Jssue 245



### **CATFIELD NEWS**

### Your village magazine April 2024



Sea Palling Lifeboat in action

Have you ever fancied doing some volunteering. See page 23 for information on volunteering opportunities with the Sea Palling Lifeboat team

#### **CATFIELD NEWS** Contacts:

Steve Beckley: Chair/Treasurer Tel: 582913 - e-mail: stevebeckley1@gmail.com
Heather Hollister - secretarycatnews1@btinternet.com
Judith Gardiner - Tel: 01692 615807 - e-mail judithgardiner5@aol.com

YOU CAN drop your competitions entries and /or ANY correspondence into the CATFIELD NEWS BOX inside the Post Office, Special thanks to Vish & Karthi.

All submissions to be posted no later than the 10th of the month.

Please address your envelope to Catfield News

If you would like to view the Catfield News online it can be found on the Parish Council website

https://catfieldparishcouncil.norfolkparishes.gov.uk
and the Waterside Group website

www.watersidegroup.org.uk

#### **Useful Local Contacts**

Village Hall Booking Clerk - Elaine Smith 01692 580056

elainesmith364@btinternet.com

Catfield United Charities - Trustees 01692 660250

enquiries@catfieldunitedcharities.uk

Catfield Primary School - Lucy Amis, Senior Teacher

01692 580568

office@catfield.norfolk.sch.uk

**Priest in Charge of The Waterside Benefice** - Rev'd. Gary Noyes 01692 678842 granoyes@gmail.com

The Catfield News is an independent magazine with no affiliation to the Parish Council, Church or any other body. We are a self funded magazine, produced by a group of volunteers with the income from advertisers paying for the production costs.

#### Helpful Information

#### **Staithe Surgery Stalham**

www.staithesurgery.co.uk 01692 582000

#### **Surgery Hours**

Monday to Friday 8.30am - 5.30pm

#### **Dispensary Hours**

Monday to Friday 8.45am - 5.30pm

#### **Ludham Surgery**

www.ludhamsurgery.nhs.uk 01692 678611

#### **Surgery Hours**

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 8.30am - 6.00pm Wednesday 8.30am - 1.00pm

#### Dispensary Hours

Monday, Tuesday and Friday 9.00am - 6.00pm Wednesday 9.00am - 1.00pm Thursday 8.30am - 6.00pm

#### **Stalham Green Surgery**

www.ludhamsurgery.nhs.uk 01692 580880

#### **Surgery Hours**

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 8.30am - 6.00pm Thursday 8.30am - 1.00pm

#### **Dispensary Hours**

Monday 8.30am - 6.00pm Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 9.00am - 6.00pm Thursday 9.00am - 1.00pm

#### Local MP

Duncan Baker 01692 557140 Duncan@duncanbaker.org.uk

#### **Local County Councillor**

Richard Carey Price 07880791258 (work hours) Richard.price.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk

#### **Local District Councillors**

Kevin Terrance Bayes kevin.bayes@north-norfolk.gov.uk Matthew Taylor 07557097597 matthew.taylor@north-norfolk.gov.uk

#### **Local Police**

PC Matthew Pritty
Beat Manager
Hoveton Police Stn
Matthew.Pritty@Norfolk.Police.uk

#### What's on in Catfield

#### **Indoor Cycling**

Join us for an invigorating workout in Catfield village hall, **Monday and Thursday evenings 6.45pm to 7.30pm**.

Bring a bottle of water and a small towel. You remain in control of your bike so you can set the resistance to the level that's right for you. Then just cycle along to the music as the instructor guides you through the session.

Class costs £6 and pre booking is required.
Contact Jane Turner to book a bike.
M: 079 078 44433 Email: mailjaneturner@yahoo.com

### Parish Council Meeting Catfield Village Hall

Wednesday 3rd April, 7.00pm.

### Catfield Village Hall Friday 5th April 10.30 onwards

Come and join us for coffee,and cake, a chat in a warm space and perhaps play a game of scrabble, dominoes or rummikub before finishing with a tasty bacon sandwich.

This is a free event and all are welcome. For more information contact Judith on 01692 615807

#### **Norfolk County Council Mobile Library**

Route Number CEN 210
Next Visit Tuesday 16th April 2024
Thorn Road 14:45 - 15:05
Village Hall 15:10 - 15:30

## Catfield Stitching Group Tuesday 9th April and Tuesday 23rd April 2pm to 4pm in Catfield Village Hall

We are a friendly group of like-minded people, all at different levels of experience. If you, like us, enjoy stitching and sharing creative ideas, we would love you to join us. Please bring your own project (embroidery, knitting, crotchet, patchwork or creative sewing). We have occasional, optional group projects and workshops.

Please contact Pat Reid 01692 582978 for more information. £3.00 per session.

Tea, Coffee & Biscuits included.
Free first/taster session.

## Bingo Catfield Village Hall, Friday 26th April 7.00pm See page 18 for more info

## Catfield Crafters Wednesday 24th April 1pm to 3pm in Catfield Village Hall

At each meeting members share new ideas and techniques as well as making two card projects. All tools and materials are supplied. The subs for each session are £3.00 which includes refreshments. New members are always welcome.

