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

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

Editorial Team Useful Contacts

Editor Robert Buck	01379 668663 robertbuck1974@talktalk.net	Surgeries Harleston Bullock Fair Close Emergencies	01379 853217 111
Chairperson Jan Croxson	01379 668630 jpcrocky@btinternet.com	Police Harleston and Diss	101
Technical Editor Jo Slater	01379 668585 jogslater@hotmail.com	NHS Direct	111
Advertising Judith Chambers	01379 668072 judecham@gmail.com	Electricity Power Cuts	105
Treasurer	01379 668549	Gas Emergencies	0800 111 999
Janice Stacey	janicestacey@btinternet.com	Anglian Water	03457 145 145
Linda Bell	01379 669293 belltomlinda@gmail.com	South Norfolk Council	01508 533633
	01379 741435	Borderhoppa	01379 854800
Cheryl Mounser	chezzaanne@icloud.com	Brockdish Village Hall Bookings Jill Edwards	01379 669057
The views expressed in The Mardler are not necessarily those of the Editorial team. The		Thorpe Abbotts Village Hall Bookings Robert Buck	01379 668663
Editor reserves the right to amend or alter any		Waveney Heritage Centre	01379 668285

copy received.

BROCKDISH VILLAGE HALL TIMETABLE

Tuesday Line Dancing (6.00pm) Wednesday Art group (9.00am)

Badminton (3.00pm & 5.00pm)

Thursday Tea Dance (1.30pm) Carpet Bowls (7.30pm)

ADVERTISING IN THE MARDLER

If you are interested in advertising, the current rates are £25 for ½ page, £50 for ½ page and £100 for a full page, which covers the 6 issues from 1st April annually. The cost for less than 6 issues is £5 per issue for ¼ page, £10 per issue for ½ page and £20 for a full page. For further information please contact Judith Chambers, see above.

Line Dancing Tracey Hood	07854 943490
South Norfolk District Councillor Clayton Hudson	01379 676259

01379 668698

South Norfolk County
Councillor
Martin Wilby 01379 741504

Carpet Bowls Club

Glyn Catchpole

Parish Clerk
Teresa Hines 01379 308617

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A very warm and festive welcome to our December/January issue of the Mardler. I'm sure I am not the only resident wondering where the past year has gone to. We have lots to look forward to over the coming weeks to get us in the Christmas mood - a far cry from last year's lockdown. The last two years has certainly given us to time to reflect, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank those in both communities who have staffed the NHS, the police force, social care and civil servants, our schools and nurseries, and provided and kept food on our tables throughout the pandemic. It's important that their efforts are not forgotten as our lives return to normal. I wish everyone a very merry Christmas and every health and happiness for 2022.

Rob Buck, Editor

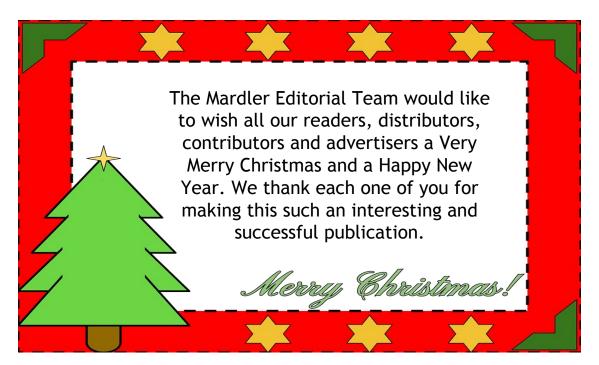


REMEMBER

Closing date for entries in the February / March 2022 issue is Wednesday 5th January 2022.

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





Carpet Bowls

Starting in January 2022, we will be playing carpet bowls every Thursday evening at 7.30pm in Brockdish Village Hall.

Why not come along, have a try, and meet new people.

Any questions please contact Peter (668630).

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

Brockdish and Thorpe Abbotts 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 (250 m²) and half (125 m²) 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.

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.



Thorpe Abbotts Village Hall Update

After our AGM, the Village Hall has a refreshed committee and is keen to look at how the Hall is used as we come out of the pandemic. The last two years have taught us the importance of community, which is why it was so wonderful to see so many people at the Hall for our summer event. The Halloween Party also provided a real buzz in the village - thank you to all who supported.

In order to demonstrate there is a future for our Hall, we need to show its use for the community. The Hall is owned by the Village, so we want to run events that you want to attend. Any suggestions are most welcome. We are also looking for volunteers to help keep it going; from trimming the hedges and grass, to assisting in cleaning and maintenance projects. This does not have to be a regular commitment, and you don't have to sit on the committee. We need a team we can call on to occasionally help out.

