



The Metcalfe Arms

Nigel and Ann Pink had already expressed an interest in taking over the pub some time before Wendy and Ian left; then the owners, London and Edinburgh Inns went into receivership....

It seems that everything is at a halt right now, as it is all in the hands of lawyers, both concerning the lease and the licence. In the meantime, Nigel and Ann have the keys and are coming over regularly to do minor jobs and keep things 'ticking over'. There is, apparently, work that needs to be done on the property: they hope that, if things are sorted out in time, they may be able to open over Christmas, but then they will close for a week or two in order to put repairs into effect.

You will be relieved to hear that the Borough Council's policy remains AGAINST permitting any change of use from a public house to other use, especially regarding situations of 'the last or only pub in a village' (not sure how that affects the Red House in Stanningfield, which is understood to be under threat?)

Editor: Andy Parrett



Hawstead Journal

For the Village by the Village

November 2006

Parish Councilling by Katie Fairbairn

In May 2007 I will be resigning from the Parish Council. My feelings at that time will be very mixed as I have generally enjoyed the experience; but as I am spending less time in the village now I feel that it is only fair to let someone who is around more frequently take on the role. It may be that a summary of my time in office could help to encourage others to put their names forward for election, so here follows some of my ramblings.

I first decided to try to get on the council when my son's football team was looking for a pitch to play on and I approached the council to see whether the Lawshall under 9 team could use Hawstead Green. This was refused on the basis that they might destroy the surface for the Hawstead senior team which was then using the pitch. An appeal which included the remark that a junior team in the village would provide local activity for village youngsters resulted in the comment that if the under 9s were prepared to alter their allegiance and play as 'Hawstead' under 9s the situation may be reconsidered. Great Whelnetham made no such demands; Hawstead boys lost out, and I put myself forward for election to influence future decisions.

I had very little understanding about how a Parish Council worked or how much authority it had but once elected I went on the training course and was initially horrified by the responsibilities which I had taken on. I did not understand what a 'precept' was, felt incompetent to comment on the maintenance of Hawstead Greens, was fearful of making decisions about my neighbours' planning applications and hadn't a clue (and actually still haven't) about the differing responsibilities of the Borough and County Councils. I also realised too late that I generally do not enjoy meetings. What had I let myself in for this time?

Parish Councillling Contd....

Fortunately the rest of the committee seemed to have far more understanding than I and were quick to let me know that all decisions were democratic and that my ignorance could not adversely affect local needs. I realised that all our discussions related to the area and community in which my family and I lived and that the meetings were therefore not boring 'talking shops' but were relevant to our lives. It was easy to express my point of view, listen to fellow councillors talk from their perspective and then come to a collective decision. It is completely non party political and all councillors are genuinely interested in Hawstead. Throughout my time on the council we have had a very diverse group of councillors representing the range of ideas in the village. This can lead to extended discussions before decisions are taken but surely that is what the electors expect and deserve. We frequently have our Borough councillor present who we can ask to support us in some of our needs and the local police are generally represented to update us on local issues. Our authority is limited in many areas but we can try to make decisions for the benefit of local people.

Hawstead has been one of the few Parish Councils which has not been dominated by retired councillors - in fact for several years we did not have a single retired person on the committee - and I feel it is important that there continues to be a range of ages and personalities on the council in order to genuinely reflect the diverse lives of Hawsteadians. Anyone interested can attend a meeting to see us in full flow as these are open to the public (although parishioners cannot join in discussions unless invited to talk). We meet in the Church vestry on the first Thursday in alternate months and our next meeting is in January.*

There will be a village election in May as long as there are more candidates than places on the committee. Please contact any councillor or our Parish Clerk (Joan Cook) if you would like more details. If you have ever grumbled at decisions the council has made or are interested in the future shape of your community please put yourself forward for election. I have not regretted any of my time on the council and have learnt a considerable amount about the village, its history and its inhabitants. I have also met many interesting people and been proud to be a representative of such an interesting and beautiful village. Thank you all for giving me that opportunity. Now it's your turn!

