

# HISTORY RECORDER'S REPORT FOR THE VILLAGE OF HAWSTEAD

MAY 2013

The History Recorder's report covers the twelve months from May 2012 to 31<sup>st</sup> April 2013 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 Parish Meeting was held on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2012 in the village hall. Present were the six Parish councilors and the last meeting with Parish Clerk, Marilyn Bottomley who had submitted her resignation. Footpaths were declared to be in good repair, but the land owners who were asked to consider opening new paths did not respond favourably. The purchase of a picnic bench for the millennium field was agreed and a bench outside almshouses was proposed, to be paid for and supplied by the council. Bill Crockford had cleaned the village sign earlier in the year. On the 13<sup>th</sup> June 2012, a meeting was called to hear a presentation given by Annette Gray from Suffolk Acre on the benefits of having a Parish plan.

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting on July 19<sup>th</sup> 2012 were taken by Henry Brewis, following the resignation of the clerk, Marilyn Bottomley. A petition objecting to the newly imposed parking charges at Nowton Park was discussed and a decision deferred to the autumn. Bottle bank overflow during the summer caused a nuisance and four candidates applied for the post of Parish Council Clerk.

Also over the summer, from time to time, a mobile speed control trap was installed along the Lawshall Road, by the village green, resulting in several convictions and warnings. Throughout the village, the old style 30mph signs were replaced with new ones. Ragwort was pulled 9<sup>th</sup> July, to conform to the village green maintenance required by DEFRA. Resurfacing work on the village hall car park was given the go ahead. In Sept 2012, the goal posts were removed from village green. At the September Parish Meeting, the footpath at Pinford End was reported to be overgrown and there was a discussion of how much village green could be cut back to give room for children to play ball games. At the Parish Meeting of 15<sup>th</sup> November 2012, mole control and rabbit control were given go ahead. Ash trees were said to be healthy, free from the fatal fungus, in contrast with two diseased cases found in Lawshall.

The Parish Council meeting 17<sup>th</sup> January 2013 saw the newly appointed clerk, Catherine Hibbert taking the minutes. Mobile speed signs and the broadband speed were discussed. Repairs to the village hall car park were authorized. The same precept of £8000 as last year applied for the

coming year. The council was warned that because of governmental changes, the amount for 2014 and onwards would be affected by a reduced grant from the Borough Council. The Bury Free Press reported on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2013 that Hawstead was involved in a pilot scheme to assess housing needs. The Parish Council said an approach was made, but participation declined.

During the year, dog waste disposal arrangements and council collection was changed. Early in the New Year, 4.6 acres of land on Bell's Lane were offered for sale, at £150,000. At the Parish Meeting on 21 March 2013, a presentation was given by the prospective purchasers of the plot by Brook Green. The intention was of development to a First World War museum with trenches, suitable for field work visits and film and television.

## ON THE ROADS

On Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> June 2012, Park Lane was closed at the junction with Horsecroft Road as a broken-down farm trailer blocked the road. The damaged wheel was replaced by 11am and the road re-opened.

On Sunday, 17 June 2012, a large section split from the chestnut tree by the road side over the bridge by the River Lark at Pinford End. Park Lane surface was gritted and surface dressed and in the last week of June 2012, the road surface was gritted from the Metcalfe Arms towards Lawshall.

From the end of July and into the 1<sup>st</sup> week of August 2012, ditch and drain clearing took place in Pinford End and a new drainage pipe was installed under the nursing home entrance and down to Bull Lane and in July, a pot hole on Bull Hill was repaired.

A red BMW car crashed through the bridge barriers at the Larkfield corner on 7<sup>th</sup> August 2012. It was travelling from Hawstead towards Bury St Edmunds and ended up in the River Lark. By December 2012, road warning signs, arrows on poles, were installed on the bend. However, at the Parish Council meeting on 17 January 2013, the installed signage was considered to be dangerous and inadequate. Representations were made to the Highways Authority. On the 8<sup>th</sup> September 2012, a silver Peugeot car ended up in the ditch on Horsecroft Road beyond Horsecroft Lodge. The car was retrieved at 11am on Monday 10<sup>th</sup>.

