

WINTER
2025

The Village Voice



Welcome to our village newsletter

Autumn is well and truly here in Hawstead, marked by the final churchyard tidy up and a wonderful bonfire to burn the accumulated hedge clippings and brambles. These opportunities to volunteer your time alongside fellow residents offer not only a remarkable sense of achievement, but also a chance to catch up on village news and make plans for the future.

Throughout the year there are so many ways you can get involved in village life and feel much more part of our community. From joining the bowls club to attending chair fitness sessions at the village hall, meeting up at Maglia Rosso for breakfast or a coffee to organising a team for our charity Christmas quiz night, helping tidy up the churchyard to offering to help with erecting the Christmas tree, these are just some of the things on offer in Hawstead to help you feel very much part of our community.

We'll be preparing the Spring issue of the Village Voice during February/March, just in time for Easter! Please send items to bookings@hawsteadvillagehall.co.uk. If you are new to the village, please make sure we have a valid email address for you so that you can be included on our regular email updates and the distribution list for the Village Voice.

Winter/Spring diary dates

Weekly at the village hall...

Tuesdays 7.30-9.30pm - Hawstead Carpet Bowls Club

Contact Rosemary/Michael Harrison - mharrison151@btinternet.com

Wednesdays 10-11am - Gentle Chair Fitness with Caroline

Contact Caroline Jack on caroijack@gmail.com or 07528 927572

<http://www.gentlefitnessbse.co.uk>

Wednesdays 7.30-8.30pm - Midweek Yoga Reset with Sarah (starting soon)

Contact Sarah on YourYogaSarah@gmail.com or 07889 917022

Thursdays 9.30-11am - Gentle Wake Up & Stretch Yoga with Sarah

Contact Sarah on YourYogaSarah@gmail.com or 07889 917022

Thursdays 7-8pm - Fitness with Michelle

Contact Michelle Bell on 07795 263836 or Chellb@live.com

Every fourth Tuesday (see dates on village hall noticeboard) 1.40-1.55pm

Suffolk Library van visit

Friday 14 November 6.45-10pm - Clive's It's Nearly Christmas Quiz Night

in aid of St Nicholas Hospice - book through treasurer@hawsteadvillagehall.co.uk

Monday 17 November 6.30pm - HCC Meeting – all welcome

Friday 29 November 6-8pm - Advent service and Christmas tree lighting – all welcome at the village hall

Friday 12 December - Triple-20s Christmas Lunch (see this issue for registration details) at the village hall

Monday 19 January 6.30pm - HCC Meeting – all welcome

Friday 23 January – Hawstead's New Year's Drinks Party at the village hall

Monday 16 March 6.30pm - HCC Meeting – all welcome

Friday 17 April – ShantyFolk Night in aid of St Nicholas Hospice at the village hall

Monday 18 May 6.30pm – HCC AGM & Meeting

Saturday 30 May – Hawstead's Spring Plant Fair at the village hall

Clive's It's Nearly Christmas Quiz Night

The lovely Clive Robinson has once again kindly agreed to don his Christmas hat, sparkly waistcoat and tinsel to lead us through our 'It's Nearly Christmas Quiz' for 2025 on the evening of Friday 14 November. Christmas jumpers and table decorations are warmly encouraged for everyone attending!

Doors open at around 6.45pm, with the verbal quiz rounds starting at 7.30pm prompt. HOWEVER please note that there will be a table quiz on the tables from 7.15pm. The score for this first round will be included in the final score. So, the later you arrive, the less time you will have to decide upon your answers for Round 1!

We'll be running a licensed bar and offering pre-ordered hot food from 7pm.

If choosing a ticket with food, please make sure you let us know whether you require the meat or vegetarian option (baked potato with meat chilli or aubergine parmigiana with Greek salad). Tickets are £7 for no food and £12 including food. Tickets can be booked via

treasurer@hawsteadvillagehall.co.uk

Please drop monies in a named envelope through the village hall letterbox or send payment via BACS (Hawstead Community Council, sort code: 52-30-31, Acct No: 52675122).

