

# THE *Mardler*

**BROCKDISH & THORPE ABBOTTS**



**Edition No. 256 April-May 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
<b>Emergencies</b>	999
<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
<b>Yoga</b> <i>Belinda</i>	07856 216735
<b>South Norfolk District Councillor</b> <i>Clayton Hudson</i>	01379 676259
<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

Welcome to this jam-packed edition of The Mardler. This magazine has always been written by our community, for our community, and I am pleased to announce that we have some new regular articles for you starting this month, sent in by our readers. 'Walking in the Waveney Valley' is one reader's personal relationship with our beautiful countryside and the changing seasons. 'Intriguing Places to Visit' offers some often-overlooked hidden gems in the local area that have a fascinating past or story attached to them. Finally, we have another new contributor providing us with recipes, so if you are a fan of rhubarb and custard, turn to page 37 now. A big thank you to everyone, young or old, who has contributed - it is always lovely to receive suggestions, articles and photos. If you have anything you would like to send in, then we would love to hear from you. The Mardler team would like to wish you all a very happy Easter!

***Jo Slater, Editor***

### **REMEMBER**

**Closing date for entries in the June/July 2025 issue is Friday 25th April. Articles received after this date will not be included in the next issue.**



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**Harleston Library**

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

In April, we will continue adding to our Alice in Wonderland themed display, so come along to one of our fortnightly adult craft sessions or our weekly 'Family Time' sessions to join in the fun. During the school Easter Holidays, our 'Family Time' sessions will be starting earlier than usual, with the usual mix of crafts and games running from 2.30pm-4.30pm rather than the usual 3.30pm start. In May, we will be celebrating the 80th Anniversary of VE Day with a tea party in the library on Friday 9th May from 2.30pm onwards. All are welcome.

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. For Harleston library opening times see our website.

**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 2nd April 2.00pm-3.00pm: Meet and Make (Adults)
- Wednesday 9th April 1.30pm-3.00pm: Knit and Natter
- Wednesday 9th April 2.30pm-4.30pm: Extended Family Time
- Wednesday 16th April 2.00pm-3.00pm: Meet and Make (Adults)
- Wednesday 16th April 2.30pm-4.30pm: Extended Family Time
- Wednesday 26th April 1.30pm-3.00pm: Knit and Natter
- Friday 9th May 2.30pm: VE Day Celebration

**Easter Closing Dates:**

- Good Friday (18th April): Closed all day (no Open Libraries)
- Easter Saturday (19th April): Open as usual
- Easter Sunday (20th April): Closed all day (no Open Libraries)
- Easter Monday (21st April): Closed all day (no Open Libraries)

### **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 [norfolkhl@sroyalvoluntaryservice.org.uk](mailto:norfolkhl@sroyalvoluntaryservice.org.uk).

### **Mobile Library**

Visits Brockdish and Thorpe Abbots every 4 weeks on a Thursday. Next visit is the **17th April** and **15th May 2025**.

Stopping at:

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

### **A Village Thank You**

I would like to thank my very dear friends Tom and Linda, Jane and David, and Peter, for their continued support shown to me and my family at the sad loss of my dear Paddy. I would also like to thank all of you that sent flowers and cards. Your messages of kindness have helped us at this very sad time.

***Peggy Neanor and family***

### **The Big South Norfolk Litter Pick**

Please join us for our litter picks and you could win £200 for your community.

- Brockdish Village Green, Saturday 26th April at 11.00am (contact Chris Mackenzie on 01379 668818 for more details).
- Thorpe Abbots Village Hall, Saturday 26th April at 11.00am (contact Sarah McCluskey on 07717 737570 for more details).





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### **Borderhoppa Outings for April 2025**

- Monday 7th April: Lathams and lunch at Poppylands, Horsey, £20.00.
- Thurs 10th April: Great Yarmouth, £20.00.
- Monday 14th April: Breakfast at Wortham Tea Rooms followed by shopping at B&M and The Range, Bury St Edmunds, £18.00.
- Thursday 17th April: Ipswich Town Centre, £20.00.
- Thursday 24th April: Hillcrest Nurseries, Stanton, £10.00.
- Monday 28th April: Peter Beales Roses, Attleborough, £15.00.

### **Borderhoppa Outings for May 2025**

- Thursday 1st May: Bungay Town (Market Day), £10.00.
- Thursday 8th May: Lunch at Earsham Hall Tea Rooms, £8.00.
- Monday 12th May: Lowestoft Town / Seafront, £20.00.
- Thursday 15th May: Harleston Factory Shop and town centre, £8.00.
- Monday 19th May: The Foundry Garden Centre, Tasburgh, £8.00.
- Thursday 22nd May: Breakfast at Billingford Horseshoes, £8.00.
- Thursday 29th May: Southwold, £20.00.

