

# ASSINGTON

## NEWS



MARCH 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 21st March	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

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**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

# BABERGH BIN OVERHAUL



## The way in which your bins are collected is changing

Bin collections across Babergh will change **from 1st June 2026** as the District introduces a new system to meet national recycling rules. Almost all households will notice a difference in how often bins are collected and how many containers they use.

### The new collection pattern:

The biggest change is a move to a three-week rotation for most bins:

- ★ **Week 1:** Refuse (non-recyclable waste)
- ★ **Week 2:** Mixed recycling (plastics, tins and now also glass, tetrapaks and soft plastics e.g. wrappings and film)
- ★ **Week 3:** Paper and card

Alongside this, there will be a **weekly food waste collection**, every week, regardless of the rota. Each week, residents will put out their food waste plus *whichever main bin is due*.

### EXAMPLE ROTA:

Collection	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3
<b>Food Waste</b>			
<b>Refuse</b> general rubbish			
<b>Paper and Card</b>			
<b>Recycling</b> glass, plastics, metal and cartons			

During May, Babergh will send you a detailed information pack and collection calendar.

### New bins and containers

Households will receive extra bins between February and May 2026, including:

- ★ A new bin (green lid) for paper and card
- ★ A small kitchen food caddy
- ★ A larger outdoor food caddy

These should **only be used from the 1st June 2026** and not before.

### Why food waste is collected weekly

Food waste makes up a large proportion (35%) of what currently goes into black non-recycling bins and is the main cause of smells and pests. Removing it weekly should mean:

- ★ Refuse bins fill more slowly
- ★ Less odour and mess
- ★ Fewer problems with pests

The council estimates that around 60% of current non-recycling bin contents could be recycled, so separating food waste, paper, card and other recyclables should leave much less rubbish overall.

Collected food waste will be taken to an anaerobic digestion facility in Suffolk, where it will be turned into renewable energy and fertiliser rather than being incinerated or sent to landfill.

### Paper and card collected separately

Paper and card will no longer be mixed with plastics. Keeping them separate improves recycling quality and reduces contamination from damp or broken glass.

### New items collected

For the first time in Babergh, glass items such as drinks bottles, soft plastics (e.g. food wrappings and cling film) and cartons such as tetrapaks can now be put in your recycling bin.

### What isn't changing?

The garden waste (brown bin) subscription service stays exactly the same, with fortnightly collections.

### Support for households who need it

The council says it will help households with limited space, larger families, medical needs or other challenges with the new system. Alternative containers or extra capacity may be available where justified. Most collection days are expected to stay the same, but any changes will be communicated in advance.

### In short:

The new system means:

- ★ Food waste: every week
- ★ Other bins: one different bin each week on a three-week cycle
- ★ Clearer recycling rules and less waste in refuse bins

Babergh is introducing the changes ahead of the national deadline to allow time for a smoother transition.

More details are available on the Babergh District Council website at <https://tinyurl.com/bin-change>

This article was originally produced by and published in the February 2026 Box River News. With grateful thanks.



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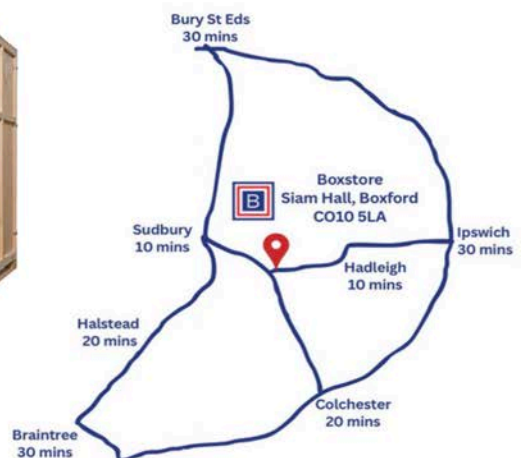
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# ASSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

## Matters of interest discussed during a meeting held in Assington Village Hall on Monday 26 January 2026

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

■ **Present:** Councillors (Cllrs) Andrew Hill (Vice-Chair, acting in Chair) David Wiles, and Bronwen Stacey  
**In attendance:** CClr James Finch, DCllr Lee Parker, Christine Hargan (Clerk) and one member of the community.

A warm welcome was extended to Kimberley Howard and Mark Armitage, Cllr Hill proposed that both applicants were co-opted as Parish Councillors Seconded by Cllr Wiles the proposal was carried unanimously and forms duly signed.

