

ASSIGNMENT

NEWS



DECEMBER 2024

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CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS (useful numbers)

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

Allotments Secretary	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 (office@boxford.suffolk.sch.uk)	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 (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	Paul & Cynthia Hollingsworth	01787 211620
Horticultural Society	Karen Wiles	
Leavenheath Cinema	Marion	01206 263301
Member of Parliament (james.cartlidge.mp@parliament.uk)	James Cartlidge	020 7219 4875
Mobile Library - Vicary Estate Junction	10th August & 7th September	4.15pm - 4.35pm
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	
hwallace58@gmail.com	Helen Wallace	01787 211162
i.jordan741@btinternet.com	Ian Jordan	
andrewpeterhill@hotmail.com	Andrew Hill	01787 827112
Parish Council - Clerk (assingtonpc@yahoo.com)	Christine Hargan	01449 674727
Pub – The Shoulder of Mutton		01787 210334
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	01787 228292
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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Auditor	Ian Clark, 01787 211133



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In aid of Sudbury Community Depot and the Friends Of Hope House

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THINGS TO DO



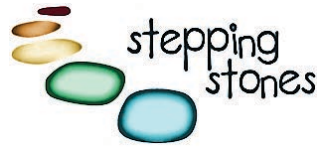
Assington Church

Christingle Service Sunday 1st December at 10.30am

*Families, please do come
early at 10am to help
decorate the tree!*



everybody welcome!



St Mary's Church, Bures

for babes and little ones
and their parents/carers
coffee/tea and lots of play followed by
15 mins of fun, bible story & songs
first thursday of month starting at 8.45am

Thursday 5th December at 8.45am



There will be no December
'Last Tuesday'



Coffee and Chat
in the Village Hall
**The next Coffee and Chat
meeting will be on
TUESDAY 28th JANUARY 2025
at 10am**

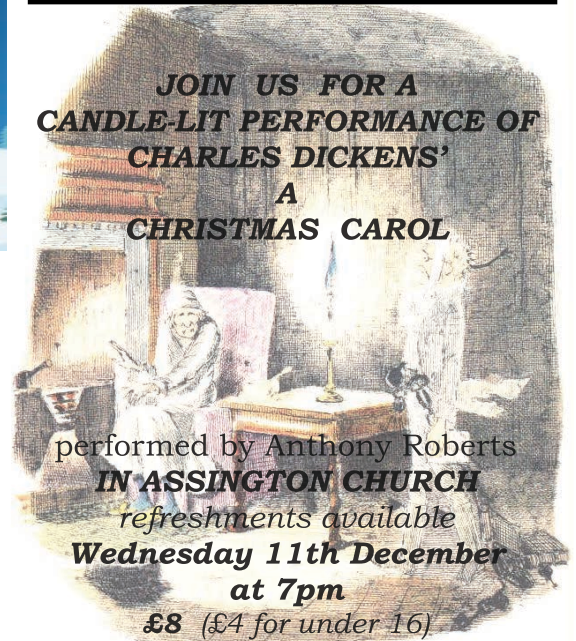
See you there!

**CANDLELIT CAROLS BY THE CRIB
SUNDAY, 22nd DECEMBER
at 5pm in the Church**



Once again this year we would love Children to come dressed as a shepherd, a king, an angel, or Mary or Joseph, and help us tell the nativity story: carry a figure of the Manger scene to place around the crib.

**JOIN US FOR A
CANDLE-LIT PERFORMANCE OF
CHARLES DICKENS'
A
CHRISTMAS CAROL**



performed by Anthony Roberts
IN ASSINGTON CHURCH
refreshments available
**Wednesday 11th December
at 7pm**

£8 (£4 for under 16)

*Tickets: Assington Farm Shop (cash only)
Skimbles, The Street (cash or card)
or text 07989-619364
or on the door*

The Assington Village Hall Charity
Would like to extend an invitation to
Assington Senior Citizens
of the age 70 and over
to attend a

Festive Christmas Lunch

With all the trimmings
£18.00 Person

At The Shoulder of Mutton

On Thursday 19th December at 12.30pm

All dietary requirements catered for

To book your place on this great event

By a closing date of Thursday 12th December

Please email or call

David Wiles david.wiles@live.co.uk

or 07811108702

Stating name(s) and any dietary
requirements

Thank you

Assington Baby
and Toddler
Group

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

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meeting together!

