

Issue 174

Winter 2023

# Village Bulletin



Inside...

Under 18's photography competition!  
Save the date for the 2024 village fete!  
& Village Valentine's quiz!

## How 'The friends of Hillhouse Wood' came to be

I am often asked about how 'The Friends of Hillhouse Wood' came into being and when the Wood became available for everyone to walk around.

Well, it all started in 1993 when 34 acres of privately owned Hillhouse Wood was put up for sale. This was at a time when such pieces of woodland were being snapped up for possible commercial activities such as paintballing and motorcycle scrambling.

The Parish Council believed that such uses needed to be prevented but felt it was not the right body to take on the purchase and management of such a major asset. So Jon Lander, a prominent resident, contacted the Woodland Trust to see if they were interested in acquiring the wood. The Trust responded very positively by putting in a bid for the wood and launching a local appeal for funds, as well as putting £5000 towards the asking price of £34,000. Letters were distributed to all West Bergholt residents, inviting pledges of donations together with appeals through local papers, and six weeks later, on Christmas Eve 1993, the final donation of £1000 was sent to the Trust to make up the total required.

The amount raised included an extremely

generous donation of £6000 from the then Colchester Borough Council.

In January 1994, the Trust wrote to all who had pledged donations, informing them that the target had been reached and that it was proceeding with the purchase of the wood and inviting them to a celebratory meeting in February 1994 in the Church Hall.

All those present were asked to indicate if they were prepared to act as voluntary wardens or engage in conservation work in the wood and many did so.

Towards the end of 1994, the Trust invited them all to a meeting to discuss the setting up of the 'Friends of Hillhouse Wood' to look after the wood in accordance with the Trust's work plans and so it was, on 5th January 1995, the first meeting of 'The Friends' was held, at which a committee was elected under Jon Lander's chairmanship. And interestingly, one of the founding committee members, Richard Chadborn, is still on that committee and continues to attend the working parties nearly 30 years on!



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## Hello...

There's a definite chill in the air, the days are getting shorter and the throws and hot chocolate have made an appearance... dare I say it's nearly Christmas? After the fun of Halloween and bonfire night, the village is gearing up for Christmas, with carol services and pantomimes.

We have a photography competition for children in this issue of the Bulletin, along with the results of our survey. We also have two save the dates, with the Valentine's quiz and next year's Village fete that has been saved by a great team of volunteers.

A big thank you goes out to all who work on the Bulletin to bring it to you throughout the year. It wouldn't be possible without them.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

*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: Spring 2024  
Deadline for entries: 1st February 2024  
Deadline for advertising: 1st February 2024

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# West Bergholt Allotments

A combination of wet weather and an unseasonably warm autumn brought bumper late maturing crops this year. The manure we received from Neil Pulford last year made a great contribution to the overall yields of vegetables, which filtered down to the donations of produce on the Charity stall and consequently the amount of money raised for local groups in need. We have again been provided with a large amount of manure, so many thanks again to Neil and his team for the generous donations.

The Charity Stall this year supported the 5T's group, the Brownies for their trip to Legoland and new signage for the Scout Hut, as well as a contribution to the village Christmas tree last December.

There is still some money available for projects and there is a new form on the website under West Bergholt Allotment Association, Charity Stall for applying for grants from it.

The Stall is now closed for the winter and will reopen on 1st March. Please do not leave any donations at the stall or round the side of it until it reopens in March.

We again had the opportunity to dress a window in St Mary's Church for the harvest festival and this year there were some lovely dahlias to add to the vegetables on

display. Thanks to those from the allotments who donated produce to make such a nice show.

There are a few allotments vacant at present so if you are interested in having one please contact [wballotments@gmail.com](mailto:wballotments@gmail.com). Do take into account the time involved in looking after an allotment before deciding to apply. There is a lot of work in keeping the weeds at bay!

