

# WETHERSFIELD NEWS

BLACKMORE END, BEAZLEY END

MAY/JUNE, 1993

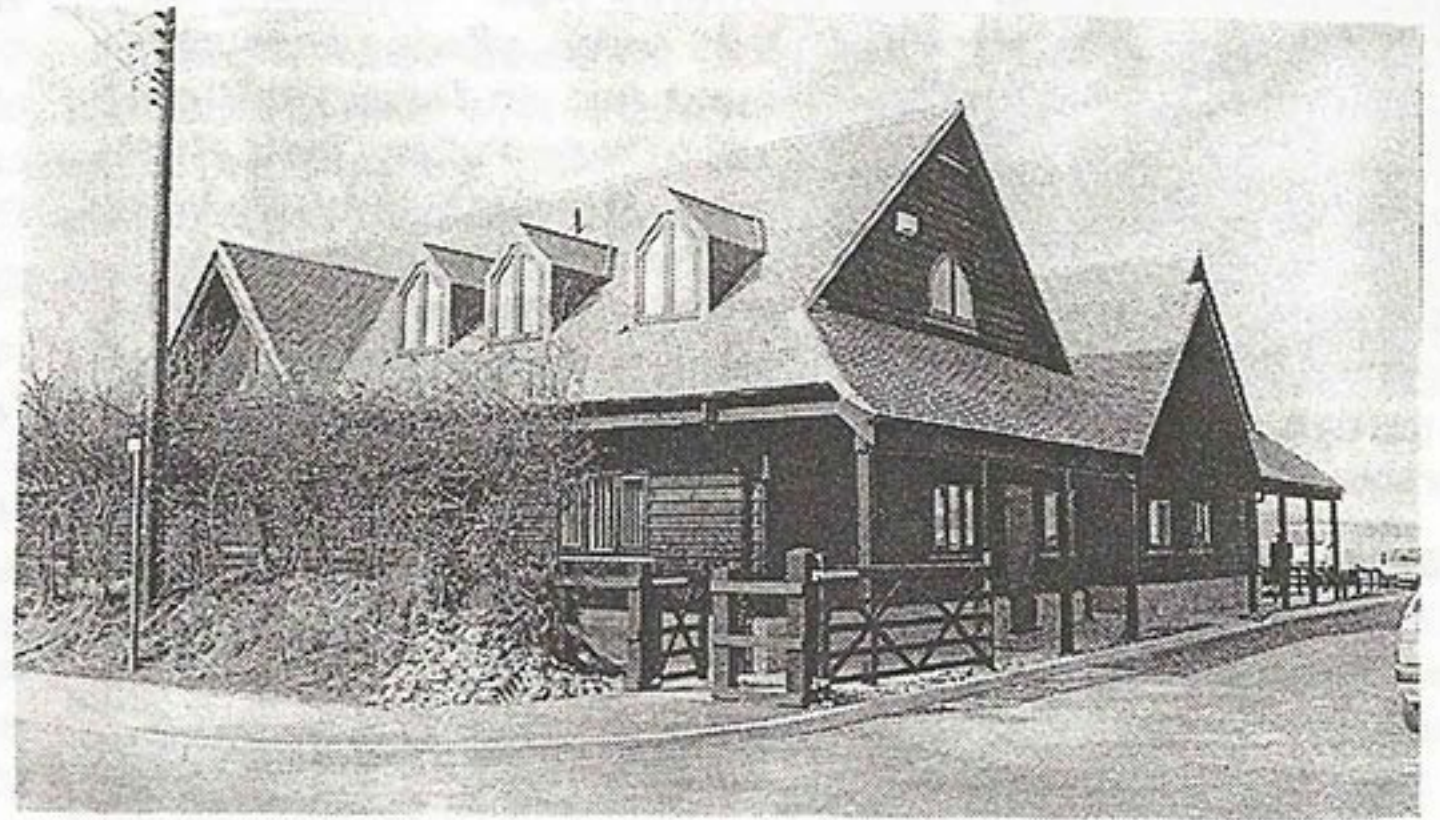
## 'NHS MONEY SHOULD GO HERE' - NEWTON

"THE penny has now dropped that this is really the crucial front line of a good Health Service," said former Health Minister and MP for Braintree, Rt Hon Tony Newton, OBE, when he opened the new Freshwell Health Centre at Finchingfield. It is now serving Wethersfield, Finchingfield and Great Bardfield.

