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HAWSTEAD LOCAL HISTORY REPORT April 1997 - 98

8th Jan this year witnessed a considerable improvement in temperature compared with the same date last year when the coldest temperature ever recorded was -12°C in Hawstead.

Extensive reconstruction work was necessary on the bridge at the bottom of Bull Hill. The old bridge was built during the Second World War and a survey indicated that unless major work was carried out, a weight limitation would be imposed by the Highway Authorities. Although the new work was delayed by atrocious weather the bridge was officially opened on 10 July '97.

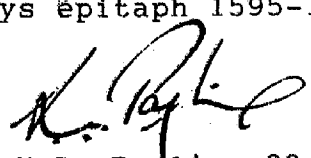
Following the erection of the Village Sign last year, an additional plaque has been added to the plinth to "Commemorate the Centenary of Hawstead PC Dec 1984 - Dec 1994."

Mr & Mrs John Holdway, Chairman of the Parish Council were invited to attend a garden party at Buckingham Palace in July, given for people involved in Public Life.

During a special PC Meeting on 25 Feb '98, by a majority vote it was agreed to proceed in principle with a Childrens Play Area on the Village Green. The actual position of the Play Area has yet to be decided and agreed.

During extensive repair work in Hawstead Church a tomb was uncovered in a most unusual position beneath the floor boards adjacent the Chancel door. The horizontal tombstone was engraved "Mary Anne wife of Edward Gosling MA Rector of this Parish died July 18th 1802 aged 32". Questions may well be asked why she died so young and why the name Gosling was "blacked out" with paint? This has been photographed. Edward Gosling was Rector 1794 - 1852. Previous work beneath the floor boards was apparently carried out by H. Footer 1887. (photographed).

As this is my final report before handing over I will deposit in the Local Record Office a set of photographic slides which I took during the erection of the Village Hall, July 1976 together with a magnificent piece of heraldic artwork setting out the Drury family tree. Copies of which have been sent to the villages of Thurston and Rougham, having Drury associations. It may not be generally known that the Drurys of Hawstead gave their name to Drury Lane, London, and John Donne wrote Elizabeth Drurys epitaph 1595-1610, see monument in Hawstead Church,


H.W.R. Payling. 30 April '98
(Local Historian)