

village bulletin

June 2009

Issue 118

www.westbergholt.net

Heathlands Church of England School Headmaster Retires

Children in West Bergholt have a happy and inspiring start to their school career thanks to Heathlands Church of England Primary School. Such is the school's reputation that it attracts children from outside the village. That reputation has been established under the leadership of Headteacher John Watts. He is now preparing to retire at the end of this year, but his legacy will continue at the school.

Teaching has transformed from chalk on blackboards to switching on interactive whiteboards, during John Watts' time as Headteacher at Heathlands.

But while the school continues to benefit from technological advances, John believes that it is the quality of the teaching which is the basis of education at Heathlands. He sums up: "Heathlands is a school which has traditional values but moves with the times." It is a formula which has led to the school's reputation for high academic standards. The school's success is recognised in the four Ofsted reports during his headship. They have highlighted the quality of teaching and noted the happy environment in which children are educated. John is quick to point out that there is far more to education than good exam results – he has always encouraged pupils to develop their artistic and sports ability. He says, "Children should always be at the centre of learning." He attributes the success of the school to the support and skills of the teaching and administrative staff. John also has appreciated a close working relationship with the school's governing body. "And," he points out, "We have always kept close links with the Church and the community." That support has been reflected in the school PTA events, such as the Fireworks Display, Summer Fayre and Hollyberry Fayre being established events in the village calendar. It has come to the fore during the difficult times.

"The school had steadfast support during the seven years battle to keep the road across the Heath as access road for the school" recalled John. "It was a legal minefield, involving some local opposition, but the issue was finally resolved when the Education Secretary confirmed a Compulsory Purchase Order for the access road."



It was also under John's headship that tragedy struck the school. Eleven-year-old Daniel Mullinger was killed and three of his classmates seriously injured when a tree fell on them during a freak accident during a school trip.

"It was the most tremendous, sadness" said John.

It was the worst time during his years in education – since John started as a teacher at North Primary School in Colchester 38 years ago. He taught at schools in Sudbury and Braintree and then was deputy head at the Cathedral School in Chelmsford before being appointed Headteacher at Heathlands. It was, he said, returning full circle as his family home had been in Colchester and he attended St George's Infant and Junior School and then Colchester Royal Grammar School before gaining his B.Ed degree through Lancaster University.

John has encouraged trainee teachers over the years – with the same personal interest he shows in the school's young pupils. Over the years he gets to know every child as an individual. Visiting "Mr Watts" is usually a highlight for Heathlands children who see him for a star and jellybaby

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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 Tyrrell
Grey Gables,
8a Colchester Road
West Bergholt
☎ 240 016

PARISH COUNCILLORS

Mrs S Butcher	59 Mumford Road	☎	241 923
Mrs J Church	Doran, Hall Road	☎	240 792
Mr B M Colbron	64 Mumford Road	☎	240 297
Mrs S Day	62 Albany Road	☎	241 040
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 Short, Mrs Church, Mr Colbron, Mr Sleigh, Mr Stone
Finance & General Purpose	Mr Savage, Mrs Butcher, Mr Gili-Ross, Mr Tyrrell
Hall	Mr Colbron, Mrs Butcher, Mr Sleigh, Mr Short
Planning	Mr Tyrrell, Mr Savage, Mr Stevenson, Mr Stone
Parish Plan	Mr Stevenson

BOROUGH COUNCILLORS

Cllr. Jill Tod	cllr.jill.tod@colchester.gov.uk	☎	574 896
Cllr. Dennis Willetts	dennis.willetts@btinternet.com	☎	240 314

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	Rev. Ruth Ridge, Marks Tey office	☎	210 141
News Correspondent	Mrs J Hunns, The Laurels, Firmins Court	☎	240 712

(for Essex County Standard and The East Anglian Daily Times) - submissions for news items to be in two 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.

as their reward for getting an “excellent”. The “excellent” can be for acts of kindness as well as good work because, as John says, “It’s important to celebrate success – all types of success.”

After his retirement John will continue to work with young people, doing student mentoring at Anglia Ruskin University in Chelmsford where he is an associate tutor. He also will have time to play a more active role as governor at Glemsford Primary School in Suffolk, and as a parish



councillor in Long Melford, where he lives.

He is looking forward to spending more time with his family – wife Pauline, a retired teacher, and daughters Claire and Rachel, and his grandchildren three-year-old Holly and baby Charlie, who was born in April. John and Pauline also want to spend more time on the Suffolk coast, where they have a static caravan.

He should be able to take life at a more leisurely pace once he has finished restoring his 40-year-old Morris Minor convertible. As well as indulging in his passion for cars, he hopes to have more time for reading – other than educational documents. He will not miss the paperwork – “my biggest concern with education is the bureaucracy” but he will miss the people and the children when he hands over to successor Neil Matthews, who takes on the headship of Heathlands in September.

There have been dramatic changes at Heathlands during John’s 14 years – with the number of pupils increasing from 240 to 350. And the buildings have expanded and improved, although, symbolically, the Victorian school hall from the original school building, remains.

“Many things change but children are basically the same so I leave feeling positive” says John. He leaves with happy memories, reflected in the photographs which cover his office, of children in school productions, in sports teams, in fund-raising events....

Children and parents in West Bergholt have happy memories of all that John Watts has achieved during his years as Headteacher at Heathlands.

