

# CATNEY NEWS



Dear Villagers,

We were delighted to see so many of you at our Residents Association AGM. We appreciate that many of you are very concerned about the incidents of break-ins, car crime and theft occurring lately in the village. We urge you all to be vigilant and report anything unusual that you might observe in your roads, but to also do everything you can to protect your properties with extra locks, alarms etc. Have a chain lock on your front door fitted and put it on before opening the door to anyone and check window locks are on before you leave the house. Please join "Cats Eyes" our local "watching" group in the village who contact each other via Whatsapp on their smartphones. Details in this issue in the Residents Association article.

If you have been worried by the recent crime you won't want to miss the talk by Solihull Police Commander Chief Superintendent Javid on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> March from 7.30 pm in Fentham Hall.

Frances has provided details of a website where you can find out the crime rate for our area – see overleaf.

Chris Cluley,



**MARCH**

**2018**

## CONTACTS:

**Secretary of the Residents Association:** Frances Cook on 0776 8502039 or [secretary@catney.co.uk](mailto:secretary@catney.co.uk)

**Catney News:** Please send all articles to Christine Cluley, Editor on [cluleychris8@outlook.com](mailto:cluleychris8@outlook.com) or ring 01675 442728

**Spar Shop/Village Hall Bookings:** Gareth Thomas 0121 705 6135

**Website of Residents Association:** [www.catney.co.uk](http://www.catney.co.uk)

**Twitter account:** @CatneyResAssoc

**Following the AGM, Glenn Hayes has kindly sent us details on how to find crime figures for any area.**

Here is the crime stats web site:

<http://www.ukcrimestats.com/>

On the right is a blue box, type in your postcode click search. Once it gives you the results, scroll down and change the distance ratio to 1/2 mile (more representative of the village I'd say).

The map will be for December. However, if you look below it breaks down the crime rate by month going back some years. It's clear, since September 2015, there's been spikes in Burglary every now and then. But we weren't immune before that, however September 2015 is definitely the 'turning' point.

The attached spreadsheet gives a summary of crime over several years. It shows, conclusively, we're under attack when it comes to burglary.

Luckily, we're still a low crime area with very little other crime. For comparison, pick other postcodes and take a look.

Many thanks to Glenn for this information.

Frances Cook

*Secretary, Catherine-de-Barnes Residents' Association*

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## **PLEASE BECOME A MEMBER OF CATNEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION**

**Subscriptions for the coming year are now due. Please put your subscription money in an envelope with your address, telephone number and email address and the names of the people over 16 in your property who wish to join and take it to the Spar shop. Collections from the shop are made every day by our Treasurer.**

**A family annual subscription is £10 and this covers everyone who lives at the same address.**

**The annual subscription for a couple living at one address is £5**

**A single annual subscription is £3**

**The Committee do their utmost to support you by acting on your behalf on all problems affecting Catherine de Barnes, including planning, building, airport and environmental issues. Members represent villagers on committees and meet every month to discuss the needs of the village and its protection.**

# **NEWS FROM THE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE**

## **Butty Brunch**

In the Village Hall Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> March 10.am –til 12.00noon. Come and enjoy a sausage/bacon butty and a cup of tea and meet a few of your neighbours and get up to date with local issues.

## **Parish Boundary News - Community Governance Review-Consultation**

The Parish Boundary Consultation ends on the 15<sup>th</sup> April and Solihull Council are eager to get residents views on the proposals . The Consultation seeks responses to 3 questions – copies of which are on the back page! Residents can respond by sending the completed back page to Matthew Rossi, Electoral Services Manager, Solihull MBC, Council House, Manor Square, Solihull B91 9QS or online at [www.solihull.gov.uk/cgr/hamptoninarden](http://www.solihull.gov.uk/cgr/hamptoninarden). It only takes a few minutes and it's extremely important that SMBC are made aware of your views whether for or against the proposals

## **The AGM held on 19<sup>th</sup> February**

The meeting was very well attended 65 residents filling the hall for the event. A copy of the Chair's and Treasurer's Report are able to be viewed on the Catney website [www.catney.co.uk](http://www.catney.co.uk) or if you require a hard copy please let us know .

The Committee comprising Dave Cuthbert, Chair, Frances Cook, Secretary, Ken Cluley, Treasurer, Chris Cluley and Annette Scott were re-elected for another year . We would like a small team to arrange social events, if you would like to join this team, please contact Frances.

Stephen Wallis provided a brief update of the Village Hall. Bookings are running at a level which has enabled us to cover running costs and we are looking at the possibility in the next few months of refurbishing the floor which as many of you will know has had little attention over the last 20+ years. The Trustees are also in the process of applying for a number of grants that would enable the refurbishment of the kitchen, toilets as well as a possible full re-wire.

