

## 30 dead in Wethersfield!

according to P.C. Richard Buckland: read on... back page

## *The Strawberry Tree - all profits to the CREAMER FUND* *Wethersfield resident responds to a real need*



The profits from Jan's enterprise will go to the CREAMER fund and all enquires can be made to her on 01371 850797. On the opening day she made a profit of £83. WELL DONE JAN!

Jan Richards, a relative newcomer to Wethersfield, has opened a gift and craft shop in the conservatory at her home at 30 Hereward Way.

Monday to Saturday 10.00 to 11.30am you can purchase crafts, gifts and household items at very competitive prices. By arrangement she will open at other times as well.

Jan and her husband moved from Enfield to Wethersfield about three years ago. Jan has made many friends and realises the difficulty faced by many who are not able to travel easily.

She quite quickly formed the Wethersfield Theatre Club and Ladies Lunch outings and these are always well attended.

Jan fell in love with Wethersfield when she started coming to art classes with her daughter at the Art Centre. Her husband works in Harlow.

## MILLENNIUM OPEN GARDENS FESTIVAL

Arrangements for the Open Gardens' weekend on Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th June are now well advanced.

There will be seven gardens within the two villages - Blackmore End and Beazley End - opening to raise funds for the Blackmore End Millennium Project.

They are:

*Mr & Mrs Haines*  
*Oast House, Blackmore End*

*Mr & Mrs Poulson*  
*St. Mary's Cottage,*  
*Blackmore End*

*Mr & Mrs Lawrence*  
*Betelgeuse, Blackmore End*

*Mr & Mrs Woolgar*  
*Hyde Farm, Blackmore End*

*Mr & Mrs Foster*  
*Little Cot, Blackmore End*

*Mr & Mrs Fountain*  
*The Old Red Cow,*  
*Blackmore End*

*Mr & Mrs Harris*  
*Silver Springs, Beazley End*

Other gardens may be added closer to the date. All gardens will be well signed and maps and garden descriptions will be available at each garden.

Two of the gardens have been featured in Anglia TV garden programmes, and for one price of £2.50 per person purchased at the first garden visited you can visit all the gardens either on the Saturday or the Sunday.

Teas and coffees will be on sale at most gardens and some will be offering cream teas. Many of the gardens will have plant stalls. Children, who will have free entry to the gardens, can be kept occupied with clock golf, croquet, boule and other outdoor games.

All village residents will benefit indirectly from the success of the Open Garden Festival since all funds raised will go towards the Blackmore End Millennium Project, details of which will be announced shortly.

*Kerry Harris Tel: 01371 850009*

## FUN DAY — It'll be a Knockout!

Again HELP is required. Stewards, stallholders etc. and all proceeds this year to the Skatepark and Petanque Court.

The International Food Court needs more helpers. Food from all over the world will be served so if you have a talent for foreign cuisine let's have your assistance please.

We will be running a crèche on the tennis court so helpers, toys and ideas for activities will be very welcome. It will be manned all day so I expect helpers will be required in shifts. Bring the little'uns and go and enjoy yourselves. One proviso - you must remember to collect them - all unclaimed children will be raffled off.

There will be a Mystic Corner, Donkey Dollop and many more NEW attractions.

Enquiries, volunteers and ideas please to David Clements, Castle House, Silver Street.  
Email: hofnoff@purpleteapot.fsnet.co.uk or  
Fax/Voicemail: 01371 851259

### "IT'S A KNOCKOUT"

If the weather's as good as last year then 'It's a Knockout' will be a very welcome interlude to the day's frenetic purchasing and bouncing. WET, WET, WET is the order of the day and you get wet if you participate.

### SO GET ON WITH IT AND ENTER A TEAM!

This year some new games have been introduced promising all participants and the audience a great time.

Families, friends, clubs, pubs, villages - who cares it's for fun. As long as you can stand up and go in a straight line, (well sort of), you're in! Six people only in a team please, if you have more than that then make another team.

ENTRY FORM ON LOOSE INSERT SHEET

# Wethersfield C. of E. Primary School

On Tuesday 11th April the School held a ceremony to mark the new millennium. Mr Garry Coppin, Chairman of the Governors, and Mrs Davina Spackman, secretary of the PTA association, planted a tree in the school's new garden.

A time capsule was buried by Tom Hewitt, the oldest boy in the school, and Esther Pilgrim, the youngest girl. Pupils decided on the items to place in the time capsule and included letters to people in the future and photographs of school life.



Tom Hewitt & Esther Pilgrim bury a time capsule

## P.T.A.

<i>Chairperson</i>	Lesley Davidson	01787 461244
<i>Secretary</i>	Davina Spackman	01371 850351
<i>Treasurer</i>	Nathalie Welsh	01371 811048
<i>Social Sec.</i>	Ann Gibson	01371 850224
<i>Publicity</i>	Lisa Paparestis-Stacey	01371 850935
<i>Members</i>		
	Margaret Dadd	01440 785264
	Chris Nightingale	01371 850013
	Sarah Pilgrim	01371 850781
	Jackie Smith	01376 344422

## Dates

Friday	30th June	FAMILY FUN DAY (MILLENNIUM FAIR) - School Playground
Saturday	8th July	WETHERSFIELD FUN DAY at the playing field
Thursday	20th July	END OF YEAR DISCO in the U.R.C. Hall

# Property – our expert's view

**Bev Baxter  
of Gray & Co says:**

"According to a recent research programme the average home buyer makes the decision to buy in just sixteen minutes after walking through the door, yet they take double that time in deciding to buy clothes!

I wonder what are the reasons for this? My view is that the presentation of your property when you are considering selling is of prime importance, on the basis that you never get a second chance to make a first impression. We, as a company, invariably suggest that prospective purchasers look at the outside before making an appointment to view the interior. You might well be asking why we do this: well we all have an instinctive feel for what we do and do not like and if we don't like the outside then the interior viewing is a complete waste of time to both parties. In rare cases we encourage interior viewing straightaway because of the particular nature of the property.

Therefore there are simple measures that can be taken to ensure that the property looks attractive, e.g. the gardens are well tended and the house looks well cared-for in terms of paintwork etc. Naturally when it comes to the interior it is

preferable that everything is neat and tidy because, for a start, rooms look much bigger if everything is in place. I'm sure you agree that when viewing these "make-over" programmes on television it is surprising what a difference simple things make to prospective purchasers.

