

WETHERSFIELD

BLACKMORE END, BEAZLEY END

JANUARY/FEBRUARY, 1993

NEWS

Pour out your troubles to Anglian Water

BRING out your furred kettles – and convince Anglian Water that the taps of Wethersfield are giving you a hard time.

Following complaints to Wethersfield Local Council concerning the quality and hardness of water in the area, two officers from Anglian Water, Mr Ray Taylor, Divisional Scientist and Mr Tony Farrar, District Manager will attend a meeting in the Wethersfield Village Hall on Wednesday, January 20 at 7.30pm to hear residents' views.

The council wrote to Anglian Water after a *Wethersfield News* feature on the Petches Bridge Water Treatment Plant brought comment from people in the parish.

"There is a general feeling that the treatment works at

Petches Bridge are not operated continuously throughout each day," the council said. "The water, when treated, is mixed with water direct from the bore well thereby causing loss of efficiency to the quality of water."

Clerk to the Council, Allan Frost added that he had certainly smelt an odour on discharge from his own cold taps. One electric kettle had failed due to the element rapidly becoming coated with a deposit. He now used a worktop filter jug for water for consumption and had to defur the kettle element very frequently.

The council had earlier considered a letter from Mr David Pullen of Readingwood Cottage, Blackmore End who said the smell and taste of his tap water was so disgusting that they were obliged to buy a water filter. The water smelt

like bleach and tasted like TCP. The bleach smell was most noticeable after boiling a kettle and pouring the water into the teapot.

"The filter was not cheap, around £60 and refills cost around £7," wrote Mr Pullen. "When seen in the context of annual water charges by Anglian Water, and their record profits, I think this situation is totally unacceptable."

Replying to the council's letter, Mr John Sansby, Divisional Manager, Anglian Water, said that Mr Pullen's complaint might be attributable to the local plumbing and materials in contact with the water.

Anyone in the parish who has found that kettles fur up surprisingly quickly, or has found the water smelly and bad-tasting should make a special effort to get to the meeting on January 20th.

Review was a roaring success

A MIGHTY dragon got Wethersfield Primary School's Christmas Review off to a roaring start. Some 50 children were involved in the production, directed by Norma Horsefield with Margaret Derrick providing the musical accompaniment.

Tom Gorringer was the story teller and Brian Horsefield the comic, with other far-from-adult contributions from headmaster Arthur Brookes, John Smith, Dave Jenkins and Steve Atterton. Gloria Smith (somewhat scantily clad for the time of year!), was a seductive belly-dancer, Patricia Nightingale was Nancy in *Oliver!*, from which the children sang excerpts with enthusiasm (picture right) to a packed Village Hall.

As a result of the evening over £300 was paid into the Parent Teacher Association's account.



Quiz night raises £300

THE Blackmore Brains were the winners at a Quiz Night organised by Wethersfield Parent Teacher Association on December 12. Second place

went to the Stray Dogs, the soccer team, and in third position were the Class of '52. The evening raised over £300 for the PTA's funds

A HAPPY NEWS YEAR

WETHERSFIELD NEWS, with this issue, completes its first year.

A community newspaper should have as many people as possible taking a pride in producing it. So, with the economic gloom beginning to lift, we can advertise job vacancies! We require:

REPORTERS

No experience needed, you don't even have to know how to spell. Every club, society or group in the parish should have one. Must be able to get their copy in *before* the deadline, not dead on it. Reporters don't actually have to belong to anything. Just be keen enough on any subject from fly-fishing to parrot-breeding to want to tell others about it.

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Take a shot of the footballers, the chap who grows geraniums, anything you find interesting. If it is a clear enough print others will be interested too.

Pay? You must be joking! The only money that goes into *Wethersfield News* is the small grant by which Wethersfield Local Council pays for the duplicating.

There is one job, though, that would be rewarding to a person with real aspirations to journalism:

DEPUTY EDITOR

The Editor would be prepared to give you instruction in news handling and page layout, using desktop publishing; ability to type would be an advantage.

Applications to:

Derek Norman,
Virginia House,
High Street, Wethersfield.

Enjoy a walk?

