

village bulletin

December 2006 Issue 108

www.westbergholt.net

Neighbourhood Watch Scheme

FIRST RESPONDER GROUP.

There has been an excellent take up of volunteers for the village Responder Group, with fourteen members so far having signed up to the scheme. It is hoped to have the group operational, after the completion of briefing and training, early in the New Year. There is still room for more volunteers, and anyone who would like to join the group should contact Annie Neish on 01206 240469, who has agreed to take on the responsibility of setting up the team. Lastly an apology for the date of the group's September meeting being wrongly printed in the last Bulletin. Accidents will happen, which is why we are keen to get the Responder Group up and running!

NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION PANELS

First we had Neighbourhood Watch, then came Neighbourhood Police Teams, and now there is another Government initiative to set up Neighbourhood Action Panels. West Bergholt and Eight Ash Green are joining forces to set up one of these panels. The panels will consist of councillors, police, statutory agencies representatives, community leaders and residents. It is intended these panels should meet on a fairly regular basis, to discuss any problems put forward by interested parties. Such topics could include, neighbourhood policing, vandalism, petty crime, bogus callers or anything else that could contribute towards improving our village life.

The first meeting was held in November, but no further information was available for the December Bulletin regarding future meetings. However, if anyone would like to have a subject put on the agenda for the next meeting, whenever that takes place, please contact John Ford, of Neighbourhood Watch, on 01206 240995 who is West Bergholt's representative on the Panel

IDENTITY THEFT

This is becoming an increasingly serious problem throughout the country, and it can cause real misery to anyone who has the misfortune to be caught up in this type of crime. Sensitive papers and documents, particularly those of a financial nature, should never be put in a dustbin but should always be shredded or burnt. There are a wide range of shredders on the market at shops specialising in office equipment, and, as your correspondent has discovered, at very affordable prices.



CRIME UPDATE

The level of petty crime has been disappointingly high in the village during the latter half of the summer and the early autumn. There was a burglary in Colchester Road at the end of July, followed by an attack on the Chemist Shop in August. Then in September there was a series of thefts, a pony cart was stolen from a field off Nayland Road, two bicycles taken from a passageway of the flats in Colchester Road and spare car wheels removed from vehicles in Mumford Road.

These events illustrate only too clearly why the advent of the new Neighbourhood Action Panels are a most welcome addition in the fight against crime. Information from the public, though, is still a vital weapon in combating the criminal, so if anyone sees something suspicious or actually sees a crime being committed, we urge you to report it to the Police in the first instance. but also to Neighbourhood Watch.

CONTACTS.

Police - PC Neil Everett (or his deputy) of the Neighbourhood Police Team - 07966 197134

Copford Police Station - HQ for Our Neighbourhood Police Team - 01206 210441

Colchester Police Station - 01206 762212

Crime Stoppers - 0800 555111

Neighbourhood Watch - West Bergholt Area Co-ordinator, John Ford - 01206 240995.

Colchester Borough Co-ordinator - Carole Dennis 01206 513333

SCAM WARNING

The editor has received an email from Neil Everett warning about a new scam that could be happening in the village.

The Trading Standards Office have brought the following scam to our attention:

A card is posted through your door from a company called PDS (Parcel Delivery Service) suggesting that they were unable to deliver a parcel and that you need to contact them on 0906 6611911 (a premium rate number).

DO NOT call this number as this is a mail scam originating from Belize. If you call this number and you start to hear a recorded message you will already have been billed £15 for the phone call.

If you do receive a card with these details, then please contact Royal Mail Fraud on 0207 239 6655 or ICTIS (the premium rate service regulator) at <http://www.icstis.org.uk> or your local Trading Standards Office.

the village bulletin *information*

PROVIDED BY THE PARISH COUNCIL OF WEST BERGHOLT

Chairman

Mr J Gili-Ross
67 Mumford Road,
West Bergholt
☎ 242 236



Vice-Chairman

Mr R W Tyrell
Gray Gables,
8a Colchester Road
West Bergholt
☎ 240 016

PARISH COUNCILLORS

Mr B M Colbron	82 Mumford Road	☎	240 297
Mr P S Johnson	135 Chapel Road	☎	241 114
Mr A P Savage	6 Garling Walk	☎	242 015
Mr D Short	60 Albany Road	☎	241 715
Mr P Sleigh		☎	07973 841104
Mr C Stevenson	74 Mumford Road	☎	241 708
Mr H Stone	Vindens, Chapel Lane	☎	241 026

PARISH WORKING COMMITTEES

Environment	Mr Johnson, Mr Colbron, Mr Sleigh, Mr Stevenson, Mr Stone
Finance & General Purpose	Mr Savage, Mr Gili-Ross, Mr Johnson, Mr Tyrell
Hall	Mr Tyrell, Mr Colbron, Mr Sleigh, Mr Short
Planning	Mr Tyrell, Mr Savage

BOROUGH COUNCILLORS

Cllr. Jill Tod	cllr.jill.tod@colchester.gov.uk	☎	574 896
Cllr. Dennis Willetts	dennis.willetts@btinternet.com	☎	

CLERK TO THE PARISH COUNCIL

Mrs Val Walsom	17 Armoury Road, CO6 3JN	☎	240 149
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The Parish Clerk is available for Parish business at any reasonable time, but in particular on Tuesday evenings.

ORPEN HALL ADMINISTRATOR

Mrs J Mayhew		☎	240 694
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The Administrator is available to deal with enquiries at any reasonable time. Bookings should be made at the Hall on Thursdays between 7pm and 8pm. Please use the old side entrance.

SOME USEFUL NUMBERS

Police	210 441 or 211 680 or 762 212	In an emergency dial 999	
Doctor	Surgery - 2 Erle Havard Road	☎	241 137
Pharmacy	Chapel Road	☎	240 352
Post Office	Chapel Road (Half day Saturday)	☎	240 355
St Mary's Church	Rev. C Horseman, The Rectory, Ivy Lodge Road, Gt. Horkesley	☎	271 242
Methodist Church	Mrs. Ros Hollingsworth, The Manse, Chapel Lane	☎	240 098
News Correspondent	Mrs J Hunns, The Laurels, Firmins Court	☎	240 712

(for Essex County Standard & The East Anglian Daily Times) - submissions for news items to be in 2 weeks prior to publication.
Email address for News Correspondent allanhunns@aol.com



The village bulletin is funded by the Parish Council as part of a community service. It is issued quarterly and distributed to every household in the Parish. The views expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Parish Council.

