

ASSIGNMENT

NEWS



APRIL 2024



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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 - Vacant. Interim Contact	Jenny Cutts	01787 211371
Assington Baby and Toddler Group	Rev Tricia Box	07747 124592
Assington Books, Village Hall (see post office for times)	Michelle Bourner	07954 221773
Assington Farmshop	Maxine Gardiner	01787 211610
Assington Post Office, Village Hall	Mon 1.30-3.30, Wed 9-12	
Boxford CEVC Primary School (office@boxford.suffolk.sch.uk)	Head: Emma Lea	01787 210332
Brownies, Boxford	Moirra Grant	01787 211513
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	07970 196884
Doctors surgery – Sudbury	Hardwicke House	01787 370011
Doctors surgery – Bures	Bures	01787 227529
Floodline 24/7	SCC Flood Management	0345 606 6171
Footpath Wardens	Paul & Cynthia Hollingsworth	01787 211620
Horticultural Society	Karen Wiles	
Leavenheath Cinema	Marion	01206 263301
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
david.wiles@live.co.uk	David Wiles	07811 108702
tony@howcroft.net	Tony Howcroft	
hwallace58@gmail.com	Helen Wallace	01787 211162
i.jordan741@btinternet.com	Ian Jordan	
andrewpeterhill@hotmail.com	Andrew Hill	01787 827112
Parish Council - Clerk (assingtonpc@yahoo.com)	Christine Hargan	01449 674727
Pub – The Shoulder of Mutton		01787 210334
Stoke by Nayland C of E Primary School (admin@sbn.suffolk.sch.uk)	Head: Mrs Kelly McGrath	01206 262418
Vicar (vicar@parishchurch.co.uk)	The Revd Daniel Whiffin	01787 228292
Village Hall – Bookings	Karen Wiles	07983 002072
Village Hall - Caretaker	Sean Mills	07547 190948
Village Hall - Charity Secretary		
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, £120 for a full page advert.
Contact Bob Cowlin 01787 229955 Bank Account details for payments and donations: Account no: 01345159. Sort Code: 30 - 98 - 31.
 Please make cheques payable to the Assington Association.

The ASSINGTON NEWS NOW IN COLOUR ONLINE at <http://assington.onesuffolk.net/assington-news/>

Editor	Bronwen Stacey, 01787 210354, email bronwenstacey@btinternet.com
Treasurer	Bob Cowlin, 01787 229955, bob.cowlin@assingtonmill.com
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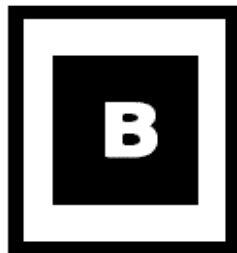
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BILL DICKSON

1930 - 2024



Assington's oldest resident, and one who had lived all his life in Assington, Bill Dickson, has died at the age of almost 94. He will be missed greatly by everyone who knew and loved him.

Both of Bill's parents had come down from Scotland, the Dicksons had taken on Assington House, and the Finlays had gone to farm at Dorking Tye.

This was because, from the late 1920s many Scottish farmers had been forced by difficult economic circumstances to look elsewhere for a living, and many farmers made their way south, to impoverished Suffolk, to rent farms here. In addition to Dorking Tye and Assington House farms, several other local farms were taken over and run by Scotsmen at that time:

the
Robertsons at Aveley Hall
Maules at Hill Farm
Steels at Park Farm
McLeods at Moors Farm
Carrs at Over Hall Farm
Waddels at Severals Farm

Bill's parents, who had not met before moving to Suffolk, met and married after arriving here.

William James Finlay Dickson (Bill) was born in 1930 at Dorking Tye, where his mother's parents, farmed, and subsequently he went to live at Assington House, where his father had taken on the farm.

