

IN-TOUCH

Great Hockham News Sheet

Issue No 574
July 2026



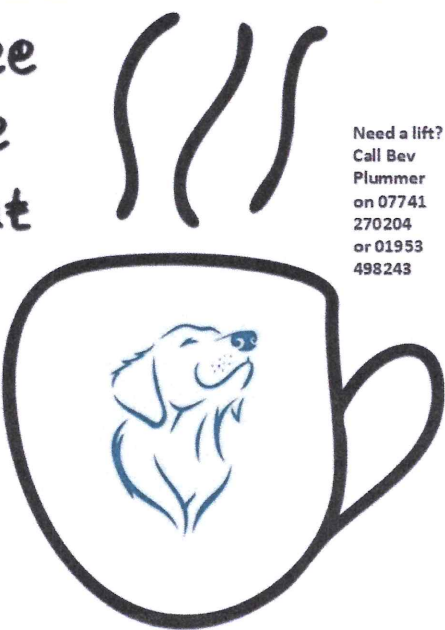
Editorial

Because of the time limitations in producing In Touch, we were unable to comment on the annual Horn Fair in last month's edition. It was another great success, with the weather playing a big part in attracting plenty of people. There was plenty for supporters to see and do, from classic cars and tug of war, to alpacas and a bouncy castle. People's stomachs were also well catered for, with a barbecue, chips, beer, and the obligatory cup of tea or coffee, and yummy cakes. The organisers should be proud of how it turned out, and I'm sure they would agree that a big thank you is due to the volunteers who set it all up, and, especially, to those who helped take it all down again.

Whilst on the subject of thanking volunteers, In Touch committee would like to say how grateful we are to the kind people who deliver our newsletter each month. It is so important to us that we can rely on these volunteers. Once again, many thanks.


Next big event in the village is the Summer Show, formerly known as the Flower Show, which is due on Sunday 30th August. See you there.

Coffee Cake Chat



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

This month . . .
We are having
another
special doggie
event . . . look out
for our Facebook
posts and special
notices around the
village!



18 July, Village Hall, 10.30 am

Sign up for our
Great Hockham
VILLAGE-WIDE
GARAGE SALE

Saturday 8th
August

£2 donation
To have your pitch
added to our map
which we will
distribute in digital
and paper form

Coffee truck &
Cake stall
attending
We will advertise
enthusiastically
to ensure a
great turn out
on the day!

Contact Vicky on 07900 676389



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 Group of Churches

Sunday 5th July

10.30 am United Holy Communion
Holy Cross, Caston

Sunday 12th July

10.30am United Holy Communion
Holy Trinity, Great Hockham

Sunday 19th July

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

Sunday 26th July

10.30am United Holy Communion
St Botolph, Stow Bedon

Sunday 2nd August

10.30 am United Holy Communion
St Martin, Thompson



“The welcome prospect of rest.....”

July has arrived, bringing longer days, the end of the school term, and the welcome prospect of summer holidays. For many of us, the lead-up to this season is frantic. We rush to clear our desks, pack bags, and tie up loose ends, treating rest as a prize we must desperately earn. However, I don't think rest should be a prize to be earned but a spiritual necessity.

The word "holiday" originates from "holy day." This suggests that time off should be more than just a change of scenery or a packed itinerary of sightseeing. True rest requires us to unplug from the noise of our daily routines and create space for renewal.

In his earthly ministry, Jesus faced relentless demands from crowds seeking healing and teaching. Yet, he never let busyness consume his soul. He frequently withdrew to mountains, lakesides, and quiet spaces to recharge. He also recognised that his disciples were so tired they "had no leisure even to eat," giving them a direct command: *“Come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while”* (Mark 6:31). We're all created with limitations, aren't we? If we don't intentionally stop, we risk fracturing our relationship with God, others, and ourselves.

