

village bulletin

December 2008 Issue 116

www.westbergholt.net

West Bergholt First Responders

**DO YOU LIKE GARDENING,
WATCHING TV, STAYING IN WITH
A GOOD BOOK OR SLEEPING...?
THEN WE NEED YOU!**

The Community First Responders in West Bergholt are in an unusual situation for a voluntary organisation. Thanks to the generosity of several local businesses and individuals our bank balance looks very healthy. What we are severely lacking is people power, which is preventing us from giving 24/7 for the village. In fact our rota is never more than 50% covered.

A Common Misconception

We think the lack of volunteers can be put down to a misconception that being a First Responder takes up a lot of time. **This isn't true!** Try likening a First Responder to a Lifeboat Volunteer for the RNLI (although a lot less dangerous!). The RNLI volunteers work or live in the vicinity and get on with their everyday lives and commitments but are on hand should there be a 'call out'. A First Responder is just the same as this. There are two days of initial training. But once approved you are given the freedom to put yourself on the rota for as little as four hours a month, and when on your shift all you have to do is have access to your car and be prepared to respond should there be a call to a suspected heart or breathing condition. This doesn't mean waiting by the phone unable to get on with your life. You can still be gardening, watching the kids play football, doing the housework, watching the TV or even sleeping whilst being on the rota!

Please think again

We hope this helps to dispel some of the myths which suggest being a First Responder is time intensive. In fact it is one of the **least time consuming voluntary groups you can join in the village** because unless you get called by the Ambulance Incident Desk you don't actually have to

do anything. You can be on shift without even realising it sometimes! We want people to know that being a First Responder **fits around your life in West Bergholt** and would ask you to reconsider if you can join us in our quest to get 24/7 cover.

To have an informal chat please feel free to give Annie Neish a call on 240469 or why not come along to one of our monthly meetings to meet us and find out more about giving something back to West Bergholt.

WANTED FIRST RESPONDERS

ARE YOU?

A DRIVER
A RESIDENT OR EMPLOYED IN
WEST BERGHOLT
AGED 18 to 70
COMMUNITY SPIRITED
EAGER TO LEARN NEW SKILLS

The more Responders there are the better the emergency medical cover for West Bergholt. Being a First Responder will not change your lifestyle; you can offer as much or as little time to suit you. Joining will give you new skills and the opportunity to make a difference in West Bergholt. Please call Annie on 240469 or drop your details off to 50 New Church Road for further information.

The Editor's apologies to the First Responders. This article should have appeared in the last edition of the Bulletin but the June copy was repeated by mistake. It was not noticed until after printing but was corrected on the web site.

West Bergholt

Women's Institute

Interesting and entertaining speakers continue to inform the W.I. members on many varied topics. We recently heard from Gordon Bailey about "Treasures beneath your Feet" followed by Roy Waters reminiscing on his early years living in the Dutch Quarter in the 40's and 50's. A very different place from current times. Memories of outside toilets, no gardens – only backyards, communal wash days, playing football in the streets, daily shopping in the many small shops which have long since disappeared. Much laughter and prompting from members left us all looking forward to another visit from Mr Waters.

From talk of small shops and daily shopping our next speaker represented ASDA Supermarkets, telling us of the history of a small family run concern to the store we all use locally. We were treated to a selection of cakes with our coffee and a donation of a hamper to be raffled for one lucky member.

Our afternoon tea party in August in the Methodist Hall was very successful. Members were encouraged to bring along friends who, we hope, may like to join us at our regular monthly meetings. If you missed our tea party why not just come along to our Wednesday meetings, the first Wednesday of each month in the Orpen Hall at 7.15pm. You will be made most welcome.



Allotment Matters

Once again it is good to report on another flourishing year at the Allotment site. Several new plot holders have joined those that have been there since the year dot and despite the usual moans about the weather and the rate at which the weeds take over, most have had a successful growing season (If ever the village were under siege we could probably keep us all in vegetables). One reason for this is the hard work and perseverance of plot holders coupled with the generous use made of "muck". Thanks to Bill Matthews and Dave Nicholls, September saw heaps suddenly appearing on many plots.

Keeping the site tidy and free from vermin is an ongoing challenge. The new bonfire regime of one per month coupled with an annual skip has enabled us to keep on top of the disposal of rubbish, which from all the plots is considerable. We appreciate the forbearance of near neighbours if any smoke has troubled them. Next year we expect to operate a similarly managed system and will publish dates in the next Bulletin.

Over the year a major effort has been made to clear a plot near the Albany Close fence and to bring it back into use. This will help to meet the demand for plots, as there has been a short waiting list throughout the year. However with one or two plots being given up or split into two all those on the list should be satisfied by the end of the year. For those on the committee it is gratifying to see the interest and we hope to continue to attract new plot holders, as there is a small but steady turnover of the eighty plots. If interested in taking on a plot please contact Bob Gooden on 240826.

Allotment Committee.



Peter Johnson

It is with great sadness that after many months of deteriorating health Peter Johnson, a resident of West Bergholt for many years, has died. Peter was a hugely passionate man when it came to all things environment and particularly so with regard to our village.

