ASSIGNON

NEWS



OCTOBER 2026

CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS (useful numbers)

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

Allotments Secretary	Karl Debenham *The new Chair is Bryn Hurren*	07584 996211
Assington Baby and Toddler Group	Rev Tricia Box	07747 124592
Assington Books, Village Hall (see post office for times)		
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
Churchwarden	Bronwen Stacey	01787 210354
County Councillor (Philip.fairclot-mutton@suffolk.gov.uk)	Philip Faircloth-Mutton	
District Councillor (Assington)	Lee Parker	07970 196884
Doctors surgery – Sudbury	Hardwicke House	01787 370011
Doctors surgery – Bures	Bures	01787 227529
Floodline 24/7	SCC Flood Management	0345 606 6171
Footpath Warden	Jeff Stacey	01787 210354
Horticultural Society	Karen Wiles	
Member of Parliament (james.cartlidge.mp@parliament.uk)	James Cartlidge	020 7219 4875
Mobile Library - Vicary Estate Junction	Saturday 3rd October	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
andrewpeterhill@hotmail.com	Andrew Hill	01787 827112
	Mark Armitage	
	Kimberly Howard	
Parish Council - Clerk (clerk@assington-pc.gov.uk)	Christine Hargan	01449 674727
Pub – The Shoulder of Mutton	restaurant@shouldermutton.co.uk	01787 703309
Stoke by Nayland C of E Primary School (admin@sbn.suffolk.sch.uk)	Head: Mrs Kelly McGrath	01206 262418
Vicar (vicar@parishchuurch.co.uk)	The Revd Daniel Whiffin	07309 947039
Village Hall – Bookings	Karen Wiles	07983 002072
Village Hall - Caretaker		
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 Jeff Stacey, 01787 210354, assingtonassociation@icloud.com**
The Assington Association Bank Account details for payments and donations:
Account no: **01345159.** Sort Code: **30-98-31.** Please make cheques payable to **The Assington Association.**

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

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THINGS TO DO

ASSINGTON CHURCH HARVEST SUPPER

This year's Supper will be held at
the Village Hall on

Friday 16th October 2026

Doors open at 6.30pm for a 7:00pm start
Tickets:
Adults £8.50 Child (under 16) £4.00
(Please purchase tickets by Wednesday 14th October for catering purposes)

Everyone is welcome. A good opportunity to socialise with others from the village.

Tickets available from:

The Village Shop (cash only)
If you would like to pay by card, please contact Rev Simon White, 07572 418555

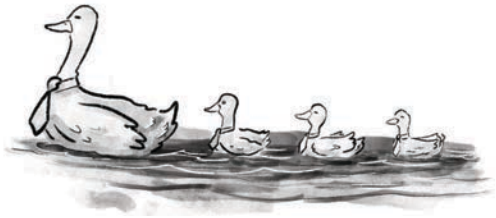
Assington Baby & Toddler Group

Mums, dads, grandparents, carers and childminders living in and around Assington. Bring your little ones to a friendly, accompanied babies and toddlers group in the lovely, airy Village Hall

8 & 22 October,
12 & 26 November, 10 December
2027
14 & 28 January, 11 & 25 February, 11 March
22 April, 13 & 27 May, 10 & 24 June, 8 July

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

Revd Tricia Box - **07747124592**



Craft Fair

Sunday 11th October
at Whatfield Village Hall
Rectory Road, SAT NAV IP7 6QU

10am - 4pm

HOT & COLD REFRESHMENTS SERVED ALL DAY

Lots of stalls selling a wide variety of crafts
Come along, bring your friends and family
Shop for Christmas, birthdays or just treat yourself

BUMPER RAFFLE - lots of great prizes!

All proceeds to - Success AfterStroke
Registered Charity No. 1211565

'Last Tuesday'

Coffee and Chat
in the Village Hall
The next meetings will be on
Tuesday 27th August at 10am.
See you there!

St Edmunds' Church, Assington

Scary Suffolk Stories

A gorgeous evening of gripping grown-up stories & fantastic tales
Told in St Edmunds by **CB Jackson, Storyteller**

Saturday 31st Oct 7.30pm
Church doors open 7pm

Tickets £10 includes a glass of wine
Not a show for under 10's!

Tickets from the Farm Shop; on the door: via John on 07944 416712 moorsfarm@gmail.com

Nayland with Wissington Community Council's

BONFIRE AND FIREWORKS

NOVEMBER 5TH

NAYLAND VILLAGE HALL
Limited parking in village - Please walk/share if you can
ONLY pre-booked blue badge parking at the Village Hall CO6 4JH
TICKETS IN ADVANCE via www.naylandfireworks.co.uk
Adults £8 - Children £3 - Family £18
Tickets on gate (strictly subject to availability): Adults £12 - Children £6
This is a CASH FREE event - all payments on the night by card
HOT DOGS SOFT DRINKS MULLED WINE
BEER * FISH & CHIPS * ICE CREAM * CHILDREN'S TREATS
New Feature: KID'S RIDES
available from 6pm
Display starts at 7pm
GUY & BONFIRE after Fireworks
www.naylandcommunitycouncil.org.uk

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VILLAGE NEWS

PARKING AT THE VILLAGE HALL

Polite notice to all residents
and users of the Village Hall.

Parking at the village hall is for patrons hiring the hall or field and members of the public using the playground and field. There is an increasing number of vehicles being parked at the hall and left overnight and for days sometimes weeks at a time. Customers hiring the hall are also paying to hire parking for their event and understandably expect to be able use all the spaces if needed. We also have walking groups that use the car park, they book spaces and pay a donation to the Village Charity.