Jane Williams

West Bergholt Gardeners’ Association



We resumed our programme of talks in February when Andrew Tokeley was due to speak. Sadly, he had to withdraw for family reasons, but we were very fortunate in that one of our own members, Dennis Greaves, was able to step in and give a splendid talk on the care and cultivation of orchids, illustrated with a wide range of plants he had brought along. During the evening, a presentation of £50, the proceeds of a Christmas raffle, was made to Annie Neish of First Responders and she spoke for a few minutes on the work they do in our community. A return visit by Clare Heyes in March meant that we were able to view the changing seasons at Marks Hall through a range of colourful slides accompanying Clare’s talk.

One of the highlights of our year is our Plant Sale in April, and this year was no exception. During the afternoon and early evening of April 20th, plenty of members of the Association were busy sorting, pricing and setting up the sales tables, ready for the 7.30pm opening. A real united effort “against the clock” but well rewarded, for as soon as the doors opened, Orpen Hall was packed with garden enthusiasts and the plants and bric-a-brac sold briskly. A wide variety of plants and other items donated by members and friends of the Association found eager buyers, and we are grateful for the generosity of the donors and the support of the many people who came to buy.

In May, Bill Wye will be presenting an illustrated talk on fuschias and on June 15th we shall be making an evening visit to Green Island Gardens, Ardleigh, meeting at the Gardens at 7pm - if any non-members would like to come along, please telephone Gordon Dean (242194). John Williams, a long-standing member, will be opening his garden on July 20th, again during the evening (7pm) and we are keeping our fingers crossed for fine weather for both these events! On Sunday, August 2nd, we shall make a Club Visit to Thompson & Morgan’s Open Weekend - an opportunity to see possibly the country’s leading seedsmen on their home ground.

Ian Collin’s research, following earlier work by Jack Prince, has led to the publication of a booklet “A Short History of the West Bergholt Cottagers’ Horticultural Society and the West Bergholt Allotment and Gardeners’ Association in the Twentieth Century”. This interesting publication is available for £1 per copy from Ian (Tel: 240728), Gordon Dean (Tel: 242194) or can be purchased at any of our meetings.

Our Autumn/early Winter programme will appear in the next issue and, as ever, visitors are made very welcome at our meetings.

Workers Educational Association

Our course earlier this year was about Spain's art and history and it was quite successful. Our next course starts on 22 September and the subject is 'Russian History and Culture until 1917' It will cover major figures such as Ivan the Terrible and Peter the Great and important events like the Napoleonic Wars and the Bolshevik Revolution. The tutor will be Anat Vernitsbi.

The course will follow the usual pattern of ten Tuesday evenings, 8pm to 9.40pm, at the Methodist Church Hall with its wheelchair access and LOOP system if needed. Fees are only marginally increased at £43.50, with nil fees for those on Income Related benefits or JSA; also financial help should be obtainable if net household income is under £15,000 net p.a. (from Discretionary Learner Support Fund).

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

Our subject for January 2010 will be

Brunel: an Engineers Life.

From September 2010 WEAs funding is uncertain since our present funders, Learners and Skills Council, will then be superseded by another, the Skills and Funding Agency.

The WEA Essex Branch Organiser Anne O'Toole has moved on and her replacement is Tina Nay.

West Bergholt Women's Institute



Vice-president Barbara Buckley welcomed Chris Farndell to the February meeting. He brought along a selection of old cameras and talked about his time as a police photographer and showed members slides used as evidence in police incidents. Fond memories were shared about the Brownie Box camera.

In March John Morgan from Colchester Town Watch dressed in full regalia spoke about its history dating back to Henry VIII and the various events they attended. He showed members armour, a variety of weapons including pikes, bows and arrows and swords. The evening concluded with two members explaining about their past careers. One as a London Librarian and the other as a hypnotherapist.

In April members' cakes were donated to St. Helena Hospice. Mr Ted Bennett was welcomed with his talk entitled The Art of Woodcarving. He brought along many samples of his craft using a variety of woods. His restoration work included replacing carvings at Windsor Castle.

Jacqui Hunns

West Bergholt Concert Band



– Ellington to Elgar

Spring 2009 proved to be another busy and successful one for the band, with pupils from primary and secondary schools across Colchester joining with us for three hugely enjoyable workshops. The most recent of these was followed by an "Instant Concert" which was again attended by the Mayor and MP Bob Russell, both of whom thoroughly enjoyed the concert and congratulated the band on the quality and breadth of music performed. As well as being a fun evening for everyone, the concert was also the fifth that the band had performed in aid of Muscular Dystrophy, and was preceded by another successful concert at Clacton's West Cliff Theatre, which raised money for the Royal British Legion.

It's five years since the band's first "Last Night Of The Proms" concert, and it's this ever popular format to which the band are returning this Summer. We'll again be partnering the expected classics such as "Pomp and Circumstance", "Fantasia On British Sea Songs" and "Jerusalem" with music from the "Legends of Swing"...such as Glenn Miller's "String Of Pearls" and "In The Mood", selections of music from Duke Ellington, Benny Goodman, and Dave Brubeck's "Take Five" among others.
Saturday June 23rd (7.30pm)–Westcliff Theatre, Clacton (*)
Saturday July 14th (7.30pm) – Stoke By Nayland Golf Club
(*) Concert with the Cavender Singers – in aid of the St Helena Hospice

We also continue to welcome new members into the band, so wander up to Heathlands on any term-time Friday evening if you're interested in joining, or would just like more information. The band's uniqueness is that we have players from 7 to 70, so there's always someone younger/older/worse/better than you...we're always glad to see new players of all ages and abilities.

