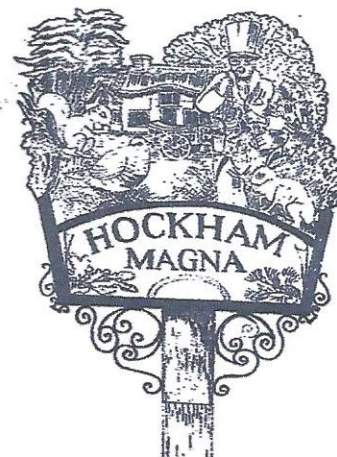


IN-TOUCH

Great Hockham News Sheet

Issue No 567
December 2025



Editorial

Firstly, we must congratulate the Playing Field Committee for their fabulous celebration of Guy Fawkes Night held on 8th November. The bonfire was enormous and the brilliant firework display lasted a full three quarters of an hour without a break. Judging by the numbers of cars arriving, people must have come to this event from far and wide.

Details of the traditional Christmas activities planned for our village can be found in this issue. We are looking forward to seeing our beautiful Christmas tree, now a permanent fixture on the Green, brightly lit up throughout the festive season. Don't miss the village Advent Calendar, a relatively new innovation for Hockham. Each day in Advent a different window in the village will be lit up with a dazzling, Christmas themed display which will be photographed and posted to the Great Hockham Advent Calendar Facebook page. And you can round off the year with an entertaining performance by the Common Ground Theatre Company of "Sherlock Holmes Smells Evil" at the Village Hall on 30th December - tickets from boxoffice@greathockham.org or 01953 498447.

A very HAPPY CHRISTMAS to all our readers.

NB: The submission date for items to be included in the January issue will be a week earlier than usual - Monday 15 December.

Carols on the Green

All are welcome to join us on the village green for Christmas Carols - Tuesday 23rd December at 6.30 pm. We should have a very jolly half hour's singing and it makes a great start to the village's Christmas. We are starting slightly earlier this year so that the little ones don't miss their bedtime.

Carol sheets are provided - let's hope for a starlit evening, with not too much deep, crisp and even snow, nor cruel frost! We make a perfect Christmas card scene, all gathered around the beautifully lit and decorated village Christmas tree. I added a couple of modern Christmas songs to our programme last year, and people seemed to like that. So we will have a mixture of traditional and modern festive singing, with one tune dating right back to the 13th century – which one?!

I hope you can join us and are in good voice – you will certainly be in good company!

Vince Thurkettle



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

Sunday 7th December, Second of Advent

10.30am United Holy Communion

Holy Cross, Caston

Tuesday 9th December

2.00pm WI Carol Service

Holy Cross, Caston

Friday 12th December

2.00pm Thompson School Christingle

St Martin's, Thompson

Sunday 14th December, Third of Advent

10.30am United Holy Communion

Holy Trinity, Great Hockham

6.00pm Breckles & Stow Bedon Carol Service

St Botolph's, Stow Bedon

Sunday 21st December, Fourth of Advent

10.30am United Holy Communion

St Peter & St Paul, Griston

6.30pm Carols by Candlelight - Holy Cross, Caston

Wednesday 24th December, Christmas Eve

5.00pm Christingle and Nativity Tableaux

Holy Cross, Caston

11.30pm Midnight Mass

St Martin's, Thompson

Thursday 25th December, Christmas Day

10.30am United Morning Service

Holy Trinity, Great Hockham

Sunday 28th December, Christmas 1 - Holy Family

10.30am United Holy Communion

St Botolph's, Stow Bedon

Sunday 4th January 2026, Christmas 2

10.30am United Holy Communion

St Martin's, Thompson

6.00pm Carols with a Difference

St Peter & St Paul, Griston

and reconciliation, that the Church exists for all, including those who are not members of it. Many come to church in times of need, sorrow, joy and thanksgiving, to receive what they can through the loving ministry of people of faith, to discover God's presence, comfort and peace in their lives. But whether we have a faith or not, are interested to know more, or enjoy the moment for what it holds for us before it is gone, this time of the year speaks to us of hope, promise, relationship, goodwill and love.

