

# *village bulletin*

*December 2009 Issue 120*

*www.westbergholt.net*

At the Colchester Youth Awards ceremony in early October, Amber Harlow and Graham Pullen received the recognition they deserved for their hours of dedicated volunteering work with the Bergholt Youth Group (BYG). Their award, sponsored by Colchester Community Volunteer Service, was one of eight made at the Weston Homes Community Stadium and reported in the Essex County Standard, to whom we are grateful for the photograph. This was a moving occasion at which there were many proud parents, proud members of BYG and the Chair of the Parish Council. Indeed West Bergholt can be proud of the achievements of Amber and Graham and the response they have received from many other young people and adult volunteers in establishing BYG.

From early days, over two years ago, when the idea of BYG was first discussed with Stanway School pupils, Amber and Graham demonstrated their willingness to take on the challenge of forming the group. Having been involved in its original inception they are now active members of the management group which oversees policy issues, including the control of the budget. Over the two years their leadership skills have developed to the point where they now have charge of the organisation of the Club evening activities and manage the deployment of the growing number of volunteers.

The Club continues to go from strength to strength under their leadership and now sees over sixty young people attending the fortnightly sessions. We are grateful for the use of the John Lampon Hall and the Orpen Hall, when available, as well as the outside sports facilities. However space is a problem and as BYG is a victim of its own success it has reluctantly been decided to end Club meetings at 8.00pm during the winter months.

The recognition of the achievements of BYG through this award and the publicity in the Essex County Standard are appreciated. Congratulations Amber and Graham, they are well deserved.

## **Bergholt Pride**



*Graham and Amber pictured with the award*

# the village bulletin *information*

PROVIDED BY THE PARISH COUNCIL OF WEST BERGHOLT

## Chairman

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



## Vice-Chairman

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

## PARISH COUNCILLORS

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Sally Butcher	59 Mumford Road	☎	241 923
Jenny Church	Doran, Hall Road	☎	240 792
Bernard Colbron	64 Mumford Road	☎	240 297
Sue Day	62 Albany Road	☎	241 040
Andrew Savage	6 Garling Walk	☎	242 015
David Short	60 Albany Road	☎	241 715
Peter Sleigh		☎	07973 841104
Chris Stevenson	74 Mumford Road	☎	241 708
Harry Stone	Vindens, Chapel Lane	☎	241 026

## PARISH WORKING COMMITTEES

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<i>Halls</i>	Bernard Colbron, Sally Butcher, Sue Day, Peter Sleigh
<i>Land and Recreation</i>	David Short, Sally Butcher, Sue Day, Harry Stone
<i>Village Street Scene and Communications</i>	Bob Tyrrell, Bernard Colbron, Jenny Church
<i>Planning and Village Design</i>	Bob Tyrrell, Andrew Savage, Chris Stephenson, Peter Sleigh
<i>Finance and Personnel Advisory Team</i>	Andrew Savage, John Gili-Ross, Chris Stephenson, Harry Stone

## BOROUGH COUNCILLORS

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Cllr. Jill Tod	<a href="mailto:cldr.jill.tod@colchester.gov.uk">cldr.jill.tod@colchester.gov.uk</a>	☎	574 896
Cllr. Dennis Willetts	<a href="mailto:dennis.willetts@btinternet.com">dennis.willetts@btinternet.com</a>	☎	240 314

## CLERK TO THE PARISH COUNCIL

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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

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June 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	0300 333 4444	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	Jacqui 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](mailto: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.*

# West Bergholt Women's Institute



Pat Moran, president, reported that the stall of cakes and preserves at the annual village fete was well supported and a donation of £50 was given to Heathlands school.

One of our members, Barbara Buckley, has had a photograph accepted for the 2010 Essex WI calendar.

A letter has been sent to our MP's lending our support into research regarding the decline of the bee population.

Octogenarian, Alan Chilvers, spoke about his early schooldays in North Essex. This prompted many memories from his audience.

Valerie Francis, recycling officer from the borough council, was our September speaker. She brought along a variety of recycling bins to suit all sizes of gardens. She also demonstrated a small indoor bin for composting food waste.

The coffee morning in the Orpen Memorial Hall with a large variety of stalls raised £142.62 for W.I. funds.

Members were delighted to see in the W.I. Essex news for October a report and photograph on our July visit to Tropical Wings near South Woodham Ferrers.

Committee member, Bea Girkin, took the October meeting and welcomed speaker, Sally Hopher, from the Woodland Trust, which manages Hill House wood in the village. We were surprised to learn that Britain has the lowest wooded area in Europe caused by our large population.

Jacqui Hunns

## Allotment Update

For many years the details of Allotment plots and their tenants have been stored on cards in a file. We are grateful to Bob Gooden for his work in maintaining these records and handling the allocation of plots.

We have now caught up with modern technology and these records have been placed on a database, held by the Parish Clerk and shared with the Allotment Committee. At the same time all the plots (139 of them) have been renumbered in 5 rod plots. This will not only help in dealing with the waiting list but lead to changes in the collection of rent. There will no longer be a Saturday morning collection time in February at the Orpen Hall, which fewer plot holders were attending. Instead an invoice will be produced and payments will be sent to the Parish Clerk, preferably by cheque.

