

Thought for the Month

Putting this month's journal together in the immediate aftermath of the countryside march in London set me thinking. At a rough estimate, there must be as many Hawsteaders working in some aspect or other of education as there are directly involved in farming - and many more of us working in offices or engaged in commerce. Some of us, indeed, are as likely to want to grow houses as to grow wheat. So what, these days, is the 'country way of life'?

Over the last ten years we have all come to realise that we have the right to comment on what goes on inside our schools. Those of us who teach, however, have found the many changes and performance indicators imposed on us in order to provide this 'transparency', extremely burdensome. Some of these measurements, indeed, have been counter-productive and need to be modified. But I don't think that any of us would argue that we should *not* be held accountable for what we do and the way we do it.

Similarly, all of us, townee and villager alike, have a right to be concerned about the quality of the food in our shopping baskets, the way it got there, the profits made by the supermarkets and the prices paid to the producers, whether in this country or abroad. As the sugarbeet harvest gets underway - and particularly when the wind blows from the north bearing that distinctive smell - we might wonder why we have a system of subsidies and tariffs that effectively blocks our market to imports of cane sugar. This policy raises the price we pay as consumers while reducing third world farmers to absolute poverty. There has to be a better way, and one that also protects the rural economy in this country for the generations to come.

We need a national debate on these issues and one that must not be side-tracked by the fox-hunters. Your views matter, so express them in next month's Hawstead Journal.

My thanks to all the contributors this month.

Ros Alexander

Your letters, comments, contributions and suggestions will all be gratefully received by next month's editor, Mr Not-naked himself, Chris Notley. We're trying very hard to make sure the Journal comes out as near as possible to the beginning of the month so that dates of meetings etc aren't out of date before you even read about them! So, copy for next month please to Chris by 20th October. You can e-mail it to him at Chris@townmark.co.uk or give it to him on a floppy, or in pencil (2, The Pound) or phone him (tel. 386531).

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Editor Ros Alexander



Hawstead Journal

For the Village by the Village

Volume 1, October 2002

Hawstead Parish Council

Parish finances

All the expenditure incurred by the Parish Council - for example on the maintenance and development of village assets - comes from the 'precept'. This is financed by the payments you make in Council Tax to St Edmundsbury Council. The precept is received from St Edmundsbury in April and has to last until the following April. The sum that will be required for the coming financial year is calculated every Autumn by your Parish Council and submitted to St Edmundsbury in November.

The Parish Council's only other form of income is bank interest (which last month amounted to the princely sum of 3p) and a grant for the management of the village green (about £800) under the Countryside Stewardship Scheme. The terms of this grant are very strict and any unusual activity has to have specific permission from DEFRA (the Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs). We have just received permission for the green to be harrowed this year.

County Councillors have a small amount of money allocated to them, which they can use to help the parishes for which they have special responsibility. Our County Councillor, Mrs Betty Milburn, helped us last year with £6250 to help with car park improvements at the village hall. This year she has contributed £875 for the repair and refurbishment of the bus shelter, which amounts to approximately three quarters of the total cost. We are immensely grateful to Mrs Milburn for this assistance.



Is this the closest you feel you've got to summer?

Read Glyn's Weather Report page 8

Arthur's Allotment

I am very happy to report that there has been some very positive interest shown in keeping the allotment under cultivation and the first gardeners have marked out their plot. It is also anticipated that the Parish Council may be interested in taking an allotment to grow on shrubs and trees for future use in the village. But even so there are one or two plots still available. Through the support and generosity of Christopher and Rupert Brown the rental is very low, but not unreasonably they wish to see the land used.

Why not start planning now to win all the trophies at next years flower and produce show by investing some time and energy in an allotment. And on the way to glittering prizes keep fit and enjoy fresh fruit and vegetables.

DIG NOW FOR VICTORY!

Telephone me on 386711 for further information.

