

WETHERSFIELD

BLACKMORE END & BEAZLEY END

NEWS

AUTUMN 2007

news@ChurchHillHouse.co.uk

A Tragic Loss

ALEC Saunders, known to many as Tractor Alec or Alec 'One thumb' sadly died in the early hours of Saturday 22nd September 2007 in a caravan fire. Alec, aged 64 will be missed by many following such a tragic accident.

As a child, Alec was brought up at his home in Challis Lane, Braintree. After leaving school, he had a job looking after chickens and after passing his driving test, delivered bread for Doves Bakery in Braintree. Alec moved on and lived at Little Codham Hall, Beazley End in a caravan and worked for Mr. Tabor, Bocking until his caravan burnt up in approx 1985. After this, Tommy Letham took Alec under his wing and he worked at Trotters Rest slaughter house, High Garret and lived in a caravan there. Shortly after, Tommy took him to Westmead, Cut Maple, Gosfield where he lived in a cabin, this became his 'official address'. Over the last 10 years Alec gradually made his way to Whitehall Farm, Wethersfield to his caravan and finally exchanged it for a mobile home. He lost his thumb in an accident involving a saw bench 25 years ago.

Alec enjoyed keeping himself busy and it pleased him no end to help other people out wherever possible. Alec was involved in various charity events and raised over £ 1000 for the air ambulance on a sponsored bike ride.



He also raised money for Blackmore End Playing Field Association, of which he was a committee member.

Alec had many jobs including those mentioned above such as; looking after cattle at Bovington Hall, Bocking (cattle was Alec's main interest), working at Chelmsford market for Whirlidge & Nott weekly as a Cattle Drover and occasionally a night watchman for machinery in the sales - this came to an end when the market closed down. Alec's pride and joy was his tractor which he bought from Tommy Letham and kept for 15 years, he finally sold his tractor earlier this year and replaced it with a van which he was also very proud of. Alec relied on his methods of transport to carry out odd jobs for people all around the district. Alec kept a vegetable garden for Brian Moore which was very impressive. He also kept chickens along with 100 turkeys each year for Christmas trade. He also used to own a horse called Sinbad which once took part in Braintree Carnival.

Alec left a brother called Eric who lives in Stebbing, Mary his sister who lives with husband Michael in Somerset and another brother Peter who lives in Maldon. Kerry his niece lives with her husband in Wethersfield and Simon his nephew lives in Stebbing.

Alec liked to celebrate his birthday every year on July 6th and on his 60th birthday, over 250 people turned up at Fairy Farm in a barn to celebrate with him. He frequented many pubs in the area with his main stop off being at The Cock at Beazley End, The Bull at Blackmore End, Bottle Hall and the White Lion at Hedingham and The Tavern at Wethersfield. He was well known for getting into a lot of muddles but with a little help from his friends, he managed to get out again. His favourite saying being 'Muddles were made to get out of'.

Helen Finbow

The News Re-Lauched

After a three year 'pause' this is the first issue of the News since the last issue in Dec. 2004. There was widespread support for it in the responses to the Village Appraisal and the recent formation of a small editorial team has made the relaunch possible. It is planned to publish four issues a year - Autumn, Winter, Spring and Summer.

After such a long break, this issue provides an update on recent and forthcoming village events as well as the various clubs and societies.

We apologise for any omissions due to lack of space, but we will make up for this in the next edition.

This is a parish newspaper and we are looking to our readers to provide items of general interest to keep it going. Please (ideally) email or phone - contact details are on the back page.

As to the piece alongside, we know this tragedy has been already reported in the press, but feel that the fascinating background to Alec's life should be told here.

WAP..... Fiddler on the Roof

The next production of WAP will be Fiddler on the Roof on March 6th, 7th & 8th 2008. This is a well known and uplifting show set in a Jewish Community in early 20th century Russia. It has great songs, "Tradition", "If I were a rich man", "Sunrise Sunset" and balances a serious emotional subject with humour and entertainment.

Performances will take place at Wethersfield Village Hall, so watch out for posters and leaflets and ensure you buy tickets early, especially for Friday/Saturday nights and Saturday matinee, which have been sell outs.

