

ASSINGTON

NEWS



MARCH 2021

CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS (useful numbers)

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

Allotments Secretary	Claire Osborne	07920 800108
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
Assington Village Charity Secretary	Claire Osborne	07920 800108
Boxford CEVC Primary School (office@boxford.suffolk.sch.uk)	Head: Mrs J Davies	01787 210332
Brownies, Boxford	Moira Grant	01787 211513
Church, Children's activities	Michelle Bourner	07954 221773
Church - Organist	Bronwen Stacey	01787 210354
Church - Reader	Dr John Symons	01787 211534
Church - Secretary	Emily Cartlidge	07976724266
Church - Treasurer	Ian Clark	01787 211133
Churchwarden	Roger Britcher	01787 211021
Churchwarden	Bronwen Stacey	01787 210354
Community Choir	Nettie Osman	07957 394780
County Councillor (james.finch@suffolk.gov.uk)	James Finch	01473 264993
District Councillor (Assington)	Lee Parker	01787 376073
Doctors surgery – Sudbury	Hardwicke House	01787 310000
Doctors surgery – Bures	Bures	01787 227529
Fleece Jazz, Stoke by Nayland Hotel - www.fleecejazz.org.uk	Stoke by Nayland	01787 211865
Footpath Wardens	Paul & Cynthia Hollingsworth	01787 211620
Horticultural Society	Bryn Hurren	01787 210854
Leavenheath Cinema	Ken	01206 263266
Member of Parliament (james.cartlidge.mp@parliament.uk)	James Cartlidge	020 7219 4875
Parish Council	Simon Thorogood	01787 227400
bronwenstacey@btinternet.com	Bronwen Stacey	01787 210354
john@moorsfarm.com	John Symons	01787 211534
rosemarysymonds42@gmail.com	Rose Symonds	01787 229100
helen.wallace12@btinternet.com	Helen Wallace	01787 211162
i.jordan741@btinternet.com	Ian Jordan	01787 211609
andrewpeterhill@hotmail.com	Andrew Hill	01787 827112
Parish Council - Clerk, (assingtonpc@yahoo.com)	Christine Hargan	01449 674727
Pub – The Shoulder of Mutton		01787 210334
Vicar (steve.morley@btinternet.com)	Steve Morley	01787 227407
Village Hall – Bookings (louisa@moorsfarm.com)	Louisa Symons	01787 211534
Village Hall - Caretaker	Paul Battle	07473 933320
Womens Institute, Boxford (annie-phillips@hotmail.co.uk)	Annie Phillips	01787 211729

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Distributors	David & Ann Jarrett, Judy Bourner, Bryn Hurren & Lisa Brooks, Zoe Laughton, Matthew Green, Ian Jordan, Jacqui Egglestone, Rose Symonds
Printer	Indigo Ross Design & Print Ltd, Sudbury 01787 880 260 hello@indigoross.co.uk
Auditor	Ian Clark, 01787 211133

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DATES OF INTEREST DURING MARCH

1st March: St David's Day

Saint David was born in Caerfai, south west Wales into an aristocratic family, reportedly a scion of the royal house of Ceredigion. He founded a Celtic monastic community on the western headland of Pembrokeshire at Glyn Rhosyn, the spot where St David's Cathedral stands today.



David's fame as a teacher and his asceticism spread among Celtic Christians, and he helped found about 12 monasteries. The date of Saint David's death is believed to be 1st March 589. He was buried at the site of St David's

Cathedral, which became an important

Christian shrine and was a popular place of pilgrimage throughout the Middle Ages.

For centuries, 1st March has been a national festival. Saint David was recognised as a national patron saint in the 12th century at a peak time of Welsh resistance to the Normans. He was canonised by Pope Callixtus II in 1120. The 17th-century diarist Samuel Pepys noted how Welsh celebrations in London for Saint David's Day would spark wider counter-celebrations amongst their English neighbours: by the 18th century the custom had arisen of confectioners producing "taffies"—gingerbread figures baked in the shape of a Welshman riding a goat—on Saint David's Day. Today, the daffodil or the leek (Saint David's personal symbol) is worn by patriotic Welsh people on this day. The leek arises from an occasion when a troop of Welsh were able to distinguish each other from a troop of English enemy (such as Saxon invading forces), dressed in similar fashion, by wearing leeks.

5th March: St Piran's Day

The day is named after one of the patron saints of Cornwall,



Saint Piran, who was a 5th century Cornish Abbott, and also became one of the patron saints of tin miners.

Saint Piran's Flag has been adopted as the flag of Cornwall, and as a symbol of the identity of the Cornish people.

8th March: Commonwealth Day

After the death of Queen Victoria on 22 January 1901, her birthday, (24 May) was celebrated in the UK as Empire Day, and it was subsequently extended throughout the countries of the Commonwealth. Empire Day was then seen as a "symbol of that unity of feeling . . . to those ideals of freedom, justice, and tolerance for which the British Empire stood throughout the world".

In 1958 Empire Day was renamed as Commonwealth Day, and in 1973 the date on which it is now observed throughout all countries of the Commonwealth was changed to be the second Monday in March. The Commonwealth is a voluntary association of 54 independent countries, almost

all of which were formerly under British rule, although only 16 still recognise the British Queen as their monarch. Nearly 1/3 of the globe (ie around 2 billion people) in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean and Americas, the Pacific and Europe celebrates/observes Commonwealth Day.

The Commonwealth is extremely important to The Queen and members



of the royal family, and in normal years Her Majesty attends a service in Westminster Abbey, among other things.



This year's event will be centred around 'Delivering a Common Future' – highlighting how the 54 member countries in the Commonwealth family are 'innovating, connecting and transforming' to help achieve some of its biggest goals, like protecting natural resources and boosting trade.

14th March: Mothers Day

The UK's Mother's Day always falls on the fourth Sunday during the period of Lent.

During the 16th century, churchgoers in England worshipped on most Sundays at their nearest parish or 'daughter church'. However, it was considered important for people to return to their home or 'mother' church once a year. So each year in the middle of Lent, everyone would visit their 'mother' church - the main church or cathedral of the area - for a service. Anyone who did this was commonly said to have gone 'mothering'. Inevitably the return to the 'mother' church became an occasion for family reunions when children who were working away returned home. It was quite common in those days for children, sometimes as young as ten years old, particularly those working as domestic servants or as apprentices, to be given the day off to visit their mother and family. As they walked along the country lanes, children would pick wild flowers or violets to take to church or give to their mother as a small gift.

Today, more than a little influenced by a movement which began in the USA, the day has evolved into an occasion for children to honour and give presents to their hardworking mums.

15th March: Ides of March

'**Beware the Ides of March**' is one of the most popular quotes from William Shakespeare's tragedy *Julius Caesar* (1599). The warning is uttered by a soothsayer who is letting Roman leader Julius Caesar know that his life is in danger, and he should be careful when March 15th, **the Ides of March**, rolls around.

The Roman calendar had three named days:

- The Kalends (the first day of the month)
- The Nones (the fifth or seventh day of the month)
- The Ides (which fell in the middle of the month usually between the 13th and 15th).

The exact dates varied from year to year depending on the moon. The named days were reference points to other days of the month, which were unnamed.

