

Village Bulletin



Issue 166 Winter 2021



www.westbergholt.org

In Memory...

On 3rd of October 2021, the staff from our local Co-op all took part and completed the Race For Life in memory of their dear friend and colleague Teresa, who sadly passed away recently after a very short battle with cancer.

With funds raised from a raffle, In-store bucket collection and online sponsorship, as a team, 'T-Birds' collectively raised £3,742.50 for cancer research!

Such an amazing achievement and all towards such a great cause that hasn't just touched them personally but so many others too.

So, from 'T-Birds' - 'For all of those who have fought and are still fighting... this is for you!'

A huge thank you from all of the staff, to Debra Hornigold who made, donated and raffled some lovely cakes and to everyone else who donated towards their fundraiser. Teresa would have been totally blown away by the generosity of you all!

Teresa was a very much loved member of the team at West Bergholt Co-op. A very good friend to many and not just a work colleague. She was funny, kind, caring, always there for others with her wise advice and supportive nature. An absolute joy to work with and spend time with out of work too. Her smile and laugh were contagious and the days will certainly be quieter without her there. Teresa will be sorely missed by all who knew her, including the customers who described her as 'a lovely lady', 'very chatty & always smiling'.

Again, a huge thank you from all of the staff for all of your donations, support and messages to them, Teresa's 2 beautiful daughters, Tallulah & Saskia, and the rest of her family and friends. It has meant the world to them all.

In Teresa's words:

'Always do what makes you happy!'

Teresa Saiz
1965-2021



Hello...

There's a definite chill in the air as winter truly sets in. With any luck, this year will be much different from 2020 when the country was in lockdown during the festive season.

The village has been busy over the last few months as restrictions lifted, with many groups and clubs meeting again for the first time in many months, and this edition of the Bulletin is filled with news and updates, as well as a look ahead to the Village Fete 2022 and the Queen's Jubilee.

A big thank you goes out to everyone who works on the Bulletin during the year, including our distributors, and I wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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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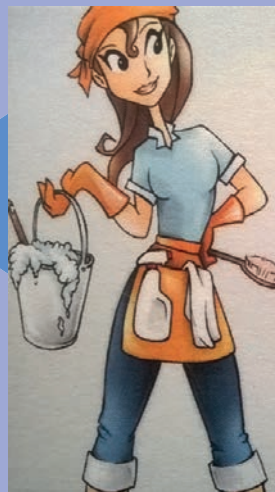


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Friends of St Mary's Old Church

On the 4th of September there was a talk by Professor James Raven of Cambridge University about his great grandfather who was the village's first policeman and is buried in the churchyard. Many tales were told of various "goings on" in those days, some of which had serious consequences. Dr Raven has much more to tell and there may well be a second talk next year. His presentation was greatly enjoyed by the many villagers who attended.

The traditional Mulled Wine and Mince pie session was held on the 28th of November and was a most enjoyable occasion as usual.

The village Carol Service will take place on the 19th of December at 2.30pm. All are welcome and early arrival is recommended as this is a popular event and really marks the start of the Christmas festivities for many villagers.

Christmas cards showing our old building are now available and there are new designs this year. These can be obtained from the Friends Committee members or from the contact below.

We still have not heard when the decorations will be completed or what the proposals are for the conservation of the medieval wall paintings found during the redecorations but the Friends are actively chasing this matter with the Trust.

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. We hope to make the building the jewel in the crown of our wonderful village. 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
01206 240443
Chairman Friends of St Mary's Old Church

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West Bergholt Guides

West Bergholt Guides are having a blast being able to meet up in person once more. This Autumn term we have been learning some new games which is always good sweaty fun. Science experiment badgework has been completed and we baked brownies with a designer element, choosing from a selection of goodies that could be crammed in and baked.

Our final week this half term will be a campfire, marshmallow smores and Autumnal craft. Towards Christmas we hope to march for remembrance through the village and attend the village panto, as well as more adventures in and around the Scout Hut. We have now reached full capacity with 24 guides and 2 young leaders, and a D of E helper. If you have a daughter interested in being added to our waiting list or joining another guide group locally, apply directly by visiting www.girlguiding.org.uk

I would like to take this opportunity to say what an enormous amount of fun I have had personally from volunteering in my community in this way. I would highly recommend enjoying time within the guiding or scouting community locally and seeing if you might also benefit from spending an evening once a week with the young people of the village, giving them opportunities that could inspire them into their futures.

Rachel Hopkins (leader in training)

West Bergholt Band

The band are delighted to have returned to in-person rehearsals in our home at Heathlands school hall this autumn, and apologise to anyone who may have heard us practicing outside this summer!

