



May 2021

# Wenhaston Warbler

## Wenhaston Swift Action Group



Our swifts are on their way back from over wintering in Africa! But they need our help as their numbers are rapidly declining.

The UK's swifts have one of the longest migration journeys in the world, 22,000 kilometres (14,000 miles) every year.

To celebrate this huge achievement for our village's swifts, we put up our flag as soon as we spot the first

returned bird. We've got a new flag this year because the one in this picture was blown to shreds last summer.

Swifts are loyal to their nest site and partner for life, returning to the same nest box every year, which is why we want to protect all nest sites, increase nest sites and advise if roof work or renovation is needed.

If you notice swifts nesting in your roof, please let us know. We issue swift house tiles at a small cost to residents with nesting swifts. At the moment, we only know of a few sites, this year we hope to map all the nest sites in the village. Email us at [wenhastonswiftgroup@gmail.com](mailto:wenhastonswiftgroup@gmail.com)



This table shows arrival dates for returning swifts to Wenhaston. So, by the time you read this we might be seeing our first returning birds.

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>First returning swifts spotted in week beginning:</b>
<b>2010</b>	9 <sup>th</sup> May
<b>2011</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> May
<b>2012</b>	20 <sup>th</sup> May
<b>2013</b>	5 <sup>th</sup> May
<b>2014</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> May
<b>2015</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> May
<b>2016</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> May
<b>2017</b>	30 <sup>th</sup> April
<b>2018</b>	6 <sup>th</sup> May
<b>2019</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> May
<b>2020</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> May

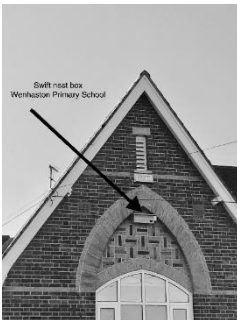
## **Our Wenhaston Swift Action Group was formed in 2018**

What we have achieved so far:

- A number of private residents have installed swift nest boxes on their property
- Swift nest boxes have been installed at the Village Hall and Wenhaston Primary School
- We have carried out swift-count surveys twice every July since we began
- We have a swift flag which is put up on St Peter's Church flag pole when the swifts return and is taken down when they depart



- We have held two open gardens in the summers of 2018 and 2019 in order to raise awareness of the nest boxes and give out information leaflets about the decline in swift numbers
- We have provided information to residents via the village's publication Wenhaston Warbler
- Every year we hold a "Swift Pint" walk, open for anyone to join and takes members around the village, viewing nest sites and swift screaming parties, ending up in The Star pub which has swifts nesting in its roof (we will let you know when we can do this in 2021)
- We have custom made house tile "Swifts nest here!" which residents may purchase for their house
- We have approached site manager of new buildings on Blackheath Road who's agreed to install nest boxes



***Swift nest boxes installed by Wenhaston Primary School and Wenhaston Village Hall***



Why do we do all this? Because swift numbers are declining so rapidly that they have become officially endangered. The decline in numbers is due to two main facts, loss of nest sites and loss of their airborne insect food supply. Here in Wenhaston as with all areas, our insect numbers are declining.

**What can you do?** Install swift nest boxes and do everything you can to leave green areas for pollinators and wild flowers which provide food and sanctuary for insects.

Please don't use chemical insecticides, don't tidy your gardens and don't mow the verges!

***Find out more by visiting the Wenhaston Swift Action Group's page on the village website***

***<http://www.wenhaston.onesuffolk.net/village-life/environmental-groups/wenhaston-save-our-swifts-action-group>***

**Action Group Members**

Richard Atkins

Co-ordinator Ann Follows

Jan Clements

Jonathan Alder

Linda Hammond

Kate Archibald

Alan Miller

Myles Archibald

Jo Small

**Contact:** [wenhastonswiftgroup@gmail.com](mailto:wenhastonswiftgroup@gmail.com)

***[Useful websites for further information, advice and guidance about swifts and wildlife gardening for insects.](https://www.swift-conservation.org/Contents.htm)***

***<https://www.swift-conservation.org/Contents.htm>***

***<http://actionforswifts.blogspot.com/>***

***<https://www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org/gardeningadvice>***

## **Village Walks**

On Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> May a walk will leave from Wenhaston Village Hall at 10am.

