

ISSUE

24

23 March  
2023

# The Village Voice



## Welcome to our village newsletter

**Saturday 1 April 10am–12pm is our Community Club Drop-in Morning at the village hall. Come along and chat about getting a new club started. Let's make Hawstead a better place to live, with more opportunities for building friendships. We look forward to seeing you there and sharing your ideas!**

**Later the same evening we are hosting an authentic Indian curry night at the village hall. All food is being prepared by Suzi Surti and family, with the majority of profit heading to St Nicholas Hospice. Don't miss out on what will be an amazing evening.**

**In addition, this issue contains more detail on upcoming Easter events, our Spring Plant Fair, our Coronation celebrations, and more community events at Maglia Rosso.**

**Note our copy deadline for the next issue of the Village Voice is mid-May 2023. Send items to [bookings@hawsteadvillagehall.co.uk](mailto: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.**

# Spring diary dates

Saturday 25 March – Book in for the Curry Night before this date!

Saturday 1 April – Drop off Lent boxes by this date

Saturday 1 April – Community Clubs Morning at Hawstead Village Hall, 10am -12pm

Saturday 1 April – Authentic Indian Curry Night at Hawstead Village Hall, 7pm onwards

Sunday 9 April – Easter Service from 11am at All Saints Church, Hawstead, followed by Easter Egg Hunt from 11.45am

Friday 14 April – 6pm onwards at Maglia Rosso, talk and meal – world's fastest man on a bike!

Saturday 15 April – Churchyard tidy up, 10am-12pm at All Saints, Hawstead

Monday 24 April – Hawstead Community Council meeting from 6.30pm at Hawstead Village Hall

Saturday 29 April – Silversmithing workshop at Hawstead Village Hall, 9am-1pm

Thursday 4 May – Local elections

Monday 8 May – Hawstead's Coronation Celebrations at Hawstead Village Hall

Thursday 11 May – Hawstead Parish Council meeting, 7pm onwards at Hawstead Village Hall

Saturday 13 May – Hawstead's Spring Plant Fair at Hawstead Village Hall

Monday 15 May – Hawstead Community Council's AGM from 6.30pm at Hawstead Village Hall

Saturday 20 May – Churchyard tidy up, 10am-12pm at All Saints, Hawstead

Tuesday 6 June – HandleBards at Maglia Rosso – A Midsummer Night's Dream, gates open 5pm

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

Sunday 3 September – Hawstead Fete and Produce Show

Saturday 21 October – ShantyFolk Shindig at Hawstead Village Hall

PLUS Takeaway Fish & Chips Nights as advertised



# Authentic Curry Night in Hawstead

Tantalise your tastebuds at our Authentic Curry Night in aid of St Nicholas Hospice. Cooked by villager Suzi Surti and family (who provided the curry for our Jubilee celebrations last summer), you can be sure of a real taste of India! **BOOKINGS CLOSE SATURDAY 25 MARCH.**

On **Saturday 1 April from 7pm at Hawstead Village Hall** we are hosting a traditional Indian curry night full of authentic tastes and flavours. The hall will be decorated with saris and fairy lights, making a very special space to enjoy this wonderful food offering.



## *Authentic Indian* **CURRY NIGHT**

*Cooked and co-hosted by the Surti Family*

**Saturday 1 April**

6.45pm for 7pm, Hawstead Village Hall  
BYO drinks

Tickets £15 each (12 and under £8). Book by 25 March.  
Numbers limited. Takeaway service also available.

For tickets, contact [bookings@hawsteadvillagehall.co.uk](mailto:bookings@hawsteadvillagehall.co.uk)  
confirming whether meat or vegetarian diners

**Fundraising for St Nicholas Hospice and Hawstead Village Hall**

Hawstead resident Suzi Surti will be using some of her favourite family recipes to provide us with a delicious feast, with 80% of profits going to St Nicholas Hospice and 20% to the village hall.

The menu will include two vegetarian starters with raita, followed by two vegetarian main dishes and one meat dish with rice and dahl. **A takeaway service can be arranged for collection by pre-ordering.**

This will be a fantastic opportunity to enjoy an authentic Indian meal with village friends in aid of very good causes!

Tickets are available through the village hall at £15 per adult and £8 per child up to 12 years. Email [bookings@hawsteadvillagehall.co.uk](mailto:bookings@hawsteadvillagehall.co.uk) to book tickets, and drop off monies through the village hall letterbox.

Hawstead Community Council will provide water and squash, but please BYO alcohol.

# New Community Clubs for Hawstead

Join us on the morning of Saturday 1 April to discuss your ideas for a range of new village clubs. Here's how you can make it happen!

