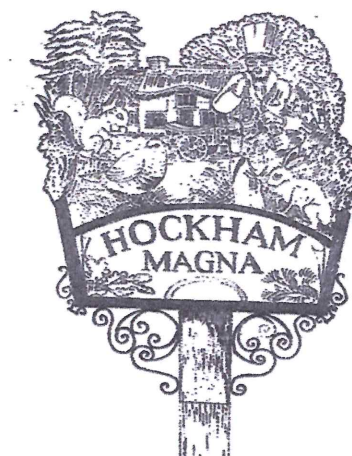


IN-TOUCH

Great Hockham News Sheet

Issue No 577

October 2026



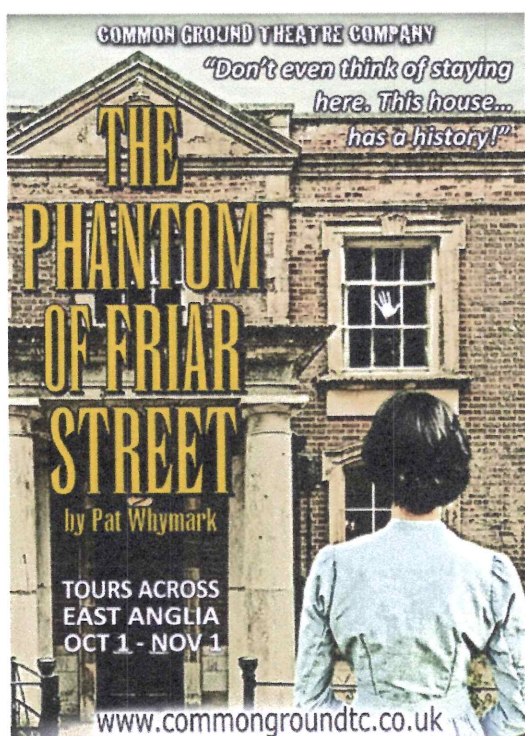
Editorial

We have two main events to report on this month, one in the past, and one in the future.

The Summer Show was held at the Eagle on August bank holiday weekend. Despite the poor growing conditions, the show was a great success, raising over £1,000 for village funds. Overall winner, and lady with most points was Sabrina Davey, and man with most points was Paul Bell. Congratulations to them, and all the other winners. These events don't just happen, they take a lot of time and effort from the organisers and their helpers, and we should all be grateful that their hard work was a great success.

The future event is a "History of Hockham" exhibition to be held in Holy Trinity Church, Great Hockham on 10th and 11th October from 10am to 4pm. Entry is free, and refreshments will be available. This is another of Chris Garrod's shows, so will be well worthwhile visiting. More about both these events in this issue.

Also in this issue is information about the latest visit by the Common Ground Theatre Company. The latest production from this very popular group is "The Phantom of Friar Street", and is showing on Saturday 10th October at the Edinburgh Hall. Tickets available at the Eagle.



**SATURDAY 10TH OCTOBER AT HOCKHAM
VILLAGE HALL – SEE INSIDE FOR DETAILS**

HISTORY OF HOCKHAM Exhibition weekend

October 10th & 11th
10am-4pm

At Holy Trinity Church
Great Hockham

Free entry

Food & Drink will
be available

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 2026

Sunday 4th October

10.30am United Holy Communion
Holy Trinity, Great Hockham

Sunday 11th October

10.30am United Holy Communion
with Harvest Festival
St Peter & St Paul, Griston

Sunday 18th October

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

Sunday 25th October

10.30am United Holy Communion
St Martin, Thompson



There is a distinct shift in the air when October arrives. The frantic energy of summer feels like a distant memory and, for many, the world around slows down, exhaling a long, golden breath. In our benefice this month is a beautiful bridge — a time to look back in gratitude

for the abundance of the season just passed, and a time to look forward, preparing our hearts and homes for the quieter winter months ahead.

If we take a walk through our villages this week, we cannot help but notice the transformation. The trees are putting on their annual, spectacular show, dressing the lanes in vibrant hues of amber, crimson, and gold. It is the autumn season, and a season that coaxes us to slow our pace and appreciate the simple beauty of change, while also stirring up fondness for the autumn traditions of our past.