Julius Caesar was a natural leader. He joined the army when he was still very young and quickly moved up the ranks because he could inspire his soldiers. He was so well liked and popular that he was elected into office. Caesar led his countrymen for five years. He founded libraries, supported artists, made the government run better and provided poor people with more freedom and liberty.

The Roman people found him a great leader. This made the Roman Senate anxious because they feared that Caesar would gain too much power. So, in an effort to thwart his rise, he was told by the Senate to give up control of his massive army. Of course, Caesar refused and instead used his army to take control of the city and declared himself dictator of Italy. His growing popularity continued to make the Roman Senate more and more nervous by the day. They were aware of what happened when a man had too much power. So they brutally killed him. On the actual date

of March 15th, 44 BC, the real Julius Caesar was violently murdered, stabbed on the senate floor. 23 times by a mob of senators who were led by his protégés and supposed 'friends', Cassius and Brutus ('Et tu, Brute?') Prior to Julius Caesar's murder, the 'Ides of March' didn't mean anything significant. Now it carries a sense of dread with a possible hint of sabotage.

17th March: **St Patrick's Day**

The day commemorates Saint Patrick and the arrival of Christianity in Ireland, and celebrates the heritage and culture of the Irish in general. Celebrations generally involve public parades and festivals, céilís, and the wearing of green attire or shamrocks.



Saint Patrick was a 5th-century Romano-British Christian missionary and bishop in Ireland. It is believed that he was born in Roman Britain in the fourth century, into a wealthy Romano-British family. His father was a deacon and his grandfather was a priest in the Christian church. At the age of sixteen, he was kidnapped by Irish raiders and taken as a slave to Gaelic Ireland, where he spent six years working as a shepherd; during that time he "found God". God told Patrick to flee to the coast, where a ship would be waiting to take him home. After making his way home, Patrick went on to become a priest.

According to tradition, Patrick returned to Ireland to convert the pagan Irish to Christianity. He spent many years evangelising in the northern half of Ireland and converted "thousands". Saint Patrick is said to have used the shamrock, a three-leaved plant, to explain the Holy Trinity to the pagan Irish.

The 17th March is the traditional death date of Saint Patrick (c. 385 – c. 461), who became the foremost patron saint of Ireland.

19th March: **Red Nose Day**

This year's noses will be plastic-free. Comic Relief will mark the day with eco-themed biodegradable versions made from bagasse (a by-product of sugar), which will be shaped like woodland creatures.

20th March: **First Day of Spring**

This event marks the astronomical first day of spring in the Northern Hemisphere

In the Northern Hemisphere, the March equinox (aka spring equinox or vernal equinox) occurs when the Sun crosses the equator line, heading north in the sky. This event marks the start of spring in the northern half of the globe.

The word **equinox** comes from the Latin words for "equal night"—aequus (equal) and nox (night).



On the equinox, the length of day and night is nearly equal in all parts of the world.

After this date, the Northern Hemisphere begins to be tilted more toward the Sun, resulting in increasing

daylight hours and warming temperatures. In the Southern Hemisphere, it's the opposite: the March equinox marks the start of autumn, as the Southern Hemisphere begins to be tilted away from the Sun.

With the Spring equinox, enjoy the increasing sunlight hours, with earlier dawns and later sunsets.

21st March **Census Day**

The Census is a head-count of all people and households in the country on a given day, and these have taken place in the UK every ten years since 1801, providing a social and historical archive for future generations.

2021 will be the first digital-first Census, when the majority of people will complete the questionnaire on line.

25th March: **Lady's Day**

In religious terms, Lady's Day celebrate the feast of the Annunciation, held on the 25th of March each year, which commemorates the visit of the archangel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary, during which he informed her that she would be the mother of Jesus Christ.

Lady Day was in medieval and later times the beginning of the legal year in England. However, in 1752 (when the **Gregorian Calendar** was adopted in GB) this was altered to the 1st of January, but the 25th of March remains one of the Quarter Days; though in some parts **old** Lady Day, on the 6th of April, (don't ask!!) is still the date for rent paying. A vestige of this remains in the United Kingdom's tax year, which ends on 5 April, or "Old Lady Day".

As a year-end and a quarter-day that conveniently did not fall within or between the seasons for ploughing and harvesting, Lady Day was a traditional day on which year-long contracts between landowners and tenant farmers would begin and end in England and nearby lands (although there were regional variations). Farmers' time of "entry" into new farms and onto new fields was often this day. As a result, farming families who were changing farms would travel from the old farm to the new one on Lady Day.

Fans of Thomas Hardy may recall such references to rustic upheavals in *Tess of the d'Urbervilles* and *Far From the Madding Crowd*!

28th March: **British Summer Time**

British Summer Time is a mechanism to make the most of increased summer daylight hours in the northern hemisphere. At 1am on the last Sunday in March, clocks 'spring forward' by an hour, and at 2am on the last Sunday in October, the clocks 'fall back' by an hour, returning to Greenwich Mean Time (GMT)

We change our clocks to make better use of the daylight. On the last Sunday in March, clocks in the UK go forward an hour so that there's more daylight in the evenings. But the clocks go back in October, so there's more daylight in the mornings - and less in the evenings during winter. The idea was first adopted 1916 as the First World War was taking its toll on the nation and anything that could improve productivity was encouraged. Agriculture is another factor, with farmers working hours being more affected by the amount of daylight available in the morning than the rest of us. Farmers often rise or begin work at around 5 in the morning. If the clocks were not adjusted, dairy farmers located in the North of the country would not see dawn until after 9 o'clock, meaning hours of working in the dark.

Also 28th March: **Palm Sunday**

Palm Sunday is a day in the Christian calendar that falls on the Sunday before Easter. The feast commemorates Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem and is celebrated by the blessing and distribution of palm leaves in the shape of a cross, representing the palm branches which the crowd scattered in front of Christ as he rode into Jerusalem. Palm Sunday marks the first day of Holy Week, the last week of the Christian solemn season of Lent that precedes the arrival of Eastertide.





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CALLIE BRADBURY'S NEWS

During lockdown I have been writing poems as I told you in the previous report and today I am going to share a new one. Our dog has loved me and my family being at home during lockdown so she has more time to play with us, so I decided to write some poems about her. The first one is called:

My Best Friend

Black and brown
Muscly and Chunky
Fast as the wind
Always in a hurry
Couple of stripes
Rub my ears
Sometimes comes when her name she hears
Loves her ball it's her favourite thing
What's most fun for her? Everything!
Great big tongue that licks my face
Has a crate, very own space
Big brown eyes like moon pies
She's my friend till the very end!



I also wrote one about her thoughts imagining I was in her mind. It is called:

Lola's Thoughts

Let's enter a world of dreams and fog
As we go into the mind of Lola the dog

Daddy can I have some CHEESE,
I still have sore knees,
And it will help to kill
fleas,
Ooh, I like peas!

We're still home schooling. I have been learning about the Ancient Egyptians and my half term project is to make a model of the pyramids. I'm also looking forward to making pancakes in half-term.

