

WETHERSFIELD NEWS

MAY/JUNE 1992

WILL Wethersfield ever hold the title of Best Kept Village? It was decided at the Parish Meeting on April 15 that, again, no entry should be made for the competition. With the continued eyesore of a dilapidated building right next to the Village Hall, grass verges occupied by parked cars and litter bins sometimes left filled up, not to mention drinks cans and sweet papers on the streets left by people visiting the village shops, there did not seem much chance of success in the contest it was felt. Do you agree? Would YOU be prepared to organise a litter pick? Is village tidiness down to villagers, who ought to be willing to lend a hand without the lure of a prize? Write to the editor with your views—we will publish extracts from letters in our next issue.

Village will not lose its surgery entirely

FEARS among older residents, particularly those without cars, that Wethersfield may lose its doctor's surgery with the centralisation of the Freshford practice at the medical centre now under construction at Finchingfield were allayed this week.

"The surgery here will not close," said Dr Ambross, a senior member of the practice, "But it will have a reduced number of surgeries .

"We hope, however, that most people will want to go to Finchingfield because there will be better facilities there."

Regarding the pharmacy, Dr Ambross said that all the drugs would be held at Finchingfield and prescriptions would be brought back to Wethersfield. Requests for repeat prescriptions could be made to Finchingfield for collection in Wethersfield.

Specialist clinics, some now held at Great Bardfield would be held at the new centre.

Man with drive

WETHERSFIELD has a garage again. Stephen Tillbrook, 26, and his father Jack have taken over long-empty premises in High Street and the emblem of Castle petrol will soon be up where, in days gone by, stood the sign of the old Red Lion pub. Jack gave Stephen his first car, a Mini, when he was 11 and he learned to drive up and down the garden. He has been 10 years in motor engineering at Eastern Garage, Finchingfield. For general repairs to all makes, car sales and, shortly, MOT tests, phone 851144. And call in for petrol.

THE BOWLS CLUB has spent £500 on a new 30ft carpet and equipment, in addition to the existing 45ft mats, allowing competition with other clubs. Club sessions are Tuesdays 7pm to 10pm and Friday afternoons 2—4pm in Wethersfield Village Hall. All welcome, members ages range from 9 to 90 years. Contact: David Jenkins, 850752.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

NEWSLINE:
0371—850092

THE DEREK FLANNERY Playing Fields Association is busy cleaning up the frontage and raising money to refurbish the tennis courts. A very successful fishing contest raised about £300. Helpers and entrants are needed for a Clay Pigeon Shoot on May 10th. There's £100 to be won in prizes. Summer Fayre this year, on July 4 will have an American theme – ideas and help needed; also they need a secretary for the Association. Stalwart Bill Norman has had to retire from the committee through work pressures. Offers of help to David Nightingale (850013).

In the know?

YOU don't have to be Brain of Britain to have fun on a Quiz Night. Wethersfield Parish Church is inviting any local organisation to enter a team of six to eight people for its Quiz Night on Wednesday May 13 in the Village Hall, 7.30pm. Individuals can enter too. Tickets are £3, including a Ploughman's Supper, all profits going to Church funds. Ring Sue Bennett on 850828.

THE FRIENDSHIP CLUB is visiting Saffron Walden on June 2; then on to tea at High Roding.

WETHERSFIELD School PTA has had a very successful fund-raising Spring Term: Pancake Toss, £184; coffee morning £57; Family Games evening £46; another coffee morning, £27. A musical entertainment by a group of children put to good use the instruments bought from PTA funds. A new computer has also been purchased. A few shares in the 100 club are still available (ring 850013). Friday, June 5, is Family Race Night in the Village Hall.

JOHN JEEVES manager of the newly reopened Bull, at Blackmore End is no stranger to the parish: he is a former manager of The Cock at Beazley End and was manager of the Bull itself in 1984/5. He has run pubs at Maldon and Pattiswick and is looking forward to the green fields again after the hot days and hotter night life of a spell managing a bar in Sunny Spain.

The Bull has been completely refitted and will be serving full restaurant and bar meals. And since it looks like being a thirsty summer ahead they are also planning barbecues in the gardens. Phone 0371 851037 for bookings.

Americana

GARDEN CLUB members will be meeting at Wethersfield Playing Field car park at 6.30pm on Friday May 15 for a visit to Bakers' nursery at Greenstead Green. All welcome and ring secretary Lynne Byatt on 850695 if you need transport. On return to the pavilion there will be a cream tea.

On June 19th Mr P Orris will talk on Small Gardens in the Village Hall at 7.45pm. Congratulations to the Garden Gnomes, victors in the Quiz Night organised by Wethersfield Cricket Club recently. Runners up were the Wine Club.

