



August 2021

Wenhaston Warbler

To Mow, or not to Mow!

Many of us will have grown up with smooth lawns, mown every weekend in the summer. Wild flowers were often regarded as weeds. The Royal Horticultural Society has recently urged us to let lawns grow and, in order to conserve water supplies and protect wild life in rivers at risk of drying up, to stop irrigating them. Some 142 litres per head are consumed daily in the UK

Walking around Wenhaston, many people are clearly encouraging wild flowers to grow. We have stopped mowing our front bank and have been rewarded by a wonderful two-month display of poppies and mallow.

In our main garden we are increasing areas for wild flowers. So far this year we have comfrey, spearwort and foxgloves. Two tall yellow plants have appeared -we have managed to identify them as Jerusalem Sage. Encouraging 'wilding' may make us feel good. Small changes by millions of people can produce much good.

Brian Withnall, Mylor, Black Heath



Lost and Found

Many thanks to the kind person who found my Post Office card on Blackheath and took the trouble to hand it into the Post Office. And thanks to Jane for phoning me to let me know she had it.

Tony Wollin

Wenhaston Village Hall: Covid Next Steps

We imagine everyone who uses the Hall will be impatient for a return to normal conditions as soon as is practicable. However, when the Management Committee for the Hall met on 6th July we hadn't yet had an official statement from Government regarding rules that would apply after 19th July. We need this guidance issued by ACRE, the national charity that is coordinating the response of local communities to Covid. The Committee decided therefore, that for the balance of July we will have to continue to operate with the same protocols and restrictions regarding facemasks, numbers, and seating arrangements as have been in place for the past 6 weeks or so. It would be precipitate to assume that it would be safe to abandon these until we receive clear guidance. We regret that this may limit what can take place in the next few weeks. As soon as we have clarity we will move as quickly as possible to relax restrictions where it is safe to do so. Hopefully this will be in the first week of August.

Guy Chinery Chair Wenhaston Village Hall

Bus Shelter Opposite the Telephone Box

A few of us have cleaning up the bus shelter inside, removing the invasive alexanders and cutting back the roadside hedge to improve the sight line to see the bus coming. Now we're waiting to see what wild flowers will appear with minimal intervention. We do need to encourage wild flowers wherever we can to attract pollinating insects.

I would like to thank the Parish Council for organising the repair to the bus shelter roof, the treatment to the seating inside and the strengthening and treatment of the bench adjacent. Thank you too to David Elliott for having the large branch overhanging the bus shelter removed. Do contact me if you would like to help or know more.

Jill Daines jill.daines@btinternet.com 01502 478016

Thank You!

I am sure I speak for everyone who lives in Wenhaston with Mells when I say an extra special big thank you to Deborah and Gill for keeping our Wenhaston Warbler going throughout the pandemic. They have managed to keep it as interesting and informative as ever. A big thank you also to all the deliverers. **Jill Daines**

Inspired by Becker

Support the East Anglian artistic community by visiting the Inspired by Becker Exhibition at Holy Trinity Church, Blythburgh: open to the public Friday through to Monday 13-16 August, 10.30 to 5.30 each day.

The exhibition which began in Wenhaston in 2013, celebrates the work of the artist Harry Becker who once lived here. The family are buried in Holy Trinity churchyard, and the exhibition successfully moved to the 'Cathedral of the marshes' in 2019. Having had to cancel our 2020 show, we are now excited to present new work from 26 artists this summer. Almost a third of these are new to the show, confirmation of the continuing inspiration that artists find in Becker's energetic, swift and feelingful work.

This year we have chosen to invite artists to respond to the theme of 'Freedom' reflecting not only Becker's painting style, but also our own growing sense of hope and liberation from the pandemic.

Lockdown Harvest by Rosemary Carruthers.



Our Mike Holtom Award will this year be given to the piece judged best abstract interpretation of the theme. Mike was one of the founding members of the show, producing fine abstract work.

Friday and Saturday mornings will see the

Paint Out Competition we run alongside the main show.

Come and see artists at work in the landscape. Representational and abstract artists are welcomed.

Full details can be found on www.ibbas.co.uk

Or email ibbartsociety@gmail.com if you would like to be added to our mailing list.

The exhibition is free to enter and will comply with Covid safety regulations.

Ruth McCabe

www.ruth-mccabe-artist.co.uk

'Flintstones, low tide', by Liz James.



