

IN-TOUCH

Great Hockham News Sheet

Issue No 575
August 2026



Editorial

This year's Summer show is fast approaching - all you gardeners, growers, crafters and bakers get your entries ready.

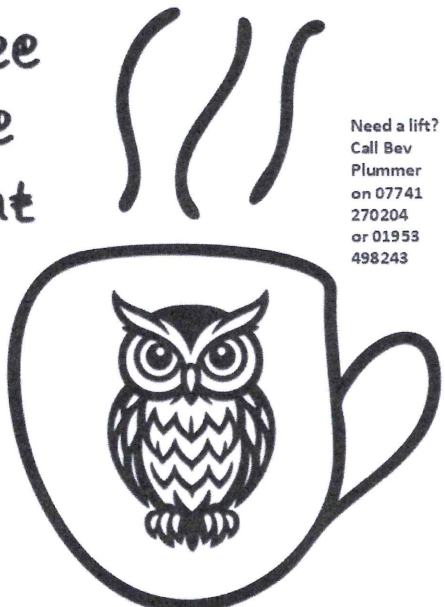
The village is busy with crops being harvested but as twilight falls, the village slows to a peaceful crawl. The sky turns a soft pink over the fields, and the first bats begin to swoop around the rooftops.

Great Hockham in summer reminds us of the value of slowing down. It is a place that does not rush to impress, but instead offers a beautiful, timeless slice of rural Norfolk life to anyone who stops to visit.

Coffee Cake Chat

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

This month . . .
NIGEL COBHAM
will give us an
update on the
owl conservation
project



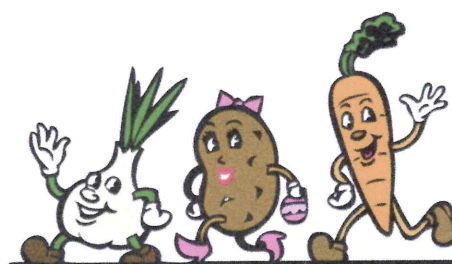
15 August, Village Hall, 10.30 am

Great Hockham Summer Show Sunday 30th August 2026 The Eagle, Great Hockham

See inside for further details.

Timetable of Events, Rules for Exhibitors and entry form are attached to this newsletter.

Copies also available from The Eagle or can be downloaded at www.greathockham.org



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
August 2026

Sunday 2nd August

10.30 am United Holy Communion
St. Martin, Thompson

Sunday 9th August

10.30 am United Holy Communion
St. Margaret, Breckles

Sunday 16th August

10.30 am United Holy Communion
Holy Cross, Caston

Sunday 23rd August

10.30am United Holy Communion
Holy Trinity, Great Hockham

Sunday 30th August

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



**'Memories of
Childhood
Summer
Holidays....'**

As I write, I'm sitting on our canal boat, moored up on the river Nene, listening to the

sounds around me.

There are birds chirping, ducks, geese and swans swimming, and the distant sound across the valley of sheep bleating, cows mooing and farmers working in the fields on their tractors.

These sights and sounds take me right back to my own school holidays mostly spent at Jotmans Farm in Benfleet, Essex, the village where I grew up. At that time it used to be a dairy farm, and the milk was sold to Howard's Dairy but, over the years, it's been turned into stables where horses are kept at livery. There's a footpath that runs

between the farm and the railway line all the way to St Margaret's Church, Bowers Gifford. Nanny would often take us blackberry picking there, but we never returned with many berries!

During the week, my friend Susan and I would walk to Jotmans farm to help the farmers with the cows. Discovering how a farm worked, helping the cowman, and walks to the church with nanny, led to many adventures and a lifetime of enjoying country life.

When things were going well, the exhilarating sense of team and fun working together, even if farming itself never seemed to be 'in my blood' as it was for everyone else, was infectious!

Collaborating in a common purpose, and working alongside each other with a strong desire to see others flourish, brought me so much joy, as it still does. There is a danger, though, that sometimes we end up serving through a sense of duty (what we should and ought to be doing) especially when we're run down or exhausted, rather than as a response to the overflow of God's generous gift of love first given to us. I guess we're all human!

I know I've said this before, but I'm always amazed and thankful to so many in our congregations and wider community who go far beyond giving of themselves in order to bring 'salt and light' to others.

