



Edition
255

CATFIELD NEWS

Your village magazine
February 2025



CATFIELD NEWS *Contacts*

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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
elainessmith364@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

Steffan Aquarone

Steff.aquarone.mp@parliament.uk

02072197585

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

Catfield Village Hall Friday 7th February 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

Catfield Stitching Group Tuesday 11th and Tuesday 25th February 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 07906 097007
for more information. £2.00 per session.**

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

Mobile Library
Next visit to Catfield
Tuesday 18th February
Thorn Road 14:45 - 15.05
Village Hall 15.10 - 15.30

BINGO
Catfield Village Hall
Friday 21st February
See page 19 for more info

Catfield Crafters
Wednesday 26th February
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

Parish Council Meeting
Catfield Village Hall
Wednesday 26th February
7.00pm.

Afternoon tea with Catfield Action Team
Catfield Village Hall
Wednesday 5th March
2.30pm - 4.30pm
Come along and find out a bit more about what the group does and how you could get involved.

FEBRUARY 2025

Falling In Love by Ciéra Cree

Love is so intangible
And often a peculiar thing

We use it to mark holidays
And commemorate it with a ring

But in reality, between you and me,
I don't think it's that strange at all

For when you meet the one
It seems like life's begun

Even if you feel afraid to fall



Question – I am finding that climbing my stairs at home is becoming more difficult and I am thinking about getting a stair lift but know nothing about them. How can I get advice about this and possibly other helpful equipment for my home?

Answer – Stair lifts, other equipment and adaptations are changes you can make to your home to make it safer and easier to move around and do everyday tasks.

Your local council offers a service that assesses your home and recommends changes to help, stair lifts are included. It is called Home Assessment, it is free and carried out by an Occupational Therapist, usually taking about an hour. You can call your local Council to arrange, or you can apply online by going to: NHS UK – home adaptations – social care and support guidance.

The above information was provided by Angela Gifford, of Able Community Care

CATFIELD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

WEDNESDAY 18th DECEMBER 2024

Public Update

- No matters raised.

Councillors Bayes and Taylor Update

- The District Councillors were unable to attend the meeting and no report had been received.

Councillor Price Update

- Councillor Price provided an update on the Government's plans for devolution.

Deer Culling

- A parishioner had written to the Parish Council (PC) advising that while walking round the permissive path around Bleak House Field, two deer heads had been found lying in the grass. There were no other body parts or blood in the vicinity. Councillor Harris advised that he had discussed the matter with a wildlife officer from another county who had provided information regarding the regulations relating to deer shooting. The wildlife officer had contacted the wildlife crime section at Norfolk Police to advise them of the situation and Natural England to check whether any licences had been granted for this area. Councillor Jeffreys proposed that the PC provide an article for the village magazine to warn the public and ask them to be vigilant and report any suspicious activity to the police. The PC also write to the police. Councillor Harris offered to draft this letter .

Planning

• Local Plan Further Consultation

Councillor Briscoe confirmed that the PC's response had been submitted to North Norfolk District Council (NNDC) by the clerk. Both Councillor Briscoe and Councillor Harris expressed concern about the technical difficulties involved in submitting a response which could deter people from doing so. District Councillor Taylor should be advised of this.

• PC's Planning Questionnaire Update

Councillor Edwards provided a brief update and advised that there had been sufficient responses to be able to compile a full report. Councillor Dr. Harris offered to collate the responses with Councillor Edwards and these will be presented at the January meeting.

• Store Galore – Application for retrospective planning permission

Following the grant of planning permission, Councillor Harris advised that the PC had chased NNDC regarding the planning status of the other sites operated by Store Galore. A response had been received advising that the case officer is in dialogue with the owner of Grove Farm and has invited an application for a certificate of lawful use. Councillor Harris proposed that the PC write to NNDC to ascertain if there is a time limit within which the application has to be made.

• CL/24/1249 – Fenview, 3 Fenside Cottages – Lawful Development Certificate for existing use of land as residential garden

Councillor Briscoe confirmed that an appeal had been lodged but that nothing would happen until a Start Date had been set by the Planning Inspectorate. Councillor Jordan advised that there was now a Start Date of 12th December 2024 on NNDC's website. There was concern that objectors had not been notified of this. Councillor Briscoe to draft a letter to NNDC asking why objectors had not been notified.