October naturally brings with it a deep sense of nostalgia, carrying our minds back to the harvest festivals of years gone by. For me, this season evokes vivid memories of Salvation Army harvest festivals held back in the 1960s and 1970s at the

historic Salvation Army Farm Colony in Hadleigh, Essex. Those celebrations were a spectacular testament to community spirit and rural heritage. The vast, working landscape of the farm colony provided the perfect, authentic backdrop for giving thanks.

The highlight of those autumn gatherings was the competition for the best harvest basket presentation. Hours of meticulous preparation went into staging them. Competitors vied to create the most visually stunning display of the land's bounty. Shiny orchard apples, deeply polished root vegetables, and ears of corn were woven together with autumn foliage, each arrangement a proud work of art. The sense of pride in the air was palpable as the judges made their rounds, and the joy of sharing in that collective gratitude is something that stays with a person for a lifetime.

This month, the Church of England is in the midst of the season of Creationtide and Harvest. This is a dedicated time in our church calendar when we pause to thank God for the world He created and His good gifts all around us. From the smallest autumn leaf to the sweeping fields that feed our communities, Creationtide and Harvest remind us that the earth is a sacred gift filled with wonder and divine purpose.

As we celebrate these good gifts at our harvest festivals, to which you are all invited, we are called to look to the future. For true gratitude requires action. In a world now facing deep environmental challenges, Creationtide is a poignant reminder that we must not take our planet for granted. We are called to be faithful stewards of the earth, ensuring that we care for God's creation with tenderness, respect and responsibility, preserving its beauty for generations to come.

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:

1st October 5-8pm

Bootiful Buckets (Loaded Chips)

3rd October

Steak Night from 6pm

Call to book

6th October 7.30pm

Book Club

8th October 5-8pm

Grab A Burger (Food Truck)

10th-11th October

Historical Weekend at Gt Hockham Church

Food available at the pub

10th October

Common Ground Theatre Night at
the village hall

Food available at the pub before the show

14th October

Bingo 7.45pm arrival for 8pm

£6 to play 18+

15th October 5-8pm

Good Food by Kriz

(Polish and American Food Truck)

22nd October 5-8pm

Patron (Paella Food Truck)

28th October

Halloween Bingo 7.45pm arrival for 8pm

£6 to play 18+

29th October 5-8pm

Dirty Fryer Boys (Burger 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 Serving

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):

8 Oct / 5 Nov / 3 Dec



History of Hockham Exhibition Weekend

If you are able to help in any way with
refreshments for
the History of Hockham
exhibition weekend
(10.00am – 4.00 pm, Saturday 10th and
Sunday 11th October)
please contact Bev Plummer on
07741 270204

Great Hockham Bonfire & Fireworks

Night 2026

Saturday 7th November 2026

Wrap up warm and join us for one of Great Hockham's most popular community events as we celebrate **Bonfire Night** with an evening of fireworks, food and fun for all the family.

The event will be held on the **Playing Field, Harling Road, Great Hockham, IP24 1NT**.

Event Schedule

🔥 **BBQ opens:** 5:00pm

🔥 **Bonfire lit:** 5:30pm

💣 **Firework Display:** 6:30pm

This is a **free community event**, although donations are always gratefully received. Contributions help us continue to provide this much-loved annual display and support future village activities and improvements throughout the village.

Whether you're a long-time resident or new to Great Hockham, Bonfire Night is a fantastic opportunity to get together with friends, neighbours and family, enjoy a delicious BBQ, and experience a spectacular firework display in a safe and friendly environment.

We look forward to welcoming you for an evening of community spirit, laughter and memorable fireworks.

Great Hockham Playing Field

Harling Road

Great Hockham

IP24 1NT

Free Entry • Donations Welcome

Safety Notice: Children must be supervised at all times. Please follow all instructions from event volunteers and stewards. For health and safety reasons, **sparklers are not permitted at the event**.

Bring your family, wrap up warm, and join us beneath the stars for a fantastic evening of bonfire

traditions, delicious food and a dazzling fireworks display. We can't wait to see you there! 🎆 🔥 ✨

Donna Lloyd

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 Workshops Oct. 13th & 27th
10am -1pm

