

HISTORY RECORDER'S REPORT FOR THE VILLAGE OF  
HAWSTEAD MAY 2012

This History Recorder's report covers the twelve months from 1<sup>st</sup> May 2011 to 31<sup>st</sup> April 2012 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 last full meeting of the old Parish Council took place on 3<sup>rd</sup> May, (just before the local elections of the 5<sup>th</sup>), when planning applications and maintenance of open spaces around the village were discussed.

The Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council was held on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2011 in the village hall, with the seven Parish councilors and the Parish Clerk, Marilyn Bottomley present. The minutes report that tree cutting and maintenance had been carried out along Bells Lane, and the Bottle Bank produced £121 for Council funds. Moles and rabbits had been controlled on the village green and by-laws were with DEFRA for legal assessment and compliance. DEFRA also continued to contribute substantial funds for maintenance of the village green. Easement matters in hand were to be completed by the newly elected council. The chairman thanked villagers for the support given to the old, retiring council and after a short break, the old parish council withdrew and the newly elected Parish Council, from the 5<sup>th</sup> May poll, took over. At the same local elections, Angela Rushen was elected unopposed to the Borough Council as representative of the Chedburgh Ward, which includes Hawstead.

In June, four of the horse chestnut trees on the village green were treated as part of a new garlic based remedy for the two major ailments - leaf minor moth and bleeding canker. Ragwort was cleared from the Village Green on 16<sup>th</sup> July, followed by mowing on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2011. The hay was baled and collected on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2011.

The Parish Council commissioned "gates" along the main road coming into the village from Bury St Edmunds and from Lawshall as part of traffic calming/speed restriction methods. On Monday October 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Hawstead gates were erected, starting with the ones at the bend by the Pound (Nowton side).

In November, it was announced that the mobile library service to Hawstead was to be reduced to a frequency of one per month.

In the autumn, mole control started, but rabbit control was delayed because of the mild weather. A bridge was repaired on the footpath by the R. Lark and in the Spring of 2012 the well on the Melpost triangle was made safe: the well on the Bull Lane Green inspected and declared safe.

A domestic heating oil buying group was set up in the village in the autumn.

The village sign from outside the Metcalfe Alms Houses was cleaned and re-painted by Bill Crockford in April and in the same month, signs identifying the road names were installed in Pinford End and Hawstead.

#### VILLAGE HALL

Since the Royal wedding celebrations were held on 29<sup>th</sup> April, the first event in this reporting period was the traditional celebration of May Day 2011, at 5.15, dawn on the Sunday 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 Community Council AGM took place on 2<sup>nd</sup> June and it was reported that the village hall continues to attract bookings for functions.

The death earlier in the year of Stella Woodham-Smith meant that there were no greenhouses available for raising plants and cuttings. Consequently, the usual Village Hall Plant Sale and sales of produce during the summer did not take place.

“Ruby and Her Horses”, a true-life Suffolk narrative set against the hardships of the agricultural depression was performed in the village hall on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2011 and 10 village gardens in Hawstead were opened to the public on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2011, with proceeds going to St. Nicholas Hospice.

The village Flower Show and Fete was held on 4<sup>th</sup> September from 2pm with the traditional stalls.

As part of Macmillan Cancer support, a coffee morning was organized for 1<sup>st</sup> October: Fran Evershed and Ros Alexander as half of the Piper Quartet, gave a concert on the 9<sup>th</sup> October, supporting the fund.

A village "shared supper" party was held in the hall on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> October and the Christmas lunch for village pensioners was given on 15<sup>th</sup> December.

“Dick Whittington and his Cat” was the pantomime at the Theatre Royal. Village children's tickets for the performance on 30<sup>th</sup> December were paid for by the Community Council.

Rehearsals began on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November for the village pantomime in January 2012.

“Cinderella” was chosen and there were 3 performances on Saturday and Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>.

