

WETHERSFIELD

NEWS

BLACKMORE END & BEAZLEY END

Summer 2008

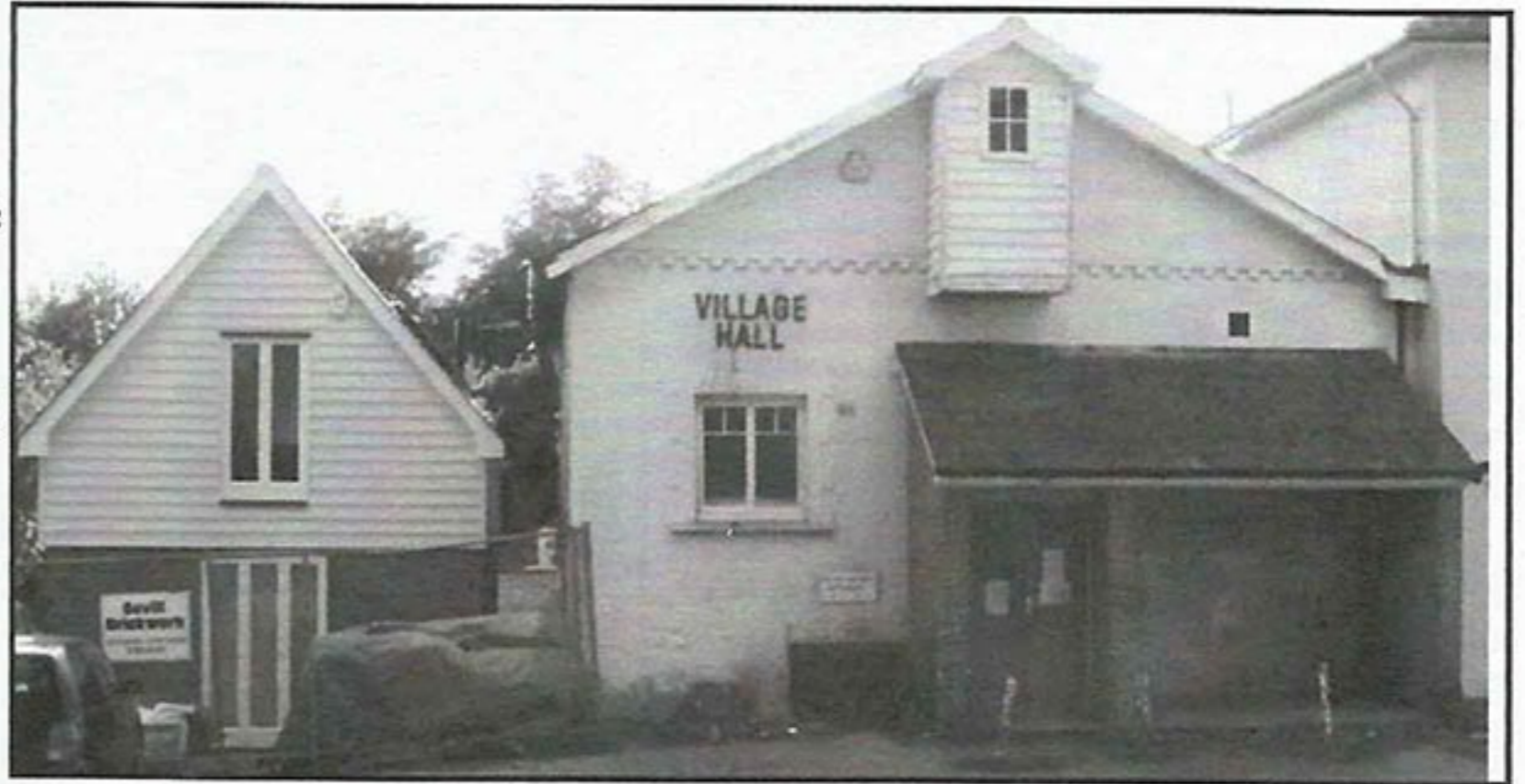
In colour on www.Wethersfield-Essex.co.uk

What Should We Do?

The replacement of the wreck next to the Village Hall with an attractive new building has prompted a debate within the Village Hall Committee and the Parish Council as to how to improve the appearance of the Hall itself. All agree that it needs re-painting, but possible removal of the bus shelter has also been discussed. It seems rarely used for the purpose intended and over the years has been a source of abuse, noise and litter. Indeed, some form of shelter opposite, on the green, would seem more appropriate. However, demolition would not be trivial. The entrance to the Hall, with its slope to allow for the disabled access, would have to be changed, at considerable expense.

The bus shelter was funded by the Parish and erected about twenty years ago. Any alteration would have to be approved by the Parish Council - who are the residual landlord and ultimate owners of the building.

What do YOU think? If you have strong views, please share them. Drop a line to Jack Tillbrook or email: News@ChurchHillHouse.co.uk



The Colne-Stour Countryside Association

The Association was formed 43 years ago at a time when pressures on the countryside were very different to today. Our area of interest is from Kedington in the North West, Long Melford in the North East, Finchingfield in the West, Coggeshall in the South, Wormingford in the South East and Newton Green in the East.

The Association is not against well planned development but is against the destruction of the countryside when there are brownfield sites that should be redeveloped first. The Association is also concerned to ensure that development within our beautiful villages is in keeping with their architecture and history.