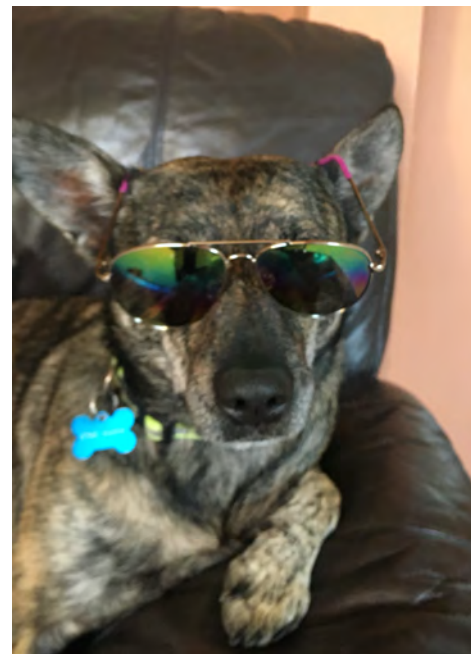
I have also been learning about Mary Anning. Mary Anning was a poor girl who lived in the seaside town of Lyme Regis. When she was 15 months old she was struck by lightning but luckily she survived. As she got older she began to search the beach for what she called 'curiosities', which are fossils but she did not know at the time. She sold the 'curiosities' on the street and one day a lady named Elizabeth Philpot came and told Mary all about fossils and gave her some books to study. When she was searching the beach, she found a massive slate and it took weeks to chip it away. Finally, Mary had found what scientists call an Ichthyosaurus, she was given £25 and she never stopped looking for fossils. She is now thought to be the greatest fossil hunter of all time.

I want to sleep,
Ooh some sheep,
Is that sleet?
Hmm what's sleet

Is it time for my walk,
If not I'll have some pork,
I could play with chalk
Wait, what is chalk?

A foot to lick,
It doesn't make me feel
sick,
I am quick,
Hang on a minute,
what's sick?

Daddy saw a bee,
I'll wait to see,
Then we can watch TV,
OMG, what's TV?



We've also had some time to play in the snow which is really exciting because we don't usually get any snow so I have been sledging when I go on a dog walk and having snowball fights with my brother in the garden. We have also been feeding the birds a bit more because they cannot get any food in the snow.

Hopefully by the time I am writing the next article it will be a bit warmer and less muddy and we'll be going back to school and able to see more friends and family.

Nick Peasland

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ASSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Matters of Interest Discussed at Meetings held remotely via zoom on Monday 25 January and Monday 8 February 2021

25/01/21

■ **Matters arising from the Minutes of the previous meeting:**

a. **Speed Restrictions.** Cllr Hill informed that the county speed watch is currently on hold due to Covid. However a group of 9 volunteers has been approved. When it is safe to do so, the police will come out and give training on how to use the mobile speed camera.

b. **Quiet Lanes.** Cllr Hill reported that despite applying for all the roads in Assington to be granted "Quiet Lanes" status, only 5 have at this stage been approved.: Marshalls Green, Assington Lane, High Road, Upper Road and Wormingford Road. The Quiet Lanes initiative encourages drivers of motorised vehicles to take more care and consideration of other road users such as pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders. Despite applying for Barracks Lane to be included, he has been advised that it is not appropriate as it is too close to the A134. Cllr Hill has challenged this. The Quiet Lanes Initiative is a good scheme which helps to reduce traffic but there is no guarantee. The Parish Council can expect costs of up to a max of £1000, this is to cover the cost of signs. However as the area is in an AOB, too many new signs are discouraged. It is hoped to install the new signs on existing posts in appropriate places. Bures Road had not been approved as it was said to be too busy and is a through road. He is happy to challenge Bures Road again but is not hopeful it will be included. Cllr Symonds suggested that "Beware Horses" signs be considered., CCllr Finch is also happy to challenge the Bures Road decision.

c. **Speed Reduction Plan.** Cllr Hill informed that since the SCC Highways officer visited the parish in December 2019 to carry out an assessment, he is disappointed that a report has still not been received.

There are 3 priorities, 2 of which are for a 20mph zone through the street and a "School Slow" signage near Pump Farm School. CCllr Finch informed that he has been chasing Highways for answers to the site meeting which took place in December 2019 and can report that all the points have been logged. He has also been advised that Highways are not aware of a request from Assington Parish Council to take over the piece of land off The Street, next to the phone box and bus stop. It is considered as part of the highway. If the Parish Council wishes to pursue this, then they would need to apply for a license. The area would still remain highway but the Parish would be able to plant trees and erect a village sign and maintain the area subject to the license conditions.

d. **CIL'S Expenditure Plan.** The Chairman would like the Parish Council to consider an action plan for the CIL money. Consider projects for the village. Cllr Symonds suggested the purchase of an 'Assington Village Sign' which could possibly be located on the grass verge at the Village Hall (where the Christmas tree was positioned)? also as the Queens Platinum jubilee will be happening in June next year perhaps we could set aside a sum of money to provide a commemorative mug for each child in the village and possibly a souvenir for all OAP'S ? To be discussed at the next meeting.

e. **Neighbourhood Plan.** Cllr Wallace reported she is awaiting the report from the external examiner.

f. **Permissive Path, Three Ways.** Cllr Stacey had previously suggested that the land owner might allow a permissive path from Three Ways, up to Marshalls Green. This would help protect the local residents and make for a safer route to the village. The Chairman will speak to the land owner.

g. **Broadband.** Cllr Symonds asked if an update had been received from Better Broadband Suffolk? The Chairman advised that it has however, there are still parts of the village without broadband. CCllr Finch advised that he has been trying to sweep up the remaining homes without broadband,

please pass on a list of address & telephone numbers of properties who still do not have broadband. He can then pass onto Open Reach and find out when it will be installed. Cllr Symonds agreed to collate landline numbers.

■ **Open Forum: District and County Councillors update:**

A new resource is available to help youngsters with home-schooling. Primary School applications are invited ASAP. He is providing extra funding from his Locality Budget, during the pandemic towards food banks and minor household costs. This will help those on furlough or have lost their job. The Chairman thanked County Councillor Finch.

The report from Babergh District Councillor Parker has been emailed to all. He expressed concerns at protecting everyone during the pandemic. Brown bin collection has been suspended again for the foreseeable future and refunds would be issued in due course.. Grants will again be given to village halls and businesses during the lockdown. Parking charges for the main carparks in Sudbury have not yet been agreed, cabinet to decide in 2 weeks" time. Possibly will include up to 60 minutes free parking. To be noted that Assington Parish Council objects to the parking charges. The Planning Appeal for The Case had been refused. CC & BDC Councillors both left the meeting at this point.

■ **Finance**

a. **Statement of Accounts.** The temporary assistant Clerk only has the bank balances up to 31 December 2020, Barclays Community Account £70,731.47, Business Premium Account £100.00. Receipts & payments from 1 October to 31 December £2011.23.

b. To Approve the fee of the Temporary Assistant Parish Clerk – Mrs Melanie Thurston. Mrs Thurston will give help and guidance to the new Clerk. She has over 25 years' experience and is paid at SCP17 on the NALC pay scale. Therefore the Parish Council agreed to the hourly rate of £12.73, proposed the Chairman seconded Cllr Stacey.

