



CATNEY NEWS



2021/2022 DECEMBER



AND JANUARY



CONTACTS

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NEWS FROM YOUR RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Planning items

PL/2015/51409/PPOL Motorway Service Area (MSA) at Catherine de Barnes new junction 5a

PINS Appeal Ref: APP/Q4625/W/21/3275290 - Solihull Appeal Ref: AP/2021/00013/REF

The Inspector heard final submissions from all parties and then closed the enquiry on 5th November. He will now consider the evidence that has been presented and as things stand will come to a decision on this and the jct. 4 appeal, which was being heard at the same time, possibly before Xmas. The day before the Appeal closed the Transport Select Committee issued a report recommending that the Government stop National Highways plan to rollout any further All Lane Running schemes (ALR), with no hard shoulder, on all motorways until safety risks have been adequately assessed. If this MSA got approval the plan would be to alter the current system of Dynamic Hard Shoulder running (resulting in intermittent use of the hard shoulder) to ALR with no hard shoulder- with the associated safety risks. It was suggested by MSA jct.4 advocate that the Inspector might consider delaying his decision because of the Select Committees report but no comment was passed.

We, in conjunction with the Parish Council, feel the Select Committee's report is relevant to this appeal, and so are currently in dialogue with our Ward councillors to establish what options we might still have to influence things. One option being considered, might be to request the Appeal decision be 'recovered' (effectively called-in), enabling the Secretary of State to make it. All being well this will be decided in the next week so and members will receive an update by email.

Solihull Local Plan Examination

The Examination is still underway and can be viewed live. those interested should use www.solihull.gov.uk/eip. and follow the instructions. The Examination considered the sites at Oak Farm (Policy HA2 in the Draft Solihull Local Plan under Examination) and the site in the field bordered by Lugtrout Lane. Field Lane, Damson Parkway and Hampton Lane (Policy SO1) were considered on 10th/11th November. The outcome of the Examination is not likely to be known until next Spring. The Draft Local Plan can be viewed at

www.solihull.gov.uk/Planning-and-building-control/Local-Plan-Review

Traffic Calming Proposals for Catherine de Barnes – Pedestrian Crossing on Hampton Lane outside the Village Hall

We are still in discussions with SMBC Highways but expect to be able to provide details of proposals (knowing they are acceptable to SMBC) at a Village Meeting sometime in February but this will be confirmed in the February CN.

Unfortunately, there has been a slight delay in installing the pedestrian crossing outside the Village Hall but we have been advised by SMBC that it will be completed before the end of March next year.

Hampton in Arden Neighbourhood Plan Review.

The working group are meeting with SMBC to discuss the structure of the new document in December.

NEC Masterplan Consultation

The NEC Group launched their masterplan for future development of the site on the 10th November and the public are welcome to comment on the plans until the consultation ends on 24th December. The Masterplan can be viewed at

[nec-masterplan-consultation-draft.pdf \(necgroup.co.uk\)](https://necgroup.co.uk/nec-masterplan-consultation-draft.pdf)

Dates for your diary

The RA Committee meets: -

Monday 6th December (virtually)

Monday 3rd January 2022 (virtually)

Should members have any issues they would like to raise at the meeting please, send details through to the secretary@catney.co.uk. as soon as you can.

If you wish to speak at the meeting this can also be arranged, again by contacting the Secretary at the email address above

Village Traffic Calming Proposals – Village Hall

February: Date To be confirmed

Residents Association – Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 22nd February 2022(meeting in Village Hall 7.30pm)

Parish Council Meetings

Wednesday 5th January 2022 (virtually)

Wednesday 9th March(venue TBA)

Where meetings are being held online, please contact the Clerk at clerk@hamptoninarden.org.uk or phone 01675 442017 for details of how to participate

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

CHRISTMAS DROP IN SUNDAY 19TH DECEMBER

Get into the Christmas spirit and drop into the Village Hall between 4.00 p.m. and 6.00 p.m on Sunday 19th December for a glass of mulled wine and Christmas nibbles. We look forward to welcoming you all for some Christmas Cheer.