On Saturday 1 April from 10am until 12 midday Hawstead Village Hall is opening its doors to welcome all villagers to come along and discuss their ideas for new clubs. Our recent community consultation highlighted a desire for lots of new village-based activities, but they need to be organised by villagers. Pop in at any time for a quick drink while chatting about your thoughts and hopefully recruiting some core volunteers to make these clubs take off.



Note that there are grants available to support new community clubs which can be used to buy equipment, and pay for speakers and venue hire. We can put you in touch with the right people.

## Lent boxes

A final reminder to anyone wishing to donate a Lent box to the Vineyard Church in Bury St Edmunds to families needing help. Please drop off any donations with Lesley Carey on or before 1 April.



Lent is often considered a time during which something should be 'given up'. However, Lent can also be acknowledged by acts of kindness and giving. With the latter in mind, over the past couple of years the Church team has sought help from Hawstead villagers to create special Lent boxes filled with food items, as well as love. Instead of giving up chocolate, cake and biscuits, you could provide a box for the less fortunate. Can you help this year?

Each box contains approximately 40 items, including food, toiletries and other useful items. Boxes should be delivered to Lesley 386132 or Rosemary 386157 before 1 April to ensure that the Vineyard Church receives them before Easter.

# Report: Lent lunch

On Saturday 11 March, the Church team offered a Lent Lunch at Hawstead Village Hall. Visitors enjoyed soup, cheese and a roll, plus good company.



The Church Team would like to thank everyone who attended their Lent Lunch on 11 March. £300 was received in donations which will go into church funds to support the village church. Thanks too to the willing team of volunteers, without whom the event could not have been staged.

## 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

On the 1st and 3rd Sundays, services will be held at Nowton at 11am.

Dates and times of all Benefice Services are on the noticeboard at Church.

## Easter Sunday Celebrations

Join in the Easter Sunday service at All Saints, Hawstead on Sunday 9 April from 11am. All are welcome, and the Easter bunny will be visiting afterwards too!

All Saints Church, Hawstead welcomes all villagers to its special Easter Sunday service starting at 11am on Sunday 9 April. This is a shared service with Nowton, and will include a Eucharist Service led by Stuart Batten, the current Diocesan Director of Ordinands.

Following the service there will be refreshments and an Easter Egg

**Hunt!** If you wish to just come to the egg hunt, please arrive at around 11.45am.

Please dress for the occasion... we would really like to see the ladies, gentlemen and especially the children wearing Easter bonnets. There'll be a special prize for the best Easter Bonnet!



# All Saints Church 100 Club

# 100 CLUB

**The February draw of the All Saints 100 Club has taken place, but who were the lucky winners?**

February's lucky winners of £20 each were Judy Heston (Nowton) and Oscar Carey (grandson of Lesley Carey, Hawstead).

The next draw will take place in church at All Saints, Hawstead on Sunday 26 March after the service

## Hawstead Community Council's AGM

**Unbelievably, it's nearly that time of year once again when Hawstead Community Council is tasked with presenting its accounts and offering residents a summary of the year's activities. Will you step up and take on some responsibility for managing the village hall and community events?**

Hawstead Community Council's AGM will be held on Monday 15 May, at which annual reports will be presented and a new Committee elected. We are keen to see some new faces involved, bringing along new ideas and a willingness to take on some responsibility.

Our AGM is when you as a resident have the opportunity to hear what's been happening at the hall and maybe even consider joining us to help shape the future of the village hall.

Getting involved with your Community Council will:

- improve life in your village for all residents and
- help make new friendships to enhance your enjoyment of life in Hawstead.

Please consider joining our small and friendly Committee. The more active members we have involved, the less pressure on the few who are currently committed and the more likely we are all to enjoy the meetings and plan and experience fantastic social events here in the village for everyone. Please step forward and be part of our Community Council team!

Our existing Committee consists of Susanne White, John Shipley, Louisa Jackson, Caroline Miller, Bob Brough, Ali Bovill, Amanda Lomas-Farley, Shannon Bullen and Sarah Bullen. We can have up to nine members.



# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



All members of the current Committee will be stepping down as per our constitution at the upcoming AGM, leaving all posts to be proposed and elected.

Please let Bob Brough ([bob.brough1@icloud.com](mailto:bob.brough1@icloud.com)) know if you will be joining us so we can prepare the venue.

Make a note in your diary NOW!

Susanne White ([susanne@pamplin.me.uk](mailto:susanne@pamplin.me.uk))  
On behalf of Hawstead Community Council

## NOTICE of Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Hawstead Community Council

Every village resident is a Member of Hawstead Community Council. As such, the current Executive Committee needs to inform villagers of its upcoming Community Council AGM (at 6.30pm on Monday 15 May at Hawstead Village Hall).

### **Making the meeting safe**

We will meet inside the hall. Please do not attend if you have symptoms of COVID. Please let us know in advance if you would like to join us, and a record will be kept of all attendees.

