

ASSIKINGTON

NEWS



JUNE 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 (sjking@btinternet.com)	Stephen King	01787 210932
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, Sec	Claire Osborne	07920 800108
Boxford CEVC Primary School (office@boxford.suffolk.sch.uk)	Head: Mrs J Davies	01787 210332
Brownies, Boxford	Moira 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	Roger and Rose Symonds	01787 211534
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



ASSINGTON COMMUNITY BANNER IN SUPPORT OF THE NHS AND FRONTLINE STAFF

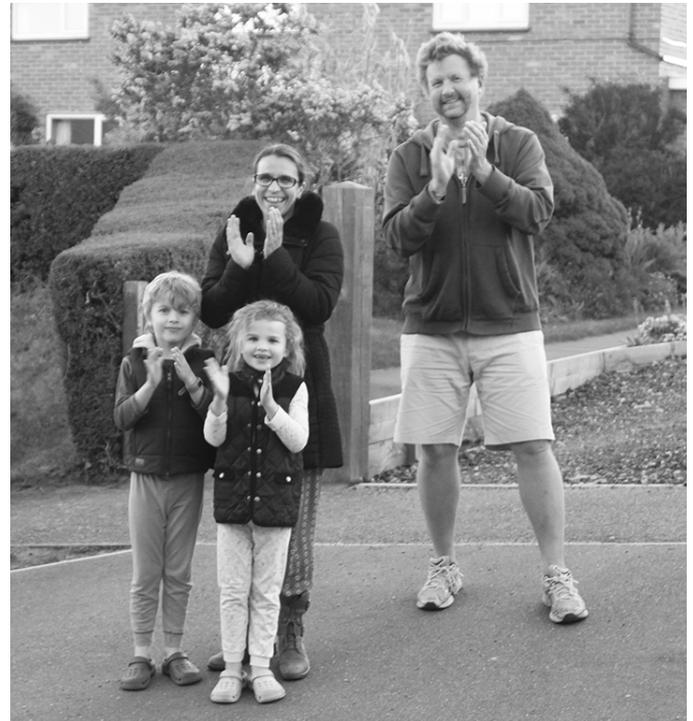
From Rosemary Symonds

I am aware that many of our residents are self isolating or shielding and therefore haven't had the opportunity to see the lovely rainbow coloured banner on display in the village. Children from the village and the Ryes College were invited to send in pictures or messages of support for our NHS and all frontline workers; they certainly didn't disappoint, we received approximately 20 amazing pictures with some lovely messages of support. On behalf of the Parish Council I would like to thank Rachel Young for designing and co-ordinating the whole project. Thank you, just what we need to cheer us all up.

Best wishes and keep safe.



THURSDAY EVENING CLAPPING FOR CARERS
photographs by Steve Betts



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DANIEL ROSE FEARON

By BS

Daniel Rose Fearon was born in 1803 in Holborn, London, Middlesex, the beloved son of Devey and Eliza Dorothy. His parents, Devey Fearon, (born in Beachworth Surrey in around 1769) and his mother, Elizabeth Dorothy Rose, had been married in 1790.

His mother passed away a month after Daniel's birth. It was a sad and shocking time for the family, as Devey's mother Ann had also very recently died unexpectedly.

Devey Fearon, a medical doctor, was devastated and wanted nothing more to do with his profession; he and Eliza had been so happy together as was evidenced by letters they wrote to each other.

Eliza Dorothy, the daughter of Dr Rose, had been deeply religious and Devey now turned his heart and mind to all things spiritual. Little Daniel was sent to Carlshalton to be raised by his grandfather and his aunts. His Grandfather Dr William Rose was rector of Beckenham and Carlshalton, where Daniel was tutored at home. The decision to home-tutor Daniel was a result of the fact that Devey (his father) had been so bullied at Charterhouse that he would not allow Daniel to go to a public school.

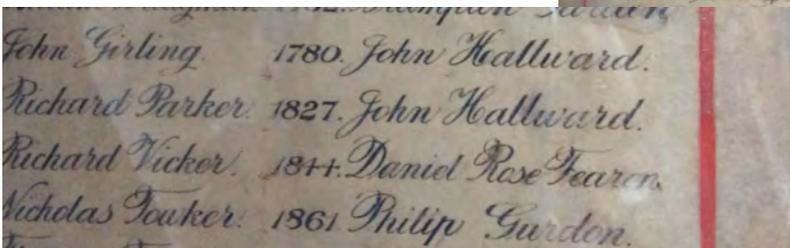
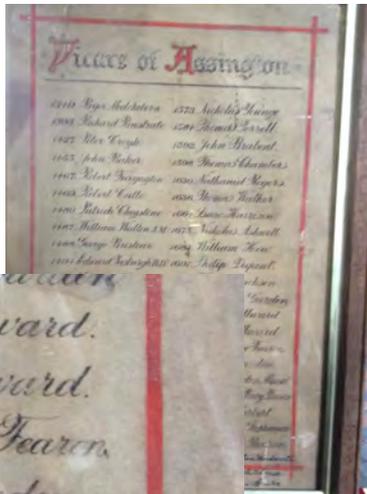
Despite the disadvantages of his education, for his tutors were constantly changing, he achieved a mathematical scholarship at St John's College, Cambridge. His aunts were very concerned about his health and did not encourage him in his studies. His father was concerned that his studies would replace religion in his life and encouraged him to be ordained. Daniel, achieving his BA in 1826 and his MA in 1829, never doubted the direction he was taking and was ordained soon after his 23rd birthday. He was ordained as a Deacon in Norwich in 1827, and then a Priest in 1828. In 1827 he was Licensed as the Stipendiary Curate at Assington Church. Daniel became Vicar of Assington in 1844, a position he held until 1861.