£20 per session. All materials supplied

Call melodie on 07531 875713

Email: melcookartist@icloud.com

Instagram @exploringdrawing

Facebook Melodie Cook Artist

24 October

CONCERT

Haags Matrozenkoor

Boys' choir
The Hague, The Netherlands

*25 boys who love
to sing!*

Conducted by Peter van der Leeuw
and Leander Schoormans

Music by Britten,
Rutter, Genée
and others



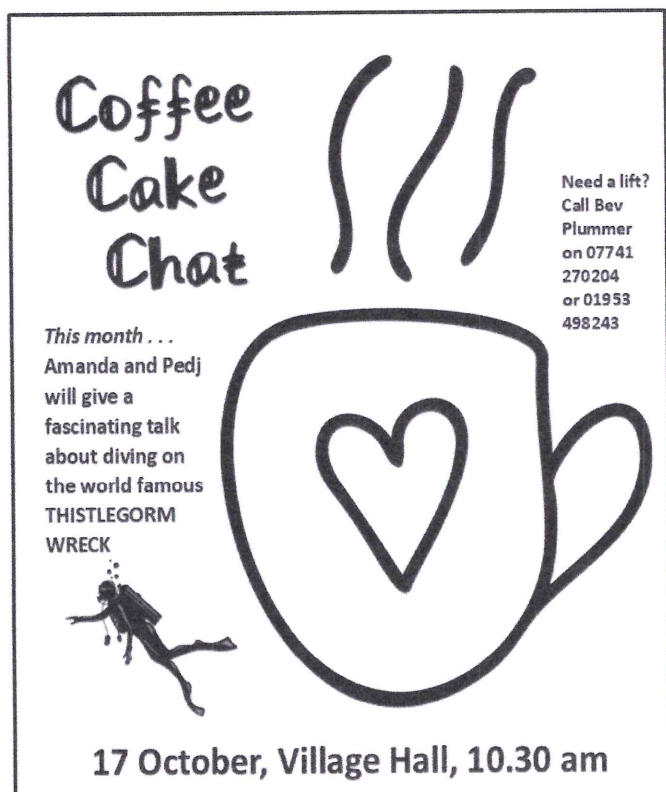
Date Saturday 24 October 2026 | 4-5 pm

Location St Peter and St Paul, Shropham, NR17 1EJ

Donations Adults: £5 at the door | Under 15: free

All proceeds in aid of Shropham Church

www.matrozenkoor.nl



Great Hockham Summer Show 2026

Despite the challenges of an exceptionally hot and dry summer, Great Hockham once again came together to support our annual Summer Show, and what a wonderful occasion it turned out to be.

Given the prolonged heatwave and difficult growing conditions, we knew entries might be lower than in previous years. That's why we were absolutely delighted to welcome **51 entrants**, who collectively submitted a fantastic **298 individual entries** across the show's many categories. Every exhibit represented the hard work, creativity, talent and community spirit that make this event so special.

As always, the show was followed by our popular auction, which generated plenty of friendly competition and good humour. Together with entry fees and generous donations, the event raised an impressive **£1,181.20**. Every pound helps support future village activities and playing field equipment, so thank you to everyone who contributed.

Our Scarecrow Competition returned for its third year, with imaginative creations appearing around the village in the lead-up to the show. Although we didn't receive any entries in the Under 10 category this year, we were delighted to award the **11 Years and Over Handmade Display Cup** to **Josh Davey** for his outstanding scarecrow creation.



A huge thank you goes to everyone who entered, volunteered, donated, judged, baked, helped with setting up and clearing away, or simply came along to support the day. Events like the Summer Show are only possible because of the enthusiasm and generosity of our community.

We're already looking forward to next year's show and would love to hear any ideas for new categories or attractions. If you have any suggestions, please contact Donna at donnalloyd@hockhamparish.gov.uk

Thank you once again for helping make the Great Hockham Summer Show 2026 such a memorable and enjoyable event.

Money Raised

- Auction: **£1,055.50**
- Donations and Entries: **£125.70**

Total Raised: £1,181.20

Thank you for your continued support! 😊

See next page for a full list of trophy winners.

