



Edition
267

CATFIELD NEWS

Your village magazine

November 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
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 - 12.30pm
2.30pm - 5.30pm

Ludham Surgery

www.ludhamsurgery.nhs.uk 01692 678611

Surgery Hours

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

Wednesday 8.30am - 1.00pm

Dispensary Hours

Monday, Tuesday and Friday 9.00am - 6.00pm

Wednesday 9.00am - 1.00pm

Thursday 8.30am - 6.00pm

Stalham Green Surgery

www.ludhamsurgery.nhs.uk 01692 580880

Surgery Hours

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

Thursday 8.30am - 1.00pm

Dispensary Hours

Monday 8.30am - 6.00pm

Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 9.00am - 6.00pm

Thursday 9.00am - 1.00pm

Local MP

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 during November

Indoor Cycling

Join us for an invigorating workout in Catfield village hall,

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 £7 and pre booking is required.

Contact Sean Turner to book a bike.

M: 07928 585838 Email: ptseanio@yahoo.com

First Friday Coffee, Games & Chat

Friday 7th November 10.30pm onwards

Come and join us for a coffee and chat 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

CAT Walk Saturday 8th November

Meet Honing Station Carpark. 10am. See page 15 for more info.

Swifts Talk by Norfolk Swifts Network.

Wednesday 19th November

7.30pm Catfield Village Hall

Catfield Stitching Group

Tuesday 11th and Tuesday 25th November

2pm to 4pm in Catfield Village Hall

We are a friendly group of like minded people, all sharing 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

What's on in Catfield during November

Table Top Sale—Catfield Village Hall

Friday 14th November 6pm—10pm

See page 17 for more info

Catfield Crafters

Wednesday 26th November

1pm—3pm 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 always welcome.

Contact Jennifer Banham on 01493 740560

Parish Council Meeting

Catfield Village Hall

Wednesday 26th November, 7.00pm.

Please check Parish Council website for Agenda.

<https://catfieldparishcouncil.norfolkparishes.gov.uk>

Christmas Wreath Making Workshops

Thursday 27th November & Thursday 4th December

Contact 07932 191558 or email catfieldactionteam@gmail.com
to book

Christmas Bazaar - Catfield Village Hall

Saturday 29th November, 2pm - 4.30pm

BINGO

Friday 28th November, 7pm

Catfield Village Hall

THE CROWN INN, CATFIELD

Pre Christmas and Christmas
Day menu's and booking
now available

TEL 01692 580128
or
EMAIL THECATFIELD-
CROWN@HOTMAIL.COM

BINGO

7pm @ Catfield Village Hall

FRIDAY
28
NOV



Any
enquiries call
07932
191558

£6 Raffle & Refreshments available during Interval • Cash prize on last game!

A few other local events

Horning Christmas Event Crafts Made in Horning

Saturday 15th November

10am to 4pm

Horning Village Hall

Meet the Makers

Pies and Pizzas
Hunt the Hound Trail
Meet Santa in his Grotto
Local entertainment
Refreshments available
Miniature Steam Organ

Free Entry  Free Parking

Cash advised and available from the Post Office in the village
Contact: Horninghub@yahoo.co.uk or telephone: 01692 630695



Ingham Village Hall Events

Astronomy Evening
Saturday 15th November
by Dr Andreas Schroeer
at 7.30.

Tickets available for £5 from
Jan 01692 584139.

Christmas Bazaar
with craft stalls including
candles, jewellery, Xmas
cards, mulled wine and
mince pies.

Saturday 6th December
11am to 4pm. If you wish to
book a craft stall please call.
Chris on 07864 083688.
All proceeds go to Ingham
Village hall.

Catfield Primary Academy

We would like to start by saying a huge thank you to all of our families for their wonderful donations for our Harvest collection (pictured below). These have all now been dropped off at the Foodbank to support those in need. Unfortunately due to the storm we were unable to hold our Harvest celebration in the Church however we did still hold one here at school. Children sang lots of lovely songs, read Harvest poems and said a prayer to those farmers who help us.

This week our KS1 children visited Strangers Hall where they extended their learning about the Great Fire of London. They all enjoyed it very much and couldn't wait to tell us all about it back at school!

Our EYFS children have also been on a trip to the Cathedral. They had a lovely time exploring and looking at the building as well as sharing Bible stories together and acting them out.

