

THE *Mardler*

BROCKDISH & THORPE ABBOTTS



Edition No. 237 February - March 2022

**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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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 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 ¼ 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.

Useful Contacts

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Harleston and Diss

NHS Direct 111

Electricity Power Cuts 105

Gas Emergencies 0800 111 999

Anglian Water 03457 145 145

South Norfolk Council 01508 533633

Borderhoppa 01379 854800

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Glyn Catchpole

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South Norfolk County Councillor 01379 741504
Martin Wilby

Parish Clerk 01379 308617
Teresa Hines

Libraries 01379 852549
Harleston 01379 642609
Diss

Welcome to the first edition of 2022. Despite another Christmas overshadowed by Covid, there were at least some events that managed to go ahead in the community. The Brass Band Concert and the Christmas tree events in each village, as well as the Church Services, were all well attended and enjoyed by everyone. At this time of year, when the weather is cold and miserable and Christmas seems so long ago, it is wonderful to see signs of spring starting to emerge. Bulbs are starting to poke through and the aconites are already out in the lane, giving us all a bit of hope of warmer days to come. Watch out for the Snowdrop Walk and the Daffodil Day coming up over the next few weeks. These are always popular events and raise much needed funds for local charities - see inside for details. Of course, 2022 sees the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. More details on how our communities will celebrate this momentous occasion to come.

Rob Buck, Editor



REMEMBER

**Closing date for entries in the April / May 2022 issue is
Wednesday 9th March 2022.**

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



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Harleston Library

We're working to restore our services at Harleston Library. At the time of going to print, here's what we have up and running:

- Browsing and borrowing, in both the adult and children's libraries, including reservations
- Our sofa, tables and chairs are back - so you can sit comfortably in the branch again
- PCs for customer use, including printing and copying services
- Self-weigh baby scales
- Bounce & Rhyme on Wednesdays at 10.30am, with a Stay and Chat session immediately following
- Knit & Knatter on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month, 1.30-3pm

We'll be working on other offers and activities through the winter, including our 'Just a Cuppa' sessions, and you can keep in touch with us on Facebook by searching for 'Diss, Harleston and Long Stratton Libraries'. You can also call us on 01379 852549 with any questions.

We've also restored our usual staffed opening hours - please note that Open Libraries is unavailable for the time being.

Monday:	11.30am-7pm
Tuesday:	CLOSED
Wednesday:	10am-7pm
Thursday:	CLOSED
Friday:	11.30am-7pm
Saturday:	11.30am-4pm
Sunday:	CLOSED

Come in and say hello – we'd love to see you!

Ryan Watts, Library Manager - Diss, Harleston & Long Stratton Libraries



Norfolk County Council





The Borderhoppa 2022 outings leaflet is now available. We have many trips arranged throughout the year, including pub lunches, garden centres, the coast, mystery tours, boat trips and many more. You can pick up a leaflet at your local library, information centre, GP surgery, from one of our drivers or by calling the office.

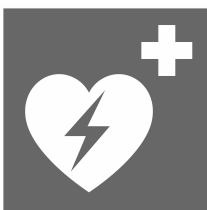
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Village Defibrillators

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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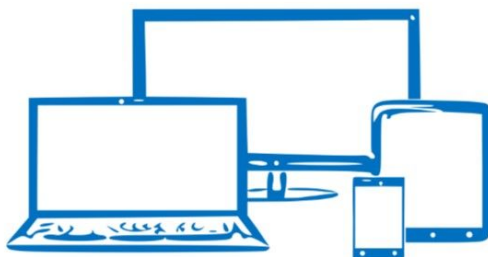
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Update from Brockdish and Thorpe Abbots Allotment Association (BATAAA)

Allotments awarded fruit trees by Norfolk County Council

Norfolk County Council has set itself a target of being carbon neutral by 2030, and to help it to reach this goal, over the next five years it will be working with communities, District and Parish Councils, farmers and landowners to plant one million new trees and manage existing trees better. With the kind permission of landowner Andrew Longe, and with support from Councillor Martin Wilby and Derek Clark of the Parish Council, BATAAA successfully applied to the 'One Million Trees for Norfolk' project and a pack of ten fruit trees (predominantly apple) will be delivered in mid-January. The trees will be planted and cared for by plotholders in the communal orchard area of the allotment site. NCC will monitor these trees over the next five years.

Plots available

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 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.

