



April 2021

Wenhaston Warbler

A Competition for the Easter Holidays! (With Prizes!)

The Blyth Woods Group started in 2012, when, helped by the Suffolk Wildlife Trust and the Wenhaston Commons Group, as well as local school children, it planted 29 fruit trees in the orchard by Merton Wood. Since then, the number of trees planted by Blyth Woods and



their helpers in Grove Woods, (the umbrella name for Vicarage Grove, Grove Piece and Malster's Little Field), has grown every year.

For our Easter holiday competition, we are inviting you to guess the *total* number of trees and hedge trees planted by the Group *from and including* the very beginning in 2012, to date. You can enter as a family, or as an individual child. One guess per entry and children, please give your age.

Please send your guesses in to wenhastonwarbler@gmail.com by 15th April, with Blyth Woods Competition in the message box. They will be passed on to us. There will be a prize for the three entries closest to the total. The results will be given in the next issue of the Warbler.



Beautiful Benches

Our member Alan Miller has made two benches for Grove Piece, one on the footpath out of Vicarage Grove and one facing the pond. They are made from sweet chestnut and blend in with their background, perfect places to sit and unwind

while listening to yellow hammers in the hedgerow, the knocking of woodpeckers nearby and to catch the glimpse of an owl floating across the fields in an early dusk.

Patricia Elliot



Grenville Clarke 1947 – 2021

Marie Rolfe writes:

Back in 2012, when a few of us were getting together with the common aim of creating a community wood, Grenville was working for the Green Light Trust. In those days the Green Light Trust was very involved with setting up community wild spaces, and when we approached Grenville for advice, he was keen to make our proposal his 60th project. He had been a friend of my husband John for many years and we knew his enthusiasm was contagious. Grenville joined our first steering group meeting, he sang a planting rap with the children of Wenhaston School at the tree nursery in the allotments, he helped plant the rowan in the school grounds to mark the start of the project with the school and he was always ready to answer questions and make suggestions, with humour and a positive attitude. Even when he became ill with MND, he was always keen to hear about Blyth Woods' progress, and he visited Grove Woods and came along to our AGM. Sadly, he died in January 2021 after a six-year battle with the disease. He will be missed and warmly remembered.

We shall be putting a plaque to commemorate Grenville on one of Alan's benches.

Village Hall News

At the time of writing, we have now heard that the hall can't re-open in Step 2 in April, as originally announced, and must now wait until Step 3 on 17th May when other indoor hospitality can open. This will be confirmed by the Government nearer the time, dependent on the progress of the four tests which have to be met first. The village hall AGM has therefore been postponed yet again, hopefully for the last time, to Wednesday 26th May at 7pm in the main hall. Do come along and hear how the hall has weathered the last year and our plans for 2021.

Sally Amery, Chair Tel 01502 478847 sally.amery@gmail.com

Emergency Planning and the Parish Council

The snow that visited Suffolk in February raised some concerns about those who were trapped for some days at home, because road and pathway snow clearance was either slow or not carried out. Coupled with the Covid-19 restrictions, the snow brought sharper focus to the feeling of isolation, especially to those living alone.

The Parish Council has developed an emergency plan to cover several emergency possibilities, although it is not possible to foresee or define all. A number of local volunteer responders have been identified, whose task is to contact those in the village who are likely to be affected by an emergency.

Backing the emergency response within Wenhaston is the County Emergency Team based in Woodbridge. The Team offers heavy power-generators and provides large-scale support in the event of a serious emergency. Communications with the Team Leader at Woodbridge are robust and frequent. Three severe-weather warnings were received by the Parish Council from Woodbridge before the arrival of the February snow, and all responders were advised of the threat.

Several years ago, the Parish Council purchased a small generator to provide power to one of the rooms at the Village Hall. This is available to provide warmth and sustenance in the event of a prolonged power cut in winter, especially for the elderly. Fuel for the generator is currently held by three councillors.

So, anyone who has concerns about being isolated in an emergency should contact a friend or neighbour in the first instance; they may be able to help. However, the Parish Council, through its first responders, will also look at how we can help in such conditions, within the parameters set by Suffolk County Council. Details of Parish councillors are displayed on a notice-board at the village hall and on the Wenhaston website.

Peter Wildish, Chairman, Wenhaston with Mellis Hamlet Parish Council.

