

ASSHINGTON

NEWS



OCTOBER 2020

CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS (useful numbers)

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

| | | |
|--|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Allotments (sjking@btinternet.com) | Stephen King | 01787 210932 |
| Assington Books, Village Hall (see post office for times) | Michelle Bourner | 07954 221773 |
| Assington Farmshop | Maxine Gardiner | 01787 211610 |
| Assington Post Office, Village Hall | Mon 1.30-3.30, | Wed 9-12 |
| Assington Village Charity, Sec | Claire Osborne | 07920 800108 |
| Boxford CEVC Primary School (office@boxford.suffolk.sch.uk) | Head: Mrs J Davies | 01787 210332 |
| Brownies, Boxford | Moira Grant | 01787 211513 |
| Church, Children's activities | Michelle Bourner | 07954 221773 |
| Church - Organist | Bronwen Stacey | 01787 210354 |
| Church - Reader | Dr John Symons | 01787 211534 |
| Church - Secretary | Emily Cartlidge | 07976724266 |
| Church - Treasurer | Ian Clark | 01787 211133 |
| Churchwarden | Roger Britcher | 01787 211021 |
| Churchwarden | Bronwen Stacey | 01787 210354 |
| County Councillor (james.finch@suffolk.gov.uk) | James Finch | 01473 264993 |
| District Councillor (Assington) | Lee Parker | 01787 376073 |
| Doctors surgery – Sudbury | Hardwicke House | 01787 310000 |
| Doctors surgery – Bures | Bures | 01787 227529 |
| Fleece Jazz, Stoke by Nayland Hotel - www.fleecejazz.org.uk | Stoke by Nayland | 01787 211865 |
| Footpath Wardens | Paul & Cynthia Hollingsworth | 01787 211620 |
| Horticultural Society | Bryn Hurren | 01787 210854 |
| Leavenheath Cinema | Lesley or Ken | 01206 262505/ 01206 263266 |
| 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 |
| john@moorsfarm.com | John Symons | 01787 211534 |
| rosemarysymonds42@gmail.com | Rose Symonds | 01787 229100 |
| helen.wallace12@btinternet.com | Helen Wallace | 01787 211162 |
| i.jordan741@btinternet.com | Ian Jordan | |
| andrewpeterhill@hotmail.com | Andrew Hill | |
| Parish Council - Clerk, (assingtonpc@yahoo.com) | Jane Hatton | 01787 468634 |
| Polstead Films – www.http://polstead.onesuffolk.net/films | Sue Wigglesworth | 01787 210029 |
| Pub – The Shoulder of Mutton | Gavin & Aaron | 01787 210334 |
| Vicar (steve.morley@btinternet.com) | Steve Morley | 01787 227407 |
| Village Hall – Bookings (louisa@moorsfarm.com) | Louisa Symons | 01787 211534 |
| Village Hall - Caretaker | Paul Battle | 07473 933320 |
| Womens Institute, Boxford (annie-phillips@hotmail.co.uk) | Annie Phillips | 01787 211729 |

The ASSINGTON NEWS

NOW ON LINE AND IN COLOUR. Go to : Assington.onesuffolk.net/ then select the words 'Assington News' displayed at the far right hand side of the top strap-line.

| | |
|--------------|--|
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FOODBANK COLLECTION TO CELEBRATE HARVEST



Assington residents have always been generous in their gifts to the Sudbury Foodbank, which the church has traditionally organised in conjunction with its Harvest Festival weekend celebrations.

This year is a little different!

This year, although the Church Service to celebrate harvest will be held on the 11th October there will **NOT** be a collection of food in church, for covid reasons.

However, your food donations are warmly welcomed at the following collection points up to **10th October**, when they will be collected and taken up to the Sudbury Storehouse Foodbank:



The Village Shop (a box is provided)



Skimbles, The Street
(opposite the footpath to The Thicks)



The Old School House
(opposite St Edmund's Close)

Thank you in advance for your kindness.

“Storehouse foodbank is an initiative of Stour Valley Vineyard Church, working in partnership with local churches, organisations and businesses. Storehouse receives food donations all year round. For whatever reason, people fall on hard times. The Vineyard church wants to show God’s love and kindness by providing an emergency food bag along with a listening ear and a hand of friendship. With a ‘no strings attached’ philosophy, Vineyard doesn’t offer just a ‘hand-out’ but a ‘hand-up’. Your generosity today helps make that possible. Thank you. You are giving an amazing gift to someone in crisis in our local community.”

Vineyard works to a referral system in association with: Social Services, Job Centre, CAB, Genesis Housing, Solo Housing, Orwell Housing, the Police, GPs, Family Centres and other agencies.

If you know of anyone in need of a food bag, please put them in touch with one of these agencies.

Please see below for a list of the food items most urgently needed at the moment.

