

# ASSINGTON

## NEWS



APRIL 2025

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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 Bournier	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	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	
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	Saturday 22nd February	3pm - 3.30pm
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: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	07309 947039
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

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 <a href="mailto:bronwenstacey@btinternet.com">bronwenstacey@btinternet.com</a>
Treasurer	Bob Cowlin, 01787 229955, <a href="mailto:bob.cowlin@assingtonmill.com">bob.cowlin@assingtonmill.com</a>
Distributors	David & Ann Jarrett, Judy Bournier, Bryn Hurren & Lisa Brooks, Zoe Laughton, Sue Taylor, Jacqui Egglestone
Printer	Indigo Ross Design & Print Ltd, Sudbury 01787 880 260 <a href="mailto:hello@indigoross.co.uk">hello@indigoross.co.uk</a>
Auditor	Ian Clark, 01787 211133



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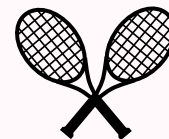
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# THINGS TO DO

The PCC is hosting an

# E A S T E R



# H E M E D



# C R A F T E V E N

for children of all ages  
**EASTER SATURDAY**  
**19th APRIL**

**3pm - 4pm free entry**  
**in the Village Hall**

*come and join us*

**tea, coffee, cake**

*by donation*

**everybody welcome!**



## 'Last Tuesday' Coffee and Chat



in the Village Hall

The next meeting will be on

**Tuesday 29th April**

at 10am

**See you there!**

## Hadleigh Choral Society

Fantastico! Splendido! All are invited to the Hadleigh Choral Society Spring concert, when we will perform Italian opera-influenced choral masterpieces

including Rossini's Stabat Mater, the Easter Hymn from Cavalleria Rusticana by Mascagni, Agnus Dei by Albinoni, along with additional orchestral interludes. The choir will perform along with the Colchester Symphony Orchestra and professional soprano, alto, tenor and bass soloists, conducted by Christopher Phelps. The concert will take place **Saturday, 5th April at 7:30pm, at St Mary's Church in Hadleigh.** Tickets are £18 or free for those in full time education, and are available online, at The Idler bookshop in Hadleigh, or through choir members.

**Hadleigh Choral Society**  
Alys Mererid Roberts (soprano)  
Sian Cameron (mezzo-soprano)  
Richard Symons (tenor)  
Owain Browne (bass)  
Colchester Symphony Orchestra  
Christopher Phelps (conductor)

Saturday 5 April 2025, 7.30 p.m.  
St Mary's Church, Hadleigh

ROSSINI: *Stabat Mater* & Overture, *The Barber of Seville*  
MASCAGNI: *Easter Hymn* from *Cavalleria Rusticana*  
*Agnus Dei* arr. Phelps from *Albinoni's Adagio in D minor*

TICKETS: £18. Free for those in full-time education.  
Available from: *The Idler, 37 High Street & The Little Ginger Bee Company, 99 High Street, Hadleigh*, from choir members, the website below & on the door. For more information, telephone 01473 813 791.

[www.hadleighchoralsociety.org.uk](http://www.hadleighchoralsociety.org.uk)

For more information visit [www.hadleighchoralsociety.org.uk](http://www.hadleighchoralsociety.org.uk)



Assington Baby and Toddler Group

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

We all love meeting together!

Twice a month on Thursdays in termtime 9.30-11.00 am in the Village Hall at £3 per family

**24 April**

Rev'd Tricia Box 07747124592

### ASSINGTON CHURCH FUNDRAISERS AND EVENTS 2025

SAT 22 MARCH	BEETLE DRIVE 6.00-8.30PM VILLAGE HALL
SAT 19 APRIL	EASTER SATURDAY CRAFT EVENT 3-4PM VILLAGE HALL
SAT 24 MAY	OPEN GARDENS & TEA/COFFEE VILLAGE HALL 11-4PM
SAT 14 JUNE	FATHER'S DAY SPORTS, BBQ & CARD MAKING VILLAGE HALL 5PM ONWARDS
SAT 30 AUG	CHURCH FETE AT VILLAGE HALL 2-4PM
SAT 25 OCT	HALLOWEEN EVENT VILLAGE HALL 4-5.30PM
OCT/NOV	PUB QUIZ AT THE SHOULDER OF MUTTON DATE TBC
TBC DEC	CAROL SINGING IN THE PUB

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In the March edition of The Assington News, the article on **John Proctor** contained information on other local residents of Assington, who had made the huge move to emigrate to the New Colonies:

**“The largest contingent to arrive in Ipswich (Massachusetts) from the same village were 15 men and women from Assington, Suffolk.** This group included Thomas French Jr. and his father, Thomas French (Senior) John Proctor, **Mark Quilter**, and John Wyatt. The Frenches and Wyatt were kin, since Thomas French (Senior’s ) wife, and Wyatt’s wife were probably sisters-in-law.”