We've also returned to our usual autumn events, the first of which was a "band play day" at St Botolph's in November, which as ever was great fun both for us and for the people who joined us for the day. It was wonderful to be able to continue the band's founding ethos of encouraging young musicians, and we're hoping some of them will join us to help maintain the band's renowned balance of all ages. The culmination of the day was a concert of music from "Stage & Screen" in aid of St Botolphs, and the band could not have been happier to be back playing concerts, especially at one of Colchester's finest venues. The band will then return to another favourite venue, St Peter ad Vincula in Coggeshall, for their favourite concert of the year - the Christmas Concert. Last year's was held virtually on Zoom, so we'll be making up for that this year with more Christmas music than ever. We'd love to see some of our supporters from the village, so do please come along at 7.30pm on Saturday 18th December for a wonderful evening of Christmas music.

Full details of the band and its events are available on www.wbcb.org, or you can contact our conductor on Conductor@wbcb.org or 07941 947541. Otherwise, please do join us at a Friday night rehearsal at Heathlands Primary School, West Bergholt - Training Band for Grade 1+ is 6pm-7pm, Concert Band for Grade 4+ is 7:15-9pm. Hopefully we'll see you at in Coggeshall – if not, Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year.

1st West Bergholt Scout Group

It was great to return to the Scout Hut in September and to see everyone again. We have sadly lost a couple of leaders from our group, but the remaining team have pulled together and we are all running enjoyable programmes. We have one Beaver colony, two Cub packs and a popular Scout troop.

Our Beaver colony had to be re-formed as only three children were young enough to remain in the section 'post-covid.' We now have ten youngsters that are new to Scouting and a number still on the waiting list who will be starting shortly. They have enjoyed teamwork activities, played games and learnt new skills, including how to tie their shoe laces, light a candle and build and fire a Viking catapult!

The Cubs visited Boxford Spinney for an activity day in October – they took part in abseiling, grass sledging and air rifle shooting, launched water rockets (thanks to the help from our Scout leaders) and we finished the day with a camp fire, songs and marshmallows. They also received a visit from a local Karate instructor this term which the Cubs really enjoyed and they plan to visit the Food Bank in November to prepare Christmas parcels and to learn about the important work that the charity does. We are pleased to welcome two new leaders to the Monday Cubs section this term – Breeane Garland and Abi Arrowsmith. We hope that they enjoy their new roles.

Our Scout troop have been busy making up for lost time. They visited the Colchester Canoe Club in September, organised a survival skills weekend later in the month (which involved no tents and cooking on open fires) and managed to fit in a 10-mile hike from Stoke-by-Nayland at the start of the half term break. They enjoyed refreshing their map reading and compass skills and only had one flood to navigate!



Many of the children have moved between the sections since our return and it has been fantastic to get back to doing the activities that we all missed during lockdown. We must also congratulate James Wilkinson who completed his Chief Scout's Gold Award at the end of the Summer after almost no face-to-face Scouting and Josh Longman and Thomas Harvey who gained their Silver Awards too – very well done!

Baby & Toddler Group

What a fantastic start we've had in our new venue at St Marys Church Hall from 9.30am every Monday in term time. Its been so lovely to see and meet so many people again and watch the children play and interact, developing those all important social skills. For just £2 a week (cash only please), pay as you go, we have a fantastic range of toys and books, a specific baby area, a different craft activity each week, a tasty healthy snack and hot drinks for adults. We finish our sessions with a few songs.

We have lots of visitors this term leading up to Christmas; hopefully they might help with some gift ideas or just something to browse while the children play.

6th December – Jo Jeffries visiting

13th December- Christmas Party

Beth, Lucy and Sarah

West Bergholt Surgery Update

We tried very hard to keep the West Bergholt site open and operational during the refurbishment, but we're sorry to say that due to safety reasons we've had to close.

You can still call the surgery on 01206 241137 as all calls are being diverted. If you are in placed in the queue, please stay on the line - your call will be answered as soon as possible. All services are being carried out at our other sites - Creffield and Nayland.

We have spoken to the Pharmacy and from the 1st November, there will be a secure post box inside for your prescription requests. These may take slightly longer to process, so please allow a week before chasing this up.

Requests can also be emailed to nhmg.secretaries@nhs.net, or you can sign up to the NHS App at home.

Opening hours over Christmas for Nayland Surgery & Creffield Medical Centre:

- Open Monday 20th – Friday 24th 8am-6pm
- Closed Saturday 25th - Tuesday 28th December
- Open Wednesday 29th - Friday 31st December 8am-6pm
- Closed Saturday 1st - Monday 3rd January
- Open as normal from Tuesday 4th January.

