

East Bergholt parish magazine

January 2024

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EMERGENCY NUMBERS
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Gas
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Manningtree Dental Practice
Day Lewis Pharmacy, Gaston Street01206 298267
Hospitals: Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust, Heath Road, Ipswich
Colchester District General Hospital, Turner Road, Colchester
Highcliff Veterinary Practice, Brantham01206 391511
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Broom Knoll, CO7 6XN; The Grange Country Park, CO7 6UX; telephone box by The Lion, The
Street, CO7 6TB; The Royal Oak, East End, CO7 6XA; Flatford: Tourist information; National
Trust upper car park. Note: You must call 999 for a defibrillator code in order to use any of these
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SCHOOLS
East Bergholt C of E Voluntary Controlled Primary School, School Lane. Headteacher: Clare
Sampson
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East Bergholt High School, Heath Road. Headteacher: Dan Woodcock
East Bergholt High School, Heath Road. Headteacher: Dan Woodcock
East Bergholt High School, Heath Road. Headteacher: Dan Woodcock
East Bergholt High School, Heath Road. Headteacher: Dan Woodcock
East Bergholt High School, Heath Road. Headteacher: Dan Woodcock
East Bergholt High School, Heath Road. Headteacher: Dan Woodcock

Best Wishes For The New Year, 2024

Later in the magazine I outline priorities that the Parish Council is considering for the next few years. But here, since it's my turn to write the opening article this month, let me introduce you to the people putting those plans into action...

Nigel Roberts, vice-chair, is a retired strategic planning professional, contributing enormously to drafting our local voice on planning. He leads on policies for our Neighbourhood Plan.

Bob Elmer, chair of strategy, policy and finance, is our go-to person for finance who helps us spend wisely and leads Community Infrastructure Levy expenditure planning.

Graeme Woodcock, chair of the playing fields committee (PFC), works energetically with the Sports Council and East End community to improve our sports and playgrounds facilities.

Mark Hurley, chair of the burial grounds (BG) committee, also coordinates our community care activities, encouraging warm spaces and providing information for the less well-off in our community.

Michael Hockley, chair of the roads, footpaths and Flatford (RFF) committee, works tirelessly and his support helps other councillors to make a real difference.

John Price is also on the RFF committee and leads on new opportunities for making footpaths more extensive and accessible.

Lyn Matthews leads our new initiative, working with young people. Now we are qualified as a competent council (more than two thirds of our councillors have been elected and we have a fully qualified clerk) we have more opportunities, and Lyn and her group are developing work with young people.

Peter Dent is on the RFF and PFC, and is always a willing volunteer, helping the chairs achieve committee objectives.

Ricky Allen is on the RFF and BG committees, contributing to their work.

Rob Wombwell is our technology expert and, in addition to contributing to council debates, takes a lead on our project to create a more modern and accessible website.

Sallie Davies is our new district councillor and also chairs our Neighbourhood Plan group, connecting the Parish Council to the initiatives of the District Council.

Simon Rothwell is our tree warden, and is on the PFC as well as contributing to children's initiatives and the use of the primary school for the junior football team.

Graham White, clerk, and **Louise Smith,** assistant clerk, complete the full team, very ably and professionally assisting us to do our job.

Parish councillors give freely of their time, spending many hours per week on improving village facilities. We welcome conversations with you on any of our initiatives and look forward to seeing you at our meetings and consultation sessions in 2024. - Joan Miller,

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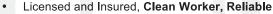
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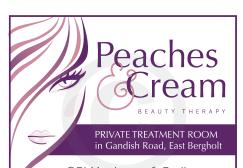
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ST MARY'S CHURCH, EAST BERGHOLT

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Enquiries about weddings, baptisms and funerals and any church matters should be directed to the wardens in the first instance.

St Mary's, East Bergholt:

Fiona Trott - fiona.trott13@gmail.com - 01206 298205 Sarah Southgate - southgatesarah@yahoo.co.uk - 01206 299729

St Michael's, Brantham

Jane Pavitt - jane.pavitt@tiscali.co.uk - 01473 328512 Len Smith - len@campervansmiths.com - 07986 767123



FAMILY@CHURCH



For the last service of 2023, we celebrated Christmas at Fields Kitchen & Farmshop. We sang lots of Christmas carols, and talked about preparing for baby Jesus arriving at Christmas-time - born in a stable - and the special time called Advent. We sang our "sorry song" and prayed for peace on earth and for those for whom Christmas is a difficult time



for so many different reasons. We enjoyed party food and then a special person came to see us and handed out presents!

If you have never been to a Family@church service before why not make it one of your new year's resolutions? We meet on the first Sunday of every month at 4.00pm, usually at St Mary's, where we have fun, take part in activities, sing, eat and make new friends - and that's just the adults! You don't need to have a family to come, and you can be any age. Hope to see you on Sunday 7th January for our first meeting of 2024.

