



December 2020

# Wenhaston Warbler

## Remembrance Day in Wenhaston



It was touch and go whether we would be able to hold our annual Act of Remembrance this year because of the Covid restrictions.

In the end, after carrying out a detailed risk assessment, we went ahead with a socially-

distanced outdoor service in the carpark of the village hall. We were blessed with a gloriously sunny morning, excellent tech support and good attendance from the community.

In fact, several people felt it was better than the normal way we do things. It was particularly moving when everyone present joined in the pledge to serve humanity in the cause of peace, and the relief of want and suffering.

We were also able to donate to the British Legion, which, like other charities at the moment, is struggling to maintain

its fund-raising activities. My grateful thanks go to all who helped to make this a special occasion.

*Revd. Alison Alder*



**Villagers commemorating Remembrance Day**

### **Christmas Hampers**

The Foodbank is putting together hampers to give to families in need this Christmas. Any donations of Christmas food, such as puddings, mince pies, tins of meat, chocolate biscuits, boxes of sweets, as well as toiletries and children's toys, would be gratefully received.

These can be left at Oakhurst, Blackheath Road, or left at the Foodbank at St Mary's Church, Halesworth on Wednesday mornings, between 10am and 12 noon. Thank you!

**Gill Frostick**

### **Village Hall - New Committee Members Needed**

Please help us to keep the village hall running and join the small group of volunteers who keep our hall open. We are a friendly bunch, all willing to help new members and are committed to providing an excellent community facility for us all to enjoy. **Without more members to fill the vacant roles the hall will face closure after the AGM in February.**

## **Booking Secretary**

The Committee is looking for a person to take on this role after the AGM in the New Year. The job involves booking the activities, invoicing quarterly and general responsibility for the hall keys. **There is a remuneration of £1200 per annum paid monthly and full training will be given.**

## **Treasurer**

We also need a Treasurer for the village hall. Our accounts are easily kept on an Ace money computer system which is a personal accounting software package. It is an easy to use home accounts package, you do not need accounting experience and full training will be given. The role is voluntary and is an opportunity to become part of a small team running the village hall.

**Please contact Sally Amery on 01502 478847 or by email at [sally.amery@gmail.com](mailto:sally.amery@gmail.com) if you think you can help and for more details.**

## **Post Office News**

I would like to say a big thank you to all the people who took the time to fill in the online survey about Wenhaston Post Office.

I did not expect so many of you to respond and it was very much appreciated. It has not gone unnoticed. My Area Manager was very impressed with the response and the comments that you all made. It just goes to prove that our Village needs the Post Office and your feed backs have shown this. It is not just a Post Office, it offers many other services to those who live in Wenhaston. It is the hub of the Village and I enjoy serving you all and feeling part of the community. So once again, thank you. Even if you were unable to do the survey your verbal feed back has been lovely to receive and appreciated.

Take care and stay safe.

**Jane Peters**

## **Medication Collection at Wenhamston Post Office**

There is so much medication now being delivered to the Post Office from Halesworth and a lot of it is bulky items. It is impossible to store it all. Space is limited so if you are able to collect your medication from the Surgery please do so.

Items really need to be collected on the day they are delivered. This service was set up for those people in the village who cannot get down to the Surgery and collect their items due to mobility or lack of transport.

The dispensary has advised me to send back any items that have not been collected when the next delivery arrives. Some items are not collected for three weeks or more.

I am very short of space, at the end of each day I have to bring in all my display units to the back of the Post Office, which is like trying to do a jigsaw puzzle.



**Uncollected medication at the Post Office**

So if you do not fall into one of the categories above please would you collect your meds from the Surgery. Thank you and stay safe.

*Jane Peters*

## **Seasons Greetings from Blyth Woods**

Thanks to Zoom, we were able to hold our AGM on 12<sup>th</sup> November and it was good to catch up with friends and interested local people. We were impressed with how much had been achieved over the last year when Chair, Ann Edwards, gave her roundup. Her report included:

'This has been an eventful year in many ways. It was a beautiful spring, despite Covid, and many people began to appreciate and hear the natural world for the first time, as human noise and bustle was quietened.



