



# THE *Mardler*

**BROCKDISH & THORPE ABBOTTS**



**Edition No. 230 December 2020 - January 2021**

**THE MARDLER is FREE and delivered to all  
houses in Brockdish and Thorpe Abbots**  
Also available on-line at [www.themardlerorg.uk](http://www.themardlerorg.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  
ARE 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

## Editorial

Another month, another lockdown. I think I can safely say we are all heartily fed up with this now, despite all the promised news of vaccines. Let us all keep our fingers crossed that the government will let us celebrate Christmas with family and friends, albeit for a few days.

In the meanwhile, our communities are pulling together and trying our best to be festive in our special ways. Unfortunately, there will be no carol services at either church, but we are hoping somehow to organise a socially distanced event to mark the season. To raise our spirits Thorpe Abbots is hosting a village 'light-up' on December 6th - Brockdish residents are welcome to join in (although as loud as he is, you may not hear Paul shouting from the village pump!). Finally, many thanks to Mabel Slater for her very Christmassy front cover! A very 'Merry Christmas' to one and all! Let us see what 2021 brings.

**Rob Buck, Editor**



### REMEMBER

Closing date for entries in the  
**February / March 2021 issue is 6<sup>th</sup> January 2021**  
Articles received after this date may not be  
included in the next issue.



## Village Information

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### **Harleston Library (Subject to change as of 5th November 2020)**

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 create a safe environment, and you can browse and borrow books from the adult and children's areas, use our public PCs, reserve books and pick up Grab and Go bags for both adults and children.

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

Please note that overdue charges will begin to apply once again from 22nd November 2020

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

### **HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION WITHIN 2 MILES OF BROCKDISH**

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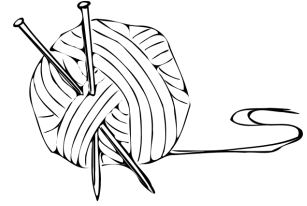
## Village Information

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### **Knitting Appeal Update - correction from last edition**

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, or white 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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### Jim's Mobile Grocery Store

visits Brockdish and Thorpe Abbotts on **Tuesday evenings at 5pm (ish)** - listen for the chimes!



We are so pleased to announce that our full dial-a-ride service is back up and running. It has been a long period of uncertainty for everyone but we are now able to once again provide transport around the local area for our members. However, we all need to continue to be alert and take all the precautions we can while attempting to go about our usual business.

Seating will be limited for a while to allow for the correct social distancing within the vehicle and we will ask passengers to use the hand sanitisers provided on the vehicles and to wear face masks. We are also asking that where possible, the driver is paid in the correct change as we are trying to limit the amount of cash that is passed around.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact the office on 01379 854800 or email [adminborderhoppa@btconnect.com](mailto:adminborderhoppa@btconnect.com).

We look forward to seeing you all soon!

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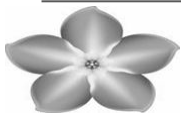
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## Village Information



### Harleston & District Dementia Friendly Community & Café



#### December 2020

Unfortunately, due to the Coronavirus situation we still cannot tell you when we will be able to resume the Cafes again; we have missed all our Friends that attend and look forward to seeing you all again in 2021.

In the meantime, we would like to wish you all a safe and Happy Christmas.

The Dementia Café is run to allow anyone with Dementia and their Carers to meet socially in a safe and comfortable environment on a regular basis. If you would like more information about getting involved or attending our group next year, please do contact Pat.

Patricia.simmonds@mail.com or 01379 676 557


#### A Village 'Thank you'

*Many thanks to Kelvin Halifax for cutting the grass at Thorpe Abbots Village Hall, and to Paul Slater for arranging the recent Halloween Pumpkin hunt.*



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# *The Great Thorpe Abbotts Christmas Switch On*

*Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December, 5pm*

## A Tree of Hope and Thanks

A tree decoration will be arriving through your letter box. Please write or draw your wish, hope or thanks on the decoration and attach it to the tree. The Christmas tree lights will be switched on at 5pm.

