

Issue 171
Spring 2023

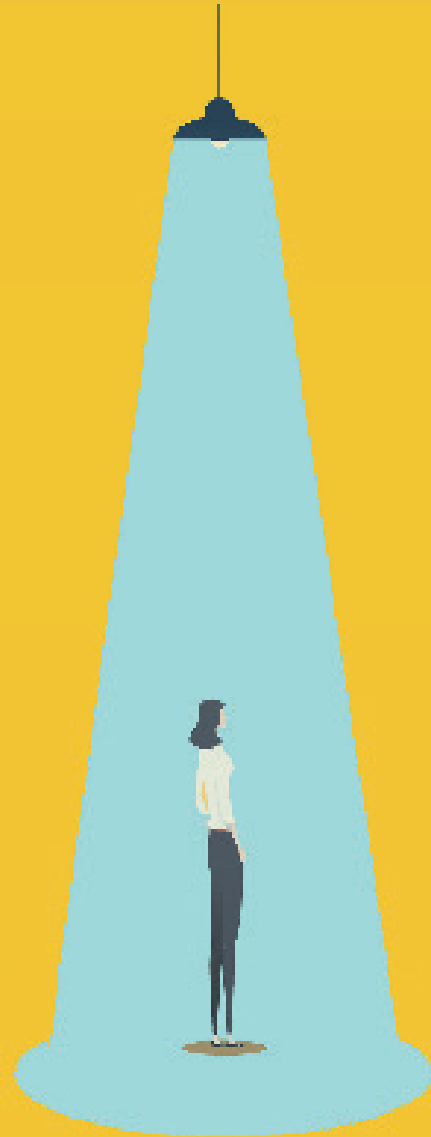
Village Bulletin



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Hello...

Finally Spring is here! It's time to crawl out from hibernation and hopefully enjoy slightly warmer temperatures, although this is the UK, so you never can be too sure!

We have a lot of news from the Parish Council in this issue, as well as lots of upcoming events from the Orpen Players in their new romantic comedy, 'You had me from hello'.

There are also plenty of upcoming fundraising opportunities from the Tom Bowdidge Foundation, including the annual bunny hunt over Easter, which is always great fun.

With the blossoms blooming, the sun starting to make more of a warmer appearance and more events taking place, spring has certainly hit the village!

Jacqui

Inside...

●	SESAY	5
●	Springwood Open Day	7
●	BYG	7
●	Parish Council News	8
●	Girl Guides	11
●	Colne Valley Flower Club ..	11
●	Woods Bowls Club	13
●	Vocal Zones Choir	13
●	Parish Council News	14
●	WB Concert Band	16
●	Tom Bowdidge Foundation...	17
●	St Mary's Old Church	18
●	WB Gardeners	18
●	WB Allotments	19
●	Worssearch.....	19
●	St Mary's Church	20
●	Orpen Players	21

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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

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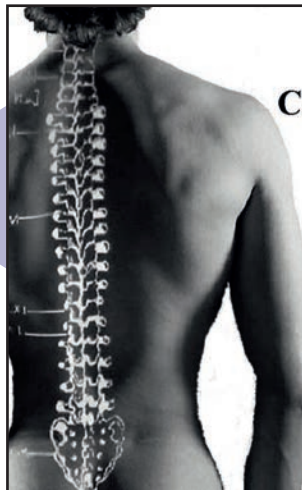
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SESAW

Each year, happy owners often return with ex-SESAW dogs for a Christmas visit. One of these catch-ups highlighted an issue which might interest readers so here is Carmen's story:

"Last year we were ready to open our hearts to another dog, having lost one in lockdown. We just missed one we liked at SESA W but were introduced to three Cocker Spaniels. Poor things, they were so scared and neglected, understandably after being used for breeding. We fell in love instantly and knew they were the dogs for us.

They came home where they are safe, cared for and very much loved but we noticed strangers giving us horrible looks when out on walks. We couldn't figure out why, but then it clicked. They saw the girls' low-hanging bellies, caused by having so many litters of puppies in their previous lives, and they were judging us for how they looked. It made us feel awful.

The moral is, please don't make assumptions based on how a dog may

look or act. Maybe, like ours, it didn't have the best start and the owner is trying to make a good life for their pet and help it heal from horrible past experiences. Our girls have come on so well since we've had them, but there is still a long way to go. So please don't judge a book by its cover, because you don't know what's happened on the inside."

