



December 2021

Wenhaston Warbler

Wenhaston Primary School contribute to the “Hear My Voice” exhibition



Thank you to the children from Wenhaston Primary School whose work was included in the “Hear My Voice” exhibition in St Mary’s Church, Halesworth to coincide with COP 26. They joined children from Bramfield and Holton Primary Schools in making paper boats with messages and prayers written on them about their hopes for the future of the planet. The boats also marked the pilgrimage of young people from YCCN (Young Christian Climate Network), who carried a model boat with them on their journey to the summit.

Rev. Alison Alder

The Village Show

Thanks go to those who came forward and volunteered to join the village show committee. And so, the show will go on, THIRD TIME LUCKY, we hope! It will be held on Sunday 24th July 2022-clashing once more with Latitude, possibly drawing in a different type of visitor?! This will be the 25th show and will be even more special after all the trials and tribulations.

Felicity Jelliff

Wenhaston Walks

Just the one walk for December on Tuesday, 7th. The walk will be led by Gail Attfield, commencing at 10am at The Bell Inn, Walberswick, followed by our Christmas lunch at the pub. The menu will be circulated via email and it is hoped that both regular and occasional walkers will come along, preferably for both the walk and the lunch but either/or would be equally pleasing! To be added to the circulation list, email ipbigwood@btinternet.com We look forward to an invigorating walk and a rewarding lunch; see you there.

Heather Phillips (01502 478545)

Wenhaston W.I.

At our Annual Meeting the meeting regretfully accepted the resignation of President Cheryl Foster, due to severe health problems, after just one year. Gratitude and sorrow were eloquently expressed by the secretary in her report. Pat Yates was unanimously elected President for the coming year.

Our speaker was the very entertaining Gus Jones, who told of Pizza, Polizia and the Mafia during his time on secondment to Italy, Albania and Malta from the British Police. His book "3 Bullets on my Doorstep", is due to be published shortly.

Money laundering and financial crime were his sphere of expertise, and the startling fact that £100 billion is still being laundered through London, mostly through property, left us all thinking!
Forward to another year – hopefully more normal. ***Wendy Mendham***

WEA – Back in Business in Wenhaston

After a lengthy hiatus, the Wenhaston Branch of the WEA (Workers' Education Association) has just completed a well-attended and most enjoyable course on the history of Suffolk and Norfolk. We have also held our first AGM since March 2019 and it was good to recall the successful courses of the past couple of years. This Branch is thriving in the face of competition from on-line courses, which may have contributed to the demise of neighbouring branches. Clearly, in Wenhaston, there is good appetite for in person tutoring, and student support is vital if we wish for this option to continue. At the AGM the Branch Chairman, Tony Gow, therefore encouraged us all to spread the word that here in Wenhaston interesting courses continue, led by excellent tutors. We are always pleased to welcome too, students from outside our own village. Oh, and coffee and biscuits are provided free! So, what's to come? We very much look forward to the Spring Term (commencing Friday, 4th February) providing a course on the history of Italy which is bound to be a fascinating subject. More on this next month but make a note in your diary in the meantime.

Ian Bigwood

Thanks to kind hearted Wenhastonians

Hello! I'm back home after long stay in hospital, sadly now unable to walk. My daughter Stephanie is now living with me and, with the help of carers, looking after me making this possible. It's so good to be back home. Thank you so much to everyone for the cards, flowers and prayers which have kept me going.

Daphne Francis and daughter Stephanie Dighton

Another Wenhaston Good Samaritan

I have been asked to pass on the heartfelt thanks of a lady from Holton who had a nasty fall near The Angel in Halesworth recently. A kind gentleman from this village sat with her as she recovered and then walked her back to the car. The lady would like to thank her Good Samaritan personally so if you know this kind man's identity, ***please contact me at alisonalder@hotmail.co.uk or 478855***

Winter season's greetings

warm wishes for happiness and good health,

from David & Shane



(we're redirecting paper card costs to local charities)

Mobile Library in Wenhaston

The mobile library is scheduled to visit Wenhaston Village Hall between 3pm and 3.45 on Friday 3 December and Friday 31 December. It's free to join the mobile library and to borrow books – and you're not just limited to the books that are on the vehicle. You can go online and reserve any book from any library in Suffolk and request that it be delivered to the mobile library, and then collect it on a subsequent visit – and it's all free of charge. For more information visit suffolklibraries.co.uk/visit/mobile-libraries ***Nigel Frostick***

Major Commons Clearance in 2022

For some time, the regrowth of gorse at the far eastern end of Blackheath has been causing some concern, given the cost to Suffolk Wildlife Trust of repeatedly having to cut the area to keep it clear. This was originally cleared by Suffolk Coastal District Council many years ago, but unlike subsequent areas cleared by the Commons Group and SWT, the substantial litter layer caused by a build up of 30-40 years growth on top of the mineral sand was not scraped off or reseeded. Unfortunately, this has meant an ongoing and losing battle with gorse regrowth due to the huge seedbank still remaining.

