



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

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Series:2, Issue:45
December 2010



Merton Wood, Blackheath, Wenhaston

Following a suggestion made by the Wenhaston Commons Group, we can confirm that the responsibility for the management of Merton Wood has recently been transferred to Suffolk Wildlife Trust from the Woodland Trust, on a long lease.

Wenhaston Commons Group intend to work closely with Suffolk Wildlife Trust in producing a plan to restructure the wood and improve its value to the community, and will assist where we can with any necessary works.

Jonathan Alder



Merton Wood, located on the corner of Blackheath Road and Hall Road, beautifully depicted on the Wenhaston Millennium Map.

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Merton Wood ~ Those with offspring now aged in their mid-twenties will recall that one sunny day in the early 1990s their schoolchildren progressed from the village school and down Star Hill to Merton Wood, where each child planted a tree. The stake by their tree had the child's name written on it and these stayed legible for several months. Regrettably there are no photographs recording this event in the Wenhaston Archive - perhaps you have some?

The Woodland Trust had acquired the land not long before this event - I understand that the wood was named after the previous landowner's favourite pony.

Eileen Heaps



Wenhaston Village Hall

Christmas Bazaar

Saturday 4th December
2pm - 4pm

Santa's Grotto, Refreshments
Festive Stalls, Grand Raffle
All Welcome



**Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year**



**to all Wenhaston Word readers,
advertisers, contributors
and distributors.**

Christmas Closing

Blythweb

Closed for Christmas and New Year from Monday 20th December. For urgent computer, website or IT problems call 01502 478712 or email mail@blythweb.net.

Re-open Tuesday 4th January 2011.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

PJN Motor Engineering

Closed Friday 24th December.

Open again from Tuesday 4th January 2011.

For motor emergencies call 07802 965 746.

Best Wishes to all my customers for Christmas and the New Year.



Thank You

I would like to thank all my relations, friends and neighbours for their kindness to me during my recent accident. The cards, enquiries, flowers and visits have been very much appreciated.

May Parker

Here We Come A-Carolling

The evening for carol singing this year is Monday 20 December.

Everyone is invited to join the party, which will be setting forth at 6:45pm from the Village Hall car park on a seasonally musical tour of the village. Music sheets are provided, but bring your own torch and wrap up warm, and at the end hot coffee and mince pies will be added to your pleasure.

The singing is for joy and the collection is for local charities, so if you can't join the singers, listen out for them and give what you can when they reach your door. **Peter Lewis**

Music Corner by Chris Dunn

Friday 17 December 7:30pm, The Cut Arts Centre. 'Deck the Hall' Concert of Christmas Music old and new with Wenhaston Girls Choir. Tickets: £8/£6 from the Box Office 0845 6732123 or www.newcut.org

Are You Thinking Of Getting A Dog?

Police are urging anyone considering buying a dog via the internet to be alert after reports of a scam designed to get money under false pretences.

A Rendlesham resident spotted an advert on the internet for a Siberian husky puppy, saying all that would be needed to buy the puppy was the cost of transport - several hundred pounds. The buyer was told there was a shipping company involved and was asked to pay half of the cost. She was then asked for more money as refundable insurance. In total £350 was sent off to an address in Africa.

The buyer was then told that the dog was stuck at a UK airport and that further cash would be needed for permits and again several hundred pounds was requested. The buyer then contacted the airport and was told there were no dogs awaiting shipment. At this point it was realised this was a scam and no further money was handed over.

Police have recently received several reports of residents throughout Suffolk being conned in a similar way with a variety of different dogs, usually puppies, being used to entice buyers. These dogs include breeds such as King Charles Spaniels, Pugs and English Bulldogs.

Police are urging anyone considering buying a dog via the internet to be cautious and not to send money if there are any doubts the seller may not be genuine. In many of these cases the buyers have transferred money to banks or addresses in Africa despite the seller often giving a story that they are UK based.

