

# THE BRIDGE

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October 2017

## Through a glass, dimly...

I am writing this shortly after we have heard about another storm wreaking havoc in the Caribbean and an earthquake in Mexico. Many people have died or been made homeless. It hardly fits well with the Psalmist who continually sings of the wonder of God's creation and the glory of the Creator.

“The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament sheweth his handiwork.”

Perhaps this generation is too obsessed with the achievements of human beings, remarkable though they are, to reflect very deeply on the natural laws which govern the planet upon which we live. For the most part there is a wonderful orderliness in the world which we so easily take for granted. Furthermore, I cannot believe that what we see all around us is the result of some happy accident. The problem is that almost every day new discoveries are being made and with each discovery human beings seem to assume new powers. These new powers are ours to use or abuse and we fall into the trap of thinking that we can explain and



control everything. We know what causes floods and hurricanes, earthquakes and volcanoes and we can often predict them. The real difficulty arises in trying to understand why a world so marvellously ordered should, on occasions, be liable to such devastating disturbances.

If we are honest we can acknowledge that many disasters are caused by man's greed, ineptitude or carelessness. The aircraft which crashes may be the result of pilot error or shoddy maintenance. The tower block which burns down because

someone fell asleep with a lighted cigarette. The dam which bursts because inferior materials have been used in its construction. We can apportion blame and, by doing so, we can understand, even if the

resultant loss of life appals us. However, as we have been reminded recently, thousands will die in a disaster which is not the result of human frailty. How are such things to be explained?

Our ancestors saw them as expressions of God's anger at the wickedness of the human race. This must be nonsense if we believe in a just and caring God who loves

everything and everyone he has created. Such a view is incompatible with the nature of our Heavenly Father as revealed to us in Jesus.

The truth of the matter is that the product of all creative activity, from art to engineering, is liable to be flawed, and our particular part of God's creation is no exception. Remember that the Bible teaches us that when God had finished his work of creation he "saw everything he had made and, behold, it was very good." Very good, that is, but not perfect. So when disasters occur God is not absent, rather he seems to become noticeably active in a more demonstrative way. Where is the origin for the inspiration for all the acts of bravery in the aftermath, for the rescue of victims buried alive, for the generous aid streaming in from overseas. These are acts of compassion and love and "Where love is, God is."

Reverend Martin Percival

## Bruisyard Village Hall News

Wednesday October 18<sup>th</sup>

Soup and Pud Lunch  
Come and join us for home-made soups and puddings.  
Doors open 12 noon for 12:30 pm.  
Cost £3. All ages welcome.

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October

Country and Irish Music Evening  
... featuring Pat James.  
Doors open 7 pm for 8 pm start.  
Entry £7.  
Bar and food available. Raffle.

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> October

Harvest Supper  
Doors open 7:30 pm.  
Two course supper of steak pie,

baked potato and vegetables with a choice from many delicious puddings. £10 per person

For more information on any of the above or to book, contact John / Teresa on 663515

## Christmas Shopping Bus

... to Norwich on

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November

leaves

Rendham White Horse at 9 am  
Bruisyard approx. 9:10 am  
Sweffling Church approx. 9:15 am.  
Usually home between 5:30 – 6 pm.

To reserve seats please ring  
Lynda on 663325.

## Community Suppers

First Thursdays at



Mark and Marie have kindly agreed to open on the first Thursday of each month again, this winter, to allow villagers to share a meal together that they have prepared.

The dates for 2017 are:  
October 5<sup>th</sup>, November 2<sup>nd</sup> and  
December 7<sup>th</sup>, starting at 7:30 pm

If you would like to book a place for any of these dates please email Jill Abbott *not* the pub (jillabbott402@hotmail.com). Places are limited so please book early. The menu for the first supper on Oct. 5<sup>th</sup> is dishes to include sausages. Future evenings will have a theme to be decided by participants. Details of how the evening works will be forwarded to you.

This is a very good way of getting to know your neighbours and if you are new to the village, we would love to welcome you.

## Dedication

The refurbishment of the Sweffling Church vestry—which was made possible by a generous legacy from Pauline Stephens, late of White House Farm Cottages, Sweffling—has now been completed and it looks splendid.

