

Back Page News

The First Cuckoo in Hawstead?

On 12th May at 5.55 am a male cuckoo was heard in one of the tall trees on the Lawshall Road. The next morning the 13th May about 6.00 a.m., a pair of cuckoos, male and female, passed over the Lawshall Road flying in a north-easterly direction.

The male cuckooing and the female 'gurgling' as is her want!

This was the first cuckoo in the village I had seen for three or four years.

Michael Bulmer

Convention is.....

The key to success is to risk thinking the unconventional thought. Convention is the enemy of progress. As long as you've got slightly more perception than the average white loaf, you could invent something.

Trevor Baylis, inventor of the clockwork radio

As you may well imagine in developing countries where electricity and batteries are in short supply, the clockwork radio is invaluable. *Ed.*



Now, would the Scientists put this down to global warming as seen in Hawstead at 16.45 on the 25th June?

No, probably not, they would say its an "illusion"

More from the recruitment website poll:

"Stock replenishment Advisor" - shelf stacker

"Head of Verbal Communications" - secretary / receptionist

Next month's Editor is

Andy Parrott

Articles for inclusion to the Editor please - BEFORE 25th of July

Tel. 01284 386541 or e-mail andyparrott@rocketmail.com

Editor: Joan Cook



Hawstead Journal

For the Village by the Village

July 2007

Parish Council

Councillors

Ros Alexander, Christabel Carr, Karen Caudwell,
Malcolm Cornwell, Andy Evershed and Richard Milnes

Now that the village has its newly elected Parish Councillors, it is fair and proper that our thanks are given to our retired councillors who gave their time (and especially in many instances during the winter months giving up that nice warm fireside feeling) to attend to various additional meetings on behalf of the village.

Its longest serving member Katie Fairbairn, had presided over the council during her last years as its elected Chairperson prior to Brian Kew, freely giving her time and efforts to village matters as they arose. Now she has fully retired to enjoy the sun at their new home in Crete together with her family and grand children, Hawstead and its Parish Council affairs, will hopefully just become fond memories. For us however in the village, her wealth of some !!! years as a serving member and her knowledge gained, will be hard to replace.

Our last serving Chairman Brian Kew, resigned with the full knowledge his efforts and time launching this Journal for the village, is his testimony and which is read by many.

To Dave Dawson who used to quickly volunteer to "do something" if it had to be repaired or made good for the villages benefit.

James Carr, who's working knowledge of the local flora and fauna within the landscape of our village, which very often saved the day and lastly to Phil Shaw who has moved into neighbouring village of Lawshall.

Thanks to you all for your efforts over the years.

HAWSTEAD COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWS

July	1st	063	D & S Dawson	£17.40
	2nd	098	K & P Caldwell	4.64
	3rd	035	M Crockford	1.16

Draw made on 30/6/07 at the Metcalfe Arms, witnessed by Mr Lawson each month, we have 116 pound tickets in the draw, 20% of which goes in prizes and is raising over £1000 per year towards our Hall

Join in the fun and Each draw ticket will cost just you £1 per month.

Renew your subscription or to join the Village Hall Draw please contact the Sylvia Miller - the promoter 388841

Order placed for New Village Hall

At long last, and after much detailed negotiation, the Community Council has placed the order on English Heritage Buildings for the new village hall. Work will commence on the foundations in the second half of July and we hope to have the new hall ready for use in November this year.

So keep an eye out for activity on the green, especially when the oak frame is erected when there will be 2 large cranes on the site!

Thanks go out to many people for their assistance in getting us to this stage:

The Trustees to the Community Council -

Alan Brown, Angela Rushen and Ros Alexander

The Project Team – John West, Alan Brown, Bill Crockford and Dave Dawson

The Executive Committee of the Community Council -

Sonja Monk, Jane Powell, Ruth Mackay, Karen Caldwell, Sylvia Miller, Margaret Crockford, Richard Steed, John West

The Parish Council – Brian Kew, Katie Fairbairn, Malcolm Cornwell, Dave Dawson, James Carr, Ros Alexander, Phil Shaw

The Parochial Church Council – Martin Thrower, Graham Shorter, Simon and Sylvia Miller, Tony Hillman, Christine Gossett, Lesley Carey, Jane & Andrew Bury, Viv Carter, Stan Bailey

Our funders – the Diocesan Board of Finance and the Parochial Church Council, St Edmundsbury Borough Council, Suffolk County Council, Suffolk Environmental Trust, The Charles Hayward Foundation, The Garfield Weston Foundation, **and last but by no means least all the villagers who have supported the project with their generous donations and by participating in the fund raising events.**

We all now look forward to a successful completion of the build and to having a new village hall on the green which we can all be proud of and enjoy.

