



MAY 2019

# Wenhaston Warbler

## Wenhaston's got talent!

On Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March Wenhaston's Got Talent Show rolled into town at the village hall and what a show it was! It was due to start at 7.30 and the Ukulele band were in position behind the curtains waiting for another 20 minutes while more chairs and tables were found for the steady stream of people who came to see the show. Finally with everyone seated and a blast of 'There's no business like show business', Phil Corbett, our MC for the night and leader of the Ukulele band, got the show moving and the band set the scene for what was to follow.



Fortified with a glass of pre-show sherry, the 18 members, Denise, Annie, Sue, Viv, Jan, Amanda, Katy, Elda, Anne, Dorothy, Phil, Lyn, Colin, Andy, Bruce, Peter, David and Richard strummed and sang along to several well-known songs and the audience were soon singing along with them.

While the band made their way off stage, the Waveney Minstrels, Jane Parker and Jaki Alden sang and played the harp and cello delightfully. Next up and we were expecting 'The Boy John' from Norfolk who 'wus a gorn a cum along' but couldn't make it as Norwich City were a playin' at hom'. Aunt Agatha came instead (Viv Kemp in disguise), to amuse us with all the 'goin's on' north of our county border. Once the laughter had died down, Andy Norris and Sue Harvey took to the stage. Sue sang a charming solo and played the Ukulele with Andy accompanying her on guitar. Andy then sang several popular folk songs with the audience joining in.

Jonathan Alder then played the Scott Joplin concert waltz 'Bethena' exquisitely on the Clavinova. His daughter Ruth joined him afterwards singing several superb songs from the West End plays. This bought the first half to a rousing finish. During the interval the Waveney Minstrels played, while the bar did a busy trade.

Strictly Come Dancing music introduced the next act with Claire and Ian Bigwood tripping the light fantastic (and not getting down with the kids) as they waltzed, cha-cha'd and jived in their Strictly NOT Ballroom routine. With Claire's quick stunning costume changes between dances and Ian's black outfit and red braces they made a wonderful sight and loud cheering rang out in recognition of their talent not to mention sheer courage!

While the stage set was changing, Mrs. Moss 'A Terrible Worrier' (from the Joyce Grenfell collection - Viv Kemp in another disguise), trundled on stage to recount the 'terrible wrongs' she had done, much to the great amusement of the audience. The curtain swung back again and Colin Hooper, who Phil told us, can even get a tune out of a string vest, played the Irish Bouzouki which is similar to a Greek one but has a flat back. Colin

sang several folk songs including a self-penned song on a local theme. Wenhaston's answer to Bob Dylan (Gerry Kemp) was next on stage and played the guitar and sang several memorable Dylan songs and John Denver's 'Country Roads'. With the stage set changing again ready for the Ukulele band, the raffle was drawn and Jane Parker from the Waveney Minstrels played the harp and sang a beautiful solo. The band then treated us to a few well known sing-along songs before the other performers joined them on stage to sing a rousing 'Show me the Way to go Home'. What a show it was and the profits from the evening were all divided between the participating local groups who had put forward performers. Well done all the star performers, and not forgetting the Crew who worked very hard behind the scenes all night, managing the several stage set changes – Alastair, Mac, Nick and Tony.



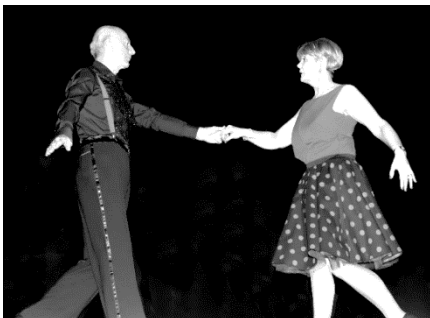
Many thanks also to Roger who has performed wonders to the stage set, lights and sound and was busy all night at the back of the hall at the controls, producing a faultless show. Thanks to Kevin

our photographer and Wil for filming and recording the show, the bar staff and raffle team for keeping up with demand all night and finally many thanks to the whole team, Janice, Viv, Roger, Phil, Andy, Tony, Peter and Lyn, who worked so hard over the last two months. We had a lot of fun along the way, putting the show together, and it was alright on the night!

