



The Wenhaston Warbler

October 2026

Commons Group

A long hot summer and the risk of fire ...

THE TERRIBLE FIRE AT DUNWICH HEATH reminded all of us about the danger the hot dry weather poses to our open spaces. Wenhaston's Blackheath common suffered its own fire in September 2022, but we are now thankfully seeing good recovery of heather growth on burnt areas. However, the heat and drought this summer has resulted in areas of persistent dry vegetation on the commons which continue to be at risk of fire, particularly as there are also many patches of quite healthy very inflammable gorse.



*An area of dry bracken
and heath on Blackheath*

The drought has also affected some areas of heather, especially the bell heather, but now that we have had some rain these should recover.

The Wenhaston Commons and Blyth Woods group members have worked together to put up signs around conservation areas

(provided by wildlife.wise.co.uk) which warn of the dangers of fire to wildlife.

Blackheath is one of our commons that has no legally named landowner according to the UK Commons Registration Act of 1965, so therefore is held in protection by the Wenhaston and Mells Hamlet Parish Council. The council is in regular communication with the volunteers from the Wenhaston Commons Group via its committee. Most recently a plan has been discussed to maintain existing firebreaks on the edges of Blackheath, and to ensure that all access

(continued on page 3)



Mon 5th & Tues 6th Oct at 7.00pm
Wed 7th Oct at 2.00pm
Thurs 8th Oct at 7.00pm

DE GAULLE: LIBERTE (15)

Fri 7th Oct at 7.15pm
Sun 11th Oct at 3.00pm
Wed 14th Oct at 7.15pm
Sat 17th Oct at 3.00pm

PRACTICAL MAGIC 2 (12A)

Fri 9th Oct at 7.15pm
Sun 11th Oct at 6.00pm

RUNNER (15)

Mon 12th Oct at 2.00pm
Sun 18th Oct at 3.00pm
Wed 21st Oct at 7.15pm

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Mon 12th & Tue 13th October
at 7.15pm

Wed 14th Oct at 2.00pm
Thurs 15th Oct at 7.15pm

BAD APPLES (15)

Fri 16th & Sat 17th Oct at 7.15pm
Sun 18th Oct at 6.00pm
Mon 19th & Tues 20th Oct at 7.15pm
Wed 21st Oct at 3.00pm
Thurs 22nd Oct at 7.15pm

HEART OF THE BEAST (12A)

Sat 24th Oct at 1.00pm & 3.00pm
Sun 25th Oct at 3.00pm
Mon 26th - Thurs 29th Oct at 3.00pm

SHAUN THE SHEEP: THE BEAST OF MOSSY BOTTOM (U)

Mon 26th - Fri 30th Oct at 3.00pm

DISNEY JNR. CINEMA CLUB 2026 (U)

Fri 30th Oct at 7.30pm
LIVE ON STAGE

OASIZ OASIS TRIBUTE

Wed 4th Nov at 7.30pm
LIVE ON STAGE

FESTIVAL OF REMEMBRANCE

Tel: 01728 830549 www.leistonfilmtheatre.co.uk

(continued from page 1)

points are kept clear. Trees themselves are not considered high risk to nearby homes. The WCG will continue to focus on clearing relevant areas of gorse and dry bracken at the regular work parties run in autumn and winter.

All are welcome to attend the Wenhaston Commons Group AGM at the Village Hall on Tuesday 20th October 6.45 for 7pm start, to learn more about our activities. (see below)

We are always looking for new volunteers to help with our conservation work. The work parties are an enjoyable and sociable way to spend active time outdoors. There will be a chance to sign up for our email list at the meeting. We are also on Instagram ([wenhaston_commons_group](#)) if you wish to follow us there.

Kate Archibald



Wenhaston Commons Group

Come and join us for this year's

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday 20th October 6.45 for 7pm in the Village Hall

Proceedings, and reports including bird and butterfly surveys, followed by a talk –

Bats in Suffolk

given by

**Alan Miller, County Bat Recorder,
Founder of the Suffolk Bat Group,**
and WCG committee member.

Drinks and nibbles will be served

EVERYONE WELCOME



*The extraordinary
Brown long-eared bat*

Indian Pop-up Café

FOLLOWING THE SUCCESS OF OUR Thai night in January, we will be running a pop-up Indian cafe on Saturday 24th October. Cost of meal is £15 per person. Limited numbers with 6 persons to each table. Our reasonably priced bar will be open to purchase drinks.