As with any transaction it is always wise to speak to local sellers/tradesmen to get quotes or view animals/items before agreeing to purchase, as many reputable companies/dealers will be covered by other guarantees and trade association good practice. **Police Direct Team**

Wenhaston Word Deadline Dates

13th December 2010 - January 2011 issue

20th January 2011 - February 2011 issue

PLEASE NOTE EARLIER DATE FOR JANUARY

St. Peter's Church Services December

- 5 No Service (9:30am at Halesworth)
- 12 9:30am Parish Communion
- 17 7:00pm Village Carol Service
- 19 9:30am Parish Communion
- 24 11:30pm Midnight Mass
- 25 No Service (9:30am with the Methodists)

Footpath Walking

The only walk in December will be on Tuesday 7th. Meet 10am at Hinton Grange. This will be followed by a bookable Christmas lunch 12 for 12:30pm at High Lodge, Hinton, to which we welcome present and past walkers.

On behalf of the walkers may I thank landowners, walk leaders, publicans and of course publishers for their co-operation. A happy Christmas to you all.

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

Wenhaston Methodist Church December

Sunday Services at 10:30am

- 5 Rev'd Robert Soanes S
- 12 Janet Howe
- 19 4:00pm Carols by Candlelight
Rev'd Robert Soanes
- 25 9:30am Christmas Day Family Service
Rev'd Robert Soanes
- 26 No Service
Tuesday meetings at 2:30pm
- 7 Women's Fellowship Open Meeting
- 14 Bible Study
- 21 Women's Fellowship Carols and Tea
- 28 No Meeting
No 'Pray a While' this month
All welcome at any event

Wenhaston Village Hall Winter Table Top Sale Sunday 5 December 10am -2pm

Admission Free! ~ Refreshments Available
Lots of Stalls ~ including antique tools, books, home goods, cards, gifts and bric-a-brac etc

*In aid of Wenhaston Village Hall (Reg. Charity No. 1001694)
Bookings and enquiries to Becky: 01502 478842
or email: villagehall@wenhaston.net*

Stocking Fillers

Stocking fillers available from Blythweb's office in The Street, Wenhaston:

- 4Gb Pendrive £14.08
- USB2 Card Reader £11.75
- Optical Mouse £11.75
- Wenhaston Archive DVD £10.00
- 'Hall Farm Remembered' £5.00
- Wenhaston Archive notelets, 8 for £6.00
(handy for those thank-yous!)
- Other computer items, equipment and peripherals also sold.
- Phone 01502 478712 or call in.

Village Hall Surgery

There will be no Southwold Surgery at Wenhaston Village Hall during December.
Contact 01502 722326

Wenhaston Village Hall Bingo Night! Saturday 11 December

Eyes down at 7:30pm

Entrance £5 includes first 5 games
Refreshments Included

Additional 3x Extra Games £1.00 each
(with Snowball Rollover)

Christmas and New Year Round-Up

*(details for all these December events
can be found in this issue of WW)*

- 4th Christmas Bazaar, Village Hall
- 5th Winter Table Top Sale, Village Hall
- 8th Mothers Union Meeting:
Christmas Party, Church Room
- 12th Commons Group Yuletide Work Party
- 17th Carol Service, St Peter's Church
- 20th Carol Singing around the village
- 26th Boxing Day Walk, Village Hall

Wenhaston Commons Group December

Tuesday 7th - Church Common. Meet 10:00am central open area. Why not come along and help us clear paths, find out what we're doing and why, and ask questions?

Sunday 12th - Blackheath. Our Yuletide Work Party. Meet 10:00am at the far west end of the common by the BMX track. We will be continuing the removal of overgrown gorse in this area started earlier this year.

Sunday 26th - Boxing Day Walk. Meet 10:00am Village Hall. Walk some local paths. Mince pies and mulled wine at the Church Rooms afterwards. Organised by Wenhaston Commons Group

Monday 27th - Blackheath. Meet 10:00am at the seat by the pond. We will be cutting the bracken which has grown up in nearby areas, and raking off.

We have been advised by Suffolk Coastal District Council that works will be carried out by them or their contractors in the New Year to some of the trees on the south side of Blackheath, to restore the view from the Canham seat and to thin the density of trees in that area only, and also on Low Road (Bickers Heath) where trees have now obscured the view of Blyford Church. **Jonathan Alder**

The Race To Infinity

BT are promoting the chance for five areas in the UK to win superfast fibre optic broadband.

Unfortunately the local exchange at Blythburgh is not eligible to receive this as there are fewer than 1000 premises (696). However you can still register a vote to express interest. Just go to www.racetoinfinity.bt.com, enter your postcode and landline telephone number and make your vote.

