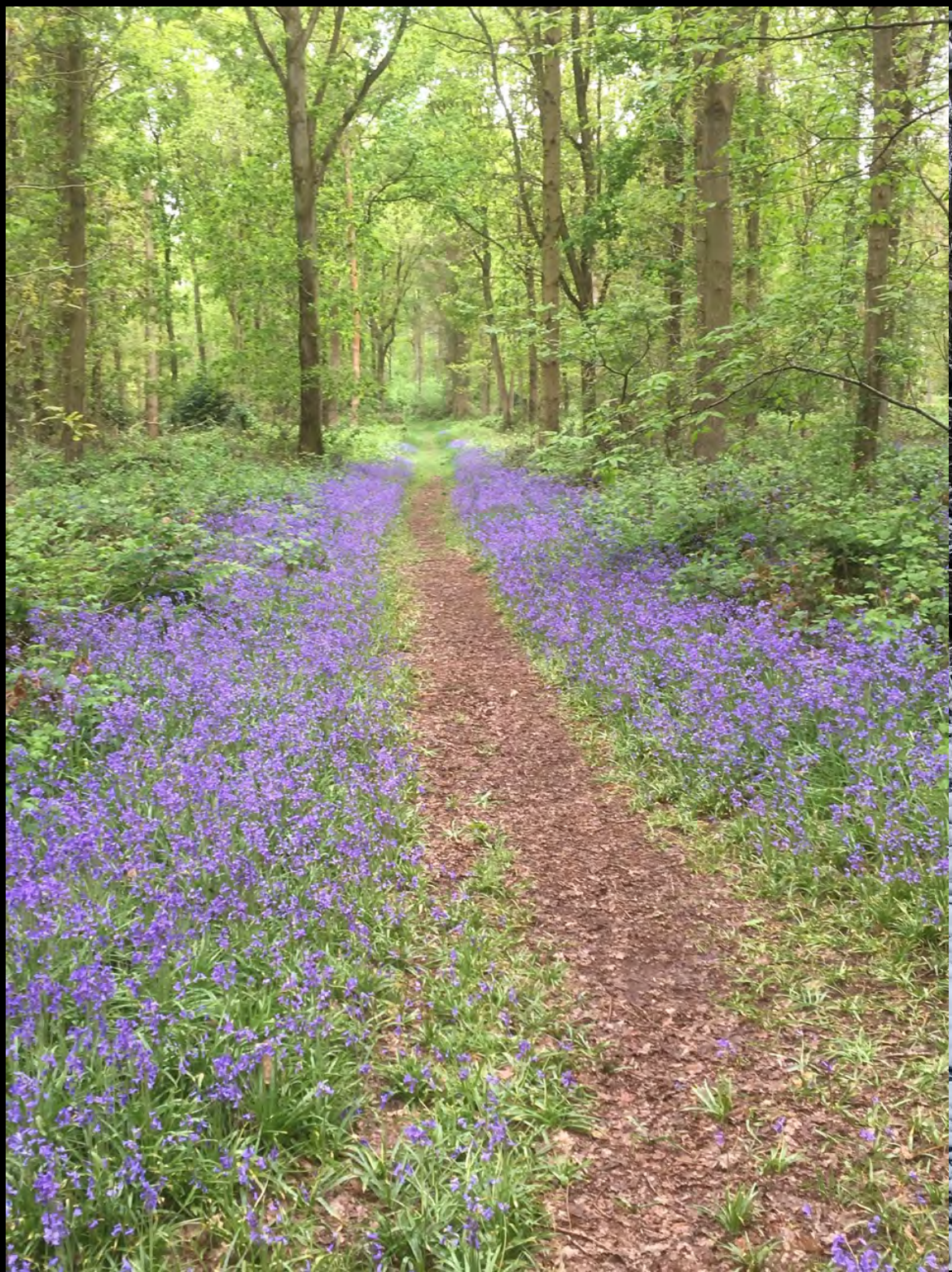


ASSIGNMENT

NEWS



APRIL 2021

CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS (useful numbers)

If your club or organisation is not listed here and you would like to be included, then please let me know on 01787 210354 or email bronwenstacey@btinternet.com

Allotments Secretary	Claire Osborne	07920 800108
Assington Books, Village Hall (see post office for times)	Michelle Bournier	07954 221773
Assington Farmshop	Maxine Gardiner	01787 211610
Assington Post Office, Village Hall	Mon 1.30-3.30,	Wed 9-12
Assington Village Charity Secretary	Claire Osborne	07920 800108
Boxford CEVC Primary School (office@boxford.suffolk.sch.uk)	Head: Mrs J Davies	01787 210332
Brownies, Boxford	Moiria Grant	01787 211513
Church, Children's activities	Michelle Bournier	07954 221773
Church - Organist	Bronwen Stacey	01787 210354
Church - Reader	Dr John Symons	01787 211534
Church - Secretary	Emily Cartlidge	07976724266
Church - Treasurer	Ian Clark	01787 211133
Churchwarden	Roger Britcher	01787 211021
Churchwarden	Bronwen Stacey	01787 210354
Community Choir	Nettie Osman	07957 394780
County Councillor (james.finch@suffolk.gov.uk)	James Finch	01473 264993
District Councillor (Assington)	Lee Parker	01787 376073
Doctors surgery – Sudbury	Hardwicke House	01787 310000
Doctors surgery – Bures	Bures	01787 227529
Fleece Jazz, Stoke by Nayland Hotel - www.fleecejazz.org.uk	Stoke by Nayland	01787 211865
Footpath Wardens	Paul & Cynthia Hollingsworth	01787 211620
Horticultural Society	Bryn Hurren	01787 210854
Leavenheath Cinema	Ken	01206 263266
Member of Parliament (james.cartlidge.mp@parliament.uk)	James Cartlidge	020 7219 4875
Parish Council	Simon Thorogood	01787 227400
bronwenstacey@btinternet.com	Bronwen Stacey	01787 210354
john@moorsfarm.com	John Symons	01787 211534
rosemarysymonds42@gmail.com	Rose Symonds	01787 229100
helen.wallace12@btinternet.com	Helen Wallace	01787 211162
i.jordan741@btinternet.com	Ian Jordan	01787 211609
andrewpeterhill@hotmail.com	Andrew Hill	01787 827112
Parish Council - Clerk, (assingtonpc@yahoo.com)	Christine Hargan	01449 674727
Pub – The Shoulder of Mutton		01787 210334
Vicar (steve.morley@btinternet.com)	Steve Morley	01787 227407
Village Hall – Bookings (louisa@moorsfarm.com)	Louisa Symons	01787 211534
Village Hall - Caretaker	Paul Battle	07473 933320
Womens Institute, Boxford (annie-phillips@hotmail.co.uk)	Annie Phillips	01787 211729

The Assington News is a community magazine funded primarily through adverts and donations, for which we are always most grateful.
ADVERTS. RATES pa : £20 for 1/8 size page advert, £35 for 1/4 page advert, £60 for 1/2 page advert. Contact Bob Cowlin 01787 229955
Bank Account details for payments and donations: Account no: 01345159. Sort Code: 30 - 98 - 31.

