as your plants now so you really do need to keep on top of them otherwise they will deprive your ornamental plants of moisture, light and nutrients.

Cut back dead bulb foliage if not done already. But it's important to wait until the foliage dies down naturally; otherwise it can lead to blindness next year. Lift and divide overcrowded clumps of bulbs after they have finished flowering. And cutting back clumps of spring-flowering perennials can encourage a fresh flush of foliage.

Plant out summer bedding and seed-raised plants, if not already done so. Make sure they are well watered in and kept moist during dry weather. It's not too late to direct sow a few fast growing, late-flowering hardy annuals such as Calendula, Godetia and Clarkia.

Tubs can be planted up with summer bedding if not done already. If containers have been cleared add garden compost and fish, blood and bone before replanting. Otherwise they will soon deplete their soil of nutrients if left unattended. Liquid feed plants in containers every two to four weeks. Vine weevil larvae can be a serious pest of containerised plants, and be active this month. Tip out the rootball of suspect plants, and inspect for the creamy, orange-headed maggots, which tend to curl up into a 'C' shape. There are various chemical and biological controls available.

Winter bedding plants for the following winter can be sown from May until July. Attractive choices include ornamental cabbages, kales and winter pansies.

Turning to our activities, 'The Wildlife Man' – Barry Kaufmann-Wright, delighted his audience at our March meeting. He spoke in depth on 'Wildlife in the Garden' punctuated with humorous anecdotes and experiences drawn from his long career as an Essex Wildlife Crime Officer. After his presentation of slides on both the friendly and the lesser welcomed garden visitors, members took the opportunity to purchase Barry's greetings cards and books.

JOGGERS IN THE DARK

A number of reports have been received about people who jog around our roads in the dark and are putting themselves at risk from vehicles.

It may be wise if reflective tops or shoulder bands could be worn to reflect headlights as vehicles approach the jogger.

We thank everyone for supporting our April Plant Sale. Funds raised will help sustain our Association's activities and enable us to donate to a local charity. Natalie Finch spoke on '35 Years in a Garden of Roses' at the May meeting.

Join us on our summer outings to:

East Ruston Old Vicarage Gardens on Wednesday 15 June at 2.00pm. Remarkable 32 acre garden incorporating formal design, enormous decorative exuberance and brilliant planting.



Beeleigh Abbey Gardens, Maldon on Tuesday 5 July at 7.00pm. Three acres of riverside gardens in a picturesque and historic setting dating from the 13th century.



For details on our meetings and outings contact – valerielofthouse1@hotmail.co.uk tel: 01206 855450 or the Treasurer – terryclaydon@aol.com tel: 01206 242124.

We always welcome visitors and new members. Our new year will start with the AGM on 19 September at 7.30pm in the Orpen Hall with Ian Baalham speaking on Top Ten Trees of Colchester.

Library Times

The Mobile Library visits the village **fortnightly on a Tuesday**.

The stops and times for West Bergholt are:

| | |
|------------------------|---------------|
| Albany Road | 13.55 – 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 6037628

The Friends of Hillhouse Wood

Nightingales back in the wood



After the long and severe winter, spring arrived early in the wood spurred by a succession of days in the first half of April and into Easter when the thermometer registered summertime temperatures of more than 20C. In previous years cold and dry conditions delayed the wood's marvellous display of bluebells and other woodland flowers but this year wood anemones were well in bloom in March and by the second week of April there were already fragrant carpets of bluebells with lots of yellow archangel, and over Easter, hundreds took advantage of the sunshine to admire the flowers and many Spring butterflies.

In recent years, the absence of nightingales in the wood, where several pairs used regularly to nest, has given rise to concern and the new management plan approved by the Woodland Trust is ensuring that there will be enough protective scrub and ground cover for nightingales and warblers. So it was with great pleasure that on Good Friday, when it was 23C, I heard a male nightingale singing loudly in the well-wooded corner near Cooks Hall giving rise to the hope that these marvellous songsters will again make the wood their home and rear young.

On the day of the nightingale there were at least a dozen singing male blackcaps in the wood with six male chiffchaffs. And on April 20 Philip Smith gave me the good news that there was a singing male willow warbler in the wood, the first record for several years. Tree creepers are regularly seen in the wood and have nested in 2009 and 2010. During the winter bird walk, led by myself and Philip Smith a nuthatch was heard and seen and two were seen in 2010, encouraging the hope that this now-scarce woodland bird may yet colonise Hillhouse.

As well as flowers being early, butterflies were in good number – orange tips, green-veined whites, speckled woods and holly blues with some small tortoiseshells, brimstones, peacocks and commas out of hibernation.

