

ASSIGNMENT

NEWS



JANUARY &
FEBRUARY 2026



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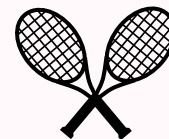
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VILLAGE EVENTS IN DECEMBER

7th December

The Christingle took place in church on 7th December, and children and parents turned up early to help to decorate the Christmas tree, before going on to make their Christingles, following the life-size example, which Hattie was once again happy to demonstrate.



On Saturday 13th December the candle lit church hosted a folk concert by Duynvolck, which raised £179 towards our Tower project. Thanks to members of the group for their unusual and memorable performance of old and celtic-sounding tunes, which was very well-received by the audience.



16th December

On 16th December, 26 Assington Seniors attended The Foxes Den for an excellent Christmas Lunch. A great social event with lots of laughing and merriment. A Christmas Hamper and a Father Christmas jack in the box, donated by the Assington Village Charity which contained some very nice treats was won by Roger Britcher, with Dawn Springett winning the jack in the box. A massive thank you to Vanessa and Steve for hosting the event and making it very special. Other events are in planning stage so watch this space in future Assington News Editions. Happy New Year to you all.



Thursday 18th December;

Carol singing in the pub replaced our previous years' rounds of singing around the village; we thought it was a great success, with many people joining in the carols in the warm and cosy atmosphere.

Sunday 21st December

The annual Candlelit Carols Around the Crib service. Parents and children made the tableau of the crib scene and led the congregation in singing "Away In A Manger". A brilliant start to the Christmas week.





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Village Hall

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ASSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Matters of interest discussed during a meeting held in Assington Village Hall on **Monday 24th November 2025**

Clerk **Christine Hargan**
Telephone: **01449 674727**
Email: assingtonpc@yahoo.com

■ **Present:** Councillors (Cllrs) Simon Thorogood (Chair) Andrew Hill (Vice-Chair) and Tony Howcroft.

In attendance: Cllr James Finch, Christine Hargan (Clerk) and 1 member of the community.

Apologies for absence Cllrs David Wiles, Bronwen Stacey and DCllr Lee Parker

Declaration of Interests and requests for dispensation

There were none

■ Agree **Minutes** of Assington Parish Council meeting held on 29th September 2025

Minutes were resolved to be accurate and signed by Cllr Thorogood.

■ **County and District council Reports and public forum**

County Council Report

Cllr Finch, having previously circulated his written report, provided the following updates:

- **Children's Services:** Ofsted has noted improvements. 25% of the Council's budget (£25 million) is allocated to children's services. Currently, 1,000 children are in foster care.
- **Recycling:** Significant revenue continues to be generated from the sale of recycled materials.
- **Footpaths:** The latest definitive Public Rights of Way (PROW) maps are now available online.
- **Fire Service:** Focus remains on fire prevention and identifying areas where safety can be improved, particularly during the Christmas period.
- **Fostering:** Counties are collaborating to promote fostering. Young people are actively thanking carers, with the need for approximately 150 new foster parents to be recruited each month in Suffolk.
- **Buses Speed Survey:** A further survey has been requested for a section of road.
- **Local Government Reform (LGR):** A timetable is awaited. Elections for the Mayor are scheduled for 6 May 2026. County and District proposals have been submitted and acknowledged, with responses expected by 6 March. Local elections are also scheduled for May but may be delayed again.

District Council Report

No formal report was received on this occasion from DCllr Lee Parker.

Public Forum No questions were asked

■ **Planning Applications:** None received.

■ **Correspondence**

- National Grid is offering funding for certain types of community projects.
- Bus survey has been passed to CCllr Finch. However, the County Council dismissed the two suggestions due to concerns about turning on private land both at Perrywoods and at the village hall.

■ **Finance**

- RFO report: Acknowledged.
- Accounts reconciliation against budget: Acknowledged.
- Payments: Authorised as resolved.
- Budget 2026/27: The first draft was noted and the councillors acknowledged that further information is required prior to finalising the draft.

