

ASSIGNMENT

NEWS



DECEMBER 2020

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 Bourner	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 Bourner	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
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	Lesley or Ken	01206 262505/ 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	
andrewpeterhill@hotmail.com	Andrew Hill	
Parish Council - Clerk, (assingtonpc@yahoo.com)	Jane Hatton	01787 468634
Polstead Films – www.http://polstead.onesuffolk.net/films	Sue Wigglesworth	01787 210029
Pub – The Shoulder of Mutton	Gavin & Aaron	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

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.

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Auditor	Ian Clark, 01787 211133



IT'S CHRISTMAS! CHRISTMAS FESTIVE LIGHTS

From Andrew Warner

Andrew and Kay from 12 Vicary Estate would like to inform Assington residents that we will be putting on a display of Christmas lights on our house, to help cheer everybody up during these difficult times.

The lights will be turned on in the evenings from early December onwards. If the lights are not on, please knock at the door (or call 01787 211157) and we will be happy to turn them on.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL
Andrew and Kay.



REMINDER: No January edition of the Assington News

The next edition of the Assington News will be a joint January and February 2021 edition, which will be delivered for the 1st February 2021.

That being the case,
we wish everyone in Assington a happy Christmas, and we hope to look forward to a good 2021, which we hope will bring better health, better prospects, joy and good spirits to you and your loved ones.

DECEMBER FOODBANK COLLECTION

Hurry hurry.....up to 9th December

This year has been difficult for everyone, but it has been especially so for many people who face financial worry, anxieties and hardship.

The Harvest time food Collection which the village donated to the Sudbury Storehouse was most gratefully received, but they already know that they need much more in order to provide help to the people in need over the Christmas period.

We are therefore organising another Assington Village collection for the Sudbury Storehouse.

Maxine has most kindly, once again, agreed to provide a point for our donations at the Village shop, which will take place **until 9 December**. The suggested items for the Christmas Food parcels are:

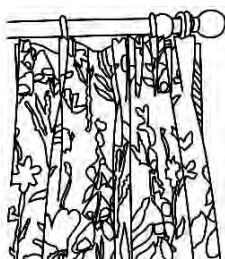
**Tins of Ham
Tins of Salmon
Xmas Pudding
Xmas Crackers
Savoury biscuits
Mince Pies
Chocolate**

**Chutney
Pickles
Custard
Sweets
Crisps
Yule Log
Hot Chocolate**

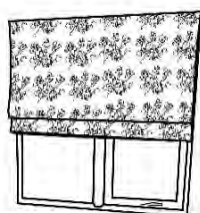
Thank you all so much for your ongoing generosity and help.

May you have an even happier time, knowing that you have added a bit of sparkle to someone else's Christmas.

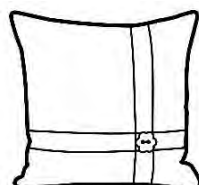
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If you have any ideas you would like to discuss, or want some help to create the look you are after, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Jacqui Egglestone
01787 211154
07770 520198
jacqui@littleshousedesigns.co.uk
littleshousedesigns.co.uk



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A BABY BOY WAS BORN

Stay home, Save Lives, Give Birth.



By Susana De Martin Barry

Here is a story that we hope will warm the cockles of your heart and pierce the lockdown gloom with rays of newborn joy. The tale begins in March, mere days before the first lockdown was imposed on a bewildered United Kingdom. Tom and I moved into Assington, together with Sebastian our (almost) walking 14 month old son. I was nearly two months pregnant and the stork was due to alight on our tiled roof on the 18th of October. I was certain that he would arrive earlier (cue prophetic music).

Tom is an airline pilot but because Coronavirus has decimated the travel industry he was not flying much over the summer months. Fast forward to the Autumn and his final flights before paternity leave were scheduled just two days before my due date. Tom was supremely (over)confident that the stork would be on time or even late. The night before his final flights I warned him I had a feeling that he shouldn't go to work. I said I had a premonition of him making a passenger announcement apologising that he had to leave them in the lurch due to his partner being in labour. Yet Tom was convinced the baby wouldn't arrive before the 18th 🙄

Well before dawn on the 16th of October, when Tom was getting ready for work in the pre-dawn darkness and the cocks had yet to open an eye, let alone crow, I woke

and started feeling great discomfort. I told Tom I thought something was happening. He believed it was nothing to worry about and suggested I was stressed because he was going to work. He reassured me that he would be back in the afternoon and all would be fine. He left for work at 4:40am. I nearly stopped him but I thought "what if baby doesn't come and I'm stopping him from going to work?!" So I didn't say anything.

