

THE
Mardler
BROCKDISH & THORPE ABBOTTS

*The Pink Ladies Tractor Run
Sunday 7th July 2024*



Edition No. 251 June - July 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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Summer has finally arrived, and between the showers the hedgerows and gardens are blooming. This can only mean one thing - the Annual Pink Ladies Tractor Run, in support of Cancer Research UK, on Sunday 7th July. Please support this very worthwhile cause, which is a joy to watch and brings our communities together. There is so much going on on both sides of the river these summer months. Not only is it the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landing, but Syleham is celebrating its moment in history with a historical reenactment of Baron Bigod's surrender to Henry II in 1174. If you fancy getting dressed up in medieval attire then Syleham needs you. More details inside, and we will certainly look forward to seeing the photos!

Rob Buck, Editor

REMEMBER

Closing date for entries in the August/September 2024 issue is **1st July 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

On Saturday 22nd June at 2.00pm, Andrew Garner will be our guest at a 'Meet the Author' event. Andrew has painstakingly transcribed letters and postcards from American GI Earl Gene Thurman during his time serving in the Second World War in the '82nd Airborne'. It is a fascinating story.

Get creative with the Summer Reading Challenge

Children can get creative with this year's Summer Reading Challenge, 'Marvellous Makers', which launches in Norfolk libraries on Saturday 6 July.

The Summer Reading Challenge is a FREE holiday activity for children aged 4-11. It's all about reading for fun, aiming to improve children's reading skills and confidence. Children can read anything they like (really – anything!) and collect free rewards for their reading. For under 5s there is a mini challenge, so they don't miss out. This year's challenge is all about creativity. From dance to drawing, junk modelling to music, there's something for everyone! Children will be able to find new reads linked to their favourite creative arts and join in with free activities at their local library.

Just pop into your Harleston Library, or any other Norfolk Library, or visit www.norfolk.gov.uk/summerreadingchallenge to sign up. Children will need to be a library member - you can do this in a library or online. It's free of charge and children will receive their own library card, for which there are no overdue fees.

Diss and Harleston Guide Dogs Group

We were delighted to host a 'Make Every Cuppa Count' event for Diss Guide Dogs Group on 29th April. Thank you to all who helped us raise £150 for the Guide Dogs.

Harleston Library

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 5th June 1.30pm-3.00pm: Knit, Stitch and Chat
- Wednesday 12th June 2.00pm-3.00pm: Meet and Make (Adults)
- Wednesday 12th June 3.30pm-4.30pm: Family Fun (Accompanied children aged 4+)
- Wednesday 19th June 1.30pm-3.00pm: Knit, Stitch and Chat
- Saturday 22nd June 2.00pm: 'Meet the Author' with Andrew Garner
- Wednesday 26th June 2.00pm-3.00pm: Meet and Make (Adults)
- Wednesday 26th June 3.30pm-4.30pm: Family Fun (Accompanied children aged 4+)
- Wednesday 3rd July 1.30pm-3.00pm: Knit, Stitch and Chat

For Harleston library opening times see:

<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/article/40193/Harleston-Library>

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 Abbots every 4 weeks on a Thursday. Next visits are the **13th June** and **11th July 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 talks for first part of 2024

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

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.

17th July: Michael Barlett will talk about his time as Director of Children's Television at the BBC where he also wrote for 'Rainbow' and 'Jackanory'. He has written plays for radio, television and the stage, including writing for "The Archers". Michael was a producer in radio drama and later as the programme controller of a commercial radio station.

21st August: Summer Social

18th September: Elaine Murphy, Wingfield Castle (rescheduled from last year when it had to be cancelled)

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Harleston Players' Summer Production

***Friendly Invasion* by Eileen Ryan 12th - 17th July**

Summer, 1942. The US has entered World War II, and the first American aircrews arrive in the east of England. Along with their heavy bombers, the GIs bring cola and chewing gum, jukeboxes, jazz and the jitterbug. East Anglia will never be the same again.

80 years on, a reunion weekend at one of the airfields brings together a group of visitors, whose memories of a local girl and an American airman recreate their bitter-sweet wartime romance.

Harleston Players are teaming up with Metfield-based singing group, Station 366, plus swing dancers from the Red Feather Club at Horham airbase museum, to create *Friendly Invasion* - a show about the arrival of the USAAF to this area and the ways in which the presence of thousands of Americans influenced life in the region.

Friday 12th July: Harleston Sancroft Academy

Saturday 13th July: Red Feather Club, Horham

Thursday 18th July: Diss Corn Hall

Friday 19th July: Fisher Theatre, Bungay

Monday 22nd July: Beccles Public Hall

Wednesday 24th July: Old Buckenham Village Hall

Saturday 27th July: The Cut, Halesworth

All performances 7.30pm. Tickets on sale from June.



Trees in Brockdish

There are at least two recent cases of trees being felled without permission in Brockdish. One case is on Foredale Common, and the other near the Church. This is illegal and has been reported to the police. If anyone can throw any light on this, will they please let the Parish Council or any Parish Councillor know. It is very sad that this can happen in our Village.

Thorpe Abbots and Brockdish Village Litter Picks

A Very Big Thank You to the Residents of Thorpe Abbots who turned out for their Village Litter Pick on Saturday 20th April. A total of 18 residents helped at this year's event, collecting a total of 10 bags of rubbish from around the Village and surrounding lanes. It concluded with tea and cake in the Village Hall.