***Sally Amery***

## Some of Wenhaston's stars

Claire and Ian Bigwood



Viv Kemp



Colin Hooper

Gerry Kemp



Ruth and Jonathan Alder



## **Look out for the Fit Village Survey**

Would you like to be more active locally? Fit Villages are working with Wenhaston to find out what activities the local community would like to see. Previously popular activities have included Yoga, Keep Fit, Pilates and Tai Chi but we are open to new ideas and welcome your suggestions e.g instructor-led sessions on the gym equipment at the playing field. You may soon receive a survey through the door or alternatively you can complete the survey online now

here: <https://www.activesuffolk.org/forms/view/wenhaston2>

The deadline is Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May. We look forward to hearing from you!

Annie Groves, Health and Wellbeing Project Officer, Active Suffolk [annie.groves@activesuffolk.org](mailto:annie.groves@activesuffolk.org) 07557 633824

### **Christian aid week – 12<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> May 2019**

As you can see Christian Aid Week is almost upon us. Sadly we no longer have Bob Cooke tramping the streets of the village endeavouring to put an envelope through everyone's letterbox and he will be missed. I have indicated to the Christian Aid Committee that I am happy to continue with co-ordinating the Wenhaston collection for the time being, along with, hopefully, the willing volunteers who last year helped with the distribution of envelopes. However, it doesn't end there. Once upon a time, collectors would return to houses on their patch time and again in an endeavour to part you from your hard-earned cash. Sadly, in today's world, it's no longer practicable to expect people to traipse the streets weighed down with a bag of cash. By all means, if you see your collector coming your way, they will happily take the odd envelope or two and make sure it ends up in the right place. Apart from that you can drop your nice fat envelope into either the Chapel or St Peters or, as many of you prefer, in to Jane at the Post

Office. For a small village, Wenhaston holds a good record for contributions on the annual returns to Christian Aid for the Halesworth Area but we need your support to maintain our good record. Here's hoping we can achieve this in 2019. Happy giving!

***Moira Cooke***



### **Wenhaston volunteers in village litter-pick clean-up**

Hundreds of people across Suffolk have acted on an appeal by East Suffolk Norse to join the 2019 'Do You Love East Suffolk?' Spring Clean. On Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April, Wenhaston villagers responded in their usual way to a request for assistance by the Parish Council and a band of volunteers scoured the hedgerows and verges and for the most part found that we are fortunate in having a very tidy village. Surprisingly ,however, twelve black sacks of rubbish were collected and this was mostly from the periphery of the village. Thanks to all those who took part; a further tidy up will take place later in the year. Thanks also to East Suffolk District Council for providing sacks and equipment and high visibility jackets.

***Denise Corbett***

## NOTES FROM THE EDITORS

Thanks for all the pictures and stories. April was a busy month for Wenhaston and May looks to be the same. We urgently need small items which can be slotted in at any time of the year, so please keep your thoughts, photos and artworks coming. If you think the layout of the Warbler is sometimes rather strange, that is because we have to have the right amount of copy for multiples of 4 pages. So, some items have to be expanded, and some reduced to comply! Don't forget:

**DEADLINE FOR ALL COPY IS MAY 15<sup>TH</sup>**

### **Wenhaston Flower Club**

Next meeting on Tuesday 7th May in Wenhaston Church Rooms at 7.30pm. We welcome back Debbie from Reydon who will be doing a demonstration entitled 'Spring into Summer'. A warm welcome awaits any new members, just come along on the night.

***For further information contact Jean Spindler on 01502 478317.***

### **CANCER RESEARCH**

#### **SPRING FAIR**

[SATURDAY MAY 11th](#)

[10.30am - 2pm](#)

At our new venue

#### **HOLTON VILLAGE HALL**

Light lunches.

Raffle, books, tombola, bric-a-brac,

Stall of new and nearly new items, cakes etc.

