



*intermittent* vol.2 no.4



# Real location. Unreal estate.



## Dedbrickton North

(Dedbrickton Arts Lab is missing from the Earth Corporation's real estate)

## Addingcombe farmland

(Are We Not Men? Liz Weller's post-punk emocore group pictured (left to right: David, Chris, Liz, Ian, Neshe)



(photo courtesy: Liz Weller)

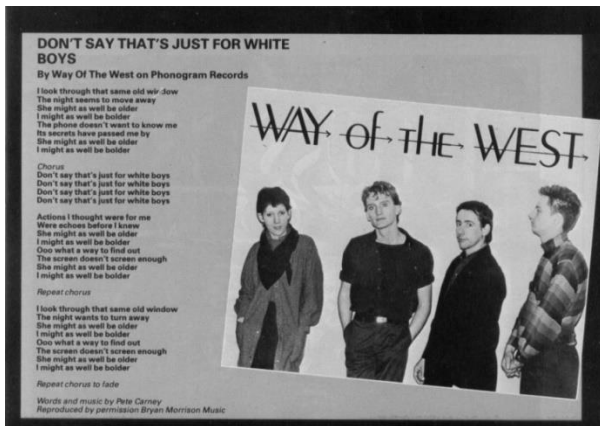
Horace “Sam” Weller, his Scottish wife Morag Galbraith Weller, son Ian and two daughters, Irene (“Liz”) and Marion, grew up as East Midlanders. Mum worked in shoe factories and a footwear testing firm in Corby. Dad at the town’s steelworks, moving to Burton-Upon-Trent, then Milton Keynes.

In one story Liz was a student at South East Polytechnic near character Mike Weller’s location for film. Both cousins attended Dedbrickton Arts Lab in 1969. Croydon, its suburbs and inner urban pockets Weller had fictionalized as “Dedbrickton”; and its rural outlands “Addingcombe”.

David Bowie was first characterized by Weller as fictional “John Dagger” in 1983’s *The Comical Story of The Arbiter*. In this secondary world of the late 70s and early 80s Ian and Liz Weller form ‘Are We Not Men?’ inspired by US band Devo with David, Chris and Liz’s best friend Neshe.

In 1980 (Social Reality Earthtime), answering north Londoner Pete Carney’s Melody Maker ad for a band he was thinking of forming, Liz returned South again, this time with bass guitar and D-I-Y made *Are We Not Men?* lapel badge.

Signed by Phonogram as “Way of the West” (referencing Pere Ubu’s *The Modern Dance* track ‘Humour Me’) the band’s ‘Don’t Say That’s Just For White Boys’ was produced by Club Futura founder, Richard Strange.



(Smash Hits May 14-27 1981 greyscale scan)

7-inch version got radio play and the 12-inch version was a big club hit. When it came to television, Liz wasn't enthusiastic complying to the request for "sexy" bass guitar, so a band appearance and plug on Top of the Pops didn't happen.

Jim couldn't fix Liz's decision not to play the fame game.



Way of the West 1982: Pete Carney "it's the sound not the spelling of my name", Andy Saunders, Liz Weller and David Bonnefoy (screengrab rip from Pete Carney's blog)

Liz sounded guitar in the spirit of England's bass poet Jet Harris and David Thomas's Pere Ubu. No frills. No fuss. No almost famous *Cliff Richard*.



Comic-book writer Alan Moore, also from Northants, is moderately famous. Growing up in the county town's impoverished Boroughs' St. Andrews Road—Mr Moore began writing for Northampton Arts Lab as a youth.

A 1980s inspiration to Ériu's Sean Mac Roibin and hundreds of other comic-book fan boys—Technical sergeant no. 'howdifficult1' at the John Robbins Limited Original Comic Art Bedroom Gallery Addington, produced a [YouTube film](#) celebrating Mr Moore's and Mr Mac Roibin's 2000 AD years .



(Np'ton map with yellow highlights showing Castle and Headlands council wards)

Liz Weller did early tours with Way of the West—the band and its music enjoying success in Europe with clubbing and airwave hits—US North Coast.

Liz decided to retire from US and European tours, returning to international fashion firms she and old pal Neshe had worked for before joining bands.

1984: Way of the West as boy band touring Israel—gigging Tel Aviv.



(screengrab rip from Pete Carney's blog)

Liz's brother Ian began his own fashion business based in Milton Keynes and elder sister Marion Allen-Minney (née Weller) trained as nurse and healthcare worker in Northamptonshire, before dedicating herself to local politics: elected as Liberal Democrat Headlands ward councillor 2003-2010 before retiring.