Sadly, no one turned out for the Brockdish Litter Pick, on Saturday 27th April. Unfortunately, it clashed with the Church clean up, so some of you were helping there. It may be that Brockdish's resident Litter Picker, Janet Meen, does such a good job that residents don't feel litter is a problem. However, roads leading into and out of the Villages are often littered by rubbish discarded from vehicles, so perhaps in need of a tidy up. I have decided not to rearrange this year's Brockdish Litter Pick, but I hope you will join in next year.

Syleham and Wingfield Village Hall

You will know that our quiz and bingo evenings are organised as fundraising events to support locally nominated charities and good causes. We were able to deliver a cheque for £602 to Eye Opportunity Group recently, and have also supported Waveney Foodbank, Hoxne PTA, Stroke Association and more already this year.

Our Open Mic evenings are getting more and more busy. Please do come along whether you play or sing, and also, if you'd just like to enjoy some pretty talented people singing and playing. The Hall is open about 7.30pm, with music starting about 8.00pm. Pop in on the first Friday of the month. The next night will be 7th June. The bar is open, there's free wifi, board games, books, darts and pool available.

Quiz nights are usually the third Friday of the month, 7.30pm for 8.00pm start. Teams of 4 ideally, £5 per person to include a raffle and Mars bars for the team with the least points! Bar will be open and, as usual, the books, free wifi, darts, board games and pool will be available. *N.B. no quiz in July or August.*

We love to support the PINK Ladies tractor run (on Sunday 7th July 2024) and their amazing efforts to raise funds for breast cancer research, so do join us for a Bingo evening on Friday 28th June. It starts just after 8.00pm, the bar will be open and the usual awful pink raffle prizes to win. Come and check how awful they can be!

Syleham church are also organising a Church Fete at J's Meadow on Saturday 29th June - see local advertising for times.

Dates for your Diary

Friday 7th June: Open Mic

Friday 14th June: Purplestar Karaoke

Friday 28th June: Bingo in aid of Pink Ladies

Saturday 29th June: Syleham Church Fete

Thorpe Abbotts Home Guard - more information

Some while ago, you published this picture in the Mardler but with no names. I have just come across one with names. I am sure that descendants of some of these gentlemen will still be living in the area.

Simon Beet



Full Steam Ahead

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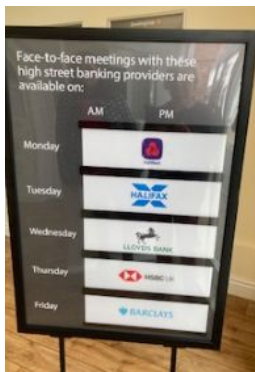
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Harleston Banking Hub allows you to access your personal or business bank account at any of our 11,500 Post Office branches. Pay in cash and cheques, withdraw cash and check your balance over the counter. As we are soon to lose the Barclays branch in Harleston, this is a much needed facility. Simply go along on the day of the week depending on who you bank with.

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Village Notices

Brockdish and Thorpe Abbotts Allotment Association

BATAAA is run by a committee of volunteers for members of the local community. 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.

Rushall Art Group

Brockdish Village Hall, Wednesday mornings 10.00am - 1.00pm

Despite being called the Rushall Art Group, we have for some years now been meeting in Brockdish Village Hall on Wednesday mornings. We are a friendly group with a wide variety of ability, so anyone, whether a starter or a more experienced artist, can enjoy the morning. If you are looking for an opportunity to try your hand at drawing or painting in any medium, or just want to find the time to pick up your brushes again, then come and join us. £5 covers the morning including refreshments. Just come along, or email jane.marshall212@gmail.com for more information.

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My 90th Birthday Party

Thank you to everyone for my lovely cards, presents and donations to E.A.C.H.

My love and thanks always to John and Jackie for their care and hard work for arranging everything, and Carol and Jim always ready to help.

I think my son, Bill, and family friend Sit (the guitarists) and of course, The Brockdish Singers, helped to give everyone an enjoyable afternoon.

I have been able to send £500 to E.A.C.H. Love and thanks to all. I am a very lucky lady.

Jean

Thorpe Abbotts Village Hall
Spring and Summer Events 2024

Thursday 6th June, 10.30am: Coffee Morning with plant and book sale. Donations of plants are very welcome at this event. We have plenty of books, including some excellent cookery books for sale.

Friday 26th July, 6.00pm: Bar Night with Olympics Opening Ceremony

Saturday 10th August, 11.00am - 4.00pm: "Masters of the Air" 1940s event

Saturday 7th September 12.30pm: Summer Barbeque

Monthly Coffee Mornings are the first Thursday of each month. Monthly Bar Nights are the last Friday of every month.

Spring Open Gardens,
The Old Coach House, Brockdish

Another big thank you to everyone who gave their time and helped us, those that came along and those that donated. We just couldn't do it without you all.

Even though we had to cancel 4 of the open days due to flooding followed by the wet cold days, we did open and we couldn't believe that folk still came along. Your support this year has been wonderful.

Total raised for local Charities is £4,000.00. A list showing where we sent the funds raised is in the shop window.

Thank you all so much.

John Jackie and Jean

Talk by Mary Newton, Retired Principal Forensic Scientist
London Forensic Laboratory, Lambeth, London
Friday 20th September 2024, 7.30pm, Brockdish Village Hall

Have you ever wondered whether what you see on TV is truly how real forensic scientists work? Is it really like "Silent Witness"? Come and listen to Mary, who will give you the Forensic background on some of the big Murder Cases you will have heard about or seen dramatised on TV in recent years. Cases she will discuss include **Stephen Lawrence, Dennis Nilsen, The Russell Family Murder, Milly Dowler and The Night Stalker**. The talk will be about 2 hours in length with a 20 min break and time for any questions after.

