

**SEPTEMBER 2013**

Dear Residents,

If you've been on holiday I hope you had had a relaxing time and have returned home refreshed and good luck for the new term for all our young people and teachers.

Just a reminder to let us have your annual subs to join the Catney Residents Association if you have not done so already. We really need your support and we are now way past the date we would have expected to have all the subs in. £3 for single membership, £5 for a couple, or £10 if you have a family of more than four over 18's. Put your subs and your names, address, telephone and email in a sealed envelope, marked for the attention of the RA Treasurer and leave it at the Spar shop where it will be collected. Thank you so much.

Since our last edition, we have had Catney Day which was a great success, some photos are in this edition. Thank you so much to everyone who helped in any way, played music, or attended, we could not have done it without you. The sun shone, we had a new Catney Flag designed by Edward Hillman (Aged 10) of George Fentham School and the Mayor of Solihull came to give out prizes. Well done to Edward and also to Margaret Taylor whose sponge cake came first in the competition.

Thank you too, for the contributions you have sent in to this edition. It is sometimes quite hard work to find copy for each edition and your help is very much appreciated. Next month, our History section will talk about Catney in the 1940's and the Button Factory!

Chris Cluley
Editor

EVENTS COMING UP AT THE VILLAGE HALL

QUIZ NIGHT AND FISH AND CHIP SUPPER

12th October 2013 at 7.30 pm.

Proceeds this time for the Residents Association!

Another fun evening of battling brain cells! Bring a team or we will put you in a one – everyone welcome.

Fish and chip supper at half time, included in ticket price.

Bar and Raffle

Tickets £8 per person Contact: Dave on 705 8037

ALSO:

We will now be having a Film Night Friday- **COME ALONG TO OUR OWN CINEMA AT THE VILLAGE HALL ON THE LAST FRIDAY EACH MONTH BEGINNING ON 27TH SEPTEMBER – see below:**

MOBILE FLICKS SOCIAL CINEMA

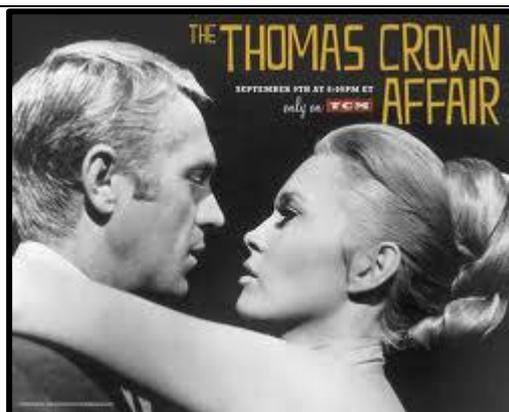
Presents

“The Thomas Crown Affair”

FRIDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER

Doors 7pm Film 8pm
Catherine-de-Barnes Village Hall

Drinks available before the screening
NEXT FILM NIGHT FRIDAY 25TH OCTOBER
2013



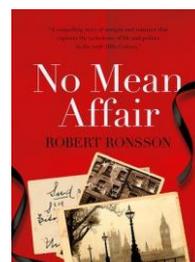
Tickets £3.50 – All proceeds to Catney Village Hall

Tickets available from the Spar / angela.mobileflicks@gmail.com / on the door

Pete Peters invites you to the
World's Biggest Coffee Morning
 Join him at the Boat Inn on Friday 27th September 2013
 from 10am until 12 noon.
Coffee and Biscuits free – Donations to MacMillian Cancer Support
Please help us to help others

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No Mean Affair by Robert Ronsson



A book Review by John N Alderson.

Robert Ronsson came to our U3A (Arden Group) to talk to us about his family history, which had prompted him to write No Mean Affair, which is a work of fiction but linked to members of both his family and the giants of Britain's first Labour Government.

The story is initially based in Glasgow from 1912 and describes, in no mean detail, the hardship of the normal way of life for working class of the city at that time. Appalling housing conditions, long working hours in very dangerous conditions, poor wages, grinding poverty and violence linked to a corrupt political scene with the fledgling Labour Party trying to get into a position to improve the lives of the poor, form the background to the story and centred round the author's Grandmother, Mary Ireland.

