



# *The* **Wenhaston Warbler**

*January 2026*



## **Christmas at St Peter's Church**

**Family Crib Service** Christmas Eve 4pm

*followed by*

**Holy Communion** Christmas Eve 5pm

Christmas Eve is a hectic time, and by late afternoon children are often getting over-excited. This year we are holding a short candle-lit Crib Service at 4pm on Christmas Eve. Suitable for people of all ages, but especially for children and grandchildren, this will be a time to reflect on the Christmas story and what it means for us. The service will be followed by Holy Communion at 5pm. You are welcome to come to one service or both.

*Revd Alison Alder*



Fri 2nd Jan at 2.00pm

Sat 3rd Jan at 6.00pm

**GOODBYE JUNE** (15)

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Fri 9th - Sun 11th Jan. LIVE ON STAGE



FINAL FEW TICKETS STILL AVAILABLE

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Mon 12th - Thurs 15th Jan, 7.15pm

**ANACONDA** (12A)

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Fri 16th Jan at 7.00pm

Sat 17th Jan at 6.00pm

Sun 18th Jan at 2.00pm

**AVATAR: FIRE AND ASH** (12A)

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Sun 18th Jan at 6.00pm

Sun 25th Jan at 3.00pm

**BECOMING VICTORIA WOOD**  
(12A)

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[www.leistonfilmtheatre.co.uk](http://www.leistonfilmtheatre.co.uk)

Mon 19th & Tues 20th Jan at 7.15pm

Wed 21st Jan at 2.00pm & 7.15pm

Thurs 22nd Jan at 7.15pm

**SONG SUNG BLUE** (12A)

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**LIVE ENTERTAINMENT  
ON STAGE IN 2026**

Sat 28th Feb at 7.30pm

**THE ALTER EAGLES**

Sat 21st Mar at 7.30pm

**THE STADIUM**

**ROCK EXPERIENCE**

Fri 17th Apr at 7.30pm

**THE ELO ENCOUNTER**

Sat 3rd May at 7.30pm

**AT THE HOP**

**THE HITS OF THE 50s & 60s**

SUN 6th June at 7.30pm

**SHADES OF SIMON**

**THE PAUL SIMON STORY**

Sat 4th July at 7.30pm

**GENERATION ROCK**

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# How we are helping **Local Farmland Birds**

**F**ARMLAND BIRDS HAVE DECLINED in numbers by some 62% since the 1970s – with birds such as turtle dove by 90%. Modern farming methods, especially for wintering birds, mean there is little natural food left in the countryside. Fields are sprayed with herbicide so there are no weed seeds available. Modern harvesting machinery is very efficient leaving no spilt grain, and storage at farmyards excludes access for all forms of wildlife.



**Male yellowhammer**



We are getting ready to start feeding our farmland birds over the “hungry months” that lie ahead. In the photo you can see 3.5 tonnes of a mix of barley, white millet, black sunflowers, red millet, plain canary and rape, all bagged up and ready to be deployed. Imagine feeding that quantity to your garden birds.

Here at Old Hall Farm, we have created more space for wildlife over the past decade or so. We have restored hedges, created better field margins, let hedges grow a little taller and wider, and planted thousands of new trees. The habitat is now much more capable of supporting a larger population of farmland birds such as thrushes, chaffinches, linnets and yellowhammers; but there is still a problem with birds starving over the winter months. Hopefully the new ration will help birds overwinter successfully and put them in a better condition for successful breeding in the spring.

Alan Miller and friends from *Wilder Wenhaston* will be counting and ringing birds throughout the winter and spring, so that we can track population changes more accurately. Following regular feeding in the past two winters we have seen flocks of over 500 linnets, and 50+ yellowhammers and reed buntings, taking advantage of the extra feed. The government Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI) pays for the feed, but getting the feed from the barn

to the field rests with the landowner; so every week through to spring we are spreading seed beside selected hedgerows where the birds can feed safely – the hedge providing a safe refuge from predators.

*Wilder Wenhaston* is working with local landowners by helping to plant new hedges and gapping up old ones to provide connectivity throughout the parish and providing nest boxes for barn owls and other species to help increase the local populations. *Old Hall Farm and Wilder Wenhaston*

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## Come and Plough a Furrow . . .

