



March 2023

Wenhaston Warbler



**Wenhaston Village
Hall AGM
Tuesday 28th March
2023
7.00 pm
All welcome**

Please come and support
your Village Hall and hear
what we have done in 2022
and our plans for the future

**Wenhaston Village Hall
Hall Road, Wenhaston,
Halesworth, Suffolk, IP19
9EP**

Charity Number: CN 1001694
Custodian Trustees: Parish Council
Managing Trustees: Management
Committee

Refreshments afterwards
New committee members
are always welcome to help
keep the village hall running

If you can help

***Please contact Guy Chinery
(Chair) 07939211998***

or

guy.chinery@btinternet.com

Update on the new pedestrian access from Hall Road to Wenhaston Village Hall.

The following has been agreed: there will be a new pedestrian access, plans have been drawn up by an architect and costed by contractors which have been accepted by the village hall management committee, with a contribution from the Parish Council. The contractors will do the work when the weather improves.

Jill Daines and Jane Peters
Village hall representatives

Village Show

Aconites are spreading a touch of sunlight to the garden, snowdrops dance in the breeze while catkins shake their lamb's tails. In Spring a young man's fancy turns to thoughts..... but enough of that! Spring will soon be here and a young man's and woman's thoughts should be turning onto what to sow for the village show. Before long schedules will be attainable at the village hall to give guidance as to what to grow. Then in March, great excitement as potatoes in their buckets will be available. So turn thoughts into actions and make this year's village show one to remember.

Felicity Jelliff

Wenhaston Walking Group

Now we are moving into Spring, we revert to two walks in March. The first, on Tuesday 7th March, will leave Wenhaston Village Hall at 10am. The second will start at 10am on Tuesday, 21st March, leaving from The Lion Inn, Little Glemham IP13 0BA situated on the A12 (car park at rear). The circular walk will encompass Blaxhall and return to the White Lion for lunch around 12.30pm. If you wish to have your name added to the walkers' circulation list please email

ipbigwood@btinternet.com

Heather Phillips (01502 478545)

Wenhaston Village Hall Open Day

Saturday 18th March
10am to 2pm

Your chance to see what goes on!
Meet the Village Groups & Clubs
Have your say!

Join us for free Tea, Coffee, Soft Drinks
Cakes & Savouries



We look forward to meeting you!

**Join the Parish
Council and
make a
difference**

On 9th May 2023 all existing Parish Councillors retire as it is the end of their term of office. This presents an opportunity for you to help shape the development of the Village for the next few years by becoming a Parish Councillor. An effective Parish Council should have Councillors spanning

different backgrounds, ages and experiences: everybody is able to add a valuable contribution. There will be 11 vacancies and nomination papers are available from the Clerk, Richard Day (07500 210476) or from the Electoral Commission website.

If you are interested in becoming a Councillor, please contact Richard for either an informal chat or a nomination form. Alternatively, the Parish Council will be represented at the Village Hall open day on the 18th March 2023 and will be pleased to answer questions and provide guidance.

Peter Wildish

Library News

On Thursday 16th March at 2:30pm at Halesworth Library, Bridge Street, Halesworth, Abbie Clements, the owner of Halesworth Bookshop, will be talking about the highs and lows of running an independent bookshop and what motivated her to take on the challenge. Halesworth Bookshop is a long-established bookshop owned by Abbie for the past five years. It has survived the fire which destroyed neighbouring shops and it has weathered Covid. It is still going strong. Abbie wants everybody to share her love of books and reading and works tirelessly and innovatively to achieve this. She promotes local writers with regular book events for children and adults and can be found at many book related events in the area.

Regular activities will continue throughout the month - Board Games Cafe (Monday March 6th) and Sociable Sundays (12th and 26th).

There is no charge for these events and there is no requirement to book in advance. Please contact

friendsofhalesworthlibrary@gmail.com or the library on 01986 875095 for more information.

Mobile Library in Wenhaston

The mobile library will be visiting the Village Hall car park on Friday 24th March from 3.00pm to 3.45pm.

Nigel Frostick

Editors' note. The last date for contributions, and requests for ads for April, is the 15th March. Contributions to wenhastonwarbler@gmail.com, ads to warbler.ads@gmail.com.

We've featured the Village Hall and Parish Council in this edition. If you'd like to know more about the Hall and the Parish Council, then the open day featured on Page 3 will give you a chance to find out, while having a delicious cake or two. Or pop along to the AGM on the 28th, which also offers some cake eating opportunities while you give your views. New Parish Councillors will be needed in May, and it could be you. Finally, **the missing cat** is safely home, making Annie and Bob Jellicoe overjoyed. Welcome back, Chris!