Joan Cook



Hawstead Church Services

October		
Sunday 13 th	11am	Morning Prayer with Holy Baptism
Sunday 20 th	11am	Holy Communion with Hymns
November		
Friday 1 st	9.30am	All Saints Day - Holy Communion
Sunday 10 th	11am	Remembrance Sunday Service
Sunday 17 th	11am	Holy Communion with Hymns

Not Naked Notley's Kitchen Garden

Seed for these wonderful, sweet Mother Hubbard squashes is hard to find these days but I saved some from a squash bought at a local farmer's market last autumn and sowed them indoors at the beginning of May. Germination was good but the wet weather at the end of the month was a godsend to snails and all but three plants were sheered off at the base by the little blighters within hours of planting out. But, under a thick mulch of lawn mowings, and absolutely no other attention, that hardy threesome produced all these – and more that have already been eaten ...



Squashes ripening for winter storage.

That's what I like – plants that grow themselves.

Cooking is simple. Just peel, take out the seed (dry and save for next year), and boil or steam for twenty minutes, or roast in the oven. But for a really tasty sweet 'n sour autumn dish try this delicious German recipe:

1 kg (2lbs) peeled, seeded and cubed squash or pumpkin
 60g(2oz) streaky bacon, diced
 250g (8oz) chopped onion
 350g (12oz) eating apples, cored and diced
 lemon juice and rind

Cook the bacon gently in some butter, add the onion and cook until golden. Add the squash and about a cup of water. Cover closely and simmer for 10-15 minutes until the squash is soft but still holding its shape. Add the apple, and a good squeeze of lemon juice and the rind, and continue to cook with the lid off so that any excess liquid evaporates. The apples should appear as soft little yellow lumps flecked through the orange of the squash. Correct the sweet/sour balance with extra lemon juice or a little sugar to taste. Eat on its own, or with sausages for Halloween or Guy Fawkes night.

Tip Top Internet Tips: the GOOGLE 'Advanced Search'

Well, you've logged onto the Google 'search engine' and it's waiting for you to type something in – but hold on! In very small print on the right hand side of the screen there's a 'link' (phrase in blue, underlined) which says 'Advanced Search'. Go for it and don't be put off by the word 'advanced' – it's just a way of being more specific about what you're looking for.

To begin with it lets you decide on a number of word structures. 'Exact phrase' is straightforward i.e by typing two or more words they must occur together – 'Ipswich Town Football Club' for example. Three other possibilities are offered which correspond to a standard methodology of database searching involving the three words 'and' 'or' and 'not':

With all the words = 'and' eg Hawstead (and) Metcalfe (and) Drury

With at least one of the words = 'or' eg football (or) soccer

Without the words = 'not' eg American [in conjunction with above: football (or) soccer]

You also have six further 'filtering' or 'limiting' possibilities:

You can specify the language required (probably English!)

You can be specific about the file format required eg. Microsoft Word documents.

You can make sure information is up to date by requesting (eg.) that pages have to have been updated in the last 6 months.

You can say where on the page your word(s) or phrase can occur – eg. in the page title (this will be a good way of returning relevant results.)

You can be specific about which types or locations of web addresses (or 'domains') you are interested in eg. only .uk sites or only .ac (= academic)

You can filter for content using a service called 'SafeSearch'

I did a normal search for 'Gulf War Syndrome' and had 74,600 'hits'.

Using Advanced Search I was able to specify that I wanted the actual phrase and this brought it down to 51,400. Still a lot, but with further refinements – 1) pages must be in English, 2) they must have been updated in the past year, 3) the phrase must occur in the title of the page, and 4) pages must be on UK web-sites – I was able to bring this down to a much more manageable total of 55!

Dates for your Diary

Monday 21 October	Hawstead Community Council, Village Hall
Saturday 16 November	Hedge-Laying, Millenium Field
Thursday 21 November	Parish Council Meeting, Village Hall

Fete and Produce Show

Didn't we have a lovely day! We managed to raise £516 while enjoying ourselves. Many, many thanks to everyone who gave freely of their time to help set up and clear away, also a most grateful thank you to the army of loyal supporters who man the stalls, sell the raffle tickets, dispense the tea and cakes, barbecue the food and the many things that go on at a village fete. A big thank you to everyone who came along to enjoy the day and spend their money. Next year we plan to make the event even more enjoyable so be there Sunday 2nd September 2003. See you there!!

