

ASSINGTON

NEWS



APRIL 2023

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CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS (useful numbers)

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

Allotments Secretary	Claire Osborne	07920 800108
Assington Baby and Toddler Group	Rev Tricia Box	01787 227528
Assington Books, Village Hall (see post office for times)	Michelle 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 Secretary		
Boxford CEVC Primary School (office@boxford.suffolk.sch.uk)	Head: Mrs J Davies	01787 210332
Brownies, Boxford	Moira Grant	01787 211513
Church - Organist	Bronwen Stacey	01787 210354
Church - Reader	Dr John Symons	01787 211534
Church - Secretary	Emily Cartlidge	07967 724266
Church - Treasurer	Ian Clark	01787 211133
Churchwarden	Roger Britcher	01787 211021
Churchwarden	Bronwen Stacey	01787 210354
Community Choir	Nettie Osman	07957 394780
County Councillor (james.finch@suffolk.gov.uk)	James Finch	01473 264993
District Councillor (Assington)	Lee Parker	01787 376073
Doctors surgery – Sudbury	Hardwicke House	01787 310000
Doctors surgery – Bures	Bures	01787 227529
Footpath Wardens	Paul & Cynthia Hollingsworth	01787 211620
Horticultural Society	Karen Wiles	
Leavenheath Cinema	Marion	01206 263301
Member of Parliament (james.cartlidge.mp@parliament.uk)	James Cartlidge	020 7219 4875
Parish Council	Simon Thorogood	01787 227400
bronwenstacey@btinternet.com	Bronwen Stacey	01787 210354
david.wiles@live.co.uk	David Wiles	
tony@howcroft.net	Tony Howcroft	
hwallace58@gmail.com	Helen Wallace	01787 211162
i.jordan741@btinternet.com	Ian Jordan	
andrewpeterhill@hotmail.com	Andrew Hill	01787 827112
Parish Council - Clerk, (assingtonpc@yahoo.com)	Christine Hargan	01449 674727
Pub – The Shoulder of Mutton		01787 210334
Vicar (vicar@parishchurch.co.uk)	The Revd Daniel Whiffin	01787 228292
Village Hall – Bookings	Karen Wiles	07983 002072
Village Hall - Caretaker	Paul Battle	07473 933320
Womens Institute, Boxford (annie-phillips@hotmail.co.uk)	Annie Phillips	01787 211729

The Assington News is a community magazine funded primarily through adverts and donations, for which we are always most grateful.
ADVERTS. RATES pa : £20 for 1/8 size page advert, £35 for 1/4 page advert, £60 for 1/2 page advert, £120 for a full page advert.
Contact Bob Cowlin 01787 229955 Bank Account details for payments and donations: Account no: 01345159. Sort Code: 30 - 98 - 31.
 Please make cheques payable to the Assington Association.

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

Editor	Bronwen Stacey, 01787 210354, email bronwenstacey@btinternet.com
Treasurer	Bob Cowlin, 01787 229955, bob.cowlin@assingtonmill.com
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VOTER ID REQUIREMENT

This applies to the voting taking place on 4th May

From 4 May 2023, voters in England will need to show photo ID to vote at polling stations in some elections.

This will apply to:

- Local elections
- Police and Crime Commissioner elections
- UK parliamentary by-elections
- Recall petitions

From October 2023 it will also apply to UK General elections.

If you don't have accepted photo ID, you can apply for a free voter ID document, which is known as a Voter Authority Certificate.

Find out more about accepted forms of photo ID, how to apply for a free Voter Authority Certificate, and what to expect on polling day.

Accepted forms of photo ID:

You can use any of the following accepted forms of photo ID when voting at a polling station.

- Passport issued by the UK, any of the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, a British Overseas Territory, an EEA state or a Commonwealth country
- Driving licence with photo issued by the UK, any of the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, or an EEA state (this includes a provisional driving licence)
- A Blue Badge
- Older Person's Bus Pass funded by the Government of the United Kingdom
- Disabled Person's Bus Pass funded by the Government of the United Kingdom
- Oyster 60+ Card funded by the Government of the United Kingdom

You will only need to show one form of photo ID. It needs to be the original version and not a photocopy.

Out of date photo ID

You can still use your photo ID if it's out of date, as long as it looks like you.

The name on your ID should be the same name you used to register to vote.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU DO NOT HAVE AN ACCEPTED FORM OF PHOTO ID

The **deadline** to apply for a Voter authority Certificate for the local elections upon 4 May 2023 is **5pm on Tuesday 25April**.

You need to be registered to vote before you can apply for a Voter authority Certificate, and when you register to vote, you'll be asked whether you have photo ID,

or whether you wish to apply for a Voter authority Certificate.

Information you will need to provide:

When applying for a Voter Authority Certificate, you will need to provide your:

- name
- address
- date of birth
- National Insurance number

You should apply using the same name that you used to register to vote.

If you don't know your National Insurance number or don't have one

You can find your National Insurance number on:

- payslips
- official letters about tax, pensions or benefits

You can still apply if you don't know your National Insurance number, or don't have one.

You will need to provide other forms of proof of identity, such as a birth certificate, bank statement and a utility bill. Your local council will contact you to arrange this.

If you don't have any other accepted proof of identity, you can ask someone you know to confirm your identity. This is known as an attestation.