Whether you are travelling abroad, enjoying a staycation, or simply spending quiet afternoons in the garden this month, I encourage you to embrace the gift of doing nothing. Step away from the screens, breathe deeply, and reconnect. Jesus' invitation stands for each of us this summer: *“Come to me, all you who are weary... and I will give you rest.”*

With much love and many blessings
Vanessa

Reverend Vanessa is the rector for the Wayland benefice of Breckles, Caston, Great Hockham, Griston, Thompson, and Stow Bedon. You can contact her on 07984 318885 or by email at vanessadlayfield@gmail.com

THE EAGLE

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

Dates for your Diary:

2nd July 5-8pm

Purple Pepper Mexican (Food Truck)

7th July 7.30pm

Book Club

8th & 22nd July

Bingo 7.45pm arrival for 8pm 18+

9th July 5-8pm

Wok Truck (Food Truck)

16th July 5-8pm

Grab A Burger (Food Truck)

18th July from 7pm

Karaoke Night

23rd July 5-8pm

Pizza Roma (Food Truck)

30th July 5-8pm

Surfing Sombrero (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 Available

Fish and Chip Fryday: 12-8.30pm

(Takeaway and eat in)

Saturday: 12-8.30pm

Sunday: 12-3pm

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 July 14th & 28th

10am -1pm

£20 per session. All materials supplied

Call melodie on 07531 875713

Email: melcookartist@icloud.com

Instagram @exploringdrawing

Facebook Melodie Cook Artist

Mobile Library Service

CHESTNUT SQUARE 10:55 – 11:10

SCOTGATE CLOSE 11:15 – 11:35

Date of forthcoming visits (Thursdays):

16 July / 13 August /

10 Sept / 8 Oct / 5 Nov / 3 Dec



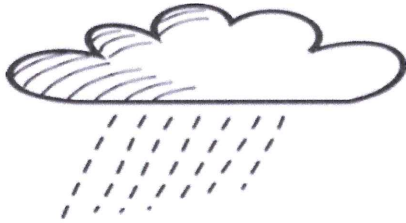
Defibrillator

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.

May Rainfall

May 2026		20.8 mm
May 2025		28.9 mm
Jan-May 2026		175.0 mm
Jan-May 2025		100.3 mm
Highest May since 1979	2017	118.8 mm
Lowest May since 1979	2020	3.6 mm



Great Hockham Gardening Club



Wednesday 15th July

Dale Farm, Sandy Lane, East
Dereham

2-acre plant lovers' garden /
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

FOR SALE

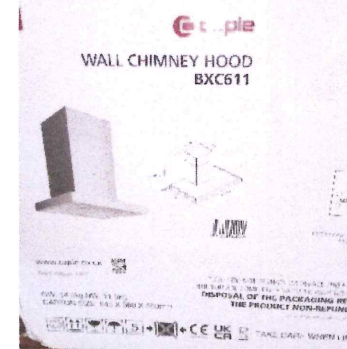
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School Birthdays



“Happy Birthday” to Harriet C, Esme, Ellis,
Sienna P, Bow, Isaac, Theodore and Chloe Wy.

754th Hornfair

Hockham's 754th Hornfair was a fantastic celebration of sunshine, community spirit and good humour, with the village green and Chestnut Square buzzing from start to finish.

Families enjoyed brilliant stalls, classic cars, alpacas, a bouncy castle and plenty of refreshments as the day unfolded. This year saw the launch of our very first Welly Throwing competition, which proved an instant hit with both adults and children - full of laughter, friendly rivalry and some surprisingly impressive distances.

The World Stick Balancing Championships brought early excitement, with Joshua Cleveland taking the title, followed by two joyful maypole performances from Hockham School.

The Tug of War was a real highlight, enthusiastically compered by Joe Pasquale, and made even more memorable when The Eagle's original team were unable to attend. In true Hockham style, a last-minute team of volunteers stepped forward, with no time to practise or prepare, and put on an incredible performance - only narrowly beaten by The Angel at Larling in a brilliant display of friendly rivalry.

The Wood Chop Challenge saw Alex Beard take the win, assisted by his son Jack, and the Great Hockham Wacky Race rounded off the afternoon in spectacular fashion, with Aimee Mathison racing to victory.

It was a wonderful day made possible by the many people who planned, organised, baked, lifted, set up, cleared away, ran stalls, cheered and threw themselves into the spirit of the event. A heartfelt thank you to everyone involved - your hard work and enthusiasm are what keep this much-loved village tradition thriving.

Here's to the 755th Hornfair next year.