Our little toddler, who was nearly 21 months at the time, sleeps in our room with us. That morning after Tom left for work I was going constantly to the en-suite bathroom. My little toddler woke, climbed out of bed and stood at the bathroom door showing his concern. I believe he knew something was happening. He shuffled over and sat on the footstool beside the toilet, occasionally giving me a reassuring cuddle. At the time we had an au-pair with us because we have no family locally and needed someone at very short notice to look after our toddler during the mad rush into hospital for the birth. Well, that was the thinking.

I started having unmistakable contractions at around 6am. Tom was already at the airport preparing an airliner, crew and passengers for a flight to Turin. In huge discomfort I took our toddler down the corridor to wake the au pair so she could look after him. I frantically called Tom to come back. Knowing it is a 45 minute drive for him to get home even if he were to teleport from the aircraft stand to the car park, mother's instinct told me I couldn't wait that long and I called for an emergency ambulance at 6 am.

23 minutes after I dialled 999 the first paramedic (a nervous but professional young man) arrived. He found me inelegantly on all fours in the bathroom, pleading for pain relief. He gallantly helped me to go to my bed and within moments another pair of paramedics arrived. Fortunately this pair included Dawn who was on her 28th home birth! Our glorious, if impatient, baby boy was born at 6:38 am. The paramedics noted the time of birth as 6:40 am and we let them write that instead as it was precisely the time Tom's plane was supposed to take off!



After making his Public Address to the passengers to wild cheering and running to the staff car park, Daddy missed almost all the excitement and arrived 25 minutes after the baby was born to find no fewer than 3 ambulances at home.

For his part, Baby, who has yet to be named (please send suggestions on a postcard, together with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh) evidently knew he was a lockdown baby and as such wanted to be born safely at home!

Though we are only renting In Assington and sadly we will have to move soon, we will always keep this lovely village in our heart.

Susana Tom, Sebastian and Baby!



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PARISH CHURCH NEWS

*Letter from the Revd Steve Morley, Vicar
Bures with Assington and Little Cornard*

Dear Friends

As I write this letter for the Christmas magazine, we are all in the middle of a second national lockdown which is planned to run until early December. And that means that once again our churches are closed for public worship, just at a time when people may have a particular need for the comfort and re-assurance of prayer and worship together. Please be assured that we will do all that we can at St Edmunds to offer opportunities for worship in person and on line in this special season.

Some people are already speculating that tougher restrictions may last in some form or another down to Christmas. By the time you read this, the position will, I hope, be clearer, but one thing is for sure – this year Christmas is going to be like no other.

I know all this uncertainty can be very unsettling for all of us, and for some it can even be a source of fear. We don't know what Christmas is going to look like this year or whether we will be able to enjoy the company of friends and family. It feels as if we may have to give up such a lot of what we would normally consider essential ingredients of a normal Christmas.

In a recent session of our online homegroup, "Discipleship Explored" we were all asked to consider what might be the things we would find really difficult to give up if asked. People came up with many things which understandably they would hate to lose: homes, jobs, security, friends. And then at the end one person said something very simple but profound: "I couldn't give up love. Loving and being loved."

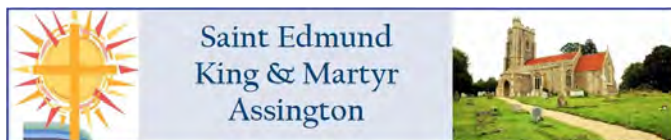
Christmas is the time, of course, when we celebrate the incarnation, God coming to be with us – Emmanuel. We remember that God's love for this world is so great that he becomes part of the everyday nitty-gritty of human life – with all its joy and sadness, beauty and squalor. "Love came down at Christmas", writes Christina Rossetti in the carol. No matter what aspects of Christmas we might have to give up this year, one thing remains – love. No matter what is cancelled this year, love is not absent.

And if we truly believe that love is the one constant we can be sure of this Christmas, then maybe we have an answer to those feelings of uncertainty, anxiety and fear. For, as the Bible reminds us, "perfect love drives out all fear": (1 John 4:18).

Whatever it looks like this year – have a wonderful Christmas.

With blessings and best wishes

Steve.



Church Website

Assington Church now has its own website.

Look it up on

['assingtonchurch.org.uk'](http://assingtonchurch.org.uk)

Assington Church

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

zoom

Get Together

Every Sunday morning

Please get in contact if you would like to receive invitations



assingtonchurch.org.uk

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

Revd Steve Morley - 01787 227407
Revd Simon White - 07572 418555

Schedule of services at Assington Church

(depending on C19 guidance)

13 December 10.30 ASSINGTON
Holy Communion

20 December: **See notices for service & time**

25 December 10.30 ASSINGTON
Family Communion

Vicar:	Rev Steve Morley	227407
Reader:	Dr John Symons	211534
Assistant		
Priest	Rev Simon White	07572 418555
Organist:	Bronwen Stacey	210354
Sec:	Emily Cartlidge	07976 724266
Treasurer:	Ian Clark	211133
Churchwardens:		
	Roger Britcher	211021
	Bronwen Stacey	210354

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BOOK REVIEW

From Ellie Mead

'A Right Royal Face-off: A Georgian Entertainment featuring Tho' Gainsborough and Another Painter'

by Simon Edge (2019)

In 1777 Thomas Gainsborough is living in London with his family and servants and painting portraits of the rich and famous. However, he would greatly prefer to paint landscapes and through the eyes of his young footman we learn much about Gainsborough's character and life at this time.