It is hoped that a walk will be arranged for Tuesday, 18<sup>th</sup> May. Details will be conveyed by e-mail once known.

***Heather Phillips (01502 478545)''***

## Village hall news

Now that Step 2 has been confirmed at the time of writing, we remain confident that the village hall will be able to re-open on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May as part of Step 3. This depends on the Government confirming the week before that the 4 tests have been met. We won't know the full details of the rules we have to follow until nearer the time, but it looks as if they will be much the same as before, at least initially. We are all set up for these so don't anticipate any problems.

**We plan to restart the coffee morning on Saturday 22nd May at 10am.** The chefs have been busy experimenting with new recipes to tempt us, so we look forward to seeing all the familiar faces and newcomers too who are all warmly welcomed. Sadly, we will miss Julie Baker who died suddenly early in March. Julie was a regular at the coffee mornings and several other activities at the village hall, and enjoyed joining in the social environment of the village. Our thoughts are with her dad John and the family.

**The Cinema will be holding their first Blockbuster film evening on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> June and the bar will open at 7pm.** Full details of the film screening will be displayed at the village hall and on the village website <http://wenhaston.onesuffolk.net/wenhaston-with-mells-events/>

We very much look forward to bringing the village hall back to life after being closed for five months. Once we get further news about the regulations we have to follow, we will be hoping to re-start the Craft Market, kurling and holding some other entertainment events.

### **Village hall roof repairs**

The village hall roof has suffered badly during the very wet winter and also during Beast of the East 2, when snow drove up under the tiles and melted down through the main hall ceiling. After investigations which have gone on over the last two years, the Committee have

decided on the only feasible and affordable course of action. The brackets for the solar panels need to be re-fitted in such a way which will prevent water ingress under the tiles. The panels will be temporarily removed whilst this work is done and then re-fitted. We hope that the work will take place at the end of April so may already have finished by the time the Warbler is distributed. We would like to thank the Parish Council for their generous support in helping us to fund this work.

During January the faulty inverter for the solar panels was replaced and this work was funded by private donations. Following the biomass boiler adaptations completed at the end of 2020 we are now using the free energy produced to heat the biomass boiler water tank, thereby saving money on wood pellets. Calculations show that since 1<sup>st</sup> February, over two months when the hall was closed and the heating was only on the frost stat, we saved 50kg of wood pellets together with a worthwhile reduction in CO2 emissions, and, once the hall is fully open, savings will increase.

***Sally Amery, Chair.***

## **Wenhaston Grit Bins**

Wenhaston with Mellis Parish Council is reviewing arrangements for utilising the grit bins in the village in an effective way which will match the directives from Suffolk County Council Highways Dept. We require volunteers to register names with the Parish Council and to specify the location within the Village where they can help should circumstances require. ***If you can help, we would be extremely grateful and please contact Richard Day on 07500210476 or via e/mail at [1richardday@gmail.com](mailto:1richardday@gmail.com).*** Once we have a list of volunteers, we will organise appropriate and coordinated responses in adverse weather conditions and issue instructions.

## **Guess How Many Trees Planted!**

### **Have you entered our Spring competition yet?**

In the last issue of the Warbler, we invited you to guess the number of trees planted in Grove Woods (that is, Vicarage Grove, Grove Piece and Malster's Little Field) by the Blyth Woods Group and their helpers from 2012 to the present day. The three entries closest to the total will receive prizes.

We are extending the deadline to the *15<sup>th</sup> May*. We are opening it to *adults* now, as well as to families and individual children. One guess per entry and children, please give your ages (so that we can make the prizes age appropriate!).

