

THE *Mardler*

BROCKDISH & THORPE ABBOTTS



Edition No. 257 June-July 2025

**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

Monday	Monday Minglers (2.00pm)
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

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.

Useful Contacts

Harleston Surgery	01379 853217
Emergencies	999
Police Harleston and Diss	101
NHS Direct	111
Electricity Power Cuts	105
Gas Emergencies	0800 111 999
Anglian Water	03457 145 145
South Norfolk Council	01508 533633
Brockdish Village Hall <i>Bookings Lisa Poole</i>	01379 668416
Thorpe Abbots Village Hall <i>Bookings Sarah McClusky</i>	07717737570
Waveney Heritage Centre	01379 668285
Carpet Bowls Club <i>Peter Croxson</i>	01379 668630
Art Club <i>Sue Hughes</i>	01379 855414
Badminton <i>Roger Woodrow</i>	01379 669016
Yoga <i>Belinda</i>	07856 216735
South Norfolk District Councillor <i>Clayton Hudson</i>	01379 676259
South Norfolk County Councillor <i>Martin Wilby</i>	01379 741504
Parish Clerk <i>Teresa Hines</i>	01379 308617
South Norfolk Help Hub	01508 533633 0845 269078
Waveney Food Bank	01379 870506

Summer is most definitely here! The gardens are blooming with flowers, the evenings are long and light, and the smell of barbeques is in the air. Although, if you are a keen gardener or farmer, a spot of rain wouldn't go amiss! Let's hope the weather stays kind for the Annual Pink Ladies Tractor Run in July, and do support this very worthwhile cause, which has raised thousands of pounds for Cancer Research over the years. This edition sadly says goodbye to one of our longest serving distributors, Andrew Longe, who was involved in setting up The Mardler with his wife, Christine, in 1982. Andrew, we thank you for everything you have done from the bottom of our hearts. We hope you enjoy reading your legacy with a cup of tea and your feet up! If you would like to become a distributor to take over Andrew's round, please get in touch. As always, articles, photos and letters are always gratefully received for publication. Many thanks and enjoy your summer!

Jo Slater, Editor

REMEMBER

Closing date for entries in the August/September 2025 issue is Friday 27th June. Articles received after this date will not be included in the next issue.

The advertisement is split into two main visual sections. On the left, there is a dark blue vertical panel with a subtle, light-colored pattern of leaves and branches. On the right, a photograph shows a man and a woman walking through 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. Both are holding walking sticks. The background of the photo shows bare tree branches and some green foliage.

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Harleston Library

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

May saw the launch of our new, weekly 'Book Café'. This is not a formal book club but a chance to chat informally with other book lovers. Sessions are drop-in so why not come along and share one of your favourite books or the latest title you're reading. Refreshments will be provided.

Monday 10th June sees the launch of the new 'Reading Well for Families scheme'. This recommends helpful reading to support family wellbeing in pregnancy and the early years. It provides information on wellbeing, mental health and coping with loss. The books are for parents, carers and anyone supporting people from pregnancy onwards.

Fancy journeying into an enchanting world to meet all kinds of creatures? Or a rip-roaring adventure in the great outdoors? Or dazzling your friends with unbelievable facts about bugs, bees and superhero plants? The theme of this year's Summer Reading Challenge is 'Story Garden' and will be launched at the beginning of July. More information coming next time!

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

- Mondays 2.00pm-3.00pm: Just a Cuppa. Join us for free refreshments and lively conversation!
- 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)
- Fridays 2.00pm-3.00pm: Book Café (drop-in session for book lovers)
- Wednesday 4th June 2.00pm-3.00pm: Meet and Make (Adults)
- Wednesday 11th June 1.30pm-3.00pm: Knit and Natter
- Wednesday 18th June 2.00pm-3.00pm: Meet and Make (Adults)
- Wednesday 25th June 1.30pm-3.00pm: Knit and Natter

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

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 **12th June** and **10th July 2025**.