The season of Advent, that leads to Christmas, offers the opportunity to engage with the meaning of Christmas and allow ourselves to reflect on the reason for the season as we embrace traditions and memories of past Christmas school nativity plays, carol singing, visiting Santa and those with whom we have spent (and may continue to spend) Christmas Day. Advent points to this beginning when God, taking on human flesh, comes to earth, being born in poverty to become a homeless refugee, in order to identify with the suffering, the poor and vulnerable, as well as the powerful and influential.

Christmas celebrates God's gift of life being shared and offered for all people. The exchange of our presents, greetings and celebrations with family and friends, are reminders of God allowing us to see the image of the divine every time we look into one another's eyes and notice friend and stranger.

We are all familiar with the story of the birth of Christ and all who were part of it, the ordinary people who did extraordinary things through the invitation, encouragement and will of God. The Epiphany - the visit of the Magi, the Wise Men, symbolises the sharing of the light of God shining into the darkest places of people's hearts and lives. It offers hope and reassurance that nobody would ever feel abandoned or rejected, if we love our neighbours generously, courageously, compassionately and without condition, wherever they are in the world.

May the peace of the Christ child bring hope to you and the world this Christmas. *Vanessa. x*

Reverend Vanessa is the rector for the Wayland parishes of Breckles, Caston, Great Hockham, Griston, Thompson, and Stow Bedon. She is available for baptisms, weddings, funerals and pastoral visiting.

You can contact her on 07984 318885 or by email at vanessadlayfield@gmail.com



The Season of Advent.....

As a priest, I believe in a God of love, healing, compassion, peace,

THE EAGLE

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

Dates for your Diary:

2nd December

Book Club 7.30pm

3rd December

Quiz Night 8pm start

6th December

Breakfast Club from 9am

(Please call to book)

10th December

Bingo 7.45pm for 8pm start 18+

12th December

Final Fish and Chips for 2025

12-8.30pm Eat in and Takeaway

19th December

Wok Truck 4-8pm (Chinese)

20th December

Bar Snacks Menu 12-3pm

20th December

Christmas Bingo 7pm start

(Please call to book)

21st December

Bar Snacks Menu 12-3pm

21st December

Christmas Quiz and Christmas Draw

7pm start

(Please call to book)

23rd December

Carols on the Green

24th December

Open all day for drinks

12-11pm

25th December

Open 12-3pm

Drinks only

26th December

Open 12-3pm

Drinks only

30th December

Pizza Roma 5-8pm

31st December

New Year's Eve Party

See our Facebook for more details

1st January

New Year's Day Quiz 8pm start

3rd January

Thai Orchid 4.30-8pm

(Strongly advise to book a table in advance)

Our kitchen is closed over Christmas and New Year. To find out our serving days and times for January please call and speak to a member of staff. For our opening hours over the New Year period please see our Facebook or call.

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



Wednesday 10th December

Club Christmas Event

Bring and Share

12.30pm for 1pm Start

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

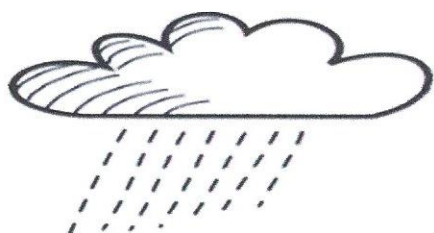
secretaryghgc@gmail.com

Website:

greathockhamgardeningclub.org.uk

October Rainfall

October 2025		55.3 mm
October 2024		61.9 mm
Jan-Oct 2025		292.6 mm
Jan-Oct 2024		640.0 mm
Highest Oct since 1979	2023	161.5 mm
Lowest Oct since 1979	1994	13.0 mm



Hockham Fuel Allotment

(Fuel & Furze)

Each year we ask for applications for awards for the charity and pay out a small sum for those that need a bit of extra assistance. This year is no exception, so closing dates for written applications will be 31st December 2025, with a view to paying out by end January 2026.

We hope to be able to make things easier this year by introducing online payments, so please could applicants in addition, and in full confidentiality, send their bank details with their application, to:

Chris Garrod

Clerk to Hockham Fuel Allotment

Oaklands

Vicarage Rd

Gt Hockham

Norfolk

IP24 1PE

Rev Gordon Webster

The former Methodist minister, Rev Gordon Webster, has died at his Lincoln home at the age of 88.

