



**Edition
269**

CATFIELD NEWS

Your village magazine

January 2026



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>

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 January

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 (starting 10th January)

Catfield Village Hall

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

First Friday Coffee, Games & Chat

Friday 2nd January 10.30pm onwards

Come and join us for a coffee and chat and a game or two, followed by a delicious home made soup.

This is a free event and all are welcome.

For more information contact Judith on 01692 615807

The Catfield Ceilidh with The Occasional Ceilidh Band

Sunday 4th January 2.30 - 5.30pm

Catfield Village Hall

CAT Accessible Walk - Potter Heigham

Sunday 11th January

Meet 10am at Potter Heigham Village Hall

More information available on Facebook nearer the date

The Mobile Library will visit Catfield on Tuesday 20th January

Thorn Road - 14:35 - 14:55

Village Hall - 15:00 - 15:20

What's on in Catfield during January

Catfield Stitching Group Tuesday 13th and Tuesday 27th January 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

Catfield Crafters Wednesday 28th January 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 28th January, 7.00pm.

Please check Parish Council website for Agenda.

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

Murder Mystery Night Saturday 31st January, 7.00pm Catfield Village Hall

Details will be displayed on posters around the village



New Karate Club Coming to Catfield Village Hall

The **first session** will take place on **Saturday 10th January** from **9:00 to 11:00am**, with classes running at the same time each week. Training will follow the traditional **Wado Ryu** style, which focuses on balance, control, and respect as well as fitness and self-defence.

For more information or to book a place, please contact:

Dave Collins – 07515 256092

Catfield Village Hall

Saturdays, 9:00–11:00am (from 10th January)

Dave is **fully DBS checked, insured, and qualified in first aid and safeguarding.**

“The Catfield Ceilidh”

with

The Occasional Ceilidh Band
and caller, Rod Purdy

4th January 2026 - 2.30–5.30 pm
Catfield Village Hall



Tickets £10 to include
tea, coffee and cakes

Raising funds for All Saints Church, Catfield

For catering purposes, please pre-book
tickets from Monica/Barry
Tel: 01692 581587

FUTURE VILLAGE EVENTS TO LOOK OUT FOR

BINGO - Friday 20th February

BINGO - Friday 20th March

BINGO - Friday 24th April

Garage Sale - Sunday 19th April

Plant Sale - Sunday 17th May

First Friday Coffee and Games Morning

The group had a very festive Christmas meeting which started with a fun beetle drive for which we were joined by some children from the Stables School, who had made a Christmas Cracker for each of us. After our games we were treated to a delicious Christmas meal followed by a Secret Santa.

Thank you to the Catfield Action Team whose donation to the group helps fund events like this, and to all those who help to make these monthly meetings a success.

CATFIELD QUIZ AND MUSIC NIGHT

Over 60 people enjoyed a fun evening at Catfield Village Hall on Friday 12th December. The event was a sell out and there was a great festive atmosphere.

Thirteen teams battled it out for the £50 Quiz Prize money, enjoying a delicious buffet between rounds three and four. There was also a raffle for three fabulous hampers along with a door ticket prize.

After the quiz there was music from The Mondays and lots of singing and dancing from the audience.

Thank you to everyone who attended the event – your support is much appreciated. A big thank you also to the members of CAT who worked so hard to make the evening a success.

All the profits from the event will go towards CAT projects in the village.

Is there any craft club or crafter that would like
some metal crafting dyes, I have thinned my collection
out and would like to give them away.
They consist of Tattered Lace, Sue Wilson and Tonic.
Please ring Joan on 07366139044.

Jumble and Clearance Sale - Everything must go!

Ingham Village Hall, Saturday 10th January, 11am to 1pm
Refreshments, cakes, books, clothes, white elephant.
All donations of cakes and items gratefully received.

CATFIELD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

WEDNESDAY 26th November 2025

Public Update

- No items raised.

