

ISSUE
25 **The Village Voice**

28 May
2023



Welcome to our village newsletter

On the evening of Saturday 1 April we hosted an authentic Indian curry night at the village hall. It was a fabulous evening, with some amazing food and great company. Most of the funds raised went to St Nicholas Hospice, and a full report can be found inside this issue.

Since the previous issue we have also celebrated Easter and the Coronation, and Spring has well and truly sprung! And with the AGMs of the parish council and the Community Council taking place early May, new teams are in place to lead the village through the next 12 months. As a resident and part of our community, any offer of support you can make to the excellent work done by both organisations to make Hawstead a better place to live will be most welcome.

Note our copy deadline for the next issue of the Village Voice is early August 2023. Please send items to bookings@hawsteadvillagehall.co.uk. If you are new to the village, please make sure we have a valid email address for you so that you can be included on our regular email updates and the distribution list for the Village Voice.

Summer diary dates

Tuesday 6 June – HandleBards at Maglia Rosso – A Midsummer Night’s Dream, gates open 5pm, performance from 7pm

Friday 9 June – ‘Madrigalia concert’ in Lawshall Church from 7.30pm

Saturday 10 June – Churchyard tidy up, 10am-12pm at All Saints, Hawstead

Friday 23 June – Classic Car Show at Maglia Rosso from 6pm

Friday 30 June – Team Quiz at Maglia Rosso from 6.30pm

Saturday 8 July – Churchyard tidy up, 10am-12pm at All Saints, Hawstead

Sunday 9 July – The Edge Cycling Event at Maglia Rosso on behalf of St Nicholas Hospice

Monday 10 July – Hawstead Community Council Meeting, Hawstead Village Hall from 6.30pm

Thursday 13 July – Hawstead Parish Council Meeting, Hawstead Village Hall from 7.30pm

Friday 28 July – Classic Car Show at Maglia Rosso from 6pm

Saturday 12 August – Churchyard tidy up, 10am-12pm at All Saints, Hawstead

Friday 25 August – Classic Car Show at Maglia Rosso from 6pm

Sunday 3 September – Hawstead Fete and Produce Show

Saturday 16 September – Churchyard tidy up, 10am-12pm at All Saints, Hawstead

Saturday 14 October – Churchyard tidy up, 10am-12pm at All Saints, Hawstead

Saturday 21 October – ShantyFolk Shindig at Hawstead Village Hall

Saturday 9 December – Triple-20s Christmas Lunch

SAVE THE DATE!

The Triple-20s Christmas Lunch is confirmed for Saturday 9 December in the village hall. Catering will be by Andrea and her team at Elite Cakes & Buffets. Invitations will go out in the Autumn.

There’s one vacancy remaining on this year’s Hawstead Community Council’s Executive Committee. If you are interested in joining the team and are also prepared to take on personal responsibilities, then please do get in touch for a chat either directly with John Shipley (ajsrowans@gmail.com) or through the main village hall email address bookings@hawsteadvillagehall.co.uk

HAWSTEAD PHOTO BOOK: FINAL REMINDER!

FINAL CALL for inclusion in Hawstead’s photo book. See the last article in this issue for more details. Contact ricksenley@yahoo.co.uk



Report: Authentic Curry Night in Hawstead

In all, £971 winged its way to St Nicholas Hospice following our fundraising Authentic Indian Curry Night at Hawstead Village Hall on 1 April. The hall was a-buzz with excitement and conversation all evening, with fabulous food and great company. Here's more about the evening...

Nearly 60 residents, family and friends joined us on Saturday 1 April to experience a traditional Indian meal, with all funds raised being split 80% to St Nicholas Hospice and 20% to Hawstead Community Council.

Cooked by villager Suzie Surti and family (who provided the curry for our Jubilee celebrations last summer), we were treated to a real taste of India. Suzie used some of her favourite family recipes to provide us with a delicious feast within a hall decorated with colourful saris and fairy lights, making a very special atmosphere.

The starter was a mixed platter of cauliflower pakora, sweetcorn chevdo, coconut raita and cucumber and mint raita, while the main course offered chole (chickpea), aloo sakh (potato curry), daal, butter chicken and rice. A few village takeaways were ordered too!



Anil, Lulu, Ruben and Suzie Surti (left to right)... preparation team, chefs, serving staff and washing up team for the night!



Ali Bovill (left) and Amanda Lomas-Farley take a short break while leading the preparations for our curry night.

We also offered a raffle, with all monies raised (£355) going to St Nicholas Hospice. Thanks go to all those who donated prizes.

The event was organised by Amanda Lomas-Farley assisted by Ali Bovill, both from Hawstead Community Council. A small volunteer team, including Susanne White, Chris Pamplin and Lulu Surti, gathered in advance to decorate the hall and set the tables, and guests did a great job of tidying away afterwards. Thanks go to them all on behalf of the village and the charities concerned.

As mentioned, this event was a fundraiser primarily for St Nicholas Hospice. The Surti family not only invested their time in preparing and serving the meal, they also kindly donated all the food. This generous gift from the Surti family meant that we were able to send £971 to the St Nicholas Hospice charity as a donation for its amazing work, and keep £154 for Hawstead Community Council. All monies

fundraised for the Community Council are ploughed straight back into the village to help finance events like the triple-20s Christmas lunch, Christmas drinks for the whole village, and the children's parties, etc.



Villagers, family and friends enjoy the company and food in the beautifully decorated village hall.



St Nicholas Hospice Care

St Nicholas Hospice Care is a local charity providing help, advice and support to people in West Suffolk and Thetford in the final chapter of their lives. These patients will be living with long-term and life-threatening illnesses.