He was a very popular regular preacher at Hockham Methodist Chapel from the middle 1970s for around 10 years. At that time there were three or four youth groups in the village which were based at the Methodist Chapel, and those youngsters, who will now be in their fifties and sixties, will remember Gordon for his humour and kindness.

Rev Gordon was based in Attleborough. He then moved to Kings Lynn, and from there to Lincoln, where he sadly died on 2nd November.

At this time we have no idea of any funeral arrangements.

Geoff Stuart

Village Hall Bookings December 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

December 2025

Sat 6 th	Private Party	AM
Sat 6 th	Sound Bath	PM
Sun 7 th	Private Party	
Tues 9 th	Exploring Drawing	10am-1pm
Wed 10 th	Gardening Club	11am-4pm
Fri 12 th	School	
Sat 13 th	Coffee Cake & Chat Lunch	
Tues 16 th	Twilight Market	
Tues 30 th	Common Ground Play	Eve

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.

Village Hall Hire Fees

As from 1st Jan 2026, the hiring fees for the village hall will increase. Fees have not increased for many years though costs have, particularly electricity. There is a degree of misalignment too and all regular hirers will receive a separate notice advising them of their own situations.

The broad approach will be as follows:

Business Rates weekdays Excluding Friday eve £10/hr

Business Rates Friday eve, Sat & Sun £12/hr

Community hire Weekdays Excluding Friday eve £8 per hour

Community hire Friday eve, Sat & Sun £10 per hour

We have also changed our bank from Lloyds to a Barclays Account and would prefer any hirers to use this account referencing their names, also from 1st Jan 2026.

Village Hall Committee

Exploring Drawing

From charcoal to collage

Join award winning artist
Melodie Cook for
twice monthly workshops

Great Hockham Village Hall, Harling Road, IP24 1NT

Tuesday Workshop Dec. 9th
10am -1pm

£18 per session. All materials supplied

Call melodie on 07531 875713

Email: melcookartist@icloud.com

Instagram @exploringdrawing

Facebook Melodie Cook Artist

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.

Mobile Library Service

CHESTNUT SQUARE 10:55 – 11:10

SCOTGATE CLOSE 11:15 – 11:35

Date of forthcoming visits (Thursdays):

4 Dec / 29 Jan / 26 Feb / 26 March



Xmas on Hockham Green

Since the mid 1960s there has been a decorated tree on Hockham village green at Xmas. For many years it was a tree whose provenance was never delved into too deeply and there are many stories that tell of the time when the sourcing of the tree was a somewhat swashbuckling and daring Sunday morning adventure. Sophie Shaw driving a massive tractor with a 40 ft trailer (assisted by her dad) is one image that will never be forgotten. Sophie was about 10 at the time!

Santa and Rudolph were there from the very start and we estimate that this year they will be 60 years old. They have both had makeovers over the years, Cees de Ruijter did so once and the last time they came back looking bright and new from "Joe Garrod's Repair Shop", and they both still hang proudly from the chestnut tree branch, with a multitude of lights and a special red nose for Rudolph!

The LED tree lights have over 900 small bulbs, having replaced the old 100-watt multi coloured bulbs of yesteryear and on the day when the team have put the lights on, we always sneak back in the evening to take a good look to see how well the tree has been covered. One unwritten rule is that the tree must be seen from the A1075 bypass and it will do so again this Xmas!

There is also a chance for anyone to put a bauble on the tree to remember a loved one, though we recommend removal in the New Year for safe keeping, in fact there is a very large silver glass ball placed near the top that has the words "Absent Friends" on it, so we don't forget those that are no longer with us and played their part. It's very important.

Traditionally we go to the tree and sing carols close to Xmas and this year that will be on **Tuesday 23rd Dec at 6.30pm**. Hopefully we will see you there, it's quite magical and we can sing happy 60th birthday together to Santa and Rudolph!

MERRY XMAS!



Chris Garrod

STEW & A DO

The Coffee, Cake and Chat team would like to invite you to a delicious festive lunch with a difference . . .