Out of hours emergency NHS 111

Nayland Dispensary Opening Hours:

- Open Monday 20th – Thursday 23rd, 9am-5pm, and Friday 24th, 9am-4pm
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- Open Wednesday 29th & Thursday 30th, 9am-5pm, and Friday 31st, 9am-4pm
- Closed Saturday 1st - Monday 3rd January
- Open as normal from Tuesday 4th January at 9am.

Don't forget to order your prescriptions by 20th December for collection before Christmas and before 23rd December for collection before New Years Eve.

We thank you for your patience and understanding during this time. We look forward to sharing our brand new Surgery with you all early 2022.

Covid Boosters at Creffield Medical Centre

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You can book from 5 months but you cannot receive your vaccine until you are 182 days from your 2nd jab. 2nd doses for 16 and 17 year olds can be booked from 12 weeks from their 2nd vaccine. This will be Pfizer.

If you haven't received an invite and you are due please call to book.

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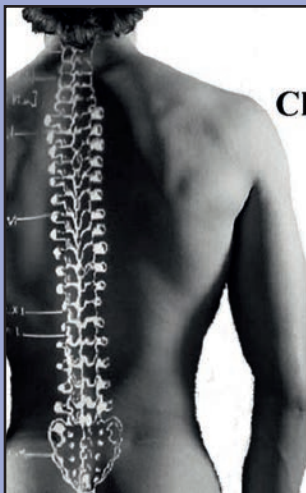
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Woods Bowls Club – Keepers Green, Braiswick

What happened in 2021?

Our Men's Triples team finished Runners-up in the Colchester Borough League. In the Colchester Borough Fours 'A' league, our Men's' team finished 5th out of 7 teams – maybe not that impressive on paper but this is the equivalent of surviving a season in the Premier League after coming up from the Championship – no mean feat.

In the Colchester Borough Knock out competitions, Woods got to the Semi-Final of the Team tournament and we had semi-finalists in the Colchester Borough Pairs competition. To then top off a very good season, one of our men won the Sudbury Open singles competition.

Our new club shirts proved a fantastic hit, as it was the first time Woods had all turned out in matching shirts, and next year all our new members will also be wearing them.

On Saturday 9th October, the green was 'put to bed'. It will be cut once a month during the winter months and hopefully all the seed, fertilizer and soil that has been put on the green will produce us a lovely surface to play on next year.

If you are interested in having a go next year, we start in late April. You can contact us through our website <https://www.hugofox.com/community/woods-bowls-club-8629> or via our Facebook page. If you prefer to call, the number is 01206 863854.

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The Working Parties get back into the swing

Since September, the monthly Working Parties have been re-established. The Saturday morning events have seen up to 12 volunteers undertaking various tasks throughout the Wood. There are always a wide variety of tasks including clearing paths of small fallen trees.



Volunteering as a v

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Trust is always aiming to provide a safer environment...
need to know who wishes to join the group in advance so they can provide the volunteer with relevant information and guidance (such as online videos on how to keep yourself and others safe when using the various sharp tools you may encounter) and confirm to the volunteer that they are ready to attend prior to the event taking place.

If you wish to become involved with our future working parties and haven't yet registered, then please contact me for the latest Woodland Trust 'Volunteer Application Form' as soon as possible.

Andrew Savage

Chair

andrewsavage123@googlemail.com

01206 242015

<https://westbergholt.org/clubs/hillhouse-wood/>

Bergholt Youth Group

BYG returned for its first evening on Friday 10th September following an almost 18 month absence due to Covid. The new on-line membership system has proved to be a huge success with 69 members signed up and an average nightly attendance of 45 over the evenings so far - the highest of which was a fantastic 64 children. The return to action has also seen a wonderful response from volunteers, with 19 people offering their services to the club. A big thanks to everyone who has given their time to make the return of BYG a success. The club evenings will continue to run every other Friday for children in school years 6 to 9. The next big event planned will be the BYG Christmas party that will be held on Friday 17th December, before the short break over the Christmas period before we return in January to start 2022.

Membership for the (school) year is still £3 per child with the nightly fee also held unchanged at just 50p. For further information, club dates and a link to the membership form, please see our Facebook page: [Facebook.com/Bergholtyouthgroup](https://www.facebook.com/Bergholtyouthgroup).

