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THE BRIDGE June/July 2023

Church and Village magazine for Sweffling

Village website: <sweffling@onesuffolk.net>



At this time of the year Sweffling bursts into flower. The hedgerows are a mass of creamy white hawthorn blossom, the Jubilee field is golden with buttercups and the Churchyard is full of delicate white pignut flowers, not to mention the stitchwort, wild garlic, speedwell, vetches and dead nettles etc. that can be seen along the roadside verges and field headlands. As summer progresses, these will be followed by other species of wild flowers, such as poppies, mallow and rosebay willowherb, to name just a few. These, in turn, attract birds, insects and other wildlife into the village. It is the aim of the PCC and the Parish Council, by careful management of the Churchyard and the Jubilee field, to sustain and hopefully improve the biodiversity of the

village, whilst maintaining areas for walking and playing (see later in The Bridge).

A message from the Rev. Percival:

A few years ago we spent a holiday in the south of France. We stayed quite near to a very famous town called Avignon. Apart from being a beautiful and interesting place, it is also a centre for other interesting places. First of all there is the Pont du Gard, an ancient Roman aqueduct built in the first century AD to carry water to the Roman colony of Nemasus (Nîmes). Second., there is the town of Nîmes itself with its amphitheatre and gardens. Both of these are man-made structures, but equally impressive was a striking natural phenomenon. This was the Fontaine de Vaucluse near the village of the same name. This was well worth a visit as it turned out not to be an ornamental fountain and gardens but a rushing torrent providing power for turning wheels and for local industry. The frothing, fast-running water was a source of fascination for all who were visiting the spot. If you follow the bank away from the village you eventually reach a dark, calm pool, encircled on three sides by very high cliffs. Surprisingly, it was impossible to go any further because this was the end of the river. Actually, it was its beginning!

The source of the river is underground and the spring forces its way up, forming a pool. Its most stirring feature is its absolute stillness, in contrast to the powerful torrent downstream. There was not a ripple to disturb the surface and yet, as it flows out, it becomes a feature capable of accomplishing many things and providing invaluable power to the people who live nearby.

On reflection, I thought about God's Holy Spirit whose coming we celebrate particularly at this time of year. As Christians we know that when we have God's Holy Spirit in our lives we can be tranquil and at peace. Paradoxically, there is a driving force within us which channels God's power.

Martin

OBITUARY: MR KEN GODDARD

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Mr. Ken Goddard on Saturday May 20th, after a long illness. For many years Ken has been a great supporter of the village and village activities, and also of the Alde Community Council.

There will be a **MEMORIAL SERVICE IN CELEBRATION OF KEN'S LIFE IN SWEFFLING CHURCH ON SATURDAY JUNE 17TH**, time to be confirmed, to which all who knew Ken are invited.

EASTER DAY AND MEMORIAL LILY FESTIVAL, SWEFFLING



The Easter Sunday service of Holy Communion by extension was taken by Prof. John Tesh, and was a joyful celebration of Christ's resurrection, as the congregation heard the well-loved Easter readings and sang familiar Easter Hymns. On Easter weekend and beyond St. Mary's Church was resplendent with more than 70 longiflorum and oriental lilies, each one bought in memory of a family member or friend. Many thanks to Jill Abbott, who wrote and decorated the beautiful memorial scroll. The scroll will remain in church and can be viewed when the church is open each Wednesday and Sunday. Thanks also to the Tesh family and the

Loveridge children for the beautiful Easter gardens.

