

WETHERSFIELD NEWS

BLACKMORE END, BEAZLEY END

JULY/AUGUST, 1993

Forsooth, here's a motley crew!

THEY were a bit behind the times at Wethersfield Primary School last week. Four hundred years behind, in fact, as you can see in our picture.

Dressed in authentic Tudor costume, Years 3 to 6 were getting into the spirit of a visit to Kentwell Hall at Long Melford. There they would be transported to 1593 at a Historical Re-Creation of Tudor Life.

Decimal pocket-money would have to be exchanged for Elizabethan style coinage, and, for three hours gentry, musicians, working craftsmen, pedlars and players would turn the clock back on the young visitors.

The costumes were made by parents to designs supplied by Kentwell Hall.



Picture by Arthur Brookes

Hall and club face huge fire risk bill

WETHERSFIELD Village Hall and the Men's Club could be faced with thousands of pounds worth of work to meet fire regulations.

Braintree District Council's Assistant Director of Planning, Mr J. Brett says that, in the light of current standards, he is concerned that the building has various Fire Safety deficiencies.

The District Council has recently taken over from Essex County Council as the body responsible for maintaining the standards set by "The Home Office Guide to Fire Precautions in Existing Places of Entertainment and Like Premises."

Main cost is likely to be incurred in meeting the recommended 60 minute standard of fire separation

between the hall and the Men's Club below it. Beamed floors may have to be clad with expensive fire resistant material.

There is no fire detection and warning system within the building that would detect a fire outbreak in the basement club and give a fire alert in the hall above.

Fire separation from the small hall to the kitchen was necessary and cupboards in which cellular foam school gymnastics mats are stored would need fire separation installed. Some foam can give off toxic fumes in the event of fire.

In the space under the stage, where mats used by the bowls club are stored, there would have to be fire cladding and ventilation. The emergency lighting also did not meet present standards.

Chairman of the village hall committee, Mr Jack Tillbrook, said: "It has got to be a jolly good bit of material to hold a fire back for an hour. That will cost the earth. It has got to go to the thousands. I don't know whether that is going to cost the club or the hall. That's why we are having a meeting on July 7 between us both and Mr Brett and perhaps the fire officer."

"I agree with the need for a fire detection and alarm system. I am surprised that it has not been asked for before."

Although he declined to make any comment to *Wethersfield News*, Mr Brett did confirm that, as far as he was aware, the Home Office Guidelines had not materially changed recently.

Post office petition for Newton

SEVENTY-NINE names were added to a petition by 86-year-old Tim Jones of Hereward Way to MP Tony Newton. It expressed pensioners' fears that pension payments might be taken away from Post Offices and paid through banks.

Although the Government has assured their association that pensions and benefits will still be available for collection through post offices, sub-postmasters are still concerned.

"We pay in the region of 160 pensions and about 50 or 60 family and other allowances. It has always been a big part of our business," said Jack Tillbrook, Wethersfield sub-postmaster.

A single bank payment, he said, could mean that pensioners would have no money for up to a month "If this week's money were due it wouldn't be paid in for three weeks, since Social Services would pay them in once a month. Whereas they come weekly to us."

"It is ridiculous. Apart from us, an old age pensioner is going to have no cash at all without going to a bank." They don't want to have to go into Braintree. It costs about £3."

18 years a visitor

JOYCE Hockridge, Health Visitor at Wethersfield, Blackmore End and Beazley End for the past 18 years has retired. Through the *News* she would like to thank all those who have welcomed her into their homes in all those years. "Thank you for the many gifts and good wishes. I shall treasure them all," she adds. New Health Visitor is Cathy Lowenhoff, who can be contacted at the new Freshwell Health Centre, Finchingfield. Telephone (0371) 811121.

WHAT'S HAPPENING . . .

