

October 2020



# Wenhaston Warbler

Thanks to our positively minded Village Hall Committee and particularly its leader, Sally Amery, we are pleased to announce the re-opening of our Village Hall from 1st September.



This has enabled at least some of our Group activities to re-start and begin to establish some semblance of past life 'normality'.

It is in no small measure, and a tribute to Sally's determination, that she plowed through the mountain of ever changing "Guidance" from the Government, via ACRE and Community Action Suffolk, to make the Hall as safe a place to visit as possible. We persevered with re-printing and laminating the many signs required, establishing sanitising stations and supplies, working out a one-way system, sourcing PPE where necessary and even designating an area for a potential Covid-19 incident. We also carried out the necessary Risk Assessment, all of which meant we could regard our Village Hall as a Covid Secure venue.



One of the more major requirements was that of designing and installing a cost effective perspex screen at the Café serving counter, intended to keep potential viruses away from the servers, coffee and cake!

As a final touch Annie Rice utilised the theme of her Virtual Folk East video, which encouraged children to make decorative bunting from their own potato print patterns. Coupled with her own designs, enough bunting was made by Annie, Sue Norris and Sue and Mac McKeown to decorate the Café, the Hall and even the Café banner!

The first opening event was Men's Breakfast on 2nd September, where ten Wenhaston stalwarts queued for their first 'Full English' since March. On the evening of the same day Wenhaston WI, with their traditional "Can Do" spirit, joined the post lockdown fight back by also holding their first meeting for six months. Saturday 5th September saw the re-opening of our Wenhaston Community Café.



The local Mothers Union met on Wednesday, 9th September, followed by the Wine Club on Saturday 12th and the Cinema Group's first showing on Saturday, 19th September.

At the time of writing, further bookings have been made for September and October will hopefully see more Groups re-starting life as we knew it. The future is slowly beginning to look brighter.....long may that continue.

***Lyn Gedney***

## The new Rule of Six and the village hall

Over the last few months the village hall followed all the necessary steps to ensure that the hall qualified as **Covid-19 secure premises**. All the documentation we produced is available to view on line at <http://wenhaston.onesuffolk.net/wenhaston-village-hall/village-hall-management-committee-covid-19-policy-documents/>  
The following is an extract from the current Gov.UK guidance which took effect from 14<sup>th</sup> September:-

***Venues following COVID-19 Secure guidelines can host more than 6 people in total, but no one should visit in a group of greater than 6. When you visit one of these places, such as a pub, shop, leisure venue, restaurant or place of worship you should:***

- *follow the limits on the number of other people you should meet with as a group (it will be illegal to be in group of more than six from outside of your household)*
- *avoid social interaction with anyone outside the group you are with, even if you see other people you know*
- *provide your contact details to the organiser so that you can be contacted if needed by the NHS Test and Trace programme*

The village hall, as Covid-19 secure premises, can therefore continue to operate in the same way, at a decreased capacity of a quarter, to allow for social distancing, one way systems etc etc. This means that we have capacity for up to 50 people sitting in socially distanced rows, OR 40 people seated at tables and chairs, again socially distanced. The Committee room can take 6 people, but only when the PO isn't open and the Tardis 4 people. All the other rules already outlined and circulated continue to apply, for example regarding the wearing of masks in village halls, apart from when seated for eating or drinking, social distancing, using the sanitising liquid on arrival at the hall, catch it, bin it, kill it, washing hands etc.

***Sally Amery***

## **Can you help? Volunteers Needed For Our Busy Village Hall Community Cafe**

The café over the last two Saturday mornings has been really successful. The one way system and the layout worked really well – and an orderly socially distanced queue had formed by 10am!! We had 30 plus customers at each session and all the sausage rolls and scones, and lots of cake and kit kats sold. Regulars were pleased to see all the old favourites on the counter again! People said that they felt safe and they were really pleased the cafe had re-opened and that they could socialise with their friends.

The Community Cafe is valued by many people and often very much appreciated by walkers and cyclists just passing by. It also raises much needed funds for the Village Hall. We need more volunteers to serve at the counter or work in the kitchen, and out in the Hall collecting trays and sanitising the tables and chairs. 4 people are needed to cover the café, which runs from 10am to 12 noon.

