

Issue 173

Autumn 2023

Village & Bulletin



Inside...

The Care Network - Winter Warm Space

The Orpen Players - Sheila's Island

& Have Your Say in the Bulletin survey

Orpen Players

The Orpen Players are delighted to have been granted a licence to produce 'Sheila's Island', a sparkling, sharp-witted comedy by renowned dramatist, Tim Firth (Calendar Girls).

Chrissie Wenden and Debra Hornigold are both co-directing and appearing in this play, along with Karen-Jane Linsell and Faith Spinlove.

Sheila's Island tells the story of four women stranded on a foggy island during a works team-building weekend.

With no food, no shelter and a mobile phone with a dead battery, spirits wither, emotions are high, and hormones take over.

Who is Lucy? What is Julie's husband really up to in Aldi? Who is on the island with them, and why are they on this team building exercise when they could be at a spa?

Questions are asked; truths are told; dirty washing is aired. Full of fun and pathos, this play is sure to please.




Book early to avoid disappointment!

Friday 27th October @ 7.30pm
Saturday 28th October @ 2.30pm
Saturday 28th October @ 7.30pm

Tickets on sale from 1st September 2023
from: www.ticketsource.co.uk/the-orpen-players

Listen out for Debra & Chrissie live on BBC Essex, 2nd September 2023, approx 1pm!



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Hello...

After a particularly wet July, the summer seemed to take a slightly dismal turn, but at least the sun made some appearances here and there during the summer holidays! Autumn is now starting to roll in with a chill in the air and the evenings closing in.

Good luck to all those starting a new school in the autumn, be it primary or secondary. It can be both an exciting and scary time in equal measure for both the children and the parents!

In this issue of the Bulletin, we'd like to hear your thoughts with our survey. We run this once before some years ago and it provided a great insight into how the Bulletin is viewed by the village, so your thoughts and suggestions are very welcome, and will help us to tailor it more to the village needs in the future.

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

Next Issue: Winter 2023
Deadline for entries: 1st November 2023
Deadline for advertising: 1st November 2023

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Girlguiding

1st West Bergholt

Our Guides had another varied summer term, a good mix of badgework and experiences. Term began with a trip to The Mercury Theatre to see 80 days around the world, funded by a Jack Petchy award that Grace, one of our guides, received for her collection and donations of pet food to the food bank. We celebrated the King's coronation with baking, a coronation themed beetle drive and a special commemoration badge. We also took part in the King's big help out and it was lovely to meet so many people from the village, at our history display and cake afternoon, who had a previous role in guiding either as leaders or members of Girlguiding. We crafted mini pubs for our Father's Day gift which accompanied by a little beer went down well at home I gather. Making the most of the light evenings we have had a lovely sunset hike, outdoor wide games, an evening at the park with chips, and most recently a Wimbledon evening complete with tennis

coaching and strawberries. Two of our young leaders and I attended a District sleepover at an outdoor activity centre on Mersea Island with 180 other girls from Girlguiding groups in the Braiswick district. The event included many adventurous activities and concluded with a fun campfire sing song on the beach.

Currently we have 28 girls on our role, one leader with 2 unit helpers. Our waiting list now has 20 girls all ready to join in the adventure. So if you have ever considered leadership of a guide unit, now is the time to get on board. The mixture of adventure, fun and the chance to discover your full potential is having a positive impact on these young people and on those who volunteer with them.

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VOCAL ZONES CHOIR

As Vocal Zones choir looks back on its year from September 2022 to July 2023, it can reflect on a very positive one as it has swelled its membership and was very pleased to welcome many new faces.

If you would like to be one of those faces, please join us on Tuesday evenings for an evening of song and laughter. We are based in St Mary's Church. Our sessions start at 7pm and finish at 8.45pm. There is no need to book in advance, simply turn up and join in. Everyone (regardless of your ability to sing) is welcome, absolutely no auditions needed! We offer taster sessions so your first night is free, it is then a payment of £6.00 each week paid half-termly in advance. We are a very welcoming band and it is very easy to get to know other members. Our musical director is Emma Biston who apart from her

skilled musicianship always manages to crack a joke between songs, making it a fun evening for all. The choir will take a break after its AGM on July 18th and our new year will begin again on Tuesday 5th September. As always, at this time of year we have to thank our committee members who work hard behind the scenes to make the choir a success but in particular our Chair, Treasurer and Secretary. We also have to thank our musical director as there would be no choir without her support. If you would like to join the choir, please come along to a taster session in September, you will be very welcome.