Everything you need to know about the band (including tickets, details and directions for our concerts) can be found on our website (www.wbcb.org), or you can call Graham on 01206 824157. We look forward to seeing you at some of our concerts !

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

Essex Police

My name is Mike Lee and I am the Police Sergeant responsible for policing the North Colchester Rural Community.



After some time I am delighted to say that we now have a full complement of officers working from Copford Police station, who are new to this station though not necessarily new to the area.

I am not going to name them all as there are only two names you need to remember, that is PC Vicky Sanders and PCSO Sue Donaldson. Vicky is the Neighbourhood Specialist Officer (NSO) and Sue your Community officer and they are your points of contact for any issue that is affecting your life.

Vicky, Sue and I will strive to work alongside your Parish Councils, Neighbourhood Action Panels and other community groups with the intention of reducing crime in your area and to bring offenders to justice.

Recently there have been a number of thefts in the West Bergholt area from gardens and vehicles. Please, if you see something suspicious or witness an event can you ensure that your information gets to the police. That may be via a local member of the community, if you do not want to contact us directly. But please be prepared to talk to us at some stage. Also any registration numbers of any suspicious vehicles is very useful and if you write it down, do please keep that piece of paper, it may come in very useful.

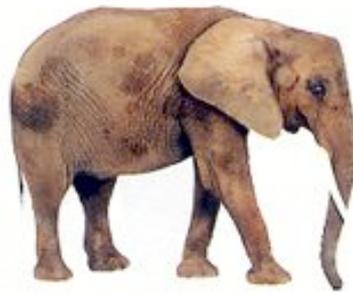
You can contact us on 0300 333 4444 or 07966197134 or via the Essex Police website www.essex.police.uk.

PS 471 Mike Lee
Colchester North Neighbourhood Policing Team
Eastern Division
Internal Ext: 13400
Direct Dial: 0300 333 4444 - Fax: 01206 213147
Email: mike.lee@essex.pnn.police.uk
Website: www.essex.police.uk

To find out what is happening in your neighbourhood and all about your local neighbourhood policing team visit www.essex.police.uk/yourarea and enter your postcode.



Unfortunately it seems that the local Neighbourhood Watch is in danger of folding through lack of volunteers. Can our readers give some time to this important group to keep our village safer? - Editor



Don't forget to book for the Bulletin Quiz!

Which will be held on Saturday 6th June 2009 at the Orpen Memorial Hall, starting at 7.30pm.

If your team comes first they will have the honour of holding the Challenge Cup for a year, then trying to win it back the following year.

There will be a raffle and refreshments - please bring your own liquid refreshment!

Each table consists of four people to make up a team. They can be from your village club or just good friends as long as one member is a village resident.

Fill in the application form and return it to Susan Swan at 20 Church Close by the 1st June. The cost for a table of four is **still** £14 - so come and enjoy yourselves.

All proceeds will be donated to the Bergholt Youth Group.

VILLAGE BULLETIN QUIZ ENTRY FORM 2009

Name of team

Name of person applying

.....

Address.....

.....

Phone number.....

For each team of four people please enclose a cheque for £14 made payable to West Bergholt Parish Council

The Orpen Players

Performance on Thursday April 30th 2009

The play *84 Charing Cross Road*,
By Helene Hanff.



The programme states that the play is about a struggling American writer in 1949 hoping to indulge her love of beautiful books. She started a correspondence with a firm of British antiquarian booksellers that lasted twenty years. The warm and human exchange of letters was published as a book entitled *84 Charing Cross Road* and lovingly adapted for the stage.

The players and the director Michael Poole chose this play to start the 40th anniversary celebrations because it portrayed true and happy people and lots of goodwill. The complicated set was divided between the New York apartment of Helene Hanff and the book shop in Charing Cross Road that was managed by Frank Doel. The shop comprised shelves and shelves of leather bound books and more books, that gave it authenticity and a claustrophobic feel that one could almost smell the musty, dusty conditions.

The two lead roles played by Debra Hornigold and Colin Downer were portrayed with real warmth and sincerity. The rest of the cast, mainly book shop workers weaved their way in and out of the shop without intruding on the main action. The play had a 'feel good' factor about it and when it ended the audience were left wanting more.

There were photographs on display of previous productions since 1969. Many people have passed through the group during the last 40 years but there are just a few of the originals left. Ruby Blackwell, John and Pam Grant, Jackie Grant and Joyce Lucking. What tales they can tell!

The next event is a Music Hall type entertainment directed by David Wenden on October 29th, 30th and 31st.

No doubt there will be more publicity nearer the time.

J M L



Friends of Hillhouse Wood



This year the wood's famous bluebells are better than ever as a result of the major clearance of brambles, bracken and scrub carried out by the volunteers from the Friends of Hillhouse Wood during the autumn and winter. The work parties also cleared footpaths and improved walker access and cleared

the area around the top pond to allow regeneration of wild flowers. The pond is due for a further bout of clearance to remove invasive reed mace and willow scrub and undergo desilting. This will be carried out in the autumn with special care, as the pond is now known to contain a colony of great-crested newts, which is a specially protected Red Data species, as well as being host to a number of uncommon dragonflies and damselflies.

The bluebell and wildlife open afternoon organised by the Friends on April 25 was a big success being blessed with sunshine after a spell of indifferent and cold weather. The nature trail, guided by Joe Firmin and Philip Smith, was attended by 35 enthusiastic visitors, some of whom had come from as far afield as Wivenhoe.