An easy way to raise funds for the Village Hall while buying online is by joining [easyfundraising.com](http://easyfundraising.com) with Catherine de Barnes Village Hall as your chosen charity and when you make a purchase on Amazon for example you use the easyfundraising website which offers a large numbers of retailers for you to select from and make your purchase in the normal manner .

The main topic of discussion at the end of the meeting related to the recent attack on a resident in Lugtrout Lane. Some users of the Cat's Eyes group (the WhatsApp Group set up to exchange information on suspicious activity of one sort or another) suggested we look at hiring a private security company to patrol the village after dark. A couple of villages (somewhat larger than ours) seem to run a similar scheme. Prior to the meeting some costings were obtained from a local security company which amounted to £75K plus VAT for 1 man with a vehicle for 84 hours per week. It would need every house to pay nearly £300 per year to cover this cost and it was evident from the response to the quick e mail survey that we sent out prior to the meeting that not everybody felt comfortable with the idea. We are making enquiries as to other measures that we might but in the meantime would urge all residents who have a Smart Phone to join the Whatsapp group Cat's Eyes simply by emailing [elstonc@sky.com](mailto:elstonc@sky.com) with your name and mobile number.

### **The Common**

Spring is coming and it won't be long before the 'Friends of the Common' group get planting . If you are able to spend an hour or two (usually on a Sunday morning) to help in any way we look forward to seeing you . Dates and details for sessions will be mailed .

We look forward to seeing you.

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### **ChaSamba classes**

I have been attending the above class for the last few weeks and have found it to be one of the most enjoyable exercise classes I have been to. The class is designed so that anyone of any age or ability can join in and the music is great. Karen, a qualified leader, is really lovely and will advise how you can tone up or tone down the exercises to suit your own strengths. Why not come along, give it a go and see for yourself. Classes are held in Catney Village Hall on a Monday 1.30pm to 2.30pm or Wednesday 11.30am to 12.30pm, £5 per session.

Lesley Cuthbert

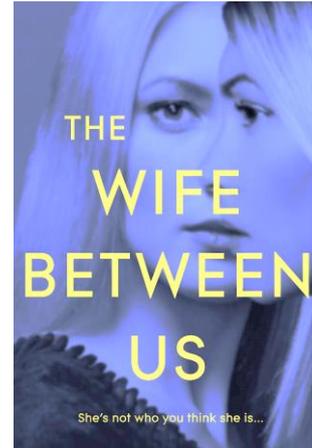
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**Can anyone help? Hampton Scouts are still looking for adults to join their team from occasional helpers to section assistants to section leaders. If you feel you would be able to help and would like to join in the fun, please email [vickyw79@gmail.com](mailto:vickyw79@gmail.com)**

# THE WIFE BETWEEN US

A Novel by Greer Hendricks and Sarah Pekkanen

A book review by John Alderson

These two American women, one a book editor – Greer Hendricks – and a well published author – Sarah Pekkanen, agreed to come together to write a novel jointly, but unlike most co-operative writing, when the two writers will pen individual chapters of characters, these two wrote every line between them which is a very interesting and unusual concept.



They have put together a very clever psychological thriller which appears to be following a predictable path until it veers off towards a more fascinating ending.

The basic story, which is told primarily by Vanessa, who is recently divorced from Richard, who appears to be a control freak, is about Vanessa wanting to warn Nellie, her soon-to-be replacement as Richards's wife, all about him and to prevent the marriage going ahead.

The twists and turns start early and there is a cracking finish. I've seen it described as an airport book, which is probably appropriate, but there is some good writing in here describing some very believable characters and situations.

An interesting and recommended read.

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## ***Catney Common News.***

The new hedging plants from the Woodland Trust should arrive in early March. We are hoping to plant them on **Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> March. 10.30 am** on the common. They will be inserted along the existing hedge to improve it and provide more interest.

Everyone welcome, we have 30 plants to put in so everyone can have a go. Please bring gloves, a spade if you have one and secateurs to clear some of the brambles. Hope to see you there. **Friends of Catney Common**

## LONGFELLOWS RESTAURANT

Why not take mum to Longfellows for Mother's Day on March 11<sup>th</sup>?

Please see the Mother's Day Menu on <http://www.long-fellows.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Mothers-Day-Menu-2018.pdf>

Another idea would be to buy Longfellows Gift vouchers so that mum can have a treat to which she can look forward.

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### ***The Parish Church of St. Mary and St. Bartholomew, Hampton in Arden.***

**Tea and Toast:** If you have children under school age, why not take them to Hampton Church Hall on a Friday morning at 9 am until 10 am – mums, dads and carers, or mums to be and their baby bumps are all welcome to have tea and toast while the children play with the provided toys. Get to know other parents and make friends

**Mother's Day Service** at 11 am on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> March when all mums, those who act as mums and mums who are no longer with us are remembered with love.