### **What will happen at the AGM?**

At the AGM we will be voting to elect our new Honorary Officers and Executive Committee for 2023/24. All positions are available for election as per our Constitution. Nominations are invited for the following positions which all have voting rights at General Meetings:

- **Chair** – Shall chair meetings, represent the Council at functions/meetings to which the group has been invited, to act as the spokesperson for the Council when necessary
- **Vice Chair** – Shall support and stand in for the Chair when necessary
- **Secretary** – Shall prepare, in consultation with the Chair, the agenda for meetings, take and keep minutes of all meetings and collect and circulate any relevant information within the Executive Committee
- **Treasurer** – Shall supervise the financial affairs of the Council and keep proper accounts that show all monies received and paid out by the Executive Committee and shall provide a financial statement at each meeting and produce accounts, independently examined by a competent person, to the Annual General Meeting
- **Executive Committee Member** (up to 9)

## Would you like to be on the Executive Committee?

If you wish to have a vote on Hawstead Community Council issues throughout the year, you need to be elected as a member of the Executive Committee. You must arrange for a nomination, a proposer and a seconder and forward the details to our Secretary, Bob Brough, at [bob.brough1@icloud.com](mailto:bob.brough1@icloud.com) by Friday 12 May to enable us to prepare ballot papers. You will need to supply:

- Name of Nominee:
- Address of Nominee:
- Email address of Nominee:
- Position(s) sought:
- Details of Proposer: Name, address, email
- Details of Seconder: Name, address, email

Just to be clear, the nominee, proposer and seconder MUST be villagers resident at a village address. You should also read the Constitution, in particular clauses 7 and 10, to ensure you meet the requirements of the Constitution. To vote, you must be present at the AGM.

## Come and join us

All villagers are most welcome to attend the AGM of Hawstead Community Council on Monday 15 May at Hawstead Village Hall from 6.30pm. Please do not come along if you are showing any of the symptoms of COVID.

Our AGM is a good opportunity for you to make sure that the Community Council is looking after your village hall as you would like, and you will be updated by reports from the Chair and Treasurer. While the AGM itself is a meeting somewhat limited to the elections, we will break for a short time afterwards and then reconvene for a more informal General Meeting of the new Executive Committee, to which all are invited. Given the time taken for the AGM, this General Meeting is likely to be a short meeting to discuss the essentials, with less urgent items being deferred to our next meeting.

We are always keen to welcome new members to our meetings, whether as an observer or someone willing to offer new ideas for social activities. Whatever your skill set or age, do please come along to learn what we are all about and to see whether you would like to get more involved. Dates for our meetings are advertised through the Village Voice and our online village hall calendar, but please just email [bookings@hawsteadvillagehall.co.uk](mailto:bookings@hawsteadvillagehall.co.uk) if you are unsure of dates/times.



## Provisional Agenda for the Annual General Meeting of Hawstead Community Council

Monday 15 May 2023 at 6.30pm at Hawstead Village Hall

Please sign in on arrival.

1. Welcome and apologies
2. Approval of Minutes of 2022 AGM
3. Matters arising not dealt with elsewhere
4. Chair's report for 2022/23
5. Treasurer's report for 2022/23
6. Election and appointment of Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, Secretary & other Executive Committee Members for 2023/24
7. Appointment of the Auditor for 2023/24
8. Any other business (previously notified to the Chair)

# Easter Bunny returning to Hawstead

Village children will be pleased to hear that the Easter Bunny may well be returning to Hawstead this year and leaving some tasty gifts



for all aged 16 and under. Hawstead Community Council has been in touch with the Easter Bunny's Suffolk representative, and hopefully a visit will ensue some time over the Easter period. If you have new neighbours with younger children, or are new to the village yourself with young children, do contact the Easter Bunny Liaison Officer at [bookings@hawsteadvillagehall.co.uk](mailto:bookings@hawsteadvillagehall.co.uk) and provide details.



## Spring at Hawstead Village Hall

So far this Spring we have:

- installed a new kitchen floor
- installed a new picnic bench in the play area
- installed a new sound control system
- found ANOTHER leak in the radiator pipework in the main hall
- repaired damaged floor 'planks' in the main hall and corridor
- checked all the hall's chairs and deep cleaned the upholstery where required
- performed a stocktake on all village hall equipment, and ordered top up equipment where items have broken or gone astray
- performed a deep clean of the village hall
- installed additional equipment to improve the Bluetooth connectivity and wireless reception in the village hall.



Coming soon this Spring, we are planning:

- replacing the hall's curtains and blinds
- finalising quotes for a play area surface revamp
- polishing and buffing the floors in the main hall and corridor (once the leak is fixed!)
- repairing the drawers in the kitchen
- assessing the surrounding play area fencing for repair or replacement.

# Coronation celebrations

With plans taking shape for our Coronation celebrations on Monday 8 May, make sure you keep the date free for an afternoon of family fun and food with your neighbours.

