



CATNEY NEWS

**A VERY HAPPY
CHRISTMAS AND A
WONDERFUL NEW YEAR
TO ALL OUR VILLAGERS**



Dear Villagers,

This double issue will take us through to the end of January. We hope 2016 has brought you many happy memories and that you will be having the opportunity of making more over the Christmas and New Year period. Please remember your neighbours who may be finding Christmas difficult because they are alone.

We would love to see you all at our **Carols around the Catney Christmas Tree** which will be taking place on Sunday 11th December at 5.30 pm. Do bring the family along. It is so rewarding to see more and more of you coming to sing - please come whatever the weather as if it rains we will sing in the hall. Please bring a torch or a lantern if you have one. Thank you.

Christine Cluley. Editor.

DECEMBER 2016/JANUARY 2017



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Chat and Crafting Group

Wednesday afternoons, 2 - 4 pm at the Village Hall



Carols around the Catney Christmas Tree.

Please put the date in your diary for our CATNEY CAROLS AROUND THE CHRISTMAS TREE this year, which is Sunday 11th December at 5.30 pm. Mr. Kim Rawson, the Director of Music and Organist at Hampton and Balsall Common churches will be playing for us again and there will be light refreshments and drinks served in the Hall afterwards. Should the weather be wet, we will sing in the hall, so please come along and support us. We had a lovely large crowd of Villagers last time, around 60 in total, so let's see even more singers this year. Bring your children and grandchildren, and why not bring a lantern or a torch if you have one. Carol booklets are provided. We sing Christmas songs as well as Carols, so whether its O Come All Ye Faithful or Rudolph the Red nosed Reindeer, there will be something for everyone.

Draft Local Plan (DLP)- and implications for the village

You will recall reading that in order to meet the local/regional housing shortfall SMBC issued a "call for sites" seeking land for future development. Following the numerous submissions, of which over 25 were in this area, SMBC have now whittled down the number of suitable sites to 20. There will now be an 8 week period, commencing in the next week or so, for residents, landowners, developers, etc., to comment on these sites. One of the selected sites is Green Belt land surrounded by Field Lane, Lugtrout Lane, Hampton Lane and Damson Parkway – appx 39 hectares which could accommodate 650 dwellings. It is envisaged that the site would be developed over a period of up to 15 years starting in around 5/6 years. I urge Residents to have their say when the consultation is issued. The full plan can be viewed on the SMBC website solihull.gov.uk – if anyone has trouble locating it please give me a call on 07824 696137. – the plans of the site will also be on view from 10.00am -12.00pm Saturday 14th January in the Village Hall .

Improvements to Junction 6- M42 - 3 Options

Highways England (HE) have booked the Village Hall for the 10th December to consult with local residents on the preferred options for improving traffic flows around Junction 6 , NEC , and the Airport . Please find time to visit the Hall and see what the plans are.

Ward Boundary Changes

It's not too late to comment on the boundary changes which would result of the loss of the Meriden Ward replacing it with a larger Ward of Chelmsley Wood and North Solihull Ward which would incorporate Elmdon and Lyndon Wards and the Birmingham City Ward of Sheldon. You can find out what is being proposed on line at : www.bce2018.org.uk



The Craft Fayre at the Village Hall on the 26th November was very well attended and a great success. Hopefully it will become a regular event.



Motorway Service Area (MSA) at Solihull Road – Catherine de Barnes

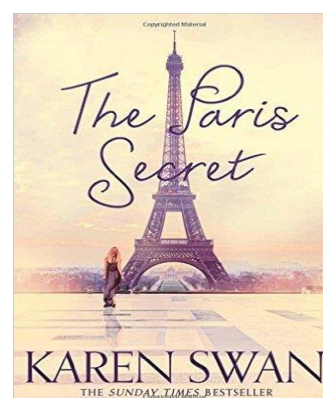
(PL2015/51409)

Highways England have until 9th December to submit their findings on this application. They had asked SMBC for additional time to consider the application as the original design did not meet their requirements. We await SMBC's decision with interest but understand irrespective of it, the application is likely to be 'called in' by the Secretary of State for determination. As you may know another application has been made (PL2016/02754) – the applicant being Applegreen – for a smaller MSA with no hotel at Jct 4 . We understand that now this application is in the public domain the 2 applications will need to be considered together. If you haven't commented on the C de B application it's not too late to tell SMBC what you think as you can do on the new application too

THE PARIS SECRET

A novel by Karen Swan

A book review by John Alderson



The Secret in the title is revealed almost immediately to be an apartment in Paris owned by the wealthy and well-connected Vermeil family, locked and unopened since World War 11 and found to contain a mass of priceless works of art.

