

# CATNEY NEWS



# 2021

# APRIL



## CONTACTS

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## **NEWS FROM YOUR RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION**

### **The Residents Association AGM held via TEAMS on 17th March 2021**

I would like to thank the members who took the time to attend the virtual meeting and for the questions submitted. Both questions related to traffic calming on Lugtrout Lane. I was pleased to be able to report to the meeting that plans are being put together by West Midlands Police to conduct a speed enforcement day together with a few small speed checks through the rest of the month.

As you will be aware, details of the traffic calming proposals for the village were published in the Dec/Jan Catney News and a reminder in the February edition for residents to comment on.

I reported to the meeting that we only had 1 response, from a resident near to Oak Farm concerning the dangerous task of crossing Hampton Lane. We are aware of the speeding traffic through the village, particularly on Hampton Lane and Lugtrout Lane and will ensure that any traffic calming plans to be discussed with SMBC will reflect these particular issues.

The reports approved at the meeting are available to view on the [www.catney.co.uk](http://www.catney.co.uk) website as will be the draft minutes of this year's meeting.

### **Planning News**

PL/2020/02792 /PPFL - Demolition of the existing and construction of a replacement clubhouse building, provision of a new all-weather pitch, reconfigured playing pitches and access improvements in connection with the Warwickshire Gaelic Athletic Association facility at Catherine-de-Barnes Lane in Solihull/  
Land at Catherine De Barnes Lane. Catherine De Barnes, Solihull

The Planning Committee, against the Officers' recommendation to approve the application, decided at their meeting on the 3rd March to Defer making a decision on the grounds of insufficient information being provided by the applicant and seeking a review of the design of the proposed clubhouse.

PL 2015/51409 and PL 2016/02754 :- Proposed Motorway Service Areas at Jct. 5a and Jct. 4 respectively

We understand that appeals will be lodged against both refusals which means that there will be an Examination in Public by a Planning Inspector to take evidence and ultimately rule on the appeals.

The RA along with representatives from the PC are almost certain to make representation to the enquiry when it comes.

We may well need to take professional advice if we are to present a professional response which will obviously have financial implications for us.

## **Village Hall**

Dependent upon the latest Government guidelines the Trustees are hoping to open the Hall to regular users from 17th May.

At the Parish Council TEAMS meeting held on the 10th March the Council agreed the application made by the Trustees of the Hall for £7,278 for the installation of secondary double glazing in the Hall. Prior to the placing the order several of the Trustees will visit a similar installation just to ensure the product is the is fit for purpose. In preparation the inside wooden window frames are being re-painted as are the radiators. Following an external inspection some exterior woodwork will also receive attention.

The planning application for the drop kerb outside the hall to enable ease of off-loading has still not been determined with Officers requiring additional information. The Trustees have requested a site visit by the relevant Highways Engineer in an effort to supply the information required.

## **Airport News**

Covid has devastated passenger numbers with levels not seen since 1959. Various initiatives are being adopted to minimise the financial losses and one of these is reducing to a 12- hour operation with no night-time services likely to be available during the next few months while flights are at current levels. Extensive use of the Government furlough scheme is being made but as we have reported before staffing levels are now 43% of what they were when the airport was operating pre- Covid. Local hotels are being used to quarantine passengers entering the country -as at the 4th March there were 81 passengers being quarantined. The Noise Group on which we are represented, is due to meet on 15th April to discuss and respond to the Government Consultation on the potential for a “national” noise policy for all airports. Neither the Airport Company nor the Communities represented on the Airport Consultative Committee want to see a national policy adopted as experience shows we achieve a stronger policy by local negotiation – one size does not fit all.

## **Catherine de Barnes Village Defibrillator**

Following this item in last month’s edition 4 residents have so far expressed an interest in receiving defibrillator - training which is likely to take place during May. It is not too late if you wanted to participate in learning how to potentially save a life.

If you are interested in participating in a training session please email the secretary@catney.co.uk or leave a message on 07768 502039 with your name, phone number – could you tell us whether you could attend a day or evening session.

## Dates for the Diary

Next Residents Association Committee Meeting Tuesday 6th April 7.30pm via Zoom  
If you would like to address the meeting for 3 minutes. please contact  
secretary@catney.co.uk or leave a message on 07768 502039 with you details and  
you will receive an invitation.

Parish Villages Annual Assembly Tuesday 13th April 2021 (via TEAMS)

Parish Council AGM Wednesday 12th May 2021 (venue to be confirmed)

NB: Parish Council Meetings take place in the Meeting room adjacent to The  
Beeches or in the event that COVID-19 restrictions are still in place they will be held  
vis TEAMS. The public are welcome to and encouraged to attend. Where meetings  
are be held online please contact Julie Barnes (Clerk) at  
clerk@hamptoninarden.org.uk or phone 01675 442017 for advice as how to  
participate.

