

THE BRIDGE October/November 2024

Church and Village magazine for Sweffling

Village website: sweffling@onesuffolk.net,

The Rev. Claire Kiddy, revclairekiddy@gmail.com, Tel: 07469 718695



Wednesday evening, September 11th saw the installation and licensing of our new Priest-in-Charge of the Benefice, the Rev. Claire Kiddy. Dennington church was full with representatives from each of the churches and parish organisations, as well as family, friends and well-wishers. Bishop Martin, assisted by the Archdeacon of Suffolk and the Rural Dean led a very meaningful service, during which symbols of the Church's ministry were presented to

Claire, she swore oaths of allegiance to the Church, the King and the Bishop and she met members of the various organisations represented in the congregation. Afterwards there was time for her to meet as many people as possible whilst sharing refreshments and a glass of wine. A reminder that Claire has a half-time post and will normally be in the Benefice on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday, although these may need to change for special events. Claire's first service in Sweffling will be on October 6th, which is our Harvest Festival Thanksgiving service, at 9.30 a.m., with Harvest Lunch in the Sweffling Hut at 1.00 p.m. (see later in The Bridge).

Claire will be the 39th recorded priest in Sweffling since 1322.

From our new Priest in Charge:

Greetings to you all! I am writing this on the day of my licensing as Priest in Charge of the Upper Alde Benefice, it is the beginning of a new phase for me and the life of the church in all 6 villages. My first introduction to Sweffling was the village fete and what a wonderful community event it was. My son and I received a very warm welcome and we heard, many times, how lovely it is to live in a village like Sweffling. So I am really looking forward to being part of the Sweffling community.

My first service at St Mary's Church will be Harvest Festival at 9.30am on Sunday 6th October. Now that the locally grown crops have all been safely gathered in, it is good to come together to give thanks to God for all His provision. We show too our gratitude to the farmers who work hard all year, alongside our Creator God, to produce the best crops they can despite the unpredictability of the weather. Harvest marks the end of the agricultural year yet it also makes way for the new year to begin. These days as soon as the combines stop the cultivators and drills are put into action and the new year begins. By now harvest is a distant memory for farmers.

Traditionally Harvest Festivals are held around Michaelmas day on the 29th September, near to the autumn equinox which marks the end of summer and beginning of autumn. In some parts of Suffolk harvest is marked nearer to Old Michaelmas day on the 11th October. As well as being a religious festival Michaelmas is a time of endings and new beginnings, it was a day when accounts had to be settled and new contracts drawn up. To this day farm

rents and contracts often begin and end at Michaelmas and in universities the Michaelmas term marks the beginning of the academic year.

So I figure that beginning my ministry in Sweffling with Harvest Festival is very appropriate. It marks the end of the Upper Alde Benefice being in vacancy following the retirement of Father Martin from his house for duty role and the beginning of this part time priest in charge role, which I am delighted to have been appointed to. I am passionate about following the gentle rhythm of the seasons, the agricultural year runs very similar to the liturgical year. We are all part of God's wonderful creation, and the seasons come and go far too quickly. It seems to me the autumn is a time when we are particularly aware that we are only here for a season, we remember all who have gone before us and we look forward to all that is to come. As one harvest comes to an end some of the grain is dressed and prepared ready to sow for next years crops and before we know it new green shoots will appear. I look forward to us planting new seeds in all 6 parishes in the benefice and seeing the green shoots God gives growth to.

Rev'd Claire.

Very Many Congratulations to Jonathan Stevens who is now a fully qualified architect after 9 years of study, and is now listed on the ARB Register of Professional Architects. Well done from everyone!!!!

Fete Report: *Steve Ashurst writes:*

A dry, warm 10th August helped make the Sweffling Village Fete a success this year with the largest attendance to date and a record level of money raised. The Dog Show continued to be a big draw with an ever-increasing number of dogs participating and the introduction of new games kept kids engaged whilst parents stocked up on the BBQ, cakes, produce and sampling drinks from the bar and Pimms tent.