**Apologies** for absence Cllrs Simon Thorogood and Tony Howcroft

**Declaration of Interests and requests for dispensation**  
Cllr Stacey declared an interest in donations to Assington Association and the churchyard maintenance.

■ **Minutes** of the Assington Parish Council meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2025:  
The Minutes were resolved to be accurate and signed by Cllr Hill.

### ■ **County and District Council Reports and public forum**

#### **County Council Report from CClr Finch**

who updated the meeting on:

• Bus funding, £26 million has been added to the SCC budget over 3 years suggestions for improvements were requested. Cllr Hill pointed out that two suggestions had already been made – to have the bus terminate near the shop/village hall rather than Vicary Estate, and to have a stop added at Perrywoods - but were refuted by SCC. He agreed to resend the suggestions to Cllr Finch.

- Celebrating disability, The Government is offering grants to form local groups for disabled people and requested assistance in identifying individuals who may benefit.
- Fire fighter recruitment There has been a surge in applications, 32% of the applicants were women resulting in 17.2% of new recruits being female across the county,
- **Solar panel proposal near Mildenhall:** Concerns were raised regarding the proposal to site 2,500 acres of solar panels. An amendment to the planning application seeking to add further infrastructure, including battery storage, without reapplying was refused.
- **Unitary Authority:** Paul Geater has voiced support for a single unitary authority. Differing views have been voiced on the best solution to local government reorganisation proposals from the government, but a decision is expected in the coming months.

#### **District Council Report – DCllr Lee Parker**

Having previously distributed his report DCllr Parker updated on:

- Local Government Reorganisation (LGR): Capacity is being heavily consumed by LGR work. It is expected that proposals will soon clarify whether one or three unitary authorities will be recommended; Government may alternatively propose two. Councils must continue to operate and prepare for all outcomes.

A shadow authority will operate for one year. Unitary elections will take place in 2027, with the new authority assuming control in 2028.

Parish and Town Council elections will take place next year; Central Government will determine the arrangements.

- **Better Recycling – Changes Coming in 2026**  
This year will see significant changes to household waste collections under the new “Better Recycling” scheme.  
Key changes include:
  - Weekly food waste collection for all households.
  - Expanded recycling: paper, card, plastics, metals, glass, and cartons.
  - Three-weekly collections for general refuse and recycling (food waste remains weekly).More materials will be accepted overall, helping reduce waste and cut carbon emissions.  
New bins will be delivered from February but must not be used until June.  
Residents will receive an information leaflet between January and March explaining how the changes affect each household.
- **Car Parking Charges – What’s Changed and Why**  
Babergh District Council has confirmed that car parking charges in council-run car parks now apply where they were previously subsidised (free) and that increases to tariffs are part of the latest review. These changes follow a review of parking that started in 2024, and the revised charges have been in place since earlier this year in places such as Sudbury, Hadleigh and Lavenham. The changes were made because Babergh Cabinet contend that Council can no longer afford to subsidise free parking and needs to generate additional income to help protect essential local services. My own view is that the introduction of charges in the first place was predicated on the seriousness of the Council’s mid-term financial outlook. However, Babergh has achieved a balanced budget once again due to a better than expected annual settlement from Government. Therefore, a hike in charges at this time is unwarranted. As a concession, Cabinet agreed Blue Badge holders should continue to park for free for up to three hours and that Sundays and bank holidays remain free to park.
  - The CIL fund remains ringfenced and cannot be used to offset such operational costs.
  - Culture: Ipswich has been nominated for City of Culture.

I will endeavour to keep constituents up to date via newsletters and social media posts. My contact details are below should you wish to correspond in person 01787374857

[Lee.parker@babergh.gov.uk](mailto:Lee.parker@babergh.gov.uk)

Facebook: Lee Parker – District Councillor

#### **Public Forum**

No questions were asked

#### ■ **Planning**

**Applications:** None received.

- **Existing permissions:** A holiday home unit has been erected at the Assington Barns site. The Clerk will check whether the planning permission remains valid for this activity.
- **Recycling yard:** A query had been raised by a parishioner regarding a potential roadway and whether it is covered by the existing planning permission. It was reported a drainage pipe has been installed in the ditch and covered with hardcore. DCllr Parker will check with Planning Enforcement and liaise with Councillors.
- **Heavens to Betsy cafe wagon in the lay-by:** The premises have been closed since before Christmas and it was noted the unit was up for sale. DCllr Parker agreed

to contact BDC regarding licensing if required and liaise with Councillors.

