

ASSINGTON

NEWS



MAY 2025

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	Karl Debenham <i>The new Chair is Bryn Hurren</i>	07584 996211
Assington Baby and Toddler Group	Rev Tricia Box	07747 124592
Assington Books, Village Hall (see post office for times)	Michelle Bourner	07954 221773
Assington Farmshop	Maxine Gardiner	01787 211610
Assington Post Office, Village Hall	Mon 1.30-3.30, Wed 9-12	
Boxford CEVC Primary School (office@boxford.suffolk.sch.uk)	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 (james.finch@suffolk.gov.uk)	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 (james.cartlidge.mp@parliament.uk)	James Cartlidge	020 7219 4875
Mobile Library - Vicary Estate Junction	Saturday 17th May	3pm - 3.30pm
Parish Council	Simon Thorogood	01787 227400
bronwenstacey@btinternet.com	Bronwen Stacey	01787 210354
david.wiles@live.co.uk	David Wiles	07811 108702
tony@howcroft.net	Tony Howcroft	
andrewpeterhill@hotmail.com	Andrew Hill	01787 827112
Parish Council - Clerk (assingtonpc@yahoo.com)	Christine Hargan	01449 674727
Pub – The Shoulder of Mutton		01787 210334
Stoke by Nayland C of E Primary School (admin@sbn.suffolk.sch.uk)	Head: Mrs Kelly McGrath	01206 262418
Vicar (vicar@parishchurch.co.uk)	The Revd Daniel Whiffin	07309 947039
Village Hall – Bookings	Karen Wiles	07983 002072
Village Hall - Caretaker	Sean Mills	07547 190948
Village Hall - Charity Secretary		
Womens Institute, Boxford (annie-phillips@hotmail.co.uk)	Annie Phillips	01787 211729

The Assington News is a community magazine funded primarily through adverts and donations, for which we are always most grateful. **ADVERTS. RATES pa : £20 for 1/8 size page advert, £35 for 1/4 page advert, £60 for 1/2 page advert, £120 for a full page advert. Contact Bob Cowlin 01787 229955 Bank Account details for payments and donations: Account no: 01345159. Sort Code: 30 - 98 - 31. Please make cheques payable to the Assington Association.**

The ASSINGTON NEWS NOW IN COLOUR ONLINE at <http://assington.onesuffolk.net/assington-news/>

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Auditor	Ian Clark, 01787 211133

VILLAGE NEWS

The Evening Beetle Drive



By popular demand The Beetle Drive was held once again this year; it took place on Saturday 22 March and raised £131.30 with winners of each of the 12 games taking home with them a set of antennae.

There was lots of chatter amongst the tables with donations for the drinks and nibbles provided adding to the church tower fund total.



Our Village footpath Wardens

Paul and Cynthia Hollingsworth have kindly undertaken this role for many years. We thank them very much for performing this important task which benefits so many local people; they have made sure that the designated public footpaths were kept in good shape, and reported any problems with signposts etc to ensure that they remain operational. Dog walkers, rambling groups, individual walkers etc all use these ways on a frequent basis, without giving much thought to how they are maintained.

Paul and Cynthia have decided that the time has come to hand it over to someone else.....Could it be you? If you walk the village on a regular basis, and follow different routes, maybe you have a dog which you take out daily, or like running locally in our beautiful countryside, and you wish to **volunteer to the Parish Council to be the new Footpath Warden, then please contact the Parish Clerk, Christine Hargan, on 01449 674727 or email assingtonpc@yahoo.com**

Vegetable/Garden at Assington Mill

area available at Assington Mill. Very fertile ground, which has been used as vegetable garden for many years with copious dressings of manure and compost. Close to Assington Brook so water no problem. I don't want any rent, just to see it used. Contact Bob Cowlin on 01787 229955 or 07391589158.



Assington Village Hall Bookings

The new Assington Village Hall Website is now live for bookings, it gives all dimension requirements with photographs, prices, terms and conditions and how to book, even a calendar to check availability before booking.

Check out:

www.assingtonvillagehall.co.uk

we have a great facility in the village all events, even a discounted rate for residents

You are reminded that the The Village Hall Assington Village charity AGM

Will take place on Monday 19th May 2025 @ 6.30pm in The Village Hall.

We should love to see you there!

Assington Horticultural Show.

Don't forget this year's show on **Sunday 17th August 2025.**

A date for your diary

There will be the usual entries and perhaps a few different ones this year, watch this space. There will be Tea and Cake and a chance to catch up with friends. If you would like to help out on the day for an hour or so, please give me a call. 07983 002072. I hope to see you there.



This year for the first time we are planning to print all the details of the Annual Horticultural Show, including the Schedule of Classes and the entry form, in the central pages of The Assington News. This is in recognition of the increasing difficulty in obtaining advertising to cover costs, and it will reduce the cost of printing, and consolidate village funds.