Peter joined the Parish Council in May 1995 and immediately became a member of its Environment Committee where, as member and Chairman, he worked tirelessly to the benefit of the community. The list of achievements over his years as a Parish Councillor have been numerous. When the Parish Council decided to improve the children's play area on the Lorkin Daniell field, it was Peter that co-ordinated the wishes of parents in terms of what was required and converted these to reality by liaising with suppliers and sub-contractors to deliver the finished result. This was just one of many projects he saw through to fruition as a Parish Councillor.

Peter loved the countryside and volunteered his services as the village footpaths officer. He could often be seen walking the many public footpaths in and around West Bergholt, ensuring they were maintained for everyone to enjoy. As the Village Tree Officer he maintained accurate records of all trees within the village boundary that were subject to Tree Preservation Orders (TPO). Such was the depth of his knowledge in this matter that the district Tree Warden checked and modified the central TPO register in line with Peter's records prior to it being made available on line.

Peter's love of the environment included the three ponds in the village. He often organised the working parties that maintained the banks of our ponds and made them accessible for all. In the last year he instigated the opening up of the pond in Lexden Road and co-ordinated the tree planting programme on its banks. It was his wish that children and adults alike would be able to appreciate the natural beauty and enjoy the varied wildlife using the pond.

Our thoughts go out to his wife Marion and his family. Peter will be very sadly missed by all that knew him.

John Gili-Ross, Chair of West Bergholt Parish Council



Tony Leeder Retires

Tony Leeder has decided to retire after 51 years in the motor trade, of which the last 25 years have been at Armoury Farm. The business has been taken over by Martin Dunn, a local man with many local connections. He is the cub leader of the 1st West Bergholt Badger Cubs. Martin has over twenty years experience of servicing and repairs to all makes of cars and light commercial vehicles.

Tony and Sandra Leeder would like to thank all their customers, past and present, for their loyal support and to reassure them that they will be available to answer any questions, and to introduce Martin, during the initial take over period.

Methodist Church News

Our second Quiz Night this year took place on October 4th. One or two regular teams were not able to join us this time, however the remaining groups enjoyed another successful evening and left asking when the next quiz was being planned. Watch this space for another Quiz soon.

The regular December events are taking place beginning with our Gift and Parade Service on Sunday 7th December at 11.00am. We welcome uniformed organizations and families to this special service where gifts are accepted for distribution to the Night Shelter, Beacon House and the Womens Refuge.

If you have missed our Christmas Coffee Morning in November come along to our Coffee Morning on 10th December when any last minute cards, wrapping paper and gifts can be purchased.

Do you enjoy Carol Singing? Then please join us on Tuesday 16th December as we tour the village raising money for Action for Children (formerly The National Children's Home). We meet at 6.30pm outside the Methodist Church Hall, Chapel Lane. Don't forget your torch!

Our Candlelight Carol Service takes place on Sunday 21st December at 6.30pm followed by mince pies and coffee in the hall after the service. Join us for this traditional service of carols led by our minister Revd. Ruth Ridge.

On Christmas Day we will be joining Eight Ash Green Methodist Church at 10.00am for a short service.

In the New Year we will continue our regular services and weekday meetings including Shared Village Communion and Coffee Mornings. The Women's Fellowship has re-opened and meets every 3rd Wednesday at 2.30pm in the Hall. All ladies are welcome.

We brighten the winter months with our New Years Party on 17th January when friends from our Sector Churches and the village are invited to enjoy an afternoon of fun and games in the hall with a bring and share tea. Details can be obtained from Judith on 241969.

2009 will be our 130th Anniversary and we are planning some special events during the year which we hope will include many of the Hall users and village organizations. If you have any ideas, old photographs or information regarding the life of the Methodist Church in West Bergholt please contact Judith on 241969. Several ideas have been discussed such as "Flower Show", "Art and Crafts" and Special Tea. Any ideas would be welcome.

West Bergholt in a magazine

We reported in a previous Bulletin that we had been selected as one of the finalists of Village Magazine of the Year competition. Our reward was to have our own page in the magazine *Essex Life*. The Bulletin team is pleased to tell everyone that the article will appear in the December edition. To date we have not seen the article so it will be a surprise to us too!

Bernard Colbron

Friendship Club



Yes, we are still in existence. I am sorry that due to various events in July, writing an article for the Village Bulletin was completely overlooked.

We managed an interesting and varied programme in spite of few speakers.

We had an instructive 'Show and Tell' session. Members took over when they brought samples of their hobbies and handicrafts such as embroidery, painting, beadwork and calligraphy and described the making of them.

Marie Louise Fuell kindly held a summer garden party in her garden in July as I had to be in London but the members were blessed with one of the rare hot days of the year and all had a plentiful and scrumptious tea provided by themselves.

Mr Finch from Talking Newspapers gave us an informative talk about the subject and showed us some of the small cassettes used these days.

Barbara Falkner gave us a very interesting talk on the history of toilets entitled 'Spend a Penny' which ended with a washing line 'illustrating the development of ladies' underwear from pantaloons, bloomers, cami-knickers right up to the thong of today much to the amusement of the members.

St Mary's Rector, The Rev. Colin Horseman spoke on his hobby of fungi, which proved to be extremely informative, interesting and sometimes surprising.

In between talks we enjoyed Mike Morrisher's colourful picture quizzes which kept the grey matter working, some games of bingo, call my bluff and a Who?, Where? or What? picture quiz.

