



June 2021

Wenhaston Warbler

Village Hall Roof Repairs



After three years of angst the roof is finally repaired. The solar panels were removed and the brackets re-seated to prevent water ingress under the tiles, which now sit flat, so we are confident that has fixed the problem.

Mark Norman of Solarworks and Robert and Marek

Volunteers provided a huge amount of time and energy and saved the hall thousands of pounds in the process. When the contractor who was replacing the damaged felt along the bottom of the roof injured his foot and couldn't do the work, volunteers stepped in and have also now replaced all the damaged ceiling tiles, so the hall will be good as new for re-opening.



Lyn Gedney with Mark Norman



**Roger Claxton, Project leader and
Mac McKeown, Second in Command and
Nick Amery on top of the scaffold**



The Ceiling Team

Village Hall Re-opening

The village hall has finally re-opened its doors again after being closed for an additional five months. The Committee were delighted to welcome everyone back and hope that all the activities which make the hall such a great social hub will soon re-start. Some groups have already booked sessions and our own activities are underway, with the regular coffee mornings on Saturday, and hopefully Wednesdays will start in June, providing we have sufficient volunteers. The cinema is also starting in June. We hope to start the popular Craft market at the end of July, maybe holding it in the car park if restrictions indoors are still in place. Kurling might also get the green light, but final decisions on these can't be made until after the Government's next announcement due in mid-June.

We are also looking at other entertainment ideas in the hall. The stage renovations are now complete and offer excellent facilities, sound and lighting systems, and we look forward to hosting more stage events during the year if we are able to.

If you have any ideas about what you would like to see going on in your village hall, we would love to hear from you, whether it's a regular group you would be interested in attending or a one-off

event. Please contact our new Booking Secretary Sue McKeown on 07563 066482 or by email at bookwvh@outlook.com
By the time this copy of the Warbler is delivered I will have stood down as Chair at the AGM on 26th May, after over three and a half years. The last year has been particularly challenging with the Covid regulations, but it has been a privilege to run and look after the hall. All the improvements carried out over more than ten years make it an excellent meeting place for the local community, and a perfect place for new villagers to get to know other people, as we found when we moved here five years ago. Holiday makers staying in the various holiday homes in the village visit, and so do passing cyclists and walkers, amazed to find a café selling delicious homemade treats and real coffee.

I have been very fortunate to have an excellent Committee and many wonderful volunteers around me, especially Nick of course, who have all worked together to make the hall what it is today. Do keep supporting and taking part in the activities going on at the hall, so that it can carry on successfully into the future. *Sally Amery*

Wenhaston Village Hall Events

Cinema: We are planning to restart the Saturday Cinema showings at the Hall on Saturday 5th June, and Thursday sessions on Thursday 17th June. The Bar will be open at 7pm with films commencing at 7.30pm. Details of both films can be seen on the Village Hall Noticeboard

Men's Breakfast: This monthly event will re-start on Wednesday 2nd June from 8.30 to 9.30 am, all welcome.

All relevant rules involving face masks, hand sanitising and social distancing will be observed.

Village Hall Café Now Open: The community café is now open again in the village hall from 10.00am with last orders at 12 noon. Initially the café will open on Saturdays only but we hope that from 23rd June we will also open on Wednesdays. This will depend on the availability of

volunteers to run the café. We still have to follow COVID 19 restrictions and so the arrangement will be the same as last summer with a one-way system in place and customers asked to leave used crockery on the tables to be cleared away by café staff. We can now follow the “rule of six” whereby groups of up to six people can meet indoors albeit with social distancing. The table layout will reflect this. **We look forward to welcoming you all.**

The café management team

Wenhaston Village Show

Boris and weather permitting, the show will be on. Sunday July 25th is THE Day. Schedules are available at the hall so it's not too late to get planting, make that exquisite craft and practice your culinary skills. Scary scarecrows will be judged at the same time as the grand weighing of the potatoes that are, hopefully, growing in your buckets. **Get out with your cameras and enter the Photo Competition Section.** Entry Forms, detailing requirements and categories are available in the Post Office area of the Village Hall.

