

ASSIGNMENT

NEWS



MARCH 2023

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CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS (useful numbers)

If your club or organisation is not listed here and you would like to be included, then please let me know on 01787 210354 or email bronwenstacey@btinternet.com

Allotments Secretary	Claire Osborne	07920 800108
Assington 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 (office@boxford.suffolk.sch.uk)	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 (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
Footpath Wardens	Paul & Cynthia Hollingsworth	01787 211620
Horticultural Society	Bryn Hurren	01787 210854
Leavenheath Cinema	Marion	01206 263301
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
david.wiles@live.co.uk	David Wiles	
tony@howcroft.net	Tony Howcroft	
hwallace58@gmail.com	Helen Wallace	01787 211162
i.jordan741@btinternet.com	Ian Jordan	
andrewpeterhill@hotmail.com	Andrew Hill	01787 827112
Parish Council - Clerk, (assingtonpc@yahoo.com)	Christine Hargan	01449 674727
Pub – The Shoulder of Mutton		01787 210334
Vicar (vicar@parishchurch.co.uk)	The Revd Daniel Whiffin	01787 228292
Village Hall – Bookings	Karen Wiles	07983 002072
Village Hall - Caretaker	Paul Battle	07473 933320
Womens Institute, Boxford (annie-phillips@hotmail.co.uk)	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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RONALD BLYTHE

THE LOCAL AUTHOR 1922 - 2023

Ronald Blythe died at his home, Bottengoms, his charming Yoeman's farmhouse on the Essex/Suffolk borders at Wormingford, on 14 January, aged 100.



Ronald George Blythe CBE FRSL was a British writer, essayist and editor, best known for his work *Akenfield* (1969), an account of agricultural life in Suffolk from the turn of the century to the 1960s.

He also wrote a long-running and considerably praised weekly column in the *Church Times* entitled "Word from Wormingford"

Blythe was born in Acton, Suffolk, and had no formal education after leaving St Gregory's School in Sudbury at the age of 14. However, his interest in books, writing and poetry, combined with a love of the many old church buildings in the county, shaped his formative years.

In adulthood Blythe was befriended by the artist Christine Nash, wife of artist John Nash, who invited him to their house, Bottengoms Farm, near Wormingford on the border of Essex and Suffolk, which he first visited in 1947. She later encouraged his ambitions to be a writer, finding him a small house on the Suffolk coast at Thorpeness. From there his circle of friends extended to include Benjamin Britten, E.M.Forster, and many literary figures and artists who made up the Benton End set of Cedric Morris.

Despite being a prolific author, Blythe seemed to hanker after the artistic way of life. And so it was, that in the mid-1977s, as age rendered the Nashes progressively more frail (they were now in their eighties), he began to spend even more time at Bottengoms Farm, nursing them in their final months until their deaths in 1977. Bottengoms Farm is a half-timbered house, tucked behind a wood, wrapped within Blythe's garden, and can only be reached by a rutted, Saxon track. Until fairly recently, a stream ran through the house, trickling over the brick floor. John Nash left the house to Blythe, who lived there in contented solitude until his own death.



In the **November 2020** edition of the Assington News, there was an article entitled "Going To Visit Ronnie" written by much-missed-by-many, dear Ellie Mead, who led a very full life with numerous interests and a passion for communicating these to those around her.

She had visited 'Ronnie', (as he was known to his friends) at his charming farmhouse, Bottengoms, in 2009, taken there for tea and biscuits by a mutual friend:

..... "After a good chat about churches, wild flowers and mutual acquaintances we toured the house including Ronnie's bedroom, which was formerly John Nash's studio. Before leaving we looked around part of the garden and seeing his vegetable plot I admired his recently planted out lettuces and was rewarded with a box of seedlings to take home. The roses were in full bloom and very lovely. The white cat met us on the step before we left and was not in the least afraid of David's dog. I have subsequently visited Ronnie several more times with mutual friends.".....



Ellie goes on in her article to say that she attended an event in Nayland Church in 2013 to celebrate Ronnie's 90th birthday, and in 2018 she attended a ceremony in Wormingford Church when he received his CBE.

For those as yet unfamiliar with Ronald Blythe's writings, Ellie suggested starting with "Word from Wormingford".

I recently requested - and duly received - his book entitled "A Year At

Bottengoms Farm", which does what it says on the cover, and rambles somewhat through his thoughts, words and deeds of a specific year. I was particularly interested to read that there is a Chapter, (well two and a half pages of large, well-spaced text) entitled "At Tiger Hill", which recounts attending the annual Bluebell picnic at Tiger Hill.

The familiar picnic scenes: the song of the nightingale, the children and parents, the unimaginable blue of the bluebells, the correspondingly blue sky are all described as we know and love them to be.

The main topic of conversation is the dreaded Alkanet plant,



pentaglottis sempervirens!

.....Life goes on.....

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SOME HISTORY OF THE ASSINGTON WI (NOW DEFUNCT)

In the previous edition of the Assington News, Sarah White's crockery with the Assington WI logo appeared, in the hope that more information would be forthcoming.

Although unfortunately, we have no more specific information regarding the WI crockery, I, as Editor, was recently gifted a collection of back copies of the Assington News, going back several decades, and thought that you might like to share some of the accounts of past experiences of the local WI members.

