

HISTORY RECORDER'S REPORT FOR THE VILLAGE OF HAWSTEAD MAY 2010

The History Recorder's report covers the twelve months from 1st May 2009 to 31st April 2010 and is prepared as part of the Parish Council's commitment to the Suffolk Local History Council. Copies of this document will, in due course, be sent to the Resource Centre in Ipswich and to the Bury Recorder's Office. Copies of the Hawstead Journal and the Benefice St. Edmund Way Magazine are also lodged with the Records Office.

PARISH COUNCIL

The Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council was held on Thursday 21st May 2009 in the village hall, with the seven Parish councilors and the Parish Clerk, Marilyn Bottomley present. Previously there had been a lively discussion at the annual Parish Meeting concerning the screening and positioning of the bottle bank. The Chairman agreed to discuss the matters at coming monthly Parish Council meetings.

Comment was also made about the ratification and publication of minutes in advance of the AGM. In the AGM itself, the chairman reviewed the work undertaken by the Council over the previous year and outlined areas of concern for the coming year, including the parking in Whepstead Road and Bull Lane, where a broken drain was causing problems. In the autumn, concerns were raised about over-flow parking on the road at well attended village hall functions. The local police officer gave a short presentation, reporting that a new sergeant and a new inspector had been appointed, based at Clare. From the floor, comments were made on the speed of traffic through the village and the use of mini four wheel quad bikes on the road and also, several complaints were made on the condition of the roads.

Representatives from St. Edmundsbury Borough Council spoke of their work in the areas of transport and planning. The Borough Council announced its intention to open new offices at West Suffolk House as a one stop for all services to the area. During the year, a review of the schools looked at the viability of a two tier system. The Boundary Commission is moving slowly forward with its deliberations for the re-organisation of local government in the county. The West Suffolk option has been eliminated and the one Suffolk option with a unitary authority for Ipswich being proposed. The parliamentary boundary has been redrawn such that Hawstead is now included in the West Suffolk seat, transferred from Bury St. Edmunds. There was a general election on May 6th 2010, with the Village Hall used as a polling station.

A proposal for a Hawstead village emergency plan was circulated on 13th July 2009 and in October this was followed up by a letter and questionnaire. Contractors were given the go ahead to deal with rabbits and moles on the village green and the condition of the Millennium Field became a cause for concern during the year. By the autumn, the question of the siting of the bottle bank was resolved. Its colour now became cause of controversy.

Following a resignation in April 2010, a vacancy for a Parish Councilor has arisen.

On Friday 31st July, the council tarred and gritted Church Road, Pinford End. In August, Whepstead Road surface was gritted. In November, Anglia Water worked on the drainage problem at the Pinford End junction of Bull Lane and Church Road. Many potholes appeared in local roads after the winter.

VILLAGE HALL

Local produce sales outside Hawstead village hall started on the 13th June and continued on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month until the end of September, 2009.

The installation of a phone line and broadband package for the Village Hall from the Village Connect Scheme was announced in June. Six IBM computers and monitors were donated by a village resident.

Cream teas were available on the village green on Sunday 5th July.

The village green was cut for hay on 20th June 2009 and Barry Coulson, with his tractor/digger, was clearing brambles from the village green corner opposite the bottom of the junction of Whepstead Road on 11th August 2009. A working party was organized for September 2009 to clear ragwort and on Saturday 6th March to clear scrub around the village green. Further village green maintenance work was carried out by a local contractor. In November, footpaths up to the woods were cleared.

The village Flower Show and Fete was held on Sunday 6th September.

The village lottery, which played a part in the funding to build the hall, was wound up in November after raising over £4000.

The Christmas lunch for village pensioners was given on Thursday 17th December 12.30. A Christmas tree was put up outside the hall for the first time in many years and another was placed inside the hall.

Burns Night was celebrated with a supper in the village hall on Saturday 23rd January 2010.