* we expect an account of November's Parish Council meeting to appear in the next issue [Ed.]

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Fortunately we do not have any crimes to report this month.

PC Sarah King who had been our bobby on the beat for 3½ years, has retired having completed 30 years service. Although we have not been notified as yet of her replacement you can contact the rural police on 01284 774100. If it is urgent of course dial 999.

Our local constabulary are looking to recruit Police Community Support Officers. PCSO's provide high visibility support for the police, giving public reassurance, responding to incidents, gathering information and intelligence, helping to reduce anti-social behaviour and crime in general. The basic salary for a PCSO starts from £16,000 and rises to almost £18,000 per annum plus shift and weekend working allowances for a 37-hour week.

If you are interested call 01473 613640 for an application form.



SHARED OWNERSHIP HOUSING DAY

Wednesday 13 December 2006

Athenaeum, Angel Hill,
Bury St Edmunds

Visit anytime between 10am—3pm

Want to buy your own property but too expensive?

Shared Ownership could be the answer!



What is Shared Ownership?
What properties are available?
What will it cost? How do I apply?



YOU AND YOUR BINS

St Edmundsbury Council is very proud of its dustbin system. The last customer satisfaction survey showed that 84% of residents are satisfied with the three-bin alternate weekly collection system. We are also very well behaved in our use of the bins: in 6 months up to September 2006 only 0.24% were rejected as being contaminated. Blue bins are usually rejected because they contain bagged waste. Other items that should not be put in the blue bin include shredded paper (small amounts can go in the brown bin), polystyrene or plastic bags (but it is not clear if they mean all plastic bags or just those of carrier bag size).

There has been some concern in the national press recently about microchips being installed in council bins (Big Brother strikes again). Apparently all the St Edmundsbury blue bins have got them! (also some - newer - brown and black ones). They work with an on-board weighing machine on the collection lorries. The Borough Council decided to have the chips fitted because "it would help target areas where there were lower recycling participation rates as it would help us to target our information and encouragement". It is not to do with introducing a charging system: this would require central government legislation (which is, of course, not impossible...)

Please note:

- Bulky collections are charged at £15 for up to 3 items and then £3 for each additional item

If you'd like to report fly-tipping, abandoned cars or a litter hot-spot, please

Correction/Update of the item in last month's Journal regarding a possible parcel 'scam'. (message from Suffolk Police)

ICSTIS is the regulating body for premium rate telephone services and having contacted them this week I can now advise you that this particular scam was closed earlier in the year and at this time has not re-appeared. In addition it is a myth that anyone can be charged £15 for a telephone connection, the maximum rate for any such call is £1.50 per minute.

Whilst this is re-assuring it is appropriate to remember that there are criminals using various scams to obtain money from unsuspecting members of the public. Most of us will never be approached by such people but it pays to be alert. If in doubt make contact with the organisation using a number you can trust, such as one you already know or can obtain from the telephone directory.

All Saints Church – Hawstead

SERVICES

NOVEMBER

Sunday 26th 11.00am Family Eucharist

DECEMBER

Sunday 10th 8.30am Said Eucharist (BCP)

Sunday 17th 6pm CAROLS & READINGS with Nowton

CHRISTMAS DAY 11.00am CHRISTMAS FAMILY EUCHARIST

Evening Prayer. An opportunity for silent/ contemplative prayer, and to pray for the parish and benefice is held every

Wednesday in the church at 5 – 5.30pm.

All are welcome.

The church is open every day from 9am to 5pm

For all other Services in the Benefice please see Church Notice board

CAROLS AND READINGS

with choir

SUNDAY 17th December

6pm

Afterwards join us for mulled wine and mince pies

CHRISTMAS EVENTS IN HAWSTEAD

A MINI CHRISTMAS FARE IN THE CHURCH

9TH DECEMBER 11AM.

