

Letter from the Editor

The editor apologises that due to a spell of poor health the usual letter has not been produced. Brian Kew. Next months editor will be **Ann Gibbs.**

Castaway Top Ten

This months Castaway is Norman Gibbs of "The Pound".

Norman's Top Ten

Ray Charles - Take These Chains From My Heart:

It was playing when I met my first girlfriend (which dates me!)

Harry Chapin - The Cats in the Cradle: It tells a very poignant story of the relationship between a father & son which relates so well to today's fast pace of life.

The Strawbs-Tears & Pavanne: Great guitar playing combined with Dave Cousen's mournful voice.

Queen-I Want to Break Free: Reminds me of when I met my wife Ann at a time when she was in an unhappy relationship.

Kansas-Dust in the Wind: It sums up life and reminds me of a very good holiday in Jamaica

Yes -Owner of a Broken Heart.: It was playing in the car driving us round Paris on Ann's 30th Birthday.

Red Hot Chilli Peppers-By the Way: Also one of my son Oliver's favourites.

Supertramp -Brother Where You're Bound: Reminds me of a holiday in Italy and seeing the group twice in 2 excellent concerts.

Oliver Gibbs - Superman: Not available commercially yet but Oliver's first attempt at song writing!

U2 -Sunday Bloody Sunday: A classic!

Favourite Track:

Kansas: Dust in the Wind.

Next months Castaway is Morris.

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Editor :Brian Kew



Hawstead Journal

For the Village by the Village

January 2003

Parish Council

*At this time we wish everyone in Hawstead
a Very Happy New Year.*

Another Glance Backwards.....

In a previous issue we got some idea of Hawstead at the time the new Parish Council first met over 100 years ago, when the Rector was both Chairman and Clerk and meetings were held in the school. The Minute book, with the hand written record of individual meetings rarely taking up more than two sides of a page lasted from December 1894 to May 1984! tells us that many subjects were discussed, including the charities, keeping the Green in better order and the state of some footbridges and stiles in the Parish. The annual rate levy for the whole parish, then assessed on land as well as houses, totalled £77.0s.5d. This was collected locally and at it's second meeting the Council appointed Wilfrid Wright as Assistant Overseer at a salary of £10 per year, with William Wright agreeing to be bondsman (surety) for his son to the amount of £200; a sum which would have bought a cottage in those days. The custody and management of Hawsteads Greens has continued to this day, except for a temporary period during World War Two when Hawstead Green was ploughed up by Government Order under emergency legislation. For some years the Parish Council had a role in the nomination of needy parishioners for Christmas gifts of coal, but this practice disappeared after coal rationing was introduced

.....And A Look Forward

The Election of Borough Councillors and Councillors of Town and Parish Councils within the Borough of St. Edmundsbury take place every four years and 2003 is an Election Year.

The actual Election Day is **THURSDAY, 1st MAY 2003** and anyone

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interested in becoming a candidate for either (turn to page 2)
Parish or Borough Councillor should look out for the Official Notices by the
Returning Officer inviting nominations, which will go up on notice boards in
the village beforehand.

This will be the first time that postal balloting is held to elect Councillors.

D. Tolhurst

New Church Appointment: Hawstead & Neighbouring Parishes

The Bishop has just approved the appointment of the Rev Martin Thrower
as Priest-in-Charge to our newly formed Benefice, which will be comprised
of the six Parishes of Hawstead, Nowton, Stanningfield, Bradfield
Combust, Lawshall and Great Whelnetham. He will be taking up his
appointment in the early spring and until then Father Geoffrey Smith will
continue to serve as our temporary incumbent.

Martin is married with 3 young children. He is a Suffolk man and until
recently has worked in commerce. He was ordained a couple of years ago
and is currently serving as an assistant priest in the north Bury group of
churches, which includes St Johns, St Georges and All Saints. We wish
him every success in his appointment.

Tony Hillman

All Saints Church – Hawstead Services

January

Sunday 12 th	11.00am	Matins
Sunday 19 th	11.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday 26 th	8.30am	Holy Communion(said) BCP

February

Sunday 9 th	11.00am	Matins
Sunday 16 th	11.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday 23 rd	8.30am	Holy Communion(said) BCP

Above Your Head

Every moving object complies with precise physical laws of motion and
gravitation, first described by Sir Isaac Newton later amended and added to
by other mathematicians. If we are considering the whole universe then
everything is on the move and so the progress of every object can be
predicted but what is more exciting is to see something that has not been
predicted.