Bill went to a tiny school in Newton, then on to Sudbury, but left school at 14 to help his father on the farm at Assington House, where the family lived. Assington House was mainly an arable farm. Bill's father, Jimmy, started off with a few sheep, then some cattle, but when the war came in 1939, most of the grassland had to be ploughed up so the cows had to go. Godfrey's Farm (which became Adam's Well Farm) was also farmed by Jimmy Dickson. When the Assington

Estate was sold off in 1938, eldest sons were not permitted to take on the tenancies of the farms and, not being able to afford to purchase such properties, many drifted away. Bill however, spent most of his working life at Assington House, first working with horses, then tractors.

After a long courtship Bill married Ann in 1960, and in 1961 they moved to their house on the Street, where they lived with their new family: Susan who arrived in 1962 and Robert, three years later.



Bill's father died in 1967, and so Bill took over the running of the farm.

In 1968 the farm was bought by Tim Harris, who kept Bill to continue working on the land he knew so well, and Bill continued working there until his retirement.

This amazing length of service was recognised by a special award (and life membership) of the Suffolk Show. The award was presented by the late Princess Margaret, who so enjoyed chatting to Bill that she had to be prompted to move on -

and memorably said to Bill:
"I think we are being told off!"

Bill continued to help on farms even after his retirement, and he and Ann continued to be active members of the community:

Bill was the subject of an article by John Symons in the Assington News in April 2018 (the photograph on the right was taken at that time); the main head photograph was taken of Bill enjoying a picnic at the Queens Platinum Jubilee Celebrations held in the village on June 3rd 2022;

More recently, in 2023 at the Assington Celebrations to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III, as the oldest resident in the village, Bill unveiled the plaque on the wall of the Village Hall.



The Funeral Service will be held at Assington Church at 12noon on Friday 5th April 2024, and all who knew Bill will be warmly welcome.



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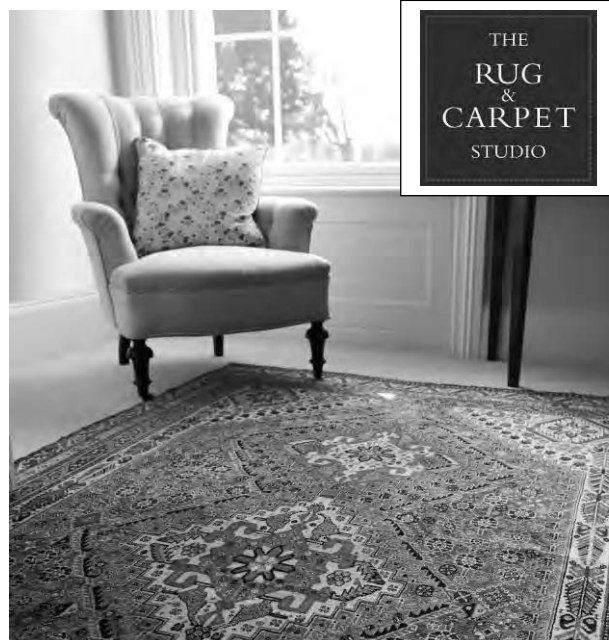
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50% donated to the Valerie Lock Church Fund to install
Kitchen/toilet facilities.

FUN AND GAMES.... BEETLE DRIVE

From Anna Clayton

Thanks to everyone who attended the Beetle drive on Saturday 24th Feb.

We had 31 attend and raised a brilliant £255 for the church tower project.

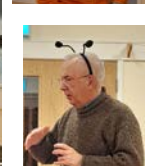
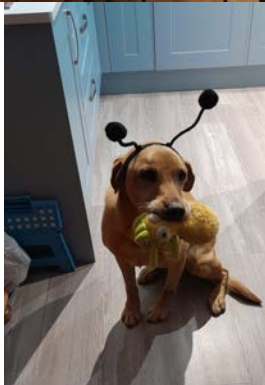
The goal is to raise around £100k in grants and fundraising to have a kitchen and toilet facility installed in the church tower space.

This will allow for a wider variety of events (concerts or Christmas fayres, for example) to be held in the church in addition to the regular services schedule, weddings, funerals and christenings.

