

CATNEY NEWS

2020

FEBRUARY



CONTACTS

Frances Cook, Secretary to the Residents Association:

secretary@catney.co.uk 0776 8502039

Catney News: Please send all articles to Christine Cluley, 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 Twitter account: @CatneyResAssoc

Website of Residents Association: www.catney.co.uk

NEWS FROM YOU RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Residents Association AGM Wednesday 26th February commencing 7.30pm

Members are invited to attend the Associations AGM where a summary of the years activities and finances will be presented .Cllr Bob Sleight will be in attendance and will provide an update re our local planning issues. The AGM will be followed by wine and nibbles

Carols Round the Tree. Held on 15th December

Following the successful event held the previous year the December 2019 event surpassed all attendance expectations being enjoyed by over 40 residents, friends, children and dogs. . Members of Catney Chorus ,who use the village hall for carol practice, accompanied us in the carols singing, Once again Mr. Kim Rawson, Musical Director and Organist from Hampton Church and Balsall Common provided excellent musical accompaniment . Residents were able to enjoy mulled wine, mice pies and seasonal nibbles accompanied by further renditions by the Chorus.



Christmas Eve Crib Service

The Crib Service was as in previous years, well attended and it was pleasing to welcome a number of new faces. Several residents commented on the success and how much they enjoyed the service. Thanks to all those who put so much effort into making it a joyous occasion.

Butty Breakfast held Saturday 11th January

The first event organised by the Association this year proved a great hit with residents. During the course of the 2 hours over 50 sausages, 8 veggie sausages and 56 rashers of bacon went into the mornings butties . As well as some new faces one of our local councillors Cllr Bob Sleight paid a visit for a coffee and a chat with the locals and residents were able to talk with two of our parish ward councillors Giles Cook and Dave Cuthbert with some concerns and thought. The committee would like to thank

all those who made the event a success and for the generous donations totalling £80 which generated a surplus for Association funds of £15.

Planning Update

Oak Farm Care Village Appeal

Residents will recall that SMBC refused a second planning application by Minton Homes for a Continuing care Facility on the Oak Farm site last year. The applicant lodged an appeal which was held at the Arden Hotel and ran from 14th to the morning of the 17th January . As part of the enquiry the Planning Inspector visited a similar care village development as well as a visit to the application site. As part of the site was in green belt and most development in the green belt is deemed to be inappropriate unless very special circumstances can be established . Opening submissions were presented by both parties, which was followed by each party being cross examined by the others lawyer with final submissions being presented on the last morning. Probably the main point of difference whether or not there is an urgent need that needed fulfilling. The Inspector needs to make a decision by 12. March.

CATNEY BOOK SWAP



As the mobile library doesn't visit the village anymore and it may be difficult for some people to get into Solihull Library we have decided to run a 'Book Swap' in The Village Hall. This will be open for 2 hours on a Wednesday afternoon from 2.00 p.m till 4.00 p.m when the Craft Group will be in the hall. In order to keep a decent level and choice of books on offer the idea will be, if you have one book you swap it for one book, if you have two books you swap them for up to two books, three books up to three and so on. Books should be in good condition in order that others may enjoy them and they should fall into the following categories : Fiction, Biographies, Autobiographies and Children's books. Initially the Residents Association are providing 2 small book cases, which will be located on the stage area, and if it is a success more book cases will be provided. Please feel free to come and swap your books at any time while the Craft Club is in the hall and if you are lucky and arrive to swap your books while the Craft Club are having a cup of tea you may be lucky and get one too.

The first Book Swap will commence on Wednesday 5th February.

Lesley Cuthbert

February,
please be nice!

CATNEY CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR

It seems so long ago now but on 30th November 2019 we held our 4th annual Christmas Craft Fair in the Village Hall. This was a great success and we are pleased to say that we raised £667.50, however after this sum had been announced money was contributed anonymously rounding the figure up to £700. The windows in the kitchen area and the toilet in the Hall have had to be replaced and the money we have raised has gone towards paying for these. Our thanks go to our generous anonymous donor, everyone who made all the lovely cakes for the refreshments, everyone who helped out on the day and of course all of you who came and spent your money.

