

# ASSISTING FOR

## NEWS



JANUARY / FEBRUARY

2024

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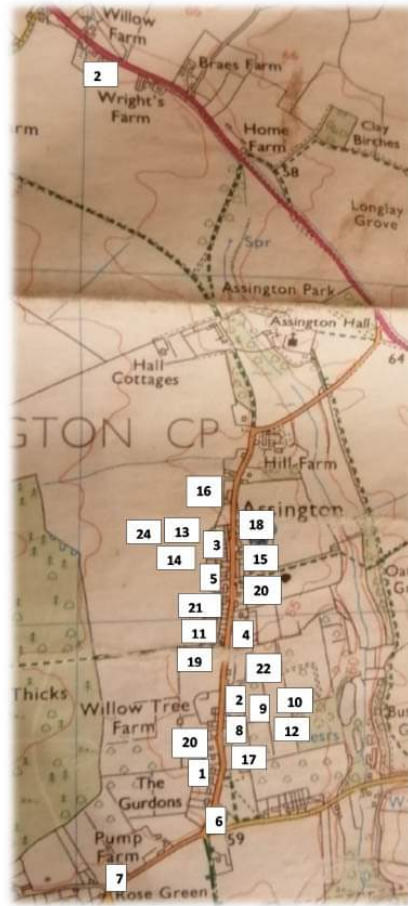


# ASSINGTON ADVENT WINDOWS

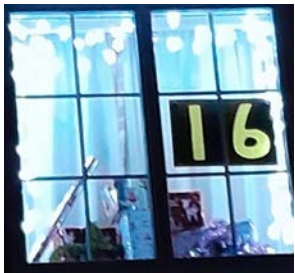
## From Anna Clayton

Thanks to everyone for their efforts in decorating their windows for their chosen advent calendar date.

The images show some lovely displays, which hopefully you managed to see when walking around the village!  
Thanks again Anna



1	6 The Gurdons
2	Assington Shop
3	16 The Street
4	Skimbles
5	Squirrel House
6	Cootes Cottage
7	1 Rose Green
8	Hollybush House
9	4 Meadow Way
10	Cabello Hairdressers
11	7 Woodfield
12	1 Pippin Close
13	13 The Street
14	17 The Street
15	Mayes Green
16	Old School House
17	Elm Lodge
18	The Shoulder of Mutton
19	Russet
20	9 The Gurdons & 20 The Street
21	10 Woodfield
22	The Nook
23	The Foxes Den
24	14 The Steet



# DANCE CLUB

Tuesdays 10:45am-11:45am

Nayland Village Hall,  
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£5 per class

Love to dance?

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No partner needed

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# THE 2023 ASSINGTON SENIORS' CHRISTMAS LUNCH

On Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December The Assington Seniors Christmas Lunch was held at The Shoulder of Mutton.



25 seniors attended the occasion to have an excellent traditional Christmas lunch and were thoroughly spoilt by Totty and her team, all feeling very well fed and festive by the end. All attendees were given a raffle ticket as they entered the pub for the chance to win a very well stocked Christmas hamper or as a second prize a box of Luxury chocolate biscuits.

Karen Wiles drew the lucky numbers: 2<sup>nd</sup> prize was won by Ann Dixon, and the hamper was won by Stephen King.

Everyone enjoyed the lunch including some new residents to the village, and it was mentioned how nice it was for them to all get together to reminisce.

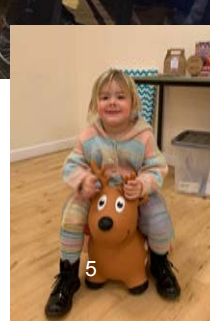
A special thanks to Totty and the team for staging the event and making it so special, the church special fund for sponsoring the lunch and the Assington village charity for sponsoring the raffle prizes.

This will now certainly be an annual event.

# LITTLE CITY CHRISTMAS PARTY AT THE VILLAGE HALL

From David Wiles

On 15<sup>th</sup> December the Village hall hosted the First Little City Christmas Children's party. 23 toddlers attended with mums and dads and was a huge success, some attending in fancy dress, and having the opportunity to dress up whilst at the party. All of the Little City shops and surgeries were decorated in the Christmas theme. Two hours went very quickly! A massive thanks to Kate at Little City Suffolk who did not stop making the event magical for the little ones. The Village Hall is now an official Little City Venue so keep your eye on the Assington facebook page and the Assington news for future events; the children's Christmas party will now be an annual event.



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# THE BIRD HAS FLOWN



This image depicts **'The Renewal of Life'**, a sculpture by the late Major Richard Heseltine M.C. of Assington, a war hero, fruit farmer, local philanthropist and a very talented artist and sculptor, displayed in St. Edmund's Church, Assington.

It represents Noah's Ark, and, after the great flood, the dove which was sent out by Noah, until one day it returned with an olive branch in its beak, showing that land was once again visible, and the life was returning to the earth; .....the renewal of life.



Very sadly for the church, the dove has recently disappeared, from the sculpture. The disappearance has been reported to the police, as we are of course, most anxious to secure its return, and so if you are able to help us in any way or have any information, we should be most grateful to know. Please contact Bronwen Stacey, Churchwarden, with any information, on 01787 210354 or [bronwenstacey@btinternet.com](mailto:bronwenstacey@btinternet.com)

## Biography of Major Richard ('Dick') Heseltine

Richard "Pippin" Heseltine was born in 1914 in Wimbledon, Surrey, and attended Charterhouse public school, which he left at the age of 16. His father, a stockbroker in the City of London, expected him to follow in his path and that of his family ancestors, but Heseltine preferred outdoor life and after Charterhouse spent a year and a half on a farm in Hampshire learning to plough and sow and to build corn ricks and haystacks. He also learnt about lambing with a Hampshire Down flock. Then, following his father's advice, he went into fruit growing and spent a year on a fruit and hop farm next to East Malling Research Station in Kent. His father then bought him a small farm in Newington, near Sittingbourne, North Kent, where he grew apples until 1939.