The Tom Bowdidge Youth Cancer Foundation

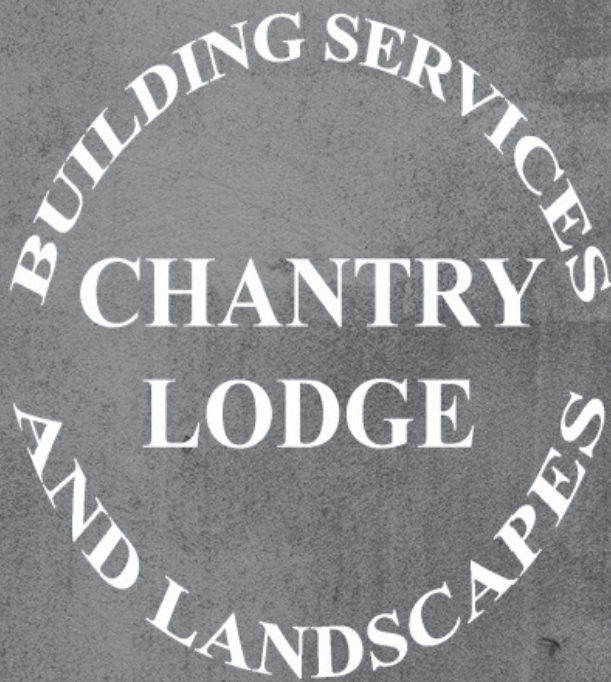
Halloween is over and pumpkins have been found. A massive thank you to you all for taking part in the Pumpkin Hunt and Autumn Sale Trail. Huge thanks goes to Jo Beck who excelled herself again this year with her amazing organisation.

Christmas preparations are now underway and we have been busy selling our beautiful Christmas decorations and cards. Thank you to everyone who has supported us again this year. We are looking forward to helping Father Christmas with his sleigh to visit you all later this month. Do come out to see us so we can thank you and wish you a Merry Christmas.

Once Christmas is over, we turn our attention to the Feather Ball on Saturday 26th February 2022 at the stunning Braxted Park, Witham. The last ball held just before lockdown raised £57,000 and took us through the £1 million mark. If you fancy coming, tickets are £65 a head and tables of 10 or 12 are available. Contact nikkibowdidge@tombowdidgefoundation.org for more information or to book a table.

The Foundation has needed every penny raised over the last year. We have had such a demand for our help. Thanks to you we have recently helped 65 young people and their families with help with household bills, petrol costs to and from the hospital, IT equipment to help the young people access their schoolwork when in hospital, new beds because cancer has paralysed them. I could go on with so many more examples. What we can be certain of is that you have made a difference to the lives of everyone we have helped, only made possible by you, our wonderful supporters.

Merry Christmas and a very happy, healthy New Year from us all at TBF.



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West Bergholt Allotments



Another growing season is almost over and tidying up for the winter is being done. The plots have produced a bumper crop of pumpkins and squashes, not to mention the runner beans, apples and soft fruit. This year, one allotment holder grew a pumpkin weighing in at a whopping 46.8Kg! Maybe someone will try and beat that next year!

In October, we were delighted to decorate a window for the harvest festival service in St Mary's Church and to donate the produce for use afterwards.

The Charity stall has been much appreciated again by the community and we have been able to raise over £2000 for local good causes. Thank you to all who donate produce and other garden related items and of course to those villagers who give donations for the vegetables - a win-win all round! We have sponsored a friendly bench in the village and are proposing to also sponsor a replacement tree for outside the Orpen Hall. There is still some money available so if your organisation needs a helping hand for a project do contact wballotments@gmail.com

There is still a waiting list for allotments but if you would like to join our community do get in touch at the email address above. Hopefully, the allotments will be opening again next year in the Open Gardens event raising money for nominated charities and showcasing the lovely facility we have in the centre of the village.

Thank you to those members who have left the committee this year – your contribution was much appreciated.

Lynda Robinson
Chairperson WBAA

The Orpen Players

Hooray, it's that time again. Oh no it's not, oh yes it is!!! We are delighted to bring a pantomime to the Orpen Hall stage once more. Our director Catherine Streatfield has selected "Cinderella" for your enjoyment, and has gathered together a sterling cast of seasoned and new players to bring this magical tale to fruition.

Our recent recruitment drive proved to be very successful, supplying us with talented people both on and off the stage. So it's all looking good folks!!! Rehearsals are going well and to plan.

Production dates are Friday 28th to Saturday 29th January, Friday 4th to Saturday 5th February 2022, with a performance each evening at 7.30pm, and a matinee on each Saturday at 2pm.

We look forward to seeing you there. Tickets go on sale Monday 20th December and are priced at £8 Adult, £5 Children, and are available to order via email tickets@orpenplayers.co.uk, by calling Mike on 01206 240512, or at our box office in the Orpen Hall on 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th December for two hours each morning, 10am-12pm. Full details will be on our website shortly. Please note tickets are no longer available from Ash's Store.

