

The Bridge October 2018



NATURE NOTES

From Geoffrey Abbott

The buzz last month (apologies for that, but it had to be said) was the appearance of very large numbers of small bees in several gardens and verges in Sweffling. These are one of the Solitary Bees, so called because despite the numbers, each individual bee makes its own nest rather than being part of a colony like the Honey Bee. The flower beds and verges where they were flying were peppered with small burrows, some with a cone-shaped entrance where they had been excavating the light sandy soil. Many solitary bees dig such burrows, within which they make a number of underground cells, and within

each of which they lay a single egg. These are provided with a food supply, usually of pollen, which supports the development of the bee larva until it emerges as an adult next year.

These little bees – slightly smaller than the honey bee – are called Ivy Mining Bees (*Colletes hederae*). They are new to the British fauna, first recorded in Dorset in 2001, and had reached Suffolk by 2015. They have a golden brown thorax, and rather wasp-like black and yellow stripes on the abdomen. This is the latest of our Solitary Bees to emerge, and will be on the wing as late as November. I have mentioned the early species before, as being greatly important in the pollination of fruit trees. This one is late as it supplies its larvae with pollen from Ivy flowers, much touted in these notes for the value of their pollen and nectar for late insects

(Hornets, hibernating Butterflies and many others). Since I learned about Ivy Bees I have been looking for them on the Ivy flowers, which are just opening, and sure enough there they are.



Another insect which is present later in the year is one of the Shield Bugs, called the Forest Shieldbug or Red-legged Shieldbug. As their name suggests, their bodies are the shape of a heraldic shield, broad at the shoulders and narrower at the tail. They are quite large, half an inch or more long, and the ones I see most are usually green, or green and brown like the Hawthorn Shieldbug. The Forest Shieldbug is apparently quite common in woods and gardens, although I have not seen it before. This year I did see it in some numbers, mainly on the leaves of Hazel bushes. They feed by sucking the sap from these, as well as from the leaves of Oak, Cherry, Apple and other trees. Look out for them, until as late as November. They are a dark, glossy bronze colour, with small yellow marks around the hind edges. (And yes, red legs, or at least a reddish-brown). There is also a square yellow spot in the middle of the back. This is where, in the bugs, the wings overlap and cross over, as



opposed to the beetles where the forewings make a hard wingcase, and meet down the middle in a straight line.

The song of Robins is one of the few still to be heard at this time. The Robin pairs have driven out their grown young and

in fact have split up, so that only one is left holding the old territory. This is usually, but not always, the male. The rest must move away, even migrating a short distance onto the continent. The territory is still defended as a feeding area, hence the unusual phenomenon of singing in the winter. Most unusually, if the defending bird is

a female, it can still sing, although it does not do so in the spring. This autumn song, whether by male or female, is different in quality, often described as being weaker and more melancholy sounding. Have a listen, and see if you agree.

Licensing of the Revd. Martin Percival

On the evening of Tuesday, September 4th, a large congregation drawn from all six parishes in the Benefice, members of the Deanery clergy and representatives from a number of village schools, organisations and clubs, gathered in Dennington Church, to witness and celebrate the licensing of the Revd. Martin Percival as Priest-in Charge of the Upper Alde Benefice. The Bishop of Dunwich, Bishop Mike, presided, assisted by the Archdeacon, Rural Dean and Lay Chairman. During the service symbols of Martin's office were presented to him by members from each church – a bible as the word of God, oils for healing, a ewer of water for baptism, bread and wine for the Eucharist, a bowl of water and a towel symbolising service. Guided by the Bishop and Archdeacon, Martin then declared his assent to the tenets of the Anglican Church and swore allegiance to the Queen and Canonical Obedience,

following which the Bishop read the licence and handed it to Martin.

Churchwardens and Elders from the parishes promised to support Martin in his work and members of local community organisations welcomed him and Linda to the Benefice.

Following the service, refreshments were served in Dennington Village Hall, which gave everyone the opportunity to meet on an informal basis. We wish Martin every blessing as he begins his ministry in our parishes and we hope that he and Linda will be very happy here.

Bowls Club Church Cup

The afternoon of Sunday, September 16th, was just right for playing bowls, sunny and warm but not too hot. Competition was strong at Sweffling Bowls Club as teams of two bowlers battled for the privilege of winning the Orange Bromhead Trophy, more usually known as the Church Cup. The cup was original given by the Orange Bromhead family as a clay pigeon shoot trophy, but in recent years it has been presented to the winners of the bowls tournament. After a hard fought contest the winners were Mona Goldsmith and Graham Knights, whilst the runners-up were Tom and Fred Keen. The tea was organised by the ladies from Church, the raffle was drawn and the trophy was presented to the victors by the Revd. Martin Percival. Many thanks to Veronica and Lesley for organising the tournament and to the competitors. St. Mary's Church and the Bowls Club each



benefitted by £62, a bonus for such an enjoyable afternoon.

