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With the warmer weather encouraging doorstep callers onto our streets, residents are being warned to watch out for bogus deals or offers to check services.

Statistics show that spring and summer is when unscrupulous traders or thieves posing as officials tend to target unsuspecting householders, some of whom will be elderly or frail.

SCC Trading Standards officers are working with Suffolk police, Neighbourhood Watch, Anglian Water and others across the county to protect people from becoming victims of bogus callers.

You can play your part by keeping watch and reporting any concerns by calling Consumer Direct on 0845404050, or contacting your area Safer Neighbourhood Team on 01473 613 500, or visit www.suffolk.police.uk

Remember Lock Stop Chain Check (the four steps to safety)

LOCK - make sure your back door is locked before you go to the front door

STOP – think 'Are you expecting anyone?'

CHAIN – secure the door chain before opening it

CHECK – ask for and double-check the caller's identity - If you are in any doubt, don't let them in

Tips for dealing with bogus traders

Don't agree to any work at your doorstep, or let the job start before you have a chance to change your mind. Does the work really need doing? If so, shop around and get some quotes and personal recommendations before going ahead.

A good trader/builder always in demand, does not need to chase work by knocking on doors and will give you time to consider the estimated price. You have a right to cancel any contract signed on the doorstep within seven days. You must be given a cancellation notice with any work. If you are not, the contract is void and no one can force you to pay.

Did You Know about half of all bogus callers claim to be from utility companies such as 'the Water Board'?

Householders can check if their identification card is genuine by calling Anglian Water on:

Freephone 0800 145 145 (24 hours).

Articles for inclusion to the Editor please - BEFORE 25th of June
Tel 388142 or e-mail malcolmcornwell@tiscali.co.uk



Parish Council

Annual Parish Meeting, 22nd May 08

As has become the custom over recent years the Annual Parish Meeting followed the AGM of the Parish Council. Seventeen residents attended together with Terry Clements, SCC Councillor, Nigel Aitkens, St Edmundsbury Borough Councillor. The six Parish Councillors and the Parish Clerk were also present.

In his opening remarks the Malcolm Cornwell, congratulated the Community Council on completing the new Village Hall and added that it would serve the village for many years to come. He went on to review the work undertaken by the PC over the past year and outlined areas of work, including the parking problems in Whepstead Road, that the Council hoped to undertake in the coming year. He went onto explain that the present location of the bottle bank was temporary and it was planned to move it to one side of the car park behind the notice board and to screen it. Protests from a number of people, that the outcome of the poll organised through the Hawstead Journal concerning the siting of bottle bank was unfair were over ruled. It will remain for twelve months in the position outlined and then be reviewed. The Chairman went on to say that the bank provided an income to the village and allowed those without a car to recycle glass.

David Bird, Emergency Planning Officer from St Edmundsbury BC, gave a short talk on the necessity, even in small communities, to make arrangements for the care of the vulnerable in the event of a disaster and quoted the floods in Gloucestershire last year as an example of the unexpected. This planning will be an agenda item for the Parish Council in the future.

Terry Clements and Nigel Aitkens spoke on the work of their respective Councils and answered questions. Several complaints were made on the condition of the roads.

Karen Caldwell, History Recorder gave a comprehensive account of the year's happenings in the village. Simon Miller, Churchwarden reported on behalf of the Parochial Parish Council. This was followed by reports by Parish Councillors who were responsible for the Greens, Trees and Footpaths. The Chairman thanked all those who had presented reports and commended them for their service to the community.

A short period of questions and answers followed by thanks from the Chairman to all who had attended brought the meeting to its conclusion.

Joan Cook Parish Clerk

HAWSTEAD COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWS



Carpet Bowls starts again in the new village hall

After a gap of many years we are delighted to announce that carpet bowls will soon be starting again in the village hall. We plan to hold bowling in the new hall every Tuesday starting at 7.30pm. It will become a relaxed, fun evening and a regular event on your weekly social calendar.

The original Hawstead Bowls Club began in 1991 and successfully ran for more than 10 years until our old hall was demolished. Alf and Nancy Dawson have kindly been storing the two mats and bowls in their garage at Pinford End for all this time.

