

THE BRIDGE August/September 2024

Church and Village magazine for Sweffling

Village website: sweffling@onesuffolk.net

Churchwardens: Geoffrey Abbott 663402; John Tesh 663518



It's Sweffling Fete time, August 10th!!

Fete day is a day for everyone to enjoy, but its success depends upon everyone's participation. Whether you can help with the setting up or dismantling, volunteer to man a stall or sideshow, or just come along and support, the village needs you! Steve and Sue Ashurst are the person to contact (663232). Inside "The Bridge" you will find an article explaining what is needed and also a flyer about it. Please read these 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.

Appointment of new Priest for the Upper Alde Benefice

The Rev. Claire Kiddy has been appointed as Priest in Charge of the six churches in the Upper Alde Benefice. She will be formally licensed to the role by Bishop Martin on Wednesday September 11th in Dennington Church at 7.30 p.m. and everyone is invited to this service.



From our new Priest in Charge:

Hello everyone. I am delighted to have been appointed as the Priest in Charge of the Upper Alde Benefice and I am looking forward to my licensing in Dennington Church. I will be moving into the Rectory in Badingham in September, date to be decided by the diocese. As this will be a part time role my regular working days will be Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday. Of course I will need to be flexible as some work days will need to change for special events.

When I looked around the benefice at the beginning of June I was given only a snapshot of village life in each of the six villages, so I am excited at the prospect of living and working amongst you and really getting to know you and the communities.

So let me tell you a little more about myself. I have lived in Suffolk all my life. At the moment I am an Associate Priest in Beccles Parish. I am married to Geoffrey, who is a

farmer, and we live on our farm in Wissett. We have three grown up children – Edward is a farmer; he lives with his wife on the farm. Emily lives in Hertfordshire and works for the Church of England in the vision and strategy department. Henry lives with us and is about to start teacher training. We have a cockapoo called Mabel.

When you see me out and about do say hello and introduce yourself to me. I would love to hear what your village means to you and how the church can best serve you.

So, as I prepare for this move I will be praying for God's love and blessing to be showered upon this new chapter in the life of the Upper Alde Benefice.

With best wishes

Rev'd Claire

Church Security

There has been a spate of Church burglaries recently, one of the most recent in Framlingham, where thieves broke into the church, drilled open the safe and stole all of the silver, amounting to 22 pieces. In addition they caused considerable damage to the church fabric. Please be vigilant and keep a look out for any suspicious activity around St. Mary's, for example unidentified vans parked at the back of church, lights on in Church at unusual hours. If you have any concerns, please ring one of the churchwardens (see page 1).

Good news: Cransford's Mendlesham chair, (made by Albert Lain as a gift, one to each of the churches in the Benefice), which was stolen earlier in the year, has been recovered, although still being held by the Police as evidence in the burglary prosecution. Hopefully it will be returned soon.

Sweffling Parish Council

The Parish Council have recently welcomed Peter Grogan as new Clerk to the Parish Council. Peter can be contacted by email: sweffling.clerk@outlook.com for any aspect of SPC business.

Meetings, held at Sweffling Hut at 7.30pm on the second Tuesday of the month, are changing to alternate months. The next meeting will be on Tuesday 10th September, then November 2024, January, March, May and July 2025. All members of the village are welcome to attend.

The draft minutes from the Parish Council meeting held on July 9th 2024 have been posted on the Parish Council notice board.

Recent issues:

Defibrillator: SPC has applied for a grant to help buy a defibrillator which, it is hoped, will be housed outside Sweffling Hut.

Sweffling Flood Prevention: Earlier this year a number of residents in the village tried to understand why we have struggled with progressively worse flooding in Sweffling in recent years and if there was anything we could do about it.

Following Storm Babet there has been a significant amount of effort across the country by local government agencies to pull together a plan. Unfortunately, Sweffling is currently number 41 on the list to be addressed and allocated resources.

