

# ASSINGTON

## NEWS



JUNE 2026

# CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS (useful numbers)

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

Allotments Secretary	Karl Debenham <i>The new Chair is Bryn Hurren</i>	07584 996211
Assington Baby and Toddler Group	Rev Tricia Box	07747 124592
Assington Books, Village Hall (see post office for times)	Michelle Bourner	07954 221773
Assington Farmshop	Maxine Gardiner	01787 211610
Assington Post Office, Village Hall	Mon 1.30-3.30, Wed 9-12	
Boxford CEVC Primary School ( <a href="mailto:office@boxford.suffolk.sch.uk">office@boxford.suffolk.sch.uk</a> )	Head: Emma Lea	01787 210332
Brownies, Boxford	Moira Grant	01787 211513
Churchwarden	Bronwen Stacey	01787 210354
Community Choir	Nettie Osman	07957 394780
County Councillor ( <a href="mailto:james.finch@suffolk.gov.uk">james.finch@suffolk.gov.uk</a> )	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 Warden	Nettie Osman	07957 394780
Horticultural Society	Karen Wiles	
Member of Parliament ( <a href="mailto:james.cartlidge.mp@parliament.uk">james.cartlidge.mp@parliament.uk</a> )	James Cartlidge	020 7219 4875
Mobile Library - Vicary Estate Junction	Saturday 13th June	3pm - 3.30pm
Parish Council	Simon Thorogood	01787 227400
<a href="mailto:bronwenstacey@btinternet.com">bronwenstacey@btinternet.com</a>	Bronwen Stacey	01787 210354
<a href="mailto:david.wiles@live.co.uk">david.wiles@live.co.uk</a>	David Wiles	07811 108702
<a href="mailto:tony@howcroft.net">tony@howcroft.net</a>	Tony Howcroft	
<a href="mailto:andrewpeterhill@hotmail.com">andrewpeterhill@hotmail.com</a>	Andrew Hill	01787 827112
	Mark Armitage	
	Kimberly Howard	
Parish Council - Clerk ( <a href="mailto:clerk@assington-pc.gov.uk">clerk@assington-pc.gov.uk</a> )	Christine Hargan	01449 674727
Pub – The Shoulder of Mutton	<a href="mailto:restaurant@shouldermutton.co.uk">restaurant@shouldermutton.co.uk</a>	01787 703309
Stoke by Nayland C of E Primary School ( <a href="mailto:admin@sbn.suffolk.sch.uk">admin@sbn.suffolk.sch.uk</a> )	Head: Mrs Kelly McGrath	01206 262418
Vicar ( <a href="mailto:vicar@parishchurch.co.uk">vicar@parishchurch.co.uk</a> )	The Revd Daniel Whiffin	07309 947039
Village Hall – Bookings	Karen Wiles	07983 002072
Village Hall - Caretaker	Sean Mills	07547 190948
Village Hall - Charity Secretary		
Womens Institute, Boxford ( <a href="mailto:annie-phillips@hotmail.co.uk">annie-phillips@hotmail.co.uk</a> )	Annie Phillips	01787 211729

The Assington News is a community magazine funded primarily through adverts and donations, for which we are always most grateful. **ADVERTS. RATES pa : £20 for 1/8 size page advert, £35 for 1/4 page advert, £60 for 1/2 page advert, £120 for a full page advert. Contact Jeff Stacey, 01787 210354, [assingtonassociation@icloud.com](mailto:assingtonassociation@icloud.com)**

**The Assington Association Bank Account details for payments and donations:**

Account no: **01345159**. Sort Code: **30-98-31**. Please make cheques payable to **The Assington Association**.

**The ASSINGTON NEWS** NOW IN COLOUR ONLINE at <https://assington-pc.gov.uk/assington-news/>

Editor	Bronwen Stacey, 01787 210354, email <a href="mailto:bronwenstacey@btinternet.com">bronwenstacey@btinternet.com</a>
Treasurer	Jeff Stacey, 01787 210354, <a href="mailto:assingtonassociation@icloud.com">assingtonassociation@icloud.com</a>
Distributors	David & Ann Jarrett, Judy Bourner, Lisa Brooks, Zoe Laughton, Sue Taylor, Jacqui Egglestone
Printer	Indigo Ross Design & Print Ltd, Sudbury 01787 880 260 <a href="mailto:hello@indigoross.co.uk">hello@indigoross.co.uk</a>
Auditor	Ian Clark, 01787 211133

# PILATES IN THE VILLAGE

From Jeff Stacey

Anna Clayton, a physiotherapist who also teaches Pilates, has been leading a weekly Pilates Class in the Village Hall for approximately five years. Pilates is a low impact mind and body exercise method focusing on core strength, flexibility, body awareness and controlled movement. It targets the abdominal muscles, hips, glutes and lower back to improve posture, stability and muscle endurance without excessive joint strain, making it suitable for all ages and fitness levels.