Stopping at:

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



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- Door to door dial-a-ride service into the local towns
- Weekly members outings throughout the year
- Group hires for not-for-profit organisations

Borderhoppa Outings for June 2025

- Monday 2nd June: Wroxham Town, £18.00.
- Monday 9th June: Lunch at The Thatcher's Needle, Diss, £9.00.
- Thursday 12th June: Alder Carr Farm Shop and Crafts, £15.00.
- Monday 16th June: Lunch at The Black Horse, Thorndon, £8.00.
- Thursday 19th June: Attleborough Town (Market Day), £15.00.
- Monday 23rd June: Cherry Lane Garden Centre, Pulham, £8.00.
- Thursday 26th June: Hillcrest Nurseries, Stanton, £10.00.
- Monday 30th June: Thetford Town/Garden Centre, £15.00.

Borderhoppa Outings for July 2025

- Monday 7th July: Highway Garden and Leisure, £15.00.
- Thursday 10th July: The White Horse, Stoke Ash, £8.00.
- Monday 14th July: Peter Beales Roses, Attleborough, £15.00.
- Monday 21st July: Beccles, £18.00.
- Thursday 24th July: Mississippi Paddle Steamer and lunch in Horning (includes bus fare and ticket for boat, lunch extra), £30.00.
- Monday 28th July: Great Yarmouth, £20.00.
- Thursday 31st July: Breakfast at Wortham Tea Rooms followed by shopping at B&M and The Range, Bury St Edmunds, £18.00.

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

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- Ley House,
11a London Road,
Harleston, Norfolk, IP20 9BH
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8 Fore Street
Framlingham, Suffolk, IP13 9DY
Tel: 01728 723448 (Formerly Moore Bros)



See our customer reviews at

www.susanwhymark.co.uk

Email: susan@susanwhymark.co.uk



Brockdish Village Hall: Let's Shape Its Future Together!

Our Village Hall stands as a central hub, a place where memories are made, friendships blossom, and our community comes together. From bowls, badminton, quizzes and celebrations, it's a space with so much potential. But we believe it can be even more!

We're reaching out to you, our wonderful villagers, to help us breathe new life into our hall. We want to ensure it truly reflects the needs and desires of everyone in our community. What are your ideas?

Do you dream of a regular coffee morning where neighbours can connect? Perhaps a youth club offering fun activities for our young people? Maybe workshops on crafts, gardening, or local history? Or how about film nights, quiz evenings, or even a pop-up restaurant? No idea is too big or too small! We're open to all suggestions that will enhance community spirit, provide valuable services, and make our Village Hall an even more vibrant and welcoming place for everyone.

Could you lend a hand? Bringing these ideas to life requires a little bit of elbow grease and a lot of enthusiasm! We're also looking for volunteers who are passionate about our village and willing to contribute their time and skills. Whether you have a knack for organizing events, a flair for publicity, some DIY skills, or simply a willingness to help out, your contribution would be invaluable.

We'd love to hear your thoughts and offers of help! Please share your ideas and volunteer interest in one of the following ways:

- Drop a note in the suggestion box located inside the Village Hall.
- Email us at: brockdishvillagehall@gmail.com

Let's work together to ensure our Village Hall remains a vital and cherished asset for future generations. We eagerly await your creative ideas and enthusiastic support!

The Brockdish Village Hall Committee:

Annette Sweeney (Vice Chair / Clerk), Carol Castagnetti (Chair), Clare Peed, Derek Clark (Parish Council), Geoff Cawcutt, Joyce Catchpole, Linda Bell, Lisa Poole (Booking Officer), Robert Buck (Treasurer), Tom Bell

21st Annual Ladies' Tractor Road Run Sunday 6th July



At approximately 12 noon the Ladies will be travelling through Brockdish and its legendary ford, before crossing the border into Suffolk. Why not join us at the Brockdish Village Hall and on The Green from mid-morning, for tea, coffee and light refreshments. All proceeds will be split equally between the Village Hall and Cancer Research UK Breast Cancer Fund.