You will need to submit a photo with your application. The requirements for the photo are similar to the requirements for a passport photo.

If you need help taking a photo, then your local council will be able to do this for you.

To be accepted the photo you provide must meet certain requirements in terms of style, quality and size.

Processing your application

Your local council will process your application. They will send the Voter Authority Certificate to you by post.

They will also send you instructions on how to use your certificate.

Voter Authority Certificates do not have an expiration date. But it's recommended that you renew your certificate after 10 years.

All data you provide when applying for a certificate will be stored securely by your local council, in line with data protection regulations.

If you need any help with applying for a Voter Authority Certificate or want to request an application form, contact your local council or call our helpline on 0800 328 0280.

© 2023 Electoral Commission **BStacey**

Time is ticking, there are just **66 days until local elections in England where MILLIONS of us could be locked out of voting if we don't act fast. The Government's new Voter ID laws** mean without *specific* types of photo ID, **we could be turned away at polling stations.**

We can't stop the Government's new rules from going ahead, but **together we CAN spread the word and help make sure our votes count.** With only a few weeks to go, **imagine if every one of us reading this popped a poster in our window** letting our local community know about the change - **and standing up for our democracy at the same time.**

Together, we could ensure MILLIONS more people know what they need to bring to cast their vote and make it count.



From Belinda King



Peter Robb

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NATURE WATCH

Tiger Hill

From Nick Miller

Tiger Hill nature reserve is 40 acres, and work is done here all year round. The aim is to keep Tiger Hill in the most natural and biodiverse state possible, using traditional ways.

A lot of work is done in the winter, especially as woodland work needs to be when branches are bare, vegetation has died down, and outside the nesting season. Summer jobs are to keep our grassy heathland in the most flowery state possible.

For some of our work, the Stour Valley volunteers join in. But we mostly don't have a set programme, just when convenient for people. There are many small things to do, we manage to get a lot done, without ever over-exerting ourselves!

This winter, we have concentrated on some tree-planting, and coppicing. Some of this work is noticeable along the public footpath from Moors Farm, that runs along the Brook.

We've planted 40 hazels in areas of wood that have been overtaken by bracken. We've put up some light fencing where Muntjac are nibbling away the undergrowth. We've done hedging and coppiced hazel, which rejuvenates the growth and lets in a lot of light to encourage woodland flowers and tree-seedlings. Such jobs are all traditional to woods, and help retain the lovely woodland wildlife. Glad to say, the woods here have never been planted with conifers.

We're also very glad to see sheep this year, grazing the neighbouring Sheepwalks land around Moors Farm, and helping the wild flowers there to increase.

Please contact us if you'd like to try some of this Spring and Summer's good deeds at first hand, and see whether you'd enjoy joining in.

Steven Smith and
Debs Thornhill
01787 829912
ssmith2624@gmail.com
Nick and Monica Miller
01787 227359 nickmiller919@gmail.com





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ASSINGTON'S "ARMADA CHEST"

from B Stacey



History

Sixteenth and seventeenth century money chests and cash boxes were called Nuremberg Chests:



A typical Nuremberg chest today from an on-line site.

In the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, a host of cities in southern Germany, Austria and Switzerland were renowned for their craftsmanship, especially Augsburg and Nuremberg. The latter had more than 140 crafts registered at the end of the fifteenth century.

Blacksmiths and their workshops were organized in the cities' guilds with a monopoly on production of iron objects. Apprentices and journeymen trained with the master blacksmiths.

The shops were usually old family businesses in which younger generations were trained by their elders. They became extremely skilled blacksmiths, along with equally skilled colleagues in specialties such as sheet metalworking, etching, hammered inlay, steel-plate engraving, painting and rustproofing. By the dawn of the Renaissance they had already achieved a strong tradition of craftsmanship and a dominant position in Europe.

Forging production in certain cities focused mainly on steel and iron armour, as well as equipment for entire armies of foot soldiers, cavalry, officers and horses. The high precision required for weapon smithing was attained through technical skills and the shops achieved the highest quality in Europe.

During the early sixteenth century, new requirements were introduced with new forging technology. In addition to the ordinary smithing with hammer or sledgehammer, the work was completed at the bench with laborious file work, using a vise. The craftsmen used a large set of files to create smooth surfaces and precise angles, followed by finishing and polishing with polishing steel.

Demand and production of locks and chests was surprisingly large; chests and boxes were in demand far beyond the borders of the German states.. The appearance of chests and boxes was adapted to the application – from simple strong basic boxes used as money chests to hold taxes, tariffs,

and soldiers' wages, to decorative chests and boxes for gift-giving purposes.

At that time, money chests were usually made with an



unembellished interior. Externally, however, they were often extremely lavishly decorated with painting, ornaments, chasing, etching, gilding and sometimes with welded brass details.

Such 16th and 17th century chests were called Nuremberg Chests until the Victorians applied the term "Armada Chests", as they imagined them to be the sort used to protect Spanish gold. Often, what is termed an "Armada chest" has an intricate and complicated locking mechanism, some with hidden keyholes, false panels or a particular sequence of actions to open them. With such locking mechanisms, the boxes (or chests) were usually used as a cash box or to store important documents.



Assington

It will probably come as no surprise to you to learn that we have a (fairly basic - no lock workings in the lid) Armada Chest (or, to be more precise, a Nuremberg Chest) in Assington church. It belonged to the Rev. Philip Gurdon, who was the vicar from 1861 - 1866.