Ample parking.

Hoppa running usual morning service( departs railway station [9.30am](#) arrives village hall [10am](#)).

Please come and support us. A warm welcome to all.

# **In Aid of Blyth Valley Parkinson's Support Group**

## **Coffee Morning**

**Wenhaston Village Hall**

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May 10 am to 12 noon**

**Raffle Stalls**

### **Footpath walking**

I will be leading a walk over Blackheath, Church Farm marshes and Merton Wood on Saturday 11th May, meeting at Well Green, Blackheath Road at 10am. By then most of the regular summer migrant birds should have returned to Wenhaston, including Nightingale, Common and Lesser Whitethroat, Willow and Garden Warbler. This is an opportunity for those of you who'd like to brush up on your identification of the songs and calls of these birds and also the other resident birds such as Song and Mistle Thrush. Everyone is welcome, and we'll be passing round a hat for donations to the Wenhaston Commons Group at the end.

***Jonathan Alder***

A morning walk will leave from Wenhaston Village Hall on Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> May at 10am. Ian Denney will lead a walk round Huntingfield on Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> May. Meet at Huntingfield Arms before 10am to order lunch. For any further information or help please contact Heather Phillips on 01502 478545.

***Heather Phillips***

### **Commons Conservation**

Nick Amery will lead a work party on Church Common on Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> May. Meet at 10am at the entrance to the Common. Jonathan Alder will lead a work party on Blackheath on Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> May. Meet at 10am by the seat on the South side.

***Heather Phillips***



## News from Wenhaston Tennis Club

On a grey and drizzly Saturday afternoon we had our very first friendly match with Southwold ladies in Southwold. Despite the weather conditions it all went well and the result couldn't have been any closer. We lost by just 2 points (minimum possible margin).

We'd love to welcome more people to come and play tennis. There is coaching available in Wenhaston for adults and juniors. Contact Mark Websdale from Heads-Up Tennis Partner Coach for coaching or racket stringing. He can be reached on [07939526333](tel:07939526333).

[wenhastontennisclub@gmail.com](mailto:wenhastontennisclub@gmail.com)



**Wenhaston Tennis Club Members**

## Ten years at The Star: Congratulations to Carl & Virginia



Although we are relative newcomers to the village, we quickly came to realise how lucky Wenhashton is to have a pub like The Star. Pubs, like churches and village halls, are centres of a community, and the Star excels in this respect. Always popular with locals and visitors alike, its success reflects the effort and dedication that Carl and Virginia have so clearly made. So it was, whilst hovering in the vicinity of the Star last week, we learnt that Carl and Virginia were celebrating the ten year anniversary of The Star opening its doors under their management (that being the 1<sup>st</sup> April). We thought we would slip in early for a preprandial drink, as we often do, and offer our congratulations. Alas it wasn't to be. Carl & Virginia had obviously worked hard to make it a memorable evening, and we found that the combination of much good beer (all at £3 a pint), ample (very) tasty food freely provided and an excellent live band (The Informers), made for an extremely convivial gathering that kept us there more or less until closing time. Need I say more? So congratulations again to Carl & Virginia, and best wishes for the future. Thanks for a lovely evening, and needless to say we are looking forward to the next celebration.... **Mark and Helen**

# Old Wenhaston

An occasional series of extracts from old local and national newspapers, giving a flavour of life in Wenhaston and surrounding areas in bygone days.

From: *Eastern Daily Press, 27 April 1904.*

Mop Fairs were formerly held at Halesworth, about a fortnight after Halesworth 'sessions' or 'hiring fair'. Hiring was chiefly transacted during the sessions, when carters adorned their hats with whip-cord and shepherds theirs with wool. The Mop fairs mopped up, as it were, servants left unhired during the sessions. The Mop Fairs were scenes of shocking debauch. Wenhaston had no statute or hiring fair but held an annual sessions or kind of 'frolic' on the village green, where some twenty stalls were erected. For a couple of days noisy merriment reigned supreme and there was much betting on donkey and pony races, that of course had as their goals two public houses, the Queen's Head at Blyford and the Star at Wenhaston. Masters were as degraded on these occasions as their men; indeed worse, for they were naturally able to keep up their revels longer. Some farmers would drink day and night for sometimes a week without going home, one after another paying in turn rounds or reckonings reaching £2 per round.

