

Hawstead 2018: Local History Recorder's Review

In May 2018 a European Directive concerning personal privacy, the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) came into force. As this document is published on our village website (www.hawstead-parish-council.co.uk) the author must obtain permission from any person named in the narrative.

Set against the Meteorological Office's anomaly maps 1981-2010 mean temperatures for the UK, in 2018 there was an anomaly of at least +0.5 – 1.0 deg.C. over the whole of East Anglia with some areas achieving +1.0 – 1.5. The scale of the map makes it difficult to tell if Hawstead is in the larger or smaller measure. Residents can recall that the summer was hot and dry but in late February and early March there had been a severe cold snap – 'The Beast From The East', with unexpected snowfalls. Writing in the Bury Free Press newspaper, Alan Messem summarised 2018 as a dry year: the total rainfall at 517mm (in Bury) was 84mm below average, the rain having fallen on fewer days than normal (108 days cf.114 average.)

Hawstead Parish Council

As usual, the Parish Council (7 members and a Clerk) met in the Village Hall on a bi-monthly basis, January to November, with an extra meeting in December to discuss a planning application. Attendance by members of the public ranged between 2 and 15 with the March meeting the most popular. Minutes, together with the bi-monthly accounts, a summary of finances and reports from the Clerk, Borough and County Councillors and the Police Safer Neighbourhood team are posted on the village website. The March and July meetings were filmed and the resulting videos were also uploaded to the website. This is a feature which has been operational since 2015 but is only possible when the villager who owns the film unit is available to attend.

In January an updated 'Emergency Plan' for Hawstead was printed and delivered to all households in the village. It included details of the village defibrillator, a list of 'first responders' for different parts of the village and a list of 'basic emergency supplies' which residents are advised to keep at home.

In March it was agreed to accept the tender from St Edmundsbury Council to mow the Green, Millennium Field etc. 8 times during the year for £1451 + VAT. At this meeting it was agreed that as a result of ward boundary changes due next year, Hawstead would express a preference to join the Horringer group of parishes rather than that based on Cavendish and Rede. The Parish Council agreed a financial reserves policy comprising £7000 (general fund), £6000 (tree work) and £6000 (village furniture and asset provision and replacement). At the beginning of 2018 the Parish Council funds in the bank stood at £28,210: at the end of December they amounted to £21, 663.

In May, following the Annual General Meeting, the Chairman and Vice-Chairman were re-elected and others retained their individual responsibilities from the previous year. It was agreed to progress with a plan for an



Information Board, professionally designed and constructed, to be sourced and erected on the Green. This was completed during December. At the next meeting, in July, plans to use the redundant phone box at Pinford End (which had been retained rather than removed, as happened to the one formerly on the corner of Bury Road and Bells Lane) to house defibrillator equipment and a book exchange facility. At the same time a proposal for a Great War memorial for the Village Green was rejected.

In November it was announced that two more timber picnic tables with benches attached had become available to the village (there's one already adjacent to the Village Hall) and these will be placed a) in the Millennium Field and b) by the Brook Green footbridge.

In last year's report, mention was made of the 'Temporary Vehicle-Activated Sign' scheme (TVAS) which would comprise two signs along the road through the village (Bury Rd/Lawshall Rd) in an attempt to slow traffic down. The

posts were in place well before the end of 2018 but the electronic equipment has still not been supplied by Suffolk County Council.

Hawstead Community Council

The Community Council (CC) met in the Village Hall on the first Monday evening each month. In May, however, it was on the second Tuesday and was the Annual General Meeting. Prior to this meeting, residents were encouraged via an email and a notification in the Hawstead Journal to attend because everyone in the village is automatically a member of the CC. On this occasion, as well as the election of officers, there was a proposal to amend the constitution, to be settled via a single 'yes' or 'no' to the question 'do members agree with the proposed Constitutional changes?'

The highlight of the year was surely the celebration, on 16th June of the 10th anniversary of the Village Hall. This was well attended by villagers and resulted in a full page-width photo of everyone in front of the Hall, published in the Bury Free Press (June 22nd). Speeches were made by the Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council and the Chair of the CC,



followed by the unveiling of a plaque to commemorate the event. This was performed by the Guest of Honour, Sonja Monk, ('... the person with the drive and determination to push the project through without delay...' as described in the Hawstead Journal). Bruce Monk toasted the future of the Village Hall and then all present trooped inside for an afternoon tea and a slice of celebration cake whilst viewing a display of photographs depicting the history of the Hall from the demolition of the old one onwards.

