

Neighbourhood Watch

Beware of felons breaking into outhouses and garages, stealing garden equipment. Keep them locked. Do not accept work tendered at the front door. You invariably will not get a cheap or proper job and you will probably be ripped off. Get quotes. Use someone you know.

Delivery of Yellow Pages left on doorsteps suggest empty houses. Be a good neighbour and take them in.

BK

Next months Editor Brian Kew

Merry Christmas



*Autumn
in
the
Village*



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Hawstead Journal

For the Village by the Village

Volume 2, December 2003

Parish Council

At the time of writing, choirs are already singing carols on the steps of the Corn Exchange in Bury and as it will be well into January before their next meeting, our Parish Councillors – Katie Fairbairn, Dave Dawson, Ros Alexander, James Carr, Malcolm Cornwell Brian Kew and Philip Shaw wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2004.

Under the Charity Commission's Scheme for the regulation of Drury's Charity and the Philip Metcalfe Almshouses, our Council is required to elect two of the trustees of these charities at the November meeting, Anthony Hillman and Malcolm Cornwell were appointed Trustees and will hold office in this representative capacity for the next four years.

The Borough Council as Local Planning Authority, sends details of planning applications relating to Hawstead to the Parish Council for information and comment. It has recently considered proposals for new housing development and alterations to an existing house at Pinford End and modifications to existing dwellings at The Pound and Whepstead Road.

Newly arrived is the application for approval to the plans for the new Village Hall. The Finance Committee has been asked to advise on an invitation for the Council to become a group member of the Suffolk Preservation Society in view of the large number of historic buildings in Hawstead.

Robin Whitfield
Hawstead Parish Clerk



continued page 2

Topics discussed at the meeting on 20.11.03

1. The venue for the next meeting.
2. Sarah King our Community Police Officer gave an update. Rebecca Kidd-Stanton is the new Inspector at Ixworth. By April 2004, there will be 5 Officers at Horringer.
3. Insurance of village green recreational equipment.
4. Current Planning Applications:-

(i) Bull Green	(ii) Whepstead Road
(iii) The Pound	(iv) Pinford End
5. Water seepage at Whepstead Road
6. Donation to charities
7. Village allotments
8. Village signage. Speeding traffic
9. Village Green tree surgery. Remembrance tree for John Holdway
10. Unauthorised parking of vehicles on Village Green
11. Complaints of dog fouling on Village Green
12. State of village roads.
13. Finance committee to meet 4.12.03

Next meeting 15.01.04



HAWSTEAD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Dates for your diary:

Christmas lunch in Lawshall on 18th December 12.30 for 1pm.

Pantomime 16th January details 388841

The next meeting of the H.C.C. will be on the 19th January 2004 Spinney Cottage at 8pm

Bingo will be beginning again in February, dates will be in January's Journal

You are most welcome to come to our H.C.C. meetings. We will be looking at any ideas for fund raising in the coming year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank every one for their generosity and help in 2003. Our village hall planning group must also be thanked for their hard work and professionalism, let's hope the new year brings a new hall to be proud of.

Hope your Christmas is a merry one Sonja Monk



Village Hall Review

As 2003 draws to a close I thought it was a good time to review the work accomplished by the Project Committee during the past year.

After heated discussions last December a poll of the village in the New Year gave a clear mandate to go ahead and rebuild. The insurance company also made a handsome settlement giving us a good start to our fund raising.

While the village was being asked about the activities it would enjoy and support in the new hall, the project team were visiting recently completed halls as far afield as Essex and Cambridgeshire. The information we gathered stood us in good stead for preparation of our brief for our architect, Chris Sale, the sixth we interviewed. Chris is no newcomer to designing village halls and his work is well liked by the Lottery Commission (hopefully our principal funder).

In September you came to the exhibition in the church and approved the design. We have now submitted a planning application and a new lease is being negotiated with the Parish Council. Permission from DEFRA to re-build on the village Green is also being sought.

In addition to the architect, a quantity surveyor and a structural engineer have been appointed (professionals essential to the construction of a public building and required by funders). The completed application to the Lottery Community Fund (almost ready to submit as I write) with its supporting documentation is over a hundred pages long! We have had discussions with St. Edmundsbury District Council and believe that they will make a very substantial grant. We have also submitted an application for £50,000 to the Landfill company WREN for the final tranche of money needed to meet building costs. One condition attached to the payment of the WREN grant is that we must find 11% of the total requested and it must come from money not already nominated for the project. So we as a community must find £5,500 to qualify. A good start has been made with Betty Milburn, our Suffolk County Councillor, promising a donation from her locality budget. Most encouragingly too is that people in the village with whom I have shared the need have given very generously. If you would like to contribute please contact Sonja Monk Tel. 386876 or any member of the Community Council Committee. Remember every pound you give raises £100 from WREN!

