

IN-TOUCH

Great Hockham News Sheet

Issue No 569
February 2026



Editorial

Sadly, I must start by letting everyone know that over Christmas and early into the new year the village lost two long standing members of the community and I am sure everyone will join the In Touch team in wishing all the family and friends of the two gentlemen our very heartfelt condolences.

At the end of last year, we were treated to another fine comedy play by the Common Ground Theatre Company at the Village Hall which was greatly appreciated by all that went and a bumper crowd it was too - a real full house - thanks to the organisers for arranging it.

For me this time of the year can have bit of a flat feel to it. After all the build-up and activities of the last part of the previous year with Halloween, Bonfire Night and then Christmas and the new year celebrations, January and February can seem mostly uneventful! Or are they though? It's mostly too early for much of anything in the garden or allotments, but take time to look and you would be surprised - you can find bulbs poking their heads up out of the ground, literally the early birds looking and searching for nest sites and with inclement weather you never know what will come into your garden looking for food or water.

Thank You from In-Touch

We would like to thank David Garrod and also Bill and Sue Smith for their kind and generous donations to our funds.

These were very much appreciated and will be put to good use in the future production of the newsletter.

Thank you all.

The In-Touch Team



This month we will be having a
FUN QUIZ



Fancy baking some cakes or anything else? Contact Tania on 07774 842388 to find out how you can help



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



**Coffee
Cake
Chat**

Friendly Faces
Yummy Bakes

21 February
Village Hall
10.30am to 12 noon

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 1st February

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

Sunday 8th February

10.30am United Holy Communion
St Botolph's, Stow Bedon

Sunday 15th February

10.30am United Holy Communion
St Martin's, Thompson

Sunday 22nd February

10.30am United Holy Communion
St Margaret's, Breckles

Sunday 29th February

10.30am United Holy Communion
Holy Cross, Caston



*“Love and
Lent.....”*

On St. Valentine's day a few years ago, I was delighted to answer a knock on the door to a delivery of the most beautiful bouquet of flowers. Wow! I thought, Jonathan, had remembered! I found a vase and filled it with water. But before I unwrapped them, I opened the small envelope and read the card. It said *“To my lovely wife Paula, Happy Valentine's Day”*. Now, my name is obviously not Paula and I soon realised that the flowers had arrived at the wrong address. Paula was my neighbour!

I'm pleased to report that Jonathan had not forgotten St Valentine's day at all. He sent me a romantic dinner invitation which I gladly accepted!

Romantic love is a wonderful thing and can be the foundation for lasting, mutual care and relationships. Yet love is very important for other reasons too – love of family, friends, neighbours, all humankind, as individuals, as groups, love for creation, for all life on our planet, for ourselves. Without love, which gives us a focus, a passion, a reason to act positively for others, we would miss so much that is good in our lives. Real love is not cheap, easy, or disposable, it's not always shiny or fluffy or tasty; it can be difficult,

unrewarding, costly and unrelenting, but as the song goes, what use is a world without love?

Ash Wednesday reminds us: there IS a love that is stronger than death, and there IS a Lover who has conquered death on our behalf. Whether we are on the receiving end of roses on Valentine's Day or not makes no difference to the passion that sent Jesus to the Cross on our behalf. We are loved. We are loved for this lifetime, and we are loved for the lifetime to come.

Chocolates, flowers, and cards convey sentiments which, at their best, reflect the true love that begat the universe. At their worst, they distract from the fact that only God can keep a promise to love beyond the grave. Ash Wednesday points us to that promise by reintroducing us to the Promise Keeper, in all his glorious affection and power.

The Bible has much to say about love – teaching us to love one another, to love God and to love ourselves. It tells us to love because God loved us first and God's love is unconditional – that love doesn't care who we are, what we look like, what we have done, whether we are rich or poor. God loves us exactly as we are, and God's love is never-ending; we can never do anything to earn it, nor do anything that will stop it.

If you find it hard to love, or feel you fail at times, the passage below offers some guidance, and a reminder of just how much we are loved by the one who will never stop loving us.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

May you know just how much you are loved by God and may you share that love with everyone you meet. Not just today but always.

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 EAGLE

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

Dates for your Diary:

3rd February

Book Club 7.30pm

4th & 18th February

Bingo arrival for 7.45pm 18+
(Please book a table)

11th & 25th February

Quiz Night 8pm start

(Call to book a table, max 6 per team)

14th February from 7pm

Cheese and Wine Night £20pp
(Please call to book a table)

For our Pie Weekend dates below it is
essential to book in advance to secure a table

There will be no Fish and Chip Fryday this
week

Thursday 26th February
Pie Weekend 6-9pm

Friday 27th February
Pie Weekend 12-9pm

Saturday 28th February
Pie Weekend 12-9pm

Sunday 1st March
Pie Weekend 12-8pm

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

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Tuesday Workshops Feb. 10th & 24th
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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):

