

# ASSIGNMENT

## NEWS



JUNE 2024

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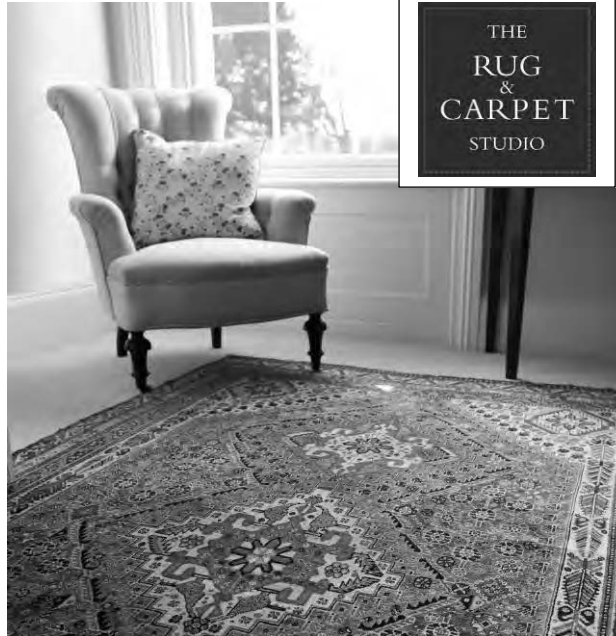
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50% donated to the Valerie Lock Church Fund to install Kitchen/toilet facilities.

# 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	Karl Debenham <i>alternative: Jenny Cutts</i>	07588 996211 01787 211371
Assington Baby and Toddler Group	Rev Tricia Box	07747 124592
Assington Books, Village Hall (see post office for times)	Michelle Bourner	07954 221773
Assington Farmshop	Maxine Gardiner	01787 211610
Assington Post Office, Village Hall	Mon 1.30-3.30, Wed 9-12	
Boxford CEVC Primary School ( <a href="mailto:office@boxford.suffolk.sch.uk">office@boxford.suffolk.sch.uk</a> )	Head: Emma Lea	01787 210332
Brownies, Boxford	Moira Grant	01787 211513
Church - Treasurer	Ian Clark	01787 211133
Churchwarden	Roger Britcher	01787 211021
Churchwarden	Bronwen Stacey	01787 210354
Community Choir	Nettie Osman	07957 394780
County Councillor ( <a href="mailto:james.finch@suffolk.gov.uk">james.finch@suffolk.gov.uk</a> )	James Finch	01473 264993
District Councillor (Assington)	Lee Parker	07970 196884
Doctors surgery – Sudbury	Hardwicke House	01787 370011
Doctors surgery – Bures	Bures	01787 227529
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Horticultural Society	Karen Wiles	
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
Mobile Library - Vicary Estate Junction	15th June	4.15pm - 4.35pm
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	07811 108702
<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
Stoke by Nayland C of E Primary School ( <a href="mailto:admin@sbn.suffolk.sch.uk">admin@sbn.suffolk.sch.uk</a> )	Head: Mrs Kelly McGrath	01206 262418
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	Sean Mills	07547 190948
Village Hall - Charity Secretary		
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.  
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**Contact Bob Cowlin 01787 229955 Bank Account details for payments and donations: Account no: 01345159. Sort Code: 30 - 98 - 31.**  
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**The ASSINGTON NEWS** NOW IN COLOUR ONLINE at <http://assington.onesuffolk.net/assington-news/>

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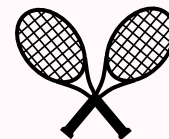
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# PARISH CHURCH NEWS



## Letter from Andrew Clifft, Reader in the Benefice of Bures with Assington and Little Cornard



Dear Reader

It's amazing how quickly time flies. We find ourselves at the beginning of summer already; enjoying the longer evenings, the warmth that the sun brings and maybe the hope of summer holidays later on in the season.

Over the recent months, we've noticed two regular visitors to our garden; a pair of Collared Doves. They're not great nest builders. One pair last year tried building a nest in the guttering which soon got rained out. They did though make me think of the stories involving doves and hope in the bible. Mindful of the enormous amount of rain that has affected us in the recent months, I thought of the Old Testament story of Noah in his ark, floating in the flood waters desperately looking out over an endless sea. He sends out a dove to find dry land and on its second mission it brings back a freshly plucked olive leaf. Noah knew then that the waters were receding and his heart was filled with hope.