"Historically we have underestimated what is called Primary Care," said Mr Newton. "That is localised services provided by GPs, dentists, close to the people on the ground. The money always went into the hospitals the big flagships of the Health Service."

"But if you don't have good primary care services you are actually going to be wasting a lot of money putting people in hospital. A very good example here is the fact that the district nurses and health visitors have a base here."

Wethersfield surgery opening hours are now listed as Mondays and Thursdays from 11am to 12.30pm. For repeat prescriptions, to be delivered to the surgery later, phone 810328



Built in the style of Essex barns, the Freshwell Health Centre

## Dogging father's footsteps

WHEN brothers Ron and Reno Caldarelli *didn't* follow their father into catering it was a great disappointment to him.

Reno went into the travel trade and became managing director of Finlandia travel, specialising in trips to Scandinavia and Santa Claus Country and Ron chose the fashion business.

Third generation Anglo-Italians, they have now decided that their late father might have been right after all and have bought The Dog Inn.

Taking time off from carpet-laying, Reno enthused about the food they intend to serve. "It will be Mediterranean style," he said, "Not only Italian but some Greek and Southern French rustic food."

For the moment they are opening the bar only, "so that we can meet people" while they refurbish the restaurant.

They have already done one bit of 'market research'. Just after they moved in they found they had been a bit enthusiastic in the kitchen preparing the family meal. "So we put out a board and sold all the rest," said Reno.

# Changes at the base may affect homes market

ALTHOUGH a further 400 Ministry of Defence Police are expected to arrive eventually at Wethersfield airbase, to swell the initial 80 already there, some of the 148 homes on the base may still pass into civilian occupation.

Ministry of Defence Land Agents, the *News* understands, are considering a number of possible ways in which the houses could find new owners, including by means of a Housing Trust or through the District Council.

At the same time the influx of personnel expected when the Ministry of Defence Police moves its HQ from Earls Court to the base could have an effect on the local housing market.

Many of the staff may decide to commute from their present homes if they are on this side of London but others who travel from South of the river may be seeking houses in this area. Currently on the base are

instructors and staff of the Police Training Centre, previously at Medmenham in Buckinghamshire. They are now using the old base school for training courses.

Also at the base now is the Ministry of Defence Guard Service HQ and Training Wing. They are the men who perform security duties at Government buildings.

Ministry of Defence Police have a particularly rigorous training. Not only do they have to study the law to the same extent as the County Constabulary but they also have to study Civil Service

rules. They also undergo firearms training and men of the Operational Support Unit are called in to take the strain off local constabularies who have to police large scale events. MOD Police have powers of arrest outside Ministry of Defence property, but relations with Wethersfield are more likely to involve happier things such as displays by the Dog Section, arriving shortly.

"Like the Americans, we hope the new occupants of the base will mix easily with the residents of Wethersfield and join in local village activities," said Mr Malcolm Flatman, of the Station Administration.

## GATHERING WINTER FUEL

IF YOU have noticed small figures collecting twigs and debris under the trees on Wethersfield Green it is the Brownies, making life easier for the grass cutters and the Green safer and easier to walk across. The wood collected and stored will be distributed later in the year for lighting winter fires. If you, or someone you know, would like a bundle of firewood ring Cherry Threadgold (850481) or Sarah Pilgrim (850781)

## Bright idea

THE green in Hereward Way has looked a picture this spring, thanks to local members of Wethersfield Garden Club who planted 250 bulbs there. The Garden Club is holding a Cake Stall and Bring Buy, with plants stall and refreshments at the United Reformed Church Hall on May 15 from 2pm. Contributions by 1pm please. On May 21 members meet at the Playing Field car park at 6.30pm for a visit to the garden at Buildings Farm, Dunmow. Details: 0371 850695.