Coffee
Cake
Chat

Village Hall

13 December

12 noon onwards

Tickets £5 each

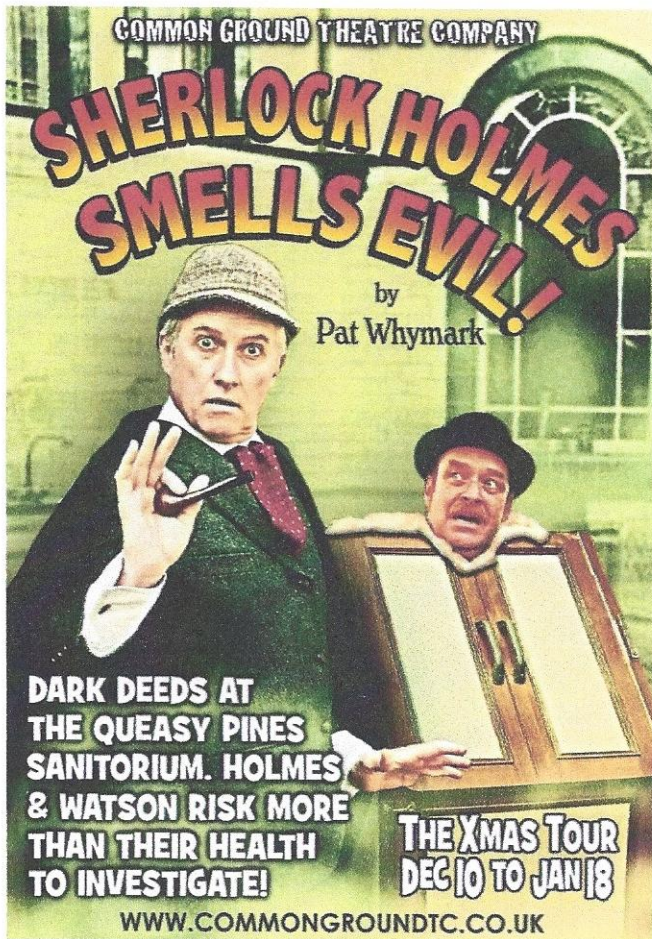
Numbers are limited so please
call Bev on **07741 270204**
to book your tickets



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

Please use the village bottle bank





Sherlock Holmes Smells Evil

Great Hockham Village Hall (IP24
1NT)

Tuesday 30th December, 7.30pm

£14/£10 (U21s)

01953 498447

boxoffice@greathockham.org

Tickets on sale from 2nd November

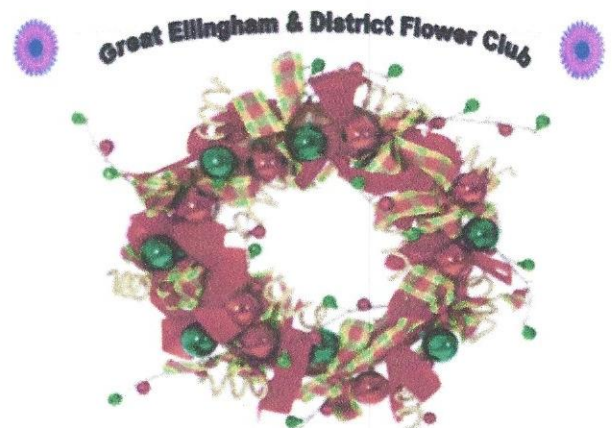
**DARK DEEDS AT THE
QUEASY PINES SANATORIUM.
HOLMES & WATSON RISK MORE
THAN THEIR HEALTH TO INVESTIGATE!**

Holmes has booked Watson a two week stay at a health spa, high in the Sroughton Mountains, near Ipswich. Though Watson insists he doesn't require steam baths and carrot soup, Holmes persuades him to "take the cure" and return to his duties well rested and refreshed.

But something is amiss at Queasy Pines Sanatorium. Having no contact with the outside world except phone, post, telegram and carrier pigeon, Watson must wait for Holmes' visit to tell him of the mysterious disappearances at Queasy Pines and its strange one legged Superintendent, Professor Eintrouser.

Created by the team well known for their many Christmas shows both for Common Ground & Eastern Angles, don't miss this classic comedy mystery peppered with Common Ground's trademark sparkling wit, ingenious staging and hilarious songs.

Running time 2 hours including 20 minute interval. Suitable for ages 8+.



