

CATNEY NEWS



2021



MAY



CONTACTS

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All articles need to be with Chris by the 20th of the month

Village Hall bookings: Gareth Thomas on 07796268012 or

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NEWS FROM YOUR RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Planning

New link road -M42 jct 6 improvement .

No doubt most of you will have seen the 'devastation' left after the removal by the contractors of the trees and hedgerows along Catherine de Barnes Lane. We have received numerous complaints regarding the fact that the removal is taking place during 'nesting' time. The contractors are working under a permit scheme and have been assured that where nests are found it is evaluated by an ecologist and a decision made whether to cease work or continue. We have also been assured that the only vegetation/trees being removed are those vital for the completion of the project. The contractors are contractually obliged to replace trees etc on a 7:1 basis but that will be some years off when the project is nearing completion. In conjunction with the Parish Council, we meet regularly with representatives of Skanska to discuss all aspects of the project. The 'pain' will be with us for some time yet.

PL/2020/01821 351 Lugtrout Lane - 2 detached self -build dwellings.

You will recall following objections from the Association and the Parish Council the application was refused by SMBC following which the applicant launched an appeal with the Planning Inspectorate. We have recently learnt that the appeal has been dismissed by the Inspector upholding the decision to refuse on the grounds of inappropriate development in the Green Belt, contrary to Policy P17 in the Solihull Local Plan 2013. We hope this sets a precedent in protecting all the remaining open fields on the north side of Lugtrout Lane.

Village Hall

The Trustees plan to re-open the Hall to regular hirers from 17th May. No children's' party bookings are being accepted until the final step is confirmed in June.

The hall will be open as our Polling Station on Thursday 6th May – don't forget to vote!!!

A couple of Trustees plan to visit a local Village Hall at the end of April which has had the double- glazing product fitted that they are hoping to install in our hall and all being well the order will have been placed by the time you read this.

Many of you will have noticed the exterior paintwork, particularly the Joseph Gillott motif at the front of the hall has been spruced up as had some of the paintwork inside the hall. We are hoping to run a "defibrillator training session "in the hall later in the month – to date we have 7 residents who have expressed an interest but please let Dave (07824 696137) know if you are interested in joining a training session

Social – Activities

We are hoping to hold out first Butty Brunch since pre- Covid-19 on Saturday 10th July from 10.00am 'til 12.00 but this will be dependent upon the Covid-19 regulations operating at the time.

More information in next month's edition

Catney Common

To try and encourage more wildflowers on the Common, funds were obtained from the Parish Council to lay 16m² of Wildflower Meadow Turf just behind the Catney Common sign and a group of volunteers laid the turf at the end of March. In addition, nearly 100 wildflower plugs were planted by Dot, Heather and Liz in the corner area by the access road to the Dell Fingers crossed we look forward to seeing the results of our labours in the not- too- distant future.

We also managed to secure a small mountain of wood chippings from the contractor doing the Catherine de Barnes Lane work which was dropped on the Common. Thanks to a group of volunteers about 1/3rd of the heap has been used for the resurfacing of paths etc. on the Common.

SPARE WOOD CHIPPINGS

However, we have sufficient volumes of spare wood chippings for members to be able to take some for their personal use. If you wish to take advantage of this offer and collect some chippings, please remember to keep the road free for the residents to maintain access to their properties. Please try to be a tidy as you can-keeping the spread of the chippings to a small an area as possible.

You will need a spade and large container/s of course.

Thank You

Airport Matters

A representative of the Association, as a member of the Airport Noise Working Group, met virtually with representatives of the Airport Company and other community group members to discuss the current Government Night-Time Noise Consultation dealing with various aspects of a potential national night time policy. Both the Airport Company and the community group represented on the Airport Consultative Committee are opposed to a national policy i.e., a one size fits all solution and prefer a "locally negotiated "policy with the backing of our Local Authority. This has been successful so far as Birmingham Airport has one of the most stringent Night- Time Policy of all UK Airports.