Wenhaston Walks

On Tuesday, 3rd August a walk will leave from Wenhaston Village Hall at 10am.

On Tuesday, 17th August there will be a 4 mile footpath walk around Carlton Marshes. We will meet for a 10am start at the visitor centre in Burnt Hill Lane. It's on the A146 and is opposite the Warren School gate and signposted. Bring a pair of binoculars as there will be an opportunity to stop at one or more of the bird hides. Lunch details will be circulated in due course. Any queries, contact Helen Bowyer 01502 478209 or Liz Cunningham 01502 478964.

If you wish to add your name to the walkers' circulation list, please email ipbigwood@btinternet.com

Heather Phillips (01502 478545)

On the Trail of the Wenhaston Swifts

Billed as the "Swift Pint Walk" in last month's Warbler, it turned out to be more of a meander and a couple of pints (well, for me at least). Typical of this year's summer, the heavens opened early evening on Saturday, 3rd July and thunder echoed all around. This led to the official cancellation of the event but a hardy group set off nonetheless at 7pm from the village hall ready to dive for cover if need be.

It had become a sultry evening with plenty of insects about so the number of swifts overhead was equally plentiful. We visited the properties where swifts were known to have nested previously and had been seen this year investigating promising sites. Our endeavours were rewarded in Coles Hill when a swift sped out from under a roof tile. Almost immediately, a sparrow hawk was spotted, leading me to wonder: could a sparrow hawk catch a swift?

We stood in the middle of various roads for lengthy periods observing swift nest boxes erected on various properties. It was fortunate that England were playing at the same time and the roads were

extraordinarily quiet. Finally, we spotted a swift peeping out of a nest box in Back Road; so, they do really use this helpful tool!
And for a finale, swifts zoomed and screamed around the canopy of the Star Inn garden against the background of a pale pink sunset while pints and other refreshments were partaken of. Oh, and England won 4-0. The perfect end to an entertaining Saturday evening. *Ian Bigwood*

Blyth Woods AGM – and 'Wild Wenhaston'!

We had a full house (allowing for Covid restrictions) in the Village Hall for our AGM on 30th June.



Our Chair, Ann Edwards, reported that the last year had been a strange and difficult time, but in spite of that, the Blyth Woods group had continued working when we could.

We cleared the pond in Malster's Field last autumn. The pond is now holding water and plants are beginning to grow. Water Crowfoot is flowering in the pond itself. We replanted some of the new trees there that hadn't made it in last spring's dry weather and will do more this year.

We built a new footbridge from the corner of Grove Piece onto the field leading down to Back Road, as the ditch had become impassable following heavy rain. We also installed a new bench in Grove Piece. Our bird boxes have been well used, with blue tits the dominant

species. Barn owls and kestrels are frequent visitors, though not nesting yet. Badger tracks and brown hares have been spotted. The floral diversity continues to increase.

We encouraged 'Footpath Art' during the long winter.

We planted some new fruit trees in the Community Orchard beside Merton Wood and cleared and mulched the existing ones. We also planted new hedging in the gap between the old Woottens site and the orchard.

Blyth Woods has now taken over the management of Vicarage Grove on a lease agreement with the Church, which means we can manage Grove Piece, Malster's Little Field and Vicarage Grove as one unit, which we are calling Grove Woods.

Projects for the future include activities with the school, reassessing the ash dieback situation, plotting and photographing the significant trees in the area and continuing to look for other areas that might be better used for woodland or rewilding.

Our Chair finished by thanking the team and encouraging those who are interested to join us, either as a member or as a volunteer.

***If you would like to be part of this fantastic project contact:
blythwoods1@gmail.com***

Our Guest Speaker was Argus Hardy of WildEast.

Argus is a farmer, architect and committed conservationist, with a passion for the rewilding of the east of England, and is one of three founder trustees of WildEast.

Apart from a 50-year project to bring back the lynx, WildEast's mission is to recover what we lost fifty years ago by encouraging farmers to restore hedges and create wildflower meadows, wetlands and areas of scrub on their land. Village and city communities can help by providing wildlife ponds and areas for wildlife in school playgrounds and churchyards. Even the individual can make space for nature in our gardens, balconies and rooftops.

