



April 2025

Wenhaston Warbler

Village Hall

50th Anniversary Celebrations

on Saturday 28th June 2025



Can you help us?



Do you have any photographs of the Hall from around the time it was built in 1975?

We would like to display them in the Hall for the celebrations that are being planned

If you have any other photographs of around that time of events that took place in the Hall, we would like to display these as well

Please contact Carol on: 07864 083 296
or email Carol: caz-mike@outlook.com





Fri 4th, Sat 5th & Mon 7th Apr at 7.15pm
Wed 9th Apr at 3.00pm
Thurs 10th Apr at 7.15pm

BLACK BAG (15)

Sun 6th Apr at 3.00pm & 6.00pm
Tues 8th Apr at 7.15pm

SIX: THE MUSICAL LIVE! (12A)

Fri 11th Apr at 7.15pm
Sat 12th Apr at 3.00pm & 6.00pm
Sun 13th Apr at 6.30pm
Mon 14th - Thurs 17th Apr at 3.00pm & 7.15pm

SNOW WHITE (PG)

Sun 13th Apr at 3.00pm
**ANDRÉ RIEU'S 75th
BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION
THE DREAM CONTINUES** (PG)

Find Leiston Film Theatre at
High Street, Leiston. IP16 4BZ.
Tel: 01728 830549
www.leistonfilmtheatre.co.uk

Fri 18th & Sat 19th Apr at 7.15pm
Sun 20th Apr at 6.00pm
Tues 22nd Apr at 7.15pm
Wed 23rd Apr at 3.00pm & 7.15pm
Thurs 24th Apr at 7.15pm
Wed 30th Apr at 3.00pm

MR. BURTON (12A)

Fri 25th Apr at 5.00pm
Sat 26th & Sun 27th Apr at 12.00pm

A MINECRAFT MOVIE (PG)

Sat 26th Apr at 7.30pm. LIVE ON STAGE

ABBA SENSATION

Fri 25th Apr at 7.15pm
Sun 27th Apr at 6.00pm
Mon 28th - Wed 30th Apr at 7.15pm
Thurs 1st May at 3.00pm

THE PENGUIN LESSONS (12A)

Sun 27th Apr at 3.00pm
**GIRL FROM THE NORTH
COUNTRY: THE MUSICAL** (12A)

Thurs 1st & Sun 4th May
**BONNIE & CLYDE:
THE MUSICAL** (12A)

An invitation from St Peter's

Easter Lilies and Spring flowers

ON EASTER SUNDAY, and on Easter Monday – throughout the day – we invite you to come and see the church decorated with Easter lilies and spring flowers.

On Easter Monday there will be teas served at 3pm.

Donate a lily, or spring flowers, in memory of a loved one.



News from St Peter's

THERE ARE SIGNS of Spring everywhere now: the daffodils are particularly abundant and the birds are busily preparing to nest. We did have a lovely sunny week recently but it has turned colder this week. It is quite early yet so we mustn't grumble!

We are now in the season of Lent and will celebrate Mothering Sunday on the 30th March, when we will serve simnel cake and wine after we have remembered our mothers and mothering during the service. There will also be posies for the mums, and probably everyone else too. We do hope to see lots of visitors.

The next festival will be Easter when we will have the church decorated with lilies and spring flowers. Margaret G has mentioned this elsewhere in this edition. We are serving Easter Teas on Easter Monday from 3pm.

Don't forget the Plant Sale in the churchyard on May 17th. More about this next month. *Margaret Bloomfield 01502478502 margaret@wrush.plus.com*

Services at St Peter's in April

Sunday 6 th	10.00am	Team Service at Halesworth
Sunday 13 th	10.30am	United Service at Methodist Church
Sunday 20 th	10.00am	Easter Sunday, Holy Communion
Sunday 27 ^d	10.00am	Pause for Thought

Methodist Church Services in April

Sunday 6 th	10.30am	Revd Robert Soanes
Sunday 13 th	10.30am	Revd Pam Bayliss – United Service
Sunday 20 th	10.00am	Easter Sunday – United Service at St Peter's
Sunday 27 th	10.30am	Revd Iain McKillop

Mothers' Union

AT OUR LENT MEETING in March, our member, Revd Margaret Rennard, gave us some very inspiring and interesting thoughts about the commandments, how we interpreted their meaning, and what they mean to us. This certainly gave us food for thought and some interesting responses. We are extremely grateful to Margaret for preparing this talk and for all the time which she had put into it.

