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# HAWSTEAD JOURNAL

Editors: Judy & Dave Carter

## Christmas tree sawing down ceremony



"I am pleased to include this splendid photograph of the Christmas tree sawing down ceremony. The tree was kindly donated by *Graham and Rebecca* from *Oaklands Lodge*. You can see the felling team here just before the serious and highly skilled job of tree felling was started. We all made it look very easy and transported the trees in complete safety to the village hall - where we kindly erected them. It is so nice when villagers get involved for the benefit of the masses and thanks to those who gave their valueless time so magnanimously and without too much prompting.

Thanks to Pat for the use of his good self and trusty tractor and trailer, to his grandson and Rod for watching us, Steve and John for the jokes and encouraging words.

May I mention me for adding humour and health and safety advice".

*Clive Robinson.*

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## CHURCH SERVICES

### JANUARY

Sunday 27th  
11.00 Parish Eucharist in Hawstead Church

### FEBRUARY

Sunday 10th  
08.30 Said Eucharist in Hawstead Church  
Sunday 24th  
11.00 Parish Eucharist in Hawstead Church

### MARCH

Sunday 10th  
08.30 Said Eucharist in Hawstead Church

## NEW PARISH CLERK FOR HAWSTEAD

We are very pleased to announce the appointment of *Catherine Hibbert* as the new Parish Clerk to Hawstead Parish Council.

Catherine lives in Great Whelnetham with her family. As a former solicitor with particular interest in the town and country planning sector, Catherine has considerable experience to bring to Hawstead Parish Council. Catherine is also a school Governor and the Clerk to the Governing Body of a large local school.

The Chairman and Councillors very much look forward to working with Catherine in her new role.

The next Parish Council meeting will take place in the Village Hall on Thursday 21st March 2013. All villagers are very welcome to come along to the meeting.

The minutes of all Parish Council meetings are available to view on our website [www.hawsteadparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.hawsteadparishcouncil.co.uk).

If you would like to receive minutes of meetings and other village information via email please contact Henry Brewis to add your name to the distribution list.  
email [henry.brewis@thomson.co.uk](mailto:henry.brewis@thomson.co.uk)

*Jayne Robertson*



Dear Hawstead Villagers

My name is *Emma Hatton* and I will be taking over from *Sonja Monk* as Booking Clerk for **Hawstead Village Hall**.

I would like to thank Sonja for her help and support in providing a smooth hand over. I understand Sonja has carried out these duties for a number of years and knows every nook and cranny of the building so I have much to learn!

Besides being a beautiful building, it is an ideal venue to hold birthday parties, meetings, weddings etc. Hawstead villagers wanting to hire the hall can do so at a reduced rate and I have detailed the hire prices below:

**Hawstead Village Hall Hire Charges:**

January - December 2013

	Per Hour	Per Day
Village Hall Whole:		
Residents & Concessions	£ 15	£ 225
Non Residents	£ 28	£ 420
Commercial	£ 35	£ 525
Main Hall:		
Residents & Concessions	£ 10	
Non Residents	£ 15	
Commercial	£ 25	
Meeting Room:		
Residents & Concessions	£ 5	
Non Residents	£10	
Commercial	£12	

(More details are available on the website: [www.hawsteadvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.hawsteadvillagehall.co.uk))

If you would like to hire the hall please do not hesitate to contact me at:

Cooks Farm Cottage  
Lawshall Road  
Hawstead IP29 5NR  
Tel: 01284 386515  
E-mail: [e.hatton924@btinternet.com](mailto:e.hatton924@btinternet.com)

I would like to wish you all a very Happy New Year.