Also on the theatrical front, on the 21<sup>st</sup> August 1996, “The Two Gentlemen of Verona” had been the first play put on at the newly constructed Shakespeare's Globe Theatre in Southwark. To mark the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2011, BBC Radio 4 broadcast a programme in its “Reunion” series

to describe the accomplishment of the project. The Bury Mercury on August 30<sup>th</sup> 1996 told us that "drama specialist Ms Rosalind King chaired a committee of experts on the Shakespearean stage, giving advice to architects and actors on how to reconstruct theatre's golden age."

An Easter Craft Fayre was organized on the Monday 9<sup>th</sup> April.

#### CHURCH/BENEFICE

On Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> May 2011, at 7pm about 50 parishioners gathered in All Saints Church to hear local historian, Clive Paine, give a talk to commemorate the cleaning and re-hanging of the five hatchments. All five are lozenge shaped wooden boards with simple, black painted wooden frames. At the same occasion, NADFAS, (The National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts Societies) presented an inventory of statuary, monuments and other artifacts in the church.

Rosemary Harrison was commissioned as the Lay Elder for Hawstead in July.

The Historic Churches sponsored cycle ride took place on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2011 and included Hawstead All Saints.

The Harvest Festival service was held on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> September at 11.00am. and the Harvest Supper was on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> October in the village hall.

The Suffolk Church Singers gave an evening of carols and Christmas music in the church on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December.

On 20<sup>th</sup> March 2012, the Bury Free Press reported that All Saints' in Bradfield Combust is in danger of closing or being reduced to the status of a "chapel of ease", due to a lack of support and funds. At a meeting on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> April attended by the villagers, the Archdeacon of Sudbury, the Benefice Rector and reported in the Bury Free Press, practical suggestions for the way forward were discussed. This could affect the "parish share" of Hawstead which is also part of the St. Edmund Way Benefice, especially if the option to combine with another parish is taken.

## WEATHER

In general terms, May 2011 was warmer than average and very dry and with a strong gale during the afternoon of the 23<sup>rd</sup>. There was a grass frost overnight early in the month on 3/4<sup>th</sup> and again on the night of the 24/25<sup>th</sup>, which damaged young plants, especially those in the vegetable garden. One consequence was that the amount of local fruit and vegetables on display in the Village Fete in September was much reduced. Autumn temperatures were a little above average but on the dry side. Similarly, January 2012 was unseasonably mild, 1.3C above average and it was also dry and sunny. Wild life began to come out of hibernation and forage for food. However, gales from the 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 5<sup>th</sup> resulted in 3 trees being blown over and in Pinford End, one large branch was dislodged by the River Lark. Winter returned at the end of January and in early February when bitterly cold winds from Siberia ushered in a big freeze. March weather was 3 deg. C above average with only 2 or 3 days on which rain fell, but a cool and wet April followed.

The soap opera of the Metcalfe Arms continued this year. The latest tenants lasted until the end of February 2011 when they left suddenly after the February Parish Council meeting. At the end of June, the pub was still unoccupied. The July Hawstead Journal announced that the pub was now open again under new management, with Stephen and Becci welcoming us to the pub. The new tenants took over with the pub opening at the beginning of August, but they left sometime in December. There was a roof fire in January as new tenants Sarah Sadler and her mother took over in January. The Bury Free Press reported that the Metcalfe Arms public house was closed for business after a roof fire on Thursday January 19<sup>th</sup> 2012. Fire crews used a turntable to strip away roof tiles to locate the seat of the fire and power to the pub was shut off by UK Power Networks. An Easter Sunday charity event at the pub for the 8<sup>th</sup> April was announced.

At the Suffolk Show at Ipswich, on day one, the 1<sup>st</sup> June 2011, Andrew Brown won 1<sup>st</sup> prize for Aberdeen Angus cows. Further success followed at the Edenbridge and Oxted agricultural show. Young bulls and females were offered for sale from the herd. An anniversary party was staged at the Suffolk Barn in Hawstead to celebrate 50 years of South Lee School. Rupert and Christopher Brown also won the Suffolk Agricultural Association's 2011 Farm Business Award in the large farm category. They have a large number of very successful diversification enterprises, including a venue for weddings and parties, a holiday let, fishing and a soil screening business. Also based at Pinford End is "Confektz", who are makers of gourmet marshmallows. They won awards for their chocolate honey nut nougat at the Suffolk Show.