Sunday Church services

< all at 9:30am >

- October 7th Sweffling: Harvest Festival Service with Holy Communion
Brusyard: Morning Prayer
October 14th Rendham: Morning Prayer
Cransford: Holy Communion
October 21st Sweffling: Morning Prayer
Brusyard: Holy Communion
October 28th Rendham: Holy Communion
Cransford: Morning Prayer

Sweffling Harvest Thanksgiving

Sunday October 7th 9:30am - Harvest Festival Thanksgiving service with Holy Communion. Everyone is invited. Followed by 1pm Harvest Lunch in Sweffling Hut. Two courses plus coffee/tea. After the lunch the Harvest produce will be auctioned. All proceeds from the lunch, auction and Raffle will be sent to TEAR fund for famine relief. £8 per head. Please book with Diana (663578) or Sheila (663518) so that we know how many to cater for. Vegetarian option available please tell us when you book.

Parish Council

The next meeting of Sweffling Parish Council is scheduled for Tuesday 9th October at 7:30pm in the village hut, all are welcome.

Sweffling Parish Council wish to replace the notice board that presently stands at the bottom of Holdens Lane. We hope that a local tradesman may be able to build us a new one. If you have the necessary skills and would be prepared

to undertake the construction for us we would appreciate hearing from you. Plans and bids can be made to our Clerk or Chairman at Fairways, Holdens Lane.

We are still waiting for work to start on extending the 30 mph zone from Rendham Bridge to just west of the Sweffling Hall Farm entrance.

We are expecting to have another meeting regarding local bus services. At present there is only one service per week each Wednesday from Sweffling Church to Saxmundham at 10:38am. The return service leaves Tesco/Waitrose in Saxmundham at 1pm and gets back into Sweffling at 1:10pm.

Put it in your diary



Quiz
Night

Sweffling White
Horse Bowls Club
Saturday Oct. 13th
7pm in Sweffling
Village Hut

Teams of up to six people
Supper provided but
please bring your own drink
£5 per person
Contact either Keith Abbott (831120) or
John Stanley (664073)
to book your place.

Sweffling Fete Meeting

All are invited to a meeting, to review the fete held this August, to aid the planning for next year:

Tuesday 16th October 6:30pm (to avoid a clash with other events that evening) at Sweffling Hut. The accounts will be presented and representatives from all benefitting organisations will be present to assist with the allocation of profits.

Jill Abbott - Fete Co-ordinator -
swefflingfete@gmail.com

Fighting for Freedom

Music and readings to mark the end of the First World War and the continuing struggle for justice and freedom.
Holy Trinity Church, Blythburgh Saturday 3rd November, 7:30pm.

Programme includes Vaughan Williams' "Serenade to Music" and music by Britten, Debussy, Verdi and others.
Tickets available on the door £10 (£7 concessions). Proceeds in aid of AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

All about Buses!

Tuesday 16th October at Great Glemham Village Hall 10am

Following on from the Sweffling meeting on August 14th, it was decided that information about current transport schemes in our area be circulated in the community:

Suffolk on Board's 'Connecting Communities' Service

This is for those who do not have a regular bus service. Call your local operator up to a week before you travel 01728 635938 They will answer questions and take your booking.

Exchanging bus passes to Travel Vouchers

For those with severe disability (doctor's note needed) or who live too remotely (as we do) for regular bus services, the County Council offers vouchers that can be used towards the use of community transport, taxis or private hire. £100 per annum but this waives your right to a free bus pass. For details of how to

apply go to
www.suffolkonboard.com/concessionary-travel/travel-voucher-scheme/

Coastal Accessible Transport CATS

Dial a Ride pre bookable service - call
01728 635938

Volunteer Car Transport Scheme:-
01728 831215

Hire a Minibus - 01728 830516

Could you volunteer to train as a minibus driver? CATS currently provide this for FREE as long as the individual has D1 on their licence (those who passed their test before 1997). Once trained the individual can hire a CATS minibus for £50 for the benefit of the community.

Rachel Rowe is Building Community Capacity Officer for Suffolk Coastal North, in the Localities and Partnership Team, based in Saxmundham. She is inviting all those interested in the future of our Rural Bus Service to a further meeting on Tuesday 16th October in Great Glemham at 10am-11am.