The charity's services are not just for patients, but for their family and friends too. They include everything from specialist medical care to bereavement support and practical help.

It also:

- offers emotional support to patients, children, families and carers
- helps people to make the most of every day
- advises on pain relief and other symptoms
- liaises with other services which may be able to help
- offers a variety of education to local professionals and carers.



Private donations can be made through <https://stnicholashospice.org.uk/how-you-can-help/donate/>

New Community Clubs for Hawstead?

On the morning of Saturday 1 April we opened the hall to welcome ideas and action relating to the many suggestions for new clubs following our recent consultation. Here's what happened.

Our village consultation at the end of 2022 suggested lots of interest from villagers in a number of new clubs at the village hall. In our report of the results we handed the responsibility for action back to you, the villager.



Only a small handful of villagers joined us for light refreshments and biscuits. However, two ideas were mentioned: a cribbage club and a WhatsApp Gardening Group to share ideas and seeds/seedlings, cuttings, etc.

If you would like to get a **Cribbage Club** going, please contact Michael Harrison on mharrison151@btinternet.com.

To join the **Hawstead WhatsApp Gardening Group** you will need a

mobile phone and the WhatsApp application on your phone. Please email bookings@hawsteadvillagehall.co.uk with your name and number and we will add you to the group. You can then start posting messages and sharing advice/plants. Thanks to Sally Tolhurst for suggesting this group.



Our thanks to Amanda Lomas-Farley and Ali Bovill for running the morning session, and to those villagers who came along for a chat.

All Saints Church 100 Club

We've had two draws of the All Saints 100 Club since the previous issue of our Village Voice, but who were the lucky winners of £20 each?

100
CLUB

- Draw on 26 March: Neil Harrison and Jean Hayhoe
- Draw on 23 April: Philip Sator and Nigel Gossett

The next draw will take place in church at All Saints, Hawstead on Sunday 28 May after the service.

Spring at All Saints Church, Hawstead

This Spring it's been very busy at All Saints Church, Hawstead. As well as the Lent Lunch and Lent boxes appeal, there's been Easter services, the 100 Club draws and lots of mowing and strimming. Here's Lesley's report...

Sunday 9 April saw the celebration of the Easter Eucharist led by Rev Adrian Holstock. It was followed by refreshments of hot cross buns, simnel cake and chocolates for the adults and an Easter Egg Hunt for the children in the churchyard. A fun time was had by all.

Our monthly churchyard tidy ups are being well supported by volunteers from the village, but we can always do with more help. Dates for these sessions are below in Andy's article. As well as helping keep the churchyard smart and tidy, it's a great way to meet your neighbours and feel part of village life. And there's always light refreshments on offer too!

We are always looking for helpers within the church. If anyone would like to go onto the cleaning or flower arranging rota, or help someone else during their session, that would be great. Neither task is onerous. Flowers from the garden or hedgerows are very acceptable. And you don't need to be a qualified flower arranger! There are plenty of vases at the back of the church for the flowers. All the cleaning materials are also readily accessible in the Church.

There's no particular day or time for the flowers and cleaning, it just needs to be done before the next church service on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month. Please give Lesley (386132) or Rosemary (386157) a call if you would like to know more.

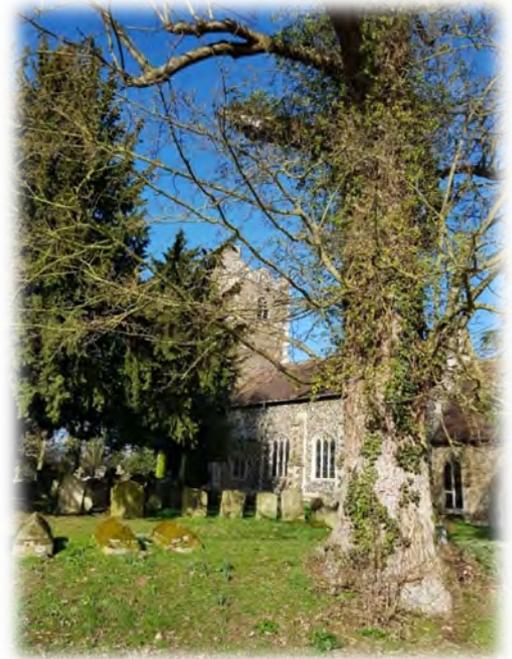
Church services in Hawstead

The service pattern at All Saints, Hawstead is:

- 2nd Sunday of the month, Morning Prayer at 11am
- 4th Sunday of the month, Eucharist at 11am given by Rev Adrian Holstock or Canon Max Osborne.

On the 1st and 3rd Sundays, services will be held at St Peter's Church Nowton at 11am.

The services for the Benefice are displayed on the noticeboard at the Lynch Gate of the Church. You will be made very welcome at other Benefice churches.



spring's prayer

Dear God, Thank you for the change of seasons. As I leave behind a winter that wore out its welcome, I step into spring with a fresh heart, ready for nature to take its course. May this season bring joy and light, peace and prosperity, and a spirit in full bloom.



prayables.com

Caring for the Churchyard in 2023

In 2023, why not come and join the volunteers at the churchyard helping to keep the hedges and weeds under control? The Church relies on village volunteers to maintain its grassy areas, trees and hedgerows. Whether you can give an hour or a morning, your efforts will be very welcome. Dates for your diary below!



With the help of volunteers, we have so far managed to keep the village churchyard looking neat and tidy this spring. Sadly the grass, weeds, brambles, etc., don't stand still. So under the general umbrella of 'Jammie Dodgers', I'd like to encourage villagers to come along on a (roughly) monthly Saturday morning between 10am and 12 noon to help keep it tidy. We have a couple of mowers, but if you're able to bring your own, or a strimmer, that would be wonderful! (We have fuel.) Otherwise, simple hand tools would be great for clearing around gravestones or trimming hedges. There's an excellent chance of coffee and biscuits too!

