

THE
Mardler
BROCKDISH & THORPE ABBOTTS



Edition No. 246 August-September 2023

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

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

Editor 01379 668663
Robert Buck robertbuck1974@talktalk.net

Chairperson 01379 668630
Jan Croxson jpcrocky@btinternet.com

Technical Editor 01379 668585
Jo Slater jogslater@hotmail.com

Advertising 01379 668072
Judith Chambers judecham@gmail.com

Treasurer 01379 668549
Janice Stacey janicestacey@btinternet.com

01379 669293
Linda Bell belltomlinda@gmail.com

01379 741435
Cheryl Mounser chezzaanne@icloud.com

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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Welcome to our late summer edition of The Mardler, packed with local information and now in full technicolour! I am hoping this little addition will enhance your reading experience.

Last month, the inaugural 20th anniversary Pink Ladies Tractor Run took place. This year saw the biggest number of tractors yet, all beautifully turned out in pink. As well as raising invaluable funds for Cancer Research UK, the tractor run is the event of the summer, a chance for our communities to get together and enjoy food, drinks and laughs. Well done to everyone who took part, including the organisers and collectors.

As ever, if you have any comments or suggestions then please get in touch! The editorial team love receiving your emails and letters.

Rob Buck, Editor

REMEMBER

Closing date for entries in the October / November 2023 issue is 7th September 2023. Articles received after this date may not be included in the next issue.



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Activities and Services at Harleston Library

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August is all about the Summer Reading Challenge! This is a scheme to encourage children to carry on reading over the school summer holidays, and this year's theme is 'Ready, Set, Read'. Just speak to member of staff and we will get your child signed up! Throughout the summer we will be holding a book sale. Come along and bag yourself some bargains.

Dates for your Diary (all activities are free of charge):

- ❑ Every Monday: Lego Club, 3.30pm-4.30pm (watch out for the Reading Challenge Lego Special TBC)
- ❑ Wednesday 2nd August: Adults Art 4 Fun group, 2.00pm-3.00pm (informal art drop-in sessions)
Children's Crafternoon Ocean Day, 2.30-4.00pm (drop-in art sessions for children)
- ❑ Wednesday 9th August: Knit and Natter Group 1.30pm-3.00pm
- ❑ Wednesday 16th August: Adults Art 4 Fun group, 2.00pm – 3.00pm
Children's Crafternoon Nature Day, 2.30-4.00pm
- ❑ Wednesday 23rd August: Knit and Natter Group, 1.30pm-3.00pm
- ❑ Wednesday 30th August: Children's Fun Afternoon - 2.30pm-4.00pm

For more information about our one-off events PLEASE NOTE we have a new Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/DissHarlestonLongStrattonLibrariesNorfolk/>

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 Summer Reading Challenge 2023 will be launching in Norfolk Libraries on Saturday 8th July. It's free, it's fun, it builds confidence and supports children reading for pleasure. Children's reading can 'dip' during the long summer break making it harder for them returning to school. In addition, reading for pleasure has so many proven benefits including developing empathy by identifying with characters and improving mental wellbeing.

This year the theme is Ready, Set Read!. It has been produced by the Reading Agency in partnership with the Youth Sport Trust. It will be delivered by Norfolk Library and Information Service and there will be lots of exciting activities in your local libraries.

Over 700,000 children sign up to the challenge every year. To join the challenge children will need to be a library member. This is free of charge and children will receive their own library card for which there are no overdue fees.

Children will be given a pack; they can set their own reading challenge (we recommend six books over the six-week period). Children choose their own books which can include e-books from our virtual library. The children will collect stickers along the way and on completion of the challenge they will receive a medal and certificate of achievement. There is a digital platform too, so the fun can carry on at home! Children can take part in the Challenge at summerreadingchallenge.org



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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 norfolkhls@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk.

Mobile Library

Visits Brockdish and Thorpe Abbotts every 4 weeks on a Thursday. Next visits are **10th August** and **7th September**.

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

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Congratulations!

Congratulations to Andrew Eaves of Brockdish on competing in the Round Norfolk Cycle Ride on June 11th. He managed to complete the 200 miles route in 12 hours and 1 minute. Well done Andrew!

Help Needed!

Fancy a coffee and cake on Saturday 23rd September? It is that time of year to get out the gardening gloves and tools to tidy up Brockdish churchyard. If gardening is not your thing, we shall also be cleaning the church. Brass cleaning anyone?

We shall be there from 10.00 am - 12.00pm, but come for as long as you like, every minute is appreciated. Looking forward to having a chat with the coffee and cake!