The focus of this year's event had been to increase awareness of the reason the fete exists, the groups that benefit from the funds raised and how they use those funds to benefit the wider community. If you feel you have a group or cause (based in Sweffling) that would benefit from additional funding we would welcome you to attend the next AGM in the coming months (date tbc, possibly November 6th) and explain what you do and how you would use any funding received. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Making events like this a success depends on the generosity and goodwill of so many people and businesses, so a big thank you for all the cake makers, donators of books, clothes, bottles and bric-a-brac, providers of prizes for the fab raffle, the team organising the dog show and their sponsors, and last but not least the people who generously gave up their time to set up/tear down the fete, man stalls and serve burgers, tea and cakes and beer. Hopefully that covers everyone!

Sweffling Parish Council Report

At the last meeting held on 12th September 2024, a wide range of topics was discussed, details of which have been posted in the minutes displayed on the PC notice board. Written reports were received from the Suffolk County Council, and Suffolk Constabulary (Annual Report). Cllr. Vince Langdon-Morris presented the East Suffolk District Council report. The next meeting of the council will be held in the Hut on 12th November at 7.30 p.m. All members of the public are welcome to attend.

Sweffling has been successful in applying to East Suffolk Council's first 'East Suffolk Blooms' scheme and the village will receive one bag of bulbs to plant this winter. These

will be a blend of native bulbs which appeal particularly to bees and butterflies. No doubt help will be sought to plant the bulbs when they are collected in October

Notes from Sweffling White Horse Bowls Club

By the time you get to read this note our season will be over and the green will be resting. Throughout Autumn and Winter club members work on the green preparing it for next year. The 2025 season will start as usual with an Open Weekend when all are welcome to come and give bowls a try. Some of those who came along for their very first experience last April have played a full season with us. We are a small but friendly club who will always welcome new members.

We also hosted two very successful events this Summer when we welcomed as many as 10 youngsters from Sweffling and surrounding villages giving lawn green bowling a try. Thanks to the ACC for supporting those events. We hope to run more such experiences next year.

In 2025 we will once again have teams in Division 1 of the Woodbridge and District Bowls League and in Division 2 of the Saxmundham League. We will also have a team in the Fynn Trophy. So there are opportunities for players of all abilities to get involved. Please watch for notices in The Bridge and in social media groups for news and the date for our Open Weekend.

Our AGM will be held, at 7pm for a prompt 7.30pm start, on Monday 21st October in Sweffling Village Hut.

For any more information regarding the Bowls Club please contact our Secretary, John Stanley 01728 664073 07484793594 or by email arthurjohnstanley@gmail.com

Tennis Club report

Sweffling Tennis Club has seen a lot of activity over the summer months, and it has been rewarding to see new members form groups who play on a regular basis. The familiar Rusty Racquets and Rendham ladies still play weekly, whilst some holiday visitors have requested a temporary court pass for their stay.

The most notable and indeed by far the most successful activity over the summer period, has been the Children's Tennis Coaching sessions arranged by Laura Parsons-Mann. Twenty-three children from Sweffling and surrounding villages have enjoyed a weekly tennis coaching session with Matthew Last. To see how their confidence and skill has grown immeasurably over the six weeks shows the huge benefit of having a tennis court in the heart of our small village.

There is another Children's Coaching Session planned for the October '24 half term break. Places are limited to twenty-four which are split between younger and older groups. To join or received further details, please contact Laura directly: Laurap_02@hotmail.com Club Membership has grown this year however we do always welcome new members.

Sue Rusack. Club Secretary

ACC Summer Holidays review

This summer, the Alde Community Council (ACC), with generous full funding from East Suffolk Community Partnerships, ran a successful 'Try It' scheme, offering a range of activities for children aged 18 months to 15 years - all completely free of charge. A total of 28 children participated in sessions like tennis lessons, bowls, tea parties, park meetups, and craft. It was a joy to see new friendships form, families connect, and everyone enjoying the village's amenities.