Keep your eyes open for these details in the forthcoming editions. Karen x

NO ASSINGTON OPEN GARDENS THIS YEAR

Sadly there was insufficient interest from local residents to be able to organise an open Gardens day in May this year.

However, we are not to be put off lightly, and hope that if people had a longer lead-in time they would sign up for it in 2026.

Many other local villages do hold an Open Gardens day, which not only boosts local charities and funds, but also gives people a chance to enjoy and admire other gardens, and perhaps take a few good ideas to apply back home.

Of course, a lovely sunny day always helps.....

So, til next year then? You probably only need a little persuasion!





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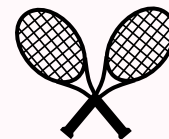
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ETHEL CARTER CELEBRATES HER 100th BIRTHDAY

Ethel was a long-time resident of Assington.

During WWII Ethel married Frank Carter, who had been born in Assington, and worked at that time for Mr Robertson of Aveley Hall. They moved into one of the two Aveley Hall cottages, where they lived for ten years.

Their daughter Diane was born, and grew up there.

After the end of the war they moved into one of Assington Hall Cottages. Because of the proximity of the cottages to the Hall, they quickly knew about the great fire of Assington Hall in 1957, because they lost their electricity; they watched from their house as a chimney stack fell down in the fire.



When their landlord Colonel Blackie wanted to sell their cottage, unfortunately they could not afford to buy it, so they moved to No 8 The Gurdons.

Ethel lived at The Gurdons for 46 years, until she moved to Boxford to live near her daughter, Diane.



Ethel continues to enjoy reading The Assington News, to catch up with all the local goings-on, and we hope that she sees that she has made the headlines this month.



We send our very best wishes and congratulations to Ethel, as she celebrates this milestone.



Photo of five generations of Ethel's family taken on her 90th birthday.

OUR CAT SPIRO

From John Symons

We greatly enjoyed your article in the April edition of the magazine.

We were in Corfu on our honeymoon in 1968 and witnessed the Saint (St Spyridon) on his parade through the streets.

We also found a little black kitten by the road near our hotel, so moved her further from the road and hoped that her mother might find her. Two days later at the same place we saw some boys kicking a black object in the sea, I investigated, saw it was the kitten, told them to go away and brought her ashore. She was starving and had several broken ribs, so we adopted her, kept her in our hotel room and fed her milk (gala) and chicken.

To get her back to the U.K. we clearly had to smuggle her onto the plane and keep her quiet for several hours.

Louisa bought a 'lobster pot' handbag (and a sponge) and I bought some Phenergan. After a rehearsal, and a reload when the plane was delayed, we reached Heathrow where we declared her (to the security guards' surprise).

During her 6 months in quarantine 'Spiro' was grabbed by gauntleted hands (in case she had rabies) while her cage was cleaned, and so developed a fear and hatred of hands, - but loved faces. It proved hard for us to encourage friends to put their faces down to her while their hands were still bleeding!

Over the next seven years we had six changes of address so Spiro came to think that home was where we were rather than any house.

She was a great cat, fearless, as two Alsations found to their cost when they ran up the drive at Moors Farm!!

She died aged 19, our first and best cat, never to be forgotten.

BOXFORD SCHOOL



Have you considered how you could give something back to the young people in your area?

Our Board of Governors at Boxford CEVC Primary School would like to invite members of the surrounding communities to apply to join our school's board.

We are a church school with high standards of education and believe that a young person's journey through our school should be rich and diverse. We are a well-established, friendly board, keeping the young people of our school at the heart of all our decisions.

Governors make up one of the largest volunteer forces across the country and play an extremely important role in the success of our schools. Effective governance is crucial in maintaining the quality of leadership and management, and student attainment. Governance is both challenging and rewarding.

We are looking to recruit one Co-opted Governor, who needs to be passionate about the education of young people or perhaps, is looking for a way to give back to the community. We are hoping for candidates that currently have little or no connection with the school, supporting us in broadening our vision. You do not need to be, or have had, experience in education. In fact, we value hugely our members without an educational background.

We would love to hear from anyone who may be interested in hearing more about this opportunity. Please contact Emma Hollock, Chair of Governors or Emma Lea, our Head Teacher at Boxford CEVC Primary School through the school office on office@boxford.suffolk.sch.uk or 01787 210 332, leaving your name and contact details.

For more information on the role that governors play in schools please refer to this literature from Suffolk County Council [what-are-governors-expected-to-do \(suffolk.gov.uk\)](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/what-are-governors-expected-to-do)



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THINGS TO DO



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Flower Festival

10th & 11th May 2025

11am to 4pm

Evensong

Sunday 11th May at 4:30pm at All Saints Church

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NAYLAND OPEN GARDENS

SUNDAY
8th JUNE

1pm-5pm

TEAS in the Village Hall

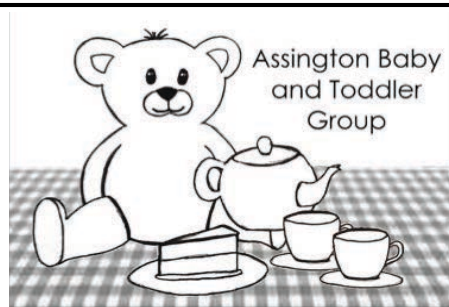
Tickets £5 (children free)

in advance from:

www.naylandevents.org

or on the day at the Village Hall
or cash only at selected Gardens

www.naylandconservation.org.uk



Assington Baby
and Toddler
Group

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

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meeting together!