### ■ Correspondence

A query was raised by a parishioner in relation to the newly surfaced footpath. Councillors will liaise with the contractor regarding concerns that the surface and edging is inadequate. A letter will be drafted to residents to explain the situation and proposed resolution.

### ■ Finance

- RFO report: Acknowledged.
- Accounts reconciliation against budget: Acknowledged.
- Payments: Authorised as resolved. It was agreed to await resolution to issues to footpath prior to settling the account.
- Consider grass cutting contractor for 2026/27
- It was resolved to appoint LM Groundcare to cut the footpaths, allotments, wildlife area and verges but to request a reduction in the quote to reduce the cuts to conservation area and footpaths to two and to liaise with the contractor later in the year regarding additional work if necessary, including cutting of the verge at the junction with the A134.
- **Budget 2026/27**  
The budget has been agreed and may be seen on the Parish Council Website : [assington-pc.gov.uk](http://assington-pc.gov.uk)  
Further discussion is required regarding Reserves at a future meeting.
- Precept 2026/27 - it was resolved to demand £9,600 from BDC and the form was signed by the acting chair. This will be close to a zero increase for parishioners, following two years of reductions. Clerk to submit the form

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

- **Bench:** Clerk to provide bank account details to the parishioner so that she can make a donation toward the cost of the additional bench. Once this is done to contact the Clerk who will arrange for a base to be installed in a suitable location near the play area.
- **Conservation area**  
No issues were raised

### ■ IT Policy

It was agreed to adopt the Policy as required under the new legislation.

### ■ Neighbourhood Plan Review

The Consultant is looking at the NP but progress is not expected until BDC declare the number of additional properties required in each parish.

### ■ Questions to the Chair

No questions were asked of the Chair

### ■ Time date and place of next meeting

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2026 to be held in Assington Village Hall at 7.00pm.

- The meeting was closed at 21.25 pm

## NATURE WATCH

### The Songthrush (for a couple of days).



What a delight it was to hear a song thrush in our garden in the early mornings in early February. It was such a long time since we had had a thrush "of our own". Several years ago we would hear the calls of a thrush high up in the top branches of the fir tree, especially at dusk, or in the mornings. But in accordance with national trends, which report their significant decline on farmland, and in towns and cities, we have not heard one in the garden for quite some time. The song thrush is on the amber List of Birds of Conservation Concern.

So I was thrilled to hear the call, its habit of repeating song phrases and piercing single notes; I messaged friends with a similar 'wildlife interest'; I recorded it singing in the early morning chorus, along with the other familiar birds, on my Merlin bird app.

And then.....

on the morning of 9th February I saw a newly-dead thrush on the verge not far from our garden. It was unmarked, and I concluded it must have caught a glancing blow from a vehicle as it was flying across the road. I buried it in the bluebell walk.

Since then we have heard no joyful strains of our thrush. I still mourn its loss, but I am beginning to think that this must be one of the factors which leads to their declining numbers:

we don't find other garden birds dead on the grass verge. Perhaps Song Thrushes are not very bright? They certainly don't appear to be aware of the risks associated with the modern era!

If you would like to try to attract 'nice but dim' thrushes into your gardens, it is recommended that scrubby corners, wild untidy patches of garden, damp ground and hedgerows help to attract and retain one of our much-loved birds.



The Song Thrush is different from the Mistle Thrush, as the speckles on the chest of a Mistle Thrush are 'rounder' than the streaks of the Song Thrush and come together to form dark patches on the flanks. It is larger and paler than the similar song thrush, standing upright and bold. The Mistle Thrush is also less frequently seen in gardens than a song thrush.

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# AN EVENING WITH JACKSON

## Stories of Love and Hope

From Jeff Stacey



CB Jackson is a professional story teller and he came to Assington Village Hall for the evening of 31st January to entertain us with his tales.

The Village Hall was decorated for the event and with careful lighting a magical atmosphere was created.

He introduced the evening by saying that he would tell us a variety of stories so that we could remember the ones we liked and perhaps discard those we were not so keen on. We enjoyed them all and he kept us enthralled by his story telling, I have never before noticed how loud the Village Hall clock ticks such was the hush as he completely captured our attention! It was a different matter in the interval when refreshments were served and there was a chance to chat, which everyone embraced.

A fantastic evening was had by all and there was enthusiastic support for CB Jackson to return and tell us more stories. Watch out in the Assington News for details of the next visit which will be to tell Ghost stories.

