

ASSIGNMENT

NEWS



MAY 2023

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Please bring your own mat.

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

CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS (useful numbers)

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

Allotments Secretary	Jenny Cutts	01787 211371
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		
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	07967 724266
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 370011
Doctors surgery – Bures	Bures	01787 227529
Footpath Wardens	Paul & Cynthia Hollingsworth	01787 211620
Horticultural Society	Karen Wiles	
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.
ADVERTS. RATES pa : £20 for 1/8 size page advert, £35 for 1/4 page advert, £60 for 1/2 page advert, £120 for a full page advert.
Contact Bob Cowlin 01787 229955 Bank Account details for payments and donations: Account no: 01345159. Sort Code: 30 - 98 - 31.
 Please make cheques payable to the Assington Association.

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

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PARISH CHURCH NEWS



Letter from Murray Emerson, Reader, Bures with Assington and Little Cornard

Dear Friends

I wonder what Charles III really thinks about becoming King and about his imminent Coronation. Does he secretly wish that his mother had lived for ever? Wouldn't he rather be quietly tending his beloved garden at Highgrove? Becoming king brings great responsibility. And, with it, comes sacrifice.



Many years ago, one leader certainly learned that: The sandy beach lay white and hot before the little village. In the village lived 400 people. On the plateau above stood a fine old house, surrounded by rice crops. In that house lived Hamaguchi – an old man, lord of the village below. One hot Summer evening, Hamaguchi looked out across the sea. To his horror he saw a huge wave rushing towards the village.

He grabbed a flaming torch, then hobbled to the fields on the left of the house, and set his crops on fire.

He looked down at the village. No one was looking up at the plateau. Then he set fire to all his other crops.

At last, a bell sounded, ringing from the church in the village.

And soon, streaming up the hill, came the villagers. All 400 of them – running to help put out the fire! The wave struck.

Within moments there wasn't a single village house standing.

The people looked in horror at the ruins of the village. They turned to face the fields. They were gone as well – burned to the ground.

One villager voiced the question everyone wanted to hear. "Why did you burn down your precious fields?"

The old man turned to the crowd and said, "I had to find some way to warn you – to lead you out of harm's way. For, as precious as my fields are to me, each and every one of you is more precious still."

And, with that, Hamaguchi invited them all to stay in his house until the village was rebuilt. When at last Hamaguchi died, the people built a little shrine in their village, in memory of the lord who sacrificed so much to save them from the terrible wave. Hamaguchi was a great leader. He sacrificed his crops for his people. It provided a way of escape for them. They took it.

Do we need to take the way of escape provided by an even greater leader 2000 years ago? – Jesus, King of Kings.



Saint Edmund
King & Martyr
Assington



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

MAY 2023 SERVICES IN ASSINGTON



7 MAY @ 10.30am Coronation Service

21 MAY @ 10.30am Holy Communion

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

Alpha

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

Find out more:

vicar@parishchurch.co.uk

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 by Cathy, Anna, Mary and Daniel 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.

**Got questions
about life**



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



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THINGS TO DO.....

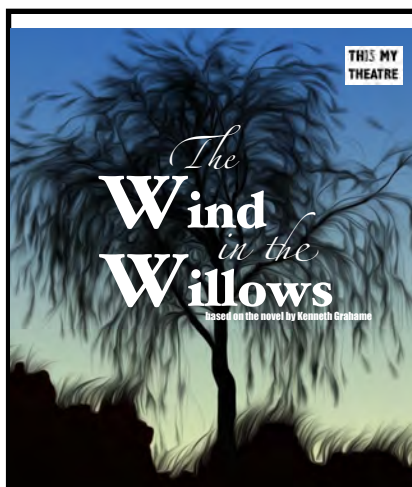
MOBILE LIBRARY DATE May 20th

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.

LAVENHAM FARMERS MARKET
28 May
10am – 1.30pm
LAVENHAM VILLAGE HALL

ASSINGTON TABLE TENNIS CLUB

Sundays, 6pm - 8pm @ £2 Per Session
New members are always welcome



This is My Theatre
performance of **The Wind in the Willows** will be performed at **St Mary's Church on the Chilton Industrial Estate near Sudbury on Friday 26th May at 7pm.**

Closely adapted from the best-selling children's book by Kenneth Grahame and combined with traditional folk music, it will delight children and adults alike. TIMT are an innovated theatre company that create magical and beloved productions.

Doors will open at 6.30pm. Tickets are £15 for adults and £10 for under 16s.

For more information and to book tickets:

<https://www.thisismytheatre.com/chilton>



26TH MAY 7PM
ST MARY'S CHURCH
CHILTON, SUDBURY

Tickets £15 (discounts available)

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Churches Conservation Trust

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LEAVENHEATH CINEMA

SATURDAY 13th MAY

THE BANSHEES OF INISHERIN



7 For 7.30pm Start

Leavenheath Village Hall

Wrights Way, Leavenheath, CO6 4NS

Tickets; Adults £4, Under 16 £2.50

Bar is open before showing the film & during the interval serving Beer, Wine, Soft drinks, Tea & Coffee.

