

THE
Mardler
BROCKDISH & THORPE ABBOTTS



Edition No. 244 April-May 2023

**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)

From local events and history to Parish Council news, please look at the village website:

www.brockdishandthorpeabbotts.com

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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Thorpe Abbots Village Hall
Bookings Robert Buck 01379 668663

Waveney Heritage Centre 01379 668285

Carpet Bowls Club
Peter Croxson 01379 668630

Art Club
Sue Hughes 01379 855414

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Although the weather has been cold, wet and windy, I am sincerely hoping the weather is more springlike by the time you read this. For many of us, spring in the Waveney Valley is heralded by the arrival of the swifts. Sadly, these little birds are declining in numbers, but we can all do things to help - please see page 18 on how we can conserve their habitats. Continuing on a bird theme, The Waveney Volunteers for Nature have a local Bird and Bird Habitat walk in April which looks excellent (page 12 for details).

Can you believe it was only a year ago that we were in throes of planning street parties for the Queen's Jubilee? The Coronation in May will be another chance for for our communities to get together and celebrate our new King. Here's hoping the sun will shine as we raise a glass to His Majesty. I wish all of you a wonderful Coronation weekend. What could be a more fitting conclusion than simply to say 'God Save The King!'

Rob Buck, Editor

REMEMBER

Closing date for entries in the June / July 2023 issue is Friday 28th April 2023. Articles received after this date may not be included in the next issue.



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Activities and Services at Harleston Library

Harleston Library Tel: (01379) 852549

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We are proud to announce the launch of our new 'What's on' leaflet that lists all our regular groups and activities as well as lots of other useful information about our library. Copies are free and are available to pick up at any time during opening hours.

Easter Drop-In Activity

On Wednesday 5th April we will be having a drop-in session from 2.30pm-4.30pm. There will be Easter crafts and activities.

Coronation Celebrations

With the help of our adult and child art groups, and other organisations within the town, we will be producing colourful banners to be displayed throughout the build-up to the Coronation. These banners will be displayed in the library, and will reflect the feeling of community and a 'United' Kingdom.

Throughout April we will be running a fun competition quiz. It will be free to enter and quiz sheets can be collected from the library. There will be a special prize for one lucky winner.

We will also be holding a 'Coronation Cuppa session' on Friday 5th May from 2.00pm onwards, so pop in for a chat and some refreshment. We look forward to welcoming you.

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)

The library will be closed on Good Friday (7th April), Easter Day (9th April) and Easter Monday (10th April)

WORTWELL BOWLS CLUB

Our club is situated alongside the Wortwell Community Centre. We play from April to September, on Monday afternoons and Wednesday evenings.

We are a friendly, welcoming club. If you would like to come and give bowls a try why not get in touch, no previous experience required, all equipment provided.

For more details contact Phil Poulton, 01986 788149 or philpoulton5@gmail.com



Wortwell Bowls Club

Open Day

Sunday 16th April from 2.00 pm

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Borderhoppa Outings for April 2023

- Monday 3rd April: Mecca Bingo, Norwich. Fare, games and lunch included, £30.00
- Thursday 6th April: Attleborough town and lunch at The Stag. Fare £15.00
- Thurs 13th April: Latham's, Potter Heigham and lunch at Poppylands Tea Room, Horsey. Fare £20.00
- Monday 17th April: Southern Comfort Paddle Steamer, Horning. Fare and boat trip combined, £25.00
- Monday 24th April: Notcutts Garden Centre, Norwich. Fare £15.00

To book or for more information, please call 01379 854800 or visit our website www.borderhoppa.org

First World War Talks

Join us for a military afternoon on Sunday 23rd April, 2.00 pm - 4.30 pm at Thorpe Abbots Village Hall. A talk by Simon Beet on 'The Royal Naval Division in the First World War', followed by a talk by Gary Alderton on some of the First World War items from his collection.

Admission £8 (includes light refreshment). Please book your place with Simon Beet 01379 668132.

Thorpe Abbots P.C.C.

Brockdish Village Thank You

The residents of Brockdish would like to thank Janet Meen for tirelessly keeping the village litter-free. It means so much to all of us, and we appreciate all you do. Thank you, Janet.



Brockdish Village Garage Sale

Saturday, 17th June 2023

9.00 am – 12.00 pm

There will be stalls all around the village. If you do not have room at home, we can accommodate a limited number of stalls at the Heritage Centre. The cost is only £5 per stall, and is an excellent opportunity to make a little bit of money from selling unwanted items.

At the Centre we will offer teas, coffee, cake and biscuits and a BBQ (which will be available all morning), limited parking and toilets.

Nearer the time, we will produce maps of the village showing where the stalls are. Posters, flyers and online information will also be arranged.

I would be grateful if you could call me as soon as you decide to have a stall, as we need a minimum of 20 around the village to make this event work. As soon as we have that number we can start the publicity promotion.

Let's make this a good one and have a really enjoyable day!