The intention in the early part of next year therefore is to start to fully treat this area, by scraping off with machinery the litter layer, and then where possible reseeded with heather seed harvested from other areas of Blackheath. Not all of it will be done at once, but the work will probably be completed over 3 years. *Jonathan Alder*

Community Lunches

We had a good turnout for our first community lunch since the start of the Covid pandemic. The new venue in the Village Hall made catering easier and all our guests were very appreciative of the event. We were delighted to welcome some new volunteers on board.

We plan to hold a lunch every month and would welcome volunteers to help with transport, cooking, serving food and washing up. Our Christmas lunch is on Monday 20th December, and we always need a good team of people to make this successful. Please contact me or Margaret Goldstone if you are interested in helping.

Our Community Lunches are aimed at people who live on their own, or struggle to get out much. If you, or someone you know, would like to attend, please contact myself or *Margaret G. Revd. Alison Alder* alisonalder@hotmail.co.uk / 01502 478855

At the Community lunch



FOODBANK

The Foodbank will be giving festive hampers to families in need this Christmas, and we would be very grateful for donations of the following;

Christmas puddings and cakes. Mince pies
Biscuits Chocolates Tinned fruit Tins of ham
Toiletries for women and men
Gloves, scarves and socks for all ages
Toys and books for children of all ages



Thank you

Donations may be left at St Mary's Church, Halesworth or Oakhurst, Blackheath Road, Wenham, or we can collect 01502 478244

Suffolk Wildlife Trust

Taming the Flood – a Beavers' Tale, presented by Darren Tansley.

At the November meeting of the Blyth Valley and Southwold Suffolk Wildlife group, Darren Tansley gave us an intriguing account of a beaver project in Essex. Beavers were plentiful throughout Europe following the last Ice Age, but they were hunted voraciously over the centuries for their fur and meat, and by the sixteenth century they were extinct in Britain.

Climate change and flooding has led to an interest in the concept of natural flood management, and of re-introducing beavers to assess their impact on river systems. There are about twenty- five such projects currently in the UK, and Darren talked about the one at Spains

Hall in Essex. It is a joint effort with various Agencies to monitor the many effects of beaver activity. The landowner provided a wooded, enclosed site with a tiny stream, and in March, 2019, a beaver pair were introduced. They quickly set to work, establishing a system of dams, deep pools and side canals, creating a watery landscape. Dams begin as mud, to which small, then larger sticks, then logs are added. They leak, allowing water to disperse widely, absorbing flood waters in winter, and maintaining flow in summer. The beavers' huge lodge has an underwater entrance, making it safe from predators, and where two kits were born in 2020.

Water monitoring and testing is ongoing. Chemical pollution is captured as the water filters down. Run-off is slowed, and this is of particular importance to the village of Finchingfield below, which floods regularly. Initial monitoring shows that the beaver landscaping has modified the speed of flood water, making a significant difference to the village. In addition, the beaver activity has encouraged a much wider diversity of wildlife, and the elusive water shrew has been filmed eating the freshwater shrimps there.

Darren's talk generated lots of questions for discussion, and we all found it a thought-provoking topic.

Our next meeting is at 7.30pm, Thursday, Jan 13th. Our local Coastal Reserves warden, Jamie Smith, will be giving us the latest Local Reserve Roundup. It's at the Southwold Arts Centre, IP18 6JP, entrance is £3 to include refreshment. Under 25's free. ***Penny Mansfield***



We're Back in School!

This autumn Blyth Woods will be working with the children of Wenhaston Primary school again. We have committed to wearing face masks and carrying out a lateral flow test before we go to the school to keep everyone as safe as possible. We started on 5th November with a Reception Tree Treasure Hunt and Acorn Planting. On December 10th

the Class 4 children will be planting out the oaks from the school tree nursery, replacing oaks that have died in Grove Piece. Further activities will follow for classes 2 and 3 next year.

We've missed working with the children and can't wait to get busy with them again!

Meanwhile, adult volunteers will be welcome at our work parties on Sat 20th November and Sat 11th December (email blythwoods1@gmail.com for further information) – and we much look forward to seeing you at our tables during the Village Hall's Christmas Bazaar on 4th December. (<http://blythwoods.org>)

Grove Woods through the Seasons



Spring



Summer



Autumn



Winter

Blyth Spirits

The Group has had some enjoyable meetings with interesting speakers since we commenced meeting again after the trauma of Covid, and I think that everybody has been so grateful to be able to meet together and just chat!

