

# IN-TOUCH

## Great Hockham News Sheet

Issue No 540  
September 2023



### Editorial

The annual Flower Show was held at the Eagle last month, but, unfortunately, too late for us to include a report this month. We will include a list of the trophy winners in our October edition.

September sees the start of a new school year, so there will be a lot of nervous and excited children either starting school for the very first time, moving up a year, or starting at secondary school, wherever that may be. We wish our children the very best of luck in whichever category they fall.

The farmers' harvest has been very "hit and miss" so far this summer, but, if the weather forecasts are to be believed, most of the corn crops should be safely gathered in by the time you read this. Let's hope so.

There is a "Mexican Fiesta" being held in the church on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September at 6.30 pm. Tickets at £20 are available from 01953 498243.



### Great Hockham Book Club

The Book Club meets on the first Tuesday of every month at 7.30 pm at The Eagle.

The book we are reading for the September meeting is Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus.

New members are welcome.

*This month...*

Nigel Cobham  
will be talking about  
owl conservation and  
estate management

Coffee  
Cake  
Chat

Friendly Faces  
Yummy Cakes



*Fancy baking  
some cakes or  
anything else?  
Contact Mandy  
on 07712  
445477  
to find out how  
you can help*



16 September  
Village Hall  
10.30 am to 12



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

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

**Worship in September 2023**

**Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> September, Trinity 13**  
10.30 a.m. United Holy Communion,  
St. Peter & St. Paul, Griston

**Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> September, Trinity 14**  
10.30 a.m. United Holy Communion,  
St. Botolph, Stow Bedon

**Sunday, 17<sup>th</sup> September, Trinity 15**  
10.30 a.m. United Holy Communion,  
St. Martin, Thompson

**Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> September, Trinity 16**  
10.30 a.m. Harvest Service with Songs of Praise,  
St. Margaret's, Breckles

6.30 pm Harvest Festival Service, Holy Cross,  
Caston with presentation of the Harvest produce

**Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> October, Trinity 17**  
10.30 a.m. United Holy Communion,  
Holy Cross, Caston

*The Wayland Benefice is now in vacancy.*  
*All requests for Baptisms, Weddings and*  
*Funerals and general queries should be*  
*addressed to the Churchwardens in the first*  
*instance.*

**Churchwarden's Letter September 2023**

As we look toward September our thoughts turn to autumn and the dark winter months ahead. At the time of writing we are in a disappointing summer after a promising start in June. Traditionally we celebrate the gathering of the harvest, holidays are fast becoming just a dream and we ask ourselves will the weather be kind or will it be one of those "snatch and grab" harvests? It is certainly a different year from 2022 when the extreme heat brought devastation on a scale not seen before. The rain, often in spectacular local downpours recently, has certainly been the cause of a "stop and start" harvest season but at the same time providing moisture for the garden vegetables and root crops. A dry harvest is a

happy time and a time to celebrate.

In times past in this country, it would be a community event and celebrated as the final harvest of crops were gathered. There would be a great procession around the final cartload as it came back to the farm where a great party with food, fun and dancing would take place. This would then conclude with a special service of thanksgiving in Church. Even school attendance gave way to harvest. Harvest suppers, or sometimes, churn suppers, named after the large jug of cream that would be offered, were traditionally hosted by the farmer. Historically, this was a lavish meal of meat, puddings, fruits and ale and would be accompanied by singing, drinking games and much reverie!

Fewer and fewer churches are celebrating harvest as they once did. The idea that '*all is safely gathered in, ere the winter storms begin*' does not have the same significance as before. There is little sense of seasonal food because most things can be bought anytime at a local supermarket.

However, the more rural churches and those connected with the farming community as part of their parish or congregation will still recognise the importance of gathering a harvest and of giving thanks to God '*for all his love*'.

We continue to give thanks traditionally in the Wayland Group of Churches for the harvest in September and October. Please do join us at Breckles, Caston, Great Hockham, Griston, Thompson and Stow Bedon churches. The dates of all harvest services will be listed in In-Touch. We look forward to welcoming you all to give thanks for a successful growing year.... And if you have a few spare tins, fruit, vegetables or flowers why not bring them along to decorate our ancient iconic buildings and to help provide for those in greater need.

Bridget Hall

Churchwarden , Holy Cross, Caston

**From The Church Registers - August**

The marriage of Dan Kelly and April Hill took place at St. Martin's Church Thompson on Saturday 19th August.