Jill (01379 669057)

Harleston Ladies Group

Meet 2nd Wednesday of the month at 2.00 pm

London Road Church Hall (unless otherwise stated)

All ladies welcome, £3 each meeting

Refreshments served during afternoon

Upcoming talks:

- 12th April: Ruth Lutz - Health and care of feet
- 10th May: Geoff Doggett - The Shetlands (with slides)
- 14th June: Sally Ann Martin - Flower Arranging from her garden
- 12th July: Ian Carstairs - 'Writing our own History'
- 13th September: AGM and Beetle Drive
- 11th October: Fashion Show by My Sisters Fashions
- 8th November: Annual dinner T.B.A.
- 13th December: Sparkle and Shine, Christmas fun

Cathy Spurgin (01379 853193)

Harleston Flower Club

Would you like to know more about flower arranging? Perhaps you arrange flowers in your church, but would like to get more inspiration and ideas? Maybe you've thought about joining a flower club, but think that it will consist of members doing arrangements and being criticised and judged on their efforts. This not the case!

Harleston Flower Club is your local National Association of Flower Arranging Societies (N.A.F.A.S.) affiliated flower club. Our monthly meetings consist of demonstrations by N.A.F.A.S. demonstrators, who create wonderful arrangements based on a theme. Demonstrations give members the opportunity to pick up tips on how to make flowers and foliage last longer, get ideas for plants that can be planted in the garden to provide foliage for arrangements, and see the variety of different flowers available.

Tea/coffee and biscuits are served during the meeting, enabling members to enjoy some social time. Twice a year, we hold "have a go" meetings, which allow members to try their hand at new flower arranging techniques. In December, we enjoy a Christmas lunch before our meeting, which always has an extra special demonstration, and our August meeting is an outing to a garden.

Why not come along to one of our meetings? We are a friendly club and welcome new members and visitors. We meet at 2.00 pm on the 1st Thursday in the month, at Wortwell Community Centre, Tunbeck Close, Wortwell, IP20 0HS.

If you would like further information then please contact the Chairman, Dawn.

Dawn Dawson

Tel: 01379 855440

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Waveney Volunteers for Nature

Work continues apace on both Brockdish Common (off Common Lane) and Foredale Common (off Grove Road). The footpath along the length of Foredale Common is now complete with a meandering path, created through the scrub area as far as Hall Road. This makes a pleasant walk from the Heritage Centre northwards, and avoids walking along Grove Road, with or without your dog. The scrub area is recognised by Norfolk Wildlife Trust as a valuable habitat for wildlife, including turtle doves, and will continue to be managed as such. Norfolk County Council have been prompted to repair the stiles on the part of Angles Way which crosses Foredale Common half way up.

We are delighted to report that Adnams Community Trust has given us a grant to buy a tool shed for our growing stock of equipment, and that Waveney Heritage has given us permission to locate the shed in the old school grounds, in return for which the Volunteers will manage the grounds. Our grateful thanks to both organisations for their support.

By the time you read this, wild flower seeds should have been sown in both commons, but I'm sure you will have enjoyed the snowdrops and daffodils already. This brings me to a point about future work. We would be very pleased to hear from anyone with ideas of things they would like to see on our commons; more seats / picnic tables, an information board, more bird boxes, bug 'hotels'? What do you think would improve things for wildlife or the community in these areas? If you would like to join the happy band of volunteers who do this work then give us a call on 07942 285074, find us on Facebook or email WVfNature@protonmail.com.

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Waveney Volunteers for Nature

Here is notice of two future events. Firstly, details will be given in the next Mardler of a '4 Commons Walk' with added attractions, being planned for the summer. Secondly, on 22nd April there is a 'Bird and Bird Habitat' walk and talk led by Rob Smith, Warden of Hickling Broad Reserve. We start at The Heritage Centre at 10.30 am, where there is some parking available, and then walk around Foredale Common. By 12.00 pm we'll be ready for coffee and a talk in the Heritage Centre (bring your own packed lunch). By about 1.00 pm we move on to Brockdish Common to complete the walk, which should finish by 3.00 pm at the latest. There is no charge for this and you are all welcome.

Derek Clark

Treasurer, Waveney Volunteers for Nature

River Waveney Trust



A talk by Prof Tom Williamson
UEA Landscape Historian

History of the landscape of the Waveney valley

**Waveney Heritage Centre,
Brockdish**

on

Thursday 20th April 2023 @ 7.30 pm
£5 (£4 RWT members). All money raised
goes to the River Waveney Trust.

No booking required. Tickets on the door.

For further details visit www.riverwaveneytrust.org

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.



Waveney Heritage Centre
The Old School, Grove Road, Brockdish, IP21 4JP

2023 Events List

Saturday 8th and Sunday 9th April, 11 am - 3.00 pm
(Easter weekend, more information on the website)

Grand opening of a new part of the museum, including a 1930's sitting room, children's toys, domestic appliances and much more. Music to match! Also the launch of the Museum Trail, and art exhibition by Dickleburgh Primary School.

