



**Edition
276**

CATFIELD NEWS

Your village magazine

August 2026



Swallowtail butterfly - Photo by Mark Collins
See page 17 for an article about this beautiful butterfly

CATFIELD NEWS *Contacts*

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

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

Please address your envelope to Catfield News

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

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

and on the Catfield Action Team website

<https://catfieldactionteam.co.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
revg.waterside@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

www.ludhamsurgery.nhs.uk

Ludham Surgery
Tel: 01692 678 611

Stalham Green Surgery
Tel: 01692 580 880

Ludham & Stalham Green Opening Times

	Ludham	Stalham Green
Monday	8.30am - 6pm	8.30am - 6pm
Tuesday	8.30am - 6pm	8.30am - 6pm
Wednesday	8.30am - 1pm	8.30am - 6pm
Thursday	8.30am - 6pm	8.30am - 1pm
Friday	8.30am - 6pm	8.30am - 6pm

Dispensary opening hours mirror the surgery's opening times, with the exception of a daily closure for protected time between 1.00pm and 3.00pm.

Local MP

Steffan Aquarone
Steff.aquarone.mp@parliament.uk
02072197585

Local County Councillor

Matthew Taylor 07557097597
matthew.taylor.cllr@north-norfolk.gov.uk

Local District Councillors

Kevin Terrance Bayes
kevin.bayes@north-norfolk.gov.uk
Matthew Taylor 07557097597
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Local Police

PC Matthew Pritty
Beat Manager
Hoveton Police Stn
Matthew.Pritty@Norfolk.Police.uk

What's on in Catfield during August

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

The Mobile Library will visit Catfield on Tuesday 4th August

Thorn Road - 14:35 - 14:55

Village Hall - 15:00 - 15:20

First Friday Coffee, Games & Chat

Friday 7th August 10.30am onwards

Come and join us for a coffee and chat and a game or two,
followed by a light lunch. This is a free event and all are welcome.

For more information contact Judith on 07826 848585

Catfield Stitching Group

Tuesday 11th & Tuesday 25th August

Catfield Village Hall, 2pm to 4pm

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).

**Please contact Pat Reid 07906 097007
for more information. £2.00 per session.**

Tea, Coffee & Biscuits included

What's on in Catfield during August and early September

Catfield Crafters Wednesday 26th August 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

CAT Countryside Walk Sunday 16th August 4pm Ludham Bridge to St Benets Abbey

**Parish Council Meeting
Catfield Village Hall
Wednesday 26th August 7.00pm**
Please check Parish Council website for Agenda.
<https://catfieldparishcouncil.norfolkparishes.gov.uk>

Catfield Church Photographic Exhibition 5th & 6th September 10 till 4 A Tapestry of Music Concert 7pm 5th September *See page 19 for more info*

**Litter Pick
Sunday 6th September
Meet at 10am at Catfield Village Hall**

ART LUDHAM 26 Fine Art Exhibition, Hosted by Swallowtail Fine Artists, Returns Showcasing Work by Well-Known Local Artists

The 4th Annual ART LUDHAM Fine Art Exhibition returns over August Bank Holiday bringing together an exciting lineup of Norfolk and Suffolk based artists. Hosts, Swallowtail Fine Artists Lorraine Auton, Tony Colledge and Amanda Springall-Rogers, will be joined by invited guest artists: John Patchett, John Sparks, Reg Siger, Fehmi Gokes, Kate Gabriel, Margaret Springall, Julie Hodgson, Ruth Mann, and Eleanor Alison.

Now in its fourth year, the exhibition offers audiences a blend of different artistic styles, mediums and subjects, which highlight the depth of creative talent in the region. The beautiful St Catherine's Church provides a wonderful backdrop in which visitors can enjoy the works being exhibited.

All work featured will be for sale. The exhibition will be open from Sunday 30th August to Tuesday 1st September 2026, 10am to 5pm . Refreshments will be available. **FREE ENTRY.**

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

Would you like to help with the production of your village magazine?

We are looking for a couple of people to help with the production of the Catfield News.

Roles within the team are secretary, editor,
accounts and advertising.

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

The Catfield News needs your help update

We have had an amazing response to our plea for donations to help keep the magazine going, and thank you all.

Special thanks go to Andrew Alston, Jo Amos, Penny Middleditch, Mark Allard, All Saints' Church Catfield, Catfield United Charities and the Catfield Action Team. Your support has meant that the immediate future of the magazine is no longer at risk. We are still looking for longer term solutions , and any future donations will be gratefully received.

As long as we have the support of our lovely readers we will continue to produce The Catfield News, and keep you informed of local events and provide interesting articles for you to read.

We still have advertising space available, so if you would like to advertise please contact either stevebeckley1@gmail.com or secretarycatnews1@btinternet.com.