Community Council Members Amanda Lomas-Farley and Ali Bovill are spearheading the planning for our Coronation celebrations on Monday 8 May from 2 til 5pm at Hawstead Village Hall. They promise an old-school street-style party including afternoon tea and fizz. There'll also be a fancy dress competition for the children, invited to dress up as a king, queen, prince or princess for the day.



With low-key family-friendly games also included, the afternoon promises to be joyful and relaxing.

The event offers villagers the opportunity to come together to celebrate this historic weekend. Amanda and Ali will be asking for help soon, so please step forward when asked. In the meantime, if you have ideas for the event, or would like to lend a hand with setting up/tidying away and catering, please contact Amanda on [amanda.birdlane@btopenworld.com](mailto:amanda.birdlane@btopenworld.com).



## Meet a Guinness World Record Holder!

Come down to Maglia Rosso on Friday 14 April to meet a Guinness World Record Holder!

Neil Campbell set a new Guinness World Record in 2019 when he rode his purpose-built bicycle to the almost unbelievable speed of 174 mph at the Elvington Airfield in Yorkshire. He did this in the slipstream of a modified Porsche car, and has plans to have a fresh attempt to raise the record still further. He will be telling us all about this in his talk on Friday April 14.



The event is free to attend, but donations to a local charity would be welcomed.

The cafe will also be serving optional evening meals from 6pm at £12 per head with a choice of Hunters Chicken or a vegetarian option. **Meals must be booked in advance** on 01284 386884.

# Shannon in Thailand

This February, Hawstead resident and Community Council member Shannon Bullen spent 2 weeks in Thailand. You may remember that she hosted a cake sale at the village hall to raise funds for the volunteering part of her trip. Here Shannon recounts her experiences for us all to enjoy.



First, thank you to everyone who contributed so generously to my cake sale fundraiser for the Future Sense Foundation charity back in January. The total raised for the children was £266! Here's what I got up to whilst volunteering.

After leaving West Suffolk College at 3:30am, I took my first ever flight. We left Gatwick bound for Dubai, then Bangkok, then Chaing Mai. There followed a winding bus journey into the mountains. Our total outbound travel time was 38 hours... exhausting!

On arrival, we were given 45 minutes to shower and be ready for a meal. During a huge thunderstorm, we got back onto the bus and were taken to a house where they'd opened a restaurant. Twenty of us were offered rice, Thai green curry, fried vegetables and spring rolls. Unfortunately on the return journey after dinner our bus driver crashed the bus. He didn't seem to mind... after he had checked the dent he just said 'Whoopsie!'. He was so happy all the time that we named him Smiley Man!

During our first week we worked in the hill tribe school, and also litter picked during the day. We visited markets, shops and temples in the evenings, and also saw where the monks lived. Any monks we saw remained silent.



During the weekend we stayed at the elephant and nature sanctuary in Mae Taeng, which is a village near Chaing Mai. They have helped 1,476 elephants to date, and currently have 305 elephants living in the sanctuary. The elephants are all living their best lives after being rescued from the tourist industry, and some have horrible injuries. We spent time watching the elephants, and also made up their food and fed them with our hands. Trunk slime is not nice!



I thought all the Thai food was delicious, and I would love to go back there.

For our second week we returned to the school. We helped with English lessons, and organised workshops about emotional, social and physical wellbeing. Every child I met told me I am the palest person they had ever seen! I also had Thai people grab me to take photographs, which was surprising.

During the evenings we were given cookery lessons, and we made a Pad Thai and a Thai dessert.

I was very sad to leave the school, and lots of the children cried, which was not my aim! They made me lots of handmade leaving gifts.



Our 38 hour return journey began on the bus, then a smaller airplane from Chaing Mai which had tape on the wing. That was a bit scary! After two more flights and a long coach ride, we arrived back at West Suffolk College very tired but thankful for our amazing experience.

Thank you again to everyone who helped me smash my fundraising target. I hope you enjoy the photographs.

*Shannon Bullen*

## Regular weekday events at the 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

- **Fish & Chips Fridays** – dates as advertised, 5-7pm
- **HATS** – Hawstead Appreciation & Tasting Society – meeting monthly on a Thursday evening from around 8pm



# Jammie Dodgers in action

Don't we all love to sit down, have a natter and enjoy a good cuppa and sometimes a biscuit or two? Join Hawstead's Jammie Dodgers and get stuck in!

Our village group of volunteers is named after that little round biscuit with the raspberry jam centre. The company that bakes them, Burtons Biscuits, has been doing so for close on 200 years, and also produces those other favourites Maryland Cookies and Wagon Wheels.

Hawstead's Jammie Dodgers team has been up and running for only 2 or 3 years, and when we meet up it has become a tradition to enjoy some refreshments as described above.

