February 2022

Wenhaston Warbler

Full moon over Wenhaston



February is often a quiet, not to say dreary, time of year, so it's good to have a Warbler with some wide ranging activities in it. There is the calendar of work parties for conserving our lovely commons, and maybe making new friends in the process (page 12). There's a walk or a book talk (page 4), a challenge to make a natural sculpture in Grove Woods(page 9) or meet fellow writers in the Writing Group (page 5). The young people's film night returns

(we hope) (page 6); on a more serious note there are 'Grave Talks' at Halesworth Library (page 16). There are two local initiatives, the Rural Youth Opportunities Study, and the Beccles, Bungay, Halesworth and Villages Community Partnership (pages 3 and 4), which are looking at drawing more resources into our area, and supporting existing projects. And much, much, more besides.

However, we will not be able to bring you news of what's on much longer unless we can recruit a volunteer to run the small ads without which the Warbler can't break even. The time commitment isn't huge, maybe one or two half days a month, and we work as a friendly little team. The ad is on page 10, so please have a look and see if you can help us.

Deb Holmes and Gill Frostick

WENHASTON

Produce & Craft Market

Saturday

26th February 2022

10am -12.30pm In the Village Hall IP19 9EP

A wide and ever-changing range of local foods and produce, crafts, plants, home baking and pre-loved treasures.

New stallholders always welcome...

Pitch fee: £7

To book your table (provided) contact:

Carol Hudson -Jary Tel: 01502 478732 or

email: caz-mike@outlook.com Raising funds for Village Hall Maintenance

Rural Youth Opportunities Study

The Parish Council recognises that young people of Wenhaston should have a say about local services and activities which affect them. Community Action Suffolk (CAS) has recently run a zoom event open to local councils, to identify areas that would be particularly of interest to young and mid-teenagers.

Two Wenhaston Parish Councillors were present at the three-hour zoom meeting and both gained an insight of what CAS can offer. Several fully-trained and qualified youth experts gave lectures on a wide range of topics. These included: setting up a youth club; youth engagement; supporting young people's mental health and wellbeing; and protecting young people from criminal influences. Digital engagement was also covered by an organisation called KOOTH which offered advice for young people with a range of personal issues from relationships to eating disorders.

CAS offers a team of experts to help youngsters develop healthy lifestyles and to assist with those Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEETs). A dedicated department supports secondary school children aged between 11 and 16 with wellbeing and engagement with education. Financial advice is also available to assist with housing, money and debt management, as well as bill paying. Useful guidance is also offered related to career choices, CV writing and applications to university.

The subject of drug gangs, now targeting vulnerable young people in rural areas by social media, was also highlighted.

CAS provides an Internet 'Jam Board' which offers youngsters with an opportunity to express their wishes. It is clear that the services needed include improved travel options, better access to support, activities, employment, education and training.

if any of these issues are of concern to parents or young people, please feel free to contact Peter Wildish on 01728 652836 or Caroline Way on 01502 478696 who will put you in touch with the right experts in Community Action Suffolk.

Peter Wildish

The Beccles, Bungay, Halesworth and Villages Community **Partnership**

The Beccles, Bungay, Halesworth and villages Community Partnership is keen to see how it can further support local community needs. The Community Partnership is composed of community organisations, town/parish councils and councillors. It commissions and delivers projects/initiatives that meet its priorities; reducing social isolation for all and improving physical and mental health and wellbeing. There is also Connected Communities; a project connecting over 65s with services and each other. If you run a community group/project or know of an emergent local need, feel free to email sam.kenward@eastsuffolkcouncil.gov.uk to explore how we

can work together for the benefit of our community.

