### **IN-TOUCH**

### Great Hockham News Sheet

Issue No 557 February 2025



#### **Editorial**

Some of you may know that sadly we have lost another lovely villager with the passing of Pat Stuart of Shropham Road. I am sure the whole village would join together in wishing Geoff and Debs and the whole family our heartfelt condolences, thoughts and love.

Last month, January, saw us treated to another great night of entertainment by the players of the Common Ground Theatre Company, with Father Brown and the Curse of the Christmas Fairy - a real good night as always. If you have never seen them, it's well worth it.

We have had some rather cold nights of late and as we carry on through winter please keep an eye on each other, check on neighbours that might need a helping hand; it's living in a close-knit community that makes a difference from living in a large community where folks don't know each other let alone dare say hello.

Keep your eyes and ears open, some winter treats are about from wintering visiting birds to early emerging flowers like snowdrops; there's always something to make the day special if we look and listen.

Don't forget to treat your loved one this Valentine's Day, even if they don't know it's from you.

#### **Hockham Church**

Recent visitors to Hockham Church will have spotted smart new signs at the gate and beside the gravel path and the PCC wishes to extend grateful thanks to Harry Stebbing for donating his time and skills to create them. We hope you will agree that the welcome signs enhance the church approach. Also, by the time you read this the annual carpet of snowdrops will be emerging on the south side of the churchyard.

Why not take a walk and check them out!

Bev Plummer



The Hockham book club met for their first meeting of 2025 on a very frosty evening but the Eagle was warm and welcoming with the wood burner blazing. The members of the club brought books to share for our first book of the year and there was much discussion about the books we love. Normal service will resume on February 4th with our first offering from our reading list. All welcome at 7.30pm in the Eagle.

Tina Campbell

#### The Wayland Group of Parishes

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

#### Worship in February 2025

#### **Sunday 2nd February**

10.30am United Holy Communion St Martin's, Thompson

#### Sunday 9th February

10.30am United Holy Communion St. Margaret's, Breckles

#### Sunday 16th February

10.30am United Holy Communion Holy Cross, Caston

#### Sunday 23rd February

10.30am United Holy Communion Holy Trinity, Gt Hockham

#### Sunday 2nd March

10.30am United Holy Communion St Peter & St Paul, Griston



#### "Love or Justice?".....

One sunny afternoon a couple of years ago, I went for a walk around our local mere with my daughter and my 3-year-old mixed-race granddaughter. We met several people, all of whom seemed friendly and happy to

chat, albeit from a distance! "Aren't people friendly?" I said to my daughter. "That's because you look like them, Mum", she replied. Her comment left me questioning: "will these people be as friendly and accepting of our little one as she grows up, based upon no information other than the colour of her skin?" How welcoming are we to those who identify as being of global majority heritage?

Racial Justice Sunday takes place annually on the second Sunday in February. While it falls on 9<sup>th</sup> February this year, it has, in previous years, coincided with St Valentines day. On those occasions, I have noticed that some colleagues have been left with a dilemma about what they should preach on. Should they use the tradition of red roses, poems, greeting cards and date nights to

preach about love, in a nod to St Valentine, or should they focus on transforming the unjust structures of society to address the need for racial justice?

Some might say to me "Well, we could focus on Racial Justice, but, seeing as it's Valentine's Day, we'd better focus on love".

I would describe myself as someone who seeks to end discrimination of any kind, and would argue that any question of choice between love and justice can't be made because the two are not mutually exclusive. God created love and God created a diverse people. Then "God saw all that he had made, and it was very good" (Gen. 1:31). I believe that real, God-inspired justice always consists of mercy, compassion and, most of all, love. Therefore, justice and love are two sides of the same coin.

For me, justice is also love in action, because if we really love someone, we want to ensure that they are free, equal, and treated with respect and dignity. In short, we want to ensure they have all that we have, which is synonymous with "loving your neighbour as yourself" (Matthew 22:39).

I pray that each of us will value and celebrate diversity. The mission of the Church is the mission of Christ, and I pray that we would respond to human need by loving service, transforming the unjust structures of society, doing as much as we can to enable peace and reconciliation.

Paul writes in his letter to the Galatians 3:28: "There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus".