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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9



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## Brockdish Village Hall

**Annual General Meeting  
15th April 2025, 7.30pm  
Brockdish Village Hall**

This is a specially important AGM and we look forward to your support.

- In the last year we have sadly lost our long term Chairlady and so we need a new Chairperson.
- There is a need to generate new income for the Hall, as our expenses currently exceed our income.
- We often hear residents ask for new activities to be arranged: a cinema club, exercise classes, bingo, a bar, more opportunities for parties or wedding receptions, or maybe some mothers would like a 'mother & toddler' group? Redecoration is something that is often asked for.
- Some things already happen: Art, Badminton, Bowls, 'Mingling', Quizzes and Band Concerts. We now have WiFi, but with new exciting ideas, we need help and support to ensure that the Hall remains a vibrant part of our Village life. So please come along to this special meeting and be prepared to offer your support in any way that you can.

### Jan Croxson - Thank You

We are very grateful for all the generous donations that were received at Jan's service. The donations have been placed in the Church fabric fund for safe keeping. The PCC have agreed that the donations will pay for the electricity board to be updated with new trip switches for all the lights and heaters.

We all thank you sincerely for your donations enabling this work to be carried out, as this was one of Jan's next projects to be done.

***Peter and family***

### **Quiz Night** **Saturday** **10th May 2025**

**Brockdish Village Hall**  
**7.30pm for 8pm start**

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

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



## **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.

## **Wortwell Bowls Club**

Our club is situated alongside the Wortwell Community Centre. We play from April to September, on Monday afternoons and Thursday 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 [philpoulton5@gmail.com](mailto:philpoulton5@gmail.com).



### **Wortwell Bowls Club Open Day Saturday 12th April from 2.00 pm**

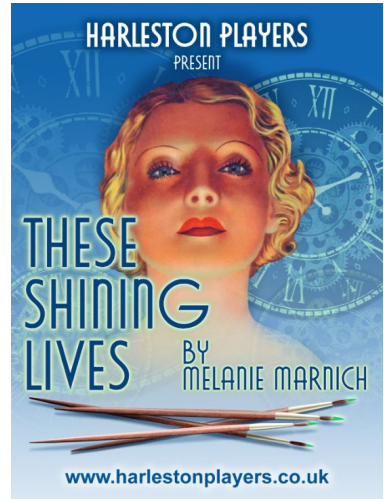
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***Harleston Players present***  
**These Shining Lives**  
**By Melanie Marnich**

Based on the true story of a group of female workers who, in the 1920s and 30s, suffered radium poisoning from painting the luminous watch dials for the Radium Dial Company in Ottawa, Illinois.

Marnich's play focuses on the close relationship which develops between the four women as they support each other through illness, and their long fight to take the company to court. The story is honest and uncompromising, but the women's resilience is inspiring, with plenty of warmth and humour. The play is suitable for age 12+.



Performances (all at Harleston Sancroft Academy):

- Friday 25th April 7.30pm
- Saturday 26th April 7.30pm
- Friday 2nd May 7.30pm
- Saturday 3rd May 2.30pm and 7.30pm

Tickets, priced £12, available from Robinson's Traditional Stationers, Harleston, or online from [www.harlestonplayers.co.uk](http://www.harlestonplayers.co.uk). Licensed bar. Audio description will be available for the performances on Saturday 3 May.

**Harleston u3a April to June 2025**

- 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.

## Harleston Players Audio Description

If you or someone you know are **PARTIALLY SIGHTED or BLIND**, and still enjoy live performance, you might be interested in our Audio Description at Players productions, and we would love to hear from you. It is completely free, and we can let you know when it is available at our productions. Please contact us with an e-mail or phone number so you won't miss out.

We started this last year with 'Dads Army', and this year with our 'Farndale Christmas Carol'. We provide a small receiver with an earpiece giving live description of what is happening on stage so you can enjoy the show.

We have developed this with the help of local therapist and counsellor Tracy Reeve who is herself blind. Tracy says, "I always enjoyed going to the theatre and since losing my sight I am delighted that Players are now providing this service. Audio Description is very rare in local theatre, and I am pleased to help with the refining of the description. This helps me to understand and really enjoy the performances. Please support this service to make sure it will continue."

Our next production is 'These Shining Lives'. This tells the true story of four women who worked for the Radium Dial factory in Illinois in the 1920s/30s, and their legal battle to prove that many health problems were caused by their work conditions. They suffered radium poisoning, but their employers denied responsibility. A brilliant show. The Audio Description will be available at both performances on May 3rd, and can be booked through me.



If you can't come then we will be able to tell you about our future productions including Terry Pratchett's 'Carpe Jugulum' in the autumn. Contact me at [roygoodwin53@gmail.com](mailto:roygoodwin53@gmail.com) or on 07768 847 175 to be in the know.