If that all sounds a bit serious we also often have a laugh at some of the contortions we are asked to adopt, fortunately there are different levels for the exercises and no expectation we will all reach the top level. Just as well!



Pilates was developed by Joseph Hubertus Pilates, who was an interesting character. Born in Germany in 1883 he was a sickly child. He suffered from asthma, rickets, and rheumatic fever, and he dedicated his entire life to improving his physical strength. He was introduced by his father to gymnastics and body-

building, and to martial arts like jiu-jitsu and boxing. By the age of 14 he was fit enough to pose for anatomical charts. He was also a gymnast and body builder. Joseph moved to England in 1912. Here he was a Prize Fighter, Circus Performer and a self defence trainer at Scotland Yard.

During World War I he was interned at Lancaster Castle with other German citizens, where he taught wrestling and self defence, boasting his students would emerge stronger than before their internment. He also developed his techniques



and an early use of Pilates was to rehabilitate seriously injured veterans.

He returned to Germany after the war before moving to the USA around 1925. He met his future wife on the ship. Together they founded a studio in New York teaching and supervising their students well into the 1960s. He died in 1967 aged 83.

The Assington class is on Tuesday evenings from 7:00 to 7:45pm on a pay-as-you-go basis. It is a mixed class, it just happened that on the evening I took the picture I was the only man. It is a friendly class and it often takes Anna a few minutes to stop the chatter and get us to concentrate on the exercise. As a consequence we held a social evening in The Shoulder of Mutton in the New Year for members, which was great fun and we plan to repeat the idea.

As one of the oldest members, both in length of time and age, I confirm the benefits of Pilates and you will find me at the class most Tuesdays.



As well as trying to get Assington into shape, Anna kindly donates the proceeds from the classes to the Church Tower Project to provide toilet and kitchen facilities.

From 2021 to date Anna has donated a very grand total of **£3,453** to the Project;

**A huge thank you Anna from everyone concerned with the Tower Project fundraising efforts.**



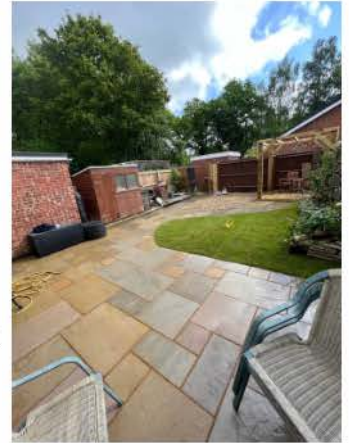
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# PYLON PROGRESS IN ASSINGTON: UPDATE

## From Bob Cowlin

After 2 years' consultations etc, we will begin shortly to see work on the ground in Assington for the replacement of one of National Grid's pylon lines that run across the southern end of the village.

The scheme is to replace the smaller 132kV line, that dates back to the 1950's, with a new 400kV line to match the existing larger pylons.

Legal Notices of Entry have now been served on landowners and preliminary works to remove vegetation will start in May to enable archaeological trenching to take place where the haul road will run and where the new pylon towers will be built. Fences will be erected delineating where Balfour Beatty, the contractor, will be working.

Then in the summer, (providing no archaeological surprises from the trenching emerge) work will commence putting in foundations for the new pylon line. The towers will be about 50m high, matching the existing large ones. If all goes well, the towers will be built and strung in the next 12 months. Then, and only then, will the old small line of pylons be demolished, because NG need to keep them as a backup until the power can be turned on for the new line.

All this work is bound to generate heavy traffic through the village at times and some disruption. NG have legal powers to work on this until 2030 but hope to complete it before then.

## ...AND FROM NATIONAL GRID

### Upcoming vegetation clearance and associated traffic management - May 2026 onward

Across the first half of 2026, we have been carrying out vegetation clearance and creating new bellmouths (road junctions) so that we can build temporary haul roads for construction vehicles associated with the [Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement](#) to use.