Shrubs and trees overhanging the path

Given the amount of rainfall this year, which has stimulated a lot of vegetation growth, there are many instances where shrubs and trees are now over-hanging the highways in West Bergholt. The Parish Council gets periodic complaints and many more go to Essex County Council, but neither the PC or ECC has a responsibility to cut back vegetation from private land, so the advice below is provided to explain the situation further and that this time of year is the ideal time to cut back tree and shrub growth.

The owner or occupier of a property has a legal responsibility to ensure that the 'public highway' adjacent to their property is not obstructed by overhanging vegetation. The public highway is defined by law as consisting of any verge, footway, carriageway, bridleway or footpath that is maintained at public expense (Parish, Borough or County Councils) and over which the public has a right of way.

Overhanging vegetation can be hedges, trees, shrubs, bushes or any other type of plant that grows out from within your property's boundary onto a public highway (including roads to the front, rear or side) in a way that obstructs or endangers highway users; for example:

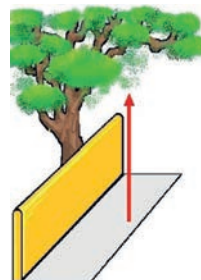
- obstruct the footpath so pedestrians, including those with a disability, have to walk in the road
- prevent pushchairs or wheelchairs from getting past
- obstruct sight lines for vehicle users
- obstruct street furniture such as street lamps

Any such obstruction is a safety hazard and a potential danger.

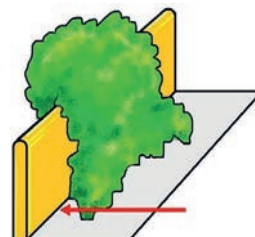
Aesthetic appearance as a result of cutting back overhanging vegetation is not a mitigating circumstance. However, it is illegal under the Wildlife and Countryside Act to disturb nesting birds, so carefully check before cutting back or, if in doubt, wait until the Autumn.

So how far do you have to cut back overhanging vegetation? Although the Highways Act does not specify any actual measurements, the requirement should be met by:

Lower branches should be at least 2.5m above the footway or carriageway.



Hedges, trees, shrubs or bushes should be cut back to your boundary line.



There should be a clear distance of at least 1m around any street furniture (such as street lights and road signs) and at least 2m above it.





West Bergholt to enjoy itself in 2022

You'll remember in Autumn's edition of the Bulletin we asked you to save **Saturday 4th June 2022** for sport, fun, food and music.



Well, at the end of September a dozen villagers got together to start planning the Fete, looking to help West Bergholt celebrate the Queens' Platinum Jubilee.

Don't forget though there will also be the beacon lighting on **2nd June**.



The sporting plans thus far are for a 2km fun run for the under 16s in the late morning, with medals for all. For the under 11s, a football and cricket taster session in the afternoon, with trampette and tennis sessions also for all ages.

The fun plans include stalls run by local companies, organisations and charities to promote their activities and aid fund raising. Craft workshops are also hoped to be run. Food and drink stalls are planned to run throughout the day, catering for all, with tea and cakes, BBQ, hog roast, pizza oven, picnic boxes and, of course, ice cream!

Live music is being planned be played in the evening, until 8.00 p.m. by three local bands performing on a stage, with in the afternoon our D J, local singers and choir will provide the musical entertainment.



We've also made an application for an RAF flypast during the day and hope to have a Royal themed craft show in the J L hall.

Our plans will take many hands to deliver and if you would like to join those planning our Festival Field 22, please do join us on **17th January** in the John Lampon Hall at 7.30pm.

Brian Butcher
Chair of WB Village Fete sub committee

West Bergholt Local History Group

Following Charlie Haylock's very interesting talk in September, Adam Wightman enthused members and visitors in October about the Roman remains found in Colchester during Jacks' renovation and the Mercury Theatre redevelopment. To set the scene, Adam showed us a map of the Trust's perception of Roman Colchester following the Roman occupation of England in AD43.

The investigation of Jacks was initiated because the wooden structure of the building was very poor and needed a supportive steel frame. This frame required stable foundations under the building and the archaeologists were called in. As they dug through the archaeological layers, they exposed the foundations of a large Roman building with remains that indicated this was the site of the Colchester Roman Baths.

As the layers of soil were removed at the Mercury Theatre, more foundations were exposed, along with other objects, including Roman coins. Interestingly, they also found a single Anglo Saxon 8th century coin! By using typical plans for the Roman Barracks layout, Adam told us that they were able to predict where they would find other foundations. Because the new buildings had piles to support floors, the archaeology where the piles were to be inserted was fully investigated and the location of the Roman Barracks was validated.



Adam's talk was interesting and well received by the audience, stimulating several questions.

