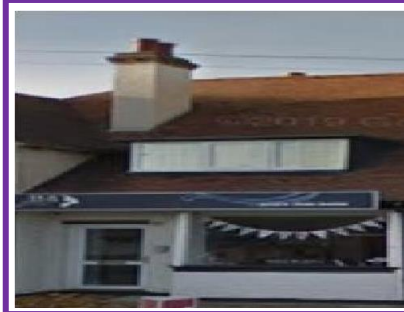


# CATNEY NEWS

DECEMBER/JANUARY



2023



## CONTACTS

Frances Cook, Secretary to the Residents Association  
[secretary@catney.co.uk](mailto:secretary@catney.co.uk) 0776 8502039. Residents Association 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, by the  
20<sup>th</sup> of the month. [cluleychris8@outlook.com](mailto:cluleychris8@outlook.com).

Village Hall Bookings: Steve Dodsworth on 07443 505388 or  
[bookings@catneyvillagehall.co.uk](mailto:bookings@catneyvillagehall.co.uk)



## **RESIDENTS** **ASSOCIATION NEWS**

### **Planning applications – not much this month**

PL/2023/01954/PPFL for a Battery Storage Facility on Henwood Lane.-  
UPDATE: No further news about when the application will be put before the Planning Committee but a further document has been placed on the Planning Portal from Turley (the planning agent) addressing the issues raised by SMBC in one of their departmental responses, In addition SMBC Highways Dept re affirmed their objection to the development in a document posted on the 14th November Their conclusion is quoted in this extract from the document

“The Highway Authority has undertaken a thorough and robust assessment of the development proposals. Based on this assessment, the Highway Authority raises an objection to the proposed development for the following reason:

The Highway Authority has concerns that Henwood Lane is not a suitable route for articulated lorries and would result in the detriment of public highway safety. It is therefore considered that the proposals fail to accord with Policy P8 of the Solihull Local Plan 2013”

### **Airport News**

A further meeting of the Airport Noise Working Group is being held in the morning of 7th December and the AGM and meeting of the Airport Consultative Committee (ACC) will be held in the afternoon. Details of what the ACC does and copies of agendas and minutes etc can be viewed at the following :-  
[www.birminghamairport.co.uk/about-us/community-and-environment/airport-consultative-committee](http://www.birminghamairport.co.uk/about-us/community-and-environment/airport-consultative-committee)

### **Pot holes /Drainage issues/ Faulty Street Lighting/ Fly tipping**

If you see issues with any of these - please send details to the PC clerk at [clerk@hamptoninarden.org.uk](mailto:clerk@hamptoninarden.org.uk) – we find things get attended to quicker that way. If you can send a picture so much the better but please provide details of its location. CdeB Residents' Association News Committee meetings are generally held on the first Monday in the month, the next one being held on Monday 4th December.. Any resident wishing to raise any issue with the Committee can do so, at least 48 hours before the meeting, by contacting [secretary@catney.co.uk](mailto:secretary@catney.co.uk) .

Any items of importance discussed at the meetings or decisions made, are communicated to members via Catney News, which is distributed to members only.

## **New Committee Members**

The Committee are pleased to announce the addition of 2 new members to the Committee Ella Meca and Rachael Russell who, along with current member Debbie Mosely, organised the recent successful Halloween event.

## **Welcome Village Hall Update**

The Nest thermostat has now been installed in the Hall in order that the temperature can be managed remotely which will be more effective in managing our heating costs which as you can imagine are a significant annual cost in running the hall.

