

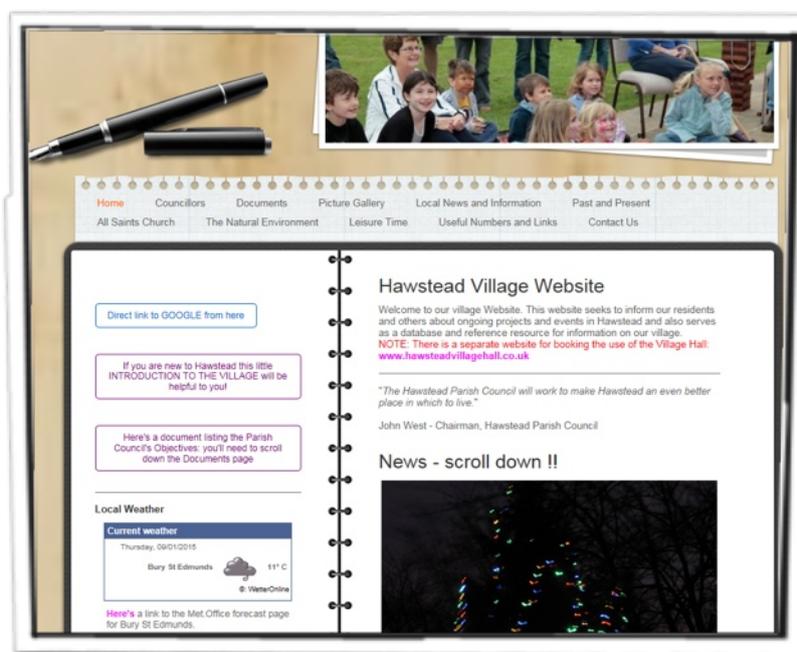
HAWSTEAD JOURNAL

Editors: Judy & Dave Carter

Make the Hawstead Village Website your own Home Page

When you use the Internet, what website do you start from? i.e. what's your Home Page – the one that comes up first when you select the Internet Explorer (or other 'browser') from your computer 'desktop'?

Well whatever it currently is I'd like to suggest you change it to our village website!



Don't know how to do that? Well I've put an illustrated 'How to' Guide on the 'Documents' page of the website ("Would you like the Hawstead website Home Page to be the Home Page on your own computer?") I've described the process for both Internet Explorer and Firefox.

From the screenshot above you can see that there's a number of category headings on the website: without giving you a complete catalogue here and now, I'd like to highlight that all the Parish Council documents are posted there; there's a nearly-complete collection of the Hawstead Journal from its inception in 2002; there are over a dozen (somewhat random!) photo galleries; and there are significant collections of historical village census data (1841-1911) and births, marriages and burials relating to All Saints Church from way back.

I have high hopes of further developing the website during 2015 and would welcome suggestions for useful additions from anyone. In particular I am keen (to repeat a plea published in the HJ last year) to add more galleries of photos of bygone Hawstead. A few made it into the "Hawstead 2001" book but I'd love to gather more for the website.

Please contact me if you can help: phone 386531 or email andyparrett@rocketmail.com

CHURCH SERVICES - HAWSTEAD UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED

JANUARY

Sunday 11th	08.30	Said Eucharist
Sunday 25th	11.00	Morning Service

FEBRUARY

Sunday 8th	08.30	Said Eucharist
Sunday 22nd	11.00	Morning Service

MARCH

Sunday 8th	08.30	Said Eucharist
------------	-------	----------------

A Happy New Year to everyone from All Saints Church, Hawstead.

Please make a date in your diary:

Open Garden at Church Farm House - 9th May from 2.00pm.
Teas, plant stall, and games.

Lesley Carey

CALLING ALL BIRDERS!

RSPB BIG GARDEN BIRDWATCH 24/25 JANUARY 2015

Are you thinking about joining in with this initiative? If so, why not let the editors know your findings and they can be published in the journal. This would certainly be interesting to other Hawstead residents and clearly show the abundance and variety of birds we have in our area.

If you have not heard about the scheme simply go to www.rspb.org.uk/birdwatch where you can find out all the details. It is very easy to do; simply pick one hour on Saturday 24th or Sunday 25th and record the number and species of birds in your garden at that time. They can be submitted to the RSPB for their nationwide survey, but whilst you are doing this why not let us know too?

There is a sheet on the web site with pictures of the common garden birds, which you can download. Go into the watch and record section, where you will find a live bird counter sheet.

Happy Spotting!

Judy Carter



HAWSTEAD'S CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Two magnificent Christmas trees were donated again this year by Graham and Rebecca Leslie of Oaklands Lodge, Lawshall Road.

Thank you to the Leslie family for your wonderful generosity.

