

# ASSHINGTON

## NEWS



MAY 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](mailto:bronwenstacey@btinternet.com)

Allotments ( <a href="mailto:sjking@btinternet.com">sjking@btinternet.com</a> )	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	Nettie Osman	07957 394780
Boxford CEVC Primary School ( <a href="mailto:office@boxford.suffolk.sch.uk">office@boxford.suffolk.sch.uk</a> )	Head: Mrs J Davies	01787 210332
Brownies, Boxford	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 ( <a href="mailto:james.finch@suffolk.gov.uk">james.finch@suffolk.gov.uk</a> )	James Finch	01473 264993
District Councillor (Assington)	Lee Parker	01787 376073
Doctors surgery – Sudbury	Hardwicke House	01787 310000
Doctors surgery – Bures	Bures	01787 227529
Fleece Jazz, Stoke by Nayland Hotel - <a href="http://www.fleecejazz.org.uk">www.fleecejazz.org.uk</a>	Stoke by Nayland	01787 211865
Horticultural Society	Bryn Hurren	01787 210854
Leavenheath Cinema	Lesley or Ken	01206 262505/ 01206 263266
Member of Parliament ( <a href="mailto:james.cartlidge.mp@parliament.uk">james.cartlidge.mp@parliament.uk</a> )	James Cartlidge	020 7219 4875
Parish Council	Simon Thorogood	01787 227400
<a href="mailto:bronwenstacey@btinternet.com">bronwenstacey@btinternet.com</a>	Bronwen Stacey	01787 210354
<a href="mailto:john@moorsfarm.com">john@moorsfarm.com</a>	John Symons	01787 211534
<a href="mailto:rosemarysymonds42@gmail.com">rosemarysymonds42@gmail.com</a>	Rose Symonds	01787 229100
<a href="mailto:helen.wallace12@btinternet.com">helen.wallace12@btinternet.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	
Parish Council - Clerk, ( <a href="mailto:assingtonpc@yahoo.com">assingtonpc@yahoo.com</a> )	Jane Hatton	01787 468634
Polstead Films – <a href="http://www.http://polstead.onesuffolk.net/films">www.http://polstead.onesuffolk.net/films</a>	Sue Wigglesworth	01787 210029
Pub – The Shoulder of Mutton	Gavin & Aaron	01787 210334
Vicar ( <a href="mailto:steve.morley@btinternet.com">steve.morley@btinternet.com</a> )	Steve Morley	01787 227407
Village Hall – Bookings ( <a href="mailto:louisa@moorsfarm.com">louisa@moorsfarm.com</a> )	Louisa Symons	01787 211534
Village Hall - Caretaker	Paul Battle	07473 933320
Womens Institute, Boxford ( <a href="mailto:annie-phillips@hotmail.co.uk">annie-phillips@hotmail.co.uk</a> )	Annie Phillips	01787 211729

## The ASSINGTON NEWS

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## A BIG THANK YOU TO MAXINE

Everyone wants to make sure that we say A big, big **Thank You** to **Maxine, Chris and the team at the shop** for all their hard work to ensure that we have a wonderful local supply of groceries to hand, which we may collect or have delivered with the minimum of difficulty (on our part!!) We are so fortunate to have you! **We all appreciate your efforts so very much.**

## A HUGE THANK YOU

**from Michelle and Millie Bourner**

I'm sure I speak for many people in Assington - in fact, a number of people have probably done exactly the same as me and written to Assington News this month! - when I say how very grateful we are to Maxine and the team at the farm shop for the remarkable work they are doing to keep the village served daily with essential provisions and also to Gavin and Aaron and the team at the pub for offering takeaways to give us something to look forward to during the current lock down.

They have all been, and continue to be, absolutely fantastic and are working so hard - a massive thank you from us all at The Hollies, we really wouldn't be surviving without you.



Wishing everyone in the village good health - stay safe and well in these difficult times.

## #ClapForOurCarers

It has been lovely to hear the village giving a great response to the #ClapForOurCarers every Thursday evening. I work for the NHS in support of the front line staff and I know how much it means to them as they work relentlessly to provide care for people in need of medical assistance, for whatever reason, through this national emergency. This crisis really has touched every part of the health service and I cannot praise the staff I come into contact with highly enough for their unflinching commitment.

Please please keep your support going by coming out into the street or opening your windows and showing your appreciation for the NHS frontline staff and all other carers - and indeed for everyone who is keeping the country's essential services going at the moment - every Thursday at 8pm. It really does make a difference.

## ASSINGTON LOCAL CORONAVIRUS SUPPORT GROUP UPDATE



A heartfelt thank you to everyone who has volunteered for the Assington Coronavirus support group. We have 20 volunteers from across the parish and have completed a small number of support requests so far. Not every volunteer will have had their phone line buzzing yet but Babergh have asked us to remain on standby in case of any increasing need in the coming weeks as the coronavirus situation develops.

Our group is registered with Community Action Suffolk, Babergh and the Suffolk County Council "Tribe" mobile app, which has received over 2000 requests county-wide so far.

Anyone in need of assistance should not hesitate to contact the group either through Suffolk County Council's **Tribe** service (Freephone **0800 876 6926** from **9am to 5pm**, seven days a week) or directly to the Parish Council on the local numbers below.

In the first instance please contact Cllr Andrew Hill ([AssingtonNP@outlook.com](mailto:AssingtonNP@outlook.com) or 07814 076875 / 827112) or alternatively: Cllr Ian Jordan (07767 035742) and Cllr Rosemary Symonds (229100).

### We can help with:

- **Shopping**
- **Transport to medical appointments**
- **A friendly phone chat**
- **Posting letters**
- **Other urgent errands or domestic help**

...and we will of course respect social distance guidelines, for example, by leaving shopping on your doorstep.

**Cllr Andrew Hill for Assington Parish Council**

## SESAW

Sesaw is currently closed, however if you have an animal, or know of one, in urgent need please contact us. Ring 01787 210888 leaving your name and most importantly your number then a brief description of the problem. The answer phone is regularly checked and we will ring you back.

Please note, cats cannot transmit COVID-19 to humans but could possibly carry the virus for a short time if someone with it had handled them. If someone in your household is displaying COVID-19 symptoms it is advisable not to let your cat out. Obviously for some cats this could be very stressful and they may need to go out if only for a short time. Entire cats should not be let out at all until they have been neutered to prevent unwanted pregnancies. In all cases after touching your cat, wash your hands.

Work goes on looking after the animals at the Centre, unfortunately our fund raising activities are now suspended.

If you are able to support SESAW animals by making a donation it would be greatly appreciated. Visit our website to donate via Just Giving or send a cheque made payable to SESAW. Keep safe until we meet again. Suffolk & Essex Small Animal Welfare, Reg.Charity No.1124029,

