



## VE Day Past and Present



On VE Day, 1945 I was one year old. Grown-ups talked a great deal about the war throughout my childhood. Wenhaston families would have welcomed back their loved ones after six bleak years. Far fewer men died in WW2 compared with The Great War, as the village memorial so graphically shows, but every death was a family tragedy.

The weather on May 8th 1945 was 'generally warm with sporadic outbreaks of rain', chilly in

Gorleston at 11.7c, 17.8 at Felixstowe. On May 8<sup>th</sup> 2020 it was a beautiful summer's day with strong sunshine, a dazzling Suffolk blue sky and a top temperature of 22c. We couldn't celebrate in groups but TV coverage was excellent and we toasted the Queen's health in the evening.

The daily news is in stark contrast to the beautiful spring with record sunshine and little rain. Our landscape looks wonderful, the shape of fields, the hedges and patterns of settlements. It is not 'brass band scenery' but it is subtle, gentle, rich and varied. It has been farmed for more than 4,000 years. Surplus wealth from this land has produced a rich culture. The word 'culture' itself derives from 'coulter', the cutting blade of the plough.

We have a huge range of wild flowers - Archangel - whose name derives from the resemblance of its paired leaves to the wings of an angel; bluebells in Vicarage Grove and the east bank of Marsh Farm, and great masses of Alexanders. Bracken grows at a furious rate on Black Heath and has a pedigree of over 50 million years. Sadly, Merton Wood is now full of dying Ash trees. The Sand Martins arrived at the beginning of April and have increased from 6 to well over 40! and Venus has been magnificent in the bright sky.

**Brian Withnall Mylor**

## **Village hall news**

The village hall was successful in applying for a Government Covid 19 Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Business Support Grant, to help us with our running costs while we are closed. The grant was administered by East Suffolk Council via the business rates system. It is a tremendous relief to know that we have funds available to help us cover these costs which last year were £19,000, including over £5,000 for maintenance and repairs. We have reduced some direct debits and extended the terms of the licences we are able to, and have a cash flow in place up until the end of October, so are keeping a close eye on our finances. The hall is being regularly checked several times a week to ensure all is well.

We planted a new native species hedge along the fence by the café bar area the day before shutdown. It has now come into leaf and we have a watering rota in place to look after it.

The hall hosted an emergency blood donor session on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May and the hall was thoroughly cleaned beforehand and also afterwards, allowing 72 hours to safeguard Janice who cleans the hall for us and who had her own appropriate protection to wear.

As soon as we are able to, we will re-open and look forward to welcoming you to the hall for all the usual activities plus hopefully some new ones! Sally Amery

## **Village services and deliveries updates**

- These have been as widely circulated in the village as possible and all the news is put on our village website by Roger and it is updated regularly - <http://wenhaston.onesuffolk.net/> All the news is under Coronavirus - Covid 19. Information is also available from the Halesworth Town Council website <https://halesworthtowncouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/bsk-pdf-manager/2020/03/Covid-Support-24->

[March.pdf](#) and also on their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/halesworthtowncouncil/>

- Halesworth Volunteer Centre are providing help with shopping, collection of prescriptions and much more besides – 01986 875600 Email – [Karen.kerridge@halesworthvc.co.uk](mailto:Karen.kerridge@halesworthvc.co.uk) or [emma.healey@halesworthvc.co.uk](mailto:emma.healey@halesworthvc.co.uk)
- There are numerous services available in Halesworth, offering either collection or delivery to Wenhasston – full details are on the village website.
- The Two Magpies Bakery, whose owners live in the village,
  - have organized deliveries of pre-ordered bakery products and other groceries on Tuesdays and Fridays, for collection from the village hall car park between 12.30 and 1pm. Please order 48 hours beforehand, ie by 10am on Sundays and Wednesdays.
  - From the 12th May the Darsham Two Magpies shop will be open Tuesday – Thursday, 10am – 2pm and Friday, 10am – 8pm, selling bread, coffees, treats and essentials.
  - Pre-ordered sourdough pizzas are available for collection on Fridays and Saturdays between 4.30pm and 8pm.
  - Full details of all their services can be found on their website <https://www.twomagpiesbakery.co.uk/> and also on the village hall website – see above.
- The Star is offering beer for collection 01502 478240
- Many local pubs are doing takeaway meals for collection or delivery – check their websites, Facebook pages or the village website for details.
  - The Queens Head at Blyford 01502 478404
  - The White Heart at Blythburgh 01502 478217 – some posters are up in the village about themed Wednesday evening meals available.

