

village bulletin

March 2012

Issue 129

www.westbergholt.net

SNOW CLEARING 2012

Earlier in the autumn the Parish Council agreed a severe weather policy in the event of the winter conditions we experienced last year. Until the first week of February we thought this had done the trick as it seemed to keep the snow away.

No such luck. On the first Sunday morning in February West Bergholt's Big Society volunteers swung into action to clear pathways in some of the key areas of the village. In a short time they made an impact by removing the loose snow before it became hard packed and then spreading salt and grit which had been supplied by Essex County Council.

Without knowing how long these conditions would last the hope was that this would make movement about the village easier and safer. The feedback shows these efforts were appreciated and the entire village was grateful to those who volunteered. It was a great example of what can be achieved by communities working together and hopefully on the next occasion more will be willing to join in. Snow was cleared from the pathways to the shops, doctors' surgery, bus stops, Heathlands School and around the Playschool. Just imagine what could have been achieved with more volunteers. If you would like to help then contact Harry Stone on 241026.



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
Sue Day	62 Albany Road	☎	241 040
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, Sue Day, Jenny Church, Liz Harrington, Harry Stone,
<i>Environment and Highways</i>	David Short, Jenny Church, Sue Day, Harry Stone
<i>Planning and Development</i>	Chris Stevenson, Andrew Savage, Bob Tyrrell
<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
Dennis Willetts	dennis.willetts@btinternet.com	☎	240 314

CLERK TO THE PARISH COUNCIL

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

ORPEN HALL ADMINISTRATOR

June Mayhew	☎	240 694
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The Administrator is available to deal with enquiries at any reasonable time. Bookings should be made at the Hall on Thursdays between 7pm and 8pm. Please use the old side entrance.

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.

VILLAGE GETS DESIGN GUIDE!

West Bergholt now has its very own Village Design Statement (VDS) courtesy of a collaborative effort between the Parish Council and the Parish Plan Steering Group.

The VDS aims to encourage good quality planning in the village be it a small extension, a larger redesign of a house or even a completely new dwelling.



As readers will appreciate our village has many different styles from the older vernacular buildings near Queen's Road to more modern 1960's "estate-style" housing near Mumford Road. This wide variety of styles makes it tricky to add quality design when extensions and new build projects are being planned.

The guide consists of a mix of advice, village context and policies which aims to help all those embarking on a project to create good quality design whilst still affording the opportunity to add functionality to their home.

The VDS which is available on the website (www.westbergholt.net) or from the Parish Clerk, is aimed at householders or architects/planners alike. The Planning and Development Committees at the Parish Council and the Borough Council have adopted the guide, making it a material consideration when planning applications are being determined. To assist all householders in its use, and to help generally, the Parish Council welcomes pre-application discussions with those contemplating extensions or new build projects, and the website also contains details of how to contact the Parish Council to set these up.

Chris Stevenson (cdstevenson@gmail.com)

West Bergholt Methodist Church News

After a very busy time in December which included our Gifts and Parade Service, Christmas Coffee Morning, Village carol singing and Candlelight Service we celebrated the true meaning of Christmas with members and friends at our other sector churches.

Village friends joined us in January for our New Year Social, always great fun and a time to relax and enjoy each others company.

This years **Women's World Day of Prayer** takes place on Friday 2nd March. A warm welcome is extended to everyone to join us in the Hall at 12.30pm for a Soup n' Snack Lunch and the service which follows in the Church at 1.30pm. This service is arranged by Christian Women of Malaysia and will be used around the world in all cultures.

Later in March we are holding our **Quiz Night**, Saturday 24th March at 7.00pm. £4 per person – teams of 4. Light refreshments are included. Book a table with Judith 01206 241969.

The Women's Fellowship will be meeting in the Hall at 2.30pm on Wednesday 21st March – Speaker Penny Horseman. 18th April with Wycliffe Fellowship. 16th May – Mr John Hampshire. All ladies in the village are welcome to join us.

Christian Aid Week is 13th – 19th May. Further details will be on posters around the village nearer the time. If you would like to help with collections around the village please contact Susan on 01206 241431

All our regular Sunday Services including our Easter celebrations will take place as usual with details on our notice board.

You are warmly welcomed to join us at any of our gatherings

IAN COLLINS

Ian has distributed the Bulletin for many years and has decided to retire. The Bulletin Team would like to thank him for all the help he gave the Bulletin team - we hope he will not miss us too much. Thanks Ian!

Copy for the June edition should be received by 1st May 2012.