Throughout May, you may notice increased activity as Balfour Beatty, who are carrying out construction work on National Grid's behalf, continue with vegetation clearance and the coppicing of trees. We will also need to implement a series of short-term traffic management measures (such as temporary traffic lights or short interruptions to the flow of traffic) at points along the route of our project so that we can carry out this work safely. Before we carry out any vegetation clearance or coppicing, we consider the maturity and condition of any vegetation our works would impact. We then seek the approval of your local district council in line with the conditions of our development consent order. As part of this, if works could impact mature, veteran or high-value trees and hedgerows, we will seek to carry out coppicing work rather than outright removal where possible. Should works require any temporary traffic management so that it can be carried out safely, then we will also request a permit from your county council in order to do this.

Works will only be carried out once the appropriate permissions are in place. They will be paused if nesting birds are identified and will only continue once the nest is no longer active. Any planting we remove will be reinstated at the end of the construction of our project in line with Reinstatement Planting Plans, which we will agree with your local council.

*An overview of temporary traffic management measures currently planned in May can be found on the [page of our website](#). These dates are subject to change, so we will update this page regularly as the works progress. You can also find details of any traffic management permits as they are agreed on the [one.network map](#).*

We understand that our work may cause some disruption to your journey, and we sincerely apologise for any inconvenience this may cause. Our teams will work to complete these activities as efficiently and safely as possible.

If you have any questions about these works or wider project, you can get in touch by **Email:** [contact@bramford-twinstead.nationalgrid.com](mailto:contact@bramford-twinstead.nationalgrid.com)  
**Phone** 0808 196 1515 Lines are open 9am-5.30pm, Monday to Friday.

## 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

\*\*\*\*\*

2026	mm	max°C	min°C
JAN	90	7	-9
FEB	76	14	-3
MAR	19	15	-3
APR	7.5	22	-2



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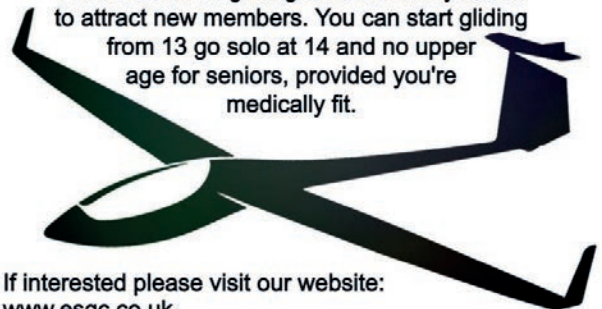


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[www.esgc.co.uk](http://www.esgc.co.uk)

## THINGS TO DO IN JUNE



**MID SUMMER  
GAMES & BBQ**

**Saturday 13th June**  
From 4pm  
ASSINGTON VILLAGE HALL &  
PLAYING FIELD

**£5 ADULTS  
(BBQ INCLUDED)**

JOIN US FOR LOTS OF FUN!

Activities:  
Parent and child (or adult!) wheelbarrow race  
3 legged race  
Egg and spoon race  
Sack race  
Cricket/Rounders  
Cornhole

Spectators welcome – participation is optional!  
BBQ

Bring your own drinks  
Marshmallows and S'mores around the firepit

A social event for the village, whilst also raising funds for the church tower project