The year focused on our pursuing our vision for increasing wildlife and woodland areas. Practically, this meant raising the money needed to buy the 1.6 acre triangle of poor agricultural land adjacent to Grove Piece and we ran a series of events including

- A sold out community puddings and starters supper, combined with an auction, raised over £2000
- A huge jumble sale
- A very enjoyable wreath making event
- Stands at the village show and Christmas bazaar
- Sales of cards and produce
- Clay workshop
- Wine and cheese evening for the Friends of Blyth Woods

Work parties have continued the maintenance of Grove Piece: cutting the rides, weeding saplings and replanting where necessary. We have continued the involvement with the school. One highlight was planting the new boundary hedge along Malster's on a very muddy day. It was good to see how many parents, grandparents and carers also came to help. The programme of collecting and planting acorns, weeding and mulching the school tree nursery, tracks and trails and planting new saplings has also continued with the children. As some of us are getting older and stiffer, it is very encouraging to see a new generation taking real interest in the nature around them.

As Tree Wardens for Wenhampton with Mells, we have engaged with the Suffolk Tree Wardens, and taken part in various forums.

Anyone who would like to join us, as part of the steering group, as a Trustee, or joining a work party, we would love to hear from you.'

We will be as busy as ever in 2021 so keep a look out for details of our plans and events. Happy Christmas!

**[www.blythwoods.org](http://www.blythwoods.org)**

**[blythwoods1@gmail.com](mailto:blythwoods1@gmail.com)**

## **Walks**

Dependent upon coronavirus restrictions at the time, Gail Attfield will lead a walk on Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> December starting at 10am from the main car park at Walberswick. Those who wish to lunch at The Bell in Walberswick will have to arrange direct with the pub (01502 723109).

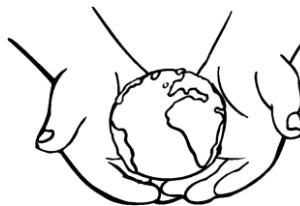
***Ian Bigwood***

**EDITORS NOTE:** At the moment we don't know how different Christmas might be this year. Whatever happens, we hope you have a happy festive season, and a more promising New Year. Please send us copy by 12<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER (because of Xmas) to **[wenhamptonwarbler@gmail.com](mailto:wenhamptonwarbler@gmail.com)**



## Acting to Protect our Environment - the Blyth Valley Environment Network

The Blyth Valley Team establishing the “Blyth Network,” a way to what is being done environmental facing globally. We held November 3<sup>rd</sup> and agreed that there were three ways in which we could usefully operate:



of Churches is Valley Environment explore and promote locally to address the challenges we are our first meeting on

1. To provide a forum for different local groups to promote what they are doing and to link up with the knowledge and experience of other groups and initiatives.
2. To increase appreciation in our communities of the natural world and its many benefits for our lives. This includes building up work with young people and families.
3. To join in the campaigns which are fighting for action on national and international levels to tackle the climate crisis.

At the Zoom meeting we heard about the “Parish Environmental Management Plan” for Wenhampton and discussed how a Blyth Valley Environment Network could support this. Wenhampton already has some key projects running. The Commons Group works in partnership with Suffolk Wildlife Trust and the Parish Council to manage the five commons in the village. Blyth Woods manages some existing areas of woodland and works to purchase and develop new woodland in the village. They have worked closely with the village primary school, which has its own tree nursery. The Swift Action Group has encouraged villagers to put up swift nesting boxes to replace the loss of nesting sites in buildings over recent years. There are even 4 nest boxes in the church tower. Several villagers are working with Suffolk Wildlife Trust to manage and monitor the River Blyth and its tributaries. We also heard from Martin Dominic, a member of the URC

church who, for many years, has been following the evidence of climate change and is deeply concerned about its impact on the future of the planet. He updated us on some of the latest manifestations of global warming and led us in a discussion about the vital importance of moving to sustainable lifestyles.

Many of us are aware that without drastic action, parts of the world will become uninhabitable by the end of the century, leading to mass migration on a scale never before imagined. And it is the lifestyles of the wealthiest countries in the world that are damaging the viability of the poorest countries. Charities like Christian Aid are currently campaigning for Climate Justice, particularly as we begin to rebuild our economies after the pandemic.

### What can you do?

At the moment our work will mainly be via Zoom, but don't let this put you off. We can post campaign details to people or discuss ideas over the phone.

- ✓ Join our network. To do this contact Revd. Alison Alder at [alisonalder@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:alisonalder@hotmail.co.uk) or 01502 478855/ 07584414277.  
Our next meeting will be in January and will focus on "Living Sustainably".
- ✓ Join our campaigning group. Contact Revd. Alison Alder or Revd. Linda Berry for more details.
- ✓ Become involved in some of the church initiatives that we are starting.
- ✓ Share your own ideas.