(cont'd)

- **ISI/24/2382 – Pre-Application Advice – Bluebell Cottage, Heigham Road – Proposed Installation of 2 first floor windows in front elevation**

The PC agreed that no further action be taken until a full application had been lodged.

- **24 Elderbush Lane**

After the Agenda had been set, the PC had received notification regarding a planning application for a single storey extension at the above property. The PC agreed not to oppose the application so long as the neighbours did not object and that planning officers are satisfied that the proposal falls within the relevant planning regulations. Councillor Edwards to draft a response to NNDC.

Highways & Road Safety

- Councillor Price provided a summary of the meeting between Norfolk County Council (NCC) Highways and Norse (the contractor). There were two possible locations for a disabled parking bay. One within the village hall car park (cost £7675 plus VAT) and the second on the opposite grass side of the village hall (cost £8275 plus VAT). Councillor Price confirmed that he would contribute £6000 from his highways budget with the PC paying the remainder. The disabled bay work would be carried out at the same time as the groundwork for the new bus shelter. The PC voted unanimously to have the disabled bay on the grass side of the village hall. Councillor Harris proposed that to ensure that all the work was co-ordinated, the PC proceed with Norse's quote of £8275 plus VAT, with £6000 guaranteed by Councillor Price and the PC paying the remainder £2274 plus VAT. This was carried by seven votes to two. Councillor Harris raised concerns that the bus shelter works be completed by 31st March 2025 to preserve the funding. Councillor Price confirmed that this was not an issue. Councillor Dr Harris advised that the preferred bus shelter would have 3 bays, with half sides and a bench. The approximate cost of the bus shelter was £6000 plus VAT. All groundwork costs would be covered by NCC highways. The bus shelter can only be ordered once Highways have confirmed the maximum size of the shelter. The clerk will confirm the details to Councillor Price and Councillor Dr. Harris will confirm the bus shelter quotation.

Environmental

- **Catfield Action Group**

A parishioner thanked the Councillors and the clerk for their support in the past year. There is a Burns Night themed quiz in the village hall on 25th January 2025. Dates for Bingo are 17th January, 21st February, 21st March and 25th April.

Budget 2025/2026

- The clerk had prepared various examples of budget and precept suggestions prior to the meeting. It was agreed that the village hall play area needed substantial improvement. Therefore, the budget would include £10,000 towards this. This would enable Councillor Jeffreys to seek additional funding from other sources. Councillor Harris proposed a 5% increase on last year's precept to enable the improvements to the play area. It was proposed that the PC adopt the budget and proceed with a precept increase of 5%. The clerk advised that this will mean a monthly increase of 21 pence for the average household. Majority in favour with one against.

Correspondence

- **Bus Request Stop Elderbush Lane**

Councillor Bacon advised that as he has not received a satisfactory response from Connect, he will draft a letter to the bus company.

(cont'd)

**PLEASE REFER TO THE WEBSITE FOR FULL DETAILS
OF MEETING MINUTES**

**NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Wednesday 29th January 2025**



DEER POACHING

Catfield Parish Council have reported to me an example of night-time deer poaching where two red deer heads were left openly on the permissive footpath in the village, which is frequented by many dog walkers, including children, and with cattle nearby. They have requested that I clarify the legal position about night-time shooting and advice about what the public can do to help enforce the law if they suspect deer poaching is occurring.

Night-time shooting of deer is only legally permitted if:

- The shooter has the written permission of the landowner, has a valid firearms certificate and the firearm used is licenced
- Deer can only be shot when in season and the seasons for Red Stags are 1st August- 30th April and Hinds 1st November - 31st March (other species have slightly different open seasons – Muntjac deer can be shot all year)
- Deer may not be shot in the hours of darkness unless under a Night Licence issued by Natural England. Only the named person can use the licence and then only for the documented area and must notify Police of plans to act under such licence.
- When it comes to the dumping of waste from shot animals, such as heads, gralloch, hides, feet etc. this falls under the animals by-products legislation for fly-tipping enforced by the local council or Environment Agency. It is not unusual again with permission from landowner for professional deer stalkers to leave some of the gralloch (offal) in the field to feed the wildlife.