Councillors Bayes and Taylor Update

- District Councillor Taylor attended the meeting. He reported that the Store Galore appeal has been validated by the Planning Inspectorate. Mr Peacock from North Norfolk District Council (NNDC) had told Councillor Taylor that he had challenged the Inspectorate on why the appeal had been accepted, given that it appeared to NNDC to be out of time. The Parish Council (PC) had not received any communication from NNDC to confirm this. Neither the PC nor the District Councillors had received notification for the Start Date of the appeal. This date was very important if the PC wished to make representations. It was agreed that the clerk should write to NNDC asking for confirmation that NNDC had formally challenged the validity of the appeal.
- Regarding Malthouse Lane, Councillor Taylor advised that the applicant intends to submit a new planning application, within the twelve-month time limit, to address the nutrient neutrality issues.
- The District Councillors had requested a meeting with NNDC's finance councillor to discuss financial investment into their ward. Councillor Taylor gave a brief update on the proposals for Local Government Re-Organisation. The consultation period is open until 11th January 2026. He also reported that he had received a spike in cases regarding the standards in Victory Housing homes.

Councillor Price Update

- Councillor Price did not attend the meeting but had provided a report. He requested a note to update the previous Minutes. Contrary to what he had reported at the previous PC meeting, Potter Heigham Parish Council were not proceeding with an upgrade to SAM2. Councillor Harris read out Councillor Price's email regarding the protocol to be adopted when contacting parishioners. Councillors clarified that they were always happy to help parishioners and visit them. However, if a complaint had been made against a parishioner, the PC was not an enforcer and the relevant authorities should be contacted, as discussed at the previous meeting.

Planning

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

As discussed under Councillors Bayes and Taylor Update

(cont'd)

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

As discussed under Councillors Bayes and Taylor Update. The letter to the Health and Safety Executive regarding the proximity of the site to FloGas had been sent.

Highways & Road Safety

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

Councillor Edwards provided an update. The latest scheme has been extended until 31st January 2026. When the first bus shelter was in the planning stages, he, along with Councillors Briscoe and Dr Harris, had attended a meeting with Westcotec and a representative from Norfolk County Council (NCC) Highways. It was agreed that NCC would provide a drop-down kerb, on the opposite side of the road, for wheelchair users to cross the road easily. Since then, not only had the drop-down kerb been installed, but the bus stop on the opposite side to the village hall had been moved without any consultation with the PC. The new bus stop site is unsuitable for a bus shelter. The PC have been advised by NCC that if they want to have a bus shelter on the original site of the bus stop, then the PC will have to pay for the groundworks. Councillor Edwards to draft a letter to NCC Highways setting out the PC's dissatisfaction with NCC's response in respect of the new bus shelter.

Environmental

- **Catfield Action Team**

Councillor Briscoe advised that under very sad circumstances she had taken over as Secretary of CAT. She wanted to officially thank the previous Secretary, who had resigned due to ill-health, for her hard work, contribution, and dedication to CAT and for her regular attendance at PC meetings, for which the PC was grateful. Councillor Briscoe had submitted a report from CAT to the PC. She confirmed that CAT had offered to donate £1000 towards the cost of one, possibly two, new benches for the playground. There had been a fascinating talk on Swifts organised by CAT who will be looking into potential sites for Swift boxes.

- **Removal of CAT's request regarding the Rond**

Councillor Briscoe advised that CAT has officially withdrawn its request regarding the Rond at this time. All the correspondence received from parishioners, Natural England and neighbouring properties could be retained on file. Councillor Harris advised that as the PC own the land, and because it is part of a SSSI, there is a legal requirement that Natural England must grant permission to do anything on the land. CAT's withdrawal was noted.

- **FloGas Lighting Meeting**

Councillor Harris had provided a file note following the meeting he had attended with Councillor Johnson at the FloGas site. A new management team was in place at FloGas who are committed to resolving the lighting issue.

(cont'd)

However, another work site, with problematic lighting, and possible living accommodation, was situated behind the FloGas site and the PC had been unaware of this. The landowner of the site was known to some of the Councillors and it was agreed that Councillor Bunting would speak to the landowner regarding the issue.

