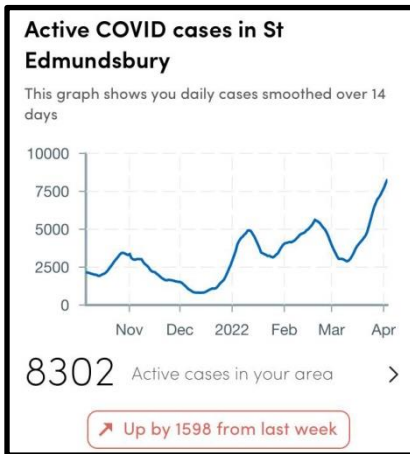


Hawstead 2022: Local History Recorder's Review

In mid-December 2021 updated rules for helping to stop the spread of Covid-19 were published by the government and thus were in force at the beginning of 2022. These included:

- Face coverings being mandatory for most indoor public venues and on public transport
- Face masks not required in pubs, restaurants and venues like gyms
- People should continue working from home where they can
- An NHS Covid Pass to be required for entry to nightclubs and unseated indoor and outdoor venues with high capacity attendance
- People encouraged to do a Lateral Flow Test before entering a high-risk setting such as a crowded place

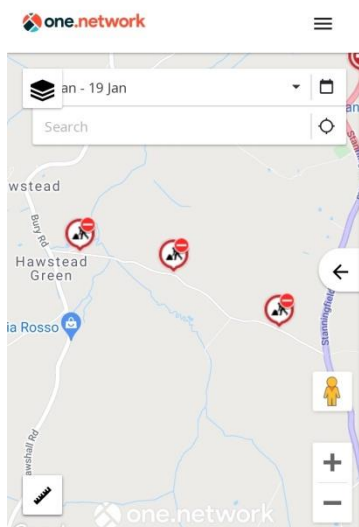


Nevertheless, on 24 February all C-19 restrictions in the UK were removed. Meanwhile, the number of confirmed cases in the Bury St Edmunds area increased during the Spring – see graph from the analysis service 'Zoe' which was published in early April.

However, with large numbers of the population now vaccinated, cases of C-19 tended to be less severe, with many reporting that, having had the disease, the experience was rather like having had a bad cold for a few days. The general attitude remained that if you thought you had C-19 you should confirm via the lateral flow test and stay at home whilst the symptoms persisted.

Hawstead Parish Council (PC)

The Parish Council met on 8 occasions during 2022: in addition to the regular bi-monthly meetings there were planning application meetings in August and October. At the annual meeting in May John West retired as Chairman after holding that post for 12 years (but remained on the Council). His position was taken by Phil Baker with Giles Rushen elected as Deputy.



In January a campaign by the Ramblers Association to support communities in registering 'lost footpaths' was noted and a small group was formed to consider if there were former footpaths in our parish that could be considered for registering. The group met on a number of times during the year and reported back to the PC towards the end of the year. Several candidates were identified, and letters were sent to the relevant landowners to seek their reactions.

The condition of Bells Lane was again a cause for concern, particularly as it was used on occasion as a diversion route when a road elsewhere was closed for repairs. However, early in the year this road itself was closed so that a clearance under the bridge over Hawstead Brook could be carried out to avert future flooding (see page 9 of last year's report).

In early February a small volunteer group made headway on a fine sunny morning, clearing back brambles etc on the Village Green to





the north side of Bells Lane to make the recently created additional paths wider: later – in October – a start was made to make the woodland of Brook Green more easily accessible. In view of these activities and the monthly maintenance of the churchyard (reported elsewhere) the PC encouraged the resurgence of the ‘Jammie Dodgers’ volunteer group and 25 residents expressed their interest in being involved.

Towards the end of last year Nick Wiseman won the election to be our Borough Councillor. He introduced himself to the PC in March – but surprisingly had resigned his post by September. Karen Soons resumed this role on a temporary basis.