In the **Assington Parish Magazine of January 1935** (price Twopence), is the following account, under "Parochial Information":

Churchgoers will have noticed the iron chest which has recently been placed near the Font. It used to be in the Vestry, and Major Gurdon, to whom we owe its return, writes: -

"I expect you will add the chest to your list of church property, and I should be pleased to think it would never be moved again. I believe myself it is an old Armada chest. It belonged to my great grandfather, the Rev. Philip Gurdon, who owned Assington at the beginning of the last century. It was afterwards in the Hall (ie Assington Hall, Ed), and my brother took it away with him when he left."

The parish will be very grateful to Major Gurdon for this generous and graceful act of restitution.

On a recent visit to Belton House, a National Trust country house in Lincolnshire, I spotted an extremely beautiful example of a polished and shining Nuremberg Chest with painted decorations on its front face.



The Armada Chest at Belton House.

In a bid to try to restore 'our' chest to a similarly striking finish, I contacted the curator at Belton, who was kind enough to reply with an extensive list of guidance on how to treat such pieces of treasure. I am in the process of attempting to clean and restore its surface to make it look more presentable than its present condition.

THINGS TO DO

ShantyFolk



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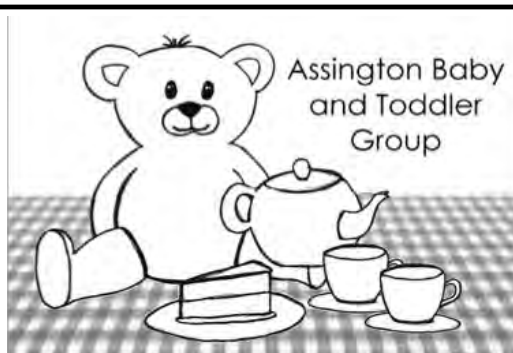
Tickets available at the **Boxford Post Office**, or contact: shantyfolksuffolk@gmail.com

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ASSINGTON BABY & TODDLER GROUP



Thank you
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Do contact me: Revd Tricia Box 07747124592

Activities at the toddler group;
having fun ready for Mothers' Day



THINGS TO DO.....

MOBILE LIBRARY DATE Apr 22nd

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

WINSTONS WHEELS DISABLED DOG CHARITY

are holding a **SPRING FAIR**
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For tickets phone Marion (01206 263301) or book online at www.leavenheath.org.uk

Can pay on the door by either cash or card.

..AND VILLAGE UPDATES

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

THANK YOU

We should like to say a huge thank you to those very generous people who have made donations over recent months to the Assington Association, to keep the village magazine going. We know that many of you would not wish to be named, as such, but please know that we are truly grateful for your kind contributions, and do our very best to reflect the true nature and very essence of "the village" in every edition.

One small exception to the above:

We recently received a donation in memory of Mr and Mrs Chatters, late of Kiln Cottage; they very much appreciated it and enjoyed reading the various iterations through the decades, of The Assington News. They left a 'treasured' pile of old editions of the village magazine, many of which have now been incorporated into a collection of 'back numbers'.

POPPY APPEAL 2022

Dear Village

I am happy to (belatedly) report that we raised the excellent sum of £729.88, which was wonderful!

Thank you all for your generosity and big thanks also to David Wiles who nobly collected with John and I.

The District total was £4, 216.88!
A-maz-ing!!

Best Wishes

Louisa Symons Centuries.

a forward date for your diary:

ASSINGTON HORTICULTURAL SHOW Sunday 20th August 2023

Spring is sprung, the grass is riz.
- Well almost.

Here's hoping that all your gardening plans are starting to come together.

This year I'm trying a new variety of Tomato... Bloody Butcher. I have to admit it was the name that attracted me, so far the seedlings are going well and if that isn't the kiss of death I'm a monkeys uncle.

Despite a low entry last year **The Scarecrow competition** is hoping for a bit of a revival this year.

Entries cost £3.00. **The prize for the best Scarecrow is a Meal voucher donated by The Shoulder of Mutton Pub.** Scarecrows must be of a traditional design this year. Run riot with their personalities. Accessorise darlings!.....

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

VILLAGE UPDATES continued

ASSINGTON ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION

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



Full or shared plots are now available .
If you are interested in an allotment, please contact
Jenny Cutts - 01787 211371

JOB VACANCY

Assington Allotments Association SECRETARY

Duties to include: Preparation of Agenda for 2 meetings per year in collaboration with Chair
Distributing Agenda and papers
Taking and Distributing minutes for 2 meetings per year
Booking village hall for meetings
Maintaining waiting list of prospective tenants
Showing new and prospective tenants around allotment garden
Keeping signed tenancies

Please contact **Jenny Cutts on 01787 211371** If you can help.

JOB VACANCY (Honorary Secretary)

The Trustees of the Assington Village Charity (Reg No1076737) are looking for volunteers to join the organisation. There is a vacancy for a Secretary.

The Secretary acts as the correspondent for the Charity, receiving information for the Trustees and committee members to act on. The Secretary takes Minutes at the three committee meetings held each year in the village hall.