In only a year WildEast has already achieved much for nature recovery across East Anglia. It has been working with farm shops, the East of

England Co-op, the National Trust, farmers, schools, whole villages; and with overwhelming enthusiasm all have taken up the WildEast Pledge to rewild 20% of whatever land they have. WildEast's 'Map of Dreams' is taking shape. (www.wildeast.co.uk)

Argus ended his inspiring and invigorating talk by praising our village conservation groups and urging us to unite in projects to create our own 'Wild Wenhaston'. *Patricia Elliott*

Wenhaston Commons Group

If you've visited the churchyard at St. Peter's Wenhaston you'll have noticed the results of our successful, if quite short, work party there on 6th July. It was our first work group since the lockdown easing and much needed to be done.

Mowing now might seem to go against the grain when we're being told "No mow May" or just "No Mow!", but this area of the churchyard has been managed as a wildflower meadow by the Commons Group for about 15 years with the permission of the Parochial Church Council. Jonathan had mowed the meadow a few days before the work group to give time for the insects to find shelter elsewhere, but not enough time for nutrients from the lying hay to start leaching back into the soil. By mowing annually, then raking up and removing the hay, our more delicate native wildflowers have a better chance to shine in favour of the 'thugs' such as coarse grasses and nettles which would out-compete them on richer soils.

Most of the meadow is managed for spring flowers. Hence the mowing now. What remains uncut is left for summer flowers and will be mowed at the end of summer.

The council are responsible for maintaining the southern half of the churchyard and their maintenance regime has been reduced from 4 times a year to 1. You may have noticed the yellow signs "Sorry about the weeds we are feeding the bees!"

The next work group will be on Sunday August 22nd on Blackheath, near Black Deek Pond, when we'll be working on bracken and path clearance. If anyone would like to join us, they would be most welcome. We start at 10am and go on until 12 noon. Tools and gloves are provided.

Linda Hammond

Wenhaston WI Open Meeting- Pear Tree Centre

Our meeting on Wednesday September 1st at 7.30pm will be a talk by The Pear Tree Centre. This will be an open meeting so visitors are very welcome to attend at a cost of £5 per person payable on the night. Do come along and get an update on all that goes on at the centre now it is back open again.

Liz Cunningham

Halesworth Dementia Carers' Fund



I-Chameleon Shop.

HDCF took over the shop for 1 week in July to raise money for the fund. It was a great success, and after deducting expenses made nearly £1,100. We are delighted with this figure and would like to extend our grateful thanks to all who made it possible – all those who

donated items for sale, all the volunteers who worked in the shop, and of course, all the lovely customers who came in and spent so generously.

Singing With Friends

For several months Helen Hayes has been running these sessions on Zoom. The great news is that from 4th August Helen will be going live at

Holton Village Hall, from 2.00 – 3.30. These sessions are open to all with dementia, and their carers and families. The HDCF Committee is deeply grateful to Helen for all her wonderful work and enthusiasm, and also to the East Suffolk Community Partnership Fund for helping to make it possible.

A.G.M.

The Committee would like to give notice that the A.G.M. will take place on 11th August from 2.00 – 4.00. It will be in The Stables at the Angel Hotel and all are welcome to attend.

Film at The Cut

Our next film will be The Intern and will be shown at The Cut on Wednesday 15th September. The film will be shown at the earlier time of 2.00, with doors open at 1.45. All are welcome, and our film shows are another way for us to raise money for our on-going work.

Arts and Craft Sessions.

These sessions, sponsored by the Arts Council, will begin later in the Summer. Full details will be given when confirmed.

Finally, if you would like more information about HDCF, or any of the items mentioned above, please contact us at

information.hdcf@btinternet.com or contact our secretary on 01986 875444.

Editors' Note

We hope that the summer sun and lifting of many restrictions is improving the quality of everyone's life. If you have the time and the inclination you can maybe join in with some of the village activities: perhaps join Wenhaston Commons group or Blyth Woods, helping out in the open air. We'd love to know what everyone is doing, so send us articles and photos etc, by the 15TH August.

wenhastonwarbler@gmail.com

Marsh and Garden

The riverside paths are almost impassable at the moment, due to the recent over exuberant growth of nettles, reeds and other plants. Progress is slow and often uncomfortable due to nettle stings, as well as the tiny sharp pricks from the thistles that grow up at this time of year. The Marsh Thistle is the main type found here, showing multiple pretty bright pink purple flowers on branched stems. Towards Blyford bridge when the path finally becomes more open and easier to walk on, the large slightly drooping velvety heads of the Musk Thistles appear.

