

## **Hawstead 2014: Local History Recorder's Review**

According to the person who sends regular analyses to the Bury Free Press (BFP), 2014 was the fourth wettest year out of the past 25 years. 781mm. fell on 183 days which was 180 mm. above the regional average. At both ends of the year the weather in Hawstead was mild with few frosts and in the middle there was a warm summer. Nationally speaking the Daily Mail claimed (before the end of the month) that July was set to be one of the warmest and sunniest on record: and indeed at the end the Meteorological Office stated that the year had been the warmest on record for East Anglia. Conditions locally certainly seemed good from a farming point of view: cereal harvesting was seen taking place before the end of June alongside Bury Road; and rapeseed growing in the enormous Cooks Field (East side of Lawshall Road) was harvested in mid-July followed by the plough a few days later. (It was re-sown for a cereal crop during the last weekend of September.)

### **People**

The January/February issue of the Hawstead Journal reported that Pat Baker (Shepherd's Cottage, The Green) had won the Suffolk Ferguson Club's trophy at the annual East Anglian ploughing match at Fornham St Martin back in October 2013.

In April the BFP noted that Alan Brown (Broadwater House, The Pound), head of individual client services at Ashton KCJ Solicitors, had joined the Board of Trustees of the Theatre Royal: at the end of the year the company's 'Lifetime Planning Team' which he heads had a full-page advertising feature in the BFP (26<sup>th</sup> December). Similarly featured in the paper, back in February was Rupert Brown's Suffolk Barn at Place Farm ('catering for all your venue needs'). Rupert himself took part in a memorial cycle ride from Paris to Bury St Edmunds (BSE) commemorating 18 members of BSE Rugby Club who died 40 years ago when their plane returning from Paris after an England v France rugby match crashed (11<sup>th</sup> May 1974).

In March Ethel and Jim Lebbon (No.2 Bull Lane) celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary as did Doreen and Arthur Bailey (Greenacre, The Green). Both couples held parties in the Village Hall. Later in the year, in July, Joyce and Doug Dainty (Old Forge Cottage, The Green) became the third couple in the village to celebrate a 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary! They also hosted a party in the Village Hall.

In October Nigel Gossett (Copperfields Barn, Lawshall Rd.) had a letter published in the BFP concerning the imposition of charges in Nowton Park (which have been in place for a year or more): a borough Councillor who replied the following week in the paper claimed that it was possible to walk from Hawstead to Nowton Park in 15 minutes. As if !

Back in May, Andrew Brown of Hawstead Lodge Farm was successful at the Suffolk Show: Aberdeen Angus 'Evening Karlos' was Champion Bull as well as 1<sup>st</sup> Prize Bull born before Jan 1<sup>st</sup> 2013; and 'Patrick' was 2<sup>nd</sup> in the category of bulls born after that date.

John Brown & Sons, now specifically Christopher and Rupert Brown, Hawstead farmers were also awarded in 2014, when Suffolk Agricultural Association's annual Business Awards were announced in July. Their enterprise won the category for 'farms over 400ha.' This was not for the first time: they have previously won in 2010, 2011 and 2012 as well !

## All Saints Church

The Church Annual General Meeting (the 'Vestry Meeting') was held on 4<sup>th</sup> April and the existing Church Wardens and other members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) were re-elected for another year. (There are currently two Church Wardens and four other PCC members.) Disappointingly, both the 'cream tea' event, arranged by Lesley Carey (Church Farm House) for her garden in June and the Harvest Supper in October had to be cancelled, the latter because of a lack of support.

Villagers were invited to two churchyard maintenance days, one in the first week of July and the second in mid-October. In between these the Probation Service based in BSE was employed to do maintenance work as in the past. The policy of leaving the graveyard area around the church uncut until the wild flowers have set seed (except for a pathway around the church itself) has, however, not met with universal approval.

A sponsored 'Benefice Walk' extending from Lawshall to Hawstead with refreshments in Lesley Carey's barn afterwards was held on 5<sup>th</sup> September and raised approximately £750: a cake stall at the Christmas Fayre in the Village Hall raised a further £146.

There were no weddings in All Saints Church in 2014: there were three baptisms and one cremation burial. This was for Arthur Wright (formerly of Cooks Farmhouse Cottage, Lawshall Road and 13, Whepstead Road) who died in July aged 88.

## Hawstead Community Council

2014 started with the annual visit to the Theatre Royal, BSE to see the pantomime. Nearly four dozen Hawsteaders attended this year's offering, Aladdin.