With love and prayers, Vanessa.

Reverend Vanessa is the rector for the Wayland benefice of Breckles, Caston, Great Hockham, Griston, Thompson, and Stow Bedon. You can contact her on 07984 318885 or by email at yanessadlayfield@gmail.com

# THE EAGLE

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

#### February Dates for your Diary:

4<sup>th</sup> February Book Club 7.30pm

5<sup>th</sup> February Bingo 8pm start Please try and arrive by 7.45pm

> 12<sup>th</sup> February Quiz 8pm start Call ahead for a table

15<sup>th</sup> February Cheese and Wine Night (Pre-book)

19<sup>th</sup> February
Bingo 8pm start
Please try and arrive by 7.45pm

20<sup>th</sup> February Fish and Chips 5-8.30pm

21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> February ANNUAL PIE WEEKEND (EARLY BOOKING ADVISED)

> 26<sup>th</sup> February Quiz 8pm start Call ahead for a table

Every Tuesday we have started a Ladies Darts team practice, if you would like to join everyone is welcome, whether you're a total novice or a seasoned pro. 7 for 7:30pm start. 18+

#### **Opening Hours**

Monday – Thursday 12-2.30pm/6-11pm Friday – Saturday 12-11pm Sunday 12-10.30pm

#### Food Available

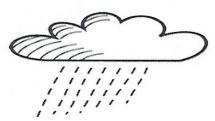
Monday: 5-8pm Takeaway (Eat in available)

Fish and Chip Fryday: 12-8.30pm (Takeaway and eat in)

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

#### **December Rainfall**

December 2024		38.1 mm
December 2023		83.5 mm
Highest Dec since 1979	2017	115.1 mm
Lowest Dec since 1979	2010	5.5 mm
Year 2024		726.7 mm
Year 2023		879.6 mm
Highest Year since 1979	2020	907.6mm
Lowest Year since 1979	1991	440.8mm



#### **Mobile Library Service**

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

Date of forthcoming visits (Thursdays):

27 Feb / 27 March / 24 April / 22 May / 19 June / 17 July / 14 Aug / 11 Sept / 9 Oct / 6 Nov



#### **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 February 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

February 2025

Sat 1<sup>st</sup> Sound Bath 3pm

Sat 8<sup>th</sup> Private booking

Tues 11th Exploring Drawing 10am-1pm

Wed 12<sup>th</sup> Gardening Club PM

Sat 15th Coffee, Cake, Chat

Tues 25th Exploring Drawing 10am-1pm

March 2025

Sat 1<sup>st</sup> Sound Bath 3pm

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.

# 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 Feb.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

#### **School Birthdays**



"Happy Birthday" to Fox, Eleanor, Matilda, Willow, Jasmine, Emily, Eden, Thomas and Jack.



#### Great Hockham Gardening Club



Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February Lindsey Bilston

How to help bats in your garden 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



### Great Hockham Primary School and Nursery

The children have had a brilliant start to 2025, with great attitudes to learning and really concentrating on their work, to produce the best that they are capable of.

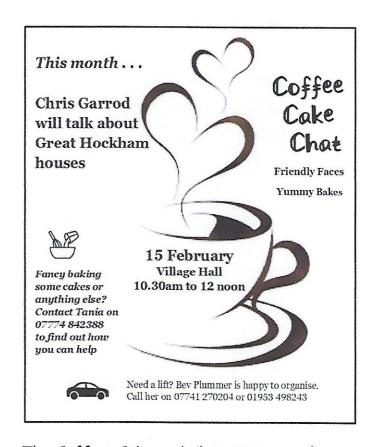
All classes have been focusing on producing brilliant writing this term. The children are thinking really carefully about the vocabulary they use and the effect it will have on the reader. They have also been working hard on improving their letter formation and their presentation in books. We are really impressed at the progress they are making and the children are really proud of what they are achieving. Keep up the great work!

We are celebrating Children's Mental Health week this February as it is so important for children to have positive wellbeing and know what to do if they are feeling low. Within this week we are planning a special whole school wellbeing enrichment day. The children will focus on being active through taking part in some yoga activities and learning dance moves, they will think about healthy eating and create some fruit or vegetable kebabs and think about their own interests; creating some art work all about themselves.

