



June 2022

Wenhaston Warbler

Platinum Jubilee Edition



Suffolk gardener Joe Barnes was selected from a number of local artists to create the official symbol for The Festival of Suffolk,. Joe, 33, of Duncan's Yard, Southwold, was working on a job in Wenhaston when he came up with the idea for the Queen's profile image that is to be used for the Festival.

A full list of events for the Festival of Suffolk can be found at

<https://www.festivalofsuffolk.org/all-events>

The Queen's Jubilee Celebration Update Sunday 5th June 2022

Mums, dads, grandparents and children please come and join the fun with Wenhaston's celebrations. A procession through the village, starting at the Star Public House car park at 11.15am on Sunday 5th June, will mark the beginning of a fun-filled day. It would be lovely if children were to dress up as kings and queens and those using their bicycles could decorate them with colourful ribbons. Younger ones could hitch a ride on Arthur Musk's tractor trailer.



Bring lots of red, white and blue flags to add to the celebration day. During the procession there will be an unveiling of a plaque at the village hall, which features the names of children currently attending Wenhaston Primary school. The procession will end at the playing-field where a BBQ, music and fun and games, will make it a day to remember. There is still time for clubs and groups to book a table. Contact Arthur Musk on 01502 478266. See you there!

Peter Wildish

Festival Of Suffolk Torch Relay Is Coming To Wenhaston Saturday 28 May 2022

Watch out for the Festival of Suffolk Torch Relay that reaches Wenhaston on Saturday 28th May! The Relay, taking place from Friday 13th May to Wednesday 1st June, features an electric rickshaw which will cover 588 miles through Suffolk and visit 250 villages on the way. The rickshaw will carry local heroes who have been nominated to carry the torch. Wenhaston's nominated torch bearer is 95-year-old Heather Phillips MBE who has called Wenhaston her home all her life. Remarkably, Heather has served the community by being a Wenhaston Parish Councillor for nearly seventy years.



The rickshaw will arrive at the Queen's Head at 1:30pm, pick up Heather and bring her to the Village Hall by 1.45pm, where she will dismount. The Rickshaw will then leave in the direction of Holton at about 2pm. So please join other villagers to welcome the Festival Torch to Wenhaston. Make a date: Saturday 28th May 2022.

For details of the Festival of Suffolk search:

<http://www.festivalofsuffolk.org>

WENHASTON

Produce & Craft Market

Saturday
25th June 2022

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...

Pitch fee: £7

To book your table (provided) contact:

Carol Hudson -Jary

Tel: 01502 478732 or

email: caz-mike@outlook.com

Raising funds for Village Hall Maintenance

What is the Parish Council Doing?

A number of residents have mentioned that they are not sure what activities are exercising Wenhaston with Mells Hamlet Parish Council, and I offer the following:

Meetings. The Parish Council meets on the third Wednesday of each month during the year, except August, (or unless otherwise decided by Council). An agenda is posted at least seven days before the meeting on Wenhaston's Internet site and on the notice-board at the village hall.

Residents may join the meeting at 7pm, to express any concerns they may have, until 7:30pm, when the meeting officially starts. If a subject is raised that requires discussion by Councillors, it can become an agenda item for the following month. Residents may leave or remain for all or part of the meeting thereafter, if they wish.

Draft minutes are posted on the village website within seven days of the meeting. As soon as the minutes are officially approved by Councillors, the website is updated and a copy of the approved minutes is placed on the village hall notice-board.

Copies of any notices may be obtained by contacting Richard Day (see details below). Residents may also write to or e-mail any Parish Councillor or the Parish Clerk, at any time and the subject will be raised at the next convenient Parish Council meeting under agenda item 'Correspondence'.

An Annual Parish Meeting, normally held in May, allows residents to hear reports of the Parish Council's activities throughout the year. Please feel free to contact Peter Wildish or Richard Day if you have any questions related to the Parish Council. Thank you.

