

# ASSIGNMENT

NEWS



MAY 2024

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# CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS (useful numbers)

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

Allotments Secretary	Karl Debenham <i>alternative: Jenny Cutts</i>	07588 996211 01787 211371
Assington Baby and Toddler Group	Rev Tricia Box	07747 124592
Assington Books, Village Hall (see post office for times)	Michelle Bourner	07954 221773
Assington Farmshop	Maxine Gardiner	01787 211610
Assington Post Office, Village Hall	Mon 1.30-3.30, Wed 9-12	
Boxford CEVC Primary School ( <a href="mailto:office@boxford.suffolk.sch.uk">office@boxford.suffolk.sch.uk</a> )	Head: Emma Lea	01787 210332
Brownies, Boxford	Moira Grant	01787 211513
Church - Treasurer	Ian Clark	01787 211133
Churchwarden	Roger Britcher	01787 211021
Churchwarden	Bronwen Stacey	01787 210354
Community Choir	Nettie Osman	07957 394780
County Councillor ( <a href="mailto:james.finch@suffolk.gov.uk">james.finch@suffolk.gov.uk</a> )	James Finch	01473 264993
District Councillor (Assington)	Lee Parker	07970 196884
Doctors surgery – Sudbury	Hardwicke House	01787 370011
Doctors surgery – Bures	Bures	01787 227529
Floodline 24/7	SCC Flood Management	0345 606 6171
Footpath Wardens	Paul & Cynthia Hollingsworth	01787 211620
Horticultural Society	Karen Wiles	
Leavenheath Cinema	Marion	01206 263301
Member of Parliament ( <a href="mailto:james.cartlidge.mp@parliament.uk">james.cartlidge.mp@parliament.uk</a> )	James Cartlidge	020 7219 4875
Mobile Library - Vicary Estate Junction	18th May	4.15pm - 4.35pm
Parish Council	Simon Thorogood	01787 227400
<a href="mailto:bronwenstacey@btinternet.com">bronwenstacey@btinternet.com</a>	Bronwen Stacey	01787 210354
<a href="mailto:david.wiles@live.co.uk">david.wiles@live.co.uk</a>	David Wiles	07811 108702
<a href="mailto:tony@howcroft.net">tony@howcroft.net</a>	Tony Howcroft	
<a href="mailto:hwallace58@gmail.com">hwallace58@gmail.com</a>	Helen Wallace	01787 211162
<a href="mailto:i.jordan741@btinternet.com">i.jordan741@btinternet.com</a>	Ian Jordan	
<a href="mailto:andrewpeterhill@hotmail.com">andrewpeterhill@hotmail.com</a>	Andrew Hill	01787 827112
Parish Council - Clerk ( <a href="mailto:assingtonpc@yahoo.com">assingtonpc@yahoo.com</a> )	Christine Hargan	01449 674727
Pub – The Shoulder of Mutton		01787 210334
Stoke by Nayland C of E Primary School ( <a href="mailto:admin@sbn.suffolk.sch.uk">admin@sbn.suffolk.sch.uk</a> )	Head: Mrs Kelly McGrath	01206 262418
Vicar ( <a href="mailto:vicar@parishchurch.co.uk">vicar@parishchurch.co.uk</a> )	The Revd Daniel Whiffin	01787 228292
Village Hall – Bookings	Karen Wiles	07983 002072
Village Hall - Caretaker	Sean Mills	07547 190948
Village Hall - Charity Secretary		
Womens Institute, Boxford ( <a href="mailto:annie-phillips@hotmail.co.uk">annie-phillips@hotmail.co.uk</a> )	Annie Phillips	01787 211729

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

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# THE OLD WORKHOUSE

## PART IV: Renovations

Having renewed and repaired the main external structure of The Old Workhouse, roof, walls, windows, and doors, it was time to turn our attention to the inside of the building. The Old Workhouse comprises three floors, as originally built in 1784. Evidence suggests that the Governor's quarters were contained within the end quarter of the building nearest to the garden. We believe these rooms were separated from the rest of the house, which was used for the inmates to work, eat, and sleep. When the workhouse was no longer needed to house the poor, it was sold (in 1837) and divided into four workers cottages. By the time we bought the workhouse, in 2016, further change had occurred. Most of the supporting struts for the internal walls of the cottages on the ground and first floors had been removed. So, the ground floor now comprised what would have been the Governor's reception and/or kitchen (now our kitchen), and the inmate space was relatively open plan again. However, there were small groups of isolated wooden struts, which were the last vestiges of three of the four cottages. After some lengthy discussions, the Babergh Heritage Officer granted permission for us to remove all the remaining cottage struts to create what is now our magnificent open living room. The central feature is the original inglenook fireplace which had been covered up with a 1930's fire surround. We assume the Myatt family had



installed this fireplace using a kit (we found the original sale brochure amongst the ephemera here). We had to keep the other two chimney breasts, which had been built for two of the cottages. We have a wood burning stove in one and have plastered over the other – even though it's been cold, we thought three fireplaces in one room was excessive?

Moving on to the first floor we had almost a blank canvas as there was only one room (Governor's bedroom) left as a complete room. The rest of the first floor was made up of wall struts with no walls and a hole where a cottage staircase had been.