SUMMARY REPORTS OF ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETINGS;

THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING was held on Tuesday May 9th in Sweffling Hut, chaired by the retiring Vice-chairman of the Parish Council, Cllr Julia Kinsey. A report of the year's activities from retiring Chairman Cllr John Stanley was read at the meeting and retiring Cllr Jude Chin, who had maintained the accounts in the absence of a Parish Clerk, presented a summary of the accounts, which were adopted by the meeting. Reports were received from the following village organisations: St. Mary's Church, the Townland Trust, The Alde Community Council, the Hut Committee, The Bowls Club, the Tennis Club, Sweffling Fete organisation, and the Tree Warden. These reports and the minutes of the meeting have been posted on the village website <sweffling@onesuffolk.net>

THE PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING followed the Annual Parish Meeting. Cllr John Tesh was elected as chairman and Cllr Amanda Daniel as vice-chairman. As Cllr Jill Abbott was the only other councillor to stand for re-election, in accordance with the Parish Council regulations, the meeting co-opted onto the council the following four members, Steve Ashurst, Jenny Tyson, Linsey Jennings and Audrey Lummis. A new parish clerk, Mrs Ann Dobson, was unanimously appointed, and welcomed (Sweffling.clerk@gmail.com). Items on the agenda included a review of the financial situation, a review of the Coronation celebration, grass cutting on the Jubilee Field and footpath signs in the village. The full minutes of the meeting will be posted on the village notice board at the end of Holden's Lane and on the village website. The next meeting of the Parish council will be on Tuesday 13th June at 7.30 p.m. to which all members of the village are invited.

THE ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING, held in St. Mary's Church on May 17th, was chaired by the Rev. Percival. Mr. Geoffrey Abbott and Professor John Tesh were re-elected as churchwardens. Professor Tesh thanked the Rev. Percival for his ministry and pastoral care and Mrs. Percival for her continued support in the parish. He gave a short report of the work of the church during the year and thanked everyone who had helped in any way

within the church and in maintaining both the old churchyard and the memorial garden. He then presented the audited accounts. The Parochial Church Council members were re-elected *en bloc* and the names are posted on the church notice board in the porch. If you would like any information regarding church matters, please contact the churchwardens (GA 663402; JT 663518) or any member of the PCC.

THE FIRST SWEFFLING FETE PLANNING MEETING: On Thursday May 11th a meeting was held to begin the organisation for a 2023 Fete. It is 3 years since the last Fete and it is most encouraging that enough people are keen this year to go ahead.

The date is Saturday 12th August and there will be a Dog Show on the Townland Meadow as in previous years.

The minutes of the meeting have been posted on the village website, and you will see that there are still several stalls and games to be manned, help is required for the draw and for the dog show. This list of attractions is not complete, if you didn't come to the meeting and have any ideas or, even better, if you would like to help please contact swefflingfete@gmail.com or on 663402.

The next Fete Planning meeting is Monday 19th June 7.30pm at the Hut, please try to be there, the success of the fete relies on willing volunteers. *Jill Abbott*

ALDE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The ACC exists to provide back-up for community activities in the 3 villages of Rendham, Sweffling and Bruisyard. Since the pandemic we have made donations to each village towards Jubilee and Coronation celebrations.

The ACC holds funds for the 1st Responders, which assists in an emergency before the ambulance arrives, thus saving vital time. We do need more volunteers to come forward as we have now lost our main Responder due to health reasons.

The ACC is planning to hold a **fundraising event, a Beetle Drive in Bruisyard Village Hall on July 8th.** 7.00pm start for 7.30pm. Tickets £7.00 adults, £3.00 children, to include Ploughman's supper. To reserve tickets please ring Lynda Newson on 663325.

SWEFFLING CELEBRATES THE CORONATION

Sweffling Parish Council organised a "Bring and Share" Tea Party on the Townland Meadow on the Sunday of the Coronation weekend. The weather was surprisingly warm and sunny allowing everyone, adults and children alike, to really enjoy themselves in a specially decorated corner of the meadow.

Children had fun on a scavenger hunt, playing tennis-rounders and decorating crowns. 85 villagers and their families came together to celebrate with a delicious al fresco tea, washed down with beer, and with toasts of bubbly to the King and our lovely village of Sweffling and all who live here.