Our Facebook page is the place to check Village Hall updates. However, we would also like to set up a Thorpe Abbotts WhatsApp group which can be used to publicise events, answer queries, or ask for help. Should you want to be part of this group, then please email your mobile number to **villagehallthorpeabbotts@gmail.com.** If you don't know how to install WhatsApp, we'll be more than happy to show you. Likewise, please use this email to tell us if you want to get involved with helping the Hall or any events you would like to run or see us run.

Finally, we would like to thank past members for all their help over the years; Lenny Havers, Richard Stacey, Ian Lilies and Linda and Kelvin Halifax. Also, to Adnams and Laithwaites Wine who have restocked all our glassware, and Joe Read who has kindly donated a new fridge and crockery to ensure the Hall can run events.

As we write this, we are busy planning the Christmas lights switch on, which sees a whole weekend of events at the Pump, Hall and Church to start our festive activities. Who knows which form of transport the man in red will arrive on this year! We hope 2022 brings you health and happiness.

Thorpe Abbotts Village Hall Committee: Paul Slater (Chair), Mike Pursehouse (Vice-chair), Carol Liles (Secretary) and Robert Buck (Treasurer)

FOR SALE - ROLAND HP7e DIGITAL PIANO

Due to a lack of house space, sadly, we need to replace our piano with a more portable keyboard. This piano is in very good condition. It has a full size, progressive hammer action keyboard duplicating the tone and touch of a grand piano. It has numerous customising features to suit both trained pianists and students alike. It also has 65 piano pieces (mainly classical) built in. An instruction manual is included.

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If you have a quality item to sell, then please contact the editorial team about advertising in The Mardler.

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Meet and Mardle: Starston St Margaret's Church

Starston St Margaret's Tower Ringers and PCC invite all to join them at the traditional Meet and Mardle on **January 1st 2022**.

Greet the New Year at our almost unique event! Church bells at 12.00 midday, followed by Meet and Mardle in St Margaret's (no service). Hot and cold snacks available, plus a celebratory drink. Children welcome. There will also be a demonstration of bell ringing - visiting ringers are welcome to try a touch of "Churchyard Bob"!

Mobile Library

Brockdish 12:05-12:15 Waveney Heights IP21 4LD

Brockdish 12:20-12:30 Grove Road IP21 4JP

Thorpe Abbotts 12:35-12:45 Telephone box/Village Pump IP21 4HX

Calls every four weeks on a Thursday:

- 2nd December 2021
- 30th December 2021
- 27th January 2022





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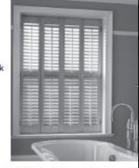
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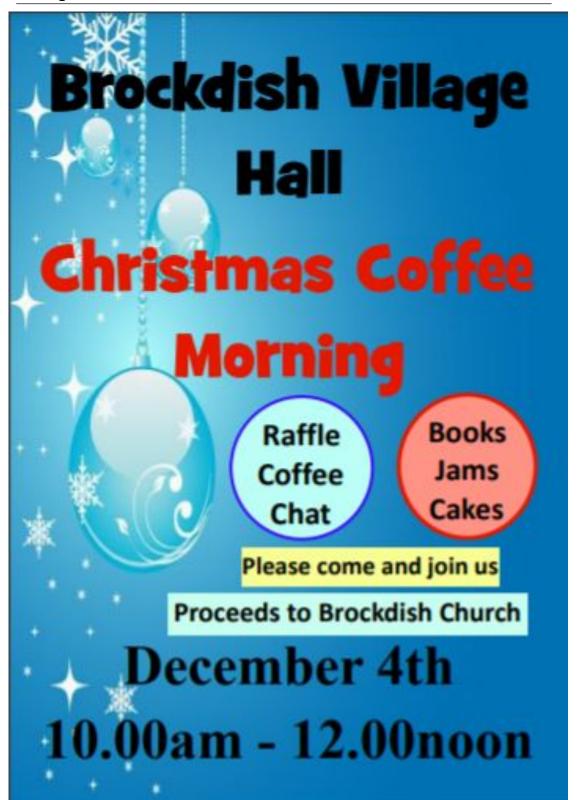






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Waveney Heritage at The Old School Grove Road Brockdish

Well, it's been an interesting year yet again and we hope that you have all avoided the virus and managed to remain sane! Despite it all, we've fitted in lots of fascinating talks, set up a lovely art group, and a regular craft group for those who could do with a chat. Table tennis has started again on a Tuesday evening, gardening is going on, the radio technology museum is looking amazing - all labelled and catalogued, a stair lift has been installed so that people can actually get up to see it all and, of course, our archive is going strong and gradually being catalogued, aided by help and advice from the Archive Centre in Norwich.

Thank you all who have offered us your precious mementoes for our safe keeping and of course for coming to our events. Our original purpose, as you know, was to set up an organisation which maintained the ethos of the original building as a centre for the education and support of the people of Brockdish in perpetuity, as was the aim of George France all those years ago. We're working hard to achieve this.

