

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

(in the hall unless otherwise stated)

Community Council - Monday 21st February - 7.30 pm

Annual General Meeting—19th May

Parish Council - Thursday 17th February Refreshments to follow

Public Forum at 7.30 pm *Please note change of date.*

Annual Parish Meeting will be in May date tba

Parish Council Elections Thursday 5th May



The Village Pantomime

We will be having our first meeting on

Sunday 6th February 3 pm

Quiz Night - Saturday 26th February, Quiz-master Clive Robinson, 7pm,
Tickets £7 including a fish and chip supper, available in advance from
Rosemary Harrison 386157 on or Clive on 388082. Bring your own drink.

St George's Day Celebration - Saturday 23rd April 2011

Ruby and Her Horses - Saturday 9th June

The Hidden Gardens of Hawstead Saturday 25th June 10 am—4 pm
With Coffee, Cream Teas etc in the village hall. You have time to get your
gardens into shape!

Tea Dance August date to be announced

The Village Pantomime - Friday 6th and Saturday 7th January 2012

REGULAR EVENTS

Breathe Easy - Weekly on Tuesdays 9.30 - 10.30am

Craft Group - Last Wednesday of the month 10.30 am - 1 pm

Carpet Bowls - Weekly on Tuesdays 7.30pm

Editor: Geraldine West

Hawstead Journal

For the Village by the Village

January 2011

HAWSTEAD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Another year begins, I hope I get all the things done that I did not do last year. There is always something, I have just been making marmalade. Those oranges come into the shops just after Christmas just when you feel like a rest. It is worth it though, there is something about a cupboard of gleaming jars that is so satisfying. I'll take your word for it, I hear you say!

There are things we would like to do this year; we should use the hall more for ourselves, **coffee mornings** maybe a **monthly lunch club**. **The idea of a tea dance** is being looked into. **Ruth Mackay holds a craft morning** on the last Wednesday of the month, you could learn a new skill or just come for a knit and a natter. Ruth hopes to put together some workshops in the new year. **A village pantomime** is proposed for next January.

The hidden gardens of Hawstead - a good idea for the summer, will be on 25th June, with cream teas in the hall.

We still have the ability to offer an **IT class**, a teacher is being sought.

No Burn's Night in the hall this year. A dinner for St Georges day was in the diary. That date now clashes with coming Royal Wedding and Easter. A village party to celebrate everything could be the answer. We will come up with a plan together with the Parish Council. You may have been involved in something like that in the past, if so, your help and ideas would be most welcome.

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HAWSTEAD COMMUNITY COUNCIL Contd..

The village hall is doing well financially. People are always impressed by it. It is there for your use, if ever you need an internet connection, or just a large space to do something like sewing long curtains! My husband often goes in there to practise playing the bagpipes whilst walking! You can also borrow equipment such as crockery, cutlery etc.

Our AGM is in May. As usual there may be one or two vacancies on the Community Council. Our main job is to manage the recreational facilities, such as the play area and the hall in the interest of the social welfare of the community. In the next few months before May we will go through the history of the community council and explain just what we do. The date of our monthly meeting is on the back of the journal and you would always be most welcome. I also have to thank my committee and the Parish Council for their continued support.

*I would not be a Scot if I did not wish you a
HAPPY NEW YEAR !*

Sonja 386876

Our thanks to
Ann and Norman Gibbs of Woodlands
who have generously sponsored this month's
edition of the Hawstead Journal

Jokes and stories about army life abound. One of the best is : "What Would You Do If The Barracks Caught On Fire ?" Answer: "I would Recover My Civilian Clothes From My Locker And Celebrate At The Pub !"

This joke reminds us of the maxim that a volunteer is worth ten pressed men. National Service was a necessity in wartime but a heavy price to pay on the peace-time economy

as industry was starved of talented young men. Looking back I doubt if it made a man of me, the struggle to earn money for a wife and children and pay the mortgage was a far more efficient way of turning a kid into a man !

R. Blackwell.

Bus Passes

At the moment Suffolk bus pass holders are able to make journeys starting in Suffolk at any time. However, from April of this year free travel will no longer be permitted during peak periods, however you will still be able to use it anywhere in England for off peak journeys i.e., between 9.30am and 11pm on weekdays and all day weekends and bank holidays.

