

THE
Mardler
BROCKDISH & THORPE ABBOTTS



Edition No. 249 February - March 2024

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

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

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The views expressed in The Mardler are not necessarily those of the Editorial team. The Editor reserves the right to amend or alter any copy received.

BROCKDISH VILLAGE HALL TIMETABLE

Tuesday	Rest and Restore (7.00pm)
Wednesday	Art group (9.00am)
	Badminton (3.00pm & 5.00pm)
Thursday	Yoga (10.15am)
	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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Police	101
Harleston and Diss	
NHS Direct	111
Electricity Power Cuts	105
Gas Emergencies	0800 111 999
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South Norfolk Council	01508 533633
Brockdish Village Hall	01379 668874
<i>Bookings Jan Blundell</i>	
Thorpe Abbots Village Hall	01379 668663
<i>Bookings Robert Buck</i>	
Waveney Heritage Centre	01379 668285
Carpet Bowls Club	01379 668630
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<i>Clayton Hudson</i>	
South Norfolk County Councillor	01379 741504
<i>Martin Wilby</i>	
Parish Clerk	01379 308617
<i>Teresa Hines</i>	
South Norfolk Help Hub	01508 533633
	0845 269078
Waveney Food Bank	01379 870506

Welcome to this edition of The Mardler. A belated Happy 2024 to you all, in this year of elections. Who knows what the world will look like this time next year? After a very busy festive season, January seemed endlessly cold and dark. However, the bulbs are peeking through and it won't be long before spring (and hopefully the sunshine) is here. The Old Coach House Open Gardens are back in February and March with their spectacular spring floral displays. Please support this event which has raised thousands of pounds over the years for local charities. Why not make 2024 the year to try something new, whether that is helping with the Waveney Volunteers for Nature, joining the u3a or perhaps trying bowling? More details of how to join in, plus more events and activities are found inside the covers.

Rob Buck, Editor

REMEMBER

Closing date for entries in the April/May 2024 issue is **1st March 2024**. Articles received after this date **will not be included** in the next issue.



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Harleston Library - Celebrating 60 Years of Serving the Community

Tel: (01379) 852549, email Harleston.lib@libraries.norfolk.gov.uk

All of us at Harleston Library would like to wish you a very Happy New Year!

A big thank you to all of you who have already shared with us your memories of Harleston Library, but we still need more. Do you have any stories or photographs of Harleston Library that you would like to share? If so, please email us at the above address, or pop something through our door, we would love to hear from you! The library officially opened on 11th December 1963, but we have decided to tie our celebrations in with 'Library Lovers Month' which runs for the whole of February. On February 14th, we will be holding a 60th Anniversary celebration afternoon where you can come and see our display of 'Highlights in the History of Harleston Library'. Refreshments will be provided. More details of our special birthday will be in the next issue, and we will also keep you posted about our plans on our 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)

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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@s@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk.

Mobile Library

Visits Brockdish and Thorpe Abbots every 4 weeks on a Thursday. Next visits are the **22nd February** and **21st March 2024**.

Stopping at:

- Brockdish Grove Road, 12.10 pm
- Thorpe Abbots, Mill Road (opposite Westview), 12.35 pm

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Harleston and District u3a

How it all Began

Founded in 1982, the UK u3a movement aims to encourage groups of people no longer in full-time work to come together and continue their enjoyment of learning subjects of interest to them. u3a is a nationwide network of learning groups aimed at encouraging older people to share their knowledge, skills and interests in a friendly environment. There are no exams and no homework, just regular presentations or study groups. It's learning for fun, not with the aim of gaining qualifications.

Harleston & District u3a

Harleston and District has a monthly meeting (2pm every third Wednesday of the month) at St John the Baptist Church, Broad Street, Harleston, with an invited speaker. Over the years topics have included: 'The loves of Lord Nelson', 'The Bard on screen', 'The King of the Norfolk Poachers', 'Behind the scenes at Hi-de-Hi' and 'Exhibiting for the first time at Chelsea Flower Show', plus many, many more. As well as talks, there are smaller interest groups covering subjects such as art, board games, badminton, gentle exercise, play reading, poets and poetry, and swimming. In fact, anyone can start a group if they have at least one other person interested.

Want to Know More?