Felicity Jelliff and Lyn Gedny 01502 478942 or 07860632458

Wenhaston Tennis Club

Summer is here and we are all enjoying being able to play tennis again. Annual, weekly or hourly membership is available. To book, please contact Zena Grant 478770. We have Mark Websdale as our coach and lessons are available for beginners/improvers on a [Saturday morning at 8.45 am](#). Additionally, we are looking to set up a relaxed /friendly game on a [Monday evening](#); ***if you are interested, please contact Jackie on 478401.***

Jackie Chenery

The Rhubarb Fairy

A gift of rhubarb - left at my door
Who is the donor - I cannot be sure.....
However, a big thank you.

Dorothy Franklin

Speeding Traffic

Recently a family pet has been a victim of speeding traffic through the village. There are many pedestrians, including children, who walk along these lanes and could be involved in a tragic accident.

Please slow down!

Gill Frostick

Studio Wanted

If anyone can help with this request for a 12 monthly creative space, please contact me by email angelicabee41@gmail.com. Rent can be paid at the beginning of each month by bank transfer. Coffee-making, loo, & space for couch to collapse on needed. View not essential.

Wendy Mulford

Spare a thought for the wasp!

About 40 years ago I was attacked by a swarm of wasps, having accidentally put a fork through a nest in the ground. It was not a pleasant experience! I hated wasps for a long time afterwards so I was pleasantly surprised to read that, according to Dr Seiran Sumner of UCL, wasps play an important part in the pollination of at least 960 plant species, and they can also remove more than 8 kilogrammes of crop-eating pests in every hectare of land.

Agricultural experts are now arguing that insects can do for nothing the work of damaging and expensive pesticides. Wasps need to survive to maintain bio-diversity which has crashed in recent decades. Sir David Attenborough, in a powerfully argued and passionate book, 'A Life on our Planet' (2020), states that every insect, bird, fish and animal has a part to play in maintaining the balance of the natural world. Urgent action is required to avoid an

impending disaster. We can contribute to bio-diversity in our own gardens by allowing wild flowers to grow. Our garden has a healthy crop of comfrey which insects love. Comfrey was valued for its medicinal properties, a poultice of crushed comfrey leaves was historically used on war wounds, and their grated roots were packed around broken limbs. Boiled comfrey leaves are served as a vegetable in Italy and are fried in batter in Bavaria (Sarah Raven, 'Wild Flowers' 2011). Our daughter gave us an insect house as a present - small bees are busy using it, presumably as a place to rear their young. Our garden has come to life after one of the frostiest, driest and sunniest Aprils on record. Rain did fall on April 30th and at the time

of writing, May 15th, rainfall has been plentiful and the fields around Wenhaston are now green. Last year we feared for our grape vine. A late frost killed off the flowers and we only had a few bunches of grapes in October. At the present no frost is predicted, so we are hopeful. Chateau Black Heath is a nice dream! The flowers in Merton Wood are a delight. My favourite flower is Jack-by-the Hedge, Garlic Mustard. It was used to make a green sauce to serve with fish or lamb. The carpet of buttercups in the orchard is beautiful. Sadly, the ash trees are showing little visible signs of life, but the sand martins are thriving in the Heath sand quarry, a triumph of conservation. **Brian Withnall**
Mylor Blackheath Road

Guess How Many Trees' Competition Results

In the April edition of the Wenhaston Warbler the Blyth Woods group invited you to guess how many trees and hedge trees they had planted since, and including, the beginning of the group in 2012.

Your guesses have been from the modest but reasonable one hundred,

to a million – something to aim for!

Our prizes for the closest guesses (but still out by several hundred) go to: Tony Gow, Tanisha Hall and Marion Gaze.

Our actual total is 2047. Many congratulations to you all! You can pick up your prizes from the Wenhaston Post Office (ask Jane and give your name) from Tuesday 1st June.

A special mention goes to Ellen, Dotty and Herbie Ellis who were the very first with their entry back in the freezing days of March!

Patricia Elliott

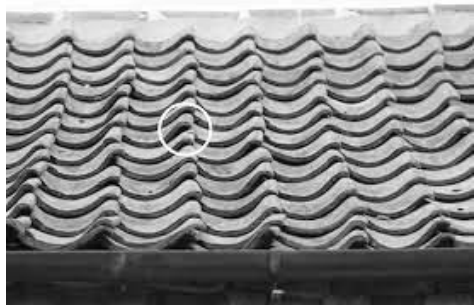
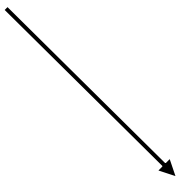
Wenhaston Roof-Watch! Are Swifts Nesting in Your Wenhaston Home?

