

# CATNEY NEWS



## FEBRUARY

## 2016

**Dear Villagers,**

It is so lovely to see the snowdrops peeping through, and in some cases, daffodils almost ready to appear. A ray of hope in the dreary, overcast days.

Our corner of Catney has had some upheavals recently due to new houses being built on the Tarplin yard, huge lorries arriving and lots of enormous machinery. I don't envy the builders as they have had to work in awful weather conditions. If any of you saw anything suspicious on the site last week, on or around Thursday 21<sup>st</sup>, I think, , do let the police know as tools were stolen. Call 101 and quote reference number LOG 315D.

There will only be a short version of the Catney News in March, so if you have something to go in it, please let me know as soon as possible.

Having been caught up in the horrendous traffic on the evening of the 26<sup>th</sup> January, due to an accident and the traffic lights at the junction of Lugtrout Lane and Hampton Lane, we would like you to make a note of any traffic increase which you feel is due to motorway holdups and let us have your comments. Thank you.

You will see that your opinions and feedback are requested in several areas in this edition. Please respond to them if you possibly can.

Lastly, it is time to renew your subscriptions for membership of the Catney Residents Association. Please support us, and the work we do on your behalf in the village. We need all of you to join us, so that we can be ready for action should we be required to protect the environment or fight to keep Catney an attractive and pleasant place to live; and to enable us to continue to communicate with you through our website, the Catney News and through social events.

Thank you

Christine Cluley, Editor.

## How to join the Catney Residents Association

Annual fees are due now and are £10 for a family of 4 or more over 16's living in the same house, £5 for a couple and £3 for a single membership. Under 16's are free if they live in the same house as paying members. Ensure you give us the names of all those who wish to join, the address, email address if you have one and a telephone number and put them in a sealed envelope, together with your cheque made payable to Catney Residents Association or cash – leave it at the Spar shop for collection or hand to any Residents Association Committee member or if this is a problem for you, telephone one of us and we will collect. You will receive a membership card to enable you to gain free entrance to at least one event per year (to be advised) and local discounts. The money you pay enables the Residents Association Committee to act on your behalf with issues affecting the village, e.g. any legal fees required, improvements to the village, special events and the printing costs of the Catney News.

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### **DON'T FORGET TO COME TO OUR A.G.M.**

**TUESDAY 16<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY at 7.30 pm**

**IN THE VILLAGE HALL.**

**EVERY VILLAGER IS WELCOME, PLEASE DON'T LEAVE IT JUST TO THOSE WHO ARE INTERESTED AND INVOLVED ENOUGH TO COME EVERY YEAR.**

**LEARN ABOUT WHAT WE ARE DOING, WHAT WE HAVE DONE AND GIVE US YOUR IDEAS FOR THE FUTURE**

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO JOIN US ON THE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE PLEASE LET US KNOW PRIOR TO THE AGM – WE WOULD LOVE TO WELCOME YOU, COME AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**

**NIBBLES AND DRINKS AFTERWARDS.**

**Current Committee members: Dave Cuthbert, Frances Cook, Chris Cluley, Ken Cluley and Annette Scott.**

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**Is there anybody in the Village who would be interested in taking part in a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme? Let us know.**

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**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> July is the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Catney Residents Association**

We hope to be marking the day with a free village celebration during the afternoon. This is currently in the planning stage, so ideas welcome, but put the date in your diaries.

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**Did you know that you should telephone 101 for non-urgent police matters?**

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**Around the World in 7 donations**

Collect BIG donations for Catherine de Barnes Village Hall when you book your holiday with easyfundraising. Plus, if you book before 13<sup>th</sup> March, you could earn a BONUS donation too in their Around the World in 7 donations challenge – up to a whopping 20%. Not only that, they will enter Catherine de Barnes Village Hall into a prize draw to WIN one of seven £100 donations when their first supporter books travel.

