



## Chairmans report 2024

First thanks to all the trustees for all their work throughout the year. Geraldine as always continues to be a very efficient secretary, Sally our treasurer has had a much easier time sorting the accounts since we changed banks to Nat West. Ann continues waging war on Alexanders and stepping in to take the occasional meeting notes.

Marie now regularly supported by Jo continues to work with the primary school and John has been maintaining the website and managing the groups files on One Drive amongst many other things. Patricia has managed to keep the village updated every month as to what the group is doing and what's been seen via the *Warbler*. Katharine is now looking after the Friends, keeping them up to date with events.

Two years ago, at this meeting we formed *Wilder Wenhaston*. This has completed a number of projects, involved 40+ people and is currently undertaking survey work on the river, monitoring the pollution and the wildlife and is extending its reach to the source of the Blyth at Laxfield and everywhere else in between. More information on the display board.

The breeding birds survey was carried out and thanks go to Barry and Gus for monitoring most of the 27 nest boxes, which produced 135 blue tits and 11 great tits. This was 70 young less than 2022 with weather being the determining factor. Barn owls bred in the box for the second time, producing 2 young very late in October but only one successfully fledged and tawny owls bred for the first time producing 2 young. A nestling blue tit ringed in one of the boxes was trapped by the Kessingland Ringing Group north of Lowestoft in January.

The meadow area is developing in Malsters, with a combination of seed, green hay and plug plants helping increase its diversity from what was a barley field in 2017. The annual cut took place in August.

The Copse pond which was restored in January 2023 is gradually recovering, newts returned within weeks and the aquatic plants are responding.

The AONB volunteer team carried out some more holly clearance, the show of bluebells this spring have shown how effective this work is. Sadly, ash die back is affecting most of the trees in Vicarage Grove and so two had to be felled adjacent to the foot path and this will be ongoing. The rest of the work has been managing the new trees and removing/replacing guards where needed.

The group has attended the various events in the village hall, the village show, bazaar and the Halesworth Climate Conference.

We held a Bioblitz in June, resulting in identifying 28 new species mainly plants and invertebrates and a fungi survey was carried out in October. All records go to SBIS Suffolk Biological Information Service. Another will take place this year on 13<sup>th</sup> July.

Vicarage Grove is now on the Ancient Woodland Register. Previously woods under 2ha were not recorded.

Various people have provided their services for free and Crispin Chalker, who did the pond restoration, moved all the felled timber off site for free.

Extra fruit trees were planted in the Merton Wood orchard and mulched with wood chip kindly supplied by 1<sup>st</sup> Cut tree surgeons.

The information board has been updated by Colin Edwards who did the original board and he carried out the work for no charge. Two new direction signs have also been installed.

Some of our volunteers have been involved in planting up more new woods in the village. Thanks to Mike and Trish Gower another wood has been planted, this time replacing a wood that was grubbed out in the 1960's.

Finally, we hope to secure another piece of land later in the year.

Alan Miller

Blyth Woods Chair

May 2024

## Blyth Woods Categories income and expenses 1st April 2023 - 31st March 2024

Category	Expenses	Income
Capital costs - restricted funds:Equipment and signage	£285.53	
Capital costs - restricted funds:Plants and timber	£117.00	
Capital costs - restricted funds:Pond work	£4,700.00	
Expenditure:Event costs inc Annual meeting - speakers, refreshments and floats	£44.57	
Expenditure:Insurance	£177.86	
Expenditure:Printing, postage, computer, website and stationery	£174.79	
Expenditure:Sundry small items	£17.00	
Income:Bank interest and compensation		£215.65
Income:Friends - annual		£50.00
Income:Friends - lifetime		£200.00
Income:Gift Aid		£784.32
Income:Grants and donations - unrestricted		£601.60
Income:Sale of cards and produce etc		£139.70
Total	£5,516.75	£1,991.27
Wilder Wenhaston funds - rinfenced for their expenses	£640.26	£830.71
<b>Total</b>	<b>£6,157.01</b>	<b>£2,821.98</b>

## Bank Reconciliation Treasurers account

Details	Actual
Opening bank balance	£22,163.62
RECEIPTS TO DATE	£2,821.98
PAYMENTS TO DATE	£6,157.01
Less cheques unpresented now presented	£0.00
CLOSING BANK BALANCE	<u>£18,828.59</u>