Sadly, I found the notification of the end of the Assington WI in the November 1999 magazine, which reads:

"Dear Editors

May we use your columns to tell Assington that the WI is about to be suspended.

It was formed in 1933 with about 20 members, rising over the years to more than 40, but the formation of the Leavenheath Afternoon WI took many residents of that village away from Assington and in the last 10 years numbers have declined and now there are 13 members. We realise that this is because times and interests have changed.

In the past its contributions to village life was varied: tree planting, erection of a seat, the piano for the village hall, the Millennium map and various play productions.

The major purpose of each meeting was a talk on some interesting subjects, selected by the members. In the past the WI always raised money for one charity every year of members' choice, but since the WI movement became a charity itself, this has not been so easy, although donations have gone through various speakers to many societies.

We are all sad to have to tell you this, but the feelings for the village will continue among us.

Over the years it has given interest, enjoyment and friendship to many of us and we shall remember it with gratitude and affection, and are sad that is must go.

Assington WI Committee "

In the following paragraphs I have tried to take a few "representative" WI write-ups from magazines over the decades, to give you a flavour of the people whose names crop up regularly, and also of the WI activities:

December 1992 Meeting:

Mrs Brooks and Mrs K Irving decorated the Village Hall for the WI Christmas Party. It was decided to have fish & chips with sweets to follow made by the Committee.

Mrs Irving called for the fish & chips from the Cornard Shop and everyone fell to while it was hot. A cider cup had been made.

Members chose to be sociable among themselves but ended the evening with carols, with Mrs Smith leading the voices to Mrs McCurrach's playing.

It was a very enjoyable evening. A Milner.

February 1993 Meeting:

.....Mr Colin Steed gave a delightful talk on palmistry, he went into all the lines up on both hands and their meaning. He told one member's hand and those who knew of her life realised what he said was true. Mrs Brooks gave the vote of thanks and the general feeling was of a really wonderful evening. A Milner

April 1993 Meeting:

Members were glad to talk of the 60th anniversary party and how they enjoyed Mr Robinson playing his music. The April speaker was Mrs Asherd on China. She showed two films with sound commentary; river trips and the Great Wall of China were some of the highlights.

A Mystery Tour has been arranged for May 19th. A Milner

July 1993 Meeting:

Alas, a poor attendance which did not upset the pleasure of the meeting, with much luck, discussion on the final details of the August outing to the Broads, with especial attention to the paying of dues and choice of menu.

Details were thrashed out for the July 17th Street Fair when the WI will provide ices, drinks and produce.

.....Mt Levene talked of her 3 years working in a Kibbutz in South Israel, of its history, the movement starting in 1873. Mrs K Irving thanked her. A Milner

Report in the Jan /Feb 1994 Magazine:

The New Village Hall greeted members with warmth and light. The piano had come down from the old hall and rang out loudly to 'Jerusalem'.

The donating of the half of the price for the new tea urn was passed and the money will be coming as soon as possible.

Mrs Noel Owen gave a wonderfully interesting talk on "Ladies Pastimes of the 17th 18th and 19th Centuries", and showed some excellent slides in the various forms of crafts ie leatherwork, shellwork, paper quillwork, tapestry and stamp work to name a few. A Milner.

January 1995 Meeting Report :

Well known artist, Belinda King, brought many examples of her work to the January meeting. She is a talented printmaker. Her highly-coloured and decorative work includes the processes of silk-screen printing, wood-engraving, lino-cutting and etching. The technical processes were explained to her audience, and wood blocks and plates etc were passed round together with some of the finished prints. These gave a fascinating insight into the knowledge and skill entailed in producing these lovely works of art.

Katherine Irving thanked Belinda for a most enjoyable and interesting evening. Jean Heseltine.

July and August 1997 Meetings Report:

The July meeting was an open one, Mr Leigh Alston spoke on Medieval Assington. We had a very good attendance about 49, we also had members from other Institutes. Mr Alston illustrated his talk with slides, some of which showed some of the ancient buildings and roof beams in various places about Assington including Little Cornard and Newton Green. It was quite late when we finished and refreshments tea and coffee were served by members of our Institute.

In August we had our annual outing to the Butterfly Farm which was very interesting, but the weather was very hot so we were very glad to get home! Nevertheless we enjoyed it in spite of the weather. Ruth Gill

September 1997 Meeting Report:

Our speaker for the September meeting was Mrs M Harwood, and the subject was 'The silk route from Samarkand to Shanghai'.....

.....We also celebrated Mrs Finlay's 91st birthday which was on the 31st August. Mrs R Gill.


Peter Robb

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THINGS TO DO

Hadleigh Choral Society

SPRING CONCERT

25th MARCH 7.30pm

St Mary's Church, Hadleigh

This year's spring concert by Hadleigh Choral Society promises to be an unforgettable experience, as the choir performs masterworks by Faure and Puccini, accompanied by professional soloists as well as the Colchester Symphony Orchestra and a specially appointed organist. Come hear the hauntingly beautiful Faure Requiem, which with its seven sections will take you on a journey which is at once peaceful and somber as well as bright and comforting. The operatic Messa di Gloria by Puccini will also certainly be thrilling, featuring compelling harmonies that range from solemn unison phrases to energetic fugues. Christopher Phelps will conduct the evening's performance which will take place on 25th March at St. Mary's Church, Hadleigh, 7:30 pm. Tickets are £15, free for those in full-time education, and are available through www.hadleighchoralsociety.org.uk, members of the choir, or The Idler bookshop in Hadleigh. For more information contact 07886 416 034.

