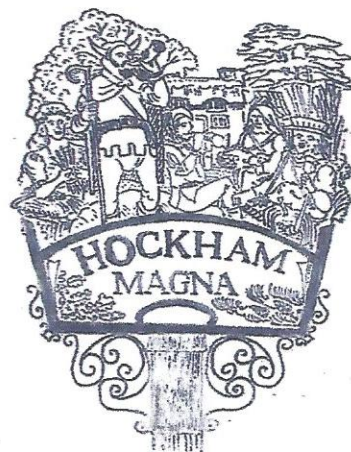


IN-TOUCH

Great Hockham News Sheet

Issue No 566
November 2025



Editorial

It's one of my favourite times of year, with autumn in full swing, the forest paths are full of leaves, the gold, brown and russet shades are a joy to behold, that damp smell in the air, it really is a special time.

Gone are the longer days of summer and the shorter days means both us and wildlife are busy preparing for winter, fattening up as hedgehogs do or storing food in caches. We all prepare in one way or another, preserving food or veg grown earlier this year like pickling onions or freezing leeks as we hunker down for another winter to come.

**Coffee
Cake
Chat**



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

15 November, Village Hall, 10.30 am

**Great Hockham
Bonfire & Fireworks Event
8th November**

**Bonfire 530pm
Fireworks 630pm**

**BBQ available from 5pm
CASH ONLY EVENT**

Playing field
Hargham road
Ip24 1nt

**Free event, donations welcome towards
next years event.**



There's lots going on in the village during November and December including Fireworks, Common Ground Plays, Xmas Workshops and Advent windows. See inside for details of these events and more above and inside. Also details of the Local Plan Meeting on 10 November inside.

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
November 2025

Sunday 2nd November

10.30am United Holy Communion & All Souls
Holy Trinity, Great Hockham

Sunday 9th November

Rev Adrian Bell
10.30am Service of Remembrance
St Peter & St Paul, Griston

Tuesday 11th November

10.45am Service of Remembrance
Holy Trinity, Great Hockham
and
Holy Cross, Caston

Sunday 16th November Second before Advent

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

Sunday 23rd November Next before Advent

10.30am United Holy Communion
St Martin's, Thompson

Sunday 30th November. Advent Sunday

10.30am United Holy Communion
St Margaret's, Breckles

6.30pm Advent Service -Darkness to Light
St Margaret's, Breckles



***'Remember, remember, the
fifth of November!'***

I have fond memories from my childhood of Guy Fawkes Day. Each year my brothers and I would make straw effigies, known as Guy, before carrying them around our neighbourhood in a wheelbarrow whilst shouting

"penny for the guy", in the hope that we'd earn enough to buy sparklers. The annual firework display was held on the Hadleigh Salvation Army Farm Colony in Essex, where we enjoyed the sight of a large, crackling bonfire, and a colourful display of noisy fireworks which would be a

source of fear to some children. Treats like roasted chestnuts, marshmallows on sticks, and toffee apples were also a popular part of the celebrations.

These days, Bonfire Night - or Guy Fawkes Day - is mostly about getting together with friends and family around a big bonfire to watch fireworks. But the roots of this centuries-old tradition are much more than an evening of sparks and illumination, they are a story of rebellion, religion and riot. Historically, it commemorates the failure of the Gunpowder Plot of 1605, during which a group of Catholic conspirators attempted to blow up the Houses of Parliament. Led by a man called Robert Catesby, the group of 13 conspirators united in their anger at King James I for failing to support greater religious tolerance to Catholics, whose freedoms had been oppressed by Protestants. But the conspirators' plot was never to come to fruition. An anonymous letter informed the Parliament of the group's radical plan, resulting in guards being placed on alert. On the day of the plot, Parliament guards discovered Guy Fawkes with a rather incriminating fuse on his person! All co-conspirators were either killed resisting capture, or tried and executed. This included Guy Fawkes.