BEST DRESSED CHRISTMAS WINDOW COMPETITION

How imaginative can you be with your window dressing this Christmas? If you would like to enter the Best Dressed Christmas Window Competition please register your name and address with me, Lesley Cuthbert, Tel 07776 480813 or email cuthbertlm@me.com by Sunday 12th December at the very latest. All entries will be judged during the following 7 days and prizes will be presented during the Christmas Drop In at the Village Hall on Sunday 19th December. If your child has dressed your Christmas window please include the age of your child when entering the competition. Good Luck everyone.

*Merry
Christmas*

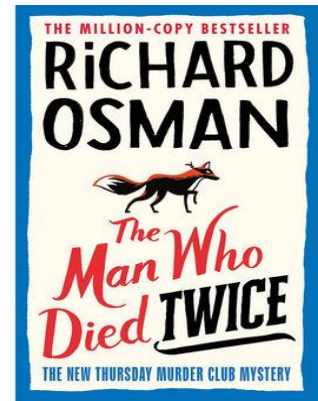
*TO ALL OUR READERS FROM
YOUR EDITOR AND THE
CATNEY RESIDENTS
ASSOCIATION*

BOOK REVIEW

The Man Who Died Twice

A mystery novel by Richard Osman

A book review by John Alderson



The Man Who Died Twice is the second in a proposed series of five to be written by Richard Osman about a group of people in an up-market retirement home near the south coast, and currently tops the best seller lists.

We meet again the redoubtable Elizabeth, much more of her interesting past this time, Joyce, Elizabeth's bag lady, but given a brain this time, Ibrahim who is seriously injured in a personal yobbish attack, which is weaved into the main plot and Ron who can always be relied upon to introduce someone from the other side of the law.

The plot here revolves around Elizabeth's previous husband, also a spook, who has relieved a local bad lad of bag of diamonds he was using in an underworld deal with the mafia. Elizabeth's previous boss appears, the ex disappears and two people are shot dead.

Two other old friends Chris and Donna from the local police are brought in, but we see more of their interlinked private lives this time around than their police work which ultimately is not very convincing.

Richard Osman is very good with his main characters, all delightful, interesting and with whom we can relate, but when he brings everyone together for his denouement, weaknesses appear for me.

The mafia man, really? the behaviour of Chris and Donna in their police work, really? Yes this is light hearted crime stuff and very amusing at times, but if you are going to kill people you have to have a certain amount of realistic response. Second book syndrome?. It's had great reviews, but I preferred his first.

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Thank you to everyone who supported our Christmas Craft Fair on the 27th November.



CONCERTS FOR YOUR DIARY

Christmas is just around the corner, so here are some Christmas concerts to book in your diary

Ex Urbe Chamber Choir will present their Christmas & Advent concert at Hampton Church on Saturday 4th December, after a break from performing which has felt far too long. There will be a selection of Christmas music - both old and new. Tickets are £10, and are on sale now. For further information: Call Sue Kiely 01675 443989 or visit our website www.exurbe.org

Hampton Singers are looking forward to singing traditional Christmas music at Temple Balsall Church on Saturday 11th December.

And finally.....

Lord and Lady Guernsey are hosting a charity Christmas concert on Thursday 16th December, 7pm, at the beautiful St James` Church on the Packington Estate, with music from Ex Urbe Chamber Choir, and the promise of mulled wine and mince pies round a fire pit.

Book Swap

Pleased to announce the return of the Book Swap after it's long absence due to COVID. The book swap is open every Wednesday afternoon from 2.00 p.m. till 4.00 p.m. during the Craft Club session in the Village Hall. We have a large selection of books and look forward to welcoming you all back and using this facility.

The Pop-Up Shop
Here to Help the Community, Charities; Small Businesses

At the Scout Hut
Shadowbrook Lane, Hampton In Arden, B92 0DQ
(Free Entry)
Sundays: 4th and 18th December – 3 – 5 pm



Toy Service: At 11 am on Sunday 5th December there will be a Toy Service at Hampton Parish Church

We ask for your help by donating **NEW (not second hand)** toys, books, games and puzzles for children aged 0-15 for this project. Suggestions for gifts are:

Babies 0-18 months – handheld toys, feeding dishes & spoons, building cups, small soft toys (from birth), stacking & teething rings. Toys to shake, touch & feel. No hand-knitted toys.

