IN-TOUCH

Great Hockham News Sheet

Issue No 544 January 2024



Editorial

This month's issue of In-Touch sees the start of a new era. Since the first issue in 1979 it has been delivered, free, to every household in the village and surrounding areas, whether people wanted it or not. We have been using the school copier to duplicate over 400 copies each month, for which we are extremely grateful. Unfortunately, last year there was a problem getting toner supplies for the copier, so, for several months, we had to have each edition printed commercially at a very much higher cost. We managed to weather this storm with the help of the Townlands Charity and the Parish Council and our own fund-raising.

Although, happily, we are now allowed back into the school, this made us re-evaluate our distribution policy of one copy per household. We held a survey to see how many people actually wanted a paper copy, and only around 20% of readers said yes (this has since increased to around 33%). So we have decided, to save so much waste that, from this issue, only households that actually ask will receive a copy. It will also be possible to read each month's edition on-line on the village website, www.greathockham.org. We are happy to add any names to our distribution list at any time if we are asked.

We would like to thank all our deliverers for their help each month, and to wish them, and our readers, a very happy and prosperous New Year.



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:

4 Jan / 1 Feb / 29 Feb / 28 March / 25 April / 23 May / 20 June / 18 July



The Wayland Group of Parishes

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

Worship in January 2024

Sunday, 7th January First Sunday after Epiphany

6.00pm Carol Service with a Difference **N.B. There is no 10.30 am service** St. Peter and St. Paul's, Griston

Sunday, 14th January Second Sunday after Epiphany

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

Sunday, 21st January Third Sunday after Epiphany

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

Sunday, 28th January Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

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

Sunday 4th February Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

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

Letter from Rev Adrian Bell

Happy New year to you all. As you tear off to the January sales, or clear up after a New Year's Eve party, spare a thought for an elderly retired clergyman who has been asked to come back to take services in the Wayland Group in 2024 on the 3rd and 5th Sunday in the month. In addition, if there is an appointment in the Ashill group where he now takes services you may see him more often. No doubt congregation numbers will drop and there will protest marches in the villages!

Seriously, I was delighted to respond to the Archdeacon of Lynn's invitation, with the support of all the churchwardens, to help where I can in 2024 until there is an appointment.

There is no doubt the church is going through a difficult time, but I was delighted recently to take services in your group of parishes where I saw new faces in the congregation and choir and actually 2024 gives me great hope for the church.

So, we are here to help, not just with some of the services, but with any pastoral care you require. As many of you know, we respond immediately to requests for help. We only live in Swaffham and can be with you in a very short time. Also, I will be delighted to take 'occasional services', as the church likes to describe baptisms, weddings and funerals.

2023 was a difficult year for many, but I hope that you all think positively about 2024 and realise the God has given us this year to use and to enjoy.

With the birth of our fourth grandchild, Eleanor, born in September in Nottingham, we will have another busy year. The telephone will no doubt ring on January 1st 'Dad can you do this or that, are you free, can you advise etc. etc...' Being needed, whether from your family, your friends, or the church and village community, is so important. It makes life special. So thank you for asking me back. I will not let you down!

Rev Adrian Bell

November Rainfall

November 2023		78.0 mm
November 2022		106.8 mm
Jan-Nov 2023		796.1 mm
Jan-Nov 2022		442.4 mm
Highest Nov since 1979	2022	106.8 mm
Lowest Nov since 1979	1994	19.9 mm



School Birthdays



"Happy Birthday" to Alfie K, Eden S, Jenson, Jack F, Dexter, Zack, Alfie W, Charlotte P and Bryden.



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.

New members are welcome.

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.

Village Hall Bookings January 2024

Regular Bookings

Monday	Reserved for	
	Parish Council	Evening
Tuesday	Carpet Bowls	Evening
Wednesday	Yoga (Starts 17/1)	6.00-7.30pm
Thursday	Tai Chi	1.30-2.30pm
Thursday	Taekwondo	6.00-8.00pm

Jan 2024

Mon 8 th	Parish Council	Evening	
Tues 9 th	Exploring Drawing	10am-1pm	
Wed 10 th	Gardening Club	PM	
Sat 20 th	Coffee, Cake & Chat	AM	
Mon 22 nd	2 nd Playing Field Meeting		
Tues 30 th	Exploring Drawing	10am-1pm	

For Yoga information ring June on 01953 498343

For Taekwondo contact Dave Robb 01953 882848 or 07710 666133

For Tai Chi contact Gary Brighton 07952 971129

For Sound Bath contact Tracey Mathison 07748 213397

For Hall bookings contact Chris Garrod 07770 710307 or e-mail chris@oaklands4.co.uk.

