

# THE *Mardler*

BROCKDISH & THORPE ABBOTTS



Jan Croxson BEM

17th October 1943 - 2nd December 2024

Edition No. 255 February - March 2025

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

Also available on-line at [www.themardler.org.uk](http://www.themardler.org.uk)

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

### BROCKDISH VILLAGE HALL TIMETABLE

Wednesday	Art group (10.00am)
	Badminton (3.00pm & 5.00pm)
Thursday	Yoga (10.15am)
	Carpet Bowls (7.30pm)

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

**[www.brockdishandthorpeabbotts.com](http://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 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

## Useful Contacts

<b>Harleston Surgery</b>	01379 853217
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<b>Police</b> Harleston and Diss	101
<b>NHS Direct</b>	111
<b>Electricity Power Cuts</b>	105
<b>Gas Emergencies</b>	0800 111 999
<b>Anglian Water</b>	03457 145 145
<b>South Norfolk Council</b>	01508 533633
<b>Brockdish Village Hall</b> <i>Bookings Lisa Poole</i>	01379 668416
<b>Thorpe Abbots Village Hall</b> <i>Bookings Sarah McClusky</i>	07717737570
<b>Waveney Heritage Centre</b>	01379 668285
<b>Carpet Bowls Club</b> <i>Peter Croxson</i>	01379 668630
<b>Art Club</b> <i>Sue Hughes</i>	01379 855414
<b>Badminton</b> <i>Roger Woodrow</i>	01379 669016
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<b>South Norfolk County Councillor</b> <i>Martin Wilby</i>	01379 741504
<b>Parish Clerk</b> <i>Teresa Hines</i>	01379 308617
<b>South Norfolk Help Hub</b>	01508 533633 0845 269078
<b>Waveney Food Bank</b>	01379 870506

We welcome in 2025 with a few changes to the structure of The Mardler committee. As you are all aware, before Christmas we sadly lost our beloved chairperson, Jan Croxson. As my first edition as editor, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Jan on behalf of us all. Jan had endless wisdom and generosity, and impeccable organisation. Many of the articles in this edition Jan had written months ago! Jan's sense of community was unstinting. She would work tirelessly, rolling up her sleeves and getting on with things rather than wasting time talking about plans. There will be a large Jan-shaped hole in Brockdish now, but life will go on as normal, just as she would have wished. So please come along to the quiz in March, and support those community events such as Open Gardens. The Mardler is her legacy, and she'll still be with us at every meeting, as each and every article will have to pass the 'Jan test!' 'What would Jan say?'

*Jo Slater, Editor*

### **REMEMBER**

**Closing date for entries in the April/May 2025 issue is Friday 28th February 2025. Articles received after this date will not be included in the next issue.**



The advertisement is split into two main sections. On the left, there is a dark blue vertical panel with a subtle, light-colored pattern of bare tree branches. On the right, a photograph shows a man and a woman standing in a wooded area. The man is wearing a dark jacket over a striped shirt, and the woman is wearing a dark jacket over a white cable-knit sweater. They are both looking towards the camera.

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### Harleston Library

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

Our Warm and Well offer will be continuing until the warmer weather. The library continues to be a warm space, and if you come along during staffed hours the tea trolley is always out for you to help yourself to hot drinks.

We hope to restart our 'Meet the Author' talks very soon. If you are a published author, and would like to give a talk about your experience of writing and creating a book, as well as finding a publisher or self-publishing, then we would love to hear from you. Please drop us an email at the above address.

During February, we are aiming to hold a Digi-fest event for Primary School aged children.

Details of all our events can be found on our Facebook page. To be kept up to date please visit: [www.facebook.com/dissharlestonlongstratton](http://www.facebook.com/dissharlestonlongstratton), or keep an eye on our notice board just inside the main library door.

### **Dates for your Diary (all activities are free of charge with refreshments available, no need to book)**

- Mondays 3.30pm-4.30pm: LEGO Club
- Wednesdays 10.30am-11.00am: Bounce and Rhyme (for babies and toddlers)
- Wednesdays 11.00am-12.00pm: Stay and Play (for babies and toddlers)
- Wednesdays 3.30pm-4.30pm: Family Time (craft and games for families)
- Wednesday 5th February 2.00pm-3.00pm: Meet and Make (Adults)
- Wednesday 12th February 1.30pm-3.00pm: Knit and Natter
- Wednesday 19th February 2.00pm-3.00pm: Meet and Make (Adults)
- Wednesday 26th February 1.30pm-3.00pm: Knit and Natter

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](mailto:libraries@norfolk.gov.uk).