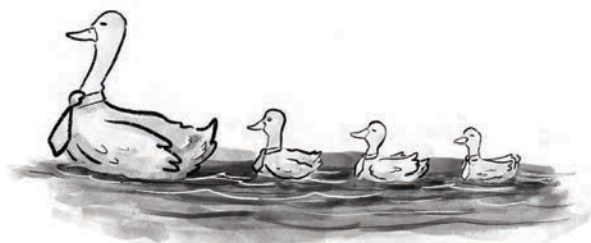
# Assington Baby & Toddler Group

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

11 & 25 June, 9 July  
10 September

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

Revd Tricia Box - 07747124592



### TO ADVERTISE IN THIS MAGAZINE FOR A YEAR

A FULL PAGE COSTS £120  
HALF A PAGE COSTS £60  
A QUARTER PAGE COSTS £35  
AN EIGHTH OF A PAGE COSTS £20

contact

**Bronwen Stacey :**  
[bronwenstacey@btinternet.com](mailto:bronwenstacey@btinternet.com)



## 'Last Tuesday' Coffee and Chat

in the Village Hall

The next meeting will be on  
**Tuesday 30th June**  
**at 10am.**

*See you there!*

## WINSTONS WHEELS

DOG CHARITY NO 1191322  
**will be fundraising at  
the**

**LEAVENHEATH FETE**

on

**SATURDAY 4th JULY**  
**BETWEEN 12 – 5 pm**

**On the Village Green**  
**PLEASE SUPPORT US**

## Lamarsh Lion Duynvolck

Dutch/English Folkband



**Friday June 5<sup>th</sup> 7.00pm**  
**onwards**

Food will be served

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for children aged 4-8

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baby sensory and  
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**Thursdays** 6.30pm, Assington  
Village Hall

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[www.happysounds.co.uk](http://www.happysounds.co.uk)



**ASSINGTON HORTICULTURAL SHOW 2026**

**SUNDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST**

**2pm- 4pm At Assington Village Hall**



**This is your central pull-out programme  
to keep for  
the Horticultural Show 2026**

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

# THE 49th ASSINGTON HORTICULTURAL SHOW.

**SUNDAY 16th AUGUST 2026**

**2pm- 4pm At Assington Village  
Hall**

*All profits support The Village  
Charities.*

## ENTRY RULES

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

\*\*\*\*\*

## HOW TO ENTER

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

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

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

### Return entry forms and fees to

**Karen Wiles 16 The Street Assington. Tel: 07983 002072  
no later than 6pm Friday 14<sup>th</sup> August.**

## ON THE DAY

**Sunday 16th August**

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

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

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

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

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

## SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

### Section A: Vegetables and Fruit

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

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





# MID SUMMER GAMES & BBQ



Saturday 13th June

From 4pm

ASSINGTON VILLAGE HALL &  
PLAYING FIELD

£5 ADULTS  
(BBQ INCLUDED)

JOIN US FOR LOTS OF FUN!

#### Activities:

Parent and child (or adult!) wheelbarrow race

3 legged race

Egg and spoon race

Sack race

Cricket/Rounders

Cornhole

Spectators welcome – participation is optional!

BBQ

Bring your own drinks

Marshmallows and S'mores around the firepit

A social event for the village, whilst also raising funds for  
the church tower project

# VILLAGE NEWS



## SHIRLEY DAVIES

We are really sad to lose a dear friend, someone whose wit and cheerfulness would brighten up every Thursday, when we went shopping, and alternate Sundays at Church.

She came into our lives here in Assington when her husband, Denis, died and she asked her old school friend Malcolm Gilham to help her sell her old home (and buy a small one). Malcolm had lost his dear wife Julia and they both solved their loneliness by companionship together, with Shirley becoming a regular part of our church community.

Our loss is certainly heavens gain, but I am sure that she will say something outrageous and shock the angels.

John Symons

A Memorial Service for Shirley will be held:  
in Assington Church

on  
Wednesday 24th June at 1pm

\*\*\*\*\*

## LITTLE CORNARD FLOWER FESTIVAL 2026

Many thanks to the Assington Villagers who came to support the Flower festival at All Saints Lt Cornard. The support was appreciated. I hope you bought some nice plants, tried the excellent cakes and burgers.

I saw several who came and tried ringing the bells in the church and several expressed an interest in learning to ring church bells. We do teach beginners, early learners and those who wish to get back to ringing and we can do separate sessions to get you to ring safely on the bells.

If anyone would like to learn to ring, please do call me and I will explain the process and do my best to arrange sessions where you can learn. We are always looking for bell ringers. It is an ancient art, very sociable and something you can engage with in a friendly group.

We have a strong band at Lt Cornard – all friendly and of a very wide age range. We all had to learn from scratch since 2018, so all understand the process.

We would be happy to welcome you.

My contact is Gerry Bird - 01787227210 – ring or text mobile 0758005233

# DUYNVOLCK: Forthcoming Performances



The Dutch/English folk band Duynvolck performed Celtic/traditional/folk type music in Assington Church in December 2025, and many people in the audience loved it, and asked for details of future performances, which they wanted to attend.

Elsbeth de Wit, (who plays the flute, pipe, recorder etc) has now sent details of upcoming performances locally:

They will return in June and will play:

- **Friday June 5th @7pm in the Lamarsh Lion,**
- **Saturday June 6th @ 6pm for 6.30pm in the Church of Belchamp Otten,** Tickets £10 includes a glass of wine, further refreshments on sale, Contact : Sue on 01787278174 or Emma on 07805 142689
- **Sunday June 7th from 1pm in the Edwardstone White Horse**

they will also be performing a more private concert for older residents of Nowton Court in Bury St Edmunds on Monday June 8th.

