

THE *Mardler*

BROCKDISH & THORPE ABBOTTS



Edition No. 229 October - November 2020

**THE MARDLER is FREE and delivered to all
houses in Brockdish and Thorpe Abbots**

Also available on-line at www.the mardler.org.uk

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The views expressed in The Mardler are not necessarily those of the Editorial team. The Editor reserves the right to amend or alter any copy received.

BROCKDISH VILLAGE HALL

EVENTS IN THE VILLAGE HALL
CURRENTLY SUSPENDED UNTIL
FURTHER NOTICE

ADVERTISING IN THE MARDLER

If you are interested in advertising, the current rates are £25 for ¼ page and £50 for ½ page, which covers the 6 issues from 1st April annually. The cost for less than 6 issues is £5 per issue for ¼ page and £10 per issue for ½ page. For further information please contact Judith Chambers, see above.

Useful Contacts

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Harleston and Diss 101

NHS Direct 111

Electricity Power Cuts 105

Gas Emergencies 0800 111 999

Anglian Water 03457 145 145

South Norfolk Council 01508 533633

Borderhoppa 01379 854800

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Thorpe Abbots Village Hall 01379 668705
Bookings Kelvin Halifax

Waveney Heritage Centre 01379 668285

Carpet Bowls Club
Glyn Catchpole 01379 668698

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Clare Peed 01379 668715

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Niall O'Brien 07526 883776

South Norfolk District Councillor
Clayton Hudson 01379 676259

Parish Clerk
Teresa Hines 01379 308617

Libraries
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Editorial

With the worldwide pandemic still very much part of our lives, as we move into the autumn months our communities will be more important than ever. The darker evenings and return of the bad weather mean that people will become more isolated in their homes. Let's take care of each other and drop in on our neighbours for a chat. We will get through this together! As always, any content for the magazine is most welcome. Please contact any member of the editorial team if you would like something included.

Rob Buck, Editor

REMEMBER

Closing date for entries in the
December 2020 / January 2021 issue
Is 6th November 2020

**Articles received after this date may
not be included in the next issue.**



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Village Information

Harleston Library



Norfolk County Council

Harleston Library is back open!

We have the following temporary opening hours:

- Monday 1-6pm
- Wednesday 10am-2pm
- Friday 10am-2pm
- Saturday 10am-2pm

We have made changes in the branch to ensure everyone's safety, and you can browse and borrow books from the adult and children's areas, use our public PCs, pick up Select and Collect books and pick up Grab and Go bags for children.

For further information, and to access our Telephone Support Service, call (01603) 774777.

*Ryan Watts, Library Manager – Diss, Harleston & Long Stratton
Norfolk County Council Library & Information Service*

The Mardler—Large Print Edition

The editorial team are happy to provide a large print version of the magazine to readers who would like a copy. Please contact a member of the team to reserve your large-print copy of the next edition.

Companion/Helper Wanted

Could you spare a couple of hours a week to visit an elderly lady in Thorpe Abbots to prepare lunch, have a game of scrabble or tea and a chat?

If so, please phone Juliet on 07443 535148 or 01379 669002.

£10 per hour.

Village Information

Knitting Appeal Update

The Midwives at Norfolk & Norwich hospital would like to thank everyone for their kind donations of hats, gowns and triangles.

They now have a new baby safety initiative using different traffic light colours. Therefore they have requested that future hats are knitted in either **purely red, orange or green with a red, orange or green band, all in a size medium.**

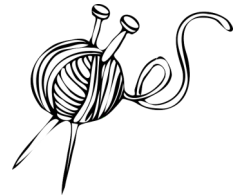
All hats that have been already knitted (in other colours) are most welcome and will be used, so they will definitely not be wasted!

Please get in touch if you would like to start knitting and need a pattern, or if you would like to donate wool.

Many thanks to you all.

Cheryl Mounser

tel. 741435



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Village Information

Waveney Heritage at the Old School, Brockdish

The big news is that we had a talk scheduled for 20th September! The bad news is that we could only accommodate eighteen members because of social distancing. When I messaged our members with the news, I filled the available places within a few hours, so there is definitely a demand out there!

Elaine Murphy, our patron, agreed to talk about the drovers who walked themselves and large numbers of cattle, geese and so-on very long distances, even as far afield as Scotland, to the London markets.