The cost of admission will be £5 per person, and after Mary's charge the balance of money will be equally shared between Brockdish Village Hall and Waveney Heritage Centre. Tea, Coffee and Biscuits will be available (donations accepted). If interested, then please let me know by email.

Don Mackenzie (ddon.mackenzie@btinternet.com)



Quiz Night
Saturday 29th June 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

Eight Young Men Remembered in Syleham



On Saturday 16th March at 1.40pm, silence fell over the village of Syleham, Suffolk. As the familiar tones of the last post played, the gathered assembly remembered eight brave young airmen who lost their lives 80 years ago.

The young men were returning in their Lancaster Bomber from a raid over Germany when problems with their aircraft began to mount. Flying with only two of its four engines running, the 20 year old pilot, Roy Dixon, made the decision to lower his undercarriage and attempt a landing in the relative flat terrain beneath his plane. At his side, flight engineer Bertram Crosby, also 20, prepared the plane. The radio operator, Roger Vernon, just 21 years old, had already tried to radio for help over Orford Ness. The gunners, Percy Lawn, 22, Norris Marshall, 34, and Canadian-born bomb aimer, Sydney Huntly, 25, did what they could to prepare themselves for landing. Their navigator, 27-year-old William Thompson, having done his job getting them this far, would have been sharing apprehensive glances with the last member of the crew, Harry Bryan, the specialist radio operator, who was 23. As the plane skimmed over the top of Fir Tree Farm in Syleham, it lost lift and slammed into the ground too hard for any of the crew to survive. Eight more brave young men lost to the horrors of World War II.

As the bugle sound faded, the members of the local British Legion slowly raised their standards. The poignant words broke the sad silence. “.. At the going down of the sun and in the morning. We will remember them.” Remember them we shall. A permanent memorial plaque dedicated to the

Eight Young Men Remembered in Syleham

crew was placed on the outside of the village hall. In the field behind Fir Tree Farm there is a smaller version of the plaque to mark the crash site. A beautiful ceremony was conducted by the Rev Eleanor Goodison. Contributions were made by Group Captain Andrew Knowles President of RAF Association Diss and Mike Keitch, whose reading of 'High Flight' by John Gillespie Magee Jr. raised a lump in many of the throats of those present.



After the formal proceedings, the crowd returned into the village hall. Here they were treated to singing from the forties-style group Station 366, and stalls from local societies. On display were some authentic Lancaster memorabilia, loaned by local Wingfield resident Sarah Lankester, whose father had flown in Lancaster bombers during the war. A wonderful spread of food including a cake with Lancaster motifs, and endless hot drinks. A large exhibition telling the story of the crash and details of the crew was on display, which included the stories of Syleham residents Keith Elsdon and Maureen Brundle who had memories of the crash.

Central to the commemoration were relatives of the airman. Two nephews, Roger and Tony Vernon, travelled from Sheffield on behalf of their lost Uncle, Roger Vernon, the radio operator. Specialist radio operator Harry Bryan's great nephew, Luis Cappelletti, flew over from the United States to attend, and great niece Lesley Botten came from Scotland. They both read out letters that their great uncle had written during his short time in the RAF, which were very moving. Local television and radio covered the event. Radio Stradbroke, BBC Suffolk Radio and news website ITV Anglia ran a five minute segment on the following Tuesday to coincide with the actual 80th anniversary of the crash. After months of preparation and hours of hard work by all involved, the day was heralded a great success. A fitting commemoration from a small Suffolk village for eight young lives lost 80 years ago protecting the country and its values we all hold so dear.

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1174: Syleham's Moment in History

Historical Re-enactment of Baron
Bigod's Surrender to King Henry II

AUDITIONS

We are holding auditions for small speaking parts in our historical play re-enacting Baron Bigod's surrender to King Henry II at Syleham. If you would like to audition for a part, please email Roy Goodwin at roygoodwin53@gmail.com for more information.

Historical Re-enactment
1174: Syleham's Moment
in History
COME AND JOIN US
Saturday 27th July 2024
2pm at The Cross, Syleham
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Giving our past a future



**WAVENEY
WIRELESS**

Saturday 29 June 2024

*at the Waveney Heritage Centre, Foredale &
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around the village of Brockdish*

Annual Garage Sale

10 am - 2 pm, in conjunction with



WVfN Family Day

12 noon - 6 pm

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Syleham's Day of Fame, 25 July 1174

Elaine Murphy

This month I'm taking liberties with the notion of our village history to include Syleham, because I reckon the medieval folk who lived in Thorpe Abbots and Brockdish would have been talking about these events for years to come. They may well have found an army on their doorstep as they spilled over the bridge. So I think we can include it here.

It has often been said that nothing much happened in Syleham before 1174 and nothing much has happened since, for which we can all be grateful. The events at Syleham were of national significance at a time when the Crown was under threat. The account here is largely taken from transcribed accounts of original sources. On 24th and 25th July 1174, King Henry II and Hugh Bigod, leader of the rebel barons, spent a night encamped near the village, with thousands of Fleming mercenaries on Bigod's side and an even larger army with Henry II. The circumstances surrounding this visit are recorded in two contemporary chronicles and confirmed by entries in the royal accounts for that year.