Donna Lloyd

Great Hockham Summer Show 2026

Trophy Winners

Category	Trophy	Winner
Under 5	Gilcrest Cup	No Entries
5yr - 8yr	Hills & Holes Cup	Evie Lambert
9yr - 15yr	Hildrift Cup	Toby Cousins
Best Handicraft	Edinburgh Hall Bowl	Loraine Younger
Best Photograph	Joe Bray Trophy	Wendy Hill
Best Home Produce	Wilson Plate	Loraine Younger
Best Flower Exhibit	Garrod Rose Bowl	Brie Davey
Best Pot Plant	Breckles Challenge Trophy	Paul Bell
Best Floral Art	Heathley Cup	Brie Davey
Best Fruit Exhibit	Hornfair Cup	Wendy Hill
Best Veg Exhibit	Great Hockham Plate	Andrew Murton
Scarecrow 10yrs and Under	Handmade Display Cup (10 years and under)	No Entries
Scarecrow 11yrs and Over	Handmade Display Cup (11 years and over)	Josh Davey
Lady with Most Points	Breckland Bowl	Brie Davey
Gentleman with Most Points	Hockham Parva Cup	Paul Bell
Overall Most Points in the Show	Heathley Cup	Brie Davey

COMMON GROUND THEATRE COMPANY

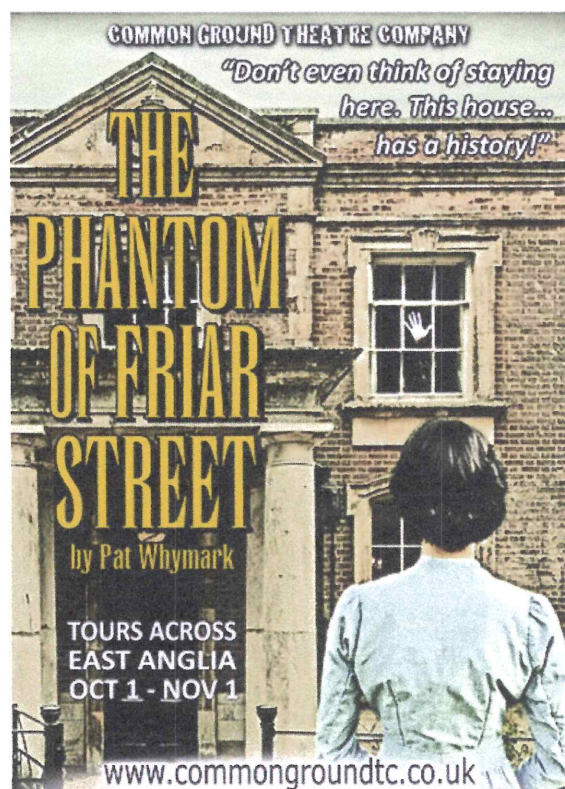
THE PHANTOM OF FRIAR STREET

BY PAT WHYMARK

AT HOCKHAM VILLAGE
HALL

SATURDAY 10TH
OCTOBER

DOORS OPEN 7 PM. PLAY
STARTS AT 7.30PM



TICKETS £14 ADULT & £10 UNDER 21

AVAILABLE AT THE EAGLE OR CALL

07770 710307

"There was a mystery attached to No 17 Friar Street that the townsfolk weren't keen to talk about. It was only Mabel who was obsessed with finding the truth.

I met Mabel when I arrived to take possession of the house in late September. She was standing in the street staring at an upstairs window deep in thought and quite oblivious to my presence. "Do you know the house?" I asked. Without altering her gaze she replied, "I know something of its history. You mustn't even think of lodging here." I smiled at her rather condescendingly, and said, "Dry rot? Rats? Or a ghost perhaps?" as I turned the key in the lock..."

"I can think of no other company that swings back and forth, from tragedy to comedy, with such unapologetic aplomb...bold & brilliantly strange". David Vass (Diss Express) reviewing our 2025 production, **The Tales Our Mother Told.**

"A proper ghost story...suitably claustrophobic...Some genuine moments that make you jump, performed by three excellent actors....Pat Whymark's excellent script gives the actors much to play with. Characterisation is strong, with highly evocative music and projections." Paul T Davies (Keep Colchester Cool), reviewing our 2024 production, **Ghost Of The Toll Point Light.**

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.

Great Hockham Community Buildings

In the late 1800s and early 1900s, the Old School was used for community gatherings. These were well attended and consisted mainly of personal party pieces, with poetry choral recitals and musical sketches.

Christopher Bush (Michael Home) commented that some of the events would leave the Old School smelling badly of stale beer and cigarette smoke.

In the early to mid 1900s the Vicarage Hut was well used by groups such as the Women's Institute. This was a more genteel place but needed the permission of the incumbent vicar to use and so a group was formed called the 1940 Social Club.

This group actively fundraised and with grants, and some of its members became the first trustees of the new village hall, plus the securing its own plot of land, the current village hall being built in 1956/57.