By Easter there were many blooms of early purpose orchids, perhaps as many as 50, with at least six of the rare white form.

The top pond, which benefited greatly from the clearance of willow and sallow scrub and spreading reedmace, is looking good with the welcome return of aquatic insect and plant life. Several species of damsel and dragonflies breed in the pond, and on April 22, there was a large red damselfly.

There have also been sightings of great-crested newts, a rare and specially protected species. As Easter is late this year, and to avoid any clash of Easter functions, the Friends of Hillhouse Wood decided to hold the open day in the wood on May 1st. Bluebells were still showing well and all the other wildlife attractions. Escorted nature walks were held and the Friends put on a display of photographs and information by the old church. Philip Smith and myself will

be leading a special summer walk for summer butterflies, dragonflies and other insects and summer flowers in July and the date will be announced by posters and on the Internet.

Joe Firmin



Friendship Club



The first meeting of the Friendship Club after the Christmas break took place in the Orpen Hall in January, when members enjoyed an afternoon of games and prizes.

In February the pupils of Heathlands School entertained us with musical items, dancing and singing. The following meeting members treated their brains with a quiz.

In March – twenty-three members went by car to Philpots Nurseries for a cream tea. Also in March was the club's AGM. The committee for 2011/12 is as follows: Dorothy Winter (Chairperson), Jan Lumb (Secretary), Sue Hart (Treasurer), Greta Leatherdale, Iris Coppin and Sophie Ranson.

In the next few months we have a garden party, strawberry picking followed by a cream tea, a day trip to the coast and various speakers.

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.





Nayland Choir
FESTIVAL CONCERT
Saturday 2 JULY, 6.30pm
at Nayland Village Hall
OPERA GALA
Famous arias and choruses
with GERRY BREMNER, tenor

The Orpen Players

The Orpen Players spring production this year was a relatively new play and provided them with the opportunity to stage a premiere for this area. "Entertaining Angels" was originally written by Richard Everett in 2006 for the Chichester Festival. It is a well observed comedic drama with plenty of twists and turns. A lovely play that the ORPS are sure will be done many times in the future by many companies.



David Wenden directed a cast of four women and one man. A story of Grace who, as a clergyman's wife, had spent a lifetime on her best behaviour. However following the death of her husband Bardolph she enjoys a new found freedom to do and say exactly as she pleases. Chrissie Wenden portrayed this character with the necessary warmth, sharp wit, sense of fun, sadness and nostalgia that the part demanded.

Debra Hornigold played her eccentric missionary sister Ruth with gusto, a sense of fun, bounce, and eventual compassion required to deliver some disturbing news that forced Grace to confront the truth of her marriage.

Colin Downer as Bardolph the deceased husband who visits his wife's mind, mainly to remind her that he spent most of his time devoted to his work. However there is a deep bond between them that is put to the test.

Michelle Burrows as Jo, Bardolph and Grace's daughter, is a therapist with a troubled love life. She is caught between the rivalry that erupts when auntie Ruth confesses that she has a son of thirty, who was fathered by Bardolph. Caught in the middle of all this is Sarah the new Vicar portrayed by Francesca Wenden. Sarah brings some new and refreshing ideas to the parish and helps to bring sense and understanding. She is, as Bardolph tells Grace, 'The best thing to have happened to this place since I arrived'.



Photo left to right. Debra Hornigold, Chrissie Wenden, Colin Downer, Michelle Burrows and Francesca Wenden.

The ORPS are looking for a Guest Director to direct their next pantomime. If you are prepared to take on this task and have the necessary skills and experience, please contact Debra Hornigold on 01206 242111

**Make a date for the autumn production
27th/28th/29th October 2011**

NHS
North East Essex

Unused medicines are a safety risk and waste your NHS money

- Return out of date medicines to pharmacy for safe disposal
- If your medicines change - return your old medicines to the pharmacy for safe disposal to avoid mixing them up with your new medicines
- Don't stockpile medication - it is a safety risk for children and others who might take them
- Store medicines in an appropriate place out of reach of children
- Even if you never open them, once medicines have left the pharmacy or dispensary they cannot be recycled or used by anyone else
- Please take your unused medicines to the pharmacy or GP dispensary for safe disposal
- Unused medication costs your local NHS £5 million every year, which could have paid for 4480 extra operations.

Sometimes patients receive medicines they don't actually use, or use only occasionally. This means that they can lose out on the intended health benefits of their prescription. And that can be a major headache in more ways than one...

Please remember if you are on repeat medication, check to see what you will actually need and

**ONLY ORDER
WHAT YOU WILL USE IN A MONTH.**

Wesley Guild

The Guild continues to meet on the 4th Friday of each month at 7.30pm in the Church Hall.