Some say that Bonfire Night's spiritual significance stems from two main sources: the ancient fire rituals with meanings of purification and protection, and its modern interpretation as a celebration of freedom and resistance against tyranny and injustice with a desire for liberty and democracy. The Church of England highlights the need to respond to human need by loving service, and transforming the unjust structures in society. But whilst there is a deep need for those things, I also pray that we don't become like the embers of fire which float outside of our bonfire's heat and lose their light. For when God fills us with spiritual fire, we stay in the heat of God's presence, thus enabling everlasting light to draw others to the love of Christ. *Vanessa*

Reverend Vanessa 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:

1st November

Breakfast Club from 9am
(Please call to book)

4th November

Book Club 7.30pm

5th November

Royal British Legion Quiz 8pm
(Please call to book a table)

8th November

Fireworks Night on the Playing Field

12th November

Bingo 7.45pm for 8pm start 18+

16th November

Sunday Roast 12-4pm (Bookings only)

26th November

Bingo 7.45pm for 8pm start 18+

6th December

Breakfast Club from 9am
(Please call to book)

Join us for Cribbage every Wednesday lunchtime
12.30-3pm except for the last week of the month
when we meet for Whist 1-3pm. Both are £1 to
play each week and have small cash prizes
available.

Fancy joining one of our clubs?
We hold clubs/teams throughout the week
including Crib, 5 Darts Teams, 4 Pool Teams,
Whist and Book Club

Opening Hours

Monday – Thursday 12-2.30pm/6-11pm

Friday – Saturday 12-11pm

Sunday 12-10.30pm

Food Available

Monday: 5-8pm Takeaway Night
(Eat in available)

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

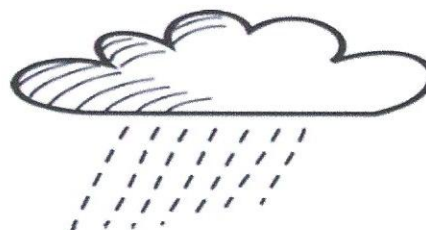
Date of forthcoming visits (Thursdays):

6 Nov / 4 Dec / 29 Jan / 26 Feb / 26 March



September Rainfall

September 2025	48.7 mm
September 2024	61.5 mm
Jan-Sept 2025	237.3 mm
Jan-Sept 2024	578.1 mm
Highest Sept since 1979	1997 118.8 mm
Lowest Sept since 1979	1995 11.6 mm





Great Hockham Gardening Club



Wednesday 12th November

Bob Coutts

Pruning and tools for the job

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

Local Plan

The Local Plan is now out for discussion and a consultation will begin soon.

The Parish Council will host a meeting at 7.30pm on Monday 10th November to explain what they have been told so far. Only one piece of land is currently in the plan opposite Breakwell Close.

All welcome.

Chris Garrod

Hazardous Waste Days

Household Hazardous Waste Days at Thetford Recycling Centre are on Friday 7 November and Saturday 8 November from 8am to 4pm. Booking will be available online and by phone from 9am on Thursday 30 October.

GREAT HOCKHAM GARDENING CLUB

CHRISTMAS WREATH MAKING WORKSHOP

with Jane Dalton

Saturday, 29th November

10am-12.30pm at Great Hockham Village Hall

£15 for members, £25 for non members



We supply:

The "how to" demonstration, wreath ring, wire, ribbon, dried fruits, etc & Christmas refreshments.

You will need to bring:

Foliage, scissors, sealers, cones, berries, small twigs, & Christmas cheer!

For more information and to book your place:

Contact: karenemiller63@gmail.com

Hockham Fuel Allotment (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 2025, with a view to paying out by end January 2026.

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

Village Hall Bookings November 2025

Regular Bookings

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

November 2025

Sat 1 st	Common Ground Play	
Sat 8 th	Bonfire & Fireworks	
Mon 10 th	Local Plan Meeting	7.30pm
Tues 11 th	Exploring Drawing	10am-1pm
Wed 12 th	Gardening Club	PM
Sat 15 th	Coffee Cake & Chat	AM
Mon 24 th	Parish Council	7.30pm
Tues 25 th	Exploring Drawing	10am-1pm
Sat 29 th	Gardening Club	10am-12.30

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.

Village Hall Hire Fees

As from 1st Jan 2026, the hiring fees for the village hall will increase. Fees have not increased for many years though costs have, particularly electricity. There is a degree of misalignment too and all regular hirers will receive a separate notice advising them of their own situations.

The broad approach will be as follows:

Business Rates weekdays Excluding Friday eve
£10/hr

Business Rates Friday eve, Sat & Sun £12/hr

Community hire Weekdays Excluding Friday eve
£8 per hour

Community hire Friday eve, Sat & Sun £10 per
hour

We have also changed our bank from Lloyds to a Barclays Account and would prefer any hirers to use this account referencing their names, also from 1st Jan 2026.