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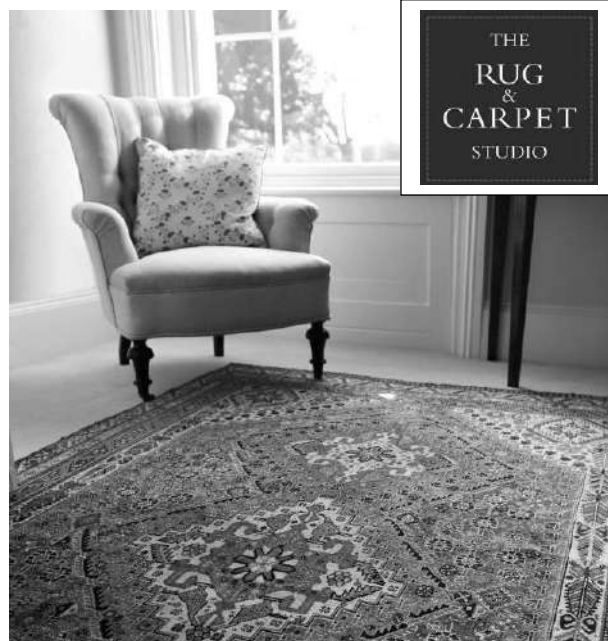
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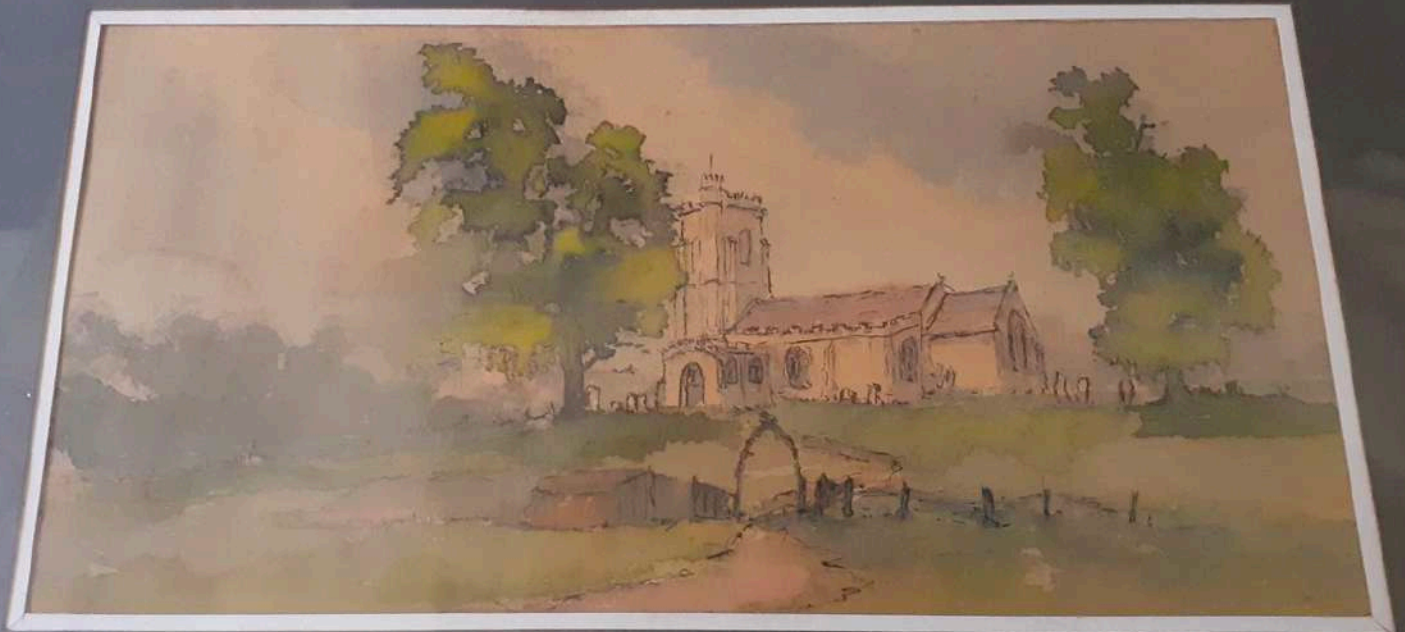
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## OUT OF THE BLUE.....

By BS

On Sunday, 15 March, we arrived in Church before the morning service to find a package had been delivered to the church.

Upon opening it, we discovered a previously unknown, (to us) original watercolour painting of Assington Church, and accompanying this was a letter, which reads as follows:

*"Hi there*

*I came into possession of this rather sweet water colour of your church, by W G Tuck, when I did a recent house clearance.*

*I thought you may like it, to hang where it can be appreciated by locals and visitors alike. I don't think it has any great monetary value.*

**Best wishes**

**John Griffiths**

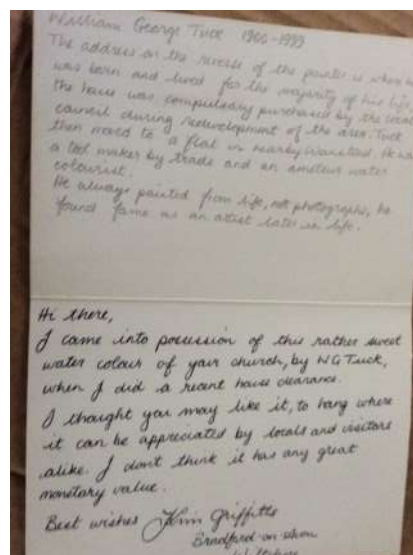
**Bradford on Avon  
Wiltshire"**

On the opposite page Mr Griffiths had written out some details of W G Tuck, which he had found from research, as follows:

**"William George Tuck, 1900 - 1999**

**The address on the reverse of the picture is where he was born and lived for the majority of his life, the house was compulsorily purchased by the local council during redevelopment of the area.**

**Tuck then moved to a flat in nearby Wanstead. He was a tool maker by trade and an amateur water colourist. He always painted from life, not photographs, he found fame as an artist later in life."**



William George Tuck lived at 65 Holme Road, East Ham, London E6 from his birth on 25 May, 1900, until age 86, when he moved to a flat in Wanstead, E11 - after the local council compulsorily purchased his house for redevelopment of the area.

A toolmaker by profession, he was an amateur painter whose recognition came in later life. Tuck was adjudged to be the best artist in the water colour section at the seventh Exhibition of the South Eastern Federation of Art Societies at the Guildhall in London in 1957 and again in 1962. In 1974, at the age of 74, he displayed 50 paintings at the Passmore Edwards Museum in Romford when he was chairman of the South Eastern Federation of Art Societies. He twice had pictures accepted by the Royal Academy, but ultimately these were not hung.

From childhood he developed a technique enabling him to capture the essence of a place, the time of day, a fleeting sky or the bustle of a crowd with seemingly effortless ease.

Although he went abroad, he retained a special affection for certain English places and subjects. William Tuck's oeuvre and style is comparable to other fluid English topographical watercolourists such as Roland Batchelor, David Gentleman, Roy Hammond and John Yardley. Tuck painted English landscapes around Suffolk and Essex including Lavenham, Leigh-on-Sea, Heybridge, Tilbury and Maldon. However, many of his more colourful and lively paintings were on Mediterranean subjects in Malta, Cyprus and Spain. He also visited Portugal and the Loire, France.

He always painted from life, never from photographs. Tuck died on 11 January 1999 at the age of 98.

William George Tuck left a legacy of a large collection of landscape and figurative watercolours, some of which are signed and many of which show William Tuck's Studio stamp on the reverse. A few of the works come with a signed certificate of authenticity from Elwin John Hawthorn, a relative of William George Tuck's. The collection was gifted to Hawthorn upon Tuck's admission to a residential care home in 1997. Upon Tuck's death Hawthorne acted as sole Executor.

*We thought we could alternate the display of this painting between the Village Hall and the Church, which still sees a number of visitors, from afar and near.*

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# FOOD FOR THOUGHT

By Val & Ian Clark

In early March we were extremely fortunate to be able to take a holiday in Costa Rica. Soon after we returned home it became clear just how lucky we had been as we arrived back in the UK four days before Costa Rica closed its borders and ten days before our government issued the 'stay at home' instructions with which we are all still coping.

Costa Rica has a population of just under five million, is governed democratically with presidential elections every four years and it has had no standing army since a brief civil war in 1948. Last year it generated 98% of its energy using renewable resources (in 2018 it had achieved 100%). It has a goal to become a carbon-neutral country by 2021.

Costa Rica's landmass covers just 0.03% of the Earth's surface, but it contains some 5% of the world's biodiversity. Part of this diversity stems from the wide array of habitats which include mangrove swamps along the Pacific coast, the wet Caribbean coastal plain and its rain forest, dry Pacific lowlands and the cloud forests of the mountain chain that forms the spine of the country. Unsurprisingly, over the past twenty years tourism, mainly eco-tourism, has become Costa Rica's biggest source of income outstripping that derived from the export of bananas, pineapples and coffee combined.

