

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

MAY/JUNE *(in the hall unless otherwise stated)*

Annual Plant Sale - Saturday 15th May - 11.00 am

Breakfast, tea/coffee, cakes etc will be served from 10.00am

The Annual Parish Meeting

Thursday 20th May - 7.00 - 8.30 pm (Please note earlier start time)

This meeting is an opportunity for villagers to learn what the Parish Council has achieved during the year

This meeting will be followed by the Annual Parish Council Meeting, starting at 8.30 pm, when Councillors will elect officers for the coming year

Hawstead Community Council Annual General Meeting

Thursday 27th May 7.30 pm. See agenda in April's HJ

Cream Tea - Friday 11th June in Church Farmhouse - in aid of All Saints Church Hawstead. All are welcome.

REGULAR EVENTS

Art Group - Weekly on Mondays 10.00am - 1.00pm

Breathe Easy - Weekly on Tuesdays 9.30 - 10.30am

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

Carpet Bowls - Weekly on Tuesdays 7.30pm

Produce on the Village Green - 2nd and 4th Saturdays 11 am - 1 pm

LATER IN THE YEAR

Village Fete and Flower show - Sunday 5th September 2pm

A Village Party - Date tba

The Village Hall Touring play, Theatre Royal - Thursday September 9th

The "Biggest Coffee Morning" - Saturday September 25th - 10am

Editor: Geraldine West



Hawstead Journal

For the Village by the Village

May 2010

HAWSTEAD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Not much news from us. The **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** is this month. There is always a place for new members. Should you be interested do get in touch with the secretary, Rosemary Harrison on 386157.

We are looking forward to the **PLANT SALE**. There will be food available. This is perfect weather for planting.

THE VILLAGE FETE, Progress so far: We shall have the Green Dragons Morris Dancers to entertain us. Emma and Christopher Topham-Smith have offered pony rides.

The most important thing we still need is a person to administer the fruit and flower show.

The **SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING** was really good fun. Jane is a very good and patient teacher. It really is good for you both mentally and physically. We shall start again in the winter. It is wonderful with the new sound system!

Last month Pam Blackwell held a **BEADING WORK SHOP**. It really was most interesting and very enjoyable. We could do it again if there was interest.

Sonja

hawsteadcc@btinternet.com Telephone 386876

Your help is needed for a scientific study.

You will be aware that there has been a lot of concern recently about the plight of bees around the world. Honey bees are under attack by disease, chemicals and parasites. It has been suggested that they could even become extinct with disastrous consequences for our food supply because of the possible lack of crop pollination.



The main threat to honey bees in this country at the present time is the blood sucking verova mite that weakens them and spreads several virus diseases. The bees seem to have no defence against the verova mite so if the infestation grows above a certain level the colony collapses and dies. Since the mite first arrived in this country strategies and medications have been developed to enable beekeepers to fight it but the mite has already become resistant to the first generation of chemical mite-icides.

It has been suggested that all the wild honey bees have already succumbed to the mite and the species only survives through the efforts of beekeepers. On the other hand there is the idea that as bees have been about for many millions of years they must have faced similar onslaughts before and developed their own defences. Thus given time they will rise to the present challenge so beekeepers may be preventing the necessary evolution by defending their bees from verova. What beekeeper is going to withhold treatment and watch his valuable workers die?

The present hope is that there are wild or feral bees out there somewhere that have evolved a defence against the mite so we just have to find them and breed from them to restore the natural balance, secure crop pollination and honey supplies.

This is where your help is needed; do you know the whereabouts of a wild HONEY BEE nest? Please let me know. If you come across one, please let me know. Bees naturally occupy hollow trees or similar cavities i.e. unused chimneys, wall cavities and even roofs. It would be of special interest if you know that they had been in the same location for several years. Please let me know but do not confuse them with wasps, bumble bees or mason bees. I will pass on any reports and a researcher may visit to take samples so it would be helpful if you could show me the nest first.

Simon

Please contact me on 01284 388841 or email me at simon.j.miller@talktalk.net

EVENING OF FUN & QUIZ

IN AID OF ST PETER'S CHURCH, NOWTON

ANTHONY & JANE HOLLIDAY

**Invite you to an evening of fun and food
at The Barn, Larkfield, Hawstead
Saturday 15th May 2010 at 7.30 pm**

* * * *

Evening to include: Quiz, Draw, Buffet Supper
and light music!

(Please bring your own liquid refreshment
and glasses)

A donation of £7 per person will be much appreciated
Ample parking adjacent to Barn
Wheelchair access if required

Please contact any of the following by 8th May 2010 to
reserve your team/s:-

Steve Jackson - Tel: 01284 768133

Email: stevejackson27@sky.com

Jane Holliday - Tel: 01284 386442

Email: jsholliday@btinternet.com

Joyce Fynn - Tel: 01284 766729

Email: jsfynn@yahoo.co.uk



Music on a summer evening, with refreshments

Spring Concert

Saturday 15th May 7.30pm

St Peter and St Paul Church, Lavenham

English Music by Parry, Stanford & Wood including

Blest Pair of Sirens, Songs of the Fleet and Expectans Expectavi

Tickets from Landers Bookshop, Long Melford or on the door on the night.