Wednesday 26th April, 7.30 pm

Talk by Stuart Bowell: *'Secrets of the seats - a closer look at medieval church wood carvings'*

Wednesday 17th May, 7.30 pm

Talk by Basil Abbott: *'Going to the flicks - remembering Diss Picture House'*

Wednesday 7th June, 7.30 pm

Talk by Chris Brooks of Waveney River Trust: *'Scole Nature Trails Trust - pocket parks'. The River Trust volunteers work tirelessly to protect the River and its environment, including the 'pocket parks' dotted along its course. Did you know they existed?*

Saturday 17th June, 9 am - 12 noon

Brockdish Village Garage Sale, with the base at Waveney Heritage Centre with stalls, BBQ, tea and cake, maps and facilities; further stalls around the village

Wednesday 12 July, 7.30 pm

History of Harleston Walk: walk around Harleston with Gordon Lascelles, discovering why it exists and finding hidden parts of the town

Sunday 30 July, 10.30 am - 2 pm

Summer Craft Fair: variety of stalls, BBQ, teas and cake

For further information please check the website.



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Thorpe Abbotts Village Hall Update

We want to thank all of you who returned your Village Hall survey. The feedback was vitally important and showed the keen support there is in the village to invest, develop and keep the Hall for the benefit of future generations. Full results of the survey can be found in the telephone box. We have now divided ourselves (with our new volunteers) into 3 strategic groups focused on applying for grants, getting support pledges from local businesses, and keeping the fundraising going through village events. So on that note, here are some dates for your diary:

- **Coffee mornings** continue to be a roaring success. The Easter coffee morning is **Thursday 6th April at 10.30 am**
- **The Annual Thorpe Abbotts Easter Egg Hunt** is on **Saturday 8th April** (more details to follow)
- **The Flying Fortress Bar** is making a comeback! Welcome for all villagers to come along, have a beverage and a catch-up. Last Friday of each month, from 6.00 pm, starting **Friday 31st March, followed by Friday 28th April and Friday 26th May**
- **The King's Coronation BBQ** at the hall on **Sunday 7th May, 1pm**
- **Open Gardens** on **10th and 11th June**, between 1.00 - 4.00 pm. A chance to showcase our beautiful village in full bloom. If you wish to take part and open up your garden, please contact Susan Bagley (bagleyb71@gmail.com)

Natter Morning

**Thorpe Abbotts Village Hall
Thursday 6th April**

10.30 am - 12.00 pm

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.

Future natter mornings:



- **Thursday 11th May**
- **Thursday 1st June**

Thank You!

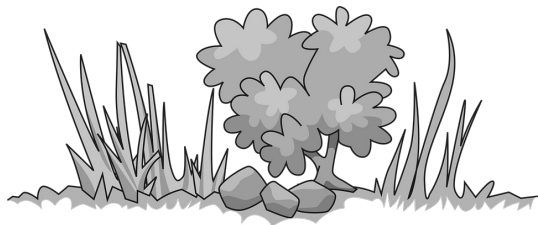
TAVHC would like to thank the following people:

- **Richard Longe**, for cutting the hedges
- **Karl Durrant**, for the amazing job he did repairing the leaking kitchen roof. Karl is a local handyman, based in Dickleburgh. If you need any jobs doing at home, then give him a call. His number is **07766 741775**

**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 (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, ring Liz on 01379 669016 or find us on Facebook.





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

Mobile Library

Visits Brockdish and Thorpe Abbots every 4 weeks on a Thursday. Next visits are **20th April** and **18th May**.

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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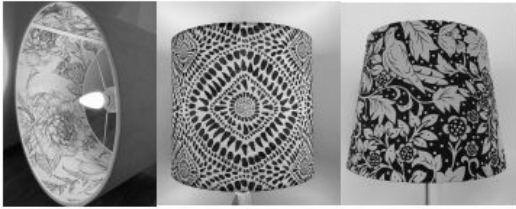
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Swifts: A Life on the Wing

To my mind, the highlight of the summer in both Brockdish and Thorpe Abbots are the swifts as they scream around the houses. They can fly up to 800 km (500 miles) a day on migration. Swifts spend their life almost entirely on the wing and even feed, sleep and mate in flight. They feed exclusively on insects and only come to land when nesting. They hunt for insects over a range of habitats from meadows, open water and over woods, to the skies above towns and cities.

An abundant supply of insects is critical for their survival. Parent swifts collect lots of insects to take back to their chicks, up to 1,000 at once, which make a big bulge in their throat. When they have chicks to feed, swifts can gather up to tens of thousands of insects a day.

'Our' swifts fly across the Sahara desert in autumn, and some even go as far south as South Africa. Others don't go quite as far and stay around central Africa. It's a long journey, but they don't hang around: one young bird left its nest in Oxford and flew all the way to Madrid in just three days.

As a group, swifts are the fastest birds in level flight. The peregrine is officially the fastest bird, but only in a steep dive called a stoop. Our swift holds the record for the fastest proven flight, recording an impressive top speed of 69.3mph in a recent study. A large Asian species of swift, the white-throated needletail, has been reported to reach over 100mph, but this is yet to be officially proven.

Good neighbours

Sharing your house with swifts is a great privilege. They are unobtrusive when nesting, and make perfect, quiet neighbours. Previously more commonly found nesting in cliffs and caves, swifts make use of roof spaces in buildings, where they construct a simple nest. These can be hard to locate, because swifts enter and leave quietly through a narrow opening (usually measuring 25–35mm by 60–70mm) and leave few, if any, droppings below the entrance.

Swifts: A Life on the Wing

Is there a problem?

