

ASSIGNMENT

NEWS



JANUARY/FEBRUARY 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	
andrewpeterhill@hotmail.com	Andrew Hill	
Parish Council - Clerk, (assingtonpc@yahoo.com)	Amy Benton	07789 182210
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

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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
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Thank you to Nettie Osman, who submitted her painting of the track from Assington Mill.

We are indeed fortunate to have so many creative and artistic residents in the village.



THINGS TO DO (AT HOME) IN FEBRUARY 2021

2nd Feb Candlemas Day

To mark the mid-point of winter, half way between the shortest day and the spring equinox, you could light a candle as dusk descends, (remembering to extinguish it when you leave the room!)

4th Feb Harry Potter Book Night

Harry Potter Book Night is a chance for fans young and old to celebrate J.K. Rowling's wonderful series - and it's a chance to pass the magic on to new readers who haven't yet discovered these unforgettable books.

5th Feb World Nutella Day

A day dedicated to enjoyment of this most popular of chocolate and hazelnut spreads.

7th Feb Charles Dickens Day

Celebrating one of Britain's greatest writers on his birthday: why not start to read (and finish!!!) a classic such as Great Expectations?

12th Feb Chinese New Year

The New Year according to the Chinese Calendar. The event is celebrated all around the world. Try making a Dragon mask.

12th Feb Darwin Day

A celebration of scientist Charles Darwin, author of The Origin of Species. Have a go at researching Charles Darwin's life, the Galapagos Islands or The Beagle, his exploration ship, currently buried under Essex river mud near Paglesham.

14th Feb St. Valentine's Day

The annual celebration of love is the day when we take the opportunity to tell the people we love just how much they mean to us. Don't take the easy option - I think a home-made card is the order of the day this year.

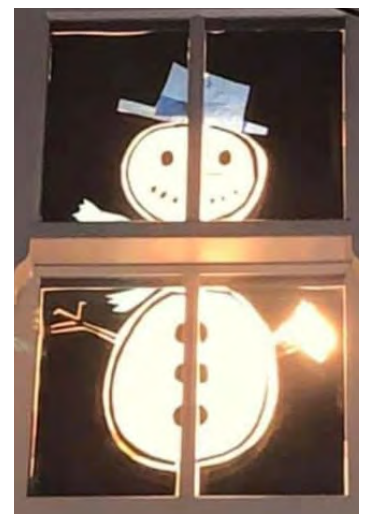
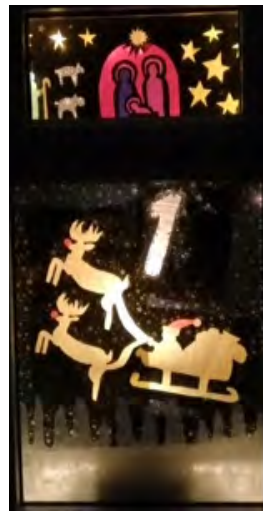
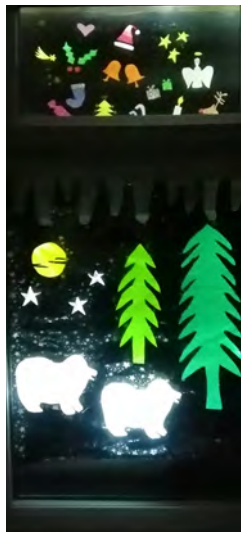
16th Feb Pancake Day

Pancake Day or Shrove Tuesday is the day before Lent begins, when people would traditionally use up all their fat and eggs by making pancakes. Get tossing those pancakes.

27th Feb International Polar Bear Day

Every year, this global event draws attention to the challenges polar bears face in a warming Arctic and how we each can help. Watch [Bare Existence](#), a powerful short film produced by Canada Goose. It documents our work with polar bears, driving awareness and inspiring action.

**ASSINGTON
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one thing that was
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MILL FARM CATTLE

By Bob Cowlin

If you walked through Mill Farm at the southern end of the village towards Arger Fen in the summer, you will have seen a small herd of English Longhorn cattle, as shown on the front cover of this issue.

These Longhorns are one of England's oldest recorded breeds originating from the Midlands. They typically have long curved horns (cows and bulls), not necessarily symmetrical. They come in a number of different colours, never two the same, but all have a distinctive white strip down the centre of their back and white points on each back leg.



They are hardy but docile animals and are good conservation grazers ie not too fussy how rough the grazing is, which is good for me. I have them in the summer months, partly to help their owners Sophie and Tim Gurton from Colletts Farm, Wormingford with additional grazing and partly to keep my rough grass fields in good order.

