



January 2021

Wenhaston Warbler



Wenhaston by Wil Harvey

EDITORS NOTE: Best wishes for 2021 to all our readers, contributors, advertisers, and all those hardy volunteers who collect and deliver the Warbler every month. Please send us copy for February by **15TH January**. Send to **wenhastonwarbler@gmail.com**

Wenhaston Village Hall

I am delighted to report that our recent appeal for volunteers to staff the management committee has resulted in the roles of Treasurer and Booking Secretary being filled, as well as two other trustee vacancies. We still have vacancies for a Minutes Secretary and other members to manage the social core of our lovely village. If you have some spare time, or are newly retired, and would like to know more about becoming a team member please let me know and we would give you a warm welcome.

There are numerous separate activities that are supported by the hall, from table tennis and coffee mornings to monthly craft markets, bingo and kurling. Hiring the hall for other events is also a vital part of our income to cover running costs.

I should like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a happy, healthy COVID free New Year and we look forward to welcoming all residents back to the village hall in 2021.

Contact: Sally Amery 01502 478847 sally.amery@gmail.com

Green Energy News From The Village Hall

A year ago the village hall committee were considering how we might build on our green credentials. Janet Dillaway, who worked extensively on the Green Energy project at the hall ten years ago contacted Groundwork East for help. They are a federation of charities formed in 1985 who work locally and nationally to empower local communities to take charge of their lives, green spaces, and local environments. Jamie Murphy from Groundwork East, visited us at the village hall to advise us how we may achieve a more sustainable future and ensure the village hall continues to thrive. We received a very detailed report regarding the solar PV array, long term heating options and electric vehicle charging points. One of our concerns was the solar PV system and how we can optimise the heating and hot water to try and use more of the free electricity we generate and we decided to pursue this option.

The solar PV panels generate a nominal 9 k W of power, some of which gets utilized by the village hall, thus reducing electrical costs, with any excess exported to the National Grid. This does not produce any income to the hall and it was proposed to divert this excess generation to provide electrical heating to the hot water buffer tank in the Biomass boiler heating system. This would generate indirect income by virtue of reduced fuel usage and cost.

Roger Claxton designed an appropriate system to do this and during the summer lockdown and the more recent one, work has been underway. A team of volunteers removed the buffer tank and it was delivered and collected to the fabricators by Paul Cantwell. Volunteers installed the system and on completion during the last lockdown an electrical contractor checked all the work and connected it up. We are now able to use more of our free energy with the solar panels helping

to heat the water in the boiler system which then circulates round the radiators.

We would like to thank our District Councillor, Alison Cackett who helped fund this project by awarding us a grant of £500 which was very much appreciated. We also received private donations of £430 plus another £400 was paid direct for some of the materials needed. The net cost to the hall was only £423.

Thank you very much to all involved with this project, and in particular to Roger Claxton, for all their hard work. *Sally Amery*

Pottering with Poppy

Poppy has been enjoying her pottering as much as ever. There can be a slight reluctance on the doorstep if it is actually raining but once out, she is as keen to get going as ever. Winter has really arrived with the short days, fog, frost and even a brief fall of snow but the geese have arrived too! Pops did wonder why we had to double back to the marshes, but a skein of 27 geese were flying along the valley and then landed in water meadows. I didn't recognise the language they were speaking, so had to

check them out! They were the White-fronted geese I had heard were about. Having admired them we left them to themselves and headed back to the field path.

Often there is a buzzard sitting incongruously on the wires that cross the fields towards the marsh cottages. It looks too big to be perched up there but it obviously has a good view of all it surveys. Sometimes the jackdaws and crows trouble it and it moves off but usually it just sits there not bothered by our passing.

There is a kestrel too, that I am seeing almost daily at the moment. It must be finding lots of things to eat in the middle of the village. I see it sitting on the ridge tiles of the old cottages or up on the chimney stack of the old Compasses pub, and occasionally it flies over the garden on its way to hunt over the fields.

Lots of the oak trees that border the fields still have

many leaves on them. If the light is right and the sun catches them, they glow a lovely golden brown, and may do for a while yet, if the winds do not blow too hard and bring them to the ground.

We are almost home and I realise the blackbirds are feasting on the holly berries in the front garden again. Time for Poppy and I to go and have breakfast! **Jo Small**

Happy New Year from Blyth Woods



Even though we were unable to get together for our usual activities with the Wenhaston community and school, we had a busy year maintaining Grove Piece and Malster's Little Field and making plans. We celebrated National Tree Week in December with a work party,

planting new trees and hedging and plan to participate in the recently launched BBC Countryfile *Plant Britain* initiative. We only had to replace a few trees as most are flourishing in spite of the dry summer. Many of you enjoy walking in the woods and we would love to hear if you spot any interesting flora and fauna – maybe children could check their oak trees and bug hotels and let us know how they are getting on.