Children made their own crown creations and the winner was Violet Coote granddaughter of Jackie and Ian Clements; the blue feathers were a really clever touch Violet!. Esme Mann was given a highly commended prize for her lovely floral crown.

The Parish Council have bought Coronation mugs for all resident children under 18.

Twenty were given out on the day and the rest will be delivered very shortly. There are a few left which we will sell for £10 each. Please email <swefflingfete@gmail.com> if you would like one.

Many thanks to all who helped to get the meadow ready and looking so special: Rendham who lent us their marquee, the team who put it and the gazebos up, those

who moved tables and chairs, provided music, those who decorated, lent bunting, all who cooked, sold drinks, brought delicious food and washed up in the kitchen. It was a great team effort for a memorable afternoon. *Jill Abbott on behalf of Sweffling Parish Council*



BYGONES MUSEUM OPEN DAY SUNDAY 14TH MAY

Sandy Rowe writes: The weather was warm, the sun shone and more people than ever visited the museum and enjoyed the lunches and refreshments. We hope to have made approximately £2030 for the East Anglian Air Ambulance. We would also like to thank everyone who helped on the day to make the event the success it was.

Editor's comment: Congratulations, a brilliant effort to raise so much in such a short time.



NATURE NOTES JUNE - JULY

A pair of Swallows on the wires, Skylarks overhead, and Chiffchaffs (of course), as well as Blackcap and Whitethroat in the bushes surrounding the Townland Meadow, all added their songs to the occasion of the Sunday afternoon Coronation picnic. The Cuckoo has been calling since the middle of April at the south end of the village, where most neighbours have heard him, but I have yet to see him. Swifts have been few and far between so far, but they are in the area and a friend in Framlingham already has three pairs nesting in the boxes on his house.

Wet weather in Spring made for good conditions for finding animal prints along the muddy footpaths, and the wild species are not too difficult to recognise. Mostly, however, prints are of dogs, of all different sizes (Sweffling now has some of the smallest dogs I have ever seen!) so it is necessary to identify these first. Dog prints have four toes, with the claws showing. The two central toes are forward of the outer two, with the triangular pad of the foot only just behind them. Fox prints differ in that the outer toes



are further back and closer in, with the pad of the foot also further back, so that the whole print is diamond-shaped. Foxes have hairy pads, and these hairs show up in prints from very fine mud or fresh snow (although not on the rather sandy mud shown here). Badgers are easier. They have five toes.

These are almost side by side, in a row, and have long,



strong claws. The foot pads are almost the width of the print, much longer in the hind than the front foot. Otters are scarce, but they have been photographed by trail cameras for another time.

This has been a great spring for blossom in the hedgerows, and for wildflowers in the verges. Hawthorn blossom by mid-May was the best I can remember -

perhaps this also augurs well for the berry crop in the Autumn. In some of the lanes the Cowslips were also prolific; several people have commented on them. They are still there, but the rapid growth of grasses and other plants has now hidden them. Chief among these is the cow parsley, tall and white and dominant both in the village and all the surrounding verges. Although this species is so prominent now, there are other members of the same family which become abundant at different times; Bur Chervil in the village high street earlier, Rough Chervil later, and the much larger Hogweed later in the summer. The introduced (by the Romans) and very invasive Alexanders, tall with yellowish green flower heads and prominent at the moment, is also a member of this family.

This leads me to the churchyard, where current management has allowed the short sandy turf to bloom. At present this shows as a frosting of the small white cow parsley called Pignut. I have talked about this before, typical of this ancient acid grassland and seen hardly anywhere else in the parish. Soon it will be replaced by yellow flowers – the Dandelion-like Mouse-ear Hawkweed (with white undersides to the leaves) and the feathery Ladies' Bedstraw. There are fine grasses also unusual in the parish, like Fescues, which I have still to identify. The path has more of the small Pea-family flowers I mentioned before. The Bird's-foot clover (with its two small white florets, unlike the normal clover head) is scarce in Suffolk, found almost always near the coast. The tiny pink



pea flowered Bird's-foot (confusing eh? They both have fruits shaped like birds' feet) is also found on sandy soils, both in the Sandlings and the Breckland. *Geoffrey Abbott*

JUBILEE FIELD

The new hedge has now been planted along the south side of the field. Thank you to those who cleared the site and planted the trees and especial thanks to the Woodland Trust for donating the trees, canes and guards. The brambles and the bag of rubbish have been removed and disposed of. More thanks to those who arranged this.