You can just turn up at a monthly meeting as a guest, to see how you like it. If you decide that you'd like to know more about us, you can speak to our Membership Secretary, Kim Poulton, or contact her via email kimpoulton2@gmail.com or phone 01986 788149.

Membership

The subscription fee is £14 per year, and our membership year commences on the 1st April. We charge members £2 per meeting (visitors £3) to cover the cost of the hire of the venue, speaker and refreshments.



Harleston and District u3a



Harleston and District talks for first part of 2024

All talks at 2pm at St John the Baptist Church, Harleston

21st February: Pat Alker, 'The Silk Road Cities of Uzbekistan'

Based on her travels in that area, with lots of photos of the stunning architecture and some reference to the current revival of the concept of the linking of Europe with the Far East, and all places in between.

20th March: 20th March: Stephen Jeffery-Poulter, 'Needham: a Small Village with a Big History'

Following the publication of his book, Stephen will be providing an insight into how the extensive historical research was conducted and provide examples of some of the human stories that he uncovered.

17th April: Jenny Mallin, 'Walking into Grandmother's kitchen at Christmas'

A nostalgic personal story of British Raj lifestyle, and in particular, the sharing of eastern and western culinary traditions.

15th May: Rachel Allum-Sindall, Onward Enterprises

The local Community Enterprise that offers training and job opportunities to local people who would struggle in mainstream employment.

19th June: Charlie Haylock, Charlie and 'The Dig'

The renowned speaker and voice coach, Charlie Haylock, will give us an insight into the making of the Netflix film 'The Dig', a film based on a novel of the same title about the famous Sutton Hoo burial ship. Charlie will show how Ralph Fiennes and the other actors learnt their Suffolk accents – and not sound like West Country pirates! Not to be missed.



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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 email philpoulton5@gmail.com.



Wortwell Bowls Club Open Day Sunday 7th April from 2.00 pm

Come along and give bowls a try. All equipment provided.

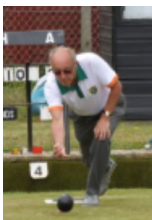
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*For further information contact
Chris Roberts 01986 781387*

RoughCast Spring Tour – Top Girls by Caryl Churchill **14th - 24th March**

Named by The Guardian as one of the 10 greatest plays of the 20th century, Caryl Churchill's groundbreaking play focuses on Marlene, the head of "Top Girls" employment agency, and explores the compromises that she has had to make to achieve her hugely successful career.

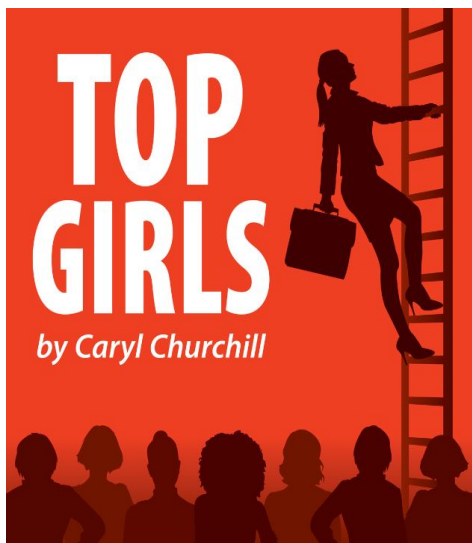
From a surreal and hilarious celebratory dinner party in a London restaurant with a cast of women from history and fiction, to a poignant confrontation between two sisters in a Suffolk kitchen, it is a highly entertaining exploration of the challenges faced by women throughout history and right up to the present day.

"A work of genius that never dates."

The Independent

(of the 2019 National Theatre revival)

- Thursday 14th March
Beccles Public Hall
- Friday 15th March
Halesworth
- Saturday 16th March
Laxfield Village Hall
- Thursday 21st March
Fisher Theatre, Bungay
- Friday 22nd March
Diss Corn Hall
- Saturday 23rd, Sunday 24th March
Wingfield Barns



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Borderhoppa Outings for February 2024

Monday 5th Feb: Stowmarket (Fare £15.00)

Monday 12th Feb: Lunch at The Four Horseshoes, Thornham Magna (Fare £8.00)

Thursday 15th Feb: Pennoyer Centre Coffee Morning, Pulham St. Mary (Fare £8.00)

Monday 19th Feb: Taverham Garden Centre, Norwich (Fare £18.00)

Thursday 22nd Feb: The Range and Lunch at the Copper Beech, Norwich (Fare £18.00)

Mon 26th Feb: Cherry Lane Garden Centre, Pulham (Fare £8.00)

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

Gardeners Question Time

**Thorpe Abbots Village Hall
Saturday 3rd February 7.30 pm**

Tickets £6

Includes Cuppa and Cake

Practical advice in a light hearted way from a panel of local experts.