Thank you,

The Catfield News Team

**CATFIELD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS
WEDNESDAY 24th JUNE 2026**

Public Update

- A parishioner advised that they had discussed the cutting of the verges and “No Mow May” with Norfolk County Council (NCC) at the Norfolk show. Councillor Briscoe advised that Catfield Action Team (CAT) will be writing to NCC regarding the cutting of verges.

Councillors Bayes and Taylor Update

- District Councillor Matthew Taylor advised that he had a few items to report. He confirmed that he had called the planning application in respect of Malthouse Lane into North Norfolk District Council's (NNDC) Development Committee for determination. He is awaiting a response from Konnectbus regarding the change of bus routes. He had been asked by the church to chase the church's request for pre-planning advice in respect of the expansion of the church car park.
- In his capacity as County Councillor, he advised that the Community Funding and Local Members Highway Funding had both been cancelled by NCC. However, the £4,000 per District Councillor budget from NNDC still remained. He had visited Catfield Primary School and was very complimentary on how well the school is run and how the children are supported.
- Councillor Taylor advised that he is standing as the Police & Crime Commissioner's Conservative candidate.

Matters Arising

- **Norfolk Ponds Project**

This has been handed over to CAT. Councillor Bacon had attended a CAT meeting and provided useful information and maps of past and present ponds in Catfield.

- **Recycling Bins in Village Hall Car Park**

The PC is waiting for a date for their removal.

- **Village Magazine**

The Parish Council (PC) discussed the financial problems that the village magazine is encountering. Councillors Edwards, Johnson and Plowman will approach the voluntary staff of the magazine and ask that the content of the magazine is not reduced until they have met to discuss possible funding solutions. The Councillors to report back to the next meeting.

- **Sandholes**

Target Trees had been instructed to carry out the work, which is scheduled to begin on 6th August 2026.

Planning

- **PO/26/0036 – Land South of Lea Road Catfield – The erection of up to ten dwellings and associated infrastructure with all matters reserved except access**

A parishioner advised that there are two outstanding items. No further PC action at this time.

- **PF/26/0494 - Malthouse Lane, Catfield**

See under Councillor Taylor's report.

- **Fenview – 3 Fenside Cottages**

A follow up complaint had been received from a parishioner. The PC had sought further advice from NALC which had confirmed the PC's previous action. No further action by the PC. The PC had received a letter from NNDC regarding work at the site. Councillor Briscoe to draft a response to NNDC.

- **North Norfolk Call for Sites**

In preparation for a new Local Plan, a “Call for Sites” had been sent out inviting landowners, developers and individuals to submit land to be considered for development. This will run until 13th July 2026. Sites must accommodate at least five dwellings and be a minimum site area of 0.25 hectares. Councillor Harris stressed the major constraints in the village due to the proximity of SSSIs.

- **Milestones – section 106 funding for village projects**

A good response had been received from NNDC’s new section 106 officer. It was agreed that the PC needed to act quickly to obtain the section 106 contributions. Councillors Johnson and Jordan will take responsibility for the Allotments contribution, Councillor Edwards for both the Parks & Recreation and Play Equipment contributions and Councillor Briscoe for the Natural Green Space Contribution.

Highways and Road Safety

- **Parish Partnership Scheme Bus Shelter Application**

As other bus routes/companies, besides Konnectbus, still use the village hall bus stop and Councillor Taylor had advised that future funding is being withdrawn by NCC, and as the new bus shelter grant has already been approved, Councillor Edwards requested that the PC proceed with the installation of the second bus shelter as there might be a danger that the funding is withdrawn. This was approved by a majority; 6 in favour, 2 against, 1 abstention.

Village Hall

- **Recreation Ground**

Councillor Edwards confirmed that completion of the works is due by the end of next week. The PC still has work to do to update the igloo and remove the concrete post in the car park.

- **Village Hall Renovations**

Councillor Roberson advised that the Village Hall Management Committee is proceeding with the new front door and windows for the village hall. He is also obtaining quotes for a modular building for storage and will need to replace the paving slabs outside the front door. He will also follow up on lighting in the car park.

- **Arrangements for management of Village Hall**

The PC now has membership with Community Action Norfolk. Councillors Briscoe and Johnson will now start work on the arrangements for the management of the village hall.

- **Provision of Commercial Waste Bins at Village Hall**

Councillor Johnson had researched bin and collection provisions for the village hall in response to the recent food hygiene inspection. It was agreed that the PC will proceed with the NNDC commercial waste service, with one general (black) bin and one recycling (green) bin collection per month at a cost of approximately £350 pa. Ad hoc collections can be arranged as necessary and the arrangement will be reviewed next April.

PLEASE REFER TO THE WEBSITE FOR FULL DETAILS OF MEETING MINUTES

NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING IS 29th July 2026



CATFIELD PARISH COUNCILLORS

Keith Bacon	01692 581314	keithbacon@broadland.net
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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.

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 September magazine is 10th August

Catfield Higashi Karate



A fantastic day on Saturday for putting Catfield Higashi firmly on the map.