I am sure that we have noticed that there are not as many swifts around as there used to be. Why? Most importantly, they nest in old buildings, usually often at the bottom of the roof, under the lowest row of tiles. Sadly, many of these old buildings are being knocked down or re-roofed with nice modern tiles, and any nooks and crannies repaired. New builds will have none of these nooks and crannies, so do not provide nest sites. Once a pair are established, they faithfully return to the nest year after year, so when they return from Africa to raise a new family and find their old site “improved” or absent they are homeless. Add to this insect food loss from over-use of agricultural insecticides, increasingly hostile weather on migration, long-term droughts, agricultural intensification and deforestation in their wintering grounds in Africa. All of these are pushing their populations to the brink, so we have to help them survive.

There are lots of ideas out there on how we can help, such as:

- Put up swift nesting boxes as new nesting spaces
- Play swift calls alongside nesting boxes to attract birds to new locations
- Boost insect life by making your garden and community more wildlife friendly

Over the border in Suffolk, the Suffolk Wildlife Trust has an excellent project running called ‘Save our Suffolk Swifts’, where you are able to record the location of nest sites. Despite the name, you are able to enter data for the whole of East Anglia. More details can be found on their website (<https://www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org/swifts>). The Norfolk Wildlife Trust and the British Trust for Ornithology websites are also full of excellent information and volunteer projects on how we can help our local nature.

Simon Beet

The Great Betrayal; the post war farming recession 100 years ago

Elaine Murphy

The end of the Great War in 1918 was a time of enormous relief of course in our villages, although the euphoria was not sustained for long. Brockdish and Thorpe Abbots had lost 28 young men and there was scarcely a family that wasn't either grieving or caring for someone disabled, so many combatants never fully recovered from their experiences. And the Spanish Flu epidemic of 1918 took its toll too. There were 25 deaths reported for the autumn quarter in the Depwade Union (our public health area) by Dr Maidment, a local GP who was also Medical Officer of Health. Most schools had been closed for between a week and 20 days in the autumn because of influenza among pupils or staff.



***British soldiers in liberated France
towards the end of the war in
October 1918***

Women's chances after the war

It was a sobering time; the "land fit for heroes" promised by Lloyd George, was not going to be built any time soon. In 1918, some women over the age of 30 were given the right to vote, but don't get too excited! The vote was restricted to women over the age of 30 who were householders, the wives of householders, occupiers of property with an annual rent of £5, and graduates of British universities (that is, a modest number). About 8.4

million women gained the vote. A year later the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act made it illegal to exclude women from jobs because of their sex. However, the very same year, the Restoration of Pre-War Practices Act gave men priority in employment.

For many village girls, their chances of marriage and children were much diminished. Whether this was a direct effect of the war is not clear, but the fact is that the 1921 census has a 20% excess of women over men in the 25-29 age group, and by 1931, half of these women were still single, and a third of them never married, while still able to bear children. And there were few jobs at the end of the war for these single women, many of whom had been gainfully employed during wartime, at Pulham Air Station, for example.

The Great Betrayal; the post war farming recession 100 years ago

Elaine Murphy

They found themselves displaced by returning men in 1918-19. In spite of the government effort to free up jobs for men, there were still far too many men for the total jobs available.



Looking at the recently published 1921 census for Brockdish and Thorpe Abbots (on FindMyPast.com), it is clear that young women could be shop assistants, factory workers, or employed as domestic maids. Married women had no choice, they worked in the home on 'domestic duties'. The Syleham Mill linen drabnet factory, which had previously provided so much employment to local women, stopped weaving cloth at the outbreak of war in 1914, and after the war the mill was mainly used for dyeing, an unpleasant industry for the workers, although from the census we see some women were beginning to make clothes at "Emms" at the mill.

Farming getting by, 1900-1914

In south Norfolk, farmers and landlords were broadly doing alright before the war. While cheap imports of cereals from North America and Russia had begun to displace English wheat in bread-making in the first decade of the twentieth century, good soil in south Norfolk enabled farmers to carry the cost of the fall in wheat prices, and agricultural wages had remained stable. Local farmers had added other crops, dairying and chicken and egg production. However, the poor productivity of most British farms by 1914 was very worrying for the new wartime government. In 1872 Britain had 24 million acres under crops, over half of the cultivated area. By 1913 this had shrunk by 10%, leaving the country heavily reliant on imports. At the outbreak of the Great War 80% of wheat and 40% of meat were imported. It was a godsend to the rural economy when subsidies were introduced half way through the war.

The reliance on farming subsidies

The Corn Production Act of 1917 was the successful wartime solution to dramatically increasing farm production and in maintaining bread supplies. It

The Great Betrayal; the post war farming recession 100 years ago

Elaine Murphy

had brought stability to British farming after 40 years of general decay and added a million acres of land to wartime cultivation. And at a time when farming was still the main source of rural wealth, farmers' wealth generated employment for everyone locally, often in thriving secondary businesses like farm equipment, fertilizer manufacture and canning. A minimum wage for farm workers was set fairly generously in Norfolk compared with prewar, at 30 shillings a week, affordable for local farmers as a result of the new guaranteed wheat price that the government was funding. The Corn Production and Agricultural Acts created the culture of subsidised farming which we still have today in part, with all its challenges, resentments and successes.

