

IN-TOUCH

Great Hockham News Sheet

Issue No 565
October 2025



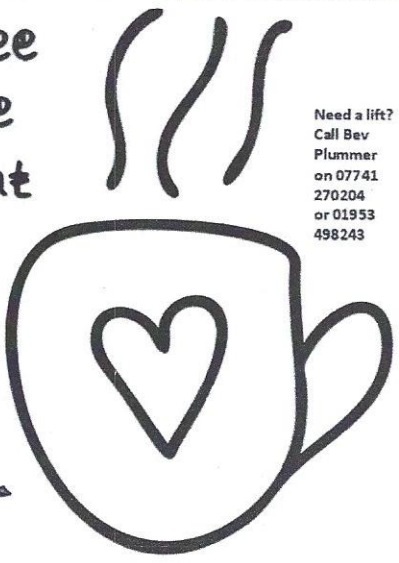
Editorial

The Summer Show (formerly called the Flower Show) was held at the Eagle in late August. Which is why this is being reported in the October edition of In Touch. As the article inside this edition says, the whole event was very successful and raised over £1,300 for village funds, which is an incredible amount for a small village. A lot of this was down to the skills of the auctioneer, Rod Beckwith, and the generosity, and rivalry, of the bidders. There is a slight possibility that bids were rather higher than expected, because the auction was held in the pub. A full list of cup winners is in the report inside, but the overall winners were Fred Younger and Sabrina Davey, with the scarecrow winners being Fred Skipp and Harriet Carter. Congratulations to the organisers and helpers for a fantastic effort.

The rainfall, or rather, the lack of it this year, has been astounding. Up to the end of August this year, we had 188.6mm of rain. This compares to last year's 552.0mm for the same period. To put it into context, in the month of August 2020 alone, we had 210.8mm, which is more than for the whole first 8 months of this year. As the total for each year mostly works out roughly the same, we could be in for a very wet remainder of the year.

Coffee Cake Chat

This month...
Amanda and Pedj
will give a
fascinating talk
about the
WONDERS OF THE
CORAL REEF



Need a lift?
Call Bev
Plummer
on 07741
270204
or 01953
498243



18 October, Village Hall, 10.30 am

Harling Road Allotments

Annual fees are now due at £25.00 for full allotments and £12.50 for half ones.

Anyone not wishing to renew should contact the Clerk ASAP.

Chris Garrod
Hockham Parish Clerk
07770 710307
Hockhampc@outlook.com

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 Benefice
October 2025

Sunday 5th October, 16th after Trinity

10.30am Harvest Festival with Holy Communion
St Botolph's, Stow Bedon

Sunday 12th October, 17th after Trinity

11.00am Confirmation
and United Holy Communion
with the Bishop of Norwich
St Martin's, Thompson

Sunday 19th October, 18th after Trinity

10.30am Harvest Festival
with United Holy Communion
St Margaret's, Breckles

Sunday 26th October, Bible Sunday

10.30am United Holy Communion
Holy Cross, Caston



Changing Seasons and Clocks.....

As a child, I struggled to understand both how and why we changed the clocks twice a year. How could we alter time? Wasn't time – just

time? How could we mess about with it, and decide that what was 8.00 am was now 7.00 am?

It wasn't until I was much older, that I understood that the whole notion of measuring and naming 'time' had been a human invention.

Calendars for reckoning intervals of time, and clocks for measuring its passage, have a long history. Did you know that first calendars were lunar? There's evidence of them from as

long as 6,000 years ago. The first clocks were a form of sundial, found in Egypt, so clearly humans have long felt the need to track the passage of time.

From a human perspective, time is linear and goes in one direction. But what could happen if we were freed from this constraint has long captured writers' imaginations, some even exploring the idea of being able to travel back in time, or even jump about in it.

But what about God's time? I believe that there has never been a time when God wasn't, and there will never be a time when God isn't. That God is revealed within time because humanity and creation is.

Starting with Abraham, God promised that through his descendants, all creation would know God's blessing. Some thousands of years later, and 2,000 years distant from us, God revealed Godself in human flesh, in the person of Jesus, a human being born in a specific place at a specific time.

