

VILLAGE VOICE

Autumn
Edition
2024



Clive's It's Nearly...

 **Christmas Quiz Night**

Friday 15 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: £5pp no food, £11pp with food

MENU

Baked Potato with Meat Chilli or Aubergine
Parmigiana plus baked beans, cheese and bread

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.**

 Macmillan Cancer Support will receive 50% of the non-food ticket price and 100% of raffle proceeds.

INSIDE

THE LAST EDITION OF 2024

 Read reports of recent events and check out future dates for social opportunities over Christmas and into 2025 – all inside this Autumn Edition of our Village Voice

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 2024 on the evening of Friday 15 November. Christmas Jumpers and table decorations are warmly encouraged for everyone attending. Doors open around 6.45pm, with the quiz starting at 7.30pm prompt. 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). Tickets are £5 for no food and £11 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. Three tables booked already! 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 compromising 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 Macmillan Cancer Support, Clive's nominated charity. **Charitable Raffle** - In terms of 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!

Hawstead Community Council

UPDATE: As of 2 November we have six confirmed tables and two 'likelies'. So if you would like to join us, please let us know quickly!



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Next Hawstead Community Council Committee Meeting

Hawstead Community Council will be holding its next committee meeting on Monday 11 November at 6.30pm at the village hall. If you would like to find out more about the Council, be it becoming a member or wanting to know more about how the Committee works to raise funds to support the community, you are most welcome to attend.

Mobile Library at Hawstead Village Hall

We are very excited to be welcoming the mobile library to the village hall once a month 1.40–1.55pm every fourth Tuesday. Remaining dates for 2024 are:

- **Tuesday 19 November**
- **Tuesday 17 December**

We'll also be offering free tea/coffee for villagers at the village hall from 1.15pm for around an hour on these dates, so do pop along, have a drink and select a library book!



If there are any young families in the village who would like to use the hall at this time for a monthly meeting and storytime, please do get in touch. Or perhaps you fancy starting up a book club and meeting monthly at this time? If so, get in touch with Hawstead Community Council.

Countdown to Christmas

On **Sunday 1 December** we'll be gathering at Hawstead Village Hall to celebrate the start of the Countdown to Christmas. As well as sipping hot mulled wine and testing out the first of the Season's mince pies and sausage rolls, we'll be switching on the Christmas lights on the trees both inside the hall and on the village green. Do please come along and join us for a relaxed evening of pre-Christmas nibbles and informal conversation.

Please confirm your attendance by emailing treasurer@hawsteadvillagehall.co.uk so that we can assess numbers for catering.



Hawstead's 'Triple-20s' Christmas Lunch

All villagers aged 60+ are invited to attend our complimentary Festive Lunch on Friday 6 December at Hawstead Village Hall. Doors open at 12.30pm for pre-drinks, with lunch being served from 1pm. Non-villagers are welcome to attend subject to space but will be asked to buy a ticket at £25 per head to cover the food/drink costs. There will be both a meat and vegetarian menu, so please ensure that you confirm dietary requirements on booking. Volunteer elves will be able to deliver meals to any villager unable to attend due to health/mobility issues. Please book yourself in as usual but confirm the Meals on Wheels option.



Hawstead's New Year's Drinks Party

Once again this year we are offering our festive village drinks party in the New Year. Everyone seems to be so busy in December. So, on **Friday 10 January** the hall will be open for post-festive drinks from **6pm until 8pm**. Do mark the date in your 2025 diary and join us for drinks, nibbles and conversation. We'll ask for bookings nearer the time so that we can better manage food and drink.

Hawstead Spring Plant Fair 2025 – Your Help is Needed!

With the seasons changing and a Spring Plant Fair planned next May, we definitely need to start looking forward to the spring. Our Spring Plant Fair is scheduled for **Saturday 31 May 2025**, so please put the date in your diary. Ali Bovill will be leading the event alongside other villagers, and she can be contacted on **07818 416944** or **alibovill1967@gmail.com**.



At this time of year, we are keen for all our village gardeners to bear in mind the upcoming plant fair while tidying up their gardens in preparation for the winter. Please consider dividing plants/bulbs which have become too big for their boots or taking cuttings of plants for overwintering and developing during the early spring. We are eager to maintain the variety of plants on offer at the Spring Plant Fair and to involve as many village gardeners as possible in raising seedlings and caring for overwintering plants.

