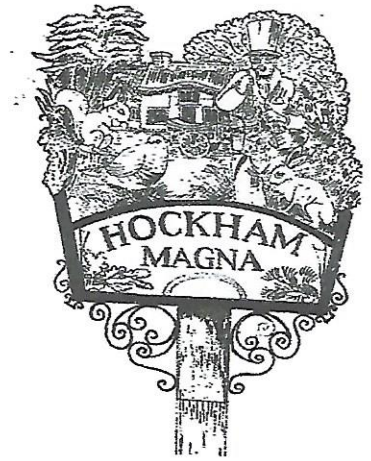


IN-TOUCH

Great Hockham News Sheet

Issue No 541
October 2023



Editorial

As the nights start to draw in and the last glows of summer fade and we prepare for winter, we can look back on fun summer days, the Hornfair with clodhoppers and maypole dancers, the stone turning and the annual flower show with colour and crafts.

The little ones will be thinking soon about trick or treating and skies full of colourful fireworks, then beyond to Christmas.

We can all be thankful of living in such a vibrant lively village with a strong community spirit.

The Future of In-Touch

The Great Hockham In-Touch News Sheet has been delivered to every household in Hockham for the past 44 years. But, inevitably, times change, and people are increasingly relying on social media outlets such as Facebook and Nextdoor for sharing information, advertising, etc. As a result, we now receive a reduced number of items for inclusion in In-Touch.

Whilst we completely understand that there are those in the village who either do not have access to, or do not wish to use, social media, regrettably without sufficient content there can be no newsletter.

In order to help us decide whether there is a future for In-Touch, we are requesting your feedback on whether or not you consider the newsletter of value and wish it to continue. A response (per household) is only required if your answer is "Yes" and can be made by:

E-Mail: intouchnewsletter@yahoo.com

Text/WhatsApp: 07747 611890

Telephone: 01953 498868

Or by completing the slip below and dropping off at The Firs, Shropham Road.

Please respond by 15th October.

YES, WE WOULD LIKE IN-TOUCH TO CONTINUE

Name or address (optional):

Comments (optional):

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

Worship in October 2023

Sunday, 1st October, Trinity 18

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

Sunday, 8th October, Trinity 19

10.30 a.m. United Holy Communion,
Holy Trinity, Gt Hockham
with the Harvest Thanksgiving

Sunday, 15th October, Trinity 20

10.30 a.m. United Holy Communion,
St. Peter & St. Paul's, Griston
celebrating the Harvest Festival

Sunday, 22nd October, Trinity 21

10.30 a.m. United Holy Communion,
St. Botolph's, Stow Bedon
with the Harvest Thanksgiving

Sunday, 29th October, Trinity 22

10.30 a.m. Family Service,
St. Martin's, Thompson
celebrating the Harvest Festival

The Wayland Benefice is now in vacancy.

*All requests for Baptisms, Weddings and
Funerals and general queries should be
addressed to the Churchwardens in the first
instance. The Churchwarden for Hockham is
Jamie Plummer 07436 044330*

Church Registers

19th August

Wedding at St Martin's, Thompson
Daniel Christopher Kelly & April Esther Hill

27th August

Baptism St Martin's, Thompson
Norah Rose Clements

Churchwarden's Letter

I was walking the dogs the other day and I was trying to think what to write in the Churchwarden's/Church Representative's letter, as it is my turn this month.

As I walked, I thought how lucky we are to live in such a wonderful place. Such beautiful scenery, so quiet, so many farmers producing so much food for us to eat. Harvest has now been and gone and autumn is almost here, and winter and Christmas will be upon us before we know it. The churches have been holding harvest services, the 8th October will be harvest thanksgiving at Great Hockham, the 15th at Griston, the 22nd at Stow Bedon, all Holy Communion services at 10.30. On the 29th, Thompson will be having their harvest festival but as a family service without communion and it taken by Rev Adrian Bell.

As we are on our way to winter, the six churches have already planned their Christmas services, including carol services and Christingles as well. Dates to be announced in due course.