For more information on these changes call Suffolk County Council on 0845 600 0659. If you're eligible for a free bus pass, you can use it anywhere

More bus news

According to the passengers using the village bus to and from Bury the contract for Chambers Buses runs out in April and no negotiations to renew it or find someone else to run it have taken place. Passengers wonder what this is leading to....

Parish Council Elections - advanced notification

Our Parish Councillors' 4 year term of office comes to an end in May of this year.

The election process will begin on Friday 25th March when Notices of Election will be published. Nomination packs for those wishing to become a Parish Councillor will be available from the 21st March from the Parish Clerk Marilyn Bottomley, telephone 01284 789303 or from the Electoral Office at West Suffolk House, telephone 01384 763233. The closing date for the submission of completed nomination papers is noon on Monday 4th April.

IT'S GOING TO MAKE A MAN OF YOU !!

It's going to make a man of you ! Or so my family assured me as I prepared to start my National Service. The mass conscription of young men known as National Service went on until 1961 and I was one of the wary and reluctant youths who duly reported in peacetime to camps all over Britain to serve Queen and Country - and foul-mouthed drill sergeants.



6000 young men a month were called up and served first 18 months (then later two years) in the army, navy and air force. My first day in a camp near Aldershot could not have been better planned to turn mild-mannered youths into work-shy and contemptuous lackeys of the armed forces. A prison style haircut, kit issued by snarling and insulting bored quartermasters, bleak dining halls that resembled funeral parlours then ridiculous levels of boot-shining and brass cleaning completed a day of horror.

The armed forces, faced with a torrent of youths who ranged from either bright grammar school boys or illiterate ne'er-do-wells did their best with trade training. The gifted became radar operators or aircraft technicians, I know some who became refuse-collectors and I was chosen to become a medical secretary in the Army Medical Corps. I served with some very frustrated qualified doctors whose national service had been delayed until their training was completed and the authorities grabbed them in their late twenties. Everyone was fed up ! It was widely believed that we were wasting our time.

We should remember with respect the unfortunate young men who fought in the bloody conflicts of those so called post-war years. Korea, Malaya, Cyprus and several other nasty little wars took the lives of over 400 National Servicemen. Many were left with deep scars on their memories of hardship and suffering as prisoners of war in Korea. We should also remember the young women who did National Service from 1941 to 1945.

What happened to me ? My health rating of LCTC on my medical examination ensured I only went in areas of temperate climates - in effect Europe was my only chance of posting and in fact Hampshire, Surrey and Suffolk were the only places where I served.

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HAWSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

*On behalf of the Parish Council,
we all wish everyone a Peaceful New Year*

Malcolm Cornwell, Parish Chairman

Village Hall Christmas Trees

For the second successive year, the Parish Council organised the supply of two locally grown Christmas trees and our thanks go to Mr & Mrs Lesley of Oaklands Lodge, Lawshall Road, who very kindly donated them. One of which was used inside the Village Hall and the other outside, to bring that little extra sparkle of magic for everyone who passed by in the evenings and enjoy the pleasant illuminations.

Our thanks to Barry Colson and Tony Crighton, for their skilful cutting down, transporting the trees and in particular securely placing the external one in position and also thanks to Dave Dawson "artist" arrangement and fitting of the coloured lights.

Malcolm Cornwell, Parish Chairman

Suffolk police have requested the Parish Council to notify Hawstead villagers through our Journal: if everyone could kindly be as vigilant as possible now the winter months are upon us, especially with the early evenings. Their request is an unfortunate reminder, that the early evening provides extra cover for the opportunist casual theft or possible burglary to take place, sometimes, even during daylight hours and often without neighbours hearing or seeing anything unusual.

Therefore, if and when you are out and about in the village and perhaps notice a vehicle driving in a suspicious manner or parked in an unusual place, please if possible, note the colour, take vehicle's registration and telephone the police as soon as possible on **01284 774100**. Even if your report subsequently proves your suspicion to be without foundation, it may have helped to provide a possible clue for something else!

