



January 2014



Catherine de Barnes

CATNEY NEWS

Dear Villagers,

A very Happy New Year to you all. If you receive a hard copy, I apologise that the Catney News is a bit late going out to you, printing has been difficult due to unforeseen problems.

I thought I would begin by saying thank you to everyone who has supported the Residents Association, The Village Hall Committee and Village Hall events throughout 2013.

Your support is so important, not just to raise much needed funds, but to show those of us who are organising and arranging the events that we are not wasting our time, as it is so disheartening to put in time and effort and then have a very poor response from the village, as I am sure you can imagine. Please see Leslie Cuthbert's comments overleaf!

As you may have read, the papers have all been signed and the Village Hall Trustees will now take over the hall on behalf of the Village. (Please see the article by Stephen Wallis). This is wonderful news, but it will mean that we must raise enough money to pay for the very necessary repairs needed, the everyday running of the hall and ongoing improvements. So good attendance at all our functions and events is more necessary than ever. We will be organising various things throughout 2014, so please come along, join in, and get to know your fellow villagers.

Christine Cluley (Editor)

CHRISTMAS BUFFET

We had a fantastic evening on 14th December despite the lack of support from Catney residents, especially as the buffet was free to members. On the 23rd December we had Carols round our wonderful Christmas tree, however the turn out was dismal compared to last year. This was Christmas, one of the most wonderful times of the year, it is not all about making sure you have gifts for Tom Dick and Harry, it is first and foremost a celebration and our village should be celebrating together. Where has the old Catney spirit gone? When I first came to the village the camaraderie spirit was incredible, COME ON CATNEY RESIDENTS LETS GET THAT VILLAGE CAMARADERIE BACK AGAIN!

Leslie Cuthbert

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CAROLS AT CATNEY

Those of us who did attend the Carols around the Tree on the 23rd December did have a very pleasant evening, even if we were fewer than last year and at one point we were wondering if anyone was going to turn up!. Our grateful thanks to the Director of Music at Hampton Church, Mr. Kim Rawson, who had re-organised a previous engagement to come and play for our singing and thanks to Doug from Longfellows for the warm mincepies! Thanks too, to the ladies who washed up the wine glasses. We were so pleased when the heavy rain and wind that had beaten against our windows all day ceased, to enable us to stand and sing around the tree without being too cold! Remarkably, the rain began again after everyone had gone home.

I would be really interested to learn why you didn't come along, so that we can try and improve the situation for this year. We are considering having a permanent tree in future, if at all possible, so please let me know. A photo of a few of the singers can be seen on the next page.

Chris Cluley



Thank you to everyone who has donated money towards our Christmas Tree; from those who donated, we are able to personally name Autosan Ltd (John Cullen), and Probate Solicitors. Thanks too, to Dave Lusty and Lightpower for the donation of the lighting installation.

The Christmas Buffet was lovely, and all enjoyed a substantial cold meat buffet followed by a few games and musical entertainment by Stephen Wallis and friends. Thanks to all who donated time, desserts, salads and raffle prizes.

Dave Cuthbert.

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The Residents Association AGM will be in the Village Hall on February 19th at 7.30 pm. We ask that as many of you as possible come along, so please put it in your new 2014 diaries or on your electronic devices – we will provide wine and nibbles afterwards and this is an excellent opportunity to learn more about your village and how you can make living here a good experience.

New Start for St Catherine's Hall for 2014

After months of discussions, meetings and waiting I am delighted to finally report that the official transfer of the Trust that looks after St Catherine's has been approved and signed by the St. Alphege P.C.C. and Birmingham Diocese. Some of you may have seen the article announcing this in the local Solihull papers. This is a great opportunity now for the Village to come together and benefit from having it's own community building. Hopefully 2014 will see the establishment of a group of residents willing to be involved in the running of this beautiful and historic building which was built for Catherine de Barnes by Joseph Gillott. I know many of you have already indicated your willingness to do this over the past two years so at last we will be able to start the process that we have been discussing for some time. All those who have previously indicated their interest will be notified in the New Year.

I can only apologise for the time taken to complete this fairly complicated transaction but nothing could be done until the final approvals of the documentation had been completed. We must convey our thanks to all those involved from the village and the church and especially to Stephen Linstead from St Alphege who has personally prepared all the paperwork for submission to the Charities Commission, Birmingham Diocese and the solicitors which has saved a tremendous amount in fees.

It is hoped that we will have a small official handing over occasion soon to commemorate this significant event in the life of the Village and of the Church.

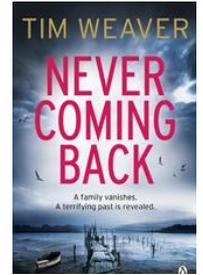
Thank you to all

Stephen Wallis

NEVER COMING BACK

A Novel by Tim Weaver

A book review by John Alderson.