Arts & Crafts **AT BROCKDISH**

*Would you like to join a friendly group
which meets every Wednesday
at 10.00 till 12.30 in
Brockdish Village Hall IP21 4JL*

*We are looking for new members
to widen our range of activities
from art to embroidery to calligraphy
to anything you enjoy.*



*We pay £5 a session (1st one free)
Do come along for coffee and a chat
you will be very welcome.*

For more information contact Jane 07776 382026

want to be a
Monday
Mingler
then come along to
Brockdish Village Hall
Monday afternoons
2.00 pm 'til 4.00 pm
and play
Scrabble, Mexican Train, Canasta,
Rummikub, jigsaws or anything you fancy
OR just chat and have a cup of tea.

£1.00 a person per week

Calling All Performers! Brockdish Village Hall Awaits!

Do you lead a band that needs a fantastic space to wow an audience? Is your theatre group searching for the perfect stage for your next production? Look no further than Brockdish Village Hall!

Nestled in the heart of our village, Brockdish Village Hall offers a versatile and welcoming venue for a wide range of performances. Imagine the buzz of a live band filling the room, or the captivated silence as a drama unfolds on stage. Our hall can bring those visions to life.

We boast:

- A spacious main hall with ample room for performers and audiences alike.
- A large stage area, ready to be transformed for your specific needs.
- Kitchen facilities are available for refreshments.
- Affordable hire rates, making it accessible for local groups in and around Brockdish.

Whether you're a seasoned professional or an enthusiastic amateur group, we'd love to hear from you. We aim to make Brockdish Village Hall a hub for arts and entertainment, and your talents can help us achieve that.



Don't miss this opportunity to connect with our community and share your passion right here in Brockdish. For booking enquiries and to discuss your specific requirements, please contact Lisa on (01379 668416). Let's fill Brockdish Village Hall with music, drama, and laughter! We eagerly await your call.

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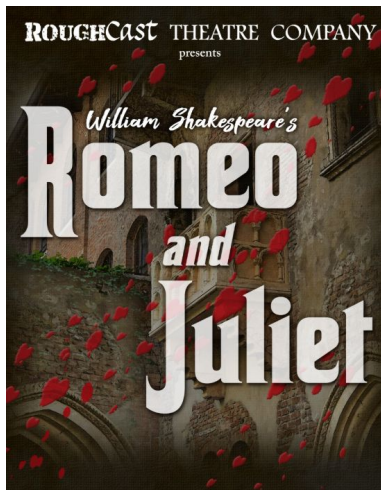
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RoughCast Theatre presents

Romeo and Juliet

June 30th – July 13th (Inside and Outside)

RoughCast's popular summer Shakespeare tour is back. Rollo Bacon (Journey's End) and Scarlett Fisher (Eliza in last year's Pygmalion) play Shakespeare's "star-crossed lovers" in RoughCast's first ever production of Romeo and Juliet. Directed by Mark Burridge (Journey's End, The Tempest, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Top Girls) and featuring original music by William Drew-Batty, Roughcast's fast-moving and dramatic production captures the romance and drama, as well as the humour, of one of Shakespeare's best-loved plays.



Performances at The Old King's Head, Brockdish, Laxfield Low House, Fisher Theatre, Diss Corn Hall, The Cut, Beccles Public Hall, Hoxne Swan, Wingfield Barns and Rushall Common. Limited seating for The Old King's Head - please contact the pub directly on 01379 668843.

Tickets £13/£7 (students). For further details of other venues visit www.roughcast.co.uk or telephone 01379 586745.



Quiz Night

Saturday 5th July 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



A shared moment of celebration



**Thorpe Abbots Village
VE Day event**

**Saturday 2nd August
11:00 am - 5:00 pm**

**Music
& Dancing**

**BBQ
& Bar**

Stalls



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Diary Dates

- Saturday 7th June: Strawberry cream tea in aid of EAAA
- Friday 20th June: Quiz in aid of Rural Coffee Caravan
- Friday 27th June: Bingo in aid of Lighthouse Women's Aid
- Saturday 5th July: Annual family BBQ
- Friday 25th July: Bingo in aid of Stradbroke Tennis

Thank you to everyone who has supported our recent varied events: Eastern Angles Theatre, the Jumble Sale, karaoke, the scrap metal collection as well as many more. Events like these help to maintain our village hall. Other events we run, such as the regular quiz and bingo evenings, raise funds for locally nominated charities and good causes. These have been very well supported, and we've been able to pass funds to Fressingfield and Stradbroke surgeries, Hoxne PTA, 1st Fressingfield Scouts, the Rural Coffee Caravan, Stradbroke Tennis club and others already this year.