Why not join us?

Raffle

**Tickets from Simon Beet 01379 668132 or
Chris McDonald on 01379 669116**

**Please book in advance to avoid disappointment!!
*Look forward to seeing you***

Wise Words

This verse was on a calendar I had sent to me over 30 years ago.

Every year that passes by, Has its
times of gladness
Life is not a round of joy, To all come
times of sadness
When fortune doesn't shine on us,
And everything seems drear
Then caring friends will help us, To
gain our strength and cheer

Elsie Frost



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Sunday 18th February and Monday 19th February

Sunday 25th February and Monday 26th February

11.00 am to 3.00 pm



Daffodils and Spring Flowers

Sunday 24th March and Monday 25th March

10.00 am to 4.00 pm



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Thorpe Abbots Village Hall Committee

Thorpe Abbots Village Hall
Committee give notice of an

Extraordinary General Meeting

to take place at

The Village Hall

**Wednesday 28th February at
7.00 pm**

Thorpe Abbots Village Hall Upcoming Events

Natter Mornings:

10.30am-12.00pm

- Thursday 1st February
- Thursday 1st March

Bar Nights: 6.30pm onwards

- Friday 23rd February



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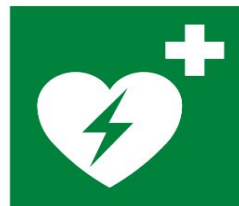
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Village Defibrillators

Brockdish defibrillator is located on the outside wall of Brockdish Village Hall. At the Village Hall there is a clothes bank. All proceeds from this go towards the running costs of the defibrillator.

Thorpe Abbots defibrillator is located outside the Village Hall.





Waveney Heritage Centre
www.waveneyheritage.com
www.waveneywireless.org
waveneyheritagecio@gmail.com
Registered Charity No. 119264t



On behalf of the Trustees of the Waveney Heritage Centre, I would like to wish you all a very Happy, Healthy and Peaceful New Year and to thank you all for the support you gave us during 2023.

The first six months of our Events List 2024 are as follows:

- **Wednesday 20th March, 7.30pm.** Robin Twigge: The Next Installment of the Life and Adventures of Robin Twigge.
- **Easter Monday, 1st April, 10.00am to 3.00pm.** Open Day. Treasures from our Archives “Do You Remember?” : trains, planes, cars, radios, books and Noddy. Why not revisit your childhood for a while? Not forgetting our famous BBQ and cakes.
- **Wednesday 17th April, 7.30pm.** Gordon Lascelles: Burgh Castle, The Open Secret. One of Britain’s best Roman ruins flanks our Waveney!
- **Wednesday 8th May, 7.30 pm.** Gary Alderton: WW2, the Home Guard and ARP.
- **Wednesday 22nd May, 6.30 pm.** A walk around Dickleburgh Moor with Ben Potterton, who will discuss the wildlife, flora, Bronze Age discoveries and the project with University College, London on the extent of the ancient lake.
- **Wednesday 5th June, 7.30 pm.** Rick Lewis: Traditional Carpentry Skills with Timber-Framed Buildings.
- **Saturday 8th June, 9.00 am to 12.00pm.** Annual Brockdish Village Garage Sale and BBQ.

We look forward to welcoming you to the Waveney Heritage Centre and remind you that our Radio Museum is open during the winter, on the last Sunday of each month from 10.30am to 3.00pm.