By the time this issue reaches you, we shall have celebrated Lady Day at the Cathedral in Bury St Edmunds on the 25th March, when several of us will be present, and I will write more fully about the service in the next Issue.

At our April meeting we shall look forward to welcoming Ken Thomas, who is going to give us news of the Mission Aviation Fellowship, and I am certain that this will be another interesting and informative talk.

Anyone who would like to join us for the afternoon will be made very welcome, as are the three new ladies who have recently joined the Branch. It is lovely to have you with us!

Margaret Goldstone 01502 478378

Clarice Cliff

The Doyenne of Art Deco



SOUTHWOLD ARTS SOCIETY

presents an Illustrated talk by Viv Lawes:

Come and hear about this visionary artist:
her designs are admired and collected the world over,
a century after their launch.

Thursday 15th May
at 10.30am In the Village Hall, Wenhashton
Tickets £8. Refreshments available.

Email sallygoodsell3@gmail.com for more information

Bowls club open day!

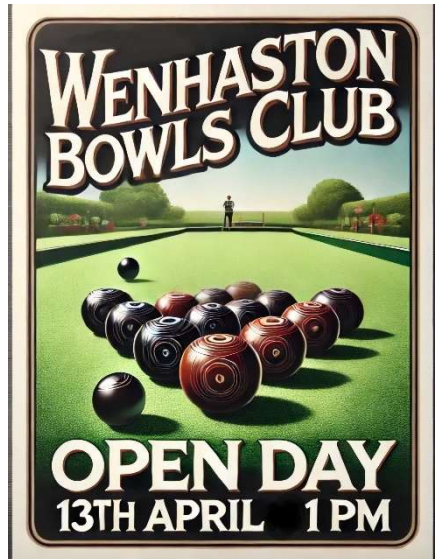
COME ALONG TO Wenhashton Bowls Club for an open day on Sunday 13th April from 1pm. (Weather permitting) No experience needed, free coaching available and all ages and abilities welcome. Teas, coffees and biscuits will be served.

Wenhashton Bowls Club plays in four different weekday evening leagues between April and September. However members can also enjoy the social side of things, with a social roll up every Thursday afternoon and the freedom to have a roll up whenever you wish (however not at the times of a home league game).

Located at Wenhashton Playing Fields, opposite the football pavilion.

Come along and give bowls a go!

Jake Moyes



Wenhaston Walkers

OUR FIRST WALK OF the month will leave Wenhaston Village Hall at 10am on Tuesday, 1st April. The second walk, which Ian will lead, will take place on Tuesday, 15th April, leaving The White Lion, Lower Street, Ufford, Woodbridge IP13 6DW at 10am. 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

Flower Club News

IT WAS OUR FIRST meeting of 2025 on Tuesday 4th March and we started the year in spectacular form. We welcomed Wendy Hawkes; it was Wendy's first time demonstrating for us and she produced four very different arrangements but all of them absolutely amazing and beautiful. We were treated to "a living wreath", an arrangement based on the style of the old Dutch Masters, a table centre using a Savoy cabbage, and two beautiful arrangements linked together by Phormium leaves. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the evening.



Wendy with two of her arrangements

Our next meeting on Tuesday 1st

April is a workshop with Nicola Wright, who will be making an Easter wreath. The materials required will be sent out in the newsletter or contact Jackie.

We will be meeting in our usual venue of Wenhaston Village Hall at 7.30 pm. The price is still £5, payable on the night, which includes tea/coffee and biscuits. For more information please contact: *Jackie Chenery 01502 478401*

Blyth Woods Group

Spring is Sprung

AS I WRITE, we have just had a tantalising week of glorious sunshine, though true to spring's typically unpredictable weather we are forecast to return to cold north-easterlies in the next few days! The warmth has brought out the daffodils, which are blooming everywhere in the village, their brilliant yellow trumpets shining in the sun. But daffodils are not just beautiful flowers: an extract of their bulbs is being tested to reduce the harmful methane gas given off by cattle, which would be a significant contribution to climate change.

