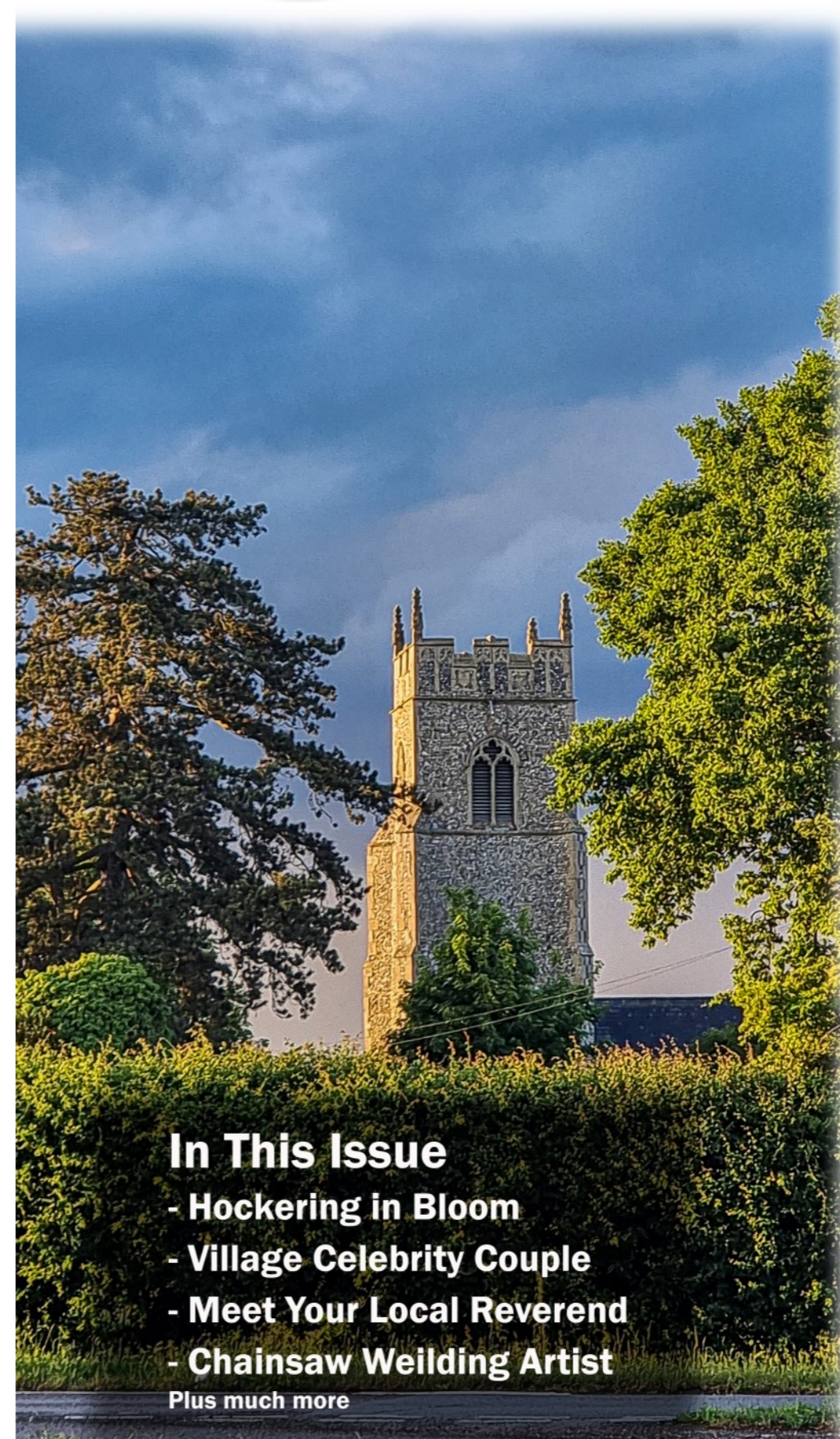




HOCKERING

Life

SUMMER 2023 EDITION



In This Issue

- Hockering in Bloom
- Village Celebrity Couple
- Meet Your Local Reverend
- Chainsaw Weilding Artist

Plus much more



Guest Editors Comments

Hi and welcome to Hockering Life – Summer 2023 Edition.

Firstly and most importantly I should point out that I don't usually dress as brightly as in my profile picture, but I recently took part in a charity golf day for The Clare School and I won the prize for the most colourful outfit so I thought I'd share the fun.

As you may have noticed this quarter's publication is slightly different. Inside these pages you will find a celebration of everything Hockering. All of the important village updates and news is still included, however we wanted to focus on the positive aspects of our village that are often hidden or overlooked; the beauty of our village, the community spirit, the kindness of the people that live here, the talent of our residents as well everything that is being achieved by the Parish Council, the Playing Field Association and local village residents whose efforts and hard work slip under the radar.