Sophie tells me she started the herd in 2006 and now has one young bull and 14 cows, the oldest of which, called Jasmine, was born in 2009. The cows generally have one calf a year and whilst they are hardy and perfectly capable of calving outside, Sophie prefers to have them back at Wormingford then, in case anything does go wrong. So they normally come back here in the summer months when my grass is growing well, good for the cows and their calves. Longhorns are kept for their high quality meat and these ones also for showing. Some years ago, one of their cows was adjudged as Best in Show at the Royal Norfolk Show.

Originally a dual purpose breed (used for milk and meat), their milk was also used for making Stilton cheese because it has a very high butterfat content, but now other breeds are used for that which produce bigger volumes of milk. Now they are solely a beef breed producing some of the highest quality beef available, and regularly voted as Britain's best beef. You can buy their Longhorn beef from Colletts Farm Shop in Wormingford CO6 3AU which is open 7 days a week (see their website for times), as well as their own raw Jersey milk, pork from their



rare breed Middle White pigs and lamb from their own pedigree Lleyn sheep, as well as home made pies, pasties etc. They will also deliver locally.

But returning to the subject of their lovely Longhorn cattle which you can see here in the summer, the cattle are doing me a special favour as well. I have signed an agreement with Defra and get paid a small grant to manage my grass fields for the benefit of barn owls. This means keeping the grass sward no lower than about 10cms (4in) at all times so there will be plenty of voles and mice for the owls to feed on, and rather than mow the fields, we rotate the cattle round the fields to keep the grass sward in the best condition. So I think we all benefit: the cattle, the owls, Sophie, Tim and me. And we all get the pleasure of seeing these beautiful cattle here in Assington.



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NURSERY PLANNING APPROVAL

You might have heard that Babergh have granted planning permission for a nursery on a virgin greenfield site next to the A134 turning into the village, despite it being in clear conflict with Babergh's own planning policy and Assington's neighbourhood plan. Babergh's planning committee took the rare step of overturning the advice of their own professional planning officers in order to grant permission.

The Parish Council support what is a very successful nursery and feel it should be welcomed to Assington, but in a suitable location away from the dangerous corner at the entrance to the village. There are serious concerns about the impact it will have on the setting of the church and nearby listed buildings; on the site in the photo it is proposed that a large car park for over 30 vehicles is built, along with a solar panel array which will point towards the village centre. The "old road" (between the A134 and the field in the photo) which retains public access allowing safe passage to Aveley Lane, would be 'stopped up'. Children will be exposed both to the road noise of being right next to the A134, as well as the pollution that comes with it.

In addition to the specific concerns over this application, we are concerned about what it could mean in the future for the area if Babergh is allowed, as we believe they have done, to disregard planning policy as set out in the development plan. It could have an extremely damaging impact on the rural character of the village and its surroundings. It is telling that an unprecedented 32 households in Assington formally objected to the planning application, with many more voicing concerns online.

For that reason, the Parish Council has decided we must act. We have written to ask the nursery to engage with us to find an alternative location within Assington or beyond to ensure it can continue to thrive. The Parish Council made this offer after first hearing of the planning application back in August, but we have now redoubled our efforts. However, we have also informed Babergh that we will be challenging their decision, and this will mean challenging via the judicial review process if they do not engage with us.

This process is not unheard of – two judicial reviews were successful in quashing planning approvals in Hartest in recent years, and East Bergholt have conducted a number of judicial reviews of planning decisions, some successful, some not. Boxford parish are currently pursuing a judicial review of a decision by Babergh there to permit 64 houses on Sand Hill.

A judicial review will not be cheap, but we may be able to limit costs and these will be recovered from Babergh if we win. We will only be able to continue the fight with the support of local villagers, however, and details on how you can help – either in contributing to a 'fighting fund' or even just in signing a petition, will be shared on the website and Facebook in the coming weeks. Alternatively, please contact **Ian Jordan** or **Andrew Hill** on the Parish Council for further details.

<http://www.assington.onesuffolk.net/>
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/Assington>

Simon Thorogood
Chair of APC
On behalf of Assington Parish Council

ASSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Matters of Interest Discussed at A Meeting held in Assington Village Hall on Monday 30 November 2020

■ Declaration of Interest and Requests for Dispensation

No declaration of Interest or requests for dispensation had been received.