The Mark Quilter referred to in the above paragraph was probably the father of Mark Quilter, the subject of this article.

## MARK QUILTER

Born 1628 in Assington, Suffolk, England  
Died 4 Nov 1678 in Ipswich, Essex, Massachusetts



Mark Quilter emigrated to New England as a child, taken by his parents, during the Puritan Great Migration (1621-1640).

Mark Quilter (recorded as Mark Twiliter), was baptised at Assington, Suffolk on March 1st, 1628; he was the son of Mark Quilter (Senior), ( who was born circa 1602 of Stoke by Nayland) and his first wife Elizabeth.

Mark is mentioned in the will of his father, (Mark Quilter Sr), which was written February 7th, 1653 and proved March 28th, 1657. Also mentioned in his father’s will are Mark’s brother Joseph - not of age, and sisters Mary, Rebecca and Sarah.

In around 1653 Mark Quilter married Frances Swan who had been born in East Yorkshire, England about 1630. Frances was a daughter of Richard Swan and his first wife Anne. Frances died in 1694 in Ipswich , Massachusetts.

Records in Ipswich, Massachusetts, show that Mark Quilter was a cowkeeper for the common field at Ipswich, and on :  
24th March 1667: Appointed Mark Quilter to keep order of the swine on the north side of the river.

He had a reputation for drinking and losing his temper and was the butt of 'boisterous humour' at the local tavern on training days. In March 1664, he was fined for both hitting his wife and striking a neighbour. Further Records show:

“1669 April: Marke Quilter fined for excessive drinking.

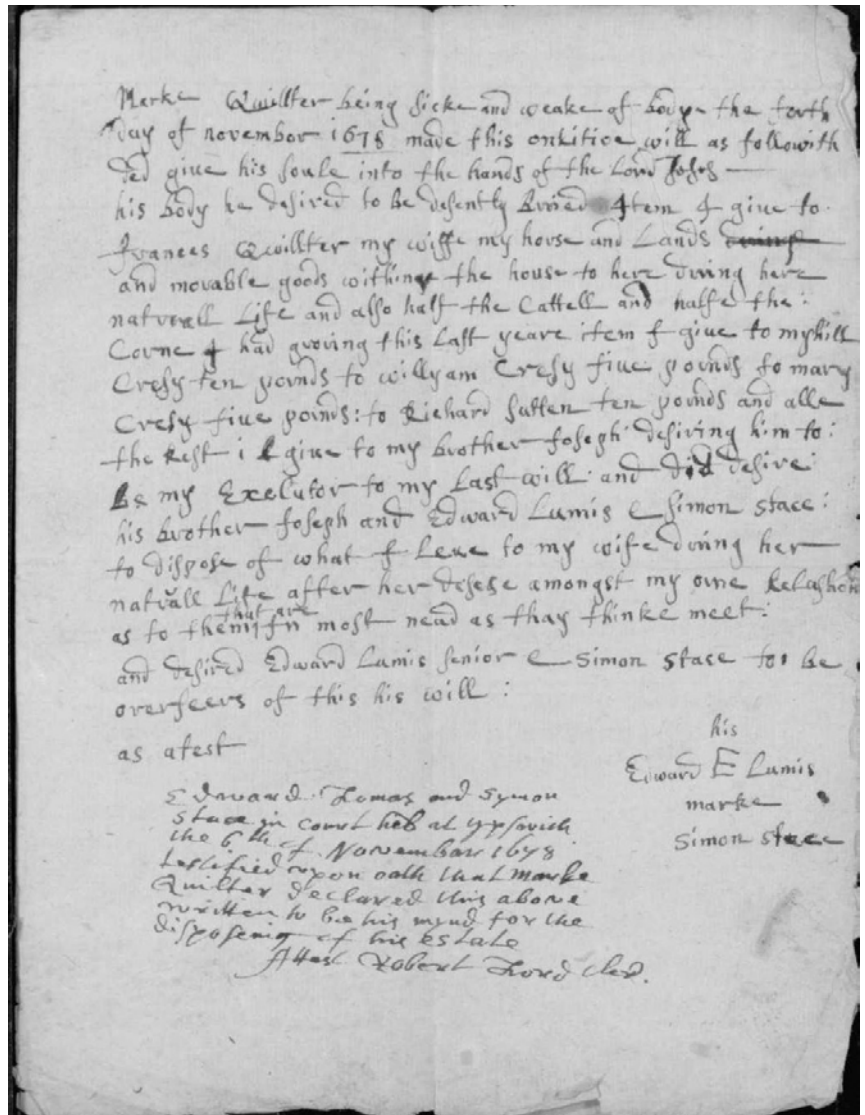
1669 Sept: Marke Quilter fined for excessive drinking.

