



March 2014



Catherine-de-Barnes

CATNEY NEWS

Dear Villagers,

Spring flowers are pushing through and we have had some sunshine after the wettest winter on record. Even if we are a long way from the seaside here in Catney, at least we have not had the extreme problems that those living by sea and rivers have had over the last couple of months and we have to be thankful.

The AGM of the Residents Association was held on the 19th February in the Village Hall and we were so pleased that at least 40 villagers attended and we saw some very welcome new faces as well as those wonderful people who always support us. However, some of those who attended forgot to sign the attendance sheet. If this is you, could you contact Frances Cook and let her know please? The Chairman's report has been included in this edition, for those of you that did not attend the AGM.

With this issue, you will find a form to complete if you wish to join/ be a member of the Residents Association for another year. Your support is vital to help us continue to look after this village, so please join us and pay your subscriptions as soon as possible.

As you know, the hall papers have been signed and the first of our new Trustees for the village have taken over the running of the hall, which is to have a new name. The official hand-over is on the 8th March at the Afternoon Tea. The hall has been saved and is being given to the Villagers of Catney, so we need you to come along to show that you are all behind this venture. The media might be there, so not only would it look terrible if only a few of you turn up, but it would be very disheartening for those who have fought for the hall for nearly three years on your behalf!!

Christine Cluley Editor

Calling All Village Residents

You are invited to join us for

Afternoon Tea



To celebrate the Village Hall coming back to the Community

Saturday 8th March

Doors open at 1.45pm

Official 'handing over' at 2.30pm

Special Guest: Rector of Solihull, Rev Canon Tim Pilkington

Bring & Buy and Home Produce Stall

Please bring your contributions on the day

If you would like to donate cakes, scones etc for the Afternoon Tea, please email maggie@maggiethroup.com with the details



Cast Your Vote to Name the Hall

Ballot Boxes will be available for your voting slip to name the Village Hall during the Afternoon Tea on Saturday 8 th March.

All votes will be counted at 3.30pm

Catherine-de-Barnes Village Hall

St. Catherine's Hall

The Joseph Gillott Hall

✓ Your choice



*Joseph Gillott was the original benefactor for the building

Support the Village Hall

Please do come along to the Afternoon Tea and Bring & Buy at the Village Hall on Saturday 8th March. Doors open at 1.45pm, with the 'official handing over' of the hall at 2.30pm.

Contributions of cakes, scones etc., are needed for the Afternoon Tea — contact Maggie on 07798 582398 or maggie@maggiethroup.com

Bring & Buy contributions also needed—just bring on the day or contact Dave on 705 8037 or cuthbert488@btinternet.com for collection in advance

Don't miss your opportunity to have 'your say' on the name of the Village Hall—votes will be counted at 3.30pm on 8th March

The First Five Trustees of the Hall have been named as Steve Wallis, Maggie Throup, Dave Cuthbert, Steve Scott, Dave Lusty

We will be shortly be approaching everyone who expressed an interest in becoming a Trustee to ask if they would still wish to go ahead.



SKITTLES EVENING



We are hoping to hold a skittles evening in the Hall on Saturday 26th April at 7.30 pm with a fish and chip supper, a bar and a raffle

To reserve your places, contact Dave on 705 8037

Catherine de Barnes Residents Association

Chairman's report for Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 19th February

The Committee: Frances Cook-Secretary, Christine Cluley, Ken Cluley-Treasurer, Annette Scott, Susan Attwell and David Cuthbert-Acting Chairman

The Committee met 10 times during the year as well as organising 2 Public Meetings in July and November to discuss The Dogs Home and The Dell planning applications. It also conducted 2 internet surveys to obtain Residents' views prior to responding to major planning applications.

General Village Environment

As a result of financial cutbacks and changes in personal at SMBC we have had little response in progressing our list of items requiring attention discussed with the Area Coordinator early last year We will be taking this up again over the next month or so .

Speedwatch Initiative

At the back end of 2012 a number of interested Residents undertook some training with a view to running a Speedwatch campaign in the Spring of 2013. A meeting was arranged but unfortunately only one person attended with no notification of apologies. It was therefore decided that due to the poor response no further action would be taken. Disappointing considering the complaints we receive about speeding in the village.

Catney Common

Several work parties were arranged in conjunction with Hampton Parish Council, whose catchment the Common falls into, to undertake housekeeping and some improvements to the facility. Recent work parties planned have had to be cancelled due to the current weather conditions. There are a few stalwart volunteers who turn up on these occasions – they could do with more support- and I would like to thank Chris Boxall for his efforts in this area. We have some thoughts about providing a picnic facility on the Common but until the situation re the Dell is resolved we will hold off any ideas we have .