All-Age Service at
St Edmund's Church, Assington

MOTHERING SUNDAY

Celebrating all who care for us



Sunday 19 March 2023

10:30am

Reminder

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!

Essential equipment for the litter pick will be supplied to everyone.

ASSINGTON TABLE TENNIS CLUB

Sundays, 6pm - 8pm

Assington Table Tennis club plays at the village hall every Sunday evening between 6pm and 8pm.

We have three high quality tables and an active membership with a varied range of ability.

New members are always welcome and the club operates on a 'drop in' basis.

There is a £2 fee per session.

This season Assington has entered a team in the Colchester Table Tennis league.

Matches are played both at Assington and across the Colchester area and we would welcome anyone who would like to join the team for competitive matches.

MOBILE LIBRARY DATES

The Mobile Library will call in Assington on Saturdays, once a month. Its 'stopping point' is the Vicary Estate junction, on The Street, and it will be there from 16.15 until 16.35.

The dates for the year are as follows:

Jan 28th	July 15th
Feb 25th	Aug 12th
Mar 25th	Sep 9th
Apr 22th	Oct 7th
May 20th	Nov 4th
Jun 17th	Dec 2nd

CAN YOU SPEAK FOR OVER AN HOUR

**Without hesitation, repetition
or deviation?**

**If so, you might be just the person Bures
Horticultural Society would like to hear from!**

Bures Horticultural Society is looking for speakers for their evening meetings, and would like to invite people who might be willing and able to meet their criteria to get in touch.

You would need to have an interesting topic (not necessarily horticultural subjects) to talk about for one-and-a-half hours. Payment is £50 all in.

Telephone Debs Thornhill on 07939819763 to express your interest.



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June 8 and 22 July 13 September 14**

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LAVENHAM FARMERS MARKET

26 MARCH 2023

10am – 1.30pm

LAVENHAM VILLAGE HALL

A VISIT TO GAINSBOROUGH'S HOUSE

By Jeff Stacey

After being closed for three years and having £10 million spent, Gainsborough's House in Sudbury has been reopened and I visited to see what was new.

The Gainsborough family home of course remains largely unchanged, but integrated around the house are several new, modern buildings to provide galleries, exhibition spaces and other facilities including a glass fronted cafe, which is where I started. I had a coffee and cake looking out over the garden and its 400 year old Mulberry tree. Despite the sun, it was best viewed from inside in January, but I can imagine the garden will be a delightful place for refreshments in the summer.



My next stop was the house itself. It is not set up as a home such as you would see in a National Trust property, instead the rooms are used as a display space for pictures and items illustrating the work of Gainsborough and his contemporaries and includes objects taken from his home and studio after his death and now displayed. These range from letters and books to his paint scraper and paints and from his pocket watch to a printing press.

I particularly liked the Music Room. Gainsborough was a keen musician as well as artist. The room has examples of Georgian instruments and a stunning collection of portraits including a self portrait, his daughters and his friends David Garrick the actor and Johan Christian Bach.



Another room is set up as a home portrait studio, with a bay window looking out over the garden to get the more even northern light essential for portrait painting.

An upstairs room contains a fascinating history of silk weaving in Sudbury, and features (among many other things) a copy of the blue page's outfit worn by 'The Blue Boy' in Gainsborough's iconic painting.

In all, there are three floors to explore with a wide range of topics and displays, plus paintings by Gainsborough's contemporaries including Constable as well as more modern artists including Cedric Morris.

Heading back past the cafe I passed by the wall showing supporters of the project, worth a look as you may recognise a few of the names. I am now back into the new building near the entrance and in the purpose-built Gainsborough gallery, the walls of which have been sumptuously lined throughout in Rangers Green Arkesden Damask Silk, donated by Humphries Weavers, of Sudbury. His paintings displayed here show his progression as an artist and The gallery is big enough to include some of his larger works.



Information sheets here (and in other rooms) took me round the pictures and helped me understand what I was viewing and appreciate what was displayed.





The final and largest part of the building I explored were the galleries and exhibition spaces. The major exhibition was on the ground floor and featured the work of Flemish artists. I was particularly taken by the works by Emile Claus, painting girls working in the fields at the end of the 19th century. As the exhibition comments, Suffolk and Flanders are not that far apart and you could easily imagine the girls are walking by the River Stour rather than the River Leie.



There were further exhibitions as I progressed up the building and even the empty rooms were impressive. On the top floor there was an empty space, but with a section of glass wall looking out over the roofs of Sudbury and on to the surrounding countryside.



The museum had plenty to impress and entertain me and I have a very limited knowledge of art. Entry prices elicit a slight intake of breath, but I can confirm it is well worth the cost and we are lucky to have such an internationally significant collection on our doorstep.

EDITOR'S FOLLOW-UP NOTE

The picture below, of Thomas Gainsborough's nephew, Gainsborough Dupont, hangs in the Green Gallery.

Gainsborough Dupont (1754-1797) was the eldest son of Gainsborough's sister Sarah, and Philip Dupont.

Apprenticed to Gainsborough from 1772 until 1788, the year of the elder artist's death, Dupont was the only assistant Gainsborough ever employed; for unlike Reynolds, Thomas Gainsborough neither ran a large studio nor trained large numbers of pupils. He also trained at the Royal Academy Schools, where he became a student in March 1775.