Toddlers (under 3s) – stacking rings, wooden jigsaws, small pull along toys, shape sorters, character plates, dishes, mugs.

Boys/Girls (4-7s) – games, books, cars, trucks, dolls, jewellery.

Boys/Girls (8-10s) – games, hats, gloves, suitable toiletries, books, annuals (dated for the coming year).

Teenagers (10-15yrs) –

Boys: footballs, football pumps, football books (not for a specific team), rucksacks, socks, gloves, hats, games, dartboards (not metal darts), toiletries. No jigsaws please.

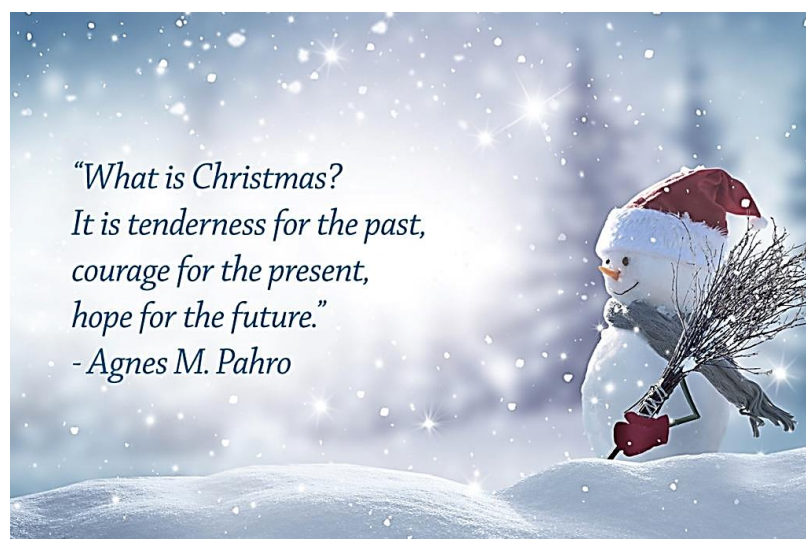
Girls: toiletry sets, scarves, gloves, hats, socks, bags (suitable for teenagers), make up, nail polish, jewellery (no earrings for pierced ears), jewellery boxes, games, annuals (dated for the coming year). No jigsaws please.

You will appreciate that these guidelines are in place to help us to make Christmas special for the children of our city. For some, these presents are the only ones they will receive, so it is very important that everything is in excellent condition and safe.

Christmas wrapping paper is always needed.

**Thank you so much for your support. (on behalf of the Toy-Link team)
Birmingham City Mission.**

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*"What is Christmas?
It is tenderness for the past,
courage for the present,
hope for the future."
- Agnes M. Pahro*



CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT THE PARISH CHURCH OF HAMPTON IN ARDEN

19TH DECEMBER: 6.30 PM. NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

**24th DECEMBER 3.00 PM. INTERACTIVE NATIVITY.
Come dressed as your favourite nativity character.**

24th DECEMBER 11.30 PM MIDNIGHT MASS

**25th DECEMBER 8.15 AM CHRISTMAS COMMUNION
Said service at Hampton.**

25th DECEMBER 10.00 am CHRISTMAS SERVICE at Barston.

**25th DECEMBER 11.00 am CHRISTMAS COMMUNION SERVICE
at Hampton.**

26th DECEMBER: Recorded Service only – to be advertised.



CHRISTMAS PAST

1. A partridge in a pear tree, two turtle doves and all the rest — there is a good chance you'd be able to sing the entire lyrics of The 12 Days of Christmas without giving it a moment's thought.

However, do you know the links to mince pies during this period of the festive season?

Back in the Middle Ages, people across Europe would eat one mince pie every day from Christmas Day up to and including January 6th. Rather than being the same taste though, mince pies back then would be filled with a mixture of meats and fruit and spiced with everything from cinnamon to cloves and nutmeg.