In a letter to her nephew Henry, Margaret Fearon gives a picture of their lives. She writes:

'I think that I need not describe Assington to you, you must often have heard your father (Arthur) talk about it and tell of the old coachman and cook, Hills and his wife, who lived with our parents for 34 years. It was an ideal home for children, quite in the country with a good garden and orchard and a meadow beyond where we used to put up a tent in the summer and have frequent cricket matches. We had three families of first cousins living within seven miles of us, The Raymonds at Middleton, the George Raymonds at Sudbury and the William Andrewes at Chilton, a little village between Sudbury and Assington. We could play a cricket match family against strangers and frequent were the family meetings for music, dancing and cricket. The Andrewes were all very musical, each of mother's brothers playing a different instrument and we used to have the most delightful family concerts in those old days.'

In 1861 Daniel resigned his position in Assington and took a curacy under Archdeacon Woolcombe at Heavitree near Exeter. The Archdeacon wanted a man of weight to whom he could entrust the parish during his frequent absences from home and Daniel was anxious to get experience in town work. He was an unusually good preacher and his sermons soon attracted attention.

In 1867 he accepted the living of St Mary's Church, Newton Abbot, Devon, and remained there until his death in 1875.'



In 1834 he married Frances Jane, the youngest daughter of the late Charles Andrewes, rector of Flempton in Suffolk. Frances' mother's family had been settled in Suffolk for many generations at the Auberries, a small property near Sudbury.'

Daniel and Frances had nine children all of whom were christened/baptised in Assington:
Daniel Robert Fearon was born in 1836 in Assington.
Charles Tatham Fearon was born in 1837 in Assington.
Louisa Frances Fearon was born in 1839 in Assington.
William Andrewes Fearon was born in 1841 in Assington.
Eliza Rose Fearon was born in 1843 in Assington.
Arthur Fearon was born in 1844 in Assington.
Margaret Fearon was born in 1847 in Assington.
Mary Anderson Fearon was born in 1849 in Assington.
Edith Andrews Fearon was born in 1852 in Assington.

The wonderful East Window of Assington Church is dedicated as follows:

"To the Glory of God and in memory of his faithful servant Daniel Rose Fearon Vicar of this Parish and Frances Jane his wife 1827".

Please see the header at the top of the page.



Nick Peasland

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ASSINGTON ANNUAL PARISH REPORT 2020

From the Chairman, Simon Thorogood

Due to Covid-19 the Parish Meeting and Council Meeting was cancelled in March and all future Parish Council Meetings will be held via conference call until future notice. The public are welcome to attend these meetings and notices will be put on the two village notice boards and on the website as normal 3 working days before the meeting - <http://assington.onesuffolk.net/>

With the recommendation of social isolating the Parish Meeting will not be held this year and the **Assington Village Charity and Allotments Association reports are available in the May edition of the Assington News.**

The main issue for the Parish Council continues to be planning applications with 19 viewed for comment over the last 12 months. Although this is half of what the Parish Council commented on in the previous 12 months. Including the April telephone conference meeting, the Parish Council will have met on 10 occasions over the past 12 months.

I would like to thank all those involved in the Neighbourhood Plan Group and all those who have contributed. The timetable of the plan will inevitably be impacted by Covid-19, but the team continues to make progress, completing the pre-submission consultation stage in March. The government has instructed that in light of Covid-19, neighbourhood plans should be given some weight in planning decisions even if they are not yet fully adopted, which is most welcomed.

The council has set a Precept of £10,000.00 for 2019 / 2020 which means there will be no increase for each household.

I would like to thank Lee Parker, Babergh District Councillor and James Finch, Suffolk County Councillor for their attendance at our meetings and for their willingness to offer help and advice when needed.

I would like to thank the Clerk and all the Assington Parish councillors for their help and support over the last year and the Village Hall Charity for all their efforts and the amazing job done in organising the new playground.

I would also like to thank Bronwen Stacey the editor of the Assington Parish Newsletter for keeping us all up to date. As well as Maxine Gardiner and her team at the farm shop for all their hard work keeping us all supplied with groceries.

And finally, my thanks to Simon White our internal auditor for again making sure that we stay on the right track.

FOOTPATH WARDENS' REPORT 30 April 2020

The current pandemic has I think made us appreciate just how fortunate we are to have such lovely surroundings, with our footpaths giving access to the open countryside almost on our door steps, we are able to see and hear things on a daily basis that others dream of doing, on just one walk this week we heard the unmistakable call of the cuckoo and the song of a skylark which hovered above us, at Pack's piece we watched a barn owl hunting for food, the Blue bells have been such a welcome site amidst all the gloom and doom.

