

Village Bulletin



Issue 165 Autumn 2021

www.westbergholt.org

The West Bergholt village quiz returns!

Saturday 9th October 2021



Come and test your knowledge against your fellow villagers on food and drink, sport and other such trivial matters!

If your team is successful, you'll be walking away with the **West Bergholt Local Organisations Challenge Cup**.

You don't have to be an organisation to take part, just a team of **4 to 6 players** with a name, which will be engraved on the cup.

There will be **10 rounds of 10 questions**, starting at **7pm in the Orpen Memorial Hall**.

Please bring your own refreshments, noting there will be a **raffle** after 5 rounds, during a 30 minute break to win yourself more refreshments for the final 5 rounds.

A running total of each teams score will be displayed for all to see as the evening progresses.

The cost will be **£20 per team** and all profits will go towards purchasing another friendly bench for the village, and since you ask, they are made of recycled plastic.

So, if you would like to take part, please book your team's slot with an email to westbergholtpc@gmail.com and in return you'll get a form to complete and return with payment.

We do not need to know all your team member's names at this stage, nor your team name, unless of course you already know them.

Our quiz masters Mike and Anita look forward to making sure the evening is fun, but of course it will be competitive!

Brian Butcher

Hello...

The last couple of months have seen life return to some form of normality to many with the easing of all Covid restrictions, which meant that the Village Fete could go ahead in July, and we have more about that on page 19!

With the village getting back to a sense of 'normal', the Baby and Toddler group is back under new leadership, the children are returning to school, and as the autumn begins and the nights start to draw in, why not come and test your knowledge in the Village Quiz?

Jacqui

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Hall Booking Information

Orpen Hall (108 – 150 people) & **John Lampon Hall** (30 – 50 people). Contact hall-admin@westbergholt.net

Social Club Room (during the day only). Contact hall-admin@westbergholt.net

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

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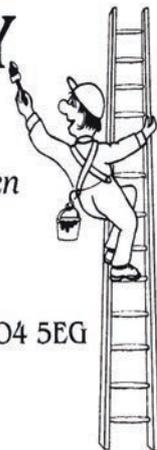
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Sadly, a much respected and loved Parish Councillor, Murray Harlow, passed away on Friday 21st May.

Larger than life

Murray was well known in the village, not just as a councillor but as a genuinely larger than life character. He was never happier than when discussing village matters with the many friends and acquaintances he had in the village.

Murray was a member of the West Bergholt Parish Council for over 10 years, where he served as a Vice-Chair of the former Premises Committee. He was also a member of the Environment and Planning Committees and, for several years, the Council's Communications Officer.

Many dimensions in his life

There cannot be many people locally who had not met Murray, either through:

- * his work with the Parish Council
- * the 5Ts 'Tea, Cake & Chat' club at St Mary's
- * volunteering with the Care Network, both as a driver and member of the committee
- * his exhortations to save money via his work with Utility Warehouse.

Murray was at his best speaking directly to members of the community. He was especially helpful when the Parish Plan was launched in 2008; again, with the Neighbourhood Plan exhibitions and consultations that took place in the period 2013 to 2019. I have vivid memories of him drawing people's attention to our plans at the exhibitions in the Orpen Hall, and, when people were sceptical, warning them of the implications if we left things to chance or didn't endorse the plan as a community.

Condolences

Murray leaves behind him two daughters, Amber and Ciara, and their young families. On behalf of the PC, I extend our heartfelt condolences on their loss, a loss shared by the whole community for this very likeable "gentle giant". RIP Murray, we will miss you enormously.

Chris Stevenson
Chairman
WBPC



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A Preview of Future Work

Those who have been visiting Hillhouse Wood over many years will have noticed that the Reed Mace in the Top Pond continues to expand the area it occupies, thus reducing the extent of clear water.

Similarly, the Bottom Pond, although it doesn't have any Reed Mace, seems to collect more silt each year. The Woodland Trust has been able to raise a budget for this year to undertake remedial work to both ponds to improve the habitat for the wildlife that inhabits these deteriorating environments.