In what has been a miserable year for all, let us make the village sparkle for the children! Please decorate your homes and front gardens with lights to fill us all with festive cheer.





## Village Information

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### Carol Singing in Brockdish

It is with great sadness that we are not able to go carol singing in Brockdish this year. We shall all miss spreading a 'little Christmas cheer', but hopefully we shall be able to sing next year! We were going to collect for Macmillan Cancer Support, which is particularly important as we did not have our usual coffee morning in September. The village has always been a great supporter of the charity and I do hope to arrange a coffee morning as soon as we are able to meet together again.

However, in the meantime, if anyone would like to send a donation to Macmillan please put it through my door and I shall collect it together and send it off. All charities are missing their usual fundraising at the moment and any donations will be much appreciated.


Thank you for your support.


**Ann Cork (41 The Street, Brockdish)**

### Village Defibrillators


Brockdish Defibrillator is located on the outside wall of Brockdish Village Hall. At the village hall there is a clothes bank, all proceeds from this go towards the running costs of the Defibrillator.

Thorpe Abbots Defibrillator is located outside the Village Hall.

  
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## Village Information

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### Waveney Heritage at the Old School Brockdish

Despite all the traumas at the moment, we at Waveney Heritage are still progressing with our grand plans, albeit at a slower rate and in some different directions. Needless to say we haven't had any of our twice monthly talks since March. These were not only our mainstay as far as regular income is concerned but also much enjoyed by our audiences, especially as our speakers have been not only highly qualified in their respective fields but drawn from a very local area, underlining the wealth of talent and expertise resident here.

However, the absence of talks has meant that we have time to get on with a wealth of other activities, not least the maintenance of our lovely building and grounds. We have three sets of very large windows in the original school building, all of which needed work to the the basic structure and repainting. We're well on with this, the garden is under control, drains have been cleaned, gutters about to be cleared and new locks fitted to some of the doors.

Inside, the building is clean and bright, our collection of documents and artefacts continues to expand and the extensive "history of radio" collection bequeathed to us by the late Stewart Orr is in the process of being processed and documented in order to get it up to the standard required for museum status.



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### **Waveney Heritage at the Old School Brockdish**

In the meantime we have just embarked on a series of Zoom tutorials provided by Norfolk Archive Centre. These are intended to help us with the documentation, correct storage and scanning of our collection of documents, photographs, books and so-on, to ensure that they are there for future generations and to make them accessible world-wide for historians, genealogists and all interested researchers. As you can imagine this is a massive task, but we have a hard core of three very enthusiastic volunteers who are keen to get started, plus others of us in our spare moments! Incidentally, if any of you feel that you could contribute to this work please contact us: we'll be delighted to welcome you!

In September we did manage to fit in a "socially-distanced" talk by our patron, Elaine Murphy, albeit to a much restricted audience. She spoke about the history of the droving of cattle prior to the advent of the railways, from as far away as the Scottish Highlands, to the fertile pastures of East Anglia and thence to the London markets. It was fascinating and a shame more of you couldn't have heard it. We invited members on a "first come, first served" basis and filled the available seats within a few hours of my sending out an invitation, illustrating how desperate we all are!

We have been hoping we might fit in another talk before Christmas, but that will be a last minute decision based on the rules at the time. If it happens, Robin Twigge of the Swan Hotel in Harleston will entertain us with his experiences as a toast-master. You may remember that, earlier this year, he wowed us with a highly entertaining account of his life as a hotelier, so fingers crossed!

So, you can see that we are keeping occupied, pursuing our goal of fulfilling the original aim of George France, the Victorian rector of Brockdish, to provide education and enlightenment to the families of Brockdish and the surrounding area. I wonder what he would have thought when the school closed? At least he would be pleased to see that we are continuing the tradition of education and welfare within Brockdish.

Very best wishes to you all and KEEP WELL!