CHURCH recorders are a dedicated breed. It takes stamina to make a detailed inventory of all the memorials, furniture, windows and paintings in a church but that is what groups of members of NADFAS, the National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts Societies, spend years doing. Anne Haward, area organiser for NADFAS will talk about this work to Wethersfield Local History Group. The meeting on Thursday May 13 at 8pm in Wethersfield Village Hall is open to all. 75p donation includes coffee. Another meeting of the group on June 10 will hear how historic buildings are chosen for listing.

THE PANT VALLEY Art Group, started by some of the original "graduates" of the Ashley Bryant School of Painting, can be found busy at their easels on the second Wednesday of each month from 7.30 to 9.30pm in the United Reformed Church Hall. "We are a self-help group, offering encouragement but no formal tuition," says David Pullen, their chairman, although they do have professional demonstrations. If you want to see their work go along to Finchingfield Guildhall on May 29-31 when they have their show. Contact: Les Turner (850569) or David or Carole Pullen on 0787 61522. You don't have to be expert to join.

## Bat for them

WETHERSFIELD Cricket Club have their first home match on Sunday, May 2 against Cressing and play hosts to Braintree College on May 16. Other home matches, at which they would be glad to see supporters sitting out around the pavilion in (hopefully) the Sunday afternoon sun, are: May 30 (High Garrett) and June 13th, 20th and 27th. The team is captained by David Thompson; further information can be had from the secretary, Paul Jerram on 851354.

## Early to boot

BARGAINS by the boot load will be on offer at Blackmore End playing field on May Bank Holiday. Price of a sales pitch is £5 per stall and entrance for visitors is 20p. Organised by Wethersfield Conservatives, the sale starts at 10am and closes at 1pm. Refreshments, cakes and produce. Ring Jack Rendall (850705) for details.

FUN DAY on the 10th July will feature the six-piece Geoff Elliston Band, swinging Glenn Miller style from 5.45 to 8pm. An auction held in March raised £11 toward the Playing Field funds. Mr L Chatters won the first 100 Club draw prize of £50.

## Fit all over

EXERCISE for the whole body, not just legs and arms, is the aim of a new Fitness Class which Irish-born PE teacher Lu Granger is starting in the United Reformed Church Hall on Tuesdays at 8pm. Men and women of all ages are welcome, just take a towel and £2 with you and get into shape for Summer. Lu and her husband Peter moved to Hillfoot House, Wethersfield a few months ago from Scotland. Ring Lu on 0371 850368 to know more.

MATHS can be fun. They proved it at Wethersfield school recently when the school became a Maths Trail filled with interesting and varied tasks for parents and children alike. Headmaster Arthur Brookes invites you to go along to a coffee morning on Thursday May 13 at 10.15 to meet staff and pupils.

## Box for Bosnia

CAN YOU make up a box for Bosnia? Wethersfield Reform Church are collecting toiletries and household items for refugee families in Croatia & Bosnia. Items should be packed in to a large shoe-box type container, labelled "Sanitary" and taken to Doreen French at 74, Saffron Gardens, Wethersfield, or telephone 850049 to arrange collection. Gifts will be handed over directly to refugees.

WETHERSFIELD Playgroup's funds were boosted by over £123 by their recent rummage sale. On June 26 the band Loose Change will play in the Village Hall to raise money for playgroup improvements required under the Children's Act. Playgroup sessions are held each Monday Wednesday and Friday and Pre-school on Thursdays Contact Gloria Ellis (850773) for details.

