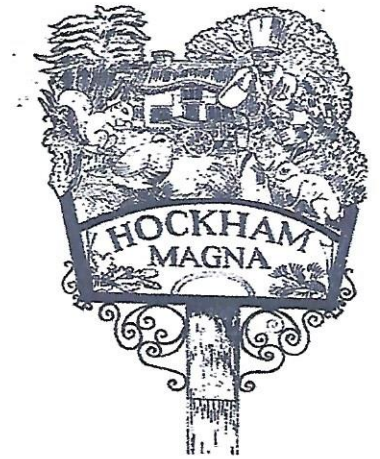
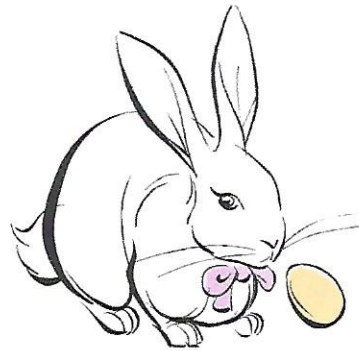


# IN-TOUCH

## Great Hockham News Sheet

Issue No 546  
March 2024



### Editorial

In early February we were shocked and saddened to learn of the death of Jo Wyatt, a long term resident of Hockham and staunch and generous supporter of so many village activities over the years. Our sincere condolences go to all her family at this sad time. It was a joy to know her.

Easter comes in March this year, but not until the 31st which is Easter Sunday and the day we change the clocks to Summertime. March 21st is the day of the vernal equinox, officially the first day of Spring, which is good news for gardeners. As the days get longer and warmer and weather permitting, they can get out there, mow the lawn, sow the cabbages, plant the onions and potatoes, plan the flower garden, prune the hybrid teas and floribundas, all with the Great Hockham Flower Show in the Summer in mind ..... no doubt.

**WE WISH ALL OUR READERS A VERY HAPPY EASTER!**



*This month...*  
Ex-serviceman  
Jim McKewan from  
the Royal British Legion  
will talk about his  
experiences in the forces,  
and how the funds from  
the poppy appeals are used



**Coffee  
Cake  
Chat**

Friendly Faces  
Yummy Bakes

16 March  
Village Hall  
10.30 am

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

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



### Christine Woodsford

Sadly, Christine Woodsford passed away at the end of January after 27 years in Hockham. She wanted no funeral, but there will be a celebration later in the year, to mark her life and contribution to the community. More later in the year.

Chris Garrod

### Shropham Road Allotments

Please note for those concerned, that the Shropham Rd allotment rents are due in April 24.

Payments to the clerk Chris Garrod please. Fees still as of 2023/24.

Parish Clerk

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

**Worship in March 2024**

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March Third Sunday in Lent**

10.30 a.m. United Holy Communion  
St. Martin's, Thompson

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March Fourth Sunday in Lent**

Mothering Sunday  
10.30 a.m. United Holy Communion  
St Margaret's, Breckles

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March Fifth Sunday in Lent**

10.30 a.m. United Holy Communion  
Holy Cross, Caston

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March Palm Sunday**

10.30 a.m. United Holy Communion  
Holy Trinity, Gt Hockham

**HOLY WEEK**

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> & Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup>  
March**

6.00 pm Compline  
Holy Trinity, Gt Hockham

**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March**

6.00 pm Maundy Thursday Service  
Holy Trinity, Gt Hockham

**Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March**

**Procession of the Cross**

11.00 am St. Martin's, Thompson  
11.30 am St. Peter and St. Paul, Griston  
12.00 noon Holy Cross, Caston  
2.00 pm St Botolph, Stow Bedon  
2.30 pm St Margaret's, Breckles  
3.00 pm Holy Trinity, Gt Hockham

**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March EASTER DAY**

10.30 a.m. United Holy Communion  
St. Peter and St. Paul, Griston

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April**

10.30 a.m. United Holy Communion  
St Botolph, Stow Bedon

**Looking forward to Easter**

As former Rector of Fakenham I had the joy of visiting the many factories in Fakenham. The highlight of my visits was to the Kinnerton's chocolate factory. Every year millions of Easter eggs are made at the factory and distributed all over the world bringing joy to so many children. Marian and I always came away from our visits with baskets full of chocolate.