The consultation, in two parts, can be viewed on the Gov.Uk website - Night Flying Restrictions

Our representative who sits as a Trustee on the Airport Community Trust Fund Committee is attending a virtual meeting on the 27th April when the Committee are considering 33 grant applications.

Dates for the Diary

The next Residents Association Committee Meeting will be held on Tuesday 4th May. If you wish to raise any issue with the Committee you are welcome to address the meeting for 3 minutes at the beginning of the meeting - please contact secretary@catney.co.uk or leave a message on 07768 502039 with your contact details and email address and you will be sent an invitation. You can also raise an issue by emailing the email address above with your question.

Hampton in Arden Parish Council AGM Wednesday 12th May via TEAMS – In the event you wish to attend please contact clerk@hamptoninarden.org.uk or phone Julie Barnes on 01675 442017 for an invitation.

The Boat Inn

Following the relaxation of Covid-19 regulations Dan Morgan (the new General Manager) has advised that the current thinking is that the pub will be opening its doors at 8.30am on Thursday 20th May – look forward to seeing you there!!



DO YOU TAKE YOUR DOG FOR A WALK EVERY DAY?

Let's work together to walk around Europe on a 'Virtual European Holiday' as we can't get away this year and help raise vital funds for our homeless dogs with every step. Help us reach our goal of 6,000 miles in 31 days during National Walking Month. Everyone commits to walking a certain number of steps or miles throughout May and we log our own achievements on this website which helps show everyone's progress. More details on the Birmingham Dogs Home website. Or go straight to www.taketheleadtogether.org.uk

IMPORTANT NEWS

CATNEY NEWS DISTRIBUTION

After many discussions, the committee has decided that we can no longer deliver the Catney News to residents who are not members of the Association. This edition will be the last that goes to everyone in the village. We will also review the list of email subscribers and stop sending the News and other updates to those who have not joined. The Catney News will only be posted on the website at the end of each month. So please renew your membership as soon as you can – it's never too late!

We also encourage all members, if possible, to give us their email address. Your address will only be used for Residents Association business and will never be passed on to third parties. The online News is in glorious colour and you will also get occasional updates about local issues. If you have moved away from the village do please let us know so we can update our records.

RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPEAL 2021

A huge thank you to everyone who has joined this year and for your fees and generous donations. We have 185 members to date and your support for the hard-working committee members and volunteers is truly appreciated. We are very aware that our influence in local affairs depends on our membership numbers.

If you have forgotten to join don't miss out. The annual subscription fees are £3 for individuals, £5 for couples and £10 for a family of 4 or more adults. It is very much appreciated if households can contribute £10 to help cover our annual costs.

Please put your name(s), address, telephone number and email (if you have one) with your cheque or cash in an envelope and leave it at the NISA or at 9, Oakfields Way. You can also pay direct to the Residents' Association account – please contact me for the details.

Everyone who has joined should have received a membership card as a receipt so please get in touch if you haven't had one.

Thank you!

Frances Cook (secretary@catney.co.uk) (07768 502039)



Alone we
can do so
little; together
we can do
so much.
-Helen Keller

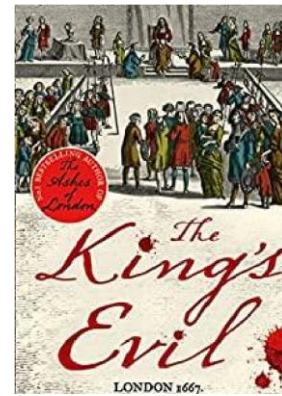
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BOOK REVIEW

THE KING'S EVIL

An historical novel by Andrew Taylor

A Book Review by John Alderson



Andrew Taylor, an English author now living in the Forest of Dean, has a high reputation for writing historical novels and has received numerous awards for his work.

'The King's Evil' is one of a series of novels involving James Marwood, clerk to Joseph Williamson who in turn is Undersecretary of State to Lord Arlington, and his friend Catherine (Cat) Lovett.

It is the 17th. Century in England with Charles II on the throne in the aftermath of the Great Fire.

The story begins with the King holding an audience for the sick, in particular those suffering from scrofula, which is given the name 'the King's Evil' because the King's hands apparently have the ability to cure the affliction.