We cannot change the current crisis on our own but we can take small steps to be part of the solution. I hope and pray you will support us.

***Revd. Alison Alder***

*"Well, the sat-nav says this is Sizewell -  
so where d'you want it luv?"*



## Nature Notes

My wife and I moved to Wenhaston exactly four years ago. As Lincolnshire immigrants we were warmly welcomed by neighbours and people we met on dog walks. We are glad we came.

We knew the area well from holidays, and my wife's maternal grandparents (Arthur and Florence Musk), came from Newmarket, where a cousin first produced the famous Musk's sausages.

We love the benign climate, the beautiful ancient landscape, the small towns and the coast. Wenhaston is a friendly village, full of people who care about their environment. It is a real place not a chocolate box village.

We live on the edge of Black Heath, a rare survival of a huge expanse of coastal heathland. It needs to be cherished for its often rare flowers and its beautiful foxes and lizards. The

Sand Martins appeared again and flourished.

Towards the end of August our front bank became covered in poppies when we had almost given up hope .They are still flowering at time of writing ( November 12th) , a fitting tribute to the fallen of two appalling wars.

The ponds dried up in the summer heat. After record rainfall the ponds are full. On August 21st a sandstorm raged across the road to Walberswick. I came across a slow worm in the middle of Blackheath Road. It resisted being picked up but this was better than being squashed by the next car.

The information board in the churchyard tells us that slow

worms are legless lizards , not snakes.

Predicted meteor showers were obscured by cloud in October but at present Mars is a great sight in the evening sky. On October 23rd Saturn , Jupiter and the moon formed a perfect right -angled triangle . It is worth getting up early to see Venus in the east.

Hopefully we can see a possible end to the pandemic...an effective vaccine would be a perfect Christmas present for everybody !

I hope all Warbler readers have a safe Christmas and a Covid - free New

Year.                   **Brian Withnall**

### **Community Larder and Foodbank**

As well as the Foodbank, the Community Larder is open three mornings a week in St Mary's Church Hall, Halesworth, 10-11.30am. Donate or exchange food and other items, take what you need and give a small donation. If you are really struggling you can just take what you need. Donations for both can be left in the box in the porch of Oakhurst, Blackheath Road, Wenhaston. If you specifically want to donate to the Community Larder, please mark your donations otherwise most donations go directly to the Foodbank. Thank you for your continued support.

***Revd. Alison Alder***

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

The November draw was made and we are delighted to announce the winners:

- 1st prize John Hennessey (number 57) £37.50
- 2nd prize Cyrilla Havard (number 28) £22.50
- 3rd prize Heather Phillips (number 70) £15.00

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 anyone wishing to join now, the fee is £9 for the period to end August 2021, we welcome new members ! 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 Jane at the Post Office (thank you Jane for being our collecting person!) or either of the promoters, Kirsten West or Trish Gower. Thank you all again for your payments and 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 Trish on 478267.***

## **St Peter's Church**

Here we are again after a month of Shutdown. We are all hoping that the numbers of Covid 19 infections has decreased and we are able to resume our activities but time will tell. Therefore I am unable to publish any service times as yet until we know what the Government decides on what we are allowed to.

Meanwhile, the Blyth Valley Team of churches has been doing its best to interact with people through streamed services, Zoom meetings and

services, and an Evening Candle prayer everynight. The church folk are also involved with making sure the needy have enough to eat via the Foodbank and the Community Larder. The congregations have been in touch with people who are not on line to make sure they are not forgotten. There has been a lot of prayers for those for whom the lockdown has been a difficult time. Your church is there for you. Here in Wenhampton, every year we donate 5% of our unrestricted income to charity and this year we have sent £475 each to Crisis (the charity for the homeless) and East Anglian Children's Hospices. We have been unable to do any fundraising but hope these donations will help in some small way.

I do hope that all our readers will have as good a Christmas as is possible, and that you will be able to see your families. God bless you all.

### **Wenhampton Methodist Church All Sunday Services at 10.30 am**

6 Sue Groome

13 Rev Robert Soanes HC

20 Laura Lawrence-Martin

27 No Service

**Christmas Morning Family Service At 9.30 am**  
Rev Louise Morrissey

All these dates will only be viable if the present Lockdown ends on 2nd December. We would welcome anyone to our services while observing the present regulations but only have accommodation up in the gallery where there is ample space for social distancing. ***Iris Baker***

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