In the beginning of Mark's gospel, we read about the baptism of Jesus by John the baptist. As Jesus was coming up out of the water, John saw the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

So as you enjoy the summer weather, take a moment to pause and look at the wildlife around you.

### Want to be part of something new?

Think church might be good for your family but not sure traditional services are



for you  
9:15-10:00 am  
First and third Sundays of the month  
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<https://assington church.org.uk>

## JUNE 2024 SERVICES IN ASSINGTON

**2nd June @ 10.30am HOLY COMMUNION**

9th June Bures @ 10.30am HC  
Lt Cornard @ 10.30am MW

**16th June @ 10.30am MORNING WORSHIP**

23rd June Bures @ 10.30am MW  
Lt Cornard @ 10.30am HC

**30th June @ 10.30am Benefice HOLY COMMUNION**



**THE CHURCH IS OPEN FOR VISITORS ON SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS, and at other times by arrangement with key holders.**

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

Churchwarden: Bronwen Stacey 210354

Organist: Bronwen Stacey 210354

Secretary: Emily Carlidge 07967 724266

Treasurer: Ian Clark 211133

### ASSINGTON CHURCHYARD

Our Churchyard is a Designated County Wildlife Site, as it has an enviable selection and number of wild flowers and plants. With this in mind, we have a specific mowing programme and do not mow until the Spring flowers have bloomed, and thereafter the churchyard is mown sensitively to this criteria., with one main cut to all areas in the Autumn.

**SUNDAY 16TH JUNE 10.30AM**

**ASSINGTON CHURCH FATHER'S DAY SERVICE**

**FOLLOWED BY:**

A Wild flower search around the churchyard with Nick Miller (approx 11.30am onward)

Finishing with a teddy bear parachute/zip line competition from the top of the church tower!  
Bring a teddy (zip line provided!)

Refreshments available.

### Assington Church TOWER PROJECT



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# STEVE WOODROW



On Wednesday 10th April 2024 aged 73 years old, Steve very suddenly and unexpectedly passed away at his home.

Very much a family man, he leaves behind his wife, son, daughter and two grand-daughters who are all missing him dreadfully.

Steve was very fond of the village of Assington. He moved in the summer of 2010 into the Old Post Office where he lived for six years. He loved the garden and filled it with many, many roses which was his favourite flower.

After taking a small break from the village White Webbs came up for sale. Knowing it was his wife's favourite cottage in Assington he purchased it and moved back in 2018. During his time away he missed village life and was so pleased to be back. Renovating White Webbs was a task he undertook with huge passion.

Daily he loved nothing better than standing on his drive greeting all who went by whether it be on foot, bike, horse back or in a car. As the months and years passed by the greetings turned into full blown conversations. He really enjoyed keeping up to date with everything that was happening. He eventually was awarded the title of "The Duke of Assington". And what a Duke he was with his long flowing grey beard, white pick up truck and three small dogs!

At the ripe age of 72 Steve became the site manager for the building of "Black Webbs". A build project that kept him very busy, with many a "to do" list being written for six months.

Every day he would be seen sweeping the drive, dutifully checking they there were no nails or screws to cause any flat tyres.

Steve was a very proud man who always kept his word. Willing to always lend a hand. In his own words "born and bred an Essex boy". However, the village of Assington won him over and became his favourite place to be.

A love of country music, Suffolk countryside, clay pigeon shooting, Harley Davidson's, sunny days, blooming roses, a glass of two of red wine, baseball caps and his beloved trip of a lifetime to Route 66 will be memories treasured by his family forever.

The famous long grey beard recognised by so many, will sadly never be seen blowing in the wind again as he stood proudly at the front of the legacy that he has now left behind.

**From Nicky Hetherston, Steve's daughter.**

\*\*\*\*\*

## BOXFORD & DISTRICT BOWLS CLUB

**From Roz Mortlock**

The outdoor season has officially began! Our Chairman George Bullett opened the season at the end of April and everyone was able to try out the new green. It looks amazing and very green! There have already been some competition matches played and we have had some solid wins - well done everyone.

We were also very honoured to be invited to bowl with the Chelsea Pensioners again early in May at their home ground in Chelsea. The weather was perfect, the setting glorious and a wonderful day was had by everyone. Not only were we able to bowl with the Chelsea Pensioners but they organised a very interesting tour of the beautiful buildings and chapel, completed by Sir Christopher Wren in 1692.



Thank you to Tresham who helped make this event happen and to Malcolm who organised the coach.

Here's wishing everyone a great bowling season with lots of sunny weather!

