

ASSLINGTON

NEWS



AUGUST &
SEPTEMBER 2025

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	Karl Debenham <i>The new Chair is Bryn Hurren</i>	07584 996211
Assington Baby and Toddler Group	Rev Tricia Box	07747 124592
Assington Books, Village Hall (see post office for times)	Michelle Bourner	07954 221773
Assington Farmshop	Maxine Gardiner	01787 211610
Assington Post Office, Village Hall	Mon 1.30-3.30, Wed 9-12	
Boxford CEVC Primary School (office@boxford.suffolk.sch.uk)	Head: Emma Lea	01787 210332
Brownies, Boxford	Moira Grant	01787 211513
Church - Treasurer (treasurerassington@parishchurch.co.uk)	Tony Hufnagel	
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	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		
Horticultural Society	Karen Wiles	
Member of Parliament (james.cartlidge.mp@parliament.uk)	James Cartlidge	020 7219 4875
Mobile Library - Vicary Estate Junction	Saturday 9th August Saturday 6th September	3pm - 3.30pm
Parish Council	Simon Thorogood	01787 227400
bronwenstacey@btinternet.com	Bronwen Stacey	01787 210354
david.wiles@live.co.uk	David Wiles	07811 108702
tony@howcroft.net	Tony Howcroft	
andrewpeterhill@hotmail.com	Andrew Hill	01787 827112
Parish Council - Clerk (assingtonpc@yahoo.com)	Christine Hargan	01449 674727
Pub – The Shoulder of Mutton		01787 210334
Stoke by Nayland C of E Primary School (admin@sbn.suffolk.sch.uk)	Head: Mrs Kelly McGrath	01206 262418
Vicar (vicar@parishchurch.co.uk)	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 (annie-phillips@hotmail.co.uk)	Annie Phillips	01787 211729

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

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

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00001

Assington Parochial Church CouncilAssington PCC is a charity for the purposes of the Charities Act 2011
Promoter: Assington PCC, St Edmunds Church, Assington, CO10 5LQ

00001

Assington Parochial Church Council

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All cash, counterfoils and unsold tickets to be returned to the promoter before the draw date.

Assington Church Raffle



Cash prizes - £100 First Prize!
Vouchers from local businesses
Case of wine and many more prizes
Prizes from local supporters and businesses

To be drawn on Saturday 30 August 2025 at 4pm - Assington Village Hall

Registered with Babergh District Council
Printed by: Raffle Tickets 4U - www.raffletickets4u.co.uk**Ticket Price £1.00**

RAFFLE TICKETS

this is what to do:

We know that many people are anxious with financial worries, and of course, there is **no obligation** to buy the tickets.

The Raffle is a large feature in the **Church Village Fete**, which will be held on **Saturday 30 August at 2pm** at the Village Hall. The winning tickets will be drawn at 4pm.

If you are able to help us, 2 books of raffle tickets, with 5 tickets per book, (or just £1 per ticket if you want fewer) have been delivered to you, stapled to the front cover of this copy of the Assington News.

As in previous years, appointed village volunteers may call during the following two weeks, and if you are interested, collect your raffle stubs with your name and telephone number written on, and money.

Alternative payment methods for your contributions have been set up as follows:

A cheque or cash in an envelope entitled RAFFLE (along with your stub with your contact details) may be posted through the door at 10, Woodfield, on The Street, Assington

or

If you prefer, **payment may be made in advance online** at:

Unity Trust Bank Account: **Assington PCC**
Sort Code **60-83-01** Act No: **20496584** Ref: **raffle**

How ever you decide to contribute, we thank you very much, your help is greatly appreciated.

Many thanks to our Raffle and Fete sponsors



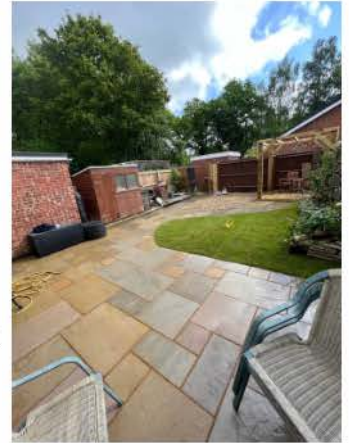
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ASSINGTON CHURCH FETE SATURDAY

30th AUGUST 2025

2pm

at the Village Hall

FREE entry

Big Prize Raffle

Afternoon Teas

Bottle tombola

Books

Bric a Brac

BBQ

Children's tent

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stands, stalls and competitions

**Information: Bronwen Stacey 210354
Simon White 211228**

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RON OLORENSHAW

1938 - 2025



We are extremely sad to announce the passing of Mr Arthur (Ron) Olorenshaw, on 8th July 2025, at the age of 86, one of the oldest residents in Assington.

A Funeral Service for Ron will be held in Assington Church at 10.30am on Friday 22 August.

The following 'article' of Ron's memories was originally included in a booklet which was compiled of interviews with the oldest residents in Assington during 2006 and 2007. We have been given permission to print it here, as it gives a lovely flavour of life-gone-by in Assington, and it pays homage to Ron, and the older generation, now sadly no longer with us.

Ron's Memories

"Ron was born in 1938, the son of Maud (née Warner) and Ronald Olorenshaw. Except for a period away on military service, he had always lived in the same house in Assington, at the time of the memoir, with his (now deceased) wife Carol and their two sons.

