

ISSUE  
17

# The Village Voice

10 October  
2021



## Welcome to our village newsletter

Unsurprisingly, much of this issue focuses on the fabulous Hawstead Fete & Produce Show that took place in September. It was the first major village event since what feels like forever. And what an event it was! Not only was the weather perfect, people came in their droves. It was wonderful to see. We've featured just some of the brilliant photos taken by George Bullen, but you can find lots more on the village website: <http://www.hawstead-parish-council.co.uk/picture-gallery/summer-fete-2021/> A huge thank you to all the Hawstead volunteers for putting on a spectacular show, and especially to Caroline Miller for organising it all!

As usual, if you'd like to include anything in the next issue, please send it in to me at: [anneng100@googlemail.com](mailto:anneng100@googlemail.com).

**The deadline for issue 18 submissions is 30 December 2021.**

# Tickets to ELF The Musical for village children

For Christmas 2021, Hawstead Community Council is reviving the Village Family Show outing for residents who would like to get together to watch a Christmas show in Bury St Edmunds. **Hawstead Community Council will pay for tickets for village children aged 13 or under who would like to attend the show.**

With local schools organising trips to see the pantomime at the Theatre Royal, we have chosen *Elf The Musical* instead! It is being staged at The Apex and performed by the award-winning Children's Theatre Company. It's a popular show and tickets are selling fast. Currently best ticket availability is on **Sunday 2 January at 7.30pm.**



**BOOK WITH CAROLINE MILLER**

**BEFORE 15 OCTOBER if you would**

**like to attend** ([carolinemiller033@gmail.com](mailto:carolinemiller033@gmail.com) or call 07980 675137) and confirm

how many tickets you would like. Remember, **all children must be accompanied by an adult. You are responsible for transporting your family to/from the event. The cost of tickets for residents aged 14+ will not be covered by Hawstead Community Council. All monies must be paid in advance. Once you book, you are responsible for your payment in full minus the cost of the child's ticket(s).**

Caroline will book the group tickets and collect the money from those attending (i.e. those aged over 13!). Tickets are £26 for adults and £21 for children. As explained above, Hawstead Community Council will pay for resident children aged 13 or under.

INTERNATIONAL AWARD-WINNING  
etc Proudly presents  
**elf**  
The Musical  
Book by Thomas Meehan and Bob Martin  
Music by Matthew Sklar · Lyrics by Chad Beguelin  
Based upon the New line Cinema film written by David Berenbaum  
30<sup>TH</sup> DEC - 2<sup>ND</sup> JAN  
thetc.co.uk

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International (Europe). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI Europe www.mti-europe.co.uk

# Sale Trail coming to Hawstead...

Saturday 13 November

12pm – 3pm

Take part in Hawstead's first 'Sale Trail' event and set up a stall outside your house, in your garage or front garden, or on your driveway to sell your pre-loved stuff. What could be greener than recycling your belongings? You can sell anything that is legal. The only condition is that your stall is visible from the road.



This is a great way to make a little extra money or just have a good clear out, and for shoppers it gives a reason to take an enjoyable walk around our beautiful village.

The list of households registered to take part will be published on a

map to guide shoppers around Hawstead. There will also be advance publicity about the event via the "Nextdoor"

website and in the local papers. Additional parking is available at the village hall.

This event is being organised by villager Chloe Baker. It costs £3 to register as a seller (money raised will go towards the village Community Fund). To take part, please email: [chloppopybaker@outlook.com](mailto:chloppopybaker@outlook.com) or phone 07498 668424.

NB Only households that have registered to take part will be included in the publicity and official sale trail map. Additional parking will be available at the village hall.



## Contributions to The Village Voice

If you would like to see anything featured or have something to submit, please send it to Anne at [anneng100@googlemail.com](mailto:anneng100@googlemail.com) by **30 December 2021**.



## Ding dong merrily on high...



*All Hawstead villagers aged 'Triple-20' and over  
are warmly invited to the*

*annual Hawstead Christmas lunch*

*Friday 10 December*

*12.30pm drinks, for 1pm lunch*

*at the Village Hall*

RSVP to [carolinemiller033@gmail.com](mailto:carolinemiller033@gmail.com) or 07980 675137

If ever there was a year for Christmas merriment and cheer, it is 2021. Dress up and join friends to celebrate with fine food and drinks in our beautiful village hall, which will be festooned with sparkling decorations.

### Triple-20 Christmas Lunch

Enjoy a three-course meal including  
Prosecco, Aperol spritz or sparkling elderflower  
cordial on arrival

**Starter**  
Melon with raspberry coulee

**Main course**  
Roast turkey, roast potatoes, chipolatas, stuffing and  
vegetables  
Vegetarian option  
Sweet potato, mushroom and chestnut loaf served with  
cheese and mushroom sauce and vegetables

**Dessert**  
Christmas pudding, fresh fruit salad or salted caramel  
cheesecake  
Port and cheese  
Coffee

This annual Hawstead Christmas tradition is offered **FREE** to villagers aged 'triple-20' and over as thanks for all you do or have done over many years to make Hawstead a vibrant community. This year, we especially thank those who offered neighbours support during lockdown, and/or worked so hard to make the plant fair and village fete successful.

Partners from outside the village are welcome; we just ask for a contribution to cover the cost of their lunch (£21 per person).

Our main goal for this event is for the "Triple-20s" to enjoy a meal together after the long year of lockdown, meet up with old friends or make new ones, and foster community spirit.