With the aid of an expert local guide our tour party of nineteen saw an array of wildlife during the trip including cayman, crocodiles, freshwater turtles, howler monkeys (they live up to their name and are very loud indeed), iguanas, opossum, sloths, various insects, tarantulas, a venomous pit viper (we were instructed to tread very carefully when we came across that) and several species of frog including the lethal strawberry poison dart frog whose name needs



no further explanation.

Although we didn't keep count, we also saw a considerable number of the 919 species of bird that can be seen in Costa Rica, over six hundred of which are resident; if you might assume that a hummingbird is a hummingbird you would be wrong as there are 52 species to be seen in Costa Rica whilst there are an astonishing 83 types of flycatcher. We were also extremely fortunate to see a pair of quetzals, birds that some ardent twitchers visit Costa Rica in the hope of seeing and never do; it is also a bird that is hunted for its beautiful, highly coloured feathers which means that there are only about 50,000 remaining in the wild.

So a lovely holiday then, but we also experienced something that made us stop and think and reflect upon at length. We were transferring via boat and coach from the Caribbean coast to a point inland and were travelling along a particularly bumpy road when we noticed huge bunches

of bananas moving along a footpath beside us as if of their own accord. When we had passed many, many such bunches we saw that they were in fact attached to a guide rail and were being pulled by a young man who was acting as the engine to this 'banana train'. He was taking the bananas to the processing plant just along the road and our guide asked the driver to stop so that he could explain, and we could watch, proceedings.

We had previously been unaware that, rather than being a fruit that grows on trees, the banana is in fact a high herb that can grow up to fifteen metres. Looking through a fence from the side of the road, we could see approximately twenty workers involved in splitting the large bunches into smaller ones, washing them, labelling them (several people being assigned to stick a label on each one) and packing them into boxes. Each of the boxes weighs 46 kilograms when full and they are subsequently loaded into a shipping container for export. Workers are expected to fill three containers a day and they work an eleven hour shift for six days a week; if they are required to fill a fourth container, that shift becomes fourteen hours, from six in the morning until eight in the evening. Bananas in UK supermarkets currently retail for less than 90p per kilo making the retail value of a large box approximately £40. With the retailer retaining about 40% of this, and allowing for costs for tariffs, shipping, import and export duties and production, it is estimated that six pence per kilo is set aside for workers' wages. The average Costa Rican labourer is paid roughly £8 a day, which is the highest rate of pay in the region.

It seems that much of the UK population takes the supply of fresh fruit and vegetables, including many exotic varieties unavailable even twenty years ago, for granted (although perhaps a little less so in the last few weeks). We have sometimes stood and wondered at how our avocado from Peru, pineapple from Costa Rica (the biggest exporter of that fruit) and mango from the Ivory Coast, for example, can be sold so cheaply in our favourite supermarket and, occasionally, perhaps considered how little the person at the bottom of the chain receives for their labour. Well, when our tour party reached its destination at the end of the day in question several of us discussed what we had seen at the banana plantation and how we felt about it. All said that, in future, our experience would make us think much more about the origin of some of our food and we agreed that when we next peeled a banana we would have the image of the boy pulling the 'banana train' in our minds.



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# BOOK REVIEWS

By Ellie Mead

## The Salt Path by Raynor Winn (2018)

An inspiring true story of endurance and hope. When they are made homeless and penniless, through no fault of their own, the author and her husband decide to take a 630 mile walk along the length of the South Coast Path, camping at night where they can. Raynor's husband has a terminal illness which he beats into submission with every step he takes. It is a struggle in so many ways but there is also much laughter to be had as they journey along. The people they meet along the way range from the selfless to the selfish, but by the end the reader is left with an overpowering sense of optimism for the future.



## Diary of a Bookseller by Shaun Bythell (2017)

For much of the 1980s I worked in the 2<sup>nd</sup> hand and antiquarian book trade in Colchester. The shop where I worked was called The Castle Bookshop but was actually on North Hill, a rambling and ancient building through the cellar of which ran a stream, flowing on its way down the hill (Wellington boots were kept at the top of the cellar steps) I catalogued Modern First editions in the reputedly haunted Renton's room and there was a mummified rat on a ledge which had been found in the wall during renovations. Regular customers to the shop included a cast of eccentrics and misfits. The owner of this establishment was the renowned Tony Doncaster whose contacts in both the world of Bookselling and in the literary and artistic community of Colchester were unparalleled. He could spin you a tale linking local characters in a web of connectivity, but once his tale began it was hard to stop him and many was the customer who headed out of the front door and up the hill with Tony haranguing them from the doorway as he shouted the remainder of his story up the hill after them.

What a joy then to come upon a book which brings those happy bookselling days to life again, not in Colchester admittedly but in Wigtown in Scotland. The customers frequenting Shaun's shop in the 21<sup>st</sup> century bear more than a passing resemblance to those I encountered in Colchester in the 1980s. I feel I know Mr Deacon with his comb over and seemingly random requests. The Wigtown Bookshop deals with queries and requests which are if anything stranger than those I remember and the brave new world of Amazon and Kindles adds another, unwelcome, facet to the trade. Sean meets these twin threats to his livelihood with a grim humour: he lists one of his hobbies as 'shooting Kindles in the wild' and a Kindle peppered with shot adorns one of the walls in the shop. In order to acquire stock Shaun has to buy books, a process with which I am very familiar, either by valuing them in people's homes or when they are brought into the shop - Customer 'I've got this really old book,' Me ('Hoping for at least a 17<sup>th</sup> century Culpeper) 'Really?' Then sighing heavily on production of Vol. 3 of Arthur Mee's Children's Encyclopaedia c. 1953.

But back to Shaun and his shop: one thing he has which the Castle Bookshop lacked is a Facebook page upon which appears from time to time live streamed film of Shaun, the

bookshop cat Captain and even Sandy the Tattooed pagan if he happens to wander in. Shaun is as amusing on film as he is in print. The trials and tribulations of running a second hand bookshop had me laughing aloud and I am thrilled to discover that Shaun has written a second book entitled Confessions of a Bookseller. I must order it, but not from

Amazon or on Kindle! 



## ASSINGTON HORTICULTURAL SHOW

To be held on

Sunday 23 August 2020@2.00pm

As things stand at this present time it is intended to run the show as per normal during the 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend of August. The Village Hall will be open for entries from 8.30 – 10.30am, when doors close for the judging which will start at 11.00am.

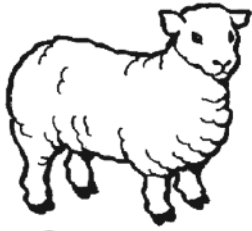
The show will be open to the public at 2.00pm. for viewing and the prizegiving will be at 3.00pm. and auction and raffle at 3.30pm.

This weekend will also see the annual scarecrow competition held throughout the village and as this event will be probably the first major event in the village to be held this year it would be really good to have a massive turnout of scarecrows peeping out from all sorts of unusual places and indeed possibly hanging out of windows and doors. Let's give our team of judges a real headache to choose winners this year and I am sure we can organise some good prizes.

Also it seems that due to the scarcity and high prices of fruit and veg there is now a move to self sufficiency and grow your own so it would be good to make the horticultural show the biggest and best ever. See you there.

**All Best Wishes  
Bryn and the Show Team.**





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## BOXFORD 'HOMESCHOOL' NEWS

A different update this month – the only news from school is that it is closed except for children whose parents are classed as 'key workers' and they cannot stay at home safely.

## CORONAVIRUS DIARY

### By Callie Bradbury

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020

Dear Diary,

Our World is going through tough times especially now with the Coronavirus lurking around. The Coronavirus is a virus which is contagious and originated in China. It has affected thousands of people all around the world.

All clubs have been closed and a couple of weeks later the schools were closed too. For some people it is very hard to cope because they couldn't do exercise or go to their jobs. People have had to isolate because of how quickly the virus is spreading and the NHS (the NHS is the National Health Service) cannot manage loads of people at one time.