***Mary Thompson and all of us at Waveney Heritage***  
***marygthompson@aol.com / 01379 668279***

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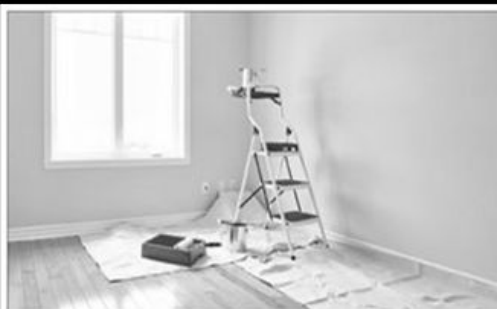
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@ Thorpe Abbots Village Hall

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 12<sup>th</sup> December**

Festive fun

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> January**

Helping nature in the wintertime

- Bird boxes
- Hedgehog houses
- Bug hotels



## National Lockdown Restrictions Permitting

*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*





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## Coffee Break

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### Jokes

Q. Why was the turkey in the pop group?

Ans. Because he was the only one with the drumsticks.

Q. Which athlete is warmest in winter?

Ans. A long-jumper.

Q. How does Good King Wenceslas like his pizza?

Ans. Deep pan, crisp and even.



### Hidden Christmas words

Each of the following sentences contains a word connected with Christmas - e.g. 'Put your hats on now' contains the word 'snow'.

1. At last, a bleak mid-winter. 2. You can buy good fruit in selected shops.

3. Is Herman German? 4. 'Fire In Deer Park' read the headlines.

5. During her Christmas hol' Lynnette knitted a sweater.

### What party food is on offer?

1. NECKICH GELS 2. NIMEC EPIS 3. BRAYWRESTR LELJY

4. GUSEASA SLORL 5. SHECEE DAN NOONI SCIPRS

### Top Of The Pops

1. Born in Halifax, Yorkshire, in 1991, who topped the charts at Christmas 2017?

2. Which Christmas no. 1 with a playing time of almost 6 minutes was a double A side with 'These are the days of our lives'?

3. In 1984 the seasonal no. 1 'Do they know it's Christmas?' raised money for famine relief in Ethiopia. Which African country benefited from the 2004 Band Aid 20 version?

4. Topping the charts at Christmas 2001 'Something Stupid' was a duet by Robbie Williams and which other star?

5. The Beatles had their last Christmas no. 1 in 1967 with which song, backed on the B side by 'I am the walrus'?

6. Rage Against the Machine's 'Killing in the Name' kept which X-Factor winner off the Christmas 2009 No. 1 spot?



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## Local Events

### The Thorpe Abbotts Halloween Pumpkin Hunt, Saturday 31st October 2020

The government restrictions meant that the usual Halloween Spectacular couldn't take place in the Village Hall. But that didn't stop the Village Hall Committee, who organised a pumpkin hunt around the village so that children could still enjoy a socially distanced trick or treat. Great fun was had by all despite the miserable weather. Many thanks to all who took part for making this such a success.



## Local Walks

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### **Walk off your Christmas dinner with this gentle walk around Brockdish**

Starting from the Village Hall go eastward along The Street past The King's Head Pub until you reach the old (beautifully converted) chapel, then turn northwards up the valley side on the path by the side of the chapel.

When you reach the crest of the hill don't forget to turn around and enjoy the views over the Waveney Valley before carrying on across the field ahead of you until reaching Hall Road.

Turn left for a few hundred yards until you reach Grove Road near to where it passes under the by-pass. Ahead of you is a path, part of Angles Way, which takes you across to Church Road, then a quick right / left puts you on a track past the Church.

Across the field to your right you can see the Allotments - if you fancy some digging then contact [bataaa@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:bataaa@hotmail.co.uk) On your left, past the Old Rectory, you will see the Parish Church of St. Peter & St. Paul - do pop in if you can, it has 11th Century origins and is well worth a visit.

At the Church you have a choice. (1) - you can carry on directly from the end of the track and find yourself through a gate and on to a path running parallel to the A 143 by-pass. Near the end of that path you will see an access to the main road and on the other side of the road a gate which is the beginning of another walk we'll do to Thorpe Abbots. The path brings you to Scole Road near it's junction with the A 143. Near to that junction there is also the continuation of Angles Way leading westward and that is the start of another delightful walk towards Hoxne. You can now return by road to the Village Hall.