Talks being planned include Prison Chaplaincy, Memories of an Evacuee, update on the work of Water Aid, Women of Africa and travel in New Zealand.

Methodist Church News

Our Annual Quiz Night in March was again very well supported and enjoyed by all. We look forward to arranging our next quiz during the Autumn. Dates will appear in the September Bulletin.

The Women's World Day of Prayer which took place jointly with St Mary's this year raised over £140.00

Coffee Mornings held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month continue during the summer and give visitors the chance to make friends and enjoy a chat. Homemade cakes and jams, cards and gifts are available, call in and join us for a coffee in the Church Hall from 10.00am to 11.15am

After the interest shown in our Craft Exhibition last year we are hoping to arrange another event in October. If you have an interest or hobby to share please contact Pat or David Kay on 01206 243574 to join in and display your work.

Further details in the next Bulletin.

All our regular weekday events continue through the summer months and visitors are always welcome to join us.

METHODIST CHURCH *Diary*

| | |
|---|--|
| June 8th | Coffee Morning Church Hall 10.00am |
| June 14th | Shared Village Communion with St. Mary's 11.00am |
| June 15th | Womens Fellowship Church Hall 2.30pm. |
| June 16th | Bible Study Church Hall 2.30pm |
| June 24th | Wesley Guild 7.30pm Church Hall |
| | |
| July 12th | Shared Village Communion with St. Mary's 11.00am |
| July 13th | Coffee Morning 10.00am. Church Hall |
| July 20th | Womens Fellowship Church Hall 2.30pm. |
| July 21st | Bible Study 2.30pm Church Hall |
| July 22nd | Wesley Guild 7.30pm Church Hall |
| July 31st | United Service at Methodist Church 11.00am. Coffee before service 10.30am |
| | |
| August 9th | Shared Village Communion with St. Mary's 11.00am |
| August 10th | Coffee Morning Church Hall 10.00am |
| August 17th | Womens Fellowship Church Hall 2.30pm. |
| August 18th | Bible Study 2.30pm. Church Hall |
| August 26th | Wesley Guild 7.30pm Church Hall |
| | |
| Every Tuesday 9.30am – 10.00am Minister Ruth Ridge is available in the Church for quiet prayer. | |
| Regular Sunday service each week 11.00am | |
| Minister: Rev Ruth Ridge. Tel. 01206 242182 | |

CHOOSING THE BEST MEDICAL ROUTE THIS SUMMER MAY SAVE YOU TIME

If you have an injury or illness that is not life-threatening but needs urgent medical attention, think about which service is best for you. Choosing the right route will help you to save some time!

“One in four people who go to Accident and Emergency have minor illnesses or injuries which could be dealt with more quickly at our Walk In Service at North Colchester Healthcare Centre.

We're minutes from Colchester's AandE and we aim to see our patients within about 30 minutes where possible.”

says practice manager at the Walk In Service, Sandy Measor.

The Walk In Service at North Colchester Healthcare Centre, Turner Road, Colchester CO4 5JR; is open from 7am-10pm every day and treats:

- Minor illness including chest infections and sore throats
- Cuts and grazes which do not need stitching
- Sprains and strains which do not need x-raying
- Bites, stings and minor burns
- Blood tests
- Minor head injuries if consciousness has not been lost
- Minor infections including eye infections
- Smoking cessation
- Contraceptive advice
- Stomach ache, vomiting and diarrhoea
- Urinary tract infections

You can also get treatment for minor injuries faster by:

Dropping into Clacton Minor Injuries Unit (open 9am-9pm) at Clacton Hospital, Tower Road, Clacton on Sea CO15 1LH

or visiting Harwich Minor Injuries Unit

(open 9am-5pm) at The Fryatt Hospital, Main Road, Harwich CO12 4EX – no appointment needed.

If you are unsure of the best place to go or need advice: Call NHS Direct for advice – 0845 4647

Visit www.choosetherightroute.co.uk to find out which service is best for you or contact your GP's out of hours service by ringing your surgery

Copy for the September edition should be received by 1st August 2011.

Late additions cannot be guaranteed entry
Submissions to any of the Bulletin team -
Advertising: Susan Swan - telephone 242319

Email: susan.swan@btinternet.com

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.

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West Bergholt Women's Institute



THE 'FIRST' 90 YEARS

Women in West Bergholt have been heading to the WI for 90 years, undaunted except for one occasion; the Minutes of the meeting scheduled for August 1940 report, 'The meeting was abandoned owing to frequent air raids.'

