



**Edition
270**

CATFIELD NEWS

Your village magazine

February 2026



A snowy start to 2026

CATFIELD NEWS *Contacts*

Steve Beckley: Chair/Treasurer Tel: 582913 - e-mail: stevebeckley1@gmail.com

Heather Hollister - secretarycatnews1@btinternet.com

Judith Gardiner - Tel: 01692 615807 - e-mail judithgardiner5@aol.com

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

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

Please address your envelope to Catfield News

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

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

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 - Emma Smithson, 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 February

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

Catfield Higashi Karate Kai

Saturdays 9:00 to 11:00 am

Catfield Village Hall

For more info or to book please call Dave on 07515 256092

See page 7 for a report on the first session

First Friday Coffee, Games & Chat

Friday 6th February 10.30am to 12.00

Come and join us for a coffee and chat and a game or two.

There will be no soup this time as some of the group will be leaving early to attend Edwina's funeral.

This is a free event and all are welcome.

For more information contact Judith on 01692 615807

Catfield Stitching Group

Tuesday 10th & Tuesday 24th February

Catfield Village Hall

2pm to 4pm

See page 6 for more info

The Mobile Library will visit Catfield on Tuesday 17th February

Thorn Road - 14:35 - 14:55

Village Hall - 15:00 - 15:20

What's on in Catfield during February

BINGO

Friday 20th February

7pm - Catfield Village Hall

See page 19 for more info

Catfield Crafters

Wednesday 25th February

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 25th February, 7.00pm.

Please check Parish Council website for Agenda.

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

Other local events

CAT walk around Alderfen Broad

Sunday 15th February

**Meet at 10am at Barton Broad carpark,
Long Road, Neatishead. NR12 8XP**

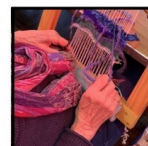
Ingham Village Hall. East of England Ambulance service community first responders. A talk and demonstration of equipment used.

Friday 20th February 7pm for 7.30pm start. Refreshments available.

£5 if booked £6 on the door. Call Jan on 07866 517668

CATFIELD STITCHING GROUP

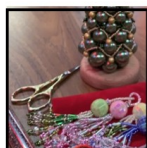
Knitting, sewing, crochet,
embroidery, weaving, beadwork
craft, tea, biscuits, chat
...and a warm welcome to
everyone from beginners to
experts



Catfield Stitchers is a friendly group that welcomes new members. They originated from "Take a Stitch in Catfield", run by Cindy Cogan, who sadly died recently. Cindy was a professional needle woman who thought up interesting and colourful projects which attracted people who wanted to learn more about crafts involving stitching and dyeing. When Cindy was no longer able to organise this, it was decided that the members would continue bringing their individual work and sharing skills and ideas with each other, with occasional workshops on specific subjects. Cindy remained as a member for some years helping in the background. Over recent years, The Stitchers have been involved in a number of projects in Catfield. Members have made an altar cloth and a Tree of Life banner for Catfield Church as well as decorating Christmas trees for the festivals with handmade decorations. They have also made bunting for the village hall for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. We occasionally have speakers or demonstrators on specific subjects.

We meet on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month from 2 pm to 4 pm to pursue our own work, with chat or companionable silence and have a cup of tea and biscuit.

We would welcome you for a free taster session if you are interested. Details from Pat Reid on 07906 097007



February meeting dates
Tuesday 13th and
Tuesday 27th
2pm - 4pm in
Catfield Village Hall

Catfield Higashi Karate Kai

Catfield Higashi Karate Kai officially opened its doors on Saturday 10 January, and I'm really pleased to say the day was a great success.

We welcomed several enthusiastic new starters who showed fantastic focus and determination throughout the session.

I was incredibly grateful for the support from the wider Higashi Karate community. Twelve people made the 200-mile round trip from my old club in Maldon, Essex, and one very brave soul, Tony, travelled an amazing 340-mile round trip from Bracknell Higashi in Berkshire just to support the opening day. We filled the four hours easily with a mix of basics, kata, games to help develop strength, stamina, coordination and balance, and some pad work. The time flew by and everyone stayed fully engaged from start to finish.

With a few experienced instructors in attendance, I asked Richard Bartley, Tony Sergeant and John Spurgeon to take short stints at the front of the class. We also had a brilliant kata demonstration from Phebe Quinton-Holt, who performed one of her competition katas, Chatanyara no Kushanku, which everyone really enjoyed.

