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THE BRIDGE August/September 2023

Church and Village magazine for Sweffling

Village website: [<sweffling@onesuffolk.net>](mailto:sweffling@onesuffolk.net)



Sweffling Fete is back this year!!

After the enforced break because of Covid we are able to have our Village Fund-Raising Day again. It's a day for everyone to enjoy, but its success depends upon everyone's participation. Whether you can help with the setting up, volunteer to man a stall or just come along and support, the village needs you! Jill Abbott is the person to contact (663402). Inside "The Bridge" on pages 2 and 3 you will find an article written by Jill explaining what is needed. Please read this and contribute where you can.

All the proceeds go to support the church and village activities, so please be generous with your time and effort and, of course, bring the contents of your piggy bank on the day.

A message from the Rev. Percival:

An Amish family was visiting a shopping mall for the first time. They were amazed by almost everything they saw. The boy and his father were particularly attracted by the two shiny, silver walls that could move apart and back together again. The boy asked his dad, "What is this, Father?"

The man, never having seen such a thing in his life, responded, "Son, I have never seen anything like this and I don't know what it is or what it's for."

While the boy and his father were watching wide-eyed, an old lady in a wheelchair rolled up to the moving walls and pressed a button. The walls opened and the lady passed between them into a small room. The walls closed and the boy and his father watched as small circles with number lit up above the walls.

They continued to watch as the numbers lit up in the reverse direction. The walls opened up again and a beautiful young woman stepped out. The father, not taking his eyes off the young woman, said quietly to his son, "Son, go and get your mother."

Our Lord once said to his disciples, "I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven." Elsewhere, in the New Testament, we are told of some characteristics into which we should change and which should identify a person as being a Christian. It's a challenging list. Compassionate, content, holy, humble, joyful, loving, meek, merciful, pure in heart.

By the way, in a world of change, God is constant. He does not change; he is eternal. His character, promises, words and ways remain the same for ever. *Martin*

SWEFLING PARISH COUNCIL UP-DATE

Crime Prevention and Police Connect: Our July meeting opened with a short talk from PC Amy Yeldman 1330 who has temporarily taken over as Community Engagement Officer for the Halesworth locality.

She encouraged councillors and the wider community to be part of Police Connect which is a free messaging service operated by Suffolk Constabulary giving us the latest policing news, specific to our area. You will also be able to reply to the message.

Many will have received leaflets through doors, following the talk, but if not, you can register online at [<suffolk.police.uk/policeconnect>](http://suffolk.police.uk/policeconnect) to receive this news.

Neighbourhood Watch: This is not now run by the police, but there is a group locally who are keen to keep this organisation going. Suffolk Neighbourhood Watch is run by volunteers, who help the police keep communities safe.

Sweffling Parish Council is keen for both lines of communication to be open for parishioners and will discuss how this can best be done.

Police Patrols: PC Yeldham described local patrols from Framlingham - known as 'Kestrel,' which cover our area, to stop or investigate crime. She added that from December it is planned to have Police back on the beat from the Framlingham Station. PC Amy Yeldham was thanked for coming to the meeting and giving us plenty of contact details. For all community policing advice she is our first point of call:

email: CEOhalesworth@suffolk.police.uk

Emergencies only dial 999.

Non-urgent 01473 613500

Parish Council Noticeboard: The PC minutes of meetings and statutory notices, which we are obliged to display, are taking up more room than the middle section of the board. It is therefore our intention to have 2 out of the 3 sections locked for use only by the Parish Council. Apologies, but there were also complaints that some pages could not be read.

Our new Clerk Mrs Alyson Chilvers took over her post at the July meeting.

She can be contacted by email [<sweffling.clerk@gmail.com>](mailto:sweffling.clerk@gmail.com) or by phone 01473 737674 or 07767 775186. If you want to contact the Parish Council for any reason, Alyson is your first port of call.

JUBILEE FIELD UPDATE: The field is looking great. Very many thanks to so many people this year who are helping in so many ways. Congratulations, it is a real credit and asset to the village! The wild flower areas will be cut and baled for hay as soon as the weather permits. More volunteers would be greatly appreciated. Please contact John Tesh (663518) if you would like to help.

SWEFLING FETE & FUN DOG SHOW

SATURDAY 12TH AUGUST 1 PM - 4PM

An afternoon of fun for all the family with traditional Stalls, and Sideshows including a Coconut Shy, Fire Engine, Tractor Rides, Mystic Miranda, Fairground organ, Face painting and Children's craft and nature activities. BBQ, Beer tent, Pimms Stall, Ice creams & Homemade teas.

Stalls: Please support our stallholders by contributing goods and produce:

Books: Please deliver to The Bailey family, York House, Glemham Road or to the Abbotts at Dernford Barn. Ring Geoffrey on 663402

Bric a Brac: Jenny Tyson is happy to store at 4 Holden's Meadow. If not in, please leave goods in porch.

