

Neighbourhood Watch

As some of you will be aware, there has recently been a burglary in the village. Fortunately no-one was hurt and there was little damage, however it is a timely reminder to all of us to be aware of and to report anything we see that seems suspicious. It is also perhaps a good time to check the security of our homes. The local crime prevention officer will call free of charge to advise. Call Horringer Police Station on 774100 to arrange.

Report anything suspicious to our Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator is Joan Baker on 386657



METCALFE ARMS

Christmas opening:

Christmas Day: 12 noon - 3pm

Boxing Day: 12 noon - 7pm

The Hawstead Journal

Don't forget your contributions for January!

Send them to Andy on 386531 or
e.mail andyparrett@rocketmail.com

Editor: Andy Parrett



Hawstead Journal

For the Village by the Village

November/December
2005

Hawstead Community Council

May we wish a Merry Christmas and a prosperous new Hall !!

Progress has been slow on the village hall project over the last few months but we are now moving ahead again. We are pleased to announce that Richard Milns has rejoined the sub committee and has agreed to head up the project.

The committee is re-evaluating the whole project and looking at three options:

- * The village hall as already designed and costed
- * A smaller hall of similar proportions to the old one
- * Cullum House

We are still awaiting the outcome of the feasibility study for Cullum House and this should be available shortly. We are also working on a design and costing for a smaller hall and hope to have these available early in the New Year. Once all the information is together your vote will of course be sought to determine the final choice.

The next meeting of the Community Council will on the 16th January at 7.30.pm in Hawstead Church

Sonja Monk

Report from the Parish Council

A number of issues arose from the minutes and matters arising and were discussed. A summary of items is listed below:

New Notice board

For many years the wooden fence outside Park House has been used for village notices. It is on a blind corner and has become increasingly dangerous as the speed and volume of traffic has increased over the years. With this in mind the parish council has decided to invest in a new freestanding notice board which will be sited on the Pound near to the Metcalfe Almshouses.

The design chosen is a fairly plain one constructed in oak. This will complement the continued use of the boards on the village green and on Bridge House barn at Pinford End.

Horse Riding on the Green

Please bear in mind that horse riding is permitted on the green but only at a walk or trotting pace. Please would riders also note that the mown path which is maintained to enable easy access is primarily for walkers. Riding on this, particularly when wet, has cut up the sward and made it uneven in places. With a little cooperation the green should have plenty of room for riders and pedestrians.

Millennium Field

This winter it is planned to gap up the mixed hedge dividing the churchyard extension from the Millennium Field. If you are interested in helping it will make the task much quicker and pleasanter. Please contact James Carr (386245) for details.

Village Wardens

There has been a change round in some of the roles on the parish council. The following people have new responsibilities:

Village Greens Warden : Ros Alexander

Footpath Warden : Dave Dawson

Tree Warden : James Carr

The prancing and pawing of each little hoof.

As I drew in my hand, and was turning around,
Down the chimney St. Nicholas came with a bound.
He was dressed all in fur, from his head to his foot,
And his clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot;
A bundle of toys he had flung on his back,
And he looked like a peddler just opening his pack.

His eyes -- how they twinkled! his dimples how merry!
His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry!
His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow,
And the beard of his chin was as white as the snow;
The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth,
And the smoke it encircled his head like a wreath;
He had a broad face and a little round belly,
That shook, when he laughed like a bowlful of jelly.
He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf,
And I laughed when I saw him, in spite of myself;
A wink of his eye and a twist of his head,
Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread;
He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work,
And filled all the stockings; then turned with a jerk,
And laying his finger aside of his nose,
And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose;
He sprang to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle,



And away they all flew like the down of a thistle.
But I heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight,
"Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good-night."