Unfortunately, deer poaching is now quite common and usually occurs at night. The public who suspects that it is happening, for example from shooting or unusual car movements, should not approach the suspected poachers who sometimes act in gangs but report it to the police with details of where, when and car number plates.

My contact details are PC Chris Shelley 1765 – OP Randall Rural Crime Team, operationrandall@norfolk.police.uk or via our online contact form <https://www.norfolk.police.uk/ro/report/rwc/wildlife/report-wildlife-crime/>

Always use 999 in an emergency or if crime is in progress.

Come and join the Catfield News Team

If you have some spare time and fancy helping with the village magazine
we would love to hear from you.

If you are interested please email
secretarycatnews1@btinternet.com
or drop a note in the Catfield News box in the village shop.

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 March magazine is 10th February

CATFIELD PARISH COUNCILLORS

Keith Bacon	01692 581314	keithbacon@broadland.net
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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.

News and happenings – Catfield Action Team, **February 2025**



Afternoon tea with Catfield Action Team on 5th March!

Ever wanted to find out more about what our group does and how you could get involved? Here's your chance. On Wednesday 5th March we're holding a drop-in Open Meeting with afternoon tea that's FREE for all to attend. We'll be providing information about past and planned projects and collecting any ideas you may have on how to improve our village. Pop in at any time between 2.30 pm and 4.30 pm and let us know your thoughts.

Planting

As we write, snowdrops and other bulbs are coming up at the corner of New Road/The Street, and the pansies in the planters are still going strong. We're delighted to see that our newly-planted daffodils are now coming up by the school too. We are now planning our summer planter display and also thinking of ideas for further wildflower planting in the village.

Fundraising

Final figures are still being confirmed, but it looks as though our Catfield Does Christmas event will have raised around £600 to share between our group and All Saints Church. We hope to report on a successful Burns Night quiz in due course.

Our next bingo session is on Friday 21st February - all welcome as usual.

Summer fête - we need your help!

Building on the success of the sunny summer fête held in 2023, we plan to run another summer event this year on Sunday 22nd June, to raise funds for the village.

There will be a lot to do and we will need help with planning, organising and running the event on the day - and clearing up afterwards. We can't go ahead unless we have firm offers of support in advance, so we would really appreciate it if you could let us know that you would like to help. The jobs will be varied -- it's not all about putting up marquees! - and so there will be a way for everyone to get involved.

If you think you can help, please get in touch in the usual ways - tel: 07932 191558 or email catfieldactionteam@gmail.com.

Catfield Community Christmas



A fun time was had by all those who attended the Catfield Community Christmas Event on Christmas day. Christmas lunch was enjoyed, games played, quizzes solved, carols sung and even a viewing of the King's speech.

A huge thank you to all those who supported and helped at the event in any way.

Hopefully we will have another next year!

Diana

Catfield Ceilidh

Many thanks to all who helped, donated or attended the ceilidh on January 4th. We made the grand sum of £400 for church funds.
Monica Mobbs.

The Scratch Band is looking for new members.
If you are interested please contact
David Frost on 07907679630 for more information.

SCREEN LUDHAM (LUDHAM VILLAGE CINEMA)

FRIDAY 28th February,

DOORS OPEN AT 7pm for 7.30pm

'The Critic'

Drama/Crime/Mystery (15. 95mins)

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



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

2nd February	10am	Benefice Holy Communion	Catfield
9th February	10am	Joint Morning Prayer	Potter Heigham
16th February	10am	Baptism plus Holy Communion	Catfield
23rd February	10am 6pm	Joint Holy Communion. Evening Prayer and Bible Study	Potter Heigham Catfield
2nd March	10am	Benefice Holy Communion	Potter Heigham

What a wonderful month of December for activities in our illuminated church! Hopefully, you could see the star shining in the night sky from the village? Catfield school held three different events beginning with a Christingle Service and then two more which included wonderful singing of carols by the pupils and I'm sure enjoyed by all family and friends. Church also hosted the pupils and parents of All Saints School at Lessingham for their Christmas Carol Service and prize giving.

