

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

*(in the hall unless otherwise stated)*

Parish Council Meeting - Thursday 4th February at 7.30 pm

**Please note changed date**

Parish Council meetings now begin with a public forum to enable you to express your views/concerns to Parish Councillors directly.

Community Council - will meet again in March

Trading in Difficult Times - Thursday 18th February, 6 – 9.30pm  
Gt Whelmethan Community Centre. Includes free supper. Booking essential

### REGULAR EVENTS

Breath Easy - Weekly on Tuesdays 9.30 - 10.30am

Craft Group - Last Wednesday of the month 10.30 am - 1 pm

**Carpet Bowls will restart on Tuesday February 2nd when we will be having our Annual General Meeting at 7.00 p.m. and then our usual bowls evening commencing at 7.30 p.m. If you would like to know anything further about us, please give me a ring - 01284 386157. Rosemary Harrison**



Nativity in the Rupert Brown's magnificent Barn on Christmas Eve.

Editor: Geraldine West



# Hawstead Journal

For the Village by the Village

January 2010

HAWSTEAD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Here we are at the start of a new year, beginning again with a Burns Supper. We have an amazing amount of talent around us to enable us to put on such an evening.

I was born in Dumfriesshire. Robert Burns died there and is buried in St Michael's church. Alloway was his birth place. The local community there have a proud tradition of remembering Scotland's most famous poet. A monument was build there by public subscription and over the years much has been added and acquired including a museum, which now houses the most important Robert Burns collection. The trustees of the Burns Monument joined forces with the local council to create Burns Heritage National Park which includes the historic Brig o' Doon, Auld Kirk Alloway and a modern visitor centre.

[www.burnsheritagepark.com](http://www.burnsheritagepark.com)

But you say 'We cannot understand it!'

*Wee sleekit cow'rin timorous beastie .....*

So runs the famous opening. Then he flicks a switch and suddenly, from the glorious Doric of the first verse we are immediately into standard pure, Augustan English. Burns wrote easily in both tongues and, at his best, we can barely see the join.

I'm truly sorry man's dominion  
Has broken nature's social union  
And justifies that ill opinion  
Which makes thee startle  
At me, thy poor earth born companion  
And fellow mortal

Contd...

## Hawstead Community Council - Contd

You have to choose wisely when addressing an English audience, but there is so much to choose from. Joanne Abbot, my fellow Scot, and I are spoilt for choice. Burns wrote over 600 poems and songs. How did he find the time in his short life? I wonder if they could sit through Tam o' Shanter - it is my favourite but quite long! Anyone who can give a good recitation of it is repaid well with a few drams in Scotland! Maybe not! Last year Joanne read three verses from the Twa Dogs, this year she will recite the other twenty!

### OUR VILLAGE FETE AND FLOWER SHOW.

To help spread the work load and breathe some new life into it, we would like to form a fete committee. This needs to be done now for although the Fete is not until Sunday, 5th September, as you know, time flies and before you know it you are getting the Christmas decorations out! So don't delay. Get in touch and let us have an extra special fete, after all we have the best village in England! We will arrange a date for the first meeting and post it on the website - [www.hawsteadvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.hawsteadvillagehall.co.uk). Or phone me, Sonja Monk on 386876.

Happy New Year Everyone.

Sonja Monk

Chair Hawstead Community Council

### Sponsorship of the Hawstead Journal

This month's Hawstead Journal has been sponsored by  
Sonja and Bruce Monk

### Titbit

The little boy greeted his grandmother with a hug and said, "I'm so happy to see you, Grandma! Now Daddy will do the trick he has been promising us!"

Grandma was curious. "What trick is that, my dear?" she asked.

The little boy replied, "I heard Daddy tell Mummy that he would climb the wall if you came to visit us again."

*Rosie Greengrass*

### Snow

Whilst I would not, of course, wish to spoil anyone's fun during the wintery weather, I feel you should know that the police in the St Edmundsbury District have reported numerous incidents of snowball throwing - *adults as well as children (would you believe)*, children and young people playing on icy puddles, people toppling over and vehicles bumping into each other, breaking down and getting stuck. Suffolk Police say they cannot be sure that all these incidents are related to the adverse weather conditions.

However, in spite of the quite extensive criminal element resident in Hawstead, it seems that the nearest incident to us was in Lawshall. So do take care if travelling to or through Lawshall.

