

# ASSINGTON

## NEWS



JANUARY/FEBRUARY  
2023

# 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](mailto:bronwenstacey@btinternet.com)

|  |                              |               |
|--|------------------------------|---------------|
| Allotments Secretary   | Claire Osborne               | 07920 800108  |
| Assington Baby and Toddler Group   | Rev Tricia Box               | 01787 227528  |
| 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 ( <a href="mailto:office@boxford.suffolk.sch.uk">office@boxford.suffolk.sch.uk</a> ) | Head: Mrs J Davies           | 01787 210332  |
| Brownies, Boxford  | Moiria Grant                 | 01787 211513  |
| 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 ( <a href="mailto:james.finch@suffolk.gov.uk">james.finch@suffolk.gov.uk</a> )                 | James Finch                  | 01473 264993  |
| District Councillor (Assington)  | Lee Parker                   | 01787 376073  |
| Doctors surgery – Sudbury  | Hardwicke House              | 01787 310000  |
| Doctors surgery – Bures  | Bures                        | 01787 227529  |
| Footpath Wardens   | Paul & Cynthia Hollingsworth | 01787 211620  |
| Horticultural Society  | Bryn Hurren                  | 01787 210854  |
| Leavenheath Cinema   | Marion                       | 01206 263301  |
| Member of Parliament ( <a href="mailto:james.cartlidge.mp@parliament.uk">james.cartlidge.mp@parliament.uk</a> )  | James Cartlidge              | 020 7219 4875 |
| Parish Council   | Simon Thorogood              | 01787 227400  |
| <a href="mailto:bronwenstacey@btinternet.com">bronwenstacey@btinternet.com</a>                                   | Bronwen Stacey               | 01787 210354  |
| <a href="mailto:david.wiles@live.co.uk">david.wiles@live.co.uk</a>   | David Wiles                  |               |
| <a href="mailto:tony@howcroft.net">tony@howcroft.net</a>   | Tony Howcroft                |               |
| <a href="mailto:hwallace58@gmail.com">hwallace58@gmail.com</a>   | Helen Wallace                | 01787 211162  |
| <a href="mailto:i.jordan741@btinternet.com">i.jordan741@btinternet.com</a>                                       | Ian Jordan                   |               |
| <a href="mailto:andrewpeterhill@hotmail.com">andrewpeterhill@hotmail.com</a>                                     | Andrew Hill                  | 01787 827112  |
| Parish Council - Clerk, ( <a href="mailto:assingtonpc@yahoo.com">assingtonpc@yahoo.com</a> )                     | Christine Hargan             | 01449 674727  |
| Pub – The Shoulder of Mutton   |                              | 01787 210334  |
| Vicar ( <a href="mailto:vicar@parishchurch.co.uk">vicar@parishchurch.co.uk</a> )                                 | The Revd Daniel Whiffin      | 01787 228292  |
| Village Hall – Bookings  | Karen Wiles                  | 07983 002072  |
| Village Hall - Caretaker   | Paul Battle                  | 07473 933320  |
| Womens Institute, Boxford ( <a href="mailto:annie-phillips@hotmail.co.uk">annie-phillips@hotmail.co.uk</a> )     | 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.

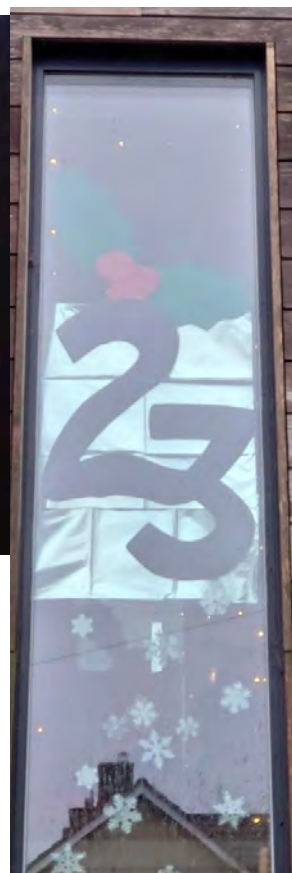
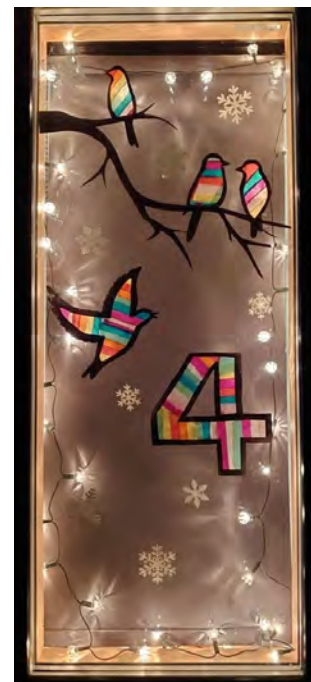
**The ASSINGTON NEWS** NOW IN COLOUR ONLINE at <http://assington.onesuffolk.net/assington-news/>

