

Hawstead 2017: Local History Recorder's Review

Looking at the annual Meteorological Office's anomaly maps (cf. 1981-2010 averages), East Anglia was mostly drier in 2017 by comparison: but in the Bury Free Press (BFP) Alan Messeem stated that the total for Bury at 613mm was 12mm above average. The temperature anomaly map shows the whole of the UK being above average in 2017, mostly by 0.5-1% - though some parts of Norfolk were higher. Glyn Hammond (South View, The Green) reported on most of the year's weather for us in the Nov/Dec issue of the Hawstead Journal. We had the warmest June since 1976 but the following summer months were unremarkable with more than average rainfall. However, between mid-May and late October there were few cool nights and as a result (perhaps) both garden and wild fruits ripened earlier than usual. There was no white Christmas in 2017 but on the 27th a sprinkling of snow fell.

Hawstead Parish Council

As in previous years the Parish Council (PC) met in the Village Hall on the third Thursday every other month from January to November. There was an extra meeting in December, mostly in order to consider two planning applications. The minutes of all meetings, as well as regular reports from our Borough and County Councillors are published on the village website. The County Councillor for the area which includes Hawstead ('Thingoe South') had for some time been Terry Clements. This year was his turn to be St Edmundsbury Mayor. Before this happened, however, it was reported in the PC Minutes of January that he had allocated £150 from his 'locality budget' to a music project at Pinford End Nursing Home.

Speedwatch activity was mentioned in the March PC Minutes: this is a programme of observing the speed of vehicles through the village, local volunteers having been trained to use the special measuring equipment. During two 1-hour sessions based on observing from the village green, 20 occurrences of vehicles travelling at 36-43mph were recorded (the lawful maximum being 30mph).

Later in the year (November) it was noted that the PC had applied to join the County's 'Temporary Vehicle-Activated Sign (TVAS) scheme. This involves the siting of a maximum of two signs at locations to be approved by the Highways Department, which light up indicating the speed of travel of a vehicle as it approaches (and acting as a reminder to slow down and keep to the speed limit).

At the May meeting of the PC (which includes the Annual General Meeting) the Chairman and vice-Chair were re-elected (Mr John West, Kellycroft Cottage, The Green) and Mr Clive Robinson, Cullum House, Church Road) respectively and individual members' delegated responsibilities confirmed (communications, highways, footpaths etc).

The PC minutes give details of competitive tendering for various jobs within the parish which are available for the PC to organise and have carried out. In 2017 these included (amongst others) £1375 +VAT for a bridge over the stream in an area of the green to the north side of Bells Lane where in January a path had been created by a volunteer work party; £1451 +VAT for mowing the green during the year; and £370 + VAT for mole control on the green.



By July the footbridge was in place. Also in place was a new 'Broadband' cabinet for phone and Internet connection. It had originally been allocated a site near to the Village Hall but in the event was positioned at the corner of Bury Road and Bells Lane: a trench was dug across Bells Lane to lay a cable to connect to the nearby telephone pole. Apparently only certain poles are suitable and this pole was the nearest. It was some months before this cabinet became 'live' and the process of gaining connection – and hence faster Internet speed for houses in this part of the village – was a mystery, due to the lack of communication from the installers, BT Openreach.

Several other PC documents are regularly published on the village website and these include the bi-monthly summary of accounts and a 'summary of finances'. According to the latter, published after the January 2018 meeting, the PC had a total of £25,260 in 'funds available' on 31 December 2017.

Hawstead PC is the owner of the village website: www.hawstead-parish-council.co.uk which is nevertheless a place for news and information about all aspects of village life. It is also being gradually developed by the administrator, Andy Parrett (Meadowview, Lawshall Rd.) as a repository of documents concerning Hawstead, quite an amount of which is historical in nature (including of course, reports by the History Recorder!)