If you would like further information, please contact us at vocalzoneschoirwestbergholt@hotmail.com

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Colne Valley Flower Club

Wednesday September 20th we welcome Moira Neville from Leiston and the title of her demonstration is 'Lets Twist'.

On Wednesday 18th October Helen Sheard from Ingatestone is returning and the title of her demonstration is 'Inspired by and Caring for Nature'. This is our annual BRING A FRIEND FREE meeting so there will be no charge for visitors.

Our Christmas Open Meeting is on Wednesday 15th November and Gill McGregor from Hertfordshire will be demonstrating her 'Festive Fantasia'.

We meet in the Orpen Hall on the third Wednesday of the month (Not August or December) .For any further information please contact Daphne on 07712 654616 or Alison on 07792 387360

West Bergholt Concert & Training Band

West Bergholt Concert & Training Band's summer finished with a flourish of activities, with three performances in nine days. The first was at Heathlands School with a selection of the band playing a concert to the school children and introducing them to the woodwind, brass & percussion instruments in the band. Some of the Heathlands pupils joined in on their instruments, some joined in on extra percussion, and they all joined in with singing & clapping along. It was a wonderfully fun afternoon and hopefully encouraged more youngsters to take up an instrument.

A week later saw the band repeat the performance at Millfields Primary in Wivenhoe, this time with a guest conductor. The Millfields pupils were equally enthusiastic, especially during the Beatles tunes they'd requested, and as with Heathlands we are looking forward to some of the school's musicians joining us in September.

The following night was the band's summer concert of music from "Jazz To The Classics" in memory of a long serving band member who recently passed away. Perhaps due to the special nature of the concert, the band sounded better than ever with a spectacular

performance of fabulous music ranging from Duke Ellington to Dvorak, all selected by his family. Feedback from the audience included "we were astonished by the professional standard and fun performance", and despite a few tears, the band thoroughly enjoyed the evening and were immensely proud of the send-off the concert provided to a much-loved band member.



As always we are looking forward to welcoming new Brass & Woodwind musicians to our Training Band (Grades 1-4) or Concert Band (Grade 4+) at our open rehearsals in September. If you'd like to know more just visit our website www.wbcb.org or email Conductor@wbcb.org.

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West Bergholt Care Network

The Care Network is a well-established village organisation which has offered support to residents over many years. A team of about twenty volunteer drivers, backed up by a dedicated telephone system, provide transport to a range of medical services within the area, free of charge, although donations are welcome. Recently the committee has decided to diversify the help that can be offered and as an example organised the "Warm Welcoming Space" at the Social Club throughout last winter, attracting a twice weekly attendance of up to twenty.

Come and meet us

A good number of village residents already use the transport service but its availability is not known to all. To highlight the existence and activities of the Care Network a social gathering will be held at the Queens Head on 27th September starting at 8pm followed by the organisation AGM which will be as brief as possible at about 9pm. Hopefully anyone, volunteer or user, involved with the Care Network will be able to attend but all are welcome to come along and

find out more.

Alternatively to make use of the service or to find out more, the dedicated telephone contact number is 0300 777 3100

Winter Warm Space returning

It is planned to offer the social meeting place at the Social Club again throughout the winter on Mondays and Fridays from 10am, starting on Friday 27th October. The popular sessions with the local Community Police and booked up again and providers of other services will hold regular information sessions. Residents of all ages and interests are welcome.

Can you spare a little time?

West Bergholt has a good record of supporting the community through volunteers. The Care Network is no exception and anyone willing and able to give time, however little, can contact Harry Stone on 01206 241026 or email stone.vindens@gmail.com, or alternatively join us on 27th September.



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 Parish Council Update

Dear All,

By the time you get around to reading this part of the Bulletin you will have seen the leaflet inviting you to take a survey which the Parish Council is undertaking in respect of the Village Bulletin, and its way forward. Like everything, the cost of producing is going up and the Editorial Board have suggested a number of potential ways forward that they would like your views on. Please either complete the enclosed survey or complete online - the survey form tells you how to do both.

We continue to look for grants to undertake projects, in particular we have recently applied for £10,000 for inclusive play equipment of the Lorkin Daniell from the Hyperlocal fund and £25,000 from Rural England Prosperity fund for the proposed parish office/community hub. Both these projects have been the subject of previous grant applications to other funds, but unfortunately unsuccessfully! Fingers crossed for these applications.

