



Issue 246

CATFIELD NEWS

Your village magazine

May 2024



Catfield Environmental Group members and the newly tidied school pond

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 Academy - 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

Closed for lunch each day 12.30pm - 1.30pm

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 1st May, 7.00pm.
Preceded by APM at 6.30pm

Election of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk police area

Thursday 2nd May
7am - 10pm Catfield Village Hall

You must bring photographic identification to vote

Catfield Village Hall Friday 3rd May 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 bowl of soup.

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 14th May 2024**

Thorn Road 14:45 - 15:05

Village Hall 15:10 - 15:30

Catfield Stitching Group

Tuesday 14th May and Tuesday 28th May

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, crochet, patchwork or creative sewing). We have occasional, optional group projects and workshops.

**Please contact Pat Reid 07906 097007
for more information. £2.00 per session.**

Tea, Coffee & Biscuits included.

Free first/taster session.

Catfield Plant Sale & Garage Sale

Sunday 19th May 9am - 1pm

See pages 18 & 19 for more info

Catfield Crafters

Wednesday 22nd May

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**

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 a go.

We meet at the green at 2pm on Saturdays (near Potter Heigham village hall). The season starts 28th 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 June magazine is 10th May.

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.

Neospora caninum by Ben Crowter, Westover Vets

It might feel annoying to see that a farmer has put up a sign saying 'Please clean up after your dog' or something like that. After all, what harm can a little dollop of dog poo do? Well, it turns out, quite a lot. *Neospora caninum*, a parasitic disease that is passed between dogs and cattle, has recently emerged as the leading cause of pregnancy abortion in cattle in the UK. Cows are pregnant for about the same amount of time as women, around 9 months, and it's one of the most gut-wrenching things for a farmer to go to check his cattle one morning to find a seven-month-old fetus lying on the pasture. And knowing that an irresponsible dog walkers may be to blame is, understandably, hard to accept. It can be tricky for dog-owners to understand too; after all, their beloved pooch may be the picture of health. But that's just the problem, dogs infected with *Neospora* show no symptoms of illness and there are no tests to diagnose it. Yet once infected, they remain so for life. Your dog could easily pick up the parasite on its daily jaunts through farmland and neither you or it would be any the wiser. So the safest thing to do, always, is pick up after your dog, especially when in contact with pastures grazed by cattle.

CATFIELD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS
WEDNESDAY 3rd APRIL 2024

Public Update

- No issues raised

Councillor Bayes Update

- Councillor Bayes advised that much of his and Councillor Taylor's time had been taken up with the Milestones planning application. This was discussed at this point as the application was before North Norfolk District Council's (NNDC) Development Committee the following day. A report had been prepared by the PC setting out its objections to the application and this had been submitted to NNDC. Councillor Harris would represent the PC at the Development Committee meeting. District Councillors Taylor and Bayes would also speak.

Councillor Price Update

- Councillor Price was not able to attend the PC meeting but had emailed his report. The Environment Agency had brought in two engagement officers to the Broadland Futures Initiative. Norfolk County Council (NCC) is supporting tree planting and he will try to help the Catfield Environmental Group acquire some fruit trees. A spare SAM2 had been acquired by the PC and the cost of the post and installation will be provided from Councillor Price's highway budget.

Catfield School

- An update from the school, dated 25th March 2024, was read by Councillor Johnson. All was in place for the transfer to be part of St Benet's Multi Academy Trust from 1st April 2024. The letter set out the arrangements in place regarding flooding at the school. The school thanked the PC for its interest and support. The PC acknowledged the assurances given in the letter from the school.

Planning

- **Initiative on the Mushroom Site** - The PC was currently awaiting possible meeting dates with Sandra King and other heads of department from NNDC to discuss the above site. A draft letter had been prepared previously setting out the PC's points for discussion. The PC discussed a few amendments to the letter which will be finalised by Councillor Harris. Once a meeting date had been agreed, the letter will be sent to NNDC.
- **Update on Milestones – as above**
- **Siting of mobile home on land off School Lane/Ludham Road** - The application for a Certificate of Lawful Development previously submitted to NNDC by the landowner had been refused. The PC to write to NNDC asking that enforcement action now be taken.