It's been really refreshing over the past few weeks to see so many couples and families out exercising on the footpaths.

The footpaths in general are in good order and easily accessible, the majority of users respect the Country Code and also pick up after their dogs, litter is minimal. Finger posts have been replaced on F/P 20 Vicary Estate , F/P 16 The Thicks F/P 21 Wemsies Lane.

THE THICKS Following concerns from residents regarding professional dog walkers exercising large numbers of dogs off leads and cyclists racing round the tracks, Assington parish council with permission from the owner, have installed new signs at both entrances to The Thicks, giving clear information about who has access over the permissive paths.

FOOTPATH 16 On Sunday 26th April we received information about a split Ash tree which was in danger of falling across the footpath and bringing down overhead telephone cables, luckily the land owner kindly offered to fell the tree avoiding the necessity to close the path to the public, at a time when more people are out walking. (Thank you Richard)

David Gotts has once again been awarded the maintenance contract for cutting the footpaths for 2020/2021

Roger and myself agreed to take on the role of footpath wardens on a temporary basis following Wesley's resignation in 2018, we now feel that it's time for us to step down. If you enjoy walking and have a bit of spare time and would like to take over this role please call and discuss with either Roger or myself. 01787 229100

Stay safe
From Rose and Roger Symonds

THE ASSINGTON ASSOCIATION ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2019

From Bob Cowlin, Treasurer

The Assington Association is a not for profit organisation which funds our village magazine, the Assington News.

The Editor, Bronwen Stacey, published 10 editions throughout the year, including a page of colour photos of the Village Fete in the October edition.

Thanks again to the advertisers and generous contributions from individuals, the Parish Council and the organisers of the Village Horticultural Show, our finances remain in reasonable order. Our income from all sources exceeded expenditure on printing etc this year by about £165 and our bank balance averaged about £1,500. The books have been ably audited again by Ian Clark.

Thanks are due to all the contributors of articles and reports for the magazine, and to the volunteers who deliver it around the village. As ever, Bronwen, our editor looks forward to receiving your articles and reports, please, by the 15th of each month.

If any member of the public would like to attend APC telephone conference meetings please contact the Clerk, Jane Hatton, on Tel: 01787 468634 or email assintonpc@yahoo.com to obtain dial-in instructions.



SHOULDER OF MUTTON

Takeaway Bar

Drinks, desserts & snacks are available from 5pm – 6pm everyday.

During our Friday Food Takeaway service, we will extend the Takeaway Bar until 8pm.

If you are ordering a food takeaway, you can preorder any other goods you may need, so that they are ready to be collected at your chosen time slot.

Homemade pies and other ready meals are usually ready for collection on Thursday each week.

Takeaway Menu

Fish & Chips with peas £8

Scampi & Chips with peas £7.50

Whitebait & Chips £7.50

Battered Sausage & Chips £5

Double battered Sausage & Chips £7

Chicken fillet Burger, bacon, hash brown, salad & Chips £9

Vegetable mushroom burger, cheese, salad & Chips £8

Breaded Plaice & chips £8

Tempura Prawns, sweet chilli & Chips £8.50

Food takeaways are available on Fridays only from 5 – 8pm.

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PARISH CHURCH NEWS

Letter from the Revd Mary Cantacuzene



Dear Friends

This spring and summer are not turning out at all as we might have imagined this time last year. The Coronavirus pandemic has taken out lives by storm. Many of us must have known people (and even lost people) who have suffered from this dreadful disease and although the British are a resilient bunch, we have all been shocked by the sudden complete difference in all our lives. We may be asking "Where is God in all this?"

Let's try to cast our minds back to the time just after Jesus's arrest, trial and death. His friends were completely shocked and horrified by the dreadful events they had witnessed, they had such high hopes for his continuing ministry and couldn't believe that it had all come to such a sudden and terrible conclusion. Within days they realised that all was well: he was risen from the dead!

Over the next few weeks they met with him several times, spoke with him, touched him, ate with him and enjoyed his company. Subsequently he left them to go to his Father in Heaven (Ascension Day). Now we have just marked Pentecost (31st May) when, ten days after the Ascension, he sent his Holy Spirit to be with his friends and followers. The Holy Spirit made a dramatic difference to all their lives - and all that had gone before suddenly made sense to them, it empowered them all to carry on His ministry without him actually being there in body; he was now with them in Spirit!

It has made me think of Psalm 23 lately: "**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil: for you are with me...**" Those seem to me very important words for the times we are living in. Even though we don't have the comfort of our usual lives: going to church, seeing family and friends and our usual outings and routines; He is with us even so, helping us, protecting us guiding us and inviting us to reach out to him.

For many of us what seems like a disaster now, might just turn into the time when we look back and understand that it has been a wonderful turning point in our lives - when we received the Holy Spirit.

With love in Him, Mary

New Church Website

Assington Church now has its own website.

The coronavirus lockdown has made us think about different ways of keeping in contact with people and this website is just one new addition. The full address is <https://assingtonchurch.org.uk> but hopefully it won't be long before the search engines have learnt about it and all you will need to do to find it is to type in 'Assington Church'. Until the search engines have caught up just enter 'assingtonchurch.org.uk' into your favourite internet browser to get to the site.