■ **Licensed Path, Footpaths, and APC Assets**

- Four contractors have been contacted; two are in the process of arranging site visits with Cllr Stacey.
- Cllr Thorogood to pass photos of signage at Rose Green and Dorking Tye (currently in ditch) to a local contractor.
- Bench: Agreed in principle to contribute towards a matching bench, subject to plaque arrangements.
- Street lights: No changes are required to times over the Christmas / New year period.

■ **Neighbourhood Plan Review**

Discussion with the contractor has been held on reviewing the plan. A consultation date with the community is required, but the committee is awaiting the required number of new properties needed in Assington from Babergh before a plan can be made. Allocations and housing numbers will not be decided by Babergh District Council until the middle of next year. An additional committee member has come forward.

■ **Shoulder of Mutton**

The pub has settled into regular hours, achieved a 5-star hygiene rating, and is successfully hosting community events ranging from remembrance Sunday to church, choir and pub quizzes. Feedback from the community is very positive and the Council noted the significant work that has gone into making the pub a success.

■ **Footpath – Farm Shop to Village Hall**

Mortimer Contracts has contacted the Clerk. Work is expected to be scheduled early in the new year, subject to weather and other commitments.

■ **Questions to the Chair**

- Query raised regarding whether CIL funding can be used to address outstanding issues with signage. CIL held by the parish can be used for most things other than donations and salaries.
- National Grid continues work on the compound at the A134 but further progress is unlikely until Spring. Several additional farm entrances have been noted.

■ **Time date and place of next meeting**

Monday **26th January 2025** to be held in Assington Village Hall at 7.00pm.

■ The meeting was closed at 20.16 pm

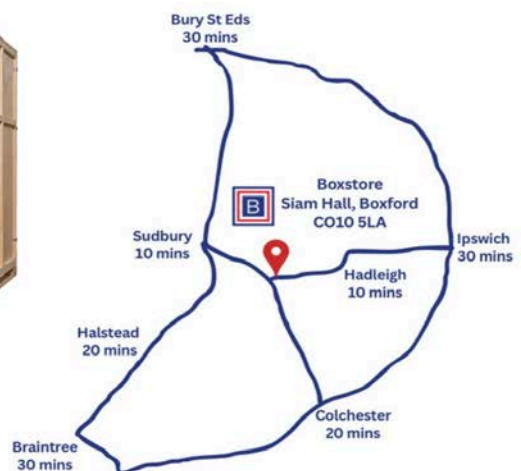
SOME ADVENT WINDOWS:

photographs from Anna Clayton



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NATURE WATCH

Winter Moths in Assington From Isaac Stirling

Whilst the bustle of Christmas season keeps us busy, the invertebrate world tends to be much quieter during the colder months. However, inconspicuously nestled by the



outside fairy lights or illuminated mid-flight by headlights on dark drives down wooded lanes, an unsuspectingly intrepid insect bravely flutters on...

The appropriately named winter moth is how many people imagine a classic 'moth' - an inconspicuous, nondescript, small winged creature. But this opinion - apart from this being an unfair slight on the moth world's brilliant diversity - is far from the truth. Winter moths are amazingly adapted, making natural antifreeze to keep them thawed on frosty nights when nobody else is able to fly. Even more remarkably, it's only the males who fly; in order to maximise efficiency in the cold, the females don't actually bother growing wings - instead, they climb with their grub-like bodies up plant stems or tree trunks to release pheromones and encourage the males to fly to them instead. It's these enchanted males who we see flapping along the hedgerows, or waylaid by the attractive lights of Christmas decorations en route to their pleasantly scented, vestigially-winged lovers.

The roads around Arger Fen seemed particularly popular with oscillating clouds of males this year on my drives to festive gatherings, but finding a female crawling up the backdoor frame in the middle of the village was as exciting a Christmas gift as many of those in my stocking!



There are still some males on the wing, but we will now have to wait until next Christmas for their next chill-defying peak.

After mating the females lay their eggs in bark oak, hawthorn or birch bark fissures, with caterpillars hatching later in the spring to eat fresh leaves. Once big enough, they spin themselves into chrysalises and wait until the frosts return to hatch and keep out of the way of other more fair-weather flyers.

