

HISTORY RECORDER'S REPORT FOR THE VILLAGE OF HAWSTEAD

MAY 2011

The History Recorder's report covers the twelve months from 1st May 2010 to 31st April 2011 and is prepared as part of the Parish Council's commitment to Suffolk Local History. 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. Edmunds Way Magazine are also lodged with the Records Office.

PARISH COUNCIL

The Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council was held on Thursday 20th May 2010 in the village Hall, with the seven Parish Councillors and the Parish Clerk, Marilyn Bottomley present. The minutes report that upkeep of the village green included dealing with the mole and rabbit problem, as well as maintenance in accord with DEFRA supervision. Income from the bottle bank was declared as £113.76.

The village green was cut for hay on 6th July 2010. The cut hay was turned over in the afternoon of 7th July. During the year, tree cutting, management and clearance of overgrown shrubby areas such as behind the bus shelter, continued, where 7 new trees were planted in the Spring of 2011. Maintenance of public spaces also included the Millenium Field, and hedge cutting was undertaken throughout the year. The status of the Millennium Field was discussed and the possibility of registering it with the Land Registry explored.

In October, there was an "open day" for villagers to view the by-laws and the issue of play spaces for teenagers was discussed.

Around the village, horse chestnut trees suffered from attack from a leaf miner moth and from bleeding canker. The Royal Horticultural Society reports that these problems are now nationwide. A trial treatment programme was undertaken on 4 selected specimens in the spring of 2011.

The four footpaths in the parish were reported as being walkable, except for one that was later mown clear. A foot bridge on the footpath along the River Lark was replaced.

On the three days, November 22nd – 24th 2010, 12 grit bins were put out along Hawstead parish roads.

For the second year the Parish Council organised two Christmas trees, one outside the village hall, the other inside. The possibility of gates at the entrance to the village was explored.

For the election on May 5th there were originally 14 villagers putting themselves forward for election by the closing date of Monday 4th April for the 7 seats. After one person later withdrew, villagers were left with 13 applicants. From an electorate of 248, there was a turn out of 62.50% on polling day, the 5th May 2011. Ros Alexander, Henry Brewis, Christabel Carr, Michael Harrison, Jayne Robertson, Clive Robinson and John West were elected for the 4 year term of office.

Angela Rushen was elected unopposed to the Borough Council as representative of the Chedburgh Ward, which includes Hawstead.

VILLAGE HALL

The first event in the period was the traditional celebration of May Day 2010, at 5.15, dawn on the Saturday morning. The Green Dragon Morris Group danced at the junction of Bells Lane, outside Fyletts Manor Cottages. Breakfast followed, kindly hosted by Andy and Fran Evershed.

The annual plant sale was held on the weekend of 15th and 16th May 2010, raising £861. Local produce sales outside Hawstead village hall started on the 22nd, continuing on alternate Saturdays throughout the summer.

St. Edmundsbury Borough Council decided on community development grants, which included Hawstead village hall and play area.

The annual AGM of the Hawstead Community Council was held on the evening of 27th May at 7.30pm. The village Flower Show and Fete was held on 5th September from 2pm with the Green Dragon Morris dancers as well as traditional stalls. One of the tractors on display, an Allis Chalmers B, was the one Pat Baker won first prize for at the Rougham Air Show in July 2010. Takings of just under £1500 were a little down on the previous year.

On Thursday September 9th, the Theatre Royal tour of villages came to Hawstead with Michael Frayne's two-hander "The Two of Us" with the cast of Simon Lock and Alys Torrance.

The annual village party was held in October.

The village hall generator was successfully tested on 20th November 2010 and found to work as it should.

The Christmas lunch for village pensioners was given on 16th December.

Mother Goose was the pantomime at the Theatre Royal and on Monday 3rd January 2011 the Community Council organized a party, when children went free of charge. In January, the possibility of the village putting on a pantomime in January 2012 was explored. Cinderella was chosen, several people expressed an interest and a working party was set up.

Royal Wedding celebrations were held on the village green on 29th April 2011, with an afternoon tea party with games for children, followed by a barbeque in the evening for the adults.