The aim is to keep it up to date with the latest Church news and events especially at this time of change when no two weeks are the same. There will also be news about the Fete as the plans adapt to what we think will be possible on Saturday 5th September

It has been designed to be simple and easy to use but please let us know if there are any further improvements we can make.

Simon

Assington Church

zoom

Get Together

This Sunday at 10am

Please get in contact if we don't have your email to give us permission to send you details

The building may be closed but the church is still very much alive and active. Our web pages include:

📄 <https://parishchurch.co.uk>

📺 'St Mary's, Bures Parish Church'

📘 'The Parish Churches of Bures, Assington & Little Cornard'

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

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

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
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I look forward to hearing from you.

ASSINGTON ALLOTMENT HEDGEHOGS

By Honey Regan

Hello, my name is Honey Regan I live at Stag House, The Street.

You may have heard two young rescue Hedgehogs have moved into the allotment area. Bryn Hurren picked them up from Seesaw the pet rescue centre in Leavenheath. He has also made them a fantastic enclosure using old shed parts and spare wooden wine boxes. This will help to keep them safe and help us make sure they stay well fed until they are a little bigger and then we can let them enjoy finding their own way around the allotment area and hopefully they will eat some of the slugs and snails too keeping them away from the growing fruit and veg!

Harvey hedgehog



Because the Hedgehogs are too young at the moment to come out and search for food I am in charge of feeding them each night, this is when they would normally come out and feed, as they are nocturnal. I am feeding them cat food, cat biscuits, mealworms and snails. Both Hedgehogs are doing well, they look healthy and seem happy. One is more adventurous and bigger and we see it lots when we feed them at night. The other is a lot quieter, a little smaller and stays in the wooden home. Although it is now beginning to venture out.

Hattie hedgehog



I am really enjoying looking after the Hedgehogs they are really interesting and very cute! Look out for my next update on the Assington Hedgehogs.

FORWARD PLANNING: ASSINGTON HORTICULTURAL SHOW:

23 August 2020 at 2pm
From Bryn Hurren

At this moment it is still planned to hold the Annual Assington Horticultural Show on Sunday 23rd August at 2.00. pm.

Depending on rules and circumstances at the time we may need to make some modifications but it should be possible to have a fantastic event and for the village to come together to enjoy it in the normal way.

With our new normal way of life lots of us are growing and cooking more to be more self sufficient and to save money as well as keeping fitter and healthier. With this in mind it will be a good time to show and share what we have achieved. All being well the show schedule will be coming out with your July newsletter to plan what you can enter.

We hope to have lots of new entrants this year, especially from the under sixteens and new inhabitants to the village.

Happy growing, cooking, baking and photography.

Bryn 01787 210854.

Reminder that The Assington News can now be seen in colour on line at assington.onesuffolk.net then select Assington News on the far right hand side of the top strap line

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	4°C	-5°C
APR	49.5	26.5°C	+1°C
MAY	38.5	27°C	+0.5°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

VE DAY 75th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS IN ASSINGTON, 7th and 8th May

Despite the difficulties imposed by lockdown, there was still a wonderful tribute in front of The Shoulder of Mutton:



At 7.00pm on 7th May, the Eve of the 75th Anniversary of VE Day, David Wiles, who is the Essex County Royal British Legion Training Officer, carried the Union standard, with rainbow ribbons attached, through the village from Mill Farm Lane to Hill Farm and then returned to the telephone box for 7.45pm.

Simon White met David there, where they could be seen the length of the street, and Simon then gave the exhortation.

David dipped the standard, accompanied by the last post.

He then raised the standard, and announced that he would do a second dip for the NHS and key workers and recited the very appropriate words of the **Kohima epitaph** as he did so:



“When you go home, tell them of us and say, for your tomorrow, we gave our today”

It was a very touching service and everyone clapped the NHS at 8pm.

On VE day a good number of residents assembled on the road outside the pub.

On this occasion David Wiles used the Royal British Legion



standard from Tabor Academy.

At 10.52am David recited the exhortation, and at 11.00 am, in conjunction with 2000 national Royal British Legion he dipped the standard to the last post, at the end, raised it, then dipped it again for the national anthem. He raised and then recited the Kohima epitaph to

close that part of the ceremony.

Once again at 3pm, David repeated the service, to mark Sir Winston Churchills speech to the nation.



Nettie Osman then took over with her set of WW2 songs for 40 minutes. Unfortunately I don't have any photos of Nettie in her wonderful vintage costume, but I attach below a youtube link, which shows much of the ceremony, followed by Nettie singing.

<https://youtu.be/v1z80W3kM7o>

The video is also on Assington community group Facebook page.



Well done to both David and Nettie for bringing VE Day back into the collective Assington memory; we are fortunate to have you both. What a wonderful tribute to our parents'/grandparents' generation. Also thanks and well done to all those involved, who made such an effort to still honour the memories. A special mention of thanks must go to Gavin and Aaron at the pub who fully supported the event.

Thank you so very much for the lovely photos to Anna Clayton, David Wiles, and Gavin Bridges.