I think the measures I have described will give you the best possible chance to make that vital first impression.

One other thing to bear in mind is that when improving your property, be careful to ensure that you do not go over the top and reach a point where the cost of improvements will not be recouped when you decide to sell it.

Judicious improvements like central heating, wall insulation etc. are all fine but think carefully about replacement windows; without doubt they serve an extremely useful purpose and are easy to maintain but the style needs to be sympathetic to the property and of course they can be expensive.

Extensions are an excellent way to give you extra space but again be aware that a semi-detached is always a semi-detached and a bungalow is still a bungalow and the total cost of extensions may not be realised when you come to sell."

## Controversy Corner

Most weekends I take my dog for longish walks along the roads, footpaths, bridleways – wherever it is possible to walk. There is litter everywhere, crisp and cigarette packets, beer and coke cans, bottles and, last but not least, those plastic sandwich containers, you know... the ones you buy at petrol stations – all of which got me thinking.

That people need to throw their rubbish out of cars is sad, but it happens. Why do they need to throw it away? Because every mortal thing you buy is packaged in plastic which will not degrade. If you buy a newspaper in Woolworths, for example, they even try and put that in a bag – as if you wanted to hide a 'top shelf' magazine from the public gaze. Have we gone mad I wonder. This mania for packaging is for three basic reasons: advertising, profit and hygiene, all of which are fine but within reason.

If I was a benevolent dictator of this country, I would penalise every outlet found selling goods in non-degradable plastic. Plastic is a by-product of oil, I believe, so what an idiotic use of such a precious, fast disappearing

natural resource, and I would wager that the cleaning up and disposal of this stuff far outweighs its cost of manufacture, but there is money to be made, so who cares?

As nearly always happens, Newton's Law will eventually play its part. If we are protected from germs, bugs, viruses and so on from the cradle to the grave, I would guess that our bodies, or perhaps more accurately our antibodies, no longer have a part to play. They have nothing to do, so like naughty children when they get bored, they create havoc.

I wonder if we are storing up a potential disaster and before long we will all go down like ninepins from some very ordinary bug that our bodies used to brush off in a couple of days. The odd thing is that when I was a child none of this packaging was around and most of us are still alive. I always remember on BBC's Any Questions about 25 years ago or more, when this very subject was aired, one of the team, Catherine Whitehorn I think, said "I don't see what's wrong with a little good clean dirt". Hooray for some common sense.

CD

## 1st Wethersfield Rainbows

For girls 5 to 7 years of age

At Easter we said a fond farewell to Evie Dadd, Emma Spackman, Frances Holiday, Harriet Newlyn and Jessica Quinn as they have reached their seventh birthdays and step over the rainbow to Brownies.

We began the summer term with a rainbow meeting to complete our series of meetings based on the colours of the rainbow and are now taking a look at animals. We've had a spider evening, a butterfly meeting and welcomed some real ducklings.

On 9th May, Esther Pilgrim made her Rainbow promise and was presented with her badge.

We are looking forward to 'Stomp 2000' our District campfire.

Want to join us?

Telephone Snowy Owl:  
Mrs Sarah Pilgrim 850781

## 1st Wethersfield Brownies

For girls 7 to 10 years of age

This term we have welcomed Evie Dadd, Emma Spackman, Frances Holiday, Harriet Newlyn and Jessica Quinn to our pack. We hope they will be enrolled as Brownies very soon.

We are looking forward to getting together with other Rainbows, Brownies and Guides in the District on 24th June for 'Stomp 2000', our District campfire and a summer outing.

Want to join us?

Please telephone:

Brown Owl:  
Cherry Threadgold 850481

Snowy Owl:  
Sarah Pilgrim 850781

## Jackson School of Dancing

Examinations followed our splendid show in April in which Caroline Bishop, Esther Pilgrim and Louise Pascoe were all successful. We are now working hard for the next examinations at the end of June.

New pupils are always welcome from 3 years of age.

Classes are held in Wethersfield Village Hall

Fridays, 5.30pm – 7.00pm. Contact **Kate** on **01787 473607**

## Freshwell Health Centre Helping us to take care of our hearts

### Government recognition for Freshwell Health Centre's Healthy Heart Crusade

At an inaugural ceremony at the Millennium Conference Centre in London, representatives from trusts, hospitals, primary care groups and general practices assembled to receive their Beacon awards. Described by Frank Dobson as the Oscars of the Health Service, Beacon awards have been invented to identify, share and celebrate "outstanding examples of good practice".

Freshwell Health Centre staff were therefore delighted and honoured to feature amongst the great and the good for the work that they have been doing to promote the cardiovascular health of the residents of the Three Fields. Although the number of people with heart disease in this area is no different to the rest of the country, the staff have decided to make a special effort to reduce the number of people getting the disease in the first place and to improve the quality of life and prognosis for those who already have the disease.

In collaboration with other professionals, the staff at the health centre have been working to ensure that all patients with heart disease, or at risk of heart disease, receive the best possible care in terms of diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation. Every attempt is also being made to ensure that patients feel as though they are equal partners in decisions about their care, by providing appropriate information, advice and support.

In recognition of the spectrum of risk, the Primary Health Care team and their associates have also sought to generate increased public awareness of predisposing factors associated with heart disease, signs and symptoms to look out for and what to do when somebody has a heart attack.

Richard Leppard from the Essex Ambulance Service has given a number of presentations at the health centre,

including a Heart Responders' scheme. The British Heart Foundation has matched the funding provided by the CREAMER fund to provide a defibrillator for use in this community. Staff at the health centre have continued to host a series of health awareness evenings addressing many issues relating to cardiovascular health.

Whilst the staff at the health centre and their colleagues have many ideas about improving the services offered and increasing awareness about healthy lifestyles, the most enterprising and innovative outcomes are usually achieved by shared commitment to, and ownership of, project objectives. In order to continue the crusade to improve cardiovascular health of the local residents, volunteers are needed to join the existing working party, to develop new ideas, involve local people and generate interest in the project. For example, it has been suggested that providing maps of local footpaths charting length and degree of difficulty may encourage more people to "walk for health", or the development of a Three Fields' Directory may increase awareness of the many different opportunities for both exercise and relaxation offered locally. It has also been suggested that a Freshford Heart Project newsletter would be well received, but at present there is nobody in the existing team with the relevant skills, experience and time available.