Flora Sykes, a high flying art appraiser, dealer and auctioneer is commissioned by the Vermeil family to appraise the collection – in total secrecy – with a view to sale. As she begins her research Flora shortly comes across a serious issue of provenance as the works appear to have been last held by a Nazi wartime dealer of the day.

Further investigation brings Flora into the Vermeil family and in particular Xavier and Natascha, initially the most appalling brother and sister, whose attitude to her and her work form an integral part of the story, more particularly the strangely developing relationship between her and Xavier.

There are of course other “secrets”, including one in her own family, which begin to emerge as the story unfolds with the level of tension being kept high until the very end.

I found this quite a readable book with some very interesting insights into the working of the fine art world, but as it drifted into more of a love story I felt it lost its edge, becoming a little more predictable and less informative. Well written, good characters and an interesting story.

Christmas: Little Women, by Louisa May Alcott

Jo was the first to wake in the grey dawn of Christmas morning. No stockings hung at the fireplace, and for a moment she felt as much disappointed as she did long ago, when her little sock fell down because it was crammed so full of goodies. Then she remembered her mother's promise and, slipping her hand under her pillow, drew out a little crim

son-covered book. She knew it very well, for it was that beautiful old story of the best life ever lived, and Jo felt that it was a true guidebook for any pilgrim going on a long journey. She woke Meg with a "Merry Christmas," and bade her see what was under her pillow. A green-covered book appeared, with the same picture inside, and a few words written by their mother, which made their one present very precious in their eyes. Presently Beth and Amy woke to rummage and find their little books also, one dove-coloured, the other blue, and all sat looking at and talking about them, while the east grew rosy with the coming day.



Advent and Christmas Services at the Parish Church of Hampton in Arden

SUNDAY : 18th DECEMBER 4 PM. 9 LESSONS AND CAROLS.

SATURDAY 24TH DECEMBER: 3 PM. CRIB SERVICE with Carols (Children may wish to come as someone from the Nativity Story)

SATURDAY 24th DECEMBER: 11.30 PM MIDNIGHT MASS

CHRISTMAS DAY: 11 AM: CHRISTMAS DAY COMMUNION SERVICE FOR PEOPLE OF ALL AGES

(Please note there will be no evening service on Christmas Day)

Christmas: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe, by C. S. Lewis

“Didn’t I tell you,” answered Mr. Beaver, “that she’d made it always winter and never Christmas? Didn’t I tell you? Well, just come and see!”

And then they were all at the top and did see.

It was a sledge, and it was reindeer with bells on their harness. But they were far bigger than the Witch’s reindeer, and they were not white but brown. And on the sledge sat a person whom everyone knew the moment they set eyes on him. He was a huge man. in a bright red robe (bright as holly berries) with a hood that had fur inside it and a great white beard, that fell like a foamy waterfall over his chest.

Everyone knew him because, though you see people of his sort only in Narnia, you see pictures of them and hear them talked about even in our world — the world on this side of the wardrobe door. But when you really see them in Narnia it is rather different. Some of the pictures of Father Christmas in our world make him look only funny and jolly. But now that the children actually stood looking at him they didn’t find it quite like that. He was so big, and so glad, and so real, that they all became quite still. They felt very glad, but also solemn.



Thank you again to everyone who has donated towards our Christmas Tree this year. We now have sufficient funds – by the time you read this the tree should have been erected.

“Hope smiles from the threshold of the year to come,
Whispering 'it will be happier'...”
— **Alfred Tennyson**

We are looking for a new Trustee for the Village Hall. Would you be interested? No financial contribution necessary, just a desire to ensure the Hall is protected and maintained for the future. Contact Dave Cuthbert or Frances Cook.