In fact it was during the war years that the Women's Institute members made some of their most significant contributions to the community - WI mothers helped place children evacuated from London and sent dried rabbit skins to Russia following an appeal from Prime Minister Winston Churchill's wife. War efforts demonstrated the members' skills – growing vegetables and making preserves during the food shortages and sewing clothes for British servicemen.

These days WI members' support of local life is more likely to be in the form of baking cakes for visitors and patients to the St Helena Hospice and helping with village needs, for example, until the village had its own pharmacy, members would collect prescriptions from the Mile End chemists for patients unable to do so themselves.

Also, of course, the West Bergholt WI is part of the national organisation which wields considerable power in giving a voice to the women, and families, of this country and influencing Government policy on a wide range of issues, including environmental concerns and health campaigns.

Women have made friends through the WI since it was formed in the village on January 21, 1921. In those early years, it was the only social organisation for women. Joyce Lucking, who is now 86, has enjoyed her 'WI night out' since she joined at the age of 18. She says, 'I would go with my mother, once a month, even coming back to West Bergholt during the years I was living in Colchester.'



That was in the days when women dressed up in hats and gloves for their monthly meeting. Joyce remembers 'It was quite feudal then, with the wives of the Brewery managers calling for the wives of the Brewery workers, who were expected to come with them.' It might explain why originally 134 women enrolled as members.

Over the years, the West Bergholt WI has fostered women's interests in drama, sewing and keep fit, although there are now many local organisations specialising in these

interests. That, and the fact that more women go out to work, are reasons why the West Bergholt WI now has 42 members. But, says president Pat Moran, it remains a local organisation which still covers a wide range of all-round interests for women of all ages.



As well as the talks, quizzes, demonstrations, entertainments and outings, members get the chance to try their hand at new activities. And adapt depending on individual interests – as illustrated by walks carried out by members who joined a national keep fit challenge of walking, swimming and cycling. Walking was covered by some members going for a long hike while others took a more sedate stroll round the village before joining others for refreshments. 'On the short walk round the village we realised we had lost a couple of members – until we found them at the Treble Tile.' recalls Jan Lumb. Refreshments are, after all, a traditional part of the WI scene as is the singing of Jerusalem.



The WI is again hosting a popular tea party for members, as well as past and prospective members at the Methodist Church Hall on Thursday September 15 from 2.30pm. This year's open afternoon is particularly special as members celebrate their 90th anniversary. Reminders of the West Bergholt WI are to be found in village life – from the collage sewn by members to mark the 60th anniversary in 1981, which hangs in the Orpen Hall to the bench near the old Church which commemorates the millennium.

As it looks forward to its tenth decade, members of the WI plan to continue combining their traditional approach with meeting modern needs. Times have changed since the women of the WI pooled their rationed food to arrange a Christmas party in 1944, but their community spirit will continue.

Anyone interested in the West Bergholt Women's Institute can contact president Pat Moran on 01206 240581.

Multi Use Games Area (MUGA)

For ten years the West Bergholt Millennium Sports Club has organised the use and management of the Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) through a lease agreement with the Trustees of the Lorkin Daniell Field Charity. The officers of The Millennium Club have informed the Trustees that they are relinquishing their roles and wish for the Trustees to take on the responsibility of running the facility. This has now been formally agreed with the Trustees taking responsibility from the 1st June 2011. At the time of preparing this article (mid May) arrangements are in hand to introduce various improvements prior to the hand-over.

An Advisory Group, which will report to the Premises and Recreation Committee of the Parish Council, is in the process of being formed. It is intended to continue to run an annual membership scheme. Previous members have been contacted and new members will be welcome. A noticeboard will be erected beside the MUGA and this will give details of membership, booking arrangements and access to the site as soon as they are finalised. As there has been an abuse of access a new arrangement based on a regularly changed combination number available only to legitimate users will be introduced from 1st June.

The Trustees recognise the potential of the MUGA as a valuable village asset and in taking back responsibility will give priority to simplifying its availability and maximising its use. It is intended to ensure it is not a drain on village resources but rather a source of revenue.

Harry Stone



Do you know somebody who has brought colour into your life?

St Helena Hospice's new Rainbow of Ribbons appeal is encouraging people to celebrate a special person in their life, past or present, by dedicating a rainbow ribbon in their name. By giving a donation to the Hospice and making a dedication to a loved one, a ribbon will then be tied to a tree in the beautiful Hospice grounds.

The Hospice will then be holding a special Open Garden Day on Saturday 18th June, 11am until 4pm, for everyone to come along and see the beautiful colourful ribbons and look round part of the Hospice grounds.

For more information and to dedicate a rainbow ribbon to somebody special, please contact the Fundraising Office on 01206 791740 to request a dedication form.