Pat Baker and Dave Dawson volunteered to collect all the equipment a few weeks ago and we rolled out the mats and had a trial bowl that evening. The mats themselves are in excellent condition which is more than could be said for my first attempts at bowling! It's not as easy as it looks. However, I think Pat is a bit of a demon bowler on the quiet from what I saw!

Carpet Bowls has a really big following all over Britain and Ireland. It is really just a miniaturised version of the outdoor game to enable it to be played more easily indoors. It takes place on a mat measuring 40-45 x 6 feet with bowls, or woods, that are smaller than outdoor bowls. The mat can be easily rolled up and put away for convenience. There is a ditch but this is simply an area marked at the end of the mat and to compensate for the shorter distance an intimidating block is placed in the centre of the mat. This makes it impossible for a bowler to aim a fast straight bowl at the jack area so all bowls must use the bias to curl around the block to their target.

Come and join us at the hall for a game commencing on Tuesday 10th June.

Beginners and all standards are welcome. No age limits. We may even stretch to a cup of tea and a chocolate biscuit at half time!

Please come along and participate, don't be shy, you know you want to! JW

Now we are at the start of a new financial year and during this year we need new people to join the council. We have a hall to enjoy, a very beautiful village green and a play area. It is the responsibility of the HCC executive committee to provide and manage recreational facilities, playing fields and play areas and also aim to promote social gatherings and the advancement of education.

Now that the building is there, things should be easier, bookings are coming in, and it will gradually get busier and where we would want to keep it in as good condition as we can. Most of all we want everyone to enjoy it

Any new event going on in the hall will always be in the journal and in the notice board. To join the HCC Executive Committee, call Sonja Monk 386876 or Sylvia Miller 388841.

Growing old with grace

"I'm looking old" I told my man,
"My hair's become quite grey.
The lines and wrinkles round my eyes
Will never go away.
My figure isn't what it was -
My waist has disappeared.
I hate the thought of growing old;
It's far worse than I feared!"

*Together with the troubled times
We neither faced alone.
Those extra inches on your tum,
They only serve to say
That you have borne our children
And
I'll tell you, if I may
I worry, too, about my hair,*

"My dear, you've truly got it wrong"
My husband said to me.
"Those lines of living on your face
For all the world to see -
They show the laughter we have shared,
The many joys we've known,

*The little bit that's there,
But then I think of middle age
As something new to share.
I don't want you to change at all
Our love shows in your face
So from today, let's start to do
Our growing old with grace!*

Rosie

June jokes, TEASERS & RIDDLES

A BEAUTY! A husband and wife are shopping in Tesco's when the man picks up a crate of Stella and sticks it on their trolley.

"What do you think you're doing?" asks the wife.

"They're on offer, only £10 for twelve cans!" he explains.

"Put them back. We can't afford it!" insists the wife and they carry on shopping...

A few aisles later, the wife picks up a £20 jar of face cream and sticks it on their trolley.

"What do you think you're doing?" asks the man, indignantly.

"It's my face cream. It makes me look beautiful," she says.

So the man replies: SO DO TWELVE CANS OF STELLA ..AND THEY'RE HALF THE PRICE!!"

True Friend? - Who is your true friend?

This really works!!!! If you don't believe it, just try this experiment. Put your dog and your wife in the boot of your car for an hour. When you open the boot, WHO is really happy to see you?

A woman has the last word in any argument. Anything a man says after that is the beginning of a new argument!

Q. I am lucky enough to have 2 coins in my pocket that total 11p. One of the coins is NOT a 10p, what are the 2 coins?

A. A 1p coin and a 10p coin - I said ONE of the coins isn't a 10p piece. I didn't say anything about the other one!

Rosie

Got a funnier joke? Send it to the Editor!

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Rarely have I seen such a rapid leafing of trees. The warm, sunny spell of weather from the 4th to the 14th was unusually long for early May (although short warm spells are not unusual at this season).