**If you feel you can spare some time** to contribute to the Freshford Heart Project the staff would be delighted to hear from you. No specialist knowledge or experience of heart disease is required, although if anybody has either a good or bad heart disease experience which would help inform and improve future actions their contribution would be invaluable.

## Floral Art Club Programme

Jun	Club outing – date and time to be confirmed	
Jul 26	Fund raiser: Ploughman's lunch and swim at Little Barham 12.30 start	
Aug 23	Fund raiser: Coffee morning at Barbery Green, Blackmore End 10.30am transport arranged	
Sept 27	Oops!!	Josie Marchant
Oct 25	Flowers for your Delight	Ursula Geller
Nov 29	Christmas Open Evening	Maureen Noone
Dec	Annual Christmas Dinner – date and venue to be confirmed	

For any further information please contact Paulette Bauckham – Secretary  
Telephone 01371 850308



Essex Ambulance Service gives a demonstration at Freshwell Health Centre

Please let the receptionists at the health centre know if you would like to join the project team or if you don't want to join the team but have any brilliant ideas or suggestions, comments or criticisms, please submit them in writing to **Cathy Lowenhoff** (project co-ordinator) **Freshwell Health Centre, Wethersfield Road, Finchingfield, Essex CM7 4BQ**

## SMALL ADS

We will run small advertisements in future editions: exchange of goods or services in the community, items for sale or disposal, baby sitting and the kinds of thing that provide for each other in our parish. We cannot take commercial advertising because it is not the purpose of this publication and the small ads are free – so why not get on down and get rid of some of that 'junk'.

Keep it short. Item/service, price, telephone number. Don't ask to have your address printed, we don't think it is wise. Having said we won't run commercial ads, JOBS are a different matter, so if you think you can employ people from the parish then let's hear it.

Small ads to Castle House, Silver Street, Wethersfield.  
Email: hofnoff@purpleteapot.fsnet.co.uk or  
FAX/Voicemail: 01371 851259

**Secretary's position available – hardly used - FREE!**

## Wethersfield Wine Club

The Blind Tasting and Social Evening in April was voted a great success by the visiting clubs and now, after the Annual General Meeting in May, we look forward to our various summer events.

The Barbecue on Saturday June 24th will be followed by participation in the Village Fun Day on July 8th.

We are considering plans for an outdoor event in August, a month when we usually have a break. Members will be informed in good time.

R.A. Mostyn, Secretary

## THE FUTURE FOR CANCER CARE

MID ANGLIA CANCER NETWORK NORTH ESSEX & SUFFOLK

FIND OUT MORE, GIVE US YOUR VIEWS and CONTRIBUTE YOUR IDEAS  
Health services in Chelmsford, Colchester and Ipswich are proposing to establish the Mid Anglia Cancer Network. This means everyone working together — GP practices, social services, voluntary organisations, pharmacists, hospitals and specialists, to provide better services for cancer patients and their carers.

**BOOK YOUR PLACE AT ONE OF THE DISCUSSION MEETINGS.**

All meetings 7.30pm - 9.30pm

22nd May, St. John's Hall, Chelmsford

23rd May, Essex County Hospital, Colchester

30th May, The White Hart Hotel, Witham

6th June, The Bull Hotel, Halstead

For further information on booking ring:

Paula Bartlett on 01376 302119

## Wethersfield Garden Club

The next meeting will be on 16th June. Mr Harry Gill will be talking on Flowering Alpines. Meetings start at 7.45pm in the Village Hall and guests are always welcome.

The Club's summer outing is on July 23rd in the afternoon to the lovely gardens of Glen Chantry. Lists and details will be available at the June meeting.

We will have our usual **Garden Stall on Fun Day** so please come and support us and the Playing Fields on July 8th.

## SMALL ADS COLUMN

Extendable pine junior bed and mattress v.g.c. £30 ono

Two stairgates - £15 for both ono

Chicco Babywalker - £10 ono

Two pine swivel CD racks - £10 ono

V-Tech First Step push-along-toy - £15

Babygym - £5 ono

Baby doorswing - £5 ono

Clip-on high chair - £5 ono

V-Tech musical cow - £3 ono

Fisher-Price car seat - £5 ono

Telephone 01371 851027

# HOWARD'S RIGHT...

We have a local voluntary fire service that we should be proud of. The eight members of the Wethersfield Fire Service are all local men, operating a rota system to protect us in the event of fire or accident. The members serving our community are led by Sub-Officer Howard Wright, assisted by Leading Fire Fighters Terry Saunders and Darren Hockley together with Fire Fighters Damien Barber, Bruce May, Phil Stock, Graham Turner and Graham Temperley. From the current eight they are looking to increase their strength to the maximum allowed of 13 members. There are currently 4 new applicants for the vacancies. The assessment course covers fitness, strength tests, medical examinations and a series of training courses before being allowed out on the rescue pump. The positions are paid for on a retainer plus callout payment system with extra cash accrued for time spent at the station for duty and training sessions. Our service operates from its eastern boundary, extends north to Sturmer, west to Bardfield and south to Sheering Hall at Shalford.

This year has seen the service called out 51 times and the records show an interesting mix of duties: 6 chimney fires, 6 house fires, 4 burning vehicles, 2 traffic accidents. On 10 occasions they were on standby to cover other forces, 4 of these at Stansted Airport, a fallen tree, 2 burning stacks and 16 demands from automated alarm systems made up the bulk of the remainder.

Anyone wishing to consider joining the ranks of the local service should apply to Howard Wright on 850314 or 07771 567301

**The fire station is having an open day on 3rd June: 10am - 4pm, ALL VISITORS WILL BE MOST WELCOME**



## New Arrivals

**Ian & Fiona Vanderbeek** – The Old Vicarage, Shalford Road  
*Fiona is chief executive of a national medical research project at the Royal College of Surgeons and Ian is the managing director of Southend-based British World Airlines.*

**Paul & Trish Smith** – Elm Cottage, High Street  
*Paul is a roofer and carpet layer and works all over the country and Trish is a management accountant with the Princess Alexandra Hospital in Harlow.*

**Dave Thorogood & Elizabeth Robinson** – Smithy Cottage  
*Elizabeth is sales manager for Taywood Homes, Eastern Region and Dave buys, sells and renovates properties, having previously been a flight engineer.*

## Countrywoman's Diary

Swallows and swifts have begun to arrive, some from South Africa and The Transvaal. Swifts are remarkable, possessing great endurance, flying hundreds of miles in a single day. They sleep in flight, catch bits of straw and feathers on the wing for building their nests and rarely come to earth, as their legs are small and weak. Their shrill piercing calls, as they hurtle through the air in the evening over the gardens, are haunting.