TUESDAY 2nd DECEMBER

Christmas Wreath Workshop

Booking Required £20pp

Design by Rachael Borenkova

ROCKLANDS VILLAGE HALL NR17 1TR

TIME: 10am till 2pm

Bring Greenery and Decorations

Scissors & Bag

Call our Treasurer :Christine Bell

01953 454750 or 07939226311

Email: cebell1953@gmail.com

Fbk: gtellinghamanddistrictflowerclub

Christmas Trees

Manor Farm, Vicarage Rd, Great Hockham IP24 1PE

The secret to a great tree is freshness, ours are cut daily. You can't get better!

Open weekends - 09.30 to 4.00pm

29/30 Nov * 6/7 Dec * 13/14 Dec * 20/21 Dec

Pining fir a spruced up Christmas?!

Come to Manor Farm!

Real trees, wreaths and foliage

07704 897787 or 01953 498442



manorfarmchristmastrees.com



Great Ellingham & District Flower Club



ARE YOU INTERESTED IN FLOWER ARRANGING?
(at any level)

WOULD YOU like to meet up once a month with
other FLOWER ARRANGERS
for a sociable & interesting AFTERNOON out?

We meet at Rocklands Village Hall, The Street,
Rocklands All Saints, NR17 1TR
on the 4th Tuesday of each month
for demonstrations, workshops, talks,
events and outings.

We are affiliated to NAFAS and use well
qualified demonstrators.

Our meetings start at 1.30pm
Doors open 1/2hr earlier

Membership £35 per annum
Guests usually £7 per meeting.

We would love to enlarge our membership.

Please contact: Jane Dalton (Secretary)
Mobile: 07557517064

Email: jane.dalton@btinternet.com
... for more details or for a lift to meetings.

We are known as a very friendly club and
look forward to
welcoming new members.

So do come along and see what we are
about - you will love it!

Check us out on:
<https://www.facebook.com/gtellinghamdi>
strictflowerclub

School Birthdays



"Happy Birthday" to Noah R, Ryder, William,
Bonnie, Charlie-Mai and Rocky.

Twilight Market
Great Hockham
Edinburgh Hall IP24 1NT
Tuesday 16th December
5-8pm
Last-minute shopping event
With
Enchanting festive light display
Meander through a captivating Christmas market in
the festive warmth of our hall with its charming
range of crafted & carefully sourced products by
local small businesses and artists.
Delicious food trucks
gorgeous warming drinks, mulled gin & sweet treats

Bonfire & Fireworks – 8th November 2025

This year's Bonfire and Fireworks night was truly phenomenal! The event was hugely popular, wonderfully supported, and the firework display was nothing short of spectacular.

A huge thank you goes to everyone who helped make it happen - from organising, setting up, and running the catering and collections, to building the bonfire, managing the parking, and putting up banners and signs. Special thanks also to those who set off the fireworks with such skill and care, and to everyone involved in the advertising and promotion that brought so many people along. Your hard work and commitment ensured the evening was safe, welcoming, and memorable for all who attended.

We are delighted to share that we once again broke the record for donations. This incredible generosity means we can look forward to another amazing fireworks display next year. Many people commented that our show was better than some of the larger, ticketed events nearby, and we are proud to be able to offer such a fantastic evening without charging for entry, thanks entirely to the kindness of our community.

Help is always welcome, particularly with catering, so if you'd like to get involved please speak to a member of the Playing Field Committee. If you're unsure who they are, just ask at the Eagle.

Thank you again to everyone who supported the event - whether by volunteering, donating, or simply coming along to enjoy the evening. Your support makes all the difference, and we can't wait to see you next year!

Donna Lloyd

Armistice Day 2025

A group of 30 gathered at the War Memorial in Holy Trinity churchyard on 11th November for a short service of remembrance. Four wreaths were laid by members of our village organisations and the names of the fallen were read out. A two minute silence was observed followed by the Last

Post and Reveille. Churchwarden Jamieson Plummer gave a short address detailing the life and loss of local lad George Ellis who perished in the course of the Battle of Loos in northern France in 1915.

At the invitation of the Parochial Church Council, attendees enjoyed coffee, tea and cake at The Eagle PH afterwards.

Bev Plummer



A big thank you to everyone taking part in this year's Great Hockham Living Advent Calendar. Your festive window displays help bring our village to life throughout December.