His rival is Sir Joshua Reynolds, President of the Royal Academy of Arts. Who will George III choose to be his new court painter: Reynolds or Gainsborough? The second strand of the story is set in modern Sudbury where a TV crew are shooting an episode of an Antiques show in St Peter's Church, overlooked by the statue of Gainsborough.

The two strands are woven together when an elderly woman living in School Street appears with a strange painting which she claims is a Gainsborough.

Initially I was very drawn into the world of 18th century London which is richly described, with many comic episodes. Consequently I rather resented the intrusion of the modern day story despite its local setting. However, after a while I saw that the mystery of how the two story-lines were linked was cleverly designed to keep the reader guessing until the final pages.

The author 'lives in Suffolk', somewhere not too far from Sudbury I'd wager.



SESAW NEWS

Hello, I guess this trail of biscuit crumbs, boiled sweets and tissues is from Mum's pocket, thanks to my housemate, Pushy Penny. If Mum leaves her coat unattended, that naughty Yorkie wastes no time in raiding the contents. Nothing is safe, sometimes she chews a hole right through, hence the scattered contents.

We hope the Lockdown has ended when you read this so that our plans are safe and not scattered. Our indefatigable fundraisers should be selling 'classy gifts' and running a



Tombola at the Festive Fair on Saturday 12th December at Bridge Farm Barn, Monks Eleigh, IP7 7AY.

Sharon's Christmas face masks will also be on offer, quite the must-have fashion accessory for humans!

We are still rehoming animals by appointment only but politely ask that nothing is left at the Sanctuary without prior arrangement. We have to limit intake because everything must be quarantined to protect volunteers and bedding; food or sale goods left at random make this impossible.

Thank you for your unwavering support and best wishes for a safe and peaceful Christmas from all of us, including Ollie (the Black) Cat and me, (Kenny the Boss) Chihuahua.

Suffolk & Essex Small Animal Welfare, Reg.Charity No.1124029.
Stoke Road, Leavenheath, CO6 4PP. 01787 210888
www.sesaw.co.uk info@sesaw.co.uk

SESAW APPEAL

This year, for the first time ever, we are making a Christmas Appeal. Unfortunately COVID-19 has severely curtailed our fundraising efforts but a regular monthly payment for as little as £2 (more if you wish) will help us so much at the moment.

If you would like to give someone a present that will help a needy animal throughout the year, please make cheques or BACS payable to Suffolk & Essex Small Animal Welfare at NatWest Bank, Account No. 52717321, Sort Code 60-21-30 or go to our sponsorship on our website at: https://www.sesaw.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/sponsorship-form_2018.pdf

Thank you to all supporters, past, present and future.

Suffolk & Essex Small Animal Welfare, Reg.Charity No.1124029.
Stoke Road, Leavenheath, CO6 4PP. 01787 210888
www.sesaw.co.uk info@sesaw.co.uk

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY



This year, all hopes of being able to participate in a village communal Act of Remembrance were dashed by the national requirements which dictated that they be restricted only to Public memorials, where very small scale wreath-laying ceremonies could be held.

Sadly, therefore, David Wiles was unable to perform a flag-bearing procession, carrying the Union Standard through the village from Rose Green. However, a very short Remembrance acknowledgement took place at a central point in the village; the 2 minute silence was followed by the Kohima Epitaph. (see over page for an explanation of the Kohima Epitaph).

THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS WAS GIVEN ORIGINALLY BY COLONEL CHRIS POPE OBE, IN ASSINGTON CHURCH IN 2018. IT HAS BEEN RE-ORDERED CHRONOLOGICALLY AND EDITED A LITTLE THIS YEAR BY THE EDITOR, BS

On Remembrance Sunday, we remember all those who gave their lives in the service of their country during and since the Great War. Every year on Remembrance Sunday communities gather to honour those who left but never returned. Those who paid the ultimate sacrifice.

Each time I hear the names of the men on the memorial in Assington Church, I wonder what was behind that name. Who were they? What life did they leave behind? How did they die, and where are they now?

None of us is old enough to know what life in Assington was like before the Great War. So we have to return to the records to try and understand.

