



# The Bridge September 2018

There's a new Rector in town!

## Invitation

Rev. Martin Percival's Licensing  
7:30pm, Sept 4<sup>th</sup>, Dennington Church

The Churchwardens of The Upper Alde Benefice warmly invite you to the Licensing of the Reverend Martin Percival as Priest in Charge, conducted by the Bishop of Dunwich and the Archdeacon of Suffolk, on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> September at 7:30pm at St.Mary the Virgin, DENNINGTON.

The service will be followed by refreshments in Dennington Village Hall.

RSVP to John Tesh  
(663518 - [john.tesh@talk21.com](mailto:john.tesh@talk21.com))

... you might not think to come along to this event because you're not a regular "church-goer" ... but you *are* invited. Come along and "meet-the-man".

## Looking Back: Sweffling Fete 18<sup>th</sup> August 2018

A lovely bright day, not too hot with a light breeze - perfect for setting up the 20 gazebos for our stalls and sideshows. Four hours later and the cars poured in, all 170 of them!

The crowds milled, sat on hay bales to enjoy the hugely well supported dog show; had lunch - delicious burgers and hotdogs; drank Pimms under a sunshade; had a game of skittles in the beer tent; browsed the colourful stalls; were told their fortune.

Budding pirates tried to guess where the treasure was buried; had their faces beautifully painted; got rid of frustrations at the Coconut Shy and Splat the Rat; and tried to win the money from a locked cupboard.

Over tea with friends and lovely homemade cakes the Grand Draw was called, valuable prizes won and the 50:50 bucket continued to gather money.

From Rev Martin Percival's words of welcome with Sweffling bells marking the Fete opening, great teamwork made this year's fete a resounding success and grateful thanks go to all who helped.

Adrian Kinsey, the fete's treasurer, is working hard on the figures at present and has a preliminary figure of £3950 for takings on the day. There are many expenses so the profit will be considerably less, but we are most grateful for the generosity of villagers and visitors

for contributing to our village coffers. Adrian would like to hand over to a new treasurer for next year's fete so please think about whether you could help in this way. Many thanks Adrian for all you have done.

There will be a fete committee meeting sometime in early October, at the Hut, date to be publicised. All the figures will then be on view, a review will take place and everyone will be welcome to attend.

We look forward to another successful fete in Sweffling next year.

Jill Abbott - Fete Co-ordinator

## NATURE NOTES

In late summer we have fewer wild flowers in the verges and field margins, especially after this particularly dry year, but we have had some good rain lately and there are still plenty to look out for. One of the most striking is the



Yellow Toadflax, a pale yellow, slightly smaller version of the garden Snapdragon. This, to me, was always a holiday flower, as it tends to grow towards the coast and is still flowering at the end of the school summer holiday. Have a close look; it really is satisfying to discover this perfect miniature snapdragon. Also late in the summer, and again yellow, is St John's Wort, the wild relative of the garden Hypericums. This is quite tall, up to two feet or so, with the bright yellow, five petalled flowers in broad heads.

I have been asked several times about a bright blue flower which appears here and there along our verges. This is Chicory, whose blue



flowers grow along a stem which may be some three feet tall. (On verges this very often gets cut back, but the plant seems almost indestructible and carries on producing flowers in its shortened form.) Although a bright blue the flowers are the size and form of a Dandelion, and clearly members of

the same family. Chicory is probably not native, having been introduced in prehistoric times, and found in gardens and mixed in with forage crops for animals. It is best known for its use in providing a substitute for, or additive to, coffee. It was grown for this purpose in parts of Suffolk. The part of the plant used was the root, which was dried in kilns and sent off to a chicory factory. The leaves of Chicory are also eaten as a blanched salad vegetable, and the seed is included in some bird seed mixtures.

A typical butterfly in gardens at this time of year is the Holly Blue. Common Blues are also on the wing, but they are brighter blue with orange, black and white spots on the underside. They are found in more open, grassy areas where their caterpillars' food plant is the Bird's Foot Trefoil. Holly Blues are a more lilac blue, with their underwings (if you can see them) almost white with tiny black dots. The females are seeking to lay their eggs on the flower buds of Ivy, where the summer brood of caterpillars will feed on the developing flowers and berries. The name Holly Blue derives from the next brood in the spring, which will do the same on the buds of Holly. This makes a garden with both Ivy and Holly an ideal habitat for this little butterfly.