Ice Creams available during the interval.

For tickets phone Marion (01206 263301)

or book online at www.leavenheath.org.uk

Can pay on the door by either cash or card.



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

Twice a month on Thursdays in termtime
9.30-11.00 am

in the Village Hall at £3 per family

May 11 and 25

June 8 and 22 July 13

September 14

Do contact me: Revd Tricia Box

07747124592

a forward date for your diary:

**ASSINGTON HORTICULTURAL SHOW
AND SCARECROW COMPETITION**

Sunday 20th August 2023

The prize for the best Scarecrow is a Meal voucher
donated by The Shoulder of Mutton Pub.

Entries cost £3.00

Enjoy your Gardens and Allotments. I hope to see you all at
the Show. **Karen Wiles**



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The date of the coronation is May 6, 2023, with the ceremony taking place in Westminster Abbey.



King Charles ascended to the throne on 8 September, the day of the Queen's death, and he was proclaimed King on Saturday 10 September, marking two of the major events

in the process of a new monarch coming to the throne. However, preparations for the ceremonial coronation service take considerably longer, as thousands of people are invited to the event including almost all the heads of state in the world, and tens of thousands more will line the many streets that will be closed in London for the King's procession to the Abbey.



King Charles will be crowned, according to tradition, with the centuries-old St Edward's Crown. Named for St Edward the Confessor, versions of this crown have been used to crown English and British monarchs since the 13th century, and its current incarnation was made for King Charles II in 1661, after the original was melted down during the Civil War.

Made of solid gold, it is decorated with a grand total of 244 precious stones.

Queen Camilla has chosen to wear Queen Mary's crown, which "is composed of a silver frame, lined with gold, and set with 2,200 diamonds". She has rejected the late Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother's crown, a platinum frame set with 2,800 diamonds, which included the notorious Koh-i-Nûr diamond, showing that the



King and Queen are sensitive to the controversy surrounding its acquisition.

The Gold State Coach is to be used for the return journey back to the Palace. It has been used at the coronation of every British monarch since George IV. The coach's great age, weight, and lack of manoeuvrability have limited its use to grand state occasions such as coronations, royal weddings, and the jubilees of a monarch. Until the Second World War, the coach was the monarch's usual transport to and from Parliament at the State Opening.

The Coach was commissioned in 1760 by Francis Rawdon-Hastings, 1st Marquess of Hastings for King George III, and designed by Sir William Chambers, it was built in the London workshops of Samuel Butler. It was commissioned for £7,562 (Equivalent in 2022 of £3.54 million) and it was completed in 1762.

As the heaviest of the royal coaches, the Gold State Coach is an eight horse-drawn carriage.

The coach weighs four tons and is 29 feet long and 12 feet high. It is gilded and features painted panels by Giovanni Battista Cipriani and rich gilded sculpture including three cherubs on the roof (representing England, Ireland and Scotland) and four tritons, one at each corner. The body of the coach is slung by braces covered with Morocco leather and decorated with gilt buckles. The interior is lined with velvet and satin. The sculptor Sir Joseph Wilton produced the elaborate carvings on the coach. The roof supports three cherubs representing the union of England, Scotland and Ireland. They carry the Imperial Crown and hold the sword, sceptre and the badge representing Knighthood. The branches of eight gilded palm trees frame the roof. Four corner trees rise from a lion's head and are decorated with symbols of Britain's victory in the Seven Years' War with France. The war was drawing to a close when the coach was built in 1762.

Morocco leather straps support the body of the coach and are held by four Triton, mythical sea-gods with a man's head and a dolphin's tail. At the front wheels, the tritons are blowing trumpet-like shells to herald the arrival of the Monarch of the Ocean. Gilded dolphins hold in place the bar by which the coach is drawn, and the driver's foot board is in the shape of a scallop shell. As the coach is suspended from braces, it lacks more modern comfort. In the words of King William IV, a former naval officer, being driven in the Gold State Coach was like being on board a ship "tossing in a rough sea". Queen Victoria complained of the "distressing oscillation" of the cabin. She would often refuse to ride in the Gold State Coach. A later monarch, King George VI said that his journey from the

palace to Westminster Abbey for his coronation was "one of the most uncomfortable rides I have ever had in my life". He had the coach overhauled after the Second World War to rubberise the iron-bound wheels. This would afford at least some comfort to the passengers.



ASSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
WITH
ASSINGTON VILLAGE HALL CHARITY

WOULD LIKE TO INVITE ALL RESIDENTS OF THE VILLAGE
TO
THE CORONATION OF KING CHARLES III CELEBRATIONS
ON
SUNDAY, 7th MAY FROM 12.00 MID DAY AT
THE VILLAGE HALL



PROGRAMME:

12 noon CHILDREN'S PARTY (fancy dress optional)

12 noon onwards: Bring a Picnic or purchase food and drink from the on-site sales vehicles

12 noon onwards: "DECORATE A CROWN" activity

12.45pm Judging of the competition: BEST (Planted-up) FLOWERPOT

2pm HAPPYSOUNDS CHOIR PERFORMANCE

2.40 pm CORONATION QUIZ

3.00pm FLAG raising CEREMONY with a piper

3.30pm RAISE A TOAST TO HIS MAJESTY
and singing of the National Anthem

followed by CORONATION MEMORIES AFTERNOON TEA: for the older residents who
can share their memories of the previous Coronation (By Invitation Only)

4pm FAMILY TREASURE HUNT

4.30pm CORONATION COMMEMORATION PLAQUE Unveiling

5pm - 7.30pm LIVE MUSIC FROM THE OSMANS.

COME ALONG AND ENJOY THIS HISTORIC DAY



CORONATION CELEBRATIONS! SUNDAY 7th MAY

Please do come along
and join in our
traditional "street party" type
events on the Village Hall
playing field
PROGRAMME:

12.00pm start:

Children's party (Fancy dress optional)

All the children had a whale of a time at the last party: do come along and join in again at 12pm for the start of our Coronation party



From
**12.00pm
onwards:**
**Family
Picnics** on the playing field

Although there are plenty of options if you don't want to do your own food, picnics are still very much in vogue.



Or Alternatively:

From 12.00 onwards: food will be available as supplied by **Renu** serving burgers, hot dogs, fish&chips;

The Topsy Tricycle serving Pimms, Gins and Beers;

Tea, coffee, soft drinks freely available in the VH.



"Decorate a Crown" activity

The children love this activity: we supply the craft items. Photos from this activity last year.



12.45pm Plant a Garden

Pot to Bring Along:

What could be better than to have a garden tub or pot (any size or shape) planted up and decorated for the occasion: of course red, white and blue flowers, a flag or two tucked in, and maybe a jewel-encrusted crown would be a wonderful tribute to His Majesty. Bring it along on the day, to see who will win the prize!



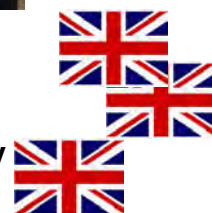
2pm Happysounds Choir Performance



2.40 pm Coronation Quiz

Test how well you know the ins and outs of the royals!

3.00pm Flag raising ceremony with a piper



3.30pm Loyal Toast:

We provide everything necessary for this! Join us in a glass of something sparkly, in a toast to this exciting national event, followed by the singing of the National Anthem



3.45pm Coronation Memories Afternoon

Tea: (By Invitation Only)

for the older residents who can share their memories of the previous Coronation



4pm Family Treasure Hunt

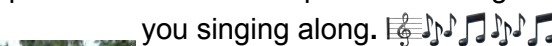
Solve the riddles to track down clues, hidden somewhere in, near or around the Village Hall and Playing Field. Then re-arrange the letters to reveal the answer.



4.30pm Coronation Plaque Unveiling

5 - 7.30pm Live Music from The Osmans

Nettie and Dave Osman will perform a wonderful repertoire of songs to keep you singing along.



ASSINGTON HALL THEN...

Although many of the older residents will be familiar with the top photograph, showing the Hall pre-1957, when much of it was destroyed by fire, the bottom photograph may not be one you have seen of that side- view of the Hall.

These photographs were submitted by Roger Britcher, to whom they were given as a present by a relative who collects old postcards, and who found these among the bundles collected.



YOUR VILLAGE HALL, PLAYING FIELD AND PLAYGROUND

Dear Residents and Friends of Assington,
This year I am standing down as **Chair** of the **Assington Village Charity**. I have lasted so long in the position because a wonderful group of volunteers from the village have supported me. The hall, playing field and playground are managed by an unpaid committee, some of whom have been involved since the hall was opened in 1993. We urgently need new volunteers to carry on the good work.

Anyone can book the excellent facilities, and village residents get special rates to use the hall and playing field for single events of all kinds: parties, dances, lunches, wedding feasts, funeral wakes, Harvest Festival suppers, Church Fetes, Horticultural Shows, Art Courses and Exhibitions, Choir Concerts, Theatre shows, Model Railway layouts, Football Matches and Training Sessions. These events are all scheduled between the regular users: Table Tennis Club, Pilates, Yoga, Council Meetings, Polling Station, Football Clubs, Mothers and Toddlers Group, Art Classes, Post Office and Library.

Please think if you could offer your services as a **Minutes Secretary** at the three committee meetings per year. You would need to be able to use IT for word processing and to distribute the Minutes electronically.