Here are the proposed dates for the remainder of the year:

- June 10
- July 8
- August 12
- September 16
- October 14
- November 11.

Andy Parrett

Report: Easter Bunny in Hawstead

The Easter Bunny visited Hawstead once again, leaving some tasty gifts and Easter tattoos for all resident children aged 16 and under.

Our thanks to Hawstead Community Council for funding this initiative and whose members spent time creating the Easter gift parcels.

Please remember, if you have new neighbours with younger children, or are new to the village yourself with children, do contact Hawstead Community Council at bookings@hawsteadvillagehall.co.uk so we can include you in the special village events focusing on our youngest residents.



Report: Hawstead Community Council's AGM

On Monday 15 May, Hawstead Community Council and interested residents gathered at the village hall for the annual general meeting. Reports were presented (see below) and the new Committee elected for 2023-24. Read below for the details.



After apologies and approval of the previous minutes, the annual reports from the Chair and Treasurer for 2022-23 were presented and are reproduced below.

Chair's Report 2022-23

Hawstead Village Hall is now open fully for business. The past 12 months have seen plenty of activity, both village events and private hires.

Community events for the year included a Spring Plant Fair in May, the Platinum Jubilee celebrations in June, our September Fete and Produce Show, a Halloween Tea Party, the Triple-20s Christmas Lunch, Christmas drinks for the village, a children's Christmas party and a Curry Night fundraising primarily for St Nicholas Hospice. For the village children, we also funded pantomime tickets for the under-12s, and Hawstead's Christmas Elves and Easter Bunnies made home deliveries of chocolate coins and Easter eggs to all children aged 16 and under.

Our regular weekly hirers have kept constant over the past 12 months, including three weekly yoga sessions, a Thursday night fitness class, and Hawstead Bowls Club on a Tuesday evening. In addition, the hall has continued to be used for a monthly events by the MND Association and our local wine appreciation group (HATS). The parish council has held its meetings in the main hall bimonthly, with some ad hoc smaller meetings accommodated in the meeting room. The meeting room is also being hired 3 days a week for private counselling sessions. West Suffolk Beekeeping Association has continued to use the hall for its spring training course, although its monthly meetings have moved elsewhere. Friday Night Fish & Chips in the hall car park has continued on a monthly basis.

Private hires have been dominated by 12 weddings during the summer of 2022, which we think is probably a post-COVID anomaly. We have also started limiting hires to non-residents to a minimum of 6 hours, because the volunteer work involved with smaller hires and the subsequent cleaning costs make them unviable.

We conducted a village consultation at the end of 2022 to engage with residents about their thoughts on the village hall and how the Community Council is working on their behalf. About one-third of households responded. In general, residents were happy with the village hall and play area, although a small minority were concerned about disturbance caused by some hall hires. We followed this consultation up with a clubs morning to try to convert the interest shown on paper for a number of new village clubs into real activity and change. Unfortunately very few residents came along. We have made very clear that villagers need to get together to create their own clubs and activities... the Community Council cannot do it all for them.

Following our consultation, we also made some changes to our bookings policy. It was made clear that these amendments would be reviewed annually in May by the incoming Community Council members. Since the start of 2023 we have offered free hall hire to the bowls club and HATS on the understanding that they are truly open to all villagers and not a closed group. We are also not currently charging the parish council for its use of the hall.

The Community Council has supported a number of charities with free hall hire. These have included Macmillan Cancer Support and St Nicholas Hospice. We have also worked with the local church team to offer a number of no-cost events for them, including the Advent service and Lent lunch.

Our Village Voice newsletter has continued, albeit published once every 2 months or thereabouts. We are still seeking a new volunteer to take it over.

At present our bank account is very healthy at in excess of £40,000 (and Louisa will report on that in a minute). This financial year we have spent money on the following:

- roof ridge tile repair/replacement
- a new kitchen floor
- a new picnic bench in the play area
- a new sound control system
- a new CCTV/internal camera system
- a new remote-access heating control system
- radiator pipework repair in the main hall
- replacement equipment for broken items after hires
- new Bluetooth connectivity and wireless reception in the village hall
- new curtains and blinds (awaiting delivery).

There is an ongoing issue with damage to the main hall floor caused by a radiator water leak which will be investigated further in the autumn. It is likely that a new floor for the main hall/corridor will be needed winter 2023/24. We had hoped to fully replace the play area barked surface this winter, but more important issues arose that required urgent attention and potentially financing.

As a Committee, JS has worked hard to manage building maintenance, helping to maintain the quality of the building fabric, fixtures and fittings. BB has offered his secretarial skills to keep minutes of our meetings, and ensured that the bins have been put out and brought back in for rubbish collection. LJ, our Treasurer, has worked hard to keep finances correctly accounted, as well as issuing bond refunds and

paying invoices. CM, ALF and AB have been focusing on social event management and community engagement, while AB has also been dropping into the hall weekly to ensure housekeeping tasks are completed. SW has remained as chair, and has also been managing the bookings while we continue to seek a new volunteer Bookings Clerk. We remain keen to find an efficient and long-term Bookings Clerk, hopefully supported by a flexible caretaker and a dynamic volunteer committee.



This May will see a number of changes to the Community Council that will hopefully share workload between more volunteers. A number of current members of the Management Committee are stepping away, but they are remaining involved in a more informal capacity so that skills and enthusiasm aren't lost. All four honorary positions will also have new incumbents. So with a few spaces on the Community Council Management Committee for 2023-24, we hope to see some new faces involved!



