



THE
Mardler
BROCKDISH & THORPE ABBOTTS



Edition No. 241 October - November 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

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.

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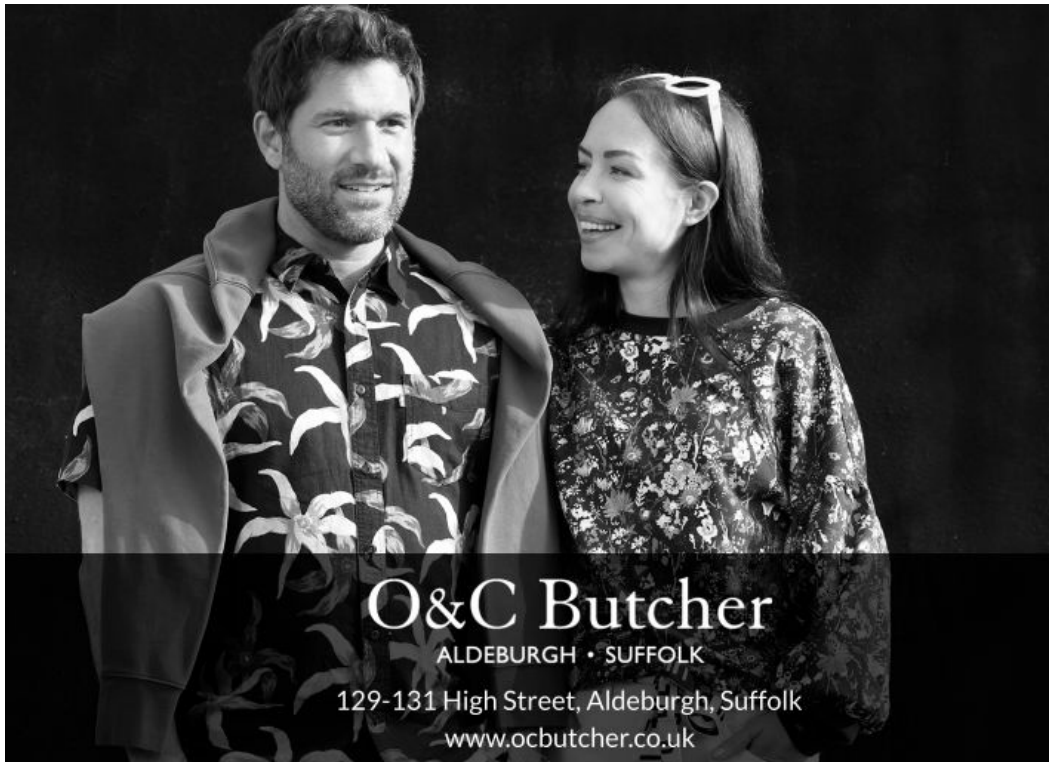
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What else would be fitting for the front cover of this edition than our late Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II? The constant in our lives for 70 years, it hardly seems credible that only a few months ago we were celebrating her jubilee. It will take some time getting used to the fact that she is no longer here. November is a time of remembrance, and featured inside is an old photograph of Brockdish Home Guard. If anyone recognises any of the faces in the photo, then please get in touch with the editorial team. We have also had an interesting letter from a lady in Australia who came across The Mardler whilst tracing her relatives. Please read it and if you can help her in anyway, please contact either us or her directly, I'm sure she would be most grateful. Finally, from the whole Mardler team, 'God Save The King!'

Rob Buck, Editor

REMEMBER

Closing date for entries in the December 2022 / January 2023 issue is Wednesday 2nd November 2022. Articles received after this date may not be included in the next issue.



Activities & Services at Harleston Library

We are pleased to announce two NEW groups for 5-11 year olds:

- Lego Club which runs every Monday at 3.45pm. There is no need to book, but children must be accompanied by an adult.
- CRAFTernoon Club which will take place on the 1st 3rd Wednesday of every month at 3.45pm starting from Wednesday 21st September.

Sessions are free but booking is essential, please contact Harleston Library directly on 01379 852549 to secure your space. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

These activities will run alongside our current activities and services:

- Just a Cuppa on Mondays at 2pm – come in for a free cuppa and a chat with others in your local community
- Bounce & Rhyme every Wednesday at 10.30am, with Stay & Play session immediately following
- Knit & Knatter on the 2nd & 4th Wednesday of every month, 1.30-3pm
- Baby self-weigh
- Public PCs and print/copy services available
- Home Library Service – contact us if you'd like to volunteer, or to receive book deliveries

Find us on Facebook: 'Diss, Harleston and Long Stratton Libraries'

Opening Hours:

Monday: 8am-7pm (Staffed 11.30am-7pm)
Tuesday: 8am-7pm (Open Libraries all day)
Wednesday: 8am-7pm (Staffed 10am-7pm)
Thursday: 8am-7pm (Open Libraries all day)
Friday: 8am-7pm (Staffed 11.30am-7pm)
Saturday: 8am-4pm (Staffed 11.30am-4pm)
Sunday: 10am-4pm (Open Libraries all day)

Harleston Library Tel: (01379) 852549

Email: Harleston.lib@libraries.norfolk.gov.uk

**Brockdish and Thorpe Abbots Allotment Association (BATAAA) –
plots available now**

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? If you take on a plot (or half plot) now, no plot fee will be charged until March 2023 – time to prepare the soil for a new growing season.

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.