This spring and early summer the Jubilee field has been a mass of golden buttercups and if you look carefully you can see purple vetch, blue germander speedwell and other flowers making their appearance. The Parish Council, after consultation with the adjoining households to the field and other residents in the village, have agreed that whilst the area of the field comprising the football pitch, play equipment and fitness trail, and the picnic tables will be mown/strimmed, the areas behind Blyth villas and behind one of the football goals will be left uncut during the summer to encourage wild flowers and pollinating insects including bees etc. There is a map on the back page of the Bridge showing where these different areas are and also a chart showing how the wilded areas will be managed. As with the old churchyard, after the wild flowers have set seed, in late summer/early autumn these areas will be cut back to encourage next years flowers to grow but not mown close. Mowing/strimming of the recreational areas has begun and this will continue throughout the summer.

Thank you to all those who have given their time and energy to getting this project underway.

SWEFFLING TENNIS CLUB ANNUAL BBQ 2ND JUNE 2023 ON THE TOWNLANDS MEADOW

Free taster Tennis Coaching Session with a professional coach from 4.30-6.30. Open to anyone who would like to play, learn to play, or to improve their game.

BBQ from 5.30. Salads and soft drinks will be provided. Please bring something to BBQ, and any wine or beer. Members and guests are all welcome.

Please confirm attendance by calling Sue Rusack: T: 01728 663496,

email: SueRyderR@rusack.myzen.co.uk

We also welcome new members. For more details, please contact Sue as above.

TOWNLAND MEADOW

Did you know that you can hire the Townland Meadow, including the pavilion but excluding the tennis court, for family birthday parties, celebrations etc.? If you are interested in following this up, please contact Sandy Rowe on 01728 663753 for hire charges and conditions of hire.

LATE REPORT OF THE ACC SPRING FLOWERSHOW

The Spring flower show was held in Sweffling Hut on April 1st. For various reasons, including persistent cold weather, the number of entries was lower than in 2022, but those that did enter were of a very high standard. It was good to see that more children took part in the junior classes. The winners of the cups were:

Les Holden cup - John McKee

George Storey cup - Richard Shattock

Pam Rowe cup - Chris Salmon

Jean Hambling cup - John McKee
 Joyce Hewitt cup (Junior) - Boe Strachen
 Sunflower trophy (junior) - Esme Parsons Mann

It is planned to hold the show again next year. Why not enter, even if you have only a few flowers in your garden. Remember there are classes for flower arrangements too, and you do not have to grow these flowers yourself.

CHURCH SERVICES: June/July 2023

Date	Venue	Time	Service
HOLY WEEK			
June 4th	Sweffling	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
June 11th	Rendham	9.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer
June 18th	Sweffling	9.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer
June 25th	Rendham	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
July 2nd	Sweffling	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
July 9th	Rendham	9.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer
July 16th	Sweffling	9.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer
July 23rd	Rendham	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
July 30th	Cransford	10.00 a.m.	BENEFICE SERVICE Holy Communion
August 6th	Sweffling	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Sweffling used to have a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme for which Jenny Tyson was the contact. This has lapsed but recently Jenny received the following letter:

Dear local Neighbourhood Watchers

A quick introduction: I am Nick King and I moved to Saxmundham 18 months ago and set up a Neighbourhood Watch scheme there. From what I can see, I'm the only active NW scheme in Sax, but hope that might change over time.