Peter Wildish, Chair, Wenhaston with Mells Parish Council

Tel: 01728 652836 or e-mail: peterwildish724@btinternet.com

Richard Day, Parish Clerk, Wenhaston with Mells Parish Council

Tel: 01986 875883 or e-mail: 1richardday@gmail.com

Village Hall – Calling All Artists

To enliven the Hall and café, the management committee decided we should have more pictures and artwork on display. At present there are still lot of pieces that were contributed by members of the village back in March, to help raise money for Ukraine. The plan is to replace many of these in the coming months with new items, and this is an invitation to anyone who draws or paints or makes things, and would like to display and possibly sell their work, to get in touch either with Wil Harvey (harveys@care4free.net or 01502 478606), Andy Norris (andynorris57@hotmail.co.uk) or with David Elliott (dsieliott@gmail.com or 07870 681723).

David Elliott

Wenhaston Bowls Club

Do you fancy popping along for a cup of tea and trying your hand at green Bowls? If so, the green will be open Thursday afternoons until the end of August from 2:30. There will be members of the club on hand to help provide advice and guidance You can play as much or as little as you wish.

We just ask that you wear flat shoes or trainers to protect the green. Bowls will be provided, it's free on your first session and £2 thereafter We are a small friendly club and offer a warm welcome to everyone. If you take the lane beside Wenhaston primary school we are on the right at the top.

Kevin Canham

Village Hall Cinema ('Pics in the Sticks')

A reminder that all are welcome to our film evenings on the first Saturday of every month – no membership, no pre-booking, not even any admission tickets(!) just the option of a voluntary donation to the village hall. Films are advertised on the board in the corner of the village hall car park and in the hall foyer.

Wil Harvey

Wenhaston Walking Group

A walk will start at 10am at Wenhaston Village Hall on Tuesday, 7th June when we will go in search of orchids. Barbara will lead a second walk starting at 10am at The Angel in Halesworth, IP19 8AH on Tuesday, 21st June. The walk will take in the town centre, the country park and the river and will be approximately 4.5 miles. Lunch will follow and a menu will be circulated prior to the day. If you are interested in being added to the circulation list, please email ipbigwood@btinternet.com **Heather Phillips (01502 478545))**

Wenhaston School End of Half-Term Update

It has been a thoroughly enjoyable half-term at Wenhaston school. Covid-19, whilst still being an unwelcome presence at times, has started to abate, and interaction with parents and the wider community has thankfully returned to more traditional levels.

We have been able to welcome parents to the site for a parents' evening for the first time in almost two years and we have been able to host many visitors to the school.



These have included Charlotte from Southwold library, who came in to celebrate World Book Day with the children. We also had Medieval and Anglo-saxon workshops with the children, where parents and specialists were utilised to support the events. We also welcomed onto the site local members of the church community, who told the children the Easter story through the 'Open the book' Project.

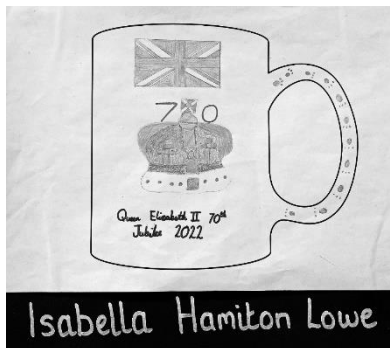
The main event for the school this half-term came on the very last day where we said goodbye to Mrs Kett, who retired after having been our school cook for over 30 years. We celebrated with an afternoon tea and Mrs Kett was presented with a piece of art to celebrate her service, produced by local artist and school midday supervisor Michaela Bloomfield.

The following day, I had the pleasure of attending the Jubilee fundraiser at the village hall, where it was good to meet many members of the local community.

At this event, all the children's artwork was on display for the Jubilee mug competition, where the winner was revealed.

