



December 2017

Wenhaston Warbler



THE WARBLER TEAM WISHES
ALL OUR CONTRIBUTORS
AND READERS THE VERY BEST
FOR CHRISTMAS.

Parish Councillors Through to Final of Colouring-in Competition.



Two of our Parish Councillors, Alison Alder and Arthur Musk, made it through to the final of a colouring-in competition. The Chair of the Council, Denise Corbett, said that this was an extremely prestigious event and it highlights the depth of talent that is present in the village. Alison and Arthur were judged on choosing the right colours, not going over the lines and finishing the picture. They will find out if they go through to the national finals in May.

PLEASE NOTE, DEADLINE FOR COPY IN NEXT ISSUE – DECEMBER 10TH.

BOOK LAUNCH

Suffolk Ghost Tales



Suffolk's dark lanes and windswept beaches are seething with spooks!

Join storyteller Kirsty Hartsiotis and co-author Cherry Wilkinson to celebrate the launch of their book and hear a selection of spine-chilling tales and haunting songs.

Saturday 16 December

12pm – 1pm

Village Hall, Hall Road, Wenhaston, IP19 9EP

FREE—glass of wine and nibbles provided!



BOOK LAUNCH EVENT

Halloween may be long past but the ghosts of Suffolk will not lie down quietly!

Wenhaston's Cherry Wilkinson and her daughter, Kirsty Hartsiotis, are pleased to announce the publication of their book, 'SUFFOLK GHOST TALES'. To celebrate we are holding a special event at the Village Hall on Saturday December 16th at 12 noon, (see poster). Come, if you dare, to hear Kirsty tell some stories from the book and hear

the songs Cherry has chosen to accompany them. Chat with the authors, who will happily sign books for you, and partake of nibbles and fizz to calm your jangled nerves! The Café will be open as usual 10-1 and they will be delighted if you come early for refreshments before the event.

Art in the Café

This month you'll find a lovely display of Vivienne Burns' portraits – several from her Asian travels – and stunning abstract pieces. Do come and enjoy the art and a festive coffee, cake and more.... In the village hall Café, Wednesdays and Saturdays 10 – 1pm.

Wil Harvey

WENHASTON WITH MELLS EMERGENCY PLAN

You may have read media coverage of the impacts of severe weather and isolation of communities across the UK, or how close the East Coast has come to Coastal Flooding, all of which serve to remind us we need to be prepared in case it happens to this village!

Generally, the emergency services, supported by the Local Authority and other agencies, manage and control the response, but clearly there will be times when their resources are stretched and unable to provide immediate support, and local self-help may be required.

Community Emergency Plans are intended to help local communities prepare for emergencies in a way that complements and supports the emergency services and other agencies when responding to emergencies and to our own community if isolated and to think how we can pull together.

In conjunction with the District Council Emergency Planning Officers, our Parish Council has decided that they would appoint a single Emergency Officer assisted by a deputy.

The objective is to identify potential problems, for example not only flooding, but heavy snow fall, extended power cuts or similar events that may leave us isolated and temporarily vulnerable and to see what resources/skill/equipment could be made available locally to help in emergency situations. We are also keen to identify people or areas particularly at risk so we can focus help where it is most needed.

If you feel you can help in an emergency in any way please contact

Lilian Spindler Emergency Co-ordinator Tel 01502 478693 or

Phil Corbett Deputy Emergency Co-ordinator Tel 01502 478505

Footpath Walking

Only one walk in December, which will conclude with a bookable Christmas lunch. Gail Attfield and Dee Barker will lead a walk round Frostenden and Uggeshall. Meet at Wangford Plough at 10 am on Tuesday 5 December.

I would like to thank all walkers, leaders, publicans, land owners, and publishers for helping to make the walks so successful and wish them all a merry Christmas.

Heather Phillips 478545

Christmas Bazaar Reminder.

The Bazaar is at the village hall on Sat 2nd December from 2 until 4pm.

Putting Wenhaston on the National Allotment Map.



In conjunction with my partner, Annie Rice, I decided to enter the 2017 NAS photographic competition in the category 'Transformation' in which you had to enter two images. One had to show the 'before' and one the 'after' of your allotment within a growing year.

As you can see from my images, they were taken last year before the Allotments skyline was filled in by Hopkins Homes.....

Ironically, the first photo was taken on a rather grey day in March and featured a somewhat thoughtful look on Annie's face. The second photo happened on a bright sunny day in July with a broad smiling Annie and an allotment full of growth. These two images have just won us this Transformation category. Annie had to sign a Model release form, so who knows where she might appear now!!

Lyn Gedny





Long Tailed Tit

December birds –Flocking and Roosting to Survive

Birds are settling down to survive winter and, by now, should have returned to your garden feeders as the natural food supply has dwindled. Two techniques that help them to survive are flocking and roosting.