James Marwood is witnessing the ceremony, when Lady Quincy, whose second husband has recently been found murdered, secretly advised Marwood that his friend Cat is being accused of the crime, and wishes to know where she might be found.

Marwood does not accept this and the story then develops not only to find Cat and establish her innocence but exposes much plotting and intrigue in the Court, particularly between two of the King's highest advisers Buckingham and Clarendon.

Quite a part of the story involves Marwood and Lady Quincy taking a coach trip to Cambridge and East Anglia which gives a fascinating insight into travel and ordinary life at the time.

As those who read my reviews know, my favourite historical novelist is C J Sansom and, whilst this is quite an interesting tale, is not in my view, in the same class.





You'll also need

15cm grill-safe frying pan

Roast chicken and asparagus soufflé omelette

This comforting, pillowy soufflé omelette combines leftover roast chicken and glorious spring asparagus into a tasty and thrifty meal for one.

Ingredients

½ bunch asparagus (about 200g)

3 medium free-range eggs, separated

10g parmesan, finely grated, plus extra to serve

15g unsalted butter

70g leftover roast chicken, shredded

20g gruyère or extra-mature cheddar, finely grated

Watercress to serve (optional)

Method

Heat the grill to hot. Bring a pot of salted water to the boil, cook the asparagus for 2 minutes, then drain and refresh under cold water. Slice in half lengthways, then set aside.

Whisk the egg yolks in a large bowl with the parmesan and a pinch of salt. Put the egg whites in a separate large clean bowl and whisk to soft peaks that flop over when you remove the whisk.

Using a large metal spoon, fold half the whisked egg whites into the egg yolk mixture to loosen, then add the remaining whites and carefully fold together until just combined.

Melt the butter in the frying pan over a medium heat until it starts to foam. Working quickly, put the asparagus in a layer in the base of the pan, then pour over the egg mixture, sprinkle with the chicken and cook for 2 minutes.

Sprinkle the omelette with the grated gruyère/cheddar, then put the pan under the grill until the omelette has puffed up and the cheese has just melted and started to turn golden. Slide a palette knife around the edges of the omelette to loosen, then fold it in half.

Sprinkle with parmesan and top with watercress, if you like.

WHAT TO PLANT IN YOUR GARDEN IN MAY

Gardeners are keen to get planting but we need to keep an eye on the weather - so what can we plant in May?

Plant outside now In the veg plot: **Broad beans, Runner beans, Peas, Onions, Garlic, Carrots, salad crops, Leeks, Strawberries.**

In the garden: all hardy perennials & evergreens. These are plants you may buy from the garden centre or online, which are described as hardy. In terms of annuals you can plant out **Sweet peas**, and Sow hardy annuals where they are to flower such as **Sunflowers, Cornflowers, Zinnia, Nasturtium, Calendula, Nigella, and Cerinthe major 'Purpurascens'.**

Delay planting outside: Even in May the weather can still be cold and some plants are best under glass and / or delay planting out at the end of the month or Early June. These are the more tender vegetables which are: **French Beans, Squashes, Cucumbers, Tomatoes, Melon, Chillies, Aubergine Sweet corn, Courgettes and Sweet peppers.**

May is tomato time, buy plants to grow on in the greenhouse, or late in May when all risk of frost has passed tomatoes can be planted out in the veg plot in a sunny spot. Tomatoes need attention to produce a good crop.

By the very end of May/early June everywhere in the country is usually frost free, and it is safe to plant out tender Bedding plants, and non-hardy plants such as **Agapanthus (some), Canna Lilly, Dahlias.**



Photo from Canal Bridge, Catney circa 1925 Showing bakery.

CATNEY CRICKET CLUB

The Season has now started and there will be matches on Saturday and Sunday Afternoons through to End of September,

There is practice at the Ground each Wednesday from 5.45 PM throughout the Season,

From Tuesday 11th May we will be holding Kids practice details as follows:

All Stars ages 5-8 from 5 till 5.14 PM

Dynamos ages 8-11 from 6 till 7 PM

If you have a child that may be interested go onto the ECB website and book in,

If you require further information please let me know,

Eddie Hewitt

Chairman

07826 465805



Photo of Bickenhill Lane, Catney, circa 1925 Is that the Button factory on the right?