## **Catherine de Barnes History**

If anyone has any historical pictures, documents etc about the village, and they are willing to donate them to the archive please let Dave /Lesley know 07824-696137/07776-480813 or send copies to cuthbert488@outlook.com

If anyone would like to learn more about the area in which we are so lucky to live; for £5 you can purchase a book which was co-authored by our Residents Association founder and first Chairman Pete Peters entitled Catherine de Barnes Past and Present. Money from the purchase of these books goes to Village Hall funds. If anyone would like a copy please contact Lesley Cuthbert on 07776 480813

## **Committee Members Activities this month**

- The Social group members of the Committee organised and ran the successful Halloween Event at the October (this was left off the list of Activities last month – apologies to all concerned)
- Liaise with our ward councillors re the Battery Storage application
- Prepared night noise information in preparation for a meeting with other community groups in the area and arranged that meeting.
- Liaised and met with our Parish Councillors over various community issues.
- Distribute information items from local organisations and utilities that may be of interest to members
- Attended the monthly meeting at Skanska's offices, along with our Parish Councillors, to discuss current works, road closures, diversions etc., concerning the M6 improvement works.
- Make final preparations for the Xmas light switch on and carol singing social event on 2nd December
- Start preparing for membership renewal for 2024.,

**Chill December brings the sleet, Blazing fire, and Christmas treat.”**

**Sara Coleridge**

## Dates for the Diary

**Residents Association Christmas Social** – Saturday 2nd December at the Village Hall. Join us at your village hall on Saturday 2nd December to celebrate the start of the festive period. The official Christmas light switch on at 4:30 pm will be accompanied a few seasonal carols followed by complimentary mulled wine, soft refreshments, mince pies, sausage rolls and nibbles etc—a lovely way to meet your neighbours and get into the Christmas Spirit. Look forward to seeing you there.

**Next RA Committee Meeting**-Monday 4th December 2023.

If you have any issues you wish to raise or would like to talk to us about - please contact [secretary@catney.co.uk](mailto:secretary@catney.co.uk)

## Residents Association Annual General Meeting

The AGM will be held on Tuesday 5 th March commencing 7.30pm in the Village Hall. There will be the usual complimentary wine and nibbles following the meeting .

## Butty Breakfast

Saturday 17th February 10am til 12 noon

Members are welcome to drop in for a complimentary bacon or sausage sandwich and a cup of tea/coffee – it's an ideal opportunity to meet your local Ward Parish Councillors and neighbours. Non-members are also welcome to attend at a cost of £3 per head which includes RA membership for 2024.

## Next Hampton in Arden Parish Council Meeting

The next meeting is being held on Wednesday January 3rd in the Meeting Room next to the new Soho Tavern in Marsh Lane, Hampton in Arden 7.30pm.

If you have any issues you wish to raise, please make the Clerk, Julie Barnes, aware that you would like to speak, with a brief description of the issue, at least 2 working days prior to the meeting. Julie can be contacted at [clerk@hamptoninarden.org.uk](mailto:clerk@hamptoninarden.org.uk) or phone 01675 442017 Residents are welcome to attend

Lastly, a very big thank you to Liz Boxall and everyone who helped in any way with the Catney Craft Fayre on the 25<sup>th</sup> November and to the stallholders and all who came along to support this event.

"I heard a bird sing in the dark of December. A magical thing. And sweet to remember. We are nearer to Spring than we were in September. I heard a bird sing in the dark of December."

— Oliver Herford

## 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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## THE CINEMA ORGAN SOCIETY



*Registered Charity Number 1189263*

*Midlands & Wales District*

### **Live Concerts on the Mighty Compton at Fentham Hall**

**Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2023 – Organists on Parade** – a selection of 3 of our local organists with the widest repertoire – Cameron Lloyd, Alec Walters and Damon Willetts - a concert not to be missed.

**Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> February 2024 – Andrew Nix** - Andrew has established himself on the organ circuit not only as a musician but also as an entertainer. His varied musical repertoire along with his Yorkshire humour has made him one of the country's favourite performers.

**Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2024 – Byron Jones BEM** - Byron who styles himself "The Welsh Wizard" and claims to have played all the major theatre and classical pipe organs in the country and also some in the USA and Canada. He will play all kinds of music and offer a wonderful afternoon's entertainment.

**Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> April 2024 – Dorian Collins** – Dorian who comes from Worcester where he has his own Wurlitzer theatre pipe organ installed in his residence. He is "one of our own" and a very experienced musician to boot!



