

WETHERSFIELD NEWS

JULY/AUGUST 1992

They're leaving The Dog's life . . .

RUMOURS that Wethersfield would shortly be losing one of its two remaining pubs, The Dog, were denied this week by the firm which owns it. Present landlord Miss Janice Milburn and Mr Geoff Jones, who have been at The Dog for only nine months, are leaving the trade to return to Dagenham and lately have been running down stocks. "We are looking for a new tenant," said Pubmaster of Ipswich. The Dog is a big premises and recent landlords have found it hard work, leaving in quick succession.

High-tech start to village's big day

WETHERSFIELD'S popular five-mile Mini-Marathon - 80 entries last year - has gone up in the world. Timings and placings for this year's run, on Saturday, July 4 will be computer controlled and printed out. Only doubt in the mind of organiser David Nightingale is whether the humans can keep control of the computer!

Anyway, don't be late down at the Playing Field if you're in the running. Deadline for entries is 9.45am for a 10am start. Entry and sponsorship forms from Vic Law at the hardware shop or Bill Norman (851094). By 2pm you should have recovered enough for the opening of the Summer Fayre by Ministry of Defence guests from the base.

The entertainment on offer will be far from high tech: fancy dress, Bouncy castle, side-shows, refreshments - even a touch of times past - the stocks. 'Volunteers' are still being rounded up to spend some time in those, being pelted with wet sponges.

Baskets full of flowers will be on sale, together with home-made cakes, in the Floral Art tent; the Garden Club will have its plant stall, the History Group will have a "How Well

Do You Know Wethersfield?" contest and the Pram Club will have swing boats for toddlers.

Find time to visit the other end of the village where the Parish Church and the United Reformed Church will both be beautifully decorated with flowers, the latter by members of the Floral Art Club and of course the displays will be there on Sunday July 5.

The Pant Valley Art Group will also have an exhibition of paintings on view at the United Reformed Church.

On Sunday, too, there is a Community Service at the Parish Church at 11am when groups are asked to bring some emblem or or representative item to present at the altar.

Meet the Queen

BRAINTREE'S Carnival Queen, 20-year old Cathy D'Urso, will be opening Blackmore End and Beazley End's Horticultural Show and Fete on Saturday July 18 at 2pm on Blackmore End Playing Field.

Admission is free to the event which includes tug-o-war for the Henry Ridley Trophy, sideshows, stalls, teas, icecreams, raffle and licensed bar. All in aid of Village Hall funds. Contact: Jack Rendall (850345).

A GROWING CONCERN

WETHERSFIELD NEWS is a Community newspaper. For your community. Far from being just a dormitory or retirement village Wethersfield is remarkably active socially.

The News has expanded to include the increasing number of reports of happenings in the clubs and groups in the village; but more individuals could play a part in promoting and publicising the interests of the parish.

For a start how about becoming a News distributor? If you can deliver just 10 copies to houses near you, when you are out with the dog, say, that would be a real help. We have 500 letterboxes to feed. It is only a once every two months job.

Can't get about? Then send us a letter - on anything that you or your friends talk about. It doesn't have to be long and don't worry about the spelling - we have a machine to check on that. Someone else who doesn't get out much either might be delighted to find you think just as they do.

Want to be a reporter or a feature writer? Why not? Keep an eye open for people doing interesting things and tip us off. You have an interesting hobby yourself? Then write about it. I may have to edit your piece and no news item can be guaranteed a space, even if it has arrived by the deadline.

For the record: Wethersfield News is published by a sub-committee of Wethersfield Local Council, which supports the cost of printing by Braintree District Council Printing Services. Current sub-committee members are John Nottage, Wreford Painter and Bill Wright. The News is edited and produced voluntarily and independently. The Editor's decision on news and feature content is final.

DEREK NORMAN, Editor, Wethersfield News
Virginia House, High Street, Wethersfield.

0371 850092

AMERICA, AND OLD LACE

WHAT childhood memories does a piece of lace bring back to you? Sunday and the best table-cloth laid out for a special tea? With grandmother in her lace-trimmed dress?

The story of lace is a long and fascinating one. An expert in the craft, Mrs Sheila Brown talks to Wethersfield Local History Group on July 9 in the Village Hall at 8pm and you are invited to take along any family lace heirlooms for her comments.

