

It's been a busy year for Hawstead Community Council. We've brought to the community a number of events since last May as follows:

- Summer BBQ
- Hawstead Village Fete & Produce Show
- Blackheart Music Night
- Christmas and Easter Quizzes
- Christmas Seniors Lunch
- Christmas Village Drinks Party
- Christmas Craft Fayre
- Children's Craft mornings run by Jo Butt and funded by Hawstead Community Council
- Greek Night.

We have had very positive feedback on most of the above events, and, subject to finances, we hope to continue in a similar vein.

Coming soon we also have the Vintage Tea Party to celebrate the Queen's 90th Birthday, funded jointly by Hawstead Community Council and Hawstead Parish Council, and Hawstead Open Gardens on Sunday 3 July.

Following a £500 grant from Angela Rushen, we are establishing a monthly Games Night. We've already purchased a dartboard, mat and cupboard, plus a number of board and card games. Our first Games Night will be held on Friday 3 June and everyone is welcome, from the village and beyond. There'll be no charge for the first few Nights (and a nominal charge thereafter to cover cleaning) and it will be 'bring your own drinks and nibbles'. Subject to hall bookings, we hope that the first Friday of each month will see our village hall become the focus of a well-supported village games evening and perhaps the start of a number of other village clubs, e.g. a darts team.

Hawstead Community Council also funded the children's tickets for the Christmas Pantomime and plan to do the same for 2016. In addition, we supported the Macmillan Coffee Morning by making decorations and posters and offering the hall at no hire charge. Last summer's week-long art fair run by Bill Crockford was supported by Hawstead Community Council with no hire charge for the hall.

Last summer new bark was ordered and paid for by the Community Council for the children's play area, and Committee members got together with some villagers to level it all out. In November 2015 we financed the deep clean of the carpets, curtains and chairs, something that hasn't been done since the hall opened in 2008. We've also purchased a new microwave and a new kettle to replace broken equipment. As a byproduct of decorating the hall for the village meals, we are gathering a small supply of decorations, including red velour tablecloths. These new assets have already been, and will continue to be, used on multiple occasions throughout the year.

The Community Council is very grateful for the ongoing support – both practical and financial – of the Parish Council during the past year. The Community Council finances continue to hold steady and we've had another break-even year to 13 April 2016. Income and expenditure matched each other almost exactly at around £20,000, with our balance at the bank similar to last year at around £11,500. Our biggest expenditure areas were cleaning and maintenance of the hall and its equipment, totalling just over £7,000.

Hiring the hall as a wedding venue continues to generate just over half of our income, with the rest being made up of fund raising events like the summer fete, and regular use of the hall by the bowls club, yoga group, wine club and numerous business meetings. We continue to put considerable effort into raising the profile of the hall as a venue for hire whilst ensuring it remains available for villagers, providing a focus for village life.

We've recently had a change of Bookings Clerk from Emma Hatton to Sarah Webb. What's more, our long-suffering Secretary, Rosemary Harrison, will be stepping down from that role and we are seeking a replacement. Hall cleaning has remained at the excellent high standards we expect of Claire Vaughan and her team, and Alf Dawson has remained a reliable caretaker. Pat Baker has continued to ensure that the bins are moved out for collection and returned afterwards. This job is being transferred to another Hawstead Community Council member for the coming year.

We are contemplating the purchase of a letterbox to enable us to have a central point for depositing monies and letters for Hawstead Community Council. We are also considering whether an additional internal security camera is required for the hallway.

Since September, resident Benjamin Pamplin from County Upper School has been giving some of his time to Hawstead Community Council for the Volunteering section of his Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award. We thank Benjamin for all his help with pressure washing the patio and walkways, clearing out the loft, putting rubber feet on the chairs, taking books and other items to the charity shop, varnishing window frames, preparing for and clearing up after our many events and now creosoting the play area fencing.

All in all, we have given back to the community in a number of ways.

