

THE *Mardler*

BROCKDISH & THORPE ABBOTTS



Edition No. 250 April - May 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 (10.00am) 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 Harleston and Diss	101
NHS Direct	111
Electricity Power Cuts	105
Gas Emergencies	0800 111 999
Anglian Water	03457 145 145
South Norfolk Council	01508 533633
Brockdish Village Hall <i>Bookings Jan Blundell</i>	01379 668874
Waveney Heritage Centre	01379 668285
Carpet Bowls Club <i>Peter Croxson</i>	01379 668630
Art Club <i>Sue Hughes</i>	01379 855414
Badminton <i>Roger Woodrow</i>	01379 669016
Yoga <i>Belinda</i>	07856 216735
Rest and Restore Class <i>Janet</i>	07951 714477
South Norfolk District Councillor <i>Clayton Hudson</i>	01379 676259
South Norfolk County Councillor <i>Martin Wilby</i>	01379 741504
Parish Clerk <i>Teresa Hines</i>	01379 308617
South Norfolk Help Hub	01508 533633 0845 269078
Waveney Food Bank	01379 870506

Welcome to this spring edition of The Mardler. As the sun comes out, we can all look forward to being outside more. It's useful to know that the 13th of May marks the start of Mental Health Awareness Week, and this year's theme is 'Movement; moving more for mental health.' So get out, and enjoy this beautiful part of the world in which we live! In isolated rural communities such as ours, looking after ourselves and each other is incredibly important. In fact, little acts of kindness are scientifically proven to release oxytocin, the hormone that makes you feel happy. It also reduces blood pressure and protects your heart's health. So, not only is being kind good for your health, but it can make a huge difference to someone's day.

Rob Buck, Editor

REMEMBER

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

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Harleston Library

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

The beginning of April sees the return of our popular 'Meet the Author' events. On Saturday 6th April, we will be welcoming walking enthusiast John Arnett, author of the popular books 'By the Waveney' and 'Waveney Walks'. John's talk will include a fun quiz on the Waveney Valley area, so bring your thinking caps. On Monday 29th April, we welcome our four-legged friends as our weekly 'Just a Cuppa' is going to be a 'Make Every Cuppa Count' event to raise much needed funds for the Guide Dogs. Please come along and share the fun, meet the dogs and hear about the amazing work that they do. All welcome.

Dates for your Diary *(all activities are free of charge with refreshments available)*

- Mondays 2.00pm-3.00pm: 'Just a Cuppa'. Come and join us for refreshment and lively conversation
- Mondays 3.30pm-4.30pm: LEGO Club
- Wednesday 3rd April 2.00pm-3.00pm: Meet and Make (Adults)
- Wednesday 3rd April 3.30pm-4.30pm: Family Fun (Accompanied children aged 4+)
- Saturday 6th April 2.00pm onwards: 'Meet the Author' with John Arnett. Refreshments provided
- Wednesday 10th April 1.30pm-3.00pm: Knit, Stitch and Chat
- Wednesday 10th April 2.00pm-4.00pm: Easter Holidays Family Fun (Accompanied children aged 4+)
- Wednesday 17th April 2.00pm-3.00pm: Meet and Make (Adults)
- Wednesday 17th April 3.30pm-4.30pm: Family Fun (Accompanied children aged 4+)
- Wednesday 24th April 1.30pm-3.00pm: Knit, Stitch and Chat
- Monday 29th April 2.00pm-4.00pm: 'Make Every Cuppa Count' Guide Dogs event

Harleston Library

Opening Hours:

The library is CLOSED Monday 1st April (Easter Monday).

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)

Bringing the Library to You

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

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

Mobile Library

Visits Brockdish and Thorpe Abbotts every 4 weeks on a Thursday. Next visits are the **18th April** and **16th May 2024**.

Stopping at:

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



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Harleston and District u3a



Harleston and District talks for first part of 2024

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

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.

An Evening with Author Colin Sutton - Thank you

A massive thank you to Don Mackenzie for organising this fantastic evening, and of course, Colin, for relaying his crime-catching memoirs in such an engaging manner. A great evening was had by all.