Wethersfield Pre-school

(Registered Charity No. 1023628)

Located at The Pavilion, The Playing Field, Wethersfield.

Established in 1967, Wethersfield pre-school is managed by a voluntary committee made up of parents who's children attend the pre-school.

We have 6 friendly members of staff plus 3 volunteers/relief staff who control the day to day running of the pre-school. Children are welcome to attend the pre-school between the ages of 2-4 ½ years. We are proud to have a full register at present with children attending from Wethersfield and the surrounding areas.

Wethersfield Pre-school has been running for 40 years !!!

On Monday 17th September the children and staff at the pre-school had a 'red themed day' to celebrate its ruby anniversary.

The children had already started the new term with a change to the colour of their uniforms to red to commemorate the anniversary. Founder member Elaine Ambrose attended the session alongside Gloria Ellis who remains a member of staff after 39 years! The children celebrated with red balloons, a bouncy castle, decorating cakes with red icing and making crowns.

The playgroup was originally located at the Village Hall in 1967, it then moved on to the URC hall for a short time, then in 1976 was located at the Borthwick's family residence at Wethersfield Place for approx 10 years. In 1986 the playgroup moved to the Pavilion building in which it is located now.

Our 40 Year Anniversary Dance & Charity Auction took place in September and was a very enjoyable evening.. Through ticket sales, donations, raffle, auction and the bar we managed to raise just over £ 1750.00. This money will all go towards providing new quality toys and equipment (including storage). Thank you to everyone who helped make this such a successful event.

AGM - Tuesday 6th November, 8pm at the Pavilion, Wethersfield. This is an excellent opportunity to come along and listen to what is going on in the pre-school with the option of joining our committee.

Pub Quiz Night - Saturday 10th November, 8pm start at the Tavern. Tickets cost £10 per team (maximum of .

People..... The Woollards

Angie and John Woollard arrived in Wethersfield 18 months ago from Portsmouth. They had thoroughly enjoyed living on the South Coast because Portsmouth offered so much to see and do; it's easy to walk everywhere and of course, is a beautiful port.

When John's job as a district judge brought about a move to London, the Woollards, having previously lived in Stebbing, began to look for somewhere to live - a nerve wracking time as there was little on the market and they had already sold their house in Portsmouth. The estate agent marketing St George's House had mistakenly advised that the house was in the village of Withersfield near Haverhill. However, arriving in Wethersfield, Angie was drawn by the Georgian house's character and once John had seen it, they decided to make an offer.

The couple who have two children, Oliver, 24 and Lucy 21, moved in May 2006 and Angie says, "it has been a great move, we've found people in the village incredibly friendly and welcoming and there is such a lot going on."



John who at school trod the boards with Griff Rhys Jones, will be playing second man in the WAP's next production of "Fiddler on the Roof".

Wethersfield's latest production which will be staged in March.

Also in March he and Gwenda Hall will be presenting Wethersfield History Society's

monthly talk, "Wethersfield in 1808" which will coincide with the 200th anniversary of Patrick Brontë living in Wethersfield. Without giving too much away, they will be exploring Brontë's time in the village including his love affair with a neighbour - it all happens in Wethersfield!

Many of the Woollards' new neighbours arrived in Wethersfield at around the same time although the latest arrival is not so welcome. A peahen has been nesting in their garden since March and they are hoping she will soon find her way back home.

Angie and John are pleased that they too found their way back to North Essex and especially to Wethersfield.

6 people) and this includes nibbles.

Join us with your other half and your friends for drinks, quiz questions and fun!

Please contact Phil at the Tavern on 850363 or Catharine Ivey on 850264 to book your place.

Rummage Sale - Saturday 24th

November, 2.30pm - 4.30pm at the URC Hall, Wethersfield. 20p Entrance All proceeds to Wethersfield Pre-school. If anybody can help on the day, please contact Helen Finbow on 850979. Tea/Coffee and cake for sale for those tired of rummaging! (Donations of cakes to sell on the day would be gratefully received.) Good quality rummage can be left at the URC hall on the day from 12.45 onwards.