Target for tonight



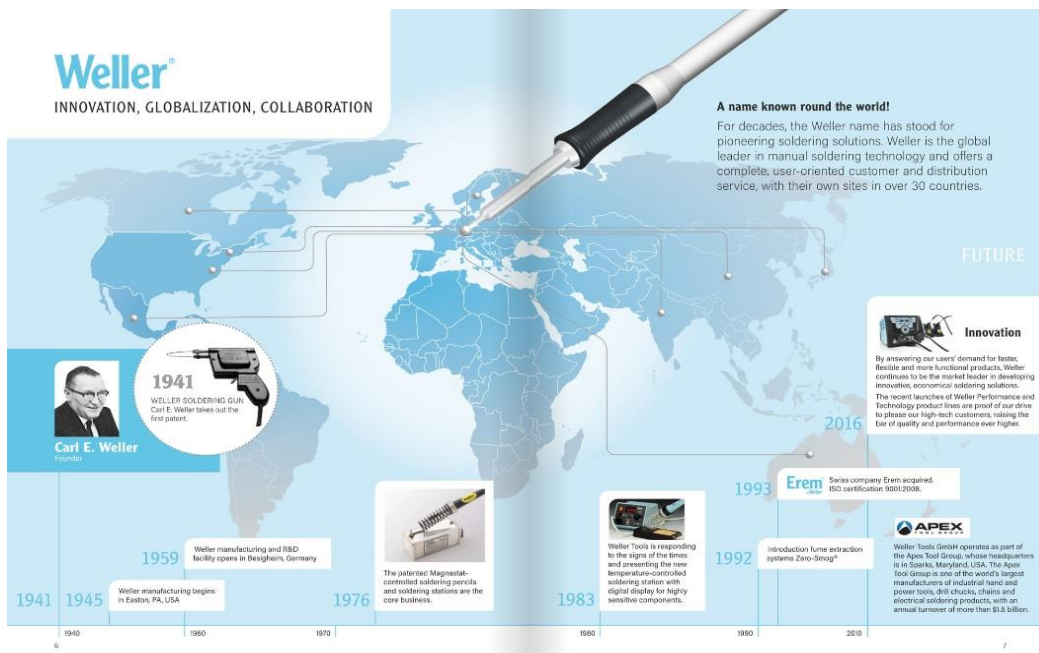
London calling—"it's Mike *W-h-e-e-l-l-e-r* here"



# 80s Mike Wheeler *annual filming* 70s Mary Louise Weller



## 1941-1993 wellerversal space opera



(above: 3 Google image screengrab rips)



## Mike Weller's schooldays

Mum and dad christened me Michael (after the Archangel) with second name, John. I was nicknamed Micky by my Irish grandmother.

I remembered being named 'Michael' correctly in the early years of primary school. For naming of boys was dropped in later years for surname, 'Weller'. Probably in preparation for harsher regimes of secondary school and work, or national service, which was still de rigueur for young men in the 1950s.

In the first year of boys' secondary school, an English teacher made a connection between my surname and Charles Dickens' character 'Sam Weller' from *The Pickwick Papers*. Dad had been nicknamed 'Sam' through work, the forces, and among friends and relatives who called at the house, so I was accustomed to this nickname of endearment. But not to how it would shape my identity in school years. After the teacher's authoritative identification, I was nicknamed 'Sam' by teachers and boys alike. Unable to live outside the shadow of my father's own cheerful Catford Sam Weller, and unable to write my way out of being a character in a classic literary masterpiece: I experienced the disquieting sensation of being written in life by an omniscient author of mysterious origin. Taking palpable form in 'reports about...', 'files on...' at school. I imagined human agents working for the omniscient author: stitching me up as a character in somebody else's fiction. Common names. Literary colonizations for empire builders. Was I part of an unlimited resource? Worse, was I to be sacrificed in name to the sinister author of my fate? An 'it' pronouncing death upon the impoverished? Death before birth for the luckless? Death before life?

My nickname 'Sam' was transformed to 'Sammy' by the school's small clandestine group of adolescent queers. Heterosexual teachers and boys became nervous of this association. 'Sam' was dropped but not replaced with a new moniker. This invisibilizing effect was as palpable as the files written on me; but in reverse. Homework assignments were mislaid or overlooked by teachers. It wasn't that I hadn't completed them. Examination scripts accidentally left un-marked. Needless to say I failed my ordinary level exams. I had no formal documents to collect at prize-giving. The queers were sympathetic. Both 'Sam' and 'Sammy' died the death the day I left secondary school. I didn't grieve. But I'd been left without. Identity. Qualifications. A blanked-out boy. An invisible adolescent.

Scanned page 3, Space Opera no. 3, 'The Battle for Heaven Part 1' (September 1997).

Fictional Mike Weller writes first person account of his early years using a borrowed electronic typewriter. At the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century Michael J. Weller completed tetralogy *Mike Weller's Space Opera*— tale-within-tales-within-tale depicting story of how comic-book reading, fanzine scribbling artsy-poet character "Mike" from "Dedbrickton" became his own writer-in-residence character—old-fashioned English novelist "MJ".