But what gives me the greatest hope, as I continue serving alongside you lovely people in Wayland Benefice, is remembering that it's not actually about us, in the end, is it? it's more about letting God have His way and praying that 'His will be done on earth'.

With 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, and is available for Weddings, Funerals and Baptisms. 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:

4th August 7.30pm
Book Club

5th & 19th August
Bingo 7.45pm arrival for 8pm 18+

6th August 5-8pm
Patron (Paella Food Truck)

13th August 5-8pm
Dirty Fryer Boys (Food Truck)

20th August 5-8pm
Fully Loaded (Chips & Potatoes Food Truck)

27th August 4.30-8pm
Thai Orchid (Food Truck)

30th August Village Summer Show
Fresh Baguettes and Scones available 12-4pm

31st August Bank Holiday Monday
Food served 12-3pm

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

Mobile Library Service

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

Date of forthcoming visits (Thursdays):

13 August / 10 Sept

8 Oct / 5 Nov / 3 Dec



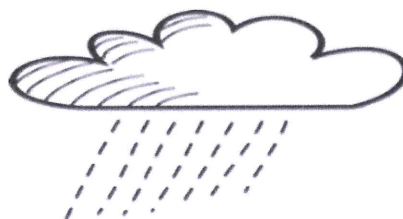
School Birthdays



“Happy Birthday” to Albert, Archie, Arthur,
Evayah, Daisy, Reggie and Isabella.

June Rainfall

June 2026		30.9 mm
June 2025		30.7 mm
Jan-June 2026		205.9 mm
Jan-June 2025		131.0 mm
Highest June since 1979	1997	148.1 mm
Lowest June since 1979	1996	16.0 mm



Midsummer Masquerade

On a recent balmy midsummer's Saturday evening in June, the gentlefolk of Great Hockham gathered at Holy Trinity Church for the much anticipated Masquerade Ball. Beautifully attired and adorned, fluttering their fans, and peeking out from behind their masks, the ladies and gentlemen of the village and beyond enjoyed a delightful evening of regency merriment.

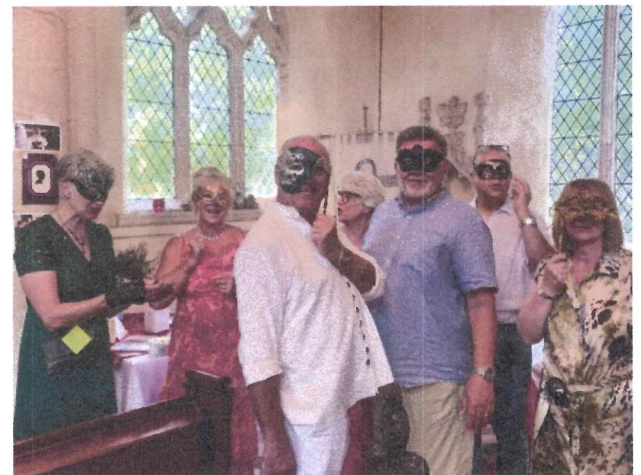
The church looked even more beautiful than usual, decorated with flowers, candles and delightful period fancies. As befitting the very civilised nature of the evening, a delicate finger buffet was served; everyone appreciated the generosity of the team who had worked so hard to provide such tasty and decorous fayre. Together with his son-in-law, General Jamieson Plummer kept the drinks flowing.

The assembled guests were entertained by a number of diversions - including "guess the silhouette", a quiz about famous television, film and local vicars and - of course - some suitably period dancing. A small group, under the direction of The Honourable Beverly Plummer, attempted a demonstration of two regency dances, much to the merriment of those looking on, and some of those looking on were then brave enough to join them on the dance floor.

As midnight approached and carriages drew up outside the church the gentle people of Great Hockham disappeared into the darkness, full of memories of their marvellous midsummer masquerade.

And the next morning, no longer looking quite so fancy, a number of them reappeared to restore order to our beautiful church. The event raised a total of £1152 and huge thanks should go to all who attended, contributed, and helped on the night and behind the scenes.

Lisa Hawkins





Great Hockham Gardening Club



Wednesday 12th August

Henstead Exotic Garden, Ellough

100 Palms, 200 Bamboos, Ponds,

Stream, 60 Tons of Rock

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

Hockham Football Teams

Whereas we no longer have a village football team, Hockham had one for many years, and were very successful at times.

