



Village Newsletter delivered free to all houses in Wenhaston and in Mells. Also available at Halesworth Library. Online at

[www.wenhastonword.co.uk/](http://www.wenhastonword.co.uk/) where each issue is displayed in its entirety at no extra charge to advertisers.

## Happy Birthday Wenhaston Word



This April 2011 issue of Wenhaston Word marks the beginning of the fifth year that Wenhaston Word has been produced by Blythweb.

Tim, Eileen and Becky would like to say a big Thank You to all the Wenhaston Word deliverers who cheerfully distribute the newsletter. *Wenhaston Word City Desk, Blythweb office, The Street, Wenhaston*

## It's Time For Nesting Birds

From the end of March until the end of July birds are busy nesting in and around Wenhaston.

This includes ground nesting birds on the commons that surround our village.

Could we ask that dog walkers keep their dogs on the lead when walking the commons to avoid disturbance to the ground nesting birds in particular. It would also be beneficial to the whole community if dog owners could pick-up the dog poo deposited by their dogs and place in the bins provided.

Thank you for your co-operation.

*Wenhaston Commons Group*

## Local Elections

I have received from Suffolk Coastal District Council nomination papers for any Parishioners who would like to stand for the Parish Elections on 5th May 2011.

The closing date for the nomination papers to be returned to SCDC is **noon on Monday 4th April**.

Please get in touch with me and I will deliver the nomination paper together with your electoral roll number and polling district.

*Mary Pennock, Clerk 01502 478448*

## Halesworth Parkinson's Support Group

*Coffee Morning  
Wednesday 6th April*

*Wenhaston Church Room*

*10am - 12 noon*

*75p including Coffee and Biscuits*

*\* Raffle \* Bring & Buy Stall \**

## Wenhaston Parish Council Annual Parish Meeting

Wenhaston Village Hall  
Wednesday 20th April

Refreshments and  
minutes available to read  
from 7:00pm

Meeting to start 7:30pm

Return of the ever-popular  
**Charlie Haylock**

**Saturday 16th April 7:30pm**  
Wenhaston Village Hall

Tickets £10 (includes light meal)  
available from Wenhaston Post Office,  
Blythweb and the Star Inn

Bar Available, Raffle

## News From The Church

We were all disappointed that we were unable to obtain permission in time to enable us to organise a Pancake Race but we were delighted with the support which we had from the village and the surrounding area for the Pancake Lunch. We raised £309.00 for Church Room funds and we are extremely grateful to Felicity and Barbara for the delicious pancakes, which were enjoyed by all! Thank you to everyone who supported us and we very much hope that next year it will be 'third time lucky' for the race.

The food which we organised for the Give and Take day was also popular raising over £100.00 for Church funds. Our thanks to the Energy Group for supporting us.

The first Sunday in April (3rd) will be Mothering Sunday when there will be a Family Service at 9:30am (Eucharist). As always there will be posies for Mums - and all the family and friends. And I have heard rumours that there will be a special cake with the coffee after the service. Please do come and join us for this service, you will receive a warm welcome.

On Palm Sunday (April 17th) we shall join in an Ecumenical Procession in Halesworth followed by a service at St. Mary's at 10:30am (please note that there will not be a service at St. Peter's).

On Easter Day there will be a Service at 9:30am and we look forward to many of our friends joining us at this service.

As in previous years we are holding our Lily Festival and we shall be serving Teas in the Church on both Easter Sunday and Monday. Please do come and have tea with us and bring your family and friends. You will also be able to admire the beautiful floral arrangements done by the flower arranging team. (See advert on page 3).

We wish all our readers a happy and joyful Easter.

*Margaret Goldstone,  
Churchwarden*

## Chris Cargill

Many thanks to everyone for their overwhelming support and sympathy after Chris's tragic accident. Tim and I have been inundated with cards and letters and it has given us great comfort to know how much her cheerful presence was appreciated and how many lives she touched.

Special thanks to Wenhaston School for the loan of their display boards which made such a great display of Chris's life and to Felicity and Kathryn for the excellent and tasty food.

We hope everyone enjoyed our attempt to make the occasion, both at the Crematorium and the Hall, unique and special events to honour a truly unique and special person.

