

THE *Mardler*

BROCKDISH & THORPE ABBOTTS



Edition No. 233 June - July 2021

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

Also available on-line at www.themardler.org.uk

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Welcome to our summer edition of The Mardler. Unfortunately, as I write this in May, the weather is anything but summery. The jumpers, raincoats and boots are still being worn and everything in the garden seems to be a month behind. The swifts have returned wondering which season they are in. A far cry from the beautiful weather of Lockdown 1, a year ago. Here's hoping that by the time you are reading this a much needed heatwave has appeared! The country is finally opening up thanks to the amazing COVID vaccination effort. Not wanting to tempt fate, few village hall events are advertised for June, but please keep an eye out on notice boards and on the village Facebook pages for updates. Fingers crossed the government will allow us to finally have a much needed street party in Thorpe Abbots!

Rob Buck, Editor



REMEMBER
Closing date for entries in the
August / September 2021 issue is 5th July 2021.
Articles received after this date may not be
included in the next issue.



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Village Information

Brockdish and Thorpe Abbots Allotments

Brockdish and Thorpe Abbots Allotments Association (BATAAA) is run by a small committee of volunteers for members from the local community. The allotments are situated at the end of Church Road in Brockdish, just before the bypass. We have a small number of full (250m²) and half (125m²) plots available and there is water on site. Having an allotment is an excellent way of getting your daily exercise whilst growing healthy food for the table, so why not give it a go!

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



Borderhoppa are pleased to say that we are continuing to help people to reach the vaccination centres for those who have an appointment, but do not have a family member or friend who is able to transport them to their appointment.

We are also still providing our door to door dial-a-ride service for essential journeys in our area whilst maintaining social distancing on our buses. Passengers will need to continue to wear face masks when travelling.

It has been a long time since our members have been able to enjoy the weekly outings with us, but we are happy to announce that we are hoping to start these again in July 2021, fingers crossed! If you would like to receive a copy of our outings leaflet please contact the office and we'll post one to you as soon as it is finalised. For all enquiries please call our office 01379 854800 or email adminborderhoppa@btconnect.com and we'll do our best to help.

Village Notices

Mobile Library

Visits Brockdish and Thorpe Abbotts every four weeks on a **Thursday**, calling at:

- Brockdish 12.05 pm Waveney Heights
- Brockdish 12.20 pm Grove Road
- Thorpe Abbotts 12.35 pm Telephone box/ Village Pump

Next scheduled visits are:

Thursday 17th June 2021

Thursday 15th July 2021

Please note this information is subject to change or amendment both on a permanent and temporary basis. For all enquiries about this route please call 01603 222303. Route number CEN421.

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 Abbotts Defibrillator is located outside the Village Hall.

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Brockdish Parish Council including Thorpe Abbots



We are looking for a resident from Thorpe Abbots to join the Parish Council. Your commitment would be to attend and participate in a maximum of nine Parish Council meetings over 12 months. Any additional involvement is entirely up to you. A representative from Thorpe Abbots would be a valued member of the team and would be the eyes and ears of their local Community. If you are interested but would like further information or just a chat about the role, please feel free to contact me, Christine Mackenzie 01379 668818.

Can anyone help?

My Nan is now 83 years young and was evacuated to either Diss or a surrounding village in 1945. She was 7 years old at the time and remembers the name of the people she stayed with was either Stannard or Stanard.

She remembers that there was a US airfield nearby and the airmen would give her and the local kids sweets. She can't remember any of the local children's names but her name at the time was Rita Daisy Maureen Flemming.

She remembers playing with the local children and, one day, playing a dare game which involved jumping over what she calls a "field overflow" which prevented the fields from flooding. She jumped successfully several times but the ditch which was dry at the time became wider and she fell fracturing her elbow. The Stannard family, who she was staying with, didn't have any transport. She had to wait for a farmer to take her to a hospital in Ipswich after he finished work. She thinks the farm was possibly next door to where she was staying or, if not next door, quite close by.

If anyone has got any information or clues which will help achieve this wish I would be very grateful to hear from you.

Many thanks everyone.

Joe

joehutchins215@aol.com or 07788882240



Harleston & District Dementia Friendly Community & Café

After a year of Lockdown, it's beginning to look like we can finally see a 'light at the end of the tunnel'. We are slowly getting back to some normality. Unfortunately, it is still too early to resume our Cafes yet. Maybe when mid summer comes along it will be safe to meet up again.

The Dementia Café in Harleston has been created as a safe and enjoyable place for both people who are experiencing some memory loss, or have a diagnosis of dementia and their family, carers and friends who, may be feeling a little more isolated than others. Along with tea, coffee, cake, and conversation, there are activities to engage, inform, stimulate and entertain everyone. Plus, it is an opportunity to make new friends, keep active and feel more confident.

If you would like more information about getting involved, or attending our group later in the year, please do contact Pat.

Patricia.simmonds@mail.com or 01379 676557



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With a production rehearsed and performed in covid-secure conditions RoughCast invites you back to live theatre on a balmy summer evening once more: "Oh brave new world!"