Ann Cork

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Thursday 3rd August 2023

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Waveney Volunteers for Nature

I've mentioned our work on Foredale Common previously, but in this issue you can see a plan of the Common showing the work in hand. It may also be of interest that apart from the voluntary effort, the cost this year is only £295. We get a lot of feedback saying how pleasant it is now to be able to walk the length of the Common on a footpath. In the future, we hope our efforts sowing wild flower seeds will increase your pleasure. The RSPB has now taken an interest in what we are doing, and advised us on how to manage a part of the Common which is ideally suited for Turtle Doves.

As mentioned in the last Mardler, the previously fenced off piece of woodland next to the Heritage Centre is being worked on, and is becoming accessible to everyone.

The other issue to make you all aware of is the future of the old school playing field. You can see it on the map adjoining the Common. When it was in use, children trod a path across the Common to get to it. Some of you may remember trees being planted on the field, or other events, and we would be pleased to hear your memories of these. After the School closed, the land, which had been donated to the School, ended up in the hands of Norfolk County Council. The field is without access, but Waveney Volunteers are now trying to negotiate with the County Council to return the land to the community. It can then be managed, alongside the Common, as a habitat area and enjoyed by all, including school children who will be able learn about wildlife and conservation. This idea is supported by the Parish Council, the Waveney Heritage Centre and Norfolk Wildlife Trust.

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Waveney Volunteers for Nature

We would like to think it will be supported by the Village as a whole, and would invite you to let your County Councillor and District Councillors know of your support.

Most of this report has been about Foredale Common, but that is not to say that work on Brockdish Common, off Common Lane, has been ignored. We keep it accessible to all, and on 17th June, the King's official birthday, a Horse Chestnut tree was planted by the Chairperson of the Parish Council in honour of our new King.

If you would like to join us you would be most welcome. For a 'Welcome Guide' please call 07942 285074 or email WVfNature@protonmail.com. You can also find us on our Facebook page.

Derek Clark

Treasurer, Waveney Volunteers for Nature

Brockdish Carpet Bowls

We are looking to start playing in the winter league, but really do need more players. Why not come along to a Thursday night roll-up and give it a try? You could be surprised to find that it is just what you are looking for to while away a winter evening.

Any queries call Peter (01379 668630).

Brockdish Common

There are volunteers who have given up their time and work hard to give the community peaceful and green places to visit and spend time with family and friends. What a shame that someone saw fit to wreck a seat that had been donated for community use. Thanks to a volunteer this has now been repaired at their own cost. A sad reflection of today's society.

- Door to door dial-a-ride service
- Weekly members outings throughout the year
- Group hires for not-for-profit organisations



Borderhoppa Outings for August 2023

Thursday 3rd August:	Fairhaven Woodland and Water Garden, Fare £18
Monday 7th August:	Notcutts Garden Centre, Norwich, Fare £15.00
Thursday 10th August:	Southern Comfort Paddle Steamer, Horning, Fare and boat trip combined £30.00
Monday 14th August:	Southwold, Fare £20
Thursday 17th August:	Lunch at The Black Horse, Thorndon, Fare £8.00
Monday 21st August:	Cromer, Fare £25.00
Thursday 24th August:	North Norfolk Railway and Sheringham, Fare £25.00
Thursday 31st August:	Lowestoft, Fare £20.00

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

Brockdish Village Garage Sale 2023

What a fabulous morning we had on 17th June at the Garage Sale. It was wonderful to see so many people in and around the village, enjoying the sunshine, snapping up bargains and at the Heritage Centre enjoying a welcome cuppa and a 'breakfast burger' from the BBQ. We made in excess of £300 towards the upkeep of the Centre. Feedback from the participants and visitors has been very good and plans to have an annual sale are on the drawing board. Thanks to everyone involved for their support. See you next year!

Jill (01379 669057)



www.waveneyheritage.com
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Events List September 2023

Wednesday 13th September, 7.30 pm:

Talk by Gordon Lascelles: Education in Harleston, Brockdish and Thorpe Abbots over the last 600 years

Saturday 23rd and Sunday 24th September, 10.30 am–2.30 pm:

Open Days and Exhibition of our interesting Waveney Heritage Museums

Wednesday, 18th October, 7.30 pm:

Talk by Graham Moore of Waveney Wireless: a brief history of broadcasting in the UK, to include some interesting items from our museum

Wednesday, 8th November, 7.30 pm:

Talk by Gary Alderton: WW1. Gary will show us and talk about a collection of WW1 artefacts which local people brought back

Sunday, 26th November, 10.30-2 pm:

Christmas Craft Fair. After the success of last year's Fair, plans are for bigger and better this year.