This special edition came about because unfortunately Richard Hawker, who usually edits the Hockering Quarterly News, has had to take a temporary break. Richard says:

"Penny and I are taking a sabbatical for a few months on health grounds, but hope to be back on the editorial team later in the year. Thanks to those who have wished us well. And thanks to Pippa and the team for all their work on this issue."

I am sure you will all join me in wishing Richard and Penny the very best during this period and we look forward to them returning later in the year.

I really hope you enjoy flicking through the pages as much as I have enjoyed pulling these stories together. If you have any feedback on this issue or any ideas for stories to include in future issues please get in touch.

Pippa Cocker, Guest Editor .
Pippa.cocker@gmail.com

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CALL FOR ARTICLES

This is **YOUR** magazine

Have you anything interesting to say?
A story to tell?
A moan to get off your chest?!

We are **ALWAYS** pleased to have contributions to publish.
DON'T BE SHY
Put pen to paper, or finger to keyboard and send us something for the next issue

Statements and opinions expressed in articles, reviews and other materials herein are those of the authors. While every care has been taken in the compilation of this information and every attempt made to present up-to-date and accurate information, we cannot guarantee that inaccuracies will not occur.

Rosemary Neave 07748 225980 - Ryta Lyndley rytalyndley@uwclub.net 01603 291898

Photo Credits - Front Cover Mark Sedgwick - Page 5 Cheryl Canham - Pages 8 & 9 Matt Darge / Mark Cocker - Page 12 Tori Venmore-Rowland / Steven Kemp - Page 13 Miss Dee Licious - Pages 14 & 15 Hockering FC

Thoughts FROM THE CHAIR



The Hockering Parish Council needs you!

We are looking at initiatives to improve village life and the facilities in Hockering, but we need your involvement with thoughts, ideas and where possible, hands on activity.

*What would you like to see in the village?
What's needed to cater for all age groups?*

Your views will be vital in the coming years as Hockering develops. To facilitate this, we will be setting up "Working Groups" to meet on a monthly basis and report back to the Parish Council. We would greatly appreciate any assistance you could offer. If you are interested in being part of this process or would like to know more, please let a member of the Parish Council know. We also invite you to attend our Parish Council meetings – The next one will be at 7:30pm on Tuesday 8th August, or come and talk to us at the regular Church Coffee mornings in the village hall.

Hockering will undoubtedly change over the next ten years. The plans for the dualling of the A47 past Hockering are currently (at the time of writing) under judicial review. It is the view of the Parish Council that this road improvement along with the proposed Western Link Road, will have a positive impact of the village. It will make the roads in and around Hockering safer and improve traffic flow out of the village in the mornings.

This will also make Hockering a more desirable place to live and the anticipation is that our village will expand in the next few years. One of our first working groups to be set up will be to develop a "Village Plan". This can be used to influence how

the village expands and the facilities that need to be included as part of this expansion.

Many thanks for all your thoughts, ideas and suggestions on Facebook and at the recent meeting regarding the relocation of the Playground. The Parish Council have been informed that the village Hall location is no longer a possibility, but we will continue to look at all potential options. We ask again for your thoughts on what would be suitable for the village and will be setting up a working group to help bring forward this initiative and related ideas.

This summer we will be arranging a Village Clean Up Day. The aim will be to pick up litter around the village and to clear the stream that runs under Heath Road and down to the school. Further information will be shared via Facebook and we hope that you will be able to spare an hour or two to help.

Lastly, after 18 months in position, Sue Marsh, our Clerk has decided to retire. We thank Sue for her hard work and wish her well in her future endeavours. We have been joined by Margaret Ridgewell, an experienced Clerk with Bunwell, and look forward to working with Margaret.

One last thought, from quoting Winston Churchill *"To improve is to change; to be perfect is to change often."*

Parish Council Meetings Dates

Tuesday 8th August
Tuesday 12th September - Tuesday 10th October
Tuesday 14th November - Tuesday 12th December

Held at the Village Hall from 1900hrs
(unless otherwise stated)



For All Agendas & Minutes Visit
<https://www.hockeringpc.info/minutes-agendas>



Letters FROM THE VILLAGE

If you have something important you wish to share, a complaint, a request or you may wish to commend another member of the community please contact the Parish Council

RE: Distribution of "The Light" ("TL") alongside the winter edition of Hockering Quarterly News ("HQN")

Response to Richard Hawker and Hockering Parish Council regarding the Editorial comments in HQN Spring 2023. Parish Councils are expected to remain politically neutral and serve all members of the community, regardless of their political affiliation or beliefs. Political bias undermines the trust and confidence that we as members of the community have in the Council.

TL is a right wing political publication that promotes extreme views and conspiracy theories based on unsubstantiated evidence. Whilst the views do not necessarily focus on promoting violence or hatred, what they do report is considered controversial and at times has included antisemitic sentiment.