Contact Jennifer Banham on 01493 740560 for more information

Cake tasting Catfield Village Hall Sunday 28th April 12 till 3.30pm

See page 18 for more info

#### **TABLE TENNIS**

We are looking for some more people to join our table tennis group.
We play Monday mornings
10 am till 12 in
Catfield Village Hall.
For more information call
Stacey on 01692 678838.

Come along and have a go.

#### **Potter Heigham Bowls Club**

Ever fancied trying a game of bowls? Why not come and visit a friendly group of people and give bowls go.

We meet at the green 2pm on Saturdays (near Potter Heigham village hall).
The season starts 28<sup>th</sup> April through to August.

Just turn up wearing flat shoes and a smile, we can provide everything else. We can't promise expert coaching but there is always someone who will give you the basic knowledge of the game. No pressure to join but if you do you'll be very welcome.

For more info ring Martin on 07715121931 or Tom on 07952202950.

#### **Articles for the Catfield News**

If you have an article for the magazine we would love to receive it, but please remember to include your name as we do not print articles if we do not know who the author is. We don't have to print your name, but we need to know who you are.

Do you have a picture that you think would look good on the cover, or maybe an old picture of an area that has been redeveloped. Articles and pictures can either be e-mailed to one of the team or dropped into the Catfield News box in the Catfield Stores.

Deadline for receipt of articles for May magazine is 10th April.

#### Looking for somewhere to advertise?

We currently have advertising space available in the Catfield News.

For more information contact

stevebeckley1@gmail.com

#### **CATFIELD PARISH COUNCILLORS**

| Keith Bacon                    | 01692 581314 | keithbacon@broadland.net     |
|--------------------------------|--------------|------------------------------|
| Janet Briscoe                  | 07747 033056 | janet.catfieldpc@gmail.com   |
| Graham Edwards                 | 07885 297213 | premtelnet@aol.com           |
| Jennifer Harris                | 07842 553478 | jenben.harris@gmail.com      |
| Tim Harris (Chairman)          | 01692 580220 | tim.catfieldpc@gmail.com     |
| Nicky Jeffreys (Vice Chairman) | 07966 362762 | nixsjeffreys@gmail.com       |
| Angie Johnson                  | 07770 581706 | angiejohnson4@hotmail.com    |
| Neil Jordan                    | 07818 451907 | neil.j.jordan@btinternet.com |
| Polly Plowman                  |              | pollyplowman80@gmail.com     |
| Ian Roberson                   | 07876 193547 | robey6815@gmail.com          |
| Scott Snelling                 | 07522 238858 | scott.catfieldpc@gmail.com   |
|                                |              |                              |

Clerk of Parish Council 07555197530 catfieldparishcouncil@gmail.com

Parish Council website https://catfieldparishcouncil.norfolkparishes.gov.uk

All current Catfield Parish Councillors reside in Catfield and have been democratically elected. All Cllrs are happy for you to contact them at the above details.

#### WROXHAM AND HOVETON LIONS

I hope all of you who attended our Craft Fair enjoyed browsing the numerous stalls, found something that you liked and enjoyed the food and refreshments. We'd like to thank James, the owner of "Bridgestones of Potter Cafe/Restaurant," for the donation of a cake. All the proceeds, after disbursements, will be used to help local charities and good causes.

Community at Heart Lottery results are in! A winning ticket is potentially a week away with the chance of winning £25000 and also each ticket will be entered into the monthly "Super Draw". We thank you for your continued support. If you haven't signed up yet visit our page https://www.communityatheartlottery.com/support/wroxham-and-hoveton-lions-club

Our Lions Shop in the Hoveton precinct continues to do good business but we are always on the lookout for good quality Bric a Brac or clean clothing, so please bring them along or we can collect – just ring our shop on 01603 783737. Would you like to volunteer to help in the shop? If so, drop into the shop and talk to a member of staff.

Don't forget our Fete is coming up on Sunday August 4th at the Village Hall. We are taking bookings for Craft, General Stalls and Charity stalls, as well as Classic Cars and other vehicles. If you are interested in joining us, please go to our website wroxhamandhovetonlions.org and click on the link "Fundraising Events" or "Hoveton Village Fete 2024" where you can download a booking form. Fancy getting involved and enjoying being part of the world's largest Service Organisation? Its easy - Just contact our Membership Chairperson, Ron Hill using the 'Learn More" link on our website www.wroxhamandhovetonlions.org You can follow us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com > wroxhamandhovetonlions or our website https://wroxhamandhovetonlions.org We, as always, look forward to seeing or hearing from you.

Lion Mick Holden, President.

#### CATFIELD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS WEDNESDAY 6<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2024

#### **Public Update**

 A parishioner thanked Catfield Environmental Group for the display of daffodils around the village

#### **Councillor Taylor Update**

Councillor Taylor advised that he had received notification on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024 that the Milestones planning application was going before North Norfolk District Council's Development Committee on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2024. Due to such short notice and a general unacceptable level of communication by planning officers, he was going to attend the Development Committee to ask that the matter be deferred. The PC fully supported Councillor Taylor on this matter and Councillor Briscoe would also attend the Development Committee to express the PC's concern that it had not had sufficient time to comment on the application.

#### **Councillor Price Update**

Councillor Price advised that the PC had been awarded funding towards the cost
of a new bus shelter. He also provided information regarding the action being
taken to deal with the flooding in the area.