Ticket price - £10. Children under 16 - £5

Summer Concert

Saturday 5th June 7.00pm

Chilton Church Sudbury

Folk Songs and African American Spirituals

Church Services at All Saints Church Hawstead

June

13 th	8.30am	Said Eucharist
27 th	11.00am	Parish Eucharist with Baptism

Hawstead's Emergency Plan

You will have received with this month's Hawstead Journal an information leaflet giving you brief details of our new emergency plan. Please keep this leaflet in a safe place. We envisage the plan will be triggered in the event of severe weather or a prolonged power-cut. Please be reassured that, although we are not expecting any emergencies, if one should occur, help will be available as well as light, warmth and cooking facilities in our village hall. I would like to thank everyone who has contributed in any way in helping to produce our plan and especially those who have volunteered to help. If you have any queries or comments about the plan please contact any member of the Parish Council.

John West

This month's Hawstead Journal had been kindly sponsored by
BLS English

BLS is a British Council accredited,
year-round school est.1995, offering
English lessons to international
students and au pairs.



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email: info@burylanguageschool.co.uk • Skype: The Bury Language School

Accredited by the

www.blsenglish.co.uk



BLS English is actively looking for host families for their international students.

Being a host not only gives you an opportunity to learn about other cultures and languages, but it pays well! Rates are £486.70 per month based on 31 nights, full board (packed lunch during the week), for one student. If you are interested or would like more information, contact **Suzie on 01284 765511.**

Local Produce Sales 2010

Saturday 22nd May then 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month
throughout the summer

On the Village Green

11am to 1pm

For the first few sales we expect to have potatoes, spinach,
mangetout, asparagus, salad crops and eggs

New for this year - BETHANY'S BUNS AND BISCUITS

Coming soon - soft fruit, apricots, broad beans, French beans, carrots

For more information ring Andy and Fran on 01284 386501

Rooks

In reply to Mike Sibley's rhyme concerning rooks having a meteorological presence (see April HJ) - is the building of their nests an omen of the summer weather to come? If they are high up it will be fine, but low down and it will be cold and wet.



I did not find an old rhyme that refutes that forecast however, I would question the expectation of snow if the rooks' nests are low (albeit that snow rhymes with low).

I understood the story goes that if they build them low in the trees, well wedged into some decent sized branch forks we are in for a bit of wet, windy weather, high up means nice calm warm weather. I have never seen nests built really low in the trees. I thought they were nesting quite high in the trees this year so I am looking forward to a good summer. Anyway, whatever the weather this summer, the rooks told us first! We'll just have to wait and see how high the swallows are flying when they arrive.

One of nature's most remarkable sights, mentioned in the Doomsday Book, can still be seen in Norfolk, where the biggest rookery in Britain is home to up to 80,000 rooks. Rooks are very sociable birds. They feed and roost in flocks in winter and nest in rookeries that are home to their extended families for about six months of the year. Every morning and evening the birds fly in and out of the rookery en masse, providing an incredible spectacle. They are also considered to be highly intelligent. They often recycle twigs etc from old nests - and from not so old nests if the current construction team are not around and they quickly stop using a tree for nesting if it becomes unhealthy - usually well before the tree's problems become detectable to humans.

Since black is the colour of evil, rooks are sometimes seen as omens of doom, although in East Anglia it's considered very lucky to have a rookery near your home and it is considered a bad omen if they leave and that a human connected with that land is about to die.

Rosie

Old Country Lore

Oak before Ash, you'll only get a splash.
Ash before Oak, you're sure to get a soak

From the Archives - Contd...

Eliza Darley (House Maid), Jane Foster (Kitchen Maid), Margaret Pryke (Scullary Maid), John Standage (Butler), Joseph Rodding (Footman), William Sitney (Coachman), and George Boar (House Boy) plus in the Garden Cottage there were four gardeners, two apprentice gardeners and a house servant.

The Hawstead Scrapbook is a large and fascinating document that has been in the safekeeping of the records office and not added to for many years; I would like to revive its tradition and am appealing for material (press cuttings and pictures) for insertion and especially historic pieces to make up for the inactivity of past years.

Hopefully the Scrapbook can be made available for everyone to see, maybe at this year's Fete.

I have already been asking friends for interesting pieces for inclusion, with a bit of success. Phyllis Pettitt loaned me this picture of children from the 1970s? Is it possible to identify the date, place and all the children? I can only recognise one child but then I am a "newcomer" to Hawstead.



Simon Miller

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Do you remember the series of articles by Jane Powell on "The History and Antiquities of Hawstead and Hardwick in the County of Suffolk" by Sir John Cullum? One of Jane's quotes from the book was of Sir John's report of "the remarkable frost on the 23rd of June 1783".