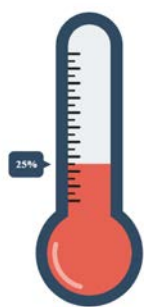
We had visitors from Bures and Newton villages as well as those local to Assington.

Here are some pictures of everyone taking part, furiously rolling their dice...

and thanks to those who won a pair of antenna for agreeing to model them so well at the end (including Roger's dog, when he got home!)



The Church Tower Project



Where it is hoped to turn the base of the Tower into an area with an accessible WC and a small scullery now stands at an amazing:
£35,016.61

Thank you so much to all the people who continue to help and support us in this endeavour.

Assington Church Tower Project QR Code

If you would like to
make a **donation**
towards the
Tower Project

Grateful thanks





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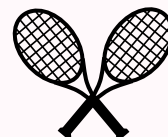
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THE OLD WORKHOUSE

PART III: The Restoration

From Angela Bradding

The first major job was clearing and sorting the furniture and possessions that came with the building. We bought The Old Workhouse on a 'sold as seen' basis. This meant that we owned a significant amount of furniture, crockery, ornaments, clothes, and boxes and boxes of books.

In between sorting and rescuing 'stuff', we were getting to understand the building itself and beginning to shore it up in key places as an urgent stopgap. For example, there was a large hole in the roof where the lane end chimney had collapsed. This hole had been left unrepaired for many years. Rainwater had entered the building and rotted the timbers and floorboards from the top of the house all the way to the ground floor. We placed some plywood down on the surrounding sound floorboards and put a large old water tank underneath the leak. This had to be emptied every so often, especially that first winter! The impact of the chimney falling had given the building a significant shunt and caused a noticeable gap to open on the top floor. Our timber expert assured us that movement was no longer a problem, but we collectively decided to have a metal brace bolted to the inside corner of the back and gable end wall, and a large piece of reclaimed oak bolted under the central beam. Both these reversible repairs are still visible near the first-floor ceiling.

Another urgent job was to create a temporary wall at the back corner of the building, nearest Dyers Lane. When we bought The Old Workhouse, this section was just a large gapping opening, leaving the building open to the elements and presenting a major security risk. We nailed and screwed a miscellaneous collection of bits of wood and metal grills to the existing walls and covered it with tarpaulin. We did a similar job with the windows (many broken beyond repair) by criss-crossing the holes with bits of metal shelves, planks of wood that happened to be lying around, and anything else that would act as something of a deterrent to intruders. As you can imagine the poor old building looked a mess. It was also freezing cold and very damp.



Another early job was taking off all the existing external wall covering as it was virtually all cement. Cement render on a timber frame building is the 'kiss of death' to the integrity of the timbers. Cement does not allow the building to breathe so the timbers underneath get wet, stay wet, then rot slowly. Some of the sections of cement, were about 4 inches thick and reinforced with rusty metal mesh. This was a difficult, dirty, and potentially dangerous job.

When the old cement render had been removed, we could see what needed doing with the sole plate (the large blocks of oak that provide the primary support for the walls) and structural timbers. Our carpenter, Ben, gradually replaced all

the sole plates, as the vast majority were too badly rotted and decayed to support the refurbished walls. Ben then spent many months gradually working round the building replacing any other structural timber that had 'gone too far'.

Following our aim of conserving anything we could, we repaired and retained as much of the original timbers as we could. For example, Ben spliced vertical new timbers from the outside to bolt onto salvageable sections inside. So much of the internal walls look almost as they did when they were first built. Many of these splicing jobs are now completely hidden by sheets of Heritage approved wood-fibre (to replace the original wattle and daub) and new render. Internally, where new oak has been spliced in, we have made no attempt to stain, age, or distress these new timbers to blend in with the original ones. These repairs have simply been left to 'speak' their contribution to the structural history of the building. So, in some places you will see a wonderful juxtaposition of old and new timber.



