IN-TOUCH

Great Hockham News Sheet

Issue No 578
November 2026

Editorial

During October the village was treated to some great events. On the 10th-11th the History of Hockham Exhibition took place at the Holy Trinity Church and was a great success, thanks to all the organisers.

The Common Ground Theatre Company performed The Phantom of Friar Street at the village hall on the 10th - both these events bring the community together. The Common Ground Theatre Company will be returning on 22nd December with their Christmas play Father Brown and the Carnival of Fear – more details inside.

Looking towards November there is a Beaujolais Evening on the 21st at Holy Trinity Church, and of course Fireworks at the Playing Field on 7th November – see below.

As the nights are now drawing in anyone out and about whether cycling, walking or walking a dog please BE BRIGHT, BE SEEN AND STAY SAFE.



Beaujolais Evening

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH
GREAT HOCKHAM

"Wine, cheese, and chat"

Saturday 21 November 7 pm

Tickets £15

(includes first glass of Beaujolais, and a bread & cheese buffet)

Call Frank on 07801 539050 or Bev on 07741 270204



Worship in the Wayland Benefice November 2026

Sunday1st November
10.30 am United Holy Communion
for All Saints & All Souls
St. Margaret, Breckles

Sunday 8th November
10.45 am United Remembrance Service at
the War Memorial before service in church,
Holy Cross, Caston

Sunday 8th November
10.45 am Remembrance Service at
Holy Trinity Church War Memorial before service
in church with the Royal British Legion,
Wretham & Hockham Branch,
the Bishop's Chaplain presiding,

Wednesday 11th November
10.45 Act of Remembrance Caston War Memorial
10.45 Act of Remembrance Hockham War Memorial

Sunday 15th November
10.30 am United Holy Communion
Holy Trinity, Great Hockham

Sunday 22nd November
10.30 am United Holy Communion
St Peter & St Paul's, Griston

Sunday 29th November, Advent Sunday
10.30 am United Holy Communion
St Botolph, Stow Bedon



'Shorter Days and Warmer Welcomes.....'

Have you noticed how quickly the blankets and hot water bottles have made a comeback? As the last stubborn leaves drop, winter is knocking on the door. I must confess, I have a newfound appreciation for the humble hot water bottle. Until last week, the rectory boiler had been broken for three months! Clutching a hot water bottle became my daily survival strategy, so I'm exceptionally grateful for central heating!

While afternoons seem shorter, this transitional month gives us a wonderful excuse to slow down, put the kettle on, and look out for one another.

We cross the threshold into November by grounding ourselves in a dedicated season of remembrance. We begin by marking All Saints' Day, celebrating the heroes of our faith, quickly followed by the quiet comfort of All Souls' Day. This is a tender time where we light candles and hold the memories of our own missed loved ones close. For Christians, this season reflects our core belief that love is stronger than death, and that those we love are safely held in God's eternal care. It offers us the comforting hope that darkness never has the final word.

With those memories tucked away, many people kick off the first week with the spectacular colour for Bonfire Night. Gathering together on a crisp evening wrapped in oversized scarves, watching fireworks light up the Norfolk sky with a mug of hot cocoa, reminds us of the joy of community against the autumn chill.

That thread of community carries us directly into our national acts of commemoration for Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day. Our villages will come together at our local memorials and inside our historic churches to stand side-by-side in quiet reflection. Wearing our poppies is a powerful way to say "thank you" to the generations who sacrificed so much for our peace. This reflects the heart of the Christian faith, which calls us to be peacemakers.

As we tuck our gardens up for bed, the natural world reminds us that winter isn't dead time—it's resting time. It is the perfect season for community. Whether it's sharing a laugh at a village coffee morning, swapping soup recipes, or checking in on a neighbour to make sure their heating is coping (boiler dramas permitting!), we have a unique way of keeping each other warm in our villages.

So, whether you are bracing the chill, catching up with friends, or enjoying the peace, I hope this month brings you warmth and comfort.