***Please send your guesses to***

***[wenhastonwarbler@gmail.com](mailto:wenhastonwarbler@gmail.com), with Blyth Woods Competition in the message box.*** The winners will be announced in the June issue of the Warbler and you will be able to collect your prize from the Wenhaston Post Office.



***Patricia Elliot***

## **Wenhaston Bowls Club**

The Committee is pleased to report that the Club's normal activities will now resume for the coming season, and that the green is now open and is in top condition for matches and social roll-ups. Players will be needed for the matches of the three leagues in which the club competes starting after 17th May. New members are invited to join the club and for details should contact the secretary Jake Moyes on 07824871551 or email [jake.moyes9@gmail.com](mailto:jake.moyes9@gmail.com)



*St Peter's Church,  
Wenhaston*

## **Plant Sale**

Saturday 22nd May  
10:30 to 12:30

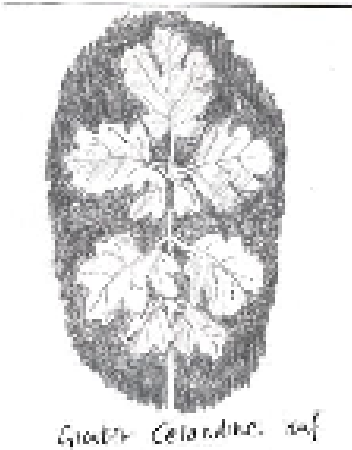
In the Church Yard

Plants, Cake Stall, Raffle

Proceeds To The Church



## Marsh and Garden



The lower part of our garden at Marsh cottage is really an extension of the water meadow, only delineated by the old railway track and a hawthorn hedge. Every day we spot remarkable wildlife either on walks along the edge of the marshland or through it, and along the riverside paths.

The wildlife sees no border and we can often see marshland birds from our kitchen window, without having to brave the cold wind that has been blowing recently.

Some curlews have remained throughout the winter, and

their numbers have been added to by incoming migrants which have swelled the herd (collective noun for this species) to up eighty birds seen at one time, intermittently flying up and down the river and settling on the damp patches on the fields.

The raptors continue to range around the whole area and we have seen the kestrel perching in our garden, looking out for small rodents. The sparrow hawk sometimes suddenly swoops in to hunt in the bird feeding corner, causing an immediate scattering of small birds.

Meanwhile the Marsh harrier and the buzzards, as well as a red kite, hunt over the marshland.

Despite the cold wind the flowers continue to emerge. The snowdrops have gone, and daffodils ('Lenten lily') are wrinkling up one by one, but now we have the dandelions and the lesser celandine ('Harbinger of spring') to delight the eye as we walk out.

All round the garden the beautifully shaped leaves of greater celandine are appearing. The lesser and greater species are not related, but both named after Chelidon (Ancient Greek) or Chelidonia (Latin) for 'swallow'. Both are traditionally said to mark the appearance of the swallow in Europe.

I was assuming that the swallow could not possibly arrive in England yet due to the cold weather, but amazingly, on

the 6th April, we spotted two birds flying northwards, beyond the hedge at the end of the garden, and two days later a single brave bird arriving in from Africa was seen flying in the same direction out over the grazing marsh.

No doubt once the greater celandine blooms, we will see and hear these lovely birds all around our village.

***Kate Archibald***

### **Wenhaston Village Hall 100 Club**

#### **Winners for April 2021**

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

- 1st prize                      John Mills (number 149) £37.50
- 2nd prize                      Sue Morris (number 72) £22.50
- 3rd prize                      Trevor Tate (number 50) £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 £5 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.***

## Inviting you to a studio clearance sale

Beginning on the 19 & 20 and 26 & 27 of June, I will be offering work for sale from my studio in Coles Hill, between 11 and 4 each day, **by appointment only.**

Brexit and Covid have combined to make the marketing side of art quite a challenge, with galleries shut for long periods and exhibitions cancelled. This has led to an accumulation of work in my space which I'd like to gradually clear.