CATFIELD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS (cont'd)

- **Store Galore – Application for retrospective planning permission** - The PC to write to NNDC expressing its disappointment that no progress appeared to have been made on the application. The letter would also point out that the sound and movement monitoring was unconvincing.
- **Malthouse Corner, Malthouse Lane, Catfield – Change of Use of the land to a caravan site for single caravan for Gypsy and Traveller Residential Use; hard standing, portacabin and installation of cess pit (part retrospective)** - The NNDC planning website to be checked to see if an up-to-date HSE assessment had been carried out by NNDC. All the documents relating to this application needed to be reviewed with a view to deciding how best to proceed.
- **PF/24/0425 – Demolition of single storey rear extension and replacement with two storey extension on similar footprint – The Hollies, The Street, Catfield.** - The PC had no objection
- **Broads Authority** - Notice of two consultations – for information only

Highways & Road Safety

- **Village Hall Bus Shelter** - The PC had been awarded a grant towards the cost of a new bus shelter. The paperwork for the acceptance of the grant was signed at the meeting. A visit to the bus shelter supplier to ensure the quality of the shelter to be arranged.
- **Other Highways/Road Safety Issues** - A parishioner had written to the PC regarding the condition of the road in Dale Lane caused by farm vehicles. The PC to write to the farmer.

Environmental

- **Catfield Environmental Group** - The next litter pick will be in September. The next footpath walk is at 10.00 am on 13th April, starting at the Church. Information is being collected for an interpretation board at Sandholes. Feedback is required from Catfield United Charities and the PC regarding a potential community orchard at Catfield Common. The group responded to an appeal from the school for help in maintaining its garden and pond. The next Bingo session is on 26th April. There will be a plant/garage sale on 19th May.
- **Update re Clearance of trees at the end of Lea Road** - Although NNDC had been chased with regard to potential action by the Forestry Commission, due to the holidays, no update was available.

CATFIELD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS (cont'd)

Flooding and related Sewage Issues

- **Catfield Staithe/Wood Street/Plumsgate Road** - Anglian Water had confirmed that it was ground and surface water which had knocked out the systems. The ditch into Plumsgate looked as though it was full of sewage.

Correspondence

- **Cannon Wake Court Compensation** - All paperwork had been completed and hand delivered to NNDC. It was hoped that the outstanding compensation payments would be received shortly.
- **New Notice Board** - Councillor Edwards is to follow up on potential suppliers.
- **Condition of road and overhanging branches on junction of New Road with A149** - An email had been received from a parishioner regarding the above. The PC to contact highways.
- **Precept** - The clerk had responded to the parishioners who had raised questions regarding the precept and would respond to further questions raised by one of the parishioners.

CATFIELD PARISH COUNCIL EXTRAORDINARY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS WEDNESDAY 20th March 2024

An extraordinary meeting of the PC was held on the 20th March 2024. The sole item on the Agenda was discussion of the PC's written response to further consultation on the Milestones application. Based on the discussion at the meeting, a report would be prepared and submitted to NNDC by the deadline of 25th March 2024.

PLEASE REFER TO THE WEBSITE FOR FULL DETAILS OF MEETING MINUTES

NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 1st MAY 2024

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
WILL BE HELD IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO
THE MAY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
COMMENCING at 6.30pm**

As usual all parishioners are welcome to attend.



WROXHAM AND HOVETON LIONS CLUB

Our next Craft Fair is just days away on Sun 5th May. Come along and browse up to 30 stalls selling all sorts of exciting products, then stop for a refreshing cuppa and maybe a bacon roll or a piece of cake. Free entry and carparking.