Mechanical excavators will be carefully used to sensitively remove most of the Reed Mace from the Top Pond and extract much silt from the Bottom Pond. This work will take place in November, when least disturbance to Great Crested Newts and other species will occur.



Andrew Savage

Chair

andrewsavage123@googlemail.com

01206 242015

Women's Institute

2020 was a difficult year with the pandemic, so a sub-committee, headed by Gill Tyrrell, organised a gift bag for members. This was a lovely surprise when it was delivered on the same day near Christmas to everyone.

The National WI in London gave us permission to forego our local subscription, which resulted in members paying only half the annual fee. To our delight, everyone has rejoined.

The president thanked Susan Leng for organising fortnightly Zoom meetings to keep us in touch and share a variety of topics. Our secretary, Jacqui Hunns, forwarded WI and local information to everyone.

Our coffee mornings held at the Queen's Head every two weeks have restarted and proved popular. The Orpen Hall is now open and we plan to have our first meeting on 1st September. As it is our Centenary Year, a Lunch has been arranged at the Colchester Golf Club on 3rd November.

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Friends of St Mary's Old Church



The Friends are pleased to announce that following the relaxation of the building is once again open to the public. We've seen the first the church for nearly two years and wish a happy and long life to Emma and Donald following their big day. It would be wonderful to see more weddings take place at the church as they are such lovely occasions.

The Friends fundraising group have been busy and a programme of events has been drawn up:

On the 4th of September there will be a talk by Professor James Raven of Cambridge University about his great grandfather who is buried in the churchyard and was the village's first policeman. Entry is free and refreshment will be available. Donations to the church will be welcome.

On 28th November there will be the Mulled Wine and Mince pie session where Friends can renew their membership.

We hope that the village carol Service will take place, though the date may be 12th or 19th of December. All are Welcome.

Finally, the Friends group have to raise funds for the church and more specifically the upkeep of the graveyard as the Conservation Trust has over 300 churches to look after and resources are extremely tight. All funds raised by the Friends go towards these costs but specifically our church. We would like to thank the Parish Council for their grant towards the churchyard maintenance.

The Friends group is open to all who love the church and support the endeavours of the group to see it used and become a focal point in the community. A modest membership fee of £5 is charged which does not bring any benefits other than the knowledge that you are helping to keep the old place alive for generations to come.

Martin Long
Chairman
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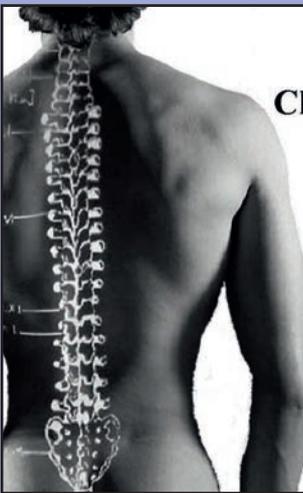
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The Orpen Players

Our recruitment drive, as mentioned in the last Bulletin, was set in motion at the Village Fete. We engaged with a lot of new faces, who completed our 'interested in joining' forms.

Our next step is to hold a Wine and Cheese open evening at the Hall on **Saturday 17th September at 7.30pm**. We invite you to attend if you'd like to find out more about our friendly group.

We look forward to welcoming all the people we met at the fete, along with current members, and YOU!

We're looking not only for actors, but people to fill other important roles such as directing, costumes, make up, lighting, sound, set painting, set design, construction, publicity, prompting and front of house.

If you're interested in taking part in any way, please come along to our open evening. We would love to meet you.

We'd also like to invite all interested parties to our Panto readings at the Hall on Monday 20th and Monday 27th September 7.30pm. Hope to see you there.

Colin Downer



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West Bergholt Concert Band

Summer saw the band almost return to normality, with in-person rehearsals for a limited number of socially-distanced players and our much anticipated first concert for 19 months in July. That concert at Flatford was an incredibly joyful afternoon, helped on by some fabulous weather and scenery, and an audience full of band family and friends who'd not seen each other for far too long. We were grateful to everyone who came along and for all the comments about how great the band sounded after such a long time apart, so perhaps all those Zoom nights did work after all. The band are also hugely grateful to both the National Trust and Heathlands School for welcoming us back.