Thorpe Abbots Telephone Box Spring Clean

We all love browsing in the telephone box for books, games and jigsaws, but over the year it does become rather full of donations. Therefore, the weekend of the **26th/27th March**, we shall be having our annual Spring Clean. Anything that has been in there for a while will be bagged up and donated to other charities to sell. If there is something in there you have had your eye on, grab it quick in case it goes!

Don't Bin It - Fix it!

Across the country there is a growing network of people dedicated to the repair and restoration of useful and/or loved items which are broken and thus in danger of being added to the vast problem of landfill 'waste'. 'Repair Cafés' are places where people can bring their broken goods to be (hopefully) mended by someone with the skill to do so. One such café already exists in Woodbridge and another is about to open in Norwich. Some of us in Brockdish would very much like to start a Repair Café in the Village. We think it could serve quite a wide catchment area. I realise that in these difficult times we would have to guarantee stringent safety precautions, but I'm sure this can be done. It seems that the majority of items brought to these cafés are electrical goods, furniture, wooden or ceramic items, and clothing, so all the relevant skills in these areas would be required. At the moment, this is only at the ideas stage and I would like to find answers to the following questions:

1. So enough people locally think it's a good, viable idea?
2. Where could it be held?
3. If it's a café, do we supply tea and cakes, and if so, how do we organise that?
4. How do we find (possibly retired) people with the relevant skills to carry out the repairs?

If there is anyone out there who would be willing to volunteer their skills, or anyone with other good ideas, please contact Paddy (paddyrepaircafe@gmail.com). I think this could become an exciting and worthwhile project.

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The Old Coach House, Brockdish

We hope to open the garden this spring in aid of E.A.A.A. St Elizabeth Hospice, P.A.C.T and other local charities. Weather and Covid restrictions permitting.

Admission for each day is £3. Children are free accompanied with an adult; dogs welcome on leads.

Jams, chutneys, crafts, and cakes will be on sale, as well as a tombola and refreshments.



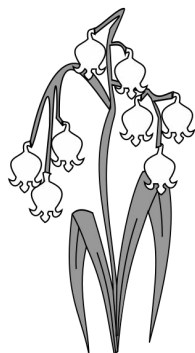
Snowdrop Open Gardens

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Monday 21st February

Sunday 27th February, Monday 28th February



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Sunday 20th March, Monday 21st March

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The Thorpe Abbotts Christmas Tree Lights Switch On

Saturday, 10th December saw the annual switching-on of the Village Christmas Tree lights. Despite the weather forecast, the predicted rain stayed away and the little ceremony was well attended by some very excited villagers. Many thanks to Stefan of Keeper's Cottage for pressing the button, and his festive reading courtesy of Pam Ayres. Lots of delicious festive treats were brought along to share, including some authentic Austrian gluhwein and the famous sausage rolls of a certain Mr Buck. However, the biggest thank you of the night must go to Nigel and Vanessa Skipper, who at the last minute created a sparkling Christmas Grotto in their garden summer house; a perfect setting for Father Christmas to meet the Village children. Because of the pandemic, this was the first time for lots of little ones to meet the man in red, and it was a truly magical moment. We are so grateful and appreciative of the experience you have provided for our children. Village superheroes!

Thorpe Abbotts Village Hall Committee



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Brockdish Common

The Working Party finished off 2021 with a start on Foredale Common - that's the part next to Grove Road, which is also known by many as Foreland Common. Here, we cleared the footpath which crosses it halfway up, and which is part of Angles Way (see photo). Next year should see a continuation of the work here to clear the encroaching brambles, and allow the wild flowers to thrive. On the other part of the Common, off Common Lane, we will be continuing the management of the open areas which have been seeded for wild flowers, leaving the scrub around the edges. This is the plan agreed with the Norfolk Wildlife Trust, which best protects and enhances these important wildlife areas, as well as improving access for walkers.



Next year will also see us planting some trees and putting up some nesting boxes. Who knows, if another seat is donated then that will improve everyone's enjoyment of these two lovely areas. Together with The TCV (The Conservation Volunteers), we will also be publishing a leaflet giving information about a lovely circular walk involving 4 commons: two in Brockdish, as well as St.Clements Common and Langmere Green. So, are you a nature lover who's passionate about conservation? If so, join The Conservation Volunteers weekly work parties in the area - contact bex.cross@tcv.org.uk.