#### **Planning**

- Siting of mobile home on land off School Lane/Ludham Road An
  application for a Certificate of Lawful Development had been submitted to North
  Norfolk District Council by the landowner for the existing use of the land as
  garden/residential. A parishioner advised that statements had been sent to North
  Norfolk District Council challenging the evidence which had been submitted with
  the application.
- Initiative on Mushroom Site The PC had received a response from North Norfolk District Council advising that Sandra King would convene an internal meeting. Councillor Price advised that following this meeting, he will obtain dates for a joint meeting with North Norfolk District Council and the PC.
- Store Galore A parishioner provided an update on the situation and advised
  that a response had been sent regarding a previous traffic survey but that there
  had been no follow-up since. The parishioner was asked to provide the PC with a
  list of the faults in the survey and this will be added to the agenda for future
  discussion.
- Malthouse Corner, Malthouse Lane, Catfield Change of Use of the land to a caravan site for single caravan for Gyspy and Traveller Residential Use; hard standing, portacabin and installation of cess pit (part retrospective)
   The documents on this application would be reviewed with a view to deciding how best to proceed.
- Milestones discussed above
- 15 Long Lane, Catfield -Two storey rear extension to dwelling No objection from the PC.

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#### CATFIELD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS (cont'd)

#### Tree Preservation Orders

Councillor Harris had suggested to the Tree Preservation Officer at North
Norfolk District Councillor that a number of trees in the area should be looked
at. As a result, Tree Preservation Orders had been placed on a number of trees
subject to any complaints. The PC supported the orders.

#### **Highways & Road Safety**

- Road Blockages/Closures due to farming vehicles The PC had written to the landowner and had received a response. No further action.
- FloGas high light levels on Long Lane Although the PC had received no responses to the letters sent, Councillor Edwards stated that the situation seemed to have improved.
- Car Parking arrangements for the playing field The sign appeared to be working well and there was no evidence that the parking had been abused. No further action.

#### **Environmental**

- Catfield Environmental Group There had been 19 volunteers on the community litter pick and they had collected an appalling amount of litter. The next footpath walk is at 10.00 am on 13<sup>th</sup> April starting point to be advised. Catfield United Charities will be discussing a proposal for a community orchard at the allotments at its next meeting. The next Bingo sessions are on 22<sup>nd</sup> March and 26<sup>th</sup> April. There will be a plant/garage sale on 19<sup>th</sup> May.
- Flooding and related Sewage Issues
- Catfield Primary School Two representatives from the school attended the meeting to address the PC's concerns. They described the problems caused by the flooding at the school. They stated that there were ongoing discussions to resolve these issues as part of the transfer to academy status. This was due to complete on April 1<sup>st</sup> 2024. The school are confident that all areas are being addressed and have no concerns that the school will be left in a difficult position. The PC listened to the assurances given by the school's representatives and said that they would be noted in the Minutes.
- Catfield Staithe and Wood Street/Plumsgate Road Councillor Harris said
  that the PC had received good responses regarding these, explaining that the
  high ground water coupled with surface water flooding had knocked out all the
  units. Two important sewage sites had been blown out by what had happened
  and the residents had had terrible circumstances.
- Dog Fouling Councillor Harris confirmed that his cattle had neospora due to them eating dog mess. The dog walk is discretionary and if there continues to be problems there would be no option but to close it. An article should be put in the village magazine advising people of the dangers and a sign should be put on the gate.
- Other Environmental Issues Councillor Bacon stated that the track down to Wood End Staithe had a "Footpath Closed" sign by the oil spillage. Councillor Harris believed that it had been put there by the Environment Agency

(cont'd)

#### <u>CATFIELD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS (cont'd)</u> Correspondence

- Site Clearance at Lea Road Parishioner concerns had been raised due to the clearance of the site. North Norfolk District Council had been advised and were investigating whether any breaches of legislation had been committed. The landowner was present at the meeting and advised that permission had been received from North Norfolk District Council before the trees were cut down. As the investigation is continuing, no further action by the PC.
- Cannon Wake Court Compensation The PC had hand delivered letters to
  the residents and four residents had come forward to say that they had not
  received their compensation. Councillor Edwards was congratulated on his
  success with this matter to date.
- Recreation field hedge cutting As the cutting period has passed, this will be left until the next hedge cutting season.
- Precept In response to two emails received regarding the precept increase, the clerk will send the correspondents the PC budget showing the three main costs – a new bus shelter, a new noticeboard and work on the playground.

PLEASE REFER TO THE WEBSITE FOR FULL DETAILS OF MEETING MINUTES

NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 3rd APRIL 2024





## Important notice to all mooring leaseholders:

Catfield United Charities will manage Catfield Common Staithe from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024, following the retirement of Laurie who we thank for decades of dedicated service.

Please contact us to ensure your contact details are correct so all mooring agreements can be renewed.

Email: enquiries@catfieldunitedcharities.uk

Phone: 01692 660250



This half term has been our shortest but as always super busy!

Our Cheetahs (Years 3 & 4) have started attending their swimming lessons at Victory every Monday which they are loving!

Earlier this term, our school council chose a charity to raise money for during the period of Lent. They suggested a non-uniform day and to donate a weeks cake raffle money. Last week we presented F.A.I.T.H with a donation of £104, which the children were super proud of.