**Some villagers have expressed that they would prefer to cover the cost of their meal. We completely understand and in response we suggest that donations are made to support the invaluable work of the Gatehouse Christmas Project. This is a local charity that organises food hampers and a Christmas meal for the vulnerable, isolated and needy in Bury St Edmunds. More information can be found here:**

<https://www.suffolknews.co.uk/bury-st-edmunds/news/help-us-to-stock-up-for-christmas-urges-foodbank-charity-9214365/>

*Dress code: party.... or whatever you feel comfortable in.*



## **Call out for village volunteers to help set up the event and serve lunch**

Traditionally, this event is set up and served by the younger members of the village (i.e. under 60) – in the old days they even used to cook the lunch!

There are several flexible options for how you can get involved, either in advance decorating the hall or on the day.

We need help for 1 ½ hours on the evening of Thursday 9 December and / or help setting up on the day, as well as waiters to serve lunch and clear away on Friday 10 December.

To get involved, please contact Caroline Miller, 07980 675137 / [carolinemiller033@gmail.com](mailto:carolinemiller033@gmail.com).

Volunteers will be fed and well watered as a thank you!

Come to Hawstead's FREE  
annual Christmas drinks party



Wednesday 22 December, 6-8pm, Village Hall

Wear a Christmas jumper or Christmas themed hat. The most creative jumper and hat will win a bottle of champagne each.

Drinks will be provided for FREE by Hawstead Community Council. RSVP to [carolinemiller033@gmail.com](mailto:carolinemiller033@gmail.com)

\* For safety, please take a Covid test the day of the party. If you need help to do this, we can offer assistance.

Made with PosterMyWall.com

**Nibbles will be provided to accompany the drinks**

# All Saints Church, Hawstead

## Harvest Service – Sunday 17 October

This is a shared service with Nowton at **St Peters, Nowton** from 11am on 17 October 2021. Come and celebrate the bounty of Our Harvest. Gifts of tins for the Food Bank will be gratefully received. They can be left at Lesley's house, Church Farm House, or in the Porch of the Church, or bring them on the day. We would love to welcome you.

## Work Party in All Saints Churchyard – Saturday 23 October

23 October, 10-12 – Please bring your own tools to try to put the Churchyard to bed for the winter. Tea, coffee and jammie dodgers as usual.

## Remembrance Service – Sunday 14 November

This will be held at **All Saints, Hawstead** at 10.45am on Sunday 14 November. The service will be shared with Nowton. There will be a roll call of the names of the people who lost their lives from both villages.

## Advent Service – Saturday 4 December

Join parishioners and villagers at **Hawstead Village Hall** from 6pm for a short advent service marking the start of Advent. Led by Cannon Max, we will be reflecting on the true meaning of Christmas and switching on the Christmas tree lights inside the hall. Mulled wine and mince pies will be provided, with non-alcoholic alternatives for the children.

## Carol Service – Sunday 19 December

In 2021 our Carol Service will be held at **St Peters, Nowton** on 19 December at 6pm. It will be followed by mulled wine and mince pies. Please come and celebrate Christmas with us.

## Wreath-Making Days – Saturday 4 and 11 December

In **All Saints, Hawstead**. Saturday 4 December and Saturday 11 December, 10am-1pm. Fresh greenery supplied. Tea and coffee provided £30. Limited places, so please book yours via Lesley on 01284 386132.

### Services in All Saints Church, Hawstead

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month

11am Morning Worship

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month

3pm Eucharist Service

*Come and Join us, we would love to see you!*

### FOR FURTHER DETAILS

contact REV CANON

MAX OSBORNE

01284 735325

[max9@btinternet.com](mailto:max9@btinternet.com)



# Other dates for your diary

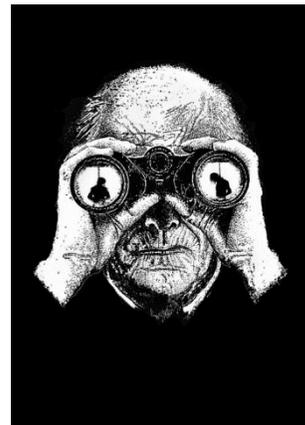
## Nunkie Theatre Company presents *Dead Men's Eyes* - *Two Ghost Stories* by M R James

**Performed by R M Lloyd Parry on Thursday 18 November 2021**

Great War Huts, A First World War Heritage project on Bells Lane, Hawstead

Doors open at 7:30pm for an 8pm start. Tickets £10 plus booking fee

Book online at <https://www.greatwarhuts.org/events>



Two chilling and thrilling tales from M R James, the master of the English ghost story. In *A View from a Hill*, a pair of old binoculars reveals the grisly history of an idyllic stretch of English landscape. In *The Treasure of Abbot Thomas*, a treasure-seeker comes face to face with unspeakable horror at the bottom of an ancient well.

*Dead Men's Eyes* is the sixth instalment of Nunkie's M R James Project, a series of one-man shows that seeks to revive the tradition of oral, supernatural storytelling that was perfected by Montague Rhodes James in Cambridge in the years leading up to the First World War.

*"Wonderful, magical storytelling..." - The Daily Mail*

Over a century after they were first published, the ghost stories of M R James retain their power to terrify and amuse. This gripping one-man show retells two of the eeriest.

There is free onsite parking and toilets. Refreshments are available to purchase. Sensible footwear advised due to the uneven ground.