### ***Easter Services at Hampton Church - all are welcome***

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> March at 10.45 am.** *Palm Sunday Service: Meet at George Fentham School for procession of palms to church for the 11 am service. Or just come straight to church.*

**Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30 pm:** *Maundy Thursday Service – the church is stripped of decoration in preparation for the sadness of Good Friday when Jesus was crucified.*

**Friday 30<sup>th</sup> March – Good Friday: 10 am:** *Children's Activities in Church.*

*2 pm. Stations of the Cross around the church – for everyone*

*7.30 pm. The choirs of Hampton in Arden church and Balsall Common church perform an evening of Music and Readings for Good Friday. (free)*

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> April: Easter Sunday :** *Celebrating the Risen Christ, we dress the bare Easter cross with flowers. (remember to bring a couple of flowers with you)*

**Normal Services: Sundays:** 8.15am Holy Communion, 11 am: Parish Communion  
6.30 pm: Choral Evensong. **First Sunday in Month:** 11 am All Together In Church service for families. 6.30 pm. Healing Service.

**Thursdays:** 10 am Holy Communion

## WHAT ELSE IS GOING ON IN MARCH IN SOLIHULL?

**Farmer's market in High St and Mell Square, Solihull on March 2<sup>nd</sup> 9am until 5 pm.**

Support our local farmers by visiting this popular market, which offers a tempting range of local produce sourced from within a 30 mile radius of Solihull, on the first Friday of every month.

**“Just Joe” at the Core Theatre, Solihull on 12<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm**

Come and enjoy an audience with Joe Brown: uncut, solo and uncensored. Joe will talk about his early days, growing up in London's East End, becoming a rock'n'roll pioneer and touring with the likes of Eddie Cochran, Billy Fury and Gene Vincent. All this before headlining shows with The Beatles as his opening act. As well as the stories and anecdotes, the show will feature plenty of music, with Joe's old friend and superb guitarist Henry Gross joining him on stage. More info: 0121 704 6962  
Online: [www.thecoretheatre.co.uk](http://www.thecoretheatre.co.uk)

**Fine and Local Food Fayre in Mell Square on March 17<sup>th</sup> 9 am until 5 pm**

Sample the best of locally sourced food and produce from a range of top quality suppliers at this market, which is held on the third Saturday of each month. Artworks and craft items by regional artists are also available at this market, which is held on the third Saturday of each month.

**Easter Egg Hunt in Elmdon Park on March 30<sup>th</sup> 11 am until 3 pm**

The Easter bunny has hidden clues around the park - crack the password and win a chocolate egg! You may even spot the Easter bunny as he hops around the park. Punch and Judy shows, face painting and other entertainment are also available.

**Why not send in your Spring photos of the snowdrops, daffodils and new lambs etc., in the area? If we get enough entries, we will put the very best in our April edition and on our website.**

**The deadline for entries and articles for our April Catney News is the 20<sup>th</sup> March.**

### On Mothering Sunday

To all those who act as mums, our birth mums, our step mums, our foster mums, our adoptive mums, the grandmothers who look after us when mum's at work, the aunty who loves to spend time with us and make it special, the dads who are looking after us without our mum, and all the lovely mums who are sadly no longer with us. We love you, thank you for all you do and all you have done.



## USEFUL NUMBERS

West Midlands Ambulance	+ 44 (0) 138 421 5555
West Midlands Fire Service	+ 44 (0) 121 359 5161
West Midlands Police	+ 44 (0) 845 113 5000
Solihull and Heartlands Hospitals	0121 424 2000
<b>IF YOU SMELL GAS OR SUSPECT A CARBON MONOXIDE LEAK:</b> Call National Grid free on our 24-hour GAS and CARBON MONOXIDE emergency helpline,	0800 111 999
Taxis	+ 44 (0) 121 782 3744
National Rail enquiries	+ 44 (0) 845 748 4950
Central Trains	+ 44 (0) 870 608 260
Solihull Council general enquiries, information	0121 704 8001/6000
Environmental Maintenance, (includes Waste & Recycling, Street Care and Pest Control)	0121 704 8000
Roads & highways	0121 704 8004
National express coaches	+ 44 (0) 870 580 8080

## CATNEY CHORUS

Why not join our friendly choir? We meet on Monday evenings 7.45 pm to 8.40 at Catney Village Hall – for more information ring 0776 6154730

## PATCHWORK AND QUILTING CLASS

From 9.30 am to 11.30 am on Fridays at the Village Hall. 3 ten week terms at £80 per term  
Call Sheila on 0121 6816954