On the Sunday afternoon before Christmas, many people came along to a Concert featuring a variety of musical items and readings. Finally, the Nativity and Crib Service was held on Christmas Eve with Bruce the donkey, who behaved impeccably. standing very attentively while the Christmas story was told through the eyes of a sheep and with the help of many families who provided us with the nativity cast.

I would like to share with you that a staggering 648 people and children attended events in church this December. Thank you to each and everyone for making our Christmas so special, including Andrew Alston for providing parking facilities, John Ware and Alan Nicholson for lighting, for those on refreshments and in charge of the donkey and to each and everyone who attended.

Judith Gardiner

Meandering Thoughts

It's the middle of January and the deadline for the village magazine is today, but my first priority with no frost and the temperature rising, is to wash my filthy car. I would definitely be the winner of the dirtiest car in the area competition! Why not take it to a car wash? I hear you shouting - but to be truthful, it is too dirty!

Bucket of hot water, a squirt of cleaner and I'm ready. Even the sparrows in the hedge were quiet for a moment or two and then they began to chirp loudly, were they laughing at my efforts? Was I the reason for their chattering? Thick mud covers all the side of my car, what colour is it meant to be I ask myself? Are some colours better than others? How on earth does my neighbour keep his car white? An answer jumps into my head, I have not seen him but he must pop out under the cover of darkness with a bucket! I smile to myself.

My mind wonders to the fact that some people can't even run a bucket of water, millions on our planet have no access to clean running water and what about those in our world who are starving?

The car begins to look better and then the sound of a jet plane overhead making a horrendous sound. What must it be like for children caught up in conflict? For them, they know what that sound means, yes, fear and memories that if they survive, will be with them for ever. Why are those intent on evil and self-gratification destroying our World?

Peace and quiet at last! I am reminded that we are all the same in God's eyes. Queen Elizabeth once said that everyone was our neighbour, no matter what race, creed or colour. Life can be like thick mud on a car and sometimes we might need to realise someone else can help us and as for those chirping sparrows, they are the people, they are all those that need their voices heard!

May God keep you safe and hold you in the palm of his hand.

Judith Gardiner, Licenced Lay Minister

Michael Briscoe

I am sure you would like to join with the magazine team sending our condolences to Janet Briscoe following the very sudden death of Michael on New Years Eve. We are very grateful for her excellent proof reading of the magazine and our thoughts and sympathy are with her at this very difficult time.

Fond Memories, of Gill Jackson.

By the early 1970s, Gill & Len Jackson had come ashore from a small houseboat, with an outside cold water tap, to the stability of a small cottage in Staithe Road, Ludham, and son Daniel was at Ludham school.

Gill just loved helping to organise events!

We made our own fun in those days, didn't watch much TV, let alone Strictly Come Dancing; but, we did do our own cheerily relaxed dancing to gramophone records, in the local village halls. Len Jackson, her shy electronics WizKid husband did the sound and lights.



Gill always helped finance the home, enjoying simple Country living, picked sprouts, spuds on Sid Clarke's Sharp Street farm, enjoying the company of other girls in the gang.

Gill was an excellent driver, easily passing the Institute of Advanced Motorists test. She became a driving instructor. Gill qualified as a public transport driver, and drove the school bus and longer distance coach trips, for Neaves.

Apart from hard work, Gill was ready to take on whatever challenges appealed to her. I'd taken her husband Len by helicopter to the North Sea Gas Rigs; it was obvious that Gill wanted to share the experience! Baggy Flying overalls, lifejacket, hair pulled into a cap secured with a headset; who was to know that my co-pilot was a lady?

- Commercial Break - It's not too late to send an "In Memoriam Gill Jackson" donation to the East Anglian Air Ambulance!

Gill's organising quickly moved to putting on plays with the local drama groups. Then, writing an annual Panto herself! Directing and recruiting actors to play the various parts needed firmness; some ephemeral friends were lost along the way! She kept the script tightly under her own control: "No John! I don't think any of your jokes would be appropriate, thank you!" Photos of Gill are few; she spent most of the time behind the camera, recording others. She loved photographing hedgehogs, birds, her Yorkshire Terriers and her drama productions.