The members of the band would love to see you again, at any of the above main advertised venues, but perhaps especially in the community pub, the Lamarsh Lion.

\*\*\*\*\*

**The Bellringing team at Little Cornard**





# Stoke By Nayland C of E Primary School and Nursery



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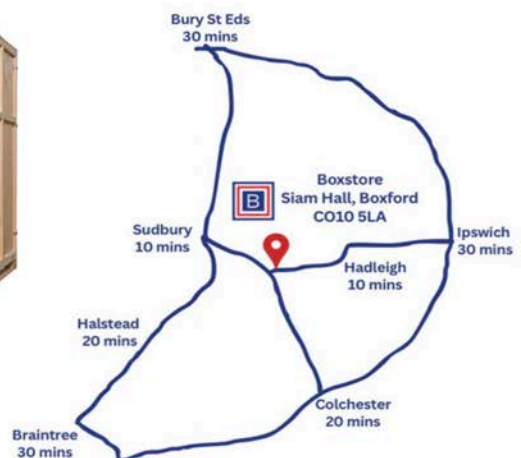
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# PARISH CHURCH NEWS



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

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



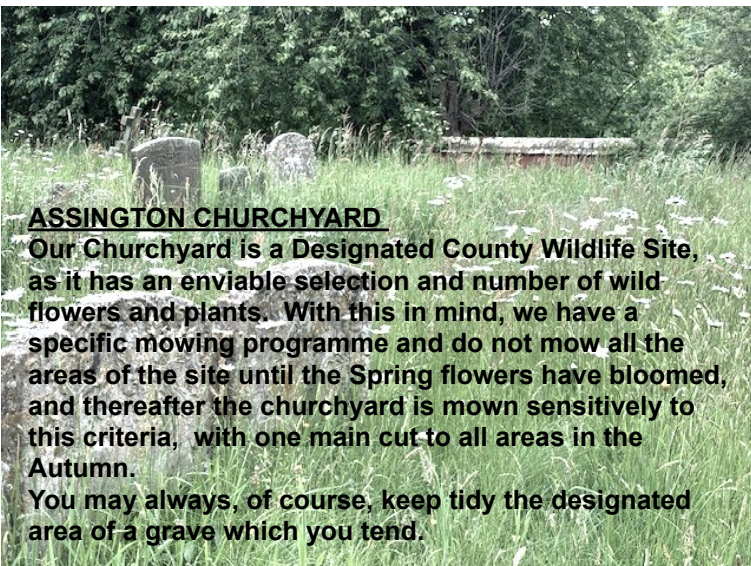
Dear friends,

Have you ever tried one of those birdsong identification apps? I had my first go recently when we visited Fingringhoe Wick. The moment we opened the car door we were met by a symphony of song: birds calling from every hedge, tree and reedbed. Curiosity got the better of me, so I downloaded an app called Merlin. It was marvellous watching the names appear on the screen as it listened — and even highlighted the bird species that were singing right then. That's how I discovered we were hearing nightingales giving it everything, with the deeper, steady notes of a common reed warbler underneath.

It made me think about another kind of "flock recognition" — not birds this time, but sheep. In John's Gospel, Jesus uses this idea to explain how people come to know him. No app is needed, because the sheep recognise the voice of the Good Shepherd: 'He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice.' (John 10) There's something wonderfully personal about that — being known by name, and guided into life that is spacious and full. And like the birdsong we heard above the Colne Estuary, joy has a way of making itself heard.

May your summer be filled with joy — and may you hear, in all the everyday sounds around you, echoes of God's goodness. Join us in church, if you want to try out your voice identification.

Daniel



## ASSINGTON CHURCHYARD

Our Churchyard is a Designated County Wildlife Site, as it has an enviable selection and number of wild flowers and plants. With this in mind, we have a specific mowing programme and do not mow all the areas of the site until the Spring flowers have bloomed, and thereafter the churchyard is mown sensitively to this criteria, with one main cut to all areas in the Autumn.

You may always, of course, keep tidy the designated area of a grave which you tend.



