

Hawstead 2024: Local History Recorder's Review

A major feature of 2024 in Hawstead was water – from several points of view. It started in January and February with heavy rainfalls which caused flooding: not to the extent of causing damage to property in our village but enough to be worth photographing:



Lawshall Road on 2nd January



Bells Lane was badly damaged by water in January



The 'Cranks' footpath with Hawstead Brook Mid February Nowton Road closed with abandoned car in flood ahead

Incidentally, and in respect of Nowton Road, I have a cutting from the Bury Free Press (BFP) newspaper of February 2001 with a photo that shows almost exactly the same scene. It was with a letter from a Hawstead resident who complained "Why doesn't the council take notice of the areas prone to floods and do something about them instead of waiting for the heavy rain to fall again and cause havoc?" No change there then! Alan Messem's weather comments in the BFP for January and February were headed "36mm of rain fell as '24 started' and "A record-breaking wet month" respectively.

A second topic of interest throughout the year concerning water was Anglia Water's progress in its mammoth project to deliver water from North Lincolnshire to (normally drier!) areas of East Anglia via a new pipeline extending all the way down to Colchester, and with several branches involving approximately 500 km of new buried pipeline. This goes across farmland in the southern part our parish and was mentioned in last year's review. The series of photos which follow show some aspects of progress during the year. The last but one photo was taken from the Stanningfield road looking back towards Hawstead. The last one is curious in that the pipe has been buried but

there's what appears to be a ridge of topsoil which hasn't been replaced: this was September and there was still no sign of the land being returned to agriculture.



The land had been made ready for the pipeline in February

Stacked sections of pipe in storage by Lawshall Road



Pipeline approaches Lawshall Road from West In August

Inside a covered contraction sections of pipe are welded



Welded sections are pushed across the field during harvest

A view from Bells Lane as the pipe makes for Flat Farm



As the pipe approaches a road it has to dive down

By September the pipe has been buried and covered

A third area of interest concerning water involves the Parish Council (PC), notably in the context of the River Lark which is one of England's chalk streams. Almost all of the world's chalk streams and rivers are in the S.E quadrant of England, and have received increased interest in recent years with proposals to restore, enhance and preserve the character of these waterways (and surrounding landscapes). The Chairperson of the Parish Council is also Chair of the River Lark Catchment Partnership. In July she made an application to DEFRA's (Dept. of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) Water Restoration Fund. The scheme was put on hold by the government and no awards have yet been made under it. In the meantime RLCP are pursuing other funding options for a natural flood management project to solve the problem with the tributary stream at the N.E. corner of the village green which regularly floods Bells Lane.

Work was carried out early in the year to clear river debris from under the Bells Lane bridge as this has caused flooding in times of extreme weather in the past. This action turned out to be controversial and a Freedom of Information request was presented to the PC later in the year. Another item of concern was the detected use of a chemical close to the river and we were reminded via the PC Minutes that it is illegal to use chemicals within 1 metre of a watercourse.

A final point about water concerned the drainage of the Village Green playground which can become waterlogged . A request for permission to insert a drain across the Green over to the stream which drains into the River Lark was refused: the agreed solution (yet to be carried out) involves soakaways and replacement of the surface material.

Hawstead Parish Council (PC)

Activities of the PC have already been mentioned: other items to note include a) rejection of a proposal to locate an Electric Vehicle Charge Point adjacent to the Village Hall b) approval of a project to digitise the Hawstead Tithe Map of 1838 c) notification of the possibility of an upgrade to broadband communication in our area through the government initiative: "Project Gigabit" c) A lot of volunteer work carried out during the year by residents (including monitoring the water quality in the River Lark).

According to West Suffolk Council's website page for Planning Submissions, during 2024 there were 15 applications from Hawstead, of which 4 remained pending at the end of the year and 3 having been withdrawn. 6 were approved by WSC and 2 were refused (a new-build bungalow in the grounds of Cullum House and a new-build agricultural grain store to be located in the southern part of the parish adjacent to Lawshall Road).

At the end of the Financial Year (31/03/24) the PC's bank balance was £16,485.02. During the year income had amounted to £11,457.84 (of which, significant amounts were £7,400 precept, £1907.09 in grants, £423.60 from the bottle bank and £185.92 in interest payments). Expenditures were £11,865.61 of which the largest individual item was the Clerk's salary at £4,000.