THE LAST EXCERPT FROM A PRIVATE AUTOBIOGRAPHY of MAJOR HENRY O TOMKINS (1894 - ?1980) of Assington



and
The Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry.....continued

From Bob Cowlin

Henry lived in the village as a child between about 1895 and 1908, when he joined the army at the age of 14. This is the final excerpt from his account, which began in the February edition.

PART FIVE

The day came when Dad marched brother Jack off to Bury St Edmunds in order to make a soldier of him, for, in his estimation, there was nothing like a soldier's life to make a man. Jack was duly examined, passed fit and sworn in as a soldier of the King. A few days later we heard he had been accepted as a boy in the 1st (Kings) Dragoon Guards and his train would be passing through Bures Station later that day on his way to Aldershot. Mother just had time to make up a parcel of food and got Arthur to ride hell for leather to Bures Station. He just got there in time to hand over the parcel.

The year 1905 came and with it disaster, at least so far as we were concerned. It came in the shape of the General Election and the death of one of Dad's colleagues. The Guardians decided that the District operated by him should now be divided between his remaining colleague and Dad, who took on the whole of Sudbury, including Ballingdon. This meant much more work but also a considerable increase in salary. The General Election was, however, the deciding factor. Dad was a true blue Conservative and was very friendly with the Tory candidate, Sir Cuthbert Quilter. He worked like a galley slave on his behalf. Dad canvassed everyone in the village and round about and obtained their firm promise to vote Tory. On Polling Day Dad was very prominent in organising transport and I drove a wagonette several times to a pick up point for voters and thence to the polling station. But when the result was declared, Sir Cuthbert was defeated by a narrow margin and the seat went to a Liberal. Dad was furious and vowed to have nothing further to do with village activities. He made up his mind to move nearer to Sudbury. And he moved us all into a dilapidated house in Newton, with an outside loo, no gas or electricity.

Then in 1906 brother Arthur was taken to Bury St Edmunds and enrolled as a boy in the 8th Kings Royal Irish Hussars regiment, then stationed in Colchester. I did not know many boys in Newton and somehow or other they all seemed different to the Assington lot. I was busy because as my elder brothers had left home, I was head stableman, groom and odd job man, sometimes mucking out the pigs as well.

Soon after we moved into Newton, an application was made for the green to be laid out and used as a 9 hole golf course. After a lot of controversy, the application to the Parish Council was approved. Dad had cut himself off from all village activities but in this matter he did put a spoke in. As the Green was Common Land, a charge could not be made for letting it. He suggested that once a year at Xmas, every resident should be given one cwt of coal. This was agreed to. I do not know whether this practice continues owing to the terrific price of coal. I should say not. However the Golf Course was a source of remuneration for the lads of the village. Membership in the first place was confined to the elite of Sudbury and the surrounding villages. Fees were

too high for any odd bod becoming a member. They only used the course on Sat afternoons and Sundays and during holidays. It was a very select club and we lads of course, knew when members would turn up to play this silly game which was unheard of by the locals. We knew the players would be too uppish to carry their own clubs and so we were on hire as caddies. I quite remember the autocratic gent coming out of the club room and giving us the once over. For some reason he beckoned to me, I went out and raised my tiffer when he handed me his bag of clubs. I hadn't the foggiest notion of the game but I took a very close notice of which particular club he wanted for each particular stroke. Before we got round the nine holes I thought I knew as much about the game as he did. When we got back to the ninth and the clubhouse, he went in for tea but said 'Don't go away, I am going round again'. Whilst he was inside I found out his name. It was Major Tippett from Sudbury, a very well respected man who was second in command of the local Territorial Battalion of the Suffolk Regiment. When we finished he asked me my name and he said 'I think I know your father very well'. Anyhow I had passed as a first class caddie with flying colours and I became permanent caddie to the Major. He was a very nice bloke but unfortunately he was killed later in the landing at Gallipoli."

* * * * *

Harry's auto biography continues with him joining the Army at the age of 14, the 1st Battalion of the Coldstream Guards. After 18 months he deserted with two other boys but was caught. His Court Martial was taken by Prince Alexander of Teck, Queen Mary's brother, who was a major in the Life Guards. Harry explained they were bullied by the older soldiers but he had to serve 21 days detention in Aldershot Prison. In due course a review was held and it was decreed that in future all youngsters under the age of 18 must be kept separate from older men throughout the army. Harry developed a skill in playing the bugle and married Elsie whom he met whilst at Barracks in Birdcage Walk.

When war was declared, Harry went to France and Belgium gaining promotion but also being injured in the trenches. He was offered a commission to 2nd Lieutenant but refused because, unlike the other Guards officers, he had no private means. He subsequently transferred to the Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry, before losing his hearing in a shell blast and, on another occasion, having his jaw broken by a shell splinter. He was invalided back to England before a spell in Germany in 1919 repatriating British prisoners of War. He served in India and Ireland before retiring on medical grounds in about 1928.

He became School Attendance Officer to London Borough of Finchley. In WW2 he was called up but served in the UK before returning to Finchley and becoming a Conservative County Councillor.