The feedback from the day was extremely positive, with many people saying how much they enjoyed it and that they'll be visiting and training with us again soon. I honestly can't express how grateful I am for the encouragement, support, and effort everyone put in to help make the opening day what it was.

Photos from the day, including everyone who attended, can be found on our Facebook page : <https://www.facebook.com/share/1CQuGtqFZ4/>

Catfield Higashi Karate Kai trains at Catfield Village Hall every Saturday from 09:00 to 11:00 and welcomes new members of all ages and abilities.

If you'd like any more information, feel free to get in touch:

Dave Collins 07515 256092



CATFIELD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS WEDNESDAY 17th DECEMBER

Public Update

- No matters raised.

Councillors Bayes and Taylor Update

- District Councillors Bayes and Taylor did not attend the meeting and no report was provided.

Councillor Price Update

- Although Councillor Price did not attend the meeting, the Parish Council (PC) expressed their disappointment regarding a comment that Councillor Price had made in an email, where he stated that Parish Councillors did not consider speaking to local businesses as part of their role. A long list of instances where Parish Councillors had interacted with both businesses and parishioners was discussed, demonstrating that the PC did take proactive actions. It was agreed that it was inappropriate for Councillor Price to criticise the PC in this way to an external body and that the Clerk should write to Councillor Price setting out the PC's concerns.

Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)

- Councillor Harris advised that Parish Councils had been invited by NALC to complete a questionnaire as part of a wider consultation regarding the LGR. It was agreed that the PC should respond on three issues: (1) the risk of losing the ability to influence local issues with local politicians. Three unitary authorities were the preferred option; (2) the PC does not agree with the imposition of a mayor; (3) it is undemocratic to postpone elections for another year. Councillor Harris to draft the response.

Planning

- **Store Galore – appeal against the conditions on the retrospective planning permission**

Councillor Harris stated that there had been an update from North Norfolk District Council's (NNDC) Planning Department advising that the appeal against the opening hours condition had been rejected as it was out of time. However, the owner is planning to appeal against the security gate condition. It was agreed that the Clerk will write to NNDC advising that the PC will wish to make representations if an appeal is lodged with the Planning Inspectorate.

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

Councillor Harris advised that a response had been received from the Health and Safety Executive stating that all the correct procedures had been followed. There is no further action required on the part of the PC until a further application for planning permission is lodged.

- **PF/25/2186 - Wood Street Farm, Wood Street – Alterations to existing garage attached to house to provide 2 additional bedrooms to main house along with library and study**

This application had been rejected due to insufficient information. A bat survey is required. No further action.

(cont'd)

- **PF/25/2665 – Laurels Farmhouse, Laurels Farm, Laurels Road – Erection of single-storey extension to provide annexe and garage**

It was agreed that there was no valid planning reason for the PC to object or comment on the application.

Highways & Road Safety

- **Parish Partnership Scheme for potential second Bus Shelter**

Councillor Edwards provided an update following a meeting with Westcotec. The location of any new bus shelter is in dispute as the bus stop opposite the village hall had been moved without any consultation with the PC. As the grant application must be submitted by 31st January 2026, the PC acknowledged the necessity of obtaining a quote urgently. Councillor Bacon suggested that the MP might be able to ascertain why the bus stop had been moved and who at Norfolk County Council (NCC) had authorised it. Councillor Edwards will draft the letter. Councillor Dr Harris also suggested that Mr Pratt of NCC Highways be chased for a response.

- **Proposed drainage works at Elderbush Lane**

Councillor Harris advised that the drainage works will be carried out in January.

Environmental

- **Catfield Action Team**

Councillor Briscoe provided a short report. The Christmas Quiz and Music Evening had been a success. There would be a comprehensive list of all CAT's projects in the January Catfield News. There will be an accessible walk in January and Bingo will start again in 2026. A Garage Sale is being planned for April.

- **Deer Shooting in/around Catfield**

Councillor Harris advised that the PC had received a response from the Freedom of Information Bristol Licensing Authority asking for a timescale for the information requested. It was agreed that the PC should ask for a period of three years.

- **Other Environmental Issues**

Councillor Jordan advised that it had been a year since the hedges around the football field had been cut. It was agreed that he should obtain a quote to do this.

Councillor Bacon had circulated an email from the NWT who wished to clear the dyke beside the Rond on Great Fen and along the track to Woodend Staithe, plus scrub clearing, next winter. NWT will officially contact the PC and Catfield United Charities, who will ensure that approval is granted by Natural England before any work can proceed. Councillor Plowman proposed that the Clerk should email the NWT to ensure that they have the correct contact details.