Its title was kept a secret until the last minute, and it was finally opened as The Edinburgh Hall.

It hosted bingo, whist drives, dances and parties of all kinds, including a very active set of local and keen amateur dramatic performers.

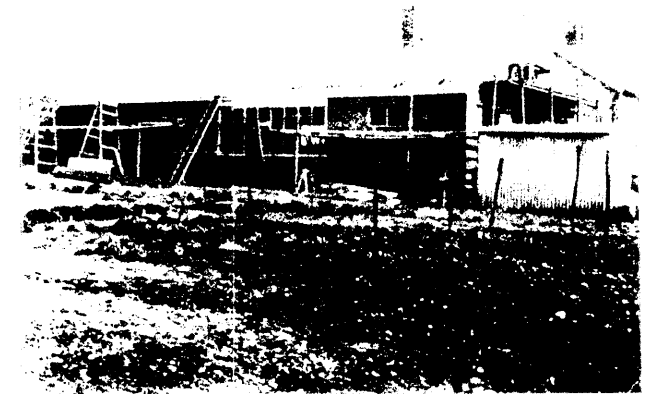
It has hosted film nights, race nights, plays and performances for the villagers and beyond to enjoy plus yoga and well-being classes, martial arts, clodhopper training, parish meetings, carpet bowls and dog training amongst many other events.

The village hall has, whilst still being perfectly functional, had a great life and we are lucky and humbled that Christine Woodsford left a large legacy to help us look at a new and more modern community space.

The Woodsford Charity has been talking to Hockham Estate and Breckland Council about a new build and so to start the project, some plans and drawings have been prepared for you all to see. The design is by no means set in stone; in fact, it needs input from all ages, to enable the charity

trustees to put forward a proposal for planning and potential additional grants.

So, at the Hockham History Weekend on October 10th and 11th, there will be a glimpse of Hockham future and the opportunity for anyone to make comments and see what's been done so far. Discussions with Hockham Estate will continue, but we hope that by consulting and asking for comments, that we can continue to move forward.



The Edinburgh Hall 1956/57



Wednesday 14th October

Graeme Simmonds

Ground beneath our feet

Please bring unusual artefacts found in
your garden

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

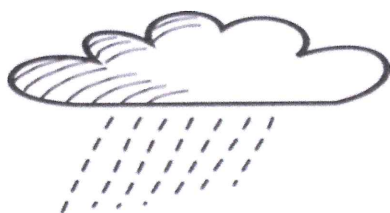
Secretary: Stacey Smith

secretaryghgc@gmail.com

Website: greathockhamgardeningclub.org.uk

August Rainfall

August 2026		63.5 mm
August 2025		25.6 mm
Jan-Aug 2026		281.7 mm
Jan-Aug 2025		188.6 mm
Highest Aug since 1979	2020	210.8 mm
Lowest Aug since 1979	2003	6.5 mm



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, subject to weather conditions		

October

Sat 3 rd	Soundbath	PM
Sat 10 th	Common Ground Play	
Tues 13 th	Exploring Drawing	10am-1pm
Wed 14 th	Gardening Club	PM
Sat 17 th	Coffee, Cake & Chat	AM
Sat 24 th	First Aid Course	
Sun 25 th	First Aid Course	
Tues 27 th	Exploring Drawing	10am-1pm
Sat 31 st	First Aid Course	

November

Sat 7 th	Fireworks
---------------------	-----------

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.

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.

School Birthdays



A belated "Happy Birthday" to Isabelle W, Ellison, Ezekiel, Lintly, Summer, Evelyn C, Hattie, Harper, Jack B, Imogen, Reo, Halle-Ivy and Autumn for September.

"Happy Birthday" to Reginald, Elliott, Zoe-Ella, Bodhi, Amber, Harrison, Jack W, Lottie and Gianna for October.



Great Hockham Primary School and Nursery

Everyone at Great Hockham Primary School and Nursery was delighted to welcome back children and their families at the start of September. It was wonderful to see classes full of happy and excited children, ready to learn and play. There has been a change of headteacher at the school, with Mrs Hazard leaving to lead Poringland Primary School. Now we have a Head of School - Mrs Claire Fowler, and an Executive Head – Mrs Helen Mitchell. We have also been very pleased to welcome Mrs Sharon Willard as the new Rabbits Class teacher.

Coming up at school, we have a number of Maths Cafés where parents and carers are invited in to see how their children learn maths at Great Hockham. We have run these before and it has been lovely to see how many people have been able to share this learning experience.