The first record of a football match in Hockham was in January 1794, when a player Mr Horax a blacksmith, died on the pitch.

The first recorded team were playing friendly matches from the early 1900's but were officially formed in 1907 and played their first game at Wretham on Saturday 5th January 1907. The team were nicknamed the Clodhoppers and home matches were played on the park near to Church

Wood. Their star centre forward was Ernest Bush, who became landlord at the Eagle and was the brother of Christopher (Charlie) Bush who also played occasionally.

The pitch has been in several different places over the years:

The Park south of Church Wood.

Home meadow North of Church Wood, off Church Lane

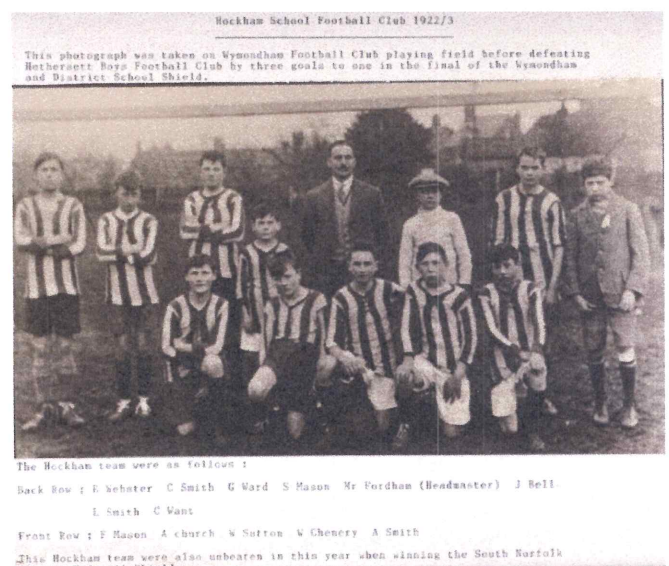
For one season on the field next and west of the Harling Rd allotments

The field to the east and next to the current playing field

The current playing field

The most successful side was one of the 1920's after WW1 playing in the South Norfolk League. The team won the league and cup and lost very few games in the season. There was also a very successful school team of the same era.

It's hoped that one day in the not-too-distant future that football will again return to the village and the village team will mirror the successes of yesteryear.



Chris Garrod

Great Hockham Summer Show 2026

The countdown is on for the **Great Hockham Summer Show**, which will take place on **Sunday 30th August 2026** at The Eagle. After last year's fantastic event, where we saw record participation and raised an incredible £1,313.60 for the village, we're hoping to make this year's show even bigger and better.

Whether you're a seasoned exhibitor or have never entered before, there is something for everyone. From flowers, fruit and vegetables to baking, handicrafts, photography and children's classes, the Summer Show is a wonderful opportunity to showcase your talents, enjoy some friendly competition and help support a much-loved village tradition.

Please see the schedule included with this edition of *In-Touch*. Additional copies are available from **The Eagle** or can be downloaded from **www.greathockham.org**.

Calling all Scarecrow Makers!

Our **Scarecrow Competition** is returning for its third year and we'd love to see Great Hockham transformed into a village full of colourful, creative and imaginative scarecrows!

Last year we had some fantastic entries, but we're hoping for an even bigger display this summer. Whether your scarecrow is funny, traditional, quirky, themed around a favourite character, or completely unique, we'd encourage everyone to have a go. It's a great family activity during the summer holidays, and the more scarecrows we have around the village, the more enjoyable it is for residents and visitors alike.

To help get everyone started, **free straw, kindly donated by Leech Farms, will be available from The Eagle car park a few days before the entry deadline**. Please only take what you need so that there is enough for everyone. We'd like as many households as possible to take part and create a wonderful scarecrow trail around the village.

There are two age categories:

- 10 years and under
- 11 years and over

Your handmade scarecrow must be displayed in your front garden from **23rd August until at least the show date on 30th August**.

To enter, please let Donna Lloyd know by **23rd August** by email at donnalloydhpc@gmail.com or by text, WhatsApp, Facebook Messenger or phone on 07736 359643. Please provide your name, address and which age category you are entering.

If you do not receive confirmation within 24 hours, please get back in touch.

As with all Summer Show entries, the usual 30p entry fee should be paid on the day between 8.30am and 11.00am.