## Talk about the WW1 Princess Mary Gift Tins

**Saturday 4 December, 2pm, Great War Huts in Bells Lane, Hawstead**

A fascinating talk by Peter Doyle about the Princess Mary Gift box which was a brass or silver tin containing a number of gifts intended to be distributed to all members of the armed forces of the [British Empire](#) on [Christmas day](#) 1914, during [World War I](#). This special gift was the idea of [George V's](#) 17-year-old daughter, [Mary, Princess Royal](#), who launched an appeal to fund every member of the armed forces to receive a Christmas gift. Shortly before Christmas 1914, advertisements were placed in the British press seeking donations for the "Soldiers and Sailors Christmas fund" and £152,691 was raised. The boxes were originally intended for "every sailor afloat and every soldier at the front" on Christmas day 1914, but eligibility was soon extended



to everyone "wearing the King's uniform on Christmas day". Whilst around 400,000 were delivered by Christmas, distribution was not completed until 1920 by which time approximately 2.5 million had been delivered.

Alongside the talk see a display of original tins and their contents which are part of the Great War Huts Collection.

More details about this event and how to book tickets will be available soon at <https://www.greatwarhuts.org/>

## Christmas Concert by Suffolk Concert Band

**Evening Event at The Great War Huts, Bell Lane, Saturday 18 December**

Details to be published shortly and how to book at [www.greatwarhuts.org](http://www.greatwarhuts.org)

The Suffolk Concert Band was formed in 1967 as the Suffolk Military Band. Fifty years later the band has developed into a versatile ensemble of musicians from Ipswich and the surrounding locale.



## Prosecco, Beer and Conversation with Taff Gillingham

**Friday 21 January at 7pm at The Great War Huts, Bell Lane**

Tickets £2 to cover refreshments.

Children and under 18s FREE.

To book tickets email [carolinemiller033@gmail.com](mailto:carolinemiller033@gmail.com) or call 07980 675137. Cash accepted on the night.

**NB A few kind villagers have offered to provide lifts for anyone who needs transport to/from the event. Just ask when you email Caroline.**

Come along and enjoy a Friday night drink with neighbours whilst listening to a fascinating talk by Taff Gillingham, who is one of the directors of local business Khaki Devils and the Great War Huts, a WW1 heritage project. Khaki Devils was formed in 2001 with a mission to improve historical accuracy in military uniforms, equipment, weapons and props for film, television and theatre productions. Khaki Devils is based at Brook Farm on Bell Lane, just off Hawstead Village Green. You might have met Taff and his team at the Khaki Devils stand at this year's village fete where visitors were able to try on historical uniforms.

Khaki Devils Directors Kev Smith and Taff Gillingham all have 'hands-on' roles and, despite the large number of high-profile projects the company has worked on, are just as keen to help productions, whether they are being staged in the West End or in a local Village Hall.



# A gala performance to remember

Anyone who visited Hawstead village fete will know what a fantastic afternoon was had by all. We had wonderful weather, and people flocked to the first major social event held in the village since March 2020.

What a triumph... a box-office smash! The sun shone in a clear blue sky on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2021 at this celebratory gala performance of Hawstead's village fete. This well-choreographed fundraiser, marking the 50th anniversary of the formation of Hawstead Community Council in 1971, exceeded every expectation; definitely an afternoon for the village to remember.

The feeling had been one of great excitement throughout the build-up. The detailed forward planning by the organising team certainly paid dividends, and the whole cast performed flawlessly, all under the outstanding leadership of Community Council Social Secretary and honorary fete CEO Caroline Miller.

The afternoon belonged to all our willing volunteers. To the last volunteer, they did the occasion full justice – and absolutely dazzled!

Our curtain was raised with a poignant reminder by three principals of Hawstead's first village fete held 50 years ago. Joan Baker, Ethel Lebon and Phyllis Pettitt were each handed the microphone and excelled in painting a vivid picture of the original event. There was even a magical poetry recital to set the stage.

Live music combined with Hawstead's first ever fun dog show. This canine crowd pleaser was a wonderful addition to the programme. The eager participants showed such lightness of movement as they sashayed around the ring. And that was just the dogs' owners. The director of the dog show, Charlotte Barneveld (Posh Paws of Pinford End), was making her debut but did a fantastic job.

We were then treated to a selection of well-rehearsed fete classics! A real highlight was the immaculately organised traditional flower and produce show courtesy of Faith, Shannon and Sarah Bullen. This outstanding trio did themselves proud.



Among the numerous traditional stalls were auctions, the raffle, bric-a-brac, books, splat the rat, coconut shy, beekeeping, children's face-painting, fabrics, a WW1 display by Khaki Devils and many others. Each and every one of the stallholders played a starring role.



Our maestro Clive Robinson was outstanding as the Master of Ceremonies, holding the audience in the palm of his hand. John Shipley was quite flawless throughout as stage manager. Inside, Andy Parrett's images of past village scenes were displayed alongside Bill Crockford's artwork.

Louisa Rushen managed the finances professionally, while Bob Brough performed tirelessly... all that jogging around the village has stood him in good stead! As for Michael Harrison on car park duty, how he squeezed all those cars through the cones and onto the green I'll never know. You should have been a traffic cop Mike!

Chloe Baker worked tirelessly in the make-up department face painting dozens of children. The newly formed duo of Giles Rushen and Giles Bovill demonstrated their culinary skills at the BBQ. Richard Barham and John West practised their talents behind the bar, and there was quite a crush at times. There was also a record line up of outstanding vintage tractors orchestrated once again this year by our tractor aficionado Pat Baker and friends.



