

# ASSINGTON

## NEWS



MARCH 2025

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# IAN JORDAN



We are so very sorry to report the sudden and unexpected death of Ian, who lived in the heart of the village for many years, until very recently with his partner, Matthew.

Ian had many friends and played a full part in the community:

Not only was he a frequent customer of our village pub, his local, just across the road, where he was a popular figure, knowing practically everybody;

Ian was also a 'sitting' member of Assington Parish Council, a role which he had undertaken for a number of years;

He always helped at the Village Church Fete, usually running the Golf "putting challenge" Stall;

and..... he was one of the wonderful "distributors" who deliver copies of the Assington News to village residents. Ian delivered the copies along his section of The Street.

Ian will be missed very much by many of us.



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*ASSINGTON SENIORS EVENT*

**1<sup>ST</sup> DAY OF SPRING**

**AFTERNOON TEA AT  
THE FOXES DEN**

**THURSDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> MARCH**

**2PM-4PM**

**THE FOXES DEN**

**ON FURTHER STREET ASSINGTON**

Senior residents aged 70 and over are invited to attend the first event of 2025!! See the booking slip at the bottom of this page The cost is at a reduced rate of £20 PER PERSON for a superb afternoon tea. If you need a lift there, please put it on your booking slip and we will endeavour to get you there, and return you back to the village after. Perhaps share a lift with someone who is attending.

**CLOSING DATE FRIDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> MARCH.**

Please put your fee in an envelope with your booking slip and post into 16 The Street Letter box.

For more info contact David Wiles on 07811108702

.....  
Name..... Dietary requirements.....

Contact No..... Lift required.....



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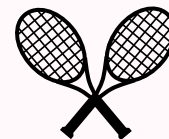
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# NGS SNOWDROP DAY

## Little Horkesley Hall

### from Jeff Stacey

The editor and I went to see Little Horkesley Hall which was opened under the National Gardens Scheme on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> February, in order to showcase its collection of snowdrops.



The house sits on the top of a hill, looking down over two lakes with a walk signposted to take you round the garden and past all the snowdrops.



To help make visitors aware of the wide variety of snowdrops, a specialist seller was outside the house. He had tables of different snowdrops, and it was a good opportunity to be able to see them close up and appreciate the differences, without having to get down on hands and knees in the mud. It also

Despite a very grey and dismal day the snowdrops still managed to be a cheerful reminder that spring is on its way. - There were winter aconites too!



presented an opportunity to gasp at the price of the rarer specimens; up to £80 for a single plant in a small pot.

After walking round the gardens and taking in the different views of the house, landscaping and snowdrops, it was time for refreshments, which were served in the church next to the Hall.

The building is of a modern date, the original church was destroyed in 1940 by a landmine, which was dropped by parachute, hit the belfry and then exploded in the body of the church.



The explosion was so great that windows were broken in Stoke by Nayland four miles away. Although the Beehive pub was destroyed the thick walls of the church managed to save the lives of many villagers, even though none of the walls were left standing.

Rescued from the rubble, repaired and now displayed in the church are the effigies of the de Horkesley family. They are rare wooden, full-size effigies of two Knights and a lady from the late 13<sup>th</sup> Century.



Also rescued is a large brass memorial for two knights; Sir Richard Swynbourne who died in 1391 and his son Sir Thomas.

We had a most enjoyable afternoon looking round the house and gardens. The owners had thoughtfully put lights on in some of the main rooms, knowing that people like us would be curious to peek in. It was also fascinating to learn the history of the church. We headed back home

afterwards for a close inspection of our snowdrops, just in case any of them are the £80 variety.





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# SING with us!

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Village Hall

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First Session Free - booking essential

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



# PARISH CHURCH NEWS



<https://assingtonchurch.org.uk>



## Letter from the Rev Mary Cantacuzene

Dear Friends

There is a certain beauty to winter time: the frost on the grass, the sun on the bare branches, the sharpness of cold on your face. Yet when spring finally arrives we all breathe a collective sigh of relief. The warmer weather is coming, heralded by a succession of little tokens of better times to come: aconites and snowdrops, then crocuses, daffodils, tulips and anemones, and so on, right through the summer, a continuous little fashion parade of beautiful, colours and shapes to keep us company in the countryside and in our gardens all through the rest of the year. Some of us notice flowers but to others maybe they are barely at the edge of their vision, un-noticed.