DEADLINE for next issue: August 24th

Flower visit

FLORAL Art club members will be decorating the United Reformed Church Hall and Wethersfield Church windows on Fun Day and they will have a stall on the playing field selling small basket displays and home-made cakes. Some members will be visiting Braintree Flower Club on July 14 at 7.30pm to an open evening with a demonstration by Mrs Janet James. On July 28 Mrs Barbara Boswell will be the speaker; there is no meeting in August but on Wednesday August 25 the club will meet at Dorothy Norman's for a coffee morning at 10.30am, with bring and buy.

Sweet talk

JOHN Lovell and his son Michael from Saffron Gardens, described to Wethersfield Garden Club how they kept bees on two sites near the village and showed how the hives and honey extracting equipment worked. The bees were not invited. Garden Ponds is the subject at the July 16 meeting of the club. The talk will be by Mr R. Peck. On Saturday August 14 the club will hold its annual garden party at Mansard Cottage, Braintree road, home of Lynne and Bob Byatt.



TIME CREEPS ON APACE

WETHERSFIELD Local History Group, which heard a talk on timber framed buildings by Mr Adrian Gibson at its June meeting is planning a follow up on July 8. "Behind Closed Doors", will take members into several of Wethersfield's more interesting homes through slides and short talks presented by their owners. Brook Farm, Brick House, St George's House and Virginia House (pictured above when it really was covered with Virginia creeper around 1900), will be among the houses featured.

LAST year's Croquet and Cream Teas afternoon at Little Codham Hall, Shalford was such a success that it is happening again on July 24 at 3pm. There'll be tennis too and representatives of NADFAS, will be there to talk about their work. Proceeds to St Andrews Church, Shalford and NADFAS (Contact: Diane Baker, 851210)

BLACKMORE End After 8 Ladies Group will hear a speaker from Radio Essex at their meeting on Monday, July 26 at 8pm. There will also be a bring and buy stall. The group has now donated over £205 towards the cost of a new cooker for Blackmore End Village Hall. £130.95 of this came from a coffee morning at the home of Mrs C. Haynes.

FIRST Wethersfield Brownies would like to hear of anyone who would like a delivery of fire wood which they have collected from under the trees on the village green. The wood is free and you can obtain it by ringing Brown Owl, 850481 or Snowy Owl, 850781.

On the ball

THE cricketers have had a pretty good run of results in recent weeks with a win, three draws and a loss in five games. Best performances have included fifties from Neil Harvey-Smith, Howard Wright and Derek Martin and five wickets in an innings for Howard Wright. The big local derby against Flinchingfield is on July 4 and they would welcome your support down at the field at 2.30pm.

THE collection for the Red Cross in Wethersfield, organised by Mrs Bunty Wright, raised £137.79. Christian Aid Week collections in Wethersfield parish totalled £292.17.

Flags back

MEMBERS of Wethersfield and Shalford branch of the Royal British Legion have been able to replace the memorial flags stolen last year. Dedication of the flags took place at Wethersfield Parish Church.

THE United Reformed Church thanks all who have given to the Bosnia appeal and donations and items are still required. Contact Doreen French 74 Saffron Gardens (850049).

To market

WETHERSFIELD Parish Church asks for donations beforehand and your custom on the day for the stall at Braintree Market on Saturday July 17. To provide items for sale, but not jumble, contact either Mrs E Ambrose (850244), Mrs J Fossitt (850823) Mrs P Gould (850082) or Mrs S Pilgrim (850781).

THE Thursday Group, with meets at the United Reformed Church will hear a talk on the silk industry in Braintree by Frances Harper on July 1 at 8pm. In August there is no meeting but on September 2 there will be a talk with slides by Anne Allcock on her work with the Foreign Office. All welcome.