Many of the roads in this area were part of the routes and so there evolved associated enterprises, such as inns and rest places, including fields presumably. The presence of a tannery in Brockdish may also have had a connection, given that some of the animals may not have survived the journey. I'm writing this at the beginning of September, so I can't tell you any more about it, but we're certainly looking forward to it!

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Village Information

Waveney Heritage at the Old School, Brockdish

We hope that, although we will not be able to resume our twice-monthly talks in the near future, we will manage to fit in some events over the next six months or so, including one more before Christmas. Who knows what the New Year will bring, but we will be ready for anything! In the meantime we continue to look after our building, await news on our conversion to a charity, pursue the question of conversion to museum status for some of our collection and take part in a series of training seminars with representatives from the Archive Centre in Norwich to assist us in transferring our considerable collection of donated paper records to on-line so that they can be accessed by many more visitors.

Don't forget that we have a lot of space at the Old School and if you are looking for somewhere to hold events, store materials or anything else you may think of, you are welcome to chat to myself or Jill Edwards. The studio in particular is a lovely light, open space, lending itself to lots of possibilities! Just give Jill or me a ring or email and we'll have a chat.

Mary Thompson

marygthompson@aol.com

01379 668279

Jill Edwards

jilledwards282@googlemail.com

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The Thorpe Abbots Halloween Spectacular



Saturday 31st October, 12pm onwards

For the past few years, the Thorpe Abbots Hallowe'en Ball has been one of the highlights of the year. However, this year, we are going to have to do things a bit differently.

From **12pm onwards on Hallowe'en**, there will be a pumpkin treasure hunt around the village. Follow the clues to find a trick or treat surprise inside each pumpkin.

Young and old welcome—fancy dress encouraged! There will be 2 sets of clues coming through your door— you choose whether to go cryptic or concise.

As always, if you would like to leave a pumpkin and treats outside your house, then our young people will be very grateful!

Please take photos of your group* enjoying the hunt—we will publish these in the next edition of the Mardler.

Have fun everyone!

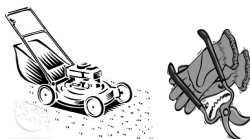
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Village Information



THE CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS (TCV)



BROCKDISH COMMON

South Norfolk's beautiful historic landscape known as 'The Claylands' offers a wealth of opportunities to enjoy nature. However, among its gently sloping river valleys, farmlands, pockets of ancient woodlands and hedgerows, many once common species, such as summer-visiting turtle doves and cuckoos, are under threat.

Despite this, there is much you can do; we have opportunities to help wildlife on sites in Diss, Dickleburgh, Rushall, Gissing, Brockdish, Earsham, Ditchingham, Broome, Bungay, Wortwell, Billingford, North Cove and beyond.

You can help protect an exceptional but little-known area for nature – the South Norfolk Claylands. Join us Mondays and most Sundays between 10am – 2pm. In Brockdish we meet monthly on a Sunday. Anyone over 18 can join the group and you will find that an experienced, friendly leader provides all the training and equipment you need. There is a range of different activities, so you can start gently and build up to more challenging tasks if you wish – whatever your capabilities. You do NOT have to be physically fit to join in! We can find something for everyone to get involved.

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THE CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS (TCV)

BROCKDISH COMMON

As well as our regular working party we plan to offer wildlife surveys, nature walks and workshops. If you have some great ideas, a skill or expertise you would like to share, please get in touch. Organising this takes a lot of time, so if you would like to offer more office-based skills and carry out administration/promotional activities for the group, we would love to hear from you as well.

Funding to establish this group is from the Heritage Lottery Fund, with contributions from our excellent partners Norfolk Wildlife Trust, Brockdish Parish Council and Dickleburgh and Rushall Parish Council. To find out more please contact Katie Utting (katieutting@TCV.org.uk) or call 07966510605.

Our photo shows a group on Brockdish Common and if you go that way you will see a continuing improvement in this lovely open space extending down to the River Waveney.



Parish Council

BROCKDISH (inc. THORPE ABBOTTS) PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN - CHRISTINE MACKENZIE TEL: 01379 668818

CLERK - TERESA HINES TEL: 01379 308617

Email: **brockdishthorpeabbottspc@gmail.com**

VACANCIES

If you are interested in becoming a Parish Councillor, then please contact Christine MacKenzie (Chairman) on 01379 668818 for further information or email brockdishthorpeabbottspc@gmail.com (currently two vacancies).

