

Issue 172

Summer 2023

Village Bulletin



Inside...

The King's representative in Essex

Vocal Zones Choir

& A royal garden party



A Royal Garden Party

A wonderful picture of well known and respected village resident Mervyn Donnelly at Buckingham Palace. Mervyn was nominated to the Cabinet Office as part of their request for those deserving of COVID 19 honours. His citation read along the lines - for co-ordinating community response, leading volunteers by example, a key co-ordinator right from the start of the pandemic through to organising voluntary support for booster vaccination clinics.

In Mervyn's own words:

'It was an unexpected, but a wonderful surprise to receive an invitation to attend in May a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace and represent the many volunteers in our community. Unfortunately, within excess of over 30 organisations using volunteers to support various activities which enrich our community, they are too numerous to mention. A big 'thank you' to those who contributed to my nomination.

Albeit, having to attend in a wheelchair, due to a double fracture in my leg, it did not distract from the splendour of the occasion, visiting the gardens, meeting other volunteers from many other communities across England or the highlight of meeting and speaking with members of the Royal Family.

Members of the Royal family attending on the day included the Prince and Princess of Wales, the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester, The Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh and the Princess Royal.

On the day I had the good fortune to spend sometime chatting with HRH Prince of Wales, Prince William who asked me to convey his best wishes all those who actively volunteer their time in support of our community, whilst in addition to posing for the picture above for the Village Bulletin (L-R HRH Prince of Wales, Prince William, Graham Scott (Proprietor Lexden Executive Cars) and myself in the chair. Apart from HRH Princess of Wales, Princess Kate, I had the good fortune to meet and speak with all other members of the Royal Family attending.

In all, it was a most memorable occasion to represent my community and not something I had ever contemplated in my lifetime."

Congratulations Mervyn, a well deserved day of rest!

Brian Butcher
Chair West Bergholt Parish Council





Hello...

Don't look now but I think the sun's making a comeback! After a rather rainy Coronation weekend in May, it's now that time of year when the flowers are in full bloom, fetes are taking place and you can wander through the woods again without falling into a muddy bog, never to be seen again!

A more compact Bulletin is coming to you this month, with updates on the village's Coronation celebrations and many other events taking place over the next few months.

With the summer finally on its way, I think it's time to grab a good book and start to enjoy the garden!

Until next time...

Jacqui

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Hall Booking Information

Orpen Hall (up to 150 people) & **John Lampon Hall** (up to 50 people). Contact westbergholthall@gmail.com

Social Club Room (during the day only). Contact westbergholthall@gmail.com

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

Scout Hut Contact Kevin Sturdy kevinsturdy@aol.com

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Deadline for entries: 1st August 2023
Deadline for advertising: 1st August 2023

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River Stour Trust

Spring is nearly here so what better way to celebrate than a visit to Constable Country and a boat trip on the river operated by members of the RST? A registered charity, run by volunteers, the Trust came into being over forty years ago when the then Anglian Water Authority attempted to remove navigation rights. The current major project for RST is the renovation of Dedham lock to bring it back into a working condition. This is a significant project requiring erosion protection as well as replacement of the lock gates.

So why not include a visit to Flatford, maybe just for a walk or take a trip on the river? Bring your family, your visitors, and yes, even your dog. Groups can also charter the boat for family and

friends, outings or part of a birthday or other celebration.

More information and contact details can be found on the Trust's website - www.riverstourtrust.org

We welcome new members, volunteers and potential skippers, anyone with a love of the countryside and the great outdoors. If you like the idea of becoming a skipper, taking people out on trips or helping out in any way, then please get in touch. Our skipper training programme begins in the spring each year and on completion you will be qualified as an Inland Waterways accredited skipper; after training you are free to give as much or as little time as you would like.

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JOB ADVERTISEMENT

Village Hall Caretaker

A Caretaker is required for the Orpen Hall Complex, West Bergholt. The role is a permanent position, based at the Orpen Memorial Hall, for 6 hours a week. Salary will be paid monthly at Local Government Scale SCP 9, £12.02 per hour, with holiday entitlement and pension scheme.

