



Does Wenhaston Want a Cricket Ground?

Jack Ellis and Heather Phillips think it does. And they have generously offered to give a whole field to local cricketers. And it's not just any field, either. It is in the heart of the village – behind the school, between the heath and the Playingfield. What's more it is flat and well drained. Any cricketer can see it would make the perfect place to spend the hot summer afternoons.

Jack and Heather's gift to the village – the cricket ground would be owned by the Parish Council – depends on local cricketers and cricket enthusiasts taking up the challenge. At present cricket in Wenhaston consists of practice nets (alongside the football ground) and an occasional cricket team, Wenhaston Wanderers who play only four or five games a year. But there are several good young players in the village and the practice nets are widely used. A properly run cricket club needs funds, grants, equipment, a knowledgeable groundsman and a lot of hard work from cricketers and volunteers.

So does Wenhaston want a cricket ground? We hope to air the facts and to gauge the level of support at an open meeting at the Church Room. If you want to know what's at stake, if you're interested in cricket or if you just think it might be a good idea and benefit the village, please come along.

Wenhaston Church Room. Thursday, March 6th at 7:30pm.

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Wenhaston WI December Report

The sight of a table groaning under a veritable banquet greeted us as we walked into the hall for our Christmas party. The decorations around the walls and on the tables all looked very festive.

As usual a little business had to be attended to, but June disposed of it quickly and concisely, so that we and our guests could get down to the serious task of enjoying ourselves.

The seasonal fare was, as usual, excellent, as was the entertainment given to us by 'Heartbeat'. Heartbeat is an cappella group of about ten ladies who included some familiar faces. They sang to us after supper, their repertoire included several African tribal songs and some modern folk songs. Their performance was quite superb, a real treat. Thus our evening ended on a high especially as Daphne and Joyce had come in to do the washing-up!

Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year.

FJJ

Wenhaston Methodist Church

Sunday Services for February

3rd 10:30am Fred Caine
10th 10:30am Ina Gray
17th 9:30 am United at St.Peter's
24th 10:30am Rev'd Robin Searles H C

Tuesday Meetings at 2:30pm:

5th Women's Fellowship
Rev'd Pat Olivant-Hayes
12th Church Council Meeting
19th Women's Fellowship Judy Baker
26th No meeting

Wednesday 6th 10:30am

Ash Wednesday Service

Lent course from 13th each Wednesday at 7:00pm for five weeks.

Saturday 2nd 'Pray a While'

On a come and go basis for prayer and meditation between 10:00am-11:30am.

All welcome at any meeting.

Village Events

Arthur Musk would like to hear from anybody with suggestions for events to be held at Wenhaston Village Hall.

Please contact Arthur 01502 478266 with your ideas. Thank you. **Arthur Musk**

Village Planner

Please note: There is a new 2008 wall planner at Wenhaston Village Hall. Please feel free to add your village events here or you can check here to avoid planning events on the same day.

June Tate

Thank You

Sal Baxter would like to say Thank You to everyone who sent her a Christmas card.

Wenhaston WI January Report

At this month's Open Meeting Bob Cross took us on an exciting and informative trip down the Nile. Starting in Cairo, he showed us slides of the famous pyramids and of the Sphinx. These had been covered in sand and had not been excavated until the 1800s. The Nile is the longest river in the world and 90 miles of it are in Egypt. On our journey down the river we were shown slides of several different pyramids, including the Bent and Collapsed pyramid, also the temples at Luxor and the beautiful bust of Nefertiti with her wonderful necklace made up of several semi precious stones.

The last temple that we were shown was built by Ramses II . It was built like a cave with hundreds of supporting pillars carved in his likeness. At the end of the cave was yet another carved figure which was illuminated by the sun twice a year. Once on Ramses' birthday and once on the anniversary of his coronation.

There was a lot of business to get through ranging from news of theatre outings to recruiting ideas for celebrating our 90th anniversary next year.