Schooldays:

Ron attended Assington School when the Head Teacher was Pam Onions and Miss Edwards was the junior teacher. One day that stands out in his memory was during the war when the children stood in the playground and watched a German pilot bail out of his plane, which then crashed in Hicks Lane. That same night there was a big explosion; a doodlebug had come down on the main road near the water tower, on the village side of the two cottages. Ron says he enjoyed the lessons that were held in Assington Park (both school and Sunday School lessons sometimes took place there), when the children learned about the two mounds that were reputed to be burial mounds and also had nature study. At the Sunday School, where, he says, everyone went, the teachers were Miss Pamplin and Miss Marshall, who lived at 9 The Street. He was generally bored at Assington School, however, and on one occasion he and another boy - Richard Parkinson- narrowly escaped a caning from Miss Edwards only because they moved their hands in time.

During this period the older children were being transferred to Bures School because Assington no longer kept them up to age 14, and were taken there by bus. However, before the bus service had been organised, the County bought eight of the children, including Ron, a bicycle each so they could cycle to Bures. When they changed schools, he says they got on well because there was football and other things that interested them.

At The Gurdons,

where the family lived, to begin with there was no running water and no electricity. One tap outside no. 5 served all ten houses. There was an outside lavatory. Candles were used and in the front room there was a fire with an oven beside, with hotplates

on the top. Cooking was therefore done in this room. Washing was done in a copper and on Sundays children used to go to The Thicks to collect sticks for washday the following day. Ron's mother baked her own bread but also bought from the bakery run by the Chatters. She cooked for dinner parties for Mr Jameson of Willow Tree Farm and for the Websters at Woodthorpes and used to be given hares and pheasants to hang up. Ron thought they "smelled disgusting".

Assington Hall:

Maud Warner had worked as a cook at the Hall before Ron was born and told him a lot about it and about all the servants that had been there. Afterwards, she cooked at Eaton Place in London, then returned to Assington where she met and married Ron's father. They went to Dover for about six months then came back and moved into Ron's present house at The Gurdons. Ron wrote down his mother's account of life at The Hall, but the book disappeared while he was away in the army. He remembers the fire and like everyone else was very sad that such a beautiful place was destroyed. As a lad, he says that he and his mates had wandered around the grounds.

Green spaces:

The village in Ron's younger days, was, he says, very different from now. The Gurdons had been built but there was no Woodfield and no Vicary Estate, just fields where now there are houses. Until Major Heseltine transferred some of his land to the village to be used as a playing field, however, there was nowhere specially designed for playing games, though a senior and junior club had played football in the Park. He and his mates used to go to the Warren and play cricket on a big square of green there. When the new piece of land was made available, Jim Irving from Mill Farm was, he says "wonderful", ploughing and raking to make the area usable as a football pitch. Jim became Chairman of the football club and meetings were held at the farm.

Other memories:

Outings to London and Yarmouth organised by Bill Chatters; the annual Sunday School outing to Walton on a Norfolk's bus; trips at Christmas to the pantomime in Ipswich organised by Jim Smith; helping in the fields during the summer holidays; catching rabbits and being given "a tanner a skin" ($2\frac{1}{2}$ pence); Rocky Regan who grew sunflowers for oil in one of the Mill Farm fields, kept goats in The Thicks and planted conifers there before the 'fifties; collecting chestnuts in the Thicks and selling them to King's the Greengrocers in Sudbury; stopping at Mrs Leonard's (*St Edmund's Cottage*) and turning the handle of the churn to make butter and cheese; "Tottenham Pudding" - made from leftovers from restaurants and fed to pigs and which often contained items of cutlery; a young man called Keith, the son of Anne Ziegler and Webster Booth, who lodged with Ron's mother during the war and worked on a farm at Leavenheath; going to *The Case is Altered* (*now the Foxes Den*) in preference to the Mutton at a time when there was reputed to be a link at the Mutton with Mosley's Blackshirts and, later, going to *The Case* when its first jukebox appeared and listening to Elvis Presley's "Heartbreak Hotel".

ETHEL CARTER

Following the celebration of her 100th birthday earlier this year, we are sorry to report that sadly Ethel Carter passed away on Thursday, 17th July. Sympathies are sent to her family; she will be fondly remembered by many of us.

This happy photograph of Ethel was taken recently when Joan Peacock and Jacqui Egglestone visited her.



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ASSINGTON 2025 HORTICULTURAL SHOW SUNDAY 17th AUGUST

Assington Horticultural show is being held at The Village Hall on Sunday 17th August 2025 between 2.00pm and 4.00pm. Don't forget to start planning your entries.

We aim to have fun at our Show so please don't be put off if you think that you won't have anything suitable to enter. This year has been particularly challenging for us Gardeners and Allotment holders and we are all in the same boat. Perhaps we need a FRAZZLED, FRIED and DRIED section.

There will be the usual Raffle and Refreshments, including delicious cakes. There will also be a quiz to test your Gardening knowledge.

Sadly, the Scarecrow competition has been cancelled this year.



If you won an award last year, **please return your Shields and Cups to me at 16 The Street as soon as possible** before the show.

Schedules for the show can be found in your June and August copies of The Assington News.

I will be putting up some posters and copies of the Schedule can be collected from me if required.

Donations for the Raffle can be left with Maxine at The Farm Shop or with me at 16 The Street.

All the profits from the show go to our Village Charities. If you can't enter the show, please come along to have a look, you will be most welcome. We look forward to seeing you there. Karen x

ARE YOU THE OWNER OF A CLASSIC CAR, A CHERISHED CAR OR AN INTERESTING VEHICLE?



If so, you are invited to come along and display it in an allocated 'viewing area' at the ASSINGTON FETE on SATURDAY 30th AUGUST,

Please arrive at 1330 hours, to take your place.

To offer your vehicle and to help the organisers arrange a suitable size display area please contact the number below in advance and give a few details .