Experience is not necessary as one of the existing helpers will show you the ropes and work with you until you feel confident.

Tables and chairs, with a maximum of 4 at each table, are placed with the correct social distance between them. The servers are behind a counter with a full length, height and width perspex screen and all helpers are provided with face visors and disposable pinnies.

In line with the Village Hall requirements visitors are required to wear their masks on entering, until they are seated, and Track and Trace details are taken at the counter. With all the doors and windows open there is plenty of fresh air blowing through – perhaps coats will be needed in the winter!

***If you are interested, please contact Kevin and Amanda Dean on 01502 478405 or by email using kpdean57@gmail.com***

## Wenhaston Walks

Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> October a walk will leave from Wenhaston Village Hall at 10am. On Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> October Ian Denney will lead a walk around Halesworth including Millennium Green. Meet at the Thoroughfare car park (adj. White Hart) for a 10am start. 3 hours parking will cost £2.10. No lunch has been arranged. The latest Covid19 restrictions will be observed. (Contact Heather Phillips on 01502 478545)” ***I.Bigwood***

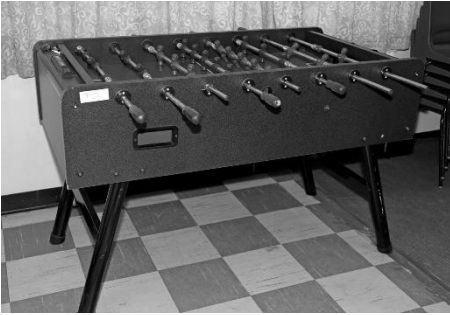
## Halesworth Volunteer Centre - here for you

We are still delivering Coop shopping for people who are no longer able to get out and about or who are finding the Covid-19 restrictions difficult to manage. Contact us if you or someone you know needs a bit of help. Call us on 01986 875600. There has been lots of talk about a ‘second spike’ of coronavirus cases, please be reassured that HVC and our wonderful volunteers are ready to help should we be needed.

We are not running our full Community Car Service at the moment but we can get you to that all important medical appointment. If you can no longer travel independently but need to get to the Surgery, opticians, dentists or one of our hospitals, please call us on 01986 874290.

HVC has just launched a new project, the Gift. We think it is always great to give and to receive. So we are looking for people who would like to give a little time to make a difference in our Community. We have just been given our first Gift – a wonderful donation of apples from St James Village Community Orchard. We are now looking for keen chutney makes who can help us turn our apples into little jars of joy. We will then be distributing our chutney to people who live alone and to the Halesworth Community Larder. If you would like to help, just give Karen a call on 01986 875600. Oh and yes, you get to keep some chutney too! During lockdown, we had some brilliant volunteers in Wenhaston who did so much to support people. We are truly grateful for all you did and continue to do. Thank you. ***Emma Healey***

## Football table



The football table in the Village Hall, shown in the attached photo, has not been used for some time now and as such is surplus to requirement. So if somebody or some organisation could make use of it, perhaps for a small donation to Village Hall funds, they are most welcome to come and take it

away. It measures 57 ins. by 48 ins. by 36 ins. high and would need four strong hands to remove it. Anybody interested should contact the Village Hall Booking Secretary: [bookwvh@outlook.com](mailto:bookwvh@outlook.com)

### **Wenhaston Village Hall 100 Club - Winners for September 2020**

The Wenhaston Village Hall 100 Club September 2020 draw was made and we are delighted to announce the winners:

- 1st prize Daphne Jordan (number 6) £37.50
- 2nd prize Nigel Frostick (number 133) £22.50
- 3rd prize Lily West (number 124) £15.00

Thank you to all who have joined again and supported the village hall in these strange times, and congratulations to the winners this month! It's never too late to sign up! A chance to win a prize costs just £1 a month - our accounting year starts in September so anyone wishing to join now, the fee is £11 for the period to end August 2021, we welcome new members! ***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 Jane at the Post Office (thank you Jane for being our collecting person!) or either of the promoters, Kirsten West or Trish Gower. All enquiries please phone Trish on 478267.***

## Pottering with Poppy

Poppy is slim and agile, unlike my two previous rescued black labs. Although she didn't know it when she arrived, she copes very well with stiles, so the Blyth river walk to Mells and home via the fields or vice versa, has been good to explore.