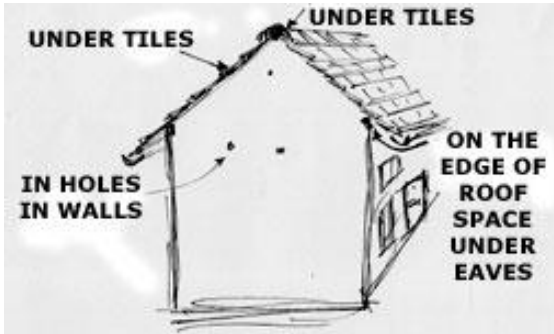


Wenhaston Swift Action Group is aiming to identify **ALL** buildings in the village where swifts are currently nesting. You may not even realise they are, so have a look from outside if you see swifts flying close to your house,

and see if they are entering between tiles or under eaves. They fly in really quickly and leave the same way, but you'll see them from outside. **THANK YOU!**

Nest between tiles





Please telephone Ann Follows Swift Action Group co-ordinator 01502 478324

or email wenhastonswiftgroup@gmail.com

Ann Follows

Marsh and Garden



On the way to the river, the hawthorn flowers have yet to bloom, but their namesakes, the hawthorn flies, are flying clumsily around, their legs

dangling. Thankfully they do not bite despite their ominous looks, and they provide easy prey for the swallows, swifts and martins that are now here. The insect is also known St Mark's fly, as it traditionally emerges on 25th April, St Mark's day, but like everything this year the flies appeared later. Standing on the bridge over the navigation a sudden swoop of swallows appeared, flying downstream, low over the water, joined by a single house martin, feasting on the flies.

The reeds are bleached out with scanty ragged tops, and many are falling gently into the water to be carried downstream. Despite the scanty cover, the path along the river to Blyford is alive with the song of several types of warblers, rarely seen unless they suddenly fly across the path. The two incoming migrants, the sedge warbler and the reed warbler seem to sing loudest at the moment. The first sounds like a soft ratchet noise with repeated jabbing higher notes, the second sings with a softer scratchy sound, with short bursts of more tuneful notes and whistles. The RSPB website has some useful information about identifying British warblers by their song and appearance.

As I approach Blyford, I am struck by the beauty of the sharp bright green shoots of the new leaves enclosing the darkest brown pointed brushes of the new reed stems. By mid-summer the new generation of reeds will be tall, continuing to

shelter the small birds, and providing a warmer corridor for butterflies, damsel flies and dragon flies.

Back in the garden, the rush of warmer weather and some rain has turned the pretty low dark green fern like leaves of the rough chervil, near the hedges, into an army of tall marching plants, making their way across the grass. I uproot the more forward ones, pulling up their long white roots. I take care when handling the plants as they are surprisingly toxic. Distinguished from the more benign cow parsley by their more purplish and rougher feeling stems, they also tend to flower slightly later than their cousins. The botanical name is 'Chaerophyllum temulum', which translates to 'pleasant foliage,' and causes a 'drunken' gait. If ingested it causes unsteadiness and some confusion, as well as effects on the heart. Direct contact with the leaves can cause skin irritation. I wash my hands carefully!

Kate Archibald

Blyth Woods AGM

The Blyth Woods AGM will be held at 7.00 p.m. on Wednesday 30th June 2021 at the Village Hall, Wenhaston (opposite St Peter's Church). Refreshments available

Guest Speaker: Argus Hardy, founding trustee of WildEast, a group dedicated to conservation projects across East Anglia

(www.wildeast.co.uk) Argus is also a Suffolk architect and farmer

Everyone is welcome. Either come to the door or email

blythwoods1@gmail.com if you would prefer to reserve a seat

Patricia Elliott

Wenhaston Blyth Spirits

Good News - Blyth Spirits are meeting again very soon!