Well said, Carmen. It's the same for canines like me. Many of my fans used to think little dogs were nasty and vicious until they met me, Kenny (the Boss) Chihuahua.

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



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Springwood Sun Club

Springwood Sun Club in Cook's Hall Road is having an Open Day for local residents on either 25th or 26th March (depending on the weather). Many people walk past the entrance every day, and many more know we exist, but aren't quite sure what goes on inside. The Open Day is intended to answer that question.

We are a naturist club. Naturism is enjoying the freedom of social nudity in a non-sexual environment. The format will be a short talk to explain more about what naturism is, and what naturism isn't, and to answer questions. This will be followed by a self guided tour of the grounds to see our private wood and sports facilities.

Springwood has been in existence since the 1950s, and we have 140 members. We come from all walks of life and fully appreciate the freedom and sense of well-being that naturism engenders.

The Open Day is to find out why naturism



Open Day

See what's inside a Naturist Club



springwoodsunclub.co.uk/open-day

is so popular internationally and is flourishing in the UK.

There won't be an opportunity to use the club facilities, rather this is a short visit to satisfy your curiosity. Visitors will remain clothed at all times. For more information and to book (free) visit our website: springwoodsunclub.co.uk/open-day



BYG has a record number of members this year, currently standing at 102. This could be as a result of the fun all the year 5's had at their 'taster day' as part of the final evening before the summer break, when an inflatable assault course was set up for all the children to enjoy - and enjoy they did! Huge numbers have continued to enjoy the Club evenings: 82 children had a wonderful time at the BYG Christmas party that took place in December, with both the disco and the food proving big hits and lots of hilarious images coming from the Strictly Photo Booth.

We are now into the new year with lots of exciting events planned in the coming months. Thanks and always to our wonderful volunteers who give up their time to help make BYG such a massive success.

For information and updates, please see our Facebook page: Bergholtyouthgroup, or contact our Club leader Jamie Bowden on 07581 202960.



WEST BERGHOLT PARISH COUNCIL

You'll most probably know the Parish Council, its Planning Committee and Environment Committees meet nearly every month throughout the year, but did you know all their minutes are on westbergholt.org and the Council meetings are open to all members of the public, to which you're all cordially invited? The Parish Council also manages as sole trustee, and is also responsible for meeting the rules of the Charity Commission, the Orpen Memorial Hall Trust, the Poors Land Trust, the New Allotments Trust, the Lorkin Daniell Field and the Village Green Trust.

Last year's achievements

There is not enough space in this Bulletin to tell you all that the Parish Council has achieved in the last year, but some of the fruits of our labours many of you will have seen around the village, including the zip wire on the Lorkin Daniell Field, the trees planted to the front of the Orpen Memorial Hall, the Lorkin Daniell and the Poors Land, the refurbishing of floors in the Orpen and John Lampon Hall, quizzes raising funds for the Red Cross Ukraine appeal, and all-inclusive play equipment on the Lorkin Daniell Field. Who can also forget the Jubilee Festival, with its free afternoon teas, the Spitfire flypast and of course the live music in the evening.

Getting funding

The Parish Council is always applying for grants and to a large extent the activities above were funded from grants received, such from the National

Lottery Community Fund to aid the payment of Jubilee Festival costs, from the Essex County Council Climate Action Challenge Fund to fund 85% of the costs of solar panels, which you'll not see as they are only accessible from the centre of the Orpen Hall roof (hoping as I write in January they will indeed be in place by the time you read this article), and from Enover Community Trust £50,000 of funding to upgrade the toilets within the Social Club, as well as building now to the rear for a disabled accessible toilet and baby changing facilities.

Day to day stuff

The majority of the day to day running costs for the Parish Council come via Colchester City Council, who collect via their Council tax demands the Villages's precept. This year, as we are all experiencing, costs are rising across the board and so with slight salary increases but primarily because of notable increases in tax, pension and national insurance contributions the Parish Council will be asking Colchester City Council for an increase of an average 32p per month per West Bergholt household for the next financial year. The Council's full budget for this year and last year's auditing accounts can readily be viewed on westbergholt.org, and if you've any queries please do email those to westbergholtpc@gmail.com

ECC Highways funding

Unfortunately we have had one set back during the year! Due to the removal of

a grant from Essex County Council in the last few months, you'll have seen little of the Council's handymen working on minor repairs to the highways around the village. We had been working with ECC on Highway Devolution projects for months, but without any notice it was terminated in April, but the Parish Council wasn't informed until September! That meant six month's work without reimbursement working on ECC assets removing dangerous branches, hedge trimming, street sign cleaning, spraying weeds, litter picking, grass cutting, etc. However, with the Council's excellent record of works, it didn't take long to put together a bill, which ECC nearly paid by return! Moving forward though a meeting should already have been had with ECC by the time you read this to sort out how we get back to doing this work. Watch this space!