If 75% of the local exchange registers by midnight **on 31st December 2010** then BT will engage with the community to see what can be done in our area.

Halesworth Christmas Lights Saturday 4th December

Halesworth Lights Up as Bernard Hill switches on the Christmas Lights.



Bernard Hill © Colin Huggins

Actor Bernard Hill's film appearances include King Theoden in 'The Lord of the Rings' and Captain Smith in 'Titanic'.

This promises to be a great event with the Southwold & Reydon Corps of Drums, Carol Singing, Dickensian Dress, Pyrotechnics from the Church Tower and live music in the Market Place from Lee Vasey Band.

So do come along and enjoy the festive atmosphere as Halesworth is switched on for Christmas. Full details of the event are on www.halesworth.net/christmas/. **Tim Heaps**



Thorington Honey

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The Street, Wenhaston



Bell Ringing

We will be ringing in Wenhaston on Friday 17th December 6:30pm - 7:00pm for the Carol Service and also on Sunday 19th December 9:00am - 9:30am.

The next practice will be on 23rd December, 7:30pm - 9:00pm at St Peter's Church.

Jason Busby, Tower Rep 01986 873336

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Wenhaston 01502 478663

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Wenhaston Energy Support Group

Many thanks to everyone who has helped us to update the local food outlet section on our website wenhastongreen.org . Why not try to use at least one which is new to you? Even better, tell us what you think of them.

Thinking of having a greener Christmas? Then go to our website for some ideas.

Queries, comments or extra details for the website are always welcome. You can contact us through info@wenhastongreen.org , leave a message in our Village Hall pocket, or chat to us at the Village Bazaar on December 4th.

Recycling in the village - don't forget batteries at Blythweb and all printer cartridges at the Village Hall.

We have also just embarked on an exciting new project looking at Community Energy for the village, working closely with the Low Carbon Innovation Centre at UEA. What do we have to do to reduce our village dependency on oil? We hope to receive their report before Christmas and plan to have a meeting about this on January 20th. Why not pencil this in your diary? In the meantime some people have expressed an interest in a group tender for household photo-voltaic systems. Interested? If so tell us at our contact email as above.

Janet Dillaway

WI Churchyard Detectives!

Since 2008, members of the Wenhaston WI, helped by families and friends, have been examining and recording the memorials in St Peter's Churchyard. We obtained permission from the PCC, advice from Suffolk Family History Society, and then set to work. You may have seen us, in all weathers, clambering round holly bushes looking intently at badly eroded headstones.

After deciphering them, a careful study of the Burial Register to check details and add extra information followed, which meant that we could work out all but two. We also produced a map, which proved to be very challenging, as they are not arranged neatly!

Books with the full inscriptions will soon be on view in the church, a CD or book can also be purchased locally, and Blythweb have kindly put all the information on their Wenhaston website. We have also sent it to the Suffolk Record Office and the Suffolk Family History Society.

We have just finished deciphering the churchyard extension, and it will hopefully be available in Spring 2011. It has been fun and rewarding. Good to know that a part of the village's history is now recorded for family historians both now and in the future.

Janice Claxton and Dilys Grimwade

Wenhaston Gardeners

I like a man like Mr Cash, our speaker in November, a gardener of the old school who calls a spade a necessity, loves a bit of muck and isn't afraid of weedkillers. A man for all seasons indeed, to whom the calendar is king. Onions in on November 5th, Spring Cabbage on August 12th. What a wealth of knowledge he had to give. Such common sense stuff that we all really knew but still sat there and lapped it up as if it was the newest thing. We will be trying out new potato varieties, our peas will be a succession of success. Our runner beans will benefit from criss-crossed canes and cauliflowers, well, we could have a different one every week of the year. Our carrots, thinned and succulent, will be fly free when we apply the garlic dust. If it's not nettles in this column, it's garlic - that's one way to preserve the village identity! So, you can't go wrong as long as you have a blunt ended dibber, go out for a weekly hoe and - ho, ho, ho - escape the family on Boxing Day to sow your onions.

Speaking of things festive, The Christmas party is on Tuesday December 14th. It's always a good evening of food and fun. Do make sure to come along.

