

ASSIGNMENT

NEWS



AUGUST &
SEPTEMBER 2026

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)		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	Moiria Grant	01787 211513
Churchwarden	Bronwen Stacey	01787 210354
County Councillor (Philip.faircloth-mutton@suffolk.gov.uk)	Philip Faircloth-Mutton	
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 Warden	Jeff Stacey	01787 210354
Horticultural Society	Karen Wiles	
Member of Parliament (james.cartlidge.mp@parliament.uk)	James Cartlidge	020 7219 4875
Mobile Library - Vicary Estate Junction	Saturday 8th August Saturday 5th 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
andrewpeterhill@hotmail.com	Andrew Hill	01787 827112
	Mark Armitage	
	Kimberly Howard	
Parish Council - Clerk (clerk@assington-pc.gov.uk)	Christine Hargan	01449 674727
Pub – The Shoulder of Mutton	restaurant@shouldermutton.co.uk	01787 703309
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		
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 Jeff Stacey, 01787 210354, assingtonassociation@icloud.com**

The Assington Association 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 <https://assington-pc.gov.uk/assington-news/>

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RAFFLE TICKETS

Big Prize Raffle:

1st Prize £100 cash

2nd Prize £25 cash

3rd Prize a case of wine

4th Prize a hamper of delight

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 5th September 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

20 The Street

or

10, Woodfield, on The Street, Assington

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

Unity Trust Bank Account: **Assington PCC**

Sort Code **60-83-01** Account No: **20496584** please make sure you put a reference: **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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CRAFT FAIR

Little Cornard All Saints Church

13th September 2026
11am ~ 4pm

Craft Stalls

Jewellery / Ceramics / Crochet
Basket weaving and more...

Make & Take Leaf Printing
Continuous Line Drawing & Collage
Weaving / Fabric Crafting

Free entry | Free parking
Evensong

Sunday 13th September 4:30pm

All Saints Church, Kedington Hill, Little Cornard,
CO10 0PE

www.littlecornardchurch.org.uk



THINGS TO DO



**ASSINGTON 2026
HORTICULTURAL
SHOW
SUNDAY 16th
AUGUST
2pm-4pm
in the Village Hall**

Hadleigh Choral Society

We're still humming the catchy tunes from our wonderful summer concert from June...but soon our attention will turn to our next term which will bring together autumnal and Christmas themes, featuring works by celebrated English composers Ralph Vaughan Williams, Gerald Finzi and Herbert Howells. Our Autumn term begins on Tuesday 8th September, and as always, we welcome new singers. Why not join us for our free singing exploration morning, Saturday 12th September from 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



Raffle Tickets

**ASSINGTON CHURCH FETE
SATURDAY 5TH SEPTEMBER
2PM AT VILLAGE HALL
FREE ENTRY**

Afternoon tea, classic cars, children's crafts, big prize raffle, book stall, bric a brac, stands, stalls, bottle tombola, competitions and much more...

Information: Bronwen Stacey 210354
Donations: Roger Britcher (bottles tombola) 211021
Simon White 07572 418555
Classic cars Simon Whitbread 07453095144



**HARVEST AND
CRAFT FAIR
Little Cornard
All Saints Church
12th & 13th September 2026
11am ~ 4pm**

**A charming and welcoming
family-friendly village event**

Refreshments
Homemade Cakes
BBQ & Licenced bar
Heritage Exhibition
Games for all ages
Stalls & Demonstrations

Free entry | Free parking
Evensong
Sunday 13th September 4:30pm

All Saints Church, Kedington Hill, Little Cornard,
CO10 0PE
www.littlecornardchurch.org.uk

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

10 and 24 September

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

Revel Tricia Box - 07747134592




'Last Tuesday'

Coffee and Chat
in the Village Hall

The next meetings will be on
**Tuesday 25th August
and
Tuesday 29th September
both at 10am.**

See you there!



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ASSINGTON 2026 HORTICULTURAL SHOW SUNDAY 16th AUGUST

Assington Horticultural show is being held at The Village Hall on Sunday **16th August 2026 2.00pm - 4.00pm.**

Here's hoping for a good turnout at this year's show. We will be working hard to get our own entries ready frazzled or not they'll be going in, even if it's the Amos and Winifred Digbetter disaster class.