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Thorpe Abbotts Open Gardens



A huge thank you to everyone that "opened" their garden for the event and thank you to the faithful supporters that helped with baking cakes, selling teas, coffees, cakes, ice creams and tickets. It was great to see that a lot of residents also contributed by mowing lawns, grass verges and woods and by putting up signs, hanging baskets and pots of flowers in front of their houses. It was also notable to see that the paint came out to cheer up fences and inspired some creative designs in others. To date the total amount raised was just over £1000.

Carol Hitchman

Rushall Art Group

Every Wednesday morning (10.00am-1.00pm) in Brockdish Village Hall there is a group of jolly and "experienced" (not just age) artists, that gather together to create unique "masterpieces" (never seen before or after). It is a very friendly, easy-going group of people who love to have some "Me Time", to natter and have an opportunity to express themselves with any medium they wish. Around about 11ish we have tea/coffee/biscuits and maybe a slice of your favourite cake.

Bring your own equipment and come along for the best 3 hours of your week, all for £5.00 a session (don't forget, because the Treasurer is the only fierce one of the group!).

It is a very happy, jolly band of artists and totally inclusive regarding ages, abilities and disability (there are two men in the group, so any further disability will be accepted!) Just pop along any Wednesday to natter and see what we are all about and/or contact Sue Hughes on 01379 855414.

Thorpe Abbotts Village Hall AGM and future developments

The AGM took place on Wednesday July 5th 2023, with a good representation of attendees from the village. I thought it would be of interest for you to know the outcomes and discussion that took place at the meeting.

Village Hall Committee Members Elected:

Chair – Carol Hitchman

Vice Chair – Mike Pursehouse

Treasurer – Robert Buck

Committee Member – Paul Slater

Clerk – Carol Liles

In addition, we have a strong group of volunteers who lead on various events and activities. These are: Sarah McClusky, Jan Maidment and Anne Shepherd.

Paul Slater stepped down as the Chair after many years of service and dedication to strengthening the Committee, and developing activities for all. Thank you, Paul, for all your hard work.

The main theme of the meeting was the discussion of the new Village Hall. The minutes will be available in the Telephone Box, but here are some initial headlines.

- From the survey undertaken in February 2023, the consensus from the residents is to build a new village hall on the existing site.
- Funding will be sourced from grants, sponsorship and village funding events.
- We have a list of possible grants that can be applied for over the forthcoming year.
- A “gifting” scheme was outlined to enable a regular source of income to achieve the £5,000 per annum required to reapply for Charity status. Further information will follow.
- The Coffee Mornings, Bar Nights and Open Gardens event have strengthened community cohesion and positivity about the project.

Thorpe Abbotts Village Hall AGM and future developments

It was pleasing to see the engagement and developing ideas that were coming forward throughout the meeting in support of a new Village Hall. This continues to happen as I walk the dog, so please keep these coming!

Thank you to everyone that came along to the AGM and to everyone who has supported the project. Let's make it happen!

Carol Hitchman

Syleham and Wingfield Village Hall, IP21 4LT

As with all buildings, we need to keep the fabric of our village hall in good condition. The windows will soon be painted, and the front of the roof renewed. This shouldn't cause problems with accessing the hall, so please come along and join us.

Our sports and social club volunteers continue to open each Tuesday and Friday, when drinks at the bar are reasonably priced. On Tuesdays, there are usually some pool players about as well as card players, and a few doing a little gentle stroll-jive. Board games are available too. On Fridays, there are different activities through the month. Open mic is on the first Friday, Purple Star karaoke on the second Friday (free entry), a quiz on the third Friday and bingo on the last Friday. Both the quiz and the bingo raise funds for locally nominated charities and good causes. *(N.B. no quiz in August, but back on 15th September. Bingo on 25th September is in aid of Gissing preschool)*

Other upcoming events:

- Saturday 30th September: Jumble sale, 2.00pm-4.00pm
- Saturday 14th October: mini OktoberFest
- Both Wingfield and Syleham churches have Harvest suppers organised for September - information to follow

**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. 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?

We have a small number of full (250 m²) and half (125 m²) plots available, and there is water on site. We may consider smaller plots if there is interest in this.

To find out more about the allotments or to check plot availability please email Rebecca Abrahall, BATAAA Secretary, at bataaaa@hotmail.co.uk, ring Liz on 01379 669016 or find us on Facebook.





