

November 2024



Wenhaston Warbler

The Secret is Out!

FOR SOME TIME NOW Blyth Woods has been looking out for additional land to regenerate as a wildlife space – somewhere to improve biodiversity and maintain, in keeping with the aims of our group. We wanted it to be enjoyed by, and involve, our whole village community. We achieved this with Malster's Little Field in 2019, which was then an exhausted barley field. Nowadays it is cared for by us, with the occasional help of wonderful volunteers, and is an area where we can all appreciate the burgeoning diversity around us as we walk the path through the young trees.

On a damp, blustery evening in late September, our group met to inspect our newest acquisition. The land we have leased from the Wenhaston Town Estate Church Charity is a four-and-a-half acre (or 1.83 hectares) field, that was allotments in 1927, then in arable production for many years, with the same boundary as we are now leasing. At the moment it is stubble and weeds, much as Malster's once was.

On one side it runs along the hedge of Highfield House, on another, the path that leads on from Church Lane (opposite the Village Hall) and continues down to the Bramfield Road from its right hand branch.

It is here that our first step will be to restore the hedge that was removed in the 1960s and put in a gate through which the public can enter, shortly before the path branches. We will also plant a new hedge where the

boundary has no tree cover. We shall be investigating what we believe was once a pond in a corner of the field and either restore it or dig a new one to



Children from Wenhaston Primary making plans for the field

(continued on page 3)

Fri 1st & Sat 2nd Nov at 7.15pm

Sun 3rd Nov at 6.00pm

Mon 4th Nov at 7.15pm

Tues 5th Nov at 3.00pm

Thurs 7th Nov at 7.15pm

THE APPRENTICE (15)

Fri 8th & Sat 9th Nov at 7.15pm

Sun 10th Nov at 6.00pm

Tues 12th Nov at 7.15pm

Wed 13th Oct at 3.00pm

THE ROOM NEXT DOOR

Fri 15th Nov at 7.15pm

Sun 17th Nov at 6.00pm

Tues 19th, Wed 20th &

Thurs 21st Nov at 7.15pm

VENOM: THE LAST DANCE (15)

Fri 22nd Nov at 7.15pm

Sat 23rd Nov at 3.00pm & 6.00pm

Sun 24th Nov at 3.00pm

Tues 26th Nov at 7.15pm

Wed 27th Nov at 3.00pm

PADDINGTON IN PERU (PG)

Fri 29th, Sat 30th Nov,
 Mon 2nd & Tues 3rd Dec at 7.15pm

Wed 4th Dec at 3.00pm

Thurs 5th & Fri 6th Dec at 7.15pm

GLADIATOR II (15)

Sat 7th Dec at 7.00pm

Sun 8th Dec at 3.00pm

ANDRÉ RIEU:

GOLD & SILVER (PG)

Tues 10th Dec at 7.15pm

Wed 11th Dec at 3.00pm

SUPER/MAN: THE CHRISTOPHER REEVE STORY

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Sat 16th Nov at 7.30pm

ON STAGE. Tickets: £17.50

DS:UK ALCHEMICAL TOUR

Sun 1st Dec at 7.30pm

ON STAGE. Tickets: £19.95/£19.00

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create a wildlife source. At the moment we are proposing to plant five small blocks of new woodland, using native deciduous trees and shrubs, with grassland rides separating each area. The remaining area will be restored to grassland using natural regeneration, green hay and the spreading of



wildflower seed. Around this area we are thinking of planting an orchard of fruit trees for use by the community.

All plans are fluid at the moment and we welcome suggestions from anyone. We hope that this will be somewhere the whole village can enjoy and take part in caring for its environment.

Starting from the smallest members of our community, on 11th October we took Years 5 and 6 from Wenhaston Primary to explore the field and design a plan for the space. They are the ones who will inherit it in years to come.

In other news, we had a stand in the 'Wenhaston Corner' at the Halesworth Climate Conference during the weekend of 27th/28th/29th September and our Chair, Alan Miller, gave a very successful talk on the Saturday.