2. If you've ever gone carol singing with your family, there will likely have been a time when you've sang the lyric 'here we come a-wassailing among the leaves so green'. Have you ever wondered just what 'wassailing' means though?

To find out, we must go back to England in the 1600s. During that century, people would prepare a hot, cider-based drink in large bowls and then proceed to walk from door-to-door in their neighbourhood offering others cupfuls of the drink.

The use of cider was because the spirit of the occasion was to scare away bad spirits and to wake up apple trees in time for the new year's harvest.

3. Keeping with the theme of tasty-sounding drinks — though alcoholic so just for the grown-ups among us — Smoking Bishops was a popular tipple at Christmastime in Victorian times. The drink in question consisted of a steaming mug of port, red wine, cloves and oranges.
Looking to extend your Christmas drinks selection even further? Traditional tipples of years gone by also include:
 - The Whipcoll, which was a brandy and egg concoction hailing from the Shetland Isles.
 - Lambs' Wool, which was a mixture of ale, apples, sugar and cream hailing from Yorkshire.
 - Egg-Hot, which was a combination of cider, egg yolks and spices hailing from Devon



THE STORY OF THE SURNAME “CHRISTMAS”

In November 2020, a light-hearted news story raised smiles (and eyebrows) across the land. It was the story of a couple from Bridport who had tied the knot to officially become... Mr and Mrs White-Christmas.

According to the widely-shared story, childhood sweethearts Kieran White and Tilly Christmas had first been alerted to the magical potential of their surnames at a school prom, when photos were uploaded with the hashtag “#WhiteChristmas”.

As Tilly White-Christmas herself said, ‘I wanted to keep the name going. It just so happens the man I’m marrying has the perfect surname to go with it.’

Of course, these days more and more of us are curious about the histories of our surnames, thanks to easily-available insights from genealogy sites like Ancestry. In fact, Ancestry even has a [surname search tool](#) for that exact purpose. But what about Christmas, the name? Where did it originate, and have there been any notable Christmases throughout history?

The name has certainly been around, in some form or other, for a very long time. There’s evidence of the surname ‘Cristemass’ existing in the late 12th Century, and ‘Cristesmesse’ in the early 14th Century.

Genealogical research has shown that Christmases (in various spelling permutations) have been particularly well represented in Essex and Sussex, and there’s a long-standing theory that the name was originally given to those born on Christmas Day.

‘The original spelling was “Chrystmasse” which perhaps indicates Norman origin,’ Henry Christmas told the BBC. ‘There were also Huguenots who came with that name.’

Unlikely as it sounds, there have also been more than a few women called Mary Christmas over the decades and centuries. Indeed, records show that there have been, at the very least, 50 Mary Christmases living in the UK over the past 180 years. An early example occurred in 1837, when a Mary Cannon married a man whose surname was Christmas in Alton, Hampshire.

Having such a festive name isn’t always fun and games, as one contemporary Mary Christmas recently attested. Quoted in a 2012 article about her striking name, she said that it had been a ‘running joke’ between her husband Leeroy and his mother that ‘he ought to marry someone called Mary’, but when it actually happened they soon realised there were a few snags. Namely, an inordinate amount of prank calls (‘We’d have people ringing up and asking if they could speak to Father Christmas’), and also people’s general disbelief (‘They just don’t believe me if I ask for a table for two for Mary Christmas’).



CHRISTMAS EVENTS



Thursday 9 December: 11:00 – 20:00

Friday 10 December: 10:00 – 20:00

Saturday 11 December: 10:00 – 20:00

Sunday 12 December: 10:00 – 17:00

Returning for its third year is Stratford-upon-Avon's award-winning Victorian Christmas Market, taking place in the town centre once again. With over 100,000 visitors last year, the ever-popular event spreads festive cheer with masses of shopping, food and street entertainment.

Around 300 stalls, complete with Victorian outfit-clad tradespeople, will be selling a wide range of gifts and seasonal products, and over on Wood Street there'll be a traditional funfair to keep the whole family entertained.

This year will also welcome the Community Craft Fair, located in Stratford Town Council's Town Hall on Sheep Street.