12th century image of Henry II

What brought the king of England to this small village? Henry II was by all accounts an extraordinary human dynamo of a man, who not only ruled England and Ireland, but was also Duke of Normandy. Something of Henry's complex personality and tortured family relationships were captured by Peter O'Toole in the 1968 film of James Goldman's play, 'The Lion in Winter'. O'Toole played him in suitably manic and extreme fashion, if not quite showing Henry's short stocky body and red hair but radiating Henry's striking good looks.

Henry ruled over a large portion of France gained through marriage with the older Eleanor of Aquitaine, whom he at first loved passionately, a match for him in looks, brains and ambition. Henry's lands in France made him, in theory at least, a 'tenant in chief' but also a vassal of Philip Augustus, King of France, and as such he was required to be obedient to his overlord. There can be little doubt that Henry did not enjoy being an underling, least of all to Philip, who in turn feared Henry's power and never ceased his attempts to undermine Henry's authority and seize control of his lands.

Syleham's Day of Fame, 25 July 1174

Henry was a reformer, anxious to ensure that both his kingdom of England and his lands in France were well administered and law-abiding. His efforts brought him into confrontation with his nobles, 'the barons', many of whom had acquired a taste for autonomy during the civil wars that had marked the reign of Henry's predecessor, Stephen. Confrontation with the Church followed as Henry attempted to reduce the power of Church courts by making churchmen subject to the king's justice. Conflict between king and Church escalated, leading firstly to the exile and ultimately the assassination of his former friend, Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury.

As if these two factors were not enough to contend with, Henry's relationship with his wife Eleanor deteriorated over the years and his four sons, Henry the Younger, Richard (later called Lionheart), Geoffrey and John (later 'Bad King John') were often in open dispute with their father. So dysfunctional were family relationships that Henry kept Queen Eleanor prisoner as a punishment for meddling in politics and encouraging her sons to rebel against their father. Their early tempestuous love match had turned sour and when Eleanor was pregnant by her fourth child, John, Henry acquired a younger mistress, Rosamund Clifford, 'Fair Rosamund', said to be one of the most beautiful women of the 12th century. Eleanor was naturally none too pleased about that, although she continued to bear children with Henry. Matters came to a head in 1173, when the French king, seizing upon Henry's huge unpopularity with his lords and the Church in the aftermath of the assassination of Thomas Becket, planned the great rebellion that would, he hoped, remove for ever the threat to his kingdom of France posed by the English monarch.

When the French rebellion erupted Henry found himself surrounded by enemies on every side, a situation that did no more than galvanise his determination to triumph. With mercenary troops recruited from the Brabant, an area covering part of Belgium and Holland, he inflicted a small but humiliating defeat on a French king. Henry then swept into Normandy, capturing the fortresses of those rebellious Norman lords who had collaborated with Philip Augustus and forcing sons Richard and Geoffrey back into obedience; he imprisoned them with their mother Eleanor. Henry's eldest son, Henry the Younger, who was supposed to be ruling England on behalf of his father, had also joined the rebellion, crossing to Flanders where he joined Philip of Flanders in recruiting mercenary troops and preparing an invasion fleet. He was counting on the support of many great lords who had seen their Norman lands devastated by King Henry, now insultingly called 'the old King' though not yet fifty years old.

Syleham's Day of Fame, 25 July 1174

England was in uproar. The Scots, encouraged by the French, sent a large army over the border, and the forces loyal to 'the old King', were forced to march north to deal with the invaders. Meanwhile rebel lords in England led by the Earl of Leicester sacked and burnt Nottingham, and Hugh Bigod, Earl of Norfolk, attacked Norwich Castle with an army of Flemish mercenary troops, burning and looting the city.

Hugh Bigod (1095–1177)

Also known as 'Bigod the Restless' or 'Bold Bigod', he was Roger Bigod's second son and inherited everything when his older brother William died in 1120. After Henry I died Hugh did not support Matilda, Henry's daughter, but gave his support to Stephen of Blois instead. Indeed it was Hugh Bigod's fault that these wars started in the first place since Stephen's claim to the throne rested on Hugh's testimony that Henry I, on his deathbed, had given his kingdom to Stephen. He almost certainly did not.

Throughout his career, Hugh changed sides when convenient to end up on the winning side, although not always with success. He was vacillating and inconstant in other ways, repudiating his first wife and taking up with a second, thus setting up endless years of interfamilial squabbling between the stepfamilies.

In 1140 Hugh again rebelled against Stephen, this time making Bungay his headquarters. He was not successful. 'At Pentecost, the king with his army came upon Hugo Bigot of Suffolk and took the castle of Bunie'. Two months later, though, Hugh had rearmed and Stephen was forced again to march against him. This time Stephen tried the expedient of giving Hugh the Earldom of Norfolk to keep him quiet! This seems to have been just what Bigod needed, and in 1141 we find the new earl fighting for the king at Lincoln. Unfortunately for Stephen, the battle turned against him and he and most of his henchmen left the field prisoners. Hugh Bigod fled when he saw the battle was being lost and for the next twelve years joined Matilda's winning side.

When Matilda's 21 year old son Henry II took the throne, he showed his strength immediately by putting down with a firm hand the unruly barons, including Hugh Bigod, who for twenty years had kept the country plunged in the miseries of anarchy. Hugh was deprived of his castles, although he was allowed to retain his harmless title of Earl of Norfolk. By 1163, however, Henry seems to have

Syleham's Day of Fame, 25 July 1174

considered Bigod sufficiently chastened for Hugh to be given back his castles, which however Bigod then fortified to the hilt. Henry built Orford Castle, possibly in response, to keep an eye on what the unreliable earl and his Flemish mercenaries were up to.