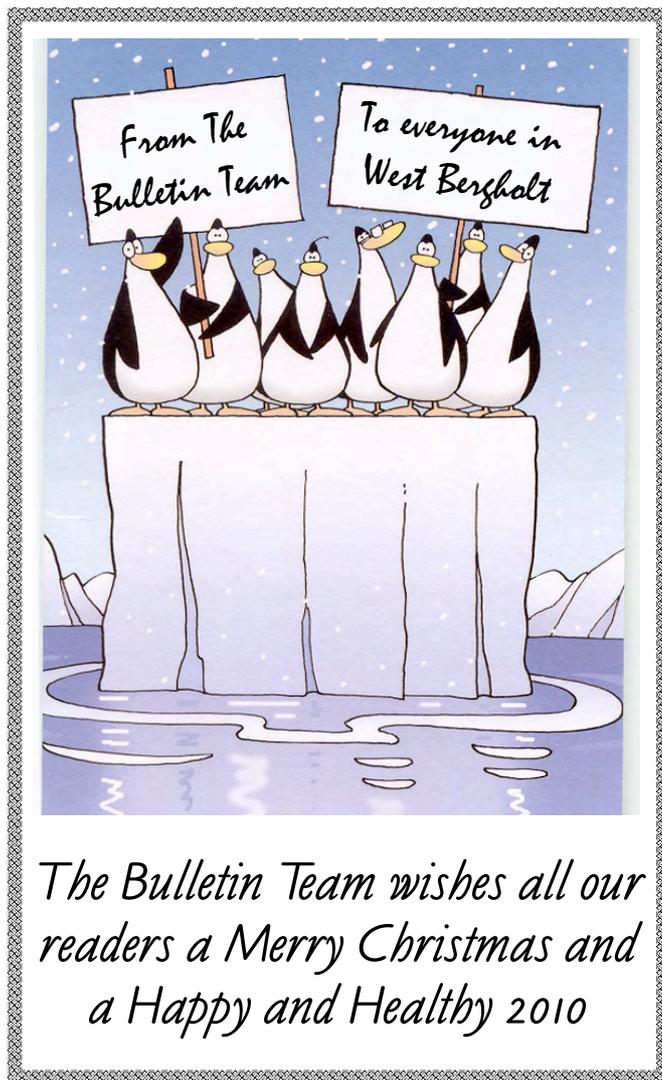
As there are over 90 plot holders as many invoices as possible will be given out at one of the routine site meetings and then the remainder posted or sent by E-mail. It is hoped that as many as possible will attend this meeting which for the coming year will be on Sunday 7th February.

# Workers Educational Association

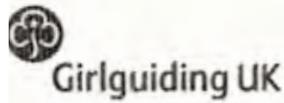
Our autumn course on Russia was found to be quite a success. We are now looking forward to the Winter/Spring course that starts on 19th January 2010 – 'Brunel: An Engineer's Life'. Isambard Kingdom Brunel was one of our most famous and controversial engineers, producing outstanding designs far ahead of his time. As well as looking at the professional side of the man, we shall also look at his more personal side. The tutor will be Roger Mannion who can be relied upon for an interesting and competent presentation.

As usual the course runs over ten Tuesday evenings 8pm to 9.40pm at the Methodist Church Hall with its wheelchair access and, if required, a loop system. Fees are again £43.50 with nil fees for those on Income Related Benefits or JSA: also, if net household income is under £15,000 pa there is a Discretionary Learner Support Fund, which could help out.

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



# Girlguiding West Bergholt



On 5th September all the Guiding units here in West Bergholt gathered together in the Scout and Guide hut to have a Centenary Launch Party. We were remembering how 100 years to the day some girls had gone along to the first Scout Rally at Crystal Palace and asked Robert Baden-Powell if he would do "something for the girls" and the rest is history.

Everybody at the party had been in Guiding sometime in the past, old friendships were renewed and new ones made. The County Commissioner came along to join in with our activities included cooking outside, games and of course a special party tea with celebration cakes having the pictures of Lord and Lady Baden-Powell on them.

Our Centenary Celebrations start in January and we will keep you informed of the many activities our girls have enjoyed.

Carol Clarke – District Commissioner

## Knitting Circle

The Bergholt Knitting Circle continues to meet on the second Monday evening each month. There is now also a second circle which meets monthly on Wednesday afternoons. We meet at one another's houses and enjoy a natter and light refreshments whilst we knit. As well as continuing our own projects, we are currently making children's jumpers and hats to send away to an African charity.

We would love to have more members. There is no requirement to make a regular commitment . . . just come when you are able. And if anyone has any double knitting wool they no longer need, we'd welcome donations!

For further details, please ring Rosemary on 01206 241048.

## Lifeboat Collection in June 2009

A huge thank you to all the people of West Bergholt who gave so generously, and raised the incredible sum of £1,082.46 for the Lifeboat Fund this year.

As most of you know the R.N.L.I. is a registered charity and runs entirely on donations from the public.

We have a wonderful band of people, who collect every year, to help make this a success.

Well done and thank you to everyone.

Sandy Reeve

# Methodist Church News

## 130th ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND

The sponsored Organ Play in which Keith Fletcher, with the help of Clive Carrington and Geoff Eames, attempted to play all the hymns in the Methodist Hymn Book was a great success – 665 hymns was the total played on the day.

The art exhibition and memorabilia displays were very much admired by all our visitors as was the demonstration of Tai Chi in the hall where refreshments were served all day.

We welcomed Rev. Robin Searles our minister from 1983 – 92 to lead our Parade Service on Sunday in which he showed he had lost none of his engaging, almost teasing style much loved by church members and friends past and present who came to meet him again.

This very special weekend of celebration came to a close with a Songs of Praise service led by our minister Ruth when the Church rang out with music and singing to the sound of the Boxted Silver Band. We thank everyone for their support. As a church we look forward to many more years of service and care for our village of West Bergholt.

We begin our Christmas Celebrations on Sunday 6th December with our annual Gift and Parade Service when presents are donated by church members and the village uniformed organisations and taken to women and children at Colchester Women's Refuge, The Night Shelter and Beacon House for the homeless.

Do you enjoy singing Christmas carols? Why not join our small group on Tuesday evening 15th December when we will be singing and collecting door to door for N.C.H. Action For Children. A wonderful total of £940.12 was collected in September – we would like to add to this amount and reach well over £1000

**DO COME ALONG AND DON'T FORGET THE TORCH!**

Our Candlelight Carol Service takes place on Sunday 20th December at 6.30pm followed by mince pies and coffee in the hall after the service.

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

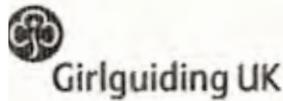
Regular coffee mornings, shared village weekday communion, Women's Fellowship and Bible Study will continue into 2010. Please join us for any of our services and meetings, you will be most welcome.