CHURCH BENEFICE

The Rev Martin Thrower held his last service in the Benefice at Lawshall on 31st May 2009 and left to take up a new appointment as Rector of Hadleigh. The Rev Annette Shannon as Assistant Curate assumed his duties in the Benefice. The Reverend Simon Hill, the Rural Dean for Lavenham Deanery, wrote in December that the vacancy at St. Edmunds Way, which did not attract any applications when advertised a couple of months ago, will be re-advertised nationally in January. The Benefice continued to be in interregnum until April 2010 when the Rural Dean wrote in the Newsletter and on the website that "I am delighted to announce that the Reverend Jane Buckles has accepted the Bishop of St. Edmundsbury and Ipswich invitation to be incumbent of St Edmund Way Benefice. Jayne will be moving from Wales with her husband Derek to Lawshall in the summer; the date of her induction will be announced in due course."

A detailed record of all graves in Hawstead churchyard is being prepared by Tony Hillman and Angela Rushen. The exercise is being undertaken because the churchyard is likely to be closed for any new burials in the coming year. In future, all burials will be in the churchyard extension. A space for interment of cremated remains will be set aside in the old churchyard.

The death of Sylvia Miller (for many years secretary of the Community Council) occurred on 6th July 2009, and a funeral service was held on Monday 20th July. Maude Cornwell died on 16th July 2009; her funeral service was in Hawstead Church on 30th July 2009. Although not strictly within the time scale of this report, the death of one-time Community Council secretary and long-time village resident, Stella Woodham-Smith, on 12th May 2010 at Pinford End Nursing Home is noted here.

Highlights of the year in the Benefice at Hawstead include the "Talent Challenge", whereby parishioners were given the task of converting £5 into as much as possible. For example, on Friday 12th June, cream teas were prepared at Church Farmhouse and raised £150. Clive Paine gave an evening lecture in all Saints Church Hawstead on 26th June, telling its story and pointing out its features under the auspices of the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust.

On Saturday 4th July, 2009, in the Cathedral in Bury, our curate, Annette Shannon, was ordained to the priesthood. Her first communion was on Sunday the 5th at Hawstead. Hawstead All Saints was again included in the Suffolk Historic Churches Cycle Ride on Saturday, September 12th. October 3rd saw the 15 mile annual sponsored walk around the benefice churches. Harvest supper was held on Saturday 10th October in the village hall.

A concert of carols was given by the Aquarius Singers in Hawstead Church on Sunday, 13th December. A "Nativity in the Barn" event was held on Christmas Eve at 4pm at Hawstead Place, with the permission of Rupert Brown; around 250 people attended and a collection raised £366.23 for St. Nicholas Hospice and the Special Baby Care Unit at West Suffolk Hospital.

The annual Church Meeting was held in the Village Hall on Palm Sunday, 21st March at 12.45pm, followed by a Bring and Share lunch. A week later, a Lent lunch was held in the village hall on Sunday 28th March.

An organist is required for leading the congregation in sung services at Hawstead.

WEATHER

On 7th June 2009, there was a violent thunderstorm with lightening that caused a power cut at about 6.20pm. We were on the edge of a violent storm north of Sudbury that caused a whirlwind and a severe hailstorm.

A heat-wave occurred from June 28th to July 5th with temperatures exceeding 26 degrees C. The following 3 weeks of July gave plentiful rain with temperatures close to normal. August was dry and warm – not a "barbeque summer". October was a dry month with a slight air frost on 18th. November was the wettest month of the year. The first 10 days of December were mild and wet and the first snow fell on 16th. Over Christmas a thaw set in but by 28th it was cold again and remained so until March.

In March 2009, news circulated in the village that new tenants would be moving into the pub and consequently, tenant Richard Reed took over the pub lease on 7th April 2009. In due course, The Metcalfe Arms held a Family Fun day on 31st May 2009 and live music on 5th June with Irie J Classic Soul.

However, in September an announcement was made that there will be new faces running the pub, and after the winter, in February 2010, the Journal reported news from the Metcalfe Arms with new landlady and landlord, Sam and Darren.

At the South Suffolk Show, held at Ampton Racecourse near Ingham, on Sunday 10th May 2009, Andrew Brown won 5 prizes for heifers cows and bulls. The Aberdeen Angus cattle entered by Andrew Brown at the Rutland County Show on 6th June 2009 and in the Edenbridge and Oxted Show on August 30th 2009 won more prizes.

Pinford End Nursing Home held their 21st anniversary summer fete on Saturday 27th June, from 2 to 5pm. There was afternoon tea, a chamber orchestra, bric-a-brac stall, tombola and face painting, raffles and competitions.