It was also pleasing to speak to a few members of the community at the above event, who are keen to support the school and also keen to seek my advice on how we can

improve youth opportunities in the village. This is something that I am very passionate about. If you feel you have expertise which you could offer the school, please do get in touch. I hope you have had a lovely Easter! *Mr Stone - Headteacher*



Isabella Hamilton Lowe, competition winner





Wenhaston's Litter-Picking Team Cleans Up

A small team of local people took to the roads and lanes recently to scour the village of litter. It was a great success, resulting in ten full sacks of rubbish. Squashed beer cans and crisp packets topped

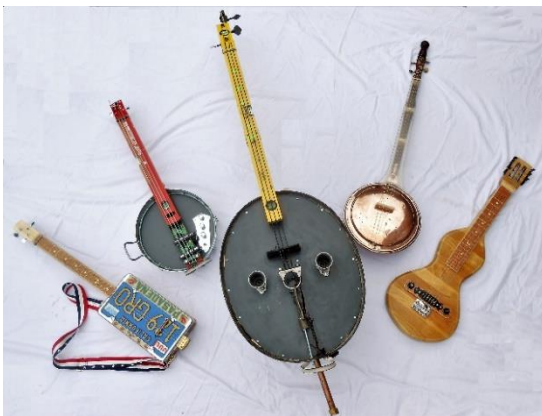
the list but an old, rusty bicycle frame, long past its prime, was dragged from the bushes. This year, however, the clean-up 'haul' was augmented by a number of used face masks. How things change! The photograph shows the team. From the left: Richard Atkins, Jan Clements, Sue Gow, Tony Gow, Sally Amery, Nick Amery, Mary Wildish, Peter Wildish.

PW

Some Strings Attached... a very rough guide to DIY guitars

Ah, those delicate tools of the musical instrument maker: hacksaw, pliers, hammer, drill, angle grinder, rivet gun - welcome to the happy world of DIY guitars!

I've played bass guitar on and off (mainly off) since the early 60s, but realising my electric bass didn't fit the ethos of local acoustic pub folk sessions, I made a modern version of a tea chest bass. The result, in the centre of the photo, my **washtub bass**: zinc washtub, spirit level for the neck, steel sheet (house-cladding) for the soundboard, and various 1960s car parts (air intakes, exhaust clamps etc). OK, more than a nod to 'Steampunk'. The only new items were the tuning pegs and proper bass strings - life's too short to try and make these.



Now, this is the cheating bit: electronic pickups and effects pedals can produce a whole range of sound effects, so my washtub can sound like a full double bass ('all the right notes, but not necessarily in the right order'...?)

The washtub, however, was quite heavy to lug around so, flushed with success and exertion, I launched into a portable version - my '**jambulele**': jam preserving pan, spirit level, assortment of Meccano (should be compulsory in all schools), Fender jazz bass humbucker pickups plus preamp. By now I had overcome some of the pitfalls awaiting the novice luthier, but more importantly I had also got the bug for Cigar Box Guitars, CBGs These are named after the crude instruments made by American plantation workers from discarded materials, and are now enjoying a worldwide resurgence featuring recycled domestic and industrial materials.

Onwards.... There's a sub-genre of CBGs featuring car number plates - Google **Licence Plate Guitar**. Mine features a cherished Californian number plate from the mid-70s when Anne and I lived in South Pasadena: laminated wood neck, brass frets, ply sound box and piezo-rod pickup. Tuning? Open G and played with a slide.

Clearly envious of my recycled guitar bits, Andy (co-member of the Black Deek Band) rashly commissioned a 6 string '**lap steel**' guitar, played like a Hawaiian guitar, using an off-cut from his butcher's block oak kitchen worktop. This involved much excavation of wood to bury the electronics (single humbucker with tone and volume pots). But, despite its lap-flattening weight, the customer appears satisfied...

Bedtime blues? You need a **copper warming pan guitar**. It often struck me that old Victorian warming pans looked like banjos, and a fruitful visit to a car-boot sale produced a scruffy, but pleasingly original, example. Replete with a piezo pick-up under the bridge and the middle 4 strings from a conventional guitar set, it produces an ear-rattling metallic resonance (think 'National steel guitar', but copper).

The next one? A secret, but the car-boot sale was fruitful...

Wil Harvey

Music For Our Marine Life

A charity concert for British Divers Marine Life Rescue (BDMLR).
Thorington Theatre Saturday June 11th 6pm.

The charity relies on trained volunteers all around the UK to rescue,



rehabilitate &
release injured &
sick marine
mammals
including seals,
porpoises,
dolphins and
whales.