We also have a fabulous team of residents who support the elected Management Committee, as shown by our recent Coronation Tea Party. Of particular note are:

- JW, who has kindly audited our accounts and helped with mowing the cut areas around the village hall
- JWe, who has been cutting grass regularly in the play area during the spring and summer months to ensure everything remains smart and tidy
- CR and BM, who have effectively been on call all year in times of emergency with the building.

plus, of course, the host of villagers who rally to our call to arms when staging social events.

Susanne White, Hawstead Community Council, May 2023

Treasurer's Report 2022-23

Overall Position

This financial year we continue to recover from COVID restrictions. Bookings have continued, including weddings, and the current accounts stood at £46,539.24 on 13.04.23. This is a small increase from last year.

Income

- Hall rentals continue to make up the majority of our income and have increased from £23,530.50 to £26,776.49. This total includes income from regular bookings from yoga/fitness at £3,913 and counselling at £2,250. All should continue into the next financial year.
- The hire charge for weddings was raised in 2022 to £1300 and in 2023 to £1500 (although these price increases will take 1-2 years to following through into the accounts). In the last financial year the hall took £19,025.00 from wedding hires before bond returns, caretaking and cleaning costs are removed.
- Income from the fete, plant fair (£305.80) and other events has continued. After costs, the fete raised £446 in 2022. This was in large part due to the decision not to run a silent auction, which usually raises £500+. There was also a lot of alcohol remaining after the event which was stored for future use at other events.



- We received no grants this financial year.

Expenditure

Expenditure changes worth noting from the last financial year are:

- Maintenance costs have increased from £5,539.10 to £11,161.25. This includes the replacement of flooring in the kitchen, the replacement of damaged ridge tiles on the roof, the replacement of the CCTV system due to a failed power supply and the need to monitor images remotely, the replacement of the heating controls to enable remote access and programming, the installation of a sound limiter to control event noise, and the improvement of Bluetooth and wireless connectivity to help at events. We have also added an extra picnic bench in the play area.
- Utilities, rates and waste collection costs have increased from £2,093.92 to £3,818.2. This includes the increase in costs of utilities and also two extra bins to accommodate extra rubbish in the summer and one brown bin for grass clippings.
- Cleaning costs have increased over the past 12 months to £16 per hour. We have also added to our costs a paid caretaker to cover all wedding weekends. In total, these costs have increased from £3,243 to £4,526.00 in this financial year.
- Expenditure on village events has totalled £3,371.04 this financial year, up from £1,411.84 in the previous year. This has included funding celebrations for the Queen's jubilee and the seniors lunch. For the children we also funded pantomime tickets, chocolate coins at Christmas, Easter eggs at Easter, and Halloween and Christmas parties. We received contributions from the parish council of £500 to support the Jubilee celebrations and £300 in advance of May's Coronation party.

Summary

Overall, the final figures for the annual accounts are similar to last year, which is a positive outcome given the significant rise in costs for utilities and supplies. Weddings have continued to provide the largest proportion of our income. However it should be noted that while wedding bookings are strong for this summer, we have just one booked for 2024 but might expect 6 or so by now. We have always expressed concern about the popularity of the hall in recent years being a direct effect of post-COVID interest in weddings, but price rises will also have impacted. We remain vigilant to ensure that a balance remains that ensures future viability of the hall's finances.



We continue to seek to resolve the situation with the Bookings Clerk. Employing someone to take on this role would cost ~£5,000 with all the additional complications of being an employer.

Looking ahead

The rise in expenditure between 2022 and 2023 can be explained by increased maintenance and utilities costs, plus additional costs supporting village events. Wedding bookings appear to be slowing, which could be a problem for future viability of the hall. It will be important to monitor this trend and try to establish whether this is due to the increase in hire fees or was simply a post-COVID increase in the number of couples looking for wedding venues.

Maintenance plans continue for the hall, including new curtains coming soon. A radiator leak over winter has resulted in an ongoing insurance claim with the possibility of the whole floor needing to be replaced in the near future.

Links to the agreed minutes of recent HCC meetings can be found at:

<http://www.hawstead-parish-council.co.uk/community-council/community-council-meetings/>

Plans for the play area are on hold subject to the outcome of the insurance claim.

Our accounts are being audited at present. If you would like to see the detail once confirmed, please get in touch with us at

bookings@hawsteadvillagehall.co.uk

Hawstead's new Executive Committee 2023-24

All members of Hawstead Community Committee (HCC) Executive Committee (EC) stepped down as per the constitution at the recent AGM, leaving all posts to be proposed and elected. Here's a run down of the make up of your new Committee for the next 12 months.

Chair: John Shipley – ajsrowans@gmail.com

Vice Chair: Vacant

Secretary : Louisa Jackson

Treasurer : Susanne White

Other Members: Tam Alexander, Ali Bovill, Bob Brough, Amanda Lomas-Farley, Caroline Miller

All members of HCC are available for a chat about the village at any mutually convenient time. Meetings are held bimonthly. Dates are advertised on the village hall website and through this newsletter. If in doubt, please email bookings@hawsteadvillagehall.co.uk. All villagers are welcome to these meetings.

A note from your new Chair

My thanks to the Hawstead Community Council for electing me as the new Chairman of the Executive Committee at the Annual General Meeting on 15 May 2023.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the previous members of the EC and, in particular, Susanne, who has been Chair for a number of years, for showing their support by remaining on the Committee.

The village has a lovely community hall with all its amenities to enjoy by you, the villagers. It is our aim to be approachable and transparent.