As I was developing my scheme I joined the Suffolk Neighbourhood Watch Association (SNWA), partly to learn more but also as the Association had only 3 committee members and its future was in doubt. (The committee is now stronger and growing: good news for the county and support for our schemes.)

As a committee member, I have access into the SNWA database. Over the last few weeks I have researched and phoned a good number of you who are shown as leading a NW scheme in the Aldeburgh / Saxmundham area. Approx. 25 schemes.

As mentioned in my calls or messages, I promised an email primarily to ask if you (or a neighbour/successor say) are interested in attending a network meeting where we can meet our district Police contact(s) and discuss our schemes, the future of our Neighbourhood Watch, the Suffolk Police Connect messages, succession (some of you have stepped down), and other issues. I am hoping that, over time, even knowing and having open contact with each other will help what we do. This may also help take away some of the isolation that some scheme leaders feel, especially if they act solely in towns, villages and hamlets.

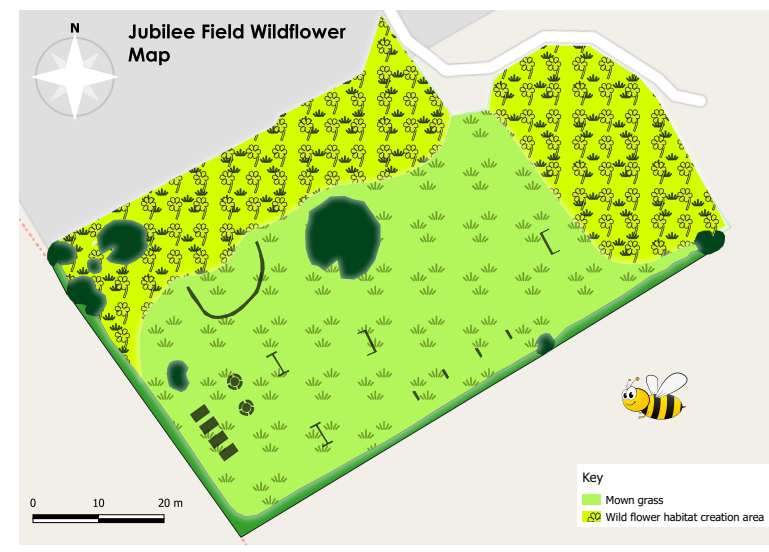
I welcome your reply one way or the other. From your feedback I will see if there is a collective way forward.

Kind regards

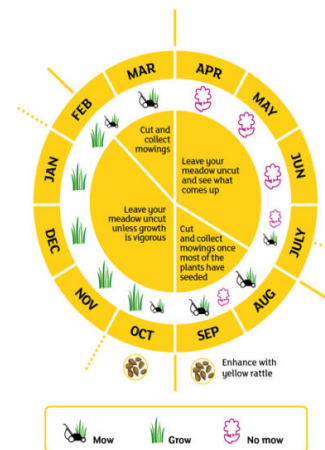
Nick. Fairfield Road, Saxmundham, MK17 1BA 07910 175223

If you think it would be good to revive the scheme in Sweffling and are able to help, please contact Jenny on 663571 to discuss this.

JUBILEE FIELD MOWING PLAN



JUBILEE FIELD WILDFLOWER AREAS MANAGEMENT CALENDAR



REMEMBER THE DATE FOR SWEFFLING FETE

AUGUST 12th 1.00 p.m.

Planning meeting June 19th, 7.30 p.m. in Sweffling Hut. Please come along

Please e-mail any news items, events or short literary items for consideration for inclusion in the August/September edition to john.tesh@talk21.com before July 12th.

The editors welcome contributions for The Bridge but reserve the right to edit. Accuracy of the content is the responsibility of the submitter. We are limited to 8 pages and so may not be able to publish everything we receive. Dated items of village interest will be given priority. Please include your name and contact details in case we need to get in touch. **The Bridge is sponsored by St. Mary's Church and is delivered free to all houses in the Village.**