The thermometer exceeded 25°C on the 9th, 10th and 11th. 27.8°C (82°F) was recorded on the 10th. The earliest date in the year that 26.7°C (80°F) has been attained is May 5th both in 1990 and 1995. (Incidentally two good summers)

On 16th, the weather changed dramatically, North Easterlies brought cool conditions. Air frosts were recorded on the 20th and 21st burning the tips of the vine and the mulberry. It had been more than a month since the last air frost, but I had resisted planting out tender plants. Winds with an easterly component have dominated this month. The weather has varied due to the subtle shift of the continental high pressure. Cold when the air originates from the arctic, warm when from southern Europe.

Glyn Hammond

Elder flower cordial

Very good diluted with fizzy water.

20 heads of elderflower
2 lemons cut up
3 ½ lbs of granulated sugar
2oz of citric acid
3 pints of cold boiled water
Strainer or muslin cloth
Non-metallic bowl
Wooden spoon
Clean bottles

Stir the flowers into the water; add sugar, lemons and acid. Leave for at least 24 hours, stirring occasionally.
Strain and bottle. Store in the fridge where it will keep for at least a year, *if left alone!*

Try to pick the flowers on a sunny day when their perfume is at its best.

Sonja Monk

Money matters

IF you are a computer user and no doubt many of you now are, how many times within the last few months have you received a message that has supposedly originated from your own bank, mortgage or credit card company ?

Where that appears to be a genuine request has for all intent and purposes the correct corporate logos and mailing address etc.

YES, then please read on !.

These E-mail scams are known as "phishing" (not fishing as in the general sense), and will try to persuade you to input your account number and personal details and although these websites may look the genuine, they are NOT.

So to help the financial authorities to eradicate this nuisance, for our benefit please forward that "phishing" e-mail to: reports@banksafeonline.org.uk

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A few pictures of Morris Dancing to show that some folk are up and early to celebrate May Day and all of this at **5.30pm**.

Yes, it was really that early and as one of our pictures depict, it included at least 2 "locals" who were trying to learn a few basic Morris Dancing steps. A good time was had by all and that included the Hawsteadians and after which it was followed by a hearty breakfast.

Fran Evershed

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What is all that old hay doing around the Village Hall?

As most Hawstead people will know the Village Green is an ancient piece of landscape, certainly dating back to Medieval times if not earlier. It is a special for village people who have various rights of use of the land for grazing etc.

Our green is a wonderful remnant of wildflower grassland. Over 98% of which has been lost in Suffolk since 1945. It has been designated a County Wildlife Site and Natural England the government's conservation advisory body gives Hawstead Parish Council a useful annual grant to manage the Green traditionally to preserve its biodiversity.

So what has this to do with the scruffy hay around the smart new village hall?

Following the building of the hall and completion of the groundwork we needed to reseed the bare disturbed soil. The easiest option would have been to grass seed the area – but lawn seed and even bought wild flower mixes would not be comprised of the same species-mix as what is already here naturally. They would grow but look different, eventually blending in to look more evenly matched with the rest of the green after a few years.

So why didn't we do that?

In the longer term the different more dominant commercial seed-grasses would spread in to the diverse mixed sward of the wider green and the incredibly rich diversity of grass and flower species could be compromised and lost. Despite being ploughed up in the war for corn the Green has survived pretty unscathed as a great habitat and we felt that with a great new village hall that villagers expressly wanted on the Green it was worth seeking the best long term solution and using hayseed from our Green to reseed the area around the hall.

With such little wildflower habitat left in England there has been a great deal of research into finding the most successful ways of restoring what was once a much loved commonplace part of the landscape. One of the most successful solutions to be found is 'haystrewing'. This is where hay is taken from a good source of old wildflower grassland and spread thinly over bare ground to germinate naturally.

The best time for hay strewing is when the hay is green ie: when it is first cut and before it dries completely and some seed is lost either by heating up or falling out in the turning and baling process. The groundwork around the hall was completed in late March so we had to use stored hay which is having some success. Considering the seedbed consisted largely of clay subsoil clods and large flints and has had no irrigation the results aren't bad. Compared with an immaculate fine tilth which one would make as a seedbed in a garden this has come from a comparatively agricultural start but sometimes the best takes time. There aren't short-cuts to doing this properly. From past experience the initial growth can look disappointing but first grasses germinate and gradually the full range of the species establish it comes together with good results after a few months.