West Bergholt Indoor Bowls Club



We recently celebrated the club's AGM. It was attended by most of our members and we were pleased to welcome our social members to enjoy a ploughman's supper with us.

After formal business of the club had taken place the presentation of the years trophies by Eileen Brown took place.

Singles Winner: George Coppin – *Runner-up:* Nora Bates
Semi Finalists: Paul Leach and Pat McCarthy

Pairs Winners: Greta Leatherdale and Barbara Davies
Pairs Runners-up: Ilona Reed and Pat McCarthy

Triples Winner:

Paul Leach, Bett McCarthy and Pat McCarthy

Triples Runners-up:

Greta Leatherdale, Barbara Davies and George Coppin

Fours Winners:

Doreen Payne, Ivan Payne, Pat McCarthy and Bett McCarthy

Fours Runners-up: Barbara Davies, Greta Leatherdale, Beryl Conway and George Coppin

Points Winner: Paul Leach - *Runner-up:* Barbara Davies

Two Wood Drawn Pairs Winners:

Chris Mooney and Bett McCarthy

Two Wood Drawn Pairs Runners-up:

Bruce Fulford and Jan Lumb

Members have all enjoyed the friendly matches that have taken place during the spring. We would like to invite you to come along to our club nights in the Orpen Hall on a Thursday and Sunday evening at 7.15pm to try this game we all enjoy. Call 243301 for further information or just come along.

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

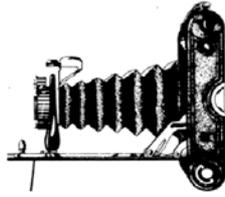
The Laurels, Firmins Court

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 Local History Group



In February we watched an East Anglian Film Archive DVD *'Memories of the Essex Coast'*. The fascinating footage provided a journey back which illustrated how life has changed in a relatively short time. Packed beaches with 'original' wooden deckchairs and children, wearing knitted swimsuits, playing with 'original' metal buckets and spades. Remember when ladies used to do their knitting? And what about the knotted hankie hats?

March was our annual meeting followed by a look at a selection from our archives. Some recently acquired items, displayed for the first time, included original draft deeds handwritten on parchment and picture postcards donated by Ian Ploughman.

In April Philip Crummy's talk began with a photograph of the lovely building that used to be on the junction of Maldon Road and the Southway roundabout until it was pulled down and replaced by a modern one. This had been done quite legally and highlighted that redevelopment could become the norm thus destroying our heritage. Colchester has some very interesting properties that ought to be valued even though they do not qualify as actual Listed Buildings.

This kick-started a project to make a Recorded List which carries no legal weight but is for the Planners to take into consideration when any planning applications are received. Andrew Phillips, local historian, joined Philip to form a team to walk an area of the town. They noted and photographed many buildings in a good state of preservation which have original features, including doors and windows, or are unusual in some other way – either architecturally or historically. Starting from the town, the stretch including Oxford Road and Beconsfield Road is considered worthy of preservation as a whole because the lovely, well cared for buildings reflect the history of expansion of the town. Beconsfield Road is of particular interest as the front gardens survive because they are at a higher level than the road and are therefore not suitable for conversion to allow parking. Many buildings in Maldon Road were recorded, including a row of six or so where each end used to be a shop – a sign of times long gone. In the town itself, even some shops that have been modernized retain interesting upper floors. Also there are some noteworthy porches over front doors, for example in Maidenburgh Street.

After coffee we had an update on the Roman Circus. The Sergeants Mess has proved to be much more expensive to purchase and renovate than anticipated. Instead the nearby Education Centre will be bought. The Trust has a mortgage to purchase their percentage cost of the building and the Appeal Fund has enough for the public part. There will still be access to the garden that contains the Circus Gates which the Trust will maintain. It is proposed that earth banks will show where the seating areas of the circus were.

The Education Centre needs renovation, and being mindful that it is a long time since the public appeal, the aim is to work on the garden first to allow the public to see some progress before the whole is completed. It is important for entry to be free and eventually there will be souvenirs for sale in a tea/coffee shop with proceeds used to cover running costs.

In May the group will visit Pitchbury Wood. In June, we have a tour of the remains of a Roman Temple at Gestingthorpe. July will be a visit to Rowhedge.

Contact Bernard Colbron on 240297 for details.



Bergholt Knitters

We are a small friendly group of knitters and crocheters who meet monthly. All levels of skill welcome. We knit for ourselves, or for a charity (for which wool is provided). Join us for a friendly chat, a glass of wine and nibbles.

