

WETHERSFIELD

BLACKMORE END & BEAZLEY END

NEWS

July/August 2002

news@churchhillhouse.co.uk

Stansted Growth.....

Does aircraft noise annoy you?

THERE has been much debate in the local press recently on ongoing and planned expansion at Stansted and its effect on the local environment - but what does this mean to the residents of Wethersfield and surrounding areas?

First some background - Stansted is now operating up to its limit, agreed with by the Department of Transport, of 15 million passengers per year and there is a BAA application to increase this to 25 million. BAA are trying to persuade Uttlesford District Council of the benefits of this expansion. There is also a debate about the need for a second runway for further growth. BAA claim that the existing runway can handle up to 35 million passengers per year. In any case, current expectations are that traffic will double to 30million by 2015. Given that the vast majority of aircraft using Stansted are, and will probably continue to be, 'Budget' airlines Boeing 737 with up to 200 passengers each, that's around 400 aircraft per day!

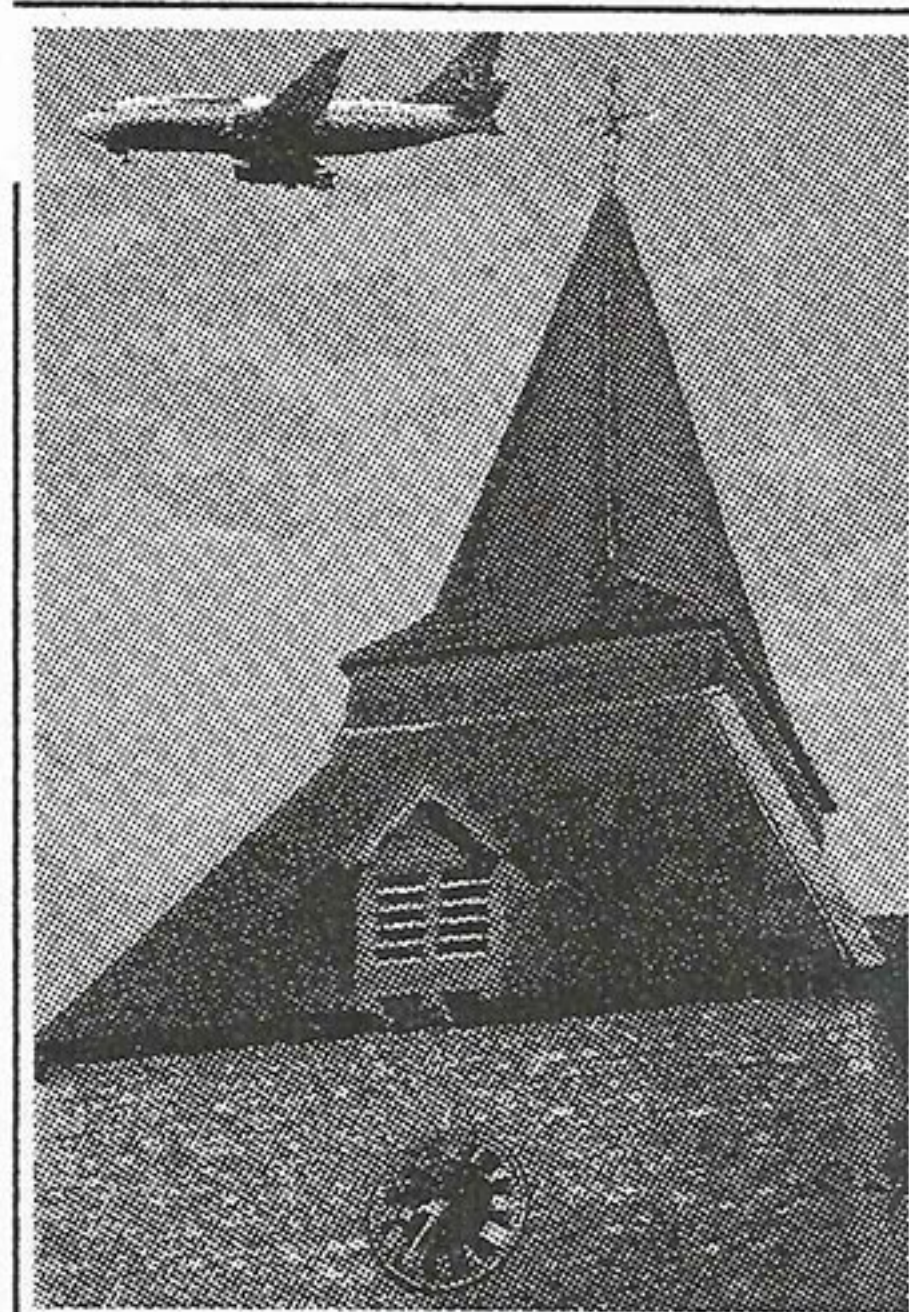
However - it's not all bad. Not all these will pass directly over Wethersfield! Aircraft land into the wind and the