- **Deer Shooting in/around Catfield**

Councillor Harris advised that Sergeant Green was focused on resolving the illegal deer shooting and they had met with one of the licence holders. They had discussed the requirements and procedures for legal deer shooting. Councillor Harris also advised that another licence holder had since had their licence revoked. Sergeant Green that no permission had been given for deer shooting on Catfield Fen. If anyone notes any suspicious behaviour, they should telephone 101 in real time and provide the vehicle registration number.

Village Hall

- **Recreation ground**

Councillor Edwards advised that the estimated total is £55,000 plus VAT. He had obtained £20,000 lottery funding, £2000 from the Clarke Charitable Settlement, £1000 from CAT. There was also £10,000 allocated from the PC's budget. This left a deficit of £22,000. There was also the possibility of section 106 money on the first occupation of residential dwellings at Milestones. The clerk had provided a draft budget for the next year and there was a discussion around this. Councillor Harris proposed that the clerk revise the budget for the next meeting to split the playground renovations over two years. Councillor Briscoe will write to NNDC to chase up on the section 106 position. Councillor Edwards requested that Thank You letters be sent to the grant providers and CAT.

- **Village Hall Renovations**

Councillors Briscoe, Jordan and Roberson had attended the Village Hall Management Committee (VHMC) meeting. A new kitchen window and an extractor fan needed to be installed as a matter of priority. The other windows and the front door will then be considered. Councillor Briscoe asked that it be formally noted that the PC would like to thank the VHMC and the parishioners for raising the money for the new roof.

- **Village Hall Lease**

Councillor Briscoe suggested that she and Councillor Johnson arrange to speak to Community Action Norfolk again, for guidance on possible structures for the management of the village hall as the current lease is not fit for purpose.

- **Village Hall Lighting**

Councillor Plowman raised the issue of lack of security lighting in the village hall car park. Councillor Roberson suggested possible lights on posts in the car park similar to those at the school. Councillor Briscoe will discuss this with the VHMC.

(cont'd)

Correspondence

• **Telegraph Poles on Back Lane/Dale Lane**

Councillor Harris declared an interest in this matter. Correspondence had been received from a parishioner regarding a new telegraph pole that had been installed on the corner of Dale Lane/Back Lane, which had spoiled their view. The parishioner was present at the meeting and spoke at the meeting, asking for any guidance that the PC might be able to give. Councillor Edwards provided some information to the parishioner. District Councillor Taylor offered to contact the parishioner to discuss him taking up the matter, for which the parishioner was grateful.

• **Use of Pesticides**

A parishioner had contacted the PC regarding the incorrect use of pesticides in the village. A letter would be sent to the Health and Safety Executive, NCC Highways and NNDC's Environmental Department.

• **Overhanging Branches in Sandholes**

The PC had been advised of overhanging branches from Sandholes being very close to a property. As the PC owned the land, it was agreed that the PC should take action. Councillor Jordan suggested that a tree survey should be carried out. The clerk will obtain three quotes and the parishioner will be advised of the plan.



Catfield United Charities Trustees

Two new trustees are needed and details of how to apply will be available in Catfield News.

**PLEASE REFER TO THE WEBSITE FOR FULL DETAILS OF MEETING MINUTES
NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 17th DECEMBER 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.

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

Dog fouling in the village

Dog fouling in the village is on the increase especially along Parkers Close, where it is a daily occurrence. As you will be aware it is an offence not to clean up after your dog in any public place and you can be fined. There are 5 Dog Poo Bins located around the village, so please use them. Thank you.

The information below has been taken from the NNDC website

Your health

Dog mess is not only unpleasant but it is also potentially harmful. In health terms, it can contain a parasitic worm called Toxocara.

Toxocariasis can take an ocular form which means that the worm larva becomes trapped in the eye which can cause visual impairment and possible blindness. It is thought that young children are at a higher risk of developing Toxocariasis, as they are more likely to come into contact with soil or sand that contains dog mess.