Please phone or message Simon Whitbread on 07453095144

CHURCH VILLAGE FETE at the Village Hall and Playing Field SATURDAY 30th August at 2pm

We are in the throes of preparing for our annual extravaganza of competitions, stalls and delicious treats
....and hoping that, as usual, you may be able to help us with donations:

Cakes For Afternoon Teas etc..

Wonderful Sally Bradshaw has again taken charge of the all-important afternoon tea refreshments. Please see below:

Cakes needed for the Assington Fete

refreshment stall!



All donations welcome

you can either drop off at 'School Lodge, The Street' the day/evening before or drop off at the village hall on morning of fete

Any queries contact Sally on 01787 210433



Thanks in advance!

Bric a Brac

Once again this year there will be an eye-catching Bric a Brac Stall, and we would be grateful to receive donations on the morning at the Village Hall, if at all possible. Please contact Simon White on 211228 if you have any queries regarding bric a brac donations.

More Cakes - get baking!

And for those who love to buy a home-make cake at all such events, there will also be cakes for sale on the cake stall. If you have a passion for making cakes, your latest creations of donations to sell on the cake stall will be most gratefully received on the morning of the fete, at the Village Hall,

or, for details for earlier donations, please contact Lizzie Alston of Primrose Cottage 10 St Edmunds Close Assington (or telephone 07747774907)

and not forgetting the Bottles Tombola 🍷🍷

Roger & Linda Britcher of The Old Schoolhouse would gratefully receive (in-date please) bottles of all descriptions, shapes and sizes for the ever-popular Tombola stall.

Thank you so much. We are truly grateful for all your donations!



Peter Robb

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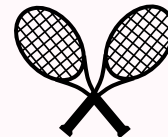
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ASSINGTON HORTICULTURAL SHOW 2025

SUNDAY 17TH AUGUST

2pm- 4pm At Assington Village Hall



**This is your central pull-out programme
to keep for
the Horticultural Show 2025**

**Information on all the classes
and the entry form**

THE 48TH ASSINGTON HORTICULTURAL SHOW.

SUNDAY 17TH AUGUST 2025

2pm- 4pm At Assington Village Hall

All profits support The Village Charities.

ENTRY RULES

1. Open to residents and Non-residents.
2. No more than 1 entry per person per class.
3. You must have grown/baked/drawn/created your own entry!
4. Exhibitors to provide their own vase/plate/box etc for display and take the items home at the end of the show.
5. Children under 16 years old please note their age on the entry form.

HOW TO ENTER

Select the classes that you wish to enter and complete the entry form (1 per person).

The entry fee payable is 50p per entry. 20p for Children's classes. 70p for late entries.

Awards for residents and a most points award for non-residents.

Return entry forms and fees to

Karen Wiles 16 The Street Assington. Tel: 07983 002072.
Forms to be delivered

no later than 6pm Friday 15th August.

ON THE DAY

Sunday 17th August

8.30am Doors open to collect entry cards and display your exhibits.

10.30am No Entry! Doors closed: judging will take place.

2.00pm SHOWTIME Doors open for public viewing, enjoy refreshments, enter the raffle, have a good natter with friends.

3.00pm Raffle draw. Prizes and Awards. Auction of selected exhibits.

4.00pm Gather up produce, display items and prizes to take home.

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

Section A: Vegetables and Fruit

All exhibits to be cleaned and washed, not scrubbed. Trim foliage/stems as indicated. Present small exhibits on a plate e.g. Tomatoes.

1. 5x White Potatoes
2. 5x Red/Multi- coloured Potatoes
3. 1x Heaviest Potato
4. 6x Indoor Tomatoes Calyx left on
5. 6x Outdoor Tomatoes Calyx left on
6. 1x Heaviest Tomato any condition, Calyx left on
7. 6x All-purpose Shallots
8. 1x Individual Cauliflower
9. 6x Pods Long Runner beans 30cm/12" Stalk on
10. 6x Pods Long runner bean under 30cm/12" Stalk on
11. 1x Pod Longest Runner bean. Award given
12. 6x French beans Stalk on
13. 5x Onion from seed
14. 5x Onion from sets
15. 5x Exhibition Onion min weight 250g each
16. 5x Long variety Carrot trim foliage between 5-8cm/2-3"
17. 5x Short variety Carrot trim foliage between 5-8cm/2-3"
18. 5x Red Beet trim foliage between 5-8cm/2-3"
19. 2x Marrow
20. Heaviest Marrow
21. 2x Cucumber grown indoors
22. 2x Ridge Cucumber outdoor grown
23. 2x Courgette max length 20cm/8"
24. 3x Leek trim foliage 15cm/6"
25. 3x Parsnip trim foliage between 5-8cm/2-3"
26. 1x Individual Cabbage
27. 2x Cobs Sweetcorn unopened
28. Box of Mixed Veg: Box not to exceed 92cm/36" sq
29. Box of Mixed Fruit: Box not to exceed 92cm/36" sq
30. 6x Plums with stalks
31. 6x Apples with stalks
32. Small bowl Cultivated Berries all 1 variety please label
33. 1x Squash Any variety please label
34. Pumpkin Please label variety
35. Any Other vegetables not listed above please label
36. Any Other fruit not listed above please label



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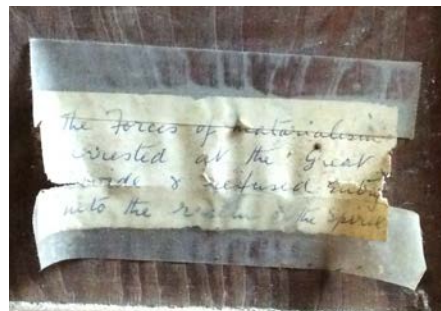


ONE OF DICK'S.....