Late additions cannot be guaranteed entry

Submissions to any of the Bulletin team -

Advertising: Susan Swan - telephone 242319

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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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METHODIST CHURCH Diary

- March 2nd** Women's World Day of Prayer
12.30pm, Lunch 1.30 pm Service in Church
- March 4th** Sunday morning service 11.00am
- March 11th** Sunday morning service 11.00am
- March 13th** Shared Village Communion 11.00am
- March 14th** Coffee Morning Church Hall 10.00am
- March 15th** Bible Study 2.30pm Church Hall
- March 18th** Mothering Sunday Service 11.00am
- March 21st** Womens Fellowship - Speaker
Penny Horseman 2.30pm Church Hall
- March 24th** Quiz Night 7.00pm Church Hall
- March 25th** Sunday morning service 11.00am
- April 1st** Sunday morning service 11.00am
- April 6th** Good Friday Service T.B.A.
- April 8th** Easter Sunday Service 11.00am
- April 10th** Shared Village Communion 11.00am
- April 11th** Coffee Morning Church Hall 10.00am
- April 15th** Sunday morning service 11.00am
- April 18th** Womens Fellowship - Wycliff Fellowship
- April 19th** Bible Study 2.30pm Church Hall
- April 22nd** Sunday morning service 11.00am
- April 29th** United Service with St. Marys 11.00am
Coffee from 10.30am
- May 6th** Sunday morning service 11.00am
- May 8th** Shared Village Communion 11.00am
- May 9th** Coffee Morning Church Hall 10.00am
- May 13th** Christian Aid Service 11.00am
- May 16th** Womens Fellowship, Speaker
John Hampshire 2.30pm Church Hall
- May 17th** Bible Study 2.30pm Church Hall
- May 20th** Sunday morning service 11.00am
- May 27th** Sunday morning service 11.00am

Every Tuesday morning 9.30am - 10.00am Rev Ruth Ridge is available in the Church for quiet prayer.

Rev. Ruth Ridge - 01206 242182

Baby and Toddler Group

West Bergholt Baby and Toddler Group are holding a Nearly New baby and child sale on Saturday 21st April from 10am to 12.30pm at West Bergholt Methodist Hall, Chapel Lane, West Bergholt.

Sellers can have a large table for £5 or a small table for £3. Entry for buyers will be £1 on the door. There will be refreshments available. All proceeds will go towards the West Bergholt Baby and Toddler Group funds.

For any sellers interested in registering for a table please contact Mrs Thomasin Newton on 07500 443974.

PARISH PLANNERS SUM IT UP!



After three years of planning, designing and implementing projects in the Parish Plan, the Steering Group has decided it is time to report on progress. In the centre of the bulletin you will find an eight page supplement which summarises the ups and downs of a variety of initiatives.

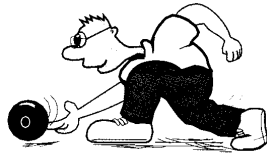
Bulletin readers may recall that the Parish Plan began with a range of surveys to establish ideas for projects around the village. The resultant action plan divided up the ideas into a number of categories, and since its adoption by the Parish and Borough Councils, several projects have been implemented. Examples include the well-attended Bergholt Youth Group (BYG) and the High Speed Wireless internet project now enjoyed by over 100 users. Not everything has got off the drawing board, and inevitably there is much to be

done in the future; examples here include enhancing our neighbourhood policing presence and introducing traffic calming around the school.

The Parish Plan Steering Group appreciates the efforts of all who have helped to get projects off the ground and welcomes new members. Details of how to join in are contained in the supplement.

Chris Stevenson (cdstevenson@gmail.com)

West Bergholt Indoor Bowls Club



A few vacancies exist at our carpet bowls club for beginners or existing bowlers. We meet at 7.15pm on Thursday and Sunday evenings for a couple of hours at the Orpen Hall, Lexden Road, West Bergholt.

Club nights are very exciting; games of five or eight ends are keenly contested in a round robin format with most games going to a final end to decide the result.

In January the Essex County Singles match prelim competition was held at the Braintree Leisure Centre. The club had five members play with two successful members reaching the final rounds to be held in March. They were Paul Leach and George Coppin, good luck to them in the final forty.

February sees a different venue for our club members. We are having a three-course meal at the Holiday Inn, Eight Ash Green; we hope everyone enjoys it.

March brings the end of the 2011 season and the AGM will bring the presentation of the annual trophy. Please book 29th March in your diary. 243301 brings any further information.

Allotment News

It is that time of year when gardeners and allotment plot holders look forward to the new growing season and Garden Centres rub their hands at the prospect of sales of seeds and seed potatoes. I am pleased to say the village allotments are looking good and as a result of the unseasonable weather are probably in a better state of readiness than most years. Several new plot holders have been working hard and all but four on the growing waiting list have been allocated plots for the new season. Rents are now due and invoices have been sent out. We are so fortunate to have this facility in our village with such reasonable rents compared to many and it is good to know that about ninety village families can enjoy them.

In the last few years we seem to have reached a good compromise with village residents over the disposal of garden rubbish. Bonfires are restricted to one per month and the committee works hard to ensure that this causes as little inconvenience to those living around the site as possible by asking for only dry, easily combustible materials to be burnt. Other waste should be saved for the skip we have in November. For this year they will be held on Tuesday evenings from 6.00pm, unless stated, on the dates below.