prevailing wind is from the South West. Stansted is in that direction, therefore we only generally see or hear aircraft enroute to landing, when they are throttled back and therefore less noisy. We also only experience those that are coming in from the South or South East. They come in to a navigational 'waypoint' named 'ABBOT' near Yeldham (other 5-character waypoints in Essex are ADNAM and RIDLY!) After that they come under the Radar control of the Air Traffic Controllers at Stansted, who guide their direction and height until they are lined up with the automatic landing system about 9 to 10miles from touchdown. Thaxted is directly in line with the runway and 9 miles away from it!

So Wethersfield is an area where aircraft may be turning to line up for Thaxted. But how and where they turn, depends on how many are in the queue and other factors. Hence there is no fixed route above Wethersfield and so this helps to avoid concentrating noise in one area.

Now for height. Pilots have recently been obliged to follow a smooth descent, rather than in steps of 1000 feet. This tactic helps to reduce engine noise and results in a descent of roughly 300 feet per mile from landing. However they also have to keep below flight paths into and out of Heathrow in this area. We are about 18 miles out from Stansted, and aircraft should be above 4000 feet in this area - a height where landing aircraft noise should not be too much of an annoyance.

What about those insomniacs and light sleepers? Well BAA is currently allowed a quota of night flights between 11pm



Optical illusion or telephoto lens?

and 6.30am, many of these currently being used for mail and cargo delivery. Residents near Heathrow recently got a ruling in the European Courts that the noise of night flights infringed their human rights. However it seems that the British Government is to protest this ruling.