Residents should not be parking in the hall car park on a regular basis; however, we do understand that occasionally residents will have family events or just need occasional extra parking. We are more than happy to help with this, but please check with our Lettings Secretary to ensure that we don't have a booking and that there are enough parking spaces.

Overnight parking is not normally permitted and there is signage to that effect. This is to prevent camping on the site. Sometimes residents may need to park a car at the hall overnight for a variety of reasons, please just ask first.
Our Letting Secretary Karen Wiles can be contacted on 07983 002072 or email karen.wiles@live.co.uk

Thank you.
Assington Village Charity

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DOG -WALKERS BEWARE!

On a recent dog-walk down Footpath 20 from Meadow Way down towards the brook an amount of glass was picked up by a villager. It is believed that this has been introduced when the track down to the Sewage Treatment Plant was undertaken recently. Although it appears that the glass is “washed/tumbled” and therefore not newly sharp broken glass, the Parish Clerk has been asked to liaise with the relevant organisation to request rectification of any dangerous materials.



****

POPPIES: THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

In November the R.B.L. will again be launching its Poppy Appeal. Are there any kind people who might be able to collect , for this very charitable cause? If you feel that you could help, please phone me, on 01787 211534, or 0789 987 3463.

Many thanks,
Louisa Symons
Centuries.

****

DOG-WASTE BINS

Over the past few moths it has been noticed that the dog-poo bins at the ends of tracks and parish footpaths have increasingly become over-full, and have even overflowed onto the actual footpaths. Obviously this is not only unattractive but also (particularly in hot sunny, fly-ridden weather) unhygienic.
The Parish Council is investigating the possibility of bins with a larger capacity in some sites. However, Babergh District Council advises that the village dog-waste bins are not intended for dog waste from residences and their garden-collected pet waste, which is to be disposed of in your general waste **(black**) bin.

****

NEW COMMUNITY OUTSIDE GYM

Hello All, I am please to announce that the Assington Community Outside Gym is finally installed and ready to use. It is located behind the children’s playground and is for anyone to use and was designed to be used by all ages.

A huge thank you to the following for the funding for the project.
Babergh and Mid Suffolk CIL funding
Assington Parish Council CIL fund contribution
The Assington Village Charity contribution
A special mention to Cllr Lee Parker and Mrs Julie Hammond (Community Infrastructure Lead) who were a great help with advice to make this great asset to our village happen.

The instruction for use are on each piece of machinery, please abide by them as The Assington Village Charity accepts no responsibility for injury on misuse causing injury.

Happy workouts with hopefully not too many aches and pains!!
Regards
David Wiles

Project Lead.









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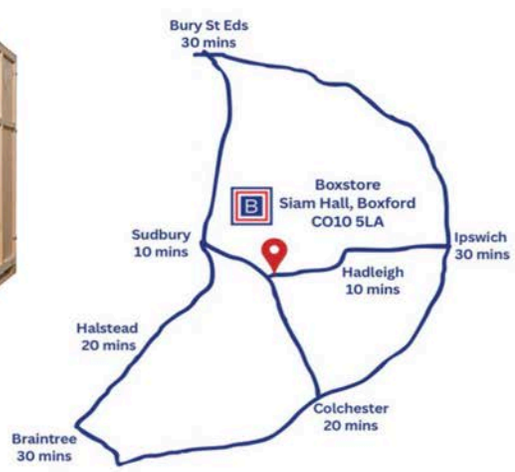

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RIDE & STRIDE 2026 REPORT

From Jeff Stacey

For this year's ride to raise money for the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust, I plotted a route to the north of Ipswich, starting at Needham Lakes, going east as far as Wickham Market then returning to Needham Market.



My first visit was to Coddenham St Mary's Church where I was intrigued by the memorial to "Captaine" Philip Bacon. Whilst some memorials go further than just the "here lies", this large wall plaque covered his life and particularly his death, in great detail. Whilst on his ship, engaged in a naval battle, a canon ball removed one of his thighs, both thighs of the Master and the head of a seaman.



Next stop was Ashbocking All Saints, a small brick built church on a quiet rural road. I was looking at the organ there because it seemed to be the same model as that at Assington. There were differences in the decoration and in the later electrification of the bellows. Here there was an external motor in a box which, through a bizarre arrangement of pulleys and levers, managed to pump the bellows up and down to give the instrument life.

My next destination was St Mary's Church Otley. The tower was tantalisingly visible from some distance, but strangely very difficult to get any closer towards. When I eventually arrived I was rewarded with another small but delightful church. It contained another interesting wall memorial, dedicated to John Gosnal.



Not such a fulsome history as Philip Bacon, but his family wished to ensure future generations knew his status. Whist he spent "his tender years in good studies at Oxford and London his riper years he spent at Court", going on to name-drop Queen Elizabeth, King James and King Charles. His links to the Wingfield family are also mentioned, a prominent family who founded Wingfield College and whose story I told when I visited their church on a previous ride.

Wickham Market All Saints Church was my next visit. I have passed through Wickham Market many times on the way to the coast, but it was not until I navigated my way to the church that I realised I had never seen the main part of the town. There was indeed a market place, with a busy market taking place. The impressive church spire could clearly be seen from the market place, but I was a little disappointed by the interior of the church; it seemed very broad for its length and a little stark and modern inside.