On **Sunday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, at 11 am**, there will be a short service of dedication, conducted by the Rev. Jonathan Olanczuk, and Pauline's family will unveil a memorial plaque. This will be followed by a celebratory drink and nibbles. Everyone, whether you knew Pauline or not, is invited to come to the dedication and view the transformation from muddle to magnificence! Pauline was the epitome of elegance, neatness and order and we are sure she would have approved of the end result.

## Don't forget...

... to enjoy your extra hour in bed when the clocks go back in the early hours of Sunday, **29<sup>th</sup> October!**



## Fete 2017

A big thank you to all who were involved in any way with our fete in August. We had a meeting in early September when Adrian Kinsey reported the final figures from the fete this year. As usual some stalls did better than last year while others did not achieve the same success as in 2016. That is exactly what we see each year. However, overall this year we have



exceeded the 2016 figure. Your continued support has meant that we have been able to provide much needed funding to St. Mary's Church (£1050), The Townland Trust (£525), The Village Hut (£525), The Memorial Garden and The Parish Council (£110 each). We also responded to numerous requests and have provided funds to make sure that The Bridge can continue for the next year and continue to develop as a village newsletter.

We would like to record a special thank you to Mark and Marie from the award winning Sweffling White Horse, who very generously donated the beer to this year's Fete.

It is expected that a meeting will be arranged for early next year to start planning for Summer Fete 2018. Notice of any such meeting will be given in a future publication of The Bridge.

The population of Sweffling is approximately 200. There are about 50 people who get actively involved in planning, setting up, running stalls on the day, and clearing up after the fete. We appreciate that almost everyone of the remaining 150 come along, often bringing friends and family with them, and make the fete the successful event it is. If you would like to be more involved in anyway please come along to the meeting in early 2018.

John Stanley

## Rendham Film and Supper Evening

Friday November 10<sup>th</sup>



Film Show  
"Akenfield"  
Directed by Peter Hall

PLUS

Sausage and Mash supper  
(and lovely puds!)

6.45 for 7 pm at  
Rendham Village Hall.

£10 –advance booking essential  
from Albert Lain 01728 663567;  
Frances Hill 01728 664021

email  
annehousell@housell1.plus.uk

Bring your own alcohol

Raising funds for CATS  
(Coastal Accessible Transport)

## Forward dates

**Saturday December 2<sup>nd</sup>**, 9:30 am – 12  
noon Christmas Market. United  
Reform Church Hall, Framlingham.  
Proceeds to St. Mary's Church  
Sweffling

**Advent Sunday: December 3<sup>rd</sup>**, 4 pm  
Christingle Service. We will be joined  
by the Saxmundham Brownies. All  
are welcome to join this service  
which celebrates God's goodness  
and the coming of light into the  
world. The short service will be  
followed by refreshments and the  
Christingle collection will be sent to  
the Children's Society.

**Friday December 8<sup>th</sup>** 7:30 pm St.  
Mary's Church, Sweffling. Christmas  
Brass Concert, Leiston Royal British  
Legion Brass Band.

**Saturday December 9<sup>th</sup>** 10 am – 12  
noon, Sweffling Hut Christmas  
Brunch and Market Bacon (and egg)  
rolls, tea/Coffee etc.

**Sunday December 17<sup>th</sup>** 5 pm St.  
Mary's Sweffling Service of Lessons  
and Carols followed by refreshments.

Christmas Eve 11:30 pm St. Mary's  
Sweffling Midnight Holy Communion



Juniper Barn celebrates its 1st  
birthday on **Saturday the 7<sup>th</sup> October**.  
It is hard to believe we have already  
been open for a year, and we are  
grateful for the support of so many  
local people. Do come and join us for  
special treats all day, we would love  
to see you.

Geoffrey and Katie

## Macmillan Coffee Morning

Many thanks to all who helped,  
contributed, supported, and cooked  
cakes for the Macmillan coffee  
morning. We had a brilliant result of  
£350 (£50 up on last year,). Your  
support made this event so  
successful, so again "thank-you".  
Lynda Newson

## Nature Notes

As I write, there are still a few  
Swallows over the fields here. Most  
of our Swallows and House Martins  
have already gone, but these would  
seem to be late young – not unusual  
as the birds try to fit in an extra  
brood. They show up as young as  
they lack the tail streamers of the  
adults, and so look more like House  
Martins, but without the Martins'  
white rump.

