

CATNEY NEWS



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Dear Villagers,

Spring is on its way and daffodils are now opening and preparing to fill the countryside with their bright yellow sunshine.

It is also time to pay your subscriptions to the Catney Residents Association – thank you to everyone who has already paid and thank you to everyone who has given extra in donations. We are eternally grateful for your continued help and support.

If you have not already paid yours, please see details below. Thank you so much.

Do come along on March 8th to the Village Hall if you are concerned about crime in the village.

Do let me have any photos you take of Spring in the Village and don't forget that I would love to receive articles and information for the April edition by 20th March at the latest.

Christine Cluley - Editor



MARCH 2017

MEMBERSHIP OF CATNEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

The Residents Association Committee voluntarily work on your behalf to preserve the village of Catherine de Barnes for future generations. To protect the Green Belt, the facilities, environment, and planning in Catney, to fight it's battles, to attend meetings on your behalf, to communicate through various methods including this newsheet and our website, to be your representatives on issues where it is vital for us to have input, to maintain and protect our Village Hall, and when we can, to help you meet your neighbours and give you an opportunity to socialise via fun events. We cannot do all this without your support and by paying the small subscription to join the Residents Association, you will be doing your part to help us in our endeavours. You will get a membership card at the end of March when you join and from time to time, there will be local discounts on offer for members. We are aiming at getting 200 households to join us this year.

Please leave your subscription in an envelope at the Spar shop, together with the names of those joining in your home, address, telephone number and an email address if you have one. Please indicate if you would be happy for us to contact you by email and if you would like to receive your Catney News by email instead of a hard copy.

Annual subscriptions per size of Household: £3 for one person, £5 for two persons, £7.50 for three persons, £10 for four or more persons over 16. Children under 16 join for free and there is no need to give their details just indicate how many people live at your home. We will collect the envelopes regularly and information given will be kept secure.

TAI CHI CLASS – March 1st. This is an amendment to the time of this class at Hampton in Arden Church Hall, which will be from 9 – 10 am and not 2-3 pm as stated in the February Catney News.

CONCERNED ABOUT CRIME IN CATNEY?

Having heard the discussion about recent crime at the AGM we have contacted our local police and arranged an open meeting at the Village Hall on Wednesday March 8th from 7:30 pm.

A member of our Rural Neighbourhood Police Team will be there to address our concerns and give advice about protecting our property.

If you have specific questions or points you want to raise, please contact me and I will be able to give the Police Officer some idea in advance of our major issues.



We are sorry to announce that Chris Boxall has relinquished his role of planning permission monitoring. Chris has kept an eye on planning applications in the area for twenty years and we are most grateful for his consistent reporting and concern for our neighbourhood. We hope he will continue to be a champion of our local environment even if only in an unofficial capacity. So we are looking for another volunteer to be responsible for monitoring planning applications of interest to Catherine-de-Barnes. It is not a very onerous task but it does require the person responsible to master the vagaries of the SMBC website. If you think this is something you would like to do for us and the village, please contact Frances Cook.

CATNEY CRICKET CLUB

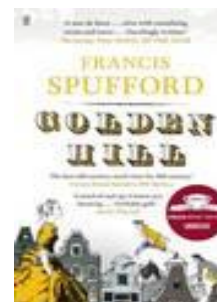
We have been forced to move our Junior Nets from Arden School to Lode Heath School on Sundays between 2.30 & 4 pm. Anyone interested in playing Cricket will be made welcome

Regards Eddie Hewitt Tel: 0121 373 9104
Mobile 07826465805.



GOLDEN HILL

A Novel by Francis Spufford



A book Review by John Alderson.

Cambridge graduate Francis Spufford is an English author married to the Reverend Dr Jessica Martin and being the son of parental historians, it is not surprising that his literary work to date has been largely historical, this being his first novel.

Golden Hill is set in New York in 1746 when Broad Way was a short tree lined muddy street with a fort at one end and cows grazing on a common at the other.

Our hero, Mr Smith, is a charming, amiable gentleman who steps off the boat from London on a dark and miserable night in November with a bill of exchange in his pocket to the value of one thousand pounds, a simply enormous sum at that time. He looks to find a trader Mr Lovell of Golden Hill Street whose London agent has guaranteed the money by letter on an earlier ship.

Unfortunately, the letter has not yet arrived and Mr Smith will not disclose why he is in New York or why he is carrying such a large sum of money and what he intends to do with it. So how is this stranger to be treated? New York at that time was very small, had no bank with all business being done by trading goods to be moved in and out by ship. This is a time when distrust is everywhere and a stranger could be jailed or hanged with only very rudimentary recourse to the law.

What follows is a delightful story of life in mid-century America, which is rich in language and beautifully drawn characters, making this an interesting and fast moving book which is hard to put down.

I really enjoyed this book.

Breath deep

Now here's a trick that you probably haven't tried before: next time you forget something, try taking some deep breaths.

It seems that inhaling stimulates our brain, creating electrical activity where emotions, memory and smells are processed. In a recent American study, individuals were able to identify a face two seconds more quickly if they were breathing in through the nose, rather than breathing out.