In March no doubt all the supermarkets will be urging us to purchase Easter eggs and why not? **The Easter egg tells the story of Easter.** The egg whether it is one of the 4 beautiful Faberge Easter eggs in the Royal collection, or a Kinnerton's Easter egg, tells quite simply the story of Easter. Seeing Easter eggs made in their moulds and then carefully welded together to make a symbolic Easter day tomb which we break open and nothing is there, was a great joy. The smell of the chocolate was amazing.

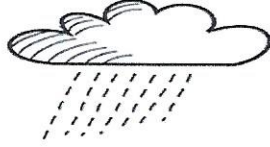
The Easter story which I will share with **Caston School at their Easter service on March 27<sup>th</sup>** and on **Maundy Thursday at 6pm at Great Hockham Parish Church** and then finally at **10.30am on Easter Day at Griston Parish Church** is a story to lift all our thoughts at this difficult and sad time in the world. The story is about sadness turned into joy and I hope that when you give your children or grandchildren an Easter egg that you tell them that the Easter egg is symbol of the Resurrection, which we celebrate on Easter Day with Easter hymns, readings and Spring flowers. At **Griston Parish Church** I shall bless and distribute small Easter eggs for the whole congregation and the service will be for all ages. Do come.

No doubt more Easter information next month. If you would like Easter home communion would you let me know?

Revd Adrian Bell.  
01760 627039

## January Rainfall

January 2024		60.1 mm
January 2023		57.5 mm
Highest Jan since 1979	1988	113.5 mm
Lowest Jan since 1979	1997	8.5 mm



## Village Hall Bookings March 2024

### Regular Bookings

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

### March 2024

Sat 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Sound Bath	3pm
Wed 6 <sup>th</sup>	Gardening Club	PM
Tues 12 <sup>th</sup>	Exploring Drawing	10am-1pm
Sat 16 <sup>th</sup>	Coffee, Cake & Chat	AM
Mon 18 <sup>th</sup>	Parish Council	7.30pm
	Followed by Playing Field Committee	
Tues 26 <sup>th</sup>	Exploring Drawing	10am-1pm

### April 2024

Sat 6 <sup>th</sup>	Sound Bath	3pm
---------------------	------------	-----

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).



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

New members are welcome.

## 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



## Great Hockham Gardening Club



Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March - 2 pm

Designing herbaceous gardens

Helen Hillier

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: Rosemary Martin 07563 505020

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

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

## Tree Felling

The Parish Council would like to express its gratitude on behalf of the village to Jonathan Leech and Leech Farms, for expediting the felling of the two dead oak trees situated on the popular permissive pathway between Little Hockham Lane and the playing field.

Whilst the trees were the responsibility of the Trappes-Lomax Estate, permission was obtained for Jonathan and his team to remove them.

## Hockham's History

### Hockham Shops

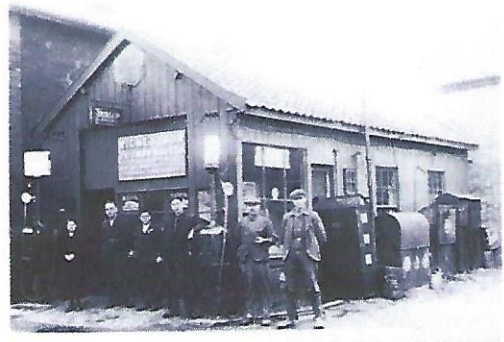
No shops now, but it wasn't always like that.

Hockham has had a number of shops over the years. The Post Office has been in two different places, in the Old Stores on the Watton Road, which also housed a general store and bakery and the original Post Office was in Alma House, also housing the village telegraph system as well as a bakery and general store.