Brockdish Common

In September, the Lottery funding of the TCV for this Brockdish project will come to an end. We have benefited enormously from the leadership of our two TCV leaders, Katie and now Bex, who bring along tools and get volunteers from a wider area to help. The TCV plan was always to support the work for 2 years and then leave in place a permanent working group of local volunteers to continue the work. So, we will be looking for a few more Brockdish residents to get involved for a few hours once a month to carry on this good work. It's great exercise and sociable too. All welcome, please contact Derek Clark (01379 669201) or Christine McKenzie (01379 668818) for further information, or preferably, offers of help.

An Unusual Paragraph

I'm curious as to just how quickly you can find out what is unusual about it. It looks so ordinary and plain that you would think nothing was wrong with it. In fact, nothing is wrong with it! It is highly unusual though. Study it and think about it, but you still may not find anything odd. But if you work at it a bit, you might find out. Try to do so without any coaching.

Answer: The letter 'E', which is the most common letter used in the English language, does not appear even once in the paragraph.

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Waveney Heritage at The Old School Grove Road Brockdish

We are, of course, waiting for news of the virus, and trying to guess what might happen next. It's all a bit of a lottery isn't it? Despite all the uncertainty, we have managed to present two talks a month on an enormous variety of subjects, hold a craft fair, host an open day and entertain several other local organisations, including the River Waveney Trust volunteers and the Hoxne History Group. Table tennis takes place each Tuesday evening, and on alternate Tuesday mornings we host an art group. On one Thursday a month, a small group meets for chat, tea and activities, supported by Harleston Information Plus, and we're thinking of starting further table tennis sessions on Thursday evenings.

We mustn't forget that we hold an archive of reminiscences, local history and objects, not to mention our radio technology museum upstairs, in order to make good use of the building whilst sticking to the original ethos of George France, the founder of the school. He had the forethought to insert covenants in the founding documents, insisting that the building be used forever to further the education and welfare of local people. Looking at all this, I am amazed at what we have managed to achieve during our three years of opening, especially as two years of that have included dealing with the repercussions of the pandemic.

We are always looking for volunteers to join us. The building is expensive in time, effort and money to maintain, and we have to generate our own income, so newcomers are always welcome, either to volunteer or to become members. It only cost £10.00 a year for membership and volunteering is free.

If you would like to know more we will be delighted to talk to you. Email marygthompson@aol.com or call 01379 668279. Also, have a look at our website: www.waveneyheritage.com.

We wish you all the very best for 2022.

The Trustees, Waveney Heritage

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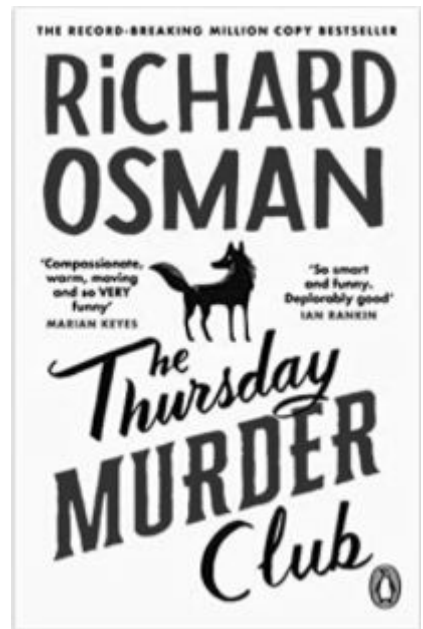
The Book Club recommends...

Happy New Year everyone! Here's hoping that 2022 will bring lots of interesting reads for us to enjoy. There is nothing nicer on a wintry day than curling up with a good book. If you find a particular book that captures your attention, why not share that with us by writing a review? A big thank you to both of our reviewers. You can email your review to judecham@gmail.com.

The Thursday Murder Club by Richard Osman

In a peaceful retirement village, four unlikely friends meet up once a week to investigate unsolved murders. But, when a brutal killing occurs on their doorstep, the Thursday Club find themselves in the middle of their first live case.

Bossy Elizabeth who obviously has had a mysterious life, sweet Joyce, intelligent Ibrahim, and feisty but lovable Ron might be pushing eighty but they have a few tricks up their sleeves. Can the four quirky unorthodox septuagenarians catch the killer before it is too late? The interaction with the female policeman was cleverly woven into the plot.