On the 3rd of September 1939 he was called up to join his chosen regiment, the 3rd Hussars, where a cousin was already serving. It is then that he got his nickname "Pippin". (Pippin Close in Assington is so-named after him, as the houses are built on the orchards previously owned by Dick.) He stayed with the 3rd Hussars for 6 years, during which he distinguished himself greatly, being awarded the Military Cross in 1944:

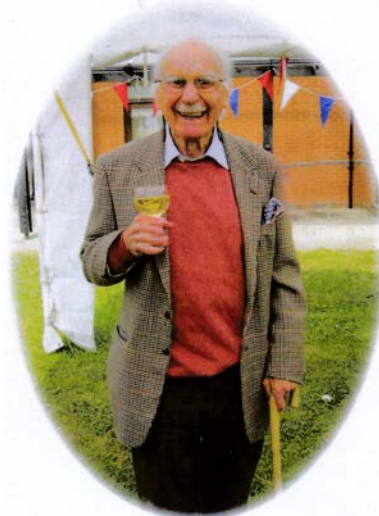
During WWII he was a skilful, dashing, and unorthodox tank commander, and when he announced to the city of Orvieto the surrender of the German forces in Italy, he was awarded on the spot the Freedom of the city by the delighted Mayor of the town.

During World War II Heseltine fought in North Africa, Cyprus and Italy, among many other places and, despite being in the thick of the action, painted and drew the fields, trees and landscapes around him with great accuracy, with the keen eye of a countryman. He took his art material everywhere in a little detonator box with small sketchbooks and paper in his map case. A number of these sketches and paintings, as well as war scenes sketches, were later used to illustrate his memoirs published in 2001 as 'Pippin's Progress: a Soldier Artist's War', illustrated by the author, Silver Horse Press, 2001.

Copies of this most readable paperback are still available from Dick's Granddaughter, Annabel Thorogood, please contact her at [annabel.thorogood@gmail.com](mailto:annabel.thorogood@gmail.com)

On the 15th of November 1945 he was demobilised, this marking the end of his army career. After the war Heseltine farmed in Hampshire for 9 years. This is where he met his wife Jean with whom he had three sons and a daughter. In 1955 he moved to Assington where he undertook fruit farming at Willow Tree Farm, Assington.

Dick was a 'local hero' for the villagers of Assington; he was a lovely, kind and generous person who gave of his time and largesse to help to make the village a happy and comfortable community.



Over many years, Dick gave the annual Remembrance Day address in church until two or three years before he died in 2012. The PCC is fortunate enough to have two recordings of his addresses from 2007 and 2009.

Dick Heseltine was a member of Colchester Art Society and Gainsborough's House Workshop. The 3rd Hussars Museum in Warwick, holds some of his work, mainly sketches he drew during the war. His stone carvings are in churches at Little Cornard and Assington.

Before he joined the army he was already a talented artist, a talent inherited from his father's family. Heseltine studied art part-time, for one term only, with William Otway McCannell ARA RBA (1883-1969) at Farnham School of Art in the early 1930's and regarded himself as "a self-taught amateur".

Later in life he experimented in various media, including sculpture, painted still lifes and nudes with strong and vibrant colours and wonderfully fluid brushwork.



However it is his charmingly delicate, almost romantic landscape paintings executed during the war which exemplify best his work as an artist, a work which was described as reminiscent of Samuel Palmer.

His work was exhibited in various national galleries during his lifetime.

**Wardale Williams**

THE OPTICIANS

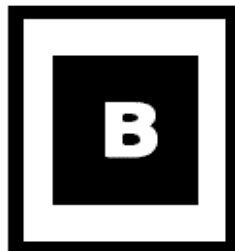
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## MATTHEW GREEN

Many of us were shocked and saddened to learn of the sudden and unexpected death of Matthew in December 2023.

Matthew Green was born in Oxford in 1944, and grew up with his elder brother and younger sister. After leaving school he worked in a factory, but in his twenties he became the first member of his family to pursue further education and moved to London to be trained at the Webber Douglas Academy of Dramatic Art in South Kensington, whose alumni also include Antony Sher & Julian Fellowes. He went on to pursue a career on stage across the country, performing at the National Theatre in London, playing Lob in *Dear Brutus* at the Northcote Theatre in Exeter and King Ferdinand of Navarre in *Love's Labours Lost*, and appearing in three Jean Genet plays at the Citizens Theatre in Glasgow. He also made a local appearance, playing Joe the Fat Boy in *The Pickwick Papers* at the old Wolsey Theatre in Ipswich.

Matthew met Ian in London in the 1980s, and they shared passions for travel, the arts, food and drink throughout a lifelong partnership. After initial reluctance Matthew even latterly came to share Ian's passion for opera, visiting the Royal Opera House regularly. They entered a civil partnership at Brixton Register Office in 2014.

Ian and Matthew came to Assington in 1995, and while they retained their home in Brixton and Ian continued to work in Whitehall until his retirement in 2016, Matthew came to spend most of his time in the village once he retired from acting. He served as a parish councillor, and latterly was an enthusiastic member of the Happy Sounds Community Choir. He will also be remembered as a regular - if occasionally less enthusiastic - stallholder at the annual village fete.

Matthew died suddenly in London on 21 December at the age of 79. A private family funeral will be held in Oxford, where his family, to whom he was always very close, remained. This will be followed by a memorial service at the Church of St Edmund in the village, on a date to be confirmed.

## Memories of Matthew at Choir From Nettie

Everyone at Choir will remember Matthew as funny, and friendly, with his usual cheery greeting to each person of "Hello darling, how are you?" He was always very keen on Choir, to the point that even while poorly he would walk to rehearsals. Once there, we would often fall around laughing at his antics. Political discussions at tea break were always somewhat colourful in language and probably best avoided. Occasionally, during the sessions, we would get the odd interjection from him, delivered with rapier-like comic timing and an impeccably pronounced swear word. Occasionally he would mime if he didn't like the song. Occasionally he would tell a very rude joke about a certain children's character after a couple of drinks, horrifying one or two of the ladies at the Choir Christmas party. The rest of us found it hilarious and would spur him on, much to Ian's annoyance, I'm afraid! Poor Ian also had to endure Online Choir during lockdown, however Matthew diligently attended and sang at home every week.