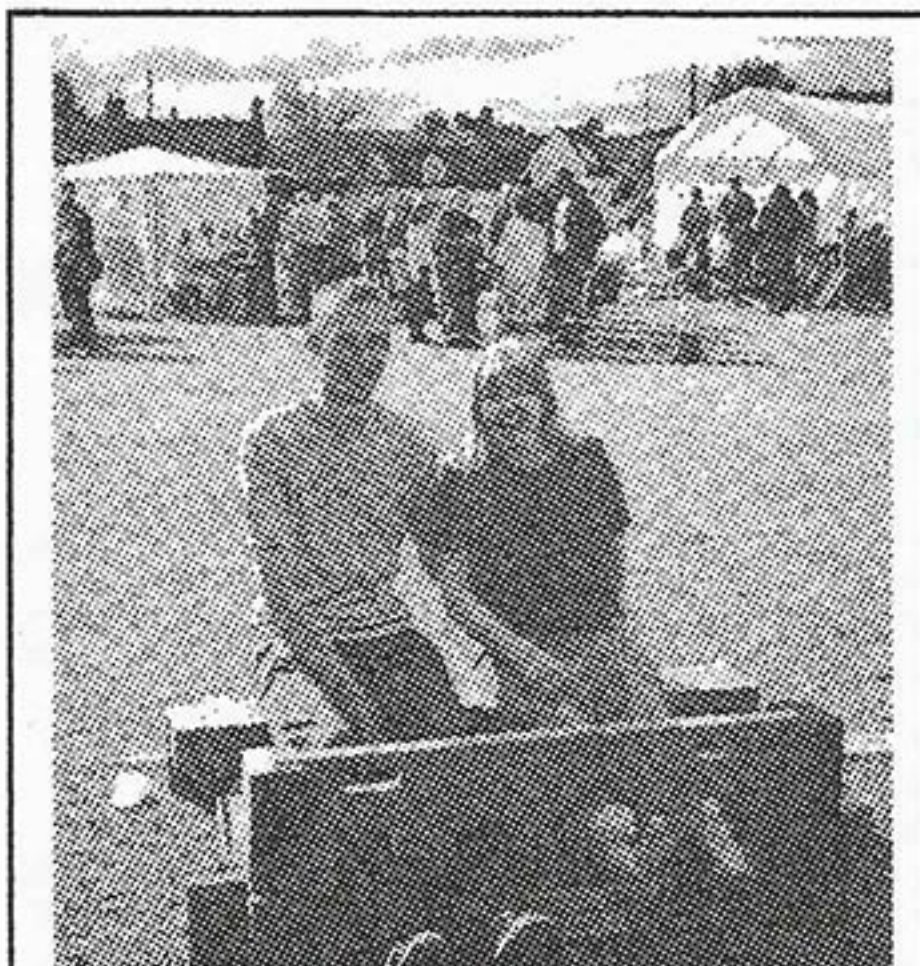
So to sum up. Aircraft movements in this area are bound to increase in the future.

However, new generations of aircraft and descents are getting quieter. We only see a fraction of flights into Stansted over Wethersfield and they are not concentrated on one route.

Are you troubled by aircraft noise? - compared to road traffic for example. Write a letter for the Wethersfield News!

If you want to protest about noise for particular flights and/or times ring 08700 000303 or email StanstedNoiseLine@baa.co.uk

producing her Annual Youth Concert with lots of our local children taking part on Saturday 7th September. A short service for the dedication of the new gates is to be arranged in the near future. These lovely oak gates were provided with money raised by Friends of the Church - to whom we extend our grateful thanks.



Pub Closed - Publicans in Stocks!
Simon and Tina Jennings closed The Dog for Wethersfield's Jubilee Fun Day to help run the fun day bar and get a soaking in the stocks. The fun day was voted a great success - see page3.

WETHERSFIELD PARISH CHURCH
The church will be hosting two musical concerts, the first being:
The East Anglian Single Reed Choir (Instrumental only) on Saturday, 13th July at 7.30 pm
Tickets available at the door £5.00 (£4 concessions)
Jessie Threadgold will again be

Happenings...

WETHERSFIELD GARDEN CLUB

The outing to Easton Lodge is on Sunday 21st July arriving there at approx. 2:30 p.m. Own cars. If anybody would like a lift or can offer a lift please contact Eve Newell. Tel 850957. Future events:

Sat. 17th August - The Garden Party at the home of Eileen & Jack Tillbrook 3-5 p.m.
20th Sept. - Indoor meeting. Fred Etheridge will speak on Myths & Legends of Wild Flowers. Perhaps members will have their own folklore to contribute to our enjoyment of the evening.

BRITISH LEGION

There will be a Coffee Morning at the URC Hall Wethersfield on Saturday August 10th between 10 am and 12 noon. Raffle.
Secretary- Peter Morton 850 626

WETHERSFIELD HISTORY GROUP

On the 11th July, Keith Sutton will be giving us a guided tour of Panfield Church and Churchyard. There will also be an exhibition about the village sign in Panfield Village Hall and time for a drink later at 'The Bell'. The cost is £2.00 per person and we will be meeting at 7.30 pm outside Panfield Church. No meeting in August.
Sept 12th - Derek Norman - "Telling their time III - Wethersfield from a child's eye view"
We are always looking for new committee members and anyone interested in joining, please ring Lesley Nicks (secretary) on 850624.