Please note that numbers are limited in the hall, so places/tables are offered on a first come, first served basis. Teams of up to 8 are welcomed from within and outside the village. If you are a one, two or three and would like to join a team, let us know. We can always create a team comprising smaller groupings. Whilst this event is a village fundraiser, 50% of the ticket money (after costs have been removed) and 100% of the raffle income will be heading to St Nicholas Hospice, Clive's nominated charity.

Charitable Raffle - In terms of our raffle, we would very much welcome prize donations for the charity event. Please drop off donations with a member of your community council or bring something along on the evening. This will be a fun festive evening for everyone involved, so dig out your Christmas paraphernalia early and get your Christmas Quiz outfit sorted!



Clive's It's Nearly...
Christmas Quiz Night
Friday 14 November
Hawstead Village Hall
Doors open 6.45pm, prompt 7.30pm quiz start
★ Teams of up to 8 ★ All ages welcome ★
★ Christmas Dress to Impress ★
Optional food served from 7pm
Food must be pre-ordered
★ LICENSED BAR (cash) ★ CHARITY RAFFLE ★
Ticket prices: £7pp no food, £12pp with food

MENU
Meat Chilli with Rice or
Aubergine Parmigiana with Greek Salad

Bookings: treasurer@hawsteadvillagehall.co.uk. Please confirm whether you require food (meat/vegetarian). **Just one or two adults? Don't worry, we'll have space in a team.**

 **St Nicholas Hospice will receive 50% of the non-food ticket price and 100% of raffle proceeds.**

Hawstead's Christmas Lunch... come along!

Our annual festive lunch is in the Christmas diary for Friday 12 December. All are welcome to join us, with residents aged 60-plus getting it for free! So long as we have space, we can also welcome past villagers or friends of residents too at a charge of £30 per head.

It's nearly that special time of year again when we rummage around in the village hall loft for the



Christmas tree, baubles and tinsel to decorate our lovely village hall in readiness for the yuletide festivities. On Friday 12 December it's our very special Christmas lunch for residents. Those aged 60-plus are not charged for the event, while any non-villagers or friends of villagers can attend subject to space at a cost of £30 per head.

This year we are welcoming a new caterer, Denise (Andrea decided to retire from the pressure of Christmas lunches last year). The format will remain broadly as before, with a welcoming drink followed by a three-course meal and coffee.

The lunch is organised and funded by Hawstead Community Council. The aim is for everyone to enjoy a meal together in the spirit of community and friendship.

Remember, we can also cater for Meals on Wheels if there are any residents unable to make it down to the village hall. Just let us know!

Friends from outside the village are very welcome, but we do then ask for a contribution to cover the cost of the lunch (£30).

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

To book your Christmas Lunch place please...

RSVP to treasurer@hawsteadvillagehall.co.uk to book your space. **Please confirm whether you would like the meat or vegetarian option and also confirm your dessert choice.**



Christmas Elves in Hawstead

The Christmas elves will be out in force once again between Christmas and New Year, delivering small gifts to our youngest residents aged 12 and under. If you would like to request a visit, please email treasurer@hawsteadvillagehall.co.uk with the names/ages of the children and an address.



New Year's Drinks Party 2026!

New Year's drinks and nibbles will be on offer at Hawstead Village Hall on Friday 23 January from 6 until 8pm. All villagers are welcomed to this annual event, which is fully funded by Hawstead Community Council.

Bookings will be taken in the New Year.



Invitation to our Spring Shantymen Shindig

Join us for an evening of sea shanties led by local Suffolk band ShantyFolk. The bar will be open, and song sheets are also available so that everyone can join in the singing!

We'll offer a cash bar for the evening, plus a charity raffle, with all raffle proceeds going towards St Nicholas Hospice. Tickets will be on sale during March/April.

ShantyFolk were last with us in October 2023 and everyone experienced a fantastic evening of music and song. Dig out your fisherman's knitted jumper or dress as a pirate to join in the fun!