In a new book "Discovering Christianity", Rowan Williams says, "Sensing that we are not seeing everything, is a motivation for beginning to grapple with, and try to understand faith. Sensing that there's something just round the corner of what we can grasp; something that's just slipping past the edge of our vision, because the world we can see and understand isn't the whole story."

A recent poll found that more young people than ever are expressing an interest in 'spirituality'. The world has become a more disappointing and difficult place over the past 5 years, and as a result it's so easy to be downcast by events. We search for signs of hope among the complications of adverse politics, the results of climate change, and the strange times we seem to be living in. We really want to explore to see if there is something better "slipping past the edge of our vision".

In Bures there are more young families coming to our all-age "Wake Up" service, eager to experience a richer, fuller life, beyond the edge of our normal day-to day vision, by learning about Jesus Christ. You are all welcome!

With love in Him, **Mary**

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



## ASSINGTON CHURCH SERVICES IN MARCH

**2nd MARCH @ 10.30am HOLY COMMUNION**

(9th March Bures: HC@10.30am  
Little Cornard: MW@10.30am)

**16th MARCH @ 10.30am MORNING WORSHIP**

(23rd March Bures: MW@10.30am  
Little Cornard: HC@10.30am)

**30th MARCH @ 10.30am Mothering Sunday  
FAMILY SERVICE**

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

## The Church Tower Project Update

We are delighted to be able to say that we have now (eventually) got a Faculty for the work, from the plans and proposals put forward by our Architect. This is approval from the church DAC body, which guards the system for building works taking place in the many listed churches.

The Architect is putting the project out to Tender at the moment, and, when we receive the three tenders for the contract, a building contractor will be selected to undertake the work.

Until we know how much the chosen contractor says the job will cost, it is difficult to apply for grants or funding. That in itself will be a mammoth task! However, based on previous experience, we had a provisional estimate of £140,000.

Having said that we have already been fund-raising for some time, and our total funds in the relevant account from various sources: a legacy, a grant, and kind donations in addition to our various fundraising events, stand at just under £39,000. We also have a promise of a further £20,000 (currently shown in pink on the "thermometer" ). We have already made payments to the Architects, for stages of work undertaken.

Depending on managing to acquire sufficient funds to do the work, this will then be commissioned.



Assington Church  
TOWER PROJECT  
QR Code

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





# THINGS TO DO








Come to a  
**Beetle Drive!**  
 A fun social activity/game  
 Free entry  
 Sat 22nd March  
 6.00-8.30pm  
**@ Assington Village Hall**  
 Friends/Families welcome  
 Score cards & dice provided  
 A pair of bug antenna for the winner of each game!  
 Tea, Coffee, Hot Chocolate and cakes available to buy for a donation  
 Proceeds to the Assington Church Tower Project

**What is a Beetle Drive?**  
 It's a retro game using a dice and a score card.  
 The aim is to create a drawing of a beetle.  
 Players must first throw the number 6 to be able to draw the body of a beetle (this does not always happen very quickly!)  
 Then, other parts of the beetle (head, antenna, legs, tail, eyes) can be added to the body by throwing the appropriate number. Eg 4 = tail, 3 = leg, etc.  
 A 5 must be rolled to draw the head before eyes and antenna can be added  
 The winner is the first to complete the beetle and shouts BEETLE. Highest scores for each table move to the next and game starts again!

