

APRIL 2024



Catney Residents
Association



CATNEY NEWS

CONTACTS

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Association

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Catney News: Please send all articles to
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month. chris.cluley1@gmail.com.

Village Hall Bookings: Steve Dodsworth on
07443 505388 or
bookings@catneyvillagehall.co.uk

Residents Association News



Airport Update

Our representative attended the Airport Consultative Committee meeting on 7th March. A snapshot of the latest news received is below.

- 4 airlines including Jet 2 and Ryanair were increasing their number of routes this summer
- Discussions are being held with SMBC about installing solar panels on airport property
- Community Noise Report - Birmingham Airport Website
A community noise report is available quarterly on the Birmingham Airport website
- The night flying review continues with the next meeting on 28th March when the Airport Co. will be responding to the areas for review submitted at a recent meeting of the working group
- Consultants have been commissioned to facilitate an Air Quality Emissions Inventory
- Much of the terminal lighting is being converted to LED
- The independent Chair of the ACC will be undertaking a review of all aspects of the working of the ACC to achieve best practice in line with Govt. guidelines.
- There were no exceedances of Air Quality standards in Q4 2023
- Track-keeping performance in Q4 was between 98/99%
- There were 3 daytime noise violations (1 involving a military flight- 2- A380 in Q4 and 2 in Qtr3) – no night time ones.
- The Airport is running at appx 12 million passengers this year
- Residents are encouraged to view use the following link for information relating to live aircraft movements WebTrak : Birmingham Airport ([emsbk.com](https://www.emsbk.com))

“April was just beginning, and after the warm spring day it turned cooler, slightly frosty, and a breath of spring could be felt in the soft, cold air.” – Anton Chekov

Catney Common

Back in the days of Covid , Steve and Clare Cartwright organised a BBQ in Oakfields Way (strictly following the covid regulations of course) ,and the event raised £103 which is going to pay for a couple of traditional fruit trees for the Common . We will organise a couple of plaques to commemorate the event. Apologies for not letting you know earlier it just that it slipped our minds until recently Better late than never though ! The trees will be planted soon. Thanks Steve and Clare and Do Connolly for organising the trees.

Two new bird boxes were bought and installed awaiting new residents – ut wasn't long after they were put up that interest was being shown in them

Thanks to Do, Pete and Derek for your efforts .

Do will be looking for volunteers for a Common work party shortly. If you could spare an hour or so on a Sunday morning please txt 07824 696137 and we will ensure you are included in any call to arms!

Membership Report for April

Our sincere thanks to everyone who has already renewed their membership, or joined for the first time, and for your many very generous contributions. We have 179 members at the time of writing which is great but we would love to reach our goal of 200 this year. Remember that only members will receive the Catney News or be on our lists for other local information by email.

If you've lost your membership form, simply put your details (name, address and e mail) on a slip of paper and hand it in at 9 Oakfield's Way or the NISA with your subs.

Or you can pay online: Bank Sort code: 30-97-78 Account No: 01989267

Catherine-de-Barnes Residents Association

Please put your house number and road name with the payment.

The subscription fees are £3 for individuals, £5 for couples.

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 for your support!

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

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

Catney Crafters would like to introduce you to a “Mixed Prickle of Local Hedgehogs” namely:



(Malcolm, Hedgie, Ethelred, Albert, ‘Ol Bluey’, Hannah, Hermione, Aurora, Edgar and Herbert)

The village craft group had a lesson in Felting given by Cindy. Much fun and laughter prevailed and we had a thoroughly lovely afternoon giving life to nothing more than a clump of fleece. As you can see we all interpreted our hedgehogs in different ways. We had curly ones, punk ones and Rastafarian hedgehogs. I think you will all agree they turned out rather good. Many thanks to Cindy for her patience and guidance.

Jane Clancy

“April is a moment of joy for those who have survived the winter.” — Samuel Johnson

Residents' Association AGM, March 5th

Thanks to everyone who came to the AGM last month. Chairman, Dave Cuthbert, highlighted some of the key points in his report which had been circulated earlier to members. Topics included planning applications, the Solihull Local Plan, roadworks, airport news and traffic calming proposals.

Dave thanked our retiring member John Phillips for his service and welcomed new committee members Rachel Russell and Ella Meca. Thanks were also given to Do Connolly and the Catney Common volunteer group who recently installed two new bird boxes.