Our delicious Strawberry Cream Tea on Saturday 7th June, 2.00pm until 4.00pm, will be in aid of East Anglian Air Ambulance. Join us for wonderful refreshments by donation to EAAA, one of our favourite charities.

Rural Coffee Caravan will benefit from our quiz on Friday 20th June. Ideally teams of 4, £5 per person, 7.30pm for 8.00pm start. Mars bars are a tradition for lowest scoring team, and are fiercely contended!

Bingo on Friday 27th June sees us raise funds for Lighthouse Women's Aid. Please also bring a few items of new toiletries to pass on, if you can. July Bingo on 25th July, sees us raise funds for Stradbroke Tennis youth and children's equipment. Be ready to start bingo just after 8.00pm. Bring your own snacks, or buy chocolate or crisps at the bar.

Our annual Family BBQ on Saturday 5th July will, if the weather is kind, be on J's Meadow, opposite the village hall, from 5.00pm. We have live music from the Moonlighters, reasonably priced food, reasonably priced drinks. Come and join us!

Please note, there is no Open Mic in August or September, and no quiz in July or August. However, karaoke on the 2nd Friday of the month and bingo on the last Friday of the month, just go on forever!

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www.clarity-earwaxremoval.com

March Daffodil and Spring Flower Open Garden

We would like to thank everyone who came along on the day, donated prizes and gave their time to help to make it happen. The weather was so kind, with a fantastic amount of visitors and supporters.

The grand total raised on the day was £3700.00 which we have sent off to local charities. Thank you all so much.

Jackie, John and Jean

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 (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.

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Crafty Bombers - Craft Mornings for Kids

Over 5 years ago, pre-pandemic, myself and a friend came up with an idea - to organise craft mornings for children of all ages, in a space where they can be free to create without parents fearing the dreaded paint and glitter taking over the home. With help from a 'Go for it' grant from South Norfolk Council, we set up 'Crafty Bombers' at Thorpe Abbots Village Hall, named after the 100th Bomb Group. Now, over 5 years later, we are still holding our regular themed craft sessions in our new home at Brockdish Village Hall. Our most recent session at Easter welcomed 19 very happy tweens and children busily sticking, colouring and glittering.



It's not only the children who enjoy these sessions, as parents have time to connect with other parents, as well as having the chance to do some making themselves. Of course, no session would be complete without a visit to the cows around the corner! Please join us for our next meeting in June, where we will be making lots of summer garden crafts. All ages are welcome, with more challenging crafts available for our older Crafty Bombers. We look forward to seeing you there.

Jo Slater





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

9 am - 12 noon

To book a stall (to be included on the map of stalls) or for further
Information email Jill, waveneyheritagecio@gmail.com
£5 per stall

Tea/coffee and cakes, BBQ breakfast/lunch

Maps, facilities and parking at Waveney Heritage Centre

*The Old School
Grove Road
Brockdish
IP21 4JP*

Registered Charity Number :
1192646

www.waveneyheritage.com
contact@waveneyheritage.com



Waveney Volunteers for Nature

Plans for our Open Day on Sunday 21st September are progressing well. This will be held on Brockdish Common, off Common Lane, from 10.00 am till 4.00 pm. The Village Hall will be open for refreshments. Our event will be linked to a national series of open days celebrating our heritage including the events arranged in Harleston related to architecture.



Bug hotel on Brockdish Common

Following that theme, we are emphasising 'nature's architecture'. So this will be a fun day, especially for kids. We have a birds nest display, painting nature's doors and windows, building bug hotels, swift box making, den building, a photo display and the start of our Wildlife Friendly Village mapping of habitats. As ever, we would like to see some new faces joining in this fun, but more vitally joining in an activity that's saving our wildlife. Bring your kids and grandkids!