Eventually we were able to perform together again, which Matthew really enjoyed. At one concert I requested that no handbags were to be taken on stage, to which Matthew replied very loudly "But darling, where shall I put my lipstick?". He is remembered as being funny, and thoughtful, and kind and unfailingly generous - you couldn't walk past him in the pub without him offering to buy you a drink. One word has repeatedly cropped up during our discussions at choir since he passed, and that word is "Gentleman". A gentle man, that although small in physical stature, took up a huge space at Choir, and in our hearts, too. We all miss him very much.



## VILLAGE NEWS

### ROYAL BRITISH LEGION REMEMBRANCE COLLECTION

Dear Village, I am very happy to report that thanks to all the generous help I received last year, we raised the very fine sum of £730 for our Poppy Appeal!

Very many thanks to Lisa Brooks, David Wiles, Judy Bourner, David and Ann Jarrett, and John Symons, who all so kindly gave their time, collecting for this worthwhile cause.

Many thanks and a Happy New Year!  
Best wishes **Louisa Symons, 'Centuries'**

### CHURCH CLEANING - HELP NEEDED PLEASE

The cleaning of St Edmund's church has traditionally been undertaken by a group of volunteers from the village; some are regular churchgoers, others are not

However, one or two of our volunteers have had to give up in the past couple of years as they have either moved away from Assington or are no longer able to help us.

**If you are willing** to assist and can spare just a few hours in one month each year, **please call Val on 01787 211133**. Thank you.

### CAROL SINGING FOR SHELTER

£149 was raised by Carol Singers around the village on the evening of Thursday 21st December.

Many thanks to all those who joined the songsters, the youngsters who shook the collection boxes, and the kind residents who provided most welcome refreshments. And of course, a huge thanks to those who generously donated.

## HAPPYSOUNDS UPDATE

Hello all!

HappySounds are delighted to report that we raised over £1300 for Little Havens Childrens' Hospice at our sell-out Christmas Concert at All Saint's in Sudbury. It was a fantastic afternoon with not just the Choir, but with special performances from the Leavenheath Ladies, the Gang of 10, and last but not least, the most beautiful rendition of John Lennon's "Imagine", by 12-year-old Alannah Wilkinson, who has recently recovered from a gruelling two and a half years of chemotherapy for leukaemia - there wasn't a dry eye in the house. Massive thanks to everyone who sang, and to everyone who helped out behind the scenes, it was quite a feat with so many people to usher and make teas for!



In other news, HappySounds is delighted to announce that we have taken on a whole new Choir, previously known as Sudbury Sings. Their MD retired at Christmas, and asked Nettie if she would take over the sessions so that the Choir could carry on singing together. There are around 65 members in this choir and the plan is to join forces for certain concerts. With 42 members at Assington, we might need to find some considerably larger venues to perform in!

Sudbury meets on Wednesdays at 7pm at the Salvation Army Hall in Station Road, and Assington meets on Thursdays at Assington Village Hall at 6.30pm. We have limited new places available but the doors will be closing to new members in mid-February as we prepare for our concerts. Do get in

# FUEL SUPPORT

## Help to heat your home:

- Prepayment meters – if you are unable to top up your prepayment meter, Citizens Advice can offer you advice and may be able to refer you for charitable support. You can also contact Warm Homes Healthy People Suffolk for support, advice and an in home survey from a Pre Pay Coordinator. Call 07769 365796 or email [prepay@eastsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:prepay@eastsuffolk.gov.uk).
- Local Welfare Assistance Scheme – This hardship grant offers payments up to £300 towards the cost of essentials, including energy. Visit the Suffolk County Council website for more information and to apply.
- Surviving Winter - offers help, such as fuel vouchers or support for alternative fuels like oil and LPG, to help you heat your home. Apply online via the Citizens Advice Ipswich website or call 01473 298634 to find out if you are eligible.
- Emergency Heating – if your home currently has no heating, Warm Homes Healthy People can provide free emergency heaters and help you find longer term support. Call 03456 037 686 or email [whhp@eastsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:whhp@eastsuffolk.gov.uk). Subject to availability.

## Bringing down your bills:

- Warm Homes Healthy People Suffolk - offers free efficiency surveys and advice to help you use less energy. If you are a private tenant or homeowner, they can also tell you if you are eligible for energy efficiency grants. For more information visit [www.warmhomessuffolk.org](http://www.warmhomessuffolk.org) or call 03456 037 686.
- National Energy Action - runs a Warm and Safe Homes helpline which advises on ways to reduce energy use and improve efficiency. It also offers support to switch suppliers and advice if you get behind on payments. Call 0800 304 7159 or visit [www.nea.org.uk](http://www.nea.org.uk).

## Help for off-gas homes:

- Oil loans - Eastern Savings and Loan Credit Union offer interest-free loans of £500 to help spread the upfront cost of oil and LPG. To become a member and apply visit [www.eslco.co.uk](http://www.eslco.co.uk) or call 03336 000690. Subject to a manual decision process, affordability and a credit check.
- Oil buying clubs – Bulk buying reduces the cost of your heating oil. Find out if your community has an oil buying club by visiting [www.oil-club.co.uk](http://www.oil-club.co.uk), you can also check the Community Action Suffolk website for details of their scheme [www.communityactionsuffolk.org.uk](http://www.communityactionsuffolk.org.uk) or call 01603 881 888.

## Dealing with energy debt:

- Supplier grants - many energy suppliers have grants to reduce or clear debt if you meet their criteria. Speak to your energy supplier to see what help you can get.
- Citizens Advice - offers advice for energy, debt and more. They can support you to create a budget, negotiate with your supplier and boost your income.
- Benefit entitlement – payments such as Warm Homes Discount, Cold Weather Payments, and extra Winter Fuel Payments can add up to hundreds of pounds to help you pay your energy bills – but you'll need to be claiming certain benefits to get them. Benefit checks can be done online at [www.gov.uk/benefits-calculators](http://www.gov.uk/benefits-calculators), or by contacting your local Citizens Advice.

## More information

Visit [www.babergh.gov.uk/energy-fuel-and-utilities](http://www.babergh.gov.uk/energy-fuel-and-utilities) for more resources to help you keep fuel and utility costs down.