Coming shortly

So to wrap up this brief run through, I thank you for your time and look forward to seeing you all at the Annual Parish meeting on 26th April 2023 in the Orpen Memorial Hall, when I hope you'll hear not only from your Parish Councillors but from the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner and Lord Lieutenant of Essex, both of whom have been invited to attend. Further inducements if needed will include free wine, beer and nibbles, with tea, coffee and biscuits!

Brian Butcher
Chair West Bergholt Parish Council



The Parish Council, Care Network, Social Club, Bluebells and Essex Police working together, meeting, chatting and drinking coffee on 30th January in the village's warm space, an enjoyable, educational and entertaining morning.

Brian Butcher
Chair
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We are the young leaders from 1st West Bergholt Guides, and we'd like to tell you a bit about what we do as a unit. We have all participated in the unit as guides and loved it so much we didn't want to leave, so now volunteer as young leaders.

Guides is for girls aged 10-14 and we are so lucky to have brilliant, caring leaders who help us all by organising and planning our varied weekly activities. Thursdays are the best day of the week, and we look forward to seeing our friends in a safe, welcoming and enjoyable space. We're constantly learning and can earn a wide variety of badges along the way through new experiences and fun activities within our unit.

The positive Guiding motto is "Guides can do anything" which is so true as we have been supported and encouraged out of our comfort zones on many occasions to try new challenges. Through fun, friendship and adventure Guides helps empower girls to find their voice, inspiring them to discover the best in themselves and to make a positive difference in our community.

As a Guide, you can learn and share new skills and explore a variety of different places and activities. Guides go on camps, where we play games, cook outside over open fires, learn about nature, teamwork and can be free to be ourselves.

At the end of last year, we had a trip to Chelmsford on the train to see the amazing Gaia Earth exhibition at Chelmsford Cathedral and we most recently had an outing to town for a fabulous New Year treat to Heavenly Desserts. In February we had two exciting events to look forward to, seeing the pantomime Aladdin performed by the Orpen Players and also taking part in a sleepover in Colchester Castle. During the summer we have the chance to attend a Braiswick District camp at Essex Outdoors in Mersea.

Guiding is a fantastic way to explore about so many topics such as science and technology in a fun and engaging way. It teaches us life skills and helps us develop an understanding of the issues that impact girls around the world.

We have made so many new friends, learnt skills and made memories with guides which we know we will carry with us for the rest of our lives.

Colne Valley Flower Club

On Wednesday March 15th, Jane Cowell and Janet Thorogood from Southminster will be demonstrating 'A Day in the Life'.

On Wednesday 19th April, Elizabeth Robinson from Ely is demonstrating 'My Family and Other Animals'.

Our meeting on the 17th May takes the form of an in house workshop. Members



are asked to bring along a 'Super Market Bunch' of their own choice, a dish and florist foam will be provided.

We meet at the Orpen Hall, West Bergholt on the third Wednesday of the month (not August or December). For any further information, contact Manya on 07759 331719 or Alison on 07792 387360.



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Wood Bowls Club

We are a fun & friendly Lawn Bowls club that is open to all ages and abilities throughout the spring & summer months of April to September.

New to Bowls?

Most people find bowls an easy sport to start playing, the basic skills are not too hard and it does not require any great physical strength or athletic ability. We welcome anyone that would like to give it a go and we give 50% off our standard membership fees in the first year.

What's happening in 2023?

Since we 'put the green to bed' in the Autumn, a team of willing volunteers have been working on the green every day (except for when we had snow on it!) to keep the worm casts down. Worm casts, if left, create 'bumps' on the green. We have a professional green keeper that helped in the Autumn with scarifying and other treatments, as well as re-seeding. He will be back in the spring and will do whatever is needed to ensure we have

the best green in the borough for 2023!



Like to have a go??