Let's see if we can fill the whole village with scarecrows this year – challenge your neighbours, get your family involved and help us create a wonderful scarecrow trail for everyone to enjoy! Last year we celebrated some fantastic creations, but we'd love to see many more popping up around Great Hockham this August.

The more entries we receive across all categories, the more successful and enjoyable the show will be for everyone.

We look forward to welcoming exhibitors, visitors and supporters on **30th August**, and don't forget to stay for the ever-popular **Auction of Produce**. There are always some wonderful home-grown bargains to be had, and every bid helps support the village.

Donna Lloyd

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.

COMMON GROUND THEATRE COMPANY

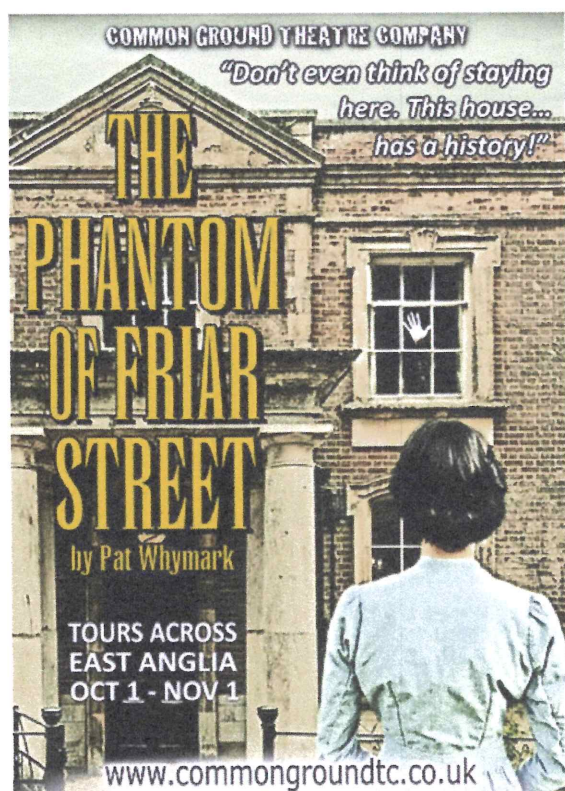
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Veterans Central

The Veterans Central charity (#1208763) is based at **West Raynham SHQ** (NR21 7PL) and is a facility for military veterans, serving personnel and families, to support activities, wellbeing and social engagement. Veterans Central is open every Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday, 1000 to 1500.

The **Veterans Central Swaffham drop-in centre** is open on the 4th Tuesday of the month.

Come along for a free hot drink, cake, chat and a spot of banter, or to ask questions about veterans' support. Partners or carers are welcome.

Venue: The Pedlars Suite, The George Hotel, 1000 to 1200.

For more information contact:

ops@veteranscentral.co.uk / Mob: 07713 860040



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

Head Shave for Alzheimers Charity

On 19th September at the Eagle in Great Hockham, I am raising funds for the above charity. It is very close to my heart.

There will be a raffle and Aaron is doing a special lunchtime menu for the event.

I am praying for lots of support, raising lots of cash.

What have I got to lose apart from my hair!

Patsy Harris



The Tattooist of Auschwitz by Heather Morris was the book under discussion at Book Club on Tuesday 7th July. Without exception, members found the novel to be a compelling read, documenting as it does the true story of a budding love affair in the perilous setting of a WWII concentration camp which made the reading experience unusually harrowing. The author lays bare hellish atrocities, cynical brutality and the mass murder of men, women, and children that defined the Holocaust in a narrative so skilfully constructed that it is bearable to read. By weaving in small but hugely significant moments of altruism and selfless compassion among the starving prisoners, together with the enduring love story between Lale and Gita she somehow leaves us hopeful that the best elements of the human spirit can prevail even in the face of the most appalling inhumanity.

The novel made a strong impression on everyone, and we agreed that it was a well written vehicle for a message of intrinsic value, that this period of history should never be allowed to happen again. The Tattooist of Auschwitz was awarded an overall score of 8.5 out of 10, which put it at the top of the leader board for books read since our adoption of this scoring system.

The raffle was won by Kirsten.

Our next read is The Lamplighters by Emma Stonex, and we will be meeting at 7.30pm on Tuesday 4th August to discuss it. If Book Club piques your interest, you're welcome to come along and join us at The Eagle then.