The members of the EC are there for you, so please feel free to contact any of us or join us at our bimonthly meetings to discuss any issues you may have.

John Shipley

There's one vacancy remaining on this year's Hawstead Community Council's Executive Committee. If you are interested in joining the team and are also prepared to take on personal responsibilities, then please do get in touch for a chat either directly with John Shipley (ajsrowans@gmail.com) or through the main village hall email address bookings@hawsteadvillagehall.co.uk

New curtains at the Village Hall!

You may not feel this is big news, but the new village hall curtains are here! Next time you are passing, take a look inside and see what you think.

Our old hall curtains have lasted really well and are now heading for recycling after 15 or so years of service. The new curtains have certainly lifted the feel of the main hall and meeting room, and are currently 'strapped' to help set the hanging folds. Let's hope they last as long as their predecessors.

The new curtains have cost just over £4,000 and were made and installed by local company Hartwell Blinds. Our recent village Consultation supported their replacement, so here's the result! Remember that you can be part of the decision making process if you are elected or co-opted onto the Community Council... we have one space if you are interested.



A new communication network for Hawstead

Resident Henry Brewis announces a new initiative to keep neighbours talking. Read more to get involved with the new village WhatsApp group. All you need is a mobile phone and the WhatsApp app installed.



Resident and Parish Councillor Henry Brewis has set up a new WhatsApp group to help improve communications within the village. This is completely independent of the Parish Council and is run by Henry as a Hawstead resident.

The idea is to get information (e.g. reminders about village events, or warnings about 'dodgy door knockers') out to people quickly. It's already found a couple of lost pets!

Henry says: 'All I would ask is that we use it for village things and not to make political points, send jokes and definitely no rude stuff. You can leave the group at any time if it doesn't work for you.' He promises you won't be deluged.

The group already has 46 members (and counting). If you would like to join them, please email Henry on henry.brewis@tui.co.uk with your name and mobile phone number.

Parish Council news

Hawstead Parish Council has a new Chair... Ros Alexander. Here's a brief note from Ros keeping you updated with parish news and asking you to think about who might be interested in joining the parish council.

Just six residents stood for the Hawstead Parish Council election on 5 May 2023 and were therefore returned unopposed. Your new parish councillors are therefore (in alphabetical order): Ros Alexander; Phil Baker; Penny Barham; Henry Brewis; Christabel Carr; and John West.

Phil, who has served as Chair for the last year, had announced that he wanted to relinquish that role, and at the Parish Meeting on 11 May, Ros was proposed and elected as his replacement.

But we have a vacancy! We are still legally able to operate as a council with six rather than the allotted seven people (as you can see by looking at the documents now posted on the website and on both our village noticeboards), but we are very keen that this role should be filled. We can do this by formally co-opting someone, ideally at the next meeting on Thursday 13 July.

If you would like to put your knowledge, skills and interests to the service of the village, I would love to hear from you. Alternatively, if you know someone who you think would do a good job, let me 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.

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, and we are exceptionally well supported by our very experienced parish clerk, Catherine Hibbert.

Please, contact me with a name, by email ros.king@hawstead-parish-council.co.uk, or by text/phone message 07825 831541. I would be delighted to hear from you.

Ros Alexander



What's going on in Hawstead?

Links to Minutes of all past parish council meetings can be found at <http://www.hawstead-parish-council.co.uk/parish-council/>

Report: Coronation celebrations

Our Coronation celebrations took place on Monday 8 May at Hawstead Village Hall and were offered free to all villagers who wished to attend. The weekend was forecast to be wet and cool, but on Monday we managed to beat the weather and enjoyed a relatively dry, if cloudy, afternoon together welcoming King Charles III as our monarch.

Hawstead Community Council Members Amanda Lomas-Farley and Ali Bovill spearheaded the planning for Hawstead's Coronation celebrations. They promised an old-school street-style party, including afternoon tea and fizz, and they certainly delivered. Supported by a host of resident volunteers (huge thanks to them all), the decorations were up and the tables set to welcome villagers from 2pm onwards.

There was also a small fancy dress competition for the children, who were invited to dress up as a king, queen, prince or princess for the day.



The event was a wonderful opportunity for villagers to come together to celebrate this historic weekend. There was certainly lots of chatter, and Jim Lomas-Farley led the toast to our new King.



Residents Pat and Joan Baker were invited to cut the special Coronation cake supplied by Andrea from Elite Cakes & Buffets. Everyone was offered a slice to take home with them.

Huge thanks to Amanda, Ali and their team of volunteer bakers (Chris Pamplin, Penny Barham, Jo Salt and Judy Carter), tent erectors/dismantlers (Giles Bovill, John West, Richard Barham and Chris Pamplin), table setters and tidy uppers (John Shipley, Susanne White, Caroline Miller, Angela Parrett, Suzie Surti and Chris Shipley). Thanks too to Hawstead Community Council and Hawstead Parish Council for funding this event in full.





Swifts in Hawstead

The swift (on the left) is a medium-sized aerial bird and is a superb flyer. Sleeping, eating, bathing and even mating on the wing, swifts rarely touch the ground. They are also the fastest birds in level flight, with an impressive top speed of 69mph... and they are here in Hawstead!



Swifts pair for life, returning to the same site each year for some nest renovation before laying and incubating their eggs. They like to live in houses and churches, squeezing through tiny gaps to nest inside roofs. But as more old buildings are renovated and gaps in soffits closed up, swift nest sites are fast disappearing. This, in part, has resulted in swifts being added to the Red List in the 2021 UK Conservation Status Report.



Swallow or swift?

