

CATNEY NEWS

2021

SEPTEMBER



CONTACTS

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Catney News: Please send all articles to Christine Cluley, Editor, on cluleychris8@outlook.com or ring 01675 442728 All articles need to be with Chris by the 20th of the month

Village Hall bookings: Gareth Thomas on 07796268012 or gareth10637@hotmail.co.uk



NEWS FROM YOUR RESIDENTS **ASSOCIATION**

Pedestrian safety and village traffic calming

As you will have seen in the recent edition of the Hampton Parish News, the Parish Council, following discussions with representatives of the Residents Association, have drafted a Plan concerning improving pedestrian safety and traffic calming. You will recall late last year residents were given the opportunity to comment on most aspects of the current proposals which were published in the Catney News at the time. You will recall it was impossible to organise any village meeting then due to the Covid-19 restrictions. The Plan has been submitted to SMBC highways for approval following which the issue of funding the scheme needs to be finalised.

M42 Junction 6 improvement Scheme -New link road

PUBLIC INFORMATION EVENT “24 th September 2021 in the Village Hall “

Firstly , we must apologise for not communicating that the event announced in the last CN was cancelled. Sorry to those who turned up at the hall to find it locked A new event has been planned for Friday 24 th September from 11am ‘til 8pm - There will be representatives from Highways England and Skanska in attendance to answer any questions/concerns you may have -everything you want to know about what’s happening now, and what’s going to happen and when !

CCTV in the village- Update

Unfortunately, the CCTV trial that has been ongoing for over a month has not performed in the way that we had hoped. The current position of the camera does not allow it to be used as an ANPR camera although the day/night recording and imaging are excellent. A working group has been formed to look at the other possibilities re siting of ANPR and have had a preliminary meeting with SMBC Highways about the possibility of using their lighting columns and are waiting for a response.

Village Hall

As most of you will have seen the work on the off-loading area and the dropped kerb is progressing.

The work for the dropped kerb starts on the 24 th August.

The double glazing for the hall will be installed during the October half term week and should help reducing the heat loss and reduce draughts thus making an improvement in our heating bills.

The Trustees are also investigating the possibility of putting solar panels on the rear roof, and we will keep you updated as and when this project progresses. Following a grant application to the Arnold Clarke Foundation some time ago we have been awarded £1000 to put to community projects.

Village Archive

Are you interested in local history? The group are looking for a volunteer to assist members of the Hampton History Group in establishing a Catherine de Barnes village archive .

If you are interested, please contact Heather Bird on hmbird300@gmail.com or Dave Cuthbert 07824 696137. Thank You



Catney Christmas Craft Fair

Saturday 27th November 2021



Currently the plans are to have a craft fair in the village hall as we have done in previous years. 2020 had to be cancelled as the pandemic rules did not allow gatherings in enclosed spaces. We don't know what the situation will be this winter, but by then we will have a fully vaccinated population and a clearer idea of the importance of all the emerging variants. There will be a background circulation of this virus and we may have to have regular winter vaccinations against the latest strains, a bit like we have with influenza each autumn.

Most of our regular exhibitors have expressed an interest in joining us and have put the date in their diaries. The Catney Craft Club will be doing their bit and making our usual range of handmade goodies and homemade jams.

I will keep you all up to date with the situation through the Catney News. In the meantime, if there are any new residents with craft skills looking for an opportunity to display and sell their wares contact me on liz@boxall.info.

***“O sweet September, thy first breezes bring
The dry leaf's rustle and the squirrel's laughter,
The cool fresh air whence health and vigor spring
And promise of exceeding joy hereafter.”
— George Arnold, September Days***

Catney Common



Our unusual plant. On the edge of the common opposite The Dell a Horseradish root is flourishing. We have no idea how long it has been there or how it got there. Perhaps someone in the area once had a liking for roast beef and Horseradish sauce? Do you know?



Horseradish



New Cherry tree

The wild cherry which was planted last year seems to be doing well and fortunately it avoided the floods of last winter. In late July the common was mown by the team from Newlands Bishop farm. We shall have a work party in August to attack some of the nettles and brambles along the pathway and to remove the markers around the wildflower areas and generally tidy up. Most of the flowers have now seeded and the areas will be cut next time, hoping they come back in the spring.

Work Parties. We would welcome some more people to join the work party, especially those who can use a strimmer or tackle brambles although everyone is very welcome. If you might be interested, please contact the Residents Association secretary Frances Cook or myself. There is no fixed commitment, you come if you can, and we meet around 6 or 8 times a year on a Sunday morning for just a couple of hours in normal circumstances. THANK YOU to all who help and a warm welcome to any new faces.

Heather Bird hmbird300@gmail.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

Catney Craft Club

The Craft Club has now commenced meeting once again at the Village Hall. Whilst the Zoom meetings and WhatsApp kept us in touch with each other through these terrible times it was fantastic to physically get together again. If the weather is fine we meet outside at the back of the hall in the fresh air and when the weather is not so good we have started to meet inside the hall adhering to all COVID safety recommendations.