The stated aims of the Association are to: Monitor rural planning and development. Protect the area's rural scenery and amenities. Encourage interest in the area by local inhabitants. Consider requests from individual members to help with the preservation of the countryside.

Membership costs £5 per year and by joining you will be supporting an active environment protection association. You will receive an Annual Newsletter, be invited to attend the AGM, at which there is always an interesting speaker, and you will be invited to the Annual Summer Party which is held at one of the many historic houses in the area. To find out more, and read all the current articles, visit our website www.colne-stour.org or write to The Treasurer, C.S.C.A. The Old Rectory, Wickham St Paul's, Essex CO9 2PJ

The Candelabra

This letter was sent to Derek Norman from Edward Bloomfield (the tense has been altered as this event took place in July)

There was a special dedication of the refurbished Candelabra in Wethersfield Church at Evensong July 27th to the memory of Tom and Doris Grimwood. My mother Muriel Bloomfield (nee Grimwood) was there to switch it on after 70 years or more of being unlit. I suspect it stopped working at about the time Tom and Doris got married in Sept 1938. They found lead wiring in it so perhaps it fell foul of the war effort when copper was in short supply.

Relatives of the Grimwood family clubbed together to pay for the restoration of the Candelabra as a fitting tribute to Tom and Doris. As you probably know, Tom was a 'leading light' in the Wethersfield Fire Service during WW2 and well afterwards until its demise. I remember him running down the cart track at the sound of the siren to get to the Fire Station. Whoever got there first got to drive the engine! Tom was also a key founder of the Wethersfield Men's Club and a keen snooker player. He and Jack Metson won

many snooker tournaments over the years.

A brass plaque provided by the Bloomfield family is mounted in the Chancel to record the dedication of the candelabra.

Claude Thomas, known as Tom, came to Parsonage Farm Wethersfield with his parents, his brother John and sister Muriel in 1929. Tom was 20, John was 17 and Muriel only 14. The boys worked the farm from the start; their father Christopher was already 63 and mother 61 years old. Pedigree Suffolk horses provided the motive power for the first decade, animals that Tom loved and enjoyed working with.

At Wethersfield, Tom met Doris Cordwell, daughter of Alf Cordwell, a Wethersfield butcher, and they were married in September 1938. They lived at The Limes, a cottage just along the Shalford road for several years, moving into The Parsonage after Christopher Grimwood passed away in the late 1940s. Coincidentally, Tom's elder brother Chris at Hawks Hall Farm married Doris's elder sister Beatrice, and their only offspring David Grimwood now farms the land at the Parsonage.

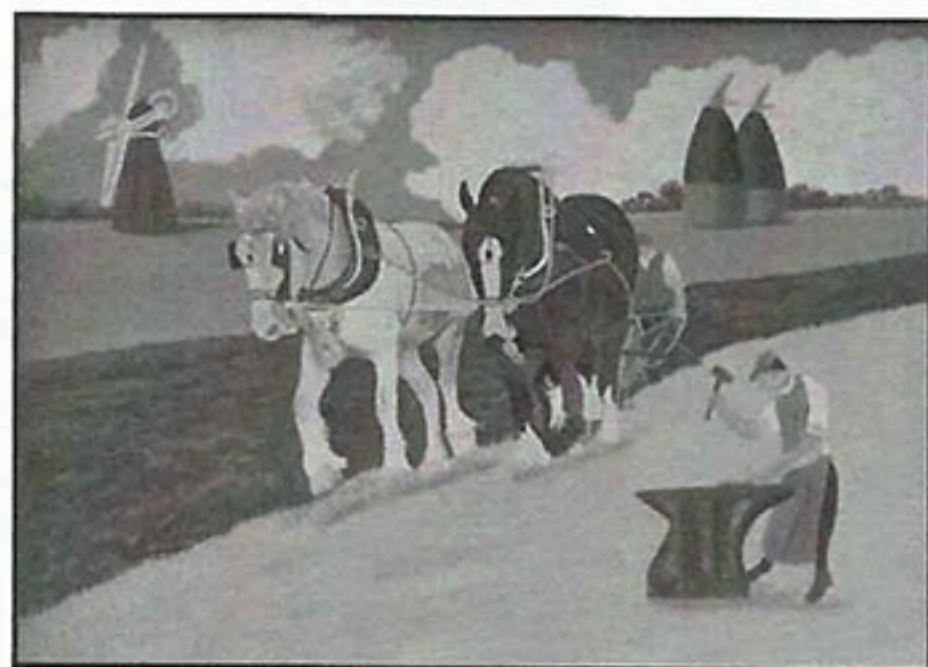
Tom's and Doris's hard work, care and dedication to Parsonage Farm and Wethersfield Parish was remembered when the Candelabra was lit on July 27th.

Best wishes Edward

Wethersfield Fun Day 12th July 2008

The Derek Flannery (Wethersfield) Playing Field Association (registered charity no. 301434) would like to thank all of you who contributed to the success of this year's event. We were not blessed with the best of weather and the bad forecast probably affected the numbers attending as well as the late cancellation of some attractions. Given the fact that our planning was also disrupted by the late change to the originally intended event at the MOD Police Base, we are delighted to report a surplus of nearly £1500, (only a fraction less last year's record £1516). Summary of balance sheet is shown on the next page

News from Blackmore End



At the Blackmore End Village Hall AGM the Chairman Mr Ian McBean stepped down due to work commitments. Ian and his wife Pip will be leaving the village in September and we wish them every success. Mr Mark Taylor was voted in as the new Chairman and can be contacted via the web-site. Village Hall bookings as usual through Mr David Foster.