Applicants must be able to work responsibly and flexibly. It is essential that the successful applicant can work on their own and use their initiative. They would also be expected to undertake any necessary training, such as health & safety.

For further details please contact the Parish Clerk by e-mail to clerk@westbergholt-pc.gov.uk or on 07726 424419.

Closing date for letters of application is **15th June 2023**, with interviews being arranged shortly after closure.

Tom Bowdidge Foundation



This Spring we are asking you to “Give the Gift of a Brighter Future” to teenagers and young adults living with cancer.

Not only will you be giving a brighter future to young people with cancer, but also a future to bees, wildlife, and the environment.

We have teamed up with the company Beebombs, who are kindly donating bags of their wildflower seeds to everyone who signs up to be one of our regular monthly donors.



Your regular gift of £5, £10, £15, £50, £100 or more a month will go towards supporting our young cancer patients, through our Care Support Packages, Age-Appropriate Rooms and Spaces in local and national hospitals, or to help fund our Research project, that specifically focuses on teenage cancers.

As a thank you for your monthly gift you will receive:

- Your very own handmade, native bag of Beebombs to sow during the Spring or Autumn
- A special hand drawn thank you print to frame, courtesy of the very talented artist Lienne Nicholl from Posy Lavenham
- Regular updates on how your donation is changing lives

What is in my Beebomb?

Beebombs are handmade in Dorset. Each pack contains hundreds of seeds and 18 species of wildflowers. The seeds are mixed with clay powder and locally sourced, unfortified soil. The clay supports and protects the seeds whilst they germinate and spreads them as it breaks down under watering.

Seedballs are an ancient method of farming that is less destructive to the wildlife buried in your garden, less labour intensive and increases germination rates.

You can sign up here <https://www.tombowdidgefoundation.org/bee-part-of-our-brighter-future-appeal/>

Thank you so much.



Orpen Players

Due to illness we had to cancel our spring production "You Had Me from Hello."

We were of course very disappointed to do so, but had no alternative, and apologise for any inconvenience this may have caused.

Details of our Autumn production "Shelia's Island" a play by Tim Firth (Calendar Girls), will appear in the next Village Bulletin.

We are always pleased to welcome new members, so if you would like to get involved in any way please email us orpenmembership@outlook.com we would love to hear from you



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BYG

This year has flown past and the summer break is fast approaching. We will then return in early September when we welcome the new "year 6" pupils, most of whom will have (hopefully) taken advantage of, and thoroughly enjoyed, the year 5 taster session we will be running as part of our last Club evening on Friday 14th July, where we plan to once again have the inflatables out.

During the year we have seen record membership with an average attendance of 75 children. As always a big thank you to all our volunteers who help make BYG a success - we will of course be looking for extra parent helpers from the new intake in September to add to the rota.

For information and updates please see our Facebook page: [Bergholtyouthgroup](https://www.facebook.com/Bergholtyouthgroup), or contact our Club leader Jamie Bowden on 07581 202960



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Friends of St Mary's Old Church

The Old Church perhaps looks its best in the Spring with the many flowers that have been planted by the Friends showing their best. There are several events planned for the forthcoming months for your diaries.

Sunday 11th June, the Comrie Singers will be holding a concert at the church. Tickets at the door with free refreshments.

Sunday 9th July there will be a summer songs of praise service with free refreshments.

Saturday 16th September there will be a dance at the Orpen Hall with music by live band Abbey Road.

Sunday 26th November will see the annual Mulled Wine and mince pies available along with a concert by the Octavia Singers.

Sunday 17th December is the Annual Village Candle Carol Service.

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.

Further details: fosmochurch@gmail.com

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West Bergholt Band

West Bergholt Band started their 45th anniversary with a hugely enjoyable concert at Clacton's West Cliff Theatre, with highlights including "Hollywood Milestones", "Let It Be", "My Fair Lady" and solos from some of the band's fine young musicians. The band has a long association with the theatre so were delighted to be performing there again and to raise over £700 for Parkinson's UK.