We spent the afternoon training under a team of first-class instructors, four of whom were 7th Dan black belts, making it a great opportunity to learn and develop.

Two Catfield students attended alongside me. Clare Davies was assessed throughout the day and, as a result of her hard work and determination in some uncomfortably warm conditions, was awarded her Orange Belt.

Daryl Ross was also under scrutiny for the duration and, after returning to karate following a 25-year break and putting in six months of dedicated retraining, was officially awarded his Green Belt.

Both achievements are thoroughly deserved, and while Clare and Daryl are understandably proud of what they have accomplished, I am equally proud of them.

It was also a pleasure to see three former clubmates from my old Maldon club successfully complete their formal gradings and earn higher brown belt grades. Congratulations to Gabriel, Demi and Megan on their excellent performances.

A special thank you to John Spurgeon (5th Dan) from Maldon, who devoted so much time, energy and encouragement to Clare and Daryl throughout the day.

As always, it was lovely to catch up with friends from across the Higashi clubs around the UK. Days like these remind us that karate is about much more than grades alone – it's about shared effort, continuous improvement and being part of a wider community.

Tip:- To get rid of dirt, grime and cobwebs in hard-to-reach crevices, dip an ordinary wood toothpick in some alcohol and run it through the affected area. You can also use this to clean around the buttons on your phone and keyboard.

Farming News

There has been very little rain since March and three heatwaves, so I am pleasantly surprised that there is something to harvest. Combining started on the 8th July which I believe is the earliest ever. Wheat looks very close to being fit and Spring Barley is 10 days away. We should be establishing cover crops after harvest but unless there is some substantial rain, I can't see the point. On some farms the contractors can't establish SFI options as the cultivators will not go into the ground, so the small seeds have little chance of germinating. At Catfield we did manage to drill the Wild Bird Seed mixes for the small birds to eat during the winter but Cabbage Stem Flea Beetles appeared and did some damage. I think the insecticide has worked but I fear the small birds will have to find an additional source of food this winter.

Currently there is a supply of field grown crops to supermarkets, even though it is a bit erratic but moving forward that supply is likely to come under pressure as crops which would be ready for harvest in October die in fields due to lack of moisture. Potatoes are beginning to suffer with crops running out of moisture. Sugar beet is hanging on but we've just been told the factory season will start late and finish early, so British Sugar do know that the crop is very much reduced. Maize in Catfield is holding up with the exception of where deer are eating it, but nationally it's a disaster except where there has been no rain. I'm told cereal yields are down, maybe as much as 25% and barley quality is poor.

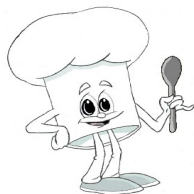
Our last Prime Minister had a 10-year plan to get the Country back on its feet again but he left office after two years. We have a new PM with a 10-year plan to save the North of the Country and to convert Southern England into an LS Lowry urban landscape. I'm not going to predict how long he'll be in post but the track record of the previous PM's has not been for a long period. There is no plan for the Countryside, I wonder if he knows it exists? What we need in agriculture is stability and I'm not overly concerned which party is in power as long as we have stability. By stability I mean the Government plan for agriculture. The plan currently is all over the place with farmers not 100% sure which direction their business should be going. Do they carry on with combinable crops and sugar beet – all of which produce little to no profit for re-investment, or diversify which requires a capital investment. What we do know is that there is no financial security blanket (BPS) and green subsidies are likely to be harder to access in future. So, will farmers take financial risks of investing in crops and livestock? We are seeing huge losses this year from growing cereals on light land and this is the second year running for some farmers. Something has got to give. We sheared the sheep in temperatures of 32 degrees under the shade of oak trees. One would have thought that they would be pleased to not have the fleece but actually the fleece is a very good insulator and the sheep keep cool under it. They then spend the next few days in the shade and only ventured out at night. Making sure all the animals, including the dogs, have ample supplies of cold water has been a never-ending job this Spring and Summer. Water levels in ponds are slightly down but there is a surprising amount of water still about, so Anglian Water give us a hosepipe ban.

There is just one grain store to clean out and make it spotless which is a job I'm not looking forward to as the building is hot. In the meantime, there are a few remaining wild oats to remove from cereal fields but its even hotter in those fields and I've just noticed an odd weed beet appearing which will have to be removed.

The deer fences are beginning to be put up. These are electrified, so don't touch them. They are there to stop deer entering fields and eating crops. Their favourite crop is potato heaps, incidentally it's the favourite of some white bulls which escaped from their field on 2nd July and scared the kids. Its only 21 days till we can cull the stags, then they will keep away.