■ Minutes of Meeting held on 28th September

The minutes of the meeting were approved and will be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

■ Public Forum

County Councillor James Finch expressed his disappointment that Suffolk is in Tier 2 rather than Tier 1 as the rates are only a fraction above Cornwall but there are issues with hot spots in Hadleigh and Ipswich. He expressed the need for everyone to follow the current Covid advice.

Babergh District Councillor Lee Parker advised that the majority of resources are going into Covid and arranging grants to support businesses. Councillors asked for confirmation that CIL monies can be spent on traffic calming measures which have been identified and BDCllr Parker confirmed that he could confirm this.

The public meeting was closed.

■ Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Wallace informed Councillors that the NP had been submitted to the independent examiner since 16 November. Cllr Wallace had forwarded the councillors emails received regarding the process and with the response on behalf of the PC to the examiners initial questions concerning the implications of the Reg 19 Joint Local Plan on the submission of our NP. The examiner has indicated that she hopes to do a site visit once lockdown is over and if everything is straightforward hopes to have the final report ready before Christmas. The NP website has been updated, guiding people to Babergh's website for those who want more information about the process and progress.

■ Routine Correspondence

- a. Councillors agreed to discuss the Nursery application under item 9b.
- b. The clerk advised that she had informed the house owner of the link on the BDC website for households wishing to change the name of their house.
- c. Councillors agreed that the Street Lighting times will remain the same over the Christmas and New Year period.

■ Clerk's Report

Councillors noted the clerk's report:

- a. Councillors noted the broadband email update which had been received since the issue of the agenda.
- b. BDCllr Parker advised that there was no planning permission relating to Assington Autos and therefore the only option is to see if they are complying with the Environmental Agency plan.
- c. BDCllr Parker advised that there are no restrictions on filling in garden ponds and will contact Cllr Stacey to discuss this further.

■ Finance

- a. Councillors reviewed the Certificate of Exemption and resolved to accept this.
- b. All cheques signed and due for signing were authorised by the councillors. The councillors noted the income received since the last meeting and

reconciliation of bank accounts against the bank statements, and the Statement of Accounts against the Budget.

- c. The councillors reviewed the budget proposal in appendix D and agreed the budget for 2021/22.

■ Planning

- **Planning Application - DC/20/05299 - Application for Discharge** of planning obligation to erect a cattle shelter and barn at Land North of Moors Farm, Assington resolved to **object** to the application. The condition was applied to ensure that the cattle shelter could not be developed into a residence and the removal would therefore enable the applicant to either pursue development of the site or pursue permission for gravel extraction which had previously been submitted and refused.

BDCllr Parker left the meeting at this time

• DC/20/03362

All Councillors agreed that they consider the BDC decision to grant permission relating to DC/20/03362 to be questionable given the applications' undisputed conflict with the development plan. Councillors agreed to proceed with a letter of action offering BDC the opportunity to review their decision, but also to make clear that if they decided not to do so that the Council would seek permission for a judicial review. Proposed Cllr Thorogood, seconded Cllr Jordan. It was agreed that the parish council would like to engage with the business with a view to ensuring that the nursery finds a sustainable location to continue to operate. Cllr Hill suggested that a subgroup be set up to progress the future actions and this was agreed, while all Parish Councillors will monitor and review at each stage.

Two members of the public left at this time.

■ Traffic Speed Reduction Plan

Cllr Hill explained the three strands of the speed reduction plan: 1. The Community Speed Watch Group, which has been delayed due to the lockdown but a team of nine has been approved by the Police and is expected to be active in the New Year, 2. The Quiet Lanes Initiative, which Cllr Hill agreed to continue to keep Councillors updated on, and 3. The proposed 20mph limit in part of The Street. In addition, Cllr Hill had received correspondence from a resident regarding Marshalls Green and the large lorries which use the lane and the inconsistency of it being 60mph. The lane is between the A134 which is 40mph and the village 30mph. It was suggested that it could be included in the Quiet Lanes Initiative and to investigate laybys and a permissive footpath. CCllr Finch advised that there is no enforcement of Quiet Lanes, they simply involve signs at either end to warn vehicles of the likely presence of more vulnerable road users. Councillors expressed their strong desire to progress the 20mph limit measures at the earliest opportunity, given the overwhelming support in the Neighbourhood Plan, the successful compliance with Suffolk County Council policies on the matter and the funding available through CIL.

■ Flooding Issues

Cllr Hill had received correspondence from a resident regarding the flooding issues in The Street and CCllr Finch confirmed that he was looking into the issue and that the property will be visited again by a representative of SCC highways.