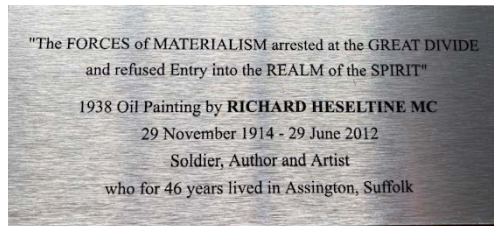


The title is:

The Forces of Materialism arrested at the Great Divide and refused entry into the Realm of the Spirit.



Suki, having known Dick for many years, decided it was high time that an attribution (of both title and details of the artist) should be displayed on the picture, which would also benefit from a total refurbishment. Gaining relevant permission from the PCC for this work, Suki set about arranging for the picture to be cleaned (big improvement!), glazed with non-reflective lightweight glass, and the details of the artist and the title of the painting to be added to it.



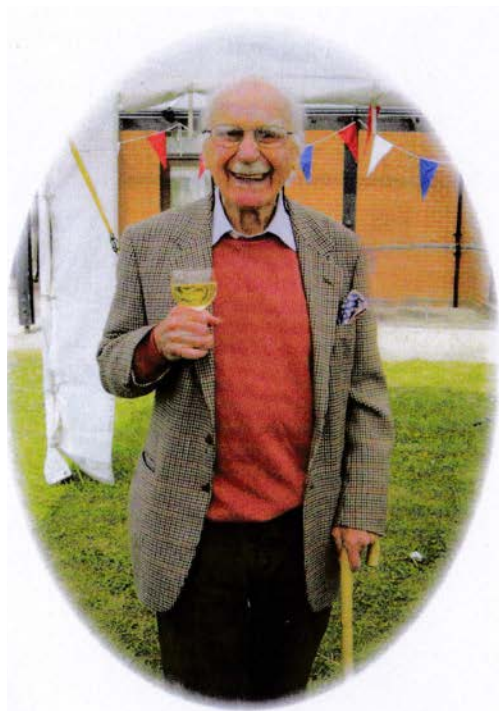
Earlier this year, enjoying refreshments in church, following a Sunday service, Nick Miller and Suki Cohen were admiring an oil painting displayed on the wall near the font. It has hung there for a good many years, and, sad to say, bore the many marks of bats flying overhead over that time, their urine stains despoiling the painting when one looked at it closely, as the picture was unglazed, and therefore "open to the elements".

Once completed, the 'unveiling' of the beautifully refreshed work of art took place at the end of the joint Benefice Service in Church on Sunday 29th June, which, coincidentally, was the 13th anniversary of the date of Dick's death in 2012.

During their discussions, Nick mentioned that it had been given a long and complicated title by its artist, Dick Heseltine; however, he was unable to remember what the title was.

Fizz and nibbles were served, following which Suki outlined her thoughts on the painting, its inspiration, and similarities in places to the works of Nash.

As many long-term residents of the village will recall, Major Richard (Dick) Heseltine MC (1914 - n 2012) had been a major figure in the village for the last 46 years of his life:



a decorated WW2 soldier, he had purchased an apple orchard in Assington, and settled with his family to farm it, living initially at Willow Tree Farm, and later in his 'retirement' across the road at 'Centuries'.

Not only was he a farmer, but he continued to pursue his creative abilities by painting, sculpting, wood carving, and had a wide interest in music and other arts.



The title of the painting was actually displayed on a handwritten paper attached to the back of the painting, and had not seen the light of day since it had been hung there.

Huge gratitude was expressed to Suki for her most generous gesture and gift. We are truly grateful for her initial idea and masterly execution of her project to preserve the painting and to acknowledge Dick's accomplishments.

A Clever Boy Musician.



Photo : R. W. Wardman, Sudbury.

The above is a photograph of Master Gerald Smith, aged 11 years, only son of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Smith, of "The Barracks," Assington. He is a clever boy musician who has the distinction of being one of the youngest church organists in the country. As a very young child this lad showed a fondness and an aptitude for music and at the age of nine he received his first lessons. So quickly did he assimilate the instruction given to him, however, that by the end of the first term he was acknowledged to have progressed beyond his tutor's own knowledge. At the end of that short period he was playing for the monthly children's service, and when on a Sunday last November the regular organist failed to turn up, this little lad distinguished himself by stepping into the breach at an hour's notice, and accompanying the hymns, Psalms and chants at both the morning and evening services. So remarkably successful were his efforts

on that occasion that when a few weeks ago the church was left without an organist the Rector, the Rev. C. C. Wordsworth, who refers to the child as the quickest and smartest reader of music he has met, confidently put him in charge, until a new appointment could be made. The congregation have nothing but praise for the quality of his playing, while members of the choir remark that he is able to get more out of the instrument than many organists of more mature years. It is, in fact, astonishing to find such a remarkable degree of musicianly skill displayed by one so young. Although he expresses a preference for the organ, Master Smith is also a pianist of outstanding merit and he can often be seen accompanying at parochial concerts, etc. He has a charming little voice, too, and when he is not at the organ he takes his place in the church as a member of the choir. He is a scholar at Assington Elementary School.