Upon the death of his uncle, and master, Dupont took over Gainsborough's studio in Schomberg House in 1788, and moved to Bloomsbury in 1793, following the death of Gainsborough's widow. He painted portraits and landscapes in a style of similar to that of his uncle, and these are still sometimes confused with those of his master. His principal work is a large picture containing the portraits of the elder brethren of Trinity House, which is in their court-room on Tower Hill.

Although this portrait (by Thomas Gainsborough) is barely more than a sketch - the clothing for example is very summarily rendered - Gainsborough has nevertheless managed to convey a sense of his nephew's diffidence, remarked on by contemporaries.

Readers may recall an article in the **May 2021 edition of the Assington News**, entitled **"A Short History of the Duponts"**.

<http://assington.onesuffolk.net/assets/Assington-News/Assington-News-May-2021.pdf>

This article began with the story of Philip Dupont, a Huguenot priest who fled to England in 1685, and who was ordained into the Anglican priesthood and granted naturalisation in 1686.

Subsequently in **1691 Philip Dupont was given the parish of Assington, where he was the vicar and lived until his death in 1728.**

It was one of Philip's grandsons, also Philip Dupont, a house carpenter, who married Thomas Gainsborough's sister, Sarah Gainsborough.



And it was their eldest son, Gainsborough Dupont, who was apprenticed to his uncle, the renowned artist Thomas Gainsborough.



ASSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Matters of Interest discussed during meetings held at Assington Village Hall on Monday 30 January 2023 and on Monday 13 February 2023

Present: Councillors Simon Thorogood, Andrew Hill, Bronwen Stacey, Ian Jordan, Tony Howcroft and David Wiles
In attendance: DCllr Lee Parker, CCllr James Finch, Christine Hargan (Clerk) and 7 members of the public

■ **Apologies for absence** were received from Cllr Helen Wallace

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

Report from CCllr Finch highlighted the following points:

- Devolution which provides a 30 year £500million commitment to Councils
- Responsibility for education being returned to County Councils
- Transport challenge for rural counties
- Budget 4% increase in Council Tax, 75% of which will fund adult care services. There is an increase of 50% in demand for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), part of the increase will help education
- Ukraine: 1,200+ individuals are being housed in Suffolk numbers continue to increase and homes are needed for those people
- New technology to support adult services
- Request for photographs related to the late Queen taken during 2022 for inclusion in the National Archives
- Fostering and adoption
- A request for regular presence from the Police Static vehicle at Adams Well approaching the junction in Further Street near the bends between the Church and Water Tower?
- CCllr Finch to write to the Police Speeding team requesting monitoring 40mph speed limit near Aveley Lane area, because young people walk along there to the bus stop
- A second request for the Police Speeding Team regarding a digital device. It was reported that the signs would be ignored if permanently installed. CCllr Finch to discuss the best option for a SID with John Taylor from SCC
- Police Precept meeting: in rural areas people want to see more police but in urban areas they are happy for time to be spent on analysis of electronic data. 999 calls have increased by 50% and extra staff are required to process the reports

Report from DCllr Parker:

- Explained the division of responsibility between District and County Councillors
- Budget going to cabinet next week. It is anticipated that Council Tax will be increased by 2.99% or £5.30 for a Band D property, subsidised by reserves and new homes bonus
- BDC has reported itself to the social housing regulator because it had failed to provide electrical and gas test certificates on time and it is now working with the regulator to undertake testing and to deliver the safety certificates
- BDC has signed the head lease for the first new GP facility in Sudbury for 25 years, to be sublet to the practice
- Additional noise and environmental reports have been received from Assington Autos, which are now being consulted on. The National Planning Framework dictates that, where development is sustainable, it will be passed
- Concern was expressed about the skip business that is currently operating. DCllr Parker agreed to can request that the application be referred to the Planning Committee and explained the likely timelines. The Parish Council is deeply concerned because they are trying to do the best for the village and community concern appears to be ignored

- Locality Budget £500 is available until the beginning of March

Public Forum

- 3 members of the village hall committee are resigning in May which leaves 3 months to replace them
- CIL expenditure: requests to consider grant for changing the Village Hall heating system to make it more sustainable, and also more disability/wheelchair access to footpaths, including the path to The Thicks
- Licensed paths: damage to finger posts. Clerk to request an update from the Footpath Wardens
- A request was made that the Parish Council fund a specialist to read the AA noise report attached to the planning application and gain advice what they mean in real terms. Member of public to contact Clerk with contact details for a noise specialist to analyse the data. Clerk to make contact re costs and timeframe

■ **Planning applications to consider**

- [DC/23/00226](#) 10 The Gurdons Assington
Application under S73a for Removal or Variation of a Condition following grant of Planning Permission DC/19/01570 vary Condition 13 (Timescale for Landscaping) retention of hedging replacing dead/dying native hedge
Resolved to object: there is no reason for the original hedge not to be replaced with native hedging
- [DC/22/06097](#) Tiggys Cottage 13 The Street Assington
Application for Listed Building Consent – Replacement of Peg tiled front porch roof with reclaimed slate
Resolved no comment
- [DC/23/00335](#) Browns Smiths Dorking Tye Assington
Application to determine if Prior Approval is required for a Proposed: Erection, Extension or Alteration of a building for Agricultural or Forestry Use.
Resolved to acknowledge the application and no comment

Consider any planning application received since the agenda was posted

DC/21/02579 Assington Autos. Application was received following publication of the meeting and therefore an additional meeting will be held on 13 February to consider this application. Budget.