Your continued support has enabled us to help Local, National and International charities and good causes, from a Commercial Dishwasher for the Salvation Army Kitchen in North Walsham to a Lions project in a Girls Senior School in the Narok Region of Kenya (Masai Mara). The school is very lacking in sanitary provision and there is a Lions Clubs International Foundation project to bring sanitation and cleaner water to the 900+ girls who attend the school. Just a couple of the many and varied requests we receive and can help through the generosity of those visiting our Lions Shop in the Hoveton Precinct and attending our fund-raising events throughout the year. Our Shop is 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.

Do you fancy getting involved and enjoying being part of the worlds largest Service Organisation as a member or a friend?

Its easy -

Just contact our Membership Chairperson, Ron Hill using the 'Learn More" link on our website www.wroxhamandhovetonlions.org

A winning ticket in the Community at Heart Lottery is potentially a week away and the chance of winning £25000. 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://](https://www.communityatheartlottery.com/support/wroxham-and-hoveton-lions-club)

www.communityatheartlottery.com/support/wroxham-and-hoveton-lions-club

You can follow us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com> > wroxhamandhovetonlions or our website <https://wroxhamandhovetonlions.org>

We will always look forward to seeing or hearing from you.

Lion Mick Holden, President.

SCREEN LUDHAM (LUDHAM VILLAGE CINEMA)

FRIDAY 31st MAY

IN THE CHURCH ROOM,

DOORS OPEN AT 7pm for 7.30pm

'One Life' Drama (12A, 110 mins)

The true story of Sir Nicholas 'Nicky' Winton. He sought families who had fled the rise of the Nazis in Germany and Austria, living in desperate conditions with little or no shelter and food, and under threat of Nazi invasion. Fifty years later the live BBC television show, 'That's Life', surprises him by introducing him to some surviving children - now adults. Finally, he begins to come to terms with the guilt and grief he had carried for five decades. .

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



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

| | | | | | |
|--------|----------|------|-------------------------|----------------|---------------------|
| Sunday | 5th May | 10am | Benefice Holy Communion | Catfield | Rev'd Gary Noyes |
| Sunday | 12th May | 10am | Joint Morning Prayer | Potter Heigham | Judith Gardiner LLM |
| Sunday | 19th May | 10am | Joint Holy Communion | Catfield | Rev'd Gary Noyes |
| Sunday | 26th May | 10am | Joint Holy Communion | Potter Heigham | Rev'd Gary Noyes |

**Away Day- 18th May, 2024, for
The Waterside Benefice of Churches**

'Going Forward...' An Away Day for the Waterside Benefice in order to look creatively and prayerfully at the future for our wonderful Benefice. It will be led and facilitated by The Venerable Catherine Dobson, the Archdeacon of Lynn, and will run from 9.30am to 2.30 pm. on 18th May, 2024, and the venue will be at All Saints School, Lessingham. There will be a special time of Reflection in preparation for the day on 17th May, at St Catherine's Church, Ludham, from 6-7pm. This event is open to all who have an interest in the future of our churches in any way. Please bring your own lunch, and drinks will be available.

For further details, please contact Revd. Gary Noyes on 01692 678842

Ludham Methodist Church

'Tell me the old, old story ...'

Join the Waterside Benefice Scratch Band for an evening of Worship Songs, Hymns and Choruses old and new.

**Saturday 18th May 7pm at
Ludham Methodist Church**

Contributions in aid of the Chapel.

Refreshments will be served.

All welcome for a good sing!

Aline's Story

In Burundi, malnourishment and poverty affect more than 70% of the population, making survival a daily struggle. Jobs and food are hard to come by, and those who have homes often have no electricity or running water.

For Aline, life was a constant struggle. She was married young and gave birth to her eldest son, when she was just 14 years old; she also experienced constant abuse from her violent husband.

Then, Aline faced even more devastation. Her husband married another woman, forcing Aline to flee. He prevented her from taking their children with her; she wandered the streets, asking anyone for a place to sleep. Those who showed her kindness would let her stay for two or three days, it was difficult.