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
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| Auditor      | Ian Clark, 01787 211133   |



# ADVENT WINDOWS 2022

Once again in 2022 Assington residents produced a glorious display of living Advent windows. Despite everybody being extremely busy with work and family plans and commitments, they came up trumps and made some wonderfully Christmas-themed pictures., some of which below:





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Leavenheath Village Hall Cinema



**SATURDAY 4<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY**

Arrive 7.00pm Film starts 7.30pm

2019 (12A) Drama/Comedy

Starring: - Lesley Manville, Alba Baptista, Jason Isaacs, Lambert Wilson

1 hr. 56 mins with 20 mins interval

Please book early to avoid being disappointed

Tickets £4.00 per Adult and £2.50 per young person

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# NATURE WATCH

## Your Garden in February

Some days in February can be mild, others can be absolutely miserable. Our gardens can be rather unattractive places, with only the birds on the feeders to bring some interest, joy and colour into the drab view. But its up to us to plan our plots so that, at this time of year, when all we do is look at it through the rain-stained windows, there is a bright patch of colour, and some blooms to cheer us up. Why not plant one specific bed



or area with January and February-flowering plants and shrubs, so that you have a focal point in the dreary months?

Hellebores of various types have winter blooms of shades from pure white through speckles of pink or purple through to full-on deep purple. Being sturdy, they go well amongst shrubs, and have a long flowering period.

Short stemmed daffodils



(narcissus cyclamineus) bring more adventurous colour. Early purple crocus (tomassianianus) suddenly appear, and they can be naturalised in less formal areas, as of course, can the

ubiquitous primroses and snowdrops,



which look equally wonderful in larger clumps in hedgerow-bottoms, around the edges or under-planting trees or shrubs.

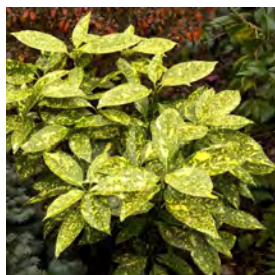


Bright blue flowers contrast well against paler flowers: Algerian iris unguicularis is a perennial which thrives on neglect in well-drained



(gravelly) areas - what's not to like? More delicate, and requiring less room, are the pretty bulbs iris reticulata; I planted mine in a pot the first year, and then, after flowering, planted them in a spot near the front door, where they would be seen, even on dreary days.

There are a number of attractive evergreen shrubs, with variegated foliage, which



brighten up a darker corner even during the summer months, and in winter, they are worth their weight in green-and-gold or cream-and-green:

Aucuba japonica

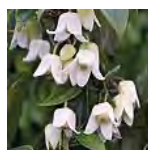
Crotonifolia - an

evergreen variegated spotted Laurel can

become a large shrub; Euonymus fortunei can glow vertically or as a traditional round shrub.



Evergreen winter-flowering Clematis cirrhosis 'Freckles' and 'Winter Beauty' can be



intertwined with (eg) a rose on an arch or pergola. Finally, Skimmia Japonica is made for a shady corner, and looks attractive with dark red flower buds which form in autumn and last throughout winter until the flowers open in spring.



## 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 |

\*\*\*\*\*

| 2018 | mm   | max  | min    |
|------|------|------|--------|
| 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  | 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 |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>419</b> |        |        |



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**For References see Website  
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# WHAT A YEAR OF WEATHER WE HAVE HAD!

I think 2022's weather will go down as being totally unpredictable: but with Climate Change, that just was predictable, wasn't it.

Who would have guessed we would have the driest year for ages, and yet here have more rain in November (122.5mm) than in any other single month for the last 5 years. And that was after the hot dry summer that just went on and on. The hottest day here was in July when my thermometer reached 36.5° C (97.7° F).

Then in December we have just had the coldest night (-9.5°C) for the last 5 years, followed by mild and moist weather over Christmas, which as I write, is still happening. All this unpredictable weather makes farming and gardening more difficult to plan. Did you give up watering the garden in the summer, I certainly did? But the Assington Brook continued to flow: I suppose much of it comes from deep seated springs which do not dry up. On the farm here, most of the springs which cause boggy patches in the fields did dry up, but those rising in woodland did not. Is that because the woodland soils are less disturbed and the woodland is a better holder of water? I suspect so.