Donna Lloyd



Wretham Road History

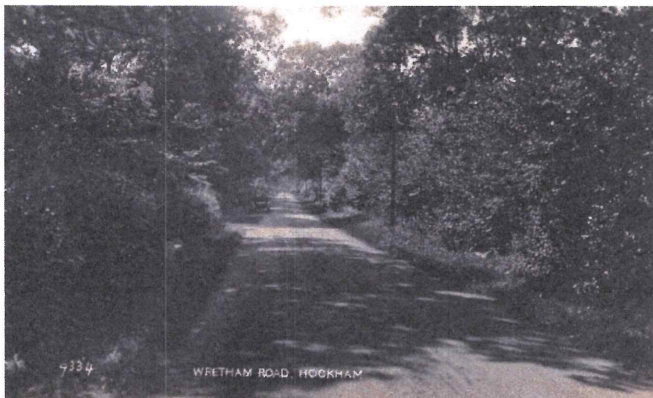
Known as Colle Lane in the 1500's, the guild hall stood to the south (Beechwood House), then becoming Thetford Way.

The cottage attached to Beechwood was the former reading room, which was vacated when the glasshouse was moved to the current reading room site (now demolished) and Beechwood was the laundry at the beginning of the 20th century. Near where the thatched properties are now was The Hall or Place, a site of a manor, long gone, with Ashe Yard at the back. The bungalows and houses were built in the 70's on the former school playing field known as The Gathering, hence the name of the new estate built in more recent times.

Before the Gathering's playing field there was a large set of barns run by Fred Fox, wheelwright, carpenter and funeral director.

Wretham Road has always had an avenue of trees, but pre-WW1 was extremely pretty with oaks and pines, the latter also known as deal. There was a demand for pit props for the trenches in France and so Canadian Foresters were asked to fell and produce the props, and the road verges never looked the same.

Another road ran near to the church and linked Thetford Way to Warren Lane called Ladyes Meare. This road appears long gone, but may have linked East West where the current hall drive is.



Note the posts are for the telegraph system not electricity. Also note the seats right and left in the hedgerow.

Chris Garrod



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



The book club met on the 2nd June at The Eagle and the book being discussed was The Foundling by Stacey Halls.

Once again we each gave one word to describe the book - sad, dreadful, disappointing, descriptive, thin, enjoyable, shallow, forgotten.

The Foundling is set in 1754 Georgian London and intertwines the lives of two women - a poor, unmarried mother and a wealthy, reclusive widow whose fates become bound together by a child originally left at the Foundling hospital when only one day old.

The author had certainly researched the subject with good description of life in the 18th century and the class struggles that existed.

An easy read, we had a lively discussion about the book, but overall we felt the dialogue to be stilted and the ending not credible.

The book club questions were available at the end of the book. The book scored 5 1/2 out of 10.

The raffle prize was won by Leonie.

The next book is The Tattooist of Auschwitz by Heather Morris and it will be the subject of discussion at our next meeting on the 7th July.

Leonie Jones



Great Hockham Primary School and Nursery

July is a very busy month at Great Hockham with lots to look forward to. Our Year 6 pupils will be visiting their new High Schools, learning their way around much larger buildings and meeting lots of new friends. Our other children will be spending time with their new teachers and finding out what they will be learning about and what they have to look forward to in September. We will be welcoming our new Reception children into the school, so they get a taste of what life at Great Hockham Primary School is really like!

And for me this will be my last month at Great Hockham. As I prepare to step down from my role as Headteacher, I want to take a moment to express just how much this special community has meant to me. It has been a true privilege to serve and to be part of such a warm, supportive, and inspiring village school. I leave with a deep sense of gratitude for the kindness, encouragement, and shared commitment that I have experienced here every day. While I am excited for the next chapter, I am also very sad to say goodbye to a place and people who have made such a lasting impression on me. Thank you for making my time here so memorable - it is something I will always cherish.

From September, Mrs Fowler will step up as Head of School, and Mrs Mitchell will take on the role of Executive Head across Great Hockham and Old Buckenham Primary Schools. I am sure you will join me in wishing them both every success as they lead the school forward, and in offering them the same warmth, support, and encouragement that has made this community so special.