In conjunction with Bowls Englands' BOWLS BIG WEEKEND, our open day is Saturday 27th MAY from 12pm. There is no charge, all equipment will be supplied, just bring some flat shoes.

If you are interested but cannot make our open day, please call our club secretary on 01206 863854 and he will arrange a suitable time to meet you at the club.

Alternatively, email us at woodsbowlsclub@gmail.com. We are on Facebook 'Woods Bowls Club' and our website is www.hugofox.com/community/woods-bowls-club-8629/home.

We look forward to seeing you soon!



Welcome to 2023 and a new year of singing for Vocal Zones Choir. We started back on the 10th January after a short break for Christmas.

Our last public performance was our Christmas Celebration in December and was very well attended. We thoroughly enjoyed performing a mixture of traditional songs and carols, together with some modern Christmas hits. They all went down very well and the audience enjoyed singing along. Afterwards we had some social time with mince pies, wine and soft drinks.



If you like singing, why don't you come along and give us a try? 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. New members are always welcome and you can come and have a free taster session to see if you like it.

We meet every Tuesday during term time 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



WEST BERGHOLT PARISH COUNCIL

West Bergholt Dog Walking Code of Conduct 2023

You'll probably remember reading my pleas in the Autumn to keep your dogs off the Lorkin Daniel Field, which most dog owners have kindly heeded.

However, the Parish Council have thought it would be prudent to put in place a code of practice for dog walkers to cover all the green spaces West Bergholt Parish Council manage.



The Parish Council welcomes responsible dog owners to use their green spaces, but in the interests of all users of the facilities, the Council asks that dog walkers adhere

to its Code of Conduct below, and remember that the facilities are used by others, particularly children.

The 'Code of Conduct' for dog walkers using land owned by the Parish Council as sole Trustee, i.e., the Lorkin Daniell Playing Field, Poor's Land, Village Green and New Allotments is:

Village Green

Well behaved dogs on short leads are permitted.

(New) Allotments

Plot holder's dogs only are permitted, they are to be kept on the lead at all times and should not be allowed roam on or foul other plot holders sites.

Poors Land

Well behaved dogs can be allowed off the lead, however:

- Put your dog on a lead if it fails to come back promptly on command

or if it has a tendency to chase wildlife.

- Keep your dog in sight, as a dog out of sight may be a dog out of control.
- Put your dog on a lead when approaching children, school groups, joggers or cyclists.



Lorkin Daniell Playing Field

NO DOGS are permitted on the Lorkin Daniell playing field.

All Green Spaces

- Clear up after your dog. Always make sure you have a suitable bag with you – BAG IT, BIN IT.
- Use the dog bins provided – there are approximately 21 dog bins in the parish.
- Make sure your dog has an ID collar on at all times.
- Don't assume that everyone likes dogs – many people are fearful of dogs. Under Colchester City Council Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO), dog owners are required to clear up after their dogs in publicly accessible areas. Failure to do this could result in a fixed penalty charge of £100 or a fine in court of up to £1,000.

To report issues of dog fouling in confidence, please contact Colchester City Council via email : customerservices@colchester.gov.uk or telephone 01206 282581.

West Bergholt Parish Council's contact details:

Laura Walkingshaw, Parish Clerk

Email: westbergholtpc@gmail.com

Telephone: 07726 424419



WEST BERGHOLT PARISH COUNCIL

Parish councillors, elections and voter ID

West Bergholt Parish Council is fortunate to be an eleven seat council and currently has eleven sitting councillors. However, on 4th May 2023 all eleven seats are up for re-election. To be a West Bergholt parish councillor you have to be a British or Commonwealth citizen, be at least eighteen years old and either registered to vote in West Bergholt or have lived here for a year. There are more reasons why you can't be councillor but the full eligibility criteria is available on the Electoral Commission website.



Whilst all elected councillors receive training to help them fulfil their roles, being a councillor is more about giving back to the community by bringing passion and energy, to seek to make a real difference to West Bergholt and wider society. So, if you fancy standing watch out for the Notice of Election from Colchester City Council with dates, nomination paper, advice, etc.

This year for the first time in the U K, all voters that attend the Polling Station,

being the Orpen Memorial Hall in West Bergholt, must have photo I D. Such can be your passport, driving licence, bus pass, etc, even if it's expired as long as it is still a suitable likeness. There is a full list of the forms of photo I D that can be used on the Electoral Commission website.