Colin has very generously donated the proceeds of the evening, which will be split equally between Brockdish Church, Thorpe Abbots Church, and COPS, a charity that cares for the families of police officers who have lost their lives on duty. £164 will be given to each.



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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.

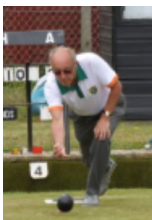
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*For further information contact
Chris Roberts 01986 781387*

Village Notices

Brockdish and Thorpe Abbots Allotment Association

BATAAA is run by a 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 (250m²) and half (125m²) plots available, and there is water on site.

To find out more about the allotments or to check plot availability please email Rebecca at bataaa@hotmail.co.uk or ring Roy on 01379 854868.

Brockdish Carpet Bowls

By the time you read this we will have played our last match in the Waveney Winter League, and we're looking forward to the club's participation in the Summer League, from April until August.

In the meantime, roll-ups continue at Brockdish Village Hall on Thursday evenings (excluding home match nights) at 7.15pm for a 7.30 start. Everyone is welcome: we are a friendly club, and always delighted to see new bowlers who want to come and have a go!

Peter Croxson (tel.668630)

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Borderhoppa, a registered not for profit charity, provides a range of community services to more than 50 parishes in South Norfolk and North Suffolk, including those in Diss, Harleston, Long Stratton, Eye, Stradbroke and surrounding parishes.

We are looking for more volunteer drivers and trustees to support our vital community transport service. Tom Clarke, Borderhoppa manager, said “Our services really do provide a lifeline for some of the most vulnerable people in our community, so anyone who can help us would be making a positive contribution to local life. If you have some spare time and would be interested in helping us, we would love to hear from you”.

Volunteers would be trained to occasionally drive the group’s minibuses for its much-used outings service. We run many popular, weekly outings for members throughout the year, including trips to the coast, garden centres, pub lunches, shopping trips and boat trips.

Our door to door dial-a-ride service allows people of all ages who cannot access other forms of transport to carry out everyday tasks such as shopping, attend GP appointments, visit friends and relatives or to attend a local club/community group. This includes those with restricted mobility and the rurally isolated.

If you are a member of a local not-for-profit community group, you can hire the minibuses for outings. Go to destinations of your choice, visit your favourite places and enjoy shopping trips.

For a copy of the 2024 outings leaflet, and for any other information regarding the services we provide, please call the office: 01379 854800, email: adminborderhoppa@btconnect.com or visit our website: borderhoppa.org.uk.

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Thorpe Abbotts Litter Pick

20th April 2024

11.00 am

Meet at the
Village Hall



want to be a

Monday Mingler

then come along to
Brockdish Village Hall
Monday afternoons
2.00 pm 'til 4.00 pm
and play

Scrabble, Mexican Train, Canasta,
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How to play Cricket

You have two sides, one out in the field and one in.

Each man that's in the side that's in goes out, and when he's out he comes in, and the next man goes in until he's out.

When a man goes out to go in, the men who are out, try to get him out, and when he is out, he goes in, and the next man in goes out and goes in.

When they are all out, the side that's out comes in, and the side that's been in goes out and tries to get those coming in, out.

Sometimes there are men still in and not out. There are two men called umpires who stay out all the time and decide when the men who are in, are out.

When both sides have been in, and all the men are out (including those not out), then the game is finished.

And you thought the football offside rule was complicated!



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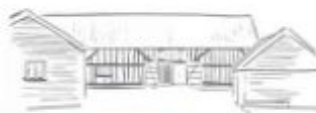
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St Peter and St Paul Brockdish

Spring Tidy



Up!

Can you spare a little time on

Saturday 27th April

between 10.00 and 12.00

to help tidy up our beautiful church
and churchyard?

All help will be much appreciated.
Please bring your gardening gloves!

Coffee and cake will be available to
give us a chance to chat!