1st Wethersfield Rainbows

Having said 'goodbye' to Esther Pilgrim, as she has reached her 7th birthday and goes on to Brownies, we say 'welcome' to Lucinda Gibson and hope she will enjoy being a Rainbow.

This term we have started a journey through the alphabet. Already we have made 'Badges' and 'Collages' and sampled 'Doughnuts', decorated 'Crowns' to celebrate our queen 'Elizabeths' 'Golden' jubilee, visited the 'Farm' and enjoyed an evening of 'Games'. We've a long way to go to get to 'Z' but are sure to have lots of fun on the way. Our activities finish on 16th July for the summer break but we will be back on 3rd September with the letter 'M'. We welcome girls between the ages of 5 and 7 years.

For details contact:

Brown Owl: Cherry Threadgold Tel 850481
Snowy Owl: Sarah Pilgrim Tel: 850781

1st Wethersfield Brownies

Sarah Clover left us at the end of last term and we wish her well and hope she will go on to enjoy Guides.

Esther Pilgrim and Misha White have joined us and we congratulate them on the making of their promise on 21st May and becoming fully enrolled members of 1st Wethersfield Brownies.

Kayleigh Moore, who used to be a Brownie here, has also joined us this term as part of her work towards gaining the Duke of Edinburgh Award and with her help we have been working hard on our Brownie journey challenges.

Well done to Frances Holliday and Emma Spackman for completing your footpath badges.

We have also had an enjoyable visit to Boydells Farm recently - "Thank You" Brown Owl, Roy and Kiley ~ have decorated crowns

for the U.R.C. jubilee weekend displays, and are joining other Brownies, Rainbows and Guides in our Division for a special jubilee celebration.

Our last meeting this term will be on 16th July, the Autumn term beginning on 3rd September. Brownie meetings are weekly for girls of 7-10 years of age. We welcome new members.

Contact: Brown Owl: Mrs. Cherry Threadgold
Tel: 01371 850481 Or Snowy Owl: Mrs. Sarah Pilgrim Tel: 01371 850781

CRICKET CLUB ON TOUR

Wethersfield will be very empty at the end of July when the cricket club will be on its first ever tour. This will involve games against the might of Italy a nation that is of course famous for its cricketing prowess. The club will play two games over a weekend against teams that captain Jerry Wells used to play for when he lived in Northern Italy.

Club members in regular training for the tour should become a common sight around the village at the tour date approaches. Unfortunately there are two significant injury scares that we are hoping will have cleared up in the next month. Opening bowler Howard Wright broke a bone in his ankle whilst going for a quick run against Sampfords and dashing middle order batsman Jon Leary broke his leg playing with his dog. The team's medical support staff confidently expect both players to be fully fit for the opening game.
Secretary - Paul Jerram 851156

Blackmore End Carpet Bowls Club

The Club started off in 1999 with a second hand carpet and set of balls scrounged from another club in the area. Since then it has found the money to buy another carpet and set of balls. Membership at the start was small but it has blossomed to the current 18 members.

Several friendly matches have been played against other clubs in the area. These are rather jolly affairs that end in tea or coffee & sandwiches and a good chat with the opposition. The Club has yet to win one of these matches.....!!!

Every Friday evening the club meets at 8pm in Blackmore End Village Hall. Games go on until about 10pm when there is usually a mass exodus to the local hostelry for much needed refreshment.

The Club is always looking for new members but, if anybody wants to see how the game is played, they are very welcome to turn up on any Friday to watch and play.

Further information about the Club and the game can be garnered from the Chairman, Harry Bauckham, on 850308 or the Secretary, Adrienne Poulson, on 851340 or the Treasurer, Margaret Rawlinson, on 851281.