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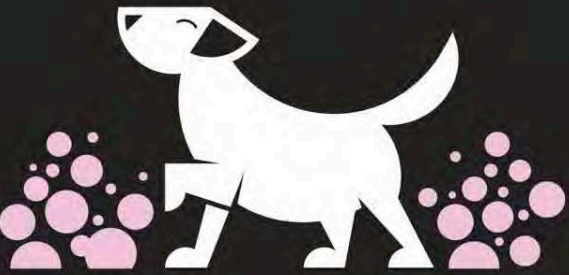
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# SESAW NEWS

Ollie has definitely mellowed. Our resident black cat has watched a brood of baby robins fly the nest without the slightest twitch of his tail! He hasn't even tried abseiling off the garage roof to reach the blue tits nesting box. Apparently he is more interested in finding a home for Lizzie, a pretty, but shy, tabby cat that has been with us since last summer.



She is slow to come to you, hardly surprising after being cast aside, yet another casualty of the pandemic. She arrived pregnant and with her first litter of kittens, all of which have been homed. Now she waits for that special someone with the patience and love she deserves. We can loan a large crate to house Lizzie as she is introduced into her new home.



We still have Lily and Grey, a bonded pair of Saluki dogs. They are looking for a loving home with a comfy sofa. If you could be the perfect person for them or our pandemic puss, please visit them between 10am and 1pm, Thursday to Sunday.

That pesky puss has just smashed Mum's favourite mug in the kitchen. Now, instead of admiring a cute Yorkie dog as she sips her tea, Mum has a photo of Ollie staring back at her but he's not so clever.



He hasn't noticed there is a different picture on the back. Yes, you guessed it's a photo of me, Kenny (the Boss) Chihuahua!

Suffolk & Essex Small Animal Welfare, Stoke Road, Leavenheath, CO6 4PP. Tel: 01787 210888, email: [info@sesaw.co.uk](mailto:info@sesaw.co.uk)



# NATURE WATCH THE SHED DOOR.....

I have discovered that I am not alone in remarking upon the sight of my first swallow every year, and of hearing the cuckoo; this would not be Assington if we didn't have such joys to treasure.



Some people not only take a delight in the first sight and sounds of summer when it lands in Assington, they actually keep a record of it.

Roger and Linda Britcher have kept a written record on their shed door, going back as far as 1994 (for swallows) and 1996 (for cuckoos).

The weather obviously plays an important part in how soon our visitors from Africa arrive, but also we note that fewer swallows in particular head back to

Assington each year. This depletion in numbers may be the result of very poor wet past summers, meaning that no fledglings were raised to carry on the tradition. Then again, the changes in local agriculture, such as spraying, or choice of crops may have an effect on whether our locality can sustain summer visitors to raise a new family here. The new expanse of water locally might well help to attract swallows, which skim across water to catch the bobbing insects.

Looking at the record on the shed door, the earliest hearing of an Assington Cuckoo has been 19th April, - the same date on several occasions, and the latest arrival was 16th May. This year, I understand locals have heard a cuckoo on the 13th May, so again, a "late" year for arrivals.

The earliest swallow to arrive was 20th March in 2004, and although it appears to always be in April (apart from 2004), the latest was 30th April this year (2024)! The dreadful wet and cold spring we have experienced must be a factor here.

Of course, when they do not arrive until later the swallows in particular are less likely to be able to raise as many broods as they tend to do in good years, and so the poor weather impacts on numbers raised, and the number strong enough to make the long flights back and forth annually between their summer breeding grounds and their winter African homes.

Let us hope that the changes in our weather do not deter our swallows and cuckoos from visiting Assington each year, and that numbers build up again to continue to give us pleasure.

# VILLAGE MAY DAY CELEBRATION

On Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May The Assington Village Hall Charity staged "The Start of Summer" Event. Luckily the weather was very kind with the sun shining and warm. Many attended and were firstly entertained by The Combined Happy Sounds Choir that were performing together for the first time publicly with 50 attendees, they certainly entertained with a number of songs which were performed superbly, conducted by Nettie Osman.

Next to perform were The Jewel of The Nile Dance Troup who performed very entertaining eastern belly Dance routines, stunning costumes with audience participation at the end routine which everyone enjoyed and a first for the village, and I am sure not the last. A massive thank you to Nicola Snow for arranging the display.

