

# MAY 2024



Catney Residents  
Association



## CATNEY NEWS

### CONTACTS

Frances Cook, Secretary to the Residents  
Association

[secretary@catney.co.uk](mailto:secretary@catney.co.uk) 0776 8502039.

Residents Association Twitter account:  
[@CatneyResAssoc](https://twitter.com/CatneyResAssoc) and the Website of the  
Residents Association [www.catney.co.uk](http://www.catney.co.uk)

Catney News: Please send all articles to  
Christine Cluley, Editor, by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the  
month. [chris.cluley1@gmail.com](mailto:chris.cluley1@gmail.com).

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



## **Residents Association News**

### **Airport Update**

On 28<sup>th</sup> March our representative attended a Night Time Flying Working Group meeting to discuss with the Airport the current Night Flying restrictions with the view to securing amongst other things reduction of the overall decibel limit for aircraft departing between 23.30 and 05.00 and an overall limit on the number of departures between those hours or other time periods that may be agreed. Communities on the Working Group are meeting again on the 24<sup>th</sup> with the aim of putting together a comprehensive wish limit to be discussed on the 14<sup>th</sup> May meeting with the Airport Co. As a member of the Airport Consultative Committee our representative also voluntarily sits on the Airport Community Trust Fund committee. This fund gets its monies from the Airport Co through donations and from noisy aircraft fines. It sits twice a year (the most recent meeting was on the 18<sup>th</sup> April) to discuss and where possible agree grants against applications from local organisations/community groups. The Trustees of the Village Hall and the RA have both received grants over recent years totalling £3000. Details of the Community Trust Fund can be found on the Airport's website

### **Catney Common**

Following on from the item last month, two new fruit trees have been planted on the Common this month. In addition, Do Connelly has organised a number of working parties aiming at tidying the Common and digging up the numerous bramble plants that seem to be rampant

Thanks Do for organising things and for the "friends" for supporting her in keeping the Common a great local open space. If you interested in helping keeping the Common shipshape please let us know and we will pass your contact details on to Do.

### **Traffic Calming in Catherine de Barnes**

Following a meeting in mid-April with representatives of the Parish Council and National Highways (NH) we learnt that a final decision as to whether NH will finance the traffic calming scheme for the village, will be made on the 26<sup>th</sup> April and as soon as we have any information it will be placed on our website and emailed to members – keep your fingers crossed. If we are successful in obtaining funding for the scheme, it will be the subject of an open village meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup> May commencing at 7.30pm.

## **Planning and Neighbourhood Plan Update**

Following the publishing of further documents on the Council's Planning Portal in relation to the planning application for up to 95 new dwellings on the Oak Farm site (PL2023/01173/PPOL), we have written to SMBC in support of the response made by the Parish Council (PC). The PC response is available to view in the Planning section of their website.

As mentioned in previous News the review of the Neighbourhood Plan has stalled because of the situation with the Solihull Local Plan currently being reviewed but also stalled. In order to ensure that opportunities are not being missed our representative on the working group together with PC member/s are meeting with SMBC to discuss what alternatives may be open which will allow our Plan to continue its journey through the process - more news next month.

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

If you see issues with any of these - please send details to the PC clerk at [clerk@hamptoninarden.org.uk](mailto:clerk@hamptoninarden.org.uk) – we find things get attended to quicker that way. If you can send a picture so much the better but please provide details of its location.

## **Activities this month**

- Continue to monitor membership and contributions
- Contact members who have not renewed to establish if the Association is not meeting their expectations – luckily the results so far indicate it's more a question of renewing slipping the mind
- Investigate the possibility of purchasing a card machine to use at events as well as taking cash
- Organising and preparing for a future social event in July
- Distributing various communications to members which we feel of interest
- Attended meetings with the Planning Agent for the Oak Farm planning application to discuss our concerns.
- Virtually met with NH to discuss grant application for CdeB traffic calming project
- Attended meeting of Community Trust Fund with background preparation
- Three meetings and preparation work concerning the Night Time Noise Review
- Preparing and attending the monthly committee meeting
- Preparing articles for the Catney News and Parish News
- Liaising with Parish and Ward Councillors over local issues .

## **Residents Association Committee Meetings**

Generally Committee meetings are generally held on the first Monday in the month but the next one is being held **on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May because of the Bank Holiday on the 6<sup>th</sup>.**

Any resident wishing to raise any issue with the Committee can do so, at least 48 hours before the meeting, by contacting [secretary@catney.co.uk](mailto:secretary@catney.co.uk). Any items of importance discussed at the meetings or decisions made, are communicated to members via Catney News, which is distributed to members only.

## **Catherine de Barnes History**

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

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

## **Parish Council**

### **Next Hampton in Arden Parish Council Meeting - Annual General Meeting**

The next meeting is being held on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May in the Meeting Room next to the new Soho Tavern in Marsh Lane , Hampton in Arden at 7.30pm.