Special thanks go to The Sweffling White Horse Bowls Club, who hosted two fantastic sessions. Anne guided 13 young players (and their parents) through the game. The children were captivated, which meant the session lasted far longer than expected, only the promise of squash and biscuits (pink wafers disappearing in record time!) were we able to draw them away. Huge thanks also go to Steve, Sue, and Lynda at Sweffling Tennis Club for their support, warm welcome and for solving a last-minute tennis racquet shortage. The brilliant coach Matt Last, who braved all weather conditions for weekly tennis lessons. Finally, a big thank you to all the families for pitching in and making this a summer full of fun and community spirit. It was a truly memorable time!

Please note!!!! Kids club October aspirations

We are looking at running a similar activity programme in the October half term subject to funding. Tennis with Matt the coach on the Tuesday, visiting the Rural Coffee Caravan for a special activity session and Autumn crafts followed by a Tea party is the current plan. A message to confirm this is going ahead will be posted to the 'Beautiful Sweffling' Facebook group and Sweffling Grapevine.

Nature Notes October/November

All of August, and into September, on clear days, there have been Buzzards soaring and calling (the distinctive cat-like mewing call) overhead. Over our part of the valley these have been three, which I take to be a pair with a grown young one. Sometimes they have been mobbed by crows. Elsewhere there have been more – up to five together. It does seem that Buzzards are now well-established breeders, and this without any artificial re-introductions; I see them every day, in contrast to my first sojourn in Suffolk in the 60s to 80s when I spent twenty years birdwatching in the county without seeing a single one! The other re-colonist raptor of recent years to common status is the Sparrowhawk, which we see much more fleetingly, but which can turn up in the garden at any time. Andy sent me this



fine picture of a Sparrowhawk taken from his window. This one looks like a female; the male is darker grey with more rusty chest stripes and orange to red eyes. It is also very much smaller than the female, the biggest difference in size between the sexes of any of our birds of prey. Late in the season, while it was still warm, there were still numbers of the so-called cabbage white butterflies around



(Large Whites and Small Whites). Unlike other late butterflies, such as Peacocks and Commas which are feeding up to survive the winter, these whites will die. They have already bred, and will survive the winter in the form of a pupa or chrysalis, which will emerge to form the second wave of spring species. These pupae can sometimes be found in the garden, as an angular green-grey structure, on a site such as a wall or fence. Last year my young friend Ted made me a nesting device for solitary bees, a small board with holes drilled into it, and a point to fix it into the ground. I set it up in a sunny spot beside some wild grasses. I was delighted to see that this summer it was being used, some of the tubes showing bits of projecting leaf. This is the work of one of the leafcutter bees,

which cut semicircles of green leaf (you can often see the evidence of this on the leaves of roses and wild briar), to line and cap their breeding tunnel. Most other solitary bees cap the tunnel off with wax. The latest solitary bee is the Ivy Bee, quite common this Autumn on sandy lawns and flower beds. It can be present in large numbers despite each bee making its own individual nest. Look out for them nectaring on the late flowers of Ivy, their main food.

Ravens P.S. Following my note about Ravens the other month, one or two people complained that it had too pagan a bias. They are quite right: so here for balance are a couple of biblical and Christian references:

The first biblical reference is of course to Noah's ark. "He sent forth the Raven, and it went to and fro until the waters were dried up". No hurry to get back to that noisy, smelly arc! Elijah commands the Ravens to feed Ahab, and "the Ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning".

Bede tells of St Cuthbert of Northumbria (who famously loved animals and birds), that when he was a hermit on the Inner Farne Island, Ravens stole thatch from the roof of his hut to build their nest. He rebuked them, but when they returned contrite, he forgave them, and in return they brought him a gift of a lump of pork lard, with which to grease his visitors' boots! (Bede is not cynical enough to suggest that they must have stolen this from somewhere else!) *Geoffrey Abbott*

Tour of Britain Cycle Ride 2024



On 8th September The Tour of Britain Cycle Race again passed through Sweffling on the B1119, past the White Horse, on its way from Lowestoft to Felixstowe. Efficient police motorcyclists blocked off the side roads, followed by the cyclists and the cavalcade of support cars. A small but noisy group of supporters was there at lunchtime to see the fleeting spectacle, strung out a little by the bends and the narrow road.