Although the first part of this book is based in Los Angeles, most of the action – and there is quite a lot - takes place in a small coastal Devonshire village where David Raker a retired policeman who now specialises in finding missing persons, is recuperating from injuries sustained in an earlier case.

The story really hinges on the complete disappearance from their home in Devon of a family of four. The house is found unoccupied but with food cooking and no sign of a struggle. The Ling family had vanished without trace.

Raker meets Emily a teenage love who he has not seen for nearly twenty five years, who explains to him that is her sister's family that disappeared almost a year ago and that the Police have made no progress at all in locating them or explaining why they disappeared. Raker decides he needs to help Emily but there are distractions brought about by a dismembered body being found on the rocks close to where Raker is living.

By flashback to fifteen months previously, we find ourselves in a Los Angeles Hotel where half a dozen very high rollers are playing cards fixed up by a sinister figure, Cornell, and eventually we see a link between the Ling family, the card players, a missing computer and more particularly a missing photograph.

We then move forward again to Devon as Raker manages to find links between various events and the same policeman now dealing with the body on the beach and the Ling family disappearance. Killings take place and Raker and Cornell also finally meet in a very descriptive piece in torrential rain and crashing waves. There are however a couple of further twists to the story taking Raker back to Las Vegas in what is quite an interesting and pacy novel.

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CATNEY CRICKET CLUB:

Our indoor nets recommence on Saturday 11th January at 11.30 am at Tudor Grange School, Solihull. New members will be made most welcome,

Eddie Hewitt

For young people of Senior School Age.

EN. R.G is a Youth Group that meets Friday evenings from 7 - 9 pm during term time at the Methodist Church Hall which is next to Solihull Railway Station.

Students in years 7-10 are very welcome to come and further news can be gained from Club Leader Tina Brooker 07504 300413 community@solihull-methodist.org.uk

Or you may wish to contact Roy Clemas at 365 Lugtrout Lane (Tel 704 3075)

NEWS FROM LONGFELLOWS

Longfellows are having a Burns Quiz Night on Monday 20th January.

£12.50 per head to include a two course meal. Book early!

LONGFELLOWS RESTAURANT

Catney Residents will receive 25% off their total bill when dining from our normal menu from Monday 6th January until Friday 31st January on presentation of this voucher

(Saturdays and Sundays excluded) Maximum party 6 people

Subject to availability

Does anyone fancy a Cheltenham Ladies day out on Wednesday, March 12th? The idea being a breakfast at Longfellows, a coach from the restaurant, a day at the races, an Indian meal on the way home, maybe a pub visit !!! This is just an idea at the moment, but I do need to have received solid feedback with names and numbers by Thursday, January 10th to get things rolling & pricing. Please contact Dave Cuthbert if this is of interest to you, on 0121 705 8037

Doug,
Longfellows



St Catherine's Church in Catherine de Barnes - one of the oldest buildings in the borough - has been formally handed over to the local community.

Historic church is in new hands

ST CATHERINE'S Church in Catherine de Barnes - one of the oldest buildings in the borough - has been formally handed over to the local community.

Originally built as a school with a chapel attached, the building has also been extensively used by the local community for meetings and functions.

When regular church services at St Catherine's stopped in 2010, the owners of the building, the Church of England, was considering selling the building.

But, after discussions with the local community, an agreement was reached for the building to remain in church ownership, with management being transferred to new trustees who are resident in Catherine de Barnes.

The trustees will be responsible for raising

money for the upkeep of the building, which will continue to be used for meetings, community events and hire while the church will also retain some use of the building for services and events.

Dave Cuthbert, on behalf of the new trustees, said: "We are delighted that we have been successful in being able to retain St Catherine's Hall as a valuable social asset and focal point to the Village, and would like to express our thanks to all those who have worked over the last two years to make this happen."

Reverend Canon Tim Pilkington, Rector of Solihull, added: "I am glad that this matter has been brought to a successful conclusion and that the representatives of the local community will now be responsible for the care of this historic building, which means so much to the people of Catherine de Barnes and of this parish."

For all the latest news solihullobservers.co.uk

Don't forget Tai Chi classes at the Village Hall will begin again on Thursday 9th January, between 10 am and 11 am. £5 per class. Newcomers welcome. , Gentle movements for everyone, whatever your age, sex or ability.

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Our February Catney News will be a one double sided page newsletter as previously advised. If you have anything urgent you would like to put in the newsletter please let me know as soon as possible as there will be limited space!

Chris Cluley

On Sunday 5th January at 11 am there will be a Children’s Christingle Service at Hampton in Arden Parish church. All Welcome.

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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.

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, Christine Cluley. Also, ideas of what you would like to read about in your Catney News are always welcome. Anything for the February newsletter should be with me by 20th January please.

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.

**Catney Residents Association.
Join us and let us make Catney a great place to live**