6 March (4.00pm), 3 April, 1 May, 12 June, 3 July, 7 August, 4 September, 2 October and 6 November (4.00pm).

Harry Stone (Chair of Allotment Committee)



1st West Bergholt Brownies

Another exciting term well under way for us, after ending last term with a Christmas party, when the Brownies enjoyed a disco, lots of games and party food. We have welcomed one new Brownie to the unit, and have lots planned.

We've already practised and acted out pantomimes in each six in preparation for our visit to the Orpen Players panto, in which one of our Brownies, Thea Wilby, has a role. This term our Brownies will also enjoy cookery and craft for Valentine's Day, pancakes for Shrove Tuesday and will end the term with our traditional Easter Bonnet Parade and egg hunt on the Heath. We also have a joint meeting coming up in March with 3rd West Bergholt Brownies when we plan to have a Tiddlywinks contest

All of us at 1st West Bergholt Brownies are looking forward to the action packed term ahead and would like to wish all readers a very Happy New Year.

Sunny Kadar

1st West Bergholt Guides

On 10th November we held a Beetle Buffet BP Presentation evening. The Guides invited their parents and family to join us for the evening. We ran a Beetle game and buffet (no beetles came to any harm) which was enjoyed by all. All of the Guides brought a plate of food. One of the Guides made beetle style cakes, which were very nice. Our Division President, Mrs Susan Leng, Division Commissioner, Mrs Sue Sutton and Division Assistant, Mrs Carol Clarke joined us for the evening. They presented Katie Pullen, Jacky Marsh and Harriet Stevenson with their BP Awards. This is the highest award you can gain as a Guide.

The Guides work on at least two Go For Its during the year. These are various challenges of which they have to complete four parts to gain the Go For It. There are many challenges to each one so they can do the Go For It more than once. We have many different Go For Its for them to work on, e.g. Peace, Take Your Toothbrush, Fitness, Parties, I Will Survive, Lights Camera Action and of course Chocolate (their favourite!). Sometimes the work they each do in the Go For It will help them in a gaining an Interest Badge.

We created a Christmas Go For It this year which enabled the Guides to learn how to decorate Christmas cakes, make gift boxes and tags out of old Christmas cards, some very nice Petit Fours and Christmas Cards. The Guides really enjoyed making all of these and I think the parents enjoyed the cakes.

We finished the term with a fantastic day at Colchester Zoo. We started the day with an animal encounter and the Guides were able to learn about and touch a Giant African Snail, a cockroach and a Chinchilla. I think the Chinchilla

was the best! The Guides visited all of the enclosures and were able to feed the elephants if they wanted to. We also stopped off a couple of times to feed the horse, donkey and chickens. I must say the chickens are very big at the zoo!! The Guides also went to see Santa Claus, who seemed a lot younger than I remember, and were each given a very nice gift. After Santa's Grotto we went to see a 'nativity' play which was very funny. All of the Guides joined in with the songs. We enrolled 8 Guides and handed out 21 challenge awards during the day. They all had time to visit the shop and were each given a goody bag before going home. A great day had by all.

So far this term we have celebrated Chinese New Year with the Guides making scrolls with pictures of which year they were born in and what the Chinese Zodiac is for the year. This was a lot of fun. We also made Chinese dragons, lanterns and Chinese Festival drums. We played some fun games with chopsticks and spoons!

The rest of this term is very busy with Thinking Day celebrations with Braiswick District on 25th February and our mini Olympics.

Sandra Gates, Guide Guider



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

We have just had the first snowfall for the winter 2011/12 and as is often the way, it brings the local children out with great excitement with their sledges to Chapel Lane which seems to be the village sleigh run.

Whilst we have absolutely no objections to the many children and their accompanying parents enjoying the fun the cold weather brings, it is a pity they cannot enjoy themselves while at the same time respecting the property of the residents of Chapel Lane.

My husband and I have spent a great deal of money planting shrubs, putting in posts and outside lamps to the front of our property only to have them all trampled over as the children, watched by parents, hurtle down the hill crashing into our lights and shrubs, trampling over the lawns and through the laurel hedge which was newly planted in the summer. They seem to think just because there is a layer of snow covering everything, this gives them some right to run roughshod all over our property! I would like to see the response I would receive if I went around to their houses and trampled all over their front gardens damaging shrubs etc.

So please, all you parents with excitable children, by all means come and enjoy the snow in Chapel Lane but at the same time please respect our property and keep to the Lane. Our gardens are not public domain. Don't spoil it for the residents by making us feel like moaning old adults who want to ruin your fun, we want the kids to enjoy the snow but not at our expense.