The HQN is funded by the Parish Council and as such it is not unreasonable to expect it to also be bound by the requirement to remain politically neutral. I would expect a community led newsletter to maintain a strong sense of ethics and not to associate itself with the views of politically motivated magazines that for example promote that COVID19 was a hoax or include anti-Jewish racism.

It is understood that the Parish Council are not endorsing any of the articles published within the HQN. However, for example articles included in the Spring 2023 HQN discussing the "Norfolk Fuchsia and Pelargonium Society" or a letter from the children of Hockering Primary about tree planting would not be considered to be promoting political or controversial views. These articles are appropriate to the format of a village newsletter. The inference in the editorial comments that the views in TL are as harmless as any regular content you would expect to find in HQN is disturbing.

Whilst I appreciate Mr Hawker's apology for allowing the inclusion of TL to be distributed with HQN, he does make no apology for the political views being promoted. The general tone of his response is dismissive and is seemingly trying to normalise the views expressed within TL. Yes, an individual could simply throw the bundled copy of TL in the bin, but this is ignoring the point that it should never have been placed there in the first place. Mr Hawker's comments in this respect are condescending and show a general lack of acknowledgement that what has happened was unacceptable. In fact, the response goes as far as to attempt to legitimise and further promote the views published by TL. In doing so it is continuing a political bias and giving credence to far right views.

I ask that this letter is published as prominently as Mr Hawker's comments in the next HQN so as to provide a balance to the points that he has made.

Steven Kemp / 5th April 2023

Response from the Editor Thank you Mr Kemp for your valued letter. Your thoughts and concerns were reiterated by many other members of the community who approached the Parish Council and voiced their concerns regarding this matter. This was raised at the Parish Council meeting on the 18th April 2023 and the Parish Council agreed that your letter should be published in full. Whilst this edition is not the HQN, it is funded by the Parish Council and we thought the inclusion of this letter is important.

Minutes from each of the Parish Council meetings as well as upcoming agenda's and meeting dates can be found on the Parish Council website: www.hockeringpc.info

MEET YOUR COUNCILLORS

Lynn Parker



I have been serving as a Councillor on Hockering Parish Council for a year now and will be pleased to serve on the Council for another term. I'm also interested in the community and hope that by joining the village hall committee I will be able to help by giving my support to many events planned in the future.

I trained as a Radiographer many moons ago in Bromley, Kent. I'm now retired from a career that I loved. I enjoy walking, reading, gardening and have a few hobbies to keep me busy. I have three grown-up children and four grandchildren.

I moved to Hockering with my partner

in 2020 from the South Coast, from a village just outside Hastings, (1066 county) called Northiam. I was keen to get involved within the village community here from the start. I joined the Parish Council last April, 2022, and have enjoyed working alongside my fellow councillors. I'm passionate about the village and helping the people who live in the community. I'm currently involved with the village school where I listen to the children read.

I feel it's important to keep villages alive and thriving and will do my best to ensure that Hockering is a village for its residents to be proud of and a lovely place to live.

Lynn Parker

Local Teenager

RAISES HUNDREDS FOR CHARITY



A teenager from our village has combined his passion for baking with a desire to help the local community by organising two hugely successful bake sales.

Jayden Canham, 14, from Hockering has raised over £700 pounds so far and is planning to do more. Jayden first came up with the idea of organising a bake sale to fund a school trip to Kenya in 2024. However, after the first meeting he decided that the trip wasn't for him. He decided that even though he wasn't going to Kenya he would like to continue with the bake sale and donate the money raised to two charities that he felt strongly about – the East Anglian Air Ambulance and PACT animal sanctuary.

The first bake sale in October '22 raised a fantastic £205 which was split equally between East Anglian Air Ambulance and PACT animal sanctuary. Inspired by the

success Jayden decided to expand and included both a tombola and Bric-a-Brac table at the Easter Bake Sale. This time Jayden raised a massive £500 which was split evenly between East Anglian Air Ambulance and Hill side Animal Sanctuary.

Jayden said "I wanted to do something to help and I really enjoy baking. Plus I thought it would be nice for the village."

Jayden's mum, Cheryl, said "I'd like to thank everyone for all the donations and support given to Jayden with his cake sale/tombola/bric & brac. What a lovely village to live in with all the support from everyone".

Well done Jayden, you are a credit to this village. Keep up the good work and we look forward to supporting you in your next charitable venture.



The Cinnamon Trust

The Cinnamon Trust needs more dog walking volunteers in Hockering

The Cinnamon Trust is the national charity whose wonderful volunteers help people over retirement age and those in the latter stages of a terminal illness by offering all kinds of free pet care. We are looking for dog walking volunteers to help a resident of Hockering and their delightful dog who would love to go for a good walk.

The Parish Council have been contacted by the Cinnamon Trust in an effort to find help for a Hockering resident.