If you haven't entered the show yet, do give it a go this year or just come along at 2pm and check it out, you will be most welcome. There are classes to suit everyone, from fruit, veg and flowers to baking, photography, craft and children's classes.

There will be refreshments: Cake, tea, coffee and soft drinks. The show schedule and entry form were in the centre of the June edition and are again in this edition of The Assington News - there's no escape!

If you won a trophy last year, please return to me at 16 The Street, a week or two before the show.



If you are able to donate a prize for the raffle they can be delivered to me anytime or at the village hall on the morning of the show. Raffle prizes are very gratefully received as are any cakes for the refreshments. It all adds to the profits for the show which are all donated to village charities.

Thanks in advance to Bronwen for printing the show schedule and to the team working behind the scenes. Get running with those watering cans and I will see you on the other side.
Love Karen x

ARE YOU THE OWNER OF A CLASSIC or 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 5th SEPTEMBER,

Please arrive at 13.30 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 5th September
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..

The wonderful **Sally Bradshaw** has once again kindly agreed to take charge of the all-important afternoon tea refreshments. Please see below:



**Cakes needed for the
Assington Fete
Afternoon Teas
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 07572418555 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, donations of your latest creations to sell on the cake stall will be **most gratefully received on the morning of the fete, at the Village Hall,**

.....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!



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ASSINGTON CHURCH FETE SATURDAY

5th SEPTEMBER 2026

2pm

at the Village Hall

FREE entry

Big Prize Raffle

Afternoon Teas

Books

Children's tent

All the usual attractions

'Classic' cars

Bottle tombola

Bric a brac

Produce stall

stands, stalls and competitions

**Information: Bronwen Stacey 210354
Simon White 07572 418555**

THE 49th ASSINGTON HORTICULTURAL SHOW.

SUNDAY 16th AUGUST 2026

**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
no later than 6pm Friday 14th August.**

ON THE DAY

Sunday 16th 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.

In case you cannot lay your hands on the entry details which were in the June edition..... here they are again, in time for the show on 16th August.

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: Heaviest
35. Any Other vegetables not listed above please label
36. Any Other fruit not listed above please label

Section B: Flowers

All flowers/foliage to be home grown by you and in suitable containers

- 37. 6x Dahlia
- 38. 1x Sunflower with stem – Tallest. Leave roots on
- 39. 6x Flowers all same variety
- 40. Any 3 Flower varieties 3 of each (9 flowers in one vase)
- 41. Flower arrangement- in an unusual container
- 42. Flower arrangement entitled “Summer Skies”
- 43. 3x Hydrangea heads
- 44. 5 x Roses
- 45. Foliage pot plant
- 46. Flower arrangement- mixed flowers to include 3 Herbs

Section C: Baking
Open to all ages

All Home baking exhibits to be covered for hygiene. No ready-made pastry packet mixes or use of bread makers. Items can be entered warm.

- 47. Men only. Cake of your choice. Please label
- 48. International cake or pastry. Please Label
- 49. Victoria Sandwich any recipe
- 50. Loaf of Bread any recipe
- 51. 6 x Scones Plain
- 52. 6 x Scones fruit any variety
- 53. Jar of jam/jelly/marmalade please label
- 54. Jar of Pickle/Chutney (please label)
- 55. Bottle of homemade wine from wild/homegrown ingredients (white)

- 56. Bottle of homemade wine from wild/homegrown ingredients (red)

Section D: Children’s section
(minimal help from adults please)

- 57. Garden on a plate
- 58. Collage of natural materials any subject
- 59. Model from fruit or vegetables

Section E: Adults Only
(For the Mill Cup)

- 60. Photograph of Assington Life
- 61. Collage of photographs please give subject title
- 62. Photograph of wildlife
- 63. Photograph of your pet
- 64. Painting of your choice please give subject title
- 65. Any other craft

Disaster Section!

The winner receives the prestigious
‘Amos and Winifred Digbetter Disaster Prize’

- 66. Any exhibit from any class listed that went totally, utterly and hilariously wrong!