Our EYFS children have their trip to Wroxham Barns. They are super excited to see all of the animals and are hoping to see some little lambs too!

We celebrated World Book Day, inviting all children to dress up as their favourite character from a book. We had lots of Harry Potter and Matilda fans. We invited parents/carers in to take part in some book based activities. It was a lovely day enjoyed by all children and parents. See some of their costumes below!

Lucy Amis (Senior Teacher)





## All Saints Church, Catfield and the other churches in the Benefice Services

#### Sunday 31st March 3pm Easter Day Songs of Praise and Garden Service Catfield

Why not join us for a special Easter Day Songs of Praise and garden service on Sunday, 31st March at 3pm? If the weather is fine bring a rug or chairs for all the family to sit on as we are hopefully holding the service in the Old Rectory Gardens, Catfield (kind permission of Penny Middleditch).

Just like the Christmas nativity, there will be modern readings and of course animals and an Easter egg hunt. Easter bonnet competition for both children and adults, and tea and cake. How could you miss it?

#### April Services

| Sunday | 7th April  | 10am        | Benefice Holy<br>Communion                               | Ludham                        | Rev'd Maggie<br>Guite                |
|--------|------------|-------------|--|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Sunday | 14th April | 10am        | Joint Morning Prayer                                     | Potter<br>Heigham             | April Noyes                          |
| Sunday | 21st April | 10am        | Joint Holy Communion                                     | Catfield                      | Rev'd Gary Noyes                     |
| Sunday | 28th April | 10am<br>6pm | Joint Holy Communion  Evening Prayer & short Bible Study | Potter<br>Heigham<br>Catfield | Rev'd Gary Noyes Judith Gardiner LLM |

What comes to your mind when you see or hear the word CHURCH? Do you picture a steepled building, dark wooden pews, crosses, offering plates? Do you hear hearty singing? Or does church trigger childhood memories of boredom — sermons — hymns — long bible readings; Sunday school teachers telling stories about Samson and Delilah, David and his psalms, Noah and his ark, Daniel in the lion's den and, of course, Jesus? Perhaps you experience again the texture of the wafer and the taste of watered-down wine at Communion? Do you remember a particular Sunday morning when a sermon gripped you as though you were the only one in the congregation, or the moment you became a Christian?

Or does church bring other pictures to your mind? A wedding, a funeral, a Baptism, an exciting out-door service, planning 'new' services, committee meetings, refreshments served in Tupperware dishes, that time when you decided to commit your life to God. When you see the word church, do you have good feelings? Like laughter? Warmth? Quietness? Acceptance? Happiness? Awe? Love? Closeness to God? Or are your feelings negative? Like boredom? Anger? Confusion? Guilt? Rejection? Does church remind you of arrogance, hostility, manipulation, anger, or irrelevance? Do you think of it as a poor substitute for what is really important in your community and in the world?

The word 'Church' often dredges up memories and emotions from deep within. Some healthy, some painful, most somewhere in between.

But the church is made up of people from our own communities. It is not the rather austere building - that is just where we meet to be with fellow Christians - it is us, the people of our villages who make up God's church here, with all our faults and inadequacies.

And it is changing. In the nigh on 50 years I have been a churchman I have seen so many positive changes. Most importantly, in my opinion, the fellowship and friendliness between people who attend church services, including non-regular attenders, which has become more pronounced and more genuine. We really do try to follow Christ's great commandment to love everyone as ourselves.

Have you been to a normal Sunday church service recently? Give it a try – you may be surprised by what you experience – you will certainly be made very welcome........

John Savage Worship Assistant

#### **NWT Hickling Broad**



Spring is upon us once again. The winter water levels on the Broad are beginning to fall as air temperatures rise heralding the season of new hope. Bird song fills the air and flowers and buds burst forth bringing promise of better things.

The first of the booming bitterns have already been heard, sucking in gulps of air to inflate the air sac in their throat that produces the booming sound on its release. In spring it takes time for bitterns to perfect their booming; often starting off as a simple grunt before developing into the deep, resonant, foghorn-like boom which is a feature of the marshes on spring days and nights. The local marsh harriers have been sky-dancing over the reedbed for some days, the males soaring high with exaggerated wing-beats, before tumbling down in a roller-coaster flight over the breeding territory, the females occasionally following suit. Cranes have been returning to territories too, with the trumpeting and dancing display already seen on the reserve. Signs of the season of plenty are all around us.

With the completion of our final Winter Watertrail boat trips, our summer season boat trip schedules will start again on Good Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> March, and weather permitting will run daily thereafter until the end of October. These trips can be booked by telephone through the Visitor Centre (01692 598276).

Spring also sees the commencement of our program of guided walks and talks, including *Boom of the bittern, Birds of Hickling* and new for 2024 *Wildflower identification walks*. All bookable via our website: <a href="www.norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk">www.norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk</a>, where further details can be found.



Cranes calling at Hickling by Lynne Warner.