SNOWDROP DAYS

Daws Hall

Henny Road, Lamarsh, Bures
Tel: 01787 269766
info@dawshallnature.co.uk



A 25-acre Nature Reserve on the Essex-Suffolk border, dedicated to environmental education.

Snowdrop open days:
1st, 8th, 15th February
10:00 - 15:00

Our famous Snowdrops return for their annual appearance. The perfect way to greet the new year with a winter walk around our riverside nature reserve to see these stunning early blooms.

- Entry by donation
- (Free entry to [Friends of Daws Hall](#))
- No booking required
- Activities for children
- Hot and cold drinks
- Homemade cakes
- Sorry we can't allow dogs on site

HEDINGHAM CASTLE

Bayley Street Halstead, England, CO9 3DJ
Snowdrop walks: 8th, 10th, 24th & 25th February
11.00 - 16.00

The snowdrops will soon be peeking out from beneath their leafy blanket to mark the beginning of spring.



Tickets include entry to the gardens and Castle, and the tearooms will also be open serving light refreshments. Dogs on leads welcome. Please be aware that the grounds can get rather muddy at this time of year depending on how much rain we've had so do bring wellies and dress for the Great British Weather!

Tickets*** can be pre-booked via website or available on the gate on the day.

*****See prices on the website as not inexpensive!** Editor <https://hedinghamcastle.tygit.com/shop/group-tickets/pk/e512a991cd26b847d69abf3464f9b021#booking-options>

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REMINDER

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by

CB JACKSON

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SATURDAY 31st JANUARY 2026

at 7.30pm

ASSINGTON VILLAGE HALL

Adults £10

Schoolchildren £5

Tickets available from:

Assington Farm Shop
or

John and Louisa Symons
"Centuries"
The Street

or
Bronwen and Jeff Stacey
"The Old Farmhouse"
Further Street
Mob: 07989619364

refreshments will of course be available

all proceeds in aid of the Church 'Tower Project'

VILLAGE NEWS & THINGS TO DO

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION 2025

Dear Village, Happy New Year!

A belated report on our Poppy Appeal result last year! With the help of intrepid "Poppy Personnel" (namely, Judy, David, John, Bronwen and Jeff), and with the kindness of the Poppy Box Holders, ie The Shoulder, The Foxes' Den, our wonderful Farm Shop and the Barn Cafe, we raised the princely sum of £559.54!!

A really great achievement. Thanks you all so very very much.

Best Wishes,
Louisa Symons
'Centuries'

The Church PCC would like to thank those people who have volunteered their time and help over the past year, to assist with keeping the church clean, and providing flowers to make it look attractive for visitors, and to help with car parking for events. We are most grateful.



'Last Tuesday'
Coffee and Chat
in the Village Hall

The next meeting will be on
Tuesday 24th February
at 10am.
See you there!

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

12 & 26 February,
12 & 26 March, 23 April, 14 May,
11 & 25 June, 9 July
10 September

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

Rev'd Tricia Box - 07747124592



THE ASSINGTON VILLAGE CHARITY VACANCIES



Hello,
The Assington Village Charity strives to maintain and provide an excellent village hall for our community. We are monitored by The Charities Commission to keep up with all the latest compliance and regulations, which we do without doubt. In May 2026 the following three positions will become vacant and are crucial for the hall to maintain the excellent reputation that we already have. If you are interested in applying for any of them please do so via email to david.wiles@live.co.uk or drop a letter into my post box at 16 The Street. Please ensure that a contact number is available.

Chairman (Voluntary Position)

Job Description

To oversee the efficient day to day running of the Village Hall.
Chair the monthly committee meeting and ensure that all authority compliance matters are up to date and completed. Minutes of meetings taken and recorded by the secretary, receive reports from the treasurer and the lettings secretary and act on any issues raised. Seek approvals from the trustees and committee on all aspects of then facility. Strictly comply with the health, safety and wellbeing of the facility to provide a first class venue for the residents and all functions. Check that planned maintenance has been completed. Oversea the Charity investment portfolio.