Footpath Art

The weather in a dismally grey February didn't deter the creators of some wonderful Footpath Art. Their imaginative sculptures,



using natural materials they found around them, helped cheer us on walks through

Vicarage Grove, Malster's and Grove

Piece. Thank you and well done, to everyone who took part.

St Peter's Pightle

Huge thanks too from the Blyth Woods group, to all the volunteers who have helped us plant trees and hedging plants in St Peter's Pightle. We now have 3,300 young trees (and it's ongoing!) of 28 different species and the two ponds are starting to fill with water. Grass and wildflower seed will be planted in the open area when the weather is suitable, and fruit tree saplings in early summer. There is a special tree nursery section for the children of Wenhasston Primary, planted with their own school-grown seedlings.

Our busy programme with the school has continued. Years 3 and 4 found 'Tracks and Trails' in Merton Wood on 14th March, while Years 1 and 2 learned about 'Woodland Creatures' in Grove Woods, including how to make a bumblebee shelter, on 21st March.

On 28th March the children will be talking about their work with Blyth Woods at the Village Hall, 4-6pm. Open to all.



You may have noticed as you walk past the Pightle (which can be found on the right of the path that leads from Church Lane) a new gate at what will be the visitors' entrance. At the moment this is closed until work there is complete, when everyone will be welcome.

Blyth Woods Annual Meeting

Speakers now announced!

THIS WILL TAKE place on Thursday, 22nd May at the Village Hall, 7pm and entrance is free. The speakers will be the Suffolk Tree Wardens, Richard Frost and David Appleton, and it should be a fascinating talk. The bar will be open, with delicious free home-made nibbles. Make a date in your diary!

Patricia Elliott blythwoods1@gmail.com blythwoods.org

Thank you . . .

Peter Thomas Pennock

24.8.38 to 9.1.25

The family would like to say thank you for all the condolence messages and support we received following the passing of Peter, for all the friends, family, former work colleagues and football club members who attended the service in a full St Peter's Church, taken by our friend, The Revd Anna Wright.

To our neighbours, Lewis and Glynis and Mark and Julie, for helping at the reception and for the support and help given over many years.

Mary, Rachel, Stephen and all the family



Wilder Garden Trail

Saturday 17th May

A wonderful selection of gardens to view from well-established, to those in their infancy, all planned with wildlife and biodiversity at their heart.

Gardens open 11am - 3.30pm

Collect your map from St Peters Churchyard. Entry by donation. Accompanied children can have fun completing the 'I spy' wildlife trail—wild flower seeds for all participants.

Refreshments available throughout the day

Gardeners' Question Time 4.30-5.30pm

in the Village Hall. Put your questions in advance to our panel of specialists: Kate Ayre, Roger Best and Luci Skinner, chaired by Alan Miller, who will share their knowledge and expertise to answer your Wilder Garden questions.



*Wilder Wenhaston
pathway to a
greener future*

Ann Follows, Jo Jarvis, Judy Miller wilderwenhaston@gmail.com

Wilder Wenhaston Garden Trail

WE ARE THANKFUL to everyone who welcomed us into their gardens and now have generously agreed to take part in the Wilder Garden Trail on 17th May. We know you will enjoy seeing these gardens – small and large, and all encouraging wildlife and biodiversity. Hear gardeners' stories of transformation and their future plans.

On Saturday 17th May, the Wilder Garden Trail, open 11am -3.30pm, starts at St Peter's churchyard. Here you can collect a map, with a brief description of each garden, to help you plan your route. Ten gardens are open around the village. From those along Back Road and Blackheath, to those with views across Church Farm Marshes and the Blyth Valley. So do allow plenty of time. Entry by donation on the day, towards event costs. Limited parking is available along the route.

There will be activities for accompanied children in the churchyard, including a wildlife 'I Spy' to complete along the Trail.

Refreshments are available throughout the day: the Village Hall Café (as usual) 10am-12 noon; teas from 2-4pm; at Garden 8, 11am-1.30pm; and at *The Star* 12 noon-3pm.