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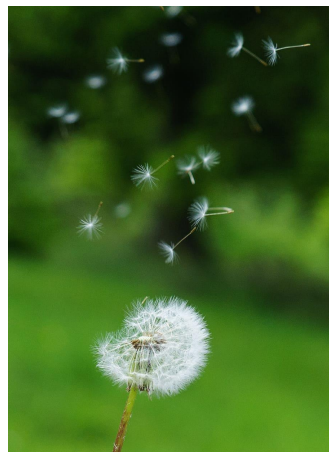
TEL: 01379 650380

MOB: 07899 893380

Walking in The Waveney Valley

June/July

By the river, yellow wagtails flitter along the bank; a snowfall of dandelion seeds drifts thick in the air. Banded demoiselles have emerged and rise up and down like iridescent marionettes above the king cup buds bobbing in the flow, ready to burst from their confinement into yellow-gold. On the way back the fields are full of wildness – vetch, clover thistle and the wide flat heads of hogweed. All a beautiful jazz of texture and colour swaying in the wind, waiting to be cut in autumn. Back in the village I rest by the river.



Someone has left the metal remains of a bicycle seat on the table where I sit; it's old and encrusted and rusty and looks like the skull of a goat. Tomorrow it may well be gone but who knows where? Two weeks ago I walked from Brockdish to Thorpe Abbots - a few miles up the lovely winding road between them. Halfway there I caught sight of something glinting in the grass verge. I lifted it on the end of my stick to get a better look – it was a black and silver-lamé posing pouch. Jettisoned from a car no doubt. I would love to know the back story to that particular item in the middle of nowhere – who knows what people round here get up to after they've finished reading the newspaper. It was still there the other day when I passed.

Today the swifts left. The village feels empty, quiet and bereft. On my walk I am very aware of the changing seasons. When I reach the woods it seems completely different from the last visit, and I can't find the path. Much as I love woods, entering them always makes me feel that I should have gained permission first. They are places of difference – the light, the air, the sounds change as you enter, there is quiet, stillness. Even in the wind and the rain, sounds are cushioned upwards into the canopy and the trees wait silently in their own slow life hiding from view what lies beyond. I once went to visit the ancient Bradfield woods in Suffolk. Some of the trees were around 400 years old and I was gripped by a primordial fear as I entered, it was palpable and totally unexpected. I had come into a world that felt fixed in its own time and way beyond my understanding, old, gnarled and powerful. I was breathing ancient air. Once inside I felt trapped and couldn't wait to get out – a great shame as it

Walking in The Waveney Valley

was truly magnificent and one of the few pieces of ancient forest left. Maybe that's why it was so frightening – feeling subliminally what humanity had done to those great, vast forests and here was a gathering of remnants like the accusing ghosts of those who have been felled over the centuries. Out of the woods, I walk back along the edge of fields of wheat, beet and barley, feeling that the dog days had arrived. The hedgerows are already bleaching of colour, only willow herb, yarrow and a few thistles remain. The wind gets up as I walk and hisses through the barley which rattles with readiness. I will miss the urge to fall into its golden softness as I walk by. Soon only stubble will remain, then the brown earth. Back on the road, the verges towards the village have been cut and there is no sign of the posing pouch – gone to the great jock-strap heaven in the sky I assume.

The Greyhound Darts Team, Brockdish



This photo of the winning darts team from the Greyhound, Brockdish was passed to the editorial team. Thought to be the late 1970s.

Back row (left to right): Eileen Riley, Gordon Pearce, Bob Bartrum, Terry Claxton, Reg Hines, Terry Jolly, Gerald Alexander, Bub Pretty, Anthony Noble.
Front row (left to right): Huck Chilver, Charlie Kebble, Duke Chambers, Doug Chapman, George Riley.

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Do you know what this is?