From the Reverend Martin Percival

Harvest is the oldest service in the world. It is as old as the hills. It began when primitive man felt within himself a stirring of thankfulness to some one or thing. The ancient Israelites had and the present day Jews still have their service of thanksgiving for the fruits of the earth. It was not until Jesus Christ came and taught, that this thankfulness was to a personal God who cares and provides.

As well as being an old service it goes without saying that it is also one of the

most popular. It is popular even with those who do not find other services of the Church much to their liking.

Is there not in the Harvest Thanksgiving Service a closer link with people's daily life and work? There is a sense of reality and personal involvement in the thanksgiving for harvest which can too often be most sadly lacking in other Sundays.

So we welcome the Harvest Thanksgiving again. Of course there is a small attraction in the array of produce we see decorating the churches so tastefully and thoughtfully displayed; just as there is an emotional attraction in singing harvest hymns with which most people are familiar: but more than these things and all else is the deep feeling, often unanalysed, that our God is a bountiful Provider and in that provision we learn of God's goodness to us as we see it in the harvest fields. We come here today to remember our manners and to say thank you. God has given us all things to enjoy. The sun that warms us, the rain to make the earth fruitful. The wonderful scenery of land and sea that we have in real abundance in this land of ours. Notice well that all these things are free. It is always so with God's gifts. There is nothing mean, nothing grudging about His giving for our material welfare, at every harvest there is enough food in the world to feed everyone in the world. If more than half the children in the world go to bed hungry every night it is not because God has withheld His hand. Markets are manipulated for the greed of man.

But not only does God care for our bodies but for our spiritual well-being also. Every soul is precious in God's sight, the most degraded, the most unlovely and unlovable, all are precious in God's

sight. He wishes their salvation and ours even if it meant that Jesus had to die on Calvary.

This salvation is free. We cannot buy it. We cannot earn it, we can never deserve it.

*'Could man's tides for ever flow
Could my zeal no respite know
All for this could not atone
Thou must save and Thou alone'*

At this happy time of thanksgiving let us accept God's gift of salvation with penitence, humility, gratitude. The harvest fields spell out for us of God's provision and goodness but they also spell out for us another lesson we may learn. That is God's Design.

For pastoral matters, please contact The Rev. Martin Percival 01728 668537 or 07789 417050 or email: revmepercival@gmail.com

Decorating Sweffling church for Harvest Festival

The Church will be open on Saturday morning from 9 am on 6th October, for decorating with flowers and produce. If you have any fruit, vegetables or flowers that you would like to donate for this purpose (and to be sold at the Harvest Lunch the following day) please bring them to the church before 10am on the Saturday.

Cleaning and Decorating the church for festivals and regular services is carried out by a dedicated team of about a dozen villagers. Regrettably, two of them, Diana Smith and Sheila Ellis are having to relinquish this role due to ill-health. Both have served in this way for many, many years and



helped to make our lovely church even more beautiful. Very many thanks Diana and Sheila, for all your inspiration.

Now we need to recruit some extra help in this team. You do not need to be a church member but just someone wanting to help preserve and enhance the beauty of this ancient building. If you would like to find out what is involved please get in touch (Jill 663402 or Sheila 663518).

First Thursday Suppers at Sweffling White Horse

Marie and Mark kindly open their doors especially for us to serve our own food for a community supper on the first Thursday in each month at 7:30pm. To find out more details or to book the limited places please email jillabbott402@hotmail.com

Dates:

4th Oct. 7:30pm [cuisine:curry]

1st Nov. [cuisine: picked at Oct.meal]

6th Dec. [cuisine: picked at Nov.meal]

Come and join us for some delicious home cooked food (not to mention Paul's famous Lamb Rogan Josh) and get to know your neighbours around the table in the welcoming atmosphere of our lovely village pub.

Suffolk Historic Churches Trust Sponsored Cycle Ride

Many thanks to Richard Stevens and James Robbins who took part in the SHCT cycle on Saturday, September 8th. It was a blustery, sometimes rainy day, but despite that they managed to visit 53 churches between them. Half of the money they raised will come to Sweffling

Church, the rest will be used by SHCT to provide grants for church repairs or modernisation. It is not too late to sponsor them if you have not done so already, Call Richard on 664074 or James on 664077. Thank you also to those who sat in church to welcome and sign in visiting cyclists. Without you the cycle ride would not function!

More dates for your Diary

Saturday, November 24th 9:30am-noon
Christmas Market in Framlingham
United Free Church Hall.