Bev Plummer

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.

Village Hall Bookings

Regular Bookings

Monday	Reserved for Parish Council	Evening
Tuesday	Carpet Bowls	7.00-9.00pm
Wednesday	Yoga	6.00-7.30pm
Thursday	Taekwondo	6.00-8.00pm
Dog training Monday and Friday evenings (earlier on Parish Council days).		

August

Sat 15 th	Coffee, Cake & Chat	AM
Sat 29 th & Sun 30 th	Booked for Flower Show furniture	

Contacts

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

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 Carpet Bowls contact Jackie 07947 508835.

Great Hockham Events 2026

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

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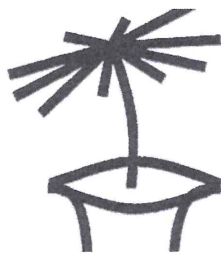
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If you think your child would benefit from extra support to help prepare them for their move to secondary school, or for independent school entrance exams, please call or email me.



Lisa 07788695694

lisajoannehawkins@gmail.com



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Contributions to In-Touch by the 22nd of the month:

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SUMMER SHOW 2026

To Be Held at The Eagle, Great Hockham

On Sunday 30th August 2026 - ADMISSION FREE, ENTRIES 30p

OPEN SHOW

Timetable of Events

Entries to be taken	8:30am to 11am	Presentation of trophies:	3.30pm
Judging takes place from:	11am to 1:00pm	All exhibitors collect their exhibits (please):	3.50pm
Doors open at the Eagle / refreshments available to public:	12:00pm	Auction of produce:	4.00pm
Marquee and access to the exhibits from:	13:30pm		

Rules For Exhibitors

The show will be conducted in accordance with the rules and standards contained in **The Royal Horticultural Show Handbook** unless otherwise stated.

- A fee of 30p will be charged for each exhibit (except children's).
- Exhibitors shall not enter more than one exhibit in each class.
- An individual and not a group must enter exhibits.
- The decision of the judges will be final.
- Exhibitors must provide their own containers, plates and saucers or bases. Plates must be placed under pots.
- Exhibits must be free from pests and diseases.
- Only the show manager, secretary and stewards will be present while judging takes place.
- Hockham Playing Field cannot be held responsible for any loss or damage to exhibits.
- The show is an open one, so may be entered into by people outside of Hockham.

Standards And Times

- Every exhibit must be the bona-fide property of the exhibitor and with the exception of floral art should have been in the exhibitor's possession for at least three months.
- Domestic and handicraft must have been made or grown by the exhibitor.
- Handicraft items must not have been exhibited in a Hockham summer/ flower show before.
- Awards of points scored for each successful entry will be:-1st Place - 3 points
2nd Place - 2 points
3rd Place - 1 point
- No points for other places.
- Exhibits must be staged between 8:30am and 11:00am on the morning of the show.
- Any prize may be withheld by the judges.
- Trophies owned by Great Hockham Playing Field may be retained by the successful winner, for one year. All trophies to be returned prior to the next show.
- Although there are classes specifically for children, they are welcome to exhibit in any category.

We are not specifying recipes or tin size, for the cakes in Home Produce, however, for the Victoria Sandwich, bakers are asked to stick to a traditional two-layer Victoria Sandwich, filled with jam (buttercream optional) and finished with a simple sugar dusting.

PLEASE NOTE THE AUCTION IS VERY IMPORTANT TO US AS IT'S THERE THAT WE GET TO COVER THE COSTS FOR THE TROPHIES AND OTHER COSTS INCURRED, AS WELL AS RAISE FUNDS IN SUPPORT OF THE PLAYING FIELD AND EQUIPMENT.

PLEASE LEAVE WHAT YOU CAN AND BID ON ANYTHING THAT TAKES THE EYE.

To download a schedule, use our web site.

www.greathockham.org

Entrants Name _____

Age if a child _____

Tel: No: _____

Entry Number _____

Summer Show

On Sunday 30th August 2026, held at the Eagle.

Open to all, however, exhibitors can only enter each class once.

All Entries (except Children) are 30p

Entries are accepted from 8:30am – 11am on the day.

