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## **THE BRIDGE**

**September/October 2023**

**Church and Village magazine for Sweffling**

**Village website: [www.sweffling.onesuffolk.net](http://www.sweffling.onesuffolk.net)**



On August 12<sup>th</sup> the village held a very successful fete, and a full illustrated report appears later in The Bridge.

We now look forward to the **Harvest weekend in Sweffling**. As in previous years, instead of fresh produce we are asking for gifts of tinned, dried and packaged foods, toiletries etc. so that the gifts can be



donated to a local food bank to be distributed to those in need in our area. Please start putting aside items now and they can be brought to the church on Wednesdays and Sundays between now and the **Harvest Festival Thanksgiving service on Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup> at 9.30 a.m.** in St. Mary's Church. We will be decorating the Church with flowers and berries for this service, as well as the Harvest gifts. If you would like to help, please contact Jill Abbott on 663402.

**The Harvest Lunch will also be on October 1st, at 1.00 p.m. in Sweffling Hut.** Proceeds from the lunch will go to TEAR Fund for famine/disaster relief, NOT to St. Mary's Church, as stated in the Hut leaflet.

### **A message from the Rev. Percival:**

The American Declaration of Independence was issued on the 4<sup>th</sup> July 1776. The people of the Thirteen Colonies in America decided that they wanted a little bit more independence than they had experienced up to that moment. It's from this document that we read the famous words, 'We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.'

As far as I am concerned, the interesting thing about that is the order of the words. The right to life becomes before everything else. If you are not alive you have no rights or duties. There is nothing to defend and nothing for which to fight.

There is a similar idea in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights issued by the United Nations in 1948 in the years immediately after the Second World War. Article 3 states; 'Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.' It's slightly different but it still begins with the right to life.

Holy Scripture and the Tradition of the Church also speak about the dignity of the human person. Men, women and children have a special place in creation. We are 'persons' not 'things', with body and soul, with freedom and intelligence, with creativity and a conscience.

Human beings have a special value and this is why we do not treat them as objects or as a means to an end. Their dignity can never be taken away and is the reason why we should honour someone's life from beginning to end. This is what we mean by the sanctity of life. It is of great sadness when we see ways in our society when human dignity is threatened and life undervalued. From the horrendous stories of the abuse of children, the murder of the babies in the neo-natal unit, the treatment of vulnerable adults and senior citizens, and the scapegoating of those fleeing persecution and war.

Our Lord's parable of the Sheep and the Goats reminds us that we shall be judged by the way we treat the least of our brothers and sisters. *Martin*

**Congratulations, Good Luck and Every Success** to Rowan Jennings who is going to Saint Mary's Twickenham to study for a BA Hons in Communications, Media and Marketing.

Also to Willow Jennings who has started an Apprenticeship in Adult Health Care at Mills Meadow Care Home in Framlingham. Very well done to both of you!!

**Theft from St. Mary's Church:** On Sunday September 3<sup>rd</sup>, at some point between the end of the morning service at 11.30 a.m. and the church being closed at 5.00 p.m., someone stole the Ukrainian flag from the foot of the statue in the sanctuary. The PCC are at a loss to understand why this happened and we would urge the person who took this to return it when the church is open on either Wednesday or Sunday.

### **Sweffling Community Suppers.**

It is that time of year when our suppers are starting up on the first Thursday of each month. Throughout the winter months Mark and Marie very kindly open the pub especially for us, so we can bring our own food for a community supper. It's cooked at home and kept hot on the pub stove.

The next First Thursday supper will be the 5<sup>th</sup> of October. Please book your places.

Contact me, Kirstin Stanley, asap as places are limited.

The theme for our first meal is French cuisine, and we need volunteers to cook about 3 or 4 main hot dishes ( of 8 to 10 portions) one of which should be a vegetarian option, along with a dessert.

Those who don't provide food we ask for a contribution of £6 a head, this will go to a local charity yet to be decided.

Please contact me if you would like to participate or for more details as to how the supper works. Kirstin Stanley. [kirstin.stanley1@gmail.com](mailto:kirstin.stanley1@gmail.com)

### **What's Going on at Sweffling Hut?**

The new season brings lots of innovative events that you will have read about in the flyer that has been delivered to each Sweffling home. Please read it - don't just file it away.

Decide which or all of the events you would like to come to.