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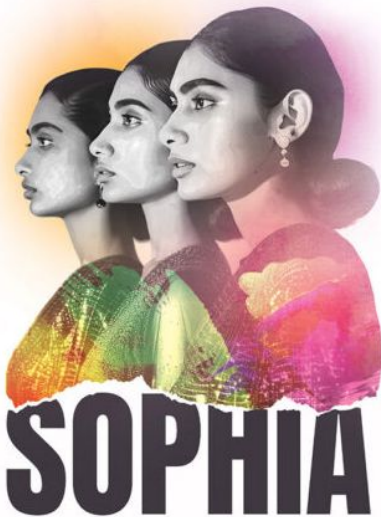
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Syleham and Wingfield Village Hall, IP21 4LT

Diary Dates

- Thursday 10th April, 7.30pm: 'Sophia', Eastern Angles Theatre
- Monday 14th April to 28th April: scrap metal skip in car park
- Friday 18th May, 7.30pm for 8.00pm: Quiz in aid of Stradbroke Tennis
- Saturday 26th April, 2.00pm - 4.00pm: Jumble Sale
- Saturday 10th May: VE day afternoon tea
- Saturday 10th May: 'Herding Cats' live music
- Friday 16th May, 7.30pm for 8.00pm: Quiz in aid of Wingfield Church

We are continuing the Coffee and Cake on the first Tuesday of the month, 10.00am to 11.30am. All welcome to pop in. Coffee, craft and chat also continues on the last Thursday on the month, 1.30pm to 3.00pm. These sessions are free thanks to MSDC for 'Well in Winter' funding. This includes 8.00pm to 10.00pm each Tuesday, when tea, coffee and biscuits are available during our usual opening hours.



Join us for professional theatre on your doorstep! Eastern Angles will be with us on Thursday 10th April, 7.30pm, with their production 'Sophia'. Sophia Duleep Singh was born into royalty and grew up to be a revolutionary. Come and explore Sophia's life, uncovering the story of this unknown lioness of women's suffrage and her part in some of the defining moments of British Indian history. Tickets are £14, bookable via Eastern Angles website, or contact Julie to reserve a ticket and pay on the door (cash or card accepted). Bar will be open and a raffle.

Our **Quiz evenings** on 18th April and 16th May will raise funds for equipment for youth coaching with Stradbroke Tennis and Wingfield Church respectively. Ideally teams of 4, £5 per person, 7.30pm for 8.00pm start. Raffle and bar will be open. Book in with Julie, or come along on the night.

Syleham and Wingfield Village Hall, IP21 4LT

You'll be pleased to know the date for our **Spring Jumble Sale** is Saturday 26th April, 2.00pm to 4.00pm. Free entry. Also, a **metal collection skip** will be in the village hall car park from Monday 14th April until Monday 28th April. Any metal objects welcome, but no fridges, freezers, gas bottles or TVs please. Thank you. Please get in touch if you need further information or need jumble collected.



Although a couple of days late, we will be holding a **VE day afternoon tea** on Saturday 10th May. This will be on J's Meadow, if the weather is kind, and in the village hall if not! There will be a little music, perhaps a little dancing, perhaps a few games, but especially tea!

Join us for **Live Music with Herding Cats** (Roy Goodwin *et al*) on Saturday 10th May. Doors open 7.30pm. Free entry with charity bucket collection. Thank you for your support!

**Julie Thompson**

**tel 07929794636, email [juliethompson435@gmail.com](mailto:juliethompson435@gmail.com)**

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# Thorpe Abbots Village Hall

## Events Calendar

### Coffee Mornings

are the first Thursday of every month at 10:30 - 12:00 pm  
- all welcome

### Bar Nights Plus

are the last Friday of every month at 6:30 pm - all welcome

### Thorpe Abbots goes walking

the last Sunday of the month 9:15 am

### Pilates

Monday afternoon at 1:30 pm. This is a pre-booked course.

**FEB  
28**

6:30 PM

*Bar Night with  
Fish and Chips*

**MAR  
28**

6:30 PM

*Bar Night with  
Bingo*

**APR  
09**

7 PM

*Church AGM*

**APR  
12**

10 AM - 12 PM

*Messy Church*

**APR  
19**

10:30 AM - 12:30 PM

*Easter  
Celebration*

**MAY  
14**

7 - 9 PM

*Memories of Thorpe  
Abbots in WW2*

**MAY  
30**

6:30 PM

*Bar Night with  
Board Games*

**JUN  
05**

10:30 AM - 12 PM

*Coffee Morning  
with Plant Fair*

**JUN  
14**

7:30 PM

*Quiz Night*

**JUN  
27**

6:30 PM

*Bar Night with  
BBQ*

**JUL  
09**

7 - 9 PM

*"School Days"  
Local History*

**AUG  
02**

11 AM - 5 PM

*VE Day Celebrations  
1940's Event*

**SEP  
27**

12:30 - 4 PM

*Summer BBQ*

**OCT  
31**

6:30 PM

*Bar Night and  
Halloween*

**NOV  
22**

7:30 PM

*Church Quiz*





Giving our past a future



**WAVENEY  
WIRELESS**

*Saturday 14 June 2025*

*at the Waveney Heritage Centre, and various  
driveways around the village of Brockdish*