BLACKMORE END VILLAGE HALL "Third Open Gardens"

Fortunately the sun shone throughout the weekend of the 22nd and 23rd of June when five gardens in Blackmore End and one in Beazley End opened their garden gates to

visitors.

Blackmore End Village Hall funds were increased by £250 and it was a great opportunity to meet some of the new people who have recently moved into the village. Thank you to everyone who opened their garden, sold cream teas, and a special thank you to Caroline and Ian Haynes at the Oast House for an excellent result from their superb plant sale. Thank you also to all our visitors.

We would welcome some new gardens in future years, please let me, or any member of the committee, know.

Dates for your diary:-

July 20th. Blackmore End Country Fayre - Playing Field and Hall - A must for all the family - Michael J.Fitch will be there again to entertain you !

October 12th - Quiz Night in Village Hall
Adrienne Poulson Chair, Blackmore End Village Hall Committee (851340)

WETHERSFIELD SCHOOL PTA

The PTA's aim this year is to raise funds to equip a new computer suite, which is part of the new building project that the school is undertaking. The estimated cost for equipping this new room will be in the region of £5000.

We launched our fundraising this year by holding a sponsored spell. This was very successful and well supported by all involved and managed to raise over £440. We were then able to increase our target to a fantastic £725 by holding jumble sales and an Easter tea and raffle.

Friday 28th June was our annual Family fun night. The year 5 & 6 pupils organised their games and attractions, we also had a bar, barbecue and various other stalls. We received some fantastic raffle prizes from local businesses, and a list of all the prize winners is now on display at school. We would like to say a huge THANK YOU to everyone for supporting this event, and for all the donations we received.

You can keep track of our fund-raising progress over the coming months by looking at the chart on display at school. Our aim is to reach our target by the end of the year. If you wish to make a donation to this new project or can assist us in any way, you can do so by calling into school or sending your donation to the Wethersfield School PTA. at the school address.

End of Term Disco Thursday 18th July 6pm - 8pm, URC Hall

Wethersfield Wine Club

Our next meeting is a boule (petanque) competition at the playing field, on **Friday 12th July**, starting at 7.30pm. Would members - bring their own drink (plastic glasses if possible) and picnic style food. Should it rain - still come along.

Sat August 10th. - Members BBQ

Friday 14th Sept. at 8pm in the village hall - Members talk & quiz.

Contacts are John Pye (sec.) (01376 326784) or Mike Dedman (0118 949 8064).

Creamer Fund

Approximately £320 was raised at the coffee morning at 'Hartleys' on Wednesday 19th June. Many thanks to all who supported us and gave. - Bill and Bunty Wright

PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

Parish Meetings were held on 15th May and 19th June. This is a selection of some of the main points:

Election of Officers - Wethersfield P C
Councillor David Foster re-elected as Chairman

Councillor William Wright re-elected as Vice Chairman

John Sheldrake re-appointed as Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

Recycling

Braintree D. C. is keen to extend the pilot kerbside collection facilities now in place at Witham and assess the results of a trial rural site - Wethersfield's interest was registered in participating in a trial scheme.

Speed Limits

ECC have written with proposals to introduce a 30 mph speed limit in respect of 3 local Shalford roads and a part of B1053 Braintree Road. A 40 mph limit will then apply from Hulls Lane northwards for approx. 626 metres.

ECC Youth Service Mobile Unit

Called 'Contact' this unit has lap-top computers, internet access, electronic games, board games and arts & crafts and is available during term time and August. It can be booked for one-off visits, regular weekly visits or a summer holiday visit.

Fun Day a Winner



IN SPITE of early inclement weather, over 500 people turned out to enjoy Wethersfield's Jubilee weekend Fun Day, with many visitors coming in from surrounding areas.

Bill Norman (Treasurer) said he was "extremely pleased with the day - we raised nearly £1600 surplus after expenses, our previous best being last year at £1100"

All the money raised will go to the upkeep of facilities on the playing field and the Committee will be meeting shortly to decide what specific project to spend the money on, to include possible new playing field equipment.