Friends of Hillhouse Wood



Seasonal management work by Friends of Hillhouse Wood's volunteers has resumed under the direction of David Bull and special attention is being paid to footpath maintenance. Urgent attention is also being given to the removal of dead wood from elms that have suffered from Dutch Elm disease. The disease is spreading and threatening the colony of white-letter Hairstreak butterflies, the larvae of which feed on elm leaves. There will also be coppicing of some elm and wych elm trees as a further precautionary measure against disease spread.

The top pond in the wood close to the main entrance has become heavily overgrown with reed mace and some willow and sallow scrub. Clearance work has been delayed owing to the fact that Simon Leatherdale, the Forestry Commission officer who had initially been approached to undertake the work was now unable to help and alternative arrangements will have to be explored.

Ian Rose, Colchester Natural History Society's fungi expert conducted a fungus foray on October 10. Despite the rain, more than 40 species were found, the commonest being red-cracking bolete. The most spectacular fungus was a fine specimen of Hen-of-the-Woods, a large bracket fungus parasitic on oak. A full list of species found by Ian will be available at the Friends' annual meeting on December 13 in the main hall of the Orpen Hall. The speaker after the AGM is Dr Ted Benton, Chairman of Colchester Natural History Society, an expert on dragonflies and author of a national book on bumblebees. Ted will talk, with slides, on the dragonflies and damselflies of Essex. He has just completed a book on the dragonflies of Essex with John Dobson.

Philip Smith and I will lead a winter birds walk in and near the wood on Sunday, January 7, 2007. Meet at the old church at 10.00am (weather permitting), Please wear warm clothing and stout footwear or wellies.

Darren Tansley, mammals recorder for Colchester Natural History Society who is on the Friends committee, reports finding trails of badgers while surveying in the wood. Darren will probably be organising a mammals event for the wood in the spring.

Reports on the wood's wildlife will be presented at the AGM in December and copies will be available.

Joe Firmin



The Editor would like to apologize to Annie Neish and the Neighbour Watch for the wrong meeting date published in the last Bulletin. This was due to a translation problem at the copy stage of putting the Bulletin together. I hope it did not stop interested people going to this worthwhile project.

West Bergholt Concert Band



Happy Holidays!

As always, the band will be wrapping up another successful year with the traditional village Christmas Concert at St Mary's (Saturday December 16th at 7:30pm). We've got a cracker of a programme, featuring some brand new Christmas pieces (Little Saint Nick, Ukrainian Bell Carol, Carol Of The Drum) as well as our favourite Christmas classics (Irving Berlin's White Christmas, Leroy Anderson's Christmas Festival). We'll also be serving up a selection of non-festive stocking fillers (Satchmo!, Suite From The Nutcracker, The Wizard Of Oz), plus one or two amusing surprises.

Before we pulled on our Santa Hats, the Colchester Royal Grammar School joined us for a concert to promote the joys of music to young players, whilst also raising over £500 for Cancer Research. The band's concerts this year have now raised over £2000 for charities including St Helena Hospice, Muscular Dystrophy, Multiple Sclerosis and Headway...so no wonder the band are already fully booked for 2007! We start the year with our fifth annual concert for Muscular Dystrophy on Saturday 17th March at St Botolphs Colchester, followed by another joint concert with our friends "The Sweeting Swing Band" on Sunday March 25th at Clacton's Westcliff Theatre. Details of all of our concerts are on the band's website (www.wbcb.org) and will also appear in the Village Bulletin in the New Year.

All of the band members get a huge amount of enjoyment out of the band, and it's really not fair that some of you are missing out...so if you play a woodwind or brass instrument, you really must come along! Anyone can join Training Band or Concert Band, and new members are always made to feel welcome. The band is above all a fun place to make music amongst a great bunch of players, so if you want to join, either have a look at the band website or give Graham a call on 01206 824157.

Finally...on behalf of the band...we look forward to seeing you at our Christmas Concert for what is always a fun and enjoyable evening, and wish you a Happy Christmas and a wonderful 2007.

Library Times

The Mobile Library visits the village every Tuesday. The stops and times for West Bergholt are:

Orpen Hall	14.00 – 14.20
Erle Havard Road	14.30 – 15.10
Queens Road	15.30 – 16.00
Corner of Spring Lane and Chapel Lane	16.05 – 17.30



From strength to strength

The Royal British Legion

The Great and Little Horkesley Branch of The Royal British Legion which incorporates West Bergholt held their autumn Dinner at the newly refurbished 'Lion' at Leavenheath on Thursday 26th October.

Before the dinner all members and their partners, stood in homage whilst the names of the 15 members from the Colchester Garrison who were killed in Afghanistan recently were read out.

The 'Exhortation' was then spoken by our Chairman.

The remainder of the evening was enjoyed with the usual camaraderie of such occasions, with an enormous raffle and a lot of money being raised towards the Branch 'Poppy Appeal' fund

To find out more of our Branch, please contact the secretary, Mr Roger Drury, 01206 271454 or Hugh Brivent-Barnes 243717 who lives in the village.



Colne Valley Flower Club



Colne Valley Flower Club has come to the end of its programme for the year. Throughout the year we have enjoyed a varied programme of demonstrators, outings, open gardens and coffee mornings. We have had a successful fund raising year for our charity, The Alzheimer's Society, and look forward to presenting them with a cheque at our AGM on January 17th 2007. We welcome all members to the AGM and look forward to a varied programme of events for 2007.

New members and guests are always welcome to our meetings on the third Wednesday of the month in the Orpen Hall. Please call Clare Heyes on 241145 for more information.



Stables and paddock for rent for up to 4 horses, situated in West Bergholt

Stable Block comprises of 4 individual stables and a communal tack room, electric lights, with 2500 litres of fresh water storage, with six acre grass paddock with further separate fenced area. Available December onwards, contract on an annual basis, £20 per week per horse.

Please contact Owen and Lois De'Ath by telephone - Day 01255 830355 or Evening 01206 241567.