In 1911, Assington was a very small rural community where nearly everyone worked on the land. The small hamlet of Leavenheath was part of the parish. The parish population was 507 living in 124 dwellings. There were 9 Smith households, 8 Frosts, 6 Butchers and 8 Rices – the latter occupying both Society Farm and Moore Farm where John and Louisa used to live. Ambrose, Lock, Baker, Gentry, Bell and Osbourne were common names. One can only imagine that many of these were extended families in a very close-knit community.

The vicar was the Reverend Henry Banham. James Butcher was the patron of the 'Case is Altered' beer house on Further Street. Frank Gooday was landlord at the Shoulder of Mutton. Harvey and Rose Chatters ran the General Store. Rose was the postmistress and Harvey both grocer and baker. They lived about the shop with their seven children aged between 15 and 4 months. Walker Wright was the postman and Vincent Wheeler was the school master.

So, what of the men listed on our memorial?

Once again this year, I was struck by the enormity of the impact which the deaths, day by day....month by month... and year upon year, of these (mostly young) men must have had on the local Assington community.



1915

- **Alfred Ernest Baker** was born in Assington but lived in Witham. He enlisted in the 11th Battalion of the Essex Regiment and was **killed in action on the Western Front on 26/9/1915, aged 33**. He is commemorated at the Loos Memorial.

1916

- **Thomas Stammers** lived in 11 Verona Villas, Sudbury with his wife May Eugenie and his baby daughter Dorothy Elizabeth May. His wife May was the sister of Douglas Vero Rice. At some stage they moved to Assington as she is listed as living in the Old School House. A General Warehouseman by trade, he joined the 9th Battalion. The Royal Fusiliers. **He died on 7/7/1916** (one week after the beginning of the Battle of the Somme). He is commemorated at Thiepval. He was 26. His wife May lost both her husband and her brother within two months of each other.
- **Frederick William Rice** was the son of Frederick William Rice, a Farm Labourer, and Mary Ann. They lived at number 16. He was a driver in the Royal Field Artillery stationed in India. He died of Pyrexia (very high fever) **aged 19 on the 26/7/1916** and is commemorated on the Kirkee 1914-1918 War Memorial in Khadki, India.
- **Douglas Vero Rice** lived at number 6 Assington Street (as it was then known). He lived with his father Walter, a horse keeper, and his mother Sarah. He was a Lance Corporal in the 9th Battalion, The Loyal North Lancashire Regiment. He died on **3/9/1916 aged 23** at the Battle of the Somme and is commemorated at Delville Wood Cemetery, Longueval.
- **Charles John Locke** lived at Greens Farm, Leavenheath. He was a farmer's son and worked on the family farm. He lived with his father John, mother Eliza and seven siblings. He joined the 9th Battalion of the Suffolk Regiment. He was a Sergeant even though only 21 and **died on 20/9/1916, whilst serving on the Western Front**. He is commemorated at the Abbeville Community Cemetery Extension.

• **George Rice** was a farmer's son who on lived Further Street with his father Samuel John and mother Kate. He joined the 2nd Battalion of the London Regiment and was **killed at the Battle of the Somme on Saturday 14/10/1916 aged 19**. He is buried in Ecoivres Military Cemetery, Mont-St. Eloi.

• **Edward Harry Bell**, (younger brother of James Claude Bell), a farm labourer, lived at number 23 with his wife Alice and baby daughter Gertrude. He served as a Gunner in the Royal Horse Artillery and **died at the Battle of the Somme on 11/11/1916** one week before the battle officially ended. He is commemorated at Grove Town Cemetery, Meaulte.

1917

• **Stephen Sadler** was born in Borley, near Sudbury, to father William and mother Diana. He spent his childhood at Lower Jennies Farm, Bures Hamlet. On the 1911 Census he was living in Newmarket with his wife and two daughters, his parents having moved to Assington. He enlisted in the 16th Battalion, Lancashire Fusiliers. **On 1/4/1917 (the day he died)** the 16th Battalion were involved in the Action of April Fool's Day at Savy Wood. As they crested a ridge, the whole brigade came under intense shrapnel fire. Stephen is buried at Foreste Communal Cemetery where those killed very early in the assault are to be found. **He was 41.**

- The Baker family lived at number 18 The Street. Their son **Charles John Baker**, a jobbing Gardener was living in Kilburn with his wife Eliza and three small children. He served with the 6th Battalion, The Queen's (West Surrey Regiment) and **died, aged 39, on 1/5/1917** during the Battle of Arras – 3 days before his comrade Ernest Frost. He is commemorated on the Arras War memorial.
- **Ernest Frost**, the brother of Charles Frost, was a stockman who served in the 6th Battalion of the Queen's (Royal West Surrey) Regiment. He died on **4/5/1917** in the Battle of Arras, **aged 22**. He is commemorated at the Arras War Memorial.
- Living at number 22 Assington Street, **James Claude Bell** was the eldest son to father James, who was a carpenter, his mother Ellen and had six siblings. He joined the 3rd Battalion of the Australian Infantry. He was **killed at the Battle of Paschendale on 4/10/1917, aged 36**. He is commemorated at Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery in Belgium.
- **Thomas Vernon Austin** was a farmer's son and lived at Pump Farm with his parents Charles and Sarah and his four sisters and three nieces. He joined the Queen's (West Surrey Regiment) and **was killed on the second day of the Battle of Cambrai 21/11/1917 aged 25**. This battle is notable as it was the first to see the use of tanks en masse. He is commemorated on the Cambrai War Memorial where there are over 700 names of English and Canadian Soldiers who have no grave.

