



December 2022

Wenhaston Warbler

Special Christmas Edition!



A Busy Year for the Blyth Woods Group!

As the year turns towards its end and our glorious autumn becomes winter, we look back at some of our activities in 2022.

We continued our programme of cutting and raking off the grass in the meadow areas and rides of Grove Woods to encourage the growth of wild flowers and other plants. Ragged robin raised from local seed and planted in some of the damper areas bloomed well and hopefully has seeded itself to increase in number next year. The central ride in Grove Piece had a wonderful display of vetch, birdsfoot trefoil, marsh thistle and other plants, all emerging from seeds in the green hay spread the year before.

Since we first started working in Grove Piece in 2017, we have steadily added to the records of flora and fauna found there. At our July Bioblitz and Picnic for Friends of Blyth Woods, we were able to add twelve varieties of butterfly, two of pond snails, an unusual alga, Fragile Stonewort, and several new grasses. (Thank you for your help in this, Friends!) Alan Miller, our chair, carried out a breeding bird survey in Grove Woods for the third year running. Three barn owl chicks were successfully raised and ringed.



We made a bark area in Vicarage Grove to encourage fungi to grow next autumn. Meanwhile, our holly clearing continues there.

The young oaks in Grove Piece, planted by Wenhaston Primary School in 2012, are growing well and recently the current reception class collected acorns and planted them in new beds in the school nursery. These will be transplanted in turn to Grove Woods.



The Wilder Wenhaston enterprise was born and progresses excitingly, masterminded by Alan Miller. More news of it to come!

Dates for your diary:

Tree planting in Grove Woods, Saturday 3rd December, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Please bring a trowel and/or a spade. No special skills needed.

(For more information, email blythwoods1@gmail.com)

Wenhaston's Christmas Bazaar in the Village Hall, Saturday 10th December, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Visit our stand and try the 'Find the Squirrel' competition!

www.blythwoods.org

Patricia Elliott

Children's Christmas Competition

Announcing the launch of an exciting competition for the children of Wenhaston Primary School, with prizes for a winner and runner-up in each year group. In the story of the Nativity the Three Kings or Wise Men came to the stable where the baby Jesus lay in a manger and gave Him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Imagine you are a visitor too. *What gift would you bring?*

Perhaps it might be something a baby might like, such as a patchwork quilt that always keeps Him warm, a flight of butterflies around His head, a stuffed toy that sings lullabies.

Or perhaps the gift could be something He'd use as a grown-up, like a talent for story-telling, or courage, or kindness – something impossible to wrap in Christmas paper but very important in His life to come.



We'd like you to write a sentence or two, describing your gift, and below it draw a picture of you in the stable (a picture only for the Reception class). Please write your name, age and year group on your entry. Entries in to the school by Thursday 8th December.

The winners will be announced and prizes given at the Wenhaston Carol Service on Sunday 18th December (4 p.m.). The judges will be local artists, Tessa Newcomb, David Elliott and Sandy Horsley, and children's book author, Patricia Elliott. Alison Alder is co-ordinating.

Patricia Elliot

Wenhaston Walks

As is traditional, there will be just the one walk in December on Tuesday, 6th. Ian will lead a circular walk leaving from the Wangford Plough (NR34 8AZ on the A12) at 10am. A festive lunch will follow (12.30 for 12.45). Whether you are a regular or an occasional walker, you are most welcome to join us for the walk and/or the lunch. A menu will have been circulated already and if you wish to add your name to the circulation list, email ipbigwood@btinternet.com We look forward to seeing you there. Merry Christmas!

Heather Phillips (01502 478545)

Wenhaston Village Hall



Ladies' Christmas Coffee Morning
Wednesday 14th December
10.30 – 11.30am

**£2.50 for a Coffee/tea, something to eat and a chat,
every second Wednesday of the month.**

Look forward to seeing you then for some festive cheer.

The Wenhaston Relief-in-Need Trust

'Every little helps' – this saying is more true than ever these days! Whether you are a long-term resident or a new incomer, you have probably not heard of us! We are a small 50 year-old charity (with roots tracing to the 17th century and comprising five trustees) that offers help to Wenhastonians who need a little support in challenging times. In the past, we have helped pay for petrol to people making frequent hospital trips, contributed to the community lunch funds and, during the pandemic, provided vegetable hampers to families in need. If you yourself, or you know of someone else in need, who might be cheered by small help from a charity dedicated to the Wenhaston village, then feel free to contact me (478411) or our treasurer Heather Phillips (478545). All requests will be treated confidentially. **Anna Wright**

Happy Christmas and Best Wishes for the New Year from the Warbler Team



Deb, Hilary and Gill, wish all our readers, contributors and advertisers the compliments of the season. A joyous and peaceful time for all.