The new Clerk has asked the Parish Council to consider using SALC to carry out the PAYE service, they charge £7.50 plus VAT per month, per employee. The Parish Council is in agreement to this.

c. To approve the Precept Budget for April 2021 to March 2022.

The draft precept budget had been presented at the last Parish Council meeting. It was agreed by all to keep the precept the same as last year £10,000. Therefore with the addition of more households in the village, it will reduce the council tax per household. Proposed Cllr Wallace, seconded Cllr Jordan. The assistant Clerk will complete the precept request form and send off to Babergh District Council.

d. **Approval of Internal Auditor for end of year accounts.** The Parish Council is in agreement that Simon White will again carry out the internal audit of the year end accounts, April 2020 to March 2021

e. **Village Footpath/Grass Cutting – To consider putting out to tender**

The Clerk had requested quotes from the current contractor Mr Gotts and from a new contractor Hartleys Garden Services.

Mr Gotts quote is the same as last year, but nothing has yet been received back from Hartleys. It was agreed by all to carry on with the current contractor, as he has always given a very good service. However if Hartleys comes back with a much cheaper quote, the Parish Council may re think.

f. **Cllr Hill Expenses – Judicial Review.**

Cllr Hill has submitted receipts for which he has had paid, £296.32. This is for stationery, ink cartridge, postage and the application to the Royal Courts of Justice.

g. **Community Heartbeat Trust – Invoice to pay.**

This has been received to cover the cost of new pads and battery for the defibrillator.

h. **Cllr Symonds Expenses – Christmas Tree.**

Cllr Symonds has submitted receipts for lights & batteries, £26.66, which she has paid for. The Chairman acknowledged how nice the Christmas tree looked.

The above payments were approved by all, proposed Cllr Stacey, seconded Cllr Wallace.

■ Planning

a. DC/21/00353 The Old School House, The Street Assington – Erection of two storey side extension.

The application has been received today. Cllr Hill has had a look on line at the plans, which is for a large side/back extension. The Chairman advised that if the Parish Council wished to comment on the plans then an extra meeting would need to be convened.

b. Judicial Review.

Cllr Jordan advised that as no response has been received from Babergh District Council, he has submitted the application for a Judicial Review. Now wait to see if the Parish Council is granted permission which may take 6/8 weeks. Large costs could be involved if the Parish Council is granted permission. Babergh District Council may expect the Parish Council to pay their costs and they have already presented costs of £5,525.00 (pre application).

Might the Parish Council consider a contingency based on crowd funding, but would people be prepared to support the process? The Chairman suggests that once the Parish Council has received an answer to the application then an extra meeting will be convened to agree a way forward. All Agreed.

Cllr Hill informed that he has been doing some PR on social media to get a feel for community support, which has been positive.

■ Footpath Wardens' Report

Since the wardens have taken on the role in June 2020, they can report that the paths have been walked on a regular basis, although at present due to increased traffic created by "COVID exercise" and the exceptional rainfall over the last few weeks, some paths are in a very muddy condition and care should be taken.

Footpath 12 - The Street opposite Church Drive through to Three Ways:

All 3 sets of steps have been renovated as they were considered unsafe. Fingerpost has been replaced and new railings installed at The Street end.

Also, the low stile sited near the junction to Vicary Estate has been replaced (old one had fallen apart) and thanks go to the farmer/landowner for undertaking this repair.

Matters in Hand:

Have requested replacement of the finger post on A134 opposite Marshall's Green Road, which has been knocked over, the post is rotten at the base. Have requested replacement for finger posts on A134 at Home Farm (both sides of the road).

9. Date of Next Meeting

22 March 2021, 7.00pm Annual Parish Meeting followed by Parish Council Meeting 7.30pm. The meeting ended at 9.20pm *****

APC extra meeting, held via Zoom on, Mon 8/02/21

■ Open Forum:

A member of the public thanked the Parish Council for the circular which has been distributed to all households informing of the actions proposed by Yorley Barn. He is disappointed that the County Councillor has not attended the Parish Council meeting. Suffolk County Council Highways have given a soft approval to the nursery application and doubt if they had even done a site visit. Cllr Jordan feels they gave unsatisfactory input to all the points which the Parish Council made and their behaviour is unacceptable.

■ Planning

a. DC/21/00353 The Old School House, The Street, Assington, CO10 5LH - Erection of two storey side extension. The Chairman advised that this application was discussed informally at the last Parish Council meeting; following further discussion Members of the Parish Council agreed they are all in favour of supporting the application. BDC to be advised.

b. DC/21/00510 Land to the East of The Barn, Assington Barns, Assington, CO10 5LW

Outline planning application (all reserved matters, access to be considered) Town & County planning act 1990 – Erection of **4, two-bed** almshouse type units for older persons.

c. DC/21/00476 Land off Assington Barns, The Street, Assington, CO10 5LW

Outline planning application (all reserved matters, access to be considered) Town & County planning act 1990 – Erection of **18 dwellings** (comprising of 10 three bedroom bungalows, 1 four bed bungalow, 7 one bed almshouse type units for older persons) (re-submission of DC/19/04391)

Cllr Hill informed that the 22 single storey dwellings are listed as bungalows. These include 4 almshouses which are listed as market properties and 7 almshouses list as social housing. However the applicant hasn't applied with the social housing side and the Local Neighbourhood Plan should be referred to. He suggests that the Parish Council objects.

Cllr Jordan suggests that this attempt to get planning permission is as the previous applications have been denied. The word "Almshouses" is being used out of context. The Parish Council should object to the application.

Cllr Hill asked District Councillor Parker if the planning decision makers insist on the proper use of almshouses, which should be run by a charity. The District Councillor is unsure, but he is happy to make some investigations. Cllr Symons agrees that the use of the word almshouses, is just a name given to make the application sound better. There is no longer a need in the village for small housing.

Cllr Wallace, expressed an interest as the proposed application would be at the bottom of her garden. She would advise that Assington has had its full share of housing and doesn't need that volume of housing. No up to date housing needs survey has been carried out. This development is not needed.

Cllr Symonds advised that the original application was for 19 homes this application is for 22 albeit smaller properties, however the site still raises all the same issues relating to highways and being outside the existing built up area boundary .

Since the previous housing needs survey was done, there are now a total of 12 new bungalows in the village, however all except one had gone to new residents. The Parish Council objected strongly to the planning application and should do the same again, - the village does not need this development.

Cllr Stacey agreed with the views of the rest of the councillors. She is also concerned at the method of sewerage to be used, as The application states that the development will link into the mains sewerage in the village, but of course, there is no mains sewerage in the village!

The Chairman agrees with all the above comments, the needs of the village has been supplied with enough bungalows. Other issues include major highways problems and traffic calming. The Parish Council should not support the applications and is unanimously in favour to oppose. Agreed by all.