I moved on to Easton All Saints, where I picked up on two of my themes. The first was the church organ, it was on a raised platform at the back of the church and filled the whole end of the building. It was installed by a generous Victorian benefactor who paid for major repairs to the roof and for this organ to be moved from Clacton. Apparently the organ it replaced was even larger! I also caught up with the Wingfields who are still a prominent family in the area and Edward Wingfield was married in the church the previous week. Such is the historic connections with the establishment of America, around 40 of the guests travelled from the States. I did not ask if the family used their private seating areas which are still in place on either side of the altar.





Kettleburgh was my next stop, which had a notable font, the gift of Lady Alice Charles in memory of her husband Sir Thomas Charles 1419.



I then went to Monewdon, thinking it sounded an interesting place name, but left being none the wiser as to its origins, even after a bit of subsequent research. I did however learn the story of the bells of St Mary's. After substantial fund raising they were removed to be repaired and whist they were down the cradles for the bells were turned round. This was so that the force of the bells swinging were sent along the length of the church. Previously the weight of the swinging bells had been pushing the side walls of the tower outwards and there was fear it might collapse.



Crettingham St Peter retained its high box pews, apparently ideal for containing children at services. However, in order for the vicar to see his congregation the pulpit was a real climb.



I failed to find Framsden church, so I took a picture of the windmill instead, before moving on to Helmingham.

St Mary's church is closely linked to Helmingham Hall and although modest in size is packed with memorials to the Tollemache family. Looking at the effigies of Lionel Tollemache who died in 1640 and his namesake who died in 1727,





they appear to be a very laid back dynasty!



I rounded off my ride with a visit to St John the Baptist in Needham Market, which is renowned for its hammer beam roof decorated with angels. It is likened to looking down into the hull of a Spanish galleon and the subject of some debate as to how it stays up.



In total I cycled fifty seven and a half miles. I mention this to let my sponsors know I did earn their kind support. Over £300 will be split between the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust and Assington Church.

Report from the 49th Assington Village Horticultural Show





Wow ! Thank you to everyone that made the effort to put entries in.
There was a point when I genuinely feared the show might have to be cancelled, given the extremely poor growing conditions and the worrying shortage of entries. But in the end we received a total of 148 entries, which is quite remarkable given the challenging conditions.
The show made a profit of £143.37.

Award winners are as follows;

Summer cottage shield:
Most points vegetables — Bryn Hurren

Warner floral bowl:
Most points flowers — Bronwen Stacey

Heseltine cup:
Most points all home-grown — Bryn Hurren

Springfield Auto shield:
Most points Home baking — Karen Benson

W. I Shield:
Best exhibit home baking — Karen Benson

Hewitt junior cup:
Most points Children — Finley Lewis

Assington Mill cup:
Photography — Karen Wiles

The Gurdons cat cup:
Longest Runner Bean — No entries

Proctor cup:
Best Pot plant — Stephanie Gould

Beefy decanter:
Best effort made in show — Bryn Hurren

Amos and Winifred Digbetter Disaster prize:
Peter Waterman

Millenium tray (Assington charity):
Best exhibit in the whole show — Bronwen Stacey

John Smith cup for Best Allotment:
Not run this year

Heaviest tomato: — Roger Britcher







The top point scorers were:
Bryn Hurren with 47 points over 24 classes
Karen Benson with 29 points over 13 classes
Jenny Cutts with 24 points over 13 classes





Well done to the Children who entered, there were some fantastic entries. Watch this space for a new children's photography class next year.

Last but not least. A huge thankyou to the team that make it all possible; Sue and Geoff Taylor, Judy Bourner, Stephanie Gould, David Wiles, Bryn Hurren and Bronwen Stacey.
Also, Thanks to our fabulous judges.

Not forgetting the people that stayed behind to help clear up.
Next year ? Who knows what the weather will bring. It's the shows 50th year so let's keep our fingers crossed for another great day.
I can feel a trip to Beth Chato's coming on, I need to make some notes about their dry garden!
'Gardens are a changin'
Karen x









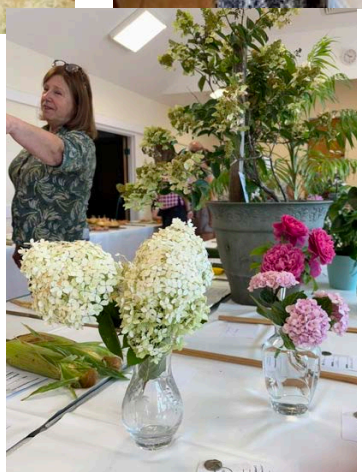




















More on the Fete: ARTISTIC ASSINGTON

From Bronwen Stacey

Everyone made a big effort to support the Village Horticultural Show this year: we were all aware that the heavy rainfall earlier in the year, followed by the continuous drought from mid-June onwards had a hugely detrimental effect on what we would be able to produce competitively.

We ravaged our gardens to find “something” which we could enter, there were new entrants, and also “new” locals who turned up to show their support; it was actually a really lovely village event.

Well done to all those who managed to struggle through the difficulties and entered the Vegetable Classes, and similarly the Fruit and the Flower classes: I don’t think I would be out of turn saying that they didn’t meet our usual high standards of entries, either in number or in quality, but our best efforts were very much appreciated by everyone, in the circumstances.

As I don’t pretend to be a domestic goddess, I never enter my pathetic culinary offerings in the Baking category, but this year in particular, there were a lot of cakes, and bakes of all shapes and sizes: this was something which could be entered which was not specifically affected by the sun or the lack of rain. Well done to everyone, it looked delicious.

