

# CATNEY NEWS



Dear Catney Villagers,

Once more we are at the end of a year and I do hope that 2019 has been a good one for you.

This edition covers January 2020 too. It seems amazing that it has been 20 years since we were celebrating the Millennium on New Year's eve.

We hope that current and new members will join the Residents Association in January. Your membership is very important to the committee as it shows them that you support what they do and it also means they can say that they speak on behalf of many residents when submitting opinions or raising issues with the Council. Through their email list they can communicate rapidly with residents about local concerns, events and developments. So please join the Association and where possible, give your email address to allow speedy communication and delivery of the electronic version of the Catney News. Look out for a flyer in January.

I sincerely hope that you all have a lovely Christmas season and that 2020 brings peace, good health and contentment to you and those you love.

Christine Cluley, Editor

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# RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION NEWS

## For your diary in December 2019

**Carols round the tree** – 15th December from 5.00pm followed by mulled wine and seasonal nibbles . As last year we will be joined by members of Catney Chorus, do come along and bring the family and your neighbours.

**Christmas Eve Childrens' Crib Service** – Tuesday 24th December 4.00 'til 4.30pm in the Village Hall

## For your diary in January

**Hampton Parish Budget and Council Meeting** Wednesday 8th January 7.30pm

Residents are welcome to attend these meetings which take place in The Meeting Room ,Marsh Lane (To the left of The Beeches). Should you have an issue you would like to raise with the Council you have the opportunity of doing so at the early part of the proceedings.

## **Residents Butty Brunch**

Saturday 11th January 10 til 12. In the Village Hall

This is an opportunity for residents to catch up with events whilst enjoying a free bacon/ sausage butty with a cup of tea or coffee courtesy of the Residents Association ( vegetarians catered for .In addition there will be at least one of the Ward Councillor's present should you have something to wish to raise with them.

**Oak Farm Appeal** commences on Tuesday 14th January

As yet we are unaware of its location

## For your diary-February 2020

The Residents Association AGM will be held on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2020 in the Village Hall. Please put it in your diaries and come and hear what your Residents Association is doing and has done. Wine and nibbles afterwards.



## **OTHER NEWS:**

### **Village Hall**

Arrangements are in hand to install 5 new windows in the kitchen and toilet part of the hall .As many of you will know the wooden windows don't open and are passed their sell by date. The windows are being installed on the 4th December by The Window Centre of Solihull.

In order to enable improved wheelchair access to the toilet we have installed an opening outward toilet door with the correct door hardware

### **Coffee Morning 16th November**

Thanks to the residents who did make the effort to come to the recent coffee morning and enjoyed the variety of cakes on offer .We gained a couple of ideas form our community representative from Solihull MBC-Liz Hopkins who came along .

### **Streetwatch**

A further 4 volunteers were trained by our local PCSO and a further 4 are awaiting training. Due to a lack of suitable hi-viz jackets those that have been trained aren't able to start patrolling until they are in possession of this apparel .The Parish Council will be providing these volunteers with torches to enable them to patrol when we are probably most at risk

### **Planning**

Application 2019/02220 159 Lugtrout Lane PriorNotification of Change of Use to Children's Nursery

This has been refused as it cannot be considered to constitute permitted development.

### **Xmas tree and lighting the Hall**

Thank you to all who generously donated to our Xmas tree fund. By the time you read this the tree should be installed and if not lit will it should be within the next week. We have, courtesy of the Parish Council, installed an exterior electrical socket at the front of the Village Hall which will be used to light the front of the hall.

"Christmas Eve was a night of song that wrapped itself about you like a shawl. But it warmed more than your body. It warmed your heart...filled it, too, with melody that would last forever."

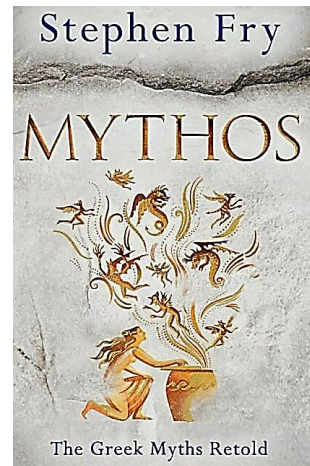
–Bess Streeter Aldrich, *Song of Years*



## BOOK REVIEW

### MYTHOS A Mythology by Stephen Fry

A Book Review by John Alderson



Stephen Fry, well known as a writer and broadcaster delivered this book as a one man show in Edinburgh which I understand lasted around seven or eight hours. What a marathon for both raconteur and his audience!