The record takings at the Plant Sale, Produce Show and Fete show just how supportive the whole village is towards raising funds and next month we hope to publish a timetable of fundraising events in 2004. There will be fun things for everyone to do, young and old. In the meantime the Project Group will be working on its application to the European Rural Development Programme for funds for kitchen equipment, tables and chairs. If all goes according to plan by this time next year the new hall will be nearing completion.

Joan Down under

A Taste of Scotland

WHISKY SYLLABUB

Syllabubs are a little taste of Scotland and, what's more they are the easiest and quickest of puddings to make. This recipe will take you only five minutes from start to finish, providing you have soaked the lemon rind in the whisky beforehand.

4fl oz whisky 1 lemon
1 pint of double cream chilled 8 tbl clear heather honey or other
4 sprigs fresh rosemary, for decoration (this is optional: if you prefer, reserve some lemon zest and use that instead.)

The day before, peel and juice the lemon, put the rind and juice in a bowl with the whisky. Cover and

Leave to soak overnight in a cool place.

It only takes 30 seconds to one minute to make the syllabub, so I always do it just before it is needed.

Strain the lemon and whisky mixture into a large chilled bowl, reserving the lemon if you wish to use it. Add the double cream and, using a wire whisk, whisk the mixture until it thickens and holds a soft peak – this will take 30 seconds to one minute. Be very careful at this stage, as you can over whip.

I have to say it is easy and simple to do and people love it!!!

Spoon this alcoholic cream into individual glasses (tall if you have them) alternating with small spoons of the clear honey for sweetness. Serve with some shortbread. This recipe will serve four. It works well if you double it.

QUICK DRAMBUIE FUDGE

8oz (225g) plain chocolate 1oz unsalted butter 8tbsp Drambuie
4tbsp condensed milk 1lb of icing sugar sifted

Grease an 8inch square tin. Melt the chocolate and butter together and beat in the Drambuie and condensed milk to a smooth mixture. Add the icing sugar and mix well until smooth. Turn into the tin and press down with a palette knife. Chill until firm then cut into triangles and serve heaped on a plate.

Whishing you a happy new year from the H. C. C. and P.G.

All Saints Church – Hawstead. SERVICES

DECEMBER

Sunday 14th	8.30am	Said Eucharist (BCP)
Sunday 21st	6pm	Carol Service
Christmas Eve 24th	11.30pm	Midnight Eucharist
Sunday 28th	11am	Parish Eucharist

JANUARY

Sunday 11th	8.30am	Said Eucharist
Sunday 25th	11am	Parish Eucharist

Christmas Carols & Readings. Once again this will be a joint service with Nowton and will be held in Hawstead church on Sunday 21st December at 6pm. Graham Shorter is organising the carols and has formed a choir to perform a few items during the service. Please come along for lots of good singing and, as usual, the evening will conclude with mince pies and mulled wine

Parish Prayers. An opportunity for silent/ contemplative prayer, and to pray for the parish and benefice is held every Wednesday in the church at 5 – 5.30pm. All are welcome.

The church is open every day from 9am to 4pm

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

Thought for the month

Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year to all!

Peace on earth and Goodwill to all men!

Fluff Actually

It's not often that we go to the cinema preferring to wait for the films we want to see to appear on video. But the pre-launch hype for **Love Actually** got to us (Jacquie more than me) and when it came out we just had to go and see it on the big screen. For all of the acting and comic talent on screen and the skills of screenwriter Richard Curtis, *Love Actually* is nowhere near the holiday prize package it's intended to be. Curtis, directing for the first time, interweaves too many characters and storylines and shortchanges them all. Droll, delightful moments do pop up. Huge Grunt (sorry, Hugh Grant) is a bachelor Prime Minister attracted to a tea girl (Martine McCutcheon). Alan Rickman is a boss considering an affair with his predatory secretary, despite the consequences of cheating on his upright wife (Emma Thompson - excellent). Liam Neeson is a just-widowed stepfather trying to bond with his late wife's son. Colin Firth is a cuckolded writer who moves to a house in Provence, where he falls for his Portuguese maid. Bill Nighy is an over-the-hill rock star trying to revive his career with a Christmas novelty tune.

Perhaps it's me (usually is), but this film was a big disappointment – little drama, flat one-dimensional characters, no chemistry between the stars, and a lot of the humour based on four letter words. Colin Firth's scenes with Portuguese actress Lucia Moniz are the most touchingly romantic in the entire movie and provide the only truly "happy end".