The Blyth between Blyford bridge and Mells is interestingly full of vegetation. There must be water down there somewhere!

Occasionally I see a Kingfisher perched on a branch of a hawthorn bush that overhangs a small piece of weed free open water. Unfortunately, we have usually frightened it off just as I realise it is there, and all I see is an amazing iridescent turquoise blue flash, and hear a "peep" as it flies away.

There are a few fields along the walk that seem to be kept for a hay crop. They are a mixture of grasses, field weeds, thistles and the like and this week they were being cut. There were lots of birds taking advantage of the disturbance and feeding in the mown vegetation. gulls were there We have set out in the late afternoon and come to Westleton Heath and it seems black headed

herring gulls and lesser black backed gulls, and a buzzard. As I scanned the field, I spotted two pairs of long brown ears. Brown hares. They were a long way off but one of them realised we were there and didn't linger long but took off at speed down the open space between the neat lines of mowings.

We have been serenaded by yellow hammers all summer but they have fallen silent for the time being. These fields and the oak trees in the hedge rows of Bartholomews Lane seem favourite places for them. There are chiffchaffs evident and swallows feeding over the fields and gathering on the wires. The hedgerows are filling with ripening rosehips, hawthorn and blackberries and some of the oak trees are laden with huge acorns. The days are noticeably drawing in and autumn really is on its way. Go out and enjoy it, it will be beautiful.

***Jo Small***

## Blyth Woods Pond Restoration



Although there are 22,000 ponds in Suffolk, some 70% are neglected or overgrown and have limited wildlife value. However, restored, they can be of immense ecological value and become real jewels in the landscape. Later this autumn will see the restoration of the large pond in Little Malsters Field. Currently the pond is overshadowed with trees and is choked with reed mace and common reed and heavily silted as a result of years of accumulated leaf litter. Members of the group will clear the

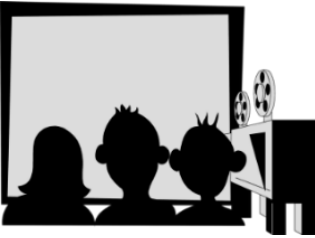
invading willow scrub and a contractor will desilt the pond, using a large excavator, then spread the spoil on the adjacent land. Initially the area will look like a scene of devastation, with mud liberally spread but, come the spring, new life will emerge as dormant seeds grow, and the area of open water will become a magnet for dragonflies and other aquatic life.



We are planning to hold our postponed AGM in mid November. It will be a virtual meeting so we hope many Warbler readers will be able to attend. Full details will available soon – check out our website, Facebook page, posters and the next *Warbler*. We love to hear from you so please keep in touch and maybe become a ‘Friend’.

[www.blythwoods.org](http://www.blythwoods.org)  
[blythwoods1@gmail.com](mailto:blythwoods1@gmail.com)





## **Youth Film Nights are back!**

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October at 6pm

Wenhaston Village Hall

*Admission free but donations welcome*

Please note, because of Covid restrictions, at the moment this is only for pupils at Wenhaston Primary School Years 5 and 6. We hope to resume normal film evenings as soon as possible. To book your place, contact Revd. Alison Alder on [alisonalder@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:alisonalder@hotmail.co.uk) , tel: 01502 478855 or send a text to 07584 416277.

***Offers of help with this project are most welcome.***

## **Art Workshop with Annie Rice**

**3 hours for £35 all materials included**

3-hour workshop offered in water-based inks in colours which are bright and cheerful, using bamboo pens and brushes. No previous art experience necessary - you don't even need to be able to draw! All equipment and materials provided and included in the fee. You will be socially distanced with a table to yourself containing everything you will need for the workshop.



I am a qualified and experienced tutor of art having owned my own art school for mature persons in Beccles and been a painting course Leader for HF Holidays for several years.