Lynda Robinson



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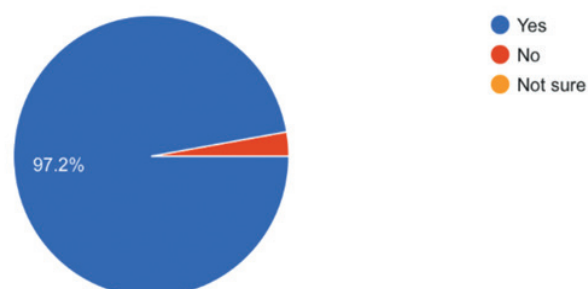
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# Bulletin Survey Results Highlights

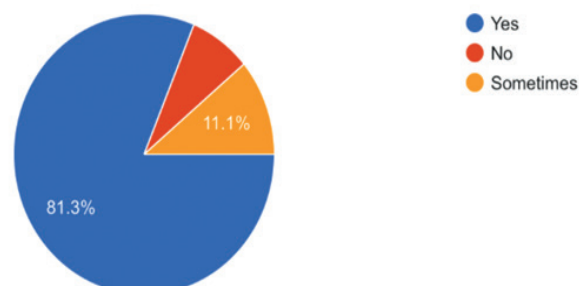
Firstly, a big thank you to all of you that took the time to complete the Bulletin Survey, which was included in our Autumn edition as well as being shared on Social Media and available online. We were pleased that we had a cross section of the village respond by all methods.

We undertook the survey to understand the value of the Bulletin to the residents and to help evolve it to meet our needs and budgets. We are currently working through the feedback, particularly the ideas for evolving the Bulletin but wanted to give you an early insight into some of the key highlights.

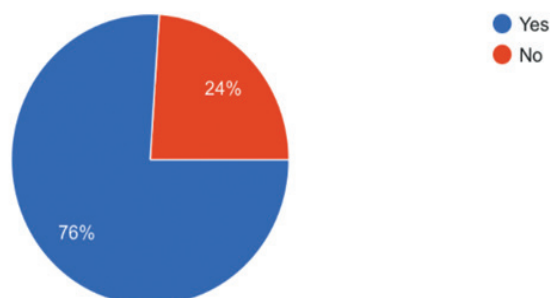
We asked if you received a paper copy of the Village Bulletin and were delighted that the overwhelming majority 97.2% said yes. A big thank you to all the volunteers that make this possible.



It's all very well receiving it but, if people don't read it, it is a waste of time and money and so we asked the question if you read the Village Bulletin and again we were delighted that we had a very positive 81.7% said yes.



Again, trying to gauge the real value of the Bulletin to the village and whether the online version would be sufficient, we asked if it wasn't delivered to you would you miss it? A resounding 76% saying yes they would miss it.



Over the coming months we will continue to review the data and look at how we can evolve the Bulletin going forward. Look out for updates online and in the Spring 2024 edition. And don't forget you can always look at it online at [www.westbergholt-pc.gov.uk/parish-council/](http://www.westbergholt-pc.gov.uk/parish-council/)

**Cllr. Sara Cullis, Publicity and Communications**

## Parking in West Bergholt

There aren't enough pages in the Bulletin to discuss the perennial parking problem hotspots but I thought it would be a good idea to remind ourselves of what the Highway Code says about parking. It says much more, but the most pertinent are:

If you have to stop on the roadside:

- do not park facing against the traffic flow
- stop as close as you can to the side
- do not stop too close to vehicles displaying a blue badge

You must not stop or park on;

- a pedestrian crossing, including the area marked by the zig-zag lines

You must not leave your vehicle or trailer in a dangerous position or where it causes any unnecessary obstruction of the road

DO NOT stop or park:

- near a school entrance
- anywhere you would prevent access for emergency services

- at or near a bus stop
- opposite or within 10 metres of a junction
- opposite a traffic island or another parked car
- where the kerb has been lowered to help wheelchair users
- in front of an entrance to a property
- on a bend

Parking on the pavement can obstruct and seriously inconvenience pedestrians, people in wheelchairs or with visual impairments and people with prams and pushchairs.

You must not wait or park on yellow lines during the times of operation.

You must not wait or park, or stop to set down and pick up passengers on school entrance markings when signs indicate a prohibition.

Brian Butcher

Chair West Bergholt Parish Council



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## Sale of West Bergholt Methodist Church

The sale of the Church site was finally completed on Friday September 15th 2023. This has been a protracted and complex sale, which was not helped by the pandemic and subsequent lockdowns.

As many villagers will remember, the Methodist fellowship ceased to worship in September 2018. Sadly for some time, our membership at West Bergholt had been declining and we made the difficult decision to cease holding Sunday services in our Chapel. The remaining members transferred and now worship at "The Well Methodist Church", in Mile End.