SUDBURY STOREHOUSE FOODBANK Shopping List 2020

is as follows:

Meals in a tin

Stew
Tuna
Chicken
Pasta Sauce
Curry
Chilli

Veg in a tin

Potatoes
Peas
Carrots
Beans
Sweetcorn
Rice in a packet

Breakfast

Cereal
UHT milk
Cereal bars
Tea Bags (ordinary)
Instant Coffee

Dessert

Tinned Fruit
Rice Pudding
Chocolate Bars
Custard

Toiletries & Household

Toothpaste
Toilet Rolls
Deodorant
Shampoo
Laundry Detergent

Extras

Biscuits
Sugar
Squash
Jam

Unfortunately home-made produce cannot be accepted.



part of the Assington collection for the Sudbury foodbank last year.

HARVEST



Due to wet weather and dry weather in abundance, - at the wrong times of year, this year sadly, we hear that the harvest is one of the worst for a long time. We give all the local farmers our best wishes at a difficult time, and hope that they are still able to salvage something to help to keep themselves and the country going through the coming year



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I work at The Hair Gallery in Sudbury for nail appointments and facial waxing. I have a treatment room at my home in Newton which is where I offer all the treatments.

To book an appointment call 07484 648932 or send an email to nailsbygrace@btinternet.com

I look forward to hearing from you.

TALES FROM THE WOOLSHED

By Ellie Mead

I was introduced to the world of Spinning, Weaving and Dyeing by a wonderful lady: Jill Goodwin. Jill lived at Ashman's Farm, Kelvedon where she grew Woad, spun wool and had pots of plant dyes bubbling away on her Aga. Jill decided that I should learn to spin and I spent a day on her wheel at the end of which she graciously declared 'Well you have a continuous thread'. She made no comment on the quality of that thread which was variable to say the least; all lumps and overspun elastic. She suggested that I might like to join the Mid Essex Guild of Spinners, Weavers and Dyers of which she was a founder member. Jill had experimented with Woad dyeing using the 'ancient method' Woad blue being the dye of choice of the Ancient Britons who applied it as a war paint to intimidate the Roman invaders.

In 2007 I had the opportunity to take part in the Tudor Recreation at Kentwell Hall. My role was as a Dyer and we used plants from 'about the manor' to give us a wide range of colours.



A favourite was Woad which 'when seethed in the pot gave forth a yellow hue, but when the wool is taken from the pot and shaken in the air as if by magic it turns blue before your very eyes'. We would refer to 'Mistress Goodwin in the cupboard' which was where we kept a copy of Jill's book 'A Dyer's Manual'.



Since then I have grown and experimented with various dye plants. Madder is a plant of the same family as Cleavers grown for its red roots. In Tudor times Madder was imported from 'the Low countries' and brought to the Madder Market in Norwich to sell. A bright yellow can be achieved from Weld (*Reseda Luteola* or Wild Mignonette) a common weed of rough ground. Only the wealthy Tudor could afford to wear black as black was produced by over dyeing one colour upon another many times and therefore used up much dyestuff and time. My spinning continues to be somewhat uneven and I do not attempt anything too complicated on my weaving loom.



Colourful stripes are my forte to create samplers or mats which I sometimes turn into shoulder bags.

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ASSINGTON CHOIR TO RE-START

From Nettie Osman

Thursday nights are set to be much more fun! At the time of going to press, Government guidelines mean that choirs are permitted to start rehearsing again, at social distance, in Covid-secure venues.

The Assington Singers (otherwise known as HappySounds



Community Choir, when singing with the Cornard Breathe Easy group) have been singing together all through lockdown via Zoom, and are really looking forwards to seeing each other in person once again. They've been working on all sorts of songs from Elvis to Abba to Vera Lynn and can't wait to be able to finally sing them in public one day.... maybe next Spring on the playing field, who knows?



Provided the restrictions don't change, the choir will be starting up again on Thursday 1st October from 6pm at the Village Hall. Places are currently very limited due to Covid restrictions, and payment must be made in advance to secure your place. If you'd like to know more, please contact choir leader Nettie Osman via the contact page at www.happysounds.co.uk, or on 07957 394780.

ASSINGTON HAS A VACANCY FOR A NEW PARISH CLERK

see page 23 for details

SNIPPET FROM TIMES PAST

.....The Assington Parish Magazine of September 1907.....

By BS

With regard to a report of the village Flower Show: "It is a matter of great satisfaction to all interested in the Show, that both the number and character of our exhibits are improving. It is quite clear that in future we must provide more tent accommodation. It is desirable the the exhibits, especially the sewing and the useful and fancy needlework, should have considerably larger space allotted to them. The ladies say that these should be placed in a tent by themselves, and in this opinion we quite concur.

The Hon. Mrs Stirling conferred a great benefit on the Show, and indeed on the Parish, by offering a prize for butter. We were a little surprised that there were so many competitors for it, and it has served to bring to light a very important fact, which is, that we have in Assington some excellent butter makers. The ladies who judged the butter expressed the opinion that all the exhibits in this class were of a high order. If we can keep up this level, Assington butter will soon have a reputation. We must do our best to encourage the butter-making industry.

If the weather had not been so unfavourable on July 30th, we should certainly have had a phenomenal attendance, as large parties were coming over from Sudbury, Boxford, Long Melford, Stoke and Nayland, but were kept away by the rain.".....

FOOTPATH WARDENS' REPORT

From Cynthia and Paul Hollingsworth

We have taken some before and after photos of the steps leading to Footpath 12, from The Street across to Barrack Street, which have recently had a makeover, and the finger post replaced.