Warmest blessings, *Vanessa*

Reverend Vanessa Layfield is the rector for the Wayland parishes 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:

3rd November 7.30pm
Book Club

4th November 8pm start
British Legion Quiz
Call to book

7th November 6.30pm
Great Hockham Fireworks Night

11th and 25th November
Bingo 7.45pm arrival for 8pm
£6 to play 18+

15th November 12-4pm
Sunday Roast 1, 2 or 3 courses
Please phone to make a reservation

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
Saturday: 12-8.30pm
Sunday: 12-3pm



Hockham Fuel Allotment 2026/27 (Fuel & Furze)

Each year we ask for applications for awards for the charity and pay out a small sum for those that need a bit of extra assistance. This year is no exception, so closing dates for written applications will be 31st December 2026, with a view to paying out by end January 2027.

We hope to be able to make things easier this year by introducing online payments, so please could applicants in addition, and in full confidentiality, send their bank details with their application, to:

Chris Garrod
Clerk to Hockham Fuel Allotment
Oaklands
Vicarage Rd
Gt Hockham
Norfolk
IP24 1PE

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.

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 Nov. 10th & 24th
10am -1pm
£20 per session. All materials supplied

Call melodie on 07531 875713
Email: melcookartist@icloud.com
Instagram @exploringdrawing
Facebook Melodie Cook Artist

Great Hockham Gardening Club

Wednesday 11th November

Julia Stafford-Allen

County Organiser for National Gardens Scheme

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

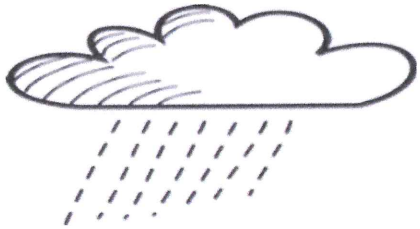
Secretary: Stacey Smith

secretaryghgc@gmail.com

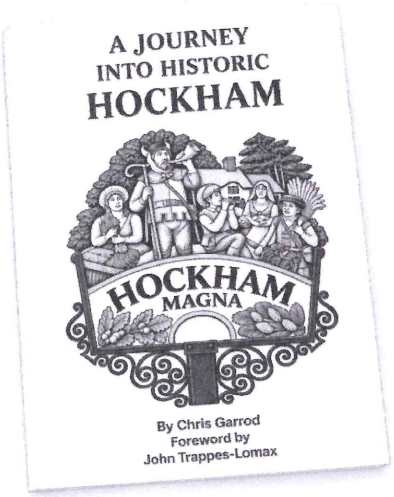
Website: greathockhamgardeningclub.org.uk

September Rainfall

September 2026		13.7 mm
September 2025		48.7 mm
Jan-Sept 2026		295.4 mm
Jan-Sept 2025		237.3 mm
Highest Sept since 1979	1997	118.8 mm
Lowest Sept since 1979	1995	11.6 mm



A JOURNEY INTO HISTORIC HOCKHAM



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£15

Only available from the Hockham Eagle or direct from Chris Garrod 07770710307

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.

The Forest

It's well documented that Thetford Forest is the largest area of pine woodland in lowland England, covering more than 19,000 hectares. However, it is a man-made forest, borne out of World War 1, when the country needed millions of pit props for the trenches in Western Europe and the country estates were economically very poor. So large quantities of estate land in the area around Thetford, were purchased by the government, to create the forest we know today.

In 1916 The then Prime Minister Asquith appointed a Forestry sub-committee of the Ministry of Reconstruction, *"to consider and report the best means of conserving and developing the woodland and forestry resources of the UK having regard to the experience gained in the war".*

In the early 1920s the work of the Forestry Commission began and in 1922 the first purchase was made at a small area near Swaffham. More purchases were made at Elveden Estate, Downham Hall Estate, Lynford Estate, Beechamwell and Methwold.

Hockham Estate succumbed in 1930 along with the sale of the estate by the Partridge family and 820 acres (820 hectares) were sold to the Forestry Commission.