MacMillan Coffee Morning

There will be a MacMillan Coffee Morning at Brockdish Village Hall on **Friday 7th October 10.00 am - 11.30 am**. Any donations of cakes or prizes for the raffle would be much appreciated - thank you! Further information from Ann Cork (telephone 01379 668635). Hope to see you there for a coffee and a chat!

Carpet Bowls

Carpet bowls has restarted in Brockdish Village Hall on Thursday evenings at 7.30pm. We are a mixed club and of all ages. Come along, join in, make new friends and have an enjoyable fun evening. The cost is £2 per person per evening. For further information please contact Peter (01379 668630).

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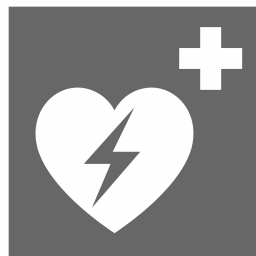
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Village Defibrillators

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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Jumble Sale

Including Cake Sale, Tombola and Raffle

Thorpe Abbotts Village Hall

Saturday 19th November, 2 - 4 pm

Time to have a clear out and pick up a bargain!
All proceeds towards upkeep of our hall.

Good quality, clean donations only please:

- Bric-a-brac
- Toys
- Books
- Furnishings
- Pictures
- Clothes, shoes and bags



Donations of cakes, tombola and raffle prizes also gratefully received.

All donations can be dropped off on the morning of the sale. Large items can be collected. Please contact Kelvin Halifax (tel. 668705) for further information.

RoughCast Tour of Arsenic and Old Lace Nov 11th - 26th

Following a run of Shakespeare productions, RoughCast turns more light-hearted with a production of Joseph Kesselring's hilarious black comedy, Arsenic and Old Lace. In this famous and much-loved farce, a young drama critic's life is turned upside down when he discovers that his two adorable and well-meaning spinster aunts have taken to putting their gentlemen house guests out of their misery with poison and burying the bodies in the cellar. Community service - of a kind!

Performing at Halesworth, Diss, Hoxne, Beccles, Bungay, Southwold, Garboldisham and Wingfield Barns.

For further information visit www.roughcast.co.uk or tel 01379 586745.

WOODLAND WALK

The Old Coach House, Brockdish

Thank you all yet again for your continued help and support, with especial thanks to all the helpers, cake-makers and donors. We hope you all enjoyed the weekend as much as we did.

Together we raised a total of £2900.00, including selling plants and bric-a-brac over the last 4 months. Thank you all so much!

Jackie, John and Jean

Oak Hall Lodge, Thorpe Abbots

After speaking with close residents regarding noise levels from holidaymakers, I have made the decision to stop accepting holiday rentals for Oak Hall Lodge from the end of September. I would like to thank the residents of Thorpe Abbots for their patience and understanding.

Joe Read

THE HALLOWEEN BALL

Saturday 29th October 2022
Thorpe Abbots Village Hall

2pm: Pumpkin Hunt

Meet at hall to collect treasure map
(£2 per child)

4pm onwards: Party at the Hall

Fun and games

Vegetable carving competition
(please bring to hall for judging)

Food and Drink

Something for everyone!!!

***Please reserve a place by contacting Paul
Slater on 668585 / email sl8ter101@me.com
or message Village Facebook page***

Spotlight on Mental Wellness

During lockdown we all had to forgo things that in pre-Covid times we really enjoyed. For most, life changes were inevitable. Lockdown presented many mental issues due to isolation and restriction of movement. Huge adjustments ensued and continued to affect us in all sorts of ways, and two years on we are finally moving forward with mental health very much in the spotlight.

My name is Janet. I am a qualified meditation teacher. I graduated with Distinction in 2017 from the British School of Meditation. I currently have a weekly class at Stowhealth Surgery, where I teach adult students. My journey started in 2015, when a friend asked me to join her for a lunchtime class at the Self Centre, Bury St Edmunds. I was a little sceptical at first as I thought it was religious and was not sure it was for me. I could not have been more wrong! It is completely secular. The class was peaceful and relaxing with periods of quiet and at times gentle music playing in the background. I learnt breathing exercises and ways to take a step back from what was bothering me so I could make better choices. The whole experience completely changed my perspective on what is important in my life and I gradually reversed the wasted years I had spent worrying and overthinking. I am much happier now and would like to share my skill with my new group, so come and sit for a while. Please see my advert on page 14.

Janet

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Greetings from Oz!

As a long-time genealogist, I am very familiar with musty Record Offices and fiddly microfiche etc, I have embraced the internet age with a passion. I have, though, rarely been so overwhelmed as to find what I just did online!

I have been researching my Cottons, Pretymans and others of Suffolk/Norfolk and Cambridgeshire for many years and have visited the UK some 14 times in my pursuits. However, I am somewhat astonished to have turned up your newsletter just now after doing a casual and simple search for "Cotton" and "Wingfield". It was Edition No 224 from Oct-Nov 2019 which jumped up – and therein were mentions of my 6x great grand uncle John Cotton, my 6x great grandfather Dr Robert Pretyman, and others.

What a find! Am about to get onto Amazon and buy copies of Elaine Murphy's books. So looking forward to poring over them.

I just had to write and let you know how far your newsletter has reached, and if we are ever free of this COVID plague, I'll be back in "Merrie Olde" sleuthing again. There are still headstones I have yet to tidy, family homes I have yet to sigh over and Record Offices I have yet to exhaust.

Please thank Ms Murphy on my behalf should you cross her path; she's just 'made my month'!!

