

WETHERSFIELD NEWS

BLACKMORE END, BEAZLEY END

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 1993



David sets a new club record

WETHERSFIELD'S cricketers should be able to look back on a satisfactory season. So far they have won about a third of their matches, lost a third and drawn the others. They have four matches in September.

Pictured is the team which had an emphatic win over Helions Bumpstead: Front row, left to right: D Martin, M.Langford, N. Harvey-Smith, D Thomson (captain), P Jerram, J Pygram; back row, left to right: D Holliday, N Barker, C Raffael, M Butler, C McCloud.

The match, won by 150 runs, saw a new club record highest score of 125 by David Holliday, who continued his good form with 111 the following week, contributing to another excellent win.

You may have noticed that C Raffael is a girl. Claire Raffael came into make up the numbers and acquitted herself nobly in the field. Wethersfield has had a women's cricket team in the past. Any chance of one for next season? Fixtures, of course, might be a problem.

Smoke, without a fire . . .

A Fire Prevention Officer from Colchester has discussed fire precautions in the Village Hall building with representatives of the Village Hall Committee and the Men's Club. He will now put his recommendations to the licensing authority.

It appears that specialist fire-proofing of the ceiling/floor between the club and the hall will have to be carried out, using fire-resistant paint.

Another priority precaution is the installation of an alarm system linking the club below with the hall above.

Because, as in many clubs, the atmosphere can become smoky in normal use the alarm may have to be heat, rather than smoke, operated.

Streets of danger?

HOW dangerous are the roads in Wethersfield? A recent survey, carried out by the Essex Police Traffic Management Unit showed that only about 130 out of 3,500 vehicles which pass through Silver Street each working day were breaking the 30mph limit.

Most of the offenders were commuters travelling in the morning and evening rush hours.

"Compared with other villagers the maximum speeds were lower and the number of offending drivers was smaller," said a police spokesman in Chelmsford.

The survey had been requested by the Parish Council, to whom the local beat officer, PC Richard Buckland reported the figures.

The results did not merit a heavy purge of speeding drivers but the survey is likely to be fol-

by
Derek Norman

lowed up by occasional radar checks.

Many local residents, however, remain convinced that traffic does endanger people in the main streets of the village. If speed traps are not the answer what is, they ask.

Some useful information was given to the *News* by the traffic police. In certain areas they had found badly positioned 30mph signs actually encouraged speeding. If drivers saw no logical reason for the ban at the point where the sign appeared they were likely to ignore it.

So could the 30mph sign on the hill leading into the village from Finchingfield be too far out of the village? No driver likes to

take off power going up a hill. If the sign were further round the Meadside bend, after the crown of the hill, would it have more effect?

And is the real danger from traffic not in Silver Street at all but in the High Street where through traffic has to manoeuvre between vehicles parked on both sides of the road?

Vehicles coming up the High Street hill inevitably have to use

the centre of the road and cannot see what is coming over the brow.

When vehicles meet there is nowhere to pull over, with great risk of a collision.

The Traffic department spokesman said he hoped to be able to look at this particular problem, with a County Council Highways representative, within the next few weeks.

PENSIONS STAY PUT

"LIVING in a village myself, I am very well aware of the importance people attach to the Sub Post Office," local MP Tony Newton has told those Wethersfield residents who signed a petition asking for village Post Offices to be preserved.

"I am glad to be able to assure you that, as both the Prime Minister and the Social Security Secretary have made clear, pensioners and others will continue to be able to receive their pensions and other benefits from the Post Office."

On the ball

THE Playing Field Association is shortly to commence refurbishing the tennis court and they would like some voluntary help, in particular to erect the new fence. If you can spare the odd Saturday morning please contact Bill Norman (851094). When the work is done it is hoped to use the new court for other activities such as basket ball and volleyball.



SIXTY runners, of all ages and abilities, set off for the five-mile Mini-Marathon on Fun Day. Jubilant after their run (above) are the three top men, centre, the overall winner Kevin Jolley; left, Boyd Drury; right, Roger Duffin. Class winners and times were (girls first): 9 and under, Catherine Chappel, (54min 5sec), David Bartlett (40min 41sec); 10 to 12, Laura Barker (51min 56 sec), Paul Stretfell (39min 35 sec); 13 - 16, Lisa Harvey-Smith (43min 19sec); "Joff" (31 min 50sec); 17 to 29, Sharon Wilkes (63min 22sec); Boyd Drury (27min 39sec); 30 to 39, Sue Duffin (38min 7sec); Kevin Jolley (26min 43sec); 40 and over, Chris Nightingale (41min 45sec), Roger Duffin (28in 12sec).