Hungry, scorned and alone, Aline took her first step towards her new life. She started by participating in a transformative three-day community workshop, funded by Christian Aid. And came out with amazing knowledge and skills, and a restored sense of hope and energy.

She was taught how to form a Village Savings and Loans Association (VSLA) and establish a steady income. VSLAs mean people can save for their future and borrow money to kickstart small rural businesses. With all she had learned, Aline's dream of getting her children back finally felt possible.

With a small start-up loan, Aline started trading avocados and peanuts locally. With her profits, she bought a bicycle so she could transport greater quantities of goods to markets further afield. Eventually, her hard work had finally paid off, and she had earned the money she needed to rent a house.

Once Aline secured a home for herself, her three eldest sons were able to escape their father and join her.

Today, Aline lives peacefully on her own plot of land in a remote village in the Kayogoro Commune in Makamba Province. She's baked her own bricks and is building a strong home for her and her children in every sense.

Now Aline can afford food, clothes and essential healthcare for her family. She's also purchased solar panels so her children can do their evening homework by electric light. Aline can not only look ahead to her children's future now, but her own too.

In the next five years she hopes to expand her current wholesale business by selling a range of goods, so that one day she can buy a mill.

Christian Aid week 12-18 May

Christine Wall, Authorised Worship Assistant

Mollie Ewart
31.10.1928 – 03.02.2024



Barry and Jan are sad to announce the passing of Mollie on 03 February 2024. She was a much loved mother, sister in law, aunt and friend.

Mollie was born in Ludham. After leaving school she worked on several farms in the area. She went to London to work as a nanny and in later life worked at Ross foods.

She married Jack Chapman in All Saints Church Catfield on 16th August 1947. They were married for 50 years until his sad passing in 1997. They lived on Ludham Airfield in a Nissan Hut before moving to Long Lane in Catfield and enjoyed gardening growing their own flowers and vegetables. Their son Barry was born in 1955. When he married and moved to Wales Mollie made several journeys by coach and a few by air to visit them but would never move over there. She was a Norfolk girl through and through.

After her retirement she loved being at home with her dogs, birds and pottering in her large garden. She was also a prolific knitter. She knitted for the British Heart Foundation and for stillborn babies at the Norwich Hospital.

Mollie found happiness again with Bill and moved to Limes Road. Unfortunately this was short lived when he died 18 months later. She then moved to the corner bungalow where she took great pleasure in creating her garden which gave an explosion of colour year on year especially the begonias in the summertime which were her favourites. It was also the perfect location for many people to chat with her as they passed by.

Mollie enjoyed a good and active life into her 90's until the last year when after 2 operations for breaking her hips her independence was reduced which she found very frustrating but she battled on with her mantra 'You Just Have To Do It'. She passed away peacefully at James Paget with Barry and Jan at her side knowing that she was very much loved by family and friends.

Barry and Jan would like to thank relatives and friends for their help, love and support for Mollie and themselves over the years. Mollie wished for contributions to Ludham surgery if people so desired and we were pleased to forward donations to the value of £387 which they were extremely grateful for. Rest in peace dear Mollie you will be sadly missed.

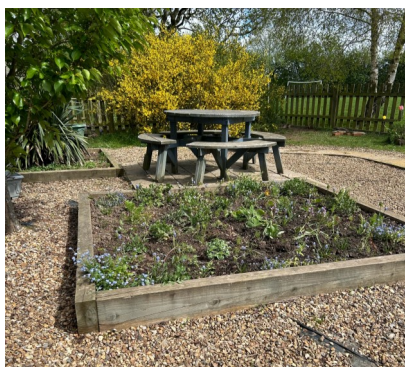


We would like to begin by saying a big thank you to the Catfield Environmental Group for coming and helping us to sort our very overgrown flower beds and very wild pond! The children have loved returning to school to see the beautiful flowers and we are hoping with the better weather we can enjoy lots of time in our newly refreshed pond!