Other events which took place during 2018 under the auspices of the CC included:

- March 23rd: Clive's Fish and Chip Quiz Evening attended by over 60 residents, family and friends in 8 teams. £200 was raised for Village Hall funds this evening.

 QUIZ NIGHT AT HAWSTEAD VILLAGE HALL 7–10pm, Friday 23 March Quizmaster: Clive Robinson Scorer: Bill Crockford Tickets £8.50 includes Fish & Chips Supper £4 BYO food Half-time fish & chips; condiments supplied; BYO drink Tickets available from Sarah Bullen on sarahbullen84@gmail.com or 01284 388124 Last orders for fish & chips by Sunday 18 March. Payment in advance direct to Sarah or through Hawstead Village Hall letterbox. Teams of 8 max • BYO drink Kindly organised by Hawstead Community Council	EASTER SUNDAY SCARECROW FESTIVAL TREASURE HUNT FROM HAWSTEAD VILLAGE HALL 3–5pm, Sunday 1 April Movie-themed Scarecrow Festival and Easter Egg Hunt, with drinks, cakes and prizegiving at the village hall. Perfect for walking off an Easter lunch! To create your own movie-themed scarecrow and be included on the Easter treasure trail map, please contact Shannon on sarahbullen84@gmail.com or 01284 388124 by Sunday 25 March. There'll be a prize for the best Movie-themed Scarecrow. To take part in the Easter Egg Hunt, please let Shannon know how many children you will be bringing along. Treasure trail maps will cost £2 each (i.e. per child). Children will each receive a map and shiny pencil and then follow the Scarecrow trail to collect a series of Easter words. Then it is back to the village hall to discover their Easter treasure.  Kindly organised by Shannon from Hawstead Community Council. All monies raised will be split equally between Hawstead Community Council and, appropriately for Easter, the British Hen Welfare Trust!
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- April 1st (Easter Day): an Easter Scarecrow Festival and Easter Egg Hunt was organised by the new junior (ie teenager) member of the CC Committee. There were 15 scarecrows on display, a raffle and refreshments and nearly £200 was raised, split between the CC and the British Hen Welfare Trust.

- September 2nd: the annual Flower and Produce Show and Fete, with classes in Vegetables, Salad crops, Fruit, Preserves, Flowers, Arts and Crafts and Photography. For this year an expanded set of classes was introduced for children of different age ranges: comprising sweet peas and a miniature garden. There was also the annual favourite of a cake recipe – one for the ladies (Carrot cake) and one for the men (Guinness cake).
- October 12th: Blackheart Orchestra returned for a third time to perform before going on to support Hawkwind at the London Palladium.
- November 24th: Clive's Nearly Christmas Quiz. There was a full house for the now traditional winter quiz with teams of up to 8 people competing. One team could only rustle up 3 members and consequently came last in the points table!
- December 2nd: 43 people, including our Benefice Rector, Rev. Jeremy Parsons and his wife Ruth, sat down to enjoy the Seniors Christmas Lunch. Musical entertainment was provided by an ensemble called 'The Band of Christmas Past' and a raffle provided a separate prize for a boy and a girl!



- December 22nd: Christmas Drinks Party for residents. This occasion, and the Seniors Christmas Lunch were provided free to villagers by the CC. About 50 people came along for drinks, a buffet of festive cheeses and much more besides and a good chat with friends and neighbours.

During the summer, the oil-fired boiler in the Village Hall was replaced, partly funded by a contribution of £2000 from the Parish Council. Then in the Autumn, decorators came in to paint all the high ceilings, walls and wash the woodwork.

The CC had a somewhat difficult year as it had lost both a cleaner for the Hall and a bookings clerk and found it difficult to replace them. Also, the annual trip to the Pantomime in the Theatre Royal was cancelled as no-one came forward to organise it.

All Saints Church

The service pattern stayed the same as in the past with two services per month, Communion on the second Sunday and Morning Prayer on the fourth. In 2018 there were two weddings, one on August 4th, the other on December 1st (Lucy Brewis and Alexander Henson). There were two funeral services (Jim Lebbon, February 19th) and John Seggie (May 24th) and two burials of ashes (Terry Rushen, February 5th) and Edward and Jean Powers (April 28th).

Some fundraising events took place during the year. A Benefice '100 Club' ran throughout the year with two prizes of £500 in June and December, and two of £20 in the other months. The draw for the prizes started initially at the end of a church service but from February became part of a monthly coffee morning ('everyone welcome') held in the Village Hall. With a stake of £24 per person this realised a total of £1000 for church funds after the prizes had been deducted.