*Soul and
Motown
evening 7.15
8th April, all
profit to the
Village Hall*

Wenhaston Branch WEA

The annual
general
meeting of the
Wenhaston
Branch of the
WEA will be
held on Friday,
24th March at
12.15pm in the
Village Hall.
This will be a
particularly
important

meeting as the current Chairman and Secretary will be standing down and resigning from the committee.

This will leave important vacancies which, if not filled by volunteers, will unfortunately mean that the Branch will have to close. Please let me know before the AGM if you would like to support the continuation of the Branch by joining the committee and being prepared to take on one of the officer roles left vacant: email

barry.norrington@btinternet.com “

Wenhaston Patchwork and Quilting Group

What a lovely day we had! There were 10 of us including the Linus co-ordinator for Suffolk, who gave us a short talk about what the Linus charity is about! After introductions were over, we started the serious work of sewing together our scraps to make some patchwork quilt tops. On the day, we managed to start work on 5 quilt tops, which was a brilliant effort; everyone pitched in, rummaging through our scrap bins and finding the perfect fabric for a colourful block. After working on the charity quilts, some ladies worked on their own projects which was interesting to see, and it is always good to see what other quilters are doing! We have some experienced sewers in the group who were generous with their time, helping the less experienced ladies. We also had some visitors who were curious to see what we were doing, and I hope they felt welcome as we encouraged them to come and see what we were up to. The next meetings are on February 20th and March 20th. We have a couple of spaces left if you would like to attend.

Contact Helen Jones at:

WenhastonPandQ@outlook.com to book your place.

Wenhaston Village Hall 100 Club

- Winners for February 2023 -

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

- 1st prize Roger Claxton (number 92) £37.50
- 2nd prize Nicola Flack (number 8) £22.50
- 3rd prize Cathy Sansom (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 £6 for the year starting from March.

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.

Wenhaston Save our Swifts Action Group



The first swifts have usually arrived in Wenhaston by the first week or two of May, having completed their awe inspiring migration from Southern Africa, where they have been all winter.

They usually return to the nest sites they used the year before. The young who fledged last year also return, joining their parents to feed on airborne insects, and check out possible nest sites that they can use a year or two ahead. The mature adult nesting pairs will build and settle in the nest for long enough to lay eggs and feed their young. Most of the time both the non breeding and breeding birds will remain on the wing, not landing, flying far and high in search of insects, and will provide us humans with the exhilarating sight and sounds of 'screaming parties' as groups of birds fly high and low over fields and roofs.

The Swift action group exists to provide information and support for villagers who would like to provide a possible nesting site for these remarkable birds.

Actions within the village:

- A 'Swift Pint' walk around the village to observe active nest sites, finishing at the Star Inn to watch the colony that returns each year to nest under the eaves of the pub.
- 2 count sessions in July to monitor numbers.
- Our swift flag is hauled up the pole in St Peters Churchyard when the first swift is seen in the village, and taken down when there are no more seen. 'Swifts nest here' tiles available. (Donation welcome).

- We are working with Wenhaston Primary School to attract a colony of swifts to the school roof.
- As a subgroup within the new Wilder Wenhaston organisation. we hope to enrich the conditions for migratory birds including the swifts, swallows, and sand and house martins.

Liaison outside the village:

We are in contact with local groups in Halesworth and Holton, the 'Save our swifts' section of the Suffolk Bird Group and the Suffolk Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty team. We are also part of the national Swift Local Network (actionforswifts.blogspot.com) and our nest sites are recorded on the national RSBP Swift Mapper.

Swift Nests:

There are currently six successful confirmed domestic nest sites. There are an additional five historically occupied sites that need to be confirmed. New nest boxes and some calling systems were provided to six village households. If any of you had a nest box installed via the group last year, please let me know how you are getting.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 23rd March at 6pm.

For further information email Kate

Cabot:wenhastonsosactiongroup@gmail.com

More information on the village website- Wenhaston. onesuffolk.net (VillageLife/ Environmental Groups) and information will be displayed at the upcoming Community Open Day at the village hall on 18th March.

Kate Cabot



Saturday March 4th 2pm to 4pm

Wenhaston village hall Entry 50p

Any jumble may be left at the village hall between 10am and 11am on the day.

No electrical goods or large items of furniture please.