- We have provided free and low-cost opportunities for villagers to come together to create new friendships, in the form of quiz nights, themed restaurant evenings, the Summer BBQ and the Village Fete.
- We have wholly funded the Seniors Christmas Lunch, the Festive Christmas Drinks and the children's pantomime tickets.
- We will be part funding the upcoming Vintage Tea Party.
- We have offered the hall at zero hire charge to Macmillan, to the community craft fayre, to the community art fair, to the children's craft mornings, and to the Open Gardens.
- We have allowed a team from the Church to provide catering for the craft fayre, enabling them to raise valuable funds.
- We offer discounted hire rates to villagers.
- We have maintained the hall premises to a high standard and are adding to this important village resource.

We urgently need more Hawstead Community Council members so that we can continue to offer – and even expand upon – the range of village events. Please encourage all residents to consider becoming more actively involved in our endeavours to bring our community closer together.

ALL SAINTS CHURCH
HAWSTEAD
CHURCH WARDENS REPORT 2015

The service pattern at All Saints, Hawstead has remained the same, with an 8.30 am 'Said Communion' on the second Sunday of the month and a 'Morning Prayer' at 11.00 am on the fourth Sunday of the month. This service has been kindly led by Mike or Rosemary when necessary.

The fabric of the Church is in good condition.

We had a very enjoyable Lent Lunch on 31st March raising £210.00 for Water Aid.

We held an 'Open Garden' at Church Farm House, with Cream Teas and Plant Stall on May 9th raising over £600.00 for the Church.

We had visits from a Brass Rubber, the U3A Tendering Church Crawling Group, and two visits from The Arts Society, Cambridge.

We had 2 Weddings and 2 Funerals.

The Churchyard continues to be maintained by the Community Services, and Steve Butt. The Parish Council helps with financing this, but does not cover the whole cost.

A work party on the 19th September cut hedges, and tidied up the Churchyard. Scaffold was kindly loaned by Henry Brewis and Steve Butt cleared and repaired guttering.

A Benefice Harvest service was held in our Church raising £250.00 for Farm Africa. Many donations of food items were given for the Vineyard Food Bank.

This was followed by a very successful Harvest Lunch in the Village Hall, which raised over £500.00.

We held a cake stall and provided the tea and coffee at the Hawstead Village Fayre raising £220.00.

The congregation is still very small, as it is with all the Churches in the Benefice. One wonders about the viability as our funds are fast running out and the few that attend find it increasingly difficult to raise the money to fund the bills and pay the quota.

The Quota was paid in full again this year.

Simon and I would like to thank Jayne, Mike, Father Geoffrey and all who help with services, maintenance and the running of All Saints, Hawstead.

HAWSTEAD CARPET BOWLS CLUB

We meet every Tuesday at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall. We average 10-12 players weekly and have a membership of 18 players. Our evening lasts for about 2 hours with a very welcome cup of tea and biscuits half way through. We very much enjoy playing friendly matches against neighbouring village teams and in 2015 we played 8 such matches – 3 against Rougham, 2 against Cockfield, 1 against Stanningfield and 2 against Lavenham. So far this year we have played 2 matches against Lavenham and 1 against Rougham and we have 3 more matches arranged. We take it in turns with these clubs of either playing in our hall or at their venue. Unfortunately we cannot claim a very high success rate in our matches but we are getting better.

We would love to welcome new members to our Club. No experience of bowls is necessary and we provide all the equipment.

REPORT RE HAWSTEAD OIL GROUP – MAY 2106

I took over the running of the Hawstead Oil Group last August.

The Group runs well with 42 names on the list. Since last August I have placed in excess of 80 individual orders with our excellent ordering co-ordinators, Framtrade.

However, I cannot understand why more villagers do not use this wonderful system. The benefits of it are:

Framtrade always get us the best price they can and it is always very competitive.

Everyone pays the same price, ie. You can order as little as 500 litres and not pay the extra premium suppliers normally require.

No payment is required upfront. After delivery, Framtrade send you an invoice for settlement and so effectively one gets about one month's free credit on your order. Settlement of the account just involves a simple phone call to Framtrade with your card details.

You do not even need to specify the amount of oil required – you can just request a fill-up and you will be invoiced for the amount supplied. (Minimum 500 litres)

It's good for the environment – Cuts down the tanker miles made by lots of individual deliveries.

No more phoning around trying to get the best price – just let me know your requirements when I send round the ordering e-mail.

To register for the scheme just e-mail mharrison151@btinternet.com

Michael Harrison.