The ASSINGTON NEWS

NOW ON LINE AND IN COLOUR. Go to : Assington.onesuffolk.net/ then select the words 'Assington News' displayed at the far right hand side of the top strap-line.

Editor	Bronwen Stacey, 01787 210354, email bronwenstacey@btinternet.com
Treasurer	Bob Cowlin, 01787 229955, bob.cowlin@assingtonmill.com
Distributors	David & Ann Jarrett, Judy Bournier, Bryn Hurren & Lisa Brooks, Zoe Laughton, Matthew Green, Ian Jordan, Jacqui Egglestone, Rose Symonds
Printer	Indigo Ross Design & Print Ltd, Sudbury 01787 880 260 hello@indigoross.co.uk
Auditor	Ian Clark, 01787 211133

WELCOME

.....To all the new residents to the village.

Is Assington the 'perfect' village? Many of us think so! What people look for in a village are the main "staples":

a village shop (tick)
a pub (hopefully soon again, tick)
a church (tick)
a village hall (tick)
playing field (tick)
children's play area (tick)
a cafe/restaurant (tick)
other amenity shops (tick)
a Post Office (half a tick,** see below)
beautiful walks and countryside on the doorstep (tick).
allotments (tick)

I could go on....., but suffice it to say that we feel we have a lot to be very grateful for.

We are pleased to welcome everyone who has chosen to make Assington their home too, and, (in due course) look forward to meeting you in one of the above establishments/ places, or at one of our annual village social events.

We are all looking forward to once again being able to participate in :

The village Horticultural Show,
The Village Fete
The bring and share BBQ
The Harvest Supper
Carol-singing around the village
Carols by Candlelight in the church,

and hope that you too will look forward to sharing these experiences with us.

If you would like to introduce your family via The Assington News, we should very much like to hear from you. Just send a photograph (if you like) and a little bit about yourselves to the editor, bronwenstacey@btinternet.com who will be happy to include your 'bit' in the next edition.

** The mobile Post Office visits the Village Hall on Mondays 1.30-3.30pm and Wednesday 9am - 12noon. For details of this and other local services see the inside front cover of the magazine.

By BS

ASSINGTON CHURCH FETE September 4th 2021

After the disappointment of 'no fete' last year we are hopeful of an outstanding event this year. PLEASE put the date in your diary NOW. (and invite your wealthy relatives for that weekend.)

This year we will have quite a few residents who haven't been here for this international high light before. We hope that they will not only come but participate fully as we would welcome fresh ideas and a chance for all the village to meet one another.

For those who have forgotten/ never knew, this is the outline.

1. Fete 'committee' meets a few times, we would welcome volunteers to join us, especially teenagers.
2. There will be a mega raffle...huge prizes thanks to our sponsors(could do with more), the tickets go out with the magazine but collectors needed (chance to meet ones neighbours). Thanks to the raffle the actual fete is geared to having a great day rather than huge profits.
3. Morning of Fete...volunteers to help set up, needed.
4. THE FETE...people to run the stalls(extras always welcome so the regulars can have a chance to wander around)

We would welcome stalls from residents wishing to promote a business they run from the village. Also ideas for new events/ stalls etc.

The best teas in Suffolk help make this a lovely afternoon, the sun is shining.

The RAFFLE is drawn...(winner books flight to West Indies).

5. Help to clear up please.
6. BRING AND SHARE BARBEQUE. We all relax, eat and maybe drink a little. The children play disorganised cricket, we listen to music, perhaps sing (open mic.)
7. We arrange to be taken home.

If you are willing to be involved in any capacity, ideas/ a little time/ enthusiasm/muscle power please contact Me...John Symons 01787 211534

John@moorsfarm.com

or Simon White 211228

simon@sjwhite.co.uk



last year's
Horticultural
Show



Village Fete 2019



evening Bring and Share BBQ


Peter Robb

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For more info go to www.happysounds.co.uk or call 07957 394780

ASSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL - Updates

NEW PARISH CLERK

Mixed News

We recently announced the new appointment of Amy Benton as our Parish Clerk. Unfortunately, a number of factors combined to make this no longer possible, and we are very sad that the role did not allow sufficient work life balance for Amy at this time; had circumstances been different we feel sure she would have been absolutely ideal as our Parish Clerk, and we send her and little Brock and Wesley all our good wishes.

After a prolonged and difficult search we are pleased to welcome Christine Hargan as our New Parish Clerk. Although she is still getting to grips with everything, and this has, of course, been made more difficult because of the lack of face to face handover and time-lag, we are sure that Christine's previous experience will enable her to undertake the challenge of this role, and all Parish Councillors look forward to working with her.

ASSINGTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN



The Neighbourhood plan has been at independent examination stage since 16th November 2020. This should have been completed in December but covid-19 has resulted in a very slow examination process. We are pleased to report though that it is now close to coming back to us and we expect that a referendum will be held in early summer for

everyone to vote whether to adopt the plan. Watch this space!
From Cllr Andrew Hill

NURSERY PLANNING APPROVAL

From Cllr Andrew Hill

Sadly, the parish council has been refused permission to judicially review the decision by Babergh District Council to allow the building of a nursery in open countryside near the church and A134 junction. At the same time the nursery has so far decided not to work with us to choose a better location within the parish.

The judge determined that, while in the opinion of most local residents the decision to grant planning permission was quite wrong, it was not illegal. We believe the judge misinterpreted our case, and we could have appealed this decision and incurred further legal costs both for Babergh and Assington, but we took the difficult decision that this was not a good use of public funds.

An incredible **252 people signed the petition in opposition to the plans**, which compares to an estimated adult population of 334 at the last census. We still hope that the business takes heed of the strength of local opinion and engages with us to choose a less damaging location for the nursery which is also better for children.

The community raised almost £9,000 to support the legal fight, but now that the judge has refused permission to continue, these funds will be returned. Some individuals have specifically said they would support the Parish Council with its

initial costs and these donations will be dealt with separately. Once again a huge thank you to everyone who contributed. We will continue to do all we can to ensure the bulldozers do not spoil this fantastic place forever.