**Details of how to book a place for talks, workshops and other events, and how to pay are on the village website <[www.sweffling.onesuffolk.net](http://www.sweffling.onesuffolk.net)>** or you can phone Jill on 663402 or email [swefflinghut@gmail.com](mailto:swefflinghut@gmail.com)

Since circulation of the flyer, a new event has been organised, initially for the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month.

**This is the Rural Coffee Caravan at the Hut Wednesdays 10am - 12noon: Sept 27th, Oct 25th, & Nov 22nd**

- It is free and accessible to everyone.
- They bring coffee and tea.
- There will be chat, advice and leaflets; they also aim to bring a guest advisor each month - e.g. someone from the fire service who will advise on fire safety.

**On these 4th Wednesdays the Hut will be open from 10 am and a hot lunch will be served from 12.30pm**

All will be welcome. The cost of lunch will be covered by your donations gratefully received - up to £5 depending on menu.

Stay for Chat, crafts, games and jigsaws in the afternoon with tea and cake, finishing at 4pm. You can also work all day using the Hut's Wi-fi in the warm. It's Hygge at the Hut all over again!

### **Report on Dog-Show and Fete 12th August**

After a very wet July, it was reassuring to learn that the forecast for our August fete day was fine. It was more than fine, it was sunny, warm and dry, excellent news for the team putting up marquees and gazebos, and for everyone who had worked so hard to make their stall or sideshow a success.

Everyone agreed it was a very happy afternoon and very busy! The dog show, as always, was slick, well organised and it attracted people from other villages and towns to visit and to spend money at our Fete. Winners were very pleased with their doggy prizes generously donated by Toby's Pets, Framlingham, and were so proud of their rosettes.

There was plenty to eat and drink, in between spending money on games, tombolas, books, bric a brac, jewellery and clothes. Children were excited by the arrival of the Saxmundham Fire Brigade with their engine, enjoyed tractor rides, face painting and crafts especially making a scarecrow.

It was a success financially too with a net profit of £3264.48.

Grateful thanks to everyone who helped in any way to make the afternoon so enjoyable and successful

Sweffling Fete Organisation have funds of £3551.89 in the bank after expenses. The standing committee propose that the sum of £3000 be divided in accordance with SFO constitution, i.e. half to the church (£1500) and the other half to be shared amongst Village organisations and a village project (see below), leaving a retention fund of £551.89. A copy of the detailed fete accounts has been posted on the village website and will be available at the Annual General Meeting.

At this meeting Sweffling Organisations will be able to bid for a share of £1200 for their general funds and representatives will be invited to speak for 2 minutes at the AGM to explain how they would use any grant awarded.

It is also proposed-that up to £300 be made available for a specific **Village Project** for which individuals or organisations can make written application with their costed plan: **Application Forms can be obtained from Mike Smithson (SFO treasurer)** or by email to [mikesmithson.ms@gmail.com](mailto:mikesmithson.ms@gmail.com) and must be returned to him no later than the end of Tuesday 10th October to Poplar Farm Barn, Holden's Lane.

**The Sweffling Fete Organisation AGM will be held on Thursday 12th October 7.30pm at the Hut. All Sweffling residents are welcome to attend.**

**FETE PHOTOS:**



### **TOUR OF BRITAIN CYCLE RIDE**



The cycle ride passed through Sweffling on September 7<sup>th</sup> 100 cyclists, almost as many police motorcyclists and support cars. Quite a sight although fleeting!

### **5 IN A BAR CONCERT:**



The 5 in a Bar Concert in St Mary's Church on Friday September 8<sup>th</sup> was a great success! Our local "A Capella" singing group performed a great repertoire ranging from sea shanties

to Abba and from madrigals to musicals and we were entertained to a surprise item when Richard Stevens played a beautiful bass trombone solo - "Smoke gets in your eyes". A truly musical delight! The delicious canapes and prosecco served in the interval were also very much appreciated and helped to make a most enjoyable evening, which raised £354 for church funds. Very many thanks to all the musicians, those who made and donated the canapes, the barmen and to everyone who supported this most enjoyable evening.

### Nature Notes, October – November 2023

By October, most of our summer migrant birds will have departed south. A few Swallows and House Martins may be seen late, as these birds sometimes have an extra, late brood. In fact, both of these birds were quite scarce in Sweffling this year, which is very worrying for such once-common birds. Swallows were a bit more numerous by August, with several families on the wing, indicating successful breeding. Young Swallows can be recognised by having shorter tails, more like a House Martin, and in a good view a duller red chin. It is the adults which have the long tail streamers, noticeably longer in the male than in the female.