Planning

Following the sale of parcels of land alongside Catherine de Barnes Lane we have seen a significant increase in planning applications in this area . We have responded to the following applications

The Birmingham Dogs Home (appv'd) **The Dog Day Care Centre** (refused but now subject to Appeal) **The Muslim Cemetery** (under consideration) **Potters Farm** (appv'd) **The Dell** (under consideration).

Where applications fall within Hampton Parish we work closely with them prior to responding. When appropriate we also liaise with our local Councillors. A Committee member attends Council Planning Committee meetings when local applications of interest are being considered.

It is the policy of the Committee to notify all Residents where possible by CN and or e- mail of all planning applications we feel would be of general interest. Generally we do not involve ourselves with domestic applications.

The Association (David Cuthbert) have, in the last 12 months, made 5 written responses to SMBC concerning the above applications.

Once again we express thanks to Chris Boxall who keeps a look out for new applications which might be of interest to us.

Birmingham Airport

During the past year a representative of the Association (generally David Cuthbert) has attended 10 meetings of the Airport Consultative Committee, Passenger Services and Surface Transport Working Group and the Airspace Focus Group. The latter group related to aiding the Airport come up with a user friendly consultation document concerning new take off /departure tracks for Runway 15 . These changes are required as a result of the extended runway currently under construction. As part of the working group we were able to pass on our views/reactions to their original thoughts and do believe some of these at least they took on board. The Airport Company are trialling the option 6 they decided upon which has no implication in terms of noise on this Village. Perhaps a bit more concerning but not necessarily for us is their plans to commence ground engine testing trials on various places on the site but they do not intend giving out any prior information as to when and where the tests will be conducted but want to see what response/ complaints they get from Communities around the Airport regarding noise. Although this particular project is unlikely to affect us here- I can not stress the importance of maintaining a large degree of vigilance in terms of noisy aircraft / or aircraft you think are off track and notifying the Airport ,by phoning in your complaint using 767 7433 or the address on their website . Complaints are taken seriously, investigated and are replied to. It is important that the Airport are aware that we are interested in their activities.

They are pushing hard for more airlines, more routes hence more passengers through the Airport. Residents maybe be interested to learn that Air Biman Bangladesh will shortly be operating flights from Birmingham to JFK at a price of £150 .

The AC are still having meetings with various organisations with the intention of changing the name of Birmingham International Station to Birmingham Airport . – You may have noticed that they have omitted the word ‘International’ from their name now.

Catney News and Website

I would like to thank Chris Cluley for her staunch efforts in compiling, editing and printing the CN each month- some months this can be very difficult as a result of little input from us. The publishing of the CN is costly. We took a decision early last year to distribute the CN to all residents on the basis that it was best to keep everyone abreast of what’s happening in and around the Village- hoping that we might get a few more residents interested in joining the Association. However to continue to do this and keep costs under control we have decided to provide a newsletter type format every other month comprising one A4 sheet . For those residents for whom we don’t have e mail addresses this is the only way we can communicate. If however you have an e mail address and we don’t have it please let us know and we can include you on the electronic distribution list as well as being able to send out alerts of one kind or another .

As you may know we have a website which we trust you find interesting and thank Frances for looking after it. Also I mustn’t forget the distributors who, whatever the weather deliver the CN throughout the village .

Social Events

Almost all of the social events during the year were organised by the Village Hall Group to raise funds for the hall. The largest event in lieu of a fete was Catney Day (a day we have selected each year) to celebrate Village life. With the co-operation of George Fentham school a flag design competition was organised and the winning design was made into a flag which was raised on the day in the presence of the Mayor and Mayoress .

The Association organised a Xmas buffet with the food free to members which was a great success with musical entertainment by Stephen Wallis and friends . Chris Cluley organised carols singing round the tree with mince pies donated by Longfellows and Sheila Shand a children’s nativity which was well attended. Once again through generous donations we were able to erect a Xmas tree which I hope you agree is well worth the effort and take this opportunity of thanking all those that donated money, time to this venture.

Village Hall

This subgroup headed up by Stephen Wallis saw through the transfer of the running of the hall from St Alphege to a Village group of trustees which has enabled the building to remain

a Community asset rather than a potential residential development. The existing trust has been re-named , 5 new trustees are in place – but more about this a little later sufficient to say the hard work starts now.