THE resignation of the Council's Footpath Representative, Mrs Maureen Dale was received with regret. Mrs Dale has had to give up the work owing to family commitments. Anyone prepared to take on the role, which is vital in keeping footpaths free for use, is asked to contact the Parish Clerk, Mr Allan Frost on 0371 851146.

Maps are provided; the representative is simply asked to walk the paths and report any obstructions that are found.

WHAT'S HAPPENING . . .

DEADLINE for next issue: February 24

NEXT meeting of the After 8 Ladies Group at Blackmore End is on Monday, January 25 when Mrs Candy Roper will talk on Reflexology; there is also a Bring and Buy sale. On February 22, there will be a talk on Whistles by Peter Smith to which men are also invited. Other meetings planned include a talk on Macmillan Nurses, one on Show Judging, and one entitled "American Panorama". The ladies enjoy a varied diet and spice it with numerous Bring and Buy sales.

A recent coffee morning raised money for C.H.A.S.I.M.E., (Cancer Help and Support in Mid-Essex), a group which aids cancer patients and carers.

Thirty After 8 ladies enjoyed the club's 19th annual dinner, cooked and served by the members.

Goodbye

1st Wethersfield Brownies concluded the old year by taking part in a very successful and much enjoyed District Variety Show, giving performances of handbell ringing and doing some carol singing. They had to say goodbye to Lara Smith who is now going on to Guides, but welcomed Lucy Neale who joins Gemma as a Browniekin working towards her enrolment as a Brownie.

Meetings begin again on Tuesday, January 12 in the URC hall from 5.30 to 7pm and any girls from seven to 10 years are welcome to go along. Contact: Mrs Cherry Threadgold (850481).

ABOUT £150 was contributed to the funds of Blackmore End Village Hall following a Whist Drive and Draw there on December 5. Twelve tables were in play with Mr Tom Tyrrell as MC. Miss H Lawrence presented the prizes. The organisers would like to thank all who gave prizes and all who helped on the evening.

Creations

'CREATIVE Flowers' is the title of Mrs Denise Lapwood's demonstration to follow the Floral Art Club's annual general meeting on January 27. Membership subscriptions will be taken on the night.

In the full and varied programme planned for the new year the club is looking forward to John Nottage's demonstration on February 24 and another, 'Pot Luck', by Barbara Riddleston on Wednesday, March 31. All meetings in the Village Hall at 8pm.

WETHERSFIELD Friendship Club meets fortnightly on Friday afternoons from 2pm to 4pm in the Village Hall and will be pleased to welcome any new faces. You do not have to be an OAP to join, the club points out.

They are hoping to get speakers at meetings once a month and Mrs B Proctor will be showing some of her travel slides on Friday, January 8. Mrs Joyce Brown is the new chairman with Mrs D. Gunn vice chairman. Miss May Elsdon secretary and Mrs M Thompson treasurer.

WETHERSFIELD Cricket Club's retiring captain Harold Andrews was able to report, at the club's AGM, an above-average season with more matches won than lost. A new committee is now in office with David Thomson captaining the side.

On Saturday, February 20 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall the cricketers will be holding another Quiz Night, under question master Jim Dobson. There is a generous first prize of £25 and there is a magnificent trophy too, which the winning team holds for a year.

Ring Bill Norman on 851094 to enter your team. The entry fee of £3 per person includes a ploughman's lunch. There will be a bar.

For refugees

THE United Reformed Church is grateful to the many generous people who contributed to the bumper collection of gifts for the refugees in Yugoslavia on Sunday, December 18.

Mr George Mills was present at morning service to receive the gifts and to tell about his experiences in taking supplies to the refugees. The morning offering was donated to the cost of transporting the aid.

As a church the URC is continuing to collect for Yugoslavia and items needed at the present time are tin foods, included meat, fish, soup and pasta and also sugar, rice, flour and cooking oil, everyday personal items and first aid items. Please take your gifts to Doreen French at 74 Saffron Gardens, Wethersfield (850049).

The collection for Cancer Research from the Community Carol Service has so far reached over £153 but envelopes are still being received.

On Christmas morning a collection was taken for Christian Aid and £36.35p was given.