Also the steps further along the path at the junction that leads through to the Vicary Estate have been renovated. A finger post that had been knocked down at the Village Hall was also replaced during these works.

Our thanks to Suffolk Highways and Byways for their prompt attention to the reported issues.

SESAW NEWS

What a strange summer it's been, with no visitors at the Centre except by appointment. I miss my public and sympathise with the many humans who are staying at home.

There have been a few dogs in, some cats, kittens and rabbits plus lots of wildlife including a young kestrel. After recuperating at SESA W, it was successfully released from the garden where it was found.



We still cannot accept bric a brac and general household items but we can take clean, undamaged clothing for recycling. Please leave in CLEAR plastic bags only to ensure

contents are visible. Regrettably, soiled clothes and bedding have been found hidden in black plastic sacks in the past.

Thank you to the organisers of the MEBCC Plough Day for inviting SESA W to the event in Gt. Waldingfield last month. We sold lots of vintage items and many supporters and their dogs stopped for a socially distanced chat.

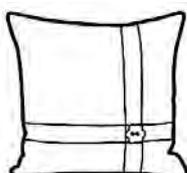
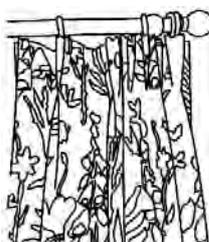


Hopefully we will take part in some festive events, COVID restrictions permitting but we do need good quality items for Jeanette's popular Tombola, Sheila's 'classy' stall and more vintage things. Contributions can be left at SESA W or phone 07881 785535 to arrange collection.

Your continued support is really appreciated via JustGiving, the post, collection pots and occasional mystery donors. During one of my security patrols one wet evening in August, I noticed something left outside. With much effort I dragged it indoors and we discovered a kind person had left their "Rainy Day Fund" for SESA W. Thank you for every precious penny of the £8.40 which will help care for the animals, including me Kenny (the Boss) Chihuahua.

Suffolk & Essex Small Animal Welfare, Reg. Charity No. 1124029. Stoke Road, Leavenheath, CO6 4PP. 01787 210888 www.sesaw.co.uk info@sesaw.co.uk

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If you have any ideas you would like to discuss, or want some help to create the look you are after, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Jacqui Egglestone
01787 211154
07770 520198
jacqui@littlehousedesigns.co.uk
littlehousedesigns.co.uk

MY SPONSORED RIDE AND STRIDE CYCLE RIDE 2020

By Jeff Stacey

This year I started my cycle ride in aid of the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust in Peasehall and headed into north Suffolk.



I deliberately chose backroads to take me to small ancient churches and had a largely traffic-free day. In fact some of the roads were so small I had to dismount and climb the bank to let the occasional car past.



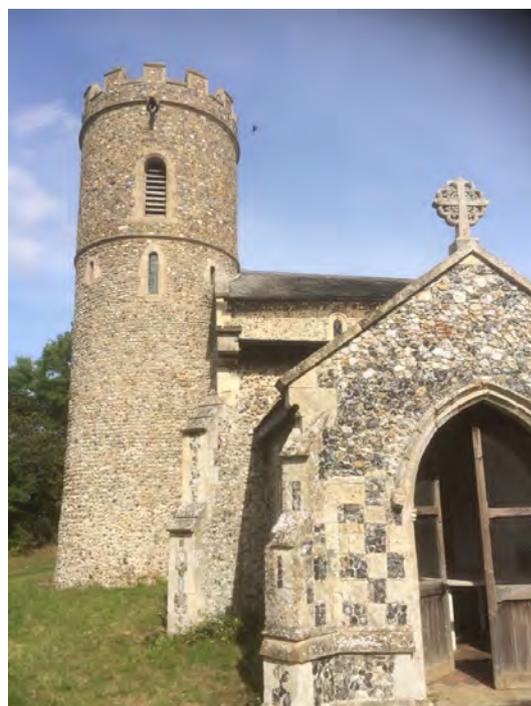
This is an area I do not know well and in planning the route on the map I was curious about a series of nine small villages in an area called South Elmham, each with a saint's name, followed by South Elmham:

St Margarets South Elmham, St Cross South Elmham, St Peter South Elmham, St Michael South Elmham ...etc; each had a similar arrangement, with the church on the outskirts

of the village or hamlet. Of the ones I visited the prize for the most difficult to find went to All Saints South Elmham. Well out of the Hamlet and down a track..... Past the "big house" to the end of the road..... Still nothing in sight, but encouraged by the fact I was outside Church Farm, I spotted an overgrown sign indicating a footpath to the Church. I was rewarded by an historic, very simple church

in a quiet setting. It had a round tower, one of several I saw that day.

To simplify the return part of the cycle ride I had chosen the route of an old Roman road to take me back to Peasehall, fearing my map-reading skills may decline as I got more tired. I had covered 42 miles, which seemed just about my limit.