We also have a Music Spotlight Day at the end of this half term where children will enjoy a whole day celebrating music and drumming – we have

invited in a wonderful drummer who will be coming to work with children across all the classes.

Our first community event outside of school will be the Harvest Festival at Holy Trinity Church on Friday 6th November.

Great Hockham Primary School And Nursery

Creative, Caring, Daring

Open Sessions

for prospective parents of Reception Children

starting in September 2027

Wednesday 7th October @ 9am

Wednesday 14th October @ 1.30pm

During the visit, there will be a chance to see the indoor and outdoor area that our Reception children play within. You will also have the opportunity to meet our Early Years teacher (Mrs Willard) and a member of our Senior Leadership Team (Mrs Mitchell or Mrs Fowler) and find out more information about the learning experience your child will have at Great Hockham Primary.

Explore our indoor and outdoor learning spaces

Meet our Early Years teacher (Mrs Willard)

Meet a member of our Senior Leadership Team (Mrs Mitchell or Mrs Fowler)

Discover more about the learning experience at Great Hockham Primary

Please contact our reception teacher via email: office@hockham.set.education or call our office by telephone: **01953 498302** to confirm your attendance.

A warm welcome to Great Hockham Primary

Hockham Allotment Fees

Allotment fees have been increased by the Parish Council to:

Harling Road Due September, £30 a full allotment £15 a half allotment.

Shropham Road Due April, £6 a full allotment £3 a half allotment.

Chris Garrod (Parish Clerk)

Harling Road Allotments

A half allotment has become available on the Harling Road allotments at a cost of £15 a year.

Enquiries from within the Hockham Parish should be made to Chris Garrod on clerk@hockhamparish.gov.uk or 07770 710307.

Hockham Stone

Hockham Green was recently paid a visit by glaciology lecturers from Sheffield Hallam University. They took samples and photographs and measured all three stones in the village that could be accessed.

Samples taken will be tested for zirconium content in a lab in Australia, to determine their exact origin. Previous analysis has suggested their ice age deposition in Hockham to be around 10,000 years ago but they suspect it may be nearer 500,000 years.

Their previous work includes that on the altar stone at Stonehenge, where they discovered it originated in Northern Scotland.

We are aware of more stones, not as large as the one on the green but more all the same.

Stonehenge to Hockham, who'd have thought it!

Chris Garrod



The book club met on the 1st September and the book being discussed was *In Cold Blood* by Truman Capote.

This book certainly created a lot of emotion within the group. Written in 1966, *In Cold Blood* is considered a masterpiece because it invented the modern 'non-fiction novel' genre, blending strict journalistic reporting with deep emotional resonance and narrative drive of fiction.

On the 15th November 1959, in the small town of Holcomb, Kansas, four members of the Clutter family were savagely murdered. Truman Capote reconstructs the murder and the investigation that led to the capture, trial and eventual execution of the killers.

The book is thought provoking, sad and emotional. Generally agreed that the book is well

written, but some of the content makes it difficult to read. We scored the book 7 out of 10.

The raffle prize was won by Mike.

Our next book is *The Promise* by Damon Galgut and it will be the subject of discussion at our next meeting on the 6th October.

Leonie Jones

Royal British Legion

Wretham & Great Hockham

This year's Remembrance Day service will be held on the 8th November starting at 10.45am at Great Hockham Church.

The branch is looking for new members to join us. You do not have to have served in the armed forces to become a member. Cost of membership is currently £24 per year. If you would like to know more about the branch please contact Miles Howard on [01953 498507](tel:01953498507).

Poppy Appeal 2026

This year's Appeal officially starts on the 22th October and to launch it the branch is again holding a coffee morning and pop-up Poppy Shop at Wretham Village Hall on Saturday 24th starting at 9am.

I also hope to be at the October Coffee morning in the village. I will also be at the Bonfire & Fireworks display on the playing field for those that the collectors have not seen. Also Poppies will be available at the Pub from the 1st October or at Tanglemead, Shropham Road.

Miles Howard



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



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I am a recently retired primary school teacher who has moved into the village. For many years I have helped children prepare for their KS2 SATS and 11+ entrance exams. I currently have a few after school vacancies.

I offer personalised learning programmes to suit the needs of children between the ages of 8 and 12, providing support in maths, English, and reasoning, as required.