*Brockdish Village*

# *Annual Garage Sale*

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[contact@waveneyheritage.com](mailto:contact@waveneyheritage.com)







Giving our past a future



# Waveney Quiz

Friday 25 April 2025, at the Waveney Heritage Centre

7.30 pm start

Maximum 6 per team

£5 per person

Golden ticket

Cake, tea/coffee, bring your own drinks & snacks

This is a bookable event....

Contact Jill Edwards **to book** 01379 671459

or email [contact@waveneyheritage.com](mailto:contact@waveneyheritage.com)

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The Waveney Heritage Centre, Brockdish



Giving our past a future

*Wednesday 9 April 2025  
at the Waveney Heritage Centre  
Brockdish at 7.15 pm*

# *'Call the Fire Brigade!'*

*A talk by Chris Wisken & Gordon Lascelles*

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## Waveney Volunteers for Nature

Our 'Nest Box Building Day' announced in our last report went ahead with great success on 1st March, and the feed-back from those who made their boxes was very positive. We look forward to more of our feathered friends having a safe home in the coming season. We were not able to meet the full demand for places that we received, so we will be arranging similar events in the future. The photographs taken at the event say it all.



Plans for our Open Day have changed a bit. We will now be holding it on Sunday 21st September at Brockdish Common, off Common Lane, with the Village Hall also playing a part, particularly if wet. The event is also linked to the Harleston Heritage event. A good variety of activities is being planned so it will be a great day, particularly for children. Make a note of the date now.

**Derek Clark**



## Walking in The Waveney Valley

### **The Peace of Wild Things by *Wendell Berry***

When despair for the world grows in me  
and I wake in the night at the least sound  
in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,  
I go and lie down where the wood drake  
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.  
I come into the peace of wild things  
who do not tax their lives with forethought  
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.  
And I feel above me the day-blind stars  
waiting with their light. For a time  
I rest in the grace of the world and am free.



I love this poem, it inspires me to get out into the countryside and explore the beautiful Waveney Valley. This in turn encourages me to write. Here is some of my walking diary from the last year or two.

### May

The wind is strong today. Larks are rising. The curve of the field is like the curve of the earth. Clouds are scraped and stippled across the blue sky and there are so many shades of green; the blue-green of the stands of wheat turn yellow-green as I turn my head to face the sun. The green-grey of the hawthorn is encrusted with pink and white blossom, the bracts drooping heavily. The dead tree trunk I have found to sit on is alive with biting flies soaking up the sun and leaving my blood to flow safely in its veins. The old tree stump is gnarled, grey, deeply veined and sharp-edged. Larks continue to rise. Behind me, rosebay and nettles droop in the heat. I have no idea where I am or how to get back home, though I know I'm not lost. Larks continue to rise. Cow parsley seems to float on the wind which speaks and creaks through the woods behind like rushing water. My friend Anne told me today she'd had a bee swarm in her garden and an old bee-keeper came round to gently tap and drop them into a box and take them home with him to make new honey. A crow flies across the top of the field into the wood, I hear it gently cawing, a counterpoint to the hiss of the wind. From here the track curves round the edge of the field and out of sight – I shall follow it to see where it leads me.



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### The Book Club Recommends...

Many thanks to Sarah Young for her book review. If you have read a brilliant book recently, please send a review into The Mardler.

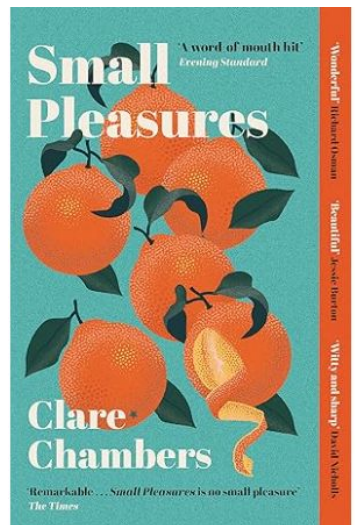
#### **Small Pleasures by Clare Chambers**

It is 1957, and Jean Swinney, a spinster in her late 30s, lives with her neurotic widowed mother in the suburbs of South East London. Jean is the only female journalist on the North Kent Echo and therefore – to her dismay – given the onerous task of writing weekly columns on housekeeping and gardening tips. Trapped in a life of duty and disappointment from which there is no likelihood of escape, Jean takes solace in small pleasures: "... the first cigarette of the day; a glass of sherry before Sunday lunch; a bar of chocolate parcelled out to last a week ... the satisfaction of a neatly folded ironing pile."