Don't worry if you do not have photo I D because you can apply for a free Voter Authority Certificate by visiting electoral-commission.org.uk/voterID. All voters must show their photo ID to get a voting paper - no ID no vote - so please ensure you have one. There is no change to the way you can use postal votes. As to the reasons for photo I D the Elections Act 2022 introduced such, the parish council elections in May being the first since the legislation was given Royal Assent.

Of course, if only eleven people or less put themselves forward to be a West Bergholt Parish councillor there will be no election on the 4th May 2023 (between 0700 and 2200 at the Orpen Hall), but please do ensure you are registered to vote and have your photo ID ready as who knows when the next general election may be!

*Brian Butcher
Chair West Bergholt Parish Council*



West Bergholt Concert & Training Band



2022 ended on a high for West Bergholt Concert Band & Training Band, with a wonderful Christmas Concert with Heathlands School Choir, proving to be one of our most memorable concerts ever. We all enjoyed it so much we've already booked to do it again this year.

Prior to that, we were delighted to hold our first post-Covid schools event, with the band joined by musicians from the Gilberd School for a concert themed around Heroes & Villains, with music from Batman, Star Wars, Raiders, Pirates, and many more. As well as being great fun, these events help to recruit young players into the band to maintain the balance of all ages which is key to the band's success.

As well as being another busy year for the band, 2023 marks our 45th anniversary, and we're starting our celebrations with a "Bolero to the Big Bands" concert at Clacton's West Cliff Theatre at 3pm on Sunday 5th March.

It's a venue with which we have a

long association and are blessed with a large and interactive audience, so we're very much looking forward to it, and to playing our usual wide range of music from the Big Bands, Musicals, Films, Pop, Classics and Marches. Tickets are available from the theatre box office, with proceeds being donated to Parkinson's UK.

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).

DISTRIBUTORS NEEDED

Could you help to deliver the Village Bulletin?

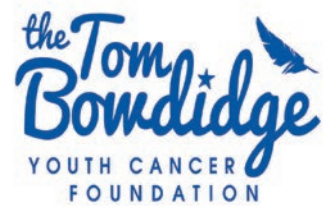
We're currently in need of more volunteers to distribute the quarterly magazine around the village.

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



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Tom Bowdidge Foundation



Spring is finally here and with the hope of warmer weather to focus on, hopefully things will feel a bit better for all of us.

The Foundation has been inundated this winter, with requests for help as the cost-of-living crisis started to take control. For a family with a child living with cancer, times have been dreadful. What used to be an extra cost of £650 per month has now risen to over £730.

Our focus over the coming months will be to fundraise as much as possible to meet these extra demands. And this is where you could play your part.

Do you fancy signing up for a personal challenge this year? Maybe your workplace is looking for a charity to support and you could put us forward to be the charity of the year. Or perhaps you are part of a community group that is looking for a speaker to come and talk about the work of the Foundation. Or maybe you would like to become a monthly donor.

There are so many ways you

can get involved, whatever your age or ability. Please email fundraising@tombowdidgefoundation.org and we will get in contact to discuss this further.

Here are some dates for your diaries of events already planned: -

11th March – Colchester Young Farmers Muck Run

Easter Holidays – West Bergholt Bunny Hunt

17th June - Wild Forest 5K challenge

5th July - Annual Golf Day at Benton Hall

9th July - Nayland 10k

7th October – Skydive at Beccles Airfield

3rd December – Santa Paws Dog Walk

Remember you can keep up to date with all the news by following the Foundation on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram or check out the website www.tombowdidgefoundation.org.

TakeAway West Bergholt!

Maria's kitchen

Mondays from 6pm
Queen's Head Car Park

Cha Cha Pizza Co

Thursdays 4.30 - 8pm
Orpen Hall

White Gold Fish & Chips

Fridays 4 - 9pm
Opposite the Co-Op

Duke's Seafood

Every other Friday from 3rd March, 1.30 - 3pm
Orpen Hall

Friends of St Mary's Old Church

The Mulled Wine and Village Christmas Carol service were both well attended and thanks are due to our Rector Heather for making the Carol Service a lovely traditional occasion. It is great that villagers today still follow the footsteps of their forbears and tramp across the fields to celebrate the Christmas season.

There are more events planned for the summer and these will be detailed in the next issue. We also have a Wedding to look forward to which again are always happy and delightful occasions both for the participants and the Friends who are delighted to see the church used for such memorable occasions.