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

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

Chair & Trustee Stephen King sjking@btinternet.com
Secretary Vacant

Treasurer Sue Sadler-Brunning

Lettings Secretary Karen Wiles

Trustees Dr John Symons

Louisa Symons

Nigel Finch

Members Mark Hemingway

Zoe Laughton

Caretaker Paul Battle

Cleaner Alison Mills



CORONATION CELEBRATIONS SUNDAY 7th MAY



see the opposite page for details.

If you would like to help in any way towards the preparations or the village event on the day, please do contact me, **David Wiles, on 07811108702.**

There will be a pre-event meeting in the Village Hall on Wednesday 12th April at 6.30pm. Offers of Help would be much-appreciated with children's games and entertainment.

We would love you to come along and join us to discuss plans and arrangements for this village day.

CHILDREN'S PARTY

Children or Grandchildren of residents up to the age of 10 will be welcome to attend the party. Fancy dress is optional, but gives all those wanna-be princesses an opportunity to play the part, and princes, dinosaurs and supermen also warmly invited...

In order to get an idea of numbers, please register each child on one of the forms, which are available from the noticeboard outside the farm shop, and also the village hall. *Please post the completed forms in the Pocket provided on the noticeboards, for collection at the end of each day.*

Please return forms by 23rd April.

Kim King (07891987116) has very kindly agreed to organise the Children's Party.

Offers of donations towards the party will be gratefully received, *please put offers on the form.*

For further details please call Kim King, on 07891987116

ASSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
WITH
ASSINGTON VILLAGE HALL CHARITY

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



EVENTS ALREADY PLANNED

12 mid day: CHILDREN'S PARTY (Fancy dress optional)

From 12 onwards: RENU in attendance for excellent fish and chips, burgers, hot dogs
or bring a picnic

Also THE TIPSY TRICYCLE, selling Pimms, Bespoke Gins and Beers

2pm HAPPY SOUNDS CHOIR

3pm FLAG RAISING CEREMONY WITH A PIPER

FOLLOWED BY LOYAL TOAST (Prosecco provided)

Tea Coffee and soft drinks available in the Village Hall

5pm - 7.30pm LIVE MUSIC FROM THE OSMANS.

COME ALONG AND ENJOY THIS HISTORIC DAY

Any offers of help or cake donations would be much appreciated; please contact
David Wiles on 07811108702

SOME HISTORY OF ASSINGTON MILL

From Bob Cowlin

The attached article was written about 20 years ago. It gives details of the Cooperative Farms and Mills in Assington.

It is of particular interest to me because Walter Pollard and his family lived here at Mill Farm from 1851 to 1891, according to the Census returns. I think the water rights were withdrawn in 1871 because Mr Gurden, the Squire, dug new ponds at the Hall to prevent his lawns being flooded again, which meant a reduced flow of water coming down to the Mill whilst they filled. Walter therefore bought a second hand windmill in Sudbury which he erected at the top of the lane. It is shown as 'Windmill (corn)' on the 1st Edition O S map (1886) attached but as 'Windmill (disused)' on the 2nd Edition of 1904. There is still some evidence of the Cooperative Farms in the village. These were novel at the time and shows we had a benevolent Squire then. It gave a chance for farm labourers to start farming for themselves. You may have noticed opposite the Farm Shop is Society Barn and Willow Tree Farm next door, which was called Society Farm on the 1904 OS map.

On a visit to the Suffolk Records Office to see what they had on Mill Farm, we found one of our fields was called Cooperative Field on the 1842 Tithe Map. It is the worst field on the farm, but could have been used for rough grazing.