The task of selecting, cutting down, carting and eventually erecting the trees took place on the morning of Saturday 6th December in time for the Christmas Fayre the following day.

A good deal of grunting and groaning took place when manoeuvring the outside tree into an upright position!

The intrepid volunteers involved in this annual Saturday morning challenge were Clive Robinson (lumberjack) Pat Baker (providing tractor and trailer), Steve Butt (groundwork expertise), Andy Taplin (technical assistance), Bruce Monk (strategy), Rod Jackson (advice only as he had his shiny shoes on) and John West (encouragement and drinking tea).

Refreshments were provided by Geraldine West.

The tree in the hall was beautifully decorated by a team from Hawstead Community Council. The outside tree was decorated by Clive Robinson and Rod Jackson with our new set of colourful lights.

Very well done to everyone involved.

John West



CHRISTMAS DRINKS

Hawstead Christmas Drinks at the Village Hall

On Saturday 20 December about 50 members of the village got together for a Christmas chat and **FREE DRINKS** at the village hall funded by Hawstead Community Council. Those who came along spent a wonderfully relaxed couple of hours catching up and enjoying some festive drinks and nibbles in our beautifully decorated hall.



The children who joined us used the meeting room to watch a DVD, play with the marble run, diggers and Littlest Pet Shop toys, and enjoy some Christmas face painting and colouring.

Our thanks must go to those members of the Community Council who prepared the venue and hosted the event, especially Dave Dawson who was suffering from a nasty cold but still came along to serve the mulled wine. Thanks too to our waitresses Imogen and Beth, and our waiter Benjamin, who kept us supplied with nibbles. And a BIG thank you to those villagers who brought along some delicious food for the evening, and to Chris Pamplin who spent lots of his time in the kitchen heating up the food.

This was a FREE village event funded by Hawstead Community Council. Open invitations were published in the village newsletter. If you missed out this year, make sure you read the 2015 November/December newsletter and write the date in your diary!

Susanne White

FREE RANGE HAWSTEAD EGGS

Our hens are now laying again after their winter rest.

Please call in, email or phone.

We can always leave some out for you if we are not at home.

£1.10 per half dozen.

Fran and Andy Evershed,

1, Fyletts Manor Cottages

evershed1@tiscali.co.uk
01284 386501



MARK'S QUIZ NIGHT, 21ST NOVEMBER 2014

Mark's ***'It's Nearly Christmas Quiz Night'*** at Hawstead Village Hall was well supported once again, with nine teams and lots of festive fun.

After the usual pre-quiz banter, we settled down to questions on Christmas films, Pantomimes and Christmas songs, as well as spelling, true/false, sitcom themes, food and drink and Band Aid 30 years on.

Chris Pamplin was given the Christmas turkey to wear on his head for the night, because his daughter, Hannah, pulled his ticket out for a raffle prize. The turkey was then passed to Mark because he couldn't pronounce Stollen (he thought it was stolen!).

We all had a great night and our thanks must go to Mark for all the work he puts into creating what must be one of the best quiz nights around.

A special well done to everyone who made an effort to dress for the occasion – some tinsel and Christmas hats make all the difference!

Susanne White

CHRISTMAS WREATHS

Christmas Wreaths made by our village children

On the weekend before our Hawstead Seniors Christmas Lunch a group of children from the village (plus a few extras) met at Park House to create the table decorations for the event.

Ages ranged from 3 to 14 and every one of them got involved. Aply led by Jo Butt, they created four table wreaths and one basket.

A BIG THANK YOU to the youngsters from the village for adding something very special and personal to the Seniors Christmas Lunch, and thanks too to Jo Butt and Susanne White for organising the event.

Susanne White



CHRISTMAS SENIORS LUNCH

Hawstead's Christmas Seniors Lunch 2014

On Thursday 18 December more than 40 of Hawstead's over-60s (and some nearly over-60s!) came along as guests of Hawstead Community Council to celebrate Christmas with a three-course festive feast at the village hall. The annual Christmas lunch was enjoyed by many of Hawstead's most colourful characters, and over tomato and basil soup, traditional turkey and home-made Christmas pudding or roulade, they caught up with old friends and all the village gossip. Many commented on the superb quality of the food which was served to the table piping hot - testament to both the skill of the caterers and the efficiency of our village hall kitchen!

There was a fantastic atmosphere in the hall, together with a beautifully decorated table and Christmas tree. The table decorations were made by children from the village who came together the weekend before to create them. The table wreaths found homes over the festive period with some of the guests.

Pat Baker and Rosemary Harrison did their best to get a sing-a-long going, although everyone seemed just as happy to simply chat, recount anecdotes and generally put the world to rights. After a free raffle (each guest was given a ticket), coffee and mince pies to finish, our over-60s made their way home having had a fine time amongst great company.