Hugh Bigod's Castle at Bungay

When rebellion broke out all over Normandy and England during the Easter of 1173, Bigod seems to have had no hesitation in joining in with the rebellious barons against the king. When the Earl of Leicester arrived in Suffolk with more Flemish troops to join Hugh Bigod, it seemed that no town or village in East Anglia was safe from involvement in the insurrection.

The two rebel Earls joined forces briefly at Framlingham Castle, then Hugh's main base, then parted, the Earl of Leicester marching on Bury St Edmunds while Hugh stayed further east to prevent the Henry II landing in Norfolk or Suffolk. Henry, having brought his French possessions back under control, quietly returned to England in late June 1174 and landed in Kent. Instead of rushing to raise an army, he went first to Canterbury where he prayed at the tomb of Becket before moving on towards Huntingdon, which was being besieged by a small force. Huntingdon surrendered within days of Henry's arrival, while elsewhere events were rapidly turning against the rebels, who were soon in full retreat. The Earl of Leicester's army was defeated by local forces at Fornham St Genevieve, near Bury St Edmunds. The earl, his wife and the commander of the Flemish mercenaries were captured. Hugh Bigod was left to face the king alone.

Around 20 July 1174, the royal army, after fighting victoriously in Scotland, arrived at Huntingdon to back up Henry's troops. Henry now turned his attention to Hugh Bigod, who retreated to his new fortress at Bungay, a town then surrounded by marshes, making the castle difficult to approach. Henry arrived in Syleham on 24 July 1174, having earlier sent a note to his Exchequer in London ordering them to pay the sheriff of Norfolk and Suffolk to send five hundred carpenters to 'Sileham'. The carpenters were going to make siege machines to attack Bigod's castles at Bungay, Framlingham and

Syleham's Day of Fame, 25 July 1174

anywhere else he might hide. We do not know whether these five hundred carpenters were actually recruited and possibly they were not.

Hugh Bigod was by now ageing. Extraordinarily when men grew old at fifty, he was now in his late seventies, tired, and he realised the game was up, he was not up to resisting the King's likely attack on Bungay. On the morning of 25 July 1174, Hugh rode to Syleham to make his peace with the King.

There is a local tradition that Hugh was so fearful of Henry's anger that he spoke to the king holding on to Syleham Cross (a stone cross now replaced by a wooden one to mark the spot). The enraged monarch had earlier in the day received a painful kick from a warhorse belonging to a certain 'Tosti of St Omer, a knight of the Temple' so Henry may not have been in a very patient frame of mind. There is no record in the chronicles of this cross-hugging episode. In fact, the record says that neither man got off his horse! The two ageing men were perhaps both tired of these endless rebellions. Peace was made and Hugh negotiated a free passage for his Fleming mercenaries to go home via Dover at the king's expense, perhaps one of Hugh's nobler acts.



Syleham Cross marks the place where a stone cross stood at The Cross

Hugh Bigod paid a heavy price for his rebelliousness. He was forced to surrender his castles at Framlingham, Bungay and Thetford and promised to depart from England forever, leaving his eldest son Roger in Henry's care as hostage. Henry had Hugh Bigod's castle at Framlingham destroyed but the earl 'ransomed' Bungay castle, saving it from destruction by the king's engineers who were already undermining the massive tower keep. Hugh Bigod did not survive his exile, dying on his way to the Holy Land in 1175 at the grand old age of eighty.

There is one possible trace of Henry's visit to Syleham. In the early list of tenants and landholding in Syleham compiled by the monks of Thetford in 1379, the road running along the valley bottom from Hoxne to Syleham Mill is

Syleham's Day of Fame, 25 July 1174

called 'Kingswaye', perhaps commemorating the route used by the king on his way to meet Hugh. There is one other possible legacy of that day. The church was extensively rebuilt in the 13th century, and the church was re-dedicated to St Margaret of Scotland, Henry II's great grandmother, who was canonised in 1250.

If several thousand men turned up in Syleham today, it would certainly cause a stir, and it must have then. If village folk thought there was to be a military confrontation they would either have fled the village or possibly sought refuge in the church. We know so little about Syleham's one day of fame. But surely the village should celebrate 25 July, the anniversary of the king's final triumph over the disagreeable Hugh Bigod and we neighbours north of the river should celebrate with them...

Full references available at elaine.murphyrobb@gmail.com

P.S. Hugh's son, Roger Bigod, was an altogether different character from his father, remained loyal to the king and later helped negotiate the freedom of Richard the Lionheart in captivity so he could claim the English throne. I hope it's Roger that delicious cheese is named after!



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Waveney Volunteers for Nature

Our Family Day on 29th June is fast approaching, and we hope to see you there. We'll be at Foredale Common and the adjoining Waveney Heritage Centre from 12.00pm - 6.00pm. It's all part of the Norfolk Wildlife Trust's 'Commons Week'.



There will be activities for children, walks and talks, and displays by related organisations. Bring a picnic, or refreshments including a BBQ and ice cream will be on hand. It's also a dog friendly event, so we look forward to seeing you there.

As part of our Family Day, we would like to display photographs of local wildlife. Send us your best photos of birds, animals or plants taken in the area and we'll print and display them in a pop-up exhibition. No prizes, just the fun of sharing. Send your photos to us by email to WVfNature@protonmail.com and we'll do the rest.

As always, we would welcome new members to our working parties held each Monday. If you are interested, contact us at the above email address or find us on Facebook.