We are in the process of finalising our program for 2022, so watch this space! In the meantime we wish you all a great Christmas and the very best of health and happiness for the coming year.

The Trustees

Waveney Heritage



The Mardler Poet: Eileen Marie Riley (1914-1993)

Eileen was the Mardler poet for many years. We thought it might be nice to reprint some of her work. If anyone has one of her poems we would love to be able to use them. This one is taken from her collection of 'Village Verse'.

Carol Singers

Oh listen! Carol singers They're here to sing again How good it is to hear them But why did it have to rain?

With scarves and macs and wellingtons Their shining faces glisten Lit up from the open door As in the hall we listen.

Undaunted by the pouring rain Their voices ring out clear, Reminding us it's Christmas, A time to spread good cheer.

They rode on Andrew's tractor, To visit far and wide, To call at village houses, And those who live outside.

In this new and changing world, Of selfish competition, It's nice to have a little bit Of comforting tradition.





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Waveney Heritage at The Old School Grove Road Brockdish

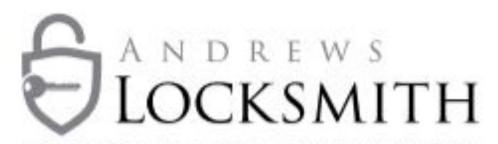
Cups and Trophies

If any of you have children who attended Brockdish Primary and who won Cups or Shields which are now taking up space that you could use, please give me a ring and I will be pleased to collect them. We would love to have them on show in the Old School section of the Archive Dept. at Waveney Heritage.

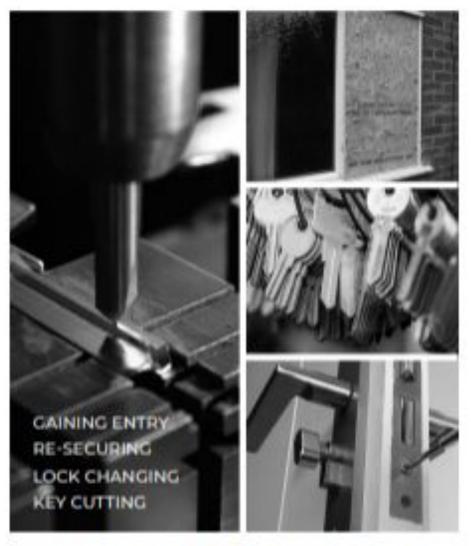
Jill Edwards (tel. 669057)

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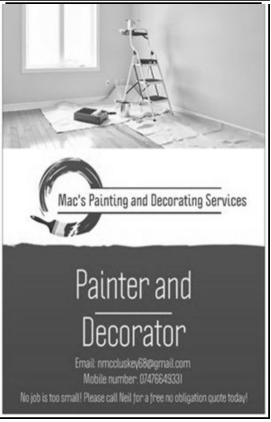
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Thorpe Abbotts Christmas Spectacular Saturday 11th - Sunday 12th December

Saturday 11th December, 5.00pm:

Christmas lights switch on at the Pump followed by festive drinks and live music at the Village Hall. Bring and share a plate of food... will the man in red be visiting?

All houses will be receiving a ornament to hang on the Village Christmas Tree. Please decorate this as you wish and hang on the tree prior to 11th December.

Sunday 12th December, 10.30am:

Crafty Bombers. Festive crafts and refreshments for all the family.

Sunday 12th December, 4.00pm:

Carol service at All Saints. Round off a truly festive weekend with carols, readings and yet more festive refreshments!

More festive than Michael Buble wrapped in tinsel and drinking a snowball!



The Book Club recommends...

A big thank you to Sara and Jo for their reviews. I hope you appreciate their choices. Please let us know if you are enjoying the book reviews so far. If you would like to write a review we would be happy to include it in the next edition. You can send your review to judecham@gmail.com.

12 Birds to Save Your Life by Charlie Corbett (reviewed by Sara Steuart-Feilding)

'Never judge a book by its cover' is usually good advice, but Sarah Young's attractive collage of birds for the cover of 12 Birds to Save Your Life draws one in. With a background in journalism, Charlie Corbett writes with an easy and very readable style. 12 Birds is his brave and honest account of how he coped with the illness and death of his mother, who was the glue that held her family together. He found succour and eventual peace in the observation of birds in his Wiltshire garden and familiar and much-loved places from Sussex to the Isle of Mull.

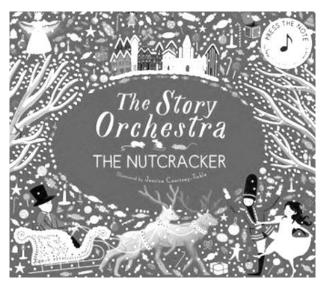
Each of the twelve chapters begins with an attractive black and white drawing (or possibly a linocut, others will know better than I) of the respective bird, and ends with a short description of characteristics and habitat.