Ed.

Answer = 144

### RAINFALL IN HAWSTEAD

Statistical information from Anglia television shows that the village of Hawstead was the wettest place in East Anglia in October. RS

### Dog Sitter(s) required for Ben



We occasionally need someone to look after Ben during the daytime. Ben is a Kooikerhondje - a Dutch breed of gundog traditionally used as duck decoy dogs. He is five years old and is a very nice dog, gentle and affectionate although not always as obedient as we would like!

If you are interested please contact

Geraldine on 388732 or email

[geraldinewest@waitrose.com](mailto:geraldinewest@waitrose.com)

## Weather Report continued

The average temperature of 8.8 °c (47.9 °F) was second only to November 1994, an exceptionally mild month. During the last decade, 8 Novembers have been warmer than the 1960 - 99 mean figure.

Frost has been absent at most southern weather stations this autumn, compounding the trend towards milder autumns. At this station there were two slight frosts. Two autumns have been more free of frost: 1978 no air frost occurred until November 26<sup>th</sup>; 1984 there was one slight air frost at the end of October with no further incidence until December 9<sup>th</sup>, so roses and geraniums in flower at the end of November is not a unique occurrence.



For the first ten days of December the weather continued mild and wet with an average temperature close to 7 °c. By the middle of the month, high pressure became established over the north Atlantic impeding low pressure systems with their attendant mild air. Winds from the north introduced polar maritime air with occasional blasts of dry continental air. The first snow of the winter fell on the 16<sup>th</sup>. On the 18<sup>th</sup>, we beheld an arctic scene on the green - a freezing mist inching over 9 cm of powdery snow. I checked my skis. On the 20<sup>th</sup> the thermometer failed to reach 0 °c, the coldest day since December 2000. Over Christmas a thaw set in with rain moving up from the south. However temperatures struggled to reach the seasonal normal; by the 28<sup>th</sup> it was cold once again though fronts from the south brought rain, rather than sleet or snow.

December rainfall total was 145 % of normal and the average temperature 1.5 °c below normal.

Overall the noughties saw a continuation of the trend towards rising temperatures in every month, except interestingly for December. The mean annual temperature for the sixties was 9.4 °c; for the noughties it was 10.5 °c.

The climate is getting warmer for sure, not just in Hawstead. The greenhouse effect due to increased atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> and other gases is a proven cause of global warming. What still remains uncertain is the underlying pattern of climatic variability, always a feature of climate. In the past some of the changes in climate have been demonstrably sudden if not violent.

GDH

## Hawstead Parish Council meeting

### AGENDA (draft)\*

Thursday 4th February - Please note the change of date

Village Forum (7.30–7.45)

Chairman's report

Financial Report

Councillor Reports from Borough Cllr Nigel Aitkens and County Cllr Terry Clements

Police Report

Emergency Planning

Maintenance of Public Spaces -

Millennium Field

Village Green - Mole and rabbit control, general maintenance

Phase 2 of the tree cutting programme

Bottle bank

Tree planting to replace those removed to make room for the bottle bank

Registration of village green areas

Churchyard

Whepstead Road / Bull Lane - Parking - meeting with C Cllr Clements

Roads - the condition of the roads in and around the village

Footpaths

Community Council - Paving extension around the village hall

Planning applications

Hawstead Journal

Notice Board for Pinford End

Play spaces for teenagers

Telephone kiosk at Pinford End

Correspondence

Any other business

Councillors - Malcolm Cornwell Chair, Andy Evershed Vice Chair and Tree Warden, Karen Caldwell History recorder, Sarah Lawson Footpath Warden, Christobel Carr, Ros King, John West.

Parish Clerk - Marilyn Bottomley

*\*Since the actual Agenda for the January Parish Council Meeting is not yet available, I have compiled this draft agenda from the Parish Council update provided by Malcolm Cornwell for the December HJ. There will no doubt be changes and/or additional items. The actual Agenda is expected to be posted on village notice boards at least five days before the meeting. Ed.*

### Trading in difficult times

If you have a rural business or work in one and are concerned about how you'll cope in the present economic climate, then come along to this **free** business event entitled Trading in Difficult Times, sponsored by St Edmundsbury Borough Council and Business Link.

It will be held at Great Whelnetham Community Centre between 6pm - 9.30 pm on Thursday 18th February. As well as presentations on finance and marketing, you will have an opportunity to network with other local businesses.