26 Feb / 26 March





Wednesday 11th February

Jim Paine

Secret Life of Plants

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

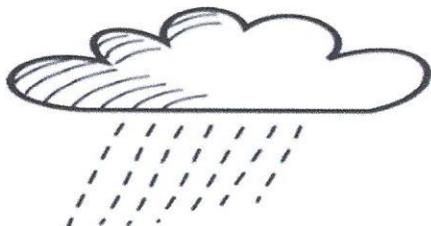
secretaryghgc@gmail.com

Website:

greathockhamgardeningclub.org.uk

December Rainfall

December 2025		50.2 mm
December 2024		38.1 mm
Highest Dec since 1979	2017	115.1 mm
Lowest Dec since 1979	2010	5.5 mm
Year 2025		444.6 mm
Year 2024		726.7 mm
Highest year since 1979	2020	907.6 mm
Lowest year since 1979	1991	440.8 mm



Village Hall Bookings February 2026

Regular Bookings

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

February 2026

Sat 7 th	Sound Bath	PM
Mon 9 th	Parish Council	7.30pm
Tues 10 th	Exploring Drawing	10am-1pm
Wed 11 th	Gardening Club	PM
Wed 18 th	First Aid Course	9am-4pm
Sat 21 st	Coffee Cake & Chat	AM
Sat 21 st	Private Function	PM from 1pm
Tues 24 th	Exploring Drawing	10am-1pm

Dog training Monday and Friday evenings until further notice. On a Parish Council evening dog training will finish at 7.15pm

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.

Great Hockham Carpet Bowls

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

Please use the village bottle bank



Harling Road History

Harling Road was known as Cokestole Lane in mediaeval times, likely because it had a pit with the Cucking tool, an instrument of torture and used to check if people were witches. It is also known as Larling Road.

The road as it leaves the village goes past Moat Farm, likely the site of the last Hockham windmill and opposite this former farmhouse is the site of Esthalle a moated site from the 1300's, which was vacated following the black death.

Further towards the village we have the playing field which was first used as such in the 1960's, the village hall which was built in 1956/57 and a number of old brick and flint terraced cottages, some of which date from the 1700's. One was the village brothel in WW2 and was raided by the local constabulary, the ladies plying their trade being sentenced at East Harling Court.

Home Farm Barn was a farm that in the 50's/60's became part of Geoff Nurse's duck processing facilities, the duck farm being one of the largest producers in Europe. The complex was turned into housing in the 1990's.

The Eagle stands proudly on the corner of the Harling Road having been a drinking establishment for many years and likely rebuilt in the mid to late 1800's. It was formerly called the Eagle Tavern.



Chris Garrod

School Birthdays



“Happy Birthday” to Ben, Logan M, Amelia, Madison, Eleanor, Matilda, Willow A, Jasmine, Emily and Eden L-C.



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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/gtellinghamdistRICTflowerclub>

Great Ellingham & District Flower Club

Tuesday
FEBRUARY 24th

**SPRING
WORKSHOP**

Design by Rachael Borenkova

*Bring : Scissors, Foliage
Bag for rubbish*

ROCKLANDS VILLAGE HALL NR17 1TR
Doors open 1pm Starts 1.30pm
Guests £10 Members FREE
Membership Fees £35 per year
Raffle
Home Made Refreshments

Look us up on Facebook @
gtellinghamanddistrictflowerclub
For more information call:
Jane Dalton 07557517064 (Secretary)
Email : jane.dalton@btinternet.com



The book club took place on 6th January at The Eagle, the book being discussed was The Shrimp and the Anemone by L P Hartley.

It is the first book of the Eustace and Hilda trilogy and takes place during a summer in the 1930's. Eustace is nine and Hilda is thirteen years old and it portrays the anxieties and misunderstandings of a child who listens and misinterprets the adult world.

The book is set in Hunstanton (and renamed Anchorstone by the author) but we didn't recognise the descriptions of the beach or surrounding areas.

The book is well written, but we were frustrated by some of the adult characters, especially the father who alternates between being jovial and irritated by his children.

We scored the book 6.5 out of 10.

The raffle was won by Carol.

Our book for January is Demon Copperhead by Barbara Kingsolver.

If you enjoy reading why not come and join us. We meet the first Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm at The Eagle.

Leonie Jones

NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS WANTED

The In-Touch committee are looking for two new members. This would suit a couple.

We are looking for people to take a full part in producing In-Touch each month. This would include joining the rota to write the editorial, and photocopying, at the moment just under 200 copies.

We don't have regular committee meetings, only when necessary.

For more information, contact Geoff Stuart on 07585 806497.

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.

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.



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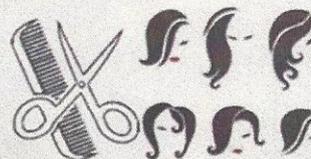
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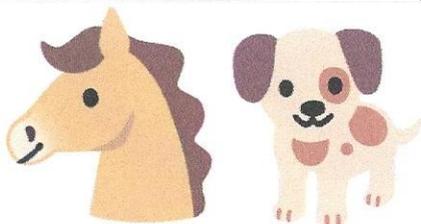
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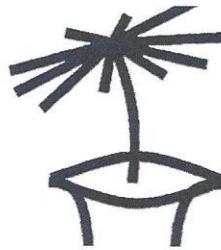
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