Twice a month on Thursdays in termtime 9.30-11.00 am
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**Just one date till the end of 2024
12 December**

Revd Tricia Box 07747124592

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and VILLAGE NEWS

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION (Bures and District)

Dear Village
many thanks for your generous contributions to the Poppy appeal!

Gratitude, huge, to Bronwen, Ann, Judy David, Lisa and John, who nobly covered, as much as possible, the village, with their Poppy Boxes.

Thanks, also, to our shop, The Barn, The Shoulder and Foxes Den, who held boxes for us.

We were very happy to welcome a Gurkha soldier, from Colchester Garrison, Warrant Officer Class Two, Royal

Gurkha Rifles, Khadak Chhetri, who came to our Remembrance Service and gave an Address on his history of Service, and that of his forebears.

David Wiles was splendid too, as our Standard Bearer.



Thank you all for your generosity and for supporting this very necessary Charity.

Best Wishes

Louisa Symons 'Centuries'

CHOIR NEWS

TICKETS NOW ON SALE
FOR CHARITY CHRISTMAS
CONCERT

This year our beautiful Choir is delighted to be performing at the stunning Lavenham Church on Sunday 15th December at 6pm. We are very pleased to be joined by Sudbury wellbeing group The Christopher Singers as our opening act. They will sing some festive favourites, and our own HappySounds Community Choir will perform a mixture of repertoire from the past year, along with some newly-learned pieces in 4-part harmony. With around a dozen new members this term, the sound is going to be amazing and we are expecting nearly 100 singers for the grand finale! This year's chosen charities are the Sudbury Community Depot, and also the Friends Of Hope House, which is a residential home for profoundly disabled young people where Rachel, the late daughter of one of our singers, lived until this time last year.



If you would like to support these wonderful charities and have a great night out in a beautiful venue at the same time then please drop a line to janette.gunn@yahoo.com or message via <http://www.happysounds.co.uk>. Tickets are £10 each.

The Choir will be accepting new members from January so if you'd like to come and join the fun as one of our singers then please drop me a line!

Nettie



Will you take part in the 2024 Assington Advent Windows?still a few left to fill

Please send your selected date AND house number/name to me, and I will add you to the list. Many thanks,

Anna

via Facebook or

email: annacclayton@hotmail.co.uk

- 1 -
- 2 - Assington Farm Shop
- 3 - 4 Meadow Way
- 4 -
- 5 - Squirrel House
- 6 - 10 Woodfields
- 7 - 7 Woodfields
- 8 - Hollybush House
- 9 - The Old School House
- 10 -
- 11 - Skimbles
- 12 -
- 13 - 13 The Street
- 14 - Mayes Green
- 15 - Russet
- 16 - 16 The Street
- 17 - 17 The Street
- 18 - Elm Lodge
- 19 - 1 Pippin Close
- 20 - 20 The Street
- 21 - The Foxes Den, Kitchen and Rooms
- 22 -
- 23 -
- 24 - The Shoulder Of Mutton, Assington

WISHING ALL READERS A WONDERFUL
CHRISTMAS AND FESTIVE SEASON
AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR IN 2025

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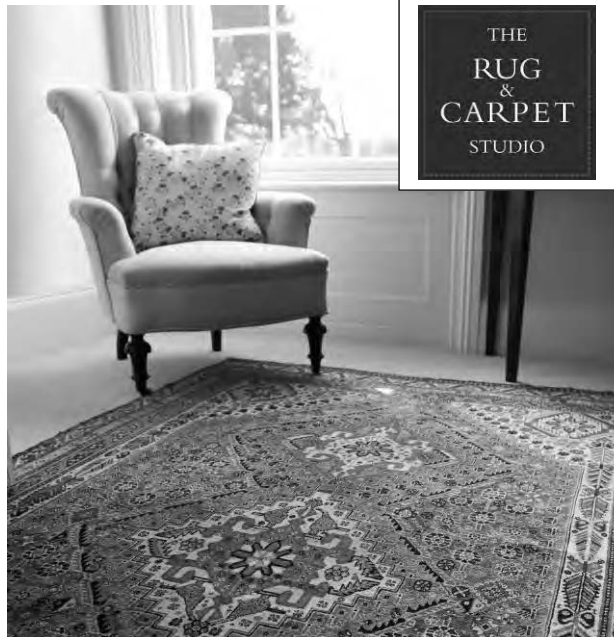
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Please bring your own mat.