One thing that we love seeing at our services in the 6 churches, is children. Sadly, we do not see them as often as we would like so we are trying to find ways to encourage families to come to our services. We have had several Songs of Praise services in our churches, recently. These services are very simple - hymns, a few prayers only and a short address. Mainly, lots and lots of singing. And afterwards, home-made refreshments – cake, cheese straws, scones, cheese biscuits, what's not to love? It would be wonderful to see new people come to our services. We are such a friendly bunch, and you would be welcomed with open arms. And these lighter services would be the perfect time to hold a Christening. So, if you have any plans to christen anyone in the family why not contact one of our churchwardens.

Remember our Lord's words: "Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of God".

Karen Allen, St Margaret's Church, Breckles

Common Ground Theatre Company

Saturday 7th October, 7.30pm

THE HELLGATE CLUB

by Pat Whymark

ENTER AT YOUR PERIL!

Paris, 1905. A series of strange happenings have the authorities baffled. Several men have disappeared under mysterious circumstances, with no connection between them other than that they were last seen in the vicinity of the notorious Pigalle district. With no leads, the police ask retired detective, Jean Tellier to take one last case. Sensing danger around every street corner, in every dimly lit café, in every dark doorway, Tellier begins by interviewing the proprietors and staff of the local bars and nightclubs.

Based on a real-life case of the time, Common Ground present a gothic murder mystery, with live music in the style of the period.

A play with music in 2 acts. Suitable for ages 12 and over.

Saturday 30th December, 7.30pm

MISS MIMPLE MEETS THE ICE WOLF

by Pat Whymark

A festive comedy with songs lasting 2 hours including an interval.

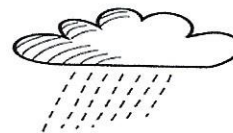
Tickets available from Chris Garrod
(01953498447 boxoffice@greathockham.org) or
the Hockham Eagle.

Ticket prices:

£13 Adults / £10 Under 21

August Rainfall

August 2023		119.2 mm
August 2022		28.8 mm
Jan-Aug 2023		513.6 mm
Jan-Aug 2022		423.0 mm
Highest Aug since 1979	2020	210.8 mm
Lowest Aug since 1979	2003	6.5 mm



Mobile Library Service

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

From July the day of the mobile library visit changed to THURSDAY. The times remain unchanged.

Date of forthcoming visits:

12 Oct / 9 Nov / 7 Dec / 4 Jan / 1 Feb / 29 Feb / 28
March / 25 April / 23 May / 20 June / 18 July

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.

Please use the village bottle bank



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Village Hall Bookings October 2023

Regular Bookings

Monday	Reserved for Parish Council	Evening
Tuesday	Carpet Bowls	Evening
Wednesday	Yoga	6.00-7.30pm
Thursday	Tai Chi	1.30-2.30pm
Thursday	Taekwondo	6.00-8.00pm

Oct 2023

Sat 7 th	Common Ground	Eve
Tues 10 th	Exploring Drawing	10am-1pm
Wed 11 th	Gardening Club	PM
Sat 14 th / Sun 15 th	Pumpkin Event	
Mon 16 th	Parish Council	Eve
Sat 21 st	Coffee, Cake & Chat	AM
Tues 24 th	Exploring Drawing	10am-1pm
Sat 28 th	Sound Bath	

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.

Tai Chi Classes

Tai Chi Classes are held at Great Hockham Village Hall Thursdays 1.30-2.30pm. £10. All ages and abilities. Beginners welcome.

Gary Brighton – 07952 971129

Gr. 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



The Book Club meets on the first Tuesday of every month at 7.30 pm at The Eagle. The book we are reading for the October meeting is Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens.

New members are welcome.

This month...

Pumpkin Fest!

There will be pumpkins for sale with stencils to carve at home and quizzes, including a special children's quiz with a Halloween prize!