Our School and Eco council have made contact with the Catfield Action Team as they are looking for ways to help the community, starting with a litter pick. They are eagerly awaiting a response and we will keep you posted with how they help!

We would like to invite anyone who would like to join us for our Christingle service in the Church on Monday 1st December at 9am.

Lucy Amis
(Senior Teacher)



CATFIELD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS WEDNESDAY 24th SEPTEMBER 2025

Public Update

- A parishioner advised that the hedge growing around three sides of the recreation ground meant that children had to walk along the road to get into the field. The parishioner asked if a gap could be created at the corner of the hedge to allow pedestrian access to Elderbush Lane. It was agreed that at the next litter pick Catfield Action Team, assisted by Councillor Edwards, will remove approximately one metre of hedge growth at the corner.

Councillors Bayes and Taylor Update

- District Councillors Bayes and Taylor did not attend the meeting and no report had been received.

Councillor Price Update

- Councillor Price did not attend the meeting but he had sent in a report which Councillor Harris read out. Norfolk County Council (NCC), using the Government's Wraparound Childcare programme, had provided a new minibus to Catfield Primary School. Regarding 19 Elderbush Lane, Councillor Price had agreed with NCC Highways not to issue an enforcement notice as the raised area was constructed to protect a manhole cover. A request for an update regarding 18 Elderbush Lane will be sent to Councillor Price. As to the barbed wire at the Malthouse Lane site, NCC Highways had inspected the site but before any action is taken they will consult with North Norfolk District Council (NNDC) Planning and the Norfolk and Suffolk Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Service. Councillor Price had chased Anglian Water for its report on the drains at the New Road/Lea Road junction.

Matters Arising

- **Goal Posts on the Recreation Ground**

Councillor Edwards had provided the paint for District Councillors Bayes and Taylor to paint the goalposts and the job had been successfully completed. The Parish Council (PC) thanked Councillor Bunting and Mr Cutting who had greatly assisted with the project. Photos are available on the PC's website.

Planning

- **Store Galore – discharge of conditions on retrospective planning permission and application for a certificate of lawful use and development**

Councillor Bunting declared an interest in this matter. Councillor Harris advised that there had been an update from Councillor Bayes who had been contacted by Mr Peacock from NNDC Planning. The fence and the drainage works will be completed shortly but there had been a delay due to a misunderstanding with the contractor. If the work is not completed, NNDC will consider action if there is a breach of the planning conditions. Mr Peacock also advised that the owner has appealed against the security fencing and opening times conditions and that the details were available on the Planning Inspectorate's website. However, the PC had been unable to access these details. Councillors Briscoe and Harris will draft a letter to NNDC asking for confirmation of the appeal and request notification of the appeal timetable.

(cont'd)

- **Malthouse Lane Site – Appeals against refusal of planning permission and the enforcement notice issued by NNDC**

Councillor Briscoe explained that there had been two appeals, one against the refusal of planning permission and another against the enforcement notice issued by NNDC. The inspector had dismissed the appeal against the refusal of planning permission, mainly for environmental reasons. The enforcement notice had been upheld and the owners had been given 12 months to comply with the notice.

Councillor Edwards had drafted a letter to the Health and Safety Executive regarding the proximity of the site to the FloGas site and this was approved. The PC will write to NNDC requesting that the PC be informed if there is an appeal against the inspector's decision.

Village Hall

- **Children's Playground**

A draft prepared by Councillor Briscoe to NNDC regarding the payment of the section 106 monies from Milestones to assist in the renovation of the children's playground was approved.

- **Village Hall Roof**

Councillor Roberson confirmed that the village hall roof works will commence on October 6th. The current trustees had agreed to stay on until all the funds have been used on the village hall for which the PC is very grateful. Heras fencing will be erected around the whole site, including the car park and children's playground. The PC need to discuss the current lease and decide how to proceed with this.

Highways & Road Safety

- **Proposed drainage works at Elderbush Lane**

Councillors Bacon and Dr Harris had met with NCC Highways who had confirmed that NCC own the corner of the field. A shallow pond will be installed to take away rainwater. Councillor Bacon proposed that the PC request a full specification for the works and this was accepted.