It seems that this event will coincide with the Brockdish Garage Sale so that's a very good reason to be out and about in Brockdish for an all-round fun day on 29th June.

Derek Clark

Waveney Volunteers for Nature

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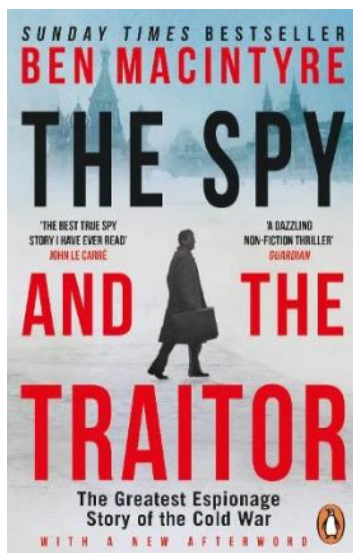
The Book Club recommends...

Thank you to Chris Clark 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 Spy and the Traitor by Ben MacIntyre

The Spy and the Traitor tells the story of the double agent, Oleg Gordievsky, one of the most important British spies of the Cold War era. A senior KGB officer trained in Russian espionage, Gordievsky's youthful enthusiasm turned to disillusionment. Postings to Copenhagen and London brought the freedoms and pleasures of western culture and democracy, a stark contrast to the repression and paranoia that pervaded Russian life. The Prague Spring of 1968, when the tanks rolled across the Czech frontier was the final straw: 'We saw Czechoslovakia as our one hope for a liberal future'. His defection was underway. Working from the Russian embassy in London, Gordievsky not only exposed the network of Soviet agents within Britain, but importantly, he provided a unique insight into the Soviet psyche, its fear and overwhelming suspicion of the West that at times brought us close to nuclear war. Ultimately betrayed by an American spy, his exfiltration from Russia is the climax of the book. The escape plan, regularly rehearsed over several years, involving such intricate detail as supermarket bags and chocolate bars, nevertheless seemed amateurist in the extreme. Indeed, few involved gave it much chance of success. It certainly makes compulsive reading.

The story is well told, fast moving and based on detailed research. The characters, so familiar to those who lived through this uncertain period, are vividly brought to life: Thatcher, Reagan and Gorbachev; the British 'contacts', Michael Foot, code-named 'Boot' by the Soviets; and the union leader, Jack Jones. And spy he may have been, but it is hard not to like Gordievsky. He was doubtless courageous, driven by his convictions and, unlike his betrayer, never concerned with financial gain. Often his decisions were made at great personal cost. This is a fascinating story, well written and at times gripping, surpassing many a fictional tale. And at this present time of war and world instability, it provides a thought-provoking read. I thoroughly recommend it.



Quiz

1. What nationality was the painter Salvador Dali?
2. What girls name featured for the first time in the book '*Peter Pan*'?
3. What was the name of the novel based on the true story of Alexander Selkirk?
4. What were the first names of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde?
5. In '*20,000 Leagues under the Sea*', what did Captain Nemo command?
6. What are the names of the four children in the book '*The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe*'?
7. Who wrote '*The Ugly Duckling*'?
8. Which two cities are featured in Dicken's '*A Tale of Two Cities*'?

Answers on page 38

Bramleys

In 1809, a young girl planted some seeds in her parents' garden in Southwell, Notts. Bramley apples were rooted! The cottage was bought by butcher, Matthew Bramley, in 1846. The apple trees were thriving and caught the attention of gardener Mr Merryweather, who asked Bramley if he could take cuttings and then market the apples.



Bramley agreed on condition the apples bore his name. The famous "cookers" were on their way. The apple thrived, and through the 1800s collected many awards for excellence. To mark the apple's bicentenary, Southwell Minster installed a stained glass window combining apples and geometric branches suggesting The Tree of Life.



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A message from Councillor Martin Wilby

A Big Congratulations to Mrs Annie Chapman who has been made a honorary fellow of Cancer Research UK at the National Flame of Hope awards. This award recognises the amazing Annie and all of her helpers and supporters that have raised over £1m since starting the Pink Tractor Ladies Run. We all look forward to seeing the colourfully decorated tractors and their drivers back on the road this year on Sunday 7th July.

Work is now underway across Norfolk on the annual spring and summer surface dressing project. The work is carried out between April and September every year while the weather is warmer. This year, 280 miles of Norfolk's roads will get a new seal to help prevent potholes opening up, extend the life of the road and provide a new skid resistant surface to reduce the risk of accidents. The team aims to get the holiday areas and main roads treated first so they are complete before the start of the summer season. The first work as part of this year's programme started at the beginning of April, will cost £11.785m and represents an investment in maintaining Norfolk's roads. People are urged to drive slowly and considerately across the new surface until it is bedded in and Highway Teams return to sweep up the loose chippings.

Key functions and employees of the New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) transferred to Norfolk and Suffolk on April 1st 2024 as part of the government's devolution process. LEP functions include business representation, strategic economic planning and responsibility for the delivery of government programmes. Business support will continue to be provided by New Anglia Growth Hub, which delivers the LEP's business growth programme, including the administration of grant schemes. The Growth Hub has supported businesses and the region's economy, with the economic impact of it's business growth programme measured over a 10 year period at £1,032,797,741, creating new jobs and safeguarding existing employment.

The Local Government Association have recently published a report, 'Getting Under the Bonnet', highlighting how councils are working with the NHS to deliver health checks for their communities. Norfolk County Council is cited as

A message from Councillor Martin Wilby

a good practice case study, as it has progressed to being one of the best in England in terms of the percentage of the eligible population receiving a Health Check. The success of the NHS Health Checks improvement programme is down to a structured review approach, the hard work of the NHS Health Check improvement group and the relationships that have been built up with Primary Care and Providers. Information about eligibility and how to get a free health check is available on NCC's website.