This object was found whilst digging in a back garden in Thorpe Abbotts. A metal, dark grey/green object. From it's position in the ground it was initially thought to be something military- related. From digging it out carefully, it is in fact hollow inside, with a screw threaded stalk sticking out. Very heavy and clearly made to withstand wear and tear. Some thoughts that it was something to do with the bombers that collided above Thorpe Abbotts in the war. It was taken to the 100th Bomb Group, who after much discussion from the experts, decided that it could possibly be an engine part, but not from an aircraft. Could it possibly be a lamp housing for a vehicle? Or something agricultural? Not even Google Lens can help us with this one. Any ideas or knowledge about this intriguing object would be gratefully received!

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A word from Rosedale.....

Here at Rosedale, when we run our bereavement support groups, week three can be quite a difficult week for participants. We ask them to bring in a photograph of their loved one and talk for about five to ten minutes about them. Most people feel trepidation about doing this as they worry they will get upset or freeze. For some, even bringing in a photograph is a major milestone as they may not have been able to look at photos since their bereavement.



Just for this week, we ask that participants focus on the life of their loved one, rather than their illness or the circumstances of their death. In this way, we are trying to see the big picture and understand that their death is a small part of who they are and the full life they have lived. Everyone is different but being with someone as they died can be a mixed blessing. We may feel grateful we were with them as they passed away but also be traumatised by the experience. Some find that their mind keeps replaying unpleasant memories they would rather forget. Sharing photographs is about reframing what has happened and putting their death into the much bigger context of their life.

In reality, as is true with so many things, the build-up and anticipation is usually worse than doing the thing itself. As they recall how they met, special moments, holidays or their funny quirks, there are often tears and usually lots of laughter. Almost without exception, most participants find that talking about their loved one's life offers a therapeutic release and an opportunity to recall and appreciate the happy times they shared. As facilitators, it is always lovely to see the group members bonding together as they reach a deeper level of empathy.

Memories can be bittersweet and we may get upset, but crying is a normal response to grief. Our loved ones will always be part of us. We are the person we are today, partly because of them. They live on in us.

Talking to others who are also grieving can be very supportive. Rosedale's groups are free and open to everyone. Call 01379 640 810 to reserve your place.

Sarah Howard

Rosedale Funeral Home Bereavement Support Group Facilitator

Jokes

Thank you to Alexandra (aged 10) from Brockdish, who once again has come up with more gems for us to enjoy!

What do vegetables use to protect their houses? *Rhubarbed wire.*

What is the barbeque's favourite dance? *The Cha-Cha-coal.*

What did the man say to the herb gardener? *Hope you're having a great thyme!*

And a few more:

How do you make an apple puff?
Chase it around the garden.

Why did the boy eat his homework?
Because the teacher said it was a piece of cake.

Did you hear about the magic tractor?
It drove down the lane and turned into a field.

Why did the scarecrow win an award?
Because he was outstanding in his field.



"The time leading up to the funeral was made bearable knowing that you were at the end of the telephone."

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A message from Councillor Martin Wilby

It was good to attend many VE celebration events over the recent days seeing all of the bunting and flags that have been decorating our streets and homes. A very big thank you to all of the volunteers involved with the organising of these events and a very big thank you to all of the volunteers who give up their time to make our towns and villages the special places they are. As with the VE events there will be no charge for road closures for the VJ Day celebrations on August 15th. Deadline date for applications is Friday 18th July.

People and organisations in Norfolk are being invited to give their views to help shape the future of local government in the County. NCC is posing a series of questions and will help it draw up plans for a future council structure. The feedback form is available at www.norfolk.gov.uk/LGRfeedback and people can answer as many or as few questions as they wish. You can find out more about local government reorganisation at www.norfolk.gov.uk/LGR and by subscribing to the County Council's email bulletin, 'Your Norfolk Extra'.