Clothes: Clean and in good condition. Jenny Tyson - as above 4 Holden's Meadow.

Cakes and home baking: Please include labels, e.g. gluten free/ contains nuts/ or list of ingredients. Packaging in trays or paper plates is really helpful. Please deliver Friday 11th or early Saturday morning to either Liz Eaton, 663613, Shingle Bungalow, Benhall Low Street, or Julia Kinsey, Laigh Logan, The Street, 664085.

Jams/preserves/chutneys: These can be delivered to Liz or Julia any time in August.

Garden produce: As above to Liz & Julia

Jewellery: Please take to Jill Abbott at Dernford Barn, Glemham Road 663402

Plants and Garden Miscellany: Who would like to run this stall? Please email <swefflingfete@gmail.com>

You can also take goods to stalls on the day of the fete after 12pm

The Grand Draw: First Prize £100 and other quality prizes.

Every household has received 10 tickets in 2 books, please try and sell them to family and friends you know. Take any unsold tickets and your completed ticket stubs and money in the envelope provided, to Diana Smith at Melwood, The Street (post through her door) or Pam Fagan at Culvercote, Glemham Road or to the Fete on the day by 3.30pm.

Diana and Pam will have extra tickets if you need more.

DOG SHOW

I hope many of you will remember how much fun the dog show is!

For those of you who have not been before, please bring your dog along and be assured that there are many different classes for your dog to enter regardless of age or breed.

We are very fortunate to have Toby's pet shop in Framlingham supporting us with goody bags for winners in each class. All dogs placed 1-4 will receive rosettes and the best in show will be awarded a cup. All dogs will get a bonio and of course placed or not you will always take the best dog home!

As always there are a few rules we must ask you to observe:

- All dogs must be kept on leads.
- No bitches in season.
- You must, must must clean up after your dog.
- Hope to see you, your family and your dog on the day!

WEDDING BELLS: On Saturday August 19th Alex Gough and Adam Curtis will be married in Sweffling Church. Alex has family connections with Sweffling and we are so pleased that they have chosen our church in which to be married. We wish them every happiness for their future together.

CONGRATULATIONS: Many congratulations to Eleanore Fitzgerald on being awarded a 1st Class Honours degree in Classics from the university of Durham. She now plans to move from Durham to Cambridge University where she will continue her interest in Classics at Newnham College, studying for an M.Phil.. We wish her every success.

Congratulations also to Kirsty Tesh on being awarded a 2:1 Honours degree in Veterinary Nursing Sciences from Nottingham Trent University. You may remember that Kirsty previously worked as Head Nurse at the Fromus Veterinary Practice in Saxmundham. She now works in the Mars Veterinary Research Division at Melton Mowbray.

EVERY SUCCESS to Richard Stevens who will be moving to Bangor University to study Music and Composition. Richard, who is already a very accomplished musician, is coming to the end of a hectic gap year, during which time he has played with a wide variety of different bands and orchestras, and helped out with the music at Thomas Mills on occasions. Although Richard's chosen instrument is the bass trombone, he is very versatile and plays everything from clarinet to tuba and more!

(N.B. The Editors are always keen to receive news about the success and progress of the young people in the village. GCSE and A Level results please, plus all other achievements)

BRIDGE NATURE NOTES AUGUST-SEPT 2023.



This Spring, the hedges were the most spectacular I can remember, laden with white Hawthorn blossom. Now it is the turn of the Bramble flowers, covering many of the hedges in pale pink. I hope that some of these last into August, because there is a great deal of insect life to be seen, taking advantage of all this pollen and nectar. Bumblebees, Honey Bees, many different Hoverflies, and the summer butterflies all feed there. Meadow Browns and

Gatekeepers, which breed among the nearby grasses, are as common as I have seen. Look out also for the tiny ginger-coloured Skippers, which love the Bramble flowers, as well as other summer flowers such as Knapweed. (We have three different Skippers, the Large, Small and Essex Skippers, but more of them another time). Perhaps we can also look forward to a good crop of blackberries. Our grandson, who lives in the North West, made blackberry jam last year, and traded some with a neighbour who keeps bees, for honey, probably made from some of the same Bramble plants. This beekeeper reckons that Bramble is the most important source of summer nectar for the bees.