By this time the BBQ and the Shoulder of Mutton pop up bar were very busy, thanks to chef Nigel Finch and Karen Wiles on the BBQ and the team from the pub, with everyone enjoying the event and catching up. We were then entertained by the superb Houseshakers Band who played a wide range of songs that created much dancing on the hall veranda with lots of happy movers and shakers, with some surprises to say the least! Especially the rock and roll jivers, wow, you know who you are! and children having a dance with their mums. Then a special happy 80<sup>th</sup> birthday to a village resident. On the whole a great afternoon for the first one, it will return next year but bigger. Thank you to all who assisted in any way. Look out for more events to come.

## David Wiles

*And a huge well done to David himself for the provision of entertainment in our community facilities, his wonderful organisational skills, and also cheffing on the BBQ stall ("I never want to see another burger in my life"). Ed*





# BATS ABOUT TREES:

## The Water Meadow East of Assington Village

### From George Blake

My love for the outdoors developed from a young age, particularly by the enchanting presence of trees that surrounded me as I grew up. As I neared the end of my schooling, my fascination with tree life blossomed into a passion during my work experience with Richard Fordham. Under his guidance, I learnt about the world of tree surgery, where I discovered the remarkable *Salix alba*.

Blessed with supportive and understanding parents, I embarked on a journey to establish my own tree surgery firm, serving the local villages and surrounding towns earning a reputation for excellence, according to Google! They say patience pays off, and indeed it did when the opportunity arose to claim a meadow in Assington as my own. This open space offered the ideal conditions for cultivating the wonderful *Salix alba* (Cricket Bat Willow).

The *Salix alba*, a variety of willow tree grown for its suitability in crafting cricket bats, thrives in the UK climate. Its rapid growth rate not only promises financial rewards but also fills me with immense joy as I witness these trees flourish under my care. The process of nurturing them throughout the year brings a deep sense of fulfilment, combining both business and pleasure.



*Sequoia and young trees in nursery*

The young trees planted will mature in 12 – 16 years and during this time the canopy of the trees provides shelter and nesting opportunities for various wildlife species.

And you will likely notice an increase in birds, insects, and other animals as a result of their presence. Upon the felling of any tree, a new young tree will be promptly planted in its place, thus ensuring the perpetual renewal of trees on the land.

A case study carried out by The Environmental Agency and Natural England has shown that Cricket Bat Willow *Salix alba* significantly reduces the risk of sediment and phosphate affecting the nearby watercourses. Riparian planting along rivers is known to reduce the potential harmful effects from climate change - helping to cool rivers. The trees can also increase water infiltration and reduce nutrient loss. (CSF184 Edition 1 *Batting for Nature - A case study on growing willow trees*)



*Copper Beech Trees planted along northern border*

Alongside the Cricket Bat Willow *Salix alba* I have also introduced a mixture of native trees, around 200 young trees planted in partnership with the Woodland Trust, a delightful mixture of Oak, Cherry, Hawthorn Hazel and Beech.

These young trees will have a good success rate being from good stock. I have taken great pleasure in planting some *Sequoiadendron giganteum*, a species well adapted to the UK and helpful in the reverse of their endangered position in the wild in their native California home. The sequoia I have planted at Assington are special to me, I raised these trees from seeds gifted to me from my grandparents, and have delighted in watching them reached their current stage of life, around 3 meters. This is far cry from the potential 50 meters they may reach, but feel they may assist in the reverse of carbon potentially pulling an average of 85 kilograms of carbon out of the atmosphere per year. The Royal Society Open Science and The Royal Botanical Gardens carried out a study into the benefit of growing Sequoias in the UK and conclude they do bring equal importance to the ecological climate in the UK (<https://royalsocietypublishing.org/doi/10.1098/rsos.230603> )

In addition to the planting of trees on this Meadow at Assington, I am introducing flowering bulbs, and seeing the daffodils pop their heads at the beginning of the year I hope brings as much delight to walkers as they do to me.



*Weeping Willow next to footpath over stream*

I am currently researching the feasibility of erecting a bird watching hide, it has been fascinating learning about the bird species that frequent the area and I understand there are fellow bird watchers in Assington and would be delighted to hear top tips for the successful siting of a bird watch (contact via website [www.blaketreecare.co.uk/contact](http://www.blaketreecare.co.uk/contact))



*Willows and Daffodils*

As with any project, patience is key, and progress may sometimes seem gradual. However, my ultimate vision for the meadow in Assington is to cultivate a magnificent sanctuary—a haven brimming with trees, teeming with nature, and offering serene tranquillity.