The other choice (2) at the Church is a 'short cut' - on the opposite side of the Church Yard from where you entered there is a gate and a left turn onto the path there will take you back to Church Road. Turning south will bring you to Scole Road and a left turn will return you to the Village Hall.

### ***An Old Scout***





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### The Wonderful World of Bees and Beekeeping

Bees are one of the most fascinating creatures in the world and I personally think they are the most fascinating creature in the world. Scientists believe that the first bees came into existence approximately 120 to 150 million years ago. To put that into perspective, dinosaurs died out approximately 90 million years ago and the Himalayas were formed approximately 57 million years ago; in comparison we humans have only been on this Earth for a blink of an eye. Bees, Ants and Wasps all come from the same family but have split and diverged into many different subspecies over the many millions of years in existence. There are approximately 20,000 different species of bees, over 12,000 species of ant and around 75,000 species of wasps worldwide. In Britain we have around 250 different species of bees and the vast majority of them are solitary, mining, or bumblebee. Although beekeepers are interested and fascinated by all types of bees, it is the western honey bee that fascinates us the most.

In the height of the season there can be as many as 60 to 70 thousand bees in a single hive or (colony). In that colony there are 3 types of bees: the queen, the workers and the drones. The drones are the male bee and their sole purpose in life is to mate with a virgin queen, after which they die. The queen is the singular most important bee in the hive. For many years people thought that the queen was actually a king or male - but as human observation became better and science improved,



it became apparent that it was a female. Although she has been given the title of queen she has very little to do with the every day running and organising of the hive. Her sole purpose in life is to lay eggs and she can lay up to 2,000 eggs a day. The vast majority of her life is spent inside the hive, and the only time that she will go outside is when the colony decides to swarm or she goes on her mating flight, at which point she will mate with up to a dozen or so drones. She receives a package of sperm from each drone and this has to last her whole life which can be up to 5 years. Once she lays an egg she has a choice of either fertilising or not fertilising the egg; a fertilised egg will produce a worker bee or may go on to produce another queen. An unfertilised egg will produce a drone. Genetically, drones only have one set of chromosomes from the mother - or in other words, they have no father.

## Local Interest

### The Wonderful World of Bees and Beekeeping

The vast majority of bees in a hive are worker bees or (female) and they do all the work - no surprise there! As soon as they hatch from their cells they get straight to work. Their lifespan during the summer months is approximately 6 weeks, but in the winter months they can live for several months. At different stages in their lives a worker takes on quite a number of jobs within the hive including housemaid, nurse, builder, queen attendance, undertaker and guard. The last job they do is forager, and this makes quite good sense as many will die outside the hive and meaning less work for the other bees to do. They also collectively make all the decisions within the hive. They control the amount of eggs the queen lays, the number of drones there are in the hive and when to force them out. As winter approaches, they decide when to supersede the queen, or when it's time to swarm. Swarming is how honey bees reproduce and occurs mainly in the spring and early summer. Between 30 to 60 percent of the hive will leave the hive with the old queen just before a new queen hatches; they will find a new home and again, that is decided as a collective.



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### The Wonderful World of Bees and Beekeeping

I have been a Beekeeper for about 8 years and have been helping my father for a few years before that. My father has been keeping bees for about 19 years and I don't think you ever stop learning. There is quite a bit to take in - it's like learning how to read a new language! As you open up a hive and look through it, you are trying to work out at what stage the colony is at, looking out for any diseases or pests that need treatment, how crowded the hive is or is there honey to be taken off. Every now and again you may need to feed them. I love to watch the bees coming in and out of the hive and just listening to the gentle hum emanating deep within, and I do think you have a deeper appreciation, awareness and understanding of nature. Many people are aware that bees are in decline and they are correct with the destruction of habitat, monoculture, the use of pesticides and of course the more unpredictable weather we seem to be getting of late, it is tough out there for them - especially for the wild bees. Trust me, we need them far more than they need us. So what can you do to help them out just a little bit? By having a small patch of your garden turned over to wildflower (just a few square feet would help), using less pesticides or even making a bee hotel - if everyone did this you can imagine the effect it could have on the bee population.