As the bodies pile up and more of the lives of the intrepid sleuths are revealed the plot becomes more intricate. I found the writing clever, warm, moving and very funny which kept my attention throughout. As an avid mystery and crime reader I thought it was a great read that I thoroughly enjoyed. A clever debut and I am looking forward to his next book. It also shows us that we should never underestimate the elderly.

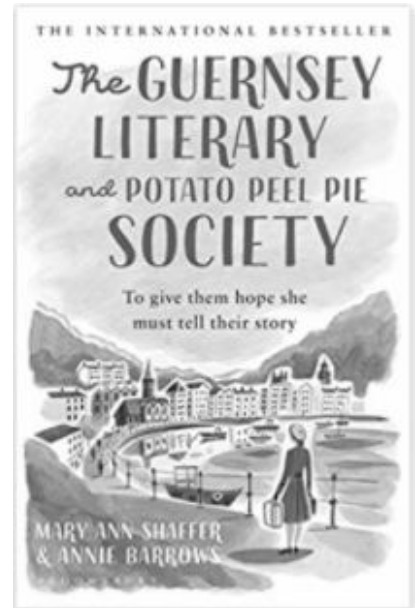
It will not be everyone's choice of reading as I discovered when it was discussed at our Book Club. Some felt it was slow and not that well written with a weak plot. However, if you want a light enjoyable read, I would highly recommend this book. I can't wait for the film.

The Book Club recommends...

***The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society*
by Mary Anne Shaffer and Annie Barrows
(reviewed by Lisa Poole)**

When Judith asked me to do a book review for the Mardler, I was so chuffed! I wanted to use my opportunity as a reviewer very wisely, so I have chosen my 2nd favourite book of all time, 'The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society'. I can't remember how I came across this book, but it is one of the most uplifting, poignant and actually educational books I've read.

The whole book is a series of letters between various correspondents and centres around occupied Guernsey during WW2. As it is just letters, after the first few pages you might think 'where is this book going?' but don't worry, it just grows and grows, unveiling different characters, all of whom I fell in love with.



I knew nothing of the Channel Islands' occupation during the war so it really was educational. You learn about the daily life and the relationship Islanders had and had to have with the soldiers. As such there are some very emotional parts of the book.

I have recommended this book to many friends, one read it in a single sitting she loved it so much. I didn't want to end on a negative but they made a film of it in 2018. Whilst the cast were amazing and the cinematography beautiful, they completely changed some of the personalities of the characters, which ultimately changed the direction of the book's feel. I don't think I can forgive those filmmakers! I've tried and I can't. Please if you get a chance read the book, you might, like me, fall in love with everyone in it.

Jokes

Why did the physics teacher break up with the biology teacher?
Because there was no chemistry.

What has to be taken before you get it? *A photograph.*

What do you call a chicken when it sees a salad? *Chicken Caesar Salad.*

What did the pirate say on his 80th birthday? *Aye....matey.*



Did You Know?

The 2nd February marks Candlemas - the day of the year when all the candles that would be used in the church over the coming year were brought in and blessed.

It was thought that if, on 14th February, an unmarried woman saw a robin flying overhead, it meant that she would marry a sailor; if she saw a sparrow, she would marry a poor man and be very happy; if she saw a goldfinch, she would marry for money.

Dates to remember each year

Why do we remember the following dates?

- | | | |
|-----------------|------------------|-------------------|
| 1. February 6th | 2. March 1st | 3. March 17th |
| 4. April 21st | 5. April 23rd | 6. May 24th |
| 7. June 2nd | 8. June 13th | 9. June 21st |
| 10. July 4th | 11. October 21st | 12. November 30th |

Answers on page 31



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Brockdish and Thorpe Abbotts Post Offices. They came, they went....

© Elaine Murphy

Post offices have been a central part of British life since the late 19th century, providing a place for people to send mail and parcels, buy stamps and pay their bills. Later, they became the place to collect pensions and benefits, get your car taxed and save money. But the number of branches has dwindled from about 25,000 in the mid 1960s, to around 11,500 today, and very few are now run by the Post Office directly.

Village post offices are officially sub-post offices run from general stores; both Brockdish and Thorpe Abbotts Post Offices always were. We have lost both of them now of course; the buildings have become private homes. There was too little trade with the advent of almost universal car ownership, the impact of email and everything that followed that.