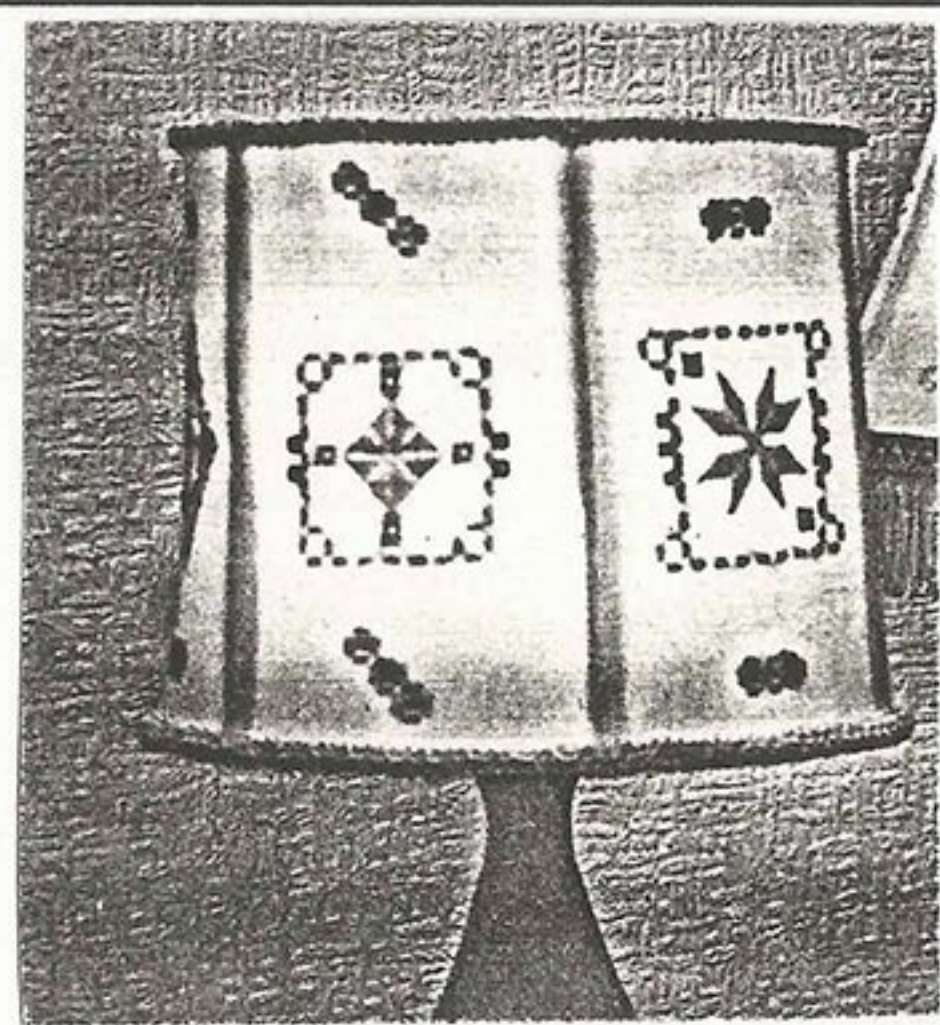
WHAT can you remember about the Americans who came to live on Wethersfield Air Base, for the first time just under 50 years ago? If you have stories to tell go down to Wethersfield Village Hall on May 14. If you have pictures take them to add to the exhibition being mounted for the occasion. If your memories are later – or earlier, before the Base was built – that's fine. Or go just to enjoy the evening. Sir John Ruggles-Brise hopes to be present to tell about his work in Anglo-American relations. Wethersfield Local History Group at 8pm. Open to all, 50p requested donation includes coffee.

A LIGHT ON NORWAY

THERE's a little bit of Norway in Joy Frost's Hereward Way home. From a side table, light sparkles through a lampshade of Hardanger work, with which Joy, a keen needlewoman tackling everything from cross-stitch to tapestry, is particularly pleased.

In the country around Norway's Hardanger fiord the women use the attractive open-work designs for aprons, blouses, bedspreads and traycloths. Originally Hardanger could be any colour so long as it was white; now coloured silks have added lustre to the embroidery.

It takes courage to attack your finished stitching with a pair of scissors, cut the threads of the base material and end up with a delicate pattern of open squares but that is how it has to be done. Cut the holes first and try to work round them and you soon run into problems. Want to try it? Look for ANNA, the Burder knitting and needlework books in the newsagents, for patterns and instructions.