We hope 2021 brings us all happiness, good health and plenty of time to enjoy the wonderful countryside around Wenhaston. Our next (Covid restriction compliant) work party at Grove Piece is at 10am on Saturday 9 January so why not put on your wellies and work off some of those Christmas calories! We would love to see you. blythwoods1@gmail.com
www.blythwoods.org

Halesworth Dementia Carers' Fund



A Street offers fantastic Christmas lights for charity

Teresa Forder (manager, First Choice Care Agency) and her husband have very kindly agreed to place a collection box for HDCF outside their home, which will be lit up with over 40,000 lights. Other neighbours are also lighting up their homes. Visit Green Bank,

Halesworth, off Fairview Rd, for a Christmas Spectacular. ***Any other households with Christmas light displays who would like to raise funds for us, please contact Jim Fyfe on 01986 875641 for collection pots.***

Co-op Local Community Fund

Halesworth Dementia Carers' Fund has been selected to take part in the Co-op Local Community Fund, and you can help us raise funds. Our local Co-op in Halesworth is an independent Co-op so is not part of this scheme, but Laxfield Co-op Foodstore, Rackham's Funeral Care Diss and Woolnough's Funeral Care Halesworth are participants. We would like to encourage everyone who intends to use any of the above services to apply for, or use, a blue Co-op card. If you are members of

this group please select us as your cause, and perhaps consider donating your personal allowance to us. ***You can join on-line at coop.co.uk/membership, or by downloading the Co-op App.*** When you buy selected Co-op products and services, including funeral arrangements, 2p in every £1 goes into your Co-op Membership Account, and the Co-op will give the same amount to support community organisations. There are 3 good causes this year and we hope you will feel able to support us.

The Coronavirus Pandemic has prevented us from doing any fund-raising this year, so your help with this project is even more important. Our “Cause” profile giving information about HDCF can be viewed on www.membership.coop.co.uk/causes/52325, ***Please phone Jim (number above) if you would like further information.***

From Our Secretary, Dave Rich.

Our half-yearly report from Daniel Schaffer, Dementia Connect Local Services Manager thanked Alice Sparksman who has been seconded from the Alzheimers Society for two days a week over the last 6 months. Working remotely she has enabled relationships to be maintained and provided additional assurance to clients at a challenging time. Despite not having face to face peer support she has been able to extend her reach and support. Although new referrals have decreased over the last 6 months, significant interactions and time directly spent with clients has risen dramatically, doubling to 8530 hours.

At our virtual 7th AGM we received Annual Reports and Accounts from the previous year. Chairman Teresa Fyfe welcomed 4 new Trustees – Bill Ellis, John Wood, Geoff Cackett, and Iris Smith, who has taken over as Treasurer from Mary Pennock who has done such a great job over the last 4 years.

We have said farewell to two members, Tessa Harding who was a founder member, and Patricia Flegg, who dealt with publicity. Both will be greatly missed and we wish them well.

Chairman Teresa thanked all the committee members for their hard work during the lockdown. Thanks also go to Alison Cackett for the knitted dishcloths, to Tracy Excell for her social media updates, and to Jill Reece, our Town Council representative. Our Patron, Paddy Cox, added his thanks to the Committee for all their hard work and the help given to the people of Halesworth.

Finally, HDCF would like to thank all the local carers and everyone who has helped and supported us over the last year. WE wish you and your families good health and a happier outlook for the New Year.

John Wood.
HDCF Publicity Officer.

Walks

Only one walk in January which will leave from Wenhaston Village Hall at 10am on Tuesday 5th January. ***Heather Phillips (478545)***



CARING FOR THE COMMONS



WENHASTON COMMONS GROUP WORKING PARTY PROGRAMME 2021

Welcome to the new season. Below is the programme of activity for the coming year and we hope very much that you will be able to spare some time to help with the variety of jobs we have planned to maintain and improve our rare lowland heath commons.

All working parties have a team leader to supervise tasks and run between 10 a.m. and 12 noon on the specified days. Everyone is welcome and the amount of work you do is up to you. Tools and safety equipment are provided as is advice on health and safety issues.

We will be continuing our joint working on Blackheath with Suffolk Wildlife Trust maintaining the areas of heather and acid grassland, and removing some areas of gorse to create firebreaks. Work on the other commons continues, and we will also be carrying out surveys of birds, butterflies and reptiles so there is plenty of opportunity for involvement whatever your interest.

Working parties are sociable and provide an opportunity to experience hands-on countryside management. Refreshments are usually provided but it is advisable to bring water.