*Further information from
Ann Cork tel. 668635*

Brockdish Litter Pick

27th April 2024

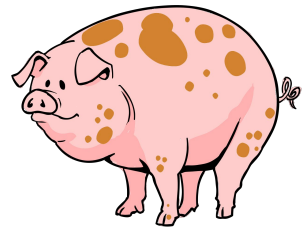
11.00 am

Meet at the
Village Green



Ponder on the Imponderables

- Do infants enjoy infancy as much as some adults enjoy adultery?
- If a pig loses its voice, is it disgruntled?
- If love is blind why is lingerie so popular?
- Why is the man who invests all his money called a broker?
- When cheese gets its picture taken what does it say?
- Why is a person who plays the piano called a pianist, but a person who drives a racing car not called a racist?
- Why are a wise man and a wise guy opposites?
- Why do overlook and oversee mean opposite things?



Mental Health Awareness Week **13th-19th May 2024**

Mental Health Awareness Week happens every year, and it's the biggest opportunity for the whole of the UK to come together to focus on getting good mental health. The week aims to tackle stigma and help people understand and prioritise their and others' mental health. This year's theme is 'Movement: Moving more for mental health'.



Mental Health Awareness Week began in 2001, and has evolved to focus on preventing mental health problems. Mental Health Awareness Week is vital in increasing public understanding of mental health and how mental health problems can be prevented. After years of being ignored, hidden away, and not being spoken about, Mental Health Awareness Week makes sure that mental health remains at the centre of the public conversation. Above all, it keeps up the pressure for government policy change so that we collectively prioritise the UK's mental health, prevent mental health problems and take action to make sure we live in a society that values and promotes good mental health for all.

Please go to www.mentalhealth.org.uk for more information about mental health and how to support mental health awareness week. If you are worried about yourself or someone in the community, then there are several places to turn to:

- Your GP
- NHS urgent mental health helpline - telephone 111
- Samaritans - telephone 116123
- Shout crisis text line - text 85258
- Childline - telephone 0800 1111 (for under 19 years of age)

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Village Defibrillators

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

Thorpe Abbots defibrillator is located outside the Village Hall.



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Waveney Heritage Centre
www.waveneyheritage.com
www.waveneywireless.org
waveneyheritagecio@gmail.com
Registered Charity No. 1192646



A gentle reminder of our Events List for the first half of 2024.

- **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 on the last Sunday of each month from 10.30am to 3.00pm.

Jill Edwards - Trustee / Secretary



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Waveney Volunteers for Nature

We are delighted that we have a few new members from local communities and the good work of improving our commons continues despite the poor weather. Our message is as ever: if you want to get involved then contact me or find us on Facebook.



Here is early warning of two events coming up this summer. On Saturday June 29th, we are holding a Family Day based on Fore Dale Common, and also in the adjoining Waveney Heritage Centre. The event will be part of the Norfolk Wildlife Trust's Commons Week. Our aim is to make it a fun day for all ages: so there will be activities for children, displays by other related groups and some informative walks and talks. We hope people will enjoy finding out more about our beautiful common and the fascinating wildlife living on it. So, bring a picnic and enjoy some time in our lovely countryside. More details in the next (June/July) Mardler.

This summer we are also organising a photographic competition. Everyone, (you don't have to be a member) will be invited to submit a wildlife photo taken within the local area. There will be under 18 and 18+ classes, with a trophy and a prize for winners of both classes. Again, there will be full details in the next Mardler, but that doesn't stop you snapping now if you spot something special.

Derek Clark

Waveney Volunteers for Nature

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The Book Club recommends...

Thank you to Ben Poole for this edition's review. 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.

The Time Traveller's Guide to Medieval England

by Ian Mortimer

Published in 2008, this book has sold over 250,000 copies in the UK, and it's a jolly guide to fourteenth century England written in the present tense. Chapter titles include "The Medieval Character", "What to Eat" and "Health and Hygiene": This isn't your grandma's history book! It's enthralling, yet also meticulously researched and very well written.

Mortimer takes the reader by the hand and into the towns, cities and villages of medieval England. We cross putrid brooks outside city walls, take in the sights, sounds and smells of street life, look at fields stripped of hedgerows and divided into "selions", and we find out what it is like to be a villein, a merchant or a lord in these times.

This is a book that covers so much of the age: architecture, horrors, justice (and injustice), customs and fashion, the tonsured clergy, what it is to be a "peasant", and more – all in such engaging detail.