Christmas Word Search Solution

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Hockham's History Great Hockham (Hocham Magna)

The first record of Great Hockham can be found in the Domesday Book, with a number of entries. The manor in 1086 was in the hands of Roger Bigot and was 5 carucates of land with 37 acres of meadow and woodland for 100 swine. There were 7 villeins, 11 bordars and 3 serfs, plus 4 sokemen with 3.5 acres. Other livestock was recorded, including 220 sheep and 220 wild mares. The manor had a value of £4. Also listed are 4 freemen, the above people mentioned belonging to the manor.

The population in 1066 was 40, decreasing to 30 in 1086, but was considered one of the more successful settlements in the area.

Great Hockham was granted a market and annual fair in 1272 and the marketplace was exactly where the current village green still is, plus possibly the section where the old school now stands near the Eagle. The largest residence was Esthalle, in the moated area opposite Moat Farm, which eventually went into decay following the Black Death.

Hockham Mere, situated in the Cranberry Rough and Hockham Fen part of the parish, was the largest mere in what we now know as Breckland, with a fish house, boats and nets and was poached on several occasions, the guilty parties being brought to court before the Lord of the Manor.

Whereas it's possible, though not proven, that the earlier occupation was around the church, many houses were built to surround the marketplace, with very different street names to those we know now.

The new hall was built in the southwest part of the green, fronting onto the market area but moved to the current site in the early 1700's when Sir Philip Ryley purchased the manor and built the Queen Anne style hall we know today. Sir Philp was a high up government official and is buried along with other members of his family in Hockham Church chancel.

The Warren of 100 acres, stretched out to the southeast of the village and the green or common surrounded Great Hockham, with fold gate's on the roads, keeping stock in or out. There were several windmills, likely 4, with the last one disappearing in the early 1800's being replaced with a steam driven mill at West Farm.

A few roads or tracks have now disappeared, but the old maps and records only hint at where these were. But in reality, the village shape has little changed for at least the last 800 years or so, likely longer.

Many of the field names have remained for many years, so it's possible to sketch a picture of what the village was like over the centuries.

Enclosure of the village in 1798, further shaped the fields and the various estate holders have all left their mark, with the Partridge family in the early 1800's uniting Little and Great Hockham into one large estate. In 1930 the Forestry Commission purchased 2000 acres of estate land, creating our own part of Thetford Forest. Before 1930, it was all agricultural land.



Chris Garrod





Wednesday 10th January - 2 pm Wood & Wood Burning Stoves Vince Thurkettle

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 secretaryghac@amail.com

Website: greathockhamgardeningclub.org.uk

Norfolk Wildlife Trust Breckland Local Group

At the time of writing we have not enjoyed our December talk from BTO.

January and February talks have had to be swapped around-for those in receipt of the events booklet from NWT.

So on Wednesday 10th January at 7.30pm we have a NWT staff member giving an update on their work locally in 2023.

This replaces Martin Hosier's talk which will now be in February preceded by our AGM.

Venue is The Methodist Centre, High Street, Watton IP25 6AB. Cost £2 members £3 non-members. Refreshments will be served.

We wish you all a Happy New year.

Fiona Roat

Watton Community Banking Hub

The new Watton Community Banking Hub service is now in operation from its temporary home in Wayland House, High Street, Watton, IP25 6AR.

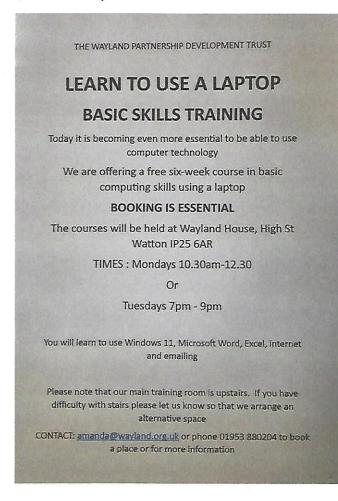
Open five days a week, 9am-5pm, the temporary hub will offer a counter service operated by the Post Office, where customers of all major banks can carry out regular cash transactions.

It also offers a Community Banker service where customers can talk to their own bank about more complicated issues.

Community Bankers will work on rotation, with a different bank available on each day of the week.

The Wayland Partnership Development Trust

The following basic skills training course begins on 22 January 2024:



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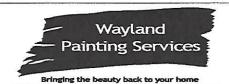




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DRAFT MINUTES OF THE HOCKHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ON 27TH NOVEMBER 2023 IN HOCKHAM VILLAGE HALL

Attending, Fabian Eagle (NCC), councillors Aaron Lambert, Tom Bennett, Calvin Thomas, Donna Lloyd, Robin Guppy, Tony Loft and Jonathan Leech. The clerk Chris Garrod and 5 members of the public.