There will be one sitting at 6.30pm for 24 people, and a second sitting at 7pm for a further 24 people.

Please pre-order your meals on the booking sheet in the Village Hall Foyer, and then your cash payment can either be given to Karen or Fran, or put in an envelope marked to one of them and left with Jane at Wenhaston Post Office. (Please remember to put who you are paying for with the cash) Jane is NOT responsible for taking orders.

We anticipate over-subscription for this event, so please make sure you pay shortly after you pre order.

Karen Clegg



The Big Quiz Update

EIGHTEEN TEAMS TOOK PART IN THE VILLAGE HALL/ST PETER'S CHURCH quiz in September. The Hall was busy with lots of chatter and laughter and the bar did a roaring trade. Well done to the winning team: 'Count Bin Face' aka Phil, Denise, Sue and Mac.

Money raised was £200 to the Church and £245 to the Village Hall. Thanks to everyone who took part: the organisers and the helpers, and also our Quiz master, Philip, and his assistant.

Karen Clegg

Notes from the School

THERE IS AN AIR OF EXCITEMENT AT SCHOOL. Although we are all sad that the summer holidays seemed to fly by, there is so much to look forward to: a Residential for years 5 and 6 at the end of this month; our Harvest celebrations; Science week in October; and much, much more.



At the moment, the school is a sea of shiny shoes and crisp uniform. Everyone is enjoying reconnecting with friends they may not have seen over the summer break and getting back into “work mode”. We are pleased to report that our new reception children are settling well into Acorns class.

We do have a vacancy for a midday supervisor at the school. If you are interested in this position please enquire at the school office. Similarly, we are always on the lookout for volunteers to help with various things at school such as hearing readers. If this is something which interests you, again, please contact the school office.

Jo Lockhart

Was your child born between September 1st 2022 and August 31st 2023?

Are you applying for a Primary School place this year?

Why not come to our ‘stay and play’ open morning on Wednesday 21st October?

This will give you and your child(ren) a chance to meet the Reception Staff
and have a look around the school...

The session will run from 9.30-10.30am, but arrival and departure are flexible.

There will be some outdoor activities so please wear appropriate clothing

ALL children MUST be accompanied by an adult.

Please ring or email the school office to book.

Wenhaston Primary School

Tel: 01502 478328 Email: admin@wenhastonprimary.co.uk

St Peter's Pightle

65 plant species recorded

FOLLOWING THE OPENING OF ST PETER'S PIGHTLE in July, and the subsequent Bioblitz, we are delighted that no less than 39 new plants were recorded, as well as some of those from the original list completed in February 2025. Some of the new plants are from the wildflower seed that was sown in 2025, some from green hay that was spread on the field, and some seem to have found their own way there. The total number of plant species recorded in the meadow now stands at 65. Not bad for a field that was barley stubble only eighteen months ago! As well as the plants, animals have been finding their way there: at the Bioblitz we recorded 12 invertebrates, a brown hare, a muntjac and a red legged partridge.

Thank you to all those who helped at the Bioblitz to formulate this list, which is available on our website www.blythwoods.org

Volunteers needed

We are looking for more volunteers to help maintain this and the other community spaces we manage at Grove Piece, Malsters Little Field, and Vicarage Grove. Working parties will be held on the second Thursday of the month from 10am-12 noon at St Peter's Pightle at the end of Church Lane. Future sessions: 8th October, 12th November, 10th December. Please email blythwoods1@gmail.com to receive our newsletter and details of all working parties and events. Families welcome.



For those who have wandered up to St Peter's Pightle recently, you will have seen that the wildflower meadow has now been mown and the hay baled.

Jo Jarvis

Interested in opening your garden for
Wenhaston Wilder Gardens Trail

on Saturday 22nd May 2027

between 10.30am and 4.30pm?

We welcome expressions of interest from those who garden for the benefit of wildlife and biodiversity, whether this is part, or the whole, of your garden, large or small.

We aim to include a range of gardens – new ones, alongside others that opened in previous years.

Around 10 in total.

If you're interested, please email
wilderwenhaston@gmail.com giving your details,
and using the header WWGT 2027.

Closing date 31st January 2027

We will then make contact to answer any questions you have. We'll arrange to meet you, and look round your garden together with you, before making any decisions on the best combination of village gardens to create an interesting and accessible trail.