There will be seasonal wreaths and table decorations for sale and lots of nice things to eat including Quincemeat Pies!! (See page 6)

VILLAGE CHRISTMAS LUNCH

21ST DECEMBER

Please let us know if you plan to be there, as we will have to order the bird from Barwells soon. PLEASE RING Sonja Monk on 386876

PANTOMIME

29TH DECEMBER 6.45PM

In the Big Top! If you would like tickets for that performance PLEASE RING Sylvia Miller on 388841.

BINGO

Bingo will commence again in Spinney Cottage in early January

We wish you a merry Christmas and a happy new year again!!

Hawstead Community Council

CHRISTMAS CRAFTS WORKSHOP

Nowton Park, 2 December, 2-4pm

8-12 year olds.

Make decorations and Christmas crafts to take home.

Gardener's Cottage, Nowton Nursery. £4 per child.

01284 757063

MY TOP TEN BY GRAHAM SHORTER

I wanna hold your hand: The Beatles

The first single I bought

Gently Does It: The Gentlemen of St John's

Stephen and mates crooning

Dominique: The Singing Nun

Nobody can quite believe I like this!

24 Hours from Tulsa: Gene Pitney

I thought Gene was a woman, Jean!

Brahms Requiem

Sang this at the Bury Festival, an absolute highlight.

Durufle Requiem Performed with the boys when young in Cathedral Choir. Stephen knew it so well he never opened his copy!

Valliant for Truth: Vaughan Williams

I shall have this at my funeral.

The Lark Ascending: Vaughan Williams

- imagine yourself alone on a moor with the wind and the lark.

The Gasman Cometh: Flanders and Swan

Happy singing around the piano

A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square: Mauchwitz and Sherwin

Rob sang at a harvest festival last month, true romance!

An Inconvenient Truth contd...

That means no more cheap flights, drastically reduced car use, better insulated buildings, no more deforestation, and increased use of renewable energy systems. It means a host of small things like turning off the lights, turning the heating down, planting trees, cycling to work or working nearer to home, buying less 'stuff' and buying it locally.

The governments of the world, national and local, have to take action now, (Oh look there's a Gloucester Old Spot sow just fluttering down onto on my bird table).

We all have to be prepared to live a lot more frugally, to consume less, and most of us would rather die than do that ... but hey, why worry, we can maintain our current greedy and wasteful lifestyle, and leave the dying to our children and grandchildren. As for the great grandkids, they will probably never be born!

Andy Evershed

NEWSLETTER OF THE YEAR 2006 (Suffolk Association of Local Councils)

Having been alerted earlier in the year to the existence of this competition, your editor duly entered in the 'Villages up to 1500 residents' category, sending the required two copies of the Hawstead Journal(a recent and an older issue) before the closing date of 31/8/06.

As I heard nothing, and there was nothing reported on their website,I had come to the point of assuming that there hadn't been enough entries. I decided to give SALC a call to find out: no, the competition went ahead, they've just been slow in dealing with it!

I don't know who won (I had, of course, assumed it would be Hawstead!): full results are still to be published, but we gained 56 points out of a possible 80. This is made up of 17 for presentation, 14 for content, 14 for information and 11 for youth appeal (all out of 20).

Incidentally, there had been no indication that these were the categories they would be marking.

Andy Parrett

BURY CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Friday and Saturday 1st and 2nd December 10am - 7pm and

Sunday 3rd December 10am - 5pm

There will be something for everyone - loads of great things to eat, food to take home and craft and Christmas gift stalls on Angel Hill and filling the Athenaeum and the Corn Exchange, including over 40 stalls bringing the sights, tastes and smells of France.

As well as all of this, there will be fairground attractions and on-stage performers.

The Fayre will be opened by the Mayor(ess?) of St Edmundsbury at noon on Friday 1st from the balcony of the Athenaeum

OLDE TYME MUSIC HALL

Christmas Concert with The Berkeley Squares.