**Coffee
Cake
Chat**

Friendly Faces
Yummy Cakes

**21 October
Village Hall
10.30 am to 12**



*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

Hockham on TV Channel 5

The filming of the Hornfair in May, featuring the Dad's Army platoon from Thetford's Dad's Army Museum, is being broadcast as part of a series called Norfolk and Suffolk: Country and Coast, in 6 episodes of which Hockham will feature in episode 5.

Episode 1 began on Channel 5 at 8pm on Wednesday 6th September, so we presume, if it's a weekly show, that Hockham features on or around 4th October at a similar time.

This may be subject to change, and we will advise nearer the time of any changes that are notified to us.

Chris Garrod



Wednesday 11th October - 2 pm

"Gardening for Wildlife"

Barley Wilson from Natural Gardens

Chelsea Gold Medal Winners 2017

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

Website: greathockhamgardeningclub.org.uk

Car Boot Sale

The first car boot sale was held on the playing field on 27th August. There was a great turn out of sellers with a total of 31 cars/vans and 200/300 buyers turning up. The event went off without any hitches and raised £248.98 through sales and donations. A great start for the new playing field committee - with one event under their belt their confidence grows and spurs them on. Monies are being raised to improve the facilities within the children's playing area and the hope is for more boot sales or the like to aid in this challenge.

Dog Fouling in Hockham

Whereas we realise it's a minority of people who don't pick up their dog's poo, sadly it's the minority that spoils it for everyone.

So please collect your dog's poo and put it in the appropriate bin.

Hockham Parish Council

Great Hockham

Pumpkins for sale

A variety of Pumpkins + Squashes available

Available 10-4 on the 14th & 15th October at the village hall

Then daily 9-6 from 3 walnut close from the 16th- 27th October
Cash only



Local Crafts, Local produce and Food stalls will be attending

A donation from sales will be used to buy a new bench for the Great Hockham playing field.

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Instagram @exploringdrawing

Facebook Melodie Cook Artist

School Birthdays



"Happy Birthday" to Jack W, Gianna, Elliott, Amber and Zoe-Ella.

Short Story – Gbaran Ubi, Nigeria

After reading the interesting account of what a Train Driver has to do on a day to day basis, I have been driven to share some of the experiences I have had in the course of my work, which I think is almost the opposite of Robin :-

Trip 1 Nigeria. Gbaran Ubi Shell BP Oil Exploration Site.

It all started after I had set up my own business after being the victim of the economy, things were going OK and the old adage of "It's not what you know. It's who you know" came good and so I had a few contracts when one morning the phone rings....

I answered and the gentleman on the other end states he has been to a meeting and my details were given to him as a trusted and reliable person to contact...? His question to me was "Can you fix a generator for me?".....Yes I said (I would sub it out and be Mr 10%) then the conversation moved a bit, the generator is in Nigeria! he said, so we agreed on a meeting, sooner rather than later...so the meeting was convened and the discussion was, we need two transformers fitting.. "No problem says I".....it's a Generator in Nigeria it's a 30Mw Generator...now I was in the realm of bluff...never seen one, knew nothing about them...but after negotiating a day rate which was equal to many people's monthly salary...I was ready!!

I collected the two small transformers, tickets which were Business class all the way. Taxi to Airport and away, so after a nice flight and a few wines, arrived in Port Harcourt Nigeria, to a seething mass of humanity, all clamouring to get, somewhere?...so after I managed to find my bags and get outside there was my meet and greet, my name resplendent over an old piece of cardboard that looked as though it could have been a fish box in a previous life, and two heavies complete with 12 bore semi Autos (I will refer to other encounters with 12 bore Semis in the hands of "Security" another time, anyway made contact and off we went, the sights and sounds not to mention the smells filled every sense in my body and I thought Oh my God here we go.

We arrived at a large house which turned out to be the "Secure" hotel, booked in and I was given an Itinerary for the rest of my stay. The next day was a Helicopter trip to the place I was working! So off to bed to be ready.