The Produce show:

The entries were down a little this year. It was pleasing to have a few new exhibitors. It is a lovely tradition, long may it continue. The sight of all those lovely fruit and vegetables is really glorious not to mention the smell of newly baked bread and cakes. They almost don't last until the judges appear. Our superb auctioneers raised £58. It is amazing what people will pay for a carrot cake. (Idea for next year, carrot cake stall, start growing carrots!)

The trophy winners this year were as follows the Best Onions came from **Tony Hillman**, the remaining trophies for fruit and vegetables and flower arranging were won by **Sally Tolhurst**. **Joan Cook** won the shield for the most points in the home produce section. The most points in the under fifteen section came from **Jolie Stokes**.

The next meeting of the Community Council will be held at the village hall Monday 21st October 2002 at 8pm. These meetings are open, so as we are always looking for new ideas or old ones to revive do come along or pass on your ideas. The village hall is not getting any younger!!!!

Sonja Monk, COMMUNITY COUNCIL



HOORAH!

We're going back to School!

Was it really Hauptmann Kurt Geisler?

In response to the request I made in last months Journal for help to confirm the identity of the pilot who crashed his FW 190 in the village on the night of the 6th/7th September 1943 I have been in contact with three people. Richard Blackwell rang and told me two interesting stories. The first concerned the pilot's forage cap which had been retrieved and for many years had rested on the mantelpiece of an elderly lady who lived in Whepstead. Following a report in the local paper about the cap she was burgled and the cap was stolen. The lady died some time ago and it is unlikely that the forage cap, which would have borne the pilot's name, will ever be located. However Richard's second story is much more intriguing and if it can be checked may well solve the mystery. Apparently among the remains found in the crash debris was the body of a small dog. It may sound strange to modern ears that a Luftwaffe pilot would go on a sortie with his pet dog, but in WWII it was not uncommon.

Then Eric Massey rang and gave me an introduction to Ken Wells, a Cambridgeshire researcher and airplane historian. I rang Ken and he could immediately see the possibilities of determining the identity of the pilot if the story of the dog could be confirmed. He knew of other cases where something similar had happened. This was very encouraging and I quickly contacted Joe Potter, the man working for the German War Graves Commission who had contacted me originally. He, through his contacts, will attempt to find out if Kurt Geisler was in the habit of flying with a dog and possibly whether the dog went 'missing' at the same time as his alleged master. For my part I would like to try and confirm Richard's account by talking with anyone who may have seen the crash or who may have photographs of the wreckage. If you can help please contact me on 01284 386711.

Sherlock Holmes *alias* Joan Cook, History Recorder

Heard in the Village

Stay at home: So what would you say was the difference between the East and the West?

Frequent Flier: Well, [long pause] the East is less westernised.

Above Your Head!

Did you see the Perseids, the much acclaimed meteor shower which peaked on 12th of August? As with most such showers the best time to see them is after midnight and on a moonless night. When I looked out on the 12th it was cloudy over Hawstead but the night before was ideal: still, warm and dark and they were coming in one every minute. The Perseids are the debris left behind by the comet Swift-Tuttle that we will be passing through again next year, but you do not have to wait till then for the chance of seeing meteors. About 21st October the Orionids will be in the sky although it will not be such a good show with the moon rising at 6pm and not setting until 7.22am and an estimated count of only 25 per hour. Weather permitting, have a look out at 6am until the sun starts to rise. The Orionids are the trail of the famous Halley's comet.

September 23rd marks an equinox; the sun is at one of the two points where its path around the sky (the ecliptic) crosses the celestial equator. Day and night are equal everywhere. The vernal equinox (March) marks the start of spring in the Northern Hemisphere. The autumnal equinox is taken as the start of autumn. Earth – sun distance = 150115020km (or a lot of miles).

Moon: 1st quarter, 13th September; full, 21st September; 3rd quarter, 3rd October; new moon, 13th October.

Simon Miller



Open Spaces

You will have noticed that we have now reduced the size of the car park on Pound Green. The area is about to be reseeded.

The Tree Preservation Order made by St Edmundsbury covering the whole of Pound Spinney has now been confirmed.

Robin Whitfield (Clerk) and Ros Alexander (Councillor)

Weather Reports

Summer weather- June to August

It was an unremarkable season. The average temperature was above the long term mean; amounts of sunshine were below normal and for the most part there was adequate rainfall. For gardeners fortunate enough to germinate seeds during a variable spring, the vegetable harvest has been good. The fruit crops have been abundant and were it not for the grey squirrels (often referred to as tree rats) there would be plenty of hazelnuts and walnuts.