Performing at Brockdish Old King's Head, Wingfield Barns, Thorington Theatre in the Woods, Diss Park, Rushall Common, Laxfield Low House, Bungay Castle, Hoxne Swan and Star Wing Brewery. For details please see www.roughcast.co.uk or tel 01379 586745.

Village Notices

Brockdish Common

The April Working Party was very well attended. We made good progress so my thanks to all who helped. By the time you read this the May Working Party will be over but if you would like to join us in June then please let me know.

Here is early notice of two other events which may be of interest to you.

- (1) On 3rd July at 9.00 pm there will be a Bat and Moth Evening.
- (2) On 11th September there will be a "Riverfly" course in the Village Hall. I reported in a previous issue about this activity which is a valuable way of monitoring the health of the River Waveney. I think this is particularly interesting for young people and would encourage them to take part.

Any questions or want to register your interest in one of the activities then please contact Derek Clark (01379 669201)



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Waveney Heritage at The Old School **Grove Road, Brockdish**

We're Off! (We hope!)

Things are definitely looking up and we have lots of plans for talks, exhibitions and group meetings. All our speakers, who were booked for last year, are eager to talk to us a year later and our programme is organised until after Christmas!

We start on Sunday 25th July at 3.00pm when Sheila Moss-King of the Pennoyer Centre in Pulham St Mary will talk about the "Pulham Pigs". We're in danger of forgetting that the airfield, now partly occupied by the box manufacturer, was the site from 1912 onwards of the construction, maintenance and flying of airships, the most famous of which was the R34 which made the first transatlantic return journey in 1919. Apparently the airships were nick-named "Pulham Pigs" because that is what they looked like, but rather larger!

The site employed thousands of local people and continued to operate until after WW2 in various guises. The father of Jill Edwards, our administrator and trustee, was employed on the airfield as a chauffeur after the war and when it finally closed worked as a local milk roundsman in Harleston. In the course of his deliveries he was offered many bits and pieces acquired from the airfield. Jill passed these on to the Pennoyer Centre in Pulham St Mary where they now form the basis of a fascinating exhibition.

Sheila is a trustee of Pennoyers, lives on the farm adjacent to the airfield and has written extensively about both the history of the airships and the Pennoyer Centre itself. She's a great speaker!

During the past year we've continued work on our archive, organising and cataloguing, with the assistance of the Archive centre in Norwich, who also laid on a series of tutorials to assist us and other local groups in using a commonly understandable system. Eventually this will mean that anyone in the world will be able to access our records. Don't hold your breath over this though; it's an enormous task and we're just at the beginning!

Waveney Heritage at The Old School Grove Road, Brockdish

We are fortunate that the Norfolk archive is much better organised than many others and provides a very comprehensive catalogue which anyone can access online.


So we're taking care of our paper records and gradually digitalising them. In the meantime, Tony Scott-Robinson is continuing to work towards obtaining museum status for all our artefacts, including the Stewart Orr legacy of memorabilia from his Radio Norfolk days. This forms the basis of a comprehensive collection of radios and phonographs going right back to the late 19th century. There are some lovely working early phonographs which are quite amazing! We're planning an exhibition of all this, probably in September, so keep an eye open for news of that.



We look forward to welcoming you all again, so do come!

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To see the tractors travelling through Thorpe Abbots, there will be a get together at the Village Pump where light refreshments may be served.

Wool felting courses



Events at Mill House based in Banham, Norwich are offering courses to make a complete wool felted blue tit on June 26th and the Horsey seals on July 10th.

The course includes all materials, tea and cake, and hands-on tuition. You will leave with a finished animal and hopefully make new friends.

A full day including a catered lunch and time to spend with our beautiful alpacas is £85. A half day for the wool felting only is £50.

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Brockdish Cricket Club

By Elaine Murphy

1868 was a great year for English cricket. That colossus W. G. Grace was in his prime playing for South of England Gentlemen. He became the second player to score two centuries in a match since 1817. Edward Tylecote hit the first recorded score of 300 in any grade of cricket with 404 in a school match at Clifton College, going on to star in many England teams. But what caught the public imagination that year was a team of Australian Aborigines who became the first overseas side to tour England, under the auspices of Sydney publican and cricketer Charles Lawrence and this was long before Australia was sending official touring teams. It was not that they were especially good, but that the tour happened at all was remarkable. It caused a stir in village cricketing circles all over England, and so it was that the men of Brockdish decided it was time to rejuvenate their own cricket team, which had fallen into abeyance some years earlier.



*1. Brockdish Cricket Club Cap 1960s.
The cap was dark green.*

This one belonged to Michael Ransome (1939-2018), donated to Waveney Heritage Centre by his widow, Sheila, where it can be seen.

A handful of Brockdish men met at the Greyhound on Friday evening 10th April 1868, wrote down the rules and Gervas Holmes, the owner of Brockdish Hall offered part of his grounds to play on. Brockdish Cricket Club was launched. They knew they had some good players because in an informal friendly the previous September '67 Brockdish men had trounced the men of Hoxne.