The family sports were arranged and nimbly compered by Roger Meade. The penalty shoot-out was superbly managed by Charlie and George who excelled themselves at generating a keen competition. Yet again our catering team extraordinaire did a sterling job serving delicious afternoon tea and cakes. Judy Carter, Penny Barham, Fran Evershed, Sue Scott and Lesley Carey worked their socks off! Rosemary Harrison, Sonja Monk, Amanda Birdlane also shone prominently throughout.



The whole afternoon was quintessentially English... so Hawstead! As the curtain fell, a well-deserved presentation was made by Bruce Monk on behalf of us all to Caroline, without doubt the shining star of the fete.

The fete's huge turnout also translated into financial success and raised an absolutely outstanding **total of £1,894** (and 74 pence!). The silent auction alone took in £500.

**A fantastic effort, thank you all!**



Here's what some people had to say... along with some fabulous photographs courtesy of George Bullen.

***"I was truly amazed by the number of cars and people that came to join us, and what a wonderful afternoon we all had! So much for everyone to see and do and join in, a real village gathering of the very best kind."***



***"a VERY SUCCESSFUL afternoon - certainly one of the best Hawstead fetes I've ever attended!!"***

***"The village fete was fabulous! So many people, so much going on, so many happy faces! I didn't see all the goings on but did see quite a few people from surrounding villages as well as Hawstead. What a fantastic turn out!"***



***"Lovely day had by all"***



***"It was a great fete loads of people there, I saw people I knew and we had a chat, roll on next year... lovely cake stall, we enjoyed our cakes not forgetting our cuppa".***



***"Great to see so many this afternoon enjoying the sunshine at the Fete on Hawstead Village green. ☀️ Thanks John for letting me take the wheel of your restored tractor and trailer. 🚗 The home produced goods and crafts were amazing, well done to everyone for entering no matter what their age is. 🍋🍋 I was also pleased to hear about the plans at <https://www.greatwarhuts.org/>***



The weather couldn't have been kinder! [#villagefete](#) [#ruralfete](#) [#tractorlife](#)" Karen Soons, Conservative Councillor for Thingoe South Division on facebook



## Homegrown and homemade produce

Organised by the Bullen family, our Produce Show generated lots of entries.



# The village prepares!

Behind the scenes, fete preparations began many weeks in advance.

Pat topped an additional grass area on the village green a few days prior to the fete to create a cut section for the vintage tractor display. Pat has organised this fabulous display for our Hawstead fete for decades.

Here is Pat using his own restored vintage 1950 Grey Fergie trailing his beautiful and very effective grass mower. Well done and thank you Pat!



## A message of thanks from Caroline

The overall support, number of village volunteers, visitor turnout and profit raised from this year's Hawstead village fete on Sunday 5 September was impressive. We estimate between 300 and 400 people visited over 3 hours, with at times ~150 cars using the car park. We made a net profit of £1895, and the bar and BBQ sold out!

The fete brought together different generations from across the village to work on a shared goal. Youngsters aged 21 and under who live in Whepstead Road, Pinford End and The Pound worked side by side with villagers like Pat Baker and Ethel Lebon who have both volunteered at the fete for 50 years! Families who used to live in the village also took the opportunity to attend and see old friends.

Thanks to all the volunteers for such an amazing team effort to make the fete happen. Volunteers included Pat and Joan Baker; Chloe Baker; Penny and Richard Barham; Charlotte Barneveld; James Bedford; Bob Brough; Sarah Bullen, with husband George and daughters Faith and Shannon; Lesley Carey and Neil Ryder; Judy and Dave Carter; Chris Cole; Bill Crockford; James Dolby Glover (beekeeper); Rosie and Giles Donald; Anne East; Fran Evershed; Marti Frost; Rosemary and Michael Harrison; Taff Gillingham and the Khaki Devils team; Ethel Lebon; Jim and Amanda Lomas-Farley; Caroline Miller and her uncle Philip Sator and friends Steven Drew, Candy Stobbs, Rick Senley, Clive and Fern Potter; Bruce and Sonja Monk; Andy and Christine Parrett; Phyllis Pettit; Rebecca Popham; Clive Robinson; Giles, Louisa and Charlie Rushen and Charlie's girlfriend Sharna; Sue Scott; John Shipley; Sally Tollhurst; John and Geraldine West, Susanne White and Chris Pamplin; Keith and George from The Pound.

*Apologies if we have forgotten anyone. Please email [carolinemiller033@gmail.com](mailto:carolinemiller033@gmail.com) if we have missed anyone and we will add them to the records.*



# Well done George!

There's clearly no end of talent and tenacity in Hawstead. George Campen completed this project for the John Muir Award. Here, George explains what it is and what was involved.

## Discovery John Muir Award

I am George Campen, a local resident of the village and 14 years old. I have been completing the John Muir Award in my garden throughout August as part of my Explorer Scouting Platinum Award. I have spent over 25 hours doing the four challenges – Discover, Explore, Conserve and Share.

### Discover

I decided to pick our garden as my wild place because it was the easiest access for me whilst being able to learn about biodiversity, and therefore I could carry it out with minimal supervision. John Muir was born in 1838 in Scotland and emigrated to the USA when he was 11. He was passionate about wild places and he explored, wrote and campaigned for them as well as believing it was necessary to protect them for the wellbeing of people and wildlife. He helped create one of the first National Parks, Yosemite, in 1890. One of his famous quotes is: "I only went out for a walk, and finally concluded to stay out till sundown, for going out, I found, was really going in". The John Muir Trust continues to encourage people to explore and conserve our wildlife and places around us.