*Peter Cargill*

## News from the Bus Shelter

New bus times apply from 4th April. I understand that the 520 times will change with less buses calling at Halesworth station. The new 602 service starts at Halesworth calling at Wenhaston, Blythburgh then on to Wrentham, bypassing Southwold and Reydon, stopping at Kessingland and Pakefield before finally coming to rest at Lowestoft.

Hopefully we'll get some timetable information before the 4th April and post it up in the bus shelters and on notice boards. No doubt timetables will be along soon and available in the Post Office.

The Pathfinder has been re-launched as the Suffolk Link Pathfinder with bigger vehicles and an enlarged service area. It operates like a taxi with journeys pre-booked and fares are similar to bus fares - and you can use your bus pass after 9:30 am. Pick up a leaflet at the Post Office and start using it now.

*Michael Gasper*

*Wenhaston Parish Transport Representative*

## Wenhaston Word Deadline Dates

**18th April** for May 2011 issue

**20th May** for June 2011 issue

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## Coffee Morning

Friday 15th April

at Plovers, Chapel Lane, Wenhaston  
10am - 12noon

*in aid of Motor Neurone Disease*

*Bring & Buy stall and Raffle*

## Footpath Walking

The morning walk on Tuesday 5th April will leave from Wenhaston Village Hall at 10am.

The walk on Tuesday 19th April will be led by Joan and Peter Waters. Meet at the Crown Inn, Snape at about 9:45am to place lunch orders before motoring to Iken car park for start of walk. On completion of walk collect cars and drive to pub for lunch.

For any other help contact Heather Phillips  
01502 478545. *HPP*

## St. Peter's Church Easter Lily Festival

Easter Sunday 24th April  
and Easter Monday 25th April

2:30pm - 5:00pm

Teas served in the Church

\* bring your family and friends \*

## Dates For Your Diary

1st May - Table Top Sale 8am - 12pm

7th May - Plant Sale and Lunches

20th May - Live Wrestling

21st May - Bingo Night!

26th May - WESG Carbon Reduction Plan

25th/26th June - Flower and Craft Festival

3rd September - Jumble Sale

13th October - Quiz Night

For events in the local area go to

[www.blythweb.net/calendar/](http://www.blythweb.net/calendar/)

## Blood Donors Wanted

Wenhaston Village Hall 13th April 2011.

To book an appointment call the helpline on  
0300 123 23 23 or visit [www.blood.co.uk](http://www.blood.co.uk)

## Music Corner by Chris Dunn

Saturday 9th April 7:30pm at St Edmund's Church, Southwold. Nathan Williamson (piano). Music by Mozart, Brahms and Schubert. Tickets: £12 (including interval refreshments) from 01502 726161.

## Wenhaston After School Club



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## **Wenhaston Birds – A Tale of Two Winters** **(with apologies to Chas 'n' Bill)**

A second successive cold and protracted winter has, after a long run of relatively mild winters, taken us somewhat by surprise. As a keen skier, the wonderful Alpine like powder snow that graced our landscape this year induced me to wax the skis and take to the slopes near Blowers Common!

Just as the snow brings us mixed emotions, from a bird watching point of view it brings as many opportunities as it does concerns for our feathered friends. This is only my second winter in the village but it couldn't have contrasted more from the first in terms of ornithological jottings.

For the winter of 2009/10 my notebook was full of interesting records as follows. Almost daily I watched up to 5 handsome Stonechats feeding along fence posts close to Laurel Farm. During the first deep snow, for a period of 3 weeks, I could almost guarantee to see

a Kingfisher diving headlong into what seemed to be boggy marsh. On closer inspection, when the bird vacated its perch, I discovered that it had found a fast running stream not more than 4 inches deep and about a foot wide in among the otherwise frozen waste – astonishing adaptability! Another regular visitor to the marshes was a magnificent female Peregrine, which terrorised the assembled waders. It seems as though it was there for sport as much as food as on one occasion the bird 'stooped' spectacularly onto an unsuspecting Redshank, killing it in one fell swoop but dumping its prey unceremoniously into the white stuff below. By contrast, the same notebook is almost untouched this winter. No Stonechats, Kingfishers, Peregrines, Hen Harrier, Water Rail, Pintail, flocks of Yellowhammers and a lot more beside.