*Emma Hatton*  
Booking Clerk  
Hawstead Village Hall

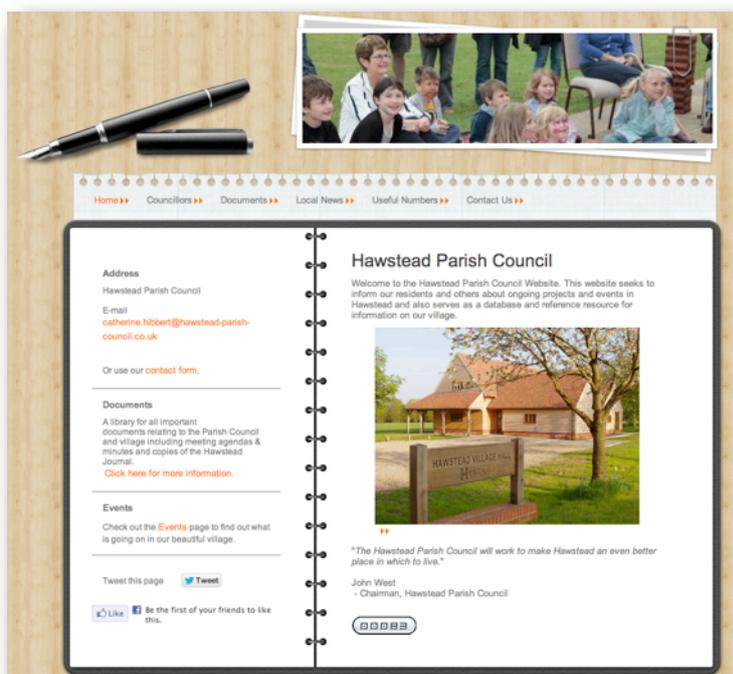
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## NEW PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE

We have a new Parish Council website at [www.hawstead-parish-council.co.uk](http://www.hawstead-parish-council.co.uk)

This is for technical reasons so that it is easier to update remotely. I hope that this will be more up to date than the previous version. (please note the slightly different address). Please have a look and let me know your thoughts. Positive and negative feedback is all good – this is the only way that we can know what you think.

Henry Brewis



## HAWSTEAD WEATHER REPORTS

It is difficult to believe that 8 months ago the country was in the grip of drought fever. The previous autumn had been the third driest in 50 years; In mid March the water table was very low with streams trickling sluggardly. As at the beginning of December, 2012 will be in the top ten wettest years since 1960 when records began at this location.

The winter of 2011/2012 was mild in the main, interrupted by a sharp cold spell between **January** 29th and **February** 13th. Some 20cm of snow fell overnight on the 4/5th, drifting on a fresh SE wind. On the 11th the temperature fell to -14c (7F); the lowest temperature recorded since 1995. Mild conditions prevailed for the next six weeks, the thermometer attaining 17.8c (64F) on February 23rd and 21.4c (70.5F) on March 28th.

**March** was dry except for 2 very wet days on the 4th and 5th, when 28mm of rain was recorded; insufficient to end the drought.

As soon as a drought was proclaimed the rains began through **April** and the first half of May. "*April is the cruellest month.*" wrote *T.S Eliot*: so true of this year. The rain and equable temperature brought a rapid emergence of spring growth which was severely cut back by a hard frost, -6c, (21.5F) on the 6th. It was indeed a difficult spring for the gardener and farmer. It was the second wettest April on record with close on 100mm. The ground was saturated at the end of the month so that when 31mm fell overnight on 2/3rd **May** there was extensive flooding. Not a few cars failed to make it through the flooded Nowton Road.

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## HAWSTEAD WEATHER REPORTS CONT..

Sun and warmth eventually arrived on May 22nd; with the thermometer reaching 26.7c (80F) on the 28th. "Rain in **June** sets things in tune", says the old adage. 92mm of rain fell, double the normal. There was much cloud and cool weather with only one brief spell of warmth at the end of the month. By this time the summer seemed out tune! Cool cloudy and damp conditions through the first 3 weeks of July, until the 22nd. There followed five warm sunny days with the thermometer reaching 29.4c (85F) on the 24th and the 25th. Rainfall for **July** was once again double the normal. **August** was warmer and drier after the first week of heavy showers. Temperatures rose above normal, briefly matching the European heatwave between the 17th - 19th, when the year's highest temperature 31.9c (89.5F) was recorded.