## Dogs on show

A DISPLAY by the Halstead Dog Obedience team will be a feature of the Open Day and Exemption Dog Show at Acre Kennels, Thorley Farm, Hedingham Road, Wethersfield on Sunday May 16. Farm animals, plant and charity stalls and games, together with a barbecue and refreshments will add to a fun day for all the family. It is in aid of the Southern Rough Collie Rescue. Opens at 11. Ring 0371 851271 for dog show or stall details.

CHRISTIAN Aid Week is from May 17 to 22. Anyone who could spare some time to help with a door to door collection ring Sarah Pilgrim (850781). Regular monthly Bible Study meetings recommence at Wednesday May 5 at Wethersfield Vicarage at 7.30pm. All welcome.

## OFF THE WALL

by Elizabeth Allen  
Youth correspondent

*Delivering the 'News' became a cat-astrophe!*

AS my first article was in it (and I was feeling really proud!) I volunteered to deliver copies of *Wethersfield News* in Blackmore End. I set off with my Auntie Janet in tow.

When we got to the bottom of the village near The Bull a grey cat with white socks appeared from nowhere and started following us everywhere we delivered the papers.

When we got home the cat was still following! We made a mad dash inside - to avoid the animal coming in. Eventually we took pity on the cat as it looked hungry and frightened and gave it some milk. My brother played with it, running around our half-built house with the cat following him everywhere.

We left the cat outside, hoping he would go home. But no such luck. Instead the cat started hurling himself at our door and hanging on by his claws at the part where wood meets glass. It was quite frightening.

In the end he came inside and we fed him. No-one claimed him even after my Mum had spoken to the Animal Rescue centre, the pub

and walked around the village asking whether anyone had lost a cat.

We took him to a vet in Braintree to get him checked over, where he had an injection of antibiotics for a slight chest infection. The vet had no record of a lost cat.

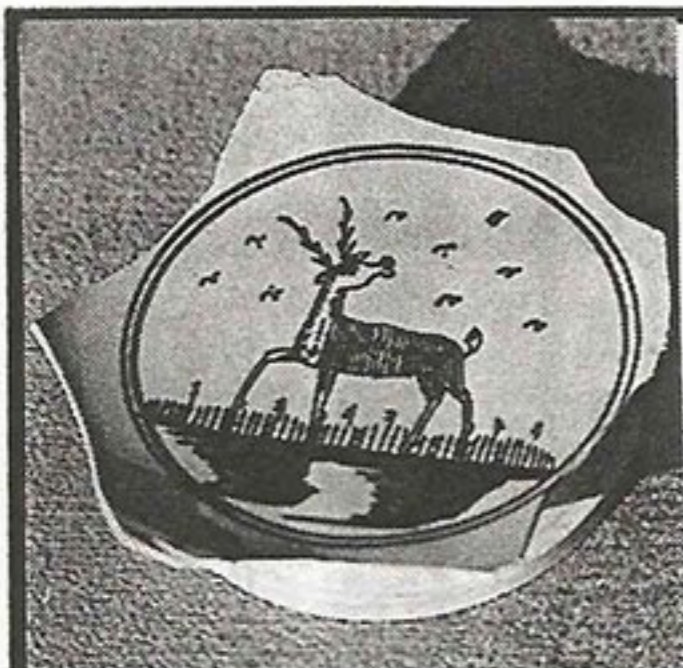
After a week of him waiting for us outside when we got home, we decided to keep him unless anyone could give an accurate description of him, his rough age and the colour of his collar which we found him wearing (with no name). This deal still stands for anyone who can provide this information.

We couldn't keep calling him cat! So we called him Macademas (Mac for short).

### *A club for teenagers?*

I WOULD like to ask parents, children and the people of Blackmore End and the surrounding area to come forward with their comments on starting some sort of club for teenagers at the Blackmore End Village Hall.

If there is enough response perhaps we could have a meeting to set up a committee of children, parents and neighbours to help organise the club. Ring 850092.



Found: hand-painted plate

THEY say an Englishman's home is his castle and for farmer Bill Wright, this may have been nearer the truth than for many.