The Lent Lunch on March 5th raised £230: this is traditionally donated to a charity, this time Bury Town Pastors. On June 9th a cream tea at Church Farm House raised £458 for the Benefice: previously in May, Churchwarden Lesley Carey had walked (with friends) the West Highland Way – 96 miles from Glasgow to Fort William - over several days in unusually dry and warm weather. She raised £1035 shared equally between the Benefice and 'Bloodwise', a blood cancer charity. On September 29th a bric-a-brac stall at Stanningfield Village Hall raised £70 and the raffle held during the Christmas Craft Fayre another £125.

November 11th was on a Sunday this year and it fittingly coincided with the 100th anniversary of the cessation of hostilities after World War 1. Hawstead shared a service in All Saints Church with Nowton: hymns were "O God Our Help In Ages Past", "I Vow To Thee My Country" and "Onward Christian Soldiers" and a display at the back of the church included a collection of old photographs of Hawstead and an information sheet about the 13 victims from the village during the war. The collection of £245 was given to the Royal British Legion.

All Saints, Hawstead is in a Benefice which includes the parishes of Bradfield Combust, Great Whelnetham, Lawshall, Nowton and Stanningfield. On behalf of the Benefice, a magazine, 'St Edmunds Way Magazine' is produced 11 times a year (one issue to cover July and August) and is distributed by volunteers to all properties in the Benefice. It usually comprises 52 pages and contains community news and information as well as church matters. An analysis of one of the 2018 issues revealed that it included 64 advertisements for local services – itself a useful information resource!

The Churchyard was managed again on a (roughly) monthly basis from March to November by the Community Payback Team (Norfolk & Suffolk Community Rehabilitation Company) at no cost to the Church. The job was made particularly easy during the summer as a result of a lot of warm, dry weather. This work was supplemented by a volunteer cleanup day on October 13th when a number of villagers got down to work for a few hours.

Other Items Relating to Hawstead 2018

Sadly the Hawstead Journal ceased publication during the year. The editors decided that after six years of continuous production, they'd like to hand over the task to others. Unfortunately no-one came forward during 2018, so after three bi-monthly issues and one which was only available via the village website (July/August) it stopped. In February a different form of communication came to Hawstead – 'Nextdoor'. This is a free private social network accessible via the Internet, where discussions can take place, information about events can be posted, questions asked and recommendations made regarding local traders and adverts placed for items for sale etc. By the end of the year approximately 35% of Hawstead's households were signed up to the network. Interestingly, messages can be posted to individuals, everyone in Hawstead who is signed up or indeed to a wider community of 12 nearby parishes. At the time of writing (March 2019) there are just over 1000 members in this wider community.

During January and February tree work commissioned by the Parish Council to address trees affected by ash dieback disease, predominantly along Bells Lane/Brook Green took place (at a cost of £3960 + VAT). This was followed on February 24th by a volunteer work party under the direction of the village tree warden aimed at planting new hedge saplings in the boundary of the Millennium Field and opening up the streamside boundary.

The February 16th edition of the Bury Free Press newspaper included a page-wide copy of a black white photo of the Metcalfe Almshouses, showing the occupants in front. (This had already been printed in the paper in December 2016!) The photo was not dated but must have been taken some time after the 1860s ie it's very old. It's one from the 'Spanton-Jarman' collection of fragile glass negatives which have recently been digitised: one is printed each week in the Bury Free Press. Spanton and Jarman are the names of two families of local professional photographers

that operated in the area until the outbreak of World War 2. The negatives were donated to the Bury St Edmunds Past and Present Society but are actually held in the Bury branch of the Suffolk Records Office.

During May it was possible to see three paintings of military aeroplanes on display in a window of the Denny Brothers art shop in town by Hawstead artist, Bill Crockford

On Friday May 11th a group of four members of Suffolk Philharmonic Orchestra performed a free charity concert in the Village Hall.

The National Gardens Scheme enables gardens of significant properties to be opened to the public on specific days, with the aim of raising money for chosen charities. On Sunday May 13th, Rupert and Milly Brown opened the gardens of Hawstead Place. Tea and cakes were available in their 'Suffolk Barn' and they provided printed copies of a description of the property and gardens, plus a history of Hawstead Place: the original house having been demolished in the 1850's, nevertheless relics (and some trees) date back to the late 16th century.



At the end of May the annual 2-day Suffolk Show was held at the county showground at Ipswich. Entries in the Aberdeen Angus cattle breed led to two wins for Hawstead Lodge Farm: a) Best Angus bull born before January 1st 2017 and b) 'Special – Best Group of 3 Drawn From Aberdeen Angus Breed Classes, Property of the Same Exhibitor'.