Wilder Garden Question Time

Then join us in the Village Hall at 4.30-5.30pm for Question Time. Our panel of specialists Kate Ayre, Roger Best and Luci Skinner, chaired by Alan Miller, will share their knowledge and expertise to answer your Wilder Garden questions. Questions can be submitted by email (see below) or via the dedicated wallet in the Village Hall now, and up to 1pm on Saturday 17th May.

We hope the sun will shine to add to our enjoyment on the 2025 Wilder Garden Trail.

Ann Follows, Judy Miller

WENHASTON VILLAGE HALL
DOORS 7:15pm

SATURDAY 19th
APRIL 2025

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- 50/50 RAFFLE
- Food Bar
- Alcohol Bar
- Best Outfit Prize
- Tickets £12 in advance from
Jane at Wenhaston Post Office
or Karen on 07734 200624



Pollution in the Blyth

OVER THE LAST TWO years, the stalwart volunteers of the *Wilder Wenhaston River Group* have been testing and surveying the Blyth and its tributaries. You can read our report on the Wenhaston website: www.wenhastonmells-pc.gov.uk/

What you can do to help

It's all very well blaming the big players such as the Water Companies for polluting our waterways, but WE can also help reduce pollution!

You may recall in previous *Warblers*, we pointed out the hazards of pet flea treatments (kill river insect life) and detergents containing phosphates (overgrowth of algae). Here's another category of things we put down sinks and toilets which are harmful to the environment: toilet cleaners and sink un-blockers. Have a look at the labels on the ones in your cupboard, and you'll probably see "Harmful to aquatic life with long lasting effects", followed by "Avoid release to the environment". And guess where they go – down the drain, through the sewage works and into

the environment. Yes, and that includes the popular Toilet Duck type products. Alternatives? A quick look on the internet for eco-friendly cleaners will give you ample choice, for example toilet cleaners such as Bio-D, Miniml, Bower Collective, Ecolleaf (other brands are available!), and what's more, most of them sell refills to reduce plastic waste.

Wilder Wenhaston

Sewage spill on Wenhaston marshes

A few weeks ago there was a spill of raw sewage on the Thorington/Wenhaston marshes – noted as a splendid wildlife reserve and administered by Suffolk Wildlife Trust. Apparently, the main pipe carrying Bramfield's sewage to the treatment works at Wenhaston has collapsed. The extent of the damage caused is not known, and an enquiry to Anglian Water regarding the extent and duration of the spill elicited a response starting: *'As Anglian Water is not a public authority, we do not have to provide information under the Freedom of Information Act'* but

they have *'passed your query over to our Environmental Information Request Team so see if they are able to provide you with any information at all If they are able, they aim to contact within the next*

twenty working days.' I'm not holding my breath (well, I will when walking near the marshes).

Wil Harvey

Thank You . . . and Please!

A HUGE THANK YOU to all who contributed to the collection to go to Ukraine with Hope & Aid Direct. Twenty-two banana boxes packed full of food, toiletries, beautiful hand-knitted hats and scarves, an assortment of clothes and bedding will leave the warehouse next week.

I have a new request! Does anyone have any knitting wool they no longer have use for? Or knitters who would like to knit clothes for children in Moldova? Moldova is one of the poorest countries in Europe and has taken in a huge number of Ukrainian refugees. There is a desperate need for children's clothes.

I am going to carry on collecting for Ukraine. Carole Chaplin, a Hope & Aid Direct volunteer, collects the full boxes, and she has come back to me with a list of urgent needs. Apart from all the usual items, they urgently need towels, tea towels, bed linen, washing powder and liquid, scourers, tin openers, underwear, teenage clothes and sanitary products.

If you can help, please either drop off bagged or boxed items on my doorstep, if I am out. Or ring me to arrange. Tel: 01502478600. Address: 3 Blyth Close. (Not far from the telephone box!)