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Rosedale Bereavement Support

When we are faced with the death of a loved one, in the initial stages we may well feel numb and in disbelief. The funeral can feel like a blur, with important bits of information missing. It is as if our brain shuts down because the trauma of what has happened is too much for us to comprehend. Over time, these feelings begin to wear off, and we can then experience a huge range of emotions: anger, sadness, regret, guilt, despair, relief, suicidal thoughts and anxiety. This is sometimes referred to as a 'hurricane of emotions', because they can come all at once, knock us off our feet and cause devastation in our life.

We can feel regret because the relationship was strained and had its problems. We can grieve for what the relationship could have been. If we have watched our loved one deteriorate or live with pain, we may also feel relief that their suffering is finally over. We can then feel guilty for feeling that way. We may feel that we will never stop crying. Some people experience days when they can't see the point of going on without their loved one. These feelings are not unusual, and are nothing to be ashamed of. **Keep In mind that you will not always feel as you do now, things will get better.**

There is no time scale for grief; everyone is different. Some people move forwards with life relatively quickly, whilst others take much longer. Facing our pain is essential if we are to go on and live a fulfilled life. There is a saying that 'buried pain comes up again'. Unfortunately, It does not go away, and can resurface at unexpected times and in unexpected ways. It is always best to talk about how we are feeling, either at a support group or one-to-one with a friend, counsellor or telephone helpline. As we talk and share our pain, the heavy burden can begin to be lifted. We can find support amongst others who understand.

Rosedale's next Bereavement Support Group can be found by calling your local branch. These groups are run several times a year, free to attend and open to all.

Brockdish and Thorpe Abbots Village Halls

Elaine Murphy



Thorpe Abbots Village Hall

Village halls are the heart of rural life for many villages across the country and provide a social lifeline for communities. Brockdish and Thorpe Abbots have both lost their shops, their post offices and most of their pubs. The 10,000 or so village halls in England and Wales often provide the only place to meet within a rural community, particularly for those least able to travel to more distant centres of activity. Village halls in England and Wales provide the largest network of community-owned facilities in rural Britain. The story of the founding of our Brockdish and Thorpe Abbots village halls is something we should be truly proud of, the results of community effort by former generations that should not be forgotten.

Brockdish Village Hall

The original Brockdish Village Hall was given to the village by the rector, Reverend Wilson White in 1921, and put into place and finished by John C Pollard the builder. There is a plaque on the wall of the new hall to this effect. John Pollard sadly died fairly young, age 65, before the building was complete, in June 1921. John and Alice Pollard, you may remember, constructed and donated the bier which sits in Brockdish church. The village hall building originally came from the Pulham Airship base, which was selling off some spare buildings in 1921 after the end of the First World War. It may well be that the purchase was facilitated by one of the Aviation Engineers from Pulham, Norman Manns, who was lodging at Valley Farm, Brockdish with John and Alice in 1921.

Brockdish and Thorpe Abbotts Village Halls

The hall was bought by Wilson White ostensibly for the church, at a cost of £800, and sited on land bought by the church at the heart of the village. This was why, when the village hall was rebuilt in 2000, some fundraising had to happen to buy the site from the church. The money the church got from that had to be used on the new tower room at the St Peter and St Paul's Church (and very well spent therefore). It may well be that the purchase was facilitated by one of the aviation engineers from Pulham, Norman Manns, who was lodging at Valley Farm, Brockdish with John and Alice in 1921.



The first Brockdish Village Hall, 1921-2000

The original hall was built of brick, with asbestos-cement sheeting outside and match board inside, the interior painted and varnished with 'brilliant lights', a building the Diss Express thought should be a cause for local pride. The building took six months to erect and finish and crucially provided work for men in the village who would otherwise be unemployed in the post war recession.

The grand opening ceremony on 16th November 1922 was generously reported in the Diss Express. The hall was packed and the building was declared open by Reverend White, who made some touching remarks about John Pollard. General festivities ensued but the highly anticipated opening entertainment came on Thursday November 22nd to another packed audience.

Brockdish and Thorpe Abbots Village Halls

The launch concert was given by the “Brockdish Minstrel Troupe”, reserved seats 2/6d, other seats 1/3d and 8d. Minstrelsy is now of course considered thoughtlessly racist and beyond the pale of acceptability. But that would not have occurred to the Brockdish villagers who participated. By the 1850s in Britain, the black face minstrel show was very much stylized and structured, rather different from the shows in the USA. In Britain, Minstrels sang and played, and two clown minstrels, named Bones and Tambo, mocked the master of ceremonies, who used pretentious and incorrectly used intellectual language, with puns, malapropisms and exaggerated diction.