PLANNING (www.s-norfolk.gov.uk)

Applications:

2020/1618 Hilltop Farm, Hall Road, Brockdish (agricultural building)

Proposal: Demolition of existing agricultural building and erection of 4 barn style dwellings.

2020/1349 Mill Pightle, School Lane, Thorpe Abbots

Proposal: Extension of bungalow to form 2 storey dwelling. Conversion and extension of garage to form annexe.

Decision: (approved by SNC and PC)

2020/1139 Pantiles, Grove Road, Brockdish

Proposal: Replace windows & external doors. Change colour of windows and exterior of property.

DATES OF NEXT SCHEDULED MEETINGS (members of the public are most welcome to attend). Agenda posted on both village notice boards prior to the meeting.

- Tuesday 27th October 7pm Brockdish tbc
- Thursday 26th November 7pm Thorpe Abbots Village Hall tbc
- No meeting is held in December

Just when you thought this might all be over.....

The Thorpe Abbots Socially Distanced Quiz: Nightmare on The Street



Saturday 31st October, 8pm

Live on Facebook across the nation

Featuring all the old favourites:

- The Pandemic Play-off
- The Wheel of Doom

Simply 'like' 'Thorpe Abbots Village' page on Facebook and tune in on the night. We can stay open later than 10pm! (but we won't)

*Next quiz: **Saturday 29th November at 8pm***

Contact Paul & Jo Slater for further details (tel. 668585)

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Early 20th Century Memories of Brockdish

David Seddon

In the last issue of *Village People* (August-September 2020), Dennis Cross presented some visual 'memories of Brockdish' in the early 20th century from selected postcards. Most of these were from a period that no-one in Brockdish can now recall. But from various sources¹ we can supplement the postcards and provide an overview of village life at that period.

The population held remarkably steady during the first three decades of the 20th century, between 90 and 100 households and between 350 and 390 total population. After this, there was a significant increase; by 1960, the population of Brockdish was over 500. Most of the population was involved in farming and related artisanal industries. Horses and carts remained a major means of transport, but motor vehicles were beginning to appear, as shown in the postcard of The Village Stores in 1912, where Mr Lovack was shopkeeper.

Most men were still employed as farm labourers. The Eastern Counties Agricultural Labourers & Small Holders Union was launched at the Angel Hotel, North Walsham, on 20 July 1906, and one of the first three branches was at Kenninghall, west of Diss. Membership was stronger and more active in the north of Norfolk than in the south: in 1910, major strikes and disputes broke out in three north Norfolk villages. In south Norfolk, where farms were smaller, the social distance between landowner and labourer was less than on the northern estates. In Brockdish at least, the better-off local farmers were also actively involved in looking after the poor and the unemployed.

There were also new avenues for the expression of social and economic concerns. The creation of Parish and District Councils in

¹ Other sources include the archives at the Waveney Heritage Centre in Brockdish (housed at what used to be the Brockdish Public Elementary School, shown in one of the postcards provided by Mr. Cross). Another source is the 'Vision of Britain' data held by the University of Portsmouth (www.visionofbritain.org.uk/unit/10195792).

Local History

had led to half the seats in Norfolk being taken by tenant farmers and labourers, a major change from the gentry-dominated authorities of the mid-19th century. In 1900, farm labourers used their vote effectively against the Conservative candidates in nine of the 17 East Anglian constituencies; and the Tories actually lost South West Norfolk. There is no evidence of unrest on Brockdish farms during this period, although we can imagine the yearning for better wages and conditions by poor labouring families. One local source of income, mainly for women, was the clothing and drabbing factory of Syleham Mills just across the Waveney River. But drabbing sales declined during the early 1900s and production of the material finally ceased at the outbreak of the War in 1914. Also, the outlook for farming changed dramatically with the outbreak of the Great War in 1914.

The tension between the need to expand production of food and yet raise an army was keenly felt in the countryside. In 1914, the Norfolk Chamber of Commerce agreed to keep open the places of men who joined the forces as an encouragement to join up, and perhaps because of this, Norfolk had a higher rate of volunteers in 1914 and 1915 than many other counties. From 1916, more were conscripted to fight as losses mounted. At first only single men aged 18-41 were taken; but soon married men were included. By 1918 all men from 18-51 were called up, if fit enough to go, unless exempted by occupation. Farmers were exempt from call-up, but their dwindling workforce now had to be supplemented by older men, teenage boys, often illegally kept away from school, and women. Farmers were initially sceptical that women were 'up to it'. Farm labouring had not been a job for women for at least a century and those married to soldiers were often better off living on the meagre government compensation pay than working for a pittance in the fields.