### Explore

On several sunny days I sat outside on the patio and in the garden listening to birds, discovering the wildlife around me using binoculars and taking some pictures of the birds and insects. Once a day I would check for footprints in the sand traps that I had laid and research all of the wildlife that I had seen that day and also future projects, e.g. wildflower area. One evening we watched and tried to photograph the bats flying overhead. Here are some examples of my research and photos I took.



#### Gatekeeper Butterfly

A Gatekeeper Butterfly lives in southern and eastern Britain but has spread up north in recent years. Its name suggests that they are often found and habitable in gateways/hedgerows. The wing span ranges (male to female) 40-47mm. When they are at their first stage of growth they most commonly eat tender grass, but when they are an adult they take nectar from bramble, wood sage, common ragwort and other flowering plants.

## Large Red Slug

An *Arion rufus*, or as it's commonly known a Large Red Slug, can be 60-150mm long and vary in colour from grey or orange, like the one here, and sometimes even black or white. They are found in gardens, woods and agricultural land and feed on mostly live plant material and also food waste/decaying vegetation. Slugs are a key food source of protein for foxes, snakes, frogs, moles, shrews and blackbirds.



## Ruddy Darter Dragonfly

A *Sympetrum sanguineum*, or as it's more commonly named a Ruddy Darter Dragonfly, lives in ponds, lakes, canals and woodlands. The species is found in the south-east of England. A Ruddy Darter's common length is 34-36mm and they eat other insects that they can catch, but mainly bees, flies, butterflies, beetles and moths.



## Small White Butterfly

A Small White Butterfly has a wingspan of 38-57mm and is found in gardens and allotments, especially where cabbages are grown, hence the term 'cabbage white'. The butterfly is found across the whole of the UK and isn't threatened. This species eats cabbage, kale, sprouts, etc. They lay their larva on those plants as well, which then hatch later in the year.



## Bees

As we grow vegetables and herbs in our garden there are lots of bees and a variety of species. You can define the species by gender and colour. The sections of a bee are head, thorax and abdomen. Below are some pictures I have taken and then investigated using a book borrowed from James and Christabel Carr.



This bee has an orange thorax, but the orange abdomen appears older or 'worn' because there are small steps in the fur. It could be a *Bombus pascuorum*, *humilis* or *muscorum*. I think it is a *Bombus pascuorum* as the black strips in the abdomen are heavy. The head is very long so it's a male social bumblebee.





This bee has a yellow and black thorax and a black, yellow, black and orange abdomen. It could be a *Bombus pratorum*, *rudaraius*, *soroensis* or a *terrestris*. I think it is a *Bombus pratorum* as there is a thick thorax. The head is long and it has black facial hairs, therefore it is a male social bumblebee.

### Animal Tracker

I laid three sand traps on the edges of our garden to catch wildlife footprints. So far a muntjac, cat and mole have walked/tunnelled through them. The muntjac had probably been passing through our garden for food and a path to other activities.

### Bats

There are three bat species that live in the UK: Noctule, Pipistrelles and The Brown Long-Eared. Bats are nocturnal, therefore you would think their food chain would be very different to a non-nocturnal animal. However, this is false; they eat fruit, leaves, bark, nectar and pollen. I managed to video a Pipistrelle bat. They emerged around sunset and had an erratic flight as they chased tiny insects. Bats are useful because some plants depend on them for pollination or spreading their seeds. However, other bats help control pests by eating them.

## Conserve

### Rockery

I made a rockery for wildlife to drink and watch for prey. I caught a glimpse of this young robin scouting for insects. It uses the highest point to get a clear view. I constructed the drinking station with stones/rocks to make it blend in and look natural.



## Wildflower area

Another way of conserving the wildlife around us is by making a wildflower area for insects and especially bees. We have a 4x4m area which was covered with a ratio of 3g : 1m<sup>2</sup>; that roughly works out to be 50g of mix. Some of the flowers will be tansy, poppies, betony, cornflower, corncockle, corn marigold, linseed and bearded wheat. After weeding the area, I chitted the ground and scattered the various seeds, spread a layer of sand and rolled the 16m<sup>2</sup> area. It was hard work but I am looking forward to seeing what grows!

## Bird boxes

I have made two bird boxes using 30mm recycled wood and an off-cut tile/board for one of the roofs. I peeled the white paint off with a heat gun and scraper and then cut the wood to size using a circular saw and screwed it together. I gave them two layers of Sadolin wood stain to protect the wood from the weather whilst providing a nice finish. Next, I screwed the roofs on and thought I would bend and shape a piece of lead as a ridge for one of the boxes.



## Share

I have shared my project in the village magazine and hope to inspire others with what I have researched and learnt. I have also posted a few photographs of my conservation work onto my Instagram account using #JohnMuirAward. I enjoyed conserving, especially making the bird boxes and the rockery. The experience of photographing wildlife at speed was a challenge and took a lot of patience. I have been really interested to learn about the biodiversity in my garden and hope to continue to encourage it.

Visit <https://www.johnmuirtrust.org/john-muir-award> to learn more about this award.



# BARRE DEFINE



Ballet-inspired fitness classes for adults with an emphasis on toning up and improving core strength, posture and flexibility.



We have a range of class styles with both daytime and evening options so there is something for everybody!