The text reads:

"The above is a photograph is of Master Gerald Smith, aged 11, only son of Mr and Mrs Herbert Smith, of "The Barracks", Assington. He is a clever boy musician who has the distinction of being one of the youngest church organists in the country. As a very young child this lad showed a fondness and an aptitude for music and at the age of nine he received his first lessons. So quickly did he assimilate the instructions given to him, however, that by the end of the first term he was acknowledged to have progressed beyond his tutor's own knowledge. At the end of that short period he was playing for the monthly children's service, and when on a Sunday last November the regular organist failed to turn up, this little lad distinguished himself by stepping into the breach at an hour's notice, and accompanying the hymns, Psalms and chants at both the morning and evening services. So remarkably successful were his efforts on that occasion that when a few weeks ago the church was left without an organist the Rector, the Rev. C W Wordsworth, who refers to the child as the quickest and smartest reader of music he has met, confidently put him in charge, until a new appointment could be made. The congregation have nothing but praise for the quality of his playing, while members of the choir remark that he is able to get more out of the instrument than many organists of more mature years. It is, in fact, astonishing to find such a remarkable degree of musicianly skill displayed by one so young. Although he expresses a preference for the organ, Master Smith is also a pianist of outstanding merit and he can often be seen accompanying at parochial concerts etc. He has a charming little voice, too, and when he is not at the organ he takes his place in the church as a member of the choir. He is a scholar at Assington Elementary School."



photo of Michael Smith (Gerald's son) playing the organ on July 13th 2025

GERALD SMITH Continued

Mr Mike Smith recently got in touch, as he and his wife were going to be in the area and wished to visit Assington Church in addition to seeing other local places and visiting some 'old haunts' from his past. His main interest in the church was to see the organ, which his father had played, to great acclaim, as a boy. The newspaper article and photograph above is that of Gerald seated at Assington Church organ, and the text is printed again next to it, for ease of reading some of the faded print.

Mike Smith's Nan, Gwendoline Smith (nee Newman) lived in Assington. She was born in 1900 and died in December 1976.

Gwendoline and her husband Herbert lived in a beautiful thatched cottage at No 50 The Barracks (Partridge End Cottage).



She was very involved in local amateur dramatics, specifically the Amateur Drama Society of the Women's Guild. Gwen worked in the apple orchards in Assington for Major Richard (Dick) Heseltine.

Herbert, (Gerald's father), worked as a Saddler for ?Chapmans. His photo below:



Mike Smith's father, Gerald was born on 1st August 1923 and was the only son of Gwen and Herbert Smith. He was sent to piano lessons at a very young age. It was at this stage that Gerald became something of a "child prodigy" on the keyboard.

In addition to the article in the local newspaper, Gerald was mentioned with plaudits on page 2 of the Assington Parish magazine (Price Twopence), of February 1935.



Later, he became an apprentice mechanic in nearby Sudbury.

At the outset of World War 2 Gerald enlisted as a mechanic in the RAF.



When on leave he and his friend Johnny Marshall would roar around on Johnny's motor bike and Gerald would play the piano in the pubs they visited to earn some cash.

When he was stationed in Naples during the war there were available musical instruments that could be used. However there was one particular white accordeon which he preferred and most times when he went to get it was already taken by someone signing as 'Jock' who, as it transpired was a wee Scotch lass called Anne Dignam.....

They were married during the war in a place called Portici near Naples.

Gerald and his wife Anne stayed in Assington or Boxford where their first 2 children were born: Anne and Gwen.

Photograph (right) of Herbert and Gwendoline with their grandchildren, Anne and Gwen.

They later moved up to Scotland where they had in total 9 children: 5 boys and 4 girls.

Most of the family were involved in music and/ or theatre and now the grandchildren are carrying on the tradition.



Dear People,
 Below this letter you will find the arrangements which have been made for the first two Sundays of the month, when I shall be away from home. These are so attractive, that I go away with the feeling that you will be much better served than had I stayed.
 On Feb. 3rd, Mr. Cyril Webster will take over the organ from Gerald Smith. For one so young Gerald Smith has done remarkably well. During last month his help was quite invaluable, and I don't know what we should have done without him. It is a great thing in a small parish to have someone upon whom one can rely in an emergency. I think we shall soon realise our good fortune in having secured the services of Mr. Webster, and I can only hope that choir and congregation will respond to the lead which he will give.
 After many years of faithful service, Mr. John Bell has expressed the wish to retire from the office of Vicar's warden. At the Annual Parochial Meeting the Major proposed that a letter of appreciation should be sent to Mr. Bell. I should like to take this opportunity of saying how much we have admired the un-failing courtesy and tact with which he has discharged the duties of his office. I am happy to think that in Mr. C. J. Leonard we have found a worthy successor.
 Yours sincerely,
 C. W. WORDSWORTH.



Photograph of Gerald, his mother Gwen, holding Gerald's daughter (also Gwen)'s little boy, Bart

With thanks to Mr Michael Smith for this information and photographs.

Additional Note: The Rev. C W Wordsworth (Vicar of Assington Church 1933-1935) was the Great-Grandson of the poet, William Wordsworth.

THINGS TO DO



**SUNDAY
17th AUGUST 2025
ASSINGTON
HORTICULTURAL SHOW
2pm
in the Village Hall**



'Last Tuesday'
Coffee and Chat
in the Village Hall

The next meetings will be on
Tuesday 26th August
and
Tuesday 30th September

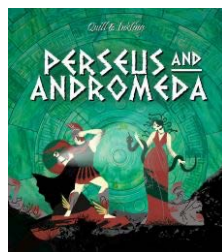
Both at 10am.
See you there!



**Hadleigh
Choral
Society**

We cant wait to get back to rehearsals for our Autumn programme which will feature Mozarts incredible Mass in C Minor as well as Haydns Te Deum. Did you know that these two composers, although nearly 25 years apart in age, were close friends as well as professional collaborators?

Our Autumn term begins on Tuesday 9th September, and as always, we welcome new singers. Why not join us for our free singing exploration morning, Saturday 13th September 9:15-12:15 at the Ansell Centre as we learn all about these glorious choral works. Music and refreshments will be provided, and there is a special offer for new choir members. For more information visit our website www.hadleighchoralsociety.org.uk.



