

*April 2024*



# Wenhaston Warbler



Wenhaston Blyth Spirits

## Rowing the Boat And much more! Danni Church

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Wenhaston Village Hall

2.30pm

Admission £4 to include refreshments

Everyone welcome!



## **Lionlink Offshore Wind-Power Connections**

On behalf of the residents of Wenhaston with Mells Hamlet, the Parish Council provided a response to the Lionlink proposals to link the UK with wind-generated power from the Netherlands. A copy of the response can be found on the Parish Council's noticeboard at the village hall.

A report on the Non-Statutory Consultation, which took place from September to November 2023, has been published by Lionlink and it is available by telephoning 0800 083 1787 or on the internet at [nationalgrid.com/lionlink](http://nationalgrid.com/lionlink). A single, hard copy has been requested and will shortly be available for viewing on request from Mr. Richard Day, Clerk to the Council, on: [1richardday@gmail.com](mailto:1richardday@gmail.com) **Peter Wildish**

## **Wenhaston With Mells Hamlet Parish Council Annual General Meeting 24th April 2024**

Residents are invited to the Parish Council AGM at the village hall on Wednesday 24th April 2024 at 7pm. An agenda will be posted on the Parish Council's noticeboard at the village hall in due course.

**Peter Wildish**

## **Wenhaston Walkers**

Two walks in April. The first on Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> will leave Wenhaston Village Hall at 10am. The second on Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> April leaving the White Hart, Blythburgh IP19 9LQ at 10am. Details of lunch arrangements at the White Hart will be circulated in due course. If you wish to add your name to the circulation list, please e-mail [ipbigwood@btinternet.com](mailto:ipbigwood@btinternet.com) **Heather Phillips (01502 478545)**

## **Invasive Weeds – ‘Alexanders’ in Our Hedgerows**

Alexanders (*smyrniolus atrum*) were brought to the UK by the Romans as a substitute for asparagus. Every part of the plant is edible – root, stem, leaves, flowers and seeds. Picked early, before the shoots

are tough, they can be used as celery. Flowers can be used as broccoli and the seeds dried and used as a spice. Even the roots can be roasted like parsnips.

However, they are now taking over our hedgerows and crowding out the native flowers, like cow parsley, cowslips, etc. You will have seen them encroaching all around the village. (see photo) There are various ways of controlling their spread: cutting the heads off the flowers before they seed, digging up the roots, or eating them !



See recipe below. As they are biennial, if we can make an impact this year, in a couple of years time there should be less.

**Alexander Muffins Rachel Lambert,  
forager)**

(makes 12-15)

100g wholemeal flour

175g plain flour

1 Tbs baking powder

½ tsp bicarb

100g fresh Alexander leaves and young stalks

350 milk

1 Tbs lemon juice

2 eggs

1/2tsp mustard

2 Tbs olive oil

4 Tbs veg oil

100g parmesan

Heat oven to 200c. Mix all dry ingredients together. Grease muffin tins. Chop alexanders and stir in. Add lemon juice to milk and leave for a few moments to sour/thicken. Whisk together eggs, mustard, olive oil and add to dry mixture. Distribute in tins with grated parmesan on top. Bake 20-25 mins.

***Ann Edwards***

## Wenhaston Village Ponds

Do you have a pond? Do you have frogs and newts?

Could our Wenhaston River Blyth Amphibians citizen scientists know about your pond life!

Having joined the Citizens Science monitoring the Blyth, I signed up to the Amphibians monitoring group. Newts and frogs are natural pollution indicators because I know that unhealthy amphibians are an indication of nutrient pollution. Poor water quality comes from agriculture, poor sewerage water treatment, road run off etc into local streams and the water table. All this negatively impacts environmental health. Scientists monitor these 'indicator species', because 'Amphibians' are key to determining the impact of pollution on waterways.

**Frogs, toads, salamanders and newts** experience a wide range of health problems due to pollution, ranging from skin microbiome shifts, which increase vulnerability, to disease, to morphological deformities which decrease survival chances.

Amphibians are one of the world's most threatened vertebrate groups. A 2004 assessment found that nearly one third of amphibians are at risk of extinction, so in 2024 there are probably less!

We are trying to find out what Amphibians are known to live in the Blyth River area.