The Village Hall Committee has run the Annual **McMillan Coffee Morning** for the last few years and hopes to do the same again this year on September 29th - we look forward to seeing you again. (Contact Pip McBean 07785 750785)

Blackmore End Playing Field Committee report that the **Donkey Derby Day** was yet again a very popular event with people flocking to the playing field. This year was especially poignant as we remembered Alec Saunders who loved the Donkey Derby Day and always worked so hard to make it a success. This years DD raised a substantial amount of money which will go towards continuing to maintain and improve the playing field.

Alec Saunder's Memorial - Information to be posted on Village Notice Boards and Website shortly re date and timing of this event.

Annual Fireworks Display - Blackmore End Playing Field - 8th November see website for details.

Wethersfield Village hall Committee

New Blood Needed (Any group!)

The combined ages of the treasurer and Secretary of the Village Hall Committee exceeds 150 years and we would both now like to step down after 16 years of service.

So, citizens of Wethersfield, are you up to helping keep the Village Hall a going concern?. It really needs new blood, new ideas and a vigorous approach to the job.

If you are interested, please come to our next meeting on Wednesday 3rd of December at 7.30 p.m. or contact Vic Law, 9 Saffron Close or Jack tillbrook at Hope Hill House.

The Fun Day Accounts

Item	PFA Expenditure	PFA Income	Surplus(Loss)
PFA Main Raffle	0.00	335.00	335.00
PFA Teas & Cakes	10.00	147.60	137.60
PFA BBQ	254.29	498.00	243.71
Mini Marathon (J Wells)	0.00	100.00	100.00
Wethersfield Club Bar contribution	0.00	214.00	214.00
PFA Bouncy Castle	0.00	69.00	69.00
PFA Crockery Smash	0.00	45.00	45.00
PFA Bed of Nails	0.00	41.60	41.60
PFA "Find the Charge"	0.00	20.60	20.60
Car Boot / Table Top pitches etc.	0.00	63.70	63.70
Donations from clubs & societies	0.00	151.87	151.87
Junior Driving School (J James)	0.00	50.00	50.00
Ice Cream donation	0.00	20.00	20.00
Car Parking	0.00	22.00	22.00
Sundry Expenses	30.00	0.00	-30.00
PA System etc. (Greg Temperley)	0.00	0.00	0.00
	294.29	1778.37	1484.08

History Group

The Wethersfield Local History Group completed its Spring/Summer programme with a visit to Thaxted. We met in the Guildhall where Mr Bruce Munro gave us a brief history of Thaxted and its eccentric clergy. We moved on to the windmill and were shown round by Mr Len Farren who had given us a talk about the restoration of the windmill last year. We rounded off the evening with coffee and cake at the Old Barn by invitation of Mr and Mrs McKernan.

Our programme this year started in February with archive film about Townrows and Osbornes shops in Braintree. In March John Woollard and Gwenda Hall presented an illustrated talk about Patrick Bronte and his Wethersfield fiancée Mary Burder. Popular lecturer Patrick Denny returned in April to give us a humorous talk about water supply and drainage through the ages. In May the Rev. Keith Lovell spoke with great enthusiasm about History Through Essex Pub Signs and in June Anne Padfield showed us slides of local houses and buildings of interest selected from her extensive collection. The Committee manned a tent at the Wethersfield Fun Day with archive photos of Wethersfield and copies of the Wethersfield Census dating back to 1841.

There will be a break in August and the Autumn programme will begin on September 11th. Camilla Jarvis will speak about her ancestors who lived in Wethersfield Manor in the 1800's. Her illustrated talk is entitled The Ghostly Lady in White and Her Mysterious Connection with Wethersfield Manor.

On October 9th the Committee will present an illustrated talk entitled The Butcher, the Baker, The Candlestickmaker. We shall be drawing on archive photographs and memoirs of Wethersfield residents to cover shops, trades and services in Wethersfield in bygone days. On November 13th, Roger Cooke will give us a talk about turbulent times in the 18th century when clergymen were sent to prison for non-conformity. Roger is a very skilled lecturer who really brings history alive. Not to be missed.

We conclude our Autumn Programme with a Christmas meeting on December 11th then take a winter break in January.

Our meetings are usually held in the village hall on the second Thursday of the month at 8.00pm. The charge is £1.50 at the door and this includes coffee and biscuits. All are welcome.

Pam Wenley

Neighbourhood Watch

I have heard (on the grape vine!) that a few people have had door-step enquiries about the collection of household rubbish. The Braintree Council have stated that they have no knowledge of such survey. So, if you have anyone claiming to be from the Council knocking at your door PLEASE do not give out any information, but close the door

and ring either Neighbourhood Watch, or the local policing team on 07791402113 or Braintree police station on 01376 551312.

I have to inform you that Shalford Community Police Station is now closed.

The local police team is still available on 07791402113, but is now based in Braintree. We are informed that if you contact Braintree on 01376 551312 and leave a message, they will return your call ASAP

News from Wethersfield CE Primary School

In the long far-off days, after the exam period was over, schools looked forward to a relaxed ending to the summer term, with Sports Day as the one highlight

For us, it has been an incredibly busy final half term following the SATs and Single Level Tests that older pupils took. Class 2 had a visit to the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge, to learn more about their History topic on the Ancient Egyptians. As always this was a great stimulus to produce more work and great enthusiasm! Class 3 visited the Bose workshop in Braintree as part of their work on sound and used their new-found knowledge to design musical instruments as part of their Design Technology project.

Sports Day was planned for July 4th – and for the second year running we were blessed with fine weather. A relaxed morning for most, with many parents and family members supporting the children.

A slightly less relaxed morning for me, as three days earlier we had finally been notified of our long-awaited Ofsted Inspection – almost five years to the day since the last visit. Sports Day went ahead as planned, but I spent much of the morning discussing the school with the inspector, although we did spend some while up at the field watching the children enjoying themselves. The inspector was able to see for herself the co-operation between the different age-groups as they went from event to event, and also the level of support from parents and others.

The following week was our Science Week. Our subject leader, Mrs Bannister had planned a very exciting week for everyone. We enjoyed a visit from the Quantum Science Theatre group, a whole day spent with the Mad Scientist, Professor Kaos, a visit from Snakes Alive followed by an Art afternoon supported by many parents and friends and a whole school visit to a very different environment: Walton-on-the-Naze! Four Year 6 children competed against children from five local primary schools in the annual Science Olympiad held at Tabor Science College and returned with a silver medal for one event and a bronze in the other. Our intention had been to highlight different aspects of Science in an enjoyable manner, and it was undoubtedly a very successful week.

As many of you will be aware, I am retiring at the end of the autumn term. The first day of Science Week coincided with the interviews for the headship of the school. The governors have now informed parents that Mrs Caroline Shingleton will be taking up her post as head teacher from January 2009.

The PTA provided a great Leavers' Disco, which had a theme of "Pirates and Princesses". Most of the children attended and thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

A few days before the term ended the Ofsted Report arrived, which recognises that Wethersfield CE Primary School is a good school, where children make good progress, thanks to the quality of teaching and care they are given. "Pupils love coming to school and parents are delighted with the education it provides for their children."

I am very pleased with this outcome, which recognises the hard work of staff and governors over the past five years to effect improvements. The inspector recognised the quality of our own self-evaluation and agreed with our judgements. All parents have now received a full copy of the report which should be available for all to read on the Ofsted website within the next three weeks.

As always, we went to the parish church on the final morning of term for our leavers' service, led by our Year 6 children. We wish them all the very best as they transfer to Tabor Science College in September.

Another very busy year is past, and for a few weeks we can all draw breath before September arrives and the cycle begins once more!

Bronwen Ferland – Head Teacher



This summer we have begun preparing for our next production Return to the Forbidden Planet which we shall put on in March 2009.

Workshops for the auditions and the auditions themselves will be held as follows:-

First Pre-Audition Workshop - 10th Sept in the Village Hall at 8pm

Second Pre-Audition Workshop - 11th Sept in the Pavilion at 8pm

Auditions - Sunday 14th Sept in the

Village Hall from 10 a.m.

Anyone who is interested in taking up any part, or contributing in a non-performing capacity is very welcome to come along. This show will be lots of fun with Rock and Roll music and plenty of silver space costumes!

A second production

We have also decided to stage another show in autumn 2009 but our second annual production will not be a musical but a play (probably a comedy). If anyone is interested more in acting than musical performance please get in touch!

Friends of WAP

We have started a scheme for people who want to support the society, but per-

A Clean Sweep

Maxine Gillespie, known to many from her days as Manager of the Wethersfield RSPCA Centre from 1993 to 2000, has yet another new job.

She not only moved from the RSPCA to become a lecturer at Chelmsford 6th Form College, but also made Bardfield her new home. At College she specialised in teaching those wanting to join the Police, the Army and similar public services. (Her early life was as an Army dog handler)

However, time for another change! During holidays in the past year at the College, Maxine served as an apprentice to John Dawson, a local Chimney Sweep, who was ready for retirement and Maxine has now bought out his business.



Not such a clean sweep - Maxine just after a chimney job

In her first week she swept 29 chimneys, ranging through open fires, wood-burners, inglenooks and oil stoves. Maxine says "I thoroughly enjoy the job, meet some lovely people and visit some impressive houses, but I need to rely on my GPS to find my way to some of the remote locations"

Maxine may be contacted on 07919485421 or 01371 811819 or email: maxinestails@aol.com

haps don't want to take too active a role, called "Friends of WAP". As a "Friend" you will benefit from:-

- Priority booking for performances
- Complimentary pre-show drinks reception on opening nights
- Free programme to each performance
- Be kept in touch with WAP News
- Help prepare for the shows; scenery painting, front of house
- Join WAP on visits to other society's productions
- Invitations to WAP social events
- Write a review of the production
- £5 annual membership

If you would like to get in touch either e-mail secretary@w-a-p.org or call Nicky Pearce on 01371 851019

Scarecrow Competition

On Saturday 14th June the village of Wethersfield hosted its very first scarecrow competition! A total of 18 households took part and displayed their scarecrow(s) outside their house for the day and the Reverend Colin Wilson had the difficult task of judging the winning entrant. The winning Scarecrow was 'The Wicked Witch of the West' entered by Georgia & Adam Ivey of West Drive, they received a certificate and £20 gift voucher.