Things begin to look up for Jean when the editor sends her to investigate a Mrs Gretchen Tilbury – "Our Lady of Sidcup" – who sensationally claims that her daughter is the product of a virgin birth. The evidence appears to confirm Gretchen's version of events, but as Jean accompanies Gretchen and the ten-year-old Margaret to tests at Charing Cross Hospital, she finds herself becoming increasingly involved in the Tilbury family, including Gretchen's husband, Howard, and her professional detachment is compromised as she begins to suspect the truth about Margaret's conception.

Small Pleasures is, as its title hints, a novel about people who have settled for lives that are less than they'd hoped for, but with a typically English middle-class sense that they mustn't grumble. The war and its deprivations are only a decade past. People are making do and mending but there are bigger passions and unspoken sorrows buried under the respectable surface that threaten to derail a life, especially in a society that expects women to behave in a certain way.

Small Pleasures is a rare treat of a book. Small lives, love and loneliness, wit, despair and unexpected mystery all wrapped up in a time of pea-soupers, spam fritters and stifling 1950s mores.



### **A word from Rosedale.....**

For some, the beginning of a new year can be a good time to make changes in life. A new year brings the possibility of a fresh start. Many people commit to new fitness or dietary goals or reassess career direction. In January, estate agents report a surge of properties coming onto the market as people decide to make changes to their living arrangements.

On a smaller scale, I like to take stock of my bookshelves, kitchen cupboards and wardrobe. There is something therapeutic about re-organising our personal space and clearing out things that are surplus to requirements. It feels good to donate clothes and books to charity shops, knowing that someone else can benefit from things we no longer need, whilst also making money for worthy causes. This form of recycling is also good for the planet.

For those who are bereaved, a new year is often not a cause for celebration but a reminder that the future must be faced without their loved one. For some, this fear can be quite overwhelming.

At our bereavement groups, we like to remind participants that they do still have a future (even though it might look very different to what they had planned.) None of us know the future or what good times may lie ahead. We also remind our participants that they are still individuals of worth (even without their loved one) and they are still important - friends, family, colleagues etc, still need them.

No matter our circumstances, we all have something to offer. We each have a unique set of skills, characteristics and abilities that are needed in the world.



Most importantly, we all need to be reminded that we are not alone. Everyone is part of some kind of community, whether that be a family, a friendship group, neighbourhood, church, workplace or hobby club. At the most basic level, we are all part of the human race and have a part to play in making the world a better place.

**A word from Rosedale.....**

I'll finish with a little story..... Whilst looking at some of the comments beneath an Instagram post about mental health, a doctor had commented that he was losing hope and didn't feel his life had a point anymore. I encouraged him to keep going and that I believed he had a unique combination of skills and abilities that no one else had. I reminded him that the world needed what he had to give. He replied with 'Thank you, I really needed to hear this today.'

We don't know what difficult situations someone else might be facing but we can all do a little something that might make a big difference- a smile, a helping hand, a kind word, or an act of generosity.

If you would like some support with your bereavement, call Rosedale on 01379 640810 to reserve your free place on our next course.

***This article written by Sarah Howard, Rosedale Funeral Home Bereavement Support Group Facilitator***

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## Intriguing Places to Visit *By Susan Sindall*

### **David Parr House, 186 Gwydir Street, Off Mill Road, Cambridge**

From the outside, 186 Gwydir Street looks like any other small Victorian terraced house, but step inside and an extraordinary hand painted Arts and Craft interior awaits.

David Parr began work at 17 years of age as an apprentice at the Cambridge firm of J R Leach, master decorators, in 1871. He decorated some of the grandest houses in the area, and was introduced to the work of the most famous designers of the time including Charles Kempe, renowned for stained glass, George Bodley, who restored numerous churches, and William Morris, whose designs remain popular today. David stayed with the firm for 50 years. In 1886, he had saved enough to buy his own home, where he and his wife, Mary, raised three children and lived for the rest of their lives.

Little by little, year by year, David transformed the entire house by restructuring and painting it in the style he worked on in his professional life. The walls and ceilings of the home are testament to his immense skill and dedication. He also designed and made items of joinery and we can still see the notebook in which he detailed every aspect of his work. Although in the style of the rich and famous, David's work is uniquely personal and adapted to make a comfortable and beautiful home for his family. His initials can be seen intertwined into his design in the hallway.