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8th and 22nd May

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The performance of *The Tempest* will take place on Wednesday 14th May with doors open at 6.30pm to start at 7pm. Tickets are £16 for adults and £12 for under 16s.

For twelve years Prospero, the rightful duke of Milan, has dwelt on an island after his bother Antonio betrayed him and cast him adrift in a small boat. For twelve years

he has plotted revenge on those who overthrew him.

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audiences of all ages.

For more information and to book tickets: <https://www.thisismytheatre.com>

☕ 'Last Tuesday' ☕

Coffee and Chat

in the Village Hall

The next meeting will be on
Tuesday 27 May
at 10am

See you there!

I hereby give Notice

Of

The Assington Village Charity

Annual General Meeting

On Monday 19th May 2025

At 6.30PM

At

The Village Hall

All residents are welcome to attend but
must be above the age of 18

There will be a regular meeting directly
after the AGM

It is your Village Hall, feel free to attend
and put forward your ideas, or to help in
any way.

David Wiles (CURRENT CHAIRMAN)



8 May 2025 will mark the
80th anniversary of
VE Day (Victory in Europe Day)

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BOXFORD & DISTRICT BOWLS CLUB

From Roz Mortlock



Outdoor Season

We are looking forward to the official opening of our Bowls green for the beginning of the season on 27th April. Lots of our Club members have been working during our shut down in the winter to look after the green and make it match ready. So thank you to Malcolm Grimwood, Mike Billington and Jerry Zoers, who are regularly at the Club mowing, feeding, sowing, watering etc. Jerry in particular should be mentioned, as he has repaired and got some of the equipment used to maintain the green and the Bowls Club back into working order. I will be suggesting you join the team on BBC's The Repair Shop! Thanks Jerry.

We also thank our "swishers" for swishing the worm casts off the green on a regular basis - great exercise but it must have been a bit chilly on the green early in the morning. And last but by no means least our 'gardeners' - Cynthia Hollingsworth and Pam Howard, who have been tidying up the flower beds, pulling out weeds, planting some new plants and getting it all ready for the Spring. You have transformed the garden ladies.

We must also thank the Captains of our teams, who over the winter have been busy scheduling in matches. This involves lots of co-ordinating diaries with many other clubs in the area - certainly not an easy job.

Thanks everyone.



FREE COACHING FOR NEW PLAYERS

Now that we are looking forward to our Outdoor Bowls season, we are keen to find some new players to join our Club. It is a lovely Club just behind the Fleece, the setting for bowling is beautiful, the Club members are all very friendly and you will be

given fantastic coaching by two qualified and experienced coaches. If you think you would like to see what it's all about and have a go at bowling a few bowls up the rink, we are starting lessons on **Saturday 17th May at 10am**. Contact Barry (01787 370225) or Steve (01787 211153) for more information. Just come along with flat-soled shoes or trainers and we supply the rest.

We would love to meet you and hope you may enjoy the sport as much as we do. What can be better than bowling on a summer's day and enjoying the company of our very friendly bowlers - oh, and a cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit at the end of the match!

Looking forward to seeing all our Bowlers very soon.

ASSINGTON RAINFALL AND TEMPERATURES

Bob Cowlin (temperatures) and Bill Milner (rainfall)

HISTORY annual rainfall:

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

2021	mm	max	min
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

2022	mm	max	min
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

2023	mm	max	min
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

2024	mm	max	min
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

2025	mm	max	min
JAN	39	9°C	-9°C
FEB	32	13°C	-6°C
MAR	5	18°C	-7°C

Minutes of the Assington Annual Parish Meeting

on Monday 31st March 2025 at 7pm in Assington Village Hall.
6 members of the public and 6 Parish Councillors were present

1. Apologies for absence None

2. Chairman's welcome

3. All the community were saddened to hear of the passing of Ian Jordan in February, his personality and hard work within the village and for the Parish Council will be sadly missed. On 30 April a memorial service will be held at St Edmund's Church.

Confirmation and signing of Minutes of Meeting of 25/3/2024

4. The minutes were signed by Cllr Thorogood Chair of the Parish Council

5. Matters arising from the Minutes None

6 Reports:

Mr J Finch (County Councillor)

Reported on the ten Key Activities for the year.

New Independent Chair has been appointed to drive forward Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) reform.

