

# Wethersfield

Blackmore End • Beazley End

# NEWS

October/November 1999

For YOUR news contact Liz on 01371 850361

## Interested in the future of your village!

Our Parish Council have been considering whether conducting a Village Appraisal would be of benefit to the residents of Wethersfield Parish. The project would be centred around a questionnaire specific to local issues and developed by a Steering Group of villagers representing as many interests and age groups as possible.

The result of the Appraisal would be a report to be used to try and improve at least some of the areas highlighted by the questionnaire.

The Parish Council is keen to participate but would like to find out the level of interest and enthusiasm there is in the Parish for doing this work; particularly for forming the Steering Group.

There is a computer software programme to assist the Steering Group entitled 'Village Appraisals for Windows' If we were to go ahead the appraisal would give every person the opportunity to express their views about the issues that affect them most. This would be a community based initiative. Those that have been carried out have resulted in action to improve life for local people.

The Project comes under the umbrella of the Rural Community Council of Essex and their aim is to improve and enhance the quality of life for those who live in the rural areas of Essex. It encourages self help community projects.

"Why do it?" I hear you say, but there are many reasons for taking part they are listed here:

- Identify important issues within the village and highlights what needs to be improved or conserved.
- It gives everyone the chance to be heard.



•As well as opinions it provides statistical evidence therefore strengthening the voice of the community when campaigning on issues.

•It provides an informative basis for Parish Council decisions and help them to prioritise their work for the year ahead.

•It can contribute to the planning process by informing statutory authorities of local views and concerns.

•It allows you to learn more about the village and could identify threats that may be need to be acted on or identify the need and opportunity for new community activities

•It enables future projects to be planned with the knowledge that the village will support them.

•Through working towards a common goal the village appraisal helps bring groups and individuals in the community together.

So there you have it. If you are interested then in the first instance please let John Sheldrake know as soon as possible. If there is sufficient interest shown by the residents a public meeting will be called to discuss the matters more fully.

As the newsletter reaches most homes this was the best way of testing the waters.

This puts the parish residents in a catch 22 situation. We can hardly complain if things do not get done, the traffic problems, planning etc.

**Contact: John Sheldrake JP, Parish Clerk**  
6 Tey Road, Earls Colne  
Essex CO6 2LG  
Telephone/ Fax -1787 224726  
Email jfs@telinco.co.uk

### Millennium Book

The book is well on the way and hopefully by the time the next newsletter comes out we will have a date for when it will be available.

The book is worth having if only for the wonderful drawings that have been done by artists within the Parish of various properties and curiosities that exist within our boundaries.

I have only one complaint and that is I was asked if I would type the words into the computer for my fiancé to work on. I was all right until I saw some of the handwriting, need I say more. I must say though it is great to take part in the project.

### Newsletter needs help!

Is there anyone in the Parish who could help with the distribution of the newsletters to the various delivery points and also do a bit of telephoning to the various organisations to remind them of the deadline for the newsletter. There are only six issues a year.