We also thank the dedicated band of volunteers who collect the Warbler from the printers, divide it into areas for collection, and deliver it door to door. You do a grand job!

All contributions for the next Warbler must be in by the 12th December, to meet the timescales of the Leiston Press. Send, as usual, to wenhastonwarbler@gmail.com

Family Carol Service



Sunday 18th December
4pm
St Peter's Church, Wenhaston



"The True Gift of Christmas"

**Followed by festive
treats**

Wi-Fi in the Village Hall

The Hall has made it finally into the 21st Century. Thanks largely to Roger Claxton's patience and hard work Wi-Fi is now available throughout the Hall. Details of the site and password are posted in the main Hall, the Café area and Maurice Stammers room. *David Elliott*

The Butterflies of Suffolk Wildlife Trust Reserves.

At the November meeting of the Blyth Valley and Southwold wildlife group, Steve Aylward, from the Suffolk Wildlife Trust, gave us a wonderful presentation of the many butterflies recorded in our area. Steve is a distinguished wildlife photographer, and the evening was a visual treat of these beautiful insects, with close-ups that allowed you to see the details on the smallest antennas, or the effect of the light on wing patterns. We learned about the varied reserve habitats: ancient coppiced woods, meadows and grasslands, heathlands, fens and wetlands, and the returning of arable field to their natural environment. All of these support different species. Some, such as the Dingy Skipper, are in drastic decline due to habitat loss and climate change, but there are reasons to be optimistic. By returning reserves to their natural terrain, and with careful management, the butterflies have a chance to recover. There is a resurgence of the Purple Emperor in Bradfield woods, and it is hoped that this strong flier will find other suitable areas elsewhere. The Silver Washed Fritillary has colonised all over Suffolk woods, and are seen regularly in Reydon Woods. The Wall Brown, once so common but now in chronic decline, is making a slow come-back on the grassy verges at Carlton Marshes. The Silver Studded Blues are doing well at Blaxhall Common, but they do not fly far, emphasising the need for "wildlife corridors". We were left with a positive feeling that the right habitats can turn things around, which is something we can all help with in the way we manage our own gardens, no matter how small they are.

Our next meeting is on Thursday, January 12th, at 7.30pm in the Southwold Arts Centre, IP18 6JP. Adam Burrows, from Natural England, will be talking about East Anglia's Changing Coastline. Admission is £4, refreshments included. Under 25's free, and all are welcome.

Penny Mansfield

Contact us at swtblythvalley@gmail.com

Successful Season For Wenhaston Bowls Club

Wenhaston Bowls club recently held their AGM after what has been a brilliant season. All of Wenhaston's captains and their chosen teams have done very well this season.

Kevin 'Wink' Canham led the Saxmundham and District league team who finished 3rd in the league. Chris Peck and his team finished 1st in the Lowestoft & District league for the 5th season in a row, Nigel Roberts and his team finished 4th in the Bowls England league and Elaine Peck and her team finished 1st in the Halesworth 3-wood league, and were also winners of the league cup. A big congratulation to those of Wenhaston's players who

played in county competitions this year, especially Kim Dyer and Peter Hurren, who became national champions in the Senior Pairs category at the National finals in Skegness!

Wenhaston Bowls Club also enjoys social outings as well as the competitive and friendly bowling. In August members and guests enjoyed a boat trip on the broads to mark the end of the season. It was enjoyed by all.



In November Wenhaston Bowls Club enjoyed their Annual end of season dinner which was held at the Flixton Buck. £100 was made on the raffle and £50 of that was donated to the East Anglian Air Ambulance.

Everyone from Wenhaston Bowls Club looks forward to the 2023 season. In the meantime club members regularly gather to play Carpet Bowls during the winter.