The site then became the responsibility of the Methodist Church. The sale of the site was handled through

the Colchester Methodist Circuit. The Methodist Church retains the ownership of the Bus Shelter site and the Burial Ground between the Hall and the Manse. This will remain open, and the existing reservations will be honoured. The area has been fenced and a new pedestrian public access provided from Chapel Lane, via a gate at the corner nearest the Manse. Public access remains in place for people to visit the graves of their loved ones.

We wish the new owner well with the site. It will be good to have such a significant site in the centre of the village in use again and we look forward to seeing what the new owner plans for the site.



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# Calling all Young Photographers



**West Bergholt Parish Council Winter Themed Photography Competition**

Competition for under 12's & under 18's (age as of 5<sup>th</sup> December 2023)

3 distinct categories – Runs from the **6<sup>th</sup> December 2023** with a deadline for **entries by 16<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

## Great Prizes

- £30 in gift cards for 1<sup>st</sup> place, per category / per age group
- £20 in gift cards for 2<sup>nd</sup> place, per category / per age group
- £10 in gift cards for 3<sup>rd</sup> place, per category / per age group

Photos must be taken in the **parish of West Bergholt** ([see map](#))

Full entry terms available at <https://www.westbergholt-pc.gov.uk/village-life/events>

**To Enter** – two options

**Option I:** email to - [westbergholtphotos@gmail.com](mailto:westbergholtphotos@gmail.com)\*

**Option II:** Photographs can be posted on Instagram or Facebook with specific hashtags\* (*see table below*).

\*Social media platform age limits apply, entry for younger children via *Option II* must be via a parent / guardian profile.

Please email us with any questions – **best of luck to all**

Category	Under 12 Entry #Tag	Under 18 Entry #Tag	For all Entries*
West Bergholt Animals ( <i>Pets, Farm Animals, Wild Animals</i> )	#westbergholtanimals12 & #welovewestbergholt	#westbergholtanimals18 & #welovewestbergholt	Please include: 1. Name of Photographer 2. Where in West Bergholt the Photo was taken
Made or Grown in West Bergholt (From Cart Lodges to Cakes, Courgettes to Creative Art)	#westbergholtmadeu12 & #welovewestbergholt	#westbergholtmadeu18 & #welovewestbergholt	
West Bergholt Landscapes	#westbergholtlandscapesu12 & #welovewestbergholt	#westbergholtlandscapesu18 & #welovewestbergholt	





# St Mary's Church

We look forward to welcoming you to our Christmas Services, to sing your favourite Carols, and reflect on the Good News that Jesus came into the messiness of our world, as a baby, to be our Saviour: God with us, Emmanuel.

We are also delighted to announce that a new heating system has recently been installed in the church, so it will be warm and cosy! Look out, too, for the Village Advent Windows Trail from 3rd December. The theme this year is Christmas Carols.

Carols by Candlelight at the Old Church – Sunday 17th December at 2.30pm

Christmas Eve

- ◇ Crib Service at 3pm at St Mary's
- ◇ Carol Service at 6.45pm at St Mary's
- ◇ Midnight Communion at 11.30pm at All Saints' Church, Great Horkelesley

Christmas Day Celebration Service at 9.30am at St Mary's

Food in School Holidays Club (FiSH) – there will be two sessions for families over the Christmas holiday period. The first is a Christmas Tea Party on Friday 22nd December @ 2pm-4.30pm, and the second is the usual session with activities and games alongside a hot meal on Friday 29th December @ 11.30am-2pm. The sessions are free and open to all families but booking your place via the church office

helps us with the catering arrangements: 6parishescolchester@gmail.com or 01206 243683.

Our new monthly Café @ St Mary's continues in the new year on Saturday 6th January and 3rd February @ 10am-12 midday. The church hall will be open for tea, coffee, bacon butties, cakes, newspapers, games, and a craft activity for children. All are welcome.

For information on all our regular services, please visit our website [stmaryswestbergholt.co.uk](http://stmaryswestbergholt.co.uk) or follow us on Facebook. You can also receive a copy of our monthly newsletter by emailing [lizdixon177@gmail.com](mailto:lizdixon177@gmail.com)

May God Bless you this Christmas.





