

# CATNEY NEWS



Dear Villagers,

At the time of putting this edition together we have recently had another day of snow, but today, out came the sun with blue skies and in certain parts, it was even gently warm in sheltered places. It is so good to see the snowdrops which are maybe a little late this year.

I sincerely wish that 2018 will bring you all the things you need to make you happy and keep you healthy.

Please complete the form within this edition in respect of the proposed Boundary changes. It really is important to get everyone's views. See the article under the Residents Association information.

Your contributions to the Catney News are always gratefully received. Please get them to me for the March edition by the 16<sup>th</sup> February at the latest.

Thank you

Chris Cluley, Editor.



**FEBRUARY**

**2018**

**You can now follow "Catney Village Hall" on Twitter (@catneyA) Our website is : [www.catney.co.uk](http://www.catney.co.uk)**

**Contacts: Secretary of the Residents Association: Frances on 0776 8502039 or [secretary@catney.co.uk](mailto:secretary@catney.co.uk)**

**Anything for the Catney News: Contact Chris at [cluleychris8@outlook.com](mailto:cluleychris8@outlook.com) **Note: new email address****

**Spar Shop/Hall Bookings: Gareth on 0121 705 6135**

.....

# Chris Boxall

It is with deep regret and sadness that we report the death of Chris Boxall. Chris died suddenly from a massive heart attack on 13<sup>th</sup> December, a month or so before his 71<sup>st</sup> birthday.

Chris and Liz moved to Catney in 1976 and over the years Chris gave up countless hours of his time to the Residents' Association, working hard to maintain and protect the nature and character of the village.

Chris was a familiar sight in the village, either on his bicycle or walking Morag along the canal. What is perhaps not so well known is that Chris always used his walks and rides to keep an eye on the fabric of the village and would immediately get in touch with the Council or the Canal and River Trust if he noticed anything amiss.

Chris regularly monitored the planning system and reported back on any applications which might impact on the village. The clearing of footpaths down by Whale Tankers and the resurfacing of Lugtrout Lane were both instigated by him. Chris's initiative and community spirit even led him to persuade a handful of friends to start clearing up the Common of a Saturday morning, work which has been so admirably adopted and progressed by Friends of the Common.

Those of us who knew him well will remember his sharp intellect and his passion for an eclectic range of interests – glassblowing, caving, sailing, Celtic history, canals and of course, the Severn Valley Steam Railway, where Chris worked as a volunteer signalman, having passed a series of testing exams.

I will miss him greatly and so will all his friends and neighbours.

Our condolences go to Liz and Sandy.

Russell Hogg

**Chris on the Common**



## Catney Christmas Craft Fair

The end of November seems such a long time ago, but we would like to report that our second Catney Christmas Craft Fair was as successful as the first, raising just a little bit more [£487] than last year [£480] from a combination of table rents, refreshment sales and more than half of that from the sales of work of the Catney Craft Group [£265]. The members of the craft group are to be congratulated for the quality and variety of the items as new ideas and products come along with each new member.

It looks as though this will become an annual event, so put Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> November in your dairies. Even if you don't have the time to come to the craft group meetings [Wednesday afternoons between 2 and 4pm], you can still 'donate' hand made craft items to be sold on the craft group table. Once again, the fair demonstrated what an active village community we have, with a wide variety of stalls and with many people coming to just enjoy the lively atmosphere and chat over tea and home-made cakes.

In addition to the craft group table we had stained glass, pottery, jewellery, handmade cosmetics, handmade textile and hand knitted items and in addition this year we had woodcraft made from recycled wood and upcycled furniture.

The craft group is always open to new members and would still like donations of wool, textiles, ribbons, etc. to supplement our 'stash', which is regularly searched to find 'just the right bit of ribbon' to finish off a decoration.

Our thanks are due to the gentlemen running the refreshments stall and all who donated an assortment of homemade cakes and the villagers and their friends who came along and supported the event.

Liz Boxall for the Catney Christmas Craft Fair organising group.