We will be saying goodbye to our Year 6 pupils, who we will miss dearly but know they are ready for the next stage in their educational journey. We

will be going on an overnight camping trip as a final farewell and taking part in a number of forest school activities. We wish them all the best of luck and know they will do brilliantly at whichever High School they are going to.

Everyone at Great Hockham wishes you all a lovely summer holiday.

Lisa Hazard

Head Teacher

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).

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.

Highly Experienced Local Tutor

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.

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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@googlemail.com



Great Hockham Events 2026

More events may be added as the year progresses!

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

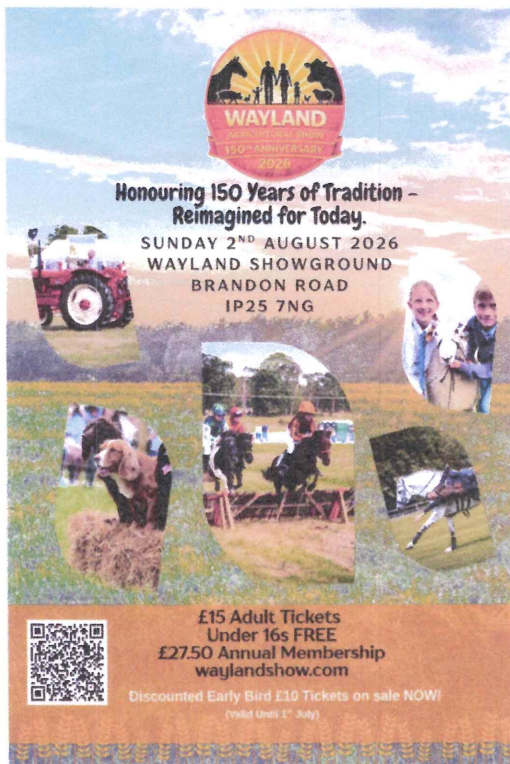
Money raised at these events is in support of the playing field and equipment.

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

150th Wayland Show

Sunday 2nd August 2026



WAYLAND
150th ANNIVERSARY
2026

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SUNDAY 2ND AUGUST 2026
WAYLAND SHOWGROUND
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IP25 7NG

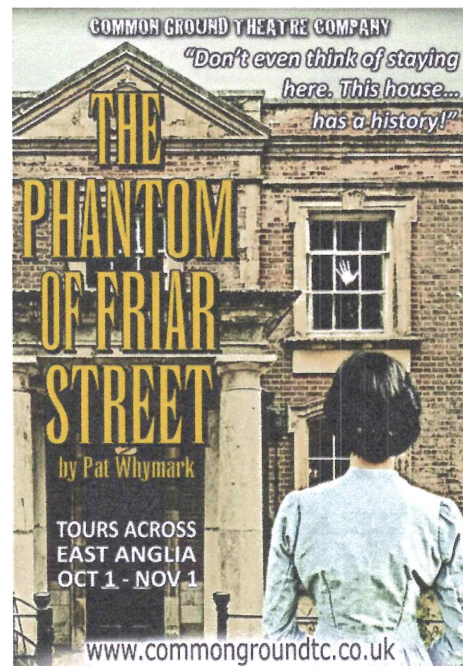
£15 Adult Tickets
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Veterans Central

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.

Venue: The Regency Room, Swaffham Assembly Rooms, 1030 to 1300.

Location: The Assembly Rooms are located in the centre of Swaffham and there is adjacent free parking for 2 hours (but use machine to get a ticket). Partners or carers also welcome.

Please spread the word to any military colleagues in the area.

More information?

Contact: ops@veteranscentral.co.uk

Mobile: 07713 860040

Annual Activities and Open Day

**AT VETERANS CENTRAL, RAF WEST RAYNHAM
SHQ NR21 7PL.**

Sunday 19th July 2026 10am-3pm

All events are FREE to attend.

This is a great opportunity for visitors to not only see the fantastic and unique (in that you can tour the building) Grade II RAF Station Headquarters and its 3 acres of gardens, but also experience a range of activities and displays, including flypasts and a wide range of ground activities.

More information email:

events@veteranscentral.co.uk.

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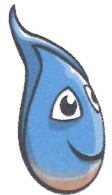
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