For any queries or comments about Family@church, please contact Liz Digby (liz.digby@btopenworld.com) or Fiona Trott (fiona.trott13@gmail.com). - Fiona Trott

EAST BERGHOLT AND BRANTHAM MOTHERS' UNION



Our branch is going virtual this month as we pilot a time of Taizé prayer as an evening Mothers' Union meeting held online on the third Thursday of each month at 8.00pm. The idea of this 40-minute time of prayer is to enable those people who have other commitments during the day to join in a Mothers'

Union meeting with a difference. The Zoom login details can be obtained from any member of the committee.

Due to the inclement weather at this time of the year there will be no daytime meeting this month. In February, however, we have the branch AGM and will be preparing a display entitled *The Souls of Our Shoes* to raise awareness of domestic abuse. - *Jeanette, Janet, Jenny, Chris and Grace*

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

Do you ever feel that you need some quiet time - somewhere to find peace for a while? On Sunday 26th November, we had half an hour of musical reflection at St Mary's. Martin, our organist, played some beautiful music on the organ including hymns, pieces by the great composers such as Brahms and Bach, and also *Somewhere Over the Rainbow*. It prompted the following responses:



"Thank you so much...the music was beautiful. A precious time to let our thoughts wash over us away from all the troubles."

"Time to enjoy the many thoughts and enjoy the peace."

"The reflection was really enjoyable. It opens your eyes to things and was nice to appreciate the music."

"I look forward to the next one!"

Perhaps you would like to come to church but feel uncomfortable being part of a formal service? This is the perfect opportunity to visit, sit quietly, have no expectations placed on you and enjoy the peace and tranquillity of our beautiful church.

Our next Music for Reflection will be on Sunday 28th January at 10.00am. You will be most welcome to join us whether you regularly come to church, come once in a while, or have never been. There will also be refreshments provided. - *Fiona Trott*

TAKE A BREAK COFFEE



Before COVID struck, the church used to offer weekly refreshments on Wednesday mornings, providing teas, coffees, cakes and so on, and called Ministry of Welcome. It had a regular clientele as well as welcoming visitors, and incorporated a "Knit and Knatter" group. With the pandemic, like everything else it had to stop, but it started up again earlier this year - although with the number of

refreshment helpers depleted it has only been operating once a month, on the last Wednesday.

However, as with all things regular and familiar, sometimes there is a need for change and a need to re-evaluate. What does Ministry of Welcome actually mean? The church knew and the regulars knew, but any newcomers to the village could be excused for not realising that this actually means coffee, chat and companionship! A chance to meet up with friends, make new ones, be warm and feel supported.

So, from January, Ministry of Welcome will be relaunched as **Take a Break Coffee**, and will take place on the first Wednesday of each month. If you are new and would like to meet other folk from the village, feel lonely and would like people to talk to, or just like meeting up with friends, do please come and join us. The first new-look refreshments will take place on Wednesday 3rd January from 10.00am to 12.00 noon. The name may have changed but the welcome is still guaranteed! - *Fiona Trott*

REMEMBRANCE DAY AT ST MARY'S







IN MEMORIAM

ANDREW PATRICK CAMP 14th June 1963 - 18th July 2023

I would like to thank everyone for their beautiful cards and kind messages about Andrew. They have all been a great comfort to me since losing my darling son to the dreaded cancer in such a short time. It was a rapid and rare type of cancer and it was so cruel to watch his painful death at only 60 years old.

Andrew was diagnosed with Type I diabetes at the age of 11, but he never let it get in the way of his enjoyment of life. He never complained about his health problems, and in his 60 years he was determined to make the most of his life - and he did just that!

Andrew went to Raydon primary school while growing up at Squirrels Hall Fruit Farm with his brother, Julian. The boys had a very happy childhood at the farm. At apple-picking time they would take turns driving the tractor to help out with the harvest. After Raydon primary he moved to East Bergholt High School. While there he was awarded the Endeavour Trophy. He discovered his love of woodwork through classes at the high school and this was to lead him to his career in woodwork.

After high school Andrew did a three-year apprenticeship at J.F. Kennedy at Ipswich and became a cabinetmaker. He then progressed to work in veneer. He took great pride in this work, as he did with any task.

J.F. Kennedy closed in 2021 and Andrew spent his last 12 months working for Taylor Made Joinery doing very intricate and complicated veneer work. He was especially proud of a veneered spiral staircase. He did all the veneer work on the staircase and went to London with the firm to see it assembled and in place. He was very proud to be part of TMJ and he in turn was highly regarded by the firm and all his workmates.

Andrew was also a very keen photographer and it became his hobby. He formed the Beyond Group Photographic Society, which competed in national competitions and won cups and trophies. He also gave talks to other clubs on his "before and after" photographs. On his many visits to his brother Julian and family in the Lake District he used his skill as a digital artist to photograph his two nieces and entered their portraits into photographic competitions. One of his photographs was on the front page of the *East Anglian Daily Times*. This one was chosen from photographs he captured of sunrises at Flatford, as he would drive there from his home at Ipswich en route to work. Some of his photographs were used for the front cover of our parish magazine.