Jo Small

Editors' note

Contributions to the **May** magazine by **April 15th** please, to the usual address wenhastonwarbler@gmail.com



Winners for March

THE DRAW WAS MADE at the Ladies' Coffee Morning and we are delighted to announce the winners:

- 1st prize £37.50 Janice Claxton
- 2nd prize £22.50 Ellie Thompson
- 3rd prize £15.00 Jackie Harker

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 £5 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 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:

Elaine on 07577431350 or Angela on 07878241258

Wenhaston Village Hall Ladies' Coffee Morning

Wednesday 9th April

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 all



The Dog that Couldn't Bark

BEFORE YOU CALL the Canine Protection League, this catchy title is a new film from the creative hub of deepest Wenhaston (eat your heart out Walberswick movie moguls). And when the credits roll, **Paul Rainbird's** name will be up there in big letters. How come? A year ago, Paul decided to have a go at play writing, so he enrolled for a script writing workshop run by the Ink Festival. A bit non-plussed, I knew that Paul has had an illustrious (and award-winning) career in classic boat building and does serious house DIY, but I hadn't realised that over 20 years ago he studied English literature at UEA, where he met his wife Heidi, and then did a teaching diploma there.

Back to the *Ink* story: written as a theatre script, it is fictional – starting from a holiday memory of hearing dogs barking in the distance. He knocked it into shape over two days in Crete and submitted it to an Ink Festival workshop above The White Swan pub in Halesworth (future blue plaque...?). To his delight and surprise, it was read by two actors in front of 15 people, they loved it. So, a month later after a bit of feedback and editing, he passed on the script to

Henry Tomlinson for some further feedback and pointers.

Three months later got a phone call from producer, Henry Tomlinson (son of actor David Tomlinson), who said he had read and loved it and wanted to turn it into a film! Fairytale stuff indeed, but more: Henry enlisted world famous cinematographer *Stephen Hall* and – **Dame Maureen Lipman** and **Carolina Gonnelli** to star in it. Oh, and **Betty the Labrador** from Barking Mad Dog Training at Ilketshall St Lawrence.

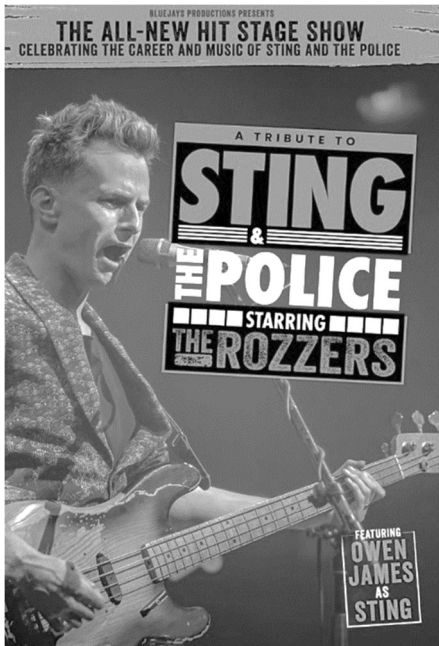
The film is a bit of a Wenhaston family affair as well, with son-in-law *Jack Northover* composing and making the soundtrack, and *Heidi* doing some nifty hairdressing... From inception to finished film in approximately 13 months, its Private Charity Premiere is at The Cut on April 4th (if you're lucky there might be a few tickets left, and the charity is 'Survivors in Transition' based in Ipswich). It will subsequently be screened at 50 film festivals worldwide in the popular short film format at 22 minutes long. Short films such as this are regarded as a calling card for bigger full-length films. The story? All I can tell you is it's moving, poignant,

(Paul says he has a tear in his eye at the end every time he watches it) has thought-provoking plot-twists and of course is brilliantly acted and filmed!

The future? Paul is already at work on several new stage scripts; who

knows – **Rainbird Productions (Wenhaston)** has a certain ring to it... And yes, hopefully we will be able to screen it at the Village Hall, maybe even with a guest appearance by the author!

Wil Harvey



The UK's No.1 tribute act to Sting and The Police will be making a special appearance at Leiston Film Theatre on Saturday 3rd May.

Tickets are now available from the box office on 01728 830549 and via the venue's website at: www.leistonfilmtheatre.co.uk

WENHASTON

Produce & Craft Market

Saturday

26th April & 31st May 2025

10am – 12.30pm

In the Village Hall IP19 9EP

A wide and ever-changing range of local foods and produce, crafts, plants, home baking and pre-loved treasures.

