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Urgently Required

Caretaker / Cleaner for our hall which is due to open in April

If interested, please contact Sonja Monk to discuss in more detail
Spinney Cottage, The Pound. Telephone 386876

A warm welcome to NEW Neighbours

Hi, Thank you for your welcome, we are Roger and Sheilagh Mead.

The last few months have been quite hectic trying to get "The Bridge House" sorted and keep family and grandchildren happy with visits to Brentwood, from where we came.

There never seems to be enough hours in the day to get it all done but we have enjoyed delivering the Hawstead Journal, standing in for Doc and Florence, and now we look forward to taking part in village life.

Winners of the February Village Draw

1st	114	E & J Lebbon	£23.70
2nd	042	N Gibbs	6.32
3rd	151	B Crockford	1.58

Join the Draw, win prizes and contribute to the Village Hall Fund

Contact Sylvia Miller 388841

MOBILE LIBRARY

for Tuesday 11th and 25th March

Whepstead Road lay-by 1.00pm – 1.20pm

Bull Lane 1.25pm – 1.40pm

If you have comments about the service please contact Elisabeth Harrison, Service Development Librarian. Tel. 01473 265086
or e-mail Harrison@libher.suffolkcc.gov.uk

Sorry for this months journal having a fewer pages, unfortunately we have had insufficient number of articles from readers

Articles for inclusion to the Editor please - BEFORE 25th of March
Tel. 01284 388142 or e-mail malcolmcornwell@tiscali.co.uk

Editor: Malcolm Cornwell



Hawstead Journal

For the Village by the Village

March 2008

Next Parish Council meeting in Church Vestry, Thurs 6th March -7.30pm

HAWSTEAD COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWS



We are now very near to the completion of the hall. Some of the flooring is being laid at this moment and it looks beautiful. The flooring of the main areas will be done as the very last job. Next week, the beginning of March, should see the kitchen fitters in the hall.

We may not have all the furniture in place by our party date, however, we are going to go for it to get things going!

In next months journal, we shall publish the cost of hiring the hall and our booking procedures.

We would welcome some new people for the future and if you think you would be interested do get in touch with the secretary Sylvia Miller 388841

This months event Dates for your Diary

23rd Easter Sunday - Churchyard at 2.45

We shall be hiding Easter Eggs for you to find in the churchyard again, so come along and find some eggs and try our quiz.

Followed by a walk at 3.30 at the church, where our footpath warden Sarah Lawson will organise a walk to familiarise us with one of the foot paths behind the church - so please make sure you have suitable foot wear.

EVERYBODY WELCOME THERE WILL BE TEA AND CAKES!!

30th Village Hall

Website goes online www.hawsteadvillagehall.co.uk

Some future event Dates for your Diary

19th April 7pm - Village party at the Hall

IT IS WITH GREAT PLEASURE that we INVITE you to a PARTY in the VILLAGE HALL!! (not before time) and this IS YOUR INVITATION

26th April ART a comedy brought to us by the Theatre Royal

Cornbread with Black Olives, Lemon & Thyme

These cornbreads must be eaten on the day that they are baked, and are best eaten warm. They can be served as a snack or as a delicious accompaniment to soup. If paper muffin cases are not available, muffin tins need to be lightly greased and lined with greaseproof paper.

INGREDIENTS

140g/5oz plain flour
140g/5oz quick-cook polenta
1 teaspoon salt
55g/2oz parmesan cheese, freshly grated
55g/2oz feta, diced
85g/3oz black olives, pitted and roughly chopped
Finely grated zest of 1 large lemon
1 teaspoon thyme leaves, finely chopped
290ml/□ pint buttermilk
1 large egg
Baking powder



METHOD

Preheat the oven to 220c/425F/gas mark 7.

In a large bowl, sift the flour, polenta, salt and some baking powder together.

Stir in the cheeses, olives, lemon zest and thyme.

Beat the buttermilk and egg together in a small bowl and stir into the flour mixture to form a soft dropping consistency.

Spoon the mixture into eight paper muffin cases. Bake on the top shelf of the oven for 15 minutes, or until a skewer inserted into the idle comes out clean.

Turn out on to a wire rack and allow to cool slightly. Eat warm or cold.
Enjoy!

TIP: They are so nice you will need twice as many as you think!
Rosie Greengrass

From the Editor

Thanks Rosie for your various baking recipes, but I was sent this complaint last week, which presumably is one of your fellow cooks:

Dear Editor,

I wish to complain to Rosie via this journal that I recently baked one of her delights she had written about in the journal and very pleased I was with the appearance of the finished cake.

However, my wife who had planned to visit her sister for the week, ungraciously took it with her (minus one small slice) saying that both of them would enjoy it whilst sitting and having many a cup of tea.



Whilst I was slowly cycling past the Metcalfe Arms during lunch time on Sunday 24th February, there before me was this marvellous array of TVR sports cars (which was a week later than advised in the journal, least ways it was in mine).