"Catfield News": she was a founder member on the editorial committee.

Catfield Parish council; she was on it.

Catfield crafters; Gill ran it and bought the material to get the other members involved.

Changes in personal circumstances caused several moves from Ludham; into the local area; then to 11, Elderbush Lane, Catfield; finally Leeds Road, Horning, her last independent home. Having lost mobility, it became apparent that she couldn't manage the social interactions she enjoyed. Gill eventually settled for a care home, final choice "Sunnycroft", Taverham, with around the clock staff to look after her. Her nearby college friend Eileen Rust visited regularly, keeping vigil at the last of her 81 eventful years.

Gill Jackson: Christian; kind neighbour; community organiser; an honest and true friend:

John Yates.

Farming News

For a few months I've been meaning to comment on other people's comments about lime spreading between Church Farm and the village. There was shock horror that lime had been spread and the fine dust got out of the field. Firstly, the contractor was probably spreading when the wind was a bit strong but more importantly it was not lime- it was a liming product to increase the ph of the soil. It was chalk, the same stuff as my teachers used on the blackboard in school, I'm guessing kids today use interactive boards now and have no idea what chalk is. If you think about it, it would be madness to allow farmers to spread lime on their fields, I would have thought it would react with other things in the countryside, so that is why farmers use chalk or waste factory lime (called sledge) from the sugar refining process. It stays in the fields and three months on from spreading it's still there neutralizing the acid soil and making nutrients available to the spring drilled crop.

As RPA's computer system has been refined, I have to say I quite like using it. Using it is vital as that's where the important subsidy funding comes from. Applications for stewardship and SFI are made through it and its fast becoming the go to place for information on the fine detail of the various schemes available to farmers. I've found that to maximize the subsidies for a farm, you must be bold when applying and that thought process has avoided the pit falls or barriers to doing more or another agreement. Given the complexity of Mid-Tier and SFI and the consents a farmer requires during the application process its hardly surprising many advisers are opting for simple lower paying options but we are finding that in Broadland we need to access the higher paying options to bring in the funding that can be used to restore the landscape. The best scheme is Landscape Recovery Scheme where many farmers join together for a much larger project. The problem is that the bid for Broadland Landscape Recovery scheme was rejected by RPA and in the very place that requires the best landscape management, the funding is restricted. The funding has gone to North Norfolk.

Winter cereal crops look well, sugar beet lifting and delivery is still continuing, SFI options look very good and it seems such a shame to destroy them when the time comes. The sheep have almost finished eating their winter cover crops (and the odd garden). Deer love these cover crops and they have become highways for deer to move around the countryside without being seen. To combat this, we went to the toy shop and can now see them quite clearly at night time and we are compliant with our night time licences. We can even video at night time on our phones, pick up licence plates on cars that should not be there and send the evidence to the local police who will dispatch the appropriate response. This is a vast improvement to our farm security and the trail cameras we also use. The first night time visitors were identified in the first week of having the new toys.

The effects of Rachel Reeves Budget on 30th October are beginning to be felt. Farmer confidence is low and only good land appears to be selling quickly. Nobody seems to want wet or light, unproductive land. There is no BPS on it, only 25% can be put into SFI and if you grow crops on it, you are certain to have a negative margin. Grassing these unproductive fields down might be the answer but grazing them is likely to cause environmental issues to watercourses. One Norfolk farmer has died and still owns his farm, there is no way Probate can be achieved by April 2026 and fields will have to be sold off to pay the IHT. What a way to start the year.

AWA 9.1.2025

The Common sexton beetle



I hope you will find this unusual beetle interesting, I have found that they come to my light source in the summer, they seem to fly only at night and they are a large, attractive beetle, coloured bright scarlet and black, they are fast moving and powerful, I have photographed several, although they are something that most people have never seen and do not know of their existence, they perform a useful job, below are some details of their life.