Your wallet

We know that the majority of dog owners are responsible and do clean up after their pets, however, there are those who choose not to. It is an offence not to clean up after your dog and in any public area in North Norfolk and includes out-of-the-way beauty spots that are popular with lots of people, not just dog walkers.

If you don't clear up after your dog you are liable for a £80 fixed penalty notice (£60 if paid within 10 days). If you don't pay the fixed penalty, action in magistrates' courts could result in a fine of up to £1000, on conviction.

Tell us about a dog owner failing to clean up after their dog.

If you want to report an instance of dog fouling please make a note of the following information if possible:

date and time the fouling took place, or when you discovered it

location of the incident

description of the dog and owner

If you have any additional information such as the name or address of the dog owner concerned, please include this on the form.

The form and other information can be found on the NNDC website.

<https://www.north-norfolk.gov.uk/tasks/environmental-protection/report-dog-fouling/>



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

4th January	10am	Benefice Holy Communion	Ludham	Rev'd Gary Noyes
11th January	10am	Morning Worship	Potter Heigham	Judith Gardiner LLM
	10am	Holy Communion	Ludham	Rev'd Gary Noyes
18th January	10am	Joint Holy Communion	Catfield	Rev'd Gary Noyes
	10am	United Service for week of prayer	Ludham Methodists	tba
25th January	10am	Joint Holy Communion Morning Prayer	Potter Heigham	Rev'd Gary Noyes
	10am	Morning Worship	Ludham	Lynda Savage AWA

We would like to thank all those who came to the church Christmas Bazaar, £510 was raised and this will be put towards the £3000 needed annually to insure the building.

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.

THE WHOLE YEAR WILL BE FORTUNATE FOR YOU.....

John Chrysostom was a prominent and influential early Christian Church Father, born in Antioch in around 347, who became Archbishop of Constantinople. He is known for his eloquent preaching and biblical interpretations, with the ability to convey profound messages clearly. He is well known, also for his homilies, one such homily is his "Homily for New Year".

In it John warns his congregation to not let the spirit of the holiday (drunkenness and partying in the culture of the time) overcome Christian witness and moral behavior *"The whole year will be fortunate for you, not if you are drunk on the new-moon [New Year' Day], but if both on the new-moon [January 1st], and each day, you do those things approved by God "* And even worse *" for those living in licentiousness and drunkenness and intemperance, their day is turned into the darkness of night, not with the sun's extinction, but the darkening of their mind by inebriation".*

But John Chrysostom's message, while full of moral admonition, is also full of good news. John points his hearers to gratitude, for having lived another year; he points them to God's Word which overcomes sorrow and gives joy better than drunkenness, and he uses the celebration of New Year's Day to remind his congregation that God is coming again and will make all things truly new. *"Do you not have wealth? But you have the fear of God, a treasure more fruitful than all wealth, not consumed, not changed, not spent-up. Look to heaven, and to the heaven of heavens, the earth, the sea, the air, the kinds of the animals, the manifold plants, the whole nature of human-beings; consider the angels, archangels, the powers above; recall that these are all creations of your Master. It is thus not poverty to be the slave of the providential Master if you have him as your propitious Lord.*

Into the city above you are enrolled; there you are reckoned, you will mingle with the angels; where light does not give way to darkness, nor day fulfilled tonight, but is always day, always light. To these, therefore, let us look continually. "For seek", he says, "the things above, where Christ is seated at God's right hand." [Col 3:1] You have nothing in common with the earth, where the courses of the sun are, and circuits, and days; but if you live rightly, the night will be day for you."