- The Angel at Halesworth – 01986 873365
  - Blackdog Deli at Walberswick 01502 723925
  - Mains Restaurant at Yoxford 01728 668882
  - And many more besides I expect.
- The Council will be resuming collection of the green bins for garden waste at the end of May/early June and you may have heard details direct from the Council by the time you read this. More information is on the Council website:- [www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/news/restart-date-for-garden-waste-collection-service/](http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/news/restart-date-for-garden-waste-collection-service/)

## News from Blyth Woods – including an unexpected visitor

It was disappointing to have to postpone our AGM from April 29, but hope to welcome you to the meeting when life is back to normal. In the meantime, the group has been meeting on Zoom and keeping in touch by email with ideas and news.

A bridge and signpost are in place and walkers can now reach Grove Piece through Malster's Little Field.

We have residents in most of the bird boxes and are keeping records of wildlife sightings, including this unexpected visitor, reported by Alan - "Judy and I walked to the wood this morning around 7.10 to do a bird survey, and



as we entered the wood an otter was coming towards us. It shot back into the wood and disappeared. I never thought we would get that on our species list, they do travel across country and search out ponds etc, bit late for our new pond as its now dry!!"

Please get in touch if you see any interesting plant, animal or bird in Grove Piece or Malsters and we will add it to the list on our website. You can contact us at: [blythwoods1@gmail.com](mailto:blythwoods1@gmail.com) or on our Facebook page. Enjoy your walks! ***Geraldine Lines (secretary)***

## Swifts and Sand Martins are back in Wenhaston!



We recorded our first Wenhaston swift arriving back on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2020. Since then they've been gathering in numbers – up to 30 screaming



around over the fields and roof tops. The swift flag went up at the Church on 2<sup>nd</sup> May. Several houses in the village have put up swift nest boxes as a way to provide more nest sites as the number of swifts is still declining. Some nest boxes have a small speaker playing swift calls, which attract the attention of the swifts looking to nest. There are nest boxes at the Village hall, Church and Primary school.

We are keeping records of swift numbers and nest sites, so if you notice Swifts nesting in your roof, please let us know at

[wenhastonswiftgroup@gmail.com](mailto:wenhastonswiftgroup@gmail.com)

Also, the sand martins are back! They first appeared in early April, and have now gathered in numbers and are nesting in the sand pit on Blackheath. Please be careful not to disturb them while you watch from the fenced area.



We had planned a 'Swift Pint Walk' in Swift Awareness Week at the end of June – look on the Village hall notice board nearer the time to find out if it will run or not.

***Ann Follows***

## Supporting our NHS and Essential Workers



Just a few of the residents who come out on the street every Thursday evening to make some noise for NHS staff and all the other essential workers who keep services going and supply the things we need.



Many households also show their support with rainbow symbols, often created by young people. (See some more on page 13)



We have all realised how much we depend on these workers and we wish them safe and well. Many thanks also to all the volunteers, formal and informal, who are helping our most vulnerable neighbours.

## **Editors' Note**

We hope that this edition of the Warbler has some useful information for our readers, and that some of our articles cheer you up. Thanks as ever to all our contributors. **Deadline for the July Warbler is the 15<sup>th</sup> June**

## **Halesworth Volunteer Centre**

### **Things Are Changing, But We Are Still Here To Help!**

Working with East Suffolk Council, Halesworth Town Council, the local Parish Councils, Halesworth Area Community Transport and other local organisations, Halesworth Volunteer Centre has been co-ordinating the community response to the Covid-19 pandemic, supporting older and vulnerable members of the community living in Halesworth and the surrounding villages. We had an absolutely fantastic response from the community with just over 150 people coming forward to volunteer to help! So far, we have responded to over 950 requests for help. We have been supporting those who are isolating by shopping and delivering for them, collecting and delivering prescriptions, medication and goods, offering telephone befriending support and running errands. The prescriptions are collected and dropped off by a team of volunteers who travel to the Health Centres and pharmacies in Halesworth, Reydon, Wangford and Wrentham. Our volunteer shoppers visit the Co-op on a daily basis. The shopping is delivered by the Hact bus and their team of drivers deliver as far as Blythburgh, Cratfield and Ubbeston, and have now clocked up over 500 miles! We were also delighted to deliver beautiful plants or 'pots of joy' as described by one grateful recipient, kindly donated by Woottens of Wenhaston to just over 100 people, which really did brighten the day for so many. On a different 'note' our socially distanced choir celebrated VE day by singing to people at Highfields in the garden and on driveways, in glorious sunshine. This has been a real community response with everyone coming forward to support others to get through this together, a massive thank you to everyone who has helped so far.

***If you or anyone you know, needs any assistance at all during these difficult times please contact Halesworth Volunteer Centre on 01986 875600.***

## Wenhaston Writers Group moves out of lockdown

Wenhaston writers group blasted through February and then was hit by hall closures and self isolating. We have now set up a private website [www.blackheath-wenhaston.com](http://www.blackheath-wenhaston.com) on which we can 'virtually' continue the work towards producing The Wenhaston Writers 2020 book of creativity. It works like this. Local writers of all abilities can call me on 01502 478822 and I will give the details of registration and use of private web pages for posting/editing, within the group's website. A personal password will allow posting of each week's work for members. We have every confidence that this will work and we invite Warbler readers to join Blackheath writers.