If you have ever thought about keeping bees then please contact Waveney Beekeepers Group on [secretary@waveneybeekeepers.co.uk](mailto:secretary@waveneybeekeepers.co.uk). We would love to hear from you! We run beginners courses, and we also have an open day in June where you can learn more about these vital and fascinating creatures.

*David Martin, Waveney Beekeepers Group*

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### Silent Night: the story of the carol that paused a war

Few Christmas carols evoke the season of peace and goodwill as readily as Silent Night. Two popular stories contribute to its appeal: one concerning the circumstances of its composition in Oberndorf, near Salzburg in Austria, and the other its role in the Christmas Truce of 1914 when the opposing forces walked out of their trenches to greet their enemies and share food and drink.

Joseph Mohr (1792-1849), the assistant priest in the parish of Oberndorf, wrote the original German lyrics of *Stille Nacht! Heilige Nacht!* in 1816. Mohr had previously served in the Napoleonic Wars and his experiences in Austria around the time of the withdrawal of Bavarian troops undoubtedly influenced the composition of the text. The music was subsequently composed by the parish organist in Oberndorf, Franz Xaver Gruber for use at a Christmas Eve service in 1818. The church's organ was apparently out of action, leading Gruber to compose his setting for two voices with guitar accompaniment.

English translations first appeared in the 1850s, and new versions continued to be published well into the 20th century. Most translate only three of Mohr's six stanzas – and this shortened form has also become the standard in German-speaking countries. Modern hymn books continue to use a variety of different translations, but from the many different versions of the opening line, "Silent night! Holy night!" has become the most widely adopted.

At least as famous as the story of the carol's origin is that of its role in the Christmas truce of 1914. In his book on the truce, historian Stanley Weintraub identifies the singer as Walter Kirchhoff, a German Officer and sometime member of the Berlin Opera. Kirchhoff's singing of the carol in both German and English is credited with encouraging the exchange of songs, greetings and gifts between the opposing soldiers. While there is debate among historians about the nature and scope of the truce, Silent night is firmly established in popular imagination as the soundtrack for this remarkable event.

*Adapted from an article in  
www.theconversation.com,  
with permission from  
**Dr Martin Clarke,**  
**The Open University***



### **BROCKDISH (inc. THORPE ABBOTTS) PARISH COUNCIL**

CHAIRMAN - CHRISTINE MACKENZIE TEL: 01379 668818

CLERK - TERESA HINES TEL: 01379 308617

EMAIL - [brockdishthorpeabbottspc@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:brockdishthorpeabbottspc@gmail.com) (currently two vacancies).

### **PLANNING** [www.s-norfolk.gov.uk](http://www.s-norfolk.gov.uk)

#### **Applications:**

**2020/1289** Annexe at Haggle House, Scole Road, Thorpe Abbots

Proposal: Replace existing windows with french doors to provide access to extended deck area.

**2020/2041** Highfields Lodge, The Street, Thorpe Abbots (removal/variation of condition)

Removal of conditions 3 & 4 of 2013/1414 to remove restrictions on occupancy of the building to allow use as independent dwelling

#### **Decisions:** (approved by SNC & PC)

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

Demolition of existing agricultural building & erection of 4 barn style dwellings.

**2020/1349** Mill Pightle, School Lane, Thorpe Abbots

Extension of bungalow to form 2 storey dwelling. Conversion & extension of garage to form annexe.

We would like to take the opportunity to wish you all a safe & happy Christmas.

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*Party foods – 1. CHICKEN LEGS 2. MINCE PIES 3. STRAWBERRY JELLY 4. SAUSAGE ROLLS 5. CHEESE AND ONION CRISPS*

*Top Of The Pops – 1. Ed Sheeran with Perfect 2. Queen's Bohemian Rhapsody 3. Sudan 4. Nicole Kidman 5. Hello Goodbye 6. Joe McElderry*

## The Mardler Gardener

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It is the time to lift the last of the carrots and hearting cabbages, especially the reds before they are found by slugs and are ruined. If pigeons are a problem push canes between rows as props for netting, to keep birds off the Brussel Sprouts.