Fine gardening weather has been tempting thieves to steal power tools and machinery from sheds, (reported the Bury Free Press on the 28th August 2009). A chainsaw, lawnmower, hedge trimmer and leaf blower were stolen from an insecure shed at The Pound. Suffolk police renewed their appeal for information following a spate of road sign thefts.

On the evening of 25th August 2010, Jane Holliday, 54, from Hawstead completed her Three Fears Challenge for the Bury St Edmunds-based St. Nicholas Hospice, when she handled an enormous Chilean Rose Tarantula. Her last task was facing her fear of spiders.

The West Suffolk Wheelers and Triathlon Cycling Club held a hill climb time trial at Pinford End on 3rd September 2009. The winner won by 3 seconds in a total time of 2 min. 41 sec. over 2 ascents of the hill.

A woman was taken to hospital on Sunday 11th October 2009 after being freed from the wreckage of her car. Fire fighters worked for nearly an hour using hydraulic cutting equipment to free the woman after her car, a green Vauxhall Corsa, crashed into a fence in Church Road, Hawstead just before 10.15 pm. Three fire crews, including an emergency rescue tender were called to the scene from Bury just after 10.30 pm. The road was closed for a time while the emergency services worked at the scene. No other vehicle was involved. A police spokeswoman said there were two casualties who suffered minor injuries. One person was taken to West Suffolk Hospital for treatment.

There was a burst water main at Park Lane Cottages at about 4.15 am on 21st October 2009, resulting in no water supply to Pinford End. Water Engineers repaired the leak and re-connected the supply at 10am.

In the autumn, it was announced that public phone boxes in Suffolk face the axe, including the one at Pinford End (which only collected 87 pence in the last year). BT was looking to scrap 53 phone booths. St. Edmundsbury Borough Council consulted with residents until November 25 and

notified BT of its findings on January 2nd 2010. The Parish Council agreed in November to the removal of the phone, and to consider an alternative use and position for the booth itself.

Fire fighters tackled a chimney fire at The Green, Hawstead early on 3rd December 2009. One fire crew from Bury St. Edmunds dealt with the incident following a call shortly before midday.

The Boxing Day Hunt was held by the Suffolk Hunt, which set out from Hawstead Place. Master of the Hunt, James Aldous, said about 1000 people attended the hunt on foot to watch 60 or so riders. "We were concerned about the weather, but it seems it was alright, though a bit tricky on the roads."

Overnight snow quickly cleared to provide perfect conditions for runners in the Muscular Dystrophy Bury 20 and 10 mile races on Saturday 23rd January 2010. The course left Nowton Park before snaking through Pinford End, Whepstead, Hawstead, Nowton and back to the park.

After the Cheltenham Racing Festival, three travellers' caravans were parked on the village green, by the brook. After a few days, enquiries were made if they were prepared to contribute an article to the Hawstead Journal. They declined and moved on 18th March, 2010.

From April 9th the 14th, 2010, there was an exhibition called "An Artists' View", displaying art and architectural drawings by Bill Crockford and Tracey Waghorn, held in the Edmund Gallery, next to the Cathedral.

For the third successive year, traditional May Day celebrations were held on Saturday, May 1st 2010, at 5.15am on the corner of the village green at the end of Bells Lane, outside Fyletts Manor Cottages, with the Green Dragon Morris men. Breakfast followed, kindly hosted by Andy and Fran Evershed.

The Parish Council website had an average of 141 hits per month during the year.

S1, Edmundsbury Borough Council decided on 7 planning applications for the parish of Hawstead for the year 01 May 2009 to 30 April 2010.

The council tax for Hawstead houses was increased by 2.0% compared to last year. This was made up of an increase of 2.4% to Suffolk County Council, a 1.9% increase to St. Edmundsbury Borough Council and an increase of 3.0% to the Suffolk Police Authority. The Parish Council precept was down by 9.8% compared to last year.

Finally, as recorded by the Land Registry, in the year 1st May 2009 to 30 April 2010, 1 house was sold in post code IP29 5NR, 1 in 5NJ, and 1 in 5NU.

Karen Caldwell
Hawstead History Recorder
May 2010