## Notes

<b>Blyth Woods</b> Charity Reg No 1172343						
<b>Receipts and Payments Account Year ended 31st March 2024</b>						
	Unrestricted 2024	Restricted 2024	Total 2024	Unrestricted 2023	Restricted 2023	Total 2023
<b>Income</b>						
Friends - annual	£50.00		£50.00	£24.00		£24.00
Friends - lifetime	£200.00		£200.00	£500.00		£500.00
Grants and donations - restricted	£0.00		£0.00		£425.00	£425.00
Donations - unrestricted	£601.60		£601.60	£359.26		£359.26
Sale of cards and produce etc	£139.70		£139.70	£97.40		£97.40
Equipment	£0.00		£0.00		£348.00	£348.00
Events inc AGM - floats	£0.00		£0.00	£30.00		£30.00
Bank interest and compensation	£215.65		£215.65	£120.69		£120.69
Gift Aid	£784.32		£784.32	£0.00		£0.00
Wilder Wenhaston (ringfenced)		£830.71	£830.71		£500.00	£500.00
<b>Total income</b>	<b>£1,991.27</b>	<b>£830.71</b>	<b>£2,821.98</b>	<b>£1,131.35</b>	<b>£1,273.00</b>	<b>£2,404.35</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>						
Hall hire, affiliation fee and loft storage	£0.00		£0.00	£92.50		£92.50
Event costs inc AGM - Speakers, refreshments and floats	£44.57		£44.57	£91.20		£91.20
Insurance	£177.86		£177.86	£231.05		£231.05
Printing, postage, computer, website and stationery	£174.79		£174.79	£170.87		£170.87
Plants and timber		£117.00	£117.00		£361.27	£361.27
Equipment		£285.53	£285.53		£696.00	£696.00
Sundry small items	£17.00		£17.00	£0.00		£0.00
Accountancy fees	£0.00		£0.00	£0.00		£0.00
Pond work	£0.00	£4,700.00	£4,700.00	£0.00		£0.00
Wilder Wenhaston (ringfenced)		£640.26	£640.26		£0.00	£0.00
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>£414.22</b>	<b>£5,742.79</b>	<b>£6,157.01</b>	<b>£585.62</b>	<b>£1,057.27</b>	<b>£1,642.89</b>
Surplus (Deficit) of Income over expenditure	£1,577.05	-£4,912.08	-£3,335.03	£545.73	£215.73	£761.46
Treasurers Bank balance brought forward	£10,858.62	£11,305.00	£22,163.62	£6,125.89	£15,276.27	£21,402.16
Business Instant bank balance brought forward	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Adjustment for expenditure from 2018 to 2021 from Unrestricted expenditure to Restricted expenditure for interpretation board, pond work, trees and timber, equipment and tools all covered by grants awarded.	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£4,187.00	-£4,187.00	
<b>Total carried forward</b>	<b>£12,435.67</b>	<b>£6,392.92</b>	<b>£18,828.59</b>	<b>£10,858.62</b>	<b>£11,305.00</b>	<b>£22,163.62</b>
<b>Bank balances carried forward</b>						
Treasurers bank balance (Lloyds)			£0.00			£21,580.93
Current account bank balance (NatWest)			£3,613.41			£0.00
Business bank Instant bank balance (Lloyds)			£0.00			£582.69
Business Reserve account (NatWest)			£3,030.96			£0.00
35 Day Liquidity account (NatWest)			£12,184.22			£0.00
<b>Total carried forward</b>			<b>£18,828.59</b>			<b>£22,163.62</b>
<b>Reserves Policy:</b>						
Unrestricted		Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
Wilder Wenhaston (ringfenced)		£690.45	£690.45		£500.00	£500.00
Pond Work in The Copse - invoice due		£0.00	£0.00		£5,000.00	£5,000.00
Professional fees for land purchase		£3,000.00	£3,000.00		£3,000.00	£3,000.00
Information board - in progress		£0.00	£0.00		£250.00	£250.00
Further planting work expected in 2024		£5,000.00	£5,000.00			£0.00
Insurance	£150.00		£150.00	£150.00		£150.00
Events - planned	£250.00		£250.00	£250.00		£250.00
Maintenance - expected	£500.00		£500.00	£500.00		£500.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£900.00</b>	<b>£690.45</b>	<b>£9,590.45</b>	<b>£900.00</b>	<b>£8,750.00</b>	<b>£9,650.00</b>

**Statement of Assets and Liabilities Year ended 31st March 2024**

	2024	2023
	£	£
<b>Cash funds</b>		
Treasurers Bank account (Lloyds)	0.00	21,580.93
Current bank account (NatWest)	3,613.41	0.00
Business Bank Instant account (Lloyds)	0.00	582.69
Business Reserve account (NatWest)	3,030.96	0.00
35 Day Liquidity account	12,184.22	0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,828.59</b>	<b>22,163.62</b>

<b>Assets retained for the CIO's own use (at cost)</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Land known as Grove Piece, Wenhaston (including legal fees)	23,063.00	23,063.00
Interpretation board	784.00	784.00
Land at Vicarage Grove (Little Malsters), Wenhaston (including legal fees)	18,616.00	18,616.00
Equipment and tools	3,221.26	2,935.73
<b>Total</b>	<b>45,684.26</b>	<b>45,398.73</b>

<b>Liabilities</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Wilder Wenhaston funds held and ringfenced	690.45	500.00
Work not yet invoiced	0.00	5,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>690.45</b>	<b>5,500.00</b>

Accounts checked by Linda Hammond on .....

Signed .....

Signed on behalf of the Trustees on .....

.....  
Chair Alan Miller

.....  
Treasurer Sally Amery