Village Hall Committee

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

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. 11th & 25th
10am -1pm
£18 per session. All materials supplied

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

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.

Remembrance

As our Hockham war memorials show, we lost a number of Hockham men in WW1 and in fact a closer look shows that the memorial tablet that was originally in the Methodist Chapel has one extra name for 1914-1919 (people still died in 1919 from their injuries), the difference being a Mr Crawford who worshipped in Hockham but came from Stow Bedon, and he is also on their war memorial.

The 1939-1945 conflict had less Hockham people lost, 5 and just the main church war memorial lists those that did not return.

Cynthia Budd has researched and written about all of the fallen and many of those that returned from WW1. Copies of her work are in the church.

Also in the church is a lovely, illuminated scroll that lists all those from Hockham in the WW1 conflict, those in red marking the fallen. This was made and illustrated by Helen Downes one of the schoolteachers. One of my relatives is on that scroll.

The parishioners wanted to mark those that gave the ultimate sacrifice and began discussions on a war memorial, in fact the discussions went on for so long that the Methodists had their plaque made and unveiled first.

Reverend Spurgeon wanted the memorial at the church, whereas there was strong feeling that it should be on the village green. Eventually the Reverend won the day and along with a graveyard extension, the war memorial cross we stay silent at, at 11am on 11/11 was made from Portland stone and put in its place near the church gate in 1923.

The war memorial is listed grade 2 and the Hockham Parish Council are responsible for its upkeep. It's had to have a repair to a cracked arm of the cross and a good clean or two but is a permanent memorial and reminder of how conflict can affect so many families.

One story from WW1 is that in Autumn 1917 it was realised that stocks of cordite were dangerously low and imported raw materials were being targeted by German U boats.

Schoolchildren, including those from Hockham, were asked to collect acorns and conkers, which could be fermented to make acetone, a vital ingredient in cordite manufacture. Hockham had an abundance of acorns and a supply of these was collected and sold for 7 shillings and 6 pence for a hundredweight, to help the war effort. These went to Holton Heath in Dorset by train, where the factory was built for cordite manufacture.



The first intake of men ready to sign up for WW1 standing outside Home Farm Barn in September 1914

Chris Garrod

Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal 2025

Once again this year I will have poppies available at Tanglemead, Shropham Road.

I will also be at the Bonfire Night.

Remembrance Sunday 2025

This year the Royal British Legion Remembrance Service will be on the 9th November at St Peter & St Paul's Church, Shropham. The service will start at 10.45 am.

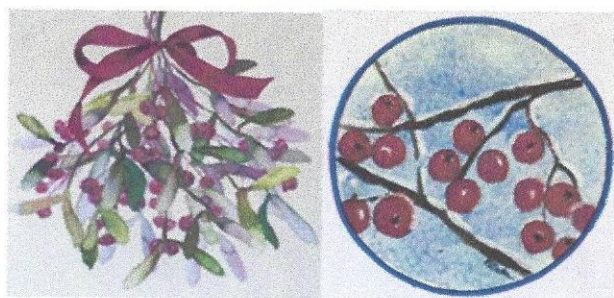
Miles Howard

Please use the village bottle bank





**CHRISTMAS CARD
WORKSHOP**
*'I Wish You a 'Berry'
Christmas!'*



On: **Thursday 20th NOVEMBER**

Also: **Saturday 22nd NOVEMBER**

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

Venue: **Overton House, Harling Rd,
Gt 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.

Thank You, and 'Berry' Christmas!

Jane Dalton

Great Ellingham & District Flower Club

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 25th

Demonstration by..

JULIA KNIGHTS

'XMAS&!'