Workers Educational Association

Our next course starting 16th January 2007 will be on the History of UK Agriculture from the Enclosure Acts; it covers the main changes that have occurred in UK agriculture since the Enclosure Acts (mostly in the late 1700s) and how these changes affected farming prosperity. The main, more recent changes covered include scientific and technological growth of world agriculture, two World Wars and political intervention (including CAP). The tutor is Andrew Notman.

As usual the course duration is ten Tuesday evenings, 8pm to 9.40pm, at the Methodist Church Hall with its wheelchair access; LOOP system by prior request.

Course fees are Standard £40, Concessions £30 (for over 60s or income under £15,050pa). Those on income related benefits or JSA can enrol free.

If you are unsure whether this is really for you, please come and try the first evening free. Further information from the Secretary on 240791.



Orpen Players



For their Autumn production this year the Orpen Players served up a double bill of two One Act Plays. The first "3's Company" was written and directed by David Wenden, who has been a member of the Group since his early twenties. A tragi-comedy it had a cast of four women portrayed by Jackie Grant, Debra Hornigold, Chrissie Wenden, and Jenny Deal. The second was a farce "Black Comedy" by Peter Shaffer, and was a directional debut for Will Hooper. Because of unforeseen circumstances Will had to step into the leading role as well. The other cast members were Robin Warnes, Colin Downer, Judith Drew, David Wenden, Mike Poole, Jackie Grant and Debra Hornigold. It was a fun filled evening and seemed to be enjoyed by all.

Make a date for the Pantomime 26th/27th January, and 2nd/3rd February 2007. A fun filled show for Family Entertainment "The Wind in the Willows" directed by Fiona Hunt.

At the North East Essex Theatre Guild awards evening held in Clacton in September, Colin Downer won the Award For Best Supporting Actor for his role as Crestwell the Butler in the Orps production of "Relative Values", directed by Joyce Lucking.

Colin Downer

Has your child missed a lot of school this year?

Many children, especially when they start school for the first time, end up missing days here and there due to illness. Most of these days off are due to the usual childhood ailments such as coughs, colds, sore throats, earache, stomach upsets etc.

Before you go back to your GP for yet another course of antibiotics, consider the following facts:

Your GP will have told you that with very few exceptions, antibiotics are ineffective in the treatment of viral infections, only bacterial infections respond to antibiotic treatment. If your child is given antibiotics, their already overworked immune system now has to deal with them as well as the viral infection. There are increasing numbers of antibiotic resistant infections due to a past history of over prescribing of antibiotics.

Pharmaceutical drugs are not tested on children; the dosage is based on a percentage of the adult dose. This takes no account of growing children and their immature immune systems. Most childhood ailments such as sore throat, ear infections, coughs and colds are self limiting, your doctor will have told you to keep the child warm, rested, with plenty of fluids, this is sound advice and most children will soon be back on their feet.

Homeopathy can help to deal with mild infections, two remedies which are of particular use in coughs, colds, and sore throats are:

Pulsatilla which is most appropriate for a weepy, clingy child who is thirstless despite a fever and feels better for fresh air.

Bryonia can be useful for the child who wants to lie still, is thirsty for large quantities of cold water, has a dry painful cough and is worse for any type of movement.

However, repeated infections or episodes of illness need constitutional treatment by a professional homeopath. Constitutional treatment boosts the immune system so that your child is able to fight off infections without unpleasant side effects of pharmaceutical drugs. The homeopath will ask many questions in order to select the correct remedy for your child and you will be given the remedy in either soft tablet form or as a powder to be dissolved in water, both methods are easy for even the youngest child to take.

Visit the Society of Homeopaths website on www.homeopathy-soh.org for further information.

If you would like to know more about Homeopathy and how it can benefit your family's health, please visit my website www.homeopathyesssex.org.uk or telephone 01206 241998.

Gillian Tyrrell, RSHom

NWR Group



Having enjoyed the long, lazy days of the summer during which time we read the book "Labyrinth" by Kate Mosse, we discussed it at our first meeting of the Autumn programme.

One of our most interesting evenings was listening to Nic Clarke recount his amazing experiences on the EverestMax Expedition - cycling from the lowest point to the base of the highest point in the world. Not content with cycling through so many countries and facing some interesting situations(!), they formed a team to climb Everest. Everyone felt quite humble by the end of Nic's presentation but very proud of a "local" lad's achievements and we raised nearly £200 towards the Expedition's three very worthwhile charities.

Our other topics have been Allotments, a History of Fashion, a telephonic Treasure Trail (otherwise known as a brain taxing quiz!), researching a well-known phrase or saying and we are about to confess who (alive or dead) we would like to invite to stay at Christmas and why! It should be very interesting! If anyone would like to come along one evening, please call Jane on 240167 or Shirley on 240588 for more information.

West Bergholt Friendship Club



Our annual trip to Bury St Edmunds once again enjoyed perfect weather. Members and friends explored the very busy market in Bury town centre and, after a bite to eat, were able to relax in the beautiful Abbey gardens before joining the coach for home.

The autumn programme began with the delayed annual garden party at Alcrofts Farm, held in mid-September during this year's prolonged summer.

Back in the Orpen Hall at the end of the month, Dorothy Winter read some more of the late Rev Harry Winter's memoirs covering the early part of his service in the army.

In October, sixteen of our members joined a 90-strong gathering of club members at Langenhoe village hall for the annual symposium of Age Concern Colchester Rural where they heard speakers from the library service, hospital management and the league of friends.

We are now looking forward to being entertained by children from Heathlands School in November and to our Christmas party in early December.

New members are always welcome. Club meetings take place at the Orpen Hall at 2pm on the second and fourth Thursdays in each month.

Gerda Rumsey, Chairman

Methodist Church News

Our Gift and Parade Service on 3rd December begins a very busy time of year in our Church calendar. We welcome the uniformed organisations to take part on our morning service. Christmas gifts are donated to Women and Children at Colchester Refuge and the homeless who visit the Night Shelter and Beacon House.

The Candlelight Carol Service takes place on Sunday 17th December at 6.30pm followed by mince pies and coffee in the Church Hall after the service. Everyone is welcome at this traditional service of carols.

We hope to continue our Carol Singing around the village on Tuesday evening 19th December when we collect for National Children's Home. Come along and join us – we meet at 6.30pm at the Methodist Church Hall in Chapel Lane.