1672: March (or May): There was a shooting affray at the ordinary of Quartermaster John Perkins, and Mark Quilter a 'notorious toper' was ordered away, the candle was blown out and some one shot him in the darkness.

Mark Quilter, among others, was summoned to Court for disorder in Quartermaster Perkins house 'upon a trayning day, in shooting of pistols in the house after the colors were lodged, & for breach of the peace.”

Mark died at Ipswich on Nov. 4-6, 1678. He had apparently been ill and deteriorating from a wound, from a 'shot in his leg.'

His will written 4th November 1678 and was proved 6th March 1679. His will mentions his wife, Frances, his sister Mary Cresy, her husband Mighill, William Cresy, Richard Sutton, and his brother Joseph Quilter.



### The will of Mark Quilter. November 1678

It appears from the Essex County (USA) Court files that his widow Frances Quilter had serious disputes with her brother-in-law Joseph Quilter about the settlement of her husband Mark’s estate, the validity of his will, and his condition and coherency at the time of his death.

Frances died at Ipswich, MA in July 1694, as widow Quilter.

Their daughter Dorothy was buried at Ipswich, MA on , 21st January 1662.

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# BOXFORD & DISTRICT BOWLS CLUB

## From Roz Mortlock

Congratulations to some of our ladies for winning competitions in the Indoors Finals of the North Essex County Bowls Federation held late in February.



Eileen Parker (Sudbury) and Cynthia Hollingsworth (Boxford) won the Ladies Pairs finals.



Roz Mortlock and Gillian Barnes (Boxford), and Eileen Parker (Sudbury), won the Ladies Triples Finals.

They will all be off to the National Indoor Finals held in Lincoln at the end of April and we wish them all the very best of luck.

With some signs of better weather every now and then, we are looking forward to our outdoor bowling season. Fixtures have been set up and the green is being tended so it is ready for April. Thank you to everyone involved over the winter months in preparing for the start of the new season.

### ASSINGTON RAINFALL AND TEMPERATURES

Bob Cowlin (temperatures) and Bill Milner (rainfall)

HISTORY annual rainfall :

<b>2016</b>	599.5	<b>2019</b>	597	<b>2022</b>	419
<b>2017</b>	571	<b>2020</b>	636	<b>2023</b>	662
<b>2018</b>	559	<b>2021</b>	582.3	<b>2024</b>	620

\*\*\*\*\*

<b>2021</b>	<b>mm</b>	<b>max</b>	<b>min</b>
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

\*\*\*\*\*

<b>2022</b>	<b>mm</b>	<b>max</b>	<b>min</b>
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

\*\*\*\*\*

<b>2023</b>	<b>mm</b>	<b>max</b>	<b>min</b>
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	23°C	-2°C
NOV	61.5	11°C	-7°C
DEC	63	11°C	-3°C

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<b>2024</b>	<b>mm</b>	<b>max</b>	<b>min</b>
JAN	47	9°C	-7°C
FEB	95	9°C	-1°C
MAR	38	18°C	-4°C
APR	49	18.5°C	-3°C
MAY	83.5	25°C	3°C
JUNE	17.5	28°C	2°C
JULY	84.5	30°C	4°C
AUG	17.01	30.5°C	5°C
SEP	66	26.5°C	-0.5°C
OCT	53.5	19°C	-2°C
NOV	41	14°C	-4°C
DEC	28	10.5°C	-2.5°C

\*\*\*\*\*

<b>2025</b>	<b>mm</b>	<b>max</b>	<b>min</b>
JAN	39	9°C	-9°C
FEB	32	13°C	-6°C

## SAINT SPYRIDON

I am not renowned as a great 'reader', in fact I hardly ever read a book, and I certainly do not often re-read books.