The meeting ended with a strongly worded comment from one of our members about the rise in our subscription fee.

Next month: A day in the life of a barrister.

Badminton Club

Did you know that the Badminton Club has been playing in the Village Hall for over 25 years? No, not continuously, but every Monday evening between 7:00pm and 10:00pm.

The Club still keeps this friendly, social form of exercise amazingly inexpensive - at £3, which includes refreshment too! Players range from 'rusty' to nimble so if you would like to join us please come along on a Monday evening with a pair of non-marking shoes and a racquet (we can even lend you one), or phone Anne on 01502 478248 for more information.

Anne Harvey

Wenhaston Mothers' Union

We started our year with a Corporate Communion conducted by Rev. Edward Rennard, which was a lovely way to begin the year. This was followed by the Annual General Meeting, also chaired by Edward, when our Secretary, Mrs June Lewis, summarised the year's activities – what a lot had been achieved when we looked back – and thanked various people for their help. The officers and committee were all re-elected and June was presented with a plant in appreciation of her hard work and commitment.

The next meeting on Wednesday 13th February will be a travel miscellany, which generally interests the members, and will be in the Church Room at 2:30pm.

On Thursday 21st February, we have our Childrens' Society Box Opening Coffee Morning in the Church Room from 10:30am to 12:00 noon. There will be a bring and buy stall and a raffle, and entrance will be 50p to include coffee and biscuits. We do hope we will be well supported as it would give Mollie a boost, having been so ill this year. If any box holder is unable to attend, please would they deliver their box to Margaret Bloomfield or Anita Graves for emptying. Thank you.

Margaret Bloomfield

The Childrens' Society



Coffee Morning and Box Opening
Thursday 21st February 10:30am to 12:00
Wenhaston Church Room
50p to include coffee and biscuits
Bring & Buy Stall, Raffle

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Please note: Deadline for March 2008 issue is
20th February 2008.

News from the Bus Shelter

Supplies of Suffolk County Council's guide no.16 – 'Halesworth, Southwold and Surrounding Area' are now arriving at the Post Office. It gives details of all local bus services - so why not get one and start using it?

Just a reminder that from 1 April 2008 the new national bus pass will let eligible users get free off-peak travel on local buses anywhere in England and, if you are a Suffolk Coastal resident, you will also be able to get free peak time travel across Suffolk. If you already hold a Suffolk Saver bus pass your new national bus pass will automatically be sent to you during the last two weeks of March 2008.

If you do not already hold a Suffolk Saver bus pass you will need to make an application - you can download an application form or you can contact our Suffolk Coastal's Customer Services team on 01394 444647 or visit the website:-

www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/helpingpeople

to download a form. Please note that if you apply for a Suffolk Saver bus pass you will not be eligible for a discounted Senior Railcard or Disabled Persons Railcard as well because the Council's scheme only allows eligible people to have one concession at a time. However, you would still be able to apply for a Senior Railcard or Disabled Persons Railcard direct with National Rail.

Michael Gasper
Transport Officer, Wenhaston Parish Council

Valentine Messages



*This Wenhaston Word says it all.
To the lady on the bus - see you on
Thursdays! Your happy shopper.*

*Will you be my Valentine?
My dog likes your dog. Walkies?*



'Singing The River' at The Cut

Wenhaston musician Bridget Cousins will be staging the World Premiere (!!) of her new choral piece 'Singing the River', at The Cut on 1st March with conductor Sian Croose, the Halesworth Community Choir and local band Szyzewell Gap.

While known locally as a harper, Bridget has been writing music for voices for some years and this will be her first opportunity to showcase her work on stage. The piece follows the river Blyth from Southwold to Halesworth, exploring history and legend along the way. Inspiration for the composition comes from Bridget's love of folk music, composers such as Vaughan Williams and the contemporary work of songwriters Ali Burns and Helen Chadwick. Your support at the concert will be much appreciated - book early to avoid disappointment. Last year's inaugural concert by the choir was sold out in advance.