After a gap of three years the Open Gardens event reappeared this year and took place on Bank Holiday Monday, May 26<sup>th</sup> – thankfully a dry day. This year a dozen gardens were open, half of them around the Pound. Clive Robinson (Cullum House, Church Road) provided sponsorship via his Estate Agency, 'Robinson's Portfolio' and money was raised for St Nicholas Hospice, BSE.

Other events organized by the Community Council included an Indian Supper on 26<sup>th</sup> April in the Village Hall (billed as a 'pop-up restaurant'), provided by Valley Connection of Churchgate Street, BSE. The main dish was a choice of either Chicken Tikka Bhuna (medium hot) or Vegetable Makhani (mild). On 21<sup>st</sup> June, Midsummer Day, there was a village BBQ. A warm, dry day cooled off in the evening, but people were still sitting outside on the Green at 9pm! We were also blessed with good weather on 7<sup>th</sup> September for the annual Village Fete, opened this year by local farmer Rupert Brown. As well as all the usual activities our new local businesses got involved: Barry Denny (Maglia Rosso) was seen riding his penny farthing bicycle around the Green and Khaki Devils' Taff Gillingham was on hand to discuss World War One memorabilia. After deductions for costs a profit of £730 for the day was realised.



Mark's Quiz evenings go from strength to strength: in 2014 he provided three evenings, one in March, another in August and finished with his 'It's Nearly Christmas' quiz at the end of November.

The Community Council ended the year with three more events: a very successful Christmas Fayre on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December, the annual Seniors Lunch on the 18<sup>th</sup> December and a drinks evening for all villagers on 20<sup>th</sup> December. By then there were Christmas trees at the Village Hall – one inside and one outside – decorated by lights of course. These trees were kindly donated by Graham and Rebecca Leslie (Oak Lodge, Lawshall Road) and erected by a team of volunteers.

#### **Other items relating to Hawstead during 2014**



The Hawstead Journal, ably coordinated and produced by Dave and Judy Carter (Oak Hill, Pinford End) was produced bi-monthly throughout 2014, each issue being sponsored by different villagers. Amongst many things, it reported that the Green Dragon Morris Dancers had – as usual – danced at the Village Green at 5AM. On May 1<sup>st</sup>. Those who rose early to join them were entertained afterwards to a hearty breakfast at Andy and Fran Evershed's nearby house (1, Manor Cottages, The Green).

On 22<sup>nd</sup> May the Village Hall was used as a Polling Station for the European Elections. The 6 Counties of Eastern England were entitled to elect 7 Members to the European Parliament. Hawstead was included within the Borough of St Edmundsbury for this purpose: there was a 35.3% voter-turnout within the Borough and of 29,762 votes cast, UKIP was top with 10,821 votes followed by the Conservatives who received 9,225. In the end East England returned 3 Conservative, 3 UKIP and 1 Labour MEPs.

Glyn Hammond (South View, The Green) opened his garden to the public on 8<sup>th</sup> June in aid of Marie Curie Cancer Care. At about the same time observant villagers noticed that the promised new 'superfast Broadband' box bringing us connection to the Internet via optical fibre had been delivered and installed. We were puzzled by its location, however, at the bottom of Bull Hill and next to the bridge over the River Lark. There are few houses nearby and we had been expecting the 'box' to be positioned at a corner of the Village Green. (nb From that box, connection to individual homes is via the traditional copper wire and Internet speed deteriorates rapidly with distance.) People were eventually able to subscribe to the new 'fibre' service from the end of October.



Horsecroft Road was resurfaced in mid June all the way from Pinford End into town: it involved a certain amount of road closure but was a much needed improvement.

During the Summer three 'craft days' were organised by Jo Butt (5, The Pound), following previous Kids' Craft days she had arranged in the Village Hall. By the end of the year a Craft Club had been formed. Also during the Summer, Hawstead Place Farm hosted the Elmswell Scout Group Camp for a week: and a goal post suitable for youngsters to use for football practice (ie not too big at 13 x 7 ft.) appeared on the Green, courtesy of the Parish Council.

Two extra events in the Village Hall happened in September: on the 12<sup>th</sup> there was a return of the 'Fizz on Friday' concert, put on by Bury Abbey Rotary Club in aid of St Nicholas Hospice and Papworth Hospital. The Piper Quartet performed (as they did last year) with singers from Bury Operatic Society. This was followed by 'The Pampered Chef' on 26<sup>th</sup> September – a fundraising event involving recipes and 'quality kitchen tools'. £254 were raised to be shared between All Saints Primary School, Lawshall and the Progressive Supranuclear Palsy Association. Then on October 4<sup>th</sup> there was a Macmillan Coffee Morning and a further £1142 were raised.