This weather would have concerned the miller here when this was a working cornmill, powered by water upto about 100 years ago. Now I just run the waterwheel to drive a small electric generator and for a bit of fun. But ever thought what happens to a watermill when we get a real cold spell? Well a couple of years ago we had about a week's worth of frost and I kept the wheel turning because I didn't want it to freeze up. After about 4 nights I noticed ice building up on the wheel, forming big



dragon's teeth. (see picture) Very picturesque but eventually they got so heavy, the wheel wouldn't turn, so I had to chop them off with a hammer.

In this December's cold spell I did stop the wheel turning. Therefore we had no great icicles but the wheel just froze solid until the milder weather came. (see picture) Glad I don't depend on the waterwheel for my income. And this coming year's weather: predictably unpredictable I would say. **Bob Cowlin Mill Farm Assington**

# ASSINGTON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE (Now Defunct)

Sarah White received these from her sister this Christmas as a present.



I think her sister bought them at a car boot sale and they are intriguing because they name Assington's Women's Institute.

Sarah is interested to know whether anybody can date the cup, saucer and jug pictured, and tell us more about them?



## Query from the Editor:

Can any of our readers give us any information about the Assington WI?

I'm not sure when it ceased to function. Is there anybody in the village who used to belong to the WI, or remembers the various activities in which the Assington WI ladies became involved?





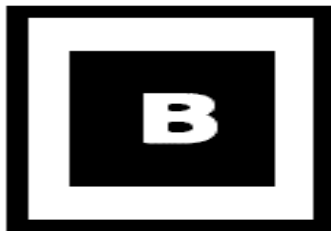
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# THINGS TO DO

## ShantyFolk



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January 12 and 26 February 9 and 23  
March 9 and 23 April 27 May 11 and 25  
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### LAVENHAM FARMERS MARKET

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10am – 1.30pm

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LITTERPICK**

**THURSDAY 23rd MARCH 2023**

At 2pm

anybody willing to help please meet up at the  
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# PARISH CHURCH NEWS



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

## *Letter from the Rev Daniel Whiffin, Vicar of Bures with Assington and Little Cornard*

Dear friends



Have you needed to make any big decisions lately? If we are going to make good decisions, it tends to help if we can see the reality of the situation. The difficulty is that reality is often hidden below the surface. It is true for books. I can't know if I want to spend some of my time on a particular novel just by observing its cover. Or if there is something wrong with our bodies, the GP usually needs more than just looking at our skin. Any manager will tell you that directing the work of a team well requires a grasp of 'invisibles', such as individual characters and their relationships. To decide well, we need to 'see' the unseen.

In church this month, you can hear the final book of the Bible read and explained. The Revelation to John is often a challenge. John relates otherworldly visions in literature that has no equivalent in our culture. It perhaps reads more like fantasy from George R.R. Martin than religious instruction. So why would we want to study Revelation?

Well, firstly, we should read Revelation because it cares about the same issues we do today. How should we, who trust in God, think about ecology and climate change? What is in store for the future of the planet? These are live issues in John's visions. Injustice and the cost-of-living crisis is there as well. In Revelation 6:6, the horseman shouts a satire of Roman politics: 'a kilogram of wheat costs a day's wages, and three kilograms of barley a day's wages; but don't damage the supply of oil and wine!' The widespread farming trends, driven by the desire of the Roman elite for profit from luxurious goods, had caused an extreme shortage of basic staples across the provinces of the empire. Does it sound like today's world at all?

If anything, reading Revelation is good for us (so it affirms in the first few sentences) because it enables us to 'see' the unseen reality of what Jesus is up to and where history is headed. Sure, we need to be able to decipher metaphors laden with Jewish imagery and references to Roman culture. But when it reveals its secrets, it shows us, not just what to have on our pancakes, but which way to go in life. It gives us the right view of things so we can make good decisions when it really matters. Will you join us as we open it up?

May you know joy and hope

**Daniel**



## **FEBRUARY 2023 SERVICES IN ASSINGTON**

**5th FEBRUARY @ 10.30am MORNING WORSHIP**

**19th FEBRUARY @ 10.30am HOLY COMMUNION**

Vicar: Daniel Whiffin 01787 228292  
email: [vicar@parishchurch.co.uk](mailto:vicar@parishchurch.co.uk)

Associate Priest Rev Simon White 07572 418555  
Reader: Dr John Symons 211534  
Churchwardens: Roger Britcher 211021  
Bronwen Stacey 210354

Organist: Bronwen Stacey 210354  
Secretary: Emily Cartlidge 07967 724266  
Treasurer: Ian Clark 211133



## A color photograph of an elderly man with glasses, wearing a blue sweater, holding a small, fluffy, light-brown dog. He is standing outdoors in front of a large, leafy green plant, possibly a fig tree.