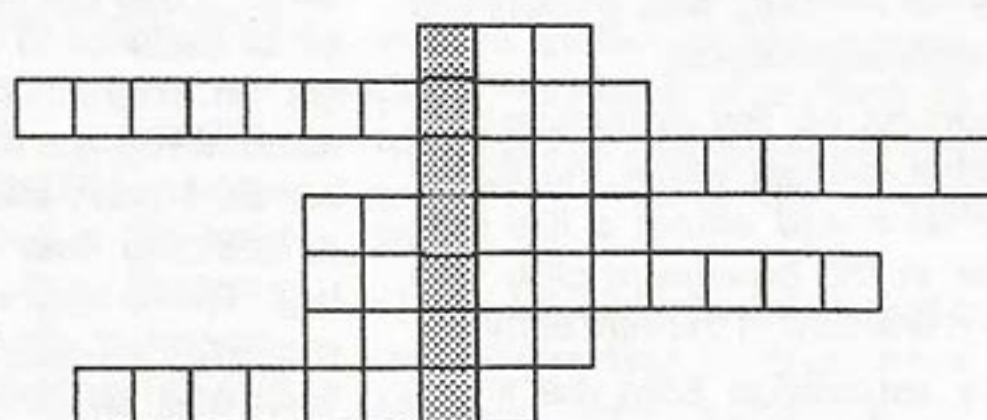
OFF THE WALL

by Elizabeth Allen
Youth correspondent

I KNOW that every single person at school can't wait until the summer holidays, least of all me! But do you find there are just some holiday days when you are bored out of your brain? I certainly do. I suggest this list of things you could do:

- 1 Go shopping (that's out if you've already spent all your money in the first week of the holiday).
- 2 Invite your mates around (but you can't if you're the only one who's not away on holiday).
- 3 Go for a walk (For all you fitness freaks!)
- 4 Read a magazine.
- 5 Annoy your sister or brother (If you haven't already).
- 6 Make a large chocolate cake (to stuff yourself with later).
- 7 Do some homework (If you are desperate).
- 8 Listen to a CD, tape or radio (Make sure its on full blast otherwise you will be able to here your parents shouting up "Turn it down, in our day you could call it music").
- 9 Go to the cinema (It's not much fun on your own but you could get someone to take you).
- 10 Go and sulk in your bedroom (you'll feel a lot better afterwards).

AND NOW... a little puzzle that will get your brains working. Fill the answers into the grid below and the highlighted letters will spell a word connected with HOLIDAYS.



- 1 You may use this to get to your holiday destination (3 letters).
- 2 How many films of these did you come back with? (11 letters).
- 3 Eating here may not be cheap (10 letters).
- 4 Good food, good wine, great place! (6 letters).
- 5 Riding across on this is full of air (10 letters).
- 6 Sun, sand and sea (5 letters).
- 7 Cool yourself doing this - also great exercise (8 letters).

ANSWERS IN NEXT ISSUE

by
Derek Norman

These paths are made for walking

ELEVEN o'clock on a Sunday morning; two footpaths representatives, one Parish Council footpath sub-committee member, a son, a daughter, a wife and me. Plus three dogs. All met to explore some of the 47 footpaths that criss-cross the parish.

The aim of this pioneering expedition: to get Wethersfield walking.

Two hours later we were back, muddy but unbowed, having enjoyed some of the loveliest countryside in Britain and never more than two miles from the village.

"A lot of people don't walk the footpaths because they are not sure whether they are trespassing," said footpath rep David Matthews. "I think the thing that troubles most people is that they don't really know where the footpaths go. Waymarking is pretty indistinct."

It was to get himself better informed that David volunteered for the job when it became vacant. John Townrow volunteered too and the Parish Council was very happy to appoint both – you don't turn down free labour!

"We are just representatives who report back to the Footpaths sub-committee if we find any obstructions or if we get any complaints from the public," said David. "The council can then get in touch with the Highways Department to solve the problem."

And problems there can be; a neighbouring parish



has spent six years arriving at a paths solution that satisfies both the local farmers and people who enjoy walking.

The fact is we live in changing times. "Originally the footpaths were a means of going from farm to farm or from farm to church or village," farmer Bill Wright of Nortofts said once, as we stood on the path that goes slap across his field of maize. "Now they don't serve the same purpose."