For all enquiries regarding the pre-school please contact Elaine Millen - Leading Practitioner on 01371 810990



Keep the news going by sending in interesting ideas and articles that YOU want to see published here. Contact details on back page.

Wethersfield C. of E. Primary School Parent Teacher Association

FOR those of you not familiar with the School here in Wethersfield and the role of the PTA, we would like to give you a brief outline of what we do and who we are.

Wethersfield C. of E. Primary School sits in the centre of the village and has done so for 150 years. We have 60 children at the moment aged from 5-11.

The PTA exists to bring together parents and teachers with a shared interest in supporting their school. It offers an informal channel of communication between parent and staff, who between them plan and run fundraising events and decide the best way to spend the money raised. Every school has a budget, which is of course limited. By raising extra funds we can provide additional items that add to the children's enjoyment.

All parents and guardians of pupils attending the school and all teachers are automatically members of the PTA. However in reality there are a small number of us that actually organise things, but we are always on the look out for new members. The management of the PTA rests with the committee, a tireless and enthusiastic bunch. This year we were very sad to lose several very hardworking and experienced members of the committee, including our excellent and extremely well organised chairperson, Marion Wells. As children leave they unfortunately take their parents with them. So the committee at this moment in time is mostly made up of fairly new (and ever so slightly nervous...) members.

In the past we have paid for the cost of transport to a Christmas pantomime, a keyboard, transport to the swimming pool, netball skirts, TV and video, IT equipment, books, musical instruments, digital cameras, science equipment and at the end of each year we hold a school leavers event.

Most recently we were able to fund, a juggling day for the older children and an 'Elmer' day for the younger children, a visit (complete with Owls) from Linton Zoo and also purchase a mini cooker with its own trolley and utensils. This has enabled the children to be able to cook in their own classrooms. In addition to the 'treats' we also give the school a termly donation to help with general costs like transport. In all the PTA has raised in excess of £ 10,500 since 2000. Not bad for such a small school. So it just remains for us to say that we would be delighted to see you at our events in the coming months. The first note for your diary is our annual Christmas Bazaar to be held on Friday 7th December 2007 at 3.15. We hope you will join us and look forward to seeing you there.

CHAIRPERSON
Christine Mariutto

SECRETARY
Keren Wilkins

TREASURER
Charlotte Holliday

Girlguiding UK In Wethersfield

1st Wethersfield Rainbows

For girls from 5 to 7 years of age

Games, crafts, 'show & tell', stories, and lots of fun activities including outings and get-togethers with other Rainbow groups. Regular meetings at Wethersfield URC Hall on Tuesdays. 4.30pm - 5.30pm
£5 per term.

1st Wethersfield Brownies

For girls from 7 to 10 years of age

Traditional Brownie activities and up-to-date ones too make up the Brownie Adventure with fun, games and friends. Regular meetings at Wethersfield URC Hall

On Tuesdays. 5.30pm - 7.00pm 50p per week.

Join us for our Marathon Sing-Song in aid of 'Children with Leukaemia' on Tuesday 13th November and see us in action!!

All welcome at this fund raising event - young and old!

For further details of **Girlguiding UK** in Wethersfield contact:

Brown Owl: Mrs. Cherry Threadgold. Tel: 01371 850481

Snowy Owl: Mrs. Sarah Pilgrim. Tel: 01371 850781

Neighbourhood Action Panel

Neighbourhood Action Panel (NAP) is a new initiative led by Essex Police. It involves representatives of the area, including Wetherfield, Finchingfield, Shalford, The Bardfields, Cornish Hall End, Blackmore End, Panfield and Saling, forming a panel who identify and prioritise community problems which require a multi agency approach to achieve sustainable long term solutions. These are then forwarded to the community Safety Tasking/Joint Action group who meet monthly at Braintree Police Station. This group incorporates BDC-housing association-youth agencies-social services and police. Public meetings will be regularly held in the participating villages to ascertain any on going problems - the first of which will be Tuesday 27 November in Blackmore End Village Hall at 7pm. Please come along and share your views on any local issue that is causing you concern.