On 19th December I was driving on the A14 to work when I saw such an
event at 6.30 am. It was a FIREBALL. It streaked across the sky
approximately east to west. As it travelled away from me it's speed became
less obvious and it even seemed to hang in the sky over Newmarket for a
moment before disappearing in the mist. If I had been standing in a field
away from the A14 I may have even heard the double supersonic boom.
This event reminded me of a very similar sighting I had a couple of years
ago. It was the same time of day and year but this time I was on the M11 in
the Duxford area. Again it went from east to west but that time a work
colleague, making the same journey also saw it. Such sightings can set the
imagination racing from the Star of Bethlehem to Santa on a pre-Christmas
practice run.

My wild guess would be that they are connected with the *Ursids* meteor
shower, which are normally to be seen between 17th and 25th of December.
I did in fact see them in their normal form over Hawstead in 2001. The next
shower (meteor), the *Quadrantids* may be seen on or near 4th January 2003
then after that the *Lyrids* on Easter Monday.

This Christmas – The New Year period has been horizon to horizon with
thick cloud except on the night of 27-28th December. I was travelling back
from a Christmas visit to friends in Norfolk when the clouds rolled away to
reveal a bright moonless sky. I rushed home to set up my new automated
astrological telescope but the set-up process did not seem to make sense
and when I asked it to find and track the moon, which had just risen at
1a.m., it pointed to a position below the horizon! It should not be able to do
that! Something must be upside-down, I decided to leave it until daylight to
sort it out and now I am waiting for the sky to clear again before I can tryout
my Christmas present.

S.Miller

Thought Creates

Could we be entering an era of the realisation of our enormous untapped mental potential? Computers now rule our lives, but what amazing things they are ! Everything about them has been devised by the human thought process and we can only use them by engaging our minds. Truly, thought creates, as indeed it has always done, but in a particularly noticeable way in the last few hundred years when mechanical invention has progressed in leaps and bounds.

Scientists, physicists and mathematicians agree that the universe is made up of energy. Electro-magnetic energy surrounds us as waves of differing length of sound and light, the denser the wave the more solid the material created. Our thoughts are our personal disturbance of this universal energy.

If we are feeling depressed or grumpy our ill humour very often drags others down with us. Conversely, somebody who is bursting with joy and happiness can lift the atmosphere in a room almost instantly. So our thoughts can affect other people either positively or negatively, creating around us good or bad "vibes". Do we have a choice?

Just think what we might be able to do if a large number of us visualised the children of the world of all races, colours and creeds, growing up together in happiness and harmony, tolerant of each others beliefs.

Perhaps we would create a more peaceful world in the future. This is a very simple view, but could be a good starting point.

If only we could be more aware of and responsible for our thoughts, which are after all, only energy. Now how about that for a New Years Resolution!

Thought for the Month

The important thing is not to stop questioning?

Village Hall Project

Village Hall Update

Following the second village meeting in the Church, it was decided to set up a project group that would explore all the issues around the present state of the village hall. The group members are Alan Brown, James Carr, Joan Cook, Bill Crockford, Dave Dawson and Richard Milne. We are very lucky, as a village, to have residents with just the right professional skills who are willing to give their time and expertise to a challenging and lengthy undertaking.

The project group will work under the auspices of the Community Council and Sonja Monk, Chairperson, will attend meetings and be kept closely informed of developments. The trustees of the Community Council, Ros Alexander, Alan Brown and Tony Hillman are lending their active support and it is planned that the project will report progress to the Parish Council on a regular basis.

The Hawstead Journal will play a central role in keeping every household in the village informed of progress. It could also be used as a forum for YOUR ideas and suggestions as the hall belongs to the community as a whole and the project group wants to reflect and develop what the residents of the village really want.