ASSINGTON : THE MILLER AND THE SQUIRE

By Sidney Johnson

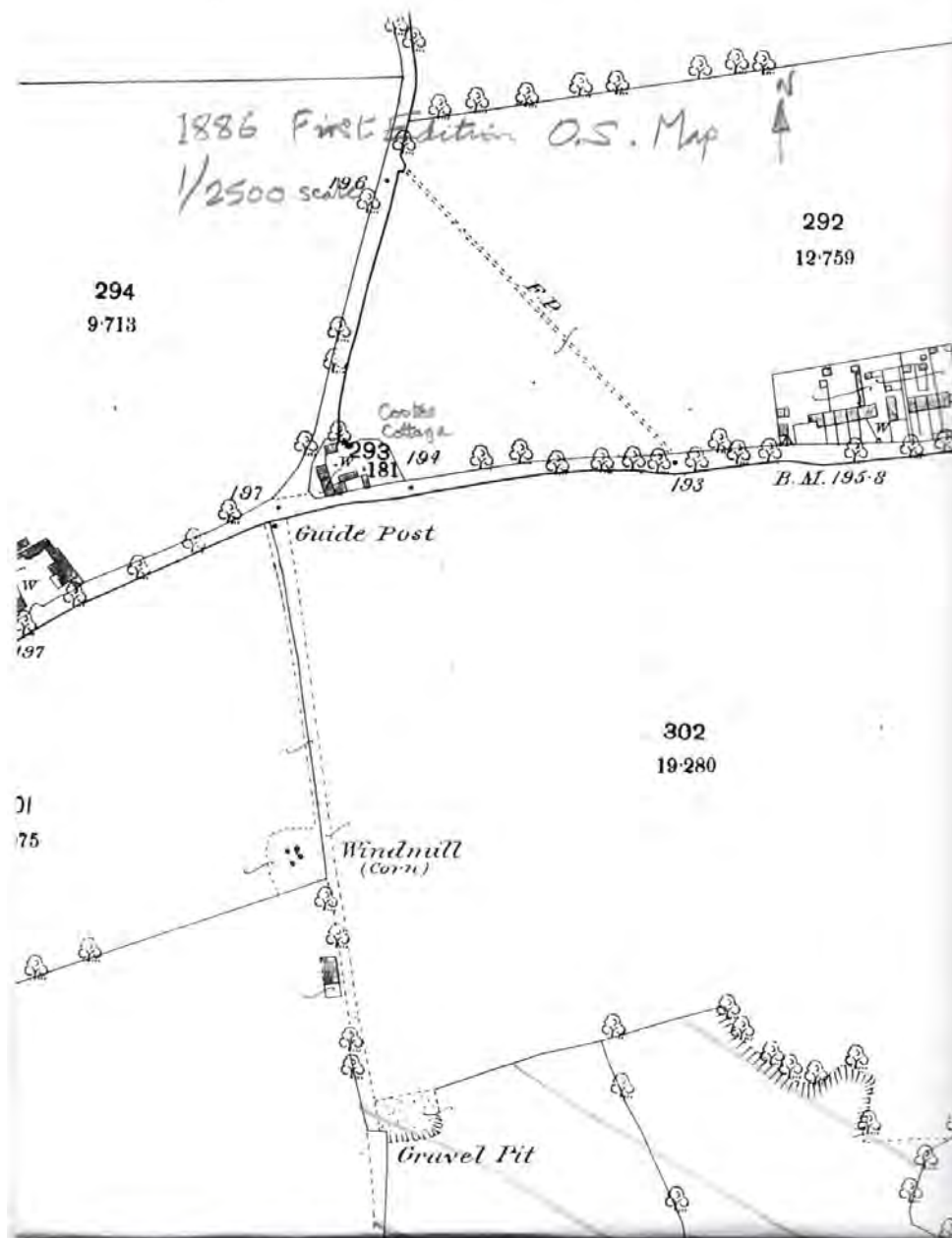
My Great-grandfather, Walter Pollard, was born at Assington, near Sudbury in Suffolk. It was 1830, the year when John Gurdon, of Assington Hall, launched an ambitious agricultural experiment. From Michaelmas he let 114 acres to Assington Agricultural Co-operative Society, a group of conscientious and deserving farm workers or their widows. He also provided a loan of £400 as working capital.

Some of the rules and conditions of Gurdon's lease were interesting. There must be twenty members in the Society; the £168 annual rent must be paid regularly; the premises must be kept in good repair and insured against fire; the land must be cultivated on the four-course rotation system. The farm was to be run by a manager to guarantee good husbandry. Shareholders could be found work if unemployed, but were normally expected to seek work elsewhere.

This was probably England's first co-operative farm. It was an act of faith on Gurdon's part, because most of the shareholders were near-penniless and could not read or write. But it worked, and the £400 loan was settled within ten years.

John Gurdon was satisfied, and in 1852 let off another 150 acres to a larger group comprising thirty shareholders. The vicar was opposed to his schemes, believing shareholders did not enjoy the same status or obligations as other farmers. John Gurdon was pleased that his assistance to fifty parishioners helped keep the poor rates low.

During these years Walter Pollard reached manhood and became a successful miller. He was also a pillar of Assington society. Between Sara in 1854 and Frank in 1871 her fathered nine children, of whom Charles, born in 1856, was my grandfather. All of them did very well. It was an idyllic life by nineteenth century standards, but as luck would have it, in 1870 the swollen mill stream flooded the squire's lawns. Controls in those days were almost non-existent; the Lord of the Manor's interests took precedence over his neighbour's, and the stream was promptly diverted. Deprived of power to drive his mill and with a family to feed, my great-grandfather was suddenly staring disaster in the face.



The options at that time for the unemployed were few. The easiest was to give up and either seek work or beg for such charity as was available. Neither prospect offered an attractive lifeline, and Walter Pollard, who was a proud man, made up his mind and rejected them both: he would stay in his home and continue to earn his living. Since his source of power had literally dried up on him, he would have to find another.

He searched for several months and then came across a windmill for sale at Sikes Mill, Sudbury, on the other side of the town, which he bought. It was an open-trestle post mill (ie one without a brick base), and Pollard's ambitious plan to transfer it to Assington was a major undertaking. Because of enormous public interest it was soon clear that the crowds along the 8-mile route would make the move impossible by day, and it would have to take place secretly at midnight. Sir John Molyneaux, the incumbent of St Peter's at Sudbury asked permission to witness the event; he was the only spectator allowed, apart from the workmen.

It would be satisfying to be able to describe the logistics of the transfer, but scant detail has survived. The Halstead Gazette, reporting Walter Pollard's death in 1912, says that he moved the huge structure intact. Common sense suggests that at least the sails and machinery must have been dismantled. Obviously, the mill's new site at Assington must also have been made ready in advance. It is not even certain if Walter Pollard financed the whole enterprise, or if a contribution came from John Gurdon's estate.

Family records are light on technical details. Twenty-one horses were borrowed from neighbouring farmers, so several wagons or timber trucks must have been used for the haulage. Rose Pollard, who became Rose Harrington, told her daughters in later years that all the children were taken in the night to the gates of Mill Farm to witness the new mill's arrival. "And", she always insisted, "the dog came too".