Operations have been cancelled due to the fact that they might catch the virus and also they need all the doctors and beds they can get.

Today I have done:

Sudoku, Maths Code Breaking, Adding and Subtracting Mentally and adverbials.

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Diary,

Boris Johnson (the prime minister) announced that we are having a lock down which is basically where you can only go out if you are a key worker and going to your job or if you are doing exercise alone or with your family you live with or if you are going to the shops.

Unfortunately, my Dad was in Liverpool so when Boris Johnson said that he rushed home and got back at 3:00am. In the morning he was in bed for ages.

Today I have done:

Tenses, Space fact file, Mental Addition and Subtraction and Subtracting 5—digit numbers.

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Diary,

I saw a video of Vicky Fleetwood (a personal trainer and a red rose player (England women's rugby team)) doing a workout and I tried it and it was HARD!!!!

Today I did:

Space Study, Prequals, Frog Method and Corrections.

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2020

Dear Diary,

Today I am having another normal home school day so at 9:00am I went and got started with my work, I have done: Adverbs of Certainty, PE. In PE, I started with some tennis with my brother—Ollie—it was really fun. Then I did cricket with my brother too.

I am now doing the clap for the NHS, supermarket workers and Farmers, unfortunately I do not have any neighbours so we could not hear anyone else clapping.

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2020

Today I felt very relieved that it was the Easter holidays tomorrow. I started with creating a model of my dog, Lola. Next, I did finding unit fractions of amounts and finally to end the day I did my tutoring homework.

I cannot wait for the Easter holidays I need a break!!!!

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Today, my dad had to go to work because he had to pack up alcohol orders to send. So, in the morning I got started with my Easter egg hunt.

When I had lunch I was already tired because I had done so much work.

It was great when dad got back for tea because I told him about my day.

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Today, I woke up really early because a special offer on Brawl Stars, a game, was ending at 8:30am and I wanted to take part. Luckily, I had enough time to receive the offer before it ran out.

Then I went off to make an Easter egg hunt for my family on Sunday. I had some fantastic hiding spots which would take them a lot of time.

After Lunch, Ollie—my brother—and I did not know what to do so my Mum told us to go outside and make an assault course in the garden. Later, my Mum came out and was extremely impressed by what we had made.

I also made an agility course for Lola, our dog. She had lots of fun learning it.

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Today was a cleaning day because a NHS worker was coming to live in the house next door. It was a lot of hard work especially in the warm weather.

That evening, we had Fish and Chips from the Shoulder of Mutton, it was delicious so thank you very much.

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Today it is Easter Sunday and my family and I have organised an Easter egg hunt for each other. We collected cool prizes along the way.

In the afternoon we made a sort of paddling pool with an old trailer and a holey paddling pool. The water was freezing but our dog was still very keen to join us.



Then we had a Movie night in the living room all together and we watched two movies. They were DC Comics The Cosmic Clash and Jimmy Neutron The Boy Genius. They were both great films.

That night we slept together in the living room with our camping equipment. Our dog woke us up by licking us in the face. It was very funny as she had woken us up we watched The A—Team on TV.

# ASSINGTON VIRTUAL 'OPEN GARDENS'

photographs and commentary from  
**Roger and Linda Britcher**

I don't want to dwell on it, and neither, I suspect, do you want to read any more about the difficulties we are all continuing to experience.

This has meant that we have all had a lot of time to spend in our gardens; for me, that means an awful lot of weeding. Over the past couple of years cow parsley has completely run amok all along the bottom of the hedgerows which run the entire length of the garden. I have spent a couple of hours virtually every day to trying to get to grips with it, and while I am doing so, the nettles with their root system, the ivy, and other assorted undesirables.

Our gardens have probably never had as much time devoted to them; we have probably never had so little else to do, and wanted to be out there messing about generally more.....

The irony is , there isn't going to be anybody else but us to see how lovely our gardens look!

## But I have the very solution for you: a virtual "Open Gardens" slot.

Please email me [bronwenstacey@btinternet.com](mailto:bronwenstacey@btinternet.com) one or a couple of photos of views or individual flowers or plants in your garden, with or without (but preferably with) an additional little commentary or explanation of what it is. I, and I am sure many others would love to see things in other peoples' gardens - without even leaving our armchairs.....I just wish this was a colour supplement!

Just a little tip: some things which look wonderful in real life and in colour don't actually look quite so good when they are black and white and reduced to a smaller picture, so you may have to re-frame some of your ideas.

Starting you off:  
Several views from **Roger and Linda Britcher's garden:**  
Recently pruned Bramley apple tree with good crop of Mistletoe which i managed to grow several years back



Victoria plum in lovely bloom, hope blossom sets.



As you can see, not everyone is pulling their weight with garden duties!



Linda says:

"Crown Imperials, a favourite of mine, apart from the odour given

out from the bulb. Unfortunately the orange ones never do as well as the yellow. Our nickname for these as they start to appear is 'triffid'."



Onions just gone in today! Rhubarb in full flow, had three pickings so far..





Grape Hyacinths - a lovely colour at the front of any border.

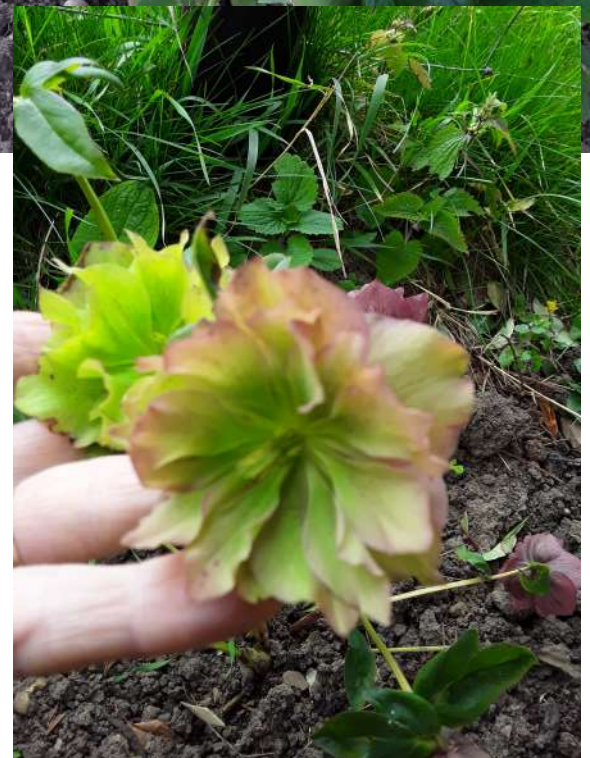
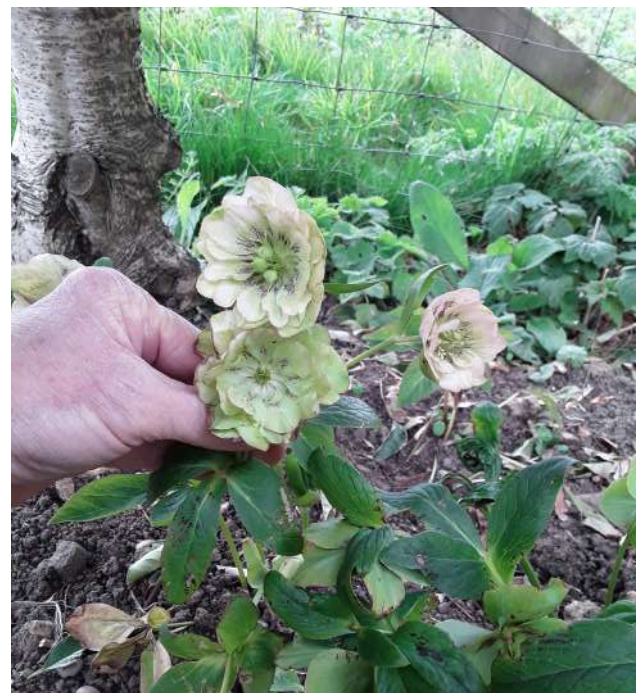
Bottle Brush - lots of new flower shoots appearing on the tips which will hopefully be open June/July.