I've been onto Catfield Fen a few times this Summer to check on the Swallowtail butterflies. I've seen one Wild Carrot plant (that's the plant where they lay their eggs) and possibly one Swallowtail at 200m through my binoculars. I'm starting to think that something is eating the Wild Carrot plants which might be responsible for the decline. Deer? AWA 10.7.2026

Chef's Specials



Olive, Thyme and Onion Tart

Ingredients

115g butter
3 tbsp milk
150g self-raising flour
3 tbsp olive oil
3 onions, peeled and finely sliced
1 tsp caster sugar
2 tbsp thyme leaves
1 tsp salt
240ml double cream
3 eggs, beaten
Freshly ground black pepper
30g Parmesan cheese, grated
2 tbsp black olive tapenade

Method

1. To make the pastry, heat the butter and milk together in a saucepan until the butter is melted. Stir in the flour and mix until a ball forms. When cool enough to handle, press the pastry into a 20cm loose-bottomed tart tin and chill for 30 minutes.
2. Preheat the oven to 170C. Heat the olive oil in a heavy frying pan and add the onion, stirring, over a high heat for 5 minutes. Add the sugar, thyme and salt and then reduce the heat and cook slowly, stirring occasionally for 30 minutes or until the onions are very soft and slightly caramelized. Meanwhile, whisk together the cream, eggs, black pepper and Parmesan cheese.
3. Place the tart tin on a baking tray and spread the tapenade over the base of the pastry, spread the onions on top and carefully pour over the cream filling. Bake the tart for 30 minutes, or until set. Serve whilst still warm or leave to cool completely.

D.S.

Into the Grasses

As spring slips into summer, everything seems to change faster — the heat stressing plants, trees and wildlife as well as ourselves. While Wimbledon's immaculate courts stayed green, many village lawns and roadsides were already fading to brown. But it's far from over. Our native grasses are more varied — and more fascinating — than we often realise.

Pause by an uncut verge in June or July and you'll see grasses in flower, their seed heads swaying gently. Yorkshire Fog stands out with its purple pink haze and its charming "stripy pyjama" stems, soft with fine hairs. Cocksfoot, a tough native meadow grass, thrives in drought thanks to deep roots and tussocky growth; its purplish flowerhead resembling a bird's foot. It's popular for chewing, though its sharp leaves demand respect. More delicate is Sweet Vernal Grass, the source of that delicious scent of freshly cut hay — and even used traditionally to infuse vodka with vanilla like notes.

Should we cut grasses once they brown? Yes and no. A late summer hay cut helps maintain flower rich meadows but leaving some areas untouched until spring provides vital habitat for pollinators and small mammals. One in five of our native butterflies rely on certain species of native grasses, including Meadow Browns, Gatekeepers, Skippers and the striking Marbled White. Eggs are laid, or casually dropped, into the grasses, and the caterpillars spend the winter hidden among the stems, feeding until they pupate in early spring.

So take a moment to cherish our native village grasses. Grass is not just for lying on, or even for tennis.

Jane Madgwick





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

Sunday 2nd August	10am	Benefice Holy Communion (Weather permitting, outside service)	Catfield
Sunday 9th August	10am	Joint Morning Worship with Catfield	Potter Heigham
	10am	Holy Communion	Ludham
Sunday 16th August	10am	Joint Holy Communion with Potter Heigham	Catfield
	10am	Morning Worship	Ludham
Sunday 23rd August	10am	Joint Holy Communion with Catfield	Potter Heigham
	10am	Morning Worship	Ludham
Sunday 30th August	10am	Joint Holy Communion with the Methodists	Potter Heigham Methodist Chapel
Sunday 6th September	10am	Benefice Holy Communion	Potter Heigham

Homily

It's August already and we have reached the middle of Summer and the end of the Academic year for students, teachers and parents alike, no more school runs for a few weeks! hopefully time to enjoy a welcome break and family holidays. We have had some wonderful hot sunny weather although a little too hot for some people but not for me I love it and am making most of it while it lasts.

I expect that like me most of you have fond childhood memories of summer holidays. When I was growing up I really looked forward to them, counting the days till the end of term because it meant that I would have a whole week away from home staying with my grandparents. My grandfather was a Game keeper in a tiny village in Suffolk and I would spend a lot of time going round the estate on the cross bar of his bike followed by one or two very obedient dogs. If I was not doing that I would be off on my own exploring the fields and woodlands to see what I could find, the only rule was to make sure that I could see the roof of the house. It was very hard to find me when it was time to go home.

I wonder what childhood memories Jesus would have had probably much like ours, watching and helping his father and learning about carpentry, learning about the Jewish faith and of course playing with his friends.

Thirty years later when he started his ministry he would have been spending long hours with his disciples teaching, healing and performing miracles traveling around the towns and villages around The Sea of Galilee with crowds of people following him. Like us he would get very tired however he knew the importance of having a break and would often go off on his own in the early hours of the morning to be quiet and spend time with God his father.

A few weeks ago I was watching a documentary about the Holy Land. During the program there was a "Mindful Moment" a short clip of The Sea of Galilee early in the morning the only sound being the birds singing and the waves splashing gently against the shore and sides of the fishing boats. It looked as though nothing had changed since the time of Jesus and I could picture him in my mind walking along the shore talking to God.