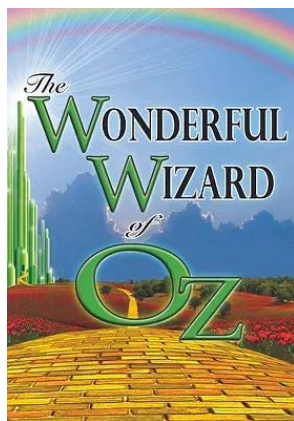
As soon as the main structural timber work had been done, we moved our attention to the roof. Initially we thought it would be sufficient to merely repair the section with the hole in it. However, we finally decided to redo the entire roof. We organised full scaffolding and then started to carefully remove the old peg tiles. We managed to save, clean, and reuse well over half of the original tiles and then had to make many trips to local salvage yards to source the remainder. So, we had months of buying and collecting roof battens, reclaimed peg tiles, and clout nails. Our roofer, Mark, was brilliant. He persevered and produced a fantastic new old roof! The roof was completed in Jan 2017.

The next instalment will start to show you how we gradually rebuilt, and weather proofed our home.

We welcome any feedback, comments, and any personal recollections that you could share with us. We are always open to adding to our knowledge of The Old Workhouse. We are gradually preparing to offer 'teas and talks' here, so that you can gain some enjoyment of this lovely old building for yourselves.



THINGS TO DO



This is My Theatre will be performing **The Wonderful Wizard of Oz** at **St Mary's Church** on the **Chilton Industrial Estate** near Sudbury.
On **Wednesday 15th May** at **7pm**

The performance is a family friendly take on a much loved story which will be packed with music, merriment and plenty of magic. It will be sure to captivate audiences of all ages.

"There's no place like home"! When Dorothy is carried from her home in Kansas by a cyclone she finds herself in the magical land of Oz. She must journey to the Emerald City to meet with the great Wizard and with help of the friends she meets along the way, defeat the Wicked Witch of the West. Based on the original novel by L. Frank Baum it has been reimagined for the stage.

Doors open at 6.30pm, running time approximately 90 minutes. **Tickets are £15 for adults and £10 for under 16s.**

For more information and to book tickets:

<https://www.thisismytheatre.com>



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Jane Hatton

Local Community Officer, South East

M: 07392086936

Leavenheath Village Hall Cinema

is showing

WONKA

SATURDAY 6th APRIL

Comedy, Family

Starring Olivia Coleman, Matt Lucas, Hugh Grant

Running Time 1hr 55 mins with 20 mins interval

JOYRIDE

SATURDAY 4th MAY

A coming of age Drama PG—13

Starring Olivia Coleman, Charlie Reid & Lochlann Ó Mearáin

Running time 1hr 34 mins with 20 mins interval

Babergh District Council have given the Village Hall Cinema Committee a Community grant. This has enabled us to discount the ticket price for PRE-BOOKED TICKETS ONLY to £2

Tickets bought at the door £4.00 per Adult & £2.50 for Under 12's

You can pay by cash or card on the door

Reserve your seat online at www.leavenheathvillage.com

or telephone Marion on 01206 263301 to book your tickets.

Refreshments, wine, beer, soft drinks, coffee, tea will be available before the film and also during the interval along with ice creams.

Proceeds towards LVH Capital Project Fund (Charity no 262816)



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EASTER SATURDAY MARCH 30th 2-4pm

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free entry

Bring your children/grandchildren
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such as:



Making chocolate Easter nests



Easter egg hunt



General crafts (think paper, bunnies,
chicks and glue!)

Refreshments available

VILLAGE NEWS

Village Hall News

Hello All, I am very please to announce that the village hall has applied, and been accepted for 2 grants for works, firstly for a New Kitchen from the Babergh Community Grants Scheme to the value of £10,000 . There will also be new appliances installed. This will start to be installed in early May with a planned grand opening. We are also having car charging points fitted during the summer thanks to a long application process undertaken by Mark Hemmingway. This equates to around £14,000 for the full installation

Thank you to Assington Parish Council for CIL funding for us to be able to provide a foodbank, sited at the village hall, to help any of our residents in these hard times. This will be installed by early April , please donate any non perishable items if you are able, it will make a big difference to people who are struggling.