Wenhaston Walking Group

Just the one walk for February on Tuesday, 1st leaving Wenhaston Village Hall at 10am. This will be a shortish walk rounded off by refreshments at Heather's. Heather Phillips (01502 478545)

Book Talks at Halesworth Library

In the series of book talks at Halesworth Library, the Friends have arranged a talk on Thursday February 17th at 2.30pm by another local author, Natalie Meg Evans, who is a writer of award winning historical fiction. Full details will be available at the Library closer to the time of the event, but the subject of the talk is likely to be on the topic "Secrets and Promises, how writers get readers turning the pages". The talks are open to everybody but, as numbers are restricted, booking is required. Please ask at the Library desk, telephone 01986 875095 or email friendsofhalesworthlibrary@gmail.com if you wish to attend.

The Mobile Library

The Mobile Library will be at the Village Hall between 3pm and 3.45pm on Friday 25th February.

Nigel Frostick

Wenhaston Writing Group

We, Blackheath Wenhaston Writers, would like to increase our active membership of creative writers.

We meet on a Monday morning, via SKYPE for around 2 hours, commencing @ 10.00 GMT/BST.We discuss/write/ comment/ critique/ analyse and even compliment each other's written work. There is a charge of just £5.00 per week, which will be going towards an annual publication of work created by the writing group.

Here is the deal-- we need to find someone who can help our group become involved with the local internet systems. There is no way that we can pay for this service - BUT - we are prepared to honour a specialist benefactor, who could expand our exposure to the waiting world, with a free 3 month - maybe more - GOLD STAR membership and group inclusion worth a minimum of 13 weeks @ £5 = £65.00.

Writers are always poor until they are rich - Don't you know? Help!

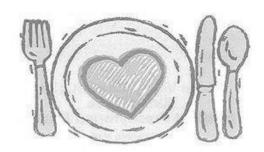
Writers who would enjoy the camaraderie, comfort, acknowledgment, happiness, and genuine bonhomie of a progressive creative

writing group should contact <u>Terry.blackheathdawn@gmail.com</u> or check out <u>www.blackheath-wenhaston.com</u> and then make contact..

Wenhaston Community Lunches

Help needed!

Back in October, we restarted our monthly Community Lunches. Organised by St Peter's Church, this is a



community project with volunteers from across the village. We have between fifteen and twenty-five regular guests at the moment and are always happy to invite other people, particularly those living on their own, or struggling with isolation.

We are very grateful that we have a team of people to deliver invitations, give people lifts, cook, set up and tidy away, and wash up. We also have a small number of people who organise each lunch, ensuring there are enough volunteers and supervising on the day. We would be grateful for any offers of help but would particularly welcome one or two more people to help with the organisation, so that the project is sustainable in the long run. We try to restrict organisers to 3-4 lunches over the year.

If you, or someone you know, would like to attend a lunch, please contact me or Margaret Goldstone. The February lunch will be on Monday 28th February.

If you would like to volunteer, or find out more about it, again please contact me or Margaret G.

Revd. Alison Alder 01502 478855 / 07584 416277 alisonalder@hotmail.co.uk Margaret Goldstone01502 478378

Fingers Crossed – Young People's Film Nights to return to Wenhaston Village Hall!

Sadly, because of not been able to have while. We now have and hope they will be Friday 4th February – Friday 18th March –



Covid, we have a film night for a two dates fixed able to go ahead. 6pm to 7.45pm 6pm to 7.45pm

These evenings are open to young people in Years 5 & 6. There is no need to book but it is helpful for us to know in advance how many children are coming. Refreshments are provided and there is no charge, although we welcome donations.

For more information, please contact me on 01502 478855, text 07584 416277 or email: <u>alisonalder@hotmail.co.uk</u>
Revd Alison Alder

Suffolk Wildlife Trust Reserves Round-Up

At the January meeting of the Southwold and Blyth Valley group of the Suffolk Wildlife Trust, local Reserves Warden Jamie Smith gave us an update on four local reserves: Hen Reedbeds, Winks Meadow, Dingle Marshes and Reydon Woods. The habitats are very different, and a warden's job has a wide remit.