There will be a Christmas Eve service at our usual time of 11.00am, but no Christmas Day service as we will be joining Eight Ash Green Methodist Church at 10.00am.

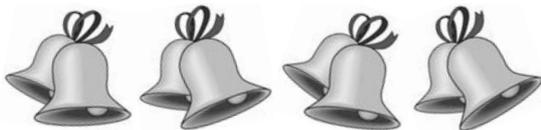
From the New Year we will be holding Sunday morning services only. Regular meetings will continue as usual with Coffee Mornings, Village midweek Communion services and Women's Fellowship.

We are planning our Annual Village Quiz Night for March 24th 2007. Book this date in your diary and enter a team. The cost is £12.00 for a team of four. More details in the next Bulletin, or telephone 241969.

The Methodist Church is in urgent need of a

PART TIME CLEANER for our Hall.

Approximately 5 hours per week
Telephone 241969 for more information



‘CHRISTMAS SERVICE AND CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

At St Mary's Old Church,
Hall Road, West Bergholt.

Sunday afternoon 17th December at 2.30

Bring the family, and let's sing this lovely
old historic church back to life.

Dress up nice and warm.

West Bergholt Gardeners' Association



Our autumn programme commenced in September, when we had an illustrated talk on new varieties of flowers and vegetables, following which we held our Annual General Meeting. In October a party of members paid an evening visit to E.W.King & Co of Kelvedon, where we enjoyed an interesting and informative tour of the seed processing plant, and in November we had a workshop-style presentation about Plant Association.

In December we have a Club Evening, when Steve Canham of Mill Race Garden Centre will be giving a talk on Fruit Tree Cultivation, as well as our usual pre-Christmas social event. In addition there will be a Plant and Garden Accessories Sales Table and members are invited to donate items and also, of course, to buy - all proceeds to Association funds. We skip January and our first meeting in 2007 is on February 19th when Matthew Tanton Brown of The Place for Plants, East Bergholt will chair a session of Gardeners' Question Time and all those attending are asked to come armed with questions...or cries for help!! Tracy Leverett of the RHS Hyde Hall Garden will join us on March 19th to talk about Wildflower Gardening and potential members or visitors are welcome to come along at 7.30pm to this and any of our meetings.

On a sadder note we have to report that Jack Prince has decided to stand down as Chairman after 26 years of valuable service to the Association by him and his wife, Marjorie, a long-time Committee member. Our members are very grateful to them both for their unstinting contribution and have elected Jack to be President of the Association. Allan Mullis has assumed the role of Chairman and Gordon Dean takes over from Ian Collin, who is also standing down after several years as Secretary.

West Bergholt is fortunate to have an active Gardeners' Association and we look forward to seeing new faces - the cost of membership is very modest and the programme has something for everyone...do come along.

Village Photographic Competition

The West Bergholt Women's Institute Coffee Morning and Photographic competition was very successful. A large number of photos were entered and the judge, Keith Fletcher, congratulated all the entrants on the high standard of their photos.

Winners in each category were:

Coastal Scene – Lynne Jacobs

Flora and Fauna – Stanley Dean

Summer in West Bergholt – Joyce Hollock

Family Fun – Lawrence Beeching

Photo by a child under 12 – Sarah Jacobs

Certificates were presented to first, second and highly commended entries by WI President Joyce Woolhead.

Parish Plan questionnaire – Four prize draw winners!

Following the inclusion of the questionnaire in September's edition of the Village Bulletin, 215 forms were returned in the boxes held at the Co-op, Ash's Convenience Store and the doctors' surgery.

Thank you to all of you who completed your questionnaires and many thanks also to the companies and individuals who provided the prizes. The draw has now been made and the four winners are as follows:

Co-op hamper – Barry Thomson
Meal for two at the White Hart – Andy Sparrow
Half hour golf lesson – Tim and Claire Barton
Pleasure flight – Keith and June Prichard

Rodney Wolton, Store Manager of the West Bergholt Co-op, and Eira Cursons, General

Assistant, presented Mr Thomson with his hamper on Wednesday 1 November.

The next step is the analysis of the results which will take place over the next few months. More information will be published in the March edition of the Bulletin and will soon be found on the village website at www.westbergholt.net, which is currently being revamped. We will shortly have a page dedicated to the Parish Plan so watch that space!

For further information or to get involved with the Parish Plan, please contact Catherine Bailey, Secretary of the West Bergholt Parish Plan Group by e-mailing: catherine@bailey72.co.uk.

Jo Goldthorpe, Publicity Officer



Mr Thomson is presented with his hamper by Rodney Wolton and Eira Cursons of the Co-op.

PROJECTS ARRANGED BY THE PARISH COUNCIL



**Security Doors
for the Orpen Hall and
the Social Club**

**Poors Field Entrance
(still to be completed by
Essex County Council)**



**Play Area
Phases One and Two**

West Bergholt Parish Council News

Hall Committee

David Short and Chris Stevenson have joined the Parish Council and serve on the Hall Committee. Bernard Colbron has vacated the position of chair person and Bob Tyrell has taken it on temporarily.

The hall bookings are filling up week days and weekends alike. Hirers are advised to book the date required before confirming with their suppliers and entertainers.

New security doors have now been fitted to the Orpen Hall and Social Club entrances. Repairs and replacements to the roof of the halls has been completed. Most of the roof problems are due to vandalism in the night hours. Phase two of the CCTV project is under way. This will cover areas of the hall and social club that were not included in phase one. The Hall Committee agreed at its last meeting to put in place a rolling five year plan for improving the fabric of the hall. This may include new windows, re-surfacing and marking out the car park, new central heating including all the radiators and other projects.

Environment Committee

Harry Stone has joined the Parish Council and serves on the Environment Committee.

The committee has been busy organising work around the village. All the hedges have been cut and trees lopped. A few trees have been identified with problems and the committee will consult a tree surgeon to look at the work involved and ask for a quote.

Someone from the highways department is inspecting all the villages in Colchester Borough with regard to road/path repairs. Whilst visiting West Bergholt a number of problems were highlighted. Immediate work was carried out at the junctions of Queens Road/Bourne Road and New Church Road/Chapel Road. Essex County Council is due to complete the work at the entrance to Poors Field in 2007. The gate at the Colchester Road entrance to the Poors field

needs replacing. An estimate for this work is being obtained before any work is undertaken.