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## U3A Walking Rugby

Have you ever played rugby? Or does the idea of a fun outdoors activity appeal to you?

If so, then Walking Rugby could be just what you are looking for.

The Stanway U3A rugby group is over 5 years old now with a flourishing membership of players of all description. We have some ex-players, plenty more who never played, or only did once or twice at school, and, inspired no doubt by the magnificent England Red Roses Womens rugby team, a strong contingent of ladies who participate.

Even though we are in fine fettle, I am always looking to add to our playing pool, so especially if you have previously played, or have good hand eye ball skills, then why not give us a try? We hold sessions held at the sports pitch at Eight Ash Green, Wednesdays at 2pm.

Forget preconceptions of tackling, scrums and lineouts. Think fresh air, good physical exercise and plenty of fun added in. The rules are kept to a minimum; this helps with integrating new players into the group. Experience shows people easily adapt and learn the basics and can fully participate very quickly. This means

a premium on handling skills, movement and passing, and the avoidance of anything but the "touch" tackle to promote a safe playing experience. No scrums, no lineouts, no physical tackling, but all the enjoyment of a sevens/touch rugby experience.

We have the support of a fully qualified referee to help us through four 7 minute sessions, and enjoy an informal chat and cold drink/coffee in the Cricketers afterwards. Trust me, this will help keep your heart healthy and your limbs nimble!

Quite beyond the rugby game and rules, this is a group that meets, and exercises in fresh air, has plenty of banter but both teams love to bask in victory at the end of the sessions! So be you an ex-international (unlikely!) or totally new to the sport, lady or gent, why not get in touch and come along and give us a try! Lots more to tell you before coming along, so why not start with a chat to see how we do things, and if this is a group you can add to your plans.

Look forward to hearing from you.

Graham Truluck.

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## Friends of St Mary's Old Church

The dance held in September with the group Abbey Road was a great success and a large sum was raised for the church maintenance fund. Thanks to everyone who supported this event.

Sunday 26th November saw the annual Mulled Wine and mince pies, 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](mailto:fosmochurch@gmail.com)

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

## Colne Valley Flower Club

The Club does not meet in December.

Our first meeting in 2024 is our Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 17th January at 7.30pm, when Brenda Evers will be giving us one of her fabulous talks.

If anyone would like to join our committee (we have our meetings in the daytime), please contact one of our Committee members below.

At our February meeting on Wednesday 21st, we welcome back Sandra Price from Walton and her title is "Blooming Lovely"

We meet in the Orpen Hall, West Bergholt 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



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## West Bergholt Gardener's Association

The Gardener's Club meets the 3rd Monday of the month, September to December and February to May. This year's programme got off to a great start with an entertaining talk from Marc McHearne of Beth Chatto Gardens, who told us some of the history of Beth Chatto and her gardens, and her ethos and legacy of "right plant, right place".

The guest speaker in October was Ruth Goudy, who as well as starting up and running a nursery with her husband in Suffolk for the past 20 years, also contributes articles to the East Anglian Daily Times and appears on Radio Suffolk's Gardening Hour. Ruth asked us to consider different ways to garden as ecologically as possible, and even the most "green" and green-fingered of us picked up some tips.

In November, we had a photographic

evening of "Orchids in the Countryside" from award winning photographer Roger Hance, and in December we hold our annual Christmas Quiz which is very competitive and very fun.

We are beginning to plan our Open Gardens 2024 for 8th/9th June, so if you have a garden you are proud of and are willing to open to visitors, we would be pleased to hear from you. More details will follow in the next Bulletin.

New members and visitors are welcome to our evenings which open at 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start. Annual membership £25 or visitors £5 on the door.

For further information on visiting or joining us, or taking part in the Open Gardens, please contact us by email – wbgardeners@gmail.com



### Tip of the Season

It's not too late to plant tulips or allium bulbs!

If you plant them in late December/January (perhaps Father Christmas will bring you some!) they will flower in late April or into May.

# The Orpen Memorial Hall

## How our answer to a problem could help you!

If you have passed through the main entrance to the Orpen Hall recently, you may well have seen a Display Monitor providing details of our answer.