Wishing you all a peaceful New Year

Christine Wall AWA

This Year, Choose You By Cíera Cree

A blank canvas before you

Take just one step
Into the unknown, the brave, the fearless
See what lies on the other side
Of the limits you've set for yourself

That one sole step
Its movement, its guts, its power
All adds up in the end

For it is progress, learning,
A gateway into all you could want it to be

BROADLAND MODEL RAILWAY CLUB



In the workshop, we are busy with updates and construction on a number of our layouts, next year's exhibition season will be on us before we know it and there is a lot to do to get ready. The latest updates to all the layouts are on the website and the exhibition calendar is starting to fill up already, please check it out as it is constantly under review.

We all enjoy the camaraderie during our sessions every week, sharing information and help where needed. We are very fortunate in having 24/7 access to our club rooms and a number of us also take advantage of this during the daytime, often splitting the day's modelling activities with lunch in the Swan Inn in Stalham. 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/>



Able Community Care is a Norfolk, family owned, Home Care provider which was established in 1980. We are often asked by our clients, carers and members of the public, questions across a wide range of care issues. Care information is often time-consuming and difficult to access, so we are happy to share some of our questions and answers with you.

Question – I have been told that there is a booklet that I can get from my local Police Force about scams. Is this true as I would like to send one to an older relative?

Answer - **The Little Book of Big Scams** booklet was originally produced by the Metropolitan Police and is not available from all police forces, however, many police forces and local councils across the UK have either reproduced it or created their own versions. You can typically download the booklet from the website of the police force in your area or from organizations like the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau. Some police forces may also have it in hard copy form.

Question - My operation was cancelled at the last minute by a phone call on the morning I was supposed to attend. What are my rights around such a cancellation?

Answer - If the hospital or service cancels your operation at the last minute and for non-clinical reasons, (e.g. lack of staff, beds, admin error, etc.) they should offer another binding date within 28 days or fund your treatment at a date and hospital of your choice. If you're not offered an appointment within 28 days, you should complain to your local ICB. (Integrated Care Board).

If your operation is cancelled before the day of admission, the hospital or service is not obliged to provide an alternative option within 28 days.

However, your right to start consultant-led treatment within a maximum waiting time still stands. If cancelling your appointment results in you having to wait longer, you have the right to ask the hospital or ICB to move you to a different provider.



A Seasonal Success...

Catfield Action Team was delighted to host two wreath making workshops in November and December, set against the picturesque backdrop of All Saints Church. These events celebrated creativity, community, and the festive spirit, drawing participants eager to craft their own Christmas decorations.

Both sessions were well-attended, demonstrating the community's enthusiasm for engaging in creative activities. Participants of all skill levels came together, sharing tips and techniques while enjoying each other's company.

Each participant left with a unique wreath, a testament to their creativity and the skills they honed during the workshops. The variety of materials and decorations available allowed for personal expression, ensuring that no two wreaths were alike. The pride in their creations was evident as attendees departed, wreaths in hand, ready to adorn their homes.

The Catfield Action Team extends heartfelt thanks to everyone who attended and supported the workshops. Your enthusiasm and creativity made the events truly special. We are excited to continue this tradition and look forward to welcoming both familiar and new faces next year, as we gather once more to celebrate the joy of creation and community.



One Liner:- .Only you can turn information into knowledge.



Catfield Action Team 2025 Project & Donation Summary



Throughout 2025, the Catfield Action Team has been actively involved in supporting and enhancing our community through various projects and donations. These efforts have been made possible thanks to the generous support from our community members who participated in events like bingo nights, countryside walks, insightful talks, and our vibrant summer fete.

Please consider becoming a Catfield Action Team member for a cost of £5 per year and help fund our on-going work in the Catfield Community. We would love to increase our membership and support.