- On a 1938 Standard Fordson two Furrow Trailed Plough
- Have a ride on a modern-day tractor plough (see how it all works)
- See a 1928 Caterpillar 60 with a Boardwalk Plough in action
- See a 1934 Case Crawler ploughing with a 2-furrow trailed plough
- Have a ride on a Pony Trap pulled by something Old



On **Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> January**  
10am-4pm  
**in the field opposite  
The Star**

**Bacon Rolls  
and Hot Drinks**  
will be available

**Live Music** from  
The Black Deek Band  
(weather permitting)

Please contact Arthur Musk n 07827 018 896

*By kind permission of The Leech Family*

**All donations to Wenhaston Church**

# News from St Peter's

**B**EGIN THIS REPORT BY WISHING all our readers a very Happy Christmas and a blessed and peaceful New Year. I do hope you enjoy your festivities and that the New Year will bring you many blessings.

It is the time of year to thank all our generous supporters who give their time and money to keep St Peter's running smoothly. Mainly we send our grateful thanks to our Churchwarden, Jonathan, for all the time he spends and his enthusiasm. Many thanks also to our clergy for taking our services, to the PCC, to our coffee makers, readers and sidesmen. The flower arrangers make the church look welcoming and inviting, and the cleaners do a fine job – so many thanks. Thank you to those on the church opening rota, quite a challenging task when the weather is bad. The bell ringers call us all to church, so thanks to them. We are truly blessed.

**O**n 11<sup>th</sup> January, Arthur Musk is arranging another Tractor Rally Day in aid of Church Funds. It will be held on the field at the end of St Michael's Way, and there will be refreshments served by the Village Hall Committee. Do come along and drive a tractor, or watch others do so. We are hoping for fine weather. *Margaret Bloomfield 01502478502 [margaret@wrush.plus.com](mailto:margaret@wrush.plus.com)*

## Services at St Peter's in January

Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup>	10am	Team Service Halesworth
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup>	10am	Ecumenical Communion
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup>	10am	Holy Communion
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup>	10am	Pause for Thought

## Methodist Church Services in January

Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Mrs Sue Groome
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup>	<b>10.00am</b>	United Service at St Peter's
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Rev Pam Bayliss
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Rev Iain Mckillop



## Test your knowledge of *Wildlife* with our Big Quiz!

In the Village Hall  
on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January at 7pm

A table for four is £20

Book via Jane at the Post Office,  
or email: [blythwoods1@gmail.co](mailto:blythwoods1@gmail.co)  
[wenhastoncommonsgroup@gmail.com](mailto:wenhastoncommonsgroup@gmail.com)  
or pay at the door.

A fun way to test your  
*wildlife* knowledge!

Wenhaston

Commons

Group



Caring for the Commons

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## Happy New Year!

**T**HANK YOU TO ALL THE FAMILIES who add sparkle to the village with their lovely Christmas decorations.

At the time of writing news from **Ukraine** continues to be grim. I have had my pause in collecting pre-loved items to send out, and would now ask that you look again in those cupboards, or add an item to your trolley when shopping, and bring them to me to package up and get on a lorry.

As ever, food, hygiene items and detergents are top on the wish list. But warm, good quality clothes for all ages, bedding, sleeping bags, towels, shoes and children's toys are always appreciated. PLEASE NO JUMBLE.

Please continue to support Ukraine as you did in 2025. So many boxes went out, you are amazing! Drop offs can be made to 3 Blyth Close. Please ring if you have any queries: 01502 478600. Best wishes for 2026. *Jo Small*

# Pop-up Thai Street Café night

## Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2026

**F**IFTY SPACES WILL BE AVAILABLE for a pop-up Thai street café at Wenhaston Village Hall on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2026. The meals will be cooked by the amazing Julie from *Jewel in the Box*, Southwold.

Pre ordered choices:

- Thai Green Chicken Curry
- Massaman Beef
- Pad Thai Veg

There will be tables of six, and two sittings at 6.30pm and at 7pm.

Bar available and streamed music.

Price per person is £15

Sign up and pay for your meal with Jane at Wenhaston Post Office.