Look out for the pale blue tiny butterfly, they love the holly bushes. These are rare but do be vigilant, one blink of an eye and you've missed their beauty.

Happy gardening to everyone, after planting time we can relax outside. Try to keep the noise down; it makes a lot for contented neighbours and those who wish to enjoy the peace among the flowers and the sunshine.



Wayfarer

# WONGA ONE WONDERS WHY?

Last sighted in Meadside, the Wethersfield Eagle Owl has now been trapped. The poor soul, not getting its way with the local females, has flown to Stebbing in search of a mate. After our warnings to the cats and dogs, it seems some local residents there got the wind up and decided to take matters into their own hands, unlike the discreet occupants of this fair parish, and they phoned the Daily Mail, forcing the capture of the owl "for its own good". But we got the story first (see the last edition of *Wethersfield News*). An expert trapper was offered but it was decided expedient to deal with it as quickly as possible. Eddy the owl isn't ringed and doesn't have jesses, but is quite tame. This is probably the result of an owner releasing one of a captive pair back into the wild, hence its search for a new mate. Now renamed "Wonga" resident of Stebbing, waiting to be claimed and without a mate.

Wonga is a Long Eared European Eagle Owl, the largest species of owl to be found in the world. If Wonga had not been caught he probably would have died or would have been shot because of his predatory nature. Now in captivity he can be retrained and will be fed a suitable diet. My next job is to fit Wonga with anklets and jesses and get him used to being with humans. Wonga appears to be three to four years old and is ready to

mate. We have a suitable three-year-old female called Charlie, so he may get his wicked way yet!

Of local news our Barn Owl has one chick out of a clutch of three eggs. I have a pair of Eagle Owls which have mated and have produced a clutch of three eggs. European Eagle Owl eggs have a gestation period of forty days so they may be hatched by the time this goes to press. The local Barn Owl is still calling on the village green – it obviously hasn't found a mate yet because there seems only to be one owl calling. Perhaps he should take some advice from Wonga!

Mark Spalding



Photo courtesy of Daily Mail

## Wethersfield Cricket Club

June			July		
3rd	Thaxted	A 2.30	9th	Helions Bumpstead	H 2.30
11th	Sampfords	A 2.30	16th	Bocking	A 2.30
18th	Cornish Hall End	H 2.30	23rd	Gosfield	A 2.30
25th	Finchingfield	A 2.30			

## Summer

Time to enjoy now the great outdoor scent  
 As long summer days welcome all.  
 Time now for Wimbledon, cricket and fêtes,  
 The young farmers' annual ball.  
 Time now for salads and strawberry teas,  
 And eating outside in the sun.  
 Time to have barbecues, picnics and laze  
 When the work of the day is done.  
 Time now for Ascot and weddings in June,  
 For holidays spent by the sea.  
 Time to eat ices, drink cool lemonade,  
 And welcome a good cup of tea.  
 Time now for Chelsea and velvety lawns,  
 Cool fountains, and splendid arrays  
 Of prize-winning vegetables, heathers and shrubs,  
 And glorious floral displays.

For hot sunny weather, backs lobster red  
 From sitting too long without care.  
 Time now for calamine, sun oil and specs,  
 For brown velvety limbs that are bare.  
 Time for the country to find well-earned peace  
 Away from the city and town.  
 Hear nightingales trilling, breathe air that is pure,  
 Walk up the hills and then down.  
 Time now for thunder and lashings of rain  
 This summer. Then peace comes and all's well again.



Wayfarer



Dig out the Gingham or Blue Jeans and head West to Blackmore End on Saturday 15th July and have yourselves a 'daw gawn good day out!

# Yee Haa! Howdy Pardners — Come on down to the Hoedown!

*Dig out yer stetsons and high heeled boots, we're gonna have a 'hoedown'!*

On Saturday 15th July Blackmore End Playing Field will play host to a number of well known Country & Western celebrities at its main summer fund-raising event – the **BLACKMORE END COUNTRY HOEDOWN**.

Starting at 1.00pm the Hoedown will be opened by BBC Essex Country Music presenter **Nigel Rennie**. The arena will come alive when **Debbie Miller's Boot Scoot'n Dancers** put on a lively performance of line dancing.

Following a break for visitors to enjoy the numerous sales and amusement stalls around the arena,

Nigel Rennie will introduce another star 'country' attraction **Alex Laredo**. Alex currently holds the world record for rope spinning and has travelled the world with his Western speciality act consisting of ropes, bullwhips and fancy shooting, and he's no mean horseman, to boot! He has appeared on the Generation Game, Michael Barrymore Show and the Record Breakers. During his professional career spanning over 25 years he has co-ordinated Broadway stage shows including 'The Best Little Whore in Texas' and 'Calamity Jane'.

During the fun-filled afternoon the audience will be invited to participate with Debbie Miller, and Alex will be looking for volunteers to take part in his cowboy act. He will be holding a 'workshop' for youngsters and others wishing to learn the art of rope spinning.

To slake your thirst and hunger there will be wine, beer and soft drinks at the Dry Gulch Saloon and a Hog Roast BBQ. The Tearooms will be open for home-made cakes, sponges and scones with pots of tea or coffee.

KH

## Letters to the Editor

This is your chance to be heard. Please air your opinions we will be glad to hear from you.

Remember life is not all gloom and doom, good things do happen. Make someone smile, complain if you need to but praise goes a long way.

Letters to the Editor, Castle House, Silver Street, Wethersfield. Email: [hofnoff@purpleteapot.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:hofnoff@purpleteapot.fsnet.co.uk) or Fax/Voicemail: 01371 851259

Please don't shout at me, it's not my fault!

We would like to congratulate you on your first edition of the new-look Wethersfield News. It was a really good read and we are so pleased that you are carrying on the great work started by Derek Norman and continued more recently by Liz Burrage. We think that the Skate Park is a very good idea and particularly that the young should be involved in its construction and maintenance. It is high time there is more for them to do in their spare time. I have always wanted to have a go at skating but I think I'll have to be content with Petanque!