### Can your property name or number be seen from the road?

Help the Emergency Services to find you quickly should the worst happen by making sure your home name/number is clearly visible from the road, even at night.

**Every second counts when you dial 999.**

# First West Bergholt Guides



We started our term by holding our Centenary Party on

5th September to celebrate 100 years of Girlguiding. There were over 90 of us. It was so nice to see some of our past and present members all enjoying the afternoon with the Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Senior Section members. Katie Griffiths was presented with her Leadership Qualification by our Division Commissioner, Andrea Olley.

Our project this term is Love in Action which is based on various activities to do with Africa. So far we have prepared some very nice African dishes and had an African safari using the binoculars we made one evening. You can do so much with the use of your imagination.

We joined up with the Rainbows and Brownies to celebrate 130th Birthday of the Methodist church on Sunday 18th October. It was a special service and was held by Reverend Robin Searles who was last in our village 16 years ago. It was very special for me as he officiated at my wedding. I took along some pictures of the Guides from 16 years ago and one of them was his daughter who was also at this service.

On 24th to 28th October we went away on our Doctor Who Holiday at the Kath Batts Centre at Belchamps Scout Site. Seventeen Guides and four leaders took part. We took part in loads of activities including Archery, Jacobs Ladder, Crate Stacking, Pole Jousting, swimming and caving simulator.

Great fun had by all.

We still have many exciting things to come this term before the Christmas holidays.

Sandra Gates, Guide Guider

## Friends of Hillhouse Wood



Essential management work by the volunteer work party is continuing through the winter months and this includes clearance of fallen trees and other seasonal wind damage.

Attention is being paid to ensure that there is adequate ground cover and scrub enhancement for nesting birds, especially warblers and nightingales. There has been a noticeable decline in nesting activity but this is partly due to increased disturbance from visitors and dog walkers during the main nesting season of April till late May.

Dog walkers will be asked to keep their pets on leads while using the woodland paths during the nesting season and notices asking for such co-operation will be erected in the spring.

It is hoped that the Woodland Trust will be able to carry out much-needed clearance of choking reedmace growth and scrub enhancement, as well as necessary desilting, of the wood's top pond but a date for this important operation has

yet to be fixed. The pond holds a population of the rare and fully-protected great crested newt as well as a number of dragonfly and damselfly species, so the clearance must be carefully carried out with appropriate advice from ecologists and members of Colchester Natural History Society.

In October, the work party carried out necessary clearance of invasive vegetation from the stream on the Fordham side of the wood, with the advice of experts, to benefit a rare species of damselfly, the beautiful demoiselle, which is breeding in this section of stream. Hillhouse Wood is only the second site for this beautiful species in north Essex.

A plaque commemorating the work of Peter Johnson, the past and much-missed chairman of the Friends of Hillhouse Wood, is being placed on a memorial seat next to the wood's lower pond.

In September, there was an assessment of deer damage to trees and vegetation in the wood. This is not worryingly extensive but there has been an increase in the last two or three years due to the increase in local populations of both muntjac and roe deer.

A new commemorative seat is to be placed near the wood's Cooks Hall entrance. More details later.

The Friends' annual general meeting will be held at the Orpen Memorial Hall on Wednesday, December 9th at 7.30pm and all are welcome. Speaker after the main business will be Neil Catchpole.

Joe Firmin and Philip Smith will lead a winter birds walk in and near the wood in January and the date will be notified by posters in the village and in local newspapers.

Joe Firmin

## Bergholt Heath Youth Football Club



We are now well into our 10th anniversary season and plans are being made for a special event next Easter. In the meantime, we are concentrating on the League (not just because we have been knocked out of the Cup competitions!) and looking to involve parents in some fund-raising ideas.

Our Under-11 team continues to prosper in the XI-a-side format, where they are in the A-League and going strong. The other teams are also finding their way. Our Under 16 team flirted briefly with the top of the table - the best in their age group in the Colchester area!!

Our traditional Christmas treat for the boys is different this year. We had taken them to Tenpin for the last six or seven years but the formula was wearing a bit thin. This year, we have managed to organise a number of tickets for Colchester Utd v Carlisle Utd on December 19.

Finally, we are still in need of additional players for our Under 14 team. Anyone interested, please contact John Dixey on 07780803803 or me on the number below.

Leslie Wright - 01206 241438



## W E S T B E R G H O L T P A R I S H C O U N C I L

By the time you read this bulletin we will be planning for Christmas and possibly gripped by the excitement brought on by the festive season. No sooner is Christmas over than we look forward to the New Year with the promise of change and associated challenges that come with the passing of time. I like to use this period as a reflection of what has been achieved over the last year, and as a Parish Councillor I thought I would remind you just what our community has achieved over the last 12 months. Before doing so let me just set the scene.

You may be unaware of the changes that have occurred over recent years to ensure that effective local decisions can be made by local people through their elected local representatives, which for West Bergholt is its Parish Council. The perception that Parish Councils are run on the lines portrayed by the TV series "Vicar of Dibley" is far from reality. Parish Councils are expected to comply with terms such as Community Engagement, Quality Status, Power of Well-Being, Code of Conduct and many more, all helping ensure that Parish Councils act in the best interests of the community and in a professional yet "local" manner. After all who are best placed to act in the best interests of our village if not those people who actually live here. This of course is not a new idea. Jeremy Clarkson once wrote in an editorial, "the real power in England lies with an active Parish Council". If this is true then West Bergholt residents have a great deal of local power.

Looking at what your Parish Council does in the village, there are perhaps some obvious responsibilities. We manage the day to day activities of the Orpen and John Lampon Halls, the Lorkin Daniell Playing Field and the Village Heath and Poors Land. We ensure the village ponds remain attractive yet in keeping with a village scene. We maintain our village identity and promote community awareness using the numerous village notice boards, village bulletin and village web site ([www.westbergholt.net](http://www.westbergholt.net)). Whilst you may be aware the bulletin is issued four times a year to every household, you may not know that on average our web site visit rate is 2,000 daily, with interest shown from many parts of the world.