Dicentra (bleeding hearts) a must for any cottage garden. Long lasting, though the white one usually survives the longest.



Ribes (flowering currant) looks great with the Euphorbia and white Hyacinths and tulips in bud to follow.



Recently formed border. Aubretia coming in to its own this year.

My sink garden. A few rockery perennials unfortunately I don't have all their names. Last year I thought most had died in all the summer heat but I left them just in case and I'm glad I did.

Hellebores, so many different varieties available. I grew these as plug plants 2 years ago and this is their first flowering season. Very pleased with the results.



**EXCERPTS 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.*

**Excerpts from his accounts began in the February edition and will continue to be printed over future months:**

**PART FOUR**

Normal life in Assington was very slow, easy and happy. No one could be hurried to do anything but, if anyone was ill or in trouble of any sort, then the villagers flocked round to help. There were very few really poor people. The people in the Hall were very decent and kept tabs on those who were in trouble or out of work. There was no unemployment benefit or Social Security in those days. The only monetary help they got was in the shape of 'Parish Relief' and that was Dad's province. When a poor person became too old to work there was only one refuge for him or her and that was the Workhouse. There was no old age pension. But the people in the Hall always kept a soup kitchen going so no one actually starved. I think the average wage of a farm labourer was in the region of twelve to fourteen shillings a week. Rent for a cottage was about two shillings. Milk from the farm was free to him and actually only a penny a pint to others. He had his garden and produced enough for himself and family, and to spare. Many had a pig in the sty from which they got enough bacon to last them a whole year. Their children were always very well dressed and had quite enough to eat although their diet was very plain. Beer was only 1.5d a pint so they were able to indulge fairly freely.

On Tuesday following Whitsun Monday, it was always a gala day in Assington. A small fair would come and install itself on Palmer's meadow (ie behind the Shoulder of Mutton Ed). Everyone used to save up for that because it was a general holiday. A few traders would put up their stalls in front of the pub and do a very good trade. Jane Gentry used to put up her stall with them and sell her sweets. I used to help her throughout the morning and would be rewarded with a bag of sweets and if trade had been good, which it usually was, I would get sixpence. In addition to stone picking and what we could scrounge from the parents, we usually had a bob or two to spend at the fair. In the afternoon there was usually a cricket match between the Hall team and the villagers, played in the Park. After the match, villagers would be invited to the Hall for a drink and then would repair back to the Shoulder for a tripe supper. More often than not, they would arrive at their respective homes quite blotto.

Then there was the Annual Flower Show and that was something. It was held in the Vicarage grounds (ie now Glebe House, across the A134 Ed). Sports events were organised for the kids for which the first prize would probably be a shilling. Then in the summer, there was the harvest. Before the advent of the Combine Threshing machine, or indeed any mechanical reaper, corn was cut by scythe. The reapers would move off in echelon and it was remarkable how quickly a field would be cut. The



farmers would draw lots as to whose fields would be cut first and every labourer would join forces in the field. We kids, and indeed the wives of the labourers would join together and we would make the binders for the sheaves. Then after the field had been cut and raked once, we were allowed to enter and glean all the corn that was left. In this way it was possible to gather enough corn for the chickens for some time.

Early in the Century, Mr Mason at the Shop died rather suddenly and as it was the Post Office, it had to be kept open somehow. Mrs Mason was getting old and did not wish to carry on. It was difficult to find a successor when an amazing decision was made. In lieu of anyone else, Sir William Brampton Gurdon decided to run it himself until someone else came to take it over. He was a very kindly man and knew quite a number of us by name. It was a great sight to see him every morning being driven up to the shop in a Broughton complete with Coachman and Footman. He would solemnly enter the Shop and take over his duties as Postmaster and Shopkeeper. I am afraid Jane Gentry's takings dropped a bit during that period because it was a great thing to go into the Shop and ask for a ha'porth of sweets. He didn't bother to weigh them so I am quite certain that his books in the sweet line showed him in the red. Unfortunately for us, our heigh day (sic) did not last long – only for about a week. The lease of the Post Office, Shop and Bakery were taken over by Mr Harry Chatters. He had several children and Mother and Mrs Chatters got on exceptionally well together. Harry became one of Dad's boozing pals and life entered a sort of different phase. Mr Chatters was a marvellous baker and I can still taste the lovely crusty bits cut off from the loaves when still warm from the oven.

There is one character I must mention who lived up by Pump Farm. He was old 'Dodger' Jakeman. Dodger had been a pain in the neck to the Squire owing to his poaching habits. Of course he was not the only poacher but he was called the king of them all and made a very good living out of his illegal bag. He flogged his game to residents of outlying places and mostly 'to order'. We, in Assington, did not get a look in, for Dodger held up his hands in horror if anyone accused him of being such a lowdown thief. It is a well-known axiom in the country, that if you want a good gamekeeper, employ a good poacher. This is exactly what the Squire did, appointing him as Under Keeper to Mr Wheel. So Dodger supplemented his weekly income from illegal sales by a regular weekly wage. That may seem a cock-eyed idea but it paid dividends. Dodger knew all the other poachers and their methods. It was remarkable how the number of prosecutions for poaching increased, especially on the Squire's property, but Dodger himself was never implicated or caught even though his sales from poaching went on.

Arthur and I gradually got to know the times Dodger made his rounds up in the big wood. (Presumably the Thicks Ed) We would hide up more often than not, enjoying a smoke and would wait for Dodger. We watched him set his snares and traps and we would follow on our tummies sometimes and spring them all. He nearly caught us once when Arthur tripped up and fell into a deep and muddy ditch. However as Dodger was very bow-legged, we could run faster than he could. I like to think we saved, or extended the lives of many a rabbit or pheasant and it was good fun to beat old Dodger. Whether he knew for certain Arthur and I were the culprits I don't know. If he did, he was very decent because he did often catch us smoking but said nothing. Also, in the nesting season, Dodger would tell us where to look for the birds. He knew every type and bird call and would tell us the different egg markings but no-one was allowed to touch an egg. He would say 'They owd hins will smell yew and fly away niver to come back'. I do not know what happened to him.

The wood was cut down completely and the timber used during the First World War. It has, I believe, grown again but it could never recover its old early century magnificence.

# WHO WAS 'DODGER' JAKEMAN?

Speculation By BS

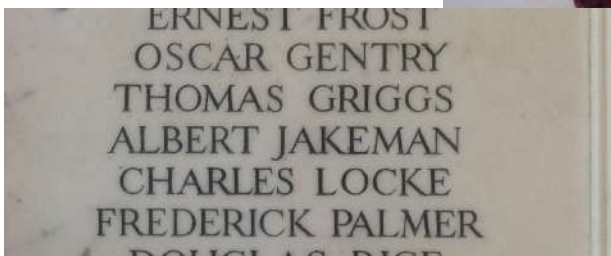
In the 'Excerpts of Major Henry Tomkins' in this month's edition, he tells us the story of "Dodger Jakeman":

*".....There is one character I must mention who lived up by Pump Farm. He was old 'Dodger' Jakeman. Dodger had been a pain in the neck to the Squire owing to his poaching habits. Of course he was not the only poacher but he was called the king of them all and made a very good living out of his illegal bag. He flogged his game to residents of outlying places and mostly 'to order'. We, in Assington, did not get a look in, for Dodger held up his hands in horror if anyone accused him of being such a lowdown thief. It is a well-known axiom in the country, that if you want a good gamekeeper, employ a good poacher. This is exactly what the Squire did, appointing him as Under Keeper to Mr Wheal. So Dodger supplemented his weekly income from illegal sales by a regular weekly wage. That may seem a cock-eyed idea but it paid dividends. Dodger knew all the other poachers and their methods. It was remarkable how the number of prosecutions for poaching increased, especially on the Squire's property, but Dodger himself was never implicated or caught even though his sales from poaching went on....."*

I thought it would be interesting to try to identify 'Dodger', but it has proved to be even more difficult than I anticipated! I have done all the usual (free) things, like putting the surname 'Jakeman' and a key word such as 'Assington' into the website and trying to find something useful. Sadly, nothing of use transpired through this search.