Keep an eye on our social media pages as we reveal each day's window, and don't forget to take a winter walk around the village to spot them in person.

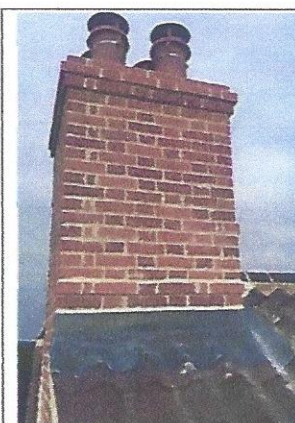
If you'd like to support our community further, donations to the Holy Trinity Church are greatly appreciated.

Thank you for helping make Great Hockham shine this Christmas! 🎄



Donations to Holy Trinity Church, Great Hockham all gratefully received

www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/great-hockham-holy-trinity-thetford



A Lansdale Chimney Specialist

**Builder
Brian Lansdale**

9 Cherry Tree Close
Mattishall Dereham
NR20 3PR
t: 01362 288068
m: 07799355146
e: brianlansdale@gmail.com

Also garden walls and patios

An Autumn Spring Clean (or not)?

As I write (in early November), we're into that mid-autumn time when the annuals should be rooted-out, the leaves have almost finished cascading from the deciduous trees and many gardeners have an overwhelming urge to 'tidy-up'.

And you may think that's as it should be: A tidy garden is a disease- and weed-free one, it's more productive, balanced and manageable, isn't it? The planet will thank me for filling my brown bin on time and to the brim (I know people, not a million miles away from here who actually jump into their 'full' bins to be able to cram more into it - you know who you are!) Or, if you're really conscientious about saving resources, wish to feel virtuous and want to keep up with the Jones's – or in this case, Monty Don on 'Gardener's World' - composting it all yourself.

But should you?

After all, dear Old Mother Nature has got by for aeons without strimmers, leaf blowers, compost bins and various 'must-have' aids, like chemical compost accelerators, why should we know better? Well, in some cases we obviously do. Left to herself, Nature will very quickly turn your garden into a wilderness of her favourite plants (aka 'weeds') which will depend on your soil, aspect and climate – in this area, amongst other unmentionables, it's brambles and ground elder. She needs help, sometimes a firm hand, but also an understanding of what's good for your garden, and what isn't, if you're to have anything worthy of the name.

Take pruning: Lots of gardeners (me included) can't wait to sharpen up our prized secateurs and scalp that overgrown rose bush as close to its base as possible. After all, that'll give it so much more scope to grow and flower next year, won't it? Well, yes it will, and maybe a 'Bovver Boy' cut is what it needs. Maybe, *but not just yet*. If you prune it severely in early autumn, in all one go, chances are you'll only leave two or three dormant buds on each stem. If you then encounter a mild spell in (say) Jan/Feb, those buds are all likely to break dormancy. If that's followed by a killing 'Beast from the East' frost in March you'll lose those buds but you'll not have any below them that can take their place.

The way to guard against this, with roses, and quite a few other plants that can break dormancy prematurely, is to prune in two stages: Firstly, in autumn remove all leggy, sappy or otherwise weak growth, ensuring you have reduced the size of your plant and effectively streamlined it against winter gales. If you don't, you can get a bad case of 'wind rock' (!) which is the technical term for a plant dying because the base or the roots have become damaged or diseased, following perpetual buffeting in strong winds or because they've become top heavy after being loaded with snow (and don't think we'll not get more of that in the future). This 'two-tier pruning' leaves plenty of 'sacrificial' buds below the cuts you've made, that can shoot prematurely before winter is properly over and be subsequently killed by frost in a late cold spell. When you, and the Met Office are satisfied there'll be no more horticultural 'frosticides' you can prune back to where you always wanted to do.

The other *bete noire* of mine is the mania for defoliating all herbaceous plants, sometimes when autumn's hardly begun, often by chopping them right down to ground level. There, job done, you think. Just clean, tidy, bare earth with a few short, stubby brown stalks to show where your prized plants are. Or, in some cases after a hard winter, were.