Thank you for your interest, we hope to see you
on the 2027 Wilder Garden Trail.

Ann Follows, Jo Jarvis and Judy Miller



*Wilder Wenhaston
pathway to a greener future*

News from St Peter's

WE ARE NOW IN THE SEASON OF HARVEST FESTIVALS. I am not sure what kind of harvest there has been this year! I suppose that the crops that thrive in hot dry weather have done well, while the ones that needed rain may have failed or had reduced success. It must be a huge headache for our farmers and our hearts go out to them.

Wenhaston's Harvest Festival is on Sunday 27th September at 4pm followed by afternoon tea. We hope lots of people will come and join us in saying thank you for all our blessings.

The Big Quiz was great fun. There were a good number of teams and lots of laughter. The Church Team came 4th, so that wasn't too bad. The Village Hall and the Church shared the profits, and we are most grateful for the £200 we received.

Many thanks to all who helped with the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust *Ride and Stride*: to the stewards who manned the church throughout the day; to those who cycled, walked or drove to the churches and were sponsored by our generous people. I will report on the results next month. The churches who take part receive half of the proceeds, and the rest goes to the SHCT, who give grants to churches for their repairs etc. We have in recent years, and also this year, received two grants: one for the chancel roof repairs, and one towards the conservation of our famous Doom painting.

Margaret Bloomfield 01502478502 margaret@wrush.plus.com

Services at St Peter's in October

Sunday 4 th	10am	Team Service Halesworth
Sunday 11 th	10.30am	at the Methodist Chapel
Sunday 18 th	10am	Holy Communion
Sunday 25 th	10am	Pause for Thought

Methodist Church Services in October

Sunday 4 th	10.30am	Revd Martin Keenan, Holy Communion
Sunday 11 th	10.30am	Revd Iain McKillop, joint with St Peter's
Sunday 18 th	10.30am	Mrs Sue Groome
Sunday 25 th	10.30am	Revd Pam Bayliss

Mothers' Union

AT OUR SEPTEMBER MEETING WE WELCOMED Dani from the Halesworth Peartree Centre, who brought us up to date with the Groups and activities that take place regularly at the Centre. I think that we were all surprised at all the varying and helpful support which is available to the people of Halesworth and the surrounding villages. We are indeed extremely lucky to have this facility. Thank you, Dani, for such an informative talk.

The members decided at the meeting that we will fill shoe boxes again this Christmas for both children and elderly people in Ukraine and other such countries; these will be sent through *Link to Hope*. If anyone would like to contribute items for these boxes, they can always be left in the porch at *Spindleberry*. Cash donations are also very welcome – we can then purchase suitable items. We shall be very grateful if you feel able to help in this way.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 14th October, when we will be pleased to welcome Alan Miller from *Wilder Wenhamston* as our speaker; his subject will be *Working in Conservation in Suffolk*.

Margaret Goldstone 01502 478378

A Whirlwind Tour of our Local Churches

EAST ANGLIA IS HOME TO HUNDREDS OF DELIGHTFUL parish churches, each with their own unique history and treasures. These old and hallowed buildings provide much to our society: social history, genealogy, art, architecture, as well as being places of faith. Furthermore, their churchyards are home to many different animals and plants – indeed, they can be oases of biodiversity. The Suffolk Historic Churches Trust (SHCT) contributes to the “preservation, repair, maintenance, improvement, upkeep, beautification and reconstruction of churches and chapels in the County of Suffolk”. The SHCT organises an annual ‘ride and stride’, for which people can walk, cycle or drive between churches, raising sponsorship for the Trust, which then helps support the fabric of our old church buildings.

My Mum used to love this event, and so I have picked up the baton since she died, and this was the third year I have participated. I had been looking forward to another sponsored hike around the area for many months (with an interesting route all planned!), but then clumsily damaged my Achilles heel a few weeks ago. However, every cloud has a silver lining, and I was able to do a ‘drive and hobble’ that called in at far more churches than would have been possible on a country ramble. It was also a wonderful late summer day – warm and sunny, and mostly with a bright blue sky.



An early start at Wenhaston Chapel (photo 1) was followed by Blyford (2) and Holton churches (3), before walking around Halesworth where there are three churches (4-6). Then a loop around to Bramfield church (7) and chapel (8), and Thorington (9). The second part of the day took in Walpole chapel (10) and church (11), then the churches at Heveningham (12), Huntingfield (13), Cookley (14), Linstead Parva (15), Chediston (16), Wissett (17) and Spexhall (18). The final leg took in Westhall (19), Uggeshall (20) and Sotherton (21) before getting back to St Peter's Wenhaston (22). After a long day, the Saturday evening pint at The Star was particularly refreshing!