Our October Meeting was certainly different and perhaps rather spooky! Our Speaker Robert Halliday talked to us about “Suffolk Ghosts” especially those that he has “met” at Walberswick Church! I think that we were all entertained but personally I think I am rather sceptical!

In November a long-awaited talk because of lockdowns - “Crop Circles”- again it should be very interesting, but perhaps questionable! In December we shall meet for Christmas drinks in Back Road, and we are all extremely grateful to Jane and Robert for entertaining us in their home. This is always a happy occasion meeting our friends, and I am sure that we will particularly appreciate our gathering this year.

As I have said many times in the past, we are a small group of ladies, and a few very welcome gentlemen, who meet on the third Wednesday of every month in the Village Hall at 2.30pm, and we extend a warm welcome to any new members who would like to join us. Our Programme for 2022 will be available before Christmas and if you would like a copy or more information about our activities, please do contact either: -

Margaret Goldstone 478378 or June Tate 478622

Finally, we wish all our Readers and our Friends in the Village a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

Wenhaston Product and Craft Market

**To all of our stallholders and customers,
thank you for your support in 2021. We
wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy
New Year. We look forward to seeing you
on 26th February 2022.**



To book your table (provided) phone Carol: 07864 083296
or email caz-mike@outlook.com

Covid 19 Lateral Flow Test Kits

There will be free Covid 19 lateral flow test kits available every Saturday at the village hall while the café is operating. Just ask for a kit when ordering your cup of coffee.

Wenhaston Flower Club

Our first time back after the COVID lockdown was a huge success. We had a wonderful turnout for Roger's workshop as he showed us how to make a Christmas Swag using a wire coat hanger. Jackie is pictured with some of our ladies, concentrating on their arrangements. It was a lovely evening and great fun.

Jean came along to keep an eye on us and had a good catch up with Roger. Thank you to the ladies who kept us supplied with tea, coffee and biscuits. Everyone would like to say a huge thank you to Jackie for keeping the club going and taking on the day to day tasks.

We send our best wishes for a speedy recovery to Jean, one of our long-standing members, and hope to see her back with us soon.

Our next meeting will be on: -

Tuesday 7th December 7.30pm in Wenhaston village hall.

It will be our Christmas Party with live music provided by Stephen and Sarah.



Please bring a sharing plate of finger food for the buffet table (e.g., sandwiches, sausage rolls, crisps, mince pies etc).

We also have a Secret Santa so can everyone please bring a present costing under £5 for Santa's bag.

We welcome everyone to our party night so please feel free to

bring any of your friends along for an entertaining night (£5 on the night and the club provides the drinks).

For more information please contact Jackie 01502 478401.

The Old Forge Studio

is 'on the road' as part of the
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Christmas Bazaar

Saturday 4th December

2.00 pm - 4.00 pm

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Come and enjoy the Christmas Spirit



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Colin Hooper

Colin was a very kind and helpful man, who moved into Wenhaston at the same time as I did (with our respective partners). He was always ready to help with a friendly smile, and usually, a chat in his front garden. He will be much missed. I have been overwhelmed by all the messages and cards of sympathy. *Dorothy Franklin.*

Editors' Note

Important reminder! Last date for copy for our January 2022 edition is the 12th December. Because of the Xmas break we really won't be able to accept late items!!!!

Copy to wenhastonwarbler@gmail.com, as usual.

A very peaceful and happy Christmas to all our readers, and best wishes for the New Year.

Gill Frostick and Deb Holmes

Marsh and Garden

I took a late afternoon walk towards the river as the light was beginning to fade, and as I went over the double gated bridge into the second grazing field a redshank flew up from the large puddle that has become a temporary lake, calling as it went. The water here is often deep enough for a

swan and attendant gulls to swim about in, as well as waders.

The leaves of the reeds have turned to a russet brown, with yellow and green tinges, and the seed heads have thinned. The bleached stems lie at an angle in places where the winds have blown them down. Now

the reed beds are less dense, you can more easily see warblers flitting about, as well as the river itself, as you walk along the path. Two weeks ago, when the reed leaves were still green and formed a more complete screen, I heard an otter slip into the water with a flurry of splashing, but I could not see it.



A 'herd' up to eleven of curlews is resident over the marshland, often flying around and settling on both sides of the river and up on Bulcamp hill, and it is lovely to hear their calls across the fields, often from the

garden.