Consequently, we came up with our own plan and presented it to all government agencies earlier this year. The Suffolk County Council Flood team responded with guidance as to what we could do as a community to address the regular flooding that occurs rather than how we could have been protected against a situation such as Storm Babet. By the time The Bridge is published we will have had an open meeting in the village Hut to review the feedback received and draw up a plan to make some 'quick wins'. This will inevitably

mean we will require working groups of people to help clear drains, culverts, and the Gull that flows through the village.

Please keep an eye out on the village notice board and all the usual social media channels managed by Laura for an update.

Jubilee Field: Along with the rest of our gardens and hedgerows in the village, the Jubilee Field has benefitted from the wet summer so far. The hedgerows that were planted a couple of years ago have in the main taken off and where there were gaps we have filled in with new hedgerow plants. The combination of wild meadow grasses and cut paths seems to be to peoples liking and the field is getting much more use now which is great to see. Did you know we have an outdoor gym on the Jubilee Field? There are some great pieces of equipment that are definitely under used. Why not get a group of friends to come up and have a go? There are instructions on each piece of kit, there is nothing better than exercising outdoors, and it's all free to use by anyone one in the village!

SWEFFLING FETE & FUN DOG SHOW

SATURDAY 10TH AUGUST 1 PM - 4PM

An afternoon of fun for all the family with traditional Stalls, and Sideshows including a Coconut Shy, 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 Sue and Steve at The Old Rectory.

Bric a Brac and Clothes: Good quality clean clothes, china, glass etc. can be brought in the morning of the fete to the Townland meadow. Alternatively, Jenny Tyson is happy to store at 4 Holden's Meadow. If not in, please leave goods in porch.

Cakes and home baking, preserves and plants: The cake stall is always popular, but only if there are lots of cakes to sell! If you can contribute, please deliver your items by 9th August to Monica Petzall, Yew Tree Farm, Sweffling IP17 2BU (07775 676185) or Liz Eaton Shingle Bungalow, Benhall Low Street IP17 2BH (07701 004879) or to the cake stall before 10.00a.m. on the morning of the fete. Please include labels, e.g. gluten free/contains nuts/or list of ingredients. Packaging on trays or paper plates is really helpful.

Bottle tombola: Mary and Anthony Wilkinson are running this stall and need in-date bottles of any sort and cans of drink. Please deliver to Wayside, Glemham Road, Sweffling or telephone 01728 663256 if they need collecting.

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. Please take your completed ticket stubs and money in the envelope provided, or any unsold tickets, to Diana Smith at Mellwood, The Street IP17 2BL (post through her door) or bring them to the Fete by 3.30pm. More tickets will be available on the day.

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!

Congratulations: Many congratulations to Eleanore Fitzgerald on graduating from Newnham College, Cambridge with an M.Phil. in Classics, in particular in classical reception. Her final dissertation was entitled "Roman Masculinity in British Childrens' Culture from the Victorian Era to Horrible Histories." Whilst studying in Cambridge she has also been teaching Classics one day per week at Woodbridge School. We wish her every success for the future.

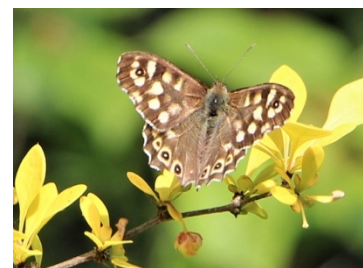
Also every success to Richard Stevens who will be moving from Bangor University to the Royal College of Music in Manchester to continue his studies in Music. During his time in Bangor Richard has represented Wales in the European Junior Brass Band competition in Lithuania, where the band was placed third. During the summer he will be playing with two bands at the Eisteddfod and will be going to Italy with the Suffolk Youth Orchestra.

(N.B. The Editors are always keen to receive news about the success and progress of the young (and not so young) people in the village. GCSE and A Level results please, plus all other achievements).

Nature notes August-September

Back to normal for the Nature Notes this time!