New stallholders always welcome...Stall Fee £8

To book your stall (provided) contact:

Carol

Tel: 01502 478732

Email: caz-mike@outlook.com

Raising funds for Village Hall maintenance

Halesworth Library

Spring into a good book this April!

AS WE WELCOME the warmer months, take advantage of our lovely garden at Halesworth Library and choose a book to read out in the sun! Or if you're looking to keep your little ones entertained throughout the Easter holidays, we will have different activities, games and books (of course!) out every day for everyone to enjoy. Every Saturday, 12-1pm, we have a new drop-in Lego Club and on Sunday 13th and 27th, 10.30-11.30am we have 'Family Board Game Club'. On Saturday 19th April, 11am-12 noon, come along to make some Easter baskets in preparation for Easter Sunday! Please note that the library will be closed on Friday 18th, Sunday 20th and Monday 21st April, in line with the Easter bank holidays.

There's still time to book a place to attend the 'Thursday Book Talk' on Thursday 27th March at 7.30pm (not 2.30pm as stated in last month's Warbler). The Friends of Halesworth Library welcome author, Natalie Meg Evans, to celebrate the debut of *Murder at Merry Beggars Hall* written under her new guise as mystery writer, Kay Blythe. Where do the ideas

come from, how many twists make a plot and most intriguing of all, Whodunnit... and why? To find out, call us on 01986 875095 or email friendsofhalesworthlibrary@gmail.com to book your place.

Our usual programme of events will continue throughout the month, so bring your little ones along 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. There will also be a session of Sociable Sundays on 6th and 20th April, 10.30am-12.30pm, and Board Games Café on Monday 31st March and Monday 28th April 2-4.30pm, both hosted and run by volunteers of the Friends of Halesworth Library.

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-12 noon – please ask a member of staff for future

dates. Did you know that the library can deliver books to your home? If you're unable to visit us at the library, one of our volunteers

can come to you. Please contact us on 01986 875095 for further information. *Catherine Draper*

A Life Working in Landscape

THE FEBRUARY MEETING of the local Blyth Valley and Southwold group of the Suffolk Wildlife Trust welcomed Anne Westover to talk about her life-long love of working in the countryside. Trained as a landscape architect, Anne has worked in many areas, from the leafy sections of Welwyn Garden City, to Leeds, to Norwich County Council, and now to smaller, local projects. She was involved in the preservation of old and significant trees, and in the overall maintenance of green areas. The beautiful Kett's Heights, above Norwich, was restored recently by the council, together with volunteers, and Anne designed the new metal gates there. It is well worth the climb. Keeping and planting screening trees was part of Anne's brief, and many of the pine trees at Sutton Hoo remain as a result, and are now very much part of that landscape.

There is much work being carried out at local level. Hedgerows that are over thirty years old now need permission to be grubbed out, and Suffolk hedges have been surveyed at a parish level to help provide this information. Local volunteer Tree Wardens help to propagate young trees, and involve the community in learning about and managing trees and hedgerows. Cemeteries can be havens for growing local species, and Wickham Market and Woodbridge were mentioned. Our native black poplar is in decline, and there are efforts to increase their numbers locally, for example, in Wenhasston.

Anne's job gave her a very wide brief, and her work with different councils gave us an idea of how decisions are made, and how tree and hedge management is carried out. It was an interesting and informative evening.

Our next meeting is on Thursday, March 13th at 7.30pm. Simon Dudhill from the Hawk and Owl Trust will tell us about his work with barn owls and red kites. This is our annual visit to the Village Hall, Hall Road, Wenhasston IP19 9EP. Entrance is £4, to include refreshments. All are welcome. Under 25s free. *Penny Mansfield: contact us at swtblythvalley@gmail.com*

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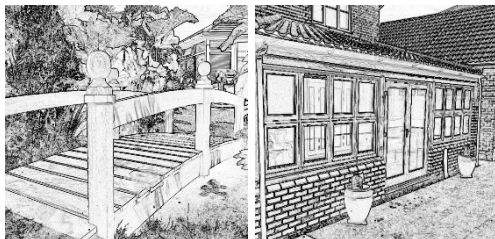
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