Also check out: Traditional winter blooms and 'Wassailing' at Christmas at Shakespeare's Birthplace; meet Father Christmas at the Jacobean Hall's Croft.



WORCESTER VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS MARKET



Thursday 2 December - 12.00pm - 9.00pm

Friday 3 December - 11.00am - 9.00pm

Saturday 4 December - 10.00am - 8.00pm

Sunday 5 December - 11.00am - 5.00pm

1. **200 STALLS:** A fabulous street market selling all sorts of delightful Christmas goodies, handmade items and much, much more. There will be many local producers so you can take home locally sourced food and drink, arts and crafts and Christmas gifts.
2. **TASTY TREATS:** You won't go hungry with this unrivalled street food selection! The Fayre has all your festive favourites and some tasty surprises too.
3. **ATMOSPHERE:** The sights, smells and sounds of Christmas come alive at the Fayre! Go back in time and see how Christmas might have looked 150 years ago as Victorian characters fill the historic streets of Worcester.
4. **FUN OF THE FAIR:** A Victorian Fayre wouldn't be complete without a carousel and fun fair. Step aboard the Galloper to be whisked around to the sound of the traditional barrel organ.
5. **ENTERTAINMENT:** With live music, traditional carols and school choirs on the stages and buskers on every street corner, there is plenty of entertainment at the Fayre to keep you smiling throughout the day.





In January

A short story by Judy Astley

I'm taking the dog to the park, as I do every Saturday morning on my way back from dropping Alice at her theatre class. As I'm walking past the play area I get a whopping great surge of happiness, even though the temperature is minus too many centigrades, there's a vicious breeze coming off the river and the man with the brindle whippet has parked himself on my favourite bench. January, I think: how I absolutely love you. It's not that I'm crazy about freezing sleet and a list of New Year resolutions that I'll never keep. And it's not the fresh- start thing either: all those makeovers, diets and gym-joining. No, for me,

January is a month full of the promise of spring. The new season is out there, just beyond my sightline, revealing itself slowly and shyly, a few more precious minutes of daylight each day.

I've seen Whippet Man here a few times before. Dogs nag their owners into being creatures of habit. Take a dog out at nine in the morning for four days in a row and it will be bouncing excitedly every day by the front door at that same hour. Whippet Man wasn't overly friendly, I recall, and I wonder if he'll snarl at me if I sit on the end of "my" bench. Most dog walkers exchange a cheery "hello" but the last time I passed him, two Saturdays ago, he had his head down, hands sunk deep into pockets and a glower that didn't invite greetings.

I throw Benji's ball for him and the poodle scampers off, a super-eager snowball of white fluff and energy. I love how dogs play for their whole lives, unlike humans who are supposed to give up on joyful silliness as soon as they become grown-ups. Sometimes I miss climbing trees, whooshing down the slide, whirling on the roundabout until I feel a bit sick.

The whippet, which had been dozing under the bench, suddenly takes off after Benji and the two of them race towards the river where they skittle the ball into the shallows and splash in after it.

“Hey!” Whippet Man shouts. For a moment I take no notice, assuming he’s calling his dog, but then I see him getting up and glaring in my direction. I take a look around, hoping there’s someone else in range he could be shouting at, but we’re alone apart from the man emptying the bins, so it’s clearly me.

“Good morning! Lovely one, isn’t it?” I have a go at the disarming option, beaming away like a doorstep salesman and wondering if my mother got it right after all about not talking to strange men. I’ve actually talked to a lot of those over the internet during the past few months and it’s been quite fun, but there haven’t been any I’ve wanted to meet.

Alice, with an 11 year old’s simple wisdom, had said I should try online dating because she didn’t want me to be a sad old mum who concentrated too much on her child. I could see right through that one: she was trying to organise a romantic distraction so she wouldn’t have me keeping a beady eye on her every move through those fast-approaching teen years. Talking is as far as it’s got so far. Not one has yet shown enough of a fun side.

I couldn’t see any of them wanting to splash in puddles or do competitive stone-skimming.

“Lovely if you don’t mind freezing your... er... your fingers off,” Whippet Man grouches. “I didn’t want him going in the river. It’s too cold.” He nods dogwards. His dog and Benji are hurtling around on the frosty grass. I manage not to snap that it was hardly my fault and that dogs will be dogs but I actually do sympathise.