At the end of the Financial Year it was reported that the PC had £21,419.09 in the bank. The forthcoming year would produce a Precept from West Suffolk Council of £7400 – the same amount as last year.

In early December a tree was planted by the Village Hall in celebration of the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee in the Summer. The tree is a crab apple ‘*malus evereste*’ and the ceremonial planting by Sonja Monk took place prior to the annual ‘Triple 20s’ Christmas lunch. The location was near to where another tree had been taken down – a red-flowered horse chestnut which had grown too large to be so close to the Village Hall and had been suffering from bleeding canker for a number of years. The crab apple won’t grow to be as tall as the horse chestnut.

Hawstead Community Council (CC)

The following events were organised by the CC in 2022:

- Jan 1: Mulled wine and sausage rolls under the eaves of the Village Hall
- Easter Bunnies made home deliveries of chocolate coins and Easter eggs to Hawstead children
- May 7: Spring Plant Fair with tea and cakes (raised £650)
- June 5: Queen’s Platinum Jubilee Village lunch and party
- September 4: Annual Fete
- October 26: Halloween party for 19 village children
- December 9: Triple 20s Christmas lunch
- December 17: Drinks evening for villagers.
- Christmas Elves made home deliveries of chocolate coins to all Hawstead children under 16
- December 30: Christmas Party for village children

In addition, the CC produced four issues of Village Voice, in January, April, July and October; it also funded tickets for families to attend the pantomime (Robin Hood) in the Theatre Royal. (This was individually funded rather than taking the form of a block booking as in the past)





The 'special event' of the year was the celebration of the Queen's Jubilee: although it was June, the weather was against us so lunch was in the Hall plus several outside shelters rather than in the open air. 130 people attended and as well as lunch they were entertained by a home grown Morris dancing team, a Punch and Judy show and face painting. Incidentally, at about the same time some Victorian writing was found in the church tower: it was celebrating Queen Victoria's Jubilee of 1897.



The Fete comprised the usual activities; music was provided by village resident Nik Lowe and the Green Dragon Morris dancers performed. It was noted that Ethel Lebbon has run the bric a brac stall for 50 years !!



Judging the produce



Ethel with her stall



Nik Lowe

In October the CC sent out a questionnaire to the village seeking attitudes and preferences regarding facilities available and the level of maintenance needed in village hall and play area, together with activities old and new that they would support. There was a 32% response which was considered good and a summary document was produced. Following criticism about the number of times that the hall is being let out for wedding receptions (there were 13 booked in 2022, mostly over the Summer) and associated noise disturbance to local residents the CC committee discussed at a meeting in November ways in which a compromise can be reached.

The problem is that the Village Hall needs £15 - 16,000 income annually to break even: current weekday bookings bring in £6,500 annually, meaning that other bookings need to total £9,500 profit to break even. This can only realistically be achieved via a number of high-charge events, notably wedding receptions.

As well as wedding receptions and some parties, the Village Hall was regularly used during the year for a fitness class, yoga sessions (3 per week!), the indoor bowls club, the wine club ('HATS'), a local beekeepers club, and – whilst the roof of Whepstead Village Hall was being replaced - the Athenaeum Astronomy Association (also, of course meetings of the Community Council Committee and the Parish Council.)

All Saints Church

It was reported last year that All Saints, Hawstead is now within Horringer Benefice with Rev. Canon Max Osborne as Rector. Despite this, at the end of 2022 he still had not been officially installed as our priest. Services (Morning Prayer or Eucharist) were at 11am: special services were shared with Nowton: Easter Day, Remembrance and Carol Services at All Saints and Harvest Festival at St Peter's, Nowton. There was one wedding in 2022 and three burials (Mrs Barbara Brown, Mr Tony Hillman (former church warden, ashes) and Mr Tim Abbott (ashes)).



An Advent service was held in the Village Hall, coupled with a switching-on of lights decorating both Christmas trees, one inside the Hall, the other outside near the road.

