

FEBRUARY 2025



**Catney Residents
Association**



C.D.B. 108,

CATHERINE DE BARNES FROM CANAL BRIDGE.

CATNEY NEWS

CONTACTS

**Frances Cook, Secretary to the Residents
Association**

secretary@catney.co.uk 0776 8502039.

**Residents Association X account:
@CatneyResAssoc and the Website of the
Residents Association www.catney.co.uk**

**Catney News: Please send all articles to
Christine Cluley, Editor, by the 20th of the
month. chris.cluley1@gmail.com.**

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



Residents Association News

Planning News

Motorway Service Area (MSA) to be sited adjacent to new junction 5a off Solihull Road

Together with the PC we met with the applicant again in December. They indicated that they hoped to submit a Reserved Matters application in the Spring hoping to get approval by the Autumn and starting work early '26. There are a number of issues that affect us locally and further monthly meetings have been arranged throughout the year to try and get these and any other matters that crop up resolved. The first being held on 24th January.

Airport Matters – New Night Flying Policy—PL2024/01917 /M106

The application was finally placed before the planning committee on the 8th January. Despite the responses and verbal presentations by Barston, Bickenhill and Hampton Parish Councils the officers' recommendations of approval was passed 7 votes to 2. However, the Chair of the planning committee decided that in order to improve the level of expertise on these issues a new council airport group would be created, comprising the Chair, Vice Chair and one other councilor, to liaise with the Airport re future noise issues. We are waiting to learn more about this Committee and what its role will be in future decision making will be. Unfortunately, the Council's decision means that nighttime aircraft movement are expected to increase by over 40% over the current figure of 515. Full details of the new Night Flying Policy will be available on the airports website.

PL2024/02987/PPRM all matters except access relating to building 85 dwellings on Oak Farm

At the time of writing the Association, together with the Parish Council, are working on a response to the application. Responses need to be submitted by 24th January. Due to the tight time schedule updates and ideas for responses were communicated to members by email. A discussion regarding some of the issues was held following the Village Hall Traffic Calming meeting on the 21st January.

PL2024/00195/PPFL. 2 new dwellings adjacent to Destiny Cottage

PL2923/01954/ PPFL Battery Storage Facility adjacent to Henwood Lane

Just before Xmas we received notification that appeals have been submitted to both refusal decisions relating to the above applications. With the issuing of a New National Planning Policy Framework and the issues relating to housing and climate change issues we would not be surprised that both the appeals will be upheld.

Village Hall Update

No news this month

Pot holes /Drainage issues/ Faulty Street Lighting/ Fly tipping

If you see issues with any of these - please send details to the PC clerk at clerk@hamptoninarden.org.uk – we find things get attended to quicker that way. If you can send a picture so much the better but please provide details of its location.

Village Traffic Calming Proposals

Traffic calming proposals were communicated to local residents via email and Catney Facebook page and a Village Meeting was organized for the 21st January which will be attended by SMBC Highway engineers to explain the proposals and to answer any questions. The funds for the scheme have been provided by National Highways but they are conditional that the work be completed by 31st March.

Residents Association Committee Meetings

Generally, Committee meetings are now held on the first Tuesday in the month. Any resident wishing to raise any 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. Non-members are able to view it on our website the following month.

Parish Council

Next Hampton in Arden Parish Council Meeting

The next meeting (Budget and main meeting) will be held on Wednesday **March 19th** in the CdeB Village Hall starting at 7.30pm.

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

Residents are welcome to attend

Dates for the Diary

Saturday 22nd February – Quiz in the Village Hall at 7.30pm with Fish and Chip Supper, Licensed bar (fully booked – see page 6)

Tuesday 11th March - Residents Association AGM commencing 7.30pm followed by refreshments

Saturday 29th March – Village Tidy Up event

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

Catherine de Barnes Past and Present

If anyone would like to learn more about the area we are so lucky to live in, for £5 you can purchase a book which was co-authored by our Residents Association founder and first Chairman Pete Peters entitled Catherine de Barnes Past and Present. Money from the purchase of these books goes to the Village Hall fund. If anyone would like a copy, please contact me, Lesley Cuthbert on 07776 480813 or cuthbertlm@me.com

CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR

We are pleased to announce we cleared £942.53 at the Craft Fair on 30th November, the money went towards the cost of the Village Hall kitchen refurbishment project.