50% donated to the Valerie Lock Church Fund to install Kitchen/toilet facilities.



PARISH CHURCH NEWS

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



'All is calm, all is bright...'

I wonder whether these famous words seem out of touch with our experience of Christmas these days. To me, December can seem everything but calm. We seem to cram in more and more each year. Much of it is fun, of course... parties, present buying, joyful services for schools and churches, and the rest. Add the pressure to create the 'perfect Christmas' and Advent can feel like a runaway train, which runs out of steam and collapses on Boxing Day. 'All is calm' — really?

Do you know the interesting story of the creation of one of our most loved Christmas carols, *Silent Night*? In Austria, on Christmas Eve 1818, an inexperienced priest named Joseph Mohr made a devastating discovery. The church organ had been ruined by rodents, with the popular evening carol service only hours away. I doubt I would have been calm and held much bright hope in this situation. But Joseph recalled a poem he had written a few years earlier called 'Stille Nacht'. He called upon a musical local friend, Franz Gruber to set his poem to music. Then together, the two friends led the choir in singing the first performance of *Silent Night*. Congregations have enjoyed the simple carol's ability to create peaceful calm ever since.

If Joseph Mohr had instead run around trying to find an organ builder available at a few hours' notice on Christmas Eve, 'all is calm, all is bright' would have remained just words in an Austrian priest's notebook. What gave him the wherewithal to calmly rely on the simplicity of his poem and a friend? Perhaps it was a relationship with the one 'so tender and mild' who is the subject of his poem. Those who have Jesus as their master, know these words of his to be true: "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest... for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."
May you know heavenly peace this Christmas, and hope for a bright New Year
Daniel

*Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright.
Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child.
Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.*

*Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia,
Christ the Saviour is born!
Christ the Saviour is born*

*Silent night, holy night!
Son of God love's pure light.
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth*

Vicar: Daniel Whiffin 01787 228292
email: vicar@parishchurch.co.uk

Associate Priest Rev Simon White
07572 418555
Reader: Dr John Symons 211534
Churchwarden: Bronwen Stacey 210354
Organist: Bronwen Stacey 210354
Secretary: Emily Cartlidge 07976 724266
Treasurer: Ian Clark 211133



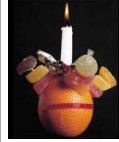
Saint Edmund
King & Martyr
Assington



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

SERVICES IN ASSINGTON CHURCH

1 DECEMBER @ 10.30am **CHRISTINGLE SERVICE**
**Families please come early from
10am to help us decorate the tree**



15 DECEMBER @ 10.30am Holy Communion

22 DECEMBER **CHRISTMAS EVE @ 5pm CANDLELIT
CAROL and CRIB SERVICE**

DO COME ALONG, EVERYONE INVITED:
**We would love Children to come along and
participate in the service by carrying a figure of
the Manger scene to place around the crib.**
PLEASE BRING A TORCH

25 DECEMBER @ 10.30am **CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE**
with Holy Communion

29 DECEMBER @ 10.30am *Benefice Service at Little Cornard*

JANUARY 2025 SERVICES

5 JANUARY ASSINGTON @10.30am **MORNING WORSHIP**
14 JANUARY in BURES @10.30am HC
19 JANUARY ASSINGTON @10.30am **HOLY COMMUNION**

26 JANUARY @10.30am
JOINT SERVICE AT BURES BAPTIST CHURCH
and at LITTLE CORNARD: HOLY COMMUNION

VILLAGE CAROL SERVICE:
CANDLELIT CAROLS BY THE CRIB
SUNDAY, 22nd DECEMBER at 5pm
in the Church

**We would love Children to come along and
participate in the service by carrying a figure of
the Manger scene to place around the crib.**

Dress as a shepherd, a King, an angel, or even Mary or
Joseph and help us tell the nativity story.....



The Service is the usual Assington Carol Service of
lessons interspersed with carols. Come and sing your
hearts out. The Church, as always, looks beautiful, lit
by candles.

9 Stay awhile afterwards for refreshments and social chat.

DON'T BE A BAH HUMBUG!