If you would like help to access the internet, or to use a computer, phone or tablet, you can contact Babergh's Digital Skills team 0300 123 4 000, option 7

## ASSINGTON RAINFALL AND TEMPERATURES

Bill Milner (rainfall)

and Bob Cowlin (temperatures)

### HISTORY annual rainfall:

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

\*\*\*\*\*

2019	mm	max	min
OCT	90	18 °C	-2°C
NOV	69.5	12 °C	-5°C
DEC	78	10 °C	-5°C

\*\*\*\*\*

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

\*\*\*\*\*

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

\*\*\*\*\*

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

\*\*\*\*\*

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

## THINGS TO DO



Assington Baby  
and 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. Thursdays twice a month in termtime, from 9.30-11.00 am, at £3 per family.

Here are the dates for 2024  
8 Feb, 14 & 28 March  
25 April, 9 & 23 May, 13 & 27 June, 11 July

Revd Tricia Box 07747 124592

### ASSINGTON VILLAGE CHARITY: VACANCY

Owing to unforeseen circumstances we are looking to recruit someone to become our new secretary.

We are a new team and very enthusiastic. If you are from the village and would like more information please contact David Wiles, (Chairman) on 07811108702 or [david.wiles@live.co.uk](mailto:david.wiles@live.co.uk)



### St Mary's Church, Bures

for babes and little ones  
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coffee/tea and lots of play followed by  
15 mins of fun, bible story & songs

first thursday in every month starting at 8.45am

Thursday 1 February  
and Thursday 7 March  
both at 8.45am



## Leavenheath Village Hall Cinema

is showing

## THE GREAT ESCAPER

**SATURDAY 3rd FEBRUARY**

Arrive 7.00pm Film starts 7.30pm

Comedy Drama PG—12A

Starring Michael Caine & Glenda Jackson

Based on a true story!

1hr 36 mins with 20 mins interval

Please book early to avoid being disappointed

Tickets £4.00 per Adult and £2.50 for under 12's

You can pay by cash or card on the door

Reserve your seat online at [www.leavenheathvillage.com](http://www.leavenheathvillage.com)  
or phone Marion on 01206 263301 to book your tickets

Refreshments, wine, beer, soft drinks, coffee, tea will be available before the film and also available during the interval along with ice creams. Proceeds towards LVH Capital Project Fund (Charity no 262816)

## IN AID OF THE CHURCH TOWER PROJECT:

please do come along if you would like to help raise money



## Beetle Drive



Family /Social activity

Free entry

Sat 24th February

6.00-8.00pm

@ Village Hall

6-8 ish people /friends/ family group per table

Equipment (score cards, dice provided)

Antenna for the winner of each game!

Drinks by donation (Wine/beer/soft drinks)



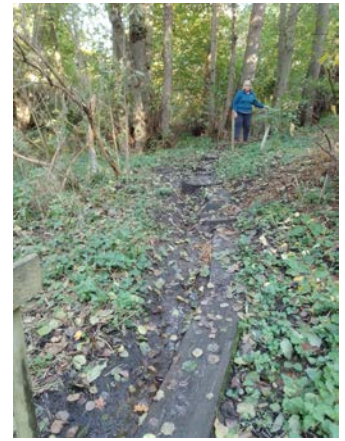
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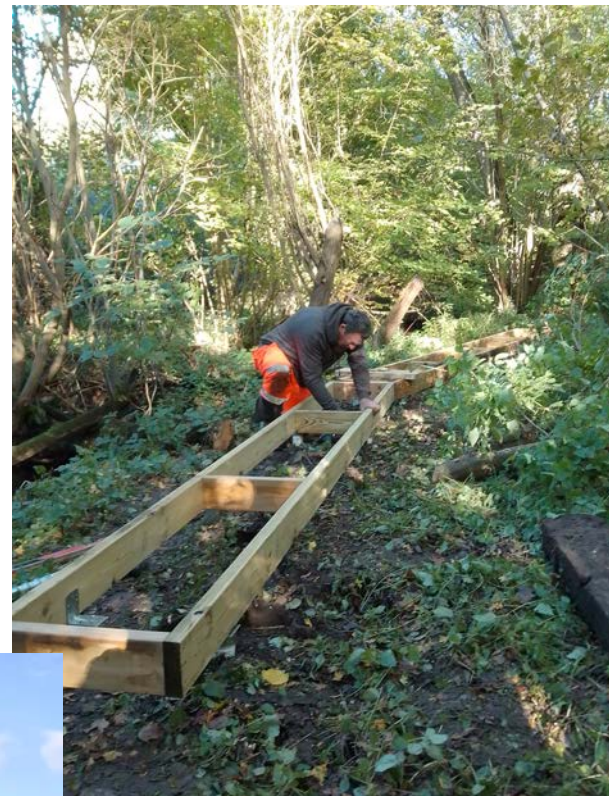
# NATURE WATCH: TIGER HILL WOOD

Thanks to the workers and of course, Nick

Before the boardwalk:



Andrew Hogsberg in his element:



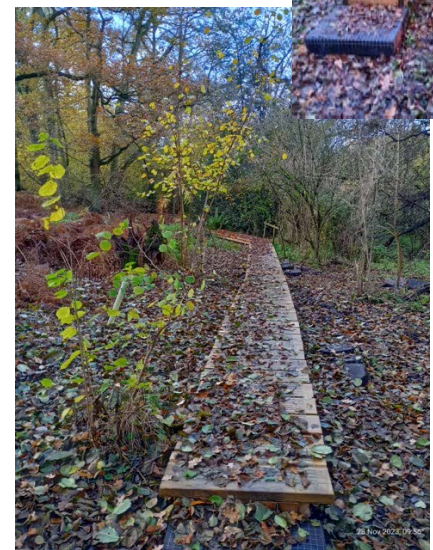
Great fun was had by Assington's pioneers on 5th November, when many hands made light work of carrying timber for new boardwalks, down through Tiger Hill Wood. The new work improves some very boggy places.

After our healthy exercise, we enjoyed open-air refreshments, and then hunted for and admired the grand display of colourful toadstools round old oak trees.



The boardwalk after completion:

Very well done to all concerned.



Suffolk County Council, and the Dedham Vale National Landscape, funded materials and construction for these improvements to the public path. The scenic route along the Brook connects Bures, Assington and Arger Fen, and is a popular walk.