Please can you let Ali know how you can help, whether as a supplier/carer of seedlings/plants or as one of the key event organisers? Nearer the time, we'll require additional assistance with catering, but more about that next March/April).

Many thanks in advance for all your support with this event. The Plant Fair has been a very sociable and successful day for the village over the past few years, and we hope to rekindle that spirit in 2025.

Hawstead's Play Area - Update

Please be aware that should there be any periods of significant rain and as a result flooding occurs in the playground area, we have been advised by the local authority that we will be required to lock the gates and close the play area until flooding subsides. This is unfortunate but is beyond our control... it's a health and safety requirement due to the additional risks associated with standing water posed to children. If you find the play area flooded but not locked, please contact a member of your community council immediately.

Hawstead Community Council has engaged with professional engineers and liaised with the parish council in search of a solution to the winter flooding. We can assure you that we continue to work towards an agreed and affordable solution.

We are hoping to start general works on the play area as soon as ground conditions permit. As a minimum, we hope to address some rotting in the play equipment, install new wider access gates and deal with the playbark surface. Finances and space permitting, we may even be able to add some new equipment. If so, we'll be in touch with the village children to see what they'd like!

HAWSTEAD'S SPRING PLANT FAIR

SAT 31 MAY 2025



CALL FOR CUTTINGS, PLANTS AND SEEDLINGS - NATIVE OR RARE PLANTS

Here's early notice of our Spring 2025 Plant Fair coming to the village hall and green on Saturday 31 May 2025. It may be more than 6 months away, but now's the ideal time to divide plants and take cuttings to give them the winter and next spring to get well established. If you find yourself in your garden tidying up and are happy to help by potting up some plants or taking cuttings, please do! Ali Bovill is taking the lead on next year's Plant Fair, so please contact Ali (07818 416944 or alibovill1967@gmail.com) and let her know your plans.
Thank you Green-fingered Gardeners of Hawstead!





EVENTS ROUND UP

Hawstead's Fun Day

We had beautiful weather for our new-format Fun Day on Sunday 1 September 2024, and lots of visitors too! HUGE THANKS to everyone who rallied around to prepare for the day, run the stalls and tidy up afterwards, as well as all those who donated items and came along to enjoy the afternoon. A new feature was the Live Music on the Green, which extended into early evening and was a lovely way to relax and enjoy the early autumn sunshine. Our thanks to our resident musician Nik Lowe and the local Home Cooked Blues Band who entertained us from 4pm onwards.

Anthony Holliday (see picture) was our Men's Star Baker for 2024 (receiving a Star Baker apron and rosette), with Judy Carter producing some cracking fruit scones to take the winning rosette for the ladies. Our children's rocky road traybake was won by Anthony's grandchildren, Florence

(5) and Rafe (3). Clearly there's something in the Holliday genes! Beth from Maglia Rosso was our judge... huge thanks to Beth for giving us her time. She even remarked that she would welcome many of the entries into her cafe to sell!

We would really welcome constructive feedback so that we can make the day even more special next year. Please do send back your comments. We can report that we made around £1300 profit, which will be ploughed back into the village hall and future events.

MAGLIA ROSSO AND HAWSTEAD FUN DAY 2024

In 2024, Maglia Rosso's Beth Ryan kindly offered to nominate the competition cakes for Hawstead's Fun Day Bake Off classes. The men were challenged with a Caramel Cake, the ladies with Fruit Scones and the children with Rocky Road. The recipes were purposely vague to encourage the participants to research the bake and innovate.



Competition was particularly hot within the Men's Cake category, with seven bakes jostling for the winner's rosette and Bake Off Apron. First prizewinners for each category were:

- Men's cake - Anthony Holliday
- Ladies' Bake - Judy Carter
- Children's Bake - Florence and Rafe Berry (ages 3 and 5!)



Beth focused on judging and rating the texture and taste for each bake, and was really impressed with the baking talent in Hawstead. Many of the bakes she would welcome into Maglia Rosso's lovely cafe!

Thanks to Beth and Maglia Rosso for supporting Hawstead's Fun Day 2024!