Communication within the village is also afforded by a voluntary e-mail group and also the Hawstead Journal. This latter has been in existence since 2002 and was originally published monthly with a rotating editorship. Since 2013 it has been edited, composed and printed by Dave and Judy Carter (Oak Hill, Pinford End) and is delivered by a team of volunteers to all properties in Hawstead on a bi-monthly basis. The costs are covered by a sponsorship system among a number of Hawstead residents. In 2017 Dave and Judy were away for a period and the March/April issue was 'guest-edited' by Anne East (The Grange, Church Road). The November/December issue had a double-page spread by Parish Tree Warden, James Carr (Cullum Cottage, Church Road), describing a PC-funded scheme offering to provide "free native trees and shrubs to anyone who will plant them where they will enhance Hawstead and make it an even better place to live"(!) Nearly two dozen species were on offer, all of them growing naturally in the village.

Hawstead Community Council

The Village Hall is a charity and is looked after on a day-to-day basis by a management committee of Hawstead residents. It is used regularly for village meetings and events but is also hired out externally eg for parties and wedding receptions. To this end it has its own website (www.hawsteadvillagehall.co.uk) where a calendar, details of facilities, hire charges and booking forms can be found. Early in 2017 it was decided to adopt the brand name of "The Hall on the Green" for marketing purposes.

The monthly Games Evening – first Friday in the month – kicked off in April. At the end of the year (November and December) it morphed into a Bingo Night. Other events organised by the Community Council included:

- 22 April: an Italian Pot Luck supper. The Hall was decorated to resemble an Italian rustic tavern and two dozen diners were entertained to a menu far too long to record here (but all very Italian!)
- 24 June: this was the evening for the Summer Solstice BBQ when Steve Butt (5, The Pound) and Chris Pamplin (Park House, The Pound) put on their aprons and got the coals glowing. It was a warm, sunny evening and 60 or so residents and friends enjoyed a relaxed and convivial atmosphere.
- 3 September: the day of the annual fete and flower/produce show. This was another warm, dry day, if rather cloudy, and the village turned out to take part in the usual activities. Entries in the flower and produce part have dwindled in recent years but the men's cake has inspired male residents so that this year there were more entries for this than any other category. The winner this year was Dave Carter. The fete was opened this year by Doc Lacey (Atherton House, Bull Lane) and Clive Robinson auctioned off the produce at the end. Nik Lowe (Oaksmead, The Green) provided live musical entertainment during the afternoon. nb it was thanks to our Borough Councillor's 'Locality Budget' (where £500 can be spent on a nominated project in each of the Ward parishes each year) that the marquee which had been lost to a strong wind last year, had been replaced in time for this year's fete.
- 13 October: returning by popular demand, the 'Blackheart Orchestra' (Chrissy Mostyn and Richard Pilkington) came back and gave a stunning concert in the Village Hall during their 'Diving for Roses' tour. Some 40 villagers attended and bought CDs and T-shirts as well.
- 25 November: Mark's Nearly Christmas Quiz. Another fun evening's entertainment was provided by Mad Mark from Sudbury. His naughty but nice sense of humour had everyone in stitches, with plenty of innuendo and mince pies! Some 50 villagers, family and friends made this annual pre-Christmas Quiz Night extra special.

- 3 December: the annual Christmas Craft Fayre took place between 11am-3pm. Sarah Bullen (18, Whepstead Road) kindly took over running our much-anticipated Christmas Craft Fayre. Yet again, all craft tables were taken by local craftspeople and we welcomed lots of visitors during the day. The kitchen catered for breakfast, lunch and afternoon tea, and everyone really enjoyed the day. Tables are already booking up for next year's!
- 15 December: Seniors Lunch. More than forty residents were booked in for this year's Christmas meal at the Village Hall, but sadly a bad dose of Hawstead flu and flu-like symptoms meant that numbers were depleted on the day. In fact three 'meals on wheels' were delivered to laid-up residents. The traditional 'turkey with all the trimmings' was preceded by a glass of prosecco or sherry; and as happened last year, a group of children, staff and parents of the Lawshall pre-school presented a short nativity play. The event was hosted by members of the Community Council, with our rector Jeremy Parsons and his wife Ruth our special guests.
- 23 December: the Christmas Drinks evening – funded by the Community Council – was also hit by illness this year (there were a lot of long-lasting coughs and colds around this winter) so although 80 people signed up to come, in the end there were about 50 attendees. Dave Dawson (Bracklands, Whepstead Road) served the mulled wine and there was a constant supply of finger-food.
- 29 December: the annual Pantomime visit took place and 60 children of all ages went to see Dick Whittington at the Theatre Royal in Bury St Edmunds.