Unfortunately, the photograph taken of other models that were neatly parked on the opposite side of the car park for some mysterious reason, did not come out when I had my filmed developed.

As my neighbour said to me "perhaps it was something to do with falling off the bike a little later after all the excitement "!

Not an old grumpy man - just an Olde timer

Editor: I trust your knees are OK

Metcalfe Arms news for MARCH and April

Friday 14th Quiz night [Fully Booked]

Sunday 16th TVR car club revisit

Friday 21st - Monday 24th Easter Weekend

Watch the boards for details

Easter Sunday Lunch Set menu bookings only

Sunday 30th Pistonheads car club revisit

Tuesday 1st April Free drinks 18.00:00 to 18.00:01 !!

Saturday 19th April Lunch time

East Anglian Air Ambulance table sale.

We have now re-instated the dart board and anyone wishing to join a team or just have a bit of fun please make yourselves known to us.

Recently I was diagnosed with AAADD - Age Activated Attention Deficit Disorder

This is how it manifests itself. I decided to wash my car. As I start toward the garage I notice there is mail on the table. I decide to go through it before I wash the car. I lay my car keys down, put the junk mail in the bin under the table and notice it is full.

So I decide to take out the rubbish. Since I'm going to be near the post box when I take out the rubbish, I may as well pay the bills first. I take my chequebook off the table and see that there is only one cheque left. My extra cheques are in my desk in the study, so I go to my desk where I find the can of coke that I had been drinking. I'm going to look for my cheques, but first I need to push the coke aside so that I don't accidentally knock it over. I feel that the coke is getting warm and decide that I should put it in the fridge to keep it cold.

As I go to the kitchen with the coke, a vase of flowers catches my eye. I set the drink down and discover my reading glasses that I've been searching for all morning. I decide I'd better put them back on my desk, but first I'm going to water the flowers. I set the glasses down, fill a container with water and spot the TV remote. Someone left it in the kitchen, so I decide to put it back in the den where it belongs, but first I'll water the flowers. I splash water on the flowers but most of it spills on the floor.

So I set the remote back down on the table, get some towels and wipe up the spill. Then I head down the hall trying to remember what I was planning to do. At the end of the day the car isn't washed, the bills aren't paid, a warm can of coke is in the kitchen, the flowers aren't watered and there is still only one cheque in my chequebook.

I can't find the remote, or my glasses and I don't remember what I did with the car keys.

If this isn't you yet, your day is coming.

my Name! - I cannot remember it



Sparrowhawk - A top predator

The very close and sensitive link between sparrowhawks and their prey makes the hawks a monitor of the health of the ecosystem. As a top predator, sparrowhawks can only thrive if their prey - in this case songbirds - is present in good numbers and has a healthy population. Some people are worried that sparrowhawks eat too many small birds and cause their population to fall or even become extinct. This is unlikely to happen - long-term scientific studies have shown that sparrowhawks have no impact on overall songbird populations. A number of studies found that songbirds were no more common when sparrowhawks were absent than when they were

numerous. The sparrowhawk population was decimated by pesticides entering the food chain in the 1960s and 70s and songbirds numbers remained the same in the hawks' absence.

It is also worth remembering that sparrowhawks and songbirds have existed side by side for thousands of years without any detrimental effect occurring on the populations of the songbirds.

Balancing Act - The number of sparrowhawks in an area is naturally restricted by food availability and the number of suitable nesting sites. If songbird numbers increase, sparrowhawk numbers increase. If songbird numbers go down, so do sparrowhawk numbers. This very close and sensitive link between sparrowhawks and their prey make the hawks a monitor of the health of the ecosystem. The very presence of sparrowhawks is evidence of a healthy environment with strong populations of songbirds.

A natural surplus - Small birds can rear between five and 15 young in a season. In the absence of predation by predators such as sparrowhawks, the vast majority of these would die anyway, of starvation or disease. The reason that small birds raise so many young is precisely because so many will die. Only one or two young birds need to survive in order to maintain the numbers of that species and keep the population stable. They couldn't all survive to breed because there aren't enough nest holes, caterpillars or territories to support such numbers. Sparrowhawks also take mainly the most common species that have large populations, able to withstand losses.

Survival of the fittest - Sparrowhawks remove the most vulnerable individuals, so those with the best escape tactics survive. This brings immense stability to the system, as the fittest and healthiest individuals survive. These are much more likely to breed successfully themselves and produce a greater number of fitter young birds that have a better chance of survival.

If habitat is diverse and contains plenty of food and cover for small birds, the balance is tipped further in favour of the prey. In contrast, reducing the quality of the habitat can make songbirds more vulnerable to predation from predators such as sparrowhawks. The sparrowhawk has no serious predators itself, although its chicks and fledglings are taken by pine martens and goshawks. Both of these are scarce in the UK.