Saturday, December 1st 10am-noon
Christmas Brunch in Sweffling Hut

Friday December 7th 7:30pm Christmas
Brass Concert in Sweffling Church.
Leiston Royal British Legion Brass
Band. Tickets £7 to
include interval

refreshments from Diana
663578 or Sheila 663518



Bruisyard Village Hall Events

Wednesday October 17th Soup and
Pudding Lunch, 12:30pm. Doors
open 12noon. £3 per person. All
soup and puds homemade and
delicious. All ages welcome.

Saturday October 20th Harvest Supper in
Bruisyard Village Hall 7:30 for 8pm
start. Two course meal (pie, jacket
potato, veg and a wide choice of
desserts) £10 per person. Please
book with John/Teresa 663515 as
soon as possible.

Friday November 2nd Bonfire Night at
the Village Hall. Free entry but please
bring a big firework to the hall by
6pm. Bonfire will be lit at 6:30pm.
Hot dogs and tomato soup on sale.

Friday November 16th 7:30pm. Talk by
retired Judge Knott entitled

“Criminals I have Known”. £8 per
person to include nibbles.

Wednesday November 21st Soup and
Pud lunch as usual.

Juniper Barn

News from Geoffrey and Katie at Juniper
Barn, your friendly and welcoming shop
and café!

Autumn closure: After a busy and happy
summer, we are closing for the week
starting Monday 15th October, reopening
on Monday 22nd. This will be for staff
training, cleaning, restocking and for us
to have a brief holiday.

New Timings: From Wednesday 24th
October we will be closing every
Wednesday at 2pm. This will be for a trial
period, to be reviewed next spring.
Normal opening hours are **Mon, Tues,**
Thurs, Fri, 8:30am – 4pm, **Wed** 8:30am –
2pm & **Saturday** 9am – 4pm.

2nd birthday party, Saturday 6th October:
Please come and celebrate with us and
enjoy a free hot or soft drink for every
customer.

Juniper Barn Christmas Fair: Thursday
15th and Friday 16th November from 6–
8pm. We are getting in some exciting
Christmas stock, delicious foods and
novel ideas and invite our friends and
customers to meet some of our suppliers,
buy Christmas presents and have a social
time. More details to follow.
www.juniperbarnsuffolk.co.uk

Rendham Mummers' tour raises £920 for charity

Much to the amusement of the gathered
crowd and bewilderment of passing
motorists, a motley colourful crew of
entertainers performed their play



Photograph courtesy of Alan Skeyne

“Brothers in Arms”, outside the Rendham White Horse on August Bank Holiday Monday. The performance was dedicated to the memory of Fred Parrott, who died recently. Fred’s support and skills in producing amazing props has been a major contributor to the success in establishing the Mummers and reviving the tradition. The last cannonball flew, the smoke died away, and Joey the Stallion was brought back to life one final time by the Doctor, as the Mummers’ Oak Moon Tour drew to a close.

The traditional Hat Collection taken at their performances at Rendham, Sweffling and Sibton White Horse pubs, raised a total of £920.10 for the Mummers’ chosen charity, Fresh Start-New Beginnings. This local charity works with the most vulnerable children, providing a treatment service for child sexual abuse victims. FSNB was thrilled at the sum raised, which for a relatively small charity can make a real impact.

The Mummers and FSNB recognise that the success of the Tour was made possible by the support and generosity of

everyone who came, and the publicans and their staff. A big “Thank you” to all!

Rendham Mummers take a short break now before returning for one night only to celebrate the Winter Solstice, from 6:45pm, Friday 21st December, on the Knoll at Rendham. Their new play, “Rendham Mummers’ Return of the King” will be performed under the Sacred Oak at 7:30pm. A date for your diary! For more information, photos, see Rendham Mummers’ Facebook.

The Speaker

Catharine Loveridge writes:

“A few of you may have seen me jogging around the village over the summer - it was in preparation for the Great East Run Half Marathon, which I took part in on Sunday. I ran the 13.1 miles in 2 hours and 33 minutes; Mo Farrah doesn't exactly have to watch his back but it is the farthest I have ever run and it really was an uplifting experience!

I did it to raise money for Jonty Burger - my friend's little boy who has quadriplegic cerebral palsy. He and his parents are a total inspiration and so far I have raised £1,090, which is going towards much needed specialist physiotherapy.

If you would like to donate to this incredibly worthwhile cause then you can via Just Giving (my page is called 'Catharine's Great East Run for Jonty') or simply put any donations in an envelope and pop it into 'Churchview'.

Thank you so much.”

Items can be placed in **THE BRIDGE** and on the Village Website by sending an email to sweffling@outlook.com
Cut-off date for **THE BRIDGE** is three-days before month-end.