At our November meeting we learnt from Andrew Crayston about the history and future of our Colchester Victorian Water Tower, usually referred to as JUMBO.

On Wednesday January 12th 2022, members and visitors will be introduced and encouraged to investigate our archive of pictures and facts about our village, and on Wednesday February 9th, Peter Noakes will be discussing the "Impact of the Daniell Family on the Development of West Bergholt".

Please come and join us! Members £2. Visitors £5.

Colne Valley Flower Club

Our first two meetings of 2021, the 15th of September and 20th of October were very successful and well attended. The club does not meet in December.

The next meeting is 19th January 2022, which is the AGM and there will be a talk given by 'Halstead in Bloom'. Our meeting on the 16th February will be a demonstration by the Members of Halstead Flower Club.

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 on 01206 973653

West Bergholt Gardeners

It felt really good to be back together in the Orpen Hall in September for our first meeting after 18 months, welcoming members together with some new faces. Roger Pawsey, who had recently retired from a long career with Cants Roses in Colchester, was an excellent first speaker. It was extremely interesting to hear about his life's work cultivating roses, for which he had won many awards, especially at the Chelsea Flower Show. His tips on caring for our own roses were greatly appreciated by the less successful among us!



At our following meeting on the 18th October, Richard Gant came to speak on the History, Plants and Features of Madingley Hall Gardens, Cambridge, where he was the Head Gardener for a number of years. This was something a little different but proved to be an enjoyable and interesting evening as Richard explained the legacy of both the Hall and its owners and the development of the beautiful gardens. We are hoping that we will be able to arrange a visit there in 2022.

For our November meeting we had Deb Hart talking and demonstrating the making of a Christmas Door Wreath which will then be donated as a Raffle Prize. In December it will be our annual Christmas Quiz evening (as long as health restrictions do not intervene). Our Secretary has already begun researching and booking Speakers for 2022 and is checking out destinations for our trips. Plans are also underway for the long delayed Open Gardens event to take place in July 2022 too, so there should be interesting times ahead.

We meet in the Orpen Hall on the third Monday of the month (September to December/ February to May) at 7.30pm. If you would like further information, please contact Terry Claydon on 01206 241256 or email: terryclaydon@aol.com.

Bergholt Heath Youth Football Club

Well the season started on a more auspicious note than the previous season and we were delighted to welcome two girls teams, although they are not playing in leagues as yet. We have 2 boys teams entered in the league, and currently all boys seem to be enjoying the experience. Phil, who runs one of our newest teams at Under 7 has remarked that watching the boys develop as individual players and as a team has been a pleasure. They all seem to be enjoying their football and are applying in games what they are learning in training. He has also been impressed by the parents' support. The Under 8 teams are also progressing well, concentrating on passing and moving, using space and being brave on the ball. One of our teams will be on the look out for a goalkeeper next year as they do not have a recognised one at present. Do get in touch if you are interested.

Jamie, Gareth and a team of coaches are still welcoming a large group of boys every Saturday morning in our Academy and this provides an excellent stepping stone to Under 7 when they are old enough...

Now that Christmas is not to far away we are planning our Christmas treats for the teams.

May I wish everyone all good wishes for an enjoyable and safe Christmas holiday period.

St Mary's Church... Introducing our new Priest in Charge, Revd Heather Wilcox

Let me introduce myself; I am Heather and am married to Geraint with two adult children: Megan, 25, who is married and studying for her Post Grad Certificate in Education with the aim of becoming a Key Stage 2 teacher by September; and Luke, 21, who has moved with us to West Bergholt. Luke has finished college and has been working in various places over the last year as he finds his feet. My husband Geraint has a nursing background and went back into the NHS in April last year as a Health Care Assistant working on the bank.

I qualified as a Registered nurse in 1993 at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Kings Lynn and worked there until 2008 when I was ordained Deacon and moved to Pakefield for my curacy. I love sharing the gospel with people and reaching out to the whole community with the love of Christ. Whilst I am often accused of working too hard, I do enjoy other things as well! I love taking walks with the family, am a keen swimmer, and enjoy creative hobbies such as cross stitch and crochet. During the recent lockdowns, I also started jigsaw puzzles and now have quite a collection, so if anyone ever wants to borrow one, I have quite a library.

There is probably more I could say, but hopefully over the years ahead, as I look forward to getting to know everyone here, you will surely get to know me and the family more.

May God Bless you, Heather.