The replacement of his watermill by the windmill must have been the major event in Walter Pollard's life. His business continued to thrive thereafter, and he always remained prominent in village life, with the jobs of rate collector and Assistant Overseer to the Secretary of Assington Agricultural Land Society to hold down.

On retirement he crossed the border into Essex, where his daughter Rose had married the landlord of The Bell Hotel at Sible Hedingham, the second-largest village in the county. Walter's wife, my great-grandmother, died in 1909. He first moved into lodgings, then into the Bell. While visiting a son at Nayland in 1912, he ate his breakfast, went to his bedroom, and suddenly died, aged 82. He was brought back to Hedingham for burial and lies under a tree in the churchyard.

His son-in-law survived him only a year. Unusually, Walter's daughter Rose was

granted the licence of The Bell. When she died in 1949 aged 92, she had held it for 66 years, which is longer than any other woman; she was also the oldest recorded female licensee. Her daughter Lilian took over until her own retirement in 1971 and still lives nearby (when this was written - Ed). The Bell, about 300 years old, was sold for private development in 1989.

Assington's hour of glory and its two most colourful characters belong to the nineteenth century. The Hall burned down in 1957, and Walter Pollard's windmill was demolished years ago. His home at Mill Farm outlasted them and is still standing and occupied at the end of half a mile of cart track. Of John Gurdon's collective farms, one was sold to the then manager in 1913 and two others struggled on until about 1918.



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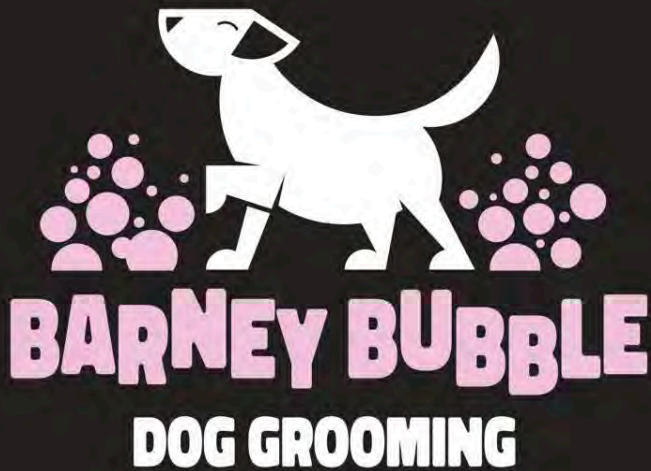
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PARISH CHURCH NEWS



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



Dear friends

I sit down to write this to you on a day when the news is, once again, filled with fear. Vladimir Putin has today announced that Russia is ending their nuclear deal with the US. Today also, the body found in the River Wyre has been identified as that of Nicola Bulley, who disappeared suddenly three weeks ago. When the world is like this, it is easy to ask: can I trust God?

Or perhaps you have been following the turmoil at General Synod, the Church of England's governing body. I have heard many Christians—within and beyond the denomination—speaking in words of fear, wondering about the future. Can we trust God? Do I really want to be included in this organisation of disciples of Jesus?

Perhaps we can't or we don't. Maybe the daily news is proof that those of us who trust God and put our hope in Christ are to be pitied. One of the earliest Christian teachers, the Apostle Paul, would agree. In chapter 15 of his first letter to the Corinthian churches, Paul says there would be no point working hard to spread the good news about Jesus, and no point hoping in him for eternal life. Well, that's if Jesus had not been raised from the dead!

If Jesus did beat death, it changes everything. It means there is more to reality than the fearful news. This is Jesus' encouragement in the first vision of Revelation, which we have been thinking about recently in church: 'Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and the afterlife.' If Jesus did rise from the dead, we don't need to fear the news because we can trust him.

Almost a third of the world's population say they believe in Jesus' resurrection but perhaps you're sceptical. Are you sure enough that you're not going to miss out on the best news and the brilliant reality it brings? Will you join us on the Alpha Course, Friday lunchtimes starting 28 April—even if just to rule it out? Or I'll happily chat if you want to talk and Friday during the day doesn't work for you.

May you enjoy a joyful and hopeful Easter.