Village Hall

- **Recreation Ground**

Councillor Harris advised that there might be a small amount of money available from Tesco Stores but this was dependent on Stalham Tesco shoppers voting for Catfield's playground. He proposed that the Tesco scheme be advertised on the PC's website and in Catfield News. The project with the highest number of votes in the region will receive £1,500 funding.

- **Village Hall Renovations**

Councillor Roberson advised that a new kitchen window had been installed and the metal casing had been repaired. He is obtaining quotes for more new windows, a fully

(cont'd)

opening door and outside lighting. Councillor Harris requested that a list of all village hall expenses on repairs be drawn up. However, once the above works have been carried out, it is not likely that there will be any funds left.

It was agreed that the outside lighting was the PC's responsibility. The next Village Hall Management Committee meeting is on 13th January.

Next Year's Budget

There was a lengthy discussion on next year's budget based on calculations drawn up by the Clerk. The new playground needs a further £23,000 plus VAT on top of the £33,000 obtained in grants and current PC funding. It was agreed that if the PC was not awarded the 80% grant towards a new £5,000 bus shelter and/or groundworks are additional, the project would be deferred. Councillor Harris reiterated that procedure states that PCs should hold one year's precept in reserve. It was proposed that the Clerk should make some amendments to the figures provided and supply two versions for the PC. The budget will be agreed at the next meeting. Councillor Briscoe had drafted a letter to NNDC regarding the section 106 monies arising from the Milestones development. It was agreed that this letter be amendment so as to highlight the urgency of the matter due to the necessity to set the budget.

Correspondence

• Pesticide Spraying in Catfield

Following on from a letter from a parishioner, Councillor Harris advised that SERCO had confirmed that they were not responsible for the site in question. The PC agreed that it was more likely to be the responsibility of NCC. The clerk will chase NCC for a response.

Catfield United Charities

Councillor Dr Harris advised that the Christmas distribution had been successful and that numbers were higher than last year. Two trustees will be appointed at the February meeting of the PC. Details in Catfield News.

All Saints Church

Councillor Bacon advised that a list of Church activities is listed in Catfield News. The Church had worked hard to provide better lighting and heating inside the Church.

PLEASE REFER TO THE WEBSITE FOR FULL DETAILS OF MEETING MINUTES

NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 28th JANUARY 2026



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	angiejohson4@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 Primary Academy

I would like to introduce myself. I am the new Senior teacher at Catfield Primary Academy. I am also the Year 5 and Year 6 class teacher and have been since joining Catfield Primary Academy back in 2022. I am very proud to work at Catfield Primary Academy. I am very much enjoying my new role and look forward to working closely with the community.

We are all looking forward to a Federation day later this month, where our three schools: Catfield Primary, Sutton Infant and Hickling Infant Academies will all gather together at Sutton Infant Academy school to celebrate NSPCC number day. We have many fun number-based activities planned and hope to see as many children and staff joining in the fun and dressing up following the theme of numbers!

On Thursday 5th February, 9.30-10.30am, we have a Stay and Play at Catfield Primary Academy for upcoming 3years old. Please join us if you can. There is no need to book in advance. We look forward to hopefully seeing some new faces too.

Our Keystage 2 choir are very excited and can not wait to perform as part of Young Voices at the O2 arena in London, later this month. Young Voices is the world's largest choir concert, bringing together primary schools across the UK. We simply can not wait to be a part of this amazing experience!



Emma Smithson (Senior teacher)

APPOINTMENT OF TWO TRUSTEES FOR
CATFIELD UNITED CHARITIES

Catfield United Charities have two positions up for appointment in February 2026 for a term of 4 years.

The Charity provides money for residents of Catfield who find themselves in need. The role involves attendance at regular meetings, the upkeep and management of local properties, collecting rents, managing accounts, contact with the public and giving out of grants. More recently the management and running of Catfield Staithe Boatyard has been taken in house. The charity team consists of 6 appointed representative trustees and 1 ex-officio trustee.

Catfield Parish Council would like to invite anyone interested in applying to view the Catfield United Charities website (www.catfieldunitedcharities.uk) or contact via email catfieldunitedcharities@gmail.com for more information on the role.

Applications to Mrs. Susie Cunningham at catfieldparishcouncil@gmail.com

Applications need to be submitted to us by **February 18th 2026**. It would help if you could send us a summary of why you want to do this role and the qualities you possess to do it. You will be invited to present your case at the Parish Council meeting and if there are more than two candidates the Parish councillors will vote to decide who to appoint.