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

**Residents are welcome to attend- its last about 90 minutes usually.**

## **Dates for the Diary**

### **Residents Association**

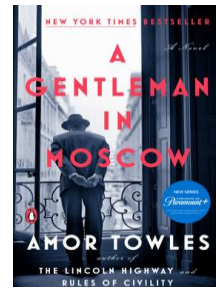
Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May - Possible meeting to discuss the CDEB Traffic Calming proposals  
Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July— Association Hog Roast – see poster on back page

## **Parish Council**

**Annual General Meeting** being held on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May commencing 7.30pm

# BOOK REVIEW by JOHN ALDERSON

**A GENTLEMAN IN MOSCOW** A novel by Amor Towles



Having just finished this book, which I enjoyed immensely, I noticed a film had been made of it, which was to be shown on television later in the week. Sadly, to my great disappointment, it was shown on a channel I was unable to access.

This is a story that has everything. A glimpse into life in Russia before and after the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917, relationships with people, attitudes to responsibility, realism, hope, joy and disappointment. The style of writing might be described as 'slightly flowery' but this adds to the enjoyment, suits the story admirably and with the unusual doubling of the time change in each chapter, then reversing, keeps your attention until the very end.

The Gentleman referred to in the title is Count Alexander Ilyich Rostov, who is living in some style in the Hotel Metropol in Moscow when he is found guilty of being a Social Parasite and avoiding death, is sentenced to house arrest in the hotel, but he is moved from his luxury apartment to a very small room on the top floor.

The story is then all about his life in the hotel, his relationships with members of the staff and dramatically becoming a foster father to Sofia the daughter of Nina Kulikova who he met as a child in his first days of house arrest. His developing relationship with Sofia is superbly written and provides another constant in the story.

I found this a delightful book to read and will certainly seek out other work by Amor Towles.

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## Village Hall Update

The Trustees of the Village Hall would like to thank the management of the Boat especially Giancarlo (GC) for his generosity in donating 3 parasols for the picnic tables currently sited at the rear of the Village Hall and to Steve Dodsworth for pursuing the matter .

Village Hall Trustees

**"May, the month of sunshine, blooming flowers, and endless possibilities." - Unknown**

# Catney Common

With a very wet season hopefully behind us, the common is starting to dry out a little, with cowslips establishing near the roadside.

Two new dessert apple trees are settling in - Worcester Permain and Paradise Gold. With thanks to the Cartwrights and their Oakfields Way neighbours for collecting funds during Covid, enjoying a 'distanced' neighbourly barbecue.

The small Catney Common Workgroup are meeting again on Tuesday 14 May, 6.30-7.30pm to continue clearing brambles and sedges. Bring gardening gloves if you'd like to join us or leave a message for Do Connolly on 07913 846986 for info on further workgroup sessions.



**It is with deep regret that I have to inform you of the passing of my wife Mrs Glenda James on 27<sup>th</sup> March.**

**We have lived at 63 Hampton Lane for nearly 40 wonderful years. She died at home of bone cancer after a relatively short illness.**

**Glenda taught at Ruckleigh School and she was a Private Tutor to many children in Solihull and the Catherine de Barnes area.**

**She was a wonderful mother, grandmother and wife and will be very sadly missed.**

**Ken James**

**On behalf of the Village and the Residents Association we offer our sincere condolences to Ken and their family. CC**

# POPPY CASCADE

A member of the Catney Craft Club has been asked to make some poppies for the Poppy Day Appeal for a Dementia Home. They are planning a Poppy Cascade and need knitters and crocheters.



We are happy to provide some support for this project in the way of knitting and crocheting poppies for this event but need some wool donations of the following colours - red, blue, purple, white and black. It doesn't matter too much what the ply is as we will sort that accordingly.

The group would like to thank you for your support. (Wednesday afternoon between 2-4pm) or call, 0121 704 4346 (Jane).

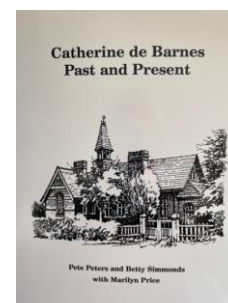
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## WELCOME PACK FOR NEW RESIDENTS

If anyone has a new neighbour, knows of a new resident to the village or is in the process of moving, I would very much appreciate it if you could let me know the address of the new resident so that I can deliver a Welcome Pack to them. The Welcome Pack contains information of the village amenities, useful telephone numbers and of course information about the Residents Association and the many things we do. Please email me at [cuthbertlm@me.com](mailto:cuthbertlm@me.com) or text/telephone me on 07776 480813 with the address of the new resident. Thank you. Lesley Cuthbert

## Catherine de Barnes Past and Present

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



## The Great British Spring Clean 2024

An enthusiastic group of volunteers of all ages gathered at the Hall on Saturday March 23rd and set off with Hi-Viz jackets, bags and litter pickers supplied by Solihull. About 27 residents took part and 28 bags of assorted rubbish and other debris were collected. Drinks, Welsh cakes and conversation were enjoyed after the work was completed. Thanks to all who took part and also a special mention to those lovely members of the village who regularly pick up litter when they are out walking. It all helps to maintain the appearance of the Village and we plan to do another session in September. Details not yet confirmed.