After much toing and froing, we decided to separate the first floor into two sections, each reached by their own (original) staircases at either end of the building. With regret, we needed to remove all the floorboards from the first floor, apart from those in the Governor's room and half of those on the top floor. These old timbers were dry, wood wormed, and had lost most of their density. This also meant that most of the ceilings had to come down, as they were attached to the floorboards. The mess was almost unbelievable, as you can see from the picture! Mind you we kept all the boards and ceiling lathes, which we have been using for kindling every winter since!



The first floor now comprises, three bedrooms, a bathroom, a shower (yet to be completed), and a lounge area at the Dyer's Lane end of the building. The picture shows our amazing decorator's help, putting rope in the gaps between the new floorboards in the first-floor lounge area, a job called caulking.



Finally, the top floor, which again is divided into two sections. We have created a large double bedroom at the lane end. This is reached by a simple, relatively steep wooden staircase, which follows the line of an original staircase (only the handrail left), from the first to the second floor. We decided to leave all the beams and roof supports open and exposed (as they were when we bought the building). The spaces between the beams have been filled with wood fibre board and lamb's wool, then rendered and lime painted.



The two garden end rooms are a bedroom and a cosy, enclosed study. There is a coffin hatch on the floor of the study, just inside the door. This would have been used to lower coffins containing the bodies of deceased inmates and other bulky items down through the building to the first floor and then down the Governor's stairs.

We are happy to report that the Babergh Heritage Officer inspected our renovation work at the end of last year and signed us off the 'at risk' register. Our next major task is to restore The Brew House to a habitable state – plans are afoot!



Peter Robb

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## A VIEW FROM AROUND THE BEND

We have a library, who knew that? Certainly not me, I was in the phone box the other Saturday morning, trying for the umpteenth time to make a call, or even trying to tell the GPO that the flaming phone does not work anymore, when this huge bus turned up marked mobile library and folks gathered with books and seemed to take them in and appear later with brand new ones. How exciting, we have loads of old books at home and could certainly do with some new ones. Have been back on consecutive Saturdays but no van appeared, maybe he only comes monthly or even yearly when folks have a good clear out. Can somebody let me know please?

At last the floods have eased and we have spring sunshine, so nice to feel the warmth on our backs as we work, makes us feel so much better now, have planted all the spuds and have 5 straight lines all nicely earthed up and the first earlies standing up like soldiers all in a line, will have to be careful of frosts, especially on full and new moon. Had terrible shock a couple of weeks ago when rushed out at first light to pull fleece over my cassablanca's and a voice came through the hedge, demanding to know what I was doing. Twas only the nosy parker from next door, standing ankle deep in floodwater on his lawn, why is he out there at 5.30.am. in the morning? I explained that I was only protecting my first earlies, to which he retorted that I should at least dress properly before coming outside, he is obviously not a gardener and has no idea of the urgency of these things. Why is he prowling around with a torch in the darkness anyway. Some people are so strange.

Bobbie has had a few days off and after helping me with some home decorating jobs, drove up to see her folks via the health farm, I was invited but after my past experience hastily refused, I am not paying a fortune to eat lettuce leaves and be starved to death, I can do that here.

She says she is only going for a makeover and a body tune up, a bit disappointed to hear that as I thought that I was doing a pretty good job at that.

She has warned me on the telephone that I might not recognize her when she returns, so getting excited about that, I do miss her terribly though and long for her to come home. Best get on with decorating the bathroom to take my mind of that, does anyone have a spare can of pink paint as running out fast now. If so please leave it in the porch and I will leave a dozen eggs in return, although we only have seven hens, we get at least six eggs every day and cannot cope with them all, so good to use for bartering.

Thought of getting a pregnant sow and having our own meat but not sure the neighbours would like the smell, although we have to put up with theirs and the noise as well, the horrible foul stinking barbecue one side and Stirling Moss on the other with his John Deere ride on mower, not to mention the teenage daughter playing non stop Beyonce all day long. Maybe a nice joint of pork would grease the wheels a bit, when I left the farm I was a butchers apprentice for three whole weeks, was then dismissed but that's another story for another day.

Better crack on with all my jobs now as the list is a long one and have hardly started yet, might go to the pub after lunch as all this work is exhausting and I need the company and someone to talk to. Strange that. Never used to bother me.

Take Care Together and will catch up again if spared. **Esra.**

## HAPPYSOUNDS to headline the Choral Night at Bures Music Festival

Back in January, we took on another fantastic Choir (then called Sudbury Sings), which has now been re-named HappySounds Sudbury. Both choirs have a combined membership of nearly 100 people and we are delighted to tell you we have been chosen to headline the Choral night at Bures Music Festival this year. This is a big year for us, as it's the Choir's 5th anniversary, so it will be a very special evening. The wonderful ShantyFolk are performing on the same bill too. Tickets are a snip at £10 and are already on sale at [www.buresmusicfestival.com](http://www.buresmusicfestival.com).

You will also be able to hear the Choir perform part of their set at the Village May Day celebrations at the Village Hall at around 1.30pm.



New members always very welcome, in both choirs, please go to [www.happysounds.co.uk](http://www.happysounds.co.uk)

## SESAW NEWS

Kenny the Chihuahua is on watch for "those scary Asian Hornets" leaving me to write this month's news from a feline point of view. He doesn't realise there is too much activity for them to settle in the garden. Our friends from the Colchester office of Informa have returned to paint the kennels and clear debris from the winter storms. We very much appreciate them sprucing up the Centre.