We are in planning stages for two events:

- a whole village event on **Sunday 5th May** that will include entertainment from our great Happy Sounds Choir, belly dance display, The Tippy Tricycle, The Houseshakers Band, and a BBQ and more, to get a hopefully great summer rolling.

- We will also be hosting a curry night prepared by an experienced chef, date to be arranged. This will be at an affordable cost for all.

We have a great village hall that needs a lick of paint so we will be holding a Brush, Beer and Burger Event, date to be arranged . If you are able to give us a bit of your time to help please do, many hands make life work. Drop me an email or give me a call on details below.

Please support **The Assington Horticultural Show in August** : date **Sunday 18th August** it has been going for 47 years and is part of our tradition and is a great country event for all, even the kids can enter!

We have recently had a fire alarm beacon fitted to the outside wall of the hall near the front door, if you see that this has been activated please call one of the numbers on the village hall notice board or if you see smoke or flames dial 999 for fire brigade response.

The Village Hall committee is still looking for a Secretary, if you have the time and would like to give it a go please do not hesitate to contact us..

Did You Know:

The Village Hall offers Reduced Hire rates for residents.

Lastly if anyone has an idea for an event that they would like to see, or would like to join us the team as an events arranger or just a pair of hands, please let us know and we will try to do it. Perhaps a Quiz Night, New Years Eve Party? Kids Christmas party, Halloween Party etc. Keep an eye on the Assington Community Facebook page for updates and posters around the village.

Thanks for reading, until next time.

David Wiles (Chairman) 07811108702 or david.wiles@live.co.uk (and for Fire Beacon)
Karen Wiles (Lettings Secretary) 07983002072 of karen.wiles@live.co.uk
Sean Mills (Caretaker) 07547190948 (and for Fire Beacon)

LOCAL FLOODING

Following the autumn and winter incessant rains and heavy downpours, you might like to know that

A Flood Line is available 24/7

If your property is in danger of being breached by water during or following heavy rain

call 0345 606 6171

[Suffolk County Council flood management](#)

ELEANOR LINSKOTT Formerly of Assington

There may be some older residents who remember the Linscott family, who left Assington in about 1992 or 3.

Sadly, Jon Linscott has dropped me a line to inform us that his mother, Eleanor, died on February 3rd, at the age of 94. Jon explained that after the loss of his father, and both his brothers, Jon and his wife along with his mother, moved up to the Yorkshire/Lancashire/Cumbria borders where Eleanor was taken care of so well at a local care home.

Jon went on to say:

"We all loved living in Assington for all those years and I know that she had many wonderful memories from those days, as do I."

ALLOTMENT AVAILABLE AT ASSINGTON MILL

Consisting of 10 Raised Beds, each about 10ft by 5ft (3 x 1.5m) of very fertile soil, at **Assington Mill**, at the southern end of the village.

**Contact Bob Cowlin
07391589158**



THE NATIONAL GRID PYLON UPGRADE From Bob Cowlin

The long-running Public Inquiry into National Grid's plans to upgrade the pylon line that runs near the southern end of the Village, has finished, and the Inspector should report to the Government by 12 June 2024.

The proposal is to demolish the smaller 132kV overhead line of pylons (which is part of the original National Grid, erected in the 1950's) and replace it with another 400kV overhead line to match the other existing line of pylons. If approved, works would start in 12 to 18 months' time and

cause some disruption.

This scheme is not connected to the other proposal to run a new line of pylons from Norwich to Tilbury, which, if approved would affect properties near Great Horkesley (and all of us as we travel around.)





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PARISH CHURCH NEWS



<https://assingtonchurch.org.uk>



Letter from the Rev Mary Cantacuzene

Dear Friends

We all know that our lives are not perfect, and the world seems particularly troubled at the moment. We have to accept the rough with the smooth and only try to change the things we can.