Hawstead Community Council (HCC)

The year started off with 'Festive Valentine Drinks' on 24th February – a replacement for the usual Christmas Drinks evening which couldn't take place because the wooden floor of the Village Hall was being replaced at that time (due to a water leak below the floor surface which had eventually come to light). Other events organised by HCC during 2024 included:

- An Easter Egg hunt for village children



- The annual Spring Plant Fair which raised £581.75 for the village (25th May)



- A Summer BBQ evening on 6th July (£5 per person, cash bar)
- The annual Fete (now "Hawstead's Summer Fun Day!") on 1st September raised £1629.90 for HCC funds
- A Halloween children's party on 2nd November

- 'Clive's It's Nearly Christmas Quiz' made a welcome and very successful return on 15th November. Seven teams competed for prizes (which included a wooden spoon!) and £350 was raised for Macmillan Cancer Support
- A 'Countdown to Christmas' service and switch-on of tree lights was held in the Village Hall on 1st December
- The Triple-20s Christmas lunch took place on December 6th.
- The Christmas Elves visited the village children with surprise gifts between Christmas and New Year

THE GREAT HAWSTEAD BAKE OFF

HAVE YOU GOT WHAT IT BAKES?

Judging Sunday 1 September at 2.30pm
at Hawstead's Fun Day, Hawstead Village Hall

Categories

Mens – Caramel Cake
Ladies – Fruit Scone
Under-16s – Rocky Road

Simply bake a cake at home and bring it along to The Great Hawstead Bake Off by 2.15pm on the day. Judging at 2.30pm prompt. Winners announced at 3.30pm. No entry fee, but cakes will be auctioned. Recipes have been emailed to all villagers. If you have not received the email, please contact treasurer@hawsteadvillagehall.co.uk



Recipes set and judging by Beth from Maglia Rosso



after the Traditional Fete 2-4pm
Sunday 1 September
Hawstead Village Hall & Green
from 4 til late

LIVE MUSIC ON THE GREEN
HOME COOKED BLUES BAND • NIK LOWE
LICENSED BAR • BBQ
SILENT AUCTION • WORBLE CHALLENGE

Hawstead's... Summer BBQ

with Live Music on the Green...



Saturday 6 July

1-4pm, Hawstead Village Hall

£5 per adult • Children free
Ticket price includes food
Cash bar • Garden games

Join us for an informal village BBQ and the opportunity to chat with friends and neighbours. Picnic on the Green, bring along some garden games, relax and have some fun. Teddy bears welcome too!

Tickets

Book in advance through treasurer@hawsteadvillagehall.co.uk or drop your name(s) and monies in the village hall letterbox before Wednesday 3 July so we can order food and drink. Please let us know if you are vegan/vegetarian.

Hawstead's Summer Fun Day

Sunday 1 September

Hawstead Village Hall & Green

2-4pm Traditional fete
4pm-late Live Music, Bar, BBQ

TRADITIONAL FETE, including...

AFTERNOON TEAS • CAKES • BOOKS
BRIC-A-BRAC • TARGET SHOOT
BEST CAKE COMPETITION • RAT SHY
VINTAGE VEHICLE DISPLAY • BAR
CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES • SPLAT THE RAT

FOLLOWED BY...

LIVE MUSIC ON THE GREEN
HOME COOKED BLUES BAND • NIK LOWE
LICENSED BAR • BBQ
SILENT AUCTION • WORBLE CHALLENGE

Free Entry



Anthony Holliday's caramel cake was judged the best

Some of the cakes that were entered

The Summer Fun Day was a little different compared to previous years: there was no fruit/veg/produce competition, though there was a 'Bake-Off' event. The otherwise traditional fete (stalls, games, tea and cakes, silent auction) was followed by an evening of live music from 4pm.

On 13th April 2024 at the end of the HCC Financial Year, the Council held £45,274.44 in the bank. There had been £35,717.47 of expenses, a majority of which was associated with the maintenance of the Hall. Income almost matched expenditure at £34,697.97: £31,341.50 of this came from Hall hirings (weddings, parties etc).

All Saints Church



In the January storms most of an old tree which had stood in the NW corner of the churchyard covered in ivy came crashing down.

