

# Village Bulletin



*Issue 164*

*Summer 2021*



[www.westbergholt.org](http://www.westbergholt.org)



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## The Refill Den

Welcome to The Refill Den! We're a mobile zero-waste shop that provide packaging-free cupboard essentials to surrounding and remote villages who may have little access to shops.

The Refill Den started as an idea in October 2020 by us, Charlotte and Ellie! Our aim is to reduce single-use plastic pollution and encourage people to be eco-friendly and cut down their plastic waste, whilst also reducing their carbon footprint by shopping locally with us and other small businesses!

We sell a wide range of wholefoods ranging from herbs & spices to flour and pasta, all of which are completely free of plastic packaging. As well as dried foods, we will also have a selection of cosmetics, cleaning products and homewares that are ethical and eco-friendly. All our products can be seen and pre-ordered on our website: [refill-den.co.uk](http://refill-den.co.uk)

For those who haven't already met us, we are at Orpen Hall, West Bergholt every Saturday from 8am - 12pm alongside The Mobile Greengrocer. It's simple! Bring your empty containers and jars from home, choose the goodies you need refilling, pay by cash, card or contactless and feel great about doing your bit for the planet as well as supporting a small business!

We are hoping to expand to more locations but to keep up to date with where we are, please take a look at our website and Facebook for updates:  
[www.refill-den.co.uk/find-us](http://www.refill-den.co.uk/find-us)  
[www.facebook.com/refillden](https://www.facebook.com/refillden)

We hope to see you bright and early at Orpen Hall very soon!



## *And... we're back!*

Well, it was another year, another lockdown. Thankfully we seem to be gaining more freedom bit by bit and it's been nice to see small businesses opening their doors again after what has been a nightmare of a year.

New freedom means hopefully we've got much more to look forward to as the weather improves. Our village will be holding a fete in July, which will be great for getting everyone together again, and more and more groups and clubs are able to meet again, even if it's still with social distancing.

So here's to the summer and a little more normality. Stay safe everyone!

*Jacqui*

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**St Marys Church** (60 persons) & **Church Hall** (20 – 40 persons). Contact Nicole Long 01206 240443

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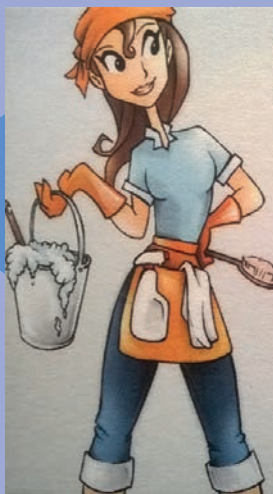
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BYG hopes to be back for the new school year starting Friday 10th September 2021, 6:30pm to 8pm, for children in school years 6 to 10.

Nearer the time, please look out for further updates regarding membership, dates and planned events on the club Facebook page (facebook.com/bergholtyouthgroup) and also on the village notice board outside the CO-OP. We're also looking out for more help running BYG on Friday evenings. If you're interested in helping us, even occasionally, please contact the Club Leader, Jamie Bowden on 07581 202960.

## WEA

The West Bergholt branch of WEA had to curtail their last course on "Imperial China: land and people" in spring 2021 because of the Covid-19 lockdown, but did manage to complete nine of the ten weeks of this excellently presented subject.

However, it may be the last course held here as this branch has been struggling with declining membership in recent years and with the additional loss of the Methodist Hall, it's in danger of folding.

The WEA West Bergholt branch was formed after a meeting of local people on Tuesday 20th October 1981, with the first topic in spring 1982 being "The citizen and the law; criminal, family and consumer" presented by local lawyers.

In the intervening years, subjects have included architecture, film, history, industry, literature, music poetry, climate, and many more and have been well supported, but now, with an aging membership, attendance has steadily reduced year by year and now the branch is not viable unless more people come forward to take on the running of it.

Anyone who would like to take on the task, it is not difficult and support is readily available from Debbie Young, the local Education Coordinator, as well as from WEA Headquarters in Cambridge. You can email Debbie at [DYoung@wea.org.uk](mailto:DYoung@wea.org.uk) and she will offer all the help and guidance to secure the future of the branch.