THE ASSINGTON HORTICULTURAL SHOW 2026 ENTRY FORM

NAME
AGE IF UNDER 16
I have read and agree to abide by the rules
By entering X I agree to remove my entries at the end of the show and do not wish it/them to be auctioned. All other entries will be auctioned.
I will deliver my exhibit/s to Assington village hall and display them between 8.30am and no later than 10.00am on Sunday 16th August. Hall doors will be open from 8.30am. Late entries will be charged at 70p per entry. Very late entries after 9.30am will not be allowed.

RESIDENT/NON-RESIDENT. Delete as necessary
FIRST TIME ENTRANT Y/N. Delete as necessary.

CLASS	DESCRIPTION	X NOT AUCTION

Entry fees 50p per class. Late entries 70p per class. Children’s classes 20p per class
I enclose total entry fees of Completed entry forms with fees in a marked envelope please.
Deliver to Karen Wiles 16 The Street, Assington. 11 No later than 6pm Friday 14th August 2026

NATURE WATCH

Nick Miller

The glories of summer are all around us, though often they are just fleeting glimpses.

On 21st June at Assington Thicks, a count of butterflies included four White Admirals, one Silver-washed Fritillary and two Purple Hairstreaks. These butterflies all dwell in the high tree canopy, and may be around more than we realise.

Singles of Silver-washed Fritillary and Purple Emperor were spotted at Tiger Hill on 25th and 26th June respectively, and on the 27th a Purple Emperor on the track to Mill Farm. A male Stag Beetle also appeared just close by.

Large parties are seen in Summer, of bird species that produce multiple young. Round the area one party of seven young Green Woodpeckers stayed together for most of a fortnight, and Swallows, Martins and Swifts, Long-tailed tits and Wrens have been conspicuous.

Over Arger Fen a pair of Ravens has been spotted leading four young.

Though Bats have only one youngster each summer the mothers crowd together into maternity roosts, and at dusk they may be seen emerging en masse to forage. In one small batbox locally in May, between 40 and 50 Natterers had squeezed in together, and in June seven Barbastelles were seen emerging together from under loose bark.

Young Badgers and Foxes are also a Summer sighting.

Glow-worms are an enchanting but increasingly scarce sight, but the adult females have been shining brilliantly in local woods, with groups of around ten seen in two places locally at the end of June.



* * * * *

Natterers Bat

The Natterer's bat has broad wings which enable it to fly slowly and prey on a wide variety of insects, even snatching spiders from their webs!

The ears are narrow, fairly long and slightly curved backwards at the tip. The inner lobe of the ear (the tragus) is long, narrow and sharply pointed. A characteristic feature of the Natterer's bat is a fringe of very stiff bristles along the trailing edge of its broad tail membrane. Its rather pinkish limbs give rise to its old name of 'red-armed bat'.

Natterer's bats have a slow to medium flight, sometimes over water, but more often amongst trees, where their broad wings and tail membrane give them great manoeuvrability at slow speed.

They normally fly at heights of less than 5m, but occasionally may reach 15m in the tree canopy. Much of the prey is taken from foliage and includes many flightless or day-flying



insects. Sometimes larger prey is taken to a feeding perch. Natterer's bats eat flies (mainly midges), small moths, caddis flies, lacewings, beetles, small wasps, spiders.

Relatively few summer roost sites of Natterer's bat are known. However, most known summer colonies are in old stone buildings with large timber beams, such as castles, manor houses and churches, or large old timbered barns. Crevices in beams or gaps in beam joints are common roost sites. They also roost under bridges.



The emergence of Natterer's bats from their roost reaches a peak about one hour after sunset. There is then a lull in activity before the bats begin to return. They have been observed returning an hour or two before sunrise, but when young are present they may do so soon after emergence. Natterer's bats start to arrive at their hibernation sites in December with peak numbers in January or early February. Most leave by early March. They show a preference for the cool entrance areas of caves and mines but will hibernate in any underground shelter. Natterer's bats are one of the species most frequently found in any small cave-like site or even exposed rock crevices. They are usually solitary, but small groups are not uncommon and may include other species. An exceptional cluster of about 150 bats is regularly found at one site.

In their efforts to lodge in small crevices, Natterer's bats can be found in almost any position, including lying on their back or sides, or even resting on their heads. Individual Natterer's bats are occasionally found hibernating in churches, in crevices between beams.