Debbie Leathlean.

The CREAMER Fund

The fund is always most grateful for the support given and the next fundraising event is the Christmas Raffle held at the Centre. This will run from the 10th - 19th December and prizes will be thankfully received.

Jean Murphy

Wethersfield Tennis Club

The Playing Fields Association endeavour to maintain the tennis court in top condition (re-sprayed late 2006). We currently have some 50 family memberships and the court is also available for casual hire @£3/hour (£2 under 17's). Various classes of membership are available commencing 1st April each year - more details in next newsletter.

On Wednesday evenings from May to August we employ Rob Hardy (LTA coach) from Braintree Tennis Club. The coaching sessions have proved very popular and must be pre-booked - again more details next time.

Contact Bill on 01371 851094

St. Mary Magdalene Church Wethersfield

The Parish of Wethersfield forms part of the four Parish Benefice with Shalford, Finchingfield and Cornish Hall End, a large area for one vicar to cover and therefore he relies on his Church Wardens to be a point of local contact. The normal pattern of services at Wethersfield is as follows:

1st Sunday in the month 8pm Holy Communion
2nd Sunday 11am Family Service usually taken by Sarah Pilgrim Especially for families and young children
3rd Sunday 11am Parish Communion
4th Sunday 6.30pm Evensong and also, from 10am to 11.30am activities for young children with Sarah Pilgrim and Elaine Ambrose.

When a **fifth Sunday** occurs, each Parish takes a turn at hosting the 11am Service. In addition to the above, special services are held to celebrate Festivals:

Sunday 4th November, 6pm at Finchingfield - All Souls Day (Thanksgiving for the departed)

Sunday 11th November, 10.50am at Wethersfield - Remembrance Sunday. Wethersfield and Shalford British Legion join in the Festival of Remembrance.

Sunday 2nd December, 4pm at Blackmore End Village Hall - Carol Service

Sunday 23rd December, 6pm at Wethersfield Church - Carol Service

Christmas Eve Monday 24th December, 11.30 at Wethersfield Church - Midnight Mass

Christmas Day, 11am at Wethersfield Church - Short family service

Sunday 30th December, 2pm in the Cowshed, Boydell's Farm - Carols

The Vicar would appreciate that you contact him for Baptisms, Marriage and Funerals or when you are in need of help, and if you are sick or housebound he is happy to bring you communion at home.

As Church Wardens, we are always pleased to be of help in any way we can, and we are keen to make contact with newcomers. We realize that many are not able or do not wish to attend Church regularly but we are always pleased to see you on special days and hope that over the coming Festive Season you will join us. We do appreciate the support we receive from many of you in our fund raising ventures and we are always pleased to welcome new volunteers, who like us wish to keep the Church alive for future generations. People often say "I am not a Church goer but I do want to see the Church maintained in the Village and I would like to help"..... please do ! Just give us a ring.

Our CHRISTMAS BAZAAR is on Saturday 24th November at Wethersfield Village Hall from 2pm. If you are able to help or donate items, please phone the Church Wardens as above.

ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE IN JANUARY.

Vicar - Rev. Colin Wilson 810309

Reader - Mrs. Sarah Pilgrim 850781

Church Wardens Mrs. Joy Fossit 850823 & Mrs. Eve Newell 850957

United Reformed Church

After a few months of uncertainty over new groupings within the U.R.C. District, we were thrilled to be invited to be linked, with Halstead United Reformed Church, under the ministerial leadership of Rev. Michael Rigney.

To affirm this position Michael was inducted into our church on Saturday, 21st July following the usual U.R.C. Service of Induction. Our chapel

was full as district officers, church members, Michael's family and friends, alongside many village friends to welcome him.

Michael now regularly conducts services for us, leads our church meetings, joins in our social events and has already been a support to villagers who have needed his help and continues to be available to visit anyone who feels they have a need. We look forward to this fresh start (this is the first minister to have been inducted in our church for about 60 years!), and we already have a number of new ideas in mind that we

hope you will come to join us for. More about these in future village news.....