**ROCKLANDS VILLAGE HALL
NR17 1TR**

Doors Open 12.30pm

Starts 1pm with Refreshments

Guests £10 Members FREE

Wonderful Raffle

For Tickets call our Treasurer

Christine Bell 07939226311

Email: cebell1953@gmail.com

Great Ellingham & District Flower Club



TUESDAY 2nd DECEMBER

Christmas Wreath Workshop

Booking Required £20pp

Design by Rachael Borenkova

ROCKLANDS VILLAGE HALL NR17 1TR

TIME: 10am till 2pm

Bring Greenery and Decorations

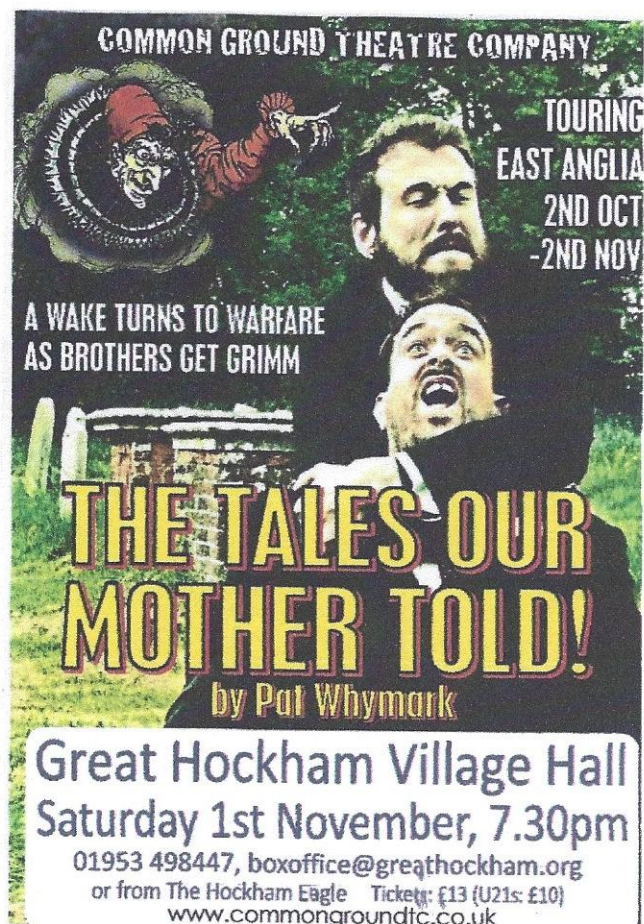
Scissors & Bag

Call our Treasurer : Christine Bell

01953 454750 or 07939226311

Email: cebell1953@gmail.com

Fbk: [tellinghamanddistrictflowerclub](https://www.facebook.com/tellinghamanddistrictflowerclub)



Sherlock Holmes Smells Evil

Great Hockham Village Hall (IP24 1NT)

Tuesday 30th December, 7.30pm

£14/£10 (U21s)

01953 498447

boxoffice@greathockham.org

Tickets on sale from 2nd November
Or at the Hockham Eagle directly
after the 1st November Performance

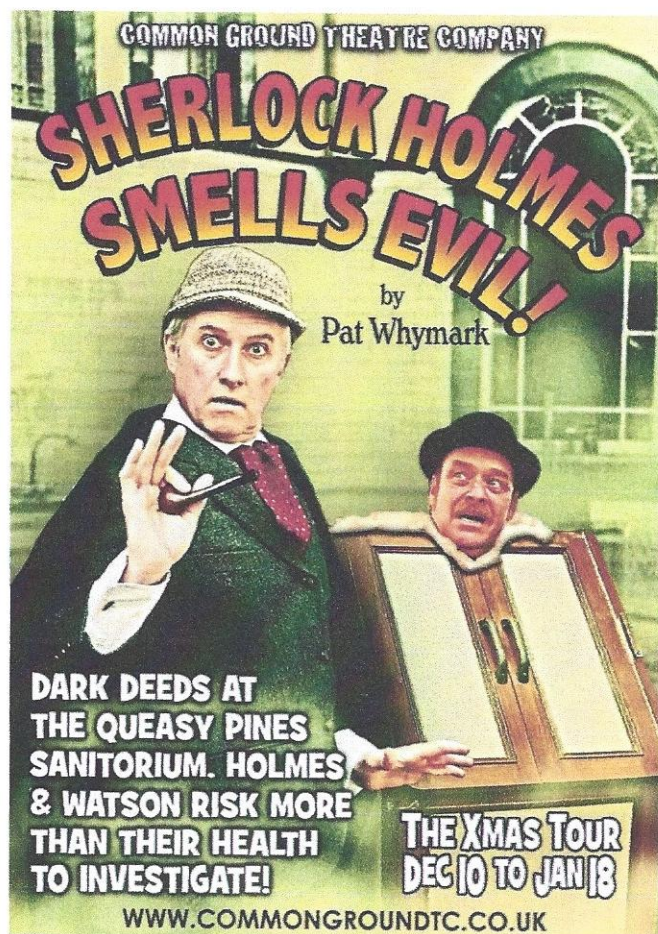
**DARK DEEDS AT THE
QUEASY PINES SANITORIUM.
HOLMES & WATSON RISK MORE
THAN THEIR HEALTH TO INVESTIGATE!**

Holmes has booked Watson a two week stay at a health spa, high in the Sproughton Mountains, near Ipswich. Though Watson insists he doesn't require steam baths and carrot soup, Holmes persuades him to "take the cure" and return to his duties well rested and refreshed.