'Singing the River' at The Cut, Halesworth.
Saturday 1st March, 7:30pm. Tickets £8
available online at www.newcut.org or through
the Box Office 0845 673 2123.

Bridget Cousins

St. Peter's Church Services

February 3rd 8:00am Holy Communion
February 10th 9:30am Parish Communion
February 17th 9:30am Parish Communion
February 24th 6:30pm Evensong

Wenhaston United Football Club

Home Fixtures kick off 2:30pm

Feb 2nd	Res	v	Trimley
Feb 9th	Res	v	Wickham Mkt
Feb 16th	1st	v	Bacton
Feb 23rd	1st	v	Sporting '87

The First Team are to be congratulated on reaching the Semi-Finals of the Suffolk Junior Cup to be played on Saturday 8th March against Cockfield.

Peter Pennock

St. Peter's Churchyard

It is with sadness that a decision has been taken jointly between Suffolk Coastal District Council and Wenhaston Parochial Church Council that a well known landmark in the village must disappear. The large Monterey Cypress, which dominates the churchyard, has reached the end of its life and must be felled. It is expected that this will take place during the coming weeks.

Following the fracture of a large branch last year, the PCC obtained a tree hazard risk report from Treecare Consultants Ltd. The advice contained in that report is clear. As well as fungal infection, resulting in sparse foliage, which is spreading, there is considerable decay in the main limbs. The tree's old age is leading to structural weakness. There is a significant risk of further structural failure in large branches at any time. The advice received is that remedial work to reduce the risk of structural failure is not appropriate. The only sensible and practical solution is to take the tree down.

Because there is a serious health and safety risk if the tree is not taken down, Suffolk Coastal District Council are arranging for this to be done as soon as possible. This is the District Council's responsibility, because the churchyard is no longer open for burials, and is in the District Council's care, rather than the PCC. Apart from the mandatory consent of the church authorities, which is in hand, no further consent is required as the tree is not subject to a preservation order, nor is it in a conservation area.

The PCC will consider with the District Council whether another tree of a suitable species may be planted elsewhere in the churchyard as a replacement in due course.

**Margaret Goldstone
Anthony Atfield
Churchwardens**

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Blackheath Common Concerns

The state of Blackheath Common is becoming a very sorry sight since it has been 'managed' by the Commons workers.

Most recently a part of Common has been cleared by these workers on the valley side near to the marshes. They have driven their vehicles along a dirt track that is used by residents on Blackheath and the track has been left rutted and churned up with heaps of mud on the side and a lake across the middle. The path across the common has been rutted and vegetation either side has been pulled out and hangs over the pathway. The tractor and trailer have driven roughshod over gorse, creating its own pathway.

Where once there were wild flowers such as harebells and sheeps bit scabious (which are no longer a common sight), blackberries, gorse, bracken and all the insects that fed off these, there is now just a ploughed mess. The bracken and gorse has provided shelter to wildlife, such as rabbits, game birds, small birds nesting in gorse, muntjacs, grass snakes etc and these are now being driven towards people's gardens as this 'clearing' continues. This is not conservation, this is decimation.

I believe this 'clearing' is being done to make Blackheath look like it used to during the war without all the bracken. This part of the Common where they have recently cleared has never had heather growing there. There were also not the number of houses then on Blackheath that there are now. Will these need pulling down too to suit?

Blackheath looks beautiful when the gorse is in bloom, now it has been spoilt. I believe that a lot of residents who actually live on Blackheath do not want to see the common cleared as it is being done now, as they have left nothing but an absolute mess. Has anyone carried out a survey amongst those living on Blackheath to see what they think? I ask anyone to go look for themselves at the 'clearing up' and to judge for themselves.

A Blackheath resident

(name and address supplied)

Footpath Walking

Both walks in February will leave from Wenhaston Village Hall at 10:00am.

The morning one will be on the 5th.