Our children all enjoyed a wonderful easter egg hunt and we had some fantastic entries for our easter egg competition. Well done to our winners; Saffie (Pre-school), Daphne (Year 2), Jenson (Year 4) and Daisy-Mai (Year 6). This term is a busy one with our Year 6 children sitting their SATs exams and our Year 1 children taking their Phonics screening test. We are all very proud of them and know they will try their very best.

We are in the middle of planning our Summer Fete. We are looking for people who would like to have a stall at our fete on Saturday 29th June 11am-2pm. Tables will be £10 each. Please contact the school office for more information.

Lucy Amis
(Senior Teacher)



News and happenings – Catfield Environmental Group, May 2024

Catfield School garden

In April, members responded to a request in this magazine from Catfield School for help with their lovely garden and pond. We held two sessions around Easter, when we tidied up the raised beds and paving and cleared the pond of invasive weed. We have also added some plants for instant colour and sown some wildflower seeds, which we hope will germinate in a month or so and provide interest and colour for pupils and staff later in the growing season. Any parents or residents who would like to help with this please do get in touch.

Ancient Trees

A group of members walked from the church up to Johnny Crowe's Staithe in mid April on the lookout for notable trees that could be added to the Woodland Trust's Ancient Tree Inventory. We found several elderly oaks on both sides of the track extending from Sharp Street past Cobb's Farm to the staithe. One in particular caught our eye and so we measured the trunk (4.5 metres in girth) and took some photos. We hope that the Woodland Trust will in due course send out a verifier to check that the tree meets the criteria for inclusion.

The Street/New Road corner

We hope you have enjoyed the purple and yellow tulips in the planters. These will be replaced by summer-flowering plants in due course, and we are also awaiting delivery of some wildflower plug plants that will be planted around the site. They're going to be a bit later than expected due to the cold, wet weather, and we may not have them until the beginning of May. Please keep looking at our Facebook page for the date of our planting session and come and help if you can.

A broader remit for the group

Our group ran a survey and workshop for members in March looking at our past and planned activities and what we felt about our current stated aims. Members agreed they would like to broaden the group's remit to work more widely for the benefit of the village, and we will be discussing this further in upcoming meetings.

Plant Sale Sunday 19th May

We will be holding another plant sale alongside the popular Garage Sale on Sunday 19th May. Come along to the village hall between 9 am and 1 pm to stock up on plants from various local sellers including members of our own group. There will also be stalls by local artists Anne Filgate and Chris Cook, a bottle and chocolates tombola and light refreshments. All proceeds will go to environmental projects in the village.

Our regular meetings are held at 7 pm at the village hall on every 4th Wednesday, which in May will be Wednesday 22nd. All are welcome, just come along, or you can contact us in advance at catfieldenvironmentalgroup@gmail.com or 07932 191558.

NEW LAND-BASED ACTIVITY TO KEEP HISTORIC WHERRIES SAILING

Supporters of Wherry Yacht Charter Charitable Trust followed a route on land rather than water for an inaugural fundraising hike to mark National Walking Month in May.

The new Hathor Trail starts and finishes in Ludham, with the midway point at How Hill where the pleasure wherry Hathor is moored and open for viewings during the sailing season (May to September).

The six-mile route follows public footpaths and quiet country lanes with sections along the banks of the River Ant and Crome's Broad.

Along the way there are short stops where WYC volunteer and walk guide Gary Jones describes the history of various points of interest.

The Hathor Trail is easy walking and takes about four hours with stops to complete, including a tour of the wherry at How Hill.

"This is a new initiative to raise the funds needed by our charity to preserve, maintain and operate five of the remaining eight wherries in the world. Our main source of income is from scheduled sailings and charters but not everybody wants to sail on one of our boats so we are hoping this land-based activity will appeal to them as an alternative way of supporting our work," says WYC Trustee Judith Keogh.

Regular walks will be held during the summer. E-mail jk@wherryyachtcharter.org for details.