Macmillan Coffee Morning

The Macmillan Coffee morning has been a key date in Hawstead's calendar for many years and has raised thousands of pounds for this extremely important charity which provides a tremendous amount of support for those diagnosed with cancer and their carers and families. This year Adrienne and her team of willing volunteers (Becca and Jayne) hosted the coffee morning at Hawstead Village Hall (kindly donated by Hawstead Community Council) on Friday 27 September. Cakes were made and donated for sale, coffee was served and a raffle was held which included as one of the great prizes a meal for two at The Swan in Lawshall. The village hall was wonderfully decorated, and there was great feedback. 'Macmillan Coffee Morning was a bit special! Well done!' and 'what a fabulous coffee morning, well done to everyone for making it so special' and 'looked amazing, well done everyone'. Adrienne shared the following:



Thank you to everyone for helping us raise £933.10! Special thanks to The Swan at Lawshall, Harriets Café Tearooms, Vino Gusto, Maglia Rosso and Rosemary Carr for raffle donations; to our parish council and the bowls club for their generous donations; to all our jam and cake makers and to the volunteers on the day. Thank you for your big-hearted support... we couldn't have done it without you!

Churchyard Tidy Ups

Special thanks to Andy Parrett and his team of willing volunteer mowers, weeders and strimmer-ers who completed the penultimate Hawstead Churchyard Tidy Up of 2024 on Saturday 5 October. It's a great opportunity to spend time in the beautiful grounds, get some fresh air in great company and feel part of the community in maintaining our beautiful heritage asset. Plus there's always tea/coffee and biscuits/cake on offer.

The tidy ups are typically held monthly on a Saturday morning and for an hour or two (please bring along any hand or motorised kit you may have), usually running from 10am onwards. The main jobs generally include cutting, strimming and keeping the weeds under control. There is a roped off area at the rear of the church where the aim is to encourage wildflowers, and this is maintained under the guidance of Suffolk Wildlife Trust who suggest this should only be cut a couple of times a year. There is hope for more swifts to nest in the Swift Hotel in the church tower. Please keep a look out for future 2025 tidy up dates.

HEALTH, WELLBEING & SPORTS CLUBS

As a reminder, the following are **open to all Villagers** and are run at Hawstead Village Hall

Yoga with Amber – Every Tuesday from 6pm (currently not available)

Bowls club – Every Tuesday from 7.30pm

Fitness with Michelle – Every Thursday from 7pm

Wake Up & Stretch Yoga with Chloe – Every Thursday 9.30-11am. Offering a relaxed-paced introduction to the basic poses for beginners and an opportunity for established students to finesse their style. To book a place email chloerae345@gmail.com

Contact info for the other classes is on our website... <https://www.hawsteadvillagehall.co.uk/events>

Hawstead Castways

Twenty-odd years ago, the Hawstead Journal (the forerunner of today's Village Voice) regularly featured a villager's top-10 music choices for a bit of fun. For this Autumn Edition, John West has stepped forward to kick off this fun section with his top-10. So why not put on John's list for some lovely listening...

1. Harvest Moon by Neil Young
2. Can't take my eyes off you by Franki Valli
3. What have done to deserve this by The Pet Shop Boys featuring Dusty Springfield
4. Requiem Pie Jesu by Julian Lloyd Webber
5. Common People by Pulp
6. Your Song by Elton John
7. Don't worry baby by The Beach Boys
8. You Win Again by the Bee Gees
9. Blue Bayou by Roy Orbison
10. I'll see you in my dreams by Joe Brown

Thank you John for sharing this. If anyone else would like to contribute their top-10 for the next edition of the Village Voice, please let me know by emailing hawsteadvoice@gmail.com.



CHURCH NEWS

Church 100 Club

The 100 Club draw in November is the last for 2024. There is hope that current members of the 100 Club will renew their membership, but new members will be most welcome too. The first draw (if we sell the tickets) will be held at the Carol Concert in the Church on Sunday 22 December at 6.30pm. There will be two prizes of £250 each, a nice Christmas present!

A new priest for the Benefice

At the end of September the Bishop appointed a new priest in charge of our Benefice. The Rev Anita Rooney will take up the post in mid-January. We all wish her well in this her first parish.

Church services

We continue to share services with Nowton. Nowton hosts on the first and third Sundays, with Hawstead on the second and forth Sundays of each month. Services are normally held at 11.00am.