Bill mentioned that features such as the jousting challenge and timed car cutting by the local firemen had drawn in the crowds. Gate receipts, bar and

barbecue takings and raffle stood out as "big earners", but Bill stressed that "all contributors and stalls were invaluable to the success of the day"

A detailed Balance Sheet is on display at Wethersfield Post Office.

The musical interludes were also well appreciated - Tom Bryant, Steve Winterton, Jessie Threadgold's "Up Beat Band" and Sven Atterton's Band - the "Melonius Thank Trio"!

Dave Benfield as compere on the PA system and Steve Bartlett running the disco were also singled out for praise by Bill. Both Bill and Playing Field Chairman John Pierce wish to express sincere thanks to all who helped to make this special fun day such a success.

Note that the 5 mile Fun Run, normally held on Fun Day, will be held later in the year. Watch for posters!



The Web for Free!

Readers may recall earlier ideas to establish a 'cyber cafe' in Wethersfield Men's Club. Due to lack of funding and other practical reasons this did not happen. However, now Braintree library has installed 20 PC terminals for internet access, emails and information searches.and their use is FREE! Sessions of up to an hour per day can be booked in advance using your library card.

This is part of an national initiative to make computers available to absolutely everyone through the library service.

Never had the chance to use a computer? individual tutorials for only £10 are available to get you started on the Internet or e-mail. There are online courses, some of which are free, to improve your computing skills in most areas and you can also create your own work with word processing, spreadsheets and other software.

Equipment is also available for people with sight and hearing problems. Some computers have the facility to enlarge text. Scanned documents can be read aloud via the computer.

Braintree library is open Mon-Sat and Sundays 1-4pm.
For further details, contact Tina Bowers on 01376 320752 or e-mail tina.bowers@essex.cc.gov.uk

Propertynotes from Bev Baxter of Gray & Co

I have said for quite some long time that Wethersfield is largely undiscovered as a place to live. Happily however it would seem that more people are discovering the virtues of the village and demand is rising. The advent of the large supermarkets has, to some great extent, killed off many village shops but not in Wethersfield. Time and again I am finding that prospective home owners are pleasantly surprised to find that not only has the village got its own Post Office and shop, but has also a Garage as well as a Restaurant and two Public Houses.

Quite naturally this is beginning to have an effect on prices which are now steadily rising in the village. However this rise is not as marked as in Great Dunmow or Bishops Stortford: whilst because of the enormous amount of building in Braintree the prices there are quite keen. I have to say that Notley Garden Village is now so complicated I got completely lost there a few weeks ago! Wethersfield still represents reasonable value for money if you are looking for a good three or four bedroom Semi Detached Property. There are, as I'm sure you are aware, many fine Period Properties around the village and they command a great deal of interest if

and when they come on to the market. My greatest concern is for the first time buyer, because if prices get to a point where they are unable to start on the ladder then the whole process will grind to a halt. For the moment however everything seems to be holding up with the market being quite buoyant.

Finally it would appear that the buy to let market is slowing right down. Anyone purchasing properties for investment purposes should be quite careful at the moment as rental properties that are asking for rents in excess of £650 per calendar month are struggling to find tenants who are prepared to pay rents of this amount.

Wethersfield Pathfinders

Dates for your diary:
All walks start at Wethersfield Green on Sunday mornings at 10.30am - a leisurely 3-4 miles.