1918

- **Albert Jakeman** lived with his widowed mother Eliza, brother Frank, sister Emily and cousin Edgar in Partridge Row. He joined up aged 17 years and 11 months in the 3rd Battalion, The Durham Light Infantry and spent his war years in the North East defending the coast from invasion. He was treated in Mill Dam Red Cross Hospital in South Shields after being wounded and **died there on 19/1/1918, aged 19**. He is buried in the North East part of Assington churchyard, in our only War Grave.
- The Frost family lived at number 7 Assington Street. **Charles Frost**, (brother of Ernest) was a 'cow' boy who lived with his father George, a horseman, his mother Ethel, four siblings and a lodger. He joined the 2nd Battalion of the Leinster Regiment. He died on **4/2/1918 aged 20**, whilst fighting on the Western Front. He is commemorated at Tincourt New British Cemetery.
- **James Smith MM** was an Under Gardener who lived with his Father George who was also a Gardener, his mother Eliza and sister Jessie in Partridge Row, Barracks Lane. He joined the 8th Battalion, The East Surrey Regiment when they were based in Colchester. He was wounded on 13th February 1916 and was entitled to wear a Wound Stripe. This stripe allowed those who had appeared in a Casualty List (in James' case the London Gazette of 23rd February 1916) to wear a two-inch stripe of gold Russian braid sewn onto the left sleeve of their jacket. He was awarded a Military Medal for bravery as part of the famous football attack at the beginning of the Battle of the Somme. His battalion dribbled 4 footballs as they crossed no-man's land to attack the German trenches. His award was published in the London Gazette on 21st December 1916. He **died on the 22/3/1918, aged 28**, fighting in Operation Michael where Germany inflicted a humiliating defeat on the British Army with a massive bombardment that ripped a hole in weak British defences on the Somme. He is commemorated on the

Pozières Memorial. He left behind a wife and young daughter.

- **Thomas William Griggs**, a farm labourer, lived on Further Street with his widowed father Henry. He joined the 7th Battalion, The Suffolk Regiment and **died on 27/3/1918 aged 19**, six days after the beginning of the German Spring Offensive and is remembered at the Pozières War Memorial. This Memorial commemorates over 14,000 casualties of the United Kingdom and 300 of the South African Forces who have no known grave and who died on the Somme from 21 March to 7 August 1918.
- **Saccariah Oscar Gentry** was a farm labourer who lived in Dyers Lane, with his widowed mother Emma Gentry and his two younger brothers. He joined the 7th Battalion of the Bedfordshire Regiment and **died in the Battle of Arras on 03/05/1918 aged 24** and is commemorated on the Arras War Memorial which is dedicated to nearly 35000 soldiers of British, New Zealand and South African armies who have no known grave.
- Stephen's younger brother **John Sadler** was born at Bures and by 1911 was a regular soldier serving with 1st Battalion, The Suffolk Regiment in Egypt. He subsequently transferred to the 1st Battalion, The Cambridgeshire Regiment. **He died on 8/8/1918, aged 32** at Morlancourt on the first day of the final 100-day offensive which ultimately led to the end of the war. He is commemorated at the Ribemont Communal Cemetery Extension at the Somme.
- The Ambrose family lived down Partridge Row. **William Henry Ambrose** lived with his father Joseph, a farm labourer, his mother Mary and sister Rose. He joined the Machine Gun Corps and **was killed whilst advancing on the Hindenburg Line at the Western Front on 6/10/1918, aged 19**. The Machine Gun Corps commonly served well in advance of the front line. It had a less enviable record for its casualty rate. Some 170,500 officers and men served in the MGC with 62,049 becoming casualties, including 12,498 killed, earning it the nickname 'the Suicide Club'. He is commemorated at Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery in Belgium.
- **Frederick G Palmer** was a farmer's son who lived in Woodthorpes farm house with his parents George and Theresa and sisters Annie and Hilda. He joined the Suffolk Yeomanry as a Private and served in the Battle of Gallipoli. He later joined the Employment Company, Labour Corps in Egypt as a Lance Corporal. He **died on 17/12/1918** and is buried in Cairo Cemetery, Egypt.