My theory is that this winter was so cold (temperatures rarely rising above freezing from late November to early February) that many birds had moved further south to warmer climes. One barometer was the relative absence of Fieldfares and Redwing, which last winter were abundant with flocks of up to 300 birds. This winter I haven't once recorded a three figure count, the biggest flock being about 80 birds on stubble close to Low Farm in early February. Another indicator has been the abundance of local Waxwings, I have not seen

this bird in Wenhaston, but there have been regular sightings of this hugely attractive winter visitor in nearby villages and towns. They are always more abundant in the UK in severe winters as they flee from extremes of cold in Scandinavia.

Not to be too downhearted, this year's notes featured a pair of Jack Snipe, the smaller, more confiding cousin of the Common Snipe. It's a bird that any watcher worth his salt loves to get on their year list. These two birds were to be found regularly performing their characteristic 'bobbing' in snow covered fields and ditches that lie between Marsh Cottage and the river. Every cloud etc. etc!!

I am now looking forward to Spring and beyond with enthusiasm. Last Autumn was especially rewarding with a huge range of waders and other rarities locally. In my next piece, I will tell of some success stories including the apparent expansion of Bearded Tits in our local reedbeds. Happy Birdwatching to all.

*N. W. Twitcher*





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### Wenhaston with Mells Hamlet Parish Council

The Annual Parish Spring Clean is to be held the weekend of 21st May. Any Parishioner who requires bags and gloves get in touch with me.

The Parish Council has now signed an extended lease for the Post Office. A lot of Parishioners rely on the Post Office and it is essential that as many people as possible use this facility. A big thank you to June, Trevor and the staff for the service they provide.

Cllr. Orme gave a report on behalf of the Village Hall Committee. He informed the Parish Council that an executive committee has been set to meet once a month to help the Village Hall run more efficiently.

The Annual Parish meeting to be held on 20th April, gives all Parishioners the opportunity to express any concerns and to hear what the Parish Council has achieved during the year.

It looks very likely that the Parish will be holding elections this year. Parishioners have come forward seeking to be elected to the Council and I would urge all Parishioners to come and vote, especially at a time when many people in the Middle East have given their lives for a chance of expressing their views and having a democratic system.

At the Parish meeting the steering group of the Parish Plan Working Group presented the Council with their report. Further consultations and to agree some course of action is needed.

*Mary Pennock, Clerk*

[www.wenhaston.net/parishcouncil/index.php](http://www.wenhaston.net/parishcouncil/index.php)

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## Wenhaston Energy Support Group

### Give and Take Day Saturday February 26th



An unusual item at the Give and Take Day  
Photo © Janice Claxton

Our third Give and Take Day was great fun, with lots of folk bringing and taking all sorts of stuff. Good to see people trundling out with items like a sack barrow, a strange looking old tool, and a variety of cupboards and chairs. We're very happy for people to come and take, even if they have nothing to give, as this helps to reduce the amount which goes to landfill. We've already been asked when the next one will be. We're thinking of Autumn, so bear that in mind.

### Wenhaston Carbon Reduction Plan Report

Are you worrying about the cost of filling your oil tank or your car with petrol or diesel? Aren't we all?

Then put 26th May @ 7pm in your diary. We have now held a planning meeting with The Low Carbon Innovation Centre. They'll be coming to tell us what they've found out about the village - and make some suggestions for us - not only to reduce our carbon footprint even more but to take steps which will reduce our bills. WESG wants to hear your views about what they've found. This is your chance to take part in the first consultation about options for the future - however big or small.

For more information, contact one of WESG, leave a note in our pocket in the Village Hall or email [info@wenhastongreen.org](mailto:info@wenhastongreen.org) (see ad next month). *Janice Claxton*

### St. Peter's Church Services - April

3	9:30am	Family Worship for Mothering Sunday
10	(9:30am)	Team Service Halesworth
17	(10:15am)	Palm Sunday at St Mary's
24	9:30am	Easter Day Family Service

## Volunteer Required

I have been the Bookings Clerk for Wenhaston Village Hall for the last few years, however due to a change in my personal circumstances I am no longer able to carry on with this in the long term. I am hoping to step down after the AGM in May and a new volunteer is therefore required to take over.

If you think you would be interested then please feel free to contact myself or another member of the Village Hall Management Committee. Your help would be much appreciated.