Caretaker (paid position)

To monitor all compliance and maintenance at the facility, including a weekly fire alarm check. Any call out hours paid with a premium payment.
Open and close the facility to the needs of the business ensuring security is maintained.
Arranging bottle bank and clothes bank emptying and ensuring the refuse bins are ready for collection.
Checking compliance of the play area and litter picking of the site.

Cleaner (paid position)

To monitor the cleanliness of the facility and carry out any cleaning required, prior or after a function. Maintain the facility to a high standard. Ensure that cleaning materials are well stocked and re-ordered as required. Report to the secretary and lettings secretary any issues found.
No position is more important than another ,but all vital for the upkeep of the village hall.
Come and join a great team, and make a difference to your village hall .

The following funerals took place in Assington Church:

WE SAID SAD FAREWELLS TO:

1st December: **Barry Williams.**

17th December: **Susan Cundy**

16th January: **Gavin Olorenshaw**

PYLONS AND WATER PIPES

News and update from Nick Miller

This info has been sent by a farmer friend who unluckily has some land in both Lamarsh and Polstead.

ELECTRIFYING NEWS

Impacts of current projects are soon to become evident. The **Bramford-Twinstead power-line upgrade** regrettably traverses our area's major wildlife lands, ie the steep valley sides around Alphamstone and Polstead. One local affected land owner has sent this account of disruption we will face, in the Polstead and Lamarsh areas, which gives a foretaste of the effects of that Suffolk's 'Energy Coast' will have, alongside solar farms, data centres, and water abstraction.

Our correspondent tells us he is at his wits end. This is his story of the disruption that is about to commence:

Some of you who use the Sudbury - Lamarsh Road may have noticed a large gap in the hedge appear that is fenced off under the small pylon line. Shortly many such gaps in hedges will have bell mouths installed for the haul road that will run between Bramford to Twinstead to carry all heavy construction traffic. The hedge gap along the Bures road is going to be the access point to construct the temporary bridge across the Suffolk Stour onto our land at Lamarsh when operational temporary traffic lights will be installed as the haul road will run across the Bures Road. I have been advised that the temporary bridge over the Stour needs to be certified to withstand 150 tonnes and is likely to be in situ for no less than 4 years but for perhaps 6 years!

Lamarsh is complex and very concerning. The haul road is planned to go over the small railway level crossing and I've been told all heavy construction traffic must use the haul road and the level crossing and temporary bridge across the Stour as much of it cannot get under the bridges in Sudbury and Bures. People have absolutely no idea what they are in for.

In September we were served with a compulsory temporary possession order signed by the Secretary of State for the duration of the project plus one further year for after project maintenance!

I have been informed that the haul road will carry all the heavy traffic from Bramford to Twinstead including the cable rolls that are being manufactured in South Korea and shipped into Felixstowe Docks as they are so large Ipswich Docks could not handle them. The A134 Colchester Road, Bures Road and Henny Road together with many local small lanes will be impacted by being crossed by the haul road. The local impact on transport is going to be considerable.

The main contractor Balfour Beatty for National Grid are hopeless at answering even the most basic of questions and I fear this is a deliberate ploy to play down the impact on the local community, local businesses and land owners. It seems quite remarkable that among most local people there is near zero knowledge of these issues and their likely impact. If our local community has such an absolute lack of awareness and concern, how will we ever prevent some of the more outrageous developments that are being promoted by ever-wealthier developers supported by this wretched government?

The National Grid website gives just an outline and does not go into the detail really required.

Our informant goes on to say he feels despondent, and gives information about the power-lines at Polstead and Lamarsh:

Don't know where to start about Polstead! What I can say? Up front it's a much simpler issue than Lamarsh. All our affected land at Polstead is going to be undergrounded by means of open trenching. So what this means is you will have an 8 meter wide haul road and each side of it will be a 65 meter wide trench plus the spoil. The cables will be bedded onto hard core and cemented into protective blocks around them and allegedly the soil will be restored and put over them. No one can give us a reliable time estimate etc. Rather concerning is the fact that no one from NG or BB can answer the question about heat dissipation and what this means for crop production above the cables. My fear is we will have a rather large corridor of useless land! Just as concerning is the fact that the simple question of what can be grown above the cables cannot be answered. This is particularly relevant at Lamarsh as we grow cricket bat willows and we are not sure if we will be able to continue in the affected area.