Of course I have been through 'phases' (not necessarily in order) :

the Thomas Hardy phase - until I realised that they were all pretty much the same, and sooooo depressing!;

the Bill Bryson phase, until, again they pretty much ran out of steam, and got rather weak and difficult to sustain my attention;

the Joanna Trollope phase, my attention having been attracted by a TV series, I read the entire bibliography...;

You get the idea.

However, I recently decided to re-read , possibly not for the second but probably for the third time, *My Family And Other Animals*, by Gerald Durrell. It is a good 'School Classic', and I'm pretty sure that I read it for the first time when I was about 12, when it was an English Class study book at school. I believe that I read it again many years later, and still found it both amusing in places and well-written, evoking images of the beautiful and old-fashioned island of Corfu.

Recently my sister gave me a copy, and although I informed her that I already own a copy, and have read it, I decided one sleepless night to try to get to sleep by starting to read it again.

It didn't work - it didn't really help me to drop off to sleep, but I powered through it in no time at all, and even after the familiarity of descriptions and anecdotes, I found myself laughing out loud at a couple of points in the story.

One which always tickles me is the anecdote just into Part Two: the Daffodil Villa, where Spiro drove Gerald, his mother and his sister Margo into town to shop for furniture for their new residence.

They noticed the town was more crowded, more boisterous, than usual, but it never occurred to them that anything special was happening, until they tried to make their way down the narrow, twisted streets, back to their vehicle. They were jostled and pushed, the crowd growing thicker and thicker, becoming so tightly wedged together that the Durrells were carried along against their will. They reached the conclusion that 'something must be going on - a Fiesta or something'.

They were swept along in the opposite direction to their waiting car, and found themselves joining a vast crowd assembled in the main town square. When asked what was happening, an elderly peasant woman, her face lit up with pride, answered that it was the celebration day of St Spyridon; the day when they may enter the church and kiss the feet of the patron saint of the Island.

St Spyridon's mummified body was (and still is) enshrined in a silver coffin in the church, and once a year he was carried in procession around the town. He was very powerful, and could grant requests, cure the ailing, and do any other number of miracles. The islanders worshipped him, and every second male on the island was called Spiro in his honour.

On that particular special day, they would open the coffin and allow the faithful to kiss the slippered feet of the mummy. In demonstration of how well-loved by all the Saint was, the crowd consisted of every imaginable type of person living on the island, from goat-herds and fishermen to elderly peasant women and babies in swaddling, all beautifully described so that one can actually feel to be there.

The crowd moved inexorably toward the dark Church door, and the family were swept along on the tide of humanity, and were separated : Margo had been pushed well ahead, his mother equally far behind him. As they were carried along, they were unable to communicate with each other.



Inside the dark church, lit atmospherically only by candles, the crowd now filed in a single line down the church, past the coffin and out of another door into the street.

The Silver coffin was standing upright, and at its lower end a portion had been removed so that the saint's feet, clad in richly embroidered slippers, peeped out. As every person reached the coffin they bent down kissed the feet and murmured a prayer.

Mother was frantically grimacing, pointing at the coffin and shaking her head vigorously. Not being able to interpret these charades, people nearby began to watch her suspiciously, thinking she may be deranged. At last, throwing caution to the wind, mother hissed to her son to tell Margo to kiss the air. Too late!

Margo was already kissing the feet with great enthusiasm, and emerged, particularly pleased with herself, and hoping that her prayer would be answered.

When Mother arrived, she was sure that this insanitary procedure was more likely to spread disease than cure it, and said that she dreaded to think what would have happened if they had actually kissed St Spyridon's feet, after all those people had slobbered over them.

Margo, who had prayed for a cure for her acne, was struck down the very next day with a severe attack of influenza.

\* \* \* \* \*

### SPYRIDON

Spyridon was born in Assia, in Cyprus. He worked as a shepherd and was known for his great piety. He married and had one daughter, Irene. Upon the death of his wife, Spyridon entered a monastery, and their daughter entered a convent. Spyridon eventually became Bishop of Trimythous. He died peacefully in old age.

In the 650s A.D., when the Arabs took Cyprus, Spyridon's body was disinterred and taken to Constantinople. The relics were found to be incorrupt, and contained a sprig of basil, the "royal plant," both of which were taken as a sign of divine confirmation of his sanctity.

When Constantinople fell to the Ottomans in 1453, Spyridon's relics were removed again. This time, they were taken to the island of Corfu by a Corfiote monk where they remain to this day, in Saint Spyridon Church.

The relics are taken in procession every Palm Sunday and on other special occasions, for veneration by the faithful.

