



# The Wivenhoe Society

## Newsletter January 2010

### CONTENTS

Message from the Chair	1	Wivenhoe's Cinema	6
Planning	1	Annual General Meeting	6
Shoreline Management Plan	2	Hearing Aid Batteries	6
Recent Wivenhoe Society events	3	Over-60s Lunch Club	7
Parish Paths Partnerships	4	We have our own website at last	7
Wivenhoe in Bloom	5	Wivenhoe Society Committee	7
Hanging Basket Competition	5	Committee meetings	8
Mad Dogs and Englishmen	5	Forthcoming events	8

---

### MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

#### THE LIBRARY TREE

Back in the summer the library service accepted the Society's offer to pay for a replacement tree (but not for the probably much more expensive root-restricting groundwork which the library insisted upon) and we were assured planting would take place in early November, weather permitting. Members may have noticed that Christmas came and went... and still no tree. As I write in early January, we have just learned that the tree was not delivered until the week before Christmas, by which time we were in the grip of the first spell of snow and freezing conditions. One wonders what sort of suppliers they use! The relatively mild spell between the two bouts of snow of course coincided with the 10-day period when nothing gets done in this country, but hopefully, by the time you read this, the thaw will have set in and the tree will be in the ground.

The correctness of the Society paying for a new tree has been questioned, but I remain convinced replacing the felled one would not have been considered had we not made this gesture which got a lot of publicity drawing attention to the County Council's vandalism.

#### OUR WEBSITE

We recognized a long time ago the Society's need for a dedicated website, as opposed to a page on the Wivenhoe Encyclopedia. I am pleased to report that this is now in operation. It is very much 'work-in-progress' and in need of further tweaking, but already offers a lot of information about what we do, how to join and of course a diary of forthcoming events. Further details are on page 7. I should very much like to see on the website more pictures of the Society's past activities: if any members have photographs, especially from early days or even only ten years ago, please do lend them to us for uploading. The 'Archive' pages could be of particular interest to a lot of people.

If you have not found it yet, go to [www.wivsoc.org.uk](http://www.wivsoc.org.uk).

*Tom Roberts*

---

### PLANNING

A further application was registered in respect of the former Cook's Shipyard, this time for detailed plans of phase 3 for which outline permission was granted more than a year ago. Unfortunately this involved increasing the number of houses and really should not have been granted, purely on the grounds that the roads leading to the site will not cope with the extra traffic.

So all we can do is haggle about relatively minor matters. We expressed concern that Walter Radcliffe Way appears to have a pavement only on one side for part of its length and that there is no pavement on the play area side of the loop road. The layout for one group of houses shows

parking and garages in a courtyard with access to individual houses through the gardens of the houses. This will inevitably lead to on-road parking, judging by the experience on the former Wivenhoe Port estate. Some of this parking will be on Walter Radcliffe Way. Given that sometimes boats will be towed along this route, on-road parking would cause problems.

We also questioned whether adequate parking has been provided for the mixed residential/business units. There is an area marked as customer parking with 11/12 spaces, but staff working in the units will also need to park.

It is not clear from the drawing whether there is access from the boat-parking area to the slipway. Presumably people will want to trundle trolleys to the slipway.

We also expressed concern that the business units now appear to be 4 storeys high. Perhaps this was agreed last time, but I don't think so. In any event, they are too tall for the surroundings.

*Tom Roberts/ Jane Black*

---

## **SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Following initiatives from the British Government and European Directives, national Shoreline Management Plans are being formulated by the Environment Agency. The Essex Shoreline Management Plan covers the coastline from South Suffolk (Felixstowe) to South Essex (Canvey Island). Wivenhoe Town Councillor Robert Needham went to a Stakeholder Consultation in November, and has reported on the information presented to those attending. There are currently 22 flood plain plans under consideration within the British Isles. The plans are intended to set out how the shoreline will be managed over the next 95 years. Plans for Wivenhoe can be inspected at the Town Council Offices.

Using tidal flood plain predictions, the Environment Agency is proposing to allow the flooding of around seven acres of farmland, near the Wivenhoe Sailing Club and the River Colne barrier. The area runs from the existing earth bank adjacent to the new Cooks Shipyard development, about 100m south of the London to Clacton railway line. It then follows the contours of the track for around 750m, before turning towards Marsh Farm and March Chase Cottages, where it meets the existing river bank at the corner of the woods attached to Alresford Grange. The plans could be implemented within the next five to 30 years.