The biggest change in our countryside at the moment is the increasing development of the autumn colours in our trees and hedges. In Biology at school we learnt about the way that the green chlorophyll in the leaves is broken down, and all the useful substances absorbed back into the plant. The waste substances that remain are what give the leaves their autumn tints – a whole range of yellow, gold, red or even purple. An early favourite of mine is the Field Maple, a relative of the Sycamore and our only native Maple species. Usually kept trimmed as a hedgerow shrub, if left it will grow into a medium sized tree, with leaves and the double winged seeds rather like a small Sycamore. It is very common in the older hedges of our district, and by October its bright, pale gold leaves stand out from all the other shrubs.



We see brown leaves for a different reason, and much earlier, in the leaves of the Horse Chestnut, much loved for its conkers. By now, many Horse Chestnut trees are already very brown and dead looking. This is the work of insects, the caterpillars of a tiny moth which behave as leaf miners. They eat their way through the leaf, between the upper and lower layers, leaving large blotches which at first are merely translucent but soon turn brown. The caterpillars pupate and remain in the fallen leaf until the spring, when the adult moths emerge. There must be thousands of them, although I confess I have never seen them. Despite their narrow bodies

Next concert: Saturday  
16th December 2017, 7.30pm  
Framlingham College Chapel  
**Phoenix Singers**

G F Handel's masterpiece  
**MESSIAH**

Tickets: £12 and £10 (£6 and £5 for under 18s) available from Hall Farm Butchers, 25, Market Hill, Framlingham, William Glasse  
[william@glasse.org.uk](mailto:william@glasse.org.uk), 07802 597071, choir members, and at the door. charity no. 1076549



and very small size (they are about 5mm, less than ¼ inch long), they look quite striking, shiny orange-brown with four clear white stripes. Despite all this depredation and early death of leaves, the trees do not appear to suffer in the long term, and produce leaves as normal next spring.

Wasps seem not to have been much in evidence this autumn, perhaps as a result of the weather. They are feeding on sugary foods, especially fallen fruit and nectar from flowers. In contrast, they have been feeding the larvae in the nest on chewed up meat, such as carrion and insects. Now the rearing of young workers is almost over. As well as these, the autumn colony produces young queens, and males (in Honeybees known as Drones) which will fertilise these queens. They, like the workers (but unlike the worker Honeybees which winter on stored honey) will then all die. Only the



new queens will survive, to hibernate and set up a new colony next year. Watch out for these large wasps feeding on Ivy or other very late flowers, or coming into the house in search of a good spot to spend the winter!

Geoffrey Abbott

## Rendham Mummers back Suffolk Refugee Support



Rendham Mummers have donated £755.50 to Suffolk Refugee Support, following the finale of their Oak Moon Tour on August Bank Holiday Monday. The money was raised from the proceeds of Hat Collections, taken at the end of each performance of their Mummers' play "Oh, We do like to be beside the Seaside", as they toured the White Horse pubs in Rendham, Sweffling and Sibton, over the summer.

The Rendham Mummers are a group of men, mainly from the village, who since coming together in 2010, have put on fifteen plays, and raised several thousand pounds for various national and local charities. The plays, performed for Summer and Winter Solstices, are based on the medieval mumming traditions of death and re-birth and the triumph of Good over Evil. The scripts, written by members, try to remain faithful to the origins of this

unique form of street theatre, which seeks to entertain in a light hearted way! This includes the tradition of blackening/painting their faces reflecting the belief by the actors that they would be cursed by the Devil if they were to be recognised. The wearing of some kind of mask is prevalent in Mummer, and some Morris Dancing traditions, but, sadly, is sometimes misunderstood. Interestingly, it is not uncommon in some Black cultures, for performers to don white facepaint for similar reasons.

Why Suffolk Refugee Support? The Mummers wanted to identify a local charity, where the relatively small amount of money could make a real impact. In choosing SRS, it was felt that the important work undertaken, in support of refugees and asylum seekers, could be promoted through each performance. The play, set in Viking England a thousand years ago highlighted the unstable times in which local folk lived and how, then and now, we all need help in terms of understanding and compassion.

Rendham Mummers return again for their Winter Solstice Celebrations, Rendham Knoll, on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December, 6:30 for 7:30 pm performance of "A Mummers' Christmas Carol".

For more details see Rendham Mummers Facebook.

The Speaker

Sunday 8th October

10 am – 4 pm

Have you booked your tickets for the 7th Framlingham Sausage Festival yet?