I was also hugely impressed by the wonderful entries in the Art and Craft Section for the Mill Cup: the photographs and compilations were outstanding, and the paintings were just marvellous.

The 1st prize in the Painting Section: Southwold Pier, by Tricia Kemp



…….which brings me to another (related) matter. From the standard of entries it is obvious that there are lots of extremely gifted artists who live in the village. I persuaded Tricia to send me a photo of her prize-winning entry, and being very modest of her skills, she was quite reluctant to do so. However, I persevered, and she also sent me her most recent painting. This Month’s front cover was done at her art class the day before. Brilliant! and she is not the only one…….

Please don’t be modest, or shy of your achievements! I am sure everyone would love to be able to see them, and I would love to receive a pdf photograph of your art work (it must be portrait rather than landscape if it is to go on the front cover of a future edition), but if you have a special landscape painting, it can be featured inside the magazine. I would be thrilled to be able to share your art work with a wider audience here at home - do please send me a copy of at least one of your paintings/drawings/photographs etc.

BOXFORD & DISTRICT BOWLS CLUB

From Roz Mortlock

BOXFORD BLUES WIN THE STL MILLENNIUM CUP 2026

We have 2 teams in the Sudbury Triples League (STL) - our Green Team and our Blue Team. And this year our Boxford Blues have done us proud. After winning several knock-out competitions in the Millennium Cup, they played the finals on 12th September and were triumphant winners. They defeated Arclight Bowls Club - 48 points to 42 - in a nail biting game on Arclight’s home ground in Colchester. The Blues were down at the half way stage but fought hard and ended up winning by 6 shots. This is the Blues second Millennium Cup win in 3 seasons, and the fourth success overall for Boxford, when the Green’s won the Cup.



(L-R) Barry Richell, Gillian Barnes, Graham Skillen, Steve Marszal, Cynthia Hollingsworth (Top Row).

Gill Billington, Peter Norris (Captain), Mike Billington, Kevin Colling (Bottom Row)

Congratulations to the Blue Team who played on the day but also to the other members of this team who had played in the knock-out matches throughout the season. They were Bernadine Dwyer, Debbie Miller, Mary Dallas and Jerry Zoers.

CLUB TRIPLES LEAGUE WINNERS

Our Club Triples League winners this year are the Red Team. The Club has eight teams and every Monday we compete against each other for this prestigious trophy. Congratulations to Sue Warren, Pauline Mackness, Bernadine Dwyer, Andy Carr and George Bolton (Captain). Ian Clark, our Chairman, presented the trophy to them. We are nearing the end of the outdoor season and our Club Finals Day took place this Sunday 13th September. I will be putting photos of the winners of all our competitions in the next couple of editions of the newsletter.



And finally congratulations to a team of Boxford Bowlers who were invited to Braintree Bowling Club to play in a Charity match for the annual Timber Trades Benevolent Society. They had an excellent overall win against 8 different teams, 2 of which were also from Boxford. Well done to Graham Skillen, Pauline Mackness, Andy Ritchie and Steve Marszal.

St Edmunds' Church, Assington

Scary Suffolk Stories

A gorgeous evening of gripping grown-up stories & fantastic tales

Told in St Edmunds by **CB Jackson, Storyteller**

Saturday 31st Oct 7.30pm

Church doors open 7pm



Tickets £10 includes a glass of wine

Not a show for under 10's!

Tickets from the Farm Shop; on the door; via John on 07944 416712 moorsfarm@gmail.com

ASSINGTON CHURCH FETE ……in pictures

Once again we were so lucky that the sun shone down on us, and we had a wonderful afternoon!

There was a fine variety of stalls, stands, competitions and games to entertain and supply provisions for the larder; there were 'afternoon tea' refreshments inside and a BBQ outside; there were exciting activities to keep young ones entertained; there was a superb display of twenty beautiful vintage, classic, and interesting cars gleaming in the sunshine, to spark many an interesting conversation, (organised thanks to Simon Whitbread, the man with the contacts!) and there was the fantastic Gavioli organ once again, to provide an ongoing fairground soundtrack for the afternoon, but also keep the children transfixed by the inner workings of it.

Thank you so much to all the people who made this possible: those who turn up every year in the morning to help set up the site: those who organised and ran the stands and stalls; those who donated beautiful cakes and provisions for sale, and those who donated delicious cakes to Sally for the Refreshments - more of which below. It wouldn't happen without you all!

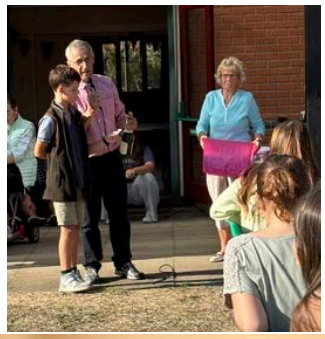
Also, huge thanks to the generous sponsors of the Raffle, which is always a popular feature.

Thanks to all those who attended, and made it such a success. £3,056.0 was raised for the Church Tower Project.

"Please put a message of thanks in the next magazine, to thank all the wonderful bakers for the fantastic cakes they made for the refreshment stall at the church fete. They were all so lovely and looked so nice. We are very grateful to you all."