On August 13 the history group will meet to make an audio tape to send to Wethersfield in the USA, which has had links with the village over many years. A BBC programme

made here in 1948 and broadcast to America featured children from the school and the new tape will include singing by today's children.

Introducing the recording will be the same little girl who introduced the BBC programme, Edna Reynolds, whose father kept what is now Top Shop - only, as Mrs Kirby, she has grown up a bit since then!

SHALFORD Local History Association has an exhibition of artefacts and photographs of old Shalford at the Village Hall from 2.30pm to 5.30pm on Saturday and Sunday, July 11 and 12.

IT AIN'T ALL HONEY

SUNDAY morning and we are off on safari in a Land Rover. Up rutted tracks, over bumpy fields and off to the edge of woods where, thanks to the generosity of two local farmers, John and Michael Lovell keep their bees.

A lot of work lies behind the gaily painted sign outside the Lovell home at 34 Saffron Gardens, Wethersfield that offers "Honey for sale". As John says: "You keep bees, they don't keep you." Still, it is a rewarding hobby.

First call was to four hives that stood tucked under the trees facing a meadow 'somewhere outside the village'. Once out of the vehicle John and Michael donned white overalls and put on their veils spread over hats rather like pith helmets. I had brought along a straw boater and was kitted out with a spare veil. Thinking that bees would not attack a dark colour I had worn a blazer. Wrong: bees hate black.

Like me, bees get very grumpy in oppressive weather and thunder was grumbling in the distance. Risking a hand outside the veil to hold the camera I was promptly stung on the wrist. With the blade of a sharp knife John pushed away the sting left in by the now mortally wounded bee and applied Olbas oil. Somehow I felt I had won my "beekeepers" spurs!

Michael cautiously attached two new "supers" to an already tall hive. Supers are boxes filled with wooden frames holding a man-formed beeswax base on

which the bees can build up the hexagonal honeycomb in which to place either their brood (eggs to be hatched into young bees) or stores of honey for them to feed on - and for John and Michael to extract for human consumption.

Certain brood cells are selected to become Queen cells, the young bee being fed on Royal jelly, the special substance bees produce to make the Queen grow bigger than the normal female. The Lovells put a white spot on



John and Michael Lovell inspect a frame from a hive

the Queen so that they know she is still in residence going about her egg-laying.

Two Queens in a hive spells trouble - or rather "swarm". This happens when half the bees in the hive decide it is time to move out and take the old Queen with them. Wise beekeepers keep an empty hive ready to attract the emigrants. If you don't, a lot of the season's honey may disappear over the horizon.

Sometimes, as happened to the Lovells last week a passing swarm will move into your spare hive. "A bit of a bonus, that," said Michael happily. D.N.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

NEWSLINE:
0371 850092

"SERVICE, not Self" is the motto of the Royal British Legion and Wethersfield and Shalford branch's main concern is to help care for ex-Service persons and dependants in need.

That doesn't stop them having some pleasant social evenings at Wethersfield Men's Club.

These take place at 8pm on every third Wednesday in the month. Branch secretary is Mr J Curtis (851043) and welfare secretary Jim Chapman (850837).

Akers' acres

PLANTS FOR WALLS and Fences is the subject of the Garden Club's meeting on July 17. It will be given by Mr D Pearce in the Village Hall, and the meeting starts at 7.45pm.

A VISIT to Mr Ken Akers garden at Great Saling is planned for Friday July 24. Cars will be leaving from Wethersfield Playing Field at 6.30pm. Please ring the secretary, on 850695, if you need transport.

THE Garden Club's Summer Party takes place on August 8 at Lynne and Bob Byatt's garden at Mansard

Cottage, Cherry Gardens, Braintree Road from 6pm to 10pm. Items of food for the buffet will be welcome and take your own light garden chair if you can. Friends and non-members welcome.

CHILDREN from the Wethersfield playgroup enjoyed an outing to Pentlow Farm near Sudbury on June 17 and when the group breaks up on July 24 there will be more fun: a Teddy Bears' picnic. Playschool and pram club children are welcome and of course **DON'T FORGET THE TEDDY**. Contact: Jenny Perry 851145.