#### **Farming News**

This time last year Spring cereals and beans had been drilled. This year nothing has been drilled to date and we have only just started applying fertilizers to winter cereals. Fields are actually drying up pretty well but there are odd pockets of land where there is a local culvert blockage or ditch that needs cleaning, where the land is still too wet to do anything. Credit must go to the Internal Drainage Board for keeping their pumps going, despite the age of them. Our charges for the current year have risen, let's hope the increases will pay for a pump that doesn't leak. We finally got to the bottom of why the land around the school has been sitting so wet this winter. The groundwater had risen so much it was almost at the soil surface. This meant that when there was rainfall the water couldn't infiltrate the soil quickly enough. Anyway, the blockage was identified and the water is beginning to flow away. The Anglian Water pump at Holly Farm has been fixed again (that's five motors this winter) having spent 5 weeks pumping groundwater out of their sump with two tankers. Quite why a sewerage system was designed to take groundwater as well is beyond me. I think there is still work to do to let the surface water away but much of that work will have to wait until conditions are much drier to allow plant on land. All the landowners know what to do to solve the problem. The landowner adjacent to Plumsgate Road has agreed to clean out his ditches, which should make Plumsgate road, nearer the industrial estate, drier and less muddy. Fenside Road is still wet but Highways are on the case and have come up with a plan to improve the road. Matters have not been helped by a 22-tonne low loader getting stuck at the end of the road 24 hours after the wettest day of the Winter.

Lambing is about 70% completed. Lambs are in good order and growing fast in the mild conditions. Last years lambs went to market recently and sold well which has given me the funds to fence in some small bits of grass. This should keep those areas tidy and reduce the need for mowing and keep my Carbon footprint down.

My Sustainable Farming Incentive application has been accepted and starts on 1<sup>st</sup> April. It builds on the environmental protection in the two Mid-Tier stewardship agreements. Having now got my mind round its purpose, I don't think I'll be that much worse off than when I was claiming BPS. Although nothing to do with SFI, I have changed my farming policy with regards to crop nutrient due to the cost of inputs. Don't worry I've not gone organic but I'm using more Farmyard manures and solid digestate than in the past. The digestate is the bi-product from the Anaerobic Digestate plant after the energy has been extracted. The energy is basically what the sunlight put into last year's crop and the digestate is all the fertilizer that was applied last year, being returned to the farm. By using these products, we can reduce the purchase of bought in fertilizers and reduce our Carbon footprint.

A cluster group of like-minded-farmers has been set up in East Norfolk by Norfolk FWAG (Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group). To help me before I attended the first bird identification farm walk, I used my new App which identifies birds by sight and by their song. I have always found trying to see some of the smaller birds almost impossible and I'm not good at identifying their songs. What has really surprised me is where the small birds are. Many of the protected sites don't seem to have many small birds, whereas on my arable land there seem to be many present. This could be something to do with the abundance of small grains for them to eat or hedges. Anyway, we seem to be doing something right and this will only improve with SFI. AWA

#### News and happenings - Catfield Environmental Group, April 2024

A big thank you to everyone who came and helped with our litter pick last month. There were 19 of us – that may be a record - and it's heartening to know there are so many people who care about keeping the village clean and tidy and safe for wildlife. Our next litter pick will be in September.

Dog fouling continues to be a concern, and the problems it causes include diseases in cattle. We'd like to appeal to ALL dog owners to pick up after their pets and prevent them from roaming loose.

#### **Footpaths and Ancient Trees**

Our next footpath walk will be in Catfield on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April starting at 10 am. We aim to combine this with identifying ancient trees in the parish that can be reported to the Woodland Trust and included on their Ancient Tree Inventory. <a href="https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/trees-woods-and-wildlife/british-trees/ancient-trees/">https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/trees-woods-and-wildlife/british-trees/ancient-trees/</a> Contact us on 07932 191558 <a href="mailto:or catfieldenvironmentalgroup@gmail.com">or catfieldenvironmentalgroup@gmail.com</a> for details of start location and route or keep an eye on our Facebook page.

#### The Street/New Road corner

We've recently bought and planted some anemones to add colour to the crocuses in front of the planters. Wildflower plugs are on order and we will be planting them sometime in April – keep an eye out on our Facebook page for the date as we will need plenty of help.

#### **Sutton Road**

We have gained permission from Trend Marine to extend the hedge around their fence on Sutton Road and are now looking to identify ownership of the adjoining section.

#### **Sandholes**

At the time of writing, much of the site is under water and the path is only navigable in wellies. We have started discussions about a possible interpretation board on the site to include information about history and wildlife. We also plan to hire a skip later in the year and clear the site of at least some of the remaining household and business-related debris.

#### **Community orchard**

We have approached the Parish Council and Catfield United Charities regarding creating a community orchard next to the allotments site at Catfield Common.

#### **Fundraising**

We've added a further bingo date to our schedule, so do come along to the village hall on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April at 7 pm.

The following event will be our third Plant Sale, taking place on Sunday  $19^{\rm th}$  May alongside the Garage Sale.

Our regular meetings are held at 7 pm at the village hall on every 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday, which in April will be Wednesday 24th. All are welcome, just come along, or you can contact us in advance at catfieldenvironmentalgroup@gmail.com or 07932 191558.

#### There is No Planet B

I recently listened to an inspiring BBC Sounds episode of 'On Your Farm' (18.2.24., 06.35am): 'Regenerating Lives & Land' at The Apricot Centre, S. Devon

Marina Brown O'Connell (horticulturalist) & Mark O'Connell (child psychotherapist) combine their individual strengths & knowledge on their 60 acre mixed farm to create a happy, relaxing environment in the outdoors where they offer healing therapy to traumatized adults & children through nature-based experiences.