You never know, your observation and help may enable our local police to apprehend some extra criminals, for everyone's benefit.

Malcolm Cornwell, Parish Chairman

Hawstead Parish Precept

On 26th November 2010, your Parish Council held a Public Meeting at the Village Hall, where it unanimously approved the Precept Budget for the financial year 2011 - 2012.

In addition, it unanimously approved a £1,000 reduction to the Parish Rate considered to be beneficial to all village ratepayers and since being Chairman, is the third successive year your Council have approved a decrease in the Hawstead Parish Rate.

Malcolm Cornwell, Parish Chairman

Tree and scrub removal on the Village Green

The Parish Council has employed a local contractor to remove the fallen trees and scrub from the area behind the bus stop at the south side of the Village Green. The best of the trees have been left and some of the hazel roots have been left to regrow. During the next few months it is intended that some new groups of native trees will be planted in suitable locations.

This work has been done because the village green is a rare example of unimproved grassland and it is important that it does not become too overgrown. The scrub itself is of course an important habitat for birds and animals but over time it encroaches onto the grassy areas and needs to be controlled on a cyclical basis. It may also be possible to keep some grass paths open through this part of the green so that people can walk more easily towards the pub without having to go on the road.

The Parish Council also intends in the next few months, (before bird nesting season) to remove some dead and dangerous trees from the parish land in Bells Lane beyond the stream towards Whelnetham. This area has quite a lot of dead elm regrowth which is now in danger of falling onto the road. It is anticipated that some more tree work will need to be done in this area next winter.

Andy Evershed, Tree Warden

"ANIMAL SITTER" wanted - to care for our menagerie while we are away for occasional weekends and/or holidays. At the moment we have 3 geese, 3 sheep, quite a few chickens, 1 cat, 1 guinea pig, 1 lizard, tropical fish. Morning and evening feeding required. Small remuneration available. Could suit older teenager or anyone else! If you are interested please ring Andy and Fran on 01284 386501 or email evershed1@tiscali.co.uk Thank You

St Edmundsbury Borough Council's Rural Action Plan

April 2011 to March 2014

The Rural Action Plan is based upon a clear vision - to have active, sustainable and thriving communities in peaceful and unspoilt countryside.

The second phase of the Action Plan Consultation, which will start later this month, will give residents the opportunity to see the draft rural action plan that has been produced, comment on the draft projects included within it, and to suggest new project ideas if they wish.

Projects within the action plan come under the following headings -

Empowerment - enabling communities to help themselves

Environment - improving both the built and the natural environment

Prosperity - generating a healthy economy

Well-being - improving the quality of life of individuals and communities

We welcome project ideas so please keep letting us know your ideas for projects that we can work on with our partners.

The current Rural Action Plan - 2008 to 2011 is available online together with some of the projects.

If you would like to complete the consultation questionnaire or would like more information, please visit: <http://www.stedmundsbury.gov.uk/sebc/live/ruralactionplan.cfm> or call the Rural Economic Development Officer on 01284 757109.

Kirsty Pitwood

Would your horse benefit from more exercise?

I am an experienced rider looking for a horse to exercise and commit to/share regularly. Can commit to evenings after 4pm and weekends.

I am a confident but laid-back rider who is willing to 'muck in'.

If you are interested, please call me on 01284 726836

Fiona Holliday



Flower Arrangements for a special occasion

Workshop in the Village Hall

If you are interested in learning how to do a flower arrangement for a special occasion such as Easter and in spending a pleasant day being creative, please let Joyce Dainty know, on 01284 386314. If enough people are interested Joyce will organise this.

Christmas Presents

Do you have Christmas presents that you don't want or need or anything else that would be suitable for a raffle/tombola? If so, please let either Paul and Karen Caldwell (388267) or Joyce Dainty (386314) have them for the next charity coffee morning!!