*Yours etc. Liz Townrow*

*From the Wethersfield Parish Council*

The Chairman and members of the Parish Council have asked me to write and congratulate the editorial team on their excellent first production of the new-look 'Wethersfield News'. It is a thoroughly professional edition with lots of items of interest to young people as well as the usual readership. Well done!

*Yours etc. John Sheldrake*

Editor:

We appreciate these comments, thank you.

I was saddened when I tried to reach my husband's grave in the Wethersfield churchyard to be confronted by waist-high plants and weeds. It is almost impossible to wade through the long grass, nettles and cow parsley to reach some of the graves. This is especially noticeable in the area at the back of the church where the ground slopes down to the oldest part of the graveyard and beyond the rubbish heap where the nettles grow in abundance. Maybe a designated area of wild life which some prefer.

What is the answer to this problem which poses itself to those who wish to maintain graves, especially at festivals and anniversaries? What a pity that before the 'growing season' sets in a start on the grass cutting is not made and an adequate pathway cut for access. It is now an overwhelming task. It is a commitment few wish to undertake and

it needs regular work to keep the grounds in order. A band of volunteers, with permission from the vicar and PCC, would seem to be the answer providing there is equipment available and people willing to help. It is a sad fact that most of the graves are tended by the elderly who are perhaps not the fittest and most able in our community. It is also a fact that this, in time, will come to us all and it would be nice to know that our final resting place is one of beauty which can be visited and used by all.

*Name & address supplied*

Editor: Many complaints have been noted about the condition of the graveyard. Able-bodied and willing responsible folk need to form a working party to continually maintain it. This is not for the faint-hearted but think of the glory in this life and the next! Ideas, volunteers and all suggestions to me, OR just do it and tell us about it later, then we will sing your praises.

## Should we ask the police to lock our back doors for us?

As the criminal fraternity grows ever larger and to steal has become a most profitable profession, burglars must be laughing their heads off as Britain's law abiding community appears to stand united against the police and are both critical and hostile following the Tony Martin case.

Society has never offered so much to the few who presume everything is there for the taking. Phrases such as "Well they were insured" are used supposedly to soften the blow of the victim and make the lining of a thief's pocket almost expected. The notion that it is the duty of the State to protect all their most treasured possessions is an impossible task; not even 'The Terminator' could compete with such formidable adversaries as the predators which affluence creates.

Most of us now have locks on our windows and doors and to go out is akin to locking up at Alcatraz, but we are still unsure to what extent we are allowed to defend ourselves and our property for fear of prosecution. Will the police spend time with members of the public giving guidance as to appropriate measures in such cases? Will my insurance company be persuaded to levy premiums relative to the action I take? It is unfortunately due to this dependency culture which believes it is solely the responsibility of the police force to protect our back doors which makes a gift of it to the criminal who chooses to profit from it.

## Investment for the future

What's in it for me? This is the cry emanated by our modern citizens. In this post Margaret Thatcher Britain there is a tendency towards the selfish. Not to say that you are selfish, indeed most of Wethersfield's community seem to be doing something that at least borders on the altruistic. But there it ends, a means to an end yes, but we all have our own agenda: ask yourselves "why am I doing this?"

Should we stop short when we have achieved our personal goal or should we offer to others, for free, the knowledge and skills we have learned, then go for the next goal armed with some collective shared experience?

Those who go after us should be richer, cleverer and have the benefit of the collective wisdom of a community. But from time to time one SHOULD try to reinvent the wheel — otherwise progress and evolution will come to an end.

DC

## Wethersfield Pre-School

Fully-trained, friendly staff, covering all learning areas cater for all children, including special needs, from 2½ to 5 years of age.

We meet in the Pavilion at the Playing Field on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 9.30am – 12.00 noon.

Longer sessions are available on Monday and Friday (with lunch) 9.30am – 1.30pm.

Prices £3.00 per session and £5.50 for the longer session. There are a few places available.

For details please phone:

Gloria on 850773

Lorraine on 850016

# IT'S GO! IN YOUR WHEELCHAIR

## LOW COST AIRLINE HELPS THE DISABLED

We reported in our last News on the **EDPA** Travel Voucher Scheme. **Go**, the Stansted Airport-based low cost airline of British Airways is the first airline to sign up as a transport provider.

There are now 59 transport providers signed up to the scheme which provides members with £25.00 worth of **FREE** travel vouchers every month.

The Essex Disabled People's Association  
90 Broomfield Road, Chelmsford  
Essex CM1 1SS  
Email: edpa@edpass.org.



## Odd Odes

Young Lavinia Thistlethwaite  
Had to be careful what she ate  
After her jaws were wired up tight  
To try and suppress her appetite.

Indulging in too many chips  
Had piled the pounds upon her hips;  
This butter spread on every crust,  
Result... an overwhelming bust.  
She lived to eat, and every day  
Vast plates of food she put away;  
She could not get to bed at all  
So slept downstairs against the wall.  
Her weight ballooned, and no disguise  
Could hide her bulk, conceal her size.  
Her friends, amused, began to laugh  
When they found out she could not bath!

So with her jaws released from wires,  
Lavinia found that all her tyres  
Had vanished! And she was now trim.  
She caught the eye of fireman Jim;  
They courted, married, very soon  
Her weight returned and now, in June,  
Twins will be born. This quote from Jim –  
"Gone are the days when you were slim."

## RUSSELLS FARM

As we start the 21st century one farm in our parish is becoming environmentally friendly – **RUSSELLS FARM** owned and run by James Thomson and his son David. Coins, fossils and horseshoes found on the farm suggest a long history. The earliest records of Russells Farm are from 1248 when a William Russell worked the land, but the fine timber-framed house and outbuildings standing on the site today only date from the 1500s.

In 1927 Samuel Thomson took charge of the farm and during the 1930s he ran it in a time-honoured tradition with working horses; he kept pigs, chickens and sheep, grew cereal and produced milk and butter from his own dairy. Sam's family were from Scotland, his wife Norah from Bedfordshire. Her father's family were originally millers specialising in horse supplement feeds but he ran an engineering business in London and travelled all over the world.

During World War II the farm was a billet for the King's Own Scottish Borderers and a workplace for German and Italian prisoners of war. One of the Land Army girls that worked on the farm, Ann Mawdesley, was the daughter of Robert Mawdesley (Walter Gabriel) of "The Archers" fame. After the war the farm was home to Chipperfield's Circus' horses when they performed locally.