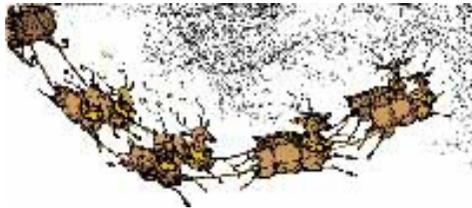
by Clement Clarke Moore

THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse;
The stockings were hung by the chimney with care,
In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there;

The children were nestled all snug in their beds,
While visions of sugar-plums danced in their heads;
And mamma in her 'kerchief, and I in my cap,
Had just settled down for a long winter's nap,
When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,
I sprang from the bed to see what was the matter.

Away to the window I flew like a flash,
Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash.
The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow
Gave the lustre of mid-day to objects below,
When, what to my wondering eyes should appear,



But a miniature sleigh, and eight tiny reindeer,
With a little old driver, so lively and quick,
I knew in a moment it must be St. Nick.

More rapid than eagles his coursers they came,
And he whistled, and shouted, and called them by name:
"Now, Dasher! now, Dancer! now, Prancer and Vixen!
On, Comet! on Cupid! on, Donner and Blitzen!
To the top of the porch! to the top of the wall!
Now dash away! dash away! dash away all!"
As dry leaves that before the wild hurricane fly,
When they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky,
So up to the house-top the coursers they flew,
With the sleigh full of toys, and St. Nicholas too.
And then, in a twinkling, I heard on the roof

ALL SAINTS CHURCH - HAWSTEAD

SERVICES for DECEMBER

Sunday 11th
8.30am Said Eucharist (BCP)
3 pm Christingle - (Lawshall)

Saturday 17th
4 pm Carols and Readings - (Pinford End Nursing Home)

Sunday 18th
6pm Carols and Readings with the Choir
Afterwards join us for mulled wine and mince pies

Wednesday 21st
2pm Shortened Eucharist - (Pinford End Nursing Home)

Saturday 24th Christmas Eve
11.30 pm Midnight Eucharist

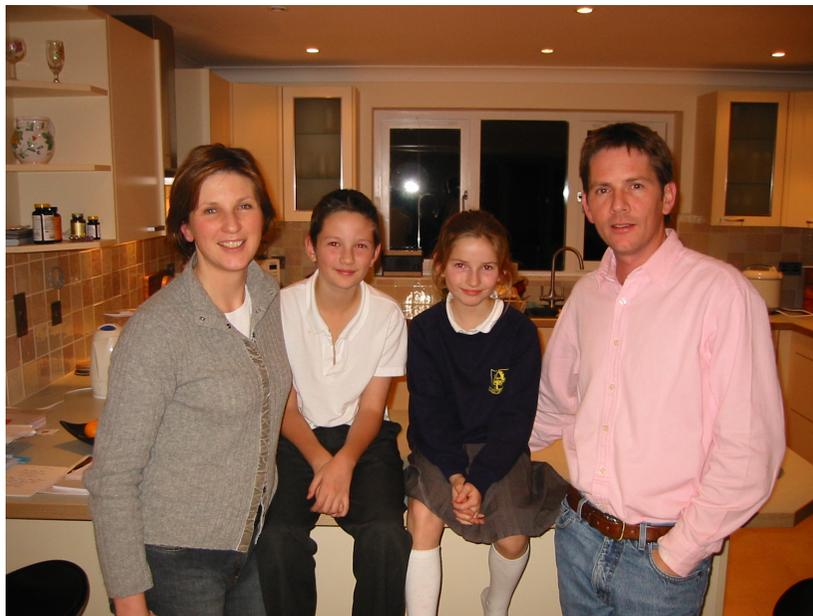
Sunday 25th Christmas Day
11 am Christmas Family Worship - (Lawshall)

EVENING PRAYER
An opportunity for silent/contemplative prayer, and to pray for the parish and benefice is held every **Wednesday in the church between 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

Meet The Robertsons!

On purchasing our new home back in February this year we were delighted to acquire a doormat full of back copies of the 'Hawstead Journal' - they made great reading and gave us an insight into the life of the village we were moving to. So we thought the journal might be a good way to introduce ourselves, albeit very late as we actually moved into our house last May - but time flies!