More power to you all,

Wendy Corbett Kelley (wendy@marplemorse.com)

Researching:

- *Arundel-Badeley-Blainey-Bower-Byatt-Bryckwood-Bygrave-Cave- Corbett-Cotton*
- *DeLaPole-DeVere-Eves-Excell-Gepp-Goldacre-Gretton-French-Frere-Hailstone-Hatcher*
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- *Walford-Wallington-Walsh-Ward-Wiltshires-Wingfield*

Loose Dogs

I wish to raise a topic of concern for publication in the next copy of the Mardler. This is regarding dogs running loose around the outskirts of Thorpe Abbots without an accompanying owner. The dogs that have been seen on many occasions include a black Labrador, light and dark coloured Chow Chows and a light coloured Cockerpoo.

It is a legal requirement that *every dog wears a collar and an identity tag in public, bearing the current name and address of the owner*. In these cases, either the dogs do not have a tag on their collar or are without any collar. In these modern times unfortunately, the theft of dogs is on the increase and potentially used for breeding purposes or for bait in dog fights. These straying dogs must be somebody's pet and if they were to disappear, be involved in a road accident, or fight with another dog, the emotional, legal, or financial consequences could be severe.

I myself am a responsible dog owner, and I am both concerned – and angry - when I see loose dogs running around our village, upsetting wildlife, pets, and toileting in people's gardens (including my own).

Our message to these dog owners should be clear. Be aware and take responsibility for the animal that you own, by knowing where your dog is and securing your property boundaries to ensure your dog does not keep escaping.

Some final thoughts. Farmers have the right to shoot dogs on the loose, and dogs which cause road accidents can bring severe repercussions on their owners. So – it's a simple question. Are YOU innocent – or guilty? Responsible – or irresponsible?

Moir Kirby

Brockdish Village Garage Sale 2023

Start sorting your cupboards out - I am planning a sale for Spring 2023, based at WHC, Old School, so Watch This Space - date to be announced In New Year.

Jill Edwards (01379 669057)

Glyn Catchpole

Words cannot express my feelings when I lost Glyn on 20th August. He loved this village and the people. Glyn enjoyed his carpet bowls, playing for the County, being on the council for 30 years and looking after the Village Green. I would like to thank all the good friends and neighbours who have helped me through this very difficult time. I could not have done it without you all. Thank you for all the many cards and flowers.

Joyce Catchpole



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Thorpe Abbotts Village Hall Committee
Report of the Annual General Meeting 2022

We were extremely pleased to welcome 21 residents to our Annual General Meeting on Thursday 15th September. The Committee remains unchanged. During the meeting, we discussed the future of the Village Hall, its current state of disrepair, its lack of use and the options going forward. It was agreed that the Committee will commission a full structural survey on the Hall to ascertain any underlying problems. The outcome will be shared with residents in due course. A number of other positive suggestions were put forward, in order to raise money for the ongoing maintenance of the Hall, and we were pleased that more villagers put themselves forward to help with events and maintenance of the Hall. The Hall was built by the villagers in the mid-1950s. It is therefore owned by the village and it is important that this facility is retained and we all do our bit to ensure this is the case.

Thorpe Abbotts Village Hall - Dates for your diary

Coffee morning: 10.30 am - 12.00 pm

- **Thursday 3rd November**
- **Thursday 1st December**



All welcome. Pop along for a chat and a piece of cake at our new regular coffee mornings on the first Thursday of each month.

Jumble Sale: Saturday 19th November 2 - 4 pm (see advert on page 8)

Christmas Lights Switch On: Saturday 10th December 5 pm onwards

Please join our annual festive gathering at the pump, followed by fun and games at the Hall.

Thank you

Thorpe Abbotts would like to thank Carol Hitchman (and Oatie the dog) for looking after the Telephone Box. It is now neat and tidy and is a great source of entertainment for the village children as there are always goodies to be found in there. Thank you, Carol, from us all!

Bringing the Library to You

Our Home Library Service delivers books and other media free of charge to people unable to get to their local library due to poor health, mobility issues, or caring responsibilities. To use this service, please contact the Norfolk Library and Information Service on 0344 800 8020 or email libraries@norfolk.gov.uk.

To learn more about becoming a Norfolk Home Library Service Volunteer, please visit royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk, call 01603 397998, or email norfolkhl@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk.

Mobile Library

Visits Brockdish and Thorpe Abbots every 4 weeks on a Thursday. Next visits are **6th October** and **3rd November**.