Although our working parties have been few and far between through the COVID episode, we are hoping to ramp up activities now that Spring is almost upon us. The whole idea is to come together to form small work parties from time to time to complete tasks around our beautiful village.

Recently our achievements have included:

- Clearing a pathway at Hawstead Brook and erecting a new wooden handrail
- Cutting the hedging between the churchyard and the Millennium Field
- Creating a safer path along the roadside of Bells Lane
- Creating a new pathway through a small area of woodland at Brook Green.

Thank you to everyone in our team who's helped. Well done all! It's never hard work when supported by a Jammie Dodger, and it's great to meet up with others for



*John West trims the hedge between the churchyard and the Millennium Field*



*John Shipley proudly shows off the new handrail at Hawstead Brook*



*Christabel and James Carr drag hedge trimmings to the bonfire*

an hour or two, get out into the fresh air and achieve a worthwhile result for our community.

**If you'd like to participate in our work parties this Spring/Summer, just let me know and I will include you in our future Jammie Dodger projects.**

*John West*

[john@johnwestfinance.co.uk](mailto:john@johnwestfinance.co.uk)

# Crafting in Hawstead

Calling all Hawstead crafters. In our Community Consultation you said you wanted more arty/crafty things in Hawstead. So here's a great start. Sign up to experience a new crafting technique on your doorstep.

Having originally trained as an ecclesiastical metalworker, Don's interest in design and the desire to communicate and explore this led him into a career in teaching.

He now manufactures jewellery from his own studio, and also teaches classes in designing and making pieces from a variety of media and using a wide range of techniques.

*'Silversmithing and jewellery design, for me, are about passion. They are about taking raw materials and producing something unique and beautiful.'*

If you have ever wondered how good it feels to spend a couple of hours designing and making in silver, gold and mixed media, then attend either a one-off workshop or a weekly class and find out.

Please contact Don direct for further information: <http://dssilversmith.com> or 07563 809112

## SILVER JEWELLERY-MAKING WORKSHOPS AT HAWSTEAD VILLAGE HALL

WITH BRITISH SILVERSMITH DON SANKEY

Originally trained as an Ecclesiastical Silversmith in Liverpool and now relocated to Bury St. Edmunds, I am pleased to announce my one-off workshops at Hawstead. These will be offered as follows-



BOOKINGS NOW BEING TAKEN FOR-

SATURDAY APRIL 29<sup>th</sup> 2023  
SILVER RING WORKSHOP 9-1pm

LEARN NEW SKILLS IN A FUN, SOCIAL AND FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENT  
OPEN TO ALL ABILITIES. NO PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE REQUIRED  
ALL MATERIALS, TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT WILL BE PROVIDED

£95 Per Person\*. Including silver

**PLEASE CONTACT ME TO REGISTER YOUR INTEREST BY April 22nd!**  
(MIN 4 PEOPLE NEEDED FOR CLASSES AND WORKSHOPS TO COMMENCE. \*£85 IF 4+ CONFIRM)

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

E:[dssilversmith@gmail.com](mailto:dssilversmith@gmail.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 managed to keep the village churchyard looking neat and tidy last year. Sadly the grass, weeds, brambles, etc., don't stand still. Soon they'll be girding their loins for another assault this Spring. 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-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 great! (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!

Our first session on Saturday 11 March was cancelled due to overly wet ground conditions. Here are the proposed dates for the remainder of the year: April 15, May 20, June 10, July 8, August 12, September 16, October 14, November 11.

*Andy Parrett*



## WANTED: Volunteer Bookings Clerk

**Are you highly organised with good interpersonal skills? Can you spare some time to welcome hirers and make sure they have everything they need?**

Hawstead Village Hall needs a small team of volunteers to help welcome hirers and make sure they have everything they need for their hire. Volunteers will also need to be able to explain our terms and conditions of hire (if necessary) and make sure everything is ready for the hire (including briefing the caretaker). Our current bookings policy is trying to minimise bookings while maximising income. This has the aim of decreasing the workload on volunteers but still reaching (and hopefully exceeding) the minimum financial levels required to keep the hall going.

If you feel you can offer some time, even maybe to cover one or two months' hires a year, please get in touch through [bookings@hawsteadvillagehall.co.uk](mailto:bookings@hawsteadvillagehall.co.uk). Sharing the workload is hugely helpful.

# 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](http://www.handlebards.com), so go online now to secure your spot.

Prices are £19.50, Early Bird £16.50, Under 18s £12.50, Under 10s one free per paid ticket.

## Maglia Rosso event dates

**Friday 31 March** – Evening Quiz (NOW FULLY BOOKED)

**Friday 14 April** – Fastest man on a bike in the world! Neil Campbell visits to talk about his amazing speed record of 174mph behind a vehicle. A supper will be served at 7pm and Neil will talk and answer questions afterwards.