The main late dragonfly is the Common Darter, a small species with bright red male and duller female. These will carry on pairing and laying eggs well into the autumn. Their habit is to fly around attached as a pair, the male holding the female, with the tip of his



abdomen, by the back of her head. Like this they fly low over the water, the female dipping in her tail tip from time to time to lay her eggs.

Geoffrey Abbott

## What were you wearing when the ship went down?

Rendham Village Hall presents a nautical themed evening "What were you wearing when the ship went down?"

A light hearted evening of fun on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2018 at 7pm. Drinks reception followed by a 3 course dinner with wine or beer and entertainment.

Dress according to your choice. Entry only by pre-paid boarding pass £10 per person from Gill and Denis Moore at 3 Chapel Road, Rendham  
(663446 - d.moore003@btinternet.com)

## Art Show

Great Glemham Church  
Saturday 29<sup>th</sup>-Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> Sep.  
11am---5pm

FREE ENTRY

## From the Reverend Martin Percival

I am writing this a few days after we have heard about the devastating floods in Kerala where 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. 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."

## Many congratulations to our young people:

- Poppy Able - who has successfully passed her A levels. Poppy has a 4 year degree apprenticeship with EDF at the National College for Nuclear in Bridgewater and Cannington Campus Somerset
- Richard Stevens - who took part in the Aldeburgh Yacht Club Regatta Junior races, and won eight out of nine races in his class and came home with four trophies, including the Victor Ludorum trophy for the best junior performance of the week
- Eleanore Fitzgerald, who has been awarded a prize for her academic achievement in the Lower Sixth form at Woodbridge School

We are always looking to receive information about the achievements and successes of our young (and not-so-young) people to include in future editions of the Bridge.

## Suffolk Historic Churches Sponsored Ride and Stride Day.

The annual event will take place on Saturday, September 8<sup>th</sup> between 9am and 5pm. The aim is to visit as many churches as possible during this time, either by walking or riding

(cycling or on horseback) and to gain sponsorship for doing so. Most churches in Suffolk will be open and volunteers will sign you in and offer refreshments. Half the money raised will come back to our church, the other half will go to SHCT, who give grants to Suffolk churches for repairs, improvements etc. Sheila Tesh (663518) has sponsor forms and list of churches that will be open. Why not make it a family fun day out and raise money at the same time? Richard Stevens is cycling for St. Mary's, Sweffling, so if you can't take part yourself but would like to sponsor him, please give him a call on 664074.

## Harvest Festival Thanksgiving in Sweffling.

The Harvest Festival Thanksgiving service will be on Sunday, October 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am. This will be followed at 1pm by the Harvest Lunch in Sweffling Hut. The cost of the lunch will be £8 for 2 courses plus coffee. Following the lunch there will be an auction of the Harvest produce and a raffle. All proceeds will be sent to TEAR Fund for famine relief. Sweffling have supported the work of Tear Fund as part of the outreach and charity programme. If anyone would like to know more about this please contact Sheila Tesh. Tickets for lunch can be booked with Sheila Tesh (663518) or Diana Smith (663578), please let us know for our catering numbers.

## Cheese and Wine and talk

Postponement! Unfortunately, due to clashes with other events in neighbouring villages, it has been

decided that the Wine and Cheese evening and the talk by Professor Christopher Hallpike will be re-arranged for Spring 2019. A new date will be announced as soon as possible.

## Book the Date



for the Christmas Brass  
Band concert!

December 7<sup>th</sup> at  
7:30pm in  
St. Mary's,  
Sweffling.

Music, Merriment  
and Mince Pies!