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WENHASTON VILLAGE HALL

Quiz Night

Friday 24th March

at 7:30pm

Doors and paying bar open from 7pm
Teams of four per table; £4 per person
50 / 50 Raffle

Tickets from Jane Peters at the Village Hall
Post Office or on the door on the night

Quiz Master: Terry Cushion
Further details from **Carol** on:

07864 083296

Come and join the fun!

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Halesworth Branch Of Cancer Research

would like to invite you to our

BIG BREAKFAST

SATURDAY 25th MARCH 2023

9.30am - 1pm

HOLTON VILLAGE HALL IP19 8RZ

Serving Full English, Continental Style and Bacon and Sausage Baps.

Wenhaston Flower Club

On 2nd February a gathering of the club members met at the Huntsman and Hounds for our post Christmas meal. We have to thank Ian and his staff for the lovely food and for looking after us so well.



Everyone had a lovely time with plenty of lively chatter as we all caught up with each other.

Our next meeting is in our usual venue, Wenhaston Village Hall on Tuesday 7th March at 7.30pm. We are very fortunate that Jenny Baker will be back with us giving a

demonstration entitled "Going for Gold - The Chelsea experience". Sheila has very kindly agreed to continue doing the sales table. The sale of items from the table helps to fund the Christmas party we have in December in the village hall. Sheila has requested that if items like plants are not sold, could you please take them back home with you. If you have any suitable items that you would be happy to donate for our raffles, especially on workshop evenings, they would be gratefully received.

Good news the price for our meetings will stay the same this year even though the cost of flowers and demonstrator fees has increased.

We don't have an annual membership fee. We want it to be as affordable as possible for everyone so it's just £5 on the night which

includes tea/coffee and biscuits.

To all our old members please encourage any friends to join us and to anyone new who might be thinking about it please come and see us. Everyone is made very welcome.

For more information please contact Jackie Chenery 01502 478401

Wenhaston W.I.

We had the great pleasure of welcoming David Elliot C.E.O. of The Albert Hall. Described as the Nations Village Hall it was during David's time that the building underwent its £70 million redevelopment. Vivid pictures of the vast underground works showed how the hall went from a Victorian structure to the modern Concert Hall it is today. Capable of staging anything from the Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance to Cirque Soleil, and from 37 events in its first year to today's 350 events, exhibitions, concerts and leading cultural happenings, after 8 years of work – and the Hall never closed! Fascinating!

Wendy Mendham

Mothers' Union

We had a very interesting talk by Gill Frostick about the Food Bank in Halesworth. Gill told us how the numbers of people who use the Food Bank has increased along with the cost of living crisis. It is very sad that there is a need for it but we are very grateful to the volunteers who keep it running. Members brought along items for the Food Bank for Gill to take.

Next month on Wednesday 8th March we will welcome volunteers from the Lighthouse Project in Ipswich who provide accommodation and support for the homeless. The meeting will be at the Methodist School Room at 2.30pm and we always welcome visitors.

Blyth Spirits

We are really looking forward to hearing Wil Harvey telling us about his cycling holiday in Sweden on 15th Feb, after the Warbler deadline. Next month, on the 15th March we will be very interested to hear the History of Coopers, the hardware shop in Halesworth, by Philip Tate. All are welcome to attend. It is £20 to join the Blyth Spirits or £3 for visitors.

Margaret Bloomfield

Beach-nesting birds of the East Anglian Coast

Paul Davies, from RSPB, came to the Blyth Valley and Southwold wildlife meeting in February to talk about the range of coastal birds in our region. The main focus was on the endangered Little Tern and Ringed Plover populations, which often share breeding areas. There are several places where numbers of these birds are doing well, such as Winterton-on-Sea, in Norfolk. Here, abundant food stocks allow the colonies to thrive. Elsewhere, numbers are small, and help is needed if the birds are to survive. Kessingland has been home to little terns, and monitoring and encouragement there will hopefully see a more settled group. Predation is a major cause of nesting failure. Crows and gulls will take what they can. A major predator, the kestrel, can clear a colony in two days. Badgers and hedgehogs will take eggs, but these and all raptors are also protected species, so it is a question of how to discourage or distract them. Beaches are popular places to walk, and so small areas are protected. Electric and pop-up fences help deter animals and people, and there are even night-time observers during the short but crucial egg and fledgling period when thermal imaging is used, and foxes are quietly encouraged to go elsewhere. On some sand bars, nests are raised onto boxes if a storm surge is predicted, and this has worked surprisingly well. Paul emphasised the importance of the delicate balance between help and interference. All such activity requires the appropriate permissions, and is carefully monitored. Public information and engagement about the need for protected

areas encourages interest from walkers and dog lovers. Paul stressed how essential volunteers and local community involvement are for the future of these colonies, which might otherwise decline.