So, as we move through the month of October – and yes, the days are shortening and Christmas is getting closer – let us take some time to marvel at the changing of the season and what it brings, always remembering that through each season, our own time, and how we use it, is precious.

With every blessing

Vanessa

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

October Dates for your Diary:

(Food truck every Thursday evening May –
October 5pm onwards)

1st, 15th & 29th October
Bingo

7.45pm arrival for 8pm start 18+

2nd October
Ben's Kitchen 4.30-9pm

7th October
Book Club 7.30pm

9th October
Surfing Sombrero 5-8pm

16th October
Patron Norwich 5-8pm

23rd October
Pizza Roma 5-8pm

Saturday 25th October
Thai Orchid 4.30-8pm

Seating is available inside (or outside) the pub for
every truck if desired. To guarantee a table give
us a call.

Join us for Cribbage every Wednesday lunchtime
12.30-3pm except for the last week of the month
when we meet for Whist 1-3pm. Both are £1 to
play each week and have small cash prizes
available.

Fancy joining one of our clubs?

We hold clubs/teams throughout the week
including Crib, 5 Darts Teams, 4 Pool Teams,
Whist and Book Club

Opening Hours

Monday – Thursday 12-2.30pm/6-11pm
Friday – Saturday 12-11pm
Sunday 12-10.30pm

Food Available

Monday: 5-8pm Takeaway Night
(Eat in available)

Fish and Chip Fryday: 12-8.30pm
(Takeaway and eat in)

Saturday: 12-8.30pm

Sunday: 12-3pm

Mobile Library Service

CHESTNUT SQUARE	10:55 – 11:10
SCOTGATE CLOSE	11:15 – 11:35

Date of forthcoming visits (Thursdays):

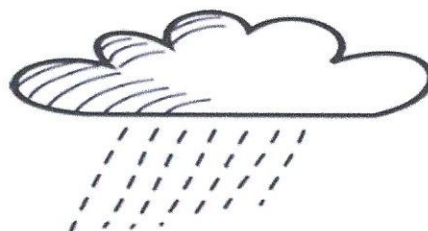
9 Oct / 6 Nov / 4 Dec / 29 Jan

26 Feb / 26 March



August Rainfall

August 2025	25.6 mm
August 2024	27.1 mm
Jan-Aug 2025	188.6 mm
Jan-Aug 2024	522.0 mm
Highest Aug since 1979	2020 210.8 mm
Lowest Aug since 1979	2003 6.5 mm



Village Hall Bookings October 2025

Regular Bookings

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

October 2025

Wed 8 th	Gardening Club	PM
Mon 13 th	Parish Council	7.30pm
Tues 14 th	Exploring Drawing	10am-1pm
Sat 18 th	Coffee Cake & Chat	AM
Sat 18 th	Yoga & Soundbath	PM
Sat 25 th	Private Hire	
Tues 28 th	Exploring Drawing	10am-1pm

Nov 2025

Sat 1st Common Ground Play

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.

Hazardous Waste Days

Household Hazardous Waste Days at Thetford Recycling Centre are on Friday 7 November and Saturday 8 November from 8am to 4pm.

Booking will be available online and by phone from 9am on Thursday 30 October.

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.



Great Hockham Gardening Club



Wednesday 8th October

Karon Sanders

Propagation

Followed by AGM

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: Rosemary Martin 07563 505020

secretaryghgc@gmail.com

Website:

greathockhamgardeningclub.org.uk

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 - Tel 07737 046121

Robin

The content of the articles in In-Touch is the responsibility of the named contributors, not the Newsletter Committee. Anonymous items will not be accepted.

Witchcraft in Hockham

Proving of a Witch

As All Hallows Eve approaches, perhaps we should reflect on an application that was made to a magistrate and reported on in several newspapers in 1856/1857.

It was made by a farmer who farmed 40 acres in the Hockham parish.

The farmer thought his wife had been bewitched by someone referred to as Mrs C, an elderly lady who lived near The Lion, by Hockham Green.