Brockdish Cricket Club

We do not know the names of these early Brockdish cricketers but we know some names from 1882, when the club was reorganised. W. C. Kemball was Captain, E. A. Holmes was secretary (who leased Syleham Drabbet Mill and was the brother of Gervas Holmes) and players included Captain Miller RN who lived at The Red House, Messrs F. Kemp (builder), A. S. Smith (farmer) and W. H. Raymond (grocer and draper). The Club continued to play on the Hall lawns. By 1900, the Rector, Reverend White, was elected Club President, Mr R. Peake was the captain and Mr R. Crisp, tenant of Brockdish Hall, was honorary secretary. There was a balance of 4s 4d in the kitty after the cricket ground had been put in order for the season.

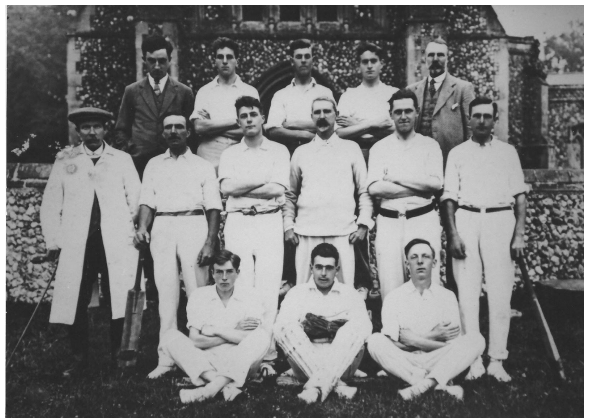


W. G. Grace, cricketer 1848-1915

The Club ceased to function during the First World War. There were simply no men available to play, but it was revived in the early 1920s. They raised money in 1924 by hosting a dance at the parish hall 'Music by the Harleston Orchestra, admission 1s 3d.' They continued to play after the start of World War Two but in late 1940 the club again disbanded until the war was over. It was March 1946 before the Club met again. They had lost their old ground but started to play on the

'Lawns' immediately south of the Church, access being over the churchyard wall. The subscription was then 2s 6d for the season.

*Brockdish Cricket Team,
early 20th century*



Local History

Brockdish Cricket Club



*Brockdish
Cricket Team,
early 20th century*

The chairman was the Rector, the Reverend E. H. Lee-Dodds, the Captain was L. Aldrich and members included Mr Price, W. Chilvers, H. Brighton, Reggie Lond (farmer, White House Farm), A. Meadows, W. Meen and J. E. Shemming. The Meen family was associated with the Club for many years, Arthur Meen serving as captain through the early 1920s and later served as umpire. He died in 1932.

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Brockdish Cricket Club



A knitting pattern from the mid 1940s for a classic cricket sweater

Cricket was played in whites of course, topped on a cool day with a heavy white cable knit sweater knitted by a wife or mother. Sporting the club cap was *de rigueur*. In the mid twentieth century Cecil Charles Flatt (1904-1981) served as captain, followed by his son Geoffrey Flatt (1932-2007). Breaking for tea was essential, thirty minutes that included gallons of strong tea and the consumption of a mountain of sandwiches to sustain the players through the second half. The club needed a 'pavilion' but this was a little beyond Brockdish resources so an old shepherds hut served as tea-room. Player Michael Ransome's wife Sheila remembers that Lily Flatt (1903-1987), the then captain's wife, was a stickler for maintaining sandwich making standards, a cause of some pavilion tension at

times. As a child, this author used to help my great-aunts Elsie and Nell making the sandwiches for Lady Bay Cricket Club, Nottingham, every Saturday in summer; they too were exceedingly particular about the angles and thickness and numbers of sandwiches per plate and the quality of the 'fancy' cakes.

Note. Especial thanks to Sheila Ransome who archived the cap for Waveney Heritage Centre and allowed me to use the story. Also, thanks to Tony Scott-Robinson for additional information. Most of the information came from local newspapers held in The British Newspaper Library at the British Library and from John Spooner's archive 'lucky dip'.

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The Book Club recommends...

I am delighted to say we have two contributors to our Book Review section this edition. A big thank you to both Chris and Paddy.

'Meet me at the Museum' by Anne Youngson

(reviewed by Chris Clark)

Another of our book club choices, this enchanting book is written as a series of letters between two very disparate characters: Tina, a sixty year old East Anglian farmer's wife, and Anders, a Danish professor and curator of the Silkeborg Museum. Their letters begin with a query about the Tollund Man, one of the Bog People whose preserved body is displayed in the museum and who Tina and her school friend, Bella, had promised each other they would one day visit. But Bella has recently died. Anders has lost his wife and is also grieving.



And so through their letters they share their sadness and recount to one another the highs and lows of their very different daily lives. As their deepening friendship slowly blossoms into love, they ponder on their life choices and missed opportunities. Events offer a way forward. But will Tina make the journey she has put off for so many years? Will they ever meet?

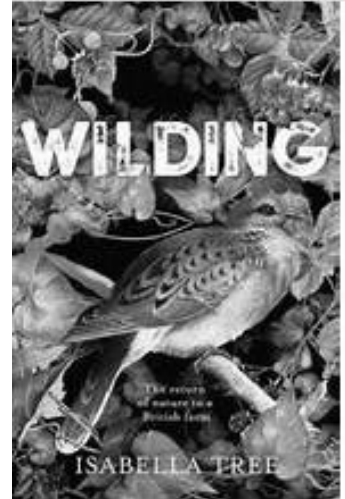
This tender book, so thoughtfully written, raises many questions and is well worth a read.