Very many thanks to everyone who very kindly sponsored me; it is greatly appreciated. Half of the money raised will go to the SHCT and the other half to St Peter's. Extra special thanks to Suzanne and Sasha for their company on this church-filled Odyssey. There are so many beautiful churches in our area – and well worth a visit during a country walk. I am very much looking forward to getting my hiking boots on again soon, and being able to do the SHCT sponsored walk next year. *Jim Ellis*

Wenhaston Walkers

OUR FIRST WALK IN OCTOBER WILL BE ON TUESDAY 6TH, setting off at 10am from Wenhaston Village Hall.

On Tuesday 20th October, Nicky will lead the walk from The Angel, 39 High Street, Wangford NR34 8RL starting out at 10am; lunch details to be notified.

If you wish to add your name to the circulation list, please email ipbigwood@btinternet.com

Thank you!

As you may have heard on the village grapevine, my beloved husband, David, died on Tuesday 1st September, after fourteen months of valiantly fighting terminal brain cancer.

I want to say a very grateful thank you to all those very kind people who have asked after him in the past year when I've been out walking with Ludo, my wire-haired dachshund, or who have supported me in other wonderful ways.

Your concern, comfort and prayers have meant a great deal to me.

David's funeral will be on Saturday 17th October at 3pm in St Peter's, and afterwards in the Village Hall.

Patricia Elliott

News from Thorington church

A Summer Afternoon at St Peter's

WHAT A WONDERFUL AFTERNOON WE HAD at St Peter's Church, Thorington. Our Summer Open Afternoon in August brought together a lovely crowd from the village and surrounding area, filling the church and garden with conversation, laughter, music and a wonderfully warm atmosphere.

We began with a reading by Suffolk-based poet, Steph Ellen Feeney, from her debut collection *Small Change*, exploring the intimate, often challenging and joyful, experience of new motherhood.

Then came the Suffolk Phoenix Brass Band, who filled the church with music and quickly got everyone into the spirit of the afternoon. Their lively selection of Big Band favourites, familiar TV themes and classical pieces was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

There was homemade food, wine, local crafts and plenty of time to chat and enjoy being together. Perhaps one of the loveliest things to notice was the number of children – and several babies – among the visitors. In previous years this has been less usual, so it was particularly heartening to see so many young families enjoying the afternoon at St Peter's.

Thanks to everyone's generosity, we are delighted to share that the afternoon raised a wonderful **£1,700** for St Peter's, Thorington.

It was a beautiful reminder that an old village church can be much more than a place of worship. It can also be a place where people meet, share something special, make memories and simply enjoy being together.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who came: to our performers, and to all the volunteers and helpers who made the day so special. Most of all, our heartfelt gratitude goes to Trish and Mike Gower for their tireless dedication, warmth, and relentless hard work in organizing this event.

We were delighted to see so many of you – and hope to welcome you back again next year!

Flower Club

OUR SEPTEMBER MEETING was a first for the Club – as we welcomed Richard Holmes who demonstrated the Japanese art of flower arranging; it is called *Ikebana* which means “The way of flowers”. It is a very precise minimalist way of flower arranging, and the three main flower stems, arranged at different heights, represent Heaven, People and Earth.

Richard was very entertaining as he completed several beautiful arrangements and everyone had an enjoyable evening.



Richard with two of his flower arrangements

Charity Night

Our next meeting is our Charity Night on Tuesday 6th October 6pm in Wenhaston Village Hall, where we raise funds for the Halesworth Branch of *Cancer Research*. This is open to everyone, not just flower club members, so please spread the word. It will be the same format as last year, with a demonstration, this time by Jenny.

The ticket price of £10 includes a plate of food and tea/coffee. Wine will be available to purchase by the glass. There will be a raffle, *Cancer Research* merchandise stall, handmade cards and a craft stall.

Tickets are selling very quickly.

Craft Stall donations needed

If you have any crafting hobbies and would like to donate something for the craft stall we would be extremely grateful. It doesn't just have to be knitting, or crocheting it can be jam or pickle making, felting, painting, or little floral wreaths etc.