Thanks to the many residents that make up the Parish Plan committee the village has a robust Parish Plan detailing the wishes and aspirations of our residents. Through close collaboration between the Parish Council and the Parish Plan committee, work continues to realise village aspirations to the benefit of all. These priority aspirations include, village road safety, curbing excessive speeding and inconsiderate parking, these being closely followed by the demand for faster higher quality broadband services being made available throughout our village. We have begun a further consultative programme to produce a Village Design Statement. This will be

agreed with borough council planners and will define the type and nature of planning and development that would be acceptable to our community. We plan to be the first village in the borough to complete both these important consultation documents.

Your Parish Council has power of influence at local and wider community levels, and has representation on the North Colchester Neighbourhood Action Panel – which addresses issues raised by residents of the ten villages covered by this panel, the Local Highways Panel – which sets the priorities for highways expenditure across the entire borough, Essex Affordable Housing Programme – helping to determine the priority aspects of implementing social housing in our rural and urban communities, the 20 mph Task and Finish group – investigating and recommending whether lower speed zones should be implemented. To ensure professionalism and good practice in all that we are represented at both the Colchester and Essex Associations of Local Councils at an executive level.

Our Bergholt Youth Group –BYG goes from strength to strength. Initially funded by the Parish Council this is now self sufficient with upwards of 60 members attending their regular meetings. Whilst the BYG was formed with assistance from adult volunteers, the running of sessions and the activities available are managed by youth organisers themselves. The success of BYG and the power our youth has in influencing village life is largely due to the two main youth organisers - Amber Harlow and Graham Pullen. Their achievements and dedication was regarded as exceptional and resulted in them being awarded this years prestigious Colchester Youth Award. Well done to them both and all who have helped make BYG such a success.

You cannot fail to notice our new village entry signs on the main roads into the village. The design was agreed by the Parish Council in relatively short order but health and safety and other external influences made this simple project a very time consuming and sometimes painful exercise. I am sure you agree they are a vast improvement on the previous signs and they help highlight what a very special place we live in.

Users of our Village Halls continue to benefit from the refurbishment programme begun in 2007. This year we concentrated our efforts and finances on the external fabric of these buildings and when complete, expect to begin much needed improvements to the shared kitchen area.

The Council encourages suggestions and feedback from residents and to this end invite anyone to have their say on any matter that affects our village through the public sessions held at the start of each Council meeting.

# West Bergholt Gardeners' Association



Our new season started with a flourish on September 21st with a welcome return visit by Matthew Tanton Brown, who gave an interesting, and often humorous talk on the cultivation and uses of garden herbs. At the Annual General Meeting afterwards, Valerie Lofthouse was elected to take the chair and we wish her all success and enjoyment in her new role. Our October meeting had as speaker Karen Kenny, broadcaster and very popular practical gardening expert, whose reputation for a lively style of talk is totally justified. Taking as her theme "Composting worms and comfrey for fertility" she entertained and informed her enthusiastic audience, who were left wanting more of the same! Peter Morris FNVS and a RHS judge will be talking about "Vegetables for small gardens" in November and members will have a pre-Christmas social evening on December 21st with festive fare and in-house entertainment.

The first meeting in 2010, on February 15th, will have an illustrated talk on "Garden design" by Andrea Parsons of The Parson's Garden. Andrea has designed some prestigious gardens and has a high reputation nationally. On March 15th Mark Macdonald of Todd's Botanics takes as his subject "Succulents and Olive Trees", and on April 19th we shall hold our Annual Plant Sale. As usual, this very popular event will be open to the public, and a variety of plants shrubs and other gardening items at competitive prices will be on offer. On WEDNESDAY, May 12th we shall be making a day visit to RHS Wisley, leaving the Orpen Hall by coach at 9am - final details will appear in the next bulletin. Warmingford farmer Robert Strathern will be speaking at our May 17th meeting and he will be telling us about his very successful Fairfield's Farm Crisps enterprise. To complete the half year we are planning an evening visit on June 21st to West Bergholt Allotments, New Church Road, where there will be a great deal of mutual interest to mull over.

The Association has an active membership and meetings are held at 7.30pm in the Orpen Hall on the above dates, the third Monday of the month in each case. We are always pleased to welcome visitors and potential new members. For any further information please contact either Valerie Lofthouse (Chair), telephone 01206 855450 or Gordon Dean (Secretary), telephone 01206 242194.

## 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

## THE BIG TIDY UP

### West Bergholt Litter Pick

The Parish Plan Group organised a village litter pick in September. It was most successful, 20 black bags of litter were collected in less than two hours. David Bowden organised the Boys Football Club to pick the Poors Land before their training!!



Amber Harlow and Graham Pullen worked with young members of the BYG to pick the Orpen Field. Thanks to Megan, Amy, Emily, Selena and Teigan.

BYG members Josh and Tom helped their parents to pick in Chapel Road. The team that collected the most was Sally Butcher and her family who returned with three bags of litter.



The youngest volunteer, Jack, helped his Mum pick on the Heath.

We now have a "Cleaner and Greener" village.

**Many thanks to all the volunteers**

# West Bergholt Football Club



It's business as usual for the start of the new season, with the first team unbeaten in eight games and through to the next round in the Border

League and the Essex Premier cups and winning the Manager of the Month award for September.

The reserve team has also enjoyed a good start, with only one defeat in their opening six games, and the newly promoted ladies team have won two out of three.

So an excellent start, let's hope we can repeat the successes of last season, although that's going to be a hard act to follow. Great credit goes to the team managers, for their tireless work both now and pre-season. Success does not come without a great deal of effort on and off the pitch.

Unfortunately the same can't be said for our new clubhouse project. After a fruitful open meeting with local residents to showcase our intentions, we have run into funding problems with the Football Foundation, who we were hoping would be our main grant providers. It seems that they, like many others, are feeling the effects of the recession, and funds are not available in the short term. We remain optimistic for the future, but the project is on temporary hold, although we are continuing with our fundraising in the meantime.