We were very sad to see Canon Rev. Max Osborne leave at the end of March (for family reasons) and All Saints Hawstead remained in a state of 'Interregnum' for the rest of the year. Towards the end of 2024, Rev. Anita Rooney was appointed as Rector for the Horringer Benefice, due to start early in the following year. Rev. Max's Curate, Rev. Mel Takac also left to take up a post at Bristol Cathedral.

During the Interregnum regular services on the 2nd and 4th Sundays were led by retired priests. There

was a special Mothering Day service preceded by breakfast and posies were given out during the service.

A Lent Lunch raised £284 for church funds and later, in June there was a cream tea at Church Farm House accompanied by an art display in the church. This event realised a total of £684.

During 2024 we hosted 1 baptism, 1 burial of ashes (Doug Dainty, formerly of 'Old Forge Cottage', The Green) and 4 weddings. One of these was for the daughter of the former MP for Bury St Edmunds, Jo Churchill (see photos). In February there was also a funeral service for Malcolm Edgar, formerly of Cooks Farm Cottage (now Pye House) in Lawshall Road. Residents Glenis Gourbold (Almshouses) and Doreen Bailey (Greenacre, The Green) also died in 2024.



An Invitation to...

A Community Lunch for Lent

to include a choice of *Homemade Soup, Bread and Cheese*
Saturday 24 February
12–2pm at Hawstead Village Hall

All are warmly invited to join members of the Church Team from All Saints, Hawstead for a Community Lunch to mark the start of Lent. Do come along and join us at Hawstead Village Hall for our popular homemade soup and bread lunch. Donations are welcome.



So we can make sure there is enough soup for all, please contact Lesley 386132 (lesleycarey32@gmail.com) or Rosemary 386157 to reserve your place. But there will be plenty if you decide to drop in.



Invitation to Cream Tea

Saturday 22 June
2–4pm
 Church Farm House, Hawstead
 (park in Church Car Park)

including...
 Open Garden • Pimms Bar
 Homemade Cards • Books
 Raffle • Garden Games

£5 entry

All Saints Church, Hawstead also open for an art and photographic exhibition.



All proceeds to All Saints, Hawstead

Maglia Rosso

A number of events took place at Maglia Rosso during 2014, starting with a well-attended evening talk in the café on 'Performance coaching' by Jason Battle. The regular event, the 'Mille Maglia' sportive, scheduled for March 17 was postponed till April due to the poor weather of early Spring this year. At the end of May, during the Spring Bank Holiday we were invited to 'meet the donkeys' and a month later there was a 'roads and tracks' ride led by Barry Denny.

A major event of the year now is a sponsored ride, the 'Edge' sportive, and on a day in July 141 cyclists chose one of 5 routes offered, all starting from the shop, and in the process £5,429 was raised for St Nicholas Hospice.

Café manageress Sonia retired in March; a bit later her position was taken by Beth.



During the late Spring and Summer monthly Friday evening Classic Car meets took place with some amazing and/or lovingly restored and maintained vehicles being displayed in the grounds of the former pub.

The 'Wigwam' holiday cottages are gradually becoming more popular and there were good bookings from people who want to have a nice weekend in the countryside: quite often these are family reunions, using several cabins.

Maglia Rosso also hosted several evening general knowledge quizzes during the year; also an occasional 'Lightning Talks' evening (5-minute talks to the audience on any subject that interests the speaker).

One problem that we are experiencing more and more these days is that of road closures. These are damaging to trade and usually take place with minimal notice to the local population (if at all). Frustration over such closures led Barry to complain within the pages of the Bury Free Press during a closure of the road through Hawstead in late March on Anglia Water's behalf:



"They delight in shutting the road for long periods. Sometimes the road is only partially blocked, but they still put 'road closed' signs up – sometimes several miles away.... In this case, the signs start at Nowton Road and then reappear all the way along – there's eight junctions before our property and at every one there is a sign saying 'road closed ahead'. There are eight alternative routes people could take – it is signed from five-and-a-half miles away with no indication of where the closure is.

"We are a rural business and 99 per cent of our customers use that road for us. It is hard to say how many thousands it has cost us because these closures happen so often."

Maglia Rosso has since engaged in a court Case with Anglia Water over business losses, a case which at the time of writing, has not concluded.

Great War Huts

In a newspaper article in June 2024 Taff Gillingham was interviewed about the relevance of his 'Great War Huts'



development along Bells Lane: "Now that the veterans have nearly all gone, and very shortly the landings in Normandy and the rest of the Second World War will pass from history and out of living memory, it becomes more important," he explained.