It would be sad to see the demise of the West Bergholt WEA which has thrived for nearly forty years and has been a great asset to the village, offering not only a large range of subjects but also the chance for members to come, meet and socialise with likeminded people.

## Colchester

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Yes, West Bergholt will be **having a fete** this year, on **Sat 24th July!**

Entirely based outside, we hope to just celebrate being **together again.**

Lots of details still need to be sorted but there will slots for **stalls** at £5 for clubs/businesses and a **tabletop sale**, again at £5 a space, to sell all that clutter you sorted during the past year!

There will be a **stage** showcasing any local vocalists and an organised **five a side kids football** competition.

The **tennis courts** will be reopened, following re-surfacing, and an exhibition competition held.

**Food and drink** will be available, but we hope you'll bring a **picnic** and watch the **singers** on the stage and dancers in the arena.

We're looking at an **outdoor cinema** to show an early evening film but that's in early stages of discussion.

**Bouncy castles** and **fairground rides** will add to the entertainment on the day.

So, can you **help**, do you have **ideas** for the day, do you want to **book** a stall or can you **sing**?

If so, please email **hall-admin@westbergholt.net**

Let's see West Bergholt **have a great, but safe day** as lockdown comes to an end and restrictions lift.



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## St Mary's Church

It was with great sadness that Rev Mandy resigned in December following her husband's unfortunate accident. After a long stay in Addenbrooke's Hospital and a period of rehabilitation, we are pleased to say he has improved enough to come home to continue his recovery. At the end of her final service on 28th February, Mandy said, "It has been a privilege to baptise your children, marry some beautiful couples and celebrate lives which are no longer in this world. Thank you for inviting us to do this." We wish them well and hope to catch up with them later in the year for a celebration of Mandy's time with us.



We have been reassured by the Bishop that our vicarless gap will be filled as soon as possible. The incoming minister will take on the parishes of Mt Bures, Wormingford and Little Horkesley, as well as continuing with Great Horkesley, Langham and Boxted. A really big task for any new minister.

Throughout lockdown, St Mary's continues services on Zoom for Communion, Messy Church and Praise on 4, together with weekly bible study and prayer groups. You are always welcome to join us. Please contact our Administrator, Jo Russell, at [wb.wb.gh.parishes@gmail.com](mailto:wb.wb.gh.parishes@gmail.com) for information. We are very pleased to be reintroducing some services with gathered indoor worship, although numbers may be restricted for the time being. The church will continue to be open on weekday mornings for private prayer.



Our work in the community alerted us to an acute need for food parcels back in the October half term, when we set up "The Larder" to support a number of families who were struggling, particularly during the pandemic. This has continued with the help of some generous donations and a loyal band of parishioners led by our Families Worker, Jo Jeffrey.

We were delighted that so many people enjoyed the Muddy Church Trail through Hillhouse Woods during the Easter holidays, with lots of families taking part in activities that connected nature with the Easter story.

It has now been over a year since lockdown first changed the way we live and connect with our friends and families, but we are hopeful that St Mary's Church will continue to be there to support our congregation and the wider community... so do please join us!

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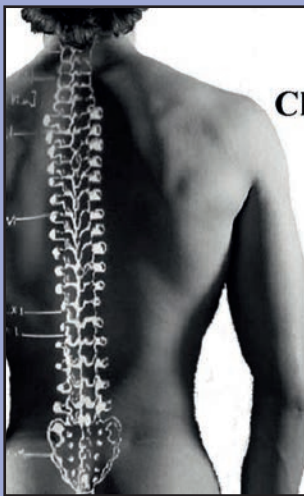
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## West Bergholt Concert Band

We can't believe it's over a year since our weekly meetings on Zoom started, and whilst they continue to be a fun way to meet up and play great music together, we're crossing our fingers that in the next few months we can go back to playing together properly.



At the moment, we're waiting on clarity on the steps we'll need to take before meeting again in person, but we have at least booked our Autumn & Christmas concerts, as well as optimistically pencilling in a July concert if the situation allows it.