- **Parish Partnership Scheme application for potential new Bus Shelter**

Councillors Briscoe, Edwards and Dr Harris had met to identify a potential location for a new bus shelter and had agreed that it might be positioned at Parkers Close. However, it was not clear who owned the hard standing and grass bank, the PC believe it is NCC Highways. Councillor Edwards had contacted several contractors for quotes. The Councillors will continue to process the application which has to be submitted by 31st October. Discussion will need to take place with nearby residents.

Environmental

- **Catfield Action Team**

A variety of bulbs had been ordered and dates have been scheduled for planting: October 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th. There is a talk on Swifts on 19th November. Christmas Wreath Making workshops will take place on 27th November and 4th December and the Catfield Does Christmas Event will take place on 12th December.

- **Deer Shooting in/around Catfield**

Councillor Harris read out a response from Sergeant Green who advised that he had been made aware of the deer seat on the Rond. The owner had been identified and will arrange to remove it. He added that work is ongoing in relation to a company offering guided deer stalking in Catfield. The PC agreed that the response was unsatisfactory and that concerns remained about the deer shooting. It was agreed that a further letter be sent to the Police.

(cont'd)

- **The Rond**

Following on from the email received from a company whose client owned part of the Fen and who used the Rond and who was seeking permission to restore the Rond, the company had advised the PC that Natural England was “on board”. It was agreed that this was too vague and that the PC should write back asking for details of the proposed works and request evidence of any permission from Natural England.

Catfield United Charities

An advert will be placed in Catfield News advising parishioners on how to apply for grants.

Dates of December PC meeting

As the last two Wednesdays in December fall on 24th and 31st, it was agreed that the meeting should take place on 17th December, subject to village hall availability. An advisory notice will be placed in Catfield News.

PLEASE REFER TO THE WEBSITE FOR FULL DETAILS OF MEETING MINUTES

NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 29th OCTOBER 2025

**CATFIELD PARISH COUNCILLORS**

Keith Bacon	01692 581314	keithbacon@broadland.net
Janet Briscoe (Vice Chair)	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
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
Glen Bunting	07799 216533	gbunting50@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.



CATFIELD UNITED CHARITIES

(Poors Trust)

Applications are invited from parishioners who qualify for inclusion in the annual distribution of money from Catfield United Charities.

To qualify you need to:

- Be in financial need.
- Have been a resident in Catfield for 3 years or more.
- One grant per household.
- Adults of any age can apply to be included in the annual distribution list.

If you think you, or another parishioner, are eligible to be included on the list, please contact the Trustees by 2nd December 2025.

Tel: 01692 660250

Email: catfieldunitedcharities@gmail.com

The Catfield News Team need you

We are looking for a couple of people to help with the production of the magazine. Roles within the team are secretary, editor, accounts and advertising.

If you feel you could help in any of these roles, or would just like to find out a little more please contact secretarycatnews1@btinternet.com

The Mobile Library will visit Catfield on Tuesday 25th November

Thorn Road - 14:35 - 14:55

Village Hall - 15:00 - 15:20

Catfield Village Hall

I am sure you have seen that with hopefully little inconvenience to the groups using the village hall, it now has a new smart roof and it's waterproof! Thank you to Ian Roberson for organising and overseeing the operation and to his helpers who managed to make the car park area safe and allowed the builder to bring in a larger team and complete the work within the week.



With the new bus shelter and the disabled parking finished, our next challenge is to replace some of the windows and to change the front door and put in a fixed ramp to allow easy access for all our users. The paying of VAT on the work will mean that we will need to see if we can get grants for some of the work but hopefully you will all support us in our efforts.

Just a reminder that the hall is available seven days a week for hiring and we welcome new groups to come and use the facilities. Please contact Elaine, the Booking clerk to check availability.

Village hall management Committee.

Fireworks Are Here By Ciéra Cree

Sunlight fades
And the sky turns to velvet night

Sequin stars
Lace each metre in our sight

Coloured burst of glittering art
Cascade in the air

The smell of bonfires, laughter,
A memorable moment

Fireworks are here



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

2nd November	10am	Benefice Holy Communion to celebrate All Saints Day	Catfield	
9th November	10.55am 10.55am 11am	Remembrance Day Service Remembrance Day Service Joint Service	Catfield Potter Heigham Ludham	
16th November	10am 10am 6pm	Joint Holy Communion Morning Prayer Thanksgiving Service	Catfield Ludham Ludham	
23rd November	10am 10am	Joint Holy Communion Morning Prayer	Potter Heigham Ludham	
30th November	10am 11am 6pm	Advent Sunday Songs of Praise Joint service with Ludham Methodists' Evening Prayer and Bible Study	Catfield Chapel Catfield	

Catfield and Potter Heigham churches have weekly joint services and all churches in the benefice welcome you to stay for refreshments and fellowship after each service.