As always, the end of summer means the band loses another swathe of players to university, so we'd very much welcome any new brass and woodwind players to fill those vacancies and to help maintain the band's balance of all ages. Whilst we managed to recruit some new members during our Zoom sessions, who have now finally met the band and played their first concert with us, we definitely have more gaps to fill. All being well, we'll start rehearsing together again in September, and will also restart our school workshops and joint concert recruiting events, the first of which is on Saturday 20th November at St Botolph's.

If you'd like to join in with us in September, or know someone who might, please drop an email to Conductor@wbcb.org and we'll send you details. Alternatively you can visit our website www.wbcb.org to see full details of the band and our future events (fingers crossed!).

Hopefully we'll see you next term at a rehearsal or at one of our workshops or concerts.

Colne Valley Flower Club

Welcome back. We're holding our first meeting on Wednesday 15th September. Our Demonstrator is Lorraine Thompson and her title is Floral Fusion. During our break, we'll be serving a glass of Rose or Elderflower Cordial.

October 20th we welcome back David Wright, when he'll be demonstrating 'All Things Bright and Beautiful'.

On November 17th, our demonstrator is Sean Keeble from 'Flowowers'.

Our meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday of the month (not August or December) in the Orpen Hall at 7.30pm. Guests are welcome. For any further information, please contact Manya on 07759 331719 or Alison 01206 973653



Woods Bows Club – Keepers Green, Braiswick

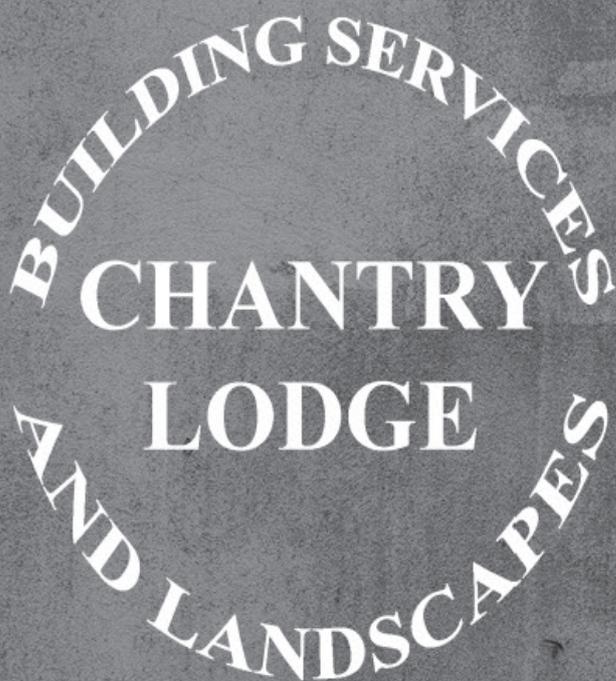
We're a small but very friendly lawn bowls club that's open to all ages and abilities throughout April to September.

What's happened so far in 2021?

We started playing competitive games again in early May. The focus was on our annual open day, which this year we timed so it was part of Bowls England's 'Bowls Big Weekend' between Fri 28th – Mon 31st May. We even managed to feature on BBC Essex's 'The Quest' by being the final destination; Barry & Liana made it to us in time to win their challenge! Our open day was a MASSIVE success with 50 people coming through our gates (we nearly ran out of tea, cake and bowls!) and at time of writing, 27 have now joined our club – Welcome all. We're now busy having regular roll-ups with new members to get them ready for playing in competitive games. The draws for our internal club competitions have been done and matches have started taking place, with the finals in late September. The club is also hosting the semis and finals of the Sudbury League Knockout competitions.

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West Bergholt Allotments

We were delighted to open the Charity Stall on 22nd May. The Bear Man of West Bergholt (Keith Wood) came to do the honours with his bears, newly named after a competition run by Heathlands primary school. The winner was Oscar Judd with his choice of Eddie the Teddie and Genie the Teeny. Unfortunately the weather was not good that morning, but we still had an impressive array of produce on display and the cakes went down well!



The allotments are very popular at present and the site is full with a waiting list. We managed to create another allotment on the area which used to be the bonfire site and allotment holders are either composting their waste or taking it home for council recycling. If you're interested in going on the waiting list, please email wballotments@gmail.com.