Neighbourhood Plan

HPC have been successful in gaining approval from SMBC to develop their NP. Only two other Plans are in development throughout England. As part of the process a detailed questionnaire was prepared and sent to all residents/business in the Hampton Parish. The results will be analysed and will help the working group (on which we have a representative DC) formulate the Plan. This will be an extremely powerful document in the future development of Hampton in Arden as it will enable Hampton Parish Council to have a major input into the planning application process where it affects them . They will also qualify for valuable financial input from SMBC and enable them to keep any Community Levy monies applied to planning applications in the area. As part of the Village falls within Hampton Parish it will be covered under the Plan. To me it doesn't make real sense for the village to be split in this way and I believe we should investigate how we could get the whole of the Village protected in a similar way. We are a small cog in the SMBC wheel and really do not figure much in their thoughts and feel we would perhaps have a more secure future if we could get ourselves associated in some way with this venture. I will be making further enquiries in the months ahead to see what the possibilities are.

Lastly I would like to thank all the Committee for their efforts throughout the year

David Cuthbert

If you are wondering whether to join the Residents Association for the coming financial year, can we please urge you to support our endeavours. We need to be seen to represent the views of the community and having sufficient support from you gives us influence with the planners where necessary. Your opinion will be sort on matters of importance within the village and it enables us to contact you with information provided to us by the police or the airport and email you with anything urgent of which we feel you should be made aware. Your membership card will also get you in to some of our events free of charge. Please join us by the middle of March at the latest. Thank you

RASCALS SOFT PLAY HIRE PLAY DAY

We are excited to have our very first play day on Friday 7th March 2014!

Grab the opportunity to join in our stay and play session and experience our mobile soft play package!

The Village Hall in Catherine-De-Barnes has recently been taken over by the Residents Association and we are looking forward to holding our first play day there to help bring the younger community and their parents and carers together at the new Village Hall on Hampton Lane, B91 2TJ.

Come and join us on **Friday 7th March '14** at the Village Hall, Catherine-De-Barnes, Solihull!

Our mobile soft play package is usually hired out for Birthday Parties, Weddings, Christenings etc. however we are holding a Play and Stay day for a chance to experience our equipment!

Sessions are £1.50 per family for **under 3 year olds** to enjoy our soft play and baby area

10am – 11am

11.30am – 12.30pm

1pm – 3pm

We are also excited to have Steven Clifton Photography with us who will offering action photos to purchase on the day and portrait photo's at the 1pm session!

Refreshments available to purchase

Contact Jodie on 0787 2921415 or

enquiries@rentingforrascals.co.uk

www.rascalssoftplayhire.co.uk

FIND US ON FACEBOOK! www.facebook.com/rascalssoftplayhire

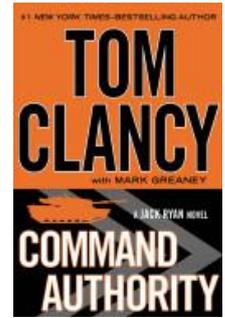
Spaces are limited – early booking advisable as well as admission on the day

YOU MUST SUPERVISE YOUR CHILDREN DURING THE SESSIONS

Ideas of what you would like to read about in your Catney News are always welcome. I would really appreciate articles of interest to put in the April issue; please let me have all copy by 20th March. The April edition will be a full edition and the May edition will be a 4 page edition. Please let Frances Cook have your email address if you would like to receive the Catney News by this method in colour. Chris Cluley. Editor.

BOOK REVIEW by John Alderson**“Command Authority”**

a novel by Tom Clancy,



Tom Clancy, the prolific author of the Jack Ryan novels died last year and this novel, co-written with Mark Greaney, has been published posthumously.

I was a great fan of the early Jack Ryan novels by Clancy, they were fast paced, almost believable and despite their “CIA is always right” attitude, they were very readable and I feel rather sad that this, his last novel, is well below the level of his earlier work.

I don’t know if the joint authors had equal input, but had the book been trimmed to half its length, that might have been a step in the right direction.

We are back with the good old guys of the United States (plus a few little helpers) against the Red Tide led by President Valeri Volodin for whom it is far too easy to think Vladimir Putin. There is initially an insurgence into Estonia which is rebuffed but the real target emerges as the Ukraine, and although current events do make one wonder, the story is not quite believable enough to make it work.

The real problem with this book for me is not so much the convoluted story, but the flashback method used to link the events between the lives of Jack Ryan, who of course is now the President of the United States, and Jack Ryan junior, following in Dad’s footsteps. Add to this the unfathomable agency and military jargon and multiplicity of characters made the book for me, sadly, rather hard going. Die hard Clancy fans will love it.

CONTACT US:

You can contact us by emailing Frances Cook at secretary@catney.co.uk or for contributions to the Catney News, you can contact Christine Cluley at editor@catney.co.uk If you do not have email, please contact us on 0776 8502039 and leave a message or speak to a Committee member.