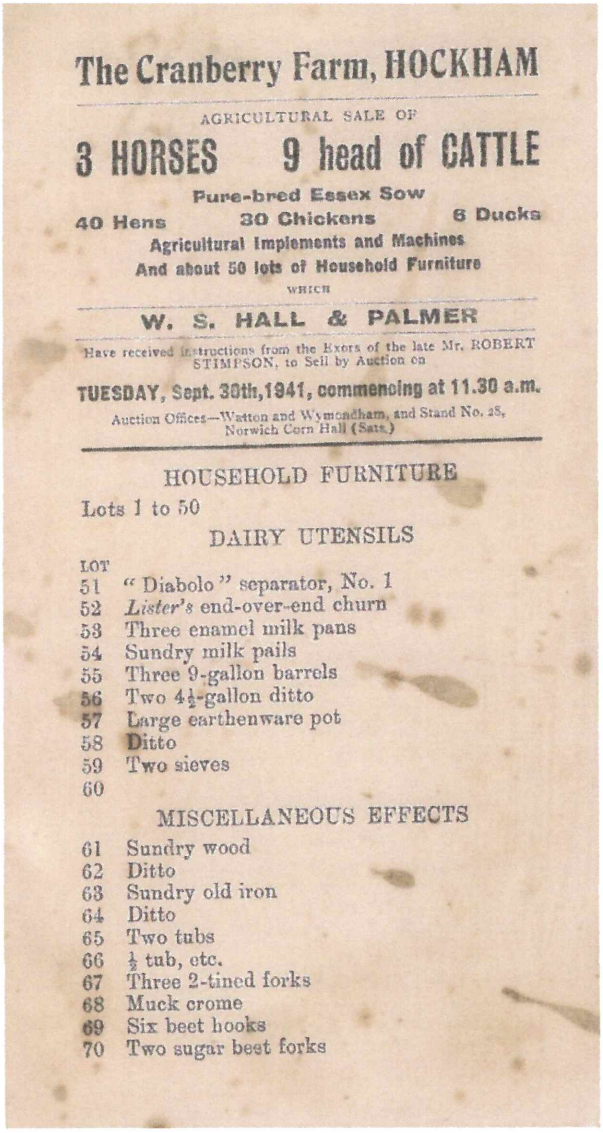
The land in question is some of the forest to the west and southwest of the village, plus Hills and Holes.

Land which had previously been used for farming, was now planted with a new crop, of mainly Scots and Corsican Pine plus oak, and many people from the village worked for the Commission, who worked out of various local beats. Hockham's teams being run from a plot in Wretham beside the A1075, who were also responsible for maintenance of some woodland within the training area.

Hockham in 1930 effectively lost considerable amounts of farmland once used by West Farm, Little Hockham Farm and Cranberry Farm.

Cranberry Farm was occupied for many years, though the land was considered very poor (sandy) and there was awful trouble with rabbits damaging crops. Parts of Cranberry were only demolished in the 1980/90s and for those that know where to look, there are fruit trees that still crop in the farm footprint's vicinity.

In 96 years, the landscape has changed significantly, and the crop of trees have been grown and harvested several times, and, in most cases, one would never know that things had ever been any different.



The Cranberry Farm, HOCKHAM

AGRICULTURAL SALE OF

3 HORSES 9 head of CATTLE

Pure-bred Essex Sow

40 Hens 30 Chickens 6 Ducks

Agricultural Implements and Machines

And about 50 lots of Household Furniture

WHICH

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Have received instructions from the Exors of the late Mr. ROBERT STIMPSON, to Sell by Auction on

TUESDAY, Sept. 30th, 1941, commencing at 11.30 a.m.

Auction Offices—Watton and Wymondham, and Stand No. 28, Norwich Corn Hall (Sats.)

HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE

Lots 1 to 50

DAIRY UTENSILS

LOT

51 "Diabolo" separator, No. 1
52 *Lister's* end-over-end churn
53 Three enamel milk pans
54 Sundry milk pails
55 Three 9-gallon barrels
56 Two 4½-gallon ditto
57 Large earthenware pot
58 Ditto
59 Two sieves
60

MISCELLANEOUS EFFECTS

61 Sundry wood
62 Ditto
63 Sundry old iron
64 Ditto
65 Two tubs
66 ½ tub, etc.
67 Three 2-tined forks
68 Muck crome
69 Six beet hooks
70 Two sugar beet forks



Cranberry Farm

Chris Garrod

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

November

Sat 7th	Soundbath	(New times)
Sat 7th	Toilets for Bonfire & Fireworks	
Tues 10th	Exploring Drawing	10am-1pm
Wed 11th	Gardening Club	PM
Sat 14th	First Aid Course	
Sun 15th	First Aid Course	
Sat 21st	Coffee, Cake, Chat	
Tues 24th	Exploring Drawing	10am-1pm
Sat 28th	Gardening Club Wreath Making	
Sun 29th	Private Party	

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.