## ASSINGTON CHURCH FUNDRAISERS AND EVENTS 2025

SAT 22 MARCH	BEETLE DRIVE 6.00-8.30PM VILLAGE HALL
SAT 19 APRIL	EASTER SATURDAY CRAFT EVENT 3-4PM VILLAGE HALL
SAT 24 MAY	OPEN GARDENS & TEA/COFFEE VILLAGE HALL 11-4PM
SAT 14 JUNE	FATHER'S DAY SPORTS, BBQ & CARD MAKING VILLAGE HALL 5PM ONWARDS
SAT 30 AUG	CHURCH FETE AT VILLAGE HALL 2-4PM
SAT 25 OCT	HALLOWEEN EVENT VILLAGE HALL 4-5.30PM
OCT/NOV	PUB QUIZ AT THE SHOULDER OF MUTTON DATE TBC
TBC DEC	CAROL SINGING IN THE PUB

ALL FUNDRAISING EVENTS SUPPORT THE CHURCH TOWER PROJECT



Assington Baby and Toddler Group

Thank you for all your support and for making it such a friendly group. We all love

Twice a month on Thursdays in termtime  
 9.30-11.00 am  
 in the Village Hall at £3 per family  
**13 & 27 March**  
 Revd Tricia Box 07747124592

**'Last Tuesday'**  
**Coffee and Chat**  
 in the Village Hall  
 The next meeting will be on **Tuesday 25th March** at 10am  
**See you there!**

# MORE THINGS TO DO

## Hadleigh Choral Society

Fantastico! Splendido!  
All are invited to the Hadleigh Choral Society Spring concert, when we will perform Italian opera-influenced choral masterpieces including Rossini's Stabat Mater,

the Easter Hymn from Cavalleria Rusticana by Mascagni, Agnus Dei by Albinoni, along with additional orchestral interludes. The choir will perform along with the Colchester Symphony Orchestra and professional soprano, alto, tenor and bass soloists, conducted by Christopher Phelps. The concert will take place Saturday, 5th April at 7:30pm, at St Mary's Church in Hadleigh. 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)

**Hadleigh Choral Society**  
Alys Mererid Roberts (soprano)  
Sián Cameron (mezzo-soprano)  
Richard Symons (tenor)  
Owain Browne (bass)  
Colchester Symphony Orchestra  
Christopher Phelps (conductor)

Saturday 5 April 2025, 7.30 p.m.  
St Mary's Church, Hadleigh

**ROSSINI: Stabat Mater & Overture, The Barber of Seville**  
**MASCAGNI: Easter Hymn from Cavalleria Rusticana**  
**Agnus Dei arr. Phelps from Albinoni's Adagio in D minor**

**TICKETS: £18. Free for those in full-time education.**  
Available from: The Idler, 37 High Street & The Little Ginger Bee Company, 99 High Street, Hadleigh, from choir members, the website below & on the door. For more information, telephone 01473 823 791.

[www.hadleighchoralsociety.org.uk](http://www.hadleighchoralsociety.org.uk)

Save the Date:  
**SUNDAY**  
**17th AUGUST 2025**  
**ASSINGTON**  
**HORTICULTURAL SHOW**

## ASSINGTON RAINFALL AND TEMPERATURES

Bob Cowlin (temperatures) and Bill Milner (rainfall)

HISTORY annual rainfall:

<b>2016</b>	599.5	<b>2019</b>	597	<b>2022</b>	419
<b>2017</b>	571	<b>2020</b>	636	<b>2023</b>	662
<b>2018</b>	559	<b>2021</b>	582.3	<b>2024</b>	620

\*\*\*\*\*

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

\*\*\*\*\*

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

\*\*\*\*\*

<b>2023</b>	<b>mm</b>	<b>max</b>	<b>min</b>
JAN	41	10°C	-7.5°C
FEB	3	14°C	-7°C
MAR	78	15°C	-6.5°C
APRIL	65	18°C	-2°C
MAY	19	22°C	1°C
JUNE	15.5	30.5°C	6°C
JULY	72.5	28°C	8°C
AUG	65	29°C	4°C
SEP	41.5	30.5°C	5°C
OCT	137	23°C	-2°C
NOV	61.5	11°C	-7°C
DEC	63	11°C	-3°C