QUIET LANES



Following the communication in the March edition we are pleased to report that Suffolk Highways has **agreed to us designating Barracks Lane as a quiet lane**. This will now form a useful connection to existing public bridleways and footpaths to create circular routes, as well as reducing the number of signs needed in the parish. The designated lanes are shown in the map below.

A public consultation presentation was held on 22nd March at the Parish Council meeting, and the next steps will be progressed with the aim of the lanes being completed in summer this year.

Further information on the county-wide scheme can be found at www.quietlanessuffolk.co.uk
From Cllr Andrew Hill



FOOTPATH REPORT

From Footpath Wardens

Paul and Cynthia Hollingsworth

We have noted that equestrians are using the footpath from Aveley Hall Lane to Boxford (just past Glebe cottage on right hand side). We would like to make a polite reminder that only restricted byways and bridle ways should be used by horse riders.

The footpath from Vicary estate through the valley by the sewerage works has been extremely wet and flooded over the last 3 months, just past the wooden footbridge. This has been photographed and forwarded to Suffolk council with the suggestion that a boardwalk is required. We await feedback.

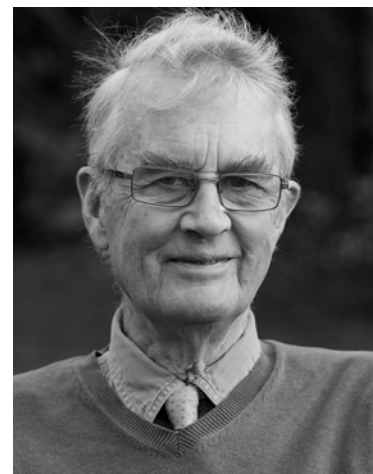
In addition, the following have just been completed: Replacement footpath signposts have been sited on the A134 opposite Marshall's Green Road and both sides of A134 at Home Farm.

WELL DONE and THANK YOU!

After a magnificent 40-ish years (it's so long he can't quite recall) as a Parish Councillor, Dr John Symons is standing down.

We are hugely grateful to John for his unwavering dedication to our community.

We hope to fill the vacancy by co-option soon.



APRIL DIARY: DATES AND THINGS TO DO

April Fool's Day 1st Apr 2021

Celebrated all over the world as a morning of jokes and tricks - but don't play a trick after noon - or you are the fool!

International Children's Book Day 2nd Apr 2021

Held on or around Hans Christian Andersen's birthday, which is celebrated to inspire a love of reading and to call attention to children's books.

Maundy Thursday

Maundy comes from Latin and is the word for 'Command'. At the meal that Jesus had with his followers, he told them: "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." John 13:34.

Also at the same meal, Jesus told/commanded his followers to think of him when they ate bread and drank wine. This is very important to Christians and is now remembered in the Christian service known as Communion.

Jesus washed his disciples' feet before the meal to show that it is important to be helpful and serve others. People in Jesus' time wore open sandals and the roads were very dusty, so washing people's feet was normally done, as you entered the house, by the lowest servant who got the worst jobs! After the meal, Jesus and some of his friends went to a nearby garden called Gethsemane to pray. Later in the evening he was betrayed by one of his disciples called Judas. Jesus was arrested and taken to trial.

In some countries, priests wash the feet of Church go-ers to the Maundy Thursday services to remember what Jesus had done.



In the UK, in a tradition that goes back to Medieval times, the Queen gives out special coins called Maundy Money instead of washing people's feet!

Good Friday 2nd Apr 2021

A bank holiday in the UK.

On the Christian celebration of Good Friday we remember the day Jesus willingly suffered and died by crucifixion on the cross at Calvary, as the ultimate sacrifice for our sins.

Hot Cross Buns are traditionally eaten today.

World Autism Awareness Day 2nd Apr 2021

Autism-friendly events and educational activities take place all through the month of April to increase understanding and acceptance and foster worldwide support.

Easter Day 4th Apr 2021

Easter is the Christian celebration of Christ's resurrection, Easter Sunday or Easter Day is the most important day of the year for Christians. It is when they celebrate that three days after being killed, Jesus rose from the dead, sometimes called 'the Resurrection' and defeated evil forever.

Easter Day is the end of Lent and means the end of some people's fasting.

Churches are filled with flowers on Easter Day. These represent new life. Priests wear their best, brightest robes in celebration. If a Church has a model of a tomb in it from Good Friday, it will be empty with the stone rolled away, as it was on the first Easter Day.

Candles are used in churches all over the world to start the Easter Day celebrations. Candles symbolise that Jesus is the light of the world and that when he rose to life on Easter Day he got rid of the darkness of evil.

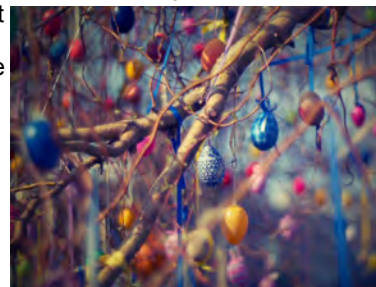
In Italy, the Pope holds a very large Mass or Communion service in St Peter's Square in the Vatican City. Thousands of people from all over the world go to it to celebrate Easter Day.

Easter Eggs are traditionally given on Easter Day; this represents the empty tomb of Jesus, from which Jesus rose. This custom of the Easter egg, according to many sources, can be traced to early Christians of Mesopotamia. Eggs at Easter are also a traditional symbol of fertility and rebirth, - Spring!

In more modern times, Easter has been adopted as a secular celebration with bunnies and chocolate eggs:

Easter "Things To Do" List

1. Set up an Easter Egg Hunt.
2. Eat some simnel cake.
3. Do an Easter Wordsearch.
4. Learn how to do egg decorating.
5. Get out your pens and pencils and do some Easter colouring pictures
6. Put together an Easter Basket.
7. Read some rabbit themed books
8. Have eggs for breakfast on Easter Day.
9. Hang eggs on a tree. Image Credit: Čeština
10. Watch some rabbit themed movies.
11. If you want to save your families teeth or have kids or friends with allergies give some chocolate-free Easter gifts.
12. Make an Easter bonnet.



Earth Day 22nd Apr 2021

Worldwide event to raise awareness of the environmental issues which face the whole of planet Earth.

St. George's Day 23rd Apr 2021

Annual celebration of England's Patron Saint.

St. George, was a Christian who is accepted as a saint in Christianity. Very little is known about St. George's life, but according to tradition, he was a soldier in the Roman army who was killed in around AD 303. It is said that the Emperor Diocletian had St. George tortured to make him deny his faith in Christ.

Stories of his strength and courage soon spread throughout Europe. It is highly unlikely that he ever fought a dragon, and even more unlikely that he ever visited England, however his name was known there as early as the eighth-century. It was



probably the 12th century Crusaders however who first invoked his name as an aid in battle.