Andrew has left us with so many treasures, pieces of furniture and photographs, with which to remember him. He was a kind, polite, caring, and brave person and a loving and loyal son, brother and friend, "the Best of the Best" in my book. I loved him dearly and miss him, his cheery smile and gentle humour beyond measure.

Rest in peace, Andrew. - Jean Camp

ST MARY'S CHURCH, EAST BERGHOLT PRESERVATION SOCIETY

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ST. MARY'S CHURCH PRESERVATION SOCIETY EAST BERGHOLT

REGISTERED CHARITY NO: 1063444

Since the 13th century East Bergholt villagers have worked together to maintain the fabric of our church. Built of brick, flint and stone, St Mary the Virgin is one of the finest churches in Suffolk, a focal point for the village and an asset to the entire community.

Such a building requires constant maintenance, work which must be done using the correct materials, in the hands of the most competent of craftsmen, while complying with modern health and safety regulations. The aim of the Preservation Society is to raise funds to support this work; all funds raised are used solely to protect the fabric of the church and bell cage.

Last year the society provided funds to enable;

- Reroofing the chancel.
- Repairing the north aisle parapet.
- Boxing in the asbestos on the back panels of the heaters.
- Paying for the ongoing maintenance of the newly restored clock.

This year we are faced with similar challenges. While you are no doubt aware of major problems with the roof and the pending grant submissions, there is also an immediate problem to address with a water leak in the Lady Chapel. The society is being asked to fund the necessary repairs. Such work is only possible through the help and support given by our members, donors and helpers, and we are ever grateful for their generosity. Funds are raised in three ways;

- Events such as Open Gardens and Carols and Mince Pies at Christmas.
- Legacy gifts, which are a wonderful way to help protect our cherished village landmark for future generations. If you are considering leaving a gift in your will, please contact the Society either by emailing <code>ebchurchpres@gmail.com</code> or by writing to St Mary's Church Preservation Society, c/o Delvyns, Gaston Street, East Bergholt CO7 6SD.
- Membership. Membership is charged at £10 per annum. Please consider becoming a member of the society. We are registered with The Charity Commission and HMRC for Gift Aid.

Will you support us and help to preserve our church by becoming a Preservation Society member today?

This can be easily done by completing the application form on the next page and either emailing a copy to *ebchurchpres@gmail.com* or posting it to our membership secretary, Steve Feeney, at the address given on the form. Thank you for your support.

- Stephen Feeney

ST. MARY'S CHURCH PRESERVATION SOCIETY EAST BERGHOLT

Registered Charity No: 1063444

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The aim of the Society is to preserve this historic building for future generations by attracting support from anyone who cares about our heritage. Your donations, large or small, will be gratefully received. All funds raised will be used solely for the preservation of St. Mary's Church and it's Bell Cage.

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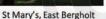
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CONSTABLE COUNTRY CHURCHES - JANUARY 2024 SERVICES

St Mary's, East Bergholt				St Mich	nael's, Brantham
Wed 3 rd	09:30	BCP Communion Service	Sun 7 th	10:30	Informal Service
Sun 7 th	10:00 16:00		Sun 14 th	10:30 16:00	Communion Service Family at Church
Sun 14 th	08:00 10:00	BCP Communion Service Family Service	Sun 21st	10:30	Informal Service
Sun 21st	10:00	Communion Service	Sun 28 th	10:00	Communion Service
Sun 28 th		BCP Communion Service Music for Reflection			
St Mary's, Bentley			:	St Mar	y's, Tattingstone
Sun 7 th	10:00	Communion Service	a ath	40.00	
Sun 14 th	10:00	Morning Worship	Sun 14"	10:00	Communion Service
Sun 21st	10:00	Communion Service			
Sun 28 th	10:00	Praise and Worship			

The benefice of Constable Country Churches is currently in an interregnum following the retirement of Rev Steph, and it is hoped that the published schedule of services will all go ahead as planned. However, please do double-check our website at www.constablecountrychurches.co.uk or local Facebook pages to confirm times.

Note: Family@church services at St Michael's, Brantham will be advertised on the church's Facebook page and the local Brantham Facebook page.



LOCAL CHURCHES

BRANTHAM METHODIST CHURCH



Gravel Pit Lane, Brantham, CO11 1NY Minister Rev Ian Gardner 34 Medway Road, Ipswich IP3 0QH 01473 411507

ian.gardner@methodist.org.uk

The services of Marriage, Baptism and Funerals can be arranged with the minister.

Services and preachers in January 2024

Date	Time	Preacher
Sunday 7 th	11.00am	Rev Ian Gardner (Holy Communion)
Sunday 14 th	11.00am	Mrs Carole Almond
Sunday 21st	11.00am	Service led by local members
Monday 28 th	10.30am	Service led by local members

Dear friends

Can I wish you all a very happy New Year. I also hope you had a very relaxed and joyful Christmas.

January for me is Epiphany, when we remember the wise men visiting our Lord Jesus and when, towards the end of the month, we have the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

Epiphany on 6th January every year is a hidden gem of the Christian church. It celebrates the arrival of the wise men who came to see Jesus Christ after he was born. The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is traditionally observed from 18th to 25th January - the octave of St Peter and St Paul. It is a time when churches get together, and here at Brantham we normally hold a service on a Sunday afternoon sometime in January. We take it in turns to organise this service.