\*\*\*\*\*

<b>2024</b>	<b>mm</b>	<b>max</b>	<b>min</b>
JAN	47	9°C	-7°C
FEB	95	9°C	-1°C
MAR	38	18°C	-4°C
APR	49	18.5°C	-3°C
MAY	83.5	25°C	3°C
JUNE	17.5	28°C	2°C
JULY	84.5	30°C	4°C
AUG	17.01	30.5°C	5°C
SEP	66	26.5°C	-0.5°C
OCT	53.5	19°C	-2°C
NOV	41	14°C	-4°C
DEC	28	10.5°C	-2.5°C

\*\*\*\*\*

<b>2025</b>	<b>mm</b>	<b>max</b>	<b>min</b>
JAN	65.5	9°C	-9°C

# JOHN PROCTOR

(Born 1631 in Assington Suffolk,  
Died 1692, (hanged) in Salem,  
Essex County, Province of Massachusetts Bay  
USA)

We seem to get a disproportionately high number of visitors from the USA to Assington Church and its churchyard. To my knowledge, five American citizens have so far visited the church since January 2025!

Many of them are seeking evidence of their ancestors, the Thomas French Family, who sailed for the New England Colonies in the 1630s. They come from all different parts of America, and are seemingly unrelated to each other at this stage.

On Saturday, 15th February the American lady visiting was from California; interestingly, she was seeking further information about John Proctor, who was baptised in Assington in 1631.

Having now undertaken some research into the story of John Proctor, it is even more interesting how the history of Assington is intertwined with some of the deepest times and most important people of the United States of America.

John was born in 1631 to parents John Proctor and Martha (nee Harper) Proctor, who left Assington for America in the ship the "Sue-and-Ellen" in 1635, as part of "The Great Migration", the succession of ships which set sail over a ten year period in the 1630s.

John Proctor arrived in America from England when he was three years old, settling with his family in Ipswich, Massachusetts. He married his first wife Martha (maiden name unclear) circa 1652. The couple had four children, only one of whom, Benjamin, lived to adulthood. Martha died in childbirth in 1659. In 1662, Proctor married Elizabeth Thorndike, with whom he had seven children. At least two died before reaching adulthood. The Proctors moved to the western side of Salem Town, aka Salem Fields or the village of Brooksby, in 1666, first leasing fifteen acres and then the adjoining 300-acre farm from the illustrious Emmanuel Downing. (Downing was one of the earliest settlers of Massachusetts Bay Colony. His son, Sir George Downing, was in the first graduating class from Harvard College, and would later see Downing Street in England named after him). The property included a house on the Ipswich Road. A tavern license was issued in 1668. Elizabeth died in 1672. Proctor married for the third time, to Elizabeth Bassett, in 1674. The couple had six children by 1692, one of whom died.

After his marriage in 1674, the estate continued to thrive: John Proctor, his wife Elizabeth, and their children, plus a 20-year-old servant, **Mary Warren**, lived on this spot in 1692. Its prime location on the Ipswich Road made it a perfect place for a tavern, which Proctor had received a license to run in 1668. While Proctor and his sons manned the farm, the women in the household looked after the house and tavern.

In 1692, a number of young girls in Salem village began to exhibit disturbing behaviour, which was interpreted as "demonic possession in consequence of witchcraft". One of these girls was Mary Warren, the Proctor maidservant. John Proctor allegedly beat Mary to stop her behaviour, and declared that other accusers should be whipped as well. As hysteria spread, more people were accused of bewitching the girls, among them Elizabeth Bassett Proctor, John's wife. When John denounced the accusers and defended his wife, he was also accused and was arrested, the first male to be arrested in this way.

A convicted person's possessions were confiscated by the authorities according to the law of the day, ostensibly to help pay for the prisoner's jails costs and to support their family. Robert Calef's contemporaneous account described what happened here at the Proctors' home:

*"...the sheriff came to his house and seized all the goods, provisions and cattle that he could come at, and sold some of the cattle at half price, and killed others, and put them up for the West Indies; threw out the beer out of a barrel, and carried away the barrel; emptied a pot of broth, and took away the pot, and left nothing in the house for the support of the children."*

While in prison, John wrote to a number of prominent Ministers in Boston, protesting his innocence, and the methods of the tribunal in Salem. He requested that the trials be moved to Boston.