Jill Edwards - Trustee / Secretary

Village Notices

Book Launch: Needham – History of a Norfolk Village

Book Launch, talk and signing by author

Stephen Poulter

Sat 2nd March 2.30pm

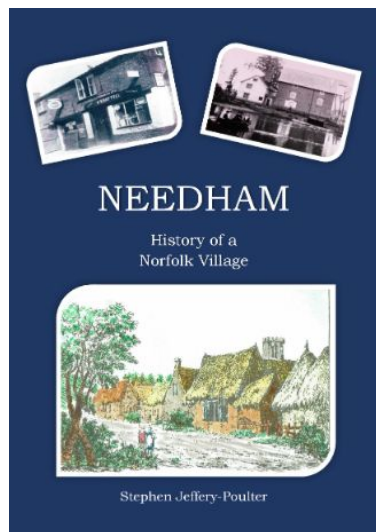
at Needham Parish Church

Weds 6th March 5.30pm

at Norfolk Record Office, Norwich

Author talk and signing with original documents from book on display. Book at Discount Price £17.99 (cash only)

Details at the Norfolk Archives and Heritage Development Foundation website



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Brockdish Thank You

The residents up the hill young and old were very impressed with the lovely Christmas tree. Thanks to Mr and Mrs Carpenter.

Shirley Pretty and Nancy Burrige

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Waveney Volunteers for Nature



So this is our happy band of volunteers, if you would like to join us in maintaining our commons you would be most welcome.

In the last issue, I was bemoaning the fact that despite Norfolk County Council, having long been allocated a lot of cash to prepare a 'Local Nature Recovery Strategy', we had seen nothing of it, nor had a response to our aspirations for the old school playing field. A chink of light now appears, in that we have been acknowledged as a 'stakeholder' in the Strategy process. So hopefully the door is slowly opening.

Another positive move, is that the Parish Council, as required under the Environment Act 2021, is preparing an Action Plan to "conserve and enhance biodiversity". This dovetails very nicely with the leading work of our group when we suggested that Brockdish become a Wildlife Friendly Village. The important point is that the issue will now be a regular part of the Parish Council agenda, and so a regular part of our community life. In all this, we are aware that Thorpe Abbots gets little mention, but we are hopeful that this will change in the future. All authorities are required to prepare a plan, so we will be looking to see what our District and County Councils are doing. If you are interested then come along to Parish Council meetings.

Progress has also been made with another of our ideas. A number of our group will soon become paid up members of BATAAA, the allotments group. We are happy to say that we have reached agreement to do some tree and wildflower planting on the verges of the allotment site. This will bring more biodiversity to the area adjoining the A143 by-pass which also links with a copse adjoining the allotments and so to the church yard where an area is being managed for wildlife. This is a good example of the way wildlife corridors can be created.

Derek Clark
Waveney Volunteers for Nature

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Bookings being taken for
2024 and 2025



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The Book Club recommends...

One way to shelve the Winter Blues would be to curl up with this heart warming book. Remember, if you would like to write a review of a favourite book, either fiction or nonfiction, you can email me at judecham@gmail.com.

Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby Van Pelt *Reviewed by Judith Chambers*

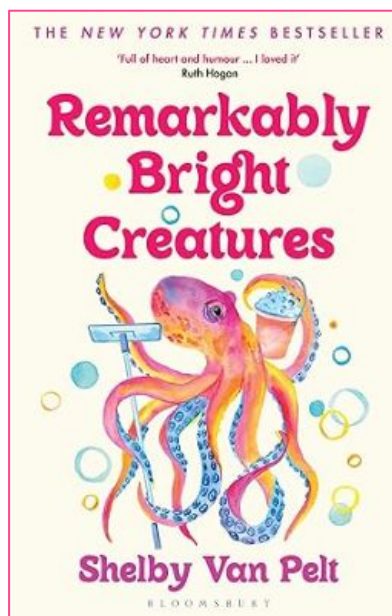
This book was recommended to me by a fellow book clubber, and I must admit, I was initially very sceptical about the fact that one of the main characters was an octopus.

The story centres around three main characters. Tova, an elderly lady, recently widowed, who, to offset her grief, works as a night time cleaner at the Maritime Museum in Sowell Bay. Tova has never recovered from the disappearance of her teenage son Erik three decades ago. Tova befriends Marcellus, a giant pacific Octopus, who lives at the Maritime Museum. Although he can't speak, he sees and hears everything, and uses his detective skills to solve problems.

And finally, Cameron, who is struggling to find his way in life. Brought up by his grandmother, he was abandoned by his mother and has never known his father. He decides to go in search of his father, in the hope that he will solve his problems.

This story is about grief, loss and friendship, a heartwarming and unlikely tale that shouldn't work but somehow does.

