

IN-TOUCH

Great Hockham News Sheet

Issue No 573
June 2026





Editorial

Once again we have to print In-Touch before the Horn Fair has taken place, but we hope it has been its usual happy and successful event and, hopefully, with no thunder storms this year. Meanwhile, to all those who planned and set up the stalls and displays, all those who took part in the demonstrations and competitions, all the stall holders and refreshment providers, and, of course, to those lovely alpacas - A BIG THANK YOU.

People who like to take a leisurely walk down the church lane to the church and churchyard may notice some structural repairs soon to be done to the roofs of the nave, chancel and porch. And those who have difficulty negotiating the church path at the moment will be pleased to know that the path will have the existing gravel surface replaced with finer gravel to give a smoother surface for walking as well as for wheelchairs, pushchairs and bicycles. This work is scheduled to take place in early June.


This month we will have a fascinating talk on **HEDGEHOGS**




**Coffee
Cake
Chat**

Friendly Faces
Yummy Bakes

20 June
Village Hall
10.30am to 12 noon



Fancy baking some cakes or anything else? Contact Tamia on 07774 842388 to find out how you can help



Need a lift? Bev Plummer is happy to organise.
Call her on 07741 270204 or 01953 498243

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO A

*Midsummer
Masquerade Ball*



ON SATURDAY 27TH JUNE
FROM 7 PM TIL LATE
@ HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, GREAT HOCKHAM

*An evening of masks and merriment awaits!
buffet * wine * entertainment * raffle*

TICKETS: £20, INC. FIRST DRINK
CALL 01953 498243

The Wayland Group of Parishes
Breckles, Caston, Great Hockham, Griston, Stow Bedon and Thompson
In the Church of England Diocese of Norwich

Worship in the Wayland Group of Churches

Sunday 7th June

10.30 am United Holy Communion,
St Peter & St Paul, Griston

Sunday 14th June

10.30 am United Holy Communion,
St Botolph, Stow Bedon

Sunday 21st June

10.30 am United Holy Communion,
St Martin, Thompson

Sunday 28th June

10.30 am. United Holy Communion,
St Margaret, Breckles



***“Arise my love,
my fair one, and
come
away.....”***

How quickly the seasons of the year pass by! Not long ago we were waiting for buds to burst open, blossom to display its colours and lawns to need mowing again. And now we move into summer. Many priests would say that the popular wedding season is during the summer months, typically between May and September, the warmer weather and longer days making it easier for the couples to organise their big day.

I love meeting wedding couples to help them plan their ceremonies. Weddings are a joyous occasion, and it's such a privilege to celebrate the love and commitment between two people in this way. At our first meeting I usually ask about how the couple met, about their love for each other, and what it is about each other that led them to falling in love. In our discussions, they choose music, hymns, poems, and Bible readings.

One of my favourite Bible readings for a wedding is from a book called Song of Songs (also known as Song of Solomon). It's a book in the Ketuvim section of the Hebrew Bible and in the Old Testament, featuring chapters of intense, sometimes erotic love poetry. It portrays a passionate, romantic relationship between a

woman and her lover, often interpreted as celebrating marital love or symbolising God's covenant with His people. It's absolutely beautiful! For my own marriage to Jonathan, which we celebrate on 7th June, we chose a reading from Song of Songs.

Jonathan's father, Howard, was a lovely, modest man, with a quiet passion for education and for music. He was actually a doctor of music, and for many years chair of the Association of British Choral Directors, conductor of several choirs, and deputy chorusmaster of the Royal Northern Sinfonia. If you happen to listen to Classic FM or Radio 3 you may have heard them singing.

Howard set the Song of Songs verses to music for the church choir to sing at our wedding, which helped to make that day such a memorable one. Several years later, when Howard eventually passed away, we were able to use his legacy to build a narrowboat, which we named 'Song of Songs' in his memory. Written on its stern is the closing line of Howard's composition with the words 'Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away.' The full reading on our wedding day was this:

“My beloved speaks and says to me: Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away; for now the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtle dove is heard in our land. The fig tree puts forth its figs, and the vines are in blossom; they give forth fragrance. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away.”

