

Hawstead 2016: Local History Recorder's Review

Maps published by the Meteorological Office show that in 2016 the Mean Daily Maximum and Minimum temperatures in Hawstead were probably 14-15 deg. C and 6-7 deg. C respectively. I say 'probably' because the maps are colour-shaded with no towns and villages shown. Rainfall was between 600-800mm. and there were between 1650 and 1800 hours of sunshine – a figure bettered in England only in a few small areas of coastline in Suffolk, Essex and Kent. Reporting in the Bury Free Press newspaper (BFP) Alan Messeem said in November that up to that time there had unusually been four months with below average rainfall in 2016. Our village weather is recorded by Glyn Hammond (South View, The Green) and he has data going back to 1960. He reported that 2016 was within the top ten mildest years of that period and that the only snow of the year fell in March, whilst September was the second warmest on record. The hottest day of the year was 24th August (33.9deg.C) and the lowest temperature recorded was on November 29th (-6.7deg.C). Rainfall, at 602mm was some 50mm below the 1981-2010 average.

Hawstead in the News

East Anglian Daily Times (EADT), 5 March 2016: a 'Feature': "*How Drury Lane got its name: the answer lies in a local church*". This was a two-page spread with three internal and one external photos of All Saints Church, Hawstead by James Marston, based on a visit to the church with local historian Clive Paine.



BFP 22 April: "*Farmer, 72, is set for 700-mile tractor run*". Barry Colson farms in Stanningfield, but was pictured with Dave Dawson (Bracklands, Whepstead Road) who was assisting in the organisation of Barry's tractor drive from Fort William to home, raising money for Cancer Research UK and The Donkey Sanctuary. (nb the tractor dates from 1952 and travelled at 12mph!)

EADT 4 May: Hawstead Fishing Lakes (on the farmland managed by Christopher and Rupert Brown) was featured as one of the "Brilliant places to fish in Suffolk, Norfolk and Essex". They are stocked with carp, perch, roach, bream and tench and a day ticket is £6 per rod or £10 for two.

BFP 20 May: "*Survival of the fittest*". A letter from Dr Susanne White (Park House, The Pound) expressed disappointment at Suffolk County Council's reaction to the backing given by the Department for Education to Bury St

Edmunds' All-Through Trust's plan to extend its all-through education ethos further in Bury. (This is one of a number of developments which have followed the move from 3-tier education in Suffolk to 2-tier, primary and secondary).

BFP 10 June: "Town and Village News". Matthew Brown (Broadwater House, The Pound) and Michael Harrison (Ballacraine, The Pound) were pictured with Borough Councillor Angela Rushen (Cauldwell, Whepstead Road) on the first evening of Hawstead's 'Games Group' in the Village Hall, 3rd June. Games equipment had been purchased via Angela's annual "Locality Budget" of £500.

BFP 16 July: "*Deep sink hole opens in bike shop car park*". Barry Denny of Maglia Rosso cycle shop (formerly the Metcalfe Arms pub) was pictured next to a modest-sized hole. Closer examination



Fran Evershed (left) performing a flute duet at the Fizz on Friday concert

revealed that below ground a large void existed where an old culvert had collapsed. The area was roped off and repairs were duly undertaken.

BFP 16 July: Phil Ayres (Butlers Hall, Brand's Lane) was pictured in a group photo of golf players at the first tee in Bury St Edmunds Golf Club Charity Day event.



Henry Brewis demonstrates his 'app'

BFP 23 September: *"Musical talent at Fizz event"*. There was a short report and photo recording the fifth annual "Fizz on Friday" event in the Village Hall staged by Bury Abbey Rotary. This was attended by 80 people and raised over £2000 for Suffolk Headway and Prostate Cancer UK. One of the performers was flautist Fran Evershed (1 Manor Cottages, The Green).

BFP 4 November: *"Pilot grabs a pizza the action with new app"*. Henry Brewis (Pinford End Farmhouse) has developed a smart-phone 'app' called 'Polocode' which improves on location-finding by post code and could be particularly useful to (eg) a pizza delivery company!

BFP 2 December: The 'Spanton-Jarman' photograph collection comprising glass negatives of pictures taken between 1860-1939 is held in the Bury Records Office and is gradually being digitised. Examples are being printed in the BFP and this week's edition included an undated photo of the Metcalfe Almshouses, Hawstead (with the occupants posed in front). (There are nearly 50 pictures of Hawstead in the collection, mostly showing aspects of the church and the old Hawstead House and gardens.)