For more details, ring 01206 242015 or 01206 241357

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Dear Editor,

Beware people of West Bergholt, your lovely green and, in theory, protected surroundings are under attack! Over the last decade it has been hard for developers and landowners to take a map and stick a pin in it and say 'here' is the best location for us to make lots of money! So, creeping tactics have been implemented. Buy the land, sit on it, and slowly develop. By the time you realise what is happening it is too late, the planning application has been passed and all is under construction!

So what happens if something gets slipped in under the radar? What can you do if a 'permission' creeps in affecting your lives and the value of your house and your little bit of English heaven turns into a suburb of Colchester beside an industrial park?

Do not think you are protected. You are not and it is happening as we speak.

A recent planning application was made that should not under any circumstances have been passed. NO said the immediate locals (300), NO said the parish council, NO said the planning officers and our local councillor. Not once but TWICE. But the Planning Committee at Colchester Borough Council ignored all of them. A one sided, highly emotional press campaign added pressure to the Planning Committee. An expensive planning specialist employed by the applicant's father utilised powerful family members to make a public and an emotional plea containing factually incorrect information.

Would you believe that the planning committee of Colchester Borough Council who make decisions that very seriously affect your lives, has no representation from the West Bergholt area? To our minds this leads to an imbalance right away.

Conditional planning consent was given to the applicant for leisure use for land-locked agricultural buildings that were built less than 5 years before using the special development privileges that farmers enjoy. Since being built by the farmer, the sheds have not been used for agriculture but stood idle, then all of a sudden and for some time they were then used illegally for 15 months as a wood distribution unit with up to fifteen juggernauts thundering through our village from 5am each morning. When CBC eventually said enough is enough - this illegal use must stop, surprise surprise, within three weeks a planning application was made to convert these sheds in the middle of the field for use for disabled children. No lighting, heating, insulation or water at the end of a dirt track with no legal access point! But unbelievably consent was given, one of the key arguments being that the applicant needed to move her business by September of 2011 or it will go bust! Then, predictably, nothing happened regarding implementing the consent, and nothing has happened on the site until February this year when the applicant's father, the farmer, built a new road access junction with an 80'x80' entrance right onto Colchester Road. This was without any formal Highways approval or planning permission! This application claims that the Combine Harvester has difficulties accessing the field. . that it has used for at least 11 years? CBC was called and the farmer was asked to stop and make good the verge. This he did, and at the same time built some new mud humps. A

retrospective planning application was made for this road citing the need for new access to the field as the Combine Harvester cannot get over the mud humps (that have just been built).

So here is a call to the villagers of West Bergholt. Let's save our field from commercial development. Oh, and at the same time save some of the lives of the hapless individuals that use the Colchester Road accident blackspot on a daily basis!

Anyway email me at chrisp63@hotmail.co.uk.

Thank you

Mr and Mrs M B Pollitt,
HHB, Colchester Road, West Bergholt

To the Editor,

As a member of the Local History Group and Colchester Film Makers Club I was looking for a possible subject for a short film. Living in Lexden Road it occurred to me that a film about the history of the Lexden Road - Chapel Road - Mumford Road area where originally the Dairy Farm - Donard Lodge used to be, could be interesting. The Local History Group has some early pictures and maps but I would be interested to hear from anyone in the village who may have pictures or slides taken before the development of the land in 1965-67.

I would also be interested if anyone has any 8mm film taken of the Dairy Farm / Donard Lodge area before it was demolished. I can arrange for it to be copied to digital format.

I intend to investigate the planning application as I assume that the development represented the first major expansion of the village and may have been controversial. I would be interested to talk to, and if possible record, any resident who can remember the village before the expansion.

If any one feels they can help me I can be contacted on 240588 or via email at pdn240@gmail.com.

Peter Noakes

Bernard,

Further to our earlier telephone conversation, would it be possible for an entry of thanks be included in the next edition of the village bulletin for all the many people who assisted in the search and the good will expressed by all for my father-in-law Mr Gordon Fearis who, whilst out walking with Eva his wife, became separated, confused and subsequently lost in the Hillhouse wood area of the village.

Unfortunately he was not located until the following afternoon in an area away from the main search area, having fallen into a heavily overgrown small copse. However despite heavily stung by nettles and dehydrated he is physically back on the road to recovery.

On behalf of his wife Eva and all family members again, very many thanks to all.

Very best regards.

John Maltby, son-in-law.

Editor's Note - This first letter below was received just too late for the March edition but the information was passed on to the Parish Council. After action was taken a second letter was received from the same correspondent.

West Bergholt's Shame.

I am a resident of West Bergholt village who is getting increasingly concerned about the amount of dog fouling that is occurring daily and spoiling our beautiful village.