Your servant **Daniel**



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

APRIL 2023 SERVICES IN ASSINGTON



2nd APRIL PALM SUNDAY @ 10.30am

HOLY COMMUNION

9th APRIL EASTER SUNDAY @ 10.30am

HOLY COMMUNION

30th APRIL Benefice Communion @10.30

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BLUEBELL WOODS

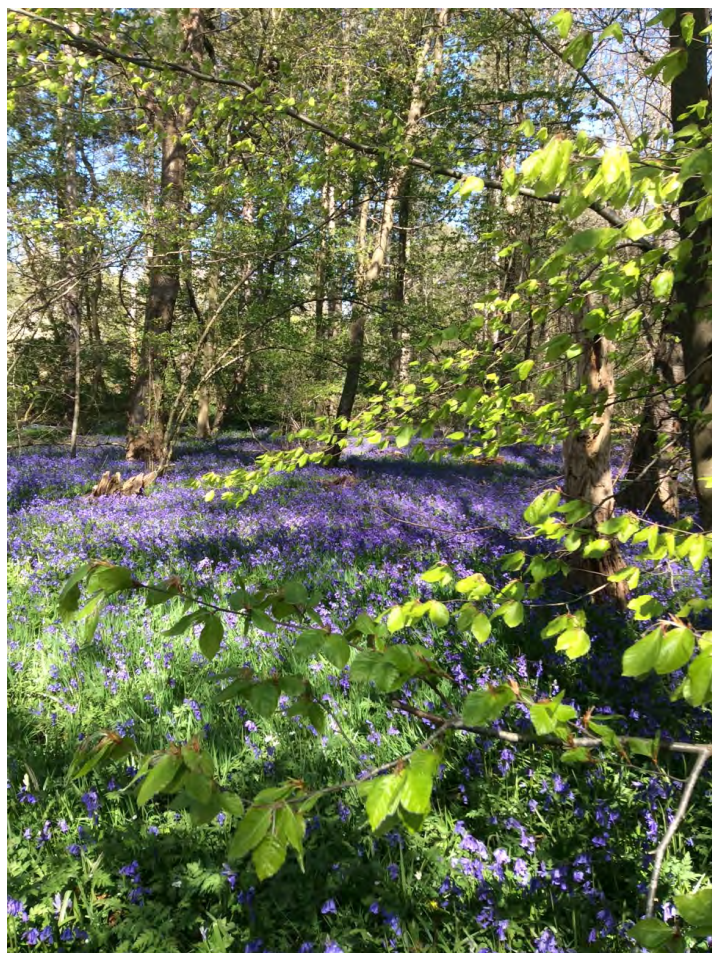
I am sorry, I just cannot resist doing an article about bluebells every year.

From mid- April into May - weather permitting - we are fortunate to be able to take a walk in the local woods and enjoy the sunlight through the glades,



Nothing more to say, except you can see the colour version of The Assington News on <http://assington.onesuffolk.net/assington-news/>

and breathe in the distinctive scent of beautiful bluebells stretching away into the distance; see the blossom falling like confetti drifting from the tall cherry trees reaching for the sunlight, and - if we are particularly fortunate - hear the call of the cuckoo.



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THE VIEW FROM AROUND THE BEND

Got into trouble at work this week as I thought that instead of walking around the fields in my Countryside management role, I would go diagonally across the fields from corner to corner and then on my return journey do the other way from corner to corner.

This incurred the wrath of the lady farmer when I arrived for work the next day, she told me not to do it again, otherwise she would inform her husband who I have not met as yet. Although it was an easier route to walk, I do have to admit that as the crop is now getting taller my legs were getting wet, so maybe just as well. I did get paid for the offending days work but no Kit Kat, I also now have to carry a rattle thing which I have to spin under the trees and make a din. I cannot see the point of any of this but need the cash desperately as I hear the bloody council tax is going up yet again, one hundred and fifty smackers a month now, I'm feeling robbed. The lady farmer now says she will keep me on for an extra month now, maybe longer if she can think of anything that I can do until end of April no less, so at least that is good news. It does occur to me that with the days getting longer, I will constantly have to get up earlier and also the authorities add on an extra hour at the end of March, which means I will be getting up before dawn. I do however enjoy seeing the wildlife, although everything seems to run away when I come along.

Managed to get Little Mo kitten to the vet for her snip this week as Bobbie had instructed, took cash this time as did not want all the trouble that occurred before, went on the bus again without incident and managed to catch it back again but only just, as it doesn't stay in town for long, such a pity as I noticed that there are a couple of new shops that I would have liked to visit. The visit to the vet cost £45.00. which I think is outrageously high as I couldn't see any difference to her shaggy coat at all, they didn't even comb it out. I told Bobbie it was daylight robbery and that the lady up the road only charges me six quid and I have a full head of hair but she just raised her eyes to the heavens and said that it was the going rate.

I love it when she does that, it makes me go all weak at the knees. I am such a silly old fool.

The smart youth with his smart electricity came around twice more and I managed to hide each time and not seen him for three weeks now, so hopefully he has given up on me. So glad of that as I need to get on with other more important things.

Went to the Shoulder again last Sunday and saw the lovely bar lady again, cut out the peanuts and crisps this time and got change from a tenner. Lovely two pints as well.

She was so friendly and called me by my name which was puzzling as we have not been officially introduced, I wonder how she knows, oh well not to worry, I just went home and changed out of my working clothes and got on with digging my runner bean trench and filling it with things from the lav to make them grow. Should be a good crop this year as putting them in early to avoid the midday sun.

Not much on the old tellybox these days, so have taken to going to bed early to avoid having to put the heating on so much in the evenings, or even at all. Sometimes will watch the old Black and White one very early mornings before I go to work. Not much on really, although I was watching the Antique Roadtrip after the Sunday Morning Stories but now with the lighter mornings I have to get the bike out and leave the house before it starts. I do enjoy some of the stuff on local radio in the evenings but that is changing and much of it is not to my taste.

I am going to try to get my old radiogram to work and get my Stones LP out to play, that should wind up old laughing boy up the street who has been scowling in my direction recently. I think that he doesn't like the windmill I have built with the tin cans tied to the sails full of pebbles to scare off the pigeons from my brasicars. Tough!

Keep well everybody and if I am sparrd I will tell more tails from around the bend next month. That is if I have time as Bobbie is having her drive tarmacked and has asked if she can stay with me for a week or so. So much to do, and still yet more. **Esra.**

UPDATE ON THE CHURCH PROJECT



It is a long process to get permission for changes to a church through the Church **Diocesan Advisory Committee for the Care of Churches**, usually known as the DAC, an advisory body which gives advice to churches about proposals for works to their church building, its furnishings and its fittings.