If you haven't seen it already, do take a look. It's good Christmas candyfloss, sweet but with no substance. It left both Jacquie and me feeling flat and wondering what the hype had really been about.

Ed.



Colin Firth and Lucia Moniz in "Love Actually"

Top Internet Tip

Christmas approacheth, so thoughts often turn to friends and relatives. How about taking a look at www.friendsreunited.co.uk? If you don't already know this website, it's a place where you can catch up with old friends. You register (free) and add some information about yourself. It started with people making contact with old schoolfriends, and I suspect that this is still the real core of it – the full range from infant school to university is represented. But there are now groups to do with social clubs, sports teams, the military, the workplace, even streets and pubs! Even if you have contributed before, it'll be worthwhile having another look. There's always new people signing on, and there's probably new information you could add about yourself. I see that you can even add a photo – although the one put up by an old school colleague of mine was of a cow: I guess he was having a little laugh! For a modest subscription (£7.50 pa.) you can take part in some extra activities like an on-line message board and unlimited emails.

Friendsreunited has spawned a couple of related themes, a dating service (!) and a one for genealogy (Genes Connected.) The latter says it's the largest of its kind in the UK, but possibly a better known international service is that provided by the Mormon Church via the website www.familysearch.org. I didn't have a great deal of time to explore this but I could see that as well as giving a lot of detailed advice on how to go about researching your ancestry, there is an enormous database of records of births, marriages and deaths that can be searched on-line. They have the American 1880, the UK 1881 and the Canadian 1881 censuses amongst others and it seemed to respond pretty quickly to me.

If you're just chilling out at this time rather than feeling like doing a bit of research, here's a few fun things for you:

www.fark.com This site pulls together odd/weird newspaper reports from across the world in a clickable list which takes you to the originals. You get the chance to join in and comment about them if you wish!

y20q.net:8095/btest This is a strange address. (There's no 'www' so you just type it in as shown. nb fullstops and a colon after 'net') It's a 20 Questions game which you play against the computer – starting with 'animal, vegetable, mineral' etc. you think of an object and the computer program tries to guess what it is. It's not that bright – it took 29 questions to guess 'telephone' when I tried it out! www.jigzone.com My favourite – an online jigsaw game. Often the simple things are the best: but I was twice as slow as the average in completing the one I tried out!

Two final ones – maybe best left to last, but who knows? www.bored.com sounds interesting – the idea is to solve that problem: www.rathergood.com is just really strange and largely involves cardboard cutout cats with musical instruments! (have the sound on for this one.)

AJP



Castaway Top Ten

This month's Castaways are Nancy and Alf Dawson from Pinford End

- | | | |
|-----|--------------------------------------|------------------|
| 1. | You're Once Twice Three Times a Lady | Lionel Ritchie |
| 2. | One Day at a Time | Daniel O'Donnell |
| 3. | Raindrops Keep Falling On My Head | Sacha Distel |
| 4. | Bohemian Rhapsody | Queen |
| 5. | We Don't Talk Anymore | Cliff Richard |
| 6. | You're My World | Cilla Black |
| 7. | Summer Holiday | Cliff Richard |
| 8. | My Best Friend | Jim Reeves |
| 9. | Perfect Day | Various Artists |
| 10. | What's It All About Alfie | Cilla Black |

Nancy and Alf's favourite is What's It All About Alfie..... as this was continually being played when they were leaving London to live in Suffolk

Next Months castaway will be Terry Rush of Whepstead Road



The Metcalfe Arms Hawstead



Opening Times:	Christmas Eve	12 noon to 11.00 pm
	Christmas Day	11.00 am to 2.00 pm
	Boxing Day	12 noon to 11.00 pm

Come and see the "village" Christmas tree. Kitchen now fully open. Parties catered for!!

New Year's Eve at the Metcalfe Arms. Live music from 9.00 pm onwards til late.

All very welcome. Beat The Woodpeckers to the Bar!