(Song of Songs 2:10-13)

If you're thinking of having a church wedding in the Wayland Benefice, I'd be delighted to speak with you about planning yours too!

With much love and many blessings

Vanessa x

Reverend Vanessa is the rector for the Wayland benefice of Breckles, Caston, Great Hockham, Griston, Thompson, and Stow Bedon. You can contact her on 07984 318885 or by email at vanessadlayfield@gmail.com

THE EAGLE

Harling Rd, Great Hockham, Thetford IP24 1NP
01953 498893

Dates for your Diary:

2nd June

Book Club 7.30pm

4th June 5-8pm

The Field Kitchen (Mediterranean Inspired
Food Truck)

10th & 24th June

Bingo 7.45pm arrival for 8pm 18+

11th June 5-8pm

Chim Chim Vegan Thai (Food Truck)

18th June 5-8pm

Marg and Rita's (Pizza Food Truck)

25th June 5-8pm

Dirty Fryer Boys (Food Truck)

2nd July 5-8pm

Norfolk Hog (Food Truck)

Ladies Darts meet every Tuesday night and are always looking for more ladies looking to try it out. No pressure to be a superstar, it's just a fun night with lots of giggles!

Crib is every Wednesday lunchtime 12.30-3pm (only £1 to play) except for the last Wednesday of the month which is Whist 1-3pm (also £1 to play)

Opening Hours

Monday – Thursday 12-2.30pm/6-11pm

Friday – Saturday 12-11pm

Sunday 12-10.30pm

Food Available

Fish and Chip Fryday: 12-8.30pm

(Takeaway and eat in)

Saturday: 12-8.30pm

Sunday: 12-3pm

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Instagram @exploringdrawing

Facebook Melodie Cook Artist

Mobile Library Service

CHESTNUT SQUARE 10:55 – 11:10

SCOTGATE CLOSE 11:15 – 11:35

Date of forthcoming visits (Thursdays):

18 June / 16 July / 13 August /

10 Sept / 8 Oct / 5 Nov / 3 Dec



April Rainfall

April 2026		6.3 mm
April 2025		18.2 mm
Jan-April 2026		154.2 mm
Jan-April 2025		71.4 mm
Highest April since 1979	2012	144.9 mm
Lowest April since 1979	2007	1.5 mm



Great Hockham Gardening Club



Wednesday 10th June

Vicarage House, Great Hockham

6-acre garden / Tea & Cake

Membership fees are £10 per annum

Indoor meetings are held in the Edinburgh Hall, Harling Road, Great Hockham, IP24 1NT on the second Wednesday of the month

Doors open 1.30 pm / Speakers start at 2 pm

Indoor meetings free to members / £3 to visitors

Outdoor visits are subsidised by the club but members may have to pay a small contribution for some visits

Secretary: Stacey Smith

secretaryghgc@gmail.com

Website: greathockhamgardeningclub.org.uk

Watton Road History

Known in mediaeval times as West End leaving Town Street or Westgate, it's also had the name of Breckles Road and Chapel Street in more recent times.

Leaving the green, the smithy was on the right, with Scotgate Farm Cottages next door. The smithy also sold pedal cycles which revolutionised the ability for the young lads of the village to get further afield following the invention of pneumatic tyres. A large barn stood where the entrance to Walnut Close is, demolished in the 1990's. On the left was Kingshill Bungalow, which made way for the Kingshill development, and then the garage (now two houses and a bungalow) which was built on the site of the bowling green belonging to Home Cottage now known as Home Hall.

A tailor's shop was next and a newspaper shop too. Then after Vicarage Road was one of the two village bakeries and next to the chapel was a

haberdashery shop. The chapel was built in the 1800's replacing a former Methodist barn at Puddledock. Methodism was strong in Hockham as was all church going and when popularity waned the chapel was closed and sold as a private concern.

Scotgate Close was built in the 1970's but was originally going to be called Ravenswood Gardens, in fact the odd lamppost still has that name on it on a metal plate.