The evening includes supper of lasagne, garlic bread and salad or a vegetarian option.

The speakers are Trevor Hawkins who has 36 years experience in financial and general management and Dean Wales a Public Relations Director with over 16 years experience.

To register for this free event, please call the Booking Team on 0845 601 1000 or go to [www.bookevents.org](http://www.bookevents.org) We are keen to get as many people as possible along, so do pass this on to others who might be interested. Thank you.

**Kirsty Pitwood St Edmundsbury Economic Development Team**

### ST EDMUNDSBURY RURAL SOUTH SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM JANUARY 2010 NEWSLETTER

My New Years Resolution this year is to keep the spare room tidy. This is exactly the same as the resolution I made last year and it was only tidy for two weeks! This year I am determined to last longer. Perhaps the reason resolutions are rarely kept is complacency. It's hard to be motivated about certain things.

Criminals rely on our complacency. It is easy to put off marking our property or making a note of serial numbers for expensive items, as we don't really expect to become a victim. Perhaps a good New Years resolution for everyone would be to mark valuable items if a serial number isn't available. You can use either an ultra violet pen or if suitable you could etch the item. You need to put your postcode and house number or name to ensure that if your property turns up in the back of someone's van or when a house is searched we can return it to you. Valuable jewellery or ornaments are best photographed, digitally if possible. All these steps help to keep valuables with their rightful owners and ensure we can prosecute the offenders.

**PC Ruth Horton**

*If you wish to report criminal activity in your area anonymously please ring the Crime Stoppers number 0800 555111*

### Weather report continued...

Proximity to a persistent area of high pressure over Europe during August gave dry and warm weather over East Anglia and south east England whereas to the west the wet weather of July continued under the influence of Atlantic depressions. There were hot days but no heatwaves, fresh breezes tempered the warmth. Temperatures exceeded 27 °c (81 °F) on August 6<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>. The average temperature for the month was 1.1 °c (2 °F) above the mean of 18 °c (64.4 °F). It was the warmest August since 2004. Apart from the three wet weeks in July, the summer was rather dry, breezy and somewhat warmer than normal. If not a barbeque summer, it was in East Anglia a fair good'n.

An area of low pressure brought rain and a hint of autumn during the first week-end of September. Thereafter it was all but totally dry and fine under strong anticyclonic conditions. Near drought conditions pervaded by the end of the month exacerbated by persistent fresh breezes. September 18<sup>th</sup> gave the last hot day of the year with a temperature of 28.3 °c (83 °F).

October was reportedly a dry month. For East Anglia, The Guardian newspaper recorded a mere 50% of the normal monthly rainfall. Somehow Hawstead bucked the trend with 55.5mm (2.2") a figure about 95% of normal.

Average temperatures were a little above normal but there were no truly warm days. There was a slight air frost on 18<sup>th</sup>, the first of the season which did little damage to tender plants.

November proved to be the wettest month of the year. The 114.4mm (4.5") recorded, though double the normal, was a truly modest figure compared with rainfall amount in the west of Britain. It was not the wettest November of these records. November 1964, 1970 and 2000 were wetter at this station. Mild weather from the Atlantic persisted for most of the month with daily maxima 3 °c above the seasonal normal between the 12<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. It was briefly colder at the beginning of the second week, when there was a slight air frost (on the 9<sup>th</sup>) and again at the close of the month.



Contd...

## Weather Report 2009



The winter 2008/09 (December - February) was the coldest since 1995/96, with an average temperature of 3.1° c (37.7°F) a figure of 0.8°c (1.4°F) below the 1960 - 99 mean average for this station. Though daytime temperatures failed to attain 10.°c between November 27<sup>th</sup> 2008 and February 16<sup>th</sup> 2009 (apart from a brief mild interlude from December 18<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup>) the cold was rarely intense with no incidence of damaging wind frosts once a common

feature of East Anglian winters. -10.6 °c (13 °F) was recorded on January 6<sup>th</sup>. There were few plant losses in this garden. Snow covered the ground on 14 mornings mostly in early February. Heavy rain 33.6mm 1.3" on February 10<sup>th</sup> heralded a dramatic end to winter. Thereafter there were no cold spells through the spring permitting a rapid emergence of bulbs and insect life such that within a month spring plant life was as advanced as in mild winter years.