If you like baking it could be pretty little bags of flap jack, millionaires' shortbread, fudge etc or four little cupcakes in a box. If you have brand new unwanted gifts that you would like to donate that would be perfect.

Please contact Jackie Chenery or Jane Walker.

Please come and support our event – as every penny spent really does make a difference. We apologise, but the stalls will be cash only.

Tickets are available from Jackie, Jane at Wenhaston Post Office, and Jane Walker.

For more information please contact:

Jackie Chenery 01502 478401 or Jane Walker 07884030509

Notes from a Fluffy Garden

OCTOBER APPROACHES AND SOON THE FIRST FROSTS will be reminding us that we live in Suffolk and not the Sahara after all.

I don't do a lot of tidying in the autumn, and the garden has gone to seed. But that is a Good Thing – a fluffy seed fest is welcome. Seeds feed the birds, bring next year's flowers, provide winter shape, sparkle with frost....or snow, eek!

Some have been collected and stored. The mini meadow is cut, of course, but lofty fennel, sunflowers and hollyhocks remain. Papery honesty and curly wild carrot are spreading themselves about, I hope. Spikey teasels and echinacea cones offer a self-service buffet to any passing feathered friends. And I mustn't forget the grasses, they seem to feature regularly here. Fear not, there will be more next year!

Whatever the weather, the Fluffy Garden will rise to the challenge.

Cherry Wilkinson

October half-term at Halesworth Library

WE HAVE LOTS OF FUN ACTIVITIES PLANNED for your little ones over October half term! Come and join us on Saturdays 24th and 31st, 11am-12 noon, for Lego Club; and why not drop in from 2.30pm onwards for Chess Club? Suitable for all ages, whether you are a beginner looking to develop your skills, or just looking for someone to play against.

On Sundays 25th October and 1st November, we host our Family Fun Time group 10.30-11.30am, suitable for the whole family – we have a wide range of games and activities available.

On Tuesday 27th we will be running our regular Wordplay session for under 5s. Bring your little ones down for a mixture of songs, rhymes and soft play. The fun then continues with Lego Club, 11.15am-12.15pm. Free, no need to book in advance.

We have a special event planned on Wednesday 28th 1-3pm, when we will be visited by Suffolk Archives; they will be hosting a family-friendly Halloween craft session, suitable for ages 4-11. Book via TicketSource to secure your place (<https://www.ticketsource.com/suffolk-archives/t-oevelxr>).

On Friday 30st October we will be hosting our own spooky craft workshop taking place 11am-12 noon. Free event, but booking required. Please contact the library to secure your place.

And finally! This month marks the 30th anniversary of Halesworth Library in its current home – thank you to all the staff, volunteers and customers who have contributed to the success of the library – here's to the next 30 years!

Book talk and other activities at Halesworth Library

Painting and Thinking: Mary Newcomb. On Thursday 15th October at 2.30pm we will welcome local artist, Tessa Newcomb, who will be talking about her mother's life and work. We will be able to see extracts of her working diary, which gives insight to her sometimes extraordinary paintings. The talk is free to attend, but please book, by either by speaking to library staff or emailing us on friendsofhalesworthlibrary@gmail.com.



Why not pop along to a Sociable Sunday session on Sunday 4th and 18th October to 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 and 12.30pm. We'll be holding a Board Games Café on 26th October 2-4.30pm. There are many games to choose from, old and new ones, or bring along your own favourites. There's no need for special skills or knowledge. Join us, and have a relaxing afternoon, meet new friends, enjoy tea and cake. There is a suggested £1 donation to the Friends of Halesworth Library – these events are hosted and run by volunteers from the Friends of Halesworth Library.

Catherine Draper



Winners for September

The Wenhaston Village Hall 100 Club for September 2026 draw took place on 15th September, and the first winner of the single £60 prize is Andy Norris. Congratulations.

Elaine and Angela

WENHASTON

Produce & Craft Market

Saturday

31st October 2026

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 £10
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Carol

Tel: 01502 478732 or

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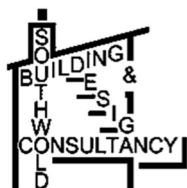
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Wenhaston Warbler

Co-editors: Gill Frostick, Hilary Jeffrey, Janet Wagon

welcome contributions to: wenhastonwarbler@gmail.com

or for adverts: warbler.ads@gmail.com

Deadline for entries: **15th** of the month.

(except for December and for February when it is the **12th**).

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.

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