We are the Robertsons - Paul, Jayne, Guy (11 yrs) and Kate (8 yrs) and we live at 'Grove House' in Church Road (formerly The Rectory, but we had to change the name). Paul and I run a small furniture importing and wholesaling business. Guy has started Hardwick Middle School, and Kate is enjoying a year at Lawshall Primary before joining Guy in September.

We are very glad we moved to Hawstead and are starting to feel settled now - although building work on our house still continues! We have met lots of people already, all of whom have made us feel most welcome, and hope to meet others in the village as time goes by.

We wish all readers a very Merry Christmas.

Jayne Robertson

A Christmas Pot-Pourri

2oz/50g dried orange peel

2oz/50g dried lemon peel

½oz/15g whole allspice berries

1oz/25g lightly crushed cinnamon sticks

1oz/25g star anise

1oz/25g lightly crushed cinnamon sticks

1oz/25g dried pine needles

½oz/15g dried rowan berries

1oz/25g small larch cones

½oz/15g dried applemint leaves

½oz/15g dried sage leaves

1oz/25g dried powdered orris root

1oz/25g sandalwood raspings

Mix all the ingredients together and put into a large bowl

In the hall or by the front door to welcome guests

over the Christmas period

A Pomander Ball

Press cloves into the skin of a perfect thin-skinned Orange. Either cover the whole orange with cloves, allowing a little space between each one for shrinkage as the orange dries, or set them in patterns around the orange. Roll the finished orange in a mixture of orris root and spices – cinnamon or allspice.

Tie a ribbon round to suspend the pomander, which should hold its scent for a year or more.

Quick Drambuie Fudge

Ingredients

- 8oz plain chocolate
- 1oz unsalted butter
- 8 tablespoons Drambuie
- 4 tablespoons condensed milk
- 1lb icing sugar sifted

Method

Grease an 8" square tin. Melt the chocolate and butter together then beat in the Drambuie and condensed milk to a smooth mixture. Add the icing sugar and mix together until smooth. Turn into the prepared tin and press down with a palette knife.

Chill until firm then cut into triangles and serve piled on a plate. Makes 56 pieces.

This fudge will be among the goodies for sale on the 10th Dec.

SM

Potent Party Punch

- 1 bottle red wine
- 1 pint medium sweet cider
- 3 tablespoons honey
- 3 teaspoons whole allspice
- 2 cinnamon sticks roughly broken
- 2 tablespoons dark rum
- Apple and orange slices for garnish

Heat all the ingredients except the rum and garnish, until just below boiling point, for about ten minutes.

Add the rum and adjust for sweetness. Strain through a sieve.

Add the garnish and serve in warmed glasses.

Arrange a lift home for your guests

HAWSTEAD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Christmas Events

MINI CHRISTMAS FAYRE

A mini Christmas Fayre will be held in the church
On **Saturday 10th December** from 11 am to 12.30 pm
in conjunction with the PCC.

There will be Christmas wreaths for your front door
available to order.

We would appreciate cakes and any Christmas crafts
you can rustle up

VILLAGE CHRISTMAS LUNCH

The Christmas Lunch for Hawstead residents will be held in Lawshall Village
Hall on **Thursday 15th December** from 12.30pm.

There is no charge for the lunch although we would welcome donations from
the under 60's.

A traditional English Christmas meal will be served. Please let us know in
advance if you would like a vegetarian meal or have any special dietary
requirements.

Please let us know as soon as possible if you would like to come along. Contact
Sonja on 386876, Sylvia on 388841 or any HCC Committee Member

Remember to let us know if you need transport.

XMAS PANTOMIME

Why not join us in the Big Top (heated!) in Nowton Park on
Friday 30th December to see this year's the Xmas Pantomime
Robinson Crusoe

Tickets from Sylvia Miller 388841

Free entry for children
students half price, £15 for adults



Internet Tip

If you have a Broadband Internet connection, for the cost of a simple head-phone/microphone combination (it cost me £6 from the little computer shop in town) you can set yourself up for FREE telephone calls using your computer. The frontrunner in this technology is a company called SKYPE and the free software to work the system can be downloaded from their website, www.skype.com.