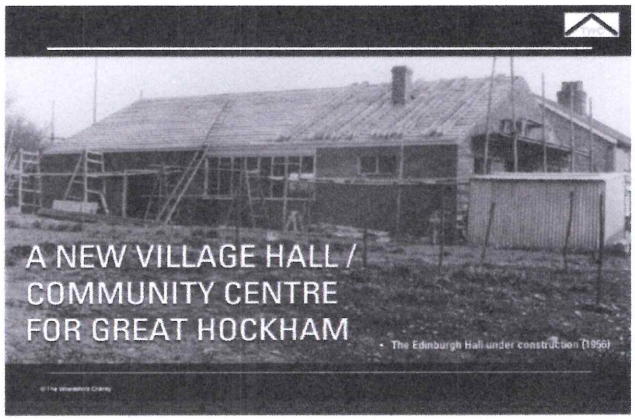
Mobile Library Service

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

Date of forthcoming visits (Thursdays):

5 Nov / 3 Dec



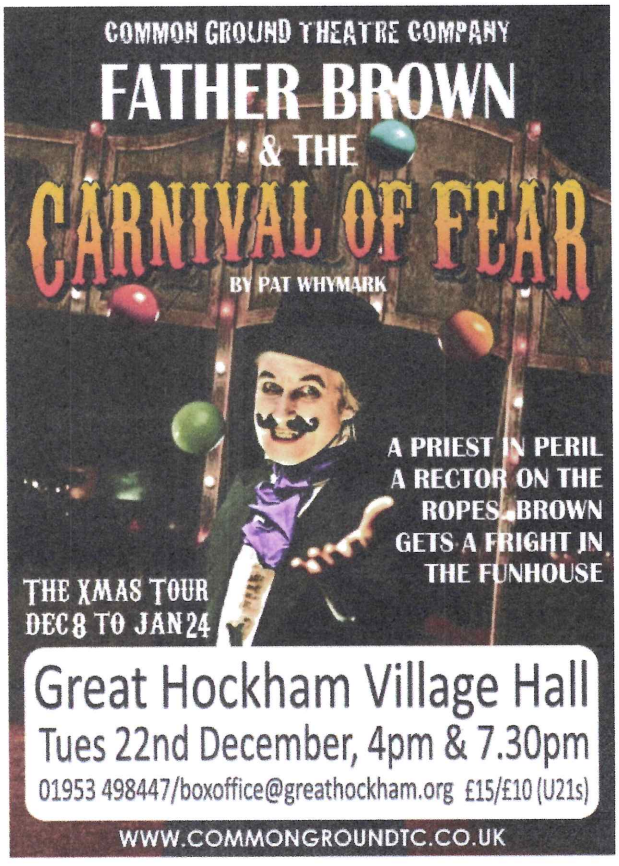


CONSULTATION FORMS AVAILABLE FROM THE EAGLE

Give us your thoughts and ideas on a New Village Hall / Community Centre for the village by filling in a Consultation Form, then please return it to The Eagle by mid-November.

For more information visit the village website, www.greathockham.org and select the NEW VILLAGE HALL button near the top of the screen.

The Woodsford Charity



School Birthdays



"Happy Birthday" to Theo, Cameron, Scarlett, Isabelle C, Leo, Willow O, Samuel and Charlotte.

Great Hockham Primary School and Nursery

All the children have been working very hard this term. There has been a lovely buzz of excitement round the school as we have enjoyed many enrichment experiences. Some of these have been lovely people returning to continue their fantastic provision, such as Mrs Garrod's amazing Outdoor Learning sessions and Mr Eves' ever-popular Multi-sports. We have also had an exciting new development – we have joined with the Music Company – Rocksteady. A bandleader comes in weekly to give rock band music lessons to children and there will be a concert for parents of children in the bands on the 9th December.

Continuing the music theme, we were delighted to invite Steve Bewes, our wonderful local drummer, to deliver a day of drumming lessons across the whole school. This was the last day of the October half term and all the children had a brilliant day.

We have held all our Maths Cafés for parents now – many parents came in to enjoy sharing their children's maths learning and see how it is taught in their child's class.

Lots of our older children have been working towards earning their ambassador badges. We have a variety of badges they can earn: science, eco, community and maths. The children who have these badges, or who are working towards them, have been running lots of wonderful activities, including litter picks, maths clubs, pop-up science clubs and delivering assemblies to share knowledge with the rest of the school. Most recently, Bow, Tom and Liam ran an assembly to remind the school about the importance of not dropping litter.