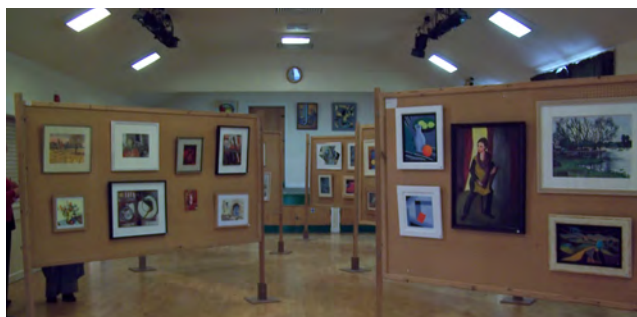
Or, could you take on the vital job of **Secretary**? You would become the official address of Assington Village Charity (Reg No 1076737) and the Investment Portfolio, receiving and distributing information for the committee. You would have support from the Charity Commission guidelines for safeguarding, equal opportunities, health and safety, environment and finance. Communication with IT skills would be important.

Perhaps you could act as **Caretaker**, responsible for security and maintenance, with oversight of the building and grounds. You would receive payment for your services.

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 17th May at 6 p.m. at the Village Hall. Anyone can attend, and if you are over 18 years old you can stand as a new committee member and/or vote for other candidates. Good luck! Get in touch if you need to know more.

Stephen King

14 Vicary Estate, Assington, CO10 5L
01787 210932 or 07870 632175
sjking@btinternet.com



ASSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Matters of Interest discussed during meetings held at Assington Village Hall on Monday 27th March 2023

The Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 27th March 2023 at 7pm in Assington Village Hall.

There were 11 members of the public present

1. Apologies for absence

There were none

2. Chairman's welcome

Nice to see a good crowd

3. Minutes of Meeting held on 28th March 2022

The minutes were signed by Mr Simon Thorogood

4. Matters arising from the Minutes

None

5. Mr J Finch (County Councillor) report written by CCllr Georgia Hall

6. Mr L Parker (District Councillor)

7. Mr S Thorogood (Assington Parish Council)

What a year we've had. We bade a sad farewell to Cllr Kevin White, whom I wish to thank for all of his work within the Parish, and welcomed Cllr David Wiles to the team.

Thanks to the hard work of the Parish Councillors:

- Our Neighbourhood Plan is active, which is an enormous help with planning and means that we now gain 25% of CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) on new build properties.
- We have responded to Planning applications on 15 locations within the village.
- Work on the Speed Reductions has been completed and has been successful in reducing speeding through the village. Thanks to Cllr Hill for leading the project and my fellow councillors and the parishioners for their work
- The Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations were a huge success. It was a long time since the community had the opportunity to party, and we thoroughly enjoyed the celebration throughout the weekend, culminating in the barn dance that was not only well attended but self-funded. Thank you to Cllr Stacey and her team of volunteers for organising such a successful event
- Following the sad passing of Her Majesty the Queen in September, May marks the coronation of His Majesty King Charles, which will warrant another celebration, this time organised by a different committee. We really look forward to sampling the fruits of the labour of Cllr Wiles and team.

I would like to once again thank Lee Parker and James Finch for their attendance at our meetings and for their willingness to offer help and advice when needed.

I would like to thank the Clerk and all the Assington Parish councillors for their help and support over the last year.

And finally, my thanks to Simon White, our internal auditor, for ensuring that we comply with legislation.

8. Mr B Cowlin (Treasurer, Assington Association)

AA is the not-for-profit organisation which funds our village magazine, the Assington News. Our editor Bronwen Stacey again published 10 editions through the year. Each edition is also published on the Parish Council's website in full colour.

Thanks to our advertisers and generous contributions from individuals, the Parish Council and organisers of the Horticultural show, our finances remain in reasonable order. The books have once again been audited by Ian Clark. Thanks are due to all the contributors of articles and reports for the magazine, our advertisers and donors and the volunteers who deliver each edition freely to every household in the parish. As ever our editor Bronwen Stacey looks forward to receiving your articles and reports please by the 15th of each month.

9. Mr S J King (Assington Village Charity)

At the beginning of the 30th Anniversary Year since the opening of the Village Hall I am pleased to report that the assets are in good condition, together with the more recent addition of the Children's Playground. There are ongoing challenges facing the Charity to convert the oil fuel heating in the hall to a more sustainable and environmentally beneficial system, but the existing boiler is in good working order, together with the fabric of the building. However, the Charity needs new volunteers to take on some of the tasks.

Claire Osborne, Secretary, is standing down. She has been able to give her professional skills and cheerful approach to the Charity for the last three years, while at the same time holding down a full-time job, but her own workload has recently increased and she finds it impossible to give the Charity the attention it deserves. A successor is being sought through advertisements in the Assington News and by word of mouth. The role is an essential one as the Secretary acts as the official Charity address, receiving and distributing information for the Trustees.

Sue Sadler-Bunning, Treasurer, is standing down after many years of invaluable service. She joined the committee in April 2006 and despite living in Sudbury kept in touch with the village. Her financial knowledge and business acumen were a tremendous help to me in taking over the chair from my predecessor in 2015. She masterminded the changeover to an online banking service with Lloyds in 2021 which has speeded up the processing of our transactions, and she made successful applications for grant aid during the pandemic. She leaves the accounts in a healthy position for her successor with £6K+ in the current account and £18K+ on deposit. The Investment Portfolio managed by Colin Hyoms of Birkett Long IFA continues to provide a steady income despite the vagaries of the stock markets. On 30th January 2023 the fund stood at £135,642 generating £2,608 for the year. We are very pleased that **Katerina Hronova** has volunteered to take on the position of Treasurer.