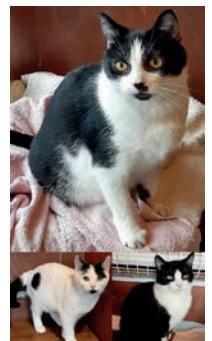
Unfortunately our maintenance programme has stalled at time of writing due to continuing emergency admissions. Although we are closed to visitors, re-homing continues unabated by appointment only. We have many dogs, including nine year old Mecho, a neutered male Caucasian Shepherd cross, known as the 'Gentle Giant'. He is with us due to family circumstances, no fault of his own. Mecho is very strong but shows no aggression, loves cuddles as much as a game of ball and will be ideal for the older family.



Turning to cats, we have Jill and her family, pretty as a picture although that should NOT be a deciding factor when choosing a pet. (Mother wouldn't be

without me despite my plain black coat and grumpy disposition!) Jill arrived heavily pregnant last Autumn, yet another 'covid castaway'. Now she and her five kittens are neutered, chipped, vaccinated and ready to be homed in pairs. They have been let down twice so please make this third time lucky.

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



## BOXFORD & DISTRICT BOWLS CLUB From Roz Mortlock

We are all looking forward to the outdoor bowling season which starts at the end of April. Last weekend a lot of our bowlers came up to the Club to get everything ready – there was lots of hoovering, dusting, window cleaning, cleaning, weeding flower beds, and of course getting the green and its surrounds ready. We had a lovely warm sunny morning to do this – and we hope to see such beautiful weather throughout the summer. We also have a new shed – and thanks go to Andy, John and Jerry for all their hard work in constructing this.

So to everyone involved in the preparation for the grand opening – THANK YOU. The green is looking good.

Sudbury Indoor Bowls Club had their finals day last weekend and we must congratulate Steve Marszal (a Boxford player outside, a Sudbury player inside!) on winning the 'Points' Competition - Well done!





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# THINGS TO DO

**The Assington  
Village Hall  
Bank Holiday Event  
"Summer is coming"  
Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2024  
1pm -6pm**  
*featuring*  
 Happy Sounds Choir  
 Belly Dance Performance  
 The superb **Houseshakers Band**  
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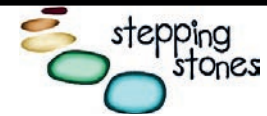


**This is My Theatre** will be performing **The Wonderful Wizard of Oz** at **St Mary's Church on the Chilton Industrial Estate near Sudbury.**  
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**Tickets are £15 for adults and £10 for under 16s.**  
*For more information and to book tickets:*  
<https://www.thisismytheatre.com>  
 **Churches Conservation Trust**  
**Jane Hutton** Local Community Officer, South East  
**M: 07392086936**

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**THE ANNUAL MEETING OF ASSINGTON PCC**  
 Will take place on  
**Thursday 2nd May at 7.30pm**  
**In the Church**  
**Everyone welcome!**




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 or on the day at the Village Hall or cash only at the Gardens  
[www.naylandconservation.org.uk](http://www.naylandconservation.org.uk)



# ASSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Matters of Interest discussed during a meeting held at Assington Village Hall on Monday 25 March 2024 at 7.30pm, preceded by the Annual Meeting at 7pm

**Minutes of the Assington Annual Parish Meeting on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 7pm in Assington Village Hall** may be found on the APC Website: <http://assington.onesuffolk.net/parish-council/>

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

**In attendance:** CCllr James Finch, DCllr Lee Parker, Christine Hargan (Clerk) there was one member of the public present

## ■ County and District Councillor reports and public forum

◆ **Suffolk County Council report:** CCllr Finch had forwarded his report in advance.

- £4.4 million to be spent for 60 additional staff to strengthen Special Educational Needs (SEND) reform. This includes an increase in permanent SEND staff of nearly 15%. Of this, £3.4million will provide 46 new full-time posts – a increase of 15% in current staffing levels. An additional £1million will be spent in 2024/25 to fund 14 temporary posts.
- A 10-week public consultation on our proposed devolution deal with the Government started on 18th March and will run through until 26th May. The consultation will be in two main parts – an open survey, hosted by Suffolk County Council, that any residents can complete and a sample survey of 1000 Suffolk residents conducted independently by Ipsos Mori. The consultation is available through our website [www.suffolk.gov.uk/devolution](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/devolution) and social media. There will also be media coverage highlighting the consultation.
- Suffolk Highways has welcomed the new pothole-repairing machine to help fix the growing number of potholes experienced nationally during the winter season, with a trial set to initially target defects in rural Suffolk. Compared with the traditional approach of repairing potholes, the Dragon Patcher can work five times faster. This trial is in addition to the potholes being repaired around the clock as part of our routine repair programme, during the past two months Suffolk Highways has repaired 2,851 potholes across Suffolk. Fuelled by the biodiesel, HVO (hydrotreated vegetable oil), the patcher reduces raw material use and creates zero waste and has shown to provide significant carbon savings when compared to traditional patching techniques.
- Have your say on Suffolk's local transport plan Residents are invited to share their views on how they travel to help inform Suffolk's Local Transport Plan. The plan sets out a long-term vision for transport in Suffolk and covers key themes such as decarbonisation of transport, strengthening the local economy, promoting health, wellbeing and social inclusion, and creating better-connected places that encourage a range of transport choices. Suffolk County Council is asking for feedback on the key themes proposed for the fourth version of the plan, which will cover the period until 2040 and respond to long-term transport opportunities and challenges facing Suffolk and the UK as a whole. A link to the survey can be found at <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/ltp4>.