Community Projects and Donations

We are proud to share the outcomes of our collective endeavours and the positive impact we've had on Catfield:

- **Planted a Screening Hedge along Sutton Road:** We invested **£280** to enhance the natural privacy along Sutton Road by planting a screening hedge.
- **School Garden Creation and Maintenance:** With a contribution of **£505**, we established and maintained a garden at the local school, providing students with a green space for learning and relaxation.
- **Village Planting Sessions:** We conducted various planting sessions around the village, totalling an investment of **£311**, to beautify public spaces and promote environmental sustainability.
- **Support for Catfield News:** A donation of **£250** was made to support Catfield News, ensuring continued local coverage and communication within our community.
- **Village Hall Equipment Loan:** We contributed **£150** to the Village Hall as a token of appreciation for the loan of equipment that supports our community events.
- **Donation to All Saints Church:** We donated **£400** to All Saints Church, aiding in the preservation and maintenance of this important community landmark.
- **Catfield Friday Club and Christmas Day Lunch:** Each of these community gatherings received a donation of **£150** each, fostering social connections and holiday cheer among residents.
- **Future Playground Project:** We are thrilled to pledge **£1,000** towards picnic benches for the new playground project at the Village Hall, set to commence in 2026.

Gratitude and Community Involvement

These accomplishments were made possible by your valued participation in our events and the generous donations we received. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has contributed to our success.

If you are interested in getting more involved or would like more information on our activities, please don't hesitate to reach out to us at catfieldactionteam@gmail.com. Your continued support is invaluable to the ongoing betterment of our community!



NWT Hickling Broad and Marshes.

As I write, one of the most striking features of the winter to date is the mildness of the weather. Daily temperatures regularly reach double with 13°C recorded overnight on the 9th/10th November. Frosts have been few and far between and despite having a flurry of snowfall in November, the over-riding feeling is that winter is yet to arrive. Whilst there may yet be a sting in the tail, it is just a few short days from publication before daylight hours begin to increase and we can look forward to the coming spring.

A recent highlight at Hickling has been the number of otter sightings, including a female with two cubs in the area. Most recently what appeared to be a young female was video-recorded crossing the picnic area outside the visitor centre as it made its way under the suspended bird-feeders and into the drainage ditch beyond. These delightfully inquisitive animals are always on the reserve but sightings can be infrequent, though they do have a tendency to come in clusters. More often evidence of their presence is revealed by fresh spraints or the remains of a meal left for our inspection. Otters are back in every river system in the county and are a delight to watch at any time. Their return is a result of cleaning up our waterways in the late 1980s; a fact which should make it abundantly clear that continual abuse of our waterways by sewage treatment plants will doubtless lead to another decline.

John Williamson – NWT Senior Boat Operator

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 February magazine is 10th January

Farming News

I re-read my plans for 2025 in January 2025 magazine. Not much has changed except my lounge wall now has 2.5 tonnes of steel stopping the wall from collapsing. The future of farming looks very bleak with the exception of meat which is getting unaffordable. So, strategy seems to be pick-a-crop to grow, which might break even, if nothing goes wrong. What could go wrong? There is a £50/tonne tax coming in across the EU on Nitrogen fertilizer, the aquifers are struggling to recover so if there is a lack of rainfall in 2026 plants might struggle to grow, if it does rain in the Summer disease could wreck crops and by then there will be no money to pay for the expensive fungicides. Frost might kill off winter cereals in vulnerable sites. The Pound might recover. We might get a new Government but I'm dreaming now.

Defra thinks there are opportunities to sell off unwanted land for non-agricultural projects, not in Catfield-besides why should we sell off part of our business to prop up food production? We spent time and money acquiring the assets and I have no plans to sell off anything. Dog parks seem to be all the rage and they are popping up everywhere and by all accounts are profitable. I attended a meeting to learn about environmental schemes in Broadland but Broadland seems to have missed out on the Landscape Recovery Scheme that North Norfolk Landscape Recovery are writing up for Defra to appraise. This is a huge missed opportunity not to bring all parties together to manage all the land in Broadland with a common goal.