Please let me know any ideas you may have on the way forward for this innovation. *Terry Gilbert-Fellows, Blackheath, Wenhaston*

## Happy Birthday HdCF



On 14<sup>th</sup> May 2020 HdCF will be seven years old and in that time has helped 90 families to keep caring for people with dementia. Please help HdCF to carry on helping in this uncertain time....

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**Halesworth Dementia Carers' Fund**

## Getting Creative – Our young people show they care

During lockdown some thoughtful and creative young people in Wenhashton have been making and sharing messages of hope.

### ♥ Stones!

Ava Norman, aged 9, decorated stones and, with her brother Harry, has been leaving the stones with hearts painted on them with messages on the doorsteps of houses displaying a rainbow in their window. They wanted to make people happy and they were certainly successful. They have delivered nearly 60 stones and are really glad they did this. Local resident Ann Follows describes receiving one of these surprise gifts:

*The bell rang. Obviously at this time I'm a bit nervous of opening the door.*

*turned, saw this.*

*What a little* ♥



*When I did, I saw a boy walking away. He smiled at me and pointed. On the ground I "You've made my day!" I called after him. treat it was to be thought of and given a*

### Six year old Thea with her decorated stones

Thea Howlett, who is 6, decided she wanted to decorate rocks with various pictures and messages for people to take. She suggested to her



Mum that they put them outside their house, along with paper, pens and hand sanitiser for people to write a message back to her. Her Mum Steph said, "The response has been amazing, such a positive thing to do and has really uplifted her spirits." One of the messages Thea got back was a beautifully decorated card by local artist Annie Rice:

It is wonderful to be able to celebrate these acts of kindness and to look forward to the time when we can thank Ava, Harry and Thea in person.

**Alison Alder**

## **The life of the church during lockdown**

Although our church buildings have been closed for two months, the church itself has continue to stay active. As well as contributing to the local efforts to stay in touch with vulnerable and self-isolating residents, we have been livestreaming services via our “Blyth Valley Churches” Facebook page, and holding Zoom café church sessions once a week. Resources have been sent out to people to allow them to join in services and prayer from home. Our online worship has been accessed by a range of people from regular members of our congregations to people tentatively exploring what we are broadcasting.

The Blyth Valley Team have been opening up St Mary’s Halesworth once a week for the Foodbank to run weekly deliveries and a drop in facility. The church has also helped set up a voucher scheme to enable people struggling financially to be able to purchase fresh meat, fruit and vegetables from participating shops in Halesworth.

We are very conscious that this is a particularly hard time for people who have been bereaved. Isolation is difficult enough, but to be isolated and grieving is particularly tough. The church has continued to conduct and care as best it can for bereaved families and friends. I know that messages and gestures of support have really helped when someone has died.

If you would like to find out more about what we are doing, feel you are struggling, financially or personally, or would like us to pray for someone, please feel free to contact me. The church is part of a local Covid-19 community support group, so I can signpost people to services locally that can support them.

***Revd. Alison Alder Blythe Valley Team. My email is [alisonalder@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:alisonalder@hotmail.co.uk) and my home phone number is 01502 478855.***



## Pottering with Poppy

Kate Archibald has been writing 'Nature Notes from Marsh Cottage' for the last year and I am now picking up my pencil to write for a while. Thank you, Kate, for your lovely descriptions of the wildlife you have seen in your wanderings over the meadows. Inevitably my musings will be a little different.

In talking to the folk Poppy and I meet on our walks around the village it is obvious that we are all so thankful for where we live and the joy we get from our surroundings. The footpaths are many and varied and the reason my parents moved to the village in the late 1970's. Poppy and I are now enjoying what they enjoyed.

There is more to the bungalow we live in than meets the eye! It's a bit Tardis like! Get past the front garden and it expands! There is a big back garden which in winter gives glimpses through the leafless trees across the valley to the old Blythburgh hospital. My little birds have survived the recent wind and frost and I hope there are still plenty of insects for their young which will now be in the nest. On our walks I have been aware of little caterpillars dangling on invisible threads from tree branches, excellent fodder for our nesting birds and returning migrants. 'My' blue tits dash about the garden hunting for insects.. The blackbird does acrobatics to get a share of the fat and seeds in the half coconut that hangs on the washing line. Mrs

blackbird doesn't eat from the coconut shell but prefers the ground feeder and the bark mulched border. Both male and female fling the bark about to get at the goodies from the cool and damp beneath. They are now feeding their second brood.