The village swarmed with low beer-houses closed at ten, while the public houses continued open all night. Of course, such orgies led to the frequent letting of any bad blood that may have been biding its time amongst neighbours, giving point to a saying still in use here 'Drink awmost ollus brings grudges to perfection'.



From: *Suffolk Chronicle*, 12 October 1833

Notice is hereby given that the Turnpike Road leading from the Four Cross Ways, near the Tollgate, situate in the hamlet of Mells, in Wenhaston, close to the town of Halesworth, is stopped till further notice, the bridge on that part of the road being under repair.

From: *Bury & Norwich Post*, 03 November 1824

On Wednesday last Robert Webb, Constable of Wenhaston, was fined 20 shillings by the Magistrates at Yoxford for suffering a prisoner, Abraham Jones, charged with felony, to escape from his custody.

# WENHASTON VILLAGE HALL ENTERTAINMENTS GROUP

## SEEKS NEW MEMBERS

The Group has successfully organised a number of entertainment events at the Village Hall and more are planned. We would welcome people willing to join our enthusiastic and friendly Group to provide organisational skills and fresh ideas for future events.

**Please contact Carol Hudson-Jary on 01502 478732 or email [cazmike@outlook.com](mailto:cazmike@outlook.com)**

### **A Special Event – “Spring into Life, a Celebration of May!” a sung meditation with Anam Cora**

This singing  
their  
song,  
meditation  
Thorington



will begin with some Maying songs outside at 3.30 before heading into the church for the rest of the celebration at 4.00.

Refreshments to follow. Suggested donation: £10. For more info contact Trish Gower on 01502 478267 or visit:

[www.marybenefiel.com/anam-cora/](http://www.marybenefiel.com/anam-cora/)

group is bringing  
unique blend of  
poetry and  
to St. Peter's  
on 11 May. They



## **ANAM CORA**

Sounding in Sacred Spaces

# **Spring into Life**

a celebration of May!

**Saturday May 11<sup>th</sup> 3.30 – 5.00 pm**



### **Joyful Singing & A Sung Meditation**

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to celebrate this time of abundant flowering & new life

**A fundraiser for the Thorington Angels at  
St Peter's Church Thorington Suffolk IP19 9JG**

**SUGGESTED DONATION £10: REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE**

*For further information contact Cathie Shuster 07734 469038*

*Anam Cora are five singers who blend their voices  
to reflect harmony, compassion & joy*

*For more info visit:*

*[marybenefiel.com/anam-cora](http://marybenefiel.com/anam-cora) & [blythvalleychurches.org.uk](http://blythvalleychurches.org.uk)*

### ***Another local author in print!***

*Felicity Jelliff has just published her third book. This time a ghost story set in Suffolk. The title 'Lost Memories' hints of situations to be rediscovered and resolved. Available on Amazon, Halesworth Book Shop and Wenhaston Post Office. Well done Felicity!*

#### **Obituary for Ann Pidgeon**

A Humanist thanksgiving was held in the Church room for Ann Pidgeon who died on April 1<sup>st</sup>.

Before ill health prevented her from taking part in village life Ann had been very active in the community. She was one of the founder members of the Commons Group; she served on the Parish Council, and was a supportive member of the W.I.

Ann created her beautiful garden from scratch, horticulture being only one of her artistic talents. She painted, was a keen photographer, an exquisite embroiderer and made many of her own clothes. Siamese were her favourite cats of which she had several.

Her family was quite extensive, three daughters and three sons that are now scattered around the globe. She and her late husband, Dennis, would visit them for holidays so she was a much travelled lady.

Ann lived a full and active life, and will be much missed by her family and friends.