This is Shelby Van Pelt's debut novel, and I am already looking forward to her next book.



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Jokes

What happened to the cat that swallowed a ball of wool? *She had mittens*

What did the dentist say to the golfer? *You have a hole in one*

What do you call a whispering vegetable? *A hoarse radish*

What do you call a cat eating a lemon? *A sour puss*

Why do the French eat snails? *They hate fast food*

What do you call two banana skins on the floor? *A pair of slippers*



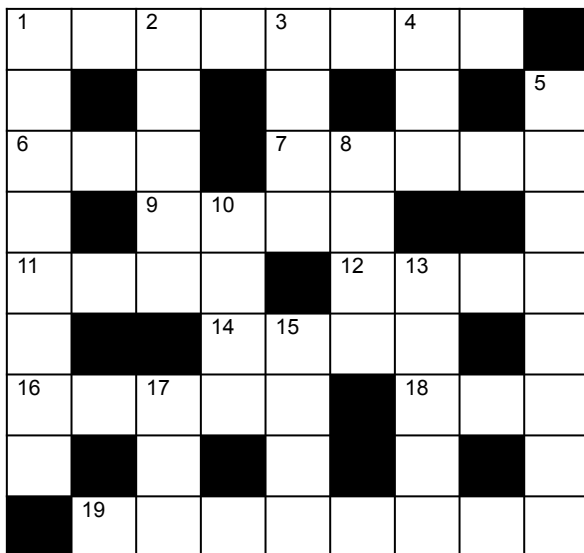
Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Be quiet (4,4)
6 Short cricket match (1,1,1)
7 Indian tea-producing region (5)
9 Soreness on the eyelid (4)
11 Urgent request (4)
12 Gain through effort (4)
14 Spellbound (4)
16 Mountain ash (5)
18 Stetson, e.g. (3)
19 Athletes who use a beam (8)

DOWN

- 1 Thrives (8)
2 Grace (5)
3 Brewer's cart (4)
4 - - - Anderson, movie director (3)
5 Derives (8)
8 Ooze out (4)
10 *Waking the Dead* actress, - - - - Fitzgerald (4)
13 Musketeer's name (5)
15 Soon (4)
17 Method (3)



Answers on page 28



A N D R E W S

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A message from Councillor Martin Wilby

Almost 15,000 people will be able to get free bus travel in Norfolk earlier in the day from 1st February. Norfolk County Council has announced that people living in the County, who hold a disabled concessionary bus travel pass, and eligible companions, will be able to travel within Norfolk for free at any time, seven days a week. Up until now, those concessionary pass holders had to wait until after 9.30am on weekdays before they could travel for free, apart from those people registered blind or visually impaired. This ensures they have access to work, education and leisure, and helps to combat the risks of social isolation which can be associated with having a disability.

A multi-million-pound proposal to modernise fire service buildings has been agreed at NCC in a bid to recruit more women. The proposal is part of ongoing infrastructure work to help improve the inclusivity of Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service (NFRS) buildings, and standardise the layouts of its buildings. Norfolk has the lowest proportion of female firefighters in England, and the provision of adequate facilities to support women into the profession is a key step in improving the situation. It is clear that fire stations are important buildings in their local communities, with pride and care taken in them by fire crews.

An extra £9m to tackle Norfolk potholes has been awarded to NCC for the next 2 years, with a total of £141m to be spent over the next decade. The government has said NCC will get this money from funds redirected after scrapping the northern leg of the HS2 high-speed rail line. The Department for Transport (DfT) said Norfolk will get £141.2m over the next 11 years to 2034, and Suffolk will get £107.6m. The government said it is up to local authorities how to spend the maintenance funding, but part of the reason for the increase in funding is so they can “improve the quality of road surfaces in the future”, rather just focus on fixing existing potholes.

NCC have revealed plans to change the number of preferences parents can list when applying for school places. The number is to increase to four from the existing three, and will be available for school applications made from

A message from Councillor Martin Wilby

2025. This change comes after more than 300 families missed out on one of their top three preferences for the current academic year.

Preparation work has started on the Long Stratton Bypass, with clearing the route ready for construction work to start in the spring.

NCC will set its budget for the financial year 2024/25 at the full council meeting, to be held on Tuesday 20th February.

Best Wishes

Martin

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New
Venue!