The Kids Saturday coaching sessions continue to be a runaway success, and are well and enthusiastically attended.

On the social front, we held a Race Night early in October, and we hope to have some Quiz Nights in the near future.

For those who don't already know, our web site is [www.westbergholtfc.co.uk](http://www.westbergholtfc.co.uk) please log on and have a look. Also if you use the shopping link, it helps with our fund raising.

We look forward to seeing as many people as possible on match days. Refreshments are available !!!

Michael Bell (Chairman)

## Macmillan Coffee Morning 2009

A big thank you to all who came and supported the "Worlds Biggest Coffee Morning".

We raised a grand total of £250.70.



# First Responders

## A NATURAL HIGH!

I must admit that this month I found it quite difficult to think about what to write for the First Responder article. We haven't had any calls and I think for now, we have shouted enough about wanting new members. No sooner had I expressed my 'writers block' problem to the group at our October meeting when the phone rang - "Are you able to attend a call?" said the voice from the Incident Room.

Peter, one of our newest volunteers was on his shift and had just transferred the kit into his car so we were all set to respond to a local man who had fallen and was showing signs of concussion. Peter called out the address to another volunteer, who wrote down where we were to attend and we set off. As we drove to the house we couldn't believe that the phone had rung when we had been having a meeting and we were glad that we were able to respond as a pair. This meant one could navigate and call the incident desk for further directions whilst the other concentrated on driving us safely to the call out address.

Upon arrival we entered the property and found a paramedic in attendance, we introduced ourselves as First Responders and asked if we could be of assistance. (Sometimes the professionals have everything in hand and time on site can be just ten minutes, other times our assistance can be needed and a Responder can be in attendance until the paramedics stand down.) On this occasion, the patient was bleeding from a wound and his condition was compounded by the fact that he was on medication which hindered his blood from clotting, therefore we administered oxygen and assisted the paramedic as requested to stabilise the situation. When an ambulance arrived to take the man to hospital to have his head stitched Peter helped to move the patient safely.

When we returned back to the group after the call out was complete we were warmly greeted and the team couldn't wait to hear what had happened. The congratulations from the group teamed with the gratitude from the paramedics and the patient's family gave us a great sense of achievement and after a cup of tea I certainly felt a real 'buzz'. This made me remember precisely why I had become a First Responder.

For information about how you can become a First Responder and help those in our village please contact Annie at 50 New Church Road or 01206 240469 for an informal chat. It's a great feeling to help those in need and shifts are very flexible to accommodate the busiest of lifestyles.

## Parish Council Monthly Meetings

Meetings start at 7.30pm

No meeting in December

JANUARY

Wednesday 27th

FEBRUARY

Wednesday 27th

# PARISH PLAN PROJECT UPDATE

## HIGH SPEED BROADBAND FOR WEST BERGHOLT

**How many of you are struggling with the limitations of the village's current Broadband connection to the outside world?** Our Parish Plan identified this aspect of village life as one where people would like to see improvements made, and this article explains one of the ways we could consider achieving this aim.



Presently we are in danger of becoming a “Not Spot” rather than a “Hot Spot”. Gone are the days when all communities needed was access to Broadband for the occasional email and to download updates to Windows! These days the demands for business and individual use of the internet are manifold, and the requirement for an always-on high speed connection has been identified as being as important as other utilities we take for granted such as water, gas, the telephone and electricity. Recent reports in the national and local press have shown that our village is not alone in seeking to improve its Broadband speed, and have highlighted the contrasts between the urban high speed services enjoyed by towns such as Colchester and Chelmsford, as opposed to the much slower service provided to rural areas such as ours.

In an attempt to identify a way forward the **Parish Plan Steering Group** in association with the Parish Council has started dialogue with both BT and independent providers. Whilst our research continues, one possible way forward is to join the villages which have introduced high speed Broadband services in conjunction with independent provider County Broadband. County Broadband has successfully installed its services in many villages including Long Melford, Coggeshall and Lamarsh. This “wireless” system is not currently available in the village in the same way as services offered through your telephone line, and would require some new infrastructure to be installed. County Broadband is looking to install a wireless high speed broadband facility in West Bergholt, subject to demand, and on a community basis. This would mean sharing the costs of the installation with the community (through seeking a grant for example) and then providing the service on a monthly rental basis to households, similar to that provided by existing Internet Service Providers (ISP). In return Broadband speeds of around 6-8Mb could easily be achieved at a comparable price to existing ISPs; currently we have speeds of far less than 1Mb.



In the first instance County Broadband is looking for help from anyone in the community who would be willing to offer two or three evenings over a month period (starting from January 2010) to canvas the parish for an indication of interest in this service. Following this survey and subject to sufficient interest being demonstrated, the project could be up and running within 3 months of securing the necessary finance for the basic infrastructure.

**If you are interested in helping to secure a High Speed Broadband for our village please register your interest by contacting me using the contact details below or register your interest on-line at [www.westbergholt.net](http://www.westbergholt.net).** More details from County Broadband can be found at: [www.countybroadband.co.uk](http://www.countybroadband.co.uk).

**Chris Stevenson, Chair West Bergholt Parish Plan Steering Group**  
Chrisstevenson@orange.net or 01206 241708

# News From Heathlands

## PTA

Hello from Heathlands PTA. Now, you may ask, why is Heathlands PTA appearing in the West Bergholt Bulletin? Mostly because many of you have children/grandchildren at the school, or you attended the school yourself. It is also Heathlands PTA that organises the Fireworks display each year, and the Village fayre every summer.

At the time of writing our fireworks committee is beavering away preparing for yet another fantastic display. In fact, this display has become so popular that we even have our own touts!! By the time you are reading this it will all be over and preparations will be beginning again for next year. There is no reason at all why people in the village couldn't be involved with this so if you enjoyed the display and feel that you would like to be involved please feel free to drop your details in to the school office for the attention of Elaine McLaren. She would be delighted to hear from you.