Neither of our village establishments was set up as a post office. The Brockdish Post Office began life as a tailor's shop at 13 The Street in 1858, where the tailor, William Booty, was also the Parish Clerk. Eventually, the Post Office bought part of these premises, but expanded into the larger store we can see below. Thorpe Abbotts Post Office began life as a large blacksmith's forge. Blacksmiths Robert Debenham and his son, Harry Alonzo Debenham, offered to take in the post delivered by the postmen from Diss twice a day in the 1880s, and acted as collection points for mail to be sent out twice a day and once on Sunday. Both our village post offices thrived for about a century before they closed. Many of us remember the Brockdish Post Office and general store, which closed in the early 2000s.

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Brockdish Post Office, The Street, newsagents and grocery store, c 1920s. The man standing in front is probably the postmaster and grocer Mr Brighton.

The Post Office dates way back to the 17th century, although Henry VIII had a master of the post for his court mail, which served only the royal household. Under the guise of the General Post Office (GPO), Charles I's post expanded to serve the wider public, and soon grew to be an important organisation, although back then, sending and receiving mail was expensive, slow and not especially reliable. Just one year after the Post Office was formed, the postage date stamp was first used, and the first postmark used on mail. Uniforms have been worn by postmen since 1793. We have a very old grainy photo of the early 20th century postmen based at Harleston..



*Mr. Sheldrake, Mr. W. Moore, Mr. G. Rutell, Mr. E. Hudson, Mr. Pettitt, Mr. Percy Payne, Mr. Davey
Mr. Bailey, Mr. Barnard, Miss Alice Leiss, Miss Stone, Mrs. Payne (junior), Mr. Payne, Mr. Taylor*

*Harleston Postmen and Postwomen,
early 20th century*

The invention of the adhesive postage stamp by Sir Rowland Hill in 1837 was a key milestone, and just three years later the Penny Black was established. As the first stamp issued anywhere in the world for sending letters, the Penny Black stamp gave a uniform postal rate which cut administrative costs and encouraged use of the postal system.

Before Hill's brilliant idea it was normal for the recipient of the post to pay the fee. The arrival of a parcel or letter could be an expensive surprise, because the tariff depended on the weight and distance carried, which explains why earlier letters were often written in tiny writing on two sides, and also around the edge of very flimsy paper.

With stamps, pillar boxes could be introduced in 1852, and it was at this date that dozens of shops became collection points for mail. Postmen were officially letter carriers at first, but when the parcel post was introduced then the title changed to postman. There were few postwomen before the First World War, when women almost took over all post jobs while the menfolk were at war or in factories.



*The Penny Black Stamp,
1840*

Telegraph Service and Post Office Savings

Bank: The post office acquired the monopoly of handling the telegraph service in 1870, and in 1861 the post office introduced savings facilities for ordinary wage earners in over 700 post offices, at a time when there were few banks outside major towns, and only the well-off were served by them anyway. This proved extremely popular, as by the mid-1880s, there were three and a half million accounts in thousands of post offices. Postal orders were introduced in 1881. The Brockdish Post Office, formally operational by 1864, began its savings bank in 1888, and offered insurance and an annuity savings facility, which, as the Ipswich Journal noted, "will be a great convenience to residents in the district".

Michael Last Landscapes

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last.michael@btinternet.com

Local History

Telephones: The post office took over the National Telephone Company in 1912 it was not long before Post Office Directories became our phone directories. Thorpe Abbots Post Office was enormously proud of its flashy new telephone system, upgraded in 1953 and part of the Bell machinery was auctioned as a vintage treasure in the 1970s.



The Old Post Office, Thorpe Abbots 2020

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Local History

At Brockdish, William Booty was followed by John Gates Beart, also a draper, who died in-post in 1894, and then by his nephew William Beart Robinson, whose wife Mary followed him, and was postmistress for many years. Post arrived at 8.00 am and 11.15 am, and was dispatched 8.55 am and 5.45 pm; 9.50 am on Sundays. Mr J Brighton ran the post office during the Second World War years. He expanded his business into part of the Sheriff House, where he sold pots, pans and kitchen wares. J R Morris, a grocer, followed in the early to mid-1950s.

Jack and Kathleen (Kathy) Lanham took over in the late 1950s, and even now are remembered as excellent shopkeepers, running an efficient and friendly business. They sold everything from food to vests, and would order anything that was required and tried to have it within twenty four hours. The Thursday before Christmas, a window was covered, and then revealed later in the day to be shown full of Christmas toys and goodies, causing great excitement in the village.