There are four annual processions with the relics of St. Spyridon.

The first is on Palm Sunday, in remembrance of when St. Spyridon saved Corfu from a plague in 1630; the second is on Holy Saturday morning, in remembrance of when St. Spyridon saved Corfu from famine in 1550; the third is on the first Sunday of November, in remembrance of when St. Spyridon saved Corfu from the plague in 1673; and the fourth is on August 11, when, in 1716 the island was besieged and blocked by a large Turkish army. The 40-day confrontation wore down the strength of the local inhabitants. Hoping for Divine intercession, the helpless people gathered in the Church of St. Spyridon and tearfully lifted up prayers to the saint. Suddenly, on the night of August 10 there erupted a terrible storm on the sea. Preparing themselves for the decisive battle, the island inhabitants learned of the great miracle that occurred in the night: eyewitnesses said that St. Spyridon, with an innumerable host of angels and a flaming sword, banished the multitudinous Turkish army from the island.

# EASTER IN CORFU

Easter customs in Corfu. Colours and Aromas of Spring in the Garden of Music. To enjoy all the celebrations held in the city of Corfu, here is your Holy Week programme...

Holy Week ceremonies begin on Palm Sunday. At 11.00 in the morning, the litany of the Holy Shrine of Saint Spyridon takes place in recognition of the miraculous deliverance of the island from the spread of the deadly plague in 1629. This litany is the largest in size and length, and follows the trail of the old Venetian city walls. All the Philharmonics (the local name for brass bands) of the island participate to honour the Patron Saint of Corfu. On the same night, the "Mántzaros" Philharmonic presents a solemn concert which beautifully evokes the melancholy mood of the Passion, or Holy, Week.

To enjoy all the celebrations held in the city of Corfu, here is the Holy Week programme:

- **On Good Monday.** The Corfiots go shopping in order to prepare for the celebrations to come. The distinctive aromas of baking "foyátsa" (a kind of brioche decorated with a red egg), and "mandoláto" (a nobles' favourite macaroon made of almond and honey) waft through the air.

- **On Good Tuesday.** As **Holy Tuesday** unfolds, the afternoon echoes with the melodious tale of Mary Magdalene, hymned in the city's churches. As night falls, the Peristyle of the Old Palace becomes the stage for the Music and Poetry Night, themed "From Golgotha to Resurrection".

- **On Good Wednesday.** At noon the Corfiots attend the Holy Unction, then at 8.30 p.m. they fill up the Municipal Theatre to hear the Municipal Chorus singing ecclesiastical hymns of the Passion Week.

- **On Maundy Thursday.** The Service of the Holy Passion is held in the churches. In the Duomo, the Catholic Cathedral, 12 candles are lit and put out one at a time after the reading of each of the 12 Gospels. On the same day, the ringing of the first bell means it is time for the Easter eggs to be dyed red, a custom that symbolises the rebirth of life and nature.

- **On Good Friday.** Today, funeral bell rings will awake you. Ecclesiastical ceremonies commemorate the Descent of Christ from the Cross. On this day, young girls decorate the Epitaphs, whose circumambulation begins early in the afternoon accompanied by choruses and bands. The last Epitaph, and the most impressive one, makes its appearance at 10.00 p.m. It is the Epitaph of Corfu Cathedral. Listen to the music, which gives an ecstatic dimension in this mournful night: the "Old" Philharmonic (Red) performs Albinoni's Adagio, the "Mántzaros" Philharmonic (Blue) plays Verdi's Marcia Funebre, and the "Kapodistrias" Philharmonic plays Mariani's Elegia Funebre and Chopin's Marche Funèbre.



- **On Easter Saturday.** The Saint Spyridon Church Epitaphios procession takes place in Corfu Town on Easter Saturday morning.



At 6.00 a.m. at the church of the Virgin Mary of Ksénon the custom of the artificial earthquake re-enacts the earthquake that followed Christ's Resurrection.

Another religious tradition not to be missed is the "First Resurrection" ceremony. Taking place at midnight on Holy Saturday, locals gather outside the Church of Saint Spyridon, holding candles and eagerly awaiting the announcement of the Resurrection. As the news is proclaimed, the crowd erupts in cheers and embraces, symbolizing the victory of life over death. People say the phrase "Christós Anésti" (Christ is risen) to one another. The response is "Alithós Anésti" (he has truly risen). "Christós Anésti" is proclaimed against a

background of loudly pealing bells and the joyful sounds of the bands as they parade through the streets. One of the most striking traditions is the throwing of clay pots, known as "Botides," from balconies which crash noisily on the streets below. This ancient custom symbolises the casting away of evil spirits and the renewal of life. It's a sight that must be seen to be believed, as the streets below fill with a cacophony of shattered pottery.