True, but the rights of way are still there, to be used by those who enjoy getting into the countryside, and as leisure increases and people move out from towns more of them want to share this enjoyment.

So should we rethink the whole issue? Should the paths be re-routed to meet the new need – and avoid

damage to crops sown in the now much bigger fields? Which of course costs a lot of money in legal fees.

That is where the Parish Paths Partnership, by which the Highway authority (Essex County Council in Wethersfield's case) which holds the purse strings teams up with the parish council, which can define the local footpath needs. It is a new idea, but will it work?

"I think it has got to work," says John Townrow. "Because some of the public want to walk and they don't because they don't know where to go. If they walk where they are not allowed that upsets the farmers and you get farmers putting up barbed wire and so you get almost civil war in some parishes."

We had reached a point on the track from Hudson's Hill

to Moll Butcher's at Blackmore End, once a "main road" for foot and horse traffic in the days before cars took over, where another footpath leading off to the right was marked on the map. It wasn't so easy to see on the ground. In truth it was invisible.

"As a council we felt it was about time we gripped the nettle over these footpaths," said sub-committee member David Foster wryly, as he viewed the tangled undergrowth. "Through the footpath representatives we are surveying them slowly with a view to doing something about them."

A few flashes of yellow paint on a post or tree could be all it needs to guide walkers, particularly if the farmer has done what is required in spraying back the crop where a path crosses a field. (Headland paths are the responsibility of the County Council).

Apart from absolute vandals no-one likes to trespass. But when you live in an area as beautiful as the Pant valley it is almost as criminal not to go out and appreciate it.

■ On Sunday, July 11 you can do just that. Join us on Wethersfield village green, at 2.30pm, wear some strong shoes or boots, bring a walking stick and GET WALKING.

Active week

THE last week in July is Wethersfield Parish Church Activity Week

Crafts, games, competitions, sport and special events will take place at the Playing Field, from 9.30am to 12.30am each day.

Monday July 26 and Wednesday July 28 will be for the Under-8s; Tuesday, July 27 and Thursday July 29 for 8 years and over and Friday July 30 for all children.

On Sunday August 1 there will be an Activity Week Service, with display of work done, in the church. (Sarah Pilgrim 850781).

They're planning a real feast of fun

FUNDAY at Wethersfield on July 10 will have attractions both old and new.

Vying with the fairground organ will be large screen video games, and Go carting and mini tractor rides will be on the programme along with children's fairground rides, bouncy castle, crazy golf and coconut shy.

A tow the tractor competition will bring out the muscle men who can down a pint at the licensed bar afterwards. Stalls by village groups, teas, cakes, barbecue,

music and children's fancy dress, not to mention a grand raffle, will keep everybody busy. Wethersfield Playgroup will have a 20p toy stall for children and a pick a duck stall.

The day starts with the mini-marathon at 10am. "Our regulars will be running and some runners are coming from as far away as Basildon," says secretary Andrew Bentley (850738).

The opening for the fun events is at 2.30pm on the Derek Flannery Playing Field.

Showtime

BRAINTREE'S Carnival Queen will open Blackmore End and Beazley End's Horticultural Show and Fete at 2pm on Saturday July 17 on Blackmore End Playing Field.

There will be tug-o-war for the Henry Ridley Trophy, a pig roast, shire horses, clowns, sideshows and stalls, teas and a licensed bar. Admission is free and to add to the feel of the occasion there will be music by the Al Fresco Four jazz band.



Heather Marshall

20 years of speaking up

TWENTY years a Parish Councillor, Heather Marshall sees her role as being a real representative of Wethersfield village itself.

"When I first started, a lot of the councillors lived outside the village. At that time, too, there were no women on the council.

"I have tried to keep the ordinary man's point of view. If you are not actually living in the village you don't notice the bare places in the roads and little things."