As usual, don't forget you are welcome to come along to our coffee mornings between 10.30am and 12.00 noon on the last Saturday of every month, to which you are *all* invited. They are open to everyone, so why not just pop in and enjoy a cuppa with us.

God bless you all, from your friend and minister, lan.



ST MARK'S ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH

St Mark's, Hawthorn Drive, Ipswich IP2 0QQ
Holy Family Church, Ipswich Road, Brantham CO11 1TB
Parish Priest: Rev Fr Luke Goymour
The Presbytery, 180 Hawthorn Drive, Ipswich IP2 0QQ
01473 684963 revgoymour@googlemail.com

Pope Francis's New Year Resolutions

Don't gossip. "When we gossip, we are doing what Judas did" and "begin to tear the other person to pieces. Every time we judge people in our hearts, or worse when we speak badly of them with others, we are murdering them. There is no such thing as innocent slander."

Choose the "more humble" purchase. The Pope preaches against materialism. "Certainly, possessions, money, and power can give a momentary thrill, the illusion of being happy, but they end up possessing us and making us always want to have more, never satisfied. 'Put on Christ' in your life, place your trust in Him and you will never be disappointed."

Finish your meals. No leftovers, please. Named after a 12th-century saint who lived in poverty, Francis slams a "culture of waste" that neglects the plight of the hungry. The Pope says: "We should all remember...that throwing food away is like stealing from the tables of the poor, the hungry! I encourage everyone to reflect on the problem of thrownaway and wasted food."

Weekday and Sunday Masses and devotions

All are very welcome to attend services. The following are the usual Mass times but please check the parish website at www.stmarksparish.org.uk or the noticeboards outside the churches for updates.

Saturday	5.30pm	St Mark's Vigil Mass with confessions from 5.00pm
Sunday	9.00am	Holy Family, Brantham
	11.00am	St Mark's
Tuesday	10.00am	Holy Family Mass with Eucharistic Adoration from 9.20am
Wednesday	9.30am	St Mark's
Friday	12.15pm	St Mark's Mass with Eucharistic Adoration from 11.40am

Father Luke's Sunday sermons are available online at anchor.fm/fr-luke-goymour.

Bring & Buy Coffee Morning at Viv Szitasi's home, Paddock Gate, Whitehorse Road, East Bergholt CO7 6TR will take place on Thursday 25th January 10.30am to 12.00 noon. All are welcome. - *Kathy Pollard*

CLUBS, SOCIETIES AND ASSOCIATIONS

MANNINGTREE & DISTRICT PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY



We ended the first half of our season with a very enjoyable Christmas meal, and as we start 2024 we wish everyone a very happy, healthy and safe new year.

In January we are looking forward to a field trip to Flatford and also:

11th January - prints competition - *Minimalism*. Judge: Roy Essery MPAGB.

25th January - Zoom presentation - *Colours, Tones and Textures* by Ruth Grindrod.

Please visit our website for full details of our varied programme together with competition results, photo albums and further club information.



The club continues to have fun with our monthly Facebook Challenge, and our public Manningtree Photographic Club Facebook page also features club news and activities.

This month's featured image is *Lady Maria's Bath* by Steve Pharez, which won a recent PDI mono competition.

We are a small group of photography enthusiasts with a wide range of photographic experience and knowledge. The club aims to provide a friendly environment for members to enjoy the development of their photographic skills through a variety of activities in the company of like-minded individuals.

If you have an interest in photography, at whatever level, you would be most welcome at M&DPS and we would like to invite you to come along to a free club meeting. We meet at Mistley Village Hall, on the 2nd, 4th and 5th Thursdays of the month between September and May at 7.30pm.

For further information please contact our secretary Pat Ainger on 01206 231242 or email *madps@post.com*.

Website: e-voice.org.uk/manningtreeanddistrictphotographicsociety.

- Ian Bancroft

OIL ORDERING CLUB

Sarah and I run a club ordering domestic heating oil every month during the winter. I contact everyone by email or phone asking if you want to order, and given the total required, Sarah then finds the best price for us.

I then let everyone who ordered know which company will be supplying it, the price and the likely delivery date. You deal with them direct for payment. We always make a good saving compared with individual orders. To find out more and join (no charge to do so) contact me on 01206 298302 or at linda.bestow@gmail.com. - Linda Bestow

EAST BERGHOLT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY (founded 1895)

www.eastbergholthorticulturalsociety.onesuffolk.net • email ebhs@btinternet.com

Following our November AGM, It was with regret that we said goodbye to our president of many years, Rupert Ely - he will be sorely missed. Luckily we have a volunteer who has stepped into the role, Sara Eley. Please join me in welcoming Sara to our team.