# NATURE WATCH: 2

## Report on 2023 from Tiger Hill by Nick Miller

2023 brought some welcome sightings of scarce and long-absent wildlife, in various places round Assington.



A Harris Hawk was doubtless an escapee from a Birds-of-Prey centre.



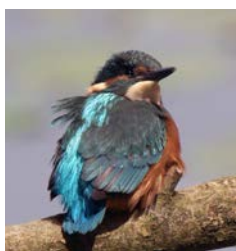
Nightingale arrived for the season, though in tiny numbers, singing beautifully.



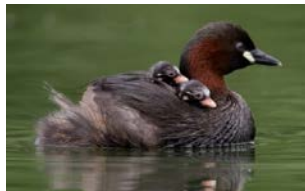
Spotted Flycatchers raised young, so great to watch the family group perching, then flying up to snap insects.



A Grey Wagtail put in an appearance at the Arger Fen water-splash in icy weather, ceaselessly bobbing and fluttering (has a lemon-yellow front, unlike the Pied Wagtail).



Little Grebes have been here for several years now, and appear to be breeding, but carefully concealing their chicks.



A young Kingfisher was seen.

At least one Otter has made repeated appearances.



Dormouse were formerly abundant in the area, but in the last 15 years of surveying have been rarely found, however this year brought two records.



Toads have started appearing in numbers in the last couple of years.

Sadly though, we again had no House Martins and few Swallows, which is a national trend.



Some Butterflies were few - except abundant Red Admirals, apparently forced northward by the scorching temperatures in Europe.

Much of the area - though not the village - has lost its Rabbit population to the new RHD disease, the reduced grazing is good news for crops, but bad for wild grassland .

## THE REVEREND CANON SIMON WHITE

Way back in September 2023 I was spending time one day trying to keep up with my e-mails when I came across one from Bishop Martin inviting me to become an Honorary Canon of St Edmundsbury Cathedral. The e-mail said, "The duties associated with being an Honorary Canon are not extensive but do carry an important representative role". To be honest, I really wasn't sure what to make of it so I started asking around and sure enough it is about me representing what's happening in our small southerly corner of Suffolk at our Cathedral.

We all think of St Edmundsbury Cathedral as a large historical building in Bury St Edmunds, built on the site of the once magnificent Abbey, but it plays a significant role in the community of Suffolk it serves. It's aim is to be a centre for learning, both for the Christian faith and beyond. It wants to be increasingly outward looking while remaining committed to helping towards a more caring and just society, both locally and further afield.

So, somewhat hesitantly I said, "Yes" and I was installed, along with 6 others, on the 19<sup>th</sup> November.



The word 'install' might sound a bit bizarre but by tradition each Canon gets their own stall and mine is dedicated to Sigebert, King of the East Angles so I was literally placed in my stall towards the end of what was a wonderful service.

I'm sure others of you will be able to tell me more but King Sigebert ruled what is now Suffolk and Norfolk from 629 to 634 and was the first English king to receive a Christian baptism and education.

If you've got some spare time when you next visit Bury St Edmunds, could I encourage you to pop in to our wonderful Cathedral there and perhaps see if you can find what is *my* stall for the few years I am an Honorary Canon there.

Revd Canon Simon



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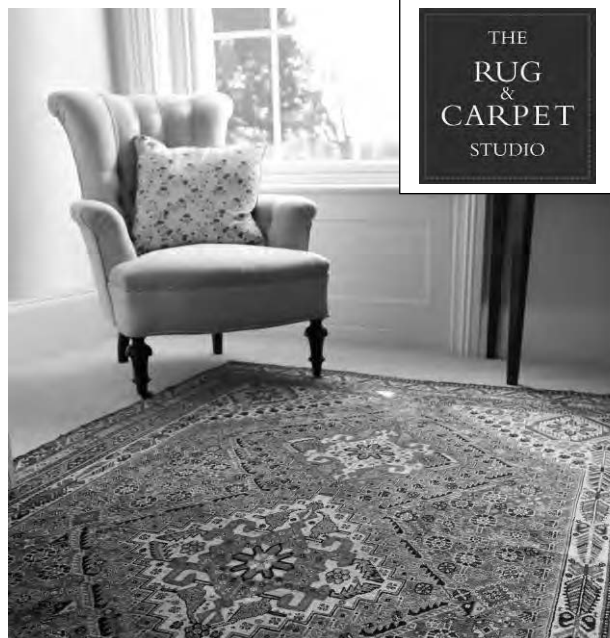
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# THE OLD WORKHOUSE

## From Angela Bradding

For many of you The Old Workhouse is a familiar sight. It stands proud off the A134 at the corner of Dyers Lane. A significant landmark in the surrounding fields and farmland. Those of you who have known this magnificent building over the years will have been happy to see it gradually enter its new phase of existence. It has been transformed from a sad,



derelict, uninhabited shell into our characterful home, becoming a legacy for the future.

As part of its transformation, we are writing about our experiences of renovating and researching this Grade II listed building. We start however, by providing an historical overview to this purpose-built rural workhouse.

Assington workhouse was purpose built in 1784 by a local builder, Isaac Strutt of Boxford. Purpose-built housing for the poor was rare in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century. Most accommodation for paupers at this time 'made do' with any empty buildings or part buildings, anything that happened to be available. The planning and building of The Old Workhouse at Assington constituted a significant and costly project for the village. The Overseers Books, part of the Parish Council Records, show that anywhere up to 25 inmates were accommodated, fed, and watered (mainly with small beer rather than water) from 1784 to 1837. The paupers were looked after by an appointed Governor, who lived in the workhouse with his family in more spacious and better-quality rooms at the garden end of the building. The Governor was responsible for catering for the needs of a diverse population of residents: poor, destitute, elderly, infirm, pregnant, and the terminally ill.

In 1834 important changes were made to the law (1834 Poor Law) concerning the provision for the poor. These changes meant that rural workhouses became redundant, as larger Union workhouses were built in more populated locations. In 1837, Assington workhouse was sold at auction at The Shoulder of Mutton.

---

1 Monica appears to have moved in with her mother Amy Catherine (d.1934), her father John Gillies (d.1943), and Frederick Charles Hodgson (d.1971).