Cherry Wilkinson

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Blood Donors Wanted

Wenhaston Village Hall 21st February 2011.
To book an appointment call the helpline on
0300 123 23 23 or visit www.blood.co.uk

Dates For Your 2011 Diary

29th Jan - Film Show, Village Hall
21st Feb - Blood Donors, Village Hall
26th Feb - Give and Take Day, Village Hall
16th Apr - An Evening with Charlie Haylock

For events in the local area go to
www.blythweb.net/calendar/

Wenhaston WEA Spring Term 2011

"The Origins of the English Civil Wars"

Tutor Simon Doney

Topics will include the Gunpowder Plot,
conflicts of religion and the role of Parliament.

**A 10 week course beginning on
Friday 21st January at 10:30am
Venue WENHASTON VILLAGE HALL**
(note change of venue and time)

Course Fee **£44.00**

For further details contact
Kathleen Orme on 01502 478708

Wenhaston Village Hall News

The Village Hall was transformed into a
veritable Aladdin's Cave on Sunday 7
November when it was filled by Table Top
stalls. The variety of items on sale was
astonishing and ranged from reconditioned
tools to homemade cakes and handmade
cards, as well as good toys, gift items and
household necessities. Another Table Top sale
will be held on Sunday 5 December 10am-
2pm. Come along and see for yourself and
bag your bargain!

Eileen Heaps

Millennium Map

The 10th anniversary of the Wenhaston Millennium Map was celebrated on Saturday afternoon, 30th October, in the Village Hall. It was well attended and a very interesting occasion. As one entered the Hall, to the right were tables set out for refreshments, to the left a large area of tables laid out to show how the map evolved.

Starting in 1997 the frontage of every building in Wenhaston was drawn (by a large band of volunteers). There were samples of these drawings, along with photos. Then came photos of all the hedges and roadside vegetation. Further on were aerial photos; next came details of research into the many village activities; then scale map drawings.

In the centre was the album made by Maurice Naunton with its detailed account of the whole 3-year project. Lastly there were the maps themselves.

In addition to all this were two smaller displays: one manned by Heather Phillips of other maps and historical documents, the second by Dilys Grimwade showing work done by the WI on gravestones in the churchyard and adjacent cemetery.

V Jackson



*Villagers and Map Makers at the 10th Anniversary
Celebrations of the Wenhaston Map.
Photo © Peter Phillips*

Wenhaston with Mellis Hamlet Parish Council (October)

The Parish Council has been informed that it is unlikely that the path at Star Hill will be constructed due to Government cut backs in the foreseeable future. The Parish Council are going to see whether it is possible for a street light to be erected on Star Hill.

The cost of insuring the BMX track on the playing field is £3,000.00 and the track would have to be enclosed due to the fact that the field is a public area.

The sports club are looking at the possibility of changing the skate board area to a BMX track this will cost about £10,000.00.

District Councillor Austin stated that as soon as information regarding the Government's cut backs are known and how it will affect the District Council he will report back to the Parish Council.

Cllr. Orme, the Chairman of the Village Hall Committee, stated that he was still trying to get the selling of the electricity from the solar panels sorted out.

Various events are being put on in the Village Hall and he hopes that as many people as possible attend and support the hall.

The roots of the hedge around the hall car park are going to be dug out and posts and wire are going to be erected. It has been reported that children on bikes are riding between the roots of the hedges straight out on to the road nearly causing accidents, hence the hedge roots being removed.

A meeting has taken place with all interested parties about the flood risk to the A12 at Blythburgh. One suggestion is that a barrier and sluice be erected, another raising the A12 by 2 metres. Parishioners will be kept informed as and when any more information is available.

Mary Pennock, Clerk

www.wenhaston.net/parishcouncil/index.php

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Wenhaston with Mellis Hamlet Parish Council (November)

The Precept for 2011/2012 has been set for £13,250.00, an increase of £250.00. The Parish Council has been very prudent in setting the Precept. The cost of a Parish Council election next year is to come out of reserves. The amount being about £700.00.

Cllr. Edwards reported that the Village Plan Consultation and Talent Show was a great success. About 70 parishioners took part in the survey indicating as to what they would like to see in Wenhaston in the future. Also, the talent show was very impressive.