Information about scheduled sailings and how to charter a wherry can be found on the charity's website: www.wherryyachtcharter.org

One Liner; Make life out of what you have. Not what you are missing.

CATFIELD

GARAGE SALE

Sunday 19th MAY 9:00_{am}
to 1:00_{pm}

IT'S TIME TO REGISTER!

Pop in to the Catfield Crown PH with your £5.00 payment & contact details.

Register from **1st May to 17th May** to be included on the sellers map and to be entered into the draw to win a fish & chip meal for 2 at the Catfield Crown

Plant Sale, Maps, Refreshments & Toilets available on the day at the Catfield Village Hall

All proceeds from the £5 seller fee & £1 sale of maps go to Catfield Environmental Group



Sunday 19th May
9am to 1pm
CAKE STALL
at 2 Lea Road, Catfield
In aid of Catfield Church

**CATFIELD
GARAGE
SALE** @ Various Village
Locations!!

**& PLANT
SALE** 

PLANT STALLS • REFRESHMENTS • TOMBOLA
@ Catfield Village Hall

SUNDAY 19th MAY
9^{am} - 1:00^{pm}

Farming News

My Sustainable Farming Incentive scheme has started although I have to say I don't fully understand what is "sustainable" about it. I've picked options that don't really impact on the sustainable farming operation I have. Some farmers have really engaged with the scheme and put large parts of their land into bird and bee options. Rural Payments Agency are now concerned that farmers realized this was too good to be true and have capped some options at 25% of the farmers' land. Still the scheme is good. My two Mid-Tier Stewardship agreements are bearing fruit with the payment options increasing. The down side is that I spend too much time on the application process and getting the various permissions I require. Twice now I've had e-mails to say the option I've requested "might be on a protected site" and that I need Natural England's permission for the option. I have to say that at no point was I considering an option to dig up a protected site or potentially damaging a site. It turns out that the maps RPA use which have the protected sites superimposed on them are slightly out by a couple of meters. So, although I knew I owned part of the Wensum SAC site (the river) I was not planning on grazing sheep on it as they might have been swept down river. The other is that it turns out that I own part of the Ant Broads & Marshes SSSI- or at least a ditch in it. I've had panic phone calls at weekends from RPA staff who think I may have started works without the correct permission being in place. I can't do anything, the land is flooded.

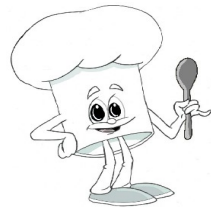
I've recently passed my annual audit for traceability in crop production, without any issues. I've been through the farm's insurance because there have been some changes which hadn't been picked up. Now I've had a phone call from the Environment Agency saying that there has been a complaint and a report sent to them. All I know is that there is a grid reference number but I'm not allowed to know where it is. The officer said the problem was at Longmoor and was polluting Catfield Fen, which makes no sense as they are a long way apart. So, I suggested they send me the report so I had a rough idea what to look for. Next day I receive a "Freedom of Information Act (2000)" note saying I'll receive the report in one month. That's helpful.

Even though the weather has been reasonably dry, groundwater levels are still high in the lower lying areas of the farm, making cropping decisions difficult. Neighbours are still being encouraged to clean out ditches to get rid of water- its beyond me why they don't keep ditches clean, they must realise their actions are causing problems for everyone. Many still don't realise that they have an obligation to keep the water flowing and not to hold up water.

The Broads Authority/Forestry Commission deer survey came out. We have 4000+ deer in the area! and you guessed it; the hot spot is Catfield Fen. This is quite surprising as the majority of the deer had left the area during the survey in February as it was too wet. We now have a meeting to decide what to do about them. I'm sure fencing protected sites will be discussed but we really need a cull on a large scale. I've been saying for a few years that Muntjac numbers are decreasing as the Chinese Water Deer increase in number as they seem to be quite aggressive to Muntjac but some bright spark seems to think CWD are rare and shouldn't be culled. We are also starting to think that some of the rare plants are being eaten, I've seen aerial shots of deer tracks which give us an idea of what they have been eating. Normally its my crops but I'll start seeing if Wild Carrot is on their menu. That's the plant the Swallowtail Butterflies lay their eggs on.