King Edward III made him the Patron Saint of England when he formed the Order of the Garter in St. George's name in 1350, and the cult of the Saint was further advanced by King Henry V, at the battle of Agincourt in northern France.

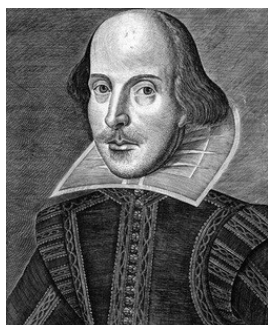
Shakespeare made sure that nobody would forget St. George, and has King Henry V finishing his pre-battle speech with the

famous phrase, 'Cry God for Harry, England and St. George!'

National Shakespeare Day 23rd Apr 2021

William Shakespeare 1564-1616) was a renowned English poet, playwright, and actor, born in Stratford-upon-Avon. 23rd April is celebrated as both Shakespeare's birthday and date of his death.

William Shakespeare lived with his family in their house on Henley Street until he turned eighteen, when he married Anne Hathaway, who was twenty-six. Together they had three children: Susanna, followed in 1585 by twins Hamnet and Judith. Hamnet died when he was 11 years old. By 1592 Shakespeare's reputation was established in London and his first printed works were published. They were two long poems, 'Venus and Adonis' (1593) and 'The Rape of Lucrece' (1594). He also became a founding member of The Lord Chamberlain's Men, a company of actors. He remained with



the company for the rest of his career, during which time it evolved into The King's Men under the patronage of King James I (from 1603). Shakespeare was the company's regular dramatist, producing on average two plays a year, for almost twenty years, including many of his most famous tragedies, such as *King Lear* and *Macbeth*, as well as great romances, like *The Winter's Tale* and *The Tempest*. Altogether Shakespeare's works include 38 plays, 2 narrative

poems, 154 sonnets, and a variety of other poems. No original manuscripts of Shakespeare's plays are known to exist today. It is actually thanks to a group of actors from Shakespeare's company that we have about half of the plays at all. They collected them for publication after Shakespeare died in 1616, preserving them for posterity. Shakespeare's success in the London theatres made him considerably wealthy, and by 1597 he was able to purchase New Place, the largest house in the borough of Stratford-upon-Avon. Although his professional career was spent in London, he maintained close links with his native town.

Penguin Day 25th Apr 2021

Awareness day to highlight the dangers that penguin's habitats face, as well as the number of penguin species which are endangered. Many penguins depend on sea ice for their main food source - krill; however parts of the Antarctic and Southern Ocean are warming rapidly, which is affecting some of the penguins' feeding grounds.

International Jazz Day 30th Apr 2021

International Jazz Day brings together jazz enthusiasts all over the world to celebrate and learn about jazz and its roots, future and impact. 🐼 🐼 🐼 🐼 🐼

ASSINGTON HORTICULTURAL SHOW 2021

By Bryn Hurren

As of this moment it looks as if it might be possible to once again hold our annual village Horticultural Show. This event was a great success last year despite the restrictions and resulting difficulties. The preferred and most acceptable date would be Sunday 22nd August.

If this event can go ahead we would need some designated helpers on the day, with organising brochure delivery and general itinerary of entries and prizes. Please, anyone who is willing to help, let me know and I will include you in a contact list.

If this event is to be as good a success as last year, then now is a good time to start plotting, planting, growing, painting, cooking, baking, pickling and generally becoming creative. It has been shown that this is so very good for our physical and mental health, diet soul and body.

If anyone has any ideas for anything that they would like to see included in the show, then please feel free to contact me, email bryn.hurren@babbergh.gov.uk and tel. number 210854

I can usually also be found on my allotment on Sunday afternoons, weather permitting.

Keep growing and producing
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All social distancing as required by law will be adhered to. The above dates are subject to change/cancellation should 'outside' restrictions imposed by the Government make it unworkable to offer the introduction and coaching sessions.

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ARTISTS IN ASSINGTON AND THE LOCAL AREA

By Ellie Mead

Eric Ravilious was born in 1903 in Acton, London. He grew up in East Sussex and later became a successful artist, designer, book illustrator and wood-engraver.

In 1930 he married Eileen Lucy "Tirzah" Garwood, also an artist and engraver. The couple came to live in Great Bardfield and later Castle Hedingham. They were friendly with Edward Bawden, Michael Rothenstein and other artists in the area who became known collectively as The Great Bardfield artists. Imagine the Bloomsbury group residing in the Essex countryside and you have some idea of the set-up and flavour of the group. Ravilious was to have two fairly intense affairs with artists Diana Low and Helen Binyon.

However, late in 1937, the affair with Helen Binyon was ending as Helen began a liaison with the artist John Nash, who lived at Wormingford. Binyon had met Nash in 1936 when she and Ravilious were staying with Percy and Lydia Horton at Assington in Suffolk. (Source: Helen Binyon's posthumously published biography of Eric Ravilious)

Here is a painting by Percy Horton of the front garden and pump at Pump farm looking towards Coots Cottage. This was painted in 1938 and titled Coates Corner, Assington.

Horton (1897-1970) had studied at the Royal College of Art with Bawden, Ravilious and Henry Moore. During the 1930s Horton taught art at the Royal College of Art. He was also Master of Drawing at Oxford University. I wonder if Horton lived at Pump farm or was merely borrowing the front garden for his artwork and actually lived elsewhere in Assington. The painting is in the collection of the Tullie Gallery in Carlisle.

During World War II Ravilious became an official war artist travelling the country to paint ships, planes and submarines. In 1941 he and Tirzah, together with their three children, had moved to Ironbridge Farm, Shalford, not far from Great Bardfield. It was from this ancient farmhouse in 1942 that Ravilious set out to fly on a mission to Iceland. After landing briefly in Iceland his plane set out again to search for another plane which had gone missing. Neither plane returned nor was Ravilious' body ever found.

Tirzah continued to live in this area, marrying again to Henry Swanzy, a radio producer, in 1946. In 1950, due to ill health, she became a resident at Copford Place Nursing Home where she died a year later. Her gravestone is in Copford churchyard.

There have been many retrospective exhibitions of the work of Eric Ravilious and a large collection of his work, together with other members of the Bardfield group, is held by The Fry Gallery in Saffron Walden. The gallery is currently closed but hoping to open again at the end of May. It is well worth a visit.



(C) WahooArt.com

TULIPS IN APRIL

By BS

Although gardens are beginning to awaken in April, they can often need a little boost to cheer up the flower beds and the patio area. Over the last couple of years I have become a bit of a "tulipmaniac", and have enjoyed seeing them blooming and bringing a great selection of colour to an otherwise rather unexciting scheme.