*Quill & Inkling Theatre Company are embarking on a UK tour with Perseus and Andromeda, a vibrant retelling of the classic Greek myth with fast paced storytelling, puppetry and a touch of mischief. The performance will be at St Mary's Church on the Chilton Industrial Estate near Sudbury on **Friday 15th August starting at 6.30pm**. This brand-new adaptation is sure to captivate audiences of all ages.*

*Tickets are £15 for adults and concessions available including for children and the over 60s.
For more information and to book tickets: quillandinkling.com*



**ASSINGTON CHURCH FETE
SATURDAY
30th AUGUST 2025
2pm
at the Village Hall**

FREE entry **Big Prize Raffle**

Afternoon Teas
Books
Children's tent
All the usual attractions
stands, stalls and competitions

Bottle tombola
Brie a Brac
BBQ

Information: Bronwen Stacey 210354
Simon White 211228

**WINSTONS WHEELS
DISABLED DOG CHARITY**
NO 1191322
TABLE TOP SALE
Saturday 13th September
10am-3pm in
**NEWTON GREEN
VILLAGE HALL,
SCHOOL LANE, CO10 0S`**

“ free” kiddies’ Lucky Dip
Tombola, Raffle,
Face painting, hair braiding
Retro bits, jewellery, bags
Two for £1 table ,
and much much more

Try our pop-up cafe for a
breakfast sarnie, homemade
cakes bakes by Zoe`

Free Entry and Parking

Assington Baby & Toddler Group

Mums, dads, grandparents, carers and childminders living in and around Assington. Bring your little ones to a friendly, accompanied babies and toddlers group in the lovely, airy Village Hall

See you again in September!
September 11th

Thursday twice a month in termtime
from 9:30-11.00 am, at £3 per family

Revd Tricia Box - 07747124592



NATURE WATCH

Caterpillars and butterflies

Having recently experienced the trauma of dealing, both physically and emotionally, with box tree caterpillar and moth, and the ongoing effects thereof, I was on the look-out for early signs of any similar problems in the garden in the summer months.



It didn't take long for me to observe that a single, large and attractive variegated Euonymus Shrub, 'Euonymus Silver' was hosting a number of unsightly webs amongst its foliage. Upon further inspection these webs contained bodies of caterpillars, all voraciously tucking into the surrounding leaves.

I hadn't appreciated until that moment that Euonymus was a type of Spindle; of course, I had noticed (and even written an article in a previous summer) about the damage caused to Spindle trees and



bushes at the entrance to the Village Hall - and elsewhere, by the particularly unattractive webbing which encases the gregarious tumbles of caterpillars which often completely devour all the foliage.

Caterpillars on euonymus are most likely the larvae of

the Spindle Ermine Moth (*Yponomeuta cagnagella*). These caterpillars are known for creating extensive silken webs on euonymus plants. The caterpillars are creamy-grey with black spots and a black head.



These caterpillars are the larval stage of the Spindle Ermine Moth.

A key characteristic of an infestation is the extensive webbing created by the caterpillars as they feed on the

leaves of the Euonymus, or Spindle, which can lead to significant defoliation and potentially weaken the plant.

As they grow, the caterpillars undergo a series of molts, shedding their old skin to accommodate their increasing size. Each molt brings them closer to their final stage – the pupa. Encased in a cocoon, the caterpillars undergo a remarkable metamorphosis, emerging as adults with creamy black-spotted wings and a different purpose in their adult lives. When the moths emerge from their cocoons they fly away and lay eggs on the leaves of their favourite plant-food



To manage ermine moth caterpillars, start by assessing the extent of the infestation. For minor infestations, hand-picking and removing the caterpillars or pruning out affected shoots can be effective. If the infestation is more widespread, consider using biological controls like introducing natural predators. Where possible tolerate populations of these caterpillars, as butterflies and moths are an important part of the garden ecosystem and damage to plants is usually only short term. Encourage predators and other natural enemies in the garden such as birds, hedgehogs and ground beetles; blue tits are known to consume ermine moth caterpillars as part of their diet, especially when feeding their young. Ermine moth caterpillars are a good source of protein and fat, which are essential for the growth and development of blue tit chicks.

Check plants regularly from spring for the presence of larvae and remove by hand where practical. The gregarious nature of these caterpillars means it is sometimes possible to prune out affected shoots.

I now discover that there are several species of small ermine moths, and all have caterpillars that feed gregariously within sheets of webbing on plants, each preferring their own host plants in the garden:

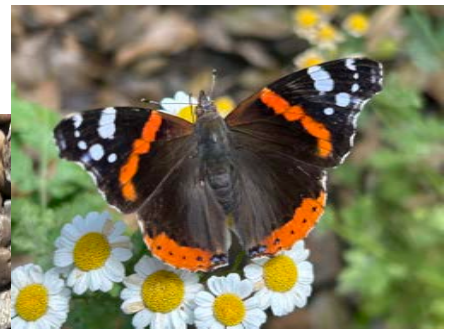
- The common small ermine, found on hawthorn, blackthorn and wild cherry, but not bird cherry (*Prunus padus*);
- Bird cherry small ermine. Found on bird cherry, *Prunus padus*. This species can cause complete defoliation and spectacular webbing during the later spring and early summer.
- Euonymus small ermines, found on Euonymus.
- Willow small ermine, found on willow, *Salix*;
- Sedum small ermine, found on Sedum;
- Apple ermine, found on ornamental and fruiting apple.

We have all of the above (with the exception of willow) in our garden! I await the next onslaught to see what else may be eaten beyond redemption.



The latest news is that the aforementioned Euonymus shrub is now in the final stages of dying, possibly due to the dry weather.