Bill and his son Howard are currently excavating the moat which once surrounded the manor of Nortofts, where the present-day farmhouse stands.

The digging has revealed an assortment of quality Leeds creamware, salt glazed pottery, wine and perfume bottles and shoes. Although much of the find is in pieces some items have survived relatively undamaged.

The Rev Alan Jones of Finchingfield, a collector and authority on pottery, is particularly interested in the discovery of a number of small clay pipes.

"They were sometimes called Fairy Pipes because they were so small that when they found them the people thought the fairies had been smoking them.

"Gradually, as tobacco became cheaper and more

# Pot luck at Nortofts

by  
Brian Lovell

general the pipe bowls got larger and larger. The one found in the moat that slopes less is probably the earlier one, late 18th century. The other is late Victorian."

Bill and Howard intend landscaping the resurrected ancient moat, even considering stocking it with fish.

Although technically living in Finchingfield. Bill Wright has been a Wethersfield Parish Councillor on and off for the past thirty years. He first joined the council in 1962, qualifying through living within three miles of the parish boundary and farming four acres in Wethersfield. He was clerk to the council for about seven years.

Originally from Little Maplestead, Bill came to Nortofts after his marriage to Bunty Byford, whose parents farmed there.

Bill has been the Wethersfield representative on the local branch of the National Farmers' Union and was a

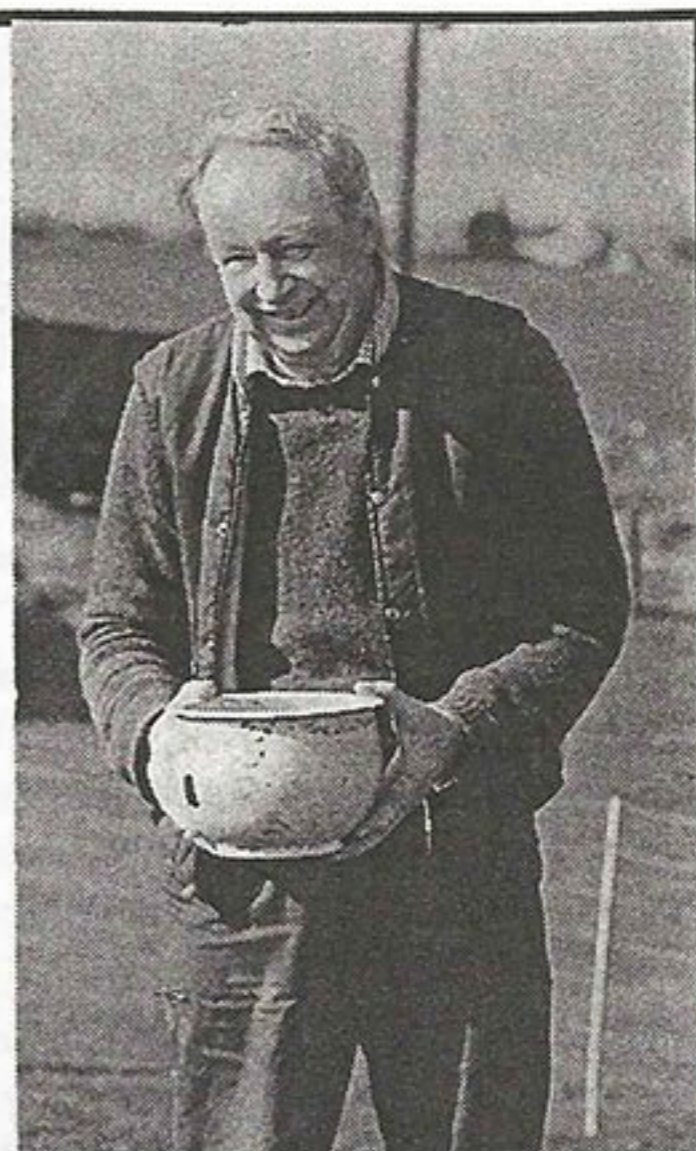
The newly-excavated moat

member of the parochial church council.