During the year the Churchyard was kept in good shape by volunteers turning up with various useful bits of equipment for a couple of hours on Saturdays roughly once a month (April-October). However, little progress was made inside the church with conserving the monument to Sir Thomas Cullum, bar an examination of the roof immediately above where it is placed to check that there was no ingress of rain. This action had been recommended by our conservator and happily the architect who made the check gave it the 'all clear'.



Villager Phil Battell with architect Philip Orchard examining the church roof

It is disappointing to report that the swift nesting boxes, erected in the church tower last year, remained unused, despite a recording of swift calls being broadcast during the Spring, though swifts were seen flying around the tower: maybe next year!

A 'Lent Lunch' was held in the Village Hall on 26th March with donations going to the Church and 'Lent boxes' of donated food put aside by villagers during Lent taken to the foodbank at the Vineyard Church in Bury St Edmunds. In September the usual 'Ride and Stride' event raised money for the Suffolk Historic Buildings Trust. What used to be a sponsored cycle event, taking riders from church to church, now seems to include motors as well – but they were all cars from a vintage car club. This event took place only a couple of days after the death of Queen Elizabeth II, but was deemed a suitable event not to be cancelled.

A condolence book was prepared for the Queen and held in the church for villagers to sign: it had this photo on the cover.



Other Items of Note

Great Was Huts, Bells Lane

Taff Gillingham
Hawstead • 6 days ago

After two years of relative inactivity we are hosting our first major Great War Huts event of the year at Brook Farm Camp, Hawstead, next weekend.

The superb Lancastrian folk band, 'Harp and a Monkey', will be returning to play
See more...

Gallipoli Sunday War Stories Show with Harp & a Monkey
eventbrite.co.uk

Bell's Lane, Bury St Edmunds, GB-ENG

On April 24, to mark the sacrifices at Gallipoli in 1915, a talk entitled 'Gallipoli War Stories' coupled by a folk band called 'Harp and Monkey' was offered. Later, in the Summer school holidays 'Training for Trenches' aimed at 7-12 year old children took place. During the year a number of school visits were hosted, including one all the way from Scotland! There was also a number of evening talks on various topics to do with military history called "Hutted Histories". In September Great War Huts opened its doors for the annual Heritage

Open Days and on September 24 a special event celebrating 20 years since the BBC series 'The Trench' took place, attended by several of the original production team. It included a showing of the three programmes in the series. Hot on the heels of this, on October 1, a special Open Day for Hawstead residents was held. It was amazing to see the amount of work that has been done during 'volunteer weekends' so that the series of trenches at the rear of the site now looks complete. Towards the end of the year Robert Lloyd Parry returned to recite two more ghost stories by M R James; and there were 'Trenches by Twilight' tours which were very popular. The year ended with the annual 'HutVent' which, as usual featured some wonderful, interesting, unusual and educational items.

Taff Gillingham
Hawstead • 1 day ago

Training For Trenches is a programme of Summer Holiday events, here at Great War Huts at Hawstead, aimed at 7 to 12 year olds, every Wednesday in August from 10am - midday.

Over an exciting two hours our young recruits will meet Corporal Ingram who puts them through basic training, issues them with uniforms and helmets, then leads them into the trenches to find out how soldiers lived and worked below ground during the First World War.

For more details: <https://www.greatwarhuts.org/events>

Bell's Lane, Bury St Edmunds, GB-ENG



Open Day at Great War Huts – Taff Gillingham explains the progress he and his team have been achieving in 2022



Maglia Rosso

On a rather blustery dull day in February, 200 cyclists took part in the annual 'Mille Maglia' off-road cycle sportive over 50, 75 or 100km, starting from the car park at Maglia Rosso. Then in July 108 riders tackled rides ranging from 15 – 100 miles and raised nearly £6000 for St Nicholas' Hospice.