100 CLUB winners recently announced are:

October, £10 J. Wilkins; £25 G. Coppin. November, £10 C. Wilson; £25 Mrs D. Rust; December, £10 Mrs T Poulter, £25 J. Regan.

Make it easy

'EASY Ways of Gardening', a talk by Mrs Esme Chudley should get the Garden Club's 1993 programme off to a record start with even the laziest members rolling up at 7.45 on January 15 at Wethersfield Village Hall.

The club has planned another enjoyable and relaxing evening on February 19 when honorary member and popular speaker Ken Akers will talk on 'Colour in the Winter Garden'. The March 19 meeting will hear Lyn Hamblin speak on 'Spring Flowers and plants'. The club's New Year Dinner in the Village Hall on January 9 is fully booked. Last month the club's quiz team, the Garden Gnomes came fourth in the PTA Quiz and club secretary Lynne Byatt read part of the Christmas story at the United Reformed Church Candlelit Service.

WETHERSFIELD Playing Field Association is launching a brand new 100 Club to start in February. Minimum subscription will be £1 a month and monthly prizes could be up to £50 a month with an annual prize of up to £600. Leaflets will be arriving in your mailbox shortly.

A large part of the playing-field's income comes from regular users and further income comes from casual lettings and donations from the Parish Council. The new 100 Club, they hope, will be a way of securing a long term regular income, allowing them more time to concentrate on social and sporting events using the field.

Christingle

ON January 30, the Parish Church is holding a Rummage Sale in the Village Hall and on February 7, at 3.30pm the annual Christingle Service, in aid of the Children's Society takes place in the parish church.

Sunday school is held at the church for children from 3 years through teenage and the next meeting is on Sunday January 10 at 9.45. Enquiries to Mrs Elaine Ambrose (850244) or Mrs Sarah Pilgrim (850781)

Hope

*As glowing Autumn speeds towards its close
With shorter days, while in the air, a chill
Of doom descends with every wind that blows
At the approach of winter months ahead;
Gentle and wise, old mother nature still
And silent, roaming the waiting countryside
Sends, in her pity, all living things to sleep.
Then, cruel Winter spreads his icy fingers wide,
And grips each living thing throughout
the countryside
With his embrace of steel.
When fallen snow has covered far and wide
Each tree and shrub, each garden plot and field
Then to the bitter winter naught shall yield,
But wait with hope, to welcome blessed Spring.*

(This poem, by Angela Douse, has been accepted for 'Poetry Now, Eastern, 1992')

POETS CORNER

To the Manor drawn

THE Local History Group's December meeting in Blackmore End Village Hall was well attended by people from all over the parish and beyond.

They heard about life on the farms at the start of the century and particularly about the great fire at Whitehall Farm which lit up the sky as far away as Braintree.

On January 14 the venue changes to Wethersfield Village Hall for "An Entertaining Evening" when visitors will watch - and take part in - some old-style entertainment.

February's meeting, on the 11th, will be led by Philippa Jerram who will turn the spotlight on Wethersfield Manor and the days of Sir Fortescue and Lady



Flannery (pictured above). Meetings are open to all and coffee is included in the 50p requested contribution.

Fire chief's praise

WETHERSFIELD firemen were on parade on December 3 for a visit by the Chief Fire Officer of Essex, Mr Roger Paramor, making an official inspection of the fire station.

The crew did a drill for him which included the use of various equipment carried on the appliance, which, like the buildings, was checked for cleanliness and efficiency.

Each member of the crew was asked a few questions on fire service procedures.

In response Mr Paramor wrote this entry in the visitor's book: "An excellent standard". From the Chief Fire Officer high praise indeed!

But well deserved, for the

station had a busy 1992 with 78 calls ranging from false alarms to fatal car crashes, up on 1991's figure.

Not only that, but they raised about £1,500 for the National Fire Services Benevolent Fund.

For unity

MEMBERS of the Parish Church and the United Reformed Church will join in a vigil of silent prayer for Christian unity to be held on Friday, January 22. The vigil takes place from 7pm to 9pm at the United Reformed Church; all are welcome to join in prayer at anytime, for as long as they wish, during this period.

TAKING OUR MEDICINE?

