



April 2012

CATNEY NEWS

Dear Villagers,

HAPPY EASTER! Thank goodness longer days are here! The decision has been made that the Catney News will now go out to everyone in the Village so that you all know what is happening and can join in with any functions etc. So welcome to all our new readers. We would love you to contribute articles and ideas, so please feel free to send in things you think will be of interest to other villagers, in particular, if you have something particularly connected to Catney – from memories to old photos. Alternatively, perhaps you could write a book review or would like to start off a letters page?. Our website features your Catney photos – why not send some in? If you have an email address and would like us to send you a colour version of the News instead of a black and white hard copy – please contact our Secretary, Frances.

Chris Cluley,
Editor

WE NEED YOUR HELP PLEASE!
CATNEY OLYMPICS – OUR FETE DAY on 14th JULY
DONATIONS NEEDED:

Books, Cakes, Plants, Home Produce, Tombola Prizes, Silent Auction items, Evening Auction prizes. We also need Coconuts, Sawdust, Egg Shells, and a Paddling pool.

Can you help run a stall, put out equipment and put it away, serve food, or maybe you would like to help, but don't know how – just contact Dave Cuthbert on 705 8037 who will only be too pleased to find you a very useful role. Thank you so much in anticipation! Please don't leave it to just a few people, the more of us join in – the more fun everyone can have. Contact us on any of the emails on the back page or come along to our next Fete meeting on the 18th April at 7.30 in the Village Hall.

AROUND CATNEY

Our AGM on March 8th was attended by more than 30 villagers and the wine and nibbles at the end provided a chance to chat with neighbours. We hope that we were able to provide all the information you needed. The Chairman reported on the activities of the Association this year which include the improved Catney news, significant work on Catney Common, a new website, working with SMBC to keep our local environment up to scratch and vigilant inspection of planning issues that might concern our village. We have backed the Village Hall Action group who held five social functions over the year and raised money to support the association and add to the Village Hall campaign fund. The committee thanks everyone who has contributed in any way to these activities and we are grateful to Pete Peters for printing the News and to our loyal band of distributors. The Chairman added that without the Residents there is no point to this Association which exists to protect and hopefully improve the local environment in which we all live. We need your ideas, we need your feedback, we need to hear about your concerns but most of all we need your support & involvement.

The treasurer presented the accounts for 2011 and explained that we want to maintain our low £2 subscription fee, but in order to cover our running costs we are also asking for donations and trying to reduce printing costs by asking residents to take only an electronic version of the News. Although it will increase our costs, we have decided in future to distribute the News to everyone in the village so that everyone is aware of what is happening.

Stephen Wallis thanked Karen Lusty for her efforts in managing to Hall for several years and welcomed Gareth Thomas to the role. The Village Hall Action group have worked very hard behind the scenes during the year and the outlook for the Hall is positive but we have to wait a few more weeks for legal steps to be completed before we can make any official announcement. The next fundraiser is the Catney Olympics which we hope will be a great success this year.

The committee thanks everyone who gave up their evening to join us at the AGM; your support is sincerely appreciated.

We are particularly anxious for all our new readers to join us in our efforts to save the Village Hall for the Village. As the Church building, it was going to be sold by the Trustees and this could have meant changing the look of this, our village centrepiece or being unable to use the hall for any functions, thus taking away the heart of Catney. This was despite the hall originally have been given to the people of Catney by local businessman Joseph Gillott, as a church, school and village hall. We are currently working with the original Trustees to hopefully achieve a successful outcome. The hall is now listed as a building of local interest. We would therefore urge you to help in whatever capacity you can. If we take over the Hall for the benefit of the village, then we need to have you all behind us and supporting our efforts, by helping at fund raising events, by attending them and giving us ideas we can carry forward and if at all possible, helping us by donating much needed funds or using your skills wherever they are needed. We will have to get the hall repairs carried out, update it for future use and pay for ongoing improvements as well as everyday expenses should we be successful. We will be a charitable trust, so if your company would like to sponsor us in some way or raise money for us, we would be very happy to advertise the fact. Come along to our functions, which will be advertised in the Catney News and on Noticeboards and let us know if you can help in any other way.