All Saints Church



Judy Carter and Leslie Cary in the Church on the Queen's 90th birthday

Rev. Jayne Buckles retired in mid-2016 due to ill-health and her final service (held at Lawshall Church) was on July 3rd. Since then the Benefice has been in a period of 'inter-regnum', but it has been possible to continue the pattern of services, two per month, though without a priest, communion has not been possible.

A 'Lent Lunch' on March 7th raised £300 for the Nazareth Trust; the Harvest Lunch in the Village Hall (which followed the Harvest Festival service) on October 23rd raised £473 for Church funds

and a further £260 came from providing teas and cakes at the annual Hawstead Christmas Fayre (December 4th).

In the morning of June 12th, prior to the tea party in celebration of the Queen's 90th birthday, the church was open and photos and other artefacts relating to the history of her reign were on display.

On Sept. 11 Bob Brough (Jasmin, Whepstead Road) took part in an annual cycle ride for Suffolk Historical Churches Trust and raised £130, split



The Churchyard clear-up team, one Saturday in October

between the Trust and the church.

Management of the churchyard was again in the hands of the Community Payback people: the company that has the contract to deliver this service provided us with a kind of 'windfall' in that there were no charges levied for most of the year: hence we had more visits than usual (10) and the appearance of the churchyard benefitted greatly. At the end of October, 17 villagers turned up as volunteers to tackle other pruning etc. jobs and at the same time we commenced a programme to develop a wildflower area at the rear of the church with help and advice from Suffolk Wildlife Trust.



We have one Commonwealth War Grave in our Churchyard, and as part of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission initiative to increase awareness of war graves in the UK, we accepted the positioning of one of their familiar green and white signs just outside the lytchgate.

In 2016 there were 2 weddings in All Saints Church. This year's 'Parish Share' was paid to the Diocese in full. (This had been held at the same amount as last year - £7,456.)

At Christmas, Fran Evershed led a group of carol singers round the village on two evenings and raised £120 for St Nicholas' Hospice.



Hawstead Community Council

The Community Council organised the following events during 2016:

- April 1: Clive's Quiz Night (ie quizmaster Clive Robinson (Cullum House, Church Road)): 60 villagers enjoyed a brain-taxing evening, also a fish & chip supper supplied by "Deep Blue" in Bury. £200 were raised for Community Council funds
- April 22: "Café Kottani" in the centre of Bury provided an excellent meal for 56 diners comprising: vine leaves, tzatziki & hummus with pitta bread; beans & aubergines baked in olive oil; beef (or vegetarian) mousakka with greek salad; baklava followed by coffee
- June 3 (and on following first Fridays of the month): a regular 'games evening' in the Village Hall. Games equipment (darts, backgammon, dominoes etc) had been purchased using the Borough Councillor's 'Locality Budget' of £500
- June 12: In celebration of HM. Queen Elizabeth's 90th birthday, a 'vintage tea party' (free event - Hawstead residents only) was organised by Janet Watson (Fylett's Barn, The Green). It was a dull but warm afternoon and the event was attended by 70 people who toasted the



L-R, Terry and Angela Rushen, Susanne White, Pat Baker, Hannah, Benjamin and Chris Pamplin

Queen's health with full teacups!



Sandie and Dave Dawson with Dave's Mum Nancy at the Queen's Tea event

- July 3: It had been planned as a 'Hawstead Open Gardens' day but in the end it was just Glyn Hammond's garden which we flocked to. This is anyway arguably the best, most spectacular garden in the village and extends for a long way behind his house on the north side of the Village Green. It was a nice sunny day and £423 were raised in aid of the Bury Women's Refuge, plus £75 for the Community Council. Glasses of Pimms were available, the Piper Quartet played as a Trio in the garden and there were more refreshments – and stalls – in the Village Hall



Glyn Hammond's garden and the 'Piper Ensemble': Fran Evershed, Polly Anderson and Ros Alexander

- July 30: The annual Village Barbecue was held inside and outside the Village Hall, attended by over 50 villagers. Meat was supplied by a butcher in Long Melford, vegetables and salad mostly from within the village and people attending contributed desserts. Low carbon miles!