DOCTORS at the Freshford Practice, which will shortly be moving its headquarters from Great Bardfield to the new Health Centre at Finchingfield, have responded to concern about future medical facilities for Wethersfield and Blackmore End.

The Parish council raised five questions with the doctors whose reply was given by Dr A.M. Ambross.

1 Exactly what will take place at the new surgery beyond that as now worked at Wethersfield Surgery?

We hope to provide all modern facilities for good primary health care at the new main surgery. The dispensary will be fully stocked with twice daily deliveries from our wholesaler. There will be nurses on the premises at all times between 8am and 6.30pm to facilitate blood investigations, lung function testing and cardio-vascular assessment.

Rooms are allocated for the Health Visitor and District Nursing teams, who will also run their own clinics from the main surgery.

There is a room allocated for the district chiropodist, whom we hope will be able to increase the services available. The dietitian already comes once a month and we hope to be able to increase that.

This should produce an efficient primary care team and will have a great impact on our services for the community and we are negotiating with the Health Authority to provide physiother-

apy services, as we will now have the space to allocate for this.

2 Has any form of transport been considered for patients to get to and from Finchingfield from this area?

We are actively trying to co-ordinate the community transport scheme. We have had discussions with Great Bardfield Parish Council about this and would like to go on to discuss this with Wethersfield, Blackmore End, Shalford and Panfield.

3 Will the Wethersfield surgery be still used for appointments as of now?

The Wethersfield surgery will continue to be used for appointments and obviously the need and usage will be continually assessed.

4 What are the arrangements, if any, for repeat prescriptions to be issued?

Repeat prescriptions will be issued from the main surgery, but may be taken to the outlying branch surgeries at the next session for collection if requested.

5 Will any form of emergency treatment be available at Wethersfield?

Of course emergency treatment will be available at Wethersfield surgery when this is open. Obviously, true emergencies will continue to be dealt with at the site of the incident and we have a continued commitment to complement the emergency services, particularly the ambulance service, in providing medical care at emergencies

and often with the additional help of our trained nurses.

With the improved facilities at our new main surgery we hope to provide a minor casualty service, at least equivalent to those found at William Julien Courtauld Hospital in Braintree and the Saffron Walden Community Hospital. We are looking into the provision of simple X-ray facilities.

Dr Ambross concludes her reply to the council:

We do all fully appreciate that some people may be worried that the provision of a new main surgery for the whole practice in Finchingfield may distance them from medical care.

We would like to assure everybody that this is completely unfounded and hope that Wethersfield Local Council will be able to give people their reassurance.

The new surgery certainly isn't going to make life any quieter for the doctors, but we sincerely hope that it will make provision of medical care to this whole community more efficient and with the increased facilities, allow us to move towards improving the community's health.

Wethersfield News would welcome your views on these new moves in health care for the villages. Are you quite happy with the greater facilities the Centre will offer? Are you worried about being able to reach the Health Centre, particularly if you do not drive? Send your letters to the Editor at Virginia House, High Street, Wethersfield.

People

Ring 0371 850092 with your news of people or events



Mr Chairman

HE has been chairman of Wethersfield Parish Council for over 20 years; he lived at Brook Farm, where he was born in 1921, for 50 years; he has been a district councillor, served on the Village Hall Committee, even the Playing Fields Committee, though he was never keen on games; he is on the committees of local charities and vice chairman of the Local History Group.

Yet I had been five years in the village before I even met John Nottage. At over 70 he is still a working postman, delivering mail to outlying areas like Cornish Hall End in all weathers on a moped and in

Finchingfield he is known for quite a different reason: for 14 years he has planned the astonishing flower festival displays that raise up to £1,000 a year for Finchingfield Parish Church.

Apart from the fact that his working day starts and ends very early, one reason John is almost invisible in his valuable work for the parish, is that he is not the pushing kind.

Of his council chairmanship, which started on the very first meeting he attended he says: "Someone said 'Who is going to be chairman?' and someone else said 'I propose John Nottage' and I have stuck there ever since. Probably because no-one else is fool enough to take it on!"

The same happened with the flower arranging. He looked into the church and got press-ganged into helping.