Richard Milns, Project Leader

GOURMETS CORNER

Last months ice cream confection was delicious but I think I have improved on the recipe by using home made lemon curd. It has a certain piquancy and freshness of taste that gets lost in a commercially made product. So I searched through the well thumbed, mixture splattered pages of The Good Housekeeping Book of Family Favourites, which was the first recipe book I was given over fifty years ago, until I reached the section on preserves. Here tucked between the recipes for redcurrant and raspberry jelly and apple chutney I found the following recipe for Lemon Curd.



Wash four lemons and then grate the rind. Beat five eggs, and put them into a double saucepan with the lemon rind, lemon juice, 4oz butter and 1lb caster or finest granulated sugar. Stir until the sugar dissolves and the mixture cooks and thickens, but avoid overcooking which will cause the mixture to separate. Strain into warmed jars and cover at once.

When the recipe was first published waxed lemons were unheard of so search out lemons that have not had their shelf life artificially extended. A double saucepan is not essential, I've never used one, but extra care must be taken to avoid the mixture burning on the bottom of the pan or overcooking. Neither, in my opinion, is it necessary to strain the mixture before putting into warmed jars if the lemons are finely grated and any 'stringy egg white' is removed with a clean teaspoon during the cooking period. Use small jars and store in the fridge once opened. It is best made in small quantities as it does not keep for very long. It doesn't need to as I find it disappears very quickly not only on ice cream but on drop scones or lavishly spread on toast.

LOCAL PRODUCE

Fruit, vegetable, plants, eggs etc for sale on the Village Green

2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month

10.30 – 12.30 (*please note new time*)

All our produce is grown here in Hawstead

Very local! Very fresh!

Food miles – NONE!

GOOSEBERRIES – Ready now!

Come and buy from our stall

Come and pick your own – get exactly what you want at a much cheaper price

Let us know what you want and we will pick them for you

For more information contact Andy and Fran on 01284 386501

Letters to the Editor

The Value of Old Age

Dear Editor,

With the population steadily growing older and living longer, people are finding new ways to pass the time of day in their twilight years. One lady we have met recently says she is seeing five gentlemen each day. As she wakes up Will Power helps her out of bed, then she goes to visit Lou. Next it's time for Mr Quaker to give her his oats. They leave and Arthur Ritis shows up and stays for the rest of the day. He doesn't stay in one place very long and he takes her from joint to joint. After such a busy day she is ready for bed with Johnny Walker. What a life, and she is also flirting with Al Zymer.

Her vicar called the other day and told her she should be thinking about the hereafter. She told him, 'Oh! I do, no matter where I am, in the lounge, kitchen or upstairs, I ask my self: Now, what am I hereafter?'

Yours sincerely

Winifred Lines

Missing mail

Recently we have lost letters in the post, two outgoing and one incoming, all of a financial nature. If this has been your experience too, contact your local Post Office for the relevant forms. Several complaints from one village may have better results than one isolated case.

Rosemary Carr

Hoax mail

I received a letter from Singapore the other day claiming that a relative had died recently leaving me £12,000,000! It was worrying because I had no idea how such information had fallen into the hands of the sender. Some of the facts were accurate but some were not. When I reported the matter to the police they emphasized that anyone receiving a hoax letter should never be tempted to reply to the sender as by doing so they could get caught up in money laundering or a scam of some sort. If you are unfortunate to receive similar hoax mail make sure you tell the police.

Sarah Lawson

Good cause gets great Support

Thanks to all those from the Village who supported Phyllis Pettit's Coffee morning on June 14th & helped her raise over £500 to support St Nicholas' Hospice

Ragtime at Flatts farm

Very informal rugging group every 3rd Wednesday in the month at 2pm.