Thanks to everyone who supported it - the event was also a financial success. The final figure from ticket sales and contributions for the refreshments was an amazing £346, raised towards the Tower Project to provide a toilet and other facilities in the Church.



# VILLAGE NEWS

## CHOIR NEWS

We're delighted to tell you that our Christmas fundraiser at Holy Trinity Church in Long Melford raised a whopping £2,350 to be split equally between MyWish at West Suffolk Hospital (in memory of Ted Nicholls), and local domestic abuse support charity Compassion. Huge thanks to everyone that came to support us, and of course to all the wonderful singers who took part.



**Our next concert is in aid of a more local concern - the Church renovation fund for the new toilets and kitchen! It will be held at the Church on Sat April 4th, at 2pm, tickets are £5 and are available at the Shoulder of Mutton and also from [info@happysounds.co.uk](mailto:info@happysounds.co.uk). The concert will be just an hour, with refreshments beforehand, so a lovely thing to enjoy over the Easter weekend.**

We are also delighted to announce we will be the first ever Choir to perform at LEESTOCK at Kentwell Hall on Sunday May 24th. If you'd like to come and join the fun - and be able to tell your family for decades that you sang in front of hundreds of people at a festival - we are accepting new members until the end of March - more info at [www.happysounds.co.uk](http://www.happysounds.co.uk).

Thanks for reading, and hope to see you!  
Nettie

\*\*\*\*\*

## WARNING: BEWARE OF BURGLARS IN THE AREA

Following recent reports of more than one attempted burglary in Assington, please be security-conscious: lock your back doors at all times, even when you are at home, and also your front doors.

It appears that elderly people in particular are being targeted in their home, and perhaps they are more likely to be at home during the daytime and also to be leaving their doors unlocked.

**KEEP SAFE AND SECURE  
LOCK YOUR DOORS**

## THE ASSINGTON VILLAGE CHARITY VACANCIES

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](mailto: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 .

\*\*\*\*\*

## WE SAID SAD FAREWELLS TO:

### ROGER ASHFORD,

long time resident of Assington.

Details of Roger's funeral arrangements are on page 13 and his eulogy will be printed in the April edition.

### JOAN GILBERTSON:

A Tribute is printed on pages 12 and 13

## Allotment Report for Spring 2026



Although we are now approaching our spring planting season, work on the allotment is rather limited at the moment to planning what we might like to do, if ever it stops raining! We have the first of our twice yearly meetings in the village hall on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March 10.00.am. This is to appoint officers for the coming year, look at maintenance issues and requirements for the coming year.

We have a full house again this year with 15 tenants on the 12 plots, 3 are sharing plots that are split to form 6 half plots, each full plot measures 15 X 12 yards and is approximately half of the size of the original stated size to feed a whole family. We have one local person on the waiting list and if anyone else wants to put their name down, then get in contact with any plothead or let me know please.

I usually try to be on my own plot on Sundays, so pop in and have a look around. Or just knock on the door of no. Ten.

I have noticed that we are getting consistent dog fouling on the path, leading up to and past the allotment gate and while trying to adjust the entrance gate recently, I put my foot in it and created a nasty smell. Please bag it up and take it to nearby Poo-Bin. This is very anti-social and is the responsibility of dog owner to clear up after Rover's walkies. We have young children and toddlers visiting the allotment gardens and passing now.

Thanks to all involved in creating and maintaining this brilliant facility.

Bryn. [barnworkshopuk@gmail.com](mailto:barnworkshopuk@gmail.com) 07771 5083

### SAVE THE DATE

**Assington's 49th Horticultural Show.  
Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> August 2026.**

Anyone who would like to be involved and can help with the organisation of the show in the run up, or on the day please let me know. Any help will be greatly appreciated.

Tel Karen Wiles 07983 002072.

## 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

# JOAN GILBERTSON (nee Mitcham)

15/10/1939 - 12/10/2026

Joan and her twin sister Jill were born in East Suffolk



Hospital on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October 1939 to Joseph and Alice Mitcham. War had just begun and life was very unsettled – it must have been a tremendously difficult and worrying time for Alice, with two small babies.

Joan's early years were spent in Lavenham where she fondly remembered evacuees who came from London to escape the war. Times were hard and money was scarce, but Joan remembered a happy childhood with many fond memories. While living here, they were joined by the arrival of Marion, the first of two sisters. Joan and Jill loved taking baby Marion for a walk in the pram through the village as most little 7-year-old girls would. One day while they were out Joan and Jill accidentally tipped Marion out of the pram where she tumbled into a pile of stinging nettles. Poor Marion was covered in hives, and the girls had the hard job of explaining to a very unhappy mother what had happened.