The consultation will run for eight weeks until 8 April 2024.

Feedback from the consultation will be collated and inform the production of the draft local transport plan. The full draft document will then be subject to further consultation later in the year.

- Suffolk County Council to review weed control for roads and pavements. In February 2022, the council agreed to stop using glyphosate in its routine weed treatment programmes, to find more natural alternatives to help protect the local environment. However, the alternative products proved unable to meet requirements, which was further exacerbated by exceptional growing conditions. Multiple applications were sometimes needed which could introduce other negative environmental impacts.

Teams will continue to monitor and research the different approaches being used to remove weeds on our roads and pavements. However where needed, glyphosate would be used responsibly as it is one of the most cost-effective and long-lasting solutions.

- Final Position Statement - Bramford to Twinstead (EN020002) - Deadline 9 Notwithstanding that Suffolk County Council (SCC) have always accepted the principle of the project, and has been able to support important aspects of it, including undergrounding in the Stour Valley and the removal of redundant 132kV transmission lines. SCC is so concerned about the shortcomings in the Applicant's proposals for the implementation and control of the construction of the project, that it must advise the Examining Authority and the Secretary of State that it formally OBJECTS to the making of a Development Consent Order (DCO) in the terms put forward by the Applicant in the draft DCO and supported by the current suite of control documents.

For more information refer to this link; - <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/projects/EN020002/EN020002-001641-Suffolk%20County%20Council%20-%20Comments%20on%20submissions%20received%20at%20Deadline%208.pdf>

- This year parents and carers of 98% of children were offered a place on National Offer Day at one of their three preferred schools and 93% were offered a place at their first preference school. Suffolk County Council received 7,867 applications from parents and carers indicating which secondary school they would prefer their child to transfer to in September 2024. Families who applied online can log in to the online service from today to see the school their child has been offered. They will also receive an email to confirm this offer, unless they have indicated that they do not wish to.
- Virtual Fostering and Adoption Sessions for the Stour Valley A Foster Carer Recruitment Event is held the 1st Wednesday of every month, and an Adoption Event is on the 1st Thursday all 7:00pm in your home. To book a place please email [Claire.Gwatin@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:Claire.Gwatin@suffolk.gov.uk).
- ◆ **Babergh District Council report:** Cllr Parker, having previously forwarded his report, clarified the following points to the meeting:
  - **CIL funding:** following adoption of the Neighbourhood Plan, 25% of the funds collected is paid to APC, with 75% retained by BDC for infrastructure applications. There are currently insufficient bids being made therefore the CIL money is being made available to "Not for profit"

organisations. Currently money is coming in faster than it can be spent but there are very few new housing developments being applied for, therefore the funds will eventually dwindle.

- Is **Community Parking** a community infrastructure cost? Unfortunately not
- **Funding** for installation of water and drainage at the church:, there is still a query over funding for churches from the District CIL funds
- **New district plan:** all parties are committed to building more homes.
- **CIFCO** (commercial property leg of BMSDC). The history is that In 2014 all councils were encouraged by central government to become commercially viable businesses. Whilst the valuation of the property portfolio shows significant decline, the loss is only really relevant on disposal of the portfolio. Income of £11m each year is still being achieved. The sum is relevant as one in five councils throughout the UK risks bankruptcy over the next 2 years, though fortunately BMSDC are not amongst them.
  - ◆ **Public forum** There were no questions from members of the public
  - **Planning:**
    - **Planning applications:**
      - [DC/24/01272](#) 35 Hicks Lane Assington Sudbury Suffolk CO10 5ND, Erection of garage Resolved no comment
      - **Planning issues.**
      - DC/21/02579 Assington Autos, proposed change of use at Cotton Wood Barracks: this application will be going to committee, potentially on 15 May 2024. A site visit has been requested prior to committee date. DCllr Parker agreed to keep the Parish Council fully informed. Whilst a councillor may attend the visit, it will not be possible to comment or ask questions. Cllr Hill to draft response to Committee. When the date for the meeting is confirmed the attendee will be confirmed.
      - DCllr Parker to investigate a query regarding enforcement of planning approval on the caravan site behind The Barns.
    - Reconciliation of accounts against budget Acknowledged
    - **Review any issues raised for the Licensed Path, Footpaths and APC's Assets**
    - Clerk to email footpath wardens to arrange dates for contractors to visit and quote for work
    - **CIL expenditure** Acknowledged the end of the five-year initial holding period for some CIL funds in the next financial year. Project list to be removed from future associated papers
    - **Update on National Grid Bramford to Twinstead reinforcement** Awaiting final decision
    - **Annual Review of Policies and Regulations** Resolved to re-adopt the policies & procedures, without amendment, having acknowledged that due to changes in regulations revised standing orders and financial regulations will be released in due course.
    - **Questions to the Chair** A request for monthly Parish Council meetings was acknowledged, but not considered necessary at this time
    - Clerk to report pothole Near Kiln Cottage, Bures Road, Assington
    - **Date of the next meeting** Monday 3 June to be held in the Village Hall at 7.30pm
    - The meeting was closed at 20:45

## BRAMFORD TO TWINSTEAD NATIONAL GRID POWERLINES



Since March 2022, parish councils from Assington, Bures St Mary, Leavenheath, Little Cornard, Polstead and Stoke by Nayland have worked together to provide combined responses to national Grid's proposals to reinforce the existing 400kV transmission line through our parishes. This will involve the addition of a second row of pylons alongside and broadly similar in structure and height to the existing 50-metre high pylon line.