Easyfundraising.org.uk

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**You can now follow “Catney Village Hall” on Twitter (@catneyA)**

**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 [CatneyRA@outlook.com](mailto:CatneyRA@outlook.com)**

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

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## **WE HAVE SOME IDEAS FOR SOME VILLAGE EVENTS:**

**THESE ARE OUR SUGGESTIONS, WITH WHAT WOULD BE REQUIRED – OR IF NOTHING APPEALS, WHY NOT SUGGEST SOMETHING ELSE YOU COULD RUN? CONTACT FRANCES ON HER NORMAL NUMBERS IF YOU CAN OFFER HELP. PLEASE DON'T LEAVE IT TO SOMEONE ELSE AS YOU COULD JUST BE THE PERSON WE NEED, GET INVOLVED!**

**A REGULAR TEA-DANCE:** It's what it says, afternoon dancing and refreshments.

We need someone who can teach some basic steps to get people dancing, and someone else to serve the refreshments and someone to play some music, either live or on CD. So that we can see how many of you would be interested in coming along, we just need someone initially to start the first session.

**A CATNEY CHOIR:** Can you sing in tune? Fancy yourself as a Gareth Malone? If you would be interested in joining a local amateur choir and perhaps singing at Catney events and more, or if you have experience of leading a choir and fancy a new challenge, please get in contact with us.

**BINGO SESSIONS:** A chance to play and socialise

We need someone who can call the numbers and someone to serve some refreshments. Plus people to turn up and play!

**KNIT AND NATTER:** Bring your knitting, have a cuppa and make new friends or meet old friends for a productive sit down.

We just need someone to meet and greet and serve some tea and biscuits.

**PARENTS CLUB:** For Mums and Dads and Carers and their babies and under fives. A morning session to meet others and share experiences, arrange outings, have a cup of coffee and let the children play together.

We need to know if there are enough people interested in running their own sessions.

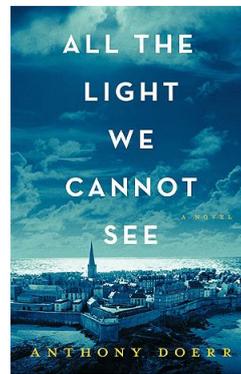


**OR YOU MIGHT HAVE OTHER IDEAS!**



# All the Light We Cannot See

by Anthony Doerr



This book won the Pulitzer prize for fiction in 2015.

It is set in the Second World War, and the story is told between a young French girl, Marie Laure, who went blind when she was six and a teenage boy Werner, brought up in a private German orphanage. The girl's father is a locksmith in a museum in Paris, he has done his best to bring up his daughter since she went blind, building her a scale model of the city for her to feel and learn the roads and alleyways if she needs to go out alone. Werner and his sister find an old radio and from there, he learns all there is to know about radios, so much so that he is called on by everyone to mend theirs, including the German officers who realising his skill and intelligence, put him forward for a brutal Academy that trains Hitler Youth.

Paris is no longer safe, and Marie and her father escape to a relative in Saint-Malo. However, her father is protecting a strange stone from the museum, that appears to have powers that make it something Hitler would like to have in his collection; but Hitler's minion does not know the devastating other side of that power and is tracking both the stone and it's protector.

Werner has his own crosses to bear and nearly loses his life trapped in a cellar that is bombed. But eventually he too finds his way to Saint-Malo and it is there that the paths of the two young people cross.

This is a wonderfully descriptive book. Doerr has the power to entice you into the lives of both Marie and Werner and you cannot help but empathise with their stories. Despite all that is known, it is very difficult to take sides in this tale of survival despite the odds and perhaps we were never meant to do so; but instead to appreciate that sometimes even the sighted cannot see the light.

I thoroughly recommend it.

- I also would like to recommend the latest book by Michael Morpurgo, "Listen to the Moon" which is the true story of how a 12 year old girl destined to become Michael's grandmother was found washed up and unable to speak on a tiny island in the Scilly Isles in the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Aimed I would think at perhaps age 11 years to adult, it is well worth putting down your iphone and settling into a comfy chair to read it.

# What's on Locally in February



## A Celebration of Marriage

**11 am Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> February.**

Hampton in Arden Parish Church. All are welcome, this short service celebrating love and marriage will include an opportunity to renew your wedding vows.