**Friday evenings from 6pm** – Classic Car Shows – 28 April, 26 May, 23 June, 28 July, 25 Aug

**Monday 29 May** (Bank Holiday) – Spring Sportive Cycling event

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

**Sunday 9 July** – The Edge Cycling Event on behalf of St Nicholas Hospice



THE HANDLEBARDS

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

# Lightning Talks at Maglia Rosso

Andy Parrett attended the recent Lightning Talks evening at Maglia Rosso, and he was even brave enough to give a talk himself! In fact, it all turned out to be great fun and included a fabulous curry!

At 7pm on Friday 3 March the café at Maglia Rosso was full. Plates of curry were being handed out, and bottles of wine and beer were being ordered. This was the evening of the second series of 'lightning talks'... short, 5-minute talks on any subject a volunteer wishes to speak about. The talks had been 'registered' beforehand with Barry Denny, the evening's Master of Ceremonies. I hadn't attended before, so didn't quite know what to expect. I had, though, rehearsed my talk '**Queen Elizabeth was here**' against a stopwatch, and had got it honed down to exactly 5 minutes.

Although this was a little bit 'getting out of one's comfort zone' (for me at least), it turned out to be a most enjoyable – and entertaining – evening. Here's a list of the other speakers' subjects:

- A Village Tree (a Judas tree in Hawstead)
- 33 Portland Place\*
- Archery and the Long Bow
- The Motorcycling Club (Britain's oldest sporting motor club for motorcycles and cars)
- Cambridge University Colleges
- Poems by Sonia (chef at Maglia Rosso)
- Two very different experiences taking part in the 'Etape du Tour' of the Tour de France.

\* You'll need to 'Google' it to find out the significance!

I needn't have worried about being cut off by the bell at exactly 5 minutes, as Barry turned out to be relaxed about the timings! Everyone had a good time, and we are promised another Lightning Talks evening some time in the future. Perhaps others in the village would like to take part? (I was the only 'Hawsteader' involved.)

By the way, the significance of Queen Elizabeth is the fact that, as a good number of villagers will know, Queen Elizabeth I passed through Hawstead on her way from Long Melford to Bury St Edmunds (and eventually Norwich) during her 1578 'Progress', accompanied by hundreds of nobles, ministers of state, soldiers, servants, etc. She stayed a night at Hawstead Place, and my contention is that the procession passed along the road (track) right outside Maglia Rosso.

## Do you have something to say?

Volunteer speakers are always wanted... everyone has something interesting to say! Contact Barry Denny on [barry@magliarosso.co.uk](mailto:barry@magliarosso.co.uk) for more information or pop down to the café.



*The talk about 33 Portland Place is underway*

# Hawstead Spring Plant Fair – 13 May 2023

**Saturday 13 May is the date set for our Spring Plant Fair 2023. We need seedlings and plants grown, and kind offers of cakes for the catering on the day. Can you help?**

It might still be cold, but the sun is shining, snowdrops and daffodils are blooming, and seed catalogues are enticing us to think about our summer gardens. This year our Plant Fair is on Saturday 13 May, 10am–1pm. In true Hawstead style, even if you don't garden, the Plant Fair is also a chance to enjoy a cup of tea/coffee and delicious cake with friends. We'll also be welcoming a local potter selling a range of her wares.

The plants and seedlings we sell are all produced by villagers, and the funds raised go towards the Community Council, which in turn supports future village social events.



There are many brilliant gardeners in the village, both professional and keen amateurs, with years of experience and stunning gardens. We rely on the generosity of residents to help us produce the plants we sell. Lesley Carey and Caroline Miller have already started to plan ahead. Seeds have arrived, everything from Cosmos to Nasturtiums and vegetables. Perennials are being split and potted ready to sell, ranging from Siberian iris to Shasta daisies, from Crocosmia to Goldenrod.

**Can you help with the plant fair?** The more of us involved, the lighter the workload and the more sociable and fun the event will be. Here are six ways you can join in:

1. Grow some extra seedlings for the Plant Fair. We have plenty of plant pots. If you need any, just contact Caroline.
2. Take a tray of seedlings already planted and look after them! We always run out of greenhouse space, but the seedlings are also happy on a windowsill.
3. Split perennials to provide a pot or two for the plant fair. If you can't split them yourself but are happy for us to come and take a piece of plant, that would also be great.
4. Bake a cake.
5. Volunteer for 1.5 hours on the day.
6. Help with publicity for the event.



If you'd like to volunteer, please email [carolinemiller033@gmail.com](mailto:carolinemiller033@gmail.com) or call her on 07980 675137 or 01284 388841.

*Caroline Miller*  
Hillside, Whepstead Road

# Do you remember the 2021 Census?

The 2021 Census was the first we had to complete online. Here, Andy Parrett takes us through the data now available.