The appointment will take place at the Parish Council meeting
Wednesday 25th February 2026 7pm at Catfield Village Hall.

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

Mouse and Weasel



On a recent walk we saw this wood mouse scampering across some marshy ground, this water did not seem to bother it at all. I have rescued mice whilst at work together with frogs and toads also hedgehogs, which had dropped through grids and landed in water. The mice seemed quite resilient and swam around trying to find a dry spot, I used a small net to hook them out. Their chief predators are birds of prey and weasels, I have often seen weasels catch mice.

I also include a picture of a weasel which had just caught a rabbit. I took this a few years ago whilst working at Horning Sewage Treatment Works which has extensive grounds. This may seem hard but whilst we can pop down to Tesco or the village shop, wild creatures live from hand to mouth and rely on prey or they will starve, they also have young to feed. This weasel was very reluctant to leave the rabbit which was many times larger than itself. After a long chase, I was able to get quite close. I have watched chases several times and weasels are extremely agile and relentless, by the way there is no mistaking a stoat as they are a lot larger.



The Christmas cracker joke of course is “How do you tell a stoat from a weasel ? “ Answer, ‘A weasel is weasely recognised but a stoat is stoatally different !’ I once saw a whole family of stoats run across a woodland path in front of me, a remarkable sight.

Alec Nisbet

Advertising space available in the Catfield News

For just £50 p.a. you can place a business card size advert in the magazine for a year. Larger spaces are available if required.

We would love to help promote local businesses by advertising them in the magazine, and if you do you will be supporting your local magazine as the income from advertisers pays for the printing cost.

The magazine is delivered free to every house in Catfield and is produced by a small team of volunteers.

If you are interested in placing an advert please contact
stevebeckley1@gmail.com or
secretarycatnews1@btinternet.com



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

1st February	10am	Benefice Service	Catfield
8th February	10am	Joint Morning Worship	Potter Heigham
	10am	Holy Communion	Ludham
15th February	10am	Joint Holy Communion	Catfield
	10am	Morning Worship	Ludham
22nd February	10am	Joint Holy Communion	Potter Heigham
	10am	Morning Worship	Ludham

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.

Catfield Ceilidh

Many thanks to all who helped, donated or attended the ceilidh on January 4th. We made the grand sum of £376.50 for church funds.
Monica Mobbs.

Homily

We have got to the beginning of February, already Christmas and New Year seem a long time ago now. February 2nd is Candlemas which is not only the presentation of Christ in the Temple but signifies the very end of the Christmas season. All the decorations have now been packed away for another year. It has been really cold with a lot of frost, snow, ice and rain making our lives unpleasant but even though it is not much warmer the days are noticeably getting longer already Snowdrops and other bulbs are beginning to poke their heads out of the ground reminding us that Spring is on its way and then we have Valentine's day on the 14th with all its traditions.

However more importantly we have the beginning of Lent, a time when Jesus spent forty days and nights in the wilderness fasting and praying where he endured temptation by Satan. It begins on 18th February, Ash Wednesday which is the day after Shrove Tuesday (Pancake Day) and goes right through until the Thursday of Holy week.

Ashes are mentioned many times in the Old Testament and were used to express Grief and repentance of sins. Ash Wednesday is a Holy Day of Prayer and in some Churches there is a service called "The Imposition of Ashes" This is a service where the sign of the cross is put on the forehead with ash, usually made from last years Palm crosses and oil and signifies the start of Lent. During this period people often make the decision to "give up" something that they love, perhaps chocolates or cake, reviving short lived New Year resolutions but it could also be making the time to visit a neighbour who is on their own or make that phone call that you have been meaning to do for ages.

However Lent is not just about giving up things it is a time for us to reflect on our own lives and to think about what needs changing, finding a quiet time to pray and listen to what the Lord is saying to us and of course reading the Bible.

Day by day,
Oh dear Lord three things I pray,
To see thee more clearly,
Love thee more dearly
and to follow you more nearly,
Taken from the Hymn by Robert Lamont.

Blessings.
Ros Bingham LLM.

A Nativity to remember

Catfield church has a tradition of holding a Nativity and Crib Service at 3pm on Christmas Eve and over the past few years numbers of both children and adults attending have increased. Records were broken this year with 52 children and 205 adults and as for tradition, well, that is perhaps where it ends!



The traditional Christmas story is told each year and this year through the eyes of Joseph the carpenter, dressed in his carpenter's apron. The donkey walked down the aisle with Mary and Joseph but so did the two pigs and the trolley with the rabbits who joined the animals in the stable.

