



February 2024

Wenhaston Warbler

70'S/80'S & DISCO MUSIC EVENING

WENHASTON VILLAGE HALL, NARROW WAY, WENHASTON, IP19 9EQ



SATURDAY 30TH MARCH 2024

7.15PM - 11.30PM

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LAST EVENT WAS A SELLOUT WITH NO TICKETS ON THE DOOR.

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JUMBLE SALE

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 10th

10am - 12pm

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Tea/ Coffee and Delicious Cakes)

The Moldova Project. An update

Thank you to all the people who have been in touch and dropped off an array of lovely items ready to go to Moldova. It is not too late if you were thinking of rummaging and have not yet got around to it yet! Moldova is one of the poorest countries in eastern Europe but it is giving shelter to Ukrainian refugees.

The Moldova Project is based in Horham in Suffolk and regularly sends out truckloads of aid to Moldova.

Do you have any preloved warm clothes you or your family no longer need or use that are taking up cupboard space and could go to Moldova? Maybe now the new year has arrived you have a bit more time to look, and see? Maybe Father Christmas brought gifts that mean you have an excess of something?

The Moldova Project also sends toiletries, nappies, dried and tinned food, blankets, sleeping bags and other household items.

Times are very difficult but if you think you could help with any of these things or wonder if you have something that could be useful, please ring Jo on 01502478600. PLEASE NO JUMBLE. Preloved items must be clean and have life left in them to warrant sending them 1500 miles across Europe. Thank you.

Jo Small



February's Wildlife Garden "tips and jobs"

Have winter gales taken a toll on your fences?

Consider replacing them with a native hedge such as Hawthorn, Berberis, Blackthorn and Field Maple, planted with Dog Rose between. This provides good natural nesting habitat and food for many species. Perhaps this could be a joint project with your neighbour?

More information on hedge and tree planting at The Woodland Trust www.woodlandtrust.org.uk

If you are replacing fence panels, try to include a gap for hedgehogs to travel through.

It's a good time for cutting down grasses and hollow stemmed plants – but rather than discarding them, leave them in a pile somewhere where they will protect any hibernating insects.

Spring cleaning starts outdoors by ensuring your bird nest boxes are cleaned out ready for this year's new broods. If you've got space, you could put up additional nest boxes.

Try putting out ready nesting material such as raw wool or hair (human or dog) for birds to collect and use.

As well as feeding birds, leave them fresh water, unfreeze if necessary.

Tell us YOUR ideas for tips and jobs to be shared here, email wilderwenhaston@gmail.com

Ann Follows and Judy Miller

Friends of Halesworth Library

In addition to the regular activities in February, Sociable Sundays and Board Games Cafe, the Friends of Halesworth Library will be hosting a book talk at the library in Bridge Street Halesworth IP19 8AD during the month.

On Thursday 15th February at 2.30pm, John West will give a talk about his third book on British hauntings, *Britain's Haunted Land*, published in 2023. Britain is said to be the most haunted country in the world. A UK poll revealed that three in five people had seen a ghost and one in three had also lived or stayed in a house they believe to be haunted. John lives in Suffolk and is a film producer, actor, broadcaster and author of books on history, crime, ghosts and folklore.

There is no charge for the talk and refreshments are provided. For further information about any of the activities or events, please enquire at the library desk or call 01986 875095.

Mobile Library in Wenham

The mobile library will be at the Village Hall from 3pm to 3.45pm on Friday 23rd February.

Nigel Frostick

Be part of our local River Survey!

Last summer, the *Wilder Wenham River Group* started regular testing of the Blyth and tributaries for pollution. Sadly, there is a lot. We will continue the testing programme, but we also need to survey the wild-life of the river regularly to monitor its (hopeful) improvement as we take action to reduce the pollution. We are therefore going to set up a **River Survey Group** – probably split into subgroups – to monitor animal, plant, insect, bird and fish populations. As well as producing valuable information on our local river ecology, it should also encourage healthy and social river-bank walking! Importantly, you don't need any specialist knowledge: this will be a 'Citizen Scientist' project, where initial training on sampling, identification and recording will be given.