*Jack and Kathleen Lanham,
on their retirement from
Brockdish Post Office.*

After the Lanhams retired, Ted and Maureen Wood took over the business. They were followed by Ted and Beryl Horton, who sold it to Larry and Iris Larkin. In the mid 1990s it passed to Phil and Jan Spragge, who eventually closed it.

At Thorpe Abbots, James and Violet Flatman operated the post office through the war years and the 1950s. Their only daughter, Lorna, married an RAF sergeant in 1943. The Flatmans retired in the late 1950s. It was in the early 1970s that Thorpe Abbots Post Office became a private home. For many years before his death in 2019, it was the home of Lenny Havers, who died age 89, one of the best loved characters in the Village. Now the Old Post Office has had a makeover, and continues as a private home in keeping with the rest of the village; the old clay lump shed by the side, a testament to its pre-post office life as a blacksmith's forge.

The information for this piece came mostly from the British Newspaper Archive. I am very grateful for Jan Croxson's personal knowledge and help.

Brockdish and Thorpe Abbots Parish Council

Chairman: Christine Mackenzie Tel. 01379 668818

Clerk: Teresa Hines Tel. 01379 308617

Email. brockdishthorpeabbottspc@gmail.com

Councillor Vacancy

We welcome Adam Cobbold (Brockdish) to the Parish Council (co-opted at the meeting held on 25th November 2021). We have one vacancy to fill (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)

Decision: 2021/1973 The Willows, Mill Road, Thorpe Abbots. Creation of additional vehicular access. Approved by the PC & SNC.

Brockdish Christmas Tree Lights Switch On

This event was a great success and raised £98 on the night, which will go towards additional Christmas tree lights. It is hoped that next year we are able to publicise earlier and more widely. We would like to thank Enrico and all for providing the lovely refreshments, and the Brockdish Village Hall Committee for use of the 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.

Thursday 24th February, 7pm Thorpe Abbots Village Hall

Tuesday 29th March, 7pm WHC, Brockdish

No meeting is held during April.

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A message from Councillor Martin Wilby

The new Norwich South Recycling Centre has opened at the Harford Park and Ride site, off the A47/A140, replacing the Ketteringham site which has now been closed. The new centre is the sister site to the Norwich North Centre that opened earlier in 2021. Norfolk County Council says the move to a larger site allows room for a one-way system to smooth traffic flow and reduce queues, while low-level bins mean people will not have to climb steps to recycle their waste. In the spring there will be a large reuse shop open on site, which will further boost reuse by stopping quality used items from being thrown away. Norse Environmental Services (NEWS) will manage this new recycling centre on behalf of NCC.

New farmers are being sought for six Norfolk farms, with 750 acres available to let. NCC is keen to attract those new to farming to allow them to get their feet on the farming ladder. Training days will be run in January by Norfolk County Farms to help applicants with the process. These training days are being designed to assist new entrants and those unfamiliar with business plans. The council is keen to see applications that include proposals for diversification and environmental enhancement. Any successful applicant will be required to retain and maintain the existing margins, hedges and trees planted on the holding. All information can be found at www.norfolk.gov.uk/countyfarms. The closing date for applicants is Monday February 28th.

Winter Update

We are well prepared to help keep Norfolk moving over the coming months, with all of Norfolk's salt domes fully stocked. Each full 3-hour gritting run in Norfolk sees 2,200 miles of roads treated. All A and B-class roads, and some C-class roads, are treated, with a focus on commuter and major bus routes, and, as far as possible, one route into all villages. The A11 and the A47 are gritted by National Highways. The County Council's experienced team will be keeping a close eye on detailed specialist forecasts and weather sensors across the county, that help inform when and where gritting will be taking place throughout the winter.

A message from Councillor Martin Wilby

People can check which roads are on the Council's gritting routes for the 2021/22 season on the map at www.norfolk.gov.uk/gritting. On the same map, people can find the locations of around 1,900 grit bins in the county that are filled by the County Council, which people can use on public pavements, cycle paths and roads.

Better Together for Norfolk

An ambitious blueprint to make Norfolk even better has been unveiled by the County Council. 'Better Together for Norfolk' charts the County Council's priorities over the next 5 years, to guide how it will work with partners to boost the economy, protect the environment, help people live healthy and fulfilling lives, and support communities. NCC's leader, Andrew Proctor, said: "Better Together for Norfolk' is our ambitious five-year strategy, which sets out our priorities for the County. I am keen to work with you and other key partners to capitalise on this pivotal point in time – making the most of opportunities for recovery, renewal and resilience and the Government's 'Levelling Up' and environmental agendas".