Patricia Elliott blythwoods.org blythwoods1@gmail.com

Wenhaston Walkers

The first walk in November will leave Wenhaston Village Hall at 10am on Tuesday, 5th. The second walk on Tuesday, 19th will leave The Huntingfield Arms, Huntingfield IP19 0PU at 10am, led by Louise and Andrew. Details of lunch will follow. If you wish to add your name to the circulation list, please email ipbigwood@btinternet.com *Heather Phillips* 01502 478545

Climate Change -Why Do I Need to Do Anything?

The October meeting of the Blyth Valley and Southwold Suffolk Wildlife group had a talk with a difference. The conservationist Simon Hooton gave a presentation in two halves. The first outlined the science of climate change, with many graphs and diagrams to explain the negative effects of the burning of fossil fuels over the last couple of hundred years – it made for grim reading. The global situation continues to worsen, with rising sea levels, huge changes in habitat, both man-made and natural, and extremes in temperature and weather as the earth continues to warm.

After a welcome cup of tea, the second half brought hope. Simon suggests that we can all act individually to consume less and think carefully about how our purchases reflect the wider conservation picture. We can raise awareness in our communities through discussion with family, friends, community groups and county representatives. Novels, art, poetry, and storytelling help to raise awareness in a different way, and Simon uses these tools too. These acts may be small in themselves, but together they can make a difference. On a global scale, there are many agencies, such as the United Nations, working to find alternative ways to mitigate harmful effects, and avoid over-exploitation in all its many forms. New technologies able to capture carbon is one positive example; sustainable forms of energy another. There is an increasing awareness of the urgency required to save and improve natural habitats, and find new solutions for our needs. We were left with the reflection that although there is a great deal to do, a better more sustainable future for our planet is still possible.

It was a lively, informative, and thoughtful presentation that was also entertaining and enjoyable. It gave us all much food for thought.

Our next meeting is on Thursday, November 14th, 7.30pm, in the Southwold Arts Centre, Cumberland Road, Southwold, IP 18 6JP. Will Harvey and Alan Miller will talk about the work of the Wilder Wenhamston group, and the River Blyth Project. Admission £4, to include refreshments, under 25s free. Everyone is welcome. contact us at swtblythvalley@gmail.com

Penny Mansfield

Flower Club Charity Night Success

Our meeting on Tuesday 1st October was our annual Charity Night for the Halesworth branch of Cancer Research.

What a night it was; after heavy rain for several days and lots of standing water on the road into Wenhaston we wondered if anyone would come along to support us.

We didn't need to worry, we had a wonderful turnout and a fabulous night with a lovely atmosphere, as everyone enjoyed the stalls and caught up with each other over a cup of tea. We were delighted that Jean was well enough to join us and able to make all the table decorations.



Sally and Maggie at the Pumpkin stall

Jane Bastow had a lovely variety of plants on her plant stall and all the craft stalls were very popular. Cancer Research Christmas cards were available and the other stalls included Tombola, Cakes, Books, Jigsaws, Bric-a-brac, Indoor plants and Raffles.



Julie and Suzanne's knitted Christmas decorations

We would like to thank everyone involved on the night and for contributing by baking, running a stall, serving refreshments, donating a raffle/tombola prize or sending a donation and a massive thank you to everyone who braved the weather and help raise a phenomenal

£1382.25 for the vital work of Cancer Research.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 5th November 7.30pm and, as usual in Wenhaston Village Hall, £5 on the night including refreshments. It will be a Christmas workshop and we welcome back Jenni Baker. The workshop theme is "Candles and Twigs – a Christmas Design ". Details will be available in the newsletter.