CHRISTMAS SENIORS LUNCH

This year we also offered a meals on wheels service to those residents not able to make the trip to the village hall. It's reported that Arthur and Doreen really enjoyed their Christmas lunch, which included Christmas crackers, a table decoration made by Reuben Cooper (age 4) and an entry into our free raffle.



Thanks to Andy Taplin and Geraldine West for providing the photographs and to Susanne, Chris and Hannah Pamplin, Jo and Steve Butt and Dan Hatton for decorating the hall and table the evening before.



This was a FREE event open to all village residents of Hawstead aged 60 and over and funded by Hawstead Community Council. Past villagers were also welcome, although a charge was made to them. If you missed out this year, please make sure you read the November 2015 village newsletter which will contain an open invitation to all (as in 2014). You simply need to register with the event organiser to book your place.

Susanne White

The Hawstead Journal was kindly sponsored this month by Dave & Sandy Dawson of "Bracklands", Whepstead Road.

Happy New Year to all our readers and a big thank you for all contributions past present and future.

**VOLUNTEER/S WANTED
TO PRODUCE FOUR EDITIONS
OF THE JOURNAL IN 2015.**

This could be four different editors!

(Assistance will be provided when possible)

Please contact Judy or David judy@mmgd.co.uk, 01284 386512

If you would like to sponsor the Journal for one edition, please contact Judy.

Judy Carter - Oakhill House, Pinford End, Tel: 01284 386512 or judy@mmgd.co.uk

NEW INITIATIVE BY SUFFOLK FAMILY CARERS

Suffolk Family Carers

Living Fuller Lives

Suffolk Family Carers is a local charity that provides information, support and guidance to Family Carers around Suffolk. We have been offering our services for over 25 years and one of the things we have learnt during that time is that people caring for another person at home, perhaps a family member or friend don't usually see themselves as a Family Carer, they just see it as part of being husband, wife, father, mother, daughter, son, friend etc.

Because of this, it becomes so easy to forget the importance of your own health and wellbeing as all of your physical and emotional effort and energy is spent on looking after that person, and others who may be involved such as siblings. You may feel that your own needs do not matter at this time, but in order to provide care and support you do need to keep your own batteries charged.

In 2015 *Suffolk Family Carers* will be working with our hospice colleagues in Suffolk to offer an information and support programme for those people caring for someone nearing the end of their life.

There will be a series of five informal sessions that offer information and an opportunity to reflect and gain support from others in a similar situation. The programme will run around the County with the first ones starting end of January. Its aim is to improve the Family Carer's own situation and that of the person they Care For.

If you would like to find out more or to book your free place please call

Carly on 01473 835420 or e mail wellbeing@suffolkfamilycarers.org

HAWSTEAD CRAFT GROUP

The Hawstead craft group meets on the last Monday of the month in the village hall from 10 – 4 (approx.).

If you have a craft project you need some help with, just need to finish an on-going project or simply would like to meet like-minded people, then please join us.

Dates are: 26th January and 23rd February.

If you have any questions or queries please call 388817 or e-mail joandstevebutt@yahoo.co.uk

Look forward to seeing you there!

Jo Butt

HAVE YOU HEARD OF STREETLIFE?

streetlife

Welcome to the local social network

Streetlife makes it easy to connect and share with people in your neighbourhood

[Streetlife](#) is a local social network. There are already thousands of people using the website across St. Edmundsbury, and in the next few weeks we will be inviting lots more residents to join the conversation.

Streetlife brings together people based on their postcode, to help everyone – residents, elected officials and local groups – discover and discuss local issues and initiatives.

We're encouraging local people to make the most of Streetlife by joining in with local events, groups and volunteering opportunities, so it's a brilliant opportunity for non-profit organisations to get involved (for free) and share their news, events and opportunities with the growing local audience.

Over 300,000 people are already using Streetlife across the UK, and in our existing communities we've seen first-hand that good things happen when neighbours are better connected.

Conversations started on Streetlife have led to locals organising litter picks, sharing trusted tradesmen recommendations and finding volunteers for befriending schemes. We are really excited to see this continue in St. Edmundsbury.

Please do get in touch if you have any questions or suggestions on ways we can invite even more local clubs, groups and organisations to join the conversation.

Claire Elsdon

Partnerships

streetlife.com

Tel 0203 137 5321

HAWSTEAD GOES TO THE PANTO

As in previous years we had a great turnout for Hawstead's annual visit to the Theatre Royal pantomime. True to form, Cinderella was something of a riot. It had all the traditional slapstick and familiar songs, with plenty of opportunities for the audience to hiss, boo and shout 'He's behind you'. Cinderella was pretty, the fairy godmother sparkling and the ugly sisters, the villains of the piece, were gaudy neon-clad and truly grotesque. They caused chaos, not only on stage, but for one villager in particular who was unfortunate enough to be sitting near the front. Hilarious too were the interactions between the actors and the very young members of the audience invited on stage.