The new school was built in 1962 and there were some villagers who thought it a waste of money and the old school should have just been given a bit of a facelift. Time has proven the money was good value and the building has had several extensions and even had mobile classrooms at one time. When it opened there were around 60 pupils and there are close to 90 at present. Many of its children have grown up and have had their own children attend and most pupils have nothing but affectionate memories of their time there.



Chris Garrod



Great Ellingham & District Flower Club



We meet at Rocklands Village Hall, The Street, Rocklands All Saints, NR17 1TR on the 4th Tuesday of each month

Jane Dalton (Secretary)

Mobile: 07557517064

Email: jane.dalton@btinternet.com



The book club met on the 5th May at The Eagle and the book being discussed was The Binding by Bridget Collins.

We were each asked to give one word to describe the book - tormented, descriptive, conflicting, intriguing, riveting, bind, rambling, confusing - so a mixture of thoughts and opinions about the book and this generated a lively discussion that was supported by Kirsten's questions.

The Binding is a fantasy novel set in an alternative universe, vaguely reminiscent of 19th century England where books are dangerous things. People visit book binders to rid themselves of painful or treacherous memories. Once their stories have been told and are bound between the pages of a book, the slate is wiped clean and their memories lose the power to hurt or haunt them. Unfortunately, a person can also lose a little part of themselves. Needless to say, the binding can be abused by certain individuals for personal gain and money. Our two main characters, Emmett Farmer and Lucian Darney both experience the binding at different times and slowly develop a relationship as the story progresses.

This book divided the group with some finding the dialogue irritating, repetitive and containing confusing historical references. Others really enjoyed the book. This is the great thing about the book club, we all enjoy reading, but not necessarily the same genre and it makes for a great discussion. The book scored 6 1/2 out of 10.

The raffle prize was won by Pam.

The next book is The Foundling by Stacey Halls and it will be the subject of discussion at our next meeting on the 2nd June.

Leonie Jones

Great Hockham Events 2026

More events may be added as
the year progresses!

**Summer Show – Sunday 30th
August**

**Fireworks – Saturday 7th
November**

Please look out for specific details of events nearer the time which can be found in the 'In -Touch', on Facebook, Village notice boards and on the website:

www.greathockham.org

Money raised at these events is in support of the playing field and equipment.

YOUR VILLAGE NEEDS YOU!

We are looking for volunteers to help with various events throughout the year – If you can help, please message or call Aimie on 07930 158911

School Birthdays



"Happy Birthday" to Hollie, Luna, Seren, Ezmeralda, Isla B, Ezra and Hannah.

Thank You

The In-Touch team would like to thank the Parish Council for their kind donation of £100 which is very much appreciated.

150th Wayland Show - Sunday 2nd

August 2026

Brandon Road, Watton IP25 7NG

WE ARE BUSY ORGANISING ANOTHER GREAT WAYLAND SHOW FOR 2026 WHICH WILL BE THE 150TH YEAR OF THE SHOW!

The family-orientated Wayland Show will reflect the heritage of the region and the countryside of the 21st century, and provide visitors old and new with a truly rural show experience. New and exciting interactive events and competitions will offer visitors of all ages the opportunity to enjoy hands-on experiences. The Wayland Show committee have been working with the local community, organisations and groups to combine skills and talents to ensure that the 2026 Show is indeed a regional celebration, proud of its heritage yet looking to the future.

At the heart of the 2026 Show will be all that is best from the region – quality livestock, unique craftsmanship, local musicians, and local foods and produce.

We are keen to promote local participation to truly reflect the diverse cultural heritage of our area. Every year local companies from across the region use the Wayland show as a valuable way to promote their business and to sell their products. To book a trade stand pitch, shopping village table or a stand on the new market lane please visit waylandshow.com

Sponsorship and membership offer a meaningful way to support this long standing rural show and its future depends on the continued involvement of both sponsors and members. Do look at the sponsorship opportunities and the annual membership at waylandshow.com (Sponsors and Members).

To compete in all competitions please see the application forms online. These include Livestock, Equestrian, Horticulture, Cookery and Crafts, Vintage Vehicles and the Fun Dog Show.