## **ALL WELCOME TO ASSINGTON JUNE CHURCH SERVICES**

**7th June @ 10.30am HOLY COMMUNION**

(14th June: *Bures Holy Communion @10.30am*  
*Lt Cornard Morning Worship @ 10.30am*)

**21st June @ 10.30am MORNING WORSHIP**

(28th May: *Bures Morning Worship @10.30am*  
*Lt Cornard Holy Communion @10.30am*)

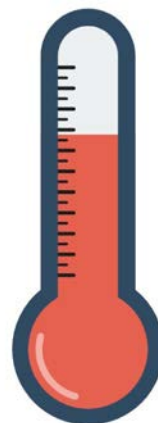
**THE CHURCH IS OPEN FOR VISITORS  
ON FRIDAYS, SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS,  
and at other times by prior arrangement with key  
holders.**

**Bronwen Stacey 01787 210354**  
**John Symons 01787 211534**

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

## **Update on the Tower Project WE ARE GETTING**

We are pleased to report that we now have £101,000 (in round terms) in the "kitty" for the Project and have calculated that we now need "only" £49,000 more, and we can begin the works.



## **THERE!**

**Assington Church  
TOWER PROJECT**



**QRCode**  
If you would like to  
make a donation  
towards the  
Tower Project  
*Our Grateful Thanks*

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*All year round, friendly & reliable service  
RHS qualified and fully insured  
Established 2008*

- Garden design and consultation
- Regular lawn care - cutting, strimming & edging
- Hedge cutting & shaping
- Shrub planting & pruning
- Flower border set up & maintenance
- Garden clean-ups & makeovers
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fred.kempson@gmail.com

www.kempson-gardenservices.co.uk

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MUSHROOM COMPOST  
SHAVINGS & HORSE-FEED  
(Large and small bales)**

**GRAYHAM HOGGER**

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## DANIEL ECUYER THATCHERS

MASTER THATCHER

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**01787 210252 or 07956 585133**

ecuyerthatchers@gmail.com

## PILATES CLASS

TUESDAY

ASSINGTON VILLAGE HALL

7.00-7.45PM

£9 PAY AS YOU GO

£32 FOR 4 CLASSES (£8 PER CLASS)

Please bring your own mat

CONTACT:

annacclayton@hotmail.co.uk

50% donated to the Assington church tower project

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# ASSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

## Matters of interest discussed during a meeting held in Assington Village Hall on Monday 11th May 2026

Clerk Christine Hargan  
Telephone: 01449 674727  
Email: [assington-pc.gov.uk](mailto:assington-pc.gov.uk)

■ **Present:** Councillors (Cllrs) Simon Thorogood, Andrew Hill, Tony Howcroft, Bronwen Stacey & David Wiles, Kim Howard and Mark Armitage.

**In attendance:** CCllr Philip Faircloth-Mutton, Christine Hargan (Clerk) and one member of the community.

### ■ Election of Chairman and to receive Declaration of Acceptance of Office

Following a brief discussion, it was resolved that Cllr Simon Thorogood would continue to act as Chairman and the Declaration was duly completed and signed, proposed by Cllrs Howcroft and Stacey

### ■ Apologies for absence

Cllr Andrew Hill and DCllr Lee Parker.

### ■ Agree Minutes of Assington Parish Council meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2026

Minutes were resolved to be accurate and signed by Cllr Thorogood. There were no matters arising

### ■ Declaration of Interests and requests for dispensation

There were none

### ■ County and District Councillor reports and public forum

No bespoke reports were received but the following show the latest news for both district and county councils [News » Babergh Mid Suffolk](#), [Council news - Suffolk County Council](#)

The Chair welcomed Philip Faircloth-Mutton and 1 member of the public who did not wish to raise any concerns CCllr Faircloth-Mutton gave a brief report following introductions, reporting on

- The formation and inductions to the new council,
- SCC AGM to take place next week,
- The newly appointed Councillors will appear at Suffolk Show, and he invited parishioners to come and meet them
- Election results: some of the groups may comprise multiple parties.
- Question as to how the Council would prefer the focus of future reports and agreed to focus on local matters, as the general information is available online.
- Personal interests are to support parishes on important matters as they arise.
- Specialist subject, countryside and environment, and he will, where possible support grants for projects, his recent wins have been assisting with funding for highways projects, including licences, jetting drains and installing parking restrictions/yellow lines and community gates. He aims to help parishes stretch their funds.
- Councillors reported that during the installation of the 20mph Speed limit in the village by a contractor, the project wasn't completed and signed off properly and consequently, the parish paid for work that wasn't completed.
- There is a problem with speeding through the village. Police installed a temporary camera and the results reported category one danger to life but no support or further action was taken by Suffolk constabulary, CCllr Faircloth-Mutton agreed to pursue with Melanie Hall.