Plant winter flowering Violas to cheer up the patio; compared with Pansies the smaller blooms have a better weather resistance. Mix plantings of Rosemary, Sage and Thyme as companions and to pick throughout the winter.

It may seem late but if you have spring bulbs left over plant them now. Ideally plant in a container with a lot of drainage and put in a sheltered place. When new growth appears, put under cover and you will get a perfectly good late spring display.

As far as houseplants go, if a room feels cold to you it will freeze an Orchid. Cyclamen and Azaleas are a better choice in a cool bright room. If too warm the blooms will go over quickly. Always keep Azaleas moist but let Poinsettia dry before watering, they are very sensitive to draughts. To keep a Poinsettia for next year, cut back hard in spring and put in a bright cool place for a few months ensuring it is bone dry. Remember when you have the watering can out don't forget the Christmas tree!



Soon the buds of early Snowdrops will heave at the soil surface and Hellebores open into the watery sun; and we can do it all again! Merry Christmas!



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Local Events



“Lest we forget”  
Remembrance Day 2020



# The Mardler Recipe

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## Chocolate Log

Irresistible Chocolate Log.... perfect for celebrations! Very moreish...filled with whipped cream and chocolate mousse. It is even gluten free! Serves 8 people.

### Ingredients:

150g (5oz) caster sugar

6 large eggs, separated

50g (2oz) cocoa powder

### Filling

225g (8oz) plain chocolate

2 large eggs, separated

225ml (8oz) double cream

Icing sugar (for dusting)



Preheat the oven to 180°C (350°F) gas mark 4.

A tin (29 X 18cm) and 2.5cm deep, oiled and lined with greaseproof paper (lightly oiled)

1. Start with the chocolate filling: break chocolate into a basin and add 2 tablespoons of water. Place basin over a pan of just simmering water and wait for the chocolate to melt. Remove from the heat and beat with a wooden spoon until smooth.
2. Next separate 2 eggs. Beat the yolks and then add to the warm chocolate mixture. Cool. Whisk the egg whites until stiff and fold into the chocolate mixture. Cover the bowl and chill in the fridge for an hour.
3. Make the cake: put egg yolks in a bowl and whisk until they start to thicken. Add the caster sugar and whisk until mixture begins to thicken. Don't make it too thick! Mix cocoa powder into the yolks.
4. Next, beat the egg whites to soft peaks. Add the egg whites into the chocolate mixture carefully. Pour the mixture into the prepared tin.
5. Bake the cake in the middle of the oven for 20-25 minutes until springy. Remove from the oven and leave to cool. It will shrink!

## The Mardler Recipe

### Chocolate Log (continued)



6. When the cake is cold, turn out onto greaseproof paper, dusted with icing sugar. Peel away the lining paper and spread the chocolate mousse over the cake. Whip the cream softly and spread over the chocolate filling. Roll up the cake into a log shape. It will crack! You might want to add an extra dusting of icing sugar on top. Enjoy!

### 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 (250m<sup>2</sup>) and half (125m<sup>2</sup>) 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](mailto:bataaa@hotmail.co.uk), contact David Young, Treasurer, on 01379 668556 or find us on Facebook.

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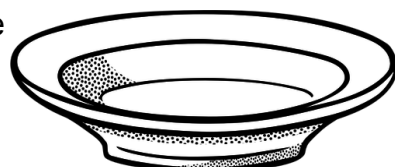
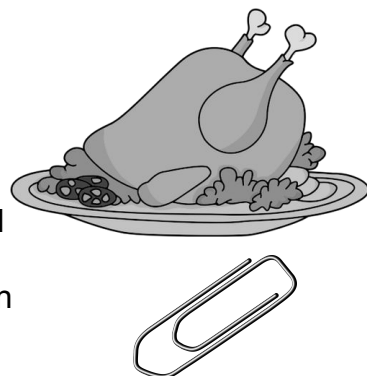