I remember having a quick look at the initial data when some became available, but I'd forgotten all about it until a few days ago when I came across a note suggesting that more information has been released and there are now some statistics that can be looked at on a very local scale. In Hawstead, for example you can find out that 52.1% of the population is stated as female as against 47.9% male.

You can access the 2021 Census at <https://www.ons.gov.uk/visualisations/customprofiles/draw>. On the left-hand side you will find a box 'Find an area or postcode'. Type in 'Hawstead' and click on the magnifying glass to view a map of the parish, and the immediate information that the 'population selected' is 320.

From here, you can 'Build a Profile' (green/white clickable link on the right-hand side), which then takes you to a screen with, on the left-hand side, 'Select List', above a list of six topics, the first of which, 'Population' is already selected. And look – under these six topics it says 'Show 28 More'!

Above this list there's another choice: 'Select comparison'. By default, this is set at 'England', but you have other choices, including East of England, Suffolk, West Suffolk and Babergh. Leaving the comparison as 'England', I selected 'Age Profile'. You can see that, compared to England as a whole, we have fewer young people and notably more over 55s.

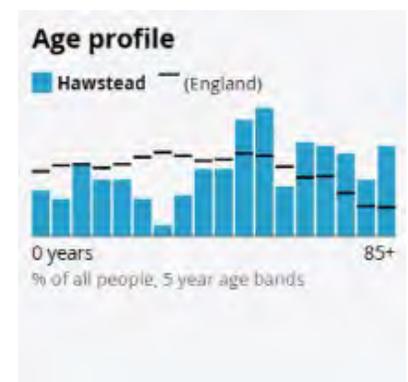
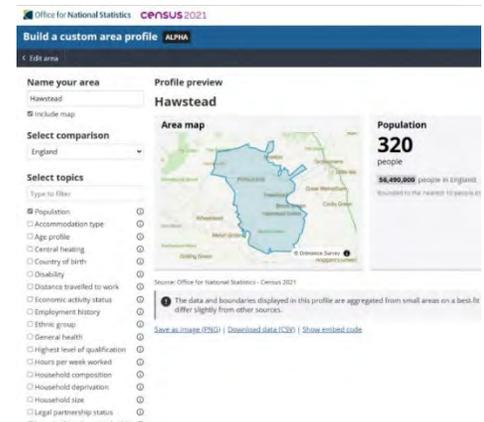
You can review these 34 different topics one by one or by selecting as many as you like at the same time. And if you have a number of the bar charts open at the same time and go to change the comparison category, all of the little black comparison lines will change at one click of the button!

You'll notice that, other than the total population (and the number of households – 120), the data are presented just as percentages. Actual numbers can be worked out, and in the case of the age profile, by hovering with a mouse over individual bars on the chart which will then show individual age band percentages.

And you're not restricted to data just about Hawstead. I had a look at the neighbouring parishes of Lawshall and Whepstead, just for the population totals. This was because ours showed a reduction in total population from recent previous censuses, which puzzled me. If you look at the graph on the village website: '**Population Change in Hawstead from Census data 1801 - (10 year intervals)**' on the page: [Hawstead Parish Council - Past and Present \(hawstead-parish-council.co.uk\)](http://hawstead-parish-council.co.uk), you'll see that in 1981 Hawstead's population was given as 298, followed by 1991: 340, 2001: 334, 2011: 338, meaning that in 2021 there was a drop of 18. That seems a lot to me! Sure enough, Lawshall shows an increase from 968 to 990 and Whepstead up from 422 to 480.

This is all interesting information. Just as a reminder, though, individual census returns are embargoed for 100 years: witness the fact that the full 1921 census was made available only recently.

Andy Parrett



# The Hawstead Oil Buying Group

**Our Oil Buying Group has been operational in Hawstead for over 10 years now. Despite the many advantages of ordering through it, there are surprisingly many villagers who do not use it. Why not join up to benefit from cheaper prices?**

To join the Oil Buying Group, simply let Michael Harrison have your e-mail address with your first order, as well as your full name and postal address for delivery and invoicing purposes. Telephone numbers are also useful.



About once per month (less often in the summer), Michael obtains a price estimate per litre from Framtrade of Framlingham. They seek out the very best deal for us on the day, and also place the group order for us. Michael then circulates the estimated price to all those registered on the Oil Buying Group, and requests that the households' requirements, if any, are sent to him by a date about 5 days hence.

Michael then sends the Group Order to Framtrade, and the company confirms the best deal for us and places our order. Michael is then notified of the exact price payable, and circulates details to the Group of the price, the oil supplier making the delivery, and when to expect it before.

The householder simply needs to ensure that access to the oil tank is open/clear, and the delivery will be made. On delivery, the tanker driver will leave a receipt showing exactly how much oil was delivered.