A Book Club for Hawstead

We are thinking of starting a new book club if you are interested in joining ring Ann Gibbs 01284388642

You are cordially invited to the

Private View of an Exhibition of Paintings

At the Edmund Gallery, Angel Hill, Bury St. Edmunds

By Jane Brettell and Glyn Hammond

25th February 2011

6pm – 8.30pm

Exhibition continues until 2nd March 10am - 5pm

For more information call Glyn on 01284 386788

ANY HUMAN HEART

I recently thoroughly enjoyed watching the short TV series on Channel 4, "Any Human Heart". One reason for looking out for it was that I saw that it was from a novel by William Boyd (who also wrote the screenplay). I had come across this author earlier in the year and had read and liked his most recent novel "Ordinary Thunderstorms".



After seeing the TV series I hot-footed it into town and bought the book which I found equally fascinating. Unusually, it is written as a journal, as written from time to time between 1923 and 1991 by the central character, Logan Mountstuart.

Mountstuart's later years are spent in a small village in South-West France, and I found the description interesting. The village "...possessed a main street and a small square around which stood a church (badly restored), a post office, a mairie and the Superette. [small supermarket] In side streets off the square were a couple of bars, a couple of pharmacies, a couple of butchers and a couple of bakers. There was a medical centre with a doctor's consulting rooms and a dentist's surgery; there was a newsagent and a taxi service that doubled as an undertaker's. Just about everything, in fact, that a village of three hundred people might need".

I should say so!! That's fantastic, when you compare with a similarly-sized village in England - ie Hawstead! I realise, of course, that we have Bury St Edmunds only 4 miles away, and that France is a much more rural country, but even so...*

The notes on the author say that Mr Boyd divides his time between London and SW France, so he must know the area. I wondered if the village of Sainte-Sabine is real or imagined. Via the internet I did find it (pop. 359), but curiously in a different direction (and not so far as described in the book) from a definitely existing town, Puy l'Eveque.

Anyway, it was a jolly good read - and I see from a Channel 4 interview with the author that both "Ordinary Thunderstorms" and his previous novel, "Restless" are being (or are due to be) turned into films.

* Also, the description refers to the situation in 1977: perhaps, even in France, the number of rural services may have declined since.

Andy Parrett

Hawstead: The Camping Pightle

(From A History of Suffolk by David Dymond & Peter Northeast)



I expect you can place this picture and know that it is now the Church car park and the new Churchyard, the pightle also included what is now known as the Millennium Field but what is a pightle? Pightle (noun) plural pightles, (Norfolk, obsolete) a small enclosure of land Etymology

Uncertain; possibly dates from the nineteenth century; possibly from pigtailed. In the 1840 Hawstead tithe survey several small and odd shaped fields are referred to as pightles, so it was also in common use in Suffolk. From the same source "sites of this kind were used for camping, an early form of football, and other recreations." In "The Mardler's Companion" by Robert Malster is this entry: Camping pightle. The Rev Sir John Cullum of Hawstead mentions in his history, a deed of about 1500 referring to "The camping pightel joined to the East side of the churchyard" that was let for 13s.4p. a year. It was a small close used for playing the game rather than living under canvas.

The Fatal Sport of Camping

Camping was a game which, in spite of the periodic banning of such sports, was popular in East Anglia. Various descriptions of this notoriously rough game have been given, including one by P.H. Emerson, the pioneer photographer, in his Pictures of East Anglian Life, published in 1888. "This is a kind of mixed hockey and football, the ball used, however, being seven inches in diameter, and soft. Each player had a stick to strike the ball with, and at each end of the field were placed the byes or goals, made by placing bent osier twigs into the ground so as to form arches. Both sides-the number on each side being unlimited, ten a side, however, being a common team-had to toe the goal-line. One 'starter' then took the ball and placed it in the middle of the field, covering it with his hat.

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November came in mild, almost balmy, but by mid month temperatures were persistently below normal, a prelude to the cold of the final week. From the 25th - 30th day temperatures did not exceed 3^oc. The 28th was the coldest November day since 1969: the thermometer remained below freezing all day. Snow first fell on the 26th but there was no continuous cover until the 29th. It was the coldest November since 1993.

The cold intensified during the first week of December, eased towards mid month, returned the week before Christmas, easing again towards the New Year. Snow never lay more than 5cm in the village. We lay on the northern edge of a belt of snow that deposited some 20cm along the Stour Valley on December 18th/19th. Even so, snow covered the ground on 15 mornings.