The Priorities are :

- A vibrant and sustainable economy
- Better opportunities for children and young people
- Healthy, fulfilling and independent lives
- Strong, engaged and inclusive communities
- A greener, more resilient future

A copy of the strategy is available at: www.norfolk.gov.uk/togetherfornorfolk.

Looking forward to 2022 I hope that we will enjoy the many celebrations connected to the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations.

Best Wishes

Martin

February

A blackbird sat on a gravestone,
Snowdrops shone in the grass,
In a misty sky, a wintery sun
Woke memories of summers passed.

It wasn't really warm enough
But he's half a mind to sing.
The sun and flowers misled him
Into thinking it was Spring.

Eileen Marie Riley





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Preparing for Spring

February is a busy month. The odd sunny day gives a nod to spring's arrival. There is a lot of tidying up to do, pruning, fertilising, dividing and transplanting congested clumps of herbaceous perennials, shrubs and bulbs.

A few general jobs for this time of year:



- Clean, service and oil tools and garden machinery.
- Dig out perennial weeds by the roots.
- Prepare seed beds and cover to help warm the soil.
- Check dates on seed packets and discard ones that are out of date.
- Install bird boxes.
- Check under flower pots and greenhouse shelves for slugs and snails.
- Prune well, as this gives new growth time to mature and flower next season.
- Divide clumps of perennials. Large clumps can take over and compete with others for moisture and nutrients in the soil. Dividing now will allow the transplanted plants to establish their roots and grow strong.
- Vegetable garden seed beds need to be weeded and covered with a thick layer of garden compost.
- Other areas of the garden can be improved by spreading with well-rotted manure and forking in.
- Wash the glazing on greenhouses inside and out.

So, even with red noses, flushed cheeks and misty breath, get out and plan, and enjoy the garden for future months ahead.

Answers to Coffee Break 'Dates to remember'

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. The Queen's Accession | 2. St. David's Day | 3. St. Patrick's Day |
| 4. The Queen's Birthday | 5. St. George's Day | |
| 6. British Commonwealth Day | 7. The Queen's Coronation Day | |
| 8. The Queen's Official Birthday | 9. Longest Day | 10. Independence Day (US) |
| 11. Trafalgar Day | 12. St. Andrew's Day | |



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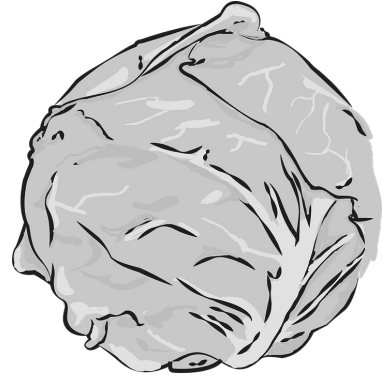
4 smoked streaky bacon rashers, chopped

2 large carrots, chopped into small chunks

1 savoy cabbage, quartered, cored and shredded

400g can haricot beans, drained and rinsed

300ml chicken stock



1. Heat the butter in a wide saucepan. Add the bacon and carrots, then sizzle for 3-4 minutes until the bacon starts to crisp.
2. Stir in the cabbage, cook for 2 minutes until wilted, then add the beans.
3. Add the stock and cook for 5 minutes until the beans are hot and the carrots are tender.

Colcannon

1kg floury potatoes, cut into chunks

2 large carrots, cut into small chunks

100ml double cream

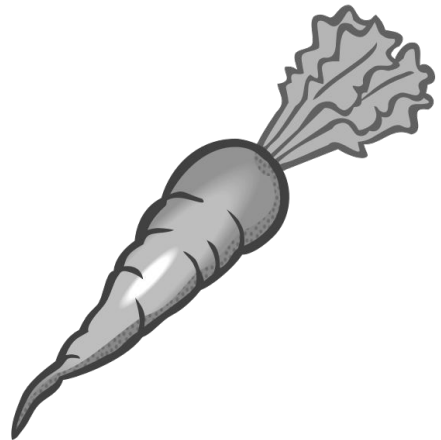
50g butter

2 turnips, cut into small chunks

1 garlic clove, finely chopped

1 tbsp olive oil

100g shredded cabbage



1. Boil the potatoes for 20 minutes, adding the carrots for the last 5 minutes. Drain, and spoon out the carrots. Mash the potatoes with the cream and butter.
2. Fry the carrots, turnips and garlic in the olive oil for 10 minutes, adding the cabbage for the last 2 minutes.
3. Heat the grill to high. Mix the fried veg with the mash in an ovenproof dish and season. Grill for 5-10 mins.