Because it's your telephone line being used for internet access, it's the same number that is available for use via the computer, and something called Voice-Over-Internet-Protocol (VOIP) makes it all work. The snag is that if you want to talk to someone via this system, you both have to be using the Internet at the same time ie. it is a situation of one computer talking to another, not you at your computer calling anybody else you feel like calling on their own landline phone or mobile. (there is a separate facility with Skype called Skype-out which enables computer to phone access but that costs money!) So it could be seen as an unwieldy system: but my friend who introduced it to me has a daughter who has gone to University of California, Berkeley for a year. By pre-arranging times, they'll be able to talk for free, for as long as they like, during this year.

Skype isn't the only service available; others are getting on the bandwagon, and I heard recently that Google is 'scrambling for a share of the pie'. It's

Dixons Freetalk

* **Broadband internet line comes into the home via phone socket and connects into modem or router.**

* **The Freetalk adaptor plugs into the back of the modem/router**

* **Telephone plugs into back of adaptor**

* **A computer can also connect to modem/router to activate account and surf the web.**

can plug in your phone and (for a year) get free calls of up to an hour to UK land lines (5p/min weekends, 15p otherwise to mobiles.) Unfortunately, after the first year you have to subscribe, and the fee is currently set at £6.99 per month.

AJP

obviously something that's got a future - Skype has been bought up a few weeks ago by the online auctioning company Ebay for a cool £2.2 billion according to the business page of my newspaper!

Neither is this the only technology available. Dixons is selling a new a service called 'Freetalk'. Well, you have to buy an adaptor for the computer for £79.99 but then you

REMEMBER THIS AT CHRISTMAS TIME

According to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, while both male and female reindeer grow antlers in the summer each year, male reindeer drop their antlers at the beginning of winter, usually late November to mid-December. Female reindeer retain their antlers till after they give birth in the spring.

Therefore, according to EVERY historical rendition depicting Santa's reindeer, EVERY single one of them, from Rudolph to Blitzen, had to be female.

We should've known... ONLY females would be able to drag a fat man in a red velvet suit all around the world in one night and not get lost!

Anon

St Thomas' Day 21st December

This day being the shortest and the turning point of the year, has been an important festival since time immemorial. The festivities were linked to the fertility of the soil and the longed-for return of the sun.

Many traditions grew up regarding the planting of seeds at this time of the year. In the south east of England, broad beans would be planted on this day and the wise gardener would check the skin of his onions on St Thomas' Day to ascertain the weather for the coming winter months and heed this Cotswold saying -

Onion skins very thin

Mild winter coming in

Onion skins thick and tough

Coming winter very rough.

CASTAWAY TOP TEN

This month's castaway is Holly Gossett

The Killers: Mr Brightside

This reminds me of our skiing holiday

Blondie: Heart of Glass

A Classic

Queen: We are the Champions

This always cheers me up!

Savage Garden: I believe

I just really love this song

Maroon 5: Sunday Morning

Happy memories of sitting with my friends in
Nowton Park last Summer

Counting Crows: Accidentally in Love

The soundtrack to one of my favourite films

Queen: Bohemian Rhapsody

Nothing like it, before or since!

Bon Jovi: Living on a Prayer

The perfect rock song

James Blunt: You're Beautiful

Reminds me of spending last Summer in Devon

The Caesars: Jerk it out

Impossible not to dance to

The Dictionary of Ambrose Bierce

A secret is out! We have in our midst a fan of AMBROSE BIERCE, a nineteenth century American who was part soldier, part journalist. During the period 1881-1906 he compiled The Cynics Word Book, otherwise known as the Devil's Dictionary. Our fan has been dipping into this dictionary and offers some choice examples from the early letters to (hopefully) tickle your fancy. More next time.