So, after 53 years as a workhouse, it was converted into four cottages. Our knowledge of this phase is still limited. We do know that by 1932 the Myatt family<sup>1</sup> owned the building; but we are unclear about what it looked like, or how it was used internally. Eventually, Monica Myatt (1907-1997), became the last full-time inhabitant at the workhouse, having lived there for 65 years. Monica was a talented musician and piano teacher. We found much evidence of Monica's musical life and achievements, which are notable for a female of her generation. We also met a former private piano student of hers when he visited the workhouse out of curiosity one day.

By the late 1990's, The Old Workhouse was desperately in need of maintenance and considerable restoration. It was placed on the Babergh Council's 'at risk register' in 2006.

So, in December 2015, The Old Workhouse was put up for auction again (the photo on the left was included in the catalogue ) with Goldings of Ipswich. We were very excited, but somewhat daunted to have become its new owners!

In January 2016 we started the long and complex process of restoration. We have been heartened by the number and variety of visitors who have shown an interest while we have worked on the building.

We hope you agree that The Old Workhouse has not only been saved from collapse, being habitable once again, it provides precious and thought-provoking insights into important aspects of our social history.

Finally, if any of you have any photos, information, stories and so on we would love to hear from you.



**JUST A NOTE TO SAY THAT ESRA HAS NOT BEEN SEEN SINCE CHRISTMAS, BUT WE LOOK FORWARD TO HIS RETURN IN TIME FOR THE MARCH EDITION.**



Peter Robb

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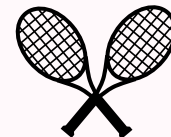
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# PARISH CHURCH NEWS



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<https://assingtonchurch.org.uk>

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



Dear Friends,  
In this month of February, I celebrate another birthday - a sobering prospect, especially in retirement!

I once heard a vicar say that he was facing retirement. But he wanted to spell the word differently – RE-TYREMENT. What did he mean by that?

Well, let me tell you about Gertie Campbell. Gertie was 76 years old and concerned about the young people in her church. With her vicar's permission, she decided to go to one of the Youth Group's meetings. She wasn't a speaker, a Bible Study leader or a counsellor. But she had a plan....

At the first meeting she took her camera. She took a photo of every member. Back home she memorised each picture, with brief details of every teenager.

The following Sunday she stood at the door and welcomed everyone by name. At the end she stood at the door again, saying goodbye to each by name, promising to pray for them. This she continued to do every week.

Soon the church's young people discovered that Gertie had memorised almost every verse in the Bible. So, they came to her with the questions and struggles of their young lives. Ten years of youth ministry later, at 86, Gertie suffered 3 strokes. The young people were mortified. The youth leader had an idea. "Gertie", he told her, "I want to take your funeral". She replied, "Take my funeral? – But I'm not dead yet!"

"Yes, I know", he replied. "But I want to take your funeral while you are alive. That way you can see how much you mean to everyone." Gertie loved the idea. So, the youth group planned her living funeral.

Young men and women packed out the service. At the end, a group of teenagers gathered mysteriously at the back of the room. (To understand what they were doing you need to know something about Gertie.) She may have been 86 years old, but she never lost her youth. No old people's perfume for Gertie! O no! She loved Estee Lauder's perfume called "Beautiful".

The young people walked down the aisle, hiding something. When they arrived at the front, they held up a giant, very expensive bottle of "Beautiful" perfume. They then promptly poured it over Gertie's feet. The sweet smell of that perfume pervaded the hall. The memory of Gertie's offering to that youth group lived on long after she died.

Gertie never "retired". She "re-tyred". As we reflect on becoming another year older, what an inspiration she is to us all.

Vicar: Daniel Whiffin 01787 228292  
email: [vicar@parishchurch.co.uk](mailto:vicar@parishchurch.co.uk)  
Associate Priest Rev Simon White 07572 418555  
Reader: Dr John Symons 211534  
Churchwardens: Roger Britcher 211021  
Bronwen Stacey 210354  
Organist: Bronwen Stacey 210354  
Secretary: Emily Cartlidge 07967 724266  
Treasurer: Ian Clark 211133



## FEBRUARY 2024 SERVICES IN ASSINGTON

4th FEBRUARY @ 10.30am MORNING WORSHIP

11th February Bures Holy Communion @ 10.30am

LC Morning Worship @ 10.30am

18th FEBRUARY @ 10.30am HOLY COMMUNION

25th February Bures Holy Communion @ 10.30am

LC Holy Communion @ 10.30am

## A THOUGHT FOR THE NEW YEAR From John Symons

All Christians know they have a duty to try and spread the good News re Jesus, but often feel reluctant to bring religion into a conversation; what they need is an amazing moment, worthy of recall that is linked to church in some way

We had such a a moment during the Christmas Eve Candlelit Carols by the Crib Service.



We had all been entertained by a little toddler, dressed as an angel complete with wobbly halo, who wandered about, to and from the altar, to the consternation of her parents.

When all the children brought figures up to make a nativity scene, and sang 'Away in a Manger', she was there.....



BUT when they went back to their parents she changed her mind.....

she returned to the manger, grabbed the baby Jesus doll,

returned to the steps of the Chancel, lay down and went to sleep cuddling the baby Jesus.

Not a dry eye in the house!





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# ASSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL Minutes of the Extraordinary meeting held on Wednesday 3 January 2024 At Assington Village Hall

**Present:** Simon Thorogood (Chairman), Andrew Hill, Bronwen Stacey, Ian Jordan,

Helen Wallace, Tony Howcroft, David Wiles

**In attendance:** Christine Hargan (Clerk)

**Apologies** for absence: none

**Declarations of interests and requests for dispensation :** none

## ■ Planning:

### Planning applications

★**DC/23/05625** Planning Application. Erection of 2 No Bungalows including garages with additional parking.

Woodside Barracks Road Assington CO10 5LP

**Resolved to oppose** the application on the grounds that:

The proposed development lies a significant distance outside the settlement boundary of the village and therefore does not comply with Assington Neighbourhood Plan policies ASSN1 or ASSN2, or NPPF policies regarding isolated development.