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The Crafty Bombers

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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 13th February

Valentine's Day

Sunday 20th March

Springtime



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

Thorpe Abbots All Saints Church

All Saints carries a Grade 1 listing, as does St Peter and St Paul's of Brockdish. What does this mean? If a building is listed as Grade I, this is because it is of exceptional national, architectural or historical importance, and only 2.5% of listed buildings carry this grading. All Saints was mentioned in the Little Domesday Survey (which covered only Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex), so a church of some form will have stood on the same site in 1086 when the Parish belonged to the Abbott of St Edmundsbury, hence the name Thorpe Abbots (the settlement of the Abbott). As an aside, the Parish changed its name to Thorpe Cornwallis when the estate was owned by the Cornwallis family of Brome. I think it came back to its original name when the estate was sold in the mid-19th Century.

What is the impact of having a Grade 1 listed building to look after? Firstly, and most importantly, the responsibility for the upkeep of the building lies entirely with the Parochial Church Council (the PCC). Secondly, whilst the local authority is responsible to Historic England for sites carrying a Grade 1 or 2 listing, the responsibility for churches has been devolved to the Diocese, meaning that we have a 5 yearly inspection (the Quinquennial), which in our case happened in October.

The Quinquennial Inspection involves a specialist architect going over the building with a fine tooth comb. Taking a full day, we always await his report with some trepidation. I am delighted to say that he was very pleased with what he found, with no items requiring immediate action and just a couple requiring action within the next 12 months. Of course, when dealing with a building, parts of which are over 1000 years old, it is important to have regular inspections by a specialist and they are always very helpful.



Thorpe Abbots All Saints Church

Turning to the Churchyard, I am delighted to see our Turkish Snowdrops out, which are always the very first to appear. *Galanthus Elwesii* was identified by the British botanist Henry John Elwes on a visit to Turkey in 1874. He came across "the fine large snowdrop" which now bears his name. Our more "normal" snowdrops (*Galanthus Nivalis*), are native to Europe and were most probably brought to this country by the Romans. They generally appear early in February. Also appearing this early in the year are the bright yellow Aconites. I always love to see their bright yellow faces brightening up the yard as harbingers of a Spring to come.

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 Church. If you would like the lights, please contact Sue Williams at williams876@btinternet.com or 07855414941. Please could payment be made before the night.

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Brockdish Church

I am pleased to say that we managed to have some events this winter. Quiz nights were a lot of fun, as was the coffee morning, which was so well attended by the Village community. The brass band concert was also a huge success and really enjoyed by everybody. Our next quiz night is Saturday, 5th March, 7.30pm. Tickets are £5, and please bring your own drinks.

The church looked magical for the carol service, with 354 candles lit. A huge thank you to those who helped decorate, and to Imogen for her wonderful solo.

We are planning an afternoon concert in July. Tickets are limited, so although it may seem early, if you wish to reserve places please give me a ring. We can but hope that other events will be able to take place in 2022, but we all know what it depends on.

A belated Happy New Year and may we all keep safe and healthy.

Jan Croxson - Churchwarden (tel.668630)

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Brockdish Church Wardens

Thorpe Abbots Contact

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Ann Cork - 01379 668635

Jan Croxson - 01379 668630

Christine McDonald - 01379 669116

Church Service Times - February and March

6th February	Brockdish 9.30am	Morning Prayer
13th February	Thorpe Abbots 9.30 am	Morning Prayer
	Brockdish 9.30am	Morning Prayer
20th February	Brockdish 9.30am	Holy Communion
27th February	Brockdish 9.30pm	Morning Prayer
6th March	Brockdish 9.30am	Morning Prayer
13th March	Brockdish 9.30am	Morning Prayer
	Thorpe Abbots 9.30am	Holy Communion
20th March	Brockdish 9.30am	Morning Prayer
27th March	Brockdish 9.30am	Morning Prayer
		Morning Prayer



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