

January 2024

Wenhaston Warbler



Happy New Year to all Wenhastonians!

As we begin 2024 we'd like to thank all our past contributors and advertisers, and we look forward to carrying on working with you all. We'd like to give special thanks to the little squad of volunteers who pick up the Warbler from the printers, and go out to deliver it to your homes. Thanks to all! There are so many people who keep village activities and amenities alive. Just one example are all those who put up the lovely Xmas tree in the village hall car park. It's a lovely sight. *The editors*



We are back to the 15th January deadline for your next items, as ever to wenhastonwarbler@gmail.com

The Moldova Project

Moldova is one of the poorest countries in eastern Europe. It is sandwiched between Romania and Ukraine. It has very little and needs support itself, but it is sheltering and caring for Ukrainian refugees. The Moldova Project is based in Horham in Suffolk and regularly sends out truck loads of aid to Moldova.

Do you have any preloved warm clothes you or your family no longer need or use that are taking up cupboard space and could go to Moldova? The Moldova Project also sends toiletries, nappies, dried and tinned food, blankets, sleeping bags and other household items. Times are very difficult but if you think you could help with any of these things or wonder if you have something that could be useful, please ring Jo on 01502478600.

PLEASE NO JUMBLE. Preloved items must be clean and have life left in them to warrant sending them 1500 miles across Europe.

Thank you.

Jo Small

Suffolk Local History Council

Our volunteer History Recorder for some years, Mr. Lyn Gedny, has sought new pastures and has moved from Wenhaston. We wish him well, but we now need a volunteer to carry on this very useful activity. Administered by The Suffolk Local History Council, volunteers ensure that the 'present' is adequately recorded at local level for the future. A Local Recorder will note significant events in our parish and collect copies of the Wenhaston Warbler, leaflets, election pamphlets, newspaper cuttings and any other items of interest. At the end of each year volunteers are asked to submit a short report summarising the activities of the parish. All reports are deposited at the Suffolk Record Office and are available to future researchers.

If you are interested, please visit www.slhc.org.uk, click on 'Recorders', then click on 'Recorders Pack' in the text on the left-hand side and you will see the guidelines. It is not necessary to be a historian and you

need no other qualifications apart from being interested in the parish of Wenhaston with Mells Hamlet. You can also contact:

recorders@slhc.org.uk **Or, contact Peter Wildish on Tel: 01728 652836 for advice on getting started.**

Surveying the Blyth

Over the last several months, Wilder Wenhaston (River Group) has been monitoring chemical and bacterial pollution in the Blyth and its tributaries. Our findings show significant pollution. So, to help restore and maintain a healthy river, we want to understand the impact of this pollution on the Blyth's ecology. The proposal is to assemble a team(s) to survey and monitor the ecological status of the Blyth and tributaries at regular intervals. This could comprise sub-groups with interests in e.g. river mammals, insects, plants, birds, fish etc. Although there have been some studies (e.g. by the Environment Agency and Suffolk Wildlife Trust) in the past, it will be useful to assemble an 'Ecological Map' of the waterways in the Blyth catchment area so we can track progress.

Expertise: There are several established guides and 'check-lists' for this kind of monitoring - most are easily accessible on line – and, importantly, these are designed to be used by non-professional 'Citizen Scientists'. However, there are many helpful organisations (Rivers Trust, RSPB, Suffolk Wildlife Trust, Environment Agency, etc etc.) and several local residents who do have professional expertise that we can tap.

Access: A significant proportion of the river is accessible to the public by footpaths, and many farms in the Blyth Valley Farm Cluster have kindly offered to allow access to the river on their farmland.

Social: This kind of monitoring lends itself to being a social activity, and hopefully would incorporate the ethos of walking/rambling and similar groups.

Local interest: A valuable spin-off from this should be to raise local awareness and hopefully involve groups such as local schools.

Please let me know (harveys@care4free.net) if you would like to know more, and if you have any specific area(s) of interest. If there is sufficient response, I will organise a meeting in the New Year.

Wil Harvey, Wilder Wenhaston River Group

Overgrown Hedgerows

The happy combination of sunshine and rain this year has resulted in a healthy growth of vegetation. It has been so healthy that some hedges are now causing concern for pedestrians and drivers of vehicles. In places, our already narrow lanes have been further reduced in width by the encroachment of hedgerows which are causing drivers the inability to see other road users. Also, some bushes next to pavements are forcing pedestrians to walk in the road. It would therefore be most helpful if those owning overgrown vegetation to trim it appropriately to retain visibility and safety within our village. Thank you. Note: *Without being alarmist, it has been known for East Suffolk County Council to trim roadside hedges and then present the owner with an invoice for the work!*

Peter Wildish

100 Club

Here are the results of the December draw including the Christmas prize:

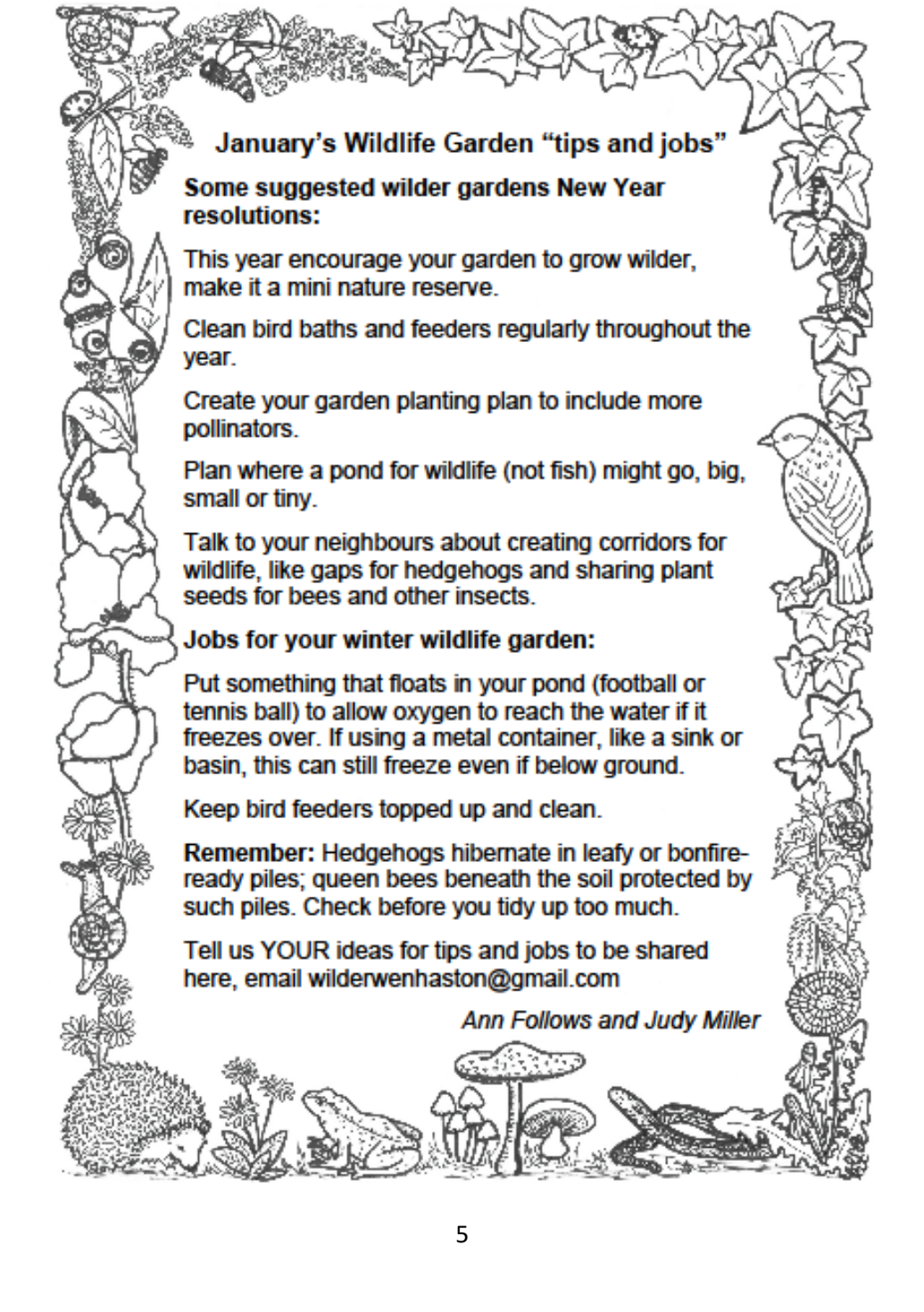
Xmas prize £50 ticket 168 Jenny Baxter

1st prize £37.50 ticket number 1 David Potter

2nd prize £22.50 ticket number 42 Margaret Goldstone

3rd prize £15.00 ticket number 18 Mac McKeown

Elaine Potter



January's Wildlife Garden "tips and jobs"

Some suggested wilder gardens New Year resolutions:

This year encourage your garden to grow wilder, make it a mini nature reserve.

Clean bird baths and feeders regularly throughout the year.

Create your garden planting plan to include more pollinators.

Plan where a pond for wildlife (not fish) might go, big, small or tiny.

Talk to your neighbours about creating corridors for wildlife, like gaps for hedgehogs and sharing plant seeds for bees and other insects.

Jobs for your winter wildlife garden:

Put something that floats in your pond (football or tennis ball) to allow oxygen to reach the water if it freezes over. If using a metal container, like a sink or basin, this can still freeze even if below ground.

Keep bird feeders topped up and clean.

Remember: Hedgehogs hibernate in leafy or bonfire-ready piles; queen bees beneath the soil protected by such piles. Check before you tidy up too much.

Tell us YOUR ideas for tips and jobs to be shared here, email wilderwenhaston@gmail.com

Ann Follows and Judy Miller

Heathside Lodges Wins Top Tourism Award

Heathside Lodges was crowned Best Small Lodge Escape destination in the East of England, in staycation specialists, Hoseasons, 17th Annual Awards. These celebrate those holiday destinations in the company's UK portfolio that have achieved the highest scores in independent customer satisfaction surveys in 2023.