Picture by Jason Mitchell

Holidays over

STARTING again after Summer breaks: The BADMINTON Club, at 8pm on Mondays. New members can just turn up or ring Paul Jerram on 851354. FIRST Wethersfield BROWNIES, on Tuesday 7th September from 5.30 to 7pm in the United Reformed Church Hall. All girls 7 to 10 years are welcome. Brown Owl is Mrs Cherry Threadgold (850481) and Snowy Owl Mrs Sarah Pilgrim (850781). FLORAL ART group on Wednesday September 29 at 8pm with a Practice Night ; on October 27th the speaker is

Mrs Nan Stevenson and on November 24th they have their big event an Open Meeting, starting earlier than usual at 7.30pm when Mr Alan Smith will speak about "Christmas and the Danish Connection."

Owing to the work associated with Fun Day the 100 Club prize draws were postponed until August. Winners, all of whom receive £46, were: June, Mrs Oak, Saffron Close; July John Pygram, Old Mill Chase, August, Derek Martin, West Drive. There are currently 92 members and of course more members mean bigger prizes.

Sunday stroll

LET'S Get Wethersfield Walking has really got people into parts of the parish that other people do not reach. The July and August walks had the support of around 30 people. The September walk is planned for 10.30am on Sunday, September 19, starting from and returning to Blackmore End Village Green. Please note that this is a morning walk by popular request. Organised by the Parish Council's two foot-path representatives, John Townrow and David Matthews, the walks are planned to make use of some of the 47 foot-paths in the parish.

Do your thing

TIME to get your act together. Dig out your top hat and tails, polish up your conjuring tricks, or whatever, and help Wethersfield Primary School with their Christmas production. Norma and Brian Horsefield are getting to work on an Old Tyme Music Hall, and want lots of help both on and back stage. The show is in the evening of December 8 and their number is 0371 850175.

New minister

THE United Reformed Church has a new minister. Rev Michael Edwards, minister at Christ Church, Braintree is adding Wethersfield and Finchingfield to his responsibilities. His fellow Christ Church minister, Rev Peter Henderson will also preach at Wethersfield.

HARVEST Festival weekend at the URC is on 25th and 26th September. The church will be open on those days from 2-6pm. The History Group's display of old pictures and the Pant Valley Art Group's show can be seen in the Schoolroom. Sunday services are at 11.30am and 6.30pm, the latter a Harvest Songs of Praise.

THE Thursday Group will hear Anne Allcock talk on the Foreign Office on September 2, and Mrs Amy Buist on the Citizens' Advice Bureau on October 7.

CREAM teas at Little Codham Hall raised £125 for the National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts and St Andrew's church, Shalford.

Kid's stuff

DID you go to school in Wethersfield? If you did, or would just like to hear what it was like in the last thirty or forty years, the Local History Group makes a special invitation to its meeting on Thursday, September 9th in Wethersfield Village Hall. Perhaps you remember Miss Trundle, Daddy Walters or the splendid garden that the school once had - go and tell your Tales out of School at 8pm. Current headmaster Arthur Brookes hopes to be present to put schooldays into perspective. On October 14 the group will be looking at what was both a famous and infamous chapter in Wethersfield history: the Mushroom Farm.

Mopping up operation

STAY for the morning or just pop in for half an hour but do take your buckets, brushes and polish down to Wethersfield Parish Church on Saturday September 18, from 10am.

Churchwarden Sarah Pilgrim hopes anyone who can lend a hand will join in the church's Autumn Clean Up - and better still, make it a habit, since some gallant regular helpers are 'retiring'.

"Surely we must have some able bodied folk in Wethersfield who would be willing to give up a little time on a regular basis to help keep the church clean and tidy?" she says. Phone her on 0371 850781.

CERTAINLY the church wants to look its best on Sunday October 3rd for the Harvest Festival celebrations. There will be a presentation of harvest gifts at the altar at the Family Service at 11.15am and the 5.30pm Harvest Evensong will be followed by a 'pot-luck' supper in the church. Everyone is welcome.

THE Annual Gift Day of the parish church is on Saturday October 2nd, when the vicar always hopes it will be a fine day - he likes to be outside the church the receive back, with thanks, the gift envelopes that will be coming through your letterbox soon. But if the rain pours, hopefully the cash will too, to him inside the church.

IF you appreciate having a church as fine as ours in the village, even though you're not a church-goer, you can still give it a hand - or rather a foot. Pedal power is what is needed on the Friends of Essex Churches sponsored bike ride on Saturday, September 11 which raised over £70,000 last year.