I packed the bike in the car and returned home, only to find I had left helmet gloves and sunglasses by the side of the road. A quick look on line at the price of new helmets convinced me it was worth the petrol to make a return journey. It was all still there on the verge and as Bronwen came for the ride we decided to stop for a meal on the way back. We can recommend the White Horse at Badingham, where we were able to eat outside. Fortunately the warm weather held, even after dark.



I was not the only one cycling for the charity this year. Both James Carlidge and Simon White were cycling from Assington. Simon's aim was to cover all the churches in the Deanery, a feat that took him a very full day covering a distance of around 60 miles. James was not sure how far he went, but he talked about meeting constituents down on the Shotley Peninsula, so they both showed a better level of fitness than I.

As well as cyclist and walkers, this year there were a number of classic and vintage cars touring round the churches. I did not see any, but I understand a large group started from Bures. This was borne out by the number of people visiting Assington Church, far more than I have recorded in the years I have been co-ordinating the arrangements.

Thank you to all those who sponsored all three of us. At the



time of writing I have not yet followed up on all my offers of sponsorship, but have raised more than £160. I will publish the final total for all three of us next month.

THE 43rd ASSINGTON HORTICULTURAL SHOW 2020

From Bryn Hurren



Firstly, huge thanks to all who attended the show to make it such a happy and friendly event and also to the many helpers who stepped up to help organise and run the show in the face of the adversity that is facing all of us at the moment.

Special thanks must also be made to Andrew, Paul, Mark, Simon and Ted who helped to erect the marquee at such short notice, not only did we get it up in rather windy conditions, we cut the time that we were told by the hirers Kersey Horticultural Society that they usually took. Many comments were made that it was felt that the marquee improved the ambience of the event and we should continue to do the show in this way, although it has to be said we had difficulty in squeezing all the entries in and maybe the way forward is to have a dual village hall/ marquee event or just get a bigger tent.

The show itself had an increase in entries of around 40% with more entries in most classes but especially within the baking and children's entries, it should also be noted that the standard of the children's entries was quite exceptional and a real credit to their endeavours. Having not had any organised schooling for six months they certainly put great effort into our show.

Along with an increase in entries a sum of £328.00 was raised for village charities, this was helped by many village donations and raffle prizes and an anonymous donor/s who donated the money to cover the cost of the marquee.



Along with the Horticultural show the scarecrow competition was again run by David Wiles with 14 entries this year and I think we can all agree that the standard of entries was the best ever with the Owl and Squirrel from Squirrel house running/flying out as a very worthy winner.



It is to be hoped that we will be able to run this event again next year, it has been held regularly with only a small break for 43 yrs and it would be nice to see such a good family event continue into the future, with our new challenges to our lives I feel there will have to be a greater emphasis on home production of fruit, veg and baking for health and economic reasons.



Any ideas of improvements and new ideas for next

year's show will be welcomed.

All Very Best Wishes for successful growing, gardening and cooking. Bryn.



THE ASSINGTON HORTICULTURAL SHOW REPORT

Well this is what we needed this August!

Well done and thank you to Bryn Hurren and everyone in his team, for pressing ahead under difficult circumstances, to make the 43rd Show a reality on Sunday 23 August.

This is what Bryn had to say, "2020 has been a year like no other. As well as a pandemic we have had times of extreme wet, extreme heat and extreme winds to contend with. This was not ideal for allotment growing but despite all these problems the produce has been very good".....

Congratulations and well done to everyone who took part in the show by submitting entries and joining in the community spirit. Many Congratulations to the worthy winners:

Scarecrow Competition Cup: = Andrew Hill & Anna Clayton
 Summer Cottage Shield most points Veg: = Andrew Warner
 Warner Floral Bowl for most points flowers: = Kay Doughty
 Heseltine Cup for most points all home grown: = Andrew Warner with 52 points

Springfield Auto Shield for most points home baking :
 = Gill Harris

W I Shield for best exhibit in home baking: = Gill Harris

Assington Mill Cup for photography: = Wilma Owen

The Gurdon Cat's Cup for longest runner bean: = Andrew Warner

Heaviest tomato: = Andrew Warner

The Proctor Cup for best pot plant : = Kay Doughty

The Amos and Winifred Digbetter Disaster Prize:
 = Andrew Hill

The Beefy Decanter for the best effort made in show:
 = Andrew Warner for his Veg box

Assington Charity Millennium Tray for best exhibit in whole show : = Kay Doughty's Begonia plant

Cash Prize for the 1st time entrant with most points:
 = Evie Laughton

Cup for the best entry in the children's classes:

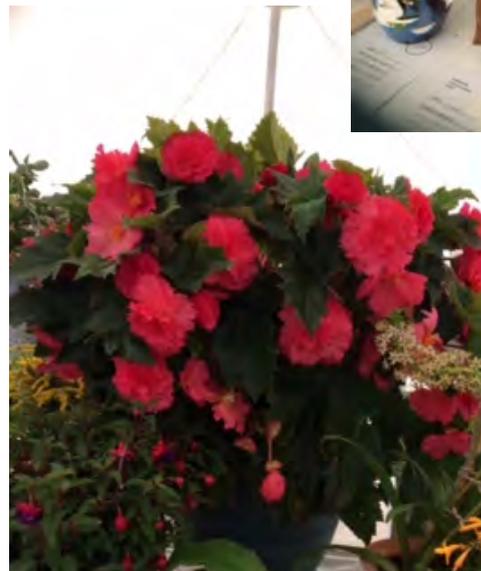
= Honey Regan for her watermelon frog

Class 27 Box of Veg: 1st = Andrew Warner,

2nd= Wilma Owen

Class 28 Box of Fruit: = Bryn Hurren

Best allotment plot: = Bryn Hurren





And weren't the Scarecrows wonderful this year? There was an admirable number of entries this year for the scarecrow competition which has gone from strength to strength, and the style, ingenuity and execution of them was excellent.