Hen Reedbeds and Dingle Marshes share certain elements. Both have intricate dyke systems and reedbeds that require maintenance to keep them clear and renewed, as passing birds are attracted by open water and clearings. Both reserves rely on grazing by ponies or cattle to maintain balanced reed and grass growth. Bitterns, bearded tits and water rail are among the many occupants. Otters and water voles inhabit the dykes. Mink are no longer a major problem, but they are monitored carefully. Dragonflies, damsel flies, butterflies and moths all contribute to the wide diversity of the area.

Winks Meadow is a tiny remnant of unimproved grassland near Metfield, surrounded by arable land and an old airfield. It maintains a wonderful mixture of grasses and wild flowers, with five species of orchid, including the rare (for Suffolk) frog orchid. The Trust cuts the grasses for hay, and the collection of wild seeds, and sheep graze every two years to keep the ground broken.

Reydon woods is well known locally for its wonderful bluebells in May. It is an ancient coppiced wood, and that tradition continues today. The rides are mown to keep them open, and encourage a variety of birds, like the bullfinch and nuthatch, and many dragonflies and butterflies. The Silver-washed Fritillary is doing well, as are White Admirals. The open areas are rich in wildflowers, with orchids, ragged robin and a host of others.

We learned a good deal about the continual maintenance that Jamie, his team, and a host of volunteers make to keep this wonderful diversity fit and well for us all to visit and enjoy.

Our next meeting is on Thursday, February 10th at 7.30pm, in the Southwold Arts Centre, IP18 6JP. Ian Barthorpe will be telling us about the wildlife of Costa Rica. Entrance costs £3, to include refreshments. Under 25's free. *Penny Mansfield*

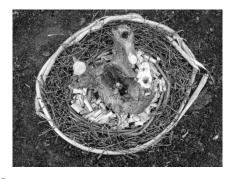


Footpath Art Returns!

Spring seems a long way off at the moment as we

trudge through mud and murk (at

least at the time of writing!). You may remember that in February last year the Blyth Woods group suggested an ingenious new way to divert walkers



from overcast skies and bare winter trees. It was so successful we've decided to repeat it.

Last winter, along the sheltered paths of Vicarage Grove and in the open spaces of Grove Piece and Malster's Little Field (all under the umbrella name of Grove Woods now), we invited you to use your imagination to create weird and wonderful works of art using anything you could find in the local surroundings, such as twigs, leaves, pebbles, feathers or dead moss. A treasure trail of natural 'sculptures', ranging from the beautiful to the witty, was left along the paths of Grove Woods for walkers to spot and enjoy.

Now let's do it again! As before, we'll post photographs of the most striking creations on our website (<u>www.blythwoods. org</u>) and in the next issue of the Warbler. Here are some from last year. Take your toddlers, children and grandchildren too, and let them have a go. Either as a family, a couple, or on

your own, it's an enticement to go outside in the open air – a sure cure for our winter blues - and see that while nature appears to sleep at the moment, it is merely restoring itself and that it won't be long before spring is here. If you go down to Grove Woods, you may even find some sculptures waiting for you there already!

Meanwhile, the Blyth Woods group with the help of volunteers managed to plant a



grand total of 260 new trees during the last work party on January 8th. A huge thank you to everyone who came. There will be another tree-planting party in Grove Piece on Saturday 12th February, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Just drop in and join us when you can. For further information, contact blythwoods1@gmail.com

Blyth Spirits

Our February Meeting will take us back into the past when Geoffrey Kay will be talking to us about the Crystal Palace and The Great Exhibition.

We will meet on Wednesday 16th. February at 2.30pm. in the Village Hall. As always our meetings are open to anyone who may be interested in the speakers subject or have a spare Afternoon and feel like joining us. We always end our meetings with tea, biscuits and chat! *Any queries to Margaret 478378 or June 478622.*

Volunteer to Manage Small Ads

We are looking for a volunteer to take over the job of managing the adverts for the Warbler. Geraldine Lines has been doing the job very efficiently for some time, but, unfortunately, due to the pressure of her work, she needs to pass it over to someone else. We need someone who can spare the time to keep the Warbler show on the road, as the advert revenue is vital to it continuing.