Two of the scarcer migrants turned up at Dernford in August. I have been preparing to write an elegy for the Spotted Flycatcher which has declined so drastically in the village, but I hear from a couple of friends that they are still in a few gardens. A couple of juveniles spent some time on our roof, I hope from a family which bred nearby although I had seen no sign of them until then. The other summer migrant is the Hobby, a small fast-flying falcon which catches its prey in flight, specialising in Swallows and Martins, and larger insects such as dragonflies, all of which it catches with its feet. Hobbies are well established in East Suffolk, but mostly on the coastal marshes and Sandlings heaths, but they do occur in the valley, and I see the odd one in most years. This year one was flying above the house, in company with Black-headed Gulls, all catching flying ants, which were swarming on a warm, humid afternoon. By late autumn, look out for those insects which like to hibernate inside the house. Most commonly seen indoors are the Peacock butterfly, (looking almost black when its wings are closed) and until recently when its numbers declined, the Small Tortoiseshell. Nowadays,



our houses are too warm for butterflies to hibernate, and they usually find their way out again. Next come the Wasps, whose large queens need to hibernate, and seem to like to hide behind curtains. Needing even more respect are the queen Hornets, alarmingly large insects, also needing to survive the winter to found new colonies next spring. At the time of writing there seem to be plenty of Hornets about, usually minding their own business, but often coming to outside lights,

(and sometimes through open windows), at night. Look for them, and many other insects feeding up for the winter, on the yellow-green clusters of flowers of the Ivy. Finally, and less alarmingly, houses also attract hibernating Lacewings. There are several of these, but the one which comes indoors is the Green Lacewing – bright green, with



transparent, clearly veined wings. Lacewings are the gardener's friends – in summer their larvae consume large numbers of aphids!

There is just space to mention the obvious features of nature in the autumn, the colours and fruiting shrubs of our countryside. Our local hedges are rich in shrubs which stand out in colour from now onwards. I am always impressed by the bright gold of the Field Maple, as well as the Hazel, and the purple colour of the Dogwood. All of these are widespread in our hedgerows. Both hedgerows and gardens now have ripening berries, a vital source of food for some of our resident, as well as winter migrant birds. Watch for these on the berries of Pyracantha, Cotoneaster, Hawthorn and others from now on. *Geoffrey Abbott*

### Parish Council News:

The Parish Council did not meet in August. A meeting was held on 12<sup>th</sup> September, during which a number of topics were discussed included Safeguarding, Jubilee Field, Village website, County Broadband and Finances. Reports were received from County and District councillors. The draft minutes of the meeting have been posted on the Parish Council notice board.

The next meeting will be held in Sweffling Hut on 10<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30p.m., to which all members of the village are invited to attend.

### Jubilee Field:

The Jubilee Field management programme is proceeding as planned, except for some variations in timing due to the impact of the weather. The major part of the field is being regularly mown and looks very good. The peripheral wild flower strips have been cut and baled and are now to be mown and tidied.

In June the Suffolk Wildlife Trust Officer, responsible for community areas and churchyards visited and was highly complimentary about the facility and its management.

### Coffee, Cake and Chat in the Sweffling Hut:

On the first Monday morning in each month from 10.00 a.m. until 12.00 noon there will be coffee and cake in the Hut, and the opportunity to chat and socialise. You are more than welcome to bring some craft to work on whilst you chat but this is not essential. Just come and meet with old friends and hopefully make some new ones! Contact Liz Eaton if you would like to know more.

### Children's Society Collection Boxes:

For many years Diana Smith organised Collecting boxes in Sweffling and Rendham for the Children's Society, and this was latterly taken over by Lesley Bennion. *Lesley writes: I've had a meeting with Diana about the future of our Children's Society Collections. Life has changed since the Pandemic as have people's shopping habits (thus often little actual cash), and now that banks are closing, cash collections will be more difficult. We have agreed that the best way forward is to have an annual coffee morning, so look out for the date and please support it when it happens. It is a very worthwhile cause.*

### Late reminder. Coffee morning for MacMillan nurses on 30th September

Rendham Village Hall 10.00am to 12.00pm

£1.00 entry to include tea/coffee, Cakes, plants raffle etc.