I already had some information which I thought might turn up trumps, and so I began by following that lead:

In the Remembrance Sunday Service in church in **November 2018**, Colonel Chris Pope delivered a wonderful address, in which he recounted key details of the lives of those whose names are engraved on the Village World War I Memorial, up to, and including, their service and death during (or as a result of) the



War. He and his wife, Deb had painstakingly researched these individuals, and he outlined where in the village they had all lived before they left life in Assington for the war.

One of those individuals named on the memorial is Albert Jakeman. Colonel Pope told us about Albert:

*"....a few doors down the lane (Barracks Lane), at number 55, **Albert Jakeman** lived with his widowed mother Eliza ,*



*brother Frank, sister Emily and cousin Edgar. He joined up aged 17 years and 11 months in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, The Durham Light Infantry and spent his war years in the North East defending the coast from invasion. He was treated in Mill Dam Red Cross Hospital in South Shields after being wounded and died there on 19<sup>th</sup> January 1918, aged 19. He is buried in the North East part of this churchyard....."*



A photograph of Albert Jakeman's grave is above. Beside his gravestone in the churchyard is another grave, that of a family member, his niece, Violet Cohen.

However, I do not think that Albert Jakeman was the "Dodger" referred to in the story, for a number of reasons: firstly, Albert is described as having bandy legs, which is more likely to be a trait of an older person, as was the fact that he was a poacher who knew all the tricks, and all the other local poachers. Secondly, Albert lived at no 55 Partridge Row, whereas "Dodger" is said to have lived up near Pump Farm (now the Ryes College). Thirdly, the date of the story is several years prior to 1911 or 1914. Furthermore, Albert Jakeman lived with his widowed mother, brother, sister, and cousin.

For his cousin Edgar to be living with them, I wonder whether Edgar's father had died, and therefore he had been 'taken in' by his Aunt and/or Uncle and family; this was quite a usual situation in those times.

In addition, by 1914 (or thereabouts) when Albert Jakeman joined up, aged 17 years 11 months, his mother was a widow, and his father therefore dead.

As Colonel Pope said in his Remembrance Sunday Address

*".....in 1911, (information from the Census?), Assington was a very small rural community where nearly everyone worked on the land. The small hamlet of Leavenheath was part of the parish. The Parish population was 507 living in 124 dwellings. There were 9 'Smith' households, 8 'Frosts', 6 'Butchers' and 8 'Rices' - .....Ambrose, Lock, Baker, Gentry, Bell and Osbourne were common names.*

We note that Jakeman was not one of those 'common' names,.....could it be that "Dodger" Jakeman was the father of either Albert or cousin Edgar? Or if not, maybe another Uncle, or maybe even the Grandfather of Albert?



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I look forward to hearing from you.



# PARISH CHURCH NEWS

*Letter from the Revd Steve Morley, Vicar:  
Bures with Assington and Little Cornard*

Dear Friends

All the signs are that May will be another month of lockdown for most of us, so I hope that this finds you in good health and spirits.

In all the anxiety about Covid-19 and the strange new world we find ourselves in, it's great to come across a really positive and encouraging story. One that particularly struck me was the one about Captain Tom Moore, who at the age of 99 has been raising enormous sums of money for the NHS by doing ten laps of his garden every day with the help of his walking aid. As I write this, he has raised over £12 million, so goodness knows what the final figure will be.

Tom's daughter said this of him: "We always knew that he was this incredible gem of a man, but we never had any idea that his story would capture the hearts of the nation. We thought we could give people a little bit of happiness and we wanted to share a little bit about him, and it has just gone beyond even our wildest, wildest dreams."

Captain Tom's story made me think about the story of Jesus feeding the five thousand. I always think the star of that story is as much the little boy who hands over the five loaves and two fishes as it is Jesus. There would have been no feeding of the crowd if the boy hadn't been willing to hand over what little he had – in this case, his packed lunch – for Jesus to use. And there would have been no £5 million plus for the NHS if Captain Tom hadn't decided to do what little he felt he could offer by doing some sponsored laps of his back garden. His original idea was to raise a few quid - £1000 was his target – and yet something happened to multiply his offering beyond his wildest dreams.

There are lots of other wonderful stories around like Captain Tom's and I believe they show that when people generously and graciously offer what they can, God has a habit of taking those offerings and multiplying them beyond our wildest imaginings. That may involve raising large sums for a good cause or it may simply be a phone call which blesses someone in ways we will never know.

The bible talks in many places about God bringing light out of darkness. I hope and pray that you will see many instances of light shining through the darkness in the coming days.

With very best wishes  
Steve.

Vicar:	Rev Steve Morley	227407
Reader:	Dr John Symons	211534
Associate		
Priest	Rev Simon White	07572 418555
Organist:	Bronwen Stacey	210354
Sec:	Emily Cartlidge	07976 724266
Treasurer:	Ian Clark	211133
Churchwardens:		
	Roger Britcher	211021
	Bronwen Stacey	210354

# CHURCH BUILDING CLOSURE DETAILS

## COVID-19

**The Church continues to be alive and active, but our buildings must close.**

We are seeing a huge increase in the number of people falling sick with COVID-19. We must distance ourselves from one another and prevent the spread of infection in order to save lives.

Government and Church guidance is clear; people can only meet with members of their own household. People have been told to stay at home and only make journeys that are absolutely necessary, such as shopping for essential items and to take daily exercise. The Church must take a lead in following this in order to slow down the spread of the virus. Therefore, as well as public worship being suspended, this and all church buildings in the Church of England are now closed.

We will miss the communal worship, the companionship, the opportunity for visitors to encounter God in our churches.

The building will, of course, remain as a beacon of hope. Our worship of God and our care for each other continue but cannot be done in the church building.

Our website contains details of how to join others online for prayer, worship, study, and community life.

See: <https://parishchurch.co.uk>

The churchwardens of Assington church can be contacted in an emergency by telephoning Roger Britcher on 01787 211021 or emailing [bronwenstacey@btinternet.com](mailto:bronwenstacey@btinternet.com)

**“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength . . . Love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.”**

To protect the vulnerable amongst us, please do not leave your home except for essential trips.

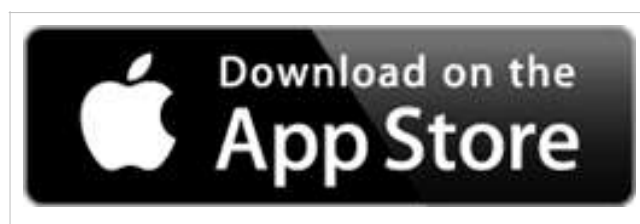
**Time to Pray** presents everything you need for Prayer During the Day, with variations according to the day of the week and the season of the Church's year.

**The app is compatible with smartphones and tablets** (iPhone/iPad iOS 9.0+ and Android 5.1.1+).

You can use Prayer During the Day on its own, as your sole act of prayer and praise, or you can use it alongside Night Prayer – also provided here – in a pattern of prayer at the beginning and end of the day.

- Access Prayer During the Day, together with full text of psalms and short readings from *Common Worship: Time to Pray*.

**Time to Pray is now completely free to use.**



If you wish to join the weekly services broadcast live, see the [Church of England's Facebook page](#).

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# NATURE REPORT

From Nick Miller

The lockdown is preventing us all from seeing much of the countryside. It's never before been known, to see Arger Fen car park empty at this time of year. The total number of Wild Service Trees known in the wood there is now five - an exceptional number - and it would have been great to view them in blossom.