"When I first came to Wethersfield I had a lot to do with the playing field, I played cricket and was chairman of the cricket club."

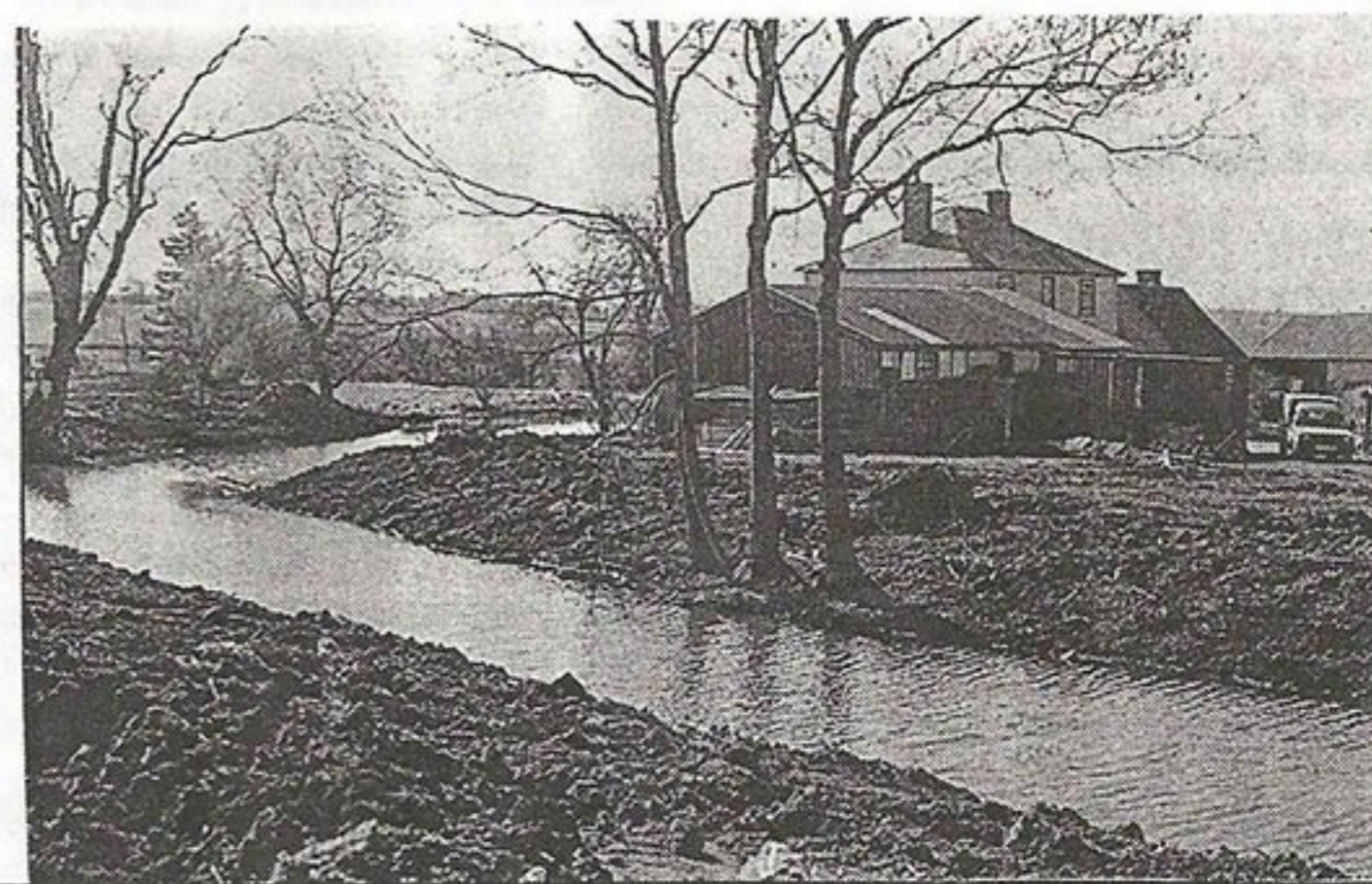
As chairman of the Playing Field Association Bill was instrumental in getting the lease organised with the Fitches and Mott charity so that the playing field could not be taken away from the village.