March rainfall and temperatures were close to normal. April was dry and mild with average daily maxima of 16.6 °c (61.8 °F) well above normal, making it the third warmest April on record.

May was a breezy month, generally dry and sunny with an average temperature 0.9 °c (1.6 °F) above normal. June temperatures were somewhat above average. The month began warm and fine but it turned cool and rather wet after the 4<sup>th</sup> for a week. Thereafter the month was dry with periods of warm sunshine.

A true heatwave occurred from June 28<sup>th</sup> until July 5<sup>th</sup> with daily maxima exceeding 26 °c (79 °F). The following three weeks of July were dominated by low pressure giving plentiful rain but with temperatures close to normal. 88.6mm (3.5") of rain fell. It was the second wettest month of the year. Pessimists relished the demise of the predicted "barbeque summer".



## Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow



Chloe and Charlie Baker



Pat's Snowman



Dawn in Hawstead



Fran and Andy's Round House



Hawstead young people playing in the snow

## Viva Beryl Cook

When I was in my younger days,  
I weighed a few pounds less,  
I needn't hold my tummy in  
to wear a belted dress.  
But now that I am older,  
I've set my body free;  
There's comfort of elastic  
Where once my waist would be.  
Inventor of those high-heeled shoes  
My feet have not forgiven;  
I have to wear a nine now,  
But used to wear a seven.



And how about those blasted tights --  
They're sized by weight, you see,  
So how come when I put them on  
The crotch is at my knee?  
I need to wear these glasses  
As the print's been getting smaller;  
And it wasn't very long ago  
I know that I was taller.  
Though my hair has turned to grey  
and my skin no longer fits,  
On the inside, I'm the same old me,  
the outside's changed a bit.



But, on a positive note...  
I've learned that no matter what happens, or how bad it seems today, life  
does go on, and it will be better tomorrow.  
I've learned that you can tell a lot about a person by the way he/she han-  
dles these three things:  
a rainy day, lost luggage, and tangled Christmas tree lights.

## Hawstead Parish Council News

To assist with the Christmas festivities of 2009, the Parish Council organised two Christmas trees for the village. One was erected outside the village hall and was decorated with lights, the other was for use inside the hall. We would like to thank Mr & Mrs Holland for their generosity in supplying those two very "locally" grown trees.

Earlier last year various work was carried out under the village green maintenance programme. This year's programme of work will be presented for approval at the Parish Council meeting on 4th February. It is hoped and expected that this will be accepted and in anticipation of this, a work party is planned for late February/early March. The work to be done is clearing scrub around the village green. Your reward for volunteering will be a quantity of cut logs.

If you are interested in helping with this please contact Andy Evershed 386501 or Malcolm Cornwell 388142  
Malcolm Cornwell - Chairman

## Church Services

|                           |        |                  |
|---------------------------|--------|------------------|
| January 24 <sup>th</sup>  | 11am   | Family Eucharist |
| February 14 <sup>th</sup> | 8.30am | Said Eucharist   |
| February 28 <sup>th</sup> | 11am   | Family Eucharist |



The church

## ART CLASSES

It is proposed to hold art classes in the village hall on Mondays.

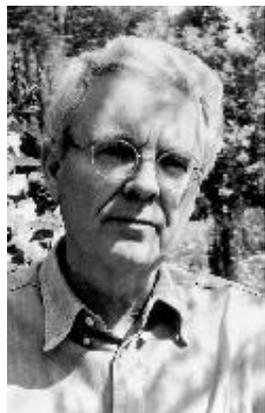
The teacher, Jolyon Stringer, is a qualified and accomplished artist and a teacher of many years' experience.

If you are interested in taking part or would like more information, please contact Jolyon on 01295 589532



The last in the trilogy is "The Dead of Winter", set in London in 1944 when a young Polish woman is garrotted on a darkened city street. John Madden becomes involved because the young woman was living and working on his farm as a land girl. Interwoven in the story are stolen jewels, the chaotic state of the police services in war-torn Europe and atrocities against the Jews.

The plot is as usual with Airth, complex and as a thriller, a good read. The portrayal of the distant world of the first half of the last century is reminiscent enough without being exactly accurate, bringing to mind John Major's invocation of village greens, warm beer and everyone knowing their place. However, by now I feel as though the format has run its course. You can have too many serial killers, the crimes and locations are starting to be similar. Perhaps Airth has recognised this and is leading his readers onto a new course with his introduction of a female detective with a large role to play in the male orientated and misogynist world of the 1940's police service. I, for one, look forward to the next in the series to see how he develops the format.