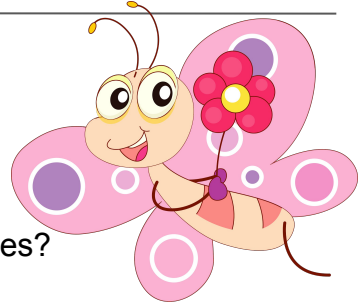


Jokes

What kind of dog lives in Dracula's castle?
A Bloodhound

Did you hear about the Hyenas that ate Oxo cubes?
They were laughing stock of Africa.

Why didn't the butterfly go to the dance? *It was a moth ball.*



Missing Links

Each clue has three words which have a fourth word in common.

1. Eaten, Gypsy, Silk
2. Mother, Quake, Worm
3. Council, Guest, Warming
4. Admiral, End, Guard
5. Hand, Out, Milk
6. Green, Hall, Idiot
7. Cake, Hell's, Guardian
8. Jack, Prawn, Safe
9. Cold, Hard, Pad
10. Bird, Fish, Storm

Answers on page 26

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A message from Councillor Martin Wilby

I recently attended the official opening of the Herring Bridge (third river crossing) in Gt Yarmouth. The bridge now provides a long awaited direct link between the A47 at Harfrey's roundabout, and the port and enterprise zone on the other side of the River Yare. The bridge will ease traffic congestion on the town's roads and shorten journey times for all modes of travel, as well as supporting wider plans to maximise investment, regeneration and economic growth opportunities across the Great Yarmouth region. Construction work started in January 2021 after many years of work and planning, to realise the long-held aspirations of local people. Shortly afterwards, the world became gripped in the Covid-19 pandemic, which continues to change all of our lives to this day. In February 2022, work was disrupted again by the discovery of an unexploded World War 2 bomb, which eventually detonated on the site and made the half-finished bridge famous around the globe. Thankfully, no one was harmed, and we are forever in debt to the emergency services personnel who supported us during this time. The project has supported hundreds of construction jobs and training placements in the local area. Over £20m has been spent within 30 miles of Great Yarmouth, and over 3,000 young people have been engaged through the project, inspiring the engineers of the future.

A contractor has been selected to undertake the construction of the Long Stratton bypass, in what is the latest step in the long-awaited project. The job of building the route has been given to Octavius Infrastructure, with construction work on the estimated £46.9 million road expected to begin in the spring. Approximately 2.4 miles long, it will help to ease traffic congestion, with the single carriageway bypassing the town to the east, before rejoining the existing A140. The road will not only solve the transport issues caused by the bottleneck on the A140, which is a major local route, but also open up improvements for cycling and walking in and around the town. Once in place, the scheme will cut congestion, unlock economic growth and improve journey times across the county. Construction work is expected to take 18 months to complete, with the road open to traffic by the end of 2025.

A message from Councillor Martin Wilby

Norfolk County Council and the Royal Norfolk Agricultural Association have launched the new Norfolk Rural Business Awards. The awards were launched at the recent annual Norfolk Farming Conference and are designed to recognise the essential nature and huge importance of Norfolk's rural communities and businesses to the region. Farmers, young farmers, winemakers, brewers, food producers, agri-tech companies, businesses with close rural connections, and rural community groups are all part of the rural community. With more than nine different categories from best emerging talent to best farming innovation adopter, it is anticipated these new awards will celebrate exceptional talent and businesses. The entry form for nominations to each category can be found online at: www.norfolk.gov.uk/business/norfolk-rural-business-awards. Entry deadline is 19th April 2024. Judging will include a visit to all shortlisted businesses.

NCC's Bus Service Improvement Plan has so far increased the number of bus passenger journeys in Norfolk by 16% on last year. The £49.5m grant from central government has so far been used to launch 12 new bus routes and increase services on 32 others. With the £2 bus price cap also in place till later this year, it's a good time to use the bus.

Finally, a big congratulations to Harleston Library on celebrating their 60th Birthday. There is so much on offer at all of our libraries and you are always sure of a very warm welcome from the staff.

Best Wishes

Martin

Answers to Missing Links: 1.Moth 2.Earth 3.Horse 4.Rear 5.Shake 6.Village 7.Angel 8.Cracker 9.Shoulder 10.Tropical

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. Suitable from preschool to tweens! Refreshments included. Toys and games are also provided to keep younger children occupied.