The next PTA event is predominantly a school-based one: The Hollyberry fayre. However if you have any unwanted smellies or old flower baskets you no longer need they would be gratefully received.

There have been some recent changes at the PTA. Neil Matthews is now President of the PTA following John Watts' retirement. Sarah White has stepped down as Chair after two years at the helm and we have two people to co-chair. They are Jo Taylor and Wendy Phillips. Our new vice-chair is Rachel Hopkins and Rachel Young takes on the role of Treasurer. We wish them all the best as they embark on their new roles.

## Colne Valley Flower Club



The Colne Valley Flower Club does not meet during December.

Please come and join us in the New Year. We start 2010 with our AGM on Wednesday, 20th January. We will be showing a DVD of the 'Rejoice - NAFAS 50th Anniversary Flower Festival' held in Westminster Abbey in May 2009. A group from the club visited this wonderful display along side many thousands of people; this truly was a spectacle.

We are looking for members to join our committee, as without this there would be no club. If you feel you would like to take a turn please contact one of the committee members or ring our Chairman on 01206 241145.

At our meeting on February 20th Shirley Perkins from Leigh-on-Sea will be coming to demonstrate and her title is 'Spectrum'

## 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.

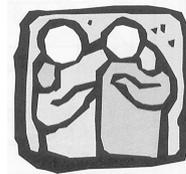
### What have we been up to recently?

Well we are very lucky to have a Turtle Bus and some of you may have seen us around the village with a bus full of children. We have visited the orchard and Hillhouse Woods, where the children had a great time.

### This year we will be 40 years old!

40 years ago we opened as West Bergholt Playgroup. I bet some of you remember bringing your children along. Well things have since evolved and we are now known as Bluebell Pre-school. To celebrate this momentous occasion we had a 'Birthday Party' on Saturday 21st November.

## Friendship Club



In the last few months the Friendship Club has enjoyed a varied programme.

In June members picked strawberries at a local farm and then went on to a garden centre for a cream tea.

At our July meeting Mr. Finch gave us an informative talk about Dedham. The last meeting before the summer break was a garden party at the home of Mrs. D. Winter. The summer outing was a trip to Saffron Walden and Blakes End Craft Centre.

In September, Barbara Falkner gave us an interesting talk on 'Hop Picking in Kent' as it used to be.

For our October meeting instead of the usual meeting in the Orpen Hall, members travelled by car to Mill Race Nurseries. Members spent about an hour looking (and in some cases buying!) at all the plants and other items for sale. Then everyone met at the coffee shop for tea and cakes.

In between talks and outings we enjoyed Mick Morrissey's quizzes and also bingo.

We meet at the Orpen Hall every second and fourth Thursday afternoon, between 2pm and 4pm. We look forward to seeing you if you are over 55 years (men and women).

# The Orpen Players

## 40th Anniversary Production.



The Orpen Hall was festooned with bunting and coloured lights, the stage area was bedecked with red velvet drapes and the patrons were sitting at their tables in anticipation. The Master of Ceremonies was on his podium and the pianist was at the piano.

David Wenden's expert direction and hard work had come to fruition with a fun-filled programme of music and laughter. There was chorus singing, solo singing, monologues and melodrama. Among the cast were many familiar faces and some newer ones and some welcome talented youngsters. Pam Grant and Margaret Kerr arranged the catering and cast members doubled as waiters. There was excellent backstage support from Stage Manager Andrew Bott and Roger Milne.

The director and cast can chalk this up as another successful venture.

Next production for the Orpen Players will be the pantomime – Jack and the Beanstalk. It will take place on January 29th & 30th and February 5th & 6th 2010.

### **Post Script.**

Ruby Blackwell, John, Pam and Jackie Grant and myself are the only club members left who were involved with the first ever Orpen Players Play. I was delighted to have a cameo part in this anniversary production.

As a long-standing player I am going to take it upon myself to personally thank all the patrons and supporters over the years. Without them we would not have been able to function. To fondly remember all the friendships made along the way and to raise a glass to the present and future members who will take the club ever forward to - who knows - another 40 years.

*'40 years where have they all gone?'*

*Joyce Lucking*

The outcome from last seasons nominations from the North Essex Theatre Guild. were:

- Best Comedy Performance for Jackie Grant,
- Best young actress Abi Stringer for Aladdin
- Margaret Kerr won the Unsung Hero award for her work behind the scenes.



*From strength to strength*

## The Royal British Legion

By the time you receive this edition of the Village Bulletin, the 2009 'Poppy Appeal' will have ended.

The preliminary rough check (number of collecting tins filled) looks good!

Members of your local branch (who now enrol personnel not ex-service) would have manned strategic points in this area,

and some stalwarts would have collected house-to-house. If you, who are reading this, gave to our members outside the Co-op in Chapel Road, many thanks.

This year, and for years to come The British Legion will need your help more than ever – for, as we all know through the media, our armed forces in Iraq and Afghanistan have sustained many deaths, and hundreds have returned to the UK with injuries, and it is these service personnel who may call upon the Legion for help.

Although payments are given to those badly wounded depending on the severity and extent of their wounds, these payments are never enough considering they have the rest of their lives to live which often become stressful, with unforeseen side effects.

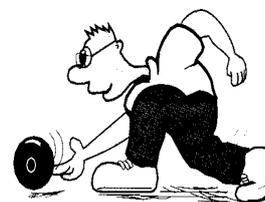
On the lighter side of life the local Branch meets every second Thursday of the month at the Beehive, Little Horkesley, and beside social functions with other branches, over 70 members and their wives attended our Autumn Dinner at the Lion, Leavenheath.

I always head the Logo with 'From strength to strength' and fortunately I can announce we have recruited two more members to our Branch. If you want to join the Legion please contact me on 01206 243717 – or 07875 428 120.