28th July

25th August

22nd September

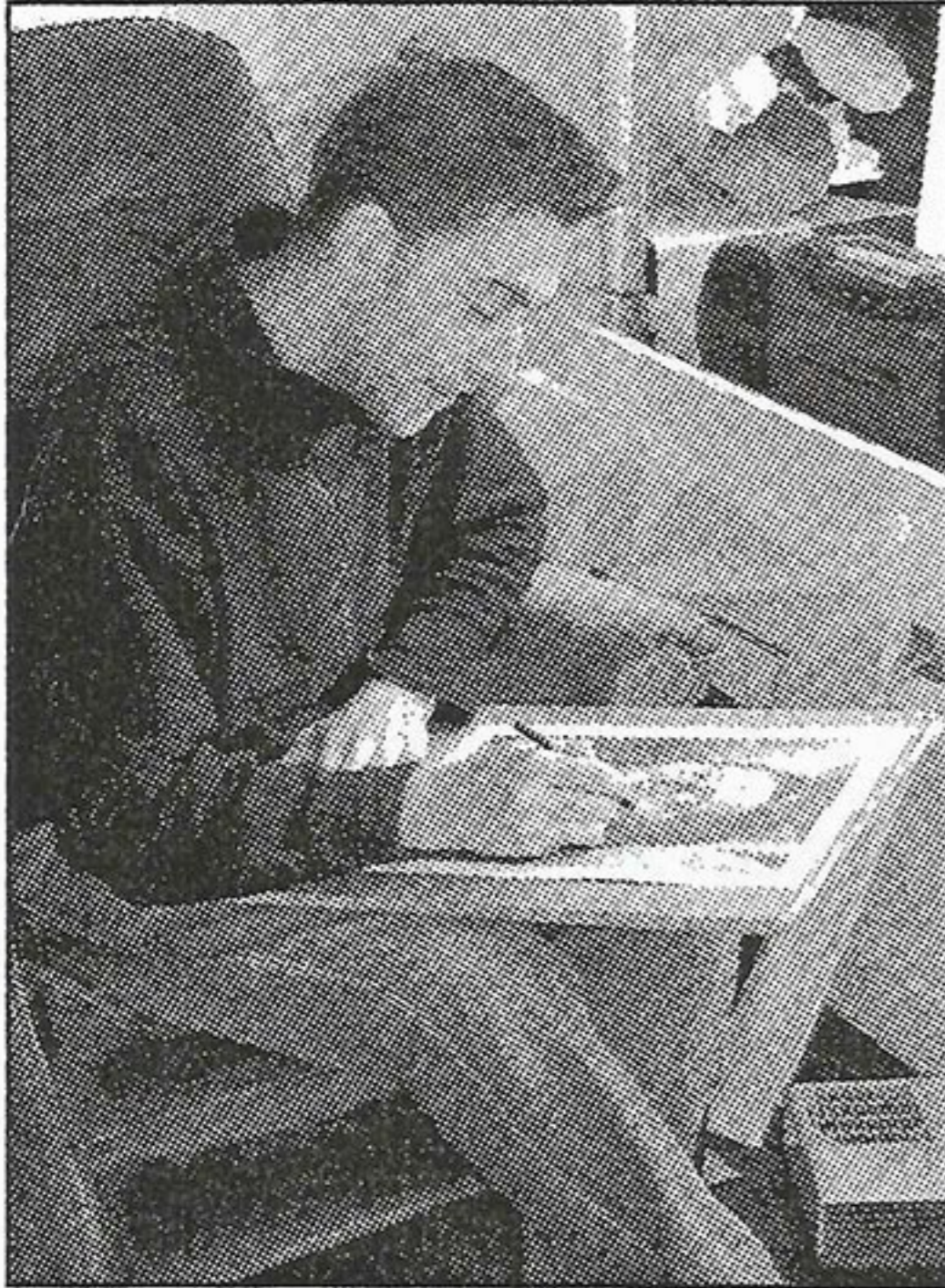
Well-behaved dogs welcome!

Do join us!

People.....

Garage Art

A BUDDING artist on our doorstep - Ben Hubbard, the young man who dispenses petrol at Tillbrooks Garage, has shown exceptional ability since his very early years. He remembers vividly " how embarrassing it was to be brought up in front of the class and my drawing shown to the other children".