### Our problem

A 4-fold increase in electricity costs in September 2022. We needed to come up with a way of reducing our use of National Grid electricity, preferably without costing us much money, to help keep the running costs & hire charges of the Hall as low as possible.

### Our proposal

To install a solar panel and battery system paid for by a grant.

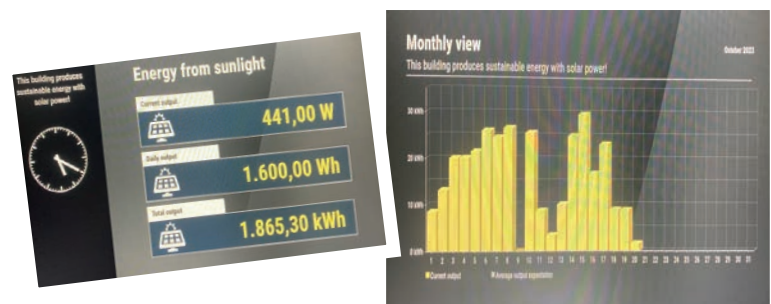
### Our answer

Even before we knew the full extent of the electricity increase, we were aware that our 2-year fixed rate deal would soon end, so we started getting quotes and looking around for potential grant sources earlier in 2022. We eventually came across Essex County Council's Climate Action Challenge Fund, which was established to inspire voluntary and community groups to develop projects which combat climate change. Whilst we seemed to meet their criteria, we were restricted to applying for a grant not exceeding £20,000.

Having obtained a quotation, we used it to make our application in September 2022, and were delighted to hear we were successful. Along with 40 other groups and organisations, we had benefitted from the Climate Action Challenge funding.

Unsurprisingly, the Contractors had plenty of work on and were suffering from shortages of materials. By February 2023, the main work had been completed, with the solar panels producing 'free'

electricity for the Halls, either for immediate use or, when there is excess, to be stored in the batteries for future use that day or the next. Looking at the first four months, our National Grid use reduced by about 1160kWh compared to the same time last year. This equates to a reduction of around 33%, which is a saving of around £600. Whilst it took many months for the Display Monitor to be supplied by the manufacturers, it is now installed and providing information on the solar energy being produced. It's well worthwhile pausing for a minute to view the rolling screens.



### So, how does this help you?

This project can help you both directly and indirectly. The project itself reduces the effect of the large increase in electricity costs on the Orpen and John Lampon Halls budget thus reducing upward pressure on what you pay to hire either hall.

It also provides an example of what can be achieved even in these tough times. It doesn't have to involve Solar Panels or Solar Batteries; it may just involve seeing if you can get some insulation installed in your home for free. So, why not look at possible opportunities on the following link:

<https://westbergholt-pc.gov.uk/climate-emergency/energy-water/>

# 1st West Bergholt Guide Group



This term we had a superb, sunny weekend at Thorrington scout camp. So much fun to all be together outdoors exploring and learning new skills. Most memorable was how to slide down a muddy hill on a wooden pallet, bouldering, cross bows and how to build, light and cook over open fires.

We have also created two fabulous scarecrows for the Tom Bowdidge Foundation charity Scarecrow hunt. Ours were the two friendly Minions in Valley Crescent.

Next on the agenda was Remembrance craft and remembrance parade, a lot of badgework, hectic games and Christmas crafting.

We continue to meet on a Thursday

evening at West Bergholt Scout Hut. 25 guides, 3 young leaders, 3 adult volunteers and currently 17 on our waiting list.

West Bergholt has many girls wanting to be guides. Please do get in touch if you would like to hear more about what it looks like to be an adult volunteer with Girlguiding UK.

<https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved/become-a-volunteer/>



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## Women's Institute

At our August meeting three visitors were welcomed. The speaker, Judith Hood, gave a fascinating talk on her experiences as a medium.

Social time was run by Hillary Nugent who instructed members on the A/Z of sign language.

Manya Barrow spoke about the campaign to stop the proposed plan to build pylons across Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex and consider the offshore alternative.

In September a very enjoyable 'Fish and Chip Supper' was provided by our local shop. Susan Leng, with the aid of slides, gave a short history on Fish and chips. Some members visited Beth Chatto's Gardens.

Our usual coffee morning at the

Queen's Head was an open event to support Macmillan Cancer Care. £524.40 was raised.