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 from Martin Long, 01206 240443

*Martin Long
Chairman
Friends of St Mary's Old Church*



West Bergholt Gardeners

Despite the cold and icy weather, our annual Christmas Quiz evening in December was a very enjoyable and successful event. Members and their guests were treated to wine, refreshments and a challenging and entertaining quiz to finish 2022 on a cheerful note.

The first meeting of this year was on 20th February and was about the "Dos and Don'ts for February Gardening", when Mike Lavelle, a lecturer from Writtle College, gave lots of information and advice on how to prepare our gardens in readiness for Spring.

Our next meeting on 20th March will be a presentation on the "Gardens of East Anglia" by Simon White from Peter Beales Roses, followed by Sue Sharman from Garden Art Design giving advice on "Container Gardening" on 17th April.

The final meeting of the current programme will be on 15th May, when we will be going "Around the World in 80 Plants" under the guidance of Jaime Blake from Bressingham Gardens.

In April and June, we have visits planned to Uttling Wick and Wisley, and although members have priority booking if there is spare availability we will open these to guests later.

Meetings are held in the Orpen Hall at 7.30pm and guests are welcome to join us (£5 on the door) but we are offering a reduced membership of £10 for new members who join for the remainder of the 2022/2023 programme.

For more information, contact Terry Claydon: email: wbgardeners@gmail.com or telephone: 01206 241256.

West Bergholt Allotments

After complaining last year about the drought, autumn has been the complete opposite and the ground is still sodden with rain. Hopefully it will dry up soon and we can get digging in preparation for the new season.

We have been fortunate this year in attracting 2 new members to the committee - Phil Harris and Julie Vestey. Both have shown great willingness to get involved in the running of the allotments and we are very pleased they have decided to join the committee, even though they were both new allotment holders last year. As always, as allotmenters, if you have any comments or queries about what is happening on the site, please don't hesitate to contact one of the committee members.

As the rhubarb is already starting to grow, the Charity stall will reopen at the beginning of March for remaining winter produce only and the new season's rhubarb. Nothing says spring is on its way like the first stalks of rhubarb for delicious crumbles and pies.

Vehicles will still not be allowed on site until the end of March to protect the track from rutting, especially as the weather has been so wet.

At present all the plots are taken, but there are usually a few changes at the start of the season so if you want to go on the waiting list, please email wballotments@gmail.com with your contact details.

We are looking forward to bumper harvests this year after all the manure donated at the end of the year has worked it's magic.

There are still some funds from the Charity Stall available for local groups for projects . Please contact the above email address if you are interested in getting some help.

Lynda Robinson

Spring Wordsearch

C	R	I	S	P	A	Z	P	T
J	F	F	L	O	W	E	R	I
B	L	O	S	S	O	M	G	L
U	H	A	B	L	O	O	M	B
N	D	A	F	F	O	D	I	L
N	F	L	O	W	E	R	N	A
Y	W	Q	E	G	G	S	M	M
R	E	V	I	V	A	L	P	B

Bunny
Blossom
Eggs
Daffodil
Lamb
Bloom
Revival
Flower
Crisp

St Mary's Parish Church

It was wonderful to welcome so many people to our Christmas services, despite the very cold weather! We have some good news about the church heating: the hall heaters have been replaced and a decision reached on how best to replace the broken heaters in the main church. Plans to rebuild the Church Hall are also progressing and have reached the planning application stage.

We look forward to welcoming you to our Lent and Easter Services. There will be a number of events including an All-Age Mothering Sunday Service on Sunday 19th March at 9.30am, and an Easter Day Celebration Service at 9.30am on Sunday 9th April, including an Easter Egg Hunt. Please look out for more details on our website stmaryswestbergholt.co.uk and Facebook pages in March and April.

On 19th January, Anne Mason was licensed as Associate Priest to the 6 parishes. Anne has already been working in the parishes for the last 3 years as a curate and will continue to work alongside Heather and

the rest of the ministry team. If you have questions about the Christian Faith, Heather and Anne are always willing to have a chat. Please get in touch via the parish office.



Looking for things to do with your children during school holidays? Last year we launched FiSH, (Food in School Holidays), but it's nothing to do with eating fish! FiSH provides 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 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. Details of the Easter holiday sessions will be circulated on Facebook and through Heathlands School nearer the time.