"As the veterans go, and their voices go with them, it becomes even more important to keep those stories alive and find different or interesting ways of telling it."



There was an impressive set of evening talks held at Great War Huts during the year in a series of “Hutted Histories”: a range of topics was presented by invited speakers – an example being illustrated in the photo on the left: “Blood and Iron – the Rise and Fall of the German Empire 1871 – 1918” by Katja Hoyer. Other talks included:

- War comes home: air raids of the Great War
- Returning to France: The Suffolk Regiment in Normandy, 1944
- July 1914: crisis and the outbreak of war
- Underground warfare 1914-18
- Lest we forget: the commemoration and care of First World War dead
- A repeat of last year’s talk on the Lee-Enfield rifle
- The Old Contemptibles Association 1925-94
- Designing memory – understanding British war cemeteries on the Western Front
- The Women’s Land Army during the First World War
- London Buses at the Front

There were school visits, site visits for the general public and the usual ‘Training for Trenches’ in the Summer holidays for 7-12 year olds. Two volunteer weekends, one in April and another in September moved ‘... the whole project forward several months in the space of two days’.

There were two full day events with several guest speakers each time: the first was on the “Wipers Times” (in conjunction with Norwich Printing Museum) and the second was a study day “The Salonika Campaign 1915-18” which involved the Salonika Campaign Society. In March Great War Huts took part in the “One Town, Many Stories” event held in the Guildhall, Bury St Edmunds.

Great War Huts was honoured in a celebration of 30 years of the national Heritage Days: 30 organisations were chosen for special mention from a total of about 5000 and Great War Huts was one of these!



The War Huts

Great War Huts, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk

Nestled in the beautiful Suffolk countryside, Great War Huts has proved to be an important heritage project, restoring and preserving original surviving First World War buildings. These huts have given the Great War Huts team the opportunity to host engaging exhibitions and displays including the popular Heritage Open Days event ‘Drawers for Wars’, showcasing military underwear from 1900 to the present day! By choosing subjects that the wider public can relate to, and looking at many aspects of the war not usually covered, Great War Huts is reaching a much wider audience than originally anticipated. Visitors and schools now travel to the site from every part of the United Kingdom to visit the huts, and the carefully reconstructed Trenches, to learn about this important part of our history.

(Image: Great War Huts)

Towards the end of the year there were several other activities. Leading up to Christmas, a series of short videos was published, one per day and totalling 24 in total. These ‘HutVent’s illustrated artefacts associated with 1914, it being 110 years since the first year of the Great War. One special item associated with Christmas 1914 was the Princess Mary Christmas Gift given to each soldier and this enjoyed special mention. Then just before Christmas there were several ‘Trenches by Twilight’ evenings ending with one on Christmas Eve celebrating the Christmas truce of 1914.

Other Events Worth Mentioning



I believe that this event was not very well attended



Bury Road was closed on February 14th alongside the Village Green in order for new telegraph poles to be erected.



Henry and Hayley Brewis are both captains with the Tui company, flying Boeing aeroplanes. Along with Henry's brother Tom who also has this rank with the same company, they have notched up a total of 100 years of service! Tui allowed them to celebrate by rostering them all on the same flight to Cancun, Mexico in May. They were also interviewed during a national ITV morning news programme.



Four Bells Glamping opened for a second year at the end of March. In a press release they said: *“All of our lovely bell tents have been washed. Our cosy wood burning stoves have been cleaned and re-installed. This year we have three brand new hot tubs with our logo*

on. The central firepit area now has an outdoor kitchen including a pizza oven - great for whole site bookings or another area for cooking.

Each tent is being upgraded to have a private garden with our largest bell tent Big Ben soon to have an outdoor sofa set for an additional area to relax or to enjoy your morning coffee.

Extra lighting is going up around the site to create magical evening lighting We are so excited to be open."

On 5th June Four Bells Glamping received an award in a presentation which took place in the Angel Hotel, Bury St Edmunds. It was a 'Muddy Stilettos' award as the best 'boutique stay' in Suffolk. In the photo Lucy and Alex Brewis are seen on the right, with their award.