Along the River Alde this summer are a lot of my favourite Damselflies, the Banded Demoiselle. The males of these are very distinctive, and very handsome. They are larger than the common blue species, with a shiny, metallic blue body. The large wings each have a broad band of dark indigo blue, very prominent when the insect is in flight. They are beloved of documentary film makers in sequences about river life, where they are shown defending their territories and attracting a mate. The female also has a shiny, metallic body, but she is a dark emerald green, and has no marks on the transparent wings. Although they are common near the Benhall Low Street bridge, and other sunny stretches where there is vegetation, sadly one stretch of the river has been stripped so bare



that it will be some time before the plants, and the aquatic insects which lived there, will be able to re-colonise. Some of the larger Dragonflies are also active in late summer, especially a red one called the Common Darter. (Young males may be a darker orange, and females browner). They often make use of garden ponds for breeding, although they may be seen well away from water, usually sunbathing on walls or fences. The flight season may last well into October.



As promised, the Churchyard has been a picture, with masses of yellow Ladies' Bedstraw. This will be going over soon, and the vegetation with recent dry weather looking a bit dead and, to some perhaps, a little untidy. But the mowing regime has seen to the survival of many less conspicuous plants, most of them found nowhere else in the village, and some scarce or rare nationally. In June, we had a visit from an advisor from the Suffolk Wildlife Trust, who approved our management practice and was most impressed with the results. I hope soon to get a more complete list of the churchyard plants and other wildlife onto the village website. In late Summer, look for some of our taller wildflowers, along the ditches and damper parts of the field edges. Particularly striking are the creamy white Meadowsweet, dense pink Great Willowherb, and spikes of Purple Loosestrife. *Geoffrey Abbott*



WHAT'S NEW AT THE HUT?:

Caretaking job vacancy: Due to retirement, the position of caretaker / booking secretary is vacant for Sweffling Village Hut, from end of November. For more information please ring 01728 663402 or 663571

Autumn term programme: Several new ventures are planned for The Hut and a programme of events will soon be delivered to your door with details of how to book workshops and events in the Autumn Term. Or you can book through a link on the Village Website: <sweffling.onesuffolk.net> Regular evenings will be available for card games (possibly Bridge & Whist); talks and film evenings with drinks and snacks.

Workshops:

- **How to be a House Detective** - *Unleash your inner detective and embark on a thrilling 5-week journey to uncover the captivating history of your home.*
Saturdays Sept 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th, Oct 7th, 11am - 1pm
Over 5 weeks, we will delve into the secrets and stories hidden within the walls of your house. From uncovering architectural details to researching previous owners, you'll learn how to be a true house detective. Our expert guides will provide you with the tools and knowledge needed to navigate historical records, maps, and archives.
Sweffling resident (Discounted rate for all 5 weeks): **£45**, non-resident **£55**
For more information go the Village website: <https://sweffling.onesuffolk.net>
To Book: Call Laura Parsons Mann on 664984, 0799940392 or email swefflinghut@gmail.com
- **Saturday** Oct 14th 11a.m - 4p.m.
Silver Jewellery making - a practical workshop. (10 places). £70 per person (drinks included - bring your own lunch)
- **Wednesdays** September 13th, 20th, 27th
Nature on Your Doorstep - 3 sessions 7.30pm - 9pm
(Light refreshments included) £25 for the course or £10 per session

Chat & Craft - First Monday of the month 10- 12noon.

Next meetings 4th September, 2nd October

Knit & Natter - Fourth Monday of the month 7- 9pm.

Next meetings 24th July (Hut), 28th Aug (Sweffling White Horse), 25th Sept (Hut).

For more information check website <sweffling.onesuffolk.net> Events page.

Book and pay online or email <swefflinghut@gmail.com>. to book or reserve a place and arrange payment.

SWEFFLING BOWLS CLUB: At the half way point of the season we are presently sitting second in all three leagues.

We usually play on Monday evening in the Saxmundham League, on Tuesday in the Woodbridge and District Bowls League and on Thursday in the Fynn Trophy.

We will always welcome new members. Two of our new members this season namely Tony Volz and Steve Jacobs are having a significant impact on our winning ways.

We have a series of home games at the end of July and beginning of August.

Monday 31st July v Saxmundham

Tuesday 1st August v Tunstall

Thursday 4th August v Wickham Market

Tuesday 8th August v Martlesham

As none of Rendham, Bruisyard, Cransford or Great Glemham have their own bowling green we are your local club. So do come along, if you are free, to support the team.

It can be a pleasant way to enjoy a Summer evening. Games start at around 7pm

I look forward to seeing you there. *John Stanley, Secretary SWHBC.*

SWEFFLING TENNIS CLUB: The Sweffling Tennis Club held a very successful BBQ in early June with nearly 40 members attending. A free tennis coaching session was offered with Matthew Last, and this was enthusiastically enjoyed by both younger and older members.

We very much hope that by introducing members this will encourage families and groups to get together over the summer holidays to play tennis, and maybe arrange their own tennis coaching sessions. Should anyone need Matthew's contact details we are very happy to pass these on.

