

CATNEY NEWS

FEBRUARY
2023



CONTACTS

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Catney News: Please send all articles to Christine Cluley, Editor by the 20th of the month. cluleychris8@outlook.com.

Village Hall Bookings: Steve Dodsworth on 07443 505388 or bookings@catneyvillagehall.co.uk



RESIDENTS **ASSOCIATION NEWS**

Planning Update

2022/02283/PPFL 104 Lugtrout Lane - demolishing of outbuilding – 5 new 3 storey dwellings

The Committee agreed to object to the development as proposed for 2 main reasons.

Firstly the site is part previously developed land and part in Green Belt. There is a plan to take the land out of the Green Belt in the emerging Solihull Local Plan but as it has not yet been adopted very special circumstances are needed for development which is regarded as inappropriate can go ahead in Green Belt. As many of you will know the site is part of a much larger site accommodating 800+ dwellings identified as Policy SO1 in the emerging Local Plan. The Committee had concerns over the height of the proposed dwellings which are higher than the existing cottage which is planned to be retained and could set a precedent for the height of any houses on any development on the SO1 site. The planning application is likely to be heard by the Planning Committee but documents on the SMBC Planning Portal indicate the both the departments dealing with Urban Design and Policy and Spatial Strategy recommend objection.

Emerging Solihull Local Plan Review

On the 21st December we were advised through an SMBC notification that the Planning Inspectors were maintaining their position which meant that there would be a shortfall in planned housing numbers by 1700 plus homes possibly requiring SMBC to find further Green Belt sites to meet the shortfall. However, the recent Levelling Up reform to the planning system consultation might change the situation. What this does mean is that the adoption of the new Local Plan is unlikely to happen before the summer at least, probably longer.

Proposals for a Battery Storage Facility in the fields opposite to Catherine's Close

Many of you will have seen the flyer detailing the proposals for the above development and possibly have visited the exhibition that was held in the Village Hall on the evenings of the 31st Jan/1st Feb. Representatives of the Parish Council and Ward Councillors also met with the developers on the 1st February and members will receive an email update following that meeting.

Hampton In Arden Parish Neighbourhood Plan Review

Following over 18 months of work by the Working Group, the Reg 14 Consultation commenced on the 4th February with responses needed by 22nd March. The Plan and response form can be viewed/printed from www.hamptoninarden.org.uk. If you are unable to access it from the internet please contact the Clerk at Hampton PC on 01675 442017.

Airport News

None this month but a representative of the Committee will be attending the Airport Consultative Committee (ACC) Meeting on Thursday 2nd March . To see what the ACC does please see www.birminghamairport.co.uk/about-us/community-and-environment/airport-consultative-committee/aims/

Village Hall News

During the cold spell in January the outbuildings suffered some burst pipes. The resulting repair work identified that there was a significant likelihood that the mains water pipes feeding the buildings from the meter were lead and we were encouraged prior to the driveway being tarmacked to replace them with modern pipes. This work plus the replacement of a broken manhole cover will cost over £2000. Plans are still on course for the driveways work to start on 22nd February at a cost of around £10.000.

Many of you will know that Gareth Thomas the current Hall Manager is planning to move to Thailand during the summer and has indicated he will give up his roles at the end of February. Fortunately local resident Steve Dodsworth has offered to take up the role and the Trustees would like to extend their thanks to Steve for stepping up. New hall booking contact details can be seen on this and future front page/s.

Despite Covid we had a record Hall Booking income last year of just over £18k (full details will be available at the AGM) but we expect this to drop quite significantly this year as a result of the “cost of living crisis” We have already seen some of our regular hirers cancel some sessions.

I would like to send grateful thanks to Gareth for all he has done for the village, particularly when he ran the Spar shop and over the past few years looking after the village hall and bookings. I am sure everyone will join me in wishing Gareth and his wife every happiness in their new life in Thailand.
Chris (Editor)

Catney Under 11's Play Area

The play area is planned to be officially opened to the public on Saturday 28th January at 2.00pm. by our local MP Saqib Bhatti MBE with tea/coffee and soft drinks also being made available A notice board has been installed on the wall of the outbuilding nearest the play area which contains information with which users of the play area should familiarise themselves

CdeB Residents Association Committee Meetings.