To get this going, please come along to an open meeting in the **Village Hall, Tuesday Jan 30th, 7pm**. We have been lucky to get **John Findlay**, *the Citizen Science Coordinator for East Anglia*, from the *Environment Agency*, working with the *Riverfly Organisation*, to come and talk to us about how best to structure our efforts, and give an insight into how groups similar to ours have approached surveying watercourses. Hope to see you there! **Wil Harvey, Wilder Wenhaston River Group**

Heroic Helpers of Wenhaston! Blyth Woods Project

In spite of wind, rain and heavy clay, great progress has been made in planting up new trees in the Norfolks since the January issue of the Warbler came out. This is all thanks to our wonderful volunteers, who braved the weather and came out to help. It is truly exciting and a real achievement that shortly we shall have the third new young wood, (Grove Piece with Malster's and Fox Hill already growing apace), planted in Wenhaston in the past five years!

Just to remind you: the Norfolks is a field on the Gowers' land, which was a wood until the Sixties. Our aim is to restore it and Mike Gower is granting permissive public access, as with the planting on Fox Hill last year. We shall be holding planting sessions every week on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays until we complete. Any help will be gratefully received. Tea and coffee will be provided and you can spend as little or as long a time as you are able to spare. We start at 9.00/9.30 a.m. until lunchtime, with an option to carry on into the afternoon. Do wear warm clothes and boots, and bring a spade if possible, although there are some on site.

To reach the Norfolks, park your car at Westgate Farm Cottages, on the high ground between the cottages and the chicken sheds, then cross the road and head up the track to the field. If the weather looks as though a session may be cancelled, phone Mike Gower for confirmation on 07874 203782.

A huge thank you again to everyone who has or might volunteer.

blythwoods1@gmail.com Patricia Elliott www.blythwoods.org

Save the date!

Wenhaston School Community Kitchen



Back by popular demand... we are running our very own community kitchen again. Come and enjoy a delicious homemade lunch made by the children.

Look out for booking information and further details in the next edition of the Warbler...

Wenhaston 100 Club

Here are the results for January drawn at the Ladies Coffee Morning 10/1/24.

1st £37.50. Alison Alder
2nd £22.50 John Mills
3rd £15 Daphne Johnson

All winners will be notified by email.

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 £7.00 for the period to end August 2024, we welcome new members there are a few spaces left. Contact the promoters or forms are available from the Post Office where details of how to pay can be found. Thank you for supporting the village hall in this way. ***All enquiries please phone Elaine on 07577431350 or Angela 07878241258.***

WENHASTON

Produce & Craft Market

Saturday

30th March 2024

10am – 12.30pm

In the Village Hall IP19 9EP

A wide and ever-changing range of local foods and produce, crafts, plants, jams & chutneys, home-made cakes and more.

**New stallholders always welcome –
Pitch fee £8**

**To book your table (provided), e-mail:
Carol at: caz-mike@outlook.com**

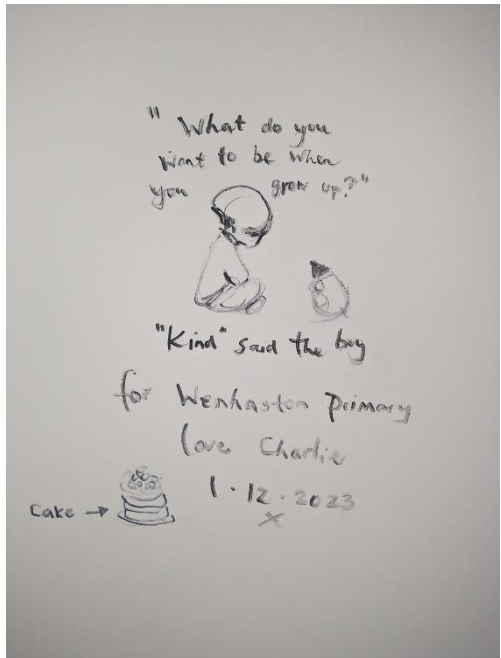
Raising funds for Village Hall maintenance

Wenhaston School New Year Update

I wish to begin by wishing all readers a very Happy New Year. Here is an update from Wenhaston!

A Magical Library Opening with Charlie Mackesy

We were thrilled to host artist, childrens' author, (The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse), and Oscar winner, Charlie Mackesy OBE, for the official grand opening of our school library early in December. The enchanting artwork he provided has added a touch of magic to our space. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed to making our library possible.