The proposed development is in the Area of Local Landscape Sensitivity, and the proposal does not protect or enhance the special landscape qualities of the area. It is therefore in conflict with Policy ASSN7.

The Environmental Survey appears to be inaccurate; Councillors are aware of an abundance of wildlife on the site and the development proposal does not comply with Policy ASSN11 as it would result in a loss of habitat and biodiversity.

★**DC/23/05547** Householder Application - Conversion of existing cart lodge and outbuilding to form annexed accommodation for elderly relatives and installation of 2No. ground solar array panels.

Dillacks Farm Colchester Road Assington Sudbury Suffolk CO10 5LT

**Resolved no comment**

**DC/23/05548** Application for Listed Building Consent - Conversion of existing cart lodge and outbuilding to form annexed accommodation for elderly relatives.

Dillacks Farm Colchester Road Assington Sudbury Suffolk CO10 5LT

**Resolved no comment**

★**DC/23/05459** Full Planning Application - Erection of single storey self-build dwelling

Land North Of Assington Barns The Street Assington Sudbury Suffolk CO10 5LW

**Resolved to support** the application as it is consistent with Neighbourhood Plan policies, specifically ASSN1 and ASSN6. It was noted that the significantly reduced density of this application compared to previously refused applications on this site, allowed the Parish Council to support it on this occasion.

★**DC/23/04891** Householder Application - Construction of two storey side /rear extension, part single storey rear extension, vehicular access and driveway (following demolition of existing single storey extension).

4 The Gurdons Assington Sudbury Suffolk CO10 5LW

**Resolved no comment**

**No other** planning applications were received since the agenda was posted.



## ■ Finance

★ Consider Budget and Precept for 2024/25  
The budget was approved and the Precept set at £10,000 for the 4<sup>th</sup> year running despite significant inflationary pressures. This was made possible in part by the interest payable on the content of the deposit account.

★ To Confirm that all signatories are now active on the Unity Trust Bank account:  
Three signatories are active and one is awaiting a replacement code from UT bank.

★ Transfer of remaining funds from Barclays to Unity Trust

The letter of instruction to Barclays bank to calculate interest and pay the balance of both accounts to Unity Trust bank deposit account was signed by all signatories and witnessed by the Clerk. The letter will be sent to Barclays "signed for".

★ Resolved: to adopt the amendments to the Financial Regulations as distributed by Cllr Howcroft, who further recommended that all permitted expenditure should be paid from CIL funds as this legitimately transfers funds ringfenced CIL funds which may be clawed back to the parish council's general reserves.

★ Resolved to approve payment of expenses Cllr Hill for purchase of Christmas Tree, £89.99

## ■ Questions to the Chair

★ Assington Autos: planning application is still outstanding.  
Clerk to forward BDC Policy on scrap yards again for consideration for a response.

★ Condolences were extended to Cllr Jordan on the sad passing of former Councillor Matthew Green.

■ The meeting was closed at 8.25pm

*The new Christmas Tree provided by the Parish Council, was sited this year outside the Village Hall.*

*Particular thanks go to Cllr Andrew Hill and Cllr David Wiles for managing to construct and illuminate it - apparently no mean feat!*

\*\*\*\*\*



## SESAW NEWS

Have you made any resolutions as you hang the new calendar, flip through the seed catalogues and holiday brochures or search for evening classes? Maybe you want to turn over a new leaf, eat less, exercise more – or how about volunteering once a week?

A few hours of your time can make a huge difference to charity shops, food banks, befriending services or hospitals. If you happen to love animals, SESA W needs you too. Volunteering is a two-way street, your gift is more than compensated by the feelgood factor. Our human carers go home tired but happy, especially when they see people or families going home with their new pets. If you would like to volunteer at SESA W, please contact: [sesawken@gmail.com](mailto:sesawken@gmail.com). One of my humans will call you to discuss how we could help each other.

We still have kittens in need of new homes and a five year old, black and white cat. We believe Paddington was callously thrown over a garden wall and left to die when seriously ill with flu. Fortunately she was brought to SESA W where she spent two weeks beside a radiator, being nursed, medicated and fed (my) best food. I didn't really mind sharing my rations and glad to see her now fit and ready for a new, loving home.

Please visit Paddington if you are the human she needs, or you are looking for a pet to share your life. Mum's new diary is open on the desk, ready to take your calls but she'll find her pen is missing. A nice, crunchy biro is too tempting to a little dog like me, Kenny  
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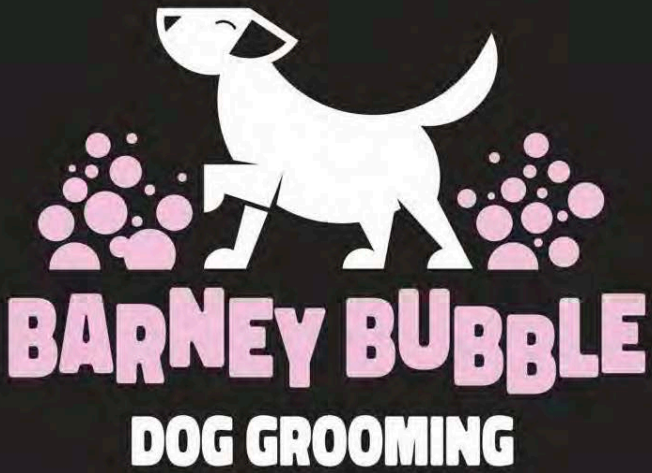
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All GoStart's volunteer drivers have clean licences, enhanced clearance under the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS), and training under the national Minibus Driver Awareness Scheme.



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### GROUP HIRE

We operate two 16 seater mini buses which can be hired by local voluntary and charitable organisations. Our vehicles can be used for social, leisure and educational purposes by not for profit organisations.

### EXPANDING HORIZONS

Day trips and outings to places of interest for people who are isolated or lonely. Trips usually take place over a weekend. These trips are subsidised by grant funding provided by the David and Jill Simpson fund through Suffolk Community Foundation.



Funding from the Coronavirus Community Support Fund, distributed by The National Lottery Community Fund, has helped us to keep going. Thanks to the Government for making this possible.



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There are two x 16 seater mini buses which can be hired by not-for-profit local charity or voluntary organisations for educational, social or leisure purposes.