Hedgehogs Class (Years 5 and 6) were delighted to be invited to see the History of Hockham exhibition at the church. They were greeted by Chris Garrod, Emily Brownlow and Vince Thurkettle – just three of the talented and hard-working people who put together this wonderful event. The children all greatly enjoyed the experience and were full of wonder at the history of the village.

Hedgehogs Class are off to Cambridge in November to visit the museums of archaeology and zoology to enrich their science learning on Evolution and Adaptation.

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

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.

Poppy Appeal 2026

I will be at the Bonfire & Fireworks display on the playing field for those that the collectors have not seen. Also Poppies are available at the Pub or at Tanglemead, Shropham Road.

Miles Howard



The Promise, Damon Galgut

The group met on Tuesday 6 October at The Eagle to discuss this 2021 Booker Prize winning book. The Promise is an expansive family novel that explores the interconnected relationships between members of one white, South African family through the sequential lens of multiple funerals. Set over three decades, this novel makes a strong, unambiguous commentary on the history of South Africa and of humanity itself.

The group's views were divided on the author's highly original style, and the sometimes challenging content, but most agreed that it succeeded in provoking thought and discussion about the unfulfilled promise made to the people of South Africa. However, the majority of readers said the writing did not encourage them to engage sufficiently with the protagonists to care about their fate. Scores were varied, ranging from 4.5 to 9, with an average of 6.5. Pam won the raffle.

The next book is Lucky Bunny, by Jill Dawson and it will be discussed at our next meeting on Tuesday 3 November.

Lisa Hawkins

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CHRISTMAS CARD WORKSHOP

'NATURES CHRISTMAS'

On : Thursday 12th NOVEMBER

Also : Saturday 14th NOVEMBER

Time : 10-1pm (Please arrive 15mins early to get set up)

Venue : Overton House, Harling Rd, Great Hockham, IP24 1NT

(Opposite playing fields and on Left of Village Hall – plenty of parking opposite)

Groups of 7 max

Seasonal Refreshments included.

Cost: £25 – All equipment included

NB: I have plenty of designs... so we will be busy!!

If interested : Please state your preference date/day

Email me at: jane.dalton@btinternet.com

- with your - Name, mobile number and email

And I will get back to you asap.





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Bereavement Café at Attleborough Library

Attleborough Library, in partnership with Rosedale Funeral Home, hosts a monthly Bereavement Café on the **third Wednesday of each month, from 10.30am to 11.30am**.

Losing someone close to us can be a difficult and lonely experience. Our Bereavement Café offers a friendly, welcoming space where people can meet others who understand, share a conversation or simply enjoy a cuppa in a relaxed and informal setting.

There is no pressure to talk about your loss, and you are welcome to come along, whether your bereavement is recent or some time ago. The café is a drop-in session, so there is no need to book.

If you or someone you know would appreciate some friendly company and a little support, you are very welcome to join us.

Where: Attleborough Library
When: Third Wednesday of each month, 10.30am–11.30am
Cost: Free – everyone is welcome.

FREE

OAK DESK - IN GOOD CONDITION



Width 140cms / Depth 68cms / Height 78cms
Collect from Shropham Road
Recipient must be prepared to carry down from office over garage
Tel/Text: 07340 902402

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.

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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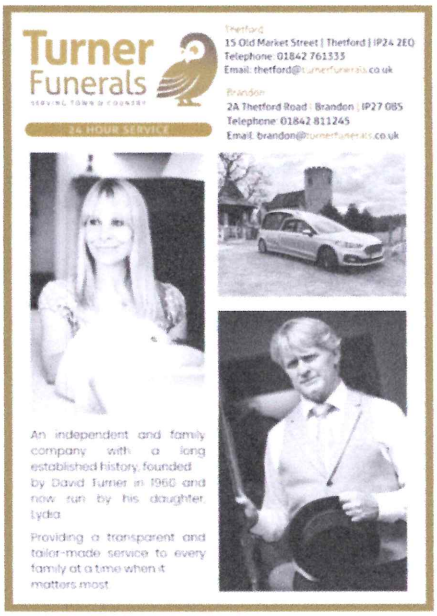
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