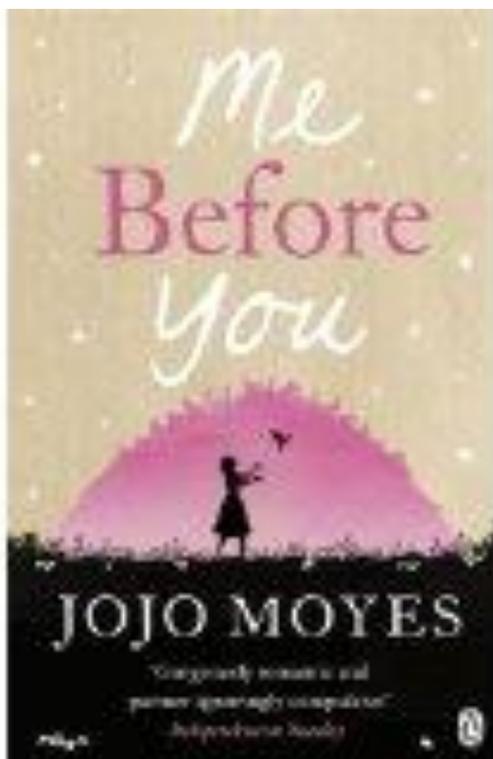
One of the ways you can show your support for the village is by joining our Residents Association – it is only £2 per adult per year – you would have had the form to complete at the back of the last issue of Catney News in March. If you are unable to find it, just put the money in an envelope, with the names of those joining, address and contact telephone number and email address if you have one and give it to Gareth at the Spar shop. He will pass it to our Treasurer. You and any children in your household will then get free entry to our Diamond Jubilee Barbeque on the 27th May from 2 pm at the back of the Village Hall. We will have a list of members at the gate.

ON SUNDAY 15th April at 10 am. (Weather permitting), it is intended to meet at the rear of the Village Hall to check the Fete stalls and do any repairs etc., that may be found necessary. **Please come and help us! If you can help lift some of the heavier pieces, and/or carry out some of the repairs you will be very, very welcome!**



Catney Common

The working parties over winter 2011/2012 have successfully cleared most of the Entanglement and Wetland areas. This permits the next stage to be worked on during the summer of 2012. Grateful thanks to everyone who has joined in with this project. There will be some work carried out during the summer months, but there will be another call for a working party again in the autumn. Why not go along and have a look at the improvements so far? Thank you to all who have helped.



BOOK REVIEW

In her mid twenties, Lou has never really left the confines of her small town with its castle and maze, or her immediate family whose circumstances require her to work and contribute to the family finances. Her long term boyfriend seems more interested in his fitness regime, but when she loses her much loved job at the cafe, she is forced to accept a six month job as a carer companion to a young quadriplegic man whose life has been so different to hers prior to his accident. Neither does he want her to be there as he retreats into his despair. But she perseveres on the insistence of her clever sister, and when she learns why she is really there, it changes her life in a way she could never have expected. This book is wonderfully told, with deep insight and empathy and totally believable characters. I don't often shed tears when reading a book, but this was the exception. Also available as an ebook. CC.

If you live in Catney, would you like to announce a special birthday or anniversary, a birth or a wedding in Catney News? – Tell us about it! Got a new neighbour? We will send them a card of welcome if you let us know.



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(Oakfields Way)

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Sunrise from the garden

to let: Static Caravan

Our two bedroomed static caravan on a five star site on the Isle of Portland, Dorset has magnificent sea views. Peaceful and beautifully situated with a small private garden overlooking a cove, the caravan has everything you need for a comfortable and relaxing holiday. Just across the island from the Olympic Sailing events and a short drive to the beaches and delights of Weymouth. Find out more by telephoning Chris on 0121 705 4669.

FOR SALE

Hula Ukelele and Tuner £40

Please contact: Janet on 0121 705 0219

CATNEY MEMORIES

Once upon a time – people did very dangerous things – thankfully, most of us would never do this now – (please note children – you should never get onto frozen water anywhere at any time unless you are at a proper dedicated ice-rink! – Editor)

John Benfield remembers such a time over 60 years ago : *I was told that my dad was pulling one of my cousins along the canal at Catney on a sledge. Probably Ann, and he went through the ice. He was lucky not to drown. That would have been during the 1947 big freeze I think. I was only 4 at the time. The snow was so deep that winter I couldn't see over the top where it was piled along the edge of the pavements. One winter a certain ginger haired lad (who shall remain nameless) was throwing snowballs at the church bell from the playground. The snowballs were landing on the floor behind the curtains that screened the altar from the classroom. I seem to recall Mrs Hammond was not amused. Great days and a great school. Apart from the dinners!*

At the time of compiling the News, I am not aware of whether any services will be held at Catney. Please look on Noticeboards.

EASTER SERVICES AT HAMPTON-in-ARDEN PARISH CHURCH

- April 1st. Palm Sunday.** 8.15 am Traditional Holy Communion
11.00 am All Age Palm Sunday service (with procession – please meet at 10.45 am in George Fentham school car park)
- April 2nd/3rd/4th** 7.30 pm Compline (night prayers)
- April 5th.** 7.30 pm Maundy Thursday Communion (followed by Stripping of Altar and Vigil)
- April 6th.** 10.30 am Children's Good Friday fun and games
2.00 pm Easter Reflections
7.30 pm Tenebrae: a service of darkness and light
- April 8th.** 5.00 am Easter Day Sunrise Service
8.15 am Traditional Holy Communion
11.00 am Easter Morning Family Communion (please bring a bunch of flowers with you) Followed by an Easter egg hunt)

Rainbows meet on a Monday, Brownies meet on a Tuesday and Senior Guides on a Friday at this venue. The shop is open on Mondays 3.15 pm until 6 pm and Saturdays 9.30 am until 12.30 pm

For Easter holiday 2012, we will close on Saturday 7th April 2012 and re-open Saturday 21st April 2012.