Village Hall Minstrel Show, early 20th Century, (Shropshire Archives)

Minstrels provided an alternative to the doubtful humour of the music hall of the period, a form of family entertainment where parents could take their children without fear of being asked embarrassing questions afterwards. It was thus considered more “respectable” than the music hall. The minstrel was a clown figure who, at the same time as reinforcing bizarre stereotypes of black people, gave delight to the audience by mimicking and making ridiculous established elite figures, such as a local politician, vicar or headmaster. In England, the mocking of black people was the mocking of people unknown: the majority of the Norfolk audience had never met anybody who wasn’t white. No excuse? You make up your own mind.

But by the 1990s the old village hall was creaking, showing its age and in desperate need of repair. Endless bring and buy sales, bingo evenings,

Brockdish and Thorpe Abbots Village Halls

whist drives and jumble sales were launched, and by August 1990 the fund for repairs stood at an inadequate £795.00. The hall was no longer providing the sort of venue where clubs and the parish council could meet.

In 1997, a structural report from South Norfolk Council said it needed demolition and/or replacement, and should be closed forthwith unless certain basic repairs, costing £5000, were done. However, it seemed that temporary repairs costing £500 could keep the hall open while funds were raised to build a new hall. Parishioners were reluctant to vote in favour of Brockdish Parish Council granting a loan to rebuild the hall. WHY? Who knows? But the Parish Council fortunately took no notice of its own survey and went ahead with getting planning permission for rebuilding the hall. And then in 1999, a charities lottery grant of £98,111 went a good way to raising the £148,000 needed. A further £15,000 grant from Norfolk Community Funds left only a modest amount to be raised by events in the village. The new hall opened in 2000 and is no doubt a significant village asset.



*The new Brockdish
Village Hall
opened 2000*

Thorpe Abbots Village Hall

Village celebrations for Coronation Day in 1953 were dampened by persistent heavy rain and it was hardly surprising that Thorpe Abbots village people felt that if only they had had a village hall like Brockdish, then they could have had their Coronation tea party without being rained on. The 180 inhabitants set about fundraising to build one. Meetings were held in the club room at The Lion pub, still open then. Lacon and Co Brewery, who owned the Lion, generously offered to sell some of the land they owned behind the pub for a token amount. Fundraising began with whist drives,

Brockdish and Thorpe Abbots Village Halls

dances at Brockdish village hall, a darts tournament, sponsored bike rides, jumble sale and “a bumper fete”. The committee, chaired by Homer Young at Thorpe Abbots Hall Farm, also got a grant from the Ministry of Education. By mid-1954 sufficient funds were in place to start building. The Foundation Stone was laid by WRF Jennings*.

The Diss Express reported “The Hall itself is no mean structure built for a few years only. It is substantially built of Lignacite blocks (a mix of cement, sand and recycled wood shavings) with a steel superstructure and asbestos roof. It will have cloakrooms, a kitchen, mains water and electricity, a fitting place for the holding of any social function, large or small and will be a lasting tribute to the untiring energy and enthusiasm of every resident in this tiny village.” Well, no harm in a little hyperbole! Needless to say, there were setbacks and delays caused by harvest and beet-lifting since most of the work was done by village volunteers in the evenings but by December 1954 the hall could be opened and the first function was held in January 1955.

In 1969, Lacons Brewery announced that the Lion would close, so Homer Young (still chairman) and his committee decided to apply for the village hall to become a Licensed Social Club. It would mean the piano and the toilets would need to be upgraded as ‘they were in no fit state’. But the village hall got its licence and that enabled the hall to hold more events to improve funds.

**Does anyone know who WRF Jennings was? A person named William Richard Frederick Jennings died in Thetford in 1994, but I can find no further records.*



Problem was and is still that a Lignacite building with an asbestos roof has just about lasted for 50 years but is now showing its age. More fundraising has begun. Here are some folk you will recognise in 2018.

The information here mainly came from the Diss Express files of the British Newspaper Archive. Thanks too to Jan Croxson for extra info and Jill Edwards for helping with sourcing photos.

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Thorpe Abbots Village Hall Upcoming Events

Natter Mornings: 10.30am-12.00pm

- Thursday 3rd August
- Thursday 7th September

Bar Nights: 6.30pm onwards

- Friday 25th August
- Friday 29th September



Pink Ladies Tractor Road Run

The 20th anniversary of the annual pink ladies tractor run was the biggest yet, with 197 tractors and 204 pink ladies. Last year the cumulative raised was £896,000 and we are pleased to report this year the £1 million barrier was reached.



A total of £156.16 was collected in Thorpe Abbots during the Pink Ladies Tractor Road Run on Sunday 2nd July in aid of Cancer Research. A very big thank you to everyone that generously donated to this very worthwhile cause.