On Sunday 10 November there will be a Remembrance Service at All Saints Church, Hawstead. Time 10.45am. The names of the fallen men from Nowton and Hawstead will be read out. These very special people gave their lives for our today.

On Sunday 22 December there will be a Communion Service at All Saints, Hawstead at 11.00am led by Adrian Holdstock. In the evening of 22 December will be our Carol service of 9



Lessons and Carols, again at All Saints, Hawstead. It will take place at 6.30pm, followed by mulled wine and mince pies. Please come and join us.

There will be NO SERVICES over the Christmas period at All Saints, Hawstead, BUT there are services within the Benefice.

24 December - Christmas Eve

15.30 Crib Service at Brockley St Andrews

17.00 Crib Service at Horringer St Leonard

Midnight Mass – Christmas Eve

23.30 Eucharist led by Adrian Holdstock, Whepstead St Petronilla

25 December - Christmas Day

9.30 Eucharist at Brockley St Andrew

11.00 Eucharist at Horringer St Leonard

Sunday 29 December

10.00 Benefice Service at Nowton St Peter, Eucharist, led by Rev Mark Hunt

The Church Team would like to thank everyone who has helped with flowers, cleaning, churchyard tidying, fundraising, etc., during the last year. Hopefully we will see you over the Christmas period.

We will be decorating the Church for the Carol Service on 20 December from 10.00am. Please come and help or pop in for a coffee. We wish you all the very best for 2025.

Lesley Carey

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Parish Council: vacancy

On behalf of the village, the Parish Council would like to thank Penny Barham for her unstinting contribution to the Parish Council and her unfailing optimism and good sense. Following her resignation for family reasons, we now have a vacancy. As required by law, this has been advertised on the website and noticeboard, stating that any six residents of the parish may call for an election. As no application for this was received, we are now in a position where we can co-opt someone.

If you would like to put your knowledge, skills and interests to the service of the village, we would love to hear from you. Alternatively, if you know someone who you think would do a good job, let us know and perhaps together we can persuade them to put their name forward. The only stipulation is that they live or work in the parish and are over 18.

Our job as a Parish Council is to: ensure that village amenities are well cared for; be aware of national and regional decisions that may affect the village; and represent village interests in matters like planning. We have a schedule of meetings every 2 months, with the occasional additional meeting for urgent planning matters. We are exceptionally well supported by our very experienced parish clerk, Catherine Hibbert. See <http://hawstead-pc.gov.uk>.

For further information, or to discuss this in person, please contact Ros Alexander by email on ros.alexander@hawstead-parish-council.co.uk, or by text/phone message 07825 831541. Ros and the whole parish council would be delighted to hear from you – ideally by Tuesday 19 November.

Footpath representative

The Parish Council is looking for a local volunteer who might be able to walk the footpaths in the village regularly and flag any issues to the Council in order to make sure the Council is aware of problems with overgrowth/obstruction/missing waymarkers, etc. The Council meets every 2 months, and ideally we would welcome a brief report before each meeting. This could be a simple phone call/text/email to say 'no problem', or brief details of any problems. This role would suit a dogwalker or keen walker who enjoys using the local footpath network regularly. If you think you might be able to help keep an eye on some/all of the footpaths in the village, the Parish Council would be delighted to hear from you. Please contact clerk@hawstead-pc.gov.uk

Pinford End Phone Kiosk Book Exchange

The Parish Council is pleased to maintain a defibrillator in the telephone kiosk at Pinford End. Fortunately it has not yet had to be used, but it is important that the equipment remains accessible in an emergency.

The phone kiosk is also used informally as a book exchange where residents can swap novels. While this is a great idea in principle, unfortunately the kiosk is now home to more paperbacks than it can handle!

Easy access to the defibrillator itself is essential. So we need some feedback on whether the kiosk is being used and enjoyed by residents as an active book exchange or is it simply being used as a location to drop unwanted books? If you are a resident who uses the kiosk as a book exchange and thinks it is a valuable asset for the village, it would be good to hear from you.

If it is a valuable village asset, would you be interested in helping keep the kiosk in good order by controlling the number of books, removing old stock and ensuring good access to the defibrillator? Please do get in touch to let us know if you value the use of the kiosk as a book exchange and want it kept in use. Contact clerk@hawstead-pc.gov.uk with your thoughts.