Late summer is a good time to see many of our brown butterflies, some of which are quite common. All of them are species whose caterpillars feed on grasses, in meadows and verges, but also in woodland clearings. They may all however, from time to time, be seen in gardens, visiting flowers for nectar. Commonest is the Meadow Brown, quite a large butterfly flying from quite early in the summer, light brown with patches of orange. Emerging a little later is the Hedge Brown, smaller, also light brown, but with larger patches of orange. These are very fond of the flowers of Bramble bushes, and so are often found in places like field gateways, which gives them their common name, (which I prefer), of Gatekeeper. Much darker brown, looking almost black, and with a line of small, but clear,



black rings with white middles on the underwing is the Ringlet. These can sometimes be seen in the grassy areas of the Churchyard. Finally, the Speckled Wood, which can be seen at most times from April until September, is more a species of woodland clearings, so will be seen in more wooded gardens. It is well named. It often rests with its wings open, showing dark brown with the clear 'speckles', small patches of pale cream.

The churchyard this year is looking very different. After a few dry years, in which the turf has stayed

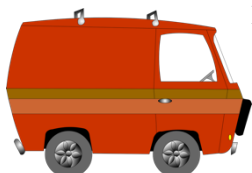


short and the spring and summer flowers shown well, this spring has been very damp. As a result, the turf has been taken over by one of the grasses. There are a few of the fine-leaved heathland grasses here, but by far the dominant this year has been an early species called Sweet Vernal Grass. This is a relatively short grass which, when green, gives off a strong scent of new-mown hay when crushed. Once this grass has gone over, the churchyard will look rather dead, and will need cutting earlier than usual this year.

Plants flowering in late summer include many of those which are found along the river, or in ditches and other damp habitats in the valley. Some of them should still be flowering when these notes come out. Common in many parts of the village is a large willow herb called Great Willow Herb (or sometimes Hairy Willow Herb). This is a tall plant, growing to over 4 feet tall, very thickly, in ditches. The flowers are pink, arranged loosely in a head, showing over quite a long period. There is another well-known species, not to be confused, the Rose-Bay Willow Herb, which has a tall spike of slightly darker flowers.



This grows in drier places, like woodland and waste ground, sometimes following fires (hence an alternative name of Fireweed). Although common, it is seldom found in our village. Another striking plant to look out for is the Purple Loosestrife, tall spikes of a bright pinkish purple. Finally, another tall wetland plant is the Meadowsweet, whose flowers are small, but in dense, fluffy clusters of creamy white. *Geoffrey Abbott*



Mobile Shop: A reminder that Dales's Mobile Shop visits the village each Thursday between 1.30 p.m. and 2.00 p.m. It is parked in the layby at the front of the church. He has a wide range of household items and fruit and vegetables and comes highly recommended by those village residents who have shopped with him. Please support the shop, so that Sweffling does not lose this very useful facility.

Ringling News:

The bells at Sweffling have been a little quiet of late with just the odd visiting band enjoying them and reminding our village friends that the bells are still there. The Ringers of Suffolk are mostly members of the Suffolk Guild of Ringers www.suffolkbells.org.uk which has four Districts; Sweffling and Rendham are in the North East District. We organise events and currently are in the midst of a Quarter Peal week(ish) where we support a member in trying something new. At Sweffling on Monday 8 July we successfully rang Norwich Surprise Minor for Erika Clarke, this was conducted by our District Ringing Master, Philip Gorrod. Our next quarter attempt will be on Friday 30 August in the evening. This will be for Richard and will be Norwich Surprise. Do listen out for this performance.

National Grid: Sealink Statutory Consultation until 11 August 2024.

Sealink is a proposed 2-gigawatt high voltage direct current cable between Suffolk and Kent, approximately 138 km long and largely offshore. However, to bring power from the cables into and out of Suffolk and Kent the National Grid propose to build new onshore infrastructure including an 86 foot high converter station just outside Saxmundham, a huge

substation at Friston and new underground and overhead electricity lines, as well as upgrading existing overhead electricity lines. The cables will come onshore between Aldeburgh and Thorpeness and will eventually be buried underground but, in the process of doing so, large tracts of the Heritage coast and Suffolk countryside will be dug up and the whole project will cause massive disruption locally, with no benefit to the local community.