In between, Charlie describes the effects of his mother's illness and death on himself, his siblings and his father, with an honesty which will resonate with many. I defy anyone to remain dry eyed. To quote Michel de Montaigne, "Sadness is an emotion best shared. Or kept to oneself". What courage Charlie Corbett has shown in taking the first option.

The Book Club recommends...

The Story Orchestra: The Nutcracker by Jessica Courtney-Tickle (reviewed by Jo Slater)



If you are after a festive treat for your children and grandchildren to read, then this beautifully illustrated book has it all.

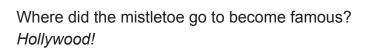
My children received this book as a gift last Christmas and they both love it. Like all children, they love books full of things to press and unfold, and this does not disappoint. This is the classic story of The Nutcracker, but each page has buttons that when pressed, plays a short (10 seconds) excerpt of Tchaikovsky's famous ballet. Now, I realise that not everyone is into classical music, but most children love music and this is an ideal introduction to well-known classics - and considerably shorter and cheaper than taking them to the actual ballet!

Coupled with the most beautiful illustrations and gilded with gold, it tells the story of Clara as she journeys into the Land of Sweets. The book is just the right length for children, and when the story is finished you can listen to the music again as the back page contains buttons for all 10 of the excerpts featured in the story, with a bit of background text about each sound bite. A cosy Christmas read for everyone!

Coffee Break

Jokes

What kind of bread do elves use to make sandwiches? Shortbread!



What's the best thing to give your parents at Christmas? A list of everything you want!



Christmas post sees some interesting stamps and postmarks. Which countries have these ones come from?

Quiz

- 1. Which song Christmas No. 1 for Harry Belafonte in 1957 and later in 1978 for Boney M?
- 2. On which date is Twelfth Night?
- 3. What was sent to his truelove on the eleventh day of Christmas?
- 4. How many reindeer did Santa have?
- 5. Can you name Santa's reindeer?
- 6. When the first Christmas charts were published in 1952, who was No. 1 with 'Here in my heart'?
- 7. In February 1993 Queen Elizabeth issued a writ against which newspaper over the publication of her Christmas day speech?
- 8. Which King of England was crowned on Christmas Day?
- 9. Who was the first spirit-like visitor seen by Ebenezer Scrooge?
- 10. If you are born on Christmas Day, what is your star sign?

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A Village War Hero

Commander Charles Lindsay "KP" Keighly-Peach DSO. RN was a commonwealth bi-plane fighter ace. He was born 6th April 1902 and died in 1995. KP and his wife lived in Brockdish after his retirement from the service in the mid 1950s, in the house called Empton House. They soon settled into village life, with Mrs K.P being very involved with craft events and other activities. K.P moved to Hall Road after the death of his wife and lived with his sister. He suffered poor health and died in a home in early 1995.

A Short History

K.P attended the naval college at Osborne and Dartmouth, graduating as a midshipman in 1919. He was promoted to Sub-Lieutenant in 1922, and Lieutenant in 1924. In 1925, he was granted a temporary commission as a flying officer on attachment for 4 years with the RAF, where he qualified in 1926 in flying Fairey Flycatchers. In mid-1929, he served with submarine M-2, flying Parnall Peto aircraft. In August 1930, he returned to naval duty, and in September 1931, he moved to 408 Flight flying Nimrods. In October 1932, he was promoted to Lieutenant Commander.

A break from flying saw him as Lieutenant Commander on the staff of Rear Admiral (Destroyers) in 1935, and then on board HMS London (1937-39).

He was promoted to Commander in 1938, and later commanded 711 Flight, operating Walrus Amphibians from HMS Sussex.

In June 1940, he went aboard HMS Eagle as Commander in the Mediterranean. This carrier had no fighters, but he arranged for four Sea Gladiators to be collected from Malta on the outbreak of war with Italy, training two Swordfish pilots to fly these with him. This trio provided the early fighter defence of the Mediterranean Fleet until the arrival of HMS Illustrious.

During the retreat of British ships to Alexandria after the naval battle off the coast of Calabria, the trio were involved in a heavy skirmish protecting the fleet after it was spotted by an Italian fly-boat.

A Village War Hero

KP's Sea Gladiator was hit, one bullet passing through his cockpit entering his thigh. This was finally recovered in 1976 when the old wound began to fester. There were no hits recorded on any British ships that day.

KP was involved in many forays with the Italian Air Force off the coast of Alexandria and Crete. On 11th September 1940, he was awarded the D.S.O. In December 1940, he paid a flying visit in his Sea Gladiator (N5517) to the Swordfish unit temporarily based at Fuka. Before returning to base, he made a strafing attack on an Italian-occupied aerodrome, spraying a line of planes with bullets before making good his escape.