Louisa Symons, Lettings Secretary, has had to relinquish her position due to ill health. She took on the job in 2014, becoming the welcome face and voice for many hirers of the hall for family events, parties and meetings. Her phone was the first contact for enquiries about the hall and playing field and she handled the various hirers with equanimity. We are pleased to say that she remained on the committee as a Trustee. Her husband, **Dr John Symons**, is the longest serving member of the committee with 24 years under his belt. He is also a Trustee. We are pleased to welcome **Karen Wiles** as Louisa's replacement. Lettings are down on previous years reflecting current financial restraints, but Karen is working hard to redress the balance.

Stephanie Gould, Cleaner, stepped down in August after five years' service. She was extremely helpful during the Covid-19 restrictions, keeping the hall clean and safe for the eventual return of hirers after lockdown. **Alison Mills** responded quickly to our advertisement, taking over immediately, for which we are very grateful.

Paul Battle, Caretaker, has been giving his time for seven years and is looking forward to finding a replacement. This important role covers day-to-day oversight of the hall and playground. The Committee have been very supportive again. **Nigel Finch** and **Mark Hemingway** restored two picnic tables donated by The Shoulder of Mutton. **Zoe Laughton** investigated hiring rates in similar village halls.

In summary we have recruited three admirable new volunteers but we need another three for this coming year. I hope the village will rise to the challenge and attend the AGM at 6 p.m. on Wednesday 17th May at the Village Hall, at which point the term of office ceases for committee members. All residents of the village aged 18 or over can attend and vote. Members can be re-elected.

10. Bronwen Stacey (on behalf of the Parochial Church Council)

Having managed with visiting vicars the new Vicar Daniel Whiffllin is now firmly in situ. Over the last year there have been one or two weddings and funerals. Just recently there was a quinquennial inspection of the church building which needs to find about £15,000 for urgent repairs. The stonework to the front porch has disintegrated and therefore repair is needed. The fundraisers are steadily working on installing a toilet in the church tower. The first application was received by the DAC who will take a view on it by 30th May, followed by further consultations, estimation of costs and an application for grant funding.

11. Rev T Box (Baby and Toddler Group)

We meet twice a month on Thursdays during term-time from just 9.30 – 11 and have a regular group of about 15-20 parents, nannies and grandparents, with a maximum of 25 toddlers and a few babes in arms. They are a really friendly crowd, very inclusive and nobody is left on their own for very long. Most travel in from the neighbouring villages, but there are about 20 Assington families who have been through our doors since we opened (and closed) before Covid. The Village Hall Trustees are very supportive and have provided us with great toy storage below the stage. As well as playing with toys, we gather for story time, snack time and lots of action songs. Juliette Morrison, co-leader and music teacher, often hands out finger puppets to add to that fun. My husband, "Barista Bill" serves great coffee and flapjacks to all the adults. Locals from the church help set up every time and often visit and chat too. Father Christmas (alias Dr John) paid us a visit and we've just completed Mother's Day crafts.

12. Mrs J Cutts (Allotments Association)

From the weather perspective we had it all, storms, drought, extreme heat and some of the coldest temperatures recorded. The combination of these impacted on harvests in varying degrees.

A memorial tree to the late John Pinto was sourced and is now in situ.

We have some new plot holders and have had to bid farewell to David Collins who vacated plot 12 following a house move and health issues.

As you are probably aware, plot 7 was left in a fairly untidy condition, and there was a good deal of rubbish to be disposed of. My thanks to Graham, Sean and Bryn for their help in getting this cleared and to the Parish Council for removing the rubbish. Plot 7 has just been let.

The Parish Council have continued to provide the water to the allotment garden and are currently funding the extension of the water provision via the CIL fund. This is much appreciated. The Parish Council are also organising and financing the works to replace the fence posts that have worked loose over the years.

It is lovely to see the allotment garden being prepared for the coming season. Happy digging everyone.

Claire has decided to stand down as Secretary and I would like to take this opportunity to thank her once again for the service she has given the Association over the last few years. Her input will be missed.

Officers elected at our AGM were as follows

Secretary – not appointed. This voluntary post is to be advertised in the Assington News and is open to interested parties outside the allotment community. Our thanks for the 'no charge' for this advert

Treasurer – Lisa Brooks – unopposed

Chair – Jenny Cutts – unopposed

13. Mr P & Mrs C Hollingsworth (Footpaths Warden)

Our annual report concerning footpaths:

Footpath 010 – The way-marker post is rotten at the base. Requested 05/03/23, action has been chased up.

Footpath 010 – The way-marker post is rotten at the base. Requested 05/03/23, action has been chased up.