The study was carried out at Northwestern University in Chicago, and may also explain why we breath rapidly when afraid. "If you are in a panic state, you spend proportionally more time inhaling. Faster breathing could have a positive impact on brain function and result in faster response times.

Mothering Sunday (26th March)



There is a Special service for Mothering Sunday at Hampton in Arden church at 11 am on the 26th March, when we think about our mums with love, whether we are children or grown up, to thank our mums for all they do and to remember our mums who are no longer with us. Little bunches of daffodils are given to children during the service for their mums, grans, or anyone who acts like a mum to them.

Mums often need a sense of humour as below!

Naughty mummy A mother asked her young son, as they waited for the bus, to tell the driver he was five years old, because then he would ride for free. As they got into the bus the driver asked him how old he was. "I am five years old," said the little boy proudly.

The driver had a son of his own that age, and smiled. "And when will you be six years old?" he asked.

"When I get off the bus," answered the boy.

Who'd be a mother? Constant nagging didn't seem to provide any relief from having to clean up the bathroom after each of my three teenage children. After I cleaned it one day, I resorted to posting a sign that read: "Please leave the bathroom as you found it."

I noticed the bathroom was in the usual mess after my son used it, so I called, "Brian, how did you find the bathroom?" After a brief pause, he replied, "Straight down the hall, first door on the right."

Coming and going Your child has started growing up when he stops asking you where he came from, and starts refusing to tell you where he's going

A new Yoga class begins soon at Catney Village Hall: It is called YOGA BLISS and will be run by Margaret McGarry starting on Wednesday 1 March - sessions 4.30-5.30pm and 5.30-6.30pm For more information please ring 07812 728235.

Still lost in translation

When it's English, but not as we know it...



(Seen in a Korean hotel in Seoul) Measles not included in room charge.

(Qatar hotel welcome notes) Please do not use the lift when it is not working.

(French hotel in Paris) Please leave your values at the front desk.

(Indonesian hotel menu in Bali) Toes with butter and jam.

(Street sign in Japan) Waiting will be prosecuted

(Private school in Nairobi, Kenya) No trespassing without permission

(Road sign in Malaysia) Caution: Water on road during rain

(Restaurant in Acapulco, Mexico) The manager has personally passed all the water served here

(Luggage trolley at Singapore airport) Not to be removed from Crewe Station

(German hotel cloakroom) Please hang yourself here

Source: Our thanks to Løst in Tränšlation, Charlie Croker, Michael O'Mara, 2006, for these gems!

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What is Love?

Last month was Valentine's Day and here is an insight into what today's children think about love.

In a survey of 4 to 8 year olds, children revealed a simple but deep grasp of that four-letter word.

- When my grandmother got arthritis, she couldn't bend over and paint her toenails anymore. So my grandfather does it for her, even when his hands got arthritis too. That's love.
 - Love is when my Mummy makes coffee for my daddy and she takes a sip before giving it to him, to make sure the taste is OK.
 - Love is when you kiss all the time. Then when you get tired of kissing, you still want to be together and you talk more. My mummy and daddy are like that. I think they look disgusting when they kiss, but they look happy
 - Love is a little old woman and a little old man who are still friends even after they've known each other so well.
 - My mummy loves me more than anybody. You don't see anyone else kissing me to sleep at night.
 - Love is when daddy gives mummy the best piece of chicken
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40 Villagers attended our AGM this year on the 8th February, thank you all who came along, it was great to see you. For those who were not able to be there, here is the Chairman's report (Dave Cuthbert) taken from the minutes of the meeting.

The Committee met 11 times during the year. Subjects regularly covered at our meetings include;- Planning applications and SMBC plans, finance and membership, the airport, Catney News, local environment , the common, village hall and social events.

The Association responded to two consultations this year, SMBC's initial call for sites and HE M42 Jct 6 consultation. We are currently putting together our response SMBC's Draft Local Plan review which incorporates their intention of allocating land at Field Lane for future residential development . In addition we have responded to one local planning application involving land at 161 Lugtrout Lane. Planning applications are regularly monitored by Chris Boxall and responses are submitted as and when the Committee feel that the Green Belt is being compromised and /or we feel that the application has a negative impact on the village. Just for the record the Association treats Catherine de Barnes(the village)includes properties along Lugtrout Lane to Damson Parkway and the same for Hampton Lane and our membership reflects this . We continue to work very closely with Hampton Parish Council in all aspects of local environment using their help and expertise in the development of our communities. To this end we have started out on a project which will bring our communities together and enable us to have more of a say in how our community develops in the future- more about that later.

We held one open morning (14th January) providing information to local residents on the M42 consultation and the Local Plan Review .

The Village through the Association is represented on The Airport Consultative Committee (ACC) of Birmingham Airport, and our representative was re-elected to the ACC Steering Group for a further year. We have excellent relationships with the various environmental /commercial departments within the Airport. We believe it is important to have a presence at the Airport and see first -hand how it might impact on our Community. The Airport Master Plan is due out later this year and we should expect their interest in a second runway being resurrected with all its implications. At the next meeting of the ACC we are expecting a review of the Night Flying policy of particular interest to us, especially noise from cargo aircraft at night. Look out for the latest news in CN and on the website.