We have a date for your brand new 2020 diaries, our 5th annual Christmas Craft Fair will be held on 28th November 2020 from 11.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. in the Village Hall. Below are a few pictures from last November.

Lesley Cuthbert, Liz Boxall and John Evans

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Cats Eyes

I'm pleased to report that our crime and security WhatsApp group "Cats Eyes" is in good health and we now have 126 participants. The police have commented positively on how well residents seem to be informed of local incidents whenever they've had cause to do house-to-house enquiries. A spate of break-ins and attempts to steal cars in November seems to have resulted in little success for the criminals, albeit with some damage to property. The police say criminals tend to move on when they have little success in an area and indeed this seems to have happened - for now. So the best thing we can do for ourselves and our community is keep our own property and our keys secure. The police are adamant that this criminal activity is unacceptable and are taking it very seriously. We need to both help ourselves and work with them. Knowing that the Carols at Christmas community is actively supportive is also a good morale boost for the police.

The police have also asked for a list of those properties that have CCTV. Thanks to all who've sent details - we now have 34 properties on the list. If you have CCTV of any kind, would like your property to be on the list and have not notified Chris Elston, please see email address below.

If you are not a member, wish to join and are a WhatsApp user please email Chris Elston on elstonc@sky.com giving your name, mobile phone number and the street on which you live.

StreetWatch

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CATNEY CRICKET CLUB

On the 16th January I was advised of a Fire at the Club (Thankfully not in the Buildings) but I understand that it alarmed some people and the Fire Brigade were called,


I have found out who was responsible and although not a member of the Club he is well known to us and thought it would not be an issue,

On behalf of the Cricket club may I apologise for any inconvenience or concern that it caused anybody and rest assured I have taken steps to ensure it doesn't happen again,

Regards Eddie , Chairman,
Catherine de Barnes CC

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Email - dance@allaboutswing.co.uk




Phone
Rob or Sarah
07807 033385

All About Swing **DANCE CLASSES**

Coming to
Catherine-de-Barnes, Solihull
Beginner & Intermediate Classes
Starting 5th February 2020

Catney Village Hall
Hampton Lane
Catherine-de-Barnes
Solihull
West Midlands
B91 2TJ



scan here to view the website!

AllAboutSwing.co.uk

ARE YOU A MEMBER OF THE CATNEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION?

If not, please join us and if you have been a member in the past, please stay with us and ensure you have paid your subscriptions in the next couple of weeks. You should have received a membership form through your door for completion. This will also have the membership fees detailed, which have not increased. If you have not received a form, please contact Frances Cook, or a member of the Residents Association.

Your Residents Association works tirelessly for the village, to protect it, improve it and to ensure you can continue to have a pleasant environment in which to live.

Details of what the Residents Association do are listed on the last page of this edition.

Members will receive a membership card.

Repair to canal towpath – September to December 2019

When the notices went up that the canal towpath between Catney bridge and Damson Parkway would be closed for 3 months, many of us were surprised that any work would take that long and why should we be excluded from the whole stretch while the work went on. The argument was that during the work heavy plant would be going back and forth along the path from their depot the other side of Henwood Lane Bridge, making it unsafe for walkers.

Many of you, especially the dog walkers were vexed that the work should take so long and now the work is finished, I have heard other residents are vexed that the condition of the towpath is now better than Lugtrout Lane!

As I back onto the canal, I have been able to keep an eye on the work being done, and I can say that some scary stuff went on, especially if you had a boat. Heavy equipment was brought into place on the back of boats pushed along by tugs. A difficult manoeuvre which demanded someone who knew how to steer and control and not be distracted. I was a regular observer of the progress and I took photographs, partly out of interest and partly in case I came back one day to find my boat sunk because it had been run into by a Canal and River Trust boat.