Of particular concern to Wivenhoe Society members is the possible impact on footpaths along the river, which are of course very well used. However, the expectation is that the Environment Agency will create a fresh right of way along the new outer wall of the reserve which will connect with the existing R of W further along the path towards Alresford Creek. This means the sea wall will remain much as it is now, the only change being that the wall/footpath will be on the outer (Northern) perimeter of the flooded reserve. It seems that views and other aspects will not change.

**A public consultation will take place at the William Loveless Hall, in High Street, Wivenhoe, from 4pm until 7pm on Friday May 14.** Incidentally, a 7.00 pm finish is too early for some, especially those who commute to London, so we have requested an extension. Details will be confirmed in our April Newsletter.

*Moira Collett*

---

### **BRENDA CORTI**

We were saddened to learn of the death on New Year's Day of Brenda Corti, a loyal member of the Society over many years. The funeral is to be held at Colchester Crematorium on 21 January at 2.00 pm. Our sympathy goes to her family.

## RECENT WIVENHOE SOCIETY EVENTS

Our Autumn talk, 'Recent Wivenhoe housing: the new vernacular' given by Cliona Marrani, was well attended and gave rise to an interesting discussion about modern versus traditional architecture.

Non-members are always welcome at our events and our recent experience has been that talks attract a good audience, some of whom are then tempted to join the Society. We would very much welcome suggestions of topics and/or speakers, or indeed ideas for different types of events that you would like us to arrange.



The Craft Fair in the William Loveless Hall in November was as popular as ever, providing as it does a good opportunity for Christmas shopping.

## WINE-TASTING EVENING

Dave Harrison reports: "The annual Wivenhoe Society wine-tasting was held on the 27th November where a selection of wines were displayed by the East of England Co-operative Society. Some 55 people were present and we commenced at 8pm with a sparkling white wine. We then tasted a selection of white wines and roses prior to a cheese spread organised by the Co-op. Following this natural break we had a selection of red wines, a port, then a taste of either Co-op whisky or Delaneys Irish Cream. Questions were asked from the floor throughout the evening which made for a very enjoyable evening. Hopefully we will be able to hold another tasting next year."

## POST CHRISTMAS PARTY

Despite the wintry weather, the Post-Christmas party went ahead on 9 January. Between 50 and 60 people donned their boots and scarves and trekked to the William Loveless Hall for this annual event. In fact the hallway looked rather like the cloakroom in a ski resort!

Mike Rollo provided the music...and as you can see from the photo overleaf it turned out to be a really enjoyable evening. Many thanks to everyone involved in the organisation.





*The post Christmas party in full swing*

---

### **NEWS FROM THE WIVENHOE PARISH PATHS PARTNERSHIP (P3)**

The P3 group has been busy this autumn, well supported by our newly appointed Essex County Council P3 Officer, Jason Botelho who has provided both training and advice.

Four of us spent a sunny afternoon being trained in the secrets of putting in waymarkers 'the Essex County way' – which was really an excuse to spend a lovely afternoon along the river, but we have put these skills to good use since along Right of Way 14 up by the gravel pits at the top of Wivenhoe. We have been asked to put a few more in on different paths and plan to do so once the weather improves.

Thank you to all who turned out for our two other working groups this autumn. RoW 14 is now cleared, clearly marked and litter free! Some of you may be wondering why it was important to work on this path, given that most walkers use the permissive paths across the fields instead. Two reasons really: the walk through the small wood is very pleasant and it is also, from a legal point of view, important that all Rights of Way are kept clear and can be shown to be walked regularly. Part of the route of the RoW was so hidden, we had to use our best detective abilities including a sat nav, commonsense and local knowledge to work out where it actually ran!

Aside from the waymarking mentioned earlier, we are already planning to build some informal steps along a short part of RoW 13 (which runs from just past the Sailing Club, across the fields to the Alresford Road). We had hoped to also install a bench at a good viewing point but unfortunately the landowner will not agree to this. The step-building will certainly involve barrowing some of the materials across fields so the more people who are willing to volunteer for those sessions the better!