Christmas: Brideshead Revisited, by Evelyn Waugh

“Two Christmases” — those bleak, annual excursions into propriety. Boughton, home of my family, home of my cousin Jasper, with what glum memories of childhood I revisited its pitch-pine corridors and dripping walls! How querulously my father and I, seated side by side in my uncle’s Humber, approached the avenue of Wellingtonias knowing that at the end of the drive we should find my uncle, my aunt, my Aunt Philippa, my cousin Jasper and, of recent years, Jasper’s wife and children; and besides them, perhaps already arrived, perhaps every moment expected, my wife and my children. This annual sacrifice united us; here among the holly and mistletoe and the cut spruce, the parlour games ritually performed, the brandy-butter and the Carlsbad plums, the village choir in the pitch-pine minstrels’ gallery, gold twine and sprigged wrapping-paper, she and I were accepted, whatever ugly rumours had been afloat in the past year as man and wife. “We must keep it up, whatever it costs us, for the sake of the children,” my wife said.

CHRISTMAS MUSIC QUIZ

1. Name the only act to have four Christmas number ones?
2. Who was the first person to have a Christmas number one (Hint: It was 1952)?
3. Who had Christmas top spot with *Killing in the Name* in 2009?
4. Which song reached the number one slot twice, in 1975 and 1991?
5. How many Christmas number ones has Cliff Richards' had?
6. Which choir had a 1980 hit with *There's No One Quite Like Grandma*?
7. Complete this acts name: 'Military Wives with'
8. Who has been top at Christmas eight times with various acts?
9. Which Spice Girl gained a fourth Christmas number one in 2012?
10. Who wrote Do They Know It's Christmas? in 1984 with Bob Geldof?

Answers on Back Page

The Mill on the Floss, by George Elliott

And yet this Christmas day, in spite of Tom's fresh delight in home, was not, he thought, somehow or other, quite so happy as it had always been before. The red berries were just as abundant on the holly, and he and Maggie had dressed all the windows and mantelpieces and picture-frames on Christmas eve with as much taste as ever, wedding the thick-set scarlet clusters with branches of the black-berried ivy. There had been singing under the windows after midnight, — supernatural singing, Maggie always felt, in spite of Tom's contemptuous insistence that the singers were old Patch, the parish clerk, and the rest of the church choir; she trembled with awe when their carolling broke in upon her dreams, and the image of men in fustian clothes was always thrust away by the vision of angels resting on the parted cloud. The midnight chant had helped as usual to lift the morning above the level of common days; and then there were the smell of hot toast and ale from the kitchen, at the breakfast hour; the favourite anthem, the green boughs, and the short sermon gave the appropriate festal character to the church-going; and aunt and uncle Moss, with all their seven children, were looking like so many reflectors of the bright parlour-fire, when the church-goers came back, stamping the snow from their feet. The plum-pudding was of the same handsome roundness as ever, and came in with the symbolic blue flames around it, as if it had been heroically snatched from the nether fires, into which it had been thrown by dyspeptic Puritans; the dessert was as splendid as ever, with its golden oranges, brown nuts, and the crystalline light and dark of apple-jelly and damson cheese; in all these things Christmas was as it had always been since Tom could remember; it was only distinguished, it by anything, by superior sliding and snowballs.

Butty Breakfast

Over 40 residents enjoyed the tea and bacon and sausage butties on offer whilst at the same time catching up with each other and local affairs. Thanks to the generous donations received of £109; the Village Hall Fund and the Residents Association will share a surplus of £40. I hope to organise another similar event for February. The bacon and sausage was sourced from Cornucopia on Yew Tree Lane – see advert in this edition.

Dave Cuthbert



Harry Potter and the Philosophers Stone by J. K. Rowling

On Christmas Eve, Harry went to bed looking forward to the next day for the food and the fun, but not expecting any presents at all. When he woke early in the morning, however, the first thing he saw was a small pile of packages at the foot of his bed.

“Merry Christmas,” said Ron sleepily as Harry scrambled out of bed and pulled on his bathrobe.

“You, too,” said Harry. “Will you look at this? I’ve got some presents!”

“What did you expect, turnips?” said Ron, turning to his own pile, which was a lot bigger than Harry’s.