Those that have held individual territories throughout the summer now leave them to join forces. Their reasoning is simple: the more eyes there are watching for danger and searching for food, the safer an individual bird will be. Look out for long-tailed tits that are masters of this behaviour. With their disproportionately long tails they look like flying lollipops. Hang suet balls up in your garden, and you can expect flocks of up to 20 of these tiny black, white and pink birds to pass through, each weighing about 8g (little more than a 2p coin!). Small birds lose more heat in proportion to their body size than larger ones, and on very cold winter nights, long-tailed tits risk dying if they don't find a companion. For these tits this is not a problem, because having spent the day in a flock roaming the countryside, they know exactly who they'll spend the night with. These roving flocks are made up of related birds: brothers, sisters, parents, uncles and aunts and when darkness falls, they snuggle up together on a twig, often in a dense bush, to share their body heat and stave off the effects of the cold. Birds take turns on the outside of the huddle to share the burden of roosting in the coolest spots.

Another master of flocking and roosting is the starling and at this time of the year it's quite common to see flocks of many hundreds or thousands gathering over the reed beds at dusk and putting on spectacular aerobic displays (murmurations) before settling down for the night. Why they do it is unclear, but it's thought that grouping together offers safety in numbers – predators such as peregrine falcons find it hard to target one bird in the middle of a hypnotising flock of thousands.

Roland Hammond

Wenhaston Warbler Information

The Warbler welcomes articles (please keep as brief as possible, max 150 words). The editors reserve the right to amend or not to publish articles which are unsuitable for whatever reason.

Advertising: £15 p.m. for 1/4 column (£150 p.a.), small ads £5 p.m. for 4 column lines (£50 p.a.).

Deadline for articles for inclusion in The Warbler is the 10th of the previous month.

Contact: wenhastonwarbler@gmail.com

Proof Reader: Suzanne Watkins

Ads: Jonathan Alder

Editor/Compiler: Phil Corbett 478505

ZAMBIA UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL

'I toss a quick prayer heavenwards for protection against all things visible and invisible, before tucking in with feigned gusto to goat stew, washed down with tea made from freshly boiled river water. A mouthful suffices to see duty done.

"Let's hope we're not in one of those African regions where eyeballs and testicles are the ultimate delicacy," Bob mutters.

I gag on a glob of goat stew. "You are joking?"

"Only for honoured guests, naturally!" he sniggers.'

This extract comes from a third book revealing more of Moira and Bob Cooke's escapades in Zambia, this time getting 'up close and personal' with people and animals and battling with vehicles and situations that at times defy description, while watching their family grow and enter a third generation in Africa.

Copies from Moira Cooke price £7.99 (25% donated to Cancer Research and Caring Bridge). Email: moiracooke@belmoor.plus.com or phone 01502 478503

Also from New Generation Publishing, Amazon or other book sellers.

Wenhaston Gardening Club Report

For our last Gardening Club meeting it was a treat to have Caroline Holmes talk to us. Her topic was a 'Zest for Herbs' which I'm sure inspired us all.

She began with references to the Tradescant family who could well have originated in Wenhaston. Between 1500/1600 they introduced many different plants and herbs. It wasn't until the 1600's that gardens were planted for pleasure; up till then they had been working plots.

Caroline dropped many fascinating snippets into her talk for example; Shakespeare made up many of the ideas that he used; Rosemary improves the memory; should you wish to make a curse plant basil on deadman's entrails; eat sage in May and you will live forever; should you wish to lose weight, chew fennel seeds which taste so disgusting it will deter you from wanting to eat anything else.

She even told a medieval joke: What is the cleanest tree in the wood?

The holly, but ask Felicity for the reason!!

All-in-all, a fun, informative and interesting presentation.

Next month it is our Christmas party and members are reminded to bring their numbered tickets for the draw.

Felicity

Commons Conservation

On Tuesday 12 December Helen Gairn will lead a work party on Blackheath. Meet opposite Chalet site at 10am. Festive snacks for all volunteers at Golden Acres from 11.30 am afterwards. Happy Christmas to you all. *Heather Phillips*

Wenhaston Warbler Wine

After my inconsequential musings of last month, I will try to make amends with some firm recommendations for winter drinking. The wines, for the most part, are reasonably priced and, in my view, represent good value. They should be widely available so here goes. Morrisons' Swartland Chenin Blanc has a light apple flavour tinged with honey and enough acidity to be a good match for roast chicken and roast pork. It costs £6-99 a bottle. Moving up a notch Morrisons' White Burgundy is clean and elegant with a touch of complexity. Great Burgundy it isn't, but great value at £8.

A couple of attractive whites at our local Co-op are its Truly Irresistible Fiano from Italy and its Most Wanted Albarino from Spain. Both are good with seafood and fish. If you are a Sauvignon Blanc fan and find yourself near an Aldi try their Leaf Plucker (yes, that is its name – it refers to sheep that eat the vine leaves) from South Africa. Price £6-99.