We will also need to walk all the paths again this spring in order to identify work to be done over the coming year – I have noticed plenty of growth already along the paths we cleared earlier last year. Walking and surveying is not arduous and a great opportunity to walk a path you might not have tried before. Path clearing is mostly light work, for those not so keen on barrowing, building and digging holes (me included) which we hope to carry out in short sessions over the whole year. For anyone concerned – we are always aware of the need to only clear a path sufficiently to walk along and are very concerned with not spoiling natural habitats

We plan to launch the new year with an evening meeting to plan some working group activities and dates and to encourage any of you who might be thinking about joining us to come along and meet us. We hope that people from Elmstead and Alresford may also come along. I am sure many of you walk paths that fall in their areas and working together would seem to be a very good idea.

**The P3 meeting will be at 13 Westlake Crescent on Wednesday 3 February to start at 7.30 pm** which I hope is late enough to allow everyone to get back from work. For further details, please contact me on 01206 825633, 07806 947 590 or e-mail me [hellsevens@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:hellsevens@yahoo.co.uk)

The P3 group is supported by the Wivenhoe Society but also Wivenhoe Town Council and Essex County Council and is open to everyone in Wivenhoe, not only Society members. If you have friends who are non-members, bring them along - they are equally welcome.

*Helen Evans*

---

## **WIVENHOE IN BLOOM?**

In the October Newsletter we reported that there were plans to establish a Wivenhoe in Bloom Group. Following a successful inaugural meeting in November, when some 24 enthusiastic people turned up willing to work at brightening up our town, a committee has been established to take things forward in the first instance. Town Councillor Fran Richards is chairing the group initially, and the committee met just before Christmas to plan activities in discussion with the Council staff who have formal responsibility for the existing planters along the main thoroughfare.

The Group is lucky to have some expert advice on hand from Sarah Dean, of Dean's Nurseries, as well as members with considerable horticultural experience to offer. Their work should first become evident with the re-planting of containers in March for a spring display. While the Group does not intend to enter any competitions this year, it is something to work towards, with our neighbours in Elmstead and Brightlingsea setting an excellent example. As the work progresses, more volunteers will be needed to help with activities such as watering and dead-heading. Please contact Janie Grote, Secretary to the Group (01206 820836 or [janie.q@virgin.net](mailto:janie.q@virgin.net)).

---

## **HANGING BASKET COMPETITION**

The Wivenhoe Society has decided to run a hanging basket competition this year. Although many properties already display baskets, planters etc we thought that this might encourage others to do so, making Wivenhoe even more attractive during the summer months. We particularly hope that shops and offices will join in.

Our local celebrity garden expert Beth Chatto has very kindly agreed to help with the judging, which will take place towards the end of July. Full details and entry forms will be available in the spring, but meanwhile, green-fingered members should start planning (and sowing!) with this in mind.



---

## **MAD DOGS & ENGLISHMEN**

The Mad Dogs & Englishmen Theatre Company's production this year is a different format: not Shakespeare, not outdoors and not in August!

Charles Dickens called Joseph John Mechi a magician, but who was he? This eminent Victorian gained huge wealth through the development of his 'Magic Strop Razor'. He became an Alderman of London and was tipped to become Lord Mayor. His spectacular emporium in Regent Street sold new and wonderful works of craftsmanship and his products were renowned in the Great Exhibitions of London and Paris. It seemed that everything he touched turned to gold. But when he turned his attention to agriculture new challenges were before him, not only in the light of agricultural unrest, but his own personal dilemmas.

This story is reminiscent of a novel by Thomas Hardy, the difference being this story is true.

*The Magician's Box* has been especially commissioned by Wilkin & Sons of Tiptree to celebrate their 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2010. This year is also the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution which Mechi founded in 1860.

This is an Essex story: Mechi conducted agricultural experiments in Tollehunt d'Arcy and Tiptree Heath and his home was Tiptree Hall, which is now part of Wilkin & Sons' estate.

*The Magician's Box* written by Ann Courtney will be performed on Thursday 16 September 2010 at 7.30 pm in the William Loveless Hall. Tickets details will be published in our next Newsletter.

---

## WIVENHOE'S CINEMA



As reported in our October Newsletter, plans are underway to acquire the old St John Ambulance hall in Chapel Road (the small track next to the railway bridge) and develop it as a community asset, principally as a cinema but also as a venue for use by local groups for events such as musical performances, poetry, talks, seminars, etc. Progress could be summed up as slow but steady, and definitely on track although there is still a way to go.

At the end of December St John Ambulance accepted the Working Group's offer to buy the hall, and this allows a twelve-month window to raise funds to complete the transaction.