If you would like to join Wenhaston Bowls Club or are thinking of giving carpet bowls or outdoor lawn bowls a go, please contact the club secretary by emailing jake.moyes9@gmail.com

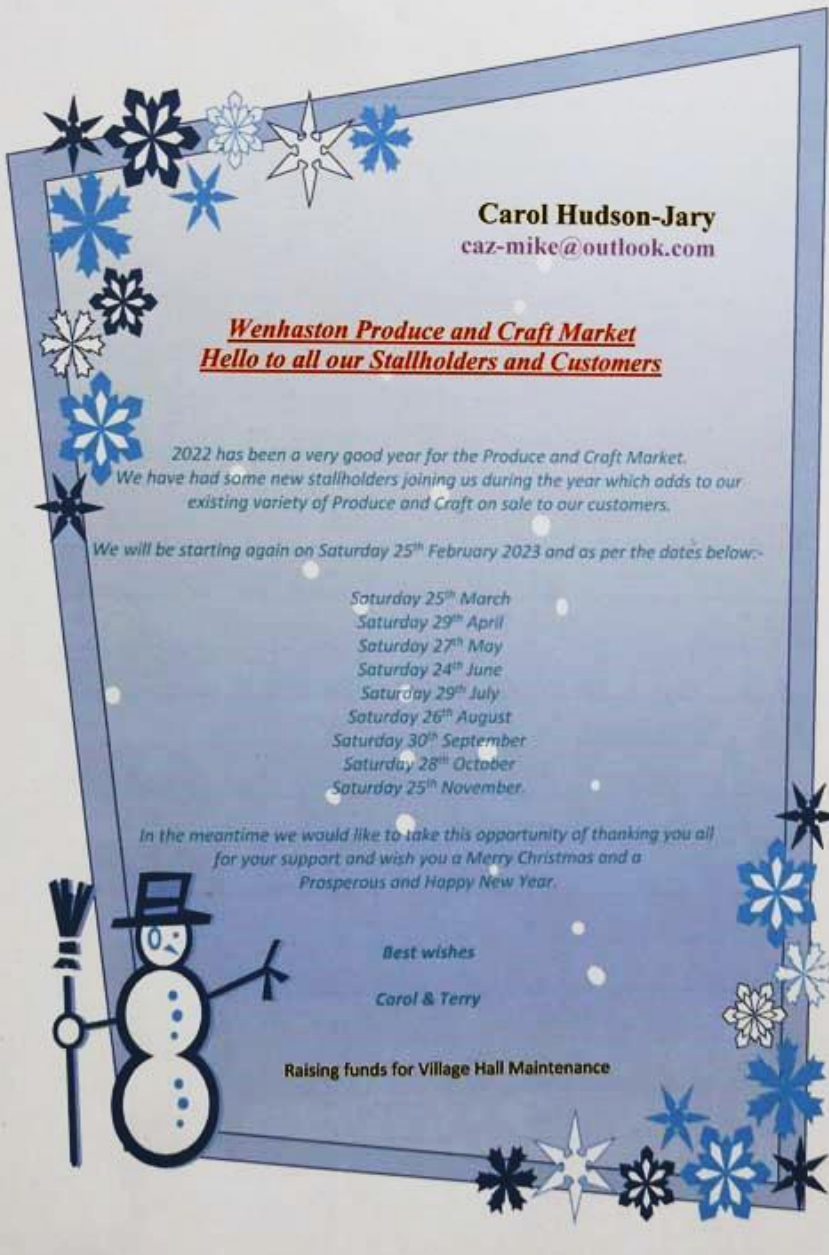
Jake Moyes Secretary

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

- 1st prize Susan Tockley (number 47) £37.50
- 2nd prize Janice Claxton (number 29) £22.50
- 3rd prize Nick Amery (number 141) £15.00

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 £9 for the period to end August 2023, we welcome new members !

lease 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!) or either of the promoters, Kirsten West or Trish Gower. 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***



Carol Hudson-Jary
caz-mike@outlook.com

Wenhaston Produce and Craft Market
Hello to all our Stallholders and Customers

*2022 has been a very good year for the Produce and Craft Market.
We have had some new stallholders joining us during the year which adds to our
existing variety of Produce and Craft on sale to our customers.*

We will be starting again on Saturday 25th February 2023 and as per the dates below:-

*Saturday 25th March
Saturday 29th April
Saturday 27th May
Saturday 24th June
Saturday 29th July
Saturday 26th August
Saturday 30th September
Saturday 28th October
Saturday 25th November.*