We are very excited to have a live reading, in the style of Charles Dickens himself, in the Candle-lit Assington Church, on Wednesday 11 December, at 7pm.

You will not want to miss this!

Dr Anthony Roberts, Director of the Colchester Arts Centre, accompanied by Jamie Cunliffe on keyboard, will be giving a charity performance of Charles Dickens' timeless story of Ebenezer Scrooge, and the three ghosts of Christmas. Proceeds will go towards the Tower Project.

Charles John Huffam Dickens (1812 –1870) was a novelist, journalist, short story writer and social critic. He created some of literature's best-known fictional characters, and is regarded by many as the greatest novelist of the Victorian era. His works enjoyed unprecedented popularity during his lifetime and, by the 20th century, critics and scholars had recognised him as a literary genius.

Born in Portsmouth, Dickens left school at age 12 to work in a boot-blackening factory when his father John was incarcerated in a debtors' prison. After three years, he returned to school before beginning his literary career as a journalist. Dickens edited a weekly journal for 20 years; wrote 15 novels, five novellas, hundreds of short stories and nonfiction articles; lectured and performed readings extensively; was an indefatigable letter writer; and campaigned vigorously for children's rights, education and other social reforms.

He recounted: "The blacking-warehouse was the last house on the left-hand side of the way, at old Hungerford Stairs. It was a crazy, tumble-down old house, abutting of course on the river, and literally overrun with rats. Its wainscoted rooms, and its rotten floors and staircase, and the old grey rats swarming down in the cellars, and the sound of their squeaking and scuffling coming up the stairs at all times, and the dirt and decay of the place, rise up visibly before me, as if I were there again. The counting-house was on the first floor, looking over the coal-barges and the river. There was a recess in it, in which I was to sit and work. My work was to cover the pots of paste-blackening; first with a piece of oil-paper, and then with a piece of blue paper; to tie them round with a string; and then to clip the paper close and neat, all round, until it looked as smart as a pot of ointment from an apothecary's shop. When a certain number of grosses of pots had attained this pitch of perfection, I was to paste on each a printed label, and then go on again with more pots. Two or three other boys were kept at similar duty down-stairs on similar wages. One of them came up, in a ragged apron and a paper cap, on the first Monday morning, to show me the trick of using the string and tying the knot. His name was Bob Fagin."

Dickens's literary success began with the 1836 serial publication of *The Pickwick Papers*, a publishing phenomenon—thanks largely to the introduction of the character Sam Weller in the fourth episode—that sparked *Pickwick* merchandise and spin-offs. Within a few years, Dickens had become an international literary celebrity, famous for his humour, satire and keen observation of character and society. His novels, most of them published in monthly or weekly instalments, pioneered the serial publication of narrative fiction, which became the dominant Victorian mode for novel publication. Cliffhanger endings in his serial publications kept readers in suspense; the instalment format allowed Dickens to evaluate his audience's reaction, and he often modified his plot and character development based on such feedback.

His plots were carefully constructed and he often wove elements from topical events into his narratives. Masses of the illiterate poor would individually pay a halfpenny to have each new monthly episode read to them, opening up and inspiring a new class of readers.

Dickens undertook, in response to public demand, a series of public reading tours in the later part of his career.

A Christmas Carol. In Prose. Being a Ghost Story of Christmas, commonly known as *A Christmas Carol*, was first published in 1843. In *A Christmas Carol* Dickens captured the zeitgeist of the early Victorian revival of the Christmas holiday and later inspired several aspects of Christmas, including family gatherings, seasonal food and drink, dancing, games and a festive generosity of spirit. The book is divided into five chapters, which Dickens titled "staves".

Staff one

A Christmas Carol opens on a bleak, cold Christmas Eve in London, seven years after the death of Ebenezer Scrooge's business partner, Jacob Marley. Scrooge, an ageing miser, dislikes Christmas and refuses a dinner invitation from his nephew Fred. He turns away two men seeking a donation to provide food and heating for the poor and only grudgingly allows his overworked, underpaid clerk, Bob Cratchit, Christmas Day off with pay to conform to the social custom. That night Scrooge is visited at home by Marley's ghost, who wanders the Earth entwined by heavy chains and money boxes forged during a lifetime of greed and selfishness. Marley tells Scrooge that he has a single chance to avoid the same fate: he will be visited by three spirits and must listen or be cursed to carry much heavier chains of his own.