For more information please contact:

Jackie Chenery 01502 478401



Autumn Gardens and Hedgehog Houses

In November there's no need to be too tidy in the garden. Allow leaves to stay on beds and borders even if cleared off your grass. As they rot down worms take the product into the soil, improving fertility for next year. Alternately, bag up your leaves or create a leaf-mould compost heap. Running a mower over raked-up leaves speeds up breakdown. Leaving fallen leaves or hollow-stemmed plants in piles provides over-wintering protection for insects and small mammals.

In October, an outreach activity linked to the second Halesworth Climate Action Conference, will have taken place with older pupils from Wenhashton Primary School and staff facilitated by volunteers from St Peter's Church, Wilder Wenhashton's Wilder Gardens group, Blyth Woods and Wenhashton Commons Group. During the session, the children will visit conservation projects in the village and help construct a 'Bug Hotel' and 'Hedgehog House' in the churchyard.

In May/June 2025 (date to be confirmed), we are planning our second Wilder Open Gardens event, more information in spring 2025.

To share YOUR ideas for tips and jobs or request hedgehog or bug hotel plans, email wilderwenhashton@gmail.com

*Ann Follows and
Judy Miller*

Wilder Wenhaston Dark Skies Proposals

In May, the Wilder Wenhaston Group asked the Parish Council to examine ways of reducing street lighting in the village because evidence suggests that insects were badly affected by the bright lighting given out by the new LED (Light-Emitting Diode) lamps. The Parish Council therefore agreed to carry out some research with residents to the proposals. Two ideas were considered: a) to turn off lighting an hour earlier (lighting is currently turned off at 11.30pm) and (b) since insects are believed to react specifically to white light, it was suggested that every LED lamp is fitted with a blue filter.

Councillors engaged with neighbours and others, and the Parish Council received very strong objections to the proposals, several in writing. Of particular note was the safety aspect of residents walking on unlit pavements at night. The cost implications of fitting blue filters were also a factor.

Suffolk County Council lighting experts also reported that all the LED lamps in Wenhaston are 'dark skies approved' and that extensive investigations were made before the new lighting was rolled out across Suffolk several years ago. The investigative team included an expert of flora and fauna and this person was satisfied with what the County was going to do.

In considering the pros and cons of the Wilder Wenhaston proposals, Councillors of the Parish Council have not agreed to the Wilder Wenhaston proposals and village lighting will remain as it currently is.

Wenhaston with Mells Hamlet Parish Council

Wenhaston Village Hall

Bacon Rolls and Coffee morning special



Wednesday 27th November 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.

Wilder Wenhaston River Survey

Looking for invertebrates. How healthy is our river?

A keen team of three of us undertook to survey invertebrate life at six points along the freshwater River Blyth and the Thorington tributary river three times over the spring and summer in May, July and September 2024.

Invertebrates include a large variety of animals, examples being water snails, insects and their nymph forms, freshwater shrimps, water mites and leeches. Evidence shows that the variety and number of these in samples of freshwater give us a good measure of the quality of river water.



To take consistent samples of river water we swept a dipping net through the under-water vegetation only using 3 sweeps at every site. The contents of the net were then emptied into white trays so that we could extricate all the animals from the sample and then identify them – a learning curve for all three of us. River invertebrates are very difficult to identify to species level, so we decided to use the species groups as listed on the Freshwater Invertebrates chart published the Field Studies Council. A ‘biotic score’ is given on the chart to each group. The higher the score reflects greater sensitivity to water pollution, ie the need for cleaner water. Using this and numbers of animals identified we could then calculate an overall score which would reflect relative water health at each site.

We tried to ensure that both the sampling method and identification were always the same so that we could compare the results across these different geographic sampling points over three dates in the spring/summer months. Inevitably, with this type of survey some species will be missed, and some species will be misidentified but, overall, it is interesting to see that results were fairly consistent across the three months as well as consistent for all the sites.

The highlights were the several types of water snails including Ramshorn snails, cased caddis fly larvae (which emerge gradually from small pieces of tubular dead plant life where they spend most of their time), and water beetles, pond skaters, water boatmen and whirligigs near the surface. We enjoyed seeing freshwater shrimps flitting around the water in the trays, the odd water hog louse plodding around on the bottom, and the occasional leech making their way around more creepily. By the river we sometimes saw damselflies. We also picked up some small fish as part of the samples.