*Becky Canham 01502 478842*

Warm Invitation to all Villagers:  
Wenhaston Village Hall Management Committee

## Annual General Meeting Friday 13th May 7:00pm

(Refreshments available)

*Please come and join us.*

*Details from June Tate, Secretary (01502 478622)*

## Wenhaston Methodist Church April

Sunday services at 10:30am

- 3 Mandie Hoadley Mothering Sunday
- 10 Iris Baker
- 17 Rev'd Robert Soanes Palm Sunday
- 22 9:30am Good Friday Meditation  
Rev'd Robert Soanes
- 24 Rev'd John Sigsworth S Easter Day

Tuesday meetings at 2:30pm

- 5 Lent Group
- 12 Lent Group
- 19 Women's Fellowship Spring meeting
- 26 Bible Study

Saturday 2nd 9:30am - 11:00 am  
(please note new time) "Pray Awhile" on a come and go basis for prayer and meditation.  
All welcome at any event

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#### **Painting & Decorating:** Karl Andrews.

26 Maltings Close, Halesworth.

Tel: 01986 874926

#### **Roger Best.** Garden Design, Planting Plans.

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East Nook, Hall Road. Tel: 01502 478305

Mobile: 07557 132809

#### **S Rudd Drain Services.**

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### Accommodation

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### Retail

**Maggie's Discount.** 16A Thoroughfare, Halesworth, Suffolk IP19 8AH. Children's & Baby Wear. Knitting Yarns and Ladies Clothes. 01986 874652 Proprietor: Margaret Ferrari.

### Funeral Services

#### **Rosedale Funeral Home.**

Arcadia House, 19 Market Place, Halesworth.

Tel: 01986 875588

### Newsagent

**Patrick's.** Market Place, Halesworth.

Delivers in Wenhaston from 6:30am.

Tel: 01986 875229

### Battery Recycling

You can recycle most household batteries by bringing them to Blythweb's office in The Street, Wenhaston. This is a free service.

Find Blythweb on [www.batteryback.org](http://www.batteryback.org).

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## Age UK Suffolk

Age UK Suffolk have launched their 2011 series of Help Desks at the Waveney Centre in New Market, Beccles.

"This Help Desk offers local older people the opportunity to come and talk to our friendly Customer Service staff about any issue that is of concern to them" said Helen Taylor, Age UK Suffolk's Information Manager. "We have a huge amount of information at our fingertips and can offer a range of services to assist local older people to stay independent."

The Help Desk will be held on a bi-monthly basis, on the first Friday of April, June, August, October and December 2011. It is open anytime between 10am and 12noon on those days with no need to make an appointment.

For more information about the Help Desk or Age UK Suffolk's local services, telephone their Lowestoft office, 01502 586308.

Age UK Suffolk is a local independent charity working with and for older people and their family carers in Suffolk. It provides a range of services and support including: information help centres, benefits advisors, independent advocates, befriending, independence advisors, support for people with dementia, day centres, and home helps. **Helen Taylor**

## Mothers' Union

There is much more to running a pub than any of us realised. We heard all about it from Virginia Chater, who with Carl, manages the Star Inn at Wenhaston. Virginia believes that the pub, together with the Church, School and Village Hall, should be at the heart of the village, and this is what they are endeavouring to do. In 1839, the building comprised two cottages but in 1841 these were extended and it became a pub - the Star Inn. We were told of how important the cellar is, how hot the kitchen becomes, how to keep people's interest by quirky things on the bar, and we all took part in a quiz about the licensing laws. The three able winners were presented with vouchers to use at the Star, Jenny thanked Virginia for a lovely afternoon - so informative, interesting and fun!

The Deanery Quiet Afternoon, led by Rev Bill Mahood, will be on April 5th in Wenhaston Church at 2:30pm. If anyone would like to join us for lunch at the Star beforehand (12 for 12:30pm) please let Margaret Goldstone know.

Andrew Dotchin is joining us for the April Meeting on 13th with his thoughts for Easter. Andrew is the Diocesan Mothers' Union Chaplain.