■ **Finance**

Clerk to distribute a revised draft budget to Councillors for consideration prior to the next meeting
Clerk asked to contact DCllr Parker with request for Locality Budget of £500

■ **Licensed Path, Footpaths and APC's Assets** including the maintenance of the allotments and conservation area. Thanks to Cllr Hill for clearing the rubbish from the allotments, Resolved to ask Grayham Hogger to undertake work installing 2 posts and install new dog bins and the £250 allotment posts. Pre-approved budget of £500 for digging 12-metre trench and installing additional water points dug, and £80 for dog bins

■ **Highways update**

Quiet Lane sign on Assington Lane has been damaged

■ **Ideas/suggested for projects for CIL expenditure**

Air source heat pump £38K including solar panels on the roof
EV charging points
Additional footpaths within the village particularly from old school house to the church
Reduce the size of aggregate on footpaths to improve accessibility
During school hours flashing children sign
Village sign – already approved
Village beacon, Flag pole, Disabled footpaths, Second defibrillator in the village, Replacement for bus service – transport for people

■ **Engagement with young Residents: Suggestions:**

These include competitions for young people for their designs, offering quiet space to study for exams and competition for exam results for the best-performing child.

■ Report on visit to Ryes School

The school would like continued support and would like to maintain dialogue with the Parish Council. Next litter pick is organised for 23 March. The students would like to be integrated into the village, possibly with allotment or community actions.

■ Additional Bench

A quote has been received from Bryn Hurren for £498 + £55 including fitting.

It was resolved to order the bench

■ Questions to the Chair

Light pollution, Clerk to email DCllr Parker for update.

■ A Planning meeting will be held on Monday 13th February at 7.30pm. Next scheduled meeting will be held on Monday 27th March 2023 at 7.30pm, Preceded by the Annual Parish Meeting at 7pm

■ The meeting was closed at 9.57 pm

The meeting of Assington Parish Council on Monday 13th February 2023 at 7.30pm:

Present: Cllrs Simon Thorogood, Andrew Hill, Bronwen Stacey, Ian Jordan Tony Howcroft, Helen Wallace and David Wiles

In attendance: DCllr Lee Parker, Christine Hargan (Clerk) and 4 members of the public

■ Planning The following planning applications were considered by Councillors:

- DC/21/02579 Assington Autos Barracks Road, Change of use of land to extend an Authorised Treatment Facility (salvage yard); construction of 5 x storage buildings, and other associated operational works. Reconsultation to consider the additional Noise and Vibration Management Plan and the Noise impact assessment Councillors Resolved to object
- DC/23/00590 Tamara, Barracks Road, Construction of raised first floor extension to whole of the property to include front and side dormer windows and insertion of new rear window and roof lights Resolved No comment
- DC/23/00627 White Webbs 23 The Street Erection of single storey rear extension (following part demolition of rear extension) Resolved No comment

■ Finance

Approved budget for expenditure

It was agreed to reduce the budget for maintenance to assets to £750 and eliminate the budget for VAT

■ Questions to the Chair

The clerk updated the Councillors on the timetable for the Elections on 4 May 2023

■ The meeting was closed at 9:58pm

THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING WILL BE HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON MONDAY 27 MARCH AT 7PM.

Everybody welcome!

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		

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

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



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 or call 07957 394780**

VILLAGE NEWS AND UPDATES:

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

ASSINGTON ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION



The allotment list is open for Residents of the Village who may be interested in taking on an allotment for this year.

Full or shared plots are now available .

Please contact Claire Osborne, Allotment Secretary, via email on claire.l.osborne@hotmail.co.uk

Multiply Suffolk: a new SCC initiative

Multiply Suffolk are here to help people improve their ability to understand and use maths in daily life, home, and work. The aim is to deliver an integrated system of wellbeing, skills, and employability, embedding numeracy initiatives to create a three-step model with clear pathways of support pre-and post- employment.

On behalf of Suffolk County Council, Realise Futures CIC and MENTA have been asked to deliver a three-step model of coaching, mentoring and learning with both informal and formal numeracy provision.

If you are interested, and eligible, contact: Robyn Cardy on 07784 010650

JOB VACANCY (Honorary Secretary)

The Trustees of the Assington Village Charity (Reg No1076737) are looking for volunteers to join the organisation. There is a vacancy for a Secretary to replace Claire Osborne, who has had to resign from three years of invaluable service after trying to juggle a full-time job with the voluntary role.

The job of Secretary would ideally suit a retired person with IT skills and a little free time. The Secretary acts as the correspondent for the Charity, receiving information for the Trustees and committee members to act on. The Secretary takes Minutes at the three committee meetings held each year in the village hall.



The Trustees are responsible for the upkeep of the Village Hall, Playing Field and Playground, for the benefit of the residents of Assington and the surrounding area. The term of office of all members will end at the end of the Annual General Meeting on 17th May 2023. They may be re-elected or re-appointed.

If you are interested in maintaining our wonderful village asset and would like to contribute to the welfare of the community, please contact **Stephen King on 07870 632175** or **Claire Osborne on 07920 800108**, or any of the existing members of the organisation.