Once we're able to return to normality, we'll be looking to resume our recruiting events with schools to maintain the band's balance of all ages, as the combination of Uni leavers and not being able to run those events has taken its toll on our younger membership. We're also hoping to do another concert tour of primary schools, as the first one was so much fun and we were just finalising another when lockdown struck. We will, however, miss our Zoom nights as they've helped build new friendships and provided some really good laughs, so in future we may run a few Zoom nights on Fridays when band isn't meeting.

One thing that won't change is the band will continue to welcome brass & woodwind musicians of all ages, so if you'd like to join in with us, either virtually or when we meet together properly, just drop an email to [Conductor@wbcb.org](mailto:Conductor@wbcb.org) and we'll send you details. Alternatively you can find out all about the band on our website, [www.wbcb.org](http://www.wbcb.org).

Stay safe & hopefully it won't be long until we can see you at one of our concerts.

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## *1st West Bergholt Guides*

Despite the limitations of lockdown, 1st West Bergholt Guides has continued to meet weekly online. It's been a challenge to keep coming up with new online ideas but has been full of fun and laughter. This term started with an online Pet Show – we met guinea pigs, cats, dogs, reptiles, a teddy bear and a dressed up sibling! We managed some online craft, one of our lovely mums helped us to do flower arranging for mothers day, we baked cookies (always a favourite!), had a karaoke style sing along and held a talent show. In between all this, we even managed some badge work, with the girls all earning badges throughout their lockdown journey. A favourite was our guest visitor who talked to us all about guide dogs for the blind and introduced us to her trained dog. We've supported this visit by collecting stamps to raise much needed funds.

As we head into a new term, we look forward to welcoming our guides back to the outdoor space at the scout hut – for some, this will be the first time we've all met in real life! We have lots of outdoor activities planned, including games, some science based badge work and challenges, some craft, possibly a campfire. If restrictions continue to ease, we're hoping to have a fun picnic for the guides and their families; it'll be great to see all the wonderful mums and dads that supported us with our slightly mad online ideas and to be able to say thank you.

Over the past year, the numbers in our group have grown and we're now full, however if you have a daughter interested in being a part of this inclusive, friendly group, please get in touch by email [westbergholtguides@yahoo.com](mailto:westbergholtguides@yahoo.com) or apply directly for a place by visiting [www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-you-daughter](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-you-daughter) and we can place your daughter on our waiting list.

## *The Orpen Players*

We plan to increase our membership, and in order to do this, we intend to hold a recruitment drive. We hope to encourage people to join us in our activities.

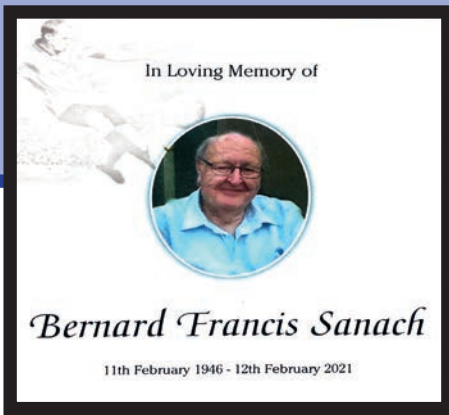
You might like to tread the boards as an actor/actress, or you may have a flair for set design/construction/painting/lighting/sound etc. There are many areas involved in putting on a production, such as costumes/directing/publicity/Front of House/prompting, for example, are all basic requirements.

In order to meet these all important tasks, we need people. Are you that person? If you feel that you are and would like to be involved, we'd love to hear from you.

Due to the pandemic, we're unable to set any recruitment dates in stone at the moment, but as soon we're able to we will confirm them on our website.

At a recent zoom committee meeting, it was decided that the earliest we could contemplate putting a show on would be a Pantomime in January/February 2022. Considering rehearsals would need to commence in November, this also has a question mark against it.

The future of any group depends on the dedication from it's members, so don't forget to check our website for dates that will give us the opportunity to meet you and hopefully encourage you to join our team.



On behalf of the West Bergholt Social Club, we would like to send our condolences to family and friends of Bernie Sanach, who sadly passed away on the 12th February 2021.

Bernie will be missed by the members of the West Bergholt Social Club, I know that we all will have a story to tell, or a memory that will make us smile that involves Bernie, he was a larger than life character with a huge heart.