The great land sell-off

At the end of the war the government was in massive debt as a result of the war effort. Inflation more than doubled between 1914 and its peak in 1920, while the value of the pound fell by 61.2%. (Let's remember that when we are complaining about today's inflation).



Norfolk harvest, 1920



After the harvest, 1920

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The Great Betrayal: the post war farming recession 100 years ago
Elaine Murphy

Of course, canny landowners wondered for how long the halcyon days of farming subsidy would continue and many farms in England were sold by landowners to tenants between 1918 and 1922, partly because of the fear of a return to the bad old days pre-war if the subsidies should go. Land values were still high, inflated by farming's apparent prosperity, even though many farms needed capital investment. So while owner-occupiers increased nearly fourfold after the war as large farms were broken up and sold off, the new small farmers were duped by the unwarranted optimism in 1918-20, and suffered or sold on again some years later. They were unprepared for a massive hike in taxes on income from land. While converting highly taxed income into zero taxed capital gain was fine for wealthy landowners, the market was soon exhausted. Nationwide a quarter of all farm land holdings changed hands between the end of the war and 1921.

But local history doesn't always follow national trends because of the unique circumstances of individuals. The two larger estates in our area, that is Sir Edward Mann's family estate based at Thelveton, whose main fortune came from the perpetually profitable London brewing company and the Thorpe Abbotts Place estate, owned by the Kay family whose wealth was in part based on Sir Edward Ebenezer Kay's very successful legal career, both gradually acquired more land as it became available for sale between 1870 and 1920. My own home, the Grange and its farmland, were acquired by the Thorpe Abbotts Place estate next door as soon as it was put up for sale by the Eleanor Walne in 1913. But Frederick Menzies, the public health doctor who inherited Thorpe Abbotts Place from the Kays, hung onto his beloved Thorpe Abbotts Place estate until his work commitments in London demanded that he sell. Our local landowners were wealthy enough to weather the financial storms that affected landowners dependent solely on farming.

For unemployed soldiers returning from the war, there were a number of well-meaning schemes intended to open new ways into farming or rehabilitate disabled veterans that brought new hopefuls to Norfolk. County councils bought up a quarter of a million acres, land that translated into smallholdings for 24,319 men. Norfolk County Council became one of the largest land freeholders in the country and established many small holdings, mostly in the north and east of the county but a few in our area too. But, with some 3.5 million men demobilized between 1918 -1922, these schemes reached very few and on the whole, proved not to be profitable. You need a lot of expertise, creativity and dedication to make a living out of a smallholding.



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The Great Betrayal

With the reopening of peacetime trade in 1919-20, everything changed. “We must”, the new prime minister David Lloyd George declared in 1919, “have a settled policy with regard to agriculture”. But as anyone who has sat through parliamentary debates will know, there are few votes to be won in rural matters or agriculture because most voters are town dwellers. Few Members of Parliament have a genuine interest in rural affairs. The government was desperate for money and it judged that it could no longer continue to support farmers when food was once more sailing freely across the Atlantic and the Channel. And town dwellers did not care where their food came from so long as it was cheap.



***David Lloyd George,
Prime Minister 1916-22***

Lloyd George had given a politician's promise. The Corn Production Act was repealed in 1921. The government had not wanted to get involved in farming in the first place: the mantra of Britain's long imperial ascendancy was “free trade”. This “great betrayal” pushed agriculture back into depression and sent rural communities into a steep decline. The reality for most men who returned to the land as labourers was a return to poverty and an inability to support their families.

It all culminated in strikes, deep disaffection between the farmers and their workers. Norfolk labourers were heard to sing the “Red Flag”, and it was in fear of Bolshevik revolution that the government introduced Britain's first Firearms Act.

The growth of the unions was the result of labour finally getting organised. A sop was offered in the form of £850,000 to be spent on farming education and research; but wheat acreage halved, bankruptcies were common, and land remained untenanted and turning to scrub. And the rural poverty that dogged the 1920s continued through the 30s until war once again introduced new farming subsidies that preceded the system still partly in place today.

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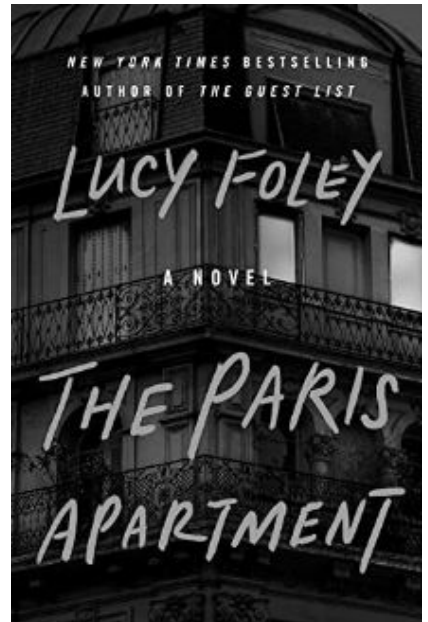
The Book Club recommends...