I'm not at all sure about this book. I'm not even sure whether I liked or not. I think not, because Greek mythology is not a particular interest of mine and trying to keep up with names and relationships of the Olympian gods and the lesser mortals, was a bit too much for me.

The ingenious way in which Fry links the names of these people of mythology and their activities to give us everyday words or expressions is certainly entertaining, and the sex drive of Zeus is quite astounding.

You don't need to be a classical scholar to read or to understand this book, but Fry shows us that he is and inserts a few complicated words here and there, but he does paint very good word pictures to allow you to follow his stories, but so many, one after another?

No, I'm still not sure.

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## Coffee Morning

Pat and Graham invite you to a coffee morning at 420 Lugtrout Lane on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December 10am until 12.30. There will be the usual bring and buy, tea, coffee and cakes. All proceeds will go to Marie Curie Hospice



## THE NEW NISA SHOP

Get ready to shop! We can see that the shop extension/refurbishment is nearing completion and will hopefully soon be ready to open. Do please support this great improvement to Catney facilities.

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### **Remembrance Sunday**

On Sunday 10th November we saw our Village Hall revert to a Church for our Remembrance Day Service. The service was a solemn but beautiful occasion and our thanks go to Beryl Moppet MBE for leading the service and Bruce Hart for the musical accompaniment. The font is the Village Memorial to all the fallen heroes from Catherine-de-Barnes who died in both WW1 and WW2.

The names of those who died during WW1 are engraved on a brass plaque which surrounds the top of the font and the names of the fallen from WW2 are engraved on brass plaques on the cover of the font. One of the names of the fallen from WW1 was originally, accidentally omitted and his name is engraved on the lid of a brass jug that sits on the base of the font.

Lesley Cuthbert



# A Bowl of Snow

(from 1594!)

## Disclaimer!

This is a very old recipe and I take NO responsibility for how it tastes!

Take a pottle (half a gallon!) of sweet thick Cream, and the white of eyght Eggs (8 eggs), and beate them altogether, with a spoone, then put them into your cream with a dishfull of Rosewater, and a dishfull of Sugar withall, then take a sticke and make it clene, and then cut it in the end foursquare, and therewith beat all the aforesaid things together, and ever as it ariseth take it off, and put it in to a Cullender, this doone, take a platter and setae an Apple in the midst of it, stick a thicke bush of Rosemary in the Apple. Then cast your Snow upon the Rosemary and fill your platter therewith, and if you have wafers cast some withall, and so serve them forth

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"I know what I really want for Christmas. I want my childhood back. Nobody is going to give me that. I might give at least the memory of it to myself if I try. I know it doesn't make sense, but since when is Christmas about sense, anyway? It is about a child, of long ago and far away, and it is about the child of now. In you and me. Waiting behind the door of our hearts for something wonderful to happen. A child who is impractical, unrealistic, simpleminded and terribly vulnerable to joy." –Robert Fulghum, *All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten*

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## Christmas Services at the Parish Church of Hampton in Arden.

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**22<sup>ND</sup> DECEMBER 6.30 PM.** SERVICE OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

**24<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 3 PM.** CRIB SERVICE – CHILDREN AND ADULTS CAN  
DRESS AS THEIR FAVOURITE NATIVITY  
CHARACTER

**11.30 PM** MIDNIGHT MASS

**25<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 8.15 AM** SAID CHRISTMAS SERVICE.  
**11.00 AM.** FAMILY CHRISTMAS SERVICE

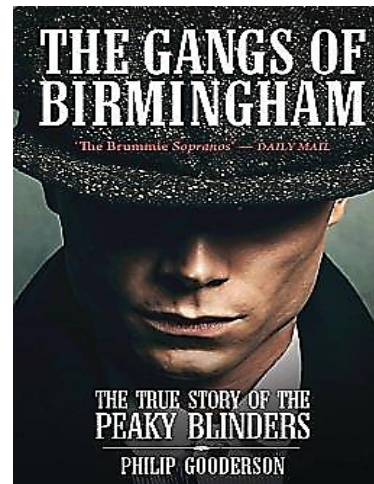
**29<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 8.15 AM.** SAID SERVICE **11.00 AM.** CAROL PRAISE  
**6.30 PM** CHORAL EVENSONG

## BOOK REVIEW

### THE GANGS OF BIRMINGHAM

The True Story of the Peaky Blinders

Philip Gooderson



A book review by John Alderson

I must confess, I was slightly taken in by the subtitle of this book, having seen some of the very watchable television series. The book was in fact first published in 2010, without the subtitle and is one of a series of stories of City Gangs.