Hopefully, very soon, we will all be able to raise a glass to celebrate his life, laughing, joking and chatting about the memories of Bernie that we all have.

Thank you Bernie for all your hard work and commitment you have given to the social club over many years, you will never be forgotten!!!

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## *Bergholt Heath YFC*

Despite all of the stop/start during the last year, the club has been determined to offer as much football as possible whilst adhering to national and FA guidelines on safety. When we have been able to play, we have been spraying footballs and avoiding handshakes – though not shirking tackles!!!

It has been a very successful season at the academy, despite the restrictions we've faced. More children than ever have enjoyed learning how to dribble the ball and shoot, while having fun with their friends. We will be back next season from 11th September to do it all over again for children in Reception and Year 1. Training sessions take place on a Saturday morning, 9-10am, on the Daniel Lorkin Field and cost just £2 a week, which is only payable on the weeks your child attends. For more details please contact Gareth Minter at [gj\\_minter@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:gj_minter@hotmail.co.uk).

Apart from Academy, we have run a further 10 teams from Under 7 up to Under 16. Next season, we are looking to start new teams Under 7. We are, however, very proud that we will have our first girls' team! It has been great to see more girls coming along to our training sessions in recent years and the chance to set up teams where they can train and play games against other local teams is very exciting. If your daughter is in Year 2 or Year 3 and would like to come to one of our fun training sessions, please contact Paul Mathews at [paul.mathews@connectix.co.uk](mailto:paul.mathews@connectix.co.uk). Training sessions will take place on a Saturday morning, 9-10am, on the Poors Field. This team will not play in a league in their first year but may well move up to that later.

As the number of teams that play on the Poors Field continues to grow, the games are frequently nose to tail. This puts more of a strain on parking places around the field. Could I impress upon those attending matches that they do not drive unless it is unavoidable. We regularly receive complaints from residents around the field, especially in respect of parking on Colchester Road.

Leslie Wright  
Chairman, Bergholt Heath YFC



## *Colne Valley Flower Club*

It was decided at our latest Committee Meeting to start club meetings in the Orpen Hall on September 15th when our demonstrator will be Lorraine Thompson.

We're hoping to have a social afternoon at Marks Hall on Wednesday August 4th, where we can have a walk round the arboretum and gardens, with an opportunity of purchasing refreshments at the café. If anyone would like a lift, please contact Manya or Alison, details at the end of this notice.

As you are all aware, everything depends on the Covid rules and if anything changes, we shall endeavour to let you know.

Contact Manya 07759 331719 or Alison 01206 973563

# West Bergholt Gardeners

It's been such a long time since we've been able to meet up, but we're hoping the end of the road is in sight and we'll be back in September to start another programme of monthly talks. Although we don't usually reveal our schedule of speakers so early, we wanted to give people something to look forward to. So our proposed programme will include an ex-head gardener from Madingley Hall, Cambridge; someone to help us create a Christmas willow wreath; a rose grower who likes to ramble on; a garden designer to keep us up to date on current trends; an adviser on all aspects of pruning; and a Question Time session.



We have a visit planned to Strandlands, Wrabness, on 29th June and will be at the Village Fete on 24th July to talk to anyone who wants to know more about our group.

Sadly, after being forced to cancel the Open Gardens event last year, we naturally thought we'd be able to run it this year instead, but in these uncertain times this won't be happening. However, all being well, we're planning to welcome visitors and raise more money for our nominated charities once again in 2022.

The cold, frosty and dry Spring didn't help our garden preparations but at least we had the lovely wildflowers in Hillhouse Wood to enjoy. There are many species there including Wood Anemone, Wild Garlic, Violet, Primrose, Celandine, Bluebell of course, and Narrow Leaved Helleborine, which is apparently one of the most threatened orchids in the country. All giving hope of better times to come.

For further details on our group, please contact Terry Claydon on 01206 241256 or email [terryclaydon@aol.com](mailto:terryclaydon@aol.com)

## Fantastic news!

We are pleased to announce that progress is being made to resume Vocal Zones Choir in the Village as soon as we receive the latest guidance associated with community groups and with singing. A tentative date is Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2021 so look out for confirmation on our website [www.vocalzoneschoir.co.uk](http://www.vocalzoneschoir.co.uk) Facebook page and West Bergholt Village Hub.