Blackheart Orchestra performing in the Village Hall

All Saints Church

At the start of the year, St Edmunds Way Benefice (of which All Saints Church, Hawstead is one of six parishes) was still in a state of 'interregnum'. In mid-March, however, an appointment was made and in a ceremony on 16th May, held at Lawshall church, Rev. Jeremy Parsons was 'instituted' by the Bishop of Dunwich and 'inducted' by the Archdeacon of Sudbury. Rev. Parsons had previously served as a team vicar in Saffron Walden and Villages Team Ministry in Essex.



All neat and tidy in the Churchyard

During 2017 there were two weddings, one christening, one burial of ashes and two funerals (one burial and one burial of ashes). In March, a 'Lent Lunch' of soup, bread and cheese raised £150 for an Africa/Sudan appeal. At the end of the year ten ladies attended a wreath-making day at the Barn at Church Farm House: subsequent sales made £270 for Church funds. As last year, Fran Evershed (1, Manor Cottages, The Green) organised a couple of evenings for carol singing: one was cancelled due to poor weather, but on the other, £91 was raised for Cancer Research UK. As last year, the 'Parish Share' was paid in full to the Diocese.

The Churchyard was again maintained by the 'Community Payback' team. They attended on a more regular basis than before (again at no cost to the church) and as a result the Churchyard has been looking very neat. This service was augmented by a couple of Saturdays (Spring and Autumn) when villagers turned up to trim and lay hedges and do other tidying activities. Also, at the rear of the church an area has been sectioned off to encourage wild flower growth. With advice from Suffolk Wildlife Trust, this part is only minimally mowed in order to encourage plant growth and seed-setting.



Churchyard extension: hedge-laying by James Carr and others



Millennium Field: new saplings planted by a team led by James Carr

Other Items Relating to Hawstead 2017

Right at the beginning of the year the government warned us about the danger of avian flu. The H5N8 strain had been identified in both farmed poultry and wild birds in various parts of the country. Several households in Hawstead keep chickens and the preventative order was that they should be kept indoors until the end of February. As we heard nothing more it seems that this was successful.

There were two very sad – and sudden – deaths of residents of note in 2017. Angela Rushen neé Wright had been our Borough Councillor since 2011 but had also lived in our village since a child, firstly at Bryers Farm, Whepstead Road and then next door at Cauldwell. She died very suddenly on 13th May with a funeral and burial at All Saints Church on 26th May. Simon Miller, of Hillside, Whepstead Road died in Papworth Hospital on 6th October after falling ill early in September. At the time he was Chairman of the Community Council and also Churchwarden of All Saints Church.



On 27th January our MP, Matt(hew) Hancock, who just happened to be Minister of State for Digital and Culture at the time, held a meeting in the Village Hall to discuss the progress of Broadband improvement in the village. This was one of a number of sessions he organised within the constituency and the Hall was full. The problem with Broadband access is that fast optical fibre cable is brought to a cabinet in a chosen location whence it is distributed to individual properties via the existing copper telephone wires, down which there is a rapid deterioration of speed with distance. In rural areas of course distance

can be significant: thus although we now had a cabinet at Pinford End and another promised for the Village Green, there were still some Hawstead properties with very poor access. Mr Hancock said he is committed to a Universal Service Obligation of 10 megabits/second to every UK property by 2020.