Dear Hockering Parish Council

We have an owner who is a resident of Hockering asking for some dog walking support but don't have enough local volunteers to help so wondered if you would be able to help us to promote the trust and our need for additional volunteers in the area, I have attached a poster and our press release to this email in the hope that you will be able to help.

A bit about the trust and what we offer as a free service to the over 65's and terminally ill of any age :-

The Cinnamon Trust is the national charity for the elderly and terminally ill and their pets. We seek to keep owner and pet together for as long as possible with the help of a national network of volunteers who offer free assistance when day to day care poses a problem, we are unique amongst charities as we aim to relieve to the owners of any worries about their pets welfare both during and after their own lifetime.

All volunteers help in the ways that are most appropriate to them. Teams take it in turn to visit housebound owners to take the dog for a walk, volunteers foster pets as one of their family when owners face a spell in hospital or respite care, they take pets to the vet, even clean out the budgie's cage or cats litter trays.

Pets can be registered with us so they will come into the trusts guardianship should the owner pass away or have to go into residential care, they are then rehomed with one of our long term foster volunteers and will live with them for life but the trust pays the vets fees and provides holiday cover and ongoing support.

We will be very grateful for any help you are able to offer.

Kind regards

The Cinnamon Trust

www.cinnamon.org.uk appeals@cinnamon.org.uk 01736 758701

The Cinnamon Trust is a Registered Charity No: 1134680. The Cinnamon Trust is a limited company registered in England and Wales. Registered Office: 10 Market Square, Hayle, Cornwall, TR27 4HE. Company Number 07004861

HOCKERING CONTINUES TO



The 4 large Planters that were installed by villagers in the run up to the Queens Platinum Jubilee, continue to add character and colour to Hockering. The children from Hockering School spent an afternoon in the sun (and thunder) immortalising their handprints on the planters as beautiful colourful butterflies.

The installation of the planters went from conception to fulfilment very quickly thanks to the generous donations from local suppliers and village volunteers. TMA Bark Supplies donated the soil for the containers and thankfully Hayley, Jason (Boj), Sue and Carsten were hot to grab their wheelbarrows and shovels to help put the soil into the containers. Neil Hammond was fantastic delivering the 3 loads of soil on behalf of TMA Bark Supplies.

Last year a request went out on the Hockering Village Facebook page for

donations of bedding plants, and Hockering, you did not disappoint (I do love this village!), we received a wonderful amount of plants! A Massive thank you to: Colleen, Caroline, Hayley, Lynn, Brian, Janette, Jonty, Carolyn, Helen and Judy for all your donations and to all who helped plant them. This year we posted a similar request and yet again, thanks to the generosity of our village it wasn't long before the planters were weeded and refilled. And I think you will agree they are looking beautiful.

Since the planters have gone in, the community spirit has continued and yet again the village has pulled together. A special thank you goes to Brian and Janette who have cut the grass, Tanya who has given the planters a fresh coat of paint, Michael for all his hard work in maintaining and looking after the plants and everyone that donated their time and plants. As you can imagine it is hard work

to maintain this beautiful focal point in our village and we are very grateful.

The planters are a permanent fixture and we'd love to get as many people involved in their maintenance as possible, perhaps you would be happy to raise your idea? ie: Each planter is done by the residents living on certain roads? The main thing is that the Planters are for everyone to enjoy and hopefully you are already!

If you would like to volunteer to look after the planters or you have any ideas about how they can be maintained then please send a message to the Parish Council either via Facebook or email at hockeringparishcouncil@gmail.com

Thank you once again to everyone who has helped and continues to do so.

Tanya Lawrence



UPDATE FROM THE



Your Village Hall is used quite a lot, but there are some day times available also some weekend.

A typical month includes fitness, like Yoga and Kung-fu Fu, along with dog training, Bingo, hockering community cafe, coffee morning, plus dancing, Fuchsia and Pelargonium Soc., baby shower, birthday parties, etc. Parish Council meeting, and Village hall committee meeting.

At a number of these events everybody is welcome, at others they are private parties.

Look on the hall notice board for info.

If you would like to book the hall, please contact me (gleslie197@aol.com) or 01603 880157 George Leslie



HOCKERING *Chainsaw* ARTIST MATT DARGE TAKES A CUT AT THE NORFOLK SHOW



Matt Darge from Hockering has taken the Royal Norfolk Show by storm this year with three huge sculptures created right here in his Hockering workshop.

The first of Matt's huge sculptures is a 2.5 ton, 11.5 feet tall wooden dragon sculpture that breathes smoke. This sculpture took hundreds of hours to create and was initially delivered by Mick Mason from the Hockering Garage to Norski Noos gallery and cafe in St George's Yard in Dereham. Andy Sullivan, gallery owner, said he was thrilled with how it looked outside the gallery. The Dragon briefly left Norski Noos after heading to the Royal Norfolk Show. It has now returned to the gallery and coffee shop along with a couple of friends.