### *Three's a crowd*



To keep us all as safe as possible, I will be asking people to make appointments, and allowing only 2 people in the studio at any time.

### *Bartholomew's Lane*

Covid precautions will be followed.

**For further details please email me on [rc4619@icloud.com](mailto:rc4619@icloud.com).**

**Ruth McCabe, Coles Hill,  
Wenhaston**

**[www.ruth-mccabe-artist.co.uk](http://www.ruth-mccabe-artist.co.uk)**

**Find me also on Instagram,  
Facebook and Twitter'**



## Halesworth Dementia Carers' Fund – Looking forward to our summer events



At HDCF we are planning a variety of activities that we hope can take place throughout the summer, and all activities will comply with Government regulations regarding Covid-19. Firstly, we have arranged to have the i-Chameleon shop in the Thoroughfare 17<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> June. Please come and visit us, pick up

some bargains and show your support. All donations will be greatly appreciated so please phone us on 01986 875641 if you would like to donate. (Sorry, but we cannot take electrical items or clothing).

We are hoping to resume our Wednesday afternoon film shows in The Cut as soon as possible so please keep an eye on our posters for up-to-date information.

We are pleased to let you know that our singing group, hosted by Helen Hayes, is growing steadily and we hope to go live in the community some time in May (date and venue to be confirmed). This group is called Singing with Friends and has enabled people with dementia and their carers to join together on Zoom and have a lovely afternoon of singing and fun during this last lockdown. When we move the group into the community, we are hoping to open this group to anybody to attend. This group will be inclusive as we believe that, just because someone has dementia, they should not be alienated.

Finally, Danny Mitchell, a nephew of our Chair Teresa Fyfe, has offered to run a half-marathon for us in October. This will take place in Chelmsford, Essex. Anyone wishing to sponsor him, or collect sponsors, can obtain information from Jim or Teresa Fyfe on 01896 875641. All money raised will be used to benefit people with dementia and their carers in the Halesworth area.

All our future events will be advertised on our Facebook page, our website, and local publications.

**Bill Ellis (Events)**

***And from Dave Rich –***

Many thanks to the person who dropped off the Fill-a-Jar. Unfortunately, we didn't the chance to thank this person or give a replacement. Every little counts and if anyone would like a jar to save their spare coins for the HDcF please let us know, or I can email a label to stick on a jar. **Contact Dave or Jackie on 01986 875444 or email us on [information.hdcf@btinternet.com](mailto:information.hdcf@btinternet.com)**

**Julie Baker**

**10<sup>th</sup> December – 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021**

Julie Baker was born 59 years ago in Inverness. Following family moves she went to school in Lydd and New Romney Kent. She came to Wenhaston in 1991 when her Father took up a position at Sizewell B.

Here Julie led a busy and active life. For a few years she attended college at Lowestoft and Otley. 17 years ago, when her Mother died, Julie stepped forward to help her Father with the housework and the cooking.

With great fortitude Julie coped with many health problems. She had been born with heart defects, later in life she developed kidney problems, breast cancer and was diagnosed with diabetes. The later she controlled by diet which was hard as Julie loved her cakes and puddings.

Nature, among other things, was one of Julie's lively interests; she had a special liking for owls. Another particular pleasure was to attend meetings at the village Drop-In Club, and when that ceased, she would walk up to the village hall to enjoy the social mornings at the café.

Julie was a placid person, always cheery and easy to laugh or make laugh, when really pleased she would clap her hands. Her Father says that the expression 'an innocent aboard' described her well.

***Felicity Jelliff***

## Christian Aid Week in Wenhaston 10<sup>th</sup>- 16<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Christian Aid has just released the go ahead for CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2021 to take place this year albeit in a slightly different format.

However, since the format is the same as we have followed for the past few years in Wenhaston, not much has changed.

One of my willing team of cohorts will drop off a Christian Aid envelope through your letterbox during the week of 10<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> May. All you have to do is put your donation inside, seal the envelope and drop it of at either:

WENHASTON POST OFFICE (thanks Jane!)