The '50s and '60s saw an increase in mechanisation and more arable farming with Sam and Norah's son, James, doing most of the work with part time help from people like Bert Gilby and Ken Tarbin. Jim joined the farm when he left school in '54 and was an active Young Farmer like most of his friends of Scottish descent. Many Scots moved south during the first half of the 20th century. Jim managed a thriving poultry business which ran until the mid '60s.

The '70s saw the end of pea picking, and potatoes and sugar beet were discontinued in the early '80s, partly because of the closure of the beet processing plant in Felsted.

The '80s saw a dramatic increase in cereal yields and race horses were seen on the farm for the first time when the family became involved in the sport.

The '90s saw the need to diversify so cattle and calf rearing, horse livery and outside contracting services were adopted. The latter mostly through the Essex and Suffolk Machinery Ring. All cereals grown and animals kept are now under quality assurance and welfare guidelines.

This year will possibly be the third year of combined harvest and autumn cultivation with neighbouring farmer David Butler.

*continued on back page*

Last autumn, probably in November, I was listening to the radio when they said it was "Plant-a-tree Day". I fished in my pocket, found a fresh conker and literally stuffed it with my thumb into a pot occupied by a passion flower and forgot all about it. A few weeks ago I noticed some strange leaves and, lo and behold, there is an infant chestnut. When I transplant it with care and proper preparation into its appointed spot for the next 200 years, it probably won't last a week. That's life isn't it! CD



## Record Collectors

It's not often you come across a unique collection of vinyl records, but by golly we have. Over a thousand 45rpm 7" singles, all new mostly unplayed, in printed colour sleeves, limited editions of late 70s and 80s artists. Also white label 45rpm 12" singles with alternative versions on the B side i.e. radio mixes instrumental and back-line only. Some of these records are from obscure artists who probably didn't make it in the conventional way, but others feature well-known artists that have quite definitely made it today like the Jungle Brothers illustrated, 12" 45 published in 1988. Also if you're careful there are writers and individuals that have gone on to make it in other areas. When you talk of the 80s it doesn't seem that far away, 20 years! Long enough in the record industry!

**All these records will be for sale on fun day, which is 8 July 2000. All proceeds to the Skate Park.**

Have a look at your old vinyl record collections and perhaps, if you can bear to part with them, contribute them to Wethersfield playing field then we will have even more records (vinyl only) to sell on the day and perhaps we can turn at least one stall into a real record collectors' fair.

**Call 01371 851 259**

## News in brief from the Parish Council

- Work on the concrete slope and handrails has been approved for Meadside Bank and scheduled for the new financial year.
- The contract for the village green grass cutting has been placed with Braintree Commercial Services for three years, and the Parish Council has written to express appreciation of the quality of the work so far this season.
- The replacement Wethersfield Parish notice board design has been approved and the work is nearing completion. The letter size for the carved header board has been approved.
- Two new pole bracket street lights will be installed in Meadside and Saffron Gardens.
- Kerb damage in Wethersfield will be repaired.
- The chevron sign on the road bend between Blackmore End and Beazley End has been replaced.
- Publication of the Millennium Book has been delayed due to the 100% increase in the volume's size and computer difficulties.
- Speed restrictions for Blackmore End: a 30 or 40mph limit is unlikely but the following suggestions have been made: replace the existing Blackmore End nameplates at each end of the village with larger signs incorporating the words 'reduce your speed'; "sharks teeth" on carriageway adjacent to these signs; warning signs adjacent to The Bull saying "road narrows" and "no footway for 500 yards"; paint "slow" markings on road near Glenwood Cottage; reinforce the road markings at the green for traffic entering the village from Pattens Farm direction.

Comments or suggestions would be welcomed by the Parish Council and these should be sent to: The Clerk, Wethersfield P.C., Chepstow Cottage, 6 Tey Road, Earls Colne, Colchester CO6 2LG or speak to any parish councillor.

# THOSE BOOTS ARE MADE FOR WALKING

The idea of exercise being fun may leave you cold but a walk in the countryside with a group of local folk might change your mind. The Wethersfield Pathfinders has been in existence in its present form since 1993, a partnership of parish, county council and villagers. The serious part of the project was to survey local footpaths using Ordnance Survey maps and identify public rights of way. This was triggered by a government initiative to get all the footpaths in the UK established on the map by 2000 – the Parish Paths Partnership.

David Foster is the Footpaths' representative on the Parish Council and John Townrow and Dave Matthews organise and lead the walks. All three have spent many hours examining the paths, reporting back on their state and erecting stiles and waymarker posts. The county council has provided funding for posts and stiles. There are about 50 official footpaths in the Parish. Dave Matthews noted "another important aspect was getting the cooperation of local farmers – asking them to spray out the paths through crops and reinstate after ploughing – we found that, in general, farmers were very helpful".

The walks take place monthly, starting at 10.30 on Sunday mornings from Wethersfield Green or Blackmore End Village Hall and are generally about 5 miles, taking 1½ hours or so. As Dave says, "We generally get around 10 walkers, of all ages, plus several children and various dogs – the numbers vary – less in the Summer Holiday season but, for example, Boxing Day always has good numbers when people walk off the Christmas excesses!" "We've had some amusing incidents: on one walk a lady was so absorbed in conversation with other walkers that she failed to notice that her husband, who had paused to pick blackberries, had taken a wrong turn and was missing from the group!" The dogs usually start off with much enthusiasm, not realising that they are in for a little more than the average walk round the village – one Jack Russell got bored and decided to take a shorter route home, meeting its owner, on return, with a rather smug look!