Shortly afterwards the band held another of their popular schools workshops & concerts, which enable us to encourage young musicians and to keep the band's renowned mix of all ages. As always the evening was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone who took part, with music including Star Wars, Pokemon, Benny Goodman, Ravel's Bolero impressively performed by over 65 musicians playing traditional brass & woodwind instruments.

For the band's summer concert, which is in memory of a long standing bandmember who passed away in January, the band will be playing a concert of "Jazz to the Classics" at St Peter ad Vincula in Coggeshall on Saturday 15th July at 730pm. The programme includes music from Dvorak, Prokofiev & Shostakovich alongside Count Basie, Gershwin, Peggy Lee & The Andrews Sisters. We're also hoping to be able to perform in the village at the end of June, so keep an eye on both our & the village's websites & social media for details.

As always the band remains open to Brass & Woodwind musicians of all ages and abilities, and is a fun & friendly way to make music and improve your playing. Anyone can come and try Training Band (Grades 1-4), Concert Band (Grade 4+) or both, and we can even send you links to practice copies of the music. For more information on the band please visit the band's website (www.wbcband.org) or email us at (Conductor@wbcband.org).



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West Bergholt Local History Group

The History Group Members have enjoyed several talks over the past few months, starting in September with "ESSEX LIGHTS Keeping Sailors Safe at Sea" by Peter Jones, a local speaker and a member of the group. The next month, Steve Pollington, whose speciality is the Anglo-Saxon period, came to tell us about "Sutton Hoo?" and then kindly returned in March to speak on "The Prittlewell Prince" the little-known excavation at Southend.

Norman Jacobs spoke about "Colchester 1880 – 1980" and the changes over that time and we began the New Year with local resident Martin Long, whose subject was the founding and running of "Ipswich Transport Museum". The group had visited the museum in 2019 but covid had prevented the long-promised talk from Martin but it was well worth the wait. In February, Pip Wright came to tell us about "History Through Newspapers" bringing several interesting books he had written.

We are fortunate that all the speakers proved to be good ones with interesting subjects which means that West Bergholt Local History Group is finishing on a high note as sadly this is the end. The group has been going in its present form since 1999 but now ill health has brought about its closure and despite many appeals no-one has volunteered to take over the running of it. We have decided to keep the bank account for the next few months just in case someone comes forward and we can offer all help and advice as required. Please contact wbllocalhistorygroup@gmail.com if you can assist.

Local history groups are: Lexden history lexdenhistory@outlook.com and Boxted History Group, chairman Keith Middleton 01206 272774 both groups would be pleased to hear from you if you would like to attend their meetings.

West Bergholt Allotments

After such a wet and cold spell of weather, we've now got some sunshine to dry up the soil - long may it continue! The early potatoes are now all in and the broad beans coming on well. Most of the allotments are in full swing. If you want to go on the waiting list, please send your details to wballotments@gmail.com

The Charity stall is open again and has already had donations of early rhubarb, which disappear very quickly as it is so popular. Other spare crops and seeds are welcome, as well as any gardening related items, but no electricals please. Any items on the stall can be taken in return for a donation, which should be placed in the box. Your generosity over the years has resulted in our ability to distribute some money to help local causes and for this we are very grateful. We still have some funds available to help local groups with specific projects - if you have a project needing support, please contact the above email address and your application will be considered by the committee.

The growing season is well underway so we are looking forward to a good harvest after the generous donation of manure last autumn from Neil Pulford. Thanks again, Neil.

Lynda Robinson



The King's representative in Essex joins the West Bergholt Annual Parish Meeting

West Bergholt Parish Council hosted the Annual Parish Meeting on Wednesday 26 th April 2023 in the local Orpen Memorial Hall and were honoured to welcome His Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Essex Mrs Jennifer Tolhurst. She is the first woman to be appointed to the office in the county since it was established in the 1500s, and she is His Majesty the King's personal representative in Essex.