...that you get in touch to let us know about your favourite books! I am pleased to say that Csaba has done exactly that. A big thank you to him for doing so. If you would like to do the same, please email your review to judecham@gmail.com

The Paris Apartment by Lucy Foley (reviewed by Csaba Abraham)

With two huge best sellers in her recent back catalogue, Lucy Foley is building a burgeoning reputation as a leading writer of mystery thrillers. Her latest novel, *The Paris Apartment*, tells the story of Jess, who abruptly abandons her life in England to descend unannounced upon the French home of her brother, Ben. Finding his apartment empty and strewn with evidence of foul play, she embarks upon a fraught investigation focusing on Ben's peculiar neighbours, each of whom has a murky past and dubious manner that arouses her suspicion.

It is an intriguing tale full of twists that will keep the reader guessing and keen to follow the story to its conclusion, if they can come to terms with Foley's frantic writing style. The end of almost every chapter teases us with a moment of suspense or jeopardy but, with Foley's penchant for short chapters seeing this device repeated every few pages, the reader's patience with it is soon tested. Further issues are the disagreeable nature and inexplicable behaviour of the main characters, and the novel's failure to evoke the atmosphere of its setting.



Foley's previous work has proved extremely popular and earned comparisons with Agatha Christie. That feels generous. Though *The Paris Apartment* demonstrates that she is a highly readable storyteller, it also suggests she cannot yet match the skill of the true masters of her chosen genre.

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Perplexing puzzles

A murderer is condemned to death. He has to choose between 3 rooms. The first is full of raging fires. The second is full of assassins with loaded guns, and the third is full of lions who haven't eaten for 6 months. Which room is safest for him?

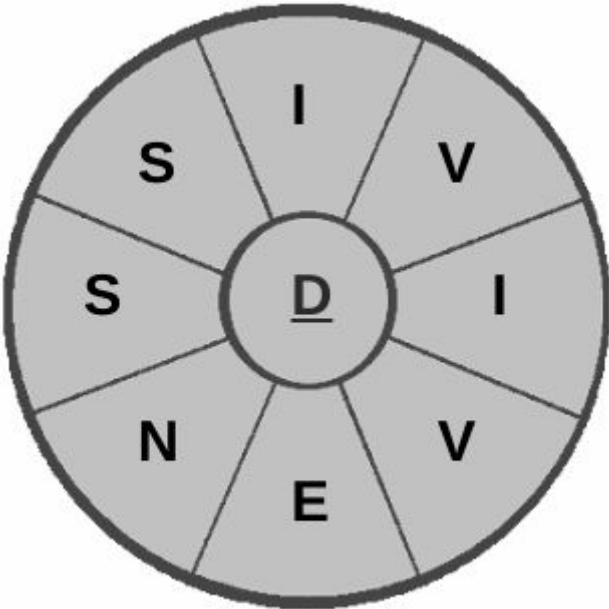
A woman shoots her husband, then holds him under water for 5 minutes and finally hangs him. 5 minutes later they both go out to dinner together. How can this be.

What is black when you buy it, red when you use it, and grey when you throw it away?

Can you name 3 consecutive days without using the words Wednesday, Friday or Sunday?

Word Wheel

Hidden in the wheel below are **36 different words**. How many can you find?



- Excellent: 24 words
- Very Good: 19 words
- Good: 13 words
- Fair: 8 words
- Poor: 4 words

A message from Councillor Martin Wilby

Thanks to everyone for the many kind messages of support that have been sent to me over the past few weeks following my recent operation. This support has helped me greatly, and I am on the road to recovery.

New road safety schemes are to be introduced in almost 100 towns and villages across Norfolk. The projects, including traffic calming measures, vehicle-activated signs, extra signage, bus shelters and new footpaths, form part of Norfolk County Council's parish partnership initiative. First launched in September 2011, it invites communities to bid for cash to make much-needed improvements to slow down traffic and make our towns and villages safer. A total of £770,000 is to be spent on 95 schemes across the county, with County Hall putting in just under £345,000 and the Norfolk Safety Camera Partnership £40,556. The rest of the money comes via match-funding from town and parish councils. Locally, there are schemes planned for Pulham Market, Starston, Tivetshall and Redenhall with Harleston.

NCC has unveiled plans to join forces with Saffron Housing to build houses in Harleston for people who want to live independently, but with extra support. The plan will see the creation of an independent living scheme made up of 91 new flats, with a mix of 16 two-bed and 75 one-bed flats, on land east of Mendham Lane. The county council will put in just over £4m into the scheme. The Harleston scheme would be fourth in Norfolk, following ones in Fakenham, Acle and Stalham. Construction should start on site in June 2024. Properties can be owned or rented, and are available to those who pay for their own care and those funded by the council.

A multi-million-pound boost means Norwich is to get 55 more electric buses, making it one of the first cities in the country with a depot running an all-electric fleet. An £11.5m investment will see First Buses getting new double-decker electric buses, in addition to the 15 single-deckers which had previously secured funding. The money from the government's Zero Emission Buses Regional Area (ZEBRA) scheme means the First Bus Norwich depot at Roundtree Way will be one of the first outside London to go fully electric from March next year.


A message from Councillor Martin Wilby

A crackdown on abuse of blue badges for disabled people has seen 10 people taken to court and dozens of warnings for misuse. NCC's determination to stamp out the abuse bucked the national trend, where more than 100 councils failed to take any legal action. County Hall employs an enforcement officer who goes undercover on patrols, which helped lead to 10 people being taken to court for misuse of the badges. In addition, 24 verbal or written warnings were issued and 28 badges were seized, with 19 of them subsequently destroyed. Across Norfolk, 35,000 valid badges are held, entitling the holder park on single or double yellow lines for up to three hours in vehicles they drive or travel in.