We should all follow Jesus's example and everyday find time to stop and spend some time with God, listening to what he is telling us and praying.

Blessings.

Ros Bingham L L M

Swallowtail Butterfly

As you sit in your garden enjoying the sun and the warmth you spot it - a swallowtail butterfly. You are so happy, so pleased to see that this beautiful butterfly has survived a winter and is back once again.

What makes it so special that this majestic butterfly is found in and around Catfield?

Well, the answer to this question is that the British Swallowtail, unlike other Swallowtails, feeds almost exclusively on Milk-parsley, a plant of fens and marshes in England and particularly in the Broads. It is classified as vulnerable to extinction due to the loss of wetlands. Milk-parsley requires freshwater to survive and cannot tolerate salt. An outbreak of fungal pathogens on Milk-parsley at Wheatfen a few years ago was highly damaging, causing "milk-parsley droop". Although the precise cause is still not known, there is suspicion that salt water weakened the plants, making them susceptible to fungal attack.

The Swallowtail and Birdwing Butterfly Trust, established in 2017, focused primarily on the conservation of this family of butterflies worldwide after their plight was highlighted in "*Threatened Swallowtail Butterflies of the World*", published by IUCN, the World Conservation Union. At that time, our own British Swallowtail was not a high priority; various subspecies are common across the Palearctic and North America. However, the British subspecies, often seen visiting gardens in Catfield from nearby reserves, became a concern when the possible impact of brackish water on the remaining 16 breeding sites became apparent.

How is our race of swallowtail different from the ones that are common in mainland Europe?

Continental subspecies occasionally appear on Britain's south coast, and with climate change, they may eventually start to overwinter and breed. It has even been suggested that they could be released into the wild in Britain for all to enjoy! However, definitive genetic research, spearheaded by SBBT and its research partners at Montpellier University, found that the British Swallowtail has been separated from its cousins for more than 200,000 years and must be protected in its own right.

With climate change and sea-level rise upon us, we are in a hurry to identify suitable wetland sites to translocate and protect both the butterfly and its foodplant, before the British Swallowtail is lost from our fens – and our gardens.

For more information about SBBT, visit their website at www.sbbt.org.uk and sign up for their quarterly newsletter, *Papilio*!

Many thanks to Mark Collins, President, Swallowtail & Birdwing Butterfly Trust

Catfield United Charities

Catfield has a church, Catfield has a shop and post office it has a pub, it has a school, a play area which is being upgraded, places to get your car fixed and serviced, boat builders, glazing products for boats and super yachts, a host of small industries in the industrial zone and many one person businesses- it is a vibrant hub of activity all contributing to the local economy but did you know Catfield also has a charity!

The charity is 110 years old. It was set up to help the poor of the Catfield parish. The charity owns land, two staithe, a boatyard and a canoe storage facility. The staithe are Wood End staithe and Catfield staithe where the boatyard and canoe facility are located.

Near to Wood End staithe we own some fenland managed by the Norfolk Wildlife Trust and home to the Swallowtail butterfly and a host of rare and important fen plants and insects.

The boatyard and staithe have in the past two years seen some major works started with new staging being installed. The yard has capacity for 34 boats. Boats of up to 20 feet can be accommodated. A new indoor canoe storage has been created in one of the old boat workshops with a capacity for 12 canoes, kayaks and stand-up paddle boards, however if demand is high there is limited room for expansion of the racking. On the charities land at Catfield Common are allotments managed by the Parish Council. Other land is rented to farmers, to small holdings and even for garden use.

This is where the charity's income is generated the boat mooring fees from canoe storage and the land rented to our tenants.

We manage this income for the benefit of all in Catfield Parish. So, what do we do with our income? We can give some help towards enabling those residents in the Parish who find themselves in conditions of need, hardship and distress by making grants of money or providing or paying for items, services or facilities that may help alleviate these conditions. There is no means testing for these grants rather we sit and have an informal conversation and see if we can help. At Christmas we have a distribution, in years gone by it was for the elderly, but we now will help with anyone who feels that they could do with some support. You can be older younger or anywhere in between- everybody's circumstances are different.

The charity is here for all and we encourage you to get in touch with us – a little help can go a long way! We cannot repeat nor renew the relief - a grant is only given once for a single item or specific purpose.

Poverty is not just a lack of money but also a lack of opportunity- a lack of being able to stay in control.

It is your charity so please do get in touch enquiries@catfieldunitedcharities.uk (01690 660250) Do remember we are 7 volunteer trustees and we will do our best to get back to you in a timely manner.