**Or** contact: *Karen on 07734 200624* to enquire/reserve a space.

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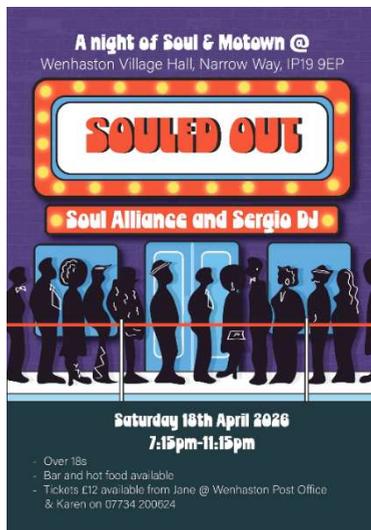
## ‘Souled Out’ Event

**J**UST GIVING YOU all the heads up for my next big charity bash on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2026 in the Village Hall in Wenhaston. The theme this year is ‘Soul & Motown’ 60s, 70s and 80’. There will be a 5-piece Soul band and, alongside them, a Soul DJ.

In the past, the events have raised money for Marie Curie, Motor Neurone Disease and the Village Hall. This year it will be split between Breast Cancer Now and the Phelan McDermid Syndrome Association.

A very reasonable priced bar will be available, and food can be purchased. As in the past events, fancy dress is encouraged! Tickets will become available early New Year, so keep your eyes open for the posters, in the *Warbler* and at the Village Hall, as ticket numbers are capped.

*Karen Clegg*



# January *at the Library*

**H**APPY NEW YEAR! In the new year we look forward to welcoming Laura Bridgland, our new library manager. Laura will be joining us in mid-January, and staff and Friends of the library look forward to working with her in making Halesworth library a welcoming space for all the community.

There will be sessions of Sociable Sundays on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> January, meet new people and enjoy good conversation over a cuppa and a cake in the welcoming space of the library. Drop in any time between 10.30am-12.30pm. The Board Games Café returns after its Christmas break. Many games to choose from – old and new ones – or bring along your own favourites. No need for special skills or knowledge. Join us, and have a relaxing afternoon, meet new friends, enjoy tea and cake! Suggested £1 donation to the Friends of Halesworth Library (organisers of the event). We also hope to hold a Book Talk on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January so keep an eye out for posters and flyers.

Don't forget our regular activities and drop-ins! Every Tuesday 10-11.30am there is a free Rhyme Time & Play session to sing fun songs followed by free play with our toys. Every Wednesday at 10am our Time Out sociable group for older people meet for tea and biscuits. The Knit & Natter group meet alternate Tuesdays 2-4pm, staff can provide dates. Lego Club is on every Saturday 11am–12 noon, and Family Board Games Club every Sunday 10.30-11.30am. You can find advice drop-ins from East Suffolk Council Customer services every Tuesday 10am-4pm and Citizens' Advice have a drop-in every other Tuesday 10-12 noon; please ask a member of staff for future dates.

**A**s the weather cools and the nights draw in, don't forget that all members of the community are welcome to stop by for a hot drink. The library will also be offering a Kindness Rack (donations of winter clothing much appreciated!).

Please remember the library will be closed on the 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> of December and the opening hours on 27<sup>th</sup> December will be from 9am-2.30pm. We will also be closed on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026.

*Catherine Draper*

# A Warm Welcome *at the Library*

The Friends of Halesworth Library have secured a grant from East Suffolk

Council, which enables the library to provide a warm space this winter, and to provide hot and cold drinks, soup, snacks, along with hygiene products, scarves and blankets. Please speak to reception staff or library volunteers to take advantage of this service.

*Catherine Draper*



THANK YOU . . .

I would just like to say a personal thank you to everyone who donated towards Rupert's operation. Without the generosity and help from our wonderful community I don't as my insurance wouldn't pay all of you on the 9<sup>th</sup> of cruciate ligament repair, and strength and going for longer from the bottom of our hearts – we wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy new year!



know what I would have done, the full amount! But thanks to September Ru underwent a he is now building up his walks. So thank you from the

*Emma & Rupert Bear*



*At  
the*





*Christmas*

*Bazaar*



# Mothers' Union

“SAFETY IN THE HOME” WAS THE SUBJECT of our talk at the November meeting and the speaker was a representative of the Fire Service. He gave us an interesting and informative talk, covering the numerous ways that a fire can quickly start in the home and the importance of having efficient and working fire alarms. He reminded us that these alarms need to be checked regularly. He told us that the Fire Service will visit our houses and check alarms etc. and if necessary provide new equipment; there is no charge for this service. Several of the Members arranged an Inspection with him.

We were able to fill eighteen shoe boxes for families in Ukraine at Christmas; these were then taken to the collecting point in Halesworth. It was another very good effort, and I am grateful to everyone who donated and helped in any way.