For example a group of Iranian asylum-seekers visiting from Plymouth that day, were involved in a session of cultural cuisine, cooking lunch of spicy celery stew and carrot salad using seasonal vegetables on a griddle over a firepit These had all been grown on the farm.

The cooks were farmers, chefs & gardeners in their home country & enjoyed teaching other helpers.

A young man from Trinidad looked on, then asked for a pumpkin. He took pleasure in creating his own seasonal meal too for all the visitors and farm labourers. There was such a happy atmosphere where everyone contributed to the relaxed atmosphere.

Marina and Mark notice nature all around them heals the children. They raise pigs that nibble their toes and chickens that lay them eggs! Working with animals and plants, nurtures adults and children alike. It helps those with early childhood trauma start to relax. They laugh together over the antics of the animals they are looking after! Animals don't judge.

Being in the elements on the farm, the children and adults love the simplicity of digging the soil, planting seeds, watering, and over time watching them grow....finally tasting the food they've produced and enjoying the sense of success....a simple positive feedback loop.

Children who experience childhood trauma produce the stress hormone cortison. Their brain development changes. It only takes another stresser to kick off and the individual easily experiences the fight, flight or freeze reaction.

When they play in the woods at The Apricot Centre the staff notice the children's anxiety beginning to evaporate....a win-win situation

Anne Filgate

#### **Murder Mystery Evening**

Some of the members of the Village Hall Management Committee took to the stage to provide an evening of entertainment where the audience tried to find not only the murderer of the unfortunate farmer, Ian Roberson, but also the murderers accomplice. Shelley Moore and Dianna Rackham fell foul of the keen eyed detective and the evening was completed with a two course meal. Thanks to all who supported us and over £500 was made for Village Hall Funds.









## GARAGE SALE

## MAY 19th MAY

9<sub>am</sub> to 1:30<sub>pm</sub>

Take this opportunity to sell those things you no longer need & make some money in the process. If you live in the village and would like to sell it will cost £5.00 to be included on the sellers location map. The proceeds from pitch fees & maps will go to Catfield Environmental Group. Seller location maps will be available on the day at various locations around the village. A Plant Sale will also take place inside the Village Hall on the same day.

Details on how and where to book your pitch will be included in the May edition of the Catfield News.

#### **Chef's Specials**



#### **Mushrooms in Cream Sauce**

#### **Ingredients**

125g streaky bacon rashers, chopped 60g butter
1 onion, finely chopped
2 garlic cloves
450g mixed mushrooms
120ml dry white wine
Pinch of finely grated nutmeg
300ml crème fraiche
1tbsp cornflour
Salt and freshly ground black pepper
1tbsp chopped tarragon
Toasted ciabatta bread, to serve
Cherry tomatoes, to serve

#### Method

- 1. In a shallow pan, fry the bacon until lightly browned. Remove from the pan and set aside; keep warm.
- 2. Melt the butter in the pan and cook the onion and garlic for a few minutes, or until they are lightly browned and softened.
- 3. Halve any large mushrooms, then add all of the mushrooms to the pan and cook gently for 10 minutes, or until tender, stirring often. Add the wine and nutmeg and bring to the boil. Cover and simmer for 5 minutes.
- 4. Stir in the crème fraiche and the cooked bacon. Mix the cornflour with 1tbsp water and stir into the sauce. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Cook, stirring until the sauce thickens. Just before serving, stir in the chopped tarragon. Serve on toasted ciabatta with cherry tomatoes on the side.

  D.S.

One Liner; Budgets are politicians way of bribing people with their own money.

#### ThinkWilt dips into The Church Times

Many years ago, in another parish, ThinkWilt, having accepted apprehensively the challengingly flavoured chalice of the office of Churchwarden, was advised to find solace in *The Church Times* (CT). That august weekly, founded in 1863 and acknowledged as the *de facto* house journal of the Church of England, is fiercely independent and functions not as a sycophant as do many of its commercial equivalents but as a "critical friend". It is required reading for parish clergy, who can follow the workings of their Byzantine bureaucracy, see what better jobs their contemporaries have secured, and look for better jobs themselves - as many do in all walks of life. The attraction to ThinkWilt has been the wide variety of articles on anything from theology (which a professor friend explained changes every few years) through social issues to book reviews. Favourite contributors are the columnist Canon Angela Tilby, whose merit can be measured by the number of letters the next week violently disagreeing with her, and the cartoonist Dave Walker who pokes gentle but penetrating fun at the eccentricities of church people and practices that are instantly recognisable.

After last month's tale of a society abandoned by technology, ThinkWilt, on a dystopian roll, was planning the next instalment when a book review in the CT revealed that the story had already been written by the renowned thriller writer Robert Harris. Rather than risk inadvertent plagiarism, ThinkWilt instead downloaded and enjoyed the book. In *The Second Sleep\**, it seems that, in about 2025, God takes revenge on Mammon with an event that sweeps away technology and returns England to a medieval society, led by a church paranoid about any sign of the heresy that brought about the apocalypse. Returning seafarers tell of similar changes around the world, and the army skirmishes with an Islamic state to the north.