The October meeting was a real treat with Tony Harris from Hastings who dressed as Henry VIII. Tony gave a spellbinding interpretation of his life and his audience was surprised to hear he was married to his first wife for 24 years. We are keen to book Tony for another visit because he has many famous characters who he portrays.



A lunch at the Swan at Chappel was booked for November.

We are pleased to welcome visitors and new members.

## Orpen Players

Orpen Players would like to thank everyone who came to watch 'Sheila's Island'. The show was a great success and we have received lots of positive feedback.

Our next production at the Orpen Hall will be Panto (oh, no, it won't... oh, yes it will!).

This time we'll be performing "Robin Hood and his Merry Men", written by Catherine Streatfield. Auditions have been held and rehearsals are underway.

It promises you lots of audience interaction and even more really awful jokes!!

Performances are on:

- ◇ Saturday 27th January 2024, 2pm and 6pm
- ◇ Sunday 28th January 2024 at 2pm
- ◇ Friday 2nd February 2024 at 7:30 pm
- ◇ Saturday 3rd February 2024, 2pm and 6pm

Tickets go on sale on Monday 4th December 2023 and can be booked on [www.ticketsource.co.uk/the-orpen-players](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/the-orpen-players)

We look forward to seeing you there.

# Woods Bowls Club

So... what happened in 2023?

Another season has drawn to a close and once again it has been both enjoyable and successful.

Our annual open day attracted lots of people wanting to give Bowls a try, and we have signed up 14 new members.

We entered teams in the usual Colchester and Sudbury Leagues, as well as many members entering either as themselves or in pairs, triples or fours in Knockout competitions.

So how did we do? We had 2 teams in the 'A' division of the Colchester Triples league for the first time in the clubs' history, following our 'B' teams promotion last season. The 'A' team ended in 3rd place, just 2 points off 2nd but sadly our 'B' team couldn't survive and will compete in the 'B' division next year. However, the experience gained will hopefully help propel the 'B' team to promotion again next year.

In the Colchester Fours leagues, our 'A' team finished as runners up – a great

achievement. Our 'B' fours team finished respectably mid-table in the B Division.

Finally in the Sudbury Triples league we enjoyed our best season in years, finishing 5th (out of 13).

In the Knockout competitions we were really successful! We had an all Woods final in the Colchester Borough Singles Knockout, and we had finalists in both the Pairs and Triples finals. Sadly our Pairs and Triples teams lost, but well done all just to get to a Borough Final is a great achievement. Amazingly we then had an all Woods final in the Sudbury Singles Knockout.

Internally we ran 8 competitions this year, and had lots of new winners.

Over the Autumn & Winter we will be working on our green. We are in year 2 of a 3 year plan to improve our green and already since the season ended the green has been scarified and deep-seeded.

'Roll' on 2024

## Bergholt Youth Group

The children continue to love BYG! Both membership and attendances continue to grow, both breaking records yet again. Current numbers stand at 115 members and an average attendance since our return after the summer break at a massive 94 children.

The next date for the diary is our Christmas disco on Friday 15th December. On that note, it's time to wish everyone a Merry Christmas, including all our fantastic

volunteers for making BYG such a huge success - all of whom get an extra special mention for agreeing at our recent AGM to continue in their vital roles for the next year.

For further information please see our Facebook page or contact Club Leader Jamie Bowden on 07581 202960.



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## West Bergholt Concert Band - 45th Anniversary

November marks the 45th anniversary of the band's first ever rehearsal, and with the band's late founder a hugely popular instrument teacher across Essex, there seemed no more fitting way to celebrate this milestone than by holding a joint concert with young musicians from some of the schools at which he taught.

With a theme of "Music for Square Eyes", the concert featured music from TV, Films and Gaming, including Jurassic Park, Saturday Night Fever, The Little Mermaid, Shrek, Skyrim and more. The concert also showcased the band's young musicians, many of whom have joined as a result of the band's recent school tours, schools concerts or open rehearsals.

The band will then be joined by Heathlands Primary School Choir for a Christmas Concert at 7.30pm on Saturday 16th December at St Botolph's Church. The band's first ever concerts in the 1970s often involved singers and dancers from Heathlands School, and after joining forces again last year for a wonderfully enjoyable Christmas Concert, neither the band nor the choir could resist doing it again this year.