It is sometimes a thankless task trying to preserve the

People

Ring 0371 850092 with your news of people or events

quality of life in the village and Heather has seen the parish council's recommendations overruled on many occasions. "I am a conservationist," she says. "I am interested in preserving the countryside for the villagers."

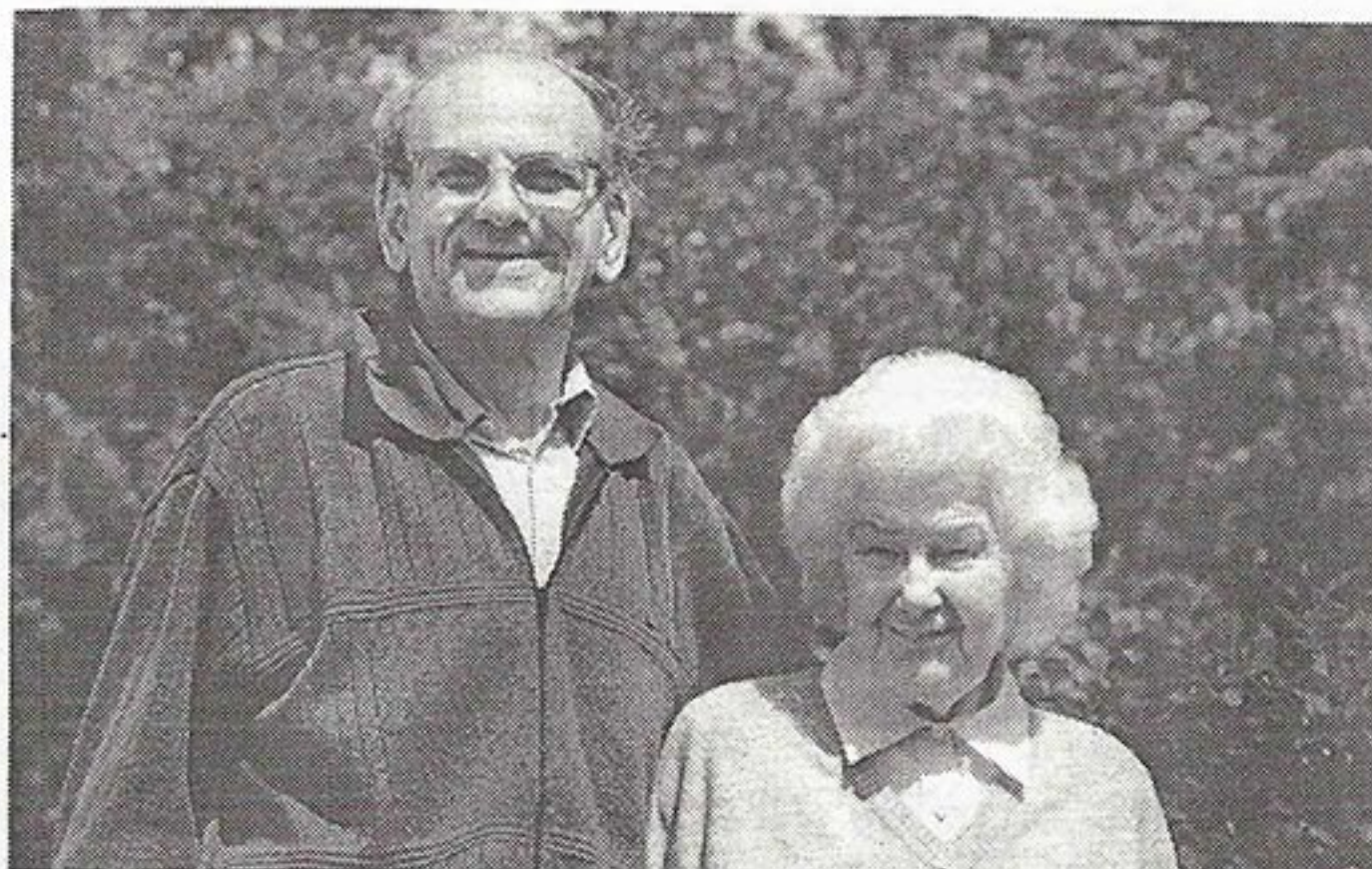
A widow, her husband Fred having died in 1973, Heather was trained in livestock management and first came to Wethersfield to work at Brands Farm.