Mary is politically active as a member of the Guild and ultimately the Labour Party, meets John Wheatley who was to become a member of Ramsey MacDonald's first Labour Government of 1924. The story of their relationship and the rise to power of the Labour Party form the backbone of how Robert Ronsson, with limited family background information available, imagines and describes their early meetings and ultimately possible life in London as Wheatley and his colleagues have to move there as they achieve political status.

The interest in the story, which is vivid in its description of Glasgow life and the political shenanigans of the time, is for the reader to wonder what is established fact and what may have been a fictional or factual scandalous relationship, and how much influence Mary Ireland, clearly a very strong woman, might have had on British politics.

A very interesting first novel and well worth reading.

Dogs Home:

When Solihull Council met to make a decision on whether this should be built in Catherine-de-Barnes Lane, there were four votes against and four votes for the motion that it be built. The Chairman therefore had the final vote and the build will now go ahead.

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Trader Talk

If you have had some work done recently, and were happy with it, we would love you to recommend that trader to us, so that we can compile a list for villagers to consider. Please only tell us if you have personally used the plumber, decorator, electrician, gardener, etc., and have found their work to be excellent. Chris Boxall has recommended the following this month:

Plasterer: David Askey (Hockley Heath). High quality work producing walls and ceilings sufficiently smooth that they can be painted without papering first. Absorbs an infinite amount of coffee and plays a plaster spattered radio. Works till the job is completed. Keeps to agreed dates and sets realistic durations. Probably top end prices. Minimal paperwork. Home: 01564-785-302 Mob: 07817-115-274

Plumber: David Millward (Kings Norton) trading as D M Plumbing. Reliable and knowledgeable. Carefully assesses jobs and existing plumbing system prior to quoting. Imaginative design. Flexible and adaptable to schedules of other tradesmen on a job. Well priced. Home: 0121-604-7758 Mob: 07966-478-686

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LOCAL RESIDENT OFFERS HOUSE/PET SITTING SERVICE (DAY/EVENING OR LONGER PERIODS) ALSO COLLECTION/DELIVERY OF SHOPPING OR SMALL ITEMS.

TEL: Keith on 0121 705 7061 or 07792 221937

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IN MEMORIAM

We fondly remember Jean Rosier who died on the 20th July after a short illness. She and her husband Bob moved into Oakfields Way when the houses were first built and she lived there for over 40 years. Bob died quite a few years ago now and in the last few years Jean moved to Dorridge to be nearer her son and his family. (They had 3 children who were former pupils of Catney school)
 R.I.P Jean

CATNEY CRICKET CLUB

Good News: the Catney first X1 have gained promotion to the Premier Division of the Cotswold hills Cricket League by winning Division 1 which for us is big time. Our second division have also a chance for promotion from Division 4 on Saturday 31st August. We will let you know how it goes.

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Hampton Crafts already have art classes in Hampton Church Hall on a Monday and Tuesday. They are now beginning a Sewing class on a Monday evening from early September. For details about any of these please contact Mrs Bernice Griffiths on 01675 442240

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Advance notice:

Hampton Singers Autumn Concert

At the Parish Church of St Mary and St Bartholomew, Hampton-in-Arden,

Saturday 9th November 2013 - 7-30 pm

Provisional program to include works by Purcell and Britten together with the Faure Requiem

HISTORY CORNER –Back to School to Play Tai Chi!

I was among the last group of children to go to Catney school, spending all but the last year of my infant and junior classes there up until it closed in 1974. I therefore have lots of memories of what is now our village hall.

There was the day the whole junior school was walked in pairs down a frosty Henwood Lane, coming back down (a much more rural at that time,) Friday Lane one morning because the heating had broken down and it was too cold to stay sitting in school. Then there was the enormous cylindrical vat outside the front door into which leftovers from school dinners were tipped to become pig swill. I hope the pigs liked cooked beetroot more than we did because the swill always ended up a sort of raspberry ripple pink.