We meet every Wednesday afternoon 2.00 p.m. till 4.00 p.m so why not come and see what we are all about. If you have a project in progress bring it along and chat while you work alternatively just come along for the company and the chat. For further information please contact me Lesley Cuthbert telephone 07776 480813 or email cuthbertlm@me.com

CATNEY CRICKET CLUB

Despite the weather the Cricket Club continue to show improvements with 5 wins and a tie in the last 7 games , The Saturday 2nds also continue to do well and are in mid-table in their league,

We also have a Sunday side who play at home every other week, Cricket continues till the end of September and we hope for improvement in the weather,

Eddie Hewitt

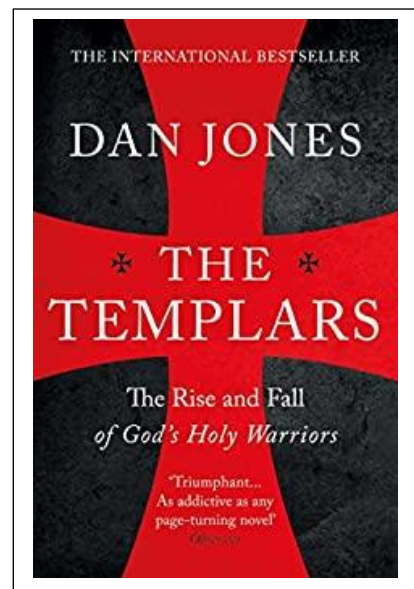
Catherine de Barnes CC

THE TEMPLARS

The Rise and fall of God's Warriors

A History by Dan Jones

A book review by John Alderson



Temple Balsall, the village in the south of our Parish, is said to be a rallying point for Knights Templar wishing to join the Crusades. Having always had a vague interest in the Crusades, I came upon this book “*The Templars*” by Dan Jones, the well known historian, author and broadcaster by chance, and found it, not to be a dry as dust list of dates, names and events, but a history written almost in the style of a novel. It’s lengthy, it’s history, but it’s very readable.

The Order of the Knights Templar was founded by Hugh of Payns in 1119, to lead a group of Knights protecting pilgrims visiting the Holy Land and lasted until it was destroyed by Philip VI of France in 1311.

The order flourished with the support of Popes and the Kings of France and England, becoming an extremely influential organisation of landowners and financiers, particularly to the French throne.

One thing they were not very good at was waging war. They made some disastrous decisions when leaving their Middle Eastern strongholds, being heavily defeated by Saladin and his Moslems and Baybars and his Mamluks, forcing them to retreat to Cyprus.

Their financial success was their ultimate downfall, as Philip VI, a greedy and vindictive King and with the help of a weak Pope Clement V, had them successfully tried as heretics and the order destroyed in 1311.

***“By all these lovely tokens September days are here,
With summer’s best of weather and autumn’s best of cheer.”
— Helen Hunt Jackson, September***

LONGFELLOWS – THE END OF AN ERA

Yes it's the end of a 33 year era.

Many of you will already be aware that Longfellows now has new owners. It has been a long old trawl to get the sale through due to Covid and other legal issues and we can't quite believe it has finally happened. We have been very privileged to have lived and worked in this lovely village and to have brought our daughter up from a baby here. We have made many, many, friends and we are missing you all already.

Many of you have been loyal customers throughout. We have hosted many of your special occasions, weddings, special birthdays, christenings and funerals. We have seen your families grow up and we have enjoyed being involved with many of the village events and fetes etc at the village hall.

But we are now ready for a well earned retirement, but we will be about in Solihull and Catherine de Barnes on a regular basis.

On another note you will all be able to enjoy a lovely new restaurant and we hope you will welcome Helen Somerfield the new owner, as you did with us.

We look forward to seeing you all at the new "LONGFELLOWS".

Our very best wishes Christine and Doug.



DO YOU REMEMBER?

Childhood Games

Hopscotch
Roller skating
Fives
Polly on the Mopstick
“What’s the time Mr Wolf?”
And many, many more.

What are your memories of games you used to play as a child?
Send your memories to Chris Cluley for the October issue.

Pete Peters.

CONCERTS AT HAMPTON IN ARDEN PARISH CHURCH

Hampton Singers will return to rehearsals in person in September, and would like to welcome the local community to a concert of choral music in Hampton Church, to celebrate the return of singing together - on **Saturday 16th October**. The concert is likely to include some Vivaldi and Haydn, but the final choice of music and information about tickets will follow later in September, and it will be joyous!

Ex Urbe Christmas/Advent concert - Save the date!

Ex Urbe Chamber Choir look forward to presenting Christmas and Advent music in Hampton Church on Saturday 4th December 2021, after a break from live performances which has felt far too long.

“Autumn seemed to arrive suddenly that year. The morning of the first September was crisp and golden as an apple.”

— J.K. Rowling, Harry Potter and the Deathly Hollows