ALL SESSIONS 10.30 am - 12.00 pm

- **Sunday 14th April**
Under the Sea
- **Sunday 12th May**
Out of this World



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). To request further information, please see contact details as above.

Planning (www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/planning)**Applications: pending PC & SNC decisions.**

- 2024/0278 Land North West of Thorpe Abbots Place, The Street, Thorpe Abbots. Conversion of agricultural building to dwelling.
- 2024/0506 34 The Street, Brockdish. Conversion of single garage to art studio.
- 2024/0066 Waveney Vale, Common Lane, Brockdish. First floor side extension.

Decisions: Supported by PC and approved by SNC

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

Speeding in Brockdish

The Speeding sub-committee of the PC welcomes contributions from members of the public. Those with opinions and suggestions in relation to traffic calming, please email brockdishthorpeabbottspc@gmail.com.

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 April
- Thursday 23rd May 2024 7pm at WHC, Brockdish
- Thursday 27th June 2024 7pm at Thorpe Abbots Village Hall



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SATURDAY 7.30AM - 1PM

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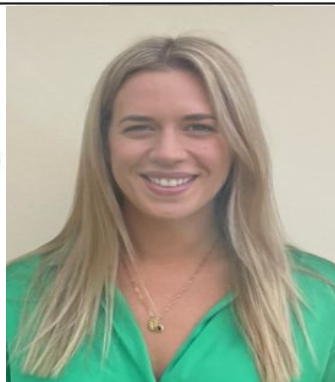
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House Plants

How often you need to water house plants depends on a host of different factors, including light, humidity and temperature levels.

It is important to check if the plant actually needs watering. Even if the surface is bone dry, the compost lower down may be moist. If the compost is dry at the roots it is time to water.



Most plants will tolerate tap water, but collected rain water is more beneficial as it contains less mineral salts, which can cause root damage. Just ensure that the rain water is at room temperature.

It is more effective to water plants by taking them to the sink or plastic basin. Pour plenty of water through the compost then leave the plant for 30-60 mins to soak up as much water as it needs. This helps to prevent root rot by not leaving the plant in a container standing in excess water.

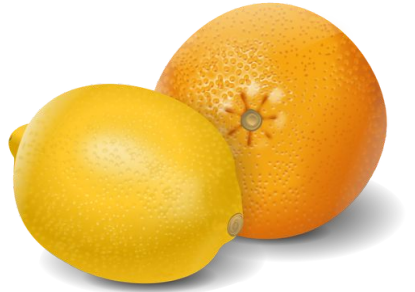
Plants left to dry out too much can show stress by developing brown edges to the leaves, or curling inwards. If water runs through the pot and out of the drainage holes with little or no moisture being absorbed, check to see if the plant is pot bound.



Something Fruity

Marmalade Pork Chops. serves 4.

175 g lemon marmalade
100 ml soy sauce
4 large pork chops
Salt and pepper



Preheat oven to 180°C / 350°F / Gas 4.

In a bowl, stir marmalade and soy sauce.

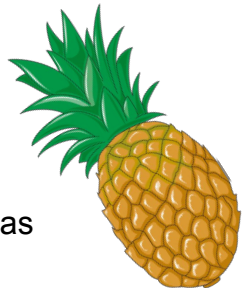
Place chops in an oven proof pan.

Season well, and then pour over sauce.

Cover with foil and cook for 1 hour. Serve with rice.

Caribbean Pudding

1 Lyons ginger cake
Rum
2 tins of mandarin or pineapple chunks, or 3 bananas
1 pint double cream
1 pint custard



Slice the cake into a 2 pint serving dish.

Soak with the rum to moisten, and sprinkle over the fruit.

Whip the cream with equal amounts of custard. Spread the cream / custard mixture over the fruit. Chill for several hours or overnight. Serve and enjoy!