The Catney Craft Club Table



A view of the hall in a quiet moment

## **NEWS FROM YOUR RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION**

Thank you so much to everyone who donated towards the Christmas Tree Fund – your considerable donations were extremely helpful in ensuring our tree and changing lights looked so impressive over the Christmas Period.

### **Consultation M42 Junction 6 – new junction at Solihull Road**

We urge residents to respond to this consultation as we believe Highways England(HE) are eager to get residents views and will take them very seriously in their future deliberations. Financial restraints dictate that spades need to go in the ground in 2020 and HE are desperate to ensure there are no hiccups/problems that will impinge on this deadline.- hence the extensive communication/consultation process they have initiated.

### **Motorway Service Area –Catherine de Barnes planning application 2015/51409**

Highways England have now lifted their hold on this application and approved it in principle although it incorporates 4 areas where they have accepted 'Departures from Standards' in other words relaxed their normal standards. SMBC have asked HE to clarify why /how they have come to this decision which they have done (HE letter dated 19<sup>th</sup> December – can be seen on the planning application on SMBC's website). SMBC have sought legal advice with regard to this application and the one at junction 4 (2016/02754 )and have been advised that they need to review these applications together. Representatives of the RA together with Hampton Parish Council met with Dame Caroline Spelman MP and Cllr Bob Sleight OBE before Xmas to discuss what more could be done to oppose this application and it was decided that Dame Caroline would urge the House of Commons to call on the Secretary of State to reject the proposals as unsustainable not least as result of the threat it pose to road safety. To support this a Petition has been in circulation – if you haven't signed it –can you it is available in the SPAR or call at 9 Oakfields Way. SMBC are still waiting for Traffic Assessment figures for the jct 4 application so the earliest it is likely to go to planning committee for decision is June but it is highly likely that the project will be 'called in ' with the ultimate decision resting with the Secretary of State some time later in the year or early next year.

### **Oak Farm- Care Village outline scheme.**

Following the recent roadshow events last year -members of the Committee together with Hampton Parish Council are due to meet with the developer at the end of January.



## Friends of Catney Common

We ended 2017 raking up grass and planting the new trees and hazel bushes we were awarded under the Airport Tree Scheme. Despite rain and ice we hope these will survive to give more colour this spring. We look forward to the bulbs coming through and to seeing if any of the bird boxes are occupied.

On the agenda for 2018 is filling in the hedge along the woodland path, getting the grass mowed during late July and investigating funding for a bench or seat.

Chris Boxall We were all very sad to hear of the sudden death of Chris Boxall just before Christmas. When the 'Friends of the Common' group started it was Chris, a member of the original team, who passed on a wealth of carefully gathered information about the Common, including maps, management plans and background research. This has been so helpful. He also answered numerous questions and gave us useful contacts. His wife, Liz, has been an enthusiastic and knowledgeable member of the new group. We extend our sympathy and best wishes to Liz and the family.

Thank you. The group has had help and support from so many people during the last year that it is impossible to name everyone. Without exception people have come forward with suggestions, offers of help and encouragement to keep the Common open, attractive and an asset for the village. A very warm 'Thank you' to everyone and Best wishes for the coming year.

## Heather Bird



**Snow on the  
Common Photos  
by Neil Smith**

Dear Readers

I am a member of Marsh Lane Crown Green Bowling Club which is located just at the top of Hampton Lane over the traffic lights & right at the small island in Marsh Lane so very local to use for all in Catney. We are looking for new members who would like to join the club. There is a great green and a nice club house and bowling 6 days a week in the summer. It's a great sport which anyone can play and a chance for some of our villagers to meet new friends & get out and have a fun time for both young and old .

Please contact me if you are interested,

My contact details are

Phill Lockett

12 Bransford Rise Telephone 704 1144

oo

**NEW PILATE CLASSES AT  
CATHERINE DE BARNES VILLAGE HALL**

**Monday mornings at 9.45 am and 11.00 am**

**Tuesday evenings at 6.00 pm and 7.00 pm**

**Classes filling fast so book quickly to avoid disappointment!**

**Contact Jennie on 07860 139680 or email on [contact@pilateswithjennie.co.uk](mailto:contact@pilateswithjennie.co.uk)**

**Visit my website for more details on [www.pilateswithjennie.co.uk](http://www.pilateswithjennie.co.uk)**

**Read my article below to see why you should do Pilates**

***A Healthier, Fitter You for 2018?***

So you've over indulged at Christmas, put on a few pounds and now you're having that internal pep talk about getting healthier and fitter for 2018.