Over the past six months, a detailed examination of the proposals has been carried out by the Planning Inspectorate to whom we have made six joint

submissions. We have lodged objections to National Grid's proposals on four main fronts:

- 1 We have identified technological developments including the adoption of advanced conductors that, if adopted might obviate the need for a second high voltage powerline altogether, eliminating the highly visible intrusion of new infrastructure into the rural landscape and disruption during construction;
- 2 Although the new line will be buried when passing through designated landscapes in Dedham Vale and the Stour Valley, we have argued that a strong case exists for under grounding through the section from Leavenheath to Little Cornard passing Assington.
- 3 We have presented a powerful case for some additional undergrounding to enable a new cable sealing and compound to be relocated away from its planned highly intrusive site alongside the Millwood Road in Polstead and into a worked-out section of Layham Quarry. These compounds (and there are four planned for our area) carry industrial scale infrastructure 15 metres in height and are required to transfer power from overhead to underground conductors.
- 4 We have asked for the alignment of a new permanent access road to a further compound off B1058 to be adjusted to reduce its intrusion into long views across the Stour Valley Project Area.

The Planning Inquiry has now closed to enable the Examining Authority to deliver its recommendations to government over the next three months. The formal timetable envisages a final announcement on consent for the scheme in the autumn. As the project proceeds, we will continue to work together as parishes to reduce the damaging impact of this national scheme on our parishioners, visitors and surroundings.

### THE NO 84 BUS ROUTE REVISED SCHEDULE,

Which affects the Parishes of :  
 Sudbury, Great Cornard, Little Cornard, Assington, Leavenheath, Nayland with Wissington, Stoke by Nayland;  
 and the Districts: Sudbury South West, Sudbury South East, Sudbury North East, Sudbury North West, Great Cornard, Assington, Bures St Mary & Nayland  
 Should be effective from Mid-June.  
 Cllr James Finch will be requesting the revised timetable as soon as possible.



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# MORE THINGS TO DO: Forward Planning for your diary

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

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

## ASSINGTON VILLAGE HORTICULTURAL SHOW SUNDAY 18th AUGUST

*Put it in the diary now.....*

Don't forget our Horticultural Show this year. Come along for Tea, cake and a catch up with friends.

Try your hand at entering a class or six. Only 40p per class and 20p for children. There's always the disaster class if it all goes horribly wrong.... we cater for all!

It's the taking part that counts, to keep this village tradition going.

All profits from the show are donated to village charities.

Hope to see you there. Karen x

**SUNDAY 16TH JUNE**  
**10.30AM**  
**ASSINGTON CHURCH**  
**FATHER'S DAY SERVICE**  
**FOLLOWED BY:**  
 A Wild flower search around the churchyard with Nick Miller (approx 11.30am onward)  
 Finishing with a teddy bear parachute/zip line competition from the top of the church tower! Bring a teddy (zip line provided!)  
 Refreshments available.

**Gliding Open Day**  
 Sunday 16th June, 10-6pm  
 Refreshments available  
 Gliding experience flight £30 (normally £49)  
 This is always a well subscribed event, so if interested contact David Wilde on rcman@aol.com or 07824 031489 and we will arrange a special Assington group slot on the day.  
 Essex & Suffolk Gliding Club  
 Fordham Road, Wormingford, Colchester, CO5 3AG  
 www.esgc.co.uk

## NATURE WATCH

Nick Miller is hosting **The Tiger Hill Bioblitz**, which will be happening on 1st June at Tiger Hill; a Bioblitz is a fun day of spotting wildlife and identifying things, with county naturalists organising the event, as part of *Suffolk* Biological Information Service. Refreshments will be available.

Free admission. For further details see the advert in **Things To Do**.

Nick will also be leading

**a Churchyard event at Assington Church on**

**Sunday 16th June, at 11.30am** after the Family Service (see the advert above).

As well as other merriments, a nature trail round the Churchyard's exceptional show of flowers makes it one of Assington's County Wildlife Sites. Why not bring a picnic?

Bronwen Stacey sought Nick's advice in trying to identify four or five unusual fungi, which appeared on the hoggin-topped-with-gravel drive: never seen anything like them before, and couldn't find an exact match in any research undertaken:



Nick replied that it looked like a cup fungus of which there are many in the family Peziza, or possibly a jelly fungus (which is true). He neither had seen one exactly like this previously.



He went on to say that they live

on dead wood,, so he would guess that either there are some wood fragments amongst the gravel or old roots underneath. However, there are no wood chippings in the garden at all, and during investigation one fungus had already been uprooted to see what it was growing on, and it had just come straight up without any resistance, the roots being spread thinly across the surface of sand. As the ground had previously been cultivated field for many many years there had definitely not been any old roots underground. There is, however, a very alive "George Baker" crab apple tree, whose roots possibly spread out under the gravel in the direction of the mystery fungi.