Commenting after the awards were announced during a ceremony at Celtic Manor Resort, in Newport, James and Karen Wright, owners of Heathside Lodges, said: "We are very proud of this award – not just because it's nice to be voted the best at what we do, but also because it's a reflection of the hard work the team puts into looking after our guests. They do a fantastic job when it comes to providing excellent holiday experiences and that's why we have so many happy customers.'

Well done to all the team at Heathside Lodges.

Wenhaston Walks

Just the one, local, walk in January. We will set off from Wenhaston Village Hall at 10am on Tuesday, 2nd - enough time to have recovered from the New Year revelries! If you wish to add your name to the circulation list, please email ipbigwood@btinternet.com

Best wishes for 2024.

Heather Phillips (01502 478545)

St Peter's Church News

If it's not too late, all at St Peter's Church wish the readers a very happy and blessed Christmas. We also wish you a happy and healthy New Year and hope you will all have a good 2024.

Many, many, thanks to all the kind people who gave me gifts for the Tombola at the Bazaar. It was very enjoyable and we were able to raise £75 for church funds.

As I write, we are looking forward to our Carol Service on Friday 22nd December at 7pm. We are hoping lots of people will join us and have a

good sing. The collection will be sent to the Children's Society. Also our Christmas Eve Service is at 8pm. All welcome.

For January Services, see posters.

Margaret Bloomfield



Can't get to church anymore? We *can help you stay connected....*

For health or mobility reasons, some people struggle to get to church. During winter months some people find they can't cope with the cold in some of our churches. Other people can't get to church because they are working or caring for a family member. Blyth Valley Churches offer several ways you can continue to worship with us.

1. Online Worship.

- Our Sunday morning services and our Wednesday midweek Holy Communion services can be watched online via YouTube: www.youtube.com/@halesworthparish
 - There are regular services most days of the week:
 - Monday and Sunday evenings
 - 9.30pm Night prayer / Compline on the Blyth Valley Churches Facebook page. Search:- blythvalleychurchessuffolk
 - Tuesday – Saturday
 - Morning and Evening Prayer from St Mary's Church, Halesworth
- In person, or join via Zoom:
- 8am Morning Prayer *Zoom Meeting ID - 883 5778 9092*
Passcode – 607673
- 6pm Evening Prayer *Zoom Meeting ID - 850 0997 6304*
Passcode – 825686

2. Café Church via Zoom

Enjoy friendship and support with our regular online congregation every Tuesday at 10am. The service is simple and reflective. Contact Rev Alison to be added to our contact list. alisonalder@hotmail.co.uk

3. Holy Communion at home and home visits

A member of our ministry team or Pastoral Ministry group can bring Holy Communion or visit someone on a regular basis, for a chat or prayers. ***Please contact Rev Alison for more details: 01502 478855 / 07584 416277***

January's Tree Planting Plans From The Blyth Woods Group

Toasting the new notice board in Grove Piece



On Saturday 6th January a work party will be maintaining and weeding around the trees in Grove Piece from 10 a.m. Any volunteers for this will be welcome and tools will be provided. (No expert knowledge required!)

Wear wellies or boots, as the ground may be soggy in places.

The Blyth Woods group is joining forces with Wilder Wenhaston and other volunteers to plant the new wood on the Gowers' land and work has already started there. There are two planting areas this winter: an area by the new barn along Bartholomew's Lane and a new wood planned in the field known as the Norfolks. This field was a wood until the Sixties and we aim to restore it back into the landscape. There are several thousand trees to plant and we are hoping to have help from as many volunteers as possible!

The January dates for planting are:

Thursday 4th, Friday 5th , Wednesday 10th, Thursday 11th and Friday 12th. The starting time is 9.30 a.m. until lunchtime – and longer if there is enthusiasm!

The meeting place (with parking) is the New Barn on Bartholomew's Lane. Bring wellies and a spade. Do spend as long or as little time as you can spare – any help will be gratefully received.

As with the planting on Fox Hill last year, Mike Gower is giving permissive public access to the new wood.

Autumn in Grove Woods

blythwoods1@gmail.com

www.blythwoods.org

Patricia Elliott



Wenhaston Flower Club

We all had a fantastic time at our December meeting as it was our Christmas party in Wenhaston Village Hall. We were entertained by Jenni Baker, who not only demonstrated three beautiful Christmas arrangements but kept us amused with funny stories and anecdotes while she worked. Everyone brought a sharing plate of delicious food and the club provided the drinks, which we all enjoyed afterwards. Jackie presented Jean, our founder member, with a basket of flowers and said how wonderful it was to have Jean back with us after being a bit poorly.

We don't meet in January and our February meeting will be our "Christmas Meal" which, this year will be at Halesworth Golf Club. We will be back in our usual venue, Wenhaston Village Hall, on the first



Tuesday evening in each month from March, at our usual time of 7.30 pm.

We would like to wish everyone a very happy and healthy new year.

For more information please contact Jackie Chenery 01502 478401

Jenni and Jackie with two of the three beautiful arrangements which lucky members won in the raffle.

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