You have the opportunity to comment about this proposal, either by e-mail: contact@sealink.nationalgrid.com or by post: FREEPOST Sea Link, before the national Grid submit their application for consent early next year. More information can be obtained from Saxmundham Library.

For information, the National Grid is a privatised company and not a government owned organisation.

The Rural Coffee Caravan will be parked at the Townland Trust Field on Tuesday 30th July 10am - 12noon. The Coffee Caravan's aim is to help rurally isolated communities in Suffolk access services and information to improve their lives, health and well-being and to unite people, empowering and strengthening rural communities. They have access to a raft of information on local and national agencies, organisations, activities and support services. If there are questions about what's available locally, they will help find the answers. They provide free tea and coffee and cake and it's an opportunity for neighbours to meet and chat. Everyone welcome – If we don't use it, we will lose it.

Suffolk Historic Churches Trust Annual Sponsored Cycle Ride and Stride

The annual SHCT Ride and Stride, which is so successful in raising funds for the preservation of Suffolk churches, will be on Saturday 14 September. The idea is to cycle or walk to as many churches as you can between 9.00 a.m. and 5.00 p.m. and to ask people to sponsor you for doing so. The majority of churches in Suffolk of all denominations will be open to visit and usually offer refreshments. In the past, Sweffling Church has benefitted from the Trust, to help with the cost of repairs.

Sheila Tesh (663518) has sponsor forms and is willing to Sponsor anyone who takes part for Sweffling church. Why not make it a family outing?

CHURCH SERVICES: August September 2024

August 4th	Sweffling	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion	Archdeacon Rich
August 11th	Rendham	9.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer	
August 18th	Sweffling	9.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer	
August 25rd	Rendham	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion	
September 1st	Sweffling	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion	
September 8th	Rendham	9.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer	
September 15th	Sweffling	9.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer	
September 22th	Rendham	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion	
September 29th	Bruisyard	10.00 a.m.	Benefice Holy Communion	
October 6th	Sweffling	9.30 a.m.	HARVEST FESTIVAL THANKSGIVING SERVICE The Rev. Claire Kiddy	

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 in Sweffling Hut on Sunday October 6th, 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.

Coffee, Cake, Chat and Craft in Sweffling Hut: There will not be a get together in August, but we will resume on the first Monday in September. Why not come to the Village Hall 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)

Macmillan Coffee Morning: Saturday 28th September, Rendham Village Hall from 10.00-12.00pm. £1 entry includes tea/coffee, Raffle, Cakes.

Donations/cakes most welcome.

Last year we obtained Matched Funding, and hope for the same this year.

Please give us your support. *Lynda 663325*

Future dates for your diary	
Wednesday September 11th	Licensing of the Rev. Claire Kiddy 7.30 p.m. Dennington Church
Saturday September 28th	Macmillan Coffee Morning, Rendham Village Hall
Sunday October 6 th	Harvest Festival Thanksgiving Service 9.30 a.m. St Mary' Church
Followed by	Harvest Lunch in Sweffling Hut 1.00 p.m. Proceeds to Tear Fund for famine relief
Saturday November 30 th	Christmas Brunch and Market. 10.00 a.m-12 noon Sweffling Hut
Friday December 6 th	Christmas Brass Concert 7.30 p.m. St. Mary's Church

Please e-mail any news items, events or short literary items for consideration for inclusion in the October/November edition to john.tesh@talk21.com before Sept 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.**



SWEFFLING FÊTE

**SATURDAY
10 AUGUST 1-4PM**

**ON THE TOWNLAND
MEADOW, IP17 2BQ**

**TAKE PART IN
OUR DOG SHOW!**

FUN DOG SHOW

**TRADITIONAL STALLS
& SIDESHOWS**

BBQ & HOMEMADE TEAS

BEER TENT & PIMMS

GRAND DRAW

Cash preferred - card payment on the bar

In aid of St Mary's Church and Village Amenities
Charity no: 269437