Christmas Gift Sale

Our eldest children received donations from school families and created a mini Christmas Shop to enable pupils to purchase items. We raised over £300 and were able to make a donation to a local food bank.

Choir visit

We were also pleased to send a selection of our children to the Community Lunch at the village hall just before Christmas. They sang beautifully and we hope the guests enjoyed their entertainment.

Collaboration with Blyth Woods



Our eldest children also enjoyed great workshops with Blyth woods in December. They assisted with tree planting near Blackheath whilst our Saplings class (Year 3 and 4) were given the chance to make festive dinner plates for wild



animals! Thank you as ever to all those who make this possible.

Could you be a School Governor?

I am currently on the lookout for a new school governor. If this interests you, or you know anyone who might be interested, please let me know.

Thanks for Reading - Mr Stone, Headteacher

Greetings from Halesworth Dementia Carers Fund

Happy New Year from HDCF

The new Family Carers Support Group has got off to a great start. Designed to give support to people who have family members with dementia, and in conjunction with the Pear Tree Fund, it meets every Friday in the Co-op Community Room from 2.00 to 3.30.

A new group which we are hoping to start on 9th February is Seated Tap Dancing. Led by dance teacher Garth, and again in conjunction with the Pear Tree Fund, it will be every Friday in the Co-op Community Room from 11.30 to 12.30.

For details of all our groups please call 01986 874442 or email info@halesworthdementia.co.uk

In addition to the groups mentioned above we are still running our Seated Movement to Music Group every Monday at Holton Village Hall from 11.00 to 12.15; Memory Café every Tuesday in the Community Café from 2.00 to 3.30, and Singing with Friends every other Wednesday at Holton Village Hall from 2.00 to 3.30. These groups are all open to helping people with memory problems and their family carers.

Film Shows

We shall continue to hold our bi-monthly film shows at The Cut. These are held on the third Wednesday of the month and are in January, March, May, July, September and November.

100+ Club.

This now stands at 118 members, and prizes of £100, £70 and £30 are drawn monthly. The winning numbers for January are 36, 66 and 17. If we get to 125 members, we will be able to increase the monthly prize allocation so if you would like to join us, please contact Anna on 07721842802

John Wood

Sights to brighten a winter day



After the gloomy wet weather bringing unwanted floods and low light, I was woken by the first sunlight over the field on a cold crisp day. I then became aware of an extraordinary whirring pattern of light and dark as a great flock of rooks tumbled and turned in flight over the spent maize husks, dipping down to peck on the remaining kernels.

As the sun rose higher, illuminating the dried reeds lining the waterways of the

marsh to a soft gold, I ventured out for a walk to the river, crunching on the ice film remaining on the frozen grass.

At the second foot bridge there was clear evidence that a barn owl has been using the gate post as a regular perch. On the worn planks of the bridge there were bright white blotches of bird excrement and several complete owl pellets, some quite fresh. The pellets are the regurgitated indigestible remains of tiny animals (mainly

their bones and fur) eaten by the owl.

I couldn't resist 'dissecting' one



with my gloved fingers to see what prey had been taken. I took home a tiny skull with its upper jaw almost intact displaying two long light orange incisor teeth. Later, using the very informative 'The Barn Owl Trust' website, I identified the rodent as a Wood Mouse, the second most common mouse species (after the house mouse) in the UK.

It seems to have been a good year locally for Barn owls, and I

was lucky enough to see four baby owls being ringed from a nearby nest box last summer. The climate conditions of last year, good for seeds and berries, has brought forth many small voles and mice which are valuable food for many of our birds of prey.

We have been hearing a pair of tawny owls most evenings and regularly been seeing a marsh harrier, kestrel and several buzzards over or near the marshes.

Bright colours seen in winter seem even more miraculous than at other times of year.

As I write at least eight Goldfinches are feeding, or waiting their turn, on the long niger seed feeder hanging in the garden. Occasional fierce sparring takes place on the wing, as the birds compete for food, readying themselves for the spring.