Litter Again

Jill and I do occasional litter picks. Last Sunday we walked north up Bramfield Road with our dog and found what is obviously an occasional layby on the RH side, fronting the Blackheath. It was covered with bottles and cans of all ages, and now they were visible because the bracken and gorse is in its winter state. We had taken a fair-sized carrier bag to clear up the usual litter but found 51 bottles and 17 cans that had been deposited in an area of no more than 50 sq. yards of the heath. We braved the gorse and brambles and pulled all the litter that we could see to the road side; filled the carrier bag and left the remainder, 20 bottles and 2/3 cans to pick up Monday morning. I assumed that the sight of so much litter would strike home to passers-by. It obviously did offend someone who then threw all the bottles and cans back, carefully back into the undergrowth of the heath. Please let this person, and the people who deposit the rubbish in the first place, know that we have cleared this small area yet again, but don't really want to return for yet another clearing session.

If anyone else wants to do a litter pick/clearance, there are many more bottles and cans on this road; it appears to be some sort of a magnet for developing bottle throwing skills.

Terry Gilbert-Fellows Blackheath Dawn

Village Show

To be or not to be, is it on or is it off? Well, it is ON, the Village Show is going to happen, D.V. Boris and weather permitting! It will be held on Sunday 25th July.

In the morning after your produce has been delivered for judging there will be the annual weighing of potatoes grown in their bucket. Buckets and spuds will be found in the P.O. where Jane has kindly given them a home.

For our keen photographers please find the categories below:

1. Open Category
2. The beach

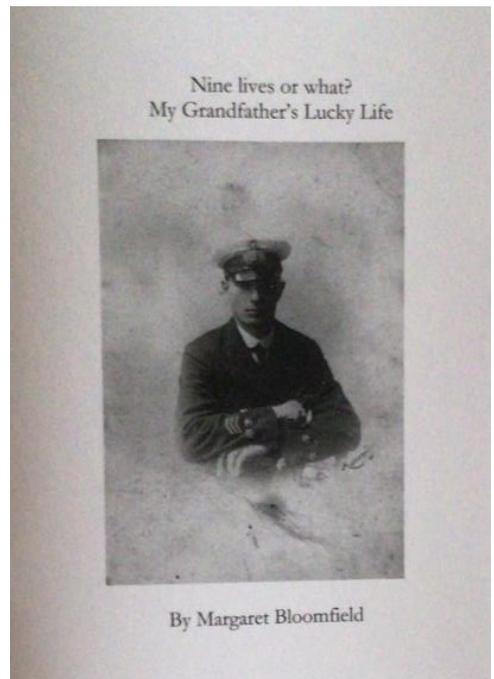
3. The Shed.
4. Life in Wenhaston
5. Portrait. (For 18yrs. and under.)

So, get clicking with your cameras. Possibly there might be some lovely scenes taken during the snow fall.

Schedules for the show will be available at the P.O. from the 22nd March. It's good to have something to look forward to after weeks of incarceration. Take care and stay safe. **Felicity Jelliff**

Robert Goddard

My grandfather, Robert Goddard, was born in Wenhaston to a farming family in the nineteenth century. He had a very unusual life and I was persuaded to write his life story. I had it published, mainly for the family, but if anyone is interested in a bit of local history, I have several free copies to distribute. (or you can give a donation to the church). **Contact me, Margaret Bloomfield, margaret@wrush.plus.com**



Wenhaston Potato in a Bucket Competition 2021



To be held here (Hall Car Park) at 10 am Sunday July 25th

Buckets and seed Potato can be collected from Hall Foyer during Post Office opening hours from Monday 8th March.

For further growing details/rules etc contact Richard on 01502 478775

Held in conjunction with Wenhaston Produce show.

Pottering with Poppy

We were fooled, or rather I was fooled, by the sunshine. Gazing out on my garden it looked like a lovely day, and it is, but that lovely sunshine is tempered by a really biting, fierce wind. So, as we walk along the field paths towards Vicarage Grove and then Bartholomew's Lane, we are walking into a gale! Poppy is a bit perturbed by the fierceness of the wind and its effect on the trees as some of the branches clatter together. There are few little birds about, and it is a day for keeping your head down and keeping going! In looking down I notice fresh footprints in the mud, a badger has passed this way overnight! It has left behind several lovely broad prints that distinguish them from canine ones. Poppy doesn't pick up a scent that she makes me aware of. If it were squirrel or muntjac she would be very excited, following their trail and hoping to be able to give chase. It is so unfair that squirrels can escape up trees! Quite often Poppy ends up

gazing up into a tree when the squirrel has trapezed its way along the tree line and is off elsewhere. As for the muntjacs, they seem to find a speed and ability to disappear into the undergrowth that Poppy cannot match, thank goodness. Bartholomew's Lane can seem long, straight and rather exposed but it holds some favourite treasures. There are not many occasions when I do not hear a Yellow Hammer singing from one oak tree or another, and sometimes it is a case of spot the oak tree that doesn't have "a little bit of bread and no cheeze" being sung from its top most branches. Then there are the ditches and hedge lines. There is a stretch that is a mass of primroses at the moment. I look out for them each spring and love it as the leaves start to appear because they are a promise of the flowers to come. I have yet to get down on my hands and knees to smell their sweet perfume but I

will! So, if you see this strange person down in a ditch, nose to the ground, it's me, smelling the primroses! Further down the lane towards Mill Heath there will be just a few cowslips that will pop through the bank vegetation. But not quite yet.