EVERYONE is welcome at the P.T.A.'s Family Barbecue and Fun Evening which this year has a European theme. It is on July 10 at 6.30pm.
100 Club winners - April: Mrs M Derrett, £10, Mr A Pipe, £25; May: Mrs S Atterton, £10, Mrs M Jack, £25; June: Mrs M Clarke, £10, Mrs S. Neale, £25.

WETHERSFIELD Floral Art Group held a very successful Day School led by Margaret Newman national demonstrator and judge. Lunch was held at the Tavern.

Cream tea and croquet time

ENJOYING a home-made cream tea in the garden of Little Codham Hall sounds a uniquely English way to spend an August Saturday afternoon.

If you go along to Mrs Diane Baker's home on August 8 at 3pm you can have the delight of scones and jam while you watch the children play croquet and tennis. It is an open invitation.

A display will illustrate the work of the Church Recorders from NADFAS - the National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts Societies.

At the moment the Recorders are making a detailed itinerary of every item in Shalford Church, including descriptions, photographs and dedications, which will eventually be bound into a book.

It costs each church about £150 and that is why it's cream tea and croquet time - to raise funds to pay for printing the book. It is hoped that every church in the country will eventually be catalogued in this way. Recorders will be on hand to talk about the work.

LITTER LETTER

NOTHING VENTURE...

AN ANTI-LITTER drive organised by the Parish council, church and school would help raise the general consciousness of the problem.

Winning over the young would be a priority as it is harder to change our entrenched adult attitudes. A dilapidated building, some parked cars and half-used litter bins is all the more reason why Wethersfield should enter the competition next year.

Tidiness is an attitude of mind, like careful water usage, so if nothing is attempted there will be no success and a Catch 22 situation will ensue.

PETER MORTON
Beazley End

Lease of life

WETHERSFIELD Men's Club is setting out on a new era with a new lease of its Village Hall basement premises from Wethersfield Local Council.

The club was founded in 1922 and is open to both men and women who are 18 and over.

Discos, dance bands, comedians, jazz and race nights take place on about half the Saturdays in the year and there is Bingo on every Sunday evening.

The club has one pool table and two full-size snooker tables, serves draught IPA and Guinness and is generally a convivial place to meet for a relaxing evening. New members are always very welcome. John Finbow (850321) is chairman, Peter Morton (850626) is secretary. Bob Ward (850691) is the entertainment secretary.

DEADLINE: August 21
for September issue

And 180..!

THE darts team at the Tavern, Wethersfield play in Section B of the Greene King Summer League and if you want to go along to watch a match here are their July fixtures:

6th, Away to B.U.S.C, Bocking;
13th, Home to B.F.C Braintree;
20th, Away to Rifleman, Braintree;
27th, Home to Bird in Hand, Braintree.

WETHERSFIELD Carpet Bowls club has recently enjoyed some friendly matches cum social evenings with other clubs, the most recent being a home match with Stambourne.

The club is continuing play throughout the summer at the Village Hall on Tuesdays from 7.15pm to 10pm and would welcome any prospective members at these meetings. Or contact Dave Jenkins on 850752.

WANTED: Harassed Mums with noisy babies and delinquent toddlers.

WHERE: At the Cricket Pavilion every Tuesday at 1.30pm.

AIM: To help support other Mums who are tearing their hair out.

For more information about Wethersfield Pram Club call Caroline on 850891.

A THANK YOU: Bunty Wright thanks all who gave and all who collected for the Wethersfield Red Cross contribution which amounted to £152.81.

FLYAWAY SURPRISE FOR FRANK AND NORA

FRANK and Nora Docherty of Hereward Way recently celebrated their Golden Wedding in great style.

Their three grand-children took them to the island of Jersey for a surprise week's holiday.

And there was yet another surprise in store for the couple: their daughter and son-in-law flew out on the actual wedding day to join them and friends in a celebration dinner.



CANDY CAN TAKE A LOAD OFF YOUR FEET



Candida Roper, MBSR

IT IS so easy to be sceptical about "whole body" or holistic healing. "My heart was in my boots," we say, without thinking for a moment that it could actually have been true.