Be Energy Wise this Winter:

Options to consider:

- Replace your heating system controls with a remote control, programmable thermostat linked to your mobile phone via an app.
- Replacing your old boiler and radiators with newer models that are more efficient.
- Changing to LED light bulbs which use less electricity, and produce less heat
- Install a tank in your garden, connected to the plumbing system, to harvest rainwater to flush toilets, for washing clothes and cars and water your garden.
- Install a ground or air source heat pump which will provide heating and hot water every day and save you money.
- Installing solar panels on your roof to capture the power of the sun for heating water etc. However, be careful, as some solar companies will then actually own your roof, which might cause problems should you ever wish to sell your house. Check first.

MAY THE SPIRIT OF
CHRISTMAS BRING YOU
PEACE, THE GLADNESS
OF CHRISTMAS GIVE
YOU HOPE, THE WARMTH
OF CHRISTMAS GRANT
YOU LOVE.



Newlands Bishop Farm

Christmas Sales Day 2nd December 2016

We are holding another Christmas sales day at the farm 11-3pm on 2nd December 2016.

We will have—

- Christmas trees and stands
- Wooden crafts
- 2017 calendars
- Jams and apple juice
- Winter plants and baskets
- Wreaths



We will have festive food and cakes available on the day as well as home made warm spiced apple juice.

We look forward to seeing you there!

***Please enter the farm via Ravenshaw Lane off of Hampton Lane as the other entrance to the farm is extremely narrow. ***



0121 711 2939

Newlands Bishop Farm, Berry Hall Lane

B91 2RY



Enjoyed your Butty breakfast at the Village Hall? We bought the bacon and sausages from:

Cornucopia, Yew Tree Lane

Have one less thing to worry about this Christmas 🙌🙌 they are now taking your Christmas Turkey orders and all the trimmings!

From your meat to your vegetables, fruit, flowers and sauces, they can help with it all! Don't delay, place your order today 🌲🌲

Birmingham Airport Consultative Committee (ACC)

The AGM for this group is 16th November and one of the items on the agenda is the election/re- election of Community Reps on the Steering Group. Currently the RA is represented on this group and we have expressed our interest in re-election. Details of the activities of the ACC can be seen on the SMBC website: solihull.gov.uk and look under council meetings , agendas and minutes .

Demise of Taxibus – new 89 Bus Service-

Together with Hampton parish Council and now working with Meriden parish Council we are still in discussions with Transport for West Midlands (TfWM) over this service which as far as residents with mobility issues are concerned is significantly inferior to the Taxibus . We have be told by TfWM that re-instating Taxibus is not as option as redundancies have taken place and other resources moved to new areas . However we are pushing for a Ring and Ride type services which operated throughout most of Solihull but which does not cover the villages of Bickenhill, Hampton in Arden, Catherine de Barnes and Meriden. Watch this space! *IF YOU WERE A USER OF THE TAXIBUS SERVICE WE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU HOW YOU ARE MANAGING NOW* – please contact Dave on 07824 696137 .

Dick Whittington Family Pantomime at the Core Theatre, Touchwood, Solihull

09 Dec 2016 - 31 Dec 2016 Start times: 10.30am, 11am, 2.30pm, 3pm, 7pm
Every Week Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday
Tickets £16 Tel: 0121 704 6962 or email: thecoretheatre@solihull.gov.uk

“The rapid nightfall of mid-December had quite beset the little village as they approached it on soft feet over a first thin fall of powdery snow. Little was visible but squares of a dusky orange-red on either side of the street, where the firelight or lamplight of each cottage overflowed through the casements into the dark world without. Most of the low latticed windows were innocent of blinds, and to the lookers-in from outside, the inmates, gathered round the tea-table, absorbed in handiwork, or talking with laughter and gesture, had each that happy grace which is the last thing the skilled actor shall capture--the natural grace which goes with perfect unconsciousness of observation. Moving at will from one theatre to another, the two spectators, so far from home themselves, had something of wistfulness in their eyes as they watched a cat being stroked, a sleepy child picked up and huddled off to bed, or a tired man stretch and knock out his pipe on the end of a smouldering log.”