- On April 23 Suffolk County Council can announce that Kathryn Boulton has been appointed as the new independent chair of the Local Area Partnership's SEND Improvement Board. Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) provision is delivered by the Local Area Partnership in Suffolk, which includes Suffolk County Council, NHS Suffolk and North-East Essex Integrated Care Board and NHS Norfolk and Waveney Integrated Care Board.

- The SEND Improvement Board was set up in response to the inspection of SEND services in Suffolk in November 2023

- Councillors approved an extra £9.1 million for SEND services in July 2024

- In January 25 - Department for Education welcomes SEND improvements and evidence of impact, but all recognises there are still challenges to overcome.

- Over 400 Suffolk roads set for upgrade as largest ever surfacing project gets underway

- May 2024 Residents across Suffolk are set to benefit from 421 newly surfaced roads this year (1 April – 31 March) - almost doubling the number of roads completed last year, as Suffolk Highways' largest ever resurfacing programmes got underway. This will be completed in early April 25.

- East of England local authorities collaborate to appeal for more Foster Families - June 7000 in care - 150 new per month Eleven local authorities across the East of England have joined forces in a bid to collectively recruit more foster carers to look after some of the region's most vulnerable children. Suffolk is taking part in a new initiative for fostering under the banner Foster East. There is an urgent need for foster carers in the East of England with more than 7,000 vulnerable children already in the care of their local authority, and a further 150 children coming into care every month. This has led to having access to powerful new films promoting the importance of local fostering. – on the Suffolk website. Visit fosterandadopt.suffolk.gov.uk

- Suffolk County Council Backs Youth Justice Plan with a focus on keeping families together. Suffolk County Council has backed the Youth Justice Plan 2024/25 at a meeting of Full Council on 11th July. The plan has a focus on supporting young people into education, training and employment and reducing the numbers of young people offending, supporting the council's ambition to keep more families together and to keep Suffolk safe. Each year the Suffolk Youth Justice Management Board produces a Youth Justice Plan for Suffolk.

- Council's shock at £600m Sunnica solar farm go-ahead in West Suffolk – August 2024

- post election Suffolk County Council has expressed its extreme disappointment that a huge solar farm has been approved in West Suffolk. The Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, Ed Miliband MP, has announced that approval had been granted for the Development Consent Order, as proposed by Sunnica Ltd. The project will see 2,792 acres of solar panels and battery storage, installed across parts of West Suffolk and Cambridgeshire.

- Surrounding 3 villages. → Suffolk residents will be able to access electric vehicles on a short-term basis, from next summer September announcement A trial of electric community vehicles is set to launch next summer in Suffolk, with the tender process beginning this autumn. Plug In Suffolk Car Clubs will be placing sixteen electric vehicles across eight locations in Suffolk which

local residents can book by the minute, hour or day. Planned locations include Ipswich, Bury St Edmunds, Newmarket, Sudbury, Needham Market, Stowmarket, Lowestoft and Woodbridge.

Members of the public interested in this project are urged to sign up to the mailing list to receive updates as the project progresses – search: Plug in Suffolk Car Clubs - Mailing List.

- Solar Together launches in Suffolk – September 2024 - Residents of Suffolk can come together to invest in renewable energy sources through a group-buying scheme for solar panels and battery storage. Solar Together Suffolk helps homeowners feel confident that they are paying the right price for a high-quality installation from qualified installers. Over 3000 residents had signed up by October 24 Richard from Bures, near Sudbury, recently shared his experience with Solar Together Suffolk and said: "Excellent! Solar Together Suffolk took all the hassle of finding a provider, and the group-buying secured me a better discount than trying to do this on my own. It was a no-brainer."

- Suffolk County Council set on major investment to further protect Suffolk from flooding as it calls on Government to 'step up' - October 24 – 12 months on from Storm Babet.

- SCC set to agree £1.5 million to deliver first phase of works identified in initial flood investigation reports

- Authority calls on Government to recognise ongoing impact of Storm Babet and fund £20 million of further prevention work urgently needed

- Extensive work already completed since Storm Babet including more than 111,000 drains cleared and significant road repairs

- The County Council leaders have proposed one council for Suffolk One council for Suffolk would make delivering public services simpler, cheaper and quicker, and better meet the needs of residents and businesses, county leaders have said. Following a recent government announcement that Suffolk's county, district and borough councils will be replaced with a single-tier system, Suffolk County Council argues that consolidating all services under one unitary authority is the only effective way to deliver against the government's criteria for local government reform The move would see all council services, such as waste collection and disposal, housing, social care, planning, highways maintenance, leisure, school placements and travel and street cleaning, all provided by one authority - rather than the six that currently exist in Suffolk. Bringing together district, borough and county council functions is expected to reduce duplication, lower administrative costs and ensure a more coordinated and cost-effective approach to delivering essential services. The council warns that splitting services among multiple bodies would force the duplication of essential functions - such as social care, highways maintenance and schools - currently managed at a county level. The key benefits of one council are:

- Simpler for residents – one council would make it easier to understand and contact local government

- Clearer accountability – there would be less confusion over who is responsible for what

- Better use of funding – a more coherent, strategic, financially sustainable, county wide approach to budgeting

- Better alignment of services – since everything is under one roof, services can be more easily coordinated, creating opportunities to improve services for residents

- More efficient decision-making – with just one council, decisions can be made more quickly

- Stronger leadership – a single, visible and accountable body providing a clear strategic voice for Suffolk. The council submitted its initial proposal to the government by 21 March, with a more detailed business case to follow later in the year. The government will then undertake a public consultation.