I don't think he returned to Suffolk. **Bob Cowlin**

After note from the Editor:

A chance finding of a parish record revealed that Henry's brother,
Arthur Tomkins married Grace Maud Butcher on 29 September 1917 in Assington Church



ASSINGTON VIRTUAL 'OPEN GARDENS': A Walk Round Our Cottage Garden

By Roger and Rosemary
Symonds

Ours is not the easiest of gardens to manage, we are on a slope, half of the garden is damp and the rest is very dry, we are also surrounded by mature trees making it shady, certainly no good for growing vegetables, we do have a couple of raised beds mainly for salad crops and also have an allotment.

We are keen to encourage wildlife, and have many birds nesting in and around the garden, we also have a small natural pond that at present is full of tadpoles. The centre of the garden is dominated by a lovely weeping birch tree, we are also lucky to have a stream running along the bottom of the garden .

Photo 1: looking down the garden taken from patio



3: Our twelve year old Windmill palm (Trachycarpus for those that like to know these things!)



2: looking up towards the house showing weeping silver birch

4: Honesty, blue bells & corn flowers make a nice show



5: Hydrangea arborescens (we call it the snowball tree).



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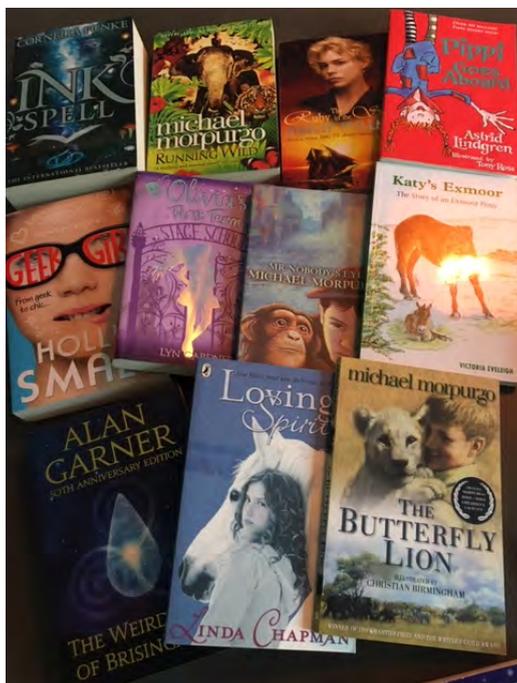
Can You Help?

Catherine Harrison has sent in this request and offer:

1) My dear old mum is spending lockdown knitting baby blankets and little hats for Colchester Hospital and she's run out of wool. Being of a certain generation, she's keen to reuse, recycle and 'make do' rather than just buy wool on line so if anyone has any 'double' knitting wool (any colour) they don't need that they'd like to donate to my Mum then please let me know, thanks! 😊

2) My daughter has spent lockdown repeatedly tidying, rearranging and turning out her bedroom so... we have 18 books, appropriate for younger readers to give away to anyone who wants them. The list is below, choose as many or as few as you like. Feel free to knock at the door (we're always in!) or text: 07710 899750 if you want to arrange pick up from Maxton, The Street, Assington (the Eco house nearest the Thicks path).

- 1) Mr Nobody's Eyes – Michael Morpurgo
- 2) The Butterfly Lion – Michael Morpurgo
- 3) Running Wild – Michael Morpurgo
- 4) Katy's Exmoor – (The Story of an Exmoor Pony) – Victoria Eveleigh
- 5) Katy's Wild Foal – Victoria Eveleigh
- 6) Link Heart – Cornelia Funke
- 7) Link Spell – Cornelia Funke
- 8) The Weirdstone of Brisingamen – Alan Garner
- 9) Loving Spirit – Linda Chapman
- 10) Pippi Goes Aboard – Astrid Lindgren
- 11) Murder Most Unladylike – Robin Stevens
- 12) Winter Wishes – 'A Magical Collection of Animal Tales'
- 13) The Ruby in the Smoke – Philip Pullman
- 14) Geek Girl – Holly Smale
- 15) Olivia's First Term at Stage School – Lyn Gardner
- 16) Mermaid Curse – The Silver Dolphin- Louise Cooper
- 17) My Sister Jodie – Jacqueline Wilson
- 18) The Diddakoi – Rumer Godden



NEWS FROM SESAW

What's a chatty Chihuahua like me to do now? Visitors cannot come in to see our animals and we cannot hold any fundraising events - my two main subjects of conversation gone. Fortunately our volunteers are always coming up with interesting ideas, like Sharon, a professional seamstress who is sewing washable, pleated face masks in triple layered dense cotton. Jayne is busy knitting 'Rainbow of Hope' car hangings and both items are selling well. The ladies suggest a minimum donation of £2 per item. If interested please phone Jayne on 07720 079370 to place an order.

We may only be a small local charity but we have homed many animals over the past twenty seven years and although life has changed beyond belief, we are still here to help or advise regarding any animal in need.

Our hard working ladies and gentlemen exercise and care for the animals every day, with maybe a few extra cuddles.



Thank you to all the shops that host our food collection bins or donate food and vegetables from their own stock. More than ever, we are grateful to them and the Public for their continued support. Given a choice, we would ask for kitten food because it is that time of the year again!