Seen in an Assington garden in July, in addition to the multitude of large white butterflies and Meadow Browns, and the usual sightings of Peacock and Red Admiral butterflies:



a Silver-Washed Fritillary butterfly, a Comma, and a Common Blue butterfly.



HAPPYSOUNDS CHOIR NEWS

Around 50 of our singers recently performed at Leavenheath Fete, which was fantastic fun, very well received, and a brilliant day out



for everyone. We'll be taking a break over the Summer, but will be restarting our new term from September 10th-11th.

SING with us!

Wednesdays 7pm, Sudbury
Salvation Army Hall

Thursdays 6.30pm, Assington
Village Hall

NEW TERM STARTS SOON

No auditions - just come and sing
First Session Free - booking essential

Register now at
www.happysounds.co.uk

Happy Sounds
COMMUNITY CHOIR

We're independently run by local voice coach Nettie Osman and have 90 members across our Sudbury and Assington branches, and we're looking forward to our Christmas concert at Long Melford Church. We're also performing as a Flashmob in the autumn! Every year we raise around £2000 for local charities.

New members are always very welcome, so if you'd like to come and join us, singing pop classics, musical theatre and some a cappella pieces, please go

to www.happysounds.co.uk and drop us a line. It's a brilliant way to make new friends, we are a nice bunch and some fantastic friendships have been forged through Choir over the last few years. Come and say hello! First session is free.

Have a great summer everyone and hope to see you soon.

Nettie

BOXFORD & DISTRICT BOWLS CLUB

BOWLS ENGLAND, LADIES HADLEIGH CUP

The Boxford Ladies team played several matches in this knock-out competition since the season started and won through to the Finals on Saturday 5th July. It was a very close match with Boxford leading for the early ends, but then Beccles came back. After the first two rinks finished, Boxford were ahead by one shot, but Beccles prevailed on the final triples to win by just 2 shots.

Congratulations to our team on the day for putting up such a fantastic performance, and huge commiserations that it did not result in a win. And congratulations to all our lady bowlers who played in the earlier rounds but not on Finals Day - without you, we would not have been in the Finals. A great Team effort. Let's hope we do as well next year - and maybe even better!

We also have lots of Boxford bowlers in different competitions - so good luck to you all in the coming weeks.

Roz Mortlock

THE ALLOTMENT REPORT

It seems impossible that we are past the mid-summer equinox and we are nearer next Christmas than the last, with decreasing daylight from now on.

Still plenty of daylight to harvest crops in the cooler summer evenings but we desperately need more rain on both allotment and farmland to keep crops growing. Most of the plots are doing really well with good harvests of most varieties of fruit and vegetables and flowers as well mainly due to tenants endeavours to water them most evenings and early mornings as well. Thank goodness we have running water on site.



Our season ends at the end of September (Michaelmas Day) and then we start the new growing year with autumn harvesting of late crops and digging over the land for planting overwintering crops, removing weeds and applying muck etc.

This is also the letting time for hiring out the allotments to existing or new tenants, if you are interested, please let me know or any other allotmenteer if you are interested in growing your own food and becoming self-sufficient. We will be happy to show you around and give help and guidance.

Also pop into the village horticultural show on 17th August at the village hall to view what can be grown or made. The schedule is in this newsletter again on centre pages; maybe consider entering something from your own garden. It would be so nice to keep the show going into its 49th or even 50th year.

Thanks should be given to Mike Townrow from Birds Farm Trees who recently located and donated two Maxton apple trees to the village.

This variety was first bred and grown in the village by Major Dick Hestline who lived at Centuries and ran Assington fruit farm along with his son Chris, (who many will remember as the instigator of our farmshop.) They have been planted on the perimeter of the allotment site, along the pathway towards the community wood. May they grow and fruit well for many seasons.

Thanks to Helen Kempson for help with the digging. I have promised to look after them.

Keekeep Gardening.

Bryn.



HEADTEACHER RETURNS

governed by the ringing of the hand bell (a much coveted duty!)

One day Mrs Green came to my classroom and led me to the entrance door to point out to me a classic Suffolk sky scene; on another occasion it was to watch the local hunt ride by! (Two very important lessons for me!)

Outside there were toilets contained within temporary Terrapin huts. We had a grass field (scene of the Assington Olympic Games!) as well as a hard playground.

Mrs Laws came for two hours a week as a supply teacher to allow me administrative time. There was no secretarial help! School meals were transported in and eaten in the Village Hall opposite. Mrs Mitcham was in charge and distributed the food that arrived in metal churns.

After two years Mrs Green retired and Mrs Razaiah was appointed.

We took children from the village and from Newton Green. They were an enterprising lot! One boy, aged 7, saved his pocket money, and bought a pig as an investment! One girl would arrive riding in a pony and trap. One family lived in the middle of The

Thicks. The father had actually boxed Idi Amin when in the army!

Jill set up and ran a play group in the Village Hall, although it often migrated into our middle class room which contained a large Wendy house and a television. It was a good opportunity for parents to come into the school. Jill also started up a Brownie pack.

Beryl Watts, who ran the post office, was a school governor I remember.

In 1976 I had to make a conscious decision either to stay in this wonderful job for the whole of my career or to move on. The result was that we went to teach in Hong Kong; but that's another story!

It was wonderful to return half a century later to evoke such fond memories. We were made so welcome. Our thanks go to Vanessa and Steve at The Foxes Den for excellent accommodation and for Vanessa's wonderful networking prowess, which enabled us to visit the old school building, (now L'Ecole), and The Old Schoolhouse, and chat to the current residents.