We are inviting all the members to a Garden Party on Wednesday 23rd. June at Spindleberry Narrow Way, commencing at 3 o'clock (if wet indoors). It will be lovely to meet all our friends again after such a long and very difficult period.

This first Meeting will be followed by regular monthly Meetings in the VILLAGE HALL, on the 3rd WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH at 2.30pm.

We have a full programme of speakers organised up until Christmas, and we do hope to welcome back all past members and very much look forward to welcoming new ones.

We are a small group of both ladies and gentlemen, who meet in the afternoons rather than in the evenings, and we try to organise a wide range of interesting speakers. This year the Subscription will be only £12.00, as we shall only be meeting for six months. This also includes tea/coffee and biscuits.

If you are interested and would like more information, please contact either Margaret Goldstone 01502 478378 or June Tate 01502 478622. I will publish the full Programme in next month's Wenhaston Warbler.

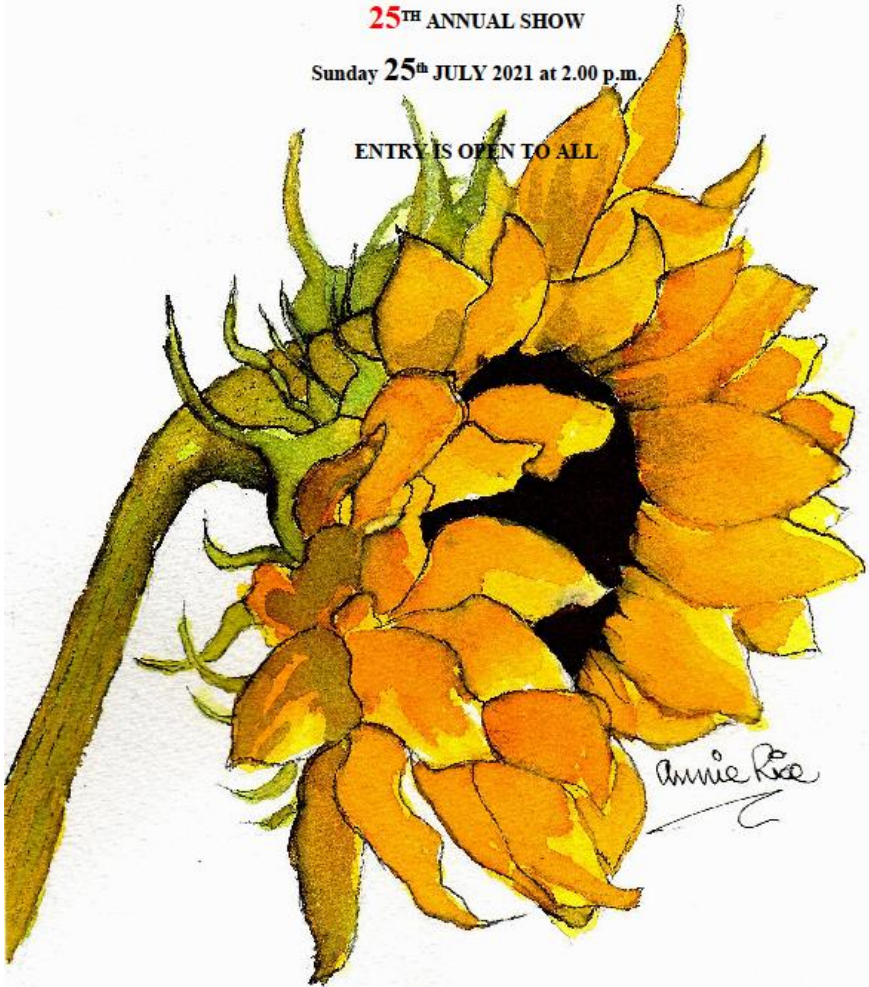
We look forward to seeing you all. These events and dates are obviously subject to current Covid Restrictions. *Margaret Goldstone*

WENHASTON VILLAGE SHOW

25TH ANNUAL SHOW

Sunday **25th JULY 2021** at 2.00 p.m.

ENTRY IS OPEN TO ALL



Why not enter the Scarecrow Competition?

We gratefully acknowledge sponsorship by The Parish Council

Wenhaston Walks

On Tuesday 1st June, a walk will leave from Wenhaston Village Hall at 10am. We will go in search of wild orchids.