Thank you! Sally



































WINE
TASTING
QUIZ





WINE
TASTING
QUIZ













ASSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Matters of Interest discussed during meetings held in Assington Village Hall on

Monday 27 July 2026

Clerk Christine Hargan 4 Northfield Road, Onehouse, Stowmarket IP14 3HF –
Telephone: 01449 674727
Email: clerk@assington-pc.gov.uk

■ **Present:** Councillors (Cllrs), Andrew Hill, Bronwen Stacey & David Wiles, Simon Thorogood, Kim Howard
In attendance: Christine Hargan (Clerk) DCllr Lee Parker CCllr Philip Faircloth-Mutton and three members of the community.
Apologies for absence: Cllr Mark Armitage.

Thanks to Andrew for taking the meeting last month

■ **Declaration of Interests** and **requests for dispensation:** None

■ **Agree minutes of Assington Parish Council meetings on 11th May and 22nd June**

The minutes were agreed to be accurate and were signed by the Chair.

■ **County and District Councillor Reports and Public Forum**

District Cllr Report Lee Parker

- Fire risk to meadowland: Babergh District Council (BDC) has brought forward the cutting season, to avoid fires, in areas that are residential, as advised by Bio-Diversity officers.
- Full Council agreed to expand the East Bergholt conservation area. Resulting in the addition of Willy Lotts Cottage to the conservation area.
- £400k CIL money has been awarded to refurbish of Bell Vue Park in Sudbury, it will pay for an update to existing facilities, play equipment, toilets and general maintenance
- Parishioners have been invited to participate in a scoping consultation, views have been requested on how the district may be shaped in years to come there are12 questions which can be completed online, prior to 31 July. Cllr Stacey agreed to circulate Nick Miller's response to the survey to enable an informed response to be made.
- On a local level, permission has been grated for the gym equipment. Thanks were extended to those involved.

CCllr Report Philip Faircloth-Mutton

- Reorganisation: Suffolk's Reform council have been joined by other Reform Councils in taking the new Government Administration to Judicial review because they departed from their own procedure. A decision will be heard in September. The issue relating to three Unitaries is that it will be more expensive than leaving districts as they are. A decision will go to the Secretary of State.
- Elections for shadow authorities will take place next year
- The Care Commission has been rated as outstanding, particularly 45% of SCC budget.
- Only other update is the Highways request, engineer will be looking at speed matters, brought to attention
- Mayoral elections were postponed by the previous Administration until 2028, the new prime minister may bring them forward to 2027, whether one or two ballot papers await to be seen

Questions

Q What was the objective of the Judicial review?
A Cost, Unitaries will be more expensive than the current system. Helpfully for Suffolk County Council (SCC) the process appears to have been broken and therefore is open to challenge. The Review will ensure that Government abide by its own guidelines. CCllr Faircloth-Mutton felt that whilst two Unitaries would work, one Unitary System would be best to streamline contracts and avoid breaking up adult care. A decision will be made by the Secretary of State in September.
Q Does the CC want a mayor?
A SCC is in bed with Norfolk County Council. There could be a Mayor from Norfolk who only looks at Norfolk it is highly unlikely that there will be a Suffolk Mayor.
Q Is their idea a good one?
A Yes, when it comes for money if the Council wants large infrastructure currently they have to approach central government for funding. The process is difficult as you have to bid. Norfolk got funding, but Suffolk did not, on similar projects. The Mayoral Budget will detail how much money is available.
Q Who oversees the National Grid project?
A New environmental and Community Fund. Interesting to see who was responsible. Evaluating who does what – productivity, managing land through the session. No one is challenging Balfour Beatty.

■ **Planning:**

There are no planning applications to consider

Planning issues

- There have been concerns raised over a new roadway that is being constructed at Assington Autos. There appears to be no authorised planning consent for the roadway or to join this to the public highway, Cllr Faircloth-Mutton said that a modification to an existing application may have been made and therefore a determination has happened. There would still have to be a certificate for use, required and possibly an archaeology survey completed.
- Another Enforcement case with the land adjacent to Three Ways, where a cabin and 3 outbuildings have been erected on a field. Clerk to implement Enforcement procedure once What3Words location is provided.
- The new villages Outdoor Gym equipment should be installed within 8 weeks.
- Concern was voiced about a large solar installation in a village in Northamptonshire, Whilst residents objected, planning consent was granted. Ultimately, if a local planning decision is challenged it will to the Secretary of State on appeal. If sec of state says ok it will be built. Cllr Parker will look in on the determination.

■ **Finance**

- RFO report Review reconciliation of accounts: Accepted
- Statement of accounts vs budget: Accepted
- Authorised payments made/to be made.
- The bill for emptying dog and litter bins continues to rise and the cost of emptying the bins is a cost per bin, increasing the size of the bins and reducing the number of them would reduce the annual charge. Clerk to price up capacity and cost of larger dog bins and circulate, so that an evaluation can be made.

■ **Licenced Footpaths and APC Assets**

- Welcome to Jeff Stacey who is tackling outstanding problems, many of which have been resolved since circulating his report, Footpath 20 to A134, has now been cut. Queries have been received re grass cutting and hedge cutting for the village in areas that are not Public Footpaths. There is a broken handrail re footpath 20 Clerk to report and liaise with Jeff to advise of the process.
- Works to Footpath 20 final section which is suffering from water retention, Jeff is in contact with owner who is not averse to improving the walkway or ditches, but the owner will need access across the path for his equipment. A French drain appears to be the most logical solution and ground would be reinstated above it.
- Cllr Stacey had received a message from the contractor re providing an additional cut, it was not considered to

be necessary, but cutting the hedges is. Cllr Stacey to request that the hedge from the Thicks to Centuries is cut at the same time as wildlife area.