They are a little behind the primroses in putting in an appearance but they are something to enjoy anticipating, as are the bluebells in Vicarage Grove!

Jo Small

Halesworth Dementia Carers' Fund Thank You, Thank You, Thank You



As we approach the end of our financial year and hopefully see the end of this dreadful pandemic, Halesworth Dementia Carers' Fund would like to thank all the individuals, businesses and grant-givers for their continued support over the last year.

Throughout this Covid 19 pandemic HDCF has continued to provide vital Respite Care and one-to-one telephone support. Additionally, we have delivered cakes, cream teas and Christmas Hampers to our Family Carers, as a show of our appreciation for the magnificent job that they have been doing caring for their loved ones with dementia.

Recently we have been fortunate enough to be able to start, with the help of Helen Hayes, a "Singing with Friends" group on Zoom, and we hope to take this into the community as soon as lockdown restrictions allow.

Being a carer is a hard job at the best of times but caring for a person with dementia 24/7 during these pandemic restrictions makes the job many times more difficult. To enable us to continue supporting Family

Carers we would like to acknowledge and thank the following organisation and the many private individuals who have provided financial support. We have received funding from Halesworth Town Council, Heveningham Hall Trust, Suffolk Community Foundation, Childwick Trust, a local District Councillor and many many individuals and Friends of HDCF. Our funding has ranged from a few pounds to many thousands of pounds, and it's only through the generosity of these people and organisations that we can continue our services. So again, from all the Trustees of HDCF, THANK YOU ALL.

Going forward, we are planning to resume all our fund-raising events, outings and socials gatherings. We are very pleased to say that our first fund-raiser will be held from Thursday 17th June to Wednesday 23rd June when we will be occupying the I-Chameleon pop-up shop in Halesworth Thoroughfare. Please come and visit us for a look-around and purchase a bargain. If anyone has any unwanted items that we could sell please contact us on 01986 875444. (Unfortunately, no clothes or electrical items please).

Do watch out for our social activities and please feel free to join us. All money raised will be used to benefit people with dementia and their carers.

James Fyfe

Compassionate Conversations, Supporting Each Other

As Covid-restrictions gradually ease and we return to some form of normality, there will be many in our community who have experienced tough times during the last year. People have lost family members, friends and neighbours. Many will be struggling because they were unable to be with loved ones when they were dying, or were unable to attend a funeral. The absence of a wake after a funeral has denied many the



chance to share thoughts and memories about the person who died, and to share grief with others.

The Blyth Valley Team Ministry is working in partnership with other local organisations to ensure people can access care and support.



More details of this will follow next month, but what a lot of people need is just the opportunity to talk. This is most likely to happen when we're out walking a dog, shopping, or sitting in the Village Hall Café or the Star garden.

Not everyone feels comfortable in these situations. We worry we might say the wrong thing or upset the other person.

To help with this, St Elizabeth's Hospice in Ipswich is offering "Compassionate Conversations" a free awareness training session.

It is aimed at helping people (aged 18+) build the skills and confidence to enable open, honest and sensitive conversations around end of life, loss and bereavement, whilst identifying ways to help and support others.

What does the session cover?

- Breaking down taboos and myths about death and dying
- Thinking about how we can have compassionate conversations
- How taking the time to lend a helping hand or a friendly ear can make a difference
- Identifying support services available for those experiencing end of life, loss and bereavement

2021 Dates

Wednesday 14 April, 10am - 11.30am

Monday 10 May, 2pm - 3.30pm

Monday 14 June, 10am - 11.30am

Wednesday 14 July, 2pm - 3.30pm

Thursday 12 August, 10am - 11.30am

Friday 17 September, 2pm - 3.30pm

Contact: Compassionate Communities - Online events - St Elizabeth Hospice website

‘An Act of Kindness for Lent’ – Many thanks to all those who joined in

We often associate Lent with a time of giving things up: chocolate, alcohol or a bad habit. However, this year the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich has encouraged church communities to do something kind for someone else. Members and friends of St Peter’s Church, Wenhaston were invited to write letters to the children in Wenhaston Primary School, telling them about their own school days and sending them a message of support after what has been a very difficult year for them. I was delighted with the response and would like to thank everyone who wrote a letter. I will be delivering the letters to the school before the end of term and hope the children and staff enjoy reading them.