Admiral House was once a general store run by the Currie family in the 80s and before that the Ellis and Adams families. There was a haberdashery shop on the Watton Road, a garage on Watton Road, plus another next to the Eagle, (the Eagle also had petrol pumps).

There was a fish and chip shop down Harling Road, a butcher on Harling Road and a tailors and newsagents on the corner of Vicarage Road and Watton Road, plus a bakery and Co-op stores on Watton Road. There had been at least two blacksmiths, the Watton Road Forge being the most recognisable today, which also sold bicycles at one time. There were also two shoemakers, one in Vicarage Road and another in Shropham Road.

Hockham was considered reasonably self-contained, but it was also relatively easy to cycle or take the train (Wretham and Hockham Station) to go further afield including the bright lights of Norwich.



Chris Garrod



# THE EAGLE

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

## March Dates for your Diary:

10<sup>th</sup> March Mother's Day Roast 12-4pm  
(BOOKING ESSENTIAL)

Thurs 28<sup>th</sup> March Thai Orchid Food Truck 4-9pm

Good Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March Fish and Chips  
12 – 8:30pm  
(Pre-booking advised)

Easter Sat 30<sup>th</sup> March Food Served 12 – 8:30pm

Easter Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March Food Served 12 – 3pm

Easter Monday 1<sup>st</sup> April Food Served 12 – 3pm

Coming soon: Sat April 20<sup>th</sup> Psychic Night  
(Call to Book)

Every one of the trucks serve food ready for takeaway but if you would like to eat at a table, please call 01953 498893 to reserve a spot.

We will have food trucks every Thursday from May – September this year. Keep an eye out for more information on who is coming to Hockham and what they offer!

See our socials for more information, serving times and pictures!

## Mobile Library Service

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

The mobile library visits on a THURSDAY.

Date of forthcoming visits:

28 March / 25 April /

23 May / 20 June / 18 July



## Wayland Show

The Wayland Show will be held on Sunday 4th August 2024 at Brandon Road, Watton.

Gates open at 10am.

The family-orientated Wayland Show will reflect the heritage of our region and local countryside. We are keen to promote local participation and at the heart of the 2024 Show will be all that is best from our region including livestock, craftsmanship, horticulture, local foods and produce.

We are always pleased to welcome willing volunteers who would like to assist with varied sections of the Show. If you would like to know more please email Su Wakefield our Show Secretary [secretary@waylandshow.com](mailto:secretary@waylandshow.com)

Further information can be obtained from our website [Waylandshow.com](http://Waylandshow.com)

## 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 March 12th & 26th  
10am -1pm

£18 per session. All materials supplied

Call melodie on 07531 875713

Email: [melcookartist@icloud.com](mailto:melcookartist@icloud.com)

Instagram @exploringdrawing

Facebook Melodie Cook Artist

## Hornfair

This year's Hornfair will be on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> May (subject to road closures).

Chris Garrod



## Great Hockham Primary School & Nursery

We return to school after February break to begin the second half of Spring Term. It's shorter than usual, but there is still a lot of learning to squeeze in!

World Book Day is on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March. Our children have been invited to dress up as their favourite book character and we are looking forward to seeing their creativity. We have reading challenges as well as an Extreme Reading competition for children to participate in and our catering providers have created a book themed menu.

Children will have the chance to share their science learning with their families when we run our Curiosity Café later in the month. This is always a popular activity with the children – they really enjoy setting up their interactive experiments.

The end of term will see some of our Key Stage 2 children embark on our first residential in a number of years. We have a full schedule of activities planned and look forward to hearing about their adventures.

Best wishes from all at Great Hockham Primary School.

Lisa Hazard – Headteacher

## School Birthdays



“Happy Birthday” to Jonah, Harrison R, Alice and Francesca.