The Crafty Bombers

@ Brockdish Village Hall

The Crafty Bombers is a club for busy kids who like to do busy things!

Each month there is a themed session with a variety of activities. Refreshments included. Toys and games are also provided to keep younger children occupied.

- **Sunday 11th February**
Lunar New Year
(Year of the Dragon)
- **Sunday 17th March**
St Patrick's Day & Easter preparations



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!

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Brockdish and Thorpe Abbots Parish Council***Chairman: Christine Mackenzie (01379 668818)******Clerk: Teresa Hines (01379 308617)******Email: brockdishthorpeabbottspc@gmail.com*****Councillor Vacancy (co option)**

Are you interested in your local area? Would you like to represent your community? We currently have one vacancy (this is a voluntary role). For further information please contact Cllr MacKenzie (Chair) 01379 668818 or email brockdishthorpeabbottspc@gmail.com

Planning www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/planning**Applications: pending SNC decision**

- 2023/3184 Old Post Office, The Street, Thorpe Abbots Convert outbuilding to annexe. PC supports this application.
- 2023/3762 Willow Tree House, 34 The Street, Brockdish Replacement shed to side of driveway. PC supports this application.

Application Withdrawn:

- 2023/2744 Conversion of swimming pool to dwelling. Land North West of Thorpe Abbots Place, The Street, Thorpe Abbots

Dates of next scheduled meetings

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

- Thursday 29th February 2024, 7.00 pm at Thorpe Abbots Village Hall
- Thursday 28th March 2024, 7.00 pm at WHC, Brockdish
- No scheduled meeting is held during April

Answers to crossword

Across 1 Pipe down 6 ODI 9 Styne 11 Plea 12 Earn 14 Rapt 16 Rowan 18 Hat 19 Gymnasts

Down 1 Prospers 2 Poise 3 Dray 4 Wes 5 Emanates 8 Seep 10 Tara 13 Athos 15 Anon 17 Way

Speeding Report October – December 2023

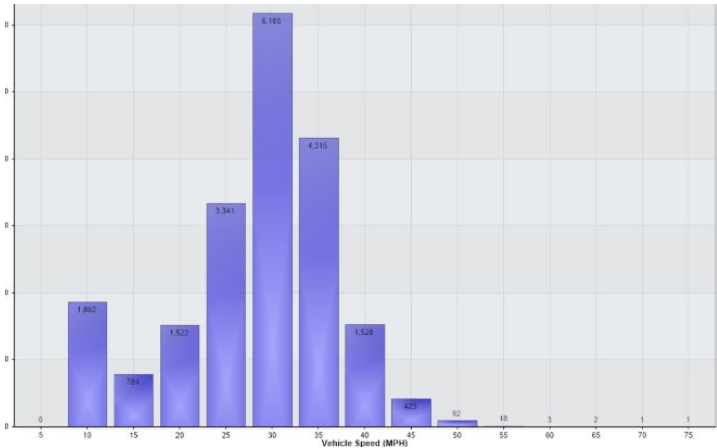
The SAM2 Speed Sign was in place in Brockdish for the following dates:

- Grove Road: 7th October 2023 to 11th November 2023
- Scole Road: 11th November 2023 to 1st December 2023
- The Street: 1st December 2023 to 20th December 2023

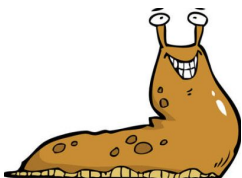
The SAM2 is designed to record data for approximately 60 days at a time, deleting the earlier data as it moves forward in time. In this case, we have 65 days of data, with a start date of October 17th. The total number of vehicles recorded during this time was 20,094.

In October, the time of day with the highest average speed was between 5.00 - 6.00 pm, with a speed of 33.6 mph. In November, it was between midnight and 1.00 am with 39.5 mph, and during December it was between 5.00 - 6.00 am with 40.3mph. It is worth noting that between 7.00 - 8.00 am in December, average speeds were 36.6mph. In November, it was 38.5 mph between 5.00 - 6.00 am and 37.5 mph between 7-8am.

Overall, 6382 vehicles were speeding, which was 31.7% of vehicles. 540 vehicles (2.68%) were travelling at over 40 mph, and 25 vehicles travelled at over 50 mph.