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Local History

Also, Norfolk women generally preferred to work in one of the local munitions factories or in the manufacturing companies in Norwich. Brockdish, perhaps fortunately for the farmers, was too far away from the towns for commuting to factories, even by train. The great competitor for women workers in Brockdish, however, given the closure of the Syleham Mill at the outbreak of the war, was not munitions factories or farm work, but the Air Station at Pulham St Mary. At the end of the war it employed over 3,000 people, including a large number of women, as messengers, cleaners, cooks, gardeners and clerks.

In the meanwhile, the Corn Production Act of 1917 introduced measures to encourage increased agricultural output, including minimum wages (25 shillings a week) for farm workers. Introduced by the Norfolk County Agricultural Wages Board in 1918, this represented a substantial increase for farm workers in Brockdish; it was also affordable for farmers as a result of the new guaranteed prices government was funding.

Even though the effects of the war were felt in almost every aspect of life in Brockdish, life went on. The school, for example, remained open throughout the war and the logbooks of the period suggest that it had little direct impact on activities at the school. Coal was rationed from 1916, but local people kept their home fires burning and managed to enjoy themselves as well as to worry about loved ones far away and how they would manage in their absence.

There were several public houses and alehouses, including the Greyhound at the entrance to The Street from the west and the King's Head further down the Street, all of which were well patronised. Chapel and church, at opposite ends of the village, enabled those of different religious persuasions to maintain their spiritual life. At the centre of the village, in The Street, was the Post Office, where Mrs Mary Robinson was postmistress.

Local History

At the end of the war, however, one in five Norfolk combatants was dead; a quarter of the survivors had serious disabilities. The Brockdish war memorial records the names of 19 young men who fought and died in the Great War. Several of them were related to each other. These were the ones killed in action, but estimates of casualties for the Great War suggest that perhaps three times that number were severely injured and incapacitated, while many more suffered from what today would be called post-traumatic stress disorder but then was usually referred to as shell shock.

For many village girls, the chances of marriage and children were much diminished during the war because of the number of young men away from home. The deaths of so many young men from the conflict and from the 1918 influenza epidemic, also had an impact. The census of 1921 has a 20% excess of women over men in the 25-29 age group. Ten years later, half of these women were still single, and 35% never married. In Brockdish, in 1921, there were 200 females but only 161 males. The village was never quite the same.

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Coffee Break

Jokes

Q. What did the carpet say to the desk?

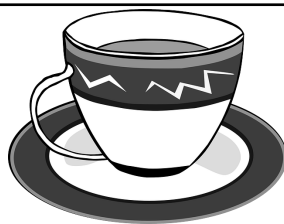
Ans. I can see your drawers.'

Q. What is always flying and never goes anywhere?

Ans. A flag.

Q. What relationship is a doormat to a doorstep?

Ans. A step-farther.



The Weather!

1. 'If on St Swithin's it do rain, for forty days shall it remain' is an old saying -on which day is St Swithin's Day?

2. Which dark grey clouds are commonly called rain clouds?

3. In a rainbow, what colour comes between orange and green?

4. What plant is also known as 'poor man's weather glass', because its flowers close in cloudy or rainy weather?

5. What term describes the degree of moisture in the air?

6. What is the name of the hot dry wind which blows from the Sahara, across the Mediterranean and into Europe?

7. What is the name for the circulation of water from the atmosphere, through the land and rivers, into the oceans and back into the atmosphere?

Answers on page 28



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The History of Brockdish Hall

© by Elaine Murphy

Brockdish Hall is one of several locations associated with the ballad known as 'The Mistletoe Bough'. The story goes that a bride, playing a game of hide-and-seek during her wedding breakfast, hid in a chest in an attic, the lid banged shut and she was unable to escape. She was never found and either suffocated or died of thirst. The body was found many years later in the locked chest as a skeleton in a wedding dress. Before we got wanted a traditional style and not a 'modern' look. Like all old houses it has been changed over the years to meet the demands of new owners and it is thought that while originally the house was built in a traditional E shape, the current west



Brockdish Hall Porch, 1634.