However, from my corner I can report that this year, once again Primroses have multiplied and spread greatly. Oaks are coming into leaf very early, and blossom is withering fast in the heat.

Last year, Red Kites nested and raised two young, at a "secret location" in the parish. But this year, the pair's interest in their nest was cut short by noisy rooks moving in and rapidly building their rookery. And at the Barn Owl nest box at Meadow Way, I hear that an owl which was showing an interest, gave way to Woodpigeons! - the box will need some re-furbishment apparently!

(Stephen King thinks that the owl box in the conservation area is occupied by stock doves, not woodies! -Ed)

All the attention in the area is currently on Ravens, a pair of which are regularly seen and heard. A pair is nesting in the Lamarsh area.

Brin Edwards recently commented to me on the late arrival of spring migrants, and that he would have expected to see one or two Swallows by now. The good news is, that same evening (7th April) three Swallows were seen by Michael Heyland, at Gazley Gate. And the following day, I was able to watch a Blackcap collecting insects from the plum blossom, while having a relaxing lunch, and later tea.

Hopefully, by the time people are reading this, we will all be hearing the Cuckoo, and maybe, the Nightingale! But at the time of writing, not all of the Fieldfares have yet left.

Bob Cowlin reports that he saw and photographed the first swallow on the afternoon of Sunday 5th April, chirruping away on the wind vane above the mill there. A real tonic! In addition there are a pair of Barn Owls again in Bob's Barn Owl tower, giving him hopes of young again.

Andrew Warner spotted house martins over Vicary Estate on the afternoon of 11 April. Also he is seeing hedgehogs in his garden.

## The Wild Service Tree (*Sorbus torminalis*)

The Wild service tree was once widespread, if seldom abundant, in the forests of England and Wales. But, as these were cleared, it became rarer and is now confined to ancient woodlands and hedges, particularly on heavy clay soils. An inconspicuous tree for much of the year, its white blossom in spring and crimson leaves in autumn give it away.

The Wild Service tree has jagged, palmate leaves (a little like Maple leaves), white flowers and small, apple-like fruit. The Wild Service tree is also known as the 'Chequers tree' and its fruits were once regularly used to make alcohol. Many pubs and inns are also called The Chequers, however, it's unclear whether the inns gave their name to the fruits or the fruits to the inns!



# ASSINGTON VILLAGE CHARITY ANNUAL REPORT From Stephen King, Chair

Annual Report for the Parish Meeting on 23/3/2020

The major success this year is the establishment of a Children's Playground on the playing field, built by the Norfolk firm Action Play & Leisure Ltd. Local businesses and organisations, including the Parish Council, together with various anonymous donations, raised well over £10,000. Babergh District Council awarded capital grants and S106 monies for just under £21,000 to enable the playground to be in place at the end of January. It was opened officially on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

The Charity benefitted from £2616 interest on the Investment Portfolio, and income from lettings remained steady at just under £10,000. The main expenditure this year was in repainting the interior walls, ceilings and windows which, together with ongoing repairs and maintenance, resulted in a net loss of £166. We are grateful for a new litter bin which was purchased by the Parish Council and installed next to the Recycling Banks in the car park. A new playing field grass cutting contract with local resident Thomas Wallis starts this year.

New initiatives include the establishment of a Mothers and Toddlers Group which meets every fortnight, bringing families together and welcoming the new faces in the village. They store their equipment under the stage on wide trolleys built by Paul Battle to enable easy access.

I am grateful that the Charity Committee remains the same as last year, with the exception of our Secretary, Nettie Osman, who is stepping down from the post, though she will remain on the Committee as a Trustee. We are very pleased to welcome Claire Osborne as Secretary. Stephanie Gould (Cleaner) and Paul Battle (Caretaker) continue to provide excellent service to the maintenance of the hall and playground.

As I write there are many restrictions concerning Covid-19 which will have a serious effect on our income for the coming year. Our Treasurer, Sue Sadler-Brunning, requested a Development Plan to raise funds in the future. This was written last month but will be put in abeyance while the Hall and Playing Field are closed for the duration of the virus regulations.

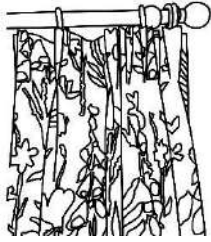
## THE ASSINGTON NEWS on line and in colour

The Assington News in colour is now available every month on the Parish Council Website. That means that if (for any reason) you missed getting your copy on one occasion, or if you wanted to re-read a particular item, or print an article in colour, or maybe wanted to share an item of mutual interest with a friend or relative elsewhere, you can now do so.

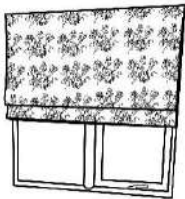
Go to:

<http://assington.onesuffolk.net/assington-news/>

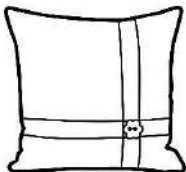
# Little House Designs



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Jacqui Egglestone  
01787 211154  
07770 520198  
jacqui@littlehousedesigns.co.uk  
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## ASSINGTON ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION (AAA) Report from Stephen King

Report for Annual Parish Meeting 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020

2019 was a reasonably successful year of gardening for most members of the Association despite a lot of rain in the summer. Some under-used plots were maintained by volunteers, and one or two plot holders were unable to do as much as they had wished, due to unavoidable illness and a lack of time. All twelve plots were taken. By the end of the year we had three new Assington residents to replace vacancies and we look forward to all twelve plots being fully cultivated this year. We are encouraged by the fact that there is at least one new village resident on the waiting list. Bryn Hurren and Lisa Brooks with David and Karen Wiles organized an excellent Horticultural Show in the autumn. Bryn was awarded Best Allotment.

A shallow pond is being created halfway along the allotment site to encourage wildlife, especially pollinators and amphibians. In October we agreed to stop having bonfires so gardeners now have to compost their waste material or remove it from the site.

We have at last established a bank account with Lloyds in Sudbury in the name of Assington Allotment Association which enables us to collect subscriptions online or by cheque or cash. We can also easily change the signatories when necessary. After paying £360 rent for twelve plots to the Parish Council, extra donations for manure contributed

to the accounts showing a surplus of £77.12 at the AGM on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

Subscriptions for 2020/21 remain at £30 per plot. The 5-year Tenancy Agreement between AAA and the Parish Council expires on 1st January 2021. This will be renegotiated with the Council in time for the next AAA meeting to ratify the Agreement in October 2020.

We are very grateful for the continued financial support from the Parish Council for water supply, rent of unused plots and for the maintenance of exterior paths round the site.

Officers of AAA were elected at the AGM as follows:

Chair: Stephen King  
Secretary: Claire Osborne  
Treasurer: Lisa Brooks

\*\*\*\*\*

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir/Madam

I am sorry to read there have been no recent notes from Eddy Sinwarbler lately. He disappeared before we heard of the covid virus, but did he succumb to bird flu? I think we should be told.

Yours ever hopeful

Mrs A Thicks

# NATURE WATCH

## A PALM SUNDAY WALK

By BS

Palm Sunday is the Sunday before Easter Sunday. On Palm Sunday Christians celebrate Jesus entering into Jerusalem on a donkey, to shouts of welcome and Hosanna from the crowds gathered, who waved branches of palm to demonstrate their joy.

This year, Palm Sunday fell on 5 April. The sky was a cloudless blue, the sun shone endlessly, and the (slightly blustery at times) SouthEasterly wind was warmish. I thought I should share with you nature's beauty, seen during our walk:

We set off from the 'top' of our garden, and walked around the field edge until we hit Dyers Lane, when we turned left to follow it up to its end at East Farm. From there we took the signed footpath towards Severals Farm.