Events for our youngest villagers

We'd love to support more events for our youngest residents but need some families of young children to come up with ideas and plan/run these events. Please drop us a line on bookings@hawsteadvillagehall.co.uk if you would like to talk to the Community Council about your ideas.

A poster for the ShantyFolk event. It features a painting of a three-masted sailing ship on a choppy sea under a sunset sky. The text on the poster is as follows:

ShantyFolk
at Hawstead Village Hall

Hawstead Community Council invites
you to an evening Shindig with
ShantyFolk on Friday 17 April
Doors open 7pm

Sea Shanties Live • BYO food •
Licensed bar • Charity raffle

Tickets in advance £7 (cash or BACS)
Cash on the door £8

Order tickets through treasurer@hawsteadvillagehall.co.uk
or post your order through the village hall letterbox
before 14 April. Numbers limited, so please book early.
Charity raffle proceeds to St Nicholas Hospice

A note from the Church Team...

All are welcome to the following services.

Remembrance Service (shared with Nowton)



Sunday 9 November 10.45am at All Saints, Hawstead

To remember those who gave their lives in the Wars from both Villages

The names of those who lost their lives from Hawstead and Nowton during the two World Wars will be read out. Please come and join us to honour these men.

With our Love and Prayers...

The Church Team



Countdown to Christmas and Advent Service

Hawstead Village Hall from 6pm, Saturday 29 November

To coincide with the turning on of the Village Tree Lights and followed by mince pies and mulled wine

Advent marks the beginning of the Christian year. It falls at the darkest time of the year and is a time of reflection, expectation, preparation and the renewal of hope as Christians worldwide prepare to celebrate the coming of God as Man, the birth of Jesus. A Light for the World.

All villagers are invited to celebrate the start of Advent at a service in Hawstead Village Hall on Saturday 29 November starting at 6pm. We will gather together as a community to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas and to light the village Christmas trees as beacons of hope for the coming year.

The Service will be followed by refreshments. Everyone is very welcome. And *wear your Christmas jumper!*



Advent and Christmas services in the Benefice

All are welcome to attend any of the Benefice services... just wrap up warm!

Sunday 7 December

(Second Sunday of Advent)

9.30am St Mary's, Westley – All Age Worship

11am St Leonard's, Horringer – Christingle Service

11am St Peter's, Nowton – Morning Worship

11am St Petronilla's, Whepstead – Eucharist

Sunday 14 December (Third Sunday of Advent)

8am St Petronilla's, Whepstead – Eucharist

11am St Leonard's, Horringer – Eucharist

11am All Saints, Hawstead – Morning Worship

3.30pm St Andrew's, Brockley – Joint Carol Service at the Baptist Chapel

Wednesday 17 December

7pm St Petronilla's, Whepstead – Carol service

Sunday 21 December

(Fourth Sunday of Advent)

9.30am St Mary's, Westley – Eucharist

11am St Leonard's, Horringer – Carol Service

11am St Petronilla's, Whepstead – Matins

6.30pm St Peter's, Nowton – Joint Carol Service

Wednesday 24 December (Christmas Eve)

3.30pm St Andrew's, Brockley – Crib Service

5pm St Leonard's, Horringer – Crib Service

6.30pm St Mary's, Westley – Crib Service

11.30pm St Petronilla's, Whepstead – Eucharist

Thursday 25 December (Christmas Day)

9.30am St Mary's, Westley – Eucharist

10.30am St Andrew's, Brockley – Eucharist

11am St Leonard's, Horringer – Eucharist

11am St Peter's, Nowton – Eucharist

Sunday 28 December

(First Sunday of Christmas)

9.30am St Petronilla's, Whepstead – Eucharist

11am St Leonard's, Horringer – Eucharist

11am All Saints, Hawstead – Eucharist

Church service pattern for Hawstead

The service pattern at All Saints, Hawstead is:

- 2nd Sunday of the month, Morning Prayer at 11am
- 4th Sunday of the month, Eucharist at 11am

On the 1st and 3rd Sundays, services will be held at Nowton at 11am.