All Covid-19 regulations will be implemented to ensure the rehearsal venue is secure and we will have a Risk Assessment to that end.

We are looking forward to singing together again and also welcoming new members to a friendly, fun and safe environment.

(Temporary venue)

St Mary's Church, 34 New Church Road  
West Bergholt CO6 3JE

Tuesdays 7.15pm until 8.15pm

First night is a free taster session. If you want to join us then it is £5 per week on a pay as you go basis. No auditions necessary and you do not even need to be able to read music

Linda Truluck 07545 572157  
Ann Long 07596 071636



VOCAL ZONES CHOIR

## The Larder

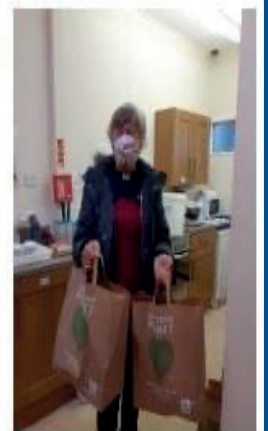
Have you been adversely affected by the pandemic through redundancy, furlough, ill health etc? This could happen to any of us. If you would like some support then please contact St Mary's church office. We are able to deliver ingredients for hot meals every Monday or you can call into church to collect from 10-12 each Monday. We also have a prayer team who are happy to cover any prayer needs.

[lwb.wb.gh.parishes@gmail.com](mailto:lwb.wb.gh.parishes@gmail.com)

01206 243683



Thank you very much to all who have donated to make this possible.





## *West Bergholt Allotments*

Since last year, there have been a number of changes to the committee running the WB Allotments, so I'd like to thank those who have now retired from the committee for all their hard work in the past.

The allotments are looking in great shape at present and we're hoping for a bumper year of crops. We're all certainly appreciative of the large water troughs installed fairly recently, which make watering a lot easier and quicker!

We've had a tidy-up round the site and, after having a last bonfire to clear any accumulated wood, we will not be having any more bonfires on site. The emphasis will be on composting as much as possible and taking any other material home for recycling.

The Charity Stall is due to reopen at the end of May with Covid restrictions in place, so please follow the usual hand sanitising before touching the produce. We'll also have a second collecting shed at the other end of the allotments for surplus produce and this will be brought down to the Charity Stall by volunteers daily. Donations taken at the stall have been used for many charitable purposes in the village in the past, and we hope to be able to contribute again this year to proposed new projects.

We're fortunate to have such a great facility in the centre of the village and that, despite Covid, the allotments have been open as usual with social distancing. At present, all the allotments are taken and we have several people on the waiting list but, if you would like any other information, please email [wballotments@gmail.com](mailto:wballotments@gmail.com) or check out WBAA under Village Life on the new website - [westbergholt.org](http://westbergholt.org)

Lynda Robinson, Chairperson, WBAA



## *West Bergholt History Group*

West Bergholt has an interesting history which members of the active Local History Group continue to investigate, research and document. For the past year because of Covid-19, we haven't.

However, we're thinking positively and are planning to restart our meetings on Wednesday 8th September, when local Suffolk celebrity Charlie Haylock will return to tell us more about his work as the dialect coach in the production of the recently released film called "The Dig". This film retells the story of how the Anglo Saxon Royal ship burial was discovered at Sutton Hoo by local amateur archaeologist Basil Brown, played by Ralph Fiennes. The film is well worth watching on Netflix.

In July we're planning to organise a visit to Marks Hall Estate where John Claydon will tell us about how he was involved in restoring an important bridge!

Visitors are very welcome to join members at our meetings for a small donation. For more information, please email Gill Poole, WBLHG Secretary, [gill@poolesofbergholt.com](mailto:gill@poolesofbergholt.com)

## Woods Bowls Club

We're a small but very friendly lawn bowls club that's open to all ages and abilities throughout the months of April to September.

The club consists of a mixture of male and female members with ages ranging from 'Thirty-somethings' to sprightly Nonagenarians! You're never too young or too old to play Lawn Bowls!