This pantomime this coming Christmas is "*Jack and the Beanstalk*".

The Numbers

44 seats at £18 each = £792.

27 adults paid £486.

17 children £306. Our thanks to the Community Council for paying for the children.

Geraldine West



HAWSTEAD WINE CLUB

A record number of us squeezed into the meeting room for our November meeting. Maybe it was the thought of not convening until the New Year that turned us out in force!

Ruth and Bridget did a splendid job of choosing some Christmas wines for us, all purchased from our quality wine merchant in Bury, Thos. Peatling. I understand they used their negotiating skills to secure a good deal for the club!

The wine scoring the highest points was *Esk Valley* from the Hawkes Bay area of New Zealand. This is 100% *Verdelho* grape, originating in Madeira and usually associated in fortified wines. Not cheap at £10.79 but delicious and worth paying to eat with Christmas lunch. Our second favourite was another white, this time French and Sparkling, *Les Graiménous* from the Languedoc-Roussillon area. Very good value at £11.76 and one that would definitely give Champagne a run for its money. The favourite red was a Bordeaux blend *Château Argadens*, which was a hefty 14% and came in at £11.05.

With so much happening in December we agreed it was best to wait until January, which will take place on the 29th and is hosted by Judy and David.

Judy Carter

HAWSTEAD READING GROUP

In November we met at Jacquie Milns' lovely home in Pakenham with tasty nibbles and wine! Our book for discussion was *"Northern Lights"* by *Philip Pullman*. A departure from our recent genre of literature this book is classified as a young adult fantasy and set in a parallel universe. It features the journey of Lyra to the Arctic in search of her missing friend Roger and her imprisoned uncle Lord Asriel who has been conducting experiments with a mysterious substance known as "Dust." This book is a bit like "Marmite" in that you either love it or hate it and I for one love both although it is not a book I would normally think to read! This is the first book of a trilogy *"His Dark Materials"* and *Northern Lights* was made into a film in 2007 called *The Golden Compass* which was on TV over the Christmas period.

Our well attended December meeting was held at Hawstead Hall which is undergoing splendid renovations. Our hostess Penny treated us to mince pies and other lovely festive fare! We discussed *"The Legacy of Elizabeth Pringle"*, a first novel by *Kirsty Wark* a respected BBC presenter.

It is 2006 and nonagenarian Elizabeth dies, leaving her house and contents to a young woman she used to watch wheeling a pram past her home. The woman, Anna Morrison, put a note through Elizabeth's door saying that, if she ever wanted to sell, Anna would love to buy the house. More than 30 years later Anna has succumbed to dementia and it is left to daughter, Martha, the child being pushed in the pram, to deal with her mother's legacy. The narrative switches between Elizabeth, a teacher telling the story of a lifetime spent on Arran and Martha, an Edinburgh journalist, who comes to the island to take possession of the house and find out about her unexpected benefactor. Nominated for the Saltire First Book of the Year Award this novel is wonderfully descriptive of the Isle of Arran and enjoyed by us all.

As the last meeting of the year we chose our best and worst books of 2014. By a narrow margin *The Thread* by *Elizabeth Hislop* was the best but unanimously *The Bat* by *Jo Nesbo* the worst.

With no January book group our next meeting will be at Judy Carter's on Wed 4th February where we shall be discussing *The Last Runaway* by *Tracy Chevalier*.

Ann Gibbs

REGULAR EVENTS

Breathe Easy	Weekly on Tuesdays 9.15 - 10.15 am
Carpet Bowls	Weekly on Tuesdays 7.30 pm
Reading Group	1st Wednesday of the month 7.30 pm <i>(held in members' homes)</i>
HATS (Wine Club)	Last Thursday of the month 8.00 pm <i>(not December)</i>
Hawstead Craft Group	Last Monday of the month 10am - 4pm <i>(not December)</i>
Hawstead Oil Buying Group	Orders placed end of each month <i>(contact Jacquie Milns 01359 233143 email: richardmilns@gmail.com)</i>

HAWSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING DATES

*Meetings held at the Village Hall unless otherwise stated
Everyone is warmly welcome to attend, in fact you are positively encouraged to come!*

Meetings held bi-monthly on the third Thursday of the month at 7.30pm.

Dates arranged are:

15th January 2015	19th March
21st May	16th July
17th September	19th November

FORTHCOMING DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

In the Village Hall unless otherwise stated.

Parish Council Meeting	15th January - 7.30pm
RSPB Birdwatch	24th - 25th January (in your own garden)
Open Garden at "Church Farm House"	9th May from 2.00pm