Ruth Mackay 388085

Brian Kew, retiring Chairman of Hawstead Parish Council An appreciation



Brian is a Suffolk man by adoption for although born in Middlesex he and his wife Jan first came to the county some forty one years ago moving to Hawstead in 1989. From the beginning he took an active part in the affairs of the village, initially by attending Parish Council meetings as a member of the public. His interest was quickly noticed and it was not long before the Community Council had enrolled an enthusiastic worker who eventually became its Chairman. Perhaps the task which gave him greatest pleasure at that time was raising funds and setting up the carpet bowls group. But his work did not stop there for my first recollection of Brian was of a tall, slightly dishevelled figure leading a group of runners of all ages and abilities along the lanes.

Bridge Cottage, Pinford End is the family home and Brian's workplace. It is from here that he has put his skills as a master cabinet maker into practice and reached out to many properties in Hawstead. He has left a legacy in village in which can be found a beautifully built-in bookcase, a staircase or two, hidden restoration of Tudor timbers or wide floor boards and much more. When it is considered that these old properties are quite free of right angles or level surfaces and the work was carried out in oak or elm it was as much a labour of love as a commercial transaction. All Saints Church has benefited too. It possesses a finely crafted oak table, modern in design and light enough to be moved from sanctuary to nave.

Joining the Parish Council some ten years ago the role of Tree Warden fell naturally to Brian. By this time a convinced conservationist he carefully recorded all the significant trees in the village and has attempted to preserve them under the auspices of the Borough Council by having Tree Protection Orders placed on them. A few winters ago to meet the requirements of DEFRA's Stewardship Scheme, it was necessary to clear the scrub from Brook Green. It was Brian and Jan who led the way. Brian organised Sunday morning work parties and Jan provided hot bacon butties for the workers.

Perhaps a lighter side to Brian that has not been seen so much in the village is his performance and love of folk music, in particular the music from the Appalachian mountains, USA and more recently the unaccompanied songs of local folk musicians such as Peter Bellamy. It was in his home that the Hawstead 2001 survey revealed 16 different musical instruments! And talking of Hawstead 2001 Brian served on the project committee and gave generously of his time. Maybe it was this work that gave him the idea of founding the Hawstead Journal which gives the village an independent voice and has already been the subject of an article in the Journal.

In May 2006, Brian was elected Chairman of the Parish Council a fitting reward for someone who for eighteen years had served his community so well in so many ways.

As a rural Suffolk parish which has quite deliberately resisted development Hawstead is very dear to Brian's heart. For all his practical skills he is also a man of ideals, conviction and emotion and it was the latter that was evident when following his Chairman's report to the Annual Village Meeting in May 2007 he resigned from the Parish Council. Since then many people have told me that they thought Brian made a good Chairman and were sorry that he had taken the decision to resign. The village will be a poorer place without him but his contribution to the community will live on for many years to come. Jan and Brian are planning to leave the village in the near future. The Parish Councillors and many friends in Hawstead wish them a long and happy retirement in Bury St. Edmunds and hope that they will return to the village from time to time.

Joan Cook, Cook's Farm House, Hawstead

A SIGN OF THE TIMES

On the door of Hawstead Church is a notice explaining how to operate the awkward latch, the door is always unlocked during the day. Under that is another sign telling you to MIND THE STEP. Soon there maybe an A5 sign in red informing you that **this is a public enclosed space and SMOKING IS PROHIBITED by law.**

Perhaps there should also be a sign listing THE TEN COMMANDMENTS to cover all eventualities!

What are your feelings about historic buildings ?

Should they all be preserved exactly as they are or were?

Must they be maintained and repaired using techniques and materials from a bygone age? Should they comply with the latest stringent safety regulations etc. etc.?

It's all very confusing, complicated and expensive. Fortunately there is some help to be had from the **Suffolk Historic Churches Trust** which was set up to raise and distribute funds.

Last year it raised £178,631 making a grand total, in its 25 years of existence, of £3,044,142. How does it raise its funds?