***Strawberry Thief by William Morris, 1883***

### Intriguing Places to Visit

Remarkably, thanks to his wife, and then his granddaughter, Elsie Palmer, who lived in the house for 80 years without changing anything, the interior has survived intact. The house is also an invaluable piece of social history, with very minimal alterations over the years. The toilet dates from late 19th century, and the oven from the 1920's. The house was 'discovered' in 2009, and work began to purchase and preserve it. After 10 years of fundraising and many dedicated volunteer hours, the house opened to the public in 2019. The size of the property means that all visits must be booked in advance. Timed slots are available on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at a cost of £15 per person, with guided tours and group bookings available on other days. There is a very small gift shop, and on the day I visited there was a small exhibition staged by students from the Anglia Ruskin University, inspired by a careful study of the house. There is no cafe but there is a very popular coffee house just across the street. And all a 10 minute walk from the station!

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## Jokes

Thank you to Alexandra (aged 10), who came up with these jokes and sent them in!

What does spring do when it arrives at your door? *It flowerings the doorbell.*  
Where do crabs play billiards? *At the rock-pool table.*

## Local Limericks

These were sent in to The Mardler by Roger Moon from Gloucestershire. On a recent visit to the area he was impressed by the village names and was inspired to write some limericks.

There was an old lady of Stuston  
Whose oven could never get dust on;  
She baked all the bread  
And everyone said  
Her pies had a marvellous crust on.

There was a young fellow from Hoxne  
Who raced in a boat as the cox'n.  
But he said "Though I oughta  
I don't like the water:  
I'd rather be wrestl'n or box'n!



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

Norfolk is set to gain new powers and funding following a significant Government announcement on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2025. Norfolk would be a priority area for devolution and local Government reform. As part of this, the Government is seeking to create a devolution deal for Norfolk and Suffolk, which would include the introduction of an elected mayor. In addition, there are plans to reshape local government in Norfolk. The Government intends to replace the current two-tier structure, where services are shared between county and district councils, with unitary authorities. This would centralize decision-making and service delivery into a single authority, streamlining local government processes and potentially increasing efficiency and saving taxpayers money. These changes will empower local areas with more control over their services and funding. For further details on the progress of devolution and the impact of these reforms, visit [www.norfolk.gov.uk/devolution](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/devolution).

Norfolk has launched new grant programmes as part of its five-year economic blueprint. The £1.1m Business Growth Fund offer grants of £5k to £50k, covering up to 30% of project costs. The £1.2m Made Smarter Adoption programme will provide grants of up to £20k, funding up to 50% of advanced manufacturing and engineering projects. These initiatives aim to boost key sectors like clean energy, agri-tech, and research, while unlocking private sector investment. Grants will be available from April 2025. For more details, visit the Made Smarter Adoption Programme East of England webpage.

A scheme to support people in Norfolk with long-term health issues get back into employment or continue in their jobs has already helped more than 1,100 participants. The Working Well Norfolk programme, launched in October 2023, supports individuals with long-term health issues to return to or stay in work. It has already helped over 1,100 participants, with 200 moving into work and 150 staying employed despite health challenges. The programme has received 1,600 referrals and will continue for another 18 months, with additional funding to help 730 more people, totalling 1,830 participants by September 2026. The £5.2m project is managed by NCC and delivered by Seetec Pluss and Standguide Ltd. For more info or to refer visit Working Well Norfolk – Seetec Pluss or call 01603 561054

Norfolk Youth Justice Service (NYJS) has received an overall rating of “good” after an inspection by His Majesty’s Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP), describing staff as “motivated” and “creative” going “above and beyond” to support the children they work with. The report followed a recent visit by



**A message from Councillor Martin Wilby**

inspectors. NYJS is a multi-agency partnership hosted within Norfolk County Council’s Children’s Services. Its aim is to prevent children from offending, help them repair the damage they cause victims and help children achieve their potential. The inspection found the governance of Norfolk YJS to be strong, with an experienced independent chair of the management board, who is “skilled and knowledgeable.” The quality of resettlement policy and provision was separately rated as “outstanding”