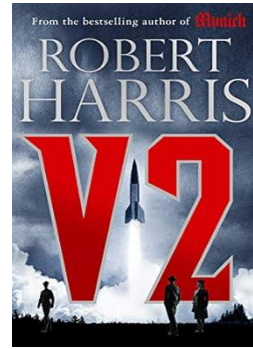
Our monthly concerts are held at Fentham Hall, Marsh Lane, Hampton-in-Arden, B92 0AH. Doors open 1.30 pm, curtain up 2.30 pm. Admission £10 cash on the door, including interval refreshments and parking. Visiting organists play to a wide variety of tastes and offer a wonderful afternoon's entertainment. The organ is available for individuals to play, by arrangement. We look forward to welcoming you.

Visit [www.facebook.com/COSMidlandsCompton](https://www.facebook.com/COSMidlandsCompton), [www.cinema-organs.org.uk](http://www.cinema-organs.org.uk) or telephone our District Secretary on **01564 794778** for more details.

Our Cinema Pipe Organ was built in 1935 by the John Compton Organ Company and was first installed in the Tower Cinema at West Bromwich.

## A BOOK REVIEW by John Alderson

### V2 A Novel by Robert Harris



I have reviewed a number of Robert Harris's books over the last ten years and I found V2 a little different, in that although a lot of his books are based on fact, in this one he follows the actual recorded sequence and effect of the rocket strikes as the framework for his story.

The story that Harris builds around the design and launching of the rockets is fiction and is built around the lives of two people, Dr. Rudi Graf in Scheveningen and Kay Caton-Walsh a member of the WAAF and initially based in London.

Although the two never meet, the story uses them for us to look at both sides of the V2 programme whose purpose was to completely destroy London and therefore defeat the British.

As the story is based on fact, we are familiar with the outcome, which in a way makes the ending somewhat of an anti climax, but gives a clear insight into how ordinary people were affected by the ambitions of Adolf Hitler.

This book may perhaps bring the current conflict in Ukraine a little closer to home.

“The rapid nightfall of mid-December had quite beset the little village as they approached it on soft feet over a first thin fall of powdery snow. Little was visible but squares of a dusky orange-red on either side of the street, where the firelight or lamplight of each cottage overflowed through the casements into the dark world without. Most of the low latticed windows were innocent of blinds, and to the lookers-in from outside, the inmates, gathered round the tea-table, absorbed in handiwork, or talking with laughter and gesture, had each that happy grace which is the last thing the skilled actor shall capture--the natural grace which goes with perfect unconsciousness of observation. Moving at will from one theatre to another, the two spectators, so far from home themselves, had something of wistfulness in their eyes as they watched a cat being stroked, a sleepy child picked up and huddled off to bed, or a tired man stretch and knock out his pipe on the end of a smouldering log.”

— **Kenneth Grahame, The Wind in the Willows**



**CHRISTMAS SERVICES**  
**at THE PARISH CHURCH OF**  
**HAMPTON IN ARDEN**



16<sup>th</sup> December: 2.30 pm Nativity Trail

17<sup>th</sup> December: 6.30 pm 9 Lessons and Carols

24<sup>th</sup> December 8.15 am and 11 am Sunday Services

24<sup>th</sup> December 2.00 pm Nativity with "Open The Book"

24<sup>th</sup> December 11.30 pm Midnight Mass

25<sup>th</sup> December 8.15 am and 11 am  
Christmas Communion Services

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**Choral Music at Christmas**

Ex Urbe Chamber Choir will be performing Christmas music in Hampton Church on Saturday 2nd December at 18.00. The concert is an eclectic mix of festive songs, ancient, modern and some in between. Mince pies will undoubtedly feature in the interval.

[www.exurbe.org](http://www.exurbe.org)

Hampton Singers will be performing their Christmas Carol concert at Temple Balsall church on Saturday 9th December at 16.00. There will be a mix of traditional and modern carols, with the opportunity for audience participation, to get you in the festive mood. Mulled wine and more mince pies will definitely feature!