The Book Club recommends...

Wilding by Isabella Tree

(reviewed by Paddy Tanton)

At the forefront of my mind recently, whilst walking through the Suffolk landscape, has been the book 'Wilding' by Isabella Tree. The book has brought into sharp focus the fact that the landscape I see as I walk, is not 'natural' but entirely man-made. On the verge of bankruptcy, Tree and her husband decided to re-wild their farm in West Sussex and attempt to raise crops and stock in an ecologically sustainable way. The results of this project have been staggering. Within ten to fifteen years they have witnessed



an explosion of bio-diversity well beyond their expectations. Rare and endangered species returned including red-backed shrikes; Painted Ladies and Purple Emperor butterflies; rare fungus; Turtle Doves and many more. They are also making a living. Particularly interesting (and disturbing) was the chapter on the degradation of our soils. Tree argues that modern farming methods have reduced our soil to a form of sterile 'dirt' which requires the constant use of artificial chemical fertilizers in order to grow crops at all. These fertilizers and the regular ploughing of land destroy soil structure, along with the natural nutrients and healthy bacteria as well as pollute the land and rivers, and fail to adequately re-energise the land. This book is a wake-up call and shows us that we are facing an on-coming ecological disaster, but it also gives us hope. In this part of the world we are surrounded by hard-working food producers who I would urge to find time in their busy schedule to read this book and give some consideration to becoming part of re-thinking our modern farming methods.

We would like more people to get involved. If you have read a book you think others might enjoy, please tell us about it. Send your review to judecham@gmail.com.



Jokes

Q. Why should you put a glow worm in your suitcase?

Ans. Because it lightens the load.

Q. Why did the football pitch become a triangle?

Ans. Because somebody took a corner.

Wife: The car is not running very well, there's water in the carburettor.

Husband: Where is the car?

Wife: In the lake.

Quiz

Some job titles, some of which are now rather antiquated, but what do/did they do?

1. Chandler 2. Hostler 3. Keeler 4. Scrivener 5. Wainwright

Can you give the new names of the following world cities?

6. Constantinople 7. Leningrad 8. New Amsterdam 9. Kristiana

Alpha, bravoCan you add to the following NATO phonetic letters?

10. H.... 11. M.... 12. Q.... 13. U.... 14. Y....

Answers on page 38

Why is English a pain to learn?

The soldier decided to desert his dessert in the desert.

I had to subject the subject to a series of tests.



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Childhood Memories of Brockdish

Shirley Pretty, nee Dunnett, was born in Brockdish in 1936 five doors away from where she lives now, next door to her sister Nancy. Shirley was one of seven children.

In the winter of 1947, Shirley's mother was determined that the children would go to school. No staying at home because of the snow! They had a packed lunch of jam sandwiches and shortcake so they didn't have to come home for a meal. They were given a third of a pint of milk in school. Exercises were done in the morning.

Mr Cooper was the school caretaker and lived in the School House. He had four children and all the family lie in Brockdish Churchyard in unmarked graves. One of the Cooper children had a bad leg and was in the hospital at Great Yarmouth. All the Cooper family went and also took Nancy. They were all treated to a fish and chip tea but Shirley was not allowed to go. When Mr Cooper was in the Home Guard and working at Pulham Airfield, Mrs Cooper took on his duties at the school. Mr Cooper made a huge sledge that could hold 5 children for a ride. Leslie Cooper always had to be one of the 5. The sledge run was down the back field of the school down to the foreland. On one particular day the school bell rang, so there was a rush to sledge down and something went wrong!

The sledge swerved through the hedge down onto Grove Road. There was plenty of snow to break the fall and no harm was done. Nancy found it hair raising.

The snow continued to be really bad with heavy frosts. All the children were sent to Ponds Dyke – to sweep the snow off the ice. Mr Webster from the Rectory at Thorpe Abbots came and skated round and round the pond to the delight of the children watching. He then had a child, one at a time hang onto his coat tails and dragged them round with squeals of delight. Mrs Dunnett

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Local History

Childhood Memories of Brockdish

had come with her fold up chair to keep an eye on things and she too was dragged around on her chair with screams and also laughter from the children. Shirley thinks this was possibly the first Torville and Dean.

Sewing was taught at the school by Mrs Brane. However, Shirley learnt most of her sewing skills from Mrs Lee Dodds, the vicars wife. Mrs Lee Dodds had a small room at the side of the Rectory where she taught sewing. She herself was an expert smocker and made beautiful children's clothes. Mr Dunnett was the road man or lengthman. His round was Thorpe Abbots, Needham and Brockdish. On Saturday mornings, sometimes he had to bike to Hardwick. He worked with Billy "Click". They used the snow plough (which is now at the Heritage Centre).

Mr Dunnett, known as Tubby, was also the Churchyard gardener with Mr Meadows. In those days there were rose beds. Tubby was also the village gravedigger. Shirley can remember that when one of the Bullingham girls died aged 5, Tubby had all the village children collect primroses. He had lined the grave with wire netting and he wove the primroses in so all the grave was lined with the flowers.