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Contact Care

### Let Christmas go smoothly with these easy festive life-hacks

1. Use plastic cups or egg boxes to store delicate decorations.
2. Wrap christmas lights around a coat hanger to keep them from tangling.
3. Does your wrapping paper keep unrolling? Use a toilet roll tube cut lengthways to slip over the end.
4. Store your rolls of wrapping paper in a clothes storage bag hung up in a cupboard.
5. Spilt candle wax? Place kitchen roll over the top then use a hairdryer to heat. The kitchen roll will absorb the wax.
6. Pick up stray pine needles with duct tape.
7. Christmas dinner smells lovely, but you don't want your home smelling of it for weeks afterwards. Leave a bowl of hot water and vinegar overnight.
8. To make your Christmas tree look fuller, use shiny green tinsel.
9. We all know how frustrating it is trying to find the end of the sellotape when we are wrapping presents. Simply put a paperclip on the end each time you rip a bit off!
10. If your oven is full on Christmas day and there is nowhere to warm your plates, then pop them in the dishwasher on a quick wash cycle.





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### **All Saints Church Thorpe Abbots**

Well a strange old time we are in, just as we were getting back into our monthly service routine and a couple of midweek Services of Compline, bang! - back into lockdown we go. As I write, we are in early November and the Church sadly needs to stay closed, apart from visits to turn the floodlights on and off. Hopefully you will have seen and appreciated the Poppy projection on the Tower. We are really grateful to the Mardler, the Parish Council and a couple of benefactors in the village who have provided the funds for us to hire the projector. As we move into this festive time of year the Poppy gives us pause to remember those lost in conflict over the years and those families for whom Christmas would never be the same.

Really delighted how well Remembrance Sunday at the Pump turned out, clearly quite amazing how many of the Village happened to be out and about when a couple of us marked the occasion. A big thank you to Jo Slater for the poppies in the grass which together with the wreath did look lovely.

I think that Christmas may be very different for many of us this year as we cope with the restrictions imposed by COVID. I have no doubt that since as a nation we always rise to any challenge, we will all gather somehow to mark this special time of year. As normal we will have the star on the church porch together with the Christmas tree. Unfortunately, it is highly unlikely that we will be allowed to have a traditional Christmas carol service in the church but are hoping to have a festive evening service early in December if the regulations allow.

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 alight. It costs just £5 a night and 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 please contact Sue Williams on 07855414941. Payment will be needed before the night if you could please.

***Simon Beet***



### Brockdish Church

On behalf of Brockdish PCC I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who generously donated to the church as part of the annual Gift Day Appeal considering the very difficult times at present the response was wonderful. We can assure you that all donations will be used to maintain the beautiful building of St. Peter and St. Pauls.

Sadly with the Covid 19 all our usual fundraising has had to be cancelled but, hopefully when we get a bit of normality back into the world, we can welcome you once again. All events will be advertised in the Mardler nearer the time and we look forward to seeing you then.

If you walk to the church you will see that two of the windows have now been removed for repair. Hopefully they will be in for Christmas. The Harvest Festival was very low key but we had a fantastic response of food donations for Emmaus. These were duly delivered to Ditchingham and were most appreciated.

Sadly there will be no Carol service this year. However we are pleased to say that the midnight service on Christmas Eve will be held in Brockdish church. There will not be a service in the church Christmas Day. The church will be decorated and kept open on Sundays until 4pm for those wishing to visit and for private prayer during the Christmas season.

Our best wishes for Christmas and a happy healthy New Year.

***Jan Croxson - Churchwarden***

#### Church Contacts

**Minister in Charge**  
**[www.7churches.org.uk](http://www.7churches.org.uk)**

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Brockdish Church Wardens

Ann Cork - 01379 668635  
Jan Croxson - 01379 668630

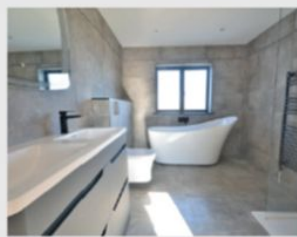
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