I am sure you will have read it all before, so I don't propose to deliver a lecture, but rather, hope to inspire at least a few more readers to invest in some bulbs during the autumn.



Tulips are definitely more under control when planted up in large pots and the big advantage is that, as they come into bloom the pots can be moved either close to the house/windows for ease of viewing, or into special places in the flower beds where they merge into the overall "scheme".



On the other hand, planting some tulips directly into the beds in swathes delivers a very natural appearance.



Unfortunately, squirrels and/or rabbits can wreak their havoc on bulbs, and also bulbs planted directly into the ground can disappear over the space of a couple of years.

I tend to select tulip varieties



which flower early, rather than those which flower in May, as by May the gardens are becoming a riot of colour without the need for additional "pumping up".

However (especially for cutting rows) the later blooming double tulips look similar to Paeonies, and are just stunning in a vase or arrangement.

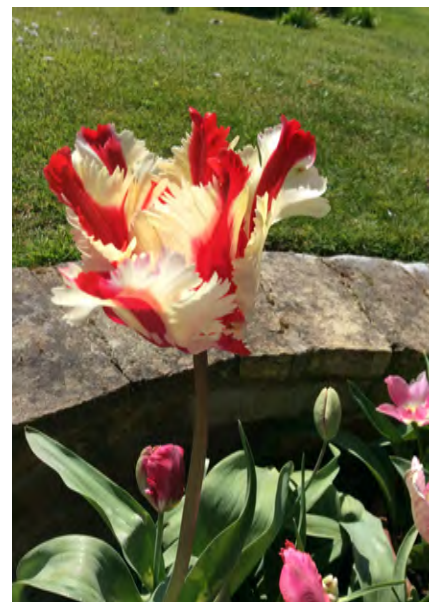


The earliest tulips I select tend to be low, March-flowering (if you are lucky!), combination coloured or bright red (not yellow as daffodils already give us that dimension), and probably also striped leaves and may also be of a multi-headed variety.



- ❖ Parrot-tulips, which tend to be later-flowering. They can be magnificent, but in my experience can be a bit unreliable, as on the occasion I bought Mixed parrot tulips and only one came up and flowered on its own.

However, on another occasion I planted a tub of all one variety, and was delighted with the big, long-lasting blowsy blooms.



The majority I purchase are called early-flowering and indeed I expect them to be blooming by April, sometimes as early as 1st April. Pink tulips interplanted (or grown next-to) baby-blue forget-me-nots are always a winning combination for me.



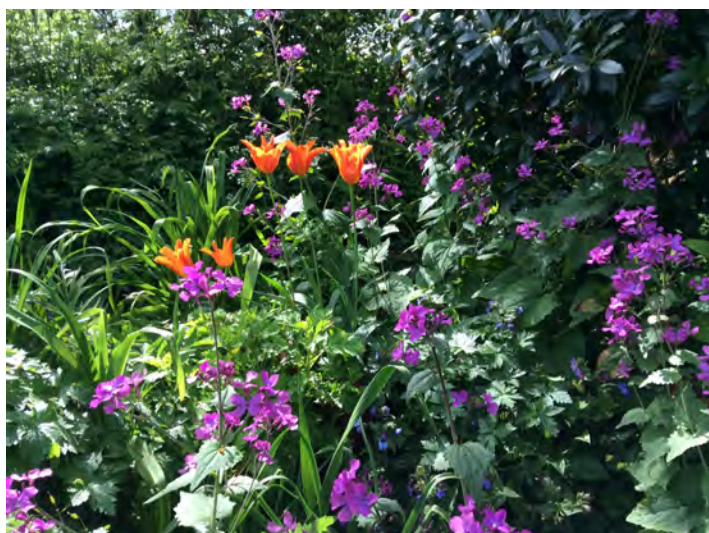
I have been through a number of "phases":

- ❖ Viridiflora tulips, white with a green stripe in the petal, have been a favourite of mine, but there are some very attractive pink, or red or apricot-coloured varieties.

Many of you may have been fortunate to visit (in some far past time!), or seen photographs or calendar views of Monet's Garden at Giverny. The Springtime planting of tall stems of pink tulips growing through a sea of blue forget-me-nots is a sight once seen, never forgotten.



- ❖ Lily-flowering tulips, with the most delicate out-turning of the petals producing gracefully reflexing flowers. Colour combinations of orange "Ballerina" interplanted with purple honesty looked good last year.



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SESAW NEWS

Hopefully it's dry and sunny as you read this, at the time of writing the rain is lashing and the wind is howling but Easter approaches. As our thoughts turn to chocolate, spring flowers, cute lambs and baby rabbits, SESAW volunteer, Karen, who specialises in looking after our rabbits offers some seasonal advice.

"Watching rabbits running, jumping, playing and grooming each other is a lovely sight but Easter is not the time to get them as pets for your children. Sadly rabbits are the most neglected pet because people assume they are easy to look after and don't live very long. They need a spacious exercise area attached to a roomy hutch which should be seen as a place to rest in, NOT A PRISON. Rabbits should be neutered and live in pairs or groups; a single outdoor rabbit living alone would have an extremely miserable life.

Unlike Bugs Bunny, rabbits do not just eat carrots! The diet should consist of 80% good quality hay, small amounts of commercial feed and leafy greens. They DO NOT like being picked up and carried around so children should play with them at ground level. Rabbits can live up to 10 years and require yearly vaccinations, regular worming and health checks. If you understand that having a rabbit is NOT an easy or short term commitment, then please offer a home to a rescue rabbit after Easter."

That just leaves me enough space for our contact details for Karen when you have finished your chocolate eggs - but make sure to keep them away from all the dogs including me, Kenny (the Boss) Chihuahua.
Suffolk & Essex Small Animal Welfare, Registered Charity No.1124029, Stoke Road, Leavenheath, CO6 4PP. Tel: 01787 210888 www.sesaw.co.uk

BOXFORD SCHOOL NEWS

By Callie Bradbury

We are finally back at school and back to proper learning and now that restrictions have eased, Boxford children are very excited about clubs starting and having time to play with each other. We had a jam packed first week back and now on Friday 19th March the kids will either be dressing up as a superhero or just wearing red clothes for Red Nose Day.

Also Walk to School Week, (17-21 May 2021) the 5-day walking challenge, is back! The theme this year is Walking Superpowers, the challenge will focus on the walking superpowers that benefit individuals, communities and the planet. It's really important that we keep roads around schools safe from dangerous traffic and air pollution. Walking, cycling and scooting to school can help us achieve that while also helping children meet part of the recommended 60 minutes of physical activity a day and improving mental health and concentration levels.