In this case, Nature *does* show us the way: That dead foliage really has a purpose. It protects the crown of your plant from the worst of the winter frost, desiccation in icy winds and predation by those poor hungry critters who, usually in the dead of night, are only trying to find a juicy morsel to keep body-and-soul together until spring comes back again. It also prevents clod-hopping gardeners like me forgetting where I've planted things and then trampling them into oblivion whilst working on the flower bed, or digging into them, thinking I had an empty space where I could put my wonderful new acquisition.

That last one is unforgivable, but old habits die hard and it still causes me grief every single year.

Tom Bennett



On November 4th Hockham Book Club met to discuss our response to *The Travelling Cat Chronicles* by Hiro Arikawa. The dedicated cat lovers among the readership wholeheartedly enjoyed this life-affirming story and despite a small pocket of resistance the novel was awarded an overall 7/10.

Matt Haig's *The Midnight Library* is the novel currently being reviewed. Although a few of our regulars will be on holiday for the next meeting on December 2nd we are expecting a couple of returnees to swell our ranks and have their say on this highly unusual novel. And of course, new members are always welcome. Just bring 30p to buy your raffle ticket and turn up at The Eagle at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 2nd December.

Aaron does a good hot chocolate and teas/coffees, as well as the usual bar selection.

Bev Plummer



Dotty Dogs Grooming Salon

Qualified & Insured Dog Groomer

Canine 1st Aid Trained

Becky

Watton Rd, Larling

07917 570813

NR16 2RA

01953 498223

dottedogslarling@outlook.com



Property Development
Property Maintenance
Landscaping/Gardening
and more

Jonathan Waddingham

07532 754306

waddinghamdevelopmentsltd@gmail.com



Great Hockham Primary School and Nursery

It's been a wonderfully busy half term at Great Hockham Primary School, focused on helping others. We supported the Poppy Appeal by donating for poppies and other themed items, and a group of children visited the War Memorial at Holy Trinity Church to lay crosses in remembrance of those who have served our country, past and present. We also joined in with Children in Need by wearing bright, multicoloured clothes. Our families have been incredibly generous, and we truly appreciate their support.

We have lots to look forward to as we prepare for Christmas! Our celebrations will include a delicious Christmas lunch, with some of our children helping to make accompaniments like Yorkshire puddings. We're also excited to host *Hockham's Got Christmas Talent*, where pupils can showcase their special skills to the whole school. Finally, we'll end the term with a festive Christmas Celebration at Holy Trinity Church for all families to enjoy.

A big thank you to Vince Thurkettle for generously providing our beautiful Christmas tree. Every child has added a special decoration, creating a festive display for all to enjoy in our school hall.

Our children and staff have worked incredibly hard this term, and I couldn't be prouder of each and every one of them. They truly deserve a well-earned rest when the holidays arrive.

Lastly and most importantly I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Peaceful New Year from all of the children and staff at Great Hockham Primary School and Nursery.

Mrs L Hazard - Headteacher

MINUTES OF A LOCAL PLAN MEETING OF HOCKHAM PARISH COUNCIL ON MONDAY 10TH
NOVEMBER 2025 AT 7.30PM IN HOCKHAM VILLAGE HALL

Attending; Cllrs Bennett, Thomas, Wilshire, Lambert, Lloyd and Leech, the clerk C Garrod and 17 parishioners

- 1) **Apologies for absence;** Cllr Loft
- 2) **Requests for dispensation;** None
- 3) **Declarations of interest;** Cllr Bennett as an allotment holder, Cllr Leech as a farmer at Little Hockham; Cllr Lambert as owner and landlord of the Eagle pub and a trustee of the Woodsford Charity, Cllr Wiltshire as a trustee of the Woodsford Charity.
- 4) **Local Plan 2026-2042.** The chair gave a brief introduction of the local plan and the clerk gave details of Regulation 18 and the land in Hockham and conditions that were currently under consultation.
The clerk gave details of the consultation dates and the need to register to put comments online and advised not leaving comments till the last minute. Details would be put on the village facebook page and notice boards.
- 5) **Local Plan Discussion.** There followed a discussion about the utilities and the general sort of things that anyone could consider putting in as comments. Everyone was advised to list their concerns and things they agreed with too.
The clerk agreed to attempt to find why plots 226 and 110 had been discounted. The Larling and Roudham sites were also discussed.

The next meeting was a full council meeting on Monday 24th November 2025.