Chair & Trustee	Stephen King	sjking@btinternet.com
Secretary	Claire Osborne	claire.l.osborne@hotmail.co.uk
Treasurer	Sue Sadler-Brunning	
Lettings Secretary	Karen Wiles	
Trustees	Dr John Symons	
	Louisa Symons	
	Nigel Finch	
Members	Mark Hemingway	
	Zoe Laughton	
Caretaker	Paul Battle	
Cleaner	Alison Mills	

HAPPYSOUNDS CHOIR NEWS

Our Village choir will be performing at the Assington Coronation celebrations on the 7th May, where we are looking forwards to singing a mix of songs from British songwriters and artists both old and new, anything from the Beatles to Sam Ryder!

In addition a new singing group has started up in Sudbury on Friday mornings at the Friends Meeting House in Friars Street which is more of a singalong group than a Choir, the plan is to

have fun and pop in to some care homes now and again to cheer folks up, and put a smile on people's faces.

If you would like to come and join the fun for either group then please contact Nettie on 097957 394780.

Coaching Skills For Life Mentoring Numeracy

Multiply Suffolk is here to deliver bespoke coaching, training, and mentoring to support you into learning and employment across Suffolk. Multiply Suffolk will provide opportunities for you to improve your knowledge, understanding and use of maths in daily life: at home, in learning and in work.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Age 19+
- Live in a Suffolk Postcode area
- Do not hold a Level 2 qualification or above in Numeracy (GCSE or Functional Skills)

The Multiply Suffolk team can:

- Support to engage with education, employment and training
- Improve numeracy, money management and budgeting skills
- Encourage career progression whilst in or out of employment
- Promote independence, choice and wellbeing
- Empower you to remove barriers to employment and gain a numeracy qualification

PARISH CHURCH NEWS



Letter from Sylvia Gaspar, Reader, at Bures with Assington and Little Cornard

Dear Friends

As someone living in Bures I feel we owe you an apology. We are so glad to have the road through your village as an alternative route when the road to Sudbury is closed (again) but I imagine it adds considerably to the traffic. No wonder you need a 20mph limit to make it a good place for people to live.

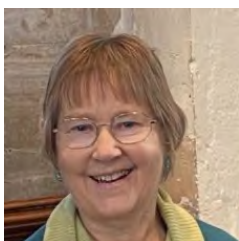
The roads everywhere seem full of diversion signs, many probably long out of date but leaving drivers with questions about what they might find around the corner if they ignore it. I have occasionally ignored the 'road closed' sign and have had to turn around and retrace my steps.

Journeys, routes, destinations – a bit like life isn't it? When I head for Sudbury and road is closed I still want to do my shopping there and need to decide to take the diversion. What is the destination I am heading for in life?

The weeks of Lent enable us to think again of our chosen destination, to live with God or to do our own thing. The season of Lent lead us to recalling the death sentence by crucifixion given to God's son, Jesus. Although the Roman authorities didn't realise it, this brutal event was Jesus opening the route to God's forgiveness and love.

When we are sorry and ask God for that forgiveness, when we decide to follow Jesus as our route-finder we will reach our destination of life with God. That is the message of Easter. God invites us all to follow the way to him that leads to a life in his kingdom, a realm of light and love and wholeness, the choice is ours. What destination will you choose?

Best wishes for your life's journeys, **Sylvia**



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

Vicar: Daniel Whiffin 01787 228292
email: 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



come and see the daffodils in the churchyard.

MARCH 2023 SERVICES IN ASSINGTON

5th FEBRUARY @ 10.30am HOLY COMMUNION

**19th FEBRUARY @ 10.30am MOTHERING SUNDAY
SERVICE OF MORNING WORSHIP**

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

PARISH CHURCH NEWS continued



**Wed 15 March, 7:00–9:30pm, St Mary's
Church Bures**

It is approximately 60 AD in Rome. Persecution is all around, so Mark is dictating his account of Jesus' life, death and resurrection to a pagan scribe as a matter of urgency.

Gerald Osborne spent three years memorising the whole of Mark's Gospel. He and Colin Heber-Percy now present a dramatised version all over the country. They have performed in Salisbury Cathedral, Bath Abbey, the Edinburgh Festival and are now bringing it to St Mary's Bures.

There will be a half-way interval with tea or coffee, wine and nibbles. All welcome — bring friends — please let us know if you're coming by emailing us on office@parishchurch.co.uk

"Gerald Osborne's brilliant acting brought the life and suffering of Jesus ALIVE"; "So much drama, a stunning performance"; "a remarkable evening . . . a tour de force"