*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.*

## Dorothy & John Unsworth

As many of you reading this know, Dorothy and John Unsworth lived in Great Hockham for many years before moving to Kent to have assisted living and nursing care. Dorothy was often seen most mornings walking their little dog Penny from Scotgate Close to the playing fields and she regularly attended the coffee mornings in the Edinburgh Hall making many, many friends in the village. John was a warden at the church and was also president of the Gardening Club, particularly enjoying the roses in their front garden in Scotgate Close.

Dorothy sadly died in October 2022 and John in June 2023. The family will be having their ashes interred in Holy Trinity Great Hockham Church on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March at midday.

Refreshments will then be available at The Crown in Great Ellingham, and if any friends and neighbours would like to attend the service and buffet, please telephone Phil or myself (Christine) on 01953 881579.

Phil & Christine Unsworth

### 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.



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## Jo Wyatt

A huge loss has sadly befallen Great Hockham and beyond.

On 7th of February Jo Wyatt, a titan of the community, died after a short and brutal illness. Jo loved this village, and as a "RAF Brat" who had been used to moving around, Great Hockham gave her roots.

Originally from Cannock, Staffs, with stints in many places including a much loved Barry, South Wales and Teacher Training College in Cambridgeshire, Jo moved to Norfolk after meeting a dashing young farmer from Snetterton.

Her first taste of where was to be home was in the early to mid 70s when she came to the primary school on a temporary basis as she had 3 demanding and exhausting young children and a husband who worked away.

Any pupil or parent from that time may well remember her Coat of Many Colours kaftan, her ponchos or just hitching her skirt up chasing behind Mrs Pallister who in turn would be chasing after some wayward escapee pupil (you know who you are!)

This temporary basis turned into a full time career until she finally retired in the following millennium. This career was not exclusive to Great Hockham as she went on to be a highly respected member of the teaching profession excelling and advancing in the field of dyslexia around the county.

The move to the village started in the old Duck Farm on Little Hockham Lane, long before it became the lovely complex it is now. Then it was a derelict factory and a house that had been empty for some time. This was thanks to Kathy Wright whilst she found somewhere suitable.

So in 1980 Jo and kids moved to Watton Road. With one moved away to college, one in high school and the other packed off to boarding school, she could focus more on work and the village.

An important member of Holy Trinity Church, being involved for many years in many different roles, member of the parish council, a long standing driving force of the community car scheme, tour guide at Houghton on the Hill church dazzling visitors with her historic stories, tales of the witch craft and all with dramatic flair and flamboyance.

Some amazing productions were put on at the village hall with Jo bringing her Stratford learnt Shakespearean expertise to the amateur dramatic enthusiasts. Sell outs every night, dubious gentlemen in tights, stunning Noel Coward scenes, ladies in polyester discussing the practical use of certain Anne Summers items and so much more, I'm sure the laughter was heard in the D&P in Wretham. Theme nights of music, food, wine and costumes, head banging to Meat Loaf at the village hall, New Years Day parties that had all generations ruined by the early evening and joining in with the village fetes and flower shows. Before Health and Safety started taking notice of such events Jo had most of the village beside themselves when she and a local farmer drove round the obstacle course. Why is that funny? Well, cleverly the car had everything back to front - the steering, the pedals and the gears. A roaring success.

The garage became full of dried flowers, vases, that green oasis stuff, wires and anything else that might come in artistically useful for the flower club. A lover of gardening which she continued to enjoy whilst she could. Luckily she did get to see her new driveway which she was thrilled with.

She definitely had fun and always tried to ensure those around her did too with her quick wicked wit, warmth and generosity of spirit.

The family have found comfort in the many kind messages which confirm how loved and respected she was by so many. Jo touched so many lives in her professional and personal life for which she will long be remembered, and greatly missed by all the wonderful friends she made in and around the great village of Hockham.

Thanks for everything Mum, Tracey, Sam & Piers

A service of cremation will be held at Breckland Crematorium on Monday March 4<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon followed by a celebration of her life at Holy Trinity Church, Great Hockham at 1.30 pm.