- Council's budget prioritises vulnerable residents and essential services Suffolk County Council has unveiled its proposed budget for 2025/26, with a strong focus on supporting vulnerable residents across the county. Under the proposals, the council's net budget would rise by 6.7%, from £752.9 million in 2024/25 to £803.7 million in 2025/26. Key allocations include:

- £18.1 million extra for children's services, ensuring continued support for young people and families in need

- £35.2 million extra for adult care, aimed at addressing the growing demand for social care services. To help fund these essential services, the council is proposing a 4.99% rise in Council Tax. This would consist of a 2.99% increase in general Council Tax and an additional 2% specifically for adult care services. In conclusion may I thank all the Parish Council members and parishioners for their support to me during the year. James Finch - 24 March 2025

Mr L Parker (District Councillor)

May

Food waste collections for Babergh and Mid-Suffolk Residents from 2026 announced

Cllr Deborah Saw Elected as the new leader of Babergh District Council

June

An additional 47 new electric charge points are now available in Babergh and MS car parks thanks to a £300K grant.

July

Babergh to clear the way for listed building energy upgrades in a new approach which is the first of its kind in the country.

August

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils publish their full response to National Grid's Norwich to Tilbury consultation Residents in Babergh and Mid Suffolk will not only see the introduction of new weekly food waste collections from 2026, but could also enjoy a 'recycling revolution' under new plans

September

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils support five-point action plan being put to the Government urging them to save Council homes.

Extensive repairs required at Sudbury's Kingfisher Leisure pool have been identified

Government scraps the proposed Suffolk devolution deal

October

The first homes developed at Babergh District Council's former Corks Lane offices in Hadleigh have gone on the market – with the properties hailed as a significant investment in the town's future.

December

Babergh District Council's Cabinet is set to consider a 2.99% increase to the district's share of council tax bills - as councillors warn of a £10.9 million budget gap over the next five years due to a 'broken' funding system.

Babergh District Council leader responds to Devolution White Paper

January

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils say a huge rise in housebuilding requirements set by the Government has left no option but to review their Joint Local Plan.

February

The swimming pool at Kingfisher Leisure Centre in Sudbury will reopen this weekend after repair work was completed.

Government launches a public consultation on proposals to create a Mayoral Combined County Authority across Norfolk and Suffolk.

March

The Leaders of the county's five district and borough councils respond to the decision by Suffolk County Council to submit interim proposals for a single unitary authority, as part of the Local Government Review process, saying there is no compelling case for a mega Council in Suffolk

Work to make council homes warmer and bring down energy bills for tenants across Babergh and Mid Suffolk have received a £2.9m boost in government funding, specifically from the Dept for Energy Security and Net Zero

Questions Are people being asked their opinion on devolution, District and County Councils? It will be run by the government there is a consultation re devolution generally
Do the district have any strategy for Alms Houses? Not specifically, they tend to be lumped together with general housing., but they tend to be run by independent trusts

Mr S Thorogood (Assington Parish Council)

Well here we are again another year whizzes past at the speed of light. The Parish Council have done their very best to represent you, to help keep our community running smoothly, to help each other and to keep your Council Tax as low as possible.

•All the Councillors and indeed the community were saddened by the sudden passing of Councillor Ian Jordan in February whose personality and commitment to the village will be sorely missed. I would like to thank the Parish Councillors for their tireless work on behalf of the community.

•I would like to thank our Footpath Wardens Paul and Cynthia Hollingsworth for their hard work over the last 5 years and to wish them well in their retirement.

•Our Neighbourhood Plan has again proven its worth and is being acknowledged by Babergh District Council. It has shielded our

village from being over developed as a number of planning applications which were outside of the development area have been refused so the work of the Neighbourhood Planning team really has been worthwhile and hopefully will continue to be so for many years to come. It is an enormous help with planning and means that we now gain 25% of CIL (Community Infrastructure levy) on new build projects.

•This year CIL money has been used to help the Village Hall with its new kitchen and front door and has promised when required to assist with the installation of water, an accessible WC and a scullery in the Church building.

•• The National Grid (NG) plans for a huge revised infrastructure from Bramford to Tilbury have been approved despite the work of Cllr Howcroft and an action group of Southern Parishes. Unfortunately the NG are forging ahead with their original plan

•We have responded to 11 Planning applications on 10 locations within the village.