The summer ended with a coach trip to Felixstowe. After a spell of very wet weather we were again fortunate enough to have a dry day, which gradually turned to bright sunshine.

We meet at the Orpen Hall every second and fourth Thursday of the month, unless otherwise announced, at 2pm until about 4pm. It would be lovely to see some new faces and some new blood would be very stimulating so why not come along and join us.

We look forward to seeing you if you are over 55, men or women.

Dorothy Winter, Chairman

Library Times

The Mobile Library visits the village
fortnightly on a Tuesday.
For queries about the service telephone
Answers Direct 0845 603762

The stops and times for West Bergholt are:

Albany Road	13.45 – 14.20
Scout Hut, Lexden Road	14.45 – 15.30
Queens Road	15.35 – 15.55
Chapel Road	16.00 – 16.45

Neighbourhood Watch



CRISIS AT WEST BERGHOLT NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH (NW).

It is with considerable regret that NW has to announce that John Ford, our Area Co-coordinator for the village has decided to resign. This resignation came into force on 30th September 2008. John has spent over twelve years building up a highly successful NW organization and has received many accolades from the Police, in the past, for his NW work. His departure is going to leave a vacancy, which will be very hard to fill.

How has this unhappy turn of events come about?

To find out, it is necessary to turn the clock back to April 2006 when Neighbourhood Police Teams were first introduced in the Colchester Police District, which would then be split up into Wards for Policing purposes. One such Ward was to be West Bergholt and Eight Ash Green, and all Wards were to be allocated a dedicated Police Officer, a Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) and a Special Constable.

NW welcomed this scheme, as did the Chief Constable of Essex who said of their introduction, "people don't just call us for a chat, they want action". Our Dedicated Police Officer also said, "I will be walking around the village whenever my duties allow". Neither of the above promises has come about, even though the District Commander of Colchester Police enthusiastically promoted the new policing plans in a leaflet campaign.

West Bergholt NW waited, and waited in vain for Community Policing to come to the village, and then last year our Area Co-ordinator finally wrote to the Colchester Police asking for an explanation. No reply has ever been received, though John Ford, at the request of the Police, did attend a meeting in the Town. At this meeting he was effectively told, as NW Co-ordinator, he did not have the right to ask why Community Policing had not been implemented in West Bergholt, as this was essentially an operational decision for them alone.

As a result of this rebuff. John felt he had no option but to resign.

During this August and September, the WBNW team has tried to get him to reconsider his position, but without the support of the Police, John considered this was not possible. The damage had been done at the fateful meeting in Colchester. At the same time efforts have been made to find a replacement, but these too have been unsuccessful for similar reasons. However, the current co-ordinators will continue to operate on an ad hoc basis, but the future of NW in the village looks very bleak indeed.

A recent communication from the Eastern Community Safety Officer of the Essex Police is very revealing, and is implying that the original concept of Community Policing by Wards is now dead in the water. This decision appears to have been carried out by 'stealth' and without prior consultation or warning, certainly as far as WB is concerned. Our original Ward (inc. Eight Ash Green) is now

not even considered worthy of mention in the District Commanders more recent leaflet on Neighbourhood Policing. Yet, arguably, WB had the best NW organization in the District.

To contact NW in the immediate future ring Col. 241716, otherwise go through the normal police channels as published in the below. An update of events will be in the March Issue.

CONTACTS.

Emergency Police Number 999.

Non-Emergency Police Number 0330 333 444

To Contact the Community Police Team at Copford use the non-emergency number or ring 01206 210441.

Colchester Crime Reduction Officer 01206 717624

Crime Stoppers 0800555111.



West Bergholt Gardeners' Association



A very successful "Garden Get-together" was held in Betty Sleigh's garden on August 18th which happened to be in the middle of a cold and damp spell - mercifully, the weather wasn't too bad that evening!

Our autumn season got off to a flying start on 15th September with a return visit from Margaret Willis, who demonstrated how Bedding Plants had evolved over the years, with a large selection of examples from a variety of nurseries. Although spring is more usually associated with bedding out, Margaret showed that it can be a year-round activity. Our AGM followed Margaret's presentation.

Another welcome return, this time Steve Canham came to face a wide range of questions on all aspects of garden care on 15th October. Steve has a fund of knowledge on the subject and members clearly enjoyed the way in which he dealt with their problems.

On November 17th Matthew Tanton-Brown talks on "Companion planting" and in December members will enjoy seasonal fare and a talk from Mike Dodsworth, a well-known teller of unusual tales. We take a break in January before welcoming back Andrew Tokeley whose subject will be "What to grow... new for 2009" on 16th February. Clare Heyes will be giving a slide presentation on "The changing seasons at Marks Hall" on March 16th.

In extending Seasonal Greetings to readers, we also invite anyone interested in gardening to come along to our meetings at Orpen Hall...all the dates above are held on the 3rd Monday of the month at 7.30pm and you will be made very welcome.