Mr Gillman had a wooden shop at the side of his house – Rectory Cottage. Things were scarce so a bag of crisps was shared between two – never a bag of crisps each. Mrs Meadows was his sister and when Mr Gillman died she cleaned out the premises. The children thought it was great having a rummage to see what treasures they could find. One day, Mrs Meadows came out with what looked like a box of chocolate bars which she tossed into the air. Much screaming and scrabbling from the children, but it turned out they were wooden advertising blocks made to look like chocolate. They all still felt it was lots of fun.

The Dunnett children were all sent to Sunday School and the Church Service in the afternoon. Tubby had his own pew and was in charge of the weekly collection. Mrs Groom gave out stamps for Sunday school attendance. A prize was given to the child who kept their stamp book the cleanest. Shirley received such a prize – a book called "Eve Plays Her Part" which she still has.

Mrs Reeve and Mrs Groom put on Sunday school parties in the Village Hall, lots of sandwiches and little jellies in individual waxed paper dishes. All the children could never believe the splendour of the food. In the evening, the

Childhood Memories of Brockdish

parents were invited down for an evening of games. Rev. Lee Dodds gave out prizes and again Shirley received a book "Dumpling" which again, she still has.

Mrs Dunnett, as did a lot of the ladies, took in washing and ironing for the Americans based at Thorpe Abbots. Shirley said that the men were very good to them. There were three men that bought the kit bags of laundry down to Mrs Dunnett – Scotty, Floyd and Amigo. The children couldn't wait to undo the bags. as there was always treats in the bags, tins of food and sweets. Once Nancy was given a present of a panda. Mrs Dunnett used to count the planes flying over in and out.

Cricket matches were held on the lawns – now the football pitch. There were logs around the edge for seats. Mrs Flatt made the sandwiches.

Mr Lond who lived at White House Farm organised a big sports day to celebrate the end of the war. There were the usual races, sack and potato and spoon, not eggs as they were too scarce. He decorated his horse and cart and took all the children sitting on bales of hay – to Thorpe Abbots and back. Nan Peak sat at the back of the cart playing her accordion. Shirley remembers her wearing a flea-infested fox fur.

The residents of factory square were Mrs Brooks, Mrs Allum and a man with a wooden leg. Next was the washhouse, and adjoining this lived Nan Peake and Mrs Cooper Snr. Some who lived there were glove makers. Pearl Miller's mother was the last weaver that Shirley knew.

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Childhood Memories of Brockdish

One day, coming home from Sunday School, Shirley and Nancy had an adventure. They usually walked home with Mrs Groom who at that time lived in Grove Cottage. When they got to the Kell (near the bypass flyover) they were met by Mr and Mrs Porter from Brockdish Hall driving to Church in their car. Mr Porter made them get in the car, saying they should be going to Church, so off they were driven. Mrs Porter sat in the front, not saying a word, but wearing a fox fur stole around her neck with the head staring at the girls who were terrified of it. When they arrived at the Church they went in the West door. They were given 1d to put into the collection – not that they wanted to, but were scared not to!

Shirley said life was so simple in those days. They didn't have a lot but didn't go without. They had a lot of fun and enjoyed themselves.

As told to Jan Croxson

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Brockdish: Old and New - Part Two

David Seddon

In the last issue of The Mardler (no. 232 April-May 2021), I shared the memories of 'GAR' on 'Brockdish Old and New', and promised to provide further details in future issues, based on contributions by readers and further research on my part. Here now is the first of these 'elaborations' on selected aspects of GAR's narrative. If you have any comments, please let me know at davidseddon2011@hotmail.co.uk

1. Who was GAR?

GAR was, apparently, George A. Riley. Can anyone tell us something about him?

2. GAR's Memories

It is not clear exactly when these memories were put together by GAR, nor precisely to which period they refer, but various internal clues suggest they were written in the 1980s and refer to a period when motor vehicles were relatively rare but there was a garage in the village. He also refers to a 30 mph sign.

3. When were 30 mile per hour signs introduced?

The amount of traffic on the main road from Diss to Lowestoft began to increase significantly during the 1950s and 1960s as both private motor vehicles and commercial vehicles expanded rapidly in number. The inconvenience this was causing to local residents and the increased incidence



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Brockdish: Old and New - Part Two

of serious accidents led Needham Parish Council to request a speed limit on their stretch of road – which led to a proposal that a bypass might be appropriate for Needham and Brockdish in Norfolk County Highways Department Transport Plan published in 1966.

By the early 1970s, there was no sign of any real progress, and so local residents started to ratchet up the pressure on the County authorities who responded by informing the local residents that there was no prospect of a bypass being constructed for at least another decade, but tentative plans had been drawn up which would eventually divert the road north of the village, subject to proper consultations.

Shortly afterwards, most residents of Needham and Brockdish signed a petition to have a 40 mile an hour speed limit imposed on the road to mitigate the growing dangers as traffic continued to build inexorably. By 1978 local MP, John MacGregor, was putting pressure on the District and County Councils to see the speed limit introduced, and in 1979 after further prevarication by the Department of Transport, the restriction was eventually approved and introduced.