The band's Christmas concerts, which feature nothing but Christmas music, are always a highlight of our year, and the addition of Heathlands Primary School Choir makes for an especially magical & festive evening. This year's programme includes classics such as White Christmas, Do They Know It's Christmas and Sleigh Ride as well as carols arranged in various styles (classical, swing & audience participation).

Tickets on the door are £6 adults, £5 concessions, under 18s free, and proceeds will be donated to charity.

Full details of the band and its events are available on the band website [www.wbcband.org](http://www.wbcband.org) or you can email us at [Conductor@wbcband.org](mailto:Conductor@wbcband.org) or 07941 947541.

Hopefully we'll see you at St Botolph's for our Christmas Concert.



## Vocal Zones Choir

Dear Readers,

The clocks went back and pumpkins abounded everywhere in preparation for Halloween. Despite the unseasonably mild weather the winter calendar is sneaking up on us. One of the ultimate points in that calendar is of course Christmas. As we visit our shops, supermarkets and garden centres we are starting to see evidence of the Christmas season's beginnings.

Vocal Zones Choir is starting to prepare for its Christmas concert and we have selected the carols and songs we are going to sing. Many are traditional, some will be new to many of the audience and others will be the usual Christmas offering. Rehearsals for the concert started in earnest on October 31st.

We (under the direction of our choir director Emma Bishton) have chosen a

variety of songs and carols that will suit all ages and will create a night of fun and enjoyment for all. We would like to invite you to join us on Friday December 15th at 7pm at St Mary's Church.

As is tradition, the concert will be followed by a raffle and the audience is invited to join us for a glass of mulled wine/soft drink and mince pies. We have to thank once again all those who came out to support us last year, on one of the coldest evenings of the winter. We hope that the temperature will be kinder to us this year and you will come and join our Christmas festivities.

Everyone is welcome!

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# The Tom Bowdidge Youth Cancer Foundation

October 2023 marks 10 years since Tom left us. Whilst it is a poignant time for Richard, Nikki, and Emma, it is also a time to reflect and celebrate all the Foundation has achieved, just as Tom instructed.

As the cost-of-living crisis has hit us all, the demands for our support have risen to new heights. In the first six months, we provided support to over 55 young people and their families - more than the whole of 2022. Once again, this is down to you, our amazing supporters.

Firstly, can I thank everyone who took part in the Autumn Sale Trail organised so efficiently by Jo Beck. We had a fantastic number of stalls with a variety of things to buy.

This was also the launch of the village's

first Scarecrow Trail. We have been blown away by the standard of entrants. They were incredible and we hope those of you who went to see them enjoyed them as much as we did. Thank you to everyone who took part.

This year, our Christmas Appeal is 'Give the Gift of'. These gifts aren't luxurious and frivolous; they are simply items that will give comfort, confidence, and independence.

Gifts for young people living with cancer should be thoughtful, considerate, and tailored to their unique needs. These individuals are going through a challenging time in their lives.

With the current cost-of-living crisis affecting so many of the young people whom we support and their families, we are asking for your donations to give them just some of those everyday essentials.

By supporting our 'Give the Gift of' appeal, we will be able to continue to help, comfort and provide a much-needed distraction whilst they go through their treatment. You can make a difference to a young person this Christmas.

Thank you.

Merry Christmas and Happy, Healthy New Year from us all at TBF.

**Give the gift of**  
**COMFORT**  
**this Christmas**

Seven 13-24-year-olds are diagnosed with cancer every day in the UK. They will face a miserable winter with the cost of living crisis biting hard.

Your donation could help provide simple home comforts like mattresses, bedding, food, heating, and electricity.

Donating to The Tom Bowdidge Youth Cancer Foundation supports young people and families, nationally, undergoing cancer treatment, offering them a lifeline during a challenging time.

Your donation has never been needed more.