[www.hamptonsingers.co.uk](http://www.hamptonsingers.co.uk)

**"December. The days begin white and glittering with snow---on the roof, the branches of the sycamore, where a robin has taken up residence. It reminds Kate of Robin Redbreast from *The Secret Garden*---for so many years, her only safe portal to the natural world. Only now does she truly understand her favourite passage, memorized since childhood:**

***"Everything is made out of magic, leaves and trees, flowers and birds, badgers and foxes and squirrels and people. So it must be all around us."***

**Often, before she leaves for work, she stands outside to watch the sun catch on the white-frosted plants, searching for the robin's red breast. A spot of colour against the stark morning. The robin is not alone in the garden. Starlings skip over the snow, the winter sun varnishing their necks. At the front of the cottage, fieldfares---distinctive with their tawny feathers--- chatter in the hedgerows. And of course, crows. So many that they form their own dark canopy of the sycamore, hooded figures watching."**

**— Emilia Hart, Weyward**

## England: 'Happy Christmas!'

**Christmas cards** can be traced back to England. An Englishman named John Calcott Horsley helped to popularize the tradition of sending Christmas greeting cards when he began producing small cards featuring festive scenes and a pre-written holiday greeting in the late 1830s. Newly efficient post offices in England and the United States made the cards nearly overnight sensations. At about the same time, similar cards were being made by R.H. Pease, the first American card maker, in Albany, New York, and Louis Prang, a German who immigrated to America in 1850.

**Celtic and Teutonic peoples** had long considered mistletoe to have magic powers. It was said to have the ability to heal wounds and increase fertility. Celts hung mistletoe in their homes in order to bring themselves good luck and ward off evil spirits. During holidays in the Victorian era, the English would hang sprigs of mistletoe from ceilings and in doorways. If someone was found standing under the mistletoe, they would be kissed by someone else in the room, behaviour not usually demonstrated in Victorian society.

**Christmas pudding**, also known as “figgy pudding” or plum pudding, is an English dish dating back to the Middle Ages. Suet, flour, sugar, raisins, nuts and spices are tied loosely in cloth and boiled until the ingredients are “plum,” meaning they have enlarged enough to fill the cloth. It is then unwrapped, sliced like cake and topped with cream.

**Carolling** also began in England. Wandering musicians would travel from town to town visiting castles and homes of the rich. In return for their performance, the musicians hoped to receive a hot meal or money.

**In the United States and England**, children hang stockings on their bedpost or near a fireplace on Christmas Eve, hoping that it will be filled with treats while they sleep. In Scandinavia, similar-minded children leave their shoes on the hearth. This tradition can be traced to legends about Saint Nicholas. One legend tells of three poor sisters who could not marry because they had no money for a dowry. To save them from being sold by their father, St. Nick left each of the three sisters gifts of gold coins. One went down the chimney and landed in a pair of shoes that had been left on the hearth. Another went into a window and into a pair of stockings left hanging by the fire to dry.

**December is all that we give, And whatever we receive, It is those who surround us and those who have taken leave.**

**December is celebrating light, Where only darkness dwells, It is the ripping of wrapping paper and tempting culinary smells.**

**December is letting go, of all the past year's fails and starting anew in January, as time again chases its tail.**

— Stewart Stafford





## Smiling Families Charity

"January is here, with eyes that keenly glow, a frost-mailed warrior striding a shadowy steed of snow."

— Edgar Fawcett

## Catney Halloween -A Spooktacular Event

🎃 The first ever Catney Halloween Event, organised by the Catney Residence Association, proved to be a resounding success with an impressive turnout of 70 enthusiastic adults and children. The community celebration set a high standard, bringing residents together for a night of spooky fun and festive atmosphere.