Course to run in OCTOBER/early NOVEMBER 2020. Either 10–1 on one weekday morning, or 2 – 5pm on one Saturday afternoon. **Ring me on 01502 478942 or 07906011676 to discuss times, dates etc. Annie Rice, St Michael's Way, Wenhaston. <[anniericeartist@gmail.com](mailto:anniericeartist@gmail.com)>**

## **The Foodbank and Community Larder can help**

A reminder that the Foodbank and Community Larders are there to help people over when financial difficulties occur. You can also access supplies of hygiene goods, including sanitary products.

**Foodbank** - St Mary's Church, Halesworth every Wednesday 10.30-11.30am. If you are self-isolating or cannot get to St Mary's, please phone: 07484 394749.

**Community Larder** – St Mary's Church, Halesworth every Wednesday & Saturday 10.30-11.30am and Thursdays 9.30-10.30am. We hope to move the Community Larder to St Mary's Church Hall in mid-October.

You can:

- Bring food to donate
- Bring and take food
- Take food and make a donation
- Take food if you are in need.
- 

Thanks to the work of Revd. Jane and Halesworth Volunteer Centre, the project is now supported by "Fairshare", a scheme in which supermarkets donate surplus food. We currently have good stocks of most things but would appreciate donations of "treats": biscuits, chocolate and sweets, which can provide a real lift to struggling families. Also welcome are donations of pet food, fruit juice, washing liquid, fabric conditioner. Donations can be left at St Mary's Church in Halesworth or in the box on the porch of Oakhurst, Blackheath Road, Wenhaston IP19 9HD

***Revd. Alison Alder  
Blyth Valley Team Ministry***

## Stargazing in Blackheath

Black Heath is a great place to stargaze. Interesting to read in April's 'Warbler' that Suffolk Coasts and Heaths is applying for 'International Dark Sky' status.

Comet Atlas did not appear but Comet Neowise was an enthralling sight if you like that sort of thing! We had a clear view from our garden before midnight on July 20th. Several nights were frustratingly cloudy. The comet was 64 million miles from Earth with a

massive tail. It will not re-appear for another six thousand years.

Venus is a magnificent sight before dawn. On the night of August 2nd Jupiter and Saturn formed a great trio with the moon. Mars, at the time of writing, is a wonderful spectacle in the south-eastern sky in the late evening.

I must buy a telescope!

***B. Withnail***

## St Peter's Church

It has turned very Autumnal now, although today it is quite warm, reminiscent of the gently warm days we had in Septembers in the past. We are still restricted in our movements due to Covid 19 but are managing to have some very meaningful services in St Peter's. Many congratulations and much love to Alison on the occasion of her Ordination. Some of us were able to watch the service, which was streamed on line, and was lovely. Those of you who have been in church will have seen that the organ is being repaired. This is being funded by part of the very generous legacy left to the church by the late May Parker. We are very grateful that May remembered the church in her will, and we have also received monies from the estates of Heather Jones and Derek Roberts, for which we feel very blessed.

In October, the services are as follows, but could be subject to change.

4<sup>th</sup> October 10am Team Service in Halesworth No service at Wenhaston

11<sup>th</sup> October 9am To Bramfield No service at Wenhaston

18<sup>th</sup> October 11.15am Eucharist in St Peter's

25<sup>th</sup> October 11.15am Pause for Thought

## **Children's Society**

Following on from my report last month, In one of the charity boxes that I counted, I found an old commemorative 50 pence piece. I was advised by the bank that it was worth something so looked on e-bay and was able to sell it for £55. After commission etc, I was able to send a further £50 to The C Society making our total for this year £790.81

***Margaret Bloomfield***

## **Wenhaston Methodist Church All Sunday Services at 10.30 am**

- 4 Rev Peter Rayson
- 11 No Service
- 18 Rev Clive Sutcliffe
- 25 No Service

Our church will be open for services at the above times. with current regulations observed, including the wearing of masks.

Space on the ground floor of our building is limited to enough for socially distancing for our members.

We would welcome anyone to join us, if they are able to go upstairs to the gallery, which is spacious and where social distancing can be observed. Please wear a mask.

***Iris Baker***

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