In September an application was made to the Camping and Caravanning Club to set up a small site on land adjacent to the Wigwam 'pods' in the field next to the shop. There would be up to 5 caravans or motorhomes at a time and space for up to 10 tents. Also in September, as reported in the Bury Free Press (BFP), Barry Denny received a 'Rural Enterprise' award on behalf of Maglia Rosso at the annual BFP Business Awards ceremony. He was also interviewed for an article in East Anglian Daily Times newspaper which appeared at the end of July.

During the year there were also regular group 'ride-outs'; also several 'classic car' evening events, and towards the end of the year an evening entertainment featuring 5-minute 'Lightning talks' in Maglia Rosso's café on various subjects offered by volunteers.



From the Bury Free Press

In July Alan Brown, Hawstead and a Partner at Ashton's Legal company was pictured with an article explaining the company's involvement in the 'Lifetime Achievement' category in the BFP annual Community Awards. He was then seen in the newspaper making the presentation in November.

A controversial plan by John Brown & Sons, farmers of Hawstead, to build 220 houses on a field by the A143 on the outskirts of Bury St Edmunds in September was reported by BFP in September, but "... following concerns from residents over traffic and the landscape as well as planning policy issues, the application has been withdrawn..... It would be a departure from West Suffolk Council's development plan." (BFP 21 October 2022)

In November our MP, Mr Matt Hancock was pictured taking part in the TV show 'I'm a Celebrity, Get Me Out of Here'. This was also controversial, many people maintaining that he should stick to his job of representing the residents of West Suffolk in Parliament.

Some Other Events

On April 3 a Coffee Morning and Concert took place in the Village Hall in aid of 'Jessie's Fund' a charity supporting children's hospices by providing, amongst other things, musical instruments for children to use. A quartet of musicians included Fran Evershed (flute), Jo Ward (oboe and piano), Ros Alexander (Cello) and Ray Alexander (violin)

On May 17 the village was involved in the 'Festival of Suffolk', a precursor to the celebrations for the Queen's Jubilee. The event was a 'Torch Relay' which wound its way around Suffolk, visiting 250 towns and villages and covering over 550 miles, the purpose being to 'transmit a message of peace, unity and friendship to the people of Suffolk). Rickshaws were used and in our case the rickshaw arrived at the Village Hall carrying the two oldest residents, Ethel and Nancy, and left for the next stretch with the youngest, Felicity Brewis (and her Mum, Lucy)



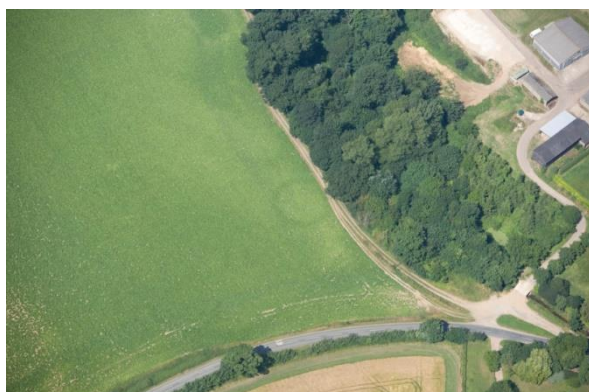


The Village Green was cut for hay on July 2: both July and August were very hot with record-breaking temperatures: on July 19 in your author's garden it reached 39.4 deg. C

The 'Past to Present' archaeology company returned to the same field (opposite 'Larkfield') as last year to continue their investigations. They found artefacts and explored the site of a large circular hut. They have suggested that there was habitation in the area during both the stone and bronze ages.



A Fishing Weight



Aerial View with hut circles visible



Part of the Excavated Site

In October the annual coffee morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support was held and raised a total of £1049. This year it was organised by Amanda Lomas-Farley, ably assisted by Jim. Over the previous 12 years Joyce Dainty had been in charge and over that time had enabled a total of £17,834 to go to supporting Macmillan Nurses.

On 6th November a number of villagers booked seats in the Abbeygate Cinema to see a screening of the ballet 'Don Quixote', designed by Carlos Acosta. The significance of this was that the ballet company concerned was the Birmingham Royal Ballet, whose CEO is Hawstead resident Caroline Miller!