In November, we welcomed two new members, making a total of 64. Donations of food and money were given during our Harvest Supper. Gill Tyrrell kindly delivered it all to the Colchester Food Bank, with food weighing in at 69kg. The money purchased more expensive items of tea, coffee and cooking oil.

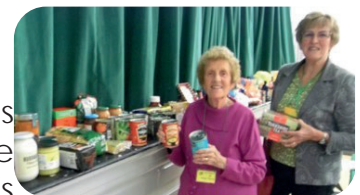
Our speaker was John Worland with his fascinating account of 'The Extraordinary Story of Ursula Kemp hanged as a witch in 1582'. With the aid of slides and video, actors brought the tale to life. Ursula's bones were finally buried outside the church walls in St Osyth and a plaque can be viewed in the Castle Park grounds after John's considerable endeavours.

Our December meeting is always celebrated with a Christmas Party, where Susan Leng gave a talk illustrating 'Christmas Entertainment

Through the Ages'. It was interesting to learn where our current traditions originated. Father Christmas in all his finery and helped Wendy and Angela to distribute the Christmas Tombola.

The new year began with Paul Rogers speaking about the German occupation of the Channel Islands and the reaction of his mother living there at the time. He showed many alarming facts and figures, of which some of his audience were unaware.

Our members enjoy our monthly coffee morning at the Queen's Head and reading in private homes. Our membership has increased again and visitors are always welcome. Meetings are held in the Orpen Hall on the 1st Wednesday of the month starting at 7.15pm (doors open 7pm).



The
Electoral
Commission

You now need
Photo ID to
vote at a
Polling station

No ID? You can apply for free voter ID

Find out more at

electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID

or call 0800 328 0280





The Orpen Players

Performance dates at the Orpen Hall, West Bergholt are:

- Thursday 25th May 7.30pm
- Friday 26th May 7.30pm.
- Saturday 27th May 2.30pm & 7.30pm.

Thank you to everyone that came to watch "Aladdin" we hope you enjoyed it as much as we did.

Next up is our Spring Production "You Had Me from Hello", a romantic comedy by our very own Colin Downer.

A request to include a Matinee performance has alerted us to the fact that this may be a popular choice and convenient to many of you.

Doors open 30 minutes before curtain up. Tickets £10. Available from www.ticketsource.co.uk/the-orpen-players

We hope to see you there and thank you for your continued support



Future Opportunity coming soon...

The Orpen Memorial Hall will be looking for a Cleaner/Caretaker in the next couple of months. The Cleaner role will involve cleaning the Orpen Hall Complex and the Caretaker role will be required to open/close for hirers, setting out chairs & tables as well as undertaking minor maintenance.

Full details will be released shortly, please continue to check the West Bergholt website westbergholt-pc.gov.uk and village noticeboards (outside Hall & Co Op).



WEST BERGHOLT PARISH COUNCIL



Parish Council Contacts:

Councillors:

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

Parish Council meetings are held at the Orpen Hall Complex 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, Policy & Personnel 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 (Vice Chair) John Gili-Ross Harry Stone Bob Tyrrell	John Gili-Ross (Chair) Manya Barrow (Public Transport Rep) James Owers David Short Harry Stone Katie Pulford	Bob Tyrrell (Chair) Joel Fayers (Vice 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
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>

Village Notice Board

Sunday

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

* * *

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
WB Cubs, 6.30pm-8pm Scout Hut.
Contact Kevin Sturdy 01206 240549
Gardeners Association, 7.30pm 3rd Monday.
Contact Terry Claydon 01206 241256
SG Karate Club, 8.30pm-9.30pm Scout Hall.
Contact Stuart Glister 01206 365150

* * *

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 - 3.15pm, Orpen Hall.
Contact Jackie Leach 01206 241677
Ladies Afternoon Badminton, 2.30pm - 4pm
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

History Group, 2nd Wednesday, 7.30pm,
Orpen Hall, (visits between April & September).
Contact Gill Poole 01206 240512
W.B. Scouts, 7.30pm-9.30pm, Scout Hut.
Contact Kevin Sturdy 01206 240549

* * *

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
Bowls Club, 7.30pm Orpen Hall.
Contact John Rookard 01206 626045
Colchester & District Model Railway Club, 8pm,
Armoury Farm.
Contact www.colchestermrc.org

* * *

Friday

Bluebells Preschool, 9.15am - 3.15pm, Orpen Hall.
Contact Jackie Leach 01206 241677
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