•I would like to once again thank Lee Parker and James Finch for their attendance at our meetings and for their willingness to offer help and advice when needed. I would like to thank the Parish Councillors for their help and support over the last year and the Clerk. And **finally**, my thanks to Dave Crimmin our internal auditor, for ensuring that we comply with legislation.

Mr B Cowlin (Assington Association)

Assington Association is the not for profit organisation which organises and publishes our village magazine, the Assington News.

Our editor Bronwen Stacey again published 10 editions throughout 2024. Each edition is also published on the Parish Council website.

Thanks to our advertisers and generous contributions from individuals, the Parish Council and organisers of the Horticultural Show, our finances remain in reasonable order. The books have once again been ably audited by Ian Clark.

I am concerned at the number of advertisers who are in arrears and am making strenuous efforts to collect outstanding balances or will recommend to our editor to discontinue their advertisements.

Thanks are due to all the contributors of articles and reports for the magazine, our advertisers and donors and the volunteers who deliver each edition freely to every household in the parish. As ever, our editor, Bronwen Stacey, looks forward to receiving your articles and reports please, by 15th of each month.

Having been treasurer for 8 years I'm wishing to retire volunteers please.

Thanks were extended to the editor and treasurer

Mr D Wiles (Assington Village Charity)

The Assington Village Charity had had a very productive year with projects, compliance maintenance, and bookings. We have been without a secretary for the last 18 months, so I am covering my position as Chairman and the secretary role. We currently have 4 trustees who are recognised by the charity commission, a treasurer and a lettings secretary.

I have been disappointed with donations to the food bank with little being donated.

Projects

Within the last 12 months the village hall has been fitted with new fire doors, threshold carpeting and, new main doors, and most recently a new veranda roof, with planned and costed re painting of the outside woodwork. This should complete my 2 year target to bring the facility fully up to date. We have a good Wi-Fi secured connection which is also used by The Post Office with no ongoing issues after they installed new software to their system. We have our own website launching on 1st April 2025 for up-to-date information on all aspects of the hall including Booking Forms and Terms and Conditions and up and coming events. We are still awaiting confirmation of the commence date of the charging points installation.

Compliance

All compliance documentation is up to date including up to date Public Liability Insurance. All statutory testing is on a rolling programme and is also up to date for inspection as required. Fire alarm testing is carried out weekly. Cleaning of the facility is carried out by the cleaner and the caretaker. The playground inspection has been completed with no major issues found.

Bookings

The booking of the facility has started to increase with regular Ryes Academy corporate Training events, Local group events, children's parties, and our regular lets. We are hoping that this will increase with the website go live. We are trying to push the venue for outside wedding receptions and parties at a very competitive cost. We are now charging a £250 refundable deposit as we had an incident that nappies and baby wipes were flushed down the toilet costing £730 for removal! The football pitch is now being used by AFC Sudbury for their under14/15 grass roots football home pitch.

Summary

A reasonable year for the charity, our finances are in good condition. Thank you to Assington Parish Council for the CIL funding.

What are the long term plans for next 5 years, To increase bookings by local people and to create an entertainment committee. In terms of acquisitions maybe a few new tables! Thanks were extended to David Wiles.

Rev Whiffin (Parochial Church Council)

Thanks to the councillors both Parish, District and County, the Church exists for the benefit of everyone and is their privilege to serve in major life events whether good or bad,

Followers of Jesus tend to be proactive by their nature, but also they want everyone to explore Jesus Christ, and to enjoy the "Church family" who are a thriving, supportive and fun family to be with.

Safeguarding for 15 years now much work has been done to ensure that the church is as safe as possible, and that policies and procedures are updated.

The project to provide proper facilities in the base of the Tower, has been challenging as it is a listed building, not least because installing utilities and services through neighbouring properties and the churchyard has been difficult. Thanks were extended to Cllr Stacey for is spear heading the project.

The Church do not want any hinderance to people in enjoying the facilities or services and look forward to welcoming newcomers and current friends to services.

Questions Are there plans for VE day? Yes in Bures on the Common. From 31 December David Wiles becomes standard bearer for Leavenheath but in the meantime is willing and able to serve elsewhere.

How close with the Tower Project? It has gone out to Tender, they will be busy to raise the rest of the funds. Hopefully it will be started within the next year or so. Thanks were extended to Rev Whiffin and his team.

Rev Whiffin (Baby and Toddler Group)

The group continues to run successfully and the Church family are grateful for the support of parents, grandparents, volunteers and children and they would welcome some more volunteers if members of the public have time to offer.

Thanks were extended to Rev Whiffin

Mrs J Cutts (Allotments Association)

Despite some late spring frosts in 2024 the crops recovered from their hit and we all seem to have enjoyed some good harvests, although the season seemed to be short for many varieties. This did have some impact on the horticultural show as prospective exhibits were no longer available.

All plots were tenanted throughout the year with 3 plot holders resident in Leavenheath. At the time of writing plot 2 is vacant.