The wren must have a nest not far away, and the pair of dunnocks too, that are constantly in amongst the shrubs, and a greenfinch wheezes from the conifer tops. I don't go delving in the shrubs looking for nest for fear of disturbing them all, but I shall find them if I need to prune or trim much later in the year. In the mean time I shall enjoy what is about in the garden and the hedgerows. ***Jo Small***



## Grant for the Bowls Club

Thanks to the initiative of the Officers, Wenhaston Bowls Club will not have to rely on the normal means of income in order to maintain their excellent outdoor green for at least the next two seasons, as they have had a grant application for assistance approved. Bowls England's entire national programme of leagues and cups was cancelled in March when lockdown began, but the greens need the same specialist treatment of fertilizing, scarifying, spiking and regular cutting, if they are to be preserved and kept up to standard, and be ready for a full programme in the 2021 season. This work is in the hands of our greensman David Hambling who is helped by John Robinson, and between them they have transformed the green back to near full life after poor conditions that arose throughout the winter months. In addition, it is hoped that perhaps later in the season some play will be possible this year, and some clubs have spent time working out how they can restart with friendly competitions and roll ups, to keep in line with Government guidelines. It is hope that the Wenhaston club members will be able to have some kind of play on these lines.

As we came to the end of the carpet bowls in March the coronavirus caused our last match to be cancelled. Wenhaston Bowls Club captained by Kevin "Wink" Canham came second in the Heritage Coast Carpet Bowls division One, with 73 points behind Knodishall A, with 100 points. Thanks are due to the effort of the Wenhaston bowlers who were captained by Kevin for the first time. **Jake Moyes – Hon. Sec.**

### *Lost Spectacles*

*If anyone on their "Lockdown 2" walk with children, dogs or ponies comes across a pair of steel rimmed spectacles in a GREY was I would be most grateful to have them back. Will collect from a safe distance.*

**Tony Gow 478977 Wayland Cottage Narrow Way**

## Maureen Wollin

Tony, Julie, and family would like to Thank friends and neighbours for cards, messages of condolence, kind thoughts and donations to Cancer research after the sad passing of their much-loved Wife/mum/nan Maureen Wollin. Maureen passed peacefully at home after a short battle with cancer on 14<sup>th</sup> April. Maureen had lived in Wenhaston for over 40 years and over this time enjoyed village life, from being a member of the bowls club, helping at youth club in the 1980's and, up until recently, helping at Wenhaston bingo once a month at the village hall. Maureen was a keen gardener and loved walking Max (the dog) over Blackheath common and chatting to other dog walkers. Maureen's funeral service took place at Beccles Crematorium on 1<sup>st</sup> May led by Reverend Alison Alder. Cyrilla kindly provided an arrangement of beautiful flowers. Unfortunately, due to current restrictions only immediate family could attend. Maureen will be dearly missed.

## Paul Ferrari (1939-2020)

Paul was a friendly familiar sight who went around on his bike (latterly, mobility buggy) with his red cowboy hat. For many years, Paul accompanied his wife Maggie every morning and afternoon to the bus stop as she travelled to and from her wool shop in Halesworth. Paul and Maggie have lived in their bungalow on Back Road for 40 years. Born in London, Paul worked in Chelmsford, Halesworth and Saxmundham manufacturing ball bearings, toys and plastic packaging. In his spare time, Paul liked making things (eg a superb weathervane), gardening, reading sci-fi, looking at stars through his telescope, and basking in the sun with Maggie. Paul loved all animals especially his cats Elvis



and Molly. In his later years, Paul displayed courage in coping with the challenges of emphysema and COPD. Sadly, in trying to rescue a snake that had wandered onto The Street, Paul's lung condition overcame him. He died the next day on May 2. He is survived by Maggie, four sons and six grandchildren. Villagers especially on Back Road gave Paul a great send-off by lining up the road as his cortege passed through Wenhaston. A unique opportunity of communal togetherness and unity of spirit in a time of social distance and separation.

***A Note from Maggie: I have been very touched by and grateful for the large amount of support from the local community on the death of my dear husband Paul. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.***

### **Wenhaston Village Hall 100 Club**

- Winners for May 2020 -

The Wenhaston Village Hall 100 Club May draw has been made and we are delighted to announce the winners:

- 1st prize Karen Clegg (number 46) £37.50
- 2nd prize Helen Siddle (number 121) £22.50
- 3rd prize Deborah Holmes (number 53) £15

Well done to all the winners this time! It's never too late to sign up. A chance to win a prize costs just £1 a month so anyone wishing to join now, the fee is £3 for the year starting from June.

***Please pay by cash or cheque, made payable to Wenhaston Village Hall 100 Club, and hand in, clearly marked with your name, in an envelope to the Post Office or either of the promoters, Kirsten West or Trish Gower. All enquiries please phone Trish on 478267.***

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