The Working Group have swung into action and a leaflet with all the details will be posted through every letterbox in Wivenhoe very soon. Meanwhile, the formalities have been attended to and Wivenhoe Film Theatre is now a charitable company limited by guarantee.

While Wivenhoe Film Theatre has been registered as the name of the company, no decision has been made yet as to the operational name of the cinema. We do have a Patron, however. Distinguished British film director Mike Leigh has accepted our invitation to take on this role, which certainly adds credibility to our endeavours.

**There is going to be a Public Meeting at 10.30 am on Saturday 30 January in the William Loveless Hall so that anyone who is interested can discuss the plans.**

Meanwhile, anyone who wants to find out more or get involved can contact me on 01206 826404. There is also a website for the project at [www.reelappeal.org.uk](http://www.reelappeal.org.uk)

*Moira Collett*

---

## WIVENHOE SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM will be held at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 24 March at the Nottage Institute. Full details and papers will be delivered to all members in early March, but meanwhile if you would like to suggest any topic for discussion or put an item on the agenda please contact the Secretary, Helen Evans (01206 825633 or [hellsevens@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:hellsevens@yahoo.co.uk)).

---

## HEARING AID BATTERIES

You will be pleased to learn that hearing aid batteries are now available at the Wivenhoe Town Council office so you no longer need to go all the way to the hospital to get replacements.

---

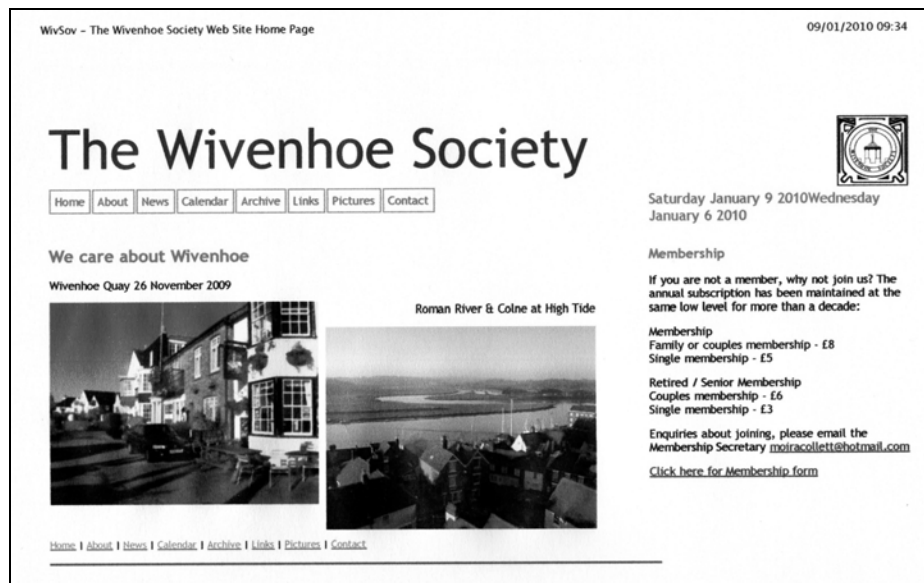
## OVER-60s LUNCH CLUB

Age Concern Colchester called a public meeting on 17 December to assess interest in an over-60s lunch club for Wivenhoe. Such clubs are already up and running in other parts of Colchester Borough. There was a positive response from the 15 or so people who attended and it was agreed to have the first lunch on Thursday 11 February, 12.00-2.30 in the William Loveless Hall. Further details from Lin Roberts at Age Concern 01206-348420.

---

## WE HAVE OUR OWN WEB PAGES AT LAST.....and we would like your email address

As the Chair mentioned on page 1, we now have a functioning website for the Society, thanks to the efforts of Stuart Allen. This is what the home page currently looks like. It has already paid dividends as evidenced by new members using the web form to join.



In the last couple of years we have asked new members to give us their email address, if they have one, when they join. But we do not have addresses for the vast majority of our members. We would like to be able to send out occasional e-bulletins if there is something to report between editions of the Newsletter, so if you are an email user, please could you spare a few moments to email me at [moiracollett@hotmail.com](mailto:moiracollett@hotmail.com) so I can add your details to our list.