Furthermore, John Proctor's son Benjamin was accused on May 23rd, his son William and daughter Sarah on May 29th.

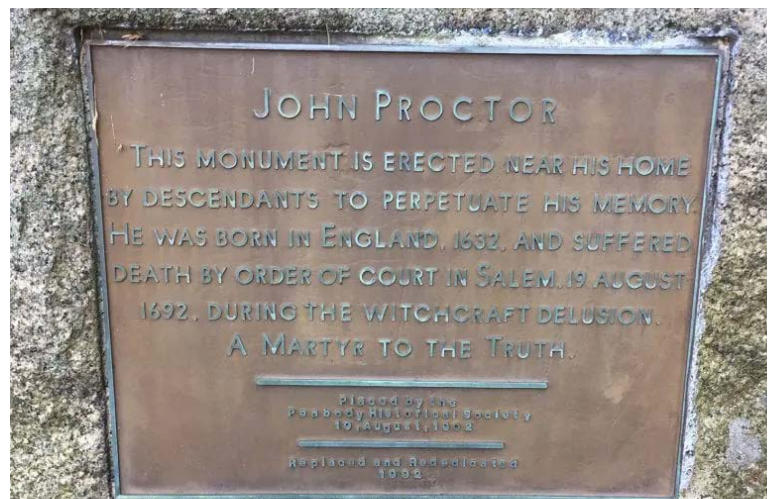
The Ministers met, and altered their stance on the nature of "spectral evidence" but it was too late for John Proctor, who was hanged, along with Reverend George Burroughs, Martha Carrier, George Jacobs, and John Willard on Proctor's Ledge at Gallows Hill on August 19. Although it is not definitively known where

the remains of the deceased were interred, historians speculate that Proctor's body may have been retrieved from the hanging site by family members. He may have once been buried on the edge of his property, land that belongs to the Peabody High School today.



His wife Elizabeth was condemned, but being pregnant, was reprieved until after the birth of her child. Elizabeth Proctor remained in jail until May of 1693. The last signs of her in the records are an "intent to marry" notice, to a man named Daniel Richards, in 1699, and she is also named in her father's will as Elizabeth Richards.

John and Elizabeth Proctor were among the people whose names were cleared of the charges of witchcraft in 1711. The Proctor family received £150 in restitution for their sorrow.



# The John Proctor House: The Salem Witch Museum



The structure located at 348 Lowell Street has long been called the "John Proctor House," even though it is likely not the actual house where John and Elizabeth Proctor and their children lived in 1692. Rather, today it is believed that Proctor's son Thorndike built the house one sees today on the same footprint where his father's house originally stood. Dendrochronology tests reveal some of the wood inside dates to the 1720s. There is a possibility that some of the original structure also remains inside. John Proctor's descendants purchased the property and remained living there for close to 200 years after his execution. According to a Salem News article in January of 2019, quoting Kelly Daniell, curator of the Peabody Historical Society, "There were four to five Proctor homes, all in that area that is called Proctors Crossing. You can absolutely call that the Proctor house because generations of Proctors lived and died in that house."

## THE ASSINGTON CONNECTION

The largest contingent to arrive in Ipswich (Massachusetts) from the same village were 15 men and women from Assington, Suffolk, where the Rev. Nathaniel Rogers, who would become a minister in Ipswich, had been the minister just prior to his emigration to the New World. This group included Thomas French Jr. and his father, Thomas French Senior, John Proctor, Mark Quilter, and John Wyatt. The Frenches and Wyatt were kin, since Thomas French, Senior's wife, and Wyatt's wife were probably sisters-in-law.

The wife of Richard Saltonstall was also from Assington, arriving in Ipswich before Rogers, and may have been instrumental in obtaining him for the town. Luke Heard also



came from Assington, but had settled first in Salisbury in New England before coming to Ipswich in 1645, with his wife Sarah nee Riddlesdale, the step-daughter of John Wyatt.

The above-mentioned wife of Richard Saltonstall was Merial Gurdon, daughter of Brampton Gurdon 1566 – c. 1650.