- Clerk to request an additional bench from Bryn Hurren for the conservation area with the Fitted price as close to £500 as possible.

Neighbourood Plan (NP) update

- The Government demands that a constant supply of deliverable housing must be maintained at 5 years BDC's land supply has reduced to 4.89 years which will tilt the balance in favour of new developments. Whilst the NP grants some protection, parishes need to designate additional land for additional housing. Parishes do not want developers dictating to BDC where future developments will be.
- **Questions**

Q Are lack of applications the problem ie that the NPs have been so successful in communities that the applications are lacking?

A 5 year supply is dependent on the applications coming in if it is viewed as a hopper insufficient applications coming in, v the ones that are being completed on the bottom. Two or three years ago BDC were expected to deliver 770 homes across the district. Regardless of the number of applications coming through those applications are still being sifted. A process is progressing re what is and is not acceptable. The final number should known before winter.

Q Will the Local Plan still be in effect?

A All district plans are being adopted throughout Suffolk. Whilst districts are being split to fit the 3 new Unitaries under the LGR Parish boundaries are not being split, they are being cut out like a jigsaw puzzle.

The review of the NP will proceed with original projected 85 new properties being required in the parish over the next 40 years. Cllr Parker advised that an update of the numbers is encouraged. Currently it is unknown how many additional properties, or where they are required due to Policy shift. Councillors were advised to prepare for the full 85.

Annual update of Policies

Resolved to adopt the Accessibility Statement and also the IT Policy as advised by the internal Auditor; the other Policies Standing Orders and Financial Regulations did not require any amendments. Clerk to publish the revised Policies on the website.

Assington Village Charity

Following the requirement for Planning Permission the Charity approached Fisher Jones Greenwood, who were in receipt of archived documents pertaining to the Playing Field. The solicitor established that whilst the land was gifted to the village hall, the only record was a scrap of paper and therefore legally the land is still owned by the Parish Council. Following discussion it was **Resolved** to gain a price for conveyancing work to transfer the portion of land for the playing field to the Village Hall and to register it with the Land Registry. Clerk to gain advice as to whether there is a shortcut.

Conservation Area Clerk was asked to contact BDC regarding the possibility of creating a pond in the Conservation area.

Resolved to change the use in principle,

Questions to the Chair – follow up on two bungalows under construction in the centre of the village concerns were raised over the visual impact of the site. The owner was to be contacted by the Chair to see what can be done?

The meeting was closed at 8.56pm

The next scheduled **meeting** will be held on Monday 28th September 2026 at 7.00pm.

ASSINGTON RAINFALL AND TEMPERATURES

Bob Cowlin (temperatures)

and Bill Milner (rainfall)

HISTORY annual rainfall :

2016	*599.5*	***2021***	*582.3*
2017	*571*	**2022**	419
2018	*559*	***2023***	*662*
2019	*597*	***2024***	*620*
2020	*636*	***2025***	***382***

2025 ***was the driest year since*** *Bill* ***began keeping*** *records* ***in 1977***

****

2022	**mm**	**max⁰C**	**min⁰C**
JUNE	33.5	30	2
JULY	5	36.5	6
AUG	11.5	32	7
SEPT	25	25	1
OCT	63	18	0
NOV	107.5	14	-2
DEC	45	10	-9.5

****

2023	**mm**	**max⁰C**	**min⁰C**
JAN	41	10	-7
FEB	3	14	-7
MAR	78	15	-6.5
APRIL	65	8	-2
MAY	19	22	1
JUNE	15.5	30.5	6
JULY	72.5	28	8
AUG	65	29	4
SEP	41.5	30.5	5
OCT	137	23	-2
NOV	61.5	11	-7
DEC	63	11	-3

****

2024	**mm**	**max⁰C**	**min⁰C**
JAN	47	9	-7
FEB	95	9	-1
MAR	38	18	-4
APR	49	18.5	-3
MAY	83.5	25	3
JUNE	17.5	28	2
JULY	84.5	30	4
AUG	17.01	30.5	5
SEP	66	26.5	-0.5
OCT	53.5	19	-2
NOV	41	14	-4
DEC	28	10.5	-2.5

****

2025	**mm**	**max⁰C**	**min⁰C**
JAN	39	9	-9
FEB	32	13	-6
MAR	5	18	-7
APR	25	26	-2.5
MAY	14	27	-0.5
JUN	36.5	31	6
JULY	44	33	5
AUG	11.5	30	6
SEP	26.5	24	0
OCT	38.5	19	0
NOV	82.5	14	-2
DEC	27.5	10	-4

****

2026	**mm**	**max⁰C**	**min⁰C**
JAN	90	7	-9
FEB	76	14	-3
MAR	19	15	-3
APR	7.5	22	-2
MAY	12	31	-2
JUN	39	35	8
JUL	0	30.5	8
AUG	45.5	32	5