Due to the recent rainy weather, less watering has been required this year. Everything is growing like mad, including the weeds, so constant attention is needed to keep the plots tidy.



The Allotments had a stall at the village fete which was very popular - interestingly, the runner beans were the first things to sell out! We had quite a variety of different vegetables and fruits including colourful summer squash, purple French beans, gooseberries and redcurrants. We also had miscellaneous jams and jellies which sold well.

The profits from the Charity Stall go to local groups in need of support, so if you're part of a group getting ready to open up again after Covid, you can send a request for an allocation from the money raised to wballotments@gmail.com.

Lynda Robinson

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We can confirm that the Baby and Toddler group will be meeting again from Monday 6th September 2021, 9.30-11.30am every Monday, term time only in St Mary's Church hall.

All ages are welcome from newborn to 5 years. Please drop in anytime; we have lots of toys, books, a baby corner, craft table, snacks and drinks and end the session with some singing.

We're so excited to be able to start this group up again, much needed for children and parents after this last year I think, and it will be lovely to welcome some new faces. It's a great place to meet new parents and let the children form friendships and mix again. We occasionally have trips out to the orchard, bluebell woods or teddy bears picnics, as well as Christmas and Summer parties, so lots to look forward to!

Beth, Sarah and Lucy are running the committee at the moment. We've all been attending the group for many years since our eldest children were little and are very pleased to be able to get it up and running again. This group has been going for 40+ years in the village now, run purely on a voluntary basis by mums, like us. Every few years it's changes hands as the children grow and no longer come to the group.

We welcome anyone to get involved at any time (but no obligation, either). New committee members are always welcome or just helping out in anyway, big or small, helps to keep the group running.

Beth, Sarah and Lucy
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Reopening of Orpen Memorial and John Lampon Halls - September 2021

The Orpen Hall Management Committee (OHMC) is delighted so many organisations are coming back to the halls this September. We welcome you all and will be pleased to see you.

Booking

If you are looking to book the halls this autumn, please use the Online Booking System on westbergholt.org (book a hall) if at all possible. If you have difficulties doing so, please email hall-admin@westbergholt.org or contact the Hall Administrator, Victoria Beckwith-Cole, on 07434 949631 at any reasonable time.

Please note you can no longer come to the hall on a Thursday evening to make a face-to-face booking.

COVID-19 Special Conditions

The conditions of letting have not varied from those before and are available on the website. In order for people to feel comfortable returning to the hall, we now also have a set of COVID-19 Special Conditions. The revised supplemental conditions are available on the website but will be provided to each event organiser to agree in advance.

Whether we like it or not, COVID-19 is here to stay, which is why the OHMC look to ACRE (Action with Communities in Rural England), for continued advice and need to maintain the special conditions at this time.

The OHMC cannot clean and sanitise the hall between all hirings and so it continues to be the responsibility of the event organiser to operate the hall within COVID-19 secure guidelines. They are always recommended to carry out their own risk assessment to minimize the risk of transmission.

The number of attendees now allowed in the Orpen Hall will be increased to 60 and to 40 in the John Lampon Hall, with hand sanitiser, tissue stations & cleaning products continuing to be provided. However, event organisers will still be responsible for sanitising door handles, light switches, etc, before and after their event, as well as cleaning up spillages, sweeping up dry goods, disposing of rubbish, etc.

It goes without saying but please do not attend an event if you have COVID-19 or have been pinged and are isolating. We will be asking hirers to maximise natural ventilation in the halls and practice social distancing/wearing face masks when in confined areas, such as the toilets, servery, storage cupboards etc. Keeping COVID-19 on its downward path in West Bergholt continues to be a social responsibility for all of us.

Finally, welcome back. We look forward to seeing the hall well-used and alive with residents once more. Please do contact us with any queries.