Gurdon married twice: His first wife was Elizabeth Barrett, of Bellhouse, Essex and they had two sons and a daughter. He secondly married Muriel Sedley of Morley, Norfolk, and they had a son and two daughters : Muriel (or Meriel as it says on the marble monument), who married Richard Saltonstall, of Yorkshire, and Abigail.



Muriel was born in 1613, and, in 1633, married Richard Saltonstall, the eldest son of Sir Richard Saltonstall, in London. Sir Richard was appointed first assistant to Governor John Winthrop; after the death of his first wife, Sir Richard sold his land in England and set sail for New England with his family. They boarded the *Arbella* in April 1630 at Yarmouth, with the Winthrop company and arrived in Salem, Massachusetts on 12 June 1630.

Muriel's husband had gone to Massachusetts with his father in 1630; they returned to England the next year. In April 1635 he and Muriel emigrated to America, sailing on the "Susan and Ellin" and settling at Ipswich, Massachusetts. In late 1645 Muriel and her husband returned to England. He went back to Massachusetts without her, and subsequently sought advice from John Cotton and others as to whether he should abandon New England to be reunited with her. There is no record of Muriel going back to America. Richard Saltonstall went back and forth between England and America a number of times, finally returning to England in 1687.

Muriel and Richard Saltonstall had six children. She died in 1688, in Lancashire.

## THE REVEREND NATHANIEL ROGERS (1598-1655)



was born at Haverhill, Suffolk, in 1598. He was educated at Dedham grammar school and Emmanuel College, Cambridge, which he entered as a sizar on 9 May 1614, graduating B.A. in 1617 and M.A. in 1621. For two years he was domestic chaplain to some person of rank, and then went as curate to John Barkham at Bocking, Essex. There, Rogers, whose chief friends were Thomas Hooker, at that time a lecturer at Chelmsford, and other Essex Puritans, adopted decidedly Puritan views. His rector finally dismissed him for performing the burial office over an eminent person without a surplice.

**On leaving Bocking he was for five years rector of Assington, Suffolk.**

On 1 June 1636 he sailed with his wife and family for New England, where they arrived in November. Rogers was ordained pastor of Ipswich, Massachusetts, on 20 February 1638, when he succeeded Nathaniel Ward as co-pastor with John Norton. On 6 September he took the oath of freedom at Ipswich, and was soon appointed a member of the synod, and one of a body deputed to reconcile a difference between the legalists and the antinomians. He died at Ipswich (Massachusetts) on 3 July 1655, aged 57.

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# VILLAGE NEWS

## THE COUNTRY KITCHEN

All of us in Assington share a real sense of loss with the closure of the Barn.



Annie and Malcolm have put so much into their restaurant and have given us, quite literally, a feast of wonderful food, varied choices, special events and, always, a warm welcome.

They are, I know, very sad to have been forced to go but they leave with our sincere thanks and our best wishes for their future.

**John Symons**

\*\*\*\*\*

## Church Cleaning : Help needed please

Our village church is here for everybody when you need it or want to visit it. The cleaning of St Edmund's church has traditionally been undertaken by volunteers from the village; some are regular churchgoers, others are not.

However, one or two of our volunteers have had to give up in the past couple of years as they have either moved away from Assington or are no longer able to help us; many of the regular church-goers are now elderly, and frail.

Our cleaning volunteers are allocated a month, and what we ask is that they dust along the pews and other furniture and wooden decoration, and vacuum the floors and of course the red carpet, to ensure that all is clean before the two services which are held per month.

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



## ASSINGTON OPEN GARDENS

The Church Tower Project are looking at ways to fundraise and we are thinking about a potential village Open Gardens like Bures and other villages in the area.



We would like to invite the thoughts of Assingtonians and whether this is something you would like to be a part of with a tentative date of 24th May this year.

If you think that you would like to open your garden for others to enjoy and to raise funds for the Tower Project, please email me at [ec@emilycartlidge.com](mailto:ec@emilycartlidge.com). Garden size doesn't matter and it could even be your allotment.

We look forward to hearing from you!



## IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING SESAW ANIMALS

Suffolk & Essex Small Animal Welfare is closed and in the process of winding down. We no longer have any animals **but need to trace anyone fostering a SESAW animal**. If you are one of our Foster Carers and have not yet been contacted, please text or phone 07720 079370 as soon as possible and ideally, by 31st March 2025. Please **DO NOT** surrender an animal to anyone purporting to represent SESAW. If in doubt, contact the above number immediately.

### NOTICE TO ALL PET OWNERS

All cats and dogs must now be microchipped by law and their details kept up to date. Other small animals may also be microchipped. Please ask your vet to scan your pet and check the registered details are correct.

They will be able to tell you which database to contact or you can check here:

<https://www.check-a-chip.co.uk/> If you have a SESAW pet you can email [info@sesaw.co.uk](mailto:info@sesaw.co.uk) with your details and the chip number and we can check for you until 31st March.

We thank all past and present friends and volunteers for their support and dedication to animal rescue over the years. They all contributed towards the Charity's reputation and success story. SESAW could not have existed without them.

The Trustees February, 2025.



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# ASSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

[assingtonpc@yahoo.com](mailto:assingtonpc@yahoo.com)

## Matters of Interest discussed during a meeting held in Assington Village Hall on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2025

■ **Present:** Councillors Simon Thorogood, Andrew Hill, Tony Howcroft, Ian Jordan, Bronwen Stacey and Helen Wallace

**In attendance:** Cllr James Finch, DCllr Lee Parker and Christine Hargan (Clerk) and one member of the community.

■ **Apologies** for absence: Councillor David Wiles.

### ■ County and District Councillor reports and public forum Suffolk County Council Report James Finch - Highlights:

- Devolution is about bringing organisations under one roof. It is the most significant change in Local government since World War 2. Norfolk and Suffolk leaders had two meetings with the Government and were told that Unitary Authorities will be imposed up and down the country. The choice for Councils was whether to accept Devolution now or later, so both Norfolk and Suffolk elected to adopt it voluntarily. Ten other Counties have also applied at this stage. The aim is to streamline lower government tiers, and avoid the current duplication of work. It is anticipated that cost savings will be made by a reduction in staffing, due to the crossover of workload between District and County Councils. Suffolk and Norfolk have made a joint application because they have an existing collaborative working relationship. The best people will be selected from both CC and DCs and will reduce the number of people who report to the Government, however there will be a cost. The Councils await a response on whether the Government will accept the proposal.
- DCllr Parker added that as yet the detail is unknown, a District Councillor currently looks after 2,500 electors, there will be 90 Councillors across Suffolk. The patch they are looking after will be substantially higher and therefore there will only be one councillor attending the Parish Council meetings. It may be more efficient.
- Questions: will there be county elections? Currently it is unknown: if devolution is to be implemented within 12 months it would be uneconomical to have an election this year. The leader of the District Council has acknowledged that it will cost £1million to hold an election now: if the process must be repeated in 12 months time it could be a waste of public money. However it could also be argued that if there is no election this year, electoral rights are being withdrawn
- What will happen to Parish Councils? Currently there is no information but the assumption is that no change will be made. Parish Councils should have more autonomy. It is recognised that running rural parishes is more expensive than urban ones and they were therefore allocated extra government funding which has now been withdrawn
- **King's Award.** The Stronger Families Partnership are working with children's charities because it is more cost-effective to provide counselling to help keep families together than to take children into care.
- SEND; while current processes should ensure that no child suffers from a bad education, high numbers in the system may mean that Care Plans at the end of education age will not be done in time

### **Babergh District Council report:** Cllr Parker,

- The District Council has been informed that the National Planning Policy Framework must be updated, placing a significant load on council officers.
- Neighbourhood Plans: a grant of £10,000 is available to parishes to enable plans to be created. If there is no NP the spatial plan will be imposed. The PC were advised to acknowledge that their NP should be updated and to start the pre-planning process. The Plan must conform with the NPPF, which is under review. Cllr Parker agreed to forward information on the number of buildings that the government are imposing on districts as soon as they are available. APC is in the best position, with an NP adopted

in the past five years. "Allocations" is the big word, and parishes should consider the location and number of properties it will place in the plan. The acid test is Leavenheath where there are two Planning appeals in place. If their NP is upheld at appeal it bodes well for communities with NPs in place. Building in Sudbury has halted because people can't afford to buy. The FCA relaxed mortgage affordability rules this week.