Barbastelle Bat

Barbastelles are rare and distinctive species, with a pug-like face and large, wide ears

It is a medium-sized bat, distinctive by its pug-shaped nose. The ears are broad, joined across its head by skin, and covered in gingery-brown fur on the rear surface.

The tragus is triangular – broad at the base but with a nearly parallel tip which starts about halfway along its length.

Barbastelle mainly eats small moths, some flies and beetles. and tend to forage over a wide area. They are fast, agile flyers and specialist foragers in a range of habitats, swooping to drink from ponds or lakes.

In summer they often emerge early from their daytime roosts to forage in the dark zone among the trees. When light levels have fallen then they may forage in quite open areas. Being one of the rarest mammals, much remains to be learned about barbastelles.

In the UK barbastelle are known to roost in cavities behind joints of timber-framed buildings, between close fitting roof timbers and in hollow tree trunks. Occasionally they can be found behind loose bark on dead trees, and movement between winter roosts is quite frequent.

The majority of UK winter records of barbastelle are of single bats in underground sites. They are relatively tolerant of the cold, and are found in caves, tunnels, cellars and trees in mainland Europe. They often hibernate in relatively exposed situations.



KESTRELS

This hot weather has taken a huge toll on nature: not only is it very difficult trying to keep treasured plants alive, but birds and animals find it increasingly difficult to keep hydrated and find water to drink - sometimes with dire consequences.

Very sadly, recently, two adult Kestrels were found drowned in the water tank in the churchyard. No evidence of "foul play" such as having been shot, could be found on them, and eventually the conclusion was drawn that they must have drowned, as they sought water but did not realise the depth of the water in the tank; once they landed it appears that they were unable to get out. Maybe one went in to help the first one - we can only surmise what actually happened.

Firstly let me reassure people that precautions have been taken to prevent something similar happening in the future, and an additional (shallow) water source has been placed elsewhere.

Whatever we do it won't bring back two magnificent birds which have been living in or around the churchyard for some time; they had a favourite monument which they used to perch on, which gave them a good view of their surroundings, and were often seen flying off if a visitor arrived through the gate. If there were any young which they were rearing, we have lost them also.

Although this was an accident, it has proved a salutary lesson to think more about the needs of everything at times like this, and to look after all our fellow creatures.

The kestrel is a little larger than a feral pigeon and can be found in all kinds of habitats, from open countryside to towns and villages. They have adapted readily to man-made environments and can survive right in the centre of cities. They nest in holes in trees, old buildings and abandoned crows' nests, laying between four and five eggs. When they hatch, both parents help to feed the young chicks.

Kestrels are a familiar sight, with their pointed wings and long tail, hovering above a roadside verge.

Numbers of Kestrels have declined by 37% between 1995 and 2023 and now feature on the Amber List of Birds of Conservation Concern. The exact causes of this decline are still unclear, but could include what's known as 'secondary poisoning' where Kestrels become sick or die from eating poisoned prey. Changes to the way land is farmed might also be a factor.

Males have a grey head and tail with a prominent black band, a gingery-brown back and a creamy underside which is speckled with black. Females are similar, but with a more uniform brown back and dark bands on the tail. **The familiar behaviour of the kestrel gives it one of its old country names: the 'windhover'.** The kestrel has the ability to keep its head still while it hovers - even in strong winds - helping it to pinpoint its prey by sight: they hunt small mammals and birds, worms and insects.



The Windhover

by Gerard Manley Hopkins
1844 –1889

*I caught this morning morning's minion, king-
dom of daylight's dauphin, dapple-dawn-drawn
Falcon, in his riding
Of the rolling level underneath him steady air, and
striding
High there, how he rung upon the rein of a wimpling
wing
In his ecstasy! then off, off forth on swing,
As a skate's heel sweeps smooth on a bow-bend: the
hurl and gliding
Rebuffed the big wind. My heart in hiding
Stirred for a bird,—the achieve of; the mastery of the
thing!*

*Brute beauty and valour and act, oh, air, pride, plume,
here
Buckle! and the fire that breaks from thee then, a
billion
Times told lovelier, more dangerous, O my chevalier!*

*No wonder of it: shéer plód makes plough down
sillion
Shine, and blue-bleak embers, ah my dear,
Fall, gall themselves, and gash gold-vermilion.*

This poem is in the public domain.