Cllr. Brian Butcher, Chair of West Bergholt Parish Council welcomed His Majesty's Lord Lieutenant to the village, and to the Annual Parish Meeting, along with the Parish Council and the local residents.

Whilst at the meeting HM Lord Lieutenant unveiled a print of a portrait by local artist Richard Stone of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Also on display was a cross stitch celebration of the King's Coronation by lifelong resident Eileen Brown. The meeting was very well attended and along with other guest speakers from Anti-Essex Pylons Campaigner Rosie Pearson, three Essex Police Representatives of Colchester's Community Policing Team, and Roger Smith from Essex & Herts Air Ambulance, the evening was deemed a great success.



DISTRIBUTORS NEEDED

Could you help to deliver the Village Bulletin?

We're currently in need of more volunteers to distribute the quarterly magazine around the village.

If you feel you could help, please contact Victoria Beckwith-Cole 07434 949631 westbergholthall@gmail.com

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West Bergholt Gardeners

As the days lengthened and warmer weather approached, our final meeting for the 2022/2023 programme in May was an evening going "Around the World in 80 Plants", guided by Jaime Blake from Bressingham Gardens. This rounded up another varied and successful series of talks which had covered topics such as gardening with climate change, the dos and don'ts of winter gardening and plant growing using containers, plus presentations on snowdrops (so many varieties) and the numerous gardens in East Anglia open for us to visit. Not forgetting, of course, our popular Christmas quiz evening.

There was also a visit to Utling Wick Gardens in April to view the beautiful tulip display there and in June trips are planned to RHS Wisley in

Surrey and Blunts Hall in Witham. These organised excursions are always very popular and one more advantage to being a member of Gardeners!

Although during the summer months gardeners will be busy in their own gardens, the Committee have already compiled the 2023/2024 programme to take us through next winter, so our evening meetings will start again in September with the AGM and a talk on "Greener Gardening" by Ruth Goudy.

Our meetings are informal and friendly and we always welcome new members to join us in the Orpen Hall at 7.15 pm on the third Monday of the month (September to May). For more information, email: wbgardeners@gmail.com or telephone Terry Claydon on 01206 241256.



West Bergholt Surgery


Following patient feedback we have recently purchased a music licence so that the radio can be played in the waiting room and completed some additional sound proofing for our consulting room 1.

We have been contacting patients who are suitable for the Spring Covid vaccination programme. This is only eligible to a select group of patients and we will make contact with you to arrange an appointment.

We are working hard on our Long Term Condition monitoring (historically known as MOT's). If you have a condition such as asthma, COPD, a Learning Disability or require monitoring for your thyroid you will be routinely contacted the month before your birth month to arrange a routine review. This is a new process for the Practice and we are working to make this

as efficient for everyone as possible. Dr Chowhan would like to extend his thanks to the Parish Council, and those who attended the Parish Council meeting in January, for the opportunity to explain the changes that have taken place at West Bergholt Surgery.

Pilates Classes 2023



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St Mary's Parish Church

LAUNCHING IN JUNE - Café @ St Mary's – on the First Saturday of the month, in the church hall between 10am-12 midday, where for a small charge (to cover costs) you can enjoy hot drinks, squash, bacon butties and cakes. There will be board games and a craft activity for children, as well as newspapers to read. The dates for the next few months are 3rd June and 1st July (and provisionally 5 August). All are welcome, including families dropping in after football training!

We are passionate about connecting with and serving our local community, and are very pleased to be able to offer other regular



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events in the church hall to which all are warmly invited:

- Open house coffee & cake morning – Thursdays 9-11am (term time). Pre-school children welcome!
- 5T's senior citizens social group – quizzes & refreshments – Thursdays 2.30-4pm
- Food in School Holidays Club (FiSH for short!), providing a hot meal for families alongside lots of fun craft activities and games. The sessions are free and open to all families, but for catering purposes it is helpful if you book with the parish office (01206 243683 or lwb.wb.gh.parishes@gmail.com). Children must be accompanied by an adult please. Dates for the next ones are: Friday 2nd June (half-term), Monday 24th July, 7th, 14th & 21st August, and Friday 1st September.