- Cllr Wallace asked DCllr Parker for information on which parishes are updating their NP as soon as they are available.
- Following a question, DCllr Parker agreed to enquire regarding whether historic housing delivery would be taken into account when Babergh determines the future housing requirements for town and parish areas.

### ■ **Planning:**

#### • **Planning applications:**

[DC/25/00183](#) The Nook The Street Assington Sudbury Suffolk CO10 5LW Erection of detached one bed annex to provide ancillary accommodation for dependent relative. No comment.

### ■ **Finance**

Proposed by Cllr Howcroft to open a 6-month deposit account of £50k. On expiry the funds would be transferred from the current account into the instant access account until a decision can be made at the following meeting. (Post-meeting note: the proposal is not possible as minimum investment is £85k)

#### ■ **Revised Financial Regulations**

- Two actions required from councillors:
- A volunteer who is not a signatory to the bank account to check the Clerk's maths prior to sending the annual file to the internal auditor Cllr Jordan volunteered.
- Secondly, the Risk Management report needs to become a Policy it will be presented to the Council in March with the Annual Policies to review.
- Resolved by Cllr Thorogood to adopt revised regulations, seconded by Cllr Jordan, carried. Chair thanked Cllr Howcroft and Clerk.

### ■ **Budget 2025-26**

- It was proposed by Cllr Howcroft to budget £1100 for donations and to donate only to organisations that directly benefit the majority of residents. Seconded Cllr Hill, carried.
- At the end of the financial year, Clerk will transfer all possible payments to the CIL budget.
- **Precept:** Proposal by Cllr Hill to reduce the Precept demand to £9,600 to avoid contributing to council tax rises. Seconded Cllr Thorogood, carried. This action is only possible because of actions taken to generate revenue by maximising bank interest

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

- In conjunction with Stephen King's aim to retire from maintaining the conservation area, he has accepted voluntary help with owl boxes from two local residents, Brin Edwards and Simon Grimhal. The paths will be cut three times a year at the same time as the grass verges.
- Clerk to request that Hartleys reduce the growth on all the hedges in the conservation area during February, include the additional hedge in the Gurdons, and to request that he contacts Cllr Wiles for work instructions and directions.
- Whilst no quotation has been received to plant the small greens and provide fencing Clerk was asked to request that Hartley's plants Mahonia on one and roses on Rose Green. Maximum budget £500 from CIL was agreed.

### ■ **Questions to the Chair**

Expiry of the Asset of Community Value for the Shoulder of Mutton; it was resolved to renew the placement of the Asset on Babergh's register. Cllr Hill said that he needed contact details for the owner, land registry details, and the site boundary plan in order to make the application.

■ **The meeting was closed at 9.09pm. Time date and place of next meeting** 31<sup>st</sup> March, to be held in Assington Village Hall at 7.30pm. Preceded by the annual meeting of the Parish at 7pm

# 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>alternative: Jenny Cutts</i>	07588 996211 01787 211371
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
Church - Treasurer	Ian Clark	01787 211133
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 Wardens	Paul & Cynthia Hollingsworth	01787 211620
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 22nd February	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:hwallace58@gmail.com">hwallace58@gmail.com</a>	Helen Wallace	01787 211162
<a href="mailto:i.jordan741@btinternet.com">i.jordan741@btinternet.com</a>	Ian Jordan	
<a href="mailto:andrewpeterhill@hotmail.com">andrewpeterhill@hotmail.com</a>	Andrew Hill	01787 827112
Parish Council - Clerk ( <a href="mailto:assingtonpc@yahoo.com">assingtonpc@yahoo.com</a> )	Christine Hargan	01449 674727
Pub – The Shoulder of Mutton		01787 210334
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	01787 228292
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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