He also enjoyed playing bridge and was considered a good player. He continued playing with local partners right up to the week before he died. Last year while shooting with George at Assington, a small procession of cars arrived at the house as we finished shooting. I asked George who had arrived and with a wry smile he said "Oh, they're Dad's new friends, come to play bridge". I'm thinking to myself ' the man come up with a new bridge four!'.  
 10

Tim and Gill had many things in common including art, gardening and cooking but Tim's greatest passion was for the farm. To him it was a way of life and for someone who loved

After school he spent 2 years at Sutton Bonnington Agricultural College before returning to East Bergholt where



the countryside, birds and the colours of the seasons he could not have found a better profession and his constant excitement at harvest time was undeniable. He would follow the combine around the fields in his pickup truck, through the thickest of dust to bring tea and cake to the workers. Even this year he went for a ride in the cab even though he had to be lifted up in the bucket of the forklift!

Tim was a very good farmer and was a specialist in growing malting barley, winning many cups and awards at the South Suffolk Crop Competition over the years and took great pride in George and James' continuing the winning tradition.

This brings us to one of the great paradoxes. These prize winning crops required an enormous attention to detail from the sowing and cultivation to the weed and disease control. All this Tim could do but when it came to machinery he had a complete blind spot. He didn't really believe in maintaining any kind of machinery - he felt that once you had bought it, it should last forever! George recalled, that in his youth, when a tractor battery failed, Tim would insist the tractor should be tow-started every day. For his 21st birthday his father gave him a Cogswell Harrison 12 bore, the only gun he ever owned - it was cleaned once a year. As many of you will know Tim loved shooting and ran a fine shoot at Assington. One of his chief joys was the unpredictability. In the early years when there was a lower expectation of wild birds it was always good but could be wonderful. The host could also be unpredictable. There would be a wry smile if a drive went well and various degrees of annoyance if it didn't.

I well remember my father returning home after a brutally cold and snowy day at Assington. Thinking the day was done in the middle of the afternoon and they would soon be back in the house for a good shoot supper, the guns were astonished when their host announced that they would shoot the 'Fir's Rough', the longest drive on the farm. Tim instructed the guns to find their pegs and hurried off into the storm to lead the beaters. The guns knowing it would be at least half an hour before anything happened hid in a shed. Tim, meanwhile, in view of the weather, decided to up the beating tempo and when the birds flew out at the end of the drive, there was complete silence. He stormed to the shed and there ensued a Krakatoa-like molten lava eruption of fury and abuse. He exclaimed, screaming, that they were of suspect parentage and invited them to procreate elsewhere, they were a disgrace to their families, the beaters, their host and mankind in general! Furthermore he was never going to ask any of them to ever shoot with him again..... He dragged this prohibition out for a whole year until realizing a Mexican stand-off had seen his own return invitations dry up, finally relenting.

The one thing that was always completely predictable was the warm welcome back at the house at the end of the day from Gill who is a wonderful cook and, if you were lucky, you would sit down to her signature dish of lamb shanks followed by a delicious pudding, accompanied by Tim's fine wine and a decanter of superior vintage port. This was a feast I personally looked forward to for a whole year.

Tim was a complex character; he could be charming, courteous, amusing, furious, rude, twinkly-eyed, witty and more. He was erudite,

well read, informed, interesting to talk to and had an opinion on most things.

Gill said to me the other day " I will miss the old bugger!", a sentiment shared by all of us.

Tim was in many ways an ordinary man who lived his long life in an unusual and highly individual way. Tim Harris never followed the crowd, he ploughed his own furrow.

Gill adds: Tim delighted in competing in the Assington Horticultural Show although he knew he could only ever come second, third or fourth against John Warner , Bob Jerrold or Bryn Hurren, but taking part in the village show meant a great deal to him. The morning of the show always started at crack of dawn, washing, polishing and tying potatoes , onions, beans and other varieties of vegetables while Gill baked and picked her floral entries under his critical eye. Tim survived 94 years avoiding any green vegetable on his plate, with the exception of asparagus.



# ASSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

## Matters of Interest discussed during a meeting held at Assington Village Hall on Monday 26th September 2022

■ **Present:** Cllrs Andrew Hill, Bronwen Stacey, Ian Jordan Tony Howcroft, David Wiles  
**In attendance:** Christine Hargan (Clerk) and 2 members of the public

■ **Apologies for absence :**  
 Cllrs Simon Thorogood and Helen Wallace, DCllr Lee Parker

■ **Co-option of additional Councillor**  
 David Wiles was coopted and completed the declaration  
 Proposed by Cllr Hill Seconded by Cllr Howcroft

■ **Declarations of interests** and requests for dispensation  
 None

### ■ County and District Councillor reports and public forum

#### DCllr report

was acknowledged, having been previously distributed;

#### CCllr Report

C Cllr Finch reported on the following:

- Investment zones.
- SEND
- Cost of living
- Ukranian Families
- County Buildings
- Assington Autos
- Question – will there be a Mayor of Suffolk? No but an Elected Leader may happen.
- A member of the public asked, where Census results for the village could be found? Clerk recorded her email address and agreed to follow up.