The "all day" walk on the 19th will be round Blyford and back to Wenhaston for lunch at The Star Inn.

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

Recycling Plastic Bottles

The Recycling Centre at Beccles requests only clean plastic bottles, no tops and no labels. Will now take plastic carrier bags. I can collect from your home. Thank you. Andrew Taylor 01502 478692 for collection.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

March 1st. St. Peter's Church Jumble Sale. 1:30pm - 3:30pm. Wenhaston Village Hall.

March 1st. Singing the River. 7:30pm The Cut, Halesworth. Box office 0845 673 2123.

March 29th and 30th. Archive Group Exhibition. Wenhaston Village Hall.

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

Valentine Message

To my Dancing Queen - see you at the Valentines Party in the Village Hall on February 16th...from Wenhaston's own John Travolta (you know who I am)



What's Happening on the Heaths?

You will probably have noticed that some areas on the Commons have recently been cleared and the bracken litter scraped off. This work is an ongoing project to restore suitable parts of the Suffolk Sandlings to lowland heath, and is being carried out by Wenhaston Commons Group and local contractors in partnership with Suffolk Coastal District Council and with advice from Suffolk Wildlife Trust. We explain here why this is needed and what we hope to achieve. A fuller explanation will be given in our 'Silver Studded Blue' newsletter to be delivered with your 'Wenhaston Word' in March.

In the past, much of the Commons was used as a source of gorse and heather for livestock bedding and fuel. This widespread practice died out in the 1940's, after which there were occasional fires which put people's homes and lives at risk. These and other changes in land use have since resulted in an 80% loss of Suffolk's lowland heath, which is now such a rare and important wildlife habitat that there is a compulsory national scheme for its restoration.

The Commons Group is therefore clearing much of the old gorse and bracken so that heather and open grass areas can be re-established. Cutting back the gorse is sometimes sufficient on its own, but in places the soil has become unsuitable for heather due to the build-up of bracken and leaf litter. This has to be scraped off to expose the sand underneath before re-seeding by spreading heather seed from local sources, including Minsmere Nature Reserve.

Regrowth is already occurring on Mill, Black and Bicker's Heaths and we hope to carry on this work with your support. Wenhaston already has many nationally rare species of wildlife that need our continuing help to flourish.

*Jill Daines,
Wenhaston Commons Group
Michael Gasper,
Wenhaston Parish Council*

Conservation Work in February

Sunday 10th 10:00am - 1:00pm Blackheath, meet at seat near Black Deek pond.

Tuesday 12th 10:00am - 12:00noon
Mill Heath, meet by power line poles.

Sunday 24th 10:00am - 1:00pm
Blackheath, meet near BMX track.

Commons Group

Did you Know?

Broadband Internet Computer available for use at Blythweb's office, The Street, Wenhaston £1.00 per 30 minutes, or part.

Phone 01502 478712 to book your slot, or just turn up and take a chance!

Also

A4 black and white printing at 10p per side, colour printing also, and Laminating services.

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It's Very Common

It's congratulations to our Commons Group for the excellent work in clearing gorse from Blackheath and making way for the development of grasses, heather and other 'common' plants.

Perhaps as a result of their work we shall see our common restored to their original and proper state of being - a common.

Graham Holt

Thank You

Daisy Stammers would like to thank her family for the lovely surprise 80th birthday party; special thanks to Sheila and Pat for all their hard work.

Also thanks to all relatives and friends for the cards, flowers and donations which totalled £320. This has been divided between the Air Ambulance and the First Responders.

Energy Support Group News

"We are in a period of consequences" says Al Gore in his film 'An Inconvenient Truth'. "Old beliefs plus old technology is OK – but old beliefs plus new technology is NOT good – consequences are transformed".

With strong support from Deborah Wargate, Sustainability Officer for Suffolk Coastal DC, this film was shown in December to a group of concerned and engaged villagers. After wine, mince pies and a tough hour and a half of viewing, we exchanged Information, Expectations, Attitudes, Experiences – as well as Confusions, Frustrations, Needs and Offers.