For those of you who remember the path before it had been worked on, it was generally muddy for most of the wet season and there was an area where the piling was bulging out into the canal, with the potential to cave into the canal. They did a lot of work there pulling out the old piling and replacing it with new piling and some of the that activity is shown in the photographs. For the rest of the towpath, the edging has been improved so that the whole surface could be tarmacked, and that process was fun to watch and is also shown in the photographs.

We now have a dry walk all the way to Damson Parkway and I hope residents are taking advantage of this. The path was used by cyclists before and now it is in better condition it is likely to be in greater use by cyclists and I hope that they do not abuse the path by going too fast and ignoring other users

Liz Boxall



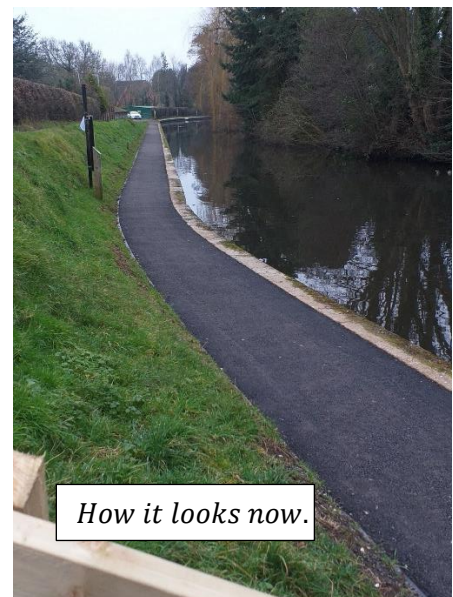
Taking out the old piling



Piling removed, old piling can be seen on canal bank



Putting in new piling



How it looks now.

StreetWatch

StreetWatch is a scheme run by the police whereby local residents carry out patrols of their neighbourhood in groups of at least two people just to show a presence and keep an eye on things. Streets that have people walking them are safer than those that are deserted and the presence of someone in a hi-viz jacket in itself deters antisocial activity. We now have 11 members trained but inevitably even with that number the time we have someone on the streets is limited so more members are welcome. Contact Chris Elston if you are interested. If you see our Street Watchers out and about do say hello and let us know of any areas of concern you may have as we can pass these on to the police. When we walk the streets in the early evening it's quite obvious which houses are unoccupied so please consider lighting to make your house look lived in when you are away.

And thanks to the Parish Council for issuing our StreetWatchers with some splendid torches for use on these dark evenings.

Chris Elston

VALENTINE'S DAY 14TH FEBRUARY

Valentine greetings were popular as far back as the Middle Ages, though written Valentine's didn't begin to appear until after 1400. The oldest known valentine still in existence today was a poem written in 1415 by Charles, Duke of Orleans, to his wife while he was imprisoned in the [Tower of London](#) following his capture at the [Battle of Agincourt](#). (The greeting is now part of the manuscript collection of the British Library in London, England.) Several years later, it is believed that King [Henry V](#) hired a writer named John Lydgate to compose a valentine note to Catherine of Valois

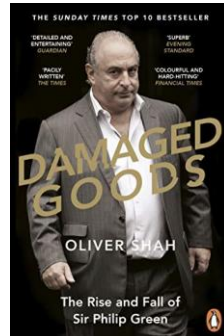
In Great Britain, Valentine's Day began to be popularly celebrated around the 17th century.

By the middle of the 18th, it was common for friends and lovers of all social classes to exchange small tokens of affection or handwritten notes, and by 1900 printed cards began to replace written letters due to improvements in printing technology. Ready-made cards were an easy way for people to express their emotions in a time when direct expression of one's feelings was discouraged. Cheaper postage rates also contributed to an increase in the popularity of sending Valentine's Day greetings.

BOOK REVIEW

DAMAGED GOODS

A Book Review by John Alderson



an Investigation by Oliver Shah

The full title of this book is *“Damaged Goods: The Inside Story of Sir Philip Green, the Collapse of BHS and the death of the High Street”*. It was written by the award-winning Business Editor of the Sunday Times, Oliver Shah.

