



Mardler News



The North Norfolk
Talking Newspaper
Association

December 2024

Welcome to the Mardler News

With new volunteers come new ideas and it's thanks to Tracey Newsome who nudged the Committee to improve our internal communications.

Our focus in this inaugural edition is the second half of 2024. We hope it's informative and please do feed back. We are especially interested in what frequency and content you would like to see.

Focus On ... Listener Liaison

Our listener liaison team, headed up by Imogen Waterson and assisted by Beverley Hopkins, are the first port of call for new and existing listeners.

They receive referrals from friends, family and social services as well as the various blind and partially sighted support organisations in Norfolk.

The first step is a phone call to the prospective listener to arrange a visit. They always call first to allow the listener to arrange for a support person to be present.

They explain who we are and how we work and seek agreement to store their personal details in our dispatch computer. A listening device is provided free of charge and time is taken to ensure they can operate it confidently.

The listener details are passed to our Copy and Dispatch Coordinator who arranges for them to be added to our listener database and for a welcome message to be included in the next edition.

The rest, hopefully, is automatic!

Well, apart from chasing up when postal wallets don't come back and driving across the region when problems occur.

Fortieth Anniversary

The Mardler started its weekly production of cassette tapes in 1985 making next year our fortieth anniversary. At the close of our 2024 AGM attendees were asked how they would like to mark this milestone. The suggestions coalesced around three things: a party/meal; a speaker; and a cake!

So plans are afoot to combine all three into a celebration fitting the occasion.

Watch this space...

The Festive Season

As normal, week 52 is a holiday for The Mardler. The last edition of the year will be recorded on the 20th of December and the first of next year on the 3rd of January.

Comings and Goings

Volunteers and listeners, like the seasons, come and go. But surprisingly the numbers remain steady with around sixty-five volunteers and one hundred listeners.

Over the last six months we have said goodbye to volunteer readers Paul Minett, Angie Oxenbury, Jeanette Raymer and Nathan Wellings. We have welcomed on board: Editors Tracey Newsome and Hugh Davis; Readers Tony Escritt, Marylyn Evans, Jane John, Clive McCombie; and David Parker.

As ever, we are always on the lookout for new volunteers. If you know someone who might join us then put them in touch with the Chair.

On the listener front nine have left us, for various reasons, and we have welcomed fifteen as follows - Spike (Norwich), Shirley (Sheringham), Eileen (Holt), David (Potter Heigham), Brian (Blakeney), Jean (Cromer), Graham (Roughton), Janice (North Walsham), Kay (Sheringham), Glenys (Sheringham), Roger (Horning), Joan (Mundesley), Valerie (Mundesley), Joyce (North Walsham), and Peter (Norwich).

Our thanks must go to Imogen and Beverley, our Listener Liaison Officers, who have worked hard to visit and support our new listeners.

Mardler Magazine

We are always on the lookout for anything new and interesting for the Magazine section of the Mardler.

Our listeners love this part of the recording which tries to lighten the mood after the often gritty news. The Editors source items from the EDP and other local publications as well as including contributions from budding authors both inside and outside our own organisation.

Although the Editors try their best to find something new and interesting, some weeks are more difficult than others. If you are feeling creative or have a source of interesting material please do get in touch.

A big THANK YOU to all who have contributed over the last year including: Dorrie Brecken for her poem about life under COVID; Merlin Waterson for his report on St. Peter's church Corpusty; Tracey Newsome for her telephonist story and Clive McCombie for his musical miscellanea. And let's not forget our Roving Report, Beverley Hopkins, for her many on-the-spot reports.

Listener Feedback

Graham from Roughton wrote "Thank you for The Mardler which is very good and I enjoyed listening. Good info and news and like the articles."

The family of Graham from Fundenhall wrote "I know he enjoyed listening to your talking paper and I know he found them very informative of local issues. Thank you to all the volunteers who made his life happier."