If you see fly tipping in the village you can report it to Solihull Council [https://solihullcouncil.custhelp.com/app/smbc/dio/report\\_it/forms/streetcare/report\\_fly\\_tipping](https://solihullcouncil.custhelp.com/app/smbc/dio/report_it/forms/streetcare/report_fly_tipping) or contact the clerk at HPC ([clerk@hamptoninarden.org.uk](mailto:clerk@hamptoninarden.org.uk)) who is very efficient at getting these things sorted. It is good to send a photo too, if you can, so they can see where the rubbish is and what sort of vehicle is needed for the pick-up. If you want to be a regular "Love Solihull" volunteer yourself you can register at <https://www.lovesolihull.org/> and the kit will be provided.





## Local Hedges

Hedges are part of the British landscape. They are a barrier between fields, along roads and other rights of way. When intensive agriculture has degraded the local ecology, they provide some residual wildlife.

However, they require much more time and labour to create and maintain than wire fencing.

The government's Countryside Stewardship grant scheme provides significant funding to support landowners in planting, maintaining, and restoring hedgerows. Payment has been enhanced last month to improve uptake of the scheme, but lack of contractors or staff to undertake the work is a major barrier. Much of the work locally is undertaken through volunteers, such as wildlife trusts and hedge societies.

Creating a new hedge is in some ways the "easiest" step (figure 1), albeit each 100 metres of hedgerow requires planting 400 – 600 whips (30 – 60cm long bareroot saplings). The season extends from November to March. The plants are required to provide a strong barrier, to have limited edibility by stock animals, limited tendency to spread by suckering, and to be able to regrow after cutting. Beech would be unsuitable as it is readily eaten, Yew poses a theoretical risk of poisoning livestock. Mixed native plants are used if applying for the government grant, consisting mostly of hawthorn with a mix of other native trees ( eg blackthorn, holly, hazel, hornbeam). A tree such as oak or fruit is planted every 50 metres or so, and allowed to grow to maturity.

For the first few years the new hedge requires protection from rabbits, voles, deer and stock.



***Figure 1. Newly planted hedge in Hampton in Arden – over 1500 saplings in protective sleeves***

After 8 – 12 years the hedge should be over 8 – 10 feet in height. Most times, it is then cut to the desired height, using a tractor mounted “flail” for speed. Unfortunately, this leads to poor hedge function and appearance. A better, albeit much more time consuming, approach is to lay the hedge (Figure 2), that reduces the height, fills in gaps, and produces a long term better structural barrier.



***Figure 2. Hedge being laid right to left, in fields south of Hampton Lane.***

The most time-consuming task is restoring a long-neglected hedge, often from such a state that it can be hard to tell it ever was one. One approach is to coppice where the hedge has become trees, and to “fill-in” plant new whips in the gaps where the hedge has died (figure 3). When the coppiced “stools” and new whips are several feet tall, they can be “laid” by “pleaching”, staking and binding as happens with conventional hedge laying.



***Figure 3. A hedge along Berry Hall Lane that has been neglected for decades and so turned into trees. It is being restored by coppicing and fill-in planting with hawthorn, hornbeam, buckthorn, spindle.***

Hedge and similar wildlife management produces a large amount of cut wood and branches. Rather than burn this, a “deadhedge” can be built, allowing carbon to be captured, a wildlife refuge, a useful barrier and screen (Figure 4).



***Figure 4 A "deadhedge" created from brash (branches) left from the above hedge laying and restoration.***

Hedges have a marked effect on the appearance of our countryside, both generally and in the variation between regions. For instance, the creation of a bank with a hedge on top is characteristic of Dorset and Devon and is particularly valuable to wildlife. Our “local” version is “Midland bullock fencing” with a row of twisted willow or hazel stems (“binders”) along the top of the laid hedge – one of the more labour-intensive techniques unfortunately!

**John Ross Ainsworth**

**“May has come in, young May the beautiful, weaving the sweetest chaplet of the year. Along the eastern corridors, she walks. What time the clover rocks the earliest bee. Her feet are flush with sunrise, and her veil floating in breezy odours o’er her hair.”**

**— Thomas Buchanan Read**



CATNEY RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

# VILLAGE SUMMMER EVENT

SATURDAY 6TH JULY 2024 12PM-4PM

FOOD SERVED AT 1PM  
CATNEY VILLAGE HALL

Ticket only Event

Adults 14 and over £10, Children £8 (under  
5's free)

- \* HOG ROAST (VEGAN OPTION AVAIBLE)
- \* BAR AND ENTERTAINMENT
- \* RAFFLE PRIZES COURTESY TO GENTING HOTEL IN RWB
- \* -ONE AFTERNOON TEA FOR 2 IN SKY BY THE WATER
- \* -ONE FREE SLOT FOR 2 TO RELAX IN SANTAI SPA !
- \* TRADITIONAL GAMES FOR ADULTS AND CHILDREN

For ticket inquiries and purchase , contact

Ella Meca at

[catneycommunityevents@gmail.com](mailto:catneycommunityevents@gmail.com)



**WE ARE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS TO HELP WITH THIS EVENT – PLEASE  
DO GET IN TOUCH WITH US**