Staff two

The first spirit, the Ghost of Christmas Past, takes Scrooge to Christmas scenes of Scrooge's boyhood, reminding him of a time when he was more innocent. The scenes reveal Scrooge's lonely childhood at boarding school, his relationship with his beloved sister Fan, the long-dead mother of Fred, and a Christmas party hosted by his first employer, Mr Fezziwig, who treated him like a son. Scrooge's neglected fiancée Belle is shown ending their relationship, as she realises that he will never love her as much as he loves money. Finally, they visit a now-married Belle with her large, happy family on the Christmas Eve that Marley died. Scrooge, upset by hearing a description of the man that he has become, demands that the ghost remove him from the house.

Staff three

The second spirit, the Ghost of Christmas Present, takes Scrooge to a joyous market with people buying the makings of Christmas dinner and to celebrations of Christmas in a miner's cottage and in a lighthouse. Scrooge and the ghost also visit Fred's Christmas party. A major part of this staff is taken up with Bob Cratchit's family feast and introduces his youngest son, Tiny Tim, a happy boy who is seriously ill. The spirit informs Scrooge that Tiny Tim will die unless the course of events changes. Before disappearing, the spirit shows Scrooge two hideous, emaciated children named Ignorance and Want. He tells Scrooge to beware the former above all and mocks Scrooge's concern for their welfare.

Staff four

The third spirit, the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come, shows Scrooge a Christmas Day in the future. The silent ghost reveals scenes involving the death of a disliked man whose funeral is attended by local businessmen only on condition that lunch is provided. His charwoman, laundress and the local undertaker steal his possessions to sell to a fence. When he asks the spirit to show a single person who feels emotion over his death, he is only given the pleasure of a poor couple who rejoice that his death gives them more time to put their finances in order. When Scrooge asks to see tenderness connected with any death, the ghost shows him Bob Cratchit and his family mourning the death of Tiny Tim. The ghost then allows Scrooge to see a neglected grave, with a tombstone bearing Scrooge's name. Sobbing, Scrooge pledges to change his ways.

Staff five

Scrooge awakens on Christmas morning a changed man. He makes a large donation to the charity he rejected the previous day, anonymously sends a large turkey to the Cratchit home for Christmas dinner and spends the afternoon at Fred's Christmas party. The following day he gives Cratchit an increase in pay, and begins to become a father figure to Tiny Tim. From then on Scrooge treats everyone with kindness, generosity and compassion, embodying the spirit of Christmas.



**JOIN US FOR A
CANDLE-LIT PERFORMANCE OF
CHARLES DICKENS'
A
CHRISTMAS CAROL**

performed by Anthony Roberts
IN ASSINGTON CHURCH
refreshments available

**Wednesday 11th December
at 7pm**

£8 (*£4 for under 16*)

*Tickets: Assington Farm Shop (cash only)
Skimbles, The Street (cash or card)
or text 07989-619364
or on the door*



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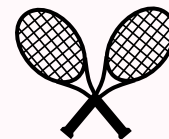
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ASSINGTON'S REMEMBRANCE DAY

On Sunday 10 November, Assington's Remembrance Day ceremony began, as on previous occasions, with David Wiles, bearing the British Legion Standard, parading from Rose Green, through the village, to the Church for the Service which commenced at 10.30. Residents joined in the parade as it passed, and many joined the Church Service.



On this occasion, David was joined by Warrant Officer Class Two, Khadak Chhetri, of the Royal Gurkha Rifles.

The Church Service followed its usual format, and joined the Cenotaph live at 11am, for the 2 minutes' Silence, followed by The Last Post.

The Church Service followed its usual format, and joined the Cenotaph live at 11am, for the 2 minutes' Silence, followed by The Last Post.



W O Chhetri, a third generation Gurkha, gave the Remembrance Address, and chose to speak about his Military Service, proudly following in the footsteps of those of his father, and his Grandfather before him: Khadak Chhetri's lineage is steeped in military service.

His grandfather, Subedar Major Kalu Chhetri Sirdar Bahadur OBI MBE MC, served in the 2nd King Edward's Own Gurkha Rifles and during the Second World War endured the harsh conditions as a Japanese Prisoner of War.