Shah who had many direct conversations with Green tells the story of Green’s life from a wealthy background in north London through his initial failures, gradually making contacts in the rag trade, many of whom were very dubious characters indeed, through the collapse of Amber Day, from which he managed to make a few million, to his takeover of Sears, Charlie Clore’s old company, billionaire status, knighthood, takeover of BHS and its subsequent sale to an effective bankrupt for £1.00 and the subsequent hiatus over the pension fund.

On the way we see the career of a very ruthless, self opiniated, vicious and loud mouthed, thoroughly unpleasant man unfold. His motive, and that of his wife to a great degree, was always greed and money, with no interest in who would suffer along the way.

This is an entertaining book in a way, but it is also very disturbing and would not be to everyone’s liking.

Packwood Breakfast Tours 2020

Thu Feb 20 2020 at 09:00 am

Packwood House, Packwood Lane, Lapworth (National Trust)

Start the day with a delicious breakfast followed by an exclusive tour of the house displayed just as Baron Ash intended his guests to view the house.

Come and hear the stories behind key pieces of the Packwood collection.

VEGAN PANCAKES

- 220g of plain flour
- 680ml of almond milk, maybe more to loosen
- 1/2 tsp [salt](#)
- 5 tbsp of vegetable oil, (or other neutral-flavoured oil) plus extra to cook the pancakes

Method

Add the flour and salt to a mixing bowl and make a well in the centre. Gradually pour in the almond milk, whisking as you go until you get a smooth batter

Add the oil and whisk until smooth and combined

Heat a tiny dash of oil in a non-stick pan. Once hot, add a fine coating of the batter to the bottom and tilt the pan so it spreads out into a nice circle

Relax for a few minutes while the batter firms up – when the wobbly softness goes, pop a spatula under an edge to see how its coming along underneath. Once golden on the underside, flip it!

Keep cooking until the underside is also golden. Keep a close eye on it as I noticed that this side burnt a lot easier than the first side

Move onto a plate and keep warm while you cook the rest. Enjoy!

18th to the 23rd February at the NEC: The Caravan, Camping and Motorhome Show.

Coffee Morning Results

Many thanks to all who came to the coffee morning held at Pat and Graham's house in December. They hope you all enjoyed the morning and they are pleased to be able to donate £125 to our local Marie Curie Hospice. A special thanks to Dot and all who helped on the day.

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The next Ladies Breakfast will be on the 8th February at 9 am in Hampton in Arden Church Hall. All ladies from Catherine de Barnes are invited, so do come along and enjoy some breakfast and make new friends.

What do the Residents Association do and why should I join?

The Residents Association committee members and helpers are busy people. Here is a list of some of the things we do:

- Monitor planning applications applicable to the locality, keep residents informed and send responses to the council
- Represent your views to the appropriate authorities, by attending meetings and writing to SMBC planning
- Publish a regular newsletter, the Catney News, distributed throughout the Village in hard copy or via e-mail
- Maintain an email circulation list to keep residents informed instantly of news and developments, and to get quick feedback on their opinions.
- Promote community activities such as Butty Breakfasts, quiz nights, carol singing to develop and strengthen community spirit.
- Monitor the local environment (eg: streetlights, footpaths, potholes, fly-tipping) and contact HPC and SMBC on behalf of residents
- Work with the Village Hall trustees to preserve this valuable asset
- Maintain close relationships with Hampton Parish Councillors, Solihull Councillors and our MP
- Support the Friends of Catney Common in their work
- Maintain our web site www.catney.co.uk
- Represent the community on Birmingham Airport Consultative Committees and Working Groups
- Contribute to the C de B Facebook page
- Support initiatives like Streetwatch and Cat's Eyes
- Post regular notifications of local burglary and other crimes - helping to keeping our village safe.

WANTED: stair gate which can be fitted without screwing into the wall. Contact Liz Boxall 0121 705 7531, 07939 073416 or liz@boxall.info