I had the opportunity to walk round one of the smallest Broads last week and investigate the issues of the site. The open water had very poor water quality, the protected plants had been eaten by deer, the woodland had been eaten by deer, the grass had been eaten by deer but the stalker there had his night time licence and was about to start his cull. You can't blame the various deer for picking this site as succession and terrestrialisation had made the site very dry and nobody lives near the site to disturb them. Outside the site there was large grassland areas of well managed land with few deer on it. The site did not remove any grass clippings or reed cuttings and over many years the nutrient levels had increased, creating the mess that is there today. We can't just blame deer grazing, it's a site management problem that the deer have taken advantage off and thousands of pounds are being spent carrying out the current management, with no improvement. Natural England have twigged that the current management is wrong and will come up with a new plan. My feeling is that they don't have the skill set to understand what the problem is, so will come up with the wrong plan- again. It's so important to get the protected sites' management right and get the right outcomes, if we don't get the right outcomes, we risk Defra pulling the funding and I doubt we can find a politician to argue that the status quo carries on.

Its 100 years since Norfolk NFU began and to celebrate a magazine has been produced. Articles include why it was founded, why the ESA (Environmentally Sensitive Areas) began, Norfolk NFU buying a Spitfire, the end of delivering sugar beet by wherry and being told that "if farmers could only grow 8 sacks of corn an acre, maybe they should cease arable production". Apart from the Spitfire purchase in 1942, nothing has really changed in 100 years. The Spitfire, Mark IIA P8138, named The Norfolk Farmer, seemed to have been accident prone and scrapped in 1945.

AWA 10.12.2025

How Hill Trust

Education team

Our Education Team have been busy with day visits over the winter and are looking forward to welcoming back their first school of the year in mid-January. December also saw them busy hosting Family Festive activities. All our Family events are advertised on our Facebook and the How Hill website so it's always a good idea to check regularly throughout the year.

Upcoming Family Events

18th February Signs of Spring. Join our Education Team for a walk enjoying How Hill in the Spring . £7.50 per head including hot drink and a biscuit. Keep an eye out for our Easter event on Facebook. Booking essential via our Ticket Source page: www.ticketsource.co.uk/how-hill-trust

Adult Visitors

December saw a number of groups join us for their Christmas lunches. It's a real team effort with all staff getting involved whether assisting the chefs with veg prep, waitressing or washing up. December also saw us preparing our calendar for next year. We have several groups booked in to stay this year, birthday lunches, our own courses and food evenings. It's certainly going to be a busy one and all of the things we run for adults helps to support the children coming to visit us.

We have closed the Gardens over winter as they are water logged and suffer damage from the footfall if left open. Our maintenance team have a list of winter tasks including repairing boardwalk and clearing ponds. The car park remains open all year. If you are a regular visitor, you will notice that Turf Fen Mill is enshrouded in scaffolding and tarpaulin. It's under repair and we will be very excited to see it emerge later in the year back to its former glory.

Upcoming Events

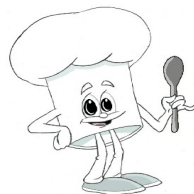
1st March Spring Walk and Light Lunch. Join us for a walk around How Hill as everything starts to wake up after the winter, followed by a light lunch in the house £25 per person

10th March Boats and Breakfast. 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. This trip is to explore the wildlife before dusk on 17th and to 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



Onion and Herb Loaf

Ingredients

550g strong white flour
1tsp fast-action dried yeast
1 heaped tsp salt
1 tbsp finely chopped rosemary, plus 2-3 extra sprigs, rubbed in oil
5 tbsp extra virgin olive oil
1 egg, beaten

For the filling

2 tbsp olive oil
½ tsp salt
½ tsp coarsely crushed black pepper
2 onions, sliced
1 tbsp balsamic vinegar
3 tbsp golden caster sugar
1 tbsp rosemary or thyme, finely chopped