For the reds I suggest Tesco's Beaujolais Villages 2016. Drink it slightly cool with either simple roast chicken or cold meats. It's light, fruity with enough acidity to keep it interesting. It's good value at £7-00. Tesco also do a big, dark, juicy Boschendal Shiraz from South Africa's Coastal Region. It has a long, dry spicy finish and would be great with beef. It's £9-99 a bottle. If you prefer Malbec with your beef and you are a member of the Wine Society you won't be disappointed by the Society's Exhibition Mendoza Malbec. It has a lovely "nose", a silky texture and a long finish. It costs £10-50. Not quite as good, but a good example of a modern elegant Malbec is Vinus by Paul Mas Malbec from the South of France. It's at Morrisons for £8-00. Also from the South of France is Aldi's Pardon My French Fitou. Big and juicy; it's made for red meats and spicy sausages. It's excellent value at £6-99.

Finally, if you like to support the Wine Shop in Halesworth try a bottle of The Merchant's Red. This is a blend of Merlot, Garnacha and Syrah made in Spain for Berry Bros. It's juicy, smooth and refreshing. Enjoy slightly chilled with chicken or ham. At room temperature match with lamb or beef. *Bernard Orme*

Affordable Properties at Blowers Piece and Narrow Way.

Two and three bedroomed properties are available at the above locations. If you know of any families who are in need of local rented accommodation they should join the housing register by contacting the team at Suffolk Coastal District Council 01394 444822 or email homechoice.scdc@eastssuffolk.gov.uk. These properties will be let through the local authority Choice Based Lettings scheme www.gatewaytohomechoice.org.uk *Sam Ramsell, Hastoe Group*

Wenhaston Mothers' Union

Our globetrotting friend, Felicity Jelliff, was speaker at the November Meeting. Felicity and Rob have visited many exotic places, and seen unusual animals on their travels, but on this occasion, they visited India in the hope of seeing the Bengal tiger. Their luck was in as they encountered several beautiful tigers, stayed in a tree lodge and had a real taste of the country. It was a once in a lifetime experience, and we were very lucky to share it with them through their photographs. Thank you, Felicity.

Members have sent several shoeboxes to those less fortunate than us, and also provided toiletries to put in drawstring bags for the ladies at the refuge in Ipswich, with our love.

On 13th December we shall have our Christmas get-together at Spindleberry, Narrow Way at 3pm. Members are asked to bring a small plate of food, and possibly, a small gift for a raffle. *Margaret Bloomfield*

Wenhaston Village Hall 100 Club

The Wenhaston Village Hall 100 Club December draw has been made and we are delighted to announce the winners:

- 1st prize Sue Morris (number 72) £33
- 2nd prize Paul Bowyer (number 14) £20
- 3rd prize Joan Johnceline (number 137) £13

Well done to all the winners this time! It's never too late to sign up. A chance to win a prize costs just £1 a month so anyone wishing to join now, the fee is £9 for the year starting from December.

Please pay by cash or cheque, made payable to Wenhaston Village Hall 100 Club, and hand in, clearly marked with your name, in an envelope to the Post Office or either of the promoters, Kirsten West or Trish Gower. All enquiries please phone Trish on 478267.

Wenhaston Methodist Church

Sunday Services at 10.30am		Tuesday Meetings at 2.30pm	
3rd	Iris Baker	7th	Women's Fellowship
10th	Rev Leslie Richards	12th	Fellowship Meeting
17th	Ian Prettyman 4.00pm. Carols by Candlelight	19st	Women's fellowship. Carols and Tea
24th	Laura Lawrence-Martin	26th	No Meeting
25th	9.30. Family Service	No "Pray Awhile" this month ALL WELCOME AT ANY EVENT	
31st	Rev Clive Sutcliffe		

NEWS FROM THE CHURCH

Our Carol Service for the Village will be on Friday 15th. December in the Church at 7 o'clock and we hope that the Church will be full with village folk to enjoy singing the traditional carols as well as some more modern ones. The Church will be decorated for Christmas with candles, flowers and holly and I know that it will look very festive and welcoming. Now that we have a new heating boiler it will also be warm!! The Service will be followed by mulled wine and mince pies, a time to meet friends and to exchange Christmas greetings and we look forward to meeting YOU at the Service.

On Christmas Eve we will celebrate the birth of Christ with a Midnight Service of Holy Communion which will begin at 11.30.pm. This is a very special service and again we welcome everyone to join us especially if you are not a regular worshipper. Just come and experience the joy and peace of Christmas and receive a blessing.

The Church will be open every day during Christmas and the New Year. Perhaps you may like to go into the Church and enjoy the Christmas decorations and stop for a few moments to reflect on the true meaning of the Christmas season and to be thankful for all that it brings, remembering the many people and families for whom it is a very difficult time,

Finally, please do support our stall at the Village Bazaar on Saturday 2nd December, lots of Christmas goodies!

We wish our readers a happy and peaceful Christmas. *Margaret, Churchwarden.*



Wenhaston Christmas Treasure Hunt



In the fortnight leading up to our Carol Service on Friday 15th December, there will be a Treasure Hunt around the village of Wenhaston. Words and images linked with the Christmas message will be placed in key spots around the village and people are invited to hunt for them. This can be done informally or as part of a competition. Forms will be available in St Peter's Church, the Methodist Church, the Village Hall and hopefully "The Star" pub. Come and have a healthy walk around the village and search for clues to the true meaning of Christmas.



Further details from Alison Alder alisonalder@hotmail.co.uk