In winter, when the hedges and trees are bare, you can just make out the 17th century three story porch on this wonderful house from the footpath that runs along the edge of the field to the west of the lane leading to the Hall, which can be seen on the ordnance survey maps.

The Grade II listed building we see today is an early 17th century timber frame house with brick chimneys with a porch dated 1634 but whose architecture is in a style from a century earlier. Clearly Robert Laurence who built the house wanted a traditional style and not a 'modern' look. Like all old houses it has been changed over the years to meet the demands of new owners and it is thought

that while originally the house was built in a traditional E shape, the current west wing with the porch was probably the centre of the E. The building is now L shaped and in the early 19th century the south 'front' was made more fashionable with a pale buff-coloured brick façade and new 'Georgian' porch.

Local History

The 17th century house was built alongside a much earlier manorial hall site. Part of the moat belonging to the old hall still exists. The old manor was probably demolished.



Brockdish Hall west front.

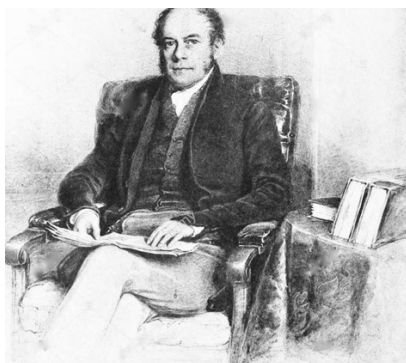
In medieval times, after the Norman conquest, Brockdish Hall sat at the heart of a large estate that comprised one of the three medieval manors of Brockdish Hall, Brockdish Earl and Thorpe Abbotts. Until the early 12th century, all were under the direct control of the Abbey of Bury St Edmunds, a wealthy foundation owning dozens of manors.

The Abbot eventually delegated the Hall manor to the de Brockdish family. Stephen de Brockdish and his descendants became estate bailiffs to the Bigods, the earls of Norfolk, the well-known powerful regional overlords. The Tendring family of Stoke by Nayland in Suffolk, were here next, who were important in the development of Brockdish village church. Sir John Tendring settled Hall Manor on one of his younger sons, Ralph. Ralph's son, also Sir John, (c 1380 -1436) probably paid for the new south aisle in St Peter and Paul's Church. John was also responsible for the creation of a splendid Purbeck marble perpendicular altar tomb for his father Sir Ralph Tendring, (1360 - c1400), which can still be seen, though rather battered, at the eastern end of the aisle. Ralph's wife Alice is also buried there.

Local History

In the 15th century the Hall manor passed to a branch of the Howard family, the later Dukes of Norfolk who owned extensive acres in dozens of manors across Norfolk and Suffolk. Then the Howards sold the Hall manor in 1565 to William Le Grice, who owned Brockdish Earl manor based broadly on what we now call Thorpe Abbotts Place, so joining the two Brockdish manors together. The Le Grice family made the Hall their main home and owned most of Brockdish land for 70 years or so. But in 1623 the le Grice family sold Brockdish Hall to Robert Laurence, who rebuilt the hall in the shape it broadly remains

For many years the Laurence family owned the advowson of Brockdish church, that is the lucrative gift of the living for the Rector. Not altogether surprisingly they liked to allocate the living to close relatives when they could, nepotism was normal in those days. Robert Laurence's young grandson, also Robert, became Rector in November 1738 at the age of 24 but within a few short months became ill and died. His grieving sister Maria placed a touching memorial in the church below the tower, which is still there.



John Birkbeck, owner of

Brockdish Hall estate

1817-1890

After the Laurences the manor was sold down through the 18th century to the Gibbs family (who also gave us rectors) and eventually in the early 19th century was sold to John Birkbeck, (1817-1890) a wealthy banker who lived in Settle in Yorkshire and acted as absentee landlord to a succession of farming tenants on the hall and manor lands. Birkbeck was an interesting character, a generous philanthropist in Yorkshire and his son and grandson both became famous early mountaineers. John was one of the founders of the Alpine Club that supported tackling Mont Blanc and other peaks and also an early potholer. He did not come to Brockdish very often, if at all. Perhaps Brockdish was not hilly enough for this family. One of his sons founded Birkbeck College in London. Brockdish has cause to be

Local History

grateful to John Birkbeck because he donated ownership of the Brockdish Common Rights to the parish although sadly we parishioners all forgot about the gift until fairly recently. The estate had various farming tenants throughout the 19th century. One of them, splendidly named Hatcher Nunn Prettyman, was a victim of 'rick-burning'. Rural incendiarism was inflicted on wealthy farmers, part of a secret 'guerilla' war waged in the countryside during the first half of the 19th century by the rural poor, producing a climate of unrest, discontent and class mistrust if not hatred. They never found the culprit at Brockdish.