We were, as you may recall though, successful in getting grant funding from Essex County Council for the solar panels on the roof of the Orpen Hall, and you can now see how successful the panels are by looking at the meter in the hall lobby, which shows the power generated/saved. The toilet facilities located in the Social Club have

been refurbished, by a grant from Enover, and by the time you read this article the long awaited externally accessible toilet will be operational courtesy of s106 monies. This facility is wheelchair accessible and has baby changing facilities, for the many families that use the field and playground.

Also by the time you read this, the Orpen Hall will have been redecorated and all the lights changed to LED lights, which will be more ecofriendly and sustainable. The change to LED is also grant funded, by the National Lottery. One thing that we doubt will be reinstated by the time you read this is the Highway Devolution agreement with ECC, under which our handymen were previously allowed to fix minor highway issues in West Bergholt, but we keep on their case!

The Parish Council was delighted this year to be invited to attend the annual competition day 10th June at Bounceability. You will all have seen their sign as you drive up from Colchester but few may know what it is. In simple terms it is a trampoline club for children and adults with any need or disability. It is an inspirational place to visit and the enthusiasm of the volunteers needs to be seen to be believed.

Similarly the Parish Council was invited to attend Heathlands School fete on 7th July and delighted the School raised over £5000

for School funds. Congratulations to all.

At this year's election for Parish Councillors, only ten people stood for election and so were returned unopposed. This gives the Parish Council the opportunity to co-opt a councillor. A number of you have seen our advert for such as we have four villagers who have stepped forward and are now attending as observers of Parish Council and committee meetings. In September one of these four will be co-opted onto the Council.

Just as this Bulletin comes out the Parish Council will be making its application to achieve Quality Gold Award status from the National Association of Local Councils, the standards are high but we hope to become only the second Parish Council in Essex to achieve, wish us

luck, it be a fantastic achievement and demonstration of the great work that everyone does.

Finally, an annual plea. If your hedge or tree overhangs a public footpath such that it causes an obstruction to pedestrians or reduces vehicle sight lines, please do cut back immediately to make our paths and roads easier for pedestrians and vehicles to use safely. If you have a ditch on your property, do not forget you are also responsible of clearing to ensure it does not cause flooding this winter, and so endangering pedestrians and vehicles

Brian Butcher
Chair West Bergholt Parish Council



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Friends of St Mary's Old Church

We have had two couples celebrate their big day at the Church. Congratulations to Alexandra and Graham and Jessica and Richard on their wedding and we hope that they have a long and happy life together. It is lovely that young folk today wish to make their commitment in our lovely building and establish a connection with the thousands of villagers who started their lives together there over the centuries. The church looks at its best with the lovely flowers on these happy occasions.

On Saturday 16th September there will be a dance at the Orpen Hall with music by live band Abbey Road. Tickets are £12.50. Tickets available from Committee Members or via 29 Lexden Road. Please come and enjoy the evening with friends and neighbours.

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

Martin Long
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Women's Institute

May was our Annual Meeting when president, Marion Hart, stood down. Our new president, Julia Richardson, was voted in with the remaining committee.

In June we held an afternoon Garden Party in the grounds of the Queen's Head. The weather was kind to us and we enjoyed a convivial chat around the tables. The Queen's Head supplied an excellent buffet of sandwiches, scones with jam and cream and cakes to follow. Everyone commented they looked forward to June 2024.

Our July speaker, Anita Marie Sackett, spoke about her time in Jamaica. Her slides and momentos enhanced her talk.

Julia Richardson presented ex president, Marion Hart with a white thornless rose bush, together with a National Garden

voucher and our grateful thanks for her time in office. She will continue as outings organiser.

Members have visited Munnings House in Dedham especially after Bob

Finch's talk earlier in the year about our three local artists. A trip to Blunts Hall, Witham, takes place in late August and an outing to Beeleigh Abbey Gardens, near Maldon in September. Lunches are planned from October onwards.

Our monthly coffee mornings at the Queen's Head are well supported and play reading is held in private homes. Our numbers are still increasing and new members most welcome.




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West Bergholt Allotments

What a mixed season we have had this year - first cold and wet then very hot and now wet again! At least we haven't had to do so much watering so far but of course things could change again. The weeds have had a field day with the warm, wet weather - they seem to grow faster than anything else!