On Sunday June 10th in the Village Hall, the Rotary Club of Bury St Edmunds Abbey presented an Afternoon Tea Programme of music performed by seven musicians (5 soloists and 1 duet). Two of the performers are Hawstead residents. Funds raised were in aid of The Gatehouse (in Bury St Edmunds – a charity assisting the vulnerable throughout East Anglia), Suffolk Accident Rescue Service (SARS) and other Rotary charities.

On June 19th the Village Green was cut for hay; at the beginning of August the vast Cooks Field bordering Bells Lane and Lawshall Road was harvested of wheat and subsequently cultivated on August 19th.

The annual 'Fizz on Friday' took place on September 7th – an evening of music and supper at £25 per person, in aid of The Gatehouse, 'WiSH' (a charity supporting West Suffolk Hospital) and other local charities and sponsored by Ashtons Legal (local firm of solicitors) under the auspices of the Rotary Club of Bury St Edmunds Abbey.

One annual event follows another: the self-styled 'World's Biggest Coffee Morning' in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support took place on October 6th in the Village Hall and raised even more than last year's total of £1800, at £2108!

And referring to regular activities, the Boxing Day hunt set off from Hawstead Lodge Farm as usual and followed the now obligatory artificial scent. The event was duly reported in the Bury Free Press newspaper (December 28th) saying that 25 riders went with 16 couples of hounds and there were in excess of 100 spectators.

During 2018 Maglia Rosso, the cycle shop and café operating from the former Metcalfe Arms, continued to make progress. The business, operated by father and son Barry and Matthew Denny attracted visitors from far and wide, cyclists and non-cyclists alike. They organised weekly cycle rides from the shop and several long distance events, including the 'Mille Maglia' (18th February), which saw cyclists tackling routes of up to 60 miles using roads, tracks and bridleways across the county in rather muddy conditions. This event enjoyed a substantial article in the Bury Free Press newspaper (March 2nd). On April 22nd to celebrate four years since opening they held a 'Four Counties Sportive' ride of 100 miles (with shorter rides available too – 60 miles (three counties) and 30 miles (two counties)). Later in the year there was a series of 'Cyclo Cross' races using the mile-long course that has been laid out on the

adjacent grass field. They were also pleased to have planning permission granted for the erection of holiday cabins on the field, which will enable visitors to the area to experience the wonderful countryside that local residents enjoy. This venture is planned to open in the summer of 2019.



Activities at Great War Huts (Brook Farm, Bells Lane) were reported during the year on their Facebook page on the Internet, along with copious photos posted there. By the end of 2018 four original buildings had been restored and rebuilt. Much of the time was spent erecting the former Girton Women's Institute hut which was originally built for the army in October 1914.

In March there was a screening in the double-span hut of the film 'Journey's End' (from the book by R. C. Sherriff), 100 years after the German March offensive. The story concerns a group of British officers and men during the days



leading up to this event. Tickets for this showing were £10. In June there was a Volunteer weekend when a lot of tidying, vegetation clearing, painting and the application of wood preservative was done. In September the site was open for two days as part of the national Heritage Open Days and included a display of uniforms used in films, TV and theatricals by famous actors and supplied by the sister company, Khaki Devil. Also in September, actor Robert Lloyd Parry presented a reading of two ghost stories by the Victorian author, M. R. James. Tickets were £10.

As was the case in 2017, the condition of our local roads was a cause of concern during the year, particularly during the winter when potholes appear, sometimes out of the blue. On a number of occasions roads were closed for a few days at a time: Church Road, Lawshall Road and Bull Lane were all affected, reasons given including faulty aerial cables and burst water mains.

Finally, we now have access to monthly crime statistics provided on a parish basis by Suffolk Police. During 2018 there were three events reported: 1) theft of heating oil from a property (January) 2) a case of Anti-Social Behaviour (May) and 3) a burglary (August)

Village Groups

All of the four groups mentioned in last year's report ('Breathe Easy', Bowls Club, Book Club and 'HATS') continued to thrive during 2018. The Carpet Bowls Club met regularly on Tuesday evenings in the Village Hall. There were 16 members which usually meant that there was a weekly attendance of about 10 members. They played friendly matches against neighbouring clubs either at home or away and did this about 3-4 times during the year.

During the past year the club purchased a new storage unit for the mats at a cost of about £900. They were most grateful to receive £500 from the Local Authority by way of the annual Locality Grant. The storage unit enables them to roll up the mats easily without having to get on their knees and then carry them into the store room.

