CATNEY NEWS OCTOBER 2026

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Residents' Association News



Bulb Planting Session

We are organising a bulb planting session on Saturday 24th October followed by refreshments and pastries at the Village Hall. We are very grateful to Severn Trent who are contributing to the cost of the bulbs as a goodwill gesture to the community following their recent works.

We are currently identifying areas round the village where planting would be appropriate and would appreciate your input. Drop us an email with your suggestions to secretary@catney.co.uk

If you can spare a couple of hours and help us to brighten up the village in the Spring, please come along to the Village Hall at 9.45 on the 24th – we will be pleased to see you. If you can bring along suitable planting tools that would be appreciated. If anyone cannot help with the planting but could lend us a bulb planter for the day that would be most helpful.

Please drop us an email to tell us you're coming– thanks and look forward to seeing you

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 9th NOVEMBER

Unfortunately, this year our pianist is unable to help at the Remembrance Service. Is there anyone out there who would volunteer to play for us. This is such an important service remembering all those that have fought and/or lost their lives during times of war, especially from the 2 world wars and remembering those from our village. If there is anyone out there who can help out please let me know a.s.a.p. as I would hate to have to cancel this service. Lesley Cuthbert cuthbertlm@me.com.



Our Village Hall reverts back to being a Church for this service of which we are very proud.

Christmas Craft Fayre 28th November

It's coming to that time of year again for the Christmas Craft Fayre and I am appealing to all our wonderful bakers out there for donations of cakes for the refreshments. If you are able to help us, could you please email me Lesley Cuthbert cuthbertlm@me.com. If you can add an idea of the type of cake you would be making it would be very helpful. Many thanks.

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Residents' Association - Chairman's Report

Planning update

The solar panel application PL2025/01404/PPFL was refused planning permission as being inappropriate development and contrary to Policy P17 of the Solihull Local Plan. However, the applicant has given notice that they will appeal the decision.

Heath Farm : We regularly get asked what is happening on the building site at 26 Henwood Lane. Our Parish Councillors and Cllr David Hoey met with a member of the Planning Enforcement (PE) team recently with a view to establishing the current situation. The planning agent has been advised that a number of the current works need planning approval and new applications are expected shortly and there are two planning applications with SMBC that are currently awaiting a decision. More news as and when there are further developments. Cllr Hoey was asked to confirm if SMBC is the owner of the copse at the corner of Henwood Lane and Hampton Lane and if that is the case investigate the possibility of getting the area tidied up

The Government introduced a new consultation in August " **Planning Powers for mayors in England**", For those interested the following link will take you to the consultation: Planning powers for mayors in England - GOV.UK . Should these proposals be introduced, and they no doubt will be, then mayors of devolved authorities will have the powers to intervene in relation to applications of potential strategic importance (PSI) which are:-

- **large scale development** which covers the largest applications for residential and commercial development and tall buildings – over 150 homes but considering developments of over 50 homes
- **major infrastructure development** which includes transport, waste and energy schemes
- **development which could affect strategic policies**, including loss of housing, new large-scale commercial and industrial development, loss of playing fields and development within the Green Belt.

Mayors would have the powers to over-ride a refusal decision made by the Local Planning authority – under the pretext of devolving powers to local people. Rather the opposite is actually potentially taking place- this could bring a political element into the planning process not really present before.

Airport News

Our representative added the Airport Consultative Committee meeting on the 3rd September. Outlined below are the key items from the meeting:-

- the baggage issues were due to a fault with a baggage x-raying machine. 3100 bags were involved and had to be manually transported from one part of the airport to another. However, 500 bags were not able to be re- united with their owners as they contained prohibited items or substances – 356 contained power banks which should be put into hand luggage. The Aiport had seen nothing like this issue for over 10 years with only 300 bags going adrift over the last 3 years.
- The Middle Eastern situation affecting Emirates
- Ryanair and Jet 2 running above last year

- Passenger numbers marginally up
- The Airport will shortly be issuing for general consultation its Masterplan outlining its ambitions into the 2040's. There is no doubt their overall ambition is growth - more flights and everything that goes with that.
- The Sound Insulation scheme being reviewed with maximum grant going up to £5k – for those interested, details of the scheme can be found by following the link below.

NOISE COMPLAINTS: if you wish to make a complaint about day or night noise or off-track aircraft you can do so by following the link below and selecting " Make a Noise Complaint "
Aircraft Noise and Birmingham Airport | Birmingham Airport
With regard to the activities of the Noise Group: The Chairman advised that the most productive way forward for the group was to hold a number of workshops where the specific areas pertaining to Noise can be discussed in some detail rather than trying to cover the various areas during the usual meetings. This is a significant step forward and should allow some progress to be made in the Group formulating criteria for the next Night Flying Policy. Amongst the areas being discussed are a reduction in the day and night time noise levels, numbers and the possibility of a night time quiet time. Members might be interested in the link below which goes into significant detail relating to the airport's activities in relation to **noise** which you should find quite interesting: -

Noise Monitoring & Community Reports | Birmingham Airport

Dates for the Diary

- **Residents Association Committee Meeting Wednesday 7th October**
- **Bulb planting - Saturday 24th October 9.45am Meet in the Village Hall followed by refreshments at the Village Hall**
- **Remembrance Sunday Service - Sunday 8th November. Assemble at 10.45am Village Hall - followed by tea/coffee**
- **Catney Craft Fair - Saturday 28th November 11.00am to 3.00 pm with refreshments and cakes**
- **Catney RA Xmas Social -Tree light switch-on and a few seasonal songs followed by mulled wine and nibbles. Lights switch on at 4.30pm at the Village Hall**
- **Next Parish Council meeting Wednesday 11th November commencing 7.30pm in the Meeting Room adjacent to Soho Tavern off Marsh Lane, Hampton in Arden. Residents are welcome and encouraged to attend.**

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Solihull 50 years ago

In June, I shared my memories of having lived for 50 years in Catherine de Barnes and some of you said that you enjoyed reading the article. Some because of shared memories and others as some of the scenarios were new to them.