It certainly isn't nonsense to Candy Roper of Fallowfield, Blackmore End who recently became a registered practitioner in reflexology, after she had been for treatment herself.

To a reflexologist - and they have been around for 4,000 years since the Egyptians set out the principles - the area just behind your big toe is where to apply massage to give your heart a lift.

In fact, each area of the foot has its influence on specific parts of the body where ailments may lurk; knowing which, and how to apply the massage, is a reflexologist's skill, acquired over many months of studying for the exam of the British School of Reflexology. Why the accent on feet? Says Candy: "You *could* treat hands, but there are not so many nerve endings and they are not so sensitive."

Comfortable in a reclining chair, with soft music playing and Candy applying thumb pressure steadily over her feet, our lady guinea-pig was curious: "How am I likely to feel after the treatment?" "Lovely," said Candy, recalling the feedback she gets from her clients who say that, after the advised rest following a session, they get a new burst of energy.

Reflexologists claim no miracle cures and they readily put a lot of their success down to the relief of the stress that is probably causing the illness in the first place. A 45-minute session costs £12.50. For an appointment ring 0371 850333 or 850862. Introductory sessions can be arranged. D.N.

**DIG
THIS!**

HOW much fun is it going to be for your house plants while you are away on holiday? Don't forget that they could be dying for a drink while you are enjoying yourself at the hotel bar.

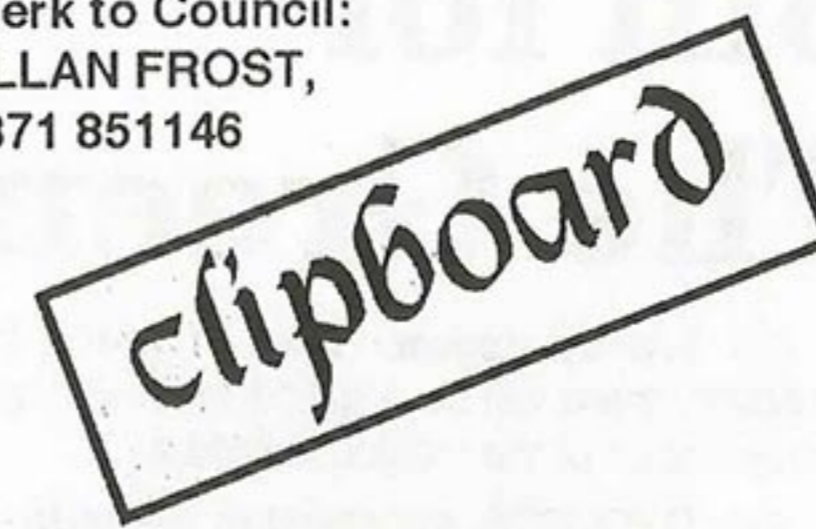
Place the pots on a foam or felt mat, 1/2in thick, in a tray or bowl, with enough water just to cover

the mat and leave them in the shade.

If you are not going away don't forget to dead-head the roses and your bedding plants to keep them in full flower; once a week feed them with a good fertilizer and just lightly hoe in the soil.

Reg Deacon

Clerk to Council:
ALLAN FROST,
0371 851146



ESSEX County Council Social Services have produced an Action Plan for community care covering matters such as domiciliary care, learning disabilities, elderly persons' homes and children at risk and in special need.

The County Council planning department has produced a strategy for the 1990s for "Making People Mobile." Forums are to be arranged to discover special needs for additional public transport, accessible and unconventional bus services, dial-a-ride and voluntary transport.

Further information available on the above from the Clerk.

IN CASE Wethersfield should be struck by a Lockerbie-type or other major disaster licensed CB radio enthusiasts in the parish are being asked to register with the Emergency Planning authority. First contact can be with the Clerk.

COUNCIL members Bill Wright and Wreford Painter are to attend an Open Evening at County Hall, Chelmsford on July 9 featuring the services provided by the County Council.

DEER are causing a traffic hazard at Blackmore End. Motorists have had near collisions with the animals on the roads between Little Woolmers and Crossgates and between Slomans Farm and Blackmore End church. The County Council is being asked to provide Deer warning signs in these areas.