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'BODY SYNERGY'

STARTS THURSDAY 19th JUNE 7-8pm @ the Village Hall

£4 per session 'Body Synergy' is a blend of Yoga, Pilates & Tai Chi

Benefits include:

Improved posture, balance, core stability, flexibility and well-being, Improved strength and tone and Promote relaxation. Please bring a mat and wear non-restrictive, comfortable clothing you can move in. *All abilities welcome!*

Book your place to Katie Pruden 07795 282928 / Em jelly_babe98@hotmail.com



Your HAWSTEAD Weather Report

The average temperature for both January and February were above the normal, though not quite as mild for the same period in 2007. January's average was 2.8°C (5°F) above the normal, making it the third mildest on record. Air frost was recorded on only two nights and those were brief and light. South to Westerly winds predominated. Rainfall was some 10mm above normal.

The mild weather continued into February, stimulating the emergence of early spring bulbs. The first lobularia daffodil opened on the 7th to join Snowdrops, Crocus and Iris Reticulata already in full bloom.

Skies were exceptionally clear for most of the middle fortnight of the month, allowing moderate night frosts but the south easterly airstream bringing these conditions were mild. Sunny days enjoyed temperatures close to 14°C (57°F) from the 9th -12th, that is 7°C (12°F) above normal.



Winds from an easterly quarter on the 14th introduced colder air for a week. The thermometer fell to -8.9°C (16°F) on the 17th; daytime temperatures were close to 6°C (43°F). On the 18th and 19th the spectacular hoar frosts clothing the countryside with an icy cloak. The remainder of the month was milder.

Rainfall for the month was a mere 16mm; the average temperature 1.4°C (2.4°F) above normal.

Most notably, it was the sunniest February on record.

Early March brought squally northwest winds resulting in damage to trees. Thunder was heard on 10th. Mild Atlantic air persisted through to 15th, when heavy overnight rain (25mm) heralded the arrival of a cold northerly airstream. Spring's progress slowed. Bees, numerous on the wing in February, returned to hibernation. The Easter weekend was particularly cold with the first snow of the year. Heavy snow fell on Easter Sunday morning giving a depth of 9cm by 11.00am. The snow lay until Monday afternoon. Milder air arrived by the end of the month and on 31st the thermometer rose to 15°C. The average temperature 6.2°C (43.4°F) was close to normal. Rainfall of 100.6mm made it the wettest month of the winter half of the year (Oct - March) and the 3rd wettest March on record. Ground water supplies were replenished.

April lived up to its poetic reputation for being the cruellest month - wholly fickle. Air frosts were frequent during the first half of the month. It was the first time since 1997 that more air frosts were recorded in April than in March. The 6th was particularly cold with light snow during the morning. Further south in Kent, 15cm of snow fell. After the 19th it was appreciably milder hastening the progress of spring. Peacock and yellow brimstone butterflies were on the wing on the 21st and Horse Chestnuts in leaf. On the 26th the thermometer briefly rose to 21.7°C (71°F) The month ended wet and cool. Last year April was exceptionally warm and dry heralding a monsoonal summer. This April was average, both in rainfall and temperature. **Simple logic would predict a better summer wouldn't it?**

The May bank holiday weekend marked the arrival of rising air pressure and a warm south easterly air stream.

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Blue Pheasants !

In last month's journal, Rosie Greengrass commented that she had seen lots of blue pheasants around the village. I can second that observations, and I have noticed a few white ones as well. The encyclopedia says that various colour mutations are commonly encountered, especially black (melanistic) ones, which are rather common.

The common pheasant is a native of Asia, but has been widely introduced elsewhere as a game bird. It has been successfully bred to be hunted and pheasants are shot in great numbers in Europe, especially the UK where they are shot on the traditional formal "driven shoot" and on smaller "rough" shoots.