Cllr Wallace suggested to the District Councillor that it would appear that a relaxation has been given to planning in the previous months! District Councillor Parker informed that this application will be heard by the planning committee at some point. He would suggest that the Parish Council reiterates the points used for refusal by BDC last time. However he is unsure what weight the Parish Council might have with the lack of a Neighbourhood Plan and cannot rely on its emerging Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Hill expects that by the time the application gets to the planning committee, the Neighbourhood Plan will have been through the examination stage. Therefore, will have more weight. The District Councillor will seek clarification from the planning officer and get back to the PC.

d. DC/21/00616 Discharge of Conditions Application DC/20/03362 Condition 4 (Access) Condition 6 (Construction Management Plan) and Condition 13 (Sewage Treatment Plant) – Land South of Access Road from C733 to The Church Assington, Suffolk.

The Chairman recommends that key points to be included in the objection from the Parish Council should be;

- Road safety issues, same as the previous application.
- Sewerage, will this discharge into the brook or into a soak away? Important not to pollute the brook.
- Flooding, how does the land lie at the far end of the development. Dirty water may ferry along into the brook.
- Infringement onto a public right of way, the old road. Cllr Hill advised that the old road is important to the Parish Council and want to keep it as a right of way. Comments regarding applications B & C, to Babergh District Council by 17 February and for D by 25February.
- The Chairman asked for a volunteer to draw up the necessary paperwork. Cllr Hill with the help of Cllr Jordan offered to adapt the previous objection and will send a draft to all hopefully by the end of the week. The Chairman thanked them both for taking on this job and understands that it takes up a lot of time, when they are dealing with other PC business also. The PC needs to look at how it will deal with this work in the future as it needs to be shared between the Councillors.

■ Questions to the Chair

a. Planning Sub-Committee. The Chairman would like the PC to consider creating a planning sub-committee. This would take away the need to call extra meetings of the Parish Council. Or is the PC happy to continue as we are, with Cllrs Symonds & Hill acting as planning representatives and reporting to Parish Council meetings? Can this be given some serious thought and considered at the next meeting in March.

■ b. Progression of the Future

Planning applications. The Chairman suggests that the Parish Council gives some consideration into paying outside help to progress the work related with any big applications in the future. Response to these applications takes a great deal of clerical time and would take away the weight from Councillors, who do not have the time needed. Or if more Councillors joined the Parish Council the work could be more equally shared between everyone. The assistant Clerk advised that extra Councillors can only be recruited in an election year. Councillors to also give some thought at employing extra help, consider at the March meeting. The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance.

The meeting ended at 8.40pm.

Save our view for posterity:

NURSERY PLANNING APPROVAL - UPDATE

As reported last month the parish council has requested permission to judicially review the decision by Babergh District Council to allow the building of a nursery in open countryside near the church and A134 junction. The location is a poor one for children (with traffic noise, pollution and a dangerous junction) and not good for the village, as it will irreparably damage the historic setting of St Edmunds Church, potentially close off a public right of way, as well as cause traffic and road safety issues on the Street.

The outcome of this will likely take some time due to Covid-19, and it will not stop building works commencing if the site owners choose to (although, if they do begin to build and Babergh loses the judicial review, they will legally have to undo any works which have started).

At the same time we continue to explore all options for alternative locations for the nursery, to ensure it can continue to succeed.

In the meantime if you agree with our efforts to find a better, safer and more sustainable location for the nursery, please sign our petition here:

<https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/assington-petition-test-run>

Anyone wishing to contribute to our legal funds to help fight the judicial review may do so here:

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/assingtonfightingfund>

...or by dropping a cheque made out to Assington Parish Council, to Squirrel House, The Street.

Thank you to all those who have signed so far (over 200!) and donated money, we could not do this **without the support of the community.**

Simon Thorogood
On behalf of Assington Parish Council





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I look forward to hearing from you.



PARISH CHURCH NEWS

*Letter from the Revd Steve Morley, Vicar
Bures with Assington and Little Cornard*

Dear Friends

A few days ago I came across an article about the Japanese art of Kintsugi - the traditional process of repairing a broken article of pottery by fusing the pieces back together using a special lacquer with gold gilding.

One of the old stories behind the technique talks of an occasion when a young servant accidentally dropped and broke into five pieces the favourite piece of tea-ware belonging to a Japanese warlord – not the kind of thing you want to do if you want to see your old age. In his fury, the warlord was about to do what warlords do to incompetent servants, when one of the prominent tea masters of the time intervened in behalf of the hapless servant and arranged for the pottery to be repaired. The warlord was so moved by the beauty of the resultant Kintsugi tea-ware that the servant was spared.

Kintsugi doesn't just fix or restore a broken vessel: rather, the technique makes the once-broken pottery even more beautiful than the original. The shape and integrity of the vessel are restored, but in the process, it now becomes so much more, the pieces now held together with a stunning gold lacquer creating a design which was never there before.

We're now in the season of Lent and heading towards Easter. Lent is traditionally a time for reflection and lament - perhaps even more so this year as we try to make sense of a world which can feel rather broken at the moment. It feels as though something precious – life as it was before the virus – has been dropped and lies in pieces on the floor. And then God comes along at Easter and through the death and resurrection of Jesus takes the broken bits and joins them wonderfully back together. Evidence of the brokenness still remains – you can still see the joins where the pieces come together again – but the what God does is just like the Kintsugi bowl. The original thing is not just fixed, it's re-created into something better and more beautiful. So the death and resurrection of Jesus doesn't just 'fix' us: it changes us in the process into something new and better. Beauty out of brokenness.

A few weeks ago some of the schoolchildren from Bures school took simple written messages of encouragement round the village and presented them to people who were rather marooned because of Covid restrictions or whose spirits just need a lift. All the people visited were thrilled, but it was the impact on the children that was most striking as they began to see the fruits of a simple act of care and kindness. Beauty out of brokenness.

As we move through Lent and into Easter, I hope the Kintsugi tea vessel might be for us a little image of the hope we have for beauty out of brokenness and the new creation toward which God invites us.

With blessings
and
best wishes

Steve



Church Website

Assington Church now has its own website.
Look it up on assingtonchurch.org.uk

Assington Church

Services are beginning to resume. More information
can be found on our website:

zoom
Get Together
Every Sunday morning

Please get in contact if you would like to receive invitations

 assingtonchurch.org.uk

Email office@parishchurch.co.uk if you want to receive regular news about what's happening or ring:

Revd Steve Morley - 01787 227407
Revd Simon White - 07572 418555



Alpha online provides space to explore life's big questions and the part that faith plays. It includes interviews with inspirational leaders and thought-provoking stories to help you unpack the basics of the Christian faith in an updated and engaging way.

Come and join us on Thursday 4 March at 19:30 for Alpha on Zoom, a series of weekly one-hour meetings on Zoom, where you will watch a 25-minute video and then in small groups you can share your thoughts, ask your questions, discuss life and faith and Jesus.

If you would like to know more, click on this link:
https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=fViYK_Xb3Wg

If you are interested in joining, contact:

Simon White 07572 418555

revsimonwhite@gmail.com

Bill Box 01787 227528

billbox104@gmail.com

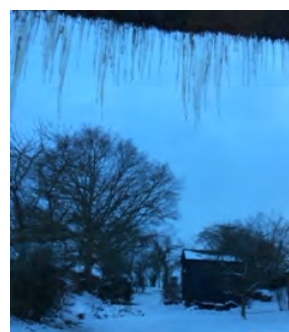
Vicar:	Rev Steve Morley	227407
Reader:	Dr John Symons	211534
Assistant		
Priest	Rev Simon White	07572 418555
Organist:	Bronwen Stacey	210354
Sec:	Emily Cartlidge	07976 724266
Treasurer:	Ian Clark	211133
Churchwardens:		
	Roger Britcher	211021
	Bronwen Stacey	210354

NATURE WATCH

February 2021 scenes. It all started so well.....