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@googlemail.com



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Email: thetford@turnerfunerals.co.uk

Brandon
2A Thetford Road | Brandon | IP27 0BS
Telephone: 01842 811245
Email: brandon@turnerfunerals.co.uk

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MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HOCKHAM PARISH COUNCIL ON MONDAY 7TH
SEPTEMBER 2026 AT 7.30PM IN HOCKHAM VILLAGE HALL.

Attending; Cllrs Bennett, Wiltshire, Lloyd. Leech & Loft. NCC Cllr Scott Hussey (part time) and 6 members of the public.

- 1) **Apologies for absence**, Cllrs Lambert and Thomas.
- 2) **Declarations of Interest**; Cllr Wiltshire as a trustee of the Woodsford Charity, Cllrs Bennett and Loft as allotment holders and Cllr Leech as a local farmer.
- 3) **Requests for dispensation**. None.
- 4) **Approval of minutes from 20th July 2026**. All agreed.
- 5) **Progress Report**.
 - a) **Info Board**. A design by Emily Brownlow of the Hockham History Group was seen and discussed. Cllrs were impressed with the work so far and agreed to pledge to pay for the work when completed.
 - b) **Vicarage Rd Sign**. Verge ownership issues had delayed the matter, following discussions with Hockham Estate.
 - c) **Speed Camera Results**. Cllr Wiltshire said that results were good but did show unusual speeds in the early hours. The SAM system had a fault with some of its LED's and would be sent for repair under warranty.
- 6) **Public Participation**. The meeting was adjourned for public discussion.
- 7) **County and District Reports**. Cllr Hussey explained concerns regards asylum seekers at Barnham Camp and the Home Office plans. 1250 illegal immigrant males would reside there. Wretham Camp seemed an unlikely destination for similar purposes but there were no guarantees it was not still in the mix. The local government reorganisation had been put on hold today.
- 8) **Highways and Road Safety**. It was suggested that the Wretham Road placement of the speed sensor was no longer adequate, as the 30mph signs had been moved. The clerk would ask for permission to re-site.
- 9) **Planning**. A wall under PL2026/1212/HOU Rosebank Shropham Road was discussed. It was suggested that 5ft was more adequate rather than 6ft tall. The local plan consultation would finish on 23rd September. Parishioners were encouraged to comment. A facebook post would be organised.
- 10) **Finance**. Payments were agreed for Pearce and Kemp and the clerk's salary. The salary increase of 3.2 % was approved plus back pay of £35. It was agreed to purchase a new defibrillator at £1320 plus VAT. The annual accounts had been posted to the external auditor, who would impose a £40 fine for being overdue.
- 11) **Allotments**. It was agreed that Harling Rd allotments would be increased to £30 annually and £15 for a half allotment. A clause would be put in the tenancy agreements banning hosepipe use. 33cubic metres of water had been used over summer.
- 12) **Footpaths and Rights of Way**. The sign finger post on Little Hockham Lane for the permissive path needed replacement. The clerk would liaise with Cllr Loft regards any other sign replacements and then place an order.
- 13) **Playing Field**. The Summer Show had been successful with profits likely in the region of £1000. Thanks were sent to all people who helped. The bank account would have approx £11k in it once cash was banked.

- 14) **Playing Field Electrics.** A proposal was put forward by Cllr Wiltshire, to put the playing field electrics in a purpose-built box, now they were disconnected at the pavilion. The Woodsford Charity would supply a grant for the cost to the parish council, who would organise the work. All agreed.
- 15) **Forest Edge Court.** Nothing to report.
- 16) **Martyn's Law.** It was confirmed this did not apply for non-ticketed events like the bonfire and fireworks and Hornfair.
- 17) **Councillor Updates.** Cllr would organise a litter pick in October. A faulty village hall light was reported. The chair requested that the October meeting agenda included a proposed procedure for scrutinising applications for Street Closures. He expressed concern that few new volunteers were becoming involved in the setting-up of communal events (e.g. The Hornfair and Summer Show) and this work continues largely to be left to the same people each time. The Parish Council thanked Millie and Ollie Lawrence for voluntarily, and very quickly, moving an obstruction of pallets on the pathway close to the bonfire, in response to a complaint from a resident.
- 18) **Correspondence.** Following a request an item on Fire Safety would be put on the October agenda.
- 19) **Next meeting.** Monday 5th October 2026.