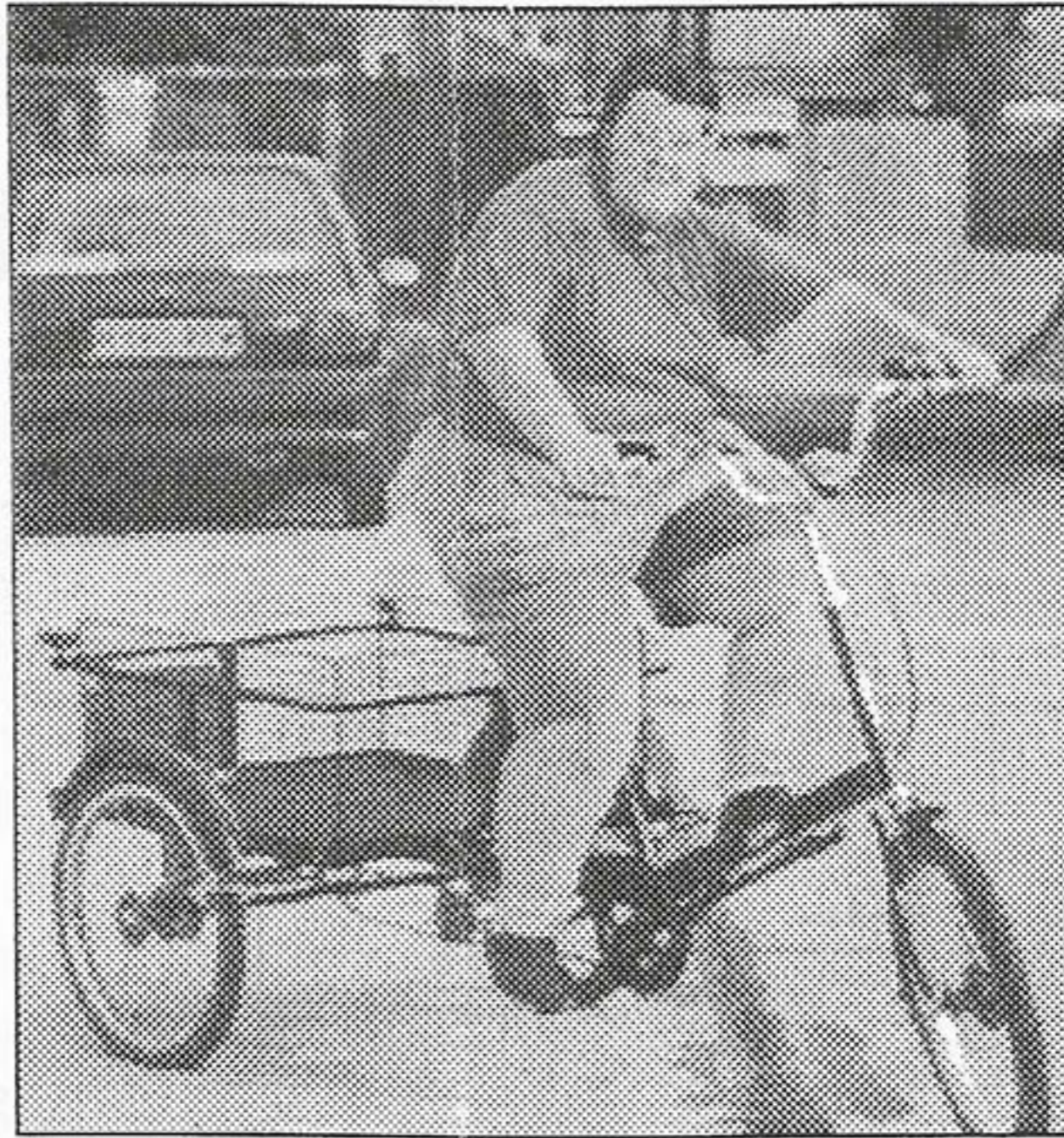
Pat Law will possibly be moving and there is a need for someone to learn the ropes before the event and also it is vital that someone comes forward otherwise I could find myself writing this newsletter just for my own enjoyment.

Please contact: **Pat Law on 01371 850519.**

# Richard's 'Mean Machine'

Richard's 'trike' was bought by his family for his birthday on the 25th June but he had to wait for it to be delivered as it was specially made in London.

The 'trike' has given Richard a new found freedom and it also allows him to get some extra exercise. When you talk to Richard about his new machine his eyes definitely sparkle. He told me all he needs now is his cycle helmet and various other gadgets. One of his first add-ons was his own number plate 'RICH 1'. The trike already has a nickname 'Mean Machine'.



*Richard on his 'Mean Machine'*

Richard works at the Roundwood Garden Centre in Braintree as a gardener and is a team member of the 'Weedbusters'.

Richard also attends the Gateway Club in Braintree.

As most of the village know Richard suffers from a condition called Prader-Willi Syndrome.