Ann and Graham Maller

Village Bulletin at the Awards Ceremony

The West Bergholt Village Bulletin was recently short-listed in the annual Rural Community Council of Essex (RCCE) and Essex Life Awards for the best village magazine of 2011. There were 62 entries in total and just 16 of those were chosen for the final selection process.

Unfortunately our busy Bulletin Editor, Bernard Colbron was unable to attend the Awards Evening and nominated Susan and Robert Leng to represent West Bergholt at the ceremony. Nick Shuttleworth of RCCE thanked all the voluntary bodies for producing excellent quality magazine for their communities, and commented that Editors are powerful, influential people!

Sadly we were competing with villages which obviously have unlimited budgets for producing their monthly/quarterly magazines. Many of them were large glossy magazines in full colour, which, if they were sold in a newsagents, would command a purchase price in the £3-5 price range.

Therefore, it was no surprise that once again we were not in the top three winners. These were 1st Theydon Bois, 2nd Writtle and 3rd Felsted.

Bernard should be congratulated for his work all year round in producing our very informative Village Bulletin, and for once again being in the top 16 of Essex. We were very proud to represent the West Bergholt Bulletin that evening, and being able to see that the quality and content of our magazine matches and in many cases beats that of many of our competitors. However, full colour glossy productions cost a great deal and one wonders whether in this period of austerity, those villages which are spending large sums on such magazines can really justify these high costs.

Bernard is a very modest gentleman who gets on with his voluntary work as Editor, without expecting praise. We hope you will join us in congratulating Bernard and thanking him for all the time and effort he puts into the excellent job he does for West Bergholt.

Susan and Robert Leng



The Queen's Diamond Jubilee

WEST BERGHOLT TO CELEBRATE

Monday 4th June

We will form part of the chain of Beacons to be lit along the country. Her Majesty the Queen will light the first one and our allocated time is 10.30pm on the Lorkin Daniel Field.

Saturday 16th June

Further celebrations will take place around the village. The PTA, Scouts, Parish Council, BYG, local groups and other villagers held a preliminary meeting to put forward ideas that are being looked into.

Anyone else willing to assist is asked to contact the Parish Clerk, Val Walsom, on 01206 240149.

Further information is due to appear in the Newsletter, with final details in the June Bulletin.



Children from the Bluebells touring the village and playing outside the Orpen Hall

West Bergholt Concert Band

2011 was another busy year for the band, with a full programme of concerts as well as school events continuing our work to promote music to young musicians. Rehearsals are well underway for our 2012 concerts, which start at Clacton's West Cliff Theatre with "Mancini to Miller", featuring new arrangements such as Harlem Nocturne, Mancini!, Salute to Spike Jones, Bugler's Holiday and A Tribute to George Harrison, together with old favourites Phantom Of The Opera, Star Dust, Villia and Big Bands In Concert.
Sunday 11th March – 3:00pm – West Cliff Theatre, Clacton.
Tickets from the Box Office.

We're then back in Colchester to perform a concert with local secondary schools, featuring many of the pieces from the West Cliff together with pieces such as Born This Way, Bella's Lullaby and Theme From Family Guy.
Saturday 24th March – 7:30pm – Colchester (TBC).

The first of our Summer Concerts takes us back to the West Cliff for a themed programme entitled "Miller to the Musicals", with the Sweetening Swing Band performing a programme of Big Band music to celebrate their 25th Anniversary, and us performing music including Kiss Me Kate, Copacabana, Les Miserables, Love Changes Everything and Mamma Mia among others.
Sunday 17th June – 3:00pm – West Cliff Theatre, Clacton.
Tickets from the Box Office.

The first half of the year concludes with a return to Coggeshall's beautiful St Peter ad Vincula Church, where we'll be performing a full programme of "The Magic of the Musicals", adding some new arrangements to the programme performed at the West Cliff, including Comedy Tonight, Send In The Clowns, Time Warp, Selections From Chicago, Lady Marmalade, Memory and The Sound Of Music. As you can see we've got some great music planned and are performing at some wonderful venues, so please come along to any of the above concerts if you're up for an afternoon/evening of entertainment.

The band's membership continues to include people of all ages from all walks of life, and new members are always welcome, especially as we are shortly losing a large number to University. As well as being great fun for its members and its audiences, playing in a band is also one of the best ways of improving your instrumental playing, so if you're interested in joining the band or just trying us out, look out for our termly Open Rehearsals, join us at one of our weekend rehearsals or Band Training Days, or come and see us any term-time Friday evening at Heathlands school. There's no audition, and the band's uniqueness is that we have players from 7 to 70, so there's always someone younger/older/worse/better than you.

Everything you need to know about the band (including details of all our events, how to buy tickets, and how to join us) is on our website www.wcb.org, or you can call Graham on 01206 824157. We look forward to seeing you at some of our concerts...and wish all of you a belated happy new year!