And now for something completely different: in October 2014 a service was agreed with the Post Office whereby parcels and other items which can't be delivered to a property because of occupants being away can now be left at Maglia Rosso for later collection – thus saving us having to go all the way into BSE to collect from the Sorting Office. nb This is an 'Opt-In' service and doesn't include registered/recorded items.

### **Village Groups**

'Breathe Easy' and the Carpet Bowls Club continued their weekly sessions on Tuesdays: the latter played 8 matches against teams from neighbouring villages (won 3, lost 5) and ended the year with an enjoyable Christmas meal at the Red House, Stanningfield.

The other two groups which were mentioned last year also met regularly during 2014, the Wine Club on the last Thursday in the month and the Book Club on the first Wednesday in the month. Members of the former took it in turns to present selections for tasting and during the year the following topics were included:

- Regional French wines
- Chilford Hall (Cambs.) wines
- Wines of the Iberian Peninsula
- Wines of the Mosel and Rhine
- Does an expensive wine taste better than a cheap one, given the same grape variety?
- Low sulphite wines
- A blind tasting of wines brought along by members
- Loire Valley wines
- Top selling new wines from Majestic shop
- Christmas wines from Peatlings (shop in BSE)

There was also a very successful club annual dinner (with wine!) at Bury Golf Club in June.

Books read and discussed by the Book Club in 2014 were:

- Simon Mawer                      The Girl Who Fell From The Sky
- Anna Quindlen                    Every Last One
- Mark Haddon                      The Curious Incident Of The Dog In The Night-time
- Victoria Hislop                    The Thread
- Markus Zusack                    The Book Thief
- Patricia Scanlon                   With All My Love
- Gabriel Garcia Marquez        Love In The Time Of Cholera
- Muriel Barbery                    The Elegance Of The Hedgehog
- Jo Nesbo                            The Bat

- Philip Pullman Northern Lights
- Kirsty Wark The Legacy Of Elizabeth Pringle

‘The Thread’ was judged the most enjoyable, ‘The Bat’ least so.

### Khaki Devil Ltd



This planned development of land extending away from Bells Lane alongside the brook as an educational facility about World War One had generated a lot of interest towards the end of 2013, both for and against, such that by early January 2014 there were in excess of 50 documents about it posted by St Edmundsbury Council on the planning page of their website. On 14<sup>th</sup> March the BFP reported that ‘plans for an educational World War One army camp in Hawstead have been given the go-ahead’. The rest of the year was spent in clearing the site in preparation for opening in Spring 2015 – though their uniform-hire business soon moved over from Ipswich to one of the permanent buildings on the site.

### Maglia Rosso



Following purchase of the Metcalfe Arms Public House last year, Lark Valley Projects Ltd. continued with a thorough redevelopment of the site over the



Winter and Spring of 2014. Barry Denny discussed their plans in an interview on Radio Suffolk on 9<sup>th</sup> January: the ‘Maglia Rosso cycle shop and destination café’ opened on 28<sup>th</sup> April and this was reported in the BFP. The subsequent months saw a significant increase in the number of cyclists – singly and in groups – on our village roads (some, even, were residents!): later in the year the BFP announced its ‘Business Awards’ for 2014 with a special supplement on 17<sup>th</sup> October and Maglia Rosso received the ‘Best New Startup’ award! Occasional events (eg. a Quiz evening) have been arranged by Maglia Rosso on Friday evenings and held either outside or in the café.

### Other Property in Hawstead

In 2014 the following properties were advertised for sale:

- Pound House, The Pound: sold in July, £450,000
- Honeywood, Whepstead Road: sold in July, £215,000
- Melpost, Whepstead Road: advertised in October £300,000+
- Bull Hill Cottage, Bury Road: advertised in June £725,000, reduced to £695,000 in November

- Hawstead House, The Pound: advertised in May £1,250,000
- Cooks Farmhouse, Lawshall Road: advertised in July £445,000

Bull Hill Cottage and Hawstead House were still for sale at the end of the year; Cooks Farmhouse had been withdrawn from sale by then.

In October the house at Church Farm was offered for rental.