Photos of the other entries can be seen on the www.Wethersfield-Essex.co.uk web site.

The event was organised by Wethersfield Pre-school and all profits went towards new play equipment and resources. Thank you for your support

It is hoped that the scarecrow competition will now become an annual fundraising event for the pre-school, so be sure to look out for next years date!

**Helen Finbow – Chairperson,
Wethersfield Pre-school**

Floral Art Club

Wethersfield Floral Art Club meets on the last Wednesday of each month; generally 8pm at Wethersfield Village Hall. Occasionally we attend special events at other local floral art clubs. The recent lunch party at Little Barham was a big success.

Forthcoming planned events include:
Wed 24th September – "Flowers with Hats" – Jane Cowell & Janet Thorogood

Wed 29th October – "Anything You Like" – Yolanda Turgoose

Wed 26th November – "Christmas" – OPEN EVENING with Josie Marchant

New members and visitors are always welcome. Further information please contact Doreen French 850049

Laura Barker

We would like to say a big thank-you to everyone for their care, love and compassion since the loss of our lovely daughter Laura.

We have been comforted by an overwhelming response from our friends & neighbours in Wethersfield and the tributes we have received have been a huge support during this very sad time.

Laura was a lovely young woman who had spent her whole short life here in Wethersfield, was very happy in these familiar surroundings and truly content with her life.

During the last 10 years her dedication to animals grew. She worked hard and was very happy in her chosen career. Laura knew everyone by the animals they possessed (especially their dogs), she was familiar to many of you and we're sure that a lot of you will have been waylaid by her whilst out walking with your animals!

We miss Laura more than we thought possible and as we try and pull our lives back together the pain we are feeling is eased by the continued affection we are experiencing from the whole village.

Once again our warmest thanks
Nigel, Jackie, Adam & Elaine

A Tribute

The sad loss of Laura has been deeply felt by all her colleagues at the Animal Home. Her cheerful, positive and friendly approach will be sadly missed.

In recent months, messages of sympathy and support have been received from the many different organisations that both Laura and the Home come into contact with from Veterinary practices, the RSPCA Inspectors and staff, other animal charities, RSPCA branches, clinics, home checkers and adopters of animals that had dealt with her. These tributes leave no doubt as to the respect, esteem, affection and feeling for her which was shared by all her colleagues. I have the fondest memories of her sense of humour, determination and persistence which was always evident in her dealing with animal welfare and in life in general.

It is therefore not surprising that Laura brought a feeling of happiness and fulfilment to the workplace with her undoubted dedication to animal welfare. Her total objectivity to her chosen career was such that her family were cajoled, encouraged and persuaded to help in her determination and objectivity to improve the facilities at the Home in any way possible. I remember arriving at the Animal Home to find both her parent's

Nigel and Jackie standing in the middle of the Pond in waist high waders cleaning it out, covered in mud!! I had no doubt who had the suggestion and persuasion to start this project.

Laura was employed at the Danaher home for 10 years and during this period her enthusiasm never diminished, her persistence was timeless. Laura loved all animals but she made her mark particularly in dealing with the dog assessment kennels which have recently been demolished and have been replaced by a



new block completed as recently as 13th August. The kennels will be formally opened on Saturday 27th September at 11.30am when a ribbon cutting ceremony will take place attended by the Trust Chairman and Laura's parents Nigel and Jackie. The kennels are to be called The Laura Barker memorial block and a memorial garden is being designed to be located adjacent to the pond at the Animal Home to provide a space for quiet reflection. The donations received in Laura's memory will fund this project together with the planting of selected trees to give a lasting tribute.

Last year Laura was promoted to Animal Care Manager and immediately set about her work to improve working systems and procedures. In a short time she achieved a great deal and soon gained the respect of her work colleagues, as a Manager, through her ability and determination. Yet she did this in her own way, her happiness and contented manner gently but firmly encouraging everybody to come on board. There is no doubt as to the affection and respect in which she was held by so many people, a lovely person with a big heart and generous nature.

I am proud to have worked with Laura and to have seen her achieve her ambition and I am sure that all at Danaher will continue the work for the future of the Home as a tribute to her, I know she will be watching!

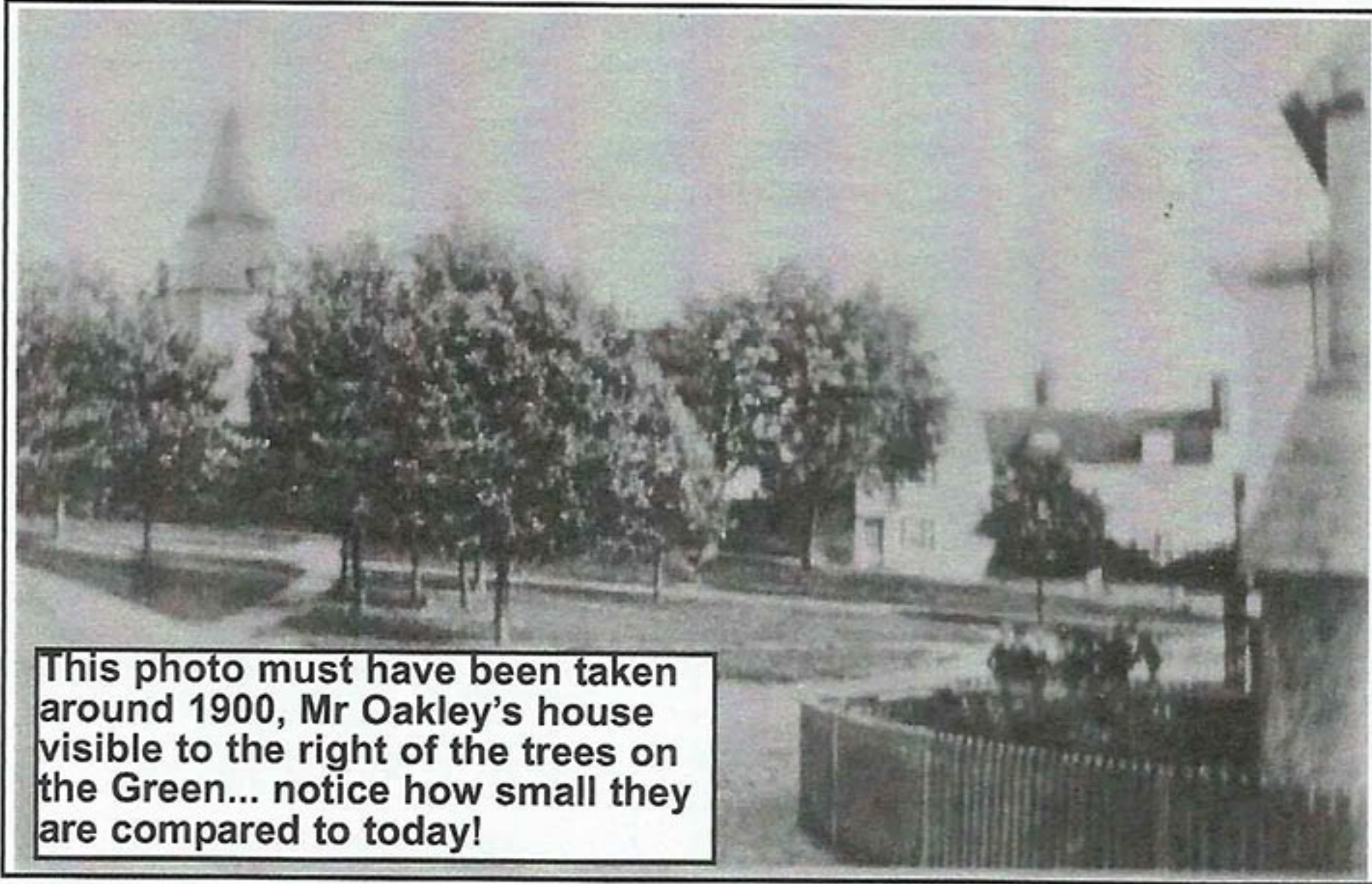
Bob Ferdinando, General Manager –
RSPCA Danaher Animal Home

Oakley's House Fire

THE RECENT garage fire at 'Oakleys' triggered memory of a fire at the same location about 100 years ago. This picture shows the Green at that time - notice the size of the trees! In the right background is Oakleys, a house destroyed by the fire in early 1900s. This was the home of an agricultural engineer Fairlam Oakley

This extract is taken from memoirs of a local man written in the 1950's.

"Threshing Tackles" This business was owned by a Mr R.F.Oakley and had its workshop and yard on the corner of Braintree Road adjoining Winton House and it was from there that the tackles journeyed to the farmsteads around the district to thresh out the corn. Portable engines were used at first, and this meant of course that all the tackle had to be horse drawn. What a terrible job. This type of engine was ousted with the advent of the steam engine, and so the horses' life became a little better. The large timber and tiled residence that belonged to these trade premises as they were in 1877, was burned down somewhere around 1908



This photo must have been taken around 1900, Mr Oakley's house visible to the right of the trees on the Green... notice how small they are compared to today!

Another memoir written about 1965

There were several dramatic fires, (though what fire is not dramatic). There was the night the windmill was burned to the ground, and the night "Mr. Oakley's House" caught fire. There was, in a way, a certain amount of satisfaction in the last one as people generally cannot help being rather pleased when their prophecies come true. Mr. Oakley, with a grand philanthropic gesture, had made a Public Reading Room for the village in his own home. This was about sixty-five years ago, and it is to be hoped his gesture was appreciated. Unfortunately he carpeted the floor of the Reading Room with coconut matting. "You'll have a fire there one day if you are not careful," said somebody's uncle. The whole village apparently endorsed his opinion. And sure enough these words came true. Nobody was pleased of course, (perish the thought), but for all that! There was no Fire Brigade sixty years ago, and people used to just make chains with buckets and do the best they could. There was a man from Bardfield with a horse and cart who used to be called upon to assist, but the best he could offer was barrels and buckets.

Thanks to Pam Wenley for the research

Wethersfield Wine Club

On a fine day in July the club ran the popular 'Human Fruit Machine' stall on Fun Day. In August we had a wet but enjoyable annual barbecue hosted by Susan and Richard.