Back in the UK he became Naval Assistant (Air) to the 2nd Sea Lord from 1941-43, where he helped ensure that future commanders of aircraft carriers were aircrew officers, this policy taking effect late in the war. He was promoted Captain during 1943. In 1944 he commanded HMS Heron, the Naval Fighter School in RNAS Yeovilton, until 1945. KP ended the war with 3 victories claimed while flying his Sea Gladiator N5517.

He then commanded HMS Sultan, the land base at Changhai, Singapore, until 1947, when he went aboard HMS Trowbridge to command the 3rd Destroyer Flotilla in the Mediterranean as Captain. In 1949, he became Directing Captain at the Senior Officers' War Course R.N until 1951, when he was made assistant chief of Naval Staff (Air), on loan to the Royal Canadian Navy from 1951-53, when he retired.

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The Thorpe Abbotts Pumpkin Hunt 30th October 2021

















An Unusual Visitor

This amazing moth, *Clifden Nonpareil*, was spotted on a house wall in Brockdish on 30th September 2021. It has a wingspan of 12cm, and measured 6cm from its head to the end of its wing.

According to the butterfly and moth sites, it became extinct in this country in the 1960s. However, a few have been seen in the UK this year, where they probably migrated from Continental Europe. The siting was confirmed by the Norfolk Moth Society. It was unfortunate that the moth didn't open its wings as it would have shown a beautiful blue colour.

Jean Landymore



The Brockdish Moth



Clifden Nonpareil Moth showing wings open

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Our Not-Very-Useful Waveney Valley Railway line. © Elaine Murphy

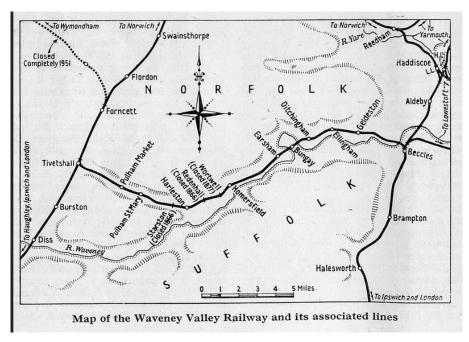
In the late 1840s, everyone wanted one of the spanking new-fangled railway lines, and the Waveney Valley villages were no different from anywhere else. The huge maltings wanted to get their grain to the brewers; farmers wanted to get livestock to market faster in a plump state and people needed transport to the cities of Norwich, Yarmouth and London. An explosion of local initiatives created dozens of competitive proposals. You didn't just need enough private capital though; you had to have an act of parliament to agree that the money could be invested and the railway actually constructed, a bit like HS2.



1. Ellingham Station by local artist Joe Crowfoot

Thomas Lombe Taylor of Starston, the biggest local bigwig round here, chaired a meeting at The Swan in Harleston in February 1847 to drum up support for a new line to be built from Diss to Yarmouth by the Eastern Union Company, to connect to the London-bound line at both Yarmouth and Diss. A rival company, the Norfolk Company proposed a more complicated longer route.

The line was authorised in 1851, but not from Diss. The line started in Tivetshall, because there was already a fully functioning station serving the early maltings and it was not then clear that the Diss station would eventually be the more popular and serve the major route between London and Norwich. The Waveney Valley line opened in stages, firstly from Tivetshall to Harleston in 1855, then to Bungay in 1860, and finally to Beccles. The Beccles to Yarmouth section was never completed because a rival East Suffolk Line had received parliamentary permission to build from Ipswich. Already the Waveney Valley Line was looking like a risky commercial enterprise. When the line was completed it was incorporated into the Great Eastern Railway and eventually became part of the LNER in 1923.



2. Railway route map.

The Stations

Hopes were high that passengers would use the line, and optimistically stations were built at Pulham Market, Pulham St Mary, Starston, Harleston, Redenhall, Wortwell, Homersfield, Earsham, Bungay, Ditchingham, Ellingham and Geldeston. All solidly constructed on the same classic Victorian architectural lines, several still survive today as homes or offices.

Local History

They were then pretty basic homes however for the stationmasters and their families who lived in them. Thelma Head, the daughter of the Ellingham Station Master from 1931-1949, recalls that Station House, where the family of seven lived, had no running water. The pump was situated in the gents toilet and water was bucketed to a big earthenware container in the scullery which sometimes froze in winter. Part of the old carriage was her Dad's shed and part a store for parcels. The loggia where passengers waited was rather grandly called the Arcade. The waiting room was to the right of the front door. The bedrooms were upstairs but there was no bathroom; a tin bath in front of the range in the living room served them all.





3. Ellingham Station and signal box and 4. Starston Station, now private homes.

Decline and Fall

Starston and Redenhall stations were closed in 1866, only 11 years after the line opened; Wortwell in 1871. The truth is that Great Eastern realised early that the line was barely used by local people, although it was still useful for moving goods and livestock. Buses could visit all the villages, including Brockdish and Thorpe Abbotts, whereas the train was just too inconvenient. In the early days there was only one locomotive, called appropriately 'The Perseverance', which did not encourage traffic either, there being only four trains a day.