For his unwavering service, he was awarded an MBE which Khadak collected at an Investiture ceremony at Buckingham Palace in 2016, 70 years after the medal was awarded to his grandfather.



Khadak's father's service in the British Army further cemented the family's legacy. Capt(QGO) Bishnu Bahadur Chhetri, who served in the 1st Battalion The 2nd Gurkha Rifles, was a Borneo veteran.

Tragically, at the age of 40, he passed away in 1982 while on leave in Nepal, a loss that profoundly impacted the family. At just nine years old, Khadak felt an early sense of responsibility and a drive to honour his family's legacy. "My father was building a house for us when he passed away. Initially, I couldn't believe it because my grandmother was still alive, hence it wasn't his time yet, well at least in my child's mind then," Khadak recalled.



This sudden shift from living in Hong Kong to a remote village in Nepal was jarring but fuelled his determination to return and continue his family's tradition of military service.

Khadak's path to becoming a Gurkha was not straightforward. His first attempt at Gurkha selection in 1991 was unsuccessful, but he persevered and succeeded on his second attempt in 1992. His basic training began in Hong Kong, where the Brigade of Gurkhas was based at the time. The rigorous process, from initial selection to intensive 9 months training, was demanding, but Khadak thrived. Joining the same regiment as his father and grandfather was a moment of immense pride. "It was simply icing on the cake being able to join my forefather's regiment," he said. When asked about celebrating his heritage while serving in the British Army, Khadak highlighted the unique cultural traditions upheld within the Gurkha units. "Within Gurkha units, there are planned events throughout the year to celebrate our Nepalese and Gurkha heritage. Whenever possible, units try their best to coincide such events with the Nepalese calendar back home," he explained. He fondly recalled observing Tihar (Diwali) in the jungle in Kenya and celebrating Dashain with fellow Gurkhas during his tours in Afghanistan.

Throughout his career, Khadak has experienced both the challenges and rewards of integrating into the broader British Army. His first significant posting away from Gurkha units was with 7 PARA RHA in Aldershot in 1997, part of a pilot scheme to integrate Gurkha clerks into the wider Army. This transition was challenging due to cultural and linguistic differences, but Khadak's determination saw him through.

Khadak's dedication has been recognised through numerous medals and citations, reflecting his outstanding service. His accolades include the NATO Medal with Clasp for Former Yugoslavia, Operational Service Medal for Afghanistan, NATO Medal for ISAF, and multiple Jubilee medals. Notably, he was awarded Army Three Star Commendations and Meritorious Service Medal (MSM) by both the UK and US armies.

Remembrance holds special significance for Khadak. "I always remember Far East POWs purely because of my grandfather, as it is so personal to me and my family," he shared. He also recalled his participation in Remembrance Sunday at the Cenotaph in 2016, representing the Gurkhas and the British Army in honour of his grandfather's sacrifices. Personal losses, such as the death of his comrade CSgt Krishna Dura in Afghanistan, also weigh heavily on his mind during Remembrance.

Khadak's family is split across three countries. His mother and siblings live in Nepal, his youngest brother resides in Hong Kong, and he himself lives in the UK with his wife and two daughters. This geographical separation underscores the global nature of their lives and the enduring connections they maintain despite the distances.

WO2 Khadak Bahadur Chhetri's life and career exemplify the values of the Gurkhas and their storied history in the British Army.



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..AND A PARTRIDGE IN A PEAR TREE

The 12 days of Christmas is the period in Christian theology that marks the span between the birth of Christ and the coming of the Magi, the three wise men. It begins on December 25 (Christmas) and runs through January 6 (the Epiphany, sometimes also called Three Kings' Day).



Twelfth Night, also known as Epiphany Eve, falls on the 5th January and is the end of the traditional Twelve Days of Christmas. Decorations were taken down, and it was commonly believed that misfortune would befall those that left their decorations up beyond that night.

The original twelve days of Christmas were a series of religious feast days celebrated as part of the Roman Catholic religion in medieval and Tudor England. Starting on Christmas Day, there were 12 days of religious celebrations, feasting and entertainments that lasted all the way up to 5 January.

CHRISTMAS EVE

While today many people enjoy chocolate advent calendars to count down the days to Christmas, Tudor people fasted for four weeks leading up to it. They also fasted on Christmas Eve. This meant not eating meat, cheese or eggs – and it must have made the thought of a big Christmas Day feast even more exciting!