Vanessa Skipper

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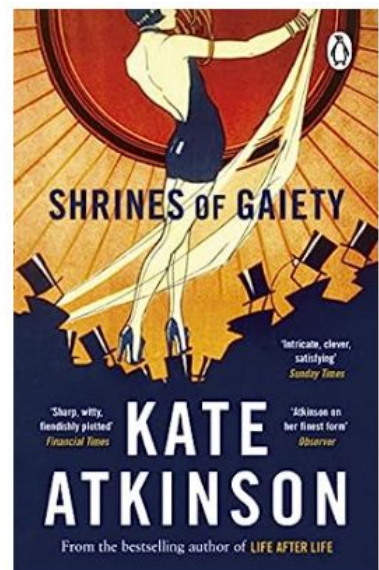
Kate Atkinson is one of my favourite authors. She is a writer of novels, plays and short stories. If you are not familiar with her work I would suggest that you begin with her first novel, 'Behind The Scenes At The Museum'. I am, however, going to introduce you to her latest novel. If you would like to write a review of a favourite book, you can email me at judecham@gmail.com.

Shrines of Gaiety by Kate Atkinson reviewed by Judith Chambers

This book is an historical novel set in 1926 in London's glamorous night club scene. A novel inspired by a real life character Kate Meyrick. The glamorous night club world reveals a more sordid side where there are dead and missing girls, mob wars, the sex trade, drugs and bent coppers. There are many characters to keep track of throughout the book but all have their own unique contribution to make.

The novel begins with Nellie Coker, a highly ambitious, successful entrepreneur, owner of five nightclubs in London, being released from a six month spell in prison. She has six adult children who are involved in the running of those clubs, all of whom we become familiar with as the story progresses. Watching her release is DCI Frobisher, who is keener than his colleagues to investigate a flood of missing girls. He suspects that Nellie's empire may have answers and wants to probe into the Coker family.

Frobisher has hired Gwendoline, a librarian from Yorkshire, who has come to London in search of two missing girls from her hometown. Frobisher wants her to infiltrate Nellie's empire. Freda is one of the runaways from Yorkshire. She is fourteen years old who dreams of stardom on a London stage. She needs her wits about her to survive the seedy accommodation and equally seedy attentions of businessmen. The novel is well written, fast paced, entertaining and tragic.



Henry VIII's Wives

Catherine of Aragon stole a quart jar of tarragon
 "It's the last in the bin" She informed Anne Boleyn
 "It's lovely, give me more" entreated Jane Seymour
 Which made Anne of Cleves spill a lot down her sleeves
 "Not for me, I'm a coward" said Catherine Howard
 So Catherine Parr drank the last in the jar!



Divorced , beheaded, died, divorced, beheaded, survived

Jokes

Why do bankruptcy lawyers expect to be paid?

What's furry, has whiskers and chases outlaws? *A posse cat*

What do you get if you cross a chicken with a cement mixer? *A brick layer*

What do you call a pig that does karate? *A pork chop*



Quiz Night
Saturday 16th September
Brockdish Village Hall
7.30pm for 8pm start



- £5 per person
- Teams up to 6 people
- Light supper
- Bring your own alcohol



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A message from Councillor Martin Wilby

An ambitious climate strategy to support Norfolk's move to net zero has been agreed by Norfolk County Council. Retrofitting insulation in buildings, boosting sustainable transport, supporting green jobs and helping nature recovery are among measures in the County Council's climate strategy, to support Norfolk's move to become carbon neutral by 2030. The strategy follows the council's commitment, made in 2019, to achieve net zero on its own estate. It aims to reduce the County Council's 2016/17 carbon emissions of 21,000 tonnes per year by 90% by 2030, with the remainder offset. Key proposals include: retrofitting council buildings to take out gas and oil heating, improve insulation, and encourage businesses, residents and other organisations to do the same, support active and sustainable transport, including further bus improvements, and developing the green economy, with support for green skills, sustainable tourism and businesses.

NCC has secured a £70 million funding boost for special educational needs education (SEND) for children in Norfolk. Known as Local First inclusion, it will provide significantly more advice, support and funding for mainstream schools, and introduce 15 new school and community support teams to give early help and support to both parents and schools. It also means the council will develop dozens more special education classrooms, known as specialist resource bases (SRBs), and alternative provision at mainstream schools as well as building two more special schools.