In December I was delighted to be able to entertain all of the Wenhaston MU members at Spindleberry for our Christmas Gathering. As always, the members choose the carols which we sang, and Alison found some very appropriate readings, telling the Christmas story for us. We then enjoyed our Christmas tea, and I am extremely grateful for the lovely gifts which were presented to me. It was good to be all together to celebrate Christmas which means so much to us all. We send our best wishes to all our readers for a happy and peaceful Christmas. *Margaret Goldstone 01502 478378*

## A MESSAGE FROM JUNE TATE

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK EVERYONE who sent me cards and came to Trevor's funeral. It went well, and Maureen and Graham Hodges made us very welcome when we came back for the food. *June Tate*

# Sign up now! – to help keep your neighbourhood warm for winters to come

**WILDER WENHASTON** IS LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS to help carry out a second thermal imaging survey in the village in **February 2026**. This is funded by the Suffolk Climate Change Partnership.



The Partnership is loaning thermal imaging cameras for community groups like ours to use. We need your help to attend homes in the village, and to take photos using a thermal imaging camera. We are requesting householders, who are interested, to sign up. The survey **is free** to all residents.

**R**esidents included in the February survey, will be able to see where their home is losing heat, and we will be able to give advice on how to save money on energy bills. If you were one of the residents included in the 2012 WESG survey, you may request a repeat survey this time to measure the effectiveness of any improvement work you have carried out. The surveys in the village will take place from **4<sup>th</sup> February to 9<sup>th</sup> February 2026**.

- **If you'd like to volunteer to carry out the surveys**, you do not need to have any experience or prior knowledge – all training and equipment will be provided. To get involved, contact us at [wilderwenhaston@gmail.com](mailto:wilderwenhaston@gmail.com)
- **If you would like your property included in the survey**, please sign up by using our email: [wilderwenhaston@gmail.com](mailto:wilderwenhaston@gmail.com) . Just let us know you're interested and we'll get in touch with you nearer the time.

Thank you.

*Alan Miller and Ann Follows, on behalf of Wilder Wenhaston*

# Wenhaston *Walkers*

**J**ust the one, local, walk in January. We will start out from Wenhaston Village Hall on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> at 10am. A chance to breathe in some fresh air after so many days of indoor festive activities.

If you wish to add your name to the circulation list, please email:

[ipbigwood@btinternet.com](mailto:ipbigwood@btinternet.com)

*Ian Bigwood*

*A Very Happy Christmas  
and New Year to  
all our readers*

**from the Editors**

Thank you for your support throughout 2025,  
for the articles and photos which you send  
and especially to the delivery team,  
who make sure that the  
*Warbler* reaches you  
each month.



## Tennis Club

The Wenhaston Tennis Club is open to all abilities and new members are most welcome (fees available on request).



We have approximately 26 members and ladies play doubles on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings starting at 9.15am. The court is available all year round, subject to weather conditions. We also have Cardio tennis on a Wednesday evening between 6pm and 7pm. The cost is £8 on the night and is open to all ages and abilities – rackets are supplied. 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 07775953987

## ARE YOU READY TO ROCK AT LEISTON FILM THEATRE?



Rock fans are in for a treat in March, when the awesome Stadium Rock Experience heads to Leiston Film Theatre. The show features the music of Bon Jovi, Bryan Adams, Queen, Status Quo, Elton John, Guns N Roses, Whitesnake, AC/DC, Tina Turner, Aerosmith, Kiss, Journey and Van Halen.

The show is presented by the Trigger Rock Band, a six-piece band of rock musicians. The Stadium Rock Experience appears LIVE at Leiston Film Theatre on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March at 7.30pm. Tickets are priced at £19.50 for adults, £19.00 for concessions and are now available from the Leiston Film Theatre box office on 01728 830549 and via the venue website at: [www.leistonfilmtheatre.co.uk](http://www.leistonfilmtheatre.co.uk)



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***Wenhaston Warbler***

Co-editors: Gill Frostick, Hilary Jeffrey, Janet Wagon  
welcome contributions to: wenhastonwarbler@gmail.com  
or for adverts: warbler.ads@gmail.com

Deadline for entries: 15<sup>th</sup> of the month.

(except for December and for February when it is the 12<sup>th</sup>).

Please send contributions either in an email, or as an email attachment  
in MS Word format, and keep articles to below 400 words.

Photographs will print in black and white, so there may be loss of quality.

Opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the Warbler.

The editors reserve the right to shorten or amend articles.

We try our best not to make mistakes, but sometimes they do happen.