### ■ Planning

Councillors considered the following Planning Applications:

★ DC/22/05762: 35 Hicks Lane, Assington,  
 Erection of two storey side extension following demolition of garage, and agreed to make  
 No comment

★ DC/22/05581: Land North Of Assington Barn The Street  
**For information only** we have not been consulted on this application:  
 Discharge of conditions for DC/17/04161

★ DC/21/02579: Assington Autos, Cotton Wood, Barracks Road

Change of use of land to extend an Authorised Treatment Facility (salvage yard); construction of 5no storage buildings, and other associated operational works.

The Environment Agency has found the site to be currently exceeding permitted noise levels.

No response to be sent to BDC Planning.

- Cllr Finch affirmed his aim to avoid additional traffic. He will investigate and respond;
- Cllr Jordan to draft response to Environment Agency (cc BDC) on lack of enforcement relating to excessive noise.

### ■ Finance

From the RFO Report authorise payments to be made and note income received since the last meeting, review the Reconciliation of Accounts against Bank Statements and the Statement of Accounts vs Budget.

It was resolved to pay the accounts as per the schedule.

■ **Licensed Path, Footpaths and APC's Assets** including the maintenance of the allotments and conservation area.

- The handrail on Footpath opposite St Edmunds Church is complete. Thanks to Cllr Stacey.
- Bin posts; replaced by Sudbury Wardens using recycled concrete posts.
- Purchase of two additional dog bins and associated posts; resolved to budget up to £500 from CIL. Clerk to investigate costs for purchase and fitting and circulate to Councillors for agreement.
- Thanks were extended to Cllr Hill who has removed the rubbish from the allotment area.
- Replacement of fence posts around the allotments to be considered at a future meeting when report and quotations have been received from contractor.

### ■ Highways update

- Following discussion Cllr Hill to write a short article for the Assington News outlining Speedwatch results to date and background information.
- Bus stop; Cllr Hill to forward CCTV photos of people making their way to/from the bus stop in the dark and near misses with traffic. Clerk to forward to Highways and bus company for advice and action re public safety.
- Triangles; Clerk to ask Cllr Thorogood for an update on provision of wild flower seed mix for the two greens and distribute to Councillors.

### ■ Quiet Lanes Suffolk

Invoice received from SCC. Cllr Hill to erect remaining two signs in due course.

### ■ Light Pollution

Clerk to chase DCllr Parker for update and distribute to Councillors

### ■ Capital Expenditure Projects

It was agreed that Councillors would consider a list of potential projects to benefit the village its people and its assets and revert at the next meeting. Cllr Howcroft to write a short article for the Assington News asking residents for ideas.

### ■ Questions to the Chair

- Resolved to amend the Donations Policy as distributed by Cllr Howcroft.
- New Councillor training Resolved to agree expenditure for online training.

### ■ Meetings

Next scheduled meeting will be held on Monday 30th January 2023 at 7.30pm

### Meeting dates for 2023 will be:

30th January, 27th March, 22nd May, 31st July 25th September, 27th November

### The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on 27th March prior to the Parish Council meeting

■ The meeting was closed at 9.22 pm





# VILLAGE NEWS AND UPDATES:

## CAROL SINGING FOR SHELTER

On 16th December 2022 a group of Carol Singers started off in The Shoulder of Mutton and then trooped around the village, singing carols to raise money for Charity.

A record amount of £300 was raised for Shelter. Many thanks to those who sang/shook collecting boxes/supplied refreshments/ and in particular, to those who so generously donated.

(A note to those new to our village, if you see a crowd outside your front lawn, don't send for the police, - especially just before Christmas!- it could be carollers).

**John Symons**

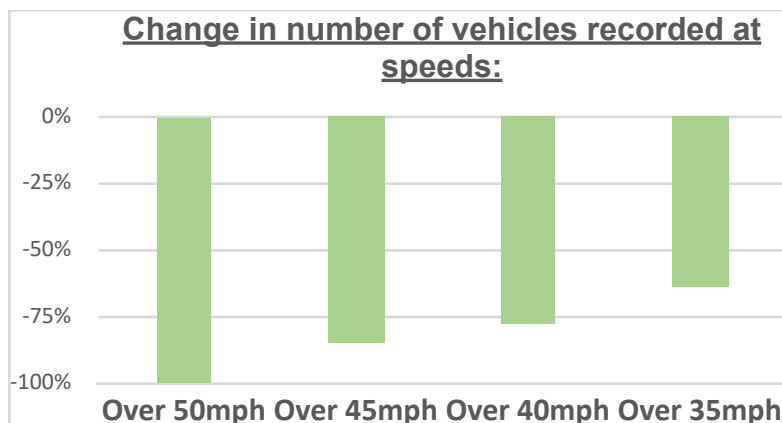
## CHURCH CLEANING - HELP NEEDED PLEASE

The cleaning of St Edmund's church has traditionally been undertaken by a group of volunteers from the village; some are regular churchgoers, others are not. However, one or two of our volunteers have had to give up in the past couple of years as they have either moved away from Assington or are no longer able to help us.