NCC is inviting residents, landowners, conservation specialists and local communities to participate in the public consultation for Norfolk's draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS). Running from 16th April to the 11th June, this consultation offers an opportunity to provide feedback on the priorities and actions for restoring and enhancing nature across the county. While Norfolk is home to a rich variety of species and natural spaces, many of these are isolated and fragmented. The LNRS aims to reverse biodiversity loss, support climate adaptation and encourage sustainable land use to benefit both people and wildlife. People are encouraged to review the Local Habitat Map, draft LNRS and FAQs available at www.norfolk.gov.uk/naturerecovery

Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service (NFRS) recently played its part in supporting Ukraine by sending a convoy of volunteer firefighters to deliver essential fire equipment to the war-torn region. A group of 15 NFRS firefighters drove five retired fire vehicles across Europe to Ukraine bringing vital equipment such as ladders, generators, hydraulic rescue tools, light portable pumps and positive pressure ventilation fans. These vehicles and equipment are part of a larger humanitarian initiative coordinated by FIRE Aid and the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) The five vehicles from Norfolk were part of a UK convoy of 30 fire appliances, carrying over 15,000 items of essential firefighting equipment to help replace resources lost in the ongoing conflict.

A message from Councillor Martin Wilby

NCC is encouraging people who are interested in home composting to give it a try. Discounted 220 litre compost bins are available at all of Norfolk's recycling centres at the price of just £15 and from June this year, for the first time ever, discounted 330 litre compost bins will also be available to purchase at the seven larger recycling centres. There is lots of advice on how to get started on www.norfolkrecycles.com/home-compost including information about our new, free introduction to Composting Course.

My next surgery will be on Saturday 7th June 10am at HIP.

Best Wishes

Martin

SNC Big Litter Pick 2025 Brockdish

Seven residents turned out for the Brockdish Litter pick on Saturday 26th April. On the whole there was very little litter to pick in the Village, and it was pleasing to see that Brockdish Common, down Common Lane was litter free. What was disappointing was the amount of litter tossed onto the verges on the approaches to Brockdish. Fly tipping into the ditch along the western approach into Brockdish, was particularly concerning with large quantities of illegally dumped rubbish. Thank you to all those who take pride in keeping Brockdish Litter free and to those who took the time out to participate in the annual Litter pick!



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Are you interested in joining the Parish Council? Becoming a Parish Councillor is a rewarding and valued form of public service. We currently have one Councillor vacancy (voluntary role). For further information please email brockdishthorpeabbottspc@gmail.com.

Planning (www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/planning)

Applications: pending decision

2025/0777 Rose Cottage, Scole Road, Brockdish. Installation of through floor lift.
2025/1102 Land North East of 68 The Street, Brockdish. Outline permission for erection of three new self build dwellings with matters reserved except access.

Buildings at Risk Register:

37 The Street, Brockdish. Continuing deterioration of the property has been referred back to the Compliance Officer at SNC for a further review.

At our meeting on 27th March, we discussed the proposed changes to our local government system (Devolution/LGR). Our main concern can be summarised by saying that 'local government is becoming less and less local' and is not truly representative of local communities. The prospect of a single unitary authority for Norfolk means that any 'local' member for our area will be one voice in over a hundred and is most unlikely to be effective in pressing any views from our community. The emphasis of the debate appears to be on the advantages of financial savings but this will be at the price of local involvement in decisions which affect us directly (please see South Norfolk Council website www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/DevolutionforNorfolk for further updates & information)

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 22nd June 2025, 7.00pm Thorpe Abbots Village Hall
- Thursday 31st July 2025, 7.00pm WHC, Brockdish
- No scheduled meeting is held during August



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Anyone for Tennis?

The Wimbledon Championships is the oldest tennis tournament in the world founded in 1877. This year's tournament will commence on the 30th June running through to the 13th July. Whether you've managed to score tickets in the ballot or you're simply watching from home, below is a tasty recipe you can pre-make and serve whilst cheering on your favourite player/s.

Pimm's Scones

Serves 8. Preparation 45mins. Cook – 10 mins plus 1 hr macerating.