Assington is a particularly friendly village and many people live into active old age. A few months ago, a friend told me about "The Blue Zones", a TV documentary series about the places in the world where people live longer, and healthier, lives than any other places on the planet. The Island of Okinawa in Japan, small areas of Greece and Costa Rica, a little town in California, a region in Sardinia.

So what do those places have in common? What do those people do, that predetermine longevity and contentment?

Obviously gentle exercise and a good diet are part of the deal; but the real clinchers are a sense of purpose and community, being with people, seeing friends and family, small interactions every day;

And crucially FAITH: being part of something greater than yourself!

We don't all want to live to be 110, that's not necessarily the aim, it's about finding meaning and purpose in our lives. In the Blue Zones there is no dementia, and there's no need for care-homes either. Everyone pulls together and looks after everyone else; and everyone has a job into old age, however small: hoeing the allotment, or cuddling the babies, or chopping vegetables for the soup.

Sounds a bit like a Christian community to me!

With love in Him, **Mary**

BASIC COMMUNITY POP-UP SHOP

St. Mary's Church, Bures
Thursday 21 March at 12 noon



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Bronwen Stacey 210354
Organist: Bronwen Stacey 210354
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APRIL CHURCH SERVICES

7th April @ 10.30am BENEFICE COMMUNION

14th April Bures: HC@10.30am
Little Cornard: MW@10.30am

21st April @ 10.30am HOLY COMMUNION

28th April Bures: HC@10.30am
Little Cornard: HC@10.30am

**THE CHURCH IS OPEN FOR VISITORS
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Assington Church
QR Code

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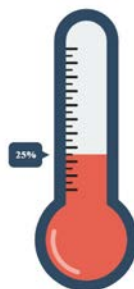
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A VIEW FROM AROUND THE BEND

Will someone please stop it raining, I have had enough of constant downpours and flooding.

My Celery trench has become a moat and the fish heads and guts that I put in the bottom of my runner bean trench are all floating and looking like a scene from Jaws the movie. My wibbly wobley path has become the Suez canal and I have had to put Henriates outdoor shelter on legs as he? she does not like it so close to the new floodplain. I have had enough. David Attenborough said that globe warming meant extremes of everything and he has been proved correct. It will surely even up with periods of baking hot weather and lack of rain to try us in another direction. It was so nice when we had seasons, now we just get weather.

Bobbie, bless her, dug a tunnel towards the new pond to get the excess water off from the street into our new facility but now that is full and coming back towards the cottage, which we cannot have as we have no known foundations and only brick pavement floors.

I think I will see if I can dig another small ditch, through the bottom hedge and into next door's patch, its downhill to the lawn and a little wet area there would look good, he can share our visiting heron as well, who recently picked out all the fish heads out of the bean trench. It might also stop him standing there and gawking through the hedge, when Bobbie sunbathes, has he not seen an undressed woman before? Sorry folks.

Still no prospects of work, I am trying hard and even have some postcards in local shops, advertising my services. I don't really have time for work now with all my home jobs and duties, we are ok financially as Bobbie has a very prestigious job with good pay but it is long hours and very stressful but she enjoys it and coming home to find the house cleaned and hot supper or breakfast prepared, depending on her shift, however she is quite demanding of me when she does get home, especially if she has had a long night shift. Strange that.

I try not to let her pay for too much but with everything now costing so much, I could not survive without her extra financial help. The state pension does just not go around any more and its going to be another 35 years at least before she becomes of an age to draw a pension, so guess it is best to work together and pool resources to get by, however do families with children survive on one wage?

Must be doing something right as she seems very settled and calm now and says she is the happiest she has ever been in her life, I guess me too as have adapted quite well to having someone around. She has really taken to looking after and developing the garden as well and we are both working hard to look after all the flower beds and stands of roses.

I prefer the vegetable patch and growing our food, so praying for fine weather, I can smell the new potatoes already. Must be getting older I guess, nice to have wisdom and good health to use it and enjoy the pleasures of spring with all the little birds and other animals, singing, frolicking and mating. The world seems a better place.