Just as these days pig swill from leftovers is banned, I suspect the rather rickety metal climbing frame that towered over the tarmac at one end of the playground would also be considered a health and safety hazard. I never had the nerve to climb to the top of it. I did join in the football games that would spontaneously materialise at dinner break in the field behind the school. No one picked out teams and there was no limit to the number playing. Not being a natural football player or understanding half the rules, my tactic was to loiter near the opposite team's goal in the hope I might be able to nudge the ball over the line if it got kicked free of the pack and rolled in my direction.

This September I'll be back 'playing' in the Village hall one morning a week only this time it's to teach a Tai Chi class. I've been training in Tai Chi for many years and in the school I belong to we talk about 'playing' Tai Chi rather than doing it. This is because Tai Chi is about releasing tension and effort when you move rather than making your body do something. This kind of relaxed focus is most often seen in children 'playing' or someone 'playing' a musical instrument.

I'll be teaching the 18 movements that make up the Shibashi Qigong set. These moves are gentle and not complicated to learn whatever your age or fitness. Although Tai Chi is a centuries old martial art you won't be doing moves like Bruce Lee or even Kung Fu Panda! The motto is "If you feel pain or strain you won't gain." In other words if you push your body to its limits it will tense and tighten to protect itself, so in Tai Chi we relax and increase awareness of the body remaining well within its comfortable limits. In this way the range of movement naturally expands and you can also become calmer and more focused.

Back to School to Play Tai Chi! (continued)

So I would be delighted to welcome any Catney residents who would like to come and play some Tai Chi on Thursday mornings and create some more memories in the village hall!

Do ring or email me if you need more details: 07713 253 482 sallytaiji@gmail.com or check out the website at: www.dragonspringtaiji.co.uk

Sally Clarke

Tai Chi

Gentle Qigong movements exploring the principles of Tai Chi
Release tension, restore suppleness, balance and relaxation

All levels of fitness welcome
£5 per class - First class **FREE**

Thursdays 10 - 11.00am starting 12th September
Catherine-de-Barnes Village Hall
Hampton lane, Catherine-de-Barnes, B91 2TJ

More information ring Sally: 07713 253482
sallytaiji@gmail.com www.dragonspringtaiji.co.uk



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Correspondence with the Airport.

The Residents Association wrote recently to the airport following a reported concern that south departing aircraft seem to have moved nearer to Catney with associated noise increase.

The reply from Kirstin Kane, Environment Manager at the Airport, is as follows:

I can confirm that there has been no change to the departure procedures, it is not possible to make any changes without going through an Airspace Change Process (ACP) and the proposed changes being formally approved by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA).

By now, hopefully you will have received the correspondence with regard to our ACP and the confirmation that our preferred route is Option 5 i.e. the straight ahead option with no turn. This has now been submitted to the CAA for their consideration. I have passed on your concerns for investigation to my colleague Tom Redfern who will reply directly.

PLEASE NOTE THAT CATNEY DAY NEXT YEAR WILL BE ON SUNDAY, 13TH JULY – PUT IT IN YOUR DIARIES!

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Annette Scott from the Residents Association Committee welcomed the Lord Mayor, Councillor Joe Tildsley and his wife Joan to our Catney Day event. We thought you might like to read what she said in her speech.

“Thank you to the villagers for supporting our Family Day, which for many years has been an annual event. As last year’s Jubilee celebration was a fantastic success it was decided that the format of a family social gathering where children played old fashioned games and just have fun, while parents ate cake and drank tea and chat to friends new and old would continue to be the format for our Annual event.

What we have planned for the day requires more energy than a swipe on a screen and a 2 thumb activity! I am personally hoping that our 2 grandchildren will be exhausted and sleep tonight.

Today’s event would not have been possible without the tireless support of local people. In particular I would like to thank Sue Atwell, Dave Parsons and Vickie Smith today’s organisers.

The Residence Association and the Village Hall Committee are committed to raising funds to restore this historic building so that it can be developed further as the Hub of the village, for community use. Please don’t forget we need your support to achieve this goal.

The annual village gathering was amongst the fondest memories of my childhood in Bathampton a small village outside of the City of Bath. Bathampton has many similarities to Catherine de Barnes, with the community at the heart of the village.