Treasurer, Annette Scott explained the accounts and Lesley Cuthbert reported on the social events held in 2023. Steven Wallis, chairman of the Village Hall trustees, summarised developments at the Hall and thanked Steve Dodsworth for taking on the role of Hall Manager. The business part of the meeting was concluded expeditiously and everyone enjoyed drinks and nibbles and a chance to chat with neighbours. The minutes from the meeting are available on our website www.catney.co.uk



Catherine de Barnes,
near Hampton in
Arden, Warwickshire.
Old cottages.
(drawn c1950)

The Work of William Albert Green 1907 - 1984

CATHERINE de BARNES, Warwickshire

“They came on one of April’s most brilliant days — a day as sparkling as a newly-washed lemon — a day when even the shadows were a melange of blue and orange and jade, like the shadows that poured from the tipsy brush of Monet.”

— Beverley Nichols

"Night-time Wildlife around the village

Night is the time of mammals, the problem being that they see us first and hide. Nevertheless, some can be seen at dusk, such as muntjac deer near Brick Kiln Wood, badgers along Berry Hall Lane and foxes following their regular routes throughout the area. Bats can be seen on every calm warm evening along Henwood Lane : the acrobatic ones that fly close are Pipistrelles. Flying low over the canal at dusk are Daubenton bats.



Daubenton bat

If you wish to see other species it is worth buying (~£70) or borrowing a simple bat detector, which helps in spotting the higher or slower flying bats in the area, such as noctules.

When fully dark, wildlife enthusiasts will use thermal imaging (expensive) or infrared trail (cheaper, recommended) cameras. However, a good LED torch will pick out in the distance the eye reflex of the many mammals active at night, the colour, size and movement giving clues to the species.

Sound is important at night. Owls can be heard through the local area. The different male and female Tawny Owl calls are the ones we are familiar with, and the free Merlin phone app will help recognise Little Owls calling in the fields north of the River Blythe. Occasionally, we have seen Barn Owls at dusk close to the village, but they are often killed by fast traffic especially motorways, as well as by the local sparrowhawks. As well as owls, we hear other eerie sounds through the night, the commonest these days is the bark of muntjac. Foxes on the other hand are making those shrieks and screams.

The most unusual nighttime sound I have come across in the late summer of some years has been from a nightjar south of Hampton Lane, stopping on its way to Africa. Once heard or seen, never forgotten."

John Ross AINSWORTH

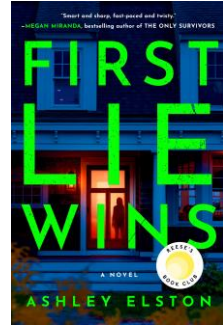
**"Winter's done, and April's in the
skies. Earth, look up with laughter in
your eyes!"**

— Charles G.D. Roberts

BOOK REVIEW by JOHN ALDERSON

FIRST LIE WINS

Psychological Thriller by Ashley Elston



This is a very interesting psychological thriller told in fractured sort of way and by an author new to me, Ashley Elston.

Evie Porter is the central figure, although you are introduced to her by another name, who is controlled by a mysterious Mr. Smith. He gives her tasks to move into another town and become involved in a person's life ,in whom Mr Smith has an interest but whose motive is not always clear.

It is all about control.

The first contact is Ryan Sumner and his friends with whom Evie becomes close finding that he too leads a double life which seems to be what interests Mr. Smith. Also he introduces "Evie Porter" a lookalike with all Evie's personal and background information.

Other assignments are introduced by moving the timeline around but all come together in an interesting and clever way with the help of Devon a highly competent "techy" who also seems to be able to physically move at pace.

All this means you are never quite sure who is in charge or what is actually legal, even up to and including the last page.

I found this a hard book to put down and one which needs your attention but rewards by being such a surprising read.

**“A gush of bird-song, a patter of dew
A cloud, and a rainbow’s warning
Suddenly sunshine and perfect blue
An April day in the morning.”**
— Harriet Prescott Spofford

Cambrian

A Catney canal landmark has now gone. Cambrian has gone to a new home on the Gloucester and Sharpness canal. She has been on this mooring since August 1984, so has been here longer than many residents and my son, who is 44, can't remember her not being there. It is hard to get used to a space at the bottom of the canal bank and I will miss the fun of high pressuring hosing her in the spring.



So, everyone be reassured that she has not been stolen or sunk and thanks to all the residents and canal walkers who have mentioned the loss of landmark to me since she sailed away to her new home on the 1st March.

Liz Boxall

Etymology

Lug Trout Lane (6"). Cf. *mess*, *voc. Lugtrought 1609LRMB*, *Luggtroute 1615 ParReg*, *Lugtrout lane*, *p 'cell of land called Lugtrout 1650ParlSurv*. As this does not lead up from any stream along which a fisherman might be thought to have hauled his catch, the probability is that the message, etc. took their name from some man called *Lugtrout*, the original holder of the name being perhaps a successful fisherman