Kentwell Hall Long Melford

14 December 2006

8.15pm

Charges: From £15 Phone: 01787 310207

THE VILLAGE HALL

Things are progressing well with the hall. If there is ever anything that you wish to discuss concerning the hall any member of the project group would be delighted to help.

Richard Milns Project Manager, John West Treasurer, Dave Dawson General Construction, Alan Brown Legal Matters.

May we apologise for missing Dave and Alan from the HCC listed in last month's journal.

The Village Hall Project Group

Quince Charming

QUINCES like their orchards cousins apples and pears, originated in the land between the Black and Caspian seas. It was a favourite fruit of the Moors who planted quinces in their courtyards for the fragrant beauty of their pale pink blossom and even more exquisite scent of the gleaming golden fruit.

The quince has inspired poets, gardeners and cooks for centuries.

The quince prompted these poetically erotic lines from the 10th century caliph of Cordoba: *"It has the perfume of a loved woman and the same hardness of heart...It had a cloak of ash coloured down hovering over its smooth golden body when it lay naked in my hand, with nothing more than its daffodil-coloured shift, it made me think of her I cannot mention....."*

One could write about the quince forever, however....

QUINCEMEAT

1kg quinces, 2tbsls unsalted butter, melted

250g each of sultanas, raisins, dried apricots. (all chopped).

250g vegetable suet

1 tsp each of ground cardamom, ground cloves and ground cinnamon

1/2 tsp ground mace

100g real crystallized peel, chopped

100ml of brandy or pear liquor

shallow roasting tray, 4x500g jars

Method -

Pre heat the oven to 150C

Peel and quarter the quinces and cut into wedges, toss them in the melted butter and put them on the tray and into the oven to roast gently, for 40 mins or so until tender.

Remove and leave to cool, then chop the fruit and put into a large bowl with the juices. When completely cold, stir in all the remaining ingredients and put into the clean jars.

Quinces have a short season i.e. Nov/Dec. I acquired some grown here in Hawstead!!! There are some still in the shops but you will have to be quick.

An Inconvenient Truth contd...

As CO₂ rose, each ice age ended and temperature rose. As CO₂ fell, a new ice age began. As the CO₂ line approaches the present day it starts to rise above that seen in previous inter glacial periods, not just by a bit but by hundreds of percent of previous fluctuations. This was dramatically demonstrated by the use of a crane to get Al Gore to the top of the graph.

The implications of this on our climate are easy to see. Changes of only a few degrees in global temperature can make or break an ice age; increases of only a few more degrees will cause equally dramatic changes. It's going to happen and there is nothing we can now do about it.

The effects will cause cities such as London, Shanghai, New York, and San Francisco to be partially submerged as sea levels rise, and vast tracts of land, particularly in south Asia to flood. Environmental refugee numbers were estimated to be 200 million as a result of this, but there will be many more displaced by drought after glacier fed river systems fail (possibly a quarter of the global population affected by this). Others, particularly in Africa, will be affected by desertification.

Forty percent of species currently in existence could become extinct if the temperature rises by only two degrees, yet the temperature increase talked about as being possible was up to 5 degrees. That's four of every ten types of life gone forever. Think about it - we will be responsible.

Higher CO₂ concentrations in the atmosphere will mean increased acidification of the oceans; no one knows how this will affect fish stocks, upon which a significant proportion of the global population rely for protein. This probably does not matter much as a report later in the week predicted that there will be no viable fish stocks left in thirty or forty years anyway.

The ice cap over Greenland is already melting. If it breaks up suddenly as a part of the Antarctic ice recently did, it may 'switch off' the Gulf Stream and disrupt the system of currents which drives global weather systems. Northern Europe could temporarily become similar in climate to Canada and the monsoons in Asia could fail. There is a significant possibility that this might happen.

Gore said little about the increase in human population which is ultimately responsible for this impending catastrophe and ignored totally the inevitable conflicts which will happen in the next century as a result of it. It appears to me that the wars of the twentieth century may be insignificant and the current panic about terrorism may appear a Toytown problem when this really starts to kick in.