If you are willing to assist and can spare just a few hours in one month each year, please call Val on 01787-211133. Thank you.

## NEW SPEED LIMIT MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Now that the 20mph limit has been in place for some months we can share the impact of the change on vehicle speeds going along The Street.



Certainly from the feedback we have received it is clear now that there were a wide range of expectations from people who asked and voted for the limit to be reduced through the neighbourhood plan process. Clearly not all of these expectations have been met, but there has been a very dramatic reduction in vehicles travelling at higher speeds – with 64% fewer people travelling at 35mph and 85% fewer at 45mph. Hopefully this translates in to making people feel safer and more confident walking, cycling and riding on the street.

The community speed watch team continues to serve the village and has received new equipment which allows monitoring of vehicle speeds over 300 yards away. It is good to hear that the numbers of vehicles recorded speeding is now gradually reducing.

**Assington Parish Council.**

## HORTICULTURAL SHOW 2022:

### The Final Reckoning,

### .....and Goodbye from Bryn!

Further to previous report to the Assington news, the final round up of takings has been completed and I am pleased to announce that last years show raised a total of £241.15 profit after all expenses had been paid and sponsorship monies collected in.

This money will be given to the Assington Association and will help towards funding our newsletter which is so important to news and connectivity within our village.

As previously announced I will be standing down from being the main organiser of this event and will be handing the baton over to Karen Wiles who has helped with this event for many years. I will continue to do what I can to assist and I hope the whole village will support Karen and this very worthwhile village event into the future.

This event is now much more than just a horticultural show as it includes other crafts and skills as well and is a good chance to showcase so many good things about our village and its people.

Next years seeds have arrived and the potatoes are on there way, so see everyone on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> August. In my diary and on the 2023 Countryfile Calendar already.

Thank you to everyone who has helped me over these past five years. Bryn. X.

### .....and hello from Karen!

I am looking forward to taking up the reins for our Horticultural Show this year, it is such a lovely tradition for the village. This year the children's section will split into age groups with a few additions that we hope they will enjoy. The adult craft section will include a class for any handmade craft item that you have made.

Let's hope the weather is kinder to our gardens and allotments this year.

Let's get planning and growing it's all for fun and also helps our village charities. What's not to like? Karen. X

## YOUR SUGGESTIONS ARE INVITED.....

### ...For ideas for CIL money projects

The Parish Council would like to hear from residents of the village who have ideas for potential investment projects that we could pursue to benefit the village and the people in it. The Parish Council has some Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding - which was used most recently for the road-safety works - but government funding also often becomes available for specific projects, such as decarbonisation. Our aim is to evaluate and cost potential projects with a view to proceeding with some, and keeping others for when funding becomes available in the future.

Projects would need to be investments in the fabric of the village, including the village hall, playing field, allotments, footpaths and shared spaces. Both the Parish Council and the Assington Village Charity, which is responsible for the Village Hall and the Playing Field, have already got a few ideas for suitable projects, but we are keen to hear as many suggestions as possible for plans that would make Assington a better place to live.

Please email [assingtonpc@yahoo.com](mailto:assingtonpc@yahoo.com) or speak to any of the parish councillors to share your ideas.

  
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# MORE NEWS FROM THE RYES COLLEGE

From Head, Daniel Lawson

Visit of Parishioner – Bronwen Stacey to the Ryes College 1st December 2022

I am writing to share my delight of our first official visit from our local Assington Council Parishioner, Bronwen Stacey, to our school site since the ending of COVID restrictions a number of months ago, and the first time since I was appointed Head in 2020.



Bronwen visited our pupils from 7 – 11 and spoke in our community meeting. Bronwen presented certificates to those pupils who had participated in our school effort to keep Assington tidy. You may remember the article from a previous Assington Newsletter. We very much enjoyed Bronwen's presentation of the certificates, where she was supported by Sudbury Community Warden Team. During this time, Liz Brightwell, our ASDAN co-ordinator was able to share some of the amazing work that has happened in our local community, as well as discuss potential new openings. I was also grateful to be able to spend a little time together and share the vision I have for the school, as well as my faith in our team to prepare our pupils for a life of service and work in the community. A member of our year 9 group then led a school tour and was able to talk about the studies that the pupils are involved in as well as describe some of the amazing things that happen here.