Weather Report

In February's Journal, Glynn Hammond gave us his very professional report on the last year's weather in Hawstead. Glynn follows in the footsteps of observers who have kept records of their surroundings over the years.

One in particular you might know of is Robert Marsham. On January 27, 2008 a service was held in St. Margaret's Church, Stratton Strawless, Norfolk, to commemorate the tercentenary of his birth. He was a landowner, tree expert and founding father of the study of springtime. Over 61 years at Stratton Strawless, Marsham recorded key indicators of spring's arrival, from the earliest snowdrop to the first call of the cuckoo. In that time he realised that the timing of spring followed the pattern of weather. The winter of 1741 was one of the most savage winters known in England. Gorse and heather died, rabbits starved in their warrens and beer turned to ice indoors. After the winter thawed out, Marsham searched the countryside for the first signs of spring, but he did not hear a song thrush until well into March and hawthorn blossomed two months late, in June. After Marsham died in 1797, aged 90, his family carried on with the springtime survey until 1918, our longest continuous chronicle of springtime.

In Hawstead, we had our own record keeper, The Reverend Sir John Cullum, Bart. F.R.S. and S.A. no less. He noticed that springtime was uncertain and compared the times when several plants came into flower in Hawstead, specifically in his garden at Hardwick House

	1779	1784	difference in days
Apricot tree	20 Feb	15 April	54
Wood anemone	9 March	16 April	38
Apple tree	6 April	15 May	39
White thorn	15 April	22 May	37
Vine	14 June	23 June	9
Lime tree	21 June	7 July	16

He observed that May 1784 was "remarkably warm". There were several frosty nights in the summer of 1783, so much so that Cullum sent an account of "the remarkable frost on the 23rd June, 1783" to Sir Joseph Banks; Bart. P. R. S. and it was read at the Royal Society on May 27, 1784:

"Dear Sir, Hardwick House. Nov. 10. 1783.
"When I had the pleasure of seeing you in London, in the autumn, and mentioned a frost that happened in my neighbourhood on the 23rd of last June, you expressed a desire of receiving some particulars about it. I therefore now send you some memorandums which I made at the time.

"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, who lives close to my house, that finding himself cold, 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 afterwards assured, upon indubitable authority, that two men at Barton, about three miles off, saw between three and four o'clock that morning, in some shallow tubs, ice of the thickness of a crown-piece, and which was not melted before six.

"This unseasonable frost produced some remarkable effects. The *aristae* of the barley, which was coming into ear, became brown and withered at their extremities, as did the leaves of the oats; the rye had the appearance of being mildewed; so that the farmers were alarmed for those crops. The wheat was not much affected. The larch, Weymouth pine, and hardy Scotch fir had the tips of their leaves withered; the first was particularly damaged and made a shabby appearance the rest of the summer. The leaves of some ashes, very much sheltered in my garden, suffered greatly. A walnut-tree received a second shock (the first was from a severe frost on the 26th of May) which completed the ruin of its crop. Cherry-trees, a standard peach-tree, filbert and hazel-nut-trees shed their leaves plentifully and littered the walks as in autumn. The barberry-bush was extremely pinched, as well as the hypericum perforatum and hirsutum: as the two last are solstitial, and rather delicate plants, I wondered the less at their sensibility; but was much surprised to find that the vernal black-thorn and sweet violet, the leaves of which one would have thought must have acquired a perfect firmness and strength, were injured full as much. All these vegetables appeared exactly as if a fire had been lighted near them, that had shrivelled and discoloured their leaves:

"At the time this havoc was made among some of our hardy natives, the exotic mulberry tree was very little affected; a fig-tree, against a north-west wall remained unhurt, as well as the vine on the other side, though just coming into blossom. I speak of my own garden, which is high; for in the low ones about Bury, that is but a mile off, the fig-trees, in particular, were very much cut: and, in general, all those gardens suffered more by frost than mine.

"Some weather, that was cold for the time of year, had preceded this frost. On the 21st the thermometer had at no time of the day risen to 60°; on the 22nd, at ten at night, it had sunk to 50°. On the last day, and on the 23rd, disappeared that dry haze which had taken place some days before, and continued to blot out the face of the sun for so long a time afterwards. After sun-set on the 24th it appeared again, and the next day the leaves of many vegetables were covered with a clammy sweetness.

"The above slight notes were taken in my garden and its environs; and I wish they may afford you the smallest entertainment. If you should think them worth the attention of the Royal Society, dispose of them accordingly. So severe a frost at so advanced a season is certainly not one of the least remarkable among the atmospherical phenomena of this year.

I remain, dear Sir,
Your much obliged and faithful servant,

JOHN CULLUM

Those records help to reveal the effect of global warming in Britain. Today's oak trees are now bursting into leaf about three weeks earlier than a century ago. Many spring flowers have now finished blooming by the time Marsham recorded them bursting open. And many of our birds have given up migrating to warmer climes for winter, preferring to stay here for a milder British winter.

Paul Caldwell