"We know all we need – just need to use it!" Al Gore again. We discussed -

Electricity-use monitors

One already going round Eco-Team's homes. Two more being bought, so anyone can see – really SEE - just how much kW/hr and ££ is used to boil a full kettle when we may only need a cuppa! Contact us.

Solar water heating

Bulk-buy group progressing well. This simple technology can greatly reduce our demand from the grid – as well as our bills. Tenders going out soon through SEAL, but still time to be included in the first group. Call Janet on 01502 478966

Public Transport

Publicity and clarity *have* to be improved. The new booklet should be distributed to everyone. Buses don't always turn up. The timetable is inadequate but, as someone said, to drive to Halesworth then get the bus to Norwich is better than taking the car all the way. We have to be creative with our changes.

Food

Already a bulk-buying group in the village (did you know?). This could expand, and others could be formed. Heath Farm will soon sell organic veg.

Domestic Carbon Quotas

A Government initiative being developed.

PRIORITIES for saving electricity are - to **immediately** Insulate and Draught-proof - Turn Off - Drive Less - Fly Less – and to start researching Community Micro-generation of electricity. Land for this has been offered, and Deborah Wargate says funding and grants are on the way for Wind Turbines and/or Combined Heat and Power systems. Middleton is progressing with this too. More than half of energy produced is lost on its journey from far-away power stations to customers.

Other areas of work in progress:

Grants and allowances for Insulation – current lists available soon.

Constitution – with donations and funding now in view, this needs to be established so as to apply for a bank account.

Eco-Team's findings and resources to be permanently displayed at Village Hall.

Greenest Community Award – our application in for this County award in the Energy Project category. Result next month.

Image! The village will feature in the Suffolk Strategic Partnership's Greenest County website. Wenhaston continues to emerge as an example and inspiration to other communities, and the group answers regular requests for displays and presentations.

Any other IDEAS?

There are funds lurking everywhere. For instance, local County Councillors have a "Locality Budget" to distribute as they wish. Let's ask for all we can get!

Next Event - INSULATION DAY – in March.

Congratulations to our Village School for their "Bronze Eco Award" !

Serena
01502 478302

Local Services

(More on page 11)



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The Wenhaston Website

Church Thank You's

Carol Singing

The annual Carol Singing around the village on 17th and 18th December 2007 proved once more to be an enjoyable (if chilly) event, and realised a grand total of £290 for the local Nurses Care Fund.
Thanks are due to all who either contributed or participated, but especially to the hosts, Rob and Felicity Jelliff and Peter and Heather Phillips who provided the delicious and warming refreshments.

Carol Service

The St Peter's candle-lit Carol Service on 21st December 2007 was a "Full House", with enthusiastic singing and contributions by all. Mince pies and drinks in the Church Room afterwards were much appreciated and we'd like to thank all those who worked so hard to make it a successful evening.
A total of £210 was collected for the East Anglian Childrens' Hospice.

Dorothy Franklin

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Wenhaston Watermill 1895. From the collection of Brian Nolloth.

Wenhaston Archive Project

The Wenhaston Archive Project is coming along well. At the time of writing there are 325 images online and more are being uploaded as the team have time! These images include newspaper cuttings, event and entertainment programmes as well as postcards and photographs.

The website is growing and can now be accessed at www.wenhaston.net/archive/ . We have great plans for this website and will be working on it over the coming months to make it bigger and better, with a proper search facility and many more pictures.

We need to know lots more about all the photos that we have, so at the end of March (29th and 30th) we will be holding an Exhibition in the Village Hall. This will be your opportunity to come and see these photographs and hopefully you may be able to tell us more about the people, the village views, buildings and events pictured.

If you would be interested in helping with the Archive Project in any way please do get in touch with Arthur Musk, 01502 478266.