AWA 10.4.2024

Chef's Specials



Rhubarb, Apple and Hazelnut Tart

Ingredients

2tbsp plain flour
1 block readymade shortcrust pastry
90g butter
160g caster sugar
2 eggs
150g plain flour
130g ground hazelnuts
2 apples
2 stalks of rhubarb
1 tsp ground cinnamon

Method

1. Working on a floured countertop, roll out the pastry to a thickness of 5mm. Line a buttered and floured tart pan. Chill for 30 minutes.
2. Soften the remaining butter. Add 80g sugar. Blend the mixture well. One by one add the eggs. Add the flour and 80g of ground hazelnuts. Set aside.
3. Peel the apples, core them and cut them into thin slices. Peel the rhubarb and cut it into small pieces. Mix the leftover sugar, cinnamon and ground hazelnuts together.
4. Preheat oven to 140C - 150C.
5. Take the prepared tart pan and arrange alternating layers of apple slices, rhubarb pieces and the sugar-cinnamon-hazelnut mixture. Top off with the mixture prepared in Step 2. Bake for 45-50 minutes. Check to see if cooked through by inserting a knife blade into the centre of the cake, it should come out clean.
6. Cool completely before turning out.

D.S.

ThinkWilt holds on while they ignore his call

The title refers to a phrase coined by the US cartoonist Scott Adams in his Dilbert comic strip. The eponymous hero, employee of a corporate bureaucracy, who copes with micro- and mis-management through a mixture of naïveté and cynicism, is pictured on the telephone to a call centre. From the earpiece issues the exhortation, “please hold on while we ignore your call.”

Well, we’ve all been there, but ThinkWilt is intrigued by the variety of forms this “we’re too busy to speak to you” can take, as follows:

Go away and use the website. There may be some who genuinely don’t know that the website can provide some answers and functionality, and who are genuinely capable of engaging with it. However, even the reasonably IT-literate ThinkWilt is wary of doing anything important on a first visit, preferring first to confirm with a so-called “live agent” that he has the right end of the cybernetic stick. In fairness, some systems accept that the caller may actually *need* to speak to a human and graciously offer the option to hold on, but still every minute or so extol the virtues of the website. “Press 1 to not hear this message again” would be helpful.

Press 1 for a callback- you will not lose your place in the queue. It is probably factually true that the underlying computer system can arrange for the telephone call. However, it is highly likely that the call will not get through your telephone’s screening system or will cut off after two rings, just as you’re getting the phone out of your pocket. Then you really DO lose your place.

The embarrassingly insincere apology takes several forms. It’s usually preceded by “we’re VERY busy” and ends with “we’re trying REALLY hard to answer your call”, or similar. The former is self-evident. The latter has nothing to do with the diligence of individual agents; it is the result of a conscious decision by management to reduce staff numbers and hence costs, to a point just short of, in the private sector a serious loss of business, or in the public sector an outcry of sufficient volume to engage the attention of politicians and the media.

The American cartoonist and humorist James Thurber (1894-1961), who wrote and drew about, among other things, the absurdities of everyday life, was a literary giant of his own generation, and maybe a precursor of *That was the week, that was, Monty Python*, the *Hitchhiker’s Guide* - and even the humble ThinkWilt. In one of his hilarious pieces he claimed to have discovered at his local exchange a “Sympathiser”, to whom he asked to be connected in order to relate his latest tale of woe. The operator, who of course knew him, let him down lightly and explained that he had simply misheard “supervisor”.

“Press 9 to be connected to the Sympathiser” should be compulsory.