Attracted by the brightly coloured fruits, I have been looking more carefully at the hedgerow plants that surround the garden on two sides. I have read that the number of species in a hedge can be related directly to its likely age. I had a proper look at two spindle trees in our hedge, amazed at how exotic the bright pink and orange fruits are. The spindle in particular is a sign of an older hedge. We also have hawthorn, blackthorn, bramble, hazel, cherry plum, bird cherry, and ivy. Nearer the house are the more domestic cherry, damson, and lilac plants. Of course, some mixed hedges may have been planted more recently so a garden hedge may or may not be genuinely ancient, but counting species can be useful

when assessing the age of farming field patterns. The Michaelmas daisies in the garden were still attracting lots of bees and red admiral butterflies until the end of October, but the flowers are mostly brown now. Everything

is beginning to bed down for winter. The wasp nest outside the window is almost extinct and a few hibernating ladybirds are hiding in one of the corners of the bedroom ceiling.

K.Archibald

Wenhaston Village Hall 100 Club Winners for November 2021

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

- 1st prize Elda Hobson (number 58) £37.50
- 2nd prize Linda Hammond (number 148) £22.50
- 3rd prize Abby Hall (number 52) £15.00

It's never too late to sign up! A chance to win a prize cost just £1 a month - our accounting year starts in September so anyone wishing to join now, the fee is £9 for the period to end August 2022, 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!)

A cheque for £935 has been handed to the Wenhaston Village Hall treasurer now, and we will let you know where the money is spent. Thank you all again for your payments and supporting the village hall in this way, and having a chance to be a monthly winner. Don't forget as well as the usual December prizes, there is a Xmas Bonus Prize of £50 to be won! ***All enquiries please phone Trish on 478078.***

Wenhaston M U

Meetings in our new Home

The Methodist Chapel School Room seems to be proving very successful, it is small, warm and cosy – the words of one member. As I have mentioned previously, we are extremely grateful to the Methodists in Wenhaston for allowing us the use of the room. We have also been very pleased to welcome Members of Halesworth M U to our meetings, especially one gentleman! We do hope that the partnership of the two branches will continue into the future.

At our November meeting we welcomed Clare Thomas, who is a very active M U member and a Diocesan Trustee. She talked about her visit to both Kagera and Byumba, which is one of our Link Dioceses, so we all found this particularly interesting and we were able to see pictures of her visit on her laptop. Clare also talked about the Sixteen Days of Activism which Janet told us about in last month's BVT.

December brings us to "Party Time" and I know that we will all appreciate being able to celebrate together again this year. We are holding our Christmas Celebration on Wednesday 8th. December at Spindleberry, when we will sing some Carols, enjoy Christmas poems and finish with what I am sure will be delicious Christmas Goodies!

I would like to say how pleased all the members are that Daphne, one of our members, is now back home in Wenhaston after such a long stay in hospital. We shall all continue to support you Daphne, and your family, with our Love and Prayers during the coming months. I am sure that you will never be short of visitors!

Christmas Greetings of Love and Joy to all our readers from us all at Wenhaston Mother's Union.

Margaret (478378)

St Peter's Church

We had a very good attendance at the quiz, it was a very enjoyable evening and both Wenhaston and Thorington churches benefitted from the profit to the tune of £236.25 each. Many, many thanks to Phil and Denise Corbett for running the evening for us. Both PCCs are most grateful.

The Village Christmas Fair is on Saturday 4th December and Wenhaston church is having a cake stall. We should be very grateful for any cakes, jams etc. Please bring them to the Village Hall after 10.30am on the day. We have not been able to do much fund raising this year so are trying to make an effort with this.

Each year Wenhaston PCC donates 5% of our unrestricted income to charity, which we feel is our Christian Duty. This year we have been able to give £360 each to Mission Aviation Fellowship, which flies people, goods, and Christian Literature to and from remote parts of the globe, and works hard to spread the Christian message, The East Anglian Air Ambulance and the Ormiston Families, which provides services to promote positive mental health in children and young people across the East of England.

We wish you all a very Happy Christmas and healthy New Year.

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

5 th December	Team Service at Halesworth at 10am
12 th December	Morning Worship 10am
17 th December	Pause for Thought 10am
21 st December	Carol Service 7pm
24 th December	Christmas Communion Service 8pm

Margaret Bloomfield

Wenhaston Methodist Church

All Sunday Services at 10 30 am

5 Iain Mckillop

12 Rev Pam Bayliss H C

19 Rev Robert Soanes Carol Service

26 No Service

CHRISTMAS DAY at 9.30am

Family Service Julie Warren

All Welcome at Any Service

Face coverings to be worn



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*The Warbler welcomes articles
photos and other artwork and
posters.*

*The editors reserve the right to
amend or not to publish articles.
All copy to be emailed to
wenhastonwarbler@gmail.com by
the 12th December.*

*Advertising: £15 p.m. for ¼ column
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