Hugh Brivent-Barnes



## West Bergholt Indoor Bowls Club



The autumn season brings plenty of bowls to the club in the way of competitions for Essex and the club. We had a great result for the team of George Copping, Barbara Davis, Greta Leatherdale and Beryl Conway, who were runners-up in the 'County Open 4' from an entry of 65 teams.

'Essex County Triples' saw three teams from the club enter; the team of Jan Lumb, Nora Bates and Eileen Brown reached the semi final from 80 teams who entered the competition.

We have played several local clubs with mixed results but we enjoy all the games we play.

Our annual competitions are progressing well, the singles have reached the semi-finals, the pairs have been completed and the triples take place next month.

We are always looking to see new faces on a Thursday or Sunday evening from 7.15pm at the Orpen Hall. Make a note in your diary and come along to give it a try.

For any further information telephone 01206 240379.



CHARITY NO: 299094

## NEW TELEPHONE CONTACT NUMBERS!

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 machine. A date for your new diary - the AGM will be held on Tuesday 20 April at 7.30 pm in the Methodist Church Hall.

*New orange telephone contact cards are available in village shops and the Surgery.*

**Monday 241 103 Tuesday 242 185 Wednesday 242 319**  
**Thursday 240 569 Friday 240 167**  
**Saturday/Sunday 242 075**

## West Bergholt Cricket Club

It was another disappointing season for our Seniors with our 1st XI being relegated to Division three of the PDQ North Essex League and our 2nd XI struggling at the foot of the league after our first season in the Two Counties League. We do need more cricketers to join our club and we will be concentrating our efforts on recruitment. If anyone would like to join us, please contact me (details below).



Our three Junior teams enjoyed some good performances at Under 11, 13 and 15 levels. Next year, these three sections will step up to the next age range and we plan to introduce a new Kwik Cricket section for local youngsters. They will be invited to join our regular Friday evening training sessions at the Manor Ground, coached by our qualified coaches who have increased in number for the fourth consecutive year. Parents can be confident that their youngsters will be joining a child-friendly, Clubmark accredited club. There are many Kwik Cricket tournaments held in the local area each summer. Contact Simon Lockwood on 07811 398855 or [lockwoodj@willis.com](mailto:lockwoodj@willis.com).

The season was celebrated in October at the annual Trophy Presentation Evening where many notable successes on the playing field and deserving volunteers were recognised and received awards. Over 70 senior and junior members along with family and friends enjoyed one of the highlights of WBCC's calendar.

The club continues its development and is currently awaiting confirmation of grant funding for a new practice net facility to be sited next to the existing one.

Cricket continues to be played indoors during the winter with the Over 40s competing at the Essex County ground

and the younger members competing in the Braintree Indoor League. Details of pre-season indoor net sessions will be announced soon.

The club's Secretary will announce his retirement at our AGM in February so we are actively seeking his replacement. Please contact me about this rewarding role or if you wish to support your local cricket club in any other way on 240225/07769697542 or [npassmore@sky.com](mailto:npassmore@sky.com). As always, keep an eye on [www.westberaootcc.co.uk](http://www.westberaootcc.co.uk) for all the latest developments.

Nigel Passmore, Chairman

## West Bergholt Concert Band



### Merry Christmas Everybody!

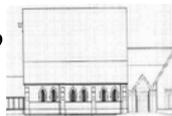
As always, the band will be wrapping up another busy and successful year with our favourite concert of the year – the traditional village Christmas Concert at St Mary's (Saturday 12th December at 7:30pm), so come along for a fun filled evening of Christmas music! We'll be performing literally everything from Rock to Baroque – this year's new arrangements include excerpts from Bach's Christmas Oratorio, Slade's Merry Christmas Everybody, Leroy Anderson's Sleigh Ride, Frank Loesser's Baby It's Cold Outside, Elvis' Here Comes Santa Claus, and variations on some well known and less well known Carols. We'll of course also be playing the band's Christmas favourites such as Leroy Anderson's Christmas Festival, and medleys of all the classic Christmas tunes including White Christmas, Rockin' Around The Christmas Tree, I'll Be Home for Christmas, Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas...and many more. In fact – we've packed so much Christmas music into the programme, there's no room for anything else!

The lead up to Christmas is also fully packed with activities, with local Primary School players joining Training Band for a series of workshops and a concert at St Botolph's in aid of Riding for the Disabled. Training Band's half of the concert will feature music ranging from Abba and Motown to Disney and West Side Story, with Concert Band performing music "Made in England", including pieces by Elgar, the Beatles, Eric Clapton, Philip Sparke and Andrew Lloyd-Webber.

All of the band members and our guests at workshops get a huge amount of enjoyment from the band, so if you are lucky enough to receive a musical instrument from Santa...have a look on the band website for information on becoming a band-member. 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. If you'd like any more information on the band, please either call Graham on 01206 824157, or visit the website...where you can also find details of our 2010 Concerts.

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

# St. Mary the Virgin, West Bergholt



Developing St. Mary's for a growing community

As part of our intention to worship using different styles and formats we held our first 'Cafe' style service at the beginning of September. We served bacon butties and croissants, tea and coffee on arrival which people ate seated round small tables. There were Sunday newspapers on the tables which were used later in the service as part of our concerns for prayer. We had an interactive bible reading and a short message based on the theme of new beginnings given by Lydia Smith. It was a very informal service, but there was opportunity to be quiet and reflect on what God might be calling us to do.

We hope there may be other opportunities for another 'Cafe' style service in the New Year.

Caroline Finlay, for PCC

## *Harvest Festival*

This year's Harvest Festival was a grand affair. The church had been superbly decorated under the direction of Fiona Stewart. Colin gave a meaningful service that started with children and some older parishioners taking traditional gifts of food to the Altar.

With the end of service a band of volunteers transformed St Mary's into a restaurant to seat 50 at flower decorated tables with hand painted serviette rings by Groundbreakers. Some of the congregation stayed and others returned for a chicken casserole lunch at 12 o'clock. This was followed by various desserts and apple juice.