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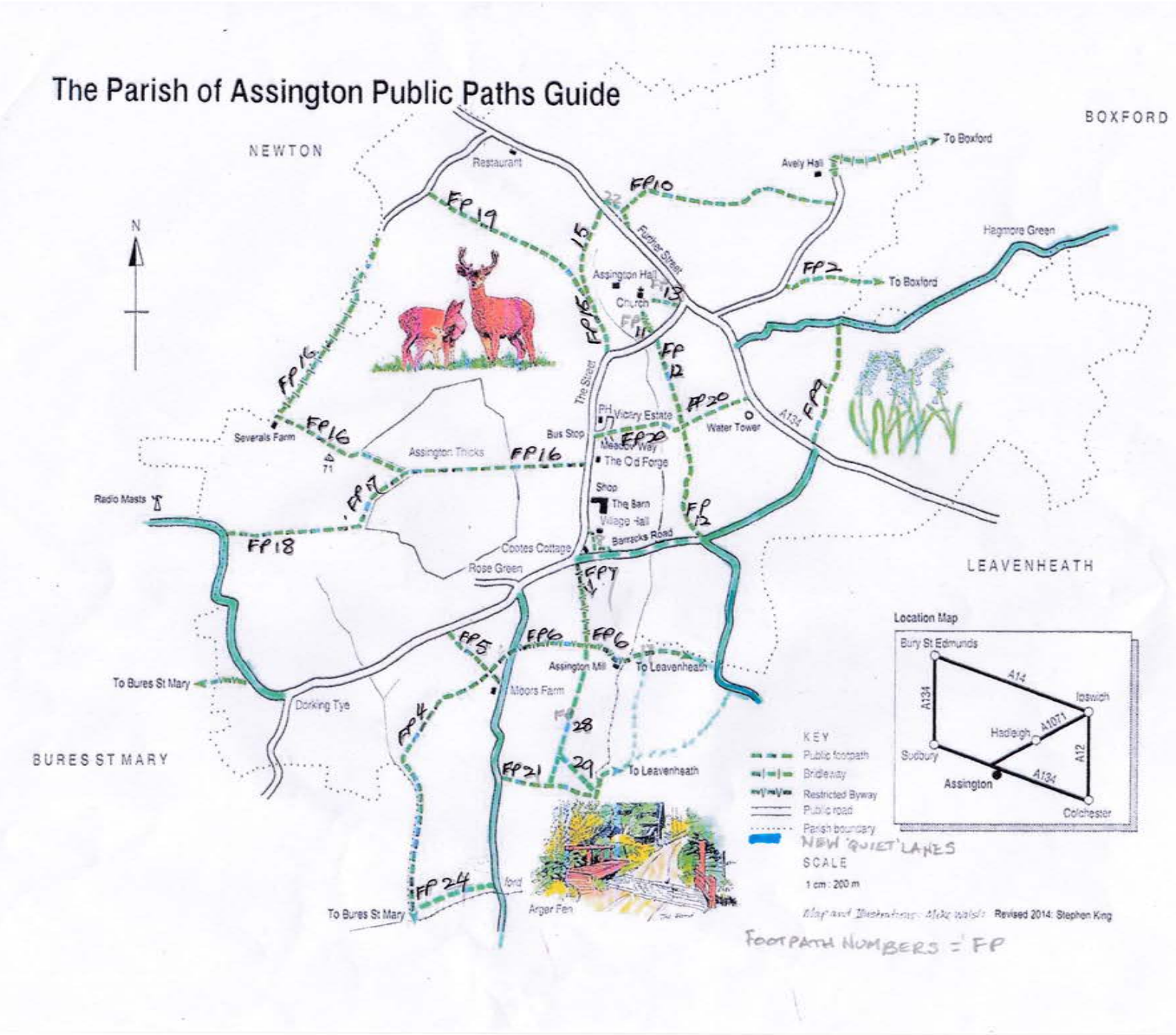
ASSINGTON'S FOOTPATHS



If you have a dog to take for walks, or merely enjoy rambling in our beautiful local countryside, you will probably be very familiar with the various footpaths in our parish.

On the map above, you will see the handwritten numbers along the stretch of the marked footpaths.These are the formalised Suffolk County Council ways, and in past times, they were also cut by SCC. Over the years, the way this was managed changed, and although SCC has an overall responsibility for ensuring they are not enclosed etc, the Parish Council was awarded a small grant to pay for someone to cut the main paths. Nowadays that grant is laughable, in terms of paying to cut the paths, and of course the Parish Council funds the work deemed necessary.

Footpaths **20, 18 and 12** nearer to the village, and therefore more heavily used, are the ones now kept in order by a contractor, and paid for by the Parish Council.

Of course, it depends on the weather each year: if we get a very wet year and the grass grows madly, we may need three cuts on some paths; in very dry years, we hope to only have two cuts.

In a voluntary capacity Jeff Stacey is currently our Parish Footpath Warden, and his role is to walk the paths and spot (and report) any issues, such as fallen signposts or broken handrails etc, or indeed if the cut has not been done and is required.
He is not responsible in any way for the footways along the village street.

Our Parish Clerk, Christine Hargan , under instruction from the Parish Council body, liaises with SCC or a contractor to arrange for work to be undertaken.

If any local residents should wish to report a problem please speak to Jeff or call the Parish Clerk: **Telephone: 01449 674727 Email: clerk@assington-pc.gov.uk**

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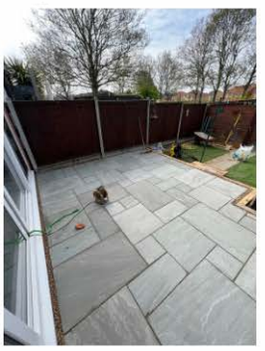



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PARISH CHURCH NEWS

Saint Edmund King & Martyr Assington

https://www.assingtonchurch.org.uk

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



Dear friends,

Recently, my child and I found ourselves unexpectedly entertained by the potato harvest in a field we often pass. (That's probably not a sentence I ever imagined writing!) :
A conveyor belt whisked potatoes from the ground into a huge trailer parked on the road. Most made the journey perfectly. But every so often one would attempt an ambitious escape, launch itself at entirely the wrong angle, and land with an undignified thud onto the road. The trailer rolled on without it.