Homily

November is the month of Remembrance. In our Churches of the Waterside Benefice, we remember those from our villages who were lost in two world wars and give thanks for those who returned. Very few people who served in the second world war are still with us. Many who served and returned were reluctant to share their experiences, and those of us with whom they shared are ourselves becoming old.

I had a maternal grandfather who was more than happy to share his stories. Most young men in Norfolk were called up to the army in the first world war, and many perished on the Western front or in Gallipoli. Indeed, my grandmother's first husband died of pneumonia in an Australian field hospital in France only days after the armistice was signed. Her second husband, my grandfather, was assigned to the Royal Navy. My grandfather was brought up in a family of fifteen in a Norfolk village. They were strict Methodists. One of his brothers was a preacher. They had led very simple, sheltered lives.

I think my grandfather's time serving on HMS Tiger, including in the Battle of Jutland, was the most exciting time of his life. His fellow stokers were very worldly wise and opened his eyes to many things, especially on shore leave in London where he saw things not even imagined in a Norfolk village. On his return to civilian life, he continued in abstinence from alcohol, never used foul language and was respectful of everyone. He must have endured extreme hardship battered down in a furnace of a stokehole, but he knew lots of hymns and was almost certainly constantly singing and praying. He told us, his grandchildren, such stories of life below decks!

On Remembrance Sunday I always think of my grandfather as, unlike so many, he was able to talk about his experiences. We thank Almighty God for peace, and we wish it for everyone. Amen.

Lynda Savage, AWA

Catfield Action Team – News and happenings November 2025



CAT was delighted to be represented at the Biodiversity Fair at The Forum on Saturday 4th October, organised by the Norfolk Biodiversity Partnership on behalf of Norfolk County Council. We took lots of publicity materials for our stall, where we had interesting conversations about our activities with visitors and a great time networking with and being inspired by other like-minded groups from across the county.

We have a busy month ahead of us!

Making room for swifts - an evening talk on Wednesday 19th November, 7.30 pm for 8 pm

Swifts are amazing birds but their numbers are declining in the UK. We have invited Caroline Spinks of Norwich Swift Network to explain the reasons behind this and how we can help our local swifts to thrive. Please come along to the village hall for 7.30 (talk starts at 8 pm and will last an hour) to hear what can be done and how you can get involved, from building and installing nest boxes to supporting a church tower project. There will be some boxes to purchase on the night to get you started. Swifts are neither messy or expensive to help, so please do get involved.

Saturday morning walk in Honing/Briggate, 8th November

Our evening walks through the summer have proved very popular and we are keeping the momentum going with a walk in Honing/Briggate on Saturday 8th November. Meet at Honing Station car park (NR28 9QX) at 10 am; the walk will last 1 – 1 ½ hours.

Christmas wreath-making workshops – Thursdays 27th November and 4th December

Back by popular demand! We will be running two more wreath-making workshops this year, the first of which is on the morning of Thursday 27th November, 10 am to 12 pm in All Saints Church. The cost is just £25 and includes all materials to make a beautiful wreath and light refreshments. There will be a second workshop on Thursday 4th December if you can't make the first one. Places are limited and booking is essential for both dates – please book by ringing 07932 191558 or emailing catfieldactionteam@gmail.com.

Bulb-planting

Thanks to everybody who has helped so far with this year's bulb-planting campaign on Sundays in October! Our first session saw us working on the Sutton Road verge, including planting a mixture of white and yellow daffodils on a thorny and tangled section by the bend leading from Main Street into Sutton Road. We have also added a sprinkling of blue crocus to add a new splash of colour to the mixed daffodils previously planted outside.

Fundraising

It was great to have another good turnout at the September bingo session – thank you for all your support. Our final bingo evening of the year will be on Friday 28th November – it's just £6 to take part.