On **THURSDAY, 17th** June (please note different day to usual), Ian Bigwood will lead a walk starting at 10am from the Old Chequers in Friston. The circular walk will take in Knodishall and Coldfair Green and will conclude with lunch at the pub; more on this by e-mail in due course. If you wish to add your name to the circulation list, please email ipbigwood@btinternet.com

Heather Phillips (01502 478545)

Wenhaston Ukulele Band

With a fair wind and a bit of luck, and after a year of practising the sound of silence, the Ukulele Band are hoping to return to full voice on Monday 21st June from 4.30. until 5.30. The band navigates a variety of genre from ABBA to ZZ Top, riding a Freight Train and sailing the Sloop John B on the way.



We are a very friendly group and always give a warm welcome to new members, talent and skill not required. We are also hoping to stage another evening's entertainment for charity in the near future.

For further information contact Phil on 478505 or just turn up on the night.

Wenhaston Village Hall 100 Club

- Winners for May 2021 -

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

- 1st prize Nicola Flack (number 8) £37.50
- 2nd prize John Thompson (number 131) £22.50
- 3rd prize Maggie Baker (number 127) £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 June.

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.***

EDITORS' NOTE

Brrr. A chilly beginning to the relaxation of lockdown. Still, Wenhastonians are offering some interesting activities for us all, and we hope some of you will be able to support them. As ever, we welcome your contributions, so send any articles, news or pictures, by the 15TH June, to wenhastonwarbler@gmail.com

Ruth McCabe Open Studio

Ruth McCabe, Wenhaston artist, is running two open studio weekends in June: on the 19, 20 and 26, 27 June, between 11 and 4 each day. To stay as Covid safe as possible, visits must be arranged by appointment only. Please email ruthmccabeart@icloud.com for further details. Two people at a time can visit for each appointment.

Ruth is setting up a 'Have fun foraging table' as part of these events. This will be stocked with pieces Ruth needs to clear to create space for more new work, and will be at bargain prices. There is also a great range of unframed work, and handmade, unique, greetings cards, as well as a wonderful display of framed paintings and work on canvas.



Support your local makers and choose something lovely for your living spaces!

Oil on canvas 50 x 50cm reflecting Wenhaston local agricultural landscape.

Ruth McCabe

The bluebells are back in Vicarage Grove



As I write in the middle of May, a sea of bluebells is glowing beneath the spring green of Vicarage Grove, seeming more lovely than ever this year. They are a sign that the woodland is ancient and there were many beliefs associated with them. They held fairy enchantments: if you picked a bluebell, you would be led astray by fairies and never find your way home. They were to be treasured and protected, even then.

As we know, today our beautiful English bluebells are threatened by invasive non-native bluebells and by careless trampling of their delicate flowers and leaves. Let's preserve our own rare and special inheritance in Vicarage Grove by staying on the paths when we visit.

Patricia Elliott

St Peter's Church

We hope that you have found a little more freedom since the latest easing of lockdown restrictions. We have to be sensible and careful as we are not out of the woods yet. However, it is lovely to be able to meet indoors and give and receive hugs with the family.

We have two important meetings at the end of May which I will report on next month as they take place after the BVT deadline. The first is the APCM (Annual Parochial Church Meeting) (our AGM) which will have taken place on 18th May in church. We are grateful that Jonathan is willing to remain as our Churchwarden and that we have people willing to stand on the PCC. The second is our Plant Sale on 22nd May in the church yard and we hope to have made a decent amount as we

have been unable to fundraise since March 2020. Our Parish Share, which we pay to the Diocese for Clergy pay, housing and pensions, is £19,680 so quite a large amount to achieve.

Our services for the month of June are as follows: -

- 6th June Team Service at Halesworth at 10am
- 13th June To Bramfield or Halesworth at 10am
- 20th June Pause for Thought at Wenhaston at 10am
- 27th June Patronal Eucharist at Wenhaston at 10am

Margaret Bloomfield

Wenhaston Methodist Church

All Sunday Services at 10.30 am

6 Thelma Waller 4.00pm

13 Rev Robin Searles

Church Anniversary & Gift Day

20 Keith Durrant

29 Iris Baker

Face coverings to be worn.

Iris Baker

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