Cllr Jordan and CCllr Finch left at this time

■ Licensed Paths, Footpaths and APC's Assets

Councillors Symonds and Wallace had walked the parish and reported back that the street light outside 3 The Gurdons was covered by ivy and the dog bin at the entrance of The Thicks is regularly full and a larger dog bin needs to be installed. Paul Hollingsworth, the footpath warden, had enquired as to which paths were cut by the Contractor. It was agreed to copy him in when the new seasons contract is agreed with the

Contractor. Cllr Symonds agreed to contact Mr Hollingsworth and invite him to attend the next meeting or to send in his report. Cllr Thorogood had been contacted by Assington Allotment Association regarding the continued support of the council in paying for the water and cutting of the footpaths and it was agreed that this support would continue.

■ Meeting Dates for 2021

The councillors agreed the following meeting dates:

2021	Assington PC Meetings
January	25th
March	22nd Meeting and APM
May	24th Annual Meeting
July	26th
September	27th
November	29th

■ Question to the Chair

Councillors agreed to purchase a Christmas Tree for the village up to the sum of £100 for outside the Village Hall.

■ Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting date is Monday 25th January 2021 starting at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 9.50pm

NEW PARISH CLERK FOR ASSINGTON

From Simon Thorogood Chair, APC

We are delighted to welcome **Amy Benton** as Assington's new Parish Clerk.

Amy took over in late January and will be assisted by another Temporary Parish Clerk during the first meeting and first few months, until she has got to grips with the systems and procedures.

The Parish Councillors look forward to working with you, Amy, and hope that you enjoy working with us for the benefit of the local community.

The scheduled dates of the Parish Council Meetings for 2021, which will be held remotely whilst regulations dictate social distancing, are set out above.

FOOTPATH UPDATE

From Footpath Wardens, Paul and Cynthia Hollingsworth

The steps leading down to Threeways have been renovated. Our thanks to Suffolk Highways and Byways for this work.



Also, the low stile on the path from Threeways to The Street has been renewed, and thanks are due to David Hodge, the farmer and landowner, for attending to the repair.





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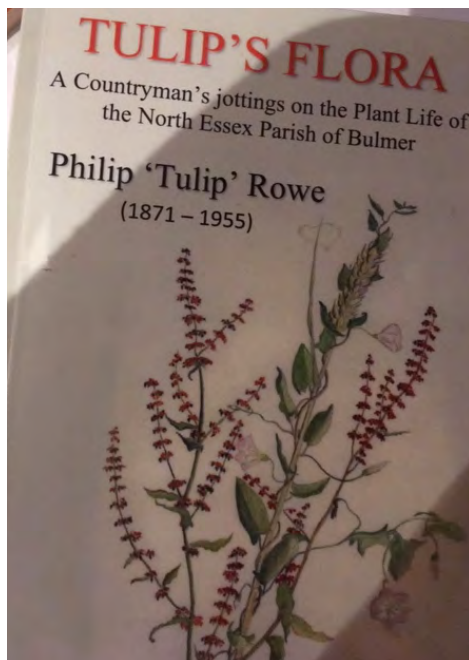
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LAVENHAM NATURAL HISTORY GROUP

By Ellie Mead

When I was a child one could pick wild flowers without fear of prosecution. I remember our annual primrosing walk in Chalkney Woods, Earls Colne when we gathered big bunches of the flowers for my mother's birthday on 25th March. Family walks always involved picking a few specimens for identification at home. At school we pressed wild flowers in an album and learnt their names. The last wildflowers that I picked in any quantity were for my wedding bouquet in 1989: bluebells from Tiger Hill. So when a few years ago a friend suggested that I joined The Lavenham Natural History Group I thought 'Well I know quite a bit about wildflowers.' Yes, but when I joined I discovered that my meagre store of knowledge was nothing compared to the botanic wisdom of this group's members. This was a wisdom that they were only too happy to share. I was not made to feel in the least inadequate when I didn't know my Hawkweed from my Hawkbit or that there are over 250 species of Dandelion. So for some time now I have been enjoying their Winter lecture programme in Lavenham Guildhall on a variety of subjects and have also managed to attend some of their Summer Plant surveys in the local area. Despite the Lavenham title this group draws its membership from beyond Lavenham and the surveys are sometimes conducted at Arger Fen or other places around Assington. What a pleasant way to spend a summer evening; strolling through the countryside with like-minded people, learning the names of the plants that we see.