Next day, breakfast done, the grinning driver turned up with his mates to transport me to the Heli Pad...which turned out to be Shell/BP's offices as well. Again a seething mass of humanity greeted us, so the driver took my papers and disappeared into the office, only to return some half an hour later, to say everything ready. I still don't know where I am going, and hope not off shore!! So I go in, bags dragging behind and pushing my way in, because I am checked in! Made no b****y difference, still had to fight

my way through, got rid of my bag, fearing I would never see it again and got to where I should be ready to board. My bags went past me, all labelled up, only to be rejected!! Too heavy for the chopper. Tough I said I am not taking anything out, so after a lot of back and forth, I got my way, the bag went on, and I got on,...In the b****y front!!! I am the co-pilot for today?????..I don't know where we are going! H&S, NON EXISTENT! The chopper lifts off, me none the wiser where we are going, but luckily we head inland over dense jungle and loads of rivers, we are heading into the Delta area, and after about 45 minutes of flying over solid jungle and seeing nothing but trees and rivers I spot some chimneys (Turbine Exhaust Funnels) and comms towers and we start dropping down, circle the area which is jungle on most of the perimeter, and a fast flowing wide river the other, so we land...to be surrounded by armed soldiers..eh???

After getting off, I learn that the site is under constant attack from the locals who have lost their livelihoods due to the drilling and other works in the middle of their hunting and fishing grounds, hence the guards, and other safety/security measures including a Gun Boat. After orientation, taken to my room in a large hut with all the other Gas Turbine Engineers...work the next day, its 7 days a week, 12 hours a day (if you have something to do?)

We meet for breakfast at the crack of dawn and then start the ¾ mile walk to the work area through two lots of security areas, and arrive at the turbines...which I have never seen before, but I can work my way through the circuit diagrams, so after studying a bit, I then request tools as promised, soldering equipment, and other bits. After about 6 hours they all arrive, I do a bit, then it's time to walk back, for tea and a few beers.

Next day I strip the system out, re-wire, fit the two transformers and tidy up. Now the thing to remember is, I am on a daily rate of a lot of pennies, so we wait and wait and wait. In the meantime I spend a lot of time playing around with lizards, playing solitaire, cleaning oil spills from the 3 Turbines and checking out the Patrol Boat we have on the river, which is heavily armed and used to keep the locals at bay, we did however get one incursion of the local tribesmen, but they were soon rounded up.....4 WEEKS LATER...my work is tested by the Korean builders of the site and passed OK. Mr Ken you can go home now! But getting home is another story filled with similar experiences coming out, of trying to fight through the airport bribery system and so on. That was a snap shot of the 4 weeks.

I hope to be able to put into a short story some of my other trips to: Pakistan, Colombia, Arabian Sea oil platform, Angola, and, early in my working life 12 weeks in China. All had their moments and eye openers, funny moments, dangerous moments and unforgettable moments, and were certainly not mundane.

Ken Neal

Mexican Fiesta Night

On the evening of 9th September a sign to Mexico City appeared on Church Lane pointing the way to what was to be a vibrant, music-fuelled Mexican-style fiesta. Hockham Church, adorned with colourful banners, flags and giant flowers, and with Coco the movie as a backdrop, welcomed 34 largely sombrero-wearing, moustachioed diners.

Iced cocktails and 'mock-tails' helped to counteract the high evening temperatures, and any heavy ponchos were soon discarded as spicy tortillas, nachos and chilli were served with cooling dips and fiery salsas for the more robust palate. Tropical fruit mini-kebabs and chocolate frogs closed the meal.

A closely-fought quiz on Mexico was won on a tie-break by the Clarkes-Taceys' table, with Dee from Thompson winning the donkey game having pinned the tail on the most appropriate part of its anatomy. Raffle tickets were drawn out of an upturned sombrero and prizes distributed. A spontaneous Macarena dance class closed the evening entertainment.

Funds totalling £926 were raised towards church roof repairs and a big thank you goes out from the PCC to all who helped, attended, or were in any way involved in this first for Holy Trinity.

MUCHÍSIMAS GRACIAS.