On **Sunday, 2nd December** we celebrate the start of Advent and a special Family Service to celebrate. This will be a short service (starting at 11am), when parents can relax with their children and join in preparing for Christmas with our usual mixture of hymns for our young and older members, percussion playing, prayers and a Bible message. This is all followed with refreshments and the chance to have a chat with others. We welcome you all to join us on this occasion.

Then on **Wednesday, 5th December**, 10am. we open our doors to all the youngest members of our village for Kid's Carols. The youngest classes in We+hersfield Primary School. The Pre-School. Jay's. Little Rascals and babies and toddlers at home with parents and carers, are invited to join us for this very short get together, with well known easy Christmas Songs and story time, all followed with a drink and cake. Several of the main groups mentioned will take individual parts. Again we welcome everyone to this, including more senior folks who just enjoy watching children at Christmas.

Sunday, 9th December 11 am - Communion Service for Christmas.

Sunday, 16th December - Candlelight Carol Service 6.30pm.

Please note the change this year, in so far as this popular service is to be held on a Sunday evening instead of mid week. As usual our collection on this evening along with all our collections in December will be donated to Cancer Research.

Sunday, 23rd December - Members Service 11am.

Again this is another very popular service - if you have a favourite hymn, poem, Bible passage etc please let our Secretary know and you are either welcome to come along and read them yourself or someone can read them for you.

Sunday, 24th December 11.30pm.

We will be joining with our sister church. The URC in Halstead, for this extra special service to welcome Christmas Day and reflect on the true meaning of Christmas. A warm welcome awaits you all - do come and join us.

Sunday, 25th December 10am. Start Christmas Day by celebrating Jesus' birthday. Come to our short Family Service and be home in time to cook your Christmas Dinner.

Secretary: David Jenkins.

850752.



WATCHWORD AUTUMN 2007-NEWSLETTER

Braintree & District Area Neighbourhood Watch.
Clive Stewart, NW Administrator Tel: 01376 556 282
e-mail: clive.stewart@essex.pnn.police.uk



The Mobile CCTV Vehicle is in the Braintree District



Braintree District Council have purchased a Mobile CCTV Vehicle to address Anti-social Behaviour (ASB) across the District.

The Braintree District remains a very low crime area across Essex and Nationally. The vehicle will assist us to further improve our Crime & Disorder statistics whilst also raising the profile of our partnership working on Community Safety across the District.

What is its Main Purpose?

To prove and disprove ASB

To prevent, deter gain evidence of ASB.

Collect evidence necessary for prosecution of offenders

Reassure members of the public and wider community.

Help build public confidence

Address fear of crime

Can it be used for Anything Else?

Yes it can. It can be used for gathering evidence for other criminal activities e.g. traffic offences, fly-tipping, criminal damage etc, although the primary purpose is to address ASB.

How is it Deployed?

The vehicle will be deployed across the district to specific 'ASB hotspot' locations. This is identified in accordance with statistical evidence from the Police and Braintree District Council.

The deployment is requested via the Police Community Safety Tasking Groups (One exists in each geographical area - Braintree, Witham & Halstead).

For further information, please contact the Braintree District Council Community Safety & Development Team on 01376 552525.

"Mini Motos ARE crushed ! If you break the Law!!!!!!".



If you do not know the Law relating to these vehicles- you may think twice before buying one. You must ensure that when you drive them you are abiding by the Law. Mini Motos/Scooters cannot be used on the road or in a public place without insurance or a valid driving licence.

These vehicles should only be used on private land (*with the permission of the landowner - who must have the appropriate public liability insurance*).

The driver must have a valid full driving licence, road tax, MOT (where appropriate) and car insurance. The Police can report the owner for NO insurance; NO tax, NO MOT, and the drivers will receive penalty points on the licence or future licence.

The Police have the powers to seize any offending vehicle, but only after a warning has been given to that person.

Any warning given will remain in force for twelve months. It does not have to be given in respect of the same vehicle. The vehicle cannot be seized unless the warning has been ignored. Once a first warning has been given, if the vehicle is seen again acting in a manner, which causes alarm, distress or annoyance it will be seized. Once the vehicle is seized it will cost over £100 to get it back, plus at least an extra £12 per day.