He said she had the character of being a witch and he asked for permission for her to be "swum". It appears he wanted to see if she didn't sink, and if she floated, then she must be a witch. The intention was to get the police to surprise her with an arrest, tie her clothes about her legs, put a line round her waist and one to each side and take her to a local pit and if she did sink, the ropes could/would save her from drowning after giving sufficient time to see she didn't float. Apparently, it was a tried and tested way of revealing a witch in other places in the country, though it suggests the fact the matter made it to so many newspapers, that it was somewhat outdated.

So beware, if you see an elderly lady standing outside in the street near the Lion on Halloween, Mrs C may just have come back for a haunting!

Anyone wishing to verify and get the complete story online, then search for "Hockham Witchcraft" or "Hockham Hocus Pocus" and see what you find, and should you subscribe to a newspaper search website, then check out just how popular the story was. The original story was from that tried tested and impartial newspaper, The Times, from Nov 1856.

Chris Garrod



Exploring Drawing

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Tuesday Workshops Oct. 14th & 28th
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£18 per session. All materials supplied

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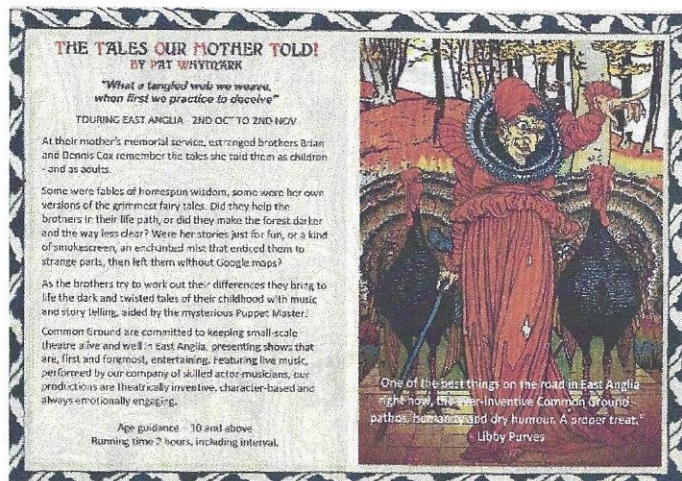
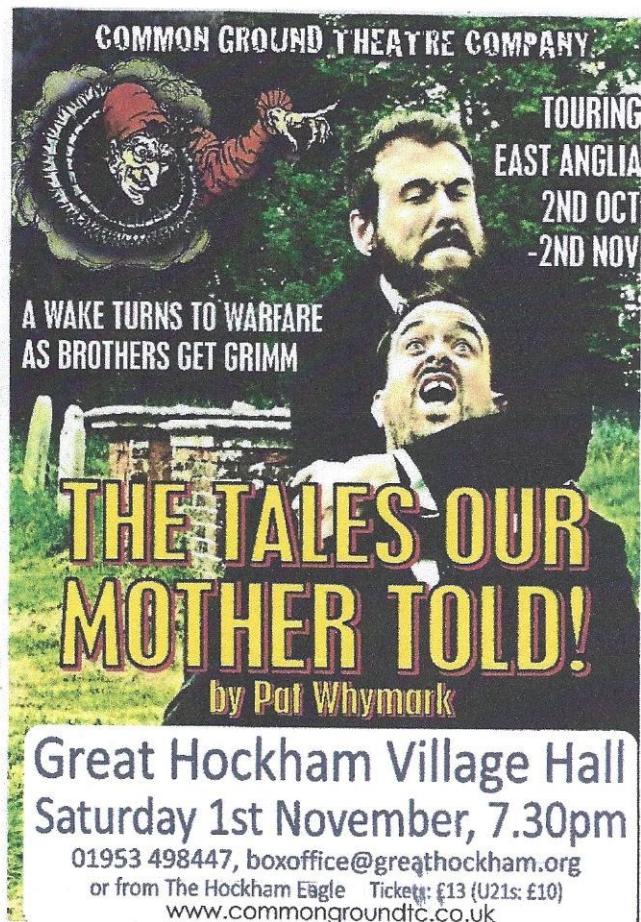
Email: melcookartist@icloud.com

Instagram @exploringdrawing

Facebook Melodie Cook Artist

Please use the village bottle bank





BOOK CLUB

The book club meeting took place on Tuesday 2nd September at The Eagle, the book being discussed was *The Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy* by Douglas Adams.