Residents Association Committee: Dave Cuthbert, Frances Cook, Chris Cluley, Ken Cluley, Sue Attwell and Annette Scott.

A Brief History of Catney School, Church and Village Hall

In 1879 Joseph Gillott of Berry Hall paid for the construction and maintenance of a schoolhouse and chapel for the village, to be used as an “elementary school” and on Sundays for Church of England services conducted by clergy from Solihull Parish Church. There is a stone monogram ‘JG1879’ in the chimney brickwork. The brass tablet in the chancel records that “Joseph Gillott maintained this church and school for the people of Catherine de Barnes from AD 1879 until his entering into rest on July 3rd AD 1903. In March 1904 the Trustees paid £402. 9s. 6d to purchase from the Executors of the late Joseph Gillott ‘the land, schoolhouse, chapel and buildings’. The Trustees agreed to ‘the same continuing use in perpetuity’. We remember with gratitude the vision of Joseph Gillott and the efforts of all the people who have helped to maintain it.

The School

When the school opened in 1879, it was for infant and junior children and senior girls; the senior boys went to Drury Lane in Solihull. The hall was divided by screens to accommodate two classes. Some years later, the senior girls went to schools in Solihull. During the 1950’s a temporary portable classroom was placed in the grounds; three classes with each child spending two years in each class. Over the years, various extensions and alterations were made, including a kitchen (school meals) and outside toilets. There were usually 50 to 60 children, but the numbers varied considerably. In 1974 the local education authority opened a new school at The Yewtree at the far end of Lugtrout Lane and Catney school closed just five years short of its centenary. Most local children attended the school and have fond memories of the staff and their efforts to provide a good local education. The school admissions register from 1945 to 1974 shows that the school had increased intake due to the new housing of the 1960’s.

The Church

The Eastern Chancel is furnished for worship with altar and rail. The Chancel is dominated by the three-light East Window, showing the Virgin and Child over King David, which Gillott commissioned in memory of the death in 1881 of his wife Maria. It was made at the John Hardman studios in Birmingham at a cost of £13. 6s 9d. On 21st November, 1914, a special service dedicated the new altar rails and a memorial tablet in memory of Joseph Gillott. The War Memorial is unusual; a carved oak font with brass plaques recording the dead of two world wars. The Register of services for the early years of the 20th century, lists some of the special services and special collections. The last Sunday in October was always known as “Hospital Sunday” and the collection was sent to local hospitals which depended on the voluntary contributions. During the 1914-1918 war, there were many special services; on the 2nd

January 1916, there was a Day of National Prayer and there were several memorial services as local men were reported killed. On the 4th August, 1916, there was a service to commemorate the second anniversary of the outbreak of the Great War and the fallen of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment.

In 1963, a combined Church and School Committee was formed and the minute books record a number of interesting details of their activities up to 1978. The church had always been known as “Catherine de Barnes Mission Church” and it was not until a dedication service on the 24th November 1963 (St. Catherine’s Day) that it was renamed as “St. Catherine’s Church”. In 1964, a new altar table and new lights were fitted in the Chancel and in 1965 it was decided to remove the choir stalls and the harmonium from the Chancel.

A “Ways and Means” Committee was formed for the “general benefit of the community” and over the years they provided a number of items for both the building and the village including the seat at the bus stop. Although there were regular Sunday services, the numbers in the congregation slowly dwindled and the Rector of Solihull had difficulties in providing clergy. On the 20th June 2010, the last Sunday service was held.

The Village Hall

The Parochial Church Council of St. Alphege have been the Managing Trustees. Since the closure of the school, the Hall has been used as a “Village Hall” with support from several groups, including the Residents Association. In the 1980’s, a major refurbishment of the building was undertaken by the Manpower Services Commission; labour was free, but materials etc., had to be paid for and fund raising started. A Hall Management Committee was formed and the Hall has been run by local people as our Village Hall. Since then, much refurbishment and improvement has taken place with funds provided by local groups. The receipts from Hall lettings have paid for most of the running costs of the building. With the coming of the New Trustees and Management Group, the future is bright, but YOUR support for this venture is essential.

Pete Peters



APPLICATION FORM FOR JOINING CATNEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION FROM APRIL 2014

Please hand your completed application form in at the Spar shop in a sealed envelope with your Subscription amount or bring it with you to our Afternoon Tea event on the 8th March. If you have mobility difficulties, please contact Frances Cook or any Committee member and we will arrange collection.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Subscription fees are £3 for Single Membership

£5 for Joint Membership

£10 for Family Membership (4 or more people 16 or over who live at the same address) Children 15 or under have free membership.

ADDRESS:

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