## Dave Cuthbert

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## Catney Craft Group

The 9th March saw the 5th Anniversary of the Craft Group which is still going strong. Even  
through the Pandemic we have continued to meet every Wednesday afternoon, albeit on  
Zoom not physically for obvious reasons, making it still possible to chat with each other, show  
our craft projects and share our ideas, a little something to look forward to each week.  
Unfortunately, again due to the Pandemic, we have been unable to continue with the Book  
Swap which we started about 2 years ago but as soon as we are able to do so everything will  
resume and hopefully go back to normal. If anyone is interested in joining the Craft Group, or  
would like more information about the Book Swap please contact me, Lesley Cuthbert on  
07776 480813.

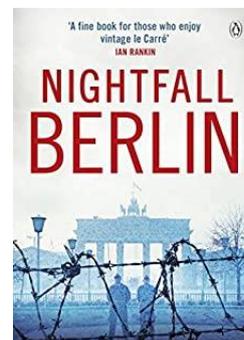


# BOOK REVIEW

## NIGHTFALL BERLIN

Novel by Jack Grimwood

A Book Review by John Alderson



Jack Grimwood or Jon Courtney Grimwood was born in Malta and is a prolific writer of science fiction and more latterly spy books, of which Nightfall Berlin is his second in a series involving his British Intelligence Officer Major Tom Fox.

This is a spy thriller set in the Berlin of the eighties and is very much in the Le Carre mould.

Fox is approached by his father-in-law, Lord Eddington, to go to Berlin ostensibly to bring home Sir Cecil Blackburn who defected to East Germany some years earlier and had now asked H M Government to return with his “memoirs”.

Fox, who is having personal issues with his wife and young son at a public schooling England, soon finds that all is not as it seems when he arrives in Berlin, particularly as Blackburn’s young mistress Frederika, a Stasi minder, now seems to be part of the package, and shortly Blackburn decides he does not wish to return after all.

Fox now accompanied by Amelia, Blackburn's daughter finds him brutally murdered together with his Russian minder and shortly realises he is the chief suspect, not just by the Stasi, but Amelia and even his support team at the British Embassy.

The story involving a Russian General from Fox’s past, a Stasi colonel and the kidnapping of his son in England, moves along beautifully, but with inevitable twists and turns that don’t always necessarily predict the ultimate outcome.

True Le Carre fans might not find Nightfall Berlin complex enough for their tastes, but I think there is plenty in here to engage most readers.

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## EASTER SERVICES AT HAMPTON IN ARDEN PARISH CHURCH

**MAUNDY THURSDAY:** 1<sup>ST</sup> APRIL 7.30 PM LIVE-STREAMED SERVICE

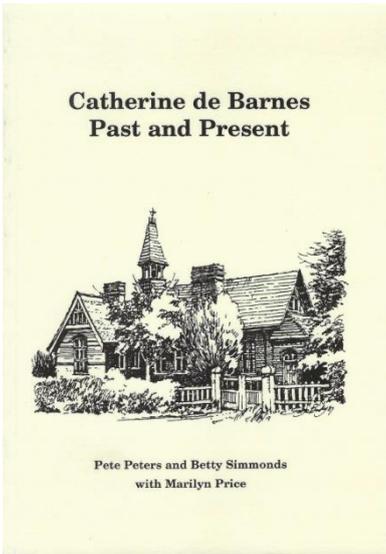
**GOOD FRIDAY:** 2<sup>ND</sup> APRIL 10 – 11 AM:  
SOCIALY DISTANT FAMILY EASTER TRAIL AROUND THE CHURCH

**EASTER SUNDAY:** 4<sup>TH</sup> APRIL: Two services in church at 8.15 am and 11 am – all seats may have been booked by now, please check - [chris.cluley1@gmail.com](mailto:chris.cluley1@gmail.com), but the services will be livestreamed to watch at home

All links to services and further details will be found on the church website homepage  
[www.hamptoninardenchurch.org.uk](http://www.hamptoninardenchurch.org.uk)

## Catherine de Barnes Past and Present

*“Catherine de Barnes – it suggests that the name came from a mediaeval lady of the manor, possibly of French descent.”*



So begins the fantastic book, *Catherine de Barnes – Past and Present*, first published in 2000 following years of research led by current village resident Pete Peters. To find out whether this is indeed the origin of the village name you will need to buy the book, now on sale for £5.