**Caroline G Way** [cqway@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:cqway@hotmail.co.uk)

## Allotment Share

I would like to share my allotment with an interested person...it is down at the bottom end of Bramfield Road as you leave the village. Please contact me if you would like to discuss 07790310094

**David Smith**

## April's Wildlife Garden "tips and jobs"

Garden insects are re-appearing, some having hibernated over winter, others hatching or emerging from pupa. It's a great month for spotting insects as a feeding frenzy begins ready for the next reproductive cycle. We can help them by providing pollen-rich plants, some were recommended in last month's Wildlife Garden page.

Wild flower seeds can be scattered now on impoverished soil, they will provide a rich source of pollen and look beautiful right through the summer.

Bug hotels in our gardens are important and interesting structures, providing places for insects to hide away in. They can be easily built from logs, or old planks of wood or unused pallets then filled with hollow sticks, stones, pots, hay or dry twigs – anything that fills gaps between the basic structure. Here are examples from three Wenhaston wildlife gardens and one from Grove Piece, managed by Blyth Woods.



These are two useful websites giving information to help build your own bug hotel.

<https://www.redtedart.com/simple-bug-hotel-for-kids/>

<https://cdn.buglife.org.uk/2019/07/Build-a-bug-hotel.pdf>

Tell us YOUR ideas for tips and jobs to be shared here, email [wilderwenhaston@gmail.com](mailto:wilderwenhaston@gmail.com)

*Ann Follows  
and Judy Miller*



WENHASTON VILLAGE  
HALL  
PRESENTS

**A NIGHT OF CLAIRVOYANCE**

★ 27TH APRIL 2024 ★



7pm for a 7.30 pm start

MEDIUMSHIP ★ BAR ★ 50/50 RAFFLE

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TICKETS £12 from WENHASTON POST OFFICE  
or ON THE DOOR

CALL CAROL 07864 083296 FOR DETAILS

## Wenhaston Flower Club

We commenced our 2024 program with a wonderful demonstration by Janet Dye. Janet was a new demonstrator to us, but she inspired us all with some interesting techniques, especially in her arrangement of tulips and roses without the use of floral foam. We hope Janet will become one of our regular demonstrators.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 2nd April and as usual it is in Wenhaston Village Hall at 7.30 pm. This meeting is going to be something completely new for us. The evening is entitled: "Members Take Over" Some of our more experienced arrangers will be our demonstrators for the evening. It will be an excellent evening, and we look forward to welcoming you all. As usual it is only £5 on the night including tea/coffee and biscuits. Raffle prizes always welcome.

***For more information please contact Jackie Chenery 01502 478401.***

## Wenhaston Village Hall 100 club

The March draw took place at the Ladies' Coffee morning on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March in the village hall. **This month's results can be viewed below in the Warbler and on the Village, Hall notice board.**

### Wenhaston Village Hall 100 Club - Winners for march 2024

We are delighted to announce the winners:

1<sup>st</sup> prize £37.50 156 Peter Walker

2<sup>nd</sup> prize £22.50 151 Steve Corson

3<sup>rd</sup> prize £15.00 82 Robert Jelliff

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 £5.00 for the period to end August 2024, we welcome new members, and there are a few spaces left. Contact the promoters or forms are available from the Post Office where details of how to pay can be found. Thank you for supporting the village hall in this way and having a chance 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 Elaine on 07577431350 or Angela 07878241258.***

## Swift News

The swifts will be back soon. Let's make sure that the homes they had in the village last year are still here!

Most of you will be aware of the lovely summer sights and sounds of groups of swifts that fly over areas of Wenhaston from May onwards. The younger birds, who were born here, may not land at all and will fly around feeding, and looking out for where they might nest, when they are ready in the next year or two. These will either be holes in the roofs of buildings, most commonly under pantiles, or nest boxes put up by considerate humans near where known nests are. The birds will test out sites they find, or already know about, by flying in close and 'banging' with their wings around an aperture. This is most noticeable when they are checking out a swift nest box as the bangs are easier to hear. Birds that are returning to nest will come back to where they were last year. If the hole has been blocked or the nest box has been taken down, they will have to look elsewhere, or may not be able to

nest at all. It is vital that any householder, who is aware of a history of having swifts nesting in their walls or roofs, ensures that any renovation work done does not destroy a previous nest site. If there is no alternative to blocking a nest, then erecting a group of nest boxes may well provide a suitable alternative. Or a new build or renovation may be an opportunity to create a completely new home for swifts by inserting 'swift bricks' into walls, or putting up external nest boxes. It is thought that the loss of nest sites, as well as a reduction in insect numbers (swifts' food), is responsible for the ongoing reduction in numbers of swifts returning to the UK from Africa each year. Wenhaston Save our Swifts Action group is here to help any residents who want to know more about how to preserve or increase homes for swifts in the village.