OHMC



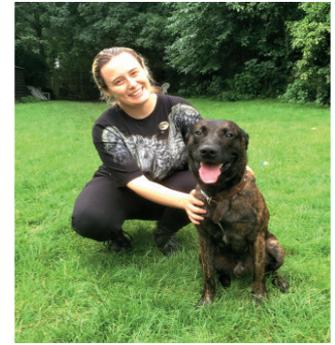
SESAW

After another July downpour, some of our bedraggled ladies could be heard laughing and chatting as they exercised the rescued dogs in the garden. Bev has been helping at SESA W for three years in between caring for her own horses. She thinks people don't realise that cleaning kennels is mucky, hard work, particularly in the winter - "the TV programmes make it look so glamorous".



Seven years ago, Debbie chose to work four full days a week, leaving a day for volunteering. She says it's rewarding to spend time with the dogs, building their trust through kindness - "Everyone is so friendly and it's wonderful to see the dogs go to new, loving homes."

Enthusiastic helpers, Judy and Ivy, agree; they both help with animal care, sorting donated goods and fundraising.



Despite the tough times, no matter what they've been through, our volunteers keep coming for love of the animals. After suffering an arm injury in the spring, Debbie recruited her husband as chauffeur cum dog walker for a few weeks!

We're lucky to have equally dedicated volunteers each day but the numbers are dwindling due to various life changes. If you have what it takes to care for the animals, help with general maintenance or assist with fundraising, please contact us and don't forget to leave your phone number. Despite yet another shower, the tired friends still look happy as they head for home and the resident dogs head for the kitchen, including me, Kenny (the Boss) Chihuahua.

Suffolk & Essex Small Animal Welfare,
Registered Charity No.1124029,
Stoke Road, Leavenheath, CO6 4PP, 01787 210888
www.sesaw.co.uk



West Bergholt enjoying itself!

As you'll probably have seen from the photographs on the back cover, what a day this year's Fete was!

COVID-19 deprived us of an arena full of displays this year, the bouncy castles and our tennis nets, but none of this got in the way of the village enjoying themselves, with the temporary tennis court on the car park enjoyed by all abilities and ages. The "opening" of the newly refurbished courts by Barney the Beagle started the proceedings, and with the attendance of 30 stalls from local groups, the help of the police cadets and many more, the feedback has been nothing but great! I think we all enjoyed just being together again and would like to thank all the volunteers who made it happen.



Our compere DJ Andy went down a storm again as well, with his singer Loren helping to add to the festival and family feel of the day.

Congratulations to our raffle winners and all winners on the day of the tombolas and the like. The weather also did us proud!

Next year, you ask?

Well, the thoughts are for 'Festival Field 22' are sport, fun, food and music for everyone, as well as helping West Bergholt celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, combining:

- o the Queen's Green Canopy scheme
- o the Platinum Jubilee beacon lighting (Thurs 2nd June)
- o and the friendship, food & fun of the Big Jubilee Lunch.

Saturday 4th June is being looked at for next year's village event, a little earlier due to the Jubilee and as always volunteers and sponsors are being sought!

If you'd like to help or sponsor any events on the day or have ideas, please do let the current secretary of the Fete organising committee know at hall-admin@westbergholt.net. We'll be in touch early autumn to get together. It really is the more the merrier, so help West Bergholt have its best summer event in 2022 for decades!

Save the day, **Saturday 4th June 2022**

Brian Butcher

Current chair of WB Village Fete sub-committee



1st West Bergholt Guide Group

Well, as we draw to an end of what must be the oddest year in Girl Guiding ever, we find our Unit in excellent shape. On our return in September, we'll have 24 girls, 2 young leaders, 1 Duke of Edinburgh helper, 2 volunteer adults and 1 trainee leader all enjoying Thursday evenings together.

This does mean we now have a growing waiting list and know that this can be frustrating for those hoping to begin, however there are other groups within a short drive of West Bergholt if you're keen to get your guiding adventure underway.

During the Summer term, we've managed to meet outside, missing only one week due to terrible weather and the last week returning to zoom as the number of school isolations grew. Over the term we enjoyed craft, nature activities, cookery and a lot of running games to stay warm! I think our most memorable night was watching the girls build stretchers from a variety of materials and then carry their patient over a course to hospital, racing the other teams of paramedics.



Those poor patients were in worse shape after their rescues I think! A few Guides also enjoyed hosting a stall at the Village Fete and the chance to make a few quid for our funds.