*In the meantime we would like to take this opportunity of thanking you all
for your support and wish you a Merry Christmas and a
Prosperous and Happy New Year.*

Best wishes

Carol & Terry

Raising funds for Village Hall Maintenance





Wilder Wenhaston

pathway to a greener future

Wilder Wenhaston is a network of villagers, who have joined forces to help local nature recovery and improve our neighbourhood environment for people and wildlife, within the context of the wider climate emergency. It was established after several villagers identified a need for action. During the Covid pandemic several villagers carried out surveys with around 40 weekly records collated. As well as recording over 100 bird species (some were just one individual), the surveys also recorded a wide range of other wildlife seen within the parish boundary, however it did highlight how much was missing. No one recorded frog or toad spawn seen, either in their gardens or the wider countryside, and hedgehogs were confined to just a few locations.

It's widely reported how depleted our wildlife is. Climate change, urbanisation, pollution, intensive agriculture, have caused a 41% decline in all UK species since the 1970's, with a real risk of some species becoming extinct in the very near future. Shifting baselines has become a familiar term meaning that each generation thinks that what it's experiencing is normal when in fact there has been tremendous change in our wildlife experience over the years. Despite stating they are committed to restoring nature our government is unlikely to implement changes anytime soon, conservation charities cannot make change on their own and so it's down to all of us to play our part reversing this catastrophic situation.

This is where Wilder Wenhaston wants to help everyone do their bit for the natural world locally. It's proven that a healthy countryside creates a healthy population reducing stress and mental illness so it's in everyone's interest to take part.

Wilder Wenhaston has several projects that we want to start in the coming months, working with villagers and landowners, that are suitable for anyone interested to join in. The first is a heritage tree survey where the aim is to record significant trees in the parish whether by age, species, or their place in the local landscape. The process of recording is straightforward for volunteers to help with but needs to be consistent. To this end a training morning is planned for interested volunteers on 4th December 2022, details supplied on request via email below. Other projects underway include surveying, mapping and restoring ponds and hedgerows; gardening for wildlife, which will include helping hedgehogs and amphibians through recording, giving advice, and demonstrating what works through a series of open gardens. Future projects can include planting wildflowers along our roadsides and field margins, tackling pollution of our water courses and improving waste management. The more of us taking part the more successful we can be, if you would like to be part of any of the projects, or have additional ideas you would like to share please contact us wilderwenhaston@gmail.com. In time, it is hoped we will have a linked website on the village website and so if there is anyone who could create a site, we would love to hear from them.

Alan Miller On behalf of Wilder Wenhaston Steering Group

Wenhaston Blyth Spirits

The topic at our November meeting – Medical Detection Dogs – was a subject that most of us knew little about and so we were amazed at how many illnesses in their early stages, our special friends (the dogs!) were able to detect after a period of training.

It was a fascinating talk with video's and I think that many of us feel that there is much potential in using the dogs in this way and hopefully it will be researched more for its possibilities by the medical profession.

At our December meeting we shall be celebrating Christmas with drinks and nibbles! We send our good wishes for Christmas to all our readers and friends and to all the local speakers who have so kindly supported us during the past year.

Why not think of joining us in the New Year, we have interesting speakers on a range of varying subjects, and our annual subscription is only £20.00. Our January Meeting is on Wednesday 18th in the Village Hall at 2.30pm. and our speaker is the Revd. Alison Alder, who will tell us more about her visit to Israel last year. We look forward to meeting you.

Margaret G. and June T.

Wenhaston Mother's Union

In November we had an interesting and informative meeting, led by our Diocesan President Linda Ginn. We heard about the M US's latest project TRANSFORMATION – NOW, which is giving every member the opportunity to contribute their thoughts and Ideas as to how we might grow in membership, and in the ways that we can support others, both here and worldwide.

We were able to fill fifteen shoe boxes for Link to Hope and we are very grateful to everyone who gave generously to the Appeal. The boxes will be distributed to Eastern European Countries particularly Ukraine.

Our December meeting will be our Christmas Celebration when we will enjoy crols and Christmas readings and of course a delicious tea!

We wish all our readers a Happy and Peaceful Christmas.

Margaret G.

HURRAH!

After many pleas, blandishments even a gentle admonition or two, people have stepped up to the mark. The Village Show WILL go ahead in July 2023.