Gerard Manley Hopkins was born in Stratford, Essex, as the eldest of probably nine children to Manley and Catherine Hopkins.

Hopkins's initial ambition was to be a painter – he would continue to sketch throughout his life and was inspired as an adult by the work of John Ruskin and the Pre-Raphaelites.

Hopkins studied classics at Balliol College, Oxford (1863–1867). He began his time in Oxford as a keen socialite and prolific poet. There he forged a lifelong friendship with Robert Bridges which would be important to his development as a poet and in establishing his posthumous acclaim. Hopkins was deeply impressed with the work of Christina Rossetti, who became one of his great contemporary influences.

In 1865, Hopkins decided to become a Roman Catholic, and in 1867, he felt a call to enter the ministry and decided to become a Jesuit. He made a bonfire of his poetry and gave it up almost entirely for seven years. In 1872 Hopkins came to the realisation that his religion and his writing of poetry were not mutually exclusive, and the two need not conflict.

In 1877 he wrote *God's Grandeur*, an array of sonnets that included "The Starlight Night". He finished "The Windhover" "The Sea and the Skylark", "Pied Beauty", and "Hurrahing in Harvest", all evidencing the marriage of religion and nature which became characteristic of Gerard Manley Hopkins' poetry.

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BOXFORD & DISTRICT BOWLS CLUB

Report from Roz Mortlock

Summer is definitely here - and it has been so very hot recently. But this has not stopped the bowling - well, on a couple of occasions it has when it was way over 30 degrees in the afternoon.

Huge congratulations to Steve Marszal and Lea Blackham who have won the Norfolk/Suffolk area final of the National Bowls England Over 60s Pairs competition, following victories against pairs from Norfolk, Borough of Eye, Ipswich and Beccles Town. Steve and Lea now go on to the next stage of this National Competition - the All England Round of 32 (16 pairs) - playing a team from Peterborough. Winners from this round will go onto the National Finals at Leamington Spa in August.

We have several of our players through to quarter-final and semi-final stages of different competitions in the next few weeks. We wish you all the best of luck.



Finally some of our ladies were invited to join the Sudbury ladies to a friendly match against the Suffolk County ladies. It was a lovely afternoon and the final score was very close - unfortunately the Suffolk County ladies won!

COMMUNITY LIBRARY UPDATE

Since the re-decoration of the Village Hall, the community Library has had a facelift: Sarah White has very kindly reviewed the "old stock" and has refurbished the bookshelves completely: Some books have been sold on-line, and the funds so received have been added to the monetary collection. Some others have been replaced, to keep things fresh for interested users. The books are now re-arranged, not only into generic groups, but also alphabetically by author. In order to keep them in good order. Sarah will be keeping her eye on them, to ensure that they don't get out of hand again. The old format of a suggested donation of 50p per book taken continues as before. Many thanks to Sarah, and we hope that you enjoy using this community facility once again.

ASSINGTON RAINFALL AND TEMPERATURES

Bob Cowlin (temperatures)

and Bill Milner (rainfall)

HISTORY annual rainfall:

2016	599.5	2021	582.3
2017	571	2022	419
2018	559	2023	662
2019	597	2024	620
2020	636	2025	382

2025 was the driest year since Bill began keeping records in 1977

2022	mm	max°C	min°C
JUNE	33.5	30	2
JULY	5	36.5	6
AUG	11.5	32	7
SEPT	25	25	1
OCT	63	18	0
NOV	107.5	14	-2
DEC	45	10	-9.5

2023	mm	max°C	min°C
JAN	41	10	-7
FEB	3	14	-7
MAR	78	15	-6.5
APRIL	65	8	-2
MAY	19	22	1
JUNE	15.5	30.5	6
JULY	72.5	28	8
AUG	65	29	4
SEP	41.5	30.5	5
OCT	137	23	-2
NOV	61.5	11	-7
DEC	63	11	-3

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

2025	mm	max°C	min°C
JAN	39	9	-9
FEB	32	13	-6
MAR	5	18	-7
APR	25	26	-2.5
MAY	14	27	-0.5
JUN	36.5	31	6
JULY	44	33	5
AUG	11.5	30	6
SEP	26.5	24	0
OCT	38.5	19	0
NOV	82.5	14	-2
DEC	27.5	10	-4