As you may know we lost the Taxibus service back in September and it has been replaced by the 89 bus service which TfWM is currently consulting on. The Association, working with H in A, PC , Meriden PC and Cllr Alison Rolf are urging TfWM to extend Ring and Ride , a service which is enjoyed by the whole of the West Midlands and Coventry but not us .

Following the appointment of Dave Cuthbert as a Cllr on H in A PC (representing C de B residents residing in Hampton Parish)we have taken greater interest in The Common which has resulted in a 'Friends Of Catney Common' being formed comprising 8 locals whose intention is to maintain and enhance the Common for the village with financial assistance of HPC.

Our monthly newsletter (published by Chris Cluley) is sent to all households with the hope that our residents feel engaged. Our website (run by our secretary Frances Cook) enables community news etc. gets to a wider audience. Increasingly we are communicating using e mail which allows us to get community news, crime alerts , etc. out to you all with the minimum of delay

We maintain a good working relationship with the Trustees on the Village Hall with most profits from Village activities being given to one or the other or sometimes both which happened with the Craft Event held in November –where the Association ran the refreshments. Most of you will have seen that the Hall finally got its new curtains financed by monies from the Village Fete Fund. We are hoping to get some screens to be used for isolating the altar area.

AGM Chairman's Report continued....

A group of local residents led by relative newcomers Steve Evans and Claudine Barnes organised an event in June celebrating the Queens 90th birthday .Despite the inclement weather resulting in the event having to be held in the hall was a great success. To celebrate the Association's 30th Birthday an afternoon tea event was held in early July which incorporated the planting of roses to commemorate the event.

Another successful Buttie Breakfast event was held on the 5th November but a quiz for the evening had to be cancelled for lack of interest – perhaps it was the wrong day being Bonfire Night .Following a Village Xmas tree appeal we were able to organise a village tree again and would like to thank all those that responded to the appeal. We were lucky enough to secure a major donation of £600 which has enabled us to keep funds over for this year's tree. As a result of increasing costs we may well look for an alternative method of celebrating the season. Chris Cluley, once again, organised the Carol Service which, despite the cold weather was very well attended. Sheila Shand together with Stephen Wallis put on the Crib Service which again proved very popular with local residents. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Pete Peters and Stephen Wallis for putting on the usually well attended Remembrance Day service.

As most of you know there seems be more criminal activity in our area this year and the Committee were thinking about seeking interest in resurrecting a neighbourhood watch scheme and would be interested to hear what you have to say.

I'd like to finish by thanking the rest of the Committee for their continual efforts to at least maintain and hopefully improve, where we can, the community where we live. At times it seems like we are bashing our head against a brick wall but know that our efforts do have an impact and make a difference. We could do with a little help – please join us! John Elks volunteered to join the committee. He was proposed by Ken Cluley and seconded by Mavis Ferguson and duly elected as a new committee member.

The existing committee were confirmed in place after a proposal by John McMahon, seconded by Dave Parsons.

We like someone who comes right out and says what they think, when they agree with us. Anon



BADGER IN LUGROUT LANE

We thought you would like to see our visitor who visits our garden nightly - isn't he lovely.

He seems to like chicken and sausages but also any leftovers!

Our son, Shane aged 10, has named him Bobby the Badger

Keith Bonser

Retro deserts

What was the favourite desert of your childhood? Ever hanker for some of it now? Then you are not alone: retro deserts are back in fashion.

Waitrose has reported that sales of trifles have soared 34 per cent in the last year. Sales of profiteroles are also on the increase. It all points to a trend for consumer nostalgia, which seems set to continue this year. Anyone want bread and butter pudding? Some apple crumble, perhaps?

Grove Surgery extend Surgery opening hours

The Grove Road Surgery is now open from 8.30AM to 8PM Monday to Friday.

The Shirley partner practice is open for appointments Saturday 08:00 - 11:00 By appointment only. Located at Shirley Medical Centre, 8 Union Road, Shirley, Solihull, B90 3DT

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English Tourism Week: 25 March – 2 April

It's time to celebrate English Tourism Week! Lots of events are planned across the country, and we can get involved right here, in our own area.

Tourists certainly help keep Britain 'great'. Did you know that the English tourism sector is the third largest employer in the country? It supports 2.6 million jobs and is a major employer of school leavers.

In England, the visitor economy is worth a staggering £106b a year. Tourists support thousands of businesses, and help various supply industries thrive, from farming and retail to theatre and sport.

This year, let's help promote our local tourism products, as another tourist season begins. For a host of tips and suggestions, visit:

www.visitbritain.org/english-tourism-week



You can now follow "Catney Village Hall" on Twitter (@catneyResAssoc)
Contacts: Secretary of the Residents Association: Frances on 0776 8502039 or secretary@catney.co.uk
Anything for the Catney News: Contact Chris at CatneyRA@outlook.com
Website: www.catney.co.uk