Cyclists or walkers seek sponsors who undertake to give a small sum for each place of worship the rider/walker visits on the day. Contact Sarah Pilgrim (850781)

THE Parish Church Sunday School starts back after the summer break on Sunday September 12, meeting in church from 9.45am to 10.30am. All children from 3 years old are welcome. Contact Mrs E Ambrose: 850244.

Other people's babies

CATHY Lowenhoff, the new Health Visitor attached to Freshwell Health centre, which covers Wethersfield, Finchingfield and Great Bardfield, was at first a disappointment.

I had somehow been expecting a large matronly woman, with sturdy shoes, a "strong" face and an air of Cell Block H about her. This petite, very youthful, smiling person, dazzling in black and white striped shirt-top, did not fit my out-dated image in any respect.

Yet Cathy has been around. Like all Health Visitors she is a Registered General Nurse but she turned three years' training into five by taking a degree in Human Biology at Surrey University.

After nine months as a staff nurse she was chosen to be a "Young Explorer" with Operation Drake which was sponsored by Prince Charles ("I was picked to talk to him about our trip to Papua-New Guinea").

The three-month visit, living on a 150-ton brigantine, the Eye of the Wind, involved being thrown into the rain forest on a survival course, carrying out surveys for the government, looking for shot-down World War II aeroplanes and sailing round the outer islands looking for dugongs, a strange aquatic mammal.

"We never found one, but the fisherman told us how they killed them, which is probably why they are in danger of extinction."

Back in Britain Cathy qualified as a Health Visitor, worked in Godalming and then took off again for six months in Honduras, in war-torn Central America.

"We were 10,000 ft up in the mountains in a refugee camp which the Hondurans didn't want in their country. Basically the women and children had fled across the river from El Salvador. We were surrounded by an armed guard from Honduras. There were youths with guns and things. We had 10,000 refugees."

"Obviously malnutrition was a significant problem, sickness and diarrhoea, meningitis measles, cholera, malaria."

"We had a little boy who had had an accident with a machete, his foot had gone gangrenous. In Britain when you are asked to do a dressing and you get a pack



...are not ALL of Cathy's life

from a cupboard, it is all sterile and has got all the right bits in. There all the water had to be boiled, and all the instruments had to be sterilised

"We got medicines from other countries so the labels were in different languages. We had to speak Spanish, there was no English spoken."

Cathy then travelled round New Zealand, returning to Britain to work with children with special needs in Brixton for two years before marrying her graphic designer husband Barry and "being dragged out to the country" to Castle Hedingham.

She worked as a Health Visitor in Braintree before taking time off to have Katie, Rebecca and Alice now 6, 5 and 2½ respectively.

Now she is attached to the Freshwell practice, while employed by the Mid Essex Community Health Trust, and she is finding her life still exciting - in a different kind of way - as health care changes.

"My business is prevention. We are not supposed to wait until children are sick,

we are expected to pick up things before they get to be a serious problem. All the advice we are giving to young mothers is things you can pick up from experience."

But it is constantly updated, such as the recommendation to lie babies on their sides or their backs, but not on their fronts, in the light of cot death research. "That's what we are doing, trying to provide up to date information and give the background as to why things have been changed."

"The midwife, the GPs and I decided it would be a good idea to run ante-natal classes from this surgery. People are going all over the place - to the Rosie at Cambridge, St John's at Chelmsford to have their babies - so they go there for ante natal care. Now, with classes here, they can get to know the people who are pregnant at the same time as they are."

"It is not only child care; we are all trained nurses and we all have to have midwifery qualifications. We are in a position to identify whether a child is sick enough to warrant seeing a doctor or whether it is something else that is a minor ailment that we can give some basic advice for."

You might think this was all good common family sense, but says Cathy: "We don't all have families living together and we often move away from our own parents. We don't have that much exposure to small children before we have our own now and we don't have such easy access to our parents. for advice and support."

"You are generally led to believe that the arrival of a baby is a wonderful moment in your life, which of course it is, but then it hits you that it is feeding and missing out on sleep and nappy changing and often they are unsettled and some of them have piercing screams and cry continuously and it wears you down. Its not really what young people are led to expect that parenthood is all about."

As Cathy set off to weigh yet another well-fed baby to check on its development it seemed a far cry from the days in Honduras when she held her clinics with a midwifery textbook in one hand and an English-Spanish dictionary in the other.