Grand ring entertainment all day including Falconry, Jousting, Heavy Horses, Shetland Derby, Vintage vehicles and tractors. Grand parade of sheep, cattle, goats, horses and pigs with the presentation of the Champion of Champion award.

Early bird adult tickets are available online £10.00 (+booking fee) Under 16 free. This price is only available until midnight on 1st July.

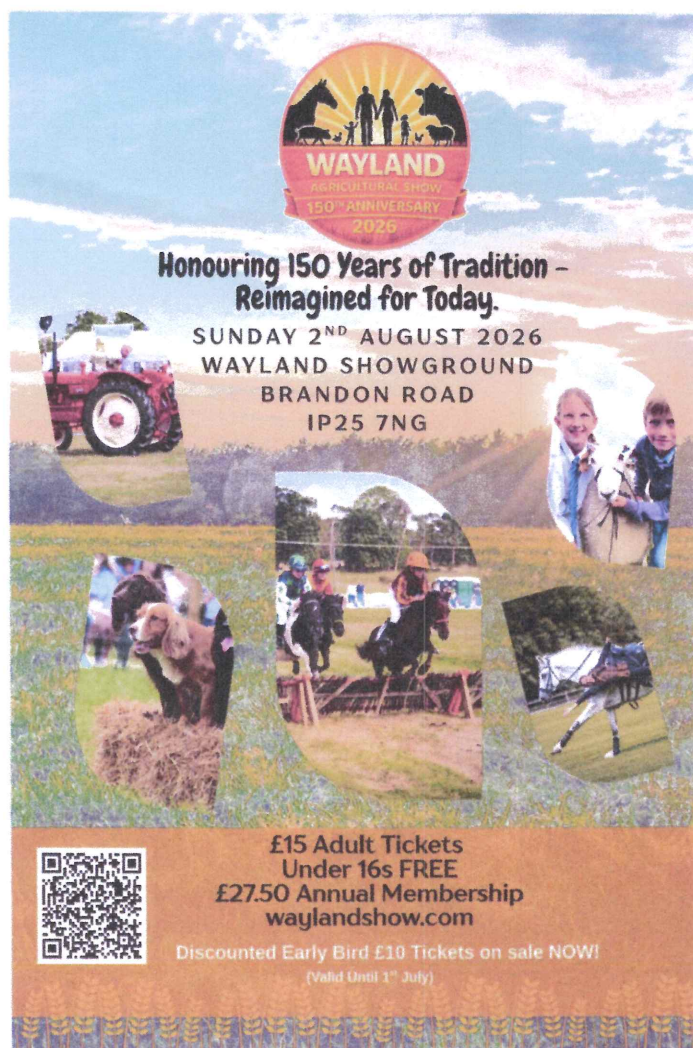
Adult £12.50 (+booking fee) - Under 16 free. This price is available until midnight on 25th July 2026.

Gate price - Adult £15.00 - Under 16 free.

Gates open at 10am.

For further information please see the website www.waylandshow.com or the Facebook page.

Laura Cuthbert



The poster features a central circular logo with a silhouette of a family and animals, surrounded by the text 'WAYLAND AGRICULTURAL SHOW 150th ANNIVERSARY 2026'. Below the logo, the text reads 'Honouring 150 Years of Tradition - Reimagined for Today.' followed by 'SUNDAY 2ND AUGUST 2026', 'WAYLAND SHOWGROUND', 'BRANDON ROAD', and 'IP25 7NG'. The background is a collage of images: a red tractor, a woman with a dog, a dog in a field, a person on a horse, and a horse being ridden. At the bottom, there is a QR code, the text '£15 Adult Tickets Under 16s FREE £27.50 Annual Membership waylandshow.com', and 'Discounted Early Bird £10 Tickets on sale NOW! (Valid Until 1st July)'.