The Common sexton beetle is a 'burying beetle': these beetles are the undertakers of the animal world, burying dead and decaying animals, such as mice and small birds. Common sexton beetles can be found wherever there are corpses for them to feed on, and often fly into lights at night. Males and females pair-up at the corpse and will fight off rivals to take charge of it and bury it. The female lays her eggs on, or beside, the buried body and the resulting larvae eat the rotting corpse. Burying beetles are unusual in the beetle-world because both males and females continue to care for the larvae after they hatch - feeding them from the corpse. Their antennae are equipped with receptors that are able to detect rotting bodies from metres, even kilometres, away

Alec Nisbet

One Liner : Time is a physician that heals every grief.



**Coming soon
OLD TIME MUSIC HALL
at Catfield Village Hall
Date yet to be confirmed
More details in March Catfield News
Call 01692 581409
for more information**

'Catfield Summer Fête 22nd June 2025 - calling all helpers'

Could you help to plan, organise and run a summer fete this summer on 22nd June We need lots of help if we are to go ahead. All sorts of jobs available big and small. Please get in touch if you can help by contacting the CAT team on 07932 191558 or email catfieldactionteam@gmail.com.

BINGO

7pm @ Catfield Village Hall

An event organised by



FRIDAY
21

Any
enquiries call
07932
191558

FEB

£6 Raffle & Refreshments available during Interval

Catfield Primary Academy

As we get back into learning after the Christmas break we have lots of exciting learning lined up.

In English our Year 5's and 6's will be exploring a Midsummer Night's Dream as they learn about play scripts. Year 3 and 4 will be reading Operation Gadgetman and learning to write advanced instructions. Our Year 1's and 2's will be exploring poems written by Michael Rosen and learning to write their own.

Our Science learning this term includes forces, space, plants and materials. Plenty to keep us busy!

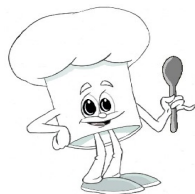
In Geography our Year 5's and 6's will be learning how to use grid references. In History our Year 1 & 2's will be exploring the lives of significant people: Mary Anning and David Attenborough whilst Year 3 and 4 will be learning about the Roman Empire and its impact on Britain.

This is just a snippet of all the learning we have packed into the Spring term! Don't forget to check out our Facebook (Search Catfield CE VC Primary Academy) and Twitter (@CatfieldPrimary) pages where you can see all of what we have been up to!

Lucy Amis
(Senior Teacher)

Tip:- Before spending money to have a mechanic remove a dent from your car try this. Wet a plumber's plunger, push it over the dent and then pull it sharply out.

Chef's Specials



Strawberry Semifreddo

Ingredients

225g strawberries, hulled,
Extra whole strawberries to decorate
250ml double cream
50g icing sugar
115g ready-made meringues, coarsely crushed
3tbsp raspberry-flavoured liqueur

For the coulis

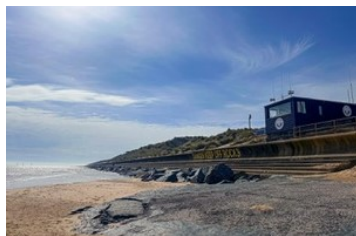
225g strawberries, hulled
30-50g icing sugar
1-2 tsp lemon juice, brandy, grappa, or balsamic vinegar

Method

1. Lightly brush a 20cm loose-bottomed springform tin with vegetable oil, line the base with greaseproof paper and set aside.
2. Puree the strawberries in a blender or food processor. Whip the cream with the icing sugar just until it holds its shape. Fold the strawberry puree and cream together, then fold in the crushed meringues and liqueur. Turn the mixture into the tin, smooth the surface cover with cling film and freeze for at least 6 hours or overnight if possible.
3. Meanwhile, make the strawberry coulis. Puree the strawberries in a blender or food processor, then press them through a fine sieve to remove the seeds. Stir 25g icing sugar into the puree and taste for sweetness, adding more sugar if necessary. Flavour the coulis with the lemon juice (or alternative).
4. Just before serving, remove the semifreddo from the tin, peel away the lining paper and using a warmed knife, cut into slices. Arrange the slices on individual plates, spoon the coulis around the base and decorate with whole strawberries.

D.S.

Sea Palling Independent Lifeboat



The winter months are generally quieter at the lifeboat station which allows us to carry out our annual maintenance checks. The crew continue to train both at sea and in the classroom, including brushing up in their chart work and navigational skills.