“I didn’t want Benji to, either,” I say. “I didn’t mean to throw the ball that way. I never was school rounders team material.” He laughs, though as if he hadn’t meant to.

He’s not like any of the men I’ve been offered on the website. They’ve mostly been the sort who look like they’d choose to wear a tie on a weekend. Whippet Man is more arty. He has longish hair that curls at the ends and a colourful Doctor Who scarf.

“Sorry,” he says, treating me to a smile that would warm an igloo. “January puts me in a bad mood. It’s so depressing. The dead of winter.”

No, please don't think that. It's not dead at all. Come and look..."

I lead him towards the river where the willows hang over the bank and the old horse chestnut stands stark-limbed beside the path. He's right beside me, looking slightly worried as if he might need to call the men in white coats any minute.

I pull down a low branch of horse chestnut and show him the sticky buds already well formed. "See? The season is turning. Nothing's dead, barely even sleeping." He strokes it gently. "And here..." I take hold of the willow fronds and in silence we look at the catkins just starting to show.

"Beautiful," he says, smiling at me and for a second I feel the winter tipping right over into spring.

The moment breaks when the dogs race up, panting, damp and waiting for us to take notice of them. Across the park there is a clattering as the shutters go up on the café.

"Coffee?" I ask my new friend. I don't even know his name yet.

"Yes, let's," he says. "Just, one thing... I don't suppose..." He hesitates, then goes on, "I don't suppose you fancy a quick go on the swings first?"

And oh yes, I do.

GARDENING IN JANUARY It might be cold outside, but there are still plenty of jobs to do in the garden this month. Here are the main ones:

1. Put your new-year enthusiasm to good use by cleaning pots, tools, water butts and greenhouses in preparation for spring. It's not the most glamorous of tasks, but it will set you up for a great growing season.
2. Start planning what you want to do with your garden in the months to come. Now is the time to order seeds and plants from the comfort of your armchair
3. Check your winter protection is still working for you — survey any stakes, supports and ties that might have been damaged in bad weather.
4. Continue looking after wildlife — put out food for hungry birds and continue to leave some areas of your garden uncut for shelter until the spring.

LAMB AND ALE CASSEROLE

INGREDIENTS

- 1/2 cup (75g) plain flour, plus extra to dust
- 1.5kg lamb shoulder, cut into 2cm pieces
- 1/4 cup (60ml) sunflower oil
- 1 onion, thinly sliced
- 2 celery stalks, thinly sliced
- 1 tbs tomato paste
- 150g button mushrooms, thickly sliced
- 345ml bottle amber ale
- 1 cup (250ml) beef consomme
- 1 bay leaf
- 1 tbs brown sugar
- 1 tbs Worcestershire sauce
- Wholegrain mustard, to spread
- 12-16 slices day-old baguette
- 100g grated gruyere cheese
- Chopped flat-leaf parsley, to serve



METHOD

Preheat oven to 180°C. Season half the flour, then toss with the lamb to coat. Heat 2 tbs oil in a large flameproof casserole over medium-high heat. Shake excess flour from the lamb, then cook, in batches, for 4-6 minutes, turning, until browned on all sides. Remove from pan.

Reduce heat to medium and add remaining 1 tbs oil to the pan. Cook onion and celery, stirring, for 3-4 minutes until softened. Stir in tomato paste and cook for 1 minute. Return lamb to the pan with mushrooms, ale, consomme, bay leaf, sugar and Worcestershire. Season and bring to a simmer. Cover pan and bake in the oven for 1 1/2 hours or until lamb is tender, then remove from the oven.

Mix remaining 1/4 cup (35g) flour with 1/2 cup (125ml) of the cooking juices in a separate bowl until smooth, then add to the casserole and stir to combine. Bring to a simmer and cook over medium heat for 3-4 minutes until sauce thickens.

Spread mustard on baguette slices and layer on top of lamb mixture. Sprinkle with cheese and bake for 20 minutes until bubbling. Sprinkle with parsley, to serve.