The society was able to run an extended programme in 2023, offering more events than in previous years, and we intend to do the same in 2024 with the dates below already pencilled in:

Quiz Saturday 27th April, Constable Hall
Plant sale Saturday 18th May, Lambe School
Visit to RHS Hyde Hall Garden and Show Saturday 3rd August (members only)
Annual show Saturday 31st August, Constable Hall
Christmas wreath-making Saturday 30th November, Lambe School (members only)

Further details will be published nearer the events. We are also finalising dates when we can visit gardens in East Bergholt; we are planning to have two different formats this year. We will repeat the evening tour followed by wine and nibbles, but also have open mornings where members will be able to informally visit a village garden, specifically when that garden is at its best.

Please don't forget the Society Store; this will be opening every Sunday between 9.30am and 10.30am, starting on 11th February. I look forward to seeing you there.

May I thank all of the members who attended the Christmas wreath-making workshop in November and all the committee members (Naomi in particular) whose hard work made it possible. It was a delight to see the wreaths hanging from the village doors over Christmas. This event proved a quick sell-out, so we shall try to fit in a few more places next year, but please book early to avoid disappointment.

Finally, let me take this opportunity to thank all our members for their continued support and to wish everyone a prosperous and productive new year. - Steve Feeney, chairman

Gardening tips for January

I hope you had an enjoyable Christmas avoiding coughs and colds, and I wish you a happy and healthy 2024. I hope, too, that as well as feeding yourselves, you remembered those hungry, thirsty birds!

Whatever the weather throws at us, there are still a few chores to be done. Weed growth is minimal, thank goodness, but leaves have been late falling, especially the oaks, and raking/sweeping is good exercise. You can start "forcing" rhubarb. Prune wisteria now, cutting back summer side shoots to two or three buds. Cut back foliage of ornamental grasses before new growth begins - clip to within a few centimetres.

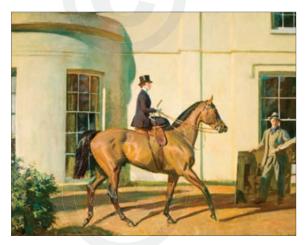
In frost-free conditions new fruit trees can be planted, but make sure they are well heeled in and staked. Dogwoods and buddleia can be pruned. Don't let pansy baskets and tubs dry out, and deadhead blooms to prolong flowering. Try to avoid walking on frosty grass - it can cause damage. If you want early potatoes, buy seed ones and chit them on a light, but not sunny, windowsill. Have you bought/ordered your vegetable seeds yet? The days are getting longer - slowly. We will have to wait and see what January brings us in the way of weather. - Janet Alcoe

ANNUAL LECTURE ON SIR ALFRED MUNNINGS

Stour Valley Arts& Music Sunday 21st January 2024 4.00pm at the Constable Hall, East Bergholt CO7 6TP

Sir Alfred Munnings: Son of a Miller to President of the Royal Academy

A talk by Jenny Hand, director of the Munnings Art Museum in Dedham.



Tickets are £12 including refreshments. Book online at www.svam.org.uk or email svamtickets@btinternet.co.uk. You can also call 01206 298426 or buy from Grier & Partners, generous sponsors of the talk.

Our image shows *My Wife, My Horse and Myself* by Munnings, 1928-1935, copyright the Munnings estate. - *Birte Kelly*

EAST BERGHOLT AND BARBIZON TWINNING ASSOCIATION



Thank you to everyone who ventured out on a cold November night to support our annual quiz evening. There was a great atmosphere and you have helped raise a significant sum to cover our costs when we host families from Barbizon in May 2025. The committee are also grateful to the primary school for their hospitality. - Margaret Macallan

View on the Stour Near Dedham, by John Constable, 1822

EAST BERGHOLT CINEMA at the Constable Hall, Gandish Road, East Bergholt CO7 6TP Films start at 8.00pm, doors and ticket desk open at 7.30pm

Friday 5th January *Past Lives* (12A)

Two childhood friends are separated after one's family emigrates from South Korea. Two decades later, they are reunited in New York for a week as they confront notions of destiny, love and the choices that make a life. "A transcendent debut for South Korean-Canadian filmmaker Celine Song, this romantic drama is a masterclass in slow, simmering storytelling" - Empire.



Friday 2nd February *Oppenheimer* (12)

The story of American scientist J. Robert Oppenheimer and his role in the development of the atomic bomb. "Christopher Nolan's volatile biopic is a towering achievement" - The Guardian.

Tickets to all films are available for sale from Grier & Partners in East Bergholt or alternatively can be reserved by contacting Noelleen on 01206 299774. It is advisable to buy or reserve tickets in advance as seating is limited. The bar will be open and teas, coffee and ice creams will be available at the interval.



- The EB Cinema Team

EAST BERGHOLT WI



Our craft group got into the festive spirit at their November meeting when our member Pam helped them to make a Christmas table decoration in a teacup, or similar, using greenery, flowers and a few decorations.

Our coffee morning at the Lambe School was well-attended and we thank everyone who supported us by joining us there.

Our members enjoyed a Christmas lunch at The Carriers Arms and also a Christmas party with games, light refreshments and entertainment from The Kitchen Quartet with some of our other local WIs at Tattingstone.