The allotment holders have selected a committee to represent them to liaise with the Parish Council. They have held meetings on and off the allotments to discuss various points. Harry Stone, Chair of the Allotment Committee has agreed to pass on any comments to the Environment Committee.

Planning Committee.

The committee has had quite a few planning applications to deal with. They have been returned to Colchester Borough Council with comments. Plans are available to view from Colchester Borough Planning or as reported in the press.

Finance Committee

Andrew Savage (Chair of the Committee) and Val Walsom (Parish Clerk) have continued to source grants for the various projects in the village. The CCTV and playground equipment were part grant funded. By using grants from various sources it puts no pressure on the precept of the Parish of West Bergholt.

All committees have been hard at work on formulating budgets for 2007. These have to be ready for December as they are sent to Colchester Borough Council for scrutiny.

Other Information

The Parish Council has been informed that work is to start on the Colchester Road bridge over the A12. The work is to start in January 2007 and be completed by June 2007 (subject to weather conditions).

www.westbergholt.net is the address of the new village web site. It contains many reports and information about village groups as well as information about the Parish Council.

THE PARISH COUNCIL NEEDS YOU

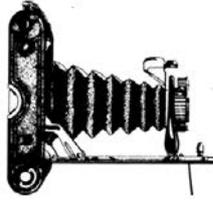
WEST BERGHOLT PARISH COUNCIL is compiling a list of local trades people who would be interested in carrying out small works at the **Orpen Hall** on a commercial hourly or fixed rate, possibly at short notice in the case of plumbing heating or electrical failure. **We need to hear from** the following local tradespersons:

Plumbers (with domestic and commercial experience), **Electricians**,

Plasterers, Carpenters, Roofers and Decorators

Please contact or send your details to the Parish Clerk

West Bergholt Local History Group



AUGUST - On our last 'away' meeting we visited Halstead Post Box museum. On display were many boxes from various locations and periods. As well as looking at the boxes we were told about the background and the way they were made..

SEPTEMBER - We welcomed Richard Shackle who gave a talk about Cooks Hall. Aided by slides, he took us through the buildings and gave us an insight into the way they were extended and altered over many years.

OCTOBER - We were shown the many aspects of Harwich buildings. Our speaker compared before and after restorations to give us an idea of the way the Harwich Society are trying to preserve the historic buildings.

NOVEMBER there will be a talk about historic Sudbury. The history group have a break in December and meet again on 10th January 2007.



SUFFOLK HORSES

During the winter Suffolk Punches will continue working in the traditional way on the Anchor Inn Heritage Farm, adjoining the Anchor Inn in Nayland. Everyone is invited to come, entirely free of charge, to see the horses at work and to walk around the Anchor Inn Heritage Farm. The horses love an audience and visits by schools are especially welcome. Those working the heavy horses will always try to be as informative as they can and sometimes they let visitors "take the reins".

The conservation of the Suffolk horse (fondly known as the Suffolk Punch), East Anglia's only indigenous breed of heavy horse, is a crucial element of the Anchor Inn Heritage Farm. The breed is on the brink of extinction with only 370 registered pure bred Suffolks left in the world. We currently have 12 Suffolk Punches and are working hard to help prevent the breed from dying out by building up a breeding stock, promoting the horses whenever possible and providing a traditional working purpose for them.

The Suffolk Punches will be ploughing throughout the winter on the Anchor Inn Heritage Farm, which has been developed to restore traditional heritage farming to the local area and to supply a range of produce for the Anchor Inn restaurant. Uniquely one of our smaller Suffolk mares is being trained for the very precise work that is required to cultivate the vegetables and herbs used in the restaurant kitchen.

There is no charge for visiting any aspect of the Anchor Inn Heritage Farm but donations to the Suffolk Horse Society (registered charity No. 220756) will be much appreciated.

To find out exactly when the Suffolk Punches are working, weather and ground conditions permitting, please telephone 01206 262313.

CONUNDRUMS FOR YOU TO SOLVE

Answers on page 17

Example - 12 D of C = Twelve Days of Christmas

- | | | | |
|---|----------------|----|-----------------|
| 1 | 4 W and a F | 6 | 1 M and his D |
| 2 | 90 D in a R A | 7 | 16 O in a P |
| 3 | 7 A W of the W | 8 | 180 - H S in D |
| 4 | 64 is E S | 9 | 100 is C in R N |
| 5 | 13 in a B D | 10 | 1215 - Q P T |



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 3rd December - Gift and Parade service - Methodist Church
- 16th December - West Bergholt Concert Band - St Mary's 7.30pm
- 17th December - Carols by Candlelight - St Mary's Old Church 2.30pm
- 17th December - Candlelight Carol Service - Methodist Church 6.30pm
- 19th December - Carol singing around the village - Methodist Church 6.30pm
- 7th January - Hillhouse Wood walk - Old Church 10am
- 16th January - WEA, UK Agriculture - Methodist Hall
- 26th & 27th January, 2nd & 3rd February - Orpen Players Pantomime 'Wind in the Willows' - Orpen Hall

Editor's Korner

In this edition some of the articles have had to be edited due to space constraints. Apologies to those contributors.

We welcome correspondence, by post or e-mail, as long as it includes the sender's full name and address, which could be withheld for publication if requested.

A relevant picture to accompany any submitted article would be welcome.

The editor reserves the right to cut or amend contributions for legal or space reasons.

Bulletin contacts:

Editor: Bernard Colbron 240297

E.mail: colbronb@tiscali.co.uk

Advertising: Susan Swan 242319

Contributions: contact any member of the editorial board listed on the back page.



MANOR GROVE FARM (opposite Treble Tile)

Christmas Trees for sale (non needle drop), Special sizes to order. Farm Shop with Apples, our own Juice and fresh Vegetables.

Open Saturday/Sunday 10.00 until 3.00.

December 2nd until 23rd December.

Also Monday mornings 10 - 12.

Contact : Kate Penrose 210225 or Beverley Kettell 241592

Heathlands School



Sadly, we said goodbye to Mrs Jan Cole, our Foundation Stage Co-ordinator, at the end of last term after 11 years at Heathlands. Mrs Cole played an extensive part in setting up our Early Years facilities to enable the two-term intake we now have. Following Mrs Cole's retirement, we welcome Mrs Catherine Lewis as Foundation Stage Co-ordinator. Mrs Lewis has quickly become an effective member of the Heathlands' team.