— **Kenneth Grahame, The Wind in the Willows**

LONGFELLOWS

DECEMBER MENU 2016



STARTERS

Baked Portabello Mushroom Stuffed With Creamed Mushrooms + Blue Cheese Warm Rosemary & Garlic Crusted
Goats Cheese + Sweet Tomato & Chilli Relish
Creamy Leek & Potato Soup + Crispy Croutons
Chicken Liver Parfait + Red Onion Jam, Dressed Leaves + Melba Toast

MAIN COURSES

Roast Gressingham Duck Breast On Confit Of Red Cabbage Roasted Salmon With Pan Fried Prawns Prime Scotch
Fillet Steak 6oz With Roasted Cherry Tomatoes & Peppercorn Sauce £4.50 supplement
Roast Turkey With Bacon, Sausage Meat, Cranberry Sauce + Gravy
Roast Pork Fillet Wrapped In Black Forest Ham, On Honeyed Apple + Cider Gravy Aubergine,
Spinach & Toasted Hazelnut Filo Pastry Strudel On Roasted Red Pepper Sauce + Parsnip Crisps Served With Honey
Roasted Root Vegetables & Roasted Rosemary Potatoes

DESSERTS

Spiced Apple & Mixed Berry Crumble with Honeycomb Ice-Cream
Hot Black Cherries & Brandy on Vanilla Ice-Cream Cream
Filled Profiteroles With Chocolate Sauce + Grated Belgian Chocolate Warm Almond Tart + Cream + Raspberry Sauce +
Toasted Flaked Almonds Or "Blacksticks Blue", Snowdonia Black Bomber" Cheddar Style Cheese & "Cotswold" Brie +
Chutney + Biscuits + Grapes

LUNCH & DINNER 2 COURSES £21.95 Or 3 COURSES £25.95

A discretionary 10% service charge will be added to parties of 8 or more

Tel 0121 705 0547

**To all our
distributors – a
huge, grateful thank
you for all you do in
getting the Catney
News out to our
villagers, through
all sorts of weather.
We can't carry on
without you.**



RECIPE FOR A NEW YEAR

Take 365 days, trim off all the old memories of hate and discord. Soak and wash thoroughly in plenty of love and courage. Cut these days into 12 parts, cooking only one day at a time. Be sure the fire is hot with enthusiasm and your kettle is bright with hope. Season each kettleful with some kindness for others and add patience, for small trials that come up every day. Add a little earnestness and willingness. Serve with smiles, praise and plenty of heartwarming joy, with your chin up.

Author Unknown

Message from Birmingham Dogs Home, Catherine de Barnes Lane

Christmas is a time for family but some dogs are not fortunate enough to have one.

We are appealing for your help this Christmas to feed all the stray dogs in our care a Christmas and New Year dinner and to help care for the thousands of stray and abandoned dogs that need our help.

JUST 50P COULD GIVE A HOMELESS DOG A CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR DINNER

We rescued over 3,000 stray dogs in 2015 and it's because of your generosity that we can continue to care for them year after year.

To help our stray dogs this Christmas you can donate in many ways:

BY TEXT: Text XMAS28 £3, £5, £7 or £10 to 70070*

CALL: 0121 643 5211

BY POST: Birmingham Dogs Home, Catherine-de-Barnes Lane, Catherine-de-Barnes, Solihull, West Midlands, B92 0DJ

Or Visit us!

HAMPTON IN ARDEN PRE-SCHOOL – PLACES AVAILABLE.

Let your children learn, develop and explore in a caring, educational and fun-packed environment! Run by highly qualified, experienced and caring staff.

- From age 2 to school age (with free sessions for qualifying 2 and 3 year olds);
- Sessions run from 9.15am to 12.15pm every Monday to Friday during term time;
- Located at the Scout and Guide Headquarters, Shadowbrook Lane, Hampton-in-Arden, B92 0DQ For more information please contact Nicola Stocks on 07527 006386 or email hiapreschool@gmail.com

For your diary:

On 13th December (10am to 12pm and 2pm to 4pm): There will be a Christmas Charity Coffee Morning at Hampton Library in Fentham Road (opposite George Fentham School).

WHAT'S ON FOR CHRISTMAS IN SOLIHULL?