A Day Out In Broadland

**in the Waterside Benefice
5th and 6th September
10 till 4**

Catfield Church

**Photographic Exhibition
'Caught on Camera in Broadland'**

See page 21 for how to enter your photo's

Saturday 5th September at 7pm

A Tapestry of Music Concert

£10 with refreshments

Book with Dianne Fernee on 01692 581409

Ludham Church

Art and Craft by local Artists

Potter Heigham Church

Norfolk Dialect Weekend

Friday 4th September at 7pm

Norfolk Evening with Sydney Grapes and friends



New funding helps protect Norfolk's largest Broad from climate change

As it celebrates its centenary, Norfolk Wildlife Trust has received nearly half a million pounds from The National Lottery Heritage Fund to help NWT Hickling Broad and Marshes nature reserve adapt to our changing climate and create new ways for people to enjoy the wildlife haven.

After sharing its vision for its nature reserve and nearby land with the local community in 2025, Norfolk Wildlife Trust has now received a grant of £453,115 from The National Lottery Heritage Fund to enable it to design a first phase of work.

During phase one, the work to support Hickling Broad's habitats and wildlife includes:

- Restoring 45 hectares of newly acquired wet grazing marsh on 'Whittle's Marsh' to benefit breeding waders including lapwing, snipe and redshank.
- Reconnecting 63 hectares of drained land within Hickling nature reserve reedbeds to Hickling Broad - re-establishing a larger, more resilient natural floodplain.
- Raising water levels across 45 hectares of marshes to create a shifting mosaic of tall herb fen and open water habitats to benefit rare birds including bittern and bearded tits as well as Norfolk's iconic swallowtail butterfly.
- Restoring existing wetland scrapes, providing improved habitat for waterbirds and waders – particularly those on migration - and creating opportunities for close encounters with wildlife.

As part of its vision, Norfolk Wildlife Trust is also committed to creating new ways for people to experience the unique Broads landscape and wildlife.

Rachel Savage, Norfolk Wildlife Trust Director of Development and Partnerships, said: 'Thanks to National Lottery Players, we are creating a future in which Hickling's habitats are protected, wildlife is thriving, and people are learning, exploring and enjoying the many benefits of being in nature.'

We will focus on the urgent need to improve the resilience of the nature reserve's nationally important habitats in the face of climate change. This work is vital in supporting the special wildlife the Broads are famous for, including breeding crane, spoonbill, marsh harrier, bittern, lapwing, and the iconic swallowtail butterfly, long into the future.

'We also have an amazing opportunity to develop new wild experiences for a wide diversity of people, and new ways for them to connect with the fascinating stories behind the largest of the Norfolk Broads.'

Proposed plans for new visitor facilities include improved paths, viewpoints, and signage at NWT Hickling [nature reserve](#) in addition to a new welcome cabin and Changing Places toilet at NWT Hickling staithe.

Across the wider area, the wildlife charity is designing a new accessible circular walk, as well as planning to enhance existing paths. It is also exploring new ways for people to enjoy the Broad by water, including new accessible boat trips and ferry services.

The new funding will allow Norfolk Wildlife Trust to put detailed plans in place over the next 18 months. This will enable the charity to apply for further funds to make the first phase of their vision a reality in future years. There will be lots of opportunities for residents and visitors to share their thoughts as the plans develop.

For more information, visit www.norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk/WilderHickling



Caught on Camera in Broadland

Do you have any photographs you would like to put in the Catfield Church Exhibition on the weekend of 5th and 6th September?

Any topic which you think visitors might enjoy seeing including farming, wildlife, flowers, boats, sunsets or even the moon! These with your permission will be printed or included in a rolling power point presentation.

Every visitor will be asked to choose their five favourites with the top five winning a prize. Please contact judithgardiner5@aol.com with your entries by Monday 24th August.

Catfield Action Team - Swift Progress in Catfield!

Thanks to exceptional collaboration across the village, Catfield Action Team (CAT) has been able to make excellent progress with a Swift Project this year.

Since February, the team has organised the manufacture of 37 specialised nest boxes and enabled the installation of 28 of them around the village in suitable situations. Electronic swift callers have been installed by property owners alongside all the boxes to attract the birds to explore them. CAT provided these for the school and the church.

At Catfield Church, a design for a tower installation proved challenging. We were inspired by an innovation used at Martham Church. Thanks to Martham sharing the design details and the interest of Trend Marine, we were able to produce a bespoke stainless steel frame from which to hang two rows of swift boxes, requiring no screws into the church. Through the generosity and skill of Trend Marine and a tremendous joint effort for installation together with the church and CAT volunteers, eight nest sites are now securely positioned high up on the northwest-facing tower, easily visible from the church footpath.



Catfield residents have shown great interest and appreciation for the Swift Project, with some highlighting active nest sites and others offering to host some boxes. Looking ahead, CAT aims to continue to extend the swift colony, advise on siting, as well as monitor progress in village swift populations over the years.