Back in the garden, many types of wild daisies are still flowering, members of the same family as the thistles, the Asteraceae (used to called 'Compositae'). Each flower head in this group is composed of many tiny flowers, forming a central cushion, surrounded by petals.

This system provides a pollen rich hub attracting insects great and small. On a sunny morning in the garden, I see that the some of the bright yellow Corn Marigolds are

hosts to many tiny beetles, each feeding from one of the little flowers within the head. Some have attracted other types of larger flying insects.

There are many types of daisy like flowers, which I have allowed to self-seed and come up, either in the uncut grass areas or in set aside areas of the vegetable patch. Ox eye and Shasta daisies, different types of Mayweeds and Chamomiles, and Feverfew, with



its clumps of multiple smaller daisy flowers. They all have different characteristics. The Scented Mayweed has petals that 'reflex' back from the head, and the Scentless Mayweed has spreading petals which close upwards when the sun goes down. The difference in smell to me is rather subtle.

On a calm evening as the sun was going down and the daisies ('the days eyes') had all partially closed, we walked to the daisies nearby bridge over the Blyth River and then walked towards Blythburgh through more dense plant growth.

The reeds were alive with noises of different small birds, including a grasshopper warbler whose

quieter song sounds like its name suggests. The louder tuneful notes of a reed bunting almost overwhelmed the quieter noise. We crossed over the broken bridge, walking back along the slightly less overgrown path on this side of the river, and a reed bunting revealed itself with its striking black head and white collar, sitting on a branch of a riverside shrub.

The dramatic hemlock plants are growing up again along that path, showing the clear dark purple spots on their stems which pick them out from less poisonous relatives. Some of the skeletons of last year's plants still stand, soon to be covered by the new growth.

Kate Archibald



I've had a few people stop to ask me about the huge plant standing over my home, Jasmine Cottage. It is an echium, grown from a seedling from a London friend. Very common for years in the west country, I've noticed quite a few in Suffolk this summer. Insects adore it! It's an herbaceous plant which takes two years to develop its enormous spike, and then dies with the first frosts, hopefully leaving behind plenty of seedlings.

Deb Holmes

Wenhaston Village Hall 100 Club

- Winners for July 2021 –

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

- 1st prize Tony Wollin (number 110) £37.50
- 2nd prize Kate Archibald (number 71) £22.50
- 3rd prize Diana Shaw-Cotterill (number 7) £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 £2 for the year starting from August.

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 478078.

For your information, I will shortly be sending out a reminder regarding next year's subscription.

St Peter's Church

Well, 'Summer' has been a little disappointing, rather changeable and not always warm but we must be thankful that we don't have the very high temperatures that the west coast of the USA and Canada are experiencing at present. At least our climate is temperate and unpredictable! Something to discuss with those we meet.

The Revd. Dominic Doble will be installed as the Blyth Valley Team Rector by the Bishop on 10th August, and we look forward to welcoming him to Wenhaston on 29th August for a Team Service at 10am. We hope that Dominic and his wife Liz will be very happy here among us.

We still hope to have a Jumble Sale on 18th September and a Quiz with Thorington on October 22nd all in Village Hall. Please put these dates in your diaries. Anyone who is available to help in any way will be very welcome.

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

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 st August | Team Service at Halesworth at 10am |
| 8 th August | Eucharist at 10am |
| 15 th August | Team Service at Halesworth (Dominic's first service)
10am |
| 22 nd August | Pause for Thought 10am |
| 29 th August | Team Service at Wenhaston 10am |

Margaret Bloomfield

**Blyth Valley Parkinson's
Support Group
Coffee
Morning**

Wenhaston Village Hall

Wednesday 11th August

10am to 11.30am

Raffle Stalls

In aid of Parkinson's work in the area

Please come to support us!

Wenhaston Methodist Church

ALL SUNDAY SERVICES at 10.30 am

1 Sue Groome

8 Rev Pam Bayliss MHA

15 Rev Louise Morrissey

22 Rev Robert Soanes

29 Rev Peter Rayson HC

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*The Warbler welcomes articles
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posters.*

*The editors reserve the right to
amend or not to publish articles.
All copy to be emailed to
wenhastonwarbler@gmail.com by
the 15th August.*

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