The event is
directed by local music
teacher/musician Marie Young,
also a volunteer Marine Mammal

Medic with BDMLR & features local musicians, including Crannog Folk Band, the choir from St. Felix School, original poems by Dell Primary school, and community bands TUTTI Wind Band and Saxpack. Tickets £10 from info@thoringtontheatre.co.uk and **Marie Young 07917 484161**

An action-packed Warbler this month of her Majesty's platinum jubilee. We hope that all our readers find something enjoyable or thought provoking to do, to mark the event.

As ever, please send your contributions to wenhastonwarbler@gmail.com so that we have them by the 15th June. Best wishes to all in Jubilee month.

Gill Frostick and Deb Holmes

Music For Our Marine Life



A Fundraiser for British Divers Marine Life Rescue



Saturday June 11th 6pm
Thornington Theatre, Thornington
(near Southwold)



Poems
Written and Performed by
Dell Primary School

Saint Felix
School Choir

Tutti
Windband

Jazz
By SAXPACK

Folk Music
by Crannog and Friends

Tickets £10 available from info@thorningtontheatre.co.uk
And Marie Young 07917 484161

Wenhaston Save Our Swifts Action Group

The Swifts Have Arrived!

Come And Join Us for The Annual Swift Pint Walk



Swifts have been sighted over Cole's Hill and other parts of the village screaming around in threes and fours since the 9th May, only one day later than they appeared last year. The Swift flag will be hoisted at the Street gate to St Peter's Churchyard to mark this important natural event.

The Swift pint walk is being held on Saturday 2nd July. Meet at the Village Hall Car Park at 6pm.

Alan Miller will lead the walk around the village watching the swifts flying up high in screaming parties over the village. Learn more about where they like to nest, as well as other things about these extraordinary birds.

We plan to finish at the Star Inn at 8-8.30 where we can relax with something to drink and a snack, and sit and watch the swifts which have been returning to nest under the eaves of the pub each year.

Kate Archibald, co-ordinator Wenhaston SOS action group

wenhaston Mother's Union

At our May Meeting we were pleased to welcome Lesley and John from the St. Elizabeth Hospice in Ipswich. Lesley told us about the work of the Hospice and the many areas of caring which they are now developing. Their focus is now on a much wider range of Support than

Patients staying in the Hospice. Also, they are now covering a much wider area of East Suffolk with their support.

John then entertained us with being a Voluntary Helper in the Hospice's Charity Shop in Martlesham. He had many stories to tell both amusing and sometimes sad about the customers who use the Shop and also about the very strange items which are often left at the shop to be sold! I think that we all appreciated their Talks, from two very dedicated people.

In June, something different – A Topical Discussion on Wednesday 8th, June in the Methodist Chapel Schoolroom. at 2. 30pm. Also in June there will be a North Suffolk Area Quiet Day in Westleton Church at 10.30am. until early Afternoon and Members and Friends are very welcome to attend – for more details please contact Margaret G.

Margaret G. (478378)

Wenhaston WI - Report on The May Meeting

It was a tail of when Jean brought Tessa to hear all about it!

Sorry, terrible puns for a simply great talk about Hearing Dogs.

Jean posed the question of how do you know if your alarm's gone off, there's someone at the door or even when the washing machine has finished if you can't hear? Tess is the answer, with her nudge to the knee, a perfect companion for the severely deaf person, and especially so for deaf children who can become very isolated from life without the ability to join in. This often leads to disruptive behaviour and depression.

Tess came from Hearing Dogs (a charity) when she was 2, and partially trained, so that they could finish the training together. There are over 1,000 established dog/person partners and just 247 dogs are trained annually. It costs £25k to train a dog and most handlers bring them out to talk about the charity and raise funds by so doing.

A fascinating talk by Jean, and great behaviour by Tess which we all enjoyed.

Wendy Mendham

Wenhaston Memorials Update

Over ten years ago, members of Wenhaston WI transcribed the memorials within St. Peter's Church, in the Churchyard, the Churchyard Extension (the War Memorial Churchyard), and the New Cemetery at the end of Narrow Way.