### New to Bowls?

Most people find bowls an easy sport to start playing. The basic skills aren't hard and it doesn't require any great physical strength or athletic ability. We're always on the lookout for new members and we offer discounted membership fees for the first year to all new members!

### What's happening in 2021?

Being an outdoor bowls club, we're delighted that we're able to have a full season, competing against other clubs once again, though some minor restrictions may be necessary until 21st June.

### Like to have a go??

Our annual open day is Saturday 29th May from 12pm. There's no charge, all equipment will be supplied, just bring some flat shoes. If you're interested but cannot make our open day, please call our club secretary on 01206 863854 and he will arrange a suitable time to meet you at the club. Alternatively, email us at [woodsbowlsclub@gmail.com](mailto:woodsbowlsclub@gmail.com). We're on Facebook, 'Woods Bowls Club', and our website is [www.hugofox.com/community/woods-bowls-club-8629/home](http://www.hugofox.com/community/woods-bowls-club-8629/home).

We look forward to seeing you soon!

### 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 07855 715 658

### Helen Rollason Cancer Charity

#### Cancer Support Centres

##### How we can help you

- Counselling
- Support
- Massage
- Reflexology
- Aromatherapy
- Manual Lymph Drainage to help with lymphoedema

There is **no charge** for our services

To find out more call us on 01245 380719

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

Registered charity number: 1052861



## *Scout Group Retirement*

Some readers will have seen pieces previously posted on the West Bergholt Hub about Charles and Sue Hart “retiring” as members of the 1st West Bergholt Scout Group.

Charles “Baloo” Hart stepped down late in 2020 after thirty years of service to Scouting. Starting as a supporter and non-uniform member of the Group Executive (including a time as Chairman), Charles took on the role of Assistant Group Scout Leader in 2000 when there was a real risk of the group closing. In his twenty years as a uniformed leader, he moved from section to section, plugging gaps in leadership teams, assisting experienced leaders and helping new leaders. As well as providing support to adults, Charles provided good leadership to young people. If ever there was a leader who embodied his Jungle Book persona, it was Baloo! He also supported many of the group's activities within the village (such as church parades, gift services, village fetes, churchyard tidy-ups, etc). Charles always worked in the wider interests of the Group, taking a role in raising funds or assisting in maintaining the Scout Hut and grounds.

More recently, Sue “Mrs Baloo” Hart stepped down after an equally long period of service to Scouting. Sue has been one of the unsung heroes of the group, always in the background, doing the important tasks which enabled leaders to offer Scouting to young people. She has volunteered for some 30 years and has served the group in so many ways. Sue has been a non-uniformed committee member for most of her time and has even managed stints as Secretary and Chair. She will be best remembered as being the driving force behind the annual fund-raising jumble sale for many years.

Following their retirements, I'm delighted that The Scout Association has recognized their contributions by awarding each of them a Chief Scout's Commendation for Good Service. This award is only made to those volunteers who have delivered special service to Scouting and is very well deserved.

Once again, on behalf of everyone (including countless young people), I want to thank Charles and Sue for all they've done for the group and I look forward to a time when we can thank them in person.

Kevin Sturdy  
Group Scout Leader

## *COULD YOU BE A VOLUNTEER POLICE OFFICER?*

Are you over 18 years old and have 16 hours a month on your hands to volunteer as a Community Special Constable in West Bergholt?

You may have seen adverts for Special Constables initially in 2018 around West Bergholt, and in the last month on [westbergholt.org](http://westbergholt.org).

Indeed, the last call for Special Constables was very successful with three Specials receiving their warrant cards in 2019 prior to their on-the-job training.

Unfortunately for West Bergholt one has been allocated to another parish, one liked the train so much they became a full-time officer and one has taken time off from training on maternity leave.

The Parish Council wish all three the best but now are looking for new volunteers.

Special Constables are volunteer police officers, holding the same office and powers as regular police officers. They wear the same uniform, carry the same equipment and are deployed to the same incidents.

Special Constables based in the community have their duty allowances and travel costs underwritten by the parish council.

The recruitment process is undertaken solely by Essex Police, including a fitness test, a test to check basic literacy and numeracy skills and an interview.