We had shepherds and Kings and a whole host of angels. Everyone joined in with singing enthusiastically, carols both old and new and with the Waterside Scratch band accompanying the singing and the children. Well, every boy and girl were brilliant, they dressed up and all took their roles seriously and I believe made the message of Christmas, 2025 very special.

Thank you to the three tenors who sang the solo verses for We three kings, to our ten year old soloist, to Joseph who told the story so well, to Penny Middleditch for providing the animals, Andrew Alston for providing car parking and of course to each and everyone for bringing along the children and being with us. I look forward to a repeat performance next year.

Judith Gardiner LLM

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!



Pick Your Topping by Ciéra Cree

A sprinkle of sugar
Or a dash of chocolate spread

A drizzle of lemon
In the morning, or before bed

A dusting of icing
Or some bacon rashers too

Some chocolate chips
Blueberry bits
Strawberry slices

What kind of pancakes will you choose?

BROADLAND MODEL RAILWAY CLUB

Happy New Year to all our friends and followers. We hope the new year will see us continue to grow and to exhibit more of our efforts in creating model railways.

We are fortunate in we have potential new members applying to join, they are always welcome as it provides new ideas and experience and widens our capabilities. The various teams are very busy with updates and construction on a number of our layouts and we are looking at some ideas for new layouts. Our challenge as always is finding room for them but with some careful juggling of the space and learning how to work with layouts which are partly stored away, we are coping quite well. As ever, you can follow our progress via the website, each layout has its own page and we update this formally after every quarterly meeting. We also have an active Facebook page where more frequent updates are posted - www.facebook.com/BroadlandMRC/ and we welcome followers to this.

Our exhibition calendar is already growing, please check it out on the website as it is constantly under review. Do please note that we are open to invites from other exhibitions to display our layouts, contact details are on the exhibition page.

We are very fortunate in having 24/7 access to our club rooms something few other clubs have and a number of us take advantage to work in a group or alone outside our regular sessions on a Tuesday and Friday evenings. A regular group meets on Mondays, splitting the day's modelling activities with lunch in the Swan Inn in Stalham, a very enjoyable day with good friends.

As always if you are interested in joining us and getting involved, full contact information is on the website:

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





The CAT Committee is extremely sad to have to announce that our former secretary, Edwina Simpson, died on Christmas Eve. Edwina was a founding member of the group and worked tirelessly to make the group the success that it is today. Her dedication and organisational skills were truly exceptional. Edwina was a wonderful person and a dear friend to all of us. We will miss her very much. Our thoughts go out to her partner, Kenth, and her family.

CAT News and happenings February 2026

We had planned an accessible walk from Potter Heigham on Sunday 11th January but due to poor weather conditions this was cancelled. We will re-schedule the walk for later in the year.

We are now planning a series of events for 2026. Please note the following dates for your diary:

- 15th February – Countryside Ramble around Alderfen Broad. Meet at 10am at Barton Broad Car Park, Long Road, Neatishead, NR12 8XP
- 20th February - Fun Bingo – Catfield Village Hall from 7.00 pm
- 20th March – Fun Bingo – Catfield Village Hall from 7.00 pm
- 19th April – Catfield Yard Sale from 9.30 am to 1.30 pm
- 24th April – Fun Bingo – Catfield Village Hall from 7.00 pm
- 17th May – Plant Sale from 10.00 am to 2.00 pm Catfield Village Hall

A donation of £50 was made to Norfolk Swifts in recognition of the very informative talk they gave us before Christmas. A donation of £100 was also made to the Church for letting us use it as the venue for the two very successful Christmas Wreath making sessions.

If you are interested in getting more involved or would like more information on our activities, please do not hesitate to contact us at catfieldactionteam@gmail.com. You can also find us on Facebook/Instagram. New members are very welcome. Your continued support is invaluable to the ongoing improvement of our community.

BINGO

7pm @ Catfield Village Hall

FRIDAY 20 FEB

An event organised by



Any enquiries call
07443 470065

£6 Raffle & Refreshments available during Interval

"The Catfield Ceilidh"

with

The Occasional Ceilidh Band
and caller, Rod Purdy

7th March 7.30-10.30 pm

Catfield Village Hall



**Tickets £12 to include supper
and legendary puddings!**

Raising funds for All Saints Church, Catfield

For catering purposes, please pre-book
tickets from Monica/Barry

Tel: 01692 581587

It's time to start sorting through those cupboards and sheds!