Through careful management of our funds we have been able to replace the windows at the front of the school, resurface the junior school playground and make improvements to the boundary fences and gates.

Following the lengthy and very costly dispute regarding access to the school, the new boundaries have been created and the access road resurfaced.

We would like to remind parents to avoid parking dangerously at the beginning and end of the school day. We often receive complaints from residents about cars parked on corners and in front of driveways. Some parents are also stopping on the restricted area outside the school, which is an offence. Please make every effort to park safely.

The upper juniors visited Shakespeare's Globe and Tate Modern in October. They had a very exciting day and these are some of their observations about the original building:

"The original Globe burnt down on the 29th June 1613. They used a cannon for sound effects and a spark from the cannon hit the thatched roof and started to burn. Nobody died but one man's trousers got caught on fire. The whole Globe burnt down in 2 hours. There were only two doors for everybody to get out of."

"The Globe was made out of oak trees and it took 1000 trees for the wooden beams. It wasn't just made out of wood, but wattle and daub as well which is a mixture of cows' hair and plaster. To hold the walls together they used wooden nails."

Year Two visited the Planetarium and Sealife Centre in Southend. This visit was also very enjoyable and here are some of the children's comments about their day:

"We went on the coach and went to the Sealife Centre. We went to the rock pool. We talked about it. We got to stroke the starfish and the crabs. We walked through a big tunnel and sharks were all around us."

"Seahorse Facts

*All seahorses can blend into most of their surroundings
Seahorses eat little crustaceans, baby fish, shrimps and plankton.*

Seahorses can swim upright.

Seahorses can look with one eye pointing left and one pointing right.

The mum seahorse lays the eggs and the dad looks after them.

The mum and dad stay together for their whole life.

Even though I am writing this at the end of October, signs of Christmas are very evident. Red and gold glitter has appeared in every nook and cranny. Members of staff are wandering around with reindeer, and Christmas tree shapes. It is only a matter of time before Christmas Carols will be ringing out of our new windows.

The staff and pupils of Heathlands wish you all a very merry Christmas and hope to see many of you at our Hollyberry Fayre on 1st December.

Brownies



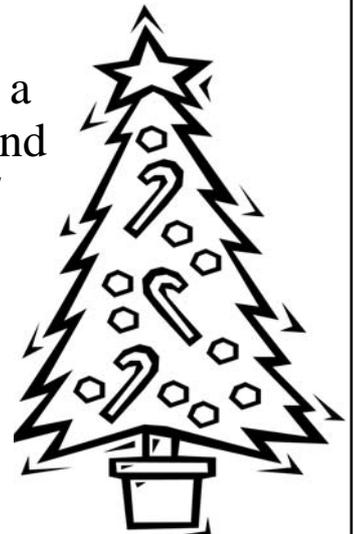
Brownies from both West Bergholt Packs joined together for an outing to London recently. The Brownies visited the Guide Headquarters in Buckingham Palace Road and enjoyed going to the Guide ICANDO centre with lots of exciting activities.

It was a lovely warm day and everyone enjoyed a picnic lunch in St James' Park. The Mounted Lifeguards accompanied by a military band rode by, much to the delight of the Brownies. They were on their way to Change the Guard at Buckingham Palace, but as there were hundreds of spectators the Brownies could not get anywhere near to watch. However they enjoyed seeing the sights around Buckingham Palace and everyone had a wonderful day.

Seasons Greetings

We wish you all a happy, healthy and prosperous 2007

from the
West Bergholt
Village Bulletin
Team



SPOKEN ENGLISH

The dump was so full that it had to refuse more refuse.

He could lead if he could get the lead out.

The soldier decided to desert the dessert in the desert.

Since there is no time like the present, he thought it was time to present the present.

A bass was painted on the head of the bass drum.

West Bergholt Women's Institute



Our Village Photographic Competition and Exhibition in September was a very successful event. The quality of the photographs submitted was excellent and this made judging extremely difficult. What talented amateurs we have around the village!

We had a last minute change of speaker in October, the subject was to be 'Sugar & Spice' – but we certainly enjoyed the 'All Things Nice' – when our stand-in speaker, Jenny Handley arrived with delicious tubs of homemade ice cream for all our members, and told us about the family farm diversifying from Dairy Herd to Ice Cream Parlour.

'Three tarts and a Florist' was the title of a W.I. Show at the Cliffs Pavilion, Southend enjoyed by over 1000 W.I. members and arranged by the Essex Federation at the end of October.

We are looking forward to many more enjoyable meetings, why not come along to the Orpen Hall and join us!

1st West Bergholt Guides



Through wind, rain and boiling heat 1st West Bergholt Guides managed to have fun. The weather did not dampen our spirits.

Norjam 2006 started off with a huge opening ceremony, with thousands of Guides, Scouts and leaders turning up. We had to stay close because it was so easy for us to lose each other. Carol Bundock made an appearance on stage to welcome us all.

Throughout the week we took part in many activities. Each Guide managed to select their tickets and go off to their activity. They took part in all sorts of things, including skiing, sailing and Quad bikes.

Midweek there was a Christmas themed day. Julie Reinger came and made a live weather forecast.

We were all having so much fun we didn't want to leave. But, all good things come to an end and Norjam 2006 finished on a closing ceremony where everyone celebrated what a fun week they had taken part in.

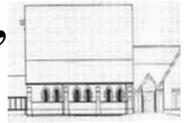
Jacqueline Newman
Young Leader



English as Spoken

The bandage was wound around the wound.
The farm was used to produce produce.

St. Mary the Virgin, West Bergholt



Developing St.Mary's for a growing community

New year, new look for St Mary the Virgin, West Bergholt with only one final step to take in the process of gaining official approval for the plans to refurbish the Church. A date of 1st January 2007 has been set for work to begin in earnest. From then it is anticipated that contractors will begin the task of improving facilities in the building to include enhancing the heating, lighting and audio visual arrangements and replacing the pews with comfortable seating that can be arranged in a variety of ways depending on how the Church is being used. All these plans will have been given very detailed consideration by the Diocese. You can be assured that any changes will be to a high standard and in keeping with the Church and its mission in the village.