Best Wishes

Martin

**Latest scams, consumer alerts and news from
Norfolk County Council Trading Standards**

- Scam alert: investment scams
- Scam alert: emails claiming to be from Microsoft
- Scam alert: Computer fault scams
- Scam alert: Emails claiming to be from HMRC
- Scam alert: Bank refund letters

For more information updates please visit our Consumer Alerts webpage, find us on Facebook or follow us on X/Twitter.

To report scams:

- Call Citizens Advice on 0800 223 1133, or look at the Citizens Advice Consumer Help website.
- Call Action Fraud, the national fraud and cyber crime reporting service on 0300 123 2040 or look on the Action Fraud website.

New
Venue!

Crafty Bombers @ Brockdish Village Hall

ALL SESSIONS 10.30 am - 12.00 pm

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.



- **Sunday 9th June**
Churches Count on Nature

Meet at Brockdish Church 11.00am

For this very special Crafty Bombers session, we will be outside in the beautiful Churchyard at Brockdish Church. Help search for birds, bugs and plants and enjoy doing some nature themed crafts including bug hotels and flower printing.

- **Sunday 14th July**
Fruity fun

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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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 PC & SNC decisions.**

- 2024/1163 4 Sheriffs Court, Common Lane, Brockdish. New front door.

Decisions: Supported by PC and approved by SNC

- 2023/2833 & 2023/2834 Grove Thorpe, Grove Road, Brockdish. Various works.
- 2023/2671 Rectory Cottage, Church Road, Brockdish. Demolition of existing rear extension and erection of a new two-storey rear extension and change of use from agricultural to residential curtilage.
- 2024/0066 Waveney Vale, Common Lane, Brockdish. First floor side extension.

Wildlife Friendly Villages

The Parish Annual Meeting on 23rd May will see the introduction of a leaflet to be delivered to every household in the Parish. This is about our two villages becoming 'Wildlife Friendly Villages', and is a major step in fulfilling our commitment to improving biodiversity.

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 27th June 2024, 7pm at Thorpe Abbots Village Hall
- Thursday 25th July 2024, 7pm at WHC, Brockdish
- No scheduled meeting is held during August
- Thursday 26th September, 7pm at Thorpe Abbots Village Hall

Brockdish Speeding Report

Below are the speed camera details for Brockdish in 2024 so far.

January

- 03/01/2024 = 1 (no Brockdish Address)
- 11/01/2024 = 1 (no Brockdish Address)
- 15/01/2024 = 1 (no Brockdish Address)
- 26/01/2024 = 3 (no Brockdish Address)

February

- 05/02/2024 = 1 (no Brockdish Address)
- 26/02/2024 = 1 (no Brockdish Address)

March

- 0 Offences (However very few speed camera days)

April

- 08/04/2024 = 2 (no Brockdish Address)
- 22/04/2024 = 3 (1 Brockdish address)

Most of the offences captured have been delivery/work vans with no local addresses to Brockdish. As you can see, residents seem to have slowed down, which is encouraging. The speed camera team will be targeting different times of the day going forward, so please carry on the good work.

Enrico Castagnetti

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Growing a Wildflower Meadow

Wildflower meadows are not easy or quick gardening projects. They take at least three years from inception, and preparation is everything. Firstly, the ground needs to be cleared before planting. There does not seem to be any organic sprays that can be used, but a much more natural method of clearing is “smothering “.

Cut the grass very short in June, and remove weeds by hand. Then, lay light sheeting across the area and leave until mid-September. Lightly rake off any debris, and sow meadow seed on top of this bare soil.

After two more years there should be a fully functioning meadow. However, weeds will still need to be removed and other maintenance during this time will be needed.



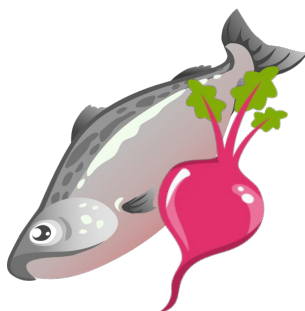
Answers to Happy Hour Quiz:

1. Spanish 2. Wendy. 3. Robinson Crusoe 4. Henry and Edward
5. The Nautilus 6. Edmund, Lucy, Peter and Susan 7. Hans Christian Andersen 8. London and Paris

Summer Suppers

Beetroot, Salmon and Dill Pasta (serves 1)

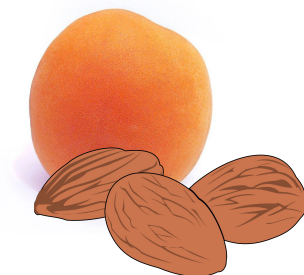
- 50g wholemeal fusilli
- 1 cooked beetroot cut into wedges
- ½ small ripe avocado, cubed
- 2 baby cucumbers sliced
- 2 tbsp chopped dill
- 1 tbsp fat-free Greek yogurt, mixed with 1 tbsp water
- 1 heaped tsp creamed horseradish
- 1 poached salmon or hot-smoked salmon fillet, skinned and flaked
- 30g rocket leaves



Cook the fusilli following pack instructions, then drain and leave to cool. Toss the pasta with the beetroot, avocado, cucumber, dill, yoghurt and horseradish, then season generously with black pepper. Gently mix the salmon and rocket through the pasta and serve.