Generally Committee meetings are held on the first Monday in the month except there is no meeting in August . Any changes to the date will be notified on social media and our website.

Any resident wishing to raise an issue with the Committee can do so, at least 48 hours before the meeting, by contacting secretary@catney.co.uk . Any items of importance discussed at the meetings or decisions made, are communicated to members via Catney News, which is distributed to members only.

Residents Association Annual General Meeting

This will be held in the Village Hall on Friday 3rd March commencing at 7.30pm prompt, followed by wine and nibbles. In addition to the usual items on the AGM agenda, we are fortunate in having our local MP Saqib Bhatti MBE in attendance, who will update us on relevant local issues followed by a short Q and A session.

Anyone interested in joining the Committee should contact secretary@catney.co.uk – most of the existing Committee members are retired folk and have been on the Committee for at least 10 years. In those years the village has changed, as you would expect, and its vital that the Association keeps pace with those changes and new blood helps in doing that. Have you an hour or so a week- not every week -that you could spare- if so, give it a go!!

Village Tidy Up

Following on from the tremendous success of this event last year, this year's tidy up will take place on Saturday morning March 18th . All equipment needed will be provided - available from the Village Hall. If you can spare a couple of hours please send text or email to 07768 502039 /secretary@catney.co.uk with your names asap and final details will be given in the March edition. Please help keep our village clean and tidy

Dates for the Diary

Monday February 6th Next RA Committee Meeting

Friday 3rd March 7.30pm Residents Association AGM in the Village Hall

Saturday morning 18th March Village Tidy

Next Hampton in Arden Parish Council Meeting

The next meeting is being held on Wednesday 8th March in the Catherine de Barnes Village Hall 7.30pm.

Residents are welcome to attend.

If you have any issues you wish to raise, please make the Clerk, Julie Barnes, aware that you would like to speak, with a brief description of the issue, at least 2 working days prior to

the meeting. Julie can be contacted at
clerk@hamptoninarden.org.uk or phone 01675 442017

Membership 2023

We are grateful for all your support in 2022. Everyone in the village should have received a yellow flyer requesting your subscription renewal for 2023.

Please don't delay. Your membership is very important to us. You can pay your dues by bank transfer (Sort code: 30-97-78 Account No: 01989267) or by leaving your details and money in an envelope at the NISA shop.

Remember that the Catney News is for members only and members also get emails keeping them informed about road works, planning applications, village events and so on. Everyone who joins will receive a membership card as a receipt. The subscription fees are £3 for individuals, £5 for couples and £10 for a family of 4 or more adults.

Thank you in advance. Frances Cook, secretary@catney.co.uk)

**"Still lie the sheltering snows, undimmed and white;
And reigns the winter's pregnant silence still;
No sign of spring, save that the catkins fill,
And willow stems grow daily red and bright.
These are days when ancients held a rite
Of expiation for the old year's ill,
And prayer to purify the new year's will."
Helen Hunt Jackson, *A Calendar of Sonnet's: February***

**"The day is ending, The night is descending; The marsh is
frozen, The river dead.
Through clouds like ashes; The red sun flashes, On village
windows
That glimmer red."
- Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, *Afternoon in February***

CATNEY CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAYRE

The Catney Christmas Craft Fayre which was held back in November was a brilliant success we raised £799.66 so we threw in the odd 34p to make it a nice round total to pass onto the Village Hall Trustees of £800.

Thank you so very much to everyone who helped out on the day, all our brilliant bakers who made and donated an array of fantastic cakes for the Refreshments, the Craft Club for all the wonderful things they made and donated to be sold, all the jam makers who also donated their produce for sale and to everyone who came through the doors to support us. Thank you everyone.

Lesley Cuthbert and Liz Boxall

Craft Club Table.



Refreshments and some of the other tables



CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON

On Friday 2nd December we had a brilliant turn out for the switching on of the Christmas lights around the Village Hall. This was followed by carol singing in the hall and our thanks go to Bruce Hart for the accompaniment to our singing. We then had a social get together with nibbles and mulled wine which made a very enjoyable evening.