**September** began warm and dry with a mini heatwave between 7th - 9th when the thermometer peaked at 28.9c,(84F). However the temperature had dropped to 2.7c (36.5F) on 6th giving a ground frost and a hint of autumns' arrival. The remainder of the month was rather cool but dry; except for the 23rd and 24th when more than half the months' rainfall of 32mm fell. Low pressure dominated **Octobers'** weather; temperatures were below normal and rainfall 50% above normal. Fog failed to clear on the 22nd and 23rd. There followed a brief cold spell; the thermometer did not exceed 6c (43F) on the 27th, close to a record for October. The following night the first air frost occurred, coinciding with the clocks being put back 1 hour. These two events coincide on more occasions than mere chance would predict. **November** - poets are overly unkind about this month. The afternoons are brief but the mornings are much lighter than in January. This year sunlight on beeches, sycamores, field maples, and oaks still full of leaves, led to fleeting moments of startling beauty, the trees seemingly ablaze. High winds on the 25th stripped bare most trees bar the oaks. Temperatures were close to normal until the onset of a cold spell at the end of the month which continued into December. Rainfall, appreciably less than further west was some 15% above normal.

**December's** weather divided into two periods of great contrast. The first half cold with frequent frosts, with a light fall of snow on the 5th and a hoar frost on the 12th; the second half mild and wet with circa 75mm of rain.

### In summary

2012 in terms of average temperature was close to the long term mean average for this weather station. January, March and August were warmer than average; April, June, and October cooler than average. The first 3 months were drier than normal, receiving only 14% of total rainfall. Thereafter every month except September was wetter than normal. April, June July and December received in excess of 90mm apiece. Total rainfall of 793mm (31.2 inches) was 131% of normal, making it the 4th wettest year. The four wettest years at this station have all occurred since 2000.

*Glyn Hammond*

*(Weather station next to Hawstead Village Green)*

### *Weather news from another Hawstead Resident*

Village residents will have noticed the nation-wide concern over the very wet year of heavy rainfall throughout the U.K. Rainfall in 2012 in Hawstead was 781.35 millimetres, older residents may prefer it shown as 30.76 inches. In contrast, in the previous year, 2011, Hawstead had only 515.4 millimetres, or 20.29 inches. You were not just imagining there was a lot of rain in 2012, there really was much more rain than usual!

*Richard Blackwell*

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ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LUNCH



A big THANK YOU to Sonja and her helpers for providing a super tasty Christmas Lunch at the Village Hall on 20th December, greatly appreciated by all.

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## VALENTINES DAY



### **DID YOU KNOW?**

The history of Valentine's Day is obscure, and further clouded by various fanciful legends. The holiday's roots are in the ancient Roman festival of Lupercalia, a fertility celebration commemorated annually on February 15. Pope Gelasius I recast this pagan festival as a Christian feast day circa 496, declaring February 14 to be St. Valentine's Day.

### **Valentines Galore**

Which St. Valentine this early pope intended to honour remains a mystery: according to the *Catholic Encyclopedia*, there were at least three early Christian saints by that name. One was a priest in Rome, another a bishop in Terni, and of a third St. Valentine almost nothing is known except that he met his end in Africa. Rather astonishingly, all three Valentines were said to have been martyred on Feb. 14.

Most scholars believe that the St. Valentine of the holiday was a priest who attracted the dis-favour of Roman emperor Claudius II around 270. At this stage, the factual ends and the mythic begins. According to one legend, Claudius II had prohibited marriage for young men, claiming that bachelors made better soldiers. Valentine continued to secretly perform marriage ceremonies but was eventually apprehended by the Romans and put to death. Another legend has it that Valentine, imprisoned by Claudius, fell in love with the daughter of his jailer. Before he was executed, he allegedly sent her a letter signed "*from your Valentine.*" Probably the most plausible story surrounding St. Valentine is one not focused on Eros (passionate love) but on agape (Christian love): he was martyred for refusing to renounce his religion.

In 1969, the Catholic Church revised its liturgical calendar, removing the feast days of saints whose historical origins were questionable. **St. Valentine was one of the casualties.**

### **Tradition of Valentine's Cards**

Over the centuries, the holiday evolved, and by the 18th century, gift-giving and exchanging hand-made cards on Valentine's Day had become common in England. Hand-made valentine cards made of lace, ribbons, and featuring cupids and hearts eventually spread to the American colonies. Today, of course, the holiday has become a booming commercial success. According to the Greeting Card Association, 25% of all cards sent each year are valentines.

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## CAROL CONCERT



Fran and friend playing for the Stanningfield and District Agricultural Club Christmas Carol Concert at Jane and Anthony Holliday's barn on December 18<sup>th</sup>.