I have two young children who go to Heathlands School and daily we have to run an obstacle course of dodging dog poo just to get to school.

It is truly sickening to see all that fresh dog dirt, at least two deposits every day, and that is just down Church Road and not including Chapel Road and all the alleyways leading to various main roads which I know from experience are just as bad. The alleyway between Mumford Road and Lexden Road being one of the worst.

Something must be done. We need to have some kind of Warden or Officer who can catch the culprits.

Every day I see the dog dirt and every day the children step in it, walking to school. I've had the misfortune on many occasions to step in it myself and also have had one of my children slip over in it and have to go home to change shoes, trousers and socks. Gross.

It doesn't paint a pretty picture when you realise all those children are going straight into school to gather and sit cross legged on the carpet in front of their teacher and smearing dog poo all over themselves and their class mates.

Dog dirt is VERY dangerous. It carries all sorts of foul and harmful bacteria, like Toxocara Canis, which is a round worm found in dog mess that can be easily picked up by young children. This causes stomach upsets, sore throats, and asthma and in rare cases blindness. Sound familiar parents? Who knows how many illnesses have been caused already by dog fouling. The worm eggs can remain active in the soil for many years, long after the dog mess has weathered away. Grim news!

Under the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996, owners are required to clear up after their dogs in most public areas. Failure to do this will result in a fixed penalty charge of £50 or a fine in court of up to £1000. We need someone to catch the failures!

I know of several people who will not be passive if they see anyone leaving their mess behind. Unfortunately the culprits have already long gone and I suspect are people who are walking their dogs first thing early in the morning, or last thing at night.

I have heard of some very 'interesting' ways of returning the dog mess to its owners, needless to say I will not be utilising these as I am a law abiding person, but I like the thought and it gives me some grim satisfaction to just imagine it!

Repeat offenders need to be stopped, and we need this to be done lawfully and officially.

Come on West Bergholt dog owners, clean up your act.....you know who you are. You are spoiling our village and giving other dog owners a bad name.

Yours in disgust.

Correspondent's name with withheld.

Dear Mr Colbron

I recently sent you a letter for publication in the next village bulletin about my concerns for the state of our village paths with regards to dog fouling. The same letter was sent to the Essex County Standard, which was published in their Letters and Comments section, headlining "Sickening: dog owners are spoiling our village"

I am happy to say this letter might now be obsolete, and if things continue to improve, my previous letter might upset dog owners as it will not be true!

The response by Parish Council, friends and villagers has been fantastic, with posters, letters to villagers via the school, and I can only hope a more vigilant and pro-active approach by us all to help prevent this.

The result of it all is an almost dog poo free walk to school. We can now look at the views and not our shoes! Before, I would see at least 2 splodges a day, but this last few weeks I've seen about 2 in total. It's fantastic! Our village paths are clean and a pleasure to once more walk.

Now all we have to do is keep it this way. I don't walk the whole village and there might still be places that are affected by this problem. If people have a concern then the best thing to do is report it and talk about it, there's something to be said for people power, and the person responsible might just be listening.....!

Thank you so much for your support with this issue, its something that affects us all and can turn an everyday necessity into something very unpleasant.

Many Thanks

Correspondent's name with withheld.



Dear Mr Colbron,

I have come to visit my mother, Edna Ellison of Beg Meil, Queens Road. I always think what a lovely village West Bergholt is, shame about the doggy dodo.

On walking from the village pond to the Co-op store the pavement is littered with dog dirt. So much so that we cannot look around as we have to have our eyes planted on the ground looking for surprises! We had three children with us, one on a scooter. Far from enjoying the walk, I found myself shouting at the top of my voice reminding the children to watch where they were going.

On previous visits when walking on the public footpaths the situation was worse. I suggest an anonymous way to name and shame!!

Nina Harrup

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR - LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

West Bergholt Concert Band



Forties to Noughties

Spring 2011 was another successful term for the band, with two concerts raising over £900 for local charities, and concerts at a new venue (Coggeshall's beautiful St Peter ad Vincula Church) as well as at the band's most visited and favourite haunt, Clacton's West Cliff Theatre.

We're back at the West Cliff for our first summer concert – the "1940s In Concert" – featuring music from Glenn Miller, Duke Ellington and Benny Goodman, as well as the Dambusters and a medley of songs from World War 2. Our West Cliff concerts always draw a big audience and generate a great atmosphere, so this is an event not to be missed, especially as we'll be joined by the Sweetening Swing Band for a genuine Big Band sound.