If anyone sees a person riding a Mini Moto/Scooter, in a manner, which may be considered dangerous or causes alarm, distress or annoyance, they should call their local Police Station.

IS THIS A SCAM?

You pick up your morning post, or receive an e-mail and there it is!

A letter/e-mail, informing you that you have won a prize - a holiday, a flat screen television, digital video camera, jewellery etc etc!

Great you think.

But wait a moment, did you actually enter a competition in order to have won a prize?

The most likely answer is No.

If you didn't enter a competition then you cannot have won a prize.

DON'T GET CAUGHT UP IN THIS TYPE OF SCAM.

DON'T SEND OFF ANY MONEY TO CLAIM YOUR PRIZE.

DON'T SEND OFF ANY PERSONAL DETAILS.

PUT THE LETTER IN THE RECYCLING BAG WHERE IT BELONGS.

If you receive a telephone call from a company offering you shares in a lottery at £49 per ticket, PUT THE PHONE DOWN. This is yet another scam trying to get hold of your money and personal details.

Would like to have more information on Neighbourhood Watch?

If you do not know your local NW Co-ordinator or would like more literature please contact:-

Clive Stewart, Essex Police,
Neighbourhood W. Administrator,
Braintree & District Area,
Braintree Police Station,
Tel: 01376 556 282.

MOBILE PHONE THEFTS

Theft of mobile phones remain a major concern. The following information is intended to help yourself and the Police. Do you know what the IMEI is? The IMEI (International Mobile Equipment Identity) is a 14-17 digit number that identifies each and every handset at the time of manufacture.

When a phone is switched on, the unique IMEI number is transmitted and checked against a database of blocked phones. This determines whether the phone can make and receive calls.

Where can I find the IMEI? You can press the * hash 06 hash or the sticker is normally found under the battery.

When reporting a theft, the Police require the make, model, number and IMEI number in order to circulate as identifiable property.

You can register details of your mobile phone (and as many of your possessions as you wish) with www.immobilise.com which is a FREE secure site. Once registered, a user ID and password are generated. In the event of loss or theft, a registered phone can be flagged as lost or stolen.

This information then automatically appears on the NMPPR which is National Mobile phone and Property Register. This is a single online property search system for the UK Law Enforcement Agencies. Finally, you will need to notify your network provider to get the phone blocked.

ELECTRIC BLANKET TESTING



Did you know that electric blankets cause more than 250 fires every year? There are simple ways to stop that happening to you.

Electric blankets should be tested every three years and completely replaced every 10 years. Essex County Fire and Rescue Service are working in partnership with Braintree District Council, Essex Trading Standards and Neighbourhood Watch to provide FREE!! Electric Blanket Testing.

Testing procedures will include:- Fraying fabric: Scorch marks: Exposed elements Creasing or folding : Soiling Damp patches Tie tapes damaged or missing Worn flex and loose connections .

How old is your blanket? An old BEAB safety mark, ie a round symbol means it is more than 10 years old. The new sign is white capital letters on a black background.

Please contact your local Fire Station for further information.




Value for money

Golf Breaks *on Irelands West Coast*

*The price of **only £299** includes all of the following...*

- Return flights from Stansted
- Transportation by mini-bus throughout your stay in Ireland
- Two nights bed & breakfast accommodation at the "Lighthouse Inn" in Kilbaha, County Clare, on the edge of the Atlantic
- Three rounds of exciting & challenging golf on three different courses
- Evenings in the local pubs &, of course, the "Lighthouse Inn"

For a colour leaflet giving full details

 **John Martin on 01787 462001**

Monday to Friday 9.00am - 6.00pm

Golfing Breaks arranged by "Images of Ireland" since 1999 based on their extensive knowledge of Irelands West Coast



Wethersfield Wine Club

Since our AGM in May, we have enjoyed a boules and picnic afternoon, a wine tasting evening, the Fun Day "human fruit machine", our annual barbecue, an evening with owls and an Italian theme night. We are also proud to boast that we won the Annual Halstead Wine Club Quiz!

