

Victorian day ushers in new-tech school

A MAGIC-LANTERN show, a penny-farthing bicycle, and a day of Victorian-style lessons marked the remodelling of Wethersfield village school to accommodate an audio visual room and a multi-purpose craft and technology room.

The £60,000 project, which ran over budget as builders found unexpected problems in incorporating the former headmaster's house into the school itself, means that classes need no longer be held in the playground prefabs.

It also means an office for the

headmaster, Mr Arthur Brookes and the school secretary and an upstairs storeroom.

The Governors have long campaigned for this work which follows the suggestions made by parent and governor Andrew Pipe whose architectural skills made excellent use of the old buildings.

Underpinning, re-roofing and exhaustive treatment to timber and walls was involved and a new staircase.

The extensions were opened on Friday, February 21 by the Rt Hon Tony Newton, OBE, the local MP.

Local people get first chance of new homes

ONLY a few days remain in which to apply for a tenancy of one of the four new houses now under construction at Saffron Gardens.

The two-bedroom homes, due for completion in May, are intended for local people currently in need of housing. Applicants should either live or work in Wethersfield or be a

member of the family of someone who lives in the parish.

Should there not be enough such applicants people in Great Bardfield, Finchingfield or Shalford would next be considered and after this applicants from Braintree district. The rents, for the assured shorthold tenancies will be about £45 a week.

The homes will not be for sale; they are being managed by the Blackwater Housing Association and Braintree District Council will have a half say in who becomes a tenant when the Housing Association's management committee meets on March 19 to make the allocations.

Anyone interested in renting one of the properties should contact Tricia Garwood, Braintree's Housing Advisory Services Manager (0376 552525, Extension 2118) immediately.

EDITORIAL

WITH the sad death of Jack Jerney, at the age of 80, the parish of Wethersfield lost a good friend. He had worked, harder than most people realised, to provide a regular update of information about the clubs and societies that are the heart of village and country life.

A group of us felt that Jack's efforts would be best remembered by carrying on, and perhaps extending, the tradition of the Newsletter.

Today we present the first issue of *Wethersfield News*. We intend it to appear every two months and its success is very much in your hands in sending us the information, well before the copy deadline where this is possible.

RING (0371) 850092 with your news, or deliver it to Virginia House, next to the Top Shop in the High Street. Deadline for the May/June issue: Thursday April 23.

DEREK NORMAN

On the carpet

THE Carpet Bowls Club this month celebrates its third birthday. It meets twice weekly in the Village Hall: on Tuesday evenings, 7 to 10pm and Friday afternoons, 2 to 4pm.

Carpet bowls, as the name suggests, is played indoors, using, in Wethersfield's case, full-size woods. The game is played on equal terms regardless of age, disability or sex; players can come and go as they wish during the session. Subscription is £5 a year and 50p a session attended. You can have up to four trial sessions at 50p before paying a subscription. *Contact: David Jenkins 850752*