We would like to again thank our exceptional bakers for providing all the delicious cakes for the refreshments stall, all the ladies of the Craft Club who make and donate wonderful things for us to sell so that we can make 100% profit on their stall and of course everyone who hired a table to sell their wares. Most of all thank you to all of you who came through the doors, purchased goods and enjoyed a cake and cup of tea/coffee.

Also congratulations to John Bastable who won the raffle prize at the Craft Fair, a blanket made up of squares crocheted by each of the Craft Club members. See picture below where John is being presented with his prize by Liz Boxall.

Lesley Cuthbert and Liz Boxall



DECEMBER CHRISTMAS LIGHT SWITCH ON

On 7th December the Christmas lights around the Village Hall were officially switched on. The evening started off with a children's disco and games, thank you parents for bringing your children along to this they had a lovely time. Due to the cold, windy weather we watched the switching on of the lights from the windows which was followed by singing Christmas songs. Thank you to Bruce Hart for accompanying us on the keyboard. Everyone stayed on afterwards for a warming glass of mulled wine and some Christmas nibbles, an enjoyable start to the Christmas season.

Lesley Cuthbert.

QUIZ EVENING SATURDAY 22nd FEBRUARY 7.30 p.m IN THE VILLAGE HALL

We amazingly sold out within a week of advertising. However, should you wish I can put your names onto a waiting list in case of any cancellations.

Tickets are £12 per person which includes a fish and chip supper. There will be a licensed bar and also a raffle with a fantastic first prize of a Spa Day for 2, plus other prizes.

Teams of 4 or 6 would be ideal but if you can't make up a team do not worry we would place you in a team.

Contact details: email cuthbertlm@me.com or text/telephone me on 07776 480813

Lesley Cuthbert

Joe Westman

It is with deepest regret we have to advise of the passing of Joe Westman of Lugtrout Lane. Joe was a gentle soul who loved to spend time in his garden, he will be greatly missed. The Residents Association wish to pass on our condolences to his wife Joan and all of his family and friends.

Lesley Cuthbert

“February is the bridge that connects the promises of the past year with the hopes of the year ahead.”

– David LaMotte, Worldchanging 101: Challenging the Myth of Powerlessness (2011)

Remember a loved one in February on Birmingham Dogs Home Tribute Tree

BIRMINGHAM Dogs Home is inviting dog lovers to pay tribute to beloved pets or loved ones during the month of love by engraving their name on their Tribute Tree.

Launched at the end of 2021, the tree contains 425 gold, silver and bronze leaves for individuals to honour both family members and their four-legged friends by writing a personalised message to mark Valentine's Day on February 14 and Love Your Pet Day on February 20.

The engraved dedication leaf is designed to provide comfort to bereaved families where they can celebrate their dog's life and companionship and the donations from the leaves will help feed the 150 residing at the charity's two rescue centres and support them in finding their forever homes.

The leaf will remain on the tree for a minimum of 12 months, with the option to renew it again for another year or have it delivered home so owners can treasure it forever. Tel: 0121 643 5211



Fi Harrison, Head of Fundraising at Birmingham Dogs Home, unveiling the Tribute Tree

RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP 2025

MANY THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO SUPPORTED US LAST YEAR. THESE DAYS, OUR VILLAGE SEEMS TO BE PLAGUED BY NEW ROADS AND PROPOSED NEW DEVELOPMENTS. NEVERTHELESS, IT IS STILL A SPECIAL PLACE TO LIVE AND WE AIM TO DO OUR BEST TO KEEP IT THAT WAY. SO, WE ARE VERY MUCH HOPING YOU WILL JOIN US AGAIN THIS YEAR. EVERYONE IN THE VILLAGE SHOULD HAVE RECEIVED A FLYER REQUESTING A SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL FOR 2025.

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. IN ADDITION, ALL WHO JOIN BEFORE JUNE 1ST WILL BE ENTERED INTO A PRIZE DRAW. SO PLEASE ACT NOW!

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. THE SUBSCRIPTION FEES ARE £3 FOR INDIVIDUALS, £5 FOR COUPLES AND £10 FOR A FAMILY OF 4 OR MORE ADULTS. NO INFLATION IN OUR FEES!

WE JUST NEED SUFFICIENT FUNDS TO COVER OUR ANNUAL EXPENSES.

THANK YOU IN ADVANCE.

FRANCES COOK (SECRETARY@CATNEY.CO.UK)

“February is the perfect time to plant the seeds of gratitude and watch them bloom throughout the year.”