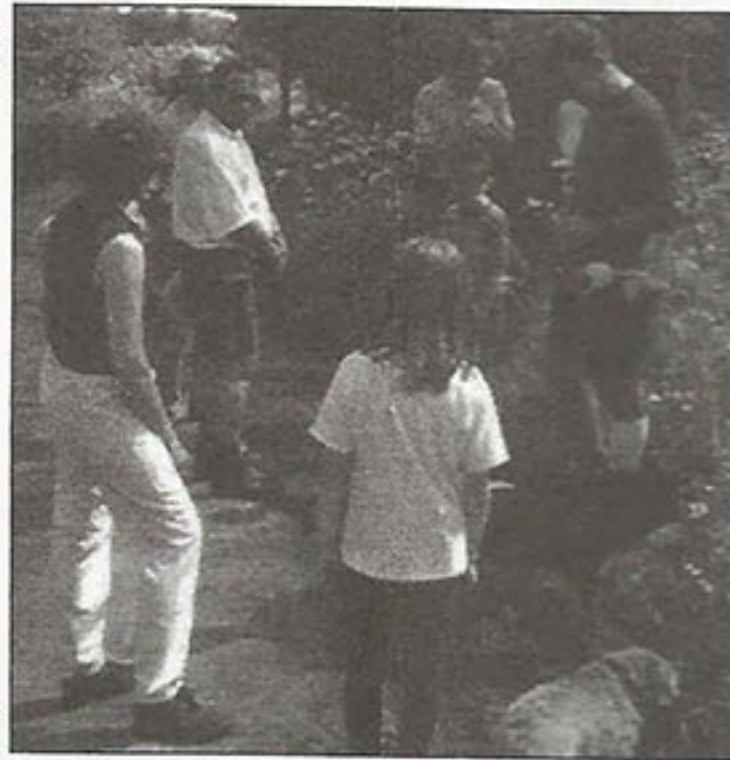
These walks have also become a chance to meet neighbours, show visitors the attractive byways of north Essex, have a good old chin-wag and feel very righteous afterwards – your healthy bit done for another month!

The dates for the walks are shown on the Wethersfield Parish Notice-board and Tillbrook Garage's window.

Forthcoming dates are:

June 18th	Wethersfield Green
July 16th	Wethersfield Green
Aug 13th	Wethersfield Green
Sept 17th	Wethersfield Green
Oct 15th	Wethersfield Green
Nov 19th	Wethersfield Green
Dec 26th	Blackmore End Village Hall

*Who's got the map?*



RC/SM

## An amazing discovery...

There was a big black monstrous train puffing smoke – it was coming towards me but there weren't any tracks. "Help me please" I thought I had said out loud but it was in my head. It squealed and squeaked and stopped. I looked around, no one was by the green so I got on.

There was no one on the train, not even a driver. I heard a bark a few carriages away and in the third one I found a sweet greyhound puppy and I called him 'Fudge'. After half an hour we arrived at a place called Tolbourn. Fudge and I went into a sweet shop which was full of Belgian chocolates, yum! In my pocket I found 6,000 gold coins so I bought 10 different types of chocolate, well eleven because I bought Fudge a chocolate dog bone. We walked around town for a while, nothing interesting just beer and wine shops. We went back to the train and there were about 100 people on the train now. Off we went.

We arrived in a place called Niscandoodle. It was beautiful, it was full of flowers, they were everywhere. Here Fudge and I found a dilapidated house. It was strange it did not have a single flower near it, not even a dandelion. We went inside it was cold here. I was boiling when I was in Tolbourn and outside the house so I had taken off my jumper. I walked up some creaky steps after I had looked downstairs. It was even colder up here, even darker, smellier and more dilapidated. It was a large house with seven rooms downstairs and ten upstairs. Fudge kept on whining so I gave him a big hug and said "Don't you worry". I found a very old mirror, in front was an old book. I swept off the dust on the book and opened it up. The title was 'Who does the mirror belong to?' – Mary Noon, it said; how to work the mirror: pull the switch and you'll see your home, walk through and you are there. "This is my chance to get home", I said to Fudge. I did what the book said and I found myself by the green near my home once more. Fudge had gone.

I ran home not caring about how cold I was. When I got home it was dark, Mum was standing in the front door and was cross but that did not worry me. In the front garden was a stone dog, "Fudge", I screamed. Mum was so mad, I had said I was going out for a quick walk and I'd been all day. We kept Fudge in the garden at the front of our house.

Becca Atreides, aged 10

(Fudge can still be seen if you look from the green in Wethersfield)

### United Reformed Church

Services 11.00am

#### June

4	Mrs S. Pilgrim
11	Mr E. Morley
18	Mr M. Bardell
25	Mrs S. Pilgrim

#### July

2	Mrs J. Jenkins	
9	Rev. Rigney	
16	Rev. T. Perry	Communion
23	Mr Potts	
30	Mr West	

### Welcome Group

8.00pm 50p including refreshments

#### July

6	Steve Radford – "Conquering Kilimanjaro"
	Talk with slides

### House Group Bible Study Discussion

at 74 Saffron Gardens

12th June	2.00pm
10th July	2.00pm

Contact:

Doreen French  
74 Saffron Gardens. Telephone: 850049

### Wethersfield Parish Church

Forthcoming Services / Events

#### June

1	7.30pm	Ascension Day Service in Shalford Church
4	8.00am	Holy Communion
11	11.00am	Family Service Pentecost
18	11.00am	Parish Eucharist Trinity Sunday
25	6.30pm	Evensong

#### July

2	8.00am	Holy Communion
9	11.00am	Family Service
16	11.00am	Parish Eucharist
23	6.30pm	Evensong
30	3.00pm	Activity Week Presentation

Midweek Communion – Wednesdays 9.30am

N.B.

Activity Week for children 3 - 11 years of age is being planned for the week beginning Monday 24th July.

Watch out for details nearer the time. Sarah 850781

### Sunday School

Welcomes children from 3 to 11 years of age.

We meet in church on Sunday mornings 9.45 – 10.30am

Contact: Mrs Elaine Ambrose 850244  
Mrs Sarah Pilgrim 850781

### Sunday School

A big welcome to Alister Price who joined us at the beginning of April, and a belated welcome and thanks to Hannah Creasey who has been helping us since the middle of February as part of her Duke of Edinburgh Award service.

We hope you managed to find time to visit the church at Easter and see the Easter garden we made and the beautiful floral arrangements.

We are looking forward to seeing our friends Abby and Emma Borgeson again in June as they return from Germany for a few months and hope they will enjoy a good summer with us.

Our final meeting before the summer break will be on Sunday 23rd July.

We welcome all children from 3 to 11 years of age on Sunday 9.45 – 10.30am in the church.

Elaine Ambrose 850244  
Sarah Pilgrim 850781

# DOWN IN THE DUMPS

## Ever been 'down the dump' and been turned away?

So you've got a nice car and you fill it with domestic rubbish. It makes it smelly and there's the potential of damaging the interior... so why not take it down in a van or the 4x4. Well unless it's Sunday and after twelve you will be turned away.

Why? Because it's council policy. An arbitrary decision to allow taller vehicles into the dump only on Sunday afternoons. Personally I regard this as a form of discrimination which is not appropriate. The difference between 9am and 12 noon seems to be irrelevant. The vehicle I drive is down to me and the application I have at the time.