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VILLAGE HALL TO RE-OPEN FROM 28th SEPTEMBER

**From Stephen King,
Chair, Assington Village Charity**

The Management Committee have agreed to re-open the village hall following Government guidelines for safe use, updated on 14th September 2020.

We have carried out a COVID-19 risk assessment on the Hall, Playing field and Playground and issued Special Hirer Conditions which include strict adherence to social distancing of 2m (or 1m with risk mitigation). Users and hirers have responsibility for managing risks arising from their own activities, taking account of any guidance relevant to their specific activity.

Meetings and activities where mingling is not required are allowed, to a maximum of 30 people. Face covering must be worn, using hand sanitizer and maintaining social distance. Only the disabled toilet will be available.

Receptions and parties where it is difficult to prevent mingling cannot take place. To assist NHS Test and Trace hirers will have to collect contact information from participants and keep it for a period of 21 days.

Enquiries should be made initially through the Bookings Secretary, Louisa Symons 01787 211534.

I am writing this article on 15th September in order to meet the deadline for publication but Government guidelines may be revised at short notice and the Management Committee reserves the right to close the hall immediately in an emergency.

NO PIRATE-THEMED (socially distanced) PICNIC THIS YEAR AFTER ALL!

By BS

OOO aaargh me 'earties: As I write this, there has recently been new advice and guidance, saying that no more than 6 people may meet up together, and that the protocols on distances between all the groups must be carefully adhered to. This means that, despite the best of intentions to "add value" to the raffle draw, by providing an opportunity for people to at least see each other on a different picnic blanket, and enjoy listening to a live concert of shanties and sea songs, unfortunately that is no longer going to happen. No Pirate Picnicit's the gang plank for us!

It is such a disappointment for everyone, but if we wish to protect everyone in the community, we must abide by the new rules. We are all grown-up and sensible enough to take such things in our stride by now, and I guess, for a long time to come. Safe rather than sorry is the new motto.

The Raffle Draw will of course still take place as promised, (with no more than 6 people to ensure it all goes swimmingly) - sorry I cannot resist the pirate puns..... and people will be contacted if they have won a prize. The update on the prizes will be published in the next Assington

News.



LITTER NEWS

from Stephen King

I read a recent report that most councils issued less than one fine a week for littering, with a maximum on-the-spot fine of £150. John Read, the founder of Clean Up Britain, said that it was "very important to have an effective and punitive deterrent....". Campaigners were suggesting the fine should be increased to £1000 but a spokeswoman for the government said that it has no plans to increase the on-the-spot fine.

On the morning of Sunday 16th August I found these two beer cans discarded at the side of the track from the Old Vicarage towards The Coach House, no doubt waiting for someone else to pick them up. No one wants to be fined £1000 for throwing away a £1 can of drink, but they might not do it again!



BOXFORD SCHOOL REPORT

BACK TO SCHOOL

By Callie Bradbury

Back to school has been tough for everyone parents, children, teachers and all but now we are glad children are getting their full education even though we are socially distanced and overloaded with hand sanitiser. It is great that children can see their friends again and are getting the help they need. Unfortunately, the old year 6's did not get the usual send off that they would have hoped for in July but they are glad to be in year 7.

In the current year 6 class, life is a bit different as you would imagine. Firstly, we are seated all facing one way so the air flow is travelling in the same direction. Secondly, we have to sanitise regularly to kill germs and viruses. Thirdly, we have staggered start and finish times to reduce congestion in the playground and to stop each year bubble mixing with each other. We also have to quarantine all of the equipment so the viruses die before somebody else uses it.

Year 6 topic this year is **EXPLOSIVE ENERGY** and we are studying Alessandro Volta and Andre-Marie Ampere at the moment. In PE we are doing tag rugby and dance, in dance we are learning the haka whilst scaring all of the teachers!!!

Our teacher is reading The Graveyard Book by Neil Gaiman to us in class. It is a bit creepy so far as it is about ghosts but people who have previously been in year 6 have said it was fantastic .



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PARISH CHURCH NEWS

*Letter from the Rev Mary Cantacuzene
Bures with Assington and Little Cornard*

Dear Friends

Well here we still are, having to 'keep calm and carry on', coping as best we can with this strange hiatus in our lives. The new simple rule for us all is the "rule of six": that for the foreseeable future, we can only be together with five other people socially at home, whether it be inside or outside our houses, or meeting anywhere for social reasons.