One of the members, Peter Rowe has assisted in the publication of the writings of his Grandfather, Philip 'Tulip' Rowe (1871-1955) This little book entitled Tulip's Flora is described as A Countryman's Jottings on the Plant Life of the North Essex Parish of Bulmer. Published in 2013 it is available from Peter Rowe at £5.00 + P&P. Phone 01787 375935 This book is illustrated with colour plates by Peter's wife Wendy. The foreword is by Robin Ford (Volunteer Warden of Cornard Mere and member of the Lavenham group) Here we learn of local botanists from centuries past: Samuel Dale, John Ray and Joseph Andrews. The Flora itself describes plants and their locations, their various local names and uses together with any associated tales. Trees and Shrubs find a place in this book too as do Mosses, Ferns and Grasses. For more information on Lavenham Natural History Group look at their Facebook page or contact Graham Pattrick on brights.lavenham@gmail.com Group meetings are currently in abeyance until such time as social distancing is no longer an issue.



NEWS FROM BOXFORD SCHOOL

By Callie Bradbury

Hope everyone has had a brilliant Christmas and New Year even though we were all stuck at home. Back to home schooling again, a bit more organised this time.

As it is around Epiphany, I am going to tell you what I learned at school so you can know too. Epiphany usually takes place on January the 6th and celebrates the date of the visit of the three kings to the baby Jesus. It is celebrated throughout the world in Christian countries and is an important traditional French holiday, they call it la Fête des Rois (Feast of the Kings).

Throughout January, Galette des Rois (King's Cake) is baked in France. It is made of two circles of puff pastry sandwiching a marzipan filling, it comes with a crown and always has a trinket, called a fève, or bean, baked into it. Every King's cake has a trinket (a little figurine normally in the shape of a baby). Whoever finds the baby trinket in their slice of cake gets to be the "king" for a day and wears the crown. You also wear the King's crown all day and can choose a queen or king to reign with them.

Here is a photo of my crown:



During lockdown, I have used my spare time to write some poems and I am going to share one of them with you. It is called

New Year.

It's New Years Day,
We can celebrate in many ways,
A time to play,
We've all had our say.

End of the Year,
Full of good cheer,
Up till midnight with some beer,
New Year is here.

Party all day and all night,
Fireworks what a wonderful sight,
All full of delight,
Dance until light.



Hopefully, we will be allowed out soon and be able to see each other again.

Nick Peasland

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ASSINGTON COMMUNITY GROUP



By Andrew Hill

Assington's own Facebook group has been up and running for coming on for a year now and has been very successful, welcoming regular "Facebookers" and people new to it alike. It is a private group, which means that only people admitted to the group can see its content. 160 people have joined so far and new members join every week. The current approach is that membership is for anyone who lives in, works in, or has a strong connection to the parish. This keeps the group reasonably small and avoids any issues some larger groups have over commercial selling or irrelevant postings.

During the year we have seen lost pets reunited, "free" books, doors and toys recycled on to new homes, incredible photos and videos of village scenes and events (those that have happened!), and even the odd bit of exceptional humour, first prize for which goes to Nigel:



I'm pleased to report that someone was also able to lend David the requested power tool!!

If you would like to join, please make sure you answer the membership questions and agree to the group rules – the administrators only receive the requests which have completed these!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/Assington>

ASSINGTON VILLAGE CHARITY NEWS

By Stephen King

We are pleased that the Playground remains open in Lockdown #3. It will receive its Annual Inspection in January, generously paid for by the Parish Council. We are grateful that the Post Office continues to provide an essential service on Monday (1.30 to 3.30) and Wednesday (9 to 12). Otherwise the hall remains closed until further notice.

The grass on the Playing Field and Playground is regularly cut by Thomas Wallis, who also recently provided more permanent pitch marking. The new Litter Bin is proving useful in keeping the area tidy and the Recycling Banks have now been emptied after the excess accumulation over Christmas. The hall and surroundings are supervised by Paul Battle, Caretaker, and the hall is cleaned regularly by Stephanie Gould. We are most grateful for their continued work throughout the pandemic.

The Trustees of the Charity (Reg No 1076737) are looking for new members to join the Management Committee for the Village Hall and Playing Field. At the Annual General Meeting to be held on 5th May 2021 the term of office of all members will cease. They may be re-elected or re-appointed. All residents of the parish age 18 and upward are invited to attend and vote. The requirement is for four elected members; and one appointed member for each of the following organisations (if they still exist): Assington Parish Council, Assington Parochial Church Council, Assington Association, Women's Institute, Assington Players, Assington Football Club.