Being an independent lifeboat station, means we have to raise our own funds so that we may continue our mission of saving lives at sea. Our amazing fundraising team are the linchpin of the station and without them we really couldn't operate, but we could do with some more help. Be that selling our merchandise on the beach stall or at local events, or helping to organise other events to raise money. Our beach stall predominately runs Sunday mornings May to September when the weather is a bit warmer, but we'd love to get the stall out more often in the summer months. If you would like to help or for further information, please contact rita@seapallinglifeboat.co.uk

We are planning our events for 2025 so keep an eye on our social media pages and future editions of this newsletter for further details. We will look forward to seeing on the beach very soon.

Rita Galbraith
Sea Palling Independent Lifeboat

ROADLAND MODEL RAILWAY CLUB



After the Christmas break, we are back in the Club Room and actively working on our layouts for the coming season. First outing will be the 009 Layout "Endeane" at

the **NORFOLK RAILWAY SOCIETY**

Annual Open Day

Wymondham Central Hall

Back Lane, Wymondham, Norfolk NR18 0QB

Saturday 8th March 2025

After that, the revised layout Herrington will be at the Norwich Model Railway Show on 12th April 2025, watch this space for details or check it out on our website.

As ever, we are interested in hearing from potential new members, full contact information is on the website – we'd love to hear from you

<https://broadlandmodelrailwayclub.co.uk/>

NWT Hickling Broad and Marshes



One of the birds that becomes very active in February is the Marsh Harrier. Warm and brighter days in the month see males performing their spectacular roller-coaster 'sky dance' over the reedbed territories. This phenomenon is relatively modern; only in the last couple of decades have male Marsh Harriers wintered in the local area in any numbers. Previously the communal winter roosts would be occupied only by females and immatures, the smaller males arriving back in early-April having spent the winter further south. Females are invariably larger than males enabling them to take larger, heavier prey effectively allowing them to survive winter in a harsher climate than the males and thus alleviating the stress of competition between the sexes when hunting. With the effects of Climate Change warming our winters, wintering male Marsh Harriers are now present in increasing numbers and are therefore on territory to commence breeding activity a couple of months earlier than they would have been in the past. The females tend to not nest very much earlier than they did previously, but males will be courting them at every opportunity and on the warmest and sunniest of days the sky will be full of displaying and calling males long before egg-laying commences. Male Marsh Harriers are spectacular, their tri-coloured plumage of black wing-tips, grey inner wings and rufous streaked shoulders and underparts are a real picture as they glide over reedbeds and marshes with consummate ease on characteristic up-tilted wings. Often, experienced males will court and mate with more than one female, forming a bigamous bonding that invariably involves the females doing a larger share of the hunting to provide food for their brood.

In the mid-1960s Marsh Harriers became extinct as a breeding species in the UK. Hickling Broad was the chosen site for the second pair returning to breed in the mid-1970s, following a successful return to Minsmere in Suffolk. The UK population now numbers in excess of four hundred 'pairs' with Norfolk alone hosting one hundred breeding females.

John Williamson – NWT Senior Boat Operator.



Marsh Harrier with prey by Lynne Warner

How Hill Trust

Education team updates

How Hill has started welcoming our first schools of 2025. Children have enjoyed their residential stays even if it's a bit on the chilly side! Our boat trips down the river Ant have been full of wildlife as there are fewer boats on the water, we get the river all to ourselves. A warm mug of hot chocolate is always waiting for us when we make it back to How Hill House. Muddy, icy and snowy weather is great for animal tracking around our woodlands and gardens, we found deer and otter tracks on our nature trail.



Did you know that Otters have an extra 'see through' eyelid that act like googles and they can close their ears and nostrils during dives? Unlike most marine mammals they do not have a layer of blubber, instead they have the thickest fur of all mammals to keep them warm.

Adult groups

We have had a Spinners and Weavers Group join us for the day to enjoy a buffet from the How Hill kitchen and spend the day spinning and weaving in our large classroom. At the end of February, we will be welcoming the Upton Quilters back to spend a few days staying with us. They are a lovely group of ladies who visit us a couple of times a year and enjoy crafting with friends whilst being looked after by our catering team. Both the Spinners and Weavers and the Quilters are regular visitors at How Hill. We welcome all sorts of groups for a day, for a week or for anything in between so if you have a group who would like somewhere different to have a gathering please contact our office for further details. Funds raised from Adult Group Activities, our own Adult Courses and Food Nights all help us keep the cost of residential school visits affordable for all children.