The second piece on display is an eight-foot statue of the Star Wars character Din Djarin, the title character from the Disney+ hit, The Mandalorian. Whilst slightly smaller than it's Dragon companion it still weighs in at over 1.5 ton and is equally if not more impressive. Matt created this statue as he wanted to do something completely different to the usual wildlife commissions he is renowned for.

The Dragon and the incredible Star

Wars character along with an amazing eagle are now on display outside Norski Noos Gallery and Coffee Shop. So please pop by to take a look at the smoke breathing masterpiece and her friends whilst enjoying a coffee and cake – what's more, if you bring a copy of this article with you Andy will give you a free coffee!

Matt said: "This has all been about proving I'm not a one-trick pony. "I'm always asked to do owls, hares, eagles and a lot of wildlife which I don't mind, I know I can do more, but never get commissioned to do so."

The third sculpture is an 11ft long garden bar with a Kraken carved into it - its tentacles taking the place of cup holders.

Other pieces that Matt has created include the Lady of the Wood at Holt Country Park. You can follow Matt on Facebook, YouTube and Instagram.

Matt is a long standing member of the Hockering community and has volunteered his time to help the village in many different roles, including being part of the Playing Field Association Committee and the Parish Council.



<https://linktr.ee/mattdarge>



Use this QR Code to visit Matt's LinkTree For his Social Media, YouTube and Website Links

Use this QR Code to visit www.norski-noos.com To see more videos of the Dragon in action

Remember to bring your copy of Hockering Life to Norski Noos for a free coffee and to see Matt's work in person



Photographers OF HOCKERING

As some of you may know within the village we have some very talented photographers. Combine this with the number of species of wildlife and the stunning countryside surrounding us it's inevitable that these talented photographers produce amazing photos.

Some of which are shown here with the wildlife photos by Mark Sedgwick and the landscapes from Steven Kemp. Each of these photographs were taken in or around Hockering by residents of the village. If you have any photos you would potentially like to be featured please let us know.



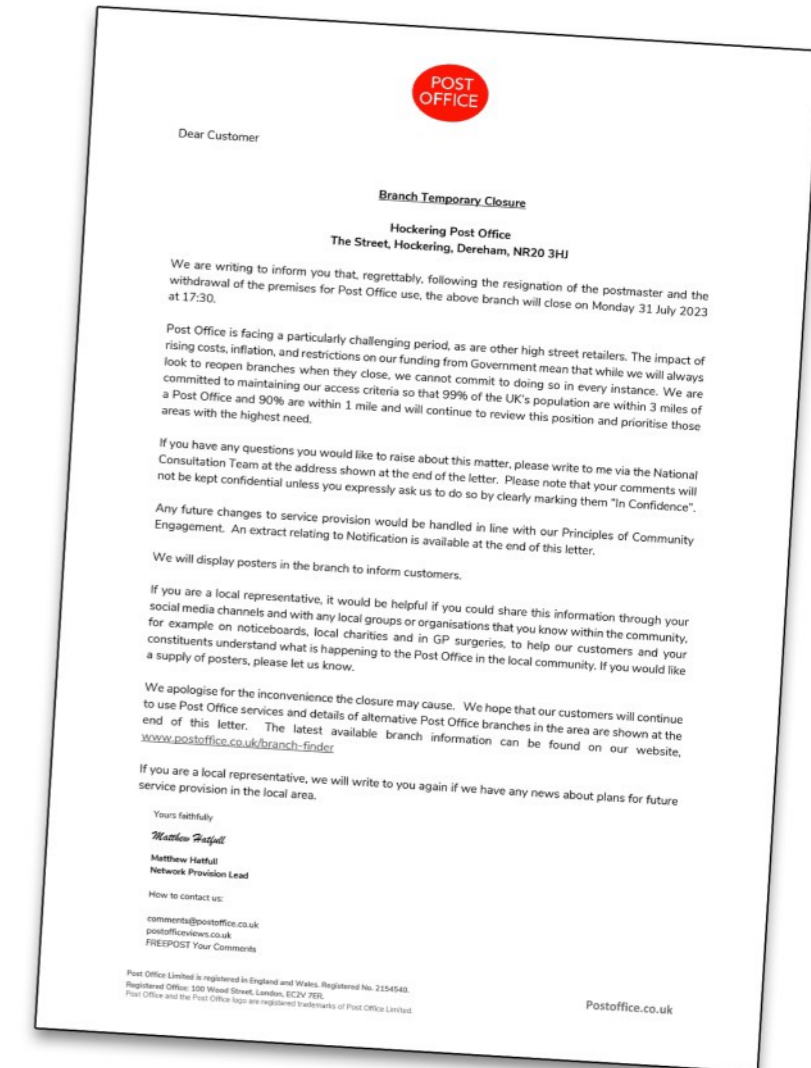
GOODBYE *Matt & Blue* CHANGES AT THE VILLAGE SHOP

Everyone knows Matt and Blue. They have run the Hockering Shop and Post Office for the past 5 years and have tirelessly supplied us with our essential shopping as well as a welcoming smile and friendly chat.