The family later moved here to Assington, where they would stay, and become a central part of the community. Assington was a much smaller village back then, but there was always lots going on. Joan and twin sister Jill often took part in plays or shows at the Village Hall where they would dance and sing.

Marion remembers the taffeta skirts and fancy clothes and how they all used to dance around.



Joan's early school years were spent here in Assington at the village school and then later at Bures School.



Linton, Joan's brother arrived in 1951 and Jane came along in 1957 making the Assington family complete. Joan's half-sister Joanna followed many years later and they too enjoyed a special relationship.

Joan's first job from school was at Woolworths in North St. Sudbury. Joan remembered walking over two miles, sometimes through snow to Boxford corner to catch the bus to work. Although the volume of traffic was far less than we have today, the road was still the busy main road through to town and quite dangerous as there were no pathways. The long journey home at the end of the day, often meant walking in the dark – it was a long and tiresome day. Joan had memories of saving her money to buy herself a bicycle to get her from Assington to Boxford Corner more quickly. She'd leave the bike at what used to be 'The Case is Altered' on the main A134 and catch the 205 Eastern Counties Bus to Sudbury to be there for five minutes to 9am. Joan was soon promoted to Staff Shop Supervisor, a position which she loved, and of which her father was immensely proud.

Jane, Joan's youngest sister, and who was a young child at the time, remembers their mother taking her to Sudbury on the bus to see Joan at work. Joan would proudly parade Jane around the shop, and she always ensured that Jane went home with a treat from her big sister, usually chocolate buttons covered in sprinkles.

It was while Joan was working at Woolworth that she met Peter, the young projectionist at The County Cinema. He used to come in for sweets and cigarettes. After several dates, some of which involving Joan being secretly smuggled into the projection box, a lovely relationship was formed and they fell in love. They were married on 20<sup>th</sup> August 1960 at Assington Church. Two years later Janice came along followed by Mary-Jane in 1965, both girls were also Christened in St Edmunds, Assington. In 1967 the family moved to Hillcrest Road, Sudbury.

Joan was a dedicated housewife until the girls started school when she became a school kitchen cook so that she was always at home when her children were. The girls remember their mother making huge volumes of chocolate crunch which would last for days, because Joan was used to using such large portions at school.

Joan loved to collect for charities – the RNLI, The Poppy Appeal and The Red Cross. Her girls remember being taken from door to door around the estates collecting for these charities – something which often took many, many hours as Joan enjoyed chatting and catching up with all her neighbours along the way. Joan knew everyone! Peter used to say that if she got off a plane in Australia, she'd bump into someone she knew!

When the girls were in secondary school Joan took a job at the mill hotel, preparing and serving bar lunches. This was a role which she loved, being a chatterbox and knowing nearly everyone in the town, she could use her wonderful people skills to create a warm and welcoming place to lunch. Joan met some wonderful people there, including some of the young staff who came from all over the country. She lovingly took them under her wing and welcomed them into her home. She was still in touch with many of these throughout her life and some are here today.

After many years, Joan was offered a new opportunity to train to become an Occupation Therapy Aide at Walnut Tree hospital in Sudbury. This was a role that she felt was her calling. Her dear friend Sue called her a vocational nurse. It was while working here at the day hospital Joan and a small team of colleagues formed The New Hope Club, a charitable organisation set up for stroke patients and their families. This was a place where they could come together for support and friendship, fun and games. Joan dedicated many, many years to The New Hope Club - a huge success which ran for over 30 years and included over 100 members. The emblem was a snow drop, one of Joan's favourite flowers. Her dedication and commitment to this Club earned her a Community Action Award, presented by the High Sheriff. This was a moment of immense pride, and quite rightly so.

When Joan's husband Peter, sadly became unwell, Joan retired to care for him until he passed away in 2006. At this sad time Joan took comfort from her family and spent more time with her five wonderful grandchildren, Hannah, Harriet, Thomas, Joshua and Daisy. Later came her two Great Grandchildren Jacob and Sophia who have continued to be a constant source of pride and joy.