To get in touch with us, email catfieldactionteam@gmail.com, call 07932 191558, or find us on Facebook/Instagram.

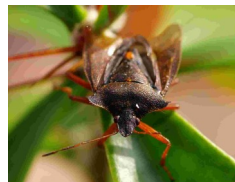
A Shield Bug in a pear tree !

In my garden I grow five different types of pear, the one pictured is the finest of all pears, Doyenne Du Comice. It originated from Angers, France in 1840. The Juice runs if you pick them just right. There is truth in the old saying that there is one day in the life of a pear, that is why the common conference is usually hard as they are picked so long in advance. I have it growing against a south facing fence, as a matter of interest pears are usually grafted on quince A rootstock. The grafting is a matter of timing in the spring between the scion, which is a cutting joined to the rootstock so that the cadmium layer of bark joins. I have several apples which I have grafted in this way. Pollination is sometimes tricky as they need another type of pear blooming at the same time, some pears are triploids meaning two or three partners to ensure a crop, Doyene Du Comice is self sterile. I have Concorde growing next to it which is a suitable partner. When I was growing up my father bought two apple trees, Coxes Orange Pippin and a Worcester Pearmain, which he waited for years to crop, eventually they did, such funny shaped apples, they were both Doyenne Du Comice pears ! I always remember the bowls of huge juicy pears.

I noticed a shield bug on the pear which then flew to another plant which I then photographed.

They are known as tree bugs and also stink bugs as they emit a strong smell if interfered with. There are different types, this is probably the common green which turns bronze in autumn before hibernation, they are harmless but can damage fruit and vegetables.

Alec Nisbet



BROADLAND MODEL RAILWAY CLUB

Broad Oak had a really good outing at Bressingham and we were invited to two shows in 2026, details on the website. We also have an invitation to show Broadland at the Norwich Model Railway show in April.



The work on the Christmas project “Snowy Pines” is going ahead at an amazing pace, take a look on the website frequently, it changes every week! It’s a really fun project and everyone is getting involved, making things, suggesting ideas and so on.

The Hamstal Green (school) layout is now erected and work is almost complete on the final testing and corrections. The students are actively planning how they want the town scene to develop and have suggested we build a park opposite the houses; great idea and the ideas are being documented and ways to implement them discussed.

We are busy getting ready for a visit by the North Walsham 41 Club on the coming Thursday, followed by a meal in the Crown Inn, Catfield – more on this later. Then we have our Quarterly Meeting for the members and this looks like being a full agenda; again we are busy. We all enjoy the camaraderie during our sessions every week, sharing information and help where needed. Its why we have the club so if you are interested in joining us and getting involved, full contact information is on the website:

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

CHRISTMAS TABLE TOP SALE

Catfield Village Hall , Friday,
November 14th, 6-10pm

Do you have good quality
Toys and other items that
could be sold as Christmas
gifts?



Why not leave the kids at home?
Book/share a table or just come
along and buy.

ADULTS ONLY EVENING!!

Tables provided...set up from
4.30pm. To book ring
01692 581409. Cost £10 Table
hire, Refreshments and
raffle for Catfield church.

CHRISTMAS WREATH MAKING



Thursday 27th November
& Thursday 4th December

at Catfield Church
10am to 12pm

Tickets £25 - Includes all materials
to make a beautiful wreath
and light refreshments.



To book call 07932 191558
or email: catfieldactionteam@gmail.com

Workshops are limited to 12 people.

Swifts

need our help!



Come and hear about ways
we can support our local
swift population

From Caroline Spinks,
Norwich Swifts Network



Wednesday 19th November
Catfield Village Hall

starting with refreshments

7.30pm for 8pm

Cost £3, free to members of Catfield Action Team

For queries 07932 191558 or catfieldactionteam@gmail.com

The Third Tuesday Open Mic

18th November
16th December

7.30pm at
Catfield Village Hall,
The Street, Catfield, NR29 5AA

If you have a song to sing, an instrument to
play,
come along to our informal Open Mic night
-we want to hear you!

PA. mics and music stands provided.

If you just want to listen,
no problem just come along.

Entry £3.

Bring your own drinks and nibbles
Sorry no backing tracks



Hosted by Kim Brett

Christmas Quiz & Music Night



EAT
DRINK

SING
&
BE
MERRY!