Following the rains of winter and early spring 2024, the maintenance of the allotment perimeter and conservation area proved difficult and growth of wild hedgerow became excessive. I am aware that the council were needing to prioritise cutting back at roadsides etc for safety reasons. However the delay in cutting the two areas mentioned above resulted in the conservation area being inaccessible and growth of nettles became invasive on many of the plots adjoining the perimeter alongside the conservation area. We were only able to maintain accessibility of the perimeter area through the endeavours of plot holder volunteers who cut paths through the long grass. May I therefore ask the Parish Council to ensure the perimeter is cut during the growing season and that the

circular path within the conservation areas is restored. My thanks in advance for these works.

As with many community bank accounts we were advised by our bankers towards the end of 2024 that our account would be incurring charges from January 2025 which amounted to 12% of our income. Our Treasurer has managed to identify an alternative bank to avoid these charges and she will be contacting the Parish Council for their bank details in order to make electronic rent payments.

Unfortunately the recent winter storms of 2025 resulted in the loss of the poly tunnel on plot 9 and the greenhouse on plot 8. This is obviously disappointing to those plot holders but please do not lose faith!

The Parish Council's provision of the additional water outlets has proved invaluable and certainly made watering during dry spells far less onerous. As is practice, we do turn the water off from November to early March to prevent any freezing.

The following officers were appointed at the Association's AGM on 9 March 2025:

Chairman – Bryn Hurren

Secretary – Karl Debenham

Treasurer – Lisa Brooks

Thanks were extended to Lisa Brooks

Mr P & Mrs C Hollingsworth (Footpaths Warden)

FOOTPATH 16 – Reported 26.09.24 – Finger post replaced November 2024 (entrance to The Thicks)

FOOTPATH 20 – Reported 05.02.25 – Finger post knocked over by hedge cutting contractor (Vicary Estate). Still outstanding, despite chasing.

We have continued to straighten way markers, clean signs and remove vegetation so the signs are visible and can be read.

Finally, our request that consideration be given to a short boardwalk being installed in the wet area of The Willow Tree Valley (we receive regular comments on the issue) was raised and discussed at the Council Meeting on 03.06.24. Councillors decided that they were not convinced that it would be a good use of funds and agreed to re-visit the issue in the autumn. This has not happened as no mention has been made in subsequent meeting notes, so presumably the issue has been consigned to history – a great pity as the walk is very popular.

Paul and Cynthia Hollingsworth, 25/03/25

Thanks were extended to the outgoing Footpath Wardens

The Annual Meeting was followed directly by the APC meeting

Matters of Interest Discussed included:

■ Planning applications:

[DC/25/00606](#) Land East Of Meadow Way Assington Suffolk Application for Outline Planning Permission (Access to be considered, all other matters reserved) Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) - For the Erection of 6no. Dwellings.

Chair mentioned that the applicant had contacted him in advance of the meeting, offering help if required.

Resolved to strongly object for three reasons: the timing for the development set out in the Neighbourhood Plan, the density of the proposed development, and the impact of access arrangements on the Public Right of Way.

■ Cost for emptying dog and litter bins has risen to £996.

■ Clerk to contact Chris Mortimer Contracts re surfacing the footpath along The Street with a view to him meeting Cllr Wiles to discuss options.

■ A request has been made to upgrade the gate on the Path into the Thicks to allow it to be wheelchair accessible.

■ Cllr Wallace offered her resignation after 10 years of service she notified that all her actions are up to date and thanked all her colleagues. The resignation was reluctantly accepted by the Chair and the Councillors all thanked her for her commitment to the parish and wished her well for her retirement.

■ In the near future Police speed patrols will be in the village twice a week to deter speeding motorists.

■ **Time date and place of next meeting** Monday 2nd June, to be held in Assington Village Hall at 7.30pm.

The meeting was closed at 9.29pm

BLAKENHAM WOODLAND GARDEN

Having read an article about the Blakenham Woodland Gardens in the 'Suffolk' magazine, and in view of the wonderful Spring sunshine, we decided to pay the gardens a visit on 13th April, when it was open in aid of the National Gardens Scheme.

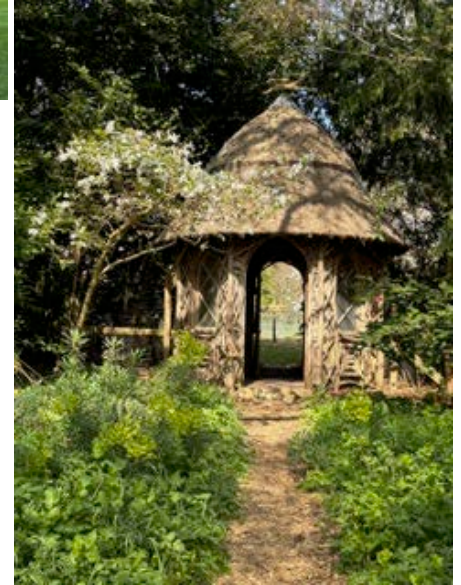
That particular date had been chosen in order to celebrate the wonderful display of magnolias (and camellias), in the setting of the vast woodland, studded with many other spring-flowering and deeply-scented shrubs, and woodland flowers, including a separate bluebell wood, which surprisingly was nicely in bloom.