In 2020 the AGM was held via Zoom and only the existing members of the committee were present. They were re-elected and re-appointed en bloc. We hope that the coronavirus restrictions will be eased by May, but if they remain in force the committee will again hold a virtual meeting.

If you are interested please contact me, or any other member of the committee, to find out what is involved in managing this important and beneficial organisation for the village.

Stephen King, Chair (sjking@btinternet.com or 01787 210932)

Members of the Committee

Claire Osborne, Secretary; Sue Sadler-Bunning, Treasurer; Louisa Symons, Lettings Secretary; Nigel Finch; Dr John Symons; Wesley Benton (until the AGM); Nettie Osman (until the AGM).

VILLAGE CHRISTMAS TREE DECORATION

From Rosemary Symonds

Local children
Kayla and Eli
helped to decorate
the village
Christmas tree.





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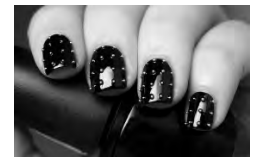
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I look forward to hearing from you.

PARISH CHURCH NEWS

*Letter from the Rev Simon White
Associate Priest, Bures with Assington
and Little Cornard*

Dear Friends,

It is no longer easy to guess what restrictions we will be living within as you read this. The sad news the daily figures bring of those who have tested positive for covid-19 gets worse and our health care workers are ever more stretched. More and more of us have now either caught the disease or know someone close by who has suffered. 'Lockdown 3' feels different and some of us are feeling this lockdown more keenly than earlier ones so I hope the words of Psalm 46 "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble" will bring comfort to you.

Our church buildings have been closed – opened – and now closed again. This time we have reluctantly closed our churches, not because we had to, but because it felt like the right thing to do to protect each other as much as possible against the new variants of the disease. So many of the Christmas services that were planned for last December changed, didn't happen or appeared online but we have been heartened by how popular our YouTube services and Zoom times together have been, ever aware that on-line church is not for everyone. For those who don't have internet access or need a break from it, the Church of England 'DailyHope' free phone line 0800 804 8044 continues to offer music, prayers and inspiration 24 hours a day whenever you need it.

What might we hope for in 2021? Well no one knows for sure but after so many months of the pandemic it does feel as though we might dare to plan ahead for later in the year especially as the number of people who have now had the vaccine increases. Lots of us have become masters at making plans knowing full well they may not survive but it feels that we now have more reasons to dream they might just happen this time. Will we get away for some sort of summer holidays this year? Will some of our treasured community events that are part of our year happen? The Church Fete? The Horticultural Show? Let us hope and pray they will.

Best wishes,
Simon



THE FOLLOWING APPEARED ON CHURCH NOTICEBOARDS SOMEWHERE OR WERE ANNOUNCED AT CHURCH SERVICES:

The sermon this morning : 'Jesus Walks on the Water'.
The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus'.



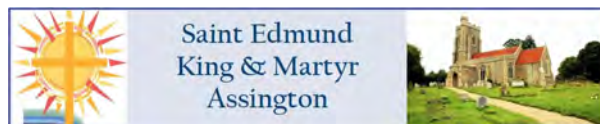
Miss Charlene Mason sang "I will not pass this way again", giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.



The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new fundraising campaign slogan last Sunday:
'I Upped My Pledge - Up Yours'



This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs Lewis to come forward and lay an egg on the altar.



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

**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:

Rev'd Steve Morley - 01787 227407

Rev'd Simon White - 07572 418555

Schedule of services at Assington Church

Please see local notices nearer the dates for up to date details

Vicar: Rev Steve Morley 227407
Reader: Dr John Symons 211534
Associate
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



The Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7pm. Please use the back door.



At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be "What is Hell?" Come early and listen to our choir practice.



Don't let worry kill you off - let the church help.



Potluck Supper on Sunday at 5pm - prayer and medication to follow.



Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their schooldays.



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
NOV	75	13°C	-4°C
DEC	57	13°C	-5°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
NOV	33	14°C	-4°C
DEC	112.5	10°C	-5°C

NATURE WATCH

By Nick Miller

At this time of year, Winter Moths can appear on windows, in large numbers. They can easily be identified by their rounded wings, and are the main species living in freezing temperatures. I always wonder why they are seen so much more abundantly, these days, than moths in the warmer times of the year. My only guess is that by flying in the cold part of the year, they're safe from bats! However, I read that the females especially (also the pupae and caterpillars later in the year), are prey to numerous birds, insects and other creatures, so who knows?

Winter Moth adults emerge in Autumn, and die before February. The female is flightless, and climbs up tree trunks in winter, from where she attracts the male by scent.