In the years to follow Joan enjoyed a variety of hobbies and had some wonderful holidays including a trip to France to visit sister Jane and trips to Scotland with her twin Jill. She loved to sew and create beautiful gifts at Christmas for her friends. She enjoyed a good game of Bingo in Ipswich where she made lots of new friends and dreamed of winning the National Prize.

Over the last year Joan had been assisted by a lovely team of carers and neighbours, who not only supported her, but Janice and Mary-Jane too, as she struggled to come to terms with the loss of her declining mobility. Joan passed peacefully holding the hands of her beloved daughters. We remember her as a kind, caring, and loving mother, sister, grandma, great grandma and dear friend. A lady, who was so special to so many.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Editor's addendum**

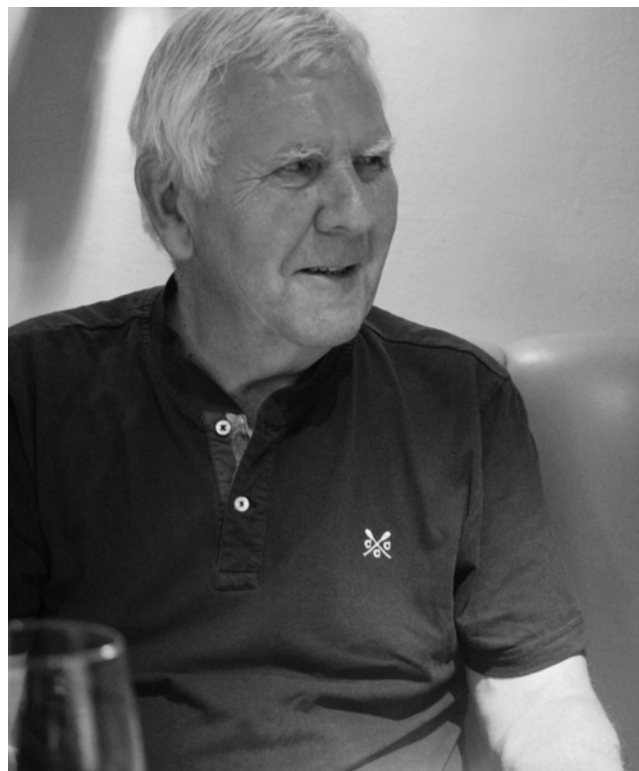
Joan retained a great interest in the village throughout her life: she continued to participate in the church flower rota, even struggling up the heavy gravel path in a wheelchair in latter days.

Joan was keen to receive her copy of the Assington News every month to her home in Sudbury, and we kept in touch and listened to her recollections over a lifetime, including many snippets of memories of the village in her youth. The dates of the village Horticultural Show and the Church Village Fete were held in her mind, and she attended these annual events whenever possible. Last summer, in 2025 Joan asked if she could enter some exhibits into the craft section, and, upon being told that indeed she may, she entered a beautifully hand-crafted peg doll dressed as a Grenadier Guard, a painting of a ploughman at work with his horse, and a photo of her cat. All three entries won prizes, and she was thrilled to learn that she was the recipient of the prize cup for the most points in that class.



We shall remember her fondly and will miss her for all her kindness and generosity, and for her continuing lively interest in "everything Assington".

## FUNERAL DETAILS FOR ROGER ASHFORD



Roger's Funeral will take place on  
**Thursday 12th March at 10.00am**  
**at St John's Church, Cauldwell Hall Road Ipswich**  
 followed by  
**11.30am Committal at the Lawn Cemetery Ipswich**  
**1.30pm Wake at Stoke by Nayland Golf Club**

Roger's family are hoping to get an idea of numbers for the funeral and wake so if you are able/would like to attend either or both please could you let them know:

**[kerry\\_branchflower@yahoo.com](mailto:kerry_branchflower@yahoo.com)**

Thank you so much.



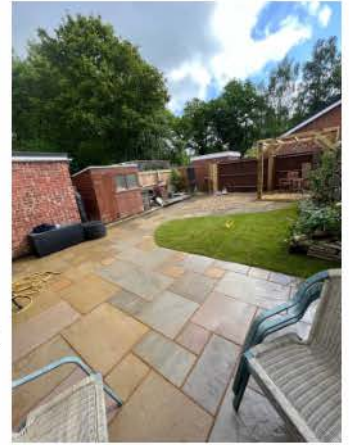
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# Your Assington Village Charity Needs YOU!