**St Mary's
Bures**

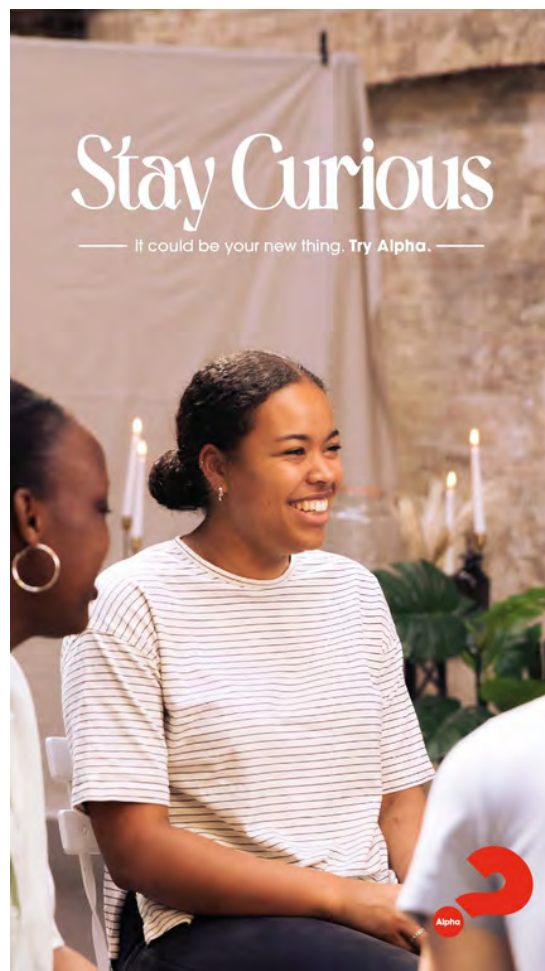
**Lent Lecture
Wednesday
29 March 7pm**

Catherine Crawford facilitates Bible translation in West Africa, working for Wycliffe Bible Translators. We're looking forward to hearing about her experiences and this interesting work. All welcome! Refreshments served.



**Tuesdays 14, 21, 28 March and 4 April, 7:15–8:30pm,
Little Cornard Parish Church, CO10 0PE**

What is prayer? Why should I pray? When should I pray? How should I pray? What should I pray for? What if nothing happens? Over four evenings in Lent, we'll be discussing the privilege of prayer. All are welcome to join us in the Schoolroom.



Curious about faith?

Alpha is a series that explores the basics of the Christian faith in a welcoming, open and friendly environment. It's free and there's no pressure or follow-up.

Each session you'll be hosted in a group where you'll have lunch, hear different topics on Christianity, and have time to chat through any thoughts. You can say anything you like or nothing at all.

Everyone's welcome. No matter your background or beliefs, you're invited.

Alpha

**10 Fridays from 29 April,
12:30–2:30pm**

Find out more:

vicar@parishchurch.co.uk



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SESAW NEWS

Here comes March, in like a lion, out like a lamb and it's greetings from Oliver (Ollie to my intimates), resident top cat at SESA. I've beaten Kenny to the keyboard to tell you about Maxine, a five year old spayed female tabby in need of a new home.

This delightful girl is friendly and loving, but occasionally it might be on her terms. She just needs to find that special (preferably adult) home, or with older children where she would become part of the family.

We also have rescued dogs including a very good looking young Saluki type lurcher in need of a knowable home. Reggie had a bad start and deserves much better. He is FULL of life and sometimes gives the wrong impression but all he wants is a home of his own and kindness and love. The ideal person is someone who knows the ways of sighthounds and is prepared to put time and effort with further training and encouragement. Reggie has lived with another dog and with the right introduction could do so again, especially a young bitch willing to play, with most dogs he wants to play and loves a game of ball.

Please leave a short message with your name and number if you would like to meet either of these animals.

Kenneth is snoozing by the Rayburn but his fans will be pleased to know he can write next time, under the auspices of me, Ollie (the Black) Cat.

Suffolk & Essex Small Animal Welfare, Stoke Road, Leavenheath, CO6 4PP.

Reg. Charity No.1124029, Stoke Road, Leavenheath, CO6 4PP.
Tel: 01787 210888. www.sesaw.co.uk



ShantyFolk



Rousing Shanties & Songs of the Sea

Boxford Village Hall

Saturday April 15th, 2023 at 7:30 pm

Doors open 7 pm

£12 (£8 under 16's)

Audience Participation Encouraged; Fun Guaranteed

Sandwiches, Cake, Tea & Coffee will be served at intermission. Licensed Bar

Tickets available at the **Boxford Post Office**, or contact: shantyfolksuffolk@gmail.com

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A VIEW FROM AROUND THE BEND

Got a Job Got a job, Wonderful news indeed. Just shows that perseverance pays off.

I decided to bike into Boxford quite early one morning down through the little lane and a guy working in the orchards told me that his uncle who lives at Grotton was looking for someone to be a countryside operative, whatever that is, his directions were not very good as it took me four hours to find the place, it was in fact nearly as far as a place called Monks Ely or something like that. The farmers wife was very charming and said the job entailed walking around four very large fields for two hours first thing every morning for which I get paid £10.00 daily in cash.

Wow, that's seventy smackers a week, that's almost as much as I was paid all those years ago before I was made out of work. I hate the word redundant as I will never be that. I even get a stripy uniform to wear and a brightly coloured hat, I don't quite know what the point is in what I am doing but who cares money is money and I have already done two weeks. I also get paid daily and I find a ten pound note underneath a Kit Kat on the gatepost every morning as I walk into the yard and up the drive.

So happy to have a purpose again, lovely day one Friday as I biked home and I sat on the benches near the mutton pub for a rest before completing my journey home to the cottage, to my surprise a very attractive young lady came out and asked me if I would like a drink as I looked so hot, she even called me by my name which was a surprise and I wondered how she knew it, however I promptly said yes and asked for a beer, a pint of bitter no less, this is what I used to drink all those years ago as a younger man and sometimes too much I am afraid.