But something is amiss at Queasy Pines Sanatorium. Having no contact with the outside world except phone, post, telegram and carrier pigeon, Watson must wait for Holmes' visit to tell him of the mysterious disappearances at Queasy Pines and its strange one legged Superintendent, Professor Eintrouser.

Created by the team well known for their many Christmas shows both for Common Ground & Eastern Angles, don't miss this classic comedy mystery peppered with Common Ground's trademark sparkling wit, ingenious staging and hilarious songs.

Running time 2 hours including 20 minute interval. Suitable for ages 8+.



GRAND SECONDHAND BOOK SALE

22nd & 23rd November 10am-2.30pm each

day – Thompson Community Hall

The last in our series for 2025 is a special two-day event. We will be marking the retirement of the founders of the sales, Caroline and Keith with this two-day special. We wish them both well for the future and thank them for such a brilliant idea.

We are also mindful that not everyone can get to the sales on a Saturday and that the nights are drawing in, so that our normal 4pm closing time is a bit late for some. We shall open as usual at 10am but close earlier at 2.30pm. You will still be able to enjoy our delicious cheese scones, home made cakes and lunch. As a special offer all book prices will be even cheaper than usual so come and bag a bargain or two.

2026. We already have plans in hand for the sales in 2026. The committee made up of the three charities of Thompson Community Hall, Griston Church and Thompson Church groups are continuing to run the sales. We have purchased a large shed for book storage on site at the hall and it is now equipped with equipment and power ready to begin sorting books. We take donations of books at the hall on Tuesdays 10-12. Wednesdays 10-12 or Thursdays in term time only 3-4.30. Otherwise contact us to arrange.

Dates for the diary for 2026 sales are: 14th March , 18th July and 21st November .

Book sale contact is
booksale@thompsoncommunityhall.co.uk or
phone [01953 488 508](tel:01953488508) and leave a message.

Bronwen Tyler

Dear Reader

If you know of somebody who has recently moved to the village who may like to receive a paper copy of In-Touch, please ask them to email us or contact any committee member (details on last advert page).

Thank you.



The Book Club meeting took place on Tuesday 7th October at The Eagle, the book being discussed was *My Family and Other Animals* by Gerald Durrell.

Another well know book originally written in 1956 and later made into a ten-part television series in 1987, this is a heartwarming and humorous autobiographical novel about Gerald Durrell's privileged childhood on the Greek island of Corfu. A lighthearted and funny story with vivid descriptions of nature, wildlife and Gerald's rather eccentric family.

Everyone enjoyed reading the book and it scored 7 out of 10.

The raffle prize this month was won by Leonie.

Our book for November is *The Travelling Cat Chronicles* by Hiro Arikawa.

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

Leonie Jones

Waddingham
Developments Ltd

Property Development
Property Maintenance
Landscaping/Gardening
and more

Jonathan Waddingham
07532 754306
waddinghamdevelopmentsltd@gmail.com

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 Primary School and
Nursery**

OPEN MORNING

**Come and visit us on
Wednesday 5th November
at 10am and find out all
about our wonderful
school. You will have the
chance to see the children
learning and have all of
your questions answered.**

**If you are interested in a
place at our school and
want to attend please
email the school office:**

office@hockham.set.education

**We hope to see you
there!**

School Birthdays



"Happy Birthday" to Leo, Cammie, Theo,
Scarlett, Isabelle C and Charlotte.

Great Hockham Advent Calendar

For the past couple of years the people of Great Hockham have collaborated in the month of December to create an advent calendar of 24 decorated windows!

This year we want it to be bigger and brighter than ever before so we are asking for 24 households/buildings to volunteer to create an illuminated, dazzlingly festive window display to become part of this growing tradition for the Great Hockham Advent Calendar 2025!