*Assington Village Hall  
Outdoor exercise gym*



*There may be an opportunity to have equipment like this at the Village Hall playing field .  
**Would you want it / use it??**  
Please let us know by the end of February either by scanning the QR code to visit the Assington Facebook page and leave a 'comment' or by messaging David Wiles on 07811108702 or Nigel Finch on 07932060454*



Hi All, We have an opportunity to receive funding for an Outdoor Exercise Gym for adults and children at The Village Hall and possibly some new kit for the playground. One of the criteria is that the village residents give feedback that it is a worthwhile and wanted addition to the village facilities. It is advertised on the village Facebook pages, and the notice boards so please look and give the project a thumbs up or leave a comment, stating how many people in your household we like to see it happen, or scan the QR code.

If you are unable to do this, please fill in the slip below. Response has been good so far on social media, but we need more villagers to agree with the proposal, or we will not be granted funding, so your help is vital!! Thank you for your help in advance.



**I/We would be fully supportive of the Outside Gym project :**

Name or  
Names.....  
.....

*Please post your slip into the letterbox of 16 The Street or into the pouch in the bus stop by  
**18<sup>th</sup> March***

Thank you for your help.

## THINGS TO DO



**'Last Tuesday'**

**Coffee and Chat**  
in the Village Hall

The next meeting will be on  
**Tuesday 31st March**  
**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 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

Revd Tricia Box - 07747124592



## Hadleigh Choral Society

Fierce, emotional, reflective, beautiful, haunting...these are just some of the ways to describe the Requiem in B flat minor by Antonin Dvorak which will be performed by Hadleigh Choral Society on Saturday 28th March at St Mary's Church in Hadleigh. All are invited to attend this concert which promises to be an incredible experience. Joining the choir will be the Colchester Symphony Orchestra along with professional soloists, and Christopher Phelps will conduct the evening which will start at 7:30pm. Tickets are £18 or free for those in full time education, and are available online, at The Idler bookshop in Hadleigh, or through choir members. For more information visit [www.hadleighchoralsociety.org.uk](http://www.hadleighchoralsociety.org.uk).

## DIARY DATES

### SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY **4th APRIL (EASTER SATURDAY)**  
**HAPPYSOUNDS**  
**COMMUNITY CHOIR**  
**CONCERT**

Refreshments at 2pm  
concert 2.30pm - 3.30pm in Assington  
Church

Tickets £5 available at the Shoulder of Mutton and also from [info@happysounds.co.uk](mailto:info@happysounds.co.uk).

Kindly In aid of the Church Tower Project

### SAVE THE DATE

**Assington's 49th Horticultural Show.**  
**Sunday 16th August 2026.**

Anyone who would like to be involved and can help with the organisation of the show in the run up, or on the day please let me know. Any help will be greatly appreciated.

Tel Karen Wiles 07983 002072.



Essex & Suffolk gliding club are always keen to attract new members. You can start gliding from 13 go solo at 14 and no upper age for seniors, provided you're medically fit.

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# PARISH CHURCH NEWS



Saint Edmund  
King & Martyr  
Assington



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



## Letter from the Rev Mary Cantacuzene

Dear Friends

For many weeks there has been sad, bad, awful news hitting the headlines about the so-called "elite": rich, famous, powerful people exploiting young, vulnerable women. Are we really surprised? Probably not! Human beings

are, after all, only human; being famous or rich doesn't make people better does it? The saying goes, "You can't fool all of the people, all of the time."

We know, from observing our own lives, from the inside, that we are pretty flawed. And if we know how susceptible we are to our own brand of wrong-doing, well ... we can assume that we all very much the same. Our fellow mortals fail, and sin, and disappoint, and anger us.

We might not believe in God, but my goodness, He believes in us, whatever we are like! Jesus dealt with people, in ways that led to lasting change, he said and did things that showed such love and kindness and concern for ordinary people, and that isn't forgotten; those words and actions have had world-wide and eternal implications.

The glory of Jesus Christ coming to earth, the cross, the beautiful miracle of Easter. The glory of grace, mercy, gentleness, kindness and love, shown in such measures as to leave us astonished and transformed.

People of all ages are gradually cottoning-on to the empty promises of "the world" and are coming into churches for the first time, or reading the Bible for the first time, or going to an Alpha Course, they are hungry for goodness, and integrity, and truth.

May you also be transformed by knowing just how much Jesus believes in you, and loves YOU!