Great fun

FUN Day on 10th July was a great success. New features - crazy golf, fairground rides and a tractor pull all proved very popular and the computer tent was always busy. The Playing Field Association is particularly grateful to David Jenkins for his splendid efforts as compere and David Clements for obtaining the large marquee, organizing the PA system, crazy golf and computers.

The History Group's fun day prize, a framed picture of old Wethersfield was unclaimed. If you had ticket No 47 ring 850092.

A sign in memory of Bill

A PROPOSAL to erect a village sign on Wethersfield Village Green in memory of the late Mr Bill Wyatt, a well-known entertainer in the area, has been accepted in principle by Wethersfield Local Council. A design, produced by Wethersfield artist Ashley Bryant, is available for inspection on the Village Notice Board. Money for a memorial to Bill was raised at a concert soon after his death four years ago.

To have a semi-3D effect, the sign will incorporate a sheaf of corn, to denote Wethersfield's agricultural importance, a pheasant, a crocus to mark the local Saffron dyeing industry (also remembered in Saffron Gardens), poppies and two mermaids. The mermaids, rare in landlocked Wethersfield, refer to Bill's service in the Navy,

The proposal is to erect the sign on the Village green with a memorial tablet to Bill Wyatt on the stone base. Comments on the project from residents would be welcomed by councillors, or by letter to the clerk Allan Frost, 23 Hereward Way, Wethersfield. The subject will be fully discussed at October's parish council meeting.

Full house

THE Freshwell Health Centre is becoming just that - a centre for all aspects of health care. There you will find a dietitian a chiropodist and now a registered osteopath, Carolyn Cuddeford. Carolyn will carry out consultations, but only on a private, not NHS, basis on Thursdays, and can be contacted at the Centre on 0371 810328.

CARAVAN was the word needed to complete our OFF THE WALL puzzle last issue. Elizabeth Allen is on holiday.



'TIM' JONES

Singing Tim

NOT many of us can claim to have been born in a castle. Tim Jones of Hereward Way, Wethersfield, 88 on August 30th, can, his Dad was in the Army in Dover Castle.

Tim, noted for his ability to lead a sing-song at every opportunity - his natural singing voice has never lost its quality - is, sadly, not having the best of health at present.

He and his wife Margaret have been married 57 years and Tim can remember the day they met at a dance in Seven Kings

People

Ring 0371 850092 with your news of people or events

Library. "It was a Paul Jones and she was a pretty little girl with a kiss curl. And she winked at me."

(Margaret may have different recollections but such a charming story shouldn't be refuted!).

Tim's Dad was an All-Army Boxing champion, but like Tim, in no way an aggressive man. He taught his son some of the art though, which came in useful when the school bully set upon him. "I gave him a straight left, a right cross and laid him on the floor," said Tim. "They were ever so nice to me after that."

After some time in the Civil Service Tim (actually he's Arthur George, the Tim came from his double-act on stage with brother Tom) went into engineering and latterly with Plessey. He and Margaret came to Wethersfield 17 years ago.

As a tribute to his 88th birthday we publish here one of the many poems Tim has produced in recent years and wish him better health.

Jack, master of all trades

"ASK Jack Metson, he'll remember," is the stock answer to anyone making enquiries about Wethersfield's past. And usually he does.

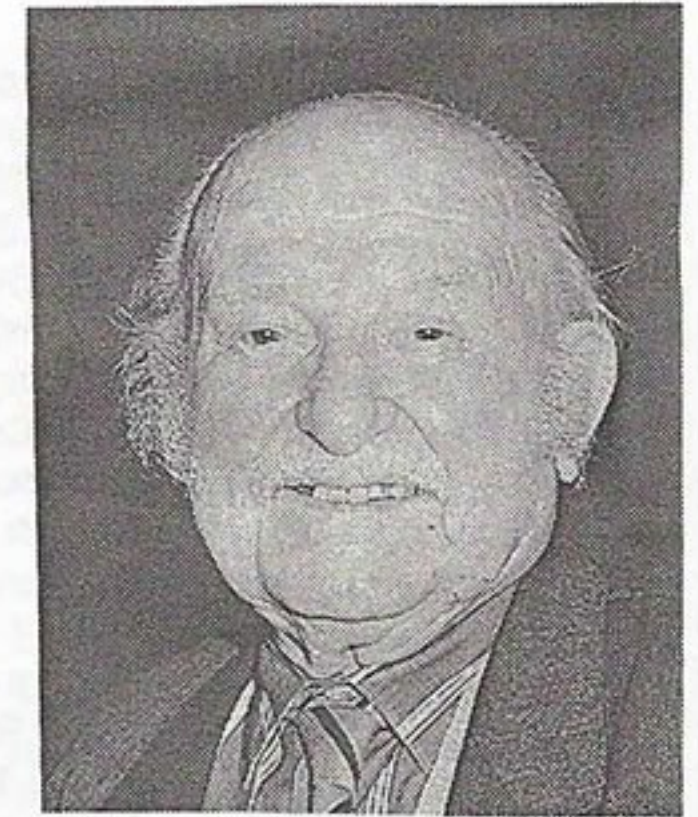
Jack turned 93 on July 16 and is as enthusiastic about life now as he was in his young days.