How it works -

- Contact us on [07900676389](tel:07900676389) or through our Facebook page if you would like to take part (obviously we have a limited number of spaces available).
- We will issue you with a window number.
- Design and create a window display ready for the day before your window number.
- Take a photo of your window lit up the night before your allotted number.
- Post your photo to our Great Hockham Advent Calendar Facebook page (or send to us if you are not a Facebook user)

In the true spirit of Christmas we would like to offer the opportunity for admirers of our festive calendar to donate towards the upkeep of our beautiful village church and will be providing a QR code for anyone who wishes to do so.

Emily Brownlow



Dotty Dogs Grooming Salon

Qualified & Insured Dog Groomer

Canine 1st Aid Trained

Becky

Watton Rd, Larling

07917 570813

NR16 2RA

01953 498223

dottydogslarling@outlook.com

Clematis (Part 3)

The dreaded 'wilt' disease, resistant varieties and a great group I forgot to mention in last month's part 2

The showy hybrids I mentioned in part 2 are wonderful to see in full cry but they have an Achilles' heel: a deadly disease called 'wilt'. As I mentioned in my part 1 piece, it can come from seemingly nowhere to destroy an otherwise large, healthy, well-established plant overnight. The causative organism - probably a fungus, but even now no-one is quite sure - attacks the large-flowered hybrids, which have a particular weakness to it, most likely from one of their far eastern ancestors. There is no cure and all preventive measures, such as they are, have patchy results at best.

But there is some hope: The *viticella* hybrids are largely immune and there are numerous to choose from. Over the past two centuries, the European *viticella* species was crossed and re-crossed repeatedly with imports and others and, although the flowers are markedly smaller than the large-flowered hybrids, they cover all the colours one might expect in the genus, and are far more numerous. There's even the odd double (*purpurea plena elegans* and 'Mary Rose' are the two that are normally mentioned). That last one is particularly interesting. Some authorities think it was one mentioned by herbalists in the time of Elizabeth I but was lost for centuries, before being rediscovered only a few years ago and given its current name.

The members of the group are usually listed as: Clematis *viticella*, followed by the individual cultivar name (e.g. 'Etoile Violette', 'Madame Julia Correvon', 'Alba Luxurians', 'Minuet' etc.) and any internet search will readily find them for you.

'Julia Correvon' is one of my all-time favourites and has a history similar, though shorter, than 'Mary Rose'. It was hybridised by a French grower in the late 1800s but it then disappeared completely before a slide of what turned out to be a sole survivor was recognised in the late 1950s on a presentation about National Trust Gardens. It is a showy, good-natured and thoroughly well-behaved clematis that has deservedly been brought back into general circulation.

I've not room to list all the different types that remain, but there are more than a few: The herbaceous clematis are good in a small garden where space is

limited or you don't want a climber - *heracleifolia* 'Wyvale' is a good one, which is slightly scented and can flower from June to September. Its flowers resemble clumps of hyacinth florets, the appearance of which can thoroughly perplex most gardeners coming across it for the first time.

The *alpinas* and *macropetalas* that I mentioned earlier are particularly good at scrambling through shrubs. So is the evergreen European, *cirrrosa balearica*, with its charming, small, bell-shaped flowers, flecked with reddish spots on the inside. Flowering from December to March, it goes dormant in late summer, losing most of its leaves and foxing many a gardener (and more than the odd nurseryman) into thinking it is dead or dying, to suddenly pick up, like Lazarus, around October and sail into flowering at the turn of the year as though nothing had happened.

Finally, to the Chinese evergreen, leathery strap-leaved species: *armandii*. It has a reputation for being 'difficult', so much so that it is especially cherished by growers and nurserymen, who have given it the dearest price tag, accordingly.

I'm devoting a bit more space to it here as, unlike in many other parts of the UK - including ones where I've tried to grow it - it seems to really like us in Great Hockham. I've a 3-year old plant which this March completely covered one side of the front doorway in dazzling drifts of white blossom. In case you think I'm blowing my own trumpet, it's not the only one I've seen in the village. There are three that are just as showy, if not more, though others are no doubt tucked away in back and side gardens that we can't see.

If you do give it a go, please get a named variety from a reputable grower or supplier. 'Snowdrift' and 'Apple Blossom' are the two that are normally recommended but, in line with its awkward reputation, it is tricky to get to grow from cuttings (the only way to keep any hybrid of this sort true to its name). For this reason, there are those out there that sell plants that have been more easily grown from seed, but this usually results in some very miserable, undersized flowers. (Incidentally, named hybrids of Wisteria often suffer the same fate.)

'They be nothing but runts, all', a grizzled grower once growled to me. And having seen some that have been raised in this way, I confess I had to agree with him.