Sweffling Men@Work Group

The group is an informal gathering of men from Sweffling and the surrounding area, who meet at "The Hut", whenever there is something sufficiently interesting to talk about, listen to or experience. The idea was loosely based upon the "Men's Shed" concept, but there is no constitution and no affiliation to any other organisation. Meetings, which are informal, present an opportunity for men to have some relaxing, light-hearted fun. Meetings are called on an ad hoc basis, usually on the last Wednesday in each month, during the darker and colder months and will start again on November 27 7.00pm, when a sourdough breadmaking demonstration will be given by well-known local chef and star-baker Richard Andrews of "The Glemham Crown."

A small charge to cover expenses is usually made

Last season topics included Sherry tasting, cheese tasting, (sponsored by Friday Street) and a visit to a curry house in Woodbridge.

During 2024/25, events are likely to include, speed scrabble, Choose your Favourite Music Night, and a further visit to Woodbridge for a couple of beers and Curry.



Anyone interested and, importantly anyone with ideas for events/discussions, please contact Mike Smithson on mikesmithson.ms@gmail.com or (Mob) 07753 825938.

VILLAGE EVENTS THIS AUTUMN:

IN THE HUT:

Coffee, Cake, Chat and Craft Why not come to the Village Hall on the first Monday of each month between 10.00 and 12.00 noon, and enjoy a cup of coffee, some delicious home-made cake and the opportunity to meet with or make new friends? No invitation necessary, just come along and if you feel like bringing knitting, sewing or any other sort of craft to do as you chat that is fine. There is no charge, just a donation towards the coffee. Liz Eaton is the person to contact for further details (663613)

Harvest Lunch, Sunday October 6th, 1.00 p.m. Proceeds in aid of famine relief. (See later)

Wednesdays are for Keeping Warm!

It is hoped that **Soup lunches** followed by jigsaws, board games or crafts will start up in October twice a month to keep us warm, hopefully from Wednesday 9th October 12 noon - 4pm. Dates will be posted on the PC website and in the printed Events Programme.

The Rural Coffee Caravan will visit once a month 10 - 12 noon on the last Wednesday of each month (Sept, Oct, Nov). Come and check out the wealth of information and cosy chat over hot drinks and cake for free.

N.B. October date is the 30th and with Special Activities for children as it is half term week.

Curry & Quiz Night (by popular request) Friday, October 25th 7pm. (see later)

Silver Jewellery Making Workshop

Sue Studd will run this session from 11 - 4pm on Saturday 16th November, cost £70 including hot drinks. Places limited. You will make up to 4 pieces of silver jewellery for you to take home or give away for Christmas presents. Booking available via website and all details in Sweffling Hut Events Programme. Contact by email [<swefflinghut@gmail.com>](mailto:swefflinghut@gmail.com)

Men@work Group: November 27th, 7.00pm, Sourdough breadmaking demonstration

Christmas Brunch and Market. November 30th 10.00 a.m. – 12 noon.

IN SWEFFLING WHITE HORSE

Knit & Natter - knitters, stitchers and makers, 4th Monday of each month 7pm - 9pm - bring along your current craft and work alongside like-minded individuals. A great way to get to know others and share ideas etc. All welcome - both beginners and experienced. Meet in the lounge bar, drinks available from the bar, including free tea & coffee.

Sweffling Feelgood Book Club - 2nd Monday of each month from 7 pm to 9 pm to chat about our latest reads and choose the next book. Whether you're a bookworm or just looking for a relaxed couple of hours out amongst like-minded people - everyone is welcome! If you can't make it, stay in the loop by checking out our reading selections on the Sweffling website: <https://sweffling.onesuffolk.net/org.../feel-good-book-club/>

FIRST THURSDAY COMMUNITY SUPPERS

Our community suppers are due to start again in October with the kind support of the Sweffling White Horse.