The Catney Social Event Team created a memorable experience, transforming the venue into a Halloween wonderland with eerie decorations, food, drinks, and engaging activities. From spooky games to all kind of fun activities , people of all ages had ample opportunities to showcase their Halloween spirit.

A highlight of the event was the positive community response, with attendees expressing satisfaction and appreciation for the well organised and entertaining festivities. Attached are some captivating photos from the event. 📷



We spend January 1st walking through our lives, room by room, drawing up a list of work to be done, cracks to be patched. Maybe this year, to balance the list, we ought to walk through the rooms of our lives... not looking for flaws, but for potential.

— Ellen Goodman

## Keep warm, beat the freeze

This may look silly, but it works: cover your windscreen wipers with old socks, to stop them sticking to the windscreen on a freezing morning. The RAC warns that if windscreen wipers cannot move, there is a risk the circuit will overheat and blow a fuse.

If you are cycling to work, try wearing a swimming cap under your cycling helmet – Cycling UK recommends it as a good extra layer, to keep warm.

If you need to be outside for long, wear several thin layers instead of one big chunky one. The UK Health Security Agency says that the air which gets trapped between the layers also helps keep you warm.

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## A SPECIAL NEW YEAR'S EVE

Do you stay up until midnight on New Year's Eve? If so, this year will be special – it is 100 years ago, on 31<sup>st</sup> December 1923, that the BBC first broadcast the chimes of Big Ben to welcome in the New Year.

For it was not until 31<sup>st</sup> December 1923 that the chimes of Big Ben were ever heard outside of Parliament and Westminster. But then the BBC got permission to broadcast them to the nation, and history was made.

That first year, the BBC engineers were not allowed into Parliament, and so had to access Big Ben from the roof of the Palace of Westminster. This meant that their microphone picked up not just the chimes, but a lot of traffic noise as well. But a tradition had started, and by 1924 the Big Ben bongs were being broadcast every day.

By then the BBC had installed low sensitivity microphones very close to the bells, so that they missed the sound of the clock mechanism.

The nation quickly came to love the sound of Big Ben, and during the Second World War the chimes were broadcast across occupied Europe – encouraging millions in their struggle against the Nazis.

The Big Ben daily time signal on the BBC is still cherished today, and Big Ben rings live for important events such as Remembrance Day and New Year, when the BBC sends the sound right around the world.

<https://www.bbc.com/historyofthebbc/anniversaries/december/big-ben-new-year>

"No one ever regarded the first of January with indifference."  
– Charles Lamb

## What does your TV licence cover?

Imagine something unlikely! This Christmas, there is one television programme that the whole family wants to enjoy, but everyone will view it differently. So - you are resting upstairs and watching it on the portable set in the bedroom.

Your partner is still at work and watching it on a laptop in the office. Your son is at university and watching it on his computer live. Your daughter who lives with you is on the train coming home for Christmas, loaded with dirty clothes, and using her mobile phone to see the programme. Your neighbour does not have a television but will listen to the King's speech on the radio. A happy typical family scene!

You are covered if you have a television licence as it includes the whole house.

If you have let out a part of your house on a separate tenancy, the tenant needs a licence.

Your student son must have his own TV Licence if he watches or records programmes as they are being shown on TV or live on an online TV service, download or watch BBC programmes on iPlayer. If he shares a house, then one licence is sufficient for the house.

Your partner needs a separate TV Licence for the office if he watches live on an office phone, tablet or computer.

Staff or customers do not need a licence if they watch live TV at the business address using their own device, if it is not plugged into the mains, and there is a TV Licence at their home address.

Your daughter is covered by your home licence. The neighbour does not need a licence to listen to the radio.

You must have a TV Licence to download or watch BBC programmes on iPlayer – live, catch up or on demand. If you already have a TV Licence, you are already covered.

As always this is only a guide, and if in doubt get advice. The TV Licensing website has some very clear and helpful advice and a set of FAQs.  
<http://www.tvlicensing.co.uk/>

**David Pickup, a solicitor, explains what is legal for you to watch this Christmas**