## Common Ground Theatre Company

Common Ground Theatre Company will return this year for both an Autumn and a Xmas play.

The Autumn one is:

**Saturday 7th October, 7.30pm**

### **THE HELLGATE CLUB**

by Pat Whymark

**ENTER AT YOUR PERIL!**

A play with music in 2 acts. Suitable for ages 12 and over.

The Xmas one is:

**Saturday 30th December, 7.30pm**

### **MISS MIMPLE MEETS THE ICE WOLF**

by Pat Whymark

A festive comedy with songs lasting 2 hours including an interval.

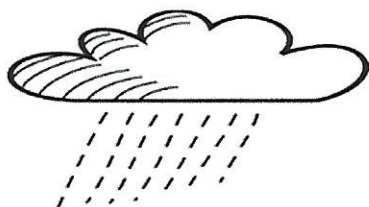
Tickets available from Chris Garrod (01953498447 [boxoffice@greathockham.org](mailto:boxoffice@greathockham.org)) or the Hockham Eagle.

Ticket prices:

£13 Adults / £10 Under 21

## July Rainfall

July 2023		88.6 mm
July 2022		5.4 mm
Jan-July 2023		362.5 mm
Jan-July 2022		204.2 mm
Highest July since 1979	2002	132.4 mm
Lowest July since 1979	2022	5.4 mm



## Mobile Library Service

CHESTNUT SQUARE 10:55 – 11:10

SCOTGATE CLOSE 11:15 – 11:35

From July the day of the mobile library visit changed to THURSDAY. The times remain unchanged.

Date of forthcoming visits:

14 Sept / 12 Oct / 9 Nov / 7 Dec

4 Jan / 1 Feb / 29 Feb / 28 March /

25 April / 23 May / 20 June / 18 July



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## 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.

## A Day in the Life of a Train Driver

My day started at 02.00 when the alarm goes off, up dressed and a quick cuppa then off to work ready to sign on for duty at 03.30.

In the railway everything is timed to the last second; when signing on you are given 7 minutes to read all the notice boards, then a check of the board to see where your train is in the yard.

The depot I worked out of was Shoeburyness in Essex which is the largest electric train depot in the country with 31 sidings tracks. Tracks are known as roads which are numbered or named so trains can be stabled (parked) while not out in service on the iron road, the main routes we drive.

I climb into the cab and go through a check routine making sure you have all emergency equipment and all the gauges and dials show the correct air pressures and systems are working correctly. Then wait for a shunter in the yard to signal you to start to move towards the yard exit into the platforms at the station. Every train has a unique identifying number for each journey; this is entered into the computer system and this shows on the signaller's panel in the signal control centre so every train can be observed wherever they are in the system.

You drive the train to the platform checking your route, checking all the points in the track are set correctly. EMUs, or electrical multiple units as modern trains are known, have a motor or powered carriage at each end so a quick change of ends in the platform and set up the train ready for your in service work. When the time is right a check in the platform mirrors shows you if the train doors are clear and all passengers are on board then press the door close button, a final check of the departure time and last thing to check is the controlling signal to make sure it shows a green or yellow light then it's off you go watching the speed out of the platform, 15mph until the rear end of the train is clear, then test the brakes and increase the speed to the

maximum and you're heading towards your first station.

The thing is not every train stops at every station so you need to remember where you're stopping, you may drive 6 train journeys today and each one could be over a different route and at a different stopping pattern and here's where your professionalism comes into play. As a train driver you need to know all the routes you're going to drive over, know the traction or type of train you're driving and how to fix it if it breaks down, be able to remember and recall a vast rule book, and maintain 100% concentration for your whole duty which could be up to 10 hours long; all this and be able to work alone - if you can do that it's a great job.

The first question every train driver gets asked is have you run anyone over and I am lucky to say that I never had any incidents of that nature. I have found dead bodies that have been hit by trains and have had lots of times when people are in the tracks in front of me and I can say that when you are travelling at 75mph and in charge of 540 tons with the lives of the 1000 people on your train and you are the only one to take charge of any trouble it can be a lot to think about. I have had people stand in front of my train taking photos whilst I travelled towards them at 75mph and at times being on your own is all for the better because the language can get a bit fruity, or people who think walking down the middle of the track whilst drinking a can of beer and taking a short cut is a good idea. What I can say is against a train travelling at 75mph weighing in excess of 540 tons there is only going to be one winner.