– Sarah Ban Breathnach, Simple Abundance: A Daybook of Comfort and Joy (1995)

Storm Darragh 7th December 2024

It seems quite some time ago that we experienced Storm Darragh as we have had Christmas and the New Year celebrations since it happened, but we have only recently had some of the outcomes of the storm dealt with. The branch that fell on the Oakfields/Foxley cut through was quickly tidied up, but some of the other fallen trees have taken longer.

Branch over the 'cut through'



Trees fallen over the towpath and canal



Those Catney residents who regularly walk along the path through the wood from Catney Common found that their way through the wood to the field blocked by some fallen trees. The first fell across the path, uprooted a second tree whose roots made a hole in the path and they both fell down the canal bank and felled at least three others and blocked the towpath and the canal. The canal and River Trust were informed and came out to look at the damage the next day, but found it a bigger job than they could deal with simply. The towpath was then closed off.

Blocked footpath



Blocked towpath



Then over Christmas, a boat with three guys and a dog came along determined to get through and with the help of a chain saw, grim determination and several hard day's work they managed to get through at the edge away from the towpath. However, over the New Year, a hire cruiser tried to get through as well and got stuck and had to be rescued by the hire company.



Successful boat



Hire cruiser that got stuck

All of that drama is now in the past as the Canal and River Trust organised some contractors to deal with the problem and in the first week of January the footpath at the top of the canal bank was closed off and a JCB and a tractor came into the wood by driving across a field and into the wood. They then started at the top and pulled all of the trees up the bank, clearing the footpath, the canal bank, the towpath and the canal in one busy day.



JCB and contractors in the wood.

The path through the wood is now clear and there is a plentiful supply of firewood for those villagers with log burners, the towpath and canal are now clear as well and the whole area is now quite open and looks very different from how it was.

Path, looking towards the field



Path looking down towards the canal



I guess most of the Catney residents were not aware that all that drama was going on. Although the path is a bit rough it will soon be trodden down by the dog walkers and the vegetation will recover. I don't know what plans there are for the very large tree trunks, I suspect they will be left as a feature to remind us of the power of the wind.

Liz Boxall

“February is the month to embrace the healing power of laughter and find joy amidst life’s challenges.”

– Marianne Williamson, A Return to Love: Reflections on the Principles of “A Course in Miracles” (1992)

Kim Rawson is still collecting supplies for Ukraine (ongoing, indefinitely). If you have anything to donate (including cash - which is specifically for the buying of cars to transport supplies plus fuel for the cars to travel across Europe), contact him on kim.rawson@btinternet.com or 07527540529.

Kim is the organist at Hampton church and at Balsall Common church
Thank you.

List of Supplies Useful for Ukraine

Adult Nappies / (Old) Android Tablets / Battery Operated Tools

Candles (new or used) / Crutches / Gloves (Men's) (not mittens)

CASH / Hand Sanitiser / Medication (in or out of date) ...

Cold/Flu relief sachets/capsules / Heat Gel / Cough med.

Paracetamol / Ibuprofen / Hand/feet warming pads

Men's Socks, T-shirts / Multi-Tool Pocket Knives / Powerbanks Shoe insoles /

Sleeping Bags / Thermal Underwear Toiletries: Razors / Shaving foam/gel /

Toothbrushes / Toothpaste/Torches (Recyclable) / Vests (Men's) / Walkers /

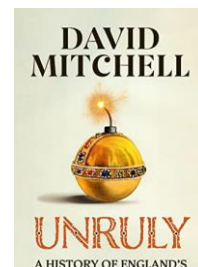
Washing Capsules

Wet Wipes (not baby) / Wheelchairs / Yoga Mats

BOOK REVIEW by JOHN ALDERSON

UNRULY

A Potted History by David Mitchell



I am not able to offer a long review of this book, which is listed as a “razor sharp”, “clever” best seller, as I did not enjoy reading it. The concept is excellent as a light hearted look at the Royalty of Medieval England, which is exactly what this book does. It is however completely ruined by Mitchell’s obsession with the use of obscene and scatological terminology which is quite unnecessary and continually detracts from the narrative. I have no objection to the use of such words in an appropriate setting but this “amusing romp through history” is completely negated by their constant use. Sorry, this book is not for me. Mr. Mitchell thinks he’s being funny. I think it just shows his lack of ability to properly use the English language.

“In February, the smallest gestures of kindness can melt the coldest of hearts.”

– Susan Elizabeth Phillips, Call Me Irresistible (2011)