The year 6 topic is still the ancient Egyptians and we had a half term project to either made a model of a pyramid or dress up. One of my class dressed up as Cleopatra and she had loads, I mean LOADS, of plaits in her hair and she looked fab. Many others made fantastic models with loads of details and some did impressive fact files. We are now making a model of Tutankhamun's (Tutankhamun was an Ancient Egyptian Pharaoh who started ruling when he was only 9 years old but unfortunately, he died when he was 18 years old) death mask.



It is nearly Easter and we have been learning about the Journey of Easter. Christians believe that Jesus was resurrected on Easter Sunday after he was killed on the cross on Good Friday. We celebrate by using chocolate eggs and hot cross buns and having easter egg hunts.

I hope everyone is well and happy.

ASSINGTON RAINFALL AND TEMPERATURES

Bill Milner and Bob Cowlin

2016 TOTAL 599.5
2017 TOTAL 571
2018 TOTAL 559
2019 TOTAL 597
2020 TOTAL 636

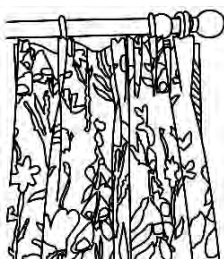
	mm	max	min
2018			
JAN	60.5	11°C	-3°C
FEB	41	9°C	-8°C
MAR	74	14°C	-5°C

	mm	max	min
2019			
JAN	23.5	9°C	-8°C
FEB	19.5	16°C	-5°C
MAR	44	19°C	-3°C
APR	18.5	24°C	-3°C
MAY	54	26°C	+1°C
JUNE	94.5	29°C	5°C
JULY	36.5	34.5°C	6.5°C
AUG	31.5	31°C	7°C
SEP	37.5	24°C	2°C
OCT	90	18 °C	-2°C
NOV	69.5	12 °C	-5°C
DEC	78	10 °C	-5°C

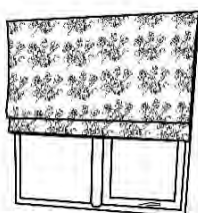
	mm	max	min
2020			
JAN	33.5	10 C	-5°C
FEB	56	11°C	-3°C
MAR	21	14°C	-5°C
APR	22	23°C	-1°C
MAY	5.5	27°C	-2.5°C
JUNE	50	28°C	+2°C
JULY	58	30°C	6°C
AUG	109	32°C	4°C
SEP	25.5	27°C	5°C
OCT	110	14°C	2°C
NOV	33	14°C	-4°C
DEC	102.5	10°C	-5°C

	mm	max	min
2021			
JAN	89	10°C	-5.5°C
FEB	34.5	14°C	-7°C

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REPORT: ELECTRICITY PYLONS

**From James Finch,
County Councillor for the Stour Valley**

Tel 01206 263649 Mobile 07545 423796

Email: james.finch@suffolk.gov.uk

Suffolk County Council is very concerned by recommendations for new pylon lines in Suffolk:

Suffolk County Council is concerned about a proposal for new electricity pylons to be constructed in the Suffolk countryside, rather than using offshore solutions. It will be seeking further clarification from National Grid as to what is driving the need for this type of connection, and why earlier deployment of offshore coordination is not being proposed. It is not clear how many additional pylon lines are required.

The new recommendations, published by National Grid Electricity System Operator in their Network Options Assessment on 27 January 2021 for new high voltage overhead power lines, plan to connect from both the north and south, into the National Grid substation at Bramford in Suffolk.

These new proposals are in addition to projects that National Grid Electricity Transmission has confirmed, on 30 June 2020, that they intend to build in Suffolk by 2028. These are:

- A 2GW offshore undersea cable, between Suffolk and Kent
- The long-paused project, for a new pylon line with sections of underground cable, in the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and Stour Valley, between the Bramford substation and Twinstead in Essex.

...and from Nick Miller, who is forwarding on the following information, which he has received :

National Grid 29km 400,000 volt (400 kV) electricity reinforcement between Bramford and Twinstead Tee

This Project is absolutely huge and will impact upon the local area once underway for perhaps 18/24 months. There will likely be hedgerows ripped out and widening of many of the country lanes just for equipment access.

The undergrounding work will involve digging trenches around 65M wide.



The end capping stations are large sub stations with an extra-large pylon to feed it.

National Grid say - We need to strengthen the network here to increase the network capability in the region to carry the clean green energy that is proposed in East Anglia.

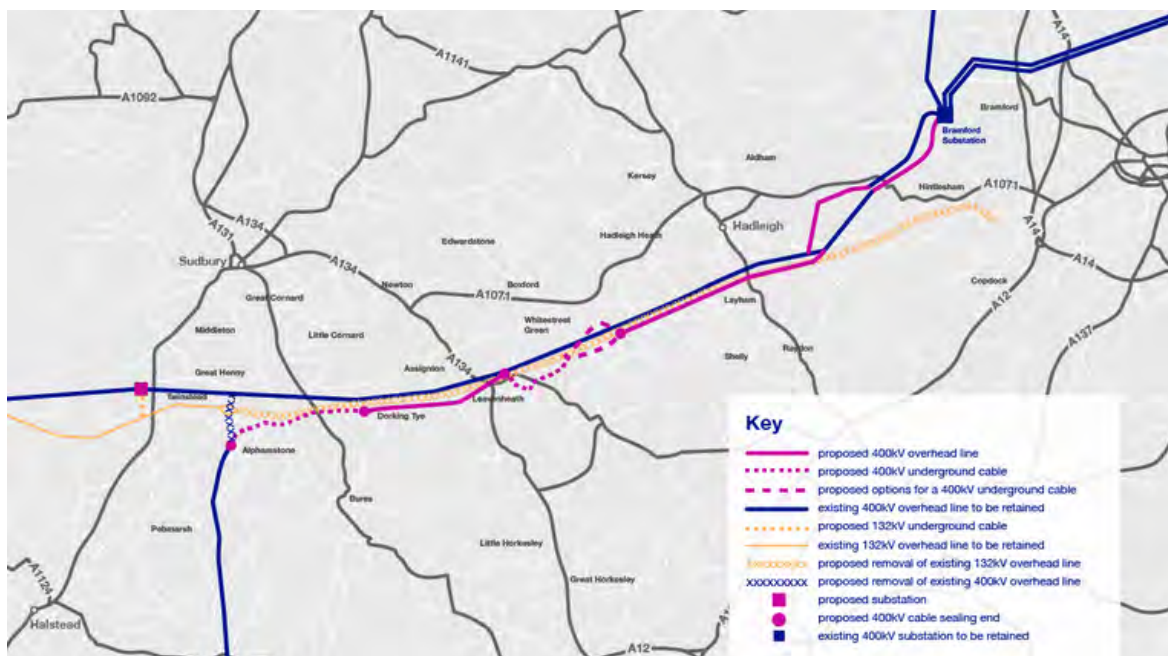
Two sections were identified for underground cables – one in Dedham Vale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and one in the Stour Valley where an AONB extension is proposed. Cable sealing ends – four in total – would be needed to make the transition from overhead line to underground cable.