Clive Robinson auctions produce off at the end of the village fete

- September 4: The sun shone again for the annual fete and produce show but strong winds proved a nuisance. The usual stalls and competitions took place and over £1000 were raised for Community funds – to be ploughed back into financing the pantomime visit, seniors lunch and Christmas drinks evening

- November 18: Lack of support for this year's 'Nearly Christmas' quiz evening meant that it was held in a private house rather than the Village Hall. Steve Butt (5 The Pound) was quizmaster and £26 was raised for Children in Need

- December 4: The Craft Fayre in the Village Hall included stalls selling jewellery, knitted snowmen, handmade children's clothes, wreaths, festive foods etc.



Seniors Christmas Lunch with Lawshall pre-school children

children went to see “Beauty and the Beast” pantomime at the Theatre Royal in Bury. Adults paid £23.50 each but the Community Council paid £403.50 for the children’s tickets

- December 16: Faith and Shannon Webb (18, Whepstead Road) created table decorations for the Seniors Christmas Lunch and Lawshall pre-school children entertained the 38 diners with carols and the Christmas story. Two more lunches were provided as ‘meals on wheels’ to those unable to attend

- December 17: A good time was had by all who attended the early evening village drinks party. This is a popular event and there were at least 80 attendees.

- December 27: 58 Hawsteaders, including 19 children went to see “Beauty and the Beast” pantomime at the Theatre Royal in Bury. Adults paid £23.50 each but the Community Council paid £403.50 for the children’s tickets

The Community Council held an AGM on June 9. Rosemary Harrison (Ballacraigne, The Pound) retired as Secretary (a position which remained vacant at the end of the year). Sarah Webb took over from Emma Hatton (Cooks Farmhouse Cottage, Lawshall Road) as Bookings Clerk.

Other Items Relating to Hawstead in 2016

On at least three times during 2016 roads in Hawstead were closed to enable work to be carried out:

- March 21-4: Brands Lane, for re-surfacing
- July 4-8: Church Road at Pinford End: a cabinet to supply ‘broadband’ internet services to the locality was positioned on the side of the road with no power connection so a trench had to be dug across the road. At the end of the year the promised broadband service had still not been connected.
- October: Church Road, because of a burst water main

In late Spring Suffolk Highways informed the village that a schedule of grass cutting and weed spraying had been published on-line. A and B roads will be cut twice but roads in Suffolk like ours (‘C’ roads) will receive a single cut beginning June 6, taking about six weeks to complete.

Signs on the road approaching the bridge on Bells Lane from each direction warning of the possibility of flooding were put in place by Suffolk Highways early on in the year. Also during the year, Clive Robinson established SMASH: “Speedwatch Makes A Safer Hawstead”, a group of villagers trained by Suffolk Police to monitor the speed of vehicles travelling through the village and advise those that are going above 30mph that they are in the wrong. Unfortunately the scheme has not operated to any regular degree because of insufficient volunteers.

On April 4 the chargeable but optional garden waste service (heralded last year) operated by St Edmundsbury Borough Council started. As predicted, the cost was to be £40 p.a. Confusion reigned as to what was allowed to be put in the bin – as it differed from the previous free service – and resulted in some acrimonious correspondence in the local paper (but no letters from Hawstead!) We were also reminded as to what can be put in the blue ‘recycle’ bin: for example, nothing smaller than 4cm because of the screening size; aluminium foil should be rolled into a tennis ball size; food waste, glass, electrical items and batteries can all be recycled, but not via the blue bins.

April 15-17 was the second anniversary weekend for Maglia Rosso Cycle Centre and Country Café, with ‘Celebration Event’, ‘Escorted Rides’ and ‘Demo Day’ billed on their flyer literature promoting the event. During the year Maglia Rosso continued to build up their business at the former Metcalfe Arms, attracting cyclists from all over the region and local custom in the café. They held a series of race meetings for young riders on the off-road course they have laid out on the field behind the premises. They also operated as a checkpoint for several endurance events known as ‘Audaxes’ and charity rides.

On May 5 the Village Hall was in use for the election of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Suffolk. Mr Tim Passmore (Conservative) was re-elected to this post. There were other candidates representing the Green, Liberal-Democrat, Labour and UKIP political parties.