Ingredients:

300g self-raising flour
½ tsp baking powder
70g cold butter, cut into small cubes
30g golden caster sugar
Zest 2 lemons
150ml buttermilk
2 tbsp full-fat milk

For the fruit:

3 tbsp Pimm's
1 tbsp golden caster sugar
300g strawberries – hulled and sliced
1 large orange – cut into cubes
Handful mint – chopped

For the cream:

300ml double cream
2 tbsp icing sugar
50ml Pimm's



Heat oven to 220°C/200°C fan or gas mark 7. Cover a baking sheet with baking parchment. Put the flour and baking powder in a large bowl, add a pinch of salt, then rub in the butter with your fingertips until it is mostly incorporated. Stir in the sugar and lemon zest. In a jug, mix the buttermilk with the milk. Make a well in the centre of the flour mixture, then pour in the liquid. Use a knife to bring the dough together. Tip out onto a clean work surface and bring together with your hands. Pat the dough down rather than rolling and stamp out 8 scones with a 7 cm fluted cutter. Put the scones on the baking sheet and bake on the top shelf for 10 mins, or until well risen and golden. Cool on a wire rack.

Mix the Pimm's and caster sugar in a bowl. Stir in the fruit, cover and infuse in the fridge for 1hr, then stir in the mint leaves. In a large bowl, whisk the cream, icing sugar and Pimm's until the mixture just holds its shape. Halve the cooled scones. Top the bottom half with a spoonful of fruit, drizzle over some of the syrup, then sandwich together.

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Sunday 22nd June - Summer special



We will be creating fantastic summery garden crafts - hopefully outside (weather permitting). Bird feeders, plant pot decorating and more...

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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 Abbots

I hope that you all had a wonderful Easter. Weren't we lucky with the weather? What a busy Easter All Saints has had, starting with the Palm Sunday service, followed by two short devotionals during the week, and finishing with Easter Sunday. It was lovely to see many of the Benefice coming together to read St John's Gospel at St Peter and St Pauls Brockdish on the Monday evening.



On Saturday 12th April, we ran a Messy Church in Thorpe Abbots Village Hall. An Easter tree was decorated for the Village's Easter celebrations at the Hall, and some colourful decorations were taken to decorate the Church for its Easter Day service. Thank you to those of you who came along.

A big thank you to Pete and his brother David, who re-hung the vestry door which had been sticking and so difficult to close.

As spring turns into summer we are looking forward to the 'Churches Count on Nature' which occurs during the week of 7th to 15th June. In the past few weeks, we have enjoyed a lovely display of daffodils which followed on from the snowdrops and aconites. Bursting and ready to go are the Meadow Saxifrage. There is always a lovely display of this once common flower, which now can only be found in churchyards. They will be at their best during May and into June. As we move through the summer, we are treated to a succession of flowers, so there is always something new to admire and enjoy.

The new floodlights have been vandalised on 3 occasions recently, so it is with great regret that until the investigation and repairs are complete, we will be unable to accept bookings to light the Church. This decision was not taken lightly and we are very saddened that it has to be so.

Simon

Brockdish Church

Although nestled on the outskirts of the village, St Peter and St Paul's Church in Brockdish continues to attract visitors. Our visitors book tells of the appreciation of many that the Church is unlocked daily, giving opportunities for folk to explore and take a closer look, as well as experiencing the peace and tranquility. We read of those who dropped in whilst walking the Angles Way; others write they were married in Brockdish, and we know from the fresh flowers in the churchyard, that family and friends visit loved ones who have passed on.

As I write, 'No mow May' is being respected, but the young trees still have to be taken care of with regular watering during this dry time.

We are thankful that we still are able to have a weekly service, usually at 09.30am. All are welcome.

We are planning a Pet Service in July. Hopefully the weather will be kind and this can be held outside. Refreshments will be served to all, with special treats for our 4 legged friends!

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Church Contacts

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

Church Service Times - June and July 2025

1st June	Brockdish 9.30 am	Morning Prayer
8th June	Brockdish 9.30 am	Morning Prayer
	Thorpe Abbotts 9.30 am	Morning Prayer
15th June	Brockdish 9.30pm	Morning Prayer
22nd June	Brockdish 9.30am	Morning Prayer
29th June	Brockdish 9.30 am	Holy Communion
6th July	Brockdish 9.30am	Morning Prayer
13th July	Brockdish 9.30 am	Morning Prayer
	Thorpe Abbotts 9.30 am	Holy Communion
20th July	Brockdish 9.30 am	Holy Communion
27th July	Brockdish 9.30 am	Holy Communion





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