I am looking forward to the many King's Coronation events to be held over the weekend 6th to 8th May 2023. There is funding available from South Norfolk Council to support town and parish councils. All details on their website. Let's hope for good weather.

Best Wishes

Martin



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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.

Sunday 16th April, 10.30am
Flying objects

Sunday 14th May, 10.30am
Tie Dye



For those who are unable to attend, please let me know and I will arrange a craft bag for you to do at home!

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

Brockdish and Thorpe Abbots Parish Council
Chairman: Christine Mackenzie (01379 668818)
Clerk: Teresa Hine (01379 308617)
Email: brockdishthorpeabbottspc@gmail.com

Following the resignation of Chris Wolfe, we would like to welcome Susanne Russell to the PC. We sincerely thank Chris for all his support and contributions made to many projects over the last ten years. If you care about where you live, and are passionate about your community, then please join us.

Elections will be held on 4th May 2023. Please see 'notice of election' on notice boards for details.

Planning Applications as notified by SNC

www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/planning

- 2023/0032 Brockdish Hall, Hall Road, Brockdish. External works to include repairs to 2 windows and replacement of existing fireplace. (listed building consent).
- 2023/0304 1 The Street, Brockdish. Erection of a garden room 2.2m x 3.8m.

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 28th March 2023, 7pm: WHC, Brockdish
- No scheduled meeting is held during April
- Tuesday 23rd May 2023, 7pm: WHC, Brockdish
- Thursday 29th June 2023, 7pm: Thorpe Abbots Village Hall

Answers to Brain Box

1. The third room: the lions would have starved to death; 2. The woman was a photographer. She shot a photo, developed it and hung it up to dry; 3. Charcoal used in barbecuing; 4. Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow

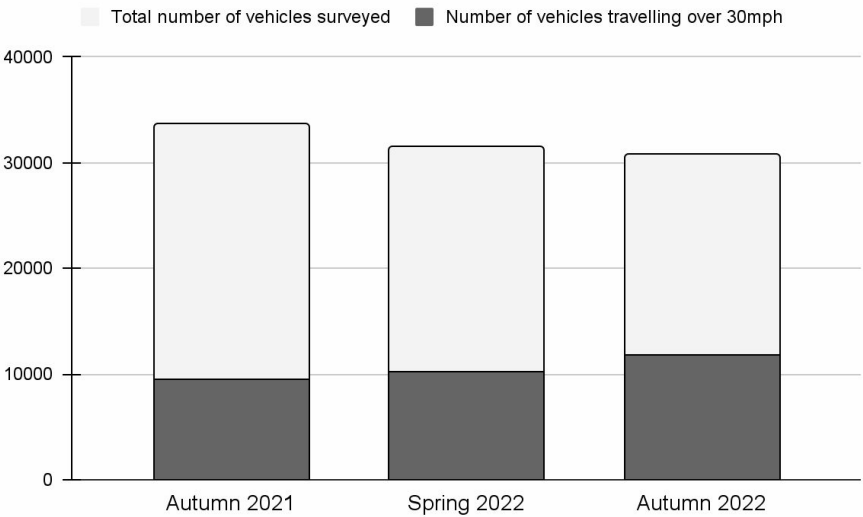
Word Wheel: The 9 letter word is VIVIDNESS

Speeding in Brockdish

I started taking responsibility for monitoring speeding in Brockdish in autumn 2021, after being co-opted to Brockdish and Thorpe Abbots Parish Council. One of my cats died on October 10th 2021 after being hit by a car outside my house in the centre of the village. It drew my attention to the speeds that some drivers are doing through the village, and how potentially dangerous this behaviour is, not only to the welfare of our pets but to us, the residents of Brockdish going about our daily lives.

We currently have temporary use of a SAM2 speed warning sign, which we share with Needham on rotation. The flashing speed sign is typically present here twice a year, and set up at three locations; Grove Road, Waveney Heights and outside the Old King’s Head pub. We aim to purchase permanent devices in due course, and I am currently looking into appropriate devices and pricing. We hope to be able to obtain support from Norfolk County Council who have a scheme whereby if we buy one flashing speed sign they will match our commitment by buying a second. We also intend on having another location become available soon too, in the centre of the village. We are calling for more police help with monitoring and enforcement. It is also worth mentioning that the speed signs have a calming effect on behaviour, so the data below would not reflect actual speeds in their absence. If we could obtain data without the presence of the flashing signs we are in no doubt it would show increased numbers of speeding vehicles at higher quantiles (40MPH-50MPH, 50MPH+).

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The Spring Garden

This time of year is spent in the greenhouse planting out seeds. Courgettes germinate relatively quickly and soon push their seed leaves up through the compost.

Early spring is the time to prune back hydrangeas, being mindful of the risks of frosts. Prune back to the first pair of healthy buds from last year's flower. However, if you have a plant that has become a bit too big for its space, or become tired and less floriferous, prune back the stems hard - even down to the ground. This will encourage new, healthy stems. April is also a good time to divide clumps of bamboo, prune forsythia and divide primroses.