Lesley Cuthbert

QUIZ NIGHT

Unfortunately due to a low response we had to cancel the Quiz Evening which was booked for 27th January. We have had some extremely cold spats of weather over the last few months and maybe this is why people are reluctant to leave their cosy homes during these dark nights. The quiz evenings were always very popular in the past and the Committee will be discussing social activities at the next meeting. We will welcome members ideas as to what future activities in which they would be interested. I can be contacted on 07776 480813 or email cuthbertlm@me.com
Lesley Cuthbert

CATNEY CRAFT CLUB

The Catney Craft Club meets every Wednesday afternoon between 2.00p.m and 4.00 p.m in Catherine-de-Barnes village hall. A way to meet new friends and have an enjoyable afternoon chatting while you are working on your own project over a cup of tea and a piece of home made cake. If you are interested please come and meet us all you will be made very welcome or for further information contact me Lesley Cuthbert on 07776 480813, email cuthbertlm@me.com

WELCOME PACK FOR NEW RESIDENTS

If anyone has a new neighbour, knows of a new resident to the village or is in the process of moving, I would very much appreciate it if you could let me know the address of the new resident so that I can deliver a Welcome Pack to them. The Welcome Pack contains information of the village amenities, useful telephone numbers and of course information about the Residents Association and the many things we do. Please email me at cuthbertlm@me.com or text/telephone me on 07776 480813 with the address of the new resident. Thank you.

Lesley Cuthbert

Protect our birds

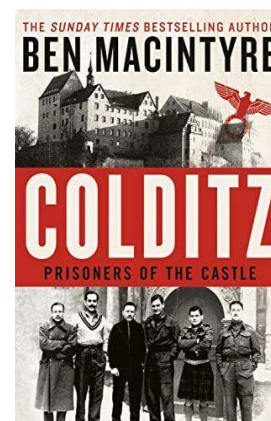
This year why not give the birds in your garden a present by joining the RSPB? More and more of our wild birds are disappearing, making the RSPB's work vital, to make sure that the birds we have grown up with and love remain a familiar sight for our children and future generations. More than 200 different kinds of wild bird live within our shores – why not help the RSPB to help them? Visit: www.rspb.org.uk

BOOK REVIEW

COLDITZ, Prisoners of the Castle

By Ben Macintyre

A book review by John Alderson



Ben Macintyre is a columnist on the Times and has written a number of best selling books such as Operation Mincemeat and SAS: Rogue Heroes, which was recently adapted for television.

Colditz is a mediaeval castle located near Leipzig which was in the centre of Nazi Germany and is probably the best known prison of the Second World War, as within its forbidding walls were detained “difficult” prisoners; generally who had escaped numerous times from other prisoner of war camps or were the ‘Cognoscenti”, captured relatives of prominent Allied families.

Many of us remember the film “The Colditz Story” which along with one or two books of the time gave a rather soft focus picture of life for the prisoners in that dark cold castle.

Macintyre’s book purports to tell the real story, warts and all, which gives a much more convincing description of what life was really like in that grim place. One man’s reputation which is seriously challenged is that of Douglas Bader the pilot with the artificial legs.

Issues that are fully explored are snobbery, class conflict, bullying and homosexuality. There are stories of privation and indomitability of spirit and ingenuity. There is tunnelling, confusion to their guards and many ingenious methods of escape tried, some successful in part or to a greater degree but many end in failure. There is even an attempt to build a glider in the roof space, which was unfinished when the war ended.

This is a very interesting and well researched book and I recommend it highly.

Phonics Classes for toddlers and preschoolers.

They are high energy, low pressure classes to introduce children to the sounds of letters. Classes are structured and involve lots of singing, dancing and games. Each class is accompanied by our loveable mascot - Robot Reg!

A Minis Class for children aged 1 to 2.5 years lasts for 45 minutes with 30 minutes of activities and 15 minutes at the end with the chance to read a book and have a hot drink for grown ups at the end. Preschool Classes from 2.5 to 4 years and include 45 minutes of fun, high energy activities. The sounds we introduce follow the pattern that most schools introduce letter sounds. This would hopefully give the children who attend regular classes a chance to feel confident when they hear these sounds in Reception, that they know already from their Robot Reg classes.