Locations:

Lawshall Village Hall

Hazelwood Dance Studios,  
Bury St Edmunds

Book your FREE trial at [www.barredefine.com](http://www.barredefine.com)

Email Sophie Ward on [info@barredefine.com](mailto:info@barredefine.com)



[Facebook.com/barredefine](https://www.facebook.com/barredefine)

[Instagram.com/barredefine](https://www.instagram.com/barredefine)

# The Carpenter Family

At the beginning of March this year the cremated remains of Jon Goodwin Carpenter were interred in Hawstead Churchyard during a short ceremony, arranged and attended by his niece, Tricia Carpenter. Here Andy Parrett tells us about this interesting character.

Jon had been a bachelor and lived in London, but he was buried here in Suffolk to join his elder brother Gerald and his parents, Gerald and Marjorie Carpenter. You will find two memorials just inside the churchyard from the lych-gate, nestled under a holly bush on the left-hand side of the path (see photo).

Carpenters senior lived in Hawstead during the 1960s, at Pound Cottage (now occupied by Bill & Margaret Crockford) – earlier than that, Tricia can't be sure – and she knows that they moved to the Newmarket area around 1970, so it is intriguing to consider exactly why they chose All Saints Church in our village as their resting place. Whatever the reason, the same place was subsequently selected by their sons.

Since Jon's funeral I have corresponded with Tricia to ask about her family, the reason being that I was fascinated to see on the gravestones that both her father and grandfather had been in the army and had attained the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel. This surely warranted some enquiry!

Gerald Patrick Trevor Carpenter, Tricia's father, was born in 1927 at 84 Eastgate Street, Bury St Edmunds. Between 1946 and 1971 he followed a military career in the 2<sup>nd</sup> King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles. He spent a majority of his time in the Far East, and in 1950 he was seconded on exchange to a battalion of the French army based outside Hanoi. During this time he was caught up in a Viet-Cong ambush whilst on escort duty of a large mule convoy.

Between 1965 and 1966 Gerald served in Borneo during the conflict with Indonesia. By this time he was a major and his activity as Brigade Major led to his award of MBE. The recommendation for this award includes the following:

*"As a Staff Officer in Brigade HQ he has had to deal with some 17 commanding officers, liaise closely with the state and divisional security committees, work closely with the Police, RAF and RN representatives at this HQ and at the same time coordinate the tasks of the many branches of the staff in his capacity as Brigade Major... His devotion to duty and his utter loyalty and straightforwardness, coupled with his natural military competence, deserve very special recognition."*



*The Carpenter Memorials in the Churchyard shortly after the burial of Jon Carpenter's remains*



*Lt Col. Gerald Carpenter (Jr)  
photographed in Hong Kong*

Gerald left the army in 1971 as a Lt Colonel but stayed in the Far East and worked for a number of businesses in Hong Kong, most notably as Head of Personnel, Pacific Region, for the international company, John Swire & Sons. At the same time he held posts with the Hong Kong Government, for instance as Chairman of the Hong Kong Government University Appointments Board.

In about 1987, when he was 60, he retired to Spain where he died in 2010, aged 83.

Tricia's grandfather was also named Gerald. He had an army career of over 30 years which included both World Wars. Gerald Goodwin Carpenter ('Goodwin' was his mother's maiden name) was born in December 1891. As a teenager he attended the Military Academy in Woolwich. This led to his military career, and he obtained his first commission in the 1<sup>st</sup> Suffolk Regiment on 20<sup>th</sup> September 1911.

Gerald was a keen aviator and obtained a flying certificate in 1914. He was subsequently posted to No 5 Squadron at the Central Flying School at Netheravon, but returned to the Suffolks and went on to further stints with the Royal Irish Fusiliers and the Northumberland Fusiliers during World War 1. As a Captain in the Suffolks, he was mentioned in a despatch from Sir Douglas Haig 7<sup>th</sup> November 1917 *"for gallant and distinguished services in the field"* (the certificate is dated March 1919 and signed Winston S Churchill, Secretary of State for War). He was awarded DSO (Distinguished Service Order).

After World War 1, Gerald remained in service, firstly in a Brigade of the Egyptian Army (as a Major), then in Sudan, fighting with the Sudan Defence Force. He finally headed home in 1925, and on 8<sup>th</sup> December that year married Hilda Marjorie Trevor Baldwin in London.

At the outbreak of World War 2 in 1939, he re-enlisted in the Suffolk Regiment, requesting to be returned to service at the rank of Major. However, superiors in the Army considered that his leadership talents and vast experience were what was needed to knock the new Territorial Battalions into shape. Also, his experience in the African desert would stand any army unit in good stead prior to any deployment to the Middle East. He was posted to the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, the Cambridgeshire Regiment in January 1941 as Lieutenant Colonel.

Whether Lt Colonel Carpenter saw anything of the Middle East is not clear. If so, it would have been for a brief period, because on 29<sup>th</sup> January 1942 the Battalion landed at Singapore to help in the defence of the island against the advancing Japanese. There was the last troopship to dock: they would be part of a force of 88,600 British, Indian and Australian soldiers facing the 70,000 strong 25<sup>th</sup> Imperial Japanese Army under General Yamashita.

The Cambridgeshires were initially deployed to defend Seletar Airfield in the northeast of Singapore, but within a week the Japanese had crossed to the island in the North West. So they were moved south to an area called Adam Park Estate to the northwest of the city and close to the MacRitchie Reservoir and a luxury golf course.

They arrived on 12<sup>th</sup> February and were almost immediately in action against the enemy, defending this position. Three days later, at 3.30pm on 15<sup>th</sup> February, Lt Colonel Carpenter called his Brigade HQ requesting permission to withdraw his men: the reply was to stay where they were and lay down arms. General Arthur Percival was surrendering Singapore.