It has made me think about the early church in the first century AD where 'churches' (*Ekklesia in Greek*), were not special buildings, but just small groups of people who met together to eat, talk and pray, much as we might do today. The Book of Acts tells us, **"The believers met together and shared everything they had. They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. They worshipped together at the Temple and met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity"**.

Ekklesia just meant 'the church', either the building, the small group, the larger assembly in a special building ... or indeed the worldwide church, the company of all the believers, and it is from the Greek that we use the word "ecclesiastical".

Six is probably the ideal sized group to meet together to pray and to eat together etc. even now in our own modern context, like a family support bubble. What a wonderful recreation of the early church, to have a church family in small groups in perfect mutual love, generosity and unity.

So let's not see this as too big a challenge; let's celebrate these small groups or congregations. Jesus said **"When two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I with them"**.

Let's hold on to our priorities, in the words of my favourite blessing, let's
"Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted;
support the weak; help the afflicted; honour everyone;
love and serve the Lord rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit".

May God bless and protect you all.

With love in Him,

Mary

Schedule of services at Assington Church

1st SUNDAY 10.30 *Benefice Communion at Bures*

2nd SUNDAY 10.30 ASSINGTON
with a Harvest theme and Holy Communion

3rd SUNDAY 10.30 Bures

4th SUNDAY 10.30 ASSINGTON

and an update from Rev Simon White:

Hello,

Thank you to everyone who has supported the Church Raffle this year. It was a great disappointment that we had to cancel the social side of the raffle draw event on Saturday 19th but we felt that was the safest course of action. While it might have been possible to justify a socially distanced event spread out across the playing field we did not think it would be in spirit of the latest restrictions, even if we had all stuck rigidly to the 'rule of six'.

We have now had several weeks of services back in the church building and people are getting used to the new way of meeting on a Sunday. Households sit separately, there's no singing and masks are worn by everyone (except for those leading) but the changes are not getting in the way of the joy of being together and encountering God. Of course, encountering God does not only happen in the building and some people are still not ready to return so our on-line Zoom and YouTube offerings continue. Currently Assington takes its turn hosting services on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month with Bures hosting on the intervening Sundays. We include as much music as we can but not being allowed to sing is quite a change and we are already starting to think about how the big services without their traditional hymns and carols might work.

We have long since given up waiting for a return to how things were this time last year and I am heartened to see how quickly people adapt to the changing restrictions where nothing is quite the same for more than a few weeks at a time.

You are very welcome to come along to any of our services and we look forward to seeing you soon. It isn't essential but it would help with 'Track and Trace' if you could let us know you will be attending a service by e-mailing office@parishchurch.oc.uk beforehand.

I wonder how tuneless we'll all be when we eventually get to sing in church again? Let's hope that Nettie's work with her 'Happy Sounds' choirs means that at least some people will be able to hold the tune for the rest of us when that happy moment comes.

Best wishes,
Simon



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

Assington Church

Services are beginning to resume. More information can be found on our website:

zoom

Get Together

Every Sunday morning

Please get in contact if you would like to receive invitations

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Email office@parishchurch.co.uk if you want to receive regular news about what's happening or ring:

Revd Steve Morley - 01787 227407
Revd Simon White - 07572 418555

COULD YOU BE OUR NEW PARISH CLERK?

Assington is looking for an enthusiastic and self-motivated person to be the Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer.

The successful candidate will have excellent communication, organisational and administrative skills, proven experience of financial management as well as a good working knowledge of IT.

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Salary: Remuneration will be based on experience and qualification, and in line with the National Joint Council Salary Scale SCP7 to SCP12 (currently £10.44 p/h - £11.53 p/h)

Hours: An average of 5.5 per week, home based.
For further details please see page 23 overleaf.

Application: For a copy of the Person Specification and the Job Description please email Bronwen Stacey bronwenstacey@btinternet.com

To apply please email your CV and covering letter of application, together with names and contact details of two referees.

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ASSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Matters of Interest Discussed at A Meeting held via Conference Call on 7 September 2020

■ Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Wallace informed Councillors that all is going to plan and a printed copy of the plan submitted to BDC will be circulated to all Councillors within the next couple of days for their comment. The referendum will take place in May 2021.

■ Routine Correspondence

- a. Councillors agreed that the email correspondence between a resident and BDC planning regarding Planning Application DC/20/03362 would be discussed under item 9a on the agenda.
- b. Councillors noted the email from BDC Planning regarding national planning policy framework.
- c. Councillors noted the letter from BDC Licensing regarding licensing policy revision
- d. Councillors noted the email from resident regarding the overgrown footpath FP20 which has been forwarded onto the Footpath Wardens
- e. Councillors noted the email from resident regarding planning applications where the destruction of the wildlife may not be taken into account.

■ Finance

- a. All cheques to be signed and due for signing were authorised by the Councillors. The Councillors noted the income received since the last meeting and reconciliation of bank accounts against the bank statements, and Statement of Accounts against the Budget.
- b. Councillors agreed the annual increase to the clerks hourly rate from the 1st April 2020.

■ Planning

Councillors considered

a. **Planning Application - DC/20/03362** - Erection of Nursery School with ancillary parking and construction of vehicular access to Land South of Access Road From C733 to the Church, Assington and resolved to **strongly object** to the proposal primarily due to its complete conflict with the recently submitted Neighbourhood Plan.