R.A.F. man, 2 days adrift, lands on holiday island

# ISLE OF WIGHT? I ALWAYS SAID I'D VISIT IT

Express Staff Reporter

VENTNOR (Isle of Wight), Monday.

SIX British airmen, after battling with heavy seas for two days and nights in a rubber dinghy, drifted ashore at Steel Bay, near Ventnor, today. They were one of the 37 bomber crews reported missing after Friday night's heavy raid on Berlin and other parts of

Germany. They had paddled and drifted between 150 and 200 miles in the two days.

Their Wellington bomber, running short of petrol in the extremely bad weather conditions, crashed into the sea and broke in two 30 miles from the Thames Estuary.

The pilot had been seen to escape and had injured his leg escaping from the bomber.

But, as rescuers helped them out of the dinghy, he told them: "Look after my mates. I'm O.K. Give them my rum."

The airmen had been too weak to pull the stoppers out of the rum bottles.

Mr. Lionel Martin, who lives in a cottage on the cliff, had run down and jumped fully clothed into the breakers to carry a line to the dinghy.

## AN ISLANDER

Helped by Fred Gould, of Bonchurch, and soldiers, he hauled it in.

When the airmen asked him where they were and he told them, one said: "That's funny, I come from Ryde" (about ten miles away across the island).

And a second, not to be outdone in cheerfulness, called out: "I've always wanted to come to the Isle of Wight."

In their two days' voyage down the Channel searching planes had failed to see the dinghy, but, as it drifted towards shore this morning, the men too weak to paddle, an R.A.F. launch spotted them. It was unable to get near because of treacherous rocks.

Soldiers carried the crew in their arms up the narrow path of a 200-ft-high cliff—a task involving considerable risk. At the top ambulances were waiting.

In spite of their sufferings the men kept cheerful all the time.

The pilot was taken to hospital; the others were taken to an hotel and given dry clothes and hot drinks.

Their first thoughts were for their relatives, who had been informed that they were missing. They were told that their families were being informed at once.

Gunnery accuracy was checked on an annual basis by means of a combination of live firing at drogue targets and camera recording described by the Royal Air Force as 'Annual Filming'. Scanned location prop—AG Weller's own scrapbook cut-out from a UK national newspaper, November 11 1941.

National dailies are fictionalized in wellverse as composite title *Daily Chronicle*.




from the *Daily Chronicle* archive

**LOCAL AIRMEN'S AMAZING  
BLAZING BOMBER 12,000 FEET UP.  
FOUGHT FIRE OVER GERMANY FOR  
THREE HOURS.  
THEN 57 HOURS ON SEA.  
WASHED ASHORE IN RUBBER DINGHY.**

A gallant young wireless operator, whose home is at Bickley, Sergeant John Barry Holdsworth, third son of Mr. and Mrs. G. K. Holdsworth, of Wellsfield, Denbridge-road, was one of the crew of the Wellington bomber who were washed up in their rubber dinghy on the Isle of Wight at Ventnor after a heavy raid on the German capital a fortnight ago.

Another gallant member of the crew was Sergeant-Gunner Arthur Weller, whose parents live in Wickham-chase, West Wickham.



**Sergt.-Gunner Arthur Weller. Sergeant Holdsworth.**

Before Sergeant-Gunner Weller joined up he was on the staff of M. A. Ray and Sons, Ltd., builders' merchants. His wife, formerly Miss Eustace, is now treasurer of the West Wickham Girls' Club, a position which she held before marriage.

Sergeant-Gunner Weller, who is 22, is well-

"One shell went off right underneath us," said the captain. "We heard a crack, and everything in the aircraft shook."

But the flying of the bomber was not affected, and they went on to drop their high explosives on the German capital.

Their target was obliterated before they could drop their incendiaries, and they kept these, intending to put them down on the way back.

They were on the course for home when they were hit again. The incendiaries caught fire, and 12,000ft. up the bomber was ablaze along the whole length of its bomb racks—a target for every gun within range.

The pilot tried to jettison the incendiary the fire extinguishers ran out coffee from vacuum flasks was poured on the worst parts of the fire. The second pilot ripped down the side window curtains when they caught alight, and used them to beat out the flames, creeping along the fuselage. The crew fought the fire for three hours.

**DWARFING AIRCRAFT NOSE-DIVED UNDER SEA.**

The blazing bomber flew on. It was still under fire from the fak batteries on the ground. Gradually it lost height, and

AG Weller scrapbook cut-out fictionalized by his son Michael John as *Daily Chronicle* news item November 21, 1941.