Now it's all systems go to make it an outstandingly good event!

Felicity Jelliff

Wenhaston Village Hall

Christmas Bazaar

Saturday 10th December

2.00 pm - 4.00 pm

Festive Stalls - Raffles

Café Open Homemade Cakes

Supporting local organisations

Come and enjoy the Christmas Spirit



To book your table (provided) - Cost £8 - contact:
Carol 07864 083296 or email car-mike@outlook.com

Tea and Symphony!!

The village hall was filled with music, scones, cream and jam a couple of Fridays ago, when the Black Deek Band organised an afternoon in aid of BBC's Children in Need Appeal. And the generosity of Wenhaston, and many beyond, was heart-warming. **We raised exactly £600!!** Of course, it couldn't have happened without the wonderful hard work of the volunteer bakers, servers, washers-up, flower arranger (Jill Daines): to all who helped, a big thank-you! You may be excited to know that the Black Deek Band are shortly going on tour (if the luxury Tour Bus passes the MOT and enough toilet stops are organised...) Where to? Peasenhall then Shadingfield. Tomorrow the world. Cheers!

Wil Harvey 🤪



Photos Viv Kemp



Soul & Motown Music Evening

@Wenhaston Village Hall

Narrow Way, Wenhaston, Halesworth IP19 9EQ



Saturday 8th April 2023

7.15pm - 11.30pm

Alcohol Bar / Food Van / Over 18's only

with:

**'Jonno's Soul &
Motown Review'**

DJ Danny Clegg

Vinyl DJ

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Limited ticket numbers

*Tickets may be available on the door on the night
but we recommend buying in advance.*

Wenhaston Flower Club

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed our November meeting, it is one of the highlights of our year, Roger's Christmas workshop. This year Roger showed us how to make a star, using twigs like sycamore and willow and then decorating it with seasonal foliage like ivy, holly and a few fir cones. Jean our founder member thanked Roger for continuing to do our Christmas workshop.

Roger helping everyone



Some of the finished stars

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 6th December, in Wenhaston Village Hall at 7.30 pm.

This will be our Christmas Party. Please bring a sharing plate of food (savouries i.e sausage rolls, pork pie, scotch eggs, crisps, etc or some sweet things (mince pies, cake etc).

We also have a secret Santa so please bring a present to pop into Santa's bag (no more than £5). Drinks will be supplied by the club.

There is no meeting fee for this event, it is free evening and friends and family are very welcome.



We are very pleased to welcome Jenny Baker who will be giving a demonstration with a Christmas theme before the party.

We look forward to welcoming our friends old or new to this special evening.

For more information please please contact Jackie Chenery 01502 478401

Autumn to winter on the marshes

In the rain of late autumn a flock of Canada geese flew noisily across the corner of the garden which edges the grazing marsh. Resident here all year, smaller groups now form larger ones which move around looking for food from the fields and the marshlands.

Various raptors continue to hunt over the landscape: the sparrowhawk plus the newly arrived peregrine falcon, both hunting other birds. They leave a similar scatter of feathers to mark a successful predation. I have recently seen feathery remnants of a blackbird and wood pigeon. The kestrel is seen often, hovering over the field looking out for mainly small mammals. Buzzards and the marsh harriers are seen over the grazing marsh and reeds most days, searching for similar prey.



A swan family with three large cygnets are now seen regularly on the river, usually towards Blyford bridge. I had not seen any cygnets this year, so it was wonderful to see them, having spent their first summer concealed in the reed beds. On another walk to Blythburgh, I saw a smaller family of two adults and one maturing cygnet waddling across the sheep field eating the greenery.

I was lucky enough to flush out a bittern recently from the reeds, as I walked the river

path. It flew up looking like a stocky heron, with fine black and light orange tinted markings and a surprisingly wide wingspan. It made a repeated low pitched soft croaking call as it flew. It settled further along and flew up once more as I passed, moving over to hide in the reeds on the other side of the river. I had only ever heard the

extraordinary booming call of one of these birds in the past, but never seen one in flight before.

The grazing fields next to the river have had shallow puddles most of the year, which are now extending,

attracting visiting snipe, geese, gulls and ducks. The little egrets continue to stalk around.

The plants which prefer salty and brackish water are multiplying on the grassland, transforming it to a sort of salt marsh. The birds are clearly loving it and finding valuable food to keep them going through the winter months.