Visit the Wenhaston village website <https://wenhastonmells-pc.gov.uk/village-life/environmental-groups/wenhaston-save-our-swifts-action-group/> to find out more about our group. We will be meeting in April to discuss our plans for the summer, which will include a village swift walk and our annual swift counts. Please contact me via e mail if you have any thoughts or questions, or would be interested in coming to our meeting.

**Kate Archibald**

**[WenhastonSOSactiongroup@gmail.com](mailto:WenhastonSOSactiongroup@gmail.com)**

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## Wenhaston Tennis Club

The Wenhaston Tennis Club is open to all abilities and new members are most welcome (fees available on request). We have approximately 17 members and ladies play doubles on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings starting at 09.15. The court is

available all year round, subject to weather conditions. ***To play regularly, occasionally or just a one off, please get in touch via our email account: [wenhastontennisclub@gmail.com](mailto:wenhastontennisclub@gmail.com) or contact Zena Grant Secretary on 0777595398***



## **Wenhaston Annual Village Show Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2004**

### **2-4 pm in the Village Hall**

Spring is almost upon us! Your potato (for the Potato in a Bucket Competition) should be chitting or planted but there is still plenty of time to start growing Vegetables, Flowers or Fruit. How about entering something for the craft or photography section? There is something for everyone, including the Tallest Sunflower (in a pot) Competition. You don't have to be green fingered, a Picasso or a David Bailey to enter and possibly win. It is the taking part that counts so please join us by entering to make the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Village Show the best ever. Schedules should be available hot off the press early April.

***Village Show Group***

### **Life as an artist, talk at Halesworth Library**

A lifelong painter, Suffolk born Tessa Newcomb will be giving a talk on the pleasures and difficulties of life as an artist, at Halesworth Library, on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April at 2.30 p.m. A painter of the everyday, Tessa's paintings have been described as the observed and the imagined intertwined, and reflecting the places she paints. Her pictures have been shown extensively in East Anglia and she has had 9 shows at the Crane Kalman Gallery in London.

Tessa is a patron of The Friends of Halesworth Library and supports their work in providing improved facilities at the library. The event and the refreshments are free but donations to the Friends are always welcome. As this is expected to be a popular session it helps if you would sign up in advance, by calling the library on 01986 875095 or emailing [friendsofhalesworthlibrary@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofhalesworthlibrary@gmail.com).

## Regular events at Halesworth Library

Did you know that the Friends of Halesworth Library organise regular events at the library? **Sociable Sundays** take place every other week (next sessions April 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>). You can drop in any time between 10.30 and 12.30 and enjoy meeting new people and a chat over a cuppa and a slice of cake. This event is free to attend but a suggested donation of £1.00 to cover refreshments is appreciated.

The **Board Games Café** takes place on the last Monday of the month (next session April 29<sup>th</sup>). It's open to all ages and abilities! There will be a range of games available, so join us and meet new friends, have fun and enjoy tea and cake in the welcoming space of the library. Feel free to bring your own board game along! No need to book. Drop in any time between 2PM and 4PM. This event is free to attend but donations are welcome.

*Catherine Draper*

### Thank you

Thank you to everyone who donated items of clothing, household goods, bedding and sleeping bags to go to Ukrainian refugees. I had so much donated it was amazing. You are amazing! You rang me up, dropped bags and boxes on my door step and were generally very



generous with some very good quality pre loved and sometimes new things. I unpacked, sorted and repacked and ended up with 27 banana boxes full to popping plus some larger items.

Everything was collected from me on March 4<sup>th</sup> so have begun the journey across Europe. There

will be more trucks going out in June and again later in the year so I will put out another request nearer the time and hope you can help again or if you didn't get around to it this time help out then. **Jo Small**

Wenhaston village hall

**Bacon Rolls and Coffee  
Morning Specials**

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> May

10.00 - 11.30am

Rolls served at 10am - when they're gone, they're gone! Mugs of proper coffee and tea.

Only £3.00

A great place to meet old friends and make new ones. We look forward to seeing you.