Minima were particularly low at the midwinter period, the thermometer dropping below minus 9^oc on 4 consecutive nights. Maxima failed to reach 0^oc on 8 days during the month. The average temperature minus 6^oc made it the coldest December since 1981. Over the UK as a whole, the meteo group records this month as the coldest since 1890. Months recording a minus average temperature are rare: 6 occasions in the past 50 years, notably January 1963, February 1963, January 1979, December 1981 and February 1986.

Rainfall for December was less than 40% of normal, although burst water mains and thawing ground resulted in a 'wet' end to the month.

I haven't compared the mornings of snow lying in 2010 with earlier years, but I suspect this has been one of the snowiest years since 1963 with measurable snow lying on at least 30 mornings. However quantities of snow have been meagre compared to the early aforementioned cold months.

Glyn Hammond

Hawstead Journal

Have you got something interesting to contribute to the Hawstead Journal. Are you recent arrivals who might like to introduce yourselves to others in the village or have an interesting event to publicise. Please send your contributions to me, Geraldine West, Editor, Kellycroft, The Green, (opposite the Village Hall) Tel 388723, email geraldinewest@waitrose.com.

You can now view the HJ online at www.Hawsteadvillagehall.co.uk.

HELP NEEDED! I am looking for people who are willing to help in the production of the HJ. If you have desktop publisher skills, or would be able to print, collate and distribute the HJ or assist in any other way, please let me know.

Weather Report 2010



The year was memorable for recording the lowest average temperature, 9.2°C since 1996. I read somewhere, some while back, that 2010 would be a blip in the general trend to greater warmth - how true.

The annual rainfall - 646.6mm exceeded the mean by 40mm largely on account of the very wet August, the wettest month recorded at this station since 1960.

January and February were both colder than normal, particularly January, when snow lay on the ground for more than ten mornings. It was the coldest January since 1987.

March was cold for the first fortnight after which it was much milder, triggering a rapid spring. Sunny and warm by day, April was dry but cool by night with several air frosts. The most damaging frosts occurred on May 12th with a temperature of -3°C. Although it was very warm from May 19th - 24th the month was the coolest since 1996.



After a promising summery beginning to June, north east winds brought much cloud off the north sea during the middle of the month. It was not until the 21st that sun and warmth arrived to continue through much of July.

The year's top temperature of 31.3°C occurred on the 9th July. The average temperature of 18.7°C (incidentally the same as July 1976) has only been exceeded on four occasions since 1960. August by contrast was cool and wet a\particularly from the 23rd-29th when 92mm were recorded. The average daily maxima were the coolest since 1986. September was a fair month with both rainfall and temperature close to average. October was wetter than normal but with temperatures close to average although the third week was cooler when the first air frost was recorded. October 10th, a cloudless day, was the last warm day of the year, with the thermometer reaching 20.3°.



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The removal of this hat was the signal to begin, and forthwith the fleetest runners rushed to the ball to get the first stroke, whilst the field took up their allotted positions. The players were allowed to throw and run with the ball, but not to kick it. The game, we are told, was very rough, and sparring men and bullies were often hired on both sides. These matches, organised as a rule by the publicans, frequently took place between neighbouring villages and hundreds, the field often being lined with waggons. " The Rev. W. T. Spurdens remarks that "The camping of which Mr. Forby writes is beginning to be forgotten, and it is well. The contests were, not unfrequently, fatal to many of the combatants. I have heard old persons speak of a celebrated camping, Norfolk against Suffolk, on Diss Common, with 300 on each side. Before the ball was thrown up, the Norfolk side enquired tauntingly of the Suffolk men, if they had brought their coffins! The Suffolk men, after 14 hours, were the victors. Nine deaths were the result of the contest, within a fortnight! "

Does anyone want to resurrect Camping? Who needs rules!

Simon Miller

THE METCALFE ARMS



Sunday roasts will be served from 30th January.

Baz's Birthday Bash/St Valentine's Day Celebration on Saturday 12th February. You are all welcome. There will be music by D.J.Finchey.

Disco and Karaoke. Call Helen and Baz on 01284 388497



The Village Christmas Lunch



Winter in Hawstead