All the way along, crowds of primroses softened the sides of banks and the deep ditches, now beginning to suffer a little from lack of water. These were linked by occasional drifts of white greater stitchwort. The odd skylark regaled us from on high as we pushed on, commenting on a bright yellow field of oil seed rape in full bloom over on our right hand side. While we were still walking along the field-sides we were surprised by a fluttering butterfly or two, being buffeted along at a slightly faster pace than I could recognise exactly what they were; I admit that I am fairly hopeless at identifying butterflies, as I never seem to be able to see them "properly" as they are flying around, but I have a vague idea of possibilities, which I then narrow down with a 'Concise Photoguide': these first couple were : a brown or coppery orange medium-sized butterfly, which I have narrowed down to possibly



a Small Copper:  
"14mm,  
habitat = rough grassland, wasteland and heathland  
Flight = February - November  
Foodplant = sorrels and occasionally docks"



or  
a Small Heath:  
"14-20mm  
Habitat = rough Grassland and heathland  
Flight = April - October  
Foodplant = assorted fine-leaved grasses



or  
a Wall Brown:  
"23mm  
Habitat = rough grassy places with areas of bare ground  
Flight = March - October  
Foodplant: = assorted coarse grasses  
.....you tell me (please?)



and also  
definitely one of the numerous peacock butterflies we encountered.

Noticeable for its vigour I saw a large Ash tree, with very well-developed knobby blossoms, sprouting halos of hair, well before the leaves

appeared.

Before we reached Severals Farm we noticed a few patches of white Wood Anemones on the field side. I thought this a little unusual as they are commonly called wood anemones for a very good reason - ie they like woodland shade, and are mostly found in woodland glades.

We turned left at Severals Farm and headed for The Thicks. To our right was another field ablaze with Oil Seed Rape, and it was here that we saw a white butterfly, possibly a Small White:

"25mm  
Habitat = flowery places including cultivated areas  
Flight = March - October  
Foodplant = cultivated brassicas and many wild crucifers".



A pheasant, disturbed by us, flew up from the middle of the field, and while it settled again there was an echo from a short distance away, where the territory of another male was feeling threatened .

Bordering The Thicks were broom shrubs, with their first yellow blooms on the tops and ends. Once we reached The Thicks we walked the woodland rides, noticing huge clouds of

wood anemones, clumps of primroses alongside striking violets, and opposite, the ground covered by celandines, with their bright yellow starry flowers. Here and there was growth of groundsel and in other spots, here, white dead nettle and there, blue spikes of bugle. Dotted in and amongst the brambles were pops of bright baby blue speedwell.



In the woodland we noticed (separately) two yellow brimstones butterflies, and again, at intervals, more peacock butterflies .

Since Palm Sunday, spring flowers and numbers of butterflies of many varieties have continued to appear.....

### ASSINGTON RAINFALL AND TEMPERATURES

Bill Milner and Bob Cowlin

2016 TOTAL 599.5  
2017 TOTAL 571  
2018 TOTAL 559  
2019 TOTAL 597

\*\*\*\*\*

2018	mm	max	min
JAN	60.5	11°C	-3°C
FEB	41	9°C	-8°C
MAR	74	14°C	-5°C
APR	49.5	26.5°C	+1°C

\*\*\*\*\*

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

# ASSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

## Matters of Interest discussed at a Meeting held via Conference Call on Monday 6th April 2020

Present: All Councillors were present by telephone, and this method of Public Meeting has been authorised during the current public emergency.

### ■ Planning

#### The Councillors reviewed

- ◆ **Planning Application DC/20/01307** - Change of use and conversion of barn into 1 dwelling at Shamrock Farm, Marshalls Green, Assington and it was agreed that this should be considered alongside
- ◆ **Planning Application DC/20/01308** - Works to facilitate conversion of barn into 1 dwelling at Shamrock Farm, Marshalls Green, Assington - as one application and all Councillors agreed to **object** to this application on the following points:
  - Importantly, this is not an agricultural barn, and has not been in use as an agricultural barn for a very long period of time; page 12 of the accompanying heritage statement confirms that, "the barn technically is already in residential use." As such it should be treated in planning law as a residential outbuilding and a subdivision of a residential property in open countryside.
  - This application is in conflict with Policy ASSN1 of the draft Assington Neighbourhood Plan which should now begin to be given weight as it has passed its six week public consultation stage. The application is for a new dwelling in open countryside outside the settlement boundary of the village, and therefore should be permitted only in exceptional circumstances, where an identified local need has been demonstrated and where this need cannot be fulfilled by development within the settlement boundary. The application makes no attempt to demonstrate this.
  - The application also conflicts with policy CS2 of Babergh Core Strategy 2014 (and NPPF paragraph 79 is engaged) for the same reasons; it is well outside of the settlement boundary, there are no exceptional circumstances justifying the application, and there is no proven need for the housing.
  - While it was not suggested in any way that this has happened in this instance, Councillors did not want to give a signal for the future that allowing outbuildings to deteriorate in condition is a route to achieving residential planning permission.

### ■ Banner and Thank You Box

A resident had suggested doing a banner to show the villagers support of the NHS with designs from children and they had a contact who would be able to produce it for free. It was agreed that as long as the children were able to do their designs remotely and sign in their designs Councillors agreed to support the banner. The resident had also suggested putting together Thank You Boxes for care workers with items such as hand cream. Councillors agreed to support this and give a £100 donation towards the boxes. Cllr Symonds will liaise with the resident to arrange this.

### ■ Question to the Chair

- ◆ Cllr Thorogood wanted to thank everyone for setting up the volunteer Covid-19 support group. Cllr Hill advised that they had 20 volunteers and had had 2 requests for assistance so far which they were able to fulfill

quickly. Cllr Hill has been in regular contact with Babergh District Council who are eager that the group remains ready to face any possible spike in demand in the coming weeks. The group has been registered with Community Action Suffolk and SCC Tribe.

- ◆ Cllr Thorogood wanted to express the councils thanks to Stephen King for all his efforts and said that he has done an amazing job in organising the new playground which had now been opened.

- ◆ Cllr Thorogood introduced for discussion the letter which the council had received from a resident, who had raised concerns regarding antisocial behaviour. The advice from BDC was that there was very little that the parish council can do but should advise the resident that if they feel physically threatened then they should dial 999 or make a formal report to BDC themselves. It was agreed that the clerk should reply in writing to the resident.

- ◆ Cllr Thorogood raised the concern that a caravan had been dumped partially in the road at Dorking Tye. Cllr Hill advised that there was a notice on it that BDC had logged it and if it had not been removed within four weeks, it would be removed. It was agreed that the clerk should write to BDC and SCC Highways to ask when the caravan would be removed as it was an obstruction in the road.

### ■ Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting date is Monday 18th May 2020 at 7.30pm.

**The meeting closed at 8.40pm**

## ASSINGTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE



Thanks to everyone who responded to the final pre-submission consultation of the Neighbourhood Plan. We are currently in the process of logging all your contributions, ready for further discussions and consideration before the final formal submission to Babergh District Council. To progress things further, one of the village's professional photographers, Steve Betts, has been out and about in the sunshine, taking shots of the village to add to the final



document.

As you might expect, COVID 19 has impacted on our progress and we are following government advice regarding social distancing so therefore cannot meet as a committee for the time being. We are however keen to keep the momentum of the plan going and are doing all we can by email and will continue to keep you all updated

The social events aimed at getting the village together down the pub have been thwarted also and unfortunately the first 'Village Night', a spin-off to the Neighbourhood Plan, couldn't happen on 1<sup>st</sup> April but we hope to be back at the pub by our second get-together, planned for 3<sup>rd</sup> June, failing that, the 5<sup>th</sup> August. Save the dates in your diary, everyone is welcome to come along for a drink and a chat and support the pub.

To learn more about the **Assington Neighbourhood Plan**, you can check out our page on the Parish Council website at: <http://assington.onesuffolk.net/assington-neighbourhood-plan/> or keep up to date on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/AssingtonNP/](http://www.facebook.com/AssingtonNP/)

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*London Evening Standard*

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*Fiona Duncan, Sunday Telegraph*

We look forward to welcoming you to Stoke-By-Nayland

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