Friends of Hillhouse Wood



Passing of an environmental Champion

The death in October of Peter Johnson, chairman of the Friends of Hillhouse Wood for over a decade until ill health compelled retirement, has robbed the local community of a true environmental champion and a doughty fighter for conservation and accessible amenity. Peter steered the Friends during a period of sometimes difficult discussion with the Woodland Trust, the wood's owners, over management and allied subjects, always conducted with patience and diplomacy. He was also a tireless and enthusiastic member of the work parties in the wood, until compelled by ill health to stop, which have secured the present colonies of bluebells and other wild flowers and also the protection of rare butterflies, moths and damselflies which are found in and near the wood.

Our condolences go to Peter's wife Marion and family and we are pleased to learn that there will be a memorial dedication to Peter in due course. He will be greatly missed but the beauty and wild values of the wood will always be a fitting memorial to his dedication and hard work.

Management work resumed in the wood in September under the direction of David Bull, with essential clearances to protect paths and accesses generally. Scrub and overhanging vegetation have been cleared from the top pond's surrounds and the Woodland Trust will ensure that there will be some removal of clogging growth of reedmace and other vegetation to ensure a correct balance of water and growth to support the wildlife that lives in the pond. Exciting news came this year that the pond is host to a colony of great crested newts, a rare and fully protected species, so special care must now be taken to protect these. Also this year came confirmation that the stream running alongside the wood on the Fordham side has a colony of an uncommon damselfly, the beautiful demoiselle, adding to the special wildlife status of the wood and its environs. The colony of the white-letter hairstreak butterfly, which also gives the wood wildlife significance, depends on the health of the wood's surviving elm and wych elm trees as the butterflies' larvae feed on elm leaves. Unfortunately elm disease continues to pose a threat to the survival of this uncommon butterfly and management work is aimed at removing infected growth and coppicing to promote healthy fresh growth.

The Annual Meeting of the Friends will be at the Orpen Hall on Wednesday, 10th December at 7.30pm, all welcome, and after the main business there will be a speaker, to be announced, on woodland topics. Another date for your diaries is Sunday, 11th January 2009 when Joe Firmin and Philip Smith will lead a winter bird walk in and near the wood. Meet at the old church at 10am. Warm clothing and stout footwear (or wellies) advised and a flask of hot drink if you have room to carry!

Joe Firmin

Correspondence

Best Kept Village

I was pleased to read that West Bergholt had won the award for the best kept village - but rather surprised because the approaches to the village are used as a rubbish dump. The picture shows the litter I picked up today in the hedge outside our house in Chitts Hill. This is a regular chore, so I think the judges must have had their eyes shut as they went though this part of the village.

Yours etc

Helen Lander



Taoist Tai Chi* in West Bergholt

Wendy Haywood, who has been instructing Taoist Tai Chi* classes in West Bergholt for over ten years and encouraged many people to develop their tai chi, has now moved away and will be instructing in Suffolk from now on. We thank her for her long standing commitment to all the local taichiers and wish her well in her new home.

The Wednesday class has now closed unfortunately, but Fiona has taken over the continuing class at the Scout Hut on Tuesday evenings. If you would like to resume your tai chi and/or have already completed the set in a beginners class, you will be made very welcome any Tuesday evening. Just come along.

"The Taoist Tai Chi* internal art of taijiquan is a gentle set of movements which promotes health and well being for people of all ages and in all health conditions."

If you would like to find out more or attend a beginners class ring 01206 576167 or email enquiriesgb@taoist.org.



Royal British Legion

The President and Chairman of your local branch (Great and Little Horkesley) which incorporates personnel from West Bergholt wish everyone a Very Happy Christmas and a peaceful 2009.

The Branch members also wish to thank everyone who stopped for a chat and donated to the 2008 Poppy Appeal - totals are not yet confirmed, but we are sure it will be in excess of last year's total.

For further information of our branch, or to join the RBL, please contact the Branch Secretary, Mr Roger Drury (271454) or Hugh Brivent-Barnes (243717) who lives in West Bergholt - *remembering you do not now have to have been in the services to join.*

West Bergholt Football Club

The season is now well under way, and I am pleased to report that a good start has been made. The First team are currently topping the



Border League Premier division, and the reserves are lying seventh in the Reserve Premier division. Our Ladies team, after winning their 3rd division last season, are unbeaten at the top of the 2nd division at the moment.

On the social front, we held a successful Karaoke night in October, and have Poker and Race nights lined up for November, all proceeds going towards the new building fund. Also we now have a shopping link on our web site, which offers good prices, with a commission going to club funds, so, please log on, have a look and hopefully make a purchase, www.westbergholffc.co.uk and click on the link.

Come up to the Playing Field if you can, the standard is good, and enjoyable to watch. You might be pleasantly surprised.

M.R.Bell, Chairman.

Bergholt Youth Group

Since September the Youth Group has met three times at The John Lampon Hall with support from the Youth Bus, its staff and Hannah from the County Youth Service. Numbers attending have varied from about twenty to nearly forty and on each occasion supervision from a team of enthusiastic volunteers has been well appreciated. Feedback suggests that the young people attending have had a good time with games on the field when the weather and light permitted, table tennis thanks to Marlene Smith and Simon, a variety of other activities centred around the bus computer equipment and at the last meeting a demonstration with hands on activities by the village First Responders.