New Gritting Technology

Thousands of pounds have already been saved by making sure salt is spread at the right rate for each location using detailed forecast and live data from roadside sensors. Next winter, this new tech will be rolled out across the rest of the county following the success already seen in the north and west areas of the county. NCC has been proactive in adopting new technology, such as low-cost temperature sensors using the LoRaWAN wireless sensor network, and auto-salting. Auto-salting sees gritter drivers get live in-cab updates to spread rates and routes, and remote changes can be made allowing drivers to concentrate on the road

A message from Councillor Martin Wilby

ahead, without needing to make adjustments manually. This means salt spread rates are more efficient, and are set to bring savings of up to £180,000 over the next three years.

Every year, more than 55,000 children in England are placed into the care of a foster family. This number accounts for 70% of children in the care system, a statistic that is not dissimilar in Norfolk. As a result, thousands more foster families are needed. NCC fostering service are calling on anyone and everyone who has ever contemplated becoming a foster carer to come forward. If you think you have the patience, understanding and skills to become a foster carer, contact the team on 01603 306649 or visit www.norfolk.gov.uk and search for fostering.

Best Wishes

Martin

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- **No meeting in August**
- **Sunday 17th September, 10.30am**

Birds

**We will be making and painting
as well as producing things to help
our feathery friends**



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

We currently have one Councillor vacancy. For further information, please contact Cllr Christine MacKenzie (Chair).

Coronation Celebration

On Saturday 17th June 2023, we gathered on the Common to celebrate the King's Coronation (and Birthday!) with the planting of a commemorative tree. Thank you to all who came along.



Dates of next scheduled meetings

Members of the public are most welcome to attend. Agenda posted on both village notice boards prior to the meeting.

- No scheduled meeting is held during August
- Thursday 28th September 2023, 7pm at Thorpe Abbots Village Hall

Brockdish Champions

Congratulations to Lisa who was made a Coronation champion for her voluntary work in animal welfare. Both Lisa and her husband Ben were guests at the Coronation concert at Windsor Castle.

Congratulations also go to Derek Clark and Robin Clay of Waveney Volunteers for Nature, who were nominated to receive a Community Champion Tribute at the Royal Norfolk Show on Wednesday 28th June 2023.



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August and September

August

- Collect ripening seeds from plants you wish to propagate.
- Trim lavender after the flowers have faded, water regularly.
- Take cuttings from tender perennials such as pelargoniums and fuchsias.

September

- Start planting new perennials.
- Start dividing overgrown perennials.
- Support tall late flowering perennials.
- Plant spring flowering bulbs.
- Plant out spring flowering biennials.
- Plant up containers with spring bedding.



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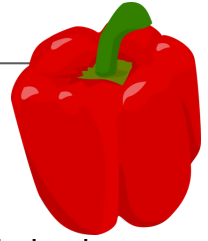
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A Vegetarian Supper



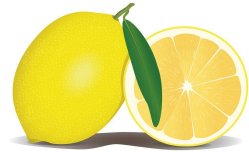
Roasted Peppers with Tomatoes (serves 4)

4 red peppers, halved and deseeded	8 smallish tomatoes, halved
2 garlic cloves, thinly sliced	2 rosemary sprigs
2 tbsps olive oil	

Heat the oven to 160°C (140°C fan) / gas mark 3.

1. Put the peppers cut side up in a baking dish and sprinkle with the olive oil. Roast for 40 minutes until soft but not collapsed.
2. Put 2 tomato halves, several garlic slices and a few rosemary sprigs into the hollow of each pepper. Drizzle over olive oil and roast again for 30 minutes until the tomatoes are soft. Leave to cool and serve warm or at room temperature.

Lemon Drizzle Sponge Pudding



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

Heat the oven to 180°C (160°C fan) / gas mark 4.

1. Put the butter and 250g of the caster sugar in a bowl, and beat until pale and fluffy. Whisk in the eggs. Fold in the flour and baking powder until you have a batter. Stir in the lemon zest, then put the sponge mixture into the dish and smooth the top.
2. Mix half of the lemon juice with the cornflour in a heatproof bowl to make a smooth paste. Mix the remaining 130g sugar with 300ml boiling water in a jug. Pour this over the cornflour mixture and whisk until smooth. Pour over the sponge mixture and bake 45 – 50 minutes, until golden and set.
3. Mix 50g icing sugar with the rest of the lemon juice. Drizzle over the warm sponge and decorate with lemon zest.



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All Saints Church, Thorpe Abbotts

Each year in June, churchyards across the country undertake a survey to establish their wildflower populations. We were amazed to find over 100 species of flowering plants living in the Churchyard. Each year there are subtle changes, and I was wondering what effect the long dry summer we had last year would have. In short, not a great deal has changed. We have a few new arrivals in the form of Corncockle and Cornflower, and pink geranium has taken over from the grass in places.