To learn more about becoming a Norfolk Home Library Service Volunteer, please visit [royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk](http://royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk), call 01603 397998, or email [norfolkhlis@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk](mailto:norfolkhlis@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk).

### Mobile Library

Visits Brockdish and Thorpe Abbots every 4 weeks on a Thursday. Next visit is the **20th February** and **20th March 2025**.

Stopping at:

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



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**Jan Croxson BEM**

The service to celebrate the life of Jan Croxson BEM was held at St. Peter and St. Paul's Church, Brockdish, on Friday 17th January 2025.

All of us in the family would like to thank everybody for their kind thoughts, and the attendance was out of this world. Even though she is not here, things will be carrying on as normal. So be prepared for the phone call asking for your help to organise events.

With many, many thanks to you all.

***Peter and all the family***



**Are these yours?**

Found in the playing field next to Brockdish Church after Jan's service on Friday 17th January - a pair of brown tortoiseshell spectacles with 'Boots Bedford' on the frames. If these are yours, then please contact Rob Buck on 01379 668663 who is keeping them safe.



**Thank you**

Thank you to Alan Carpenter and family for the lovely Christmas lights on his tree on Scole Road.

***Shirley Pretty et al***





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### **Borderhoppa Outings for February 2025**

- Monday 3rd February: Lunch at The White Horse, Stoke Ash – £8.00
- Thursday 6th February: Diss Pound Stretcher & John Doe's - £8.00
- Monday 10th February: Taverham Nursery Centre - £18.00
- Monday 17th February: The Range and lunch at The Copper Beech - £18.00
- Thursday 20th February: Lunch at The White Hart, Roydon - Fare £8.00
- Monday 24th February: Cherry Lane Garden Centre - £8.00

### **Borderhoppa Outings for March 2025**

- Monday 3rd March: Lunch at The Four Horseshoes, Thornham Magna – £8.00
- Monday 10th March: Thetford Town / Garden Centre - £15.00
- Monday 17th March: Lunch at Billingford Horseshoes - £8.00
- Thursday 20th March: Brunch at The Good, Bad and Hungry, Wingfield - £8.00
- Monday 24th March: Stowmarket Town - £15.00
- Monday 31st March: Notcutts Garden Centre, Norwich - £15.00

To book or for more information please call 01379 854800 or visit our website [www.borderhoppa.org](http://www.borderhoppa.org).

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## Monday Minglers

The Minglers have had a great start in 2024 and a good few village folk are enjoying a Monday afternoon of games and chat. We would welcome anyone wishing to join us on a Monday afternoon in the Village Hall from 2.00 pm till 4.00 pm. On 9th December we had a Christmas Party which was enjoyed by all.



## Quiz Night

Saturday

15th March 2025

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 Peter Croxson (tel. 668630)  
to reserve a table

### Harleston u3a January to June 2025

- 15th January: Our Vice Chair, Trevor Scott "The English Windmill" - the history of windmills; windmills in art; their decline, restoration and conservation.
- 19th February: Ron French, a u3a Beccles member "Fleeing the Red Terror" - the flight of a wealthy young family from the depredation of Lenin's Red Terror.
- 19th March: Dr Ian Bedford, a retired Research Entomologist "Garden Bugs: Cohabit, Control or Conserve?"
- 16th April: Jenny Mallin "Walking into Grandma's Kitchen in 1940s Madras.
- 21st May: Roger Browne "The Great American Songbook" - The fascinating lives of Gershwin, Kern, Porter, Rodgers, Berlin, Carmichael, Fats Waller and beyond.
- 18th June: Gary Powell "Death in Disguise". Gary is a retired London police officer now living in North Norfolk.



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### Carol Singing

A huge thank you to all those who sang, braving a very wet night, and all who gave so generously when we went carol singing before Christmas. It was a great evening and we collected £160 for East Anglian Children's Hospice. Thank you very much!

***Ann Cork***

### Brockdish and Thorpe Abbots 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 (250m<sup>2</sup>) and half (125m<sup>2</sup>) 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](mailto:bataaa@hotmail.co.uk) or ring Roy on 01379 854868.

### Brockdish Carpet Bowls

We had a slow start to the Waveney Winter League in 2024, but happily things took a better turn in 2025 with our first win. We have a few more games in hand, and then before you know it we'll be looking to book matches for the summer league.