Wendy (Landlady)

Taken from British newspapers

Commenting on a complaint from a Mr Arthur Purdey about a large gas bill, a spokesman for North West Gas said, "We agree it was rather high for the time of year. It's possible Mr Purdey has been charged for the gas used up during the explosion that destroyed his house." (The Daily Telegraph)

Irish police are being handicapped in a search for a stolen van, because they cannot issue a description. It's a Special Branch vehicle and they don't want the public to know what it looks like. (The Guardian)

A young girl who was blown out to sea on a set of inflatable teeth was rescued by a man on an inflatable lobster. A coastguard spokesman commented: "This sort of thing is all too common". (The Times)

At the height of the gale, the harbourmaster radioed a coastguard on the spot and asked him to estimate the wind speed. He replied he was sorry, but he didn't have a gauge. However, if it was any help, the wind had just blown his Land Rover off the cliff. (Aberdeen Evening Express)

Mrs Irene Graham of Thorpe Avenue, Boscombe, delighted the audience with her reminiscence of the German prisoner of war who was sent each week to do her garden. He was repatriated at the end of 1945, she recalled "He'd always seemed a nice friendly chap, but when the crocuses came up in the middle of our lawn in February 1946, they spelt out "Heil Hitler." (Bournemouth Evening Echo)

Opera Review

Hawstead Divas in Carmen at Quay Theatre, Sudbury

If you didn't see this, you missed a great evening out! Sung in English, this abridged version of Bizet's classic was performed with verve and passion by Suffolk Opera. For the technically minded, a "virtual" orchestra run off a PC replaced the more conventional musicians we are used to.

Stars of the show for the large Hawstead contingent who attended the last performance on 22 November were Christine Gossett and Kerry Harper. They looked great in their Seville cigar factory girls' outfits and make-up! The singing was pretty good too! See if you can spot them in the picture. Looking forward to the next production. Ed.



On the Outside Looking In (or a View from the Hill)

At a recent social function I was asked if I would 'do a page' for the Hawstead Journal. I considered this request with a guilty conscience as I realised that we have not made any serious effort to involve ourselves in the affairs of the Village community. However, offered this chance to remedy that situation, here are some superficial impressions from our vantage point 'on the Hill'.

After many years working and living overseas in the hurly-burly of big City life, we returned to England and decided to try living the country lifestyle. This decision, for us, has been very successful as we love the peace and tranquility of the countryside around us. We moved to Hawstead in Aug.96 but I have to say that our coming failed to attract the fanfare given to the recent arrival of our new neighbours at Coldham Hall!

We thank the anonymous delivery service which has, for years, faithfully provided our copies of the Quartet (particularly) and more recently, the Journal, our tenuous links to local events. As Winter approaches, I am reminded of another, more unusual, source of these updates. With the arrival of icy roads or a modest snowfall, we can rely on a steady stream of stranded motorists from vehicles unable to make it up 'the hill' (don't laugh, it could be you)! At our 'way station' they have access to a phone and a warming cuppa, we get the chance to meet a new Hawstead family and the latest news.

We read, with interest, the plans for the Village Hall, we assume it will become even more of a focal point for Village activities. One sad note, for me, an avid sports fan; it is disappointing that the considerable Football/Cricket facilities of the Village green are so little used, c'mon you Hawstead youngsters.

It was heart-warming to read the news regarding the Metcalfe Arms, Most 'townies' perception of village life imagines; a village pub, a village church, a village store, (not necessarily in that order)! I suppose in this day and age, we are fortunate to still have the first two, pity about the lack of the third though. Good luck to the new Metcalfe team, we hope to sample your hospitality in the near future.

Thats probably enough for my 'page.' I hope an outcome of this exercise leads us to more participation in village affairs, we shall see. Our best wishes to all for a peaceful Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Kathleen&Bernard Judge
Bull Hill Cottage.

For the Record

In a kitchen at Pinford End on Sunday 30 November 2003 at 6.00 pm a Pipistrelle bat. It had obviously been disturbed and was looking for alternative accommodation!
JK

20 Favourites Films

Chosen this month by Ed.

1. Aliens – In space no one can hear you scream!
2. Gladiator – Roman cruelty, love and valour
3. Titanic – Unforgettable background to young love story
4. Terminator – Arnie at his best
5. Raiders of the Lost Arc – original Indiana Jones
6. Ben Hur – another Roman epic, worth it for the chariot race alone
7. Don't look now – chilling occult thriller
8. American Beauty – weird, funny, compelling
9. The Deer Hunter – harrowing Vietnam war story
10. Goldfinger – best ever Bond movie
11. Schindlers List – harrowing – only watched it once
12. Star Wars – great escapism
13. The Green Mile – weird death row tear jerker
14. Proof of Life – Russell Crowe as ex-SAS kidnap negotiator
15. The Exorcist – scary
16. Saving Private Ryan – very realistic WW2 infantry story
17. Pretty Woman – funny, sexy, romantic
18. The Dambusters – epic true story of British boffins, British skill and British heroics
19. The English Patient – another WW2 story - weird
20. The Horse Whisperer – Robert Redford tale of tragedy, romance, horses and the great American outdoors.

Seen in Hawstead

(Outside our kitchen window)

Kingfisher

Jacque