We then produced books of this information, which are available to view in St. Peter's Church. The Church and Churchyard extension can also be searched on the Blythweb website, with maps.

Since then, there have been additions to the New Cemetery, and this year we have updated the records.

The only change to the War Memorial Churchyard is the memorial to Harry Roberts, who is the great uncle of Heather Phillips MBE. He was buried there in 1918 but last year the Commonwealth War Graves Commission placed an official one there, with the distinctive Portland stone used by CWGC.



Several other men who died in the wars are commemorated there, and around Remembrance Sunday, a large poppy is placed on each memorial. There is a particularly beautiful and poignant headstone for William Herbert Dundonald Wilson, who was accidentally killed on 17th April 1918 on board H.M.S. Royal Oak. He was only 18.

Janice Claxton

With thanks to Dilys Grimwade who initiated the update and checked the results.



25th ANNUAL VILLAGE
SHOW
SUNDAY 24TH. JULY
2.00-4.00
WENHASTON VILLAGE HALL

Why not enter?

Schedule of Classes and Entry forms are available from the Village Hall. Crafts, Baking and Photography classes as well as Produce and Flowers. Something for everybody.

PLUS

The Best **Scarecrow** competition. Bring your entry to the Village Hall Car Park on SHOW DAY by 10.30

Sponsored by The Parish Council and Woottens of Wenhaston



Wenhaston Wildlife

We are all familiar with the sight of David Attenborough on TV talking about the global loss of wildlife and thinking it's happening elsewhere, but the effects are here on our doorstep.

Birds of Conservation Concern is compiled by a coalition of the UK's leading bird conservation and monitoring organisations and reviews the status of all regularly occurring birds in the UK, Channel Islands and Isle of Man. The first was published in 1996. The bird species that breed or overwinter in the UK have been assessed against a set of objective criteria, and placed on the Green, Amber or Red lists to indicate an increasing level of conservation concern.

The listing of Red means a species has undergone severe decline i.e., the breeding population has declined by over 50% in the past 25 years. Amber listing means a decline of 25-50% over the same period

A number of us recorded 124 species of birds in the village during 2020/21 and 70 of those occurred in villagers' gardens. It's a sobering thought that 26 of those species are on the red list, with 14 of them breeding within the parish and a further 24 species are on the amber list.

Of the red listed species are familiar birds such as swifts, house martins, lapwing, curlew, woodcock (a species that is still on the quarry list), herring gull, skylark, starling, mistle thrush, house sparrow, greenfinch, linnet and yellowhammer.



(Yellowhammer photo-Andrew Moon)

Loss of habitat, the staggering decline in insects, intensive farming, climate change, and the dangers of long migrations south for some are resulting in a new norm. The term shifting baselines is often used and so today's children will regard the current situation as normal. It's up to all of us to do our bit to turn this rapidly ebbing tide and ensure the future of our countryside and its wildlife is thriving not declining. Gardening and not using pesticides, leaving some unmanaged corners and reducing the times the mower comes out of the shed, can all help as can putting up special swift and house martin boxes, the Swift Group can advise. Consider joining up with Blyth Woods or Wenhaston Commons Group and help manage our surroundings. It's not all hard work, there's always plenty of chat and refreshment breaks, and there will be plenty of advice and encouragement. Details of contacts are on the village website. Let's all do our little bit at turning the tide.

Alan Miller

Wenhaston Blyth Spirits

Our Speaker at our May meeting had to be changed at short notice, as unfortunately Diabetes UK were unable to provide a speaker in this area, but hopefully we will be able to have this talk next year. Victoria Panton – Bacon stepped in at the last moment to talk to us about the books which she has written and about her grandfather's memories of the Second World War in France. We were extremely grateful to Victoria for supporting us. On Wednesday June 15th. Frances Harper will tell the Story of Silk from China to East Anglia. Members and visitors are all very welcome and we meet in the Village Hall at 2.30 pm. For any further information please contact either June (478622) or Margaret (478378)

Margaret. G.