The CAT committee extends a huge thank you to everyone who contributed to this project or is hosting boxes, with special thanks to Caroline Spinks of the Norwich Swift network for technical advice, Catfield resident John Gilburt for manufacturing the boxes, Keith Bacon and Catfield church council for supporting at all stages and to Glenn, Sadie and Jane and the team at Trend Marine for their enthusiasm, skill and dedication to get the church installation over the finish line. ***It takes a whole community to give the best chance for swifts to thrive!***

CAT events coming soon...

Countryside Walk - 4pm, Sunday, 16th August, From Ludham Bridge to St Benets Abbey

Litter Pick - 10am, Sunday, 6th September, Starts at Catfield Village Hall

Accessible Walk - 2pm, Sunday, 20th September, Start location to be confirmed

Bingo - 7pm, Friday, 25th September, Catfield Village Hall

Catfield Action Team AGM- 7pm, Wednesday, 14th October, Catfield Village Hall

Norfolk Wherries, a talk by Simon Partridge - 7pm, Saturday, 17th October

Bingo - 7pm, Friday, 23rd October, Catfield Village Hall

Bingo - 7pm, Friday, 20th November, Catfield Village Hall

August - the must visit month at The Museum of the Broads!

The summer of 2026 has been notable for its high temperatures and as this article goes to press the lack of rain has been an issue for gardeners and farmers. It's strange to think then that in August 1912 the Broads saw eight inches of rain fall in less than twenty four hours. It caused a massive flood and the damage to bridges and property was extensive.

The weather remains a powerful force in our lives.

Happily, The Broads recovered from the floods of 1912 and with true Norfolk spirit bounced back to become an ever more popular holiday destination as the twentieth century rushed by.

By the 1960s and 70s The Broads was the place to be!

And this August The Museum of the Broads is definitely the place to visit. We have a packed agenda of summer events including -

Saturday 1st August, 10am - 4pm Crafts by the River ~ Wild Weaving!

Have a go at Wild Weaving with a local artist inspired by nature. Get up close and personal to some serious crafting.

Saturday 15th August, 7 - 9pm The Punch House Band!

This outfit deliver entertaining folk music with an East Anglian twist. Get ready for folk tales of blood, bone and boats. Prepare for laughter, ghost tales, and maybe (well, pretty much definitely actually) a sing-a-long!

Wherry Albion Open Day, Thursday 20th August 10am -4pm

This is a must. The magnificent Wherry Albion is one of the Norfolk Broads' most iconic vessels. Come aboard and meet the dedicated volunteers who care for and sail her. This is an opportunity to learn about her fascinating history. It's essential. And - it's **Free** with your museum admission.

30th August, 10am – 4pm Barton Regatta A Celebration of Classic Boats.

You need to do this! We're attending Barton Regatta on August 30th!

Take a very special Norfolk Broads trip. Choose from our steam launch, Falcon, or our electric boat, Marsh Harrier.

Bookings are available for Marsh Harrier online, and on the day for Falcon.

We're at - **The Poor's Staithe, Stalham, NR12 9DA** That's just off the A149 at the turning to Richardson's Boatyard. We're open six days a week - Tuesday to Sunday. You're welcome. **Check out all the details at -**

www.museumofthebroads.org.uk

Sea Palling Independent Lifeboat



At the time of writing, our coastline is basking in temperatures reaching the mid-20s, with both locals and visitors making the most of everything the area we call home has to offer.

For our volunteers, it has been a busy start to the summer. We have already responded to four taskings from HM Coastguard, including three incidents in a single afternoon.

Alongside operational duties, preparations are well underway for our annual Lifeboat Day on Saturday 23rd August. This is one of the most important dates in our calendar and plays a vital role in raising the funds needed to keep the station operational.

We're looking for support from our local community. If you, or someone you know, could help with fundraising on the day, bake a cake for our popular cake stall, or donate a raffle prize, we would be delighted to hear from you.

Every contribution, no matter how big or small, helps support our volunteer crew and ensures we can continue serving our community when needed most.

We wish you a safe and enjoyable Summer.

One liner:- Be as great in your actions as you are in your thoughts.

How Hill Trust

Education team

With a flurry of late July school day visits our Education Team are looking forward to a summer break. When not on their holidays they can be found helping the gardener with his summer jobs, so never a dull moment for them. Tickets are beginning to get booked up for our Summer Family events running from 20th to 23rd July. We also have a few bookings on our Festive Family Craft Days in November already. Tickets for both these events are on our ticketsource page

www.ticketsource.com/how-hill-trust.



This time of year, there are lots of dragonflies around the How Hill Nature Reserve. The four spotted chaser is identifiable by the 2 spots on each of his wings. The migrant hawk has a blue and black body. The emperor hawk has a mainly vibrant blue body. The king of the local dragonflies has to be the large and rare Norfolk Hawker, which is mainly found in the marshes and fenland specifically around the Norfolk Broads. Pale brown in colour with a distinctive yellow triangle on its body. They like fresh water and spend up to 2 years in the water before the mature larvae climbs out and emerges over night from its 'cast' or exuviae to give them their proper name. They fly off on the morning but take another couple of weeks to reach full maturity.