The main draw to me – The Peaky Blinders – doesn't appear until chapter 16 and then as just a reference to them as another Gang who dressed differently.

I don't regard this as a well written book; it doesn't flow well and there is too much repetition. The interest really for me is in the location. The street names are in most cases familiar, making it difficult to relate the modern City of Birmingham with its state at the end of the nineteenth century.

Another criticism is the lack of more social and political context apart from the limited police force. The introducing of standard education and the building of schools was fundamental to the demise of the gangs, plus new housing development, but the political background to that is not explained.

An interesting subject if you are local – I have lived here over 50 years, most of them working in Birmingham – but not told too well.

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"Christmas is a bridge. We need bridges as the river of time flows past. Today's Christmas should mean creating happy hours for tomorrow and reliving those of yesterday."

–Gladys Taber



# Christmas Cracker Jokes

What does Santa suffer from if he gets stuck in a chimney?  
Claustrophobia!

Why does Santa have three gardens?  
So he can 'ho ho ho'!

Why did Santa go to the doctor?  
Because of his bad "elf"!

What kind of motorbike does Santa ride?  
A Holly Davidson!

What do you call a cat in the desert?  
Sandy Claws!

What did the sea Say to Santa?  
Nothing! It just waved!

What do you get if you cross Santa with a duck?  
A Christmas Quacker!

What says Oh Oh Oh?  
Santa walking backwards!

What goes Ho Ho Whoosh, Ho Ho Whoosh?  
Santa going through a revolving door!

Why does Santa go down the chimney on Christmas Eve?  
Because it 'soots' him!

Who is Santa's favorite singer?  
Elf-is Presley!

What do you call Santa's little helpers?  
Subordinate clauses!



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"One can never have enough socks," said Dumbledore. "Another Christmas has come and gone and I didn't get a single pair. People will insist on giving me books."

— J.K. Rowling, **Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone**





**IT'S TIME TO WATCH**  
**"IT'S A WONDERFUL**  
**LIFE!"**

It was:

300 years ago, on 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 1719 that John Flamsteed, British astronomer died. He was the first Astronomer Royal, and founder of the Greenwich Observatory.

150 years ago, on 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 1869 that Henri Matisse, the French artist, was born. He became leader of the Fauvist movement.

125 years ago, on 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec 1894 that Robert Louis Stevenson died. This Scottish novelist, short story writer, poet, essayist and travel writer was best known for his novels *Treasure Island*, *Kidnapped* and the *Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*.

Also 125 years ago, on 29<sup>th</sup> Dec 1894 that Christina Rossetti, British poet and hymn-writer, died.

100 years ago, on 1<sup>st</sup> Dec 1919 that Lady Nancy Astor became the first female Member of Parliament (MP) to take her seat in the House of Commons.

90 years ago, on 12<sup>th</sup> Dec 1929 that John Osborne, British playwright, screenwriter and producer, was born. He was the first of the Angry Young Men, and best known for his play *Look Back in Anger* (died 1994).

80 years ago, on 1<sup>st</sup> Dec 1939 that Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer made his first ever appearance, in a children's colouring book given away by Montgomery Ward stores in the USA.

75 years ago, on 16<sup>th</sup> Dec 1944 to 16<sup>th</sup> Jan 1945 that World War II's Battle of the Bulge took place in Belgium. It was the last major German counter-offensive of the war, and an Allied victory.

70 years ago, on 1<sup>st</sup> Dec 1949 that Pablo Escobar, Colombian drug lord, was born. Head of the Medellin cartel, and considered the world's most powerful drug trafficker of the 1980s and early 1990s. (Shot dead by police in 1993, though some say it was suicide.)

60 years ago, on 1<sup>st</sup> Dec 1959 that 12 countries including the UK and USA, signed the Antarctic Treaty, setting aside Antarctica as a scientific preserve free from military activity.

50 years ago, on 18<sup>th</sup> Dec 1969 that the British Government abolished the death penalty for murder.

40 years ago, on 20<sup>th</sup> Dec 1979 that the British Government announced that council tenants would be given the right to buy their homes under a new Housing Act (effective from October 1980)

30 years ago, on 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec 1989 that US President George H W Bush and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev announced the end of the Cold War at a meeting in Malta.