In 2017 we experienced three election days, but before any of these, on 24th March St Edmundsbury Borough Council set the Community Charge for 2017-8. This varies from parish to parish and in Hawstead the figures ranged from £1069 for a Band A property rising to £3208 for Band H. The first election, on 4th May was for the County Councillor to replace Terry Clements. It was won by Karen Soons (Con). Turnout was 42.5% of the electorate and Karen polled 2110 votes; all other candidates could only muster less than half that number together. The second

election was a General Election on 8th June. Matt Hancock (Con) polled 31,649 votes on a 71.8% turnout and the competing candidates (Green, Liberal Democrats, Labour and UKIP) amassed just over 20,000 together. (Just after the end of the year Mr Hancock was promoted from the government post noted above to Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport.) Finally on 28th September we had an election to replace Angela Rushen as Borough Councillor for the 5-parish ward of Chedburgh. Turnout was just 31.9% and Mike Chester (Con) from Chedburgh beat his Liberal Democrat and Labour rivals; he gained 372 votes and they received less than half that number together. So in all cases the Conservative candidate was the clear winner.

On 3 June the East Anglian Daily Times published the Suffolk Show winners in the livestock competition and in the Aberdeen Angus cattle section Andrew Brown (Hawstead Lodge Farm) all but swept the board taking 9 of the 10 prizes. In particular, 'Hawstead Lodge Peter' did extremely well with 5 rosettes including 'Best Exhibit:Champion'.

On 11 June and for the second year running, Glyn Hammond opened his garden to visitors. The garden was open 2-5pm for an entry fee of £5 in aid of Suffolk Accident Rescue Service. The weather was kind: there was a raffle and auction and refreshments were available in the Village Hall.

On 8 July local historian Martyn Taylor presented a fascinating illustrated talk in the Village Hall entitled " An ABC of BSE", selecting locations in the town with names starting with successive letters of the alphabet.

There were two events in the year in connection with Macmillan Cancer Support. Firstly, on Saturday 15th July a musical group called Breckland Wind Ensemble performed their first charity fundraising concert, aiming for an informal afternoon tea party with background music ranging from Bach to contemporary composers. Then on 7th October Joyce Dainty organised Hawstead's regular contribution towards the 'world's biggest coffee morning' and raised £1800 on the day.

For a second year running, and over five sunny days in August, Janet Watson (Fyletts Barn, The Green) and Bill Crockford (Pound Cottage, The Pound) curated a Fine Art Fair in the Village Hall. The Community Council and Bedfords Estate Agency sponsored the event and a profit of £372 from sales and exhibitors' fees was ploughed back into Village Hall funds.

Two more concerts took place in the Village Hall. On 8th September there was the now regular 'Fizz on Friday', sponsored as usual by Ashtons Legal and organised by the Rotary Club of Bury St Edmunds Abbey. Tickets were £20 each and included a meal and drinks. A wide range of music was provided by Imogen Ridge (harp), Louse Cockerill (soprano), Liliana Luongo (clarinet), Fran Evershed (flute) and singers from Bury Operatic Society accompanied by Calvin Goymer.

Then we learned that Fran Evershed's daughter Bethany was hoping to take part in an 'Operation Wallacea' expedition to Madagascar, the aim being to add to data collected over the past six years about rainforest and marine animal species – but she needed to raise money in order to take part. So a fund-raising coffee morning concert was devised and took place on 19th November with performances by the Piper Ensemble and friends: Fran and her sister, Jo Ward, Ros Alexander (Pipers Hall, Whepstead Road) , Sue Dunford and Diane Doherty.

Another Hawstead teenager was involved in an international activity at the end of the year – but a very different one. Benjamin Pamplin (Park House, The Pound) competed as part of Team GB in the 2017 World Freestyle Kayaking Championships in Argentina at the end of November. He took part in the men's C1 class, even though he was still a Junior. He finished 13th in the World in his first international competition. Freestyle kayaking is performed on wave features on whitewater courses; in preparation Ben had to travel at least weekly to the Olympic course at Lee Valley, with extra trips to Nottingham, Reading and Cardiff in between – as well as working on his 'A' levels!

The Aquarius Singers is a ladies' choir based in Bury St Edmunds. Each year they perform a Christmas Concert in aid of the Bury Women's Refuge. This year the event was reported in the Bury Free Press, together with a photo. (22/12/17) Two Hawstead residents, Christine Gossett (Copperfields Barn, Lawshall Road) and Angela Parrett (Meadowview, Lawshall Road) took part.



Ben Pamplin kayaking in Argentina

There's more....