On a Saturday in September the volunteers received some basic training and this will now be followed up by a meeting to address the challenges of setting up a regular self supporting Youth Club. These preliminary sessions have confirmed the perception that there is a need for such a club in the village. Conversations with the young people and questionnaires have helped identify the range of activities that they are interested in, hence the moves to make the Multi Use Game Area available on Friday evenings during the time of the meetings. The support of the Parish Council in trying to make the necessary changes to the conditions of use of the MUGA is appreciated, as is the promise of fitness and coaching from an ex-professional footballer if this can be achieved.

Some detailed planning is now needed to plot the way forward and to this end a Saturday morning meeting of volunteers with Hannah will take place in November. Decisions about club leadership will need to be made and if anyone in the village has experience of this role and is willing to become involved it will be good to hear from you. Please contact Harry Stone on 241026 or use the email contact: bergholtyouthforum@live.co.uk

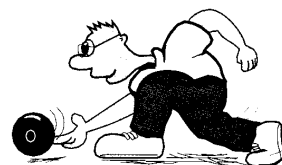
Decisions about resources are also needed and equipment purchased. To fund this the BYG chairman (Amber) and

secretary (Graham) have completed and submitted the necessary paperwork to apply to the County Council for a grant.

In the short term the group will meet again on Friday 28th November and a Christmas Party is being planned for Friday 19th December. Hopefully a good number of young people between eleven and sixteen will want to attend.

The Bergholt Youth Group team.

West Bergholt Indoor Bowls Club



The autumn started with a 'New Look'. Instead of white shirts, West Bergholt Bowls Club has now changed to maroon shirts with gold lettering. Very smart.

In August Eileen Brown, Jan Lumb, Nora Bates and Greta Leatherdale won the Gt. Yeldham Charity Day, well done. And in September Eileen Brown, Jan Lumb, Nora Bates and Paul Leach were runners up in the Earls Colne Charity Match. October saw six members in a quiz at Eight Ash Green – but no winners this time.

The Club's own singles, pairs, triples and fours competitions are under way, with most members taking part.

The Bowls Club are looking for new members, so if you would like to come along and have a "Bowl-up" you will be most welcome any Sunday or Thursday evening at 7.15pm in the Orpen Hall. First night FREE or telephone 240824 for further information.

Bergholt Heath Youth Football Club



The season is well under way now and our four teams are encountering mixed fortunes. The promoted sides are continuing where they left off. Our senior side - Under 15 - entered the Essex County Cup for the first time this season and cruised effortlessly into the second round - their first round opponents having folded, such was their fear of Bergholt Heath. In the next round we host Redbridge, which promises to be a tough match! Our youngest team continues to prosper, as does our newly promoted Under 14 side. It only remains for our Under 13 boys to register their first win.

Win or lose all players will be enjoying the regular Christmas Tenpin Bowling after the final match before the festive break. Let's hope the staff are prepared this time! 65 boys wreaking havoc - and that is not an invitation! Finally a thank you to our kit sponsors this year - CFPI Ltd and Boyden's Estate Agents

Leslie Wright



If you live in West Bergholt and need help getting to an appointment the Care Network may be able to help. Telephone the number on page thirteen for the day on which you make your call. If there is no reply, please try any other number. Please note that we cannot respond to messages left on an answering service.

A date for your diaries - the AGM will be held on Tuesday 21 April 2009 at 7.30 pm in the Methodist Church Hall. Everyone is very welcome to come along and find out more about this thriving and well used village service.

West Bergholt Cricket Club

Former Essex and England pace bowler, Neil Foster, was the special guest at West Bergholt's Awards Presentation Evening at the club's pavilion in October.

Nigel Passmore started proceedings by proudly announcing that the club had very recently been re-accredited with Clubmark. This represents proof that the club provides a safe and child-friendly environment for its 50-strong juniors who play at five different age levels. He also announced details of vital investment in the club's facilities and ground maintenance. There were also thanks passed to the club's many volunteers who work tirelessly to develop the club.

Club President, John Grimwade, received a special presentation to mark 28 years ongoing commitment to the club both on and off the field. In addition, he was granted the status of Honorary Life Member, becoming only the sixth member in the club's history to gain this recognition.

Notable among the award winners were the club's two Captains, Darren Davies and Trevor Rogers, who won Player of the Season awards, scoring 453 and 557 runs respectively for the club's two PDQ League teams. Young Matthew Rogers, aged 11, received the trophy for the club's most promising youngster for some outstanding performances and for representing North Essex at his age level.

Next up were the Jack Petchey Foundation awards and Neil Foster presented five proud juniors with medallions. Under the scheme, the club receives vital grant aid by recognising helpfulness, enterprise and team spirit from the junior members. The club's Leader award was won by Trevor Rogers for his work in developing the new Under 11 section at the club.

Neil Foster, veteran of 29 Test matches and 48 one-day internationals, concluded the evening's formal events by



addressing the club's junior members, offering important tips and advice as to how to prepare for a professional career.

Cricket never stops at WBCC and the club is currently competing in two six-a-side Indoor Leagues - the Braintree League and the Over 40s League at Essex CCC in Chelmsford. Keep up-to-date with all the club's activities on www.westbergholtcc.co.uk

The club is looking for new players (young and old) as well as volunteers to take up committee positions or just help out. Also we need a new Groundsman for next season (paid role). If anyone is interested in any of these opportunities, please contact Nigel on 240225 or 07769697542.