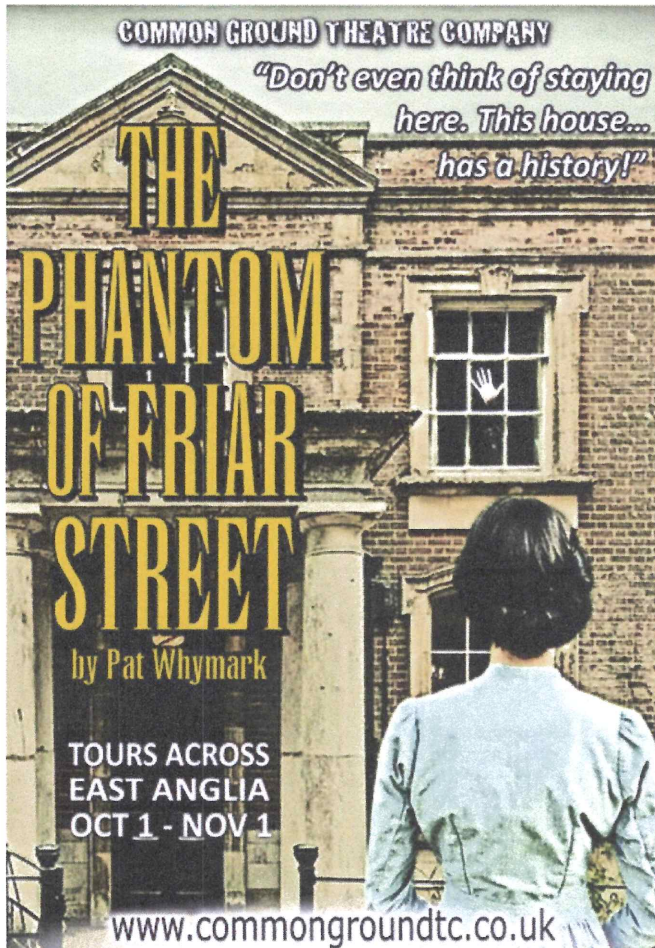
Common Ground Theatre Company

Save the Date

Common Ground Theatre Company
present their autumn tour 2026...

HOCKHAM SATURDAY 10TH

OCTOBER



Ticket details coming soon.....

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Lisa 07788695694
lisaioannehawkins@googlemail.com



Village Hall Bookings June 2026

Regular Bookings

Monday	Reserved for Parish Council	Evening
Tuesday	Carpet Bowls	Evening
Wednesday	Yoga	6.00-7.30pm
Thursday	Taekwondo	6.00-8.00pm

June 2026

Tues 9 th	Exploring Drawing	10am-1pm
Tues 23 rd	Exploring Drawing	10am-1pm

(List incomplete at time of printing)

Dog training Monday and Friday evenings (earlier on Parish Council days).

For Yoga information ring June on 07766 108075

For Taekwondo contact Dave Robb 01953 882848 or 07710 666133

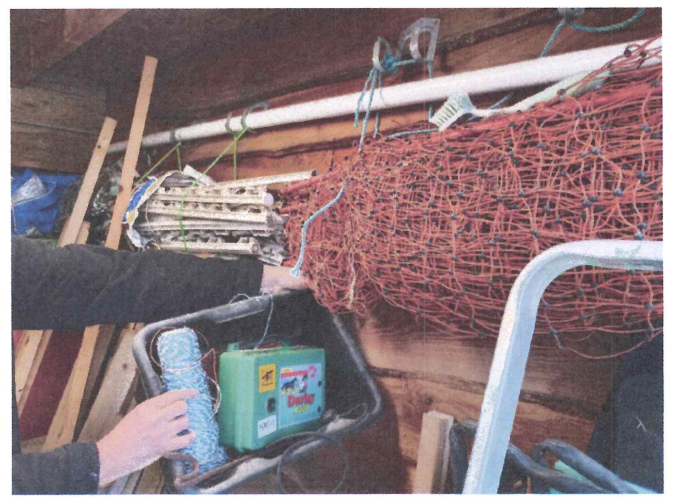
For Sound Bath contact Tracey Mathison 07748 213397

For Hall bookings contact Chris Garrod 07770 710307 or e-mail chris@oaklands4.co.uk.

FOR SALE

Electric wire kit, wire holder sticks, rolls of wire, transformer and a roll of orange mesh. All used.

£30.00 please call 07816975099.