*Logs stacked for habitat to attract wildlife*



# THE BREW HOUSE

## From Angela Bradding

The Brew House runs parallel to The Old Workhouse but is almost hidden behind it from the main road. Like The Old Workhouse it is subject to Grade II Listing.



The Brew House appears significantly older than the workhouse, judging by its timbers and layout, although we have no accurate date yet. You can see the old lathe and plaster between the beams. If funds allow, we would like to date the timbers using the techniques of dendrochronology.



We call this building The Brew House, as archival records attest to it being used to brew small beer for the workhouse residents. We could have named it the Bake or Wash House as there is both physical and written evidence for these functions as well. For example, there is quite a complex inglenook fireplace and chimney structure in a central position, and the cast iron and red brick remains of a bread oven.



The Brew House consists of two floors, although the first floor does not cover the entire footprint of the building. We wonder whether this building started life as a hall house, common in medieval England. These were simple, usually rectangular structures with just a ground floor and an open fire in the middle of the building. The smoke would just rise and go through an opening in the roof. At a later period, a first floor was added if or when money was available. These changes usually necessitated a fireplace and chimney, rather than just a fire. The bricks on The Brew House inglenook chimney look old. For example, they are shallower than say Victorian bricks, another clue to the building's age and relative rarity.





House originally had a thatched roof as the Overseer's records include entries for paying for and accepting delivery of thatch to repair The Old House. By the time we bought it, had been reroofed with simple corrugated tin.

*I find The Brew House a fascinating building, especially at present whilst it still needs clearing and sorting. It feels like a building stuck in a time warp; it has survived by neglect rather than by proactive preservation. The remains of the bread oven are particularly poignant and reminiscent of a bygone era. I hope that we can restore it and once again bake bread in a traditional way. I draw inspiration in this respect from the Miller's Cottage at Pakenham Mill. The oldest sections of the miller's kitchen at Pakenham closely resembles the heart of The Brew House with its working bread oven, washing and brewing coppers, stoves, and chimneys. If you haven't visited Pakenham Mill, I thoroughly recommend it as an informative and enjoyable experience.*

The Brew House is best seen as two sections. It seems that The Dyer's Lane section used to be an independent dwelling and was inhabited until at least 1837 by Elizabeth Simpson. The Overseers refer to this section as "The Old House". We have less clarity about the section of The Brew House at the garden end, although it is clearly contemporaneous with "The Old House". Specifically, we do not know whether this section was lived in before it became known as the bake/brew/wash house of the Overseer's records. There is a slight possibility that it had been the village forge, but we have no clear evidence at present.

The staircase that you can see is in "The Old House" section. We believe that these were built when the mezzanine level was added. You can also see the bare structures of walls and doorways. The floor is laid with red bricks, like The Old Workhouse. We will probably have to raise all the remaining bricks and relay them once the plumbing and groundwork is complete. It seems that the Brew



All in all, The Brew House clearly has a rich and significant history, but it is now in dire need of restoration. We are really looking forward to further research, which should inform our plans to bring this wonderful building back to life.

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## Duncan's Marquee Hire



07768 605 250 / 01787 212 379

Profline 5m x 10m Profesional Marquee PVC 550

## Gliding Open Day

Sunday 16th June, 10–6pm

(Father's Day) - Refreshments available

Gliding experience flight £30 (normally £49)

This is always a well attended event, so if interested contact David Wilde on [rcmman@aol.com](mailto:rcmman@aol.com) or 07824 031 489 and we will arrange a special Assington group slot on the day.



Essex & Suffolk

**Gliding  
Club**

[www.esgc.co.uk](http://www.esgc.co.uk)

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Colchester, CO6 3A0

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# THINGS TO DO

By Kind Invitation of Tiger Hill LNR Landowners

## TIGER HILL LNR BIOBLITZ

Saturday, 1st June 2024  
10 am to 4 pm

**FREE**

Discover animals and plants in the heaths, fens and woodland of this wonderful Local Nature Reserve  
Learn how to identify and record your discoveries!

**Bures St Mary CO8 5BW**  
Please bring a picnic and outdoor footwear suitable for rough ground.  
(The site is not suitable for wheelchairs and pushchairs)

**SATURDAY 15th JUNE**  
10m-3pm  
**WINSTON'S CHARITY  
FUN DOG SHOW**  
with Table Top Sale  
to be held in  
**NEWTON GREEN VILLAGE HALL,**  
SCHOOL LANE CO10 0QS  
and the field behind  
**Refreshments**  
**Variety of stalls**

*IN AID OF WINSTON'S WHEELS DISABLED  
DOG CHARITY  
REG NO 1191322*

**BASIC COMMUNITY  
POP-UP SHOP**  
St. Mary's Church, Bures  
Thursday 20 June at 12 noon



Helping those who need it.