Sir John notes that "about six o'clock, that morning, I observed the air very much condensed in my chamber window; and, upon getting up, was informed by a tenant that, finding himself cold in bed, about three o'clock in the morning, he looked out at his window, and to his great surprise saw the ground covered with a white frost: and I was assured that two men at Barton, about three miles off, saw in some shallow tubs, ice of the thickness of a crown-piece". He also recorded that his vegetable garden at Hawstead had been devastated.

Please don't think that I am forecasting a similar disaster here this June but Dr Keith Cunliffe of St Edmundsbury Heritage Service, reported in the Bury Free Press of 23/4/2010, that "Sir John's frost" could have been connected to the major eruption in Iceland in June of the same year, creating the Laki Fissure and causing immense devastation on the island with great loss of human and animal life. Huge quantities of material were ejected into the atmosphere, including an estimated 120 million tons of sulphur dioxide. This helped to create a 'dry mist' which not only darkened the sun but caused damage to plants which, from the descriptions given by Sir John Cullum and others, is consistent with exposure to acid rain. "The thick dry fog seems to have spread over the whole surface of Europe" noted the Ipswich Journal - 'It veils the sun and towards evening it has an infectious smell. In some places it withers the leaves and almost all the trees on the borders of the Ems have been stripped of theirs in one night'.

Dr Cunliffe's article also contains other fascinating relevant information, defiantly a piece for the "Hawstead Scrapbook"

While we are looking back at past editions of the Hawstead Journal, just a short time ago we had an article about the servants of the Victorian household but how did that relate to Hawstead? There are a number of large houses in the parish and they all had live-in servants in Victorian times. In 1861 the Rector William Collett was living in the old Rectory with his wife plus seven children, one governess and four domestic servants. At Hardwick House, which was in the civil parish of Hawstead then, was Ann Cullum (widow) with Sarah Peat (housekeeper), Harriet Woodfine (ladies maid), Elizabeth Cockman (housemaid),

Contd....

Sea of Poppies

By Amitav Ghosh

John Murray (Publishers)

533pp paperback £7.99



The novel is set in 1838, just before the first Opium War, principally in Bengal and on the banks of the Ganges. Ever present in the background is the addictive opium, which forces the break up of the traditional, local society by its cultivation and production imposed by the East India Company. Interwoven with this is the transportation of Indian workers to cut sugar cane for the British on Mauritius. The story brings the main characters to Calcutta and The Ibis, a slaving schooner which has been converted to transport coolies and opium. The narrative is fast moving and this first volume of a trilogy ends with the Ibis storm tossed and in the middle of a mutiny off Sumatra.

The author has found a dictionary of the dialect of the area and language of the time, and insists on over-using it. Unfortunately, a glossary is not provided and this can make the text hard work and rather tedious in places. I found myself skipping over sections of dialogue. This is incident packed historical fiction, fortunately free of ugly colonial stereotype and emotional blackmail. I enjoyed it, but the reader must get past the various pidgins, slang and local argot.

Paul Caldwell

A billion

The next time you hear a politician use the word 'billion' in a casual manner, think about what it really means. To put it into perspective...

- A. A billion seconds ago it was 1959.
- B. A billion minutes ago Jesus was alive.
- C. A billion hours ago our ancestors were living in the Stone Age.
- D. A billion days ago no-one walked on the earth on two feet.
- E. A billion pounds is added to the UK deficit approximately twice a day!

Simon Miller

New Arrivals in Hawstead



Samuel James Pruden
Born 6th April
Weighed 6lb 11oz
A son for Katie and Steve Pruden of
Whepstead Road

Reuben born on 23rd April
at West Suffolk hospital.
A son for Liz and Jeff
Hooper of Lawshall Road



Reuben George Monk
Born 5th April
A new grandson for
Sonja and Bruce



May Day in Hawstead

Thank you to all you hardy
Hawstead folk who crawled
out of your beds early
enough to help Green Dragon
Morris 'dance in the dawn' on
May Day. The numbers of
dancers in Green Dragon is
fairly high at the moment,
for May Day they were neck
and neck with Hawsteadians
with 19 points each. If you are going to keep up, even more of you will need to
turn out next year!!



Anyway, a big THANK YOU
to all of you who made it
and all of you who braved
the Big Breakfast.

For any of you who aspire to becoming a Green Dragon Groupie, our next few
Dance-outs are -

- ◆ Mon 10th May evening - The
Pickerel at Ixworth
- ◆ Sunday 16th May afternoon -
Rougham Kite Festival
- ◆ Tuesday 18th May evening -
Three Horseshoes at Barrow,
dancing with Gog Magog
- ◆ Wednesday 26th May evening -
Fox and Hounds at Thurston,
dancing with Bury Fair



For more information see www.greendragonmorris.org

Fran and Andy