Wenhaston Village Hall

Presents

Ceilidh Dance Night

Friday 3rd June 2022

with

Harbour Lights Ceilidh Band



Doors and Bar Open from 7pm Dancing starts at 7:30pm

50 / 50 Raffle £1 per ticket

Tickets (incl nibbles) £10 Adults, £5 Children over 12

Available from Wenhaston Village Hall or on the door on the night

Contact Carol Hudson-Jary 01502 478732

Raising funds in aid of Wenhaston Village Hall Reg Charity No. 1001694

Monday 13th June

2-4pm

Wenhaston Village Hall

“Matters of Life and Death”

the conversations we need to have.



“Daddy, what happens when we die?”

Children ask very direct questions about death and dying, yet parents and carers can feel awkward about answering them. Our tendency is to avoid talking about death unless we really have to discuss it. Why is death a subject we prefer to avoid? It is something we all have to face, but it

remains a taboo subject in our society.

“Matters of Life and Death” (formerly called “Gravetalk”) provides an opportunity to explore our attitudes to death in a friendly and relaxed environment. Anyone can book a place. Sitting in small, informal groups, participants talk about a range of issues around death, supported by a trained facilitator. Discussions are prompted by randomly selected “Grave Talk” conversation cards, which cover five key areas: life, death, society, funerals and grief. Refreshments are provided.

One participant commented: *“It felt worthwhile to share all sorts of thoughts, experiences, fears, uncertainties, even humour! And it felt honest, from the heart, a safe space to express things.”*

Although sessions are organised by Revd. Alison Alder from the Blyth Valley Team Ministry, this is a community project for all people, regardless of their personal or religious beliefs.

Please contact Alison at alisonalder@hotmail.co.uk or 01502 478855 to book a place.

Thoughts and Prayers to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

During the Jubilee Weekend, you are invited to come and add your own thoughts and prayers to our prayer space in St Peter's Church. You may want to create something artistic or simply write the words that come to mind. We're asking you to think about the needs of the world, about the life of our community in Wenhaston, or to write a personal prayer for a family member or friend. We will be including prayers for the different organisations and businesses in the village. The village's thoughts and prayers will be included in our Jubilee Service on Sunday 5th June at 10am to which everyone is warmly invited.*



*Parking will be limited for this service because of the parade and unveiling at the Village Hall. Please contact Revd. Alison Alder (01502 478855 or alisonalder@hotmail.co.uk for more details of arrangements).

Flying the Flag in the churchyard

Norman and Linda Buckley celebrate their Golden Wedding on June 10th and the flag will be flown in the churchyard to mark this occasion. We send Norman & Linda many congratulations on their anniversary.

Margaret Bloomfield



Hearty congratulations to Norman and Linda from all at the Warbler, too. They have lived in the village since 2001, moving here from Little Parndon, Harlow, Essex. Have a wonderful celebration!

£20,000 more raised for Ukraine!

Wenhaston's Ukraine Appeal exceeded all expectations !!!!!

Further to his article in last month's Warbler, Fund Organiser Wil Harvey has reported the donated artwork by Peter Collingwood has been sold by Fine Art Auction House Sworders for a massive £20,000 "Twenty Thousand Pounds. "This is fantastic news! Full details and update on the total amount raised, will be included in the next edition of the Warbler.

Mac McKeown



Wenhaston village hall **Ladies Coffee Morning**



Wednesday 8th June
10.30 – 11.30am

**£2.50 for Coffee/tea, something to eat and a
chat**

every second Wednesday of the month.

Wenhaston Village Hall 100 Club

- Winners for May 2022 –

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

- 1st prize Eleanor Smith (number 7) £37.50
- 2nd prize Annie Rice (number 138) £22.50
- 3rd prize Deborah Cartwright (number 140) £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 478078.*

St Peter's Church

Our APCM was held on 10th May in church and I am pleased to report that Jonathan Alder was re-elected as Church Warden for another year. We are all very grateful to Jonathan for all that he does for us at St Peter's.

Many thanks to those who responded to the flyer asking for help in repairing the Chancel roof. It is very generous of you all and the PCC is most grateful.

I have just returned from our annual plant sale and am pleased to report that the grand sum of £476.95 was raised. Thank you to everyone involved in any way.