The whole recruitment and training process is confidential, the parish council receive anonymous monthly feedback on the progress of all recruits in Essex and do not know who they are until invited to the attestation ceremony (when they receive their warrant card) at police headquarters.

So, if you're interested go to [westbergholt.org](http://westbergholt.org) and click open the link to 'join the police'.

The parish council wish volunteers the best and look forward to meeting you later in the year.



SPECIAL CONSTABULARY  
NOW RECRUITING  
WEST BERGHOLT



 **#MyOtherLife**

If you want to make a real difference in your town then volunteer as a Community Special Constable and play a part in keeping your neighbourhood safe.

West Bergholt Parish Council are supporting Essex Police to increase local and visible policing in their area.

**Visit [www.essex.police.uk/Specials/WestBergholt](http://www.essex.police.uk/Specials/WestBergholt) to find out more**

## *Tom Bowdidge Foundation*

Hello everyone. It's so lovely to be able to update you on the last year. It's been a tough one but through hard work and the generosity of so many people, we're thrilled to be able to report that we had our second-best year. This was so needed because the applications from young cancer patients rocketed by 1332%.

The biggest problem for our young people was that they and their families were having to shield and couldn't work. For many, this meant they couldn't pay household bills, buy food and essential clothes. TBF assisted with these to help improve their quality of life.

For others, travelling to and from hospital has cost a fortune, as they've had to drive from home daily because they couldn't stay in hospital. TBF helped with these costs, reducing anxiety and worry.

Many of us have suffered social isolation and our teenagers have felt it too. They felt completely cut off from the outside world and were unable to access their schoolwork, support groups and friends. TBF purchased IT equipment to solve these problems and gave them a purpose to look to the future.

165 young people and their families were helped, and that is thanks to you, our wonderful supporters. Whatever we do, you're always there supporting our cause and we're so grateful. So, if you took part in the Pumpkin Hunt, the Autumn Sale, the Bunny Hunt or have popped your change in the collecting pots in the Co-Op, then THANK YOU. You have made a massive difference to our young people with cancer.

Don't forget to stay up to date with our news follow us on all social media channels and our website [www.tombowdidgefoundation.org](http://www.tombowdidgefoundation.org)

## *Heathlands School Govenors*

Heathlands School Governors are exploring possible ways to enhance our teams skill set. We would like to invite potential interested parties from the local and wider community to contact us about roles that may be available. It would be useful to have someone who has experience of education at leadership level.

In addition we are also keen to reach out to those with a knowledge of finance, HR, compliance and premises. However, other backgrounds are also welcome. In these instances you would not need to have any experiences within education, just a thirst for securing the best outcomes for the young people who attend our school.

Please contact Mrs A F Spinlove, Chair of Governors for an initial informal chat:

[faithspinlove@heathlands.essex.sch.uk](mailto:faithspinlove@heathlands.essex.sch.uk)

## Scout Group

Like most aspects of our lives, Scouting has continued to be seriously affected by the pandemic and it is now thirteen months since we were last able to hold face-to-face meetings. In that time, we've offered some elements of Scouting to our young people but our inability to offer activities to everyone all of the time is a source of regret. In one sense, some have "lost" a year of Scouting experiences. Through Zoom, they've had quizzes, games, presentations, badge work sessions, scavenger hunts, cookery sessions, a theatre workshop, a magician, a village-based walking quiz, introductions to other faiths, singing coaches, escape rooms, virtual exercises in lieu of outdoor sessions and so much more.

Despite the disruption caused by the virus, our youngsters have continued with their badge work and I'm pleased to report the following successes: Chief Scout's Gold Award – Eden Clarke and Harry Leek; Chief Scout's Silver Award - Will Martin, Harry Patterson, Thomas Presland and Archie Welland; Chief Scout's Bronze Award - Archie Angel, Edward Spurgeon and Neil Taylor. There are more to come and some of our young people are staying on in their existing sections to complete their Award.

With the changes already made to COVID-19 restrictions, we plan to resume face-to-face Scouting soon. We're working on satisfying The Scout Association requirements, subject to our adult volunteers being happy to return. Plans for camps are still on hold.