## VALENTINES BARN DANCE –

### Earlswood Lakes Fundraising Committee

On Friday 19 February 2016, starting at 7.30pm at Earlswood Village Hall, Shutt Lane, Earlswood. Tickets are £10.00 each and a family ticket is £35.00 for 2 adults and 2 young people aged under 16. The price of the ticket includes a free drink of fizz on entry and a fish and chip supper (veggie available on request at time of booking the tickets). There will be a raffle and a reasonably priced licensed bar. Free parking too! It's easy to get too and is a good evening. The last time we put on this event we had loads of great feedback, so why not come along and enjoy a Valentines Barn Dance. Book tickets by calling Pam on 01564 702145 or Jenny on 01564 703695

£10.00 per person and this includes a fish and chip supper (veggie burger also available) £35.00 per family - 2 adults and 2 children

**Earlswood Village Hall, Shutt Lane, Earlswood, Warwickshire, Warwickshire B94 6DB**  
**Friday 19 Feb 2016**

Contact telephone: **01564 702145**



## Psychic Fayre at the Olton Tavern Solihull on 24 February

Psychic readings with experienced professional psychic readers offering one to one readings including Clairvoyance, Tarot & Mediumship (individual reader charges apply). Spiritual Earth Gifts will also be there with crystals & new age gifts. Pre-book your reading to avoid disappointment by calling Karen on 07746 674802 or using the online form on our new website - [karenspsychicevents.co.uk/forthcoming-events/](http://karenspsychicevents.co.uk/forthcoming-events/). 7pm-10.30pm. Free Admission.

**Olton Tavern, Lode Lane, Solihull, West Midlands B92 8NU**  
**Wednesday 24 Feb 2016**

Contact telephone: **07746 674802**



## FOR SALE:

### Tudor Dark Oak furniture: Ideal for a Cottage and in good condition

Extending table and six chairs £50

Dutch dresser £50

Long tv and media unit £40

Corner wall cabinet with leaded glass £25

Also, dark wood tall glass fronted display unit with light £35

Two large atmospheric electric wall pictures, with moving sea effect and sound of the sea.

(Each showing view out of a window, of island across sea, one by day and one by night) £25 each.

Single bed, ex bottom bunk, but full size with mattress in good condition. £30

Round pine kitchen table and two chairs £20

Pine dresser with glass top cupboard (needs one small pane replaced) £25

Electric stove fire with flame effect £30

All the above available from Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> February Contact Ken on 0121 705 4669.

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### The Bakery, Catherine de Barnes

In 1986 the following information was recorded by the BBC. It told of the Bakery which was located on the corner of Bickenhill Lane and Hampton Lane in Catney, where houses now stand.

*Situated on the right bank of the canal in Catherine de Barnes is the village bakery. The bakery began its life as a small holding before 1899. A family new to the area transformed it into a small bakery, serving the locals and nearby Hampton and Solihull. Today the bakery remains in the ownership of the grandsons, who work at the bakery. Although the unit is small, two ovens, they produce a variety of bread and confectionary, to supply the bakery shop and two others in Solihull. Altogether 25 people, including bakers, drivers and shop assistants work at the bakery. The late shift bake the bread and the early shift produce the cakes etc. Altogether 40 sizes and types of bread are baked each day.*

I believe the bakery bought flour from Henwood Mill originally.

Do you have any memories of this bakery? Do you have any memories of going to school in Catney, or working on the farms etc.? Or maybe your parents or grandparents told you stories of life in Catney? We would love to hear from you.

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## **Complaints about aircraft noise:**

Tel: 0121 767 7433 (Tom Redfern) Email [environmentteam@birminghamairport.co.uk](mailto:environmentteam@birminghamairport.co.uk)

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**Do you use the number 82 bus? Have you any problems with it being late? Let us know. Also, would you find a bus to Knowle helpful? Again, let us know.**

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**Spring will soon be here. Why not take some photos of Spring in Catney and send them in to me on [www.catneyra@outlook.com](mailto:www.catneyra@outlook.com) . I will put the best ones into the next two editions of the Catney News.**

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**Remember: If you have an email address and don't yet receive your Catney News electronically, help us to save paper and time and tell our secretary Frances that you would prefer to receive it by email. I send the completed Catney News to our secretary Frances each month to send out to a lot of people, but I still have to produce 220 hard copies. Of course, it will be in colour and look much better by email.**

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Can I take this opportunity to thank all our distributors for the work they do in taking the Catney News out to the roads in Catney. You do this year after year in all sorts of weather and you are marvellous. We could not communicate this way without you and we are very, very grateful

*Thank You!*

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