Stopping at: Brockdish Waveney Heights, 12.05 pm

Brockdish Grove Road, 12.20 pm

Thorpe Abbots, Mill Road (opposite Westview), 12.35 pm

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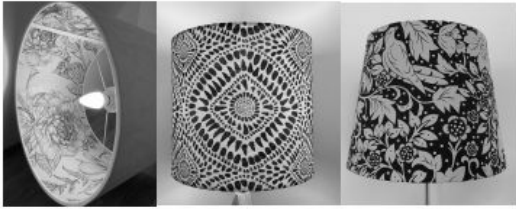
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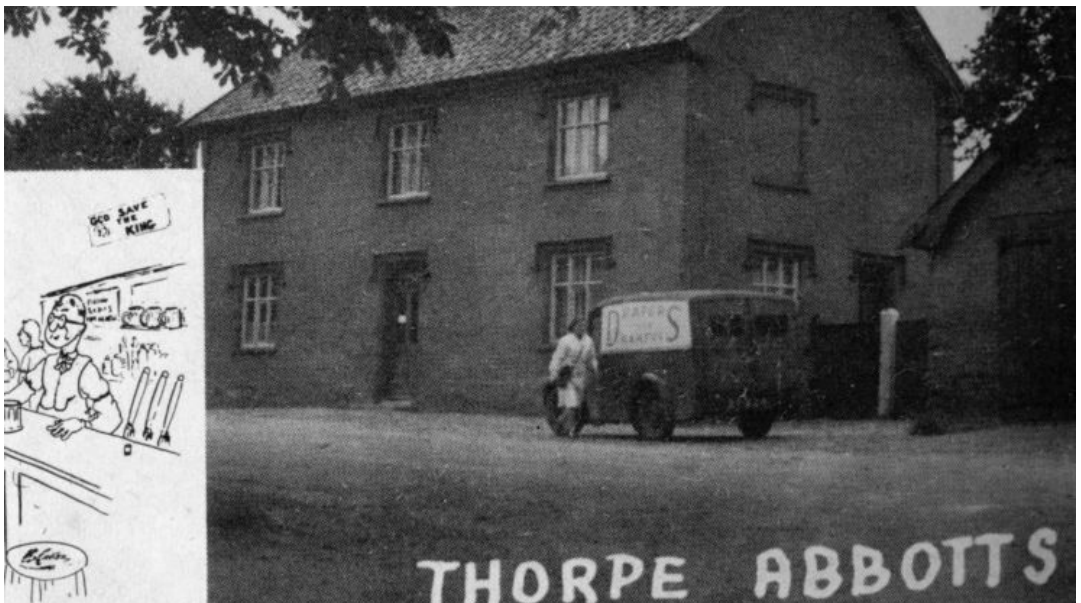
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Old Thorpe Abbotts

These photographs were sent in by Tom Baldwin. The top shows the view down Mill Road from the village pump. The one underneath shows Lion House, formerly the public house.



Waveney Heritage at The Old School, Brockdish

It's been an odd summer hasn't it? I don't know what your garden looks like, but ours is rapidly becoming a duplicate of the Sahara! It is extra-annoying now to hear the radio speaking of heavy rain and storms elsewhere, and still we have none. Perhaps by the time you read this we'll be wishing it would stop raining!

In the meantime, we at Waveney Heritage have been listening to loads of interesting speakers, entertaining visitors, manning the radio technology museum upstairs (which has proved a great success), and providing a space for a wide assortment of other groups.

We've been very surprised at the reaction to our offer to transfer the contents of old 78 records to CDs. We now have a waiting list! Do have a look at our website, waveneyheritage.com, to see what else we are up to. This will also tell you about events and speakers which are coming up. Because of the long run-in time for our magazines it is not always possible to tell you here, but it is all there on the website.

Two things I can tell you about now are our Christmas craft fair., Sunday 27th November, 11.00am until 5.00pm. That will be a great place to buy your cards and presents, and have a cup of tea and a chat. On Sunday 11th December at 7.15pm we have our Christmas "bash", with mulled wine, mince pies and maybe some readings, all to the accompaniment of music from the 40's and 50's, played on gramophones from our radio collection.

We look forward to welcoming you at all our events. And, don't forget, just give us a ring if you'd like to have a look at our archive or the radio museum. Just ring me on 01379 668279 and we'll set it up!

Mary Thompson

marygthompson@aol.com

Telephone 01379 668279

Brockdish Laundry

© *Elaine Murphy*

Work was scarce for women living in rural areas in the early 20th century. Before the First World War, women were not welcome in agriculture and there were severe restrictions on what was thought acceptable work for a woman to do. It was illegal to employ women in night shifts, they did not often work where men also worked, as they were thought to be a distraction. Men were regarded as better workers, and in any case needed the wages to support their families. Women's wages were of course significantly lower. But unofficially, the government encouraged middle class women with capital to invest to establish partly philanthropic local industries to employ local women.

In Brockdish, where employment for unskilled women was mainly available at the Syleham Drabbet Mill, with some shop work, the Brockdish Laundry was launched round about 1905 by the Rector's spinster sister, Mary De Lacey White (then 39 years old), and rapidly became a successful business, supplying services to Diss, Harleston and surrounding villages. She advertised in the Diss Express and employed many local women.



Advert in the Diss Express, 1914

Mary White had a good business brain and recruited her first manageress from London's famous high-class laundry, Thomas Bradford and co, in High Holborn. But after the start-up and successful launch, Mary decided to appoint a local woman to be manageress; she wanted it to be a community initiative. Mrs Mary Chilvers, widow of Walter Chilvers, who lived in Bridge Street, Brockdish, took up the role of manageress and worked right up to her death in 1932.

Brockdish Laundry

The all-powerful local union Sanitary Inspectors came round in 1906 for a routine visit. They had some suggestions but nothing too serious. They were satisfied that the laundry was doing a good job.