However, due to holiday commitments the October's first supper will be the second Thursday, i.e. the 10th, the dates for the following suppers are as follows:

7th November 5th December 2nd January 6th February 6th March

October menu to be decided. Please contact Kirstin Stanley if you would like to book.

kirstin.stanley1@gmail.com

ACC Shopping Bus to Norwich, Friday 29th November.

Leaves Rendham White Horse at 9.00am, Bruisyard at 9.10am, Sweffling Church at 9.20am. Returns from Norwich at 4.00pm

As the price of the bus has increased again this year, we need to have a full bus in order to keep the ticket price down. To book your place ring Lynda on 663325

GOV.UK Animal and Plant Health Agency MANDATORY BIRD REGISTRATION

There is now a new requirement for all bird keepers, regardless of how many birds you keep, to register on the **Kept Birds Register** by 1st October 2024. Even if you keep a few birds for eggs, meat or as pets, we need to know about you. Register online via Gov.UK

CHURCH SERVICES: August September 2024

October 6th	Sweffling	9.30 a.m.	Harvest Festival Thanksgiving Service Rev. Claire's first service in Sweffling
October 13 th	Rendham	9.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer
October 20 th	Sweffling	9.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer
October 27 th	Rendham	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
November 3 rd	Sweffling	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion led by the Dean of St Edmundsbury Cathedral
November 10 th	Rendham	10.55 a.m.	Remembrance Sunday
November 17 th	Sweffling	9.30 a.m.	Stir-up Sunday Family Service. Help make (and eat) a Christmas pud!
November 24 th	Rendham	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
December 1 st	Sweffling	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion

CHRISTMAS SERVICES: Carols by Candlelight Sunday December 15th
5.00 p.m. Followed by refreshments

Christmas Eve Midnight: Benefice Holy Communion, starting at 11.30 p.m.

SUNDAY SCHOOL Families are warmly invited to bring their children to our fun and creative Sunday School, run with the Sweffling Church Services. Kids can enjoy Bible stories and hands-on crafts in a relaxed, welcoming atmosphere, followed by drinks and biscuits. It's a great opportunity to learn, play, and make new friends. Contact Anne (664077) for more details. Next service will be Harvest Thanksgiving, October 6th.



Sweffling St Mary's Harvest Thanksgiving Service

Sunday October 6th 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.

The Church will be open on Wednesday 2nd and also on Saturday 5th (for gifts and decorating. Contact Jill (663402) if you would like to help).

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 (663518) Proceeds to Tear Fund for famine relief.

CURRY AND QUIZ NIGHT FUNDRAISER FOR SWEFFLING HUT, FRIDAY 25 OCTOBER 2024. 7:00 PM.

£12.00 per ticket. This year homemade Onion Bhajis are being added to the menu. Please bring along your favourite beverage. A choice of 3 pre-ordered curries: mild (Korma), medium (Jalfrezi), and medium vegetarian (Thai). **IMPORTANT: All dishes contain nuts**

Pre-reserved tickets only. Book early. Donations for raffle prizes gratefully received.

Contact Mike Smithson for reservations pre ordering food etc.

mikesmithson.ms@gmail.com or 07753825938



CHRISTMAS BRUNCH AND MARKET, SWEFFLING HUT

SATURDAY November 30th 10.00 A.M. – 12 NOON



Bacon and egg rolls, Freshly brewed coffee/tea
Christmas-themed stalls: Cakes, Presents, Preserves, Pickles, etc.
Raffle – donations of prizes welcome

Mystery parcels: Anne and Eleanore Fitzgerald will be running this stall and are asking for donations of gift items suitable for adults and/or children. Please contact Anne on 664077.

Proceeds in aid of St. Mary's Church

“CHRISTMAS BRASS” CONCERT in SWEFFLING CHURCH

FRIDAY DECEMBER 6TH, 7.30 P.M.

Leiston Royal British Legion Brass Band will play our annual 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 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.**