Dates and times of all Benefice Services are on the noticeboard at Church.



All Saints Church 100 Club

The final draw for 2024/25 will take place on 23 November at All Saints, Hawstead, following the morning service. Please join us for the service or for coffee/tea at approximately 12pm.

A BIG THANK YOU to our 100 Club supporters this year. The churches desperately need funds, and this is a fun way to support them.

If you won a prize draw this year, then 'Congratulations'! If not, then maybe you'll be luckier next year!

We will be offering 100 Club membership renewal in the coming weeks, and Lesley (386132) will be contacting current members personally. The cost is £24 per ticket for the year. We have twice yearly prizes of 2 x £250 and ten monthly draws each with two £20 prizes. We hope that you will support us again this year.

If all the tickets are sold, then the first draw for 2025/26 will take place at the Joint Carol Service held at Nowton Church on Sunday 21 December at 6.30pm. The service will be followed by mulled wine and mince pies. The winning tickets at this first draw will be two prizes of £250. Of course, everyone is very welcome to attend.

Winning tickets this year so far have been:

78 Valarie Cornish, 88 Susan Coulthard, 14 Neil Ryder, 64 Jean Hayhoe, 6 Dave Carter, 47 Sally Tolhurst, 60 Bill Crockford, 28 Susanne White, 56 Adrienne Linfield Cooper, 96 Rosie Donald, 71 Jackie Brown, 84 Graham Chapman, 33 Lesley Carey, 100 Sheila Chapman, 34 Rebecca Harrison, 38 Judy Heaton, 28 Norman Gibb, 56 Adrienne Linfield Cooper, 32 Catherine Peck, 39 Andy Parrett, 43 A Barnard, 88 Susan Coulthard.

You must be in it to win it!

The Church Team

Suffolk Historic Churches Trust Cycle Ride

The annual Suffolk Historic Churches Trust Cycle Ride was held again this year on Saturday 13 September. Although All Saints Church is opened every year for visiting cyclists and walkers to sign in, we don't normally have any participants entering in support of Hawstead. However, this year was different. Our new vicar, Rev Anita Rooney, got on her bike and cycled around all six of the Benefice churches, plus ten others! Her wonderful efforts resulted in sponsorship totalling £402, which means that half that amount goes to the much-needed funds of our own church and the other half to the Trust. The total raised for the Benefice as a whole is not yet known.

The funds raised for the Trust make a massive contribution to the preservation and future of the churches and chapels of Suffolk. Perhaps Anita's efforts will inspire others next year?

Mike Harrison, Local Organiser

100 CLUB



'Welcome Advent' course

Horringer Benefice is excited to be extending an invitation to everyone to come along and take part in a transformative journey with the Church community through the *Everybody Welcome* course... a practical and inspiring programme designed to help build a more welcoming church for all. Rev Anita Rooney tells us more...



Whether you have been part of the congregation for years or are just beginning to explore your faith, this course offers something valuable for everyone. Developed by Bob Jackson and George Fisher and published by Church House Publishing, *Everybody Welcome* helps churches to reflect on how to greet newcomers, build lasting relationships and create a space where everyone feels truly at home.

Course details

Start date: Wednesday 19 November

Time: 10am for 10.30am to 12.15pm

Venue: Brockley Village Hall

Duration: four Wednesdays – 19, 26 November; 3, 10 December

Materials provided: course booklet (kindly donated)

Each session will include practical insights, group discussions and opportunities to reflect on how we can grow together as a welcoming church family. We believe that welcoming is a ministry for every member – and your presence will make a real difference.

Visit your local church to sign up. If you have any questions or require assistance, please contact a member of your church community.

Caring for our Churchyard

Our village churchyard is maintained by a group of volunteer villagers. From around March, Andy Parrett has been scheduling monthly Saturday morning tidy ups focusing on grass cutting, strimming, hedge trimming and bramble clearing. Here's Andy's final report for 2025...