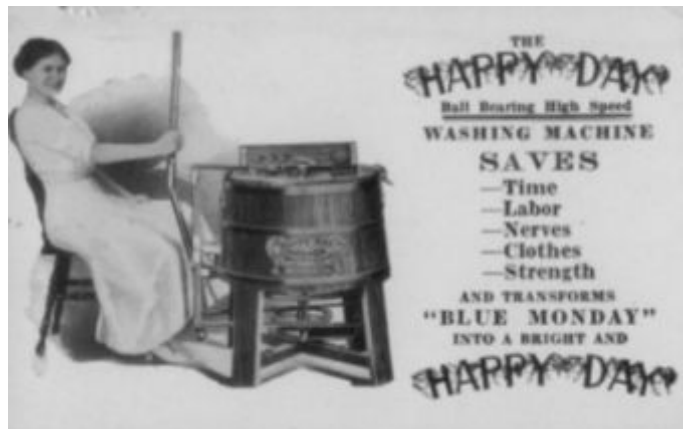
There was no electricity of course, so the work was hard, the main capital asset being large copper boilers. The bottom part was adapted to hold a gas burner, or an ordinary wood or coal fire. Superior models could have a drawing-off tap, and a steam-escape pipe that lead into a flue.

Linen and cotton were placed in the copper and were boiled to whiten them. Clothes were agitated with a washing dolly, a vertical stick with either a metal cone or short wooden legs on it. After washing, the laundry was lifted out of the boiling water using the washing dolly or a large bat, and placed on a strainer resting on a laundry tub or similar container to capture the wash water and begin the drying and cooling process.



Laundry workers in the 1920s

*A turn of the century
modern copper encased in
a wooden barrel*



Brockdish Laundry

The process was tedious; it began the night before. Instructions were as follows:

1. Soak the laundry overnight in lye or soap. Each piece to be individually set and pushed down in the large wooden tub. Any mending to be done at this point.
2. The next morning, a large copper pot is to be filled with water, along with several buckets of water. The water in the copper pot would be brought to a boil after the fire stoked.
3. Each piece to be removed from the overnight soak and scrubbed using the washboard. Then, each piece to be wrung dry and turned inside out.
4. Each piece to be scrubbed a second time.
5. The white cotton pieces (all of the underclothing worn directly next to the skin) along with the linen to be placed in the boiling water. Any other laundry to be set aside to be rinsed.
6. Using a large, heavy washing bat or a dolly, the laundry must be moved around to get a good boil. Using the same bats, it will then be placed through a wringer or wrung by hand before being put into the final rinse.
7. Each piece to be rinsed with the other water, wrung, rinsed, and wrung a final time.
8. It will now be time to hang out on the laundry lines for drying. If the weather is bad, haul the washing inside for a long day of indoor drying.



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Brockdish Home Guard



This photograph was taken in Thorpe Abbots, on the grass triangle (The Pump). Does anyone recognise any of the men in this photo? Please get in touch with the editorial team if you do.



Jokes

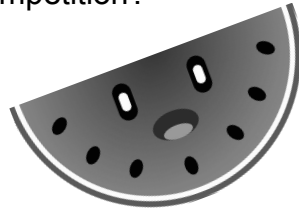
What do you call a pirate who's always making mistakes?
Wrong John Silver

Why is 6 afraid of 7?
Because 789

What were the head lice doing at the craft competition?
Knitting

Which fruit launched 1,000 ships?
Melon of Troy

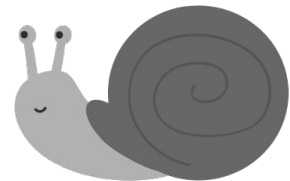
What was the earliest British instrument?
The Anglo-Saxophone



Animal Facts

- A butterfly has about 12,000 eyes.
- The loudest animal in the world is the 2cm long Pistol Shrimp. When it clamps its jaw shut, it makes a bubble that upon imploding, creates a shockwave equivalent to 230 decibels (louder than a gun shot).
- Cows poo up to 15 times a day, which can be as much as 115 pounds of manure per day, or approximately 21 tons per year.

- A garden snail has up to 14,000 teeth.



- A blue whale's tongue can weigh as much as a car, or a small adult elephant.

How well do you know Norfolk?

- 1 What are wherries?
- 2 Which Broadland village is sometimes called "Little Venice"?
- 3 Which store claims to be "The World's Largest Store"?
- 4 What sort of creature is a Norfolk Black?
- 5 What are Stewkey Blues?
- 6 What is the nickname of a resident of Sheringham known by?
- 7 Which Norfolk man became Britain's first Prime Minister?
- 8 What is a Dodman?
- 9 If you are "duddering" what are you doing?
- 10 What is a mawther?

Answers on page 44



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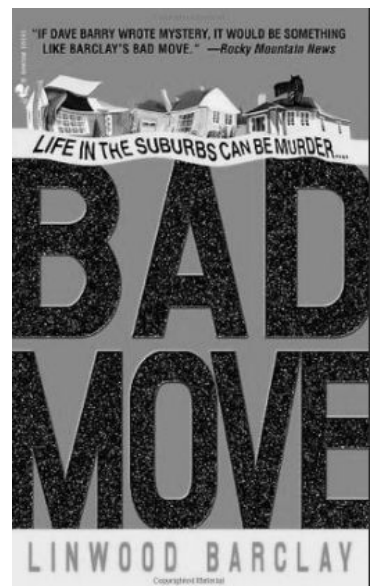
The Book Club recommends...

I do hope your holiday reading went well. If you found a particularly interesting book we would love to hear from you. You can email your review to judescham@gmail.com. In this edition Clive makes a good case for audio books and Kate reviews one of her favourite audio books. A big thank you to both.