Many other people enjoyed unguided walks armed with the special wildlife trail guides issued by the Friends who also mounted a display of photographs and information near the old church. The guided walk got off to the very best start with a nightingale in full song in a spinney next to the path leading to the wood and a whitethroat was seen and heard singing in a nearby hedge. In the wood there were several singing blackcaps and chiffchaffs with green woodpeckers calling and butterflies seen on the walk were speckled woods; green-veined whites; orange tips and a peacock. The colony of early purple orchids near the top pond was much admired and photographed. The blooms included four of the rare white form. Also admired by the visitors were the blooms of yellow archangel and pink campion as well as the big colony of wild garlic (ransoms) next to the stream on the Fordham side, which had a profusion of white flowers.

The spring nature walk organised by the Friends on April 5 also attracted 38 people, a record for this annual event, guided as usual by Joe Firmin and Philip Smith. Up to a dozen chiffchaffs were heard singing, having just returned from winter quarters in Africa, and there was a wonderful show of wood anemones and some early bluebells.

The annual dawn chorus of birdsong special meeting was scheduled for Sunday, May 17, starting at the old church at 3.45am. Last year this attracted a turn out of 25 with nightingales and blackcaps being the star songsters. As usual this year's leaders are Joe Firmin and Philip Smith.

There are increasing sightings of deer in and near the wood with as many as ten roe deer being seen on arable fields close to the wood with muntjac often seen in the wood itself. The latter are very damaging to the ground flora and some protection is being given to orchids and other wild flowers.

A summer butterflies and dragonflies walk will be held in July. Details will appear on the West Bergholt website and the Colchester Natural History Website and there will be poster distribution in the village by Chris Stevenson.

Joe Firmin

Bergholt Heath Youth Football Club



As the season draws to a close we can reflect on a mixed season.

Our under ten team have led the way and ended up winning their league and have not yet been beaten. They can also boast a 100% record at home. Next season they graduate to eleven-a-side so it will be interesting to see how they fare then. Well done to Dominic and David and the parents and players.

The two promoted sides have consolidated their positions in the higher echelons but the Under 13s did not have too much luck.

We are approaching our end of season events with the annual Race Night held on 16 May at the Orpen Hall. We look forward to it being a well-supported event.

At Whitsun our two older teams go on tour and then on 13 June - again at the Orpen Hall - we will have our end of season Awards Evening, hopefully with a famous footballer presenting. More details to follow. Towards the end of June is our AGM, which you are welcome to attend. Formal notice of the AGM will be given later.

The next season marks our 10th anniversary and we are hoping to get the very first Bergholt Heath team together to play our A Team. Should be worth seeing.

Finally if you have any questions or interest in involvement by way of sponsorship or helping, please call me on the number below

Leslie Wright, Secretary, 241438



EDITORS KORNER

The Bulletin Team welcomes Jane Williams who has replaced Jon Lander.

Jon has now moved out of the village.

Jane is now the contact for the following groups:
Hillhouse Wood, Methodist Chapel, Wesley Guild,
Concert Band and Women's Institute.



STOP PRESS - the level crossing gates have now been changed to barriers. I doubt that the gates will appear on e.bay! The September Bulletin will have an article with pictures about the alterations.



Maureen Slade, who is a teacher at Heathlands School, is due to retire at the end of the term.

Tai Chi in West Bergholt

The Taoist Tai Chi Society™ internal art of taijiquan is a gentle set of movements that promotes health and well being for people of all ages and in all health conditions. Taijiquan is the generic name for the soft or internal martial art that was reputedly originated by the Taoist monk Chang San-feng (Zhang Sanfeng) about 800 years ago in China.

The Taoist Tai Chi™ internal art of taijiquan consists of a set of 108 movements and associated exercises and training methods, specifically designed for improving health in the holistic sense. It is distinguished at the physical level by its emphasis on the full extension of limbs and the continuous turning of the waist and spine in order to exercise the whole body. At the mental and spiritual level, it is a method of 'taming the heart' and developing an attitude of calm, compassion and reduced self-centredness during practice and in daily life.

The benefits can include: improved circulation, balance and posture; increased strength and flexibility; and reduced stress. It takes several months to learn the sequence of the 108 moves of the set. This begins a lifetime of exploring the depths of Taoist Tai Chi internal arts and methods.

Master Moy Lin-shin, the founder of the International Taoist Tai Chi Society was heir to the practices of the traditional Chinese internal arts and understood their great potential to improve health and alleviate suffering. He vowed to make these arts available to all who wished to learn them and developed the Taoist Tai Chi internal art of taijiquan, an art which brings together the many insights Master Moy gained about the workings of human physiology, internal circulation and spiritual training.

In keeping with Master Moy's vision of compassion and service to others, all instructors are nationally accredited volunteers and most of the administrative work is done by volunteers. Classes and many other activities are offered as part of membership of the Society. The membership costs consist of an initial registration fee plus an annual fee (which may be paid monthly), which give unlimited attendance at all regular taijiquan classes.

New Beginners are invited to come along to The Scout Hut, Lexden Road, West Bergholt on Tuesday 1st September 2009 at 7.30pm. Wear comfortable clothes and shoes. If you would like to know more contact Fiona on 01206 240339. For further information about the society or other classes visit the website www.taoist.org.uk.