Friends of Hillhouse Wood

The Friends' work parties supervised by David Bull have carried out essential management tasks through the winter months. The necessary clearance of bramble and other growth in open areas will ensure the continued growth of the many species of wild flowers including the famous bluebells and wood anemones.



There has also been important contractor work that has involved the removal of a large wooden bridge spanning a stream and building a causeway. It is made of heavy timber penetrated by a large plastic pipe finished on top with granite hogging path surface.

The notice board has been rebuilt with new oak legs and re-installed. A fallen tree above the bottom path was lowered and cut up.

Darren Tansley, mammals recorder for Colchester Natural History Society and a member of the Friends' management committee, reports that the wood's small mammals population remains healthy and the profusion of acorns resulting from the exceptionally dry summer of 2011 has been especially beneficial for wood mice. Muntjac and roe deer are regularly present in and near the wood but deer damage assessment programme has revealed that damage to flora and trees are still classed as minimal. Much badger activity continues.

Ian Rose led his popular annual fungus foray in and near the wood on 3rd November, 2011, which was attended by twelve people. A total of 41 species was recorded which included an uncommon species of earth star, a first record for the wood.

During the winter, parties of titmice were in the wood including a number of long-tailed tits and these were joined by goldcrests and tree creepers. At least one pair of tree creepers nest in the wood. The nuthatches are regularly seen and heard during the winter months and a pair nested in an ash tree in the wood in 2011 but it wasn't known if young reached the fledged stage. Buzzards are now regularly seen over the wood and pairs of this big bird of prey are nesting in north Essex. Three were in the area of the wood in the third week of January and one was perched on trees in nearby Alder Carr Wood. Great-spotted woodpeckers are regularly seen in the wood and a pair usually nests there in spring. Green woodpeckers are also seen and heard.

Because of the unusually mild conditions in mid-winter, plant growth was unseasonably forward including new bluebells growth but cold conditions at the end of January helped to check too much premature growth which might have led to losses.

Joe Firmin



St Helena Hospice
your time...your hospice

Registered Charity Number 280919



Friends of St Mary's Old Church

The carol service in December was very well supported with standing room only for the later arrivals. Our sincere thanks go to Rector Colin, Organist Mike, and the Choir of St Mary's Church under the musical direction of Caroline Findlay, who all helped to make this service a memorable occasion. Thanks go too to those members of the Friends who cleaned and decorated the church to present a real Christmas picture. Opportunity was taken to announce the formation of the Friend's Group to the assembly and as a result, some 40 villagers registered their support by joining the Group, which was a wonderful boost. Thanks are also due to those who contributed so generously in the retiring collection.

The Committee are now looking forward to organising more events in the year. Many people come to see the Bluebells in the adjacent wood and the Friends hope to be able to provide refreshment and promote the ambitions of the Group. To this end, plans are being formulated for a summer exhibition and it would be great to focus on all the people who have connections to the Church through their own or some family member wedding. The Friends would like to make a feature of the marriages as part of the exhibition so would like to have details and possibly the loan of precious pictures taken on the day.

Contacts have also been made with a drama group with a view to putting on a production later in the summer. Watch this space. If anybody has an idea which could feature the church the Group would be delighted to hear from them,

The Friends are also working on an illustrated publicity leaflet which will set out the history of the building and will feature a counterfoil which hopefully will lead to more people wishing to join the Friends. We also hope to be able to revamp the existing displays within the building to better reflect the wonderful history it represents.

If any readers would like to become a member of the Friends Group they will be more than welcome. For details please contact Mr Rhys Lloyd (Hon Treasurer) at 4 Coopers Crescent West Bergholt (240167)

Martin Long
Chairman Friends of St. Mary's Old Church
240443

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 Orpen Players



It was a time of change for the Orpen Players this year, for our pantomime "The Wonderful Story of Mother Goose". Direction was in the hands of Peter Cox, who as some of you will know, is a previous Chairman for our group. Peter has been responsible for the scenery of many of the Orps productions and this time decided to take on the role of director as well.

One of his tasks as a director was to find a dame, and he certainly came up trumps with Scott Sophos, who made his Orpen Players debut, and seems to have won over our audiences with his performance. Scott told me he was a little nervous about playing the dame as it was his first time in this role. He need not have worried as from the comments I have received, his portrayal was much appreciated. Peter also cast Debra Hornigold (our current chairman) as the nasty fairy "Discord". Debra is used to playing the nice roles, and really enjoyed being nasty for a change! Mr Nasty Clarence Creep the village squire was in the capable hands of regular Michael Poole. His henchmen Sage and Onions (a right pair of villains) were played by Anne Sexton and a welcome return for Norma Knighton. Holly Snowling was adorable as Priscilla the magical goose who laid the golden eggs, and Ben Mayham as Billy Goose continues to impress, with lively performances by Chrissie Wenden who played the Fairy Queen and Phoebe Stringer who played Harmony.