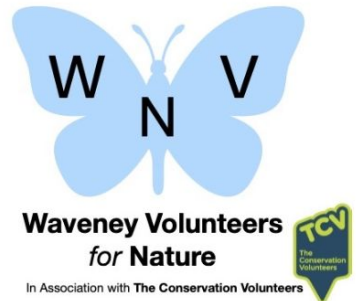
Roll-ups continue at Brockdish Village Hall on Thursday evenings (excluding home match nights) at 7.15 pm for a 7.30 pm start. Everyone is welcome, and we love to see new faces. If you fancy seeing what it's all about, come along and have a bowl!

***Peter Croxson***

***Chairman, 01379 668630***

## **Waveney Volunteers for Nature**

It's going to be a busy year. Members of WVfN have recently held their annual 'brainstorming' session to discuss ideas and actions for the next 12 months. Quite apart from maintaining our Commons and trying to get the County Council to release the old school playing field, we have some exciting events.



On Saturday 1st March we are holding a nesting box building morning. So this is an invitation to everyone, particularly parents with children, to join us at the Waveney Heritage Centre from 10.00 am till 1.00 pm, and make a bird nesting box. You can then take it home and fix it in your garden. All materials will be supplied and help given where necessary, and it's all FREE. All we ask is that you let us know what happens in your box later in the spring. If you are interested, please book a place by phoning Derek on 01379 669201 or emailing us at [WVfNature@protonmail.com](mailto:WVfNature@protonmail.com)

During the year, we will be making a 'wildlife friendly garden' at the Waveney Heritage Centre. Our aim is that it will be used by the community to find relaxation and enjoyment, and that residents and local organisations can be involved in its construction.

In June (date yet to be decided) we will be holding our annual Open Day on the Commons. We will be making use of the 'story circle' that we've created on Foredale Common, and we'll be seeking the involvement of the Parish Council and other local groups so that it becomes a village day, and helps make progress towards becoming a Wildlife Friendly Village.

Finally, as always, we are inviting anyone who is interested to join us. Involvement does not necessarily mean turning up for a working session at one of the sites we manage. If you have an expertise or interest in any subject related to our wildlife, and would like to contribute some time to building a record of wildlife in the area, then please contact us. The phone number and email address is above, or see us on Facebook.

***Derek Clark***

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### Thorpe Abbotts Village Hall

Our Christmas Party was well attended, and there was great excitement when Santa arrived to meet the children and hand out gifts. The hall looked beautiful, and certainly had the WOW factor. South Norfolk and Broadland District Council have agreed! We entered their Christmas Hamper competition by sending in a photo of the children and Santa, full of smiles and joy. The competition was open to all businesses, shops and events in South Norfolk. We were delighted when a call came to say that we had won the Christmas Hamper, but struggled with who it should be awarded to in the village, as so many people have helped and supported with the regeneration of the hall this year. The committee nominated names to go into a hat, and the name picked out was Fred McDonald for his continuing commitment to the village hall.



In between Christmas and the New Year, the “Thorpe Abbotts Goes Walking” initiative began, and twenty four people took part, along with seven dogs! Millie Shepherd, with the support of Sarah McCluskey, organised the event, and the first outing was enjoyed by all. The hot bacon rolls at the end were very welcome. Further walks will be taking place on a monthly basis, and we welcome other “walkers” from our local villages. Look out for the information on village notice boards and our Instagram page [thorpeabbotts.villagehall](#).

As 2025 begins, the Village Hall Committee continues to push forward with new ventures and opportunities. Pilates with Amanda Cooper has begun, and we are working on getting more day and evening activities underway in the near future.

Finally, Thorpe Abbotts Village Hall Committee would like to recognise the huge contribution that Jan Croxson has made to the Brockdish community and beyond. Our thoughts and love go to her husband, Peter, and the family. Thank you, Jan.





**WAVENEY  
WIRELESS**



*Waveney Heritage Centre, The Old School, Grove Road, Brockdish IP21 4JP* Registered Charity No.1192646

### **Events for 2025**

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 your support during 2024.

The first few months of our Events List 2025 are as follows:

- Wednesday, 26th March at 7.30 pm. A talk by Robin Twigge: '60 Years of Hospitality (or 60 Years of Being Patiently hospitable!)
- Wednesday, 9th April at 7.30 pm. A talk by Chris Wisken and Gordon Lascelles: "Call the Fire Brigade!!" How Harleston's own has served and saved the local community for the last two and a half centuries.
- Wednesday, 7th May at 7.30 pm. A talk by Gary Alderton: The 80th Anniversary of VE Day. Gary will bring many items from his vast collection of wartime artefacts to show us and explain, especially those relevant to VE day.
- Saturday, 14th June, 9.00 am until 12.00 pm. Annual Brockdish Village Garage Sale and BBQ. Now is the time to start your spring cleaning early! Have a sort out and book a stall for the sale. There will be tables available at the Centre if you don't have room at home. To book a table or further information please ring me.
- Wednesday, 25th June at 6.30 pm. A walk around Harleston with Gordon Lascelles: Harleston at War – Who do You Think You are Kidding?