We will then close on Saturday 28th July 2012 and re-open Saturday 1st September 2012 for the Summer 2012 holidays.

Finally for Christmas 2012, we close on Monday 17th December 2012 and then re-open on Saturday 5th Jan 2013.

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Hey ladies – Spring is here!

Fancy doing some ladies netball on a Thursday evening 8.30-9.30pm at Heart of England School, Balsall Common?. Cost is £4 per session and don't worry if you haven't played since school, it is great fun, nothing too serious. They are desperate for players so please give it a go. You can just turn up or contact Claire at cecartwright777@btinternet.com if you require more details.



Sketch of Old Catherine de Barnes Cottages - The Work of Albert Green 1907 – 1987 – Anyone know where they are or were? Why not tell us about the Catney you knew as a child?

Catherine de Barnes Bakery – Which was situated on the corner of Bickenhill Lane/Hampton Lane

Lewis's Bakery was founded in 1899 by Albert Lewis, formerly a miner. In his 20s he decided to enter the bakery business opening his first bakery in the Northfield area of Birmingham. In the early 1900s he relocated to a small village bakery in Catherine de Barnes, Solihull, and built up a reputation for quality and service, supplying the local community with freshly baked bread. I believe Henwood Mill provided the flour originally.

Albert died in 1947 and his two sons Francis and Arthur continued the business, developing a successful door to door delivery business in the surrounding area. The Bakery prospered and in the 60's their sons Brian, John and David entered the Company building up a thriving chain of retail shops and a good wholesale trade.

The business relocated to a modern industrial unit in Garretts Green, Birmingham in 1996 and is now being run by the Great Grandson of Albert Lewis - Simon Lewis. It specialises in supplying wholesale customers, such as sandwich manufacturers, caterers and retailers with a wide range of bakery products using modern equipment and machinery with a team of skilled, craft bakers.

Gary Oakes, from Oakes Farm Shop in Balsall Common says: Lewis's Bakery was founded by my Great, Great Grandfather, Albert Lewis in 1899, in the Northfield area of Birmingham. By the 60's Lewis's Bakery was run by my Grandfather, David, and his brother and cousin, John and Brian from the bakery in Catherine de Barnes.

Since 1996 the Bakery has been re-located to Garrets Green and is now run by Simon Lewis, Brian's son, and their bread is now returning to Balsall Common, available exclusively from Oakes Farm Shop, in Balsall Street. We are able to take orders for the bread, which is available between Wednesday and Saturday.

Francis or Frank Lewis is mentioned again in this article from the Second World War by Alfred Collier

As with most Home Guard units the Solihull one started out as the L.D.V. "Local Defence Volunteers", with pick handles, garden forks or any other implement. Then the H.G. was formed and uniforms and rifles were issued. Solihull H.G. eventually used Touchwood Hall in Drury Lane as their Headquarters. The platoon that my pals and I were in consisted chiefly of young men below the age of twenty one. Our sergeant was Frank Lewis of the bakery at Catherine-de-Barnes. We did our first arms drill in an upstairs room standing between the oak beams in case we hit them with the rifle barrel. Our parade ground for the Sunday morning parade was in the play ground of Mill Lane School. Manoeuvres against army units took place around the fields and lanes of Catherine-de-Barnes and also unit training in Barston Lane and Ravenshaw. place in a hut behind the Grove - now an old peoples home.

Do you have any memories of the Bakery? – Please let us have them!

CATNEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS: 2012/2013

Dave Cuthbert, Roger Ball, Chris Boxall, Ken Cluley, Chris Cluley, Frances Cook



Our village shops in 2005

Do you have any memories of Catney shops in years gone by?

The next newsletter will be in May. Your contributions to the Catney News are always very welcome and should be sent to the email address above or handed in to the Spar shop by 20th April marked for the attention of Chris Cluley – Editor, Catney News. If you have any memories of Catney you wish to share with us and you would like these collected or typed up for you, please let us know. We would also like book reviews, recommendations for local tradespeople and local restaurants, interesting websites and all articles of interest to Catney villagers. If you have any good ideas for content that you would like to see in the Catney News please let me know – Thank you.

USEFUL CONTACTS

Police : 0845 113 5000 Police (airport security only) 0121 712 6151

Solihull MBC: 0121 704 8000 or e-mail : connectcc@solihull.gov.uk

Airport noise complaints: 0121 767 7433

Airport flight path complaints : 0121 712 6172 or e-mail fppt@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk

Emergency numbers: Gas: 0800 111 999 and Electricity: 0800 40 40 90.

Council services: www.solihull.gov.uk/councilservices/index.htm

Hall bookings: Gareth Thomas at the Spar Shop. Tel: 0121 705 6135

RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION : You can contact us by emailing Frances Cook at secretary@catney.co.uk or for contributions to the Catney News, you can contact Chris 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.