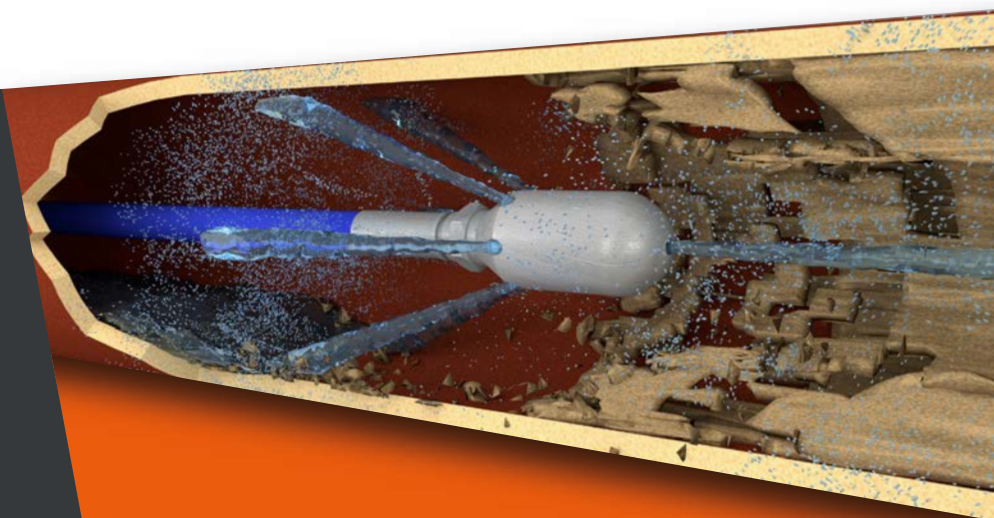
You can follow St Mary's Church via www.stmaryswestbergholt.co.uk, also on Facebook and Instagram for details of services and events such as our Open House coffee mornings (with cake!) every Thursday termtime from 9-11am. The Church is open for private prayer and contemplation each weekday from 9am to 3pm and the Church Office is open Monday to Friday from 9am to 1pm.



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West Bergholt History Quiz

- 1) What was the approximate population of West Bergholt in the :
 - (a) 1720's?
 - (b) 1820's?
 - (c) 1920's?
 - (d) 2020's?
- 2) In what decade did:
 - (a) mains water come to West Bergholt?
 - (b) mains gas come to West Bergholt?
 - (c) mains electricity come to West Bergholt?
- 3) In what year was a school opened on the Heath?
- 4) In what decade did Thomas Daniell start brewing beer at Spreading Oak Farm?
- 5) In what decade did J Darvil start a "bus" service into Colchester from Firmins in Lexden Road?

Answers: 1(a) 300 persons; 1(b) 650; 1(c) 1150; 1(d) 3600. 2(a) 1930s; 2(b) 1980s; 2(c) late 1920s/early 1930s. 3) 1858; 4) 1820s to 1840s; 5) 1900s

West Bergholt Women's Institute 1921 -2021

The committee were delighted to welcome back members at the September meeting after the enforced closure. With the Orpen Hall's purchase of six new tables, everyone could space out and celebrate with Pimms or fruit juice and packets of crisps, making it a convivial time for all.

In October, six new ladies joined our WI, and members enjoyed a glass of wine and snacks. Michael Bowles, Antiques and Collectables expert from Reeman Dansie was our speaker, and he gave an insight into the changes that happened in the auction house business during lockdown, as well as valuing items brought along by members.



West Bergholt WI started in February 1921. In November, we were able to celebrate our Centenary – just in time, although delayed by the lockdown. 48 Members enjoyed a luncheon at Colchester Golf Club, where they sat down to a two-course meal followed by Birthday cake and coffee. President Marion Hart welcomed everyone and spoke about the founding of the WI in West Bergholt in those far off days and also about plans for the future.

The splendid celebratory birthday cake was made locally by Debra Hornigold, and was so beautiful that it seemed a shame to cut it, but we did anyway and it tasted magnificent!

The WI will be back in the Orpen Hall on Wednesday 1st December for a Christmas celebration.



The Queens Head

It's been a tough 20 months for the hospitality industry and pubs in general, but it's lovely we're starting to see a resurgence. With the festive period soon upon us, we really can start being positive again. The pub is the central part of the community and we never really realised how important it was until we had to endure the lockdowns. It's lovely that so many groups in the village are starting to use the Pub again and we have welcomed back the WI, vocal zones choir, The church who attend the Coffee Morning every Wednesday and the list goes on. It's also great to be involved with projects at the local school and the West Bergholt Cricket Club, and just cements the fact that the pub is useful for everyone in the community.

We have lots going on from now until the end of December, so why not join us:-

Every Tuesday, 12pm - 9pm, enjoy two fresh home cooked Pub Classics for only £15

Every Wednesday, 10am - 12pm, come and enjoy our fantastic cake & coffee mornings – You can enjoy a slice of Homemade Cake and bean to cup coffee for only £3

Every Thursday, 12pm - 3pm, enjoy anything from our freshly made lunch menu for only £5 – this is a very popular offer so make sure you book ahead.