While the Neighbourhood Plan has not yet been examined or adopted, it has been submitted to Babergh District Council and therefore should be given due weight in planning decisions. The policies that this application conflicts with are those which mirror other neighbourhood plans in the Babergh district, which have been examined and adopted, and therefore are very unlikely to change. The proposal appears to pay no regard to the Assington Neighbourhood Plan whatsoever, and therefore its design results in conflict with a number of policies:

- 1) **Conflict with ASSN1 Spatial Strategy.** The application is not for an existing business located within the parish, and therefore it cannot be deemed "essential for the operation of an existing business". No identified local need has been demonstrated and no attempt has been made to locate the business within the Settlement boundary.
- 2) **Conflict with ASSN12 Area of Local Landscape Sensitivity.** The site lies within the Area of Local Landscape Sensitivity. As such proposals should only be permitted where they protect and enhance the special landscape qualities of the area. This proposal will seriously damage the special landscape qualities of the area by removing the wide open agricultural landscape which sets the scene for the historic grade 1 listed St Edmund's church.
- 3) **Conflict with ASSN13 Protected Views.** The proposal will not only damage, but will remove, the

important protected view 4 identified in the Neighbourhood Plan. If allowed it will have a significant detrimental impact on the wide open countryside setting of the village.

4) **Conflict with ASSN24 – Local Businesses.** The proposal results in a significant adverse impact on highway safety, and damages the local landscape character, and therefore is not supported by this policy.

In addition, the application will have a serious impact on road safety and congestion in the area of the A134/C733 junction. Assington Parish Council will be making a formal complaint to Suffolk Highways in regards to their failure, despite identifying that the application does not provide safe access, to object to this application.

Given the clear and demonstrable inaccuracies in Suffolk Highway's report, Assington Parish Council requests that the planning authority disregard their advice on this occasion as they have done in other instances (e.g. application DC/18/01894). There are demonstrable factual errors in their report (e.g. "there has only been one slight injury accident in the area") which would justify such an approach.

The application quite obviously will have a serious impact on road safety. It is located in an accident hotspot which has seen 16 accidents in the last 10 years, four of which were serious and one of which was fatal. In some instances these accidents have resulted in cars coming off the road and ending up in the fields, thankfully not harming any bystanders. In these fields it is now proposed to put a nursery (!!)

The main danger is presented from the increase in traffic turning into the C733 road. Coming from the Sudbury direction this is likely to result in tailbacks at peak times, with cars taking increased risks to dive through gaps in the traffic. From the Colchester direction vehicles turning left are presented with a sharp U bend, which results in them having to slow significantly, presenting a danger of vehicles (which have a history of taking these bends too quickly), causing a rear-end collision. Putting a large number of children into this situation would be irresponsible in the extreme.

We understand that Babergh will be under substantial pressure to give significant weight to the employment opportunity this development presents and the risk of loss of employment were Yorley Barn Nursery to close. However, refusal of this application will not result in such an event, as a number of alternative existing buildings are currently for sale and for rent in the local area, and which could be converted to the required use far more quickly than if this application were approved (with the associated required archaeological surveys needed beforehand, etc.)

We request that the applicant works with the council with regards to finding a suitable site for the nursery which is both sustainable, safe from a road transport perspective, and compliant with the Assington Neighbourhood Plan - we would be delighted to welcome such an impressive and successful business to the area and look forward to injecting significant energy into helping it.

We request, however, that this unsustainable and dangerous application is refused.

b. **Planning Application - DC/20/03422** - To allow provision of visitors car park space at Land East of The Street, Assington and resolved to **support** the application.

■ Questions to the Chair

DCllr Parker updated Councillors regarding the outstanding items in the Clerks Report and will contact Cllr Stacey regarding the filling of garden ponds and is continuing to look into the issues which have been raised regarding Assington Autos. Cllr Hill updated Councillors regarding the setting up of the Community Speed Watch Group and that SCC Highways had been very helpful in this instance.

■ Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting date is
Monday 28th September 2020 at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm

Nick Peasland

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DESTRUCTION OF WILDLIFE HABITAT, CATS LANE, SUDBURY

From Noreen Grant

Although not directly an Assington matter I believe that the following email from George Millins should be flagged up as it has relevance for any proposed development requiring Planning permission:

From: George Millins <george@millins.myzen.co.uk>
Date: Sun, 30 Aug 2020 at 20:34

I have stated on a number of occasions over recent years that existing wildlife law lacks effective enforcement; this sad fact has become increasingly apparent with examples of wildlife destruction in the form of hedgerow and tree cutting in the nesting season, which now appears to be common practice.

Another local example was the recent destruction of a County Wildlife site on the east side of Cats Lane, Sudbury. This site gained its C.W.S. status because of the large reptile population present. The reptile presence demanded reptile mitigation be included in the Planning Conditions submitted to the developer, 5 or 6 years ago. That developer became insolvent and the site therefore became the property of the bank before being sold to the current developer.