CHURCH/BENEFICE

A detailed record of all graves in Hawstead churchyard was prepared by Tony Hillman and Angela Rushen. The exercise was 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 new churchyard, although a space for interment of cremated remains will be set aside in the old churchyard. The Parish Council and the Parochial Church Council (PCC) continue to co-operate on the continuing ground and verge maintenance.

The Benefice Register records the following, the weddings on May 1st of Nigel Lister and Julie Hall and on May 15th Richard Seymour and Emma Bevan; the baptism on 27th Jun 2010 of Max Buckingham and the funeral on 5th May 2010 of Bill Burrell. Two long standing members of the community in Hawstead passed away in May 2010 and both were remembered in well-attended services in All Saints church. Stella Woodman Smith, one time Chairman of the parish council and church treasurer died on May 11th aged 86. The death of Dorothy Gillbard Wright on 29th May was marked by the funeral on Thursday 10th June in All Saints church. 28 Nov 2010 saw the funeral of Lily Pollard, 10 Jan 2011 the funeral of Robert Elliot. The deaths of Sheila Mortlock, who died on Monday March 14th 2011 and David Tolhurst, who died on March 1st 2011 are also noted here.

In May 2010, the Benefice magazine announced that Reverend Jane Buckles had accepted the Bishop of St. Edmundsbury and Ipswich's invitation to be incumbent of the St. Edmunds Way Benefice. She moved from Wales with her husband and was inducted into the Benefice on Tuesday July 20th 2010. Bishop Clive of Dunwich and the Venerable Dr. David James Archdeacon of Sudbury officiated (at Lawshall).

Hawstead All Saints participated in the Open churches week of 17th – 23rd July 2010.

Father Geoffrey celebrated his 80th birthday on 26th Aug 2010, the many celebrations included a service at Gt. Whelnetham.

The Historic Churches sponsored cycle ride took place on 11th September 2010.

The Harvest Festival service was held on Sunday 24th October at 11.00am. and the Harvest Supper on Saturday 6th November in the village hall.

New hatchments, restored in a project led by Bill Crockford, were revealed on Wed 24th November 2010 as the scaffolding was taken down on the wall over the chancel arch and rood screen. Previously they had been situated in the bell tower. Clive Paine gave an entertaining evening lecture in All Saints Church Hawstead on the history behind the hatchments on Friday 6th May at 7pm. A Record Book of the church, an inventory of the monuments and decorations, completed by the local National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts Societies, (NADFAS), group was also received at that time. The joint Nowton and Hawstead Festival of Carols and Readings was held in the church on Sunday December 19th at 6pm.

The annual PCC Vestry Meeting was held in the Village Hall on April 7th 2011.

WEATHER

After a promising summery beginning in June, cloud came from the North Sea. After the 21st sun and warmth continued throughout July. August was cool and wet. Rainfall and temperature were close to the average in September. October was wetter than normal. November came in mild but by mid month temperatures were persistently below average and snow first fell on the 26th. The village generally experienced low water pressure on Sunday 19th December 2010. By December, pre-Christmas cold weather was well established and difficult driving conditions made worse by burst water mains on (a) Horsecroft Road between Oakhill and Hawstead Lodge (b) the triangle at the junction of Church Road and Bury Road (c) Nowton Road at Bull Hill. The cold spell lasted into February and although winds in the winter were generally light, there was a gale overnight on February 5/6th with winds strong enough to blow over fences and cause minor damage. March and April were dry, with higher than average temperatures towards the end of April.

The soap opera of the Metcalfe Arms continued this year. Tenant Richard Reed had taken over the pub lease on 7th April 2009. In due course, however, in September 2009 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. In September 2010, they were given notice to quit by the end of the month. The new tenants, Helen and Baz announced in December's Journal that the pub was open again. They lasted until the end of February 2011, when they left suddenly after the February Parish Council Meeting. At the end of April, the pub was still unoccupied.

At the Suffolk Show, on day one, the 3rd June 2010, Andrew Brown won prizes for Aberdeen Angus heifers cows and bulls. In July 2010, he took the reserve championship at Norfolk, followed on 20th September with the native interbreed champion at the Newbury Show. In the Suffolk Agricultural Association Farm Business competition, large farm category, John Brown and Son received the King George VI Memorial Challenge Cup for first place. Diversification projects at the 829 hectare farm at Hawstead include fisheries, wedding events venues, holiday lets, soil blending and commercial lettings.