An annual fun-day or more accurately, sponsored cycle ride. There is a tradition in Suffolk of touring round to visit the many Church buildings, as our own visitors book will confirm, even though many are normally locked.

On 9th September most Churches and Chapels in Suffolk will be open and many manned ready to receive visitors.

A small army of cyclists and walkers, even motorists are welcome, each armed with sponsorship forms will attempt to visit and enjoy as many buildings as possible in the day. Everyone is invited to join in the fun. Volunteers are also required to man our Church to check-in and refresh the tourists, as well as reading the signs!

To obtain sponsorship forms or volunteer to sit at the Church door for an hour please contact: Sylvia Miller 388841 at Hillside, Whepstead Road, Hawstead.

VILLAGE TROPHIES & AWESOME PRIZES

Last years prize winner of our Grand Fete draw had no control over his prize as he flew up & away under a lot of hot air.

This year's prize winner will be at the controls of a light aircraft as the fabulous first prize is A FLYING LESSON!

Second prize—Two of the best seats in Bury's newly restored Theatre Royal to see the Sugar Plumb Fairy in the Christmas classic ballet

The Nutcracker'

Draw tickets will be on sale soon.

Preparations for the **FLOWER & PRODUCE SHOW** are well under way, cash prizes (20p!) & Trophies to be won, schedule to be delivered in a few weeks.

Get planning your flower arrangement now, this year's theme **A RIOT OF COLOUR'**

A new class 'A Photograph of Life in Hawstead 2007'. Separate classes for adults & children.

We look forward to a fun & gale free Fete on **Sunday September 2nd.**

SEE YOU ON THE GREEN !

Hawstead MOBILE LIBRARY REVIEW

As an outcome of the recent review of the mobile library service there will be small changes to the times.

From 31st July the mobile library will stop in the
Whepstead Road lay-by 1.00pm – 1.20pm on alternate Tuesdays
Bull Lane 1.25pm – 1.40pm on the same Tuesday
In August Tuesday 14th and 28th
In September Tuesday 11th and 25th
In October Tuesday 9th and 23rd
and so on through out the year and into 2008

If you have comments about the service please contact Elisabeth Harrison, Service Development Librarian. Tel. 01473 260456 or e-mail Harrison@libher.suffolkcc.gov.uk

Evening Walk from Cullum Cottage - Wednesday 13 June

Despite a depressing weather forecast the evening started fine and it was great to be joined by about 30 people of all ages from babies in arms upwards. Tracey Housley from the Suffolk Wildlife Trust explained a little about the series of grassland gatherings that the evening was part of. Rob Dryden from the Environment Agency spoke on the importance of conserving reptiles and amphibians which are under threat from development and some modern agricultural practices. Rob Parker from the charity Butterfly Conservation also spoke on the butterfly species that inhabit grasslands and gardens. He described their behaviour settling on grasses in cooler weather and descending the stems where they pass the nights and bad weather apparently invisible. There were a few meadow brown butterflies still on the wing but most we saw were settling in for the night exactly in the way he described. We explored the rich mixture of species in the wetter parts of the lowest meadow which was once part of the church Glebe and was recorded in the glebe terrier as Little Doves Meadow in Medieval times. The diversity here is indicative of the fact that it appears never to have been drained or ploughed and still remains a soggy uneven haven for wildlife, centuries later.

Having got rather waylaid discussing our findings we crossed the green quickly in need of refreshment and received a very warm welcome in the pub. We hadn't been in long when torrential rain hit which was satisfying timing and added to the atmosphere. Fortunately the few with cars were generous in giving lifts to the rest of us who were drenched even just running across the car park.

Thanks to all who came and made the event a successful one. If anyone would like to make comments or suggestions for future events do let me know.

Have you Spotted a Flycatcher?

There is widespread concern that the numbers of Spotted Flycatchers is in sharp decline. The Suffolk Wildlife Trust and the Suffolk Ornithologist's Union are asking people to join a county-wide survey of these summer visitors. Although on first sight these appear to be just another smallish dull brown species, spotted flycatchers are charming birds which often breed on houses or outbuildings and display a characteristic acrobatic flight as they catch their prey in mid-air before returning to a favourite perch to digest and watch for more. The decline may be due to less birds returning in late spring from migration in Africa. Only once the cause of the decline is discovered can anything be done to help save these elegant long distant flyers.