As Star Hill footpath is now a non starter, the Parish Council are trying to see whether two lights could be put up on Star Hill Lane. The cost of the lights would have to come out of reserves.

The Parish Council would prefer a sluice gate and barrier put up on the coast side of the A12, instead of raising the A12. The Chairman to write to our MP, asking her to clarify her decision regarding the A12 and perhaps attend a Parish Council meeting.

Often Parishioners complain that they don't know what is going on regarding the Parish Council. Minutes and Agenda are put up at the Village Hall and Well Green, as well as on the Wenhaston website. All the meetings are open to the public so come along and hear for yourselves.

The Chairman on behalf of the Council wish you all a Happy and Peaceful Christmas and New Year.

Mary Pennock, Clerk

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News From The Church

A tasty Lunch and a challenging Quiz, two events which have been enjoyed and very well supported during November. The Autumn Fair was very successful, the stalls were very popular with brisk business particularly on the produce stall and the hot lunch was appreciated as were the delicious desserts. Our annual Quiz Night attracted nineteen teams with a very close result between the PCC Ladies and the PCC Gentlemen! Together these two events raised £1054.00 for Church Funds and we are extremely grateful to everyone who supported us and to all those who helped in any way.

Margaret Goldstone, Churchwarden

Wenhaston WI

Accompanied by a well used recording, we sang Jerusalem to open our Annual Meeting. This was the year when Helen stepped down as our President. Gallantly Jane came forward to take up the reins.

When the report for the year was read out we were surprised at all we had achieved and taken part in. Playing darts, the book club, attending the theatre, the diners club and the graveyard survey to name but a few.

Janice is encouraging us to recycle, she finds homes for our old mobile phones and there is now a box in the hall for all printer and fax cartridges, the proceeds from which will go to The World Land Trust.

Before the new committee was elected and our adviser Gwyneth Harris gave her address we had a cup of coffee and a chance to swish. It was a good evening to catch up with friends and with village news.

Next meeting; 'Satire in Song' with Joyce Kember. Not only an amusing talk but we will enjoy a glass of wine and a mince pie! **FJJ**



Helen Bowyer, Dilys Grimwade and Janice Claxton with the Graveyard Survey. Photo © Viv Kemp

www.wenhastonwi.org.uk/

www.wenhaston.net

The Wenhaston Website

Mothers' Union

The Rev'd Paul Bourner, Vicar of St Thomas, Ipswich, and a Chaplain to Asda Supermarket was our speaker at the monthly meeting. Rev'd Paul spoke about how things have changed in our lifetimes, and that masses of people visit a supermarket on Sundays whilst very few attend church. Therefore, he goes to the supermarket to minister to the staff and shoppers. He really made one think, saying that the staff does not want to work on Sundays, but they are obliged to, and this has disrupted family life as we know it.

He was enthusiastically thanked by Jenny Dickson.

The Mothers' Union filled 23 shoeboxes for the appeal, which was marvellous. At the Village Christmas Bazaar, we will have a Mystery Parcel Stall. Please could members bring along wrapped gifts of up to £1 in value, labelled stating who they are suitable for, and how much to charge. Thank you.

On Wednesday 8th December, we shall have our Christmas Party, starting at 3pm. Members are invited to bring a guest, and asked to contribute a small plate of food to share.

At the Church Carol Service on 17th December, Mothers' Union will serve mince pies, so please could members bring along a few on the night.

Wenhaston Mothers' Union wishes a Happy Christmas to one and all!

Margaret Bloomfield

Information ~ What's On ~ Accommodation

www.exploresouthwold.co.uk

www.explorewalberswick.co.uk

www.halesworth.net

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Good Samaritan

I was deeply moved to read Mark's obituary to his brother Simon Adams. I have good reason to be grateful to Simon.

In January last year I fell heavily on the ice whilst coming off the heath with my dog near the new caravan park, and dislocated my shoulder. Luckily Simon was driving towards Bramfield on his quad bike and must have just caught me out of the corner of my eye. He turned back, picked me up and sat me on his bike with his coat around me to await the ambulance. When they drove me off to hospital, Simon somehow put Megan the dog on his bike and dropped her off at Rose Cottage, half a mile back down the road. Without Simon, I would have been in a most difficult situation and I shall forever be grateful to him, my Good Samaritan.

John Percival



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