Because of captive breeding and cross-breeding between sub-species, the male Common Pheasant can range in colour from nearly white to almost black. This is reinforced by continual release of stock from the breeding sites. The female (hen) is much less showy, with a dull mottled plumage all over.

The bird was naturalized in Britain around the 10th century, but became extinguished in the early 17th century, until it was rediscovered as a game bird in the 1830's. Since then, it has been reared extensively, and around 30 million pheasants are released each year, although most released birds survive less than a year in the wild.

As a foot-note, some of you may know that the Roald Dahl novel "Danny the Champion of the World" dealt with a poacher (and his son) who illegally hunted Common Pheasants. Val Halla

HAWSTEAD PRODUCE 2008

Have you enjoyed the produce from our stall over the last couple of years? Do you feel better for eating **fresh locally produced food** and reducing food miles?

This year we are unable to run the stall for a variety of reasons, but we are making it even easier for you to buy our produce.

To find out what we have available all you need to do is **send us your email address** and we will send a list of what is available approximately every two weeks. You can then email us back with what you would like and when you would like to collect it (24hrs notice preferred).

Alternatively, **please phone** and we will let you know what is available.

We are currently thinking that this change may be temporary and in future years we may go back to running the stall. Please tell us what you think.

For June we are likely to have

Lettuces @ 60p each	Broad beans @ £1 per lb
Mange tout/sugar snaps @ £1 per 8oz	Potatoes (Arran Pilot) @ 40p per lb
Gooseberries @ £1 per lb	Rhubarb @ 70p per lb
Eggs @ 90p per half dozen or £1.70 per dozen	

Many thanks

Andy and Frances Evershed 01284 386501, email: evershed1@tiscali.co.uk

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What next?

We will be able to take a high mow cut, control any weeds such as the broad-leaved dock that came in with imported subsoil earlier. Any large stones which come to the surface will need removing before mowing. It won't be long before there will be no evidence that any disturbance has taken place.

The new hall has certainly been worth waiting for. Please also be patient with the initial unusual landscape effect! We have a fantastic hall and wonderful Green it's all worth doing by the best method for sustainable long term results.

Christabel Carr, Greens Warden

Further information:

The 2006 Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act places a duty on local authorities and bodies including parish councils to protect and preserve biodiversity. www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts2006

Flora locale is a charity dedicated to protecting and enhancing biodiversity with a particular interest in restoration of native flora. www.floralocale.org

MOBILE LIBRARY for Tuesday 3rd and 17th

Whepstead Road lay-by 1.00pm – 1.20pm
Bull Lane 1.25pm – 1.40pm

If you have comments about the service please contact Elisabeth Harrison, Service Development Librarian. Tel. 01473 265086
or e-mail Harrison@libher.suffolkcc.gov.uk



Welcome to your June Newsletter and hopefully lighter days and brighter weather. I am PC608 McKenna, part of the St Eds Rural South Team, which looks after your area.

Main issues of concern at the moment seem to be the theft of oil.

Please take time to update your security. Further advice is available from your local crime prevention officer but a good quality simple padlock on your tank may prevent you being subject of this type of crime. Theft of lead is still a concern but seems to have slowed recently. This issue is being addressed constabulary wide and ongoing investigations in place. Locally I am pleased to report that someone was recently apprehended for theft of lead in one of our villages.

Speeding and inconsiderate parking is a concern to all and I ask all readers to drive / park in accordance with the law and respect the speed limits in our area. As always take time to review your home security. Simple measures such as locking sheds and garages, fit alarms where possible, don't make it easy for thieves. We are only a telephone call away and can offer advice re any of your security concerns.

Book Review

The Fly in the Cathedral by Brian Cathcart

In February the government published a report on the country's future needs for energy and the part nuclear reactors will play in electricity generation. So, when the early spring sunshine found my friend Henry Persiflage, his delightful niece Anna Glypta and I being blown along Sizewell Beach, it was natural that our conversation would be radioactive. The last forty years have left us with the ugly concrete boxes of the old reactors, but the blue shed with the golf ball on top is a more agreeable landmark. On the one hand, Anna reminds us of the view put forward by H.G. Wells in "The World Set Free", where he compares humanity to a man who handles matches in his sleep and wakes to find himself ablaze. Henry counters by asking when did the fire start and quotes J. Robert Oppenheimer, the so-called father of the atom bomb, who said "a scientist cannot hold back progress because of fears of what the world will do with his discoveries". It is a problem recognised by the Greeks in their myth about opening Pandora's box, or the Judeo-Christian story of Eve eating the apple, the fruit of knowledge.