How it works: Simply come along, 'buy' a bag for £2 and then help yourself to what you want/need from what we have.



Nayland with Wissington Conservation Society  
Registered Charity No. 268104

## NAYLAND OPEN GARDENS

**SUNDAY  
9th JUNE**  
2pm-6pm

**TEAS** in the Village Hall

Tickets **£5** (children free)  
in advance from:  
[www.naylandevents.org](http://www.naylandevents.org)  
or on the day at the Village Hall  
or cash only at the Gardens  
[www.naylandconservation.org.uk](http://www.naylandconservation.org.uk)

**SUNDAY 16TH JUNE  
10.30 AM**


### ASSINGTON CHURCH FATHER'S DAY SERVICE

**FOLLOWED BY:**

A Wild flower search around the churchyard with  
Nick Miller (approx 11.30am onward)

Finishing with a teddy bear parachute/zip line  
competition from the top of the church tower!  
Bring a teddy (zip line provided!)

Refreshments available.



Assington Baby and Toddler Group

Thank you for all your support and for making it such a friendly group.

We all love meeting together!

Twice a month on Thursdays  
in term time  
9.30-11.00 am  
in the Village Hall at £3 per family

**13 & 27 June, 11 July**  
Revd Tricia Box 07747124592



**St Mary's Church, Bures**

for babes and little ones  
and their parents/carers

coffee/tea and lots of play followed by  
15 mins of fun, bible story & songs  
first thursday of month starting at 8.45am

**Thursday 6 June & Thursday 4 July  
at 8.45am**



# Hadleigh Choral Society

Spend a summer evening enjoying an eclectic selection of songs sung by members of Hadleigh Choral Society,  
**Saturday 22nd June at 6:30 pm,**  
**St. Mary's Church in Hadleigh.** There will be something for everyone from traditional folk songs by Vaughan Williams, Butterworth and Bullard through dance numbers to Beatles and Sinatra medleys.  
Strawberries and cream and a glass of bubbly are included in your ticket price - £16 (£5 for children and full time students), available online through [www.hadleighchoral.society.org.uk](http://www.hadleighchoral.society.org.uk), members of the choir, The Idler bookshop in Hadleigh, or on the door.  
For more information contact 01473 823791.

## Gliding Open Day

Sunday 16th June, 10-6pm  
(Father's Day) - Refreshments available

Gliding experience flight £30 (normally £49)

This is always a well attended event, so if interested contact  
David Wildeon [rcmman@aol.com](mailto:rcmman@aol.com) or 07824 031 489 and  
we will arrange a special Assington group slot on the day.



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Fordham Road, Wormingford,  
Colchester, CO6 3AQ

Please note the correct email address for enquiries

# DANCE CLUB

Tuesdays 10:45am-11:45am

Nayland Village Hall,  
Church Lane, CO6 4JH  
£5 per class

Love to dance?

Come along and give it a go!

**New earlier time: 10.45am – 11.45am**  
**FIRST CLASS FREE!**

Fun easy dance routines - from a Foxtrot line dance & a Waltz around the hall to a cheeky Cha Cha and a fun Charleston! No partner needed & just £5 a class. a low impact dance workout class for adults who love to dance!

No partner needed

Leave the class with a smile on your face having had a dance, a good giggle and a great workout too!

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Mobile: [07917 333712](tel:07917333712)

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# 1974: A GRAND DAY OUT .....Assington Style

The following Fete Programme was recently produced by Joan Peacock from her archives of old documents of interest relating to Assington.

This particular Fete was much 'grander' than the usual affair, starting on Saturday 15 June 1974, but a festival continuing for the next nine days!

It is interesting to note that it was advertised sufficiently widely for it to be necessary to give detailed directions as to the location of the event: by Assington Park. The Fete venue was by kind permission of the owner,

farmer Mr Alan Steel of Park Farm.



There was a local celebrity to officially open proceedings: the late Ronald Blythe, author of 'Akenfield', a portrait of rural life in England (published in 1969



and later made into a film.)  
Ronald Blythe died aged 100 in January 2023.