However we can make a difference. Some of the effects can be mitigated. We have to rapidly and urgently decrease our use of fossil fuels (oil, gas and coal).

Contd...

AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH

On 30 October a small group of Hawstead residents went at the invitation of St Edmundsbury Borough Council to the new cinema in Bury to see the film 'An Inconvenient Truth'.

This is a documentary type film, produced by the former American Presidential Candidate, Al Gore, or as he introduces himself, the man who was America's next President.

It sets out to explain the vast and complex subject of Global Warming. Coincidentally the Stern Report on the economic consequences of uncontrolled carbon emissions was published in Britain on the same day. Both the film and the report seek to put the spotlight on the 'problem'. Both try to be optimistic about the future and describe in some detail how the situation we are now in has developed and what must be done to deal with it.

Al Gore was in at the beginning of global warming consciousness. His college tutor in 1964 had seven years previously been in the team that established the Mauna Loa Atmospheric testing station in Hawaii. By 1964 their graph showing the concentration of CO₂ in the atmosphere demonstrated a clear upward trend year after year. I first saw these results in 1979 and by that time it was pretty clear that we had a problem.

While we watched the film I was very aware that Al Gore has a background in American politics and that the methods used in the film were those used in television advertising campaigns. There was some emotional button pushing designed to impress on the audience his good faith, his dedication to getting the message heard and so on. The graphs and photographs were picked to impress, and the film clips of environmental degradation, pollution, drought, melting glaciers etc were startling and relentless. Despite my distrust of the industry that Mr Gore had used to produce the film, and of American TV advertising methods, the film scared the ---- out of me.

I think I am fairly well informed about the climate issue, but what particularly struck me about the film was that it drew together all the components of our knowledge and showed how they all link together, I have never seen the whole picture assembled so well before and it is profoundly disturbing.

The level of carbon dioxide and associated greenhouse gases present in the atmosphere today is higher than at any time in the last 650,000 years. During that time the earth has experienced a succession of ice ages which are obviously extreme climatic events. We were shown a simple graph showing global temperature and atmospheric CO₂ concentration over this period, the two lines match each other.

Contd.....

Warming News for Households

Government-funded grants of up to £4000 are available to homeowners and private tenants receiving certain income-related or disability-related benefits or credits, to provide heating and insulation measures to improve their homes.

Warm Front will organise and pay for all work up to the value of the grant. This scheme is funded by the government and managed by Eaga Group Ltd. All you have to do is call free on 0800 316 2814 (between 8am and 6pm Monday to Friday or 9am and 5pm on Saturdays) to find out if you're eligible. If you're not eligible they offer a Benefit Entitlement Check to see if you're eligible for any benefits. You will be guided through the process by a trained advisor.

Unintentional Mini Nature Reserve

About 10 years ago we dug up a non-productive apple tree in our front garden which left a reasonably large hole in the ground. On the spur of the moment we decided to line this to create a pond and to use the piles of earth to 'landscape' the area. (To be honest we could not be bothered to move it elsewhere!) The result is a mini nature reserve. I sat at breakfast this morning and saw:

a flock of 13 red legged partridge
4 pigeons
8 free ranging chickens (from next door)
2 doves
2 coots
1 cock pheasant and 2 hen pheasants
1 robin

All in the space of time it took to eat one bowl of cereal and drink 2 cups of tea!

At other times of year we have seen many insects, including dragon flies, a wide variety of garden birds, herons (which unfortunately love the fish) and butterflies. Newts, frogs and fish have bred in the pond itself and the profusion of water based insects is fodder for many other wild life species.

Not a bad result from the need to remove a dead tree!!!!

Katie Fairbairn

The Trials and Tribulations of a Flyer Distributor

Having not been a pseudo postie for some years, I found myself entering a parallel universe when asked to distribute some village flyers.