Also on a warm (in the sunshine) day on 7th April Bronwen spotted 'something' sunbathing in a topiary (I use the term loosely) Box Pyramid near the pond at the front of the garden. On closer inspection (whilst trying not to frighten it away), it turned out to be a lizard, basking in the spring sun.



## ASSINGTON RAINFALL AND TEMPERATURES

Bill Milner (rainfall)

and Bob Cowlin (temperatures)

HISTORY annual rainfall:

2016	599.5	2017	571
2018	5		
2020	636		
2022	419	2023	662

2020	mm	max	min
JAN	33.5	10°C	-5°C
FEB	56	11°C	-3°C
MAR	21	14°C	-5°C
APR	22	23°C	-1°C
MAY	5.5	27°C	-2.5°C
JUNE	50	28°C	+2°C
JULY	58	30°C	6°C
AUG	109	32°C	0°C
SEP	25.5	0°C	0°C
OCT	110	0°C	0°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	0°C
AUG	29	24°C	0°C
SEP	28.5	27°C	0°C
OCT	74.5	18°C	0°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	0°C
JULY	5	36.5°C	6°C
AUG	11.5	32°C	7°C
SEPT	25	25°C	1°C
OCT	63	18°C	0°C
NOV	107.5	14°C	-2°C
DEC	45	10°C	-9.5°C

2023	mm	max	min
JAN	41	10°C	-7.5°C
FEB	3	14°C	-7°C
MAR	78	15°C	-6.5°C
APRIL	65	18°C	-2°C
MAY	19	22°C	1°C
JUNE	15.5	30.5°C	6°C
JULY	72.5	28°C	8°C
AUG	65	29°C	4°C
SEP	41.5	30.5°C	5°C
OCT	137	0°C	-2°C
NOV	61.5	11°C	-7°C
DEC	63	11°C	-3°C

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

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Sunday 16th June, 10–6pm

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



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## LOCAL ARTISTS, PAST AND PRESENT

The pretty front cover of this edition was drawn by Stephanie Gould, and it prompted me to put together a display of the front covers of earlier (A5) editions of the Assington News, from the 1990s, all drawn by local residents. Hands up those who remember:.....

**October 1995:** "The cover this month is a drawing by Muriel Bertram.



Muriel was born in Sumatra, Dutch father, German/English mother; her father was a textile merchant and dealt mostly in wool and cotton. Her first schooling was in Holland then when she was 10 her father went to India and she attended school there. She was sent back to England to finish her education in a Hastings convent school, then went to Hastings School of Art. Muriel has been drawing since the age of 3. she did the beautiful village

maps, one of which hangs in the Village Hall, the other in the Shoulder of Mutton."

After the war she married Joe Bertram who hails from Bally James Duff, Co Cavan, Eire, and they came to live at what is now Springfield autos, but then was a smallholding. I expect many of you remember the complete railway carriage which was their first home. They sold the land and the railway carriage to Burt Rainsford, and moved to their present location where they have been for 40 years."

**November 1995: 'Ask those who cuts the hay'**

"The cover this month is a drawing by Raymond Scott (Ray) of Rose Green. Ray will be celebrating his 83rd birthday on February 8th 1996. He has had quite an eventful life, one which has more than a tinge of Dickens about it.



He was born at Grove Cottages, Wissington, the 8th and last child of George and Elizabeth Jones. His mother died when he was only 10 months old, and he was then sent to his Aunt Nellie till he was 7 years old. At this time his Godmother Lady Scott Holland wished to adopt him, but his father refused. Ray feels life would have turned out

quite differently if his father had let him go.

At 14 he worked on The Grove Farm, then at 16 he went to St Paul's Church Yard and worked at a Wholesale Drapers there, till he joined the Grenadier Guards in 1932. Ray had a long and distinguished career in the Guards seeing service in Egypt, Europe, North Africa, Italy and Germany, interspersed with service at home. He retired in 1958 after 26 years and with many decorations for meritorious service both at home and abroad. Ray then went to work at Severalls Hospital as receptionist/patient file clerk, for 20 years. In 1978 Ray was marooned (along with the whole village) by a long and dreadful snow storm; he decided to try some sketching, and so enjoyed it he has carried on drawing, painting and sketching ever since.

In 1939 Ray married Jean McLaren of Overall Farm, Bures. They have one daughter, Valerie who teaches A level Art (so Ray has handed on the artistic talent)."

**January 1996: Kiln Cottage**

"The cover this month is by Louisa Symons. Louisa quite firmly refused to divulge any of her personal history. However, we can say that she loves drawing, and gets a great deal of pleasure from it, (when she has time). She is a very very busy person who gives a great deal of times visiting the frail and elderly, and taking care of people who have nobody to turn to.



I can only say that Louisa is as lovely in character as she is in appearance."

**February/March 1996: Galanthus by Marney Jerrold.**



Marney was joint editor of the Assington News, along with Joan Peacock or (at other times) Lynda Kingston for many years. There was no credit or write-up for the cover in this magazine. However, Marney was acknowledged to be a very gifted artist.

**June 1996 : A Hereford Waggon.**

"All credit to Jerv.Jordan for the front cover this month."