On Saturday 1 November half a dozen villagers rallied to the call for volunteers to help tidy the churchyard for hopefully the last time in 2025. In fine autumnal weather, we set to with mowers, strimmers and loppers, and by midday the whole churchyard was done!



It was one of the best and most productive tidy-up mornings, and was topped off by getting a bonfire going. We had several very large mounds of hedge trimmings that had been left for quite a while, but that meant, of course, that they were very dry. Helped by a strong westerly wind, the whole lot was soon reduced to ashes! Thanks to all who helped out.



Andy Parrett

Andy will be advertising churchyard tidy up dates for 2026 in the New Year. All villagers are warmly invited to come along and help. As well as great company, there's usually a hot drink and biscuits!



Hawstead Community Orchard

If you've recently moved into Hawstead you may be unaware that in the Millennium Field, next to the churchyard extension, there is a small orchard, the inspiration for which came from seeing one in Grange-Over-Sands, just south of the Lake District. It was approved and supported by the Parish Council, and in early 2021, a little before COVID lockdown, a group of volunteers helped plant two-dozen bare-rooted saplings towards the northern end of the Millennium Field.

The orchard comprises apples (eaters, cookers and two for cider), pears, plums, gages and damsons. There's also a crab apple which was planted to be part of the hedge between the field and the churchyard extension. All are described as being on 'semi-dwarfing' rootstocks – though to look at some of them now, particularly the stone fruit examples, you might wonder about the definition of 'semi-dwarfing'!

Because of where we planted the crab apple, there was a space available for another tree. Together with the failure of one of the pears to survive and grow, a further two purchases were made in 2023, one of which was the apple 'Lady Henniker'. This is a Suffolk variety, named for the Henniker family of Thornham in central Suffolk. It was bred by the head gardener at Thornham in the 19th century, and joins six other apple varieties within our collection which are native to Suffolk.



**HAWSTEAD
COMMUNITY
ORCHARD**

Incidentally, the type of plum called 'gage' is also local to us, in that its name derives from Thomas Gage of Hengrave Hall (18th century). It's a bit of an imposter, however, as the original 'greengage' came in a shipment of fruit from France, but Hengrave's gardener apparently forgot the name and so gave it his boss's name!

I have been down to the orchard recently and have put in a new stake for one of the trees that was leaning over badly. See the photo, which also shows some new protective mesh. It's from some material that I have at home, of which there is insufficient quantity to update the protection of all the trees. This ought to be done, however, as the original chicken wire (kindly put around all the trees by James Carr) is now really too tight around these growing plants. There's other work to be done too, especially some winter pruning (but not the stone fruit trees because of the dreaded silver leaf disease caused by a fungus that will enter the tree via cuts to branches, especially in wintertime).

Andy Parrett



Bowling into 2026

**Do you fancy a friendly weekly meet up with fellow villagers?
Why not join the jolly members of Hawstead Bowls Club?
They offer a great night out to chat informally about anything
and everything, while also practising indoor bowls. The
evening even includes a hot drink and biscuit! The club meets
every Tuesday evening from around 7.30pm.**



A note from Michael...

Hawstead Bowls Club has been going since 1991 and the emphasis is on having fun. We normally play for about 50 minutes, then have a break for tea and biscuits, and then have another bowls session until about 9.30pm. Occasionally we play a friendly match against Lavenham or Foxearth. Annually we enjoy an afternoon tea and knockout competition, usually on a Sunday. We would welcome some new members. No previous experience is necessary, and all equipment is provided on site. It is only £2 per evening, so why not give it a try? We would love to see you.

Hawstead Bowls Club meets weekly on a Tuesday evening from 7.30pm at Hawstead Village Hall. It's the longest-running social club in the village and welcomes residents of all ages and abilities. Absolutely no previous experience is required, and club equipment can be used, or bring your own. Just come along one evening, meet some friendly residents and give it a go!