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HOCKHAM PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT 7.30PM ON
24TH NOV 2025 IN HOCKHAM VILLAGE HALL**

Present; Cllrs Lambert (meeting Chair), Lloyd, Wiltshire and Thomas, District Councillor P Cowen, Clerk C Garrod and 8 members of the public.

- 1) **Apologies for absence;** Cllrs Bennett, Loft and Leech
The chair confirmed the meeting was quorate.
- 2) **Declarations of interest;** Cllrs Wiltshire and Lambert as Woodsford Charity Trustees and Cllr Lambert as landlord and owner of the Hockham Eagle.
- 3) **Requests for dispensation** were given to Cllr Lloyd for a planning application and Cllr Lambert for an item regards a wedding.
- 4) **The minutes of the meetings** of 13th Oct 25 and 10th Nov 25 were approved and signed.
- 5) **Progress Report.**
 - a) **Info board.** With Cllr Bennett.
 - b) **Drainage.** NCC Highways commissioned a sludge gulper with the highway engineer present. Many drains were sucked out and attention given to the drains by the eagle and on Watton Rd near the green.
The former appeared complex and needed more work; the latter were found to flow to a pond on the edge of Kingshill. The owners had been asked to do some maintenance to keep the culvert free flowing.
A drain on Vicarage Rd was inspected but emptied two days later. It was now full again. NCC confirmed they inspected but did no other work.
- 6) **Public Participation. The meeting was adjourned to hear questions from the public.**
- 7) **Councillor Reports:** Councillor Cowen gave a description of the local plan and the current consultation. All were encouraged to send in their own feelings about the document and particularly the Hockham allocated site.
He also spoke about devolution and potential mayoral elections in 2026, and the local government reorganisation which was also in consultation. He gave a very eloquent resume of his own personal insight into the matters.
There was no County Council Report.
- 8) **Highways and Road Safety.** The matters reported were up to date.
- 9) **Planning;** Chiltonwood PL/2025/1700/HOU. No objections.
Sunnynook had been approved subject to conditions. Cllr Cowen agreed to look into why the conditions had not been listed online.
Brookside Poultry Sheds. It was noted vehicle movements could increase dramatically and that the site was next to a SSSI. Comment ideas would be circulated by councillors.
Local Plan consultation: Councillors would get together to discuss comments for the consultation. A mail drop would be considered.
- 10) **Finance;** There was £29,341.13 in the bank, the new container had been paid for. It was agreed to pay Pearce & Kemp £45.60 for November and December, the clerk's salary of £193 for November and December. PAYE and N power were on Direct debit, N Power were up to date and the October invoice was £74.25.

The precept was unanimously agreed at £18250 for 26/27. This would give sufficient surplus for some investment.

- 11) **Allotments.** A figure of £8500 had been quoted for a borehole. This was considered a no go.
- 12) **Footpaths and Rights of Way.** The trod refurbishment had been quoted at £15000. This was considered excessive. The clerk would see if the old agreement was still available to view maintenance responsibilities.
- 13) **Forest Edge Court.** It was reiterated that the clerk would contact the new bus company in January.
- 14) **Playing Field.** Thanks were conveyed to all who assisted at the fireworks. The profit margin had been very good and the reports on the fireworks display were excellent.
It was agreed to try and get a grant for a 3- phase play equipment scheme with the playing field and parish council putting in equal proportions of £2500. If the grant failed, then £5000 would be taken from each pot to fund equipment.
- 15) **Councillor Updates.** None
- 16) **Correspondence.**
 - a) Concerns had been sent to the clerk regards the potential for Wretham Camp to be accepting asylum seekers. Our local MPs were aware and were investigating.
 - b) Grants. Lorraine Varney from Breckland Council was assisting in grant works.
 - c) Wedding on the green. It was agreed a wedding could be held on the green in February 26. A donation to a village charity would be requested.
 - d) The clerk discussed that as a new regular village hall booking would be on Monday evenings when no PC meeting was on, that emergency meetings would be more complicated to arrange. It was agreed to circulate meeting dates till Dec 26.

Next PC Meeting would be Monday 5th January 2026

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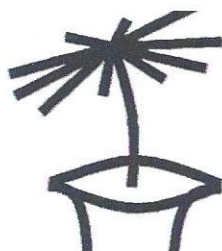
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