Buy tickets online  
still just £5 a head, under 3's Free.  
Parking is Free.

## Sponsored cycle ride

Very well done to Richard Stevens who took part in the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust sponsored cycle ride for Sweffling Church. Richard managed to visit the impressive total of 29 churches, which he achieved this year without the support of cycling parents! It is not too late to sponsor Richard (664074). Half of the money raised goes to SHCT, the other half comes back to Sweffling.

## Sweffling Parish Council

The Parish Council have recently signed an Service Level Agreement with the local Community Payback Team to support our work maintaining Jubilee Field. Their first visit was Monday 18th September when they were able to cut the entire field. The area near to Jubilee Close will be allowed to grow up again next year as a wild flower area whilst the rest of the field will be cut short. Their next visit is scheduled for early November when we hope they will be able to clear some of the brambles and briars away making space for future hedge planting.

**The next meeting of our Parish Council will be Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October at 7:30 pm in The Village Hut. As always all are welcome to attend.**

John Stanley  
Chairman of Sweffling Parish Council

## Table-top Sale

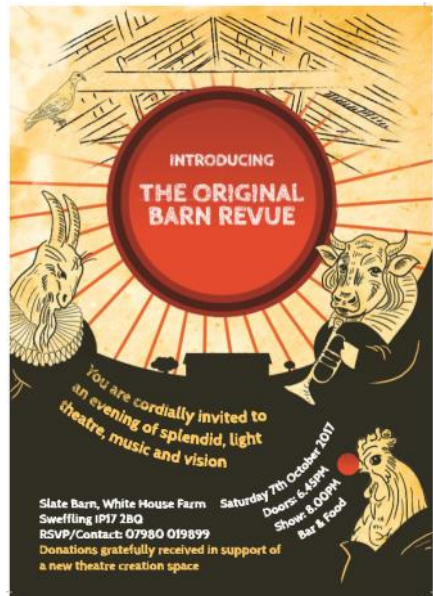
Want to try a different jam?  
Running out of chutney? Don't forget to check out Julia & Kirstin's "Sweffling Produce" at The Table-

top Sale on **Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October** in the Village Hut. New stock added include Crochet Items.  
Christmas presents, maybe?

For £10, you, too, can run a table selling items of your choice.

Please contact  
Pam [664093] or Diana [663578]

## The Original Barn Revue



We are developing a project in the barn, to create a unique special space for the creation, rehearsal and teaching of beautiful theatre. The Original Barn Revue will be an evening of splendid, light theatre and music, to introduce the local community, family, friends and theatre people to our vision! Please come along!! RSVP Esther Gibbons - 07980 019899

## Thinking Ahead

The three villages Spring Flower Show will once again take place in

# Dates in Oct+

Sun 01 Oct	9:30 Sweffling Harvest Thanksgiving & 1pm Harvest Lunch
Thu 05 Oct	Community Supper 7:30pm Sweffling White Horse
Sat 07 Oct	8pm The Original Barn Revue
Sun 08 Oct	9.30 Rendham Morning Prayer
Tue 10 Oct	Sweffling Parish Council. 7:30pm
Sat 14 Oct	10am - 12noon Sweffling Village Hut - Table Top Sale
Sun 15 Oct	9.30 Sweffling Morning Prayer
Sun 22 Oct	9.30 Rendham Holy Communion
Thu 02 Nov	Community Supper 7:30pm Sweffling White Horse

March 2018. Now is the time to plant bulbs for unusual, beautiful or big flowers, especially daffodils and narcissi. Last year's event produced a spectacular display so please plan ahead and act now.



## Update on Interregnum

On September 28<sup>th</sup> members of the six parishes met with Bishop Martin, the Archdeacon and Rural Dean to finalise the benefice and parish profiles and to approve the next step forward in advertising for a replacement for the Rev. Olanczuk. A report of this meeting will appear in the next edition of The Bridge.

We are sad to report that **MICHAEL IZZARD**, known to many of us, died on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September. The funeral will be in Dennington Church at 12:30 on Tuesday October 10<sup>th</sup>.

If you wish to attend the Wake after the service, please notify Rev. Jonathan Olanczuk on 01502 470079.

Items can be placed in **THE BRIDGE** and on the Village Website by sending an email to [sweffling@outlook.com](mailto:sweffling@outlook.com)

Cut-off date for **THE BRIDGE** is three-days before month-end.