If you would like more information contact Suffolk Wildline 01473 890089 or info for a fact sheet and survey form. If you would like to see one doing its aerobic acrobatics do call me as we have a pair nesting on our garage. I can also photocopy a form and fact-sheet. **James Carr 386245**

TO all of our Hawstead Journal Deliverers

Without your important monthly delivery of our journal, very few of us would be able to have the opportunity to relax and enjoy the various subjects and topics written by others and of things that have happened in the village during the last 4 weeks.

So SPECIAL thanks to Richard Blackwell, Simon Miller, Andy Parrett, Jackie Milns, Sarah Lawson, Ruth Mackay and Doc and Florence Lacy

- all of whom deliver to your doorstep personally,
come rain, sun or snow !

If you would like advice on:

smoke alarm testing and maintenance
escape plans
chip pan safety
electrical safety
or Home safety Fire check

then contact the Community Fire Safety Dept at the Suffolk County Council Fire and Rescue Service on:

tel: 01473 588888

Email: enquiries@fire.suffolkcc.gov.uk

For your own security information all the members of this service are in uniform and each officer carry with them a photo identification.

So if in doubt please Ask.

Taken from a poll by a recruitment website, to find the top daftest job description.

"Vision Clearance Engineer" - a window cleaner.

"Flueologist" - chimney sweep.

All Saints Church – Hawstead.

SERVICES

July	Sunday 8th	08.30am	Said Eucharist
	Sunday 22nd	11.00am	Parish Eucharist

Evening Prayer.

An opportunity for silent/ contemplative prayer and to pray for the parish and benefice is held every **Wednesday** in the church **5-5.30pm**

All are welcome.

The church is open every day from 9am to 5pm

For all other Services in the Benefice please see Church Notice board

METCALFE ARMS COMES BACK TO LIFE!

On Thursday 7th June the lights came on again in the village pub as our new landlords Ann and Nigel threw a welcome pre-opening party for the village.

On that lovely summers evening, sixty to seventy villagers responded to their invitation as it opened its doors for the first time since October 2006. The buffet supper, attractively laid out, spoke volumes about the quality of the food that Anne intends to serve and once again the sound of laughter, contented conversation, the clink of glasses and the satisfying hiss of ale filling pint pots could be heard in **Hawstead's** pub.

For Nigel and Ann, it was the climax of six months hard graft and the beginning of a new life running a country pub, 'When we came to Hawstead, the place resembled Steptoe's yard' Nigel said and added that he and Anne decided that they would not open the pub until they had made changes that were noticeable.

The owners of the property supported their new tenants by repairing the roof and making the place watertight, but Ann and Nigel and their family have invested a great deal of time and money in turning the old place into a friendly and welcoming hostelry. A small dining room has been established while attractive tables in the bar areas provide for ploughman's lunches or informal meals. Modern toilet facilities have been installed and families with young children will find an excellent changing room. A new door gives direct access to the well manicured gardens from the bar but Nigel reckons that it's still something of a secret as customers have yet to discover the short cut.

Outside, the courtyard has been filled with tables and chairs, umbrellas, hanging baskets and tubs of flowers and at the top of the garden a marquee has been erected where they hope it will provide extra space for parties from Christening to 21st birthdays, wedding receptions and other special occasions.

Cream teas will be served over the weekends and the bar menu is increasing in scope, week by week. And for the serious lovers of beer, guest ales will shortly be on tap!

'We can be very flexible in meeting people's requirements' says Ann. 'And being in the village getting home on foot is not a problem.' Nigel adds.

Driving over the hill and into the village feels like coming home' says Anne.

Which is splendid news for Hawstead as it is great to have the Metcalfe Arms open again and looking so good.

Long may Nigel and Anne thrive as mine hosts



The evening went down well sitting outside whilst having a leisurely drink

We would all like to wish Nigel and Anne every success and our thanks for their Enjoyable opening night



Splendid buffet choice

Thanks to Andy Parrett for the unshaken and not stirred photographs