To make way for the proposed 400kV reinforcement, approximately 26km of UKPN's existing 132 kV overhead electricity distribution line would be removed between Burstall Bridge and Twinstead Tee. A new substation was also proposed next to Butlers Wood, west of Twinstead, to keep the local network supplied when the section of 132kV line is removed.

A small section of existing 400 kV overhead line would also be removed south of Twinstead Tee near Alplhamstone.

In spring 2021 (end March), there will be a public consultation. This consultation will be followed by further consultation on detailed proposals before we apply for consent in 2022.

<https://www.nationalgrid.com/uk/electricity-transmission/network-and-infrastructure/bramford-twinstead>



NATURE WATCH

From Isaac Stirling

These excellent photos and accompanying Report come from Isaac Stirling, The Old Forge. He's studying in Bristol and involved in the BBC Natural History Unit there, but currently working from home here under lockdown.

Isaac tells us:

Most recently, a walk just over a week ago around Assington Mill revealed to us a woodcock, much to my excitement. Passing by the fenced woodland (which incidentally is completely aglow with hazel catkins), the woodcock took off with its characteristic thrum from where it must have been roosting between the fence and a brash pile. I have only personally seen them once or twice in Assington before, in the Thicks around what is now the thinned conifer plantation.

Also in the Thicks on one of very few trips back here during the summer, I was delighted to have found some Lepidopteran wonders. Having been passed a rumour of their presence by Bob Cowlin, I came across an impressive number of both white admiral and silver washed fritillaries up and down the central track, who were, along with large numbers of the other summer butterflies, delighting in the bountiful bramble flowering of 2020's July growth. I have uncertain records of white admirals in previous years, but their population there is now seemingly undoubtable (incidentally, the fritillaries were a first for me but I was overjoyed to have finally got a fritillary recorded on the home patch!). Please see attached for a photo of one of these, Suffolk's few big insect claims, a white admiral resting on bramble around two thirds of the way up the Thicks track.

Finally, a late night exploration, also on my brief July return, revealed a small glow worm population around the boggy areas of Spouse's Vale. My mum had told me of a larva she had seen on the boardwalk there in the spring, so our venture to look for a glowing adult counterpart was a success! Sadly we only managed one visit there to look and I fear that it was too far past sunset to see them in full glow, but again, a confirmed presence which I will be very excited to look for again this coming year.

Isaac has also sent a photo in response to last month's Winter Moth article. As well as some males on his windows, Isaac snapped this in his Assington greenhouse, at the start of February! Isaac wasn't immediately sure what she was as both louse fly (AKA deer ked) and mosquito crossed his mind given the similarly vestigial wings and prone appearance, but it didn't take long to conclude that she was, of course, a female winter moth:





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ARTHRITIS ACTION

My name is Marc and I am Area Coordinator for UK charity Arthritis Action. We give hands-on, practical help to combat the pain of arthritis through self-management and lifestyle advice. We provide a range of free resources, including factsheets, exercises, recipes and videos.

To support people living with arthritis, we also run online Arthritis Action Groups, throughout the country, and now including a brand new group for people in Norfolk & Suffolk, as well as evening groups for those unable to attend the daytime ones. We know that all the changes in people's lives this past year have made managing arthritis more challenging, and our groups are great place for people to meet others with the condition, share experiences and learn about self-management.

I'm available for one-off presentations on self-management of arthritis via zoom if there is a local group that would be interested. These will of course be free of charge.

Online Arthritis Action Groups

Arthritis Action Groups are an opportunity for people with arthritis to talk with others and share their tips on how to manage their arthritis and stay active whilst at home, and we actively welcome new attendees. We discuss a variety of self-management techniques. Participants will need to contact us directly for the log in instructions for the meeting, and we have produced 'How To' guides for those not familiar with using Zoom.

Upcoming Group Dates:

09/04/2021 - Coffee morning (open to all areas) - 10:30am
30/04/2021 - Coffee morning (open to all areas) - 10:30am
11/05/2021 - Norfolk & Suffolk Online group - 2pm
28/05/2021 - Coffee morning (open to all areas) - 10:30am

For joining details see <http://www.arthritisaction.org.uk/media-centre/events> or contact me directly.

Marc Williams

Area co-ordinator Arthritis Action

Direct Line: 020 3781 9233

Mobile: 07562 430886 www.arthritisACTION.org.uk

A camera has been found in the Church grounds. If you have lost one there, please contact Bronwen Stacey on 01787210354.



photograph of a Fieldfare by Susan Hickman

ASSINGTON ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION REPORT

From Stephen King

The AGM of the ASSINGTON ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION was held via Zoom on 7th March 2021 where the Chair gave the following report:

Last year was notable for the outbreak of Covid-19 which governs our lives. Lockdown #1 started just after our AGM on 8th March 2020, so we were able to hold the meeting in person. Stephen King was re-elected to the Chair, Claire Osborne elected as Secretary and Lisa Brooks as Treasurer. All were elected or re-elected unanimously.

All twelve plots were taken for the second year running and a waiting list has begun to accumulate. The weather was thoroughly unsettling all year. There was either too much rain, too much sun or too much wind, despite which, a successful Horticultural Show was held in August in a marquee at the Village Playing Field, organised by Bryn Hurren and Lisa Brooks. Bryn won the prize for Best Allotment.

The pond was completed, and hedgehogs were introduced to the site to help combat pests.

The second meeting of the year in October was virtual, held online via Zoom. The Parish Council agreed to continue to support the Association in maintaining the rent at £360 for 2021/22, provided most of the plots were taken by residents of the village. The Council also continued to pay for the water supply and the upkeep of the land surrounding the site. A revised Tenancy Agreement for 2021/22 is being issued. The Association is extremely grateful for the support from the Parish Council.

The allotments have been a great help as a distraction from the difficulties of living with the pandemic. In lockdowns #2 and #3, social distancing at the site has been easily maintained, and visits to the plots are counted as exercise, work or getting essential supplies.

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CHILTON AIRFIELD

By BS

In search of a walk which would provide somewhere dry underfoot in the relentlessly wet weather so far this year, and resulting muddy paths, we recently explored a previously unknown (to us) walk around the old Chilton airfield. Despite having lived in this locality for 37 years, we had never ventured in that area for a walk. The main advantage from a walker's point of view is that three wide concrete runways form an inner triangular shape with wider extension 'legs' which are also bordered by an interconnecting surrounding similar runway; much of the original lay-out remains, providing a firm footing for the many dog-walkers who frequent them for their daily exercise.