On Thursday Oct 14th 2010, harvesting sugar beet began in field opposite Oak Hill. Lorries parked on Horsecroft Road while beet was discharged into them from the field using a conveyor belt. The flow of traffic was inconvenienced around Pinford End for a few days.

After the fund-raising for St. Nicholas Hospice earlier in 2010, the Macmillan Cancer Support charity "Biggest Coffee Morning" event was launched in the Theatre Royal on Wed. 8th September 2010. Ours took place in the village hall on Friday 17th September.

Fine gardening weather in the autumn tempted thieves to steal power tools and machinery from sheds. Overnight on August 29/30th a barn on Whepstead Road was broken into and a can of petrol stolen and on Bells Lane, Hawstead, between 7am and 6.40pm on 11th October offenders broke into a house by forcing doors and stole alcohol, camera equipment, jewellery and an ornament. In the Spring, between 6pm Saturday 9th and 11am Sunday 10th April 2011, a barn off Whepstead Road in Hawstead was broken into and a John Deer ride-on lawnmower, several reels of black coated cable and a quantity of hand tools stolen from within. This mirrors several burglaries and a

series of break-ins into farm buildings in surrounding villages. Police also gave a warning about central heating oil thefts.

On the roads, on Monday 8th June 2010 an EDF Electricity van went into the ditch beyond Hawstead Place on Horsecroft Road at 10am. A recovery vehicle from EDF pulled the van out at 12.15.

On Thursday May 13th 2010, Lawshall Road was closed at Cook's Farm for the water board to make repairs in the road. A diversion was set up via the Whepstead Road to Butler's Hall and then back to Newhall Farm. Pot holes on Horsecroft Road were filled on June 28th 2010, and on June 29 there were road works on Bull Hill on the Bury side of Hawstead Hall/Larkfield. The temporary closure of the U7413 road, Bells Lane was required for repairs to the carriageway from 18th to 29th October 2010.

Allen Simpson of Whepstead Road was noted in the Bury Free Press on Friday 15th October as being nominated for the West Suffolk Hospital's Patients First Awards scheme, which recognizes the individual or team which did the most to make patients' stay in hospital the best possible experience. He is a member of the Housekeeping Team for wards F5 and F6 and plays his part on two tea rounds each day.

Because of the frozen ground and icy conditions, the Suffolk Hunt did not hold a full traditional hunt after Christmas. On Monday 27th December, a day later than usual, (as hunts do not ride on Sundays), a party of 60 was assembled with dogs, for a four mile walk around the fields. The frozen ground was judged to be too dangerous for horses. It was thought to be the first time in three decades the tradition was held without horses. The event was attended by more than 400 people.

On Sunday 6th February 2011, 85 riders signed on for the annual Suffolk Punch reliability cycle ride, organized by the West Suffolk Wheelers and Triathlon Club. The 55mile route through the villages passed through Hawstead and finished at Nowton Village Hall. The first 23 riders averaged 13mph.

There was an exhibition called "An Artist's View", displaying art and architectural drawings by Glynn Hammond and Jane Brettell at the Edmund Gallery on Angel Hill in Bury from 25th February to 2nd March 2011.

The Pinford End Sewage Treatment Farm was disrupted at the end of February 2011 by tanker traffic as Anglian Water cleaned a blockage in the pipework. Further damage was identified which required immediate repairs. The tanks were emptied, cleaned and inspected.

Census Day was Sunday 27th March 2011. According to the Office for National Statistics, the 2001 census showed that Hawstead had a population of 334 with 121 households. In passing it is worth noting that in the first census of 1801, there were 392 and in 1901, 297 people recorded as living in Hawstead.

St. Edmundsbury Borough Council decided on 8 planning applications for the parish of Hawstead for the year.

The council tax for Hawstead houses was reduced by 0.4% compared to last year. This was made up of no change to Suffolk County Council, no change to St. Edmundsbury Borough Council and no change to the Suffolk Police Authority. The Parish Council precept was down by 11.2% compared to last year.

Finally, as recorded by the Land Registry, in the year 1st May 210 to 30 April 2011, 1 house was sold in post code IP29 5PE, 1 in 5NU, 1 in 5NS and 1 in 5NR.

Karen Caldwell
Hawstead History Recorder
May 2011