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

***Jill Edwards***

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## Jokes

In what part of the army does a sapling serve?

*The Infan-tree*

What do you call a life without ballet?

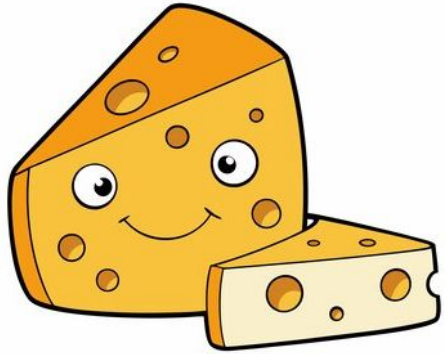
*Pointless*

What did the garlic do at the beach?

*Took off its cloves*

Did you hear about the speeding cheese?

*It won the Grand Brie*



Why is the letter A like a flower?

*Because a bee comes after it*

## Brain Teasers

1. Which is the smallest US state?
2. What is the only mammal that can truly fly?
3. Which are the only two countries that have borders on three oceans?
4. True or False: cream weighs less than milk.
5. What is the hardest substance in your body?

**Answers on page 35**



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### **A message from Councillor Martin Wilby**

Norfolk has come first for the second year in a row in the National Highways and Transport Survey on roads and transport. The annual survey showed again that the highest satisfaction among 29 UK counties and authorities was to be found in Norfolk, which achieved an overall score of 49. The average overall score amongst our peers this year was 44. People from across the county gave the highest, above-average scores in satisfaction with the condition of the highways, local bus services and traffic levels and congestion. In total, Norfolk was at, or above the national average across 24 of the 27 key Benchmark Indicators. Highlights from this year's survey include:

- Norfolk achieved higher than average on all but one of the public transport metrics.
- The provision of electric vehicle charging points has seen an improvement of 31.3%.
- Provision of cycle lanes. We ranked top for satisfaction, up from 4th last year.
- Safety of children cycling to school has increased, from 7th place last year, to 1st this year.
- Satisfaction with how we deal with potholes and damaged roads has increased from 6th place last year, to 3rd this year.

Norfolk County Council is looking to use £1.15m of the £6.7m allocated to the county through the Household Support Fund, to keep people warm and help them make ends meet. The County Council will use £0.75m to partner with local organisations, including Age UK and Citizens Advice Bureau, to reach some of those most affected by the changes to the Winter Fuel payments. They will also put £400k into the 'Warm Spaces' scheme, which provides vital respite in community spaces across the county. The proposals also include £3.6m to continue providing cost-of-living vouchers for families eligible for means tested free school meals. This is in addition to: £1.00m to Norfolk Assistance Scheme, £0.70m to local councils to provide proactive and crisis support, and £0.25m to Adult Learning to continue free access to a range of courses to help with cooking at home, budgeting and digital skills.



### **A message from Councillor Martin Wilby**

More than 200 apprentices have been able to start at businesses and organisations across Norfolk thanks to a scheme that has transferred £2.2m to where it is most needed. Apprenticeships Norfolk's Levy Support Scheme enables unspent funds, which would otherwise be returned to HM Treasury, to be transferred to employers that can use them to fund apprenticeships, for new or existing staff. Aviva, BBC and the University of East Anglia (UEA) are just some of the organisations to transfer their unspent levy to the Apprenticeship Norfolk programme, which, in its second financial year has reached its £2m milestone in transfers. To find out more about the Levy Support Scheme, you can visit the Apprenticeship Norfolk Website, or email [apprenticeships@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:apprenticeships@norfolk.gov.uk) or on 0344 800 8024

Lifesaving defibrillators for use by the public are now available at more than half of Norfolk's fire stations thanks to the extension of a successful project. Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service is committed to saving lives every day. The Defibrillator project has been spearheaded by firefighter Chris Baker who has been involved in getting other community defibrillators in place across Norfolk. The machines are simple to use and offer step by step guidance to enable people to try and restart a heart. All fire crews in Norfolk also carry defibrillators on frontline appliances.