On May 26 local historian Clive Paine gave a talk about All Saints Church in the church (£5.00 on the door).

June 23 was the date for our long-awaited Referendum to decide whether, as an electorate, we wished to leave or remain in the European Union. So the Village Hall was in use for voting again. The Borough of St Edmundsbury enjoyed a 77% turnout for this event (national rate was 72%) and of those voting, 57% voted for leaving against 43% for remaining. (Nationally the difference between the two sides was 3.8%, with a win for those advocating leave.)

On July 14 the Village Green was cut for hay and then during the week commencing July 18 harvesting of cereals and rapeseed got going in a big way when a period of dry, settled weather descended on Hawstead. Of course not all fields can be dealt with at the same time and the enormous Cooks Field (nearly 175 acres) was not tackled till August 16, about a week later than last year.

For the second year running, Great War Huts, Bells Lane, took part in the national 'Heritage Open Days' on September 9 and 10. Visitors were able to hear of progress since last year. Notably, there are now three re-located and renovated original World War 1 huts on the site, including a 'guardroom' which until 2014 had been a two-bedroomed wooden cottage in Aldeburgh (having been brought there from a nearby Royal Naval Air Station many years before). Several more huts are now on site, waiting to be erected.



The Macmillan Coffee Morning team (L) and the Coffee Morning in full swing (R)

October 1 saw the Macmillan Coffee morning return again, masterminded by Joyce Dainty (Old Forge Cottage, The Green). This year's profit of £1584 was more than £100 more than last year, no doubt assisted by Leslie Carey's (Church Farm House, Church Road) cake which was raffled!

Back down at Great War Huts again, on October 29 there was a showing of the official film of the Battle of the Somme. This 72 minute long film was accompanied by Mr Stephen Horne's playing of the piano: it was shown twice as demand for tickets (at £8.00 each) forced a matinee performance as well as the scheduled evening one. Many people attended in dress of the time.



Andy Parrett (right) receiving a runner-up certificate at the SALC AGM

In the evening of November 15 Andy Parrett (Meadowview, Lawshall Road) attended the AGM of SALC: Suffolk Association of Local Councils, to receive an award for the Hawstead Village Website which he administers. It had been nominated in the category of small village and was runner-up in the competition.

Village Groups

The same recreational groups that were reported last year as meeting regularly have continued during 2016: 'Breathe Easy', carpet bowls, the craft group, HATS and the village reading group have all flourished.

The carpet bowls club had a membership of 15 during 2016: there were games against Rougham, Lavenham and Cockfield during the year. Although none of these were won by Hawstead "we did a lot better than the previous year" – and anyway, "the main thing with these matches is the friendliness - we have such a good time". They look extremely smart when playing as they have team shirts in bright red!

Hawstead Appreciation and Tasting Society (HATS)

The wine club met 10 times during the year (the last Thursday in the month), except for December and the annual club dinner in June (held this time in the Village Hall). The following themes were hosted by members:

- A selection of wines from Marks & Spencer by Dave and Judy Carter ("an overlooked supermarket in terms of wine")
- Wines bought in and around St Tropez by Nikki Browne and Lucy Titheridge
- "Really useful wines" from Majestic by Norman & Ann Gibbs (ie taken from a pamphlet of selected wines put together by the shop).
- South American wines by Andy and Angela Parrett
- Organic wines from the shop in Fornham All Saints which specialises in organic produce by Bill and Margaret Crockford
- In July, 'bring a bottle' evening resulted in a wide range, all sorts, all colours
- A blind tasting organised by Ruth Jarvis featuring wines from the countries with the most medals at this year's Olympic Games: medals were awarded for correct guesses regarding which wine came from which country!
- In September, another 'bring a bottle' evening.
- Wines from the Co-op by Andy and Janet Taplin
- Wines for Christmas-time as recommended by Majestic, hosted by Richard and Jacquie Milns



The HATS annual dinner was held in the Village Hall this year

Hawstead Book Club

The Hawstead Book Club also meets once a month, (first Wednesday each month), but in members' homes rather than the Village Hall. These are the books read and discussed during 2016:

- The Lifeboat by Charlotte Grogan
- The Secret Keeper by Kate Morton
- The Cuckoo's Calling by Robert Galbraith (aka J.K.Rowling)
- The Girl You Left Behind by JoJo Moyes
- Go Set a Watchman by Harper Lee
- The Hero's Welcome by Louisa Young
- The Silkworm by Robert Galbraith
- The Road To Little Dribbling by Bill Bryson
- White Teeth by Zadie Smith
- The Secret To Not Drowning by Colette Snowdon
- The Rosie Project by Graeme Simsion
- The Miniaturist by Jessie Burton

The best-liked book was The Rosie Project; the least-liked was White Teeth

Property in Hawstead

Assuming that the details available on the government's Land Registry website are correct, there was only one house sold in Hawstead during 2016:

- Rowans, Whepstead Road £395,000 (21 November 2016)

Just six planning applications were submitted during the year, including one retrospective which was supported by the Parish Council. Another was for the removal of the public phone box at Pinford End. The Parish Council supported the retention of the box even if the phone was removed: a letter from St Edmundsbury Borough Council to BT (British Telecom) states that "the PC wishes to adopt" (17/10/16) . Six other planning applications which had 'carried over' from 2015 were decided by the Borough Council during the year. They were approved, with the exception of an application for the building of a new bungalow on land adjacent to The Firs, Church Road. Reasons for refusal included that "...the site is located within open countryside and a designated special landscape area....the provision of a dwelling in this location represents an unsustainable form of development which is harmful to the character and appearance of the rural countryside..." and "The site is remote from transport nodes and facilities and as such would create a reliance on the private motor car."



The owners of Melpost, near the top of the Whepstead Road hill (Kristien Verheyen and Fernando Montesso) are having extensive restoration works done to their property. The cottage – listed as having been built in the late 16th or early 17th century – has undergone substantial repairs to the timber frame, including a new 'sole plate' nearly all around, and repairs/re-instatement of wattle and daub panels. The daub has been made on site from clay which was dug up when making foundations for an extension to the house. (A sole plate is the bottom horizontal beam on which the timber frame sits: it was rotten because it had been covered over by a concrete render which meant that the timber couldn't 'breathe'. Wattle and daub: wattles are hazel rods and daub is a mixture of clay and straw which is applied the wattles to make a panel in between the wooden framework.) This work is on-going and may not be complete for several years.

Hawstead Parish Council

The Parish Council met, as usual, every other month, starting in January, on the third Thursday of the month, the May meeting including an Annual General Meeting. There was one extra meeting in September in order to consider planning applications which had been submitted after the Agenda for the main meeting had been decided. These public meetings were generally attended by an average of 6 members of the public: the January and May meetings were filmed by Andy Taplin (Fylett's Barn, The Green) and copies of these were loaded, unedited, to the village website.

Early in the year Penny Barham (Hawstead Hall, Bury Road) was co-opted to fill the vacant post on the Council: she immediately accepted the duties of "field and footpath work".

At the May meeting it was decided that, following the death of a child elsewhere in East Anglia as a result of an accident on a bouncy castle, such items of play equipment would no longer be permitted on the Village Green.

A suggestion made at the September meeting was discussed: ie cutting the grass on the Village Green short and taking no hay crop, thus providing a much larger area for recreation. This was rejected by the Council in favour of

continued income from the Basic Farm Payment and Natural England schemes, and the facts that the Green enjoys County Wildlife Site designation and has unique environmental attributes.

The November meeting of the Parish Council is the time that the budget for the following year is reviewed. The Council's income for 2017/8 was estimated at £9600, made up of £8000 precept/Local Authority grant (this figure has remained static for a number of years), £1000 DEFRA/RPA grant, £250 from the bottle bank and £350 others. This total figure will be matched by expenditure: note that income has been a little higher in the past as the DEFRA grant is now halved. Meantime, the Council's reserve stands comfortably above £20,000. (This was reported to be the case at the AGM in May.) It should be pointed out that this information is now generally available due to a policy of increased transparency in that the 'quarterly summary of finances' and 'bi-monthly accounts' are now published on the village website.



Postscript

In August 2016 Bruce Monk (Spinney Cottage, The Pound) took Andy Taplin up in a 1943 USAF Piper Cub artillery spotter plane and came back with some super aerial photos of Hawstead which are now available for viewing on the village website: <http://www.hawstead-parish-council.co.uk/picture-gallery/aerial-photos-summer-2016/>

Andy Parrett 02/03/17
Hawstead History Recorder