.....and then.....



With thanks to the following for their photographs:
Ian Clark (including the March cover-photograph)
Bob Cowlin; Jeff & Bronwen Stacey;



For those less intrepid residents who didn't brave a cold bracing walk down past Assington Mill, the photo below is the mill wheel, upon which formed these giant teeth-like icicles as it slowly turned.



*When Icicles hang by the wall,
And Dick the shepherd blows his nail,
And Tom bears logs into the hall,
And milk comes frozen home in pail,
When blood is nipped, and ways be foul,
Then nightly sings the staring owl,
To-whoo;
To-whit, to-whoo, a merry note,
While greasy Joan doth keel the pot.*

*When all aloud the wind doth blow,
And coughing drowns the parson's saw,
And birds sit brooding in the snow,
And Marian's nose looks red and raw,
When roasted crabs hiss in the bowl,
Then nightly sings the staring owl,
To-whoo;
To-whit, to-whoo, a merry note,
While greasy Joan doth keel the pot.*

*By William Shakespeare (1564-1616)
from "Love's Labour's Lost" Act V*

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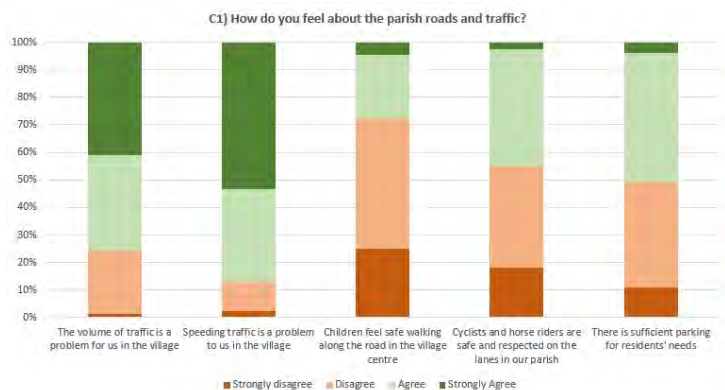
Email: duncan@boutiqueprint.co.uk

QUIET LANES SUFFOLK

Further information on the county wide project can be found at www.quietlanessuffolk.co.uk.

One of the strongest priorities people expressed through the Assington neighbourhood plan process was to improve road safety on parish roads.

Please join us at our Public Consultation Presentation and Q&A during our next parish council meeting. This will be held remotely by phone and Zoom on 20th March at 8pm. Details can be obtained nearer the time from the vice chair (01787 827112) or email AssingtonNP@outlook.com.



Alongside other initiatives on road safety, the parish council is therefore proposing to designate certain rural lanes in the parish as 'quiet lanes' as part of a county wide project.



What is a quiet lane?

Quiet lanes are a nationally recognised designation for narrow rural roads which are used by walkers, horse riders and cyclists. The 'quiet lane' designation does not impose traffic restrictions at present but advisory signs (like the one on the left) are placed at either end to tell drivers to "expect and respect" more vulnerable road users. While motorised

vehicles can still use the lanes, drivers should be ready to encounter pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders in the middle of the road, to show patience and to stop if needed to let them pass.

Which lanes?

In conjunction with Suffolk Highways, the parish council has identified a number of lanes as being suitable for designation as quiet lanes. These are: **Assington Lane, High Road, Marshalls Green, Wormingford Road and Upper Road**. These are shown on the map. These lanes connect with various footpaths and brideways to create pleasant circular walking, cycling and riding routes.

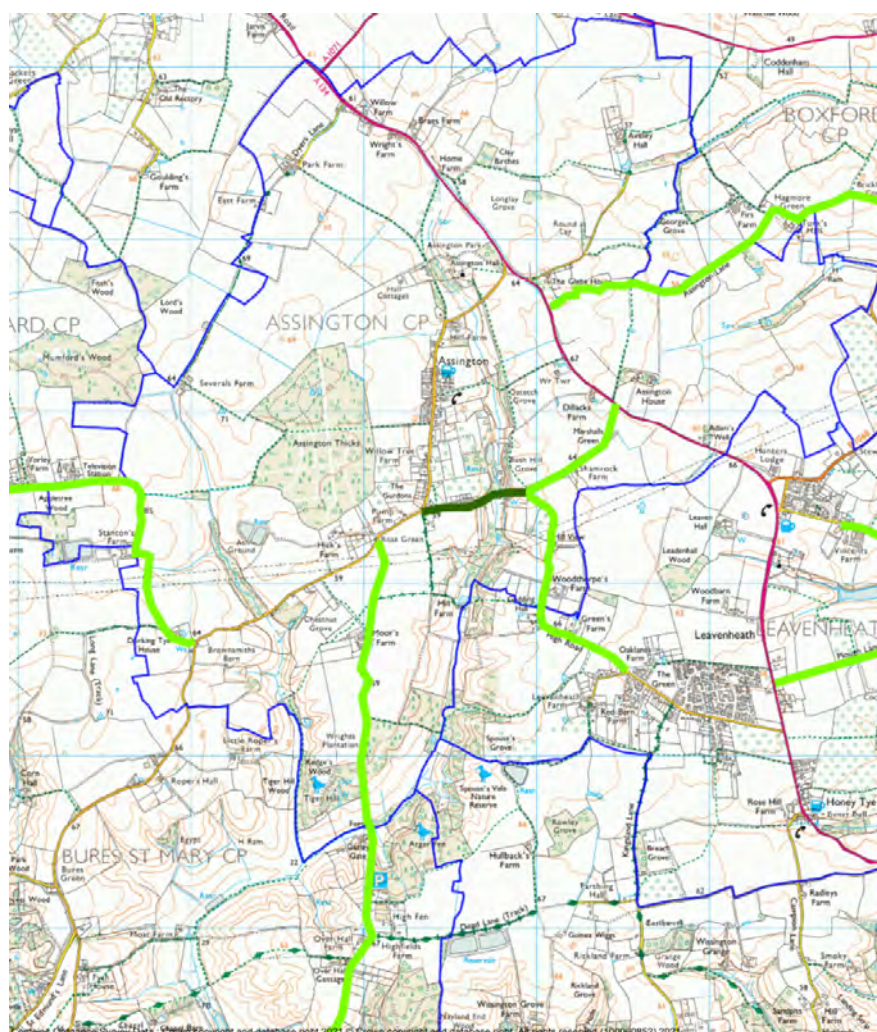
The parish council submitted a number of additional lanes for consideration, but these were not approved by Suffolk Highways as being suitable. We are still in discussions with them with regards to Barracks Lane.

Who pays?

Funding will come from Suffolk County Council and the Parish Council's CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) budget which is paid into by developers.

Comments or questions?