***Martin***

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**Brockdish and Thorpe Abbots Parish Council*****Chair: Christine MacKenzie (01379 668818)******Clerk: Teresa Hines (01379 308617)******Email: [brockdishthorpeabbottspc@gmail.com](mailto:brockdishthorpeabbottspc@gmail.com)***

At recent scheduled meetings we have addressed concerns raised by members of the public including:

**Speeding/Traffic Calming.** We have a SAM2 unit (shared with Needham) which captures the speed at which vehicles travel. The unit is placed at approved locations in Brockdish and Thorpe Abbots. We are hoping to purchase two further units through the NCC Parish Partnership Scheme, where NCC funds 50% of the costs. We are also supported by the Police Safety Camera Team who visit regularly. 'Slow Down' signs have been placed at suitable locations at The Street and Scole Road, Brockdish.

**Inconsiderate Parking.** Unfortunately, we have no power to rectify this. Please park appropriately and considerately.

<https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/communities/car-parks/south-norfolk-car-parkpermits/inconsiderate-parking>

**Mill Road, Thorpe Abbots.** The uneven road surface will be patched at the end of February/early March (road closure requires a minimum of eight weeks notice). Potholes reported earlier this year will be repaired as soon as possible.

**The Pump, Thorpe Abbots.** Erosion of verges. The NCC Highway Engineer will not permit posts to be installed on the verge at this location, as they would be an obstruction to highway users. NJUG regulations would not permit excavation under the tree canopy as this would cause damage to the roots/trees. NCC has the final say over SNC Conservation/Heritage Officers.

**Ford Warning Sign and Depth Gauge, The Ford, Brockdish.** The rationale behind the installation of the Flood Warning Sign and Depth Gauge is part of a county-wide project to review, and improve the signage at all fords in the county following a tragic fatality at a ford early 2024. The signage at all fords across the county was reviewed by the area-based teams, and signs replaced/installed at each ford based on individual risk assessments. The depth gauge sign is a County wide approved sign, with the requirements for imperial and metric markings. There were two size options, a 6ft sign and a 3ft

## **Brockdish and Thorpe Abbots Parish Council**

sign. It was the decision to go for the smaller 3ft sign, as the 6ft alternative was not necessary, and would have looked out of place at Brockdish Ford. We continue to discuss and monitor flood issues, neighbourhood planning, planning applications, the new Brockdish village sign, and biodiversity (as per our policy). We receive regular updates from WVfN and Thorpe Abbots Village Hall.

**Drop In Surgery.** Do you have any questions, concerns or ideas about our community? Please come along and discuss with your councillors on Saturday 15th March 2025, 10.00am-12.00pm, at Brockdish Village Hall. We look forward to meeting you!

**Jan Croxson.** We were sorry to hear of the passing of Jan, who was a very respected, valued and enthusiastic member of our community. She will be greatly missed. Our condolences go to Peter and the family.

We currently have one Councillor vacancy (voluntary role). For further information please email [brockdishthorpeabbottspc@gmail.com](mailto:brockdishthorpeabbottspc@gmail.com).

**Planning** [www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/planning](http://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/planning)

### **Applications: pending decision**

2024/3672: 1 The Street, Brockdish. Electric car charging point to the building.

### **Decisions: approved by SNC and PC**

2024/2912: Abbots Gate, Grove Road, Brockdish. Extension to existing garage.

**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 February 2025, 7.00pm Thorpe Abbots Village Hall
- Thursday 27th March 2025, 7.00pm WHC, Brockdish
- No scheduled meeting is held during April.

**Jobs for February and March**

It is important to check tree stakes, as trunks widen they could cut into the bark. Flexible rubber ties should not do too much harm, but wire can cause a great deal of damage. Check if the stake is solid and not rotting at the base. If the tree is well established simply remove the stake.



To enjoy a little spring indoors, cut some pussy willow stems when the furry buds have just opened, and then pop them in a container without water to keep them in bud. Adding water will cause the catkins to open.

It is simple to make a wildlife haven in a natural barrier in the garden. A construction of tangled branches and foliage held within stakes, for example, a dead hedge, makes a wonderful habitat. The hedge can continuously evolve throughout the year. Each time a tree is pruned, or a shrub cut back, woody stems can be woven into the frame, and as older stems rot down, nutrients are recycled back into the soil. The stakes are usually from sturdier branches, or use simple garden stakes to form the outline of the barrier to be filled. The barrier can also afford protection to newly planted shrubs and plants.