I arrived at the dump on Sunday at 11.40am in my van which happens to be 3 inches too high to get through the barrier. Politely I asked, "Please could you lift the barrier". "No mate" came the reply. "Why?" "Because we can't lift it before twelve noon on Sunday." "But it's a quarter to twelve now." I said. "Can't help that mate that's my orders."

So I went away, back to Wethersfield and returned at 12.10 when I was allowed in to unload my vehicle.

On returning the following day (a bank holiday after 12 noon) I politely asked, "Please could you lift the barrier?" "No mate" came the reply.

"Why?" I asked. "Because it's not Sunday". "But it's a bank holiday". "But it's Monday" he said. "Please can I unload my vehicle?" "Yes" he said, "there's a wheelbarrow there. Rubble in one bin, metal in another, household waste in another."

Thoroughly exhausted I returned home having been accused of having a go at the attendants, whose job it is to attend to our needs, and it's more than their job's worth to use their discretion when allowing vehicles onto the site. Imagine your frustration if you couldn't unload your vehicle and you had to return home, unload, break it into smaller loads and take it back. Some may be tempted to unload outside the site or in a pleasant country lane.

Fly tipping in this parish is becoming more of a nuisance than ever, exacerbated no doubt by the lack of cooperation on these waste management sites. I fail to see the difference between a commercial plumber's waste copper and mine. When I do remedial work on my home recycling is just as important and the materials just as valuable. If commercial waste has to be charged for then so be it. Make it simple, but don't persecute me because you can't implement a system. Many people

around here have four-wheel drives, vans and larger vehicles. We are after all a rural community and although some of us may use our vehicles for commercial use we all, no doubt, take advantage of them at the weekends to save our cars, fuel, journey times etc. Reduced use of vehicles by having a larger load cuts down fuel consumption and reduces congestion at the site. Surely a form of conservation? I am severely pro conservation and recycling, but if you put too many obstacles in the way and make it hard work getting rid of potentially valuable waste then we will return to the bad old days of dumping on waste land and fly tipping.

It is my opinion that we owe it to ourselves and the community at large to modify the council's thinking. They are an elected body and the weight of public opinion should be brought to bear. It is our facility and therefore it should work for us, after all we do pay for it.

Last quote: "Thousands of people complain that we don't lift the barrier". "Why don't you tell your bosses then?" "It's not our responsibility we only work here. Write to the council and complain."

**YOUR MOVE!**

David Clements

### 30mph dead in Wethersfield!

Although there appears to be a tolerance given to speeding motorists, nobody was giving anything away when we met at the Shalford Rural Police Unit this week. The villages picked for the attention of officers with their hand-held speed guns are picked at random and most of the officers are trained to use the equipment.

They have been restricted in their speed control duties to date as they have been sharing the facility with the Braintree force. That is to change shortly when Shalford will have its own equipment. So - the only advice they could offer to motorists is

**STICK TO THE SPEED LIMIT,**  
there'll soon be more traps in the area.

Wethersfield has been remarkably quiet over the last two months, according to police records, with only the senseless destruction of fencing on the playing fields marring the crime figures in our rural community.

**WHAT CAN WE DO TO HELP THE POLICE?**  
Don't leave windows and doors open indiscriminately now that the warmer weather has arrived.

**WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR?**  
Travellers calling at houses to sell old and non-functioning televisions, videos and hi-fi equipment.

There is concern over bogus callers visiting houses purporting to be council or other officials. The advice is **ASK FOR IDENTIFICATION** - if in doubt keep them out and advise the police.

Contact your local police on  
**01371 851632**

## Farming and Wildlife in the 21st Century

### — Arable Stewardship

The year 2000 sees a pilot scheme set in place called Arable Stewardship which will try to promote the conservation of wildlife alongside commercial agriculture. The Ministry of Agriculture will monitor this for five years to see the long-term effects on the countryside, its flora and fauna.

In the future our farm will have grass margins and "set-aside" alongside water-courses, to which the public will not have access. Beetle banks will be provided to promote insect life and ground nesting birds.

Stubble will be allowed to "over-winter" to allow re-growth of native plants and wildflower mixes will be planted in corners of the farm with one around the farm's badger set.

New hedges, ponds and a woodland venture will be looked

at. Willows have been planted along the "species-rich" River Pant. Organic farming will also be considered as a future option - there is approximately four acres, previously used for horses, on which no chemicals have been used for 25 years and Jim is already using a mechanical weeder elsewhere on the farm to reduce the use of agrochemicals.

All farm management is helped considerably by ex ADAS advisor and agronomist, Philip Haggart. Maybe we will see the return of the otter, red squirrel and barn owl not seen on this farm for many years.

It would be nice to think the farm remains with the Thomson family in the future. Sam was 72 when he retired. Jim 61 says he's never going to retire and David 35 goes into the next millennium with some admirable ambitions.

David Thomson

### "BUSY FINGERS" — DATES OF MEETINGS

Blackmore End Village Hall — first and third Tuesday in each month 8pm — 10pm

June	6	Patchwork and appliqué	Pat Harris
	20	As above	
July	4	As above	
	18	Propagating Fuchsias & Pelargoniums	Robin Carsberg
Aug	1	Making a fabric covered box	Christine Scott
	15	Making a fitted lampshade	Janet Hitchings
Sept	5	As above	
	19	Découpage	Paulette Bauckham
Oct	3	As above	
	17	Sugar Craft	Myrna Bragg
Nov	7	As above	
	21	Gold thread Christmas cards	Caroline McBride
	25	CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR (Saturday)	
Dec	5	Christmas flower craft	Paulette Bauckham/Janet Hitchings
	19	Fresh flower arrangement with candles	Paulette Bauckham

For further information:  
contact Paulette Bauckham "Busy Fingers" co-ordinator 01371 850308

### Late Press

Caroline Haines held her annual coffee morning to raise money for the CREAMER fund. This year was specifically in Inge Platt's memory and a staggering £720+ was raised. This is going towards an x-ray machine and special room for it. Thank you to all who supported the occasion and a special thank you to Caroline.

Editorial Committee: Dinie Dimsdale, Sue Marsh, Penny Payne, David Clements (Editor) Richard Clubley, Charles Dimsdale, Kerry Harris and David Mangham

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