Apparently, based on the original conditions a new planning consent was issued but despite being a County Wildlife Site the re-issued conditions did not include reptile mitigation measures - why! how could that be? I was told (this) by neighbours of the site a week before work was scheduled to commence so I sent emails to the relevant agencies informing them of the presence of reptiles on the site but still a large digger moved on site on Monday the 29/6/20, removed part of the front hedge including standard trees and significant areas of scrub - this was still two months inside the designated nesting season!



While the digger carried on its destruction I continued to send emails and make telephone calls to Babergh's Planning Enforcement who refused to act because reptile mitigation was not included in the re-issued conditions, despite pleas that protected species were present... I emailed Natural England who told me the Police were the enforcement body (which I did know) - but they had refused to act on the grounds that while the reptiles are indeed protected the habitat is not.

If this is a correct interpretation of the law then there is no effective protection at all. Subsequent emails and phone calls just resulted in a repeat of this miss-interpretation and another email was sent to Natural England - they responded saying I should dial 999 as this was an ongoing crime but the receptionist refused to take the complaint.

Let us be clear; there were two wildlife crimes in progress: the destruction of reptiles (two examples remain in my freezer and more would have been found if we searched a

little longer) and the rapid destruction of the second part of the front hedge which, according to neighbours, destroyed three active nests including a woodpecker's. The police said "this was a matter for highways" - but they are the enforcement agency and had recently sent an officer to another location in Cornard where a hedge was being grubbed out - so we need to know why there is this refusal by police and planners to take action to protect our disappearing wildlife!

It is very clear that there is little interest and even less support for our wildlife and the natural world from the general public. Apart from one or two high profile people on TV, wildlife has no real practical support - nobody to act in their defence, hence, no political will to preserve natural habitats and the creatures within but great enthusiasm to cover in concrete!

George Millins.

For free help and advice in looking after your wildlife please Call me on: 01787 374874 mob.07534263629 or your County Wildlife Trust, B.T.O. or R.S.P.B.

According to an email which Noreen Grant has received from another interested party, Trevor Cresswell (Cllr), is to bring the matter up at a Sudbury Town full Council Meeting.

ASSINGTON RAINFALL AND TEMPERATURES

Bill Milner and Bob Cowlin

2016 TOTAL 599.5

2017 TOTAL 571

2018 TOTAL 559

2019 TOTAL 597

| 2018 | mm | max | min |
|------|------|--------|--------|
| JAN | 60.5 | 11°C | -3°C |
| FEB | 41 | 9°C | -8°C |
| MAR | 74 | 14°C | -5°C |
| APR | 49.5 | 26.5°C | +1°C |
| MAY | 38.5 | 27°C | +0.5°C |
| JUN | 1.5 | 31°C | +5°C |
| JULY | 19.5 | 36°C | +10°C |
| AUG | 83 | 35°C | +6°C |

| 2019 | mm | max | min |
|------|------|--------|-------|
| JAN | 23.5 | 9°C | -8°C |
| FEB | 19.5 | 16°C | -5°C |
| MAR | 44 | 19°C | -3°C |
| APR | 18.5 | 24°C | -3°C |
| MAY | 54 | 26°C | +1°C |
| JUNE | 94.5 | 29°C | 5°C |
| JULY | 36.5 | 34.5°C | 6.5°C |
| AUG | 31.5 | 31°C | 7°C |
| SEP | 37.5 | 24°C | 2°C |
| OCT | 90 | 18 °C | -2°C |
| NOV | 69.5 | 12 °C | -5°C |
| DEC | 78 | 10 °C | -5°C |

| 2020 | mm | max | min |
|------|------|------|--------|
| JAN | 33.5 | 10 C | -5°C |
| FEB | 56 | 11°C | -3°C |
| MAR | 21 | 14°C | -5°C |
| 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 |



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Battered Sausage & Chips £5

Double battered Sausage & Chips £7

Chicken fillet Burger, bacon, hash brown, salad & Chips £9

Vegetable mushroom burger, cheese, salad & Chips £8

Breaded Plaice & chips £8

Tempura Prawns, sweet chilli & Chips £8.50

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The successful candidate will have excellent communication, organisational and administrative skills, proven experience of financial management as well as a good working knowledge of IT.

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Hours: An average of 5.5 per week, home based.

Person Specification

Skills

- Be able to present financial information
- Be able to work with budgets
- The preparation of Agendas and formal Minutes of Meetings
- Be able to liaise with a wide range of people including members of the community, officers of Babergh District Council and County Councillors.

Knowledge

- Be computer literate

Experience

- General accounting practice

Qualifications

- A good general level of ability in English and Maths
- To hold, or be working towards, the Certificate in Local Council Administration- Desirable

Circumstances

- Have own PC
- Have access to, and be able to make use of the internet
- Be able to work from home
- Resident in or very close to parish of Assington - Desirable
- Be prepared to attend training for Parish Clerks as deemed necessary by the Parish Council.

Application: For a copy of the Job Description please email Bronwen Stacey bronwenstacey@btinternet.com

To apply please email your CV and covering letter of application, together with names and contact details of two referees.

The Assington News is a community magazine funded primarily through the adverts placed in it and donations, for which we are always most grateful, *thank you so much.*

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