But the time has come for Matt and Blue to move on to their next great adventure which means that sadly the Hockering Shop and Post Office will be closing from the 31st July 2023. Mick Mason said that they are looking for someone to take over from Matt and Blue, however at the time of going to print new tenants had not been confirmed.

Matt and Blue have both been very active in our village. Matt has sat on the Village Hall Committee and led it as Chairman for a period. Blue did wonders for our village in 2021 by organising the village yard sale – which I'm sure everyone will agree was a huge success for Hockering.

We wish Matt, Blue & Antoni all the luck in the world for their next venture, you will all be missed in Hockering.



Alternative Branches
There are times our branches may need to make changes to its opening hours.
The latest available branch information can be found on our website
www.postoffice.co.uk/branch-finder



Mattishall Post Office
19 Dereham Road, Mattishall, Dereham NR20 3AA

Opening Times	
Monday – Tuesday	08:30 – 17:30
Wednesday	08:30 – 13:00
Thursday – Friday	08:30 – 17:30
Saturday	08:45 – 12:30
Sunday	Closed

Services
Offers the similar services, with the addition of Euro Dollar on demand, Vehicle Tax and On Demand Travel Insurance however excluding National Lottery

Access
This branch has a wide door and one step at the entrance.

Getting there
This Post Office service is located approximately 2.8 miles away from Hockering branch, along varied terrain. There is a free customer car park in front of the branch. Public transport is available to and from surrounding areas.

Easton Post Office
Easton Village Hall, Marlingford Road, Easton NR9 5AD

Opening Times	
Tuesday	09:00 – 14:00
Thursday	09:00 – 14:00

Services
Offers the similar services.

Access
This branch has a wide door and level access at the entrance.

Getting there
This Post Office service is located approximately 4.4 miles away from Hockering branch, along varied terrain. There is a free customer car park at branch. Public transport is available to and from the surrounding areas.

MEET YOUR Reverend TORI VENMORE-ROWLAND



What does a priest look like? What springs to mind? Maybe it's the Hot Priest from Fleabag, or perhaps something older, black robes and stern expressions. Perhaps Father Ted.

It's a question that's been puzzling me, as ever since I started to wear this little bit of white plastic around my neck, I have had people tell me 'you're not what I expected'.

I can't speak for everyone in my profession, but I can tell you what this priest looks like. I generally look fairly innocuous. Looks can be somewhat deceiving.

People have a tendency to think that priests hatch out of giant eggs somewhere. Laid on a nest of pews, perhaps incubated by bishops in cool corners of churches. When we emerge, we are fed on a careful diet of weak tea and ginger biscuits until we are ready to wobble into the light. Maybe somewhere along the way they lost the recipe for the right concoction, and now are forced to recruit from among normal people.

Yes, indeed, I was once a normal person.

Not really. What is normal, anyway? In my late teens and early twenties I got an art degree and half-covered in tattoos. Then I spent a decade in the Royal Air Force. I was an armourer, worked on Harriers and then built bombs for a living. (If you're wondering, they're like IKEA furniture, they come in a box and you put them together with an Allen key)

Somewhere along the way I acquired a husband and some children (I'm joking, I know exactly where I picked him up, and I'm 90% sure where babies come from). That's when God decided to have a sense of humour and called me for ordination. My first, second and third reaction was to say no, not a chance. However, I gave in before, like Jonah, a whale was brought in to change my mind.

So that is how I ended up at theological college in my mid-thirties, with a surprise third baby. And a little later, that's how I ended up being the curate in the Mattishall and Tudd Valley benefice. Your curate. Your priest. I have three children, a geriatric dog and a sense of humour that gets worse as the day goes on.

So that's a bit of what this priest looks like. If it's not what you expect, well, that's probably good.

And if you ever need a cup of tea, I can be very easily persuaded to put the kettle on. I might even be able to find a biscuit.



LIVING AND LOVING LIFE WITH LOCAL CELEBRITIES Miss Dee Licious & Mindy Pendant

Did you know that we have celebrities living here in Hockering? I had the pleasure of talking to Kevin and his husband Ed, famous in Norfolk as Miss Dee Licious and Mindy Pendant.

The Drag Queen duo have experienced huge success since launching their alter ego's during lock down, and have most recently featured in their own 6 page interview in Norfolk Magazine. Since launching Miss Dee Licious and Mindy Pendant to the world they have had a run of sell out events across Norfolk and it doesn't look to be slowing down any time soon.

Kevin said that Miss Delicious is "The Queen of the people with a voice for the People".