The church is hoping to have a Tombola at the Jubilee Celebration on the playing field and should be grateful for any small gifts for the stall. It is amazing that her Majesty has been on the throne for 70 years and we wish her Happy & Glorious!

Margaret Bloomfield

Please see posters for June services

Blackheath Wenhaston Writers' Website have paid for the following pages to publish the work of the group to commemorate the Queen's platinum jubilee. Readers who would like to know more or see the full version of each piece should contact Terry.blackheathdawn@gmail.com or tel. 01502 478880 for access to Blackheath Wenhaston Writers' website to view the group's work produced in the last year.

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Seventy Years, Seventy Years

Of service and a beautiful smile,
Seven decades of work and toil.
Is there any other nation so favoured?
As we, with Elizabeth so Regal – so Royal.
© *Terry JG-F 2022*

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The Queen's Gnome

Inspired by Esther Rantzen's comment on Radio 4 – 13 April 2022

There never is!
There is too! I know for a fact he didn't make it up.
He did work experience in Her Majesty's gardens
His mum wrote to the Queen.
That were a bit of a liberty!
But it worked!
Are you sayin' Her Majesty has a garden gnome?
A Scottish gnome with a kilt and bagpipes!
In a rockery that has lots of Scottish heathers.
Like a mini highland landscape? Did he take a picture?
It were not allowed.
So how come you know about it?
This Royal Garden Gnome?
Well it were clandestine –
On the quiet like.
You know some big words.
They called me 'College' on the Lowestoft Line.
'College' were your nickname on the railways?
Yeah! 'cos I had an O level from school.

So what's this 'on-the-quiet' thing then?
 Well, he knocked the gnome over with his spade;
 Broke the bagpipes and sporran clean off!
Off of the actual Queen's gnome?
So what's this 'on-the-quiet' thing then?
 The very same – so he smuggled it out overnight.
I bet the papers would be interested.
 Nah! It were years ago
 I did my best with my model plane glue.
Maybe Prince Charles has got one too.
 What a gnome?
I wouldn't put it past him.
 With or without bagpipes do you reckon?

heWenhaston Jubilee Hedge

One has heard that **one** has a Jubilee Hedge
 In Suffolk it's Wenhaston's Jubilee Hedge.
One trusts it's been grown to **our** royal advantage
 with nests tucked and woven deep into its branches.
 Yes I've visited Suffolk or perhaps it was Kent?
 And **one** knows planting hedges is time that's well spent.
 Now when was it planted? **One** does have a spade!
 as do each guardsman you see on parade.
One thinks one has heard of this Jubilee Hedge,
 to grow one each year is Prince Charles's new pledge.
One has many hedges on our **royal land**
 Our hedge man assures **one** they're expertly manned.
 Charles talks to his hedges to make them grow tall,
 He much prefers hedges to building a wall,
 at length he informs **one** as to the process
 to make homes for hedgehogs but **we're** making progress!
 For hedges to thrive **one** must half slice and nick,
 bending the branches to make them grow thick,
 then twisted in madrigals bunching the twig
 ensures that **one's** hedges grow bushy and big.
One's Jubilee Silver was so long ago
one remembers the highlights – it was quite a show
one remembers of course there was Jubilee Gold
 but the Jubilee Diamond made **one** feel quite old!

Now it's Jubilee 'Platinum' – **one** just can't keep score!
One's a National Treasure with a full Treasure store
What's frightfully modern and quite cutting edge
is to dig deep and plant **one's** own Jubilee Hedge.
© *Caroline G Way 2022*

The Queen and the Bybeck Ponies Photograph

Your Majesty, your condition, not yet recovered from illness,
Take it easy, ok to decline. No need to please them all.
Don't dress for birthday photo, they will understand this year
You're simply not up to it, video message will suffice.
I promised my people long ago, to give my all for them.
Bring Bybeck Katie and Nightingale, my favourite ponies, lovely girls.
Recent illness took its toll on you, too tired for Easter service,
Recuperation a slow process, even you can't do it all.
Have Fell ponies brought here, in the garden will be fine,
It's expected, yes a duty, one photo? Least I can do.
Photographer's almost ready help me dress correctly please,
Fell ponies have such lovely coats, they'll make my day complete.
I'll stand here between them holding their reins aloft.
Take as many as you need, I've years of learning how to smile.
Goodbye Katie, God bless Nightingale, thank you for your time,
Must go inside and rest a while, I've done all that I can.
© *Linda Perry 2022*