The green caterpillars eat leaves of many trees, especially oaks; and are a major food of Great Tits and Blue Tits. They're often seen dangling from silk, which the wind catches, which is a way of moving from one tree to another. Apple leaves are also on the menu of the caterpillars, and in occasional years numbers are sufficient to affect the fruit crop; this is dealt with by a grease band round the tree's trunk, on which the females get caught.

However from the 1950s, the Winter Moth became a major pest in North America, where it's been introduced but its parasite insects haven't followed - some of these enemies are being introduced to Canada - but not to the US for fear of them attacking other native moth species.

Winter Moth *Operophtera brumata*



THE SHOULDER OF MUTTON UPDATE

CORRECTION from Zoe De Feo

Following the article about The Shoulder of Mutton in the December edition, the correction below has been received from Zoe De Feo

I've been inundated with messages and calls recently about myself selling The Shoulder Of Mutton in Assington to Stock & Bailey. I would like to say the pub is still in my hands since purchasing from Tina & Keith, and will remain that way.

We are lucky to have Stock & Bailey as tenants, but they haven't purchased as mentioned in the Assington News.

I still hold the village with great respect and wish to try to retain some of the pubs traditions, hence only ever leasing it.



CHINESE NEW YEAR

By BS

This year the Chinese New Year commences on Friday, February 12th, 2021, and celebrations culminate with the Lantern Festival on February 26th.

Chinese New Year marks the transition between zodiac signs: 2021 is the year of the Ox.

The Ox is the second of all zodiac animals. According to one myth, the Jade Emperor said the order would be decided by the order in which they arrived to his party. The Ox was about to be the first to arrive, but Rat tricked Ox into giving him a ride. Then, just as they arrived, Rat jumped down and landed ahead of Ox. Thus, Ox became the second animal.

Chinese New Year dates vary slightly between years, but it usually comes during the period from January 21st to February 20th in the Gregorian calendar. The dates change every year because the festival is based on the Chinese Lunar Calendar. The lunar calendar is associated with the movement of the moon, which usually defines traditional festivals like the Chinese New Year (Spring Festival), Lantern Festival and Dragon Boat Festival.

The lunar calendar is also associated with 12 animal signs in the Chinese zodiac, so every 12 years is regarded as a cycle. 2021 is a Year of the Ox, while 2022 will be a Year of the Tiger.

On the days leading up to the New Year's Eve, people make preparations by cleaning the house, and shopping. On New Year's Eve, the family enjoy a reunion dinner, put up red decorations and give red envelopes containing "lucky money" to children.



On Chinese New Year's Day, sacrifices are offered to ancestors, and firecrackers and fireworks are set off.

Another tradition from Chinese culture is the performance of the Dragon Dance. The dragon represents wisdom, power and wealth and the Dragon Dance is most often seen in festive celebrations. It is believed that performing the dragon dance scares away evil spirits and all the bad luck associated with them, and brings in good luck and wealth instead. This is why the dragon dance is very popular during Chinese New Year as well as during other auspicious occasions such as weddings and other festivities.

In the dance, a team of dancers carry the dragon – which is an image of the Chinese dragon – on poles. The lead dancers lift, dip, thrust, and sweep the head, which may contain animated features controlled by a dancer and is sometimes rigged to belch smoke from pyrotechnic devices.

The dance team mimics the supposed movements of this river spirit in a sinuous, undulating manner. The dragon's body is made of fabric and bamboo and its length can vary, some reaching to 100 meters long, and held by many people. Today, most dragons are danced by 9 people.

Musical accompaniment during the dance is often supplied by a team of musicians, playing traditional drums, cymbals and gongs.



After Chinese New Year's day the following seven days are spent visiting friends and relatives. Most people return to work after this, but on the fifteenth day of the New Year they celebrate the Lantern Festival, with more fireworks, when sweet dumplings are eaten and Chinese Lanterns are lit and launched.



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SESAW NEWS

We little dogs have a reputation for being noisy creatures with plenty to say. Nevertheless, I sometimes wonder what to write as your magazine deadline approaches but this time Mum has an important message for anyone struggling to look after their animals -

PLEASE DO NOT ABANDON YOUR PETS!

We currently have space to take in animals so if you, or someone you know, needs help, please get in touch by leaving your name and number on 01787 210888.

Mother and daughter staffies, Alice and Tia are amongst our animals re-homed last year. The pair soon settled into their



new home and now enjoy being thoroughly spoilt.