A Community Bus

In the last edition of the Bulletin the idea of a Community Bus for West Bergholt was floated. Responses were invited to the proposals and a collection box was available in the Co-op. As only six responses were received, and not all of these were positive, the project will not be taken any further at this stage. Of course plans could be looked at again if circumstances change.

Village Design – come and help!

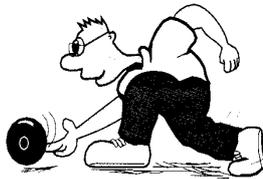
Following on from the successful launch of the Parish Plan, one of the priority actions we are taking forward is the production of a Village Design statement. This document will help guide the character of the development in the village.

Colchester Borough Council is keen to support the Parish Council and Parish Planning Group in the village to get a statement written and it will help them make decisions on planning applications within the village's boundaries. We need enthusiastic people of all ages to help us map the character of the village and its special features. Anyone keen on drawing or photography will be particularly welcome!

Please contact

Catherine Bailey, Parish Planning Group 01206 242520

West Bergholt Bowls Club



The 21st AGM of the Bowls Club was held at the Orpen Hall recently. Some members had a fish and chip supper whilst others enjoyed a selection of various fillings in jacket potatoes; all enjoyed the birthday cake made by member Nora Bates that followed.

After the business of the evening trophies were presented by Frank Ellison

Singles Winner – Nora Bates

Singles Runner-up – Greta Leatherdale

Pairs Winners – Eileen Brown and Nora Bates

Pairs Runners-up – Eddie Taylor and George Coppin

Triples Winners – Nora Bates, Molly Bates and Eileen Brown

Triples Runners-up – Greta Leatherdale, Barbara Davies and George Coppin

Fours Winners – Eileen Brown, Nora Bates, Molly Bates and Jan Lumb

Fours Runners-up – Keith Strutt, Marie Fitzjohn, Bett McCarthy and Pat McCarthy

Club Charity Winners – Barbara Davies, Beryl Conway and Greta Leatherdale

Club Charity Runners-up – Eileen Brown, Paul Leach, Mary Fulford and George Coppin

Points Competition Winner – Nora Bates

Points Competition Runner-up – Marie Fitzjohn

In mid April two teams from the club played in the English Carpet Bowls Competition held at Braintree Leisure Centre. Ardleigh Bowls Club who on this occasion got the better of the home club 14 points to 10 points.

New members are always welcome at our Thursday and Sunday evenings at 7pm, for a rollup up contact 240379 for more information.



CHARITY NO: 299094

Would YOU like to be involved?

In the village we have an organisation called "West Bergholt Care Network". This group aims to provide help and support to anyone in need in the village.

Generally, our main task is help with transport for anyone of any age who may be unable to walk long distances or who has no car or access to one.

Our volunteers, which could be YOU, suggest what time they can be available, i.e. Tuesday mornings or Friday all day, and then when a call comes in the people offering help are contacted to see if they are available. If you are unable to carry out the task, for whatever reason (and there doesn't even have to be a reason, if you don't feel like doing the job you just say no), the caller will try other volunteers. Most jobs involve driving people to the local surgery or hospitals and clinics in Colchester and are usually completed within an hour. Fuel, parking and telephone expenses are all reimbursed.

All of our "clients" are very appreciative of the service that we offer and it is a nice way to meet people and explore the village.

If you have a little time and would be interested, please speak to any of the following people, who will be happy to tell you more.

Chairman:	Mr Harry Stone	241026
Treasurer	Mrs Pat Fosker	241103
Secretary	Mrs Clover Savage	242015



Summer Fayre to be held on 13th June 2009

At Heathlands School Summer Fayre, this year, we are offering a small number of local crafts people space to sell their hand-crafted items.

The fayre is a great family and village event and we would like to support local skills. We will provide a dedicated covered area for all the crafters and will charge a one-off fee for each space.

If you are interested please contact Caroline Withers on 01206 240365.

1st West Bergholt Guides



During this last term the Guides have been working on projects to Change the World. This is part of our centenary celebrations which officially starts on 5th September this year with a party.

Across the World girls are getting a raw deal. Millions are fed less than their brothers and poorly treated. They are made to do household chores instead of going to school and grow up with few opportunities. The Guides have been comparing how different their lives are to the girls that live in Liberia by using photos of something they feel is important to them and comparing it to what girls in Liberia feel is important. The guides have found this challenge very interesting and have learnt a great deal about how hard things can be for other nations.

We are hoping to run an exhibition later this term detailing what the Guides have done and possibly raise some money to help build a school in Liberia.

Thinking Day, 22nd February, we joined the rest of Braiswick District at St. Helena's School. The girls took part in various activities from the five continents including making masks and origami.

On March 12th one of the Patrols held a party and helped raise some funds for Comic Relief. Katie made a fantastic Comic Relief cake which was enjoyed by all. The Patrol also gained their Party Badge and Party Go For It – Well Done!

The Guides made some lovely gifts for their mothers for Mothers Day, mosaic style boxes and key rings.

For Easter the Guides painted rabbit coin banks and made some very tasty No-Cook Chocolate Cakes.

This term we are hoping to complete a further Change the World Challenge for Water Aid in Nepal, visit the Ceramic Life Cafe in Colchester and have a Day Trip to London.

Sandra Gates, Guide Guider

Colne Valley Flower Club



June 17th Brenda Tubb from Attleborough Norfolk will be demonstrating and her title is "Moving on"

July 15th - This is our MEMBERS EVENING and Penny Stone from Colchester is coming along to give a workshop. It will be a chance for everyone to take part and try something for themselves.