In addition day trips are organised at various times of the year, usually during weekends; recent trips have included Southwold and Felixstowe over the summer, and Cambridge and Scottsdale Green Centre in the winter time.

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\*\*\*\*\*

## BOXFORD & DISTRICT BOWLS CLUB

### From Roz Mortlock

In the November newsletter, I promised to share with you the other winners at our Club Finals Day in August. They were:-

President's Cup – Cynthia Hollingsworth

Ladies 4 wood Singles – Cynthia Hollingsworth



Novices Final – Andy Wiles

Over 60's Singles: Robin Turner

The Keith Egglestone Cup for the most Improved player: Bernadine Dwyer

Other winners:(sadly no photos):

Ladies Pairs – Gillian Barnes and Debbie Miller

Ladies 2 wood Singles – Gillian Barnes

Handicap Singles – Mike Billington



After a very wet start to the new year, we look back at a social event we had last August when it was a lovely hot and sunny day.

And a lovely photo of one of the winners – Mary Dallas.



# BOXFORD “SCHOOL REPORT”

From everyone at Boxford Primary School, we hope you've had a brilliant Christmas and 2024 creates new extra-special memories. I'm sure, like many of you, a new year starts with creating resolutions for the coming year and reflecting on past successes – all with good intentions!

Looking back and reflecting on 2023, we achieved so much at Boxford Primary. We have enjoyed a brilliant nativity performance by Reception class and Key Stage 1. A big thank you to all parents who attended the performances at St. Mary's, Boxford. We are very proud of how children performed and spread the Christmas spirit in the village. Logan, Year 1, said, "I really enjoyed the nativity because I loved the dancing!"

James Cartlidge paid us a visit in December to congratulate Faye, Year 6, for her winning Christmas card entry – over forty schools entered this year. Rishi Sunak was photographed with the Faye's winning entry and it was Mr Cartlidge's official card of 2023.



Music has continued to be a cornerstone of our exciting curriculum. Upper Key Stage 2 have enjoyed working with Mrs Blyth from Suffolk Music Service. Children have made excellent progress and the Year 6 class now have a brilliant ensemble with a range of musical instruments: French horn, cornet, baritone and trombone, to name a few! Bella, Key Stage 1, commented on the performance, "I liked it when everyone played together. My favourite song was Jingle Bells!"

Key Stage 2 Performance data 2023						
	School	National	Above Average School	Above Average National	Average Scaled Score School	Average Scaled Score National
Reading	91%	73%	46%	29%	108	105
Writing	91%	71%	18%	13%	N/A	N/A
Maths	85%	73%	34%	24%	106	104
RWM	73%	59%	15%	8%	N/A	N/A
Combined						

When we look back, our SAT results last year were a testament to the hard work of both staff, pupils and parents: We believe everyone at Boxford can achieve!

**A HUGE THANK YOU** to FOBS for hosting another brilliant Christmas Fete. Over £2,000 was raised and this will go towards funding additional enrichment in school for all of our pupils. As a thank you, our Year 6 pupils will be hosting a 'thank you' afternoon tea in the Spring Term.

## February

We seem to be racing through 2024! The mild days we have experienced over Christmas have turned much colder. However, this still doesn't deter children from wearing shorts. I am always amazed how children don't feel the cold!

### Forest Schools @ Boxford Primary

Even though the days have become colder, it does not stop us from regularly using our bespoke Forest School area. Sheena Shieldbug, our Forest School Leader, works with all classes across the academic year. Sessions always begin around the camp fire and are then led by the children's interests: climbing, den building and exploring nature, to name but a few activities. Forest school names are alliterative and made using a child's name followed by a creature or something natural. What would yours be?

Our Reception class are some of the children using the Forest School area this term and they have thoroughly enjoyed their sessions. Isla, a Reception pupil, said, "I love Forest Schools. My favourite part is laying in the hammock."

Albie reflected, "I like climbing up. I have tried to do some good balancing today."



Reception children enjoying the winter sunshine

### Festival of Music – March 2024

Year 5 and 6 pupils at Boxford Primary are teaming up with Kersey Primary to host a festival of music. The event will take place at St. Mary's Church, Boxford on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 10:00am.

Mrs Blyth, Suffolk County Music Service, will be working with children to practise ensemble pieces and some children will also be given the opportunity to perform solo pieces too.

#### This event is OPEN to members of the local community.

Tickets can be purchased from our school office from Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2024. Tickets will be a recommended donation of £3 per adult (children free). Refreshments will be available and all proceeds will be given back to the local churches of Boxford and Kersey. We appreciate Father Rob hosting this event and we can't wait to see members of the local community attending too.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Boxford and Groton United Charities for their kind donation of £500 towards the brass provision. This will help ensure that children in Year 5 and 6 can continue learning to play a brass instrument this academic year.

#### Would you like a school tour?

We'd be delighted to share the amazing learning happening in our school – it would be a chance to see our excellent outside learning spaces too. If you would like your child to join our school, please contact Mrs Clarke in the office on **01787 210332** or email [office@boxford.suffolk.sch.uk](mailto:office@boxford.suffolk.sch.uk) to **book a school tour**. We look forward to seeing you soon!

Mr Scott Reynolds  
Assistant Headteacher

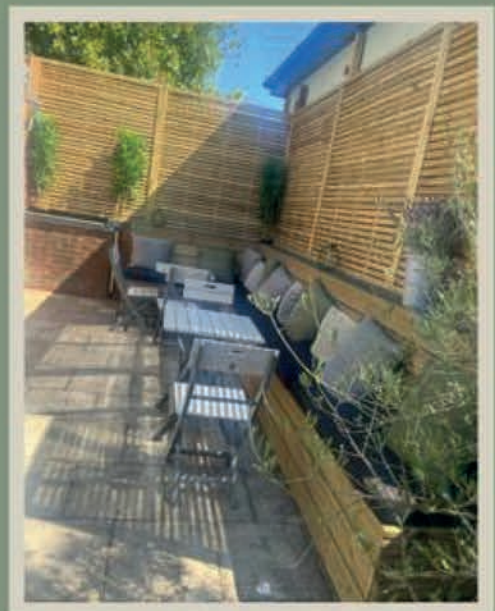


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