The Prader-Willi Association was the charity that benefited from the 'Animals at Work' charity day held earlier this year in Blackmore End.

LB

## Youth Music Festival a huge success!

Wethersfield Parish church was full for the second music festival organised by Jessie Threadgold in aid of Wethersfield Parish Church.

The evening started off with the Wethersfield Chorus which comprised of children from our village school. They sang with clear diction and enjoyed themselves.

The evening was a wonderful mixture of instrumentalists, singing, and dancing. There was humour too.

The stage hands worked very hard moving the various platforms and music stands into the right positions. The unsung heroes of evenings like these.

There were some highlights of the evening and I have to include the ballet performed by Sarah Timms. Her timing and style was beautiful and she showed such elegance for such a young dancer.

Tom Coppin opened for the soloists and played the flute. Ross Wilson showed us his talent on the bagpipes. Lucy Jerram was very relieved when she had finished her piano performance of a very evocative The Snake Charmer piece.

A group called Cacky performed two humorous songs but unfortunately they were not able to be heard if you were any distance away.

Heidi Pearce revived the rock and roll era with a solid performance of Rock Around the Clock, which the Vicar told us he remembered clearly.

Jessie Threadgold showed her skills on the flute with a Mozart concerto.

The first half of the evening was closed by the Wethersfield Chorus who sang "Tell Me It's Not True",

not an easy song and they sang it with great feeling.

The Flute Choir was a joy. The newly formed group comprised of pupils and friends of Jessie.

Forget the jokes about the Sound of Music. The Wethersfield Chorus sang an encore of "Do-Re-Mi" which they and audience thoroughly enjoyed.

An Egyptian atmosphere was created by Charlotte Coppin and you could visualise the camel sauntering along the sand dunes.

Vicky Bird then played the theme and variation from the flute quartet No.2 by Mozart.

Then for me it was the highlight of the evening. Rose Taunt and Edward Bucknell with the combination of saxophone and 'cello played Four Duets by Bèla Bartok. They played exquisitely but it was the humour they projected when they started that made them one of the best double acts I have seen for a long time.

The performance of Zoë Atterton was enjoyed by all. Irish Dancing does make you come alive. One simply has to tap one's feet to the music and the skill in which she danced was appreciated by all.

Ryan Harris gave a beautiful rendering of Dream Land by Michael Aaron.

Rebecca Kirvan, bassoonist topped the bill and she showed why she was selected to play for the National Youth Orchestra.

Then to close the evening a group from the Wethersfield Chorus sang the farewell song from "The Sound of Music".

The whole evening was so varied and enjoyable it made you feel privileged to see these young people show off their skills.

# CROSS NUMBERS PUZZLE

Complete the numbers in the square by working out the clues. You are given a few starters. One number is used twice.

|        |   |        |        |   |        |
|--------|---|--------|--------|---|--------|
| A<br>1 |   | B<br>2 | C      | D | E<br>1 |
| F      |   |        |        |   |        |
| G<br>2 | H | I      | 4      | 0 |        |
| J<br>1 |   | K      | L<br>6 | M | N      |
|        |   |        | O      | 6 |        |
| P      | 8 | Q<br>1 |        |   | 6      |

### ACROSS

- A. An O by T
- D. Another name for P
- F. W in T Y
- G. The A of M before 1970
- I. Y in 2½ M
- J. Y of the G S
- M. U for S, or a B D
- O. The N of the B
- P. T F L
- Q. Y of the B of H

### DOWN

- A. P in a H
- B. T times T, or a G
- C. M in T I
- D. —; a S O
- E. M S at D
- H. E of the F W W
- J. T to the power S
- K. T times S times E
- L. Y in 3 F
- N. D in a L Y

## Wethersfield Parish Church

### ANNUAL GIFT DAY

**Saturday 16th October**

The vicar or one of the churchwardens will be at the church from 10.00am to 4.00pm on the day to receive your much needed gifts towards the upkeep of this beautiful historical building.

If you cannot make it on the day we will be pleased to accept your gift at any time or arrange to collect it.