Unfortunately, it turns out that both rivers have a fairly poor biotic index score at 4.7, when a healthy river would have a biotic index of 10. It is noticeable that the biotic index at all sites goes up from May to September, which reflects the increased activity in the river during spring and summer. The score can however hide water health problems; for example, the biotic index for Five Arches below the Halesworth sewage plant outlet is quite high, but only small number of distinct species of creatures were found there, consisting almost entirely of only one group, freshwater shrimps.

Here is a list of types of invertebrates found by our survey, highest score most sensitive to pollution (10) biotic index to lowest score, least sensitive to pollution (2):

Stonefly Nymph, Cased Caddis fly, Swimming Mayfly Nymph, Freshwater Shrimp, Damselfly Nymph, Pond skater, Water beetle, Greater Water Boatman, Water mite, Flatworm, Water Hog Louse, Pond Snails, Pea Cockles, Leeches, Non biting Midge Larvae

Here is the table of biotic index results:

Bridge number and site	May	July	September	Average
7 Walpole Bridge	5.4	5.0	4.5	5.0
9 Five arches	3.9	6.5	6.0	5.5
10 New Reach	4.0	5.2	5.2	4.8
12 Blyford	2.9	4.0	4.2	3.7
13 Thorington Bridge	4.2	4.3	5.4	4.6
14 Brook Farm	4.5	4.8	5.0	4.8

Whole river index 4.7

All in all, this has been a very enjoyable and worthwhile activity, part of the range of river survey activities organised through Wilder Wenhaston this year.

We all certainly had a lot of fun getting out and about and learning more about our local environment and the life in our river. Looking forward to next year. All are welcome to volunteer to help. News will be out in future *Warblers* about further opportunities.

Kate Archibald

What's on at Halesworth Library in November

November sees the return of the Warm Welcome initiative, where all members of the community are welcome to stop by for a hot drink and light snack. The Library will also be offering hygiene products and a Kindness Rack (donations of winter clothing much appreciated!).

If you have little ones at home, join us every Tuesday 10.00-11.30am for our free Rhyme Time & Play session to sing fun songs followed by free play with our toys. We also hold a Time Out group for older people every Wednesday 10am, to make new friends and chat over a cup of tea.

On November 14th, we will be joined at 2.30pm. by Lucy Jensen to talk about her book *The South Lookout: our Aldeburgh childhoods*. Written with her childhood friend, Liz Lyons, the book tells of growing up in the coastal town during the 1960s and 70s. Please register to attend the talk by speaking to library staff or emailing us at friendsofhalesworthlibrary@gmail.com

There are two sessions of the regular Sociable Sunday events, hosted by The Friends of Halesworth Library, on November 3rd and 17th 10.30am-12.30pm where you can come along and meet new people over a cup of tea! The month is rounded off with Board Games Cafe, also hosted by The Friends, on November 25th 2pm-4pm, with a wide range of games to play for all ages and abilities.

You can find advice drop-ins from East Suffolk Council Customer services every Tuesday 10am-4pm and Barclays Bank on Wednesdays 9am-5pm. Citizens Advice have a drop-in every other Tuesday 10am-12noon, please ask a member of staff for future dates.

Catherine Draper

Wenhaston Village Hall



Winners for October 2024

The draw was made at the Ladies' Coffee Morning and we are delighted to announce the winners:

1 st prize	£37.50	Mary Wildish
2 nd prize	£22.50	Susan Marlin
3 rd prize	£15.00	Christine Buttle

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, for anyone wishing to join now, the fee is £10 for the period to end August 2025. We welcome new members – contact the promoters, or get a form from the Post Office (thank you Jane), 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 on 07878241258

Wenhaston Village Hall Ladies' Coffee Morning

Wednesday 13th November

10.30 – 11.30am

£2.50 for coffee/tea, something to eat, and a chat.