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## Knit or Crochet a Pair of Wrist Warmers

The weather has been so cold since Christmas, and as the saying goes: 'Ne'er cast a clout till May is out'. Hopefully the weather will be rather more clement by then, but in the meanwhile, why not try making a pair of these hand/wrist warmers? They are super quick and easy to make, consisting of a simple square, which is stitched together leaving a gap for the thumb. This pattern makes 1 small pair of wrist warmers. Cast on more stitches to increase the size. This pattern is for knitting, but can be adapted for crochet

### Materials:

- Ball of DK weight yarn
- 4mm needles

### Method:

1. Cast on 36 sts.
2. **Knit:**

**Row 1:** K2, P2 to end

**Row 2:** K2, P2 to end

Repeat row 2 until work measures approx. 6" (15cm).



Cast off, leaving a long tail for sewing. Join the two sides. Beginning at top edge, sew sides together for 1" (2.5cm), leave next 1.5" (4cm) open for thumb. Sew remainder of sides together. Repeat for a second hand-warmer.

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*Set oven to 180°C / 160°C fan / gas 4. Serves 6-8.*

100g melted butter  
275g self raising flour  
1 tsp baking powder  
300g light brown soft sugar  
250ml whole milk  
3 large eggs  
2 tbsps golden syrup  
4 tbsps caramel from a tin



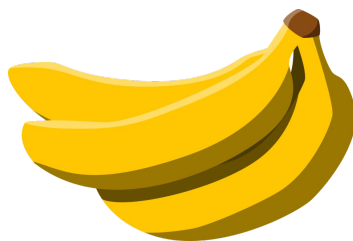
Boil a kettle and butter a rectangular dish 20cm x 28cm x 4cm. Tip the flour, baking powder and 140g of the sugar into a bowl and mix. Put the butter, milk and eggs in a jug and whisk, then add to the flour mixture and mix well. Tip into the dish and level.

Mix the remaining sugar with the syrup and caramel, add 300ml boiling water and stir until the sugar and caramel dissolves. Pour over the mixture in the dish, and bake for 1 hour until the top is set and the sauce starts to bubble at the edges. Serve immediately, as if allowed to sit, the sauce will soak into the sponge. Yummy with ice cream.

### Baked Banana Porridge

*Set oven to 190°C / 170°C fan / gas 5. Serves 2.*

2 small bananas, peeled and halved lengthways  
100g jumbo porridge oats  
¼ tsp ground cinnamon  
150ml milk of your choice  
4 roughly chopped walnuts



Mash one of the banana halves, then mix it with the oats, milk and cinnamon and 300ml water. Top with the remaining bananas, and scatter over the walnuts. Bake for 20 – 25 minutes, or until the oats are creamy and have absorbed most of the liquid.



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## **Brockdish Church**

Our Church might be situated outside the residential centre of Brockdish, but we have provided, and will continue to provide, various events for all to enjoy.

Our Christmas Coffee Morning was well attended, and it wasn't just coffee. We were spoilt for choice with cakes, as well as games, a tombola, and raffle, and most of all chatter and laughter! The Brass Band Concert was once again a roaring success.

Over Christmas, we enjoyed our annual Carols by Candlelight and Christmas Day service, both of which were well attended. Our gratitude goes to all who helped with the Christmas decorations.

Often with joy comes sadness. On 2nd December we lost Jan Croxson, a friend and neighbour, as well as Church Warden. We extend our condolences to Peter, Joel and Claire.

One thing I am certain: Jan would have wanted me to wish you all A Very Happy and Peaceful New Year.



***Sue Harvey***

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Brockdish Church Warden	Ann Cork - 01379 668635
Thorpe Abbotts Contact	Christine McDonald - 01379 669116

**Church Service Times - February and March 2025**

2nd February	Brockdish 9.30 am	Morning Prayer
9th February	Brockdish 9.30 am	Holy Communion
	Thorpe Abbotts 9.30 am	Morning Prayer
16th February	Brockdish 9.30am	Morning Prayer
2nd March	Brockdish 9.30 am	Morning Prayer
9th March	Brockdish 9.30 am	Morning Prayer
	Thorpe Abbotts 9.30 am	Holy Communion
16th March	Brockdish 9.30am	Holy Communion
23rd March	Brockdish 9.30 am	Morning Prayer
30th March	Brockdish 9.30 am	Morning Prayer

# Michael Last

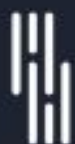
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1. Rhode Island 2. Bats 3.USA and Canada 4.True 5. The enamel in your teeth



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