MOIRA COOKE, STONECOTT ST MICHAEL'S WAY -the house with the big stone chimney, you can't miss it!

Many thanks to those who pound the streets with envelopes, to Jane in the Post Office and to all who donate.

Here's hoping we can beat our last total of two years ago! And, please remember to Gift Aid if you can!

***Moira Cooke – Christian Aid committee member for Wenhaston.***

***Tel: 01502 478503/ [moiracooke@belmoor.plus.com](mailto:moiracooke@belmoor.plus.com)***

### EDITORS NOTE

The weather seems to be improving, swallows are arriving, and lockdown restrictions are gradually easing. Normal business is resuming in the village hall, and the fabulous church plant sale returns on the 22<sup>nd</sup> May (see page 8). There is tree counting to do and art and craft studios to visit, and all our local advertisers looking forward to normal business resuming. Enjoy May! Send answers to the Blyth Woods competition, and any articles, news or pictures, by the 15<sup>TH</sup> May, to [wenhastonwarbler@gmail.com](mailto:wenhastonwarbler@gmail.com)

## St Peter's Church

We at Wenhasston join with the whole country and Commonwealth in mourning HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh and send our deepest sympathy and condolences to HM The Queen. He will be sorely missed and may he rest in peace and rise in glory.

It was so lovely to be in church for our Easter Sunday Service after so long away. We had a goodly number attending and Alison presided. Each member of the congregation received an Easter Egg and the porch was beautifully decorated. Sadly, no singing but an uplifting service none-the-less.

The main news is that we hope to have a Plant Sale in the Church Yard on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> May from 10.30 to 12.30. We have been unable to do any fundraising since the lockdown so hope to make a decent amount for church funds. We should be most grateful for any plants, cakes for the stall or raffle prizes. See the poster re the Plant Sale.

In May, we will join Halesworth on 2<sup>nd</sup>, we have a Eucharist on 9<sup>th</sup> and Pause for Thought on 16<sup>th</sup>, both at Wenhasston. On 23<sup>rd</sup>, Pentecost, there is a joint service in Holton and a Team Service at Halesworth on 30<sup>th</sup>, all at 10am. We hope that all will be well and that we can resume many of our activities over the Summer, and pray that there is not a resurgence of the virus. I hope that you enjoy the merry month of May.

***Margaret Bloomfield***

## **Wenhaston Methodist Church**

**All Sunday Services at 10.30 am**

2 Rev Robert Soanes HC

9 Julie Warren

16 Rev Pam Bayliss

23 Sue Groome

30 Julie Warren

All current restrictions to be observed  
and face covering to be worn.

***Iris Baker***



<p style="text-align: center;"> <b>Karl Andrews</b>  <b>Painter &amp;</b>  <b>Decorator</b>  <b>Qualified City &amp;</b>  <b>Guilds</b>  <b>30 Years Experience</b>  <b>01986 874926</b>  <b>07825622477</b>  <a href="mailto:karlandrews603@gmail.com">karlandrews603@gmail.com</a> </p>	<p style="text-align: center;"> <b>Wenhaston Warbler</b>  <b>Information</b> </p> <p style="text-align: center;"> <i>The Warbler welcomes articles photos and other artwork and posters.</i> </p> <p style="text-align: center;"> <i>The editors reserve the right to amend or not to publish articles.</i> </p> <p style="text-align: center;"> <i>All copy to be emailed to</i>  <a href="mailto:wenhastonwarbler@gmail.com">wenhastonwarbler@gmail.com</a> <i>by</i>  <i>the 15<sup>th</sup> May</i> </p> <p style="text-align: center;"> <i>Advertising: £15 p.m. for ¼ column (£150 p.a.), small ads £5 p.m. for 4 column lines (£50 p.a.) Contact</i>  <b>Geraldine Lines</b>  <a href="mailto:geraldine.lines@hotmail.co.uk">geraldine.lines@hotmail.co.uk</a> </p>
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