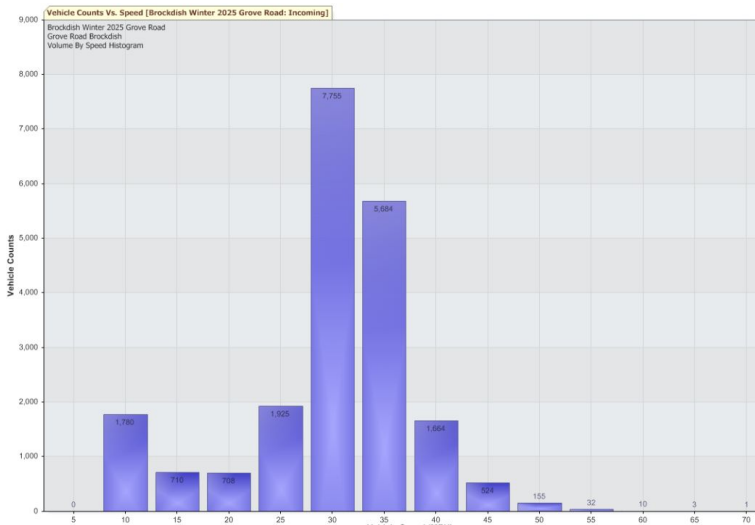
NCC has reached the halfway point of its 1 Million Trees for Norfolk initiative, planting the 500,000 tree. The milestone tree, a Norfolk Oak, was planted at Priscilla Bacon Lodge with support from Paul Bussey, who has funded several tree planting projects across the county.

***Best Wishes***

***Martin***

**Speeding in Brockdish**

Grove Road, Brockdish. Winter 2025 statistics from Cllr Adam Cobbold.



**Number of vehicles: 20951. 8073 travelling over 30mph (39%).  
46 travelling over 50mph. 4 travelling over 60mph.**

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***Clerk: Teresa Hines (01379 308617)***

***Email: [brockdishthorpeabbottspc@gmail.com](mailto:brockdishthorpeabbottspc@gmail.com)***

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

2025/0437 Grove Thorpe, Grove Road, Brockdish. Variation of condition 2 of 2023/0437. Reduction in size of carport & storage building.

Decisions: Approved by SNC & PC

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

**Speeding/Traffic Calming**

We are pleased to say our NCC Parish Partnership Scheme bid was successful. Two Speed Indicator Device Units will be in situ soon in Brockdish and Thorpe Abbots, at locations approved by NCC. We will also be supplying wheelie bin vinyl stickers 'Slow Down' for households in Brockdish and Thorpe Abbots locations where speeding is a concern. Hopefully, these traffic calming measures will reduce vehicle speeds and improve safety. The Police Safety Camera Team will continue to support us with regular visits.

**Diary Date**

Have you ever wondered what is in our rivers and why? Dan Shone-Silk, Community Engagement Officer for the River Waveney Trust will be speaking on River Waveney water quality, testing & pollution on 22nd May 7pm at WHC, Brockdish (to be followed by the Annual Parish meeting and scheduled PC meeting). We look forward to seeing you there!

**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 March 2025 7,00pm WHC, Brockdish
- No scheduled meeting is held during April
- Thursday 22nd May 2025 7.00pm WHC, Brockdish (also Annual Parish Meeting)



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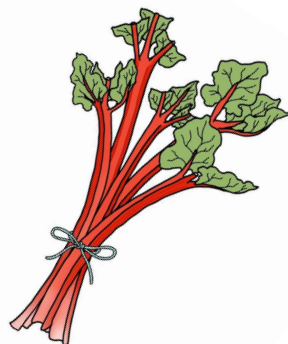
## A Celebration of Rhubarb

Rhubarb is ready to harvest when the stems are thick and long enough, usually in late April/early May. Gently twist the stem at the base of the plant and pull the stem from the plant. Discard the leaves, which are poisonous, onto your compost heap or brown bin. Rhubarb is a good source of vitamin K, vitamin C and potassium.

### Rhubarb and Custard Crumble Bars (Serves 8)

*Preparation time 10 minutes, Cooking time 55 minutes*

200g unsalted butter, plus extra for the tin  
175g caster sugar  
250g plain flour  
100g rolled oats  
50g ground almonds  
400g rhubarb, trimmed and chopped in 2cm chunks  
50g light soft brown sugar  
1 tbsp cornflour  
300ml ready-made custard  
2 tbsp flaked almonds



Heat oven to 180°C/160°C fan/gas 4. Butter a 22cm square tin and line with baking parchment.

Combine the caster sugar, flour, oats and ground almonds in a large bowl, then stir in the melted butter. Set aside 250g of the crumble mix in the fridge, then press the rest, using the back of a spoon, into the base of the tin in an even layer. Bake for 15 minutes or until golden.

Toss the rhubarb with the brown sugar and cornflour in a bowl. Spread the custard over the biscuit base, then spoon over the rhubarb mixture. Scrunch the reserved crumble mix between your fingers and scatter all over the top, along with the flaked almonds. Bake for 40 minutes or until the fruit is bubbling.

Allow to cool, then chill in the fridge for 1hr before serving.