Our next meeting is at 7.30pm on 3^{rd} January at the Constable Hall; this will be a social get-together celebrating the new year.

For further information please contact our president Tina Hurley on 01206 298223 or Gill Rattray on 01206 298380, visit our website at eastbergholtwi.wordpress.com or check out our Facebook page. - Gill Rattray

STOUR VALLEY U3A

U3A learn, laugh, live stour valley

Make the most of life once you're no longer in full-time work and come and explore new ideas, interests and skills with the University of the Third Age. Across the country U3A members are meeting new people, learning, staying active, and having

fun later in life. It's local, social, friendly, low-cost and open to all.

We have over 40 interest groups including walking - from strollers to 5+ milers - theatre trips, garden visits, art appreciation, curry club, science group, languages, keep fit, pickleball, overseas travel...there's something for everyone.

Monthly coffee mornings are held on the first Friday of the month from 10.00am to 12.00 noon at the Lambe School, East Bergholt. Come along, meet some members, hear more about us and decide whether you'd like to join. Monthly lectures are held on the second Wednesday at 2.00pm in the Constable Hall, East Bergholt. Guests are welcome for a charge of £4.

There is no talk in December but we resume on 10th January with Edward Vipond on *Life* as a Suffolk farmer - am I a food producer or conservationist?. On 14th February we have Tobias Capwell, curator of arms and armour at The Wallace Collection. Please take a look at our website www.u3asites.org.uk/stourvalley for more information and contact details. - Pat Chandler

EAST BERGHOLT UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB



The last month: Another mixed month, with the A Team progressing in the Suffolk FA Primary Cup after an exciting penalty shootout.

At the end of November the club enjoyed its annual *FIFA* tournament. A large pool of competitors took to the five screens in use and a highly competitive group stage led to many shocks and surprises. Once the knockouts were completed a final of Luke Taylor v Alex Cameron commenced, with Luke T finally winning after being runner-up for the last two years. Luke won £100 and the trophy while Alex took home £40. A great night -we will do this again next year and would welcome anyone from the village to take on Bergholt's finest!

Upcoming fixtures and events: January

First Team: 6th, Trimley Red Devils, H; 20th, Stowupland Falcons, A.

Reserves: 6th, Bacton Utd 89 A, H; 13th, Bacton Utd 89 A, A; 20th, Leiston St Margarets

Res, A.

A Team: 6th, Gipping Gnats, A; 13th, Redgrave Rangers, A; 20th, AFC Kesgrave Res, H.

Fixtures are subject to change. Please refer to the fixtures website at *fulltime.thefa.com/index.html?league=4358069* and then choose the appropriate competition to confirm.

Sponsorship: We would like to thank our sponsors for this season: Smy IT Specialists, JAK Services Ground Care, Riverside Taxis Manningtree, Marquis, Bergholt Travel, G & C Timber & Joinery Ltd, Primus, Kitchen Worktops Online, C&W Fencing, and Armour Engineering. We would also like to thank all the player sponsors. If you would like to sponsor the club in some capacity we would also be delighted to hear from you. Club strips, dugouts, banners or boards on matchdays all offer potential for exposure for your business while supporting a local organisation.

EBUFC is a community club with strong village traditions. The majority of the players either live in, or have links to, the village. For anyone over 16 interested in playing, we train on Wednesday evenings at the High School, 8.00pm to 10.00pm. The teams cover a range of abilities so if you want to play again, please come along and give us a look.

Facebook East Bergholt United Football Club

Instagram east bergholt united fc

X (Twitter) @EBUFC1

Steve Butcher, secretary, stevebutcher55@btinternet.com

EAST BERGHOLT SOCIETY Who were The Five Best Singers in East Bergholt?



A tantalising question...who were these local celebrities? Between, we think, 1790 and 1810 a young John Constable made these small figurines to represent the "five best singers in East Bergholt". They ended up in the possession of his close village friend John Dunthorne, and are now in the collection of the lpswich and Colchester Museums Service.

The director/curator and Constable expert, Emma Roodhouse, has recently contacted us at the East Bergholt Society in order to find out if anyone knows the names of these singers, who must have been based on real people in the village at the time. Are there church records of people in the choir, perhaps?

With the Constable 250 celebrations coming up in 2026, these figures are among the works which Emma would love to show and publicise. So finding out more about these musical figures would be fantastic. Anyone with any thoughts, please get in touch with her at <code>emma.roodhouse@colchester.gov.uk</code>, or with the East Bergholt Society via our website at <code>ebsoc.org.uk</code>. The society and the village are to be very much part of the events Emma and others are planning for Constable 250...so do look out for further news. <code>- John Lyall</code>

LOCAL ISSUES & OPINIONS

UPDATE FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

We can now see with our own eyes the new houses arising in East Bergholt, and whether we wanted it or not, we will soon have 229 new homes and their residents on our doorstep. There is no benefit in looking backwards with regret; the Parish Council believes that it is time now to look forwards and to see what we can do to ensure that we provide a warm welcome to our new residents, a welcome that ensures that they get to know and appreciate the history and culture of our village and that helps them to integrate into our way of life, if a lively village life based in the rural environment is what they want. To that end the Parish Council is considering how we might run welcoming sessions, such as a welcome week, which might involve an overview of our village history and culture, an introduction to our very many active clubs and societies, and an introduction to the Parish Council's Neighbourhood Plan.