If you would like any further information please contact one of the working party leaders below or our President - **Heather Phillips** on 01502 478545.

Jonathan Alder: 07881 743991 Email j.m.alder59@gmail.com
Myles Archibald: 07774 781186. Email mylesarchibald@btinternet.com
Alan Miller: 07493 622952 Email alanm54@btinternet.com

In the event of inclement weather e.g. rain, snow or high wind a working party may be cancelled at short notice, and also occasionally a change of venue is necessary. Please check your emails! Whilst every effort will be made to notify volunteers, you should contact one of the numbers above before the working party to check it is going ahead if bad weather is forecast.

WENHASTON COMMONS GROUP WORKING PARTY PROGRAMME 2021

Month	Day		Lead	Location	Meet at	Task
January	Tue	12	JA	Bickers Heath	Seat off Coles Hill - Parking in Low Rd.	Gorse clearance eastern edge/bur
	Sun	24	JH	Blackheath	Sand Martin Pit	Remove gorse f faces, remove f sand/ reface
February	Tue	9	AM	Blackheath	Sand Martin Pit	Commence cu firebreak in go area below pit
	Sun	21	MA	Mill Heath	Entrance off Heath Road	Gorse clearanc enclosure/burn
March	Tue	9	JA	Blackheath	Sand Martin Pit	Continue cuttin firebreak in go area below/bur
	Sun	21	MA	Bickers Heath	Seat off Coles Hill Parking low Rd	Gorse clearanc eastern edge/t
April	Tue	6	JA	St Peter's Churchyard	Churchyard	Grass Scything/raking
August	Sun	22	HG	Black Heath	Black Deek Pond	Bracken/Paths
September	Sun	19	MA	Blackheath	West end – by posts/gate on track leading to Bramfield Road	Gorse removal
October	Tue	12	AM	Mill Heath	Entrance off Heath Road	Gorse removal
	Sun	24	JH	Bickers Heath	Seat off Coles Hill - parking in Low Rd	Clear bracken/
November	Tue	9	AM	Blackheath	West end – by posts/gate on track leading to Bramfield Road	Gorse removal
	Sun	21	HG	Bickers Heath	Seat off Coles Hill -parking in Low Rd	Gorse clearanc eastern edge/t
December	Sun	19	JA	Blackheath	Black Deek Pond	Clear bracken/

JA Jonathan Alder HG Helen Gairn JH John Holmes AM Alan Miller MA Myles Archibald

The Wenhaston Village Hall 100 Club

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

- 1st prize Maggie Baker (number 127) £37.50
- 2nd prize Micky Bird (number 73) £22.50
- 3rd prize Katherine Edwards (number 69) £15.00

Christmas Bonus Prize: Eleanor Gower (number 63) £50.00

Congratulations to all

Thank you all again for supporting the village hall in this way, and having a chance to be a monthly winner. Good luck for 2021! ***All enquiries please phone Trish on 478267.***

St Peter's Church

Happy New Year to you all. I hope it will be a different one from the last. We have all been tried and tested by going through lockdowns, tiers, illness and bereavement but we have survived and look forward to a brighter future now that the vaccination has been approved. I hope and pray that the world will be a better place now and that we all learn to count our blessings.

In January the services for Wenhaston are as follows:-

- 3rd January Team Service at Halesworth 10am No service at Wenhaston
- 10th January Bramfield 11.15am or Methodist Covenant 10.30am*
- 17th January Eucharist 11.15 Wenhaston
- 24th January Pause for Thought 11.15 Wenhaston
- 31st January Team Service Halesworth 10am No service at Wenhaston

*At the time of writing, I am not sure if this will take place. See posters for more info.

Margaret Bloomfield

Wenhaston Methodist Church
All Sunday Services at 10.30 am

3 LA

10 Rev Peter Rayson Covenant

17 Julie Warren

24 Rev Clive Sutcliffe

31 Rev Pam Bayliss

These services will take place according to current restrictions in force

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posters.*

*The editors reserve the right to
amend or not to publish articles.
All copy to be emailed to
wenhastonwarbler@gmail.com by
the 15th January*

*Advertising: £15 p.m. for ¼ column
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<p>WILDLIFE PONDS <i>Water garden services est. 1985</i> Ponds built from scratch, relined or repaired Ponds cleaned out, renovated and planted out Telephone 01502 478140</p>	<p>The Old Forge Studio OPEN WEEKEND Focus on Spinning Yarns Saturday 9 and Sunday 10 January from 11 to 4 text Lin on 07970 285566 to pre arrange your visit. Back Road ◦ Wenhashton ◦ IP19 9DZ</p>