Bev Plummer



Great Hockham Primary School & Nursery

Our new term at Great Hockham has started well. We have welcomed our new Reception and Nursery children in and they have all settled in brilliantly. They are so enthusiastic to learn and excited to make new friends and try new activities.

All children have transitioned smoothly into their new year groups and have been busy learning about their new topics. Deer and Hedgehog class have been on a trip to Hickling Broad to support their Geography and History learning. Even though

it was a windy and overcast day they were all prepared for an outdoors adventure. They enjoyed exploring the Broads, creating some artwork, pond dipping and finally a scavenger hunt around the area.

Owl class enjoyed visiting Stranger's Hall in Norwich to learn more about the Great Fire of London and to experience how different life would have been during the 1660s.

For Harvest this year we will be collecting donations of food for a local charity and all children, from Nursery to Year 6, will be performing in Holy Trinity Church for our families to enjoy. We are always so impressed by how confidently our children speak and sing in front of an audience.

We have had such a busy half term, the children and staff will definitely deserve a restful half term's break when it finally arrives.

Best wishes, Lisa Hazard – Headteacher

AT Electrics

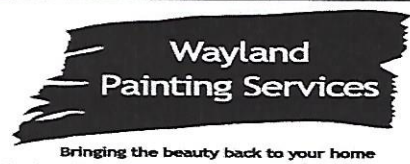
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The content of the articles in In-Touch is the responsibility of the named contributors, not the Newsletter Committee. Anonymous items will not be accepted.

Great Hockham Flower Show 2023

This year's show was yet another great success, not only for the money that it raised, which this year was £741.40, but for bringing the village together again and boosting our community spirit with a healthy dose of competitiveness.

This year saw a total of 52 entrants and between them they amassed a grand total of 229 individual category entries which is fantastic; we saw an increase in some of the categories such as photographs and also different handicrafts. A big thank you to all entrants for their patience whilst we booked all entries in as we were learning as we went, so thank you to you all. We look forward to seeing everyone next year SO GET PREPARING.

The winner list is as follows

Under Five	Gilcrest Cup	Oscar Blyth
5 yrs. to 8 yrs.	Hiles & Holes Cup	Olivia Blyth
9 yrs. to 15 yrs.	Hildrift Cup	Charlotte Pavey
Best Handicraft	Edinburgh Hall Bowl	Miles Howard
Best Photograph	Joe Bray Trophy	John & Sharon Ford
Best Home Produce	Wilson Plate	Aimee Taylor
Best Flower Exhibit	Garrod Rose Bowl	Kirsten Parker
Best Pot Plant	Breckles Challenge Trophy	Avril Hough
Best Floral Art	Heathley Cup	Kirsten Parker
Best Fruit Exhibit	Hornfair Cup	Paul Bell
Best Vegetable Exhibit	Great Hockham Plate	Fred Younger
Lady with most points	Breckland Bowl	Wendy Hill
Gentleman with most points	Hockham Parva Cup	Paul Bell
Overall, most points in show	Heathley Cup	Paul Bell
Money raised:		
Auction £586.60	Donations and Entries £154.80	Total £741.40

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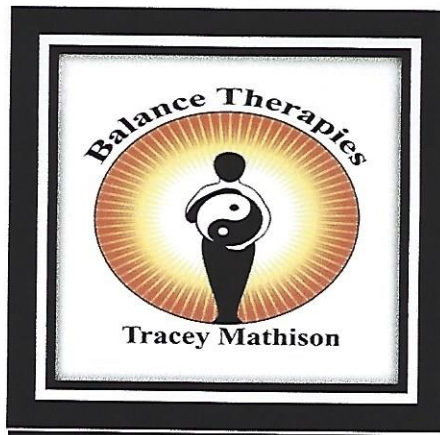
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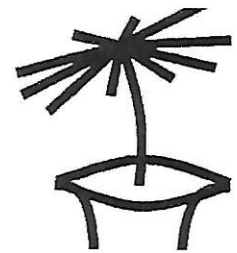
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