Future meetings comprise:-
November - Competition evening
December - Christmas Party
January - Members night

Contact Barbara or Brenda 01371 850978

Wethersfield Chess Club

Formed in 2003 Wethersfield Chess Club meet on Tuesday evenings at Wethersfield Club (8 to 11pm). We are keen to recruit new members BUT very happy to entertain visitors of all standards whether on a "one-off" or regular basis (we can offer instruction to younger players up to 9.30 pm on non league match nights).

The Club also play in the Third Division of the North Essex Chess League and have finished a very creditable 2nd in the past two seasons. Early League fixtures for 2007/8 comprise:

30th Oct (Tue) home to Chelmsford D
14th Nov (Wed) away to Witham C
18th Dec (Tue) home to Braintree D
3rd Jan (Thu) away to Brentwood B

Contact Bill on 01371 851094 or Chris on 01371 850937

Wethersfield Fun Day

Saturday 14th July 2007

Organised by The Derek Flannery Playing Field Association

The PFA raised £1500 alone plus an additional £700 for the other groups and societies who held stalls on the day. The sun shone and everybody had an enjoyable day! Thanks to everybody who supported the event



Fun Day Pre-School Bottle Stall

Wethersfield Village Hall

We are holding our AGM at the Village Hall on Wednesday 3rd December at 8.00pm and are keen to attract new, younger members to the committee. If you are interested in maintaining this important village facility for the enjoyment of future generations please make an effort to attend the meeting.

Forthcoming special events:

"Fiddler on the Roof" - March 2008 - see under Wethersfield Amateur Performers.

"Cool Britannia" - Retro comedy revue by Time of our Lives Music Theatre on Saturday 3rd May 2008 - more details in future newsletters.

Contact Jack Tillbrook 01371 851204

The Wethersfield Friendship Club

Meets fortnightly on Fridays at 2.30pm in the Village Hall

New members are actively being sought of any age, to swell the ranks to their former number. Currently we enjoy tea and a chat as well as a game of bingo, but if there is sufficient interest we can arrange for speakers to come and speak to our group about anything that is of mutual interest as well as other activities. New ideas welcome.

For details contact Mrs Joyce Brown
Tel: 01371 850 743

Pathfinder Walks in 2007

The Pathfinders meet on the 4th Sunday of the month (Not the last Sunday, as some months have 5 Sundays) with the exception of December when we meet on Boxing Day. The dates for the remaining walks this year are:-

Sunday 28th Oct Village Green Wethersfield **Sunday 25th Nov Village Green Wethersfield**
Wednesday 26th Dec Blackmore End Village Hall Car Park

All walks start at 10.30am and last about 2 hours

The aim of the pathfinders when formed was to encourage people to walk the footpaths of the parish to promote their use and to ensure that they were generally well signposted. Over the years I think these aims have been met on the whole very well. Many of the village residents, myself included, have learnt their way around the local countryside by participating in these walks. In my case I have gone on to organizing and leading many of the walks. In 2007 we decided to start more of the walks from Blackmore End than in previous years in order to give a greater variety of paths walked. Again I think this has also been successful so in 2008 I think we will try starting a couple of the walks from Finchingfield or Great Bardfield in order to once again extend the range and variety of footpaths walked while staying reasonably local to the parish. So please come along and enjoy a walk with us. They are not too strenuous although you do need to be able to climb the odd stile. Its a great way to learn your way around, meet people, see more of the countryside than you can by car and its good for you. If you have a (well behaved) dog then all the better, there are usually several other dogs for them to have a run with. If anyone wants any more information they can contact me on 850937 and I look forward to seeing you on the next walk.

Peter Pascoe

Blackmore End News.

Macmillan Cancer Support.

Now in its second year the Macmillan Coffee Morning was yet again a success with everyone enjoying coffee, Cakes, Bring and Buy, Guess the weight of the cake competition (4lbs 10ozs Carrot and Walnut), Win a shopping Spree at John Lewis Grid game and the inevitable raffle.