During the 1<sup>st</sup> week in September, Anglia Water closed the road on Bull Hill to repair a leak. There was no access to Bury from Hawstead as the road was closed at the junction with Church Road. However, the state of the road, verges and drainage on Bull Hill towards Nowton were still a matter of concern and discussed at the January 2013 Parish Council meeting.

In September 2012 more road name signs appeared in the village.

On 12 February 2013, Horsecroft Road was closed to enable Pinford End bridge to be repaired and the road resurfaced. The damaged carriageway, with a crack on the crest of the bridge, had previously been declared safe in July 2012. On same day, road works appeared on Bull Hill to repair the damaged drainage ditch, with traffic controlled by lights. Also, the road flooded at the Bull Lane/Church Road junction as the ditch overflowed above Pinford End farm.

Whepstead Road was closed between 18<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> February 2013, for a new electrical connection to be made to Asriel, a house on the Lawshall side of the highway.

## WEATHER

A prolonged spell of wet weather in May flooded the road at the bridge on Bell's Lane. Weather in June was wet and cloudy with sunshine 60% average. September started with overnight frosts and was cool and dry. The October temperature was below average with rainfall 50% above average. November was notable for the strong winds on the 25<sup>th</sup>. The first half of December was cold, with light snow on the 5<sup>th</sup>. The cold spell lasted until mid April, which was colder and dryer than average.

## VILLAGE HALL

The village hall continued to be well used by clubs and activities as well as being a popular venue for receptions. In addition, it hosted the village events, starting with the Diamond Jubilee celebrations at the end of May.

The Community Council held its AGM on the 7<sup>th</sup> June.

July weather was cool and wet, with 80% average sunshine 166% average rainfall. The cool and wet weather since April meant that, because of late ripening, there was a lack of fruit and vegetable entries in the Village Fete, held earlier than usual on Sunday, the 5<sup>th</sup> August. Blackberries and elder were also late into the autumn.

On the 7<sup>th</sup> September, the Rotary Club of Bury St. Edmunds held a "Fizz on Friday" event in the village hall, with entertainment given by the Suffolk Opera and the local Piper Quartet.

The Macmillan coffee morning was held this year on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> September, and on the 11<sup>th</sup> October, an "Antiques road show" for the West Suffolk branch of the NSPCC was held in the village hall.

On November 15<sup>th</sup>, the hall was used as a polling station for the election of Suffolk Police and Crime Commissioners. Other events have included a Christmas Fayre on December 2<sup>nd</sup> and the pensioners' Christmas lunch on December 20<sup>th</sup>. Graham and Rebecca Leslie donated the two Christmas trees.

The Community Council subsidized children to go to the pantomime, Rapunzel and the Rascal Prince on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2013 at the Theatre Royal.

## CHURCH/BENEFICE

On Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> June, the Benefice held a meeting to discuss the future of All Saints Church, Bradfield Combust, which is struggling due to lack of funds. It is unlikely to be kept open for ministry as before or leased out for community use because it is without the necessary Parochial Church Council.

The Diocese Regional Women's Meeting took place in Hawstead church on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> June. Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> June saw the Aquarius Choir give a concert of music for a summer's evening in the church.

The Suffolk Historic Churches cycle ride Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> September as usual included Hawstead All Saints as part of its itinerary.

The Harvest Service was celebrated on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> September and the Harvest Supper followed on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> October.

For Christmas, the Service of Nine Lessons and Carols was held on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> December.

## POLICE REPORTS

There were 4 crimes reported. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> October, there was damage to a fence as horses escaped; on the 23<sup>rd</sup> November, a digger was stolen from Church Farm; there was a burglary at a house on Church Road on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> September; and a house on the village green was broken into between 8.00am and 4.30pm on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2013. Opportunistic house burglaries during the day are increasing and are a concern.

Speeding traffic along the Lawshall Road has been made a priority target.