This is the perfect chance to clear out the clutter
and hopefully make a bit of cash

CATFIELD YARD SALE

SUNDAY 19th APRIL



9am to 1pm

Any enquiries call
07443 470065

More details in next month's Catfield News

Catfield Yard Sale is being organised by Catfield Action Team. All profit from the event will be spent on projects or donated to organisations within Catfield parish.

CATFIELD PARISH COUNCIL NEEDS YOUR HELP

To help Catfield Parish Council obtain some
funding toward refurbishing the Children's
Playground, shop in Stalham's (NR12 9AE) Tesco
store from mid-January 2026 until the end of
March 2026 and cast your 'Stronger Starts' token
for Catfield.

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NWT Hickling Broad and Marshes



100
YEARS

6th March 2026 marks the centenary of the foundation of the Norfolk Wildlife Trust. The Norfolk Wildlife Trust closed 2025 with its largest ever membership and is managing more land than ever before for the benefit of wildlife. One hundred years of protecting and enhancing wildlife in Norfolk, a quite remarkable feat for the oldest of the Wildlife Trusts in the United Kingdom which currently manages over 60 nature reserves within the county including ten kilometres of coastline, nine Broads, nine National Nature Reserves and five ancient woodlands.

To celebrate these achievements, and the centenary of the formation of the trust (formerly known as the Norfolk Naturalists Trust) when Dr Sydney Long headed a syndicate of nature-lovers in the purchase of 176 hectares of coastal marsh at Cley, part of the reserve now known as NWT Cley and Salthouse Marshes, a number of events will be taking place throughout the year. Details of these events will be revealed in press releases throughout the year, and more information will be available on the NWT website (see below).

At Hickling our Winter Boat Trails continue to be well supported into the New Year, as do the walks to the Raptor Roost from the Visitor Centre (open daily 10.00-16.00). If you wish to join us on any of these events pre-booking is required, details of which can be found here... www.norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk

John Williamson, Senior Boat Operator, NWT Hickling Broad and Marshes.

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

Farming News

Weren't the Christmas light displays excellent in and around Catfield this last Christmas, well done to everyone who took the time, expense and trouble to light up the village, its appreciated.

The Government has listened to the rural economy and back tracked on the IHT plans for farmers. It's a start but just does not go far enough. I wonder if the Government looked at Europe with tractors regularly blocking city centres and Government buildings and decided we don't want that happening in the UK. Perhaps the thoughts of washing off slurry from buildings was just too much and it was easier to back down just before Christmas and hope nobody would ask too many questions. It now looks like the pub trade has had some success with their Rates battle. So, what has caused this rise in Rates? The last Government reduced central Government funding to District Councils and they got the majority of their income from Council tax. That Council tax is not enough to run their programmes, so the only area that was not being taxed enough were commercial businesses. So don't be surprised if services cost more now to cover these expenses.

Individuals will be getting their new tax codes any day, businesses will be paying tax on items like rent monthly or quarterly with little opportunity to claim relief on eligible expenses till later on in the year. It is hardly surprising landlords are wondering why they provide this service. I believe the net result will be rent increases.

The overall effects of these tax rises are that middle England appears to have shut down, there does not appear to be any incentive to work or expand. In a rural community these are the people who employ most of the staff. One effect is that there is a rise in the number of people who have lower incomes or higher costs who now need to go to the local authority to get help with their rent.

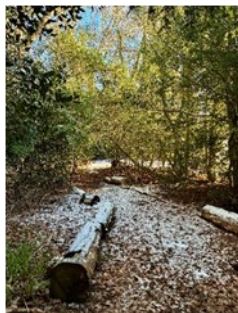
RPA have announced that a new round of Sustainable Farming Incentive will open in June for small farms and those in Stewardship while another round is planned for September for everyone. Given that a farmer has to apply and when he has his agreement has to wait four months for the first payment, it's unlikely that there will be any payments made until November 2026. That might be too late for some. So, what can a farmer do? Rent out the farm? Move towards a Contract Farming Agreement? With commodity prices low, none of these options work. We can see fields that are either in some sort of SFI or Stewardship now, it's highly likely that as RPA delay payments that more land will look derelict and not be cropped. At this point, surely the Public will start to ask questions, their beloved English Countryside is no longer pristine but covered in thistles and docks and it's not what the Public expects to see. So, it won't be long before there is another U turn by the Government back to a subsidy system that keeps proper farmers looking after the Countryside. The French farmers can see it, the English farmers can see it, I believe the majority of the Public can see it, but the Government is blind.