Visitors find themselves surrounded by thousands of lit

candles: on balconies, on window sills or held by others attending the ceremony. The Resurrection of Christ is celebrated at 12.00 sharp with drum beats and fireworks.

# Foxearth Meadows Nature Reserve

## Events for 2025



**Sunday 4 May 6am – 8am**

### **Dawn Chorus Walk**

Improve your bird identification skills with Sarah and reward yourself with coffee and a croissant.

***Places limited. Please book in advance.***



**Saturday 28 June 10.30am - 3pm**



### **Big Bug Day**

Free family event celebrating National Insect Week, with activities for all. Join in bug hunts, see moths up close, shake a bush, search for beetles, come along and take part. Contact Sarah if you'd like to help with this event.

Bring a picnic.

**Saturday 26 July**

10.30am-12.15pm & 1.15pm-3pm

### **Dragonfly & Damselfly Identification Walks**

with experts David Chandler and Andrea Harrison. Ever popular, learn from the experts and see dragons up close. ***Booking essential.***



**Wednesday 1 October 6.30-9pm**



### **Bats about Moths!**

Discover moths up close and hear hunting bats. Led by bat expert Graham Hart and Sarah on moths. Use bat detectors to find bats and learn about the moths we attract using a moth trap and light.

***Limited spaces. Please book in advance.***

**BOOKING EVENTS** Please book before the day through Eventbrite or contact [sarah.leadham@arocha.org](mailto:sarah.leadham@arocha.org) / 07810 141234

## Foxearth Meadows Nature Reserve Events for 2025

**Thursday 29 May 7.30 pm**

(Bring your own picnic from 6.30 pm)

### Ascension Day Prayer Walk

led by the Rev. Ruth Ridge.

Enjoy a picnic together then walk and pray together as the sun sets.

A beautiful, reflective evening for all.



**Sunday 22 June at 3pm**



### Open Air Service

An open invitation to join us at midsummer in worship close to nature.

Guest speaker **Dr Andrew Crowson**, moth enthusiast and supporter of A Rocha UK.

With refreshments. Bring a chair.  
All welcome.

**Sunday 14 September at 3pm**

### Open Air Service

Celebrating harvest and creation. Guest speaker **Prof. James Pearce-Higgins**, Director of Science, British Trust for Ornithology. Enjoy God's wonderful creation and celebrate together.

With refreshments. Bring a chair.  
All welcome.





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# PARISH CHURCH NEWS



<https://www.assingtonchurch.org.uk>

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



Dear friends

Perhaps the falling of barriers is one of the greatest causes for celebration. Berliners certainly felt so on the historic evening of 9 November 1989. When the commander of the Bornholmer Straße crossing allowed the gates to be opened, Eastern Berliners flooded through. They were met by westerners armed ready with champagne for celebration. The youngsters—of course—took the party onto the top of the wall, fallen in effect that night, even if not yet demolished.

In the Good Friday accounts, at the moment of Jesus' death, three of the gospel writers report the breaking of another barrier: "the temple curtain was torn in two from top to bottom" (Mark 15:38). Like the Berlin Wall, this barrier represented total restriction barring relationships across it. But in the case of this Jerusalem temple curtain, it is God and human beings who were kept apart. The curtain was embroidered with cherubim (warrior angels), depicting those who guarded the border of the Garden of Eden preventing the disobedient Adam and Eve from coming close to God. This curtain blocked the way into the Most Holy Place of the temple making it clear that no-one was free to approach the Holy One.

An historian from Jesus' time, Josephus, tells us that this temple curtain was 18 metres (60 feet) tall and 10 cm (4 inches) thick. That it was torn from the top, tells us what Jesus' self-sacrifice achieved. God has torn the wall down because the way is now open. Our response should emulate that of the Berliners when the Berlin Wall fell. Through Jesus, we are free to enjoy a close relationship with God. Now that's certainly worth a champagne celebration!

