

History Recorder for Hawstead

Almost all the History recorder reports since the new Millennium have been posted on the village website (within the 'Documents' page). I completed my report for 2016 early in March; it comprises 9 pages of text and photographs. The inclusion of photos is relatively novel as I started doing this only in 2014.

A copy of the report has also been sent to the Recorders coordinator of Suffolk Local History Council and as I understand it, will eventually be deposited in the County Records Office in Bury St Edmunds, where a collection of village history records pertaining to West Suffolk is held.

I attended the 'Recorders Day' in Elmswell last May: it was an interesting occasion to share ideas and information with other local history recorders and to hear a number of presentations about various history topics given by representatives from different parts of Suffolk.

I am continuing to take note of significant 'happenings' in Hawstead – and collecting relevant ephemera materials – during 2017. (I have a number of folders of printed items, one for each year, and these will also be deposited in the Records Office.)

Hawstead village website

I have continued to administer the website www.hawstead-parish-council.co.uk during 2016, trying to ensure that information is up to date and that out of date material is either removed or archived. As the site grows, ensuring currency is less easy, so any pointers to material that should be removed – from anyone – are always welcome.

In the latter part of the year I was persuaded to agree that the website should be entered into a county-wide competition for the best village website (small villages) and was amazed to find out that ours had been judged Runner-Up. I was presented with a framed certificate at the AGM of the Suffolk Parish Councils Association held in Elmswell in November - which I have since asked Dave Dawson to put up in a suitable place in the Village Hall.

There's more I would like to do with the website – in particular, investigating into what is held in the Records Office concerning our village and adding pointers to this information. I'll just have to say at the moment that it's 'work in progress'.

Andy Parrett, May 2017