The passion of those involved with this work was evident, and we left with a clearer understanding of the conservation issues at stake.

Our next meeting is at a different venue: Wenhaston Village Hall, IP 19 9EQ, on Thursday, March 9th at 7.30pm. Admission is £4, refreshment included. Sam Hanks, the Wilder Landscapes Manager at the Suffolk Wildlife Trust, will talk about **Farming and Wildlife**. All are welcome.

Contact us at swtblythvalley@gmail.com

Penny Mansfield



Wilder Wenhaston - pathway to a greener future

Great progress has been made with the first projects initiated by the group. The steering group has split the projects amongst themselves and are seconding others to help achieve the aims. December saw 12 hardy villagers gather at Hall Farm to be introduced into heritage tree surveying. The project aims to locate and record what we regard as significant trees in the parish, some are very old others are a feature in the landscape. The trees have their circumference measured enabling an approximate age can be ascertained, their height recorded and their condition. Already we have found 3 oak trees which are over 500 years old, imagine how much history they have witnessed, if only they could talk.

The Wild Gardens group have produced a questionnaire to understand what people do to help wildlife and what wildlife currently visits their gardens, see last month's Warbler or check our section on the village website. They are also organising the Wilder Garden Trail on the 4th June between 2-5p.m. where a number of village gardens will be open to demonstrate how we can improve our gardens for wildlife and share ideas, plants etc.

Other projects under way are a countryside pond project where we are recording all the ponds in the wider village with an eye to gradually

restore them with the relevant landowners/farmers and to also identify 'ghost ponds' these are ponds that have been lost through filling in. A hedgerow project is looking to work with WildEast in linking up hedgerows throughout the parish and beyond.

Latest news A big thank you to so many of you for completing our Wilder Garden Survey form! We have received sixty completed forms and it's only the 9th February as I write, we aim to get an overview of the village gardens and our support for wildlife within them.

If you have not yet returned your form, please do – everyone counts, and we will carry on entering data until mid - March leaving the returns folder in the Village Hall until then. We should be able to give you the up-to-date results in next month's Warbler. For further information check out our pages on the village website

www.wenhaston.onesuffolk.net/village-life/environmental-groups/wilder-wenhaston/ or contact us on wilderwenhaston@gmail.com or use this QR code to go straight to the website



Alan Miller

Spring is Coming to Blyth Woods

Candlemas (2nd February) has now passed, Christmas wreaths long taken down and everywhere snowdrops are lifting their delicate heads above the dark earth. By the time you read this, we shall have our first daffodils; indeed, some may have already appeared in our gardens, drawn up by the light and warmth of the early sun.

The work of the Blyth Woods group continues, with the monitoring and maintaining of the bird boxes in Vicarage Grove and a careful watch kept on the trees and habitats there. We had to postpone the coppicing in the Grove until 22nd February because of bad weather earlier. The coppice stools will be protected from deer and rabbits by a splendid 'dead hedge' that was constructed by the AONB in January.

We are delighted that Suffolk County Council have given us a grant for clearing the pond in the copse on the left as you leave Vicarage Grove and enter Grove Piece. The sallow will be cleared before the silt is cleaned out. Work is planned to start on 13th March, so don't be surprised if you see machinery as you walk by: it's there on a temporary basis only. Meanwhile, changes are being made to update the information on the notice board at the entrance to Grove Piece from Vicarage Grove.

In our ongoing programme with Wenhaston Primary School, we'll be helping the children of Years 3 and 4 (Saplings) discover 'Tracks and Trails' through Merton Woods on 24th March.

Two dates for your diary:

On 18th March, we'll be appearing at the Village Hall Community Day in the 'Conservation Corner', along with other like-minded village groups. Do come and visit us and learn about what we do!

And a very early announcement of our AGM, which will be held on 25th May in the Village Hall. More details to follow.

www.blythwoods.org
blythwoodsl@gmail.com

Spring Update from Halesworth Dementia Carers Fund

Charity Football Match 5th Feb.

The newly formed Westhall Charity Football Club hosted a match to raise funds for us. We would like to thank Will Bird, Lauren Bird and Sam Jefford for organizing this wonderful event, and Sizewell Sports and Social Club for providing the venue. We'd also like to thank all the players, referee Marcos Allen, and Ipswich Town F.C. for donating two tickets that have been auctioned. A big thank you also to all family and friends who came along to support the teams. A total of £409 was raised for our funds, and all this will help us to continue providing services for people with dementia, and their carers.