- Sunday 12th June – 3:00pm – West Cliff Theatre,
Clacton (in aid of the West Cliff Theatre)

We then come right up to date for a concert at St Botolph's titled "Gershwin to GaGa", with brand new arrangements of modern pop classics from Coldplay and Lady GaGa sharing the programme with older classics from George Gershwin, John Williams, Shostakovich and Stevie Wonder, among others. There's no better venue in Colchester to hear the band, so come along for a fun evening of great music.

- Saturday 16th July – 7:30pm – St Botolph's Colchester
(in aid of Lepira)

The band's summer holiday activities then start, with a number of appearances at school fetes together with more of our popular "band experience days" to continue our mission to promote music to young players. These events are open to all woodwind and brass players, so if you'd like more information, please email Graham@wbcb.org, have a look on our website www.wbcb.org, or phone 01026 824157.

Summer also means we bid farewell to some key players who are leaving us for University, so we're of course always grateful to see new players join the band to replace them.

If you're interested in joining the band or finding out more about us, just come along to one of our summer events, or our termly Open Rehearsals, or any term-time Friday evening at Heathlands school. There is no audition, rehearsals and concerts are great fun, 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, as well as someone to sit with you to help you get used to playing in a band.

Everything you need to know about the band, including details of all of our activities, are on our website or you can call or email us.

Have a great summer, and we look forward to seeing you at our summer concerts!

Dear Sir,

Please allow me, through the courtesy of your columns, to express my sincere thanks to those residents of West Bergholt who voted for me in the local election on May 5th. I am honoured and humbled to have been elected Colchester Borough Councillor for West Bergholt. I hope that history will record that I pleased more people than I displeased, that I acted with diligence and that I learned quickly. I also wish to give credit to all the other candidates, especially the Green and Independent candidates who live in the village. Further, I wish to pay tribute to Jill Tod who preceded me as Borough Councillor for eight years and thank my wife Liz, family and helpers for their support.

I thoroughly enjoyed meeting so many residents while canvassing and thank them for their friendly welcomes. Special thanks are due to the residents of Albany Close who invited me to join their Royal Wedding Street Party and provided me with refreshments.

Please allow me, too, to reassure those village residents who are clients at my veterinary practice that this extra responsibility will not affect my availability at the surgery. I continue to be fully committed to the Ark.

There were many issues that were discussed during the election but I am pleased to tell this early news. The water leaking across Newbridge Hill has caused treacherous driving conditions when frozen. After months of correspondence Essex County Council Highways Department has finally confirmed that works will begin in June to lay a new drain down the length of Newbridge Hill. This will improve safety enormously but will cause major disruption, so patience during the works will be required.

Thank you very much.

Marcus Harrington,
Barn End, Cooks Hall Lane, West Bergholt

Dear Residents,

I would like to say thank you to all those who supported me and gave me their vote in the recent Colchester Borough Council election. Your vote placed me second to Marcus Harrington, the conservative candidate, who I would like to wish every success whilst representing the interests of our village during the next four years.

I will continue to be directly involved with the interests of West Bergholt through my Parish Council activities. I remain proud to be part of the Parish Council and to have been its chairman for the last few years, which has been a great privilege. We have one new parish councillor in Liz Harrington who joined the team this month and who I am sure will welcome the challenges ahead.

Thank you again for supporting me

Yours sincerely,
John Gili-Ross



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
- Weight Watchers**, Methodist Church Hall, 7-8pm, www.karenrobinson@gmail.com.

Tuesdays:

- NHS Primary Care Trust Baby Clinic**, 10am to 11am - Methodist Hall
- Toast 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

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 (Training Band), 7-9pm (Concert Band) - 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



CHARITY NO: 299094

West Bergholt Care Network – 24 years of helping

We are a Charity offering help and support to anyone in the village who needs transporting to a medical appointment or other local visit.

We are looking for additional volunteer drivers to provide occasional assistance (fuel, parking and telephone expenses reimbursed). There is no need to make a regular commitment, just a willingness to help out now and again when circumstances allow. It may only be a few times a year.

We are also looking for a telephone contact who will need to be available most Wednesdays to take requests for a day or two ahead and then make an arrangement with an available driver. All telephone expenses are reimbursed.

If you would like to be a volunteer or just find out more, please ring the Chairman, Harry Stone, on 01206 241026 or the Secretary, Clover Savage, on 01206 242015. Telephone the number below for the day on which you make your call. Try to phone at least a day or two before you need transport.

If there is no reply please try any other number but do not leave answer-phone messages as we are unable to respond to these.

| | | | |
|---------|---------|-----------------|---------|
| Monday | 241 103 | Thursday | 240 569 |
| Tuesday | 242 185 | Friday | 240 167 |
| | | Saturday/Sunday | 242 075 |

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.