During the cold weather thousands of geese have arrived to eat my Sugar Beet, some are now in freezers but they keep coming. The large deer herds on the other hand seem to have moved away, this could be due to the number of night time licences issued by Natural England in the Catfield area. After all, these animals are not daft and just need food until they are ready to give birth in late Spring. The problem is that if numbers are not controlled, we will end up with some 5000 deer in Broadland next year, and that's too many.

AWA 11.1.2026

How Hill Trust News

Education team



Our Education Team have seen the return of schools together with the first day visits of the year. Although cold outside, there is lots of wildlife to see at How Hill this time of year and at the end of the day it's warm in the house and students enjoy a freshly cooked meal and hot chocolate treat to warm them up. Highlights have been the winter birds gorging on the abundant berries, as well as a spot of bird watching at Cromes Broad. Large flocks of wigeon, teal, and pochard gather on the broad, while tufted ducks and goldeneye can often be seen diving for food. The reed beds and marshes will attract bitterns while marsh harriers glide low over the reeds in search of prey. How Hill is a great winter exploration for visitors of any age.

Upcoming Family Events

18th February Signs of Spring. Join our Education Team for a guided walk around How Hill gardens and nature reserve. Enjoy the emergence of spring in our beautiful grounds.

30th March Birds, Buds and Blossoms. Join us for a walk around the How Hill gardens and estate to delight in the new buds and blossoms emerging as spring bursts into life. We will also visit a bird hide and take time to identify some of our water fowl. Booking essential via our Ticket Source page: www.ticketsource.co.uk/how-hill-trust
Both events are £7.50 per person

Adult Visitors

Our versatile team got stuck in to the never-ending task of decorating and maintenance over December and January. We are looking forward to welcoming our first adult residential group of the Upton Quilters in February. The quilters are a group who come and stay with us a couple of times a year to craft, chat and be looked after by our How Hill Team. All of our adult residentials, courses and food events help support the running costs so we can carry on giving children the How Hill experience that children have been enjoying for decades. The news in December that another Children's Residential Education centre has closed its doors is a reminder that we need to focus on offering a range of services and activities to the wider community to secure the future of the Trust for the generations of children to come.

The Gardens are still closed to keep all our visitors safe over the winter months. The car park remains open and there are lovely circular walks across Buttles Marsh or to Ludham Bridge and St Benet's Abbey.

Upcoming Events

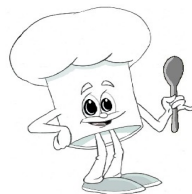
1st March Spring Walk and Light Lunch. Join us for a walk around How Hill as everything starts to wake up after the winter, followed by a light lunch in the house £25 per person

10th March Boats Trip and Breakfast Bap This one is an early start. Out on the boat just after dawn to catch the quiet of the Spring morning and the dawn chorus, followed by a sausage bap breakfast back at the house. £40 per person.

17th to 18th March Birds by Boat. Explore the wildlife before dusk on 17th and catch the early dawn chorus on the 18th. Dinner, bed and breakfast is included. £200 per person.

Booking is essential for all our adult events. For more information contact our office tel. 01692 678555 or email secretary@howhilltrust.org.uk

Chef's Specials



Burgundy Beef

Ingredients

175g streaky bacon rashers
1-2 tbsp oil, plus extra if needed
900g braising steak, cut into 4cm cubes
12 small shallots
1 tbsp plain flour
300ml red wine
300ml beef stock
115g button mushrooms
1 bay leaf
1 tsp dried herbs de Provence
Salt and freshly ground black pepper
4 tbsp fresh curly parsley, chopped
Mashed potatoes to serve

Method

1. Preheat the oven to 160C. Fry the bacon in a non-stick frying pan until lightly browned. Drain on kitchen paper and transfer into a casserole dish.
2. Depending on how much fat is left from the bacon, add a little oil to the pan if necessary so that you have about 2-3 tbsp. Fry the beef in batches over a high heat, transferring to the casserole as they brown.
3. Reduce the heat to a medium heat and fry the shallots. Transfer to the casserole and stir the flour into the remaining fat in the frying pan. If the pan is quite dry, mix the flour with a little of the wine or stock. Pour the wine and stock into the frying pan and bring to the boil, stirring constantly until smooth.
4. Add the mushrooms, bay leaf and dried herbs. Season to taste with salt and pepper and put the contents of the pan over the meat and shallots in the casserole. Cover and cook in the oven for 2 hours or until the meat is very tender.
5. Serve hot, sprinkle with chopped parsley.