Also 30 years ago, on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 1989 that the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin was reopened, effectively reuniting East and West Germany.

20 years ago, on 1<sup>st</sup> Dec 1999 that an international team of scientists announced that they had mapped an entire human chromosome. (All human chromosomes were mapped by April 2003.)

Also 20 years ago, on 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec 1999 that the UK devolved political power in Northern Ireland to the Northern Ireland Assembly and Executive Committee.

Also 20 years ago, on 31 Dec 1999 that the London Eye, at that time the world's tallest Ferris wheel – was officially opened on the banks of the River Thames. Because of mechanical problems, it didn't open to passengers until 9<sup>th</sup> March 2000.

15 years ago, on 26<sup>th</sup> Dec 2004 that the Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami (also known as the Boxing Day Tsunami) took place. A massive undersea earthquake near Sumatra caused a devastating tsunami that swamped coastal areas in Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India, Thailand and Africa. It was one of the deadliest natural disasters in recorded history, killing over 230,000 people in 14 countries.

10 years ago, on 1<sup>st</sup> Dec 2009 that the Treaty of Lisbon came into effect. It amended the Maastricht Treaty and the Treaty of Rome, which form the constitutional basis of the European Union.



"To read a poem in January is as lovely as to go for a walk in June."  
- Jean-Paul Sartre

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"Bare branches of each tree on this chilly January morn  
look so cold so forlorn. Gray skies dip ever so low left from yesterday's dusting of  
snow. Yet in the heart of each tree waiting for each who wait to see  
new life as warm sun and breeze will blow, like magic, unlock springs sap to flow,  
buds, new leaves, then blooms will grow."  
- Nelda Hartmann, *January Morn*

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## **LOST AND FOUND**

I still have a large white cake box with no name on it, left over from the Mamillan coffee morning. It did contain chocolate cup cakes with chocolate orange segment decoration on top. Would the owner please contact me Lesley Cuthbert on 07776 480813 or cuthbertlm@me.com and you can be reunited 😊

## **With New Year on the way**

I find that distance lends enchantment to bagpipes. *William Blezard*

The second day of a New Year's diet is always easier than the first. By the second day you're off it. *Jackie Gleason*

Bargain: it's easy to recognise one, it doesn't fit.

Happiness is made to be shared. French proverb

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"January is the quietest month in the garden. ... But just because it looks quiet doesn't mean that nothing is happening. The soil, open to the sky, absorbs the pure rainfall while microorganisms convert tilled-under fodder into usable nutrients for the next crop of plants. The feasting earthworms tunnel along, aerating the soil and preparing it to welcome the seeds and bare roots to come."  
- Rosalie Muller Wright, Editor of *Sunset Magazine*, 1/99



## Fish Pie Jackets

4 large baking potatoes  
Olive oil for rubbing  
75g butter  
300ml milk  
1 bay leaf  
6 black peppercorns  
260g pack sustainable fish pie mix (we used Waitrose)  
180g sustainable peeled prawns  
25g plain flour  
75ml dry white wine  
Grated zest and juice 1 lemon  
A few fresh chives, snipped  
Handful fresh parsley, chopped  
1 tsp wholegrain mustard

50g hard cheese (such as cheddar), grated

## Method

1. Heat the oven to 200°C/180°C fan/gas 6. Prick the potatoes all over with a fork, then rub with oil and salt. Bake on a baking tray for 1 hour or until cooked through. When cool enough to handle, cut roughly 2cm off the top of each potato (reserve to serve as skins). Scoop out the potato flesh into a bowl, leaving a 1cm potato shell. Mash the flesh with 50g butter and season. Set aside.
2. Warm the milk in a medium pan with the bay and peppercorns, then add the fish and prawns and poach for 3 minutes or until just cooked. Transfer the fish and prawns to a plate using a slotted spoon and keep warm. Discard the bay/peppercorns and reserve the poaching milk.
3. Melt the remaining butter in a separate medium pan and whisk in the flour. Cook for 3-4 minutes, then slowly whisk in the wine and reserved poaching milk. Simmer, stirring, for 10 minutes until thickened. Add the lemon zest and juice (to taste), herbs and mustard, then stir in the fish and prawns.
4. Spoon the fish and sauce into the potato shells and top with the mash and cheese. Put on a baking tray with the crispy potato skins on the side and bake for 20 minutes until piping hot and the cheese is golden.
5. Fill with the sauce up to 24 hours ahead, cool and chill, covered. Bake in a hot oven for 25-30 minutes until golden brown.