To finish, Bronwen, pictured here with Ben from the Community Warden team and two members of our school community also sat down and enjoyed our Scones and Tea break which had been freshly made by pupils.



I am extremely grateful for Bronwen's visit, and look forward to a time where we may be able to do more good acts of service for the community, as well as hopefully to work together more.

If ever you do want to know more about the school, or feel you have something that may inspire young minds, please do not hesitate to get in touch. **I am easily contactable at [daniel.lawrence@theryescollege.org.uk](mailto:daniel.lawrence@theryescollege.org.uk).**

\*\*\*\*\*

## *An Invitation To Everyone To Join The Next RYES Litterpick Around The Village*

The Ryes College invites the residents of Assington to join them on a village litter pick which is supported by Sudbury Town Council community wardens.

**ASSINGTON VILLAGE LITTERPICK  
THURSDAY 23rd MARCH 2023  
AT 2pm**

**anybody willing to help please meet up at the Village Hall at 2pm and you are warmly invited for refreshments at Pump Farm school after the litter pick. Do join us!**

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# THE HAPPYSOUNDS



## CHRISTMAS CONCERT Raised £582 towards the Church tower project fund

The Happysounds Christmas Concert in Assington Church on Saturday 3rd December raised a staggering total of £582. This is a wonderful amount, our huge thanks to everyone in the choir, and of course to Nettie, who arranged everything, and even more thanks to the generous relatives, friends and neighbours for their contributions; we are truly grateful to you.

This was a Special Charity concert, with all the proceeds generously being donated towards the fundraising for the Church Tower project, when the plan is to be able to provide "up to date facilities" of a WC and a small kitchen refreshment point.

The Choir entertained an appreciative audience with a medley of carols and Christmas songs: it was lovely to be able to hum along to the well-known tunes and carols, but equally special to hear some slightly less well-known ones. One carol, which Nettie had arranged herself, had the most beautiful harmonies, and this was a talking point and the subject of many compliments.

## CARPE DIEM

Happy New Year to everyone.  
Carpe diem.

Now is the time when, traditionally, we all make resolutions- good resolutions hopefully.

This is a very good idea -but – I find that these long term resolutions tend to grow weaker as time passes, in fact by the end of January they have often disappeared completely!

Better perhaps to make a fresh resolution each morning, nothing enormous but plan, each day, to do something during that day, one thing of the many that God hoped we would always be doing.

A friend suggested that everyone should say the collect for grace each morning, thanking God that we have safely got this far, asking for His defence and praying that 'all our doings may be ordered by  
*"Thy governance, to do always that is righteous in Thy sight".*  
Then make our resolution for that day..do something 'righteous' that we don't usually do.

We are all so lucky to live in peace, in relative prosperity and in a lovely place. We are great beneficiaries of Gods' enormous generosity, so should each day give thanks and try to respond generously, one day at a time...Carpe diem, seize the day, do it now.

**May God bless us all. John Symons**





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## A VIEW FROM AROUND THE BEND

So sad to hear of the death of Farmer Harris, I can remember him from around 50 yrs ago, when I was taken, as a very young lad to the Hadleigh show and he was in charge of parking and many other things I am sure. More recently since I have come to live in Assington, I have tried to keep out of his way as he was driving his old blue truck down the back lane towards Hagmore Green, this usually necessitated me leaping into the grass verge and sheep's parsley to give him clear passage down the narrow lane, he was always so nice to me and always waved and shouted hello if I was in earshot and I am sure didn't remember me from earlier times. A really nice rural man who always seemed to support local village events and who was always helpful and cheerful despite his advancing years.

Tough at the moment trying to keep the cottage warm within a tight budget, just about managing and surviving with other bills but it is really difficult at this time, had been hoping to pick up some much needed decorating or gardening work for cash but no offers as yet, I guess everyone else is a bit skint as well and saving their own money. Maybe I will hike into Boxford next week and see if the local farms have any jobs going, I once spent the whole summer holidays picking fruit and could maybe do something useful again for a little much needed cash.

My friend Bobbie has bought herself a new car, a little silver minnie with a matching go fast stripe on each side no less, she arrived very early one morning wearing a very short skirt to show me. I was flabbergasted, I have never seen such sights before, it runs on electric as well apparently, I have forbidden her to charge it up in my house as I have gone above the limit already, not to mention the calor I am buying for the cooker. She took me out to lunch later on when I had recovered a little and we had a roast dinner each, with all the trimmings of course at a local pub called the Swan in Henny village. This certainly made up for a rather lonely Christmas and rounded off the old year with a nice feeling. I am really lucky to have such a nice friend. She even left her old folks who are in fact younger than me to come back a day early. Maybe I will pluck up the nerve to go as well next year, although I hate travelling away.