The swallow (right image) and the swift (on the left) have a lot in common. They're both aerial experts that eat and drink on the wing. They're both summer visitors to the UK, making long migrations from Africa each spring. Yet despite these similarities, these two species aren't even closely related!

How to tell the difference

Swallows (also known as barn swallows) are one of our most familiar and beloved birds, heralding the arrival of summer as they return from Africa each year. They have long, pointed wings and a **deeply forked tail with long tail streamers**.

While young swallows don't have tail streamers, their tail is still deeply forked. They're glossy blue on their back, with a white breast and belly. They have a dark band across the upper breast, like a collar, and a rusty red throat and face, though these just look dark at a distance.

Swifts are a similar length but have much longer wings. Their wings are also more pointed than a swallow's and sweep smoothly backwards like a sickle. They look a bit like boomerangs, with a body stuck to the middle!

Their short tail is often held together in a point, but is slightly forked when it's fanned out. The fork is much shallower than that of a swallow's tail, and it lacks the long, thin tail streamers. Swifts are very dark birds, with sooty-black feathers all over – apart from a small, subtly paler patch on the throat. This patch is more obvious in juvenile swifts, where it also extends onto the face.

In an email from the RSPB entitled 'Notes on Nature', sent out at the end of April 2023, there was the following notice (see right):

As some of you may remember, we're doing our bit here in Hawstead by putting up some swift nesting boxes in the church tower. These are accompanied by a recording of swift calls, hoping to attract the birds as they return from Africa during the spring when they look for places to nest, hatch eggs and rear their young. These boxes – there are five of them – were made and erected by Bruce

Monk 2 years ago and, in terms of occupancy, we're hoping for a case of 'third time lucky'! Although the sound system, installed by Bob Brough, works fine, and we saw quite a number of the birds circling around the tower last year, they are yet to take the plunge and settle into our 'swift hotel'.



Thank you for taking action for Swifts

A huge thank you to all who have signed Hannah Bourne-Taylor's petition to make Swift bricks compulsory in new housing. We're delighted that this has reached over 100,000 signatures meaning that the UK Parliament will consider it for a debate. Swifts have suffered huge declines in the UK so desperately need our help. If you haven't already, there's still time to add your voice.

Sign by 30 April



As you can see, the boxes have been inserted between the open louvres in one of the four openings on the level in the tower where the bells are located. (The rest of the louvred openings are covered over with chicken wire to keep out pigeons which would otherwise most happily make the tower their home.) This follows a standard layout for siting swift boxes in church towers, and apparently it is not unusual for it to take several years to attract them into the new homes which are

made ready for their occupancy.

Bob and I went to the church on Saturday 29 April, tidied things up a bit and restarted the recording of swift calls. It's set to broadcast in the early morning and early to mid-evening for the next 2–3 months. Of course, we hope that this year there may be some takers.

Andy Parrett



PS For more information about the decline in swifts across the UK, please visit <https://www.suffolkbirdgroup.org/sos-swifts>



What's a yoga class all about?

These days you can rarely read a magazine without some mention of practising yoga and its benefits. However, if you've never been to a class or looked it up on YouTube, you might wonder what on Earth it involves and what it will do for you. Here, one of our regular yoga instructors, Siobhan Kemp, explains all.

For all yoga classes a mat is placed on the floor, blankets or towels are arranged and maybe a cushion is used for comfort. We then have a darn good lie-down... to begin with, anyway.

Next we start to limber up and get the spine, hips, arms and legs moving. These movements activate the muscles and joints and the internal organs are gently stimulated. Yoga has the potential to slowly ease away stiffness, stagnation and feelings of being stuck; both physically and mentally.

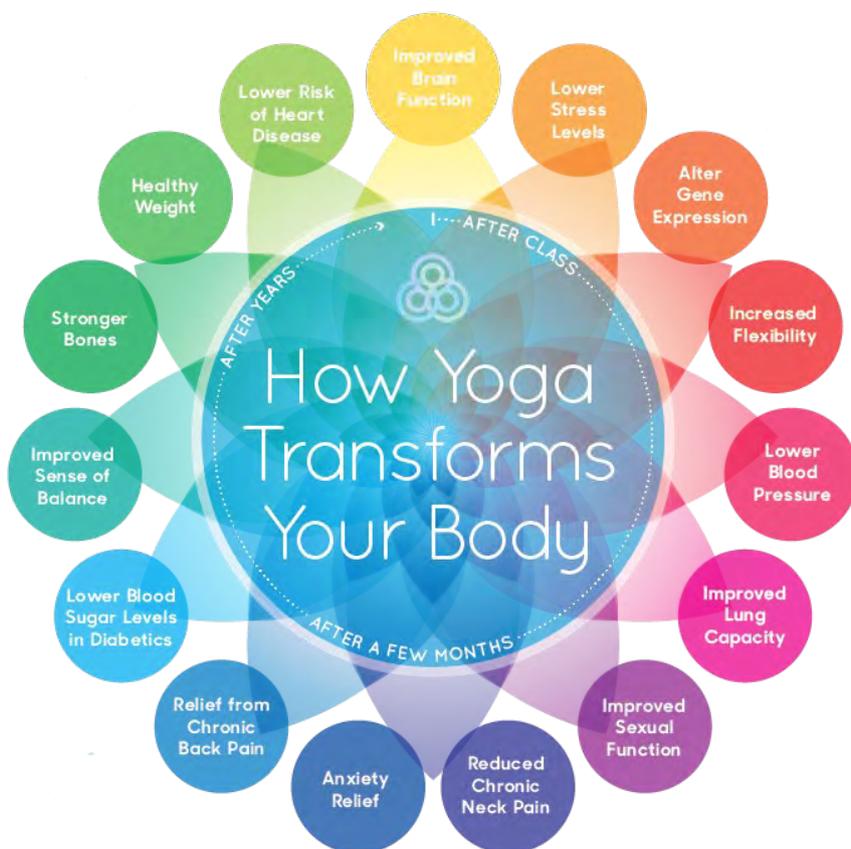
Then we spend some time focusing on breath awareness and neck tension releases (some exercises you might find easier). We then move on to some more testing exercises... some movements you may find



harder (e.g. the occasional lunge, hip opener or armwork). But all the moves can be modified to suit the individual.