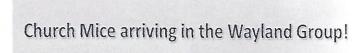
As the theme this year is: Know yourself, Grow yourself, we will also be making a display in our school library where every child will create a flower out of paper to represent themselves and planting their own Sweet Peas. It is a brilliant opportunity for our children to think about their emotions and feelings, and what they can do to look after themselves and support their own positive wellbeing.

Lisa Hazard

Headteacher



The Coffee, Cake and Chat team are always looking for ideas for future meetings. Perhaps you'd like something different to eat? You may have an idea for a future activity or speaker? So if anyone has any ideas, please do speak to one of us at the meetings, or call Ruth on 07711 881603.



Keep these dates free and join us for a fantastic weekend of fun:



5th, 6th & 7th September 2025

Actively seeking knitters to participate in the creation

For more details, contact: loisgill@btinternet.com

Spread the word – don't keep it to yourself (perhaps keep it secret from the local cat population)

#### **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

### Norfolk Wildlife Trust Breckland Local Group

It was good to have such a big turn-out for NWT CEO Eliot Lyne's talk on 8th January. Especially as it was a very cold evening.

Eliot talked on NWT's Vision for the Future of Norfolk's wildlife and how the trust will be building on education and inclusivity, as he said you have to learn to love nature to want to help it. They are having a lot of success in the communities around Sweet Briar Marshes and hope to do similar work in our area, including Wayland Wood.

Personally I think it would be great to get more understanding of just what this lovely ancient wood has to offer and why we must conserve and protect it.

Our talk on 12th February follows our brief AGM and is James Symonds giving an update on the work of the NWT Brecks team's work last year.

On 12th March James returns with a talk on Lichens. As Eliot said James is a walking encyclopaedia and his enthusiasm and passion is amazing.

Both talks are at The Methodist Centre, High Street, Watton, IP25 6AB. They start at 7.30pm with the AGM being about 7.15pm. Cost is £2 members, £3 non-members.

Fiona Roat

Please use the village bottle bank



#### Do you play cards? Would you like to?

We have a whist drive in the village. We play on the last Wednesday of each month in the Eagle pub, from 1pm till 3pm, and we are looking for new players.

If you play whist, or would like to learn how to, come along and have a go - we are not experts, but we're a friendly bunch.

It costs £1 to play, and we have a raffle, also £1. We have tea/coffee at half time, kindly provided by Aaron (the Landlord).

Now the really exciting part! The winner gets most of the takings and the loser gets 50p!

Come along and join us!

### Grand Second-hand Book Sale Thompson Community Hall

Our first sale of 2025 is on March 29<sup>th</sup> 10am – 4pm. It will have a spring theme to include Easter and gardening. Hundreds of books for sale, fiction and non-fiction. Apart from some select premium books no book is more than £1. Chocolate tombola. Cake sales. Refreshments, including our famous cheese scones and home-made cakes. Gardening items and plants

For our sale on July 12<sup>th</sup> we are offering an opportunity for people to have outdoor stalls. We do not have the space inside. Stalls are £10 a pitch. You must bring your own gazebo if you require one and your own tables and chairs. The theme is recycle and repurpose so we will not be accepting bookings for items made from new materials. If you make items from recycled materials, promote repurposing and recycling or wish to hold an activity using pre-loved materials that would be ideal. No food or books to be sold. For more information and a booking form contact info@thompsoncommunityhall.co.uk.

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.

#### **Quick Quiz**

- 1 What is the national flower of Wales?
- 2 What is the longest river in the world?
- 3 In which country will you find the Spanish Steps?
- 4 In what year was the Great Fire of London?
- 5 What are the five colours of the Olympic rings?
- 6 What year was the first ever FIFA World Cup?
- 7 Which actress had the starring role in the 1990s film The Bodyguard?
- 8 What star sign would you be if you were born on 1st January?
- 9 In which country will you find the River Liffey?
- 10 In what year was Facebook launched?
- 11 Where will you find the Blue Lagoon?
- 12 In which part of London will you find Harrods?
- 13 What is the capital city of India?
- 14 How many dots are there on a dice?
- 15 Which chess piece can only move one square in any direction?
- 16 What cocktail is made with white rum, coconut cream and pineapple juice?
- 17 What is the national flower of Japan?
- 18 What is the name of the cowboy in Toy Story?