## **Now for the good bits!**

You may have noticed that so far no payment has been made. If you go direct to an oil company, they won't normally supply without first taking payment. With the Oil Buying Group, Framtrade will send each household an invoice about a week after delivery for settlement. That invoice is easily settled by card over the telephone or by on-line banking, and they give several weeks for the householder to do that. Effectively **you receive a month or so free credit!**

Another good bit... **everyone pays the same price per litre, whether you order the minimum quantity of 500 litres or place a larger**

## **The Benefits**

- Michael emails a reminder for you to check your oil level!
- Competitive low rates, so long as you order at least 500 litres.
- Save time by not having to ring around several companies.
- No premium for orders under 1,000 litres.
- You pay after delivery.
- You receive a few weeks of free credit!
- No nonsense delivery, just make sure your tank is accessible.
- Fewer delivery miles, so great for the environment!

**order** for, say, 1,000 or 1,500 litres. Most oil companies will charge the household a premium on orders less than 1,000 litres... but not the Oil Group!

And a few more good bits! One of the great benefits of using the scheme is the **time saved not having to ring around for the best quote**. The Oil Group price is always competitive, and just a quick e-mail to Michael is all that is needed. And making a village delivery means **cutting down on tanker miles**, and that's got to be good for the environment!

We have had a great relationship with Framtrade since the start of the scheme. Why not give us a try? Our next group order will be early May.

Incidentally, Framtrade is also great for bottled gas. Their friendly delivery is normally on a Wednesday, and they can be contacted direct on 01728 723723.

*Mike Harrison*

mharrison151@btinternet.com or 01284 386157

## WANTED: Play area weeding volunteer

**Interested in a small regular task March–October to help out your village? Please give it some thought.**

Between around March and November our play area needs a watchful eye kept on it to ensure that no weeds start taking hold in the bark and the 'holes' under the swings are filled and raked. If you feel you could check it for us a couple of times a month and pull up the odd weed, please do get in touch. There's now a brown waste bin at the back of the village hall, so weeds are easily composted. Contact [bookings@hawsteadvillagehall.co.uk](mailto:bookings@hawsteadvillagehall.co.uk) for more details or to offer your time.



## 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 24. 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](mailto:bookings@hawsteadvillagehall.co.uk).



# 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 before 31 May 2023.

We are creating a new photography book about Hawstead and its residents, led by professional photographer Rick Senley (a friend of Caroline Miller's from Wkepstead 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 will celebrate the coronation of our new King. We want to capture this moment in Hawstead's history for future generations.

Thank you to those villagers who have already got involved. Some of the portraits Rick has already taken will be on display at the village hall during the Plant Fair weekend (13 May 2023), so you can see how the project is progressing.

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 several times between now and the final deadline of 31 May to continue to take photos. 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](mailto: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 though 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>



# Languages On-line

For a couple of years, the pandemic and its resulting periods of lockdown changed the way that many of us work and learn. For some, a return to normal (or at least the 'new normal') comes as a relief. Others, however, have decided to retain at least some of the changes.



We recently spoke to Santi Torrecillas, a native Spanish tutor who, prior to lockdown, was teaching in West Suffolk College, various local schools and giving private face-to-face lessons in her students' homes.

All of these came to an abrupt halt in 2020, but several of her students asked if they could continue with their lessons 'on-line'. She told us 'it wasn't something I had ever considered before, but I contacted all of my students to gauge their interest. A few really didn't feel comfortable with this form of learning, but enough of them were willing to try it that I decided to invest in the available technology.'

## 10 common Spanish phrases

Buenos días! Good morning!	Adios Good bye
¿Cómo estás? How are you?	Gracias Thank you
Por favor Please	Te amo I love you
Lo siento I'm sorry	Hola Hello
Con permiso Excuse me	Bien, gracias Good, thank you

Santi explained that she was surprised by how easily she, and her students, adapted. 'At first', she said, 'I viewed it as a short-term option to avoid interrupting my students' progress – particularly those who were studying for exams. Three years on, however, the vast majority of my classes are still given on line.'

It seems that students of all ages and abilities enjoy the convenience of learning from their own homes rather than physically going to classes. For Santi, as well, it was a real time saver because she no longer had to drive from client to client; and this represents an even greater advantage in the current climate of increased fuel prices.

'I had assumed that my school-age students would adapt well to the technology', Santi added, 'but I teach a wide range of ages, from young children to octogenarians, and they all adapted amazingly well. Furthermore, most of my new students now express a preference for digital learning.'

The popularity of this form of teaching and learning may depend upon the subject in question. However, the current demand for on-line language learning seems to reflect Santi's experience. Her students range from those wishing to acquire some basic pre-holiday conversational skills, to A level and university students needing some help prior to exams. Anyone wishing to learn, or improve, their Spanish can contact her at: [santi.torrecillas@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:santi.torrecillas@hotmail.co.uk) or 07851 418696.





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