Please give us your support, if we can make £403.00 this year, the total for Rendham Coffee mornings since we started will smash £5,000.00

### Christmas Shopping Bus to Norwich:

We are hoping to run the bus again this year, if the cost of the bus has not increased much, and we get enough support to fill the bus.

The date will be 24th November, and leaves Rendham White Horse at 9.00am, Bruisyard at 9.10am, Sweffling church at 9.20am returning from Norwich at 4.00pm. Please ring Lynda on 663325 to book

### Townland Trust:

The Townland Trust is a village charity, established in the 1600's, to provide support in equal measure for St. Mary's Church and for those in the village who are in need of some financial help. The Trust owns the Townland meadow and pavilion in the middle of the village and also one cottage which is currently rented out. In previous times the Trust owned more land and property but these were sold off over the years and the Trust's income now comes from interest from investments and the rent from the cottage.

All help given by the Trust is in strictest confidence. The Trust cannot offer financial support on a regular basis, but may be able to contribute where an emergency or unexpected expense is incurred. The Trust can be approached for help directly via one of the trustees but we also rely upon good neighbours to inform the Trust, in confidence, where help might be appreciated or required.

Currently the trustees are the Rector, the Rev. Martin Percival, Mr Andy Franklin, Mrs Sandy Rowe, Mrs Jill Sedge and Mrs Sheila Tesh.

The Trust AGM will be held in November and is open to all villagers. The date will be posted on the village web-site and on the notice board.

### CHURCH SERVICES OCTOBER-NOVEMBER

Date	Venue	Time	Service
October 1st	Sweffling	9.30 a.m.	<b>HARVEST THANKSGIVING and H.C.</b>
October 8th	Rendham	9.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer
October 15th	Sweffling	9.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer
October 22nd	Rendham	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
October 29th	<b>Dennington</b>	10.00 a.m.	<b>BENEFICE SERVICE Holy Communion</b>
November 5th	Sweffling	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
November 12th	Rendham	9.30 a.m.	<b>JOINT REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY SERVICE FOR SWEFFLING AND RENDHAM</b>
<b>November 19th</b>	<b>Sweffling</b>	<b>9.30 a.m.</b>	<b>STIR UP Sunday. Family Service Come and make and eat a Christmas Pudding</b>
November 26th	Rendham	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
December 3rd	Sweffling	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion



### CHRISTMAS SERVICES IN St. MARY'S, SWEFFLING

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

SUNDAY December 18<sup>th</sup> 5.00 p.m.

A service of Lessons and Carols for Christmas

CHRISTMAS EVE MIDNIGHT HOLY COMMUNION

Service will begin at 11.30 p.m.



### Sweffling St Mary's Harvest Thanksgiving Service

Sunday October 1<sup>st</sup> 9.30 a.m.

Gifts of dried and packaged foods, toiletries etc welcomed to be donated to local food bank. Please leave in church beforehand

Followed by: Harvest Lunch in Sweffling Hut 1.00 p.m.

Adults £10.00, children £5.00.

Booking essential for catering. Ring Diana (663578) or Sheila (663.518)

Proceeds to Tear Fund for famine/disaster relief.



Craft for Children by Liz Eaton  
Making Christmas Decorations to  
hang on the tree

Sweffling Hut,

Sat. Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> 10.00 am–1.00p.m.

10 places for children aged 5 – 12, £12 per child  
(under 10s must be accompanied)

### CHRISTMAS BRUNCH AND MARKET, SWEFFLING HUT

SATURDAY November 25<sup>th</sup> 10.00 A.M. – 12 NOON



Bacon and egg rolls, Freshly brewed coffee/tea  
Christmas themed stalls: Cakes, Craft, Presents,  
Preserves, Pickles, Door Wreaths and Table  
Decorations, Raffle

Proceeds in aid of St. Mary's Church

### “CHRISTMAS BRASS” CONCERT in SWEFFLING CHURCH

FRIDAY DECEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup>, 7.30 P.M.

Leiston Royal British Legion Brass Band will play a concert of popular and Christmas music, with Sing-along Christmas Carols. **The perfect start to Christmas in Sweffling!**

Tickets: Adults £8.00, Children £4.00 to include interval Refreshments. Book with Diana (663578) or Sheila (663518) or pay at door. Proceeds in aid of St Mary's Church



Please e-mail any news items, events or short literary items for consideration for inclusion in the December/January edition to [john.tesh@talk21.com](mailto:john.tesh@talk21.com) before November 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.**