The switch over from analogue to digital television reception came to Hawstead as the Sudbury transmitter switched off BBC2 on the 7<sup>th</sup> July 2011, followed by other channels in August.

Two Hawstead residents were invited to the Jankin Smyth Commemoration Service in St. Mary's Church, Bury St. Edmunds on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2011 in memory of the local benefactor who in 1481 provided money for the citizens of the town. The service was followed by a toast in the Guildhall, a building he provided for the town, in a traditional cakes and ale ceremony.

The annual Suffolk Hunt Boxing Day meet attracted some 65 riders and around 500 spectators as the hounds started off from Hawstead. The drag hunting took the hounds and horses some 20 miles for about 4 hours.

Jacque Milns was a member of the winning Bury Golf Club team in the Suffolk County Cranworth Salver Competition, when Bury defeated Woodbridge in the final. Elsewhere on the sporting front, Fran and Bethany Evershed ran in a 5km event on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> June for Cancer Research and Henry Brewis and Clive Robinson cycled from London to Cambridge

also to raise money for charity.

A celebration of the Metcalfe Almshouses bicentenary (endowed and built in 1811) was held on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> November in the Village Hall and marked the retirement of the clerk, Joan Cook after 10 year's service.

On the roads, Bells Lane was surface dressed and gritted on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2011 and the road from Park Lane cottage to Gypsy Lane was closed for 3 days from 11<sup>th</sup> July. On Friday 16<sup>th</sup> September there was a spill from a ruptured seed bag on the road bend by Hawstead Lodge, Pinford End. One other bag was displaced from the trailer and the road was closed for about 20 minutes for recovery and cleaning up. Park Road was closed for 3 weeks from 12<sup>th</sup> September 2011 for resurfacing and edge repairing. The Highways Department dealt with the damaged culvert on the roadway on Whepstead Road in October and Lawshall Road was closed for 5 weeks from the end of January into February 2012 for resurfacing and edge mending.

At around 5pm on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2011, the Bury Road at the double bend by Larkfield was closed because a car overturned in a collision. Two fire engines, several paramedics and an ambulance attended.

On 30<sup>th</sup> March 2012, the Bury Free Press published a letter from Nigel Gosset, a Hawstead resident, complaining about the double yellow lines along the road by Nowton Park and the imposition of parking charges at the recreation area used by many families from the village.

The electricity supply to the village was interrupted on 22<sup>nd</sup> June as essential tree cutting in close proximity to overhead lines was carried out.

Low water pressure was experienced in Pinford End 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> December 2011 as Anglian Water worked on the water main on Horsecroft Road, above Oakhill.

Notification was received that Horsecroft Road in Bury was to have traffic calming speed bumps installed starting end February 2012 for 2 weeks, restricting access to Pinford End for that time.

A home on Whepstead Road was broken into in the early hours of Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> August. On October 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> there were a series of burglaries in Whepstead and Rede.

Fire Crews from Bury St. Edmunds and Wickhambrook were called to a chimney fire at a property in the Pound, Hawstead at 2.45pm on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2012. On arrival they used chimney rods and a stirrup pump to tackle the flames. The fire was under control by 3.45pm.

St. Edmundsbury Borough Council decided on 5 planning applications for the parish of Hawstead for the year.

The council tax for Hawstead houses was increased by 1 % compared to last year. This was made up of no change to Suffolk County Council, no change to St. Edmundsbury Borough Council, an increase of 3.8% to the Suffolk Police Authority. The Parish Council precept was increased by 20.5% compared to last year.

Finally, as recorded by the Land Registry, in the year 1<sup>st</sup> May 2010 to 30 April 2011, 1 house was sold in post code IP29 5PE, 2 in 5NJ, 3 in 5NS, 2 in 5NU and 1 in 5NR.

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