"Last year we raised £264 this year we were determined to beat the £300 and a fantastic £331.60 was in fact the final figure" said Pip McBean We would like to thank all those people who donated prizes, baked cakes and who helped make coffee and served. Special thanks to the Blackmore End Village Hall Committee for supporting the morning by letting us use the hall free of charge.

Blackmore End Village Hall

Details of activities and Hall rental can be found on our Website

www.blackmoreendvillage.co.uk The next Function is 1st December Christmas Quiz, then 12th January 2008 Fun Wine Tasting Evening (book your table early limited numbers) and our Valentines Quiz on 16th February 2008. For further information or bookings see website or contact Ian McBean on 01371 851423.

The committee held a minute's silence at the last meeting for the loss of a fellow committee member Alec Saunders. Alec was a valued and popular committee member, always helping and organising things, especially the tractor ride at the Easter Egg Hunt for the children - we all will sadly miss him.

Busy Fingers Club

1st and 3rd Tuesday in the month at the Village Hall 8pm contact Brenda Sheldrake on 01371 851004

(Please see www.blackmoreendvillage.co.uk for full details)

Iyengar Yoga Classes

Beginners are welcome to join us on Wednesday Morning 10am at the Village Hall for full details and to participate contact Michelle on 07812 756361.

Table Tennis

Starts again on Thursday evenings 7pm - 9pm in Village Hall. All welcome and any age. Contact Brian Pemberton on 01371 850807

Youth Music Festival

September the 15th saw the tenth Anniversary of the Wethersfield Youth Music Festival. Around 50 young people from Wethersfield and the surrounding area came together to provide an evening's entertainment and raise money for the Church. This year acts included a number of solo instrumentalists of all standards, a choir, the Upbeat Youth Band, flute choir, single Reed ensemble and a string group. Although I select many of the items individually, the choir is open to all and anyone who plays a woodwind or string instrument is welcome to join one of the ensembles. We usually start rehearsing in the Summer Term half-term holiday so look out for information around that time.

Young singers at the Youth Festival



The Upbeat Youth Band

The Upbeat Youth Band was formed in 2001 to give local young musicians of grades 1-5 standard the opportunity to gain ensemble experience. We meet on alternate Tuesdays in the term time at the Pavillion. Recent performances by Upbeat have included the Wethersfield Youth Music Festival and the Funday. We also regularly provide the music for notable church services such as the Toy Service and Christingle. If your child is interested in joining then please contact Jessie Threadgold on 07789 218194.

WETHERSFIELD CLUB

Members free entry, Members guests £1.00. Membership available £12 per year.

(application forms available at the bar.)

Oct 27th Halloween Party Disco (prizes for the best fancy dress)

Nov 10th Stars in their idols 2007

Dec 15th afternoon Kids Christmas party. Free to all members

Children. ticket only, must be booked in advance.

Dec 24th Christmas Eve Disco

Dec 31st Black and White Masked Ball (all ticket! Members free, Guests £10 No ticket no entry)

DJ Minty Trance and Hard Dance night

Brewery Tavern

10th Nov Pre school Committee

17th Nov Live music with Lol and Stratton

24th Nov Live music with The Fat Cat Trio

8th Dec Live music T.B.A

24th Dec Christmas Eve party

31st Dec New Years Eve party

19th Jan Live Music with Jamie

The Wethersfield History Group

The Wethersfield History Group meets on the third Thursday of the month in Wethersfield Village Hall at 8.00pm. Everyone is welcome. The charge is £1.50 at the door and this includes coffee and biscuits. We do not meet in January and August. We have a varied programme of talks, films, visits and entertainment.

The November meeting on Thursday 8th will be a talk by Colin Davis on Researching Your Family Tree. At our Christmas meeting on December 13th, entertainment will be provided by the Committee and mince pies will be served.

Many thanks to all the contributors.

Please note that the Winter copy deadline is Friday 11th January.

The Editors welcome articles of village happenings/events, ideas and photos. Please contact Helen Finbow 850979 e-mail h.r.f@btinternet.com

Writers' names and addresses are required, but will not be published, unless agreed