It is taking much longer than usual to work through the waiting list of people looking for new pets. Apologies for this but it's unavoidable in the present climate and the prospect of holding

fundraising events is still a long way off. Please hold onto good quality items until further notice but we would be grateful for clean duvets, blankets, towels and newspapers.

It's very cold and muddy outside, even awkward old Ollie (the Black) Cat is staying indoors recently. We will wait in the kitchen for Mum's return then it's dinner and a warm bed by the Rayburn for me, Kenny (the Boss) Chihuahua.

Suffolk & Essex Small Animal Welfare, Registered Charity No.1124029, Stoke Road, Leavenheath, CO6 4PP. www.sesaw.co.uk

HAPPY SOUNDS COMMUNITY CHOIR

By Nettie Osman

After a few weeks of meeting online, Assington's very own HappySounds Community Choir were finally able to get together in December to perform two concerts - one livestreamed to Care Homes around the UK, and the other outdoors on the Village Green at Assington, in rather chilly circumstances!

The harmonies were amazing considering there were only a small handful of in-person rehearsals and the Choir did a fantastic job, **raising £150 for local animal sanctuary SESA**

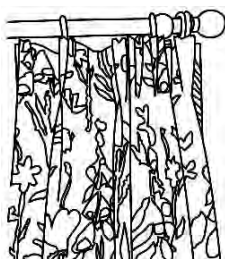
W. You can see highlights from the performances on youtube at <https://youtu.be/QIZZHn4JOjE>

Dependent on Government restrictions regarding Covid-19, the choir either meets in person (socially distanced and masked) or on Zoom, with lots of fun additional projects for members to get involved in, such as recordings, voice workshops and creative songwriting sessions, and a monthly social gathering via Zoom when we are in lockdown.

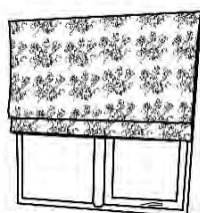
For memberships please call 07957394780 or go to www.happysounds.co.uk



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SUDBURY IN SOUTHEASTERN ONTARIO, CANADA

Sudbury, Suffolk, shares its name with other towns and villages, a river, a reef off Queensland and numerous streets around the world.



Its largest namesake is Sudbury, Ontario, less than 130 years old and yet home to 158,000 people, dwarfing Mother Sudbury with its population of only 20,000.



Sudbury, is situated on the western shore of Ramsey Lake, about 40 miles (65 km) north of Georgian Bay of Lake Huron.



The site was the location of a temporary workers' camp in 1883–84 during the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway through the region. However, copper- and nickel-bearing ores were discovered in the vicinity in 1883: This bonanza of nickel is the legacy of a massive meteorite strike almost two billion years ago which created a giant basin with deposits of copper, gold, platinum and silver as well as nickel. A settlement began there with the establishment of a railway station on the new rail line.

A railway executive, Canadian Pacific Railway Superintendent of construction on the Northern Ontario segment of the railway, James Worthington, named the community Sudbury after his wife, Caroline Hitchcock's birthplace in Sudbury, Suffolk, England.

Few imagined at the time that this remote outpost, surrounded by swamps and rocky outcrops, would one day become the largest community in northern Ontario.

Mining commenced, and smelting operations got underway in 1888. Sudbury became the most important mining centre in Canada, with a majority of its population employed in that industry. Huge nickel concentrators and smelters were erected at Copper Cliff and at Falconbridge.

Sudbury became a town in 1893 and a city in 1930. Over time other municipalities sprang up around the city, and in 1973 several of those were gathered into the Regional Municipality of Sudbury.

Although mining's importance in the city's economy began to decline in the 1960s the city and the surrounding district still produces a significant proportion of all the nickel mined in the world and the lion's share of Ontario's copper. Gold, silver, platinum, cobalt, sulphur, and iron ore are also mined.

The community is the richest mining district in North America and among the top ten most important globally. Sudbury accounts for about half the mining activity in Ontario, which is Canada's largest mineral producing province. According to 2007 statistics, the value of Ontario's mining sector was about \$10 billion annually.

Sudbury lies along the Trans-Canada Highway and two transcontinental railways and is the chief service and commercial centre for northern Ontario.

It is now over 50 years since the historic Apollo 11 mission, when man first walked on the moon. Prior to the Apollo 16 and 17 missions, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (**NASA**) sent the Apollo teams to the Greater **Sudbury** area to study the city's rocks, in order to prepare them for their mission ahead.

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"the food at the crown is delectable.....and the wine list is dreamy"
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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