Rather than outline the plot of this iconic book (which surprisingly only scored 5 1/2 out of 10) with so many new people in the village, we thought that this might be a good time to explain the format of the group.

The library produces a list of the books available for book clubs to borrow. We take it in turns to select three possible books for the next month and we contact the library to see if any of the selected titles are available. If the library is unable to source any of our choices (there are a lot of book clubs in Norfolk) then they will suggest an alternative - the beauty of this approach is we are introduced to genres that we might otherwise not read.

We have a raffle each month and the money for the ticket (30p-50p depending on the balance of the float) covers the cost of the books. The person who wins the raffle buys the prize (price limit of £5) for the next month. The raffle prize this month was won by Kirsten.

We take it in turns to produce questions for the book that has been read as we find this helps to start discussions - we usually have different viewpoints about the book and this can make things interesting and thought provoking.

We are a friendly group who all share a love of reading and if you share this passion then why not come and join us on the first Tuesday of the month.

Our book for October is *My Family and Other Animals* by Gerald Durrell.

Leonie Jones

Keep the Date

TUESDAY 30TH DECEMBER for Common Ground's Xmas Show in Hockham.

More details to follow.



Great Hockham Primary School and Nursery

Our new term at Great Hockham has started extremely well. We have welcomed our new Reception and Nursery children and they have all settled in brilliantly. They are so enthusiastic to learn and excited to make new friends and try a range of learning activities.

All children have transitioned smoothly into their new year groups and are showing excellent attitudes to learning. We have been focusing on our school values of all children being creative, caring and daring so that they can all enjoy learning, make brilliant progress and have the best year yet!

For Harvest this year we will be collecting donations of food for a local charity and all children, from Nursery to Year 6, will be performing in Holy Trinity Church for our families to enjoy. We are always so impressed by how confidently our children speak and sing in front of an audience.

We have had such a busy half term, the children and staff will definitely deserve a restful half term's break when it finally arrives.

Best wishes

Lisa Hazard, Headteacher

School Birthdays



"Happy Birthday" to Reginald, Jack W, Gianna, Amber, Elliott and Zoe-Ella.

OPEN MORNING

**Come and visit us on
Wednesday 5th November
at 10am and find out all
about our wonderful
school. You will have the
chance to see the children
learning and have all of
your questions answered.**

**If you are interested in a
place at our school and
want to attend please
email the school office:**

office@hockham.set.education

**We hope to see you
there!**

Great Ellingham & District Flower Club

**Tuesday
OCTOBER 28th**

**A DEMONSTRATION BY:
ELAINE BOOBIER**

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Membership Fees £35 per year
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For more information call our Secretary
Email : jane.dalton@btinternet.com
Facebook: [gtellinghamanddistrictflowerclub](https://www.facebook.com/gtellinghamanddistrictflowerclub)

Clematis (Part 2)

Some thoughts on the choice

Ask about how to grow clematis and you'll usually be told: 'Plant with their heads in the sun and roots in the shade'. Oh, and according to the variety, you might be given a 'Pruning Code' 1, 2 or 3, each of which simply says how severely to prune and when to do it. As far as it goes, that's sound advice and generations of gardeners have got by with it, particularly when aided by a favourable aspect and suitable soil.

More detailed advice was often felt to be complicating the subject, but that's to miss out on some fairly simple guidance that will help the gardener understand their plant and its needs. It will also help to get the best out of a genus that can be remarkably long lived, is undoubtedly showy and, depending on variety, can flower in almost every month of the year. In amongst those varieties are climbers, scramblers, herbaceous clump-formers and others which will very gently thread their way through the thickest of shrubs, and sprinkle their flowers in the supporting foliage of their hosts. Truly a plant for most places and, as we shall see, almost all seasons.

Clematis hail from every continent which will support plants. Australasia gives us some small, white-flowered evergreens, N. Africa, the winter-flowering semi-evergreen *Clematis cirrhosa*, although the mainly European *viticella* can be found there too. N. America provides its native *texensis*, from which the truest red hybrids derive, and the odd herbaceous species – *douglasii* is one that comes to mind. *Clematis montevidensis* (Argentine Goat's Beard) is a South American species which is rarely seen in cultivation elsewhere.