Green is the colour of May, with the garden full of new shoots and growth. It is the time to plant runner beans in pots, sow vegetables such as lettuce and spinach, pinch out the tops of broad beans, and earth up potatoes as shoots appear. Watch out for the dreaded lily beetle - wipe off eggs and dispose of any larvae you see. Whether you are planting seeds, pruning or cutting back, or now starting to mow the lawn, enjoy the time back out in the garden.



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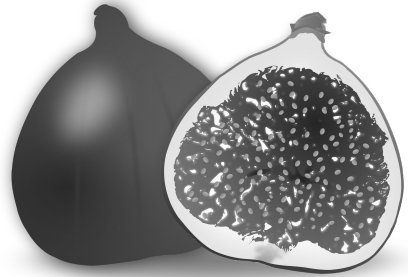
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Halloumi Cheese? Yes Please!

Halloumi and Fig Bagel *(serves one)*

- 1 sesame bagel
- Ricotta, 2 tbsps
- 2 figs
- Honey, 1 tsp
- Halloumi, 30 grams



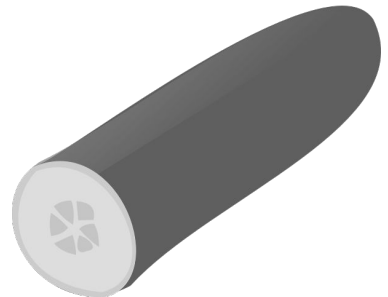
Heat the grill to its highest setting. Cut the bagel in half, and slice the figs.

Grill the bagel halves, then spread the ricotta over one half. Top with the figs and a drizzle of honey.

Grate the halloumi onto the other half. Put the 2 halves back under the grill until the cheese is melted and the figs are beginning to caramelize - about 1-2 mins. Put the sandwich together and enjoy!

Halloumi and Pickled Cucumber Salad *(serves 2)*

- 1 cucumber
- 1 ½ tbsp white wine vinegar
- 1 tsp sugar
- ½ tsp chilli flakes
- Pinch of salt
- Toasted chopped hazelnuts, 50 grams
- Small bunch of fresh mint, chopped
- Halloumi, 200 grams, sliced



Cut the cucumber in half, scrape out the seedy core and cut into chunky half moons. Put in a bowl with the white wine vinegar, sugar, chilli flakes and a pinch of salt. Leave for 10 minutes.

Mix the toasted chopped hazelnuts with a small bunch of chopped mint. Mix with the cucumber. Fry the sliced halloumi on both sides until crisp. Pile onto the plate with the dressing. Delicious!

Brockdish Church

The first phase of repair work to the North Wall in the Church has been completed. Further work will take place later in the year. The pews and floor heaters will have to be removed temporarily for the work to commence, but that is in the future.

The Churchyard is very springlike at the moment, the first cut of the grass will be at the end of March.

Our fruit trees planted last year are looking very healthy. As much as we love wildlife, muntjac have been a nuisance this year, eating flowers and plants on graves. Hopefully they will find a new place to graze soon.

Happy Easter to you all

Jan Croxson - Church Warden (tel.668630)



Quiz Night

Saturday 13th May
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7.30pm for 8pm start



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Ramblings from The Rectory

By Rev. Nigel Tuffnell

On April 9th, it is Easter Day. I will be up for the 6.00 am Sunrise Service at Weybread Ocean Pit. I always groan when the alarm goes off, but love it once I am there. It is beautiful to see the sunrise over the water, to welcome the dawn light, and the dawn of hope. It's great to be with good people from different local churches and have bacon butties too! Then at 9.30 am, there will be Easter celebrations at All Saints, Thorpe Abbots, and St. Peter and St. Paul's, Brockdish.

Easter is a time when we are encouraged to shine brightly in the world, for the good of all. I hope that all of you want to shine brightly for good in your village, and in your life. There are so many good people here. I hope and pray that we will be allies together as we seek to make this place a place of welcome and generosity. Making Brockdish and Thorpe Abbots great places for anyone to visit, to live, to have families and grow old in. This will take constant work, but it is worth it.

In May we have the Coronation. I still have to remind myself that we have a King and not a Queen. The late Queen had been a constant throughout my life, but it will be good to welcome Charles as our new King.

Happy Easter, and Long Live King Charles III.

Nigel



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

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Church Service Times - April and May

2nd April	Brockdish 9.30 am	Morning Prayer
3rd April Holy Monday	Brockdish 6.30 am	Congregation Reading Matthew's Gospel
7th April Good Friday	Brockdish 11.30 am Thorpe Abbots 3.30 pm	Devotional Half Hour Devotional Half Hour
9th April Easter Sunday	Brockdish 9.30 am Thorpe Abbots 9.30 am	Holy Communion Holy Communion
16th April	Brockdish 9.30 am	Morning Prayer
23rd April	Brockdish 9.30 am	Morning Prayer
7th May	Brockdish 9.30 am	Morning Prayer
14th May	Brockdish 9.30 am Thorpe Abbots 9.30 am	Holy Communion Morning Prayer
21st May	Brockdish 9.30 am	Morning Prayer
28th May	Brockdish 9.30 am	Morning Prayer



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