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All this is alongside our regular worship in Church, every Sunday at 9.30am (except on a 5th Sunday when we visit one of our sister parishes for a joint service). All are welcome and activities for children are provided at all our services, including Messy Church. For details of all our services and events, please visit our website stmaryswestbergholt.co.uk or follow us on Facebook.

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VOCAL ZONES

VOCAL ZONES CHOIR is the local choir for West Bergholt and surrounding villages and has been established for 5 years. We sing weekly (term-time only) and try to perform a couple of times a year, usually at our Summer Fete and a Christmas Concert. We have a wide mixture of ages from 20 to mid-80's and have a wide range of vocals. We have a wonderful musical director, Emma Bishton, who just brings out the best in us. You don't have to live in the village, as long as you can get to rehearsals.



Our last public performance was our Coronation Celebration on Friday 5th May and was a full house.

We thoroughly enjoyed performing a mixture of contemporary songs from the 1960's up to modern day. They all went down very well, and the audience enjoyed singing along with us. Afterwards we all enjoyed a delicious buffet, wine and soft drinks.

If you like singing, why don't you come along and give us a try. You might even have been in the audience and think "I could do that"! There were certainly lots of happy, smiling faces singing along. You don't have to have a history of singing or be able to read music, and there are no auditions. It is amazingly uplifting, and it doesn't matter how tired you feel or if you've had a bad day, a good sing just makes it all better. And best of all, we have fun.

New members are always welcome, and you can come and have a "free" taster session to see if you like it. If you do join, the subs are £6 per week, payable half-termly in advance.

We meet every Tuesday from 7.00pm – 8.45pm at St Mary's Church. We hope to see you there. If you have any queries or would like any more information, please call Ann Long on 07596 017636 or Julia Richardson on 07775 896494

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WEST BERGHOLT PARISH COUNCIL



Parish Council Contacts:

Councillors:

Chair:	Brian Butcher cllr.butcher@westbergholt-pc.gov.uk			
Vice Chairs:	Harry Stone			
RFO:	Andrew Savage			
Councillors:	Manya Barrow	Sara Cullis	John Gili-Ross	
	James Owers	Katie Pulford	David Short	

Parish Council meetings are held at the Orpen Hall every fourth Wednesday of each month except August and December, at 7.30pm 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 clerk@westbergholt-pc.gov.uk or telephone the Clerk on 07726 424419. 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 & Advisory Committee	Environment & Highways Committee	Planning & Development Committee
cllr.savage@westbergholt-pc.gov.uk	cllr.giliross@westbergholt-pc.gov.uk	cllr.tyrrell@westbergholt-pc.gov.uk
Andrew Savage (Chair) Brian Butcher John Gili-Ross Harry Stone Bob Tyrrell	John Gili-Ross (Chair) Manya Barrow James Owers David Short Harry Stone Katie Pulford	Bob Tyrrell (Chair) Brian Butcher Andrew Savage Sara Cullis

Other Useful Contacts:

Clerk to the Parish Council:	Laura Walkingshaw	07726 424419 clerk@westbergholt-pc.gov.uk
Village Hall Administrator:	Victoria Beckwith-Cole	07434 949631 westbergholthall@gmail.com
Publicity Officer:	Sara Cullis	cllr.cullis@westbergholt-pc.gov.uk
Webmaster:	Dave Kingaby	westbergholtweb@gmail.com
Borough Councillors:	Cllr Lewis Barber	cllr.lewis.barber@colchester.gov.uk
	Cllr Sara Naylor	cllr.sara.naylor@colchester.gov.uk
	Cllr Dennis Willetts	cllr.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 <http://www.westbergholt-pc.gov.uk>

What's On

Sunday

Service of Worship, St Mary's Church
Bowls Club, 7.30pm Orpen Hall.
Contact John Rookard, 01206 626045

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Monday

Bluebells Preschool, 9.15am - 3.15pm, Orpen Hall.
Contact Jackie Leach 01206 241677
Baby & Toddler Group, 9.15-11.15am.
Term time only. St Mary's Church Hall.
Kelly's HIIT, 9.30am, Scout Hut.
Contact Kelly 07453 859583
Dance4health, 11.30am, Scout Hut.
WB Cubs, 6.30pm-8pm Scout Hut.
Contact Kevin Sturdy 01206 240549
Gardeners Association, 7.30pm 3rd Monday.
Contact Terry Claydon 01206 241256
Orpen Players, 8pm Orpen Hall.