After Sunday 14th January, for a period of approximately seven weeks, Sunday services will be held in the hall at Heathlands School from 9.30am (more information on this to follow on Church and School notice boards). An alternative venue for our Thursday morning coffee (Open House) and Thursday afternoon tea (5" T's) is currently being sought. Usage of the Church hall should continue unaffected during this time we hope.

This is an exciting time in the life of St. Mary's and the village as a whole. We are already blessed with having a beautiful 1000 year-old church on our doorstep (albeit unlit and unheated). Now we face the prospect of having a beautiful warm and welcoming church in the heart of our community.



West Bergholt Parent and Toddler Group



The Autumn term continues, with the annual visit from Van Cols photographers, and lots of Christmas crafts and activities. We are looking forward to the Christmas party this year to be held at Leisure World on 11th December. All registered children will receive a Christmas present. 2007 promises to be busy with lots planned for the children and carers.

The group meets Mondays during term time 9.30-11.30am in the Methodist Hall.

New members are always welcome.

For more information please call Rachel on 01206 242431 or Steph on 01206 843761.

Letters to the Editor

The Bulletin editor

Dear Sir,

The West Bergholt and Eight Ash Green Ward contribute two councillors to Colchester Borough Council. The name of John Lampon is legendary in this regard. Currently, our councillors are Jill Tod and Dennis Willetts. Dennis replaced the retiring David Cannon in May 2006; Jill will be standing for re-election in May 2007. All of these councillors have belonged to the Conservative Party.

There used to be a Branch of the Association in our Ward in which John Foreman was well known. Approximately ten years ago the Branch became inactive. This year has seen the reactivation of our Branch. Our inaugural meeting was attended by Bernard Jenkin, MP, as was our first fund-raising event, a garden party with donkey rides. This took place at my home in Cooks Hall Lane in July.

Our next event will be a Safari Supper on Saturday 27th January 2007. The event is not restricted to current Conservative members. The invitation is extended to residents of our two villages.

Please would anyone interested in attending our Safari Supper or even host one of the courses please contact me on 241411.

Thank you very much,
MG Harrington, Chairman

Dear Sir,

This is a special 'Thank you' to the lady – I don't know your name – who found my really poorly cat who had collapsed and brought him home to me. She was a real Good Samaritan.

I'd like her to know that he died peacefully in his own home a few hours later. I was so relieved to have him safely here as I had been searching for him.

A big thank-you to you. Please come and have a cup of coffee with me one day. The lady concerned knows me – or at least where I live – and I just wanted to acknowledge her kindness through the Bulletin.

Name and address supplied.



FAMILIES of the VILLAGE

MANOR GROVE FARM

Having been in the same family for over 35 years, it comes as somewhat of a surprise to Kate Penrose, owner of Manor Grove Farm, that new customers come along and declare, "We never knew you were here!".

Gordon Penrose, father of Stephen (a local vet) retired about four years' ago and the next generation now run the remaining third of the original orchards, which this year enjoyed a bumper crop.

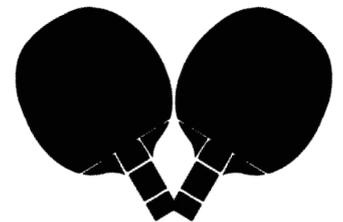
Heathlands School has made several visits to see both the blossom and fruit and now the barn has some very fine artwork on the wall. Three years ago some new trees of traditional and Essex varieties were planted (at a time when growers were being paid to grub up their orchards) and these should give us some D'Arcy Spice, Blenheim Orange and Worcesterers in a couple of years. Those in the know, or who spotted the sign at the end of Manor Road, came to pick pounds of fresh apples this October (one couple picked over 150 lbs.) and it makes a good outing for families keen to make blackberry and apple crumble!

The Penroses also own the field along Colchester Road, where, sadly, the Horse Chestnut trees have been ravaged by a new moth/fungal disease; these trees have probably been there for 100 years but will be taken down this winter and burned. Plans are afoot to replace them with Flowering Cherries, which will give spring colour in relatively few years, unless the Parish council wishes to suggest a viable alternative?

Answers to CONUNDRUMS on page 13

- 1 Four Weddings and a Funeral
- 2 Ninety Degrees in a Right Angle
- 3 Seven Ancient Wonders of the World
- 4 Sixty Four is Eight Squared
- 5 Thirteen in a Bakers Dozen
- 6 One Man and His Dog
- 7 Sixteen Ounces in a Pound
- 8 One Hundred and Eighty - Highest Score in Darts
- 9 Hundred is C in Roman Numerals
- 10 12.15 - Quarter Past Twelve

Table Tennis Club



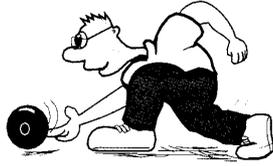
St Mary's Table Tennis Club has entered five teams in the Colchester and District

Table Tennis League. For news of the teams, look in the Evening Gazette on Thursdays to see the results and reports of matches.

Beginners and more experienced players are welcome to Club Nights 7.30pm to 9pm held in St Mary's Church Hall, Church Close. The first night is free to try it out, and you can have tuition if you wish.

Please contact Marlene Smith on 240845 for more information..

West Bergholt Indoor Bowls Club



Autumn brings the annual competitions to our programme, the Singles Competition is being held on club night to give all members possible a chance to play.

The Pairs competition and the Triples are to be played on a Sunday afternoon followed by a nice tea. The fours rinks are being played after Christmas.

The club has had a number of invitations for teams to play in competitions near and far as well as competing against the local teams who play in carpet bowl leagues. Our results are very good.

Nine members from the club played in the County Competition Team bowl, although we did not have a winning team member everyone thoroughly enjoyed the day.

Jan Lumb and Paul Leach have qualified for the finals of a pair's competition at Great Yeldham. We wish them the best of luck for finals day.

If you would like to join us for a pleasant evening's bowling and a cup of tea do come along at 7.15pm on a Thursday or Sunday evening. Ring 01206 240379 for further information.

West Bergholt Cricket Club



Our 1st team had a good season in Division 1 of the North Essex League, finishing 5th. Our 2nd team struggled all season but managed to narrowly avoid relegation from Division 4.