Everything was organised beautifully, from the parking and the way-marking arrows pointing out the routes, to the neatly set-out plant stall and the wonderful barn where the delicious, and inexpensive refreshments were being served.

We had the benefit of arriving fairly early, and so were fortunate to be able to enjoy exploring the walks and many paths in comparative solitary splendour, at our own pace, and missing the later arrivals who tended to make progress rather slower.



There were many focal points of interest along the route, including the grassy spiral dip, and a central wooden shelter-house and a summer house which led to the path to the bluebell wood.



One aspect of the bluebell walk which I thought was particularly sensible was a small woven branch hurdle all along the sides of the path, to keep people within the bounds, rather than shambling all over the bluebells as they carelessly walk several abreast! Surely a template to be copied in our beautiful local ancient woodlands at bluebell time to prevent the creation of ever-widening bare paths?

As we continued to explore, past the tennis court and the swimming pool and pool house, we found a patch of fritillaries, and a dry garden area, before descending once again through delightful blossom to the front of Blakenham Hall.

There were also two beautiful Suffolk Punch horses, grazing in an enclosure near to the car park, which had been "walked along the road about a mile and a half" that morning, and which were a focus of great interest to all the visitors, young and old, as they passed by.



The Gardens are open in general

between March and the end of June, but the special open days to display snowdrops and magnolias/bluebells are definitely to be recommended.



The route began close to the house, and we picked our way carefully through a field absolutely full of wild cowslips; we agreed that "in the olden days" probably there were umpteen fields like this in every village right across the country. Now it is quite special to see such a spread, nodding in the sunshine. As we turned a corner we realised that what we had thought was the front of the house was actually the side, and we were now able to appreciate the front view of the house, which looked out over a lawned area, with a small rill, and a few well-placed urns.



This more formal area turned into the woodland, where we enjoyed seeing many beautiful blossoms: Camellia blooms looking like dahlias; tall magnolias, both white and pink and many different varieties.





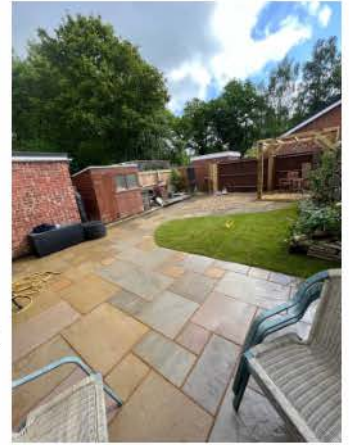
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PARISH CHURCH NEWS



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



Dear friends

In my younger days, I must confess I was a bit of a control-freak. Nowadays, of course, I have those impulses well under control! We must admit that what happens in our lives is not in our control. As much as we would like it to, no amount of planning or hard work can stop events overtaking us in ways we could never foresee. Perhaps this is why lots of us are prone to worry.

I think people deal with our inability to control our lives in various ways. The way I've found best is the one taught by Jesus and the Apostle Paul. Instead of worrying about events we can't command—what will happen tomorrow, or even in the next hour—we put ourselves in the hands of the one who is in control. We do that by praying, which is simply talking to God about the things we care about.

Perhaps you're not sure how. Well why not join my colleague, Simon White, as he live-streams Morning Prayer from 12 – 16 May. You will find him on the Suffolk Bishops' Facebook Page at 8:30am or at any time you want to watch it back later. <https://www.facebook.com/BishopsCofEsuffolk> or scan this QR code.



Thanks for reading. May you know inner peace

Daniel

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



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Grateful thanks



ASSINGTON CHURCH SERVICES in MAY

4th May @ 10.30am HOLY COMMUNION

(11th May Bures: HC@10.30am

11th May Little Cornard:

Flower Festival: Evening Prayer @16.30

18th May @ 10.30am MORNING WORSHIP

(25th May Bures : Morning worship @ 10.30am

25th May: Little Cornard HC @10.30am)

**THE CHURCH IS OPEN FOR VISITORS
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and at other times by arrangement with key holders.**



**Little Cornard
All Saints Church**

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10th & 11th May 2025

11am to 4pm

Evensong

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Of
The Assington Village Charity
Annual General Meeting
On Monday 19th May 2025
At 6.30PM
At
The Village Hall

All residents are welcome to attend
but must be above the age of 18

There will be a regular meeting directly
after the AGM

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any way.

David Wiles (CURRENT CHAIRMAN)

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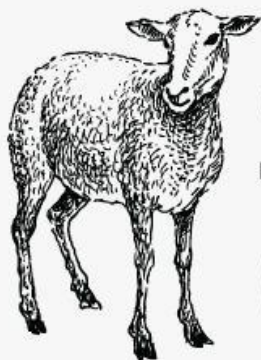
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