## Church Services in this end of the Benefice in September:

September 2<sup>nd</sup>

Sweffling Holy Communion  
9:30am Bruisyard Morning Prayer

September 9<sup>th</sup>

Rendham Morning Prayer  
9:30am Cransford. Holy Communion

September 16<sup>th</sup>

Sweffling Morning Prayer  
9:30am Bruisyard Holy Communion

September 23<sup>rd</sup>

Rendham Harvest Thanksgiving  
Holy Communion  
9:30am Cransford Harvest Thanksgiving  
Morning Prayer

September 30<sup>th</sup>

11am Benefice Service Dennington.  
Please note later time

October 7<sup>th</sup>

Sweffling Harvest Thanksgiving  
Holy Communion  
9:30am Bruisyard Morning Prayer

## Film Evening at Great Glemham

Friday, September 7<sup>th</sup>. The film this month will be Darkest Hour (PG) starring Gary Oldman, Lily James and Kristin Scott Thomas. It's May 1940; new Prime Minister Winston Churchill is under pressure to negotiate with Adolf Hitler. Should Britain give in, or fight on against the seemingly invincible Nazi regime? A stunning performance by Gary Oldman as Winston Churchill won him a clean sweep of Best Actor's awards, including the Oscar, earlier this year. If you haven't seen it, you need to be there! As usual the doors will open at 7:15pm and the programme will start at 7:45pm.

## Parish Council

The Parish Council's next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30pm in The Village Hut, as always, all are welcome.

Although the Parish Council did not meet in August, we were able to arrange a meeting with representatives of Suffolk County Council regarding the loss of the local bus service. A number of Sweffling residents were able to attend together with concerned individuals from Bruisyard, Cransford and Great Glemham. It was a productive meeting and we look forward to future opportunities to discuss our needs with the County Council, our District Council and providers of community passenger transport.

## Advanced Notice of a Quiz Night

Sweffling White Horse Bowls Club  
Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> October  
7pm in Sweffling Village Hut  
Teams of up to six people  
Supper provided but please bring your own drink  
£5 per person  
Put it in your diary  
Contact either Keith Abbott (831120) or John Stanley (664073) to book your place.

## First Thursday Suppers at the Sweffling White Horse

All are invited to participate in the Community Suppers at the Sweffling White Horse Pub, which is opened especially for us with thanks to Marie and Mark. It works on a first come first served booking basis, as places are limited. Please book by email or phone (below) and say how you will help to contribute to the meal in some way. Those who don't cook contribute to the cost instead. Each meal has a theme and this is decided at each supper for the next one.

The dates for the Suppers are the first Thursdays from October to Easter, i.e.

4<sup>th</sup> October, 1<sup>st</sup> November, and 6<sup>th</sup> December for the first three.

Bookings are now open for the October supper - the theme of which is Curry

Please contact Jill Abbott (663402 - [jillabbott402@hotmail.com](mailto:jillabbott402@hotmail.com))

## Christmas Fruit and Vegetable Boxes

It is with great sadness that Diana and Veronica are unable to continue making up the fruit and vegetable boxes that some of you receive annually.

However we hope you will accept and make use of a Waitrose voucher which has been agreed by the Town Lands Trust Committee and will be given to all villagers who are eligible for this gift.

Diana and Veronica would like to thank all the 'delivery lads' who so kindly helped deliver the boxes in recent years.

Regards, Diana and Veronica.

## Sad Loss

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Dennis Hewitt, of the Mill House, Sweffling, after a short illness. Dennis, who was 88, was one of Sweffling's longest residents, having lived in the village with his wife, Joyce, for over 60 years. Until his later years he was an active member of the community, having served on the Parish Council, including a period as Parish Chairman. He enjoyed his garden and was a keen Bowls player, so much so that he made a rink in his garden, of which he was very proud and which was the scene of many family contests at weekends. Dennis kept bees and the



honey was much sought after, especially when jars appeared in raffles or on village stalls. Our thoughts and prayers go to Joyce, their three daughters and families at this difficult time. Dennis's funeral will be at Sweffling Church on Monday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 11am, followed by interment in the churchyard.

## Bowls & Cups

On Sunday September 16<sup>th</sup>, the Church Cup Bowls Tournament will be held in Sweffling. Teams will compete for the Orange-Bromhead Trophy, originally awarded by the Orange-Bromhead family for clay-pigeon shooting. If you would like to take part, more information can be obtained from Veronica Southey (663509). Teas will be provided by the church. Come along and support, even if you don't play bowls.

## Macmillan Coffee Morning

Rendham Village Hall, Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> September 10am-12noon

£1 entry includes tea/coffee. Bring & Buy, Raffle, Cakes and more

Please join us in supporting this good cause and help us exceed the amount we raised last year.

Donations/cakes most welcome.

For enquiries ring Lynda (663325)



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.