Friday
12th
DEC
from 7 PM till 11pm

Prize Quiz
Light Buffet
Bar • Raffle
Music and
dancing to
The Mondays

@Catfield
Village Hall

NR29 5AA

TICKETS £8 available from
catfieldactionteam@gmail.com

07932 191558



**ALL SAINTS' CHURCH
CATFIELD**

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR
In the Village Hall

November 29th, 2~4.30pm
Lucky ticket Hampers, bottle stall,
Games and lots more...

Refreshments.

Please come and support us!





NWT Hickling Broad and Marshes.

As I write our late-autumn skies have been overcast with but a few indications of the summer sunshine. With light winds in the Northerly quarter overnight temperatures have begun to fall and darkness engulfs us ever earlier.

Whilst incoming winter visitors have been slow to build up numbers on the reserve, teal, wigeon and gadwall are beginning to arrive and the odd small group of pintail have also graced the scrapes. Many of you will have noticed the large skeins of pink-footed geese coming and going across the skies, uttering their soft wink-wink contact calls. Whilst numbers of pink-feet in the County are around the norm for the time of year, there appears to be larger numbers in the east at present, no doubt driven ever further in the search for their favoured source of nutrients; sugar beet. The beet harvest has recently commenced so food is difficult to find at present, prompting continual searching for harvested fields. It is the remnants of the crown of the beet that the geese seek, there being little in the way of nutrients in the green tops. Modern farming techniques, including harvesting methods leave little or no crown, the practice of ploughing-in of residue and sowing winter cereal crops in a matter of hours post-harvest, and harvesting delays resulting from milder winters. Combined these issues have led to a decline in overall pink-feet numbers in recent years.

You can learn more about the trials and tribulations of pink-feet and other geese in a fabulous book written by NWT Ambassador Nick Acheson "The Meaning of Geese" on sale in our visitor centres, along with lots of lovely Christmas gift ideas. Why not pop in for a coffee and browse?

John Williamson NWT Senior boat operator.

Farming News

The dry weather continues with no sign of rain. Fields are dry, rivers have minimal flows but somehow crop yields have been much better than expected, even though the quality is a bit suspect. I think it's a combination of endless Summer sunshine with occasional showers and limited fungus activity. Sugar beet crops have had their third fungicide because they looked to be suffering with rust and *Cercospora* Leaf Spot, an odd name for a disease which takes off most of the leaves. There is also some *Ramularia*. These are diseases we never heard about 20 years ago and they appear to have come from Germany and thrive here in our climate which now doesn't seem to have winter frosts.

Autumn drilling is pretty much up to date as we wait for potato fields to be cleared before the deer eat them. One does wonder if we are doing the right thing drilling cereals as forward crop prices are gloomy. Still, we are farmers and are eternally optimistic that one day we'll get the combination of high prices and high yields.

I parked my car today in a stubble field and left the door open, when I returned the car was full of ladybirds. Whether they thought aphids were in the car, I don't know but they eat aphids and aphids like winter cereals and can transfer cereal viruses while feeding. So, they got a lift to a newly drilled field where they were flicked out of the car. I doubt my agronomist will cut out an autumn spray because I'm using natural pest control methods. On the next field were a thousand geese grazing the remains of a bio gas maize crop. Numbers have been rising each day since the weekend as they let their mates know where energy rich food is. At least they are not causing any issues- the red deer on the other hand are causing problems. The annual rut is on and they've picked two of my fields for this annual party and "afters". There are 300 odd hinds and 15 huge stags with one thing on their minds. So next Spring we can look forward to an additional 300 fawns being born. When they are born, they initially live in the reed beds around Hickling and Barton broads till they venture out with their mothers to eat my crops at night. Then back to the marsh where they lay up all day. This means culling them is impossible as shooting at night without a licence is illegal. I was sent an article about deer poaching today on Catfield Fen. The article had a picture of a bridge over a ditch- why? What I don't understand is why a poacher would shoot anything on Catfield Fen where they can't access with vehicles and have to carry off a 75kg carcass across wet reedbeds when there are 300 hinds running about on stubble fields where poachers' vehicles can easily access. So how do you know a poacher is a poacher doing something illegal? Its easy, poachers shoot late at night or early mornings and legal hunters shoot up to sundown unless they have the correct night time permit from Natural England. So, if you are suspicious take down the vehicle number and give it to the local farmer who will know if that vehicle has permission to be on that field. Otherwise, mis-leading newspaper articles get written.