Everyone, even poorer people, stopped working for 12 days starting on Christmas Day. On Christmas Eve, people decorated their homes with whatever greenery they could find growing, including holly, ivy, mistletoe and other evergreens to symbolise eternal life.

25 DECEMBER – CHRISTMAS DAY

Christmas Day, the first day of Christmas, began with Midnight Mass. Church bells rang, candles were lit, and at last the celebrations could begin! Everyone wore their best clothes. At court, Henry VIII wore new clothes on Christmas Day, and new things were given to royal attendants and servants too. After going to church in the morning, people sat down to their Christmas feast. Plum porridge (a thick meat broth made with plums, spices, dried fruits and wine) was served first. Then, there were roasted meats like boar, venison and birds, as well as brawn, a Tudor Christmas favourite. Alongside the meat, both rich and poor people ate pies, stuffing, frumenty and puddings.



26 DECEMBER – THE FEAST OF ST STEPHEN

The second day of Christmas in Tudor England was the Feast of St Stephen. He was the first Christian martyr and was known for helping the poor. The Feast of St Stephen was a day for charity and giving to those in need. At the time of the Tudors, Alms (charity) boxes in churches were opened, and the money was shared out to poor people.

27 DECEMBER – THE FEAST OF ST JOHN

The third day of Christmas was the Feast of St John, who was said to have miraculously drunk a glass of poisoned wine without becoming ill. Everyone drank ale, as well as a drink called 'Lambs Wool', which was made by adding spices and apples to beer.

28 DECEMBER – CHILDERMAS

Childermas, or the Feast of the Holy Innocents, was on the fourth day of Christmas. On this day, people remembered the children murdered in Bethlehem by King Herod, as he tried to kill the baby Jesus. Tudor children were often whipped in the morning to remind them of the suffering of the children in Bethlehem, but for the rest of the day, they were in charge rather than their parents!

This role reversal happened in the church too. Members of the choir were chosen to be 'Boy Bishops' on 6 December. Their rule came to an end on 28 December, and the real bishops were in charge once again.

31 DECEMBER – NEW YEAR'S EVE

New Year's Eve, the seventh day of Christmas, was traditionally a day for playing games and sports. Rich people hunted and played cards and dice at all times of the year, but Christmas games were livelier than ever! Some 'parlour games' that we still play today were also enjoyed by the Tudors, including Blind Man's Buff and Hide-and-Seek. For poor people who worked very hard during the rest of the year, Christmas was a chance to relax and have some free time. In fact, Henry VIII even made a law that working men could only play certain games (including football, tennis, dice and cards) at Christmas – so they had to make the most of their opportunity! He also decided that to make sure England's army always had good archers, the only sport people could do on Christmas Day was archery. Because of this, it became very popular.

During this time the weather was much colder than it is today. This lasted for about 200 years and was known as the 'Little Ice Age'. In winter, it became so cold that the River Thames regularly froze, and people held fairs and markets, called 'Frost Fairs' on the ice. In 1564, courtiers practised their archery, shooting at targets on the ice, and people even played football on the frozen Thames!

1 JANUARY – NEW YEAR'S DAY In Tudor England the eighth day of Christmas or New Year's Day, not Christmas Day, was the traditional time to give gifts. Evidence suggests that it was mostly upper and middle class people who gave gifts, and these included items of food, expensive spices or money. Medieval people usually gave a gift to their lord on New Year's Day. In a similar way, it was expected that everyone at the Tudor court would give a gift to the king or queen. These gifts were presented to the monarch in a ceremony, and then each item was displayed on a sideboard for everyone to see. Gifts to Henry VIII included gold cups, paintings, purses of coins, foods and even wild animals – one year he was given a pet marmoset!

It wasn't all one way, though. Monarchs gave gifts back to their subjects, and one year, Henry VIII spent over £800 (£400,000 today) on Christmas presents! In Christmas 1540, Hans Holbein gave Henry a painting of his young son Edward (the future Edward VI). Henry was so pleased with the gift, that he commissioned a silver-gilt cup (silver that has been covered with a thin layer of gold) to give back to the painter as a thank you.