A former World War Two military airfield, it is now used for agricultural purposes.

The airfield, designated as USAAF station 174, bordering on Acton, Chilton and Great

Waldingfield, 2 miles NE of Sudbury, opened in late March 1944 and was built to "Class A" specifications for American heavy bomber aircraft, that is to say it was provided with three concrete runways with fifty hardstandings and two aircraft hangars (Type T2). Temporary barrack accommodation for some 3,000 men was dispersed to the east away from the main flying field around the village of Great Waldingfield, accessible by crossing the B1115 road from Sudbury to Lavenham. The administrative buildings were also situated to the east, closer to the flying field. The main unit using the airfield was the United States Army 8th Air Force's 486th Bomb Group. Together with the group based at Lavenham, Sudbury formed to 92nd Combat Wing.

486th Bombardment Group (Heavy) arrived from Davis-Monthan AAF, Arizona during March 1944. Upon their arrival, the airmen made a huge impression on the local boys, as they "all seemed six feet in height, had a lovely tan and spoke like film stars."



The young fliers of the 486th spent the rest of April 1944 on intensive training missions, practising close formation flying, navigation, gunnery and bombing skills. This same month was the darkest time of the War for the American 8th

Air Force. Operating over Occupied Europe; as yet without long range fighter escort, some 361 heavy bombers were lost in action.



The 486th was assigned to the 4th Combat Bombardment Wing, and the group tail code initially was a "Square-O".



During the summer of 1944 the group converted from B-24s to B-17s and the Group ID was changed to "Square-W", perhaps to avoid confusion with the Square-D on B-17s of the 100th Bomb Group. The 486th was the only group to change its ID.

Its operational squadrons were:

- 832d Bombardment Squadron (3R)
- 833d Bombardment Squadron (4N)
- 834th Bombardment Squadron (2S)
- 835th Bombardment Squadron (H8)

The group flew both the Consolidated B-24 Liberator and the Boeing B-17 Flying Fortress as part of the Eighth Air Force's strategic bombing campaign and operated chiefly against strategic objectives in Germany until May 1945. Targets included marshalling yards in Stuttgart, Cologne, and Mainz; airfields in Kassel and Münster; oil refineries and storage plants in Merseburg, Dollbergen, and Hamburg; harbours in Bremen and Kiel; and factories in Mannheim and Weimar. Other missions included bombing airfields, gun positions, V-weapon sites (total of nine "Operation Crossbow" missions beginning 20 June), and railway bridges in France in preparation for or in support of the invasion of Normandy in June 1944; striking road junctions and troop concentrations in support of ground forces pushing across France, July–August 1944; hitting gun emplacements near Arnhem to minimise transport and glider losses during the airborne invasion of the Netherlands in September 1944; and bombing enemy installations in support of ground troops during the Battle of the Bulge (December 1944–January 1945) and the assault across the Rhine (March–April 1945).

The 486th Bomb Group returned to Drew Field, Florida during August 1945 and was inactivated on 7 November 1945.

After the war the station was closed in 1945 and returned to the RAF, who re-established 16 Recruit Centre which was in operation from 11 October 1945 to 1946.



With the end of military control, Sudbury airfield was returned to agriculture and was covered in vegetation. Some Sections of the runways and hardstandings have long been removed to facilitate crop planting. The hangars are now used for grain storage, or as industrial units and it is said only the base of the control tower remains.

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PARISH CHURCH NEWS

*Letter from the Rev Mary Cantacuzene
Bures with Assington and Little Cornard*

Dear Friends

We approach Holy Week and Easter. We have just passed the anniversary of the first Coronavirus lockdown; a time for sadness as we look back at the devastation that has been caused. We pause to remember all those who have lost their lives, or their livelihoods. Let's all hope and pray that this coming year will see a wonderful resurgence of new life and new health; as well as not forgetting the unexpected blessings that have come out of such a time of trial.

This month the church of St Edmund King and Martyr will be welcoming us back into church again, to have a service on Easter Day... still socially distanced and wearing masks, but none the less, it's a start. At time of going to press discussions are still taking place as to whether there will be fortnightly church services thereafter; we will also continue to provide on-line services to complement services elsewhere.

Easter Day is truly the most exciting time in the whole church calendar. Every year we celebrate that day 2,000 years ago when a small group of women went to Jesus' tomb to find the stone rolled away from the entrance and the tomb empty:

St. John writes (about himself) **"Then, the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed."**

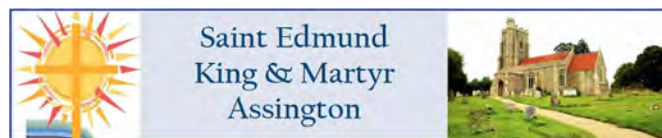
Such 'old news' could be completely irrelevant by now, but the Bible is still the best-selling book in the world by far (every week!) and Christians all over the world remember what Jesus Christ did for us: the Son of God being born a man, dying on a cross to rescue us and then rising from the dead on Easter Day.

Jesus had explained to them before, **"I have come down from heaven, not to do my will, but to do the will of my Father who sent me. And this is His will: that I shall lose no-one, but raise them up at the last day. For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life"** (John 6. 38-40)

And that is a wonderful thing to be living in the here and now, and to be looking forward to for the future.

May God bless you this month and this Eastertide.

With love in Him, **Mary**



Assington Church now has its own website.
The full address is <https://assingtonchurch.org.uk>

Assington Church

Services are beginning to resume. More information can be found on our website:

zoom

Get Together

Every Sunday morning

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 assingtonchurch.org.uk

Email office@parishchurch.co.uk if you want to receive regular news about what's happening or ring:

Rev'd Steve Morley - 01787 227407

Rev'd Simon White - 07572 418555



On Easter Sunday (4th April)

We are planning to hold

a zoom service as usual at 9.15am and an
Easter Sunday church service at 10.30am.

For which Track and Trace details apply
Face masks must be worn. Social distancing must be adhered to.

Please contact office@parishchurch.co.uk or
telephone 01787 227407 for details

Vicar:	Rev Steve Morley	227407
Reader:	Dr John Symons	211534
Associate		
Priest	Rev Simon White	07572 418555
Organist:	Bronwen Stacey	210354
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London Evening Standard

"Old world character combined with modern brasserie style dining in lovely Stoke-by-Nayland...the wine list is excellent value for money"
Fiona Duncan, Sunday Telegraph

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