## RUTHS' BIG BIRTHDAY PARTY



*Ruth, accompanied by her daughter, Jo, celebrating her 70th birthday on a beautiful sunny January day at the Village Hall.*



The Hawstead Journal was kindly sponsored this month by James & Liz Bulbrook of 'Brook Cottage'.

If you would like to sponsor the Journal for one month, please contact Judy, details below. Thank you for your contributions this month. Our next Journal will be March 2013. Please forward anything you have by 1st March 2013.

Judy Carter - Oakhill House, Pinford End, [judy@mmgd.co.uk](mailto:judy@mmgd.co.uk)

## Henry Metcalfe



Of all the Hawstead hatchments the one commemorating **Henry Metcalfe** of Hawstead House is the most complicated. Henry (1790 – 1849) was the son of **Christopher Barton Metcalfe** (1759 – 1801) and **Sophia**, his wife. He was great-nephew and heir of **Philip Metcalfe** (1733 – 1818) who founded the Almshouses in 1811. As heir to Philip, he was the owner of the Hawstead estate between 1818 – 1849.

Henry married twice, firstly to **Frances Whish** (see HJ Sept/Oct 2012) and secondly to an as yet unidentified lady. He is buried in the family vault in the centre of the nave and neither here, nor in the monument to him on the South nave wall, is there mention of a second wife. His hatchment, however, shows arms of another family, but this has not yet been identified .

The hatchment design is significantly different from the others because he had two wives. This really is HIS hatchment: the large shield in the middle, showing the Metcalfe arms, is a full one, not split in two and the background is all black – the colour of death ie Henry's death. However, to the left and right of the main shield we can see two small inset shields, and these are both split with two sets of arms and a split black/white background. To the left, the first marriage is depicted: the Whish arms are on the right of the shield and the black background here as opposed to white on the left with the Metcalfe arms shows that it is Frances who has died. On the right, Henry's arms on the left with a black background show that he has died. He has been survived by the mysterious second wife: her arms, unidentified, (and unfortunately too small to be clearly see in the illustration above) show a forearm in gold armour, the hand clutching a black battleaxe.

There's an imposing crest on this hatchment: a black and gold helmet (with gold 'mantling' – a protection for the neck ) is surmounted by a 'talbot' – a large (extinct) hunting hound – which is supporting a gold escutcheon (= a small shield). There is further decoration in red, silver and white around the hatchment and the (now familiar) "Resurgam" (I shall arise again) as a motto at the bottom

*Andy Parrett*

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## THE HAWSTEAD HATCHMENTS: 5



The final – and most recent – of the Hawstead Hatchments cannot be positively identified. It clearly commemorates a member of the Metcalfe family because of the familiar three calves ‘passant’ in the centre. It is also clearly a woman – see the ribbon-work at the top rather than a helm – and the presence of a ‘lozenge’, or diamond shape in the middle rather than a shield, together with the lack of any vertical division here or in the black background all point to a memorial for a spinster.

This means that it could be for either Ellen Frances Metcalfe, eldest daughter, or Sophia Metcalfe, second daughter of Christopher Barton Metcalfe and his wife Sophia. Neither of these sisters were married and they both share a monument on the South wall of the nave.

They both also lived to a good age – longer than any of the others represented by the Hawstead hatchments! Ellen was born in 1788 and lived to the age of 70 (she died in 1858), whilst Sophia was born a year later and died in 1855, aged 66.

*Andy Parrett*

## HAWSTEAD READING GROUP

December's meeting was a more festive affair held in the comfort of Jane Holliday's lovely cosy lounge in front of a roaring log fire! We had mince pies and savouries washed down with fizz and wine! We are pleased to welcome a new member Sujata Surti who has recently moved to Hawstead.

As a group we have been going for nearly two years and between us chose the most popular book we had read in the last 12 months - "The Island" by Victoria Hislop and also the worst - a choice between "Sisters of Darkness" by Virginia Andrews and our current book "Started Early Took My Dog" by Kate Atkinson.

There was no January meeting but the next one will be at 7.30 pm on Wed 6th February at Judy Carters where we will discuss our current book "The Kashmir Shawl" by Rosie Thomas.