Now that Howard is taking over the running of the farm Bill is supposed to be able to take it easier, "but it doesn't always work out that way".



Bill Wright, with trophy

If the farm (250 acres given over mostly to arable crops: wheat, barley, rape and linseed with some sheep and turkeys) doesn't offer Bill some diversion, then the rules and regulations of the EEC, District Councils and Ministry of Agriculture will.



## Farm plans concern

PLANNING applications for two large grain store buildings at Blackmore End were considered by Wethersfield Local Council.

They were made by Mortier and Sons, who recently acquired over a thousand acres formerly belonging to Mr Julian Courtauld at Pattens and Summers Hall farms.

The council had received objections from local residents who are concerned about the size of the buildings, noise from the driers and extra traffic.

An outline planning application for a new farmhouse at Shraggs Wood was also considered as were applications for extensions at Pattens Farm. The council had no objection to the grain stores at Pattens Farm and Shraggs

Wood provided they were suitably landscaped and were used only for crops grown on those farms.

In the case of the extensions at Pattens farm the council felt that an area marked for a billiards room was excessive in size and that, instead of building new garages, existing buildings on the farm should be used for garages.

The council was not convinced of the need for a new farmhouse at Shraggs Wood and suggested the land be farmed for two or three years to see if the need for one was established.

## PADDLING FOR POUNDS

FIREMEN from Wethersfield are planning a sponsored canoe tour of the local river system, heading towards Mersea, in aid of the Fire Services National Benevolent Fund. Support and sponsorship would be welcomed. Contact: Leading Fireman Pilgrim (850781)

## Work must be done on Green eyesore

THE OWNER of the derelict building adjoining Wethersfield Village Hall is to be traced and requested to put the property into a satisfactory condition.

Mr Andrew Butcher of Braintree District Council gave the annual parish meeting both the bad and the good news concerning the building, which has long been an eyesore on the village Green.

Although it was in a conserva-

tion area it was not a listed building, which limited the council's powers.

"The good news is that we can invoke the Building Regulations to look at ways of improving both the safety of the building and restrict public access.

"We have written to the supposed owner and advised him he must undertake certain works, such as repairing or removing the chimney stack which is in some danger of collapse.

"And he must board the building up since anyone going into the building is clearly in danger."

If the owner does not respond within 10 days the council may then institute court proceedings. It could then send in its own workmen to restore the building to a safe condition.

# People

Ring 0371 850092 with your news of people or events

## Golden days, thanks to Hitler

FIFTY years ago Allan Frost of Hereward Way, Wethersfield was picked up by his wife Joy - in the nicest possible way. She was driving the RAF truck that collected Flight Engineer Frost from the local station.

It wasn't long before the two made another trip, to Idle Parish Church, near Bradford where Somerset-born Alan and Lincolnshire-born Joy were married on May 4, 1943. "So it is all thanks to Mr Hitler," jokes Alan who is best known in the village for his work as Clerk to the Parish Council, a post he took up shortly after moving here from Dunmow about 5 years ago.

Administration came as no hardship to Alan who was with builders' merchants Brown and Sons for over forty years from 1946 after his demob. He worked for the firm in Clacton and



Allan and Joy Frost, marking 50 years of marriage

Dunmow before becoming branch manager at Stapleford, travelling there each day from Dunmow.

Joy, meanwhile, was a librarian at Dunmow and did voluntary work with the Meals on Wheels and Blood Transfusion Service.

Alan, always a man to do his bit for the community, served in the Special Constabulary, reaching the rank of Superintendent.