The book is a comprehensive 77-page history of the village from early history dating back to Saxon times through to more recent years. It includes many old photographs and maps as well as huge amounts of fascinating information. How many people know the link between the village and the mass production of pens in the nineteenth century for instance?

The book is available for £5 with all proceeds to the Village Hall. To buy a copy please call Lesley Cuthbert on 07776 480813 to arrange collection from 9 Oakfields Way.

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## Update on Catney Common. March 2021

It has been another wet winter with a lot of flooding on our damp common. The area and the footpaths have been well used this winter, understandable with all the restrictions, and this has affected the paths.

We have not been able to hold any work parties during the winter. However, things are still happening. Two volunteers are working on the Common as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Award and this has been a great help. They have repaired and replaced the bird boxes, cleared an area for wildflower turf to be laid and done work on the paths. We are hoping to get more wood chippings to build up the paths this summer.

By the time you read this the wildflower turf should have been laid. The next step is to put some wildflower plugs in the grass to encourage pollinators. Perhaps by mid-summer there will be a real splash of colour to enjoy. The Parish Council has supported this initiative for which we are extremely grateful.

Thank you to all our volunteers. It is so encouraging that people are willing to come forward and help keep this small area looking good. Do come and enjoy it.

**Heather Bird**



## The Ghostly Knight of Henwood Ford



According to local legend the area around Henwood and Ravenshaw in Catherine de Barnes is haunted. Apparitions are said to include twelve nuns from Henwood Priory who died in the Black Death in 1349 and the ghost of Bethany, a young witch from Solihull, who was publicly flogged and then drowned at Ravenshaw Ford in 1648.

Perhaps the most impressive of the local spectres is the ghostly knight who is believed to haunt Henwood Ford. In April 1276 the Lord of Hampton-in-Arden Manor, Sir William de Arden, fell out with his former comrade and fellow knight-at-arms Sir Richard de Buri over money. The two neighbours, who had served together under Sir Simon de Montfort in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Barons War ten years earlier, squared up to each other at Henwood Ford in what would be a battle to the death. The bloody duel was over quickly when Sir Richard split Sir William's skull open from top to bottom with one strike of his sword. The remains of the dead man are said to have been first taken to Henwood Priory and then on to Hampton churchyard where they were buried in an unmarked grave. Sir Richard de Beri's descendants settled at nearby Ravenshaw and built Berry Hall.

This is all very interesting but the story fails to fully stand up to closer scrutiny. In his *Hampton-in-Arden - A Warwickshire Village* (1950), Rev J. C. Adams states that Sir William de Arden went abroad on a crusade in 1276 and was killed there by Richard de Lisle. The death is recorded in Inquisitions Post Mortem held at the National Archive, although, interestingly, it does not appear to refer to the place of death or name Richard de Lisle – so perhaps there is scope for further research, and who knows, maybe there *is* some truth in the legend of the duel of Henwood Ford?

Clive Hinsull

Secretary, Hampton-in-Arden Local History Group

[www.hamptoninardenhistory.org](http://www.hamptoninardenhistory.org)

I am saddened to have to report the death of Norma James who died in hospital on 19th March. Norma lived in Oakfields Way for over 50 years. On behalf of the Residents Association our heartfelt condolences go to her family and friends.

Lesley Cuthbert

# EASTER BISCUITS WITH CURRANTS AND CINNAMON



Fragrant with nutmeg, lemon zest and currants, these Easter biscuits are perfect to keep on hand for unexpected visitors over the long weekend.

## INGREDIENTS

3 cups (450g) plain flour  
1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon  
1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg  
225g salted butter, at room temperature  
1 cup (220g) caster sugar, plus 2 tablespoons extra to sprinkle  
2 eggs  
3/4 cup (110g) currants  
Finely grated zest of 1 lemon



## METHOD

Sift the flour and spices into a bowl. In a separate bowl, beat butter and sugar with electric beaters until thick and pale, then add eggs, 1 at a time, beating well after each addition. Fold in the flour mixture in 2 batches, then stir in currants and zest. Shape into a disc, enclose in plastic wrap and chill for at least 2 hours. Line 2 baking trays with baking paper.

Divide dough into 4 portions. Roll out 1 portion to 4-5mm thick (keep remaining dough covered and chilled), then cut with a fluted 6cm round biscuit cutter and place on the trays. Repeat with remaining dough, re-rolling the trimmings to make about 40 biscuits. Chill for a further 15 minutes.

Preheat the oven to 180°C.

Sprinkle biscuits with extra sugar. Bake for 10 minutes until firm to touch but still pale. (Rotate trays halfway through baking, if necessary, to ensure even cooking.) will keep in an airtight container for 3 days. Cool on trays for 5 minutes, then transfer to a rack to cool completely.