The Colts had a good season considering it was the first time that the club was represented at three levels - Under 13, Under 14 and Under 15. All teams finished roughly mid-table in their respective leagues. The new Kwik Cricket section had lots of fun and were represented at several local inter-club tournaments.

In early October the club held its annual Awards Presentation Evening at the pavilion in Manor Road. Of particular note were Nick Miller who won all the 1st XI batting awards and was the 1st team's Player of the Season; Neill Hunt went one step further winning all the performance related trophies for the 2nd XI. Colts' Players of the Season were Sean McGovern (Under13), George Northover (Under 14) and Sam Brookes (Under 15).

In the close season, the club is competing now in both the Braintree Indoor Cricket League and the Over 40's at the County Ground in Chelmsford.

The club is looking to recruit new members for next season and any seniors interested should contact Nigel Passmore on 240225 or Nigel@WebQffset.freemove.co.uk; juniors should contact Peter Twydell on 241678 or petetwydell@fsmail.net.

The club is looking for a new Groundsman to mow and prepare wickets.

Contact Nigel Passmore for more information.

Nigel Passmore, Chairman.

West Bergholt Football Club



Nine games into the season, and a familiar scenario. The first team are second in the Premier League, and the reserves halfway in Division One, with the first team currently enjoying a good cup run.

We have had a bit of a change in the management structure during the close season, with Kevin Ketley still running the first team, and Kevin Mather taking over the reserves, assisted by Jimmy McInnes. A big thank you is due to Terry Bethall for his efforts over several seasons in this difficult job.

The Three Peaks Challenge mentioned in the last Bulletin was a great fund raising success raising much needed cash for the Clubhouse project, and St Helena Hospice. Have a look on the website at some great photos and write up. Thanks to all who participated and contributed.

We held another successful Race Night in October and several club members spent a couple of weekends apple picking at Manor Farm again in aid of the Clubhouse funds, and thanks go to Owen and Lois De'Ath for this opportunity.

The junior football coaching sessions on Saturday mornings are still going strong, and proving even more popular, with continuing good attendances. Something we will be hoping to carry on with in the future.

We are looking for a trainer to take Wednesday evening training sessions, so if anyone is interested please contact the club for details.

Visit our website www.westbergholtfc.co.uk for the latest news and league tables.

MR Bell, Chairman



village bulletin *what's on guide*

Regular Village Events

Sundays:

Prayer Meeting, 10.15am 1st Sunday every month - Methodist Church

Service of Worship, 11.00am 1st,2nd,3rd & 5th Sundays and 3pm 4th Sunday- 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)

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, Beginners and Regular, 7.30-9.30pm - Scout Hut

Methodist Church, 11am 2nd Tuesday Communion Service

Badminton Club, 8.15pm - Orpen Hall

Wednesdays:

Coffee Morning, 10.00am 2nd Wednesday - Methodist Hall

Women's Fellowship, 3:00pm 1st and 3rd Wednesday - Methodist Hall

Women's Institute, 7.15pm 1st Wednesday - Orpen Hall

Coine Valley Flower Club, 7.30pm 3rd Wednesday - Orpen Hall (not August or December)

History Group, 2nd Wednesday (not December), telephone (01206) 240297 for further details

Parish Council Meeting, 7.30pm 4th Wednesday - Orpen Hall

Tai Chi, Beginners and Regular, Wednesdays in the John Lampon Hall telephone Roberta Sheps 762213

West Bergholt Craft and Quilters Group, 4th Wednesday (except Christmas) - Methodist Church Hall

Ladies Afternoon Badminton, Orpen Hall, 3.00pm to 4.30pm.

New members welcome - contact Pat Butcher for details 242075

Thursdays:

Friendship Club, 2.00pm 2nd and 4th Thursday - Orpen Hall

Squeels on Wheels, Service for pre-school toddlers, 2nd Wednesday of the month, from 1.45pm-2.45pm - St Mary's Church

Colchester and District Model Railway Club, 8pm - Armoury Farm

National Women's Register, 8.00pm fortnightly, telephone (01206) 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

Fridays:

West Bergholt Concert Band,

6.00-7.00pm (Juniors), 7.00-9.00pm (seniors) - Heathlands school

Wesley Guild, 7.30pm, fortnightly - 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 response, please don't leave a message on an answering service, try any other number.

Monday	242 319	Tuesday	242 185
Wednesday - Try any Number		Thursday	241 672
Friday	240 291	Sat / Sun	242 075

St. Mary's Church Dates

Please note; when the re-development of St Mary's is taking place, services will be held at Heathlands School.

December

Sunday 3rd Holy Communion 9.30am

Thursday 7th PCC meeting 7.30pm

Sunday 10th Holy Communion 9.30am

Saturday 16th Musical Evening with West Bergholt Concert Band 7.30pm
Tickets at door

Friday 22nd Groundbreakers Holiday Club

For 5 to 11 year olds at 2 o'clock

Followed by 'Christingle Service' at 4pm

Sunday 17th Holy Communion 9.30am

Carols by Candlelight in Old Church at 2.30pm

Sunday 24th No Morning Service

Crib Service 3.00pm

Carol Service 6.30pm

Midnight Communion 11.30pm

Sunday 25th Christmas Day Family Service 9.30am

Sunday 31st Praise Service

January

Sunday 7th Holy Communion 9.30am

Thursday 11th PCC Meeting 7.30pm

Sunday 14th Holy Communion 9.30am

Services from now on will held in the Hall, at Heathlands School

Sunday 21st Family Service 9.30am

Sunday 28th Holy Communion 9.30am

February

Sunday 4th Holy Communion 9.30am

Thursday 1st PCC Meeting 7.30pm

Sunday 11th Holy Communion 9.30am

Sunday 18th Family Service 9.30am

Sunday 25th Holy Communion 9.30am

St Mary's Church Creche - A Creche is available, as required for children under 5 years old.

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, please contact Jackie Leach on 241677.

Editorial Team:

John Bates 240741, Bernard Colbron 240297, Jon Lander 241288, Susan Leng 241748, Joyce Lucking 241743 and Susan Swan (advertising) 242319. Copy for March issue should be with the Editors before 1st February 2007 - Regretfully late submissions cannot be guaranteed entry into the Bulletin