RAF Mildenhall took the fictitious name of "Millerton Aerodrome" and several other aspects of day-to-day operations of the command were altered for the 1941 film "Target for Tonight".

**NAMES**  
(In Full, Surname First) **WELLER Arthur George** WOP/AG. 223.42

**BIRTH.** Date 7/12/12 Nationality British  
Place: Town Toronto Parish & County CANADA  
RELIGION: Cath. 35 14/15 24 37/44  
CIVIL OCCUPATION: Clerk  
Employer: Address:

**MARRIAGE.**  
Wife's Maiden Name: [REDACTED] CHILDREN. DATE OF BIRTH. 270/4  
Date: [REDACTED] Place: [REDACTED] NAMES: Name: [REDACTED]  
Reason and date Marriage or Family Allowance Address: [REDACTED]  
ceased to be issuable. Relation: [REDACTED]

**PREVIOUS ENGAGEMENTS.**  
Unit: Period: Rank on Discharge: Former Service permitted: -  
From To  
As Service yrs. days  
" Qual. Service " "  
For G.C. Badge " "  
For Prog. Pay " "  
Authy.

**CURRENT ENGAGEMENT.** D of I. E.  
Date of Enlistment 14/6/40  
Service Commenced 14/6/40  
Transferred from  
Extended for  
" " "  
Prolonged for  
Re-engaged for

Reg. Service Exp. Date. Authy.

**DESCRIPTION.**  
Height: Feet. 5 Ins. 8 1/2  
Chest: Ins. 32  
Colour of Hair: Brn Eyes: Ble Comp. Fish Scar  
On Entry  
" Extn.  
" Re-en.  
" Transf

NATIONAL MARKS, EMBLEMS, SCARS, ETC.  
REGISTRATION FOR LETTER AND MISCELLANEOUS CHS. 742  
Form 2171 No. 1 A.C.S.B. Rec for trng  
WO. AG 14/6/40  
47A. 2/2/42. A3B  
F.B. MISSING 7/11/41  
137/40 SAFE.  
47A. For A3B. 22/4/42.  
ANNUAL FILMING APR 1941  
ANNUAL FILMING NOV 1941  
365/44 amend date completed to rec'd 31/8/44  
23/45 W.S.I. 5 YRS. 31/8/41  
Authy. 180/83

**HOME ADDRESS.** (To be entered in pencil)  
[REDACTED]

**TRANSFER TO RESERVE.**  
Date Para. K.R.  
Mobj. Stn.  
Annl. Trg. Date  
Recall from Reserve (Date)

**DISCHARGE.**  
Date Para. K.R.  
Cause  
Total Service years. days.  
" Qual. Service " "  
Pension Award

Particulars of Medals, etc.	Authy. & Date	DATE		Stock Bk. Ref.	
		Received	Despatched	Page	Book

**RELEASED**  
RELEASE CLASS: A  
EFFECTIVE DATE OF RELEASE: 3-1-46

AG Weller RAF photocopy scan: record of service with Annual Filming rubber stamped (other personal details redacted at source).



Well<er> known in West Wickham



November 12 1941 cut-out from fictionalized local weekly *Croydon Reporter*.

Prop used between location for film and film itself



# Technical sergeants in the Shakespeare squad

11 June 1943.

Sergeant Weller,

We wish to convey our sincere appreciation of all your efforts regarding our instruction.

We have found you to be one of those extremely rare individuals who can teach without adopting a superior attitude. From your own knowledge and by your own recognition of our individual faults and shortcomings you have taught us more than any of us realized we could learn in such a short while. Not only do we think of you as a good instructor but also as a personal friend to each of us, to quote our own words you are "One of the Boys". It is our hope that in the future you have the best of luck and if necessary always walk out on your feet.

We have the pleasure to be gratefully yours,

Wm. Dodd. R.D. Wright. J.W. Weller. A. Wood. R.C. Young.  
P. J. Jones. W.B. Williams. Waterwell. J. J. Jones. J. Young.  
Williams. H. Williams. G. J. Jones. G. J. Jones.

Walk out on your feet

POST OFFICE TELEGRAM

No. 319  
OFFICE STAMP

Charges to pay s. \_\_\_\_\_ d. \_\_\_\_\_  
RECEIVED

Prefix. Time handed in. Office of Origin and Service Instructions. Words. 24

From W. J. ON To \_\_\_\_\_ m

Priority Mrs F Weller 64 Haskhurst Way  
W. J. ON

Delighted to inform you that your  
husband is safe and well in  
England writing O.C. Unit

For free repetition of doubtful words telephone "TELEGRAMS ENQUIRY" or call, with this form at office of delivery. Other enquiries should be accompanied by this form and, if possible, the envelope

B or C  
T 51-306

# Safe and Sham



intermittent vol 2 no 4

Michael John Weller HomeBaked seriEzine March 2 2018