Nigel Passmore Chairman.

Workers Educational Association

A very different subject, namely Gothic, Goya, Gaudi and More, will follow our successful autumn course on 13th January. This is a comprehensive overview of Spanish art and architecture over the years from pre-historic cave paintings to the productive 16th and 17th centuries and thence right up to date. There will of course be the usual visual aids and also weekly handouts. The tutor is Catherine Dell who lived and worked for several years in Spain, which gives her valuable backing to lead this course.

The course follows an established pattern of ten Tuesday evenings 8pm to 9.40pm at the Methodist Church Hall with its wheelchair access and loop system, if required. Fees are £43 standard (no concessionary rates possible unfortunately), with nil fees for those on income related benefits or JSA; also financial help should be obtainable if net household income is under £15,050 per annum.

If you are unsure whether this course is really for you, please come and sample the first evening free. Further information available from our secretary on 01206 240791.

West Bergholt Toddler Group



The West Bergholt Toddler Group have continued to meet every Monday from 9 to 11.30am at the Methodist Church Hall. The group has been visited by the Health Visitor and Jenny Noakes (Complimentary Therapist) and, following the success of last terms "Pramble" round the woods, toddled around the Apple Orchards. With Christmas approaching, the children can look forward to lots of craft activities and a Christmas Party with a visit from one of Santa's little helpers!

All with under 5's very welcome to come and join us for a cup of coffee, other parents and carers to chat to and plenty of toys for little ones to enjoy.

For more information phone Rachel 242431/242342
Rachel Hutchings

Orpen Players

The Orpen Players Autumn Production was a real escape from the gloomy news of the day. It was a Comedy Farce with a so called group of Townswoman's Guild members putting on a play, lead by their formidable Chairperson.



Just five actors played the parts of 13 others. It was hilarious as they dashed off stage to come back on as other characters with everything going just a little bit wrong. Even the set had bits falling off here and there. It was a murder mystery at Checkmate Manor and the characters represented the pieces on the chess board and they were killed off at great speed.

Fiona Hunt directed the cast of Debra Hornigold, Jackie Grant, Anne Sexton and David and Chrissie Wendon. Their hard work and expertise added up to a jolly good night out.

There is no rest however because they are already in rehearsal for the next Panto of Aladdin. This is also directed by Fiona and will be staged at the Orpen Hall on Friday and Saturday the 30th and 31st of January and Friday and Saturday the 6th and 7th of February 2009.

Fiona and the cast won best Panto for last year's Hansel and Gretel. Make a date, the box office opens at Ash's on Saturday the 18th January 2009.



The Bulletin Team wish all our readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy 2009



It's rain, dear!

Local hero was executed by Henry VIII

In 1540, the son of the Lord of the Manor of West Bergholt was hanged, drawn and quartered on the orders of Henry VIII. The dramatic story of Thomas Abell, whose family lived at Cooks Hall, is told in a new book, "The Queen's Champion," by village resident Jon Lander.

Abell was chaplain to Henry's first wife, Katherine of Aragon, whom the King wanted to divorce in order to marry Anne Boleyn. Henry claimed that when he married Katherine, he had broken God's law and the marriage was invalid. On a secret mission to Spain, the Queen's chaplain sought to destroy the King's case for divorce and back in England, he argued against the King both in print and from the pulpit - with the inevitable result. This was a time when the wrath of the King was death.

"I wrote the book because the man is a forgotten hero," says Jon Lander. "He was also a local man and part of the village's rich history. It is fascinating to think that, as a child, he probably played down by the river below Cooks Hall and worshipped in the Old Church. I felt it was a local story that needed to be told."

"The Queen's Champion" is available from Jon Lander at Rutlands, Chitts Hill, CO3 9SY, price £6.50 (£7.50 including postage).



West Bergholt Bobbin Lace Class

The bobbin lace classes at St Mary's Church Hall, restarted in September. The students have continued working on their own projects: lace pictures, Bedfordshire lace butterfly motifs, Flanders lace edgings and Torchon lace. We have also looked at methods of stiffening lace and mounting pieces onto fabric.



The illustration shows an example of a torchon lace insertion which can be adapted to make a bookmark

I teach the following English laces: torchon, basic Bedfordshire or Buckinghamshire laces. I also teach the Belgian lace: Bruges flower lace, Flanders and Binche lace.

The classes take place during term time from 1pm until 3pm. The cost for next term will be £78 for a course of 12 lessons. Please contact me if you would like to join us.

Carol Maxwell Tel: 0771 2648468

Editorial Team:

John Bates and Nora Bates (distribution) 240741, Bernard Colbron 240297, Jon Lander 241288, Susan Leng 241748 and Susan Swan (advertising) 242319. Copy for March issue should be with the Editors before 1st February 2009 - Regretfully late submissions cannot be guaranteed entry into the Bulletin

West Bergholt Concert Band

More Christmas Than Ever!