## Mary

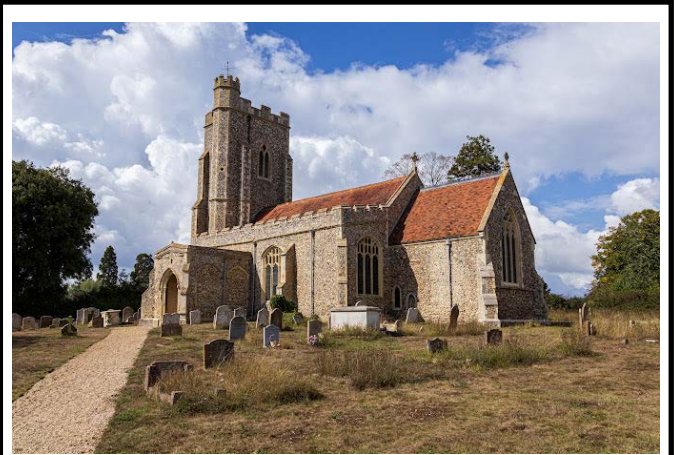


Vicar: Daniel Whiffin 07309 947039  
email: [vicar@parishchurch.co.uk](mailto:vicar@parishchurch.co.uk)  
Associate Priest :  
Rev Simon White 07572 418555  
Reader emeritus:  
Dr John Symons 211534  
Churchwarden: Bronwen Stacey 210354  
Organists: Bronwen Stacey  
Peter Dakin  
Secretary: Emily Cartledge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

### Assington Church TOWER PROJECT



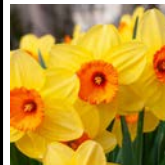
QRCode  
If you would like to  
make a donation  
towards the  
Tower Project  
Our Grateful Thanks



## MARCH 2026 SERVICES IN ASSINGTON ALL WELCOME

**1st MARCH @ 10.30am HOLY COMMUNION**

(8th March : Bures Holy Communion @ 10.30am)



**15th MARCH @ 10.30am MW**

**MOTHERING SUNDAY SERVICE**

(22nd March: Bures Morning Worship @ 10.30am)



**29th MARCH @ 10.30am**

**PALM SUNDAY HOLY COMMUNION**

## 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

In order to qualify for the grants we had hoped to obtain we find that we must demonstrate community consultation, and that the community is "behind" our project. We are therefore currently looking at ways of consulting with our Assington residents, and (hopefully) gaining your support for our plans.

We appreciate that not everybody is a "churchgoer", but many residents do come to church for the annual Carol Service, and attend the funerals of friends and neighbours, as well as possibly attend local weddings and other services or performances. The church is part of our community.

Likewise, the churchyard is a focal point for many members of our community, who have close ties to the resting place of past ancestors or recent relatives.

The Church building is an amenity for us all, if we care to use it, and we need your support for our proposed improvements to church facilities if we are to meet modern expectations for funerals, weddings, and increasingly, concerts, performances, meetings, workshops and other events which we hope to run in the future.

**Please would you spare a moment to register your message of support by emailing [revsimonwhite@gmail.com](mailto:revsimonwhite@gmail.com) and saying (eg)**

**"I support the PCCs Tower Project"**



Peter Robb

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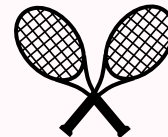
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# WHAT'S ON

**4TH MARCH  
19.00PM**

## **WINE TASTING EVENING**

BOOK IN ADVANCE FOR THE CHANCE TO TRY FINE WINES AND DELICIOUS PAIRINGS.

**15TH MARCH  
12:00-17:00**

## **MOTHER'S DAY SUNDAY LUNCH**

DELICIOUS SUNDAY LUNCH  
BOOKING IN ADVANCE RECOMMENDED.

**18TH MARCH  
19:30PM**

## **MONTHLY QUIZ NIGHT**

FOOD SERVED 6PM-8.30PM  
BOOK YOUR TEAM NOW

**1ST APRIL  
19.30PM**

## **APRIL FOOL'S COMEDY NIGHT**

BOOKING ONLY - TICKETS SOLD IN  
THE PUB ASK STAFF

**5TH APRIL  
12:00-17:00**

## **EASTER SUNDAY LUNCH**

DELICIOUS SUNDAY LUNCH  
BOOKING IN ADVANCE RECOMMENDED.

**11TH APRIL  
19:30PM**

## **LIVE MUSIC - JAMES BURRAGE**

JOIN US FOR A FUN NIGHT WITH  
LIVE MUSIC

**15TH APRIL  
19:30PM**

## **MONTHLY QUIZ NIGHT**

FOOD SERVED 6PM-8.30PM  
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