The Insurance Company on receiving the quotes from the three builders who were prepared to consider repairing the hall decided that they were on the high side and requested that their surveyor should visit and make his own report. A survey was carried out on 16th December and it was quickly apparent to the surveyor, Bill, Sonja and myself that due to the excessive rainfall during November and December considerable co-lateral damage to the hall had occurred. It was agreed that the surveyor would contact builders and call for further quotes to cover the further damage. At the time of writing, the last day of the old year, these have not yet been received. Progress therefore, from our point of view, is limited to the speed of decision making by the Insurance Company. Which while frustrating is necessary.

Nevertheless community life in the village will continue as the well attended lunch for the Triple 20s at Lawshall demonstrated. And very good it was too!

Joan Cook

Project Leader

The Weather Report

NOVEMBER 2002 SUMMARY

The total rainfall; 103.8mm (4.1") was not far short of double the mean figure. Moreover, it was the fourth wettest November since records began in 1960. The average temperature: 8.3°C (47°F) was 1.8°C (3.1°F) above the mean making it the second mildest November on record. Notable too was the lack of frost; only two were recorded. The lowest temperature was -0.6°C, (31°F). Many annuals and perennials were still in flower at the end of the month.

DECEMBER 2002

The dominant mild, wet Atlantic weather was displaced on the 6th when a Scandinavian anticyclone introduced cold north easterly air until the 21st. Winter anticyclones not infrequently bring dull, overcast skies and this proved to be the feature this month.

Between the 9th and the 18th there was no sunshine. Nor was this period dry. Overcast skies prevented low minima, the lowest -2.8°C (27°F) occurred on the 18th. The last 10 days of the month were dominated by a series of deep Atlantic depressions. 26.4mm (1.03") of rain was recorded on the 22nd resulting in the brook (nameless on maps, this brook was given the name 'The Rook' by Roy Workman about 25 years ago) by Bells Lane to overflow its banks.

Further flooding occurred on the evening of the 29th. Christmas was mild and the sun made a rare, welcome appearance.

In spite of the cold spell during the middle of the month it was a mild December. The average temperature 5.5°C (41.8°F) was 1.1°C (2°F) above the mean. Total rainfall 96.9mm (3.8") was 71% above normal. But perhaps the most notable feature of the month was the long sunless periods of unrelenting gloom.

MOBILE LIBRARY VAN SCHEDULE for 2003

Pinford End	12.30 - 12.40
School House	12.45 - 1.05
Whepstead	1.10 - 1.30

Jan 28th	April 22nd	July 15th	Oct 7th
Feb 25th	May 20th	August 12th	Nov 4th
March 25th	June 17th	Sept 9th	Dec 2nd & 30th

This is a wonderful service. Books, videos and tapes can be loaned free of charge. If what you require is not available, just order it and it will invariably be there for collection on the next visit.

The Annual Weather Summary -2002

The year was milder and wetter than normal. Total rainfall 731mm (28.8") was about 20% above the mean. However it was considerably less wet than either 2000 or 2001. The average temperature, 10.8°C (51.4°F) was 1°C (1.8°F) above the mean making it the third warmest year on record after 1989 and 1990. Nine of the ten warmest years since 1960 have occurred since 1989.

Perhaps the year did not seem milder than usual because of the predominance of changeable weather. Only during April & September was there settled, sunny weather of more than 10 days duration. Heatwaves were few during the summer months, rarely lasting more than 3 or 4 days. Two periods of heat occurred, one at the end of July, the second during mid August. No snow fell during the year, though snow covered the ground for the first three days of the year.

As I write this, from my window I see several clumps of *Zantedeschias* (arum lilies), green and unscathed by frost, a testimony to a mild year.

G D H

Results of the Caption Competition (December issue)

Congratulations!

The winners of the caption competition as featured on the back of the December Hawstead Journal are:

Phyllis Pettit "Villagers dancing the feteleta" (ie Valatta)
Good play on words Phyllis!

Lynda Dewse "Parish Councillor evicts rain dancer from village green".

Morris "Put the top back on that tree or I'll tell the Tree Warden!"

The winners will receive a copy of the "Good Seed Guide".



Some of the rest included:

"I only want a pot of jam" "Oo.la.la it's Carmen Miranda". "And for my next trick".

There were several others that could not be printed but were very funny!