And so,

William, Vernon, Charles, Alfred, Edward, James, Charles, Ernest, Oscar, Thomas, Albert, Charles, Frederick, Douglas, Fred, George, John, Stephen, James, and Thomas:

those of us who live here, in this place you once called home, in this place where the families and loved ones you left behind called home, we salute you, honour you and remember your lives as boys and men of Assington, as men who fought valiantly in service of this country and who made the ultimate sacrifice in the pursuit of everlasting peace.

All gave some, you gave all.





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THE KOHIMA EPITAPH

The **Battle of Kohima**, together with the intertwined Battle of Imphal, proved the turning point of the Japanese Offensive into India in 1944 during the Second World War of 1939-1945.

The battle took place in three stages from 4 April to 22 June 1944 around the town of Kohima, the capital of Nagaland in northeast India.

From 3 to 16 April, the Japanese attempted to capture Kohima ridge, a feature which dominated the road by which the besieged British and Indian troops of IV Corps at Imphal were supplied. By mid-April, the small British and Indian force at Kohima was relieved.

From 18 April to 13 May British and Indian reinforcements counter-attacked to drive the Japanese from the positions they had captured. The Japanese abandoned the ridge at



this point but continued to block the Kohima–Imphal road.

From 16 May to 22 June the British and Indian troops pursued the retreating Japanese and reopened the road. The battle ended on 22 June when British and Indian troops from Kohima and Imphal met at Milestone 109, ending the Siege of Imphal.

The battle has been referred to as the "*Stalingrad of the East*".

The epitaph carved on the memorial of the 2nd British Division in the cemetery has become world-famous as the Kohima Epitaph. It reads:

***When you go home, tell them of us and say,
For your tomorrow, we gave our today***

The verse is attributed to John Maxwell Edmonds (1875–1958), and is thought to have been inspired by the epitaph written by Simonides to honour the Spartans who fell at the Battle of Thermopylae in 480 BC.



PARAKEETS IN LONDON

Usually, on Remembrance Sunday, I attend the Assington Church Service, where we link up with the live radio service. As Big Ben strikes 11, and the guns go off to signal the commencement of the two minutes' silence, the world stops, and all one can hear isnothing.....except.....a seagull! It happens so regularly every year that someone supposed we played the same recording every year; I had to reassure him that we do actually link up with the live service, in order to join in properly with the nationwide display of respect.

This year I was able to watch at 11.00am the live Remembrance Sunday: The Cenotaph programme on BBC1. And this year, for the first time, instead of the usual silence, broken only by the inimitable seagull, there was a constant background screech fromParakeets.



Parakeets have become increasingly noticeable in London in recent years. They are feral, wild-living, non-native parakeets that are an introduced species into Great Britain. The population consists of rose-ringed parakeets (*Psittacula krameri*), a non-migratory species of bird native to Africa and the Indian Subcontinent. The origins of these birds in London are subject to speculation, but they are generally thought to have bred from birds that escaped from captivity.

The British parakeet population is mostly concentrated in suburban areas of London and the Home Counties of South-East England. The parakeets, which breed rapidly in the London suburbs, have since spread beyond these areas, and flocks have been sighted in other parts of Britain.



They have become naturalised in the south-east especially, aided by warmer winters. They nest in holes in trees in gardens and parkland, and are often found in noisy, roosting flocks of hundreds of birds. They eat nuts, seeds, berries and fruits. Now they are invading gardens, and monopolising bird feeders intended for our native birds we like to attract into our gardens.

Nick Peasland

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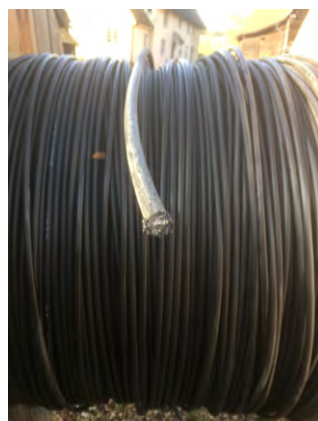
VILLAGE NEWS ITEMS

BROADBAND IN ASSINGTON

From Bob Cowlin

Its great news: fibre optic broadband is becoming available in Assington, or at least in the main part of the village. Fibre optic cables run from Sudbury to a green box in The Street and the network is gradually being extended. You may have noticed BT Openreach vans recently in the village extending the network. Fibre cables are either laid underground or above ground supported on telegraph poles. Signals travel at the speed of light which is a great improvement on speeds using the old copper wire.

If you have been walking or riding at the southern end of the village through Mill Farm recently, I am afraid you may have noticed trenching and rather more mud than normal. This is where a fibre optic cable has been laid to provide Broadband to houses and businesses around Arger Fen. It



is a Community Funded Project which is available from Openreach where enough properties can benefit. Work is hoped to be completed by Christmas to provide properties with speeds upto 300Mpts which will be a great improvement.