John served as a navigator during the war, flying over Germany. He trained as a pilot but failed the course. "They said I had a lack of depth of perception." He was offended at first, until they explained it meant he couldn't judge how far the plane was off the ground and had nothing to do with his character.

John's one ambition: never to retire. D.N.

Sheila, lady of letters



Sheila has news for Council Clerk Allan Frost

EACH weekday morning at 6.15 Sheila Taylor drives over from Sible Hedingham to join her three colleagues sorting the mail in Wethersfield Post Office.

A cup of tea from Jack Tillbrook is welcome around 7.30 before she sets out with her sturdy post office bike ("New models? It will be a long time before we get them here I reckon") to tackle a strange collection of 'delivery points' around the village.

One house has a meat safe, another likes to find its post behind a piece of wood. "Your dustbin mail box is quite sensible," she says. "Especially for parcels." Actual letterboxes can be a pain, especially the sort

with draught excluders that don't line up with the flap.

"Some of the ones at the bottom of the door are difficult. But the ones with the knocker over the top, now they are awkward."

Dogs? "It is the little ones you have to watch."

Sheila loves the outdoor life and pities the people she sees setting off for London in the mornings. "But I do hate really wet days," she admits. "You have your weatherproof gear but it still runs up your arm and down your neck. It still finds a way in." And the ink runs on the addresses.

But Sheila is always cheerful. She even inspired Tim Jones, one of her more poetic customers to write about her:

"...The light and 'phone bills, which we all hate,

She catches me with, at the garden gate.

Then the twinkle of eye, when she says 'Hallo!'

Seems somehow, to soften the impending blow."

She had a chance to do deliveries in Sible Hedingham but turned it down. "I prefer Wethersfield village. I like it here. The people know me now." D.N.

CONGRATULATIONS to Paul and Philippa Jerram of Brick House, Wethersfield who had a baby son, Matthew, on Christmas Eve, a brother to Lucy. A Christmas Day notice in their window proudly announced "It's a Boy". It didn't add that said boy weighed all of 9lb 15oz!

Clipboard

THE COUNCIL is to request a 6-month trial of a bottle bank to be placed on the site at Saffron Gardens. A recent application to site the bank at this spot was turned down by the District Council on the grounds of likely disturbance to nearby residents but the parish council points out that a similarly sited bank at Blackmore End has reached fifth position in the District Council's league for bottle reclamation.

NO answer had yet been received from the Royal Mail concerning a proposal to site a letter box in the High Street in the area of the playing field.

POTHLES in Hereward Way have been repaired but those in Blackmore End Road are still awaiting work by the Highway authority.

NO objection was raised to planning applications by Mr and Mrs Brown for two storm porches and an extension to the kitchen at The Bull, Blackmore End and from Melville

Items discussed at meetings of Wethersfield Local Council

Clerk to Council: ALLAN FROST, 0371 851146

Dunbar Associates for alterations at The Mill House Studio, Wethersfield Mill, which is to become a private dwelling.

FOUR members of Essex County Council's Mid-Essex Social Services Group were questioned by residents before the November parish council meeting about changes in the Health Service provisions for the area. Would Wethersfield ever have a Day Centre for the elderly, such as those at Braintree and Halstead? And would the Meals on Wheels service, which currently serves nutritional, but according to some who receive them, "boring" meals ever return to solid country fare like meat puddings? These were some of the questions asked.

AN application is to be made for a by-law to enable the parish council to place two "poop-scoop" bins on the playing field at Blackmore End.

A PRESERVATION order has been made on an oak tree at 21 Saffron Gardens.

Dicken's day

TV CHEF John Dicken, of Dicken's Restaurant has taken special trouble to bring haute cuisine right into the village's kitchens.

Charlotte Hollday of High Street, Wethersfield spent a day at a Dicken's demonstration of recipes for Christmas fare which were an alternative to the traditional festive turkey and mince pies. She writes:

The main dish prepared was Baked Fillet of Salmon stuffed with a watercress and chive mousse. Other recipes prepared included Baked Onion Tatin and Poached Pear Tulip with a chocolate romanoff.

As each recipe was demonstrated John answered questions. After the demonstration the guests sat down to lunch with wine and coffee.