As ‘Catney folk’ we all have the privilege of living in an area that offers all of the benefits of a City, in a country setting. Canal Walks, good food, arts and entertainment, schools that are rated amongst the best in the country. All of these facilities are thanks to our public servants and dedicated councillors using their foresight in the development of our Borough. There are exciting times ahead for our region.

We are privileged today that our newly elected Mayor has chosen our Catney Day as one of the local events to support this weekend.”

CATNEY DAY PHOTOS



What's on in Solihull during September?

Sunday 1st September: 11 am. Pet Blessing Service at Hampton-in-Arden Church. Bring your pet along for a blessing and to say thanks for the pleasure they give – short service.

Wednesday : September 4: Hampton Society Talk by Ken Ellis. Arden Room, Fentham Hall 7.30 pm on "Hampton's Spitfire Hero" - Alex Henshaw (one of the U.K's aviation pioneers who at one time lived in Old Station Road). All welcome.

Friday 6th September: Farmers' Market: 9.00am - 5.00pm , High Street: A traditional farmers market full of local produce all produced within a 30mile radius ensuring everything is fresh and most importantly local. So come along and support your local farmers.

Sunday 8th September: Dorridge Day: 12.00pm - 4.00pm , Dorridge Park, B93 8LJ: This event run by Knowle and Dorridge Round Table is lots of fun for all the family and this year features a Wild West theme! There will be themed games and re-enactments, as well as the usual fantastic selection of entertainment, charity stalls and refreshments. Don't miss it! For further information, visit <http://kandd.org.uk/>.

Saturday 14th September: Solihull's Classic Car Show

10.00am - 5.00pm, Mell Square: It's back, Solihull's answer to Top Gear, promising many cars from vintage Aston Martins, Austin's such as Healey Abbott, Morgan 4/4, Bentleys and Mercedes. If you own a classic car and would like to participate please complete our [booking form](#).

Saturday 21st September: Fine & Local Food Fayre

9.00am - 5.00pm , Mell Square - That little something special and an array of fine foods and drinks to try on site or take home for all the family, from the regions top producers.

Sunday 22nd September: Fun in the Park

11.00am - 5.00pm, Tudor Grange Park, B91 3LU Fun in the Park is a great day for all the family - come and be entertained! The event includes an arena with local dance and music, dog show, classic cars, eco-friendly displays, a variety of stalls with games, crafts and local charities. Organised by Soroptimist International Solihull - for more information, visit www.funinthepark.co.uk/ or follow on Twitter via [@twitter.com/solihullFITP](https://twitter.com/solihullFITP).

Saturday 28th September: Pride in your town day: 10.30am - 12.30pm, Mell Square:

Come along and support your community with painting, litter pick, cleaning up of the town centre with your Shirley Town Team. Meet at the park entrance on Stratford Road and please bring gloves and wear suitable clothing.

29th September: Back to Church Sunday: Hampton in Arden Church. If you stopped going to church for any reason, or have never been before, this is a chance to be welcomed in to church without any hassle! Holy Communion at 8.15 am, 11 am: School's Praise – hymns and readings chosen by local school children and teachers and Choral Evensong at 6.30 pm.

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 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.

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

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

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FOR THE CATNEY NEWS:

Tell us about special birthdays, anniversaries, weddings etc, relating to people who live in the village, and we will congratulate them in our next edition. Also, if you would like to announce the birth of your baby, or a new grandchild – as long as you live in the village – that's fine. About to hold an event locally? Let us know. Do you know of anyone new to the Village? Tell us and we will send them a welcome card.

If you would like to promote your business by offering villagers a discount – please contact me.

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 October issue; please let me have all copy by 20th September.

Remember, that if you are receiving this copy of the Catney News in black and white, it will not do justice to any colour photos. If you have an email address, and would like to receive your copy in colour, please let Frances Cook know.

Chris Cluley

CAN YOU TELL WHAT THIS IS?



**WE OFTEN HEAR ABOUT HOW OUR BEE POPULATION IS DEPLETING.
BUT HERE IS A WILD SWARM HANGING ON TO A TREE IN A GARDEN
BY THE CANAL IN CATNEY**