The Waveney Valley Line was used during the First World War for carrying troop and supplies and found a similar role in the Second World War too but after the war, with the growth in bus services, lorries and the rise of car ownership, there was little use for this little line going from nowhere to nowhere





5. Harleston Station

6. Steam Engine at Beccles Station

The proposed closure was fiercely opposed locally of course, and in Pulham a mock funeral was held, with a parade of people in Victorian fancy dress, carrying a coffin with a plate with the inscription 'Waveney Valley Line, aged 97 yrs, taken away 3 January 1953'. After travelling up and down the line, 'there were unforgettable scenes of frivolity' and a wake was held at the Railway Tavern at Tivetshall. After the line was closed to passenger services, the goods service continued for another decade, but fell under the Beeching Axe in 1966. Some of the last wagon loads to leave Ditchingham were sand and gravel from Broome Heath, used in the construction of Hammersmith fly-over in west London.

Further information about the track and locomotives:

Adderson, R and Kenworthy, G (2004) 'Tivetshall to Beccles: the Waveney Valley Line', Middleton Press.

Paye, Peter (2019) 'The Waveney Valley Railway', The Lightmoor Press.

Elaine's new book, **Wingfield, Suffolk's Forgotten Castle**, published in November 2021, is available from Poppyland Publishing, at https://www.poppyland.co.uk/products/B79688, from local bookshops and online at Amazon, https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/1909796883

Brockdish and Thorpe Abbotts Parish Council

Chairman: Christine Mackenzie (tel. 01379 668818)

Clerk: Teresa Hines (tel. 01379 308617) brockdishthorpeabbottspc@gmail.com

COUNCILLOR VACANCY

We welcome Sarah McCluskey (Thorpe Abbotts) to the Parish Council (co-opted at the meeting held on 30th September 2021). Following the resignation of Marc Finch, we have a vacancy (co-option). Please contact Cllr Christine MacKenzie (Chair) on 01379 668818 or email brockdishthorpeabbottspc@gmail.com for further information

PLANNING www.s-norfolk.gov.uk

Application: 2021/1973 The Willows, Mill Road, Thorpe Abbotts.

Creation of additional vehicular access. Approved by the PC, awaiting SNC decision.

BROCKDISH CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHT SWITCH ON

Join us for the Christmas Tree Light Switch On at the Village Green, Brockdish on **Saturday 4th December 2021 6pm** and afterwards at the Brockdish Village Hall for refreshments.

BROCKDISH WAR MEMORIAL (Sited on the South porch of the Church) NOTIFICATION OF PROPOSED NEW NAMES TO BE ADDED

ALLUM, Arthur Gerald 19524 Private 10th (Service) Battalion, The Northumberland Fusiliers. Date of Death 29th September 1916 (France).

BIRCH, Frederick Harry 14568 Private 1st Battalion, The Norfolk Regiment. Date of Death 10th July 1917 (France).

NUNN, Harry 8136 Private 18th Battalion, The Machine Gun Corps. Date of Death 13th October 1916 (France).

The names will be added when the War Memorial is renovated & cleaned, in the new year, 2022.

SPEEDING (Brockdish Village)

It has been observed that many vehicles are not obeying the speed limit restrictions. Please drive safely through the village.

Brockdish and Thorpe Abbotts Parish Council

Cllr Christine MacKenzie (Chair) received the specially commissioned memorial plaque to commemorate the resilience of our community during the time of the pandemic, at the PC meeting held on 26th October 2021. The plaque was presented by Mrs Philippa Taylor, a Deputy Lieutenant for Norfolk. All Norfolk parishes were invited to receive a plaque which are suitable for indoor or outdoor use. It is proposed to display the plaques at each village hall.



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. No meeting is held during December.

Tuesday 18th January 2022 7pm WHC, Brockdish

Thursday 24th February 2022 7pm Thorpe Abbotts Village Hall

We would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas & New Year.

A message from Councillor Martin Wilby

Congratulations to Sgt Duncan Slater from Scole, who was named as the Overall Champion and Against-All-Odds winner at the recent national Brave Britons awards 2021. He was presented with his award by the Falklands War hero, Simon Weston.

A plague has been commissioned for every parish and town council across Norfolk to recognise the work of communities during the pandemic. In order to highlight the unity displayed by people throughout the COVID 19 crisis, Lady Dannatt, Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Norfolk, has approved the plans. The plague will use the design skills of Norwich University of the Arts graduate Ruby Douglass, and the wording from a team at Norwich's National Centre for Writing. The style of lettering and shape of the plague were chosen as a visual way to celebrate the community overcoming such a difficult year. The cost of the project has been met by local Norfolk charities and parish and town councils can apply wellbeing@norfolkALC.gov.uk for their plaque. It was good to see the two plaques presented to the Parish Council at their recent meeting.