Upcoming events!

1970's Food Night 14th February 2025 - 6.30pm for 7pm meal

Join us for a three course 1970's themed meal cooked in the kitchens at How Hill.

Cost: £35 per person. Booking essential.

Pudding Evening 21st March 2025 – 6.30pm for 7pm meal

Enjoy a savoury course followed by four delightful desserts with voting on your favourite over tea or coffee at the end.

Cost: £25 per head. Booking is essential.

Please contact the How Hill office on 01692 678555 or email secretary@howhilltrust.org.uk for further details and to book.

Family Events Save the date!!

Easter Family Days 7th - 10th April – 10am – 12pm or 1pm – 3pm

Bring the family to explore How Hill, we will have an Easter trail, pond dipping and craft activity. Please check our ticket source shop for further information shortly.

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/how-hill-trust>



The Museum of the Broads

NEW YEAR'S RENOVATIONS

We make no apologies for the pun. You'll be reading this article in February but, as it goes to press in January, resolutions are very much on our mind; and renovations are very much on our list of resolutions.

There will be more updates for you later but work on our Victorian steam boat will be firmly under way in 2025. Our Edwardian style craft Marsh Harrier is also scheduled for renovation and repair. She's safely out of the water now thanks to a lot of help from our neighbours Richardsons.

Both craft will be very much part of our 2025 package of boat trips. They are absolutely one of the best ways to see and experience and the history of the Broads.

Inside the museum there's a lot of improvement and renovation going on too. Objects scheduled for display in 2025 are being carefully cleaned and work has started on preparing new information panels - all designed to make your visit, and your journey through the museum, a better and more interesting experience.

Behind the scenes work has been done on the offices, to help with the smooth running of the museum.

In January's article we mentioned the forthcoming visit of the legendary Albion, and we touched on January being the anniversary of her being nearly lost when she sank in 1929. She's in our thoughts in February too. It was just twenty years later, in February 1949, that a meeting was held in the Stuart Hall in Norwich. That meeting would lead to the formation of the Trust that would rescue and renovate the Wherry then known as Plane. She would be renamed and become Albion.

It's stories like that, details from the history of the Broads, that make our work so fascinating. Our mission is to bring the stories of the Broads alive and share with you the many fascinating aspects of their past and the pleasures of their present.

So, it's a bit late, but if you're still deciding on New Year's resolutions make sure you add to your list that in 2025 you will come and visit us in Stalham.

We look forward to seeing you. We'll be renovated and refreshed and we open in March!

SUDOKU

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

			2		9			
4			6		5			9
	8						1	
	7	3				5	2	
	5			6			9	
	9	8				3	6	
	2						8	
9			8		4			2
			1		6			

Last Months Solution

2	8	7	9	5	3	1	6	4
5	3	6	4	8	1	2	7	9
9	1	4	2	6	7	3	5	8
6	5	8	3	9	2	4	1	7
3	4	9	1	7	8	6	2	5
1	7	2	6	4	5	8	9	3
8	2	5	7	1	4	9	3	6
7	6	1	8	3	9	5	4	2
4	9	3	5	2	6	7	8	1

RELIGIOUS DENOMINATIONS

Church of England All Saints' Church, Catfield	Services – See page 13 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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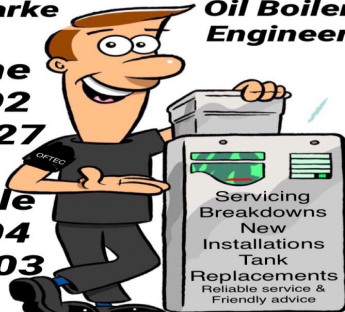
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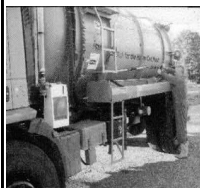
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CATFIELD NEWS – Contributions & Advertisements

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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