Picture shows the 48 strand armoured optical fibre cable being used which is about the width of my small finger – apparently enough to power a small town.

SUPERFAST BROADBAND FOR THE WHOLE VILLAGE?

From Nettie Osman

If you are one of the people at the end of the village that doesn't have access to fibre broadband, and would like the opportunity to have it installed, please get in touch. I'm in discussions with Openreach about getting it extended, and there potentially is Government funding available to cover the cost of installation if you live in an eligible postcode, however we have to have enough households interested to make it viable.

I have just found out that we are eligible at Rose Green. If you're in this part of the village, or in Barracks Lane, and are interested in getting this service to your property, please email me with your name, address and postcode to janette.gunn@yahoo.com, or text 07957 394780.

PUB NEWS: THE SHOULDER OF MUTTON

From Bob Cowlin

We are very pleased to hear the Shoulder of Mutton PH has been purchased by Stock and Bailey Ltd., who have other pubs and restaurants in Sudbury, Lavenham and Hadleigh. It is currently under extensive refurbishment and will be opening again sometime in the New Year, Covid rules allowing of course.



VILLAGE HALL & Post Office Service

Update from Stephen King

The Post Office at the Village Hall is operating an essential service on Mondays 1.30 to 3.30 and Wednesdays 9 - 12 throughout Lockdown #2 but the Village Hall is closed for all other activities under Covid-19 restrictions. Residents wishing to hire the hall are asked to contact the Bookings Secretary, Louisa Symons 01787 211534, or the Charity Secretary, Claire Osborne 07920 800108, for further updates when restrictions are lifted.

LITTER

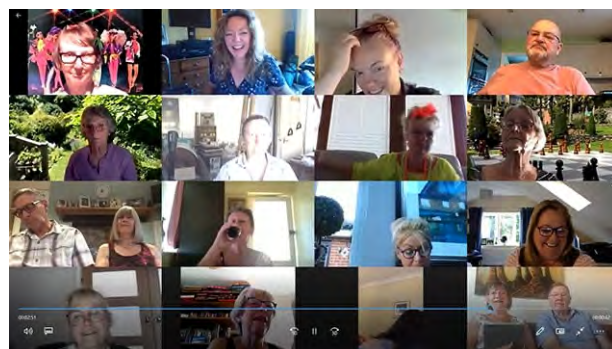
In October a new blue litter bin was installed at the entrance to the Village Hall car park by the Caretaker, Paul Battle. The bin was bought by the Village Charity to encourage the public to dispose of their empty metal drink cans and plastic bottles for recycling. So far it is proving successful in cutting down the waste which occasionally overflows from the open traditional litter bin nearby.



SING4WELLNESS

- a new online singing group for anyone at home during Covid-19

From Nettie Osman



This group has been put together in response to the pandemic - many of us have found ourselves isolated, and have faced huge challenges with both our physical and mental well-being over the last few months. The aim of it is to lift our spirits and help our health through having a good sing-song online, and to say hello to some friendly new faces over a cup of tea afterwards.

It doesn't matter if you don't think you can sing – the sessions are on Zoom and your computer microphone will be muted, due to time lag! We'll be singing well-known popular songs from the 1940's onwards. Assington choir leader Nettie Osman will be leading the singing, and there will be themed sessions for music from different eras, as well as different genres. You'll be able to see the lyrics on-screen. All you need is an internet connection, and a PC/Laptop/ipad /Smartphone, with Zoom Basic installed (free).

This group is particularly suited to people with breathing difficulties, people with dementia, and to anyone who thinks singing may be of benefit to their physical and mental wellbeing. The aim is to keep it affordable, and as such, the subscription will be a small monthly fee that covers two people, so that carers can come along too. We plan to start in November 2020, and will meet at 10am every Tuesday. Please go to our Contact page at www.Happysounds.co.uk, send an email, and type WELLNESS in the subject box to register your interest.



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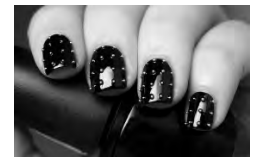
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I look forward to hearing from you.

BOXFORD SCHOOL NEWS

By Callie Bradbury

Hello, this month we have a box of surprises leading up to an unusual Christmas of which we have no idea about how to go about it.

This half term the school value is THANKFULNESS which leads in nicely to Remembrance Day. Remembrance Day will be unusual but it is just as important as ever. On the 11th hour of the 11th day of November at school, we will have a two minute silence and thank all those who died for our freedom. I hope you can all buy a poppy: remember 'EVERY POPPY COUNTS'.

This term yr 6 have been learning about circuits and with their knowledge have created some amazing STEADY HAND BUZZ GAMES.



Here is an example of yr 6's amazing creations. They had a great time learning about how to make them and what a turn out.