D.S.

Sea Palling Independent Lifeboat



The winter months are generally quieter at the lifeboat station, giving us valuable time to carry out our annual maintenance checks and ensure all our equipment is in top condition for the year ahead. Although the beaches are quieter at this time of year, there's still plenty happening behind the scenes. Our volunteer crew continue to train throughout the season, both at sea and in the classroom, keeping their skills sharp whatever the weather. Winter conditions can be unpredictable, so this period is especially important for practising launch procedures and working safely in colder, rougher seas. Our crew have also been busy preparing for the busier and hopefully warmer, months to come. It's a real team effort, and the dedication shown across the station is something we're incredibly proud of.

Although we hope for a peaceful start to the year, the team remains ready to respond at a moment's notice. As always, we're incredibly grateful for the ongoing support from our community, which enables us to maintain an independent lifeboat service here in Sea Palling. Your donations make all the difference.

Rita Galbraith
Sea Palling Independent Lifeboat
Fundraising Team

Registered Charity No. 267211

Tip:- If the grout between the tiles of your bath or shower enclosure has become stained or discoloured you can restore it to its original colour by using a toothbrush dipped in undiluted white vinegar to scrub away the dirt.

The New Year at The Museum of the Broads - an exciting mix of the up to date and the eternally timeless.

2026! It hardly seems possible that the rush towards Christmas is long gone and that another New Year has arrived.

Some things in our beloved Broadland never change and as we cross into the early months of the year we'll once again have the chance to marvel at Norfolk's huge clear skies and see the stars in a way that's special to the county in winter. And, as timeless as the skies, come the birds. It might be more comfortable to birdwatch in summer but the resident and migratory birds of winter make the watching worthwhile.

The Museum will soon be coming back to life after the shutdown. As we've said many times, when, sadly, we're not open for you to visit we're busy getting ready to make your next visit even better.

We've been cleaning, curating, refreshing and refurbishing to make the Museum even more inviting and exciting. The team have also been busy planing the programme for 2026. You'll need to check our website for details and updates but we're bringing things right up to date with amazing new attractions like -

Spring Trail ~ Secret Signals!

You have to try this! Explore the museum, and discover 12 hidden messages.

Then - crack the secret code and claim your reward!

Saturday 28th March – Sunday 12th April

10am – 4pm

And there's -

Crafts by the River ~ Suffolk Puffs!

Get crafty with this up to minute and on trend activity. Join textile artist, Jo Couldrey and have a go at making your own traditional fabric brooch.

Saturday 18th April

10am – 4pm

There will be loads more over the coming months. Keep checking our website and keep on coming to see us.

2026 will mark 30 years since The Museum of the Broads opened in Potter Heigham. We moved to our Stalham home a couple of years later.

During that time we've grown and evolved. Our collections and exhibits have certainly been updated. But we've always remained committed to bringing the stories of the Broads alive. That's timeless.

Come and see us in 2026 and really be part of our exciting mix of the up to date and the eternally timeless.

www.museumofthe broads.org.uk

One Liner:- Fools talk, Cowards are silent, Wise men listen.

SUDOKU

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

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

Last Months Solution

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

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Church of England All Saints' Church, Catfield	Services – See page 14 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 Ros Bingham. - Licenced Lay Minister. 01692 583104 taneish.bingham@btinternet.com 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. Lay Pastor Shaun Cushion – 01493 740237 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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Friday	Food Bar	12pm – 2pm 12pm – 2.30pm	5.30pm – 8.30pm 5pm – 11pm
Saturday	Food Bar	12pm – 2pm 12pm though to 11pm	6pm – 8.30pm
Sunday	Food Bar	12pm through to 7pm 12pm through to 10.30pm	

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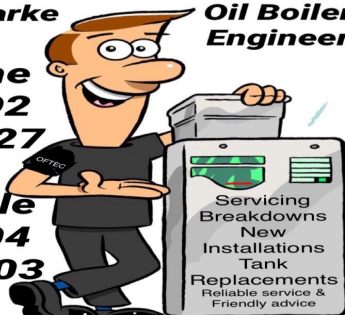
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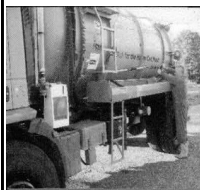
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Items for inclusion need to be received no later than **10th** of each month. Items can be e-mailed to the team, *contacts detailed on page 2*, or left in the Catfield News box in the Village Shop. Articles should be no more than 400 words and have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

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