All meetings take place on the second Friday in each month in the Village Hall at 8 o'clock.

September 12th meeting is 'Name that Wine' which is hosted by club members.

On **Wednesday 8th October** we participate in the Halstead Wine Club Quiz, the trophy we hold at present.

October 10th meeting is a commercial tasting evening with wine-merchant Brian Wilkes.

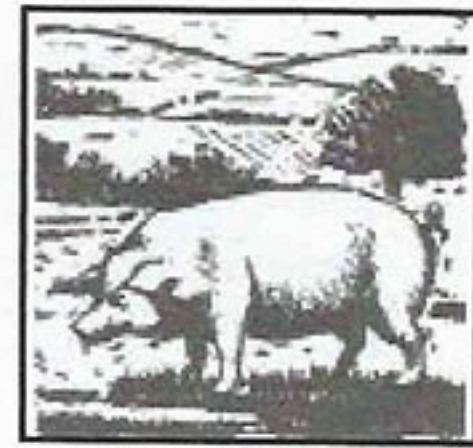
November 14th meeting is a competition night with members competing for the best white, red or club recipe home-made wine, and the best savoury or sweet food.

Further details- phone Brenda or Barbara 01371 850978

Wethersfield Village Hall

Saturday 27th September 2008

7.30pm - Midnight



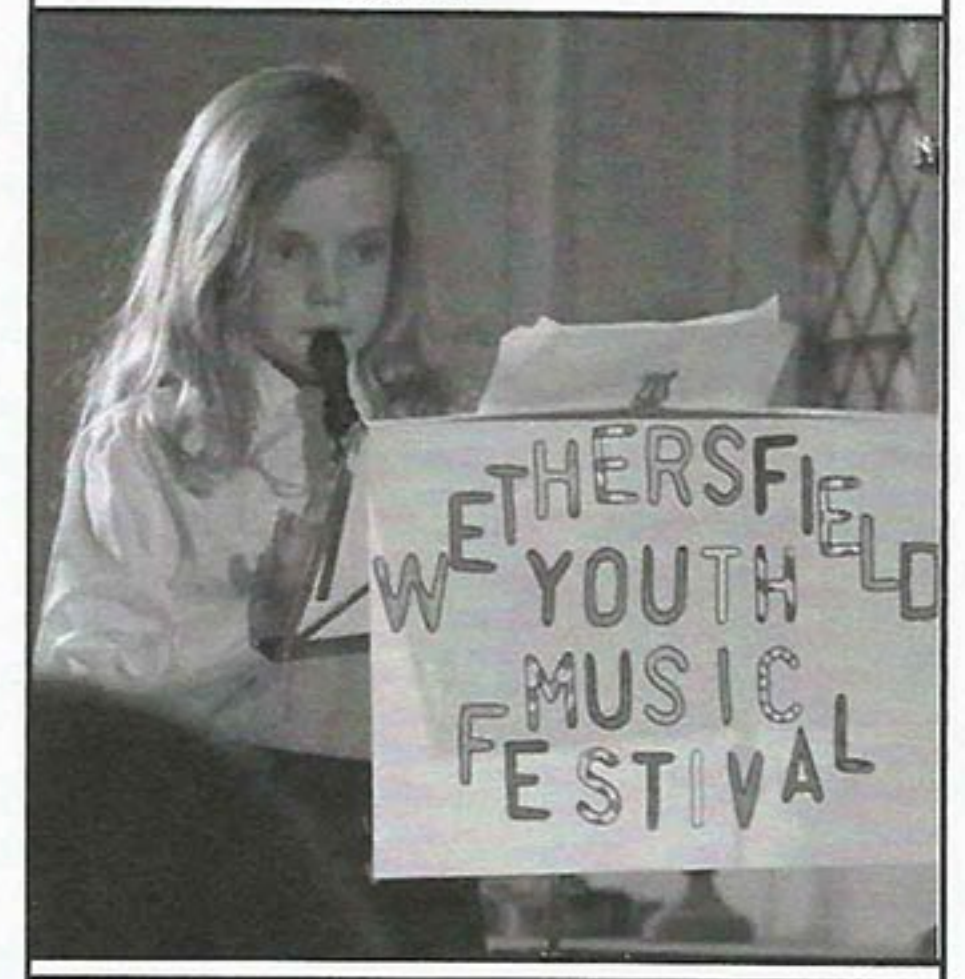
Live Band 'The Black Caps', Hog Roast, Licensed Bar & Charity Auction
£ 12.50 per person

Tickets on sale at the Post Office
or call 01371 850979 or email
h.r.f@btinternet.com

Youth Music Festival

Saturday 13th September 6.30pm sees the return of the Wethersfield Youth Music Festival. Regular acts such as the chorus, flute choir, single reed ensemble and the Upbeat Youth Band will perform a variety of music from Baroque to Broadway and also music by local composers written especially for the occasion. Various soloists and small ensembles swell the bill - all aged between 5 and 18. Now in its 11th year, it is virtually impossible not to find some form of music you enjoy in the festival, performed so professionally by these talented youngsters.

Jessie Threadgold



CREAMER Fund

Since the last issue, we have added a plinth, 2x24 hour blood pressure machines, three otoscopes and a centrifuge. For the tremendous community support - thank you.