But their celebrity isn't just restricted to Norfolk. Kevin told me that he has won titles at Miss Charity Drag UK in both 2019 and 2020, he has been interviewed on BBC Look East News live, ITV Anglia, and Mustard TV. He has also been interviewed by PT Magazine and has been interviewed on Radio Norfolk no less than 8 times. On top of all that Kevin also has his own fitness DVD and is featured on the USA Powerhoop DVD. But, he was keen to stress that they both remain down to earth and true to themselves.

When Kevin isn't busy performing as his alter ego he volunteers his time as an ambassador for the LGBTQIA+ community and he was one of the founding organisers of the very first Dereham Does Pride held on 1st July at the Kings Head Hotel, Dereham.

Dereham Does Pride promotes 'Love is love'. The organisers of the inaugural event said that it was designed to focus on "connection, love, acceptance, support, family, appreciation, discussions and anything we can do to make you welcome and part of a community that will never give up on our rights to be who we are."

Miss Dee Licious and Mindy Pendant host bingo nights across Norfolk, bringing the LGBTQIA+ vibe to smaller communities, villages, and market towns. Their mission is to raise awareness of "queer life", it's challenges, and it's fights. They endeavour to educate their fans and clients about the importance of equality, self-love, and acceptance. All while providing a great and inclusive fun night out.

Kevin says that "the drag world and the queer scene are once again being challenged in many ways. That's why I decided to join the committee for the first Dereham Does Pride. I want to open a new local avenue and be a voice for younger queers. I want to give them the opportunity to stand up for their rights and be who they are without judgment."



For more information visit www.deeandmindy.com
Their upcoming Drag Bingo Tour 2023 Dates are

AUGUST - 5th Attleborough Pride - 19th The Swan East Harling - 25th Eaton Park Festival
SEPTEMBER - 2nd Watton Sports Centre - 8th The Ark Newmarket - 19th Hockwold Fundraiser - 22nd Beccles
29th Mattishall Golf Club - 30th Harleston Fundraiser OCTOBER 6th & 7th Miss Dee Unique Show Barnum Luxembourg
13th Aldborough CC - 14th Private Party North Walsham - 21st Bar Hill - 27th Mildenhall Stadium





Hockering FOOTBALL CLUB

End of Season Report

NEXT SEASONS PLANS



Men's Team

The men's team had an outstanding season, culminating in a remarkable achievement in the league cup. They displayed exceptional skill, teamwork, and determination throughout the tournament, ultimately securing the league cup success. Their victory is a testament to their hard work, dedication, and the efforts put in by the coaching staff and players.



The upcoming season brings exciting developments as the addition of a new ladies 7 aside team is introduced. This expansion reflects the club's commitment to promoting and supporting women's football, providing more opportunities for female players to participate and develop their skills. Furthermore, the foundation phase teams will see increased participation, with the addition of more teams at various age groups. This will include three teams at the under 8 level, two teams each at the under 9 and under 10 levels, and two brand new under 6 teams.

The inclusion of additional teams in these age groups demonstrates the club's dedication to nurturing young talent and fostering their love for the sport from an early age. The expanded opportunities will allow more players to participate in competitive matches, further enhancing their development and enjoyment of the game. The coaching staff will play a vital role in guiding and mentoring the players across all age groups. They will continue to provide quality training sessions, focusing on skill development, tactical understanding, and fostering a positive team environment. Overall, the upcoming season promises to be an exciting one, with the establishment of the new ladies 7 aside team and the increased participation in the foundation phase teams. The club's commitment to growth, inclusivity, and player development will undoubtedly create a positive and vibrant environment for players of all ages and genders.

Under 15's Team

The under 15s team secured safety in the league with three games to spare, finishing in a midtable position. Their consistent performances and ability to secure safety well before the end of the season reflect their determination and resilience. The coaching staff's guidance and the players' efforts in training and matches contributed to this achievement. Overall, the season was marked by success and progress across various age groups. The achievements of the men's team in the league cup, along with the positive performances of the foundation phase teams, highlight the collective efforts of the players, coaching staff, and the club as a whole.

Under 14's Team

The under 14s team demonstrated notable improvement compared to the previous season, finishing higher in the league standings. Their hard work, commitment, and development were evident throughout the season, resulting in a commendable achievement. The coaching staff's guidance and the players' dedication contributed to their success and progress.