Watching this reminded me that the Bible often speaks about a different kind of harvest—not of potatoes, but of people. It looks forward to the day when God gathers his people into his wonderful new creation, where sadness, pain and death are gone for good.

We hear a lot these days about *FOMO*—the fear of missing out. Usually, it's about missing a bargain or arriving late to the village fête because you misread the time (I did that once!). Disappointing, perhaps. But missing out on eternal life with God in his paradise? That would be in a completely different league.

So how can we be sure we're included? Jesus gives a wonderfully simple answer: *"The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent."* (John 6:29). His invitation is open to everyone. As we celebrate Harvest Festival, let's give thanks not only for food on our tables, but also for the greatest invitation any of us will ever receive.

Daniel

ASSINGTON CHURCH HARVEST SUPPER

This year's Supper will be held at the Village Hall on

Friday 16th October 2026

Doors open at 6.30pm for a 7:00pm start

Tickets:

Adults £8.50 Child (under 16) £4.00

(Please purchase tickets by Wednesday 14th October for catering purposes)

Everyone is welcome. A good opportunity to socialise with others from the village.

Tickets available from:

The Village Shop (cash only)

If you would like to pay by card, please contact Rev Simon White, 07572 418555



ASSINGTON CHURCH SERVICES in OCTOBER

4th October @ 10.30am HOLY COMMUNION

11th October: Bures@10.30am Holy Communion
11th October: Little Cornard @10.30am Morning Worship

18th October @10.30am HARVEST SERVICE

25th October: Bures @ 10.30am Morning Worship
25th October: Little Cornard @10.30am Holy Communion

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Reader emeritus:
Dr John Symons 211534
Churchwarden:Bronwen Stacey 210354
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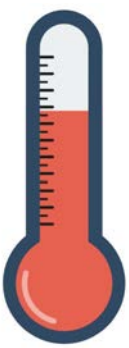
Peter Dakin
Secretary:Emily Cartlidge 07967 724266

Update on the Tower Project

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



Assington Church TOWER PROJECT

QRCode
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NATURE WATCH:
SAND DIGGER WASPS

From Isaac Sterling

With this summer's relentless heat, Assington's soils have been as dry as ever. However, I was very interested to see an insect species usually associated with sandier soils like dunes and heaths on the north end of The Street this August.

Whilst walking towards The Old Rectory, an aptly named red-banded sand wasp (*Ammophila sabulosa*) buzzed over my head onto the verge and began to dart around the parched vegetation.

It's a striking black insect with a bright reddish-orange band around its long, thin body, and has a fascinating but rather gruesome life history.

It's a parasitoid wasp: adults collect butterfly and moth caterpillars, sting them with a paralysing venom, and then fly the incapacitated prey to deep pre-dug nest holes dug in the sand, where the wasp's eggs are laid - to eventually hatch and feed on a live larder.
Amazingly, they will seal their burrows with bits and pieces found locally at the entrances - things like shells, sticks and even small pebbles - which they pack in place using their wings to vibrate their body like miniature plate compactors.

Thanks to their striking appearance and association with habitats explored whilst on holiday, they are some of my favourite animal species to find (incidentally, along with yellowhammers - bright yellow birds which I often see and hear down the other end of the village near the Mill!).

I've never seen sand digger wasps in the village until this summer. Whether it's because I've not been looking hard enough or because it's never been this dry before, I'm not sure. But they seem to be here now, so keep your eyes peeled for their characteristic banded bodies and frantic caterpillar-searching movements. And don't worry - they can't sting us!



THE YELLOWHAMMER

The yellowhammer is a sparrow-sized, bright yellow bird of woodland edges, hedgerows, heath and farmland and in cold winers, towns and gardens, that feeds on seeds and invertebrates. In the winter, it will join mixed flocks of buntings, finches and sparrows to feed on seeds on farmland. Yellowhammers are often seen perched on top of bushes singing their 'a little bit of bread and no cheese' song.

The male yellowhammer is a striking bird: he has a bright yellow head and belly, with an orangey chest and streaky brown back. Female buntings, including female yellowhammers and reed buntings, can be very difficult to tell apart.
The female builds a cup-shaped nest from grass and moss, laying between two and six eggs.

In conservation terms the Yellowhammer is on the red list. As the Yellowhammer is a bird of farmland it is one of the 19 species that make up the ***UK Farmland Bird Indicator,*** an annual health check of our farmlands birds. As a group they are beleaguered and the Red-listed Yellowhammer is no exception, with a long-term decline in UK breeding numbers.



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21ST OCT WEDNESDAY 7.30PM	**MONTHLY PUB QUIZ** FOOD SERVED 6PM-8.30PM BOOK YOUR TEAM NOW
31ST OCT SATURDAY 7PM	**HALLOWEEN PARTY** DRESS UP AND GET SPOOKY STEVE FORWARD - 7PM
25TH NOV WEDNESDAY 7.30PM	**MONTHLY PUB QUIZ** FOOD SERVED 6PM-8.30PM BOOK YOUR TEAM NOW
16TH DEC WEDNESDAY 7.30PM	**MONTHLY PUB QUIZ** FOOD SERVED 6PM-8.30PM BOOK YOUR TEAM NOW
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