The wine tasting club - Hawstead Appreciation and Tasting Society ('HATS') has about 20 members which means that on a monthly Thursday evening they can squeeze into the small room in the Village Hall which provides a more intimate setting as opposed to the main Hall. During 2018 the usual pattern of meetings took place with no meeting in December and the June meeting as a dinner with wine - partly financed by the surplus obtained by our subscriptions over the cost of the wine purchased). Topics this year (usually led by members) were:

- Naked wines
- Majestic 'Definition' wines
- South African wines (a presentation by the local U3A – University of the Third Age – wine appreciation group)
- Alsace whites and Beaujolais reds
- Wines for Summer – rosé and light reds
- Wines from Majestic
- Say Goodbye to Mateus Rose (ie Portuguese wines)
- Presentation by the owner of Thos Peatlings Fine Wines
- Wines from Sicily

There are about 10 ladies in the Book Club (men aren't excluded, it's just that none have joined!). They read and discussed the following titles in 2018:

- Truly, Madly, Guilty by Liane Moriarty
- Signs Preceding the End of the World by Yuri Herrera
- The Loney by Andrew Mitchell Hurley
- The Hare with Amber Eyes by Edmund de Waal
- The Fault in our Stars by John Green
- Emma (originally by Jane Austen) by Alexander McCall Smith
- The Sunrise by Victoria Hislop
- Spill, Simmer, Falter, Wither by Sara Baume
- The Dreams of Bethany Mellmoth (and other stories) by William Boyd **
- The Girl by Emma Cline *
- In Love and War by Liz Trenow
- Beatrice and Virgil by Yann Martel

* This was the most popular book of the year

** This was the least popular book of the year

Property in Hawstead



5 The Pound. Offered and sold for £295K



7, Whepstead Rd. Offered £245K, sold £240K



Bryers Barn Whepstead Rd. Sold for £560K



Jofaca, The Pound. Offered £745K, sold £710K



Mill House, The Green. Offered & sold £575K



Atherton House, Bull Lane. Offered £450K

Atherton House had not been sold by the end of the year.

One other property was offered for sale in 2018 but was later withdrawn from the market. Butlers Hall, Brands Lane was listed as being for sale in 2017 at £950,000. It was sold during 2018 for £925,000.

10 planning applications were made to St Edmundsbury Borough Council during 2018 concerning locations in Hawstead. At the end of the year 7 had been approved, 2 had been refused and 3 were still pending a decision. Most applications were for property extensions, though one was for a 40 x 25 metres grain storage barn at Church Farm and one was for a group of 6 holiday chalets to be located in the field adjacent to Maglia Rosso cycle shop.

Postscript



This is Sir William Drury (1550-1590) painted in 1587, the year that he entertained Queen Elizabeth 1st at his house, Hawstead Place, during her 'progress' through East Anglia in that summer. William Drury was educated at Groton school and Caius College, Cambridge. He probably entered Lincoln's Inn in 1569. He succeeded his father, Robert, in 1557 and his grandfather, Sir William Drury, in 1558, inheriting considerable land in Suffolk, including Hawstead Place. He was knighted around the same time.

In 1581 he was elected MP for Castle Rising, Norfolk, in a by-election caused by the illness of Edward Flowerdew. In 1584 he was elected knight of the shire (MP) for Suffolk, sitting until 1586.

Drury was a Justice of the Peace from about 1577, and was appointed High Sheriff of Suffolk for 1582. He became an Exchequer receiver for Essex, Hertfordshire, Middlesex and London in 1587, but had to flee to the continent when owing the Exchequer £5000. By 1588, through the influence of Lord Willoughby, then in command of English forces in the Low Countries, Drury had been appointed Governor of Bergen-

op-Zoom in the Netherlands, which was threatened by the Spanish. After being replaced as Governor by Thomas Morgan, a more experienced soldier, he was sent as colonel over 1000 men under Lord Willoughby to the assistance of Henry IV of France. En route he quarrelled with Sir John Borough over precedence, and a duel ensued in which Drury sustained a serious injury to his arm, losing first his hand to gangrene and then his arm by amputation. He died soon afterwards.

At his death Drury still owed the crown £3000. Much of his land was sold to pay the debt, all but £600 of which was eventually paid. He was buried in Hawstead church, where a marble bust over his tomb depicts him in full armour.

Copies of this painting are available from Magnoliabox.com, as a fine art print, postcard or greeting card.

Andy Parrett 20/03/19
Hawstead History Recorder