The Parish Council is also considering the physical impacts that the new residents will have on our village. We will have more cars parking in the village centre, more people playing sports, more walkers on our footpaths, more children to help grow up with love and respect for our countryside. These are things that the Parish Council can do

something about, but of course there will also be issues of more traffic on our roads, more school spaces that will be needed and the health services that need to grow.

The Parish Council can put pressure on Suffolk County Council to recognise this growth and assist them to invest in the infrastructure that we will need. Meanwhile, on the areas we can do something about, the Parish Council is considering investment in:

- Working with the Congregational Church to see if we can transfer the old church and grounds to the Parish Council so that we can establish a community hub somewhere open to you where we can run council services, host services for older people, and display our village history and our John Constable archive. A place where we can host specialneeds groups such as wellbeing groups and warm spaces and advice services, and perhaps run a properly-staffed youth club.
- Finding more sports playing fields. Our current facilities were built for a village population half our current size and are now very cramped. With 500 or more new residents they will be totally inadequate. We have already helped the Football Club to hire the primary school pitch at weekends for their youngest team, but we really do need more space still. We must put real effort into finding another playing field space.
- Resolving the parking problems in the centre of the village and at Gandish Road playing fields. We will need to work out solutions to cope with perhaps 400 or more additional cars in the village. Reducing speeding is also critical, especially around our schools. The Parish Council cannot directly invest in a solution but we are trying hard to direct County Council attention to some of the problems you have identified and some solutions outlined in our Neighbourhood Plan work.
- Services for younger people. Over 53 years of living in the village I have consistently heard people tell me "there is nothing for our young people to do". This is an important generation, our future, and we must invest in them. The Parish Council has hosted several events and done some research and will be coming up with proposals in the next year to invest in services for younger people.
- Lower-rental housing. Another theme we consistently hear is that there are not enough lower-rental houses to help local people stay in the village. We are committed, with the East Bergholt Community Land Trust, to find a solution to that problem, though it is not easy in a village where the land prices are so high.
- **Hopper bus.** We have supported Babergh District Council's proposal to reintroduce a hopper bus, to include times suitable for commuters using Manningtree station.

These ideas are all outlined in our current Neighbourhood Plan, and the priorities and investment options will be discussed at the 11th January Parish Council meeting. If you have ideas or solutions on any of these issues please do contact us or email me at joanmiller13@gmail.com. - Joan MIller, chair, East Bergholt Parish Council

UPDATE FROM THE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Cost of living help: There is help out there if you are struggling to pay bills and buy food. This is not just for those on benefits or at risk of homelessness, but also for those who are "just about managing". Wages can be so low and costs so high that those in work are struggling.

The trouble is there are so many schemes from different organisations. But the Babergh District Council website has a good collection of information at www.babergh.gov.uk/i-need-help.

If you would like to be referred to a **food bank**, you can call Babergh District Council Customer Services on 0300 123 4000, option 7.

Surviving Winter is run by Citizens Advice Ipswich and covers the whole of Suffolk. Call 01473 298634. It can give grants to those under 65 years old who are not on benefits and with a household income of below £31,000 per year.

The Household Support Fund is for one-off payments. Apply online at or call 0300 123 4000, option 3.

Suffolk Local Welfare Assistance Scheme is run by the County Council and can be found on their website, or call Sudbury Citizens Advice on 01787 321400.

I am concerned that so much information is online and not everyone is digitally connected. I have provided phone numbers where possible but please contact me on 01206 298368 if you are having trouble finding support.

Council home repairs: An additional £1.6m will be ploughed into council houses in Babergh and Mid Suffolk to accelerate repairs and improvements. The cabinets of both Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils have approved the use of money from reserves to help clear a backlog of repairs, which mounted during the pandemic. Babergh will release £943,000 from reserves.

Both councils have made clear their determination to address repair and maintenance issues with their 6,700-plus properties. The situation is urgent, which is why the reserves have been used.

Hadleigh Pool & Leisure: Babergh District Council has been awarded funding from Sport England to help offset increased costs at Hadleigh Pool & Leisure. - *Sallie Davies, district councillor and cabinet member for planning on Babergh District Council, email sallie.davies@babergh.qov.uk*

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

The names we use for a local site have been much discussed lately, after the following was posted during November in the East Bergholt Facebook group. It relates to advertisements for the Christmas parade, and attracted many comments:

I have recently read the December Parish Magazine which says the Christmas Parade finished at GANDISH PARK. Being born and bred in East Bergholt I have never heard of Gandish park. I assume it is the playing field (sports field) at Gandish Road. There are enough changes happening in the village without changing the name of a much loved facility in the village, also park suggests this facility welcomes animals. May I suggest with so many sports people, especially young children playing there, overuse by animals, especially dogs with bad owners, should not be encouraged. - *Terry Dadds*

The parish magazine asked the Parade and Market Committee for their response, and this is what they said :

What started out as a parade during COVID to connect the village with some Christmas joy has developed into a real village community annual event with the addition of the market stalls promoting local businesses. The committee of volunteers works very hard for months to make this all happen. There was definitely never any intention of misrepresenting village history. More a case of being succinct on the publicity. Strangely the same name was used last year and brought no reaction whatsoever. However, given the strength of feeling that has been expressed this year, should it be decided to hold the event again in December 2024 then the venue name will be given more thought.