Her indoors is planning a holiday so we spend rest time together, so looking forward to that. Will tell all about that when it happens and if I have the energy and can survive.

Keep Well and smile, I know I will be. **Esra**

LOCAL FLOODING

A Flood Line is available 24/7

If your property is in danger of being breached by water during or following heavy rain call 0345 606 6171

Suffolk County Council flood management

SESAW NEWS

Have you heard about those scary Asian Hornets which are a huge threat to our native honey bees?

I hope our volunteers watch out for them in the garden at SESA. People can report any sightings via a mobile phone 'app' from the gov.uk website. Read about it at: New app to report Asian hornet sightings - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Birdsong, daffodils and lighter evenings herald the arrival of Spring but we have animals from last summer, still awaiting new homes, including a bonded pair of Saluki dogs.

Lily and Grey are looking for a loving home with a comfy sofa after raising their five puppies. If you, or someone you know, could be that special person they deserve, please call or email.

We are full to overflowing with rescued animals which is impeding vital maintenance so we have decided to close from 1st

April for at least one month to facilitate renovations. Rescue intake is now on a strictly emergency basis to free up the accommodation in need of repairs. Rehoming of animals will continue by appointment only during April and extra help will be drafted in to take incoming calls and emails. We apologise for any inconvenience caused whilst these essential works are carried out and hope everyone will be understanding until normal service can be resumed.

Warmest wishes for a blessed Easter and don't forget to keep any chocolate eggs away from animals, particularly dogs like me, Kenny (the Boss) Chihuahua. Suffolk & Essex Small Animal Welfare, Stoke Road, Leavenheath, CO6 4PP.
Tel: 01787 210888 www.sesaw.co.uk

BOXFORD & DISTRICT BOWLS CLUB

Report from Roz Mortlock

Many of our Boxford players bowl indoors throughout the winter at Sudbury Bowls Club, in leagues, competitions and friendly/social games. In March, the North Essex County Bowls Federation County Indoor Finals took place at Sudbury and we must congratulate our Boxford and Sudbury bowlers who won their matches and will now compete in the National Finals in April. They are:-

Ladies Triples: Gillian Barnes (Boxford), Roz Mortlock (Boxford) and Eileen Parker (Sudbury)

Ladies Pairs: Gillian Barnes and Eileen Parker

Ladies Senior Singles: Gillian Barnes

Men's Pairs: Malcolm Grimwood (Boxford) and Mark Wickenden (Sudbury). Good Luck to you all.

In March, our Social Committee organised a very successful social evening - not only was it a chance to catch up with everyone but it was also an opportunity to try out carpet bowls.

As the evenings start to draw out, it will not now be long until the start of the outdoor season. It has been a busy time over the last few months for some of our club members who have volunteered to help with preparing the Club and the green. A huge thank you to everyone who has been helping make the Club ready for the opening of the season in April.

And lastly, overdue congratulations to 3 of our bowlers who achieved a Hot Shot last year. Moira Carr, Margaret Blakebrough and Steve Marszal bowled an end when all 9 of their bowls (a triples game so 3 bowls each player) were closest to the jack. Hot Shots are pretty unusual - so well done. Let's hope for another one this coming season.



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A PALM SUNDAY STORY WITH A DIFFERENCE

From John Symons

In about 1835 B.C. an obelisk was carved in Heliopolis the then capital of Egypt. It stood there for nearly two thousand years before being transported to Rome on the orders of the emperor Caligula and erected at a circus named after the emperor.

Caligula's circus was the scene of many revels in which various means were devised to kill Christians, including, it is thought., the crucifixion of St. Peter (and probably St Paul.)

It stood there for fifteen centuries until in A.D. 1586 the Pope, Sixtus V arranged for it to be moved and erected in the square in front of the new St. Peters, church.