In our annual membership return, we reported a year-on-year reduction in the number of young people in the group. The effect of not being able to hold face-to-face meetings was felt across all sections but especially in the sections that were unable to offer regular virtual meetings. Some parents have asked why we don't run more sessions and the answer is simple: we don't have enough adult volunteers. Our finances have been impacted by the disruption to Scouting but we had a fantastic response to a request for donations in lieu of subscriptions, with some 90% of parents responding.

In the last year, Charles Hart, Aron Newton, and Paul White have stepped down. Lee Crowdell will also be leaving soon. Together, these leaders have given over 50 years of service and we're so grateful for what they've done for our young people. Graham Ward has been awarded his Wood Badge on completion of his training and I hope to see more of our leaders being recognised soon.

We desperately need more adults to become leaders and members of the Executive, so please think about whether you can spare some time. We're already in a situation where we're restricting the number of young people who can get involved. If you need any information about volunteering with us, please contact me [kevinsturdy@aol.com](mailto:kevinsturdy@aol.com).

Group Scout Leader



# W E S T B E R G H O L T P A R I S H C O U N C I L



## Contacts:

Chair:	Chris Stevenson <a href="mailto:chair@westbergholt.net">chair@westbergholt.net</a>			
Vice Chairs:	Harry Stone	Brian Butcher		
RFO:	Andrew Savage			
Councillors:	Jenny Church	Norma Smith	Bob Tyrrell	
	John Gili-Ross	David Short	Phil Spencer	

Parish Council meetings are held every fourth Wednesday of each month except August and December, unless otherwise advised (see notice boards). During the meeting the public are invited to raise any issue for consideration by the Parish Council during the "Questions from registered electors" item.

For general enquiries, email the Parish Council using [westbergholtpc@googlemail.com](mailto:westbergholtpc@googlemail.com) or telephone the Clerk on 01206 240772. Contact made in this way will be dealt with by the Clerk or forwarded to relevant Parish Councillors. For specific enquiries about matters dealt with committees, email the contacts provided below, although please also copy to the Clerk.

Finance, Policy & Personnel Committee	Environment Committee	Planning & Development Committee
<a href="mailto:finance@westbergholt.net">finance@westbergholt.net</a>	<a href="mailto:environment@westbergholt.net">environment@westbergholt.net</a>	<a href="mailto:planning@westbergholt.net">planning@westbergholt.net</a>
Andrew Savage (Chair) Chris Stevenson (Vice Chair) Brian Butcher John Gili-Ross Harry Stone Bob Tyrrell	John Gili-Ross (Chair & Footpath Officer) Phil Spencer (Vice Chair) Harry Stone Jenny Church David Short Norma Smith (Transport Rep.)	Bob Tyrrell (Chair) Brian Butcher (Vice Chair) Andrew Savage Norma Smith

## Other Useful Contacts:

Clerk to the Parish Council:	Laura Walkingshaw	01206 240772 <a href="mailto:westbergholtpc@googlemail.com">westbergholtpc@googlemail.com</a>
Village Hall Administrator:	Victoria Beckwith-Cole	07434 949631 <a href="mailto:hall-admin@westbergholt.net">hall-admin@westbergholt.net</a>
Webmaster:	Dave Kingaby	<a href="mailto:dave@kingserv.org">dave@kingserv.org</a>
Borough Councillors:	Cllr Lewis Barber	<a href="mailto:cllr.lewis.barber@colchester.gov.uk">cllr.lewis.barber@colchester.gov.uk</a>
	Cllr Martin Leatherdale	<a href="mailto:cllr.martin.leatherdale@colchester.gov.uk">cllr.martin.leatherdale@colchester.gov.uk</a>
	Cllr Dennis Willetts	<a href="mailto:Dennis.Willetts@colchester.gov.uk">Dennis.Willetts@colchester.gov.uk</a>
Essex County Councillor:	Cllr Lewis Barber	<a href="mailto:cllr.lewis.barber@essex.gov.uk">cllr.lewis.barber@essex.gov.uk</a>
MP Harwich & North Essex:	Bernard Jenkin	<a href="mailto:Bernard.jenkin.mp@parliament.uk">Bernard.jenkin.mp@parliament.uk</a>

A daily diary of village events can be found on the home page of our village web site at [www.westbergholt.net](http://www.westbergholt.net)