Footpath 012 – Hand rail was sawn off at the bottom of each post. As Suffolk council were unwilling to commit further expenditure, the Parish Council kindly agreed to cover the cost of a new metal handrail.

Footpath 012 – One of the 4 signs (a plastic finger) on the post had been severed. Requested 21/12/22, action has been chased twice.

Footpath 015 – The post was rotten at the base. The post was replaced and re-positioned as requested, so that it was not hidden by the hedge.

Footpath 018 – The finger post was damaged and broken at the bottom, in addition a dog bin was attached. This was repaired and the bin replaced.

14. Mrs H Wallace (Neighbourhood Plan)

The Neighbourhood plan was adopted in 2022 and has resulted in an increase to 25% in CIL on new housing built in the community, and in addition has greatly assisted with planning.

The last report was in February last year and it was adopted by BDC in May 2022 copies have been printed and are available to view at the Village Hall or via the Clerk. The team has stood down until the preparation for a review, possibly in 2024 because the Plan has to be live and relevant. Assington is situated in the first full ward to have Neighbourhood Plans in place for all of the parishes.

15. Any Other Business

There was no other business and the Annual meeting was closed at 7.48pm

The meeting of Assington Parish Council on Monday 27th March 2023 at 7.30pm followed the Annual Parish Meeting

■ **Present:** Councillors Simon Thorogood, Andrew Hill, Bronwen Stacey, Ian Jordan, Tony Howcroft, David Wiles, Helen Wallace

■ **In attendance:** DCllr Lee Parker, Christine Hargan (Clerk) and 3 members of the public

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

Two requests were made for consideration of CIL expenditure which are included in 23/311

Members of the public requested that

- ❖ a further public footpath between Bures Road and The Thicks be considered to reduce the length of the walk for the less able. Cllr Hill agreed to speak to the land owner when he sees him at the pub.
- ❖ the stiles on the footpath across Sheepwalk Farm be replaced with more accessible gates.

■ **Planning**

There were no Planning Applications to consider

■ **Finance**

- ❖ Reconciliation of Accounts against Bank Statements and the Statement of Accounts vs Budget. Acknowledged Resolved to pay the accounts as per the schedule listed in the Associated Papers and attached in the appendix.

Resolved to pre-approve payment up to £30 to WAVE in payment for the queried invoice, and to pre-approve payments for expenses on the Coronation up to £700 ceiling.

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- **Licensed Path, Footpaths** and APC's **Assets** including the maintenance of the allotments and conservation area moving on with Allotments

- ❖ A number of **footpath issues** have been investigated by the Footpath Wardens and resolutions are in hand, including one finger post that was vandalised some months ago. Clerk to speak with SCC PROW team.

- ❖ **Permissive path agreements**, if the title to land is sold it will be sold with the agreement. Cllr Wallace to research ownership of land so that maintenance can be organised following an incident.

- ❖ **Dog bins**: Clerk to ask Sudbury Wardens to supply posts and to fit the bins.

- ❖ **Street Lighting**: following the receipt of the annual bill, Clerk to adjust the budget to reflect the increased charges this year

■ **Highways update**

- ❖ The **Quiet Lanes sign** is still on ground. SCC Highways to repair,

- ❖ **Speedwatch**: There have been a number of complaints by residents who have received letters relating to non-compliance with the 20mph speed limit.

- ❖ Completion of **Speed reduction project**. Cllr Hill to request a project-end reconciliation and refund on charged monies that were not used.

■ **Suggested "CIL Money" Projects for consideration**

Air source heat pump and solar panels for the Village Hall
EV charging points

Additional footpaths within the village from old school house to the church

Reduce the size of aggregate on footpaths to improve accessibility

Children sign (flashing) during school hours

Village sign – already approved

Village beacon

Flag pole

Improve accessibility on Public Footpaths

Second defibrillator in the village

Replacement for bus service – transport for people

Bus stop to put a tarmac path on the A134

Road narrows sign at Centuries where road narrows and St

Edmunds close,

Replace multiple stiles at Sheepwalk Farm with gates to make them accessible

■ **Review Standard documents**

Resolved to accept documents.

The Policy booklet was previously amended following the adoption of the Donations Policy in September. An amended set of finance regs are likely to be issued later in the year to reflect the change of VAT on sports facilities. Clerk to ensure updated documents are available on the website.

Adoption of Heelis and Lodge as internal auditor. Clerk to inform them and thank the existing auditor.

■ **Additional Bench**

Bench has been received and billed. The Barn Workshop has requested detail for a plaque and also details of where the bench is to be installed. It was resolved to wait until the community garden is ready. The bench will be stored in the short term by Cllr Jordan.

■ **Questions to the Chair**

There were none

■ **Next Meeting:** Monday 22nd May 2023 at 7.30pm,

■ The meeting was closed at 21.14

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
FEB	3	14°C	-7°C
MAR	78	15°C	-6.5°C

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A VIEW FROM AROUND THE BEND

So Much has happened this year already and yet more keeps coming, in my seventh decade my life has been turned on its head with an awakening like no other before.