*Robin Guppy*

***Please use the village bottle bank***



## Village Hall Bookings September 2023

### Regular Bookings

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

### Sept 2023

Fri 1 <sup>st</sup>	Gong & Sound Bath	
Sat 9 <sup>th</sup>	Yoga	1-5pm
Tues 12 <sup>th</sup>	Exploring Drawing	10am-1pm
Wed 13 <sup>th</sup>	Gardening Club	PM
Sat 16 <sup>th</sup>	Coffee, Cake & Chat	AM
Tues 26 <sup>th</sup>	Exploring Drawing	10am-1pm

For Yoga information ring June on 01953 498343

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](mailto:chris@oaklands4.co.uk).

### Opportunity to dispose of your old paint

The next Norfolk County Council Household Hazardous Waste Days will be held at the following locations. They will be held in normal Recycling Centre opening times of 9am - 4pm.

- Norwich South - 9/10 September
- Thetford - 16/17 September
- Dereham - 7/8 October
- Norwich North - 21/22 October



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



## Great Hockham Gardening Club



For information contact:

Secretary: Rosemary Martin 07563 505020

[secretaryghgc@gmail.com](mailto:secretaryghgc@gmail.com)

Website: [greathockhamgardeningclub.org.uk](http://greathockhamgardeningclub.org.uk)

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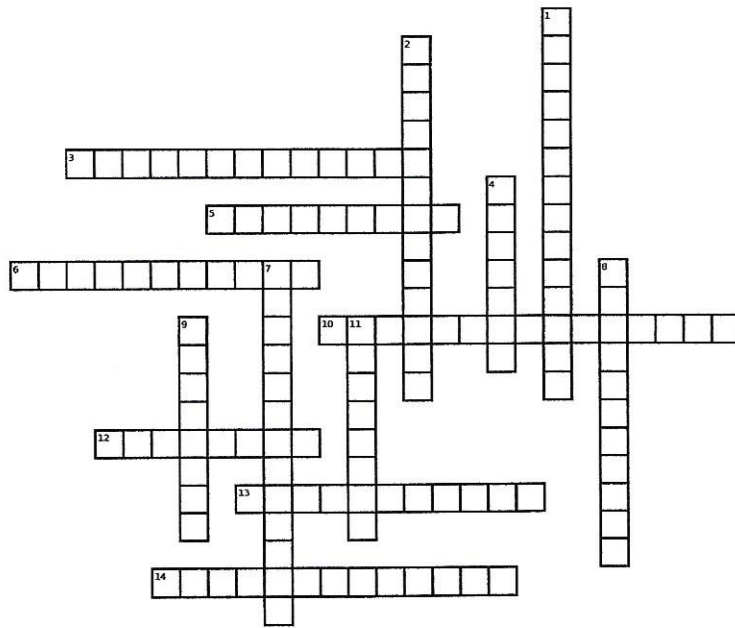
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# Crossword Puzzle



**Down:**

1. monthly get together in village hall
2. who granted the village the right to hold a fair in 1272
4. pub that no longer serves
7. the old school was occasionally used as this
8. a mat for this will bowl you over
9. the modern day work horse of the farm
11. yearly celebrations on the green

**Across:**

3. monthly visitor anagram of imbloe raliybr
5. held in the eagle makes you think
6. name of our church
10. he was a brecklands author who lived in the village
12. catch a bus to here
13. this person built hockham hall in 1728
14. local woodland name

Solution in October issue

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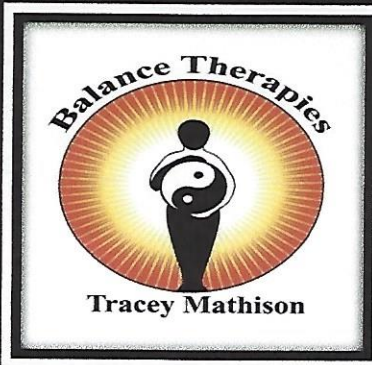
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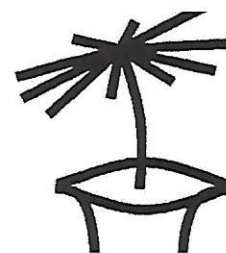
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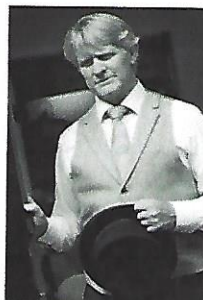
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