The Gardener's Hymn



All things bright and beautiful
All creatures great and small
All things wise and wonderful
The Lord God made them all

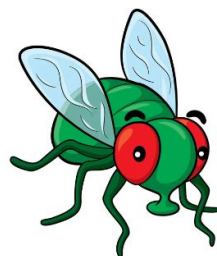


But what we never mention, though gardeners know it's true
Is when he made the goodies, he made the baddies too



Chorus:

*All things spray and swatable,
Disasters great and small
All things paraquatable
The Lord God made them all*



The green fly on the roses, the maggots in the peas
Manure that fills our noses, he also gave us these (*Chorus*)

The fungus on the goose-gogs, the club root on the greens
The slugs that eat the lettuce and chew the aubergines (*Chorus*)

The drought that kills the fuchsias, the frost that nips the buds
The rain that drowns the seedlings, the blight that hits the spuds (*Chorus*)

The midges and mosquitoes, the nettles and the weeds
The pigeons in the green stuff, the sparrows on the seeds (*Chorus*)

The fly that gets the carrots, the wasp that eats the plums
How black the gardeners outlook, though green may be his thumbs (*Chorus*)

But still we gardeners labour, midst vegetables and flowers
And pray what hits our neighbours, will somehow bypass ours (*Chorus*)

Winter Warmers

Frozen Veg Minestrone (serves 4)

200g short pasta of your choice
 1 onion, roughly chopped
 Olive oil for frying
 400g can chopped tomatoes
 2 vegetable stock cubes
 2 handfuls of frozen veg of your choice
 Toasted crusty bread to serve



Whilst cooking the pasta, fry the onion in a little oil until soft. Tip in the tomatoes, season and crumble in the stock cubes. Add the frozen veg, and simmer for 5 mins. Stir in the pasta and a mug or two of the cooking water – depending on how thick you like it. Season with plenty of black pepper and serve.



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Winter Warmers

Slow baked clotted cream rice pudding (serves 4)

25g butter, plus extra for the dish
100g short grain pudding rice
450 ml whole milk
284 ml double cream
227g clotted cream
1 split vanilla pod
85g golden caster sugar
Grated nutmeg



Heat the oven to 180°C / 160°C fan / gas 4. Lightly butter a shallow ovenproof dish. Wash the rice well.

Put the milk and both creams with the vanilla pod, and bring to the boil. Add the rice and sugar. Put the mixture into the dish, grate on nutmeg and dot with knobs of butter. Bake for 15 minutes, then lower the oven to 160°C / 140°C fan / gas 3. Bake for 1 hour, by which time the pudding should be golden brown on top and creamy underneath.

Serve with spoonfuls of jam.

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I'm Fine, Thank You

There is nothing the matter with me
I'm as healthy as I can be
I have arthritis in both my knees
And when I talk, I talk with a wheeze.



Sleep is denied me night after night
But every morning I find I'm alright
My memory is failing, my head's in a spin
But I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in.

How do I know my youth is all spent?
Well my "get up and go" has got up and went
But I really don't mind when I think with a grin
Of all the grand places my "get up" has bin.

"Old age is golden" I've heard it said
But sometimes I wonder as I get into bed
With my ears in the drawer, my teeth in a cup
Ere sleep overtakes me, I say to myself
"Is there anything else I can lay on the shelf?"



When I was young my slippers were red,
I could kick my heels over my head
When I was older my slippers were blue
But I could still dance the whole night through
Now I am older my slippers are black
I walk to the store and puff my way back



I get up each morning and dust off my wits
And pick up the paper and read the "Obits"
If my name is still missing I know I'm not dead
So I have a good breakfast – and face what's ahead!

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Ramblings from The Rectory

By Rev. Nigel Tuffnell

February and March mark the end of winter and the beginning of spring, despite what the weather might say to the contrary! For me, it is about the amount of light and the flowers that come through. It is about the change in birdsong and the return of the frogs. Blackbird nests start to appear in late February and early March, although some wait until later March. Other birds wait until April before risking their eggs, but March definitely sees a real change in the behaviour of the birds that I see in my garden and round about. Even the air seems to feel and smell different, as winter leaves and spring begins.

February for me marks a major turning point in the year. I see it in nature. I also see it in the life of the Church. Lent starts on 14th February, a time of inner reflection and self-examination. Lent is a time to look at those parts of ourselves that we prefer to avoid. We look so that we can see ourselves honestly, and so be better equipped to be the person we would like to be. Whether you have a faith or not, I would recommend the discipline of reflection that the time of Lent offers.

