



CATNEY NEWS OCTOBER 2025

Residents' Association News

Events



The next ever popular quiz night will be on Saturday 18th October starting at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall. Tickets are £13 per person, to include fish and chip supper. There will be a licensed bar and a raffle. To order your tickets please contact Lesley Cuthbert on Tel : 07776 480813 or email cuthbertlm@me.com. Ideally if you could make up a team of 4 or 6 people it would be appreciated but don't worry if you can't we will place you in a team.

Please order your tickets by 11th October for catering purposes. If there are any vegetarian requirements, please order these at the time of purchasing your tickets. Any donations towards the Quiz Evening raffle would be appreciated. Thank you.

Remembrance Sunday 9th November

This year has been another special year being the 80th Anniversary of VJ Day. On Sunday 9th November our Village Hall will revert to being a Church for a Remembrance Service, when we will remember all those who bravely fought in war and those who sadly lost their lives fighting. We will especially remember all those from our village who lost their lives during the two world wars.

We hope you will be able to join us for this very special service, assembling in the hall at 10.40 a.m for the start of the service at 10.45 a.m.

Lesley Cuthbert



Refreshment Stall at the Catney Christmas Craft Fair Saturday 29th November

It would be really appreciated if anyone is able to make a cake for the refreshments table at the Craft Fair on Saturday 29th November. All money taken on this table is donated to the Village Hall for maintenance and improvements. If you are able to make a cake it would be helpful if you could let me know by text on 07776 480813 or email cuthbertlm@me.com. The hall will be open to receive cakes from 10.00 a.m on the day, if you are unable to deliver please let me know and I will arrange for collection. Thank you. Lesley Cuthbert.

Saturday 6th December Christmas event

The Residents Association will be holding the annual Christmas Event on Saturday 6th December when the official Christmas light switch on will take place. Save the date, details to follow in the next Catney News.



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Planning

2025/01404/PPFL. Solar Farm Catherine de Barnes and Bickenhill (3 plots of land)

Following discussions with SMBC the applicant has now accepted that an environmental Impact Assessment is required, because of the proximity to the SSSI at Bickenhill Meadows. This assessment is likely to take 2 months and when received the application response clock will be restarted. There is no urgency to send in a response at this point and we will update members when the Assessment has been done and the situation regarding response deadlines. We are in discussions with the Parish Councils of Hampton and Bickenhill concerning this proposal.

PL/2025/01616/MINFHO 53 Hampton Lane

This is a resubmission of application PL/2024/02475/MINFHO.

A two-storey extension to the front and rear of the property.

You can view these plans on the Solihull planning portal. Comments can be made up to October 15th.

Airport news

The airport is performing well, and current indications are that it should not reach its ambitious night time movements in the current year. The Noise Group, at which we are represented are due to meet later in the year further discussing potential conditions for the next Night Flying Policy. Just to remind members that the group has been successful in negotiating reduced night time noise levels for the current 3-year period and believe day time noise levels will be reduced in the not-too-distant future. Residents north of the airport are not for one reason or another adequately represented on the Airport Consultative Committee (ACC) and a membership Working Group is being formed to review the membership and make recommendations to the ACC. We have expressed an interest to join this group to ensure our interests are maintained. The ACC met recently and received an interesting presentation on drones which we hope to send to members shortly but one interesting item was that in Darlington, Amazon Air are awaiting approval for starting drone deliveries of items up to 5lb and aim to deliver them within an hour of receipt of the orders. The mind boggles what our skies will look like in a year or so. Currently there is very little regulation on the use of drones for commercial purposes- so the race is on – how will breach of privacy be maintained with these things flying everywhere not just delivering parcels but probably gathering info for all sorts of purposes.

Dates for the Diary

Quiz night – Saturday 18th October starting at 7.30pm. Details above.

Remembrance Sunday 9th November - assemble from 10.40am followed by refreshments.

Annual Catney Christmas Craft Fair Saturday 29th November 11.00am 'til 15.00pm in the village hall with teas and refreshments. Free entry

Christmas Social – Saturday 6th December.

Light switch on and Xmas songs followed by drinks and nibbles.

Parish Council

Next Hampton in Arden Parish Council Meeting is on Wednesday 19th November in the Meeting Room in Marsh Lane, adjacent to the Soho Tavern 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@hamptoninardenparish.gov.uk or phone 01675 442017

Residents are welcome and encouraged to attend



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Grand (Union) Designs

How Solihull Canoe Club paddled through planning battles to protect its parking

This is the story of how Solihull Canoe Club, based in Catherine-de-Barnes, and the Parish Council faced – and overcame – a serious threat to its parking area during the planning process for the Oak Farm housing development.

Over two years ago, Cala Homes submitted an outline plan to build up to 98 dwellings on land at Oak Farm, right next to the club's base by the Grand Union Canal. The canoe club responded to Solihull Council, raising safety concerns and requesting an extension to its small but vital parking area. Cala's Land Director met with us early on and confirmed the parking would remain – though he would not commit to any enlargement.

And so began 18 months of back-and-forth: Cala submitted revised applications, the club responded, and meetings were held – but without any firm commitment. Then, in May this year, just before the final Reserved Matters application, everything changed. Cala informed the Parish Council that the canoe club would lose its parking area entirely, as it was to be redesignated as public open space.

Fortunately, Dave Cuthbert and the Parish Council acted swiftly, securing a meeting with Cala. When Cala insisted that the loss of parking was to meet Solihull's Planning requirements, the Parish Council went directly to senior planners and ward councillors to challenge the claim.

Meanwhile, the Canoe Club committee mobilised. Members were encouraged to lodge formal objections, helped along by a "Planning Objection for Dummies" guide and even AI-generated template responses. Over 70 members – including two GB international paddlers – submitted objections, many also contacting councillors and MPs. Our local MP, Saqib Bhatti, gave outstanding support: meeting the club, lodging an objection, pressing Cala directly, and even joining us on the water. We also had the huge benefit of advice from a former club member with decades of housing development experience.

This combined effort paid off. In August, Solihull Council approved Cala's application – but with the canoe club's parking safeguarded. Also, a very determined resident and the Parish Council successfully challenged Cala's proposed three-storey houses along the canal, which will now be re-reviewed as lower-rise buildings. Further legal objections remain under consideration from the residents at Oak Cottage.

The outcome shows that, although our village faces intense development pressure, determined action with strong community backing can make a difference. As Chair of Solihull Canoe Club, I'd like to thank: the club committee, parish councillor's Dave Cuthbert, Giles Cook, John Eccleston, and all our members & residents who stood up to protect the club's future.

Geoff Barber

Chair, Solihull Canoe Club and Catney resident

Local Honey For Sale: 454grms (1lb) Jar £6

Contact Heather Phillips 0121 711 8547



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Village Clean Up

The Catney wombles were busy last Saturday morning and collected a satisfying pile of litter. Thanks to everyone who came and helped and a special shout out to Dave and John who worked so hard on Friday Lane and collected 8 bags of litter there. Look out for another litter pick in the Spring.

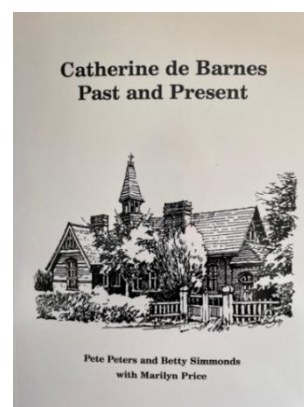


Welcome pack for new residents

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



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

Website: www.catney.co.uk

Catney News Articles: Please send to secretary@catney.co.uk by the 20th of the month.

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