5 JANUARY – TWELFTH NIGHT The twelfth day of Christmas was known as Twelfth Night. It marked the night before the feast of the Epiphany, the coming of the wise men to visit the baby Jesus in Bethlehem. Twelfth Night might have signalled the end of Christmas, but people celebrated it with great feasts, games and plays. At the Tudor court, there were masques and huge banquets.

Included in the feasts was a Twelfth Night cake. It was a huge fruit cake, tasting a bit like a giant brioche, and was baked with a coin or dried bean hidden in the mixture on each half of the cake. Men and women took slices from opposite sides of the cake, and whoever found the bean or coin in their piece became the king or queen of the bean. It was their job to host the evening's entertainment, of singing, dancing and games.

The next day, people celebrated the final feast of Christmas – the Epiphany. After church services, they ate roasted lamb, and Epiphany tart, a kind of giant jam tart made in the shape of a star. The twelve days of Christmas were over for another year.

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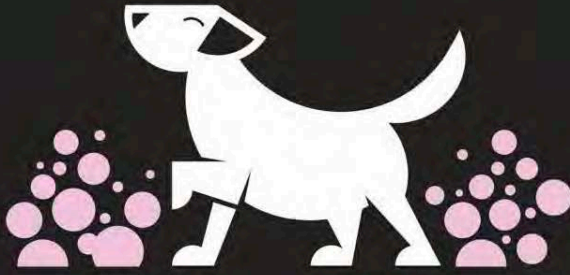
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BOXFORD & DISTRICT BOWLS CLUB

From Roz Mortlock

Over the season our players have been competing in matches against each other. Our Finals Day took place on 15th September and we congratulate all our winners. A huge thank you to Kevin Colling who organised all these competitions and the difficult job of scheduling Finals Day. Below are photos of some of the winners – and the others will follow in the next newsletters. The trophies below were presented by Malcolm Grimwood.

THE MONICA SNOOK TROPHY - Ladies 2 Wood Singles – ROZ MORTLOCK



In memory of Monica Snook, who was a very successful bowler at our Club over the years, playing not only for Boxford but in County and National competitions, this new trophy was awarded for the first time to the winner. We were

honoured to have some of Monica's family attend and present this trophy at our Finals Day.

THE MALCOLM GRIMWOOD TROPHY – ANDY CARR



In honour of the long service to the Club by Malcolm Grimwood, our September Cup was renamed this year as The Malcolm Grimwood Trophy. This competition was played between all members of our club who had entered, with points awarded for nearest to the jack over the agreed number of ends. The

winner accumulated an impressive 40.5 points.

MOIRA CARR & PAM HOWARD – Ladies Pairs and KAY & MIKE BUNN – Mixed Pair



ANDY CARR & STEVE MARSZAL – Mens Pairs and



PETER NORRIS – President's Cup



MONDAY MORNING LEAGUE – The team who won this trophy played every week over the season were Peter Norris (Captain), Graham Skillen, Fred Mackness, Lesley Cook, Cynthia Hollingsworth.

ASSINGTON RAINFALL AND TEMPERATURES

Bill Milner (rainfall)

and Bob Cowlin (temperatures)

HISTORY annual rainfall :

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

2020	mm	max	min
AUG	109	32°C	4°C
SEP	25.5	27°C	5°C
OCT	110	14°C	2°C
NOV	33	14°C	-4°C
DEC	102.5	10°C	-5°C

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

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

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

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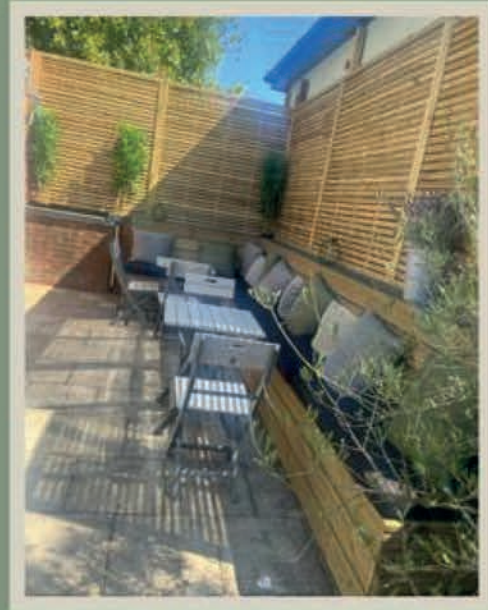


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