Moving into the festive period, we have the following events which can be enjoyed:-

Tuesday 14th December 2021, Vocal Zones Choir Christmas Carol concert from 7.30pm, including free nibbles and mulled wine.

Thursday 23rd December 2021, local singing talent Yazmin wood singing live from 7.30pm.

Friday 24th December 2021, open for Christmas Eve Breakfast from 9.30am and enjoy a free Bucks Fizz – Pre booking essential

Saturday 25th December 2021, come and enjoy a drink with the family on Christmas Day at the local village pub – we are open from 11.30am - 3pm

Friday 31st December 2021, open for NYE Breakfast from 9.30am and enjoy a free Bucks Fizz – Pre booking essential

Saturday 1st January 2022, welcome in the NY with one of our fantastic home cooked New Year's Day Roasts – booking essential.

We would like to thank everyone in the village who has supported the pub over the last 20 months and we are looking forward to the New Year with great anticipation. The pub will see further investment in the spring with a car park clean up and the bottom of the garden being landscaped all ready for the summer months and alfresco dining.

The team at The Queens Head wish you a very merry Christmas and a prosperous 2022.

SESAW

Here we are in December and it's time to thank all the wonderful people who have supported SESA W in so many different ways over the last twelve months. Those who care for the animals, carry out maintenance, organise fundraising, donate handmade or purchased items, visit our stalls at outside events to mention but a few. Your efforts ensure the charity continues to care for animals in need. We hope to hold sales again in 2022, assuming no Covid restrictions prevent it. Please leave a message on our answerphone or email if you would like to help at events. Applicants to help with animal care are also welcome if you can commit to one morning a week.

We do not rehome animals over the Christmas period so we will be closed from 10th December to 10th January 2022, except for emergencies. One last big thank you to the Editor for giving us a voice. Season's greetings to all our readers from my feline friend, Ollie and me, Kenny (the Boss) Chihuahua.



WEST BERGHOLT PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Chris Stevenson chair@westbergholt.net
 Vice Chairs: Harry Stone Brian Butcher
 RFO: Andrew Savage
 Councillors: Jenny Church Joel Fayers Bob Tyrrell Vacancy
 John Gili-Ross David Short Vacancy

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, Laura Walkingshaw, 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 Committee	Environment Committee	Planning Committee
finance@westbergholt.net	environment@westbergholt.net	planning@westbergholt.net

Other Useful Contacts:

Village Hall Administrator: Victoria Beckwith-Cole 07434 949631 hall-admin@westbergholt.net
 Webmaster: Dave Kingaby dave@kingserv.org

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

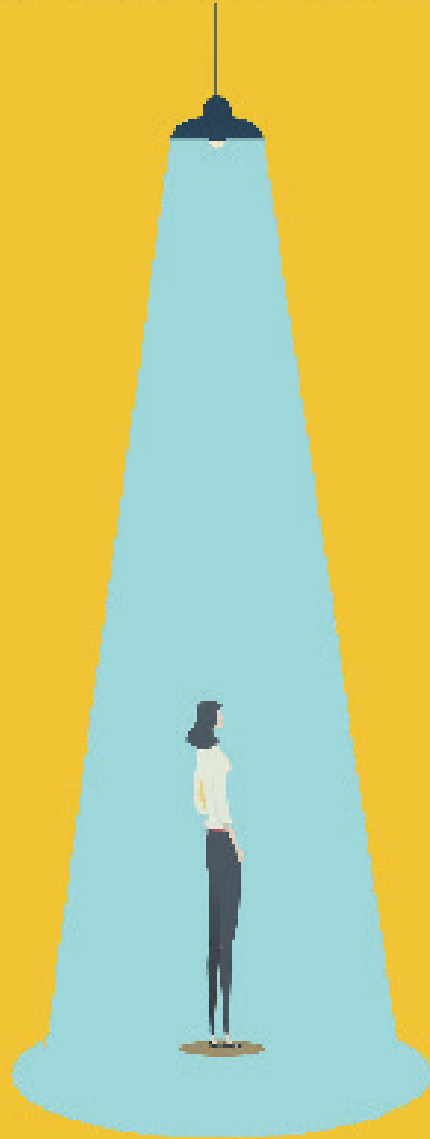
A summer photo of Arthur Farthing and his daughter, Debbie, kindly taken by fellow allotment holder Steve.

Arthur has lived in the village all his life and has had an allotment for over 50 years. He is now 88 and continues to maintain his large plot with huge enthusiasm and only minimal help from Debbie!



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