Geraldine is very happy to pass over her accumulated knowledge, so please contact her directly geraldine.lines@hotmail.co.uk

Or the editorial team at wenhastonwarbler@gmail.com

Editors' Note

The last date for copy for our March 2022 edition is the 15th February. Copy to wenhastonwarbler@gmail.com, as usual.

Gill Frostick and Deb Holmes

Hearing Aid Repairs in Wenhaston



WENHASTON COMMONS GROUP

WORKING PARTY PROGRAMME 2022

Meet at 10.00am unless otherwise specified. See Wenhaston Warbler for any changes or ring Myles Archibald 07774 781186

Month	Day	Date	Leader	Location	Meet at	Task
JANUARY	TUE	11	JA	Blackheath	West End – by posts/gate at end of track leading off Bramfield Road to old BMX Track	Clearing gorse from Silver studded blue site
	SUN	23	JH	Blackheath	West End – by posts/gate at end of track leading off Bramfield Road to old BMX Track	Clearing gorse from Silver studded blue site
FEBRUARY	TUE	8	AM	Bickers Heath	Seat off Coles Hill. Parking in Low Road	Gorse and scrub clearance
	SUN	20	MA	Mill Heath	Entrance off Heath Road	Gorse and scrub clearance
MARCH	TUE	8	JH	Blackheath	South side	Gorse and scrub clearance
	SUN	20	MA	Bickers Heath	Seat off Coles Hill. Parking in Low Road	Gorse and scrub clearance
JULY	TUE	19	LH	St Peter's Churchyard	Churchyard	Clearing hay
AUGUST	SUN	21	МА	Church Common	Entrance off Narrow Way	Clearing paths
SEPTEMBER	SUN	18	MA	Blackheath	South side	Gorse and scrub clearance
OCTOBER	THUR	6		AGM	Village Hall – 19.00	
	TUE	11	AM	Mill Heath	Entrance off Heath Road	Gorse and scrub clearance
	SUN	23	JH	Bickers Heath	Seat off Coles Hill. Parking in Low Road	Gorse and scrub clearance
NOVEMBER	TUE	8	AM	Blackheath	Black Deek Pond	
	SUN	20	МА	Bickers Heath	Seat off Coles Hill. Parking in Low Road	Gorse and scrub clearance
DECEMBER	TUE	6	JA	Mill Heath	Entrance off Heath Road	Gorse and scrub clearance
	SUN	18	MA	Blackheath	Black Deek Pond	Gorse and scrub clearance

AM Alan Miller, JA Jonathan Alder, JH John Holmes, LH Linda Hammond, MA Myles Archibald

Marsh and Garden

On some days, walking next to the marshes and river when it's raining, and a cold wind is blowing, there's not much flying around apart from the odd gull, rook or pigeon. Most wildlife seems to be huddled down when the weather is grim.



We have though, had a few bright days, and on one dazzling frosty sunny day, I crunched my way through the thin ice covering the flooded fields, just making it to the bridge without overtopping my wellies. A pair of swans flew over my head accompanied by the wonderful rhythmic rasp of their beating wings. They flew up high over the landscape, and then landed on the meadow below Blythview, near to where I have seen them several times,

and where I hope they will nest.

Later, while walking along the the old railway line path I saw in the distance a flock of birds that looked almost like starlings, but through my binoculars I saw a herd of sixty or more curlew flying together along the line of the river and then up over Bulcamp hill. The number of curlew have been increasing over the autumn and winter, and it is good to know that our special wetland environment here can support both indigenous and incoming populations of this increasingly threatened species.

In the water itself we have spotted a solitary dab chick and heard the piglet like shriek of a water rail, always difficult to actually see behind the reeds. I have also heard but not seen the watery flurry of an otter plunging back into the river as I approached.