Christmas Market: Saturday 26th November - Wednesday 21st December 2016

Christmas would not be the same without a visit to a Christmas market with hot dogs, mulled wine, handmade jewellery, luxury gifts, Christmas decorations and much more. Solihull's Christmas market showcases unique wooden Christmas chalets spreading the festive spirit.

The Nutcracker Christmas Trail: Saturday 26th November 2016 - Friday 6th January 2017

We know how much children love Christmas, and we love making Christmas that bit more exciting for them. This year we have 10 Christmas statues to find hidden around Solihull town centre, pick up a Nutcracker trail programme, discover the hidden gens and find their names. Once completed all you have to do is post your answer sheet into the post-box found in Mell Square. Two lucky children will get the chance to win an iPad Mini!

Solihull Express Train: Saturday 26th November - Sunday 18th December (Saturday & Sunday only) and Tuesday 20th - Saturday 24th December 2016

This year we are enhancing the experience of Christmas with our festive train. Jump aboard the Solihull Express Train to travel in style around the town centre. It is great fun for children and families, giving you the chance to see everything. The Solihull Express will run from Mell Square to the High Street, through Mill Lane and then back to Mell Square.

Meet Santa: Saturday 19th November - Sunday 24th December 2016

We couldn't just leave it there without Santa making an appearance. Touchwood are making this possible in the grotto found in the Atrium, it's only £5 to meet Santa and his helpful elves, and who knows you may come home with an early Christmas present. What better way to end your festive day in Solihull?



Your grandma would tell you that nice manners still matter. Why not sit down and write a real thank you note this holiday season, whether you're thanking someone for a lovely party or a thoughtful gift. "They're always appropriate and relevant and handwritten reigns supreme."

BRAISED CHRISTMAS CHICKEN OR TURKEY



INGREDIENTS:

- 75cl bottle red wine
- 1 mulled wine spice bag (or use 1 cinnamon stick, 2 cloves, 4 coriander seeds, little nutmeg and 2 all spice wrapped in a muslin bag)
- 2 washed and scrubbed Satsuma's studded with 4 cloves each
- 2 tablespoon dark muscavado sugar
- Salt
- ground black pepper
- 12 chicken thighs or legs
- 1 tablespoon oil
- 1 onion, peeled and finely chopped
- 3 garlic cloves, peeled and finely chopped
- 1 1/2 tablespoon plain flour
- 100g dried cranberries
- 300ml chicken stock

METHOD:

1. Put the wine, mulled wine spice bag, Satsuma's and sugar in a pan. Bring to the boil and bubble until the mixture has reduced, about 10 -15 minutes. Add the Satsuma studded with cloves.
2. Season the chicken skin and in a large pan, heat the oil and fry the chicken pieces until golden. Add the onions, garlic and cook for a further 5 minutes.
3. Add the flour and cook, stirring, for 1 min before adding the reduced wine and stock. Bring the mixture to the boil, then cover and cook at 200°C (400°F) mark 6 for about 1 hour, the sauce should be could be the consistency of gravy.
4. Uncover the casserole, stir in the cranberries and cook for a further 30 minutes. Remove the Satsuma and put into the compost bin. Serve the casserole immediately.

To freeze: Make the recipe up to the end of step 3. Cool then put into a freezer proof container, label and freeze for up to 3 months.

To use: Thaw over night, put into a flameproof casserole, slowly bring to the boil on the hob. Add the cranberries and reduce to a gentle simmer. Cook for 30 min or until heated through



12 Early Resolutions: This Christmas.....

- I will plan ahead.
- I will have written all the cards by 1st December
- I will not buy more decorations
- I will go outside whatever the weather and walk
- I won't get cross when people don't help
- I will stay calm
- I will not drink too much
- I will not eat too much
- I will not spend more than I have
- I will not spoil the children
- I will not argue with any of the family
- I will try not to do or say anything embarrassing.

New Year Resolution

- I will give up making Christmas resolutions

Answers to Music Quiz:

1. The Beatles
2. Al Martino
3. Rage Against the Machine
4. Bohemian Rhapsody
5. Four
6. St Winifred's School Choir
7. Gareth Malone
8. Paul McCartney
9. Melanie Chisholm (as a member of *The Justice Collective*)
10. Midge Ure