Great Hockham Carpet Bowls

The Carpet Bowls Club meets every Tuesday evening at 7pm - 9pm in the Village Hall either for matches in the Spring and Autumn and / or for practice games between ourselves.

For more information contact Jackie - Tel 07947 508835.

Defibrillator

The defibrillator is located in the telephone box by the Village Green.

Press the button to the right of the unit to connect to the emergency services who will give the code to unlock the cabinet.

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MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HOCKHAM PARISH COUNCIL ON MONDAY 27TH APRIL 2026 AT 7.30PM IN HOCKHAM VILLAGE HALL

Attending, NCC Cllr F Eagle; Cllrs Bennett, Lambert, Lloyd, Loft, Leech, Thomas and Wiltshire, the clerk C Garrod and 8 parishioners.

- 1) **Apologies for absence;** District Councillor P Cowen.
- 2) **Declarations of interest:** Cllr Lambert as landlord of the eagle and trustee of the Woodsford charity, Cllr Wiltshire as trustee of the Woodsford Charity, Cllr Loft as an allotment holder, Cllr Bennett as an allotment holder and trustee of the Townlands Charity and Cllr Leech as a farmer from Little Hockham.
- 3) **Requests for dispensation:** None
- 4) **Minutes of 16th March 2026;** Unanimously approved.
- 5) **Progress report:**
 - a) **Info Board.** Members were asked to give ideas for the board.
 - b) **Drainage.** NCC Highways were to do more investigative work. The clerk would investigate timescale.
 - c) **Vicarage Rd Sign.** Limelight Signs would provide. Permission was needed. No Access to A1075 was the preferred wording. Costs to be sought.
 - d) **Speed Camera Results.** The results for the last 4 sets of recordings, showed a very small number of speeds in excess of 30mph. Results were encouraging. Site specific results would now be sought and reported.
 - e) **Mobile Library.** Efforts were being made to advertise the visits. One suggestion was that a one stop strategy should be considered. The clerk would liaise with the library service.
 - f) **Land Asset availability.** It was agreed not to take ownership of the paths offered. The clerk would investigate an easement for a right of way.
- 6) **The meeting** was adjourned for a public discussion.
- 7) **Reports.** Councillor Eagle gave information on Rural Business awards, the Plunkett Award, Foodbanks needed sugar, the structure of the council in the years to come, the fact that no councillors could call in a planning application from 30th September 26. Councillor Cowen's report was read out. It contained information on budgeting and the LGR.
- 8) **Highways and Road Safety.** Cllr Thomas reported that scheduled white lining was completed. The Forest Edge junction was in another schedule and would be acted upon in the future.
- 9) **Planning.** PL/2026/0509/CLEUD No objections. Local plan, no further progress. Brookside Farm, objections had been posted. There had been an EA change of application status. Clarity was being sought. A no objection had been submitted for PL/2026/0379/HOU.
PL/2025/1331/OMAJ. Discussions took place over the AWA changing their statements. Discussions with the planners at AWA had brought some concerns that they did not understand the local operational status. Further discussions would take place. The application had been called into committee. Cllr Bennett would represent the Parish council.

- 10) **Finances.** The clerk gave a synopsis of end year figures of £17580.67 in the bank with a creditor of £154.20. Half the precept and the VAT reclaim had been received. Currently there was £29,740.40 in the bank. Approvals were given for clerk's salary, Hornfair road closure, Pearce and Kemp and Community Heartbeat invoices. In touch payment was due. Play equipment would be discussed under the Playing Field Agenda.
- 11) **Allotments.** Some work had gone ahead on another bore hole. Allotments were looking well maintained.
- 12) **Footpaths.** Nothing to report.
- 13) **Playing Field.** End year finances were very healthy at £15,705.65. It was agreed to look at grants again but to progress phase 2 of the play equipment. The new equipment had been a huge success. Hornfair approached and all help was needed.
- 14) **Forest Edge Court.** Nothing to report.
- 15) **Councillor Updates.** None.
- 16) **Correspondence.** None
- 17) **Next meeting** Monday 18th May. This would be the parish meeting and PC AGM starting time 7pm.

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the new barcoded stamps
at discounted rates

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2nd Class – Post Office 91p

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