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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 Events 2025**

More events may be added as the year progresses!

### **Annual Car Boot and Farmers Market -**

Sunday 4th May

Hornfair - Sunday 25th May

(Anyone wanting a stall for the Hornfair please contact Vicky Sercombe on 07900 676389)

### Summer Show - Sunday 24th August

### Fireworks - Saturday 8th November

Please look out for specific details of events nearer the time which can be found in the 'In - Touch', on Facebook, Village notice boards and on the website: <a href="www.greathockham.org">www.greathockham.org</a>

Money raised at these events is in support of the playing field and equipment.

#### YOUR VILLAGE NEEDS YOU!

We are looking for volunteers to help with various events throughout the year – could you help with putting up marquees, baking, manning stalls, marshalling at events or anything else that would be helpful. We appreciate you might not be available for all events, but any and all help is very much welcomed.

If you can help, please message or call Aimie on 07930 158911

### MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HOCKHAM PARISH COUNCIL ON MONDAY JAN 6<sup>TH</sup> 2025 IN HOCKHAM VILLAGE HALL

Present; Councillors; Bennett (Chair) Lambert, Lloyd, Thomas Loft, Leech and Wiltshire, the clerk C Garrod, plus 5 members of the public.

- 1) Apologies for absence; Councillor Cowen
- Declarations of interest, Councillor Lambert as landlord and owner of the Eagle, Councillor leech as a farmer at Little Hockham, Councillors Bennett and Loft as allotment holders.
- 3) Requests for dispensation. None
- 4) Minutes from 09/12/24. Unanimously approved.
- 5) Progress.
  - a) Wheelchair ramp. Purchased and used. It was agreed to remove some soil to make the ramp steadier.
  - b) Info board. No further progress.
  - c) Website. Councillor Wiltshire was investigating.
  - **d) Drainage.** NCC highways have investigated some drains. It was believed they would camera survey the drain by the Eagle.
  - e) Bollards. NCC Highways would not install bollards.
- 6) The meeting was adjourned for public participation.
- 7) District and County Council reports. Councillor Cowen had sent a report that was read out by the clerk. (Added in full to minutes)
- 8) Highways and Road Safety (Cllr Thomas). The sign on the Watton Rd had been fixed. The condition of Parliament Lane would be reported. Some overgrown hedges would be investigated opposite side of the road to the village fields.
- 9) Planning Applications and Planning Issues. As a result of the NPPF changes, the leader of Breckland council had issued a note to say that housing numbers needed to increase by approx. 40%. Two planning appeals were in progress, Sunnyside and Springfield.
- 10) Finances. There was £18238.15 in the bank. Approval was given for payments to the clerk for salary of £186.96, village hall water for allotments of £109.68, Pearce and Kemp for streetlight maintenance for £45.60 and to Serco for grass cutting at £1497.98. The latter would need to be an electronic payment and councillor Lambert and Leech agreed to progress the online authorisation.
- 11) Allotments (Cllr Bennett). One half had been re let on Harling Rd.
- 12) **Footpaths and Rights of Way (Cllr Loft).** The trod needed a new surface. NCC highways would be contacted.
- 13) **Playing Field.** A meeting was due soon. The chair congratulated the Xmas tree team for the lights this Xmas. It was agreed the PC would fund any new or replacement lights. There was £16907.95 in the bank plus some cash in a float. The benches were soon to be located. An independent inspection of play equipment had highlighted no new issues, and all the old issues had been sorted.
- 14) **In Touch.** An in-depth letter had been received for the In Touch Committee. A meeting would be convened between the two parties.
- 15) **Community Car Scheme.** No new drivers had been found yet. A notice would go on the notice board.

- 16) **Councillor Updates**. Following the public participation, it was agreed to investigate a footpath opposite North Farm. NCC would be contacted re land ownership. It was asked if an update on the Harling Surgery Practice could be sought.
- 17) Correspondence. None other than that which had already been dealt with.
- 18) **Next meeting** Monday 10<sup>th</sup> Feb 2025

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