Her devotion to Wethersfield, where she has lived for over forty years, is equalled by her efforts on behalf of the Church. She has been honorary secretary of the Parochial Church Council for over thirty years and is a representative to the Braintree Deanery synod, the "District Council" of the Church covering 17 parishes.

"It keeps parishes in touch, and you don't feel so isolated. It is supposed to be the way of letting the 'grass roots' voice be heard. Unfortunately they don't always take any notice when it is heard," says Heather.

SINGING ON THE GREEN

THERE will be an Open Air Service on Wethersfield Village Green on Sunday August 8 at 3pm. You are invited to join members of the Parish and United Reformed churches and the Salvation Army band, who will provide music for the worship.



Eddie and Molly George: both are keen gardeners

Despite the many disappointments she has witnessed in her time Heather is in no way despondent. "I feel you have to try. At least you can't be accused of not trying."

Heather's other public work is more rewarding, particularly to others. As a trustee of various local charities she is involved in making grants to young people for educational purposes and pot plants for the household.

50 years of growing together

JUNE was a big month for Eddie and Molly George of 19 West Drive, Wethersfield.

On the 12th it was Molly's birthday; on the 13th it was Eddie's. And on the 12th too it was their Golden Wedding.

Fifty years ago, on Molly's 23rd birthday they were married in Tottenham while both were serving in the airforce, Molly as a driver, Eddie as a Security officer, on the look out for people whose careless talk could cost lives.

Molly was quite sorry when their first son, Mike, came along - she enjoyed the airforce and they could meet in London since Eddie was serving near Ipswich. But for Eddie it wasn't so much fun, being posted out to India shortly after his son was born.

Though well past retiring age Eddie is still "on the road" selling adult games to big stores, the job he has done since his demob.

They came to Wethersfield 23 years ago and most people remember Eddie as founder chairman of the Garden Club. Molly has been a Garden Club member, a floral art enthusiast and a wine maker.

Gardening is still a hobby for both of them "Molly grows what you can see and I grow what you can eat," jokes Eddie.

They celebrated their Golden Wedding with their two sons, three grandsons and one granddaughter.

Items discussed at meetings of Wethersfield Local Council

THE council heard that Essex County Council was not able to include replacement of footpaths in Hereward Way and Saffron Gardens in its 1993-94 programme but would continue to repair the paths where necessary.

A PARISH Council proposal for a footpath to be constructed from Tillbrook's Garage to The Dog public house had not been approved by the Highway authority.

AN application to build three dwellings at Syers Field, Blackmore End by Mr A Finbow, had been withdrawn. No objection was raised to an application by K Banham of 21 West Drive Wethersfield for a first floor addition.



ESSEX County Council is to be asked for further information concerning the use of tracks by four-wheel drive vehicles.

FOLLOWING complaints about parking on the greens, the council is to give the local beat officer, PC Richard Buckland, authority to remove cars from Wethersfield and Blackmore End village greens and Jarvis Green.

AN application for alterations at the Mill House Studio, Wethersfield, had been refused.

THE council heard that outline planning permission had been granted for a new farmhouse at Shraggs Wood on a revised site. The council had objected to the original siting of the premises.

IN an effort to protect the village green at Blackmore End, 10 metres of kerbing is to be placed at each of two corners facing the main road.

THE War Memorial outside the Village Hall at Blackmore End has been cleaned, at the request of the British Legion.

AN approach has been made to the National Heritage to have the red telephone box at Blackmore End preserved under a conservation order.

Clerk to Council: ALLAN FROST, 0371 851146