Norfolk County Council has agreed to put £70,000 into an online scheme called Crowd Fund Norfolk. Communities would be able to bid for cash from the county council pot to pay half the cost of an environmental scheme, with a maximum grant of £15,000. The initial focus would be on encouraging tree planting and protecting the county's windmills. Tree planting could include a single tree on the edge of a sports field, or a small orchard on the boundary of a village. Norfolk has the finest collection of historic wind and watermills and pumps in Britain, 21 of the best examples being conserved by the Norfolk Windmills Trust for the nation as a whole. Billingford Mill has been restored and will have a grand opening in 2022 where we hope to see the sails turning. A big thank you to all of the local volunteers that have worked together in getting this major project completed.

A message from Councillor Martin Wilby

Fire Safety reminder for Norfolk's Businesses

Many businesses had to close their doors or change their ways of working due to the pandemic. But as they have now reopened, business owners and responsible persons must review Fire Risk Assessments to reflect any changes they have made in response to the pandemic in the workplace. It's important that steps are taken to ensure staff are suitably trained, fire equipment is checked and maintained, and any Covid-secure measures do not compromise fire safety. Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service can provide free help and guidance to minimise the risk of fire in the workplace. You can find out more at 'Safety in your Business' at Norfolk County Council. Business owners needing fire safety advice can contact the Community Fire Protection team on 0300 1231669, who will gladly offer support.

At the recent Connected Britain Awards, NCC won the Internet of Things (IoT) Award for its Long-range Wide Area Network (LoRaWAN), for sending and receiving low power signals from digital devices and objects. Objects and devices in the LoRaWAN each have built-in sensors that capture small packets of data about their status or information from their surroundings, and report the information via the network. The technology allows roads to flag up when they need gritting, rubbish bins to say they need to be emptied, rivers to say when the water level is getting close to flooding, and parking spaces to say whether they are empty or occupied. Sensors in the home can help people to keep living independently in their own homes for longer, and much more. It also helps businesses in Norfolk to innovate, develop expertise in this emerging sector and grow.

I wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year.

Best Wishes

Martin

Michael Bloomfield



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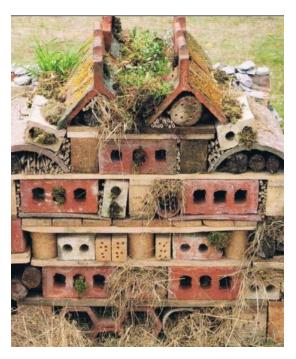


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A December Project

It is so important to encourage insects to make our gardens their homes, and during the winter they struggle to find a welcoming habitat.

Most insects love to live in cracks and crevices in wood or stone, and a wildlife wall imitates these ideal conditions.







To make an easy insect hotel:

- 1) Construct the wall in a quiet area of the garden. Make an initial layer of bricks and tiles, leaving plenty of gaps. Place wood on top and add another layer of bricks. Top off with old roof tiles to keep excess moisture out.
- 2) Pack cut bamboo canes into gaps these are an ideal home for solitary bees. Rolled up corrugated cardboard is ideal for ladybirds. Use moss, straw and twigs to fill any gaps.
- 3) Leave well alone! You may however have to replace the lighter materials which may be removed by birds.

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The Crafty Bombers

@ Thorpe Abbotts Village Hall

The Crafty Bombers is a 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 12th December Christmas special

Sunday 16th JanuaryWinter wonderland



We will follow similar guidelines to schools to ensure our crafts and activities 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

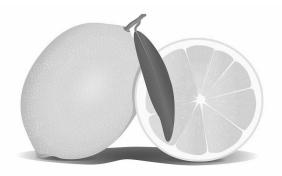
Proper Puds

LEMON DRIZZLE SPONGE PUDDING

Oven 180°C/160°C fan, gas mark 4

You will need a buttered 30cm x 20cm deep dish.

250g soft butter
380g caster sugar
4 eggs
250g self raising flour
1 tsp baking powder
3 lemons, zested and juiced
2 ½ tbsps cornflour



For the drizzle:

50g icing sugar 1 lemon, zested and juiced

Method:

- 1. Beat the butter and 250g of the sugar until light and fluffy.
- 2. Whisk in the eggs, then add the flour and baking powder. Fold in until a batter is formed.
- 3. Stir in the lemon zest, then pour into the dish, levelling the top.
- 4. Mix the lemon juice with the cornflour in a heatproof bowl to make a smooth paste. Mix the remaining sugar with 300ml boiling water. Pour over the cornflour mix and whisk until smooth. Pour over the sponge.
- 5. Bake for 45-50 mins until golden and set.
- 6. Meanwhile, mix the icing sugar with the lemon juice to make a loose consistency. Drizzle over the sponge while it is still warm and serve with fresh custard or double cream.