**ANNUAL PUBLIC MEETING  
Blyth Woods  
Wenhaston Community Woodland**

**7pm Thursday 9 MAY 2024**

at Wenhaston Village Hall

SPEAKER TO BE ANNOUNCED

**Working together for the benefit of our environment**

Everyone welcome – refreshments provided

for further details: [blythwoods1@gmail.com](mailto:blythwoods1@gmail.com)

[www.blythwoods.org](http://www.blythwoods.org)

## News from Halesworth Dementia Carers Fund

### **100+ Club**

We are delighted to say that our 100+ Club now has 136 members. At our March draw the winning numbers were: 113 (£100), 112 (£75), 76 (£50) and 118 (£25). If you would like to join the 100+ Club please contact Anna on 07721842802.

### **Seated Tap Dancing**

This is a new group that gives a great way to keep active and stay fit while having a lot of fun. It is led by Garth and it takes place every Friday in the Co-op Community Room from 12.30 – 1.30. New members are very welcome.

### **Family Carers Support Group**

An opportunity for people caring for dementia sufferers to come together, and get mutual support over a relaxing tea or coffee. Looking after loved ones can be so hard, and we hope that people can find comfort chatting to others in a similar situation. The group meets in the Co-op Community Room on Friday afternoons from 2.00 – 3.30.

### **Ladies' Lunch**

The ladies get together on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday monthly, so the next one is on 26<sup>th</sup> March, at The Angel, Halesworth. It is run by Arlette Smith who sends out menus a couple of weeks before the lunch takes place. There is a 50/50 raffle, and a box for small change or donations. In the last couple of years, they have raised hundreds of pounds for HDCF, and we are so grateful to them. It is a lovely friendly group which would welcome new members. ***If you would like to join, please call Arlette on 01986 469101 or 07717795581.***

HDCF is very busy seeking ways to help those caring for loved ones with dementia. We work very closely with the Pear Tree Centre and local care agencies. If you would like to use our respite care service, or come to one of our various groups then do please contact us and we would be pleased to help you. ***We can be reached at [info@halesworthdementia.co.uk](mailto:info@halesworthdementia.co.uk) You can also get a lot of information about our activities on our Facebook page.***

# OPEN GARDEN



SATURDAY 11th MAY, 2024

10am to 5pm

at

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(will be signed on the junctions)

Come and enjoy the garden

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The Waveney Valley Brass Ensemble

***Playing 3pm to 4pm***

**Plant stall**

Books, cakes, raffle, **BBQ**

Adults £3.00

50p children under supervision

In aid of the Suffolk Heavy Horse Society and other charities

As featured in The Garden News and  
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# WENHASTON

Produce & Craft Market

**Saturday**

**27<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

**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 £8**

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

**Carol at: [caz-mike@outlook.com](mailto:caz-mike@outlook.com)**

*Raising funds for Village Hall maintenance*

## Wenhaston Mothers Union

We were very privileged at our March meeting to have the Revd. Iain McKillop with us to lead us through his amazing Paintings of The Stations of the Cross. I think that each one of us who was at the gathering interpreted each painting in a different way, but were able to take something to help us on our personal journeys through Christ's Crucifixion. There was much food for thought.

At our April meeting we look forward to a talk about a visit to Kagira. This again should be a very interesting talk, and anyone who would like to join us for the afternoon will be very welcome.

Margaret G 01502 478378

## Wenhaston Blyth Spirits

Our meeting in April will be on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup>, in the Village Hall at 2.30pm. We will be delighted to welcome Danni Church as our Speaker, whom I am certain is well known to many of our readers as the lady who organises and rows the boat for the Southwold to Walberswick Ferry. This has been a family business for many years and I think that Danni will have a very interesting story to tell!

Admission is £4.00 which includes Tea and Cake. - We look forward to seeing you!

**Margaret G 01502 478378**

### Methodist Chapel Services

7<sup>th</sup> April Julie Warren

14<sup>th</sup> April Rev Iain McKillop

United service with St Peters

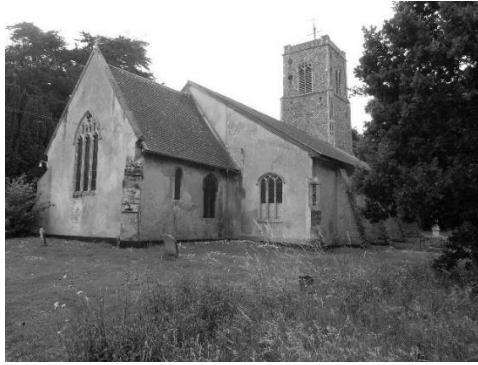
21<sup>st</sup> April Ms Pat Williamson

28<sup>th</sup> April Rev. Robert Soanes

All services at 10.30 am

Everyone welcome





## **St Peter's Church works with Wenhaston Primary School to achieve an Eco-Church Award**

We are delighted that the School Council at Wenhaston Primary School have agreed to help us gain our first Eco-church award. Eco-church is a country-wide scheme which recognises what churches are doing to protect the environment and safeguard the planet for future generations. Several churches in the area have already achieved their bronze award and we hope to do the same.