The programme of the Fete is both familiar and yet strangely out-dated in its format:

Morris men would still be fun to watch, possibly we could manage to cobble together two Tug o' War teams, and the good old produce stalls still take pride of place at today's Church fete. In fact many of the events and activities are still typical of those running today; .....not sure that we would get away ( or want to try to !!) with a sexy susie these days.....

The "Grand" part of this particular event was in order to raise money for .....wait for it.....

Assington Church Restoration Fund! Today we continue to raise money to create a loo and a small kitchenette in the church, to meet today's requirements for such facilities.

The wonderful thing about Village Church Fetes is that we continue to hold them, and they continue to have the same type of stalls and events, and to raise money for the same old things which are an important part of our local community.

This year Assington Fete is planned for Saturday 31 August 2024, at the Village Hall and Playing Field.

We very much hope to see you there, maybe not bowling for a 'pig', but having an afternoon tea, purchasing some chutney and jam from the home produce stall, and having a go at the penalty kick!

.....Put the date in your diary!

ADMISSION BY PROGRAMME ONLY  
Adults: 10p. Children: 5p. FREE CAR PARK

## ASSINGTON FESTIVAL GRAND FETE

**Saturday June 15 1974**  
By Assington Park (5 miles South of Sudbury on A 134)  
Fete open from 2.30 p.m.; official opening at 3.00 p.m. by  
RONALD BLYTHE, author of 'AKENFIELD'.  
Net proceeds to  
ASSINGTON CHURCH RESTORATION FUND

**Also open today**  
at WILLOW TREE FARM (on right, through the village)  
ART EXHIBITION  
In CHURCH:  
FLOWER FESTIVAL  
EXHIBITION of BRASS RUBBINGS

---

further details over page

## FETE PROGRAMME

### EVENTS IN THE RING

CRAZY PRAM RACE	3.15 p.m.
EAST SUFFOLK MORRIS MEN	4.00 p.m.
INTER-VILLAGE TUG O' WAR	5.30 p.m.

(above times are approximate only)

### ALL THE FUN OF THE FAIR

including-

CLAY PIGEON SHOOT	COCONUT SHIE
BOWLING FOR 'PIG'	DONKEY RIDES
PRODUCE STALLS	REFRESHMENT MARQUEE
ROLL-A-PENNY	BOTTLE STALL
CRAFTS EXHIBITION	PENALTY KICK
ROULETTE DARTS	CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND
SEXY SUSIE	FORTUNE TELLER PRAM PARK

---

Use of Fete ground by kind permission of  
Mr. A. Steel, Park Farm, Assington.

FETE ORGANISER  
Mr. R. A. Walton, 'Whitewebbs', The Street,  
Assington.

**Today is the opening of Assington's  
9-day festival. Details available at  
INFORMATION DESK**



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Leavenheath Village Hall Cinema  
is showing  
**THE UNLIKELY PILGRIMAGE**  
**OF HAROLD FRY**  
**SATURDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> JUNE**

Drama PG-13

Starring Jim Broadbent & Penelope Keith

Running time 1hr 42 mins with 20 min interval

Babergh District Council have given the Village Hall Cinema Committee a Community grant. This has enabled us to discount the ticket price for **PRE-BOOKED TICKETS**, but only for this film

Pre Booked Tickets £2

Tickets bought at the door **£4.00** per Adult  
and **£2.50** for under 12's

\*\*\*\*\*

**HAIRSPRAY**  
**SATURDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> JULY**

Musical - PG

Starring John Travolta & Michelle Pfeiffer

Running time 1 hr 47 mins

For both films arrive 7.00pm. Film starts 7.30pm

Tickets bought at the door **£4.00** per Adult  
and **£2.50** for under 12's

**You can pay by cash or card on the door**

Book your tickets online at [www.leavenheathvillage.com](http://www.leavenheathvillage.com)  
or telephone Marion on 01206 263301

Refreshments, wine, beer, soft drinks, coffee, tea will be available before the film and also during the interval along with ice creams. Proceeds towards LVH Capital Project Fund (Charity no 262816)

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## A VIEW FROM AROUND THE BEND

Still looking for the library bus, apparently it comes once a month on a Saturday but which one?

Will keep trying as have loads of books and old mags etc to give them, might raise a few quid as well, which would be very handy at this moment.

Bobbie has returned home, which is lovely and she seems so happy to be back, she likes to see her folks but they are hard work I think, so many questions and suggestions it seems. She has asked me to go with her next time and has promised not to visit the funny farm on the way, her old mum and dad asked after me apparently so should show willing I guess. Shouldn't call them old as they are younger than me but older in their ways I think.