On 4th July there was a General Election. Our constituency does not include Bury St Edmunds and is known as Suffolk West. There were 8 candidates to be our MP representing 6 political parties plus two Independents. The election was held by the Conservative candidate, Nick Timothy, on a much reduced majority of 3,247 (2019: 20,797)

The Village Green was cut for hay on July 26th and Cooks Field by Lawshall Road was harvested on August 5th



The summer archaeological investigations run by "Past and Present" have been mentioned in previous annual reviews. This now seems to be a regular location for return annual visits to continue archaeological work. After they left this year the soil was not put back so they will surely be returning in 2025. From their website: *"The excavations [have] revealed evidence of ring-ditches, pits and postholes, confirming Bronze Age activity, possibly relating to both settlement and burial activity with many artefacts being uncovered, including an array of Bronze Age worked flints, and earlier flint implements suggesting Neolithic and Mesolithic activity in this general area."*

For a fee of £700 (£500 for students) individuals can come to spend a week experiencing and learning the skills of archaeology – no previous knowledge is required. There's a fully equipped campsite and even youngsters (under 16) are welcome on a daily basis as long as they're accompanied by an adult.



In October Suffolk Libraries re-instated a regular visit of the mobile library. It now comes to the Village Hall carpark for a half an hour or so once every four weeks (and books are issued for four weeks at a time). At the same time HCC opens the Village Hall and provides free tea, coffee and biscuits and gives villagers a chance to meetup for a chat as well as changing their library books

At about the same time a mobile Fish and Chip van started a weekly visit to the Village Hall, calling in at 6.45pm every Wednesday. Both this and the Library visits are planned to continue through 2025.



THE SUFFOLK MERMAID
FISH AND CHIPS ON TOUR IN WEST SUFFOLK EVERY WEEK

Wednesdays 4.30-4.50 @Raynesford Road -Whelneatham 5.00-5.20 @Stanningfield 5.30-6.40 @ Lawshall Village Hall 6.50-7.30 @Hawstead Village Hall	Thursdays 4.30 to 5.40pm @ Cockfield Green 5.50 to 6.30pm @ Felsham Village Hall 6.45 - 8.00 @ Rattlesden Five Bells	Fridays 4.30 - 5.40 @ Pakenham, The Street Nr Nether Hall 6.00 - 7.00 @ Thurston, School road near the Butchers 7.20-8.00 @ Beyton Green
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Caroline Miller OBE, formerly CEO of the Royal Birmingham Ballet and daughter of Simon and Sylvia Miller, (late of 'Hillside', Whepstead Road) tragically died from Breast Cancer on 15th December, two days before her 53rd birthday. Despite her job being far from Hawstead she moved into her parents' house after Simon died and was an energetic member of HCC committee as 'Social Events Coordinator'. Her funeral was due to take place in the New Year.



In April I had another photograph printed in the Bury Free Press: this showing some of Anglia Water's equipment for the pipeline construction off Lawshall Road.



In Mid-May I took the Parish copy of the 1838 Tithe Map from the Bury St Edmunds Records Office to a specialist facility in the Midlands to have it digitised. In physical format this map is 2.45 x 1.35 metres. It can now be viewed on a computer screen and printed at any size. Initially a copy at size A0 was obtained. Here is a small sample section as seen on my computer.

Note that the village school hadn't been built in 1838 but has been sketched in on the map at the road junction.

Hawtead Book Club

The following books were read by members of the Book Club in 2024:

- The Elephant Whisperer by Lawrence Anthony
- And After The Fire by Lauren Belfer
- Still Life by Sarah Winman
- All The Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr
- Remains Of The Day by Kazuo Ishiguro
- Educated by Tara Westover
- Lessons In Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus
- A Long Petal Of The Sea by Isabel Allende
- Act Of Oblivion by Robert Harris
- This Must Be The Place by Maggie O'Farrell
- Geneva by Richard Armitage
- The Mad Women's Ball by Victoria Mas

'Remains of the Day' and 'Educated' were voted joint favourites; 'Geneva' was the least liked.

Hawstead Appreciation and Tasting Society (HATS)

Led by members of the society, themes this year included:

- Wines From Suffolk Vineyards
- Columnists choices, celebrating 50 years of the Sunday Times Wine Club
- A Comparison between Grape Varieties
- Summer Wines
- 'Tesco Finest' Wines
- The Times 100 Wines For Summer (A Selection)
- 'The Nethergate Challenge'
- Wines with 'Saint' In Their Name

A most enjoyable annual dinner in June (with wine!) was held in the dining room of Abbeygate Cinema in town.