Telephone:  
Sarah on 850781 or  
Roy on 850481

## Thank you from Esther

Esther Pilgrim would like to thank all those people who sponsored her recent cycle ride.

Esther completed her ride, as planned, from Wethersfield church to Finchingfield U.R.C. thereby visiting four churches in all.

A total of £160.50 has been raised so far to be shared equally between The Friends of Essex Churches and Wethersfield Parish Church. Further donations welcomed. Tel: 850781.

## Blackmore End Village Hall & Playing Field Association

### Fireworks Fair

**6th November**

at the Playing Field at 6.00 pm

&

### CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

& CRAFT FAIR

at the Village Hall

From 10.30 to 4.30 pm

## Rainbows and Brownies

1st Wethersfield Rainbows and Brownies are meeting again after the summer break and enjoying a host of autumn activities.

Rainbows have celebrated our fourth birthday with a party and we are all contributing to the local harvest thanksgiving celebrations.

We are hoping to put together lots of Christmas shoe-boxes again this year and look forward to joining the Guides for an evening of entertainment. Join us!

Rainbows aged 5 to 7 years  
Brownies aged 7 to 10 years  
Contacts

Brown Owl Cherry Threadgold  
01371 850481  
Snowy Owl Sarah Pilgrim  
01371 850781

## 1st Wethersfield Guides

Wethersfield Guides returned after the summer break and welcomed to their meetings Francesca Hutt, Amanda King, Zoë Price and Elsie Williams. We hope all four enjoyed the evening and will work towards becoming enrolled Guides.

Now that the summer evenings are gone for this year, the Guides will devote most of their time to indoor activities. However two outdoor activities are on the agenda; the Guides hope to join Finchingfield Scouts for a cook-out in October and also take part in the Walk for Wildlife to be held at Colchester Zoo on 10th October. Also, during the half-term break, five Guides have enrolled on the Outdoor Pursuits Badge Course which is being held at the Anglia Guide Headquarters at Hautbois, near Coltishall in Norfolk.

Wethersfield Guide meetings are held each Wednesday evening during term time from 6.30pm until 8.00pm and all girls from the age of 10 years and beyond are most welcome. If you need any information please telephone:

Kathy Andrews (Guider)  
on 01371-851384

## Wethersfield Parish Church Volunteers Wanted Urgently!

To join the small team who keep the Parish Church bright and clean. If you could spare an hour a week to do some light dusting and sweeping or an hour one month in a year to clean brass, please let us know.

Telephone Sarah on: 850781.

ANSWERS: Across, A Overture by Tchaikovsky; D Pontoon; F Weeks in Two Years; G Age of Majority; I Yards in 2½ Miles; J Year of the General Strike; M Unlucky for some or Baker's Dozen; O The Number of the Beast; P Two Fat Ladies; Q Year of the Battle of Hastings; Down: A Pounds in a Hundredweight; B 12 times 12, or a Gross; C Millimetres in 10 inches; D a Space Odyssey; E Maximum Score at Darts; H End of the First World War; J Two to the power Seven; K Three times Seven times Eleven; L Yards in 3 Furlongs; N Days in a Leap Year.

# GROUPS, CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS

## Busy Fingers Craft Group

5th October Paulette will show us Decoupage. 19th October & 2nd November Pat Harris will show us how to make a Large Material Craft Bag. 16th November & 7th December Paulette and Janet Hitchings will help us with Christmas Flower Craft (Dried Flowers). Come and join in or just enjoy and evening out, it is great fun. For information contact Paulette on 850308 or Brenda on 851004.

**Wethersfield and District Garden Club** Next meeting October 15th Wol Stains from Glen Chantry on 'Influential Women Gardenerly and their Creations'.

**Note:** Change of programme for 19th November. Jill Raggett is unable to speak but Ian Howes will talk on 'Good Garden Design'. Mr Holmes is Head of the Design Department at Writtle College, so this should be an interesting meeting.