Method

1. Place 225g of the flour in a bowl, add 300ml tepid water and the yeast, mix well and leave for 1 hour. Add the remaining flour, salt, rosemary and oil and mix to a soft pliable dough. Knead on a lightly floured surface for 10 minutes or until elastic.
2. Shape the dough into a ball and place in a large oiled bowl. Cover loosely with oiled cling film and leave in a warm place for 1 hour or until doubled in size.
3. For the filling, heat the oil in a frying pan. Add the salt and black pepper then add the onions and fry on medium heat for 10 minutes, or until golden. Stir in the remaining ingredients and fry for 2-4 minutes or until dark and sticky.
4. Turn the dough out on to a floured surface and knead briefly. Press out to a large rectangle then spread with the filling. Fold the shorter sides in, then fold the bottom third up and the top third down, like an envelope. Press gently then turn over and lift on to a lightly floured baking tray and shape the ends of the loaf into slight points. Cover loosely and leave for 30 minutes or until doubled in size. Preheat the oven to 200C.
5. Brush the dough with beaten egg, sprinkle with flour then slash it with a sharp knife to reveal the filling inside. Sprinkle with the rosemary rubbed in oil, then bake for 20 minutes. Reduce the oven to 180C and bake for 20 minutes or until the bread is risen and a deep golden brown.
D.S.

Sea Palling Independent Lifeboat



Christmas provided a well-earned pause from our routine training schedule, but our volunteers continued to demonstrate exceptional commitment to First Aid and Casualty Care. Over two intensive weekends, the crew completed the Quallsafe Level 3 Award—an excellent team-building experience and a valuable qualification that strengthens our operational capability.

The upkeep of our equipment and station remains a priority, particularly during the harsher winter weather. Throughout the Christmas period, volunteers dedicated their time to ensure that both the station and all equipment remained fully prepared for the next call for assistance.

With best wishes for the New Year from all the crew at Sea Palling Independent Lifeboat.

Rita Galbraith
Sea Palling Independent Lifeboat
Fundraising Team

Registered Charity No. 267211

Tip:- Superglue sticks to just about anything including your skin. Trying to peel it off of your fingers can cause skin damage. Instead, soak a cotton ball with acetone-based nail varnish remover and hold it on the skin until the glue dissolves.

The Autumn harvest of ornamental gourds, squashes and pumpkins and the pollination of these colourful plants.

I have been growing these interesting plants since I was a child, shown is a wheelbarrow full that I have grown this year. They need rich damp soil with plenty of humus in the form of compost, or rotted manure to grow at their best but they will grow in any soil, a high potassium fertiliser helps. They need space as they sprawl out, or they can be grown upwards on a support, the knobbly ones in the photo rejoice in the name of Pumpkin Galeux d'Eysines ! They are especially prolific, others are sweet potato squash, butternut squash, pink banana, turban etc. They all have male and female flowers. Seeds are available, and another way of acquiring seeds is to buy an interesting looking one, these are often for sale in farm shops and supermarkets, these yield plenty of seeds when cut open and dried. Most squashes can be eaten, soups and stews etc.



The pollination is interesting and is carried out mainly by bees, honey bees are good at this and when I had bee hives there were no shortage of pollinators. Another interesting insect is the squash bee which is another good pollinator of these plants. Unlike the honey bee, the squash bee is a solitary ground nesting bee, whereas the honey bee lives in hives with thousands of companions. When I kept bees it was a surprise to me at first to realise that all workers are females and are responsible for pollination and collecting pollen in yellow bulges on their legs.

Alec Nisbet

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4			9		2			7
			5		3			
	9			5			3	
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9	2						6	3

Last Months Solution

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

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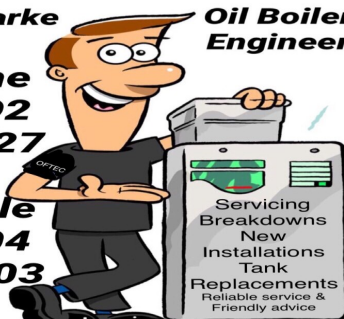
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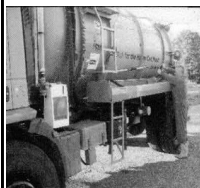
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Items for inclusion need to be received no later than **10th** of each month. Items can be e-mailed to the team, *contacts detailed on page 2*, or left in the Catfield News box in the Village Shop. Articles should be no more than 400 words and have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