Although Cathcart does not address these issues, he is in the "pushing back the frontiers of knowledge" camp. The story of how the atom was split takes us back to the days of the gentleman, almost amateur scientist, starting in Manchester in 1909, continuing in the Cavendish Laboratory after the First World War and finishing in Cambridge in 1932. His narrative paints a picture of the black-and-white Frankenstein movie laboratory, with great glass tubes that glowed, sparks crackling across air gaps and researchers being careful to avoid being electrocuted. And then there is the larger than life personality of Ernest Rutherford, who is portrayed as "a force of nature", "a barrelling, thundering, penetrating presence in the world of physics, a great rowdy boy full of ideas and energy".

Another major physicist at the time was the Danish theorist Niels Bohr. He was a fan of cowboy and western films. It reputed that in the breaks between teaching and experiments, he used to enjoy demonstrating how fast he could draw a wooden gun from his pocket. It is rumoured that he was the "fastest gun in Copenhagen" in 1929. The main experimentalists are John Cockroft and Ernest Walton, both of whom were adept at working with a shoestring budget and devising crude equipment, held together with sealing wax and plasticine. What hasn't changed is the shortage of funds. Although there was a sense of competition with other research groups in Europe and America, whatever they did, no matter how important or delicately poised the experiments were, work at the Cavendish was subject to frequent interruption by holidays and conferences.

Cathcart tells the story through the players, centred on Free School Lane in Cambridge and re-awakens the smell and sounds of another world. The protagonists were driven only by wanting results, not with any application of producing power or bombs. This is a good page-turner for anyone who enjoys popular science.

The Fly in the Cathedral by Brian Cathcart; Viking Books 298 pages £14.99 hardback

Paul Caldwell

And That Reminds Me

Our splendid new village hall opened last month with a grand ceremonial tape-cutting by Rosemary Carr and Jim Lebbon. A well attended and enjoyable party was a fitting climax to all the hard work of the Community council.

John West put on a slide show with some nostalgic pictures of handsome young men assembling the previous incarnation, which was also built and equipped by voluntary effort.

The old Hawstead village hall was opened at the village fete on September 3, 1977. The Community Council chairman at the time was Mr. A. D. Shirreff and the ribbon was cut by the Rev. Philip Wright, vicar of Roxwell, near Chelmsford, a member of a well-known local farming family, who spent his youth in the village.

There were several sideshows, bowling, coconut shies, vintage cars and pony rides, a small fair and a draw. The fete was followed by a social evening, attended by about 100 villagers. Total profit for the day was reported as "more than £300".

Modelling for the Poundwise fashion show, the first official event at the newly opened Hawstead Village Hall on Monday were, from the left, Mrs. June Newman, Mrs. Ann Arnold, and Mrs. Lyndy Elmer.

Anna Glypta



Where are these models now ?

Looking back 30 years, in Black and White - now there's a thing ! - has anyone got anymore that they would like to share with us.

Email to the editor please.

Your LOCAL CRICKET team Needs You !

Come on Chaps, there is a local man here in the midst of Hawstead, who is organising a NEW team for this years Cricket fixtures and for on into the future. Due to certain use criteria of the green by DEFRA prior to hay making all away fixtures will have to be played first and thereafter home fixtures, by which time hay, making should be completed.

NOW, what can be better than the sound of leather against willow coming from the green on a pleasant sunny day, tea on the "terrace" and after, a nice pint at our local to chat over the days game?

Interested - of course you are. Contact me Vic King 388177 or come round to 1 The Almshouses and have a chat about it, even to discussing to being the volunteer for marking out the boundary.



Vic King