- 1) Apologies for absence; Phil Cowen (Breckland Council)
- 2) Vote for New Chair; It was proposed that the chair and vice chair swap roles. There were no other nominations, and the motion was carried unanimously.
- 3) **Declarations of Interest;** Aaron Lambert as owner and landlord of the Eagle, Tom Bennett and Tony Loft as allotment holders and Jonathan Leech as a farmer at Little Hockham.
- 4) To consider requests for dispensation. None.
- 5) Approval of the minutes of Oct 16th 2023. These had been circulated and were carried unanimously as a true meeting record.
- 6) Progress Report;
 - a) Wheelchair ramp. A supplier had been contacted and grants people contacted.
 More on this in the new year
 - b) Streetlight Progress. All new led lamps had been fitted except the Harling Road and one on Shropham Road. The neutrals o these lamps were wired direct from the mains and needed attention from power networks.
 - c) Tree works. These were completed. One chestnut was not in the best of condition and needed monitoring.
 - d) Bottle Bank info design board. The clerk would progress this in the new year.
 - e) Flower Planters; In the process of replanting in layers with bulbs and other species.
 - f) Plaques for councillors. Councillor Lambert had spoken with Mrs Childerhouse recently and was to speak with Mr Stebbing.
 - g) Speed Camera partnership Grant progress. The clerk had completed the grant forms. Progress would be known in March. It was asked that the Wretham Road post be moved now that the 30mph signs had been pushed back. The clerk would speak to NCC about this.
- 7) Public Participation Session. The meeting was briefly adjourned for this matter.
- 8) County and District Councillor Reports; Fabian Eagle explained there was extra funding for a Go Digital Campaign, that the Norwich Western link would progress due to HS2 being shelved, A launch of Working Well Employment Programme had taken place. Bird flu was still of concern. NCC had extra household support for vulnerable households. He would forward information to the clerk.

 Councillor Cowen's report was read out. It mentioned the Breckland Council budget
 - and the cost pressures, flooding issues and the Riparian responsibility to ensure watercourses ran freely and changes to planning and planning fees.
- 9) Highways and Road Safety. The damaged chevron warning sign by the Watton Road junction to the A1075 had been reported and is due for repair. A letter had been issued by NCC to a resident on Little Hockham Lane regards an overgrown hedge. No action to date. Councillor Leech wondered if he could help. Councillor Lambert was investigating overgrown hedges with a wheelchair user.

- Flooding had been an issue with several reports to NCC. Councillors would take photos to share the issues. There was a discussion about wet fallen leaves. It was decided to potentially have a work party to sort as much as possible. Councillor Leech said he could remove and compost the leaves. The District Council would be contacted to ask about whose responsibility it is to clear leaves.
- 10) Planning: Application 3PL/2023/1096/HOU, Sunnyside was discussed. Councillor Lambert would draft a no objection but point out a garage space (albeit unused) was being removed.
 - The FOI was discussed. The clerk would contact Simon Wood for progress.
- 11) Finance. The clerk gave a resume of the current financial position. A balance of £18,833.41 had an uncased cheque of £6776.20 for the LED streetlights, so was in reality £12057.21. Despite this low figure, the known expenditure coming up should not be an issue and the 24/25 precept should sort the reduction of finances. Approval was sought to agree the National PayScale increase for the clerk to £179.40 per month, plus back pay of £105.60, for SLCC membership at £76, for stamps £16, for Streetlight maintenance for December at £46.60 and the anticipated £1248.32 plus VAT for Serco grass cutting. All payments were agreed.
 A new cradle seat for the play area had been purchased at £163.60 plus VAT. The precept of £16,500 for 24/25 was approved and signed.
- 12) Allotments. Following extensive maintenance, more work would be done in January on the Harling Rd allotments. It was decided to give notice to one allotment holder for a lack of tending a half allotment plot. The chair would draft a letter.
- 13) Footpaths and Rights of Way. The trod needed attention and it was obvious that NCC would not do the work despite having the responsibility. A work party would be formed to attend to the matter once it was established how easy or not the work was to do. This matter would go on the January agenda.
- 14) Playing Field. No progress. It was decided to host a meeting in January with the old and new committees to make some progression as the parish council currently held the insurance responsibilities. The meeting would likely be second week Jan 24. There were several compliments about the quality of this year's firework display.
- 15) Litter Pick. To be put on the January Agenda.
- 16) In Touch. There was a discussion about In Touch and the idea to limit hard copies to those that had requested them. It was agreed to ring fence £1000 in case it was needed to assist funding. The parish council would reinstate a precis of the meeting minutes. The Facebook site would be used to ask those that wanted a hard copy to request one. Article submission was going to be the 22nd of the month from now.
- 17) Councillor Updates. None
- 18) **Correspondence**. A letter asking about metal detecting on parish land was read. Permission would not be granted.
- 19) Date of next meeting; 8th Jan 2024. 7.30pm.

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