After the ceasefire, the officers and wounded were separated out and quartered in the wreckage of the houses of the estate. Around 500 other ranks were herded into a tennis court where they were to remain with little food or water and no sanitation for four more days. On 19<sup>th</sup> February the Cambridgeshires were marched out of Adam Park to Changi Prison and captivity for over 3 years.

Now here's an amazing thing. Whilst in Changi, Lt Colonel Carpenter was able to use a typewriter. As a result of this (and via his granddaughter), I have a photocopy of his account of events involving his Battalion from 1<sup>st</sup>–15<sup>th</sup> February: it runs to 17 pages. At the beginning he says *"This Diary was written at Changi and has been kept in captivity ever since... The official War Diary [of the Battalion] from 1–15 Feb 42 incl. was destroyed by fire at the Bn. Adam Road battle position, on receipt of 54 Inf. Bde. Order "Cease Fire at 1600 hours 15 Feb 42."* In the final sentences of the diary he says: *"Singapore fell owing to a lack of plans, orders and power of command. Whenever we had the chance the British, Australian and Indian soldier proved himself immeasurably superior to the Japanese, who are nothing more than an overrated crowd of gangsters."* (!) It puzzles me that (a) he had access to a typewriter and (b) he was able to recall events in such detail over a period of two weeks.

I have no information about Gerald after this date, his time in captivity, return to England, being reunited with his family, etc., except for the copy of the drawing of him which was done in Thailand in 1944; and a copy of the recommendation form for a bar to his DSO (available from the National Archives), dated December 1945 and recommended by General Percival: *"In the severe fighting in which 1<sup>st</sup> Cambridgeshires took part between Feb 11<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> 42, in the Adam Rd area, Singapore, Lt-Col. Carpenter was an unfailing source of inspiration to his Bn. It was largely due to his dogged determination to hold out that the unit maintained its position intact from Feb 12<sup>th</sup> until the capitulation. During the whole of this period the position was subjected to ceaseless artillery, MG and sniper's fire while enemy infiltration eventually reached a point at which the unit was completely surrounded. In spite of this and with his flanks constantly*



*Lt Colonel Gerald Carpenter (Sr) sketched in a POW camp in Thailand, 1944*

*in the air, Lt-Col. Carpenter by his vigour and example inspired his men to resist, despite exhaustion, on the allotted position. During Feb 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> he organised several local offensive sweeps to dislodge snipers, inflicting a number of casualties on the enemy."*

Adam Park was, and still is, an estate of large properties set in extensive grounds. It has been rebuilt of course, and the surrounding land has been built on, as Singapore City has expanded. Nevertheless, there has been a significant effort to preserve the memory of what happened here, and a substantial website can be visited to find out more:

<http://www.adamparkproject.com>

Gerald Carpenter died in June 1977. His wife Marjorie (who originally hailed from Halifax, Yorkshire) followed him in March 1990, having lived her final days at Courtenay House Nursing Home, between Swaffham and Fakenham.

## Historic Churches Trust

On Saturday 11th September the Annual Ride and Stride event for the Historic Churches Trust took place. People cycle or walk between churches for sponsorship. New to this event is Pedal and Drive.

After the restrictions of COVID, local Classic Car Clubs welcomed the challenge and were out in force. We were surprised to see some visiting our Church.

There were over 100 cars, starting from different local Historic Houses but all finishing at Lavenham Church. It was a lovely day and a pleasure to see some of these well-loved Classic Cars here in Hawstead.

*Lesley Carey*



# Ultimate warbirds flight... making dreams come true...

On Friday 13th August (yes Friday the 13th!), I drove Neil Ryder and Bob Brough to Sywell Aerodrome, Northamptonshire for a once-in-a-lifetime flight in a Spitfire. A 'bucket list' trip for most men. Here's what happened!

Sywell Aerodrome is a thriving Aviation airfield. On a good day it is very busy with private planes, microlights, and Warbird Flights.

The Aviator Hotel on sight is an Art Deco building, full of history, and is furnished in style and contains lots of aviation memorabilia. There is a Museum on site too, so plenty to do even if you are not flying.

The Grace Spitfire was a single seater but was converted after the war to an advanced dual trainer configuration, so is fully dual controlled. During the War it flew over 320 combat hours in 176 operational sorties. It is credited with shooting down the first enemy aircraft on D-Day over Omaha Beach.

The Spitfire was completely restored by Nick Grace and flown by him after the rebuild in April 1985 until his untimely death in a car accident in 1988. His son Richard and a select team continue to display The Grace Spitfire to keep Nick's legacy alive.

Bob and Neil were fitted with flying clothing, and then had a ground briefing – checking all the emergency drills. The cockpit is small, and I mean small. Their heights and weights were all measured.

Before embarkation they were fitted with a parachute, and each assisted via steps into the plane. Once seated, a smile crossed their faces and never really left. In fact it turned into a 'Big Grin'.

The flights lasted for 30 minutes or so, and they both said it was very exhilarating, the best thing ever. Even bigger grins on landing. A dream come true!

*Lesley Carey*



---

# Hawstead Village Hall - vacancies

---

## Caretaker – immediate start

We are seeking someone local to work alongside the volunteer Community Council. They must possess the physical fitness to cope with getting out/putting away tables and chairs before/after events, climbing up into/down from the hall loft (loft ladder) and performing weekly/monthly maintenance tasks (ideally on a Monday, but could be a different day depending on bookings).