Traditional dress with a splash of Jo would be appreciated.

No flowers by request please but donations if desired for RNLI may be given at the services or sent c/o Eirlys Johnson Funeral Services, 87 High Street, Watton, IP25 6AW. Tel: 01953 889328.

## Hypnotherapy

In 2022 I undertook training as a Practitioner in Hypnotherapy. I qualified in spring last year and have spent the remaining time validating my learning and honing my craft. I am pleased to announce that Hypnotherapy is now available in Great Hockham or remotely on line by Zoom or Skype. I am a member of the General Hypnotherapy and am an Accredited Practitioner of the General Hypnotherapy Standards Council and the Professional Hypnotherapy Practitioners Association. I have worked with great results with people for stress, anxiety, IBS, pain management, grief, smoking, and phobias. I also work with public speaking, confidence, weight loss, education and exam nerves but to name a few. Those of you that may know me know that I have been in Great Hockham for 25 years this year and have over 30 years' experience as a holistic therapist and many of these skills help me to bring a safe, secure approach which looks after your whole wellbeing. I also have a no nonsense style of working in that if I feel you are not ready for hypnotherapy or would be better served elsewhere, I will tell you and help you find what it is you need.

### So what is hypnotherapy?

Hypnotherapy is a fast-acting listening and talking therapy that combines a variety of tools tailored to the client's personality and needs to achieve a desired specific outcome.

Hypnosis is a naturally occurring state that we all experience at various times and in various depths throughout the day. The experience of hypnosis has been described in many ways but is often explained as a streamlined state of focused attention. Many people describe hypnosis as feeling similar to daydreaming, when they are neither fully alert, nor asleep. Everyone's experiences and therefore descriptions of hypnosis will vary because all trance states feel different to different people.

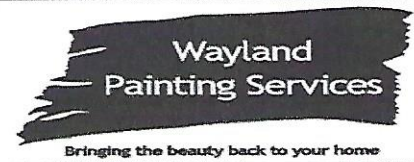
Hypnosis is usually associated with a very pleasant feeling of deep relaxation and this can be part of the therapy, however not all hypnosis nor Hypnotherapy involves relaxation in the traditional sense. Common to contrary belief, YOU are in control at all times and cannot be made to say or do anything you do not want to. (I would be super rich if I could do that!)

During hypnosis insight can be gained through working with the subconscious mind and new perspectives and adjustments can be made to limiting beliefs that have influenced or directed the client's life, sometimes

resulting in radical change or gentle differences that increase positively over time.

Anyone can be hypnotised, but only if you want to and are motivated to make changes. If you want to know more about hypnosis and if it could help you, contact me at [balancetherapiesnorfolk@gmail.com](mailto:balancetherapiesnorfolk@gmail.com) or 07748 213397. I offer a no obligation free consultation.

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**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HOCKHAM PARISH COUNCIL ON MONDAY 12<sup>TH</sup>**  
**FEBRUARY 2024 AT HOCKHAM VILLAGE HALL**

Attending; Councillors Bennett, Lambert, Lloyd, Thomas, Guppy, Loft and Leech, 7 members of the public and the clerk.

- 1) **Apologies for absence.** It was noted that councillors Eagle and Cowen were not present as the clerk had not invited them in error.
- 2) **Declaration of Interests;** Councillor Lambert as owner and landlord of the Eagle, Councillor Leech as a farmer at Little Hockham and councillors Bennett and Loft as allotment holders.
- 3) **Requests for dispensation;** None
- 4) **Minutes form January 8<sup>th</sup> 24.** These were edited for the date (6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup>) and approved.
- 5) **Progress Report.**
  - a) Litter pick. This had been successful.
  - b) Streetlights. No further progress.
  - c) Wheelchair Ramp. No further progress.
  - d) Info Board. No further progress.
  - e) Councillor Plaques. Examples were shown. The green versions were considered the best.
  - f) Website. The council were signed up. The clerk was progressing with Norfolk ALC.
  - g) Grants. The community car grant had been made. The D Day grants were being looked at outside of the parish council.
- 6) **Public Participation.** The meeting was adjourned for 20 minutes for a public discussion. Items from this will be put in councillor updates.
- 7) **District and County Council Reports.** None, due to an invitation error by the clerk.
- 8) **Highways and Road Safety.** (Councillor Thomas). The drain near the village green had been repaired. Road surfacing and potholes on the Wretham Road had been reported. Hedge cutting had progressed in some places. NCC were pursuing an issue on Little Hockham Lane. The council would write to Councillor Eagle and highways over this matter.