**July 1996**

"The cover is by Dick Heseltine. I'm sure you all recognise the Cedar Tree in Assington Park and the sheep.

About Dick: I shall let him speak for himself

"I had no formal training other than at school (Charterhouse) and evening classes at Farnham Art School. I began to sketch during the war and 16 sketches made in active service are now in the 3rd Hussar Museum at Warwick.

On coming to Willow Tree Farm in 1955, I joined the Colchester Art Society, who gave me a sponsored show at the Minorities with the artist Ian Hay, got shared sales of £2,500. My family have an artistic background, continued with my children...."

**January 1997 'Fred Marshall 1902 - 1997**

Again, I suspect the cover was by Marney Jerrold.

Inside the cover is a tribute to Fred Marshall:

"We have lost a much loved and respected character from Assington. I'm sure we all remember Fred on his bike with his oilskin shopping bag - always neatly turned out - it didn't matter what he was doing, digging in the garden or laying a course of bricks, Fred always wore a collar and tie.

Fred was born at Bures Green (one of three children). He left school, went to FishHouse Farm as odd job boy. From there went into business with his Uncle Tom and his own son John. He then worked for Pudneys at Colne Engaine and during his time there built the bungalows at the Vicary Estate. Last of all he worked for Kingsbury at Boxford till he was 70.

Fred married Hilda in 1923 and they had three children, Peg, John and Robin. Fred moved to Assington and lived at the Round House, then 15 The Street, then The Gurdons and finally at no 1 Woodfields. From Assington Fred would bike to work as far as Colchester and Halstead.....

In his later years he gardened for the writer Diana Cooper and he was heart broken when she died, as she enjoyed his country wit and wisdom and he enjoyed her zest for life.

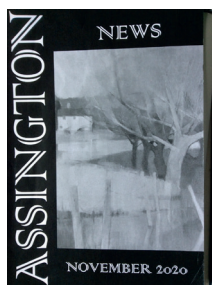
....Farewell Fred! Thank you for the Songs."



**February/March 1998 'Queenie Olorenshaw'**

Yet another drawing by Marney Jerrold of another 'local' resident.

and much later, in **November 2020**, the newer A4 sized edition: **Flooded Willows by Belinda King.**



"Following her successful exhibition at Burgh House Museum in Hampstead last year, Belinda King has a solo exhibition of paintings at the Chapel Galleries opening on Saturday 28th November (2020) and running until the end of December. This was originally booked for June, but had to be postponed because of lockdown. Many of her landscapes are based on the woods and fields in and around Assington, but there are also images from Cornwall, Sussex Ireland Italy and France. A couple of paintings describe her feelings during the difficult period we are currently

living through. "

**The editor, Bronwen Stacey always welcomes your contributions of drawings, paintings, photographs, articles etc.** It is lovely to have local input.

# DANCE CLUB

Tuesdays 10:45am-11:45am

Nayland Village Hall,  
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**New earlier time: 10.45am – 11.45am**  
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# PARISH CHURCH NEWS



*Letter from the  
Rev Daniel Whiffin,  
Vicar of  
Bures with  
Assington and  
Little Cornard*



Dear friends

Do you ever 'get up on the wrong side of the bed'? Or is to just me who, when something gets in the way of my well-honed morning routine, struggles not to be Mr Grumpy for the rest of the day. I found myself wondering at the origins of this often-used idiom recently. Most seem to attribute it to the Romans, and their dislike of the left side. The Latin word for 'left', *sinister*, took on meanings of unlucky or perverse. Apparently, some Roman nobles would have a servant on their doorway ensuring no-one entered their property left foot first. So, it's not a stretch to assume they would have avoided getting up from the left side of a bed.

I don't believe in this left-prejudiced superstition, but I do agree that good morning habits can set us up for a good day. The Apostle Paul, an early Christian teacher, wrote about living a life of love, following Jesus Christ, as though it were a matter of dressing ourselves with the good character traits like the correct clothes each morning. These 'clothes' are those Christians have been given by Jesus, through his death and resurrection for us. We learn how to choose to put them on by developing a relationship with Jesus, meeting him in the Bible and prayer.

I think it works on a week-by-week basis too. Starting the week the best way should help us make good choices as we head through the week. For me, this means spending Sunday morning (the first day of the week in the Bible) in church, hearing from Jesus and praying alongside others. If I must miss it one Sunday, it feels like a week's worth of getting up on the wrong side of the bed.

If you're not used to making church the start of the week habit for you and your family, would you be up for trying it out? There are the current 10:30am services you can find details of here in this magazine, where everyone is warmly welcome. Or, if you fancy being part of something completely new, we're starting *Wake Up!* 9:15-10am on Sunday 2 June at St Mary's Bures. Thanks for reading.  
**Daniel**

<https://assingtonchurch.org.uk>

## MAY 2024 SERVICES IN ASSINGTON

**5th May @ 10.30am MORNING WORSHIP**  
 12th May Bures @ 10.30am HC  
 Lt Cornard @ 4.30pm Flower Festival  
**19th May @ 10.30am HOLY COMMUNION**  
 26th May Bures @ 10.30am MW  
 Lt Cornard @ 10.30am HC



**THE CHURCH IS OPEN FOR VISITORS  
ON SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS,  
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## Assington Church TOWER PROJECT



**QR Code**

If you would like to make  
a donation towards the  
Tower Project

Grateful thanks

## THE ANNUAL MEETING OF ASSINGTON PCC

Will take place  
on  
**Thursday 2nd May  
at 7.30pm**  
In the Church  
When the events of  
2023 will be reported,  
Everyone welcome!