We dogs are glad of the lovely weather as we accompany Mum around the garden on her evening rounds and then it's bedtime for all the animals including me, **Kenny (the Boss) Chihuahua**.

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

CORONAVIRUS SUPPORT GROUP UPDATE

Thankfully the number of daily coronavirus cases continues to reduce and at the time of writing the restriction on our movements have begun to be relaxed very slightly.

Our Assington support group remains ready to help anyone who needs some assistance with essential tasks.

The Freephone number below is manned during the daytime or you can contact someone locally on the Parish Council directly through Andrew Hill (07814076875), Ian Jordan (07767 035742) or Rosemary Symonds (229100) for help.

Home, But Not Alone
Supporting vulnerable people in Suffolk

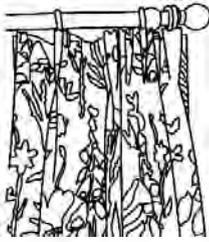
The Home, But Not Alone free phoneline is for people who need **urgent** help and support during the Coronavirus pandemic. It is only for people who do not have support available from friends, family or neighbours and are struggling for food, medicines or other essential supplies.

Coronavirus Emergency Phoneline
0800 876 6926

9am-5pm every day
For all other enquiries please visit: www.suffolk.gov.uk/homebutnotalone



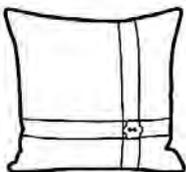
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If you have any ideas you would like to discuss, or want some help to create the look you are after, please don't hesitate to contact me.

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

The photograph below was discovered in Stephen King's study in a file of papers about their (late) neighbour Joan Dennis. It is dated **1977** on the reverse and he thinks it is about the **Queen's Jubilee** celebrations in the village. Whilst we recognise a few of the faces, we are unable to put names to most of them.

Back row, L to R (we believe to be) John Marshall holding a baby, and Coris Marshall; unknown gent but just in front, Gill Harris; unknown gent then possibly Barbara Wisbey and next but one Brian Wisbey, (Breaker's yard) holding a drink; unknown gent pouring a drink down Nick Miller's open mouth, unknown person then Alan Steele, (late of Park Farm and Briars, Dyers Lane), Malcolm Nice. A cluster of ladies from the village include Ruth Gill and Joan Dennis among others. If you are able to supply more (and more accurate) names, please do let us know.



NATURE REPORT

By Nick Miller

Does anyone remember seeing Glow-worms? The last local colony I saw was nearly twenty years ago, in a very inaccessible field below Arger Fen. At that time there was the memorable sight of over a hundred glowing. Nick Oliver of Newton Green tried an experiment there with a green LED light - he was so shocked at suddenly twenty or more males landing on him, that he quickly switched off and recommended not trying to repeat it!

The field is now grown up with bracken though, and when Bob Cowlin and I made a night-time search a few years back, we had no luck. But this year in early May, a friend of Bob's thought he recognised a glow-worm beetle in Spouses Grove, and his photo below, has now been confirmed by Jim Alder of the national Glow Worm Survey.



It's the adult females which glow, to attract a mate, in the summer.

People have been wondering about the white posts at the roadside, between Moors Farm and Wrights Plantation. It's the County Council's latest Roadside Nature Reserve, and the plant that's being preserved is the Lesser Calamint. The flowers are mauve, in a spike around 9 inches tall, and the leaves are light green with a very fragrant scent, growing all the year in a tight rosette close to the ground. The flowers appear in late

summer, which presumably why it's been mown so early in the season. Common Calamint is abundant round Assington, including in The Street and the Churchyard, but nationally it's a great rarity! The explanation is the dry ground it needs to grow, which is provided by road banks in East Anglia, and small areas in Kent and Gloucestershire. It mostly occurs between Hadleigh, Haverhill and Colchester.

Bob Cowlin is thrilled to have found another orchid, in very wet ground at Assington Mill. This one is the Early Marsh Orchid, which has pale pink flowers and yellow-green unspotted leaves.



Bob says :
"Amazing to find just one flower spike brightening up the area of boggy green marsh. The County Recorder, Martin Sanford, said it was especially pleasing to get the record because he hasn't had many new sites for this species."

BEE FLIES

By BS

In previous years I have never noticed these creatures sufficiently to be aware of them. This year I noticed them in great numbers in our garden particularly during a warm spell at the end of March. So I looked them up, thinking that if I have them, probably so do you:

People are spotting more of these flies that look like bees in their gardens; the public are generally more aware of bees because we know there's a shortage of them. Are they a fly or a bee?

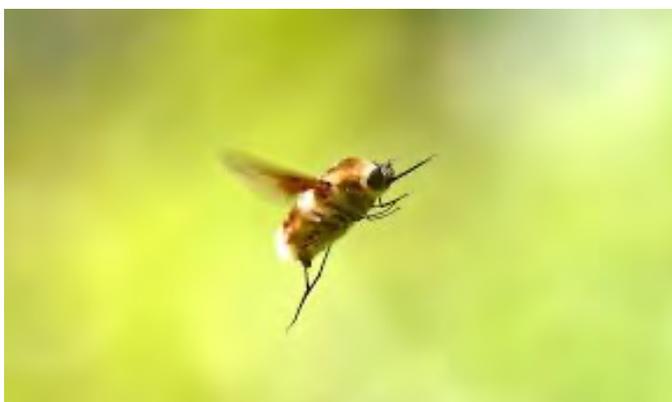
The Bombyliidae are a family of flies. Their common name are bee flies or humblyflies. Adults generally feed on nectar and pollen, some being important pollinators. Larvae generally are parasitoids of other insects.