I was leaving home the other day when I passed a flock of fattening lambs on the edge of the road, which had clearly escaped-again and a lady on the phone to the police. I asked her why she rang the police because they don't have sheep dogs, which is what was required. I said ring the local farmer. It's crossed my mind that the public don't recognise farmers as the fourth emergency service in the Countryside, farmers are generally very helpful when there is an issue in the Countryside.

AWA 10.10.2025

How Hill Trust

The How Hill Trust would like to thank Simon Partridge for nearly 14 years of service as our director and wish him a happy retirement. We are delighted to welcome Lynsey Skeates as our new Director. Lynsey was our existing Education Manager and we look forward to moving into the future with a fresh outlook.

Education team

Our education team have been busy with day visits from local school children and enjoying the Autumn with children playing in crisp leaves and learning about the different types of fungi at How Hill. At the end of October we held our first guided autumn walks for families to explore the How Hill nature reserve and learn about all the animals that live here.



Upcoming Family Events

Join us for our Family Winter Events

Festive Family Crafts at How Hill

29th November

10am to 12pm or 1pm to 3pm.

£11 per head includes 3 craft activities, biscuit decorating and refreshments.

Booking essential via our Ticket Source

page: www.ticketsource.co.uk/how-hill-trust

Adult Visitors

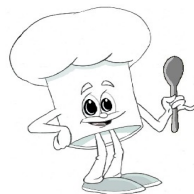
Among our adult visitors in October we had some of the sailors from the Barton Charter Regatta staying at How Hill with the whole group enjoying evening get togethers on a couple of nights with dinner cooked by our catering team. We also welcomed a group of students studying for a Masters in Philosophy for Conservation at Cambridge University towards the end of October. This group have been staying with us for many years and it always interesting to hear their stories and their aims from far reaches across the globe. It's good to see all the varied guests passing through our doors and seeing the house used. All adult groups help fund the running costs of the house and keep the costs down for the children's education.

We are putting together our calendar for next year so if you have any ideas of things you would like to see happen at How Hill then please do send us your suggestions.

30th November A morning of wreath making with Hannah £35 per head including mince pie and a hot drink. Booking essential, via our office tel. 01692 678555 or email secretary@howhilltrust.org.uk

17th December An evening of Christmas Carols 6.30pm for 7.00pm £13.50 per ticket including mince pie and mulled wine. Booking essential, via our office tel. 01692 678555 or email secretary@howhilltrust.org.uk

Chef's Specials **Two Ways with Pork Chops**



Pork Chops with Green Peppercorn Sauce

Ingredients

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 4 lean pork loin chops | 4 tbsp dry sherry |
| Salt and freshly ground black pepper | 1 ½ tbsp green peppercorns in |
| 30g butter | rinsed, drained and lightly crushed |
| 1 large shallot, finely chopped | 150ml chicken stock |
| 5 tbsp crème fraîche | |

Method

1. Trim the chops of excess fat and season with salt and pepper. Heat the oil in a large heavy frying pan on medium heat and fry the chops for 6-8 minutes on each side depending on the thickness, until golden brown and the juices run clear. Remove from the pan to a warm plate and cover with foil
2. To make the sauce, melt the butter in a pan and fry the shallot over a medium heat for 4-5 minutes, stirring often, until soft but not browned. Stir in the sherry and simmer for about 1 minute, add peppercorns and stock, bring to the boil and simmer for 2-3 minutes or until slightly reduced.
3. Stir in the crème fraîche spoon the sauce over the chops and serve immediately.

Pork Chops with Blue Cheese Stuffing

Ingredients

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 4 lean pork chops | <u>For the stuffing</u> |
| 1tbsp olive oil | 1 dessert apple, peeled, finely diced |
| Salt and freshly ground black pepper | 100g Roquefort or Stilton, crumbled |
| | 45g pecans, chopped |
| | 2 spring onions, chopped |

Method

1. Combine the stuffing ingredients and set aside.
2. Trim the skin and excess fat from the pork chops. With a small sharp knife, make a horizontal slit through the fat side of each chop, cutting through the meat almost to the bone to make a pocket.
3. Evenly divide the stuffing between the chops, tucking firmly into the pockets. Secure with a wooden cocktail stick.
4. Preheat the grill on medium high. Place the pork chops on a baking sheet, brush with oil and season. Grill for 6-8 minutes on each side, depending on thickness or until golden brown and the juices run clear. Remove the cocktail sticks and serve.