Europe has a fair share of species: *viticella* (known from Elizabethan times as 'The Virgin's Bower') is the best known and has been used repeated in hybridisation, of which more in a minute. The only indigenous British species is *vitalba*, the 'Old Man's Beard' of our hedgerows here, which is tough, though in comparison to its much showier cousins a nondescript plant, until its blowsy, silvery seedheads cheer us up in the autumn and early winter. That's been hybridised, by the way, with the herbaceous Asian *heracleifolia*, to produce the rather labyrinthinely-named: *xjoiniana* 'Praecox'. Forget the name, it's quite a well-behaved non-climber. It will

scramble a good few metres through your shrubs or borders but, being non-clinging and far more refined than its UK parent, it won't try to strangle its hosts in the process. The flowers are small, recurved, with a bluish tinge but it doesn't produce fluffy seedheads or viable seed – maybe a blessing if you don't want it to be as promiscuous as its dad.

The *alpinas*, and the closely allied *macropetalas* are very hardy and come into flower in the spring, with pink, bluish or white flowers (some varieties are doubles) like ballet dancers' skirts. The flowers are especially welcome after the gloom of winter and, as you might expect with its high-altitude name, are resistant to being seared by any late frosts.

The real powerhouse is undoubtedly SE Asia, particularly in the SE ranges of the Himalayas, extending into China. Early European plant hunters found dozens of species, both climbers and herbaceous, that were seized upon and hybridised by nurseries over here, producing many of the cultivars (varieties) that are in common cultivation, even now.

These include the mighty *montanas*, which will, when happy, virtually take over your garden, chrome-yellow *tanguticas* and *orientalis*, flowering continuously from May to November (it's mid-May as I write and mine here is showing its first flowers of the season). Herbaceous *heracleifolia*, with masses of small, scented blue flowers, each one resembling hyacinth florets. And finally, the 'large-flowered hybrids', which show off the Asian discoveries' sheer size of blooms to such great effect.

These are too numerous to list (with dozens of new ones being added to the lists every year), but the old favourites include 'Nelly Moser' 'xjackmanii' 'Superba'. 'The President', 'Ville de Lyon', and 'Marie Boisselot' (syn: 'Madame le Coultre') in their number. In a move bizarre to most people, the last one underwent an identity crisis way back in the 19th century when Marie Boisselot got married to Monsieur le Coultre and the plant's name changed too.

And if you really want a clematis with flowers the size of dinner plates? Well, 'W.E. Gladstone' is feted as the largest large-flowered clematis, with flowers 10" across. I've grown it in the past – if only to see that I could – and, yes, its reputation is well deserved.

Tom Bennett

The Adventures of Church Mice

Over 500 visitors witnessed the extraordinary spectacle of Hockham Church overrun with 200 knitted mice in early September. Similar scenes were to be found in five other parish churches in the area in a well-coordinated display of local talent.

There was no doubting the appeal of our mini mice Suffragettes, pint-sized King Henry VIII and his six mice-queens. Current royals in full regalia also featured in a Coronation of King Charles-mouse scene and on the balcony at Buckingham Palace. Fun tableaux straight out of episodes of Dad's Army were scene stealers with Pike a clear favourite among those wishing to adopt a mouse after the exhibition had run its course.

Thanks must go to all those who worked so hard to contribute to the success of the event, in particular Lois Gill and her team of knitters, and over the course of the weekend more than £14,000 was raised to be shared equally between the six participating churches. Thanks also to those who attended, manned the church, baked cakes and supported the event in any way. A special thank you to Jonathan for providing a strip of land for overflow parking given the limitations of the church car park.