Firstly Bobbie announced on Maundy Thursday that she was coming to stay for easter, because the gang were coming to tarmack her drive on the following day and her posh car would be in danger of chips and she wouldn't be able to get it out for a week. I was surprised that the crew would start work on a new job on the good Friday but she said that was why she had got such a good deal and it was so much cheaper to have it done then.

I agreed with that and said yes of course, as one does and being the perfect gentleman I moved all my stuff such as the spittoon and chamber potty up into the old attic bedroom in the roof, cleaned the lower main bedroom up a bit and hoovered up various bits and pieces to make the room more presentable and with clean sheets and eiderdown more sophisticated and fit for company, also turned the mattress over to hide the tea stains and sprayed air freshener everywhere and apart from a few mouse droppings under the bed, it all looked quite good.

However there seems no accounting for the whims of the fairer sex and upon arrival she demanded to sleep in the attic room because it has more light and she thought the single bed would be more comfortable and warm, she has to be

joking as it is bloody freezing up there and the old window doesn't fit very well and lets the rain in. However I agreed and after lunch while she was working in the garden, I changed it all back again and folded double sheets in half to make up and fit the single bed and mucked out the old room a bit. She then suggested that I should take a bath and if I did, she would take me out and buy me an evening meal at the Swan where we went over new year.

I jumped at this opportunity as they have dumpling stew and mash to die for there and proceeded to the bathroom where I found a brand new dressing gown and so many bottles of smelly stuff, I really did not know what to put where. Anyhow after a good scrub and donning clean underwear and posh trousers and jacket that I had inherited some years before, I passed the frown test and set off in the new hybrid vehicle which must be half car and halve something else I suppose. We were met at the pub by a lovely waitress who called me by my name, however did she know that, as this was miles away in deepest Essex I believe. We even crossed the river between there and Suffolk and I had not seen her ever before. She offered to take my jacket off which was hastily refused as I have a large split in my shirt where the cats ripped it and a bit of stain where I spilt some sauce down the front. I did however accept the large tumbler of red wine offered and also another after the first course of stew which also seemed to be made with a generous dash of something alcoholic. Sweet was something with brandy in it followed by another glass and I also finished off Bobbies glass as she couldn't manage it and it seemed a shame to waste it after she had paid for it.

The journey home was something of a blur and I was glad I was not riding my old bike. We however arrived safely home and parked the half of the car that was a car on the path and left the other half sticking out into the road.

I was feeling a bit woozy and not making much sense so Bobbie suggested quite rightly that I would be best tucked up in bed until the morning, however after a few pit stops I returned to bed to find that she must have had another change of mind and was snuggled up beside me, I guess that the wind and dripping rain had got the better of her and after protesting a little agreed that she could stay for a while to get some warmth.....I leave the rest of the evening to your imagination. I had a very pleasant night and brought early sausages on toast for breakfast in bed at 10.00.am.

She stayed the whole week over Easter and upon going home to inspect the work, found out that it was not completed and is here this week as well, very strange this, as her drive is only about ten ft long, however I really don't mind as she is a lovely lady and if anyone sees her in the village please be nice to her, she is easily recognisable as she has red hair with silver streaks and wears long dangly earrings from her ears and a little one through her nose. She also smiles lots nowadays. As for me I am needing a lot of rest now but still get to work on time, somehow.

Not spending so much time in the garden but when I do, I achieve a lot with my little helper.

Will try to tell you all more tales before bedtime next week if I have time.

Happy Happy Days. God Save the King and everyone else.
Ezra.

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WARLEY PLACE GARDEN

By Jeff Stacey

After reading about Warley Place near Brentwood in a magazine article, we decided it sounded like a good day out and early April is the ideal time to see the display of daffodils.



Warley Place was once the home of one of the most famous gardeners of her time, Miss Ellen Willmott. She was a keen horticulturalist and in the early 1900s her garden was said to be home to over 100,000 species, including exotic plants, many of which she introduced to Britain. At one time over 100 gardeners tended the Warley Place gardens.

She moved into Warley Place with her parents and sister

in 1875 and took an early interest in the garden. At the age of 24, with her Father's permission, she had a very fashionable rock garden built. This was no suburban rockery, it covered three acres using massive boulders, with a gorge and a stream running into a pond via a special grotto for ferns. It was built by a contractor from Yorkshire, James Backhouse, who was an alpine specialist



After the death of her parents and the marriage of her sister, she dedicated her life and fortune to her garden. She added a boating lake, heated ponds, hot houses, an orchid house, summer houses, gazebos and a beautiful conservatory.

She bought a property in Aix-les-Bains in France and then later a further property in Italy, both of which had money lavished upon them.

Eventually her extravagance caught up with her and when she died in 1934, it was in straightened circumstances. With the approach of war there was no appetite for anyone to maintain the gardens and they and the house fell into disrepair.

The house was demolished in 1939. The plot was bought for building development, but permission was not granted.