Ancient houses often become dilapidated when neglected by an absentee landlord and a series of tenants. 'White's Directory' of 1836 declared that the Hall "has sunk into the obscurity of a farmhouse many years ago." The main occupants in the mid 19th century were the rector Rev George France's curates. In 1881 Rev Nathaniel Bolingbroke, his wife Kate, their five young children and two servants lived there.

Eventually the Hall was sold again in the late 19th century, to Gervas Holmes who co-owned the Syleham drabbet factory at the mill on the river with his brother Adolphus. Then much later, in the mid 20th century Lloyd Aves owned it, followed in the 1980s and early 90s Sir Malcolm Bradbury (1932-2000), the novelist and his scriptwriter wife Elizabeth. The photo shows Malcolm at the front door.



Since 1998, Dr Michael Heath, a medical pathologist and his family have lived there but they are moving on and Brockdish Hall is once more on the market as I write. It is a wonderful old house full of hidden corners and surprising rooms, a typical mish-mash of styles that somehow adds up to a charming whole.

*Sir Malcolm Bradbury (1932-2000),
at the front porch.*

The Crafty Bombers

@ Thorpe Abbots Village Hall

The Crafty Bombers is a craft club for busy kids who like to do busy things!

Each month there is a themed session with a variety of activities. Refreshments included. Toys and games are also provided to keep younger children occupied.

All sessions are 10.30am – 12pm.

Saturday 31st October *(Note change of date)*

Hallowe'en fun including

- 'Pump'kin carving to decorate the pump
- Spooktacular makes

Preparing poppies for poppy day



Saturday 14th November

Helping nature in the wintertime

- Bird boxes
- Hedgehog houses
- Bug hotels

Saturday 12th December

Festive fun

We will follow similar guidelines to schools to ensure our crafts are Covid-19 safe. Weather permitting, sessions will be held outdoors. Please do not attend if you or your child shows symptoms of Coronavirus.

If you would prefer a craft bag to do at home, please let me know.

Trickier crafts available for older crafty bombers who like a challenge!

To cover the costs of materials, we ask for a donation of £1 per child. Any crafty donations also gratefully received!

*For any enquiries please contact Jo Slater
tel. 668585 / jogslater@hotmail.com*

Village Information

Plots and half plots available now at Brockdish and Thorpe Abbots Allotments

Plots and half plots available now at Brockdish and Thorpe Abbots Allotments.

Brockdish and Thorpe Abbots Allotments Association (BATAAA) is run by a small committee of volunteers for members of the local community. The allotments are situated at the end of Church Road in Brockdish, just before the bypass. We have full (250m²) and half (125m²) plots available, and there is water on site.

To find out more about the allotments or to check plot availability please e-mail Rebecca Abrahall, BATAAA Secretary, at bataaa@hotmail.co.uk, contact David Young, Treasurer, on 01379 668556 or find us on Facebook.

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The Mardler Gardener

October and November are 'quieter' times for gardeners, but there are still jobs to be done that will make next spring easier.

October:

- Net ponds to prevent leaves falling in them.
- Clear up leaves from lawns and patio making sure any drains are clear.
- Move tender plants into Greenhouses or conservatories.
- Trim hedges for the last time before winter to maintain a good shape.
- Move evergreen shrubs while the soil is still warm.
- When the first frost blackens the foliage of dahlia plants, cut back and mulch-up to protect the tubers or dig up and store in a frost free place.

November:

- Divide clumps of rhubarb once it is dormant.
- Check bonfires before lighting up in case of dormant wildlife.
- Plant tulip bulbs.
- Once dormant, prune apple and pear trees.
- Wrap up the ferns and hardy bananas.
- If the lawn is still growing, cut on a slightly higher setting.
- The first of the leeks should be ready for lifting.

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Coffee Break Answers

Answers to 'The Weather' from page 19:

1. 15th July 2. Cirrus 3. Yellow 4. Scarlet Pimpernal 5. Humidity 6. Sirocco
7. The Hydrological Cycle

Kids corner

Competition Time

Calling all budding young artists, writers and poets!