John Pauling



September 1972 was a momentous time for the Pauling family. I, John, had been appointed head of Assington Primary school. I was taking over from Mr Ron Tyler. We arrived "en famille": John, Jill, Jonathan (aged 2), Matthew (aged 6 weeks) and Caleb the dog!

We moved into the school house which had a well and a laburnum tree in a garden of waist high grass. There was a door in the sitting room that led directly into the school lobby and the classrooms. This proved to be very convenient in the colder months when I had to riddle the tortoise stoves no later than 6:00am to make sure they stayed alight during the day. They were useful for warming the frozen bottles of milk to which each child was entitled.

The school had three classrooms although there were basically two class groupings. At that time Suffolk operated a first/middle/ upper school system. Assington was the 'first' school, taking children aged rising 5 to 10 years.

Mrs Green had the "little ones" and I taught the "older ones". We planned our own curriculum which allowed flexibility to react to spontaneous learning opportunities. There were no computers so any reproductions involved the Banda machine or hand drawn visual aids. Work times and play times were

ASSINGTON RAINFALL AND TEMPERATURES

Bob Cowlin (temperatures) and Bill Milner (rainfall)

HISTORY annual rainfall :

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

2021	mm	max	min
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°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

2024	mm	max	min
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

2025	mm	max	min
JAN	39	9°C	-9°C
FEB	32	13°C	-6°C
MAR	5	18°C	-7°C
APR	25	26°C	-2.5°C
MAY	14	27°C	-0.5°C
JUN	36.5	31°C	-6°C

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☎ **Sean: 07983 403 289**

✉ **meadowgraceph@gmail.com**

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PARISH CHURCH NEWS

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



Saint Edmund
King & Martyr
Assington



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

Dear Friends,

I'm writing this as the sun beats down and the poor flowers in my garden begin to wilt. They remind me of this lovely story:

A water-carrier in India had 2 large pots, hung on opposite ends of a pole, which he carried across his neck. One of the pots had a crack in it the other was perfect. At the end of the long walk from the stream to the house, the cracked pot always arrived only half full.

The poor cracked pot was ashamed. After 2 years of failure, the pot spoke to the water-carrier one day.

"I want to apologise to you. I have been able to deliver only half my load because of this crack in my side."

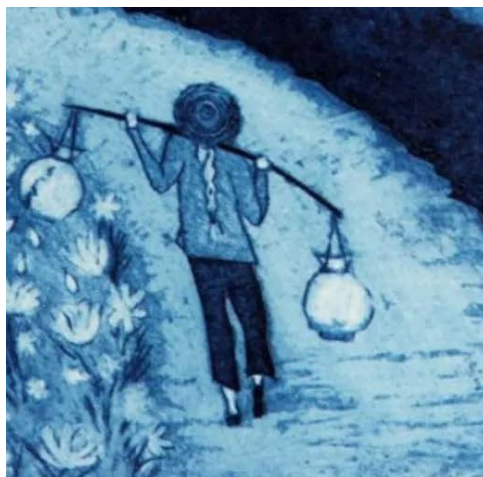
The water-carrier replied, "Did you ever notice that there were flowers just on your side of the path; but not on the perfect pot's side? I have always known about your flaw."

I planted flower seeds on your side of the path, and every day while we walk back, you've watered them. Because of the way you are, I've been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate the table."

Past tragedies may have caused "cracks" in our lives. The experience from our "cracks" gives us empathy for others suffering the same way. It gives us the ability to pour water on their dry ground.

A quarter of the World's population (2 billion people) now follow a man whose body was "cracked", broken by torture and nailed on a cross. But out of that death came new life refreshing water to make us grow to our full potential.

Now that is something to celebrate!



Vicar: Daniel Whiffin 07309 947039
email: vicar@parishchurch.co.uk
Associate Priest :
Rev Simon White 07572 418555
Reader: Dr John Symons 211534
Churchwarden: Bronwen Stacey 210354
Organists: Bronwen Stacey
Peter Dakin
Secretary: Emily Cartlidge 07967 724266
Treasurer: Tony Hufnagel



ASSINGTON CHURCH SERVICES in AUGUST

3rd August @ 10.30am HOLY COMMUNION

10th August Bures @ 10.30am Holy Communion
10th August Little Cornard @ 10.30am Morning Worship

17th August @ 10.30am MORNING WORSHIP

24th August Bures @ 10.30am Morning Worship
24th August Little Cornard @ 10.30am Holy Communion

31st August @ 10.30am HOLY COMMUNION

ASSINGTON CHURCH SERVICES in SEPTEMBER

7th Sept @ 10.30am HOLY COMMUNION

14th September Bures @ 10.30am Holy Communion
14th September Little Cornard @ 16.30am Evensong

21st Sept @ 10.30am MORNING WORSHIP

28th September Bures @ 10.30am Morning Worship
28th September Little Cornard @ 10.30am Holy Communion

THE CHURCH IN ASSINGTON IS OPEN FOR VISITORS

**ON SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS,
and at other times by arrangement with key holders:
Bronwen Stacey 01787 210354
John Symons 01787 211534**



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Alpha is a series of group conversations that freely explore the basics of the Christian faith in an open, friendly environment. Everyone's welcome. No matter your background or beliefs, whether you're new to exploring faith, have unanswered questions, or are simply open-minded about it all, Alpha is for you — you're invited.

Food, a talk, then conversation. You can say anything you like, or nothing at all. It's your Alpha, on your terms.

Alpha in Bures
Starting late September 2025
and running through the autumn.
Alpha is completely free — no charge.

Contact Bill and Tricia Box
Tricia 07747124592
Bill 07743801487





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Saturday - 09:30am to 2:00pm

Sunday - 9:30am to 12:30pm

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