VIP Visit

There was a buzz of excitement at The Mardler on Friday the 20th of September.



The Chair of Norfolk County Council, Councillor Stuart Dark MBE, had arranged to drop by. As part of his year in the Chair he has declared his aim to meet and personally thank as many of Norfolk's volunteers as he can. And now, after three attempts to arrange the visit, it was our turn.

We all believe that helping those less fortunate than ourselves is rewarding and when our listeners express their appreciation for our efforts that seems like the icing on the cake. But being recognised at county level and with such genuine and heartfelt words from Cllr Dark really helped to recharge our volunteering batteries.

The councillor was shown through the entire production process from recording all the way to placing mailing wallets into the post bag. He recorded a short message for our listeners which was included in a later edition of The Mardler where he stressed the important role that volunteers play throughout Norfolk. Resplendent in his chain of office Cllr Dark thanked each of the volunteers personally with such warmth and honesty that we were all touched.

It's nice to volunteer and, although we never ask for it, it's even nicer to be recognised for our efforts.

Contacts

Our website mardler.org.uk provides lots of information about The Mardler as well as an easy to use contact form. You can also contact our key office holders through email as below:

Chair - chairman@mardler.org.uk

Secretary - secretary@mardler.org.uk

Treasurer - treasurer@mardler.org.uk

Chief Editor - editor@mardler.org.uk

Chief Engineer - engineer@mardler.org.uk

Copy & Dispatch Coordinator - dispatch@mardler.org.uk

Listener Liaison Officer - liaison@mardler.org.uk

Newsletter Editor - newsletter@mardler.org.uk

If you prefer to talk or it's an urgent matter then you can call:

Chair - 07774 680 726

Listener Liaison Officer - 01263 587 610

Annual General Meeting 2025

Each year we hold our AGM in May or June and all volunteers and listeners are invited. Closer to the time we will advertise the details in the noticeboard section of The Mardler, with posters on the boards in the studio and Green Room and by email to all volunteers.

An Invitation From The Living History Team - Blickling Hall



Dear Fellow Mardlers,

As a Mardler reader of many year's standing myself, I love contributing to this service, and the comradeship of working with the team, as I am sure do all of you.

I am also a member of the 'Living History Team' at Blickling Hall, and every Wednesday from the beginning of May to the end of September we perform short costumed dramas in the grounds of the Hall, which shine a light on the different periods of Blickling Hall's rich history.

We are a team of around 23 and have been performing at Blickling for over 15 years.

If you would also like to consider using your talents as a member of the Living History Team at Blickling, you would be most welcome. You do not need to be a member of The National Trust and full training and support are provided.

Please feel free to contact me if you wish to know more.

Yours sincerely,

Dorrie Brecken dorriebrecken@btinternet.com

Did you know ...

We are not the only Mardlers in Norfolk.

Poppyland Radio has a regular slot entitled The Mardle hosted by Claire Goldwater. It was Claire who interviewed Mardlers Peter Adamson and Lorna Wilson in her Overstrand Studio back in October 2022.

The Mardlers are also an East Anglian band that plays a mix of folk, rock, and indie music.

The Mardler is the name of a printed magazine distributed in the Waverney Valley villages of Brockdish and Thorpe Abbotts.

Policies

As a registered charity we are required to comply with various rules and regulations. This compliance is documented in a set of policy documents which are reviewed by the Trustees regularly.

Currently we have a Data Protection Policy, a Safeguarding Policy and a Financial Policy. Once approved these documents are available to download from our policies web page:

mardler.org.uk/our-policies

Please take a moment to look at these documents as they do affect you.

Help!

The Mardler finances run solely on charitable donations and they are not keeping up with our outgoings. If you shop online then you can donate at no extra expense if you register with EasyFundraiser first. Or you could take a chance and support us while possibly winning a prize with the Broadland Lottery. Find out more and explore the options at our donations web page: mardler.org.uk/donations