I did manage to go to Hadleigh cinema before Christmas to see the railway children which was lovely although so different to what I remember from when I was a young kid.

Looking forward to getting out into the garden when the weather warms up, I have asked Mr King for some seed which will come next month and I will get cracking, I will also try to get an even bigger marrow to grow this year along with Bobbies help of course, she really has ways to extend the size and the length.

Hopefully I can be more able to feed myself and live more healthily and cheeply this season, especially as most of the garden is in cultivation now, may try growing fruit this year and have saved the pips and seeds of things I have eaten from the bucket and chuckit lav and spittoon.

I really seem to have come out of my earlier despair and gloom and find myself starting to look forward to the spring weather and more sunshine, it is really quite cold and dark in the old cottage, and the low ceilings do not help lift the gloom inside and as much as I love living in my cottage, I just cannot wait to be outside more, as long as it is not on the bit adjoining the road.

Also I do worry about both my cats and desperately try to keep them around the back and close to the fields, although the green tractors seem to go fast I feel that Henrietta and Alpha Romeo and Little Mo ( Bobbies kitten ) could at least outpace them. I am told that she is to have a little op in the spring so more trauma, I hope she survives o.k. That's Little Mo not Bobbie.

The old guy from up the street says that I have to spruce up for the kings coronation, what a cheek, I will surprise him one day when I put all my new cloths on, I am sure he thinks I am just a tramp but who cares anyway, I am sure I have a good heart and have always worked hard and been honest throughout my life and who is he anyway, just because he has a ride on mower.

I will however put up some flags and stand to attention when he is proclaimed king then maybe the present hullabaloo will be over and we can get on with our lives.

Long Live the King.

See you all around next month, if I am spared. Keep Well.

**Esra.**



## SESAW NEWS

Each year, happy owners often return with ex-SESAW dogs for a Christmas visit. One of these catch-ups highlighted an issue which might interest readers so here is Carmen's story:

"Last year we were ready to open our hearts to another dog, having lost one in lockdown. We just missed one we liked at SESA W but were introduced to three Cocker Spaniels. Poor things, they were so scared and neglected, understandably after being used for breeding. We fell in love instantly and knew they were the dogs for us.

They came home where they are safe, cared for and very much loved but we noticed strangers giving us horrible looks when out on walks. We couldn't figure out why, but then it clicked. They saw the girls' low-hanging bellies, caused by having so many litters of puppies in their previous lives, and they were judging us for how they looked. It made us feel awful.

The moral is, please don't make assumptions based on how a dog may look or act. Maybe, like ours, it didn't have the best start and the owner is trying to make a good life for their pet and help it heal from horrible past experiences. Our girls have come on so well since we've had them, but there is still a long way to go. So please don't judge a book by its cover, because you don't know what's happened on the inside."

Well said, Carmen. It's the same for canines like me. Many of my fans used to think little dogs were nasty and vicious until they met me, Kenny (the Boss) Chihuahua.

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## LAVENHAM FARMERS MARKET

### Assington Mill featured on BBC1

Did readers catch the recent (early January, [Series 7/2](#)) BBC1 programme "The Farmers' Country Showdown" which featured two traders at Lavenham Farmers Market?

Tim and Sophie Gurton, who were featured, keep their beautiful Longhorn cattle down at Assington Mill during the summer months. The programme included views of Assington Mill farm, showing the cattle grazing in their summer pastures;



Tim explained that he had been approached approximately 15 years ago to graze his heritage cattle on this land, because the manner in which they graze means that they leave tufts of grass, which encourages vole habitat, and this in turn provides good hunting for Barn Owls.

Bob Cowlin (who lives at Assington Mill) explains: "the cattle are doing me a special favour: The Longhorn cattle are hardy but docile animals and are good conservation grazers ie: not too fussy how rough the grazing is, which helps to keep the rough grass fields in good order. 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." 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.

These cattle produce some of the highest quality beef available, and are 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.

Or.....You could attend the **Lavenham Farmers Market**, which this month is on **26 FEBRUARY 2023** from **10am – 1.30pm** at **LAVENHAM VILLAGE HALL**.

Lavenham Farmers Market is the **WINNER** of the 'Best Farmers Market in UK' in the Farm Retail Association Awards 2022!

Lavenham Farmers Market, officially the best farmers markets in the UK, is held on the fourth Sunday of every month outside Lavenham Village Hall and on the adjoining field.







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