New compiler needed for the Village Voice

Can you send out emails to remind contributors of upcoming deadlines? Can you lay out content attractively in Word or similar? Can you handle photographs and write content yourself to fill any gaps? If so, and you would like to help villagers stay up to date with what's happening in the village and further afield, please get in touch through bookings@hawsteadvillagehall.co.uk



WANTED: Play area weeding volunteer

Interested in a small regular task March–October to help out your village? We'd like to delegate the task to a village volunteer. Please give it some thought.

Between around March and October our play area needs a watchful eye kept on it to ensure that no weeds start taking hold in the bark and around the edges. If you feel you could check it for us a couple of times a month and pull up the odd weed, maybe while walking the dog or supervising children, please do get in touch. There's a brown waste bin at the back of the village hall, so weeds are easily composted. Contact bookings@hawsteadvillagehall.co.uk for more details or to offer your time.



A space on your Community Council

We have one space available on Hawstead Community Council for a proactive villager who is interested in getting more involved with community events. It's a great way to get to know the village and to meet lots of villagers. Whatever your skill set, enthusiasm is key. So come along to one of our bimonthly meetings (dates in this issue) or chat with a current member of Hawstead Community Council.

Our current Chair is John Shipley, and he can be contacted on ajsrowans@gmail.com or 07721 198679. Other members are Joe Sheehan, Amanda Lomas-Farley, Susanne White, Louisa Jackson, Nick Lowe, Bob Brough and Ali Bovill. Do get in touch!

Hawstead's Oil Group

Would you like to benefit from the group discount negotiated for the bulk oil delivery for Hawstead? Here's how...

All are welcome to join the Oil Buying Group. It really is the easiest way to get your domestic heating oil. About once a month, less often over the summer, Michael gets a current price estimate from Framtrade at Framlingham. The Group has been buying oil through them for more than 13 years. Everyone in the Oil Buying Group is emailed and if oil is required then they place individual orders through Michael (let him know the quantity needed). The order is then placed, and Framtrade seeks the best price on the day. Delivery then comes through any of a number of suppliers, normally within a week... and occasionally within 24 hours!

After delivery, Framtrade sends individual invoices for settlement, so nothing is paid upfront. Villagers effectively get 1 month of interest-free oil! The biggest benefit of the scheme is that everyone pays the same price regardless of the volume delivered. So even if you order a smaller quantity (the minimum is 500 litres), you still benefit from a bulk discount.

Please contact Mike Harrison on 01284 386157 or mharrison151@btinternet.com for further details or to add yourself to Hawstead's Oil Group.

Yoga classes with Sarah

Hawstead Village Hall hosts a number of weekly fitness classes, including yoga with the lovely Sarah Purves. Sarah's wonderfully calm and friendly manner means that her classes are very accessible and welcoming. Poses can be adapted to suit ability and flexibility. Whatever your age or fitness level, come and give it a try. All are welcome!

Sarah's **Thursday morning yoga class** is based around Hatha Yoga, which incorporates held poses and stretches combined with breathing techniques to improve the balance between mind and body. The class is different each week, sometimes including a yoga flow or a few held balances (you can use the wall or a chair if required!). The class starts at 9.30am prompt and finishes at 11am with a relaxing Savasana (lying on your back, arms and legs relaxed, eyes closed).



Sarah is also starting a **Wednesday evening yoga flow class** once sufficient interest has been shown, offering a midweek reset. Although open to all experience levels, it will provide options for slightly more challenging poses and routines so that more experienced practitioners will feel the benefit too.

If you are interested in either class, please contact Sarah direct on YourYogaSarah@gmail.com or 07889 917022.

YOUR YOGA

YOGA CLASSES FOR YOU,
HERE, IN YOUR COMMUNITY:
ALL ARE WELCOME!

Wednesdays *NEW CLASS*
7:30-8:30pm 'Mid-week reset'

Thursdays
9:30-11am 'Gentle wake up
& stretch'

HAWSTEAD VILLAGE HALL
THE GREEN
IP29 5NP

CONTACT SARAH:
YOURYOGASARAH@GMAIL.COM
07889917022