Whatever benefit you receive from practising yoga is personal to you. A session might energise you if you're sluggish or feeling flat; it might calm you if you're feeling a little frantic or het up. But you won't really know what yoga will do for you until you try it.

At present, Hawstead Village Hall hosts three yoga classes each week. Check out the regular weekly events below for days and times, or the yoga posters in this issue.



Regular weekday events at Hawstead Village Hall

The following events are **open to all villagers** and are run at the Village Hall

Weekly events

- **Yoga** with Sam every Tuesday morning from 9.15am
- **Yoga** with Amber every Tuesday evening from 6pm (picture on the right in the summer)
- **Bowls Club** every Tuesday evening from 7.30pm
- **Yoga** with Saffron Yoga (Siobhan) every Thursday from 9.30am
- **Fitness** with Michelle every Thursday from 7pm

Other events

- **HATS** – Hawstead Appreciation & Tasting Society – meeting monthly on a Thursday evening from around 8pm



Drop in Yoga Classes

A graceful progressive flow class working on strengthening the mind and body, leaving you feeling balanced and grounded.

Tuesdays 6pm

Hawstead Village Hall

Sundays 9am

The Unitarian Meeting House,
Churchgate Street, Bury St Edmunds

£8 drop in

Please contact me on 07983 573157
or at ambersparkle84@gmail.com for more details.



Saffron Yoga

Friendly, informal and flexibly priced
yoga classes held at
Hawstead Village Hall

Thursday 9.30-11.00am

Suitable for beginners and experienced students
£12 drop-in or £10.00 for monthly booked

Call Siobhan Kemp on 07780 873138 or email
siobhan@saffronyoga.co.uk or visit website

www.saffronyoga.co.uk

Stretch & Tone

Do you like Yoga, Tai Chi, &
Pilates?

Try Sam's classes

Tuesdays 9.15am-10.15am



Enjoy movement to music

At Hawstead Village Hall

£24 for 4 sessions

Call Sam on 07850 207365

to book.

The HandleBards in Hawstead

'Explodes with energy, a genuine treat from start to finish.'

The Stage

The famous HandleBards are coming to Hawstead on **Tuesday 6 June** at Maglia Rosso. They're a troupe of cycling Shakespearean actors who carry all of their set, props and costumes on the back of their bikes.

They perform extremely energetic, charmingly chaotic and environmentally sustainable Shakespearean plays across the UK. Specialising in open air theatre, they're prepared to perform whatever the weather.



This outdoor performance in the garden area at Maglia Rosso is open to all. The café and gates will open from 5pm, and the performance starts at 7pm. Tickets are all bookable through www.handlebards.com, so go online now to secure your spot. Bring suitable clothing as well as your own chairs.

Prices are £19.50, Under 18s £12.50, Under 10s one free per paid ticket.

Maglia Rosso event dates

Friday evenings from 6pm –
Classic Car Shows – 23 June,
28 July, 25 Aug

Tuesday 6 June (evening) –
The HandleBards present A
Midsummer Night's Dream

Friday 30 June – Team Quiz
from 6.30pm

Sunday 9 July – The Edge
Cycling Event on behalf of
St Nicholas Hospice with
distances of 15, 30, 40, 60 or
100 miles



THE HANDLEBARDS

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

Report: Hawstead's Spring Plant Fair

Our Spring Plant Fair 2023 offered seedlings and plants at bargain prices, as well as delicious tea and homemade cake. All plants were grown and nurtured by villagers, with more than £600 raised for village hall funds.

Hawstead's annual Coffee, Cake and Plant Sale took place on Saturday 13 May 2023 on a cold and bitter morning. Fran and Andy Evershed braved the low temperatures to man the plant stall all morning, while the rest of us huddled with tea and cake in the village hall for shelter! We also had to keep the overflow car park closed due to the unseasonably wet weather the previous 2 weeks. This resulted in a quieter event than usual.

Plants on offer included young tomato plants, cucumber and runner beans, sturdy sunflowers of various variety, curry plants, bearded irises, a multitude of cacti, crocosmia, goldenrod, daisies, cosmos and much more.

We also welcomed local potter Cally James from Hippy Hut Pottery (<https://hippyhutpottery.co.uk>) in Lawshall. Cally brought along a range of her pottery including mugs, vases, bowls and scented candles. Cally also offers classes and workshops.

Despite the weather, we still had an amazing set of delicious cakes donated by villagers, and the most impressive selection of plants and seedlings yet. We made a very healthy profit of more than £600, which compared very favourably with profits from previous years. The money raised will go towards funding future village social activities.

The plant fair wouldn't be possible without the generous villagers who volunteer to grow seedlings and plants and donate their time, seeds, soil, pots, etc., to the plant fair. Lesley Carey went beyond the call of duty when she let me take over her greenhouse for months. I also want

to thank all the other villagers who took seedlings from me to nurture and store in their greenhouses and cold frames when I ran out of space! These included Sally Tolhurst, Tony Capewell, Bruce and Sonja Monk, Glyn Hammond and others. Lots of villagers also grew and



donated plants and seedlings, including Penny Barham, Andy Parrett, Sally Tolhurst and Fran and Andy Evershed, to name a few. Apologies if I missed your name from the list as I didn't see everyone who dropped off plants!