Donate today  
[tombowdidgefoundation.org](http://tombowdidgefoundation.org)

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# Save The Day

## VALENTINES DAY THEMED QUIZ



On **Saturday 10th February** in the Orpen Hall, a chance to win the Village Quiz Cup by answering questions on all things related to Valentine's Day

*More details will be posted on line and around the village after Christmas.*



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## Christmas Puddini Bonbons

### INGREDIENTS

Serves: 30

- 125g best-quality dark chocolate (finely chopped)
- 350g cooked and cooled christmas pudding
- 60ml sherry/ brandy
- 2 tablespoons golden syrup

### FOR THE DECORATION

- 100g white chocolate (finely chopped)
- 6 red glaze cherries
- 6 green glaze cherries (or 6 short lengths angelica)

### METHOD

1. Line a baking sheet with foil or greaseproof paper.
2. Melt the dark chocolate in a heatproof bowl over a pan of simmering water, or in the microwave.
3. Crumble the cold Christmas pudding into a bowl, add your alcohol of choice and golden syrup and stir briskly till fully mixed.
4. Pour in the melted dark chocolate and stir again.
5. Pinch out small lumps of mixture and roll into little rounds about the size of a chocolate truffle. You should get about 30 out of this mixture.
6. Cover with clingfilm and slot into the fridge to firm.
7. To decorate, melt the white chocolate as above, then let it cool for about 5 minutes, to make it easier to work with. Chop the red cherries into small pieces and snip the green cherries (or angelica) into miniature lengths, to represent leaves.
8. Using a teaspoon, drip a little of the melted but slightly cooled white chocolate on each bonbon, then arrange the sticky pieces of cherry on top.
9. Place in boxes to give away — if you use small boxes that will fit 6 bonbons each, you will get 5 adorable presents out of this — or on a plate to hand round with coffee, instead of dessert, after a post-Christmas dinner.



# WEST BERGHOLT PARISH COUNCIL



## Parish Council Contacts:

### Councillors:

Chair:	Brian Butcher <a href="mailto:cllr.butcher@westbergholt-pc.gov.uk">cllr.butcher@westbergholt-pc.gov.uk</a>			
Vice Chair:	Harry Stone			
RFO:	Andrew Savage			
Councillors:	Manya Barrow	Paul Chamberlain	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](mailto: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
<a href="mailto:cllr.savage@westbergholt-pc.gov.uk">cllr.savage@westbergholt-pc.gov.uk</a>	<a href="mailto:cllr.giliross@westbergholt-pc.gov.uk">cllr.giliross@westbergholt-pc.gov.uk</a>	<a href="mailto:cllr.tyrrell@westbergholt-pc.gov.uk">cllr.tyrrell@westbergholt-pc.gov.uk</a>
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) Sara Cullis (Vice Chair) Brian Butcher Paul Chamberlain Andrew Savage

## Other Useful Contacts:

Clerk to the Parish Council:	Laura Walkingshaw	07726 424419	<a href="mailto:clerk@westbergholt-pc.gov.uk">clerk@westbergholt-pc.gov.uk</a>
Clerk's Assistant:	Julie Gillott		<a href="mailto:asst@westbergholt-pc.gov.uk">asst@westbergholt-pc.gov.uk</a>
Village Hall Administrator:	Victoria Beckwith-Cole	07434 949631	<a href="mailto:westbergholthall@gmail.com">westbergholthall@gmail.com</a>
Webmaster:	Dave Kingaby		<a href="mailto:westbergholtweb@gmail.com">westbergholtweb@gmail.com</a>
Borough Councillors:	Cllr Lewis Barber		<a href="mailto:cllr.lewis.barber@colchester.gov.uk">cllr.lewis.barber@colchester.gov.uk</a>
	Cllr Sara Naylor		<a href="mailto:cllr.sara.naylor@colchester.gov.uk">cllr.sara.naylor@colchester.gov.uk</a>
	Cllr Dennis Willetts		<a href="mailto:cllr.dennis.willetts@colchester.gov.uk">cllr.dennis.willetts@colchester.gov.uk</a>
Essex County Councillor:	Cllr Lewis Barber		<a href="mailto:Cllr.Lewis.Barber@essex.gov.uk">Cllr.Lewis.Barber@essex.gov.uk</a>
MP Harwich & North Essex:	Bernard Jenkin		<a href="mailto:Bernard.jenkin.mp@parliament.uk">Bernard.jenkin.mp@parliament.uk</a>

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

\* \* \*

## 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.

\* \* \*

## 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

\* \* \*

## 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

\* \* \*

## 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.colchestermrcc.org

\* \* \*

## 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

\* \* \*

## 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