If you love Christmas music, you'll love our Christmas Concert at St Mary the Virgin on Saturday 13th December at 7:30pm! This year we've packed in more Christmas music than ever, including nine brand new pieces ranging from a gorgeous new arrangement of Mary's Boy Child to a selection of carols arranged by Vaughan-Williams, Christmas classics from The Christmas Waltz to Rockin' Around The Christmas Tree, plus more recent classics such as This Christmas and Christmas Time Is Here. If that hasn't tempted you... we'll also be playing some of our old Christmas favourites, including Leroy Anderson's Christmas Festival, Prokofiev's Troika, Oh Holy Night, Santa Claus Is Comin To Town and The Thirteen Days Of Christmas (yes, thirteen!). It's sure to be a cracker of a concert, so please either reserve your tickets via www.wccb.org or come along early as the church fills up very quickly.

To top off our 30th Anniversary celebrations, the band will also be performing a full programme of non-festive music at our November 23rd Birthday Bash concert. As November is our official 30th birthday, we'll be blowing out the candles on our birthday cakes, sipping champagne, and having a celebratory meal afterwards...followed by a karaoke disco. For this reason alone (you do not want to hear us sing !!), we're keeping the concert as a closed event for band friends and families only, as a thank-you for all their support over the years.

It's incredible to think that when Sid Cooper started the band in November 1978 with six players it'd still be alive and kicking in November 2008, with a membership that now exceeds 60 musicians. This continued success is dependant on us constantly recruiting new members to replace those that move away or leave for University, so if you do play a woodwind or brass instrument to any standard, we would welcome you to either or both of our Training and Concert Bands. There's no need to audition, and if you're not sure about joining, just come and say hello one Friday evening at Heathlands and there'll be someone who plays your instrument to talk to. The band is above all a fun place to make music amongst a friendly bunch of players of all ages, so either have a look at the band website (www.wccb.org) or give Graham a call on 01206 824157 for details of how to join us. Our website also includes information on all of our 2009 concerts (including some more "Last Night Of The Proms" events), and the dates will also appear in the village bulletin in the New Year.

Finally...on behalf of the band...we look forward to seeing you at our Christmas Concert, and We Wish You a Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year (yes, we're playing that one at the Concert too!).

Clearly recycling even at Christmas!

To enable everyone to recycle all their glass, cans, foil, textiles, paper and cardboard over the festive season, plastic and garden waste collections will be replaced over

the Christmas holiday period by three consecutive blue recycling weeks.

The three consecutive BLUE recycling weeks over the seasonal period will run from 15 December until 3 January, instead of alternating between BLUE and GREEN weeks as usual. This means that the GREEN week that would normally fall on Christmas week will be replaced with a BLUE week, as shown on your recycling calendar 2008/09.

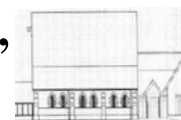
Plastic and garden waste collections will recommence the week beginning 5 January 2009. Until then, residents are encouraged to hold on to their plastics in the clear recycling sacks provided and not to send them to the landfill in their black sacks.

You can kick start the New Year with the resolution to recycle more because you can leave out for collection as many clear sacks as you have! Don't forget that if you run out of clear sacks, you can pick up extra ones from the Council's Customer Service Centre, High Street free of charge.

For information on other pick-up locations just visit www.colchester.gov.uk/recycling or phone 01206 282700.

Information prepared by Street Colchester Borough Council

St. Mary the Virgin, West Bergholt



Developing St.Mary's for a growing community

St Mary's Youngsters at 'Groundbreakers'

St Mary's will be holding a 'Groundbreakers' Holiday Club on Saturday 20th December from 2 - 4pm. This club is open for all children aged 5 to 11, and will be followed by a Christingle service at 4pm for children and their parents, which includes lighting the 'Christingles'.

Last year's Christingle service was truly special with over 60 children participating.

Invitations will be sent out via Heathlands School early in December, if your children are not Heathlands pupils, but would like to come, please phone Kate Wilson on 752056, or Caroline Finlay 241517 to register them. There is no limit on numbers, but children must be registered in advance.

Colne Valley Flower Club



Wednesday 21st January 2009 we will be holding our AGM. We are looking for committee members so if anyone would like to join the committee please contact our Chairman on 01787 228117 or our Secretary on 01206 240262.

At this meeting we will be handing over a cheque to Acorn Village which has been our charity for 2008 and Mr. Christopher Newenham from Wilkin and Son Ltd, Tiptree will be coming to give a talk.

Wednesday 18th February 2009. Our demonstrator will be Brenda Evers from Dedham.



village bulletin *what's on guide*

Regular Village Events

Sundays:

Prayer Meeting, 10.15am 1st Sunday every month - Methodist Church
Service of Worship, 11am Morning Worship - Methodist Church
Bowls Club, 7.30pm - Orpen Hall

Mondays:

Bluebell Preschool, Monday to Friday - Orpen Hall
Parent and Toddler Group, 9.30-11.30am - Methodist Hall
Village Art Group, 2.00pm - Methodist Church Hall
Gardeners' Association, 7.30pm 3rd Monday-Orpen Hall (Sept-Dec, Feb-May)
SG KARATE, Scout Hut - Mondays 8:30 - 9:30 pm. £4.00 per class.
Bobbin Lace Class, 1pm-3pm, term time only, St Mary's Church - Carol Maxwell, 0771 2648468

Tuesdays:

NHS Primary Care Trust Baby Clinic, 10am to 11am - Methodist Hall
Miss Jackson's Dancing Class, 5.30-7.30pm - Orpen Hall
Tai Chi, Continuing Class, 7.30-9.30pm - Scout Hut - Fiona 240339
Methodist Church, 11am 2nd Tuesday Communion Service
Badminton Club, 8.15pm - Orpen Hall
W.E.A., 8.00pm - Methodist Hall (Sept. to Dec. and Jan. to Mar.)
Slimming World, 7pm - Orpen Hall, Carol French 0794 660 3939
Morning Prayers, 9.30am - 10am - weekly in Methodist Church

Wednesdays:

Coffee Morning, 10.00am 2nd Wednesday - Methodist Hall
Women's Institute, 7.15pm 1st Wednesday - Orpen Hall
Colne Valley Flower Club, 7.30pm 3rd Wednesday - Orpen Hall (not August or December)
History Group, 2nd Wednesday (not December) Phone 240297 for details
Parish Council Meeting, 7.30pm 4th Wednesday - Orpen Hall
West Bergholt Craft and Quilters Group, 2nd Wednesday (except Christmas) - Joyce Lucking Room
Ladies' Afternoon Badminton, Orpen Hall, 2.00pm to 3.30pm. New members welcome - contact Pat Butcher for details 242075
Aerobics-Legs, Bums and Tums, Methodist Hall, 6.45pm-7.45pm. Tel 243773.

Thursdays:

Friendship Club, 2.00pm 2nd and 4th Thursday - Orpen Hall
Squeals on Wheels, a service for pre-school 'toddlers' and families in St Mary's Church, 10.30am every Thursday, in term time.
Colchester and District Model Railway Club, 8pm - Armoury Farm
National Women's Register, 8.00pm fortnightly, telephone 240588 for details
British Legion, Gt & Lt Horkesley branch which includes West Bergholt - meet Beehive Pub, Lt Horkesley 2nd Thursday at 8pm
Bowls Club, 7.30pm Orpen Hall
Table Tennis Club, 7.30-9.00pm St Mary's Church Hall
Pilates, 9.30am, - Scout Hut, Methodist Hall evenings tel: 564348 for details

Fridays:

West Bergholt Concert Band, 6.00-7.00pm (Juniors), 7.00-9.00pm (seniors) - Heathlands school
Wesley Guild, 7.30pm, 4th Friday - Methodist Hall (March to September)
Orpen Players, 8.00pm - Orpen Hall

Saturdays:

The Performing Arts Centre, 10.30am-12.30pm for pupils aged 6 to 11 years old - Orpen Hall

West Bergholt Care Network

If you live in West Bergholt and need help getting to an appointment the Care Network may be able to help. Telephone the number below for the day on which you make your call. If there is no reply, please try any other number. Please note that we cannot respond to messages left on an answering service.

Monday 241 103 Tuesday 242 185 Wednesday 242 319
Thursday 247 074 Saturday/Sunday 242 075

St. Mary's Church Services and functions

News of other clubs, committees etc. that use the Church hall can be found elsewhere in this Village Bulletin, or access via a computer <http://uk.geocities.com/stmarywb/index.htm> for the Village Diary where you will find out what else goes on in West Bergholt.

December 2008

Sunday 7th	9.30am	Morning Worship and Bugs
Tuesday 9th	11.00am	United Communion Service in Methodist Chapel
Saturday 13th	7.30pm	Musical Evening in St Mary's West Bergholt Concert Band
Sunday 14th	9.30am	Holy Communion and Bugs
Tuesday 16th	6.30pm	Village Carol Singing
Saturday 20th	2.00pm	Groundbreakers followed by Christingle Service
Sunday 21st	9.30am	Family Service
	2.30pm	Carols by Candlelight in Old Church
Wednesday 24th	3.00pm	Crib Service
	6.30pm	Carol Service
	11.30pm	Midnight Communion
Thursday 25th	9.30am	Christmas Day Family service
Sunday 28th	9.30am	Communion Service

January 2009

Sunday 4th	9.30am	Morning Worship and Bugs
Sunday 11th	9.30am	Holy Communion and Bugs
Tuesday 13th	11.00am	United Communion Service Methodist Chapel
Sunday 18th	9.30am	Family Service
	6.30pm	Prayer Book – Evening Service
Sunday 25th	9.30am	Communion Service & Bugs
Wednesday 28th	10.00am	Holy Communion BCP

February

Sunday 1st	9.30am	Morning Worship and Bugs
Sunday 8th	9.30am	Holy Communion and Bugs
Tuesday 11th	11.0am	United Communion Service Methodist Chapel
Sunday 15th	9.30am	Family Service
	6.30pm	Prayer Book – Evening Service
Sunday 22nd	9.30am	Communion Service & Bugs
Wednesday 25th	10.00am	Holy Communion BCP

A 'Creche' is available in the church hall for children under 5 years old, if required.

Rector – The Rev. Colin Horseman - Telephone 271242

Bluebell Pre-School - Learning Through Play

Bluebell Pre-School employs Staff who are qualified to encourage the development of your child in all areas of the Pre-School curriculum, as defined by the Education Authority.

We are open from 9.15am to 3.15pm. Full day care and sessions available for 2 - 5 year olds. Sessions are held in two large halls daily.

If you would like to know more or put your child's name on our waiting list, contact Jackie Leach on 241677.