Walks from Catney – the second in an occasional series

Walk 2: Elmdon Park, Bickenhill and Shadow Brook Lane Circular 7.7 miles

By Neil Smith

Walk 2 includes some bits of busy road so take care. It is 7.7 miles, mostly flat, very muddy in places. Please keep dogs on leads on farmland and face oncoming traffic when walking on roads.

1. Starting outside Longfellows, head across the canal bridge and turn left into Bickenhill Lane.
2. Walk past the Common and through to the end of the lane and turn left onto Catherinede-Barnes Lane.
3. Follow the road for 0.4 miles and cross the stile to your left just after Four Winds. Take the footpath diagonally across the field and then north with the Gaelic sports ground to your right.
4. Go through the kissing gate and after another 200 yards there is an (easy-to-miss) crossroads in the footpath where the path from the clubhouse crosses. Take the left path at this crossroads and head across the field away from the sports ground. Go down the steps to cross the stream and head diagonally across the next field.
5. Go through the double gates and bear left to head north-west until you come to the gate in front of the farm at Castle Hills.
6. Go through the kissing gate and cross the tracks. Keep the farm buildings on your left then head west.
7. Follow the obvious path for 0.6 miles until you come out on Damson Parkway.
8. Turn left then cross the road just before the second set of lights. Head up the road into Elmdon Park with the football ground to your right.
9. Follow the road past the church, continuing straight on then sharp right. Follow the road / track (marked “no exit”) passing in front of The Grange. Continue into the open park and cross the middle of the park and through the trees until you come out on the A45 next to the old gatehouse where you turn right.
10. Thankfully, you are only on the A45 for 400 yards (including crossing Damson Parkway). Turn right into Old Damson Lane just after Adnan’s.
11. After 200 yards on Old Damson lane there is a marked footpath to your left just after the rugby club. Follow the footpath / track for 0.4 miles. When the track turns right (very muddy / rutted) there is a gate and footbridge on your left, partially obscured by undergrowth. Cross the footbridge and turn right following the path parallel to the brook.
12. The path turns left away from the brook. Keeping the edge of the field to your right head for the far corner of the field. Keep heading east across a double farm track and then keep following the clearly marked footpath still heading east until you reach Catherine-de-Barnes Lane.

13. Cross the road and follow the short stretch of footpath into Bickenhill. Turn right onto St Peters Lane and after 200 yards carry straight on into Hazel Farm rather than follow the main road sharp right. The road / track passes some buildings and heads down and then opens into fields.
14. Cross the first field and over the stile. Then bear right aiming for the left-hand edge of the large clump of trees (surrounding a pool) in the middle of the field. From the pool carry on across the field and cross the bridge over the M42.
15. Keep going straight after crossing the M42 and after 150 yards when you enter the next field bear right heading diagonally across the field south-east (or follow the edges of the field if the field is too muddy / rutted) to find the stile which takes you across another three fields until you come out on Shadow Brook Lane.
16. Turn right onto Shadow Brook Lane and follow it back over the M42 before taking the footpath on your left immediately after the motorway bridge.
17. Immediately after the second kissing gate turn right and follow the path away from the motorway. After you cross a stile carry on across the next short field but turn left before exiting the field. The path is not distinct but follow the fence / hedge on your right across the fields until you reach a field end in front of the farm with a stile on your right.
18. Cross the stile and follow the track through the kissing gate and into the farm. Bear left through the farm and come out on Solihull Road.
19. Turn right and stay on the verges (crossing where necessary) to make your way back into the village.

At the time of writing, you can still do the last part of this walk but if the footpath from Shadow Brook Lane is closed for relief road works you will have to stay on Shadow Brook Lane and come back via Catherine-de-Barnes Lane.

For those who receive the Catney News in hard copy, a colour version of the map is posted on the Catney Facebook page.