**Margaret Bloomfield**

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## Wenhaston Gardeners

Like a modern day Vita Sackville-West and Harold Nicolson, Colette Barrere and her husband have created two spectacular gardens. She, with her plant knowledge - and a handy discount from working at Blooms! - and he, with his designer's eye and practical skills, transformed first, a neglected garden at West Stow Hall and then a new plot at their present home. Her talk was specifically on Scent in the Garden but, of course, the visual impact was all too evident. We have come away with a list of plants to tempt and inspire.

The April meeting - I can't believe it! - is the last before the summer break. There's plenty lined up, though. Outings, the first of which is an evening visit on May 10th to Heveningham Hall, and the Show in July. We are delighted that Woottens have agreed to be Show sponsors so many thanks to them.

The buckets and spuds have proved a great hit, flying off the shelf like hot, well, potatoes. More will be available at the meeting on April 12th.

The topic this time is 'Wine making'. Oh, goodness, not only have we to squeeze in all those delicious smelling things but we've got to find a corner for a vineyard as well.... Happy dreams.

**Cherry Wilkinson**



## Local Services

### Electrical

**Townsend Electrical.** Electrical Contractors. Broadway Drive, Norwich Road, Halesworth, Suffolk IP19 8QR.

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### Food and Drink

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[www.halesworth.net](http://www.halesworth.net)

Just three of the Blythweb Group  
of Local Websites

**BlythWeb** Tel: 01502 440360  
The Street, Wenhashton

## Wenhaston WI

What an adventure, to travel to Lapland there to live rough for several months. Mike Upson gave us an amusing and informative talk of his experiences on this epic journey. With two companions he left Newcastle and sailed to Gothenburg, then drove through Sweden and Finland, a drive that took them two days. Imagine their dismay when finally arriving at the Arctic Circle to find tacky shops and enormous signs with Father Christmas plastered all over them. They quickly drove on into the wilderness, seeing many different birds and flowers on their way.

Their diet was pretty basic, breakfast; cereal and milk, Lunch; Cheese and bread, Dinner; Tinned meat and vegetables with smash potatoes. They pitched their tent on the Tundra which was surprisingly soft. This was a weird landscape where the trees grow horizontally on the peat which in turn lies on rock.

In these remote places they came upon derelict war defences, nature gradually taking over, birds nesting in the crevices in the concrete and plants covering the structures. One highlight was watching a White Tailed Eagle which had nested in the quarry where the men had camped. Another was watching a Long Tailed Scua chick emerging from its shell.

On the way home they stopped at Santa Claus village to buy souvenirs. Wallis was so disgusted with the tat that he stayed in the car. Seeing a sledge tied to the roof of their car an unwary tourist asked him where his reindeer was. 'I ate it,' came the terse reply.

So many things in the pipe line: Badger watching, A boat trip, A concert at Leiston Abbey, A theatre trip to London, the list goes on and on.

Next Month; David Adams talks to us about Bees.

FJJ

[www.wenhastonwi.org.uk/](http://www.wenhastonwi.org.uk/)



Happy Easter  
from all at  
Wenhaston Word

## Thank You

Sheila and Arthur Musk would like to thank everyone for their cards, gifts, kind words and support at what has been a difficult time.

*Sheila Musk*

## Local History Matters: 31

### *Wenhaston Millions*

A local sensation occurred in 1934 when the 'Wenhaston Millions' came to light. It appears that a Major Crane persuaded a man from Blythburgh and two brothers from Wenhaston to part with £5,000 and their reward would be millions. His case was that he had a mortgage with a London bank and they had refused payment on one of his cheques and he was suing them. He claimed that the Bank of England had taken his side in the claim to a very large sum of money. Major Crane was very glib and our locals were completely taken in by his promises of riches. He claimed to have the matter in the hands of the High Court and the Official Secrets Act was quoted.

As time went by the claim, with interest, had increased to 45 million pounds! He produced a document said to be signed by King George V, no less, supporting the claim. However he overstepped the mark when he arranged to marry a Mrs Duke, who was already married but our Major insisted he could arrange a quick divorce. The local vicar was not convinced by the forged signatures on the document and when he made investigations Major Crane went missing!

On July 19th he was arrested at Hackney selling vegetables and was found guilty of fraud and sentenced to four years. It all made front page news in the National Papers. Afterwards it transpired that even his name was false. Not Major Crane but David Percy Caprice, married with three children and he even held a forged passport showing him having a balance of millions of pounds.