The trod was discussed. It was considered the NCC Highways actions insufficient. The clerk would obtain a quote from SERCO for maintenance, albeit some councillors felt spending parish monies unacceptable, as this was highways responsibility.

Damaged signs on the A1075 had been replaced or reported.

Contractors had addressed some of the grips to avoid standing water.

In general village drainage was still an issue. A WhatsApp group was collating photos as evidence. The chair would write to highways.
- 9) **Planning.** There had been no response to the FOI letter. Moat Farm application 3PL/2023/1163/F had been approved. The Local Plan was still progressing but there were currently no items for discussion regards Hockham.
- 10) **Playing Field.** It was unanimously decided that the parish council take on all responsibility and finances for the playing field. A working party would meet

soon. The committee would consist of Councillors Lloyd, Loft and Leech plus co-opted members of the parish and the previous committee members and plans for a spend limit would be addressed at the next meeting. The clerk would progress the finances. The pedestrian entrance would be looked at. SERCO were thanked for the excellent work done on cutting back vegetation and hedges.

- 11) **Finances.** The current bank balance was £11501.43. Approval was given for the following payments: Clerks salary for Feb and March at £179.40; Pearce and Kemp maintenance for Feb and March at £45.60, PC Insurance £1232.67, Village Hall water and hall hire at £99 and £144; Community heartbeat Rental at £72, clerk's expenses at £133.28 and the annual Community Heartbeat Support payment when it was received. The clerk would look to progress a VAT reclaim.
- 12) **Allotments. (Councillor Bennett).** The allotment under eviction had been given a good tidy up. The clerk would investigate further. Some tree maintenance had occurred.
- 13) **Footpaths and Rights of Way. (Councillor Loft)** Councillor Leech had completed culvert works on the Roundhouse footpath. The Illington bridge had been repaired. The Pightle footpath that had been reported was considered no problem.
- 14) **Community Climate Action.** It was decided not to progress a speaker, suggested from another parish.
- 15) **Councillor Updates.** Following public participation discussions, the following decisions were made; Councillor Leech would progress the felling of two dead oaks by the permissive path. A fence would be erected whilst this was being actioned. The council would ask the Norfolk Fire Service of their opinion on the dangers of the flammability elephant grass, which was due for cutting soon. A request to ask people to cut hedges by end Feb was agreed. A property identified with lots of rubbish outside would be discussed at the next meeting.
- 16) **Correspondence.** None.
- 17) **Date of next meeting.** Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March, which may be preceded by a public Playing Field Committee meeting.

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## Great Hockham



*flexibus*

**South Norfolk & Breckland**

Call or Email RingGo before 3pm the working day before for a lift in to town between 9.30am & 11.30am next morning with a return 11.30am & 1.30pm

## Wednesday.... to Watton

Cressinghams - Thompson - Merton - Ovington - Saham Toney - **Great Hockham** - Shropham - Stow Bedon - Little Ellingham - Great Ellingham - Deopham - Morley to Watton



*To pre book please*

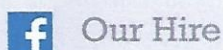
**call 080000351350 or visit [www.travelnorfolk.co.uk](http://www.travelnorfolk.co.uk)**

**(by 3pm previous working day if booking for a Monday**

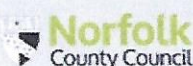
**let us know by Friday 3pm) excludes bank holidays**

## Get in touch

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