So why not include Pilates as part of your exercise programme? Pilates has exploded over the last few years with millions of people discovering the benefits of Pilates and its popularity is still growing. Why? Because it is a gentle, controlled system that strengthens the core, improves posture, improves flexibility, stabilises the joints and stretches out the entire body. From a complete beginner who has never exercised before, through to a professional athlete and everyone in between, Pilates can benefit you.

So, here are some of the benefits Pilates can offer:

## **It's a Good Workout for your Entire Body**

Even though the main focus is on your core strength, Pilates also plays a part in developing a full-body workout. It ensures that no specific muscle is overdeveloped or under developed, elongating and stretching your muscles and giving you that perfect lean body you are looking for.

## **Places no Pressure on your Joints**

Since Pilates consists of slow and controlled movement, there is minimal impact on your joints. This is naturally ideal for those who cannot (or do not want to) take part in high-impact sports and exercises.

## **Improves Your Posture**

Pilates really hits your core muscle (or 'powerhouse' as it is called in the Pilates world) and has effects on your lower back, abdomen, hip and pelvic muscles. Not only is a strong core essential for exercises but also for everyday tasks such as carrying heavy items and picking up your shopping. Poor posture forms as a result of bad habits such as slouching at your desk which can eventually cause backache, neck ache, headache, etc. The bad habits will result in asymmetrical muscle development where some muscles are weaker than others. Pilates can help to strengthen those underdeveloped muscles and get rid of bad posture.



## **Great for Killer Abs and Core Strength**

As well as helping you to better your body frame, core training also helps to achieve those flat abs that we all crave for.

## **Improves Flexibility**

It was Joseph Pilates who said: "true flexibility can be achieved only when all muscles are uniformly developed".

So rather than saying you can't do Pilates because you are not flexible enough, you should actually participate in Pilates exercises to help improve your flexibility.

## **Improves your Sports Performance**

Many sportsmen and women find that their bodies are misaligned due to the one-sided nature of certain sports e.g. swinging a tennis racquet or golf clubs.

As Pilates helps to balance your body, develop muscular symmetry and align your posture, sportsmen and women find that Pilates can help to reduce the likelihood of injuries.

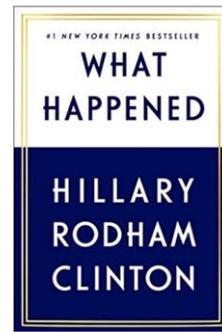
## **Pilates is for Everyone**

It doesn't matter if you are young or old, fit or out of shape, flexible or not, Pilates is one of a handful of exercises which can benefit everyone.

## WHAT HAPPENED

## A Political Memoir by Hillary Rodham Clinton

I assume, many of you reading this review, may have, like me, been surprised at the outcome of the 2016 US Presidential Election; the defeat of an experienced politician and the election of man seemingly totally unsuited to the role of President.



I decided to read Mrs. Clinton's book out of general interest and perhaps to find out What Happened. The wording of the title itself is enigmatic in that there is no question mark, immediately giving it two interpretations.

The book has been panned by all the major critics, which may have been another reason why I chose to read it, and in many ways, you can understand their criticism, as mostly they are men. The female critics are much more forgiving, seeing Hillary as a feminist icon and realistically someone much more qualified for the role.

There is much to consider in this book and to simply state that Mrs. Clinton blames everyone but herself is much too narrow and jaundiced a view. There is a lot of that, but there is the other side too. One quote I read said "she mistakenly assumed that American politics is about policy, whereas Trump saw that it is now an extension of showbiz." Trump of course never really expected to be elected and is now scrambling around trying (hopefully) to get himself fired.

Mrs. Clinton produces lots of statistics about who voted this way and that way and that of course she won the popular vote, but their system doesn't work that way and she simply didn't carry enough states, and therefor get a chance to put real policies into effect.