And Terry Dadds, the original author of the Facebook post, then expanded on his thoughts for this magazine:

When I posted the piece about Gandish Park on the East Bergholt Facebook page it was misinterpreted by some that I was attacking the Christmas Parade and Market and the people who have made a superb effort to put it on. That couldn't have been further from the truth and hopefully we have now all had a great time and a tremendous event. One of the most hurtful comments was "you obviously don't know what your fellow villagers want".

Let me explain why I made the point. This village is facing a big influx of people and whilst we should welcome them, we really shouldn't do this at the cost of our heritage built up by a lot of villagers over the years. The word "park" was borrowed from the Dutch/German/Old French, take your pick, in the Middle Ages and referred to open space where residences, industry and farming were not allowed, often originally so that nobility might have a place to hunt. This changed in the Victorian era when a number of these estate grounds were taken over by investment by the businessmen of big cities or they built new ones. These were for the use and recreation of the masses.

In East Bergholt, the site where the Gandish Road Playing Field is situated was common heath land, as well-told by the East Bergholt Society in the December edition of the parish magazine. In fact in drought periods you can see the magical appearance of the old horse track from Gandish Road to the Straight Road crossroads on the Cricket Square. Also that heath is where my ancestors raised their sheep.

So it was never a park and there was never a house or estate entitled GANDISH PARK. I don't mind people calling it the park on Gandish Road but even using that term denotes more than a Sports Field which it really is. I am satisfied with us having St John's, Old Hall, Illaries and Spencers as our four manors without reinventing the Playing Fields as something it is not or never has been.

At this time of great change in our village my view is that we should hold onto our true heritage and not reinvent it for a reason I still can't get my head around. Is it to make us grander than we already are? Something this village does not need, we should all be very proud of this village whenever we became part of it. However if it really is what my fellow villagers want instead of the good old playing fields I will accept I am out of kilter with the present villagers and stop trying to keep the village history true to all our ancestors. In conclusion, it was asked a few months ago for villagers to give ideas on what the new roads should be called on the Moores Lane development. Nothing seems to have been heard of this since. To tie the two communities together it might be an idea to name them after the longstanding members of this community that have added to our heritage in various guises. For example the Goodchilds, the Clark(e)s, the Wheelers, the Potters and the many more I have probably forgotten. Best regards, *Terry Dadds*

Farming Matters will return next month.

COULD YOU HELP DELIVER THIS MAGAZINE?

Do you love walking around our beautiful village and have an hour to spare?

Then why not volunteer to help deliver the parish magazine. We desperately need new faces, particularly to cover holidays, so if you are interested in joining our team, do get in touch withMarion or Peter Ralph on 01206 298634 or at

theralphs@gmail.com.

When contacting an advertiser please mention that you found them in the East Bergholt Parish Magazine!

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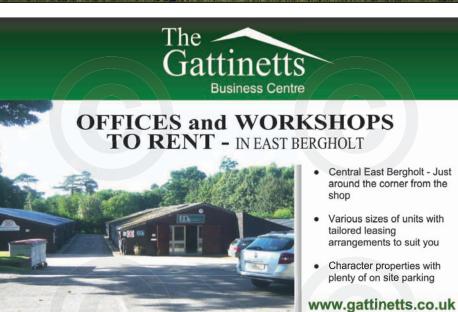
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Ring Anne on 01206 299555 / 07941 781489 for current availability and more details





ST. MARY'S CHURCH EAST BERGHOLT PRESERVATION SOCIETY

The aim of the Society is to preserve this historic building for future generations by attracting support from anyone who cares about our Heritage. Your donations, large or small, will be gratefully received.

All funds raised will be used solely for the preservation of St. Mary's Church and Bell Cage.

New members and renewal subscriptions are very welcome.

For further information please contact: E-mail: ebchurchpres@gmail.com





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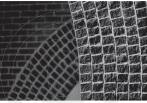
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COVER PHOTO

We are always looking for photos of seasonal events, interesting scenes, or flora and fauna of East Bergholt for the cover of our magazine. We are keen on receiving pictures of the village's architecture and heritage, as well as nature scenes. If you have taken a suitable photo, please send it to <code>barnaby.page@gmail.com</code> for consideration. It should be in .jpg format, at the highest resolution possible, accompanied by a brief description and the photographer's name.

This month's cover features a photograph by Helen Duncan, showing the Stour Valley path between Dazeley's Lane and Flatford.

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