## Wethersfield Floral Art Club

October 27 Flower demonstration 'Bart's N' Flowers' by Ann Emmotte. 24th November is our Christmas Open Evening and our demonstrator is Roger Woolnough. Everyone welcome. Tickets £5.00 which includes refreshments and a glass of wine. There will be a bar available. For more information contact Dorothy Norman on 850094.

## Wethersfield History Group

On Thursday 9th September, David Hammond and several other members of the History Group entertained us by sharing some amusing stories of their years in National Service.

Each member had been posted to different parts of the world such as Bermuda and the Far East and had endured hard work, some discomfort and strict discipline. Despite this they all agreed it was a good experience of life. I am sure the evening evoked a lot of memories for people who had friends and relations in the National Service.

On Thursday 14th October, we welcome the return of Hugh Belsey, curator of Gainsborough's House in Sudbury. He will be giving a talk entitled 'Gainsborough' After Suffolk.

The talk starts at 8.00 pm in the village hall and admission is 75p. Visitors are always welcome.

## Wethersfield Pathfinders Group

Walks being held on 17th October and 14th November start from Wethersfield Green at 10.30 am. All welcome including well behaved dogs.

## Wethersfield Wine Club

On Friday 8th October, Brian Wilks of Braintree will present another of his popular 'Wine Talk and Tasting' series. Here is a chance for members to consider their Christmas and Millennium wine needs.

On Wednesday 13th October at Halstead, we shall be taking part in the annual Inter-Club Quiz. Members are very welcome to come along to support our team – and have a good buffet meal as well. Looking ahead, the annual Competition Evening will be on 12th November, so start planning your entries!

For more information contact Reg Mostyn on 01371 851047.

YOUR NEXT  
NEWS  
DEADLINE IS  
20 NOVEMBER

## British Legion urgently needs help!

The Royal British Legion Wethersfield and Shalford Branch is looking for two volunteers to cover the positions of Treasurer and Secretary to keep the Branch active. Anyone interested please contact:

Mr J.R. Chapman

12 Saffron Close

Wethersfield

Tel: 01371 850837

Waiting to hear from someone  
Many thanks!

## Wethersfield Parish Church

**BAZAAR plus  
TRASH & TREASURER**

**Saturday 13th November  
Starts 2.00 pm at  
Wethersfield Village Hall**



## Church News & Views



### United Reformed Church

11.00 am Services

#### OCTOBER

3rd Mrs V Spouge

10th Mrs J Jenkins

17th Reverend T Perry

(Communion)

24th Mrs C Bamforth

31st Miss S Wallace

#### NOVEMBER

7th Mr R Ellam

14th 10.45 am Reverend T Perry

Remembrance Day Service

21st Mrs J Jenkins

28th Mr T St John Coleman

#### DECEMBER

5th Mrs S Pilgrim

(Gift Service for Mr George Mills

British Aid for Deprived Children

#### WELCOME GROUP

8.00 pm Cost 50p

7th October. Colin Leitch, a talk on small antiques. Bring along your own small antique item.

4th November. 'A Sheltered Life' a talk and slides by Rita Norman. Fear and fun in a child's view of the war.

2nd December Pot Luck Supper with magic entertainment.

7.45 for 8.00 pm

### Wethersfield Parish Church

#### Sunday Services

#### OCTOBER

3rd 8.00 am Holy Communion

5.30 pm HARVEST Evensong

followed by Pot Luck Supper

10th HARVEST Family Service

Bring your harvest gifts

17th 11.00 am Parish Eucharist

24th 6.30 pm Evensong

31st Mid-morning united benefice

Eucharist service at

neighbouring parish church

#### NOVEMBER

7th 8.00 am Holy Communion

14th 10.45 am Remembrance Service

Venue to be announced

21st 11.00 am Parish Eucharist

28th 6.30 pm Evensong

#### Mid-week Communion

9.30 am Wednesdays

**Sunday School** for 3-11 year olds each Sunday, except the 2nd in the month, 9.45 to 10.30 am in church.