My neighbour at Polstead had to sell a field under threat of compulsory purchase, that was 18 months ago and he still has not been paid. This is to build an electrical sub station to take the power from the pylons underground. They call them end sealing stations. There will be several along the route corridor. Work can't start on the one at Polstead until, ...wait for it, they have put in a power supply!! They only worked that one out 2 weeks ago and at this late stage we have been issued with an additional demand to lay a low voltage cable across our land to a non existent electric pole so they can make a start!

NG and BB make Fred Carney's Circus look like a slick operation!

Rather depressingly I do not believe I will see the end of this project, let alone the restoration of our land, within my lifetime.

ANGLIAN WATER

There is a WRMP24 (Water Resource Management Plan) scheme currently being scoped and the route planned from Cornard Water Reservoir to Assington Water Tower. The scheme is intended to provide additional resource across East Suffolk by transferring approximately 4.5 MLD.

Anglian Water's WRMP24 plan can be found on our website [Water resources management plan](#)

Anglian Water are currently developing the scheme, which is planned to be delivered by the end of 2030. There is no specific date confirmed.

This is the proposed route. As the scheme is still in planning, this may be subject to change.



PARISH CHURCH NEWS



Saint Edmund
King & Martyr
Assington



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

*Letter from the
Rev Simon White
Associate Priest,
Bures with Assington and
Little Cornard*



Dear Friends,

As the daylight slowly begins to stretch a little further each day, we are reminded that even though the weather still insists it is winter, spring is quietly drawing nearer. The lengthening days carry a gentle hope—a sign that change is coming, even if we cannot yet see it.

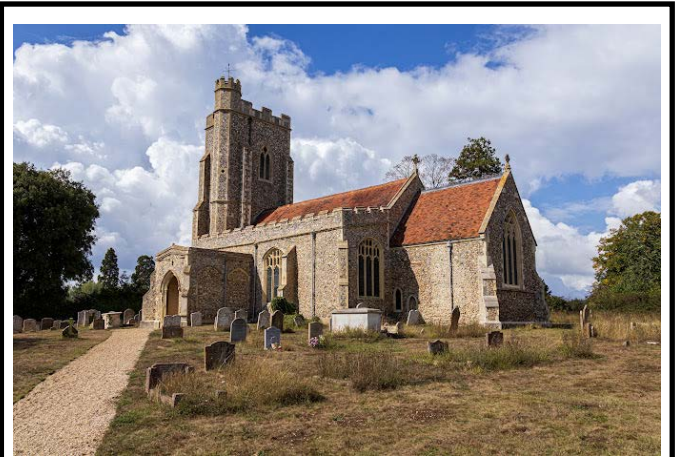
In January, many churches marked Plough Sunday, a tradition where communities gather to ask God's blessing on the village plough, on those who work the land, and on all who play a part in growing the food we so often take for granted. Whether the fields were ploughed earlier or farmers are still waiting for the right moment, farming continues to be both essential and challenging. It does us all good to remember how deeply we depend on the success and wellbeing of our farmers—men and women who work with faith and patience, never fully certain what this year will bring. Their work today is an investment in tomorrow, and they cannot be certain of a successful outcome. In that sense, they share something with all of us: the tension between planning for the future and worrying about what lies ahead.

Jesus is insistent that we should not be so careworn worrying about the future that it takes the joy out of today. This led the Christian writer and Dutch concentration camp survivor Corrie ten Boom to say, "*Worrying doesn't empty tomorrow of its sorrow, it empties today of its strength*". We can only imagine what it must have been like for Corrie and her family living in the Netherlands during the Nazi occupation, hiding Jews and then later being imprisoned in a concentration camp. I think that we would be right to assume that she and her family must have had more cause than any to be anxious and yet her Christian faith was kindled through those most extreme of circumstances and she learnt to trust in God and let go of worry.

Right now, when we look across the fields around us, there may not seem to be much happening. Yet beneath the surface, life is beginning its slow and steady work and we look forward, with hope, to an abundant harvest.