The Village Green was cut for hay on 2nd July this year. Cooks Field was cultivated on 15th March and was sown for peas and beans: the former in the middle and the latter as a c.50 yard border around the edge. The beans were harvested on 21/22 August and later in the autumn the field was prepared and sown for winter cereal.



Closure of Hawstead lane, February 2017



Aftermath of Storm 'Doris', February 2017



Lawshall Road, August 2017



Church Road by Pinford End Bridge, November 2017

Road repairs and other service upsets occurred on a number of occasions in 2017. Bury Road was closed for water main repairs for several days from 24 January. A month later, on 23 February we were visited by Storm Doris which brought a tree and the power line down at Pinford End. Also in February, Hawstead Lane was closed 'for essential maintenance' and in May Bull Lane benefitted from some resurfacing. Householdors were notified by UK Power Networks via a flyer that there would be a power cut for one day on 31 May because "we are improving the reliability of the electricity network in your area" which was gratifying to know. On 25 July Whepstead Road was closed for one day 'to facilitate restoration of BT service to Bryers Farmhouse'. In mid August water main problems

on Lawshall Road forced another road closure, though as with other similar events 'closure' doesn't necessarily really mean closure. Finally on 21 November Church Road was closed again because of a water leak near the bridge at Pinford End.

Maglia Rosso, the Cycle Centre and Country Café operating from the former Metcalfe Arms public house in the village continued to make progress in 2017, attracting customers and visitors from all over East Anglia and sometimes from further afield. They organised several events during the year including the 'Mille Maglia' Road and Tracks ride in February, the 2/3/4 Counties Ride towards the end of April to mark a third anniversary of operation and a series of events for young riders using the field next to the shop for off-road tuition. Maglia Rosso employs four full-time staff and a number of part-timers, all of whom live in Hawstead or surrounding villages.

Great War Huts in Bells Lane have continued to transport and re-erect authentic wooden huts on their land. Towards the end of the year they commenced work on a fourth hut: this had been the home of the Women's Institute at Girton near Cambridge since 1920 but had originally been built in 1914 at Cherry Hinton to house a 'Kitchener' battalion. This will be restored to how it would have looked during the first months of 1915.

The uniform side of the business ('Khaki Devil') had a busy year with uniforms, equipment, props and advice being in constant demand for a variety of film, television and theatre productions. The final highlight of the year was the supply of over 100 uniforms to the 'Doctor Who Christmas Special' which featured a storyline about the 1914 Christmas Truce.



The Hawstead Boxing Day hunt: photo from the website of the Bury Free Press, probably along Horscroft Road. A pack of 15-and-a-half couples of hounds (31) took part in the four-hour hunt, with around 30 riders and 300 foot followers. Although the hunt no longer chases foxes, it continues the tradition by leaving a scent trail for the hounds to follow. Suffolk Hunt was founded in 1745, making it one of the oldest in the country.

Village Groups

'Breathe Easy', carpet bowls, the craft group, HATS and the Book Club all continued to operate during 2017. The bowls club finds it very difficult to arrange friendly matches as most of the clubs are in leagues and have very few free weeks. They nevertheless were able to take part in games against Stanningfield and Lavenham teams and won one of them!

Hawstead Appreciation and Tasting Society (HATS)

The wine club met 10 times again in 2017: in June there was an Annual Dinner (with wine!) and there was no meeting in December. The following themes were introduced by members:

- January: Richard and Penny Barham (Hawstead Hall, Bury Road) asked us to choose between pairs of wines from Adnams' 'Old World Classics'. The catch was that they were 'blind'. A Sicilian white, a Viognier-Grillo blend was named top wine of the evening with a Rioja Reserva taking the honours for the reds.