Talked about the canaries a lot which I found odd until Bobbie explained that these canaries play football, very strange that. Good that the Tractor Boys have won promotion to top division, will have to get the ariel back on the cottage roof to pick up that one next season. Wondering if that Coleman fella still presents match of the day, used to love that, all crowded around the old telly.

Used to go regular when I was a kid (to the football that is) but not sure I would like it now, could get quite rough at times with lots of noise, would be nice just once I think. Maybe one for the bucket list, although not just yet.

The garden is coming around but very hard work this spring, the army of slugs and snails is devastating and hard to keep in check, went out with a torch on three nights last weekend, one after listening to Eurovision on the old steam radio, totally missed the northern lights, must have been concentrating on the ground and crops too much. However picked up a full bucketful, not sure what to do with them, so walked around to the otherside of Grumpys house, in the early hours and tipped them all along his back hedge, he's got loads of hollyhock things along there so that should keep them busy for a while. Despite the invasion, I have early spuds ready to dig, outdoor cues setting for flower and other cucabits growing furiously, especially the marrow, despite the heavy rains, the warmer temperatures are keeping things going but we desperately need some sunshine soon for sweetcorn and fruit crops.

The seasons have always equaled themselves out in the past but now we just get weather and I can only tell the seasons apart by the temperature of the constant wind and rains we get.

The old climate is trying to tell us something I think.

Bobbie is suggesting that we fly abroad to find some sun to warm our backs, I am not keen on that really as have never flown in a plane before or even left these shores, did nearly drown once in the Firth of Clyde but that is a story for another day. Maybe in the winter when it is freezing here would be good. I know that she has a new bikini she wants to show me and the chances of that happening here soon are diminishing fast I think, especially as himself next door has cut a big hole in the hedge, I am fast making a little secluded area on the other side of the house for her to try and she thinks that will be nice but just need a warm sunny day, so hope the weather breaks soon, for my sake as well as hers.

If I can get used to her driving up to her folks who live right up top of the Norfolk County it will prepare for me to go on a long distance trip and I realise I should make more effort to please her and not be always stuck in the old ways.

She is always talking about wanting to enlarge her family now and doing something exciting first, so maybe should just go along with that, I've told her that I like her family the size it is and see no reason for change and if she is thinking of getting another pussy cat, it has to be seen too first, after Henrys accident or maybe we should just get a puppy. I love it when she raises her hands to the heavens and stamps her foot.

Lost a good hours productive work there.

Hope to see you next month if spared. **Esra.**

## ASSINGTON RAINFALL AND TEMPERATURES

Bill Milner (rainfall)

and Bob Cowlin (temperatures)

HISTORY annual rainfall :

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

2020	mm	max	min
JAN	33.5	10 C	-5°C
FEB	56	11°C	-3°C
MAR	21	14°C	-5°C
APR	22	23°C	-1°C
MAY	5.5	27°C	-2.5°C
JUNE	50	28°C	+2°C
JULY	58	30°C	6°C
AUG	109	32°C	4°C
SEP	25.5	27°C	5°C
OCT	110	14°C	2°C
NOV	33	14°C	-4°C
DEC	102.5	10°C	-5°C

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

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

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

2024	mm	max	min
JAN	47	9°C	-7°C
FEB	95	9°C	-1°C
MAR	38	18°C	-4°C
APR	38	18.5°C	-3°C

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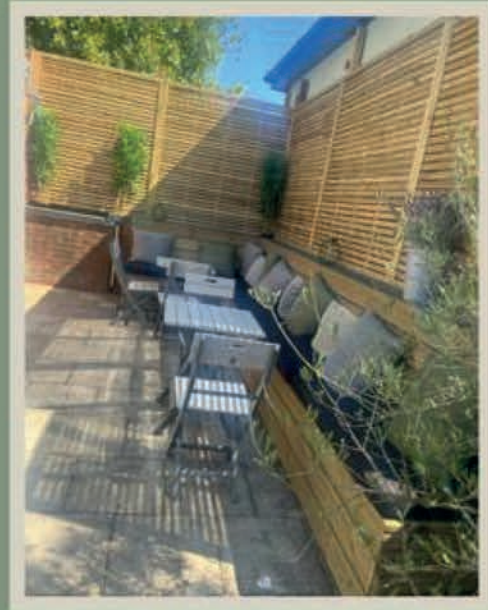


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