Every second Wednesday of the month.

Look forward to seeing you then.



Oak Class from Wenhaston Primary School help to secure the future of local wildlife



Following the second very successful Climate Action Conference in St Mary's Church, Halesworth at the end of September, village environment groups were delighted to work with the pupils of Oak Class to explore ways of protecting and promoting wildlife locally. The morning started in the churchyard, where

the children helped to make a splendid bug hotel and two hedgehog homes, under the guidance of Alan, Judy and Ann from Wilder Wenhaston. The class were then split into two groups. Ably led by Kate and Alan, one group explored how the Commons Group have worked on Blackheath to create suitable habitats for reptiles and to restore and maintain the sandpit area for a healthy population of sand martins. The other group went with Marie from Blyth Woods to look at the development of a new space for nature in the village. The children were given maps of the area and worked in groups or individually to think what could be done to encourage a wide range of insect, reptile, bird and mammal life to the area. They then shared their ideas with Ann, Geraldine, Alan and Marie, from Blyth Woods who intend to incorporate some of the ideas in their final plans for the plot.



It was a real joy to work with the children and to see them so full of enthusiasm for their local natural environment. As the UK faces a biodiversity crisis, there was a feeling of hope and optimism about what we can do to help.

Thank you to all who took part, including Mr Stone and the other school staff who supported the children.

Revd Alison Alder

St Peter's Church

Many, many congratulations to Revd Alison Alder, who has been appointed an Honorary Canon of St Edmundsbury Cathedral. Alison works so hard for us all and this is well deserved. We are all so proud of her.

Harvest Festival was very much enjoyed last Sunday. Alison took the service and reminded us that, although we have plenty to celebrate, much of the world does not, and also that many farmers in this country are struggling to survive. The church looked lovely with all the flower arrangements, many thanks to our loyal flower ladies. The schoolchildren had their service the preceding Wednesday and brought along loads of items for the Food Bank and Community Larder. There were wine and cakes after the service with much friendly chatter. The collection was sent to RABI, the farming charity.

Our annual quiz takes place on Friday 25th October. I will report on this next month, and we hope it will have been successful.

In November the Remembrance Service will take place as usual in the Village Hall Car Park and at the War Memorial at 11.50am, and afterwards in St Peter's Church.

The church is having a Tombola at the Christmas Bazaar in December, and I am collecting items for this, please.

November Services

November 3 rd	Team Service Halesworth
November 10 th	Remembrance 10.50am at Village Hall car park
November 17 th	Holy Communion
November 24 th	Pause for Thought

Suffolk Historic Churches Trust – Ride and Stride

Many thanks to James and the Gaze family who took part in this for St Peter's. I was able to send £347 to SHCT, half of which is retained by the charity and half credited to the church.

Margaret Bloomfield

Methodist Services for November

Nov 3 rd	10.30am	Revd Iain McKillop
Nov 10 th	10am	United Service at St Peter's – note earlier time
Nov 17 th	10.30am	Revd Robert Soanes
Nov 24 th	10.30am	Mrs Laura Lawrance-Martin

A warm welcome to everyone

Mary Montague, died September 6th 2024.

A friend of Mary's, Yuka, writes: Mary ran a B&B at Hinton, near Blythburgh, for several years in the mid-1980s. She was an active member of the Blythburgh WI and was the secretary during that time. She helped to write guidebooks for Blythburgh Church. Mary went on to live at Wisset for a few years and then latterly moved to Wenhaston, where she had enjoyed living since 2006.

People may remember seeing her driving around in her yellow VW with the roof down and walking her dogs around Wenhaston.

Jill Daines writes: Yuka has known Mary a long time. She was initially a student of Mary's and went on to be a lifelong friend visiting her frequently in between doing a high-powered job with a Government body.