Rennie Airth

Paul Caldwell

To all of you who may have made a New Year's resolution to improve your brain power, I offer you the first challenge. *Try to solve this puzzle.*

*People with an IQ over 120 are able to figure it out ...*

If  
 $2 + 3 = 10$   
 $7 + 2 = 63$   
 $6 + 5 = 66$   
 $8 + 4 = 96$   
 Then:  
 $9 + 7 = \text{????}$

**Rosie** (The answer is elsewhere in this HJ)



I've learned that regardless of your relationship with your parents, you'll miss them when they're gone from your life.

I've learned that making a 'living' is not the same thing as making a 'life.'

I've learned that life sometimes gives you a second chance.

I've learned that you shouldn't go through life just being a doormat. You need to be able to throw something back.

I've learned that whenever I decide something with an open heart, I usually make the right decision.

I've learned that even when I have pains, I don't have to be one.

I've learned that every day you should reach out and touch someone. People love a warm hug, or just a friendly pat on



the back.

I've learned that I still have a lot to learn.

I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.



**Rosie**

## BOOK REVIEW

### River of Darkness

### The Blood-Dimmed Tide

### The Dead of Winter

By Rennie Airth

Published in both paper and hardback by Pan Macmillan

After the snow over Christmas and a house full of family for the New Year, it was refreshing to get out into the sharp January sun for a bracing walk along the sea front at Southwold in the company of Henry Persiflage and his beautiful niece Anna Glypta. The conversation turned to the usual one of "Nothing on the telly". I had been watching the Lynda la Plante crime serial and was struck by the different types of detective story we have. She can tell a gripping story but gives us hideously depraved serial killings with no torso left intact or undefiled. Henry agreed and contrasted *Midsomer Murders* and *Miss Marple*, which give us cosy dramas, jobs in the billiard room. *Colin Dexter's Inspector Morse*, with his liking of music and crossword puzzles, is cerebral in an academic setting.

Anna had listened to the interview in December on the radio when the writer of crime fiction, P. D. James, interviewed the BBC's Director General, Mark Thompson, for the Radio 4 programme, "Today". The reviews in the papers subsequently wrote of the forensic questions about executives' pay-packets reducing him to a "stuttering wreck". Thompson must



Miss Marple

have felt like a criminal suspect himself. The great strength of a murder investigation, she once observed, is that the human carapace of concealment is tested and defences often torn down. Her sleuth is Adam Dalgleish and Anna likes the qualities of high intelligence, sensitivity (but not sentimentality), compassion, courage and reticence vested in him. The important part of the stories is the plot with its twists and turns. The gory details are kept to a minimum.

Contd.....

The South African, Rennie Airth, puts his murder mysteries somewhere between the two poles. He is the author of six novels, including the three mysteries set in post-war England, and has introduced Detective Inspector John Madden of Scotland Yard. The first in the series is

"River of Darkness", set just after the First World War, in 1922 when the battle scarred John Madden attempts to solve a series of violent murders committed by a serial killer. Airth paces the story well.

The author reveals the criminal's identity a third of the way into the book, long before the police have figured out who he is. The chains of deduction and intuition are coherent and satisfying. The character of the Inspector, wounded physically and emotionally in the war, is fleshed out. The "enemy within" is "Sampson of the Yard" who insists on factual evidence, whereas Madden depends on intuition and the contribution of a German psychiatrist for psychological profiling. From a modern perspective, being used to TV programmes such as *CSI* where forensic evidence is the be all and end all, this is an interesting conflict.

In "The Blood-Dimmed Tide", Madden has retired to farm in Sussex but is drawn into solving the murder of a girl whose body is found by a stream near his farm. Again we are dealing with a serial killer and Madden offers advice and cautionary words to the Scotland Yard detectives we have been introduced to in the first book. Airth combines the world of the serial killer with the current affairs of the 1930's, such as the Depression, the balance of relations between Britain and Europe and the threat to Jews in Germany. Though the coming social upheaval is present as a background, it is not over emphasised. Madden's involvement is reduced and the other characters are expanded to fill the gap.

Contd.....