Father Fairfax, a young diocesan functionary, is sent by his Bishop to conduct the funeral of the incumbent of an outlying parish. Housed in the rectory, he wakes in the night, rummages in the late rector's study and finds damning heretical artefacts and documents. The thickening and development of the plot ThinkWilt leaves to an interested reader, but the book's title offers a speculative twist. Mr Harris tells us that it was customary to wake after a few hours' sleep, spend some time in study or meditation, and enjoy a "second sleep" until dawn.

The Bible is full of dreams in which God conveys important messages, from the revelations to the Egyptian Pharaoh, interpreted by Joseph, to the instruction to the Wise Men not to grass to Herod on the baby Jesus.

Does Father Fairfax inhabit a dream about the dire consequences of a self-destructive technology? Or is his world, with its King James Bible and Book of Common Prayer, a happier, healthier one?

\* Published by Cornerstone, 2019. ISBN 978-1-78746-096-6. Available in print and online.

ThinkWilt is the pen-name of Richard Reid. The views expressed are his own.

#### WATERSIDE SCRATCH BAND - PRESS RELEASE

**Meets:** Thursdays, 7:30pm – 9:30pm, Ludham Church Room (Please check with a contact before coming, in case we are meeting elsewhere)

#### Contacts:

David Frost mobile: 07907679630 Diana Rackham mobile: 07880943104 Email: dianarackham@hotmail.com

#### Forthcoming events:

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> May - St Catherine's Church, Ludham.

Informal evening concert of pieces composed by Scratch Band members during covid lockdown, accompanying the preview of an exhibition of hobbies and crafts created in lockdown, which will be on display over the weekend.

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May – Ludham Methodist Church.

To celebrate the chapel's anniversary; an evening of sacred songs, hymns and choruses – join us for a jolly good sing!

Scratch Band is the church music group for the Waterside group of parishes.

The band meets for practice, fellowship, fun and a tea break every Thursday evening at 7.30pm to 9.30pm usually in the Church Room, Ludham or in one of the Waterside parish churches.

We play for services in the Waterside benefice and beyond, supporting regular worship in the churches and outdoors. We also entertain at local events and go carol singing in pubs, care homes and anywhere else that will have us!

Scratch is open to all. A warm welcome awaits whether you sing, play an instrument, or would just like to listen.

#### New member Dianne comments:

Hello, we are the scratch band, a group of musicians and singers who provide music and support for the Waterside Benefice (Ludham, Catfield and Potter Heigham Churches). We were formed some 10 years ago to provide music when there was no organist in the churches. And so now we attend all Benefice services and other special services in the church calendar. This Christmas we sang carols at Stalham Christmas event, sung to the residents at The Old Vicarage, Ludham. We were also found singing carols in the The Crown Public House Catfield one of our more unusual venues. Our happy band could also be heard in all three churches over Christmas. The final feather in our cap was a spot on Radio Norfolk singing our own very special rendition of While Shepherds.

My name is Dianne, and I am one of the new members of the band. I enjoy singing but never felt brave enough to join a choir. So when the band's leader David Frost invited me to become a member of the Scratch Band and I went along in fear and trepidation but I can honestly say is the best decision I made. There's music, laughter and fellowship at our weekly meetings and I now really hate to miss a meeting. I urge anyone who loves to sing or play and perhaps a little hesitant about joining to come and give us a try. There's no audition.

There is also a social side to our group and for Burns Night this year we had a haggis neeps and tatties supper followed by the traditional dessert of Cranach. The haggis was piped in by one of our musicians Ros Wilson and the address was given by another of our musicians Eilish. Once we had all enjoyed our supper we were treated to a very informative and enjoyable talk by Dr Zena Aldridge on "Dementia Awareness". The whole evening was a huge success.

So having read all about us, I hope it's whet your appetite and made you just a-bit curious about us THE SCRATCH BAND.

#### Sea Palling Independent Lifeboat



Think of a lifeboat rescue and you automatically think of the boat crew but in fact boat crew are only a part of the team and cannot operate alone. At Sea Palling Independent Lifeboat we are desperately short of shore crew, including boat recovery crew. We also need fund raisers to help sell our merchandise and raise the money to keep the service going. We use outside contractors when we have to but this eats into our much needed funds, our station always needs repairs and badly needs a lick of paint, our steel storage containers also need some repairs and painting. Is this something you could help with? You could play an important part in a life saving service without having to get into a boat!

To join the team call Dave on 07774 804848.

**Tip;** If you have put too much salt in your soup just cut a few potatoes into large chunks and add them to the soup pan while it is still on the stove. When they start to soften, in about 10 minutes, remove them and the excess salt will have been absorbed.

#### It's spring at the Museum of the Broads!

Your local museum re-opens for the 2024 season on Sunday 24 March with a family Easter Trail. There are new displays including, from mid-April, a new exhibition on the changes in our unique peat landscape, plenty of activities and special events for all ages, and of course, wildlife spotting boat trips in either our accessible electric boat or our steamboat.

We are open from 10am to 4pm on Sundays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, plus holiday Mondays. We have partnered with Konectbus, so that passengers using the 5B service will receive a £1 museum entry discount on production of their bus ticket. And Art Fund members get 50% off museum entry when they show their Art Fund card.