***F. Jelliff***

## Report for Wenhaston W.I.'s April meeting



For some time Sutton Hoo was thought to be a Viking burial plot but our speaker Peter Carter soon abused us of that notion. Sutton Hoo is an extremely important Anglo Saxon archeological site, as it is from the middle of the Dark Ages. Historians had an idea of life under the Romans as it had been well documented, then nothing until Alfred the Great. The finds at Sutton Hoo clearly show that the Anglo Saxons had a highly developed and noble culture with greatly skilled craftsmen and sophisticated marine

architects.

It is thanks to Mrs Pretty, who was living at Tranner House, that the site was excavated. After her husband died she became interested in Spiritualism, looking over her land she became convinced there was something to be found. She contacted Ipswich museum and employed Basil Brown to excavate the site. Many wonderful artefacts have been found (other than the well-known helmet) jewellery, belts, coins and silverware. A mysterious object was unearthed, great excitement! It turned out to be a roller-skate; it had been thrown into the pit by Mrs Pretty's son. An interesting and informative lecture, inspiring us all to visit when all the improvements have been made and the site is open again in a few months' time. Next month it is Resolutions followed by Women in Farming by Helen Reeve.



## Wenhaston Save Our Swifts Action Group



## Swifts are on their way back!

Soon after you receive this May Warbler, Wenhaston swifts will be returning from their journey to sub-Saharan Africa and back.

Last year the first one arrived on 6<sup>th</sup> May and the last one was seen on 5<sup>th</sup> August. Once again, they shall either be re-using their 'own' nest, or if they are young adult birds, they shall be back looking for a mate and a nest which they will return to in 2020. As soon as the first swift is sighted we shall again raise the swift flag on the church pole!

The Wenhaston Swift Action Group is introducing a ceramic house tile "Swifts Nest Here", we also plan summer walks, open

### WENHASTON PRIMARY SCHOOL SWIFT NESTING BOX

A nesting box was installed at the school on 8<sup>th</sup> April in good time to attract returning swifts looking for a nest for the next year. This box has a camera inside so the children will be able to watch all the activity and have their own swift-watch in the classroom. Each child has been given a booklet which explains swift migration its nesting habit and the reason it's threatened today.

The school's nest box has been gifted in memory of my husband Mike Follows who died in May 2018. Mike was a keen bird-watcher and supporter of conservation and education so it seems a very fitting legacy. Thank you to Head teacher Julia Bowles and her staff for their support to this project, to Gary the school keeper for his help and to David for expertly fitting the box in situ. David has kindly donated his costs to charity.

gardens and making nest boxes available to encourage more residents to put up a swift nesting box on their house. Loss of nesting sites is one of the main reasons for their recent decline. The nest boxes, house tile and booklet "I Am A Swift" are all available from the Wenhaston Swift Action Group. For any information or request please contact me.

If swifts nest in your roof, please tell either Alan at:

**Wenhaston Swift Action Group:** Ann Follows co-ordinator 01502478324 [annfollows@gmail.com](mailto:annfollows@gmail.com); Jonathan Alder\*, Richard Atkins, Jan Clements, Linda Hammond, Alan Miller\* and Jo Small.

(\*SWT SOSwift Recorders).



[alanm@suffolkwildlifetrust.org](mailto:alanm@suffolkwildlifetrust.org) 01502 478788 or Jonathan at:

[j.m.alder59@gmail.com](mailto:j.m.alder59@gmail.com) 07881743991.



**Ann Follows**

### **More swift news**

Some years ago I had swifts nesting under a tile on my roof. I had to have some works done on the roof and they lost their home. This year I thought I would try and replace their home with a swift box set up on the wall next to the previous nest. I have now bought my own box and have had it erected. I hope that they might be interested in it , if now this year maybe next Ill keep you informed!

***Colin Hooper***

## **Recycling news from Jane at the Post Office!**

I'd like to make you all aware of items that can be recycled and dropped off at the Village Hall/Post Office.

Used stamps are always wanted. I take these to a local Vets and the money received helps to train a dog for a deaf person.

Plastic milk bottles (clean ones please!) go towards raising funds for the Air Ambulance who rely on donations to operate the fantastic service they provide. They receive no government funding.