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Queen Elizabeth's 1954 Australian Tour

I am an ex-pat Brit who takes great pride in the glory of our Queen.
Queen Elizabeth II is the only reigning monarch to visit Australia to date. She sailed into Sydney Harbour, 3 February 1954, just shy by two years after her father, King George VI's death. She was 27 years of age.
The tour was the biggest, planned event ever organised in Australia at

that time. It is estimated three quarters of the adult Australian population lined the streets to catch a glimpse of their monarch during the tour.

Her Majesty, accompanied by Prince Philip visited a staggering total of 57 towns during the 58 days they spent in the country.

In New South Wales alone the couple attended 28 major

programs. Her Majesty's activities ranged from observing a life-saving demonstration at Bondi to opening a session of the New South Wales parliament. Queen Elizabeth has visited Australia on 15 occasions since her initial tour, the last being in 2011. There are many Commonwealth countries, and, no doubt she has visited most if not all of them on multiple occasions.

She is so dedicated to her role, Her Majesty thoroughly deserves the pomp and ceremony planned to celebrate her Platinum Jubilee. God Save our Queen!
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Word Pictures of Queen Elizabeth II

See the babe with bubble curls, necklet of pearls, on oversized chair,
Giggling at photographer's birdie; chubby like a Raphael cherub.
See the girl skipping through highland heather,
Small corgi dogs chasing her heels; carefree days of Scotland summers.

See the girl mounted on moon-coloured pony trotting through meadows;
Girl Guide; radio broadcast on Children's Hour.
See the young woman in ATS uniform, driver, mechanic, honorary junior
commander;
Mingling unnoticed with crowds on VE Day.

See the radiant bride in Norman Hartnell gown paid for with ration coupons.
See the woman descending from aeroplane, handsome Prince Philip at her side
Queen Regnant of seven countries; while mourning the loss of her father, the
King.

See the Queen in robes, with jewelled orb and sceptre, heavy crown of St
Edward placed on her head, weight of responsibility on her young shoulders.
People dancing in bunting-strewn streets. See the silver and gold celebrations
See the tables laden with party food, Coronation chicken created for the day;

Her family grows, grandchildren are born; see the great-grandmother cradling
the baby.

See Queen Elizabeth, longest-reigning monarch of United Kingdom and
Commonwealth realms; dedicated service for seventy years.
See preparations in cities, towns, villages for jubilee celebrations as in years
past;
Happy and glorious; God Save The Queen.
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I Sing for the Queen

As a Brownie I promised to ‘Serve the Queen’, but how to do it puzzled me – she was only a head on the coins we tossed as a game to pass the time; a head on stamps in the corner of envelopes. Our pack visited Buckingham Palace (Brownies were allowed inside the gates on to the parade ground to watch the Changing of the Guard), but I thought the Queen was probably far too busy doing important things to look out of the window and wave to a dozen little girls in brown dresses and woollen berets. One sunny and crisp November day in 1973, we walked from our village, along footpaths through wheat fields and alongside a golf course and past the boarding kennels and a bit further to visit someone that we’d never visited before. The reason was they had a colour television, and Princess Anne was getting married.

I watched the pomp and ceremony, wide-eyed, seeing the royal family for the first time, if only on a screen. I remember someone saying, “That’ll be you one day – when you marry Prince Edward.” He was the little boy, a year older than me, looking very smart in a kilt. Me? A royal? As an eight-year-old girl I believed that this would happen – that I would indeed marry the prince. I went on believing this, eventually sending Prince Edward a Snoopy Valentine’s card! Just four years later, the nation celebrated the Queen’s Silver Jubilee. We had a street party, albeit in a marquee on a field behind the street. Each child received a commemorative crown (coin), which I still have, along with a commemorative spoon that I got by saving Stork margarine wrappers, and a silver glitter encrusted t-shirt.

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