We shall be fundraising at the Finchingfield Village Fete - 24th August, selling refreshments at the Finchingfield United Reformed Church, with their kind permission and help. Also, we shall be there with our tombola stall on the mornings when mass 'flu jabbings take place - you never know what you might win!!

The Good, the Bad and Ugly

The following email was received by Wethersfield News via the Wethersfield-Essex web site.

"I'm Coordinator of Southwark Cyclists, a busy voluntary group of London cyclists. I help organise an overnight July ride each year from Hackney to Dunwich a distance of about 120 miles....the Dunwich Dynamo. This year's was on 19/20 July. 550 riders had wonderful weather and all seemed to go excellently. But today - regrettably late but I think he's only just come back from France - I get the self-explanatory email below.

I've asked Chris to phone Essex police urgently. I can't see why he didn't phone 999 on the night.

I wonder though if you had any other reports of such unacceptable - very atypical for rural Essex - behaviour on the night? It would be good to hear from you. Even better if you could look into this and prevent these (drunk?) idiots doing more damage.

Very best wishes and a bit sadly....
Barry Mason
Coordinator Southwark Cyclists
www.southwarkcyclists.org.uk"

email 04/08/2008 from Chris Beattie

"Hello, I travelled down from Edinburgh to attempt my first dynamo prior to heading over to France for a holiday. I just wanted to inform you of an unfortunate incident which happened along the way.

On entering Wethersfield, Essex, (from Finchingfield) around 11pm-midnight, I noticed a group of people, (apparently having a barbecue) shouting abuse at the cyclists ahead of me from the front garden of one of the first houses on the left. Didn't think too much of it until an object hit the left side of my face and eye with force, and I heard laughing and cheers from the culprits.

I wasn't knocked off my bike, but realised I was bleeding a fair bit. Rather than stop right there, as I didn't know what else might be being hurled, I carried on to the end of the village where I had my cycle-buddy check it out. There was a fairly deep gouge under my left eye which stopped bleeding after 5 minutes or so, and a rapidly developing swelling at the side of my face. While we were sorting it out with tissues and elastoplast another rider stopped having also been struck by something (half full drinks can or similar) on the arm or body.

These louts were not kids, but young adults, and were hurling objects (I think cans, as I didn't hear any bottles smashing) from what was, presumably, the garden of one of their own homes. Pretty idiotic behaviour, even for Essex.

I was hurt and really pissed off, but not injured enough to give up, so we carried on and I got cleaned and patched up with the help of one of the tea-ladies at Lavenham tea stop.

By the end of the ride my spirits had lifted, and despite the black eye, I enjoyed the ride and will not let the behaviour of scum like them prevent me from considering doing it again.

I realise that the event is turn-up-and-ride, and also that there is little or nothing which can be done about this sort of behaviour, but I thought that, as the closest thing to organisers this event has, you should be aware that this happened.

Regards, Chris."

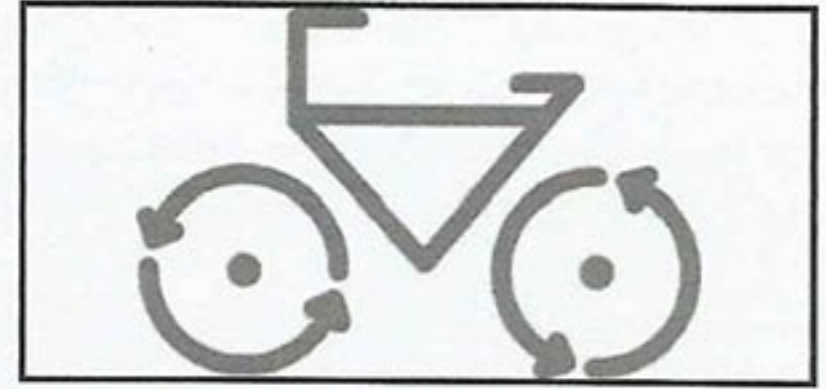
Do you enjoy cycling or walking?

YES!

Then join the
FRIENDS OF ESSEX CHURCHES
SPONSORED
RIDE & STRIDE

On

Saturday 13th September 2008
10.00am-6.00pm



Walk or cycle round Essex churches to raise money for your church and The Friends of Essex Churches.

Not a cyclist or walker?

You can still take part by:

- offering to sponsor someone who is cycling or walking
- giving an hour during the day to sit in church and welcome cyclists and walkers visiting our church

Friends of Essex Churches
Sponsored Ride & Stride
Saturday 13th September 2008

PLEASE HELP!

I am planning to cycle for Wethersfield Parish Church again this year and am looking for sponsorship - any amount appreciated. Every little helps.

Last year when I cycled I visited 14 churches and thanks to some generous support raised £383!!

I think this will be the 9-th year I have cycled.

If you feel you could help me but don't see me about you can contact me by phone, 01371 850781, or email, pilgrim511@btinternet.com

Thank you
Esther Pilgrim (aged 13)

No deadline is given for the next issue as there may not be one!
We need a new 'News Hound'

Many thanks to Helen Finbow who has done a great job for the past year, as well as the others on the team, but other commitments have forced her retirement as the gatherer of news.

News Hound volunteers should email News@ChurchHillHouse.co.uk

Exhausted cyclist grab some rest under a boat in Dunwich.

More pictures and information on www.southwarkcyclists.org.uk