The highlight has been an amazing display of Pyramidal and Bee Orchids, with the population of Pyramidal Orchids increasing from 60 last year to over 140. The seeds are tiny and windblown, and require a symbiotic relationship with fungi to germinate and grow. They are pollinated by butterflies and moths. They generally like a chalky soil, which is a little strange since the soil in the Churchyard is sandy and acid. This orchid population is found around the southeastern corner of the Chancel, where there will be plenty of lime rubble from when the two Chancel and east windows were replaced, along with a recent repair to the wall.

Another interesting plant found in the Churchyard is Hedge Bedstraw. Traditionally this has a huge number of medicinal uses and the young shoots make a lovely addition to salads. Legend has it that it was used to line Christs' cradle, and in medieval times it was used as bedding during the latter stages of pregnancy. It has a long history as a fibre plant, and is used in the manufacture of rope and baskets. There is a lot to see up in the Churchyard, so always well worth a wander if you have the time.

Our Harvest Service this year will take place on Sunday 8th October at 4pm, when the Church will be decorated by what has been grown in the village over the summer and which will, as before, be donated to the Emmaus charity in Ditchingham. We also have plans for a small event in the Village Hall the day before, details to follow once we have finalized our plans.

Simon Beet

DWS

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Ramblings from The Rectory

By Rev. Nigel Tuffnell

As I write this I am enjoying the warm weather and looking forward to the warm summer months, hopefully with some evening rain to keep everything growing and green.

August, into September, is the time for church weddings. Church weddings seemed to go out of fashion for a while, but more and more couples now seem to be wanting to get married. I am very happy to celebrate with these couples and to conduct a service in church for them. It is a privilege to work with couples as they prepare for the wedding and to 'be there' for them afterwards, if needed.

Marriage to me is something very special, with roots back into the beginning of time. It is a celebration of the love two people have for each other and is designed to be a stable foundation for family life. Marriage, as I said, is special to me because I believe that God delights in the union of marriage and in loving families.

I have no illusions that marriage will mark the start of most couple's serious relationship. By far the majority of the couples that I talk to about marriage have been living together for some time, and often have children. Still, Christian marriage in church has an attraction. The beautiful spectacle of a church wedding obviously plays a part, but, from talking to couples, I get the impression that the desire to have God's blessing on their relationship is also a powerful thing for them.

Many of the couples who come to me would not describe themselves as churchgoers or active Christians. But there is a sense of God leading them nonetheless. I see God in these couples wanting to provide them with all the wisdom, contentment and joy that their relationship has the potential to bring. Perhaps, seeing so many relationships falling apart, couples are also seeking the old wisdom of marriage.

Many of the couples who come to me have been married before. They are hesitant, unsure of the response they will get; will they be turned away

because their previous marriage failed? What I hope they find is compassion for their past pain and hurt. Those who have gone through divorce can become cynical about relationships in general, and marriage in particular. But God wants to heal that hurt, and any sense of failure, so that they can be truly free to live and love again.

So, I wish all couples who are newly married, or looking forward to their marriage, every blessing, now and in their future together. I also wish God's blessing on all couples, particularly those with children, whether married or not. Being a husband, wife, partner or a parent is hard to do well. I pray that the Holy Spirit will bless and protect all couples and families here in our community, that they will know His comfort and support, His love and His joy, now and always.

God Bless,

Nigel

Brockdish Church

Isn't it amazing that weeds continue to rear their little heads even with little rain! As it is said, "there are no such things as weeds, just plants in the wrong place". However, those maintaining the churchyard would disagree.

The brass band concert in June was a great success, and thoroughly enjoyed by all those who attended. A grand sum of £480 was raised for Brockdish Church funds.

Now the weather is brighter, we are holding Sunday services outside, under the shade of the glorious copper beech. New chairs have been kindly donated for use outside. Everyone is very welcome to attend our 9.30am services. This year, the Harvest Festival will be held on September 24th at 9.30am. All donations are gratefully received, and will be taken to Emmaus.

Thank you all for your continued support.

Jan Croxson - Church Warden (tel.668630)

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 - August and September

6th August	Brockdish 9.30 am	Morning Prayer
13th August	Brockdish 9.30 am Thorpe Abbots 9.30 am	Morning Prayer Holy Communion
20th August	Brockdish 9.30 am	Holy Communion
27th August	Brockdish 9.30 am	Morning Prayer
3rd September	Brockdish 9.30 am	Morning Prayer
10th September	Brockdish 9.30 am Thorpe Abbots 9.30 am	Holy Communion Morning Prayer
17th September	Brockdish 9.30 am	Morning Prayer
24th September	Brockdish 9.30 am	Harvest Festival



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