The Mardler would love to receive your creations on the theme of



You may want to write a story or poem or draw or paint a picture. The best entries (as voted for by The Mardler committee) will be published in the December edition of the magazine. We particularly want a festive front cover!!

Please email/send your entries to Jo Slater.

We look forward to seeing your artwork!

jogslater@hotmail.com / 07919 264126

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The Mardler Recipe

Aromatic Beef with Orange and Apricots

Feeds 4; Time to cook: 1.5— 2 hours

Ingredients:

450 g lean topside or braising steak, cubed

1 tsp fennel seeds

1 tsp ground coriander

2 sprigs fresh thyme

1 clove of garlic, peeled and finely chopped

2 small onions, peeled and sliced

2 carrots, peeled and roughly chopped

50 g semi-dried apricots

50 ml orange juice

2 celery sticks, roughly chopped

100 ml red wine

30 ml red wine vinegar

Seasoning to taste

1. Combine all the ingredients in a large bowl and leave for at least 2 hours, if possible overnight.
2. Drain the mixture, reserving the marinade for later.
3. Heat 2 tbsp of oil in a casserole and brown the meat and vegetables.
4. Add 2 tbsp of plain flour, the reserved marinade, 1 tbsp of tomato puree and 850 ml beef stock and bring to the boil.
5. Add 175 g button mushrooms, halved.
6. Transfer to a preheated oven, Gas mark 4 /180°C, for 1.5 — 2 hours, until the meat is tender.

All Saints Church, Thorpe Abbotts

What a very strange summer which has impacted us in so many ways. All Saints like all churches was required by law to close in March, and only now are we beginning to see our small congregation hold services albeit with certain restrictions such as face masks and no singing. We would love to be able to open fully but current legislation has put the brakes on this. One thing that I have learnt over that past few months is patience; what will happen will happen in its own good time and when it is safe to do so. However, we are now open and holding the monthly services on the second Sunday of each month, as usual – bring a flask and have an outside catch up and cup of coffee after the service, weather permitting. Also, the monthly Compline services, usually alternated with Billingford, have been held at All Saints until the church at Billingford opens up again.

One thing that has done well this year has been the garden and for us, the allotment with all manner of things has needed a bit of extra TLC when water was not forthcoming from the heavens. This lack of water has also impacted on the wildflower population in the Churchyard, particularly in that very dry Spring. Mind you, the normal residents of whatever flowers they are, did make an appearance although not in as great a number as normal. Shortly we will be getting in the guys to cut and manage the wildflower areas with my good old trusty cythe having done its bit too. Due to the restrictions on access to the Churchyard, we have reduced the amount we normally cut. It has been lovely to see the huge variety of bugs of all shapes and sizes that now enjoy the longer grass.



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Church News

The swifts as always were very active in Thorpe Abbots where the older properties provide both the height and nesting spots they need. These often in the roof edges which allows the birds to crash land into the gutter then clamber on under the roof. Often these spots are favoured by the sparrows who of course nest prior to the Swift's arrival in May. This happened with one of my swift boxes and it was interesting to watch the sparrow's eviction by the swift with the ex-resident sitting close by waiting to try and reoccupy. I didn't see any house martins nesting in the village this year. I am told that the weather in the spring with the predominately northly wind prevented many from completing their spring migration which will have reduced the numbers in the UK. My martin box got taken over the sparrows in any case! I will shortly be taking down my swift boxes for cleaning so it will be interesting to see how many have been used.

A big thank you for all those who have had the lights on celebrating or remembering over the recent months it is so lovely to see the church lit up. It costs just £5 a night. The money goes straight into our Maintenance Fund, from which we draw frequently in the upkeep of this Grade 1 listed 900-year-old Church. If you would like the lights on please contact Sue Williams on 07855 414941. Please pay before the night.

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Thorpe Abbots
Contact

Revd Nigel Tuffnell
rector@7churches.org.uk

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Ann Cork - 01379 668635
Jan Croxson - 01379 668630

Christine McDonald
01379 669116

Brockdish church

This year due to Covid-19 restrictions, the Remembrance service on November 8th 3.00pm will be held outside around the war memorial. It will be a short service of prayer and Remembrance. Please join us if you can.

Jan Croxson - Churchwarden



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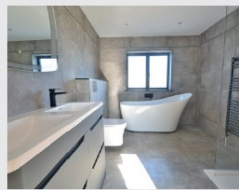


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