GAR, however, refers to a 30 mph speed limited, which I presume was introduced later, that is, in the 1980s or even the 1990s. By the time the 1980s had almost ended the main Yarmouth Road was carrying 9,000 vehicles per day in the summer holiday season plus 1,000 heavy lorries, with the residents of Brockdish and Needham suffering this through-traffic on a daily basis.

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Brockdish: Old and New - Part Two

Only after the Scole and Harleston phases of the A143 trunk road scheme had been completed was funding finally earmarked for a bypass around the two villages. Work on the bypass began in January 1995 at a projected cost of £5.6m over an 18 month period to involve the excavation of 320,000 cubic metres of soil and the installation of 9,500 metres of drainage pipes.

According to leading campaigner, Dave Simmons of Needham, the leftover money raised for the fight to get the bypass built would be spent on a celebration party for everyone in the Village Hall. The road was finally finished early and opened officially on 20th December 1996.

4. 'There were three shops, two pubs and a garage in The Street'.

One shop was the Post Office Stores (see below) and the other an Antique Shop; and there was a recently opened Craft Shop.



Brockdish Post Office

The village had a post office as early as 1870-72 (under Scole) and in 1891 it was kept by Walter Robinson, who also ran a grocery and lived there with his uncle John Beart and his cousin Mary Beart. In 1892, it was Mr Booty who ran the post office stores, from the building next to what today is Jan and Peter Croxson's house. The Post Office Stores closed in 2005. The actual post office service had stopped a few years before that.

5. The Antique Shop – and the Catchpoles

The Antique Shop – now Commerce House – is on the corner of Scole Road and Grove Road. In 1839, Commerce House was owned by Thomas Thompson and rented by Charles Fox. The same was the case for Ivy Cottage, which is adjacent to Commerce House. Thompson also owned a terrace of cottages (now 1-2 Grove Road), which were occupied by Amos Brooks, John Preston, Abraham Harper, James Bezant, George Barkaway and William Smart.

Brockdish: Old and New - Part Two

It closed as an antique shop in 2000 and is now a private residence. Before that it was a grocery shop. Joyce Catchpole was the manageress. She had married Glyn Catchpole on 23 April 1955. They were childhood sweethearts, having met at Brockdish Primary School at the age of 10. In 2015, they celebrated their diamond wedding after 60 years together.

Joyce Catchpole told the *EDP* on 4 May 2015: 'Our wedding cost probably a few £100 which was a lot of money then. My father owned the local grocery shop and he told me that the wedding had to be at 1.30pm so he could open his store at 3.30pm - which he did. We then went off for a night's stay in London before heading to Torquay for our honeymoon'. On their 60th anniversary, the couple received a card from the Queen and to celebrate the day close friends took them out 'for a lavish meal'.

Mrs Catchpole (83) - described as 'a retired hairdresser' - told the *EDP* (4 May 2015): 'We had our first date at Bungay pictures and we have been together ever since. Out of 60 years we have only been parted the once, and that was when Glyn had to go away for national service'. That must have been before they married, because Glyn Catchpole of Brockdish featured in *Pulse* in October 2019, when it reported a chance meeting in August on the Loddon Ward at the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital between Jack Olby, 85, from Norwich and Glyn Catchpole, 86, from Brockdish. They had initially met at Norwich Britannia Barracks in 1952, but later lost contact. Their NNUH reunion gave them the chance to reminisce about their time in the army, including training in different parts of the world such as Malta and Australia.

Both Joyce and Glyn are members of the English Carpet Bowls Association and 2016 Rinks winners; and despite a difficult year in 2019, Glyn Catchpole is still listed in *The Mardler* as the man to contact about the Brockdish Carpet Bowls Club. In the last issue (no.232 April-May 2021) he hoped that Covid-19 restrictions would soon be lifted and welcomed everyone to meet up, when that was possible, on Thursday evenings at 7.30 at the Village Hall.

6. The 'recently opened' Craft Shop

The craft shop was owned by the Spooners. John and Jackie Spooner are still at the Old Coach House (formerly the Fellmongers' Arms) at 22 The Street, but the craft shop is now closed.

Brockdish: Old and New - Part Two

7. The Pubs

The pubs, of course, were the Old Greyhound Inn and the Kings Head. The former is now a private residence. The Old King's Head (at 50, The Street) is now the only pub in the village. Closed down during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Old King's Head is now open again for business as restrictions are eased, offering food as well as drinks – all are welcome!

8. The Garage

As for the Garage, there was a foundry and petrol pumps in the village in the 1930s. A photograph can be found in 'Brockdish History – An Introduction' on the Needham and Brockdish History website (www.needhamandbrockdishhistory.co.uk/brockdish-history/)

9. The Two Grocers

The Antique Shop was one. I do not know where the other grocer's shop was located or who ran it.

10. The Butcher's Shop with the Slaughterhouse

The butcher was Ken Lanham, and he had his shop where the Spooners now live.

11. The Baker

The baker, who baked his own bread on the premises, was Mr Cook, who ran it with Miss Cook, his sister. It closed in 1978. The original bakery though was 'The Old Bakery'.

In the next issue of The Mardler, I hope to be able to elaborate on more of the references provided by GAR in 'Brockdish: Old and New'.