Audio books (reviewed by Clive Read)

I realise that the traditionalists among you will think that nothing compares to picking up a new book and reading it when you have time, but I strongly suggest that you consider trying audiobooks. These are usually read by actors who help the characters come alive. Many people have smartphones, and books can be downloaded using apps such as Audible. Another benefit of this service is that it allows those of us with either sight or dexterity issues to enjoy a good listen. A series of books I have recently finished using this method is the “Bad” series by Linwood Barclay. After the difficult few years that we have all gone through, these books give an amusing insight into an “average” family and the trials and tribulations that befall them. There are four books in the series and should be read in chronological order, as although each book has an adventure that concludes at the end of the book, some themes continue through all four. The books are “Bad Move”, “Bad Guys”, “Bad Luck” and “Bad News”. They are set in the town of Oakwood in the USA.

Zack Walker is a father who writes science fiction novels with only moderate success. He lives with his wife and teenage son and daughter. He is obsessed with protecting his family, and is tired of them all ignoring his advice to be more careful about leaving keys in the front door or in the car when transporting shopping. To teach his wife a lesson, when he comes home to see she has left the front door open and her car keys in the ignition, he moves her car around the corner and makes out it has been stolen. This leads to unforeseen and hilarious consequences. The reader of these stories enhanced the experience for me with his comic timing but I am sure you will enjoy them with whichever format you use.

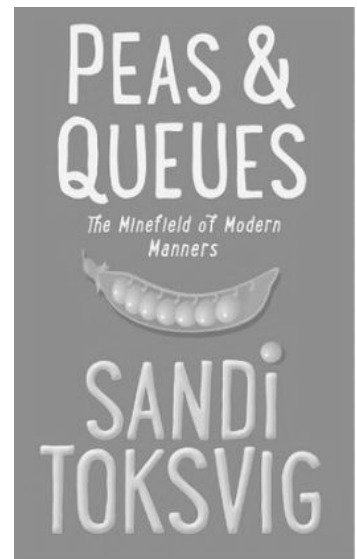


The Book Club recommends...

Peas & Queues: The Minefield of Modern Manners by Sandi Toksvig ***(Audio book reviewed by Kate Russell)***

I wanted to have an easy listen for a couple of long journeys to family events in Cumbria, and this was the perfect way to spend my time in the car – the book is just short of 7.5 hours. If you have listened to Sandi Toksvig before on Radio 4's The News Quiz or QI, then you'll know her infectious brand of 'knowitallness' and fantastic sarcasm that tends to cut through pretty much any topic she's talking about. As Sandi narrates the book, this aspect shines through and makes it all the easier to listen to and join in with laughter and scoffs as she takes us through the chapters. She begins with the question - why do we need good manners? Her first riposte to this is 'nobody knows the age of the human race, but everybody agrees its old enough to know better'.

This book takes a fairly light-hearted look at modern manners in a variety of contexts from eating, getting a job, relationships, how to behave in queues, and the very useful how to get rid of unwanted guests. Sandi gives us an overview of where we think these rules/suggestions around etiquette and polite behaviour may have begun and frames them all with the top Cs of manners: consideration, common-sense, context, comfort.



My favourite bit – and the easiest thing to remember next time I'm at a fancy dinner with multiple guests is as follows. If you're unsure which bread plate or wine glass belongs to you, hold up your hands and make the 'OK' sign where your index finger makes contact with your thumb creating a small circle and your other fingers are pointing towards the ceiling. When you look at them, the left 'OK' looks like a 'b' for bread, and the right 'OK' looks like a 'd' for drink. You're welcome!



People

Some people are born to be subjects,
While others are born to be kings,
I wonder if there is a lesson
To be learned from this order of things.

Pride in himself as a person, is
More important than anything.
Man doesn't lose his dignity
Because he's not born a king.

But kings must never forget
They have a duty to care.
To help and protect their subjects
And with them their wealth to share.

For 'kings' and 'subjects' read people
For people whatever their role,
Artists or leaders or servants
Should strive for an ultimate goal.

To be the very best you can,
Whichever state you are in.
Then pride in you achievement
Whether subject or a king.

Eileen Marie Riley (1914-1993)



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PLANNING www.s-norfolk.gov.uk

Decisions: permission granted by SNC & PC

2022/0361 Lion House, The Street, Thorpe Abbots. Conversion of outbuilding to annexe.

2022/0953 Grove Thorpe, Grove Road, Brockdish. Reposition previously approved menage and associated fencing and replace the existing roof covering to the stable and tractor store buildings

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

Tuesday 25th October 2022 7pm WHC, Brockdish

Thursday 24th November 2022 7pm Thorpe Abbots Village Hall

No meeting is held in December



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A message from Councillor Martin Wilby

From the Chairman of Norfolk County Council, Councillor Karen Vincent

“Norfolk County Council joins in the nation's mourning for Her Majesty The Queen. Her Majesty served our Nation and the Commonwealth with great distinction. Throughout her remarkable reign, spanning more than seven decades, she was a constant and unifying figure during a time of great change. The Queen, her late husband Prince Philip and their family spent long and happy periods of residence in our county and we will always hold a special place for Her Majesty in our hearts. This is a time to mourn, but also to reflect and be grateful for Her Majesty's unwavering commitment and selfless service. On behalf of the people of Norfolk I shall be sending a letter expressing our sincere condolences”. A dedicated email address for condolences is in place: condolences@norfolk.gov.uk.