Remember, you pay once and return as many times as you like for a year for free! Full details are on our website: <a href="www.museumofthebroads.org.uk">www.museumofthebroads.org.uk</a>
Do you fancy doing something different this year? We are also looking for local people to join us as part of our front-of-house team, welcoming visitors and selling tickets and items from the shop. There are also openings in our boats team. We offer training, social events, free entry for volunteers and their families, and the chance to bring the stories of the Broads alive. More information on our website or give us a call. If we're not in, just leave a message and we will get back to you.

www.museumofthebroads.org.uk/support-us/volunteer-at-the-museum
Museum of the Broads, The Poor's Staithe, Stalham, NR12 9DA 01692 518681



#### **Stalham & District Horticultural Society**

in Stalham Poppy Centre off Recreation Road Stalham (NR12 9BH).

#### **Saturday 6th April**

Annual Spring Show Open to the public from 2.00pm. Raffle, tombola & refreshments.

## Friday 19th April Talk entitled "Gardening for Shade" Speaker Jim Paine from the Walnut Tree Nursery

We look at how certain plants are adapted to shady conditions and apply this understanding to making good choices and the best use of ALL of our garden.

\* There will be plants for sale\* 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start

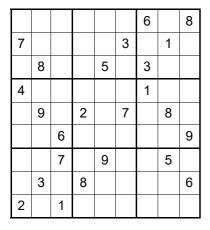
## SCREEN LUDHAM (LUDHAM VILLAGE CINEMA) FRIDAY 26th APRIL IN THE CHURCH ROOM, DOORS OPEN AT 7pm for 7.30pm

Friday 26th April - 'The Miracle Club' Comedy / Drama (12A, 90 mins)

It's 1967 in Ballygar, a hard-knocks community in outer Dublin. For the womenfolk who dream of throwing off the shackles of domestic life for a short moment of freedom, there's just one chance: to win a pilgrimage to the sacred French town of Lourdes. With a little benevolent interference from their cheeky and rebellious priest, close friends Lily, Eileen, Dolly and Sheila are the 'lucky' few to win this ticket of a lifetime at their riotous local raffle night.

Tickets are £5 each, which includes tea or coffee in the interval.

SUDOKU
Complete the grid so that every row, column and every 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9



#### **Last Months Solution**

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| RELIGIOUS DENOMINATIONS  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|
| Church of England<br>All Saints' Church, Catfield                      | Services – See page 12 for details.                                  | Rev'd Gary Noyes - 01692 678842<br>e-mail granoyes@gmail.com<br>Judith Gardiner - Licensed Lay<br>Minister and Church Warden<br>judithgardiner5@aol.com or<br>01692 615807<br>Dr Keith Bacon - Church Warden<br>01692 581314 |  |  |
| Baptist<br>Baptist Chapel, Stalham                                     | See www.stalhambaptist.org.uk for latest updates                     | Pastor – Rev. Ron<br>Skivington – 01692 582091   |  |  |
| Roman Catholic<br>Saint Helens, Hoveton<br>Sacred Heart,<br>N. Walsham | See<br>www.sacredheartnorthwalsham.com<br>for latest updates         | Father Peter Raj - 01692 403258<br>E-mail parishpriestfrpeter@gmail.com  |  |  |
| Methodist<br>Ludham  | See www.eangliamethodist.org.uk or facebook pages for latest updates | Rev. Andrew King - 01493 750799 Alan Croft - Steward - 01692 582104  |  |  |
| Saint Fursey's<br>Orthodox Christian Centre,<br>Sutton                 | See website – www.saintfursey.uk                                     | Rev. Stephen Weston – 01692 580552   |  |  |



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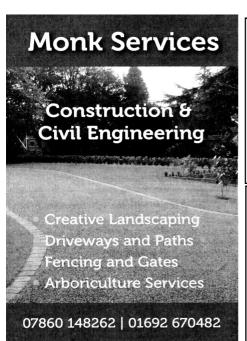


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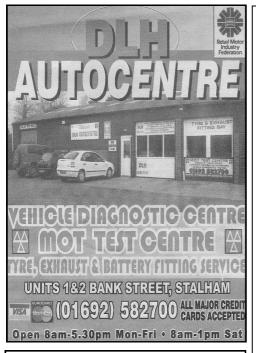
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#### **CATFIELD NEWS - Contributions & Advertisements**

Items for inclusion need to be received no later than **10** <sup>th</sup> of each month. Items can be e-mailed to the team, *contacts detailed on page 2*, or left in the Catfield News box in the Village Shop. Articles should be no more than 400 words and have the contributor's name attached, but the name does not have to appear in the magazine.

The Catfield News aims to be a magazine of local news and events and although we cannot always guarantee to include all items received, we will always give priority to Catfield news and events. If you have something you would like published in the magazine, please contact one of the team. For Business advertisements or small Classified Ads., please contact one of the Catfield News Team for details.

Catfield News items are published in good faith with every effort made to ensure accuracy of content as given to us. No liability can be accepted for inconvenience arising from error or omission. The views expressed in Catfield News are not necessarily the views of the Team.

We are dependent on our contributors for content. Sometimes the material they submit may have copyright attached, and we ask our contributors to check if this is the case. Nevertheless, sometimes material gets past our extensive editorial process. If we have inadvertently reprinted copyright material please accept our apologies. If any copyright holder feels they have had their work taken without permission, please contact the Catfield News Team and we will ensure due acknowledgement is made.