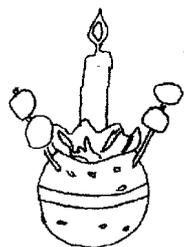
It would be impossible to name all those involved in this year's Harvest Festival but three people must be recognised – Jon Smith, main organiser. Kate Penrose for organising food from the kitchen and Sue Smith for supplying all tables and decorations.

## *School Harvest*

On the Monday and Tuesday mornings, Heathlands School came in to celebrate Harvest. On Monday the infants came first with about 100 parents, then the lower juniors with about 60. Lydia Smith and Reverend Colin Horseman led, with head teacher Neil Matthews reading prayers.

The upper juniors came on Tuesday and we were pleased to welcome parents again. Sue White and Caroline Finlay played the school harvest songs.

## Groundbreakers



Groundbreakers at St. Mary's invites all primary school children to Christingle Groundbreakers on 19th December between 2pm and 4pm followed by a celebration service to include lighting the Christingles.

Invitations will be sent out through Heathlands School at the beginning of December but if your children don't attend Heathlands but would like to come, please telephone 752056 to register them before 15th December.

Kate Wilson

## *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 if you have access to a computer, key in [www.stmaryswestbergholt.web.officelive.com](http://www.stmaryswestbergholt.web.officelive.com) for the Village Diary where you will see what else goes on in West Bergholt.

### **December**

Sunday 6th	9.30am	Morning Worship and Bugs
Tuesday 8th	11.00am	United Communion Service in Methodist Chapel
Sunday 13th	9.30am	Formal Holy Communion
Sunday 20th	9.30am	Family Service
	2.30pm	Carols by Candlelight in Old Church
	6.30pm	Evening 'Prayer Book' Service
Wed. 23rd	10.00am	Holy Communion BCP
Thursday 24th	3.00pm	Crib Service
	6.30pm	Carol Service
	11.30pm	Midnight Communion in All Saints, Gt. Horkesley
Sunday 27th	9.30am	Holy Communion

### **January**

Sunday 3rd	9.30am	Morning Worship and Bugs
Sunday 10th	9.30am	Formal Holy Communion
Sunday 17th	9.30am	Family Service
	6.30pm	Evening 'Prayer Book' Service
Tuesday 19th	11.00am	United Communion Service in Methodist Chapel
Sunday 24th	9.30am	Holy Communion
Sunday 31st	11.00am	United Communion Service in Methodist Chapel

### **February**

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

A 'Creche' is available in the Church Hall for children under five years old if required.

Rector – The Rev. Colin Horseman Tel. 271242



# 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**, 2pm - 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**, 8-9.30pm - John Lampon Hall, 07887 511412

### Tuesdays:

**NHS Primary Care Trust Baby Clinic**, 10am to 11am - Methodist Hall  
**Miss Jackson's Dancing Class**, 5.30-7.30pm - Orpen Hall  
**Taost Tai Chi**, Beginners Class 7.30-9.30pm - Scout Hut - Fiona 240339  
*All Welcome*  
**Methodist Church**, 11am 2nd Tuesday Communion Service  
**Badminton Club**, 8.15pm - Orpen Hall  
**W.E.A.**, 8pm - 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**, 10am 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, 2.30pm to 4pm.  
New members welcome - contact Pat Butcher for details 242075  
**Aerobics-Legs, Bums and Tums**, Methodist Hall, 6.45pm-7.45pm. Tel 243773.  
**Women's Fellowship** 2.30pm third Wednesday each month Methodist Church Hall.

### Thursdays:

**Friendship Club**, 2pm 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**, 8pm fortnightly, telephone 576293 for details  
**British Legion**, Gt and 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**, 7.30-9pm St Mary's Church Hall  
**Pilates**, 9.30am, - Scout Hut, Methodist Hall evenings tel: 564348 for details  
**Bible Study**, 2.30pm, - Methodist Church Hall - third Thursday

### Fridays:

**West Bergholt Concert Band**,  
6.00-7.00pm (Juniors), 7-9pm (seniors) - Heathlands school  
**Wesley Guild**, 7.30pm, 4th Friday - Methodist Hall (March to September)  
**Orpen Players**, 8pm - Orpen Hall  
**Dru Yoga**, 9.30-11am - Methodist Church Hall, 07887 511412

## METHODIST CHURCH

### Diary

**December 6th** Gift & Parade Service 11.00am  
December 8th Shared Village Communion with St. Mary's 11.00am  
December 9th Coffee Morning 10.00am  
**December 15th** Village Carol Singing.  
Meet at Brewery Gates 6.30pm  
**December 16th** Women's Fellowship – Christmas Carols & tea 2.30pm  
**December 20th** Candlelight Carol Service 6.30pm.  
Coffee and mince pies afterwards in Church Hall  
**December 25th** Sector Service at Eight Ash Green Methodist Church 10.00am  
\*\*\*\*\*  
January 12th Shared Village Communion with St. Mary's 11.00am  
January 13th Coffee Morning 10.00am  
January 16th New Years Social – 'Bring & Share' tea.  
January 17th Covenant Service 11.00am  
January 20th Women's Fellowship 2.30pm –  
*speaker Catherine Bowstead*  
January 21st Bible Study 2.30pm Church Hall  
January 31st United Service with St. Mary's at Methodist Church 11.00am  
*Coffee before service from 10.30am*  
February 9th Shared Village Communion with St. Mary's 11.00am  
February 10th Coffee Morning 10.00am  
February 17th Women's Fellowship 2.30pm  
February 18th Bible Study 2.30pm Church Hall.  
**Every Tuesday 9.30am – 10.00am Minister Ruth Ridge is available in the Church for quiet prayer.**  
**Minister: Rev Ruth Ridge. Tel. 01206 242182**



CHARITY NO: 299094

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**Monday 241 103 Tuesday 242 185 Wednesday 242 319**  
**Thursday 240 569 Friday 240 167**  
**Saturday/Sunday 242 075**

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 March issue should be with the Editors before 1st February 2010 - Regrettably late submissions cannot be guaranteed entry into the Bulletin