Large bee-flies fly from late March to the end of May and look like a cross between a bee and a giant mosquito. They are early season fliers and they like warm and sunny days. Even though they have a long thin tongue (proboscis) that looks like it could hurt, bee-flies do not sting nor spread disease and are harmless to humans.



The long proboscis is actually used for feeding on flower nectar. These bee-mimics hum and hover in front of flowers like bees but, unlike bees, when they feed they perch on the flower with their long legs. The other main difference between the two is that bee-flies have a single pair of wings, whereas bees have two.

The adults search for nests of solitary bees, wasps and beetles and when they find one, hover near the nest entrance and dip their abdomen into the surface of the soil to lay their eggs. The hatched larvae then lives off (parasitises) the bee, wasp or beetle larvae.



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CALLIE'S JUNE REPORT

By Callie Bradbury

On Friday 8th May is was VE day's 75th anniversary and there was meant to be street parties and celebrations but unfortunately they had to be cancelled due to COVID-19. Many decorations were still hung up though.

On the TV many veterans told fascinating stories about their experiences during the war and VE day in 1945. There were performances from the 'D Day darlings' and other bands. We also enjoyed watching a recording of the events in the village on Thursday evening and Friday at the Shoulder of Mutton.

Lots of people know that planes were a major part in the war and on the 8th May this year the Red Arrows flew down ending up in London to do a display.



Captain Tom Moore (Colonel Tom Moore now) has now raised over £32 million for NHS workers. On his birthday 2 war planes flew over his house and he was very happy.



I have just started a plane collection including:

- 3 Spitfires
- 1 Hawk
- 1 Mustang
- 1 Messerschmitt
- 1 Lancaster bomber

I also have my Great Grandad Jones' medals from the war on display with the planes which are model plane sets I have built.



BOOK REVIEW

By Ellie Mead

James Canton teaches on the Wild Writing MA course at the University of Essex. He has also published several books.

The first is entitled Out of Essex and is a literary tour of the county. As James explores Essex and its writers: we discover Shakespeare's link with Castle Hedingham, meet John Clare in Epping Forest, Arthur Ransome on the Walton backwaters, Baring Gould living in the saltings around Mersea Island and H G Wells writing a tale of the First World War at Little Easton to name but a few. There are many others and James deftly describes the landscapes that surrounded them, his research method is to visit each writer's home ground and absorb the atmosphere of each place.

His second book: Ancient Wonderings, Journeys into Prehistoric Britain is similarly researched through spending time in the landscape, often with only a simple tent and a flask of tea. There are chapters on esoteric stone carvings in Scotland, mummification in the Bronze Age, seeking Bronze Age gold in Cornwall and a search for a Roman Road at Maplestead in which I had some involvement.

His latest book is to be published in August this year and, unlike the previous books, meant his going no farther than Marks Hall to visit the ancient Honeywood Oak. However over a period of 2 years or more James sat beneath, measured, photographed and noted subtle changes in the tree.



The resulting book: The Oak Papers, has been described as 'a profound meditation on the human need for connection with nature'. I spent much of 2013 excavating the lost mansion of Marks Hall a project in which James took a great interest whenever he visited 'his' Oak tree, and I am sure that something of the history of the place will appear in the book.

SIGNS OF THE TIMES.....

New finger-posts on Assington's footpaths.



UPDATE ON CHAMBERS BUSES IN THE SUDBURY AREA

Jeremy Cooper of Go East Anglia has just provided the following statement and update with a plan to provide some additional services as from 1st June. Full details will be on their website 23rd May;-

"Chambers bus service is continuing to provide a reduced service during the current crisis of COVID 19, and we are very grateful to the key workers driving the buses at the front line.

Our buses are reserved for those who cannot walk, cycle or drive and need to travel to work or school, seek/offer medical attention or supplies, or shop. You should not use our buses to go to places to exercise.

*As lockdown restrictions are relaxed so we expect the government to ask us to provide more buses, not least to ensure social distancing can be maintained, and we expect to provide some additional services from 1st June with a further review from 6th July. **New timetables will be on our website from 23rd May, or call us on 03301 020801 if you can't access the internet.***

LITTER PICKING WALKS

By Stephen King

Picture A collected on Tuesday 5th May from Barracks Road to Woodthorpes Farm via Three Ways.



Picture B collected on Thursday 14th May from Barracks Road to Shamrock Farm



The litter is mainly drink cans, plastic bottles, sandwich wrappers, crisps and cigarette packets. It is probably thrown out of vehicle windows as they are driven up or down these two sunken lanes.

TO THOSE DRIVERS: Please take your litter home

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Fiona Duncan, Sunday Telegraph

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