Acquaintance (n.) A person whom we know well enough to borrow from but not well enough to lend to

Admiral (n.) That part of a warship that does the talking whilst the figurehead does the thinking

Alone (adv.) In bad company

Bacchus (n.) A convenient deity invented by the ancients as an excuse for getting drunk

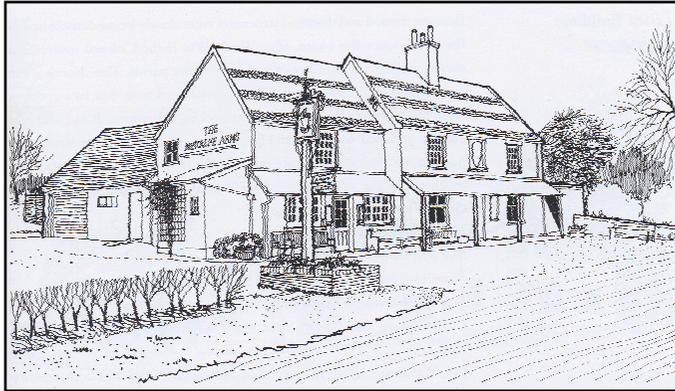
Bigot (n.) One who is obstinately attached to an opinion that you do not entertain

Bore (n.) A person who talks when you wish they would listen

Anna Glypta

A group of chess enthusiasts checked into a hotel and were standing around in the lobby discussing their recent tournament victories. After about an hour, the manager came out of the office and asked them to disperse. "But why?" they asked. "Because", he said, "I can't stand chess-nuts boasting in an open foyer".

METCALFE ARMS



SLOE GIN CHAMPIONSHIP AND LIVE FOLK AT THE LOCAL 21ST DECEMBER

As many of you will already know, there will be a *championship sloe gin* tasting contest on the above date at approximately 6:30 pm!

Afterwards (perhaps 8.30 pm) there will be a rare chance to hear folk music played by local musicians. Yes, the real thing!! Come and listen to :

- * Guitarist and blues singer
- * Singer and guitarist of contemporary folk
- * Accapella duo, singer and guitar
- * Appalachian group
- * Music hall singer/guitarist

If you have ever wanted to sing, with others uninhibited, *Whiskey in the Jar, The Leaving of Liverpool, Wild Rover, All for me Grog, Jug of Punch, Black Velvet Band* and others, this is a one-off chance.

And its free!

Be there early, this venue does not hold 20,000.

Pssst: What's an Accapella duo? (Come along and find out!)

Poinsettias



One of the most delightful decorations at during the Christmas season is the poinsettia. Poinsettias are native to Mexico and were called Cuetlaxochitile by the Aztecs. During the 14th - 16th century the sap was used to control fevers and the bracts used as a red dye.

A Poinsettia grew through a crack in the greenhouse of a German botanist called Wilenow. He was dazzled by its colour and gave it the botanical name *Euphorbia pulcherrima* meaning very beautiful.

Its popular name was chosen by William Prescott, a historian and horticulturist who named the plant after the man who had discovered it - the first United States Ambassador to Mexico, Joel Poinsett.

In their natural environment, poinsettias are perennial flowering shrubs that can grow to ten feet. There are now over 100 varieties of poinsettias. The showy coloured part of poinsettias are actually bracts or modified leaves. The flowers or cyathia of the poinsettia are in the centre of the bracts.

With care, poinsettias should retain their beauty for weeks and some varieties will stay attractive for months. A fresh poinsettia is one on which little or no yellow pollen is showing on the flower clusters in the centre of the bracts. Also avoid plants with too much green around the bract edges, as this is a sign of a plant transported before it was sufficiently mature. Look for plants with dense, plentiful foliage all the way to the soil line. An abundance of rich green foliage is a vital sign of good plant health.

After you have made your poinsettia selection, make sure it is wrapped properly because exposure to low temperatures even for a few minutes can damage the bracts and leaves.

Place your poinsettia in indirect light, keep it from touching cold windows and away from draughts. High temperatures will also shorten the plant's life.

Ideally poinsettias require 6 hours of daylight, a daytime temperature of 60 to 70°F and night time temperature around 55°F.

Check the soil daily and water when dry. Fertilize the poinsettia if you want to keep it past the holiday season but not when it is in bloom.

The decorative, crimson bracts of the Poinsettia are irresistible at Christmas - a perfect choice.