Simon

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



FEBRUARY 2026 SERVICES IN ASSINGTON

1st FEBRUARY @ 10.30am HOLY COMMUNION

(8th February Bures Holy Communion @ 10.30am
LC Morning Worship @ 10.30am)

15th FEBRUARY @ 10.30am MORNING WORSHIP

(22nd February Bures Morning Worship @ 10.30am
LC Holy Communion @ 10.30am)

**THE CHURCH IN ASSINGTON IS OPEN
FOR VISITORS**

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

The Church Tower Project Update

Although sadly, we are not yet in a position to be able to proceed immediately with the actual building work until we have secured the necessary funding, we continue to work behind the scenes, fundraising, completing the paperwork and applying for grants!

We have just been notified that we have been successful in having been awarded a grant of £8,000 by the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust, which is truly a great New Year present. However, we still have a long way to go.....

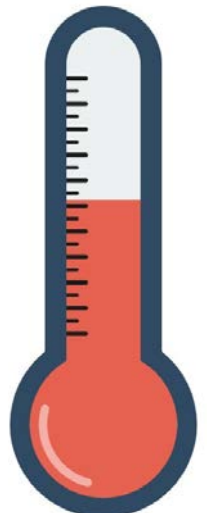
Currently our Tower Project fund, including promised grants, stands at £71,000.

Assington Church TOWER PROJECT



QRCode

If you would like to make a
**donation towards the
Tower Project**
Grateful thanks





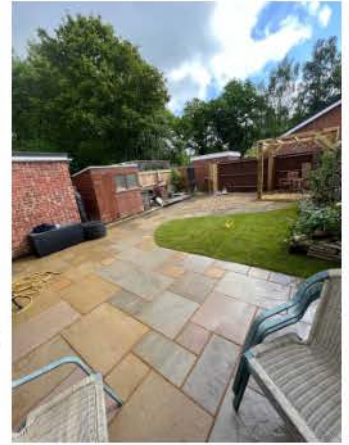
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ASSINGTON RAINFALL AND TEMPERATURES

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
JAN	7	12	-6.5
FEB	46	13	-4
MAR	29	18	-2
APR	9.5	22	-6
MAY	37	25	0
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

BOXFORD & DISTRICT BOWLS CLUB from Roz Mortlock



The Club had a great season in 2025 and must be congratulated on winning several competitions in our area. Well done everyone.

Boxford's trophies were:-

The Glass Plate - winners of NECBF Outdoor League Division 2.

The Green pennant - winners of the Durham Centenary Trophy Cup.

The Shield - runners up in the Hadleigh Cup for our Ladies Team.

Silver Cup - winners of NECBF Outdoor Mens 3 Bowl Triples - Graham Skillen, Kevin Colling and Graham Skillen.

Silver Cup - winner of the NECBF Outdoor Ladies Secretaries Singles - Gillian Barnes.

Silver Platter - winner of NECBF Indoor Ladies Pairs - Cynthia Hollingsworth with partner from Sudbury, Eileen Parker.

Silver Platter - winner of NECBF Indoor Ladies Triples - Roz Mortlock, Gillian Barnes/Cynthia Hollingsworth and another player from Sudbury - Eileen Parker.

We are now looking forward to the start of the outdoor season in April - and a great 2026.

**WISHING ALL
ASSINGTON NEWS READERS
A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

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ASSINGTON VILLAGE HALL

7.00-7.45PM

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£32 FOR 4 CLASSES (£8 PER CLASS)

Please bring your own mat

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annacclayton@hotmail.co.uk

50% donated to the Assington church tower project



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WHATS ON!

New Spring Menu has been launched including Sausage & Mash, Pie of The Week & Vegetable Tagine.

Sunday Lunch served every Sunday 12-4.30pm

Saturday February 14th Special Valentines Menu

Wednesday 18th Monthly Quiz Night £5 entry fee &

Three course menu.

March Wednesday 4th Wine Tasting Evening

Booking in advance required for all events.

All booking to be made via

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Email: restaurantshouldermutton.co.uk



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