The School Council will be visiting St Peter's Church after the Easter holidays to look at all we do to encourage wildlife in our churchyard and talk to members of our congregation and community to find out how we try to save energy and live sustainably. To tie in with the children exploring what it means to be a global citizen, we shall also be showing them how we support Climate Justice.

If you would like to help us achieve our Eco-Church award, please contact me on [alisonalder@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:alisonalder@hotmail.co.uk).

More information about the Eco church award scheme can be found at: <https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/>



## St Peters Church

We were joined by our Methodist friends for the Mothering Sunday Service and welcomed Diana to preside. Everyone was given a posy and enjoyed Simnel Cake and coffee afterwards. Thank you to Louisa for handing out the flowers!

We have a service at 10am on Easter Day, which falls at the end of March and are serving Teas on Easter Monday from 3 to 5 pm. Hopefully you may receive your copy before this to remind you. The church will be decorated with lilies, given in memory of people, as well as Spring flowers.

Reminder of future events. We are having our Plant Sale on Saturday May 11<sup>th</sup> in the Church Yard, and are hoping to have a concert in church on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> July by Sing Out Yoxford. The quiz which had to be postponed due to flooding last year has been re-scheduled for Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October in the Village Hall. Please put these dates in your diaries as we need your support. Thank you

NB Following the letter inserted in March Warbler, I have been informed that people wanting to donate have had difficulty sending money direct to the account. The details are – Account name Wenhaston Parochial Church Council, Sort Code 20-92-08, Account no 10933155. Many grateful thanks to those who have kindly sent us donations. We are very grateful.

### **Childrens' Society Boxes**

I have emptied all of the boxes and taken the cash to Barclays Leiston and have received thanks from the Society, acknowledging that we will no longer collect cash this way. I was able to send £473.03 to the Society which is a goodly sum. Many thanks to all the box holders for their generosity.

*Margaret Bloomfield*

**April Services See poster**

ST PETER'S CHURCH  
WENHASTON

## Easter Lilies

WE INVITE YOU TO VIEW THE FLOWERS ON

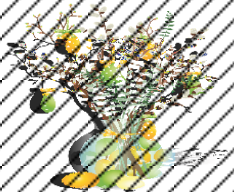


## Easter Sunday and Monday

Throughout the day

## Teas on Easter Monday at 3pm

Come and see the church decorated with flowers for Easter  
Donate a Lily or spring flowers in memory of a loved one



## New Wood in Wenhaston

We are pleased to report that a new wood has now been planted in the parish, at a location called "The Norfolks", west of Bartholomew's Lane. (Why the field is called the Norfolks remains a mystery. Any insights on the name would be welcome).

The trees were planted by volunteers from **Wilder Wenhaston**, just

over 8000 mixed native trees altogether. Planting conditions in the heavy and very wet clay were testing at times but all the trees found a new and permanent home.

Thanks to owners, Mike and Trish Gower, there will be public access to the new wood, along with its three restored ponds, and we hope people will visit and see the wood develop and mature over the coming years.





There is a footpath or “ride” through the new wood and 3 newly restored ponds to admire.

The Norfolks had always been a wooded area but had been grubbed up in the 1960’s to create another arable field. Thanks to all our volunteers and the children at Wenhaston Primary school who lent a hand to restore it to its former glory.



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<p><b>Accommodation Agency</b>  Local holiday cottages  Weekly lets/short breaks  contact Trish Gower 01502 478078  www.suffolkcoastalcottages.co.uk</p>	<p>Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone, Piano,  Keyboard, Recorder, Concertina,  Melodeon, Piano Accordion, Tin  Whistle, Lever Harp  <b>Tuition &amp; Performance.</b>  Marie Young  CTABRSM ATCL LTCL  <b>07917 484161</b></p>
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