This letter forms the first stage of a full public consultation process. If you have any questions or comments please submit these in writing to assingtonNP@outlook.com or post to Squirrel House, The Street, Assington, CO10 5LJ.



NURSERY OPENING EASTER 2021

FOR CHILDREN FROM 1-4

Woodlands will also offer an exciting variety of stay and play sessions for parents, babies and toddlers.

We are on the lookout for outstanding nursery staff, local professionals and instructors to become part of the team offering exceptional activities for parents and children.



WWW.WOODLANDSNURSERYKERSEYMILL.CO.UK



All enquiries to

emma@woodlandsnurserykerseymill.co.uk

WOODLANDS NURSERY OPENING AT KERSEY MILL



Woodlands Nursery is owned and managed by local mum Emma White. Emma has run Small World Kindergarten & Montessori in Ipswich (an Ofsted outstanding nursery) since returning to Suffolk from London in 2014.

Emma is passionate about creating beautiful and stimulating environments for children which promote active learning through experiences. Woodlands Nursery will have daily forest school sessions built into a routine that will embody all that is good from Montessori's ethos. The timber-framed design and classroom layout of open shelving will offer abundant and constantly changing resources to encourage children to choose and return their own activities.

Woodlands will incorporate science and discovery areas, a literacy area that supports mark making/art and design, maths shelves with exciting and approachable games plus construction and small world play areas. Underfloor heating adds to the cosiness of the book corner and kitchen role play and sand & water tables encourage imaginative play.

Access to the enchanting, enclosed wooded garden as well as the grounds, makes Kersey Mill the most idyllic setting for Woodlands. Children will be actively encouraged to support

and engage with their environment, growing food, recycling and re-using as much as they can, so that they nurture the next generation, to be conscious of their planet.

Woodlands will offer healthy and well-balanced meals and snacks, using locally produced, seasonal ingredients to influence the menu.

The Nursery will be open five days a week from 8.30am – 4.30pm, term time and a permanent holiday club that offers an all-year option.

Alongside the Nursery, Woodland Babies will host a daily timetable of baby & toddler sessions that run from 9am-10am.

Membership means they can offer two hours of childcare after each session, in the knowledge that your child is being well-cared for in a nurturing environment. During this time, they hope to offer wellbeing classes that focus on women's pre- and post-natal care and other workshops on topics such as sleep, breastfeeding and weaning. They hope to collaborate with other Kersey Mill occupants such as Pilatesworks for these classes.

"I'm delighted to be opening another nursery in such an inspiring and beautiful location." says Emma. "Kersey Mill is very well-known to me, and I have always felt that a nursery would complement the many different businesses based there.

Our hope is to welcome the first children in time for the summer term."

For enquiries, please contact
emma@woodlandsnurserykerseymill.co.uk
www.woodlandsnurserykerseymill.co.uk

FROM THE HISTORY BOOKS.....

The Assington Parish Magazine dated December 1913

contained the following articles

“ASSINGTON AND THE CHURCH MISSIONARY SOCIETY

The following is taken from a recently published account of the founding of the Suffolk and Ipswich Association in aid of the CMS (Church Missionary Society).

In the “Early History of the Church Missionary Society” , the Rev. Charles Hole says that the Society’s connection with Suffolk began in 1801, in the rural parish of Assington, fourteen miles west of Ipswich, where resided the Rev. P Gurdon, squire and patron, of Assington Hall, the ancient seat of the Gurdons.

It is interesting to record that twelve days after the Association had been started a Penny Society commenced at Assington, the birthplace of the CMS interest in Suffolk. The daughter of the Vicar, the Rev. John Hallward, succeeded in one month in getting twenty-four penny subscribers. By the next February in the same village there were three “associations” of twelve each, probably of collectors, men and women, undertaking to collect a penny a week from at least twelve persons, *ie* a shilling a week, or £2 12s 0d a year.

It may be added that in the first list of Vice-Presidents occur the names of the Rev. Philip Gurdon, of Assington Hall, and Sir William Rowley, of Tendring Hall, Suffolk.

Extracts from the account above referred to appeared in the East Anglian Daily times for Tuesday November 11th.

It may be well to observe in view of this history, that the CMS has always been well supported in our parish. The amount collected when Canon Wilson Brown was Vicar was larger than at present. Happily, however, the missionary spirit not only still continues, but of late has undergone some revival. Let us try to keep up our reputation in this particular, and shew broadness in our views and sympathies by helping a Society which is trying not only to enlighten the heathen, but doing so much through medical missions to relieve the burden of physical suffering associated so often with the superstitious treatment of disease. “

“NOVEMBER 5th

This was not a day to be passed over in silence. At 5.30, when it was already almost dark some of the younger members of the Choir and GFS, and the upper standards of the Day School assembled in the Vicarage grounds to watch a display of fireworks. The larger pieces were set off from a point of vantage, namely a flower-pot placed on the top of a tall wooden post. Considerable amusement was caused when one of the fireworks proved too much for the flower-pot, and sent it flying in fragments in all directions. Fortunately no one was standing sufficiently near to be struck by these missiles.

But much as the children enjoyed this part of the entertainment, still greater was their appreciation of the fact that they themselves were allowed to let off the smaller and less dangerous fireworks. Whirling circles of sparks danced through the darkness, with now and then a shooting star of pink, green or blue, and on the ground the crackers, quite eluding all pursuit, jumped and banged in the most unexpected places.

At the close of the display three cheers were given for the Vicar, who had so kindly arranged such a pleasant evening.”

SESAW NEWS



Everyone seems to be in a reflective mood as we mark the changes in our lives over the last year so here are a few words from Mum – better known to you as Maggie.

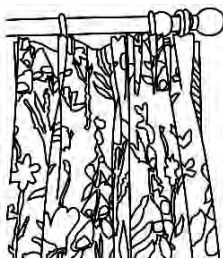
“Many of us have come to acknowledge the truth of that old adage, ‘You don’t know what you’ll miss until it’s gone’, be it a person, a pet or the disrupted rhythm of life.

The current situation has brought home to us at SESAW, how much we miss the help and commitment received from Firms in the past. It’s very apparent just how much hard work and effort they put into helping us maintain the kennels and catteries on site, thus giving us more time for the animals. That said we are still here, a bit scruffier, up to our ears in mud but never the less the animals are clean, warm in their heated kennels, well fed and loved,

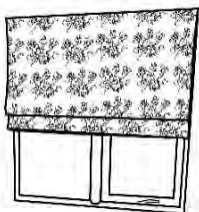
So what’s to moan about? Spring is on its way, it will get dryer and we look forward to releasing a Buzzard that was bought into us starving. It is now eating well and waiting for better weather to go back to its territory. It is a similar scenario for a Barn Owl which will be taking wing in the near future. So don’t forget, if we can help we are here, operating nearly thirty years and facing the future with hope and compassion.”