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A message from Councillor Martin Wilby

Following the County Council elections held in May, the new make of Norfolk County Council is: Conservatives 58 councillors, Labour 11, Liberal Democrats 8, Greens 3 and Independents 3. There is one remaining division which will be decided in a by-election on the 17th of June.

Here in East Depwade the results were:

- Bernard Chauly (Liberal Democrats) 227
- James Eddy (Labour) 463
- Andrew Newby (Green) 330
- Martin Wilby (Conservative) 1,700

So I am elected to serve East Depwade for the next 4 years and I would like to thank everyone for their continued support.

The other election in May was for the Police and Crime Commissioner, this was won by Giles Orphen-Smellie.

At the NCC annual general meeting on the 24th of May, which was held at the Norfolk Showground meeting rooms because of the space required for social distancing, the new Chairman of the council was elected and that is Cllr Penny Carpenter who will hold this position for the next 12 months. We have started face to face meetings again but non-decision-making meetings will continue online for the time being.

Our annual surface dressing has started on our county's roads. This year 305 miles of Norfolk's roads will get a new seal to extend the life of the road, prevent potholes opening up and provide a new skid-resistant surface to help reduce the risk of accidents. This work is carried out between April and September every year while the weather is warmer. The team aims to get the holiday areas and main roads done first so they are complete before the start of the summer season. The new seal consists of a new layer of bitumen and chippings which is laid onto the road. This helps prevent water penetration

A message from Councillor Martin Wilby

and potholes. The action of vehicles passing over the new surface plays an important part in helping the new surface to settle in. People are urged to drive slowly and considerately across the new surface until it is bedded in and highway teams return a few days later to sweep up the loose chippings.

Taking a few simple preventative steps could help us all protect each other as COVID-19 restrictions lessen over the coming months. Washing our hands, leaving two metres space and wearing a face covering where required are already part of our everyday life, but we are now encouraging every adult and child of secondary school or college age to take part in regular testing as we move through the next steps of relaxing COVID-19 lockdown restrictions. Keeping a lid on the number of cases is key to getting back to a more normal way of life. District-based community testing has already been successful across the county and soon we will welcome new COVID-19 buses which will offer symptom-free tests for harder to reach locations. Many residents in Norfolk already have access to workplace testing, while those that do not can now pick up symptom-free COVID-19 test kits from any pharmacy or library in Norfolk.

Like many of us I have now had my second jab which I had at Poringland; this worked like clockwork and I would like to thank all of the volunteers and the medical staff that are involved with this smooth and efficient rollout.

I am looking forward to being able to attend events again in our town and surrounding villages over the coming months. Two to look out for are the celebrations in Harleston town centre on 26th June and the planned Beer Festival to be held on the football pitch at the Rec in July. Also, getting back to Carrow Road to watch Norwich City in the premiership!

Best Wishes

Martin

Brockdish and Thorpe Abbots Parish Council

NEW COUNCILLOR

We welcome Marc Finch - co-opted at our scheduled PC meeting on 30th March 2021.

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

Applications:

- **2021/0180** 12 Waveney Heights, Brockdish. Removal of existing lean-to & replace with single storey flat roof extension. Addition of new ground floor window to North elevation.
- **2021/0618** Old Post Office, The Street, Thorpe Abbots. Create front parking area (retrospective) PC approved (awaiting SNC decision)

Decisions: (approved by SNC & PC)

- **2021/0180** Mill Pightle, School Lane, Thorpe Abbots, Variation of condition 2 of 2020/1349 - revised house design

BIG SOUTH NORFOLK LITTER PICK (organised by South Norfolk Council).

We are delighted to report receiving £20 due to our participation in the litter pick 2020 scheme. We were also successful in the £200 prize draw! A total of £220 to be spent in our Community. Thank you SNC.

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

Thursday 24th June 2021, 7pm (venue tbc)

Tuesday 27th July 2021, 7pm (venue tbc)

No meeting is held during August.

**CHICKEN LORRIES ROUTING TO MILL ROAD FARM,
THORPE ABBOTTS**

Thank you to all who sent the Parish Council their comments and views regarding the chicken lorries route. There will be an opportunity to discuss this matter further at our next Parish Council meeting, to be held at **Thorpe Abbots Village Hall on 24th June 2021 at 7pm.**

Brockdish and Thorpe Abbots Parish Council

Letter received by the Parish Council from a resident of Thorpe Abbots.

Re. Cranswick Lorries routing to Mill Road Farm

In my opinion, the severe and presumably costly damage to Ingrams Road and Back Lane would tip the route in favour of The Street and Mill Road as there are less sharp bends which makes the dragging of rear trailer wheels less likely – such dragging being a major contributor to surface damage.

Noise is another matter, but unfortunately deliveries and services have to be available to residents and business in the village, such as sewerage disposal, heating oil, bin collections, building materials, postal, parcel, food etc., all involving varying vehicle sizes. We choose to live in the country and must accept that, just because we do live here, that the “country” – a giant food factory is not going to shut down.

What makes Mill Road slightly more tricky to negotiate is the proliferation of unauthorised roadside obstructions such as rocks and logs scattered on the grass verges leaving vehicles with no escape should they encounter a large vehicle travelling in the opposite direction. Perhaps it has been forgotten that the verges one metre either side of the road edge belong to the council, and are classed as public highway and the depositing of anything could be construed as littering the highway. Any damage to a vehicle caused by, for instance, a rock deposited by a householder would be the responsibility of that householder.