On thinking about this book when I had finished reading it, my sympathy is with her and what might have been, but read it and make up your own mind, it's not a difficult book to read and much of it is very interesting.

oo





## USEFUL NUMBERS

West Midlands Ambulance	+ 44 (0) 138 421 5555
West Midlands Fire Service	+ 44 (0) 121 359 5161
West Midlands Police	+ 44 (0) 845 113 5000
Solihull and Heartlands Hospitals	0121 424 2000
<b>IF YOU SMELL GAS OR SUSPECT A CARBON MONOXIDE LEAK:</b> Call National Grid free on our 24-hour GAS and CARBON MONOXIDE emergency helpline,	0800 111 999
Taxis	+ 44 (0) 121 782 3744
National Rail enquiries	+ 44 (0) 845 748 4950
Central Trains	+ 44 (0) 870 608 260
Solihull Council general enquiries, information	0121 704 8001/6000
Environmental Maintenance, (includes Waste & Recycling, Street Care and Pest Control)	0121 704 8000
Roads & highways	0121 704 8004
National express coaches	+ 44 (0) 870 580 8080

## ADVANCED NOTICE:

**Sat. 12<sup>th</sup> May**

**Murder Mystery Evening**

**Venue: Fentham Hall, 7.00 pm start;**

**£20 each to include meal and entertainment.**

**Contact Gary and Helen Wood to reserve your place: 01675 442976**

# Harlequinade

Presents a delightful pantomime for all the family by Jackie Staite

# *Sleeping Beauty* ...goes back to the future!



## **Dorridge Methodist Church**

**Fri 2nd Feb 2018: 7.30pm**

**Sat 3rd Feb: 2.30 & 7.00pm**

**Tickets: £10 Adults, £8 Children, £30 Family**

**Contact: Jackie tel: 01564 775069**

**Stephen or Jean tel: 01564 774327**

## **The CORE Theatre; Studio, Solihull**

**Fri 9th Feb 2018: 7.30pm**

**Sat 10th Feb: 2.30 & 7.00pm**

**Tickets: £12 Adults, £10 Children**

**Box Office: 0121 704 6962**

**All in aid of local charities**

**PARISH BOUNDARY REVIEW- Solihull MBC CONSULTATION ON DRAFT PROPOSALS**

Summary of the questions on which Solihull Council now welcome comment- ( *you can cut this page out after responding to the questions and send/e-mail to the address shown below*):-

**The deadline for responses is 15 April 2018.**

**Proposal 1:** The Council proposes to extend the Hampton in Arden Parish Council boundary to incorporate polling district BH07, creating two wards within the Parish and fixing the ward boundary along Friday Lane and Catherine de Barnes Lane.

Do you agree with Proposal 1? Yes/No

Additional comments.....  
.....  
.....

**Proposal 2:** The Council proposes to retain the current name of Hampton in Arden Parish Council and to name the two wards Catherine de Barnes Ward and Hampton in Arden Ward.

Do you agree with Proposal 2? Yes/No

Additional comments .....  
.....  
.....

**Proposal 3:** The Council proposes to increase the number of parish councillors from 9 to 12 to represent a Hampton in Arden Ward and a Catherine de Barnes Ward with the following ratio –

Hampton in Arden Ward : Electorate 1,478 with **8** Parish Councillors , Catherine de Barnes Ward Electorate 724 with **4** Parish Councillors .

Do you agree with Proposal 3? Yes/No

Additional comments.....  
.....  
.....

**How to respond**

Comments/responses should be submitted to the Democratic Services Section of the Council’s Resources Directorate. They can be submitted either by letter or e-mail, or by using the **online reply form** on the Solihull MBC website ( [www.solihull.gov.uk/cgr/hamptoninarden](http://www.solihull.gov.uk/cgr/hamptoninarden)). All views submitted will be taken into consideration. You can send your comments to: Matthew Rossi Electoral Services Manager, Solihull MBC, Council House, Manor Square, Solihull B91 9QS or email them to **matthew.rossi@solihull.gov.uk** Tel. 0121 704 8303

Name:-..... Address.....