That’s enough for now, Mum. It’s time for you to feed all the animals including me, your usual correspondent, Kenny (the Boss) Chihuahua. Suffolk & Essex Small Animal Welfare, Reg.Charity No.1124029, Stoke Road, Leavenheath, CO6 4PP. Tel: 01787 210888 www.sesaw.co.uk

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Jacqui Egglestone
01787 211154
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jacqui@littlehousedesigns.co.uk
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THE ESSEX AND SUFFOLK FARM WOMEN'S CLUB

by Ellie Mead

In the early 1960s the life of a farmer's wife could be one of isolation, at home in a remote farmhouse with young children it could be a lonely existence. In those days you were lucky to have electricity and a telephone. No mobiles, no videos, no computer, no internet. Whilst farmer husbands worked long hours on the land or tending livestock the farmer's wife helped out on the farm when needed, cooked, cleaned, mended torn clothing and pinned the next generation of farmers into their Terry towelling nappies. Apart from the time it took to 'Watch with (or Listen with) Mother' there was little chance to sit down for a cuppa, let alone socialise.

Every week a copy of the Farmer's Weekly would arrive in the post for the farmer to pore over and tucked at the back of this magazine his wife would find a few pages entitled 'Farmlife' addressing themselves to her interests rather than his. It was here that the Farm Women's Club advertised itself: a nationwide Club with regional sub groups. These met on a regular basis and offered not only friendship but also trips to places of interest, talks, demonstrations and the opportunity to show off one's cookery skills at a jolly good 'bring a contribution' lunch.

Our local group was run by Laureen Mead who lived here at Little Roper's Farm and meetings were often held at Assington. My mother, Elsie Andrews, joined the group in its early days and she and Laureen became good friends. I became friendly with Laureen's youngest daughter Ruth, sometimes staying the night at Little Ropers and sleeping in her brother Andrew's bed whilst he was away at boarding school! Some 20 years later, to quote Jane Eyre: 'Reader, I married him'.

The Farm Women's Club still meets at Assington Village Hall and the lunches are still delicious. Several daughters of original members now attend. A lively and interesting programme had been planned for 2020 which has sadly had to be shelved until such time as it is once again safe to meet. New members are always welcomed and made to feel at home. Anyone with agricultural connections can join. Just contact Tricia Gooding at tricia@langhamlodge.co.uk for more information.

ASSINGTON RAINFALL AND TEMPERATURES

Bill Milner and Bob Cowlin

2016 TOTAL 599.5
 2017 TOTAL 571
 2018 TOTAL 559
 2019 TOTAL 597
 2020 TOTAL 636

2018	mm	max	min
JAN	60.5	11°C	-3°C
FEB	41	9°C	-8°C
MAR	74	14°C	-5°C

2019	mm	max	min
JAN	23.5	9°C	-8°C
FEB	19.5	16°C	-5°C
MAR	44	19°C	-3°C
APR	18.5	24°C	-3°C
MAY	54	26°C	+1°C
JUNE	94.5	29°C	5°C
JULY	36.5	34.5°C	6.5°C
AUG	31.5	31°C	7°C
SEP	37.5	24°C	2°C
OCT	90	18°C	-2°C
NOV	69.5	12°C	-5°C
DEC	78	10°C	-5°C

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

2021	mm	max	min
JAN	89	10°C	-5.5°C



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Continuing from previous editions a theme of world-wide connections to our locality and even to our village, I thought I might continue this line of interest with a link to:

SUFFOLK COUNTY, and SUDBURY, both in Massachusetts USA

Just over the Canadian-American border is the state of Massachusetts: (see the small dark rectangle on the map of the USA).

There you will find another



Sudbury. Like many American settlements named after places in Britain, Sudbury, Massachusetts, was founded during the colonial era of the 17th Century, being settled in 1638 and "incorporated" a year later in 1639, when approximately 130 men, women and children formed the new town, which became the nineteenth Colonial, permanent town within the 1639 boundaries of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, and the Colony's third permanent *Inland* town. The first inland town in 1635 was Concord, and the second, in 1636 was the town of **Dedham!**

This Sudbury got its name from the settlers who had arrived in the area. Records show that some of the town's first settlers were Edmond Rice and John Stone who both hailed from this area of Suffolk - hence the name.

The Native American Indian population which had inhabited that area for thousands of years had been sadly depleted in the 1500s and early 1600s, through contact with European explorers, fur traders and fishermen which caused multiple epidemics of smallpox and other European diseases in Native American tribes living in what we now call New England. These diseases were previously unknown in this part of the world, and the immune systems of the Native Americans had no defence against them.

Early Sudbury settlers had good relations with the few Native American families living there. The land occupied by the Sudbury settlers was purchased from a local Native American man named Cato (also spelled Karte) individually or with his brothers. Cato was given the Colonial title of respect and rank of "Goodman" by the Sudbury settlers.

Goodman Cato and his family lived on what is still called Goodman's Hill in the present Town of Sudbury.

The original town of Sudbury had a much larger area than the present town, as it included most of the present (now

individually named and independent) towns of Wayland and Maynard; in fact the very earliest occupied settlements and that central feature of the "Puritan Village", the earliest church/meeting house, were on lands in the eastern part of the original Town of Sudbury that are within the present Town of Wayland. There is also a Sudbury River.

Although the area of the modern day Sudbury, Massachusetts is much smaller than it was originally, today its population is approximately 19,000 inhabitants, a similar size to our neighbouring town of Sudbury, Suffolk!

Suffolk County was created in May 1643 as one of Massachusetts' three original counties, and was named after Suffolk, England.



Suffolk County was created by the Massachusetts General Court on May 10, 1643, when it was ordered "that the whole plantation within this jurisdiction be divided into four shires": The "Old" **Norfolk**, Suffolk, Essex and Middlesex Counties were the 4 original counties created in the Massachusetts Bay Colony.

Suffolk initially contained Boston, Roxbury, Dorchester, Dedham, Braintree, Weymouth and Hingham. The county seat is Boston, which is also the state capital. Founded in 1630 by English Puritan colonists, Boston has been the long-time cultural and commercial centre of New England. The other main communities are Revere, Chelsea, and Winthrop.

John Winthrop (1587-1649) was the second governor of Massachusetts, and founder of the city of Boston. He was born at Groton Manor, near Sudbury, a son of the minor gentry. In religion he was a Puritan, which put him at odds with the established Church of England and the government of King Charles I. Like many of this persuasion, he emigrated to America in 1629. Winthrop's words to his followers have gone down in history. "We shall be as a City upon a hill, the eyes of all people are upon us". His speech was read out at the funeral of Ronald Reagan.

Winthrop also founded the town of Ipswich, Massachusetts, in 1634. Named after Suffolk's county town, a major historical East Anglian port, it is one of a number of places in the USA with Suffolk place names. Others include Sudbury, Framingham and Haverhill, all in Massachusetts.

Haverhill was bought by English settlers from the Native American Pentuckets in 1642. It was renamed in honour of the Suffolk birthplace of its first pastor, the Rev John Ward, and soon became an industrial centre.

Framingham, Massachusetts, owes its name to the Suffolk town of Framlingham, famous for its picturesque and imposing castle ruins. Framlingham man Thomas Danforth was a Bay Colony official who settled in the new American town. Following his death in 1700 the name Framingham was adopted – somewhere along the way the 'l' was dropped.



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London Evening Standard

"Old world character combined with modern brasserie style dining in lovely Stoke-by-Nayland...the wine list is excellent value for money"
Fiona Duncan, Sunday Telegraph

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