### Want to be part of something new?

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



9:15-10:00 am  
First and third Sundays of the month  
St Mary's Bures

Crafts, Lego, pastries and coffee as we  
learn about Jesus, sing and pray  
together.

For all ages. Everyone welcome.  
**Launching Sunday 2 June!**

**BASIC COMMUNITY  
POP-UP SHOP**  
 St. Mary's Church, Bures  
 Thursday 21 March at 12 noon

Helping those who need it.

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

**SUNDAY 16TH JUNE  
10.30AM**

**ASSINGTON CHURCH  
FATHER'S DAY SERVICE**  
 FOLLOWED BY:

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

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

Refreshments available.



FORMERLY NAILS BY GRACE

I'm Grace Crimmin, a fully qualified Beauty Therapist with over 10 years' experience in Salons and Spas.

I offer a wide variety of treatments from my treatment room in Newton, including Body Massages, Facials, Manicures, Pedicures, Waxing and more!

I look forward to hearing from you.

[www.beauty-bygrace.co.uk](http://www.beauty-bygrace.co.uk)

 07484 648932

**Leavenheath Village Hall Cinema**

**is showing**

**JOYRIDE**

**SATURDAY 4th MAY**

A coming of age Drama PG—13

Starring Olivia Coleman, Charlie Reid & Lochlann Ó Mearáin

Running time 1hr 34 mins with 20 mins interval

\*\*\*\*\*

**THE UNLIKELY PILGRIMAGE**

**OF HAROLD FRY**

**SATURDAY 1<sup>st</sup> JUNE**

Drama PG-13

Starring Jim Broadbent & Penelope Keith

Running time 1hr 42 mins with 20 min interval

\*\*\*\*\*

For both films arrive 7.00pm. Film starts 7.30pm

**Babergh District Council have given the Village Hall Cinema Committee a Community grant. This has enabled us to discount the ticket price on**

**PRE-BOOKED TICKETS ONLY**

**Pre Booked Tickets £2**

Tickets bought at the door £4.00 per Adult

and £2.50 for under 12's

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

Reserve your seat online at [www.leavenheathvillage.com](http://www.leavenheathvillage.com)

or telephone Sarah on 01206 263343 to book your tickets

Refreshments, wine, beer, soft drinks, coffee, tea will be available

before the film and also during the interval along with ice creams.

Proceeds towards LVH Capital Project Fund (Charity no 262816)

# Ventanilla Blinds

**Conservatory Blinds - Day and Night Blinds**

**Rollers - Verticals - Roman - Pleated**

**Wooden, Faux Wood & Metal Venetians**

**Sheer Rollers - Blackout Blinds**

**Perfect Fit Pleated, Roller & Venetian**

**Contact Mike for a fast and friendly service**

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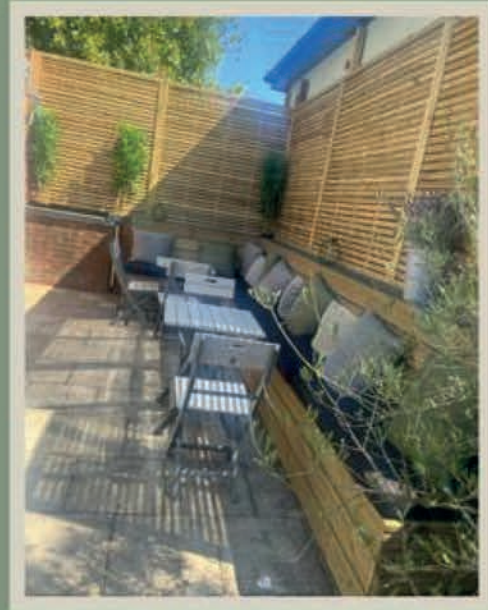


## THE FOXES DEN

Celebrate your special occasion with us!

- Exclusive hire, private car park, 5 double en suite bedrooms plus 1 self contained lodge with private hot tub and patio area overlooking the countryside.
- Restaurant opens Wednesday to Saturday 8.30am to 4.00pm. Serving homemade breakfast, brunch, lunch and cakes, delicious coffee and we now have our alcohol license so join us for a drink on our terrace!
- COMING SOON - New outside eating area coming soon with a wood fired pizza oven (to eat in or take away)

[www.thefoxesdenassington.com](http://www.thefoxesdenassington.com)  
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IG: thefoxesden.assington  
T: 01787 703 500





# SHOULDER OF MUTTON

**An Historic English Inn for comfortable, casual and refined dining**

**Hours of Opening:**

**Wednesdays to Sundays 12 noon to 11pm**



**THURSDAY 9th MAY**

**A WINE AND CHEESE EVENING**

**Please reserve a place with Totty**

**FRIDAY 17th MAY**

**live music 8.30pm onwards from**

**LOWER THE TONE**

For any Bookings or enquiries please contact via 01787 210 334

Or [Info@shoulderofmuttonassington.co.uk](mailto:Info@shoulderofmuttonassington.co.uk)