The pint was quickly downed and I thought I had better return the mug to its owner, when I went in the lovely lady asked if I would like another and something to eat, I thought how generous she was and said yes to another pint and took peanuts and a packet of cheese and onion crisps as well. This was all consumed outside and I greeted lots of folk as they came in for lunch and drinks until I returned the glass again inside and was offered yet more food and ale, I stated that I had better not as was feeling a bit woozy now, the lovely lady then went to a piece of paper on the counter and told me the bill was ten pounds and eighty five pence, I came crashing down to reality as it dawned on me that one has to pay for ale in an alehouse, I splutteringly made apologies as I brought out my hard earned tenner and promised to bring the rest in later, my blushes were saved when a lovely man who I think lives opposite tossed a coin over and said have that to pay for your nuts. I thanked him and made a hasty exit trying to cover my blushes and stupidity and pushed the old bike up the street and home for a lie down, that's me not the bike. Despite waking up many hours later with a rather muddled head I did really enjoy my little outing and promised myself to do it again, maybe on the Sunday next time around, that will still leave me sixty quid towards all the bills and the food that I can't grow myself. Maybe Bobbie will come in with me and I can treat her to an orange juice or something similar that she might like.

More excitement last week as when I got home from work, how I love to say that, there was a young kid, certainly no more than thirty in a very posh car walking up and down the street knocking on doors, I tried to dive in to the cottage unseen but he got in first and said that I qualified for a new smart meter and I would be issued with a certificate to prove it, well I have never in my life been awarded with anything more than a dunce hat so just had to stop and listen to what he had to say. It turned out I think, that as I have been a good customer and always paid my electric bills on time that I can have this thing to save me having to go to the post office with now a whole heap of cash to pay my bill every month, he did not seem to understand that sometimes that is the only time I actually get out to talk to someone and is a highlight and not a

chore at all, anyhow the smart certificate is tempting. He promised to call again when I have had time to collect my thoughts. This turned out to be just two days later when he caught me just coming out of the lav, when he had actually come into the porchway though the door that I had in my haste left ajar. He again insisted that I could save my trip to the post office by signing up to a direct payment from my bank. He has to be joking I think, I gave up on banks years ago.

I smell a rat, I think I am smart enough already to recognize a very dodgy deal here.

Have taken to slipping in the back door from the fields when I get home now to avoid this child prodigy fleecing me with his ridiculous deals.

Time to concentrate on the tasks ahead and getting on with pulling the rest of the garden around for cropping, may try to plant some roses for decoration and maybe a bunch of red ones for Bobbie when they all flower, she is away this past week but she let herself in one day when I was out and left me a little present, I did not realise that she had been until I went to bed that night and found it tucked under the sheets with a rather saucy message.

Oh well, life really has its ups and downs at the moment, it seems nothing stays the same but feeling more accepted in the village now that people know me a little better.

More excitement to come next month I am sure. Keep Well and Happy. **Esra.**

SHANTYFOLK - Shanties and Rousing songs of the Sea

ShantyFolk is an *a capella* shanty crew, who have been together since 2014 having met whilst members of a local community choir. They have performed at numerous venues across East Anglia in support of various charities and not-for-profit organisations. They have appeared at the prestigious Harwich International Shanty Festival and, last year, at the inaugural Brancaster Staithe Shanty Festival. ShantyFolk have also sung at The Apex on four occasions and at The Quay in a 2022 fundraiser for that theatre. They sing, and explain the stories behind, numerous shanties and songs of the sea.

To date, their fundraising efforts include raising approximately £2,500 for the RNLI. Audience participation at ShantyFolk events is actively encouraged and they guarantee a fun time wherever they perform.

On April 15th, they will make their first public appearance in Boxford at the Village Hall, benefitting the local Bowls Club (in its centenary year) and a charity chosen by ShantyFolk. More information can be found in the poster in this edition. Scan the QR code below to read a review of a ShantyFolk performance in 2022.

Email shantysuffolk@gmail.com



ShantyFolk – Suffolk



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2022 (15) Drama

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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

YOU CAN NOW PAY BY CARD AT THE DOOR

Or reserve your seat online at www.leavenheath.org.uk

Telephone: Marion (01206 263301) for tickets

Refreshments, wine, beer, soft drinks, coffee, tea will be available before the film starts and ice creams during the interval.

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DAFFODILS AT NOWTON COUNTRY PARK, BURY ST EDMUNDS



The daffodils in Nowton Park are beautiful at this time of year and well worth a visit - you could make a day of it!

There is a car park at Nowton Park, with charges from 9am-5pm during the winter. The charges are:
£2 for up to 2 hours and
£3 for over 2 hours.

Facilities at Nowton Park include:

- Children's play area
- Picnic area
- Toilets
- Grounds Cafe
- Information point

The opening hours of the park between November and March are 8am-6pm.





SHOULDER OF MUTTON

An Historic English Inn for comfortable, casual and refined dining

Hours of Opening:

Wednesdays to Sundays

12 noon to 11pm



March 18th: the pub will be closed for a private function

RE-OPENING THE FOLLOWING DAY

March 19th: Mothers Day

Serving food 12 - 4pm for Mothers Day Lunch

Pre booking is advised

For any Bookings or enquiries please contact via 01787 210 334

Or Info@shoulderofmuttonassington.co.uk