The club does not meet in August

Wedding



Celebration

On March the 14th, Andrew Ross and Gemma Goskie were married at St Mary's.

Gemma is a member of the First Responders and Andrew runs local garden maintenance company 'Nicenstripy'.

After the ceremony family and friends celebrated the wedding with a reception at Smeetham Hall Barn.



The editorial team would be pleased to receive more local events to be reported in the Bulletin. The next deadline for copy is 1st August for the September edition.



Bergholt Youth Group Progress

We have now established a fully functional youth club which has been running officially for 3 months.

With over 70 members BYG is going from strength to strength with the help of many people.

After a grant from the council, we have purchased several pieces of equipment, which makes the club more enjoyable to everyone who attends.

You can join the youth group if you're in years 6 to 11 for just a yearly subscription of £1 and then 50p each visit!!

We always looking for more volunteers so if you are interested please contact Harry Stone on 241026.

Amber and Graham
(Members Committee)

Methodist Church News

Members of the Methodist Church met with St. Mary's for their Annual Women's World Day of Prayer service in March. We enjoyed a 'Soup n' Snack' lunch before taking part in a service arranged by Christian women of Papua, New Guinea. Visitors from other churches attended and a donation of £170.79 was made to be used in the support of Christian Women around the world.

We held another quiz night in the hall in March which was very well attended by many of our regular teams as well as one or two newcomers. It was a fun evening and becoming a regular event in our Church diary. We look forward to another light hearted quiz ably arranged by Mike and Anita in the Autumn.

Our Minister Rev. Ruth Ridge along with her husband James – and two cats – have now moved into the Manse in Chapel Lane. We welcome them amongst us as they settle into village life. If you see them around please introduce yourself and have a chat. We are taking part in the Village Fete on 13th June and Ruth will be there.

Our regular services will be interrupted this quarter on June 14th and July 5th as we join with Boxted and Marks Tey Methodist Churches for Sector Services. Members of St. Marys will join us for worship on August 30th at 11.00am. A warm welcome is given to all visitors at our church services and weekly events.

130th ANNIVERSARY WEEK

Exhibition 17th and 18th OCTOBER 2009

The Methodist Church in West Bergholt has served the community for 130 years.

We are arranging to celebrate with an open day on Saturday 17th with exhibitions of the church history, photographs and memorabilia in the Church, a sponsored organ play, and coin trail.

Were you christened or married in our Church?

Please contact Judith on 241969 if you have any items or photographs we can display.

We are also hoping to arrange displays and demonstrations of activities which take place in the Hall.

A special service on Sunday 18th will be led by Rev. Robin Searles, a past minister of this Church.

More details will be available in the next Bulletin.

Any information or help in arranging this very special weekend would be most helpful.

Wesley Guild

We enjoyed our first two meetings this year. We heard about the very challenging work done by the Mercy Ships. They are currently being invited to dock at various ports around the African coast where help is then given to local communities with rebuilding of houses, hospitals, new wells and schools. Volunteers live onboard with their families, where children attend school and meet local families.

The Mercy Ship is also a hospital ship and many professional doctors and nurses give their time to live on board and treat the communities living near and far.

In April we were entertained to a wide variety of music provided by our speakers in a Desert Island Discs evening – everything from Jim Reeves, Elvis Presley to the Liverpool Philharmonic and Youth Choirs - all the music being linked to our speakers, Christian upbringing and life. Music had always played a large part in his life including "Sweet Sixteen" dedicated to his wife of over 50 years.

Two very different talks but both demonstrating Christian beliefs.

We will be hearing from First Responders, Travel around the British Isles and a DIY evening at future meetings which are held at 7.30pm on the 4th Friday of each month in the Church Hall.

Please join us.



Royal British Legion

The Gt. and Lt. Horkesley Branch have continued to meet on the second Thursday of each month at the Beehive Pub, Little Horkesley. Besides the actual

Branch Committee, many ordinary members of the branch attend these meetings so making the meeting a social occasion. We also attended other social functions.

We had to forgo the 'spring' dinner this year, but will certainly be having one in the autumn to launch the 2009 'Poppy Appeal'

Before that, our members, together with personnel from the Wormingford branch will be attending The Armed Forces Day parade at St Andrew Church, Wormingford on Sunday 28th June.

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 the village.

West Bergholt Football Club



The season is now drawing to a close, with five league games left to play at the time of writing, and what a successful season it has been. Our first team are currently top of the Border League Premier Division by one point, and play in the Final of the Border League Cup on 29th April at Sudbury Town Ground. The league title now looks like a two horse race between us and Bury, with the two sides having to meet on the run-in, which could be the deciding match, so the double is still on.

The Reserve side is in sixth place in their league, which is a tribute to manager Jimmy McIntyre for his efforts in the face of demands on his players by the first team.

Last but not least, the Ladies Team have clinched promotion to their First Division, their second in as many seasons, and look almost certain to finish as league champions. They also had a great run in the cup, only to be knocked out by Colchester United!!!

So whatever happens between now and the seasons end, it will have been highly successful, and possibly fantastic!!! Congratulations go to the managers, players, committee and all concerned.

On the social front, we will be holding our annual presentation evening at Marks Tey Motel on the 23rd May, with hopefully some trophies on display.

Please support the club by visiting our web site www.westbergholtfc.co.uk and clicking on the shopping link. Anything you purchase will attract a commission, which goes into club funds.