Copies of schedules can be located at the Hockham Eagle or downloaded from the website

www.greathockham.org

Vegetables	1	4 POTATOES WHITE	
	2	4 POTATOES COLOURED	
	3	6 PODS RUNNER BEANS	
	4	6 PODS BEANS ANY OTHER TYPE	
	5	6 SHALLOTS (ANY DIAMETER)	
	6	3 BEETROOT (TOPS TRIMMED)	
	7	5 CARROTS ANY TYPE (TOPS TRIMMED)	
	8	3 COURGETTES	
	9	3 PEPPERS	
	10	3 CHILLIS	
	11	5 ONIONS UNDER 250 GRAM	
	12	5 ONIONS OVER 250 GRAM	
	13	6 TOMATOES (CHERRY)	
	14	5 TOMATOES (NOT CHERRY)	
	15	ANY OTHER VEGETABLE NOT LISTED	
	16	RUNNER BEAN-LONGEST	
Fruit	17	5 APPLES COOKING	
	18	5 APPLES DESSERT	
	19	3 PEARS ANY VARIETY	
	20	A PLATE OF SOFT FRUIT (MIN 15 CM DIAMETER PLATE)	
	21	MOST UNUSUAL RARE OR EXOTIC FRUIT	
	22	HEAVIEST APPLE	
	23	ANY FRUIT NOT LISTED ABOVE	
Flowers / Floral Art	24	4 ROSES HYBRID TEA	
	25	4 STEMS ROSES FLORIBUNDA	
	26	3 VARIETIES ANNUAL (3 STEMS EACH, 9 STEMS TOTAL)	
	27	3 PERENNIALS (3 STEMS TOTAL)	
	28	4 CACTUS DAHLIAS	
	29	4 DAHLIAS ANY TYPE	
	30	1 GIANT DAHLIA	
	31	3 MARIGOLDS	
	32	JUG OF MIXED FLOWERS FROM THE GARDEN	
	33	FLOWER ARRANGEMENT ANY TYPE AND STYLE	
Please turn over for more categories			

Pot Plants	34	1 CACTUS	
	35	1 SUCCULENT	
	36	1 FLOWERING PLANT	
	37	1 FOLIAGE PLANT	
	38	1 PELARGONIUM-GERANIUM	
	39	1 FUCHSIA	
Home Produce All entries must be a home-prepared item (sweet or savoury). Whole or unprepared foods are not permitted.	40	JAR OF HOMEMADE JAM	
	41	JAR HOMEMADE CHUTNEY	
	42	JAR HOMEMADE HONEY	
	43	1 FRUIT CAKE	
	44	1 VICTORIA SANDWICH (as per rules on front page)	
	45	JAR PICKLES	
	46	5 SAUSAGE ROLLS	
	47	SAVOURY PIE (ANY SIZE)	
	48	5 CHEESE SCONES	
	49	5 FRUIT SCONES	
	50	ANYTHING GLUTEN FREE	
	51	ANYTHING VEGAN	
Handicrafts	52	FRUITED SPIRIT (SLOE GIN ETC) Min 200ml	
	53	1 FRAMED ART	
	54	1 PENCIL, PASTEL OR CHARCOAL DRAWING	
	55	ANY WOOD CRAFT ARTICLE	
	56	ORIGAMI	
	57	HANDMADE ITEM OF CARD OR PAPER	
	58	HANDMADE ITEM KNITTED OR CROCHET	
Photography up to A4	59	HANDMADE ITEM TAPESTRY OR SEWN ITEM	
	60	ANIMAL(S) – WILD OR PET	
	61	WITHIN PARISH OF HOCKHAM	
	62	A FLORAL DISPLAY	
Under 5	63	PAINTING OR DRAWING OR COLLAGE-ANY TOPIC	
Age 5-8	64	ANIMAL REAL OR MYTHICAL MADE FROM VEGETABLES	
	65	ITEM MADE OF LEGO – NOT FROM A KIT	
	66	PAINTING OR DRAWING OR COLLAGE-ANY TOPIC	
Age 9-15	67	PAINTING OR DRAWING OF A FAVOURITE ANIMATED CHARACTER	
	68	A HANDMADE GREETINGS CARD	
Handmade Scarecrow displayed in your front garden – from 23rd August until at least the show date	69	10 YEARS AND UNDER	
	70	11 YEARS AND OVER	