Imagine the scene on the day that it should have been raised; a tall wooden tower, pulleys and ropes, excited crowds, noise, a holiday atmosphere...chaos. It nearly fell and the Pope was furious. STOP all this, we will try again tomorrow and there will be TOTAL silence so that the workers can hear their instructions. Silence on pain of death...

The next day there was a much smaller, and VERY quiet, crowd. But even then something went wrong: a pulley was smoking, it would jam if the attendant (who was not looking) didn't throw water on it. A sailor in the crowd shouted out a warning, the day was saved, but despite this the sailor was arrested and taken before the Pope.

Thankfully the Pope was so pleased by the success of the operation that he not only forgave the sailor for shouting, he also offered him any wish he might make. The sailor asked for a day to think about what he might ask for, then on the following day asked that his village which was quite near Rome, might be the only supplier of palms to the Vatican in perpetuity. His wish was granted.

Now nearly 1500 years later that village is still the only supplier, all that the inhabitants have to do to earn a living wage is watch the palm trees grow!!

What a brave sailor to remember on Palm Sunday, but there is another even braver on that day:
....somebody who rode to His death knowing both how ghastly that would be but also that it would offer salvation to His followers.



ASSINGTON RAINFALL AND TEMPERATURES

Bill Milner (rainfall)

and Bob Cowlin (temperatures)

HISTORY annual rainfall :

2016	599.5	2017	571
2018	559	2019	597
2020	636	2021	582.3
2022	419	2023	662

2020	mm	max	min
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

2021	mm	max	min
JAN	89	10°C	-5.5°C
FEB	34	14°C	-7°C
MAR	26	20°C	-3°C
APR	1	15°C	-5°C
MAY	78.1	25°C	-2.5°C
JUNE	55.2	30°C	+3°C
JULY	72	28°C	7°C
AUG	29	24°C	5°C
SEP	28.5	27°C	3°C
OCT	74.5	18°C	1°C
NOV	27	13°C	-3°C
DEC	68	12°C	-6°C

2022	mm	max	min
JAN	7	12°C	-6.5°C
FEB	46	13°C	-4°C
MAR	29	18°C	-2°C
APR	9.5	22°C	-6°C
MAY	37	25°C	0°C
JUNE	33.5	30°C	2°C
JULY	5	36.5°C	6°C
AUG	11.5	32°C	7°C
SEPT	25	25°C	1°C
OCT	63	18°C	0°C
NOV	107.5	14°C	-2°C
DEC	45	10°C	-9.5°C

2023	mm	max	min
JAN	41	10°C	-7.5°C
FEB	3	14°C	-7°C
MAR	78	15°C	-6.5°C
APRIL	65	18°C	-2°C
MAY	19	22°C	1°C
JUNE	15.5	30.5°C	6°C
JULY	72.5	28°C	8°C
AUG	65	29°C	4°C
SEP	41.5	30.5°C	5°C
OCT	137	23°C	-2 °C
NOV	61.5	11°C	-7°C
DEC	63	11°C	-3°C

2024	mm	max	min
JAN	47	9°C	-7°C
FEB	95	9°C	-1°C

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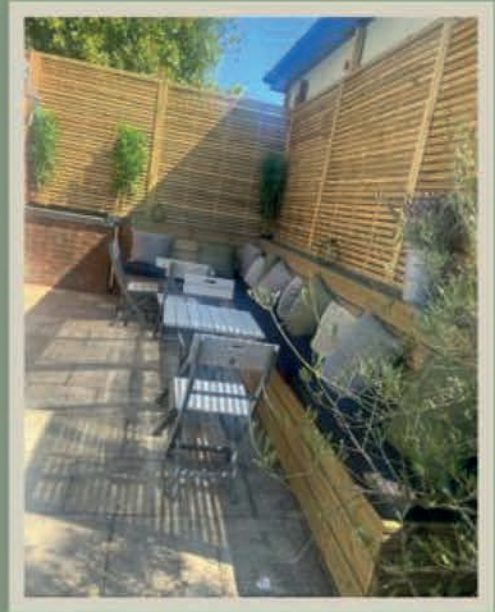


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