Hawstead Book Club

During 2022 the Book Group read and discussed the following titles:

- The Dig by John Preston
- Searching for Caleb by Anne Tyler
- This is Going to Hurt by Adam Kay
- Hamnet by Maggie O'Farrell
- Lost Dog by Kate Spicer
- Lady in Waiting by Anne Glenconner
- The Giver of Stars by JoJo Moyes

- The Godmother by Hannelore Cayre
- Versions of Us by Laura Barnett
- Little Fires Everywhere by Celeste Ng
- Middle England by Jonathan Coe

“Hamnet” was voted the most enjoyable; “Versions of Us” the least liked.

Hawstead Appreciation and Tasting Society (HATS)

The following themes were presented during 2022:

February: Tastes of Italy

March: French wine with French cheese

April: Four Viogniers and a selection of reds from Vino Gusto, Hatter St, Bury St Edmunds

May: Regional wines from Portugal

On 28th July the annual HATS dinner (with wine!) was held at the White Horse pub in Wepstead

August: wines from Grape Britannia

September: Bring a Bottle Evening

October: Wines from Berry Bros. & Rudd

November: Down-Under Wines



The White Horse pub in Wepstead was the venue for the annual HATS dinner

Property in Hawstead

It was noted last year that Church Farm had not been sold at the end of the year. It must have been sold by June 2022 because a planning application for replacement with a new structure was made then - and approved (after some changes to the application) at the end of November. Demolition of the existing building had started before the end of the year.



Church Farm as it was in 2000 (when photos of all houses in Hawstead were deposited in the Records Office in Bury St Edmunds)



Part of the architect's plan for a new house

There was a total of 12 planning applications made in 2022 to the borough council, 10 of which were approved. One involved continued redevelopment at 'Woodlands' at The Pound: following the construction of a large 'cartlodge' (on the right of the drawing below), the building to the left of the main house is to be rebuilt:

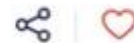


The two that were refused were both for new builds, one at The Pound and one at Pinford End.

Only one property appears to have been offered for sale in 2022: No. 2 Whepstead Road:



Whepstead Road, Hawstead, IP29 [See map](#)



Guide Price

£300,000 ⓘ

Monthly mortgage payments

Added on 20/07/2022

PROPERTY TYPE

Terraced

BEDROOMS

×3

BATHROOMS

×1

TENURE ⓘ

Freehold

Crime Statistics 2022

7 crimes were registered by Suffolk Police as having been committed in Hawstead:

- Violent/Sexual (5)
- Possession of a weapon (1)
- Other (1)

The Weather in 2022

Alan Messem writes a monthly weather summary in the BFP: his headlines this year describe the weather thus:

- March: 'Snow ends a sunny month'
- April: 'April showers kept at bay'
- Spring generally: 'A Spring with 3 dry months'
- June: 'Month had just 3 wet days'
- August: 'A record-breaking month'
- September: 'Stormy start to the month'
- October: 'A touch of Autumn warmth'
- November: 'Rain came at the double'
- December: 'A frosty end to a dry year'

Postscript



The 'Hawstead Panels' is a series of over 50 painted wooden panels which now resides in Christchurch Museum in Ipswich. Originally painted for Lady Anne Drury in the early 17th century (she died in 1624) they formed the sides of a small room, or 'closet' next to her bedroom in Hawstead Place. The panels contain a series of paintings of the kind associated with emblem books, images fashionable throughout Europe for private religious meditation in that age. They were moved to Hardwick House later in the 17th century, when the Drurys moved there and were bought by Christchurch Museum when Hardwick House was sold off in the early 20th century.

You recorder came across a small number of reproductions of these panels, available to purchase 'for personal use' at £20 each from www.bridgemanimages.com This is one called 'The Fool' and is sized at 38x33cm.

Andy Parrett 13March2023