A great gang of villagers turned out on Friday night to help set up the event, including Jackie Brown, John Shipley, Fran and Andy Evershed, John West, Rick Senley (who hung some pictures from the upcoming Hawstead photo book), Jane Powell, Louisa and Charlie Rushen, Penny Barham, Susanne White, Roger and Sheilagh Mead, Dave and Judy Carter (again, apologies if I've forgotten anyone!).

Roger Mead from Pinford End deserves a special shout out. Like a trouper, he led the kitchen team serving tea and cake, with help from Lesley Carey and Rosemary Harrison, Rosie Donald, Penny Barham, Geraldine West and others.

Huge thanks to everyone who baked and donated cakes. We sold most at the plant fair, and those remaining at the end I drove around the village and sold door to door. Everything was sold, and the great efforts and generosity of our village bakers were well used and appreciated.

We still have packets of Hawstead village-branded commemorative Coronation wildflower seeds. If you would like a packet for a £1 donation, please let me know.

Our thanks must also go to Caroline Miller for spearheading the event.

Next year's plant fair is already in the diary... Saturday 25 May!



Xander and Rosie looked after the cakes!



What's the point of these village events?

Our annual events like the plant fair mark the changing seasons in the village, foster community spirit and raise money for the Community Council so that we have funds to stage social activities. In the last 12 months the Community Council has funded the Platinum Jubilee Party and the Coronation Tea Party (amongst other events), both of which were free and open to all villagers. This Christmas, we'll also be hosting our annual Triple-20s lunch, which is free to villagers aged over 60, and the whole-village Christmas Drinks Party.

WANTED: New compiler for the Village Voice

Do you have a flair for writing and a willingness to keep your finger on the pulse of village life? If so, then this could be the 'job' for you!

This could be the last issue of the Village Voice unless someone steps forward to take it on. It's a valuable communication tool, keeping all villagers up to date with what's going on. Revived early in 2020, we're now on issue 25. So...

- Can you send out emails to remind contributors of upcoming deadlines?
- Can you lay out content attractively in Word or similar?
- Can you handle photographs and write content yourself to fill any gaps?

If so, and you would like to help villagers stay abreast of what's happening in the village and further afield, please get in touch through bookings@hawsteadvillagehall.co.uk.

Madrigalia in Lawshall

A madrigal choir is a genre (type) of non-religious (secular) unaccompanied vocal music that became extremely popular in Europe in the 16th century. The music continued to be written in most of the first half of the 17th century, especially in Italy and England. This June at All Saints' Church Lawshall you can enjoy listening to Madrigalia performing alongside a harp ensemble.

There will be a 'Madrigalia concert' in All Saints' Church Lawshall on Friday 9 June from 7.30pm. It will comprise a varied programme including madrigals, folk songs and popular songs from the choir (some accompanied and some 'a capella'), and traditional Scottish, Irish and English pieces from the harp ensemble. The concert will also include some arrangements of songs accompanied by the harp ensemble which have been arranged specially for this quite unusual combination.

Tickets will be available on the door or (preferably) in advance. Contact Elizabeth Clarke on 07813 430985 for more information or tickets.



MADRIGALIA
&
A Melody of Harps

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH
LAWSHALL FUNDRAISING
CONCERT £8 INC. GLASS
OF PIMMS

Madrigalia (a small mixed voice chamber choir) & A Melody of Harps are looking forward to performing at Lawshall Church again. The choir will sing madrigals, folksongs & popular songs & the harp ensemble will perform traditional pieces.

FRIDAY 9TH JUNE
7.30 PM

TICKETS ON THE DOOR OR FROM
ELIZABETH CLARKE - 07813430985
ANNE CHORLEY - 07761934059

Hawstead's Photography Book: celebrating an historic year

Photographer Rick Senley is making a final call to residents to be part of this once-in-a-decade book. To be part of this special Hawstead project, make contact quick.

We're in the final few weeks of creating a new photography book about Hawstead and its residents, led by professional photographer Rick Senley (a friend of Caroline Miller's from Whepstead Road).

Over the past year or so, Rick has been taking portrait photographs of residents to mark this historic year. It's a once-in-a-generation moment when we have witnessed both the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and the King's Coronation. We want to capture this moment in Hawstead's history for future generations.

We'd like to include as many villagers as possible. All it requires is as little as 5 minutes of your time to have your photograph taken. The photo can be either of you alone or with your family or pets, at home or in your garden, or in a setting relevant to your role in the village or your hobbies.



Rick will visit the village once more in the summer. We hope to publish the book in September 2023, accompanied by an exhibition of portraits, Hawstead's landscapes over the seasons, and drone shots of the village. The exhibition will be in Hawstead Church.

Books will be for sale (dates and costs to follow, the latter dependent on the number of portraits, the book's final size and how many villagers pre-order copies... the larger the print run, the lower the price).

If you would like to take part, or have any questions about this project, please email ricksenley@yahoo.co.uk or speak to Caroline Miller for more details. If you know anyone who may wish to be involved but who won't have seen this article, then please suggest the idea to them, or print out this article and pop it through their letterbox.

To get an idea of what the final Hawstead book will look like you can view an online preview of the similar photography book that Rick created for his home village Guiting Power book (the format of which will inspire Hawstead's), please take a look at: <https://www.blurb.co.uk/b/10772548-guiting-power-a-year-in-lockdown>



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- ▶ UK DOG SPORTS CLASSES



CONTACT US TODAY!
07722 569916

K9visiondogtraining@gmail.com | Depden, Bury St. Edmunds