Bev Plummer

THE FOUR SEASONS IN PASTEL

By Jane Dalton

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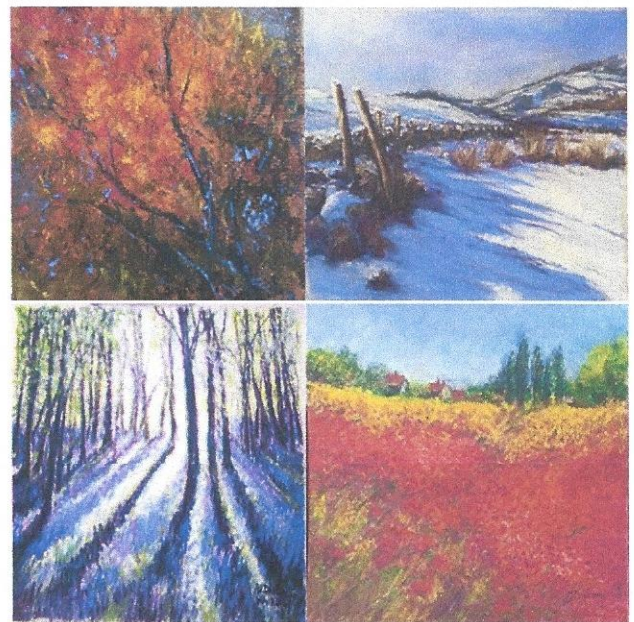
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Great Hockham Summer Show 2025

What a fantastic show we had this year! We raised an incredible £1,313.60 - surpassing last year's total! It was truly heartwarming to see the village come together in such a spirited and joyful way. The sense of community was palpable, with a healthy dose of friendly competition not only in the entries but also during the lively auction that followed. We saw a 27% increase in participants, with 65 entrants contributing to a 29% rise in overall entries - bringing us to a brilliant total of 399 individual category submissions. That's a phenomenal achievement and a testament to everyone's enthusiasm and creativity.

This was also our second year of Scarecrows, proudly displayed in front gardens throughout the village in the week leading up to the event. The entries were imaginative, fun, and full of character—and we were delighted to celebrate two well-deserved winners:



Under 10's – Harriet Carter's winner



11yrs and Over – Fred Skipp's winner

Thank you once again for your incredible support and enthusiasm - it's what makes events like this so special. Whether you entered a category, helped behind the scenes, cheered on your neighbours, or simply came along to soak up the atmosphere, you played a part in something truly memorable.

We're already looking forward to next year's scarecrows and potentially introducing a few new categories. If you have any suggestions for additions, please do get in touch with Donna at donnalloyd@hockhamparish.gov.uk we'd love to hear your ideas!

Under 5	Gilcrest Cup	Oscar Blyth
5yr - 8yr	Hills & Holes Cup	Eleanor Carter
9yr - 15yr	Hildrift Cup	Harriet Bell
Best Handicraft	Edinburgh Hall Bowl	Julie Mole
Best Photograph	Joe Bray Trophy	Pam Greenwood
Best Home Produce	Wilson Plate	Loraine Younger
Best Flower Exhibit	Garrod Rose Bowl	Fred Younger
Best Pot Plant	Breckles Challenge Trophy	Loraine Younger
Best Floral Art	Heathley Cup	Sabrina Davey
Best Fruit Exhibit	Hornfair Cup	Julia Wiltshire
Best Veg Exhibit	Gt Hockham Plate	Pete Kitchen
Scarecrow 10yrs and Under	Handmade Display Cup 10 years and under	Harriet Carter
Scarecrow 11yrs and Over	Handmade Display Cup 11 years and over	Fred Skipp
Lady with Most Points	Breckland Bowl	Sabrina Davey
Gentleman with most points	Hockham Parva Cup	Fred Younger
Overall - most points in the show	Heathley Cup	Fred Younger
Money Raised: Auction £1202.60	Donations and Entries £111	Total £1313.60

Thank you for your support. 😊 Donna Lloyd

**MINUTES OF A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY
SEPTEMBER 8TH 2025 AT 7.30PM IN HOCKHAM VILLAGE HALL**

Attending; councillors Bennett, Lambert, Wiltshire, Thoams, Lloyd, Leech and Loft plus 11 members of the public.