Tom Bennett

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HOCKHAM PARISH COUNCIL ON MONDAY 13TH OCTOBER 2025 IN HOCKHAM VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30PM

Attending, Cllrs, Lambert, Loft, Thomas, Leech and Lloyd, plus 11 members of the public.

- 1) **Apologies for absence.** District Cllr Cowen, Cllrs Bennett and Wiltshire
- 2) **Requests for dispensation;** none
- 3) **Declaration of interests;** Cllr Lambert as Landlord and owner of the Eagle and trustee of the Woodsford Charity, Cllr Loft as an allotment holder and Cllr Leech as a farmer at Little Hockham
- 4) **Minutes of the last meeting;** These had been circulated and were taken as read. Unanimously approved.
- 5) **Progress Report.**
 - a) Info board; In progress
 - b) NCC Highways. The drainage survey would be conducted. The highways engineer hoped to be present. Vicarage Rd access was being considered. The verge at Little Hockham Lane was being cut. Some work had been done on the trod but not enough. Road closure signage had been sourced for the council.
- 6) **Public Participation.** The meeting was adjourned for a while to take questions. Topics included indiscriminate and dangerous parking near junctions and plate glass in the bottle bank. The police would be contacted again regards the parking issues.
- 7) **The clerk read the district councillors report,** which included information on local authority reorganisation, devolution, the local plan and enforcement at Brookside Farm.
- 8) **Highways and Road Safety;** The damaged crossroads warning sign on the A1075 had been reported.
- 9) **Planning:** The parish council had responded along with other local councils on the enforcement notice at Brookside Farm. A new consultation was likely. There was a lively discussion on the land beyond Breakwell Close and the outline permission sought for 12 houses. It was felt that this was outside the settlement boundary and the local plan 5% ceiling of properties outside had already been breached. There were significant highways issues due to the closeness to the school. The parish council noted that their suggestions for moving the access road had been completely ignored by the potential developer, which was very disappointing.

The draft local plan had been discussed following the potential for 80 properties to the west of the school. Several conditions had been imposed including provision of a shop and utility capacity investigations. A public meeting would be convened during the consultation period, likely in November.
- 10) **Finance;** Payments were approved for the clerk's salary of £193. A big thank you to the village sign people was given and their invoice had been promptly settled. N Power had now invoiced all payments since February, and the amounts were low. The clerk congratulated the councillors for changing to LED lamps and saving the village large sums of money. There was £32,840.81 in the bank.

It was noted that the Woodsford Charity had invested most of close to £400,000 awaiting movement on land purchase for a new sports and community build. It was agreed to vote on keeping the precept at a similar rate as this financial year for 26/27 at the meeting on the 14th Nov.

- 11) **Allotments:** The clerk advised that all allotment rents at Harling Rd had been paid. More land was likely required when available.
- 12) **Footpaths and Rights of Way;** No issues
- 13) **Playing Field,** Councillor Lloyd said the fireworks and bonfire would be on Sat 8th November. Help would be needed. There was £16053. in the bank plus a float of £600 awaiting fireworks
- 14) **Forest Edge Court.** Konnect bus were being taken over by another concern and discussion on a new stop could not be taken up until January,
- 15) **3-year Plan.** The laptop was being sourced and the container being looked into.
- 16) **Poppy Appeal;** £250 was pledged for the appeal under s107 monies. Wreaths had been given by the British Legion and would be placed on 9th November at Shropham Church and 11am on 11/11 at Hockham Church.
- 17) **Councillor Update:** Congratulations were sent to a group of darts players at the Eagle who had raised £2334.71 for the Macmillan Charity.
- 18) **Correspondence:** The clerk advised that in order to comply with Assertion 10-Digital and Data Compliance, that email addresses would need to be .gov ones.
- 19) **The next full council meeting** would be Monday 24th November 2026 at 7.30pm. A Local Plan meeting would be convened before this, date to be arranged.

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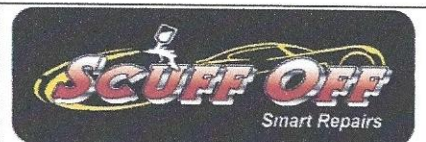
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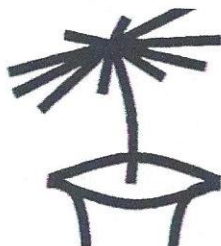
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