# The Crafty Bombers

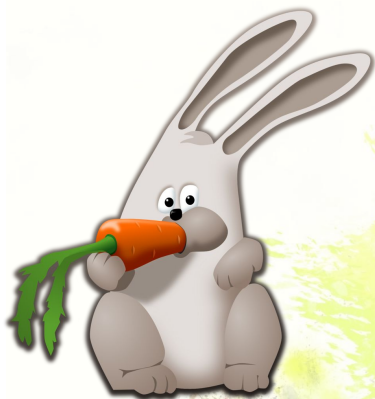
## @ Brockdish Village Hall

**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 13th April - Easter Fun!**



Please join us to celebrate Easter (and Springtime) with some very special crafts suitable for all ages.

Our session will also include an Easter Egg Hunt around the splash.

Looking forward to seeing you all there!

To cover the costs of materials, we ask for a donation of £1 per child. Any crafty donations also gratefully received!

For any enquiries please contact Jo Slater  
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## **All Saints Church, Thorpe Abbotts**

This is a note of many thank yous. Probably the biggest is the amazing amount of food that was collected by the Village for the Christmas Foodbank appeal. 65kg is a fantastic result. Thank you all who put that little extra in your shop to help.

Thank you also to everyone who helped to make our Christingle in December such a great success. The Church looked beautiful, and the children's Christmas tree and the decorations made by them looked lovely. The tree was moved to the porch after the service so it could be enjoyed when the Church was closed. Thank you to the readers: Isabella, Robert, Adam, Mabel, Jack, Vanessa, Sue, Chris and Carol.

Many of you will be aware that Nigel Tuffnell, our Vicar of 12 years, has moved to Swaffham to take on that Benefice. He will be very much missed, but goes with our very best wishes for all that he has done. Finally, a big thank you all of you who contributed to his farewell gift.

A couple of things coming up as we head towards Easter. We will be having an Easter Messy Church in the Village Hall on Saturday 12th April 10.00am - 12.00pm. Teas, coffees and juices will be on offer to sustain both children and parents. Sometime during April, before Easter, we will be having a Church and Churchyard Tidy Up. More details to come once we have decided on a date. Of course, there will be plenty of tea, coffee and cakes to sustain.

Finally we have Easter to look forward to, probably the most important festival of the Christian Year.

- Good Friday, 18th April, 1.30pm: 30 minutes Devotional Service
- Easter Sunday, 20th April. Our Easter Service of Holy Communion at 9.30am taken by Lynda Mansfield. Much seasonal fare to conclude together with a very warm welcome.

We regularly have our church floodlights on to commemorate, remember or celebrate. They cost just £5 a night which goes into our Maintenance Fund. If you would like the lights on, please contact Sue Williams at [williams876@btinternet.com](mailto:williams876@btinternet.com) or call on 07855414941.

***Simon***

## Brockdish Church

As part of a Benefice of 7 Churches we are coming to terms with all that will have to be undertaken following the 'loss' of our Rector Nigel, who is moving to be Priest in Charge in Swaffham and Sporle Benefice.

All the churches have been asked to provide a profile giving information of who we are and what we do. We still have a service every week, where all are warmly welcome to join us. We are fortunate to have a team of Ministers, Readers and Authorised Worship Assistants to oversee and lead the services, and our after-service coffee and refreshment time is an opportunity to catch up. We are always delighted when Oti comes to visit!

Now it is April, a time of sadness and celebration in the Church calendar. You can find a full list of services on the village notice board, as well as in the Church porch.

Dates for your diary:

- Brass Band Concert is on Sunday, 13th April at 3.00pm
- Quiz night is on 10th May, 7.30pm for 8.00pm

Both events are in Brockdish Village Hall. Tickets from Peter Croxson, 668630.

***Sue Harvey***

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### Church Contacts

Benefice Administrator	Mon to Fri 9.15am to 1pm
admin@7churches.org.uk	01379 851148
	Facebook.com/7churches.org.uk
Brockdish Church Warden	Ann Cork - 01379 668635
Thorpe Abbots Contact	Christine McDonald - 01379 669116

### Church Service Times - April and May 2025

6th April	Brockdish 9.30 am	Morning Prayer
13th April	Brockdish 9.30 am	Morning Prayer
	Thorpe Abbots 9.30 am	Morning Prayer
14th April	Brockdish 6.30pm	Congregation Reading John's Gospel
18th April	Brockdish 12.30 pm	Devotional Half Hour
	Thorpe Abbots 1.30 pm	Devotional Half Hour
20th April	Brockdish 9.30 am	Holy Communion
	Thorpe Abbots 9.30 am	Holy Communion
27th April	Brockdish 9.30am	Morning Prayer
4th May	Brockdish 9.30 am	Morning Prayer
11th May	Brockdish 9.30 am	Morning Prayer
	Thorpe Abbots 9.30 am	Holy Communion
18th May	Brockdish 9.30 am	Holy Communion
25th May	Brockdish 9.30 am	Morning Prayer

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