I don't know whether it's the deep red colour or the long husks but these nuts from a purple hazel bush have fooled the squirrels in my garden, and they're delicious - ed.

August

The average temperature, 17.7°C (63.9°F) was 1°C (.2°F) above the forty year mean (1960-99) and followed the trend since 1990 for August, rather than July, to be the warmest month of the year.

Showery, rather close weather predominated during the first ten days of the month. Thundery rain on the 3rd/4th gave a rainfall of 31.2mm. Thereafter the month was largely dry, apart from a thunderstorm on the 18th which ended a notably warm and sunny week, with the temperature peaking on the 17th at 30°C (86°F). Apart from a cool damp Bank Holiday Monday, the latter fortnight of the month gave temperatures close to, or a little above the seasonal normal (21°C, 70°F). Sunshine was, however, in short supply.

The most conspicuous feature of the month was the mildness of the nights: minimum temperatures averaged 12.9°C (55.2°F), a figure amongst the highest on record.

September

The scene change towards autumn has been gentle. A wet blustery period on 8th/9th was a brief interruption to a fortnight of warm, often sunny weather, although on several nights, temperatures have tumbled below 7°C (45°F). On the 14th the dominant anticyclone shifted eastwards drawing in overcast weather with northerly breezes and consequently lower temperatures.

Weather Reports

Outlook Changeable



Big sky over Pinford End

Hawstead 2001

Stumped as to what to send your overseas friends for Christmas before the posting dates go by?

Then why not give them a unique souvenir of this pretty West Suffolk parish by sending a copy of the beautifully illustrated record of Hawstead.

Available from Sonja Monk, Spinney cottage, Tel. 386876, Joan Cook, Cook's Farmhouse Tel. 386711 or the Metcalfe Arms, Tel. 3863321

£20.00



Sugar beet clamp
and trees damaged
by fire at Pinford
End



Hedge Laying

The demonstration of hedge laying will take place on Saturday 16th November at 9.30 a.m. in the Millenium Field. Participants will need to bring their own bil-hooks, saws and gloves.

The session will last until approximately 4.00 p.m.. The demonstration is free and participation can take place anytime between 9.30-4.00 p.m.

For more information phone James 386245

Castaway Top Ten

Tom Coxhead chooses his top ten music choices to entertain him, should he be marooned on the village green.

Led Zeppelin - Babe I'm Gonna Leave You: Not just great riffs but really shows off classic Zeppelin contrasts.

Prodigy - Breathe: Reminds me of the Prodigy set at Reading festival and the general night time atmosphere whilst watching a band.

Frank Zappa - Cosmik Debris: Crazy off the wall stuff. The talent is mind blowing.

Opeth - Blackwater Park: An extremely vibrant, powerful heavy Opeth song in the traditional Opeth 12 minute epic form.

Bob Marley - Jamming: Not chosen for any particular reason except that I just wanted a lively Bob Marley track and I thought this was a good place to start. Great track.

George F Handel - Zadok the Priest: I have always liked this track and it especially reminds me of seeing the L.S.C at Bury Cathedral.

Pink Floyd - Shine On You Crazy Diamond: Blinding guitar solo, beautiful atmosphere, 13.30 minutes long, what a classic.

Frank Zappa - Uncle Remus: Zappa is undisputedly a genius. This shows his versatility with great piano and a more relaxed approach.

Chick Corea - Hilltop: A more relaxed track to listen to late at night. Really makes me want to play piano though.

Red Hot Chili Peppers - Sir Psycho Sexy: Reminds me of V2001. This track was the highlight of the festival for me.

Next month's choices will be by Tam Alexander.

Seed Gathering Sunday

The village seed gathering will be on 20th October. This will be a good opportunity for young and old to gather seeds from our important village trees to perpetuate the species.

Seeds will be collected from Lawshall Road, Village Green, Market Path, corner of the School House and Oak Hill. A bike may be beneficial but not crucial. Small incentives may be available. Meet at Village Hall at 10.00.

More information from B Kew Tree Warden 386248