Norfolk Schools buck the national trend with 'best ever' GCSE results

The class of 2022 was the first ever GCSE cohort to to have completed their entire studies with some form of Covid disruption, having started their courses after the pandemic hit. The group were also the first to sit traditional exams since 2019, with experts predicting ahead of time that fewer pupils would come away with the very top grades. It was also predicted that results would eclipse those of 2019, but overall would be lower than 2021. But in Norfolk and Waveney, some schools boasted their “best ever” results, bucking this national trend. A special mention to all of the pupils and staff at the Harleston Sancroft Academy on their outstanding results.

Jubilee Trees for Norfolk

This year, Norfolk County Council are offering subsidised tree packs to everyone in Norfolk through the Jubilee Trees for Norfolk scheme (www.norfolk.gov.uk/jubileetrees). People applying for these packs can be individuals, landowners, or businesses, which shows that this scheme is invaluable to applicants who can't show community benefit for their planting. These people can't usually access tree offers, so tree packs and

A message from Councillor Martin Wilby

tree guards with up to 50% reduction is a great opportunity for them. A range of native tree packs, including hedges and orchard packs, are available through our website. Also, we are offering to Parish and Town Councils and community groups carefully selected heritage orchard packs through this Jubilee scheme which are slightly more expensive than the other packs at £200 (these saplings are larger in size). We are keen to see more community orchards spring up around the County, as these are a wonderful haven and resource for wildlife and people - a legacy for future generations.

Homes for Ukraine update

So far, we have welcomed 880 Ukrainians to Norfolk through the 'Homes for Ukraine' scheme, which is over two-thirds of the 1200 guests that we are currently expecting in the County. We are grateful to all our hosts and communities for offering such a warm welcome to our new arrivals. The processes for the host's safeguarding and housing checks, and for welcoming new arrivals are now well established, as is the information and support available to hosts and guests on our website and through regular emailed updates to hosts. If you have any questions relating to support for hosts and guests under the 'Homes for Ukraine' scheme, please contact ncchomesforukraine@norfolk.gov.uk.

Stars of Norfolk and Waveney Awards

The Stars of Norfolk and Waveney Awards have officially launched for 2022 and are ready to receive your nominations. To mark a decade of recognising the great and good, new categories have been introduced to extend the net of recognition. The annual celebration highlights those often unseen acts of kindness, bravery and selflessness that make our communities special. To nominate and to see the categories visit starsofnorfolk.co.uk. Entries will close on 16th October 2022, finalists will be announced on 19th November 2022 and the winners will be revealed at the awards ceremony at Norwich Cathedral on 1st December 2022.

A message from Councillor Martin Wilby

A reminder about the Household Hazardous Waste Day being held at Norwich South Recycling Centre on the 15th and 16th of October, 9am – 4pm, where for no charge you can dispose of items such as aerosols, household chemicals and cleaners, fire extinguishers, garden pesticides and fertilizers, paint, photographic chemicals and wood preservatives.

Also, a reminder that the road between the Pulhams and Harleston is closed for repair work to Starston Bridge from 12th September to 3rd of October, with appropriate diversions in place.

Best Wishes

Martin

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Autumn

October and November are months of tidying, pruning and cutting back. Ponds need cleaning, and submersible pumps and lights should be removed. Bird boxes need cleaning out as old nesting material can harbour parasites. Rake leaves, but don't burn them as they can be used to make leaf-mould, an excellent soil conditioner, mulch and ingredient in potting compost.

Pot up half-hardy fuchsias, finish planting spring bedding, save seeds, and plant tulips when other spring flowering bulbs are in.

Plant a colourful winter border, selecting herbaceous shrubs with colourful bark. Try winter flowering heathers and bulbs as well as a few evergreen shrubs to add form and structure.

The weather over these months can vary with gales, heavy rainfall and frosts, with November often being damp and raw. Insulate pots and protect tender plants. Now is a good time to clean tools and clean out sheds. Old pots and seed trays if not wanted, clear out and re-cycle. Just remember Spring will soon be upon us!



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Autumn Puds

Quick Orange and Plum Crumble

1kg fresh plums, halved
and stoned

Finely grated rind of
orange

1 tablespoon orange juice

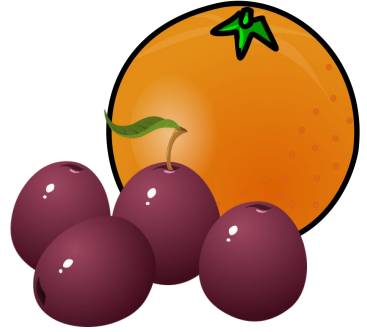
170g granulated sugar

Crumble:

170g plain flour

85g butter, cubed

50g demerara sugar



Heat oven to 200°C, fan 180°C, gas mark 6.

Toss the plums, orange rind, juice and granulated sugar together.

Process or rub together the flour and butter until it looks like breadcrumbs, then tip into a bowl and stir in the demerara sugar. Sprinkle on top of the fruit mix and level top.

Bake in a preheated oven for 30-40 mins. Serve hot with cream.

Almond, Apple and Honey Dessert Cake

340g self raising flour

225g caster sugar

4 tablespoons honey

3 large eggs

1 teaspoon almond extract

225g melted butter

½ kg cooking apples, peeled and cored

50g flaked almonds



Heat oven to 140°C, fan 120°C, gas mark 3. Grease a 11 inch loose bottomed tart tin.

With a wooden spoon or electric mixer, combine the flour, sugar, honey, eggs, melted butter and almond extract. Spread half the mixture in the base of the tin. Thickly slice the apples and lay on top of the mixture. Completely cover with the remaining mixture and sprinkle over the flaked almonds.