Lent continues for a month and a half, then Easter starts on 31st March. Easter Day is the most important day in the Christian Year, the day upon which we believe all our hope is focused. However, if you do not share my faith, Easter can mark the beginning of celebrations to mark the end of a time of self-examination. It is a time to be thankful for all that we have learned about ourselves, and start to work on being the best person that we can be. For me, that involves calling on help from the Holy Spirit. I find that extra help invaluable.

March marks the start of spring. Of new beginnings and new hope. New beginnings and hope for our lives, as well as for the natural world.

God bless,

Nigel

All Saints Church, Thorpe Abbots



Firstly, and most importantly, a huge thank you for your support to our Christmas Food Bank Appeal. This winter was one of the Food Bank's busiest. More people than ever were being driven to ask for help, and the sharp increase in people needing this help was outstripping food donations. You will have seen on the TV just how many families needed support over the Christmas period due to the economic environment in which we currently find ourselves. Donations left with Simon, Chris or dropped off at the Carol Service came to an amazing 92kg, which was very kindly dropped off at Eye by Anne.

We had a busy time over Christmas, with the Carol and Christingle service on the 10th December. This annual event is always popular, and it remained so this year, with a well-filled Church of all ages. The youngsters did an amazing job with all the readings, and were fully involved with bringing up the Crib figures and the presentation of the Christingles. The evening was concluded with festive fare and mulled wine, which went down very well indeed. It was our turn for the midnight service taken by Sue Auckland. Whilst it may mean a little bit of a late finish to Christmas Eve, it was a lovely service, where we sang some different carols as we brought in Christmas Day.

You will see the poster for our Gardeners Question time on 3rd February. This is a fun evening where we question our panel of experts in preparation for the spring and another growing season. Talking of the growing season, you will be pleased to hear that the first of the 3 different types of snowdrops has appeared in the Churchyard. The Giant (or Turkish) is the largest and earliest to appear, generally early January. True to form there it is, to be followed shortly by the yellow aconites.

Brockdish Church

An update on the proposed work at the Church. We have been able to achieve two grants towards the cost of repairs, and are now almost fully funded. We just await clearance from the “bat people” to start on the roof.

It has been a joy to see the Churchyard full of Christmas floral tributes, but a gentle reminder and request that all Christmas wreaths be removed by the end of February. Any remaining after this date will be removed.

The build up to Christmas was very pleasurable with a coffee morning and a brass band concert. It was really great to see so many people from the village getting together and sharing joy. The Carol Service in the Church was a great success. The Church looked at its best, with 401 candles alight.

The next quiz will be 9th March. Get those thinking heads on for a fun evening - not at all competitive! Give me a ring to book a table.

Jan Croxson - Church Warden (tel.668630)



Quiz Night
Saturday 9th March 2024
Brockdish Village Hall
7.30pm for 8pm start



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



All proceeds towards Brockdish Church
Please call Jan Croxson (tel. 668630) to reserve a table

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 Abbotts Contact	Christine McDonald - 01379 669116

Church Service Times - February and March 2024

4th February	Brockdish 9.30 am	Morning Prayer
11th February	Brockdish 9.30 am Thorpe Abbotts 9.30 am	Holy Communion Morning Prayer
18th February	Brockdish 9.30 am	Morning Prayer
25th February	Brockdish 9.30 am	Holy Communion
3rd March	Brockdish 9.30 am	Morning Prayer
10th March	Brockdish 9.30 am	Morning Prayer Holy Communion
17th March	Brockdish 9.30 am	Holy Communion
24th March	Brockdish 9.30 am	Morning Prayer
26th March <i>Holy Tuesday</i>	Brockdish 9.30 am	Congregation Reading Luke's Gospel
27th March <i>Holy Wednesday</i>	Thorpe Abbotts 6.30 pm	Evening Devotions
29th March <i>Good Friday</i>	Brockdish 11.30 am Thorpe Abbotts 3.30 pm	Devotional Half Hour Devotional Half Hour
31st March <i>Easter Sunday</i>	Brockdish 9.30 am Thorpe Abbotts 9.30 am	Holy Communion Holy Communion



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