Notable performances from our younger cast Phoebe Stringer, Izzi Slater, and Ellis Benjamin together with chorus participation from Nicola Fielding, Clara Harlow, Mia Layzell, Sarah Marsh, Natalie Rogers, Francesca Wenden, Daisy West, Thea Wilby, and Pippa Johnson completed our cast. Musical direction was in the capable hands of David Wenden.

Join us for our next production on
10th, 11th, 12th May 2012.

Colin Downer.

Panto photo left to right. Norma Knighton, Anne Sexton, Peter Cox, Debra Hornigold, Scott Sophos



Colne Valley Flower Club



Brenda Green came to our AGM on Wednesday 18th January and talked about how she started to draw 'Botanical Art' with coloured pencils. Brenda lives in Great Horkesley and has attended art classes at Dedham for some years. Her work is exquisite as we saw from her samples, which she brought along.

March 21st Susan Horne from Great Baddow will be coming along to arrange her flowers for us and her title is 'Aide-Memoire'

On April 18th Lyn Barrow from Potter Heigham will be demonstrating 'A little bit of something lovely'.

May 16th David Wright from Tunstead in Norfolk is visiting to show us his interpretation of 'Forever Chasing Dreams'

We would very much welcome old and new members to come along and join the Flower Club. We meet on the third Thursday of the month in the Orpen Hall commencing at 7.30pm. The subscription this year is £28.00 and our new chairperson is Pat Sharman. For any further information please contact Pat on 01787 227833 or Alison on 01206 240262



About a year ago Colin Horseman (pictured) let the church family at St. Mary's West Bergholt know he was going to retire around Easter 2012. Colin and Penny plan to move to Northumberland to be nearer family and are now busy trying to sell a flat in Colchester. Meanwhile, the church officials are booking other clergy and readers to take some Holy

Communion services, weddings, christenings and funerals as necessary during the vacancy, which may last a year.

As Colin's retirement draws near, after some 41 and a half years as an Anglican clergyman, it seemed a good time to celebrate his service to our community. A leaving event for church family members is being organised for 1st April (no really!) which will take place after an 11am joint leaving service at All Saints' Great Horkesley on the same day. Separately Colin will be inviting friends from both villages to an evening event. Colin joined us in the spring of 2000 when he became Rector of Great Horkesley and West Bergholt. Over the last twelve or so years many in the village will have met Colin through Sunday services, weddings, funerals or christenings. Or you may have come across him telling bible stories to children at our Thursday morning Open House.

Of course we will all miss his companionship, his anecdotes, his mimes and his legendary yearly Christmas talk using Christmas stocking presents as a prompt. We wish Colin and Penny the very, very best of health and happiness in their retirement and our love and thanks and prayers go with them.

West Bergholt Women's Institute

Pat Moran, president, welcomed members to the Christmas meeting. As she stepped down after three successful years, she was presented with an orchid as a token of thanks from all the members.



Joint winners of the monthly competition, Nora Bates and Erika Cole, were given vouchers. The evening continued with supper provided by the committee followed by a demonstration of Scottish Country Dancing. Members were then invited to take part.

In January our new president, Susan Leng, presided and several visitors came along. An album of our 90th birthday year has been compiled by Erika Cole and Hillary Nugent. Following refreshments everyone enjoyed the Beetle Drive which Marie Fitz-John won.

In February several new members joined. The president welcomed Stephanie Barrows with her enlightening talk on Psychics and Mediums. 34 members are attending our Birthday Lunch this month. We are looking forward to our Vyella / Country Casuals Fashion Show on Wednesday 7th March. Non-members are welcome but are advised to contact the secretary on 240712 beforehand to check availability on seating.



The picture shows Pat on the left with the gift presented to her by WI Secretary Jacqui Hunns at the December meeting.



ANYONE FOR BADMINTON

For a few years a small number of the older members of the village have joined a group of active and enthusiastic Badminton players at The Wilson Marriage Centre on a Friday morning. This is not a Club that plays in any league but purely for the fun, exercise and good company. For a variety of reasons numbers have dwindled to less than a dozen and so a few more members would be welcome as not everyone attends each week. If anyone is interested in joining us please call Harry Stone on 241026 or Anita Short on 241715.

Village Broadband notches up its 100th household



The village broadband system first introduced in winter 2010 has now amassed over 100 registered households. Users now enjoy a range of speeds up to 8mbps, enabling high speed downloads from the web, faster browsing and enabling other features such as “catch-up TV” via BBC iPlayer and similar.

All this would not have been possible without the sponsorship of the project by the Parish Council, the partnership with supplier County Broadband and the grant funding from Essex county Council.

Although the fast speeds are impressive in comparison with the slow standard phone line speeds of around 0.5-2mbps, this is really only the start of the revolution. New technology installed by County Broadband now enables all areas of the village to be accessed, and speeds are set to jump to a massive 35mbps shortly with the advent of improved backhaul technology and faster radio transmission. Security of supply to the village has also improved with the installation of further access points meaning that the broadband signal is beamed in from several directions.