### ■ Planning:

#### • Planning applications:

[DC/26/0147 Land South Of The Nook The Street Assington CO10 5LW](#) Design and Layout change simply to change the

orientation, Following discussion the response was resolved no comment

- The concern regarding planning enforcement on two sites in the village were lodged with Planning Enforcement who said they would monitor the sites but currently there was no evidence of any contravention to planning conditions

### ■ Appoint members to the HR and the Standards Committees:

Cllrs Howard and Stacey

### ■ Appoint representatives to :

**Assington Village Charity:** Cllr Wiles  
**Suffolk Association of Local Councils:** Cllr Stacey

### ■ Appoint members to review Planning applications ahead of meeting:

Cllrs Hill and Howard

### ■ Appoint Councillor to review accounts and AGAR prior to internal audit:

Cllr Armitage

■ To consider the appointment of Heelis and Lodge as Internal Auditor: Resolved to appoint Heelis and Lodge as the 2026-27 internal auditor

■ To consider continued subscription to SALC: Resolved to subscribe

### ■ Finance

- Consider the Internal Auditor's report as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026 and agree actions on matters arising The report was considered and due to the Clerk's absence the Policies and Procedures were not reviewed at the March meeting. Internal Auditor's comments regarding a Privacy Policy and Accessibility Statement need to be addressed the policies should be amended, Clerk to confer with the Standards Committee and bring the renamed Policies to the July meeting for resolution and when reviewed refer to the audit in the minutes. Cllr Armitage noted that a Modern Slavery Policy will be required to be fully compliant. Cllr Howcroft actioned the Clerk to refer to the auditor as to what the Privacy Policy and Accessibility Statement should cover
  - To approve certificate of exemption from external audit for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026 resolved to sign
  - To approve **Section 1 of the Annual Return** for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026 resolved to sign
  - To approve **Section 2 of the Annual Return** for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026 resolved to sign
  - Receive the RFO report. Acknowledged
  - Matters arising: Clerk has spoken to Wave (Anglian Water) regarding their final demand for £175.85. They appear to have reduced the Bill from March by £100, but have neglected to actually re-bill with information as to what the charges are estimated as. They have suggested that the parish council send them weekly meter readings to ensure that future bills are correct. Allotment water Proposed pay up to £177 provided the bill is based on actual readings.
  - Clerk to check CIL report for accuracy on expenditure breakdown

### ■ Review any issues raised for the Licensed Path, Footpaths and APC's Assets

- Jeff Stacey has volunteered to be the footpath warden. Clerk was asked to report to SCC that the the Footpath sign adjacent to the Vicary Estate has been removed and chase whether funding is available. If not to ask SCC to suggest supplier for sign.
- The footpath behind Vicary estate is constantly muddy due to a spring, the length of the stretch is about 10 metres, following discussion it was resolved that footpath warden should approach the land owner to maintain the pathway and if unwilling gain permission to attend and to gain a quote. Clerk to check who the contractor was that completed a previous piece of boardwalk.
- Minor asset re road signage at Rose Green:Graham Hogger to be asked to re position demolished post.
- Clerk to diarise review of allotment rent during the Budget review in January.

■ **Consider Councillor Training with SALC if required**  
 Cllr Armitage requested Part 2 of the basic Councillor training

■ **Shoulder of Mutton**

*The pub continues to operate successfully and host a range of public events, including live music, wine tasting and a monthly quiz and all appear to be well attended although more support from the local population is always welcome. The pub is also now open Monday and Tuesdays 12-7, with food at lunchtimes those days. An event to officially re-open the beer garden will be held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> May, in ample time for the summer.*

■ **Projects to consider for CIL expenditure**

• The upgrade to the footpath in The Street, To make good protruding joints/edges along footpath from farm shop to the park and add topsoil and grass seed to both sides to bring up to level. £661.60, Clerk to formally accept the quotation. Contact parishioner to meet to discuss the works to the footpath due to holidays potentially following Whitsun .