Property in Hawstead

ZOOPLA For sale To rent New homes House prices Agent valuation Instant vc

← Back to search results



FREEHOLD
£450,000 See how much I could borrow
4 bed bungalow for sale
 Whepstead Road, Hawstead, Bury St. Edmunds IP29
 4 beds 2 baths 2 receptions EPC rating: D

Tenure: Freehold Council tax band: D



'Martins' in Whepstead Road had been offered for sale in September 2023, but hadn't sold. It was available in January for a reduced price and this time was sold.

No.7 Whepstead Road (RH photo above) came on the market in the Summer with a guide price of £290,000. In the photo it is the central one of a terrace of three.

It was also noted that 'Butlers Hall' on the corner of Whepstead Road and Brands Lane was in a state of 'Sale Agreed' in March 2024.

In addition to these properties there was farmland for sale, a modestly sized area along Bells Lane (Brook Green) and a much larger one adjacent to Lawshall Road.

Land App LAND AT BROOK GREEN, HAWSTEAD **BROWN & CO**

Produced on Apr 10, 2024
 © Crown copyright and database right 2024 Ordnance number 100001022

8 of 9 Photo 9



Land At Brook Green, Bell Lane, Hawstead, Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk, IP29 5NW

Guide Price
£310,000
 Business rates & charges may apply

SIZE Ask agent SECTOR Farm land for sale

No floor/site plan +5

Key features

- Grade 3 Arable Land
- Lot 1 - 17.92 Acres
- Lot 2 - 4.34 Acres with Building Framework
- For Sale by Private Treaty

Description

Grade 3 Arable Land
 Lot 1 - 17.92 Acres
 Lot 2 - 4.34 Acres with Building Framework
 For Sale by Private Treaty



This advertisement board was positioned on the left side of Lawshall Road, close to the boundary between Hawstead and Lawshall. As can be seen it's a much larger area than the land on Bells Lane. Nevertheless, it appears that a total amounting to another almost 100 hectares above the 116ha shown here changed hand. This land will be contract farmed from Moat Farm, Barking Tye near Needham Market.

Crime Statistics 2023

During 2024 there were 7 offences committed in Hawstead, according to Suffolk Police. 5 were categorised as 'violence/sexual', one was a case of theft and one was a public order offence. The item of theft was in fact of oil from the Village Hall. The oil tank was raided at 6.45pm on Monday 22 January and half the oil taken. It took the two thieves around 15 minutes to arrive (from the direction of Bury St Edmunds at 18.43), reverse and park, hand pump out the oil and leave (in the direction of Lawshall at 18.57). This was 3 days after the tank was filled and will have cost the village ~£300 in oil alone.

Postscript

The History Recorder's task is to record what's happening locally NOW: yet there's a likelihood that such volunteers have an interest in past history as well. Thus I was dismayed that, following the cancellation of a project in Bury St Edmunds which would have seen a brand new branch of the County's Archives created in our town, what happened was that the County Council decided to close both the Bury St Edmunds and Lowestoft branches and remove all of the contents to the new(ish) facility in Ipswich called The Hold.

This closure and move of contents took place in the second half of 2024. Efforts which started as soon as the closure decision was made, have continued to try to find a suitable location within the town to house at least the books, documents etc. which were specifically donated to be kept in Bury St Edmunds.

West Suffolk (District) Council meeting

TUESDAY 20 FEBRUARY 2024 - 7.00PM

• Agenda Item 10: Motion on notice - West Suffolk archives

*Councillor Cliff Waterman has given notice of a motion under section 9.3 of the Council Procedure Rules, as attached as Paper number: COU/WS/24/005 (found at this link): <https://democracy.westsuffolk.gov.uk/.../COU.WS.24.005...>

• For that reason, it is proposed to Council that:

1. recognising the severe financial pressure faced by Suffolk County Council, West Suffolk Council nonetheless expresses its sadness at the County Council's proposal to close the West Suffolk archive and centralise this service to Ipswich; and therefore
2. calls upon Suffolk County Council to suspend the implementation of this change until such time as it has worked with all local stakeholders, including West Suffolk Council and Bury St Edmunds Town Council, to explore all alternative options within the County Council's available capital and revenue budgets for keeping access to local historical records within West Suffolk.

Andy Parrett 13/03/25