Back in the garden we have a lively group of male and female blackbirds courting and chasing each other across the patio, sharing the area with pairs of fierce fighting robins vying with each other for territory. The goldfinches continue to come in charms of six, eight or more, loving the niger seed, sometimes fighting each other off in mid air. As the days get longer the birds will be primed for breeding.

Some bulbs are beginning to push their green spears up through the leaf litter and we are looking forward to the snowdrops appearing.

Kate Archibald

Wenhaston Village Hall 100 Club

Winners for January 2022

- 1st prize Sarah Bergson (number 166) £37.50
- 2nd prize Lilian Spindler (number 09 £22.50
- 3rd prize Brenda Thompson (number 130) £15.00

Congratulations to all! 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 £7 for the period to end August 2022. 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!)

All enquiries please phone Trish on 478078.

Wenhaston Mothers' Union

We started the New year with our usual Communion Service and we were delighted that Alison was able to lead our service and our prayers. After the service Alison talked to us about the importance of the work of the M U, particularly in supporting families, both here and

abroad. She encouraged us all to continually pray for the work of the M U. She then told us about the new group which has started in St. Mary's in Halesworth for mothers and toddlers and several Halesworth Members are helping with this group.

We shall look forward to welcoming the Revd. Margaret King to our February meeting when she will ask — Why Icons? A fascinating subject which I am certain will give us much food for thought.

We shall be very pleased to welcome any friends to this meeting to hear Margaret's talk, and we will meet in the Methodist Chapel School Room on Wednesday February 9th, at 2.30pm.

Margaret Goldstone (478378)

St Peter's Church

Although Christmas celebrations took place in what seems a long while ago, I should like to say that the Carol Service which took place on the Village Hall carpark was well attended and enjoyed, and the collection for DEC Afghanistan amounted to £148.33 for which they were very grateful. Many thanks to all who made it possible with microphones etc and to Jonathan and Alison. It was good. We were also very pleased to welcome Vic to our Christmas Eve service.

There doesn't seem much else to say this month as we haven't planned any fund raising yet as everything is so uncertain. We sincerely hope that you all manage to keep safe and well and avoid the dreaded Coronavirus. God bless.

Our services for the month of February are as follows:6th February Team Service at Halesworth at 10am
13th February Morning Worship 10am
20th February Pause for Thought 10am
27th February Holy Communion 10am

Margaret Bloomfield



with Alison Alder & colleagues Hosted by Halesworth Library, Bridge Street, IP19 8AD

Monday 17th January 2-4, Monday 14th February 2-4, Thursday 17th March 7-9

It's not easy to think about your own funeral. Talking about death, dving and funerals raises big guestions that we need to face at some point, but it's hard to talk to family and friends. GraveTalk is a café space, organised by a local church, where people can talk about these big questions. You will meet in a group of no more than six, in a relaxed setting around a table, with a trained facilitator.

The conversation is helped along by GraveTalk conversation cards - fifty two questions covering five key areas (Life, Death, Society, Funerals and Grief). People of all ages have gathered to talk and share their thoughts. If you have been before, you are welcome to return.

GraveTalk is a café – so there is always tea and cake!

Comment on last October's session: It felt very worthwhile to share all sorts of thoughts, experiences, fears, uncertainties, even humour! And it felt honest, from the heart, a safe place to express things.

Please email friendsofhalesworthlibrary@gmail.com or phone 01986 875095 or speak to a member of Library staff Please leave your name, contact phone number & which session you wish to attend.



Wenhaston Methodist Church All Sunday Services At 10.30am

6 Sue Groome 13 Laura Lawrance-Martin 20 Rev Peter Rayson H C 27 Rev Pam Bayliss ALL WELCOME AT ANY SERVICE FACE COVERING TO BE WORN

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Wenhaston Warbler Information

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 15th February 2022.

Advertising: £15 p.m. for ¼ column (£150 p.a.), small ads £5 p.m. for 4 AAcolumn lines (£50 p.a.) Contact Geraldine Lines

geraldine.lines@hotmail.co.uk

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