There is a Food Bank drop off point in the committee room where any food or pet food would be gratefully received this goes to help local people in need in our community.

Ink Cartridges are collected for The Land Trust via Wenhaston W I, (Christine Buttle).

Thanks for all of you who already take part and looking forward to seeing even more Wenhastionians recycling at the Post Office.



**Jane doing her bit behind the bar on Talent Night**

## Wenhaston Village Hall 100 Club

- Winners for April 2019 -

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

- 1st prize Vivienne Kemp (number 153) £37.50
- 2nd prize John Thompson (number 131) £22.50
- 3rd prize Mrs Daphne Jordan (number 6) £15

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 £4 for the year starting from May. 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 St Peter's Church

At our Annual Parochial Church Meeting, Margaret Goldstone retired as Church Warden after many years of sterling work for St Peter's. Margaret has given her all in looking after the church and its members, she will be greatly missed, but we do wish her a long happy retirement and our love goes out to her. She will still be around, of course. We are very grateful to Jonathan Alder for agreeing to be our new Church Warden and wish him well. Some of our PCC members have also retired after years of service and we do thank them too. The church looked beautiful at Easter and we do thank the flower arrangers who do such a marvellous job. Although Holy Week and Easter Sunday have now passed, we are still in the Easter Season and life goes on in the Church. On May 18<sup>th</sup> we will have our Plant Sale (see poster) in the Church and Churchyard at 11am

when we will sell plants, as well as having a cake stall and raffle. There will be coffee and biscuits in church. We should be grateful for any donations of plants, cakes or raffle prizes, and also invite you to come along and buy. [margaretibloomfield@talktalk.net](mailto:margaretibloomfield@talktalk.net)

## **Wenhaston MU May 2019**

We enjoyed a lively discussion at our April meeting with questions ranging from ‘how do we personally live out the principles of the M U’ – ‘Religious marriage services are in the decline, how should the church respond’ – ‘Our most embarrassing moment and where would we like to live if not in the Blyth valley!!’ There was much serious discussion together with some amusing replies!

We talked about the Lady Day service at the cathedral which was enjoyed and appreciated by all those who spent the day in Bury St. Edmunds. We then looked ahead to our outing in the summer and various suggestions and ideas were discussed. more news on these ideas later. Our speaker at our May meeting will be talking to us about the work of the Children’s Society and we look forward to the members from Halesworth branch joining us for the afternoon. This will also be an open meeting if anyone is interested to hear about the extensive work this organisation does. We meet on Wednesday May 8<sup>th</sup>. in the Church Room at 2.30.pm.

*Margaret Goldstone*

## Wenhaston Methodist Church

<p><b>ALL SUNDAY SERVICES at 10.30 am</b></p> <p>5 Iris Baker</p> <p>12 Rev Louise Morrissey H C</p> <p>19 Rev S Yelland</p> <p>26 Rosemary Adams</p>	<p><b>TUESDAY MEETINGS at 2.30 pm</b></p> <p>7 Women's Fellowship Spring Meeting</p> <p>14 Bible Study</p> <p>21 Women's Fellowship</p> <p>28 Bible Study</p>
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**SATURDAY 4th 9.30 - 11.00 am**  
"Pray Awhile" on a come & go basis  
for prayer & meditation  
**ALL WELCOME AT ANY SERVICE**



# WENHASTON

Produce, & Craft Market

# Saturday

# 25th MAY

10am – 12.30pm

In the Village Hall IP19 9EP

A wide and ever-changing range of local foods and produce, crafts, plants, home baking and pre-loved treasures.

New stall-holders always welcome...

Pitch fee: £6

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Carol Hudson-Jary

Tel: 01502 478732 or

e-mail: [caz-mike@outlook.com](mailto:caz-mike@outlook.com)

*Raising funds for Village Hall Maintenance*

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.).

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Open all day on Sunday from noon – 11pm.

Food is served daily (except Sun) from 12.30-2.30 & 6.30-900pm

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