In one short stretch of houses, I encountered situations that only posties would appreciate. I relay some of them here -

House No 1

Perfect. The gate opened and closed. The letterbox at waist height took the flyer in a manner so friendly that I almost wanted to say thank you. Even today, some weeks later I find myself when passing, giving a queen-like wave in acknowledgment of a good friend.

House No 2

Through the gate, past rows of pretty annuals and gnomes to the pastel blue painted front door and then approximately three thousandth of an inch from the letterbox WHAM half the wild life of Central Africa battered the door as if launched from the latest military secret weapon. At this point I was very near an underwear experience. This property did not get a flyer. The noise continued until I reached No 27 and then erupted again as I shuffled past the house 30 minutes later on tip toe as I returned on the opposite side of the road.

House No 3

No gate, just a paving stone drive-way with a wheel less van belonging to a 24 hour courier sitting on four stacks of LBC sand faced flettons. The only way past is to do a side-ways soft shoe shuffle past a dying berberis and then hurdle what seemed to be a dismantled gear box, probably from a Ford Prefect circa 1953. Letter box was in good condition though looked almost unused. Nearly got a hernia on my way out.

House No 4

No gate, very pretty garden, nice path, lobelia softening the edges, a well maintained property. Because of this or because I was getting the hang of folding flyers, I folded this one particularly neatly, opening the flap, pushed in said flyer, said flyer immediately came straight back out as if on a highly coiled spring. Pushed again, self same thing happened. Curtains; heavy duty, draught preventing, probably from Laura Ashley, I tried again and not only was my flyer returned but one for Bowaters Double Glazing, a Salvation Army envelope and a Warning of a Possible Drought from the Local Authority. I folded them and placed them under a milk bottle, (green top, unusual nowadays).

House No 5

Nice gate, no latch, white plastic front door, lawn just cut, probably a Flymo set at No 2 cut. Folded flyer, opened flap and pushed, flyer crumbles into a screwed up

Trials and Tribulations contd....

mess. Fold another flyer, open flap push fingers through flap to find letter box bristles. Feed flyer with two hands through flap and letter box bristles after dropping the rest of the flyers. Flyer still starts to crumble. Never mind, push harder, end up with two hands through the letter box as if trying to steal the bust of Winston Churchill from the console table at the bottom of the stairs. The flyer still only half in, half out, extract fingers and hands, out drops the mutilated flyer. Stress level now on red alert, screw flyer into a ball leave it somewhere between the flap and bristles. Pick up dropped flyers.

Why this user unfriendly invention has not been used in other situations or why it does not occur in the natural world is a mystery. Darwin surely came across them off the coast of South America. If this user unfriendly item did occur naturally, the uses to which it could have been put are endless.....

Steven Hawking would have had a real problem with his theory on black holes had the black holes had letter box bristles around the edges. Never mind everything being sucked in, nothing would get in. The whole universe would be full of starving black holes. Charities could have been set up to save them.

If protected by bristles the Great Wall of China would still be as good as new. In fact, neither on either side would know of the existence of the other.

The Bern accelerator's 8 mile circular vacuum tube built at a cost of millions just to smash atoms at the speed of light into something just as minute, could have been built at a fraction of the cost, if they had put a row of letter box bristles 8 miles away from the firing point. Immigrants could have been employed to sweep up broken atoms at the bristle point. Is there a secret dump of split atoms somewhere near you?

House No 6

No gate, no flowers, brown lawn, letter box one and three quarters of an inch from the ground (or 44 mm if you are a Europhile) obviously designed by a flat world believer. The world champion limbo dancer from St Lucia could not have bent lower to get to this one. I crouched, sat, held onto the wall with one hand, lay on my back and eventually succeed in the task by holding a drain pipe (plastic) on the corner of the house, opening the flap with my right foot and stuffing it in the open orifice. Panadol is very good for back pain.

Was it worth it? Mmmm, mmm?

Never again! Until the next time.....

T.B.M.

Contd.....