- 1) **Apologies for absence;** District Councillor Cowen
- 2) **Declarations of interest;** Councillor Lambert as owner and landlord of the eagle and Trustee of the Woodsford Charity, Councillor Wiltshire as a trustee of the Woodsford Charity, Councillors Bennett and Loft as allotment holders and Councillor Leech as a farmer at Little Hockham.
- 3) **Requests for dispensation;** None
- 4) **Minutes of July 28th 2025** had been circulated and were unanimously approved.
- 5) **Progress Report;**
 - a) Dog fouling signs were all in place now and a new dog bin had been installed at Church Lane. The clerk would inform SERCO.
 - b) Info Board. In progress
 - c) NCC Highways report following visit organised by F Eagle. Signs for Puddledock Lane from the A1075 were considered adequate, the verge at Little Hockham Lane would be cut and added to the schedule, village parking issues were commented on Cllr Eagle would provide some signs, A1075 restricted access they were considering what to do, the bat box was available but needed to go on public land, the bus stop for Puddledock Lane would be looked into further, the trod would be priced for resurfacing and drainage was discussed in depth.
- 6) **Public Participation;** Residents of Breakwell Close voiced their concerns at the potential of properties being built behind theirs. Safe access was mentioned as well as utility, noise and privacy concerns.
It was asked if the road by the pub, could be one way.
- 7) **County and District Councillor Reports;** The clerk read a report from the district councillors. Breckland Council were preparing a submission to counter the NCC submission for a change of status re unitary authority. Three district councils were working together on this proposal. NCC were to vote to see if to appoint a mayor or not. Some villages had been having waste collection issues which were temporary issues due to staff sickness.
- 8) **Highways & Road Safety;** Cllr Thomas had three items to report, the verge at Little Hockham Lane had been sorted, a damaged sign on the A1075 had been reported and a damaged 30mph sign near the school had been reported.
- 9) **Planning;** there were discussions about a document from Breckland that suggested agreed sites to go forward in the local plan. It should be noted that this is not a decision that has been made yet as neither have housing numbers. Alma House application PL/2025/1184/HOU was discussed and comments agreed to send. The councillors would object unless the wording of the application were changed and the old barn for the residents use only. Sunny nook PL/2025/1149/FMIN was discussed. It was felt this was still overdevelopment in a conservation area with insufficient parking space. It was

suggested the plans were inaccurate regards distance from an outbuilding. There was no delivery material plan.

Comments would be put together and sent in.

Enforcement at the turkey shed site on the A1075 was discussed. Sheds had been demolished but no plans had been agreed for the rebuild that was taking place. The work had been stopped by enforcement.

- 10) **Finance;** The end of year external audit had taken place with one comment regards the asset register. It was odd that the auditors had made a comment about 23/24 figures which were plain to see. There was £24,202.43 in the bank with payments due of £193 for clerk's salary and £45.60 for Pearce and Kemp. The latter would be considered for direct debit. N power payments were expected at end September after a 7-month delay. £277.49 had been received from the bottle bank.
- 11) **Allotment's:** Cllr Bennett had investigated grants for water supply and had been advised by the lottery fund of the right application form. The clerk would ask the estate about a potential borehole. Cllr leech said he could release land with the estate's permission in 2027 for more allotments if required.
- 12) **Footpaths and Rights of Way.** Cllr Loft had walked most routes and other than the trod felt all was ok.
- 13) **Playing Field.** Cllr Lloyd explained that the Summer Show had grossed around £1300 and thanked all for their efforts. The containers were being racked and shelved. Fireworks was next up on November 8th. Volunteers would be needed. Financially the clerk reported £15589.31 in the bank with outgoings of £430 and the cash from the Summer has yet to be banked. The electricity supply was in credit by £329.35. The clerk asked for permission to instigate online banking and for approval for the playing field committee to consider a card reader for the fireworks. All agreed.
- 14) **Community Car Scheme.** A grant of £500 had been approved to cover taxi fees if a driver were unavailable. The clerk would liaise with taxi companies. David Sumbler was doing an excellent job, and the scheme was very much appreciated in the community.
- 15) **Forest Edge Court;** Nothing to report that had not already been covered.
- 16) **3 Year Plan.** The laptop deal with Currys had fallen through, the clerk would investigate more deals.
- 17) **Councillor Update's;** Cllr Bennett asked about ways to smarten up the village. This would be followed up next meeting.
- 18) **Correspondence.** A letter from the East Anglian Air Ambulance requesting funding was considered. The council had not budgeted for any donations.
- 19) **Next meeting was** Monday 13th October at 7.30pm

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