For further information contact *Ann Gibbs* on 01284 765332

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## VALENTINES DAY RECIPES

*Here is an easy two course meal, suitable for Valentine's Day. Rosie Greengrass*

### **SPICE RUBBED PORK CHOPS –**

Total time 12 – 15 mins

2 boneless Pork loin chops, roughly 2 cm thick  
Pinch of Garlic salt  
¼ teaspoon coriander  
¼ teaspoon cumin  
¼ teaspoon brown sugar  
1 ½ tablespoons olive oil

#### **Method**

Sprinkle chops with garlic salt and mix spices together. Place spices on one side of chops. Heat oil in frying pan or skillet, place chops in pan spice side down, cook for 2 mins. Turn over and cook for another 4 mins or until cooked through. Set aside to rest (wrapped in foil) for a few minutes.

### **SWEET POTATO WEDGES – Total time 40 mins**

2 average sized sweet potatoes, peeled and cut into 6 wedges  
1 teaspoon Rosemary  
1 tablespoon olive oil  
Salt  
Black Pepper

#### **Method**

Heat oven to 220° C/Fan 200° Gas Mark 7  
Combine all ingredients, spread contents on a baking tin. Bake for 20 mins, stir and cook for a further 10 mins.

### **LEMON GREEN BEANS – Total Time 15 mins**

200g Green Beans  
Clove of Garlic  
Butter  
Lemon Juice  
Salt and Pepper

#### **Method**

Steam beans over saucepan of simmering water for 10 mins with garlic, take out clove of garlic, drain saucepan and place in beans. Melt a knob of butter, juice of half a lemon and salt and pepper, toss and keep warm.

### **MELT IN THE MIDDLE CHOCOLATE PUDDINGS –**

Total time 35 mins

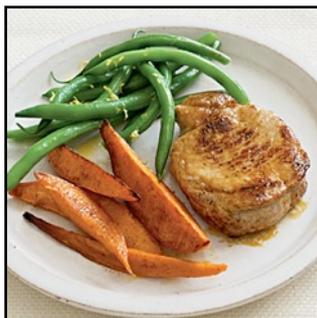
50g unsalted butter, plus extra to grease  
2 tablespoons cocoa powder  
1 egg  
1 egg yolk  
60g caster sugar  
50g plain flour  
50g chocolate (minimum 70% cocoa)

#### **Method**

Heat oven 170°, Gas Mark 5  
Break chocolate into squares and melt it with the butter in a bowl over a saucepan of hot water. Take off the heat and leave to cool.  
Whisk the egg, egg yolk and sugar with an electric mixer until well mixed.  
Butter 2 ramekins, about 7.5cm diameter. Dust well with cocoa powder, and then shake off any excess.  
Whisk the cooked chocolate mixture into the eggs and sugar.  
Sift the flour over the mixture, and then fold in.  
Divide between 2 ramekins.  
Bake for 15 mins  
Run a knife around the edge of each cake and turn out onto plates.  
Serve with cream or ice cream.

#### **TIP**

When taking puddings from oven, expect them to appear a little wobbly. Take care when running the knife around the edge of puddings. There will be quite a lot of melted part in the middle. If you would prefer more cake and less sauce in the middle, cook for an extra 2 – 3 mins.



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## REGULAR EVENTS

Breathe Easy	Weekly on Tuesdays 9.15 - 10.15 am
Carpet Bowls	Weekly on Tuesdays 7.30 pm
Reading Group	1st Wednesday of the month 7.30 pm held in members' homes
HATS (Wine Club)	Last Thursday of the month 8.00 pm
Hawstead Oil Buying Group	Orders placed end of each month (contact Jacquie Milns (388813 email: <a href="mailto:sales@rjmcars.co.uk">sales@rjmcars.co.uk</a> ))

## HAWSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING DATES

*Meetings held at the Village Hall unless otherwise stated  
Everyone is very welcome to come along.*

Meetings held bi-monthly on the third Thursday of the month at 7.30pm.  
Dates arranged are:

21st March

## FORTHCOMING DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

*In the Village Hall unless otherwise stated.*

Parish Council Coffee Morning	23rd February 10.30am - 12.00 noon
Parish Council Meeting	21st March (meeting room) 7.30pm



*Frosty Hawstead this winter*