The inclusion of the FA Wildcats and Squad Girls football programs at Hockering is a significant step towards promoting girls' football and providing opportunities for young female players to engage with the sport. The FA Wildcats initiative aims to inspire girls aged 5-11 to participate in football in a fun and inclusive environment. It focuses on developing fundamental skills, confidence, and a love for the game. By offering the FA Wildcats program at Hockering, the club is actively encouraging girls to get involved and fostering their passion for football from an early age. Squad Girls football, on the other hand, provides a pathway for older girls who are looking for more competitive opportunities. This program focuses on developing technical skills, tactical understanding, and team dynamics. By incorporating Squad Girls football at Hockering, the club is providing a platform for talented young female players to progress and excel in the sport. The inclusion of these programs demonstrates the club's commitment to supporting and empowering female players at all levels. It not only enhances the overall footballing experience for girls but also helps create a more inclusive and diverse club environment. The coaching staff involved in these programs will play a vital role in delivering quality training sessions and creating a supportive and encouraging atmosphere for the girls. They will focus on nurturing talent, fostering teamwork, and helping players reach their full potential. By embracing the FA Wildcats and Squad Girls football initiatives, Hockering is taking significant strides in promoting gender equality and providing equal opportunities for girls in football. It is an exciting development that will undoubtedly contribute to the growth and success of the club in seasons to come.



Under 13's Team

The under 13s team completed their season as a brand new team, and despite being in a building phase, they showcased promising performances. They exhibited determination, progress, and teamwork throughout the season. The coaching staff should be commended for their efforts in nurturing the players' abilities and helping them develop as a cohesive unit.

Under 10's Team

The under 10s team had a fantastic run in the league cup, reaching the semi-finals. Their journey in the tournament was marked by great teamwork, skill, and determination. Making it to the semi-finals is a significant accomplishment and a testament to the team's ability and commitment. The coaching staff played a crucial role in guiding and nurturing the players' talent throughout the season.



Under 7's Team

Both under 7s teams showcased their potential and talent in the league cup. Their impressive performances allowed them to progress all the way to the last 8 of the tournament. This achievement reflects the hard work and dedication of the young players, as well as the guidance provided by the coaching staff. The experience gained in this tournament will undoubtedly contribute to their future development as footballers.

For Everything
Hockering FC visit
www.hockeringfc.com





DEREHAM WALKERS ARE WELCOME

Please come and join us for a walk in the local area.



Our short walk of around four miles is always on the first Friday of the month. There is a programme of longer walks planned for 2023 as well as trialling walks of just two miles for those just beginning their walking experience. For up-to-date information, please check our website www.derehamwaw.org.uk email Ken Hawkins: ken-hawkins@tiscali.co.uk - or call him on 07505 426750

Dereham Walkers are Welcome is a not for profit organisation

LINK ASSOCIATION *Mattishall Dementia Support Group*

I have been co-ordinator for The Link, which is Mattishall Dementia Support Group, for around 18 months now, and, generally speaking, it runs pretty well, session on session, much the same as it did from its inception in 2018, with a few minor tweaks and changes.

We hold lots of information, have a thriving separate carers group, promote the use of individual playlists and memory boxes to help in those distressed times. We have quizzes, word searches, puzzles to do as well as singalongs and this suits our membership. Also, we had a very successful time at the coronation Fayre.

But what of other people with dementia, who don't find a group like ours useful?

I and other volunteers went recently to the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital to the first Dementia Fayre they had been able to organise since covid. One of the presentations was from Dirck Geary, an ex rugby player, who has early-onset dementia, and talked about his life - his golf, his driving, his decision-making. He shared that, along with Norfolk and Waveney Dementia Support Services, he has set up a Support Group in North Norfolk for people recently diagnosed with dementia. As he said, such people have different needs which are not filled by a 6 piece puzzle! They need to talk, share ideas and solutions to problems of living with the brain disease dementia.

So what of recently diagnosed people in Mattishall? Or those with dementia that do not have carers? Where do they go, to lessen their worst fears about their maybe occasional symptoms and progressive diagnosis? I do not know. If you are recently diagnosed and would like to meet with others fairly locally, please get touch and I will do what I can to facilitate it.

**The Link is held every 1st and 3rd Tuesday at Mattishall Methodist church, 10 am -12 noon.
Lin Thompson. Tel 0776 957 3499 Linthompson49@gmail.com**



COMMUNITY ACTIVITY GROUP FOR MEN

Dereham Men's Shed is a community group where men can enjoy activities similar to those they might do in a garden shed, only in the company of others. Members can create and learn new skills or simply chat and make new friends over a cuppa.

Dereham Men's Shed is based at Dereham Theatre Company's building on Norwich Street, Dereham. We have our own well-equipped workshop for our members to use and we have use of the kitchen where we can chat away to our heart's content! We also have access to an upstairs room where the atmosphere is rather quieter. In April 2023 we received a grant from Morrison's Foundation to construct a ramp to help improve access to the building.

We get up to all sorts of different activities and it is not just about the workshop. We regularly help local charity organisations with gardening, decorating and simple construction work. Our members can also join us on days out to local attractions and other places of interest, such as Fransham Forge and the City of Norwich Aviation Museum.

In the workshop we are able to construct items to aid the local community. For example, we have constructed a bar for a local care home and bird boxes for a local surgery. Members can often be found crafting away to make a variety of things to sell at fairs and other events.

If you would like to know more then we would love to see you on a Wednesday afternoon and answer any questions you may have.



www.derehammenshed.org.uk