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Ramblings from The Rectory

By Rev. Nigel Tuffnell

I like riddles. I'm not good at solving them but I do like riddles. An easy one from "The Hobbit":

*A box without hinges, key or lid,
Yet golden treasure inside is hid.*

Answer: (an egg)

Another riddle, that I found online:

*What is greater than God,
More evil than the devil,
The poor have it,
The rich think they need it,
And if you eat it, you'll die?*

Answer: (see the end of this article)

I'm sure anyone reading this could add their own personal lines to that second riddle. I'd add, "What's more fun than a bike?" or "What's better than a pint?" What would you add? Perhaps, "What's more crazy than starting a war?" If I want more riddles, I just have to look out of the window. As I write this I have no idea what April will bring, but if it is as strange and unpredictable as the weather so far, anything could happen. And May, the start of summer, what will that be like? Snow storms?

I may not be able to fathom the rhythm of the weather. As I often say, "I'm in sales, not management!" I may feel helpless when faced with the strange and extreme weather we keep getting. Still, when I look around at this amazing world and the people that I meet, I know there is hope. I believe that all people are made in the image of God. That image may be dirty and hidden in some, but it is there. So part of my

Ramblings from The Rectory

job is to see that of God in the people around me. With most of you it is easy, but with some people, I must admit, it can be hard. With Easter just past and with the great Christian festivals of Ascension and Whitsun (Pentecost) coming in May, I also believe that there is a way for that image of God in me to shine brightly. That's why I seek to follow Jesus. Not because I am better than others but because I want to be better than I am. I want hope for the future; for myself and those around me.

Whatever else April and May bring for you, I hope and pray for a bright future for all in Brockdish and Thorpe Abbots. Oh, and that second riddle. The answer if you haven't got it yet is, "Nothing".


God bless,

Nigel



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All Saints Church, Thorpe Abbotts**The Spring**

The Gardeners Question Time in the Village Hall at the beginning of February was a great success and much enjoyed by all who came. A huge thank you to those who provided the lovely cakes, and of course, Mary and Gary, who masterminded the evening and provided all the horticultural expertise, along with the very knowledgeable Andy Bailey from Diss Garden Centre.

During January and February, the Churchyard was full of the earliest of our flowers, with both snowdrops and aconites in abundance. As the snowdrops faded, the flower scene was taken over by the daffodils which to my mind marks the early start of spring proper. There is then a small gap until the appearance of the meadow saxifrage in mid April. This is a declining species, once common in hay meadows, with its current stronghold in the east of England. Most are now only found in churchyards, and we are pleased to say that All Saints is particularly blessed with a very healthy population. An interesting fact: an infusion of meadow saxifrage was traditionally used in the t

By the time you read this, we will have celebrated Easter, which was early this year. We hope that many of you managed to attend the services throughout the Benefice during Holy Week in the lead up to Easter Sunday. It goes without saying, that a warm welcome will await should you like to join us for future services.

Simon Beet



Brockdish Church

Firstly, a thank you to those that removed Christmas wreaths from the graves by February. It was a huge help. Some work has been carried out in the Churchyard when weather permitted; dead trees have been removed for health and safety reasons, and two new apple trees have been planted in their place. These were gifted to the Church, for which we are most grateful. Plant containers have been replanted, and other bushes trimmed. Roll on the better weather when the grass can be cut.

Work started on the interior north wall of the Church in March. This will have caused some disruption, for which we apologise, but it was necessary.

Thank you to all those who continue to support church events. It is heartwarming to have so many people together having fun and enjoying each others company.

Jan Croxson - Church Warden (tel.668630)



Quiz Night
Saturday 11th May 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
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Church Contacts

Minister in Charge	Revd Nigel Tuffnell
www.7churches.org.uk	rector@7churches.org.uk
Benefice Administrator	Mon to Fri 9.15am to 1pm
admin@7churches.org.uk	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 - April and May 2024

7th April	Brockdish 9.30 am	Morning Prayer
14th April	Brockdish 9.30 am	Morning Prayer
	Thorpe Abbotts 9.30 am	Morning Prayer
21st April	Brockdish 9.30 am	Holy Communion
28th April	Brockdish 9.30 am	Morning Prayer
5th May	Brockdish 9.30 am	Morning Prayer
12th May	Brockdish 9.30 am	Morning Prayer
	Thorpe Abbotts 9.30 am	Holy Communion
19th May	Brockdish 9.30 am	Holy Communion
26th May	Brockdish 9.30 am	Holy Communion



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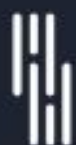


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