---

### WIVENHOE SOCIETY COMMITTEE 2009-10:

**President:** Dave Harrison, 88 Heath Road, Wivenhoe CO7 9PX 01206 827250 □  
**Chair:** Tom Roberts, 76 High Street, Wivenhoe CO7 9AB 01206 826226 □  
**Vice-Chair:** Pat Smith, 1 Tern Mews, Wivenhoe CO7 9SY 01206 825622 □  
**Hon Secretary:** Helen Evans, 13 Westlake Crescent, Wivenhoe CO7 9RZ 01206 825633 □  
**Treasurer:** Jane Black, 74 Old Ferry Road, Wivenhoe CO7 9SW 01206 820378 □  
**Membership Secretary and Newsletter Editor:**  
Moira Collett, 8 Barr Close, Wivenhoe CO7 9RG 01206 826404  
**Minute Secretary:**  
Elisabeth Baines, 37 Valley Road, Wivenhoe CO7 9LZ 01206 823523  
**Committee Members:**  
Barbara Connelly, 34 Spring Chase, Wivenhoe CO7 9PB 01206 822255  
Hally Palmer, 13 The Avenue, Wivenhoe, CO7 9AH 01206 822578

## COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Any member of the Society is welcome to attend meetings of the Committee as an observer. We meet in the upstairs room at the Nottage at 7.30 p.m. Scheduled dates for the rest of 2009/10 are: 18 November, 16 December, 20 January, 17 February and 17 March.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS – DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<p><b>Sunday 21 March</b> Meet at Railway Station Car park at 10.00 am</p>	<p><b>Spring Riverbank Cleanup</b> Help to keep our riverbank free of rubbish and therefore a pleasant area to take a walk or a cycle ride. We usually finish around midday. Bags provided, but bring your own gloves and stout footwear. We look forward to seeing you!</p>
<p><b>Wednesday 24 March</b> Nottage Institute 7.30 pm</p>	<p><b>Wivenhoe Society Annual General Meeting</b> The business meeting will be followed by a speaker on a topic of local interest, and then an opportunity to talk to other members, with light refreshments. All members are encouraged to attend if they can. Further details will be sent to all members in early March.</p>
<p><b>Sunday 16 May</b> 11.00 am, approx 2 hours</p>	<p><b>Wivenhoe Heritage Walk</b> A guided walk led by Doreen Brimm, a Wivenhoe resident and Colchester Blue Badge Guide.</p> <p>Tickets £1.00 members, £2.00 non-members available from Pat Smith 01206 825622 or Jean Coverley email <a href="mailto:jean.coverley@tesco.net">jean.coverley@tesco.net</a></p>
<p><b>Saturday 19 &amp; Sunday 20 June</b> 11.00 am – 5.00 pm</p>	<p><b>Wivenhoe Open Gardens</b> We have again joined with Friends of St Mary's Church in organising this event. The money raised is split between us. The local charities which are to be the recipients of our half will be announced shortly.</p> <p>There is still time, so please do contact Pat Smith 01206 825622 if you are interested in opening your garden for a good cause.</p>
<p><b>Saturday 11 September</b> 10.00 am – 4.00pm St Mary's Churchyard</p>	<p><b>Wivenhoe Society Fun Day</b> Bouncy castle, music, stalls, refreshments. Stalls available - contact Pat Smith on 01206 825622 or Jean Coverley email <a href="mailto:jean.coverley@tesco.net">jean.coverley@tesco.net</a></p>
<p><b>Thursday 16 September</b> 7.30 pm William Loveless Hall</p>	<p><b>The Mad Dogs &amp; Englishmen Theatre Company</b> <i>The Magician's Box</i> by Ann Courtney. See P5 for further details</p>
<p><b>Sunday 26 September</b> 10.00 am Station Car Park</p>	<p><b>Autumn Riverbank Cleanup</b> Help to keep our riverbank free of rubbish and therefore a pleasant area to take a walk or a cycle ride. We usually finish around midday. Bags provided, but bring your own gloves and stout footwear. We look forward to seeing you!</p>
<p><b>Saturday 6 November</b> William Loveless Hall</p>	<p><b>Christmas Craft Fair</b> Stalls available - contact Pat Smith on 01206 825622 or Jean Coverley email <a href="mailto:jean.coverley@tesco.net">jean.coverley@tesco.net</a></p>
<p><b>Saturday 8 January 2011</b> William Loveless Hall</p>	<p><b>Post Christmas Party</b></p>