Fruity Couscous (serves 2-3)

- 100g couscous
- 120ml hot vegetable stock
- 5 dried apricots, each chopped into 3 or 4 pieces
- 3 tablespoons sultanas
- 3 tablespoons flaked almonds (toasted if you like)
- Small bunch of mint, finely chopped
- Small bunch of flat leaf parsley, finely chopped
- 1 tsp cumin
- ½ tsp cinnamon
- Salt and pepper



Mix the couscous, apricots, sultanas, almonds, herbs and spices in a bowl. Pour over the freshly made stock, stir once and cover with cling film. Leave to steam for 7–10 minutes. Remove the cling film and separate grains with a fork. Leave to cool or serve slightly warm. Enjoy!



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Ramblings from The Rectory

By Rev. Nigel Tuffnell

We live in a wonderful part of the world. I am fortunate to have a beautiful garden full of birds and insects, frogs and newts, as well as wood mice and hedgehogs. I have seen quite a few butterflies too. By the time that you read this, I hope that there will be a multicoloured cloud of butterflies and other insects. If you don't have a garden, then you don't have to go far before you find some open space or hedgerow that is a haven for wild plants and all of the wildlife that rely upon them.

This is an idyllic part of the country. I am always encouraged when I meet more and more people working hard to maintain and enhance the natural wonder all around us. One place where you will find the natural world cherished will be your local churchyard. Each year, there is a survey of each churchyard to see what is growing and living there. All of this information is then collected nationally to give a snapshot of the health of our churchyards. It is called the Churches Count on Nature.

If you want to help, just turn up at the porch of your church. You will find guide books to help you identify the plants and creatures that you see. There will also be paper and pens for you to write everything down. It's great fun for children to see how many different plants they can find, and then try and identify them. Insects too. The Churches Count on Nature runs from Saturday 8th June to Sunday 16th June. Just turn up and have fun!

Why stop there? Hopefully, there will be lots of lovely summer days to enjoy outdoors. Keep looking and exploring. See the changes in your churchyard as the summer progresses. Look and enjoy the wonderful gift of living in such a beautiful part of the country right through this summer and beyond.

God bless,

Nigel



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All Saints Church, Thorpe Abbotts

The Churchyard at All Saints has been a burial ground for over 100 years. It has had a boundary for at least 200 years. This means that the land has never been cultivated, or cropped, has had neither fertilizer nor any form of weed control, although it might have been grazed. The Churchyard is therefore a remnant of ancient meadow that was once used for hay or pasture, perhaps long before the Church itself was built in the 11th Century.

There are 4 distinct areas in the Churchyard which have different wildflower and grass populations, almost certainly the result of the management routines involved. One such area is particularly diverse, most certainly having had the rubble spread from the rebuilding of the south wall of the Chancel.

So, to cut a long story short, there is a great deal to see when wandering up at All Saints. During the summer we undertake a survey of the wildflower population, along with other Churches in the country, by participating in the Churches Count on Nature, which focuses on the brilliant wildlife to be found in churchyards. We will be doing our bit by contributing to the 27,000 wildlife records submitted during this dedicated week.

We will be running a family event on Saturday 15th June, when we will be on hand to help identify the many wildflowers and wildlife that can be found in the Churchyard. We are not sure yet the format for the day, but I am pretty sure it will involve tea and cake! So just for now, it's a date for the diary.

For more information, please go to:

<https://arocha.org.uk/event/churches-count-on-nature-2024/>

Simon Beet

Brockdish Church

The Churchyard is being cut again, weather permitting. We have been donated a further two fruit trees to replace those that had died on the east boundary. Whilst on the subject of the Churchyard, may I give a gentle reminder that under churchyard rules, plastic flowers are not permitted, nor are glass containers, fences, toys and statues. Silk flowers are most welcome. A copy of churchyard regulations is posted in the porch should clarification be needed.

Work on the interior north wall has now been completed except for painting. A new french drain has been installed, which should alleviate any further damp issues. The roof can not be completed until October after the bat roost. This will give more time for further fundraising.

The Church provided refreshments for the free concert held in the Village Hall. It was an enjoyable community event. Thanks to all those that continue to support the quiz nights and concerts. This all helps with Church expenses.

Between June 9th and 16th there is the annual 'Churches Count on Nature'. If you are around on June 9th between 11-12.30pm, come along and join in a "community nature count". Coffee, juice and biscuits will be supplied! All ages are most welcome but young children should be accompanied by an adult please. Hope to see you there.

Jan Croxson
Church Warden (tel.668630)



Church Contacts

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Benefice Administrator
 admin@7churches.org.uk

Brockdish Church Wardens

Thorpe Abbotts Contact

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Ann Cork - 01379 668635

Jan Croxson - 01379 668630

Christine McDonald - 01379 669116

Church Service Times - June and July 2024

2nd June	Brockdish 9.30 am	Morning Prayer
9th June	Brockdish 9.30 am Thorpe Abbotts 9.30 am	Morning Prayer Morning Prayer
16th June	Brockdish 9.30 am	Holy Communion
23rd June	Brockdish 9.30 am	Morning Prayer
30th June	Brockdish 9.30 am	Holy Communion
7th July	Brockdish 9.30 am	Morning Prayer
14th July	Brockdish 9.30 am Thorpe Abbotts 9.30 am	Morning Prayer Holy Communion
21st July	Brockdish 9.30 am	Holy Communion
28th July	Brockdish 9.30 am	Morning Prayer



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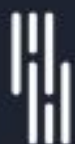
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