

Suffolk Village of the Year Entry Form

Additional Information About Hawstead

Hawstead Computer Training Courses

About four years ago a resident of Hawstead who works in the computer industry kindly donated several PC's and monitors to the village, with the view of running computer training courses for village residents. He undertook some of the training himself and was assisted by other computer professionals. The courses were designed for various levels but basically to give attendees the confidence to use the internet, send emails and other simple tasks. The courses were well attended by both young and old alike with between 6-10 people on each course. Overall it was a very successful initiative.

Hawstead Parish Emergency Plan

The essence of the Hawstead Emergency Plan is to ensure that in the event of any type of emergency the elderly and vulnerable residents of the village are looked after. Each area of the village has volunteers who undertake to look after residents in the area. At the beginning of 2014 the plan was put into action when severe storms rendered some areas of the village without power for several days. The Emergency Plan volunteers worked hard to ensure residents in their area were managing under these conditions. This included arranging for residents without power to stay with neighbours who did have power at their homes. It was reassuring to know that this well laid plan worked as well in practice as it looks on paper and is another example of the strong community bond between the residents of Hawstead.



Maglia Rosso Cycle Shop and Destination Café

After standing empty for some time the former village pub – The Metcalfe Arms - has now become a highly regarded cycle shop with a Destination Café. The owners of Maglia Rosso are keen to be part of the Hawstead community. They have always welcomed villagers in to view the transformation taking place when changing the pub to their new venture. Mr Barry Denny, who owns Maglia Rosso with his son Matt, came to speak at a recent Parish Council meeting about how he hopes that his business can work with the village and to be a useful village facility as well as a successful business. To this end he is looking at opening the café (which is fully licenced) on occasional Friday evenings as a social meeting place for villagers – this is something that has been much missed by the village

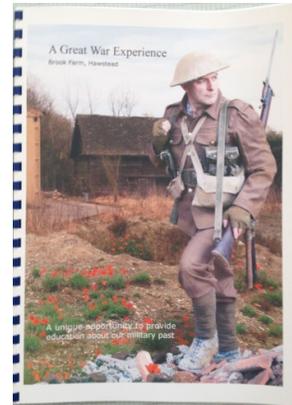


since the closure of the pub. They are also considering having a small shop on site selling staples such as bread and milk which will be extremely useful to residents.

Khaki Devil Ltd

Another new business has moved into Hawstead during 2013/14. Khaki Devil specialises in the provision of World War I costumes and memorabilia which it hires to TV and theatre productions for re-enactments. The business is now operating from Brook Farm in Bells Lane.

Plans have also recently been approved by St Edmundsbury BC to expand the business to include a small attraction demonstrating how life would be in the trenches during the First World War, as well as the erection of some original WWI huts which will be used to display memorabilia. A café is also planned.



The owners of Khaki Devil have gone to great lengths to ensure that residents of Hawstead have a full understanding of their plans for the business. They held an open evening for residents to view the site so as to learn all about the company: the owner Taff Gillingham has also given presentations at Parish Council meetings. Job vacancies at Khaki Devil were advertised in the Hawstead Journal before being advertised publicly thus giving residents the first chance to gain employment within the village. The company now employs several local people in their workforce.