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

Sea Palling Independent Lifeboat



Following on from last month's shore crew update, let's introduce the fundraising team who work tirelessly to raise money including selling our merchandise on the beach stall and at local events, collecting our charity pots, organising events, such as our Easter Egg event and arranging for Santa to visit, and building relationships with local businesses. These are just a few ways they raise money so that we may continue our valuable rescue work. Our beach stall predominately runs Sunday mornings May to September when the weather is a bit warmer, maybe you could help us by spending an hour or two once a month or more on the stall, or perhaps you could help by raising money in other ways. For further information please contact rita@seapallinglifeboat.co.uk or come and say hello when we are on the beach.

On Thursday the 6th of June 2024, we will be holding a commemoration on the beach to remember the 80 years since the original D Day of 1944. Further information will be available on our social media pages closer to the time and we would love it if you would come and join us for the evening including the lighting of the lamp ceremony.

Tip; Untreated wicker furniture yellows with age and exposure to sun and the elements. To keep the natural tone, scrub the item with a stiff brush dipped in warm salt water and let it dry in the sun. Repeat this process every year or two.



NWT Hickling Broad

Early spring has consisted of several windy days. Despite this, amidst the bluster, the warmth of the sun can be felt and evidence of the progression of the season is clear to both see and hear. It heralds the arrival of migrants aplenty. The Sallows lining the ponds and reedbeds are alive with the melancholy cadence of Willow Warbler song, whilst Blackcaps warble their rich and fruity notes from the drier areas of scrub. Water Rails, sounding for the world like tiny piglets, squeal their excitement from the depth of the reedbeds, 'sharming' their prospective mates. Sedge Warblers are parachuting their scratchy song-flights above the scrubber areas of the marsh and the skulking Cettis' Warblers burst forth their strident territorial notes, proclaiming their presence even as they remain unseen, low in the bramble and birch scrub along the water courses. Bearded Tits 'ping' their way around the reedbeds searching for favourable nesting sites, the spectacular males displaying their black, gloriously elongated, mandarin moustaches that contrast so wonderfully with the powder-blue of their heads. Amidst this frenetic activity, at least six Bitterns are currently booming out their resonant presence and the local Cranes continue to trumpet and dance out on the grazing marshes.

Our celebration of the life of Emma Turner continues into May with the exhibition of her photographs at the Visitor Centre. And specific Emma Turner boat trips, piloted by our informed boat operators, run over the weekend of 11th-12th May. These are bookable through the NWT website and following the what's on link to the calendar. Our program of guided walks, including *Boom of the bittern*, *Birds of Hickling* and our new *Wildflower identification walk*, all continue during May and can be booked through Eventbrite via our website: www.norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk, where further detail can be found.



Boat trip at Hickling. Credit Steve Cox

May at the Museum of the Broads

May sees the first of our big events of 2024. If you like boats, bric a brac, or just fancy a bargain, come to our popular Boat and Fishing Jumble sale on Saturday 11 May. Doors open from 09.30. If you have things to sell, see our website for details. All stalls must be booked in advance.

You can grab a bargain at the Museum too. If you want to look around the Museum plus take a boat trip, buy our special, reduced rate combined ticket. Plus, Konectbus passengers using the 5B service get £1 off museum entry 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! Full details are on our website: www.museumofthebroads.org.uk We are open from 10am to 4pm on Sundays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, plus holiday Mondays and you can also enjoy a boat trip in our accessible electric boat.

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. 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.



Museum of the Broads, The Poor's Staithe, Stalham, NR12 9DA 01692 518681

SUDOKU

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

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Last Months Solution

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RELIGIOUS DENOMINATIONS

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

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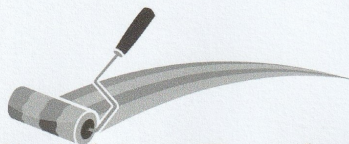
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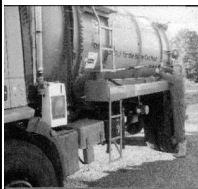
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CATFIELD NEWS – Contributions & Advertisements

Items for inclusion need to be received no later than **10th** 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.*

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