If you're interested in becoming a Guide, let your Brownie leader know so they can notify us or if you're new to guiding you can use www.girlguiding.org.uk to register your daughter.

West Bergholt Gardeners

Despite being unable to meet since early 2020, we've tried to keep in touch with our members via email newsletters and a self drive visit to Strandlands, Wrabness, which gave members and friends a chance to meet in the lovely setting of an interesting, natural garden overlooking the estuary. We also had a stall at the Village Fete to publicise our group and attract new members. We wanted to reassure people that we're a very informal and friendly club, comprised of enthusiastic amateurs who just hope to gain inspiration and advice from interesting and experienced speakers.



Now that Autumn is rapidly approaching with shorter days and cooler weather, we plan to resume our monthly meetings in September and have already booked a full programme of speakers for 2021/2022. This will be dependent upon Covid regulations, but all being well we're looking forward to being back in the Orpen Hall on Monday 20th September at 7.30pm. The full programme will be available at that meeting, which will include a very short AGM and a talk by Roger Pawsey, a rose grower.



On 18th October, Richard Grant, Head Gardener from Madingley Hall, Cambridge will be our speaker. In November we'll be learning how to make a Christmas Wreath. We finish the year with our annual Christmas Quiz evening in December.

We look forward to welcoming back existing and new members in September. If you'd like further information, please contact Terry Claydon on 01206 241256 or email terryclaydon@aol.com

Tennis Court hire

The newly resurfaced Tennis Courts are looking good! £5.25 per hour, with £1 for 30 mins floodlight tokens, if needed. Please contact Victoria Beckwith-Cole on 07434 949631, at any reasonable time, to book. Text your preferred date and time to that number and she will reply.



West Bergholt Local History Group

On 21st July, on what turned out to be a very hot day, 11 members of the History Group gathered at Markshall Coggeshall, the first get together since Spring 2019, to hear committee member John Claydon speak about how the bridge near the entrance kiosk got its "hump" back. The original bridge dates from the early 1800s and was flattened during WW2 when the US Airforce that were occupying Marks Hall needed to move aircraft wings over to the airfield situated at the rear of the estate. The renovation was part of a project by the local Water Authority to "give back" to the local community. After much needed refreshment, John then led the group on a short tour of the estate.

A programme of meetings has now been planned to be held in the Orpen Hall, on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7.30 pm (no meeting in December):

8th September - Charlie Haylock is speaking about the film "THE DIG", the story of the discovery of the Sutton Hoo Treasure

13th October - Adam Wightman will be revealing the latest finds at the Mercury Theatre and Jacks by the Colchester Archaeological Trust

10th November - Jumbo the water tower is the topic by Andrew Crayston

Please come and join us in September. Annual membership is £10 plus £2 per meeting. Visitors are welcome at £5 per meeting. All the annual memberships that were paid in March 2020 and all those that are renewed since that date will be carried through until February 2022, when all will be due for renewal at the Annual General Meeting in March 2022.

For further information email wblockalhistorygroup@gmail.com



WEST BERGHOLT PARISH COUNCIL



Contacts:

Chair:	Chris Stevenson chair@westbergholt.net			
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 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
finance@westbergholt.net	environment@westbergholt.net	planning@westbergholt.net
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 westbergholtpc@googlemail.com
Village Hall Administrator:	Victoria Beckwith-Cole	07434 949631 hall-admin@westbergholt.net
Webmaster:	Dave Kingaby	dave@kingserv.org
Borough Councillors:	Cllr Lewis Barber	cllr.lewis.barber@colchester.gov.uk
	Cllr Martin Leatherdale	cllr.martin.leatherdale@colchester.gov.uk
	Cllr Dennis Willetts	Dennis.Willetts@colchester.gov.uk
Essex County Councillor:	Cllr Lewis Barber	cllr.lewis.barber@essex.gov.uk
MP Harwich & North Essex:	Bernard Jenkin	Bernard.jenkin.mp@parliament.uk

A daily diary of village events can be found on the home page of our village web site at www.westbergholt.net

West Bergholt Village Fete 2021