As the season started late there hasn't been so much excess produce on the Charity Stall yet but courgettes are getting into full swing at the minute and potatoes have also done well. Soft fruit has had a mixed season as the early strawberries-were poor but raspberries are very prolific now. Sweet peas have also suffered from the changeable weather as they hadn't really got going before the heatwave shrivelled them up. However the dahlias are now coming on well with all the rain.

As we have had so little on the Charity Stall so far, there has not been much in the

donation box this year. However, we did have money left from last year so we have authorised donations to 5T's, Brownies (to help them go to Legoland) and Beavers (for some new signage at the scout hut). Your donations are what makes this support for local groups possible so do keep visiting the stall to see what you fancy and make a donation in the box inside the stall. Thank you all for supporting this fundraiser.

Any gardening related items are welcome at the stall but NO electricals please.

After the rent letters go out in September there are usually a few plots given up so if you feel you have the time to devote to an allotment do email wballotments@gmail.com with your details to go on the waiting list.

Lynda Robinson



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West Bergholt Gardeners

Although summer this year did not bring the best weather for gardens, members of Gardeners did enjoy visits to RHS Wisley and Blunts Hall in June, and were lucky to have hot and sunny weather on the first trip even if it was less summery on the second occasion! However, this did not spoil the enjoyment of the interesting and historic private garden which is part of the National Garden Scheme, which raises funds for various charities.

But now Autumn is approaching, with cooler days and darker evenings, so we have already planned a new programme for 2023-2024 meetings which we hope will entertain us during the coming months. The evening talks for 2023 are:

18th September - AGM and Marc McHearne - "Beth Chatto & her Legacy"

16th October - Ruth Goudy - "Greener Gardening"

20th November - Roger Hance - "Wildflowers & Orchids of the Countryside" photographic talk

11th December - Christmas Quiz - with Roxy

and Nigel Boyce Bown

Our members are an informal and friendly group of people who meet on the 3rd Monday during the months September to December and February to May to listen to advice and gain inspiration from interesting speakers on a wide range of topics relating to gardening and gardens. Coffee or tea plus a generous raffle (£2 for 3 tickets) are included too. We are always happy to welcome new members or occasional visitors so, if you share a love of plants and flowers, please come along to join us. The meetings are held in the Orpen Hall at 7.15 pm and the annual membership fee for 2023-2024 is £25 or £6 per visit on Speaker nights.

Annual membership fees will either be collected at the first meeting in September by cash, cheque or card payment or can be paid by bank transfer prior to the meeting (email for bank payment details).

For further information, please contact: wbgardeners@gmail.com

St Mary's Church

Storytime Service – Saturday 16 September @ 6pm

We are excited to be introducing a new informal service for families with children aged 7 and under, which will take place once a month on a Saturday teatime. The service will offer a space to relax after a busy day, listen to a story from the Bible and enjoy a mug of hot chocolate before bedtime.

Harvest Celebration – Sunday 1 October @ 9.30am

We look forward to welcoming everyone to our Harvest Celebration Service on Sunday 1 October @ 9.30am. We are also hoping to have an open afternoon with refreshments and activities over that weekend, but at the time of writing, the arrangements have not been finalised. So please look out for more details nearer the time on our website (see link below) or on the Village Hub Facebook page.

Don't forget as well the Café @ St Mary's on

the first Saturday in the month in the church hall: 10am – 12 noon, serving bacon butties and coffee and cakes. All are welcome.

Our Wired Youth Group for secondary school young people starts again in the autumn, for more details please contact the church office on lwb.wb.gh.parishes@gmail.com, and on Halloween, the church will be open in the evening serving hot chocolate for any families or young people who are out trick-or-treating.

A reminder that we have a service every Sunday, starting at 9.30am (except on 5th Sundays in the month when we join with other churches). We have a mixture of styles of Sunday morning service, including Messy Church, Communion services and an informal café style church each month. You are warmly invited to any of these services. Full details of all our services and events can be found on our website: stmaryswestbergholt.co.uk

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WEST BERGHOLT PARISH COUNCIL



Parish Council Contacts:

Councillors:

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

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 James Owers Harry Stone Bob Tyrrell	John Gili-Ross (Chair) Katie Pulford (Vice Chair) Manya Barrow James Owers David Short Harry Stone	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
Clerk's Assistant:	Julie Gillott		asst@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>

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