ONE of the Blackmore End representatives on the council, Mrs S.J. Foster has had to resign from the council on leaving the district. A

A regular report of items discussed at meetings of Wethersfield Local Council

vacancy for a councillor now exists. Two Nominations have been received; any further names to the Clerk.

JACK Tillbrook has been elected vice-chairman of the council.

BRAINTREE District Council has put the case for a Magistrates' Court remaining in Braintree. Wethersfield council supported the District Council's view on the grounds of the excessive travelling involved in going to Dunmow or Harlow.

ANGLIAN Water had restored the verges at Blackmore End, near the church, which had been affected by the installation of a new water main.

TIMETABLES of the local bus services have been placed on village notice boards and in the Village Hall.

NO objection was raised to a Notice of Intended Order to re-align Footpath No 30 to follow the line of the river Pant.

JOHN NOTTAGE said that he now had a full list of protected trees in the area. Notice of Tree Preservation of the oak tree at 23 Saffron Gardens had been confirmed.

CONSIDERATION is to be given to joining the Parish Paths Partnership under which groups of volunteers can be given financial support to clear footpaths. A decision will be made at the July meeting.

SHALFORD Parish Council had written pointing out the value of the free Chiropody Service which was available at Shalford Village Hall. Set up in 1987 it provides treatment on three Thursday mornings in each month. Volunteers provide coffee and can arrange transport. Appointments can be made by ringing 0371 850472.

Churches join for service on The Green

WETHERSFIELD Parish and United Reformed churches are joining for an Open Air Service of Christian Worship on the Village Green at Wethersfield.

Come and join us on Sunday August 9 at 6.30pm they say and listen to the Salvation Army Band which will lead the singing.

OTHER events being arranged by the Parish Church:

A Summer Holiday Activity Week from July 27 - 31 at the Playing field pavilion from 9.30am to 12.30pm each day.

Monday and Wednesday, 8-11 year olds;
Tuesday and Thursday, up to 8 years;
Friday, Everybody!

On Sunday August 2 at 11.15am, in the church, there will be a grand presentation and celebration of the week's activities.

ALL CYCLISTS are asked to get saddled up to raise money for the church and the Friends of Essex Churches on their sponsored Cycle Ride. Cycle where you like on September 12 and get yourself sponsored for the number of churches you manage to visit. There's no age limit and you can make it a family outing. Contact is Sarah Pilgrim on 850781.

FOUR ladies from the church are taking a stall on Braintree Market on Saturday August 8. Items to sell required. Ring Sarah Pilgrim (850781), Elaine Ambrose (850244), Joy Fossitt (850823) or Phyllis Gould (850082)

DINNER INVITATION

CHEF John Dicken, whose Wethersfield restaurant was selected as Essex County Restaurant of the Year, 1991, makes contact with millions through his TV shows. But he would like to get to know local people better.

Since we don't all have expense accounts he has planned a Mid-Summer Special Dinner which he hopes that local clubs and individuals will find as tasty as the price (see his separate leaflet). There is a choice of nights to go and John intends to donate part of the proceeds to help the parish church's piano fund-raising.

On the ball

WITH two wins, against Sampfords and Cornish Hall End behind them, Wethersfield cricketers are on a high. July matches are all at home (Finchingfield, 5th, Bluntisham 12th, Little Bardfield 19th and Granta on the 26th) so it's a good chance to go down, get some sun and give them a cheer or two. August sees them at Bocking and Gosfield and then two home games. Matches start at 2.30pm.

Dancing Brownies

FIRST Wethersfield Brownies have just completed a course of country dancing, thanks to tutor Mrs K Badrick, and many are now displaying their Dancer badge.

As well as working to decorate the church porch they will be starting work on the Thrift badge. It is hoped to end the term with the enrolment of Annabelle and Lydia on July 21, and then it's 'happy holidays' until September 8. Contact: Sarah Pilgrim (850751).

Living it up

'SAINTS ALIVE' is the title of the Roger Jones musical which Halstead United Churches Group will present at 6.30pm on Sunday, July 5 at Wethersfield United Reformed Church. Refreshments too.

THE FLORAL ART group's next meeting is on July 29 in the Village Hall at 8pm. Mrs J Collings will talk on "Over the Rainbow". Refreshments. Visitors welcome.