May you have a joyful Eastertide

Daniel

Vicar: Daniel Whiffin 07309 047039  
email: [vicar@parishchurch.co.uk](mailto:vicar@parishchurch.co.uk)  
Associate Priest :  
Rev Simon White 07572 418555  
Reader: Dr John Symons 211534  
Churchwarden: Bronwen Stacey 210354  
Organist: Bronwen Stacey  
Secretary: Emily Cartlidge 07967 724266  
Treasurer: Ian Clark 211133



## ASSINGTON APRIL CHURCH SERVICES

**6th April @ 10.30am HOLY COMMUNION**  
(13th April Bures: HC@10.30am  
Little Cornard: MW@10.30am)

**20th April @ 10.30am EASTER SUNDAY  
HOLY COMMUNION**



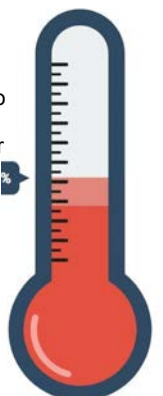
27th April @10.30am: BENEFICE COMMUNION  
at Little Cornard

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and at other times by arrangement with key holders.**



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# VILLAGE NEWS

## NEWS FROM HAPPYSOUNDS CHOIR

At the end of February we were delighted to make cheque presentations totalling £1500 to our two chosen charities for 2024. £750 each went to Sudbury Community Depot and to the Friends of Hope House.



Massive thanks to all that sang, and to our team of volunteer helpers.



This year's chosen charities are Macmillan via MyWish (in memory of Ted Nichols), and Suffolk-based domestic abuse support charity Compassion. If you'd like to join us and take part in our concerts, please go to [www.happysounds.co.uk](http://www.happysounds.co.uk), and drop us a line.

You can catch the Choir performing on the following dates:

- Sat 14 June St Peter's Church (Sudbury Arts Centre) (time tbc but early afternoon)
- Sat 5th July Leavenheath Fete from 2pm
- Sun 13th July Bures Music Festival main field, noon

\*\*\*\*\*

## MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR IAN JORDAN

There is to be a memorial service for Ian Jordan in Assington; this will give all Ian's local friends in the Assington area an opportunity to pay their respects, as they would like.

At time of going to press the arrangements are as follows:

**Wednesday 30th April at 1pm in Assington Church**

## TED AND MARION NICHOLS

AFC Sudbury are one of the few football clubs in the country to have a memorial garden and Ted and Marion Nichols have now been added to those who are remembered there.



On Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> March I joined the Nichols family to see the plaques that have been added for their parents. Club President Keith Neville welcomed us and shared his memories of Ted, who he particularly got to know well in recent years. I then had an opportunity to offer a prayer thanking God for Ted & Marion and all they did to support the club and indeed our village over many years.

Afterwards, the football club kindly treated us to lunch and we had the opportunity to share more stories about this lovely couple who are fondly remembered.

Simon

\*\*\*\*\*



## VILLAGE HALL NEWS

The village hall now has its own new website at [assingtonvillagehall.co.uk](http://assingtonvillagehall.co.uk) It gives an accurate outline to all requirements, booking form and terms and conditions, as well as images of past events, making for easy booking.

We are delighted that we now have a new veranda roof that enhances the facility.

The Assington Seniors First day of spring Afternoon tea was a great success with 22 residents attending a superb afternoon tea, with a big thanks to Vanessa and Steve and the team at The Foxes Den for hosting the event.

Watch out in The Assington news for other events.

# REPORT FROM THE ASSINGTON ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION



At its AGM on 9<sup>th</sup> May, the following officers were appointed to help run this valuable amenity for the village.

Myself Bryn Hurren as Chair, Karl Debenham as Secretary and Lisa Brooks as Treasurer.

My thanks go to outgoing chair Jenny Cutts and husband Graham for their sterling service and all who have helped past and present to make this still quite young venture the success it is.

We are now in our 10<sup>th</sup> year and have been at our present site at Meadow Way for six of them.

We have 12 plots and 14 tenants at the moment, as some of the plots are halved to make them more manageable for tenants just starting out in the world of growing their own food. Each plot measures 10 x 15 mtrs which is approximately a rod in very old money, and was deemed as enough space to feed a family in Victorian times.

The gardening year for hire, runs from 30<sup>th</sup> September until 1<sup>st</sup> October in the following year and the cost of a full plot is £35.00 and a half plot £17.50 per annum.

At this moment we have 11 plots fully let and one spare, due to circumstances beyond our control, it is available now at half rates for the second half of the year and after a little clearing is ready to grow.

Gardening is the new Rok n Roll and is brilliant for mental health and will save the plot holder from ever having to go to the gym ever again. What's not to like?

Anyone interested just contact myself or any other plotholder at work there for info and a guided tour. We have plot 2 vacant and would be willing to split it down to make smaller size.