This is your life

IT may not come wrapped in a thick red book, just a single sheet at the moment, but within those strict limits *Wethersfield News* tries to reflect who is doing what in the parish.

Our only reporters are the people who read us and help to keep us in touch. So secretaries of groups and societies please try to send in news, preferably of coming, not past, events as early as possible.

Don't leave it right to the deadline (or past it) or you may find the issue is already filled, as happened this month. Sorry we can't afford to ring you all with a reminder and we can't promise to include everything.

Send your news to the editor, Derek Norman, at Virginia House, High Street, Wethersfield. Or phone 0371 850092 by June 21, LATEST.

WETHERSFIELD Parish church Sunday School welcomes children of four years and above. Meetings every Sunday except the first Sunday of each month from 9.45am to 10.30am in the church. Teachers: Mrs E Ambrose (850244) and Mrs S Pilgrim (850781).

DEADLINE: June 21
for our July issue

I'll be dog-goned

EVERYTHING from classic cars to working dogs will be on show at a Fun Day for All The Family at



Acre Boarding Kennels, Heddingham Road, Wethersfield on Sunday, May 10th. From 11am it will be Open Day at the Kennels which are the home of the Southern Rough Collie Rescue.

An Exemption Dog Show starts at 1pm, entries from noon; your dog may not have a pedigree but he's probably in with a chance for Dog with the Waggiest Tail. To obtain details or book a pitch in the Car Boot Sale ring 0371 851271 after 7pm. All to help the Rescue and other animal charities.

MARGARET NEWMAN, the international demonstrator and judge, will take an All-Day class for Wethersfield Floral Art Club on May 26, starting at 10 am. A few places left at £4.50. Ring Lynne Byatt (850695) to book. No club meeting in May but on June 3 there is a Fashion Show by Colne Fashions in Wethersfield Village Hall, tickets available from secretary on 851094. On June 24 Miss M Tilley will talk on 'A time for Flowers'.

THE Brownies' Badge Chart is filling up: Patricia Nightingale completed her Highway Badge before joining the Guides; other Brownies have achieved House Orderly, Swimmer and Hostess badges. Meetings have been busy as preparations were made for a presentation on the theme of Easter for the Parish Church. Brownies meet in the URC hall on Tuesdays, 5.30 to 7 pm. Ring 850481 or 850781 for details.

'Give us somewhere that's safe to park'

RESIDENTS of Meadside are afraid to let their cars out of their sight in case of vandalism, one said at the Annual Parish Meeting on April 15.

They claim they are forced to park their vehicles on the grass verge opposite their homes, where they can be seen, despite a notice threatening a £100 fine for parking there.

"The other night someone scratched right across the top of my car," said one owner.

Asked by District Councillor John Finbow if the residents would be prepared to sacrifice part of their gardens for parking places, the reply was: "I wouldn't be prepared to have my car parked where I can't see it". Use of the concrete hard-standing in the area by the garages was ruled out on the same grounds.

One suggestion was to cut away the grass bank in front of Meadside to form parking bays. Mr Finbow agreed to try to

get a meeting with the District Council to discuss the problem on site.

Parking in High Street was also discussed, in view of a long-term proposal to form a pavement on The Dog side of the road to assist pedestrians and children on their way to school.

Some residents thought this could be an extra hazard to drivers approaching the brow of the hill if the road was made narrower and parking was still permitted on both sides. Access for fire and emergency vehicles was also a problem.

□ Older residents did not like walking on paths with loose gravel on top it was reported.

TUESDAY GROUP are a knowledgeable lot. They have had talks on book illustrating, growing roses, the Bank of England Museum; and they went to see the work of the Mayflower Centre in Canning Town. On May 19 the subject is Whistles. Contact: Jan Jenkins, 850752

PROFILE

John Dicken of Dicken's Restaurant

1992 is a good year for Wethersfield restaurateur John Dicken and his wife Maria. Dicken's has been named County Restaurant of the Year by the Good Food Guide, John will be seen in a TV series starting in August and they have a new baby due about the same time to partner 17 month old Sam. The BBC1 series, 'Hot Chefs', planned by Great Saling wine writer Hugh Johnson to show off the work of 15 top chefs, was four days' hard labour for John and his assistant Luke Fishpool at the Pebble Mill studios but it was "great fun".

"It was like looking at the end of a bottle with more than 20 people around you while you prepared the dishes," he says. "You have got to concentrate not just on the cooking and the demo but they will say 'Right when you turn this way, look to camera three and then to camera two' and you have to remember this while talking at the same time." Still the dishes came off fine and back home the business customers are coming in fine too. Phone 850723 for bookings.