Adult Visitors

We recently welcomed the Norwich Gilbert and Sullivan Society back for their 34th summer gathering at How Hill, and they are already making plans for their 35th next year. It's always lovely to see familiar faces making a return visit.

Our Secret Gardens, toilets and car park are open every day over the Summer Holidays, with the House Gardens open when we do not have anyone staying in or using the house. If you want to be sure please get in touch.

We are putting together our calendar of events for next year and the diary is filling up nicely with both groups hiring us and with our own events and courses. Details to follow soon.

We have recently had some bad news about our aging heating system and we have been told we need £15,000 for repairs to get it working again. We have launched a donation campaign so hopefully we can raise the funds and have the repairs carried out before the weather turns.

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/heat-how-hill>

Coming up:

Sunday 5th September Pudding Evening. The return of our ever-popular pudding evenings. One savoury course followed by four delicious desserts. Which one will be the favourite? £30 per head.

Monday 28th September to Thursday 1st October Walking and Wildlife Around How Hill. Using How Hill as base we will explore the diverse local flora and fauna on foot. Each day will offer new routes and wildlife encounters led by our knowledgeable team. £520 per person full board.

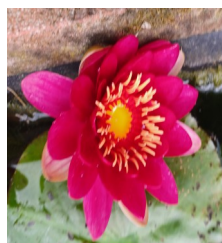
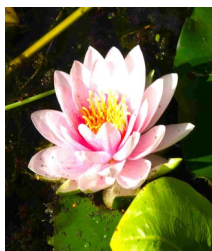
Sunday 29th November Christmas Wreath Making. Join our team to create a beautiful festive wreath in the cosy surroundings of How Hill House using foliage gathered from our own gardens. Hot drink and sweet drink included. £40 per person.

Tuesday 1st December to Friday 4th December. Start your festive season with a joyful stay at How Hill. Enjoy Christmas crafts, festive entertainment and a visit to the renowned Thursford Christmas Spectacular with a few surprises along the way. £700 full board and all trips etc included.

More information or booking tel. 01692 678555, email secretary@howhilltrust.org.uk

Making a wildlife pond part 3

The Lilies



These Lilies are suitable for a small wildlife pond and contribute hugely to its habitat for the inhabitants. They are from the top left Lady Wilfon Gonnere, bought from Sutton garden centre, which has small chrysanthemum type petals, to the right is Glorie du Temple Sur Lot, a French variety which I sent away for. This is a magnificent lily if a good strain is found, however my plant lacks the thin petals as they should be similar to Gonnere, and held above the water. The third is Rose Arey, in my opinion the best of the reds, this came from Mimmack water gardens in Stock Essex, several years ago

Water lilies provide shade, but must not be allowed to cover all the surface, their blooms close up at night and water snails love to lay their eggs under the leaves.

Alec Nisbet

Broadland Model Railway Club.

This is a very busy time for us, getting several layouts ready for the next show in Hoveton on August 30th. As the layouts involved are quite large, this means our club premises are very crowded and, in this current very warm weather, we have to be extra careful not to let things get too heated; this includes the members!

Interestingly we have been contacted by a number of parents of younger children (under 16) wishing to get involved with the Club and this is something we are actively looking at as we believe that we should be encouraging newcomers to get involved with our hobby. Do please get in touch if this is something that you may be interested in and could possibly help out with. Note that young people aged 16 and up are already eligible to become members and we would welcome them to join us.

Keep a look out for further details of our next Show on Sunday August 30th in Hoveton Village Hall.

As always, if you are interested in our Club, please contact us via the details on our website <https://broadlandmodelrailwayclub.co.uk/>

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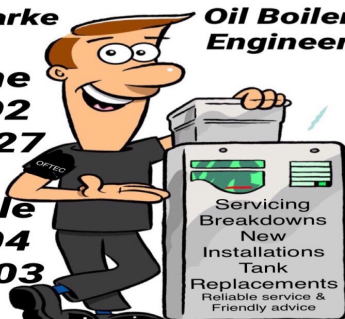
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CATFIELD NEWS – Contributions & Advertisements

Items for inclusion need to be received no later than **10th** of each month. Items can be e-mailed to the team, *contacts detailed on page 2*, or left in the Catfield News box in the Village Shop. Articles should be no more than 400 words and have the contributor's name attached, but the name does not have to appear in the magazine.

The Catfield News aims to be a magazine of local news and events and although we cannot always guarantee to include all items received, we will always give priority to Catfield news and events. If you have something you would like published in the magazine, please contact one of the team. For Business advertisements or small Classified Ads., please contact one of the Catfield News Team for details.

Catfield News items are published in good faith with every effort made to ensure accuracy of content as given to us. No liability can be accepted for inconvenience arising from error or omission. *The views expressed in Catfield News are not necessarily the views of the Team.*

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