Kate Archibald

Mr Geoffrey Steward Halls

A former local farmer and Church worker, Mr Geoffrey Halls passed away peacefully on the 20th of September 2022 in his 98th year. He was born at Leek in Staffordshire and wanted to farm from an early age. He attended Rodbaston Agricultural College in the late 1930's before working on the Home Farm at Ingestre near Stafford where he met his wife Christina. After renting a farm nearby they came to Suffolk in 1959 and took on a farm at Wissett. After a short spell considering emigrating to Australia, they bought a farm at Spexhall and became closely involved with fund raising for the group of Churches that included Wissett and Rumburgh, where they remained until they retired and moved to Foxhill in Wenhaston. Here they became very involved with Thorington Church. It was then that Geoff took up bell ringing and began a close interest in birdwatching. Christina had a massive stroke in 2004 and they moved to Derbyshire to access appropriate care. She died in 2016 but he remained in his own cottage until recently He was the ninth generation of the Halls family to be Church Wardens, maintaining close links with the local Churches to the end. His funeral Service took place at St. Oswald's Church in Ashbourne, and he left three children, six grandchildren and eleven great grandchildren.

Derek Newby

Mrs Ina Gray

Friends and associates joined the family in Wenhaston Methodist Chapel on October 31st 2022 for a Thanksgiving Service to celebrate the life of Mrs Ina Ethel Elizabeth Gray who passed away peacefully on October 14th in the James Paget Hospital aged 91 years. Born in Acton, West London, she moved to Wenhaston with her family when she was 18.. She became a

member of Wenhaston Stone Methodist Chapel where she met Hubert Gray. They married and moved into Hall Farm, Wenhaston and much of her life revolved around activities on the farm, including driving the tractor, caring for the poultry and for a time providing Bed and Breakfast for visitors. She had a staunch Christian faith and was a local preacher, pianist and organist, Sunday School Teacher and many other roles. She was very active in the community of Wenhaston. Her community roles included being a School Governor, playgroup leader and charity administrator. Even in her later years, as she became more incapacitated and entered residential care at Beech House, Halesworth, in 2020, she continued being a good friend to people through her letter writing and her telephone ministry. She leaves two sons, two grand-daughters, one grandson, two great-grandsons and two great grand-daughters. D.N.

Methodist Services December and January

December 4th Julie Warren

December 11th. Rev. Iain McKillop

December 18th. Carol Service. Rev. Martin Keenan

Christmas Day. Rev. Martin Keenan

January 1st. Rev. Iain McKillop with Holy Communion

January. 8th. Rev. Clive Sutcliffe

January. 15th. Rev. Pam Bayliss OIL.,/

January. 22nd. Rev. Iain McKillop

January. 29th. Rev. R. Soanes

St Peter's Church

May I begin by wishing you all a very Happy and Blessed Christmas. It seems to come round so quickly, doesn't it?

Our Two St Peters Quiz went very well. There were 19 tables and quite a buzz in the Hall. Phil and Denise did us proud as Question Master and Hostess and it was all very enjoyable. Both churches benefitted by £287.50 each, which was a very good result.

Each year the church donates a proportion of its income to charity and this year we have sent £131 to the Rural Coffee Caravan. £131 to the Waveney Food Bank, £262 to Crisis and £262 to DEC Ukraine. They have all sent their grateful thanks.

The church is hoping to have a Tombola at the Village Bazaar on 10th December and we would be very grateful for any small gifts for this. Thank you.

The Carol Service will be on Sunday 18th December at 4pm. We hope lots of you will join us to sing carols and hear readings to get us in the Christmas Spirit!

On Christmas Eve at 8pm we will hold our Christmas Holy Communion Service and all are welcome to join us. Apparently 8pm is midnight in Jerusalem!

Margaret Bloomfield

4th December Team Service, Halesworth 10am

11th December Please see posters

18th December Carol Service at 4pm

24th December Holy Communion 8pm

WATERCOLOUR
WORKSHOPS
WITH
ANNIE RICE
2023



Sundays 10am–2pm Wenhaston Village Hall £50 each workshop

- * January...Watercolour for nervous beginners
- * February...Wet in wet loose watercolours
- * March...Textures in watercolours

Actual Dates to be decided.

Register your interest with Annie on 07906011676 or email
anniericeartist@gmail.com

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