Bake in the centre of the oven for about 1¼ hours until golden. Serve warm dusted with icing sugar and cream.

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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 23rd October:
Halloween, fireworks and poppies
Sunday 20th November:
Getting ready for Christmas



For those who are unable to attend, craft bags will be left in Thorpe Abbots telephone box. Please help yourselves - instructions will be included!

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

Ramblings from The Rectory

By Rev. Nigel Tuffnell

I have a new toy, a wildlife remote camera. It is triggered when an animal moves in front of it, and records what is there. I have it set up in front of the hedgehog feeder. I know they come to the garden. I occasionally see them as it is getting dark, but now I am building quite a gallery of hedgehog pictures, taken in infrared: big hogs, little hogs and all the sizes between. I hope that there will still be a few out and about as October starts, but I will be worried if any little ones are still scurrying around in November. I will miss their charming faces, but I would rather they were fat and sleepy, tucked up in the leaves.

I love the hedgehogs, but October, for me, is the time to kick through the fallen leaves of autumn (well away from possible hedgehog nests, of course). I know many have fallen early due to the drought but I am still hoping for drifts of leaves to make my walks complete. I love living and growing things. I am inspired by the beauty of this natural world. For me it shows something of the hand of a Creator. You many well disagree, but most people that I meet agree that being out in the natural world lifts their spirits. They are moved in a deep and personal way, that is beyond words. Perhaps we are agreeing after all, and just using different words.

Whether or not you agree with me about there being a Creator, I hope we all agree that the natural world, the plants and animals, deserve our respect and care. In this I am inspired by one of my heroes, St. Francis, whose feast day is 3rd October. His insistence that God / the divine / that otherness, could be seen in creation caused him some problems with the Church at the time. This was a very radical view in the early 13th Century but Francis' obvious devotion to God convinced the church that he was a prophet not a heretic. This October, I hope that the wonderful outdoors, if no further afield than your garden, will put a full and beaming smile on your face.

Answers to Norfolk Quiz: 1. A flat bottomed broad beamed boat with black sails
2. Horning 3. Roys of Wroxham 4. A turkey 5. Blue shelled Norfolk cockles
6. A Shannock 7. Sir Robert Walpole 8. A snail 9. Shivering 10. A young woman

Ramblings from the Rectory

November is a time of Remembrance. I am always deeply moved by the Acts of Remembrance each year on Remembrance Day and Remembrance Sunday. I hear those names read out: always a shockingly long list. Every one a real local man or boy, taken from their family by the horror of war. I think of the grieving mothers and recognise a little more the true cost of war. This year it feels more personal still, with the steady images and stories of the war in Ukraine. I pray daily for that war to be over and for Ukraine to be free and at peace again, and am so encouraged by the constant support for the people of Ukraine by the people in our little bit of Norfolk.

This October, remember the beauty of the earth, and give thanks. This November, remember the fallen and all who suffer the effects of war, remember Ukraine, and pray for peace!

God bless,

Nigel

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Brockdish Church

As yet the Churchyard still has not had to be mowed! It will be grand to get some decent rainfall to have it all green again - it's amazing how weeds still grow. There are three more Church events happening before the end of the year:

- Quiz night: 19th November
- Coffee morning: 3rd December
- Christmas Brass Band Evening: 6th December

Any enquiries, please contact Jan. Many thanks to everybody that attended the Brass Band Concert in August, I am pleased to report we raised £465 for Church Funds, likewise September's quiz which raised £495. Thanks again for all your support.

We would love to see more of the village join in the Sunday services, we are a friendly bunch and you would be made most welcome. After all it is your Church!

Jan Croxson - Church Warden (tel.668630)

Thorpe Abbots All Saints Church

The All Saints Quiz is back, just a quick reminder that we will be putting on a quiz in the Village Hall commencing **7.00pm on Saturday 15th October**. Light supper, bar and a very warm welcome awaits.

Remembrance Sunday. We will as we have in the past have the Poppy up on the Church tower for Remembrance Week and of course our Service of Remembrance on **Sunday 13th November**. I think the Cenotaph will seem very strange without Her Majesty.



Simon

Church Contacts

| | |
|--|---|
| Minister in Charge www.7churches.org.uk | Revd Nigel Tuffnell rector@7churches.org.uk |
| Benefice Administrator admin@7churches.org.uk | Mon to Fri 9.15am to 1pm 01379 851148 Facebook.com/7churches.org.uk |
| Brockdish Church Wardens | Ann Cork - 01379 668635 Jan Croxson - 01379 668630 |
| Thorpe Abbots Contact | Christine McDonald - 01379 669116 |

Church Service Times - October and November

| | | |
|---------------|--|--|
| 2nd October | Brockdish 9.30 am | Morning Prayer |
| 9th October | Thorpe Abbots 4.00 pm Brockdish 9.30 am | Harvest Festival Morning Prayer |
| 16th October | Brockdish 9.30 am | Morning Prayer |
| 23rd October | Brockdish 9.30 am | Morning Prayer |
| 30th October | Brockdish 9.30 am Thorpe Abbots 9.30 am | Morning Prayer Holy Communion (Patronal) |
| 6th November | Brockdish 9.30 am | Morning Prayer |
| 13th November | Brockdish 3.00 pm Thorpe Abbots 9.30 am | Remembrance Service Remembrance Service |
| 20th November | Brockdish 9.30 am | Holy Communion |
| 27th November | Brockdish 9.30 am | Morning Prayer |



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