- February: Norman and Ann Gibbs followed a similar pattern, matching pairs of Sauvignon Blanc, Chardonnay, Malbec and Cabernet Sauvignon – all supplied from Waitrose. Could we tell which of each pair was the more expensive?
- March: Bill and Margaret Crockford (Pound Cottage, The Pound) matched red and white wines from the same country, breaking with the tradition of tasting four whites before four reds. The countries chosen were France, Italy, Spain and Australia
- April: David and Judy Carter presented Californian wines: all were single-variety examples and Merlot was awarded the most points of the evening. Californian wines can be considered alongside traditional choices but they do tend to be more expensive.
- May: David and Maggie Fletcher introduced us to three types of sherry (Manzanilla, Palo Cortado and Oloroso), followed by five other wines from Spain
- July: this was a 'bring a bottle' night. Nine different offerings were made, curiously turning up as 4 white, 4 red and one rose. The white, rather historic homebrew nearly caught us out!
- August: Adnams wines featured again, this time following suggestions made to Geraldine and John West by the recently retired wine buyer at the company. The most popular of the evening were a white from Rueda, North West of Madrid and a red from the Curis Valley in Chile.
- September: Nikki Browne (Little Owl, The Pound) and Rebecca Popham (The Cottage, The Pound) chose a very different tack and concentrated on marketing of wine as determined by wine labels – a popular way (along with price) that people come to decide which bottle to buy! Their theme focussed specifically on pictures of animals on labels – and they dressed the part into the bargain for a very entertaining evening!
- October: Andy and Angela Parrett focussed on Italian wines. Being the world's biggest producer of wine it was difficult to choose just eight wines: they brought one bottle from each of eight of the twenty designated regions of wine production in the country.
- In November Gisela Oram brought German wines, some as on a previous occasion, sourced in Germany itself rather than a local supermarket. Dave Dawson opened the bottles for her. The most popular was a 2014 Spätburgunder 'Blanc de noir', Qualitätswein at 12%. She also gave us a taste of a digestive: a 40% pear schnaps!

Hawstead Book Club

Meeting in members' homes in turn, the book club read and discussed the following titles in 2017:

- I Capture the Castle by Dodie Smith
- The Rosie Effect by Graeme Simsion
- The Widow by Fiona Barton
- The Promise by Lesley Pearse
- The Paying Guests by Sarah Waters
- The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood
- A Good Catch by Fern Britton **
- My Brilliant Friend by Elena Ferrante
- Spitfire Women of the Second World War by Giles Wittell
- Our Endless Numbered Days by Claire Fuller *
- Try Not to Breathe by Holly Seddon
- Truly Madly Guilty by Liane Moriarty

* This was the most popular book of the year

** This was the least popular book of the year

Property in Hawstead



According to the Land Registry only one Hawstead property was sold in 2017: No.10 The Pound (April Cottage) (above, left). The price was £625,000). This had been previously sold on the death of the previous owner, Miss Woodman-Smith, for £270,000 (2011) and had been substantially improved in the intervening period.

One other property was offered for sale early in the year and was still being advertised at the end of 2017. Butlers Hall (above, right), at the Western end of Brands Lane is right on the edge of the parish boundary: for some reason the Estate Agent has erroneously listed it as being in Whepstead!

Neighbouring villages have seen much more activity, though these three are all bigger than Hawstead: there were 7 property sales in Whepstead (Pop. 422) in 2017, 9 in Stanningfield (Pop. 578) and 15 in Lawshall (Pop 968).

Planning applications affecting eight properties in the village were lodged with St Edmundsbury Council. At the end of the year two of these were still pending: of the rest, five were approved (mostly in connection with amounts of demolition and property extension) and just one was refused. This concerned the 'use of a building as a separate dwelling house' (ie an existing building, not previously listed as a dwelling). It appears that for approval, evidence of occupation over at least four years is required and this was not sufficiently forthcoming.

Postscript

The terms 'Pinfold' and 'Pound' both meant an animal enclosure, usually where stray animals were kept in a parish. Both are Saxon in origin. The term Pinfold was also used for the name of the Parish officer in charge of rounding up stray animals. It seems pretty certain that Pinfold has been changed to Pinford as in Pinford End and although there probably was a ford before a bridge at that locality, the river is the Lark, not the 'Pin'. So maybe there were two animal enclosures in Hawstead in ancient times – or perhaps the Parish officer in charge of the Pound lived at Pinford End?



Post-Postscript: Now how did that car get there? (Seen at The Pound, Spring 2017)