Rev. Alison Alder, Blyth Valley Team Ministry

EDITORS NOTE

We really hope the weather improves and everyone is able to walk around the village, and make a guess at how many trees the Blyth Wood group have planted since 2012. You can see the map on Page 2 of this edition. Send your answers, and any other articles, news or pictures by the **15TH April, to wenhastonwarbler@gmail.com**

Wenhaston Village Hall 100 Club

Winners for March 2021

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

- 1st prize Janet Wickwar (number 143) £37.50
- 2nd prize Robert Jelliff (number 82) £22.50
- 3rd prize TH & SE Gow (number 23) £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 £6 for the year starting from April.

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***

Merton Wood and the End of Winter

I have often mentioned the delights of Merton Wood, just off Blackheath Road. For some reason I had assumed that it had once belonged to Merton College, Oxford - a great land owner in the past. In fact, a local resident informed me that Merton was the name of the first pony belonging to Jenny Myer, who lived in the white cottage. She donated a large tract of land to the Woodland Trust who planted the trees, two thirds ash. It then became the property of Suffolk Wildlife Trust. As I mentioned in my February article, somebody probably planted the flowers at the side of the main footpath. The same resident mentioned above told me that a group of local residents did plant the primroses, small wild daffodils and snow drops and that 'Eric's Tree' is the resting place of the ashes of two members of the Hammond family. At the time of writing, 6th March, it is surrounded by flowers with a memorial tag to the recently

deceased Mrs Hammond, a delightful tribute from her grandchildren.

Sadly, many of the trees in Merton Wood are suffering from ash die-back and will probably have to be felled.

The flowers in the wood tell us that spring is on its way. The rooks are busy nest building near the sewage treatment plant. As a boy I lived under a rookery and always loved their noise and obvious organisational ability.

It has been mainly a mild and wet winter. Black Deek, on the heath is the fullest I have seen in the five winters we have been in Wenhaston. The snow event in February exactly mirrored The Beast from the East in February 2018, both caused by a major turbulence many miles above the North Pole. As in 2018 the snowdrifts were impressive, the wind was biting cold but it only lasted a

week. Does Blackheath Road ever get gritted?

Climate Change does seem to be happening. Towards the end of the last century seven out of ten winters had a cold snap, now it is only three out of ten. In his book, 'How to Avoid a Climate Disaster' Bill Gates tells us that we are adding 51 billion tons of greenhouse gasses to the atmosphere every year. He is not a climate change 'activist', but a hard headed entrepreneur with a clear understanding of how

technology can help to solve the problem. It is our problem not the rest of the world's. In Wenhaston we must think seriously about the emissions from our central heating, log fires, our cars and our massive consumption of cardboard and plastics. East Suffolk Council told me that much of the plastic waste is 'exported' - but where to? I worry about the contents of our blue-top bin. On a positive note, the UK does lead the world in the cutting of CO2 emissions!

Brian Withnall

St Peter's Church

Easter is nearly upon us and I am pleased to report that we shall be having some services in church after a long two months without any. Palm Sunday is on 28th March and there will be a Team Service in St Mary's, Halesworth at 10.am. On Good Friday there will be a 10.30 am service on Zoom. On Easter Sunday, 4th April, we will be worshipping at Wenhaston at 10am and we invite you to join us. All the live services have to be booked in advance as we are limited to certain numbers. Phone Alison or Jonathan on 478855. Also, masks must be worn and social distancing observed. We wish you all a Happy Easter when we celebrate our Lord's resurrection. (and enjoy our easter Eggs!) I am not sure of the services after this but there will be posters around the village to let you know.

Plant Sale

We hope to have a plant sale in the churchyard on May 22nd, and would be very grateful for any spare plants which you may have. More details in the May Warbler.

Children's Society Boxes

Dear Box Holders

The CS has postponed sending the annual pack due to the pandemic, and I have decided not to collect and open the boxes this year, as we have been isolating at home and many of us have not been using cash, and therefore have had no change to put in the boxes. I will decide on a day next year for our Box Opening Coffee Morning. In the meantime, if any one wishes to send a cheque, or needs their box opening before next year, just let me know and I will deal with it. Thank you.

Margaret Bloomfield

Wenhaston Methodist Church

All Sunday Services at 10.30 am

4 Thelma Waller Easter Sunday

11 Laura Lawrence-Martin

18 Rev Pam Baylis

25 L A

These services will be held in accordance with the rules prevailing regarding seating, hand cleansing, and face coverings being worn. No singing is allowed.

Iris Baker

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