*Keith Johnceline*

## St Peters Church Thorington - Art Exhibition and Sale of Paintings

### Friday 10 June 6pm - 9pm

Fund-raising supper with private view of Art in the Church. Live Music. Craftco of Southwold stall of gifts to buy. Wine and soft drinks to buy. Raffle, Silent Auction too. Tickets £7.50 per person will be sold in advance, from Trish phone 01502 478267.

### Saturday 11 June 11am - 5pm

Art Exhibition and Sale of Paintings in the Church (admission free) all day. At 12noon, Sita Brahmachari, Waterstone's Childrens Book of the Year 2011 Award-winning author, will open the Exhibition and then read from her 'Artichoke Hearts', inspired by the late Rosie Harrison who lived next door to the church... and there will be the prize-giving for the local

schoolchildren's writing competition at 2pm. There will be an opportunity to see more of Rosie's work.

Delicious homemade Lunches (with wine and soft drinks) and Teas served in the churchyard throughout the day.

Raffle, Silent Auction, Craft stalls, Cake and Produce Stall, Art Workshops for younger children.

There are walks to the Suffolk Wildlife Trust's Church Farm reserve and you can catch a glimpse of Thorington's Balancing Barn!

Full details are posted on Blythweb's Calendar [www.blythweb.net/calendar/](http://www.blythweb.net/calendar/) Music and Arts section (also see advert nearer the time).

*Trish Gower*

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## Charity Commission

On behalf of the Village Hall Committee I would like to quote the following from the Charity Commission, "Scheme including appointments of Trustees and vesting in them, the Parish Council who shall be the Trustees of the Charity", also "The Trustees shall permit the said property for the time being belonging to the Charity to be appropriated and managed for the object of the Charity by the Committee of Management".

Sealed by the Order of the Board 16th day of February 1951.

*Mary Pennock, Treasurer*

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## Bogus Burglar Alarm Sales

Following a number of complaints, Suffolk Trading Standards are warning residents to be vigilant when opening their doors to companies offering burglar alarms for as little as a pound.

A salesperson may cold call by telephone and insist on visiting the same day to discuss the installation of a free or cheap alarm.

Companies may also use high-pressure tactics to scaremonger residents.

Based on previous complaints, Trading Standards found that the companies failed to mention hidden fees for the monitoring, upkeep and rapid response facilities. Some residents have found themselves tied into a long contract agreement costing thousands of pounds.

James Garrett, Suffolk Fair Trading Officer said; "We are urging residents, especially

elderly or vulnerable people, to be aware of such calls. Our advice is not to buy anything based on a cold call. If you intend to make a major purchase always research the market and get at least three quotes from reputable companies."

If residents do not wish to receive unsolicited sales and marketing telephone calls, they can register for free via the Telephone Preference Service on 0845 070 0707 or [www.tpsonline.org.uk](http://www.tpsonline.org.uk).

Anybody with any concerns should phone Consumer Direct for advice on 08454 040506.

If you are concerned about an incident please contact Suffolk Police on 01473 613500 or 999 if a crime is in progress.

*Police Direct Team*

## Bell Ringing

Due to poor attendance it has been decided to cancel the Wenhaston bell ringing practice night. Ringing at Wenhaston will now only be for some services. Please note visiting bands are still welcome, and peals and quarter peals may be rung on the bells during the day with advance notice. For further details please contact the Tower Rep.

*Jason Busby, 01986 873336*

## Do You Do Decaff?

Decaffeinated Teabags and Decaffeinated Ground Coffee from D J Miles of Somerset join the tea and coffee range available at Blythweb.

**40 Tea Bags Decaffeinated Blend** £1.79

**227g Decaffeinated Ground Coffee** £3.00

Also available:

**Leaf Teas** from £1.55

**80 Tea Bags** Original Blend £1.89

**Hot Chocolate:** 400g Tub £2.49



# Rosedale

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Wenhaston Word website is [www.wenhastonword.co.uk](http://www.wenhastonword.co.uk)

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Full details for submission of adverts, photographs and text are on the website [www.wenhastonword.co.uk/rates.php](http://www.wenhastonword.co.uk/rates.php) **Copy Deadline:** 20th of the preceding month.

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