M.R.Bell, Chairman

Parish Council Monthly Meetings

Meetings start at 7.30pm

JUNE	Wednesday 24th 2009
JULY	Wednesday 29th 2009
AUGUST	Wednesday 26th 2009

West Bergholt Cricket Club



The season is now underway and it's cricket all the way with the club competing in three senior and five junior leagues. With our second XI now in the A2C league, we are playing new clubs and visiting new grounds, some in Suffolk.

Junior training sessions are well attended on Friday evenings, under the supervision of our team of Junior Managers and qualified Coaches. As a Clubmark registered club, our Juniors are cared for very well at all times. We welcome new youngsters to compete in our Under 11, 13, 15 and 16 levels.

Final preparations are in hand for our annual Festival which takes place at the beautiful Manor Ground on four days from Thursday 25th to Sunday 28th June. We will be welcoming no less than five visiting teams and there will also be a Juniors' match. There will be a bar and barbecue on each of the days and a social event is being planned on the Saturday evening. The club's annual Charity, to who proceeds from Sunday's match fees will be donated, is the Marie Curie Cancer Fund.

We are always looking for new players of all ages as well as volunteers so, if you are interested, please contact Nigel Passmore on 240225 or 07769 697542, or e-mail on nigel@weboffset.freerve.co.uk

As ever, keep an eye on www.westbergholtcc.co.uk for all our latest developments.

West Bergholt Bobbin Lace Class

The students in the bobbin lace classes at St Mary's Church Hall continue to work on a diverse range of projects:



Torchon lace bookmarks and mats, Bedfordshire lace edgings, pictorial lace, made in both traditional white and incorporating coloured threads. We have also looked at the fan illustrated on the left which

features a torchon lace leaf, which I recently designed.

The classes take place during term time on Mondays from 1pm until 3pm. The cost for a 12 week term is £78. Please contact me if you would like to join us.

Carol Maxwell
Tel: 0771 2648468

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Speeding in the local Villages.

Whilst the vast majority of drivers do seem to drive within, or slightly above, the speed limit of 30 mph in and between the local villages, there is a significant minority who drive in Eight Ash Green well in excess of this speed.

I live locally on a road with a slight bend and incline. This means that my view along the road is restricted in one direction, and my neighbours, including the local village hall, have a similar problem. A few years ago, when leaving my drive, I saw or heard nothing, and so tried to turn carefully into the road. A car came down the hill well in excess of the limit of 30 mph. Luckily he was alert, but he only avoided hitting me by skidding right across the road. If something had been coming the other way, he would have hit one of us.

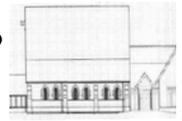
This incident prompted me to raise the issue with the local Parish Council. To be fair to them and the other authorities, a speed survey was done, and SLOW was painted on the road shortly afterwards. However I was told that because the average speed was not high enough, nothing further could be done. It is not the average speed that I was complaining of, but the maximum speed of a few thoughtless people.

At the end of April, this road was closed for repairs, although, of course, the authorities allowed access to the residents of both this road and the several cul-de-sacs that join it. I was surprised at the level of reduction of traffic, I would guess only about 10% of normal, making the road very peaceful and safe. This means that about 90% of the traffic on this road is using it as a through-route to other local villages, West Bergholt and Fordham in particular. Hence my writing this for the West Bergholt Newsletter.

I have no objections to non-resident drivers using these roads, and I can well understand drivers coming this way to avoid the rail crossing at Chitts Hill, but I do feel that the speed limits should be enforced. I am a driver myself and I am not trying to get anyone fined or have points on their licence, just to obey the law of the land. Occasionally the police come, but they stand in a very prominent position, so that they can be seen from a distance. Even then they tell me that they still manage to catch some people speeding. Such drivers must be completely unaware of their surroundings, as well as exceeding the limit.

Anthony C. Robin, 29 Spring Lane
(road between Brick & Tile and Cricketers),
Phone and Fax: 01206 571910,
E-mail: anthony_robin@hotmail.com

St. Mary the Virgin, West Bergholt



Developing St.Mary's for a growing community

Groundbreakers Easter 2009



On Easter Saturday we were joined by primary school aged children for Easter Groundbreakers. We had a great morning with lots of fun learning about how to be followers of Jesus. We decorated eggs, played games, watched videos, ate biscuits, sang songs and learned that one of the greatest things we can do to be followers of Jesus is to love one another. The children went home having had a great time (I think!).



A huge thank you to everyone who helped on the morning and before the event. Also thank you to the congregation of St Mary's who prayed for the children throughout the week.

The next Groundbreakers will be held on 20th. 22nd July and forms will be sent out through Heathlands although children are very welcome from other primary schools. Please call Kate Wilson on 752056 for details.

A mini-Groundbreakers will be on Sunday 14th June between 9.30 and 10.30 during the morning service. All primary aged children are welcome to come along. Parents can either drop their children off and come back later or stay for the Sunday morning service.

Jackson School of Dancing

Classes are held during term time in the Orpen Memorial Hall in West Bergholt. They are held every Tuesday evening between 5.15pm and 6.30pm. Pupils start from the age of three years old.

The new term will be restarting 9th September.

All forms of dance are taught including:

Ballet - Tap - Gymnastic Dancing - U.T.D. Syllabus

We can also arrange examinations for the students.

We also perform an annual dance show for charity.