In the meantime, the Parish Council appeals to all residents to use the book exchange responsibly and to refrain from depositing additional books when there is insufficient room.



LOCAL BUSINESS NEWS

Great War Huts – Huttred Histories

We are extremely lucky to have within Hawstead the Great War Huts. Throughout the year there are regular events and special talks. In October, Tim Godden (Designing Memory – Understanding British War Cemeteries on the old Western Front) attended and discussed why so many tiny cemeteries are dotted around in hard-to-reach places. For more information and future events please visit www.greatwarhuts.org

Maglia Rosso

We are so fortunate to have within the village a lovely café with a great choice of light refreshments and drinks. The café team are always working hard to offer villagers an exciting range of opportunities for social interaction. From quizzes to the lightning talks, debates to car shows, Maglia Rosso has something to offer at least monthly.

The poster below shows the current offerings to April 2025.



AUTUMN WINTER EVENING EVENTS 2024/5

Friday Nov 29 GOAT DEBATE

*Who is or was the Greatest Cyclist of All Time?
Volunteers wanted to state the case for their nomination*

Friday Dec 20 LIGHTNING TALKS

Five minute talks on any subject under the Sun, plus Xmas Mes!

Friday Jan 31 TEAM QUIZ

Nothing too hard, always good fun, food available

Friday Feb 28 GUEST SPEAKER

Subject and speaker to be announced

Friday Mar 28 TEAM QUIZ

Another of our popular quizzes, cash prize, food available

**Doors open at 6.30 for 7pm start. Ring us on 01284 386884
to book your place ~ but you can just arrive**

HAWSTEAD COMMUNITY COUNCIL 2024/25

Save the Date

Tuesday 22 October 1.15-2.15pm
Mobile Library Visit plus Coffee Afternoon
at Hawstead Village Hall

Saturday 2 November 4-6pm
Village Children's Halloween Party at Hawstead Village Hall

Monday 11 November from 6.30pm
Community Council meeting at Hawstead Village Hall

Friday 15 November from 6.45pm
Clive's It's Nearly Christmas Quiz Night at Hawstead Village Hall

Tuesday 19 November 1.15-2.15pm
Mobile Library Visit plus Coffee Afternoon
at Hawstead Village Hall

Sunday 1 December 6-8pm
**Countdown to Christmas, including Switching on of the
Christmas Lights!** at Hawstead Village Hall

Friday 6 December 12.30pm
Triple-20s Christmas Lunch at Hawstead Village Hall

Tuesday 17 December 1.15-2.15pm
Mobile Library Visit plus Coffee Afternoon
at Hawstead Village Hall

Friday 10 January
Hawstead's New Year's Drinks Party at Hawstead Village Hall

Monday 13 January from 6.30pm
Community Council meeting at Hawstead Village Hall

HAWSTEAD COMMUNITY COUNCIL 2024/25

Your Village... Your Voice...

- **Sports Clubs** – Are you a member of a local club? Do you need help? Are you looking for new members?
- **Schools** – Is your child's school staging an event? Would you like to let our community know?
- **Top Tips** – We all have a diverse range of skills and knowledge. Would you like to share a top tip? It could be anything... gardening, cooking, pet care, children's activities.
- **For Sale, Freecycle, Give Away** – Are you planning on clearing your shed or garage and want to avoid putting something in the rubbish? If you have something you no longer need that you think may be of value to someone else. Why not share it here?
- **People Library** – Do you have a particular skill/area of expertise that you would be willing to share? Could you spare an hour with someone to help them develop a skill or build knowledge?
- **Local Business News** – Share your local business news with villagers. We want to support you, so let us know what you would like to share with your community.
- **Health & Wellbeing** – Have you been on a really good walk recently? Do you want to share your route or pictures? Send them into the Village Voice.
- **Upcoming Events/Diary Dates** – Let us know any events or fundraisers you would like to share to drum up support.
- **Environmental & Local News** – anything you've seen that you think that your fellow villagers should know about, did you read something important in West Suffolk Council pages you think people should know more of – tell us at the Village Voice.

DEADLINE: Spring Edition content by 18 January 2025

Email your content to: hawsteadvoice@gmail.com