Tim Heaps

Website for the Wenhaston Archive Project is
www.wenhaston.net/archive/

Local History Matters: 9

Mills.

In the Domesday Book of 1086 it states that Wenhaston possessed a Mill. This, of course, was a water mill as windmills did not appear till 1200. This watermill was on the river Blyth, probably near the present one at Watermill Farm. The later one was built around 1790 and believe me it had a windmill built on top!

There were mills in the village many years ago as in a Record Book at the Record Office there is mention of John Payne, Miller of Wenhaston and in the Sibton Charters in 1240 a lawsuit by Margaret, daughter of Adam of Wenhaston, Miller.

In 1623 John Hayle, a miller of Wenhaston bought Pynnowes on Middleton Moor, which his widow sold in 1703 for £190.

Among the burials in Wenhaston in 1554 was Dennis Browne, miller and in the List of Communicants of 1555 William Perason and William Colman, millers and Robert Head, Watermill.

Within people's memory there were two windmills in the village. On Blackheath there was a mill at Millhouse on the Heath, south of Blackheath Road which still has the base of the roundhouse in the garden. It was built before 1793 but demolished in 1896.

The other mill is Kitty Mill at the end of Wash Lane off Back Road. It was thought it was built in the 18th century, but the roundhouse built later has a plaque dated 1851.

Keith Johnceline

Wenhaston with Mellis Hamlet Parish Council

Hastoe Housing hope to start building the affordable houses in Narrow Way by early summer, and them to be ready for occupation in April/May 2009.

Plans for the proposed New Cemetery are at present being drawn up thanks to Mr Maurice Naunton.

The Precept for 2008/2009 has been set at £12,500.00. An increase of £500.00. There will be expenditure on the Cemetery, and the possibility of the Parish Council purchasing the right of way at Hall Road in the coming year.

The Village Hall has been booked for March 8th by the Energy Support Group to promote house insulation.

Letters from Parishioners about the state of the Common were received and read.

In the March edition of the Wenhaston Word the insert "Silver Studded Blue" will inform the Parishioners of the work the Commons Group is engaged in.

Planning Matters.

The Old Hall, Bartholomews Lane.

Conversation of redundant farm buildings to annexe and holiday let.

Also, alterations to existing workshop, chimney and erection of conservatory.

Suffolk Coastal District Council have approved at No 2 Corn Hill conversion of garage into habitable room

and
single storey side extension at St. James House, Bramfield Road.

The Parish Council has a balance of £16,326.13 at the present time.

For more information regarding the Parish Council, the minutes are on display at the Village Hall and Well Green.

The Parish Council would like to congratulate Wenhaston United Football Club in reaching the semi finals of the Suffolk Cup. (Final to be played at Portman Road).

Mary Pennock

Local Services

(More on page 9)



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Wenhaston Gardeners Club

Talc, salt, a couple of blankets, a stick just the right length - yes, I'm all set to produce winning veg for this years Show. If you weren't at Andrew Tokeley's talk last month you wont know what I'm talking about! But those who did turn out were given a thorough education in the growing, harvesting and preparation of vegetables for showing with a good few tricks of the trade thrown in for good measure. If we get a decent growing season Show entries should be well up this year and competition will be stiff!

For the artistic among you here is a preview of the Craft and Photography classes in this year's Show which will be held on September 7th:

Crafts:

- A knitted item
- An item of tapestry - to include kit-based work
- A decorated apron
- A painting on china, tin or wood
- A Painting, framed or unframed
- A handmade article for a child
- Any other Craft item

Photography:

- Fruit and/or Vegetables
- A Suffolk Landscape
- A Gardener at Work

All photographs to be mounted not framed and to be up to A4 in size, including mount.

Our next meeting on February 12th takes us 'On the trail of Orchids' with Peter Ransome.

Everyone is welcome.

Any enquiries - 01502 478815

Cherry Wilkinson

BlythWeb

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01502 478712
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