On Friday 13th November the school is dressing down into something spotty to raise money for CHILDREN IN NEED. The school will be collecting donations in every class.



Each class is going to make a Christmas hamper full of festive goodies and then we will raffle them to raise money for the school. Each child will bring one item from the list to create their class hamper. We hope to have a great Christmas hamper this year to fund projects at the school.

ASSINGTON RAINFALL AND TEMPERATURES

Bill Milner and Bob Cowlin

2016 TOTAL 599.5

2017 TOTAL 571

2018 TOTAL 559

2019 TOTAL 597

2018	mm	max	min
JAN	60.5	11°C	-3°C
FEB	41	9°C	-8°C
MAR	74	14°C	-5°C
APR	49.5	26.5°C	+1°C
MAY	38.5	27°C	+0.5°C
JUN	1.5	31°C	+5°C
JULY	19.5	36°C	+10°C
AUG	83	35°C	+6°C
SEP	29	25°C	-0.5°C
OCT	30.5	23°C	-2°C

2019	mm	max	min
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

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

PRINT ASSINGTON NEWS IN COLOUR? From Bob Cowlin

You may recall we printed October's edition in colour because it included a lovely splash of colour photos, especially of the annual Horticultural Show and Scarecrow Competition.

But November's (and this edition) reverted to black and white, although you can see a colour version on line (assington.onesuffolk.net). And Belinda King's pictures look so much better in colour, I do agree.

But colour printing is rather more expensive. November's black and white edition cost £175 whereas October's colour edition cost £378. So if we did print all future editions in glorious colour, that would mean doubling the cost of advertising, which I think many businesses, particularly at this time, would not support. Or would you readers be willing to pay perhaps £1 a copy each month? Then we would have the problem of collecting it, so I think this is not practical.

So for the moment we will continue to print most editions in black and white with a colour splash occasionally, when an edition particularly warrants it, unless you ask us otherwise. Please do let me or Bronwen know what you think.
Bob Cowlin Treasurer 01787 229955 or 07391 589158

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NATURE WATCH

from Rose Symonds

On Sunday 8th November while Roger and I were out walking our dogs in the Thicks we found a little dead bird on the ground, the species wasn't immediately obvious, our first thought was maybe a young Robin, the bird had been ringed; we took it home to report its demise.

I firstly rang Suffolk Wildlife Trust who directed me to the BTO website (British Trust for Ornithology) ringing team, where I completed their simple online form using the information obtained from this tiny leg ring, (with the aid of my grandmothers old magnifying glass)!

The next day I received an emailed report from the BTO: our little bird Ring number ACP9672 was a juvenile LESSER REDPOLL (*Acanthis Cabaret*) which had been ringed on October 17th in the village of WAXHAM Norfolk, just 23 days earlier, it had then flown the 103km from the ringing site to Assington.

Other interesting facts:-

Over 900,000 birds are ringed each year in Britain and Ireland.

Ringing began over 100 years ago to study the movement of birds, survival rates & nesting sites.

The oldest recorded bird – Manx Shearwater, 50 years 11 months.

Furthest travelled - Arctic Tern from Wales to Australia, a distance of 18,000 km

Strangest recovery – Osprey whose ring was recovered from the stomach of a Crocodile in The Gambia!



The Lesser Redpoll's

conservation status in the UK is classified as Red, under the Birds of Conservation Concern 4: the Red List for Birds (2015), and is protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act.

The lesser redpoll can be identified by being a very streaky-brown finch, which has a small black bib and a distinctive red forehead.

It is a small finch of mixed woodland, birch scrub and wet woodland. It spends much of its time feeding on seeds and invertebrates in tall trees, especially Birch, Alder and Larch. It can be seen in flocks, often with Siskins, and is becoming a more common garden visitor. Its habitat is farmlands, wetlands, woodland, towns and gardens.

.....and From Nick Miller

Slime Moulds seem to be little known, but this November many large blobs of one such creature have appeared at Tiger Hill: the poor little thing is called "Dog's Vomit".



Starting off bright yellow, it soon turns white, before collapsing into a mass of spores that look like soot spread on the grass.



Another, disparagingly called "False Puffball", appeared in several recent years on a tree trunk at Tiger Hill. Very spongy, the colour of silver foil, and the size and shape of a tea cake, it too becomes a black mass of spores.



Slime moulds aren't a plant, or an animal, or even a fungus. They are a relative of the Amoeba, single-celled creatures - they can detect the smell of food and actually walk towards it with "pseudopodia" eating decayed matter, fungi and other primitive creatures. The little single cell will eventually expand to contain many thousands of nuclei, walking around in the form of a sheet or slug-shaped, and it's in this state that by some miracle it's able to learn a laboratory maze with a food reward. Eventually food may run short, and then it climbs up grass stalks or bark, to sporulate.

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Fiona Duncan, Sunday Telegraph

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