- Gym equipment planning meeting from BDC 3 quotes, have been acquired and the Village Hall Committee subject to funding have opted to accept the quote from Fresh Air Fitness £16,750 for 7 pieces of equipment and a footpath to enable all weather usage. Resolved to fund the project with £2,000 from CIL funding.
- Bus shelter: condition in need of cleaning and general attention: Clerk to investigate who owns it re maintenance.

■ **Neighbourhood Plan**

Cllr Hill has been working with Places 4 People and will submit a request for Babergh grant this week to assist towards our costs – deadline is 15<sup>th</sup> May. He has put out feelers to seek members of the Neighbourhood Planning Group; most of the previous members are interested in rejoining but it will also go on Facebook for anyone new. APC will look to do a community engagement event this summer. We can work on assessing sites before Babergh decide on the numbers allocated to Assington (expected early 2027). Babergh is expected to launch a consultation imminently on settlement hierarchy and possibly on how development is focussed.

■ **Questions to the Chair**

- Resignation of Cllr Howcroft – sincere thanks were extended to Tony Howcroft for his work with the Parish Council over the last 5 years.. Clerk will agenda a change of bank mandate for the July meeting.
- Parishioners have complained about the lack of progress and issues with parking at the two bungalows being built in the centre of the village.

■ **Time date and place of next meeting:** Monday 27<sup>th</sup> July to be held in Assington Village Hall at 7.00pm.

■ The meeting was closed at 9.30pm

**BOXFORD & DISTRICT BOWLS CLUB**  
**From Roz Mortlock**

We had our 'Opening of the Green' on Sunday afternoon, 19th April, and our President Andy Carr had the honour of bowling the first wood down the green. This officially started our new outdoor Season, which runs from April to



September. Huge thanks to our maintenance team, and in particular Mike and Jerry - you all work so hard looking after the green throughout the year. It was in great condition and a delight to bowl on.

We had plenty of our members playing in this friendly roll up after the opening, and we finished the afternoon off after the bowling with tea/coffee and cake.

On the 29th April, we organised a 'first in 50 years' match - Boxford Men v Ladies Friendly. It was a fun afternoon and



the final score was 120 - 70, to the Men. The Men won on 3 rinks, the Ladies won on one rink and the 3 other rinks resulted in a draw. This is the first of future Boxford Men v Ladies competitions in years to come I am sure. Matches against other clubs and in other leagues has now begun and it will be a very busy season for all our bowlers.

Enjoy your bowling and good luck in all your matches.

**LOGS** From Blakes Tree Care at Mount Bures

Good timber doesn't need to go to waste.

With the right approach, logs can be reused in simple, practical ways that benefit your garden, support wildlife and make use of a natural material that's already there. Here are three ways you can use logs in your garden this summer...



Whether it's a fire pit friends and family, logs summertime soirees, garden.



From stepping stones to quality logs can help create and explore without using materials that feel out of place.



on a summer evening or firing up the pizza oven for can bring the warmth of the inside out to your where people can gather, relax and spend more time



magical fairy gardens and low-level climbing frames, natural play areas allowing children to branch out



# WHAT'S ON

**13TH JUNE  
12:00-16:00**

**BOTTOMLESS BRUNCH**  
£50 PER HEAD - 2 HOURS  
BOOKING ONLY  
DJ, FOOD & BOTTOMLESS DRINKS

**17TH JUNE  
21:00**

**WORLD CUP SHOWING**  
ENGLAND V CROATIA

**21<sup>ST</sup> JUNE  
12:00-17:00**

**FATHER'S DAY SUNDAY LUNCH**  
DELICIOUS SUNDAY LUNCH  
BOOKING IN ADVANCE RECOMMENDED.

**23<sup>RD</sup> JUNE  
21:00**

**WORLD CUP SHOWING**  
ENGLAND V GHANA

**24<sup>TH</sup> JUNE  
19:30**

**MONTHLY QUIZ NIGHT**  
FOOD SERVED 18:00-20:30  
BOOK YOUR QUIZ TEAM NOW

**27<sup>TH</sup> JUNE  
21:00**

**WORLD CUP SHOWING**  
ENGLAND V PANAMA

**4TH JULY  
12:00-16:00**

**BOTTOMLESS BRUNCH**  
£50 PER HEAD - 2 HOURS  
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DJ, FOOD & BOTTOMLESS DRINKS

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Sunday - 9:30am to 12:30pm

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