We are a friendly bunch, and any villager within or just outside the village boundary would be made very welcome to take it on with loads of help, advice and maybe free seeds and wheelbarrow as well.

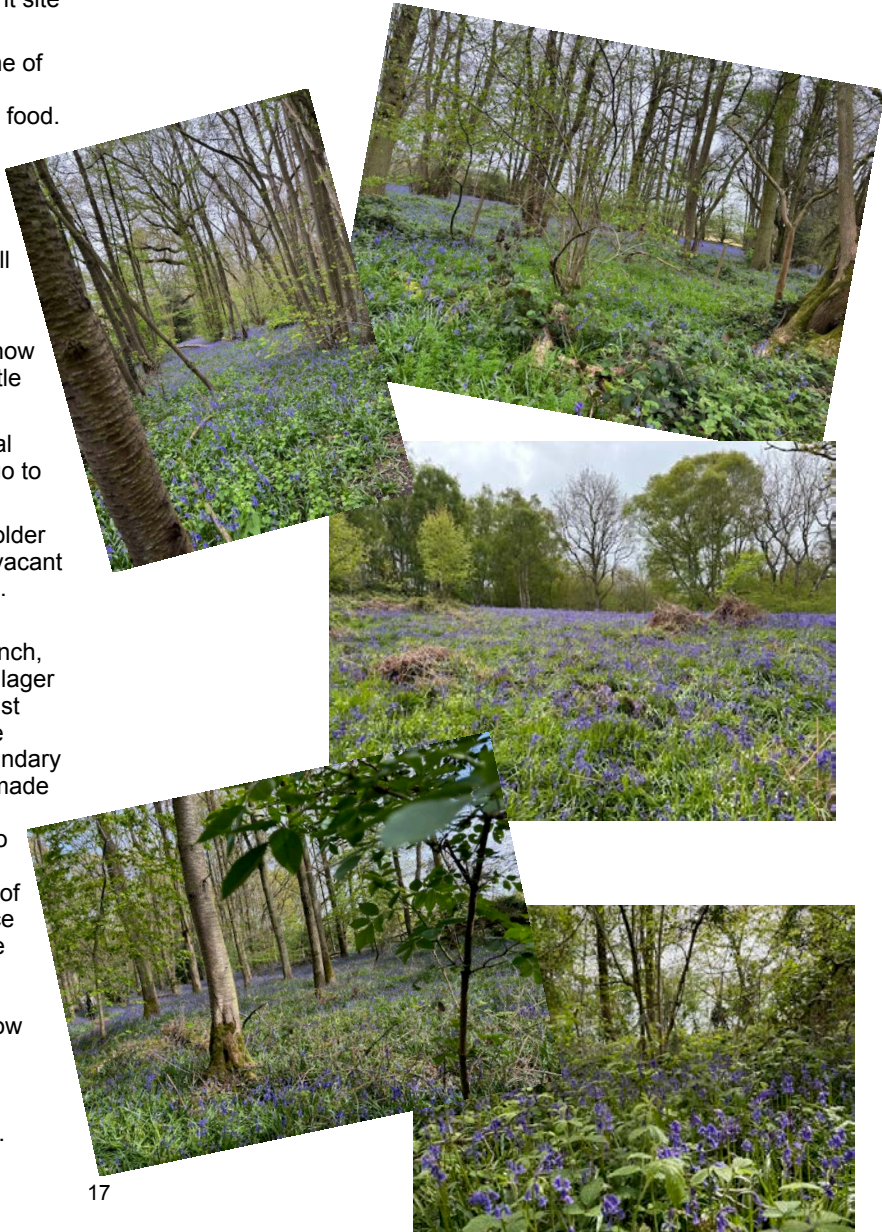
Keeeeeep Gardening.  
**Bryn. X.**

## APRIL IN ASSINGTON

Sorry! I just can't resist doing a bluebell collage every year! We are so very fortunate to have Ancient Woodland (ie Assington Thicks) on our very doorstep, and others close by at Arger Fen and Spouse's Vale Nature Reserve.



Here are a few of my photos from last year:



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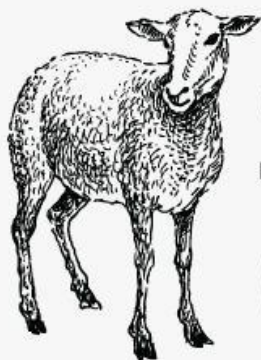
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