Rotary Club Presentation

Teresa and Jim Fyfe attended on behalf of HDCF and were presented with a cheque for £350, the amount collected by Rotary and HDCF

members at the Halesworth Co-op in December 2022. Many thanks to Southwold and District Rotary for their continued support, and the Co-op for so kindly allowing this collection to happen.

Bryan Samain Book Sale

We are deeply grateful to local author Bryan Samain who has very generously donated all the proceeds from the sale of his book, *The Waveney Boys*, to HDCF.

Film Matinee

Our next film will be *The Railway Children Return*. This will be shown on March 15th at The Cut. Doors open 1.45 for a 2.00 start, and admission is by £5 donation. Please do support us, and come and see this lovely film.

Ladies Lunch Group

The next lunch will be on 21st February. Our January lunch raised £56 for our funds.

100+ Club Draw

The winning numbers for the January Draw were 1st 50, 2nd 71 and 3rd 54. The prizes for the February Draw will be £90, £60 and £30. If you would like a ticket, please contact Anna on 01986 872207.

Charity Golf Day.

A charity Golf Day for HDCF will be taking place on Wednesday May 3rd at Halesworth Golf Club, with the main sponsor being Suffolk Car Centre. The event is open to teams of 4, and if you would like to enter a team or sponsor, or help in any way please contact John Giles on 07789991046, or Sara Higgins on 07984435318.

We would like to thank our families that have donated money in lieu of flowers from the funerals of their loved ones. At their sad time it is wonderful that so many of our families and their friends think of our work, and put us forward to receive donations in lieu of flowers.

John Wood

Heather Hammond

Denise, Lindsey and Royston would like to thank everyone for their cards and kind words, plus offers of help, following the loss of our Mum in December. We would also like to thank Rev Alison Alder, ably assisted by Jonathan, for the excellent thanksgiving service given for our mother, Heather on 6th February, and all the help in organising it. We wish to thank everyone who provided food, flowers, and those who helped at the Village Hall to make the day run very smoothly, especially Margaret Bloomfield. Margaret was a good friend of Mum's and both of them, and others, could always be found helping at numerous events in the village. Also, a special thank you to the kind person who hired the village hall, which gave friends and family the opportunity to meet and share memories. Thank you to all who left donations for Guide Dogs and Marie Curie which came to a remarkable total of £581.

Coffee Morning and Cake Sale

On Saturday March 18th

From 9.30am – 12pm

in Laxfield Village Hall

**Raising funds for The Motor Neurone Disease
Association**

Come along for delicious coffee and cakes.

There will also be a cake stall (donations very welcome), raffle and exhibition of artwork by local artist George Cunningham.

**Wenhaston
Produce & Craft
Market
Saturday
25th March 2023**

10am – 12.30pm

In the Village Hall IP19 9EP

*A wide and ever-changing range of local foods
and produce, crafts, plants, jams & chutneys,
home-made cakes and more.*

New stallholders always welcome –

Pitch fee £7

To book your table (provided), e-mail:

Carol at: caz-mike@outlook.com

Raising funds for Village Hall maintenance

Methodist Chapel

A warm welcome and joyful worship await you at the Methodist chapel in Coles Lane. Every Sunday at 10.30.

Preachers for March are as follows:

March 5th. Rev, Robert Soanes, with Holy Communion

March 12th. Rev, Iain McKillop

March 19th. Rev, Martin Keenan

March 26th. Rev. Pam Baylis

To contact the Superintendent Minister, call Rev. Martin Keenan on 01502 560178

St Peter's Church

It has been lovely to see the snowdrops and aconites pushing through the soil and making us think that Spring isn't far away. Even some early daffodils are coming out which cheers us all up. There have been some lovely clear days even if it has been very cold.

We are looking forward to our Soup and Pancakes Lunch on 21st February. I will report on how it went next month. We don't have any fund-raising events in March but in April we hope to have Easter Lilies in church for people to purchase in memory of their loved ones. Also, we plan to serve Easter Teas in church on Easter Monday. More about this in April edition. It is Mothering Sunday on 19th March and there will be posies for the congregation during the service. All are welcome to attend.

Margaret Bloomfield

March services (To be confirmed)

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 5 th March | Team Service, Halesworth 10am |
| 12 th March | Holy Communion 10am Bramfield |
| 19 th March | Mothering Sunday 10am |
| 26 th March | Pause for Thought 10am |

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