## PUBLICATIONS

Nigel Gossett wrote two letters to the Bury Free Press, one on 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb. 2013 about the Nowton Park car parking charges, and one on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2012 again about the car parking charges at Nowton Park and double yellow no parking lines on the road outside. The paper reported on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2012 that the yellow lines are to go but the parking charges stay.

Lucy Brewis' aerial photograph of the sugar beet factory was published in the Bury Free Press on 8<sup>th</sup> Feb. 2013 and on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2012, a photograph of the harvest near Risby by Lorna Mayes was published.

ELSEWHERE IN THE VILLAGE, for the sixth successive year, traditional May Day celebrations were held on Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup> 2012, 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.

Fund raising by villagers continued with the Eversheds taking part in “Race for Life” 5km in Nowton Park on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> June in aid of Cancer Research. On May 12<sup>th</sup> Hayley Brewis competed in the Iron Man challenge for Brain Tumour Research, and Allen Simpson cycled for the Alzheimer’s Society

Andrew Brown from Hawstead Lodge Farm won the interbreed championship at Edenbridge and Oxted show in August 2012 with the prize Aberdeen Angus bull, Eric. From the same herd, in July 2012 Pamela won at the East of England show, where the second day was abandoned because of very wet weather and saturated ground. Further success followed in June 2012 at the Royal Norfolk show. Previously, in May 2012 there was success at the South Suffolk show.

On the evening of June 26<sup>th</sup> 2012, 14 villagers met with Rupert Brown for a trip around Hawstead Farm. At the Parish Council meeting of 20 September 2012, Rupert Brown outlined the future concept for Hawstead Place Barn as an event venue, including wedding ceremonies. A barn dance and hog roast was held on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> November in the Suffolk barn at Hawstead Place, as part of a new Channel 4 documentary series “Helping Hands”. The entire event was filmed.

The Bury Free Press reported on the Boxing Day Suffolk hunt starting from Hawstead using a drag hunt, in its 28<sup>th</sup> December edition.

The Metcalfe Arms, which has had an uncertain history over the last few years, closed again after a fundraising event on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2012, in aid of Aimee Sigley who died last year of a brain tumour. During the 1<sup>st</sup> week of August, the roof on Metcalfe Arms pub was repaired following the fire the previous December. In January 2013, we were told that the pub was under new management and will be refurbished. The status of its present occupants is uncertain.

Dave Dawson won the golf challenge at Bury Golf Club for Hawstead residents.

On 17<sup>th</sup> June 2012 the village green grass was cut for hay; the following day it was turned for drying and baled and removed on the 28<sup>th</sup> June. In July 2012, harvesting started in Whestead and at the top of Bull Lane.

On June 27<sup>th</sup> 2012, the Freeview TV and radio channels were re-set as part of a major technical upgrade at the Sudbury transmitter, which covers Hawstead.

During the last year, we said goodbye to Katie Fairbairn, one-time Parish Council chairman, who died in September 2012, and Robin Whitfield, a past Parish Council Clerk. Joanne Abbott’s

funeral was held at All Saints Church on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2013. She died on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2012, aged 66. Edward Tooke was buried at All Saints on the 18<sup>th</sup> February, 2013. John William Smith, born in 1931 in Hawstead, died on May 20<sup>th</sup> 2012, with the funeral on 31 May. Michael Bulmer died on the 10<sup>th</sup> Feb 2013. His funeral was at the Catholic Church in Lawshall with burial at All Saints, Hawstead.

St. Edmundsbury Borough Council decided on 15 planning applications for the parish of Hawstead for the year 1<sup>st</sup> May 2012 to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2013.

The council tax for Hawstead houses was unchanged compared to last year, with no change to Suffolk County Council, a nil increase to St. Edmundsbury Borough Council and a stand-still to the Suffolk Police Authority. The Parish Council precept was down by a minimal amount. Finally, as recorded by the Land Registry, in the year 1<sup>st</sup> May 2012 to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2013, one house sale was completed in the village, in post code IP29 5NJ.

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