Kate Archibald

The World Land Trust

The January meeting of the Blyth Valley and Southwold branch of the Suffolk Wildlife Trust welcomed Dan Bradbury, from the World Land Trust (WLT). You may have noticed their office in Halesworth, but their work crosses the globe. Founded in 1989, its aim is to protect land threatened by loss of habitat, by buying areas vulnerable to destruction, 'real acres in real places'. What made the Trust different then, and does to this day, is that they don't organise the conservation themselves as outsiders, but empower the local people to do so. The work started in Belize, Central America, where loss of tropical forest was becoming rampant. Partner organisations were set up, and the 'Buy an Acre' scheme proved so successful that it is still in use today. The success of that first operation led to others across the world. Habitat loss takes many forms, from logging, cattle ranching and agriculture, to mining and illegal poaching. Climate change is another major factor. Managing and protecting the growing reserves and wildlife corridors requires considerable resources, and the Trust raises funds, both here and in those countries, through individual and business donors, to train and employ local Rangers. The Rangers engage with the neighbouring communities, working with schools and villages, involving them in the process. The aim is for the reserves to become self-sufficient, both in growing their own regeneration plants, and by creating jobs, such as eco-tourism, for local people. The Trust also works towards carbon balancing, by encouraging businesses to offset their carbon emissions in a meaningful way. Dan spoke with energy and dedication, and we all came away with a deep appreciation of the far-reaching conservation work of the WLT. Our next meeting is on Thursday, February 8th, at 7.30pm, in the Southwold Arts Centre, IP 18 6JP. Michael Strand will be talking about the Martlesham Wilds Nature Reserve. Admission is £4, inc. refreshments. Under 25's free. All are welcome.

Penny Mansfield.

Contact us at swtblythvalley@gmail.com

Blyth Spirits

Before Christmas the Committee met to discuss the programme for 2024, and, following this meeting, they have decided to make changes to the way in which Blyth Spirits will be organised in the future.

We will not be meeting every month especially during the colder ones! Our first meeting will be in March when the organisers of Thorington Theatre have kindly promised to come and talk about the birth of this Theatre and their plans for the future.

We will continue to meet in the Village Hall and the next meeting will be on 20th March, but more news of this talk, and future dates, in the February edition of the Warbler.

Any Queries, Ideas or Thoughts, please do get in touch with us.

Margaret G. (margaret.spindleberry@outlook.com - 478378)

Wenhaston Mothers Union

2024 – a New Year and we started our year, as is our usual custom with a Service of Holy Communion in the school room at the Methodist Chapel. The Revd. Anna Wright had kindly agreed to lead this service for us, but was unfortunately unwell, and we were extremely grateful to the Revd. Iain Mc Killop, who stepped in at the last moment. We were joined by several of the Halesworth members and we all appreciated Ian's wise words. The Service was followed by a very brief A.G.M. and tea and biscuits!

We all very much appreciate that the school room is so welcoming and warm!

We all hope that we will have another successful year with interesting speakers and we hope to join in several Diocesan events. In February we are looking forward to welcoming Chris from Wissett, who is an amateur archaeologist, and he will be joined by his wife Marylyn.

We are hoping to hold a Coffee Morning in early May to raise funds, so that we can contribute to the excellent work that the M U does in

many parts of the world. We do hope that this event will be supported by our readers! More details next month.

Margaret Goldstone (478378)

St Peter's Church

It seems rather late now, but our Carol Service on 22nd December was a lovely occasion. Linda and Alison lead the service and it was very well attended. Folk from village organisations read the lessons, and we all sang lustily. It was lovely to see the church so full, and we just had enough mince pies, sausage rolls and mulled wine. We were so pleased that it was such a lovely act of worship.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity was from 18th to 25th January. With all the troubles in our world, Christian Unity is so important and there were gatherings all around Halesworth to pray for Unity.

We are hoping to arrange our postponed quiz to take place in the Spring, watch this space, and will be having a plant sale in May as usual, so if anyone is nurturing plants, we should be grateful for any you have to spare.

February Services see posters

Childrens Society Collecting Boxes

Please could all box holders deliver their boxes to me at Windrush, St Michael's Way as soon as possible so that I can count the cash and pay it in.

This will be the last year that I empty the boxes so I will not return them to you. People are using much less cash these days and, as I have to pay the cash into Barclays Bank, I shall have trouble finding a nearby bank. Thank you all for your support of the Childrens Society over the years. Next year I would ask you, if you wish, to send a donation or give me a donation to forward to the Society.

Margaret Bloomfield

Methodist Chapel

- 4th. Rev. Martin Keenan, Covenant Service
11th. Laura Lawrence-Martin
18th. Rev. Robin Searles
25th. Rev. Iain McKillop

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