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Tuesday

Bluebells Preschool, 9.15am - 3.15pm,
Orpen Hall.
Contact Jackie Leach 01206 241677
Pilates, 6pm, Orpen Hall.
Contact fleur.parks@gmail.com
Kelly's HIIT, 6.30pm & 7.30pm, Scout Hut.
Contact Kelly 07453 859583
Vocal Zones Choir, 7pm, St Mary's Church Hall.
Contact Ann 07596 071636 or Julia 07775896494
Badminton Club, 8pm-10pm Orpen Hall.
Contact Ian Hersey 01206 243378/07754140707

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Wednesday

Bluebells Preschool, 9.15am - 1.15pm, Orpen Hall.
Contact Jackie Leach 01206 241677
Kelly's HIIT, 9.30am, Scout Hut.
Contact Kelly 07453 859583
Ladies Afternoon Badminton, 2.15pm - 3.45pm
Orpen Hall. Contact Kathy Bamforth at
kathy.bamforth@gmail.com
WB Beavers, 5pm - 6.15pm, Scout Hut.
Contact Kevin Sturdy 01206 240549
Women's Institute, 1st Wednesday, 7.15pm,
Orpen Hall.
Contact Jacqui Hunns 01206 240712
WB Scouts, 7.30pm - 9.30pm, Scout Hut.
Contact Kevin Sturdy 01206 240549

Colne Valley Flower Club, 3rd Wednesday,
7.30pm, Orpen Hall. Contact 01206 241155
Parish Council Meeting, 4th Wednesday, 7.30pm,
John Lampon Hall
Pilates, 7 - 8pm, John Lampon Hall.
Contact fleur.parks@gmail.com

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Thursday

Open House, 9.00 -11.00am (in term time),
St Mary's Church Hall
Bluebells Preschool, 9.15am - 3.15pm, Orpen Hall.
Contact Jackie Leach 01206 241677
5T's, 2.30pm-4pm Weekly, St Mary's Church Hall.
Kelly's HIIT, 6.30pm, Heathlands School.
Contact Kelly 07453 859583
WB Guides, 7 - 9pm, Scout Hut.
Bowls Club, 7.30pm Orpen Hall.
Contact John Rookard 01206 626045
Colchester & District Model Railway Club, 8pm,
Armoury Farm.
Contact www.colchestermrc.org

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Friday

Bluebells Preschool, 9.15am - 3.15pm, Orpen Hall.
Contact Jackie Leach 01206 241677
Kelly's HIIT, 9.30am, Scout Hut.
Contact Kelly 07453 859583
WB Concert Band, 6pm-7pm (Training) 7pm-9pm
(Band), Heathlands School.
Contact Karen Wilson 01206 824157
WB Cubs, 6.30pm-8.00pm, Scout Hut.
Contact Kevin Sturdy 01206 240549
Bergholt Youth Group (BYG), Alternate Friday,
6.30pm-8pm, John Lampon Hall.
Jamie Bowden 07581 202960
Wired, 1st Friday, 7pm-9pm, St. Mary's Church
Hall.
Contact Mark Partridge 01206 241617
Orpen Players, 8pm Orpen Hall.
Debbie Hornigold 01206 242111

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Saturday

NEEGOG Model Railway Club, 2nd Saturday,
2pm, St Mary's Church Hall.
Contact Martin Long 01206 240443
Kelly's HIIT, 9am, Daniel Lorkin Field.
Contact Kelly 07453 859583