Mary once visited Yuka's family in Japan, an experience made even more memorable as her return was delayed by the volcanic ash coming off in Iceland.

I'm sure we all have our own memories of Mary, but one that must stand out for us all is Mary driving round in her bright yellow VW with the hood down, a jaunty cap on her head, a sunflower on the dashboard and the dogs in the back! And for me the Scrabble was pretty good. Indeed, she was a lovely lady and I feel privileged to have known her and have her as a neighbour.

**A memorial service for Mary Montague will be held
at Blythburgh Church on 22nd November, 2pm.**

Wenhaston Mother's Union

Our speaker at our October meeting was the Revd Robert Soanes who told us of his work as a chaplain at the James Paget hospital. It was an extremely interesting and informative talk from which, I think, we were all impressed by the amount of time and caring that the chaplains are putting into their work with both the patients and the staff. Robert, who was known to many of us as a retired minister from the Methodist Chapel in the village, told us that they are on call both day and night and often the need is just for somebody caring to talk to. They willingly respond to requests from all denominations, creed and colour and often spend much time with the families of patients. Robert is obviously filling a much needed place in the life of James Paget and it was so rewarding to appreciate how much he cares about the work which he is doing there.

On Tuesday 5th November we are having coffee and cakes at Spindleberry, Narrow Way to raise much needed funds for the work of the Mothers' Union, both in this country and worldwide. We invite anyone who would like to join us for a short while between 10.30am and 12.30pm. There will be a few stalls – cakes, bring and buy and a raffle.

Please do think about joining us we would love to see you.

Margaret Goldstone

Editors' Note

The next *Warbler* will be the December edition and it will be in COLOUR. Please send as many pictures and details as possible of your Christmas events so that we can have a really festive edition.

Articles to wenhastonwarbler@gmail.com by the closing date **November 15th**.

WENHASTON

Produce & Craft Market

Saturday

30th November 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.

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Carol at: caz-mike@outlook.com

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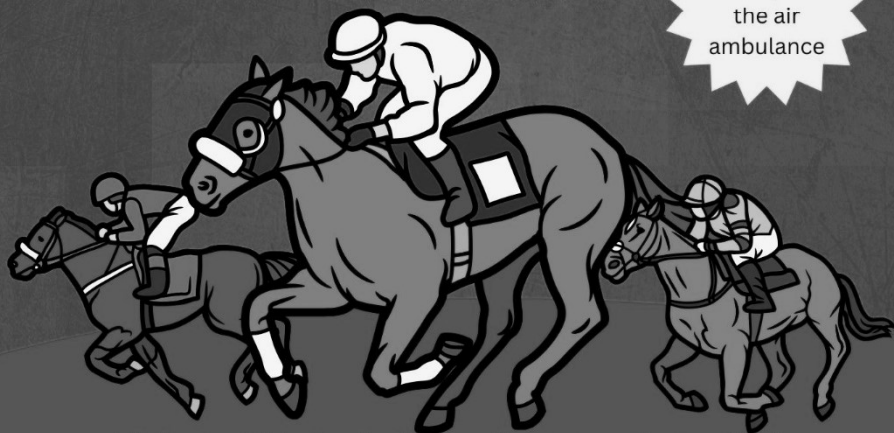
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Based in Saxmundham and staffed entirely by enthusiastic volunteers, the station provides a varied mix of programmes. If you'd like to get involved in something new whether as a potential presenter, or part of the studio support team, ABC Radio would be pleased to hear from you.

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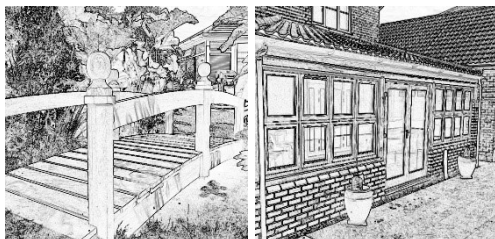
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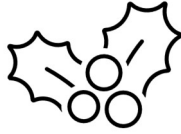
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