The club welcomes new members so please contact Sue

Rusack: SueRyderR@rusack.myzen.co.uk if you'd like joining information.

Here's to a very happy post Wimbledon tennis season.

ALDE COMMUNITY COUNCIL: Many thanks to John and Teresa McKee, who held a Beetle Drive in aid of the ACC.. Despite the low attendance, the evening was a great success raising the amount of £167.00. Many thanks also to all those who supported it, this was our first fund-raiser in 4 years! *Lynda Newson*

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING: Saturday 30th September 2023

Rendham Village Hall. 10.00am -12.00pm

£1 entry includes tea/coffee, Raffle, Cakes, Plants & more. Donations/cakes most welcome. Please give your support to this good cause.

For enquiries ring Lynda 663325

SUFFOLK MOBILE LIBRARY: A reminder that the mobile library comes to Sweffling twice each month Every four weeks on Fridays it stops at Sweffling White Horse between 9.30 a.m. and 9.50 a.m. whilst every intermediate four weeks on Thursdays it stops at Sweffling Church between 9.25 a.m. and 9.45 a.m. Until the end of the year the dates are:
SWH: 4th Aug, 1st Sept, 29th Sept, 27th Oct, 24th Nov, 22nd Dec.

SC: 17th Aug, 14th Sept, 12th Oct, 9th Nov, 7th Dec.

The library doesn't just have Books. It has DVDs, Games, Audiobooks, CDs, CDROMs, and Language Courses! More info: <https://www.suffolklibraries.co.uk/visit/mobile-libraries>

SUFFOLK HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST SPONSORED RIDE AND STRIDE

SHCT annual Ride and Stride event will take place on Saturday, September 9th, between 9.00 a.m. and 5.00 p.m. The aim is to visit as many churches as possible and to be sponsored either for taking part or per church visited. You can cycle, walk, go on horseback or even by vintage car, if you have one! Half the money raised goes to the Trust, the other half to the local church.

If you would like to take part on behalf of Sweffling Church, Sheila Tesh has sponsor forms, and lists of churches that will be open, with information on how many churches are in each town/village to help plan the best route for the distance you are able to travel.

CHURCH SERVICES: August September 2023

Date	Venue	Time	Service
August 6th	Sweffling	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
August 13th	Rendham	9.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer
August 20	Sweffling	9.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer
August 23rd	Rendham	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
September 3rd	Sweffling	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
September 10th	Rendham	9.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer
September 17th	Sweffling	9.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer
September 24th	Rendham	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
October 1st	Sweffling	9.30 a.m.	HARVEST FESTIVAL THANKSGIVING SERVICE

HARVEST IN SWEFFLING: Again this year we will be decorating the church with flowers and berries for harvest. If you would like to help with the decorating, please contact Jill Abbott (663402). However as in the previous two 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 nearer the time.

The Harvest Festival Service will be in church at 9.30 a.m. All are invited.

HARVEST LUNCH: We plan to have a Harvest Lunch on Sweffling Hut on Sunday October 1st, starting at 1.00 p.m. It will be a 2-course meal with soft drinks included – bring your own wine. The cost will be £10.00 per adult, £5.00 per child under 12. All proceeds from the lunch and the raffle will be sent to Tear Fund to help with famine or disaster relief. **BOOK THE DATE NOW!** We will send a reminder nearer the time.

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.**



A vibrant poster for the Sweffling Fête. At the top, a string of colorful triangular bunting (pink, orange, yellow, purple) hangs across the frame. Below the bunting, a yellow circular badge features a black silhouette of a dog and the text 'TAKE PART IN OUR DOG SHOW!'. The main title 'SWEFFLING FÊTE' is written in large, bold, orange letters. Below this, 'SATURDAY' is in purple, and '12 AUGUST 1-4PM' is in large purple letters. Underneath, 'ON THE TOWNLAND MEADOW' is written in orange. The bottom section of the poster shows a green landscape with a small tent, a table, and a cart. Text in this section includes 'FUN DOG SHOW - TRADITIONAL STALLS & SIDESHOWS', 'BBQ & HOMEMADE TEAS', 'BEER TENT & PIMMS - GRAND DRAW', and 'IN AID OF ST MARY'S CHURCH AND VILLAGE AMENITIES CHARITY NO: 269437'.

TAKE PART IN OUR DOG SHOW!

SWEFFLING FÊTE

SATURDAY

12 AUGUST 1-4PM

ON THE
TOWNLAND MEADOW

FUN DOG SHOW - TRADITIONAL STALLS & SIDESHOWS
BBQ & HOMEMADE TEAS
BEER TENT & PIMMS - GRAND DRAW

IN AID OF ST MARY'S CHURCH AND VILLAGE AMENITIES
CHARITY NO: 269437