He continued to develop his artistic talent and left school to take a 2-year college course for a BTEC National Diploma in Industrial Design. Even though a career in fine art was his ambition, he realised that "unless I was very lucky, it would not provide me with a decent living". He decided to add to his qualifications by taking an HND in Graphic Design, which he passed with flying colours. However, disaster struck, his portfolio full of design work which potentially was his C.V. was stolen from the classroom taking with it any chance of getting a decent job. This experience combined with the feeling that "the college course had made drawing a chore", resulted in him giving up on art for the next 2 years.

He started work at Tillbrooks garage and one day taking a biro pen from

the counter began drawing again. A book that he had borrowed from the local library containing black and white photographs of American Indians had inspired him. His empathy with their traditional way of life led him to make pen copies of these photographs.

He is also branching out into different mediums; acrylics used to produce geometric contemporary art; semi 3-D work using MDF. Ben is also attending life drawing practice at Lindsell Gallery and since a local gallery has shown a lot of interest in his work and he is receiving commissions for specific subjects, his confidence has returned. When asked who he had inherited his artistic ability from Ben replied that he believes "artistic talent is not a hereditary or genetic trait but a manifestation of an expression of the soul personality".

Woolly Appeal

HELP! Have you any DK knitting wool to spare? Odd ends, any colours or amounts. We're a group of 'mature' ladies who, in our spare time, knit squares. These are then sewn together to make patchwork blankets, cot blankets or lap rugs. we have sent blankets to the Salvation Army, cot blankets to Mr Mills and rugs to Farleigh Hospice - but we are running out of wool! We will collect any you have to spare. Please ring Pat 850 519 or Jan 850 797. Thankyou.

Wethersfield Club

Located under the Village Hall, entrance to the right of Dickens Brasserie, the Club welcomes new members, who may sample the delights of this venue, by calling in prior to signing up! Another new feature is that under 16's are now allowed in, accompanied by members. This may help to solve child-minder problems!

Forthcoming events:

20th July - Summer BBQ night
17th August - Live Music (details TBC)

HELP! -1st Wethersfield Guides need a new leader desperately. If you are interested in keeping this unit open for our girls and feel you may be able to help as a volunteer adult leader please step forward NOW! Training will be given alongside the support of qualified guiders. Contact: Sarah Pilgrim Tel: 01371 850781 Or District Commissioner: Sara Peak Tel: 01376 322014

Action Replay for Ellie!

ONE of the main attractions at Wethersfield's Fun Day was the demonstration of how quickly a car could be cut up by the village's retained fire service. The young lady timing this event was Ellie Richmond, who more than most people was grateful to the firemen's commitment.

Earlier in the year she was travelling from Wethersfield, where she lives with partner Daran Byng, to the White Hart in Great Yeldham, where she works as a chef. Just a few minutes from her destination she was involved in a head-on crash with a transit van. Her car was crumpled beyond recognition and she sustained serious injuries to both legs and some to her face. She commented "when I look at the photograph of the crash, I am amazed that I survived". Wethersfield fire service were the first on the scene and took an hour to cut her free from the wreckage. She was then taken to Colchester General Hospital by the Essex Air Ambulance.



"I never dreamt that the fund-raising for the Air Ambulance that we had been involved in at the Three Bottles at Great Yeldham would have such a personal impact on me" she said. After a long spell in hospital, she is now making good progress and hopes that after the physiotherapy sessions have finished, she can throw away the walking stick. She recalls "that everything was a blur after the accident happened, but I have a lasting memory of Howard Wright, one of the firemen, suggesting that perhaps I might like to join the fire service after I get out of hospital". Well done, Howard, good recruitment technique - nice try!

SEPT/OCT ISSUE COPY DEADLINE

AUG 30th

We are always looking for ideas for articles, village newcomers, interesting 'characters', letters, points of interest etc. Correspondents and editorial volunteers most welcome!

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