Mell Square 1975

This month I would like to share some of my memories of Solihull and how it has changed. Mell Square, the High Street and adjoining roads were not pedestrianised. Sainsburys was in Mell Square next door to Boots, so you could park outside. Parking, like now, was widely available, with the Mell Square car park and a big open air car park behind the High Street where Touchwood is now. Parking was free for 2 hours, so plenty of people did their Saturday shopping, had time for a coffee in Beatties and left within the two hours, so always plenty of spaces! There was a walkway from Mell Square to the Warwick Road with an entrance into Beatties Food Hall on the ground floor. Yes! just like Fortnum and Mason and to prove it see the photo of some of the products! The variety of products sold by our major department store was very wide and I remember buying our first lawn mower from Beatties and I am pleased to report that it is still going well after 50 years. There were no B&Qs and retail parks then.



The High Street was open to traffic and there were a wide variety of shops. I remember Owens the Ironmonger where you could buy anything from brooms and cleaning equipment, saws and other 'do it yourself' tools, light bulbs and electrical equipment, and could buy half a dozen screws rather than a whole box and ask for and get useful advice. After a fire they moved to Station Road before finally closing down having been out competed by the bigger B&Qs with a wider variety of products. There was Gordon Scott's shoe shop where they sold adult shoes on the ground floor and the children's department was upstairs where your child would have their own individual record card with their size and what and when the last purchase was. Such good service! We used a MacFisheries supermarket in the High Street and our weekly bill in the early 1970s was between £5 and £10, being subsidised by a good lunch at work. For a while Solihull had an indoor market where the entrance to Touchwood is now, all sorts of interesting things could be purchased there from fresh produce to craft products, bags and suitcases, and seasonal decorations all on individual stalls. There was an alleyway next to the Manor House that led to the car park where there was a very good cheese shop. A consistent presence in the town centre has been a Clark's shoe Shop on the corner of the High Street leading into Mell Square, and in Mell Square, Boots and the Post office, though that has now gone. Also gone are H Samuel jewellers and Solihull's cinema on the left-hand side of the High Street leading to St Alphege.

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The biggest change has been the coming of Touchwood, bringing a branch of John Lewis into the centre of town, a bigger cinema, lots more retail outlets, but sadly not all of them last or are of the sort of quality we used to have.

A lot has changed in the centre of Solihull, and it can be difficult to remember the exact chronology, I am sure other residents have things that they remember, and I would be interested to hear about and share them in the Catney News.

Liz Boxall



Hampton Gardening Club

Wednesday 16th September

We welcomed Reg Moule, the 'Gardening Voice' of BBC Radio for Hereford and Worcester and Radio Gloucestershire to talk on the Impact of Drought for gardeners. Reg discussed water conservation, mulching in autumn, sowing and planting in autumn, choosing draught tolerant plants, and he gave us strategies to succeed in gardening despite the change in climate. He is an exceptionally knowledgeable and gifted speaker and took many questions from the audience. We hope to invite him back!

Next month we hold our AGM on Wednesday 21st October.

Alison Foster (a Gardening Chemist) will talk on 'Medicinal Properties of Plants' Wednesday 18th November. Meetings in Hampton Church Hall begin at 7.30 p.m. (doors open at 7.00 p.m. for coffee) and visitors and new members are always welcome. Feel free to come along!

Web:www.hiagc.com
Email:hiagcmembers@gmail.com
INSTAGRAM:hamptoninarden_gardeningclub
Facebook: HiA Gardening Club

Contact us: secretary@catney.co.uk or 0776 850 2039

Website: www.catney.co.uk

Catney News Articles: For the next edition, please send to secretary@catney.co.uk by the 22nd of October. Any items of news, or photos and memories are very welcome.

Village Hall bookings: Steve Dodsworth on 0744 350 5388 or bookings@catneyvillagehall.co.uk

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. **The new food waste collection will start from October 5th 2026. For details look at: Food waste collection | Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council**

For regular bin collection timings: https://digital.solihull.gov.uk/BinCollectionCalendar/

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

If you see issues with any of these - please send details to the Parish Clerk; clerk@hamptoninardenparish.gov.uk –or you can contact them direct. The council need details of the location of the particular issue and a picture is really helpful.

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Residents Association Committee Meetings

Generally, Committee meetings are now held on the first Tuesday in the month but the next one is Oct. 7th. Any resident wishing to raise any issue with the Committee can do so by contacting us at secretary@catney.co.uk. Any items of importance discussed at the meetings or decisions made, are communicated to members via the Catney News and email. The Catney News is distributed to members only but non-members are able to view it on our website the following month.

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