On a different note, I know many of us are pleased that the old red telephone box is to be conserved – it is serving a wonderful new purpose whilst retaining the traditional appearance of the village – well done to all involved!

Best regards

John & Frances

Wayside, Mill Road, Thorpe Abbots

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.

Sunday 13th June

Under the sea

Sunday 11th July

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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.

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*

Alpines and Heathers

Alpines are low growing perennial plants that like the sun and sharply draining soil. They are happy scrambling over rocks, walls and the edge of pots.



Alpines and dwarf spring flowering bulbs along with dwarf conifers planted in the gaps make a colourful and effective display. Smaller gardens can use rockeries made up of gritty soil and pieces of rock to make an attractive planting area.

Heathers on the other hand are shrubs that are low growing and from moor and heathland, so love open sunny locations and acidic soil (though some tolerate lime).

There are two main types of heather - Erica which is spring flowering and Calluna that blooms in late summer to Autumn. Both varieties prefer an acidic soil. Erica will tolerate lime but Calluna really do need acidic conditions.

Think about making an alpine trough. Ensure a layer of grit is at the bottom and fill with a grit based compost and finish off with gravel/decorative stones.

Alpines and heathers can be combined in patio pots and rock gardens. Both alpines and heathers due to their small stature work well planted along the front of herbaceous or mixed borders and beds.

Coffee Break Answers:

1. Candle maker
2. Horse groom
3. Bargeman
4. Writer
5. Wagon maker
6. Istanbul
7. St Petersburg
8. New York
9. Oslo
10. H - Hotel
11. M - Mike
12. Q - Quebec
13. U - Uniform
14. Y - yankee



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Corned Beef Hash

225g / 8oz potato
15g / ½ oz butter
1 tablespoon oil
1 small onion chopped
¼ green pepper seeded and chopped
¼ yellow pepper seeded and chopped
100g / 4oz cubed corn beef



1. Boil potato until tender but firm. Drain, cool slightly, and cube.
2. Heat butter and oil in a non - stick frying pan. Add potato and fry until golden - remove.
3. Add onion and peppers, and cook for 10 minutes, stirring.
4. Add corned beef and potato. Cook, stirring, then season and serve.

Butter Bean Bake

15g / ½ oz butter
1 small onion, chopped
½ green pepper, seeded and diced
227g / 8oz can chopped tomatoes
220g / 7.7oz rinsed, drained butter beans
2 teaspoons tomato puree
1 egg
100g / 4oz cottage cheese
25g / 1oz double Gloucester cheese grated



1. Melt butter and add onion and pepper. Cook for 3 mins.
2. Add tomatoes and bring to the boil. Simmer for 5 mins.
3. Stir in butter beans and puree. Spoon into 1 pint ovenproof dish.
4. Beat egg into the cottage cheese with half the grated cheese.
5. Spoon over tomato mix and sprinkle with remaining cheese. Bake for 30 min at 180°C/ 350°F.

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Brockdish Church

The PCC will have pleasure in hosting an afternoon tea for residents of Brockdish on July 31st, 3pm - 5pm. All are welcome. Please phone Jan if you wish to attend to facilitate catering.

The first quiz night will be held on Saturday July 17th 7.30-8pm. It will cost £5, with a maximum of 6 on a team. Phone Jan to book a table. These two events will only take place Covid restrictions permitting.

The last windows will now have been removed for repair and renovation. The chancel will hopefully have had work completed by the Autumn. Thank you again for all the support that has been given towards these projects.

Services online will continue for the time being. Please check the Benefice website for further details.

Jan Croxson - Church Warden (tel. 668630)

Churches Count on Nature

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Brockdish Church Wardens

Ann Cork - 01379 668635

Jan Croxson - 01379 668630

Thorpe Abbots Contact

Christine McDonald - 01379 669116

Church Service Times - June and July

- 6th June: **Brockdish** 9.30am *Morning Prayer*
- 13th June: **Thorpe Abbots** 9.30am *Holy Communion*
Brockdish 9.30am *Morning Prayer*
- 20th June: **Brockdish** 9.30am *Morning Prayer*
- 27th June: **Brockdish** 9.30am *Holy Communion*
- 4th July: **Brockdish** 9.30am *Morning Prayer*
- 11th July: **Thorpe Abbots** 9.30am *Morning Prayer*
Brockdish 9.30am *Morning Prayer*
- 18th July: **Brockdish** 9.30am *Morning Prayer*
- 25th July: **Brockdish** 9.30am *Holy Communion*



"The time leading up to the funeral was made bearable knowing that you were at the end of the telephone."

– from a family we have cared for at Rosedale



We are a family business and promise to provide exceptional care and a truly personal 24 hour service, when you need it most.

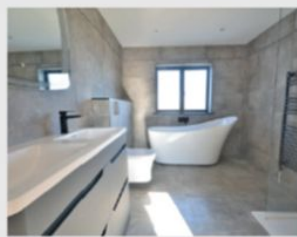
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