Planning Applications affecting 10 properties in Hawstead were submitted to St Edmundsborough Council (SEBC), including one which involved a Tree Preservation Order. Of these, five were accepted, two were refused and the others were still pending at the end of the year.

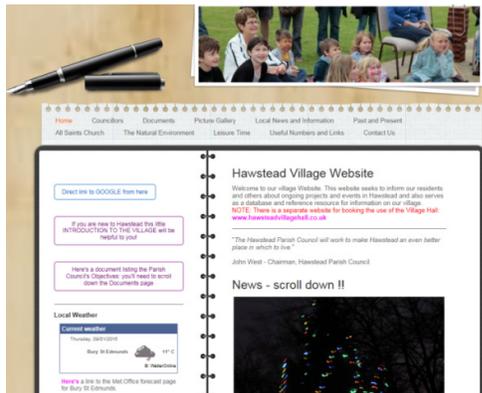
### Parish Council

Efforts to minimize traffic speeding through Hawstead were mooted before the beginning of the year: by the end of 2014, although still not implemented, work had progressed significantly on the ‘Speedwatch’ system which requires volunteers to record the speed of vehicles (those that are going too fast will receive a warning letter from the Police). The scheme is being coordinated by Councilor Clive Robinson and he has called it ‘SMASH’ – “Speedwatch Makes For A Safer Hawstead”.

In March the Parish Council Minutes noted that for the fourth year in a row SEBC had agreed to the ‘freezing’ of the Council Tax for 2014-15. In May there was the Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council, followed by the first meeting of the new Council. John West (Kellycroft Cottage, The Green) and Clive Robinson had been re-elected as Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively. John commented that with a balance of £20,000 (including the annual precept of £8,000 from the Borough Council) the Parish Council was in a good financial position. It was subsequently agreed to spend £720 + VAT on the mowing of the Village Green by West Suffolk District Council and later in the year £350 on mole control – a price which will be held steady for the next three years. Two new village notice boards were also ordered, supplied and erected during the year, one for the Green and one for Pinford End.

In the Summer 8 sacks of ragwort were collected from the Village Green by 18 volunteers: but horse riders were asked by Councilor Christabel Carr via the Hawstead Journal not to ride on the mown track as the surface can be easily damaged.

Led by ‘Achieving Excellence’ portfolio-holder Jayne Robertson, (Grove House, Church Road) the village was delighted to have won the regional leg of the annual ‘Suffolk Village of the Year’ in early June (in the category of small villages, population up to 500). The Parish Council received a prize of £500 or this and



moved forward to the finals in July. The judges came to Hawstead on 14<sup>th</sup> July: stalls were set out in the Village Hall by village organisations including both Maglia Rosso and Khaki Devils and there was a chance for them to study the village website online – plus the *piece de resistance* – a fantastic short film (five and a half minutes) about the village and its people made by Andy and Janet Taplin (Fyletts Barn, The Green). We were of course disappointed to learn that we had come fourth in the competition.

The Parish Council has paid for a website for a couple of years –

[www.hawstead-parish-council.co.uk](http://www.hawstead-parish-council.co.uk) , which is in addition to one organised by the Community Council specifically for publicising and marketing the Village Hall. At the end of 2013 Andy Parrett (Meadowview, Lawshall Road) assumed the role of ‘webmaster’ and spent time in 2014 developing the site as one for the whole village, not just a voice-piece of the Parish Council, with both relevant and up-to-date information, and also as a repository of documents, photographs and items of a historical nature relevant to Hawstead. This is, of course, on-going work.

At Parish Council Meetings – which are held bi-monthly on the third Thursday evening in the month – reports are presented by the Police and our local representatives on the Borough and County Councils. In November our Borough Councillor, Angela Rushen (Cauldwell, Whepstead Road) informed us that within the Borough 53% of our rubbish is recycled: from now we can add the following to our list of recyclable materials: food and drink cartons, aerosol cans, books and metal pots and pans.

At the end of the year the volunteer efforts of Charlie Riggall in walking our roads and collecting litter were acknowledged by the Parish Council with an honorarium.

**Final Note** A photograph of Fyletts Manor, The Green was used by Estate Agent Jackson Stops for a full-page general advertisement in the BFP with the caption “Why use a local agent when you can use a national agent with local knowledge?”



Also: the ‘Women’s Race’ – a Cycle Tour of Britain for Women – had its last stage finishing in BSE on 11<sup>th</sup> May. Photo taken as they join the main road in nearby Sicklesmere, having come down the hill from Little Whelmetham.

And here’s the Broadband ‘box’:

