

# CATNEY NEWS

## 2021 JULY



### CONTACTS

Frances Cook, Secretary to the Residents Association:

[secretary@catney.co.uk](mailto:secretary@catney.co.uk) 0776 8502039 Frances also looks after the Twitter account: @CatneyResAssoc and the Website of the Residents Association: [www.catney.co.uk](http://www.catney.co.uk)

Catney News: Please send all articles to Christine Cluley, Editor, on [cluleychris8@outlook.com](mailto:cluleychris8@outlook.com) or ring 01675 442728

All articles need to be with Chris by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month

Village Hall bookings: Gareth Thomas on 07796268012 or [gareth10637@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:gareth10637@hotmail.co.uk)



## **NEWS FROM YOUR RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION**

### **Solihull Road Closure**

The Committee apologises for not being able to provide earlier notice of this road closure. Neither us nor the Parish Council were made aware of the closure until 9<sup>th</sup> June, only a day or so before the signs went up. The nature of the M42 Junction 6 works allows the contractor to make what arrangements they see fit within the area of development known as the RED Line Boundary. An urgent meeting was arranged between the PC/Skanska (the contractor) and SMBC but unfortunately have not managed to get the closure rescinded or postponed. Hopefully you will have seen the recent info sheet issued by HE about closure which details the positive aspects of the closure – reduced traffic on local roads and the project length reduced by about 6 months.

Things are about to get much worse with works to Catherine de Barnes reconfiguration, as well as the Solihull Road diversion taking place.

Highways England are holding a roadshow/update session in the Village Hall on the 27<sup>th</sup> July 2.00pm until 8.00pm where residents will be able to discuss their concerns and see the plans and what's coming.

### **Planning Update**

#### **Application 2015/51409: Motorway Service Area Catherine de Barnes**

Many thanks to those who have submitted a response to the Planning Inspectorate (a copy of the Association response is available to view on our website). The inquiry is due to start on 12<sup>th</sup> October and is due to last 16 days. We understand there is a chance that the inquiry will be held virtually but we have made a request to Cllr Bob Sleight to make representation for the meeting to be held in public – Covid -19 conditions permitting. We have decided not to speak at the enquiry as we feel SMBC will be presenting a robust defence of their decision to refuse the application and feel that any contribution from us would add little. The inquiry will deal with both applications simultaneously. Let's hope that the

Inspector sees things the way we do and dismisses the appeal. Keep your fingers crossed.

### **Application 2020/02792 reconfiguration of the WGAA pitches with new clubhouse and car parking facilities**

Mott Macdonald (the applicant) has provided additional information to SMBC Planning as requested by the Planning Committee when it deferred its decision. The application is going- before the Planning Committee on the 14<sup>th</sup> July. Any residents who wish to make a response can do so before the 7<sup>th</sup> July and we draw your attention to the documents entitled “Community Use Agreement” which outlines the conditions/hours whereby the Community can use the new facilities including the clubhouse. The agreement will last for 11 years. The Parish Council and the Association have been pushing for the facilities to be used on. a free of charge basis but regret we have not been successful and market rates will apply

### **Application 2020/02784 : Erection of a triple combined tepee at Newlands Bishop Farm facility**

No further information available.

### **Village Hall**

Hopefully you will have received a flyer outlining our thoughts concerning installing a children’s’ play area at the rear of the hall. We want to know how many children, and their ages might use such a facility. If you have children and haven’t yet responded to the flyer, please email [cuthbertlm@me.com](mailto:cuthbertlm@me.com) with details of the ages so we can get an idea of who might use it in the foreseeable future. We are due to meet with suppliers over the next few weeks and put together a budget and then we will pursue at least a couple of sources of possible funding.

The windows have now been surveyed and the double -glazing, funded by Community Infrastructure Levy money from the Parish Council, will be installed in October – ready for the winter.

### **Social Event**

Due to Step4 being delayed, the Butty Breakfast will not now take place. We will revisit the situation during August with the view of arranging a similar event sometime in September.

## **Defibrillator Training**

Following on from the installation of the defibrillator outside the Nisa shop, 8 people were successfully trained on its use in a defib training in the hall on 1<sup>st</sup> June. We are hoping to organise another training session, which again will be free to attend, later in the year. Our thanks go to Gareth for organising it.

## **Road Safety-Traffic Calming in Catherine de Barnes.**

Members will recall that details of traffic calming scheme were being drawn up by the RA/PC. Although we received only 1 comment to the draft plan when we last published it before Xmas. We are keen for residents to have the opportunity of commenting/ contributing to it before we finally present it to SMBC for consideration. The Secretary will email members when the plan is available to view and comment on. SMBC have made it clear that they are not able to contribute any funding to the proposals, other than for the pedestrian crossing which they have already budgeted to do this year so it will be up to the PC with support from the RA to obtain funding. As with the playground project we have sourcing streams in mind.

## **Street Parking- IMPORTANT**

We have noticed that there has been an increase in vehicles half parked on the footpath- particularly at the Hampton Lane end of Lugtrout Lane. Please give consideration to parents with push chairs and pedestrians who have been having to move off the pavement.

## **How to stop nuisance calls**

### **Report calls**

Please report any unwanted calls to 7726. You'll then get a message to say we've received it. Reporting allows us and other mobile networks to block numbers which are causing distress. And it's free. (Assume this is for users of Three Network)

## **Register for the telephone Preference Service (TPS)**

Anyone can do this for both landline or mobile. Register through their website or text 'TPS' and your email address to 85095. It does take 28 days, but after then companies are only allowed to contact you if you've

already given them permission. Hint – take care with those tick boxes as some will try to trick you into giving permission. This is free too.

### **Dates for the Diary**

#### **Parish Council**

Next Parish Council meeting Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> July commencing 7.30pm  
Venue To be confirmed (is likely to be via TEAMS)

Members of the public are welcome and encouraged to attend. If you are interested, please contact Julie Barnes at [clerk@hamptoninarden.org.uk](mailto:clerk@hamptoninarden.org.uk) for details.

#### **Residents Association Committee Meeting**

The next virtual Residents Association Committee Meeting will be held on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> July. If you wish to raise any issue with the Committee you are welcome to address the meeting for 3 minutes at the beginning.  
- please contact [secretary@catney.co.uk](mailto: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 sending your query/concerns to the above email address and it will be discussed and responded to after the meeting.

#### **Highways England M42 Jct.6 Improvement – Link Road Information Session**

Venue: Village Hall Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> July Between 2.00pm and 8.00pm  
Q & A session, project update, plans.

**Catney Cricket Club** continues to battle on with a very good Team spirit but poor results

We are looking for Cricketers and anyone interested should contact me on 07826 465805 or better still, come down to the ground behind the Boat pub on Wednesday evenings for practice or Saturday afternoons,

Eddie Hewitt





## **Catney Christmas Craft Fair**

### **Saturday 27th November 2021**



Currently the plans are to have a craft fair in the village hall as we have done in previous years. 2020 had to be cancelled as the pandemic rules did not allow gatherings in enclosed spaces. We don't know what the situation will be this winter, but by then we will have a fully vaccinated population and a clearer idea of the importance of all the emerging variants. There will be a background circulation of this virus and we may have to have regular winter vaccinations against the latest strains, a bit like we have with influenza each autumn.

Most of our regular exhibitors have expressed an interest in joining us and have put the date in their diaries. The Catney Craft Club will be doing their bit and making our usual range of handmade goodies and homemade jams.

I will keep you all up to date with the situation through the Catney News. In the meantime, if there are any new residents with craft skills looking for an opportunity to display and sell their wares contact me on [liz@boxall.info](mailto:liz@boxall.info).

**Remember, there is no August edition of the Catney News, but I would be very grateful for articles for the September issue by the 20<sup>th</sup> August. Thank you. I hope you all have a lovely summer.**

**Chris Cluley, Editor**

**"July is the seventh month of the year according to the Gregorian calendar. It was the fifth month in the early calendar of the ancient Romans. The Romans called the month Quintilius, which means fifth. A Roman Senate renamed the month to Julius (July) in honour of Julius Caesar, who was born on 12 July. The Anglo-Saxon names for the month included *Heymonath* or *Maed monath*, referring respectively to haymaking and the flowering of meadows."**

## 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](mailto:cuthbertlm@me.com) or text/telephone me on 07776 480813 with the address of the new resident.

Thank you.

Lesley Cuthbert

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### **Down the Lanes of August**

DOWN the lanes of August-and the bees upon the wing,  
All the world's in colour now, and all the song birds sing;  
Never reds will redder be, more golden be the gold,  
Down the lanes of August, and the summer getting old.

Mother Nature's brushes now with paints are dripping wet,  
Gorgeous is her canvas with the tints we can't forget;  
Here's a yellow wheat field - purple asters there,  
Riotous the colours that she's splashing everywhere.

Red the cheeks of apples and pink the peaches' bloom,  
Redolent the breezes with the sweetness of perfume;  
Everything is beauty crowned by skies of clearest blue,  
Mother Earth is at her best once more for me and you.

Down the lanes of August with her blossoms at our feet,  
Rich with gold and scarlet, dripping wet with honey sweet.  
Rich or poor, no matter, here are splendours spread  
Down the lanes of August, for all who wish to tread.

**Edgar Albert Guest**

# Catney Common



We managed to do some work on the common in June after the rain and floods in spring. The grass on the open common will be mowed to allow access through the summer and the two areas of wildflowers have been carefully marked. They will not be cut until October.

The leak from the building plot has been sorted out, that was water we certainly did not need! Thanks to the kind resident in Bickenhill Lane who spotted the problem and reported it.

The great heap of chippings has been spread and levelled, a large job which, thanks to the wonderful team of volunteers, was tackled with energy. It is difficult to see where it was.

Ox-eye daisies and Ragged Robin are growing in the turfed area, a welcome addition to the flowers. Less welcome are signs of Japanese Knotweed again, on the canal and paddocks. Thanks to Liz for spotting and reporting this one, the Canal and River Trust are on the case.

We are very grateful for the funding we receive from the Parish Council, without which none of the maintenance could happen. The wholesale destruction of trees, hedges and field margins, caused by transport development in the Green Belt, means that small pockets like the common are ever more valuable. Strangely enough Lockdown has opened up the common and footpaths to a much wider area and visitors and local residents continue to enjoy it.

**Heather Bird**

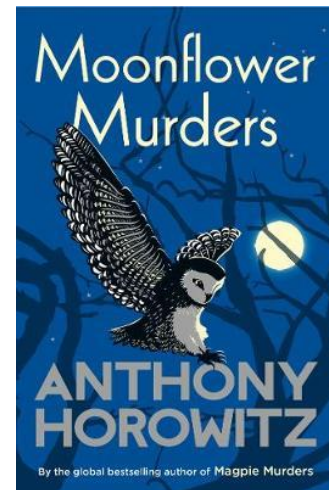
**Advert: Would you like two water butts? They are not too large. Please contact Pat on 07944 012816 to arrange collection.**



# **MOONFLOWER MURDERS**

## **A novel by Anthony Horowitz**

A book review by John Alderson



Moonflower Murders was to me, one of those rare books that you can't put down. I read it in hardback, which is quite heavy, but I hardly noticed.

This is a story within a story with a complex plot line, very well drawn characters with whom you can relate and it's easy to see Agatha Christie influences at work here.

The action revolves around the Moonflower Hotel near Woodbridge in Suffolk where a murder was committed on the same day that Cecily, the daughter of the hotel owners, Lawrence and Pauline Treherne is married at the hotel.

A retired publisher now running a small hotel in Greece is visited by the Treherne's for her help as one of her published authors wrote a book about the Mayflower, which they think carries some clue about Cecil's disappearance.

The story, about which I shall tell you nothing else, is the story of the Mayflower murders.

I recommend it highly, this is a very clever piece of writing.

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## Blackberry and lemon upside-down cake

This gorgeous blackberry upside-down cake recipe is the perfect summer treat. Sweet and tart blackberries sit atop a fluffy lemon flavoured sponge – serve with a dollop of crème fraîche and a cup of tea.

### Ingredients

- 175g of unsalted butter, softened
- 175g of caster sugar
- 3 large eggs, room temperature
- 115g of self-raising flour, sifted
- 1/2 tsp baking powder
- 75g of ground almonds
- 2 lemons, zested
- 250g of blackberries
- crème fraîche, to serve

### Method

Start by preheating your oven to 180°C and greasing a 20cm springform cake tin

Using a food mixer or electric whisk, beat together the butter and sugar until pale and fluffy. Then one by one, beat in the eggs

Fold in the flour, baking powder, almonds and lemon zest. Mix to combine but don't over work

Place the blackberries in the bottom of the springform tin and squeeze over half a lemon. Lightly crush the berries then pour over the cake batter and smooth out using a spatula

Bake for 45–50 minutes, until cake is springy to the touch and golden brown

Serve warm from the oven or at room temperature with crème fraîche on the side

## **School Holidays:**

# **The Birmingham Mystery Treasure Trail**

If you're looking for a cost-effective family day out then The Birmingham Mystery Treasure Trail is for you.

Follow the 1.5-mile route through Birmingham on this self-guided themed Treasure Trail. Hunt for clues located on permanent features such as buildings and statues to solve the mysteries, and discover something new about where you live!

The trail can be done at your own pace and should take around 2 hours to complete and is suitable for ages 6-106! There's also a chance you could win some real treasure, as all correct answers to the mysteries are entered into a monthly prize drawer to win £100! The trail map can be posted to you or you can download it straight onto your phone or computer, giving you an interesting, unique and fun afternoon activity for less than £10!

This Trail can be instantly downloaded as a PDF file for same-day-Trailing-fun, or sent out to you in the post. See Treasure Trails website for more details. Discover the history of Birmingham one clue at a time!

One trail booklet is enough for 4-5 people The trail is a circular loop

Free mobile text service for clues if you get stuck!

Trails are self-guided and can be instantly downloaded from the website. Follow the Trail, solve the clues and see the sights on any day of your choosing. There is no need to phone us for opening details. All Trails are designed to be completed in daylight.

Location Address

Snow Hill Train Station,  
Birmingham,  
West Midlands,  
B3 2BJ,  
England

Phone number 01872 263692

Website: [The Birmingham Mystery Treasure Trail's website.](#)

# GARDENING IN JULY AND AUGUST



## JULY:

### Weed, feed and dead-head

Continue vigilant weed control. Up the feeding: seasonal patio displays and baskets will do well with a weekly dose of liquid tomato fertiliser.

Dead-head bedding plants to encourage more flowers; cut back delphiniums and geraniums after the first flowers to encourage a second flowering, then feed with Blood, Fish and Bone. Tie in vigorous climbers firmly to their supports.

### Water

July often brings the hottest summer weather, so up the water for the plants that need it. Bedding plants, leafy vegetables, seedlings and new plantings are most prone to drying out. Ideally, water your plants early in the morning or in the evening; avoid watering during the hottest part of the day.

### Protect

Some pests thrive in hot summer conditions, so check susceptible plants – such as roses – for blackspot, mildew and rust, which can be rife right now.

## AUGUST



### Harvest

Now is the time to pick sweetcorn, tomatoes, peas, beans, marrows, pumpkins, artichokes and glasshouse crops such as chillies and aubergines. Push straw or old tiles under ripening squash and pumpkins to stop rotting on the soil surface.

### Protect

Tie in tall late-summer perennials to stop them flopping over.

### Prune

Lavender and rosemary will have finished flowering by now, so lightly trim them gently shear the new soft growth, but don't cut into the older brown wood. Likewise, trim off foliage from strawberries once they've finished fruiting. In the middle of the month stop outdoor tomatoes by pinching out the uppermost terminal shoot.

# Take the children and grandchildren to Sheldon Country Park

Sheldon Country Park covers an area of just over 300 acres, comprising open grassland, wetlands, old hedgerows and some mature woodland. Situated on the very edge of the city, the land has escaped development and has become a haven for wildlife.

The Parks Ranger Service is based at Old Rectory Farm, a 17th Century dairy farm, which is situated on the main entrance to the park. (See side of St. Giles Church, Sheldon)

Old Rectory Farm has been fully restored and operates as a demonstration farm, showing city dwellers traditional methods of farming. Animals kept at the farm include Jersey cattle, pigs, goats, ponies, ducks, chickens and geese.

The farm is open to visitors every day throughout the year and admission is free.

There is also a children's playground, picnic areas and a cafe.

Opening hours

Daylight access to Park

Old Rectory Farm

Monday to Sunday 10:00 - 16:00

Location

Ragley Drive, Church Road, Sheldon,

Birmingham,

West Midlands,

B26 3TU,

England

Phone number

0121 742 0226

Free admission



# Walks from Catney

## Walk 3: Hampton and Eastcote Circular 6.6 miles

By Neil Smith

This walk includes some paths I hadn't been on before and I think is my favourite walk so far. It takes in the grounds of Hampton Manor and the small hamlets of Walsal End and Eastcote.

The walk is 6.6 miles. It is very muddy in places if it's wet. Take care in hot weather.

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 Catherine-de- Barnes Lane.
3. Follow the road for 0.3 miles then cross the road and follow the footpath running east from Catherine-de-Barnes Lane. Follow the footpath for 0.5 miles until it reaches the motorway, turns left and comes out on Shadow Brook Lane.
4. Turn right on to Shadow Brook Lane and follow it (crossing the motorway) for 0.5 miles. Close to the brow of the incline, take the footpath on your right into the grounds of Hampton Manor.
5. Follow the path through the grounds, crossing the drive through the gates and then across the track and through the old gate into the trees. Pass some houses, then you will come out on Hampton-in-Arden High Street.
6. Turn right onto the High Street, walk up the hill, cross the road and turn left onto Belle Vue Terrace just after the sharp bend in the High Street.



7. Walk along Belle Vue Terrace and take the second footpath on your left just as the road bends right. (You may miss the first footpath on the left which is not signed).

8. Head south, following the path for 0.8 miles until it comes out among some houses in Walsal End. Follow Walsal End Lane for 0.2 miles and take the footpath to your left into the grounds of a house.

9. Follow the footpath for 0.25 miles until it comes out on Barston Lane. Cross the road and turn right, then immediately turn left into Wood Lane.

10. Follow Wood Lane for 0.25 miles and turn right at the bend onto a track. Go through the gate and follow the track. After 50 yards don't follow the track left but carry straight on over the stile next to the gate marked "private land" (don't worry, it's a public footpath).

11. Carry on across the field until you come out on Knowle Road.

12. Cross Knowle Road and go straight into the private road (again, a public footpath). Follow the road left just after Eastcote Grange. The road soon turns into a footpath.

13. This footpath goes through a back garden. After the back garden the path turns left. Then follow it for 0.5 miles as it goes down and across the River Blythe and up past Henwod Hall Farm.

14. As the farm track bends right, turn left onto the footpath. Follow the footpath for 0.25 miles, crossing a stile and through two kissing gates.

15. The path narrows through some undergrowth up to a canal bridge. Don't cross the bridge, instead join the towpath by crossing the stile on your left and doubling back to turn right onto the canal and under the bridge.

16. You are now heading north on the towpath with the canal on your left. Follow this for 1.5 miles, until you reach Catney.