Council business is time consuming enough but Alan is off at 6am on many mornings to feed a farmer friend's sheep at Great Easton or drive a tractor for Bill Wright at Nortofts Farm.

Joy isn't idle either. She is a keen needlewoman, artist and flower arranger.

The Frosts have two daughters and two grandsons.

## 'Be careful how you park' plea to residents

WETHERSFIELD'S local beat officer, Pc Richard Buckland, has pointed out to residents in Saffron Gardens and Hereward Way that some of their parked vehicles are causing obstruction.

This is particularly so where two vehicles are parked close together on opposite sides of the road.

It is an offence, he points out, to park on the road at night facing oncoming traffic without displaying side lights and it is an offence to park with any wheels on the pavement.

"I don't wish to appear to be hounding motorists," says Richard, "But it is most annoying and potentially dangerous to pedestrians and other motorists."

## Car vandals

SEVERAL of the cars parked in Saffron Gardens were vandalised recently. Windows were smashed and doors tampered with but strangely nothing was taken from the vehicles.

## Chauffeur

JOHN REGAN, of Parkside, Braintree road, Wethersfield has died at the age of 86. A widower, both he and his wife worked for the Addisons of Wethersfield Place, John as chauffeur. Once a keen fisherman, John was a member of the Men's Club and of the British Legion.

## Gower houses resident

MRS Constance Elsdon, aged 85, who had lived with her husband Sidney, at the Gower Houses, Wethersfield for the last 7½ years has died. Eldest daughter of a family of eight she had to bring up her sisters and brothers after the death of their mother. She married Sidney, a builder in 1953. After some years at Gainsford End they moved to Sandhills where they lived for about 30 years. During the way 'Connie' as she was better known, served in the ATS. The funeral was at Wethersfield Church.

## clipboard

## Items discussed at meetings of Wethersfield Local Council

OBJECTION was raised to a plan by Pubmaster, Ltd to erect a single house on part of the car park previously belonging to The Dog public House after demolishing an existing building on the site. Local residents had objected to the loss of an historic building and were concerned that further applications to build more houses on the car park would follow.

TWO people have been appointed by the Council to fill the post of footpath representative: they are John Townrow of High Street, Wethersfield and David Matthews of Elm Wood, Poor Park.

THE Highway Authority is to be requested to relocate a finger post at Blackmore End which directs traffic to Brick Kiln Green. The direction indicated leads to an unmade road and it was reported this had delayed an ambulance, which had to be re-directed to vehicular access to the green by way of School Green.

BRAINTREE District Council has apologised to the parish council for not specifically inviting them to comment at an Inquiry into the use of land south of Silver Street. The council has now been asked to submit a letter stating their support for the land not being designated for building under the Braintree District Local Plan.

NO objection was raised by the council to a planning application by D L S and A Butler for continuation of siting of a mobile home at Poor Park.

A BOTTLE bank for glass and cans has been sponsored by Dicken's Restaurant and placed in their car park by Braintree District Council. It is for use by all but it would be appreciated if people depositing cans could rinse them out before disposal.

CHAIRMAN John Nottage, Vice-chairman Jack Tillbrook and Clerk, Allan Frost were all re-elected for another year.

OBJECTION is to be made to a plan by Mr A H G Finbow of Owls Hall to erect three houses

on land adjacent to Syers Field. Mr Finbow is to appeal against refusal of a previous plan for five houses on the site. The parish council considers that the houses would urbanise the area and be a loss of visual amenity afforded by the outstanding view over open land.

THE council is to ask for a second handrail to be provided at the new bridge on the footpath leading from Cottage Farm, Wethersfield to Petches Bridge.

COUNCILLOR Jill Hammond met with the District Surveyor to consider means of protecting Blackmore End Village Green.

THE bottle bank at Blackmore End is to be returned to the site in the centre of the village.

Clerk to Council: ALLAN FROST, 0371 851146