Weekly tasks will include:

- Weed/spray the slate areas surrounding the hall
- Weed/spray the bark play area
- Empty play area bin
- Clean off any bird poo splatters from the windows, walls and patio
- Check the batteries in the clocks and replace as necessary
- Wipe away any obvious dirty marks from the inside walls
- Monitor cleanliness of the hall and report if there are any issues
- Check chair stacks for height/safety
- Alarm/emergency checks
- Report any potential issues to the Community Council



Tasks surrounding an event might include:

- Liaise with the bookings clerk to check specific event requirements
  - Set up/tidy away after events (stack chairs, wipe tables clean and allow to dry, stack tables)
  - Open up/close for events (including midnight checks for weddings/parties)
  - Liaison with the hirer to ensure they have everything they need
  - On call during a hire to deal with any problems
- Notify the bookings clerk of any problems with the hire, e.g. lots of mess, breakages, etc.
  - Occasional floor sweeping/washing up after small events

You will have the support of the Bookings Clerk and Community Council should there be any problems or you are away for an event. You will need to invoice the Community Council on a weekly or monthly basis, whichever you prefer.

We estimate 1-2 hours of weekly maintenance work, with extra time required for monthly tasks like dusting high beams (from the ground), cleaning flies out of emergency lights, wiping woodwork, etc. A full list of tasks can be provided on request.

In general, all standard weekly and post-event cleaning is done by a commercial company. Bookings are more popular May–September. All club hires are self-sufficient and can access a keybox so do not need caretaker support.

### **Bookings Clerk – immediate start**

We are seeking a self-employed Bookings Clerk to manage all bookings from initial enquiry through to security bond refund. We estimate the role will take ~6-8 hours weekly (perhaps more time May–September), which would include lots of work via email liaising with potential and confirmed hirers, the caretaker, the cleaners, etc. The work hours are flexible, so long as enquiries are answered within ~24 hours. Ideally the Bookings Clerk should live sufficiently close to the village hall to make conducting viewings easy. However, the vast majority of the work is home based via email.

This role could be shared so long as there is a very clear division of responsibility. The Bookings Clerk will receive support from the Community Council to offer cover during holiday periods or at other times. Invoices can be submitted weekly or monthly.

Tasks would include:

1. Answer email enquiries – check bookings diary, answer any questions, email bookings forms, t&c, equipment list, table layout, etc., if required.
2. Arrange and conduct hall viewings
3. Confirm hire charges – liaise with HCC if necessary; check deposit has arrived
4. Book events – book in paper diary and online, checking there is sufficient time afterwards to clean before the next hire; confirm booking; maintain bookings information folder
5. Liaise with hirer regarding events – chase up final payments, equipment lists, final instructions
6. Liaise with cleaner regarding events – book cleaning slots for after events
7. Liaise with caretaker – check he/she can cover events and, if not, make alternative arrangements
8. Liaise with the Community Council – monthly summary of new events booked, any problems, etc.
9. Scrutinise the cleaning bill, query if necessary
10. Authorise bond refunds
11. Monitor hall – cleanliness, equipment, fabric of the building, stock levels, etc., and report back to the Community Council

This is a very responsible role and requires an efficient individual experienced with email communications. The Bookings Clerk must possess the social skills necessary to conduct hall viewings.

**For further details please contact [bookings@hawsteadvillagehall.co.uk](mailto:bookings@hawsteadvillagehall.co.uk).**



Another reminder that Andy Parrett is looking to handover the village website's administration.

Please let him know if you're interested. Don't worry if you're not an IT expert – you *don't* need to be!



## A message from Suffolk Fire and Rescue...

### IS YOUR HOME SAFE FROM FIRE?

Ask for a free visit by a specialist Prevention Practitioner, Community Fire Volunteer or Operational crew.

The SFRS Prevention team and firefighters are dedicated to saving lives by working with the community, discussing fire safety and offering advice to eliminate or reduce the risk of a fire occurring in the home. Free smoke alarms will be fitted if



#### Please contact us if you:

- Have concerns over fire safety in your home
- Do not have working smoke alarms
- You cannot hear your alarms at home

you do not have any.



#### Customer feedback

Mrs B has phoned in to pass her thanks on to your practitioner for a very helpful Safer Home Visit. Mrs B said the service was excellent, efficient, and feels far more safe after the visit.

REDUCE THE RISK  
OF FIRE IN YOUR  
HOME IN

**SIX**  
SIMPLE STEPS



**1**

**Protect your home with working smoke alarms**

Install smoke alarms on every floor and test them every week



**2**

**Take extra care in the kitchen**

Over 50% of accidental house fires start in the kitchen



**3**

**Check your electrics**

Check and maintain your electrical appliances



**4**

**Smoke safe (if you must smoke at all)**

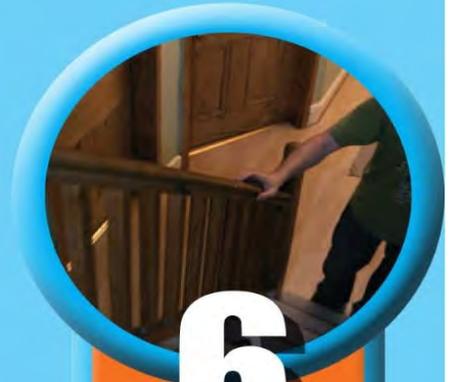
Put them put, right out



**5**

**Make sure you sleep safe**

A bedtime safety routine can reduce the risk of fire whilst you're asleep



**6**

**Plan a safe escape**

Make sure you know how to get out of your home in an emergency

Take Extra  
**care**