After the war the area was designated as green belt. By this time the garden had become a wilderness, but in 1978 it was leased to the Essex Wildlife Trust. They have developed the site both as a wild place, but also to tell the story of Ellen Willmott and the garden she developed. There are still glimpses of the structure of the garden and the house as you walk round, including the walls of the conservatory.

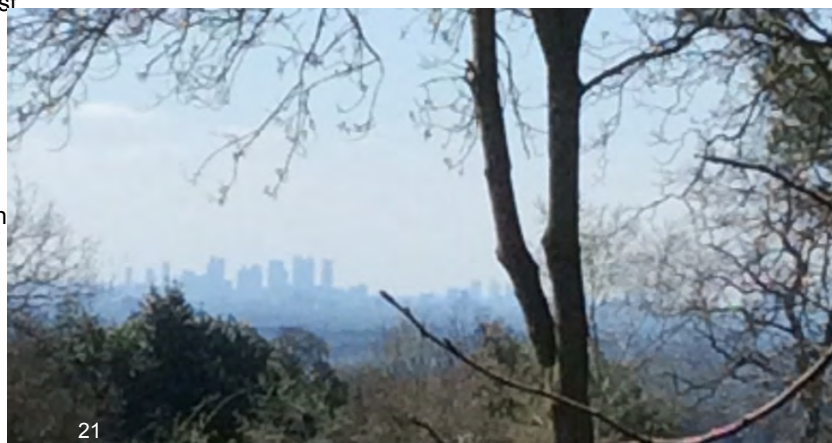


The rockery and gorge are still there, but much altered by the rabbits and badgers who now reside there. There is a walled garden and the boating lake, although without water, can be made out clearly.

As we anticipated, the highlight of the visit was the fields of wild daffodils. They were truly spectacular and we were fortunate to catch them at their

best, especially when the sun broke through from time to time. We spent several hours walking round and were amazed that such a peaceful place could exist so close to the M25 and London. Over one field of daffodils the towers of the City of London could clearly be seen.

The day was rounded off with a welcome lunch at the pub next door.



Wardale Williams

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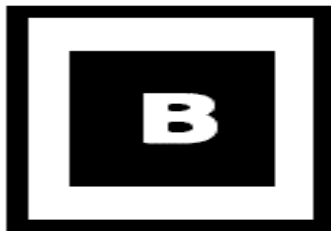
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SESAW NEWS

Kenneth is strutting around, full of doggy indignation, having heard about the Public holiday in honour of King Charles. Now he wants to know when Chihuahuas will be celebrated! He is already treated like royalty around here, Tanya had to feed him by hand when he went off his food the other day.

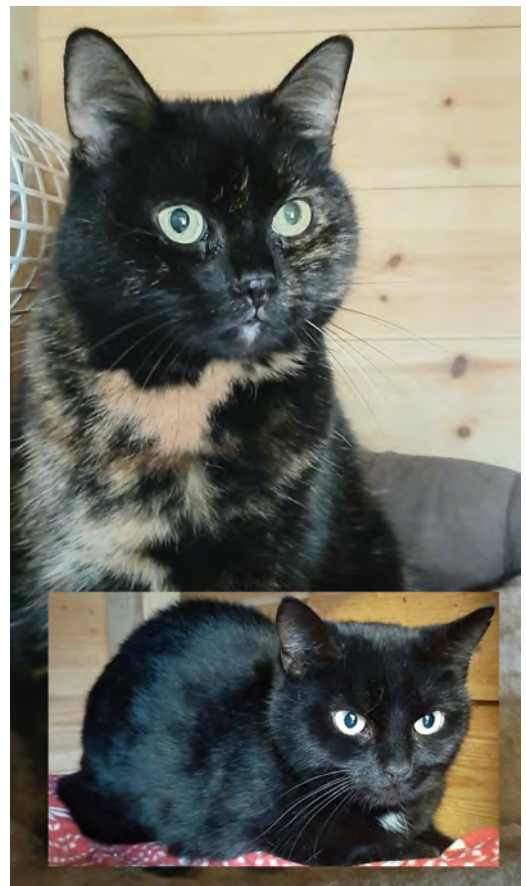
He needs to get outside and say hello to the visitors because we are open again. The work on improvements is ongoing but the old place is certainly looking better and we had a good response to a recent appeal for new volunteers.

More helpers are needed to look after all the animals awaiting homes, including Pearl, a delightful little cat about fifteen months old.

She is loving and affectionate with people but frightened of other cats after living on the streets of London as a kitten so would make an ideal indoor cat. Pearl is now spayed, microchipped and ready to become a companion for someone with plenty of time and love to give her the home she deserves.

We have many other cats, some rabbits and lots of dogs waiting for the right person to come along. If you are looking for a new pet to complete your family, please visit our website or call in to see our many rescued animals. We are open 10am to 1pm, Thursday to Sunday and look forward to seeing you. You may even catch a glimpse of Kenny (the Boss) Chihuahua or me, Ollie (the Black) Cat.

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