Drop in at the Metson's Hillfoot Cottage home and you will most likely be regaled with wife Clara's fruit cake and Jack's stories.

His first job, on leaving school, was with Bert Long who had a cycle and motor-cycle business, at first in Silver Street and later where Tillbrook's garage is now.

Jack's driving could not have been faultless at the time. "He tossed me out of the sidecar on one occasion," remembers Clara.

"Then I bought an old Ford car," said Jack. It had been in a barn



JACK METSON

for the length of the first war. I paid £5 for it. It had a fabric roof and I drove that old car for years."

Jack went as chauffeur to the Maberlys at Hillfoot House. "They had an Austin 12. Clara was in service at the Maberlys'. That's how we met."

After Mrs Maberly's death Jack worked for "Sonny" Wicks, a local builder and soon he was literally a "Jack of all trades".

"I went to do his garden and finished up doing his carpentry work. He had a good carpenter who became ill. I took over the job, making windows and doors and coffins.

One day Mrs Borthwick of Wethersfield Place rang Clara. "My mother always used to like the look of your husband. I am wanting a chauffeur. Ask him to come up tonight at 6pm for an interview."

Jack went and started a long period of service with the family.

From 1945 to 1962 Jack was Sub Officer at Wethersfield Fire Station and his snooker prowess is a legend in the Men's Club..

Actually he preferred billiards, which he learnt on a ¾-size table at The Dog. "It was a fantastic game", says Jack, an Addison cup winner. "Snooker is more a game of lines and angles."

And you can be sure that Jack knows most of those!

Back home

DOROTHY and Bill Norman of Little Barhams, Wethersfield have now brought Dorothy's mother, Mrs Lily Whittaker, back home after a spell in Broomfield hospital.

Mrs Whittaker would like to thank all those who inquired after her and those who paid her a visit.

MY FRIEND

by TIM JONES

I have a friend, who is so attached to me
How I wish to goodness he would let me be.
No matter what I do or say
the pest is with me every day.
It's not as if real friends I lack
So please, Lord, keep him off my back.
Then I ponder and think that at my age

I'm lucky to have just a pain at this phase
of my life, when one should keep a stiff
upper lip
And any trouble between us,
just give him the slip.
I care not be he a Mister or a Miss
For I always call him Mr ARTHUR-I-TIS.

Council Clipboard

WETHERSFIELD Parish Council has asked to be informed of any proposed action by the Highways authority in clearing footpaths which cross cropped land so that work can be carried out at a time which better suits local farmers

THE ECC Surveyor is seeking special funds to bring forward the repair of footpaths in Hereward Way, Wethersfield.

GIVING his reasons for the dismissal of an appeal by A.H.G. Finbow against the refusal of a plan for five dwellings on land adjoining Syers Field, Blackmore End, the Inspector said the site was part of a large parcel of farmland and would be a conspicu-

ous development which would diminish the openness and rural character of the area.

NO objection was made to plans by Mrs S Parker for consent to a sign outside Wethersfield Riding Stables, to the replacement of three windows at Hillfoot House, Wethersfield by Mr P.J. Granger, to a 2-storey extension to Goldens Farm by Mr B Smith or for outbuildings at Martins, Braintree Road, by Mr A. Hitchcock.

REPORTING on a meeting between Braintree District Council, parish councils and Anglian Water councillor Bill Wright said that he was advised that the low pressure

experienced by residents in the Hudson's Hill area would shortly be rectified.

NO objection was raised to a planning application for four stables at Cottage Farm, Wethersfield.

COUNCILLOR Wreford Painter was elected to fill a vacancy on the board of Wethersfield Primary School.

THE pathway between Brook Farm and Sims, at Braintree road, Wethersfield is to be cleared.

THE chairman, Mr John Nottage vacated the chair while an application for an extension to 2 Upper Barns by Mr C Bragg of Toppesfield, was discussed. No objection was raised to the plan.

Clerk to Council: ALLAN FROST, 0371 851146