Sea Palling Independent Lifeboat



As the autumn months pass, our volunteers have been keeping busy with a full programme of station and equipment maintenance. It's been a demanding year for both our crew members and the kit we rely on, so this work is vital to keeping everything shipshape.

Alongside this, training and development remain at the heart of what we do. New volunteer crew are building their skills, while more seasoned members continue to advance through rough-weather boat handling, shore and boat crew training, and ongoing first aid practice. First aid is especially important, as we are often the first to respond when someone needs urgent help.

We're delighted to be holding a tombola stall at the North Walsham Lights Switch-On on Friday 29 November, from 2.30pm to 7pm, with the lights themselves set to sparkle at 6pm. It's a wonderful chance to meet some of the crew, support the station, and soak up some festive cheer. Speaking of festivities, the Elves have been in touch to let us know that Santa will be paying a special visit to Sea Palling in December. Date and time will be confirmed in the next newsletter and on our social media pages. These events help raise much-needed funds to keep our lifeboat service running, so do come along and lend your support.

Rita Galbraith
Sea Palling Independent Lifeboat
Fundraising Team

Registered Charity No. 267211

Tip:- Tea and coffee can leave stubborn stains in cups and tea pots. You can scrub away these stains by sprinkling salt on a sponge and rubbing the stains. If the stain persists, mix white vinegar with salt in equal measures and rub in with the sponge.

November at The Museum of the Broads

All hands on deck!

That's the appropriately nautical call you'll hear from us in November. It might sound odd to be calling for help in the month that we close for the winter but in fact it's a time when we need all the help we can get. Because when we reluctantly close the doors to the public for a while the work doesn't stop.

November sees us step up to boat maintenance for a start. Obviously our boats are constantly maintained for safety and reliability but downtime gives us the chance for thorough servicing. Then there's cleaning and conservation of the quaysides, pathways and the buildings.

Less 'physical', but absolutely equally essential, there's a lot of work to do on research, especially for our upcoming exhibition on holidays on The Broads.

Our new Souvenir Brochure is in the planning and there's work to do on that. And that's before we get into the actual marketing of the museum for next season - let's face it, telling all of you how we will continue to bring the stories of the Broads alive is a vital job.

Oh - and did we mention the need to clean and refurbish all the exhibits between seasons? You get the picture. There's a lot goes on behind those closed doors. It's all about making next year the best year - but it needs a lot of help!

Why not consider being a Volunteer at The Museum of The Broads?

We absolutely rely on our Volunteers. And you can rely on it being a fun and rewarding thing to do. You might have skills that we need and you're happy to put them to use for us. You might fancy learning a new skill - and we can help there.

You'll get training, make new friends, get to attend social events (and get in to the Museum for free!).

There's even a newly updated uniform - yes- we have new colourways!

And there's an end of year thank you event too. It's usually in November (we said it was a busy month!). Maybe you'll be there next year.

Meantime, if you're interested please contact Susie Lay, Volunteers Manager (01692 581681) or volunteersmanager@museumofthebroads.org.uk

SUDOKU

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

		9				7		
			1		8			
		1	6		5	4		
	2	6				5	3	
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Last Months Solution

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

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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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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 December magazine is 10th November

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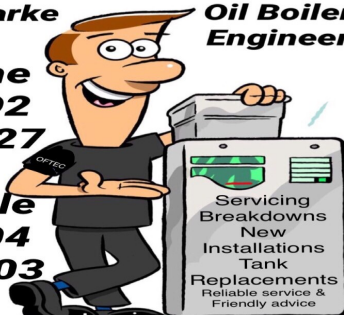
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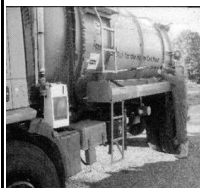
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Items for inclusion need to be received no later than **10th** of each month. Items can be e-mailed to the team, *contacts detailed on page 2*, or left in the Catfield News box in the Village Shop. Articles should be no more than 400 words and have 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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