Of course, this is understandable as our church is a Grade 1 Listed Building. It is the grandest building in the parish; its fine medieval arcading, fine 16th, 17th and 18th century monuments and south porch doors make it a building of considerable regional importance, and a nationally significant building.

There was an initial small hiatus, as we felt it necessary to seek a different architect for this large undertaking, and obtaining a new architect who is prepared to take on something like this, but also has the necessary experience of how to go about it, is not easy. We have been extremely fortunate to have managed to secure the services of Philip Orchard, of the company of Whitworth, based near Bury St Edmunds. Although this change has taken time to achieve we are confident that it will now be a smoother and less lengthy process than would otherwise have been the case.

After a couple of visits to assess the existing situation and ensure a proper understanding of the needs, the architect and churchwardens have produced a set of formal documents: a Statement of Significance, Statement of Need, Options Appraisal, Key Plan and photographs, which set out our requests for what we should like to accomplish in the project, against the background of the building, its current circumstances, and pros and cons for other possible options.

This Stage One has now been submitted by the architect to the DAC, who feel that they (as a body of specialists) need to come and visit the church to assess for themselves the feasibility of the project, in terms of what may be appropriate for a building of such significance. The earliest possible date for this visit, we have been informed, is 30th May 2023. Following this visit the DAC will discuss the options appraisal and "take a view on it".

The next stage after this (assuming all is OK to proceed), is for a number of external "interested bodies" who have a role in protecting the national architectural heritage, to be consulted, in a similar way.

At some point here, if and when bodies are agreed that the project may go ahead, a cost for the works, as determined by this stage, will be assessed.

Although we recognise that "time is ticking", and there is more than an element of frustration in wanting to get on with things as quickly as possible, we are bound by the rules. Be assured that there are no delays on proceedings from our end, or related to anything of which we are in control!

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SESAW NEWS

The garden is full of birdsong heralding the arrival of Spring but it's so cold at the time of writing! Poor old Ollie (the Black) Cat is tantalised by the nesting birds he can only watch from the window as he recovers from a little accident. He has enjoyed being pampered but he's getting restless now.

The improvements outside are coming along nicely, thanks to our willing volunteers and a work party from the Colchester based branch of Informa. The team braved miserable weather to spruce up the site and were still smiling at the end of the day. A big thank you to all of them, please come back soon!

Thanks are also due to Pets At Home in Colchester for choosing SESA as the store's official charity for 2023. We look forward to meeting customers in store during the year.

Although we are currently 'hibernating' to facilitate site improvements, emergency admissions have continued as circumstances force people to part with their family pets. If you are in a more fortunate position and looking for a new four-legged companion, please check our website or drop us an email with your details. We have many cats and dogs including Boots, a Chihuahua Terrier cross. She's very loving and needy, having been through a lot in her life and needs a special diet to keep her fit and well. She's a real cutie, ready to walk into your home and be the one and only your heart desires.



I hope the weather has warmed up by the time you read this from me, Kenny (the Boss) Chihuahua.
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ASSINGTON RAINFALL AND TEMPERATURES

Bill Milner (rainfall)
 and Bob Cowlin (temperatures)

HISTORY annual rainfall :

2016	599.5	2017	571
2018	559	2019	597
2020	636	2021	582.3
2022	419		

2019	mm	max	min
JAN	23.5	9°C	-8°C
FEB	19.5	16°C	-5°C
MAR	44	19°C	-3°C
APR	18.5	24°C	-3°C
MAY	54	26°C	+1°C
JUNE	94.5	29°C	5°C

2020	mm	max	min
JAN	33.5	10 C	-5°C
FEB	56	11°C	-3°C
MAR	21	14°C	-5°C
APR	22	23°C	-1°C
MAY	5.5	27°C	-2.5°C
JUNE	50	28°C	+2°C
JULY	58	30°C	6°C
AUG	109	32°C	4°C
SEP	25.5	27°C	5°C
OCT	110	14°C	2°C
NOV	33	14°C	-4°C
DEC	102.5	10°C	-5°C

2021	mm	max	min
JAN	89	10°C	-5.5°C
FEB	34	14°C	-7°C
MAR	26	20°C	-3°C
APR	1	15°C	-5°C
MAY	78.1	25°C	-2.5°C
JUNE	55.2	30°C	+3°C
JULY	72	28°C	7°C
AUG	29	24°C	5°C
SEP	28.5	27°C	3°C
OCT	74.5	18°C	1°C
NOV	27	13°C	-3°C
DEC	68	12°C	-6°C

2022	mm	max	min
JAN	7	12°C	-6.5°C
FEB	46	13°C	-4°C
MAR	29	18°C	-2°C
APR	9.5	22°C	-6°C
MAY	37	25°C	0°C
JUNE	33.5	30°C	2°C
JULY	5	36.5°C	6°C
AUG	11.5	32°C	7°C
SEPT	25	25°C	1°C
OCT	63	18°C	0°C
NOV	107.5	14°C	-2°C
DEC	45	10°C	-9.5°C

2023	mm	max	min
JAN	41	10°C	-7.5°C
FEB	3	14°C	-7°C



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