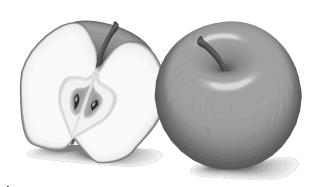
Proper Puds

MINCEMEAT AND APPLE CARAMEL

Oven 200°C/180°C fan, gas mark 6

You will need a well-greased 11" round dish.

175g self raising flour
1 tsp baking powder
50g caster sugar
50g soft margarine
1 egg
Zest of lemon
100ml milk
225g mincemeat
450g (peeled weight) apples, sliced



Topping:

50g butter melted 175g demerara sugar

Method:

- 1. Beat together the flour, baking powder, sugar, margarine, egg and lemon rind. Add the milk until the consistency is of a sponge mixture.
- 2. Spread into the base of the dish, spread over the mincemeat and arrange the apples on top,
- 3. Drizzle melted butter over the apples and sprinkle with the demerara sugar.
- 4. Bake for 35 minutes, until the apples are cooked and the sponge golden. Serve warm with crème fraiche or cream

Answers to Coffee Break Quiz

Countries on postmarks: 1. Sweden 2. Japan 3. Australia 4. France 5. Italy 6. Canada 7. America 8. Turkey 9. Spain 10. South Africa

Quiz: 1. Thrift or if found by an unmarried woman, spinsterhood. 2. 5th January 3. Eleven pipers piping 4. Nine. 5. Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner, Blitzen and Rudolph. 6. Al Martino 7. The Sun. 8. William the Conqueror. 9. Jacob Marley 10. Capricorn

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Thorpe Abbotts All Saints Church

Let me start with a huge thank you to the Parish Council, The Mardler, the Village Hall and some anonymous donations for helping us with the cost of the projection of the Poppy onto the Church Tower in the week leading up to Remembrance Sunday.



In October, our Harvest Festival collection of for the Emmaus Ditchingham. On their Facebook page, they said: "A huge thank you to everyone who donated to the Harvest Festival collection at All Saint's Church. We were delighted to receive such a generous box of goodies for our companions, and the team are putting it all to good use feeding our companions here at Ditchingham". There were in fact three trays of veg, together with two bags of tinned and dried provisions. So, another huge thank you, this time to all of those of you who popped stuff up to Church to decorate, and those who let us have items in the week following.

As you might be aware, All Saints is a Grade 1 listed building. This means that we must have a 5-yearly inspection from a surveyor, who spends the day examining, in some detail, the state of the Church fabric both inside and out. I recently met the surveyor at the Church and took him up the tower, where I was awarded many brownie points for having swept it out! This stops damp being attracted to the wooden floors. I have often wondered how they got the 2 bells up to the top when the main frame for both was replaced, and the new bell installed in 1928. As we came down, we noticed that the access hole to the second floor is, in fact, round instead of square. I have lost count of the times I have been up there and never noticed this before! I await the surveyor's report in the hope that there is not too much to do. Fingers firmly crossed!

Church News

Christmas is just around the corner, as the media is regularly reminding us, and I would think that by the time of publication preparations will be in full swing. It looks like the weekend of the 11th/12th December will be very Christmassy in the Village, with the Tree and Crib going up at the Pump (with associated festivities) on the Saturday. I am sure though, that full details will be included elsewhere here.

Sunday 12th December, at 4.00pm, will see us holding our Christmas celebration at the Church. A festive event to conclude the weekend when, just in case you have not had enough cake/mince pies or mulled wine, plenty more will be on offer, and we are all very much looking forward to gathering there. It's been a fairly quiet time this year at All Saints, so it will be lovely to welcome you all.

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 on please contact Sue Williams on 07855414941, or email her at williams876@btinternet.com.

Let me conclude with our very best wishes to you all, and may 2022 be everything you hope for.

Simon

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Brockdish Church

A huge thank you to Brian who has helped cure some of our electrical problems. Many hours of head scratching and hard work!

As 2021 draws to a close, we can all hope for a better 2022, and our lives hopefully returning to as near-normal as possible. It will be good to be able to get out and about to socialise.

On that note, please join us for our Christmas Coffee Morning on **Saturday December 4th** in Brockdish Village Hall.

The Carol Service of nine lessons and carols by candlelight, will be **Sunday 19th December at 6.00pm.** Mulled wine and mince pies to follow!

The first quiz of the New Year will be on **Saturday January 15th** - usual rules apply.

Wishing you all a Happy Christmas, and best wishes for a healthy and peaceful 2022.

Jan Croxson - Churchwarden (tel.668630)

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Brockdish Church Wardens

Ann Cork - 01379 668635 Jan Croxson - 01379 668630

Thorpe Abbotts Contact

Christine McDonald - 01379 669116

Church Service Times - December and January

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