Bulletin readers who are not yet familiar with the technology should be aware that this system enables broadband services to reach homes via radio signals, rather than through the copper wires which provide your phone lines. All you need to get started is an inexpensive and unobtrusive receiver which is typically mounted on your aerial pole.

One of the features that makes the system extra helpful to the village, is that for every user that signs up from now on, the Parish Council will receive a small income meaning, that the investment made by the village can be paid off over the next 3 years.

Community Powered
BROADBAND

In association with
West Bergholt Parish Council
High-speed wireless service available NOW! - No phone line required

35 Mbps
Superfast coming soon!

 **County Broadband**
Connecting tomorrow today

www.countybroadband.co.uk - Call 0845 686 5000

So if you want to join the fast lane of wireless technology, contact the supplier at <http://www.countybroadband.co.uk/> or telephone 0845 686 5000 to find out more.

Chris Stevenson

01206 241708 or cdstevenson@gmail.com

Bergholt Heath Youth Football Club



Halfway through the season and the Under 9 team are back from their winter break and they are continuing a very good first season in competitive football. As I usually report, the other sides are enjoying mixed fortunes. Our Under 14 team has struggled to get a full team but morale has improved as the season has progressed. The Under 16 team has fared better than in previous seasons, having scored more goals already than last year and generally leaking less. The Under 18s have a respectable mid-table position.

It is our Under 13 boys that have blazed the trail as in previous years. Riding high in the A-League they have also enjoyed good cup runs in both League and Open Cup.

We decided to go easy on our generous parents and friends this year by not doing a major fund-raising event, so no Race Night!!! Part of me will miss it but our next event is the Awards Night which will be held at Orpen Hall, hopefully on Saturday 26 May. Further details will be available from your Manager nearer the time but the format should be similar to previous years but with a shorter break in the middle.

Trophies are one of the more expensive purchases by the club so let me know if you would like to offer any sponsorship.

Thanks to everyone that sponsors or otherwise supports the Club and do let me know if you have any potential players or, if you would like to form a side at Mini Soccer level next season!!

Leslie Wright, *Chairman* - Telephone: 241438

SOME USEFUL NUMBERS



Please note Police non-emergency number has changed.

Police Non-emergency dial 101
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.*

Services at St. Mary's Church

During the period that we are without a vicar we are very pleased to welcome Rev. Tony Rose to lead our worship again. Tony officiated previously during Colin's sabbatical.

Arrangements for baptisms, weddings, funerals and confirmations are in place and, in the first instance, please contact our Church Warden, Jon Smith, for details on 243437.

St. Mary's regular events, Open House (coffee morning), Squeals on Wheels (songs and bible stories for pre-schoolers), 5T's (afternoon tea) (all on Thursdays) will continue in the usual way, as will Wired, our Christian Youth Club for secondary school pupils, and seniors lunches. For more details, see the church website, address below.

Groundbreakers our holiday club for primary school children will take place during the Easter holidays - see the church website.

Details of all church events and service times are listed in *Good News*. St. Mary's monthly church magazine and on the church website.

If you would like *Good News* delivered to your door please call Kate Wilson on 752056 or visit our website at <http://sites.google.com/site/stmaryswbergholt/> or contact us at: stmaryswestbergholt@googlemail.com.

Our Annual Parochial Church Council meeting is on 29th March 2012 at 8pm in the Church.



A BYG Year

2011 was a BYG year for Bergholt Youth Group, and 2012 is looking to be even BYGer!!!

We had themed nights, and sports days, and this year it's going to get even better. With more things to do and more ideas, Bergholt Youth Group has everything in store. More events, more trips, more fun!

We meet at the John Lampon Hall (behind the Orpen Hall) fortnightly on Fridays from 6:30-8:00pm.

Parents and members! Keep up to date with events and news on our facebook page

www.facebook.com/bergholtyouthgroup

The Club has a number of volunteer helpers but we are always looking for more. We would like to say thanks to Sam Woodgate, for all his help with the club. Sam has recently moved to Yorkshire to work for the Lower Wensleydale Youth Project, and we wish him all the best.

Hope to see you at a club night soon!

Graham Pullen, Club Leader

Cricket Club

As we start to emerge from the dark winter, plans are well in hand for the cricket season ahead. First up are our annual indoor Net Practice sessions at the Gilbert School where our senior and junior members will develop their skills.



Our seniors will once again be competing in the Two Counties League on Saturdays and the North Essex Cricket League on Sundays. In addition we will continue to be represented in the local Evening League on Wednesday evenings and there will be several friendly matches to be played. As for our juniors, they will be in their respective leagues at Under 16, Under 14 and Under 12 levels; our youngsters will be participating in a number of Kwik Cricket tournaments.