For further details contact

Kate Jackson 48 Berridge Road, Halstead, Essex

Telephone: 01787 473607

Editorial Team:

John Bates and Nora Bates (distribution) 240741, Bernard Colbron 240297, Susan Leng 241748, Susan Swan (advertising) 242319 and Jane Williams 243636.
Copy for September issue should be with the Editors before 1st August 2009 - Regrettably late submissions cannot be guaranteed entry into the Bulletin

Dru Yoga

What does 'Dru' Mean?

Dru comes from the Sanskrit word dhruva, which refers to the stillness that can be experienced in Dru Yoga.

In this stillness we are able to sit back from anything that may be happening around us, and see and act from a point of clarity and inner calm.

Dru Yoga is a graceful and yet dynamic form of yoga, based on soft flowing movements, directed breathing and visualisations. With its foundations set firmly in ancient yogic tradition, Dru works on body, mind and spirit - improving strength and flexibility, creating core stability, building a heightened feeling of positivity, and deeply relaxing and rejuvenating your whole being.

Designed to be practised by people of all abilities, all fitness levels and all age groups, Dru is a style of yoga that can be quickly dipped into or learnt in more depth over a lifetime. Dru Yoga has its roots in hatha yoga, and includes classical yoga postures (asanas), pranayama (the science of breath) mudras (hand gestures), positive affirmations, empowering visualisations and powerful sequences performed in a flowing and dynamic style. Dru Yoga classes are tailored to the level of the individuals within the class and usually contain Energy Block Release Sequences (EBRs), graceful flowing yoga sequences, pranayama, relaxation and Dru Meditation.

What is unique about Dru Yoga?

* Joints are kept relaxed and soft during movement. This creates flexibility and a free flow of subtle energy.

* Energy Block Release sequences are easy-to-practise, flowing movements that help to release tension physically, mentally and emotionally.

* In Dru Yoga all movements originate from the spine because a flexible, healthy spine supports your entire yoga practice.

* The spinal wave and spinal twist are core features of Dru, enhancing spinal health and vitality.

* A deep understanding of core stability is a major focus.

* Dru Yoga works to balance the chakras (energy centres of the body) and access the powerful energy of the heart.

* Within the flow of movement, Dru Yoga creates powerful moments of stillness which we call 'Dru points'.

General Advice when attending a class.

Wear loose and comfortable clothes.

Use a yoga mat - (I have spare mats if you do not own your own).

Bring a bottle of water to keep you hydrated throughout the class.

Bring a warm blanket/shawl to cover yourself during the relaxation as the body temperature will lower.

Always work within your own body's limit.



Yoga is progressive - learn to listen to your body and how it feels.

Try to stay in the present moment.



Allow yourself to relax and this will help free your mind. And remember to smile and have fun.

*Any information or advice given is not intended to be taken as a replacement for medical advice. Always consult your doctor before starting a new exercise program.

The classes are run as either a 'drop in' class £7 or there is an option to block book six classes in advance for £36 - which must be used within an eight week period.

If you have any questions please do contact me Elle Cox on 07887 511412

I hope to see you at a class soon.

Monday Yoga class dates

*John Lampon Hall
West Bergholt*

8 - 9.30pm

June 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

July 6, 13, 27

August 3, 17

September 7, 14, 28

October 5, 12, 26

November 2, 9, 23, 30

Friday Yoga class dates

*Methodist Hal
West Bergholt*

9.30 - 11am

June 5, 12, 19

July 3, 10, 17

*Break for summer holidays
returning in September*

First Responders

Answers from the First Responder 'Special Edition' Quiz which was featured in the last issue of the Bulletin.

1. RIBS
2. EAR
3. SHOULDER BLADE
4. PEPPER
5. OXYGEN
6. NITROGEN
7. DIABETES
8. EYES
9. RESPIRATION
10. SCAPHOID

Also, the First Responders would like to point out that in our recent drive to advertise for more members some houses in the village may have received more than one flyer. Our volunteers apologise for any inconvenience this may have caused.



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
- Dru Yoga**, 8.00 - 9.30pm - John Lampon Hall

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
Not July or August 2009
- 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)
- Open Players**, 8.00pm - Orpen Hall
- Dru Yoga**, 9.30-11am - Methodist Church 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.

June

Sunday 7th	9.30am	Morning Worship and Bugs
Tuesday 9th	11.00am	United Communion Service in Methodist Chapel
Sunday 14th	9.30am	Formal Holy Communion
Sunday 21st	9.30am	Family Service
	6.30pm	Evening 'Prayer Book' Service
Wed. 24th	10.00am	Holy Communion BCP
Sunday 28th	9.30am	Communion Service and Bugs

July

Sunday 5th	9.30am	Morning Worship and Bugs
Sunday 12th	9.30am	Formal Holy Communion
Tuesday 14th	11.00am	United Communion Service in Methodist Chapel
Sunday 19th	9.30am	Groundbreakers Family Service
	6.30pm	Evening 'Prayer Book' Service
Wed. 22nd	10.00am	Holy Communion BCP
Sunday 26th	9.30am	Communion Service and Bugs

August

Sunday 2nd	9.30am	Morning Worship and Bugs
Sunday 9th	9.30am	Formal Holy Communion
Tuesday 11th	11.00am	United Communion Service in Methodist Chapel
Sunday 16th	9.30am	'Service of the Word?'
	6.30pm	Evening 'Prayer Book' Service
Sunday 23rd	9.30am	Communion Service and Bugs
Sunday 30th	9.30am	Joint Service with Methodist

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.