2026	mm	max°C	min°C
JAN	90	7	-9
FEB	76	14	-3
MAR	19	15	-3
APR	7.5	22	-2
MAY	12	31	-2
JUN	39	35	8



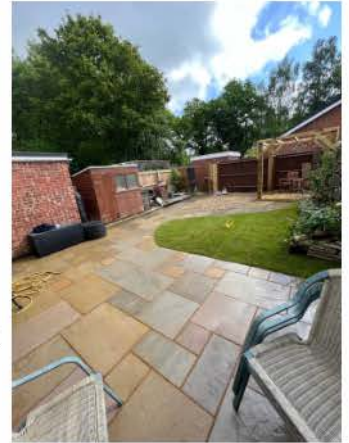
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PARISH CHURCH NEWS

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



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



Dear Friends,

Deep in Victor Hugo's famous novel, Les Misérables, is a beautiful story.

In early 19th Century France, a young man called Jean Valjean was sentenced to a term of hard labour for the crime of stealing bread. In prison he gradually toughened into being a hardened convict. No one could beat him in a fist fight. No one could break his will.

Eventually, Valjean earned his release. In those days, convicts had to carry identity cards. No innkeeper would house him. So, for 4 days he wandered village roads, until a kindly bishop gave him a room.

That night Jean Valjean waited until he knew that the bishop was asleep. He rose from his bed, rummaged around for the bishop's family silver, found it, and crept off into the night.

The next morning 3 policemen knocked on the bishop's door, with Valjean in tow. They had caught the convict fleeing with the stolen silver. He now faced being in chains for life.

However, standing in the doorway, the bishop responded in a way that no one, especially Valjean, expected.

He picked up 2 candlesticks that were standing on a shelf nearby. Looking straight at Valjean, he said loudly, "I'm delighted to see you again. Had you forgotten that I gave you these candlesticks as well? They're silver like the rest, and worth a good 200 francs. Did you forget to take them?"

The bishop assured the policemen that Valjean was no thief. "This silver was my gift to him."

When the police left, the bishop gave the candlesticks to his guest, who was now speechless and trembling. "Do not forget. Do not ever forget," said the bishop, "that I am giving you these candlesticks in order that you make yourself an honest man."

Taking a break in August, as many of us do, gives us a chance to re-evaluate our lives, a chance to wonder at the bishop's undeserved love, mercy and generosity; how he mirrored his own master, who died to give each one of us the opportunity to live a new life.



ASSINGTON CHURCH SERVICES in AUGUST

2nd August @ 10.30am HOLY COMMUNION

*9th August Bures @ 10.30am Holy Communion
9th August Little Cornard @ 10.30am Morning Worship*

16th August @ 10.30am MORNING WORSHIP

*23rd August Bures @ 10.30am Morning Worship
23rd August Little Cornard @ 10.30am Holy Communion*

**30th August @ 10.30am
BENEFACTURE SERVICE HOLY COMMUNION**

ASSINGTON CHURCH SERVICES in SEPTEMBER

6th Sept @ 10.30am HOLY COMMUNION

*13th September Bures @ 10.30am Holy Communion
13th September Little Cornard @ 16.30am Evensong*

20th Sept @ 10.30am MORNING WORSHIP

*27th September Bures @ 10.30am Morning Worship
27th September Little Cornard @ 10.30am Holy Communion*

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15TH AUGUST 19:30PM	LIVE DJ CLASSIC OLD & NEW TUNES
19TH AUGUST 19:30	MONTHLY QUIZ NIGHT FOOD SERVED 18:00-20:30 BOOK YOUR QUIZ TEAM NOW
22ND AUGUST 17:00-23:00	PUB CLOSED FOR PRIVATE EVENT PUB OPEN TO PUBLIC 12:00-17:00 SORRY FOR ANY INCONVENIENCE
28TH - 31ST AUGUST 12:00-23:00	MUTTON PUB FESTIVAL AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY WEEKEND JOIN US FOR OUR FIRST MUTTON FESTIVAL. LIVE MUSIC FRIDAY - SUNDAY BBQ - COCKTAILS - LOCAL BEERS
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2ND SEPT 19:30	COMEDY NIGHT £5 TICKETS - STARTS 19:30

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