Classes run on Thursdays at Catherine-de-Barnes Village Hall:

Minis Class starts at 9.30 am

Preschool Class starts at 10.30 am

Term dates are 12th January to 9th February and after half term from 2nd March to 30th March. Bookings are through the Robot Reg website. My booking page is www.robotreg.co.uk/solihull/

Classes are £7.50 each but have to be booked as a term or a three week trial can also be booked for £22.20 to see if these classes would be suitable. The term has started but it is not a problem to join mid-term.

I can be contacted at; mel@robotreg.co.uk Facebook: Phonics with Robot Reg Solihull Instagram: mel_solihullrobotreg

ST VALENTINE'S DAY ROUND THE WORLD

South Korea

In South Korea, women give chocolates to men on Valentine's Day. If he likes her, he must give her a gift in return on March 14th, known as White Day. If the lady *doesn't* get anything back, then on 14th April, called Black Day, she must go to a restaurant, order black noodles and lament her bad luck in love.



Italy

Originally, Valentine's Day was an Ancient Roman spring festival of love. On that day, people would take romantic strolls and gather together to read love poetry. Single girls believed they would marry the first man they saw that morning. Today in Italy, people still follow that tradition by gifting each other chocolate-covered hazelnuts called Baci Perugina, which are wrapped in a piece of paper that has a romantic quote written on it.

Brazil

The Brazilians, like the Welsh, do not celebrate love in February. Instead, they hold their *Día Dos Namorados* (Lovers' Day) on 12th June. The evening before, it's customary for people to perform love spells called *simpatías*. For example, to get someone to fall in love with you, you must write his or her name on a blue ribbon and put it under your pillow. Then, before going to bed, you must look up to the sky, count seven stars, and pray that the person falls head over heels for you.

Finland

In Finland, February 14th is called *ystävänäpäivä*, meaning Friendship Day. It isn't a day dedicated to romance, but rather a time to celebrate your friends. The Finns are also big on giving each other greeting cards on the day. But instead of romantic themes, Finnish Valentine's cards portray the importance of friendship.

France

France used to have a rather strange Valentine's Day custom... which is now banned due to health and safety laws. Back in the 50s, on 14th February, young men and women would get together in houses that faced each other across a street. They would call and shout to each other until couples were paired off. However, if the man didn't like the woman, he'd leave her standing on the side of the street. The girls who were rejected would then burn the men's photographs on a bonfire in the street. The custom became so rowdy and dangerous that it was eventually outlawed by the French government.

Denmark

The Danes, who love a joke, have given the "holiday of love" a sweet but humorous twist. Rather than red roses, people send funny,

anonymous love letters to their intended Valentines. These letters are usually written as rhyming poems on intricately cut pieces of paper and signed only with three dots. If the recipient guesses who their Valentine is, then later in the spring, the anonymous admirer has to buy them a chocolate Easter egg.

Come and Sing Mozart with Hampton Singers! Open Rehearsal on 13th February.

Hampton Singers are looking forward to performing Mozart's Requiem at their next concert in Hampton on 20th May, along with Haydn's Theresienmesse. We would welcome new members to the choir, as we rehearse for this concert, which will have an orchestral accompaniment. We are especially keen to expand our tenor and bass sections - but all voices are very welcome.

Hampton Singers rehearse every Monday evening at the Scouts & Guides HQ, Shadowbrook Lane from 7.45 to 9.45. There are NO auditions to join - we just ask for enthusiasm and a willingness to attend rehearsals, though it helps to have some music reading ability. If you would like to give the choir a try, join us for an Open Rehearsal on Monday 13th February. Just turn up at 7.45 on the 13th, and meet our extremely friendly choir members and our Music Director, Ben Hamilton. Please call Sue Kiely with any queries 01675 443989.

Save the date with Ex Urbe Chamber Choir - Eternal Harmony on 29th April

After a very busy Christmas season, Ex Urbe have started to rehearse for their Spring concert, which will take place at Hampton Church on April 29th and in the afternoon of 30th April at Dorridge Methodist Church. Our Spring concert includes Bach motet Komm Jesu, Komm!, Taverner's Svyati and the beautiful Durufle Requiem. With the accompaniment of organist Kevin Gill and Cellist Mark Walkem, this promises to be an enjoyable concert, full of beautiful harmonies. Visit our website for more information and to buy tickets. www.exurbe.org