We are very pleased to announce that the club has been welcomed into the local Ladies' cricket league. They will be playing ten matches and we are actively seeking new members to the squad.

Apart from the indoor Nets, there will be outdoor senior Net Practice sessions and the juniors will be trained by our team of qualified Coaches on Friday evenings between April and July.

We are keen to attract new players to the club and more information about us can be found at www.westbergholtcc.co.uk.

If you are interested in joining a friendly and progressive cricket club, please contact the following:

Seniors: Peter Tywdell on 241678/07748 622121, petertwydell@hsbc.com

Ladies: Helen Scott on 07861 219484, helekeybarnes@hotmail.com

Juniors: Simon Lockwood on 243659 / 07811 398855, lockwoods@willis.com.

West Bergholt Football Club



We are now mid-way through the season, and things have settled down nicely with both senior teams sitting in fifth place in their respective leagues and gaining some good results. The first team having recently beaten the league leaders in an exciting and hard fought 2-1 win. The reserves have pushed their way up the table with some good recent results, and scoring 17 goals in their last three games, reflecting the more consistent make up of the squad.

Stars of the show however and worthy of a special mention, are Mark Farthing's under 18 team, who after ten games remain unbeaten and top of the league with games in hand. This makes us very optimistic for the future of the club especially as several of these players are making regular appearances for both senior sides!

Junior training has recommenced after the Christmas break and is as popular as ever, so if your child is interested, bring him or her along on a Saturday morning at 09.30. You can register on the day, and be safe in the knowledge that they are in the hands of qualified coaches.

On the social front, plans are well in hand for our bi-annual exchange with our German twinned club RSV Bublingshausen. It is our turn to visit them in Wetzlar at Easter this year, and we expect to be travelling with a party of around twenty players and officials. We look forward to three days of football, socialising and meeting friends old and new. We hope to hold a couple of fund raising events prior to this to offset some of the cost.

As always, watch our website for news and dates. www.westbergholtfc.co.uk and we look forward to seeing everyone on match days

M R Bell, Chairman

2011 Poppy Appeal

Although late, the people of West Bergholt, who gave to the 'Poppy Appeal' in November last year will be pleased to know, in these financially tight times, they gave generously, and only just missed the 2010 total.

We collected over £417 whilst standing outside the Co-op, and another £199 was collected in store.

The total collected by the Branch which includes Gt and Lt. Horkesley, North Station (by Michael Cullem) and Asda was over £8390.

This year several members of the 'Bikers Group' (who people may recognize from 'Royal Wootton Bassett' fame) helped our branch members collecting outside Asda.

The Gt and Lt Horkesley Branch Chairmen and members of the Royal British Legion, thank you most sincerely for your generous giving to this important charity.

We are always looking for people to join the RBL. One does not have to have been in the armed forces to join. If interested in joining or for more information, please contact the Secretary Mr Roger Drury (271454) or myself who lives in the village (243717)

Hugh Brivent-Barnes



**COLCHESTER & DISTRICT
MODEL RAILWAY CLUB**

OPEN DAY

Sunday 1 April 2012

11.00am to 4.00pm
Orpen Hall, Lexden Road
West Bergholt CO6 3BW

ADMISSION FREE

Layouts, modelling demonstrations,
second hand stall and
light refreshments

www.colchestermrc.org



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

Tuesdays:

- NHS Primary Care Trust Baby Clinic**, 10am to 11am - Methodist Hall
- 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
- West Bergholt Knitting and Crochet Group** is a house group
Meeting 1st Tuesday 7.30pm - 9.30pm. Phone 01206 242015 for details

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
- Zumba Fitness**, Methodist Hall, 6.45pm-7.45pm. Tel 272759.
- Women's Fellowship** 2.30pm third Wednesday each month
Methodist Church Hall.
- West Bergholt Knitting and Crochet Group** is a house group
Meeting 3rd Wednesday 2.30pm - 4pm. Phone 01206 242015 for details
- 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
- 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

It is good to report that the Care Network is thriving and now that more volunteers have been recruited we feel confident that we can respond to most requests for help with the transport.

The Care Network is there to help any residents of the village, whatever their age, to get to appointments if transport is needed and other means are not possible or available. Most of our journeys are to the Doctors' Surgeries or the Hospitals but other local appointments can be considered. Telephone 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	Tuesday	242 185
Thursday	240 569	Friday	240 167
		Saturday/Sunday	242 075

We are 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.

The Care Network is holding its Annual General Meeting in the Methodist Hall in Chapel Lane on Tuesday 17th April at 7.30pm. Any residents are welcome to attend, especially if they are willing to become volunteers. At this meeting we will be looking to appoint a new Secretary for the Care Network as Clover Savage is standing down. This is not an onerous task, as the management committee meets just three times a year.

If you are interested and able to help please contact Harry Stone on 241026.

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.